

The Abingdonian



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THE ABINGDONIAN

This has surely been the year of the Hall. In the course of the last twelve months, whole new dimensions of experience have been opened for many people through exploration of the capacities of the Amey Hall and Arts Centre — and we can confidently surmise that the process is not yet at an end.

Several of the items in the year's crowded programme are mentioned elsewhere in this issue; but the events which have had greatest impact on the School's life have not, on the whole, been of a sort to attract special reviews, precisely because they have been of an unexceptional nature — assemblies, lectures, meetings, and examination sessions. It is worth noting that these, taken together with the special occasions, the film shows, the informal concerts, and the interminable rounds of rehearsals, have ensured that the Hall and its adjoining rooms have been almost ceaselessly in use from morning to night — the capital asset is undoubtedly being made to work as hard as anyone could wish. But there is a consideration even more important than return on investment, namely the improvement in the School's corporate life and feeling.

Now, at last, we can all get together in seemly and comfortable surroundings, to pursue a variety of collective activities which were formerly impossible for us, or could only happen under great difficulties, and at the cost of severe disruptions. As a direct consequence of the use of the Hall, communication has been improved, administrative and social pressures have eased, and it would surely not be over-imaginative to suggest that people in the School are altogether more responsive and friendly towards each other.

In short, we are living more effectively as a community.

Not the smallest of the benefits conferred by the Hall, as it may turn out, is the fact that it has helped us to become aware of at least one of our deficiencies. It was perhaps not until we started hearing regularly about the achievements of groups and individual boys, that we were made to realise how fragmented a society we really are. Abingdon has been able to boast exceptional sporting successes in recent years; but how many ordinary Abingdonians share in this activity, as players or even spectators? We enjoy a fine reputation for music, but can we honestly call Abingdon a musical school? The Sixth Form is crowded with nimble minds and nimbler tongues; but only 35 or 40 boys could summon up enough interest to come and hear four superlative visiting speakers, including two politicians of national stature, in the Symposium Debate on 29 May. Perhaps most sadly and significantly of all, the common reaction to news of a major School event — even Founder's Day — is still the dreary question, "Is it compulsory?"

No doubt it is possible to advance a number of respectable reasons for any tendency to allow specialist or sectional effort to predominate over collective activity. It is difficult to counter arguments about the limited scope of our facilities in relation to numbers in the School, the transport difficulties of our far-travelling dayboys, the healthy individualism of intelligent young people who do not wish to be dragooned, even the fissiparous tendencies of society at large. But one year's experience of the Amey Hall suggests something about the importance of "joining in" which ought to give us cause for much thought. If it is indeed true that the quality of our corporate life has gained simply from the process of meeting together more often and sharing our experiences, can we be encouraged to consider how we might improve it still further? And what conclusions should be drawn for our building programme, for our house system, for our use of out-of-school time, for the future of the boarding side?

The problem is above all one of identity. Identity is something born of a fusion of activity in the present with assurances from the past. Abingdon School is busy enough, and still small enough to be an integrated, united society; furthermore, it enjoys the asset of a long history, of which it has reason to be proud. At present, however, our activity is compartmented, our sense of belonging is limited, our awareness of the past is shallow. It ought to be a prime objective over the next few years to bring about improvement in these respects — a process in which the influence of parents and OAs will be of the utmost importance.

M.St.J.P.

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In the Autumn 1981 Oxbridge Examinations, the following won awards:

CAMBRIDGE

Awards

G. C. M. Black (Scholarship)	Jesus	Medicine
G. D. Brown (Exhibition)	Trinity	Natural Sciences
N. E. S. Bugg (Scholarship)	Emmanuel	Engineering
D. A. Game (Scholarship)	St. John's	Theology
P. Lovering (Exhibition)	Downing	History/Law
J. T. Nicholls (Scholarship)	St. John's	Natural Sciences

Places

G. A. Khakoo	Emmanuel	Medicine
G. P. Lanham	Pembroke	Archaeology and Anthropology
A. C. Prest	St. John's	Law
G. L. Radford-Smith	St. John's	Medicine
P. J. Rushton	Magdalene	Natural Sciences
A. H. Smith	Corpus Christi	Natural Sciences
M. J. Stott (Conditional)	Emmanuel	Modern Languages

OXFORD

Awards

D. S. Bradbury (Scholarship)	B.N.C.	Ancient and Modern History
F. W. Charlton (Scholarship)	Christ Church	Engineering Science and Economics
J. H. Mercer (Exhibition)	Corpus Christi	Medicine

Places

N. P. Barratt	St. Benet's Hall	English
K. J. Brown	Jesus	Chemistry
J. B. Hyndman	Pembroke	Botany
D. A. Lewis	St. John's	Medicine
T. B. M. Screech	St. John's	Oriental Studies
A. L. R. Thomas	Exeter	Zoology
R. J. Thompson	Pembroke	Medicine

COMMON ROOM NEWS

At the end of the summer term 1980 we said goodbye to **Bob Johnson**, who was bound for Epsom and marriage. In his time Bob threw himself into organising outward bound expeditions, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and the Naval Section, in addition to his tutoring responsibilities in School House, his games coaching and of course his teaching. **Charles Neill** also left us, to take up his appointment as chaplain at St. Edward's — we shall miss his quiet wit and style — and **Ulla Johnson** concluded her post as a part-time teacher of German. **Caroline Robinson** came and went, filling in so ably and decoratively while the search for a new chaplain went on. **John Bird**, showing true Yorkshire grit in battling through snowdrifts in May to keep his first appointment, has now filled this place and we extend him a warm and hearty welcome. **John Miller**, a chemistry teacher from New Zealand, also came and went in his all-too-brief stay. We also welcomed, in September last, some full-time members of Common Room. **Nigel Brown** came from Rugby School to join the English Department and to administrate the Amey Hall.

The extent of the job facing him — and the grip he already has on it — can be measured on a good many pages of this magazine. We also greet **Nigel Hunter**, who immediately injected enthusiasm into pottery, photography and graphics in the expanded Art Department; and **Paul Simpson**, a modern linguist who is also a keen organist and led a recent expedition to Argentan. To them all, we offer a warm Abingdon welcome.

Among other new faces we have been pleased to say hello to **Susan Foote**, who has been teaching Chemistry and distinguished herself quite brilliantly in goal for the Common Room hockey XI, and **Carol Brownsword**, who is keeping up strength in the Maths Department.

Meanwhile **Richard Webber** is spending the present calendar year in the antipodes, having exchanged his year's Biology teaching in a kind of role-swap with **Barry Jahnke**, whom we welcome, together with his family, to Abingdon. Richard has already been interviewed in Australian tabloids on the subject of that well-known fossil, the English public school, but has wisely not given away too much on the telephone. His counterpart, **Barry Jahnke**, has settled in with great rapidity, and we have quickly been made aware of his enormous and inspiring interest in things ecological.

After a long spell of service to the school, we were sorry to see the departure of **Mrs Pearce** who has kept our corridors and classrooms so nicely inhabitable. Mrs Pearce left halfway through the summer term.

CHAPEL NOTES

There are times when innovations and new starts are less appropriate than gradual growth and consolidation. This year in Chapel has been such a time, following the departure of Mr. Neill to be Chaplain of St. Edward's School.

Accordingly, the Sunday services have proceeded as usual, but with an increasing emphasis on the Eucharist. Indeed, it has been encouraging to note how many boarders receive the Sacrament on a Sunday when the Eucharist is the major service.

I have been very much aware that the Sunday services which remain in the memory are those where we have an impressive visiting preacher. In the Michaelmas term the boarders enjoyed the sermons of the Revd. David Allport and the Revd. John Barton; and in the Lent term the Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford, the Chaplain of Pembroke College and our Director of Music gave equally helpful and enjoyable addresses.

The Bishop of Oxford preached at the Confirmation Service which he conducted on the last Sunday of the Lent term. He spoke of what is given in Confirmation and of what is expected of those confirmed. I am sure that his words, as well as the service itself, will long be remembered by those seventeen members of the School who were confirmed on that occasion.

The services mentioned thus far will have had a limited impact on the life of the School as a whole because they were attended largely by those boarders who are resident at week-ends. However, that could not be said of the service on Ash Wednesday at which the Bishop of Lewes was the preacher. Words, least of all mine, could not begin to do justice to that occasion; and so I will not try to find them. Suffice it to say that our one new arrangement this year, whereby we have a "voluntary Eucharist" on such days as Ash Wednesday, provided a very appropriate forum for the Bishop after his first address to the Middle and Upper School in the Amey Hall.

Thinking finally of other special services which have taken place I am reminded of the enormous contribution to the worship of the Chapel which is made by the Chamber Choir. It is my experience that the quality of our worship both on certain Sundays and on other special occasions depends enormously on the contribution of this Choir; and the members of it, and Mr. James in particular, deserve very special thanks.

At the beginning of this term John Bird arrived as our Chaplain; and I am sure that readers of these notes would wish to join me in welcoming him and in wishing him well for the future.

P. W. Butcher

EGGSHELLS AND TEALEAVES

By Donald Willis

(published by Robert Dugdale at Corpus Christi College, Oxford)

Generations of Abingdonians who knew Donald Willis will buy this book because of its author. A far wider public will buy it because they will have learned from press and radio of its background. But it is as a book, and not as a triumphant affirmation of the greatness of the human spirit, that I write of it now.

As an author, Donald has three great advantages. Firstly, he has a tale to tell — of childhood and adolescence in a bygone Oxford, of a war which took him from Scotland to Iran, from Egypt through Sicily and Italy to Germany, from raw subaltern to major (it is typical of him that he never gets round to mentioning that somewhere along the line he was mentioned in despatches). Secondly, since the style is the man, you will not be surprised to find that he writes modestly, simply, clearly, with a supple economy of phrase, without any pretensions. And most important, he has a quite exceptional power of recall. I shall never again drive down Hythe Bridge Street without seeing in my imagination that small boy emerging with his twin sister from the high terraced house (now of course no more) where he was born and reared.

After school and college came his appointment to Abingdon — to start work in September 1939. (The picture which he gives of Grundy, in half-a-dozen lines, will bring that great man back to life for an older generation.) By now Muriel had entered his life; and engagement and war-time marriage give his story an added dimension.

Donald was called up in 1940 and the remainder of his book could well be sub-titled 'The Making of a Battery Commander'. Under-fifties will simply have to take my word for it that Donald has got it right. War was like that — with its boredom, its inconsequences, its frustration, its intervals of intense excitement, yes, and of sickening fear and unimaginable horror. Yet from this amalgam there emerged a comradeship, often a heroism, based on an unspoken assumption of a common purpose, of a kind which ironically we find it so difficult to achieve in times of peace.

At Easter I gave a copy of **EGGSHELLS** to each of my four daughters. After all, our two families had been brought up together. Two days later my eldest, who herself has literary leanings, telephoned me especially to say that she had begun to glance idly through it and then suddenly realised that she must read it though from cover to cover.

That sums up what I am trying to say. But it would be ungracious not to add a word of gratitude to printer and publisher, each of whom has done Donald proud — at no personal profit. There are helpful maps and well-printed photographs.

There is no portrait of Donald Willis in the School Dining Hall. He deserves one, as much as any headmaster, but you have to draw the line somewhere. Dare I suggest that a copy of **EGGSHELLS** might be exhibited in the Library, in a small glass case, with a plaque explaining its provenance? I shouldn't like future generations to miss out on the pride we all feel in his achievement.

James Cobban

As many Old Boys and present members of the school know, Donald Willis's remarkable book of reminiscences is currently on sale, and indeed is going through another impression at this moment. We are grateful to James Cobban, who knew Donald so well, for the following review; and we also provide information on how to get hold of a copy:

Copies of the book — a second impression of 1000 is now in the press — can be obtained from Robert Dugdale at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, price £3.50 post free.

R.A.F. SECTION

In a year when the proliferation of extra-curricular activities has begun to cause even greater problems for our boys the appeal of Royal Air Force Section activities is holding firm against strong competition.

Weekly training activities continue much as usual and with an increasing emphasis on outdoor venues when weather permits. The policy of minimising rather dull instructional lessons in the classroom whilst maintaining a high standard of results in examinations has been very successful this year. Cadets sitting the Proficiency Part 2 Examinations scored outstandingly well with a 100% pass rate.

The most enjoyable aspects of Section activities tend to take place out of the Schools on Camps, Courses, and Air Experience Flying Days. Our excellent relations with R.A.F. Abingdon and especially with No. 6 Air Experience Flight has ensured a regular supply of Chipmunk flights for our Cadets, and many members of the Section now hold flying logs which are the envy of others around the Country. Several boys have successfully completed Proficiency Gliding Courses and gone 'solo', some of them in the new motor-powered Venture Gliders. The ultimate prize for an R.A.F. Cadet must be a Flying Scholarship, but with Defence spending drastically cut back, the Royal Air Force finds it difficult to allocate sufficient funds to this Scheme. Consequently the numbers available dwindle each year but we are hopeful that our candidates will maintain what has been a remarkable record of success over the past few years.

Another facet of our activities which is flourishing is Shooting. The stimulus provided by our new rifle-range has resulted in a record number of 'Marksman' classifications which are fast becoming the norm rather than the exception. Senior project work has also received a fresh boost and a new radio-controlled modelling group has recently been formed. The new Hovercraft is also under way, this time with two engines and an all-surface capability. We hope to see this well advanced by the end of Michaelmas Term.

A highlight of the year's activities was the recent Camp at R.A.F. Brinbrook in Lincolnshire. It was very exciting to be on a Station which is in the forefront of our nation's defence, and the sight of Lightning interceptor fighters blasting off the runway was one which brought a mixture of admiration and awe to us all. These rather ancient aircraft are still a potent force, a fact amply demonstrated by their performance in a three day N.A.T.O. exercise at the end of our camp period. The exercise did rather ruin our programme but there were adequate compensations when Cadets were allowed to become involved directly in the exercise. Cadet 'demonstrators' tried to force an entry to the Station but were repelled by the regulars. The same day all the Cadets became instant casualties as the Airmen's Mess was 'bombed' whilst they were in occupation. It can't

be every Cadet who has had a sticky label pressed onto the front of his uniform stating rather bluntly 'DEAD'.

A memorable experience for all concerned, but already we are looking forward to the new recruits from the Third Year, a new set of problems, a new challenge for us all.

C. J. Biggs
S/L RAF VR (T)
O.C. R.A.F. Section

CRICKET



CRICKET ROUND-UP

The abysmal weather tried its best but failed to prevent the cricket club from enjoying another successful season at all levels. I would like to thank Messrs. Randolph, Parker, Johnson, Drummond-Hay, Butcher, Bush, Cann, Woodgett and Taylor for their much appreciated help in running the school XIs, and to those who assisted with 'non-team cricket'. Thanks, too, to Dave Bagshaw and his groundstaff; we were not surprised that the County side who played a two-day match on War Mem for the first time in the holidays want to return next year. We are very grateful to Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Lanham for organising the splendid teas, to their TASS helpers, and to the school caterers. Also to Mr. John Williams for umpiring a few times, to Rev. Hugh Pickles for his continued interest, and to Andrew Newman, an extraordinarily good Secretary.

1st XI

1980 — not a batsman's year. 150 seemed a reasonably satisfactory score on the damper than usual War Mem wickets, and individual fifties were rare occurrences. However, enough runs were usually scraped together, if not that convincingly, to enable our seamers, Mellor and Minter, and the promising young off-spinner, McCreery, to bowl us to seven victories out of 15 starts, a fine 'striking rate'. This was a young First XI and it was good to watch them take on and defeat some of the club sides. Our victories over the Old Boys in a thrilling last over finish on Founders Day, and over the M.C.C. and the S.O.A.s were perhaps the highlights of the season and showed the side at it best — namely, accurate bowling, good line and length, supported by agile, keen fielding and showing a sound tactical awareness.

As for regrets, I suppose the Radley match which was sadly abandoned, Brentwood, the only side to really master our attack on the day, and a defeat in the last game of the season when a record-equalling eight wins was on the cards until our batting disappointingly let us down, as it had tended to do on previous occasions. Too many of our 'major batsmen' never found their real form, as the averages reveal. Partly the failures were due to poor footwork, always likely to lead to disaster in a wet summer with the ball moving off the wicket more than usual. Geoffrey Lanham achieved some fluency and consistency in the second half of the season after a wretched beginning and a technical readjustment; Nicholas Rice made an impressive start to first eleven cricket showing excellent concentration; Andy Newman's and Simon Minter's running between the wickets was what everyone else's should have been (except for a blunder in the U.C.S. game, it must be said . . .); Marcus Willett showed touches of class at times, but he, Andy Patchett and Gareth Harper generally found batting a frustrating exercise, as did Christopher Newmark after his century for the 2nd XI. Nevertheless his little gem of an innings in the O.A. match showed what a fine prospect he is. No. 9 in the order was really too low for Robert McCreery and he missed Wisden's 100 run qualification by one run. David Phillips batted as the 'old style No. 11' used to (and one wishes still did on appropriate occasions) — namely 'get on, entertain and/or get out!' He usually achieved all three.

Mostly, though, I recall with pleasure the controlled seam bowling of William Mellor who deserved his success borne of willingness to learn and to practise. Simon Minter's off-cutters complemented Mellor's sometimes unplayable leg-cutters and both appreciated the importance of keeping the ball up to the bat in the slow conditions. Robert McCreery's power of off-spin was too much for the poorer opposition, and his performance against a strong Berkshire Gentlemen batting side reminded one of Andrew Clift (1971-2) and Bruce Gow (1976-9) at their best. 40 wickets was a splendid effort; I wonder if he has learnt to float the ball away yet . . .? Between them the three 'Ms' took 99 wickets at a remarkably low average of only 11 runs per wicket. As I've remarked many times, it's the good bowling sides which produce victories. In between some erratic spells David Phillips took some important wickets and could become a very useful bowler if he can increase his control.

Andrew Newman's wicket-keeping was sound (22 dismissals, including 5 stumpings) and he set an excellent example to a generally competent fielding side well led by Geoff Lanham, a thoroughly responsible captain both on and off the field.

Regular members of the XI were:

G. P. Lanham (capt.), W. K. Mellor, A. S. J. Patchett, S. J. Minter, M. B. Willett, G. D. Harper, A. C. Newman, N. G. Rice, D. H. Phillips, R. I. McCreery and C. C. Newmark. Mellor was awarded the Henderson cricket prize, and Lanham and Minter won the Smithson and Morris Cups respectively. Giles Wood did a fine job as scorer — for the last time in the old scoreboard. N.H.P.

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES

BATTING	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Av.
G. P. Lanham	15	1	321	59	22.9
N. G. Rice	14	1	254	48	19.5
A. C. Newman	13	4	175	40*	19.4
S. J. Minter	9	2	138	61	19.0
M. B. Willett	14	0	238	52	17.0
C. C. Newmark	10	1	112	30	12.4
D. H. Phillips	13	4	111	24	12.3
R. I. McCreery	12	3	99	29	11.0
A. S. J. Patchett	15	1	152	35	10.9
G. D. Harper	14	0	145	32	10.4
W. K. Mellor	3	8	34	14	6.9

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Av.
S. J. Minter	139	57	250	25	10.0
R. I. McCreery	164	34	444	40	11.1
W. K. Mellor	219	81	432	34	12.7
D. H. Phillips	91	19	255	13	19.6
G. P. Lanham	48	9	186	6	31.0

also bowled: N. Paterson 34 — 5 — 163 — 4

RESULTS

Played 15; Won 7; Lost 3; Drawn 5; Abandoned 3

Pangbourne (a). Drawn.

Pangbourne 117 for 9 dec.; Abingdon 93 for 6.

Newbury (a). Won by 62 runs.

Abingdon 107; Newbury 45 (McCreery 5 for 13).

Berkshire Gentlemen (h). Lost by 32 runs.

B.G.s 143 (McCreery 4 for 48); Abingdon 111 (Patchett 30, Rice 30).

Old Abingdonians (h). Won by 3 wkts.

O.A.s 200 (D. Lanham 56, G. Halsey 48, Mellor 5 for 38); Abingdon 201 for 7 (Willett 43, Newman 40 n.o., Newmark 30).

Brentwood (a). Lost by 123 runs.

Brentwood 237 for 2 dec.; Abingdon 114 (Patchett 35).

South Oxfordshire Amateurs (h). Won by 15 runs.

Abingdon 197 for 9 dec. (Minter 61); S.O.A.s 182 (Mellor 4 for 53).

N. H. Payne's XI (h). Won by 56 runs.

Abingdon (135) (Lanham 40); N. H. Payne's XI 79.

Douai (a). Drawn.

Abingdon 119; Douai 112 for 7.

M.C.C. (h). Won by 5 wkts.

M.C.C. 112 (Minter 4 for 26); Abingdon 113 for 5 (Lanham 44, Rice 30).

Reading (a). Won by 30 runs.

Abingdon 124 (Rice 48, Lanham 33); Reading 94 (McCreery 7 for 35).

St. Edward's (h). Drawn.

St. Edward's 151 (McCreery 4 for 43); Abingdon 132 for 8 (Rice 41, Lanham 39).

R.G.S. High Wycombe (a). Drawn.

High Wycombe 167 for 6 dec.; Abingdon 102 for 3 (Lanham 42 n.o.).

R.G.S. Colchester (h). Won by 77 runs.

Abingdon 183 (Willett 52, Patchett 32); Colchester 106 (Mellor 4 for 47).

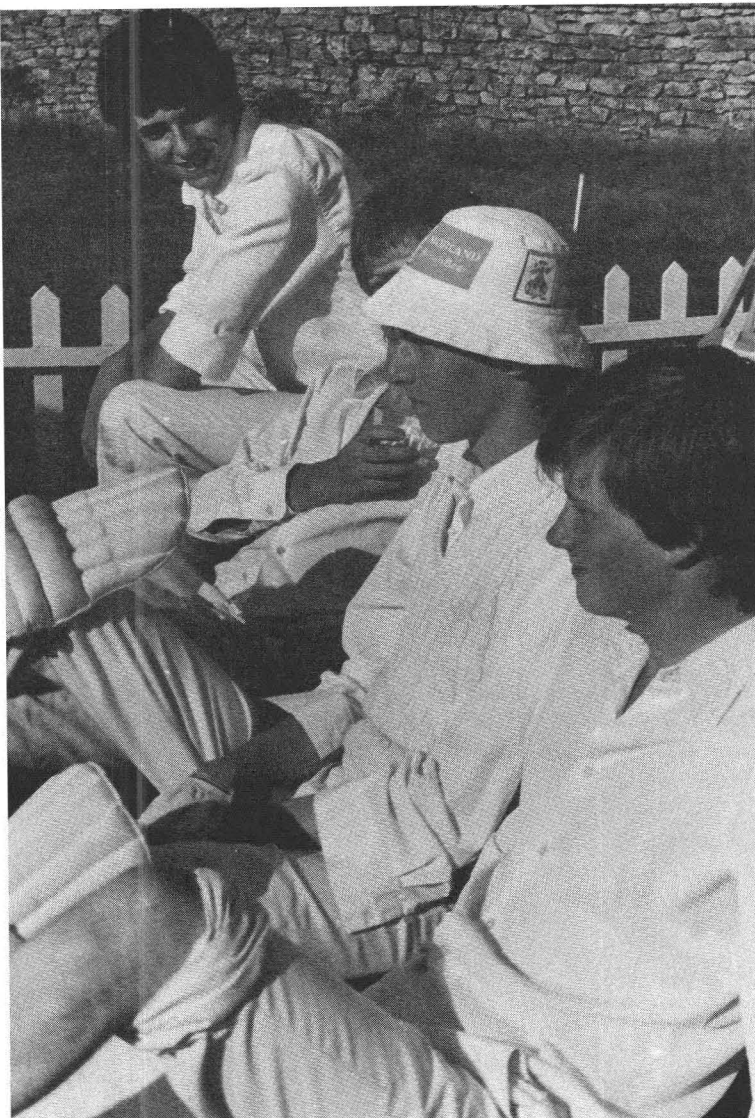
Bloxham (a). Drawn.

Abingdon 144 for 5 dec. (Lanham 59, Willett 47); Bloxham 80 for 5.

University College School (h). Lost by 10 runs.

U.C.S. 102 (McCreery 5 for 27); Abingdon 92.

Matches against Berkhamsted, Radley and M.C.S. were cancelled.



2nd XI

It was soon clear that a break in the run of successful seasons was likely. Withdrawals from cricket severely weakened the side, and mishaps of one sort and another meant that no fewer than twenty-two people played in the ten matches. (The games with Berkhamsted, Radley and Bloxham were rained off.) Furthermore, a gap in the fixtures that was widened by rain caused a four-week interval between the Brentwood and Wantage matches. Then came exams, when some players were not available. So the fun that the team had was a triumph over difficult circumstances.

Put in to bat in each of the first four matches, we began excitingly when Newmark did not give a chance in a very impressive innings that lasted 107 minutes and included eighteen fours. We were much the stronger side, but a warning that we should find winning matches hard was given when Pangbourne's last pair played out fifteen overs comfortably. Newbury and we were well matched, and the result reflected this. Graham batted well against Magdalen, whom we defeated with eight balls to spare. J. Prest and Black saved us from a batting disaster at Oratory, but too little time was left for a result. Despite C. Prest's big innings, we were outplayed at Brentwood. At Wantage we did not score fast enough in the half-hour before tea to set a strong side an adequate target. The Reading game was excellent and ended with honours even. A player short at

Shiplake, our batsmen struggled on a wet pitch and we were very surprised when we nearly won. We were a strong High Wycombe side's seventh victim (in ten games), with ten balls to spare. Finally, Driver delighted his colleagues with a big score against Plymouth, who recovered enterprisingly from 14 for 5.

Like last year's, this was a good fielding side. Driver, Graham and Haworth excelled on the ground, and C. Prest set a captain's example with his catching. Few would have guessed that only after term had begun had J. Prest been persuaded to learn the job and fill the vacant wicket-keeping place.

C. Prest and Haworth were the most consistent batsmen, Graham the most dashing. Ripley did better with bat than with ball. Bowling, in fact, proved our weakest department, especially when Newmark joined the 1st XI. Black, whose enthusiasm and energy seemed tireless, bowled considerably more than twice as many overs as anyone else and took twenty wickets at just under ten runs each. Elsey and Haworth seldom failed to take a wicket or two, but when Paterson returned to us from the 1st XI, he could not recover his 1978 form.

C. Prest deserves much praise for his leadership of a side that was the same in only three matches. That changes were often last-minute ones made his task all the harder, but he never looked ruffled and was well supported by the rest of the team.

P. J. Cheek and C. C. Shuttleworth, with assistance from others, shared the scoring.

The nine regular players were: G. C. M. Black, J. H. G. Driver, J. R. A. Elsey, I. C. Graham, T. J. C. Haworth, A. C. Prest (Captain), J. N. Prest, R. G. Ripley and J. Warchus. J. C. Mawhinney played in six games, C. C. Newmark in four, G. I. McLauchlan and N. Paterson in three, D. McK. Allen and T. M. Spittles in two, and D. J. Darnborough, D. A. Game, P. W. May, A. C. Newman, D. J. Pearson, T. K. A. Rogers and P. C. H. Tidmarsh in one.

H.T.R.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College (h). Drawn.
 Abingdon 171 for 4 dec. (Newmark 112 not out); Pangbourne 75 for 9.
 St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (h). Drawn.
 Abingdon 136 for 7 dec.; Newbury 90 for 6.
 Magdalen College School (h). Won by 101 runs.
 Abingdon 153 for 5 dec. (Graham 77); Magdalen 52.
 Oratory School (a). Drawn.
 Abingdon 107 for 8 dec.; Oratory 48 for 6.
 Brentwood School (a). Drawn.
 Brentwood 223 for 2 dec.; Abingdon 172 for 9 (A. C. Prest 78).
 King Alfred's School, Wantage 1st XI (a). Lost by seven wickets.
 Abingdon 105 for 5 dec.; Wantage 108 for 3.
 Reading School (h). Drawn.
 Reading 125; Abingdon 98 for 6.
 Shiplake College 1st XI (a). Lost by one wicket.
 Abingdon 64; Shiplake 65 for 9.
 Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (h). Lost by 66 runs.
 High Wycombe 144 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 78.
 Plymouth College (h). Won by 87 runs.
 Abingdon 187 for 7 dec. (Driver 73); Plymouth 100 (Black 5 for 20).

3rd XI

In spite of two disappointing defeats at the very start of the season, team spirit soared after an excellent victory over a strong Shiplake side. (It is amazing how the runs come when the batsmen want to get away to a dance . . .). The team went on to inflict severe defeats on Brentwood, Bearwood, Reading and Douai.

The strength of the team came from the four all-rounders — Robert Adair, David Darnborough, Patrick Tidmarsh and Gavin McLauchlan who were all regular wicket takers and run scorers. Other wizardry with the ball was delivered by the invaluable Noel Williams and Michael O'Shea, whose delicately flighted slow-medium spin had batsmen in knots, and also William Rayson, an artistic speed merchant. Batting honours, too, were well shared out with a notable 63 (not out) by Bryan Rodgers who was a useful opening bat if not the greatest of fielders. Adair, Darnborough and Rayson produced several solid innings after Tidmarsh, and McLauchlan, in the Shiplake match, showed that it was possible for the 3rd XI to score some runs! Once we were through this barrier we took all other schools by storm.

Thus once again the 3rd XI had a reasonably good season and our thanks must go to Messrs Parker and Johnson for their tolerance in dealing with a team which was frequently more spirited than most coaches would have wished. Thanks are also due to those who scored for the team, mainly Paul Spencer and Sean Crutchlow.

David Darnborough (VI)

The team was selected from:

P. Tidmarsh (capt.), D. Darnborough, W. Rayson, M. O'Shea, G. McLauchlan, R. Adair, N. Williams, B. Rodgers, J. Parker, T. Spittles, P. Boobyer, C. Egelstaff, J. Scott, N. North, I. Sadler and P. Spencer.

JUNIOR COLTS

With five games rained off, wet practice sessions, and spungy wickets which did their best in denying the ball coming onto the bat, one could have looked back to a depressing season. However, as it turned out, this year's Junior Colts frustrated by what has now become a typical English summer, kept up their spirit and produced a very high standard of cricket.

Of the thirteen games played, 6 were drawn, 5 won and the only defeat was an overs game against Lord Williams, Thame. The most notable victories were against a strong Berkhamsted XI and an unbeaten staff XI. The Reading game provided the most exciting finish to the season with two wickets falling in the last over, and the second of these on the last ball of the innings.

The season also provided some fine individual performances — Simon Rushton's 464 runs for an average of 58, including four fifties and a maiden century against Magdalen College School. Nicholas Thomas also had a good season with the bat, scoring 265 runs for an average of 33. Of the bowlers, Tim Winter and Mark Surridge were the most successful — Tim taking 37 wickets for an average of 8.1, and Mark 25 wickets averaging 12.2. Tim and Mark were chosen for the county XI, and Simon and Nicholas were most unfortunate not to be selected for the side, which must have had some very good batsmen.

So the 1980 season will certainly be one to be remembered, not so much in terms of success, but more for its close finishes and the enthusiastic and spirited way the games were played. Previous mention has been given to four players who played a vital role in the team's success. To say that no-one else played a major part would certainly be an injustice. The most satisfying aspect of the team was the overall improvement of all players, and the fact that it was such a well-balanced side. Rarely have I coached a team which batted down to No. 11, and had 8 good bowlers to call upon. Everyone who played for the team therefore deserves a mention.

Nicholas Thomas Captain — batsman. A very dedicated and competitive cricketer who liked to get the most from his players. Used his bowlers well, and was never afraid to set attacking fields. Always in the hunt for runs and particularly strong on the on-side. An excellent fielder and quick bowler, who through lack of practise, found difficulty in maintaining constant length and line.

Martin Haywood V. Captain — batsman. Great assistance to the Captain — read the game very well. Most improved batsman in the side and a prolific run scorer once his eye was in. Very powerful cover and straight drives. Useful off-spinner and very good fielder.

Simon Rushton — batsman. A very promising forceful opening bat who likes to play off the front foot. A good eye and sound technique resulted in his high average for the season. An excellent fielder, and I think fancied himself as a medium pace bowler.

