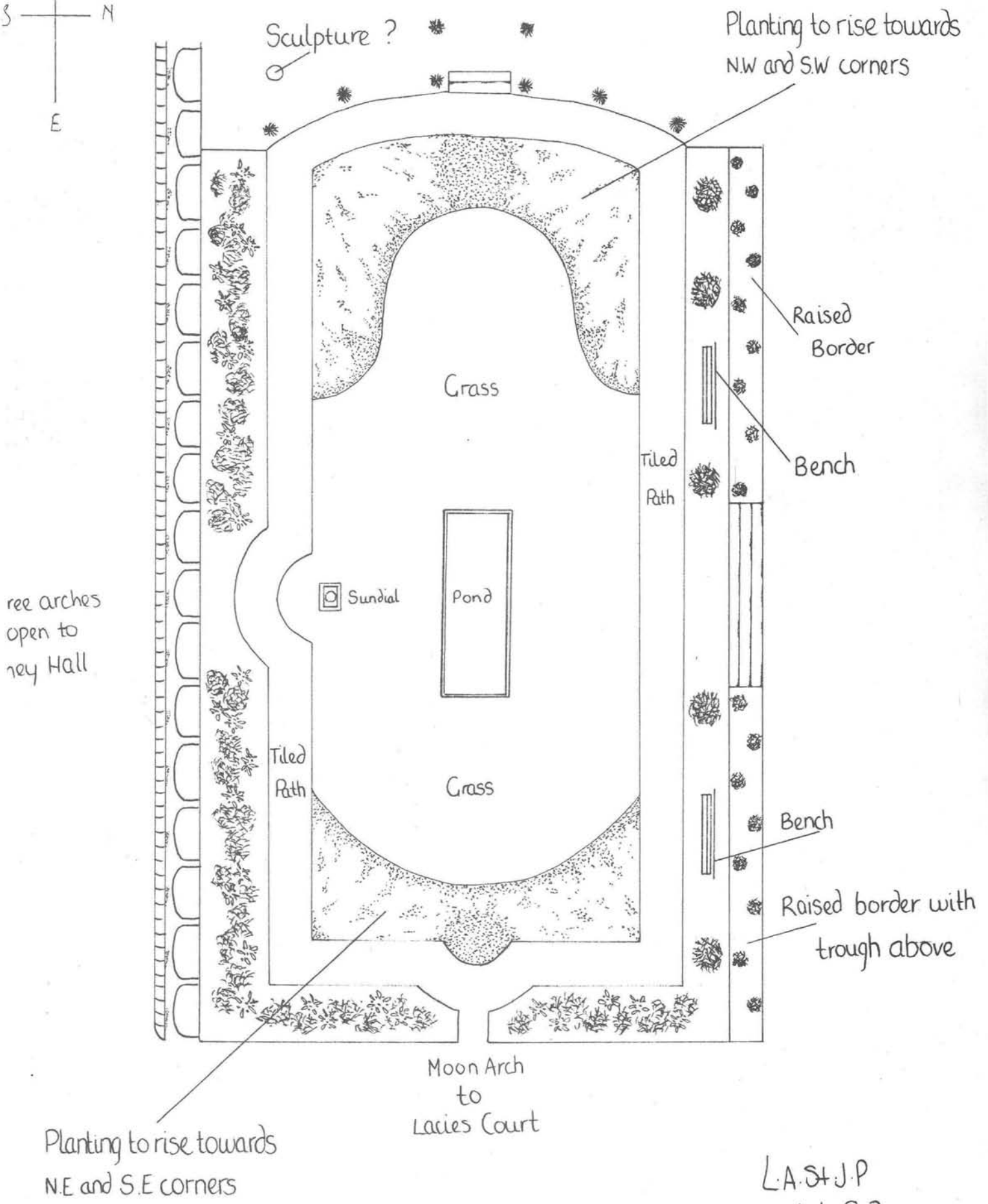
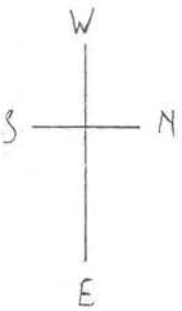


ABINGDON SCHOOL - JEYKLL GARDEN

replanned 1983



L.A. St. J.P.
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THE ABINGDONIAN

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Editorial

Mid-June on War Memorial Field — trim grass framed by the lush boskiness of prosperous trees; confident flags fluttering confidential messages to those in the know; a discreetly pretty little breeze, flirtatious, perhaps, but much too well bred to be called boisterous; the sky-bowl, warmth-washed from wedgwood blue to palest azure, and populated by amiably indolent, elegantly inconsequential clouds; white-clad figures on the green, moving through the immemorial rituals of the M.C.C. match; intimations of grandeur, and hints of hereditary viscounties to whisper picturesquely an eternity of conservatism. The world seems poised on the brink of augustan tranquillity; need anything change?

But it's a moment in an evolution — so fleeting that it is almost an illusion. Certainly, life at Abingdon has not often been like that during the past year — and far more of the things that stick in the mind have been to do with change, effortful development, risks and problems.

For example — and appropriately, since in the last resort the School is about learning — we have been revising the curriculum of the Middle School, in a fresh attempt to meet the perennial need for a satisfactory balance between the many subjects that jostle for place in a modern schooling, and also between the requirements of examinations on the one hand and general education on the other. On this occasion, we have been trying in particular to re-impose restraints on the number of 'O' levels that a boy may take: eight at one time, or some ten in the fourth and fifth years together, ought to be enough for most people and most purposes. Such self-imposed disciplines are made necessary not by any weakening in our academic strength, but rather by its opposite; to judge by the yearly records, we are better placed than ever to achieve our traditional academic objectives, but the time comes when it is right to question the virtue of simply heaping up more and more passes for their own sake.

Even objectives which are far more highly esteemed than 'O' levels may need to be reviewed from time to time for one reason or another. In the case of entrance to Oxford and Cambridge, the

pressure for change seems likely to come from without rather than within, but may be significant none the less. The recommendations of the Dover Committee are still matter for discussion at the time of writing, but it seems virtually certain that, in the case of Oxford at least, seventh-term examination will disappear altogether in the fairly near future, while potentially more extensive changes to the system of selection for entry may bring on a general reassessment of attitudes and philosophy on the part of schools such as Abingdon. Certainly, the value to be attached to places at universities other than Oxford and Cambridge seems likely to rise still higher in the coming years, a fact which will doubtless be reflected in our sixth-form arrangements.

The requirement to be versatile, to be, if not all things to all men, at least quite a lot of things to quite a lot of boys, dominates planning for the School's future development. Abingdon has always made much of the all-round ideal, and it is entirely consistent with traditional policy in this regard that we should be looking forward at the present time to the launching of two major projects — a sports hall and a technical centre, which between them will add immeasurably to the scope and depth of our activity. Put at its very lowest, the broadening of our foundations which will follow from these developments may strengthen us as we work towards even such time-honoured modes of excellence as triumphs over M.C.C. cricketers and Oxford examiners; more idealistically, we can hope that fitter and more practically skilled Abingdonians will make still better and more successful citizens in time to come.

The freedom to choose such courses, to define our goals and select our own ways to them, rests of course in the end on our continued independence. In this connection, the last few months have shown only too plainly that we must take nothing for granted. The threat posed by political intolerance to good education and freedom itself has been more clearly seen in 1983 than for many years past. The augustan tranquillity of War Memorial Field was perhaps to be found more in the minds of the spectators than in any actual reality. Spectators? — ay, there's the rub: there hardly were any spectators! That's the fate from which Abingdon must be preserved.

M.St.J.P.

ENTRIES TO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
AUTUMN 1983

OXFORD

Awards

J. T. G. Cox (Scholarship)	St. Catherine's	P.P.E.
M. B. Dennis (Scholarship)	St. John's	Classics
S. D. Wilden (Scholarship)	Pembroke	Medicine

Places

T. H. England	Lincoln	Chemistry
I. A. Haley	Corpus Christi	Chemistry
D. R. J. Head	Hertford	Modern Languages
C. S. Johnson	St. Catherine's	English
T. C. King	Balliol	Chemistry
A. A. Logan	Pembroke	Engineering
C. C. Shuttleworth	Exeter	Law
A. J. Storer	St. Anne's	Biology

CAMBRIDGE

Awards

G. E. Butler (Scholarship)	Gonville and Caius	History
P. E. Dorey (Scholarship)	Queen's	Mathematics
R. G. Fellows (Exhibition)	Robinson	Natural Sciences
A. J. Fisher (Scholarship)	Clare	Natural Sciences
J. Green (Exhibition)	Corpus Christi	History
D. N. Jones (Exhibition)	Downing	Geography
M. S. McCracken (Exhibition)	Christ's	English
N. M. North (Exhibition)	St. John's	Philosophy
J. Warchus (Scholarship)	Downing	History/Law

Places

T. D. Bugg (Conditional)	Emmanuel	Natural Sciences
J. D. Monk	Pembroke	Modern Languages
D. J. Ruiz	Selwyn	Engineering
L. Salkin	Magdalene	History

COMMON ROOM NEWS

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to several masters: to **Stephen Robertson**, bound for the West Country to take charge of Music at Bristol Cathedral School; to **Charlie Bush**, now Head of Mathematics at Marlborough, and his confederate **Jan Wikramaratna** who went off to teach the numbers game in France; and to **John Haigh**, who retired for family reasons. We wish them all rejuvenated appetites, success or rest, as may be appropriate. Miss **Cassie Peterson** also left us for *Alleyn's School*, leaving the magazine in the trembling hands of **Rodney Mearns**, a very welcome arrival in the English Department. Rodney has already made hefty impact in the rowing, and was a willing lamb in that sacrificial slaughter, the *Masters' Music Hall*. The Maths side of the curriculum has been upheld by **Alan Futter** and **Nikos Georgiakakis**, both of whom have quickly established themselves by their keen dedication. **Mark Jones** has also been teaching in the English Department as well as helping out with the soccer and supervising the affairs of the

boarders in *School House*. **Simon Finlow** has rapidly made himself indispensable, too, shepherding his charges at *Waste Court*, helping out with games, and plunging — and to some extent being plunged — into the deep end of musical activities, including the career-jeopardising role as director of the aforementioned *Music Hall*. In addition, we have been delighted to welcome once again, **Mervyn Evans** as a part-time classicist, and **Penny Trumble** as a part-time Geographer. At Christmas, we said further goodbyes to **John Bird**, who is now priest-in-charge at *Doncaster Parish Church*; and **John Lewis**, who finally left us to take up his almost inevitable appointment with a computing firm. John had helped to 'plug a gap', pending the arrival of a new Head of Mathematics from *Oxford School*, **Rick Finch**. Rick is already busily involved; he was cast convincingly as an innocent new-boy in the *Masters' Revue*, and passed his initiation test with flying colours when he scored a fifty for the *Common Room XI* on his opening appearance.

CHAPEL NOTES

It being a very short time since I was given official responsibility for the chapel, I shall simply start what I take to be the most important developments at the moment. Not the least of these is the increasing part played by middle-school housemasters and tutors in the conduct of chapel services. This not only guarantees a variety of style and content but also endures that the services reflect the faith and insights of a number of masters and not just the chaplain himself. I would like to express my personal gratitude to those concerned.

A further innovation has been the voluntary chapel service on a Friday morning. For the moment this is experimental, and by the time when these notes are read it will probably have become clearer whether it is to be deemed a success. At the time of writing, I am considerably encouraged by the response of those who attend and by the help given to me by colleagues; and I am convinced that a weekly voluntary service ought to be part of our regular arrangements. Indeed, those who value the aims of the Chapel ought to feel some obligation in this direction.

In connection with voluntary chapel, Mr. Page has initiated a Tuesday lunch-time discussion-group where the theme of the preceding service is used as a discussion starter. I hope that more will use this opportunity to exchange ideas and that such groups will increase the number. For the moment, those interested specifically in confirmation should join the groups which will have been organised for the purpose of preparation by the time these notes are published. At the moment there are about a dozen candidates for confirmation, the confirmation service itself being in St. Helen's Church next November.

My final thoughts relate to the boarders' services at the weekend. The most recent plans are that there should be a compulsory service for boarders on the first and last Sundays of term, the full boarding weekend Sundays and on certain other special Sundays such as Remembrance Day. On other weekends there will be a Friday evening service for all boarders, these being valuable (and rare) opportunities for the whole boarding community to meet together in Chapel.

Such are the major developments that are in mind at the present moment, and you will have seen that they are innovations of planning and arrangement. The substance of the chapel's life, however, lies not in that area at all but in the Christian faith and values that are quietly held by many in the school community, not to mention the private thoughts and concerns that anyone (of any faith or none) can bring to the Chapel at any time. These are the things that Chapel is really about; and this means that we can all feel an affinity with it.

P. W. Butcher

Many O.A.s will remember Don Willis, the redoubtable Second Master for many years, with great affection. Some may have seen the article which follows recently in a national Sunday newspaper colour supplement. For those who did not and for the interest of all we reprint the feature here in its entirety:

COUPLES

Indestructible love

Donald Willis has subtitled his two books of reminiscences Memories of an Ordinary Man. He had a happy, ordinary childhood, an interesting, ordinary war, and an absorbing, if parsimonious, career as a talented, ordinary schoolmaster.

He had to wait until he was 58 to experience the extraordinary. Looking back it was waiting for him, in the wings of his life, all the time. Yet the prompt, when it came, still took him by surprise.

Firstly there was an unaccustomed weariness. Then a sudden numbness in his left hand and a tightening of his mouth. The first stroke was comparatively mild. The second paralysed him temporarily. The third crippled him permanently. Strokes run in the family, he says.

Within a few months he changed from a forceful, active, sports-loving man into a chair-bound cripple. For five years he has been unable to speak or move.

Yet without his illness Donald Willis would have ended his days as an ordinary man. He would probably never have written a book, let alone two. He would have retired at the appropriate hour, and pottered away his pensionable years in respectable obscurity, like many schoolmasters before him.

There would have been no tributes to him on Woman's Hour, and no reviews bearing testimony to the 'indomitable possibilities of the human spirit'.

In a curious way his formidable physical handicaps have given him a new life. His illness has also replenished a love affair with his devoted wife, Muriel, which, having survived tragedy, has become indestructible.

Their lives revolve entirely around each other, Donald making up in cheerfulness and patience what he cannot contribute in physical strength. It was Muriel who encouraged him to write his memoirs, to help him overcome the despondency of the early months of his paralysis. His memory had been unaffected. He could see. And among the useless scaffolding of his body he found he could move his left arm and hand.

It was enough to start work, thought Muriel. Using an electric typewriter he began to tap out his life story with one finger. The complete saga has taken him four years to write, and Muriel has just published the last volume herself, using money from an insurance policy which conveniently matured just as Donald finished the work.*

They communicated at first using a piece of card marked with the letters of the alphabet, with Donald spelling out words with his finger. Now he has a 'lightwriter' an ingenious machine with a typewriter keyboard which flashes letters electronically on to a small screen. But so close have they become that much of their day-to-day contact is almost telepathic.

Like many lasting marriages, theirs almost didn't happen. They first met when Muriel was five years old, and shared a classroom with Donald at a local infants' school near their homes in Oxford. 'He had a talent for drawing, which impressed all the teachers,' remembers Muriel. 'But to me he was just another nasty boy.'

Chastely separated by the 1920s education system, they were both teenagers before they met again, through a Baptist church youth club. Again neither of them realised they were meant for each other.

Donald was preoccupied with manly pursuits like rugby and athletics, and concentrating on getting his degree at Oxford. Muriel thought he was 'quite nice', but was not swept off her feet. 'All the other girls liked him because he had a tremendous sense of humour and was always very gracious. But I was seeing another boy at the time, so I wasn't really interested.'

Donald realised his mistake first, when Muriel announced her engagement. He suddenly looked at her and realised how beautiful she was. 'I could have kicked myself for having been indifferent to her before,' he wrote in his memoirs.

On the shadowy fringes of his unrequited passion the rest of the world was preparing for war. Hitler was busy stamping over Europe. Donald hardly noticed. The more hopeless his love seemed, the keener he became. By now he was teaching in Kent, but engineered a new job in Oxfordshire — at Abingdon School — to be closer to his quarry. The school, like Muriel, became his life, although he didn't know either would at the time.

How she finally succumbed still causes her guilty feelings 40 years later. She was engaged to be married. Her fiancé had already bought their matrimonial home. In fact she was polishing its floors when she suddenly realised she could not go through with it. There and then she wrote her absent fiancé a letter, calling off the wedding.

Donald, he later wrote, was 'in seventh heaven'. After a respectable period of soul-searching and moral penance, Muriel agreed to be his wife. They married on the first day of June, 1940.

Looking back she thinks that without Donald's persistence she would probably have married the other man. 'But I've no doubt that marrying Donald was the right thing to do.'

They went on honeymoon to a pub at Clifton Hampden for three days. Then Donald, who had already been called up, had to report for duty in the Royal Artillery in Aberdeenshire.

'Marriage had changed me,' he later wrote. 'No longer was I keen to fight for King and Country; I now lived in hope of a posting which would mean that I did my service in England.'

He was posted abroad. India, the Middle East, Sicily, Italy, Belgium, Germany. He was away for three years. He was sitting in a tent in the desert when his first daughter was born. Muriel wrote to him every day. The letters used to arrive in bundles. It was, says Donald, a regimental joke.

He was mentioned in dispatches, and finished the war a major. Then he came home to Muriel, baby daughter, and Abingdon School, which likes to claim it is the second oldest school in England, having been founded in the 14th century. When his illness struck him down he was second master. Being forced into early retirement is one of his few regrets in life.

Painstakingly using his lightwriter, he explains: 'Few chaps can have enjoyed work so much. I consider myself fortunate.'

Looking at him trapped in his chair, unable to speak, you wonder how anyone can be so blasé. But Donald Willis and his wife are extraordinary people.

Reading your thoughts he taps on his machine and letters flash on the screen: 'Life is worth living in spite of everything.' The words glow in the fading afternoon light.

***Donald Willis's new book, *A Song on a Bugle Blown — More Memories of an Ordinary Man*, is published by Kenton Books, 1A Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford, price £3.95, plus 80p postage & packing.**

THE JEKYLL GARDEN



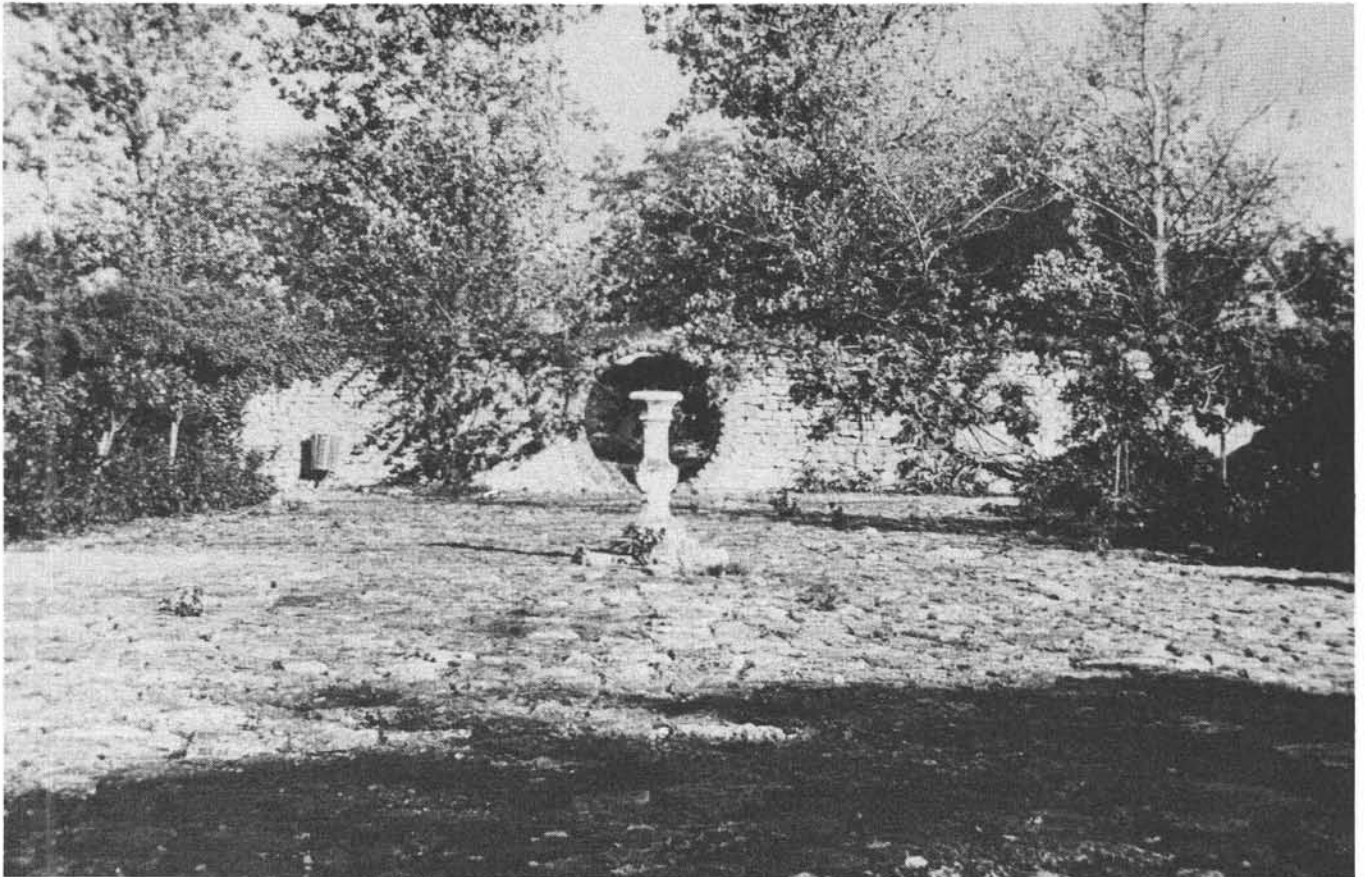
First

Lacies Court is a property of some considerable antiquity. The details are not at all clear, but such evidence as there is strongly suggests that it was remodelled by the former architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. This would have been in about 1910 and it was at the same time that the garden was designed. One of Lutyens' most famous associates in the field of garden design was Gertrude Jekyll. As a designer she was a tantalising figure since she left very little documentation of her work. Yet we know that she planned two gardens in Berkshire, one in Sonning and a second in Sulhamstead in 1901. The design of the garden at Lacies Court is entirely in keeping with her regular practice and the strong circumstantial evidence goes far to substantiate the long-standing tradition of naming it the Jekyll Garden.

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) was a major figure in the development of garden design. As a young woman she studied painting at the Kensington School of Art, a daring step at the time. It was her meeting with Lutyens at a tea-party in 1889 which was to change her life and which led to their collaboration: in time a Lutyens house with a Jekyll garden was to become part of the English way of life.

The school first acquired the garden in 1955. At the time it was in a chaotic state and impossible to maintain, so under the influence of Mr. Talbot a number of ideas were considered about improving it. Originally, there was a summer house at the far end and a six-foot wall along the sides; the summer house was knocked down, the wall was lowered to its present height of three feet, and the whole garden was simplified to make way for the lower school building and the building which is currently Mr. Randolph's Houseroom, while the stones taken from the wall were placed across the garden.

With the construction of the Amey Hall in 1980, the amenity of the garden became much more apparent. Apart from its intrinsic delight, it seemed an excellent place for people to gather before performances or during the intervals. Plans were therefore drawn up to try and recreate Miss Jekyll's original ideas. As the most recent photograph shows, a pond has been built in the centre of the garden and the water will be used to reflect the architecture. This feature was one of Jekyll's hallmarks. The garden itself is being reconstructed on two new axes to complement Amey Hall, one from the arch at Lacies Court to the opposite steps, the other from Mr. Randolph's



..... then

House to the Hall. The garden will also be laid to a pattern in accordance with Miss Jekyll's style. She worked in very natural colours: white, lavender, silver and pale blue, and her favourite shrubs were climbing roses, primroses, honeysuckle and Mignonette. The style will be of low plants at the front of the beds with taller plants going back into the corners with pillar roses across the arches. Trees and shrubs in these colours are needed as soon as possible to complete the garden. The stones in the middle have now been removed — they were impossible to negotiate — and they will be replaced by grass, together with the sundial, which is being restored thanks to the kind donation of an old boy, and

which will be placed near the arches by the Amey Hall along the central axis.

It is intended, if the weather is kind, to have the garden seeded by the end of July this year and for the whole to have taken shape by 1984. The garden is intended for general recreational use and seats will be placed in it. Thanks must be expressed for the kindness of a second old boy, now sadly deceased, who has financed the garden work and for the imaginative labours of the groundsmen, Mr. Winterbourne and Mr. Keeble who succeeds him, who have put so much effort into bringing the Jekyll Garden back into its former splendour.

Adam Spring (6)



..... now.

C.C.F.

1982-3 has been an eventful year for the C.C.F. The Falkland Islands campaign brought us very much into the limelight, for the school community, who had tended to regard the C.C.F. as a well-meaning, relatively harmless and quaint organisation, was forced to think again. Wearing a uniform became a greater source of pride than it had been for many years, but this benefit was counterbalanced by a polarisation of views on the place of such a military-based youth organisation. True, we are funded by the Army and quite reasonably they demand that our curriculum should contain the teaching of some military skills. True, a number of our cadets have entered and continue to enter the Service as a full-time career.

Our main function, however, is to develop in our cadets qualities of leadership, initiative, self-reliance and selflessness — qualities which can be lost too easily in the single-minded pursuit of academic and individual sporting success. The C.C.F. is the ultimate team activity. We hope that our cadets will leave us with an understanding of the personal satisfaction to be gained from good leadership and service to others. Promotion is given not to the cadet with the highest shine on his boots or the loudest voice on the parade ground, but to the one who demonstrates that he is concerned for the welfare of others and has developed the skills to convert this concern into action.

*R.J.W.
C.J.B.*

R.A.F SECTION 1982-83

In the past year, the R.A.F Section has had to change its normal routine; the Army Section has taken over the training of the 4th form cadets, while innovations in the fields of signals and mechanics (R.E.M.E.) have meant that some older cadets have been occupied outside the section.

In addition to the regular R.A.F. Section activities in the classroom, much progress has been made with remote control gliders and the hovercraft, as well as helping the Army to build their new assault course. Last summer, three cadets were awarded their gliding wings, one of whom went on to complete his flying scholarship in the holidays, and two cadets are hoping to complete their gliding courses this half-term. Last summer also saw a party of cadets going down to R.A.F. Locking with Flg. Off. Halstead, for a week's camp.

More recently, the 4th year cadets have taken their part II proficiency, and the contingent was inspected by Colonel van Orton of the R.A.O.C. Over Easter 13 cadets went to R.A.F. Casford for a week, and benefitted from the chance to fly, shoot, and visit the training squadrons on the base, which include a museum and the famous running track, with Sqn. Ldr. Biggs serving once again as Camp Commandant.

Simon Peacock

C.C.F. — ARMY SECTION

This year has seen the largest number of new recruits for some time begin their basic training programme. To become a proficient cadet a series of military-style tests have to be passed, and six sections have been engaged in Drill and Turnout, Shooting and Safety, Fieldcraft, Night Patrol and Map Reading. Instruction was mainly by senior N.C.O.'s, with occasional 'regular' help from Bicester. Slightly more taxing on our new recruits were the initiative tests, conducted around the school. A variety of less military subjects were taught with Leadership, First Aid and Fire-Fighting, Watermanship and Motor Mechanics. Abseiling also took place, by the old Navy HQ. Fifth-form cadets finished their basic training early in the year, and attended a 'strenuous' but enjoyable N.C.O.'s CADRE at Bicester. Finally, a brief word about this year's Upper Sixth. More than ever remained, which caused quite a few headaches. However, on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank Capt. Fox, Cmdr. Griffin and Major Webber for giving us four marvellous years. We would also like to apologise for all jokes about the Major's bald patch, and the vast amounts of Capt. Fox's coffee that we have consumed during the year. We wish the new lower sixth chiefs well!

Keith Girdwood

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

"O.K. chaps," I decided "Lunch at the reservoir over the next crest." We mounted the rise. No reservoir. They'd drained it, but we weren't to know.

"I'll get the rope!" said the General, edging out over the stream in his Y-fronts to reach the dangling prize. Though there was no more than 2 feet of water in most places, he found the hole where he could go in up to his neck.

"It'll be great walking in this weather," said Reg, as we lay slumped in the sunshine. They found a white-out when they were furthest from civilisation.

Just a few of the more memorable moments from the new-style Adventurous Training. The weather was fine (usually), the toilets flushed, and the food was excellent. Gone were the haphazard days of Cairnsphairn; instead we had the expertise of professional instructors to guide us. This meant Tim Haworth could try abseiling, Keith Girdwood could improve his canoeing, and Reg Perrins (big) long hard training schedule could culminate in the James Herriot Dalesman cheese $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon.

Thanks would take up a page, so we really must say a comprehensive 'thank you' to everyone who helped us, especially Jock, Mac, the Tims, and the intrepid Major, whose planning expertise led to such excellent night training as Exercise Studley Royal and Operation Black-a-moor. We wouldn't have had half as much fun without all their behind-the-scenes activity.

And who was that Douggie chap?

Roger Smith

SUMMER CAMP '82

People who see us in our uncomfortable uniforms marching in the rain on Tuesdays might fail to understand how we can possibly enjoy the C.C.F. The answer lies mainly in summer camp, which was spent at Longmoor in the first week of the summer holidays.

The main activity in the week was a 24 hour exercise run by regular soldiers. The majority of my year had the laborious task of being the 'enemy'; in other words lying in bushes all night with sparkling new rifles, firing blanks every now and then, and brewing up in the meantime. I, however, had the greatest privilege in being made an 'acting platoon sergeant', in other words slogging away all night without a moment's sleep, controlling (or trying to control) 20 fourth years! The reward for my privilege was to be promoted to sergeant — now I was permanently in charge of 20 fourth years.

The assault course proved to be another favourite activity, with most people falling off various ropes in to very cold water, or in the case of Major Webber (Mr.) being thrown into very cold water. Then back to camp and a hot shower followed by supper in the mess, which in our condition of relaxed shatteredness, was always delicious.

For me summer camp was, and always is, the highlight of the C.C.F. year and the feeling of tired fulfilment which we went home with stood us in good stead for the rest of the holiday.

James Thompson

ROUNDUP

Within the next year, we are re-introducing a C.C.F. Band, the nucleus of which led the parade at our inspection this term. This will be run by Capt. Derek Jones (himself an ex-Army Bandmaster). We also hope to form a R.E.M.E. Section run by our two new officers. 2 Lts. Tim Howarth (OA) and Tim Johnson (OA). The Section will be maintaining our recently purchased Land Rover and Sherpa Minibus.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Roger Baker for his most valuable assistance with Abseiling, Capt. Jock Fox for his unstinting support, encouragement and administrative efficiency, likewise to W.O.I. McCreedy — between them they seem able to supply anything from anywhere at anytime. My particular thanks must go to my predecessor Commander John Griffin, whose advice and experience gained over many years, I have to unashamedly rely upon. I am delighted that John's interest and enthusiasm are not lost to us as he has kindly agreed to run our Royal Legends Society.

65 cadets and 8 officers are due to go to our Annual Camp at Folkestone in July. This seems sure to be a fitting climax to a busy year.

R.J.W.



CRICKET ROUND-UP

Another year of excellent results at all levels, and my thanks again to my colleagues for their dedication and good humour in an always busy school term; their assistance and coaching of the sport, both team and non-team, is doubtless taken for granted sometimes, but I am particularly indebted to Messrs Drummond-Hay, Page, Butcher, Woodgett, Wilmore, Parker and to Charlie Bush, our loss and Marlborough's gain. Charlie was given an appreciative send-off by the Juniors XI, who reached the final of the area Lords Taverners Knock-Out competition, at the enjoyable Cricket Dinner at the end of term. At this function Mr. Hillary presented Chris Newmark with the Smithson Cup and Robert McCreery with the Morris Cup. Brian Woolley was awarded the Henderson Cricket Prize as the outstanding young player in the 1st XI.

During the summer a collection was made on behalf of the Lords Taverners Appeal for the benefit of handicapped young people; a splendid total of £156 was raised. Many thanks to all who responded. Thank you, too, to Mrs. Dennis and to Mrs. Lanham who once again organised the now famous War Mem teas, to the other mothers who so kindly helped, to the school catering staff, to the groundstaff, to Tim Winter, a very good Secretary, and to Patrick McLeod, a quieter but neater 1st XI scorer than last year's!

Half-term, Lent 1983, and time to write the Abingdonian cricket report for 1982! It all seems so long ago (and will be even longer by the time this is published) but, on opening the scorebook so neatly kept by Patrick McLeod, the memories come flooding back, the moments of elation and despair, both on a team and individual basis.

It was, as usual, an enjoyable season and, judging by the overall results, a successful one, the 8 wins equalling the record number of victories. We did particularly well against the Club sides, almost achieving an unprecedented hat-trick. On a day almost 400 runs were scored, the Berkshire Gentlemen were defeated by 6 runs; in a low scoring match the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, who lost their last 8 wickets for 16 runs, were beaten by 3 wickets, whilst the M.C.C., who had witnessed a remarkable debut by Mark Boobbyer, avoided defeat through a last wicket stand lasting over half an hour. The Staff XI were decisively beaten, but the Old Boys' game was sadly rained off with the school struggling — not for the first or last time with the bat.

Only 4 matches out of 17 were lost, and these were all batting failures against Radley and Reading (both after sound starts), Magdalen and U.C.S. The very modest averages (and low average runs per wicket for the season of 17) reflect the basically unconvincing nature of the batting which could be described as having 'fragile depth'. This was partly due to failures of individual technique and application, although the disappointing condition of War Mem square can fairly be given as 'mitigating circumstances' on occasions. Collapses were always 'on' and, unlike some seasons, Nos 7, 8 and 9, if not 10 and 11, might usually expect to put the pads on. And yet at some stage of the season no less than eight players made a 50 but, apart from Boobbyer, only once each . . . and no one made 300 runs! Doubtless more 'records' for the statistician here, both by way of credit and debit. So the 'senior' batsmen, Chris Newmark, Nick Rice and Robert McCreery, will have been as disappointed as were the previous year's 'Colts', Simon Rushton and Nick Thomas, who had hoped to profit from their earlier experience of 1st XI cricket. In the end Brian Woolley, batting usually at No 8, deservedly headed the averages (with the help of a few not outs). He was in a number of respects the most secure, not least in temperament.

