

# The Abingdonian





# THE ABINGDONIAN

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## COMMON ROOM

### *Valete*

*M. St. J. P. writes: Mr. R. W. Amey retired as a Governor of the School in May, after serving on the Governing Body since 1973. His expertise in matters to do with building and construction, his business acumen and determination, and, not least, his drive and enthusiasm on behalf of the School, made him an important contributor to the programme of material expansion which the School has seen during the past twelve years. His acute interest in the School was not confined, however, to its physical structure, and he was always ready to support initiatives for improvement, whether these had to do with grand strategy or with day-to-day management.*

*The Amey family's generous support for the 1978 Appeal was commemorated in the name given to the Hall which was a major product of that Appeal — but Mr. Amey's own contribution did not stop there, since he was prominent in giving advice and practical assistance during the building operation, and, above all, took a leading role in the negotiations which led to the placing of a contract which turned out greatly to the benefit of the School.*

*In February 1984, Mr. Amey was elected a Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, with special responsibility for matters relating to the building programme, and as such he took an active part in the Sports Hall and Warehouse developments, once again contributing both his acumen as a negotiator and his expertise as an engineer. He was particularly concerned for the success of the Warehouse project, since he saw it as a way of meeting the need for schools such as Abingdon to commit themselves to the cause of technical education; his lively support for this new venture, and for the allied development of business studies at sixth-form level, was an important factor in the discussions which led to this major extension of our curriculum.*

*A practical man from first to last, Mr. Amey's contribution to School affairs has always been as realistic as it has been generous. Himself unstinting of time and energy, he has always advocated the highest standards of practice in every part of the School's business, and the experience of working with him has been stimulating, challenging and enormously instructive. With all this, his style has always been marked by a certain essential modesty and self-deprecation. It is characteristic of his that when it was proposed that the School should place his portrait in the Amey Hall, he insisted, rather, that it should be the family that was signalled, in the person of his father. It is all the more pleasurable, therefore, to be able to record that, now that he has decided to retire from the scene, he has consented to allow a portrait sketch to be made of himself and to be hung in the School. We shall miss him greatly, not only for his powerful talents and business skills, but still more for his impulsive vigour and the candid interest in living, which touched everything that he saw, and made him so fascinating a companion and colleague.*

*Mr. Amey's place on the Governing Body will be taken by Mr. J. W. Rayson. Mr. Rayson is an Old Boy of the School (1935-42), a Past President of T.A.S.S. and of the O.A. Club, and currently Chairman of the O.A's. Until his recent retirement, he was a partner with the firm of Henry Cooper and Son of Oxford, and in this capacity served the School on numerous occasions as Chartered Quantity Surveyor, not least in connection with the Dining Hall, Amey Hall, Sports Hall and Warehouse contracts. Two of his sons, Adrian and William, have been pupils of the School in their turn.*



*J. R. G. writes: Danny Head left us in September after eight years as Bursar, during which time the school underwent exciting expansion. Everyone knows that a Bursar's blood pressure is liable to shoot up at the same rate as bricks and mortar, such are the teething difficulties, rising maintenance costs and last minute adjustments to be grappled with. Danny became a greatly respected figure in Common Room, cheerful and approachable in the midst of such stress. The familiar slightly anxious air, the long list of pencilled memoranda, the patient, tactful efforts to match the professional ambitions of the staff to financial realities will all be missed. Danny's work survives in the school landscape, and is as evident in a well-tiled roof, a neatly-pointed wall or an attractive garden as it is in the splendid halls of progress he helped to build. He organised his team of groundsman, gardeners, maintenance and clerical staff as efficiently as a school growing at hectic pace requires, which was no mean feat. Fortunately, Danny recently accepted the Presidency of T.A.S.S., which means that he is still happily in frequent contact with Common Room. Alternatively, he sails his launch peacefully up and down the Oxfordshire waterways, with new buildings no doubt far from his mind.*