Charles Freeman-Core — batsman and off spinner. In contrast to Simon, likes to build an innings slowly. Fine stroke player and again particularly good off the front foot. Good promise for the future. His bowling improved as the season went on, and once he can control his length of delivery he will be a main wicket taker.

Mark Wiles — batsman. Potentially a fine stroke player, but lacks patience and is too casual in his approach. In one or two innings his true potential emerged, but all too often got himself out through sheer carelessness. A good slip fielder.

Nicholas Haynes — batsman/catcher. Improved considerably as the season went along. A most reliable and cool middle order batsman who likes to play his shots — very correct player who never really had the opportunity to build a long innings.

Alex Fergusson — wicket-keeper/batsman. A steady keeper who did his job admirably and coped well with some wayward bowling down the leg-side. Held most catches and worked well with the spinners. The side's main hitter, a reputation which he lived up to, but I felt he became rather frustrated at always having to fulfil this role.

Mark Surridge — all rounder. A very smooth economic action relying on movement in the air and off the seam. The inswinger was Mark's main weapon. A little wayward at the beginning of the season, but improved considerably in every game. Bowled his best when under pressure. A very promising left-hander who likes to hit the ball hard. Although never given the opportunity to build a long innings, I am certain this is well within his reach. Excellent fielder with a strong throwing arm.

Tim Winter — fast bowler. 37 wickets in the season speaks for itself. Relying mainly on outswing, length and line throughout the season has been very consistent indeed. Always tries to

make the batsman play the ball which is the mark of a good bowler. Also a useful tail-ender, saving the side from defeat on two occasions.

James Robson — medium-pace bowler/off-spinner. A great trier who always gave his best. Always found length and line quickly and proved to be the main weapon in controlling batsmen. When his strength develops his away swingers will certainly create problems for the better batsmen. After an injury, and inspired by Rev. Butcher, James adapted to off-spin. Perhaps here lies his true potential?

Robin Suggate — batsman. Good steady middle order batsman who also likes to hit the ball hard — particularly good on the front foot. Again, another player who was denied the opportunity to build on innings. Excellent covers fielder.

Trevor Rogers — off-spin bowler. Turned the ball a great deal, and made good use of the flight. Line and length always a problem, but he is a determined enough player to get this right in the future.

No report would be complete without mention of those players who turned up so frequently to practices, and yet never made the 1st team. Undoubtedly the keenest B XI I have had the pleasure of coaching. Congratulations for their unbeaten record, and appreciation for making the A XI players work so hard for their places.

Finally my thanks to Nick and Martin for all their help throughout the season, and to Patrick for his scoring. 4th form cricket is always very fortunate in having Rev. Butcher to help with the coaching and I know everyone is very grateful for the vital part he always plays. J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

JUNIORS

As I write this in late July, the season is only a few weeks past, the pitches are still wet from an overdose of Summer rain, and I have enough glorious memories of the performances of this team to last me through the dark days before next April when cricket starts in earnest once more. There was so much good cricket played that the final results tally (P.15: — W.6, D.5, L.3, A.2) tends to give a false impression of mediocrity. This was not an average side, but a good one. It was certainly unusual, for it relied for its success on a trio of slow bowlers and a dearth of medium pacers. Such are the modern trends, inspired by the one-day game and the success of the present West Indian test side, that such excess of this delightful art (over 60% of all overs bowled) has been a real breath of fresh air. Predictably this attack proved less successful once the weather turned from a dry May to a wet June. But it made a leg spinner's fingers itchy to see so good a trio (Martin Day, Tim Burley, Paul Rainsden) take 71 of the 116 wickets the bowlers captured during the Summer. It also meant that we often bowled our overs at a rate in excess of 25 per hour.

We did use medium pacers to "take the shine off the ball" and Simon Smith proved reliable and hostile until he lost a personal battle with a light bulb and was unfit for games for five weeks. Nick Tomlinson, David Newport and Jonathan Phillips all opened the attack at times with mediocre success. After that it was generally spin, with Tim Burley's offspinners first change. The prodigious turn which he extracted from even the most placid of pitches struck fear into the minds of all the batsmen, and the ones in the pavilion waiting to come in were often the most affected. He was ably supported by Matthew Appleton behind the stumps (18 dismissals: 11ct. 7st.) and David Newman (without helmet) at short leg, who snapped up many half chances: indeed "ct. Newman b. Burley" became a fate to be highly feared. At the other end (second change) relying on line and length, rather than great spin, Paul Rainsden bowled efficiently and picked up many good wickets including the prized scalp of Rev. H. Pickles himself — this feat alone, was enough to win with the "Bill Frindall" award. Martin Day (another off-spinner) always bowled himself last of the trio and in my opinion rather underbowled himself. He was the most economical and thoughtful of the three and his remarkable analysis of 5 wickets for 6 runs in 8 overs against Oxford School speaks for itself. When something completely different was called for, at the end of an innings, David Newman was bowled and always took vital wickets.

Of course spin bowling can never be successful unless the batsmen score runs and we were generally well catered for in this department. John Cowan did not have as good a season as last year, but managed over 250 runs and once settled at the crease always threatened to score plenty. Simon Littlewood similarly found runs harder to get this year, but played some marvellous strokes and one or two crucial innings. David Newman had an excellent season, making a total of 421 runs including a 93 against Cokethorpe, which was one of 4 scores he made of more than 50. On occasions this season he batted with arrogant ease and was merciless on anything pitched short. His partnership of 102 runs with Simon Littlewood

RESULTS

v Pangbourne		D Wiles 26
A	196—1 dec	Rushton 89 N.O.
P	128—1	Thomas 57 N.O.
		Winter 4—46
v St. Edwards		D Rushton 37
St.		
Ed.,	151—dec	Surridge 3—20
A	98—9	Robson 3—40
v M.C.S.		D Rushton 101 N.O.
A	195—4 dec	
M.C.-		
S.	113—5	
v Oratory		W Thomas 41
A	130—9 dec	Winter 6—11
O	39	
v Leighton Park		D Rushton 57
A	156—2 dec	Freeman-Core 37
LP	58—5	Thomas 35 N.O.
		Winter 3—18
v Berkhamsted		W Thomas 61 N.O.
B	145—7 dec	Haywood 40
A	146—3	Freeman-Core 3—23
v Douai		W Rushton 70 N.O.
D	126—9 dec	Surridge 4—61
A	129—1	
v Reading		W Haywood 63
A	149—8 dec	Surridge 5—30
R	99	
v Oxford		A Winter 3—7
O	22—4	
v J. Drummond-Hay's XI		W Winter 5—40
J.D-H.	95	
A	96—7	
v High Wycombe		D Freeman-Core 5—41
H.W.	137—9 dec	Surridge 3—26
A	78—9	Haynes 22
v Bloxham		D Rushton 54
A	164—5 dec	Haywood 35
B	109—8	Freeman-Core 31
		Haynes 21
		Winter 4—27
Overs game v Lord Williams'		L
A	96—7	
T	98—9	

against Oxon U.13's for the third wicket to recover from 2 wickets for 2 runs was splendid, and won the match. Martin Day added real strength to the middle order, always proving difficult to dislodge and produced one or two captain's innings of character. Brian Woolley kept improving throughout the season and also successful on occasions were Tony Haywood, Matthew Appleton and Jonathan Phillips.

All in all it was a memorable season. I shall remember it for all mentioned above, but even more perhaps for a few, so far, unrecorded incidents: the safest pair of hands dropping a "sitter" at Pangbourne to lose us the match; J.C. taking a scorcher of a catch at mid-off in a practice game, and Jonathan Phillips finding lower field off the "meat", in another; some excellent fielding leading to run-outs, some good catches and some appalling batting at High Wycombe!

For the record we were knocked-out of the 40 over competition by Radley in the semi-finals. Martin Day and John Cowan both played for the County with success and David Newman and Simon Littlewood were in the squad, although did not play. Many thanks to David Colsen — scorer, supporter and supplier of all the statistics.

C.M.P.B.

MINORS XI

A glance at the results will reveal the main features of this season — the dominance of two outstanding players, and the low scores caused by a succession of wet wickets.

Marcus Marsden and Matthew Cox had both won their colours as first-formers, for their outstanding bowling, and they took nearly all the wickets this season, not only for the School but also for Oxfordshire. They also proved to be the only batsmen capable of building a worthwhile innings, and without them this would have been a very lean season indeed: no-one else earned his colours.

In the first half of the term, when wickets were uncommonly dry and hard, no 1st XI opponents could be found. A number of 'A' XI matches was played, mainly in the Oxford Schools (20-over) League; these enabled over 30 boys to enjoy the experience of a match, but the comparatively poor results (seven matches were won out of 12) underlined the lack of depth in the age-group.

The first two 1st XI matches were cancelled because of rain, and the first to be played was that against New College School on June 18th! This, like all the others, was played on a rain-affected wicket, and our batsmen failed miserably to reach a small target, playing back to balls that kept low. Fortunately, they learned their lesson, and showed far better technique, and greater resolution, in subsequent matches, which were all won.

As usual, a wide range of matches was played, enabling a total of 40 players to represent the school, and these were almost all very close, and worthwhile, both as games, and in enabling the lesser players to achieve some success and the first-years to gain a little experience; of the latter, Jason Haynes looked very promising. Others to show promise for the future were William Hudson, who alone played forward with some confidence, and Euan Hirst, a lively wicket-keeper. But it was only when Marsden and Cox were working in harness, whether batting or bowling, that one could feel that Abingdon's normal standards were being maintained; it was *their* season!

M.W.

RESULTS

v Pangbourne	Lost	by 2 wks
A 65		
P 66-8		Smith 4-10
v Cokethorpe	Won	by 123 runs
A 205-4	dec	Cowan 67, Newman 93
C 82		Day 4-20, Rainsden 3-20
v St. Edwards	Drawn	
A 185-7	dec	Newman 64
St. E 139-9		Burley 4-45
v Magdalen College School	Drawn	
A 149		
MCS 133-4		
v The Oratory	Won	by 7 wks
TO 104		Smith 3-14, Burley 5-38
A 107-3		Cowan 55 n.o.
v Oxon U.13's	Won	by 5 wks
O 142-9	dec	Tomlinson 4-18, Day 3-8
A 145-5		Littlewood 52, Newman 54
v Leighton Park	Won	by 4 wks
LP 77		Newport 4-15, Burley 4-38
A 78-6		
v Oxford School	Won	by 7 wks
O 96		Day 5-6
A 98-3		
v Douai	Abandoned	
A 137-7	Dec	Woolley 30 n.o.
D 39-4		
v Radley	Lost	by 35 runs
R 147		
A 112		Littlewood 31
v Reading	Won	by 8 wks
R 119		Rainsden 3-46
A 121-2		Cowan 48 n.o., Newman 46 n.o.
v Lord William's Thame	Drawn	
LWT 201-9		Day 3-25
A 117-5		Appleton 33, Newman 60
v R.G.S. High Wycombe	Lost	by 79 runs
RGS 138-9		
A 59 all out		
v Hugh Pickles XI	Abandoned	
HP 117		Rainsden 3-17
v Bloxham	Drawn	
B 100		Smith 3-28, Burley 3-27
A 92-9		Woolley 33

1st XI:

J. Ralfe (Capt.), M. A. Marsden, M. C. Cox, W. S. D. Hudson, K. W. Higgs, T. E. H. Jones, J. C. P. Haynes, P. J. Mertha, E. G. Hirst, S. G. Sutcliffe, D. C. R. Holder.

2nd XI from:

J. B. May (Capt.), I. Andrews, S. B. James, S. C. Johnson, A. S. Kent, S. E. L. Arthy, J. S. P. Kowszun, L. C. R. Cullen, A. D. Thomas, J. A. Brown, N. P. Whitmell, and others.

RESULTS

1st XI Matches:

New College School (h). Lost by 13 runs.
New College 55 (Cox 6-16)
Abingdon 42
Reading School (h). Won by 4 wickets.
Reading 50 (Marsden 5-6, Cox 3-9)
Abingdon 51 for 6
Lord Williams, Thame, East (h). Won by 4 wickets.
Thame 86 for 8 dec. (Cox 3-28, Marsden 3-28)
Abingdon 87 for 6 (Cox 31)
Magdalen College School, Oxford (h). Won by 62 runs.
Abingdon 97 for 6 dec. (Cox 21)
M.C.S. 35 (Cox 5-6, Marsden 3-9)

High Wycombe R.G.S. (h). Won by 51 runs.
 Abingdon 110 (Marsden 45, Higgs 20)
 Wycombe 59 (Marsden 5—11, Cox 5—12)

'A' XI Matches:

Millbrook House School (h). Lost by 4 wickets.
 Abingdon 117 for 7 dec. (Higgs 53+)
 Millbrook 118 for 6 (Jones 3—22)
 Oratory School (h). Won by 13 runs.
 Abingdon 46
 Oratory 33 (Marsden 8—5)
 Carmel College (a). Won by 7 runs.
 Abingdon 60 (Higgs 21)
 Carmel 53 (Hudson 8—19)
 Oratory School (a). Won by 3 wickets.
 Oratory 70 (Cox 6—34)
 Abingdon 71 for 7 (Cox 27+)

2nd XI Matches:

Moulsford Prep. School 1st XI (a). Won by 72 runs.
 Abingdon 130 for 7 dec. (Haynes 34, Johnson 32+)
 Moulsford 58 (May 7—2)
 Douai School (h). Won by 16 runs.
 Abingdon 64 (Higgs 26)
 Douai 48 (Kowszun 5—12, Higgs 4—5)
 Audley House School 1st XI (a). Lost by 2 wickets.
 Abingdon 30
 Audley House 31 for 8 (May 3—11, S. M. Hudson 3—6)
 Christchurch Cathedral School 1st XI (a). Won by 3 runs.
 Abingdon 23
 Christchurch 20 (Holder 7—3)
 Josca's 1st XI (h). Lost by 6 wickets.
 Abingdon 45
 Josca's 46 for 4

Under-12 Matches:

Carmel College Under-13s (a). Won by 40 runs.
 Abingdon 60
 Carmel 20 (Mann 3—1)
 Bearwood College Under-13s (h). Won by 8 wickets.
 Bearwood 67 for 8 dec. (Evans 3—14)
 Abingdon 68 for 2 (Marsden 43+)

RUGBY

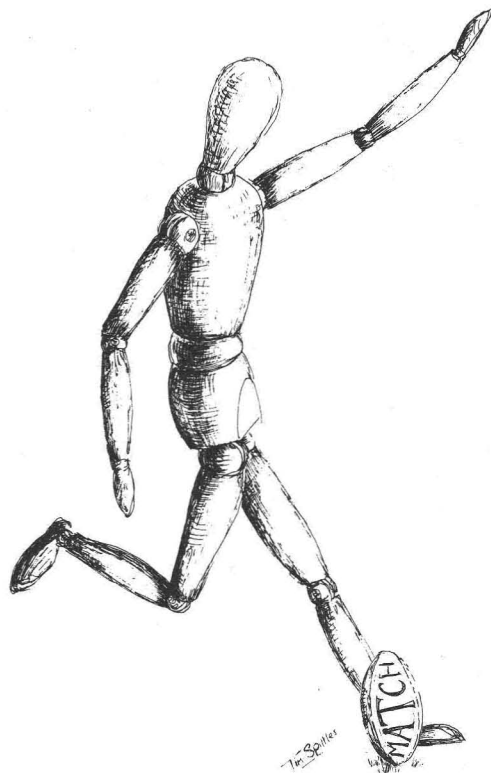
RUGBY CLUB 1980

Most school sides have good and bad patches, but it is worthy of note that in the last four years the 1st XV has Won 32, Lost 7, and Drawn 6 out of 45 regular school fixtures. These results have been achieved because of the presence of some very good basic talent, and through very hard work. Each year the players have been prepared to learn and work to create a team worth playing for. In so doing they have helped to create a spirit which has rubbed off on the younger players in the school, and it is encouraging to see the way in which all the Junior teams have tried hard to improve their standard of play. The team coaches at each level have played a vital part in moulding and developing talent, for without their efforts it would be impossible to build a strong 1st XV. It has been particularly encouraging this year to see one of last year's 3rd XV players gain a place in the 1st XV, and to be told by the 4th XV that they are glad they persevered with their rugby because they have enjoyed it.

1st XV

After a keen burst of early training the season started in a workmanlike manner, only to be disrupted by the news that the new Captain, Mark Emerton would have to miss the first part of the season because of the necessity of an operation on an old knee injury. Mark's absence deprived the team of real leadership, and it was not until his return after half term that the team settled down and played to its true potential.

The first trial against John Madgwick's XV was a thoroughly worthwhile and revealing exercise and allowed us to go into the first match of the season against Bloxham with a good deal of



confidence. The first half of the game was not very convincing however, and Bloxham went into an early lead. In the second half we settled down and put together some nice movements to end up easy winners. It was in this game that Christian Volak substituting for the injured Tim Haworth played a superb game as full back, scoring two memorable tries.

St. Edward's were very fit and strong and we did not have the services of Lawrence Casey, the largest man in our side. There was only one score between the teams as we went into the last quarter, but St. Edward's scored a final try to put the result beyond doubt. There was a nice moment in the second half when one of our thinking props elected to take a short penalty in front of their posts only to make an error and fail to score. He was left in no doubt that props should do as they are told and not take the initiative in tight situations!

Having beaten Berkhamsted fairly easily we came up against an excellent Solihull side who were to go through the season unbeaten, and be rated as one of the top sides in the Midlands. They had two or three clear overlap chances in the first half but failed to get the final touchdown, so with very little time remaining the game was decided by the two penalties they managed to kick.

Against Magdalen College School we secured a comfortable win and went on to play Latymer Upper on a mini-tour just before half term. Our forwards were completely outplayed whilst the backs looked full of promise when they had the ball in their hands.

Radley beat us by the widest margin for a number of years. We were all keyed up to play well, but once on the pitch we failed to play with that extra bit of commitment that has become the hallmark of this game. However the game did herald the return of Mark Emerton, and the effect of his leadership was felt in the next game against Reading. Our forwards played much better, and we were able to contain their main attacking weapon in the shape of a kicking fly half.

For the fourth successive year we were not beaten by Marlborough. This was the day of the big gale, and playing on their highest pitch both sides learnt what a great leveller the wind is. It was impossible to play open rugby, and the game developed into a rather dour battle with a draw being just about a fair result in the conditions.

The weather conditions were poor once again for the Newbury game, and it was not until the last quarter that we managed to kick three penalties to win. We were convincing against Pangbourne and came into the last school game of the season against Warwick with high hopes. Once again the Daily Telegraph reporter came down to see the game, and the headline the next morning was 'Pace and Skill see Abingdon through.'

Schools Rugby

PACE & SKILL SEE ABINGDON THROUGH

By Our Schools Rugby
Correspondent

Abingdon 22pts Warwick 6

Abingdon had a clear advantage in pace and skill outside the scrum and they survived a sticky patch around half-time to beat Warwick by three goals and a try to two penalty goals, yesterday.

Harper, Graham and Hall in particular showed much more thrust than any of Warwick's backs, and Bell, on the right wing, made effective use of his chances.

Warwick's hope rested largely on their forwards: in a solid front row, Gilbert at loose-head prop was a big source of strength, and Hill, a well-built lock, made some telling bursts in the broken play.

Graham broke from halfway and put Bell in for the first Abingdon try, converted by Hall.

Picture changed

A penalty goal by Hahn put Warwick into strong contention but two tries by Abingdon within a minute changed the picture completely. The first, converted by Hall, was a determined effort by Emerton from close quarters, and the second came from a fine run along the touchline by Harper.

Abingdon's lively backs, moving the ball well, added a further try by Bell—converted by Hall—before Hahn kicked his second penalty for Warwick in the last minute.

The second half of this game was a joy to behold, for having gained the better of the opposition we continued to apply pressure and produce good scores, when all too often in the past Abingdon sides have been content to relax after 'breaking' the opposition. The forwards in particular deserved a lot of praise for the way they tamed a very useful Warwick pack.

The Old Abingdonians fielded their strongest side for some years and played very well to secure their victory. It was a pleasure to see so many recent Old Boys playing so fairly, and tolerating the nuances of interpretation of the Laws made by the referee of the day, Jon Gabitass.

This year's side has perhaps not had the flair of last year's side, but they have practised hard and achieved a good deal. Four games were lost, one drawn and seven won. Tim Haworth was a commanding full back whose physical presence often deterred the opposition. Time and again a crunching tackle prevented a score and left an opponent rather the worse for wear. Tim's nose seemed to suffer a good deal from these clashes, and when he was missing through injury his absence left us vulnerable behind.

In Duncan Bell and Richard Hawes we had two potent scoring weapons on each wing, and they both had that determination and turn of speed that are the hallmarks of good wingers. We owed a good deal to them for their constant level of commitment.

Andy Hall and Alex Cullen complemented each other in the centre. Both were able to transfer the ball quickly to the wing, and Alex had one memorable pass in the Warwick game, which led directly to a score. Andrew's kicking and silk-like acceleration and running helped keep us in many games, whilst Alex's more physical approach was just as important.

The half backs are a vital combination to the success of any side, and we were lucky to have an outstanding ball player in Gareth Harper at scrum half, and a reliable and cool headed player in Ian Graham at fly half. Gareth had that ability to take on and beat his opposite number, and scored a number of memorable and vital tries in this manner. When Ian's confidence grew he too was able to run past his opposite number and so set up scoring chances.

The front row are the key to any successful scrum, and it was in this area that we had most of our early problems. Props in other teams often seemed to be stronger and more competitive, but Roland Hooley, Graham Radford-Smith and Crispin Wilson developed as the season progressed, and the Warwick performance was a fine testimony to the way they had persevered and improved their personal games. Philip Boobbyer proved to be a decisive and almost unbeatable hooker, who ensured that we won set piece ball even in most difficult situations.

Lawrence Casey and Nick Wormell provided a very solid if sometimes unbalanced presence in the second row. Theirs was the responsibility for providing the shove in the set pieces and for leaping for the ball in the lines out. Once again there were early problems in this department, but both players were doggedly determined to improve, and played some fine games during the season.

The final combination in the back row was Mark Emerton, Nick Ward and Dominic Cockram, and they provided a secure and robust presence

around the field. The team owed much to Mark's leadership and speed, and Dominic who played in the third fifteen last year became a force to be reckoned with, as did Nick. Paul Capelin and John Warchus played a number of effective games in the back row too.

This season underlined that a team without a solid scrummaging foundation is always going to be under pressure. Strength training for the front five in the Summer Term and Summer holidays is a must if the 'hard men' are going to be competitive early in the season. We had backs of pace and flair, but there were problems in defence, and although our forwards did well enough, the loose ball remained elusive throughout the season. Everyone worked hard, none more so than Jon Gabitass whose level of commitment is always infectious, and if some of his refereeing decisions in walking touch rugby in Hyde Park left something to be desired, I am sure we have all forgiven him now. Finally a word of thanks to Mark Emerton whose efforts had a very direct bearing on the success of the side making what could have been a mediocre team a very good one.

D.G.C.

Those who played:

C. Volak, T. Haworth, D. Bell, A. Hall, A. Cullen, C. Newmark, R. Hawes, G. Harper, I. Graham, R. Hooley, G. Radford-Smith, C. Wilson, T. Burles, P. Boobbyer, L. Casey, N. Wormell, D. Phillips, N. Ward, M. Emerton (capt.), D. Cockram, J. Warchus, P. Capelin.

RESULTS

v Bloxham	won 27 - 7
v St. Edwards	lost 9 - 13
v Berkhamsted	won 17 - 6
v Solihull	lost 0 - 6
v Magdalen College School	won 16 - 6
v Latymer Upper School	lost 4 - 10
v Radley	lost 9 - 25
v Reading	won 20 - 13
v Marlborough	drew 3 - 3
v Newbury	won 9 - 4
v Pangbourne	won 29 - 4
v Warwick	won 22 - 6
v O.A.'s	lost 7 - 9

2nd XV

The 1980 2nd XV was not a steady and settled team — only 3 players represented the side on all eleven occasions and the services of 32 players were called upon in all.

Away from Abingdon the side failed to notch up one victory — although they were twice beaten by only one point — 7-8 at Berkhamsted and 3-4 at Radley. There is no question that Abingdon should have defeated Berkhamsted, while either side could have won the Radley match. At home the team provided much stronger opposition, especially on Waste Court I where a hundred-per-cent record was maintained. Of the two matches played on this pitch — those against Reading and Newbury — large crowds were given their money's worth with some stimulating open rugby that resulted in 8 splendid tries.

The front 8, built around John Warchus, Dave Phillips and the ever-present Nick Rice and Nick North, on their better days not only supplied good ball but also ran in as many tries as the backs. The performance against MCS was particularly satisfying, with the forwards completely dominating the opposition. Another successful front 8 ploy was the well-rehearsed 'Dave Phillips' move which resulted in two excellent tries, one against a very large and solid Marlborough pack. Worthier of attention, however, were the gutsy performances against scrums containing much larger forwards, as was the case with St. Edwards and Solihull.

The backs had a slightly more settled line-up than the forwards, despite recurrent shoulder injuries to both Christopher Newmark and Gavin McLauchlan. The latter topped the tries with Christian Volak, whose tackling was a lesson to all, and helped with the goal-kicking; the majority of which was done by Andrew Newman, who would like to remember the successful conversions from the edge of the pitch, but who was constantly reminded of the flops in front of the posts! A lot of hard work was put into practising both defence and attack and by half-term the backs were showing that, given ball, they knew how to use it.

Apart from defeat by the atrocious weather conditions at Marlborough and by a very strong and well-drilled Warwick side, the team, after half-term, played with great spirit and not a little success.

Despite the results, it was a very enjoyable season and I know the team would like to thank Mr. Pengelley for his enthusiastic coaching and encouragement.

Andrew Newman (captain)

RESULTS

v Bloxham	Lost 0 - 51
v St. Edwards	Lost 4 - 25
v Berkhamsted	Lost 7 - 8
v Solihull	Lost 3 - 34
v Magdalen C.S.	Won 35 - 0
v Radley	Lost 3 - 4
v Reading	Won 27 - 10
v Marlborough	Lost 6 - 24
v Newbury	Won 23 - 14
v Pangbourne	Won 18 - 9
v Warwick	Lost 0 - 30

3rd XV

The 3rd XV this season only won 3 of their matches but none the less enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Wins were against Magdalen, Pangbourne and Warwick, the latter a fitting finale to a tough season. As usual injury in the 1st and 2nd XV's often left us with little to choose from especially when the prospect of a trip to Solihull loomed ahead!

We had extremely close matches against Reading and Newbury, the latter being a last minute try from their try-line, and Marlborough were too strong for us.

Gareth Llewellyn and Simon Jozwiak provided a useful second row and Noel Williams, Ben Macintyre (or D Round), and Lee Allanson provided a tight front row. Rich Thomas, John Mawhinney and Andy Colgan were in the team in the latter part of the season much to our opponents' discomfort! Tim Johnson and Nigel Marsh played well as flankers. The backs tried



hard, with John Berry and Geoff Lanham providing useful experience for Andy Rowe and Nigel Roberts who both tackled well. Kicking was by Tim Spittles, Noel Williams or Nigel Roberts but the latter was the only one who seemed to succeed consistently!

Lastly my thanks to Mr. S. Bodey and Dr. P. Wilmore for coaching us with so much enthusiasm!!

T. M. Spittles (VI)

Those who played were:

L. Allanson, D. Round, B. Macintyre, S. Jozwiak, G. Llewellyn, A. Colgan, J. Mawhinney, R. Thomas, T. Johnson, N. Marsh, T. Spittles (Capt.), J. Berry, A. Rowe, G. Lanham, N. Williams, N. Roberts, A. Wilmore, R. Adair, R. McCreery.

4th XV

After a few practice sessions and a little training our intrepid team was released onto the field against an undoubtedly strong St. Edward's side. To say the least, we were soundly beaten, in fact our being on the field was a mere formality. However, after a brief re-arrangement and redistribution of positions in the three-quarters and forwards, and a much more positive approach to the game, the error margin was halved at our next confrontation, namely Radley. The first twenty minutes passed without score, but unfortunately, as in other games, the first points seemed to diminish morale to such a degree that the points rapidly clicked up thereafter.

In the games that followed, our performance increased markedly in each game, and we had the impression that the team really was a team, and not a gaggle of ill-trained individuals who were merely out on the field compulsorily. The players enjoyed the games, and to the most extent, games were clean and hard-fought, and our referee, Mr. Randolph, I hope, had a reasonably easy time.

Our final game, against Pangbourne, was our first win of the season, much to the pleasure of the Headmaster, who spent much of the game on our touch line, oblivious to the 2nd XV on the neighbouring field, volubly encouraging and spurring on the team. It was a pleasant end to an increasingly encouraging season, and I think it would be fair to say that at the end, the members of the team were quite proud to be in the notorious 4th XV. Many thanks to all who played (too numerous to mention), to Mr. Bodey and Dr. Wilmore for their hours spent training us and to Mr. Randolph for his perceptive and fair refereeing of our games.

Jerry Burley (VI)

COLTS XV

To any team that has suffered so many defeats on its way up the School, the thought of yet another season of Rugby must be a daunting prospect. This year's Colts, stigmatised as an inferior team, therefore had to make a fresh start and work that much harder in order to gain confidence and some sort of credibility. Although several games were lost, I felt this ambition was achieved, as the team saw a purpose in playing Rugby, and never once gave up the fight. If tackling had been the weakness in the past, it was now the team's strength, and it was this aspect of play which improved most by the end of the season. By the end of term the Colts had won three of their matches, and deservedly were awarded the Junior Rugby cup.

The success of any rugby team according to Dr. Danie Craven is mainly dependent upon the efficiency of the pack. If the forwards win the battle against the forwards of the opposing team, their team is victorious as a rule. The Colts pack made up for their inefficiencies in size and strength in their loose play. Mobility and keen tackling denied the opposition of good quality possession which is so vital. The front row of Philip Ladmore, Craig Shuttleworth and Keith Girdwood withstood the pressure throughout the season, and worked extremely hard in the set pieces and loose play. Behind them, Toby Wilson and Jeremy Richardson worked hard in their battle to win the shoving contest, and both were particularly effective in the loose. The back row of Martin Haywood, Jean-Marc Freeman, Francis Bailey and Chris Johnson were undoubtedly the team's greatest asset. Their covering tackles, and pressure on the opposition, minimised the chances of any heavy defeats. A special mention must be given here to the captain Martin Haywood. His dedication and fiery enthusiasm triggered off a sense of purpose and commitment in those around him. His brief absence through injury towards the end of the season had a marked influence on the team's spirit, which was immediately restored on his return. Behind the scrum, Robin Suggate and Simon Rushton spearheaded some useful attacks, and both improved with every game. Nicholas Thomas, Alastair Ross and Jean-Marc Freeman all had a go at centre and all made a useful contribution. Nicholas, in particular, always looked menacing and possesses a dangerous method of breaking as he is so quick out of the side-step. His ability to execute opportunist or forced breaks accounted for most of the season's tries. On the wings, Richard Wagon, Patrick McLeod, Stephen Tyack and Adrian Stores relied mainly on their speed and, given space, were very effective indeed. Patrick, Alex Fergusson and James Kempton were called upon to fulfil the role of full back. They tackled well and were keen to link up with the back line on the attack.

If the A XV's task of winning matches was difficult, the B XV's task was even greater. Although all matches were lost, progress was certainly evident in the Marlborough game. One can look back to a hard, but enjoyable season, and the fact that everyone tried so hard, made it so worthwhile. My thanks to the Rev. Philip Butcher for his assistance with the coaching and refereeing.

These days the losing side is seldom happy by the way the game is refereed. In spite of what was expressed from the touch-line, Rev. Butcher's usual high standard was maintained throughout the season.