Fortunately the opposition were usually fallible, too! Our outcricket was alert and positive; credit here to the bowlers, well supported in the field, and shrewdly handled by Chris Newmark, a first-rate captain on and off the field. Over the season our opponents averaged no more than 14 runs per wicket, compared to our 17. Only Radley, Magdalen and U.C.S. built convincing innings against us, the last two when we were without both Phillips and McCreery. David Phillips was a highly effective 'strike' bowler who almost always achieved an early breakthrough. He was at his very best at Brentwood when he took 6 for 19. The accurate Tim Winter was an ideal foil to

David; they were a demanding opening pair and shared 57 wickets. Robert McCreery recovered some of his form, taking 27 wickets, 6 of them for 5 runs in the revenge humiliation of Berkhamsted. Marcus Marsden bowled a good line and length and thoroughly deserved his return of 5 for 40 at Reading; granted full fitness he will be an influential member of the XI in 1983 as an allrounder. Martin Day and, at the end of the term, Mark Surridge and Matthew Cox added variety, each picking up useful wickets. Along with Mark Boobbyer, they, too, should be playing important roles under Simon Rushton's leadership. Mark's first two innings for the 1st XI, 106 v M.C.C. and 85 v M.C.S. and his high scoring record for the Junior Colts leave him with an unenviable burden of expectation; it will not always seem so 'easy', but there can be no denying his sensational debut!

Apart from the invigorating performances against the Club sides, the most overwhelming victories were those gained against Newbury, Berkhamsted and Bloxham. Perhaps the most pulsating finish was against Colchester. Full marks to Brian Woolley and Tim Winter for scoring a winning 15 runs for the last wicket, the second highest partnership of the innings. Another low scoring game on a difficult wicket was at Douai. On this occasion David Newman, with Simon Rushton's help, saw us home by an intelligent use of the 'long handle' (he slogged!) with a remarkable 50. Tim Winter's 6 for 36 and Brian Woolley's 60 not out were mainly responsible for the victory over the B.G.s. Other notable half-centuries were made by Robert McCreery v Pangbourne, Nick Rice v Radley, Simon Rushton v Berkhamsted, Robin Suggate v the Staff and by Chris Newmark v Brentwood. Mark Surridge and Matthew Cox made good impressions in their limited appearances during the 'cricket week'. Congratulations to Robert and Marcus on their appearances in the representative cricket, for Notts 2nds and South of England U.14s respectively. Marcus and Mark both gained selection to the Public Schools Colts trial match.

Regular members of the XI were:

C. C. Newmark (capt.), R. I. McCreery, N. G. Rice, D. H. Phillips, T. Winter, S. J. Rushton, N. R. Thomas, M. C. Day, D. R. Newman, R. M. R. Suggate, B. E. Woolley and M. A. Marsden. T. J. Burley, N. Williams, M. T. Boobbyer, M. C. Cox, M. A. Surridge, and D. McK. Allen also played on occasions.

N.H.P.

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES

BATTING (Qual 6 innings)	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
B. E. Woolley	13	6	191	60*	27.3
R. I. McCreery	11	1	264	62	26.4
C. C. Newmark	15	0	292	59	19.5
N. G. Rice	15	2	237	59	18.2
R. M. R. Suggate	13	0	186	54	14.3
S. J. Rushton	16	1	209	61	13.9
D. R. Newman	13	0	140	50	10.8
D. H. Phillips	10	3	55	18	7.9
M. C. Day	9	3	47	23	7.8
N. R. Thomas	10	2	60	16*	7.5
T. Winter	9	5	30	10*	7.5
M. A. Marsden	7	3	21	11*	5.2

also batted: M. T. Boobbyer 4-0-233-106-58.2

BOWLING (Qual 6 wkts)	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
D. H. Phillips	114	31	264	29	9.1
R. I. McCreery	134	35	324	27	12.0
T. Winter	151	51	342	28	12.2
M. C. Cox	40	7	108	8	13.5
M. A. Surridge	26	5	95	7	13.6
M. C. Day	38	6	124	9	13.8
M. A. Marsden	96	33	195	12	16.2

RESULTS

P17; W8; L4; D4; Ab. 1

Pangbourne (a) Drawn.
Abingdon 148 for 7 dec. (McCreery 62); Pangbourne 111 for 5.
Newbury (a) Won by 10 wkts.
Newbury 58 (McCreery 7 for 19); Abingdon 59 for 0.
Berkshire Gentlemen (h) Won by 6 runs.
Abingdon 198 (Woolley 60*); B.G.s 192 (Winter 6 for 36).
Berkhamsted (h) Won by 109 runs.
Abingdon 155 for 7 dec (Rushton 61); Berkhamsted 46 (McCreery 6 for 5).
Brentwood (a) Drawn.
Abingdon 170 for 8 dec (Newmark 59); Brentwood 121 for 7 (Phillips 6 for 19).
Old Abingdonians (h) Abandoned (rain).
Abingdon 78 for 8 (W. Mellor 5 for 18).
South Oxfordshire Amateurs (h) Won by 3 wkts.
S.O.A.s 81 (McCreery 4 for 20); Abingdon 82 for 7.
N. H. Payne's XI (h) Won by 74 runs.
Abingdon 177 for 7 dec (Suggate 54); N.H.P.'s XI 103.
Douai (a) Won by 5 wkts.
Douai 88 (Phillips 6 for 23); Abingdon 89 for 5 (Newman 50).
Radley (a) Lost by 7 wkts.
Abingdon 129 (Rice 59); Radley 130 for 3.
M.C.C. (h) Drawn.
Abingdon 237 for 7 dec (Boobbyer 106); M.C.C. 151 for 9 (McCreery 4 for 53).
Reading (a) Lost by 66 runs.
Reading 154 (Marsden 5 for 40); Abingdon 88.
R.G.S. High Wycombe (a) Drawn.
Abingdon 130 for 9; High Wycombe 55 for 5.
Magdalen College School (a) Lost by 5 wkts.
Abingdon 136 (Boobbyer 85); M.C.S. 139 for 5.
Colchester R.G.S. (h) Won by 1 wkt.
Colchester 84 (Winter 6 for 36; Cox 4 for 40); Abingdon 85 for 9.
Bloxham (a) Won by 8 wkts.
Bloxham 122 (Surridge 4 for 13); Abingdon 123 for 2 (Rice 43*; Suggate 34).
University College School (h) Lost by 7 wkts.
Abingdon 147; U.C.S. 148 for 3.



2nd XI

RESULTS

A playing record of 5 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses indicates a fairly successful season and indeed it was.

The team started in fine style and won the first two matches, one by the skin of its teeth and the other with consummate ease. A winning draw against Magdalen followed and then another convincing victory, against Oratory. Batting first against Berkhamsted we started slowly but gathered pace to set the opposition a very fair target. They lost their first few wickets quickly and the game petered out into a tame draw with Abingdon holding the upper hand. The first half of the term finished with an amazing game away at Brentwood. The day started inauspiciously with one player missing the bus. Fortunately, the resulting 10 man third eleven had no difficulty in winning their match. In what was technically an all-day game Abingdon batted first and struggled to total 96, 42 of which came from the last wicket stand. With hours to go and a modest target to surpass the Brentwood batsmen succeeded in losing their wickets with astonishing ease and regularity until Mark Surridge capped a superb unchanged spell of bowling by removing the last batsman at 5 o'clock.

The team lost its way a little in the second half of term, inevitably perhaps because of exams. We were lucky to escape with a draw against Radley. Their bowling was fortunately not quite so impressive as their batting. The game against King Alfred's, Wantage was one of the most exciting of the season and all four results were possible until very near the end. The batting against Reading was pitifully inept and we were well beaten. Bloxham were defeated more easily than the scores suggest and the last game saw us run out of time, and eventually batsmen, against Plymouth College.

The team was captained in a mature and responsible fashion by Tim Spittles. Early on the batting looked strong until Robin Suggate won deserved promotion to the 1st Eleven and Mark Wiles became unavailable. After that one could never quite be sure where the runs would come from. Mark Surridge was a dangerous opening bowler when he bowled straight and he was well supported by the other seamers, Noel Williams especially later in the term. Tim Burley looked a useful off-spinner but was under-used.

So, an enjoyable season was had by most, if not all.

R.S.P.

Regular players:

Spittles (capt.), Littlewood, Ody, Warchus, Fergusson, Burley, Surridge, Murray-Clarke, Cowan, Williams, Allen, Freeman-Core. Also played: Suggate, Thomas, Tyack, Dalton-Morris, Rogers, Ingram.

W 5	L 2	D 4	A 1
Pangbourne (h) Won by 1 wkt. Pangbourne 89 (Spittles 4-21) Abingdon 90-9.			
Newbury (a) Won by 10 wkts. Newbury 103 (Burley 6-32) Abingdon 104-0 (Littlewood 63*).			
Magdalen College School (h) Drawn. Abingdon 160-7 (Suggate 49) M.C.S. 71-7.			
Oratory (a) Won by 8 wkts. Oratory 94 Abingdon 101-2 (Suggate 55*).			
Berkhamsted (a) Drawn. Abingdon 165-6 (Ody 57) Berkhamsted 85-7 (Surridge 4-28).			
Brentwood (a) Won by 16 runs. Abingdon 96 Brentwood 80 (Surridge 7-29).			
Radley (h) Drawn. Radley 242-3 Abingdon 80-5.			
King Alfred's, Wantage (h) Drawn. K.A.W. 182-8 (Williams 5-46) Abingdon 173-9.			
Reading (h) Lost by 62 runs. Reading 130 (Williams 4-37) Abingdon 68.			
High Wycombe (h) Match abandoned. High Wycombe 142-7 (Warchus 4-38) Abingdon 1-0.			
Bloxham (h) Won by 3 wkts. Bloxham 129-8 Abingdon 130-7.			
Plymouth College (h) Lost by 50 runs. Plymouth 193-9 (Murray-Clarke 5-39) Abingdon 143.			

3rd XI

As a detailed analysis of the results would disclose the 3rd XI provided great entertainment since many matches were won or lost by large margins; none were drawn.

The season got off to a rather poor start with a heavy loss to Cokethorpe 1st XI in spite of a desperate effort by the tail, in failing light, to secure a draw. After further defeats, a first win was gained away at Brentwood in an all-day game. A change of openers provided a secure base from which we established an unassailable lead and this, coupled with the impressive pace of John Cowell, gave us a 91 run victory.

Any illusions about our capabilities were soon shattered by an ineffectual performance against St. Edwards (except for the belligerent Barney) but this game proved to be the turning point of the season. From then on we produced emphatic victories due to fast accurate bowling against Douai and Carmel and came very close to achieving the impossible at Radley, Robert Dalton-Morris (at last) and the mercurial Barney Rogers excelling with the bat.

A brave performance against Reading (with Trevor Rogers, 26, displaying great patience and skill) almost resulted in a win which would have rounded off an enjoyable season on a high note.

Thanks must go to Mr. Parker and Dr. Wilmore whose invaluable coaching and neutral umpiring allowed many, once latent, talents to reach their potential. Steve Tyack emerged as a promising opener and Gareth Butler provided an interesting left-arm partner to paceman John Cowell. A truly memorable season!

Those who played regularly:

B. Rodgers (capt.), J. Parker (wkt.), N. North, J. Cowell, G. Butler, M. Ingram, T. Rogers, S. Tyack, R. Dalton-Morris, P. May, R. Elsey, P. Rainsden, B. Stanton, N. Burgoyne, D. Colson, J. Durand.
M. Ingram

RESULTS

Cokethorpe. Lost by 152 runs.
Shiplake. Lost by 56 runs.
Larkmead. Lost by 90 runs.
Brentwood. Won by 91 runs.
St. Edward's. Lost by 108 runs.
Douai. Won by 10 wkts.
Radley. Lost by 2 wkts.
Carmel. Won by 10 wkts.
Reading. Lost by 3 wkts.



JUNIOR COLTS

This has been another very successful season for the Junior Colts XI. Looking back over results, nine wins at this level, given the relatively short hours of play, is certainly a most impressive performance. There is always the temptation to avoid defeat by playing for a draw, but I cannot record one game where the emphasis was on going for a result. Admittedly a side needs batsmen capable of scoring a lot of runs, and bowlers capable of bowling sides out. The captain had such players at his disposal.

Of the batsmen, Mark Boobyer proved to be the most prolific run scorer with 659 runs in the season for an average of 54.9, which included two centuries and five fifties. Not too unlike Geoffrey Boycott, Mark is a percentage player who never wants to get out. His powers of concentration coupled with the ability to choose the right ball to hit, resulted in his occupying the crease for most of the innings much to the annoyance of the keen tailenders! Scoring a century in two matches is quite a unique feat at Junior Colts level, but not so unique as scoring a century against the M.C.C. in his debut for the first XI. Mark soon found in Kevin Higgs a useful opening partner. In contrast to Mark, Kevin liked to force the run rate. His favourite shot was the hook towards the library windows, which he managed to avoid, much to the dismay of the spectators. At the beginning of the season no one was very keen to come in at No. 3 mainly because of the prospect of having to follow Mark and Kevin. However, the openers didn't always get the team off to a good start, and William Hudson was called up to steady the innings. Although I thought William never really reached his full

potential, he has a very straight bat and always looked like scoring a lot of runs. Matthew Cox was the main crowd puller, and when in form, delighted everyone with his wide range of shots and perfect timing. He hits the ball perhaps harder than anyone I have seen of his age, and when he learns to pick the right balls to hit, he will improve his competence. The middle order batsmen, James Bouch, Stuart Sutcliffe and Euan Hirst made valuable contributions. Douai School are still speaking about James, when on one of the few occasions Mark Boobyer had to be content in playing a secondary role. The tailenders always like a mention for their batting or lack of it, and I think they deserve congratulating on the way they went for the runs — Chris Herd's fine knock against the Manchester Schools XI, to be followed by Toby Jones's defensive spell at the wicket in the same match.

If it can be said that batsmen sow the seeds for victory, then it must also be said that bowlers win matches. In this respect Matthew Cox played a leading role. His record of 57 wickets, averaging 9.26 with a best performance of 7-21 speaks for itself. Matthew is primarily an attacking off-spinner who is not afraid in giving the ball plenty of flight. This, combined with good line, mesmerised even the most patient batsmen. Needless to say he was supported by some good team catching and wicket keeping, but most of his victims were bowled. Toby Jones, like Matthew, threw the ball up, and on his day, bowled very well indeed. Once he gains more consistency in his line and length, he will prove to me more economical.

John May and Chris Herd were the two main pace bowlers used by the captain. Chris, I thought was unfortunate not to take more wickets than he did, as his swing resulted in a number of near edges. John, relying mainly on pace off the wicket had more success at the end of the season, and once he gains more strength will be a good prospect for the future.

Euan Hirst, behind the stumps, improved in every match, and soon became a useful weapon for Matthew. The fielding in general was good — every side drops catches, but as the season went on, fewer vital catches were missed. All that remains to say is to thank and congratulate Matthew Cox for the way he handled the side, both on, and off the field. He always tried to get a result, and brought everyone into the game as much as possible. The Tour to Rotherham was a great success, and Matthew must take the credit for his part in getting everyone to the ground on time.

I would also like to thank Marcus Marsden for joining the team when he was not on First XI duty. His contribution was invaluable, and no doubt his season will be written in more detail in the 1st XI's report. My final thanks to Rev. Butcher for his assistance with the coaching and umpiring. The success achieved by the XI was partly due to his sound knowledge and enthusiasm for the game.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

The following played for the XI:

M. Cox (capt.), M. Boobbyer, J. Bouch, T. Jones, K. Higgs, S. Sutcliffe, J. May, E. Hirst, W. Hudson, C. Herd, J. Ralfe, J. Brown, D. Holder and M. Marsden.

JUNIORS

By the high standards of the past few years, this squad lacked talent. It was apparent at the first practice that team selection would never be straight-forward or easy. There was just not enough obvious strength in any department, but what was clear from the outset was that despite technical drawbacks there was spirit and enthusiasm in abundance. They developed into a close-knit unit with a strong will-to-win and a keen desire to learn. It certainly was an enjoyable team to coach and everyone learnt much. I suppose the final tally of 9 wins out of 18 games with 5 losses is modest by recent Juniors' standards but the team did play a lot of good cricket. We won some close shaves, and lost to Bloxham and the Oratory by only the smallest of margins (— in both cases a vital misfield swaying the game.) Only Radley and St. Edwards outclassed us, and with the help of Marcus Marsden we reached the final of the 40 over knock-out competition to be played in Summer 83. The highlights of my season were at Berkhamsted and High Wycombe when everything came right, and, the great drama and tension against Henry Box, when the elements so nearly lost us the match.

After some variation we settled on Mark Weatherall and his Boycottian anchor role approach and James Dark in his unconventional but aggressive style, to open the innings. They were neither speedy nor elegant, but between them they made their impression, and usually laid foundations for the later batsmen. They will both need to increase their run-scoring shots to be effective in future. Jason Haynes at number three, waited until June to show his true class and potential. He had a marvellous end-of-season flurry and I am sure he will develop into a batsman of quality in the years ahead. James Kowszun had a poor season with the bat and will need greater application to improve matters next year. James Kain with his straight bat looked sound without scoring many, and Graham Nicholson showed he had the ability to produce the runs when necessary. John Stamper announced his presence with a half century at his first opportunity and "Eric" Porter and John Knibbs fitted well into the necessary and ungainly role of sloggers.

Overall it was our bowling that won us our matches. Nick Pond was the "find" and his accurate nagging length produced 26 wickets including a hatrick against Douai. James Kowszun was often too wild to be effective, but when on target, and on a length, certainly posed problems. The pleasure, for me at least, was provided by the off-spinners, Simon Evans, Ross McCracken and Graham Nicholson. Each in their own styles presented the batsmen with problems and my only sadness was that they all could not play more often. John Knibbs, Jason Haynes and Mark Weatherall also bowled containing spells and my memory of the summer is that when we were bowling, our attack was usually good enough to be taking wickets.

LEADING AVERAGES

BATTING	Innings	H.S.	Runs	Ave.	50's	100's
Mark Boobbyer	14	102 n.o.	659	55	5	2
Marcus Marsden	9	65	276	40	3	
Matthew Cox	13	63	325	28	1	
James Bouch	10	75	171	19	1	
Kevin Higgs	11	55	150	14	1	

BOWLING	Overs	M.	Runs	Ave.
Matthew Cox	158.4	29	528	9.2
Marcus Marsden	115.5	35	253	10.1
Chris Herd	54.5	12	124	15.5
John May	70.3	5	196	17.8

Catches: Mark Boobbyer 8; Euan Hirst 7.

Stumpings: Euan Hirst 19.

Results:

P 14	W 9	L 2	D 3
v. Pangbourne	Won	by 85 runs	
A 133-5		Marsden 57	
P 48		Marsden 5-16, Cox 5-27	
v. M.C.S.	Won	by 36 runs	
A 203-1		Boobbyer 102 n.o., Higgs 55	
M 167		Cox 6-58	
v. Oratory	Won	by 177 runs	
A 211-6		Cox 63, Boobbyer 57	
O 34		Cox 4-15	
v. Berkhamsted	Won	by 71 runs	
A 113			
B 42		Marsden 6-17, Cox 4-20	
St. Edwards	Won	by 8 wickets	
S 142-7			
A 148-2			
v. Oakwood	Won	by 82 runs	
A 141-6		Marsden 65	
O 59		Cox 7-33	
v. Manchester Schools XI	Drawn		
M 198-7		Cox 4-74	
A 197-9		Boobbyer 66, Cox 42	
v. Douai	Drawn		
A 180-3		Bouch 75, Boobbyer 60	
D 143-8			
v. Radley	Lost	by 5 wickets	
A 84			
R 85-5			
v. L. W. Thame	Won	by 4 runs	
A 85			
L 81		Cox 7-21	
v. R.G.S. H. Wycombe	Ab.		
A 156-8		Hudson 42	
R 1-1			
v. Bloxham	Won	by 12 runs	
A 97			
B 85		Cox 6-48	
v. Manchester Schools XI	Lost	by 3 wickets	
A 221-6		Boobbyer 102, Marsden 50, Cox 49.	
M 225-7			

The ground fielding was respectable rather than special and James Kain's tidy wicket-keeping earned him 21 dismissals with 13 stumpings — a pleasant alternative to the present test scene. As captain, Jason Haynes set a marvellous example in the field taking some excellent catches. He reads the game particularly well and shows a shrewd maturity in the placing of his field. He has developed much, and I expect this side will rely heavily on his all-round abilities in future years.

Many thanks to Vince Paige for all his witty, efficient scoring. He filled the role of team manager, supporter, encourager, chastiser with cheerful efficiency. This was a happy, moderately successful, side and I enjoyed the cricket as well as the enthusiastic way they played.

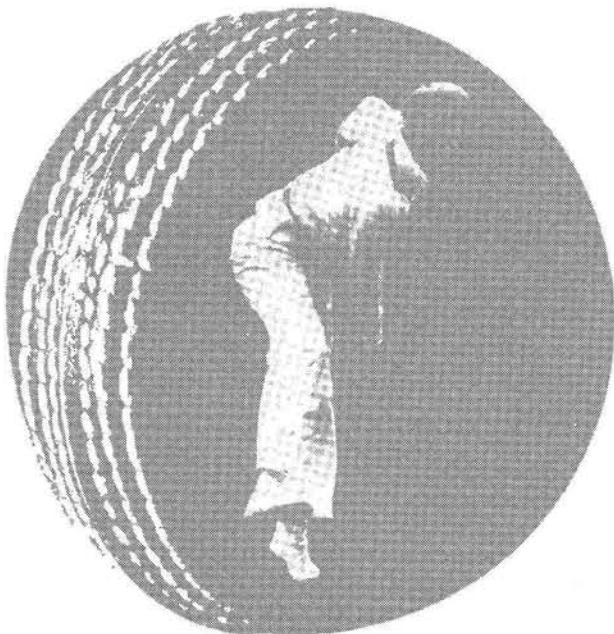
C.M.P.B.

Final Team:

M. Weatherall, J. Dark, J. Haynes, J. Kowszun, G. Nicholson, J. Knibbs, R. Porter, J. Kain, J. Stamper, N. Pond, R. McCracken.

Also Played:

M. Winsley, R. Garnett, S. Evans, M. Marsden, E. O'Brien, T. Hepple, N. Suckling.



RESULTS

P18	W9	D3	L5	A1
v. Pangbourne		Won	by 6 wickets	
P	115		Weatherall 3-35	
A	116-4		Weatherall 45	
v. Cokethorpe		Won	by 38 runs	
A	110			
C	72		Evans 4-19	
v. M.C.S.		Won	by 25 runs	
A	114		Weatherall 34	
MCS	89		Kowszun 4-31, Nicholson 4-11	
v. the Oratory		Lost	by 1 wicket	
A	46			
O	49-9		McCracken 5-13	
v. Berkhamsted		Won	by 5 wickets	
B	148-6 dec.		Weatherall 39	
A	149-5		Haynes 33	
v. St. Edwards		Lost	by 6 wickets	
A	104		Porter 31 n.o.	
St. E	108-4		Kowszun 3-13	
v. Oxon U.13's			Abandoned	
A	109-9 dec.			
O	36-5			
v. Oakwood		Draw		
O	157-4 dec.		Nicholson 37 n.o.	
A	105-7			
v. Douai		Won	by 109 runs	
A	166-8 dec.		Dark 37, Stamper 50 n.o.	
D	57		Pond 7-22	
v. Cherwell School		Won	by 155 runs	
A	176-6 dec.		Weatherall 32, Marsden 34, Kowszun 30 n.o.	
			Marsden 4-7, Kowszun 5-6	
C	21			
v. Radley		Lost	by 104 runs	
R	175		Nicholson 4-38, Haynes 4-29	
A	71		Porter 33	
v. Reading		Draw		
A	193-6 dec.		Haynes 47, Kowszun 63 n.o.	
R	171-6		Pond 4-34	
v. Henry Box		Won	by faster run rate.	
A	164-7 (40 overs)		Marsden 80 n.o.	
H.B.	78-9 (20 overs)		Nicholson 3-14	
v. Thame		Draw		
A	174-5 dec.		Dark 56, Haynes 58	
T	83-9		Pond 5-27	
v. RGS High Wycombe		Won	by 7 wickets	
RGS	55		Nicholson 4-11, Kowszun 3-16	
A	56-3			
v. Gillott's School		Won	by 93 runs	
A	135		Marsden 51	
G	42		Williams 4-13, Nicholson 3-2	
v. Bloxham		Lost	by 2 wickets	
A	105		Haynes 41	
B	106-8		Nicholson 3-37	
v. Rev. Pickles XI		Lost	by 50 runs	
R.P.	207-6 dec.			
A	157		Haynes 73	

MINORS

This team, while not losing a match, never quite fulfilled our expectations. Some of the matches were spoiled by the weather, but in the remainder the batting proved disappointing, although this was where we thought our strength lay. In the event, we were saved by our somewhat limited bowling, or — it might be more accurate to say — by our opponents' even more ineffective batting. Reading, for example, threw away a near-certain victory (not for the first time) by pusillanimous batting, and New College School and Millbrook House had less depth than usual.

Only four players won their colours. Of the bowlers, Peter Williams was a hostile and unusually accurate opener who deserved more wickets than he took, and Julian Freeston's leg-spin was always dangerous, as long as he had the confidence to flight the ball. A good spinner is always going to take wickets at this level where he is so rare, and it was the Reading spinner that caused our worst collapse of the season (nine wickets were lost for 14 runs!). The most successful batsmen were also rivals for wicket-keeper: Jeremy Greenland kept better to the spinners and this decided the issue; he was also the more correct batsman, but David Ingram has an excellent eye, and scored plenty of runs on the dry wickets of May.

1st XI:

N. J. Westwood (Capt.), G. D. Scott, J. G. Greenland, D. J. M. Ingram, P. J. Williams, J. G. Freeston, D. E. Sutcliffe, R. S. Howard, G. M. D. Persson, M. V. Rippengal, S. J. Wintle.



2nd XI:

N. G. Williams (Capt.), A. T. Ransome, G. C. Smith, A. M. W. Gipps, D. G. Stickland, A. D. Tapper, T. J. Gosling, M. P. Spencer, J. I. Gold, D. Jennaway, P. J. Mitchell, M. J. Browning.



Of the remainder, Damian Sutcliffe saved the day on a number of occasions, but has not yet mastered his weaknesses outside the off-stump; Richard Howard and Graham Scott had disappointing seasons, but have lots of potential, as has Nicholas Westwood, who proved an alert and shrewd captain.

In the Oxfordshire 20-over Competitions, our various teams lost four of eleven matches; by far the most memorable was the Gryphons' semi-Final against Temple Cowley, decided by the last ball of the match — it was a Tie, but they qualified for the Final by losing fewer wickets. Another memorable occasion was the unbroken partnership between Geoff Smith and Andrew Ransome for the Second XI against Douai's passable attack. Both illustrate the value of fielding a variety of teams, and giving plenty of keen players the chance to represent the school.

The first-year players were neither experienced nor strong, and their Cricket was badly disrupted by other activities. The full team's only match was that against Hampshire Primary Schools, and almost inevitably they were well beaten.

M.W.

RESULTS

1st XI Matches:

Oratory School (h). Won by 46 runs.
Abingdon 116 (Ingram 42)
Oratory 70 (Scott 3-17, Freeston 3-20)
Prior Park School (h). Won by 65 runs.
Abingdon 153 for 7 dec. (Dark 57, Greenland 30)
Prior Park 88 (Freeston 5-14, Williams 3-29)
Millbrook House School (h). Won by 95 runs.
Abingdon 133 for 9 dec. (Greenland 42, Persson 28, Freeston 25)
Millbrook House 38 (Freeston 4-5, McCracken 3-10)
Reading School (h). Won by 2 runs.
Abingdon 72 (Sutcliffe 24)
Reading 70 (Scott 3-3, Williams 3-17)
Magdalen College School (h). Match Abandoned.
Abingdon 116 for 9 dec. (Freeston 35, Scott 26)
Magdalen College School 2 for 0 wkt.
St. Hugh's School, Faringdon (a). Match Drawn.
St. Hugh's 104 for 9 dec. (Scott 4-34, Williams 3-26)
Abingdon 94 for 7
High Wycombe Royal Grammar School (h). Match Abandoned.
High Wycombe 119 (Freeston 4-14, Williams 3-40)
Abingdon 14 for 1
New College School (a). Won by 26 runs.
Abingdon 69 (Greenland 23)
New College School 43 (Freeston 3-5, Scott 3-9, Williams 3-19).

2nd XI Matches:

Douai School (h). Won by 68 runs.
Abingdon 157 for 3 dec. (Smith 50+, Ransome 50+)
Douai 89 (Gosling 4-16, Rippengal 3-20)
Josca's School (h). Match drawn.
Abingdon 102 for 6 dec. (Wintle 37)
Josca's 84 for 7

Under-12 Matches:

Bearwood College Under-13s (h). Won by 5 wickets.
Bearwood 82 (Gosling 5-20)
Abingdon 83 for 5.
Hampshire Primary Schools XI (h). Lost by 5 wickets.
Abingdon 63
Hampshire 67 for 5

RUGBY

RUGBY CLUB REPORT 1982

The Colts XV were the outstanding team this season only being defeated by Warwick and Millfield. The game against the touring Millfield side, played on the last Sunday of term was a particularly exciting affair, with a large crowd present to savour the occasion. Although they lost by a narrow margin, the Colts showed us what a well knit unit they had become under Mr. Drummond-Hay's guidance.

The 2nd XV, 3rd XV, 4th XV and Juniors XV all had good seasons, and although the Junior Colts XV and 1st XV were not very successful they did try and I hope enjoyed themselves.

It has been made clear recently in the Medical Literature that a number of rugby injuries are avoidable if proper pre-season preparation is undertaken. Sensible mobility, strength and endurance exercises should become routine in the summer holidays if players are going to be in good shape for the start of the season. It is too late to start when term begins. It's really just like taking out a sensible insurance policy on your health. Players please note!

It was cheering to hear that Graham Halsey had been included in the England Under 23 squad, and that he had scored the decisive try in the U.A.U. final this year. It was also exciting to see John Madgwick come close to winning an Oxford Blue. Both of these O.A.'s would agree that they owe much to the coaches at every level at School, and I would like to thank my colleagues for the time and effort that they put into their coaching to such good effect.

D.G.C.

1st XV

Predicting the likelihood of a good season is fraught with danger, but this year we did seem to have a nucleus of strong, enthusiastic players, who should have been capable of doing well, so hopes were high.

When we had lost the first three matches against Bloxham, Pangbourne and Berkhamsted it was obvious that we had serious problems, and were going to have to fight every inch of the way for any future success. Scrum half was a problem area; the pack lacked drive and mobility, and the side had failed to develop a cohesiveness which might have enabled it to overcome other shortcomings.

Despite our poor start we played well against Solihull to win our first game of the season, and to realise some of our true potential. Radley however proved too strong for us and we were taken apart up front, but let off the hook outside by some rather indifferent play. Although a 25-4 victory over Magdalen College School looked a convincing margin, spectators were anxious for a time as we looked quite capable of giving the game away.



Half term intervened, but hopes of a new start after the break were dashed by two defeats by Reading and Marlborough. We squeezed a victory against Newbury with an ulcer-giving performance, and then defeated a good O.A. side with a convincing display. We handed a victory to Warwick by one point with inept play and went into the last game against St. Edwards with more than a little pride to salvage. For the first time ever we won against St. Edwards away from home, and by the handsome margin of 19-7. We played one of the most committed games an Abingdon side has given. Concentration, discipline and skill all blended in a display which warmed the heart for the sake of the players who had given much to a disappointing season. But why hadn't all this happened earlier?

Part of the problem concerned the attitude of the more experienced players, who seemed to feel secure about their places in the team, and generally played to a lower level than in the previous year. John Warchus was the exception. Although Andy Hall had many good qualities as Captain and had some outstanding games as a player, we seemed rather rudderless on the field and lacked the steel to pull ourselves together at vital moments.

The three key areas of scrum half, lock and flanker were to prove weak on too many occasions. In the tight we were not strong enough to win the set ball, and in the loose we were too slow to win the second phase ball. Consequently we placed an inexperienced scrum half under too much pressure and the threequarters generally had a lean time.

The person who developed as the real class player of the team was Brian Woolley at full back who ran, kicked and tackled extremely well and looked a quality player of the future, despite a tendency to 'fade' out of the game at times.

On the wings Adrian Stores, Nick Thomas and Simon Rushton, (until he was injured) all looked dangerous going forward in space, but defensively and in tight attacking situations handling and confidence were vulnerable.

Alex Cullen and J-M Freeman in the centre should have been, and sometimes were a formidable combination, but defensive skills were again weak at times, and attacking skills too predictable and stereotyped. The occasional muddles and clashes did provide moments of light relief however, and the pair of them made us keep things in perspective.

At fly half Andy Hall had a mixed season. Early trouble with a leg injury hampered his running and kicking, so it was not until the second half of the season that we saw some of his old verve and skill and in one or two games he played outstandingly well. As a captain he had mixed fortunes, but was at his best when his own game was on song, and he was able to lead from the front.

The scrum half position finally went to Simon Littlewood who was very unfit at the beginning of the season, but who when he did achieve a reasonable degree of fitness made a competent job of a new position for him.

Keith Girdwood, a player who improved steadily throughout the season, Craig Shuttleworth and Nick North formed a solid front row. But Nick lacked the aggression he had last year and Craig did well to hook the ball in as many marginal positions as he did.