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## Obituary

### HARRY MERVYN GRAY



*A. A. H. writes:- All of us who knew Mervyn Gray will have particular memories, but I suppose his name will be mostly linked with three areas of school life, in which he made great contributions, — Larkhill: the Science Labs and Tennis. He and Irene were deeply involved in the lives and progress of their charges in that unique community across the Faringdon Road and many are the affectionate, even mildly innocuous, tales which survive to prove that the relationship was mutual and rewarding. As an Oxford-trained chemist, Mervyn came to Abingdon in 1931 and he played a large part, latterly as senior scientist, in the development of the various scientific disciplines at the school. What stand out in my mind are his love of order and his iron control over his department's activities. It is sometimes hard to reconcile the stories of very senior old boys, about this callow young chemistry master, with the almost ruthless direction of later years. To tennis Mervyn gave his all, in the face of a good deal of difficulty and opposition, and his enthusiasm, courage and resilience earned my admiration in spite of — or probably because of — having an epic struggle. He was a fierce debater and a tough adversary, but whether in victory or defeat invariably magnanimous when the issue had been settled.*

*Tennis was the game which Mervyn played best as a young man, though in later life he came to devote the same loyalty to the golf course, but I do believe that for him games were a means to an end, whether he were player or spectator. For personal relationships came highest on his list of priorities and it is for this reason that so many remember him warmly and will long miss his genial presence. Basically a very shy man, Mervyn was immensely sociable. Those Sunday afternoon tennis parties on the Rose Barber Court — where he sports hall now stands — followed by tea at Larkhill; the table tennis parties at midnight, after the O.A. dance in November; O.A. dinners, Common Room functions, watching any sort of school games; these were all immensely enjoyable, but mainly as a basis for conversation and communication. Those to whom the name 'Dirty Dudley's' means anything will remember his total enjoyment of those regular, if infrequent excursions for food and mild horseplay. There was much of the undergraduate still about Mervyn and this was an enduring quality, which made him fun to talk to, as did his ceaseless interest in the doings of O.A.'s of all generations and in the workings of the School.*

*I have written nothing of his pre-war activities, nor of his efforts during war time in the C.C.F. and Home Guard, because these are outside my experience. I can testify, though, to his humanity and concern as senior master in his last years at the school and to the vigour with which he championed the interests of the Common Room during that time. Similarly conscientious and thorough was his involvement as President of the O.A. Club, an office to which he was very proud to have been elected. Mervyn, as I knew him, was a man of wholehearted enthusiasm and infectious gaiety, sometimes bizarrely contrasted with extreme pessimism and lugubriousness. He fought against his darker suspicions and in the main the lighter side prevailed. There is no doubt that he was a force to be reckoned with and the world is certainly a less interesting place for his passing.*

\* \* \*

Mr. David Robinson left the Music Department in Decemeber, his full-time appointment as Violin/Viola teacher at the School dating back to the headship of Mr. Eric Anderson. During these years, David saw the school move from direct grant to independent status, a change which affected the nature of the intake of pupils for a string teacher as much as it did in general. His own position took a sudden leap to seniority with the hasty departure of some of his colleagues in the summer of 1978 when, with calmness and efficiency, he saw the department through this and its short interregnum. As my senior assistant, he gave great support during the immediate period of transition and continued thereafter to play a vital role in the administrations of the department. As teacher and conductor, he was always meticulous about detail, the Chamber Orchestra in particular always being a fine example of thorough preparation in matters of balance and ensemble. This same approach he also brought to his more recent tutorship.

Although David has left the school to pursue business ventures, he and his wife Marion (also a violist) will join us for some of our large-scale concerts. In expressing our warm gratitude, we wish them and their two sons well in the future.