The following played for the team:—

A. Fergusson, P. McLeod, J. Kempton, S. Tyack, R. Wagon, A. Stores, N. Thomas (v. capt), A. Ross, S. Rushton, R. Suggate, J. Volak, P. Ladmore, C. Shuttleworth, K. Girdwood, T. Wilson, J. Richardson, N. Anderson, J. Perrins, M. Haywood (capt), J.-M. Freeman, C. Johnson.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

RESULTS

Bloxham School	(H)	Lost 6 — 9
St. Edwards School	(H)	Lost 0 — 27
Berkhampstead School	(H)	Lost 3 — 33
Cokethorpe 1st XV	(H)	Won 24 — 14
Magdalen College School	(A)	Won 20 — 8
Radley College	(H)	Lost 0 — 27
Reading School	(A)	Lost 3 — 24
Marlborough College	(A)	Lost 0 — 44
Newbury School	(A)	Won 10 — 0
Pangbourne College	(H)	Lost 6 — 7
Warwick School	(A)	Lost 0 — 54

JUNIOR COLTS

In terms of the record this was not an impressive season but there was much improvement; results towards the end of term were mainly encouraging. Lack of size and strength, principally in the scrum, prevented the team from winning matches; at least one opposition coach said we were physically the smallest side they had played that term.

Cockburn, last year's scrum-leader, should have been moved from prop earlier in the season: he led well but had grown too tall for the front row. Stephens and McGhie did well at prop in the closing matches. The latter collapsed from weak ankles in the opening weeks but came back very strongly after half-term. My money is on Dalton-Morris and Elsey as next year's engine room, especially if one or both can stretch themselves to gain extra inches. To overcome lack of height, in the middle of term we worked on the two man lineout. That was alright in the home matches but on away outings it was touch and go as to whether the referee would be sufficiently knowledgeable on the finer points of the lineout laws to permit our well laid plans. It was difficult to win! Bishop meanwhile at eight was providing the best cover tackling seen for a long time. He tottered on after 'flu in the last match and we lost, which does not say much for the tackling elsewhere. To be fair the wingers, Sayer and Durand, came on quite well in that department. Littlewood and Burgoyne ran and kicked well but the captain enjoyed back trouble and needs to toughen himself still further on his hay bales next summer holiday.

The best performance of the term was undoubtedly against Marlborough: we held a side which boasted seven county players remarkably well on a wet and windy day. It was good to score tries in the following match at Newbury. Reading and Warwick were both close, tense encounters as they had been for these players when Juniors.

R.C.B.C.

Regular members of the team were:

M. Appleton, D. Newport, S. Littlewood (c), M. Durand, J. Phillips, N. Burgoyne, A. McGhie, B. Stanton, I. Cockburn, N. Ryan, R. Elsey, R. Flaxman, S. Bishop, R. Dalton-Morris.

The following also played:

P. Stephens, M. Sayer, B. Woolley, M. Day, N. Tomlinson, W. Martin, P. Golding, J. Lee, M. Vanhegan.

RESULTS

Bloxham	(H)	Won 18 — 10
St. Edwards	(A)	Lost 6 — 17
Berkhamsted	(A)	Lost 0 — 18
Solihull	(H)	Lost 4 — 12
Magdalen College School	(A)	Lost 6 — 16
Radley	(H)	Lost 0 — 24
Warwick	(H)	Lost 9 — 11
Reading	(H)	Drew 3 — 3
Marlborough	(H)	Lost 4 — 8
Newbury	(A)	Won 27 — 0
Pangbourne	(A)	Lost 9 — 18

JUNIORS XV

It was two weeks after the start of term. Fit and straining at the leash, the Juniors XV, led by those stalwarts of the game Chris Biggs and William Hudson, took the field at Bloxham. We lost. "Put it down to lack of experience lads" was the after-match analysis.

Back on Upper Field the arduous training resumed, twenty-five and back, half-way and back, piggy-back, wheelbarrows, crab running etc: this finally paid off against Cokethorpe, but we had to suffer two more defeats by St. Edward's and Berkhamsted before our first success. John Ralfe scored a hat-trick with the boot punctuated by two fine tries by Ian Andrews.

The most memorable match was the penultimate game against Newbury. The forwards, encouraged by Kevin Higgs, looking well as ever, gave clean possession to the backs who used it to the full. The result was a win by 35 to 0 including a dynamic try on the wing from M. D. Blake who must be the best tackler of the season.

We didn't win too much but everyone enjoyed the season to the full. Let's hope that we learned a lot for next year.

William Hudson (3)

Played 12; Won 3; Lost 9

MINORS

There were few outstanding players in the second year, and this might well have proved a poor season; in fact the XV had a very pleasing record, especially considering that much momentum was lost in mid-season, when there was a three-month period with only one first team match. Furthermore, matches that would almost certainly have been won easily are now 'A' team matches; while these enable twice as many boys to play in a match against first-team opposition, and team-selection can be arranged so as to lose regularly, there is no doubt that the rhythm of the first team suffers badly.

The major factor in the team's success was its tremendous dedication, and refusal to give up until the final whistle; whereas in some seasons the close matches have tended to be lost, this year a number was won against the odds. There were dramatic last-minute recoveries in the matches against Millbrook House, St. Bartholomew's and Berkhamsted when all seemed lost. Our first win against Pinewood since 1975 was desperately close, and could easily have been stolen from us at the end, had team-spirit not been so high. The two defeats were honourable: Solihull had played far more matches than our team, and had only lost once; Reading had an outstanding side, perhaps the best at this age-group I have seen since our own team of 1975. Tim Luteijn and James Allison dominated Backs and Scrum respectively with their own total commitment and intelligent style of play, and inspired the rest by their example.

Another significant factor was the availability of members of other years: Marcus Marsden (in the Christmas term) and Dermot Mayes played an important role, as did two outstanding first-formers, Garrath Reayer and Simon Wintle, whose flair was invaluable to the Backs.

There were many promising new boys in fact, and the Under-12 team developed well in the Easter Term; their programme culminated in a tremendously exciting victory over a previously unbeaten Prior Park side. As this was the first time we have won this fixture, we can look forward to next season with considerable optimism.

M.W.

1st XV:

T. J. A. Luteijn (c); N. W. Aldridge; J. R. McCracken; G. R. Reayer; J. N. Silk; S. D. Evans; S. J. Wintle; J. S. P. Kowszun; P. D. Mayes; E. Cacomanolis; N. W. Hewlett; P. J. Starr; J. S. Allison, B. A. Blackman, N. J. Suckling.

2nd XV:

L. C. R. Cullen; I. M. Elms; S. D. Lawrence; A. D. Tapper; G. D. Scott; D. J. M. Ingram; G. T. Nicholson; R. H. Platts; P. J. Mitchell, M. W. Weatherall; A. P. Heard; A. J. Corbett; R. W. Money-Kyrle (c); S. T. Bird; N. Pond; G. W. S. Potter; J. Cacomanolis.

RESULTS

1st XV

Solihull School	(H)	Won 4 - 14
Pinewood School	(H)	Won 18 - 13
Millbrook House	(H)	Drew 10 - 10
Prior's Court	(H)	Won 36 - 0
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(H)	Won 15 - 14
Reading School	(H)	Lost 0 - 18
Berkhamsted School	(A)	Won 10 - 4

'A' XV

Christchurch Cathedral School	(A)	4 - 12
Oratory School	(A)	Won 14 - 10
St. Hugh's School	(A)	Lost 4 - 16
Oratory Prep. School	(A)	Won 18 - 4
Audley House School	(H)	Lost 27 - 28
Larkmead School	(A)	Won 22 - 0
Oratory School	(H)	Lost 4 - 10
Magdalen College School	(A)	Lost 0 - 4

Various 2nd and 'B' XV's

Oratory Prep.	(A)	Won 34 - 0
Magdalen College School	(A)	Won 16 - 8
Moulsford Preparatory 1st XV	(H)	Lost 0 - 12
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(H)	Won 31 - 0
Reading School	(H)	Lost 0 - 4
Berkhamsted School	(A)	Lost 3 - 8

Under-12 XV

Bearwood College	(H)	Won 20 - 12
Larkmead School	(A)	Won 20 - 6
Summerfields School	(A)	Drew 4 - 4
Prior Park School	(H)	Won 8 - 4

SOCIETIES

The various societies that the school sports have continued to beaver away, allowing expression at all hours of the day and evening to the catholic interests of the school population, from the culture-culture to the greasy-elbowed, and the sybaritic to the spartan.

The film society — those of the wan face and bloodshot eyeball — have sat through miles of celluloid in the plusher surroundings of the Amey Hall:

FILM SOCIETY

The new look 1980 Film Society, under the aegis of Mr. Paul Cann and Miss Cassie Peterson, opened in the vast and splendid surroundings of the Amey Hall. This constituted a substantial improvement on the somewhat less than palatial Court room, where you had to be Chris Bonington to get a good seat, and have the physical prowess of an orang-utang to stay there when someone kicked the tables/chairs/pairs of shoulders you were sitting on. In this den of iniquity the projectionists' equipment consisted mostly of sellotape and chewing gum, and they spent most of their time disentangling themselves from the reels of lacerated celluloid being disgorged by a decidedly unhealthy "projector".

However, the promise of luxurious surroundings, new blue membership cards and an international season of films, could not quite atone for the appearance of a double bedsheet masquerading as the silver screen. After much prevarication a new screen was duly installed and members were able to settle down to the serious business of watching films.

The films themselves met with a mixed reception. "Accident" suffered through a poor sound system (now replaced), incessant chatter in the auditorium and lousy (Losey?) direction, whereas "Le Boucher" and "El Conformista" nonplussed the audience with their subtitles and problematical story-lines. The other English speaking movies fared better, with "Coming Home" proving popular, perhaps requiring a little less thought than either "Providence" or "Picnic At Hanging Rock". The junior films, "Kes", "The

Pink Panther and **Lord of the Flies** were generally enjoyed, and Woody Allen's comedy **Manhattan** provided a satisfactory end to a thought-provoking term's films.

The Lent term got off to a dramatic start when the scheduled film, **Monterey Pop**, was hijacked by aficionados of Jimi Hendrix en route to the school. Its replacement was a little-known masterpiece called **Keep on Rocking**, and starring an assortment of fifties pop stars as old age pensioners. Scarcely had the dulcet tones of a nonagenarian Jerry Lee Lewis stopped reverberating around the Hall, when that most militant of liberated actresses, Jane "Save the American Indian" Fonda, appeared in **The China Syndrome**, a nuclear thriller. **To Kill a Mockingbird** was followed by **Three Days of the Condor**, and Alfred Hitchcock's **Psycho** managed to generate a few apprehensive yelps from the more faint-hearted members of the audience.

A treat was in store for those members who successfully divined the correct screening date, when Raquel Welch played Lillian Lust in **Bedazzled**, and in similarly comic vein there was Mel Brooks' **High Anxiety**, a Hitchcock rip-off. Nicolas Roeg's masterly **Walkabout** provided junior members with something to talk about, while The Man with No Name assumed that of Harry Callahan to star in **Magnum Force**. Once again it was left to Woody Allen to round off the term with his **Annie Hall**.

A gaggle of mercenaries opened up the Summer term in Andrew V. McLaglen's **The Wild Geese**, a contemporary war film which enabled Richard Burton and Roger Moore to indulge in frequent blood-letting under the pretence of rescuing an African V.I.P. Sam Peckinpah, whose films have earned him the title of "Master of Violence", provided the year's only western — **The Wild Bunch**, a torrid tale of slow-motion death and more slow-motion death. After relaxing through the comparative tranquility of **Hamlet**, members were subjected to the camp, corny capers of a transvestite Dr. Frankenstein type by the name of Frank N. Furter in Jim Sharman's **The Rocky Horror Picture Show**. This merry Transylvanian romp was a screen adaptation of the classic stage show, and is in itself a cult movie. The term ended with Richard Burton playing psychiatrists with freaked-out Double Decker Peter Firth in **Equus**.

An entertaining year's films, which were well attended on the whole, but new members are very welcome to join the newer look 1981 Film Society, which will probably be just the same as this year's, only with more money.

John Parker and Nick North (6)

The Stamp Club has met to swap covers and conversation:

STAMP CLUB

Every other Friday, throughout the Winter terms, at lunchtime in Room 8, can be found a rare breed of Abingdonian. There, bowed over tables filled with multitudes of stamps of all denominations, sizes, colours and countries are members of the Stamp Club searching for bargains, or hopefully looking to fill a gap in their

collection. Some will buy anything, some are more selective, but with the usual price of one penny per stamp, there are bargains for everyone.

Occasionally when there are specialities on sale, we have an auction and the adrenalin runs high as boys vie with each other for a "rare" album filler. Sometimes we have a talk about someone's collection to give ideas to other members of the Club; Mr. Griffin gave us a talk recently on some of his covers. But usually it is relaxed and social, boys yarning about stamps already obtained or dreaming about those of the future; boys thumbing through Stanley Gibbons to confirm a price, or boys swapping between themselves often checking with the secretary or myself for a fair deal.

The competition this year was once again very tight. In the senior class Paul Meadows won with an excellent discourse on British Stamp design, although L.C.J.G., who judged it, found it almost impossible to distinguish between this first and Ian Haley's second prize for a most informative piece on postal events as portrayed on British Commemoratives. David Newport was highly commended for his entry on Space Exploration as depicted by Russian stamps. The junior class was won by Andrew Jones.

It is always a delight of my week to get away from the hurly-burly and bustle of School life, in the calm and peace of Stamp Club. I look forward to another enjoyable year. All boys who are interested are welcome to join us. Paul Meadows has been the secretary and performed the minimal administration with great efficiency.

C.M.P.B.



Photographers have crawled out of the wainscoting in various dark corners of the Amey Hall to mount some adventurous exhibitions:

This term saw the formation of a new Abingdon school photographic club. The club has been based around the school darkroom which was set up and equipped by the Art Department in the new Arts Centre. Needless to say the darkroom has been in constant use.

Most age groups are represented in the membership of the club and there is a very wide range of ability. The facilities the club can offer have given opportunities especially to the younger member to learn a range of photographic skills that, if unaided, he could not have afforded to tackle.

As a relatively new club with very little capital we have been restricted in the type of activity that we can pursue. The intention is that in the Summer term members could cover a range of school events and that the photographs could be sold in order that we can afford to organise club outings etc.

There is no doubt that there is potential in the club and this term culminated in a competition which included some entries of quite high standard.

We would especially like to thank Dr. Lees-Jones for the loan of his camera and darkroom equipment.

Miles Ashley (6)

The Modern Languages Society, run jointly with St. Helen's School, has provided a programme of speakers and outings, whiffs of French cheese and sips of German wine:

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

A mixture of the frivolous and the serious has characterised this year's activities. Among the former, games of **Juste Une Minute** and **Esprit Supérieur** were hosted respectively by Guy Neville and Jonathan Prest, while the solemnity of an evening of love poetry and song was soon dissipated by a glass of punch, prepared according to Mr. Taylor's secret recipe, and by an assortment of foreign foods.

Theatre trips were organised to **The Workshop** and **Three Sisters** in the Michaelmas Term, the latter being preceded by a reading of the play at Saint Helen's. In March, a small party witnessed an energetic romp through Voltaire's **Candide**; Molière's **Le Misanthrope** in May should prove a rather more sedate affair, though even Molière can be vulgar, as a reading of his **Précieuses Ridicules**, again at Saint Helen's, showed.

The films at the Maison Française in Oxford attracted some support, but more successful by far have been the films shown in the Amey Hall: Truffaut's **Baisers Volés** and Lelouch's **Vivre Pour Vivre** had audiences of nearly a hundred, and there is every sign that the delightful musical **Les Parapluies de Cherbourg** and the appropriately-named **Masculin-Féminin** will prove as popular in the Summer Term.

More serious activities included a lecture by Mr. Willerton on Existentialism and an illustrated talk by Mr. Gabitass on the 19th century French artist Courbet, while in the Summer Term Mr. Hasnip will be giving a talk on Hitler. Many thanks to all of them, and also to Mr. Taylor, whose support behind the scenes has proved indispensable on too many occasions to mention.

PC

The Schools' Challenge team bookwormed its way to the penultimate stages of the competition before coming to a complete and sudden cerebral arrest:



SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

The Lent Term saw the selection and subsequent performances of the Schools Challenge team — that band of academics in sporting guise: Jonathan Holt, Christopher Johnson, Andrew Fisher and Roger Smith. It was particularly difficult to choose the two sixth-formers as many candidates reached an equally high standard in the preliminary tests. Four matches were played altogether. The team beat **Stowe** away by a fair margin (520-410) after a first round bye. The next match, at home, against

St. Edward's was a real nail-biter until the very end, and we carried the day by only 490-460. This took the team into the Regional Finals against **Magdalen College School**. After trailing early on, we eventually managed to win quite comfortably by 720-600. In the Inter-Regional Preliminary Round on 20 March we faced **Eton**, our long-established and familiar adversary, who in a really sparkling performance did, alas, thrash us by 1110-510. Fortunately, our spirits were revived somewhat by Eton's warm hospitality after the match. The whole season was marked throughout by a happy and sporting spirit. Thanks are due to Daniel Oppenheimer who spent the term on the reserve list but had to play against St. Edward's; his coolness in the solo round practically won the match for us. Also many thanks to Messrs. Macdonald and Pritchard, who acted as chauffeurs for the away matches, and last and most of all to Dr. Zawadzki for fixing and organising the whole activity.

Jonathan Holt (6)

The Pseud-Food Club has wined and dined in relative secrecy until now, when a past-president, Martin Hyder, secure in the knowledge that he is now an Old Boy, blows the lid off their saucepan:

PSEUD-FOOD SOCIETY

The Pseud Food Society was the 'brainchild' of Tim Cook, a flamboyant and debonair member of the school for many years. After two years in the sixth form, Tim began to feel that there was a gap in his education, a view shared by several of his subject masters. Fired with enthusiasm after attending a number of regimental bunfights at Larkhill and Tidworth, Tim proposed to found a society whose sole purpose would be the singleminded pursuit of excellence in the art of eating and drinking good food and wine and of being able generally to dress and behave like a gentleman.

The idea having been formulated, Tim needed a sponsor from the staff and with an alacrity that did him credit Mr. Gabitass volunteered to sacrifice his precious evenings at home in order to sample some of the best food and wine the school has ever seen. Such dedication is a salutary lesson to us all. Mr. Webber and Mr. Ayling who know a good thing when they see one also agreed to join the society as advisors.

All that was needed now were members and their selection proved to be more than a little difficult. There were twenty places to be filled and even after all Tim's personal friends had been 'elected' eighteen remained. As the word got round Tim was surprised to discover that he had many more friends than he had at first supposed. Total strangers would inquire after his health whilst less scrupulous characters tried to curry favour with him by laughing at his jokes, undoubtedly an uphill struggle.

At long last membership was complete and at an inaugural meeting Tim outlined the society's aims and asked for suggestions for a name for the newly-formed body. It was at this point that some idiot said 'How about the Pseud Food Society?' Mr. Gabitass's derisive laugh died on his lips when Tim, far from dismissing the name out of hand

announced that he thought the name ideal. Mr. Gabitass's valiant but abysmal last-minute suggestion of 'The Gastronomes' was laughed out of the room.

During the first term of the society's existence a pattern was established. There would be three or four meetings in each term and one dinner. Since it began the society's members have been addressed by some of the school's foremost gourmets; Mr. Ayling talked very knowledgeably about French cheeses, Mr. Barrett told us how to eat seafood and frogs legs without slopping it down our shirts, Mr. MacDonald gave us what amounted to a medieval banquet, Mr. Pengelley showed us how to shoot, cook and eat almost everything from venison to duck, and always Mr. Gabitass was there bottle in hand distributing the liquid 'teaching aids' so vital to the members' education.

Not to be out-done, Tim Cook announced his own plans for club solidarity. These included a tie with the Pseud Food Society's own unique emblem. The general appreciation felt for this idea was considerably dampened when the emblem was held up for all to see. It bears more than a passing resemblance to the sort of picture one sees on signs on the motorway under the words 'Services Five Miles' or as someone pointed out at the time it made the members of the society look like representatives from Berni Inns.

Confidence in Tim's judgement suffered another severe blow when he announced that after he had left the school he was going to hand over the running of the society to Martin Hyder and James Nicholls, two total incompetents who, in the view of most people, would have had difficulty organising a bunch of grapes in a vineyard. Stunned by this calamitous piece of news the members sought solace in their port and cigars or if they happened to be sitting in the right place, in the Headmaster's snuff which passed round to a select few. This is in fact a real honour because the particular snuff used by the Head is only available at a certain tobacconist in Cambridge. So to be given some of the Headmagisterial snuff is a privilege to be ranked with being awarded the Duxbury tie.

Many dinners have since taken place. Miraculously the organisation survived the blunders made by the Hyder/Nicholls administration and is now flourishing under Ben Macintyre and Richard Thomas under the watchful eye of the omnipresent, nay omnipotent, Mr. Gabitass. I can only imagine that Tim Cook's 'brainchild' will go from strength to strength. After all how else can you get a four course meal, three different wines and a liqueur, on one occasion twenty year old port, for five pounds?

M. G. Hyder (VI)

The Royssse Society has untangled some knotty questions posed by a succession of inspiring and controversial speakers:

THE ROYSSE SOCIETY

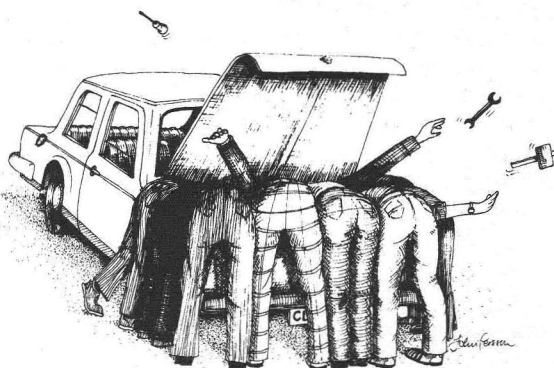
The Society met for two evenings in the Lent term in the Headmaster's house, our first guest speaker being **Colonel Eveleigh**, who delivered a very interesting talk on the Military's involvement and position in the context of civil unrest. There

was a long discussion afterwards, when everyone, stimulated by the Headmaster's lavish supplies of food and wine, threw their own opinions on the matter into debate. At the end most people seemed to sympathise with the Military's objections to the restrictions imposed upon its actions by the civil authorities, and the particular problems which this caused in Northern Ireland, but still maintained that the British Military's traditional role was to keep out of involvement in civil disputes.

Our second guest speaker was **Professor Hudson** who gave a talk on the psychological interpretation of English middle-class laziness and lack of what he called "buccaneering", a subject which was perhaps more comprehensible to most of us than Colonel Eveleigh's. Most of the discussion centred on finding out exactly what a "buccaneer" was, but once that was put right most people agreed with Professor Hudson that this "lack of go" was due to the English school system, except for the Headmaster who consistently maintained that we needed a revolution as there had been in most of Europe during the nineteenth century. Now in the Summer term we are awaiting further discussions in which we can come to grips with the dilemmas that face our decaying world.

Nivk Holmes (IV)

The Motor Mechanics have shown remarkable powers of persuasion in getting members of staff to surrender their cars for inspection:



MOTOR MECHANICS

The Abingdon School Car Clinic (Dent-a-Car Ltd.) has continued to function throughout the year drawing its support (perhaps a little surprisingly) mainly from the Middle School. Following the successful overhaul of a moped engine the amateur hamfists were unleashed on the cars of trusting masters — changing oil, carrying out pre-MoT check-ups, and tuning up petrol-guzzling engines into fast, efficient fuel-misers. The group is now engaged in the renovation of an old Mini Traveller, starting with an engine and gearbox transplant. We may not quite be able to boast a group of fully trained mechanics, but at least some boys who have enjoyed getting their hands dirty on a Wednesday afternoon can now tell the difference between a tappet and a brake shoe, and have learnt some of the subtle uses of the Birmingham screwdriver.

G.C.R.

SYMPOSIUM

Since Scott McCracken wrote his probing exposé of the coffee club that meets in my sitting room on Monday lunchtimes things have changed little: the coffee is just as bad — but there's only half a tin to go. A new departure is the alliance between the Modern Languages Society and Symposium. A number of Friday evenings have thus been taken up by films such as **Les Baisers Volés** or **Vivre pour Vivre**. This is to say nothing of CJMP's trip to see **Kagemusha**. Mozart has received our attention more than once: Glyndebourne touring Opera's production of **Die Entführung** at the New Theatre and **Don Giovanni** on film at the Phoenix. A reply to those who feel that Symposium spends most of its time on expensive jaunts is surely implicit in an examination of our visiting speakers this year. Messrs. Ralph Townsend and Nigel Brown participated in a Brains Trust. The School's medical officer, Dr. Kendal, spoke to a well-filled Amey Hall on 'Drugs, Use and Abuse'. Brian Aldiss spoke on his craft as a writer and read us one view at least of the end of the world.

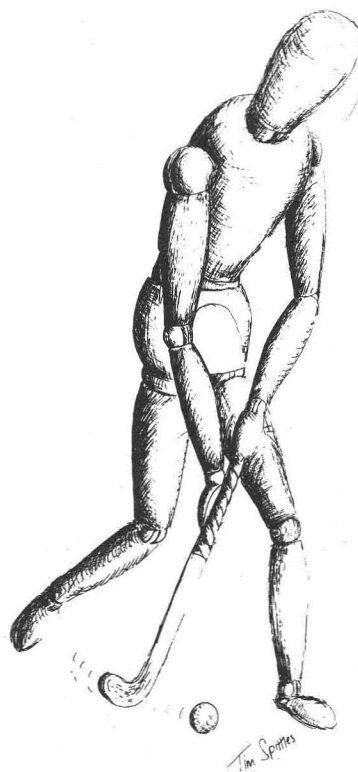
The most spectacular speaker must have been Professor Clark Mollenhoff of the University of Washington and Lee. He seems to have been a friend of anybody who is anybody on the American political scene for years, and staggered us with his disparaging views on honour (or the lack thereof) in British politics. He prompted a huge laugh when he responded to N.K.H. with "Sir you obviously know nothing about politics".

In the Lent Term we had a visit from the Buddhists' Mission and a combined talk from Mrs. Margery Jones, who spoke of the moral and environmental sides of vegetarianism, and Mr. John May who picked up the practical side of vegetarianism in his harangue on the loss of our peripheral perceptions. No one seems to have taken him seriously to judge from the row audible on Park Crescent during the Rock Concert . . . The Freddie Jones presentation **Rogues and Vagabonds** was of Symposium's prompting as was the end of term Revue: did *any* reputation escape unscathed? Thanks must go particularly to J.R.G., who withstood the 'This is your Life' sketch most nobly, and J.D.H., who stole the show, — actor and drummer, is there no limit to the man's talents? As usual we have been to the theatre: **Timon of Athens** at the Other Place in Stratford, **The Suicide** at the Aldwych, **Accidental Death of an Anarchist** at Wyndhams Theatre and **Tishoo** at the Watermill, Newbury.

Planned for the Summer Term are outings to Glyndebourne for Richard Strauss's **Ariadne auf Naxos** and to the Royal Festival Hall for a concert of Mendelsohn, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and Debussy. We must hope that the R.P.O. will be in better form than the last time we heard it. May 29 is fixed for the Headmaster's debate. Taking part are to be Alistair Sampson, Norman Lamont M.P. and Minister of State at the Department of Energy, Michael Howard, barrister and sometime President of the Cambridge Union, and Dick Taverne, formerly M.P. for Lincoln but now a Social Democrat.

We have been pleased to see parents at 'home' meetings: we hope that more will come and that they will also feel free to join any trips that appeal.
I.A.McD.

HOCKEY



1st XI

The preseason training at the Old Gaol and on the hard surface suggesting that although we were going to field a young side, it might do well. A muddling first match versus Leighton Park ended with a narrow 2-1 victory and was followed by a good performance against M.C.S., which ended 3-1 in our favour.

We were quickly brought down to earth by a fine, disciplined St. Edward's side and a 4-2 defeat was somewhat flattering. Two days later we faced Radley and produced possibly our best performance. Although we lost by three goals, the difference between the sides was very little. By now sterling performances by David Phillips in goal had earned him his half colours. Our problems lay in mid-field where we failed to use the ball across the park and up front where poor positional sense and a lot of poor stopping made life difficult. Nigel Roberts stepped up from the 2nd XI to play in goal against Oxford School and was one of the very few to come away from the 1-1 draw, with any credit. We played well against a hard Pangbourne side and were unlucky to lose 1-0, then produced another good performance in beating a touring side from St. Edward's Bath in a thrilling contest.

The Newbury game was cancelled (again!) and an easy victory recorded against Warwick, who seem to be going downhill these days. Then came the rain and the washing out of most of the remaining fixtures. Sadly we lost fixtures with Bradfield and Solihull and a new one with St. Edward's Southampton. In the middle of the monsoon the Oxon H.A. came along to give us a

lesson in the finer arts and on this occasion we managed to keep our heads up, going down 5-4 fighting.

When play really resumed, however, we found that we had lost one or two players through injury and any pattern at all in our tactics. Defeats followed against Bloxham, PJW's XI and the O.As.

Most of the side will be back next season, which is a healthy sign, but of course will miss the skills and leadership of Gareth Harper. Once again he has been successful in gaining a place in the Welsh U19 side and congratulations to Gareth, plus Andrew Newman full colours and Nigel Roberts, Robert McCreery, Noel Williams and Chris Newmark half colours.

Hockey Club Roundup

The non team games have been badly affected by the adverse weather, but the boys have derived some enjoyment from the hockey laid on by the staff. Thanks to all those members of staff who helped out and particular thanks to Hugh Randolph, who once again took on two lots. This year we introduced B XI fixtures at some levels and here particular thanks are in order to David Crawford for helping with the supervision of the sides and umpiring of matches. Finally thanks to David Bagshaw and his ground staff for all their efforts in getting pitches ready and in good order.

P.J.W.

2nd XI

Played 8; won 2; drawn 1; lost 5.

For the Seconds this was a somewhat unfortunate season. It started off with a docile game of missed chances at Leighton Park which ended in a 1-1 draw, thanks to a brilliantly taken late equalizer by Jeremy Burley. Then we were fairly heavily routed by Magdalen and St. Edward's who were, to be truthful, a class above us. So were Radley, but they failed somehow to score in the first half, thanks to some excellent defensive play. However, this all changed after an inspiring half-time chat from Mr. Payne and we immediately found ourselves three down! The Pangbourne game was lost despite some good forward play, especially from Chris Coe, which gave us an early two-goal lead.

It was only in the two matches immediately before half-term, when the Seconds were at full strength, that we managed to prove our worth. Despite the narrow score line (1-0) we deserved to win more convincingly against Newbury, although it must be said that on this occasion our generally high standard of behaviour was marred by some thoughtless dissent towards the Newbury umpire. In the Warwick match despite, or maybe as a result of, the absence of our coach, we won 3-0! We all looked forward to the second half of the season knowing that we were able to improve our record. This was not to be — rain cancelled all the remaining fixtures except the one against Bloxham. In this match we were missing the vital experience of Coe, Driver, Dubenski and Scott, and, despite some extraordinary play by Mawhinney, we narrowly lost 1-2.

So the season ended on a sad note. However, there were some moments of glory, not least when our captain, 'Gentleman Jon', scored his first goal in two seasons from right wing. Nigel Roberts was given plenty of opportunities to perform heroically in goal. Everyone improved during the season and, perhaps more important, enjoyed playing. Our thanks must go to Mr. Payne who added his 'unique touch' to this side.

John Scott

Played:

Nigel Roberts, Nigel Marsh, John Scott, Paul Dubenski, Jeremy Burley, Nick Ward, John Durand, Tim Spittles, Grant East, Bill Passmore, Chris Coe, Duncan Round, Richard Watson and Jon Driver (capt.), and there were 'guest appearances' by Robert Adair, Tim Haworth and John Mawhinney.

P.S./ 'Coach's comment': The three early games in which we were very much on the 'receiving end' (the opposing goalkeepers could have been added to the ever-growing unemployment figures) failed to dampen, as the rain later did, the spirits of the team. On a serious note, the much improved play and wholehearted effort of John Scott, Nigel Marsh and Tim Spittles in particular deservedly brought a revival in our fortunes.

N.H.P.





COLTS XI

The omens were good, the promise was great, I had high expectations that this year's under 16 squad were going to live up to their reputation as one of the best groups of hockey players we have had for some time. The two previous seasons had found them very successful at their respective age-groups. This year they were to be tested early; M.C.S., St. Edward's and Radley fixtures occurred within ten days of the start of term and there was little time to change or experiment with last year's successful combination. After these three matches, we all realised just how much there was to do to convert a very promising junior side into a competent and efficient senior side. We had drawn with M.C.S. in an uninspired and lethargic game, been torn apart by the efficient St. Edward's side and been defeated by Radley in a game which proved the importance of scoring goals from limited opportunities. We seemed slow, we lacked ideas, we did not make use of our opportunities, and we were pitifully exposed in our defence.