The second row lacked size and experience. Ian Burnett and 'Reg' Perrins became the established pair and were quite a force later in the season. 'Reg' in fact played some memorable 'touch' games in training and improved his level of play steadily during the season. Earlier on, however, we were weak in this position and so had problems in the tight.

Fast flank forwards are difficult to come by, and although John Warchus and Richard Money-Kyrle did their best, we did lack genuine speed to the ball. John was in fact a prop last year. Nick Rice did in fact play flanker part of the time, as did Jonathan Phillips, Nick was really a No. 8, the position he finished in, and he gave a degree of experience and solidity to the scrum. However, like Nick North he was not the power he had been last year and thus a disappointment. Douglas Allen also played No. 8 and although willing and muscular, he lacked mobility and tackling power.

Overall then, the senior players were less good than they should have been and so the youngsters did not have the lead or protection they required. To finish the season as we did emphasises how we kept grafting away and in the end justified all the effort and hard work of earlier days. But one will always wonder what could have been if this group of talented individuals had moulded as a team and got to grips with things earlier.

D.G.C.
J.R.G.

Those who played:

B. Woolley, A. Stores, S. Rushton, N. Thomas, A. Cullen, J. M. Freeman, A. Hall (Capt.), S. Littlewood, J. Volak, P. Ladmore, N. North, C. Shuttleworth, B. Stanton, K. Girdwood, J. Perrins, I. Burnett, R. Elsey, R. Money-Kyrle, N. Rice, D. Allen, J. Warchus, R. Dalton-Morris, J. Phillips.

RESULTS

Bloxham	Lost 6-12
Pangbourne	Lost 3-22
Berkhamsted	Lost 3-13
Solihull	Won 15-10
Radley	Lost 6-31
Magdalen College School	Won 25-4
Reading	Lost 7-10
Marlborough	Lost 12-23
Newbury	Won 11-10
Old Abingdonians	Won 22-6
Warwick	Lost 16-17
St. Edwards	Won 19-7

2nd XV

This was an enjoyable season which produced an acceptable set of results. The main problem throughout the season was the constant change in personnel. Injury was at first a minor problem, but this was changed when Martin Haywood and Adrian Stores decided to run head first into each other.

Our first match was against Bloxham and it proved to be a disappointing start to the season. The usual 'first match mistakes', such as bad handling, were in evidence, but so too were the fire and determination. The next match against Pangbourne was the confidence booster we needed. For a long period we led by a mere 3 points and then, shortly before the finish, we burst through for a quick succession of tries to win 21-0. It was against Berkhamsted when Haywood and Stores had their little tete-a-tete that we won our next match in appalling conditions. After this there were two very exciting matches against Solihull and Warwick. We were in fact so successful by this time that 7 of our players were promoted to the First XV. The game against Warwick demonstrated that matches are most enjoyed when played hard and fair.

We then had to face the 'big three' of Radley, Marlborough and St. Edwards with a depleted team and predictably ended defeated in each case. Our aggression and fire remained, however, and our last matches of the season, against MCS and Newbury, resulted in our most substantial victories, thus bringing the season to an end on a high note. It would be invidious to single out any individual for praise as every member played with enthusiasm and vigour to make it a memorable season.

The following played for the team:

A. Ferguson (capt.), R. Dalton-Morris, R. Eley, D. Sperry, D. Long, N. Anderson, K. Girdwood, W. Martin, B. Stanton, I. Cockburn, T. Robinson, S. Littlewood, R. Flaxman, S. Tyack, J. Dix, T. Howard, D. Allen, T. Sanders, M. Ingram, J. Phillips, P. Golding, P. Ladmore, P. Fulford, P. Mcleod, R. Money-Kyrle, N. Burgoyne.

Alex Ferguson (IV)

RESULTS

P.11	W.5	L.6	D.0
Bloxham			Won 27-8
Pangbourne			Won 21-0
Berkhamsted			Won 12-0
Solihull			Won 7-6
Radley			Lost 26-3
MCS			Won 18-4
Reading			Lost 11-3
Marlborough			Lost 24-0
Newbury			Won 30-7
Warwick			Lost 27-9
St. Edwards			Lost 32-16

The following were regulars:

F. J. Bailey, N. S. Burgoyne, I. W. Cockburn, S. M. Crutchlow, P. G. Golding, M. T. Haywood, J. M. Herd, M. J. M. Ingram, D. A. P. Lee, A. J. McLellan, P. Macleod, P. W. May, R. F. Money-Kyrle, R. C. Murray, J. J. Richardson (Capt.), M. N. Saunders, T. C. Saunders, D. A. Sperry, N. J. Tomlinson, J. D. S. Volak, R. A. D. Wagon.

RESULTS

P 10	W 5	L 4	D 1
Bloxham			Won 9-0
Pangbourne			Won 16-0
Berkhamsted			Won 4-3
Solihull			Lost 0-4
Radley			Lost 0-20
Reading			Won 16-0
Marlborough			Lost 4-11
Newbury			Won 42-3
Warwick			Lost 0-14
St. Edwards			Drawn 0-0

3rd XV

This has been one of the most enjoyable seasons of rugby for those involved with the 3rd XV. Partly this is due to the successful results achieved and partly because of the excellent team spirit. The fact that thirty-four players represented the team makes the season even more remarkable.

Although we suffered defeats against the major rugby playing schools, they were all close matches in contrast to many previous years. Our morale was boosted by three consecutive victories over Bloxham, Pangbourne and Berkhamsted at the start of the season. We had to wait until Reading for further success, where the backs showed their full potential in setting up both tries for Dave Lee on the wing. After a close defeat by Marlborough, Newbury provided far easier opposition and we scored eight tries in our largest victory. The Warwick match showed us at our worst, but our final match against St Edwards was completely the opposite. Total commitment was shown by everybody, especially when injury reduced us to fourteen men. Eventually a hard fought draw was a fair result, with both sides having had their chances to win.

Finally many thanks to Mr. Bodey and Dr. Wilmore for their patient and enthusiastic coaching which was deeply appreciated by everyone.

Jerry Richardson (VI)

4th XV

A tremendous season and a result basically of all-round commitment on the part of the squad. As usual we took a week or two to sort things out and recover from the pillaging of Game 1! Our first game, away against Bloxham was very scrappy, but we won convincingly 16-6, with Nick Bailey scoring a couple of good tries and the pack, despite little practice, knitting together well. Surprisingly, after such a start, Colin Young and Max Backer decided to seek fortunes elsewhere. This meant that we had lost our second row, but Chris Walker and Tim Brock took over and how well they played. Mark Piper and Julian Owen also deserve credit for their work at prop and David Plumtre as hooker. Solihull came next and despite a tiring coach trip, we took them on and outplayed them. The scoreline Solihull 12 Abingdon 3 reflected more a series of misfortunes from our point of view, that the run of play. Twice we crossed the line and failed to touch down and twice David Newman hit the woodwork with penalty kicks. Against Radley we came up against a side that was at least one level better than ours and it was only a determined effort that kept the score down to 28-0. Tom Saunders at full back rallied the troops and everyone fought for the full 70 minutes.

COLTS XV

It could have been said that any sort of season would have been an improvement on the previous one of only 3 wins due to injuries, but I think everyone concerned with this year's Colts came away with the feeling that far more than this had been achieved. The first match of the season, being traditionally the Bloxham one, proved to be a good confidence-boosting win. The team, not too unlike the previous years, had matured in my opinion, in their attitude and ability, to form quite a promising side. During the match we lost Simon James, who 'acquired' a fractured arm, but still needed the referee to tell him twice before he left the field! This was quite a blow to the selection of second row, which had looked very strong with Simon and Matthew Cox, and in fact these positions were the only ones ever in doubt, and these were soon permanently filled. Training sessions were always tough. I suppose my sadistic attitude towards fitness was not liked by everyone, but looking back on the season, fitness played a major part in the teams success. The Pangbourne game was next and really this was the start of bigger things. Nick Silk must definitely take the credit for the marked improvement in tackling in the side as a whole, as he showed everyone how to reach, and totally flatten your opponent wherever he may be on the field, and do it consistently. Perhaps it was during this game that I realised what an impact Simon Walker, the captain, had on the team.

He has the ability to get that little extra out of players, and in the Marlborough match in particular, the game was won during the warm-up period prior to the match. Off the field I was very conscious of his concern about improving a skill in the next practice session or his reading of the previous game. Simon knew how to win matches as he proved on so many occasions, but the mark of a true captain is how well a team recovers after a defeat. The Warwick game was obviously a great morale killer, but the team came back to beat a strong St. Edward's side. The captain played the vital part in this recovery.

In the Berkhamsted match a fixed team was to be permanently established, with two novice second row players, James Brown and Stuart Sutcliffe, taking their places in the team. Although controversial at first, this proved to be the right selection. The win against the previously unbeaten Berkhamsted side reinforced this for they were comprehensively beaten up front.

Radley College, always formidable opponents, was even more of a challenge. In this game two more players emerged who were to have an influence on the side's fortunes. In the first case Andrew McGhie who showed total commitment throughout the season. He was definitely the power in the loose, and only a mad opponent tried to uphold him. The Vice-captain; Jonathan Ralfe was the other. His kicking, which was often the envy of other sides, proved to be a life saver in the Radley game, and his ability to work the now extremely smooth and prowling backs was quite obvious.

The Magdalen College and Reading matches, both gave the side extra confidence, although in different ways. In the first the backs as a unit, ran rings around their opposite numbers, many of the movements coming from the centres, Mark Boobbyer, who in every match showed his natural flair and individuality, and Tim Luteijn, a worker and often hidden key to many of the moves. In the Reading game (the captain's match) it was the ability to hold on, and score when the opportunity arose, that appeared. Marlborough is always a formidable place to take a team, particularly after past defeats. In this match everybody sparkled. Ian Andrews who had been one of the few big players, jumped superbly winning the lines out, and battled like a true backrow player. Other battlers were also there as usual, Kevin Higgs and Ben Wagon often at the front of the loose play as well as at the scrum, which had now developed an unstoppable drive.

On the high created by the Marlborough game, we visited Newbury, where the wingers particularly, added further to their try total. Andrew Fisher and John May were both determined runners of the ball, and both proved a necessity with their tackling in defence. One obviously couldn't have a good team without a good linkman, and Alex Hunt showed he was exactly that, out-thinking and manoeuvring his opposition, supplying the backs well.

The losing to Warwick was disappointing to all concerned, but the team was glad to be able to look back on other matches as they were about to face St. Edward's and a touring Millfield side. Congratulations should go to Marcus Blake in the pressured position of full back in which he excelled in attack as well as in defence. One doesn't like to single out any particular player in what proved to be a team effort, but there is no doubt in my mind that Marcus emerged as the most improved player in the side.

The Millfield game was a very good one and both sides showed a lot of stylish rugby, with Millfield admitting that we'd been one of their strongest opponents. It was a good conclusion therefore that the whole team were presented with Colts Colours to mark, what can only be described as a very enjoyable season.

Riddled with injury problems, the B XV didn't really have a dramatic season, but improved their skill with a particularly good result against Bloxham. I would like to thank the Rev. Butcher for generally helping, and blessing those who got irate at training sessions and the parents, especially Mr. Walker, Mr. Ralfe and Mr. Hunt, for without their continual support our success wouldn't have lasted.

The following played for the team:

M. Blake, J. May, M. Boobbyer, T. Luteijn, A. Fisher, A. Hunt, J. Ralfe (v. capt.), A. McGhie, K. Higgs, B. Wagon, J. Brown, S. Sutcliffe, N. Silk, I. Andrews, S. Walker (capt.).

Also played:

R. Perrins, S. James, M. Cox.

J.D.E. D-H

RESULTS

P 12 W 9 L 2 D 1

Pts+ 173 Pts- 50

Bloxham	Won 6-4
Pangbourne	Won 17-0
Berkhamsted	Won 9-0
Radley	Drawn 6-6
Magdalen	Won 28-0
Reading	Won 9-3
Marlborough	Won 9-6
Newbury	Won 49-0
Cokethorpe	Won 16-0
Warwick	Lost 12-13
St. Edwards	Won 6-3
Millfield	Lost 6-15

Regular team players were:

C. Day, J. Silk, N. Aldridge, M. Winsley, J. McCracken, J. Kowszun, J. Knibbs, R. Cheek, D. Turner, N. Griffin, N. Hewlett, J. Cracknell, J. Allison, B. Blackman, R. Porter.

Also played:

T. Sutton, R. Butterworth, S. Lawrence, M. Lodge, G. Potter, R. Platts, D. Pratt, G. Peach, N. Suckling, A. Thomas was touch judge.

RESULTS

Bloxham	(H)	Lost 0-14
Pangbourne	(A)	Lost 4-15
Berkhamsted	(A)	Lost 6-30
Solihull	(H)	Lost 3-22
Radley	(H)	Lost 0-26
Magdalen College School	(A)	Won 7-0
Reading	(H)	Lost 0-40
Marlborough	(H)	Lost 0-58
Newbury	(A)	Lost 6-10
St. Edwards	(A)	Lost 0-40

JUNIOR COLTS XV

Not a good season in terms of results but energetic, intriguing and a success in other ways. The main deficiencies which we had to try to remedy were lack of skill and experience in the front row and lack of size and skill in the three-quarters.

Griffin came on well, from being a complete newcomer to the game, as loose-head prop and Peach should persevere as hooker. Tight head prop remains unsolved. The engine room of Hewlett and Cracknell was fit and dedicated and their success on the river should energise even further for next season. The backrow became quite lively and skilled. Cheek turned out to be chunky enough for scrum-half in the second half of the season. Knibbs handles and kicks well. Sutton and Lodge improved markedly late in the season. Silk is an attacking player and Aldridge came on so well that he took over captaincy late on, leaving Allison to concentrate on encouraging the scrum. It was a shame that Aldridge was ill and so unable to help keep the score down in the matches against Marlborough and St. Edwards. McCracken is a talented player and could have the size and strength to succeed in the centre next season.

The best side was undoubtedly Reading, they were fortunate in having no signs of weakness at any position. Particularly if the tight-head prop position can be well filled, it should be at least possible to emerge with a fifty-fifty record at the end of next season.

Many thanks to our Dr. P. J. H. from the soccer world for his enthusiasm and devotion to fitness.
R.C.B.C.

JUNIORS XV

Early September saw 35 or more enthusiastic young men ready to train hard and looking forward to the new season. This attitude remained throughout the term and was one of the reasons why this was a successful and rewarding group of players.

The nucleus of the squad had been successful as a Minors team and there were also some very useful newcomers in the 3rd form. They often won games because they took the field expecting to win.

The first three games were all won, although with diminishing margins each time. The team was playing quite good rugby at this stage although two of the games were in wet conditions which did not suit our style of play. Nevertheless the pack scrummaged well, won some reasonable loose ball and the backs showed that they could score tries.

The next game took us to Solihull. We played badly and were soundly beaten by an accomplished side. Not dispirited, hard preparation went on for the following Saturday's game against Radley. Although this resulted in a defeat by 4 points the performance of the side was excellent. Our pack was simply outgunned physically. However, the defence was excellent — a general feature of the side — and full use was made of the few scraps of possession received.

Two convincing wins followed against Magdalen and Reading, with the team playing some fluent, attacking rugby. Reading themselves had been having a good season but were well outplayed by us on the day.

The first half of the game away at Marlborough saw the most miserable performance of the season. Most players seemed half asleep and the game was effectively lost by half-time. Things picked up in the second half and Abingdon then looked distinctly the better side although some careless mistakes were still made. This was a match that was thrown away.

Two more wins followed, one in fine style and one a dour struggle but reflecting the side's fighting spirit.

The Warwick match was cancelled and the season finished against St. Edward's. By this time Reayer, the captain, was unavailable, which caused a decided weakening of the side. It was a close match and we went down by 3 points.

There were many good players in this side but perhaps the most influential were Reayer, the captain, who was always in the action and was rewarded by scoring 7 tries in 9 games, and the two new members of the back row, Green and Owen, who always looked as good as, or more usually better than, their opposite numbers.

The B side had an enjoyable season, winning 4 and losing 4 matches. They provided both spirited opposition in practices and also very useful replacements for the A side.

My thanks must also go to Mr. Gasson for his invaluable help in coaching and refereeing.

All in all, this was a most enjoyable season. This team should continue to be successful.

R.S.P.

Regular team members:

Scott, Sutcliffe, Wintle, Reayer, Tapper, Walker, D. Smith, Mitchell, Walsingham, Heard, Corbett, T. Butcher, Owen, Green.

Also played:

Wormell, Ingram, Blackman, Marnane, Schofield, P. Williams, Newsome, Snow, Ransome, J. Butcher.

RESULTS

Bloxham	(A)	Won 18-0
Pangbourne	(A)	Won 10-0
Berkhamsted	(H)	Won 7-6
Solihull	(A)	Lost 0-28
Radley	(A)	Lost 6-10
M.C.S.	(H)	Won 22-6
Reading	(H)	Won 28-0
Marlborough	(A)	Lost 6-24
St. Bart's	(H)	Won 24-4
Cokethorpe	(H)	Won 6-0
Warwick	(H)	C
St. Edward's	(A)	Lost 11-14

MINORS

The foundation of a surprisingly successful season was the scrum, which was our best for some time. The forwards combined strength and speed to an unusual extent (for Abingdon at any rate!), and won a lot of ball by their commitment and technique; even the loss of the best forward, Alisdair Simpson with Schlatter's Disease, in December did not prove the handicap I feared. Martin Drewe's tackling was outstanding, and others to earn their colours for all-round play included J. P. Roberts, Patrick Roberts, Daniel Spring, Duncan Buck and Richard Winsley.

The Backs lacked penetration, and failed to make good use of the ball the forwards won; this was especially clear at the Oratory Preparatory School, whose remarkably quick back row made all our possession an embarrassment. Fortunately, two first-year players were discovered to fill the gap in the Centres; their pace and flair should be of great benefit next year. Among the Backs two deserve mention by name: Tim Greenland proved a dedicated and resilient Captain and scrum-half, and Simon Goldsworthy's size, pace and enthusiasm on the wing earned him his colours.

After a disastrous first half against Solihull, the team was only out-played by the Oratory (a team of total dedication), and had some fine wins against strong opposition. Perhaps the best match was that against Reading, who had beaten this side comfortably the year before, but were very lucky to hold on for a draw this time.

As usual, there was a number of 'A' XV fixtures against the weaker local teams, and these were usually, and frustratingly, lost, although they did give match experience to another 20 boys, and prepared the ground for the later 2nd XV matches, in which some excellent Rugby was played. There was not much enthusiasm for Rugby in the rest of the second year, and so it was fortunate that a fair number of the new boys showed talent for the game and was able to fill the gaps in the Under-13 teams. In the light of their success, it was a major disappointment that the Under-12s played so poorly as a team in their own matches in March; lack of team-practice was the main factor here, and I am still hopeful that a good team should emerge next season, although there is a lack of forwards with the qualities that this year's Under-13s showed.

M.W.

Teams:**1st XV:**

J. F. M. Heenan, L. C. W. Dore or C. C. Parker, M. J. Henderson, A. J. Wintle, S. J. Goldsworthy, R. J. Tilley, T. S. Greenland (capt.), T. J. W. Taylor, C. P. J. Roberts, J. P. Roberts, D. W. Spring, P. Monaghan, A. W. F. Simpson, R. J. Winsley, M. R. Drewe, D. J. Buck.

2nd XV:

J. P. Hodges, J. A. H. Harrison, A. J. P. Trump, J. Eccles, T. D. Wedgwood; J. A. Crawford, P. J. Mansfield (capt.), J. Hall, M. W. J. Burgass, J. S. Crick, G. J. W. H. Blake, J. T. Patterson, J. A. Osborne, J. C. Crosskey, R. N. J. Jameson.

RESULTS**1st XV**

Solihull School	(H)	Lost 8-22
Millbrook House School	(H)	Won 18-0
Pinewood School	(H)	Won 12-4
Dragon School 2nd XV	(H)	Won 14-8
Magdalen College School	(H)	Won 8-0
Oratory Preparatory School	(A)	Lost 0-46
Larkmead School	(A)	Won 45-0
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(H)	Won 14-0
Reading School	(H)	Drew 4-4

'A' XV:

Oratory School	(A)	Lost 3-18
St. Hugh's School	(A)	Lost 0-22
Prior's Court School	(A)	Won 6-4
Christchurch Cathedral School	(A)	Lost 6-8
Oratory School	(H)	Lost 8-16
Prior's Court School	(H)	Drew 4-4

2nd XV:

Dragon School 4th XV	(H)	Won 16-8
Oratory Preparatory School	(A)	Lost 0-20
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(H)	Won 36-0
Reading School	(H)	Won 18-4

Other 'B' Matches:

Magdalen College School 2nd XV	(H)	Lost 0-16
Pinewood School 2nd XV	(A)	Lost 0-3

Under-12 XV:

Summerfields School	(H)	Won 34-0
Larkmead School	(H)	Won 24-0
Prior Park School	(H)	Lost 6-12
Summerfields School	(A)	Lost 0-4
Reading School	(A)	Lost 4-6



The eagle eye of Mr. Randolph keeps things running smoothly.

HOCKEY

This is my fifth year with the first XI and I don't think that I have seen better hockey played than during this season. That the results do not reflect this can really be attributed to one thing; our failure to score goals.

We began with a scrappy game against Newbury and they were understandably disappointed to lost 2-0. Alex Fergusson's opening goal was a fluke and neither side put more than a couple of passes together. The main difference, I felt, was that we looked to have the potential to improve. My feelings were borne out when we easily disposed of Leighton Park and then took on St. Edwards. An excellent opening saw us take a 1-0 lead and all spectators thought that an emphatic Abingdon victory was on the cards. It was not to be. St. Edwards rallied, while we began to make mistakes. We were trailing 2-1 when the game swung yet again and a late surge saw us through to a 2-2 draw. A splendid result, but what might have been! Two days later we took on Radley and a potentially excellent game was rather spoiled by some strange umpiring. I hasten to add that the officials were neutral and that the result did reflect the play, Radley winning 1-0.

It was at this point that things started to go wrong. We outplayed Magdalen but lost 3-1 and our failure to convert chances was never more evident. MCS must have gone away very surprised and relieved. A period of inclement weather followed and we lost the fixture with Pangbourne. When hockey resumed we lost three games in succession (see results list) and really only one of these reflected the actual play. That was against a strong Hockey Association side, which as usual played some lovely hockey. Peter Badger gave a demonstration of stopping and passing and we were a little lucky that Peter Baker was not on form.

The season seemed to be slipping away from us, but a determined performance saw us through to a 1-0 victory over Reading and we followed it up by hammering Shiplake 6-1. This scoreline was pleasing mainly because of the style of the victory.

Our most skillful opponents of the season came next, a touring side from Hamburg, which contained three schoolboy internationals. We lost 5-3, but this was no disgrace and some very good individual performances were rewarded with colours. The weather spoiled the Bloxham game, which was reduced to 30 mins each way and ended 1-1. Both sides did remarkably well considering the quagmire conditions.

The O.A.s. side, this year, was a strong one, with Gareth Harper and Charles Prest dominating the mid-field early in the game. As usual though, the superior fitness of the school side eventually exposed the weak links of the O.A. side and we won a splendid game 3-1.

The public schools hockey festival, provided us with an opportunity to end the season on a high note, but it was an opportunity missed. We played badly losing two matches and drawing three.

The Players:

Martin Haywood (Centre Half): An excellent captain, who led by example. Played centre half, although full back is his best position. Strikes the ball very well. Needs to add the weighted pass to his repertoire. Awarded full colours after the Radley match.

Alex Fergusson (Left Back): Struggled to find form as an inside forward, but later in the season moved to full back and blossomed. Tackles and uses the ball very well from the back. Awarded full colours after the Hamburg match.

Martin Ingram (Right Back): Surprised himself initially, but soon settled into the side and played an important role. Always a steady influence at full back. Was awarded half colours after the Radley match.

Simon Rushton (Right Half): A busy player, always difficult to beat, because he is very quick to renew a challenge. Found some aspects of half back play difficult, tending to use the long pass too much. Very reliable. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

Brian Woolley (Left Half): A very skillful half back. On occasions needed to get closer to his opponent, but responsible for much of our better use of the ball. Awarded half colours after the Hamburg match.

Ian Cockburn (Goalkeeper): Was thrown in at the deep end when Thomas absconded and had to adjust to the speed of the game. Struggled at first, but got better and better with experience. He should develop into a very good keeper.

David Lee (Right Wing): Came into the side after showing promise in practise and the 2nd XI. Developed into a very good winger, with speed and the ability to cross the ball well. Not as positionably aware as he should be, needing to get into squarer and wider positions. Scored some very good goals. Awarded half colours after the Hamburg match.

Tim Robinson (Inside Right): A busy forward, who suffered from not really being fit enough. Made good use of the ball once established. Came into the side fairly late in the season.

Robin Suggate (Centre Forward): Has very good close control, using a simple, rather than complicated, method to beat defenders. A potential match winner, he will have been disappointed with his goal tally. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

Mark Durand (Inside Left): Was switched from full back to the forward line. Puts in a great deal of effort, but tends to run himself out of position. Very forceful on the ball. He needs to improve his striking of the ball.

Sean Crutchlow (Left Wing): A skillful player, with a 'clever head on his shoulders'. Never really got himself fully fit and came into the side late on as a result. Proved a thorn in the side for a number of opponents.

Anthony Haywood (Left Wing): Not his best position, but nevertheless he stuck at it and always gave the side 100% effort. His confidence was affected somewhat, but he played well at full back against Bloxham and will make a good midfield player.

Others who played:

Nicholas Thomas (Goalkeeper): A natural talent, but his lack of school spirit meant that the cry of Cardiff Arms park won him over. He could have attended schoolboy trials for Wales, but hockey is low on his 'love list'.

Simon Littlewood (Centre Forward): A very fast forward, with the potential to carve up defences. Needs to improve and develop his close control and shooting, but could prove to be a most effective forward.

Robert Dalton-Morris (Inside Forward): A hard working player, who served the 2nd XI well. Always on the fringe of 1st XI selection.

Mark Ody (Inside Forward): A skillful player, very good on an indoor surface, but lacked the fitness and speed to maintain his position in the side. Tended to fade and disappear for spells. Lots of potential.

RESULTS

Newbury (a) won 2-0. Fergusson, Littlewood.
 Leighton Pk (h) won 3-0. Suggate, Rushton, Haywood, M.
 St. Edwards (a) drew 2-2. Haywood, A., Littlewood.
 Radley (a) lost 0-1.
 M.C.S. (h) lost 1-3. Haywood, A.
 Bradfield (h) lost 1-2. Dalton-Morris.
 R.G.S. High Wycombe (h) lost 2-3. Ody, Suggate.
 H.A. (h) lost 2-5. Ody, Haywood, M.
 Reading (h) won 1-0. Haywood, M.
 Shiplake (a) won 6-1. Haywood, M. (2), Lee (2), Suggate (2).
 St. Johanneum (h) lost 3-5. Durand, Lee, Suggate.
 Bloxham (a) drew 1-1. Crutchlow.
 O.A.s. (h) won 3-1. Haywood, M., Suggate, Lee.

Public Schools Hockey Festival

P.5 D.3 L.2

P.J.W.

2nd XI

For the second year running the 2nd XI produced high quality and determined hockey in a successful season. The early season commitment and enthusiasm produced wins against St. Edwards and Newbury and an excellent draw against Radley. However, the defeat at the hands of Southampton in very poor conditions demoralised the team's spirit. Although the enthusiasm continued at this stage, it was misdirected. This was reflected in the Reading game, when three players were requested to take early baths. The skill and determination soon returned and against Bloxham we produced our best hockey of the season. In goal Ian Cockburn and Nick Thomas played particularly solidly, Thomas often showing his nomadic tendencies during the course of games! The full-backs, Newman and Phillips were an inspiration, through their highly innovative style of play. The half-backs, Parry-Jones, Dalton-Morris and Allen, played with flair and determination. Meanwhile the front five produced particularly attractive hockey, despite the regular changes. The most regular forwards were Martin, Burgoyne, Robinson, Littlewood, Ody and Crutchlow. One final mention must be made of the Bradfield match, when Adrian Stores, in his debut, scored in the first minute. The rest of the side in effervescent mood continued the match in the

unique brand of hockey the 2nd XI have brought to the school.

Douglas Allen

Team from:

N. Thomas, I. Cockburn, D. Allen, R. Dalton-Morris, S. Littlewood, S. Crutchlow, N. Burgoyne, A. Stores, M. Ody, D. Newman, J. Phillips & D. Parry-Jones (otherwise known as M. & A. Poskovich).

RESULTS

v Bloxham	2 - 0
v Radley	2 - 2
v St. Edwards	3 - 1
v Newbury	3 - 1
v Reading	2 - 1
v Southampton	1 - 4
v Bradfield	2 - 1
v High Wycombe	2 - 3
v Shiplake	8 - 1

P9 W6 D1 L2

COLTS

It was in some ways unfortunate that what were likely to be three of the four 'best' fixtures came early in the season, all within the space of a week. After an early opening victory at Newbury, failure to convert plenty of scoring opportunities resulted in a frustrating defeat by the odd goal at St. Edwards, against the run of play, and by Radley, a margin which could well have been wider, and in a 1-1 draw in an even contest at M.C.S.

At this stage of the season, the Colts, although possessing an admirably competitive edge, were still seeking a pattern of play, and were too reliant on individual rather than team flair. The ball was being given away too easily; the link between defence and attack, the use of the square pass, the maintaining of possession, the intelligent use of free hits, the hard centres from the wings — these were some of the areas of the game which were to improve in the highly successful second half of the season. 26 goals against 4 were scored in the last 5 consecutive victories, and some of the hockey played in this spell was splendid. By now Mark Boobbyer (who averaged 2 goals a game) had found his goal scoring touch, and the forward line was looking lively and dangerous. Mark's ability to control the ball at close quarters enabled him to get into plenty of goal scoring positions. By now, too, Marcus Blake was finding his feet in the demanding position of inside left, while the lively Andrew Fisher, first as a reserve and then on merit, ably filled Marcus' old position at left-half. The quality of play improved significantly in midfield with constructive contributions from Tim Luteijn, a positive captain who ably controlled the centre of the field, and from David Gow, an excellent right-half. Alex Hunt (who scored 9 goals) and Ewan Hirst, on the right, and Marcus Blake and Nicholas Silk, on the left, combined increasingly effectively up front, Hirst in particular sending over some telling centres in the last games.

To begin with we were sometimes slow to clear our lines at the back, but Malcolm Edmonds, Tim Bennett, David Lowe and, in reserve, Ben Burman

played well in their contrasting styles, David's covering speed often taking the eye. Behind them was the most consistent player in the side, goalie John May. John was quite outstanding; he let in no 'soft' goals I can remember, and saved brilliantly when called upon. In the end, a successful season, but one would like to have been able to replay those early matches in March! Only Bloxham, in a sadly rain-spoilt match ending in almost farcical conditions, really tested us — and nearly found us wanting. . .

The following played regularly:

J. B. May, T. J. H. Bennett, M. F. Edmonds, D. R. Lowe, D. J. H. Gow, T. J. A. Luteijn (capt.), A. D. Fisher, E. G. Hirst, A. L. Hunt, M. T. Boobbyer, M. D. Blake, N. J. Silk. B. S. J. Burman played on occasions.

RESULTS

v. Newbury (a)	Won 5-0
v. St. Edwards (a)	Lost 1-2
v. Radley (a)	Lost 0-1
v. M.C.S. (a)	Drawn 1-1
v. Bradfield (a)	Won 4-2
v. R.G.S. High Wycombe (a)	Won 5-0
v. Reading (h)	Won 8-1
v. Shiplake (a)	Won 7-0
v. Bloxham (a)	Won 2-1

N.H.P.

JUNIOR COLTS XI

This was another interesting and quite successful season. Matches were played at the start and end of the season: rain took care of the matches for a full four weeks after Southampton and several Saturday afternoons were spent on the hard surface. Newbury was too easy to be useful. Leighton Park seemed to be the best of their U14 to U16 group; reasonable enough but unsettling unless warned! Gratifying progress was made in the next three matches and the scores were an appreciable improvement against St. Edward's, Radley and M.C.S. as compared with this team at U14. Team rearrangements and grinding practice for the pairs of wings and inside forwards reaped much reward in those last two matches of term. Bloxham, who were not at all a bad side, were really caught on the hop, cold from the coach so to speak, as they were at least three down after ten minutes.

Positions inherited from last year included a very pleasant but cumbersome full-back and a remarkably slow centre-forward. A training session at the start of the season with the middle three forwards will not be forgotten: the centre one was left badly trailing. By the end of the season that centre-forward was playing well at full-back and Suckling had progressed markedly as a strong, wide-ranging inside. The diminutive Dark played an intelligent game as a defensive left inside and his Wycombe goal captured the team's imagination. The others played increasingly well as a team and improved steadily through the season. They may, if they discipline themselves, do well later on.

R.C.B.C.

Regular members of the team were:

G. Nicholson, K. Bond, G. Potter, J. Kain, J. Knibbs, J. Allison, H. Hay, N. Suckling, J. Newsome, J. Dark, J. Silk.

Also played:

E. O'Brien, R. Casale, I. Elms, J. Rae.

RESULTS

Newbury	(H)	Won 8-0
Leighton Park	(H)	Lost 1-3
St. Edward's	(H)	Lost 0-1
Radley	(H)	Lost 0-1
Magdalen College School	(H)	Won 2-1
King Edward VI, Southampton	(A)	Lost 1-4
Reading	(A)	Lost 0-1
Bloxham	(H)	Won 4-0
RGS High Wycombe	(H)	Won 6-0

JUNIORS XI

This season has been particularly frustrating for Junior Hockey because the weather has had such a disrupting influence. Three matches in a week at the beginning of the term were followed by a gap of three weeks before it was possible to get back on the grass. Just as the team was beginning to look like a unit, matches and practices had to be cancelled, and it was rather like starting the season all over again after the half-term break. During the opening match against St. Edwards I was confident we had the making of a very good side. David Ingram, at centre half, looked very solid indeed, and throughout the season he has been the dominant player in the side. At first I thought he would lack the pace to play in this position, but as the season progressed I soon changed my mind. He was mainly responsible in breaking down the attack through his excellent positional play and initiating attacks with his well-timed passing. Alongside David, Ashley Tapper and Graham Persson were the first choice half backs at the beginning of the season. Ashley was the worker, always keen to get amongst things, and Graham was at his best feeding balls to the forwards and wingers. The Radley game followed soon after St. Edwards and proved to be formidable opposition. The first half belonged to Radley, but the Abingdon defence, thanks to the determination of David Stickland and Paul Mitchell, tightened up in 2nd half. Both players hit the ball hard, and although David lacked confidence in the D., their covering was very good indeed. At this stage Matthew Elliott was the first choice goal-keeper. He was always rather hesitant when clearing his line, but quite fearless when stopping goals. As he gains experience, I feel he will develop into a very safe keeper.