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K. G. H. writes: Martin Woodgett's decision to take a senior post in prep school teaching after eighteen years at Abingdon has left a gap — or rather a series of gaps — which will be hard to fill, and the extent of which can only be seen by a close reading of past Abingdonians. As Head of Classics he put Latin and Greek on a firm footing at a time when both subjects found it hard to attract boys in the sixth form. Out of school he was tireless, and always willing to devote many hours to providing activities for the younger boys: the Minors Cricket and Rugby teams were founded by him and a full range of fixtures built up, giving many boys their first taste of competition at school level. The Chess Club was also largely his creation, and here too he was always prepared to drive teams to away fixtures in his V.W. or to spend time coaching hopefuls. I shall remember in particular his help in Waste Court, when junior boarding was expanding rapidly and he took responsibility for seven boys in Heathcot and worked wholeheartedly as a House tutor too. We wish him well at Eagle Court.

\* \* \*

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Patricia Esler, who having 'filled in' so cheerfully for the departed David Smith for a term, sets off for Australia to further her career there.

\* \* \*

Dr. Peter Halstead left us for Bromsgrove School, where he is now Head of Department. Peter's all-round commitment to the School and his lively teaching are much missed, and he departs with the glad sounds of the summer Fete, which he helped to organise, still ringing in his ears.

\* \* \*

We are very sorry to lose Philip Butcher who leaves us this summer after 7 years as Head of Divinity and three as chaplain. As well as running a department with care and efficiency his contribution to Classics and games — both rugby and cricket — have been of great value. And of course the pastoral gifts of warmth, openness and gentle humour he has brought to the chaplaincy have been of real benefit to us all. His departure will be felt at every level of the school life — not least in Common Room. We wish him, Jenny and their two children every happiness in their new life in Norwich.

\* \* \*

Simon Pengelley leaves us for Stratrallan after seven years. An outstanding teacher of history at all levels, particularly as a mediaevalist in the sixth form, he has made wide and varied contributions elsewhere, especially in athletics, rugger and careers. As Common room Secretary he earned from his colleagues the respect and affection which he notably inspired among his pupils.

We wish him and his family luck and we welcome back Mr. Richard Sharp as his successor.

\* \* \*

Mr. William Marston leaves us for St. Stephen's House where he will train for the Anglican priesthood. William has buzzed about most helpfully in the English Department, making the equipment hum. His energy has also been appreciated in the Library and in compiling the Record. His contribution to sports and societies was of great value to the boys, but it is perhaps as a very active tutor in Waste Court that he will be best remembered. We wish him well in his new vocation.

\* \* \*

M. J. 'Jim' Davidson who has been teaching geography leaves us to return to London.

\* \* \*

## Salute

We extend a hearty welcome to:

Colonel John Peacock who takes over as bursar. We wish him and his wife Sheila a very happy stay in Abingdon.

\* \* \*

A. 'Munna' Mitra, formerly head classicist at Highgate School, who succeeds as Head of Classics. Munna, a distinguished cricketer, has already made his mark 'in the field'.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. J. Mansfield who comes to us from Lanchester Polytechnic to teach Craft, Design and Technology.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. Townsend who comes to us from Keele to be Head of Economics and Business Studies.

\* \* \*

Mr. I. C. Fishpool who comes to us from Birmingham to teach Geography and to be tutor at Waste Court.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. R. Newell from University College, Durham to teach Music and to be tutor in School House.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. R. Sharp from Jesus College, Cambridge, and Jesus College, Oxford, to teach History.

\* \* \*

Rev. P. Lewis of Selwyn College, Cambridge, who succeeds as Chaplain and Head of Divinity.

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Mrs. A. M. Soper from Keele to teach English.

\* \* \*

Mrs. C. Hollands-Duverly, Licence es lettres, to teach Modern Languages for a year.