Drastic measures were needed and drastic measures were taken! We sacked both full-backs. We experimented on the wings and, in time, we converted to a playing formation of 4-4-2, twin centre-halves being far more suited to our resources.

When the side was in total turmoil, the good weather broke and just as we were keen to experiment and ring the changes, all the matches were rained off! In retrospect, it seemed that the only team combinations that remained unchanged from one game to the next, in the entire season, were the ones that were cancelled!

By the time we were playing again, the changes made started to prove their worth. We played our best hockey in the last two matches against Bloxham and the M.C.R. Martin Haywood and Alex Fergusson, paired together in the middle of the field, tightened up the defence enormously and gave more originality and versatility to the attack. Their distribution to the wings Sean Crutchlow and Simon Rushton gave rise to many attacks which David Lee and Robin Suggate could support in the middle with speed and aggression. Richard Fellows became a real battler at left half and at right half Tim Robinson was the most improved player in the squad. Douglas Allen was a strong full-back by the end of the season and there was little to choose between Duncan Rand and Martin Ingram for the other back position. In goal Nick Thomas has made himself in to an inspired keeper, and without his skill early in the season, the scores might have been a lot worse. He took good advantage of all the practice he got in the first three matches!

The B team played two fixtures which were both close affairs and both lost.

As far as results were concerned it was a disappointing season. But great changes were made in the team for the future and there was a definite improvement in the standard of hockey by the end of the season. Much is owed to the enthusiasm of the captain (M. Haywood) and vice-captain (A. Fergusson) and to the determination of the goalkeeper (N. Thomas). Martin Haywood and Robin Suggate both played for the County U.16.

C.M.P.B. 25

'A' Team

M. Haywood (capt.), A. Fergusson (v. capt.), S. Crutchlow, D. Lee, R. Suggate, S. Rushton, T. Robinson, R. Fellows, D. Allen, M. Ingram, D. Rand, N. Thomas.

'B' Team

P. McLeod, T. Winter, R. Pasley, R. Wagon, J. Lovering, E. Iredale, D. Alford, C. Shuttleworth, D. Spence, T. Wilson, M. Wiles, P. Ladmore

C.M.P.B.

RESULTS

v M.C.S.	(A)	Drew 2 - 2
v St. Edwards	(A)	Lost 0 - 4
v Radley	(A)	Lost 0 - 2
v Pangbourne	(A)	Lost 1 - 2
v Warwick	(H)	Won 2 - 0
v Bloxham	(A)	Won 1 - 0
v M.C.R.	(H)	Won 3 - 1

JUNIOR COLTS XI

With two defeats last season, this year's Junior Colts have done even better, having lost only one game. Everything went well since the beginning of the season when we were blessed with some unusually fine weather in January. Good preparation prior to the first batch of matches was most important, especially as the St. Edward's, Magdalen College and Radley fixtures all came in the second week of term. Fitness training was given priority before these matches, and the team virtually carried on where it left off last season. Few changes were necessary in the first team due to the high level of skill of the players in the game, and all eleven players, who played in the team last year, were available for selection. The only blemish to such a successful season was that the rain came at the end of term when the team was just reaching its peak of performance. Nevertheless, of the matches played, 7 were won, one drawn and one lost, so that can't be bad. Losing to Pangbourne College 2-1 was rather unfortunate, as the three goals were scored in the first six minutes of play. Good positional play, tight marking, fitness and good linking between the halves and forwards resulted in such a successful season.

Ian Cockburn enjoyed an excellent season in goal. Being totally fearless, not only did he make some very good saves, his kicking out of goal was most accurate. Andrew McGhie, the reserve keeper, is most unfortunate to find himself in the same year as Ian, as he is most certainly good enough to play in the first team. Jonathan Phillips and David Newman defended bravely, and if either made a mistake, the other was always there in support. The half back line of Brian Woolley, Mark Durand and Robert Dalton-Morris dominated the mid-field, and were seldom beaten to the 50/50 ball. Mark hit the ball very hard, and was most effective in attack and defence. Robert, cool and reliable, always seemed to be in the right position; and Brian, undoubtedly the most improved player in the team, seemed to have the ball attached to his stick.

Simon Littlewood, playing in the key scoring position at centre forward, scored in almost every game. His speed off the mark, quick acceleration and good stick work created so many scoring chances. It was only his over-enthusiasm which prevented even more balls finding the back of the net. Nicholas Burgoyne and Anthony Haywood, alongside Simon, linked well together and Nick did an excellent job in marking the opposing centre half. Anthony always seemed to be in the right position feeding Simon or the wingers, or scoring goals.

William Martin and Tim Burley on the wings are developing into very promising players. Both nearly always managed to outplay their opposing half backs, and their crosses into the 'D' were executed with speed and accuracy.

The B XI, encouragingly captained by Richard Berry, provided very good opposition for the A XI in the practice sessions. So many B team players were good enough to play in the A team, and when they did, it seemed to make little difference to the performance of the team.

My thanks to Mark and Simon, the captain and vice-captain respectively, for all they did throughout the season, and to the Rev. Philip Butcher for all his help with the coaching and umpiring.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

The following played for the team:

I. Cockburn, A. McGhie, J. Phillips, D. Newman, R. Elsey, D. Newport, R. Dalton-Morris, M. Durand (capt.), B. Woolley, W. Martin, N. Burgoyne, S. Littlewood (v. capt.), A. Haywood, T. Burley, R. Berry.

RESULTS

Leighton Park School	Won 3 - 0
Magdalen College School	Won 2 - 0
St. Edward's School	Drew 1 - 1
Radley College	Won 3 - 1
Oxford School	Won 1 - 0
Pangbourne College	Lost 1 - 2
Newbury School	Won 2 - 0
Kemnal Manor School	Won 3 - 1
Bloxham School	Won 2 - 1

JUNIORS XI

It is difficult to assess how this side will progress up the school. On the face of it they have the best record of any Juniors XI, but all except one of the matches were in the first half of term and we had to wait through five weeks of wet weather and hard surface practices before losing the unbeaten record to Bloxham. No doubt individual skills improved considerably but there was little evidence of build up and pattern to the play.

We were fortunate in the prep. school intake which provided five of the regular players including captain and centre-half. Boobyer has excellent ball control and quite a good shot but he soon found it essential to work as a team member. All the half-backs are able to strike the ball sweetly but do not yet link well with their forwards. Oppositions were envious of the size of our fullbacks in Lowe and Marsden but these

defenders were too inclined to hit the ball such a long way upfield that the clearances were gratefully accepted by opposing fullbacks who then proceeded to build up their attack again.

Although not yet dominant in his circle, May must have played well in goal as we survived something in excess of twenty short corners in the Radley game. Our forwards were apparently so exhausted in the Oxford game that they failed to convert any of the ten or so short corners presented to them in the final five minutes of the game. Perhaps the Juniors should play to a fourteen yard circle!

Matches, records, patterns of play and weather apart, the hockey was entertaining and enjoyable.
R.C.B.C.

Regular members of the team were:

J. May, M. Marsden, D. Lowe, D. Gow, T. Bennett, M. Edmonds, S. Rudge, W. Hudson, M. Boobyer (c), A. Hunt, N. Silk.

Also played:

M. Winsley, T. Luteijn, B. Burman, M. Cox, E. Hirst, N. Whitmell.

RESULTS

Leighton Park	(A)	Won 5 - 4
Magdalen College School	(A)	Drew 2 - 2
St. Edward's	(H)	Won 3 - 1
Radley	(A)	Drew 2 - 2
Oxford School	(H)	Drew 0 - 0
Pangbourne	(H)	Won 4 - 1
Bloxham	(A)	Lost 0 - 2

Staff XI v M.C.S. Staff XI

A new venture this and an array of shorts, shirts and socks provided amusement for a disappointing crowd of supporters. The early exchanges were hard fought with both defences looking solid. J.D.-H. and D.G.C. were in fine form at the back and Susan Foote in goal mopped up where necessary. A superb ball from P.J.W. led to the first goal when a flash of light, alias Rev. Butcher, latched onto it and pushed it past a bemused keeper.

The second half again was fairly even until a P.J.W. corner shot, fractionally off target, was deflected in by the M.C.S. defence. This opened the floodgates and three more followed from N.H.P., C.M.P.B. and J.R.G. C.M.P.B. and the Rev. decided to take over the Staff defence at this stage and M.C.S. responded with two quick goals. The last word was to be ours though and J.R.G. rounded off a tremendous team performance making it 6-2. David Bagshaw, A.J.G. and R.H.B. all played exceptionally well and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Gareth Harper and Andrew Newman who umpired well.

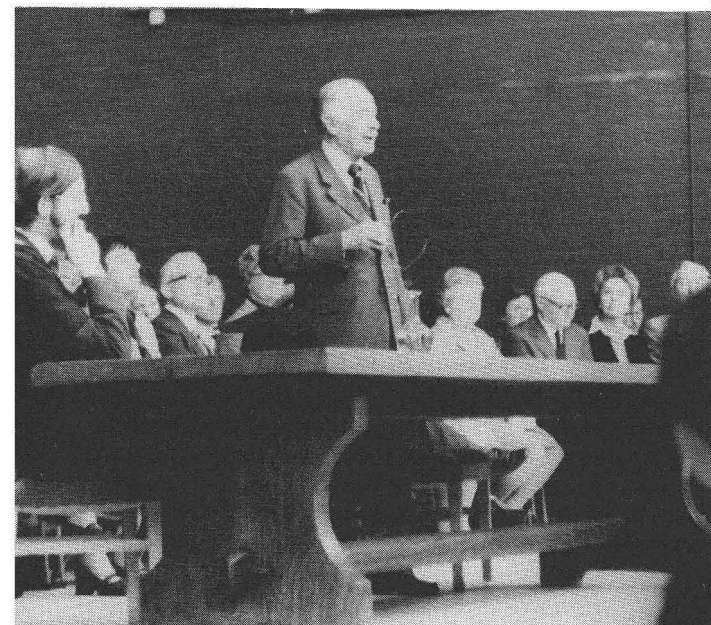


The Amey Hall

The most significant development of the past year has been the opening and use of the Amey Hall. In the following pages we have put together reviews and impressions of the initial year's work:



Prize giving for the school year ending 1980 was an event of some historical importance, being the first such ceremony to take place in the new Hall. Significantly the prizes and address were given by Mr. R. W. Amey, who in a brief ceremony in the foyer afterwards unveiled a portrait of his father, the late Mr. W. C. Amey.



MUSIC

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL CHOIR TRIP

SUMMER 1980

At 1.55 p.m. on Saturday the 2nd of August 1980 the choir processed from the Chapter House, through the Cloisters, into the Cathedral Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Ethelbert the King, Hereford. The thirteen changes of direction (as calculated by a bass mathematics don singing with the choir), were well-known by this stage in the week. Gathered within the cathedral was a multitudinous congregation of over a thousand, including the Bishop of Hereford, the High Sheriff of Hereford and sundry members of the peerage. With adrenalin-enlarged larynges, the visiting choir from Abingdon School, (decorously robed), provided the music for this "high-society" wedding.

The choir was specially formed to sing the choral services at the cathedral for the week 27th July — Sunday 3rd August. A musical expedition of this magnitude entails a vast amount of work on everyone's part; planning necessarily took a year, and during the week the choir sang nine fully choral services, rehearsed twenty-two times, and sang about twenty-four pieces of music comprising anthems and settings of the canticles. Time was also found for cricket, table-tennis and other multifarious activities, such as a trip to the Malvern Hills. (One energetic young walker trekked somewhat further than the others returning to the fold aided by the Herefordshire Constabulary.) At the end of the week some people looked definitely rather shell-shocked.

Maintaining a tradition of choral worship which stretches back over centuries, working in a building steeped in history and of osmotic, permeating beauty, singing a wide variety of enduring music, was an incomparably enriching experience for all.

My thanks go to: Charmian Manship for her impressive contribution from the flight-deck of the huge four-manual "Father Willis" organ; Ian Macdonald for taking on the irksome task of librarian; Wendy Reynolds for catering for the well-nigh insatiable appetites of the choir; and by no means least to all the singers who worked so long and hard, tolerating their oft-irascible conductor with stoic fortitude and indulgence.

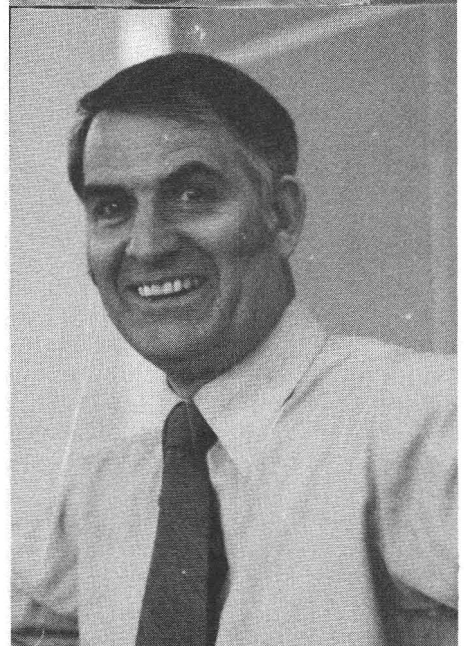
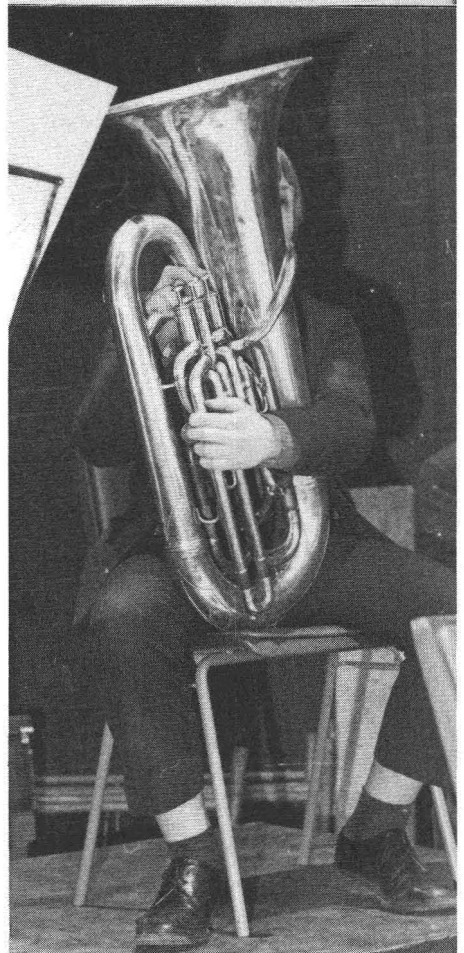
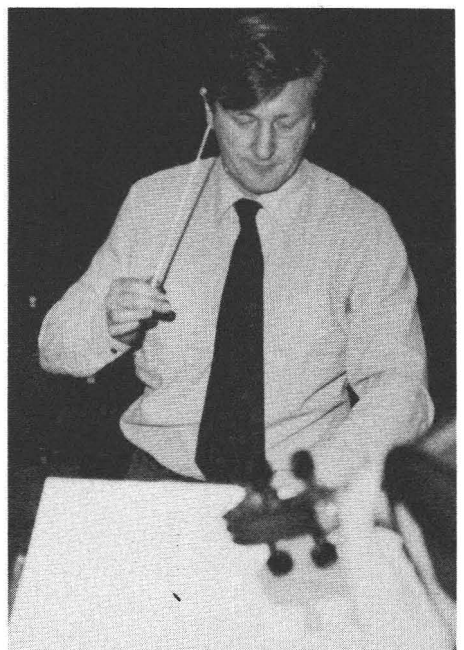
S.E.R.

DIARY

SUMMER TERM 1980

The musical events of the term opened with a Band Concert in Trinity Church. Derek Jones conducted the First Wind Band who played "**An Original Suite**" by Gordon Jacob and "**Brass Woodwind Clique**" by Palange, the Second Wind Band who played a selection from the ever popular "**Sound of Music**" and the Brass Band who played two dance numbers by Osser.

The First Evensong of the Ascension was sung in Chapel by "**Cantores in Concordia**", the choir formed on a rather transient basis from members of the Common Room and boys. Most of the music was plainsong or of plainsong origins. The Canticles were sung to a Fauxbourdon setting and the Anthem was "**Jesu nostra redemptio**" by Byrd.



Mendelsohn's "**Elijah**" was performed in St. Helen's School Sports Hall by the Choral Society to celebrate Founder's Day. Raimund Herincx was to have sung the part of Elijah, but was on the other side of the Atlantic at the time, and so was replaced by Geoffrey Chard. Adam Spring sang solo treble as The Youth, and a near-capacity house witnessed a thrilling succession of choruses and arias, with soloists (from the Royal Opera and English National Opera) particularly notable in the unfolding of the drama. (Mr. James was later presented with a sack of Brussel Sprouts by a member of the Orchestra!).

Chamber Choir sang Evensong on four occasions during the term. The first was at Coventry Cathedral, where we were impressed by the architecture, the efficiency of the Clergy, and the organ-playing of the Cathedral organist, Ian Little. The music was "**Laudate Nomen**" by Tye, Darke in F, and "**Sing we merrily**" by Sidney Campbell.

Two more evensongs followed within three days of each other; Trinity Sunday evensong was sung to the aforementioned Darke in F and the Campbell anthem in the Chapel, while on the following Tuesday, the Choir sang at New College, Oxford by invitation of the College. This was an event much enjoyed by choir as well as congregation and much appreciated by the College whose choir was away giving a concert in Bath.

The main concert of the term was the "**Summer Serenade**" in Trinity Church. The Chamber Orchestra under David Robinson played Handel's **Organ Concerto Op. 4, No. 4 in F** with Stephen Clarke at the Organ. The Brass Quintet, whose members were Daniel Ruiz (Trumpet), Ian Sadler (Trumpet), Paul Willett (Horn), Kirwan Angwin (Trombone), and Jonathan Kowszun (Euphonium) played the exciting and often amusing "**Music Hall Suite**" by Horowitz. The second half of the programme started with two Mozart Operatic duets sung by Rosemary Lang (Soprano), and Stephen Robertson (baritone), and was finished by the First Orchestra who played two Overtures — "**Impresario**" by Cimarosa, and "**The Merry Wives of Windsor**" by Nicolai, and finally Malcolm Arnold's "**Toy Symphony**". Specialists in the Toy instruments required in this piece were drawn from the Common Room, and included Miss Peterson, Mr. Gabitass, Mr. Hasnip, Mr. Eden, Mr. Payne, Mr. Drummond-Hay (who gave a virtuosic performance on the drums), Mr. Taylor, Dr. Zawadski, Mr. Cann, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Bush and Rev. Neill, who I'm assured has a diploma in the Swanee Whistle.

The Chamber Choir made its annual visit to Marsh Gibbon on 22nd June, and sang evensong on a fine evening to Tallis **Festival Responses**, Stanford's **B Flat Canticles** and Wesley's equally famous "**Thou wilt keep him**." The feast of music was followed by a feast of risotto (only for the choir) and wine and then a bonus rendition of an English madrigal as the choir's "thankyou" to their host (Mr. Cutforth) and his helpers in the garden of his home.

Another event to which many people looked forward was the Music Society Barn Dance, held rather incongruously, in the Dining Hall. For those of us who did not consider ourselves masters of this art form, expert and explicit instruction was provided by the Band-leader, helping to make for a very enjoyable evening. Richard Bacon (6)

The newly opened Amey Hall has been a great asset to the musical life of the school. The Michaelmas Term was the first term in which the Hall was used extensively by the musicians, and the first concert was given by the **National Youth Orchestra** Wind Quintet. It was perhaps fitting for such a young group of musicians to herald the opening of the Hall.

The season's Subscription Concert was given in October by the clarinettist **Jack Brymer**, very ably accompanied by David Lloyd on the Piano. He opened with **Stanford's Clarinet Concerto**, a late 19th century work of an unusual kind, and then a **Poulenc Sonata**, of which the middle slow movement was very expressively played. Finally a work by Alec Templeton, in which Jack Brymer seemed to be very much at home in the jazz idiom of the 1920's to 30's.

The Annual visit of John Cutforth was of course well attended and with the aid of slides, enlightened us about the life of Chopin. This was followed by a buffet supper, which was up to the usual high standard.

The Chamber Choir ventured as far as Gloucester Cathedral to give a choral evensong in October. Howell's **St. Paul's Service** was sung very energetically, and this was followed by the anthem **Ave Maria** by Parsons. We were privileged to experience once more the unique chanting of the Rev. Neill, who joined us for the service.

The Organists of the school were then given one of the few chances they have to perform, in an informal concert in the chapel. Unfortunately, the contraption at their disposal was far from reliable, but contrary to popular opinion did survive the Concert.

On Remembrance Sunday, there was a service in the chapel in which the Chamber Choir sang **Greater Love** by Ireland together with some Palestrina. On the 10th November, the musicians returned to the Amey Hall for a Concert by the blowers of the School. The Brass Band opened the concert under the able direction of Derek Jones. They performed some Khachaturian, followed by a lively selection from "**Gigi**" by Lerner. This was followed by the second Wind Band performing two works by Frank and Webb. Ian Sadler provided the only solo performance, playing two movements from a **Trumpet Sonata** by Flor Peters.

The second Subscription Concert was given by the **Medici String Quartet**. For this concert, the front apron of the stage was used, and this served to bring the performers that much closer to the audience. This professional Quartet performed two classical works, the "**Sunrise**" Quartet by Haydn and the "**Dissonance**" by Mozart. They also played a contrasting work by Ravel.

The third and largest Informal Concert of the term was on 17th November in the Amey Hall. A large Grand Piano was hired for the occasion at great expense but those who played on it realised what a good piano does for one's playing. The audience wasn't as large as it could have been, but all those involved enjoyed the evening.

The biggest School Concert of the term was an Orchestral Concert by the Chamber Orchestra and main School Orchestra; also appearing was a Brass Quintet, and a String Quartet. The Concert opened with the Chamber Orchestra performing Bach's **Double Violin Concerto**, the soloists — Andrew Fisher and Jonathon Holt. The main



School Orchestra's ranks were added to by a very welcome guest. Ruth Faber came to play a vital Harp part later in the programme, and she also gave us the benefit of hearing her playing two solo works by Handel and Salzedo.

After performances by the String Quartet and the Brass Quintet, the First Orchestra took the platform and started with two movements from '**Little Suite for Orchestra**' by Arnold. This was followed by the first performance of a piece by Philip Blackburn. This unusual piece brought a certain variety to the programme. Our second guest, Joseph Bain, educated the audience as to the various components of an Orchestra . . in '**The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra**' by Britten. This work ended an excellent School concert of a most high standard.

The Chamber Choir was then left to finish the term with the usual round of Carol Services. The Service in the School Chapel was slightly easier this term because the Choir was able to use the old Pembroke room as a 'vestry'. The final musical event of the term was an invitation to the Chamber Choir to sing carols under the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square. Unfortunately, not all the microphones were working at the right time, but for some of the time, the sound of the Choir was echoed down the length of Whitehall! Another piece of bad luck also meant that they missed a spot on BBC 'Nationwide'. But in true Christmas spirit, the Choir made up by eating Pizzas and by singing carols in Charing Cross Underground Station.

Stephen Clarke (6)

LENT TERM 1981

It was a chilly February evening when the Amey Hall saw hundreds of Concert subscribers pouring into the foyer with their programmes until it was bursting at the seams. The problem, as the ushers repeated like wound-up dolls, was that Mr. Tchaikovsky had been detained and was only then limbering up on the keyboard. At ten to eight the pianist slipped off-stage to let the crowd of spectators take their seats, thus relieving the foyer of its burden until the interval's wine-tasting. The audience settled into the green padded chairs and contemplated the long black Steinway which was placed, like a coffin on stilts, in the centre of the stage. The concert (Mozart, Bartok and Chopin — his '**Funeral March**' Sonata as it happened!) was sombre and very moving — not the sort of evening one forgets very quickly.

The last of the season's subscription concerts (on 15th March) had an even fuller full house. **The London Early Music Group** played a wonderful collection of Medieval dances and songs: warmth and enjoyment shone through the five performers' impressive virtuosity. Serenading crumhorns and melodic lutes thus concluded a marvellous series of concerts.

The previous Monday saw the first in a series of 'Composer evenings' in which a concert is devoted to a single composer's works. The music of J. S. Bach (only a selection of course) provided our material. People from Basingstoke, Oxford, Abingdon and sundry other places around the world made up of Aeolian Chamber Orchestra, led

by Lesley White; Mr. Robertson sang the baritone solo in the beautiful **eighty-second Cantata**; the Chamber Choir sang five sacred Part-Songs; and Ruth Watson sprinkled the evening with exquisite oboe solos — all under the dynamic direction of The Jailer, T.J. The question now is which composer will be next? (I think Delius has already been ruled out!)

The highlight of a busier-than-usual Lent Term was the Invitation Concert and Reception at the Livery Hall in the Mercers' Company. As a latecomer to the rehearsal I walked down Ironmongers Lane passing a South American bank, an Arabian bank and an oriental bank and came to the back entrance of the Mercers' Company. Announcing 'Abingdon School' through the microphone in the door, it clicked open and I was admitted to the beautiful rooms of the Mercers' Company. The choir was singing below one of the huge chandeliers in the Livery Hall and the rest of the 'troupe' was relaxing in one of the luxurious reception rooms, savouring some generously provided snacks. Everyone in the place, from the smartly-clad ushers to the Master, was friendly and welcoming making the whole experience very rewarding and enjoyable. The Master commenced the concert with a short introductory speech; the choir, chamber orchestra and various ensembles proceeded to perform — inspired by their magnificent surroundings; and the Headmaster expressed everybody's appreciation to the Mercers' Company at the end of the evening. For audience and performers alike it was a memorable occasion.

To give this diary at least the semblance of completion, there was also, in this the second term of the Music School's new era, a rollicking Scottish Evening of food, drink, and dance; a dramatic performance of '**Messiah**' which combined the choral and orchestral forces of St. Helen's and Abingdon Schools; a Choral Evensong at Magdalen College, Oxford; the traditional run of informal concerts and services; and a highly successful Rock Concert in aid of the vitally important Pianos Fund.

Mark Murray



DRAMA

Herr Hans and Frau Gretel. Miss Nadia proved true to her name when, in spite of the entreaties of her hosts, the newly-arrived Dr. Nicholas and his friend the Irish priest and narrator, Father O'Stake, she was charmed by the wicked Count and tricked into visiting his castle with her charges.

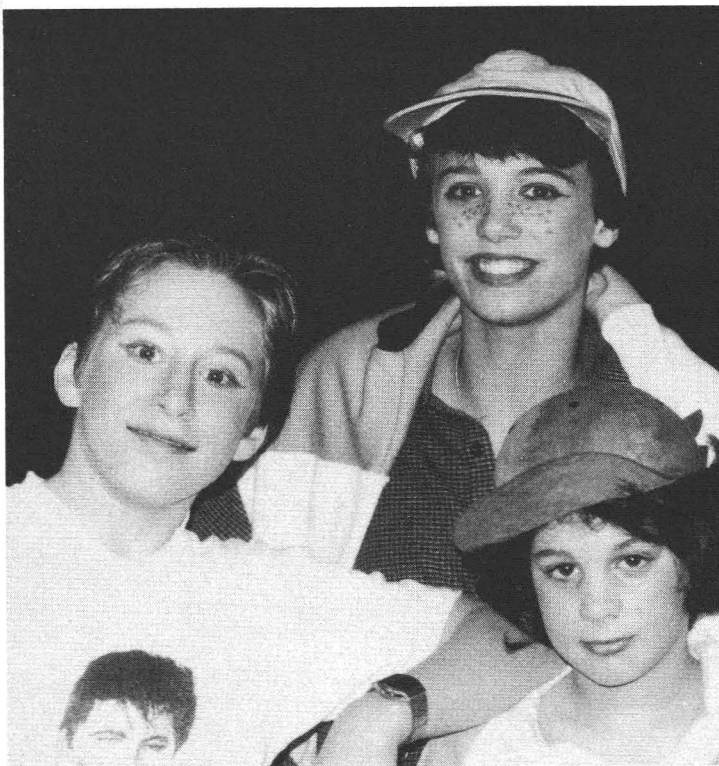


DRACULA SPECTACULA

The Amey Hall's impressive auditorium received a lively, if macabre, theatrical christening with Paul Cann's excellent production of the American musical 'Dracula Spectacula'. The professionalism of the production perhaps concealed some of the defects of the show itself, chiefly a lack of pace and dialogue banal even by the standards of the genre. But a mixture of clever staging — for example in the first scene — imaginative design, such as the giant spider which hovered over the stage throughout, beautifully performed music and, above all, the immense enthusiasm of the very large cast — all these combined to make the evening, as testified by the final applause, a real success.

In 1897 Bram Stoker wrote the original story, based on the 16th-century figure of Count Vladimir the Impaler, of the mysterious and horrifying Count Dracula who lives in the Transylvanian mountains, the historic home of vampire legend. The Count, a charming aristocrat who maintains his eternal existence by a nocturnal lifestyle, the avoidance of anything connected with Christianity and a diet composed entirely of blood, has retained his grip on the popular imagination. This show therefore followed a strong tradition; besides countless films, some of a fairly serious nature, there have recently been two new plays about Dracula on the London stage.

In most respects, however, the plot of this "spooky musical" deviated from the usual Dracula tale. Only the Count remained unchanged while his arch-rival, usually the Dutch Dr Van Helsing, was replaced by a more dashing alternative in the shape of a young, debonaire English scientist, Professor Nicholas Necrophiliac. The story revolved around the exploits of some more newcomers, a "sweet, vulnerable . . . young schoolteacher" Miss Nadia Naive, and her three pupils — all-American, gumchewing kids in sweat-shirts and with baseball bat — who decided, oddly, to study practical geography in Transylvania. Following a most convincingly-staged plane journey and a coach ride with a sinister character called Master Landau, they passed a jovial evening singing and drinking with the locals, out-patients from the local asylum, led by the (apparently-sane) innkeeper and his wife, 32



The horror of what might take place had, up to this point, already been hinted at. Having been greeted by rather ghoulish ushers, the audience sat for at least fifteen minutes through sounds of clanking, gurgling, screaming etc — the initial impact of these effects being rather diminished by the length of their duration. The curtain rose to reveal a cemetery whose occupants emerged from behind their gravestones to sing the opening number. This scene, with its clever design, started the show with a flourish. The rest of the first half pursued a comic vein, the success of which depended chiefly on the extremely funny





performance of Jeremy Allanson as Miss Nadia, strongly supported by the three children, played by Richard Meadows, Simon Walker and Adam Crosskey. The caricature German innkeeper and his wife (James Thompson and David Pratt) spoke with such thick accents that they were sometimes difficult to understand but nevertheless they offered a homely, middle-aged element, and their inn, filled with the uproarious Glublick drinkers, contrasted well with the darker setting and events of the second half. Personally, I found the Glublick song, which had a very catchy tune, the most memorable number in the show and, like all the others, it was performed with immense gusto.

If Jeremy Allanson never faltered in his portrayal of the typical American, old-fashioned romantic movie heroine — a veritable Doris Day — so Matthew Appleton (Dr. Nick) was as convincing as Rock Hudson, all jutting-jawed, clean-living, masculine strength, devoted to the overthrow of vice and decadence specifically in the shape of Dracula. The Count was given plenty of opportunity to show himself as he really was; plotting with his mother the Countess Wraith — an hysterical matriarch well portrayed by Jonathan Gayton with lots of hair and an horrid screechy voice — and hunch-backed retained Genghis (Christopher Crosskey), then leading the devilish cavortings of his brides and zombie men prior to the apparently-inevitable doom of Miss Nadia and the children, his captives. Dracula's powers even extended as far as the audience; a sizeable proportion of those sitting in the stalls was almost asphyxiated at one point by green smoke deluging from the stage. The arrival, at the critical moment, of the intrepid Dr. Nick seemed to presage Dracula's overthrow and a romantic ending until, in a final twist reminiscent of Roald Dahl, both Dr. Nick and the audience realised that all was truly lost as Miss Nadia had become one of the Count's brides.