Magdalen College School caught the team out on their all-weather surface. This is so different to playing on grass and it took the first half when the damage was done, for the Abingdon team to adapt to the fast conditions. During this game Andrew Ransome and Daniel Blackman were able to show their skills on the wing. Daniel, when he wasn't off-side, proved to be one of the team's main attacking weapons either with his accurate crosses to the forwards, or in scoring goals.



The calm before the storm.



In consultation



Making the plan work.

After half term the team began to work as a unit and the confidence, skill and positional play developed. They had a field day against Reading school with Simon Wintle and Geoffrey Smith, the captain, scoring four goals each. Simon and Geoffrey, both utility players, are good strikers of the ball and always willing to cover back in mid-field when needed. Both have good ball control, are unselfish, and always hungry for goals. It was also in this match that Stephen Green made his debut at centre forward. His hard hitting proved an asset to the team, and in the latter stage of the season, this proved invaluable at left back.

By now, Damian Sutcliffe's skill had improved so much that he became the first choice goal-keeper. It was always a very difficult decision to change goal-keepers especially as Matthew was playing so well. It was against Shiplake and Bloxham where Damian denied the opposition so many scoring opportunities. His positional play improved in every game and the clearing of his line was always decisive. Martyn Stringer, playing in the forward line, had a longer lay-off than most due to his French exchange. By the Shiplake game, he was back to full fitness trying to take on, and beat opponents. His close-quarter skill is very promising, and once he learns when to time his passes, he will be a formidable force up front. Peter Harris was the final recruit into the XI. Playing in the B XI he almost went unnoticed, but having been given his chance, he certainly proved himself. Like David Ingram, he is a real worker who never gives up, and his covering back in defence proved invaluable.

All in all then, I think the Juniors Hockey squad can look back to an enjoyable season. As it turned out, it was far too short, but given the level of improvement in individual and team skill, I feel they will be able to look forward to successful seasons in the future.

My thanks to Geoffrey Smith, and to Simon Wintle and David Ingram his advisers, for all they did to make the season so productive. Practices were keen and purposeful, and the games were always played in the best spirit.

A special thank you too to the Rev. Butcher and his B XI. Competition was always fierce for A team places, and the depth in talent ensured that everyone gave their best throughout the season.

J.D.E.D-H

The following played for the team:-

M. Elliott, D. Sutcliffe, D. Stickland, P. Mitchell, S. Green, G. Persson, D. Ingram, P. Harris, A. Ransome, A. Tapper, S. Wintle, G. Smith (capt.), M. Stringer, D. Blackman.

RESULTS

P.7	W.4	D.1	L.2
Goals + 18			Goals - 6
St. Edwards			Drawn 0-0
Radley			Lost 0-3
Magdalen College School			Lost 0-2
Reading			Won 9-0
Shiplake			Won 3-1
Bloxham			Won 1-0
High Wycombe			Won 5-0

STAFF XI v MCS STAFF

On a cold and windy 'spring' evening we took the field with the honour of Common Room at stake. Well field is a misnomer because we played on an all-weather pitch at Rose Hill. Winning the toss P.J.W. took the advice of his teammates and elected to face the gale in the first half. M.C.S. immediately broke down the right, but with nonchalant ease our fullbacks Crawford and Drummond-Hay covered the situation. All seemed to be going well for ten or fifteen minutes. Payne at left half was showing all the old touches. Gasson was keeping their left wing pinned down and Butcher in goal, was getting cold. Then the picture changed completely and for the next fifteen minutes we faced a barrage of attacks, skillfully put together by the opposition. A hero emerged in the form of the well padded (equipment wise) Butcher, whose motto 'they shall no pass' was severely tested.

The game then suddenly took a complete turnaround. A break from defence and a throughball down the middle saw J.R.G. speeding away from the M.C.S. defence. The goalkeeper advanced, but was astounded to see our 'striker' cut past his right side and plant a superb reverse stick!!! shot, into the goal. The cries of surprise from the other members of the Abingdon XI must have been heard in the town centre.

So we turned round battered, but winning and from then on had almost complete control. Some very good defensive play kept us at bay and P.J.W. squandered a number of short corners. A sustained period of pressure saw the 'not so speedy' Hunter getting away from his marker and putting over some splendid crosses. N.J.B. and R.C.B.C. were combining well on the left and the 'new boy' Rick Finch was busy in midfield. Just when the game seemed all over, with umpires checking watches, Magdalen broke away. Our defence seemed to crumble, but just as a shot was about to fly goalwards, our reliable 'hatchet man' Drummond-Hay once more proved that he's not just a star of stage productions, flattening the attacker. We have to admit that the short corner awarded was most lenient, but overall justice was seen to be done, when the final whistle was heard a minute later.

P.J.W.

School salutes the Paras



Courtesy of the Oxford Mail.

It wasn't just admiration for the famous Red Berets' recent action in the Falklands which made Abingdon School prefects determined to raise cash for the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment.

For the sixth formers recently discovered how hard the men train when 18 of them went round the paras' assault course at Aldershot — and that

was without full pack and weapons.

The day's arduous slog, sponsored by fellow pupils, raised £600 which the prefects decided to share between the battalion, which came home yesterday, and the South Atlantic Fund.

Major Jim Evans is pictured receiving the cheque from the school's Martin Haywood on behalf of the combat troops.

MRS. REENAN

May, 1982, saw the retirement as School Secretary of Mrs. Reenan. When she was appointed secretary to Bursar Hoyle in 1962, Headmaster, Bursar and three secretaries dealt with all administration in what are now the Glyn and Reeves Rooms. Until Bursar Harrison introduced the computer, Mrs. Reenan was responsible for making out the school bills by hand: despite the labour, she preferred this more personal method. Responsible for reception during most of her twenty years, she knew nearly all boys, she was increasingly consulted about the addresses and occupations of O.As, and it is on people that her memories of the School centre. Nothing was too much trouble for her, even if it caused chaos in her office, and most who read this will remember occasions when she came to the rescue either with typewriter, elastoplast or a loan. She continues to live in Park Road and to take a keen interest in the School. We wish Mr. Reenan and her a long and happy retirement.

R.N.L.I. SPONSORED SWIM

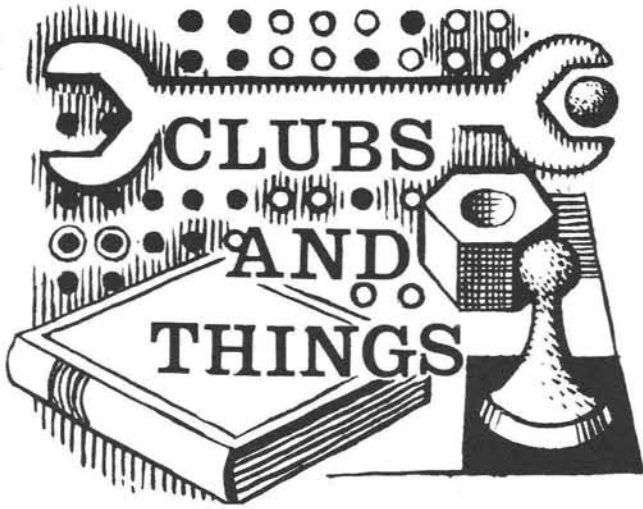
On Friday March 4 at the Old Gaol 185 boys, mainly from the lower and middle school, took part in a sponsored swim organised by the R.N.L.I. David Wilkie, the world record holder and Olympic Gold medallist was the star attraction. Those taking part in the swim received a colour photo of themselves with David Wilkie mounted on a scroll certificate and swam up to 20 mins.



The event was a great success and raised £1670.03p. The R.N.L.I. is indeed grateful for all the efforts of those taking part, and the members of the lower 6th who helped with the organisation of the event.

Highest form £237,17 1D
Highest individual £54.50 1B (A. Bass)

J.D-HAY



Pseud-Food Society

As a new era of the Pseud Food Society came into being under the jovial leadership of Douglas Allen, theoretically if not practically seconded by Alex Fergusson and Jeremy Lovering, we knew that the promise of gastronomic delight, intrigue and interest would be in line with the faithful adherence to the ideals of previous meetings.

The closing of one series of meetings was an elaborate nine course classical french meal coherently presented by Ben Macintyre with a wide assortment of truly excellent wines. The opening of the new society was no less extravagant, with a visit to the intimate and exclusive restaurant, "Wren's" in Oxford, (heartily accompanied by Mr. Gabitan, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Macdonald and the newly welcomed Mr. Mearns, greeted with opened arms and popping corks) where the variety of sea food and cheese was of particular notability.

Just as remarkable was the next meeting where Mr. Macdonald industriously presented us with a vast selection of Medieval food; the tasting of which, whilst certainly broadening our knowledge, also convinced us that we must narrow our quest for palatable food to the present and future, and not to the dark and dingy past. The fish in aspic jelly was of special notoriety — only the more adventurous daring to taste it whilst only the more sturdy keeping it in place.

Mr. Pengelly's presentation in the summer showed us that "Country Life" is not just a magazine in Dentist's waiting rooms, but is alive in the art of shooting, cooking and eating a sumptuous and rich array of game.

So, after their surfeit of eating, drinking and abdominal expansion, Douglas, Alex and Jeremy are more than ready to hand over the control of the gut of the school to the ever capable hands and stomach of Philip Ladmore. All credit must be given to the masters involved and the kitchen staff, and so as another term finishes and as the distinctly rugged tones of "let's get the beers in boys" one transcended by the more erudite tone of "Pass the port please Adrian", we know that once again it has been established that the Englishman's stomach is not only the path to his heart, but is also the true seat of learning.

J. Lovering (VI)

The Bridge Club has a hard core of 'regulars', although disappointingly, few people outside the upper-sixth form seem interested. At Easter 1982 Andrew and James Robson, and Nial Mardon and Rupert Robson came 6th and 17th in the final of the Guardian Schools Pairs Championship, and this year James Robson and Nial Mardon played in it again, finishing second out of 20 pairs.

The 1st IV (James Robson, Nial Mardon, Robert Pasley and Tim Bugg) is as yet undefeated, having beaten Radley, Wellington and Warwick, and has played in the final of the Daily Mail Teams competition (the result is also unknown). The depth of interest in the VIth form was demonstrated by the impressive turnout of 5 pairs for the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire pairs championship (they came 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 16th and 17th out of 36), and as a result of this the 1st IV played against and narrowly defeated the county. I hope there will be an increase in interest throughout the school to allow the revival of Bridge to continue.

James Robson (VI)

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE

Because of a shortage of time at the beginning of the Lent term, the usual selection procedures were cut short, and the team was based on last year's, with battle-scarred veterans Andrew Fisher, (captain), Roger Smith and Daniel Oppenheimer joined by Clive Williams, whose speed and wide-ranging knowledge quickly made a great impression.

Our first round tie against St. Mary's, Wantage was cancelled when they withdrew, so our first match was in the second round against Bloxham. After driving through a snowstorm to get there and performing instant repairs to our buzzer system on arrival, we beat them convincingly by 750-320.

We went on to Radley in March, where the Oxford regional semi-finals and finals were played on the same day. In our semi-final, Henry Box School, Witney gave us a good fight, but we eventually emerged victors, 500-330; we then sat back and watched while Wallingford School, (who had earlier put out St. Edward's), narrowly defeated Radley. The regional final was a rather one-sided affair; we beat Wallingford, 720-150.

So, as regional champions again, we went forward to the national stages of the competition, to play Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. After a tense match in front of our home crowd, with the result in doubt up to the last second, we just won 610-550, and so go on to the national quarter-finals.

Many thanks, as always, go to the inimitable Dr. Zawadzki, coach, mentor and chauffeur, and also to Mr. Pritchard and 'first reserve' Mark Weatherall for their support.

Andrew Fisher (VI)

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

This year's programme has been a varied and successful one, beginning with a social evening at St. Helen's in September, at which Ken Welby chaired a **Juste Une Minute** competition. There have been talks from Dr. Rolfe on **Words Borrowed and Stolen**, from Mr. Willerton on **Existentialism** and from Mr. Willatt on **Les Evénements de mai 68**. In October an evening of mixed entertainment, including friendly party games devised by Mr. Hasnip, was held for the visiting group of Germans from Bielefeld, together with their hosts.

Films have included **Le Grand Meaulnes**, based on Alain-Fournier's novel, Truffaut's **L'Enfant Sauvage** and **La Dentellière**, starring Isabelle Huppert. For the first time we have also shown an Italian film Fellini's **Amarcord**. It has been encouraging to note the serious interest which some 6th formers from Abingdon and St. Helen's are now beginning to take in foreign films and I hope this can be built upon in future years.

P.C.

LIBRARY

During the year ending 31 March 1983, 1000 books were added to stock. The absorption of the Science Library has been completed, which has meant that the Grundy Library is now virtually full, a most agreeable state of affairs to be in. The Lower Library continues to have rather more empty shelves than we would like but definite progress is being made here.

We are most grateful to all those parents, leavers and friends of the school (too many to mention), who have donated money and books to the Library over the past twelve months.

Various special events have been held during the year. Displays of new books and archive material have been given on Founder's Day and at the New Boys' Parents Evening, while in February Mr. Hasnip gave a talk at a TASS Open Meeting on the workings of the Library.

The librarians, who are listed below, have once again done a marvellous job in chasing overdue books, classifying new tomes and keeping the Library in good order. Special thanks must also go to Mr. Hepple, whose work on the card catalogues had been invaluable.

P.C.

Full Librarians: Richard Mortimer, Clive Alderton, Mark Flood, William Hawes, Stephen Lee Jones, Stephen Marsh, Paul Shepherd, Edward Smith, Nicholas Storer, Clive Williams.

Trainee Librarians: Sandy Boyes, Andrew Brown, Daniel James, Ben Owen.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The initiative for a revival of the school's Debating Society came at the beginning of the school year. About a dozen people then showed their active interest in the idea, and an organising committee was rapidly assembled under the sponsorship of Mr. Evans.

Our first debate, in late October, attracted nearly forty boys; the motion, "This House regrets the influence of the USA on the rest of the world", was passed by a small majority. Two further debates followed in November, one on the "detrimental effect" of television and the other on the role of the United Nations. However, the highlight of the term was undoubtedly the last debate on Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament. Our largest audience to date saw Mr. Smith and Patrick Dorey gallantly defend a motion supporting unilateralism, before finally succumbing to the wave of patriotic enthusiasm generated by Mr. Hammond. Several people contributed from "the floor", some more than once. The debate was lively (!) but clearly revealed the necessity for sticking to the rules of procedure. The Society as a whole still has something to learn on this score, but the fact that so many are eager to have their say must be healthy.

In the Lent Term the fairly ad hoc basis of debating gave way to regular meetings of the committee and a fixed constitution. A chairman and secretary are appointed by the President of the Society (the Headmaster) and the other members of the committee are elected in an open role. Membership of the Society is open to all boys in the school and they are represented on the committee as follows: Lower School (2 members), Middle School (3), Upper School (3).

An appropriate ritual was performed in February when, exactly 50 years after the famous original, we debated the motion, "This House would not fight for Queen and Country." This was defeated by a two to one majority. Another favourite appeared in March, a motion supporting the return of capital punishment in Britain. The "aye" lobby eventually carried the day, although the two abstentions could have levelled the role.

As for the future, we are investigating the possibility of debates with St. Helen's and an occasional "Balloon Debate" seems to be a popular idea. I would like to thank Mr. Evans for agreeing to sponsor the Society and for his important contribution to our development throughout the year; we are now firmly established and the interest of the Lower School has been particularly encouraging. Thanks also to all those who have spoken in the debates, both from the "platform" and the "floor" — I think we can look forward to the Deb. Soc. becoming a useful and entertaining part of school life.

Andrew Jones (Sec. VI)

WARGAMING SOCIETY

The Wargaming Society has continued to meet on Wednesday afternoons in Room 31 and the numbers of those attending have been most encouraging. The games played cater for participants of all abilities, from the 1st form beginner to the 4th year wizard. A mere teacher, of course, cannot hope to understand any of this, which is why I still don't know how much charisma a ghoulish has. Can anyone enlighten me?

P. C.



RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Railway Society has ventured out twice this year. In June 1982 a small group went to Bressingham in Norfolk. The steam centre proved to be very interesting, although there was perhaps too much time to spend usefully.

On March 20 this year a trip to Cardiff was organised. We travelled by High Speed Train from Didcot, travelling via Swindon, Gloucester and Newport. The sobering sight of long lines of withdrawn locomotives at Swindon was a sad reminder of our decaying railway system. The journey through the Cotswolds provided magnificent scenery. On arrival at Cardiff, most people explored the city, but a few travelled into the Welsh valleys to Radyr. We all gathered again for a visit to Cardiff Canton depot, where many of the locomotives that haul the South Wales iron-ore and coal trains were seen. One of the locomotives that hauled Earl Mountbatten's funeral train and is now named after him was also seen. We rushed back to the station in order to be Class 33 hauled to Newport, and then took the HST back to Didcot. A trip to York is planned for later this term.

Keith Girdwood (VI)



Rail Soc visit to Cardiff. March 1983.

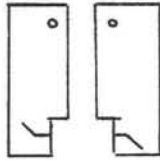
FILM SOCIETY

A major step forward has been taken this year with the purchase of the new Bell and Howell 16mm projector with its high-intensity lamp that emits a light roughly twice as bright as that of the Elf projector which we used previously. The improvement in picture quality has been considerable, while sound reproduction has also been markedly better.

We have continued to show ten films in each of the Michaelmas and Lent terms and five in the Summer term. Membership has remained strong, some of the most popular showings being **Kramer Versus Kramer**, **Kentucky Fried Movie** and **Breaking Glass**. We have also included films more suitable for the younger members: **The Final Countdown**, **The Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox** and **The Taking of Pelham 123**. Science fiction was represented by the thought-provoking **Silent Running**, westerns by **The Long Riders** and by **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** with Clint Eastwood, horror by **Asylum**, which starred Peter Cushing. **Ordinary People** and the Oscar-winning **Network** were carefully directed psychological studies which also criticised the ways of American society. The programme for the Summer term 1983 includes **The French Lieutenant's Woman**, based on John Fowles' novel, as well as the highly successful **Gregory's Girl**.

I should like to thank the committee for the work they have put in, and in particular, the two projectionists, Peter Dominey and Stephen Pratt.

P.C.



CHESS

The Junior teams had very good seasons — until March, when a series of disappointing results left the Club with no trophies at all to show for their efforts; this has not happened for some years, and is partly because all but one of the Under-15 first team was under 14, and all but one of the Under-13 first team under 12. Next year should see a revival in these fortunes: the Berkshire Under-14 team of ten included six Abingdon players, and performed very creditably against the other Counties.

In fact, both the junior teams were runners-up in the Berkshire and the Oxford Schools Leagues, and the Under-15 second team had an excellent season, losing only to the first team, and often providing players for the senior teams; these players enjoyed the experience of match play, and improved tremendously. This cannot be said of the seniors, unfortunately. Since the departure of Richard Baker, whose outstanding loyalty and quality I omitted to acknowledge in my last report, the priorities of many seniors have been elsewhere. It has been increasingly difficult to raise a team for run-of-the-mill matches, and this season every crucial match was lost, partly through lack of match-fitness.

The bizarre events in the local zone of the Times Tournament, which we have dominated in recent years, may illustrate the point. The seniors failed to earn five points against the ten-year-olds of the Dolphin School, and were knocked out on age-handicap in their second match; the 'B' team of Under-15s had a poor day at the same stage, and this left the Under-13 'C' team to uphold our name. They did remarkably well, knocking out the favourites in the semi-final, but lost the Final narrowly; although the team was weakened by illness, it must be admitted that this result was confirmed in the Berkshire Final.

Chess Club has continued to meet five times a week and draw a wide clientele. The internal trophies were won by Riccardo Casale, Mark Nightall and John Cooper. Riccardo and Thomas Price won their age-groups at the Oxford Schools' Congress in the Christmas Holidays.

M.W.

Teams:

Times 'A' VI: C. C. Shuttleworth, P. W. May, M. A. Marsden, R. L. Casale, P. T. Vokins, M. J. Nightall.

Times 'B' VI: N. G. Williams, M. A. Casale, J. R. Price, C. Q. Rodgers, A. D. Thomas, J. F. B. Lister Cheese.

Times 'C' VI: D. Jennaway, T. S. Price, S. C. Prince, D. P. Nolan, J. R. Cooper, M. R. J. Negus.

Under-18: C. C. Shuttleworth, P. W. May, M. A. Marsden, B. R. Keeping, P. T. Vokins.

Under-15: R. L. Casale, N. G. Williams, M. A. Casale, J. R. Price, C. Q. Rodgers.

Under-13: M. J. Nightall, T. S. Price, S. C. Prince, D. P. Nolan, J. R. Cooper.

RESULTS

Berkshire League, Western Section

Under-18s	Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 1.
Under-15s 'a'	Won 6
Under-15s 'b'	Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 1.
Under-13s 'a'	Won 5
Under-13s 'b'	Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 3.

Berkshire League, Finals.

Under-15s	beat Reading School	3-2
	drew with William Borlase, Marlow	2½-2½
	(Lost on Board-count)	
Under-13s	beat Bluecoat School, Reading.	5-0
	lost to Dolphin, Hurst	1½-3½.

Oxford League

Under 18s	Won 3, Lost 1.
Under-15s	Won 4, Lost 1
Under-13s	Won 7, Drew 2, Lost 1.

Times Tournament

'A' VI	beat Easthamstead, Woking	6-0
	beat Dolphin, Hurst	4½-1½
	(Lost on age-handicap)	
'B' VI	beat Gillott's Henley	3½-2½
	beat Stoneham, Reading	3½-2½
	lost to St. Bartholomew's, Newbury, 'b'	1½-4½
'C' VI	beat Segsbury, Wantage	4-2
	beat St. John's, Marlborough	4-2
	lost to Ranelagh, Bracknell	1½-4½
	(Won on age handicap)	
	lost to St. Bartholomew's Newbury, 'a' 2-4	(Won on age-handicap)
	lost to Dolphin, Hurst	2½-3½
	(Zone Final)	



MUSIC

SUMMER TERM 1982

Summer terms are always difficult for the musicians; exams mean that the vast majority of musical activity has to be finished by half term. It is therefore to their and the Music staff's credit that musical standards are as high as, if not higher than, those for the other two terms.

Fitting both the St. Helen's and the Abingdon School's Choirs along with quite a substantial combined orchestra on to the stage of the Amey Hall for the Mozart concert on May 16th was a feat which could never have been achieved were it not for the unerring optimism of Mr. James. The effort involved was certainly worth it! Mr. Tillett, the Director of Music at St. Helen's, conducted and the orchestra was led by Stephen Clarke. The programme consisted of the overture to Mozart's last opera 'La Clemenza di Tito', the famous Symphony No. 40, and, with soloists Juliet Oppenheimer (Soprano), Mary Hodges (Contralto), Philip Cave (Tenor) and Rudolf Piernay (Baritone), the "Requiem". Considering that rehearsal time was limited, this extremely taxing programme was tackled most effectively. A very good start to term's music.

The very next day, there was an Informal Concert (at which anyone may play in in Studio One, which is well suited to events of this nature. Items included a movement from Mozart's 3rd Horn Concerto played by William Money-Kyrle (horn), Mozart's Andante in C. from Kingsmill Bond (flute) and the first performance of Nigel Somerville's Prelude for 2 pianos, the composer at one piano, Simon Brod at the other.

I don't think the Amey Hall has ever had quite so many different orchestral musical styles in evidence as on Founder's Day. Quite apart from the unexpected bonus of a concert from the Royal Marines (due to a downpour that caused a mud-bath!), the school ensembles produced a very well-balanced programme of music for the Founder's Day Concert. The Chamber Orchestra, under Mr. Robinson, played Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 1, the solo parts taken by Jonathan Holt and Stephen Clarke (violins) and Paul McLoughlin ('cello), followed by the Two Elegiac Melodies by Grieg. Members of the First Orchestra, conductor Mr. James, then played in a performance of Doppler's Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy, the complexities of whose solo flute part were confidently displayed by Michael Bradbury. The whole Orchestra then finished the concert with movements from Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition".

Callum McLeod, who is studying at the Royal Academy and is the brother of a member of the school, gave a charity concert in aid of music therapy charities in the Amey Hall on June 4th, playing piano works by Bach, Chopin, Mozart, Beethoven, Fauré and Liszt.

It was not before time that the Music Society organised an evening of musical entertainment provided by staff and parents! Their "Summer Soirée" provided unique performances by some of Abingdon's most promising, but hitherto unheard and at best ignored, musicians. Rousing renderings by Messrs. Eden (Baritone), Lewis (Tenor Saxophone) and Webber (Bassoon) were surreptitiously inserted between such items as Chopin's Waltz and Mazurka in C sharp minor played by Professor Bugg (Piano) and assorted choral pieces from an ensemble form from the staunch vocalists of the Music Society. Relief, where it was needed, was provided in an hour-long interval in which wine and cheese were served. One only hopes that these newly-discovered talents will not be forgotten.

An Informal Concert on a slightly larger scale than its earlier counterpart took place in Trinity Church on June 11th. An extremely accomplished performance of movements from Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, Matthew Elliott (Clarinet), Ben Wagon & Tom Hollander (Violins) Tim Bennett (Viola) and David Sperry ('Cello), was followed by choral items from the School Choir under Mr. Robertson and from the Chamber Choir under Mr. James. The Second Orchestra under Mr. Robinson played two Russian Folksongs arrangements by Liadov, Andrew Fisher (Organ) played the Prelude & Fugue in E minor by Bach, and the concert ended with Malcolm Arnold's Little Suite played by the Brass Band under Mr. Jones. All told an enthusiastic and vigorous finale from the instrumentalists, some of whom retired to do the GCE's.

On June 13th, the Chamber Choir paid its annual visit to Marsh Gibbon to the sing Evensong in the Parish Church. On this occasion some of the music was 'home-produced', with Psalm Chants from a few members of the Choir and a set of 'Abingdon' Responses penned by Mr. James himself. Nicholas Pond and Richard Bacon were the treble and bass soloists respectively in Stanford's superb setting of the Evening Canticles in G, followed by Vaughan Williams' "O clap your hands". After such a marathon (Mr. Cutforth reckoned it was the the best yet!) the choir adjourned to the village hall to demolish the usual splendid of food and drink organised by Mr. Cutforth's jovial band of ladies. And what a sight to witness the watering mouths of all choir and Mr. James when the covers come off! Then (by now traditionally) the 'thank-you' from the choir comprising some ditties in lighter vein to the delight of their generous and benevolent host.

And — the finale to the term, the year and to Mr. Robertson's period on the Music Staff before his move to take over the music at Bristol Cathedral School — there was 'Tom Sawyer', doubtless reviewed elsewhere in this publication. What an enjoyable opportunity it presented too, not least for those of us in the pit playing American folk music to some stoutly 'American' accents on stage. All good fun indeed before we all closed our scores, switched off the Music School lights, locked the Hi-fi cabinets and went in search of some holiday sunshine.

Richard Bacon.

Michaelmas Term

8.40 — Roll Call. The new term started with all the familiar rituals as the sun-tanned pupils returned in eager anticipation in which this excellence was being hotly pursued was the Music Department, where no sooner had the dust from the gravel settled than the melodious sound of spinet battling with saxophone could be heard.

The first major concert of the term was given in the Amey Hall by the Endellion string Quartet as part of the Abingdon Subscription Concert Society's programme. They tackled the programme of quartets by Schubert, Bartok and Mozart with vigour, and were obviously appreciated by the audience. The first main offering from members of the school was a concert given by the Music Scholars, Exhibitioners, and other Senior Musicians. This turned out to be quite a Marathon, (they really seem to be quite popular these days!), with 23 items and as many performers! A large crowd turned up for the next Subscription Concert, with world famous recorder player Michala Petri and her trio. Included amongst Sonatas by Handel, Bach and Boismortier were two modern pieces, in which great musicality and technical skill were displayed by all the players.

And now for something completely different — "Listen to the Band" with Derek Jones. On the 20th of November, Second Wind Band, Brass Band and First Wind Band marched and waltzed through various pieces, punctuated by Mr. Jones' informative comments, reminiscences and jokes (well, some people think they're funny!). Solos included "Trumpets Wild" performed by the trumpet section (surprise, surprise!), "Trumpeter's Lullaby" performed very expressively by Daniel Ruiz, and Briccialdi's variations on "The Carnival of Venice" for flute and piano, played by myself accompanied by the band using an arrangement specially written for the occasion by none other than the versatile Mr. Jones. (He still hasn't stopped complaining about all the extra work it meant for him!). This concert was brought to a conclusion with a spirited performance of Sousa's famous March "The Stars and Stripes for Ever".

Another complete change of mood happened at the next concert, in which the Choral Society performed Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" in the original version for chorus, two pianos and percussion, but with the addition of selection passages for flute and bassoon, (the flute adding a three dimensional effect as the part was played from the balcony of the Amey Hall.) The large chorus, two grand pianos (played by Mr. Finlow and Mr. Oxlade), and soloists (Elaine Hammonds, Drummond Walker, and Richard Winch) were controlled with ease and skill by Mr. James, who should be congratulated for this major undertaking.

The last main concert of the term was an 'away fixture' as it took place in Trinity Church, because the Amey Hall was being prepared for "The Merchant of Venice". The Chamber Orchestra kicked off with a Boyce Symphony, and followed this with a Telemann Concerto for Violin and Strings, with Jonathan Holt as the soloist. Both works were performed musically, under the baton

of Mr. Robinson. A Mozart String Quart rounded off the first half. After Changing ends, First Orchestra continued with a stirring performance of Lars-Brik Larsson's Concerto for Trombone and Strings, with Chris Johnson proving that the trombone is just as much of a solo instrument as any other. The remainder of the time until the final whistle was occupied by Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony (Should we have gone into injury time I ask myself?). This demanding work showed the skills of Mr. James as a conductor as well as the skills of the players.

Interspersed amongst main events were a multitude of other goings on, including two informal concerts in the Music School, a trip to Chichester Cathedral by the Chamber Choir to give Choral Evensong, and Carol Singing in Trafalgar Square in the freezing cold, again with the Chamber Choir and a flotilla of wind instruments! Finally, the term ended, but on a slightly sad note as farewells were said to a number of highly active skilled musicians who were moving on to pastures new — how about having an O.A. concert sometime?

Michael Bradbury

LENT TERM 1983

After the relaxations and festivities of Christmas, the term's music events kicked off smartly with a Music Society lecture given in admirably 'informal' style by Carass Topham. Being a noted craftsman in the making of stringed instruments, the lecture naturally tapped his expertise and also gave the audience an interesting insight into all the intricacies that are involved in such an exacting art. Everyone was impressed with his obvious zest and dedication, and yet he transmitted his thoughts so clearly throughout the evening.

This 'academic' start was soon to be followed by one of three informal concerts which gave the stage to a multitude of Mr. James' minions, all performing with great enthusiasm and with varying fortunes. There appears to be an abundance of young talent of the school at the moment and this bodes well for the future. All three concerts in fact saw numerous solos (how our 'cellists vary in size!) and some ensembles — notable among them were a string quartet (Andrew Fisher & Niann-Tsyr Cheng — violins — Timothy Bennett — viola — and David Sperry — 'celo) and Second Orchestra performing arrangements from 'Schwanda the Bagpiper' and Smetana ('Rustic Dance') under the eagle eye of Mr. Robinson.

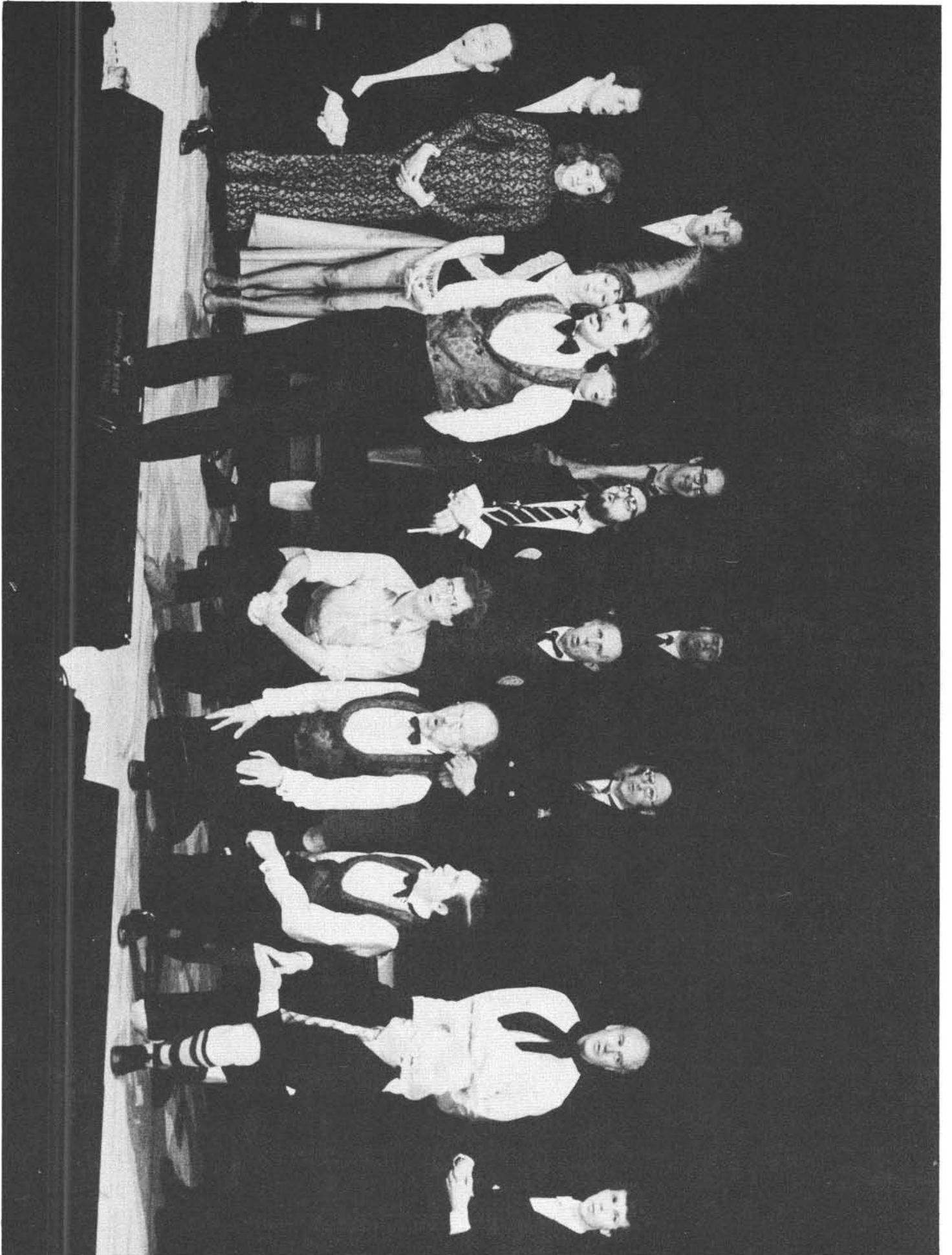
The Lent Term also saw the final two Subscription Concert (of a particularly good and well-patronised season) which welcomed Wolfgang Manz — of Leeds International Piano Competition fame — in a programme of works by Haydn, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Slavicky(!) and then the BBC Singers under conductor Simon Joly. The concerts had all the expected finnese and professional brilliance, the latter being recorded for subsequent broadcast on Radio 3. It was very good to hear such a small choir in such a varied programme of madrigals, folksongs, partsongs and then — as climax — Britten's "Hymn to St. Cecilia".

Choral music was in fact to be the term's predominant feature, seen not only in the visit by the BBC Singers but also by the Fredeswide Clerks and the Winchester College Quiristers. The Clerks were recently formed from Oxford Choral Scholars and were introduced, by courtesy of the Music Society, by OA Tim Kermode (now in his last year at New College). Their most varied programme included some characteristic close harmony numbers sung with great aplomb and greatly appreciated by an audience of only modest size. In contrast to these two choral events, the visit of the 'trebled' Quiristers was very refreshing. Despite a recent epidemic which struck many of their best singers, they were none-the-less able to present a delightful and precisely-performed programme, which owed much to pianist Robert Bottone and to two instrumentalists whose party-pieces gave the singers some well-earned breaks. Amongst the trebles of distinction that evening was one Sebastian Parker, son of a noted local headmaster who himself at one time frequented the Winchester Quadrangles and who apparently instigated this enjoyable evening!

The Choral Evensong then given in Magdalen College, Oxford, proved to be the finale of the term — and unexpectedly so, since there was still a Brahms Celebration Concert to come. The lovely Chapel in Magdalen rang to the sounds of Chamber Choir singing Howells' 'Collegium Regale' Canticles and Mendelssohn's 'Hear my prayer' (treble Andrew Olleson having recorded the work with Christchurch Cathedral Choir before joining the school the previous January). And joining the choir for the Response and the prayers was afore-mentioned frequenter of quadrangles! And at the organ — OA Stephen Clarke. Little did we realize at that time though that illness was about to strike the James Family and our Director was to disappear from his corridors of power. Ten days later he emerged but meantime the Brahms Concert had to be postponed till the following term (more of that in the next edition) and the Common Room worked by day and rehearsed in the dead of night to prepare their eagerly-awaited "Old Music Hall". And — what was that! — Mr. James in drag! I'll leave all that to someone else!
David Newport



In concert.



THE ROYSSE RAMBLERS

PRESENT

AN OLD-TIME MUSIC HALL

PROGRAMME

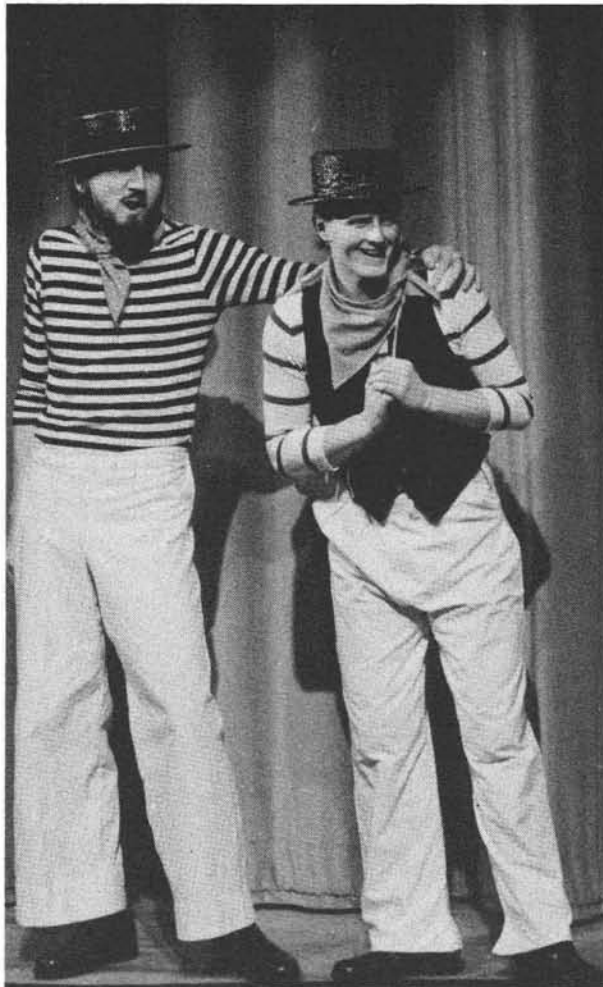
PART ONE

A Medley of Victorian Airs	The Band
The English Rose: a stirring romantic ballad accompanied by	Mr. Christopher Biggs Mr. Nigel Payne
A Deed of Derring-do and Dastardly Destruction	Mr. Richard Webber
A Trilling Trio	Phillipina, Teresa & Simonia
The John Roysse Barbershop	Mr. Harry Eden, Mr. Stephen Page, Mr. Graham Barratt, Mr. Christopher Biggs
Love Conquers All	Mrs. Judith Payne, The Rev. Rodney Mearns, Mr. Jeffrey Drummond-Hay
The Perils of Prestidigitation	Nigelloni & Signorina Carola
A Pathetic Ballad	The John Roysse Barbershop
One Hundred Years Ago	Mr. Philip Chorley, Dr. Hubert Zawadski, Mr. Richard Finch, Mr. Philip Butcher, Mr. Keith Hasnip, Mr. Terence James, Mr. Jeffrey Drummond-Hay, Mr. Michael Parker
Chorus	and featuring Mr. Stephen Page

INTERVAL

PART TWO

A Headmaster's Lot	Mr. Michael Parker, Mr. Keith Hasnip, Dr. Peter Halstead, Mr. Rodney Mearns
A Harrowing Tale of Revenge in the Raj	Mr. Christopher Biggs, Mr. Philip Butcher Mr. Terence James
Seated One Day at the Organ	Mrs. Catherine Webber
Black-Eye'd Susan: a tale of Villainy overcome	Mr. Nigel Hunter, Mr. David Egerton-King, Mr. Simon Pengelley, Dr. Hubert Zawadski, Mr. Jon Gabbitass
And Now Your Goodselves Your Chairman	Mr. Richard Webber
And Behind the Scenes	
The Musicians	Mr. Alan Futter, Mr. Nigel Payne Mr. Wichard von Hauenschild Patrick McLeod, Esq., Richard Bacon, Esq., Andrew Fisher, Esq., Michael Bradbury, Esq., Mark Herd, Esq., Mr. Simon Finlow
Musical Director	Mr. Nigel Hunter
Artistic Director	Mrs. Judith Payne
Costume	Mrs. Wendy Finch, Mrs. Catherine Webber, Miss Sophie Parker
Make-up	Mr. David Milton
Properties	Mr. David Smith
Prompter	Mrs. Fiona Gabbitass, Mrs. Judith Milton
Refreshments	Mr. Nigel Hunter
Poster & Programme Design	Mr. Nigel Brown
Box Office and Front of House	Mr. David Robinson
Sound and Lighting	Mr. Ian Macdonald, Dr. Keith Bingham, Dr. Edward Mallia, Richard Ward, Esq., David Ransome, Esq.
Stage Crew: from	Mr. Stephen Bodey, Mr. Charles Parker, Mr. David Crawford, Mr. Danny Head, Mr. Roger Mortimer
Stage Manager	Mr. Tom Ayling
Produced and in parts written by	Mr. Jon Gabbitass



CHORUS LINES

Love's Old Sweet Song:
Just a song at twilight, when the lights are low,
And the flick'ring shadows softly come and go,
Tho' the heart be weary, sad the day and long,
Still to us at twilight comes Love's old song,
Come's Love's old sweet song.

The Man Who Broke the Bank . . .
As I walk along the Bois Boo-long, with an independent air,
You can hear the girls declare, "He must be a millionaire";
You can hear them sigh and wish to die,
You can see them wink the other eye
At the man who broke the Bank at Monte Carlo.

Polly Perkins:
She was as beautiful as a Butterfly, and as proud as a Queen,
Was pretty little Polly Perkins of Paddington Green.

Home! Sweet Home!
Home!. Home, sweet sweet Home!
There's no place like Home! There's no place like Home!

Rule, Britannia!
"Rule Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves;
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves".

Repeat

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

As I arrived at the Amey Hall I was relieved and surprised to find that I was not the only person to have thrown away his self-respect. There were, in fact, a lot of people who had dressed for the occasion. Inside the hall there was a buzz of excited and expectant conversation as people perused their programmes; 'was Mr. Mearns really a reverend?', 'who were Phillipina, Teresa and Simonia?', 'were we actually going to hear Dr. Halstead sing?' All was about to be revealed.

Suddenly the band struck up and the audience was silenced by a medley of Victorian airs. Then the curtains opened and Mr. Webber announced Mr. Biggs and Mr. Payne. Unfortunately the mob was in such high spirits that their laughter at what they thought might be a comic act almost drowned an excellent rendering of 'the English Rose'. This, however, did not mean that the two performers went short on applause. As was to happen throughout the evening, they were received with a tumultuous ovation accompanied by loud whistles and cheers.

In the next turn Mr. Webber retold the dramatic tale of the charge of the Light Brigade. This act was somewhat marred when the auditorium was filled with a choking smoke from a failed stage explosive, and which prevented anyone seeing anything for the next ten minutes.

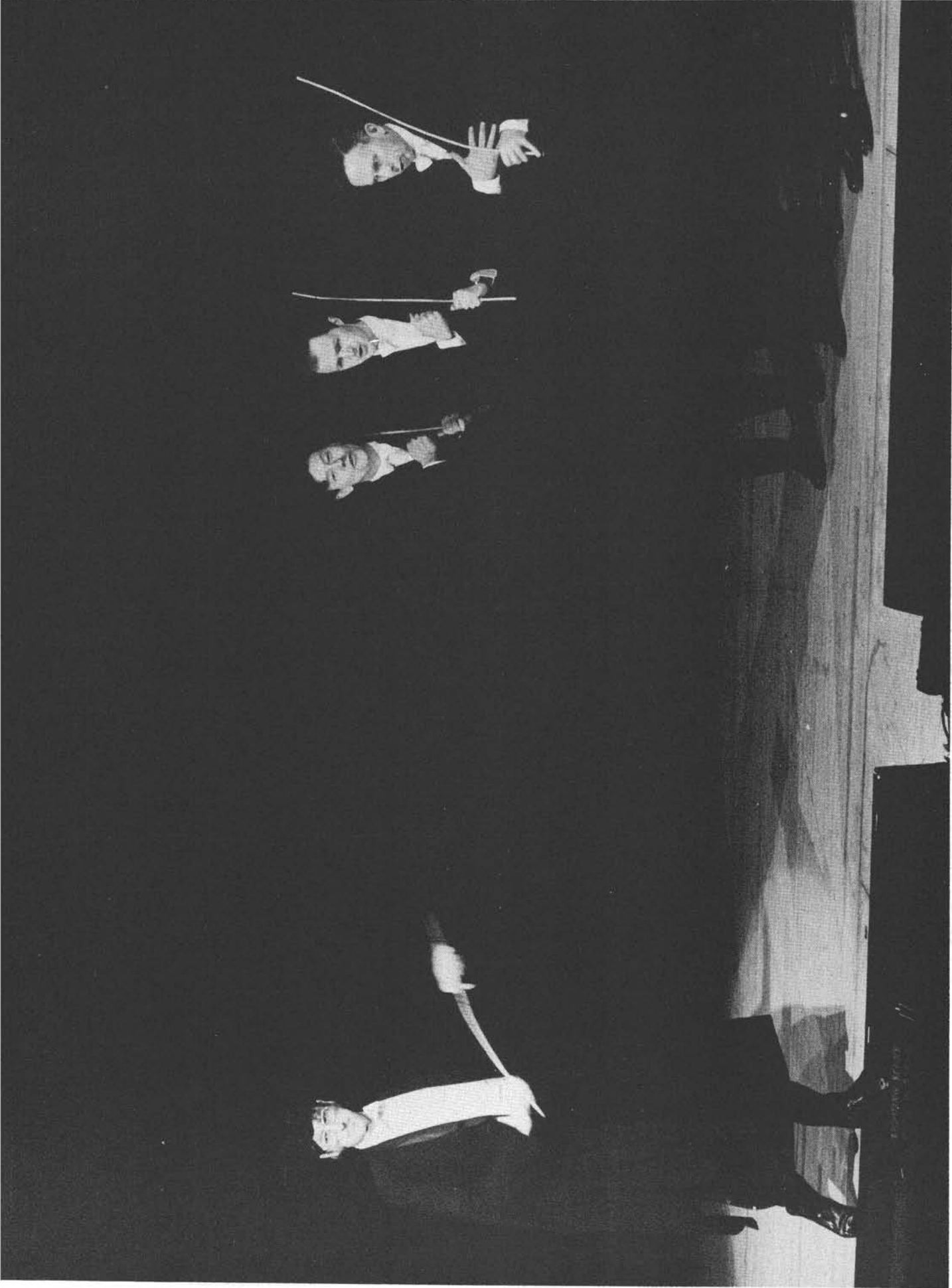


And so the evening continued with many and various acts, notably Mr. Biggs and a daemonic Mr. Butcher in 'the Green Eye of the Little Yellow God', Mr. Drummond-Hay, Mrs. Payne and 'Rev.' Mearns in a shambolic tale of love and temperance. Not forgetting Mr. Hunter showing us the perils of prestidigitation by throwing knives at Mr. Pritchard; and the Headmaster, not to mention other hitherto respectable members of the M.C.R., wearing shorts.

The climax of the evening was a hugely over-acted melodrama with Mr. Gabitass in his usual role of villain, and Mr. Hunter as a heroic young sailor, (what Dr. Zawadski was playing is anybody's guess). After this had come to its happy conclusion Mr. Evans convinced everyone that he had just broken the bank at Monte Carlo, and the show was ended with a rousing sing-song involving both cast and audience. 'Rule Britannia' was cleverly placed as the last song so that everyone was standing at the end thus ensuring that the show had a standing ovation.

Despite the fact that the show was rather long and some of the acting was not quite R.S.C. standard, it was an immensely enjoyable occasion. What it did lack, in my opinion, was Mr. Georgiakakis playing the bazuki, but then you can't have everything, can you?

T. Hyder (6)



DRAMA

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Performing Shakespeare as a major school production carries with it the risk that the play will be shied away from, on the grounds that it is too demanding on audience and actors alike. Perhaps this is so with respect to the later tragedies. **The Merchant of Venice**, on the other hand, is the perfect play to demonstrate that Shakespeare is not an intellectual ogre, but both accessible and enjoyable as a playwright. It is not a play of enormous intellectual insight, indeed with the exception of the character and treatment of Shylock, who appears in a mere four scenes, and the important themes of antisemitism and money raised therefrom, there is little in the play to warrant academic study.

This is not to say that there is no scope for imaginative interpretation. Mr. Brown certainly demonstrated this by setting the play in the period of languid grandeur of the 1920s — an era which seems to capture the mood of the play well. It also increases the play's accessibility; I find I can relate to a character in trousers better than one in tights and a cod-piece. The modern dress seemed to both the audience and the actors to be at ease;



although initially there were moments when the Shakespearean language was difficult to reconcile with the 20th. century setting. The set was very effective and a credit to all concerned, particularly considering the penury of the dramatic piggy-bank. A great deal of care also seemed to have been taken over the costumes which were generally excellent and did much to enhance the atmosphere of the play.

The finely portrayed 1920s setting gave the play new emphasis. The anti-semitism of the text was given greater weight amidst the decadent, affluent young in whose circles Nazism grew and flourished. The light-hearted, if not flippant, attitudes of the gregarious socialites of the period were not conducive to the study of the profound friendship between Antonio and Bassanio. Hence, this aspect of the play was not given the emphasis it deserved.

Antonio is intended to stand apart from the other Venetians, and although the difference between them in this production was reduced, Nick Rawlinson as Antonio had a powerful impact as an individual. He had great presence and was effective in the extremes of reticence and vindictiveness. Scott McCracken's Bassanio failed to show convincing deep emotion towards both Antonia and Portia, but captured the spirit of the young Venetians as well as any other of Antonio's friends. Tom Hyder and James Thompson, Gratiano and Salanio did notably well in notoriously bad parts, making Lorenzo look sadly ill at ease by comparison.

Stephanie Nash as Portia was exceptionally good, my only reservation being that she failed to portray the full extent of her joy of liberation when Bassanio freed her from her bond to the caskets. She was nevertheless the best Shakespearean 'leading lady' I can remember seeing at school.

The casket-scenes were dominated by the Luciano Pavarotti of the acting world — Hugh Jones. He was entertaining, expressive and fluent. Both he and Howard Mulvey were convincing in their cameo appearances.

Julius Green, as Shylock, completed the large Oxbridge contingent among the actors. His performance was, as ever, polished and professional, and became a tour de force when defending himself from the anti-semitism of those around him.

No less convincing in a very different way, were the performances of Toby Jones and Jeremy Allanson as Launcelot Gobbo and his geriatric father. They were immensely amusing and slick, complementing one another perfectly. However, one almost felt frustrated that they and Tom Hyder and James Thompson should be restricted to parts of little depth and potential. Once more in this production it was the older more seasoned actors who took the larger roles, perhaps on grounds of seniority.

Mr. Brown succeeded admirably in showing the accessibility of Shakespeare with this production. He did it not only by adopting twentieth century dress, but also by making it a most light-hearted production, avoiding becoming entangled in complicated academic issues, preferring to emphasise the play's over-riding sense of fun. Both this and the outstanding quality of the production ensured the play's deserved success.

Nick North (VI)

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

The pleasant cosiness of the Unicorn Theatre was the scene for a production of J. B. Priestley's 'When we are married' at the end of the summer term, with a cast drawn from the Lower Sixth years of Abingdon and St. Helens. The play is about the confusion which erupts when three respectable Yorkshire couples who were married together on the same day are celebrating their silver wedding and it transpires that since the parson who performed the ceremony was not qualified to do so, they are not really married at all! This sudden dissolution of what they all considered to be a legally binding contract leaves them bemused and looking very hard at their relationships.

The possibilities for farce in such a situation are endless, and they were well brought out. Miss Peterson had obviously done a thorough job in rehearsing her cast, and despite the 'conflagration' which developed in the lighting department five minutes into the performance, and caused a temporary abandonment of proceedings, the pace of the action and the natural manner in which the lines were delivered were well maintained throughout. Jeremy Lovering was excellent as a self-made man lost in ecstasies of Yorkshire self-congratulation, while Jill Hasnip gave a touching portrayal of Annie, his wife, caught up in his life-style but nevertheless longing for something different. Douglas Allen and Sarah Walter, as the Helliwells, showed us a respectable couple who discover a lot about each other and their marriage, while Dominic Hayne

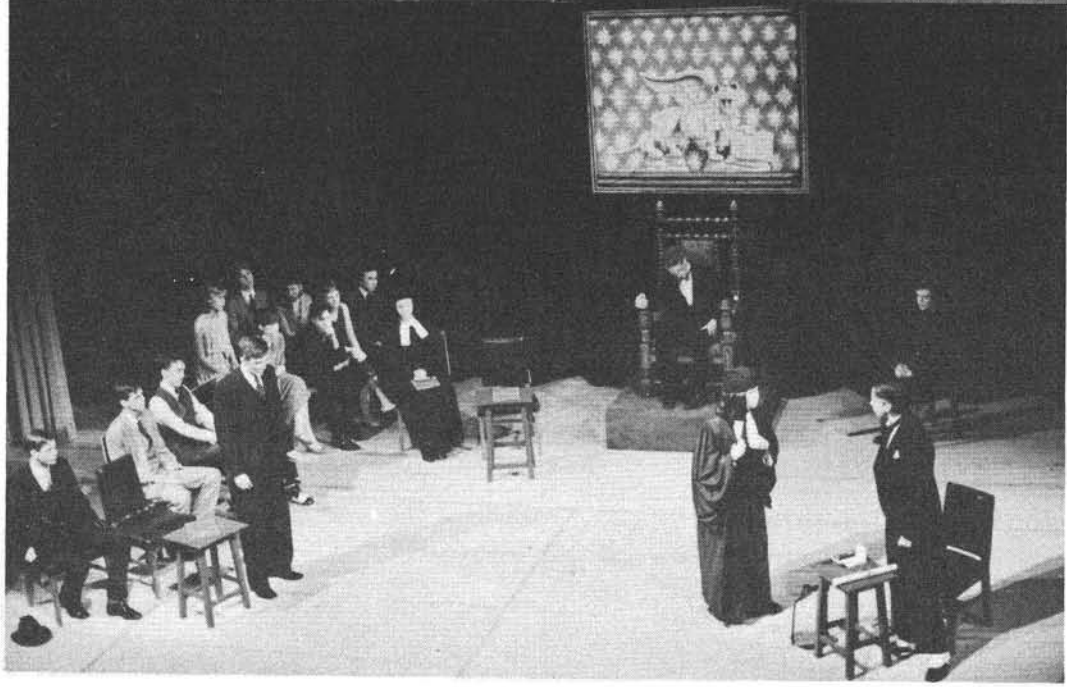
was superb as the aptly named Herbert Soppitt, dominated by a wife portrayed with incredible ferocity and a marvellous accent by Sara Murray.

The other characters watch the three couples' activities with amusement, puzzlement, and sometimes horror. Simon Peacock brought the house down as the drunken photographer — at the same time a sad figure, who is effectively contrasted in a long dialogue with Lisa-Jane Bryan as the pert housemaid, Ruby Birtle. Sheila Manthorp was convincing as the severe Mrs. Northrop, the housekeeper, as was Sarah Humphries as the 'lady of the town' to whom Alderman Helliwell has formed an attachment, and who takes the opportunity presented by the disintegration of his domestic ties to stake a claim to him. Tim Winter and Kim Polgreen added an agreeable lightness with their portrayals of young lovers, while Martin Thomas played a journalist and Andrew Storer a clergyman caught up in events and somewhat bemused by them.

My main criticism of a fine evening's entertainment which I enjoyed tremendously is that a degree of over-acting, while doing no harm to the humour, did detract from the more serious moments; for example, I was never wholly convinced that the actors behaved as people would if subjected to such an extraordinary shock. One never really felt the impact, although this may be partly the fault of the script rather than of the performance. However this apart the production was a notable achievement, and an especially welcome one from a year group which has previously participated relatively little in school drama.

Andrew Fisher





OXBRIDGE PLAY 1982

'See How They Run', this year's Oxbridge play, was obviously intended to be an enjoyable occasion, and in such a capacity it ended the term in a suitably festive mood. From my position, the Amey Hall seemed to be packed with boys, parents, masters and their families, St. Helen's girls and many other guests, all of whom seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the production. Billed as a farce, and produced under the pressure of Oxbridge examinations, 'See How They Run' was nevertheless not merely well acted, but the co-ordination of the various, and not uncomplicated, exchanges was also carried out with a noticeable degree of zeal — reflecting the endeavour of the cast and production crew and resulting in a great deal of amusement for both them and the audience.

Nick Rawlinson and Gareth Butler, in equally unfamiliar attire I am assured, provided a strong sense of comedy and that little touch of female sophistication, to which I must admit my sense of humour was attracted; and the clerical duo of Paul Hambleton and James Cox, later joined by Nick North, also contributed a great deal to the play. However, I feel obliged to stress that this was undoubtedly a team effort, and that the rest of the cast gave equally laudable performances.

The Amey Hall was not perhaps the perfect setting for such a desirably intimate production, but the interest generated, for which the audience's size acted as a fair reflection, could only see justice done to it by such a theatre. Although 'See How They Run' can never claim to be a play to exercise the mind, stiffen the sinew or pull the heart-strings, I may say, with little hope of contradiction, and at the risk of repetition, that it was immensely enjoyable. One could only hope that such a personal view would not colour the general consensus of opinion regarding the play, although I would certainly estimate my beliefs to coincide with those of the others fortunate enough to be present.

G. D. Mawhinney (6)

OPEN HOUSE

This year there were three plays performed during 'Open House' night. *The Wedding* by Chekhov, an ambitious production put on by the Modern Languages Department under the direction of Dr. Rolfe, was the first. The players, from St. Helen's and Abingdon, responded well to this challenging farce, and during their twenty-five minutes on stage many original performances were given — in particular Karen Black's delightfully intoned one liners — and they left having managed the difficult task of 'warming up' the audience.

The next forty minutes were simply engrossing. This is the time it took James Thompson and Tom Hyder, under their own direction, to perform superbly John Mortimer's *Dock Brief*. Tom portrayed, so well that perhaps he has type-cast himself, the old, failed and pathetic lawyer struggling to defend a man, who we forgot was James, that has murdered his wife because he dislikes her laugh. It was a very definite comedy.

To round off the evening the audience were privileged to be at the world premiere of a totally new play, *Apocalypse Christmas*, written 'from within' by Ed. Butler and Tim Gray (ably helped by Dave Newman). True to the great tradition they performed it as well, with the help of Bob Minter as narrator. Imprisoned within a fallout shelter, the big bang having come and gone (and having almost enveloped the audience in smoke) Ralph the Hippy manages, unwittingly, to kill his companions. A bitter social satire? I'm not sure, but it was certainly a funny and very unusual twenty minutes! I should think that all the audience went home at the close of the evening content, and secure in the knowledge that 'Open House' has become a yearly feature on the School Calendar.

John Lee

"TOM SAWYER"

Struggling with an appalling adaptation of Mark Twain's novel, the junior boys and girls of Abingdon and St. Helen's ensured that this production made up for in enthusiasm what it lacked in literary and musical merit on the part of the writers. John Charlesworth and Tony Brown have failed miserably in their attempt to translate the "Sawyer ethos" into crude melodrama. "Tom Sawyer" is less about dramatic court scenes than about sharing your last stick of chewing gum with your girl-friend; less about village festivals than lazing in the afternoon sun on the bank of the Mississippi. Significantly, the most successful scenes were those in which the "workshop" technique had been most rigorously employed — and if this at times gave the impression of looking in on a first year drama class, it was at least a welcome relief from the horrors of the script.

Because it was so much of a team effort, it would be unfair to single out any particular actors for special praise — all gave their best, and some unashamed type-casting in the lead roles gave them added realism. On the whole, the "children" came over more successfully than the "adults" — simply because of problems with the latter over size, voice and make-up. The concentration and commitment of all the cast was impressive. The musicians made the best of the score with a lively and spirited rendition, and special mention should go to the very efficient stage crew. The over-all effect of set, costumes and lighting was very pleasing, although a brown or white set would have been more satisfying than the rather drab grey. Tom and his friends could usefully have applied a lick of paint to the whole set, instead of confining their attentions to the front fence!

For me, the best moment of the show was the song "Why is it always the boys?" a significant departure from the original script which made good use of the girls' voices, and the accompanying little scene written in by the director, Mr. Brown, which began to hint at the underlying relationships which "Tom Sawyer" is really about. The company certainly had the talent, if not the time, to produce a version of "Tom Sawyer" entirely their own, and one suspects that the result would have been much more satisfactory.

Julius Green



A MODERN MORALITY

Enormous numbers of lower school boys performed John Challen's *'Pilgrim '83: A Modern Morality'* in the Amey Hall in March 1983. The stress of the title is on 'modern' but the play is still powerfully in the tradition of 'Everyman' and 'Pilgrim's Progress', and the problem, as stated by 1983's Mr. Worldly-Wise, has always been, 'My good Pilgrim, nothing you can say will embroider religion so as to make us see anything in it.' The play obviously tries to make the audience 'see' something in religion and dramatises Pilgrim's adventures, but it was hard to digest such a machine-gun fire of religious truisms in the performance. Faithful's dying aphorisms, for example, delivered through a hail of booting and shouting, were a little hard to accept intellectually and emotionally even if they are central to Christian thinking. This thinking, though, is not Bunyan's Calvinistic predestinism in 'Pilgrim '83', but is a more modern questioning of the validity and presentation of 'vision' in the world as we now know it. Medieval audiences and Bunyan would have been amazed by Pilgrim's final rejection of the Celestial City.

The problem of trying to present such a range of experience in many different episodes is not new, but the cast certainly tackled the task with tremendous gusto. Pilgrim, excellently acted by Alisdair Simpson, was large, relaxed and convincing: he managed to keep up the impetus and to hold the play together. At the beginning he made the audience sympathise with his dilemma. — 'So all right. Why does it always seem so much easier for other people? . . . It's the start that's difficult.' His first hesitant steps towards achieving a sense of purpose was greatly helped by the splendidly brisk, unthinking and intellectually stagnant Mr. Obstinate (Richard Winsley) and by the admirably foppish, weak and superficial Mr. Pliable (Robert Joliffe).

Pilgrim's struggles in the Slough of Despond were presented simply but effectively. His waving arms and vain attempts to extricate himself contrasted well with the smartly suited and utterly indifferent Mr. Worldly-Wise, played by Andrew Hetherington. His well calculated complacency

made it alarmingly easy to sympathise with his viewpoints and his obtuseness was admirably supported by John Roberts' Mr. Ignorance. Between them they managed to provoke Pilgrim into 'updating' some parable stories, but I didn't enjoy these, I'm afraid, as the wise and foolish virgins were so unbelievably 'camp'. The failure of these parables, however, did reinforce Pilgrim's later realisation that deeds speak louder than words.

Simon Goldsworthy's dramatic entrance as Apollyon in a vivid flurry of special effects brought the audience firmly back to the pilgrimage and it was genuinely interesting to see Pilgrim's lapsing into the sin of pride and then into the even worse misunderstanding of his pilgrimage as a kind of competition — 'Now I am sure of my pilgrimage. In no time I shall reach my destination. I shall be the first to reach it. No one can pass me now — or surpass me.' At this point the appearance of Faithful, played very honestly and appealingly by Philip Mansfield, deflated Pilgrim's pride and his 'I learned from your mistakes and missed the Slough of Despond' reasserted Pilgrim's human qualities. Alisdair Simpson was at his best with Philip Mansfield's intelligent support.

The change to the bustle and confusion of Vanity Fair was striking, with some excellently sinister performances from the two secret policemen, Magnus Macintyre and Adrian Procter, the reinforcers of mindless conformity, Superstition (Ulan Neale), complete with his box of salt, and Envy (Matthew Burgass) promoted their ideas that 'we shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable' forcefully. The highlight of this episode, though, was Pilgrim's farewell to Faithful: it was movingly acted and Pilgrim's new certainty in his vision was convincing.

After Faithful's death, Hopeful's well-meant sympathy and his bland hope in people's goodness showed again what Pilgrim's example could achieve. Kenneth Turner, as Hopeful, supported Pilgrim well through the ordeals devised by the exuberant but naive Giant Despair. Andrew Garvey brought huge relish to the Giant's endless but futile threats of torture and mutilation — all in the finest medieval tradition — and his 'wife', Timothy Taylor added amazingly vitriolic encouragement at moments when despair seemed likely! In fact, 'women' really didn't come out of the evening too well since the avaricious and supercilious Mrs. By-Ends, Mrs. Hold-the-World and Mrs. Money-Love (Andrew Garvey, Simon Humble and Timothy Taylor) showed the world's continuing unpleasantness, but very amusingly. Simon Humble's subsiding high heels will be hard to forget!

The Flatterer (James Crosskey) offered perceptive and convincing 'sympathy' for Pilgrim's feelings and thereby exposed Pilgrim's pride with some psychological nicety. James Crosskey acted really well to drive home the differences between what makes you 'feel good' and what is 'right', so that it was possible to mistake his intentions for a long time. When he (literally) showed his true colours the sheer difficulty and painfulness of Pilgrim's quest came across even more vividly. Pilgrim's final rejection of the Celestial City may be a long way from Bunyan's ready acceptance of eternal bliss, but real modernity showed in his decision to return to

the world to share his vision and to help others to learn from his mistakes. *Pilgrim's* realisation that the end of the pilgrimage is really the start and that 'It is only in actions that visions can be explained' left the audience thoughtful.

It is a difficult play to produce since it's so episodic and has little character development, but Mr. Smith did well to use the enthusiasm of his huge cast and to give the production some pace. The use of a very simple stage helped and the complicated technical effects, though occasionally erratic, gave the production some impact as a spectacle. The cast was impressively managed and their enjoyment gave the evening considerable charm.

G.G.B.