From his first appearance, all was dominated by Toby Jones's masterly performance as Dracula, highly sophisticated, debauched and energetic in the pursuit of his evil ends, in spite of what looked to be a very cumbersome set of false teeth. His punk appearance did something to update a musical that, in every other respect, had its roots clearly in the late 1960s. In parts it reminded one strongly of *'Hair'* and its successors. Perhaps surprisingly, lyrics like 'Hammer Horror Grooven-moving-man' sounded far more outmoded than the traditional love duet between Dr. Nick and Miss Nadia or the lovely tap-dancing song with Dracula, his mother and Genghis. The musicians, possibly sharing a disdain for some of the lyrics, occasionally played very loudly but in general the music, directed by Stephen Robertson, was controlled but bouncy and a major contribution to the show's success. The lighting demonstrated well the capacities of the new hall and Nigel Hunter's designs from the marvellous 'bat' tickets and programmes to the gravestones in the first scene, and Dracula's tower showed a new imaginative force at work.

Finally, the main credit goes to Paul Cann, the producer, for his control of such a large cast as shown in the immaculately-organised crowd scenes and highly polished individual performances. One's lasting impression is of a show that was always fun even if the horror was, well, not quite real.

Louise Pengelley 34

'AFTER MAGRITTE'/'HARLEQUINADE'

Tom Stoppard's earlier plays delight in visual absurdity, from the world of swamp boots, foghorns and wheelchairs of *'The Real Inspector Hound'* to the surreal opening tableau of *'After Magritte'*: Mother (Davida Chapman), lying flat out on an ironing board, whilst Thelma Harris, in full ballroom dancing outfit, crawls across the floor on hands and knees, and hubbie Reginald clad in fishing waders and evening dress trousers, blows energetically on the lampshade! Not exactly a typical family scene, perhaps, and P.C. Holmes certainly has good reason to gape in astonishment at the spectacle, even if one allows for the strict intellectual limitations Stoppard places on his policemen-characters, by which they all seem to have undergone extensive brain surgery shortly before appearing on stage.

All is not revealed, however, as Thelma and Reggie debate the possibility of their having seen an old man with one leg and a white beard, dressed in pyjamas, hopping along in the rain with a tortoise under his arm and brandishing a white stick. Exploiting this bizarre discussion to the full and further, Stoppard exhibits his usual talent for vaudeville and verbal dexterity, ('... I never studied semaphore as a sophomore, morse the pity'), and avoids facing the impossible problems posed by his own excessive ingenuity of plot, until the closing moments of the play. Then, rather like *'Hound'*, the balloon collapses with a distinct feeling of anti-climax. Dan Butler's production sustained the pace well up to this inevitable point, and the small cast worked smoothly together as a skilled and disciplined unit. Particularly impressive was the unusual relationship created by Thelma and Reggie (Alison Honey and Ben Macintyre), who managed to seem blithely and naturally unaware of the various lunatic situations unfolding around them! John Scott, as Foot of the Yard, made a very convincing 'failed detective', bearing affinities to his Gallic counterpart, Inspector Clouseau, though occasionally his longer, explanatory speeches sagged a little.

Suitably prepared to appreciate the farcical aspects of existence by this light-hearted opening and a glass of somewhat severe white wine, we were treated to Miss Cassie Peterson's production of Terence Rattigan's *'Harlequinade'* — a courageous choice, particularly since the National Theatre had decided to revive the play at the same time, but this production certainly justified the revival. Rattigan's choice of 'play within play' is, of course, ideal, since there can be few plays more susceptible to disaster than *'Romeo and Juliet'*, and I speak from grim experience of productions where Romeo's tights have drooped most unromantically, and several supposed 'corpses' have been reduced to visible laughter by the failure of the final tragic rhyming couplet to rhyme! Rattigan's opening scene reveals the not-so-young Arthur Gosport (Michael Stott) trying rather unsuccessfully to capture the boyish charm of his very young Romeo. To do this he attempts a series of rather inelegant leaps, which are very disconcerting to his opposite number Edna Selby. Here Louise Smith captured the mannered air of the would-be 'Grande Dame' of the theatre with tremendous flair, and was instrumental in creating the particular atmosphere of the Gosports and their company, and sustaining the comedy

through an extremely complicated story.

Following the discovery of a baby, who bears a suspicious resemblance to Arthur, in the wings, a plot of rival complexity to anything produced by Stoppard begins to emerge in a bewildering series of predicaments. Nick Holmes caught the flustered producer's style nicely as Jack Wakefield, dealing with onstage crises adroitly whilst increasingly manic about his own personal plight, and here Liz Grant provided a splendidly spirited cameo as his fiancée. Perhaps the most delightful walk-on was Richard Hignett, working away at his solitary line, "Faith, we may put up our pipes and be gone" with dogged and stupid enthusiasm. Rhona Hall gave her unwanted advice to Edna with amusing tenacity, and Amana Steeds produced an appropriately fussy Miss Fishlock. Cassie Peterson managed to interweave the various complicated liaisons on stage with precision and smoothness, and the sense of growing panic as the public performance loomed ever nearer was well felt and conveyed by all. I enjoyed the confusion of the final rehearsal scene — a good example of the organised chaos well orchestrated in this production. One minor criticism I would make would be the occasional failure of characters to differentiate between their 'acted character' self and their 'real' self. Michael Stott was perhaps a little guilty here, though in all other respects he commanded our sympathy as well as our mirth. The casts of both plays did much, indeed, to provide an end-of-term entertainment of great accomplishment and to induce a feeling of summertime euphoria.

Paul Cann

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR!

Mr. Brett's production of *'Oh What a Lovely War'* surely deserves to be reckoned as one of the most outstanding theatrical events ever seen at Abingdon School. It was a remarkable evening's entertainment: the effervescing enthusiasm of the pierrots put to shame the many lacklustre professional performances that one sees all too often, and it provided a sparkling celebration of the Amey Hall's facilities. I do, however, have one reservation, which I realize is predominantly — although not exclusively — a criticism of the broad concept of the work rather than of Mr. Brett's interpretation of it. Can a show in the style of music-hall, in which all the songs and sketches are performed with such contagious zest, really be a sufficiently salutary documentary? Too many of the scenes were only on the level of *'Not the Nine O'Clock News'* — that is, extremely amusing but only weakly satirical. Only occasionally was a suitably sombre tone set, such as when the melancholic singing of a solitary, silhouetted sentry forced a respectful hush upon the audience.

It would be ungenerous to harp upon this failing, for although I thought that it detracted from the *intellectual* satisfaction of the performance, the delightful vigour that characterised everything in the production made it an excellent and refreshing evening's *entertainment*. I am left with a series of memories, all of which remain extremely clearly defined. There was the carnival atmosphere of the

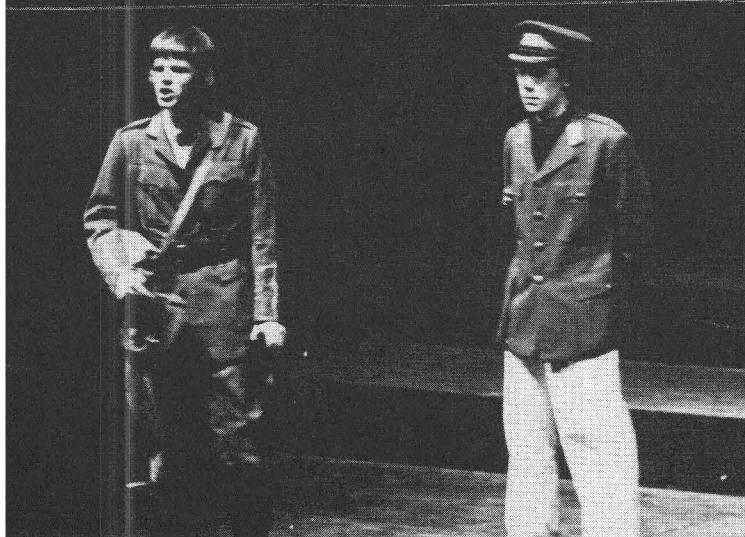
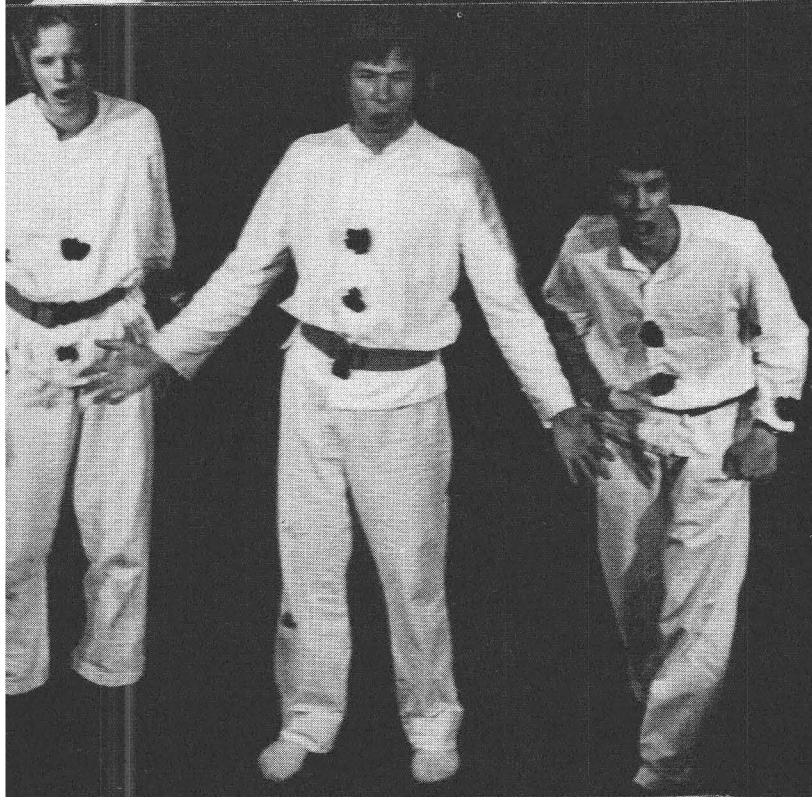
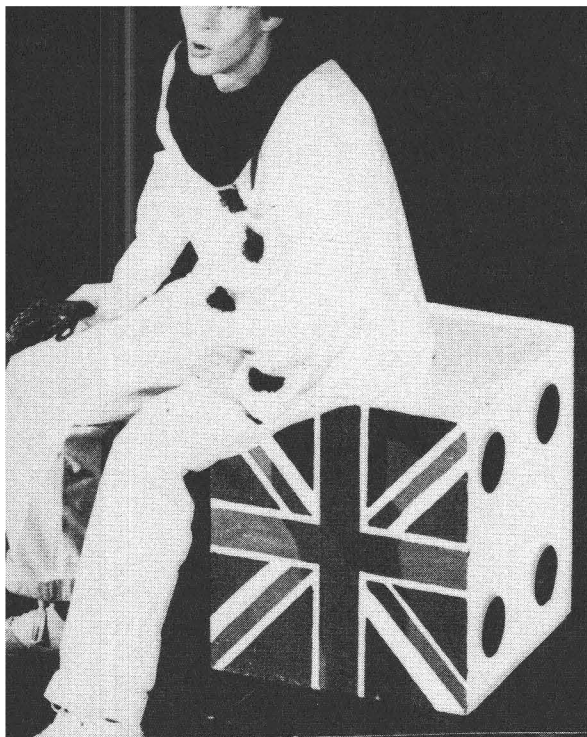
beginning as the nations careered around like the teams on *'It's a Knockout'*; the sinister ridicule that permeated Les Etheridge's take-off of *'Listen with Mother'*; Hugh Jones's raucous drill-sergeant who would have made Windsor Davis tremble, coupled with Paul Spencer's wonderfully naive public schoolboy smirk of self-satisfaction; Patrick Tidmarsh as an incompetent English officer with only a derisive smattering of French and Ben Macintyre as the corresponding French general with his nonchalant gestures; and above all the sensitivity of Anne Lewis's singing, particularly her rendering of "Keep the home fires burning" which had all the icy fragility and yet profound, simple hope of Rossetti's carol "In the bleak midwinter".

Whilst it is impossible not to name individuals it must be realized that Mr. Brett's greatest achievement was to create a uniformly excellent standard throughout his cast (everyone knew exactly how to act out the particular caricature that was required for each sketch) and then to co-ordinate the actors with everything around them, the strikingly sparse set, the music, the lighting and the newspanel. There were frequent abrupt changes of tempo and mood: these transitions were always crisply executed. The girls deserve special praise: although in the past there have been a number of notable actresses too many productions have been marred by weak supporting females. The five girls in *'Oh What a Lovely War'*, seemingly inspired by the vivacious Liza Lipman, were irrepressibly enthusiastic and versatile.

Of the numerous peripheral activities that combined to highlight the drama, the musical accompaniment was the strongest, ranging as it did from strident national anthems to delicate personal laments and from the razzmatazz and euphoria of the early war to the subsequent harmful despondency. Above all it was David Robinson's sense of balance that ensured that the music was always sympathetic to the action on the stage. The standard of the lighting was erratic — often it was inventive, but too many vital cues were missed, whilst the sound effects were distinctly limited. The costume too was somewhat dull, although perhaps the problems of the size of the cast, of the number of quick changes required, and, of course, of the production's budget were insuperable.

It seems inappropriate to try to attach any didactic purposes to this production of *'Oh What a Lovely War'*: the only conclusions that one would reach would be very trite indeed. The audience was treated to a spectacular adult pantomime (I still can't chant "Sister Suzie's sewing shirts for soldiers"). The performance rarely came close to overstepping the line between farce and tragedy: instead the cast were allowed to indulge their talents and revel in the various humorous aspects of the Great War. It was only at the end that they rightly paid their respectful tribute to the reality of the war by turning towards the pictures of the grim faces of the soldiers all with glazed eyes, eyes frozen full of inarticulate, inchoate anger and stunned incomprehension.

Charles Prest (VI)





ZOO STORY AND THE BALD PRIMA DONNA

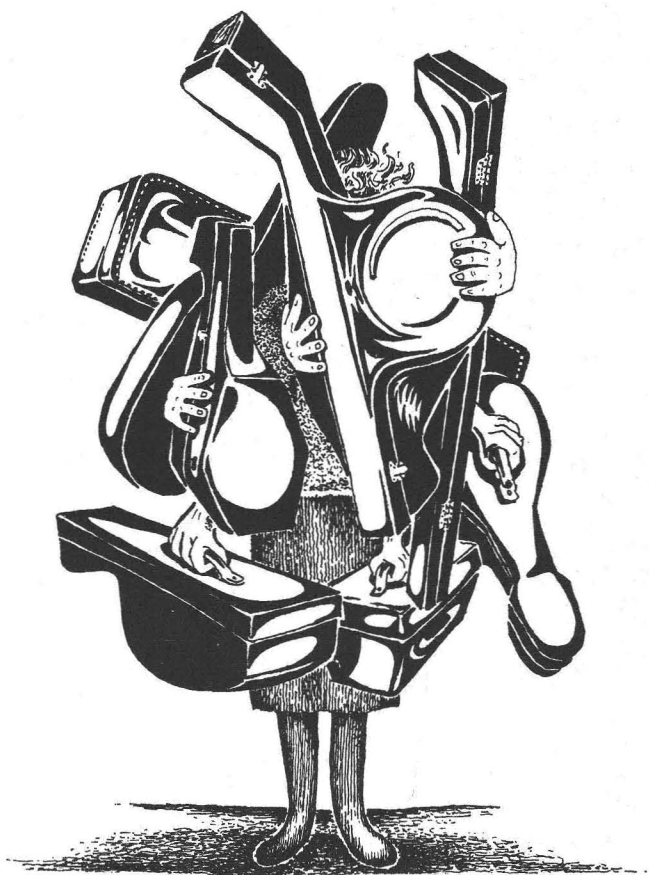
Always more inviting for the good atmosphere than the subzero temperatures "The Unicorn" offers to its audience, it was the right setting for the performance of these two short plays. The grandiose scale of the Amey Hall is hardly suited for anything less than an epic of some kind or other, and Albee's "Zoo Story" and Ionesco's "The Bald Prima Donna" are in essence little more than theatrical projections of an intriguing idea in the playwright's mind. The smaller, more friendly and less formal feel of the Unicorn was certainly the setting for them. This isn't to say, in anyway whatsoever, that the performances were amateurish. On the contrary their professionalism was remarkable. In "Zoo Story", for example, the long dissertation on the subject of a man-eating dog could have lagged had it not been for an inspiring performance from Julius Green. I felt almost compelled to listen because of the deep conviction he put into the part. He never let the pace slacken nor did he waste any opportunities to add life to the play by using a superbly varied range of gestures and facial expressions, and employing his imagination to supply the props for his story. Such was the realism that it was difficult to believe he had not experienced brutal attacks from the landlady's dog. John Madelin played the counterfoil with great restraint. He avoided the temptation of over-acting and yet managed to find enough in the part to bring the character naturally to life. And so for me, at least, Central Park and strange men had been transported to the Unicorn by two excellent performances.

Reality was not such a necessary requirement in the "Bald Prima Donna". While *Zoo Story* was odd this play was "absurd". With a set that could have been borrowed from any television situation comedy and characters dragged straight out of any soap-opera the cast ably reproduced the scenes of ordinary conversation which Ionesco so mercilessly criticises. No nonsensical turn of phrase escapes the author's eye as he pulls apart the triviality of the subjects we talk about, or the way we ignore what other people are saying. In giving such a critical picture he falls into the trap of trying to parody repetition but in doing so succeeds only in producing a repetitive and consequently slightly boring section in the play. Jenny Messer and Nick Holmes made valiant efforts to overcome this but they were much more genuine in their ludicrous, irrational and scatty behaviour when the pressure was not quite so intense. In her fetching green wellingtons Jenny produced a very vivid picture on stage. Nick Holmes, although occasionally prone to act a little "over the top", tried, and managed, with notable skill, to squeeze as many laughs out of the play as was humanly possible. Penny Sowden, on the other hand, played her part with a more tempered hand but to no less effect. In fact there were times when her force of presence held together the play, and she too recognised, to the full, the potential comedy in it. Dan Butler's performance provoked me to wonder whether under his "youthful" appearance he really is an ageing middle-class suburb-dweller, his portrayal of the mellowing, only partly conscious, newspaper-reading gentleman being so realistic. In her brief appearance as the maid, Susan Stringfellow added a touch of glamour as well as acting very

ably within the confined limitations of the part. Richard Schofield's portrayal of the fire-chief, whose main pre-occupation was the telling of completely unamusing jokes had the same traces of brilliant aloofness and blankness that Peter Sellers gave to Chance the Gardener in the film "Being There". He seemed a natural for the part! With all these ingredients mixed together the evening's entertainment was really enjoyable.

Peter Lovering (VI)

During the last year the Amey Hall has also seen the coming and going of some professional companies, all of whom have been warmly appreciated and some of whom have put on outstanding shows. Among the latter was Rogues and Vagabonds, an evening of readings connected with the profession of acting, in which Freddie Jones, Brian Cox and Polly James made superb contributions to a programme assembled by Michael Meyer, and generously wished the proceeds of a full house to the cost of a special wheelchair ramp for the Hall, in aid of the Year of the Disabled. The Arts Theatre Company of London put on their version of Don Quixote, Theatre Machine performed The Amazing Comedy Show, and Chris Harris appeared in his one-man show based on the original nine-days' wonder, Kemp's Jig. Susan Baker brought along a staggering collection of Violins, Fiddles and Follies, and in the summer



term as we go to press we expect the C. V. One Theatre Company, who are putting on Mister Shaw in Search of Love, and then Peri Aston, a mime artist who will be doing his commedia dell'Arte show, Pierrot and Co. These shows have all been open to the public.



RICHARD II

"Richard II" is a play about men living in a world about to turn, a world in which old certainties have been undermined, old loyalties tried and tested to the limits and in which a new order seems poised to seize power by violent means. If these themes sound contemporary, they were no less so for the audience which attended the 'command' performance commissioned by the Earl of Essex on the eve of his uprising late in the sixteenth century. Elizabeth I saw the point and was not amused: "I am Richard II, know ye not that?" she is reported to have said and while it is not possible for us to identify so closely with the play's protagonist, it is certain that "Richard II" is no literary museum piece.

How does one underline this relevance in a modern production? Set it in an African or Central American country where an arbitrary and tyrannical régime has forfeited the right to rule through the irresponsible exercise of power? Or in an Eastern bloc totalitarian state where the rule of the Party is being challenged because Party and Proletariat are no longer identified? Or in a Western Democracy where an old economic order is being shored up at the cost of the livelihoods of millions who see the ballot box as inadequate protection against the 'economic imperatives' that the Government forwards as its justification?

David Taylor's ambitious and vigorous production opted to let Shakespeare's rather than an individual director's vision predominate, to allow the historical context to be seen clearly and to give us the whole, rather than (with apologies)

a specially tailored text on the model of recent John Barton RSC productions or that staged currently at the Young Vic. This approach meant that more than usually heavy reliance had to be placed on set, costumes and actors, for there was little or no stage action or business other than intentionally simple sequences of moves, to help bolster the audience's interest. A pattern of rostra provided well-used and varied levels for the action, which was also spread forward onto the apron stage with good effect. Five emblems broke up the dark mass of the back screen and two large white grills, surprisingly effective, were suspended overhead to the sides. Other than two thrones, one, for Richard, dizzily high-backed, no furniture or other dressing was given to what is still a forbiddingly stark stage and so it was important that the costumes should look good . . . and they did not. When a production places itself in the hands of a costumiers, it takes a very big gamble and this one sadly did not come off because of the ill-assorted hotch-potch of styles and materials which came out of the skip and, despite tremendous improvements wrought by the wardrobe team in shuffling, readjusting and adapting, the actors for the most part looked uncomfortable and, in some cases, incongruous in their hired robes.

And clothes are important too in another respect in "Richard II", for, if ever a character dressed himself for monarchy, both actually and metaphorically, it was Richard. Richard is a king, not simply a man and his actions and attitudes are all to do with the exercise or failure to exercise his kingly responsibilities and with the personal crisis



of identity which followed his deposition. Shakespeare presents us with a man who gracefully wears all the trappings of monarchy but who fails to exercise any of the King-becoming graces and, despite the loyalty of the Old Guard to the concept of Kingship by Divine Right, he falls. Shakespeare, as ever, shows us cause and consequence and the inevitable outcome of human behaviour. And yet neither Richard nor Bolingbroke seems to be master of his own fate or even actions; the one impelled almost by some death-wish to drive the traditional props of the monarchy into rebellion, the other pushed by circumstances to grasp the forbidden prize which was proffered as the logical outcome of successful rebellion. Richard's failure to act as a king should, leaves a vacuum . . . a vacuum which is symbolised in the play by his absence from the stage from the end of Act II scene i until Act III scene ii . . . and Bolingbroke returns to fill that vacuum; but the King in his seizure of Bolingbroke's patrimony has, in addition, undermined the foundations upon which the monarchy itself rests. As York tells him:

"Take Hereford's rights away, and take from
time

His charter and his customary rights;
Let not tomorrow then ensue today;
Be not thyself; for how art thou a king
But by fair sequence and succession?"

And this man, seemingly blind to the consequences of his own actions, finally achieves a self-awareness, "I wasted time, and now doth time waste me", before his murder, which elevates him close to tragic stature.

A challenging role, the more so because it carries some marvellous verse and Julius Green's portrayal was fascinating, not because it was fully-achieved, but because one could see the actor's own awareness of the potential of the part growing between the first and last performances; yet it was frustrating, for, in the final analysis, he lacked the technical equipment to achieve what he and the director were clearly aiming at. Often neglecting opportunities to use varied pace or a lower register, he resorted too frequently to a rapid, higher-pitched rhetorical manner, even in moments when rhetoric was not the mode of expression. This led to a lack of balance in a performance which otherwise contained many good qualities: a fine sense of presence, an admirable confidence in the meaning of the lines and in the strength of the rhythms, a realisation of both the arrogant authority and pathetic self-dramatising of the man; in short, a clear insight into many of the complexities of the character and its dramatic placing.

In a way, the strengths and weaknesses of the central performance were indicative of the whole. Actors were confident and assured in the delivery of their lines, movements were clear, concentration and commitment were not to be faulted, but, perhaps because there was a consciousness of the play's length and potential 'longueurs', almost too spanking a pace was maintained and speeches sometimes deteriorated into strident hectoring.

However, apart from the strengths in Julius Green's own performance, there were many other impressive features in this production. A strong sense of the story-line came across and the brave decision not to cut was justified by the attention

that was given to the minor characters, whose movements and machinations provide a running commentary upon and expansion of the central plot. There were over thirty actors involved, only one with prior Shakespearian experience, and yet there was admirable strength in depth in the cast. It was patent that the director had not left the lesser players to sink or swim by themselves. Philip Blackburn's incidental music, sensitively performed by a small ensemble under the direction of David Robinson was highly effective and left one wishing there had been more of it. Michael Stott's Gaunt belied the name almost too powerfully, but gave a stirring, impassioned and intelligent reading, while Howard Mulvey, looking and sounding absolutely right as the ageing Duke of York, beautifully portrayed this right-hearted but ineffectual man-in-the-middle, being particularly effective in his scenes opposite a forceful, but far too youthful Duchess, played by Melanie Bagshaw who stood out as the best of a competent group of St. Helen's girls who joined the production.

Among the smaller parts, Nicholas Rawlinson, Toby Screech and Richard Hignett demanded attention by their thoughtful and controlled delivery, but David Taylor had called forth from his entire cast a sense of seriousness and dedication to a most demanding and worthwhile text which must ease the way for any director wishing to undertake a similar challenge.

Nigel Brown

*We simply lack the space to give full review notices to other productions that have made their mark in the Hall this year. However, among the most notable has been **Black Comedy**, rehearsed and performed by the Oxbridge group as part of their post-examination unwinding. Despite an initial inability on the part of the audience to see the light, so to speak, the production — or performance, since it happened but once — rattled off in great style and was, indeed, extremely funny. Perhaps future generations of Oxbridge types will be inspired to repeat this sort of activity.*

*In the Spring Term a middle-school group put on Moliere's **That Scoundrel Scapin** (in translation), to great effect. Despite the lack of set stock in the Hall, the stage was organised skilfully and most of the action was played on the apron. James Thompson was the eponymous servant, a man of undeviating self-interest and wily depths, and was ably supported by a very promising cast.*

*Finally, **Symposium** engaged in its annual ritual of character assassination, all-licens'd foolery, coarser acting and exalted mediocrity at the end of the Spring term. JDH revealed talents that blew his cover as Head of P.E. Huw Jones, as a celtic rugby-playing chaplain, made a splash. A giggle of girls from St. Winifred's who, collectively, would have torn a Kiwi pack to shreds, preferred to cavort about the stage singing enchantingly about their grandmothers: Andrew Colgan was outstanding. Various figures from the past loomed up to expose JRG's tyrannical rule as a régime that would make King Lear look like the Mayor of Toytown.*

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Nigel Brown has had nearly a year in the chair as Director of Drama and Hall administrator. We put a few pertinent questions:

- Q. *Do you have any complaints about the design of the Hall?*
- A. *Well, . . . I'm speaking only for the auditorium here . . . given the architect's brief, which was to produce a multi-purpose hall, it works surprisingly well.*
- Q. *Why 'surprisingly'?*
- A. *Because the different functions which the Hall is required to cater for are, if not exactly incompatible, fairly difficult to mount equally effectively in the same space, so that, for example, the acoustic requirements for music and drama are very different, while the capacity requirements for full-school assemblies and modest chamber concerts are also poles apart. But, as I say, the Hall has proved itself capable of being an effective auditorium for all sorts of different occasions and this is a considerable achievement in the design.*
- Q. *Are there any features you would like to see incorporated in the Hall which would make it more effective, then?*
- A. *Do you mean in the original design or in time to come?*
- Q. *Well, let's take the original design first.*
- A. *UMMMM (pause for thought) I've not thought much about that because it's no use lamenting lost opportunities and, in any case, most omissions there are have been made for finance reasons rather than because people didn't have a bright idea, but I wish there had been a workshop-cum-storage-cum-rehearsal area somewhere, for there's enormous pressure on stage time; I'm not too happy about the screen . . . it's meant to mask storage and workshop space, but already this is virtually used up for rostra and no one can use it as a workshop . . . and if we'd gone nearly to the back wall and had a roll-down cyclorama backing instead, that would have given greater depth which would have been useful for both music and drama . . . and especially musicals when the pit is in use. Also, it would have been marvellous to have had a bigger open foyer. This would have provided rehearsal . . . even very small-scale performance . . . space, an exhibition area, a good teaching/seminar space, an interval bar with elbow room and of course, off that would have been a smart office for the Administrator with wall-to-wall carpeting and a leather-topped desk just that bit larger than those provided for the Directors of Art and Music and . . . but I mustn't go on . . . I'm beginning to lament lost opportunities!*
- Q. *All right, then, what about looking to the future?*
- A. *We've got a lengthy shopping list, ranging from a twelve-and-a-half thousand pound concert grand, through that office . . . or, rather, cupboard . . . for the Administrator,*
- down to clothes-hangers for the costume store, but obviously the most pressing need is for some sort of curtain masking system for the stage.*
- Q. *Yes, why haven't we got these already? They're not too expensive, surely?*
- A. *Not in relation to the whole building's cost, no, but it's not just a few curtains I'm thinking of as this takes us into a set-up where the acoustical clash between music and drama is critical, for whilst plays need masking and drapes, they are anathema to the musician, so the architect, on the advice of an acoustics expert, has designed a dual-purpose over-stage border system which doubles as masking for the roof and lights and as sounding boards during concerts, and these, with all the suspension ironwork, winches and curtain tracks are naturally very pricey items.*
- Q. *I see. Have there been any moments that have particularly pleased you since September?*
- A. *Oh yes, lots . . . every event that's mounted there contains its moment of pleasure: just to see it reach the stage at all; and I'd hate to single out any one production or concert, but the two 'firsts' . . . when the Mladi Ensemble walked on stage and the first puff of dry ice at the opening of 'Dracula Spectacula' . . . must be the most uplifting, as I knew at those moments we really had a working theatre and not just another selling-point in the school prospectus. I've been pleased too by the enormous variety of uses the building's had, not just plays and concerts of all sorts already, but films, lessons and lectures, assemblies and interviews, TASS Fair, conferences . . . we're not preserving the building as a show-piece, but really 'maximising the plant potential', as an economist might put it. Oh, and another thing that's been particularly pleasing is the praise visiting professional performers have given the building.*
- Q. *And have there been no hiccups? You make it sound very rosy.*
- A. *Of course there have been hiccups*
- Q. *Such as . . . ?*
- A. *Perhaps most notably the flooded orchestra pit. I remember when the Headmaster was addressing a group of parents and thanking TASS members for their contribution which had enabled the pit to be included in the building . . . there were a few meaningful glances exchanged and one parent near me turned to his neighbour with the words, 'Multi-purpose, like the Hall . . . they're giving swimming lessons in it too!' And the heating has been a little noisy and temperamental; it's still liable to freeze the ankles with sudden blasts of cold air. There've been some quite lively moments when rival claimants have been in confrontation over the use of the Hall. Oh yes, and one very wet November night after the performance of **Don Quixote**, when the cast were sitting in their Mercedes mini-bus which was backed up to the double doors of the art room, stuck deep in*

the mud. The technician was the only man entitled to drive the bus and Equity rules obviously forbade actors to push. However, the actors' desire to get home finally overcame their demarcation sensitivities and they started to help me shove when I suddenly remembered the old well by the CCF hut, a couple of yards from the nose of the bus. However, we managed to avoid it and they want to come back!