First stage

A cursory glance at his school's notice board could well have launched Abingdon teenager James Thompson on the first stage of a career as an actor.

For James, a fifth former at Abingdon School and star performer in several recent school drama productions, saw an application for auditions with the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, and decided it was worth a try.

And now James, who is currently in the throes of O level examinations, has heard that he is one of 167 lucky youngsters — and the only one from Oxfordshire — to be selected to join the company for its 1982 summer season.

"It was quite daunting really," said James, 16, at his home in The Vineyard, Abingdon.

"There were about 3,500 people who were invited to the first audition, where we each had to read a modern piece, and part of a work by Shakespeare.

"This number was cut by almost half for the second audition which was held in front of Michael Croft, the director of the company. Out of these, the final 167 were chosen, and when I heard that I was one of them, I was very pleased indeed."

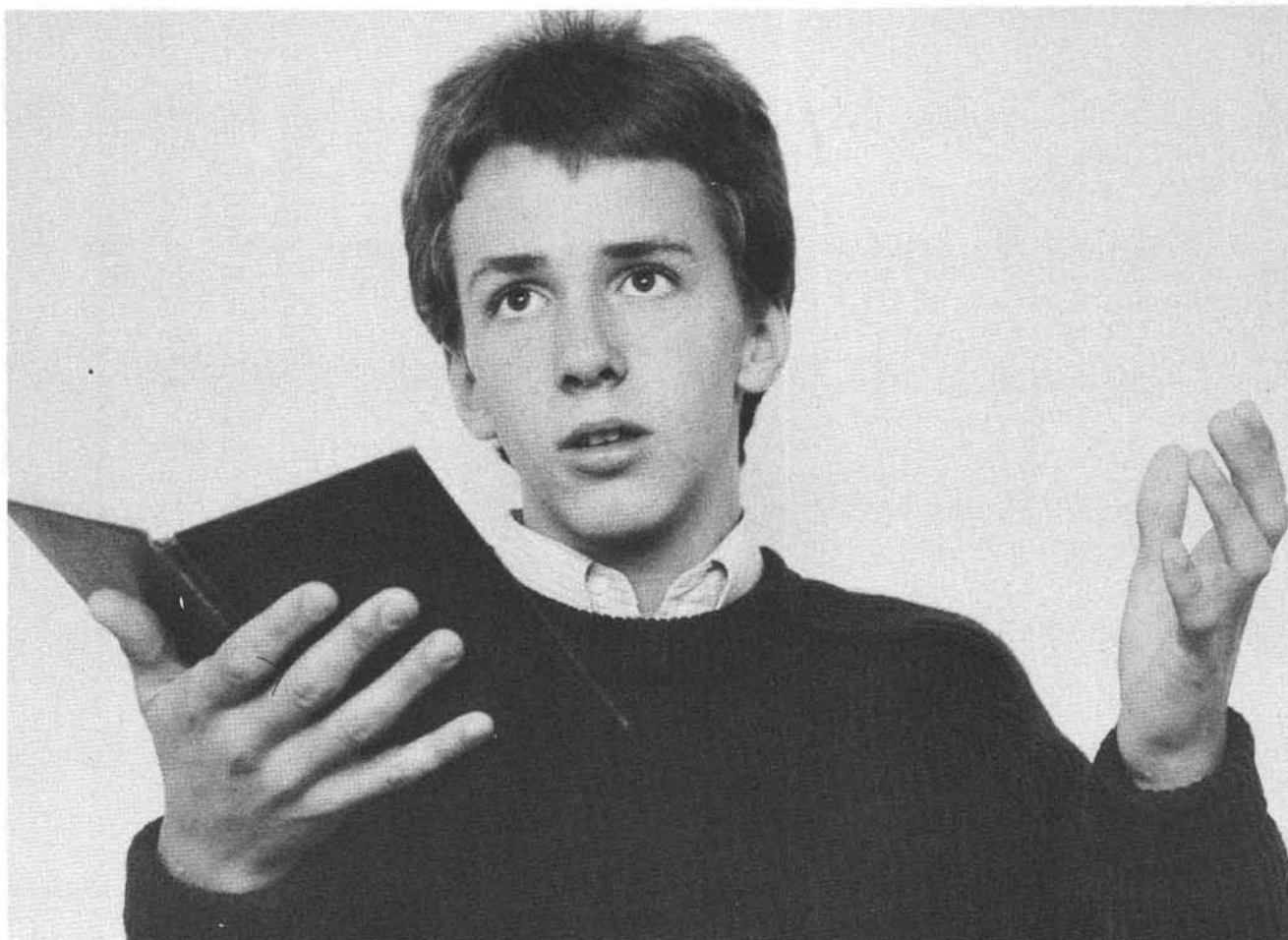
James, who has also gained valuable stage experience from performing with the Children's Music Theatre on the "fringe" at Edinburgh, cannot claim any family guidance towards his love of the stage — "my older sister's mad on sport" — but acknowledges the artistic influence of his mother, Mrs. Frances Thompson, who runs his school's music society.

"English is my main subject really," he says, "and I suppose I could try for a career in the Civil Service, or journalism.

"But if I could choose, I would love to become a professional actor, so I shall have to see how my summer with the Youth Theatre goes."

James Thompson . . . "I'd love to become a professional actor."

Courtesy Oxford Times



EXPEDITIONS

FRANGLAIS LIVES!

Argentan Exchange 1983

It was a bright March morning when 100 unsuspecting Abingdonians left for Southampton. The trip across the Channel was very long and very rough: many people were sick, although it appears that last year it was even worse. We arrived in Argentan for our 11-day stay at 11.30 and had to wait for just a few brief minutes before being collected by our French counterparts. The next day there was a meeting to arrange trips to Mont St. Michel, Paris, a cidrerie, a horse stud, a biscuit factory and an icecream factory. Most people then went to school in Argentan for one or two days and often met up with their friends in the town centre.

The visit to Paris started early with a three hour coach trip; it may be that the sights of Paris are best seen from a coach — and that was how we saw them. After seeing just a few of the possibilities in the city from the road, we were allowed three hours to go inside the buildings; Centre Pompidou, Notre Dame, and others. Another trip was made, again to a cidrerie, but this time it was closed on arrival and so it was not possible to see very much.

And so our stay in Argentan drew to a close, and with mixed feelings we escorted our correspondents back to England. The boat trip was much better on the return journey.

Back in England our families welcomed the French children and planned visits to London and Oxford. Visits were made by the schools to Windsor and to Blenheim Palace; a separate trip was organised to Alton Towers. And so the time for the end of the exchange had arrived and it was time to bid our French friends 'au revoir'. Some people seemed relieved it was over, others clearly regretted it. Everything ended on a happy note with a disco at the John Mason School which was well attended.

Many thanks to Mr. Simpson for keeping us on the boat and to Mr. Willerton for putting up with E.T. jokes.

J. Molloy 3NWH

OUR EXCHANGE WITH BIELEFELD

1982-83 saw the eighth full exchange between the Ratsgymnasium Bielefeld and Abingdon and St. Helen's Schools. This time I was accompanied by Mrs. Clarke, Head of German at St. Helen's, who was keen to see why this exchange had stood the test of time: I don't think she was disappointed. Increased costs meant we had to revert to the rail/sea journey after three visits by air, but this time the Channel was calm in both directions and all our trains ran on time.

We arrived just after midnight in Bielefeld, the only excitement being the inevitable lost passport — otherwise all 29 boys and girls arrived happy but tired. As our hosts had already stayed with us in Abingdon, we were soon swept off to our beds, and most were allowed to lie in the next morning, although our hosts had to be at school for classes at 8.00 a.m. Sunday was left free for activities with host families, and the first full gathering of the group took place in the Aula of the Ratsgymnasium on Monday morning, when we were officially welcomed by Dr. Hilker, the Headmaster, and Herr Schäpersmann, who told us the programme of activities for the week.

In the week there was plenty of time to get to know the life and routine of a German school — valuable background for oral examinations — but this was broken by a variety of visits and activities: the high point was an all day visit to Münster to the cathedral rebuilt like Coventry after destruction in the war, and to the Friedensaal, where the Peace of Westphalia was signed in 1648.

Herr Schäpersmann led a tour of Bielefeld, and Dr. Hilker organised a highly successful disco — a sort of return match for our own effort in the School Dining Hall. Then at the end of the week came an official reception given to our party by the Oberbürgermeister of Bielefeld, who gave a lively description of Bielefeld's position in the world today.

In what seemed like no time at all we were making our farewells at a very unearthly hour on Bielefeld station: everybody had obviously so enjoyed the visit that there was immediate enthusiasm for a repeat next year, instead of waiting two years — and I have already started discussion with my colleagues in Bielefeld: luckily their enthusiasm seems to equal ours.

K.G.H.



SKI TOUR TO BADGASTEIN

A 4.30 a.m. start could have caused problems, but we managed to set off on time and the whole journey was a smooth one. The flight from Gatwick was comfortable and short-lived: we had hardly finished our B.A. sandwiches when the descent began. At Munich the E.R.O.S. representative met us and travelled with us to the resort. Badgastein is a town set very high up in Salzburgerland and thankfully the unusually mild weather did not reclaim the snow. Nevertheless it made skiing difficult for the beginners and more wobbly intermediates. The snow was icy and the resort did not have an ideal nursery area. The boys were able to ski every day and the cable cars (four seaters) afforded a glorious view of the surrounding landscape. The hotel had its good and bad points. The rooms were cramped, but the food good and plentiful. We did get a bit fed up with soup towards the end of the week and David Lee was convinced that everything contained garlic. In the evenings one was able to do one's own thing, either out and about, or in the hotel. A group of us had a good time at a local hostelry, which provided a knee slapping, hand clapping quartet and drinks at inflated prices. There were two organised events, a pyjama party and a silly games party. Mark Piper won a prize for the largest bosom! Thanks to the ingenious use of two empty beer bottles. We shared the hotel with three other schools, which included many young ladies and of course love was in the air, Mark Herd winning the prize for the longest kiss.

There were no injuries until the final day when Franz Lintott damaged his wrist. A vicious rumour immediately arose as to the how, but he assured us that he was skiing at the time. David Alford also had to put down a vicious rumour, explaining that his afternoon in bed was a result of fatigue.

The return journey went without problems and it was nice to see the good old Tappins coach at Gatwick. I got the impression that everyone had enjoyed the week.

P.J.W.

HAMMARBANK MOUNTAINEERING TRIP HALF TERM — FEBRUARY 16-23

Wednesday.

It was a cold morning, especially at half-past seven, but we were all excited by the prospect of a week's holiday and the opportunity to miss a couple of days' school. There was mention of undone maths prep (and of how unfortunate it was we would not be able to revise for the mocks).

Having packed the trailer we all got into the minibus (those of us who weren't members of the bridge club grabbed strategic seats so as to prevent a bridge four from being a viable proposition anywhere in the vehicle) and there was a nasty moment for the proponent of unfinished maths prep as Mr. Pritchard walked up the drive past the minibus — luckily he didn't seem to notice. Soon we were on our way, with Mr. Baker driving and Mr. Pengelley giving moral support. In the back Martin Haywood entertained us with tales of daredevil deeds at army camp. However, the bridge players treacherously swapped seats during a petrol stop, thus putting an end to conversation for the rest of the journey.

The trip went smoothly with only the rain between Manchester and Kendal to relieve the monotony; we arrived at Hammarbank at 2.15. We were greeted by the warden, Peter Nathass, and Ian Wall, one of our guides. Half an hour later we were stretching our legs up on the fells, on Capple Flow.

MY TORTURE

Thursday.

On Thursday the real walking began. We were split into two groups: on one side, those who had been to Hammarbank before, accompanied by Mr. Pengelley, Ian, and Mr. Nathass (plus Vick and Jess, Mr. Nathass' two dogs); on the other, the "novices", accompanied by Mr. Baker and our other guide for the week, Greg Lane.

The first thing to do was to practice basic ice-axe technique. Greg's group went to Glemidding, while Ian's group went to Troutbeck Fells. For many of us, it was the first time we had done any ice axe work, and there was a memorable moment when Andrew Fisher (Snr.) slid down a snow slope having lost his ice axe, and stopped shortly before a brick wall.

Having learnt how to stop on a snow slope using an ice axe, Ian's group went up Blue Gill, an 800 foot gully; they returned via Capple Flow, where the wind drove Ian to drink, (it had been recommended by his dentist). Greg's group did more technical work than Ian's (belays, igloo-building) and returned to the camp first. When I got back (I was in Ian's group) I wondered where Mr. Baker had got to. "He's gone for a run", I was told. What's more, as I found out later, he'd been for a run that morning as well!

Evening entertainment took the form of a quiz which Mr. Nathass set us, on Lake District place-names. Little did we know at the time how much activity this was to spark off later in the week.

Friday.

This was a beautiful day. The weather was magnificent — not a cloud in the sky. The view stretched as far as Scotland; only Windscale managed to mar the countryside. We decided to climb in the Coniston area. Greg's group climbed Easy Gully on Dove Crag and went on to the Old Man of Coniston; meanwhile Ian's group did a climb on Wetherham, which was good fun for all except Ian, who had to cut steps all the way up. The two dogs were up to the top in a flash (they have "built in crampons"), and decided to come down using the route we were going up on. The only sticky moment was for Andy Jones, who slipped on thin snow; his lightning reactions with the ice axe prevented him from coming to any harm. Ian commented "good lad". Andy's words on the subject were somewhat more spicy. Having reached the summit for lunch, we decided to go on to Swirl Flow and Coniston Old Man. Mr. Nathass, having met some friends on Wetherham (he knows everyone in the Lake district), went back with them to fetch the minibus. We took different routes down from the Old Man: Greg's group went down the tourist route, which was very icy; Ian ran (!) down the South Ridge — we followed him.

Friday evening was devoted to a film and discussion with the National Park's Schools' Liaison Officer on problems of nature conservation and related subjects — a very interesting evening.

The next morning (Saturday) Mr. Baker was accompanied on his regular early morning run up to Orrest Head by a member of the school's cross country team — they both feel it was well worth it, as the weather was again magnificent, and the views just after sunrise were beautiful.

Having swapped guides, both groups set off for the Dovedale/Deepdale region. The target for the day was the cave on Dove Crag; however one of us turned back early because of a stomach upset; and another member had to volunteer to go with him. Thus reduced in numbers, Ian's group climbed to the cave via Gill Crag. Greg's group, after a heated discussion down in the valley on such issues as nuclear power, East-West relations, and education, got down to serious work higher up and soon reached the cave, from where they went to Hort Crag and Fairfield. Here Andy Jones must get another mention, for doing an experiment involving 1500 ft drops and the resilience of thermos flasks.

In the evening we mounted a simulated mountain rescue operation — a very interesting exercise. The incident was based on a real case which happened a couple of years ago — the prize for first finding the missing persons went to Mr. Baker and Mr. Pengelley, working together (although there has been at least one counter-claim). Afterwards, as it was Patrick Dorey's 18th birthday, he took us to the local hostelry.

Sunday

This was the day for spectator sport. A big mountain rescue practice operation was taking place in the Langdales/Bowfell region, and we planned our routes so as to watch as much as possible. Having walked up the Band (and

swapped guides again half way up), Ian took us to the top of Bow Fell. The weather for once was unpleasant: thick cloud at the top, with very wintry conditions. However the weather had cleared enough by 2 o'clock for us to see an RAF Sea King helicopter (XF550) come to pick up the "injured" person. We were dumbfounded as we watched the pilot, with incomparable skill and courage, land his helicopter on the side of the mountain, in what was, after all, only a practice. Greg's group did even better: they were above the helicopter at the time, on climber's traverse.

Sunday evening was the most entertaining yet: we were given a short talk by Greg, followed by a practical session using ropes. Having learnt these new skills, we quickly applied them to hoisting a certain member of the party over the beam in the dormitory. (The record for getting over the beam and down again goes to Richard Fellows, with 3.4 seconds, without ropes).

Monday.

After 4 hard days, Monday's programme was made less strenuous than previous days, concentrating on rope technique and igloo building in the Kirkstone Pass area. In the morning Ian's group practised ropework on easy ground, and then did a short climb followed by the descent of a very impressive snow slope, with some breathtaking views. Apart from the wind (which was blowing so hard I had to hold the chin strap of my helmet in my teeth), it was very enjoyable. We met with Greg's group for lunch (they had been building igloos); after lunch we exchanged activities. By far the best snowhole was Mr. Pengelley's; best igloo goes to Greg. A joint effort by Richard Fellows and Simon Brod deserves a mention for its size (high enough to stand up in). It was, however, treacherously destroyed before reaching completion.

In the evening we visited the headquarters of the Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team; we were very impressed by the set up. Tim King got very worried on the way back when he realised it was his fifth journey driven by Ian (he had taken certain statistics Greg had told him about climbers a bit too seriously). It is true that both Ian and Greg had rather lively driving styles.

Tuesday.

This being our last day, we wanted to make it a fitting climax to the week. Many of us wanted to do a technical climb; eventually eight went with Ian to climb the North Face of Hellvellyn. The rest decided to aim for Scafell Pike, the highest point in England, and set off from Seathwaite. After a lengthy lunch-break — Greg had lunch for the first time that week (courtesy of R.H.B.), we climbed Great End without incident, apart from the author being cornered, as it were, in Casts Gully. The views were tremendous, the weather having returned to its former glory. However, the time was such that it was clear we would not make Scafell Pike. Andrew Fisher (Snr.) was very disappointed: how could he, of all people, not make the top? (His disappointment was worsened when we discovered later we had missed the 3000 ft mark by a mere 16 feet!). On the way down it was already time to say good-bye to the Lake District for another year; Greg made Simon Brod promise he would get his trousers repaired for next time.

That evening came something that had been brewing up all week. Mr. Baker, having had to endure Mr. Nathass' quiz on the first day, had prepared his own for Mr. Nathass to do now; but as he had got advance warning, he in turn made another quiz, which of course we, the students, had to do. After that, the finals of the darts and spit (a card game, actually) competitions were played. Richard Fellows won the darts, Simon Reynolds the spit.

Wednesday.

All that remained for us to do was to pack our bags and sadly go home. All in all it had been an unforgettable experience. According to our guides, it was "possibly the best winter week for 5 years" and "possibly the most technical course ever run from Hammarbank". I would like to take this opportunity of extending the thanks of all who took part to all who made the course possible. It has left us with indelible memories of early morning runs, breathtaking scenery, and a rather tasty confection prepared by Mrs. Nathass, consisting of toasted rice crispies in golden syrup, all coated with chocolate. And there remains one unsolved mystery: how did Mr. Baker manage to have so many sandwiches in his lunch when we were strictly rationed to three slices of bread?

Simon Brod (6)

INSANITY

TEN TORS 1983

Teams:

S. Weaver	S. Brod
D. Fisher	R. Perrins
R. Robson	M. Vanhegan
S. Lawrence	R. Elsey
C. Parry	J. Silk
R. Casale	J. Allison

The above were proud/embarrassed/upset in various degrees to have taken part in the 24th annual Ten Tors expedition on Dartmoor. Both teams set out on Saturday 14 May on a 45 mile route, having been woken up at 4.30 that

morning. At 7.00 a gun was fired, no one was seriously injured, and over 2,000 walkers set off. Simon Brod moved into top gear and drove his team to the west before descending to Trowelsworthy Tor, one of the most southerly on the map. Simon Weaver decided to go the other way and quite by chance bumped into a couple of the checkpoints mentioned on his routecard.

Fate struck both teams, however. Brod lost Silk from his party and Weaver's team was disabled by bad weather which included hail, wind and beating rain. It was when approaching the third of their Tors that Weaver was found to be developing the symptoms of exposure. The team hobbled on for a while, but it soon became apparent that it would not be possible to cope. A tent was erected, survival bags sorted out and the casualty warmed with a hot drink. Robson and Casale carried on to get help, while the other three remained to attend to the victim who was by this time unconscious.

Helicopter enthusiasts might have been envious of Weaver as he was strapped to a stretcher and 'chopped' to hospital with severe hypothermia. Had it not been for the responsible and automatic action of the team, the situation could have been very serious.

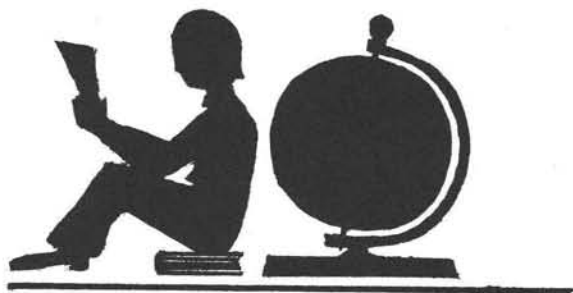
By now there were no girls teams to compete with and we were only burdened with a 2½ hour deficit. We pressed on to the next checkpoint where we were praised and advised to 'crashout'. When we got back to Okehampton we were able to watch the progress of Brod's group with satisfaction.

Good progress was made by that group and a camp site was positioned close to their next checkpoint. Allison relieved the stress-point at the beginning of the day by completing Brod's team on the Thursday. This enabled them to start and the few who were now remaining to finish. Apart from a few minor injuries, there were no further mishaps and the exhausted walkers reached the finishing tent at 16.00 hours.

We should all like to take the opportunity to particularly thank Mr. Pritchard, much of whose behind-the-scenes work goes unnoticed. Thanks, too, for the experience picked up from the training events, which clearly stood us in good stead. Brod, Perrins, Vanhegan and Elsey were awarded their medals, while the five in the other group got a 'commendation' for their life-saving. Silk got a lift in an army lorry, while James Allison deserves a big 'thank-you' for signing up at such short notice. The author, meanwhile, retires apologetically.

Simon Weaver (5)

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST



6th FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP: SKIPNESS, KINTYRE, SCOTLAND — 11th-18th APRIL 1983

The last time the school visited Skipness was in 1977, and for us newcomers the change of venue made an interesting variation from the usual trip to Swansea. The group of 17 boys was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Eden, Dr. and Mrs. Wilmore and Mr. Gasson.

The journey started at what many considered the unearthly hour of 6.30 a.m. on a wet and windy Monday morning that prompted notions of what it was going to be like "up there". With the coach packed by 7 a.m., we started on our trip northwards, which, for a short time, seemed to have come to an end in a layby just past Glasgow where we encountered the first of the "engine troubles". We finally arrived at Skipness at 9 p.m. to be welcomed by a hot meal and reasonably warm beds.

Skipness lies halfway down the Kintyre peninsula, opposite the looming hills of the Isle of Arran. An isolated community of only 90 people, with the only services being a church, telephone box and a shop notorious for selling "only over-ripe bananas and stamps", it provided an interesting site for studying geographical features and aspects. The presence of a 13th century castle and ruined chapel showed a long history, and this was one of the subjects to be tackled in the group projects.

The next day consisted of two walks by way of introduction to the area. In the morning, we went "yomping" over the surrounding hills (with a red-faced Dr. Wilmore bringing up the rear) and then down along the coastal road, as Mr. Eden gave us an insight into the farming and physical features of the area. Skipness is in a marginal farming area and the Skipness Estate, although covering around 14,000 acres, is heavily subsidised by the government, and a further investigation into the farm's structure and running was undertaken by a group for their project. The Skipness area showed a wide variety of physical features, including signs of mass movement, glacial and periglacial activity. In the afternoon there was a coastal walk that illustrated erosional and depositional coastlines, and also afforded much practice in rock scrambling and pulling lambs out from drainage ditches.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent studying the human geography with the aid of Mr. Gasson and numerous banda sheets. The object was to study the three main service centres:

Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Tarbert by looking at their histories, the shops and services they offered, and, by interviewing local people, find out what influence they held in determining where people went for shops and services. The whole exercise was extremely interesting and enjoyable, especially the interviewing, which proved that Scottish conversation does not consist merely of "Och aye" and "See you Jimmeel!", and that many people have definite views — even if they often conflicted with those of their compatriots!

Friday was spent doing project work, with groups studying farming, hydrology, coastal landforms, post-Ice Age landforms and the history of Skipness.

Saturday morning brought with it inclement weather, and the Isle of Arran which we were supposed to be visiting, lay largely shrouded in rain. Also, there was difficulty in getting across to Arran, and so, after about three hours of touch-and-go, the trip was finally called off, and it was decided to go somewhere north of Inverary in order to see glacial features there. However, the weather further up the peninsula was also cloudy and afforded poor visibility, and so there was again a change of itinerary, and we went to the Grinan Canal and walked along a section of it. On returning to the coach, we found that it was depositing an uncomfortably large amount of oil on the road, and the remainder of the afternoon was spent in a garage in Lochgilphead while the engine was repaired.

Sunday was spent relaxing for the journey back. Entertainments included football, though Dr. Wilmore was the only master who could actually be persuaded to join in. Attempts to coerce Mr. Gasson unfortunately ended with a broken window! On Monday morning, we bade farewell to Skipness and started our journey home. We had a trouble-free trip punctuated by lunch at Gretna Green (which was the only place we saw a bagpipes-player), and arrived back in Abingdon in the early evening.

I would like to thank our driver Lawrie Steele for being such a flamboyant character (and having the cleanest bus in Kintyre!), Dr. Wilmore for his gourmet dishes, Mrs. Eden and Mrs. Wilmore for their heroic and excellent catering, and Mr. Eden for organising and making the trip possible.

M. Yeats & J. Rhodes (6)

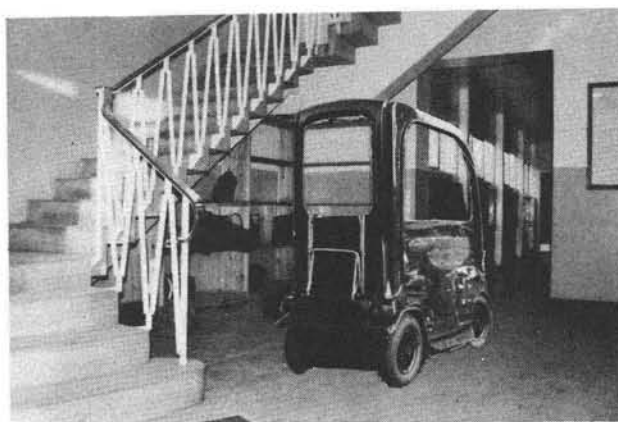
Sixth Form Economics Trip: Thurs. Jan 20th

Midday on Thursday January the 20th, and the school's Economists accompanied by Mr. Nigel Hammond, arrived in London. First stop was the Stock Exchange. The publicity film was at pains to emphasize its importance, but one's view of the Exchange was tarnished rather by the exodus of those seemingly destined for the local hostelry.

The London underground, at a slightly more expensive rate than either Ken Livingstone or I would like to see, then sped us off to Westminster, where we managed to brave the security arrangements and enter the gallery of the House of Lords. What had we stepped into? My obvious misconception of the peers' chamber was quickly removed by the heated exchanges over the PLO. Was this the end of the afternoon's entertainment? No. We were treated to a shout of eloquence, by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Emlyn-Jones, speaking on the second reading of the Media Protection Bill, which would certainly have put the lower house to shame.

The Commons standing committee on housing, however, was far from awe-inspiring. Perhaps one was prejudiced by the remarks of a gentleman outside the committee room: "Don't bother mate. It's really boring," who subsequently took up his seat in the room as a Labour MP. In contrast, the interview with Conservative MP David Atkinson answered a number of questions, and we left newly refreshed, to the House of Commons. The evening session there dealt with the Rate Support Grant (England), and the sixteen members present reflected the interest generated. With some illusions about the finance and government of our country shattered, and others seated, the train returned us to the bosom of rural Oxfordshire, far from the maddening crowd and the corridors of power.

Guy Mawhinney (6)



No parking!

INDOOR SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball Club has had a very successful year. Although still limited by the size of the gym, the overall standard of volleyball has been encouraging, if not brilliant. However, it is the school U19 team that has gone from strength to strength this year. The team started off with a win over an illustrious Masters' (4 sets to nil), and then proceeded to the Oxfordshire U19 Volleyball League, played at Woodstock, Oxford and Banbury. Here, a great team performance produced 10 wins out of 12 matches; scoring 200 points and conceding only 89:

vs. Marlborough Schools, Woodstock	19-21	15- 8
vs. Peer's School, Oxford	21- 4	15- 7 15- 6
vs. Fitzharry's School	21- 2	15- 4 15-11
vs. Edmund Campion School	25- 3	15- 1
vs. Banbury School		13-15

These results mean that, for the first time, Abingdon School has won the league, and we are now U19 Oxfordshire Champions! This is a tremendous achievement for everyone in the team, considering that our facilities were limited compared with the other teams. The team was from: T. Bugg (c), A. Talboys, P. Burns, C. Freeman-Core, A. Storer, A. Edwards and of course E. Datschefski. Thanks are due to Dr. Zawadski for coaching and transport, and aslo to Mr. Hammond and Mr. Macdonald.

T. Bugg (VI)

BADMINTON 1982/83

Last July Stephen Yip left us. For four years he had been a mainstay of the club and an exacting and tireless player. Although eventually players arose in the school who could beat him he never gave up easily. Without his standard to reach and technique to watch the club would have been very much the poorer. At the end of the Lent term 1982 the U.19 team (including Stephen) became Oxford Schools champions yet again.

Between September 1982 and March 1983 we have played between 45 and 50 matches. The U.19s have only been beaten by Henry Box School, Witney — and that perhaps not quite ethically though they were on poor form.

The U.16s managed to beat Larkmead — their traditional rivals — but not Stowe, though almost everyone else was despatched (Marlborough included).

The first and second sixes managed a clean sweep against Pockington School and Trent College after an unpleasantly foggy trek to Nottingham.

New departures have included U.15 mixed teams (with St. Helen's); master minded by Mrs. Vivian Boorman. Both teams have won 3 out of 4 of their matches. In junior fixtures David Boorman (2B) and Stephen Prince (1B) have been dominant — to put it mildly. On occasion they have played in the U.16s, much to the discomfiture of their opponents/victims!

The Lent term was crowned by the eventual defeat of Henry Box School in the final of the U.19 Oxfordshire League. Abingdon thus became champions for the third year running. Next year we will greatly miss Andrew Collins, Trevor Rogers and Andrew Jones who all have totally individual styles (Collins, especially, is a source of complete bewilderment to unfamiliar opponents) but in common an iron determination to win. Next year's U.19s will still contain Anthony Haywood, Jonathan Pugh and Adam Spring.

We are very encouraged by the number of young players who are taking an interest in Badminton. The Friday hour at John Mason School seems to be increasingly occupied by droves of Lower School boys — predominantly 1M(!) — all swatting cheerfully away. If this continues the future seems rosy indeed.

Andrew Collins had been a quite blisteringly efficient Secretary and organiser. I merely do as I'm told and go where I'm sent! We also thank Tom Ayling, Nikos Georgiakakis, and Nigel Hunter for their time and patience, and Mr. Roger Stroud and Larkmead for the willingness with which he has organised warm up matches.

I.A.McD.



SOCCER

It was in the junior school this season where most of the football was played and a highly competitive inter-form contest was battled out in both the first and second forms — 1B and 2B emerged victorious.

Three matches were played: one won (v. Joscas) and two lost (v. Larkmead and Fitzharrys). The last two opponents seemed particularly big and strong for their age-group and we, as usual small in stature, did well to put up gritty performances against them. All these matches were in fact entertaining and close-run affairs.

Outstanding players for the minors were Martin Drewe (2S) the captain, Neil Franklin (2B) and Richard Winsley, the goalkeeper. There were also some encouraging signs from one or two of the first formers, in particular, who were blooded due to injuries to team-regulars, and this augurs well for next season.

Soccer was also played regularly and enthusiastically by a select band of Upper-Sixth Formers, aided, of course, by the deft touches of Mr. M. Jones and Dr. Halstead, and occasionally graced by the presence of midfield dynamo Mr. Gabbitass!

P. J. H.





ATHLETICS

Summer Term 1982

In the end the only match dropped from last year was the Adkin meeting and this only because there was no date convenient for all 6 schools. Thus we were undertaking a formidable fixture list, but now lacking the talented year-group for whom it had been built up. At the Oxford City AC relays organised at Radley by myself we won the senior medley relay for the fourth year in a row ahead of St. Edward's and Radley with Nick Thomas, Adrian Stores, Andrew Hall and David Thompson, though later we lost our trophy in the Newbury AC relay. Against Radley and Cheltenham we were third, despite Andrew winning the 100 metres, 200 metres, long jump and triple jump! Four boys were Vale champions: Andrew (400 metres and long jump), Anthony Harrison (100 metres), Jo Silk (400 metres) and Mark Durand (400 metres). The attractive fixture organised by Wellington at RA Sandhurst for 6 schools showed up our weaknesses in many B strings and we finished last overall, just behind Harrow. The Abingdon Schools Championships attracted many visitors to Lower Field; the mayor gave the boys and girls trophies to Larkmead as usual; David Lowe (3 events), Alex Kent (2), Anthony Harrison (2), Alistair Corbett and Stephen Boland were winners on the day; without doubt this is a very worthwhile public relations exercise. St. Edward's entertained Eton and ourselves at Iffley Road; seniors third, colts third and juniors second give the overall picture, but Adrian Stores (javelin), Stephen Lawrence (800 metres) and Andrew Lowe (hurdles) all scored debut wins of the season. The county championships conveniently coincided with the dramatic breakthrough of David Lowe in the discus with the longest throw (43.30 metres) ever by an Abingdonian, and he gained All-England selection for Birmingham where he came 15th. Other county champions were Mark Durand (400 metres), David Thompson (steeplechase) and Andrew Hall (long jump). Against Stowe and Berkhamsted our teams were third (colts) and second (juniors), but individual winners included Roger Smith (800 metres), Jonathan Phillips (javelin) and Tim Luteijn (discus). We finished well beaten at Rugby, and Bloxham won back the trophy, though Richard Porter (100 metres) and Nicholas Kilhams (high jump) were amongst our winners. Finally we say goodbye to Andrew Hall, in my view the most versatile and consistent Abingdon athlete ever. In 54 matches during 5 years he competed in 131 events, winning 65, and in 50 relays, winning 29; these are quite extraordinary credentials. He was county champion every year, be it in the long jump, triple jump or 400 metres; his one All-England appearance was at Chesterfield in 1978 when he came 16th. I suspect his most treasured memories are wins at the Achilles Relays (twice) and the 1981 season when the team won at Bryanston, Eton and Rugby amongst others. Ever modest he led by example.