- Q. And have there been any moments of depression?*
- A. Yes . . . well, not actually depression, but disappointment when some really first-class events have been attended by very few boys from the school.*
- Q. What about plans for the future?*
- A. Obviously, one hope is that members of the school will get into the habit of going to see things performed by professionals in the Hall. With Southern Arts' financial assistance we can get good shows and performers and I'd like to see the theatre full for more events. So plans consist of firstly giving every encouragement and opportunity to school music and drama both individually and regularly, I hope, in conjunction; and then providing a worthwhile and varied programme for the school, other schools in the area and the public, given by professionals, accompanied whenever possible, by practical 'workshops'; and finally we hope to expand our hiring of the Hall, probably chiefly in the holidays. If we take our chances, I can see the Amey Hall becoming a focus for creative life in the school and the community, both in and out of term-time. Any specific ideas to me, please!*

THE AMEY HALL WELL

It all started with the workmen for the Amey Hall discovering an old well beside the armoury that had been capped off for many years. This was in the Summer of 1980; the Headmaster decided to invite us, the Archaeological Society, to excavate the well, and as several of us had just finished A-levels, we accepted. Monday, 7th July saw Charles Prest, Graeme Black and myself ready to start.

We borrowed tools and set to digging the earth away from the old capping; only then did we find just how large the capping stones were. One was hanging at a precarious angle, threatening to fall. Another looked safer, but the worst problem was the largest of all, which had fallen down the well when it was first discovered. Lunch hour was spent borrowing ropes and tackle from the Naval Section. We removed the two stones at the top, then I was the sucker who went down to fasten ropes round our large stone. We proceeded to lift it clear with some difficulty, and the day's work ended with everything ready to proceed on the excavation proper. The inevitable question next morning from all and sundry was: 'Have you found any treasure yet?' We began by bailing out water, thus proving the well could still fulfil its original function (but I for one would not care to drink the water that comes up). After this we could begin to remove the sludge that we dug up in quantities. 43

Our main tool was an old coke can that had its top sliced off; it came in handy both as a bailer and a shovel. On the surface we trowelled over the sludge, hoping for coins or suchlike. We found none of these, but potsherds, bones and churchwarden pipes did emerge. Gradually it became harder work digging; we were reaching the gravel belt that signalled the water-course. It became clear that the things we had been finding were part of a wattle at the bottom, dating from the making of the well. Presumably its function had been to keep the water clear. The work had been quite hard; the water was freezing, the mud got everywhere and it does not help when the person lifting the bucket out accidentally drops most of the contents down your neck! The actual date of the well was not clear; the Headmaster thought it was probably seventeenth century, but Mr. Biggs reckoned it was Medieval. Unfortunately, we found no coins, so we had nothing to go on there. Thanks are due both to those who took part in the dig; we had help from John Berry and Martin Hyder as well as those named above.

David Bradbury (VI)

EXPEDITIONS

During the past year school parties have been to Dolgoed, Skye, Argentan, Bielefeld, the Alps, the Lake District and Russia.

Several parties have visited Dolgoed and enjoyed the rather spartan air of self-sufficiency created by the opportunity of a week's escape from television, hot baths, home food and so on:

DOLGOED

The recent death of its owner having created a slight uncertainty about the School's association with Dolgoed, it seems fitting for me to offer an appreciation of the house which might also serve as an advertisement; the house is under-used and if the school is allowed to continue to display the Griffen in this remote corner of Wales it is imperative to reawaken interest in this scheme.

Dolgoed, "the wood in the meadow", is one of a pair of historic farmhouses situated half way down a valley starting at Corris and running parallel with the main road between Machynlleth and Dolgellau as it passes Cader Idris. The valley itself is dominated by the three industries it has supported; sheep farming is very much in evidence on the floor of the valley and the outbuildings of Dolgoed and the land around it are still used by an neighbouring farmer. The area around Corris has long been associated with slate mining; this industry penetrated our valley to a great extent in the earlier years of this century, and disused mines, and in some cases considerable remains of the machinery associated with them, are to be found all over Mynydd Dolgoed to the east of the house. Some of the mines are small and were presumably dug merely for the purpose of providing local building material; others now present an impressively

lethal aspect to the casual explorer. The track we use from Aberllefenni to Dolgoed mostly follows the line of a tramway which took the slate down to Corris, where there was a narrow gauge railway to take it to Machynlleth. Two engines from this line now serve tourists on the Talylyn Railway.



The third industry is forestry, and Mynydd Dolgoed has been planted on extensively following the demise of the slate mines during the inter-war years. On the other side of the valley, Mynydd Ceiswyn is rapidly being planted with conifers and the scar of a private forestry road runs all along the hillside following the contours.

The journey from Abingdon takes five or six hours and the house itself is visible only in the final few seconds of the slow crawl along the ex-tramway. Half way along this track are several ruined houses, a ruined chapel and the remains of a slate dressing works; then comes Ratgoed Hall, the mine manager's house now occupied intermittently by an artist. Dolgoed lies in a dell hidden by trees and gains from the shelter thus afforded to it; it dates from around the 1640's and features beams with adze markings and slate walls a yard thick. Nearby is another old farmhouse, Ceiswyn, with a curious Victorian addition; it is unoccupied but has been kept in reasonable repair. Of the services enjoyed by Dolgoed it may be said that water comes from a nearby stream, heat from a voracious Joetul woodburning stove, light from portable gas mantles and sanitation from the remarkable preservative powers of methanal; the emptying of the Elsan has provided me with much amusement at the expense of schoolboy prudery. Cooking is effected by a calor gas stove. There are four bedrooms, with no beds of course, a kitchen, the old parlour which has a floor resembling a trampoline, and the living room which is furnished with benches, long tables, memorial tablets to previous parties and a large collection of sheep's skulls.

There is a large variety of worthwhile places of interest in the locality; fell-walkers are served by nearby Cader Idris, and even nearer, Waun-oer at the head of the valley; technologists by Trawsfynydd nuclear power station and the Rheidol hydroelectric scheme; alternative

technologists by the National Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, with its valuable research into solar, wind and water power and ways of increasing self-sufficiency; railway enthusiasts by the Talylyn Railway and at least two others in the vicinity; mediaeval historians by Aberystwyth and Harlech castles; environmentalists by the Dovey estuary and the nature reserve at Ynyslas; and sun-worshippers by the resorts of Tywyn and Barmouth, which the Welsh prefer to call Abermaw. Above all, though, I see a visit to Dolgoed as a means of escaping from the more depressing aspects of late twentieth century life, and it is especially valuable for young people, for however short a period, to have to do without electricity at the flick of a switch, chlorinated water at the flick of a wrist, odourless sanitation, junk food and above all, television.

Let it not be thought that the visitor has no responsibility towards Dolgoed; the maintenance of the fabric is an important aspect of Abingdon School's involvement with the house and there is no doubt in my mind that the more work that is done to improve the state of the fabric the appeal of a visit becomes proportionately greater, even if there is the danger that some of the advantages of primitive living are thereby lost. With no particular attempt at economy, a party of fourteen at Easter 1981 spent roughly £3 per person per day, which included all travel and admissions to monuments and the like. The more that go, the cheaper it becomes; what more can be said?

Gervald Frykman



A fairly substantial party visited Russia during the period of the Olympics, and despite problems of travel and cuisine, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

THE EASTERN EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL ROMP 1980

Despite a seven-hour wait in the enchanting Tilbury dockland, cramped and hot conditions on the boat, and the disappointment of going to the charmless Zeebrugge instead of Helsinki, there was a definite pioneer spirit within the party when the **T.S. Baltika** finally set sail at 10 p.m. on August 10th. One soon got used to the ship's cabins, and the 'cruise' proved to be a most enjoyable part of the trip.

Our first port of call, Zeebrugge, proved much pleasanter than expected. British seaside traditions (beer and sandwiches) reign supreme there, and a real seaside lunch followed by sandcastles and volleyball on the beach made this an unexpectedly relaxing first day of the trip. We spent 10 hours in Zeebrugge, then set sail for Copenhagen, where we were due to spend another 10 hours. Copenhagen was not a disappointment in any way, and was found by many to be the most striking and entertaining city of our tour, though this was not entirely due to the architecture.

After encountering the fleshpots of Copenhagen, we spent two very pleasant days on the boat. The weather was fine and warm, though some members of the party were sometimes enveloped by clouds of alcohol. During these two days, however, invaluable advice was given by Dr. Rolfe and Mr. Taylor on such topics as the Russian language and people, and their attitude towards foreigners, and the infamous Russian lavatory. Strange it is indeed that the great Soviet nation, having sent the first man to space and produced bombs to destroy the world, has been unable to provide a satisfactory sanitation system; this sentiment was frequently, though less delicately, uttered throughout our stay in the Soviet Union.

Leningrad is said by the Intourist brochure to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and it certainly is! Although there is a distinct Western influence, largely centred around the Italian architects Rossi and Rastrelli, there is a definite 'Russian' air about the buildings. The Hermitage Art Gallery, once the Tsar's Winter Palace, now displays one of the world's largest collections of Western European Art, and Petrodvorets, Peter the Great's palace, and Pushkin, a palace built by Catherine the Great, are two of the most impressive buildings to be found. Everywhere in Leningrad one is reminded of the 'Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917', and one is soon aware that if anything is not named after, or otherwise connected with Lenin, then it is just not Russian. There was so much to see and absorb in Leningrad that four days was barely sufficient. However, an overnight train brought us to a Moscow still covered with slogans advertising Lenin and the Olympics (though the memory of Lenin was obviously the sweeter). There is not much to see in Moscow except the Kremlin, Red Square and Lenin's Mausoleum, but with the help of some Polish people we had met on the boat, some of us were able to gain an insight into what

Moscow, and Russia, were really like. Others had recourse to Moskovskaya, a particularly potent refreshment which the Russians drink in pints.

Four days in Moscow proved sufficient, and our next stop, Warsaw, proved a delight. Completely destroyed during the last war, it has been restored as it was, and the 'old town' is reminiscent of an old provincial French town, Polish ties with France being very strong.

We arrived in East Berlin at 5 a.m., and sat with the drunks in the station coffee bar for two hours before our guide arrived. Nevertheless East Berlin was very pleasant, debatably more so than West Berlin. The tours of the two cities stirred the imagination about World War Two, the Berlin Airlift, and other East-West dramas centred here. The final leg of our trip involved travelling along the Berlin corridor, being woken four times by assorted frontier guards, a stop at Cologne, and having to stay outside for the channel crossing. All these things with the prospect of O and A Level results awaiting many produced a depressing end to an exciting and fascinating tour.

The main criticism of Russia was the food, with Roland Hooley constantly reminding us of steak and kidney pudding, and claiming that the abundance of prunes and gherkins had permanently ruined his waistline. Thanks are gratefully extended to Dr. and Mrs. Rolfe, Mr. Taylor and Sasha (our Russian guide) for what was agreed by all to have been the 'tour of a lifetime'.

Patrick Tidmarsh (VI)

Two parties have been abroad on exchange visits, to France and Germany:

THE ARGENTAN EXCHANGE

The 15 Abingdon pupils who returned from Argentan in France on Sunday 12th April, hoped and succeeded, I think, to give their French correspondents just as enjoyable a time as they had spent abroad. This was helped by two extremely well-organised English trips, one to London, and the other to the Cotswold Wild Life Park. A few of the Abingdon School boys and their French friends participated in an unofficial excursion to Alton Towers — the Staffordshire stately home that's anything but stately.

In Argentan both the English and French boys and girls were able to see each other regularly — as in England — which reduced any possible tension. There were also organised trips in France, to Paris, and to a 'ciderie', which proved to be very popular — can't think why?

In Paris, after a delicious meal in a restaurant — raw meat, and cold macaroni — the French seemed to like it — the pupils had an hour to see as much of Paris as they could, having already visited the Eiffel Tower, before returning to the coaches.

However, the main point of the 'ten-day-each-way' exchange was to live with the French family and speak as much French as possible — which no doubt the Abingdon 'French speaking experts' handled with the utmost ease.

The one or two days of lessons were perhaps the hardest part of the exchange — as the French spoken in the schools was very difficult to follow — although Maths lessons were relatively simple. The French pupils who would have attended

Abingdon School were rather relieved to hear that the holidays had already started by the time they arrived in England.

Argentan, in comparison with Abingdon, was not as attractive, but was a reasonably new and growing town. The facilities were good, however, and pupils often gathered together to go swimming, or play football or table tennis.

The Abingdon boys are hoping to go back to Argentan next year, possibly to make new friends or more probably to stay with the same families.

Simon Weaver (3)

BIELEFELD EXCHANGE

The early hours of Saturday, 14th February, saw the departure of twenty-five pupils from Abingdon and St. Helens, accompanied by Mr. Hasnip and Mr. Chorley for an exchange visit with the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld. Amazingly, we passed through Heathrow without delay and it didn't seem long before we were being greeted at Hannover Airport by Herr Schapersmann, the master in charge at the German end, and many of our hosts. For myself and a few other members of the party, this was our second visit to Bielefeld, and we were to stay with the same families as before, and when the rest of the party had been introduced to their respective partners, we set off on the fifty mile coach journey from Hannover to Bielefeld. Time passed quickly as old friendships were renewed and new ones were forged.

During our nine day stay, we were given a full insight into German school and family life, as well as a good grounding into the history of Bielefeld with visits to the "Rathaus" and Sparrenburg Castle, high up on a hill, which gave us a fine view of the town. An enjoyable day was spent in Sauerland, a region of hills made stunningly beautiful by a deep layer of snow, where the Germans walk enjoying the scenery or practise their wintersports. Well wrapped up to protect ourselves against the cold (the temperature barely went above zero°C throughout the whole visit) we went tobogganning and wandered through the resort of Wintenberg. Another highspot was the V.I.P. reception given to us by the Burgermeister of the town, and our egos were further boosted by the photographs and reports of our visit in both the local papers. However, they plummeted a little after our narrow defeat in a football match against our German counterparts. Continuing in the sporting vein, another afternoon was spent playing some novel community games in the school gym.

Most mornings were spent in school and the dismal thoughts of getting up at six in the morning could be dispelled by the prospect of free afternoons. These were spent in the activities mentioned above, or by walking through the town practising one's German on bewildered shopkeepers in Bielefeld's excellent city centre. I, myself, spent an enjoyable afternoon playing squash at a superb indoor tennis complex, just outside the town.

Other days were spent with our families, enjoying the overwhelming hospitality offered us and the different customs of the German people.

We were also given the chance to sample the lively social life of the town in its many bars, cafes and other entertainments.

However, all too soon, we were waving goodbye to our hosts at Hannover Airport and returning reluctantly to Abingdon. I was particularly struck by the cleanliness of the town and the friendliness of the people, who seemed genuinely pleased to see us, and I would like to thank Mr. Hasnip and Mr. Chorley, who gave up a lot of their time and effort in ensuring that this trip was such a success.

Jonathan Monk (6.)

LOWER SIXTH GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO SWANSEA

As in the previous three years, Swansea was the location of the field trip, and a party of fourteen boys, accompanied by Mr. Eden and Mr. Gasson, made the journey. The University of Swansea was the centre of activities and offered facilities such as a lecture theatre and study room for our use.

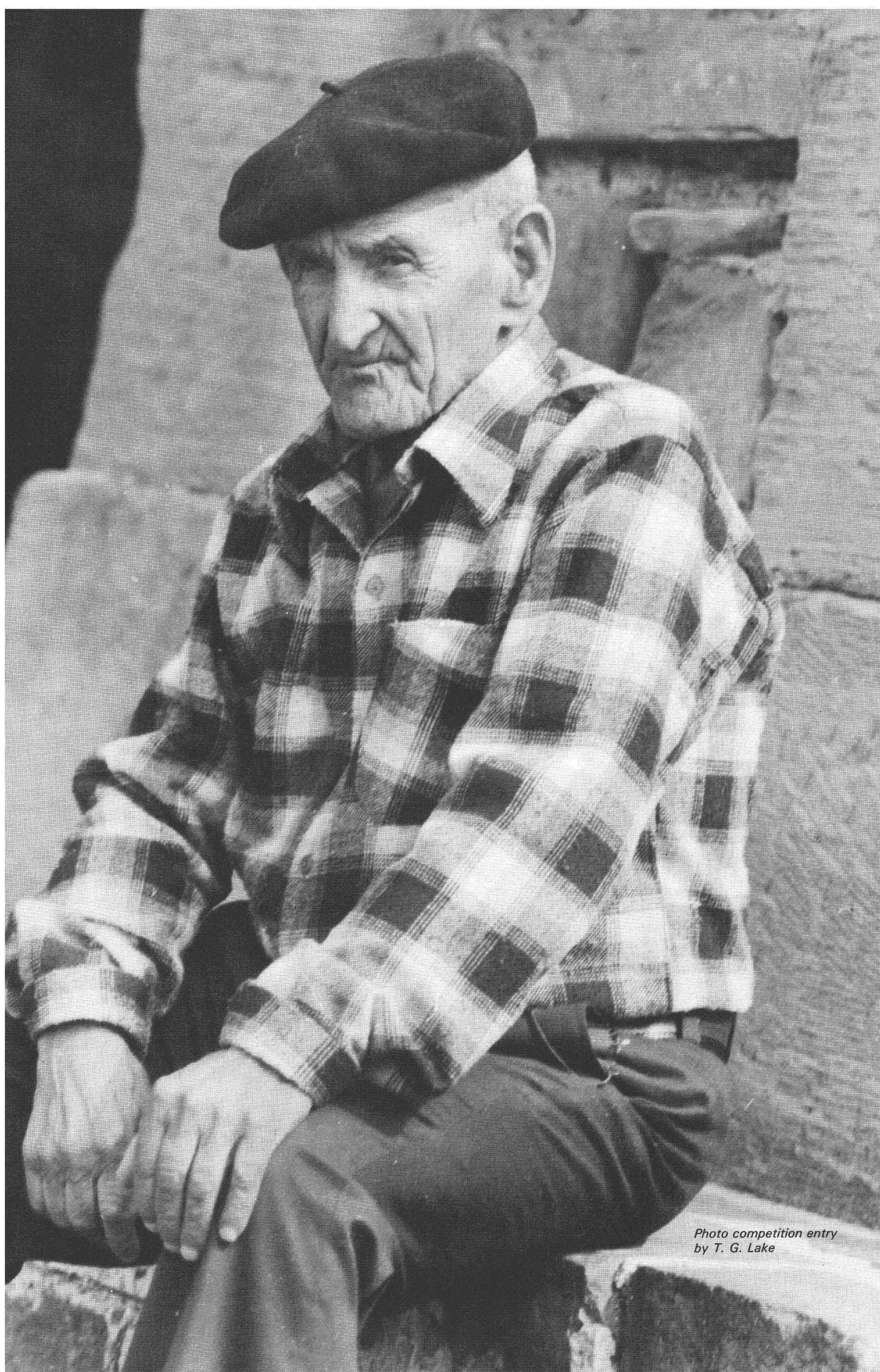
Educationally the trip was a great success — Swansea is an excellent example of a South Wales industrial settlement, while the nearby Gower peninsula provides relevant rural contrasts in aspects of both physical and human geography. These contrasts within the area meant that a wide variety of topics could be covered — ranging from the effects of industrial decline to the characteristics of a depositional coastline.

The course was not, however, entirely dominated by field study work, and after the evening's follow-up work we were able to use some of the University's leisure facilities which included a pool table, a "Space Invaders" machine, the Common Room bar, and a television. The latter was occasionally used in an instructive mode, notably in a study of that other centre of extractive industry — "Dallas".

Thanks for the trip must go to the University of Swansea and to the masters present who made the week an educational and social success.

I. Burnett (6)

Several members of the school and recent OAs have gained unusual sporting distinctions which we are delighted to mention here: Robert McCreery has been invited to play a few games for Notts 2nd XI; Gareth Harper has now progressed to the Welsh under-21 hockey squad; Adrian Thomas has been selected as a member of the British team for the International Canoe Class Sailing Championships, to be held off Massachusetts in August; and, among recent old boys, Graham Halsey played on the wing for Durham in the recent UAU Rugby Final against Loughborough, John Madgwick played on the wing for Oxford University against Oxfordshire, and Mark Andrews (for the second year) and Richard Emerton rowed in the victorious Boat Race crew.



*Photo competition entry
by T. G. Lake*

MOTORWAY

He could clearly recall that childhood scene —
The hillocks and meadows clothed in green
And damp lush grass on a fresh spring day . . .
But what is there now? Just the MOTORWAY.

That black asphalt snake would never be still
As it writhed and curled through the heart of the hill.
A venomous din was carried above
To the pastures and woodland the man used to love.

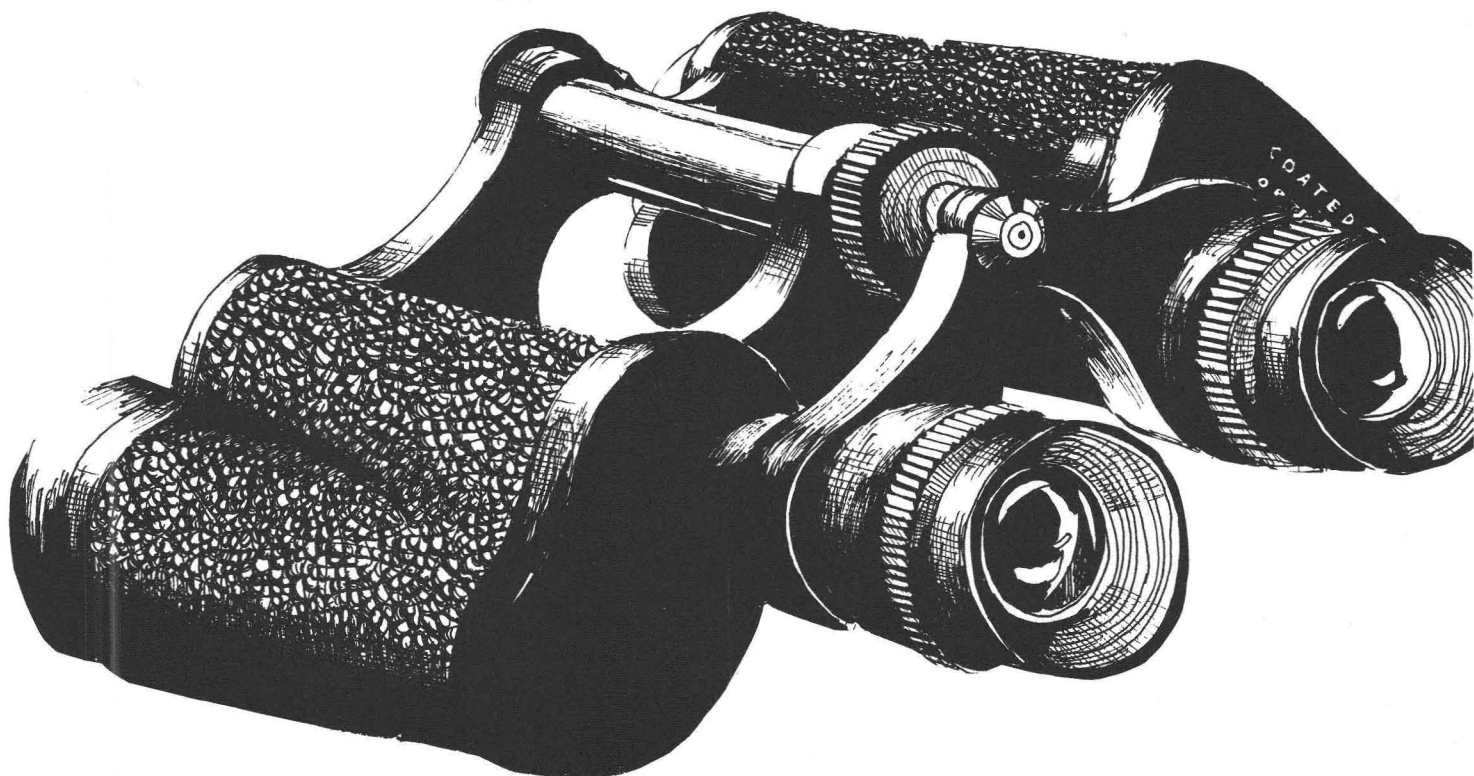
He sped along now in his plush limousine
Through the clefted cliffs, through the deep ravine
Like a jagged hole in his childhood dream.

He'd climbed up that hill in the summertime haze
Through the thickets of brambles — the prickly maze
of a copse run riot with nettle and thorn.
He's climbed the hill on a winter's morn
With the soft frosted snow lying white on the ground
And the harsh cry of pheasants the only sound
In a frosted world completely still
But now it's not like that beneath the hill.

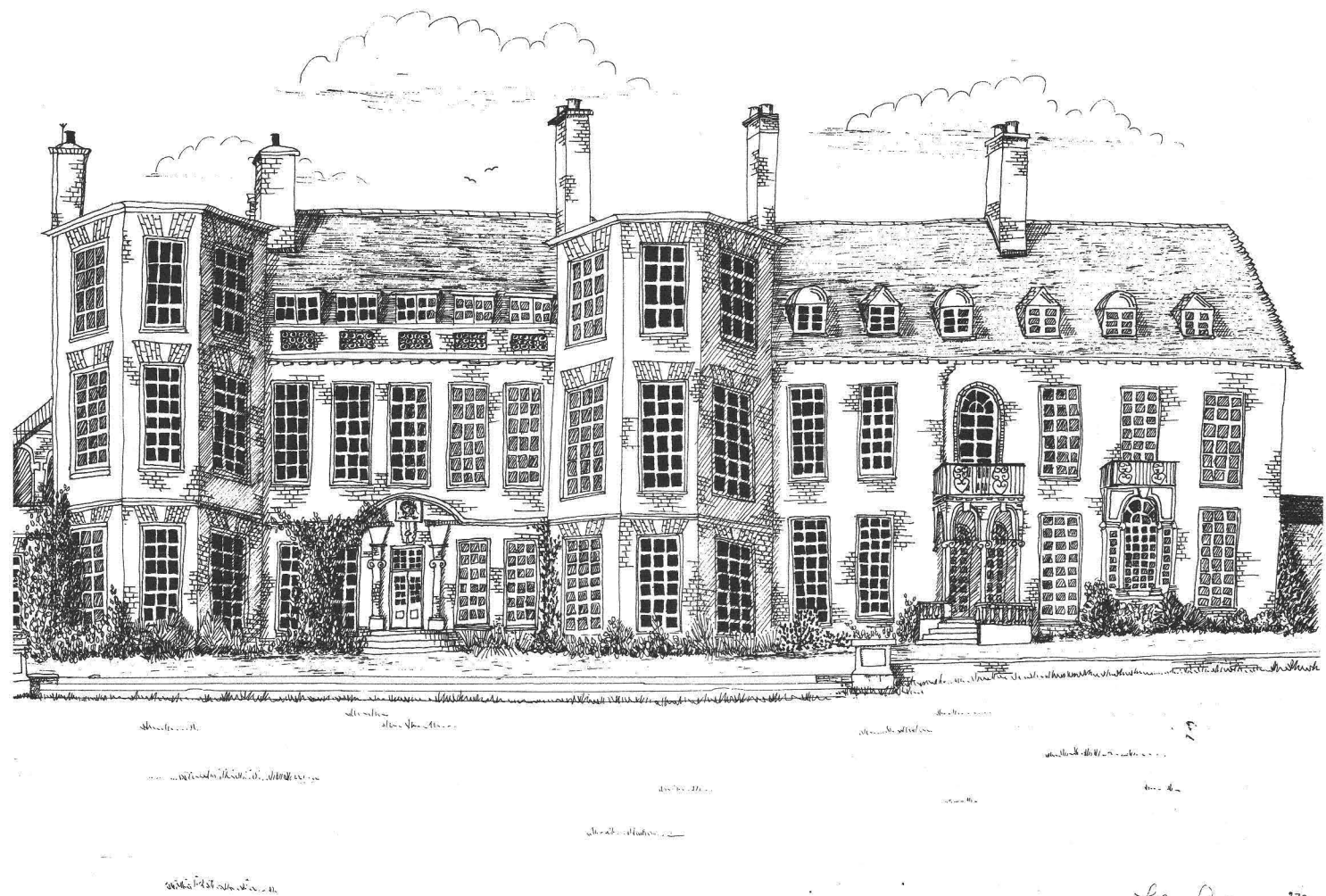
"Faster! Faster! the little boy cried
To his father — sitting at his side.
Reluctantly he drove away
Dreaming of a bygone day.

Andrew McGhie (4)

*(This poem won second prize in a competition
organised by the Council for the Protection of
Rural England, judged by John Betjeman.)*



drawings by John Persson



John Cerson '79

THE WOUND

This wound hurts too.
Not like a graze which
Stings and burns,
But like a shock
That penetrates fear.

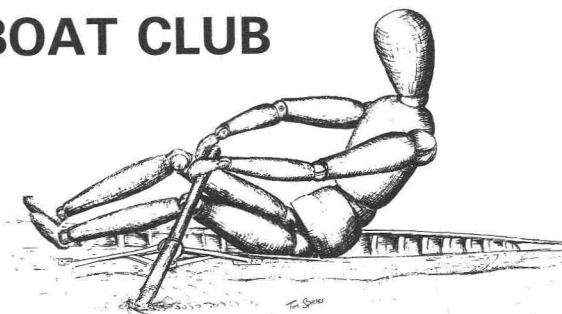
This wound is not coloured
Red, like oozing blood.
It is a dark misty grey,
That lingers in my mind,
Waiting.

Waiting for a casual word,
On which it will grow rapidly
Until I can think of nothing else
But the dark mist in my mind.

This wound is fatal: it never leaves.
It is always there, not forgotten —
Suddenly reappearing,
Overcoming bravery.

Riccardo Casale (2)

BOAT CLUB



SUMMER TERM 1980

SENIORS

The senior squad this year consisted of a pair and a four. The pair, Trigle and Burles, were the remnants of the previous year's First VIII and the four had missed most of the previous year's rowing and lacked experience.

The summer term opened with Carmel Regatta where we won our first round of Novice Fours easily but lost the semi-final to Sir William Borlase. Although we had raced against them in the Lent term, we did not know how often we were to meet them. We drew them at Gloucester Junior and lost to them after some rather dubious steering from their cox, but we went on through the repechage to the semi-final where we were just beaten by St George's. Our next regatta was Walton Junior, but we were destined to lose again, coming second in the final to Reading B despite having beaten Reading A earlier.

Our next chance was Birmingham Regatta. Although stroke had a back injury, we did not let the chance go and won all our races by clear margins, including the final, so we had to move on to Senior C status. This was to be the only win of the season, though, as we lost the final of Senior C Fours at Reading Amateur and the semi-final at Reading Town. Considering the inexperience of the crew, though, it was not too bad a term!

The pair rowed very strongly at Carmel, just losing the final of Junior Pairs to an experienced Wallingford combination. They next appeared in Open Coxed Pairs at Birmingham, where they beat Worcester RC in the first round but lost to St Neot's in the final. They also rowed with our boatman, Colin Cox, and another member of City of Oxford RC in Senior A Fours, but bad steering robbed them of probable victory in the final. The night before the National Schools' Regatta, Burles twisted his ankle, removing the main object of their term's rowing. They finally rowed again at Reading Town with Colin Cox in Senior A Coxless Fours but lost to Noble and Greenough School, USA — not an embarrassing result since the event was won by California RC.

Richard Thomas (VI)

JUNIOR 16 VIII

After promising performances in the winter, the summer term's rowing did not go as well as we had hoped. The first regatta was Gloucester, where we lost disappointingly in the first round to Monkton Combe. The repechage against Hampton followed and this turned out to be a frustrating row: after finding ourselves half a length up at 250 metres, disaster struck with No. 6 coming off his seat and out of action for most of the remainder of the race. Putting this unfortunate incident behind us, we trained for Birmingham Regatta with hopes of victory. The four boat final turned out to be closely fought. We, unfortunately, had the frustration of leading the race until the last 100 50

metres when we were just overtaken by King's, Chester, who won by six feet.

After these two defeats training became more determined. Walton Regatta saw us beaten by a fast but lightweight Winchester crew (the eventual winners) in a fast time. After this regatta No. 5 was injured in a slight brush with a car and so a J15 member 'volunteered' to row for us at Reading, though this involved some switching of sides. We won the first round against Canford in a controlled row but went on to lose the final to the same Winchester crew as at Walton.

Reading Town saw the return of No. 5 and the eight split into two fours, the only event open to us. Both crews won through to the final fairly easily, and the 'A' crew came first from Shiplake who were 'shepherded' in by the 'B' crew in third place. The eight re-formed for the last regatta at Bedford and went out with a flourish, just losing to the eventual winners, Emanuel, but breaking the course record as well in the process.

Not such a good season for this lightweight colts crew, then, but next year . . .