N.A.F.P.

The golf team has enjoyed exceptional successes during the year. In May they won the Central Southern Region of the Hill-Samuel Public Schools Foursomes Competition in a group which included Radley, Stowe, Bradfield, Wellington and Marlborough. Abingdon beat Watford Grammar School 2-1 in the final.

The team of Mark Ody (capt.), James Robson, Alastair Ross, David Holder, Christopher Herd and Simon Tonks are to play against the seven other regional winners in the National final at Luffenham Heath Golf Club on July 11.

In the Michaelmas Term Abingdon, represented by Ody, Robson and Ross were fourth out of 16 schools in the Aer Lingus stroke play qualifying competition at Stoke Poges Golf Club. Before the event they were interviewed on the afternoon Oxford Radio sports programme, their choice of music reflecting a different type of swing.

In a friendly match Radley were comprehensively beaten 3-0.

Full colours were awarded to the whole team who played sound and consistent golf in achieving some excellent results.

N.H.P.

THE RIFLE CLUB

A year or two of hard practising and a gradual improvement in the club's equipment paid dividends this year. In the Michaelmas term a team was entered for the British School's Small-Bore Rifle Association Winter League and managed to win its division and in the BSSRA Spring League came 3rd in the division to which it had been promoted. A 'B' team was also fielded in the BSSRA Spring League and came 4th in its division.

Simon Hudson is to be especially congratulated for coming 2nd in the BSSRA Championship, and for representing England in the BSSRA International Match which England won: two very fine performances. Other members of the Abingdon 'A' team, Jonathan Forsyth, Michael Lay, and Richard Mortimer, shot well in the Prince William of Wales Individual Shoot, and Charles Nicholls has reached Stage 2 of the NSRA/Eley National 'Postal' Competition — we hope to see him at Bisley in the final.

R.H.R.M. (Secretary)

CROSSCOUNTRY

Michaelmas Term 1982

On the very first training session a newcomer in the sixth form introduced himself as Robin Groth. We wondered what he was like so we looked him up in the results book. Good heavens! He had won a bronze medal for St. Albans last year in the Coventry relay, the premier event on the circuit; and as no team members had left since last year's Oxbridge, prospects looked bright. This term we introduced the Club Championships with 20 points for the fastest Abingdonian in each match, and then 18, 16, etc. for each half-minute behind. It stimulated much interest; David Thompson took an early lead, which he held to the end, despite Robin closing steadily. Also the middle order placings were much more competitive. The first two matches were extremely tough, against Haberdashers' and St. Albans, and both were lost. Next we took on Charterhouse away in atrociously wet conditions. The colts won with Simon Weaver, Daniel Connolly and Duncan Buck the first three, but the seniors surprisingly lost. After a respectable 10th place at Millfield, we organised our own road relay, now accepted as a top-class fixture. A record 54 teams ran. The winners St. Albans broke the record ahead of Dr. Challoner's, Amersham and Beechen Cliff, Bath; the fastest individual record fell to Richard Carter of Brighton, and he subsequently won the All-England title; we were 9th and again took the John Lennon trophy for the first Oxfordshire team. This was a marvellous occasion much appreciated by the visitors. Robin Groth, Matthew Hudswell and David Sloan received their half-colours as a result. Next came a home win over Bradfield; Roger Smith was the fastest colt here. Then the colts and juniors lost as usual at Larkmead, this time partly due to our not turning out our strongest team. In the big match at Marlborough we were 4th behind the hosts, Coventry and Millfield, who incredibly had Elise Lyon, a girl, as their second scorer. At home to R.G.S. High Wycombe we turned out three teams (1st, 3rd and 4th) and Robin dipped under 20 minutes at Sunningwell for the second time. On 4th December we put in a massive entry in the Oxon AAA Championships at Banbury; amongst several good results Robin Groth (under 18) and the under 21 team (Naish, Thompson, Griggs, Hudswell, Sloan and England) became county champions. We finished with respectable 6th places at the Orange Hill and Dr. Challoner's relays. This was a busy and ambitious term as usual with successes and much progress by the youngsters.

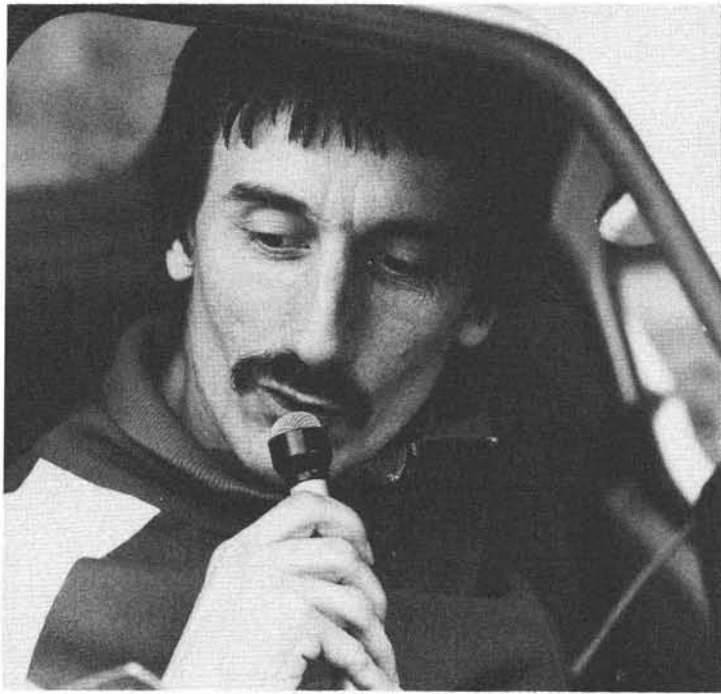
N.A.F.P.

CROSSCOUNTRY

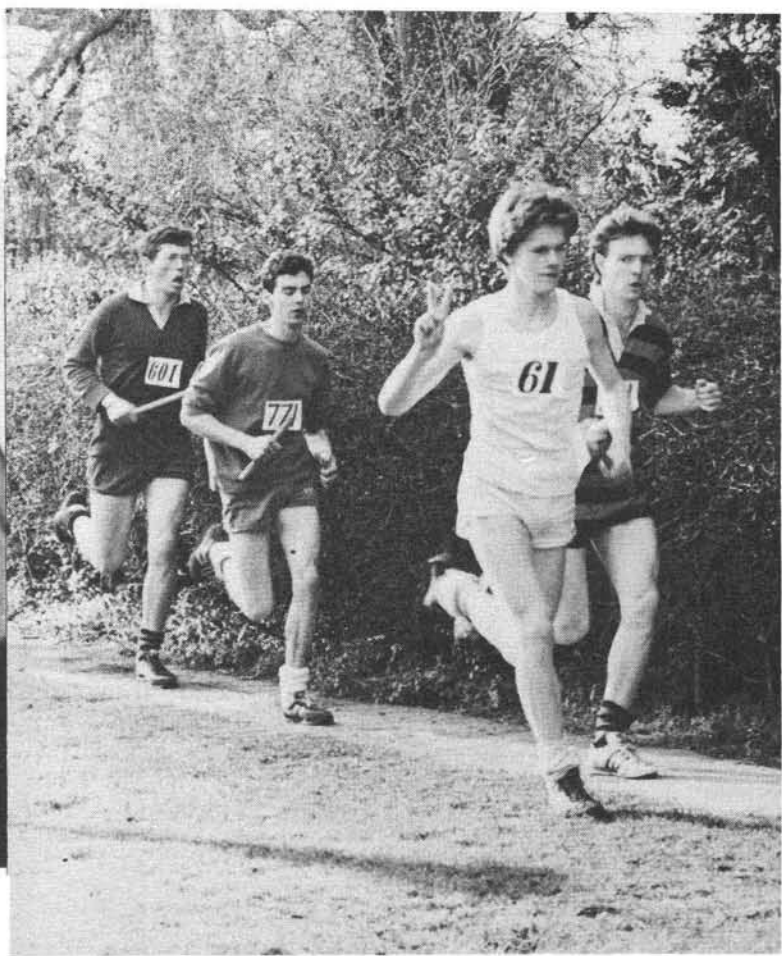
Lent Term 1983

With James Griggs, the secretary, and Tom England leaving after Oxbridge we were rather stretched in the seniors; also several colts had switched to other sports. Thus we started with a home defeat against Charterhouse, though Robin Groth was away at Birkenhead on county duty. For the top-class Coventry relay David Thompson, the captain, was away at a university interview, so we drafted in Adrian Stores, who had a good debut, and our 31st place out of 44 gave a realistic yardstick for national rankings. The Vale championships were on the same day (!) so our senior team was rather weak. Two teams second and young Gordon Mowat 5th were the best we could manage. We were 13th in the St. Albans relay and a creditable 5th at Haberdashers' with each time Skinners from Tunbridge Wells winning. Thus far a useful team had underachieved but we kept up the training undaunted. The seniors won at Berkhamsted in the snow, then we gained 10th position, our highest since 1975, in the Tortoises relay at Oxford. Team spirit and enthusiasm were steadily improving and at half-term our fortunes dramatically changed. I organised the county schools championships on a very hilly course in Oxford; in a tremendously exciting sprint finish Robin edged past Naismith of Radley to take the senior title; excellent support came from David Thompson (6th), Richard Naish (7th) and David Sloan (10th) and all 4 gained All-England selection for Chesterfield; fittingly this reward came at last to Richard and David in their fifth and final year of trying to get into the county team. We were now turning out our strongest team each match so good results ensued. A comfortable win at Winchester was followed by a first ever victory in the Leighton Park relay with our fastest ever time there; Adrian took the lead on the first lap and Richard, David and Robin stayed there; one of these four, who shall be nameless, had run 5 miles in training that morning! We thought we had a chance against Wellington this year; with 3 in the first 4, a win was on, but they had the next 5, so they won as usual; however, Robin's time of 19:03 at Sunningwell makes him the 4th fastest ever Abingdonian. Then we had a win over Wycliffe and Cheltenham, which was just as well, since I had included it in the termly report to the Governors that morning! The highlight of term was the Inter-Form relay; a record 41 teams took part; 160 boys ran and as many again spectated; there was a tremendous atmosphere; Mr. Hasnip's VI form team of Lane, Stores, Charlesworth and Thompson won, just ahead of the Staff team of PJH, RHB, JRG and NAFF. The OAs visited and won easily, obtaining, I felt, a false impression of our standard. A better indication was shown by the keenness of 8 boys going to the BGN relay, even though it was in the holidays at Banbury, and we picked up the trophy there for the 4th successive year. Full colours were awarded to Robin Groth, Matthew Hudswell and David Sloan, and half colours to Simon Brod, Mark Harper, Roger Smith and Simon Weaver; the Club Championships trophies went to Robin Groth, Simon Weaver and Mark Head.

N.A.F.P.



His master's voice.

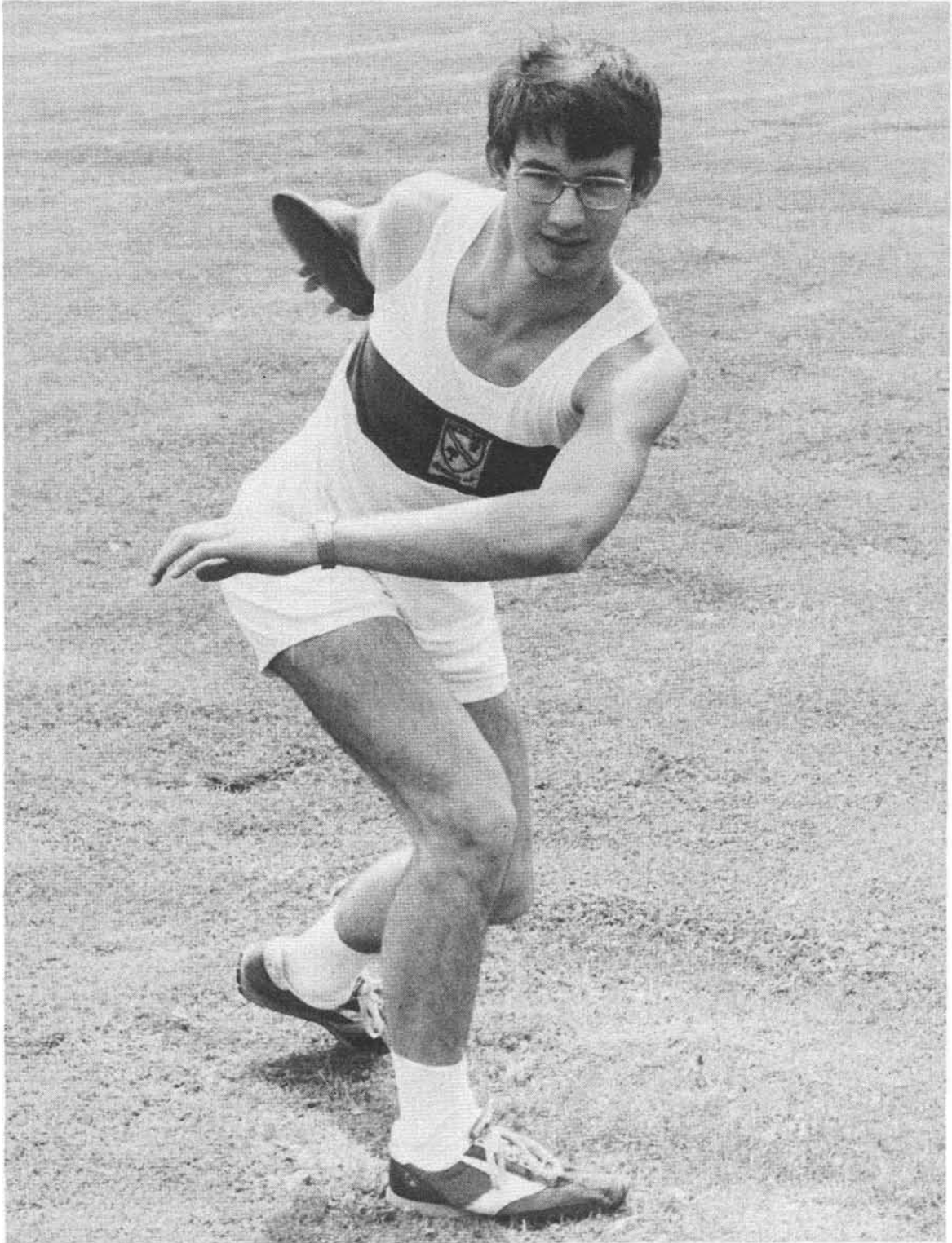


Easy!



Under way.

True grit



Courtesy Oxford Times.

When it comes to courage you will have to go a long way to match 15-year old David Lowe. David, who lives in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and goes to Abingdon School is almost blind in one eye. But he has still managed to win the Oxfordshire Intermediate Discus crown and come third in the shot. Before the accident, which resulted in him losing the sight of one eye, he was a keen footballer and rugby player. But he has had to give up ball games but not sport altogether. Next week he is competing in the All England Schools Athletics championships — 30 years to the day after his mother Patricia represented Berkshire in the 75 yards hurdle.

TENNIS

The 1982 tennis season got off to a crisper start than in many a year. Kind weather during the Easter holidays had allowed the grass courts to be prepared, and in reasonably firm condition, for the first day of the Summer term. But it was by no means clear who should be playing in what pairings and at what levels. Given that the 1st VI should be the strongest team regardless of age a school can produce, the serious contenders comprised five sixth formers, four fifth formers and a second former. It then took three matches before the best pairings emerged.

Martin Haywood (Captain) and Chris Coe (Secretary) had established a reliable partnership during the previous season though perhaps by their own high standards they felt that this year they were too infrequently playing really well together. In their early matches on Magdalen College School's bowling green courts they missed many opportunities and had to scramble to salvage $1\frac{1}{2}$ points. But by the middle of term they were often commanding and notched up some notable victories. Anthony Haywood and Anthony di Pinto had likewise played together for the previous season though at Colts level and were of an age to repeat this. Their translation to the 1st VI was justified and when playing uninhibited tennis their enjoyment was obvious; equally gloom could overtake them and what should have been easy wins became struggles. With two more years in the 1st VI they should become formidable. However, the most consistent tennis of all came from the at first sight unlikely pairing of Garrath Reayer — neat, forceful, determined and technically very sound — with Andrew Robson — all legs and arms, apparently flat-footed yet seldom passed and of course equally determined. They ended the season with more wins than anyone to their credit. This left as infrequent players Bob Minter, whose fluent style has yet to be contained into match-winning tennis but who looks an exciting prospect, Antony Lowe and Alistair Ross, neither of whom quite recaptured their form of the previous years, Edward Morgan, and Adam Spring — always keen and reliable but seeming not to have quite the right weight of shot needed at the top level, though he developed very considerably towards the end of the season. Indeed it was largely due to his outstanding record of reliability that the Colts VI had such a successful season. Combining their results with the Junior Colts gave 10 wins, 1 draw and only 1 loss.

If Lady Bracknell's dictum on parents were applied to tennis matches most of us would indeed look careless. But that charge could not be levelled against Adam Spring, for up to the penultimate match of the year against Radley he had not conceded one match in about fifty played for the school: a remarkable achievement. In Colts matches he usually played with Alex Hunt who has real potential. James Day and John Lee had their ups and downs, Chris Day, Martin Edwards, Martyn Stringer and David Polgreen all performed regularly and well and should provide a strong junior side for the coming year. Others to play in the junior VIs were Simon Arthy, Simon Johnson, Jonathan Pugh, Patrick Webster and Giles Potter.

The 2nd VI was selected from John Steeds, Jeremy Lovering, Jonathan Berman, Ben Lintott, Trevor Rogers and Andrew Collins in addition to the occasional 1st VI players.

Only one fixture was rained off, and that was on Founder's Day against the Old Abingdonians. A great pity, for they had in their team Tim Robson who we now hear is ranked No. 10 in Britain. That one so exalted is still prepared to play a school side is most gratifying!

Two new fixtures were arranged. One against Carmel College on perhaps the most attractive day of the year and bringing exciting tennis and two close results. And the other against a touring side from Chichester High School organised by a former 1st VI player now teaching there, Andrew Plant.

Each Captain of Tennis declares each year that the singles competition for the Buckley Cup must start earlier and follow a strict schedule to avoid too many unplayed matches and walk-overs. And each year presents a problem. 1982 was no exception, but eventually finalists emerged when Martin Haywood wore down a jet-lagged Garrath Reayer and Adam Spring survived a marathon against Andrew Robson. Adam Spring won the competition.

Again Nigel Hunter and Peter Halstead deserve thanks for the many hours they gave over the season.

T.R.A.

RESULTS

1st VI		
v. Reading		(h) won 8-1
v. MCS		(a) lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$
v. St. Barthomomew's Newbury		(a) won $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
v. Douai		(h) won 9-0
v. Shiplake		(h) won 9-0
v. Bloxham		(h) won 6-3
v. Pangbourne		(a) won 9-0
v. Berkhamsted		(h) lost 4-5
v. Radley		(h) drew $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$
v. RGS High Wycombe		(a) lost 3-6
'A' VI		
v. Carmel		(a) lost 4-5
2nd VI		
v. Reading		(a) won $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
v. MCS		(h) won $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
v. Radley		(a) lost 3-6
Colts/Junior Colts VI		
v. Reading		(h) won $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$
v. MCS		(h) drew $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$
v. St. Bartholomew's Newbury		(h) won 9-0
v. Douai		(h) won 9-0
v. Shiplake		(a) won $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
v. Bloxham		(h) won $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
v. Pangbourne		(h) won 6-3
v. Carmel		(a) won 5-4
v. Berkhamsted		(a) won $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$
v. Radley		(a) lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$
v. RGS High Wycombe		(h) won $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$

Full colours were awarded to Martin Haywood, Christopher Coe, Andrew Robson and Garrath Reayer.

Half colours were awarded to Antony di Pinto, Anthony Haywood, Adam Spring, John Lee and James Day.



BOAT CLUB

SUMMER TERM 1983

1st VIII

After a Lent Term of many breakages at races, the 1st VIII was a little unsure of its ability at the start of the summer term. Training was, however, as determined as ever in the boat and on land, so that by the first regatta of the term, Mortlake, we were fit and going fast. We double-entered Senior C Vllls and School Vllls and won both: the most particular satisfaction being that we beat our old rivals Pangbourne.

At Avon the following week we came up against some of the best eights in the country, who were looking for multi-lane race experience. We beat Winchester in our first round, but in the final we just lost to Emanuel and St. Edward's. The result hides the contentment we felt at pushing these top crews, though, whilst deliberately rowing a very low-key and relaxed rating. Certainly the day added confidence as we prepared for Cambridge Regatta. Corpus Christi College very kindly put us up, though some of the crew slept in one of the regatta tents to protect the boats and to guard the beer! On the Saturday the eight won Senior B Vllls against some determined college opposition, and the 1st IV also rowed in Senior B IVs. This was interesting, as we could never go straight off the start and would point at our opposition or the bank until the first few strokes were over. Unfortunately Eton's 1st IV weren't put off by our oddities and they beat us before going on to win the event. On the Sunday the VIII was again victorious and the 2nd IV raced their way to the final of Senior C IVs, where an excellent Lady Margaret four from their 1st VIII beat them. The 1st IV, though, beat off local opposition to win Senior B IVs and the eight had therefore rowed right through the Senior B class in one weekend, moving up to Senior A.

With only one week left until the National Schools', the 1st VIII went for fun to Walton Regatta and rowed in Senior A Vllls, where we annoyingly managed to break the boat once more after a neck and neck race. Whilst Radley went on to win the event, we went on to a stiff training outing with Mr. Barrett and we all lost over 5lbs during the outing!

The main objective of the term, though, was to win the Childe-Beale Cup at the National Schools', since we had come second last year. Fortunately, all went according to plan and we won comfortably from St. Paul's, Pangbourne and Bedford — the best Abingdon has ever done in this event and very satisfying.

A levels then approached and we trained less frequently than before for Henley, though we still did quite a lot of river work. We had a little practice at Henley in the last few days and we had to reschedule some of our exams to make it possible to row in The Princess Elizabeth. A good draw meant that we were able to have comfortable wins over King's, Chester and St.

George's on the Thursday and Friday. In the semi-finals on the Saturday, the furthest that an Abingdon crew has ever got at Henley, we met the American champions, Holy Spirit. The crew's determination to beat them is shown in the way we led them off the start and were only half a length down at half way. Our relative lack of training, however, meant that Holy Spirit (who beat us last year too) crept away to win by 2½ lengths. Although disappointed, we were proud to have rowed on the Saturday and knew that we had done all that we could do, given the exam pressures that had to have priority.

The last two events of the season were at Bedford, for which the eight once again rowed in the eight and two fours. The only victory of the first day came from the 2nd IV, who won Senior B IVs. The 1st IV and the VIII rowed very well in Senior A but lacked the edge of some of the best club crews. At the regatta on Sunday, though, the VIII entered Elite Vllls and were just beaten in the first round. The 1st IV lost their final to London Rowing Club, but the 2nd IV won again in Senior B IVs — bringing our tally of Head and Regatta wins of the season to eleven, another record.

Part of the pleasure of this successfulness, though, was that the whole Club was doing well to achieve our best ever season of 25 wins, which placed us fourth on the tally of 'wins' by School Boat Clubs. The friendliness and determination of the whole Club was remarkable and our thanks go to Mr. Barrett for the tremendous amount of time he spent on the 1st and 2nd Vllls and to the whole Boat Club. I hope that 1983 and future years will be even better!

Iain Burnett

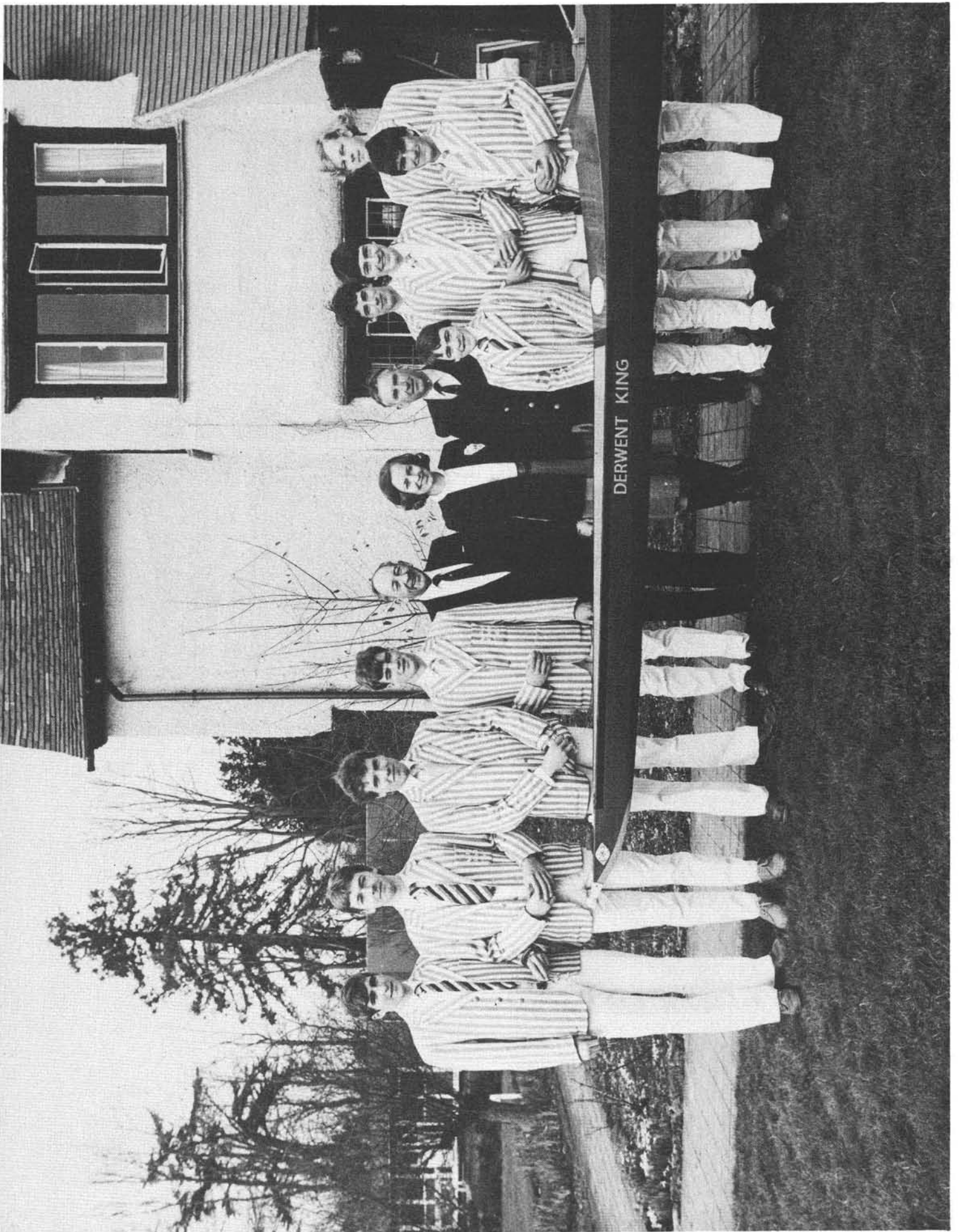
2nd VIII

24th place at The Schools' Head augured well for the regatta season, with Hampton and Eton as our most obvious rivals. Our first regatta was Avon County and we won the Second Eights event comfortably, beating Shrewsbury and Bryanston with some well controlled rowing.

A fortnight later we went to Cambridge Regatta and stayed once again with Corpus Christi College. The course was closer to the 1500 metres of the National Schools' and we rowed through to the final of Senior C VIII but lost to Cambridge 99. The following day, though, we won our first senior event in Senior C at the Sprint Regatta. In doing so we beat Emmanuel College, who were third in the bumps, in a time only one second slower than the Elite winners. The final was very determined, very high rating, and very exciting.

Our next regatta was Walton, which we went to for experience more than anything, but we won Senior C Vllls in great style, beating Hampton and Radley second eights on the way. The 1st VIII of 1976 had last won this trophy, so we were very pleased with our day.

Then came the build up to the National Schools'. On the day it rained heavily, making the rowing slippery, soggy and depressing, but fortunately calming the water. We won the first round of the Elsenham Cup for Second Eights and went straight through to the final. We rowed well despite the tensions of six-lane rowing, but Eton 2nd VIII slipped away at the start and we had to



DERWENT KING

settle for the second place, fighting off a late surge from Hampton. This meant we had beaten all the second eights in the country, except for Eton, and recorded a very fast time.

From the sop of Nottingham we went to Marlow, where we entered School Eights. In the first round we beat Radley and St. Paul's but we lost the final surprisingly to St. Edward's Colts VIII. This was the only surprise defeat of the season, but the gloom was offset rapidly by coach spirit and a good crew.

The rain followed us to Reading Town Regatta, where we were on our own and did not prepare thoroughly enough, so letting Radley 2nd VIII finally beat us — after crew changes and a drastic change of rig. Suitably determined, we went off to Bedford Regatta at the end of term and rowed well on both days. We won School Eights on the Saturday and went on to win Senior C Vllls in Sunday's regatta, winning some fine quart tankards. This final win pushed the crew into the Senior B class, which has been an achievement for most 1st Vllls in recent years and it was certainly an all time record for an Abingdon 2nd VIII.

Edwin Datschefski

J16s

The Colts began the season with the intention of improving the endurance we lacked in the previous year and of sharpening our technique so as to have a chance of beating the bigger crews. After two weeks holiday training the eight hoped for its first regatta win at Mortlake. In the first round we raced Ealing High School, who had done very well at the Schools' Head, and lost by half a length. They were disqualified, however, for being in the wrong class. In the second round we met Emanuel and Pangbourne — and Emanuel were disqualified (for the second week running) after a clash of blades. In the re-row of the final we beat Pangbourne and earned our first medals.

The day after Mortlake we went to Carmel in fours. The B four lost early on to Desborough, but the A four won all its rounds and the final. A four of Colts who weren't in the eight rowed in Novice Fours, but were beaten in the first round by a length.

Our best performance of the season came the week after at Avon County. We beat Emanuel and Radley in the first round and went straight through to the final, where we met Eton, St. Edward's and Emanuel again. At the start we were the fastest, gaining half a length on St. Edward's and just ahead of Eton, and there we stayed all the way to the finish, where a last spurt drew us further away.

After Avon, we left sprint length regattas to prepare for the 1500 metres of the National Schools' and the National Championships. At Cambridge our lack of real endurance showed and we were beaten in the final of J16 Vllls by Eton. We also entered Senior C Vllls for the racing experience, and although we didn't win, the college 1st VIII we were racing just about blew themselves up in their determination not to be beaten by sixteen year olds.

At the National Schools' our lack of endurance again told, and after qualifying well we only managed sixth place in the final. After this O levels intruded, but we got together again for the

National Championships. In J16 Vllls we were never really in touch with Eton, but we held second place till the last hundred metres, when Emanuel rowed through us and left us with the bronze medal. In view of the training we had been able to do, though, we felt quite happy and ended an enjoyable season.

David Sperry

J15s

We started the term in three fours at Carmel Regatta. The B and C fours knocked out their opposition in the heats but were both defeated by the A crew in subsequent rounds. The A crew won the final and drew the first blood of the year. We then went in eights to Avon County Regatta, but equipment failures and crabs plagued both crews and neither got further than the repechages. We then concentrated on training for the National Schools' Regatta and the actual day was much enlivened by Mr. Wikramaratna's failure to wake up and pushing his 'Deux Chevaux' to Nottingham to arrive ten minutes before our race. We came second in each of our three races, thereby ending up with the bronze medal in the final behind Shiplake. Much cheered by this, we went to Reading Town a fortnight later and won J15 B Vllls, beating Sir William Borlase and a Shiplake crew. We then spent half an hour or so up to our knees in mud, trying to push the trailer and minibus out of the sodden meadow while Mr. Wikramaratna 'encouraged' us from the driver's seat. Meanwhile our cox giggled happily on the strength of a quarter of a pint of bitter.

At the end of term Bedford Regatta, a strong four from the eight rowed very well and beat the crew who had won J15 fours at the National Schools'. This was a very close race but the eight was beaten in the first round by Emanuel and that ended the season. We were sorry to see Mr. 'Wik' go, but wish him well in his married life and in France.