Matthew Hunt (VI)

J15

After the three crews had performed well in the Schools Head in Spring, we were very optimistic at the start of the Summer Term.

High hopes for the A Crew were not fully realised, for although they won many races against very respectable opposition, and improved throughout the term, they were never able to produce the extra edge of speed and strength needed to win a final.

In the early regattas the A Crew was repeatedly drawn against a tough St. Edwards crew: at Putney after an unsettled row we lost by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths; at Twickenham we beat Eton by 1 length but lost the final to Teddies by $1\frac{1}{4}$ length; and at Walton they beat us by $\frac{3}{4}$ length. The Crew then reached finals at Reading Amateur, Reading Town, and Bedford: they were beaten twice by Shiplake who were probably the best J15 Crew of 1980 and, at Reading Town, they beat Radley before narrowly losing the final to Great Marlow who had abandoned their usual fours to take this trophy.

The B Crew, meanwhile, went from strength to strength. They took a good deal of mischievous pleasure in pushing the A Crew very close in training, and they raced with great determination against other A Crews at Regattas; they won their events at Gloucester and Bedford with impressive ease, and a four from this Crew won J15 Fours at Reading Town, beating half of the Shiplake eight.

In private matches, the C Crew won one race and lost one, while the B Crew maintained their unbeaten record against other B Crews by convincing victories over Emanuel B and St. Edwards B and C.

Thus while one could not help being disappointed at the A Crew's performance, it was satisfying to be able to compete with the fastest Crews in the Country, and that over the past two years this group as a whole went faster and won more than other Abingdon Crews at this age. It was a tremendous pleasure to be associated with them and I would like to thank them all for their keenness and obvious enjoyment of rowing and for not making life too hectic for their Coach. I wish them well under new management in 1981.

J.S.W.

JUNIOR 14s

23 boys entered rowing as J14's this year, which meant that we were able to put out two Vllls every outing; and, on the odd occasion when everyone was fit and healthy on the same day, a IV as well.

With the exception of the Schools' H.O.R. and Reading Regatta, where only one J14 Vlll was entered, the squad training was in matched Vlll's throughout both terms. Consequently, by the end of the summer term, everyone had experienced the pleasures of rowing at public regattas.

The schedule for Lent term contained only the Putney and Reading Heads. In contrast, the summer term seemed to be a non-stop stream of events; including a visit from Emmanuel School, London, and a visit to St. Edward's School, Oxford, the latter being one of the more successful forays of term, with a 50% success rate.

Although the J14s did not manage to bring home any pots, their great dedication and enthusiasm never flagged through the year, and a good time was had by all. So much so, that as they move on to J15's, very few have turned to other sports.

J.P.L.

CREWS FOR SUMMER TERM 1980:

Senior Four: Bow, C. P. Wilson; 2, A. J. Colgan; 3, D. D. L. Cockram; Stroke, R. K. Thomas; Cox, R. D. Cheek.

J16 Vlll: Bow, M. F. Hunt; 2, H. D. Mulvey; 3, K. J. S. Volak; 4, H. C. Jones; 5, J. S. G. Tanner; 6, S. G. Jozwiak; 7, F. J. Bailey; Str, I. M. Burnett; Cox, L. I. Girdwood.

J15 Squad: *Anderson N., Ayliffe B., *Booker M., Charlesworth J., Collier D., Cowell D., Datschefski E., *Dorey P., Edwards A., *Freeman J.-M., Girdwood K., *Green M., Harper M., Hayne D., *Head D., Herd J. M., *Lake T., Lane J., Nicholls C., Persson A., *Piper M., Plumtre A., *Richardson J., Sanders M., *Schofield J., Volak J., *Wilson T.

* = Regatta Winner in 1980

J14 Vllls: B. J. Andrews, P. J. Baynard-Smith, E. C. Bridges, T. J. Brock, A. D. K. Campbell, T. J. Christian, J. C. H. Dix, P. Dominey, J. M. England, D. B. Guimaraens, B. M. Iles, R. R. Kanagasabay, A. J. MacFadyen, R. E. May, T. A. Mayor, W. J. Morland, H. R. W. Peach, S. J. Pratt, T. C. Race, J. Scott, R. B. Smith, D. A. Sperry, R. W. Spivey, K. B. Welby, W. Martin, E. Taylor.

LENT TERM 1981

The kindest winter for a long time allowed the record number of boys in the Boat Club to achieve a lot more than we often do in the Lent term. Seven eights and a four or two boated regularly — not to mention what seemed like dozens of scullers — and stretched our coaching strength and boats to the limit.

The seniors set off with last year's senior four and Colts Vlll and did a lot to build up strength and stamina in various combinations. They are still a lightweight eight, though, and they did well to overcome illness, interviews and plays to achieve considerable sharpness and precision. Their first competition was in a private dabble with a City of Oxford crew: this proved to be closely balanced and so too was another private fixture with Bryanston. Their public events of the term yielded a win in Senior C Fours in the Abingdon Head, a comfortable 41st at Reading and 25th in the Schools' Head.

Two J16 eights boated regularly throughout the term in permanently shifting combinations and made considerable progress in technique and strength, though hampered by the necessity of boys having to rush off for school buses almost before they started rowing. The first event was a very useful and interesting mutual outing with Pangbourne, when both crews managed to show encouraging steadiness and control. Hampton Head the following week consolidated their progress though we never found out the results! The major build-up was to Reading Head where the 'A' crew came a very commendable 40th, third in their class to St Edward's and Radley, with the 'B' crew eighth in the class. Mock O levels then disrupted training and the Schools' Head was more of gamble than a serious bid. The 'B' crew rowed very aggressively indeed to beat the 'A' crew to come 38th with the 'A' crew at 44th. The rest of the term was spent developing skills and seat racing to select the summer's real 'A' crew, which should benefit from a new lightweight eight to be delivered in April. The prospects of the group look high and they should continue their successes of the last two years.

The J15s have also boated in large numbers and show great enthusiasm. Coaching them all has been a big problem but a crew went to Hampton, two fours rowed reasonably in the Abingdon Head, and two eights went to the Schools' Head, where they found the competition very strong.

Finally, two eights' worth of third form boys began to row this term and coped admirably. They did lots of running and work in the gym and made good progress technically, especially considering the limited coaching time available. One crew rowed well in the Abingdon Head and the group showed its clear superiority over MCS in a private match. Fear of dangerous conditions made us scratch one of the eights entered for the Schools' Head, but the remaining crew rowed enthusiastically and gained some useful experience.

Apart from its rowing, the Boat Club has also been busy. We built and launched a third landing stage, which has greatly increased the speed and efficiency of our boating. Our fleet of sculling boats has increased by four and we took delivery of a new Restricted Four — called 'Michael Parker' — paid for entirely with money raised by the Boat Club. We acquired a fourth launch to facilitate coaching and improve safety on the water and we also bought another, smaller, trailer which will be rebuilt to account for our needs during the summer. A fund-raising project in the holidays by the boys raised over £700, but the most memorable event of the holidays was, of course, the Boat Race in which Mark Andrews earned his second blue and Richard Emerton won his full blue after being in Isis last year. Both deserve our warmest congratulations, and so too does Robert Hamlin who rowed in the Oxford Lightweight Vlll. G.G.B.

CREWS FOR LENT TERM 1981

Vlll: Bow, P. Harries; 2, H. C. Jones; 3, K. J. Volak; 4, S. C. Jozwiak; 5, J.S. Tanner; 6, I. M. Burnett; 7, F. J. Bailey; Str, H. D. Mulvey; Cox, L. I. Girdwood.

J16 "A" Vlll: Bow, K. R. Girdwood; 2, A. S. Persson; 3, E. A. Datschefski; 4, N. J. Anderson; 5, J. I. Charlesworth; 6, M. N. Sanders; 7, J. M. Herd; Str, C. J. V. Schofield; Cox, M. T. Green.



J16 "B" VIII: Bow, A. J. Plumtre; 2, M. G. Piper; 3, T. G. Lake; 4, J. J. Richardson; 5, M. E. Booker; 6, D. J. Cowell; 7, A. G. Edwards; Str. D. J. Head; Cox, N. D. Bolitho.

J15 "A" VIII: Bow, E. C. Bridges; 2, T. A. Mayor; 3, A. J. MacFadyen; 4, A. D. Campbell; 5, T. J. Brock; 6, J. H. Dix; 7, D. A. Sperry; Str. P. Dominey; Cox, R. W. Spivey.

J15 "B" VIII: Bow, R. E. May; 2, B. M. Iles; 3, T. C. Race; 4, H. R. Peach; 5, A. J. McLellan; 6, A. J. Harcourt; 7, D. B. Guimaraens; Str. R. R. Kanagasabay; Cox, J. Scott.

J14 "A" VIII: Bow, A. D. Fisher; 2, B. J. Wagon; 3, S. James; 4, S. J. Walker; 5, S. Jones; 6, J. Ralfe; 7, M. D. Camplin; Str. N. Challenger; Cox, T. W. Gentles.

BADMINTON

As predicted this year has begun to show the emergence of a sound U.16 team:—

Trevor Rogers (captain) and Jeremy Lovering
Andrew Collins and Douglas Pearson
Antony Hayward and Jonathan Pugh.

It has beaten **Stowe, Magdalen College School** and **Fitzharry's School**, drawn with **Trent College** and lost (while under strength) to **Pocklington** and **Larkmead**. The U.19 team's success has depended markedly on Peter Lovering and Abbas Khakoo both of whom left us at Christmas. The usual line-up has been:

Stephen Yip (Secretary) and Peter Lovering (Hon. Captain)

Abbas Khakoo and Martin Newton (when fit)
John Steeds and Antony Lowe.

It has beaten **Stowe, Gosford Hill, Larkmead, John Mason, Marlborough (Woodstock)** but lost — almost inevitably — to **King Alfred's Wantage**. Such is the way of leagues that despite losing to Wantage we ended up by meeting King Alfred's again in the finals of the Oxford Schools Badminton Association U.19 League.

Victory — and the shield — went to Abingdon this time.

An ad hoc team beat Marlborough College and RGS High Wycombe but a very inexperienced U.14 team lost a couple of friendly games at Larkmead and John Mason Schools. Meanwhile various people have filled gaps. Paul Batchelor, Paul Clark and Andrew Jones deserve thanks in this context. The are capable players who have good-humouredly stepped into the breach and played above themselves, often against quite hostile opposition. Andrew Suckling filled the gap in the team that went to High Wycombe and enjoyed the experience.

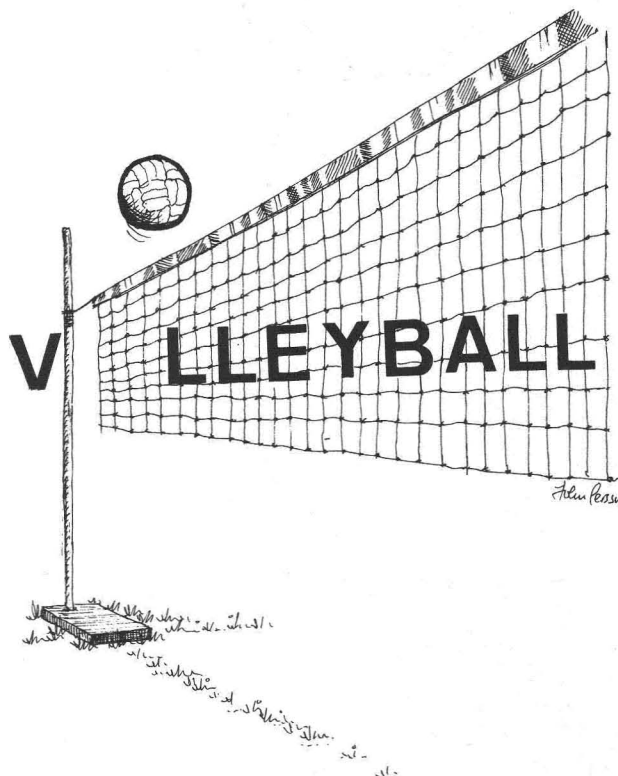
Several members of the school team were successful in trials for the Oxford County Team Squad. Stephen Yip, Peter Lovering, Martin Newton, Trevor Rogers and Andrew Collins were all accepted.

In the Abingdon Area Badminton Competition on January 24th 1981 Douglas Pearson and Andrew Collins reached the semi-finals of the U.16 doubles and Andrew Collins also reached the semi-finals of the U.16 singles: this gave him a place in the County Finals on February 7th. Here a further three rounds took him to the final. He thus becomes county U.16 runner-up. It is particularly creditable to reach county level from Abingdon because the competition is stronger here than in the other districts. We shall miss Douglas Pearson

who will be going to Sevenoaks next year. He has become a capable and stylish player who never loses his sense of humour. In many doubles matches his equanimity, and that of Andrew Collins, have proved the despair, frustration and un-doing of more volatile opponents.

I.A.McD.

VOLLEYBALL



There was an injection of fresh blood into the volleyball club in the Michaelmas term, mainly from the Upper Sixth. At first the reason appeared to be that they thought we ran a slack game, but the truth was soon learnt, with the result that they all played in the U19 match at Banbury in the Lent term.

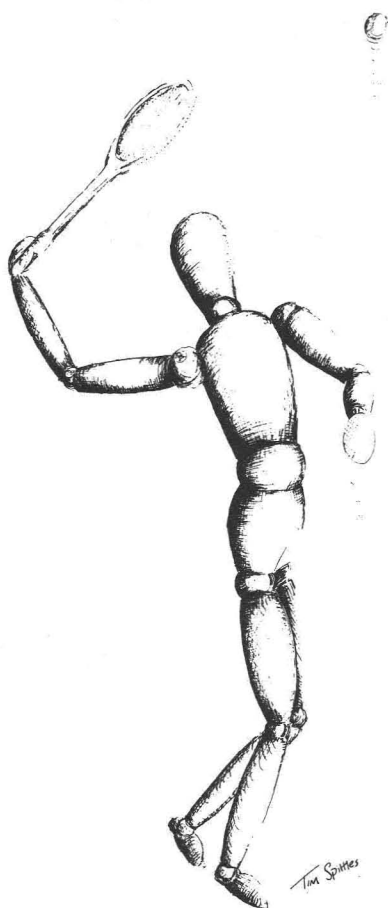
At Banbury we played **Banbury School** first, and won in straight sets, with some very intelligent play which must have surprised Dr. Zawadzki. Our next game was against **Marlborough School, Woodstock**, last year's winners of the Oxfordshire Championships. They won the first set 15-13, but we pulled back to win the second set comparatively easily 15-7. Unfortunately Marlborough were the eventual winners after a very tense game, 17-15; however we conceded the last set on a technical fault rather than a lack of skill. As it is very difficult to play a decent game of volleyball in the small confines of our gymnasium, we achieved a very creditable result.

The volleyball team would like to thank Dr. Zawadzki, mainly for his time and effort, and also for putting up with us for three terms, we were all a bit trying at times, to say the least.

The team members were: A. Cooper (Captain), M. Baker, J. Persson, C. Cross, R. Titcombe, A. Carmichael, J. Mercer, M. Bradbury.

Alan Cooper (VI)

TENNIS



The lasting impression of tennis in 1980 is of squelchy courts and scudding clouds. It was, the weathermen told us, the wettest June since 1912. Perhaps we should be thankful that compared with those early days of lawn tennis at least we have no long flannels to contend with, and science has come up with satisfactory alternatives to the vulnerable gut-strung racquet.

In terms of results the school felt the lack of an outstanding player and the solid base that one such as Nick Williams and earlier Tim Robson had provided. It was not clear at the beginning of the season who should play in the 1st VI and three matches slipped by — all losses — before sound pairings were established. That at least partly contributed to a narrow defeat on the windswept courts of **Leighton Park**. **Magdalen College School's** young team were steady and played with undemonstrative competence on their superbly lush and level grass by the Cherwell. And then at **Newbury St. Bartholomew's** excellent side fairly trounced us. Morale was improved by a happy match against the **Old Abingdonians** on Founder's Day.

As the School's first pair, Marcus Barclay, the captain, and Peter Lovering had by then become a thoroughly reliable combination. There was nothing flashy about their play; instead they were prepared to work for points and their strength lay in their thoughtfulness and guile rather than their muscle. The second pair of Richard Schofield and Peter Druett had more chequered results. They could play forceful winning tennis; equally they could fall to pieces and produce a disastrous display. But some of the most exciting spectacle came from the athletic young Frenchman, Patrick Roubi: his power was exceptional for a 15 year

old; and his shots, especially his aggressive backhand volley, were immaculately produced. Alistair Ross partnered him most ably, and when he conquers his slightly unbending style and is more confident at the net he too should make a commanding player.

While one or two top-notch senior players can make so much difference to a set of 1st VI results they can focus attention away from the more average club player to his detriment. The strength of tennis in 1980 was, I believe, in the second ranking players who increased their skills and got much enjoyment out of the season, and in many of the juniors, including the 3rd-formers, Antony di Pinto, John Lee and Adam Spring, who were prepared to work so hard for results.

My thanks go to Bob Johnson and Peter Halstead for giving up so much of their time in helping to organise tennis in the school.

T.R.A.

The teams were selected from:

1st VI: R. W. M. Barclay and P. Lovering (both awarded full colours), R. T. Schofield, P. K. Druett, A. R. Ross and P. Roubi (all awarded half colours), G. A. Khakoo, T. Jefferson, G. L. Radford-Smith, C. F. Coe, J. T. Nicholls.

2nd VI: J. Cook, J. T. Nicholls, G. A. Khakoo, G. L. Radford-Smith, A. H. Linley, J. A. Batchelor, T. Jefferson, J. R. P. Berry.

Colts/Junior Colts: C. F. Coe, A. S. H. Lowe, G. J. Francksen, J. M. Steeds, A. G. di Pinto, J. Lee, J. Abu-Ghazaleh, W. J. Passmore, P. A. Tauwhare, P. F. Batchelor, J. D. Knott, R. N. Minter, A. J. Spring, B. D. R. Lintott

RESULTS

1st VI

v Leighton Park	(a)	lost 4—5
v MCS	(a)	lost 3—6
v St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(a)	lost 1½—7½
v Old Abingdonians	(h)	won 6½—2½
v Bloxham	(h)	won 5½—3½
v Douai	(h)	won 9—0
v Berkhamsted	(h)	lost 2½—6½
v Radley	(h)	lost ½—8½

2nd VI

v MCS	(h)	won 6½—2½
v Shiplake	(h)	won 8—1
v Radley	(h)	lost 1—8

Colts/Junior Colts VI

v Leighton Park	(a)	won 6½—2½
v MCS	(h)	drew 4½—4½
v Bloxham	(h)	won 5½—2½
v Douai	(h)	drew 4½—4½
v Berkhamsted	(a)	lost 1½—7½
v Shiplake	(a)	lost 3—6

ORIENTEERING

Orienteers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and boast varying degrees of fitness, but all enjoy the challenge of finding their way with map and compass in attractive areas of countryside. An enthusiastic bunch from Lower School are steadily working their way up the colour-coded badge scheme, and there is also much talent in Middle School where Neil Challenger and Richard Naish have each had some particularly promising runs.

Our two stars Richard Baker and David Thompson continue to turn in impressive performances. David finished 3rd in M15 at the **British Championships** in the New Forest last year. This year, as a first year M17, he has come 5th in the **Midlands Championships** at Sandringham, and 6th in the 2-day **JK International** at Cannock Chase. A miss-punch in the Belgian 3-day event last summer cost Richard his first victory in international competition, but he made no such mistake in this year's JK where, having burnt off the foreign opposition, he and a compatriot staged a winning dead-heat.

Both boys are members of the British Junior Squad and of the Centre of Orienteering Excellence based at Aldershot, and it was as representatives of the latter that they took part in the German International Event at Uslar, for which they had to miss the first few days of the summer term. They did outstandingly well — Richard came 1st, David was 3rd, and their good runs in the Relay pulled their team up to finish 2nd.

An interesting statistic on "the family sport", gleaned from an analysis of various results sheets, shows almost equal participation by 3 groups of Abingdonians — current members of the school, Old Abingdonians, and past and present parents.

R.H.B.

CROSS COUNTRY

Winter term

It was a lonely, grey December day when Mr. Pritchard, as yet unbearded, and wearing the badly-bitten green tracksuit that was the right and robe of his great office, persuaded the astute P. Wilson to become secretary. That set the ball rolling, as the search for the young runners began.

Early September saw a growing band meet in the middle of Waste Court field. It was here that the short-haired figure of Rog Jacobs arrived on the scene. Carrying a bag of Dave Bedford photos Rog told the assembled athletes "I wanna be just like Dave, only different". The boys knew exactly what he meant and soon convinced him that running at Abingdon School in the Michaelmas term of 1980 was the scene he'd been searching for for more than a decade.

Soon the wheelchairs and poor excuses were abandoned as the small group of runners began to strive for the success they'd always dreamt of. Even so, it was no easy task to maintain enthusiasm: some of the lads became impatient waiting for the good times, but Pete and NAFF convinced them that it would be worthwhile, and in the meantime they consoled themselves by looking at video film clips of Steve Ovett.

From the very first match it was clear that something unusual was going on: the unbeaten home record was lost; a brand new shoe vanished in the manure at the end of the course; John Lennon's name appeared on the noticeboard for the first time; and T. J. M. Johnson decided to retire. Unlike other casualties of the 'chapman' disease, Tim made his exit in style: one Wednesday he promised to train at Shotover, only to join the fourth XV an hour later.

The loss of the number two runner did not disturb Richard Baker who made great efforts to organise the Abingdon Relay. 143 schools were invited, 77 replied, and 56 came, and ran, and left, 55

impressed by a school which could provide results, up-to-the-minute information and a well-marked competitive course efficiently, and with an air of ease and enjoyment. The relay was soon followed by the sponsored run, an event which illustrated the outward-looking attitude of the club.

The relay and the charity run were linked together by Simon Dennis who led the D team to success in the relay, and kept the well-meaning third formers under control as they helped to raise £210. Regrettably, Simon was not always running, so Jones, Hamilton and Weaver conspired to harass the secretary whenever possible, as well as assisting the Colts to a first ever win at Charterhouse, and further success at Leighton Park.

The real celebration day of the term, however, turned out to be the trip to Sir Thomas Rich. A wrong turning on the way there and an inspired pep talk by manager NAFF delayed the start of the race by ten minutes. Once the starter had taken off his shoe the match got underway with Abingdon runners forming a strong pack at the back helping to breakdown a barbed wire fence before squeezing four runners home in the first six, with Jacobs beating Naish and Blagbrough for the first time.

The victory made a significant contribution to the high spirits prevalent on the return journey — high spirits evident in the match against St. Edward's, when the morale-deflating glance that they took of the farmyard at the end of the course, was not properly exploited. A similar lack of concentration on the match in hand was evident at the Haydon Relay, where some runners failed to exert themselves. It was inevitable, though, that by travelling so far and spreading our resources so thinly our small squad would become drained of strength, and in the circumstances it was satisfying to lose heavily to only Marlborough and Haberdashers.

Throughout the term the boys were kept amused and infuriated by the antics of Wilson and Jacobs, whilst a campaign to tidy up the team and reduce conversation with passing cyclists was, thanks to David Thompson, most successful. During the last two weeks of term P. Wilson bullied and cajoled his colleagues into training almost to the point of collapse. By December 6 when the last Shotover training session took place, only the running order of the A team and the strange behaviour of Richard Baker caused management any concern. Unfortunately, the illness of P. Wilson and the murder of John Lennon shattered team morale with the result that excellent runs by Baker, Naish and Jacobs could not be exploited, and success was averted once more.

Spring term

Driving in the morning rain to Sevenoaks was a fine way to start the Spring term. Our experienced team, overawed by neither the quality of the event nor the volume of competitors, packed five runners into the top 100. Only the performance of Richard Naish was out of character, but thankfully, Richard soon recouped his competitive spirit, and retained the sort of humour that led to his exchanging biscuits with total strangers after the race. His return to form was undoubtedly

influenced by the emergence of our own dark horse into the full limelight of the open race course. It was no new news to his colleagues that Rog Jacobs was a keen runner, but his run at Sevenoaks — his first for four weeks — gave promise of things to come as he battled through to finish 144th, showing the kind of form that was to earn both Sandy Black and himself half colours.

With Matthew Hudswell off games with hepatitis the boys did well to dispose of Charterhouse, and they were confident that the 100% unbeaten record could be maintained against Berkhamsted. Thompson, Fellows and Griggs had returned refreshed, fit and enthusiastic after the Christmas recess, with Griggs showing particularly fine form at this time. But, despite fielding a strong team we lost to Berkhamsted, and even the fact that Baker had broken the course record could not alleviate the disappointment. After this shock defeat the morale of the club seemed to collapse. Poor performances by the seniors at the Coventry Relay, where the top class quality of the event exposed all our weaknesses, and the juniors at Radley, were followed by weak individual runs at the Inter Area. Roger Smith, in particular, misjudged his race, delaying his sprint until 400m from the finish when a place at the All-England was within his grasp.

Fortunately, the strong leadership supplied by stalwart athletes such as Dave Thompson, Tom England and Andrew de la Fontaine helped to stabilise a club wracked with self-doubt, and much lost pride was regained at the Elstree Relay. Only the fact that Thompson was still in his tracksuit as Baker raced in to hand over to him, and the breakdown of another team manager's magnificent watch caused us any great concern.

At a small relay in Wycombe the carefully laid plans of St. Albans team manager Colonel Pryke went sadly awry. On the very first lap his A team runner lost a shoe and walked despondently to the finish. If Abingdon runners thought that the race was won they were in for a big surprise as Fate decided to strike our brave lads a savage blow: at the start of leg 3 Fellows, due to take over from Thompson, was nowhere to be seen. (It later transpired that, for the second year running, Tim had gone to the wrong race venue in Wycombe.) With NAFB out on the course the collapse of our team seemed imminent until young Rog Jacobs proved himself a hero by showing rapid initiative as he promoted himself to the A team and recorded an excellent time. Yet even then the drama was not over: on the last lap ultra-professional, team superstar Richard Baker lost a shoe. Like so many of his colleagues that day Richard showed guts, confidence, team loyalty and proof that Abingdon teams can produce that extra-special touch of class when it really does matter.

The Wycombe Relay was a watershed. Afterwards, the matches were more spaced out and, in order to secure the best performance from each runner NAFB issued training diaries, revised the fixture list, introduced basketball and football to liven up training, and instilled more team loyalty in the runners.

The new Pritchard Policy reaped its just reward at the major crosscountry race at Sunningwell: five schools took part, Radley were beaten by 46 points, Baker and Smith had outstanding solo

wins, and, to this day, no one can understand how Wellington eluded defeat. The momentum was maintained at Stevenage where the last rites were finally said as the team's January Blues were buried. Fine runs by Jacobs and Fellows put us in third place at the halfway stage. Sadly both Griggs and Thompson lost places, and the dream of emulating the great Pete Eccles team of '77 was shelved; but the fact that the team was challenging for honours after our nadir at Berkhamsted bears testimony to the miracle wrought by team guru NAF Pritchard, justifying his strange vocation of crosscountry trainer.

The strong team spirit and talented squad were put on display for the OAs. Facing past masters in Morfe, Bromhall, Wilson and Burd the boys in blue tracksuits — the new team strip — fought well, with Naish, Jacobs and Chris Ashplant all recording personal bests that day. A week later, fortified by a badly shaken Richard Baker, who had been trodden on for the third year in succession at the All-England Champs, the team swept all before it as the important Banbury Relay was won in a record time.

Once again the early setbacks only served to enhance the later successes, and all the problems of frustration, low morale, and tough opposition were overcome by the boys themselves as the progress made in recent years was maintained.

Peter Wilson (VI)

The following gentlemen represented the school most often during the 1980/81 season. There were 15 matches in the Michaelmas term and 12 in the Lent term. The figure for the Michaelmas appearances is given first.

Griggs (15, 10), Baker (14, 12), Naish (14, 11), Hudswell (14, 1), Wilson (13, 0), Dykes (13, 3), Thompson, D. (12, 10), Fellows (12, 11), de la Fontaine (12, 7), England (9, 3), Smith (9, 8), Black (8, 6), Hamilton (8, 5), Jacobs (7, 11), Francksen (7, 0), Kent (7, 7), Parker (7, 3), Thompson, R. (5, 0), Blagbrough (5, 2), Connolly (5, 7), Jones, D. (5, 4), Ashplant (0, 7), McDougall (4, 3).

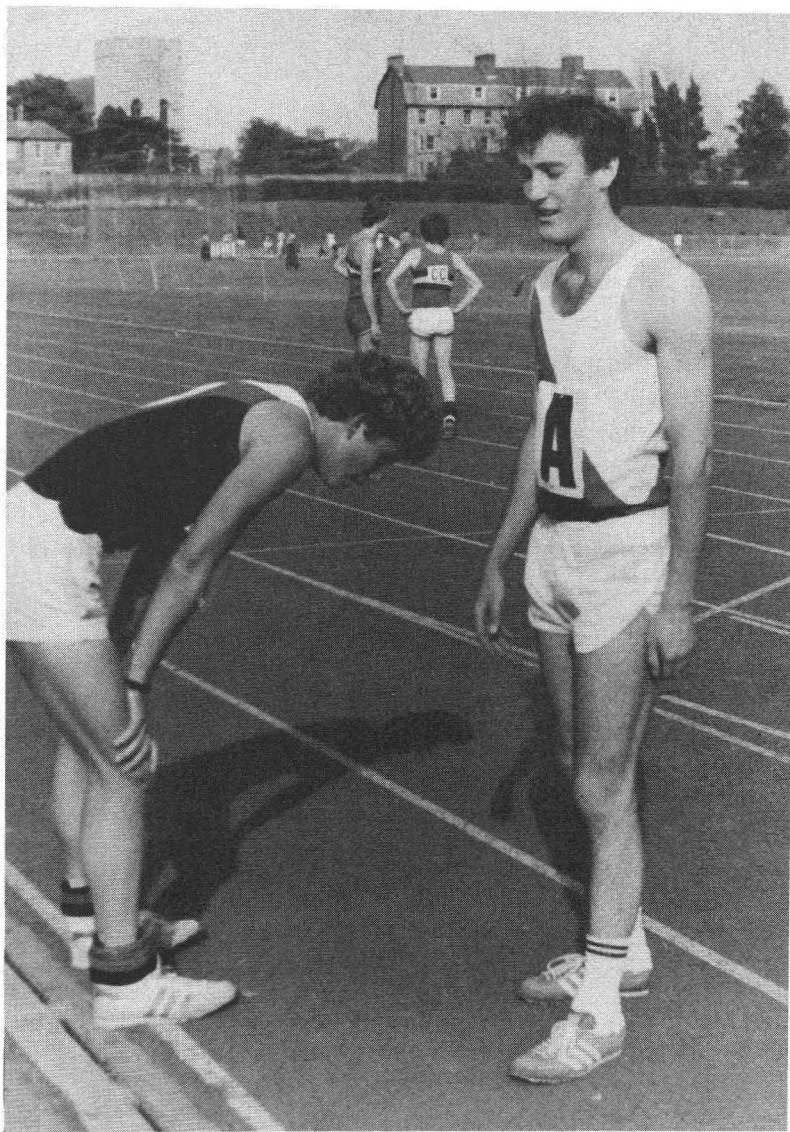
THE INTER FORM ROAD RELAY

Due to the sixth form trip to Cambridge only 31 teams took part. The race developed into an exciting battle between Pete Wilson and 6 G (Hall, Warchus, Ashplant, Thompson). Pete Wilson's solo run was 5 seconds slower than those achieved by Bromhall ('78) and Hingley ('76). The fastest Lap times were Wilson (Leg 1) 8.40, Thompson (8.43), Naish (8.45), and Hall (8.55). The fastest teams in each year-group were: 1st 6 G (36.20), 2nd Wilson (37.09), 3rd 5 RJW (38.07), 6th 4 Boarders (39.06), 9th 3 HTR (40.18), 14th VI PJW (41.58), 22nd 2 GSHP (43.53), 25th 1 RHB (45.34).

athletics

This was a term when the first team looked quite strong on paper before the season started with depth and experience in most events. Fulwell (captain), Simpson (secretary), Bell, Baker, Hawes, Casey, Emerton formed a solid nucleus with Hall occasionally to join them from the colts. Imagine their shock when they discovered that Graham Halsey was to switch to athletics. That Graham was a devastating sprinter was soon confirmed by his school records in the sprints, viz 10.9 seconds against Eton and 22.2 seconds in the Adkin meeting, but the most intriguing question was whether he could run a fast 400 metres, because we had to defend a trophy won last year in the **Achilles Relays**. All last year's team had left, so Graham was joined by Andrew Hall, Richard Hawes and Duncan Bell, a useful squad, but surely not as good as the 1979 team? Well, it was a most extraordinary day with one of the team having to return to Abingdon between the heat and the final, with the rain blanking out the display on my electronic stopwatch, and with the chauffeur leaving his lights on so his battery was flat! After that something amazing just had to occur, and it did. After each leg we pulled further and further ahead and won by over six seconds, an unusually large margin. Maybe it was not as exciting for spectators as last year, as it had the ring of inevitability of a Steve Ovett win, but the time was 3rd fastest by an under-20 club team in the U.K. in 1980.