Bill Harcourt

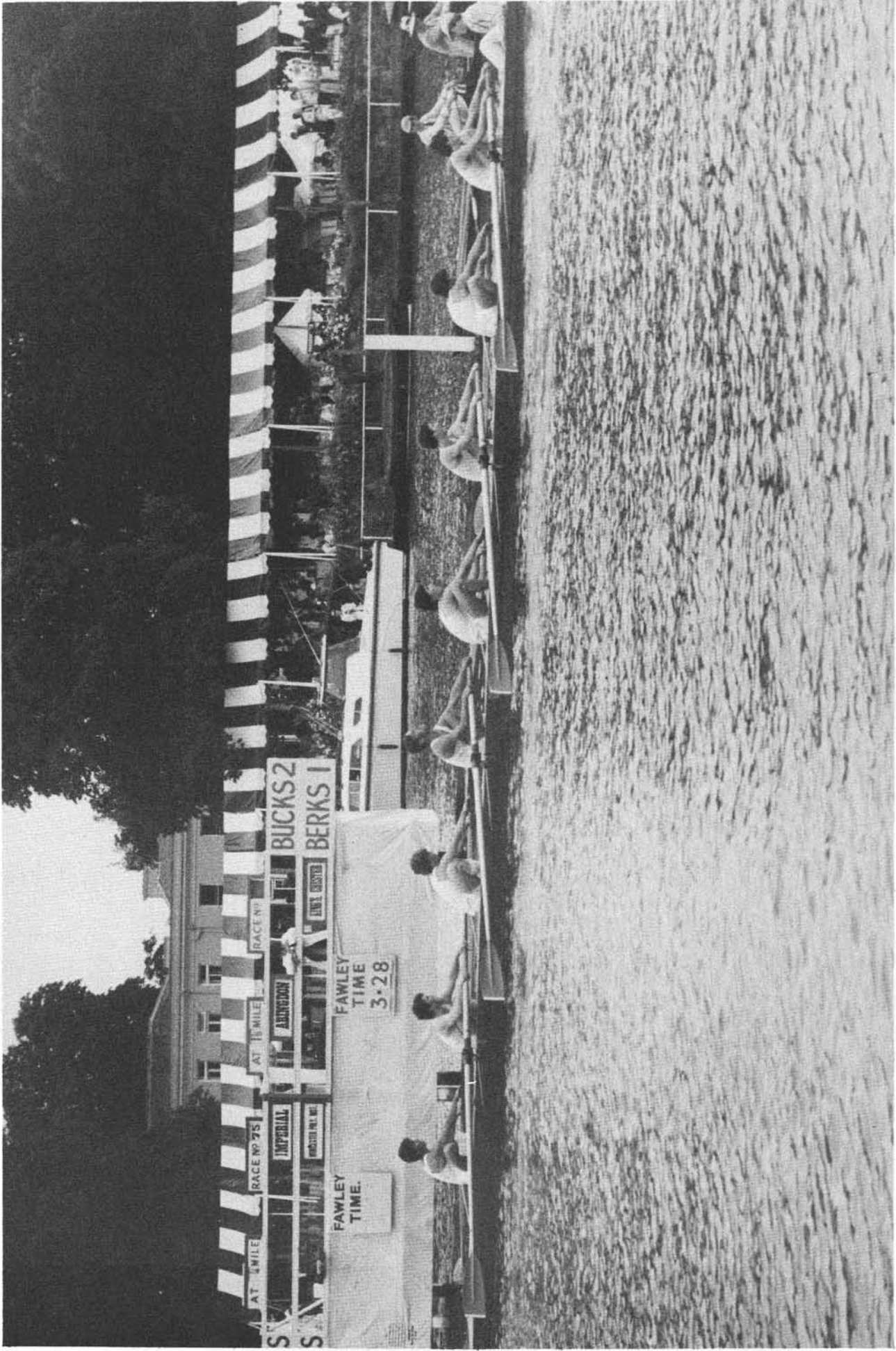
J14s

The first regatta was Carmel, where two equally matched fours rowed their way through to the final. The A crew beat the B crew by a mere half a length. At Avon the competition was too strong for an eight and a four and both got knocked out in the repechage. After Avon the eight moved into a shell boat, training became harder and the A crew was selected. At Nottingham, in the National Schools' Regatta, this eight won its heat against Pangbourne, Shiplake and City of London. The final, despite a cloudburst just before it, was very exciting and Abingdon finished second to Radley, so that the crew went home with medals. At Reading Town Regatta, a four found stiff opposition from Shiplake but the eight rowed its way through to the final, to lose narrowly to Bryanston.

The last regatta of the term was Bedford, where the eight beat Monkton Combe in the first round and rowed through to the final, where the strength to pull back after a slow start just wasn't available and it was won by St. Paul's.

All the J14s had an enjoyable season, thanks to our patient and enthusiastic coach, Mr. Lewis, and thanks to our small, pink and shrivelled mascot!

Paul Gingell



1st VIII. Henley 1982: winning 1st round: by John Schofield.

SUMMER TERM CREWS 1982

1st VIII: M. F. Hunt†; H. C. M. Jones†; J. F. Lane†; S. C. Jozwiak†; J. M. Herdt†; I. M. Burnett†; F. J. Bailey†; M. N. Sanders†; M. T. Green (Cox).

2nd VIII: T. G. Lake*; A. J. Plumptie*; K. R. H. Girdwood*; N. Anderson*; E. A. Datschefski*; J. I. Charlesworth*; A. G. K. Edwards*; C. J. V. Schofield*, R. D. Cheek* (Cox).

J16 VIII: K. Welby; H. Peach; T. Brock; A. Macfadyen; D. Sperry; J. Dix; T. Race; P. Dominey; W. Spivey (Cox).

J15 VIII: S. Jones; N. Challenger; A. Charlton; K. Allen; B. Wagon; W. Harcourt; T. Ross; R. Tyack; N. Clark (Cox).

J14 VIII: G. Peach; D. Hodgson; M. Sutton; J. Davis; N. Hewlett; B. Blackman; J. Cracknell; J. Scott; P. Gingell (Cox).

LENT TERM '83

The three Boat Club coaches regarded the approach of the Lent term with some trepidation, since a record number of over 90 boys had signed on for rowing. In the event, however, the term proved splendidly successful and everyone was suitably surprised.

For the first time ever, boating for J15s through to 1st VIII began before term to create a little extra coaching time and to overcome the problems of darkness in the early weeks of the term. The miles rowed then were felt for the rest of the term, the first proof being the Hampton Head. The 1st VIII decided to row in fours and came an excellent 2nd and 4th in a strong entry. The 2nd VIII, last year's Colts crew, rowed well to come 9th of the eights and to win the pennant for the fastest Second Eight. The Colts and Junior Colts, who are not usually ready to go to this event, both came third in their class by 3 seconds and felt very encouraged.

The next day 11 crews entered Abingdon Head. A strong entry and our usual problem of not having enough of the right boats for each event denied us any wins, but the stern halves of the 1st, 2nd and J15 eights all did very well.

This flourish of activity was followed by four more weeks of hard training up to the term's major event, The Schools' Head at Putney. A few days before this though, the Captain of Boats, Frank Bailey, had a serious motor-bike accident and retired to the Radcliffe for six weeks of traction. The 1st VIII was shaken and the stroke of the 3rd VIII moved to bow of the 1st VIII and the crew rowed strongly to come our best ever 9th. The 2nd VIII came a healthy 27th, high in its class, and the J15 VIII surpassed (and surprised) themselves to win their class, coming 41st and only 30 seconds behind the overall winners — another 'first' for Abingdon. The J16 VIII rowed well but did a bit of bumping en route and spoilt their time, and the 3rd VIII, the first we've had for very many years, came a gentlemanly 81st. The J14 crew had an encouraging start to their rowing career and came 6th in their class at 117th. Such pleasing results in an event for which we are usually so underprepared cheered up the coaches, and so did a new towpath and sun!

A week later all the J14 Vllls and the Colts and 3rd Vllls went to the Reading School's Head. The 'strengthened' 3rd VIII won it outright, closely followed by the Colts, and a J14 VIII won its class and a J15 IV came second in its class by one second.

The final event of the term was for the 1st and 2nd Vllls, who went to Kingston Head. The 1st VIII, despite crashing and getting stuck in a pile-up under Kingston Bridge, came 7th = with Eton 1st VIII and Reading University, behind the Oxford and Cambridge second boats and some of the top club crews. The 2nd VIII came 3rd in its class at 22nd, only twenty seconds slower than the 1st VIII after 4½ miles.

A lot happened off the river, too. Most important was the naming and launching of the new 1st VIII boat. On February 26th Group Captain and Mrs. John King named the boat 'Derwent King' in memory of their son, who left the School in 1972 and went on to a distinguished rowing career which was ended by his death four years ago in a motoring accident. The small celebration at Lacies Court was a moving occasion and it's a source of considerable pleasure that the 1st VIII have done so well in it so far. It is also satisfying that the boat has been bought with money raised by the Boat Club itself and with the generous assistance of TASS: a holiday 'Fund-raiser' by the Boys in the Easter holidays raised over £1000 and TASS matched and surpassed the amount.

Perhaps the main achievement of the term, though, has been how the limited coaching strength has brought out the best in everybody. Mr. Mearns has been greatly helped by some of last year's 2nd VIII, to whom we are very grateful, but the sense of determination and self-reliance in the Club is the best its ever been. Morale, then, is high, and an ironic tribute to the Club's successfulness came in a bogus announcement at the Masters' Review when it was announced that the Boat Club had been to a regatta and had won absolutely nothing. That would have been a rather flat joke a few years ago.

G. G. B.

PUTNEY '83

1st VIII: A. J. Plumptie*; C. J. V. Schofield*; T. G. Lake*; J. I. Charlesworth*; E. A. Datschefski*; J. F. Lane†; J. M. Herdt†; M. N. Sanderst†; R. D. Cheek* (Cox).

2nd VIII: K. Welby; H. Peach; T. Brock; A. Macfadyen; D. Sperry; J. Dix; T. Race; P. Dominey; R. Tollis (Cox).

3rd VIII: S. Pratt; T. Mayor; C. Walker; R. Kanagasabay; A. Ward; D. Cowell; M. Iles; R. Wivell; J. Taylor (Cox).

J16 VIII: B. Wagon; T. Tyack; S. Jones; N. Challenger; T. Ross; M. Yeats; W. Harcourt; K. Allen; P. Jones (Cox).

J15 VIII: T. Gentles; J. Cracknell; W. Money-Kyrle; D. Hodgson; N. Hewlett; J. Davis; M. Sutton; G. Peach; P. Gingell (Cox).

J14 VIII: D. Passmore; C. Rook; P. Snow; N. Clark; A. Heard; A. Stacey; T. Owen; M. Schofield; M. Tomlyn (Cox).

† Full colours.

* Half colours.



Frank Bailey, Captain of Boats, and mascot.

Earlier in the year the BBC announced a nationwide essay competition. The intention was to collect a number of pieces which could be placed together in a time capsule, to be opened by our successors in 2000 years time. Martin Edwards, who is currently in the Fifth Form, won the section for his age-group outright. He was awarded a prize of £250 and his essay has now been buried along with a number of other memorabilia at Castle Howard in Yorkshire. We have much pleasure in printing the text of this essay here:

Who will open the BBC time capsule 2000 years on, in what kind of society will they be living, and what will they think of our world of 1982?

"Hibernation freezing will commence in six earth hours, Mr. Brookman." The soft, melodious tones of the thought wave private computer drifted leisurely across the man's cubicle. The gleaming walls with no windows absorbed the smooth sound. The small computer, reading Brookman's distressed thought waves, decided to use a softer tactic. It spoke again, in its lulling female tones: "don't worry, Max, my brothers and sisters will take excellent care of you."

Max Brookman rose from his air-compressed chair. The relaxing vibrations of comfort left him. He did not like being treated so condescendingly kindly by his private computer. The machine, picking up his thoughts, took the best course of action: it fell silent. Max looked around him. His expansive cubicle was bare but for the vibro-chair, the air-bed, and the computer. This little toy, an array of lights set into a shiny silver hexagon, was designed to obey and comfort him. It did not really aid him at the moment. The element of doubt about his future still nagged him — would it really be a better way of life?

"The micro-printer is waiting, Max, just as you wish." The machine had registered Max's desires to record his view of the life of 3982 — an act of defiance (rare among humans) against the government. As Max thought out his report, the computer recorded it onto a microfilm in tiny printed pictures. His mind followed his view about the society he lived in, related to that of 2,000 years ago. The man began his pre-arranged task:

I, Max Brookman, intelligence A14, social class DK, citizen of earth, am constructing a report for the sub-government of Alexa, province eight. This is a result of my chance finding of a time capsule four earth days since.

Whilst participating in a treasure-find entertainment at the pleasure-park of the sub-government, at the sight of a destroyed ancient castle, my hand scanner detected one of the hidden microfilms. Having obtained this with my earth-magnet, I also noticed a primitive design of time capsule which had been uprooted by my magnet. Strangely, it was not fixed by a computer opening code, but merely with a tight lid.

Returning to my cubicle that evening, I discovered it contained apparently genuine relics from the year 1982, epitomising the way of life at that time. I found them to be a detailed recording on paper of the society, technology and behaviour of these humans.

I was amazed at their primitive technological development: space travel had only just been discovered; computers were in a state of useless simplicity; disease was still a rampant pest throughout the planet; industries contaminated the planet's atmosphere yet still the race lived external lives. The world was so utterly different. It was split into many powers, and suspicion and war were commonplace. The people existed in families, and had parents — this relationship I find difficult to comprehend.

These factors emphasize the progress we have made, but even so I cannot but wonder what that age of men would have thought of us. Violence was widespread, and inequality was evident, but I recognize the marvellous advantages over us they had. The 20th century world was one of freedom of thought, of motivation to achieve, of responsibility to oneself and to others, and above all of individuality in every person of that society. I know now what our world lacks. We have lost the will to gain achievements, and the property of being different from each other. I know, and am sure those primitives would have thought so as well, that our technology has overtaken our lives, and deprived us of the vital creativity and decisiveness that all humans, no matter from what century or land, must have to realize the meaning of freedom, and self-respect. We need this, and I hope the Government can do something to effect it — but there I have made a blunder

common to the men of the 40th century: I put our future faithfully in the hands of the Government. Those strong, independent men of long ago would have trusted themselves and their God with their fate, and taken action themselves.

One of the most mysterious things I discovered from the capsule was the fact that they had faith in a god. The word is known to me, yet I have difficulty in understanding the strong ties of love and trust associated with this sort of immortal ruler. It is totally illogical, and indeed scientifically impossible for this being to have created everything, for who then created the god? Even so, I, with the intelligence given to me as an A-group member, can see the advantages of such worship and trust. The idea of this deity is beautifully simple, and above all the goal of the afterlife — some kind of rejuvenation in an ill-defined sky-kingdom — gave the humans something to aim at and look towards. I know I am being blasphemous, for by law only the Government can decree such new, revolutionary ideas, but nevertheless I hope the earth will somehow revert to the better society of 1982, and that we are not already too late. We may well be trapped and restricted by the very technology that was to make us better people. I only wish the men of that time realized how lucky they were.

I have expressed my thoughts about the society of 1982, and have reasoned how I measure it to be superior to ours. Shortly, I am to be frozen as part of a group of 1000 humans, selected from various social and intelligence classes, as part of the latest scientific experiment of the Government. For centuries, now, men have been frozen to be awakened generations later. Thus we can study the future society of earth. I am one of the chosen few who are to be in hibernation for another 2,000 years. I therefore shall record a personal (if that word still means anything in this world) view of the present structure of this race. The freezing process is irreversible — no-one can stop me.

The earth of 3982 is under the power of one ruling Government, possessed with the power to control everything, organic or man-made. It owns all the technical industries, produces all the materials, machines and products necessary for our existence. It is in itself a kind of god, with ultimate power and influence. It is controlled by computers — every machine on the planet is computer designed and operated. A few A1 intelligence men are their controllers — picked at their birth by overseeing machines. As the Government controls everything, no humans have to work; all we do is enjoy the comforts of a lazy life.

We humans, who seem to take second place on our own planets, live in vast domed cities up to 50 spheres in size. We live in complete comfort — in a robot designed world, catering for all our needs in the way of pleasure and entertainment. Our race is created by cloning. The method of familial bonds described in the time capsule is totally inefficient — cloning reduces possibility of bad upbringing, of illness, and haphazard levels of intelligence. We have no “parents” except our computers. At birth we are conceived in laboratories with chemicals, and injected with varying measures of brain cells, additional Brown cells, and specific genes. Thus our intelligence, our looks and shape, and future is controlled. According to our allotted intelligence we are given a social class from which we may never leave to mix with people of other classes. Although efficient in restricting and limiting contact with men of another class, producing harmony and peace, I know we would be more experienced without this system. Having discovered the life of 1982, I realize how unfortunate and unfree we really are. We are raised in incubators and schooled and taught by computers. Here we learn of the benefits of this society, of the luxurious comfort we live in. We are told only to socialize with our own class of people, and to leave all work to machines. We discover how to use our inventions, and never to abuse them. This is all very good and necessary, but at the same time it deprives us of motivation, of a goal to aim at, and of the knowledge of achievement.

Perhaps we are the unwitting victims of our own progress. Since the 20th century we, the human race, have fallen headlong into a world of advanced knowledge. The teleport has been discovered; thought communication by way of computer receptors is our way of talking across the planet. We have advanced space travel, and have ventured into the furthest corners of the many galaxies, finding no alien life, but preparing planets for population by our increasing race. We have found not only an artificial way of creating lives, but also one of renewing them — every man and woman of seventy years has their life put in reverse — a process by which they may become juveniles again. We have therefore conquered death, and illness too. Our machines can even control the weather, making an optimum condition throughout the earth's

surface. With this we have held back the approaching ice age, by the ionization technique, and we can enjoy the best possible pattern of weather. This is indeed a great feat: we can use and control our planets to our own needs.

All these products of this modern age are a fantastic step forward from the simple machinery described in the time capsule. Yet by learning about that era long since passed, I have found how remote we are from the significance of our progress. Many people do not know what the world would be like without our artificial aids. They have experienced no hardships, they have no enemies to conquer or forgive as they please. We as an entire race have become soft, lazy, ungrateful creatures. I even despise myself for having little will of my own; for never having had to stand on my own two feet to survive; for never having made any effort to impress myself on this world; for never having had to make friends and experience the pain and suffering of rejection. All these things we, in the 40th century, are helplessly guilty of, and as a result can never enjoy all life's challenges like those men of our past.

Even our social lives are not what they used to be long ago — we have no marriage, no trusting friendships, but merely use each other as we wish. Our lives, it must be said, are like a paradise. We enjoy endless luxury and entertainments. We relish in the sports created for our leisure. I, personally, am addicted to physical sports such as football in relative dimensions: a game played in three dimensions but with different times. A great favourite of the social class A14 is the orbital control exercise whereby two men attempt to outwit each other in simulated aircraft flight decks. This is particularly interesting as men of the same class have very nearly the same amount of intelligence. Our world has made a success of entertainments, easily surpassing those of previous eras from what I now know of them. In this field I am aware that my time is superior, but I know also that in creating such relaxing occupations, the Government has let its people become interested solely in entertainments. We have brought upon ourselves a lazy condition, and now mankind is unable to work for himself but leaves all responsibilities to the machines he has created.

We have made our race forever happy, and have conquered all the toils and hardships of our ancestors, but by the power of the Government (for surely no god has power enough to control this species) I wish we could go back to those times 2,000 years ago when man was strong, decisive and independent.

I await the year of 5982 with uncertain hope — hope that we may realize our faults and correct them. I wish that our future will be as eventful and stressful as our past, for that is what we thrive on. Our progress has been our delight and joy, but I conclude this report wishing that our ancestral blood and wisdom can prove our helper.

Max had made his report with passion and human opinion, but the computer could only record an unemotional Brookman quietly extolling his thoughts against a background of film describing his speech. It was an ingenious invention — so much information packed onto a tiny micro-film tape.

The man stood up, sleekly blending into the background, dressed elegantly in a smooth white one-piece leisure suit. Its shiny, soft material fitted easily with the hard, gleaming texture of the bare cubicle. “I wonder just what this world will be like when I'm awakened,” thought Max. Immediately the warm, comforting tones of his computer responded: “It is likely to be immeasurably changed, Max, just as it has since 1982. I would think that—”

“I don't much care for what you think”, Max said out aloud, becoming frustrated with his doubt, “just now, anyway,” he added, remembering he should not abuse man's inventions.

Then, realizing for the first time in his life he felt irritated, he suddenly wondered if after all it wasn't better to be happy and lazy. “Yes Max, that's right. It's what all humans are inclined to think. No-one likes being angry, but everyone desires happiness,” the computer lulled.

“That's very true,” Max thought, “but has it really done us any good?”

Max Brookman was indeed frozen, but he never knew that neither his microfilm nor himself survived the next day. The Government had listening devices in every room of every domed city on the planet. Big Brother did not want any rejects or people with damaging social ideas to survive. The men had achieved paradise and were too partial to it to let go.

O.A. NOTES

DEATHS

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

C. Stacey, who attended the school in the 'twenties, died on 27 September, 1982, aged 74. He was initially appointed to a post with the Midland Bank in Witney and subsequently to the Bank of Montreal in Canada from which he retired in a senior position. He served in the Canadian Army for the duration of the War, was a Captain in the Royal Montreal Regiment, and took part in the D-Day Landings. He was awarded a Canadian Army medal. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son, and also a sister who still lives in Abingdon.

K. G. Stevens (1909) died peacefully in Guildford on March 1st 1983. He was John Hooke's cousin and John writes that Kenneth believed he was the second oldest surviving OA. He was a boarder, a great sportsman and revisited the school less than two years ago.

A. C. Vivian (1912) died on 20th August 1982. He served throughout the First World War and was the youngest major in the army. He became a Civil Engineer working mainly with Anglo Persian B.P. Latterly he lived in Welwyn, Herts.

J. N. Sanders (1918) who lived in Reigate, Surrey.

Rev. D. Howes (1922) died on 4th February 1982 at the College of St. Barnabas, Lingfield. After working with the CMS in Nigeria, he was ordained in 1938 and worked in the ministry in the Sheffield area. 1953 found him back in Africa involved in integration work with the Mau Mau. He was a Canon in Mombasa in 1958 and then a vicar in Nairobi. He returned to this country in 1965.

C. J. E. Steff (1927) died in Cambridge on 23rd June 1982. He spent his working life with Barclay's Bank and became Head Office Manager in Cambridge where he was a J.P. and did much public work.

E. H. Aldworth (1942) was an all-round athlete and games player who was a loyal member of the OA Club and secretary of the Club in the late 'forties and 'fifties. He worked for the Atomic Energy Authority for over thirty years. His death is a very sad loss to his many friends.

J. M. Beere (1962), who was a lecturer in accountancy at Nottingham, died about two years ago leaving a son and a daughter.

NOTES

D. M. Aldworth (1949) is chief accountant of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation at Chalfont St. Peter.

R. G. Beere (1951) is married with two daughters. He lives in Upper Heyford and is an equipment consultant for DANA.

D. R. Carter (1951) is managing director of Carter Stowell Ltd, exporters of hand-knitting yarn.

Michael Candy (1952) is regional manager for the Bank of Nova Scotia in Western Canada.

D. R. G. Andrews (1952) is one of the two successors to Sir Michael Edwardes. He is in charge of the Land Rover-Leyland Division.

J. Blinman (1954) is in the Advances and Securities Department at the Stroud Branch of Barclays.

R. J. Banwell (1954) is sales manager at Ault and Wiborg Paints, Ealing.

I. T. S. Ashworth (1955) after service in the Parachute regiment, military police and Rank Xerox, is now Director and Vice-President of Kom Perry International, the largest firm of management consultants in the world, specialising in senior posts in high technology. He and his wife Sally have two young sons.

J. D. Hall (1955) is a chartered accountant in Paris with Coopers and Lybrands and is a church warden at St. Michael's English church. He is married to Claudia, who is American; they have three children.

Dr. R. M. Carter (1956) is professor of Geology at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia.

Dr. M. B. Culley (1956) is senior lecturer in Zoology at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

G. A. Gingell (1956) has two boys at the School, lives five minutes from the School and is with the Nationwide Building Society at Swindon.

Tom Kempinski (1956) is a playwright whose most notable success 'Duet for One' was performed by the Oxford Playhouse Company in the Amey Hall in November 1982.

Ian McLoughlin (1956) was ordained deacon by the bishop of Carlisle at Kendal on 27th February 1983 to serve as NSM.

Nigel Hammond (1957) has had published a collection of articles, originally written for the Abingdon and North Berks Herald, under the title 'Walks in the White Horse Country', published by Countryside Books. Nigel's Oxfordshire Village Book is out in July.

Forbes Wastie (1957) is second master at Eastbourne College. He won a Daily Telegraph share race and received the prize from Sir Geoffrey Howe at a Skinner's Hall lunch.

R. A. Stewart (1959), who lives in Connecticut, visited JMC with his second wife in October 1982. After a spell in the Chemical Engineer Corps of the U.S. Army, he is now commercial development manager of Monsanto Plastics and Resin Company.

Richard Harvey (1960) is a librarian with the North Yorkshire County Library at Northallerton.

Richard Watts (1960) has a son coming to the school this year. Richard is a design team leader with British Rail, based at Paddington but specialising in port work with Sealink.

Mike Nurton (1961) has crowned a very successful cricketing career, which included a notable innings against the Australian tourists, including Lillee and Thompson, and also being man of the match in Oxfordshire's game against Glamorgan in 1981, by being selected to captain the Minor Counties' Touring Team in East Africa in October and November 1982.

Richard Bampton (1961) is manager of Whitham Farm, University Field Station, Oxford.

Squadron Leader **Mike Westwood** (1962) has a staff appointment at Headquarters Strike Command, High Wycombe following a thoroughly enjoyable year at the RAF Staff College.

Dr. A. C. L. Fraser (1963) is a consultant anaesthetist with the Brighton Health District. He wrote (in collaboration) a review of problems facing anaesthetists in spinal cord injuries, in 'Anaesthesia' last year.

Mark Bisby (1964) is married with two sons and a daughter. He is professor in the department of medical physiology in Calgary, Alberta researching into the biology of nerve cells.

Dr. N. P. W. Coe (1964) is assistant clinical professor of surgery at Tufts University, Massachusetts.

Belated congratulations to **Nicholas Ware** (1966) on his marriage in September 1979 to Alexandra Brian and on the birth of a daughter Katherine in September 1980.

When writing for the last edition of the Griffen, Sir James mentioned he had seen or had heard from five OA's who served with the Task Force in the South Atlantic. They are **Lieut C. W. P. Hobson** (1976) RM, at 1 Regt Holding Coy, HMS Sir Bedivere; **Lieut Cdr M. C. G. Holloway** (1966) RN, commanding a flotilla of mine-sweepers, flying his flag in HMS Cordella; **Major T. A. Marsh** (1963), DAA and QMG with 5 Infantry Bde, IC logistic support for the bridgehead to the Falklands; **Lieut-Cdr M. M. Spencer** (1966) RN, flight-commander of 847 RN Air Sqn., flying Wessex helicopters from HMS Engadine; **Lieut M. S. Whipple** (1972), Int Corps, i/c 81 Int Sec attd 5 Infantry Bde.

Lieut Cdr Holloway has since moved to Plymouth as Staff (Warfare) Officer to the Flag Officer. Charles Hobson rode sponsored tandem across Australia to relax.

Lt. J. S. Hughes RN (1961) was also in the Falklands with 847 Squadron. He was involved in the Sir Galahad affair and returned in September 1982. He has a daughter and a son Nicholas who was born last year. Congratulations to **P. J. A. Hopkins** and **A. N. R. Wharton** (1967) for their promotions to Squadron Leader on January 1st of this year.

Egelstaff news: **Robert** (1967) teaches in Berwick on Tweed; **Richard** (1968) emigrated in October 1982 with his family to compute in Australia; **Paul** (1970) works in Canada with ITT.

Jeremy Sagar (1967) married Remake Wisterman in 1980. Their daughter Josianne was born in November 1980. Jeremy, formerly a professional musician is now training as an audio engineer living in Edmonton, Alberta.

Peter Blackburn (1967) now has the Ivory Coast as the base for his journalism. He and his wife Brigitte are covering West Africa from Mauritania down to Cameroon. His brother **Robin Blackburn** (1969) lives about an hour's flight away in Liberia where he has been auditing timber, rubber and iron ore companies and playing rugby in the Gambia.

A. R. Paxton (1968) is with the RAF's first Tornado Squadron at RAF Honington, near Bury St. Edmunds.

N. A. R. Wood (1968) visited the school recently. He is National Sales Manager of M.B. Sheet Sales, a division of MacMillan Bloedel Containers Ltd, and lives in High Wycombe.

Dr. J. T. Stafford (1969) is a lecturer in Pure Maths at Leeds University.

Dr. D. G. Nasmyth FRCS (1970) has a research fellowship in the department of surgery at Leeds University. His son, Jon, was born in September of last year.

G. H. Maunder (1970), following his M.Sc. at St. Andrews in Computing, works for London Transport as a systems analyst.

He married on 18th October 1980. His daughter, Helen, was born in April last year.

Congratulations to **Christopher Gibaud** (1970) on his marriage to Angela Neville on 2nd April, 1983.

Congratulations to **Francis Maude** (1971) on his adoption as Conservative candidate for North Warwickshire and to **Stephen Norris** (1958) on his adoption as Conservative candidate for Oxford East.

R. Savory (1971) married Linda Howell in 1980. Their son Christopher was born in July 1981. Richard works in the lending division of the British Library in Boston Spa, Yorkshire.

Charles Pfeil (1971) has mainly worked in administration at Bath University. Recently he obtained a Diploma in Theology at Trinity Theological College near Bristol and completed a TOPS course in Bournemouth (see addresses).

K. J. Barnard (1971) is now a Team Vicar in the Sheffield Manor Team Ministry.

Wrought iron gates on a rowing theme were erected in the Leander Club as a memorial to **Derwent King** (1972). His parents named the School's most recent shell the 'Derwent King' at a ceremony in the Jekyll Garden this March.

Dr. G. W. Hamlin (1972), now FFA, RCS, is registrar in anaesthetics at St. James' Hospital, Leeds.

Christopher Clayton (1973) was married on Saturday May 21st in Marlow. Merchant Banking is going well for him.

Dr. N. Francis (1974) is on a Wellcome travelling fellowship visiting Kenya and the Far East for a year.

Dr. Robert McGreevy (1974) is a fellow in Physics at St. John's, Oxford.

Driver news: **Chris** (1974) married last autumn and is working as an accountant in the Bahamas; **David** (1977), graduated in Business Studies from Aston with an award for his knowledge of Industrial Relations. During his degree course, he worked with ICL for a year and is now in domestic banking with Lloyds in London.

Congratulations to **Adrian Luto** (1976) on his marriage on 4th September last year to Katherine Stagg. Adrian is an OA committee member and supervises in Law at St. John's, Cambridge. He is articled to Lovell, White and King in the City, and qualifies in September.

T. Wheeler (1975) works in Saudi Arabia as a Chemical Engineer with Kier International on a petrochemical project.

Congratulations to **Peter Noble** (1975) on his engagement to Susan Arthur (who is studying at the Manchester Business School). Mobil have now moved him, from his 30 filling stations in Manchester, to London to sort out an affiliate's profitability problems. He is pleased with his executive training opportunities.

Many congratulations to **Philip Corinna** (1978) on his starred first in the History Tripos Part II at Cambridge, and to **Andrew Furley** (1977) for his first in Biological Sciences at Edinburgh. Andrew worked with ICI for a year before university and is now working for a year in Geneva for a genetic engineering company called Biogen before his Ph.D. Andrew sent news of **Mark Lintott** (1977), who graduated with a good degree in interior design and is now doing very well in that sphere, and of **John Stephen** (1977) who is doing a Ph.D. at the genetics department at Nottingham.

Recent **Byfield** news: both graduates from Bristol, **David** (1977) gained a distinction in obstetrics and is now in his first year as Houseman at Yeovil Hospital; **Andrew** (1979) received the only commendation awarded for botany for his outstanding knowledge of Bristol flora and is now studying for his Ph.D. at Bristol.

Timothy Baker (1977) changed from Botany to Zoology at Bristol, represented that University at soccer and decided to become a Chartered Accountant. He was out of luck with the largest firms but after leaving university with the prospect of 40 more interviews, soon landed a post in London with a medium size firm of accountants.

Chris Sowden (1977), after science and then economics at Cambridge, obtained an M.Sc. at the London School of Economics. He visited the school on his way to a New York interview.

Graham Nayler (1977), following a degree in chemistry at Magdalen, is studying for his Ph.D. at Manchester on H.M.R. **Jonathan Hamberger** (1977), following a degree in P.P.E. at Balliol, is working in the Economic Division of the department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra, Australia.

Congratulations to **Tim Robson** (1977) on his ranking at 10th in the British tennis lists and to **Graham Halsey** (1980) on his selection for the English under 23 Rugby squad. Tim is sponsored by a local firm.

Congratulations to **Donald Greig** (1978) and to **Charles Eassie** (1979) who both graduated with Firsts from the University of Kent with degrees in 'Film Studies and English'.

Congratulations to **J. M. Julyan** (1978) for his First in Part II Classics at Cambridge. He was awarded the Prendergast Studentship at Corpus Christi College and is about to take up the post of librarian at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London.

Congratulations to **Philip Spittles** (1978) on his marriage to Caroline Shuttleworth at Cumnor on 2nd October 1982. **John Slingsby** (1978) was Philip's best man.

Neil Edwards (1978) qualified last year from a sponsored Production Engineering course at Aston. He is now a feasibility engineer working in a team of four on New Projects for Jaguar Cars.

Nazar Adeeb (1978) is in his second year at Warwick University reading biochemistry.

John Madgwick (1979), who is reading English at Oxford, had more success with his applications for jobs with leading accountancy firms than with merchant banks.

News of 1980 university sportsmen:

Ian Simpson has been playing for the Birmingham University 1st XV and has met **Alan Thomas**, **John Berry** and **Andrew Thomas** at Manchester University, all playing hockey for their respective universities.

Paul Bowker (1980) worked with an English wine merchant in Paris and enjoyed various wine tasting courses before enlivening Southampton University with a heroic performance in Rattigan's 'French Without Tears' and windsurfing.

John Phizackerley (1980) is working for Anglo-American in South Africa. He is in charge of 46 men, represents the students on the Board, was top of his class in the mining exams and now has his blasting certificates (!).

Paul Reynolds (1980) has transferred from the London Hospital Medical School to an honours degree course in Philosophy at York.

Roland Hooley (1981) passed out of Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, on 8 April 1982, and was appointed to HMS SOUTHAMPTON for Fleet Training. In October 1982 he went to King's College, London, to read Mechanical Engineering.

Richard Dykes (1981) who is at Grey College, Durham, was awarded an Army Undergraduate Cadetship. He has been commissioned in REME.

Congratulations to **Geoffrey Brown** (1981) and **James Nicholls** (1981) for their Firsts in Part IA of the Cambridge Natural Science Tripos.

David Phillips (1982) is playing second row for the successful Liverpool University rugby league team.

Ian Burnett (1982) is with the 7th Field Regiment Royal Horse Artillery on a short service limited commission. The 7th has a fine sporting record, especially at rugby and Ian is training with the latest field Howitzer, the FH70, at Osnabruck, West Germany.

OA's at Oxford and Cambridge have enjoyed successful dinners this year. Eight staff, making a party of about 25 including the Headmaster and Sir James Cobban, dined in the Prioress' Room in Jesus, Cambridge.

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