In the inter-school matches the senior team won 9 out of 16, beating Cheltenham, Radley, Wellington School, Shrewsbury, Highgate, Marlborough, Eton, St. Edward's and Bloxham, and losing to Bryanston, Kingswood, Haberdashers' Aske's, King Henry VIII, Millfield, Stowe and Rugby, a truly formidable fixture list. One effect of competing against top-class opposition was an all-round raising of standards; even so I was staggered that as many as 9 school



records were broken (n.b. I only recognise 19 events for record purposes), and these are listed later. Also six boys, namely Hall, Bell, Baker, Hawes, Emerton and Simpson, were Oxon schools champions. This meant that we more than held our own effectively against all except Bryanston and Rugby, and our only inadequacy was the weakness of certain second strings. I well remember trying to solve this problem in away matches by taking, incredibly, over an hour on the coach sorting out who should do which event, so as to score maximum points for the team. Which other school sport, I ask, works out the composition of the team on the journey to the match? And yet with the colts and juniors we simply did not have athletes for such as the hurdles, triple jump or discus, and it was despairingly difficult to knit together a competitive team.

A feature of this sport is the enormous amount of preparation required to organise an athletics meeting. A prime example is the **Adkin meeting** where Stuart Cameron virtually single-handedly compiles the programme, negotiates sponsorship, convenes officials (always a bugbear) and commentates hundreds of hours work to ensure a quality production. This term Eton visited us for the first time for a triangular with St. Edward's, so to put on a good show we gained permission to use the RAF Abingdon track, but this meant transporting all the equipment, enough to fill a four-ton truck, and somehow David Crawford arranged this. There were masses of other complications too, but all the effort was rewarded with a beautiful day and a close match decided by 57the relay at the end. Then for the first time we



Graham Halsey wins the 200 metres at the Adkin Meeting

entered the English Schools Cup, coordinated nationwide by Mr. Brookman from Braintree, and his team of helpers apparently sent competition rules, scoring sheets, entry forms, etc. to over 7100 schools, involving more than 40,000 sheets of paper! All these pale into insignificance compared with the **All-England Championships**, a superb two-day meeting in which more athletes compete, than in the Olympics.

The Athletics Club has limited resources, but it is remarkable what can be achieved if one tries. Thanks are due to David Crawford, Simon Pengelley, Roger Baker and Stuart Cameron and Bill Rennells (Adkin), to Alastair Robertson and Mr. Casey (presentations), to the Mayor, Councillor Trippett (Abingdon Schools meeting), to Squadron Leader Hawes and Jock Fox (RAF track negotiation), to Mr. Geere, Mr. Bell and Mike Tait (officiating), to John Madgwick (his trophy), and to all the members of the Athletics Club who helped out in so many little ways.

Full colours were awarded to Duncan Bell, Graham Halsey, Ian Simpson, Richard Baker, Richard Hawes and Andrew Hall, and half colours to Mark Emerton, Tim Johnson and Walid Khashoggi. This term 68 boys competed for the school, the most regular being: Bell, Hawes, Hall (12 times), Baker (10), Halsey, Johnson, de la Fontaine, Lee, Durand (9), Fulwell, Simpson, Casey, Thompson, Sayer (8), Dibble, Khashoggi, Kent (7), Emerton, Wilson, Naish, Flaxman, Gross, Lowe (6), Stores and Robertson (5).

New School Records: **100 metres** Halsey 10.9; **200 metres** Halsey 22.3; **400 metres** Bell 50.3; **110 metres hurdles** Hawes 16.1; **400 metres** 58

hurdles Hawes 57.3; **2000 metres steeplechase** Johnson 6:44.4; **Discus** Simpson 38.93 metres; **4 × 400 metres relay** Hall, Bell, Hawes, Halsey 3:25.5; **medley relay** Halsey, Hawes, Bell, Baker 3:43.0.

Club Championships: 1st I. M. Simpson (815 points), 2nd R. W. Baker (778), 3rd A. G. Stores (777), 4th L. V. Casey (715), 5th M. L. Durand (677), 6th R. M. Hawes (623).

5 Star Awards winners (in order of points gained): Halsey, Bell, Hawes, Hall, Simpson, Baker, Dibble, Emerton, Casey, Stores, Khashoggi, Flaxman, Fergusson, Durand, Lowe, Sayer, Kent, Wise, and Smith.

RESULTS

Dr. Challoner's Relays (Wycombe)

U/20 4 × 400 metres 1st out of 8. (Halsey, Baker, Hawes, Bell) 3:33.2 (4 medals)

Colts v St. Bartholomew's (at Newbury)
lost 63-67

v Cheltenham & Radley (away)

seniors won 107-87-91; colts third 77-115-84

Oxford City AC Medley Relays (at Radley)

colts 4th out of 6 4:11.6 seniors (Halsey, Hawes, Bell, Baker) 1st out of 6 3:43.0

U/17 100m: Hall (1st) U/20 100m: Halsey (1st) (6 medals, 1 trophy)

Vale of White Horse Champs (at Radley)

winners: U/15 Smith (1500)

U/17 Hall (400m & long jump)

U/20 Halsey (100m & 200m), Bell (400m), Baker (1500m), Hawes (110m H), Emerson (high jump), Dibble (long jump), Casey (shot put), Simpson (discus & javelin)

V Bryanston, Wellington School, Kingswood (away)

seniors third 96½-152-74-127½ juniors third 90-151-123-85

Achilles Relays (Iffley Road)
 U/20 4 × 400 m 1st Abingdon 3:25.5 (Hall 53.0, Bell 50.6, Hawes 52.3, Halsey 49.6), 2nd Clifton 3:31.9, 3rd Felsted 3:34.0, 4th Millfield 3:34.2, 5th St. Paul's 3:39.4, 6th Winchester 3:41.1 (4 medals, 1 trophy)

Adkin meeting (Iffley Road)
 seniors & junior colts combined 1st Haberdashers' Aske's (269 points), 2nd King Henry VIII, Coventry (255), 3rd Shrewsbury (248), 4th Highgate (240), 5th Millfield (194), 6th Abingdon (140); Best performance: Graham Halsey (1 trophy)

v Marlborough & Stowe (away)
 seniors second 90—81—111; colts third 74—107—96; juniors second 84—105—83

English Schools Cup 1st round
 U/14 (at Banbury) 1st Banbury (206 points), 2nd Wheatley Park (202), 3rd Abingdon (195), 4th Southam (127)
 U/16 (at Radley) 1st Radley (220), 2nd Cheney (190), 3rd Little Heath (170), 4th Abingdon (168)

Abingdon Schools Champs (home)
 boys events: 1st Larkmead (130 points), 2nd John Mason (109½), 3rd Abingdon (97½), 4th Fitzharrys (70)

v Eton & St. Edward's (at RAF Abingdon)
 seniors won 93½—91½—75; colts second 89—108—63

Oxon Inter-area (Iffley Road)
 winners: U/17 Hall (400 m)
 U/20 Bell (400 m), Baker (5000 m), Hawes (110 m H & 400 m H), Emerton (high jump), Simpson (discus & javelin) (2 trophies)

v Rugby & Bloxham (away)
 seniors second 91—123—61; colts third 56½—134—81½; juniors third 68—135—72

All-England (at Kirkby, Liverpool)
 Halsey (200 m) 5th in heat 23.2; Bell (400 m) 6th in heat 50.8; Hawes (400 m hurdles) 5th in heat 59.0; Halsey, Hawes, Bell, Goldwyn (4 × 100 m) 8th fastest county 44.0 (1 trophy)

N.A.F.P.

CHESS

Chess Club has been supported by an encouragingly diverse and numerous clientele, some of whom have preferred the occasional 'fun' game to more serious representative Chess. As usual, however, our wide range of fixture has enabled us to give the experience of playing a School match to some 35 players, without too many defeats resulting from the weakening of our team.

Pride of place in reporting our teams must go to the Under-15s, who were expected to be the weakest age-group. They played, and practised, very keenly, especially the two fourth-formers, Philip Rodgers and Ben Keeping, and this dedication was rewarded by two trophies: they won the Berkshire League outright, and, although they lost to Magdalen College School, a freak result elsewhere enabled them to share first place in the Oxford League with the latter school.

The Under-13 team was very strong, as we expected, and there was real depth of talent that bodes well for future years. They won the **Berkshire League** almost too easily (only one individual game was lost in the whole campaign), and reached (for the second year running), the semi-final of the **Sunday Times Tournament**, which they lost by the narrowest margin possible. Their only defeat was at the hands of an unusually strong Harlow team, which won a Sunday Times Zone and went on to beat our senior team on age-handicap. Outstanding players here include

Marcus Marsden, who was also Board One for the Under-15s, and represented the County at Under-14 and senior level, and Riccardo Casale, who won the internal trophies for Under-15 and Under-13 age-groups, and also played for Berkshire Under-14s; Nigel Williams won the Venning Cup, after hard tussles with Marc Casale and James Price — all three are very promising newcomers.

It was the seniors who disappointed, especially as this should have been an outstanding season. Richard Baker played brilliantly, until the last week of the season, but the other Sixth-formers were unreliable, and as a result the promising Fifth-formers found themselves playing too high. In spite of this, and difficulties in raising teams for the less important fixtures, there was some success: they won the Western Section of the Berkshire League, and their Zone of the Sunday Times (with some good fortune on the way!) — never an easy achievement. But the season ended in disaster; within the space of one week, our hopes in three competitions were dashed: a slightly disappointing draw against M.C.S. gave them the **Oxford League Trophy**, and this was followed by two unnecessary defeats, from Leighton Park in the Berkshire League Final and from Harlow School in the Sunday Times; the former had been beaten earlier in the season, the latter had lost 5½—½ to our Under-15s! Chess Ties were given to Geoff Brown and William Passmore in recognition of their long service to the Club.

M.W.

Teams:

Under-18: R. W. Baker, W. J. Passmore, C. C. Shuttleworth, P. W. May, G., D. Brown, J. E. Robson.

Under-15: M. A. Marsden, P. J. Rodgers, B. R. Keeping, N. A. Mardon, P. T. Vokins, S. Weaver.

Under-13: M. A. Marsden, R. L. Casale, N. G. Williams, M. A. Casale, C. Q. Rodgers, A. D. Thomas.

RESULTS

Berkshire League, Western Section.

Under 18s	Won 6.
Under 15s	Won 6, Lost 1.
Under 13 'a'	Won 5.
Under 13 'b'	Won 3, Lost 2.

Berkshire League, Finals.

Under 18s	lost to Leighton Park	1—4
Under 15s	beat Langtree School	4½—½
	beat Chiltern Edge	3—2
Under 13s	beat Bearwood College	5—0
	beat Dolphin School	3½—1½

Oxford League.

Under 18s	Won 4, Drew 2.
Under 15s	Won 7, Lost 1.
Under 13s	Won 11, Drew 1, Lost 1.

Sunday Times Tournament.

'A' VI	beat Leighton Park	4—2
	beat Gillotts, Henley	4—2
	beat Ranelagh School	5½—½
	drew with Forest School (won on board-count)	3—3
	beat Harlow School (lost on age-handicap)	4—2
'B' VI	beat Langtree School 'A'	6—0
	beat St. Bartholomew's 'B'	4—2
	beat Dolphin School	4½—1½
	lost to Forest School	1½—4½

O.A. NOTES

BIRTHS

Purnell: on 16th december 1980 to Mary, wife of Charles Purnell (1962) a son Daniel Thomas.

Venn: on 15th February 1980 to the wife of Anthony Venn (1962) a daughter Zoe Louise Joan, sister for Clare.

MARRIAGES

Barnard - Newcombe: on 6th September 1980, Kevin Barnard (1971) to Catharine Newcombe.

Bradley - Mather: in December 1979, Brian Bradley (1966) to Joan Mather.

Cash - Hoare: in 1980, Robert Cash (1970) to Belinda Hoare.

Howes - Judd: on 14th February 1981, David Howes (1971) to Deborah Judd.

Malein - Costello: on 25th October 1980, Nicholas Malein (1975) to Julie Costello.

Wood - Kurz: on 19th July 1980, Tim Wood (1967) to Nancy Kurz.

DEATHS

We record with regret the deaths of the following OA's:-

C. V. Davidge: (1913-19) Cecil Vere Davidge died in the hunting field on January 27th 1981. As an undergraduate at Pembroke College, Oxford, he stroked the college boat from a place very low down on the river to a high position in the first division. In the thirties, he returned to Oxford as a law tutor at Keble College and subsequently became Bursar and Sub-Warden. It is largely due to his efforts that Keble became one of the two leading colleges on the river.

H. Meredith: (1901-08) Major Herbert Meredith died on December 27th 1980. He served in the First World War with the 4th Battalion of the North Staffordshire regiment. He was awarded the Mons Ribbon and the Military Cross. In the Second World War, he served as a Squadron Leader with the RAF mainly in Africa.

Towards the end of his life, he kept his interest in the two prep. schools where he taught at intervals. They were Winchester House at Brackley, Northamptonshire, and St. Probus, Salisbury, Wilts. His widow Ann still lives in Salisbury.

G. E. Whelpton: (1906-09) G. Eric Whelpton died on February 16th 1981 at Hastings. Mention has been made of his achievements in recent OA notes. He was the writer of many books on travel, particularly in the Mediterranean.

News has also come through of the deaths of **W. M. Isbister** (1921-23) and **R. P. F. Mills** (1928-35).

NOTES

R. E. Eason's (1920) service to the School was remembered at a short service in the Chapel on May 2nd 1981, at which canopies to the Headmaster's and Chaplain's stalls, erected in his memory, were dedicated. This was followed by a naming ceremony at which his widow named an eight the 'Dick Eason'. The occasion was concluded with a buffet lunch at Lacies Court by kind invitation of the Headmaster and Mrs. St. John Parker.

R. M. Robinson (1923), whose father taught at the School around 1900, wrote from Hurstpierpoint. He worked for the Gillette company and his Rudd-inspired interest in cricket led to a connection with the Gillette Cup. He was enthusiastic about the School's contribution to this year's Dark Blue boat and remembered Dick Eason's rowing blue.

Canon F. Mitchell (1932) has retired from active priesthood and lives in Burwash, Sussex.

R. A. Bosley (1933) has retired from his Didcot business to Looe, Cornwall.

Colin Leigh (1942) has been appointed partner in charge of the Kenya branch of Price Waterhouse. Kenya, in his opinion, is still a wonderful country but has its own economic problems just now. He recently visited his wife's family in Hobart, Tasmania.

Trevor Thomas (1947) is a self-employed quantity surveyor living at Great Milton.

Neil Parnell (1952) is with Tube Investments. His younger son is at Downing, which is Neil's old college, and his elder son is at Bristol University.

Doctor R. M. Marchbanks (1955) has been appointed Reader in Neurology at the University of London.

Robin Mills (1956) asked for names of O.A.'s in the Bristol area, partly with a view to getting up a party for the O.A. dinners. He sees **Maurice Venables** (1950) occasionally and sent news of **Norman Shurrock** (1956) who is a transport manager with Wincanton Hire living in Woodford, East London.

Graham Brown (1957) is Squadron Leader in the RAF at Headquarters Strike Command, High Wycombe. He would welcome contact from old friends in that area.

W. J. Courage (1958) has been promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel.

S. M. Womar (1959) practises as a vet in Portsmouth.

Mike Nurton (1960), as the Oxfordshire skipper, carried his bat in the first round Gillette Cup match against the talented Warwickshire side. Amiss and Lloyd scored most of the runs but Mike was second highest scorer and survived even Bob Willis' onslaught.

Rodney Pitt (1961) moved in 1970 from being a metallurgy technician with B.L. to Assistant Editor of a steel industry magazine. He moved up the editorial ladder and in 1978 became Managing Editor for Fuel and Metallurgical Journals with responsibility for some 16 magazines. In this capacity he has travelled widely, including Japan and Australia on his itinerary.

Terence Libby (1961) runs an engineering firm in Coventry, Bo Morris Automotive Machines. He is looking anxiously for the depression to lift.

Mike Westwood (1962) is a Squadron Leader stationed at RAF Brize Norton serving as a VC10 flight commander on number ten squadron.

Charles Parnell (1962) is married with a baby daughter. He is a Research Services Superintendent with British Non-Ferrous Metals at Wantage.

Roger Booker (1963) is European tax adviser to the American company U.T.C. He is married, lives in Clapham and has twin boys of six months.

John Walton (1964) is a doctor in general practice in Northampton. His son, Thomas, is one year old.

Frederick Exon (1964) has moved from being a librarian at Hull University to lecture at the Post Graduate School of Library at Sheffield.

David Willis (1964) survived the wave of BL redundancies and has become Organization and Personnel Development Co-ordinator for Leyland Cars, Southern Operations. He is based in Cowley and lives in Wootton with his wife and two small sons.

Roger Chester (1964) is with Smiths Coaches of Reading and may well arrange transport from Abingdon for the next London O.A. dinner.

Peter Booker (1965) is in recruitment and training with the Coal Board in Doncaster. He lives in Nottingham and is married with one son of two years.

Nigel Bosley (1965) is an architect working with the multidisciplinary design team 'Helix' which is based at Mortimer near Reading. He lives at Twyford and has two daughters aged five and six.

J. C. Randall (1965) is working for Saudia in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia. His brother **Geoffrey** (1967) is married with a daughter aged one. He has worked with ICL, often behind the Iron Curtain and is now Systems Manager with BL Systems at Unipart House, Cowley. He plays for North Abingdon C.C.

Martyn Holloway (1966) is married to Jennifer. They live at Frilford Heath and are working on a 35 foot yacht with a manufactured fibreglass hull bound for the Caribbean.

Brian Bradley (1966) wrote from Exmouth, Devon where in 1978 he became a partner in the Lester Smith Partnership of estate agents and surveyors, having worked with them for ten years.

Tim Wood (1967) has moved from the Duke of Kent School, Cranleigh to be a boarding house-master at West Hill Park School near Fareham, Hampshire.

V. A. Ramsey (1968) has been awarded the Blackstone Pupillage prize by the Middle Temple.

Nigel Booker (1968) is a doctor in general practice in Saskatchewan and takes exams in April to enable him to practise elsewhere in Canada. He is married with two young sons.

Michael Baumann (1968) has joined the staff of Haberdashers' Aske's, Herts to teach History. He helped to organize a cross country match against his old school recently.

M. J. Harfield (1969) is a representative for Shell in London.

Robin Blackburn (1969) sent a card from the Hilton, Khartoum. He is an accountant with wanderlust working for Peat Marwick. Recent assignments have taken him to Sudan, the New Hebrides, U.S.A. and Gleneagles.

Robert Cash (1970) is a systems consultant with Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York.

Other brief notes of the 1970 vintage: **Stephen Bodimeade** is now a Chartered Accountant; **Anthony Muff** is a solicitor and bloodstock agent in Newmarket; **Tim Healy** is a doctor in general practice at Painswick in Gloucestershire.

Back in October, **Aristides** of the T.E.S. opined that a conference on the assisted places schemes was chaired briskly, wittily and with military efficiency: **James Cobban** was 'in complete control of 400 or so headmasters and mistresses' and they did not mind.

Ian Browne (1970) has been assistant chaplain at Shrewsbury School since September 1980. He was appointed by **Eric Anderson** and teaches Divinity in the department headed by **Jeremy Goulding**. He spends half his time in parish work in the town.

Douglas Henderson (1970) took an Oxford degree in English and has taught in Nigeria and Tanzania, the last two years in Tanzania being with the V.S.O.

Jon Wheatcroft (1970) teaches at Wallingford School and is secretary of the Oxfordshire Schools Orienteering Association.

Andrew McMillan (1971) is with the National Westminster Bank at Banbury and is assistant treasurer to the British Orienteering Federation.

Kevin Barnard (1971), after Keble College and a year in the Probation Service in London, went to theological college in Durham and was ordained in July 1979. He is now curate at St. Mary's, Swinton, Yorkshire and his wife is a deaconess in a nearby parish.

Philip Harden (1971) has been trying to track down **Robert Cole** (1971). He wrote from The Hague where he is working freelance for Shell Chemicals as a Chemical Engineer. He has a son, Ben, aged two.

Richard Willis (1971) has recently discovered the world's largest cavern. He was with a party of Oxford geographers in a remote area of Sarawak charting caves for that government. The expedition was sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society and the cavern is of 16 football pitch dimensions.

Roy Polley (1971) was recently in Hong Kong on a three-week business trip for Cable and Wireless.

Peter Cowley (1972) followed his undergraduate course with two years with V.S.O. in Egypt and the P.G.C.E. course in the teaching of English as a second language at Bangor. He wrote from Japan where he is teaching English at a High School.

Nigel Pollard (1972) is married to Susan (nee Maskery) and is District Manager with Courages for the Hounslow area.

Peter Price (1972) teaches P.E. at Sidcup and has been seen in the forest introducing his charges to the sport.

Anthony Walters (1973) who obtained an M.Sc. at Loughborough University is with the Sports Council in London.

Christopher Williams (1973) has moved from Barclays Bank and now works for Smith's Ford Group. He is based in Wantage.

Malcolm Waterfall (1974), after graduating in Engineering Science at Oxford, took the top first in the Honours School of Mining Engineering at Nottingham University. He is now working for the Coal Board near Nottingham.

Adrian Courtenay (1975) is teaching music at Cheltenham Grammar School.

Nicholas Malein (1975) is Lieutenant R.N. as pilot in R.N.A.S. operating from H.M.S. Seahawk, Culdrose, Cornwall.

Peter Noble (1975) is on the Mobil payroll and has bought an isolated cottage in the Peak District. Working for an oil company, transport is no problem and he plays hockey for Bowden.

Clive Orchard (1975) obtained a Bachelor of Education degree at Westminster College, Oxford.

Simon Hills (1975) who is studying at the London Business School, won a £250 prize in a Sunday Telegraph economics essay competition. His wife, Jenny, née Hasnip, works with Robin Blackburn's employers mentioned above. See addresses: they would welcome OA callers.

Stephen Boatright (1976) working in Banbury for General Foods and Chairman of the North Oxon branch of United Bikes of Great Britain, was on the threshold of marriage.

Graham Bint (1976) has been awarded the Sawyer and Durrant prize of associateship by the Royal College of Organists.

James Parsons (1976) accepted a post with British Rail Eastern Region after graduating and visiting Malawi.

Michael Hasnip (1977) emerged from Sheffield University with a degree in Zoology and now works in Chelmsford as a commercial assistant in the export credit department of GEC at the Marconi works.

Richard Hobbs (1977) joined the RAF, successfully completed the Officer Cadet Training Unit course and went to Linton-on-Ouse in November 1979 to be trained as a fighter pilot.

Philip Boon (1977) is following his first degree at Leicester with studies there for a Ph.D in Biochemistry.

Nicholas Williams (1977), a Royal Marine Troop Commander, wrote from the Officers' Mess near Exmouth. He had survived his first year of training and was about to start on the Mountain Arctic Warfare year. **A. J. Allen** (1976) and **Phillip Ashby** (1979) are also with the Marines on a short-service commission.

Pete Hammond (1979) was more successful with his second attempt at 'A' levels and is now reading Law at Birmingham University.

Guy McCreery (1977) is in London with the television film industry.

Edward Coates (1979) wrote from RMA Sandhurst where, newly commissioned, he took part in the Sovereign's Parade last August. He joined his Battalion this February.

J. M. N. C. Young (1979), who lives in Oxford, has changed his name to **J. M. N. Soley Grosvenor**.

Jonathan Marsh's (1979) pre-university six months with the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment took him to Sandhurst, Germany and Canada. He is now at Exeter University in the same Hall of Residence as **Michael Dacre**, **Peter Littlewood** and **Jeremy Westmore**. The latter is sponsored by the Navy and in his year off before university was at Dartmouth with Prince Andrew and spent much time at sea. At one stage he was diverted by the political temperature from the West Indies to the Mediterranean.

Two very recent leavers, **David** (medicine) and **Andrew** (botany) **Byfield** find undergraduate courses at Bristol University very much to their liking. Andrew is President of the University Botanical Society this year.

Blue news: **Michael Howat** (1975) again played cricket against Oxford last summer, **William Baker** (1978) won a half-blue for orienteering for Oxford, as did **Simon West** for Cambridge, but pride of place must go to the oarsmen, **Mark Andrews** (1978) and **Richard Emerton** (1978) who were both members of an historic Oxford crew: the winning margin was eight lengths and, female coxed and inspired, it was rated as one of the best Oxford crews ever seen on the Tideway.

Malcolm Murfett, who taught History here in 1980, has been awarded his Ph.D (Oxon) and has been appointed to a lectureship in Singapore.

ADDRESSES

M. J. ABRINES	21 Fortescue Drive, Chesterton, Bicester. Oxon
R. ACKLAM	12 Ventnor Place, Edinburgh EH9 2BL
D. D. ALLEN	1 Warrington Court, Warrington Road, Ipswich, Suffolk
W. E. K. ANDERSON	The Cloisters, Eton College, Windsor, Berks.
W/Cdr. S. P. AUSTIN	3 Orchard Mead, Nailsworth, Stroud, Glos.
L. S. BAILEY	10 Sergison Close, Haywards Heath, W. Sussex.
S. G. BAILEY	49 Stockton Road, Guildford GV1 1HD
A. M. BAINTON	Kwetu, Ham Road, Wantage, Oxon.
R. J. BALDWIN	45 Yarnells Hill, North Hinksey, Oxford OX2 9BE
T. J. BARRETT	Culham Manor, Culham, Abingdon OX14 1LZ
C. F. BAUMANN	Via Baggia 10, 6900 Paradiso, Switzerland
J. M. H. BECKER	8 Finucane Drive, Orpington, Kent
R. B. H. BECKER	Hollomdown Farm House, Lopcombe Corner, Salisbury, Wilts.
M. J. BETT	10 Fieldside Gardens, Station Road, Bourne End, Bucks.
D. BETTERTON	Phyldene, Sunningwell, Abingdon, Oxon.
J. C. BEYER	2 The Butts, East Morton, Keighley, W. Yorkshire.
Dr. N. J. BOOKER	Box 247, Mildred, Saskatchewan, Canada
P. K. BOOKER	151 Ramsey Drive, Mapperley Plains, Nottingham
R. D. BOOKER	24 Old Park Avenue, Clapham, London SW4
J. P. H. BOSLEY	Janus Gate, 16 Richmond Close, Torquay, Devon.
J. W. BOSLEY	Farthings, Wellshead, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon.
N. A. H. BOSLEY	31 Springfield Park, Twyford, Berks.
J. BOWTHORPE	Chants, Creek St Michael, Taunton, Somerset.
W. C. BROAD	7 Prospect Lane, Solihull, W. Midlands
G. J. BROWN	31 Bradenham Beeches, Walters Ash, High Wycombe HP14 4XW
I. C. BROWNE	7 Alstone Croft, Cheltenham, Glos.
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Dr. I. CAMPBELL	Medical Faculty, University of Riyadh, PO Box 2925 Riyadh, S.Africa.
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R. G. D. CHRISTMAS	5a Edge Hill, Wimbledon, London SW19 4LR	Canon F. MITCHELL	11 Beechwood Close, Burwash, Sussex.
J. E. A. CLARK	21 Elm Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland	J. R. MORSE	Walled Garden House, Binfield Heath, Henley, Oxon.
C. M. CLAYTON	32 Moat Lodge, London Rd., Harrow on the Hill, Middx.	R. H. MORSE	73 Lynwood Road, Ealing, London W5 1JG
A. J. M. CROCKER	1 West Drive, AERE Harwell, Didcot.	J. P. MOSDELL	c/o Barclays Bank (DC&O), PO Box 264, 29 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3BY
G. M. CROW	2 Curzon Park North, Chester CH4 8AR	D. G. W. MURPHY	c/o D. C. L. Murphy, Cranbrook School, Cranbrook, Kent.
J. J. DAY	10 Chestnut Grove, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham.	M. J. NEILAN	6 Hillside Road, East Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.
G. W. DODGE	12 Thornhill Road, Surbiton, Surrey.	D. G. NURTON	7 Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, Oxon.
A. C. DOUGLAS	25 Bitterne Way, Bitterne, Southampton.	I. A. OLIVER	Meadow Cottage, Dormston, Inkberrow, Worcs.
A. J. DUGDALE	Meudom, Mawran-Smith, Nr Falmouth, Cornwall.	J. R. W. OWEN	The Barn, School Lane, South Zeal, Okehampton, Devon.
P. J. EMERTON	Heron's Creek, Station Road, Wargrave, Reading RG10 8EA	A. J. OXLEY	25 Reeth Road, Cleveland.
M. B. ENSER	15 Belmont Road, Winscombe, Avon BS25 1LE	J. R. PACKER	23 Hunters Field, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxon.
K. W. EWING	32 Wharnccliffe Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5DE	N. A. PALMER	10 Bradkey Close, Longlevens, Glos GL2 9LA
P. J. FORD	156 Oxford Road, Abingdon, Oxon.	D. S. PARTRIDGE	Shiplake College, Henley, Oxon.
A. M. FORSYTH	Montague L. Meyor Ltd., Villiers House, 41-47 Strand, London WC2N 5JG	T. J. PEGRAM	1 Tatham Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 1QB
H. W. FRANKLIN	10 The Holt, Abingdon, Oxon.	A. R. PEZARO	18 Montagu Street, London W1
P. H. FREARSON	8 Norman Avenue, Abingdon, Oxon.	R. J. PEZARO	Petwick Farm, Challow, Nr. Faringdon, Oxon.
M. FREEMAN	Chilterns, Beech Lane, Woodcote, Reading RG8 OPX	J. D. PICKAVANCE	Wavergillhead, Caldbek, Cumbria
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J. B. L. GODFREY	80 Birdhill Avenue, Whiteley, Reading.	Major D. W. J. RIDDICK	Regimental H.Q., The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, H.M. Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB
G. J. GOODEY	16 Normay Rise, Newbury, Berks.	E. G. ROCKALL	10 Balfour Cottages, Burcot, Abingdon, Oxon.
R. D. M. GRANT	'Trofts', Byworth, Petworth, Sussex.	C. A. RONAN	13 Acorn Avenue, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8DT
A. R. HALL	Rotunda Tavern, 3 Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SQ	D. G. SAFFIN	31 Sellwood Road, Abingdon, Oxon.
R. D. HALL	4 Sheepwash Lane, Steventon, Abingdon, Oxon.	J. & R. SAMSWORTH	11 Capel Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon OX14 4AN
P. J. HARDEN	175 Chantry Rd., Disley, Cheshire.	R. D. SCHUCK	14 Stafford Court, Kensington High Street, London W8 7DJ
A. S. HARRISON	1 Harris Drive, RAF Catterick, Richmond, N.Yorks.	A. W. SEMMENCE	5 Barbury Drive, Wantage, Oxon.
P. D. HEALY	34 Orchard Park, Bois Lane, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Bucks.	J. J. SHELLARD	Downing College, Cambridge CB2 1DQ
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P. D. HOLMES	94 Oak Street, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 5DH	B. G. STEFF	Caxton Cottage, 173 Eastwood Road, Boston, Lincolnshire.
G. HOMEWOOD	4 Chandlers Close, Abingdon, Oxon.	C. J. E. STEFF	Flendyshe House, Fulbourn, Cambridge.
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I. JUGGINS	Driftwood, Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 2JA	T. J. TILBY	17 Chiltern Close, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SZ
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