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## ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### BANBURY COLLEGE

F. D. A. Tiffany      Art

### BATH

P. J. Baynard-Smith      English/French  
P. J. Winsbury      French/German

### BIRMINGHAM

R. J. Elsey      Dentistry

### BRADFORD

N. S. Burgoyne      Business Studies

### BRISTOL

J. Burman      English  
C. Foulkes      Mathematics  
W. T. Hyder      Mechanical Engineering  
T. G. Lake      Mechanical Engineering  
D. R. Long      Electrical Engineering  
D. L. Mercer      Chemistry  
J. M. Perrins      Zoology  
J. M. Plumptre      Zoology  
S. J. Rushton      Natural Sciences  
D. L. Spivey      Chemistry  
A. M. Starr      Civil Engineering  
M. C. Yeats      English



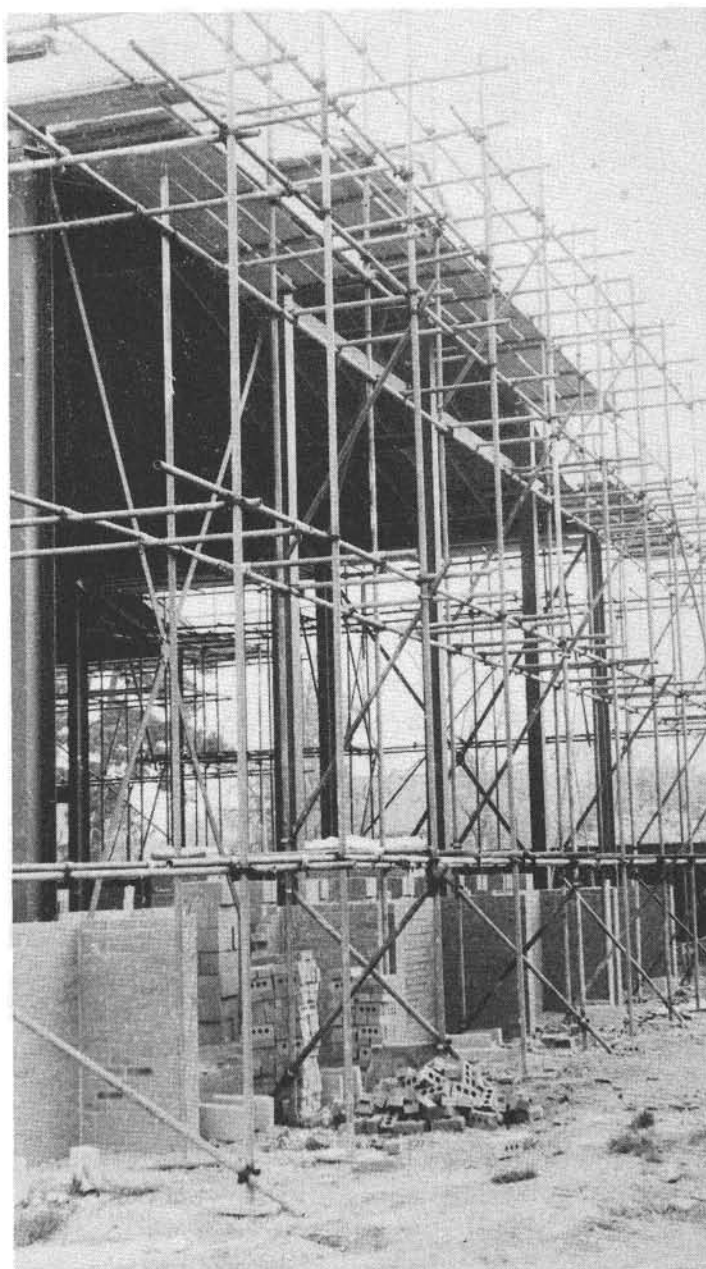
**BULMERSHE COLLEGE**A. D. Horne *Art***CAMBRIDGE****Clare**T. D. Allport *Natural Sciences*  
N. V. Challenger *Engineering***Christ's**K. B. Wise *Geography***Churchill**S. I. Brod *Engineering*  
S. Jennaway *Mathematics***Pembroke**R. V. Dwek *English*  
J. Lee *English***Peterhouse**G. P. Forster *Classics***Queen's**P. J. Rodgers *Mathematics*  
E. E. Rutter *English***Robinson**P. J. Ladmore *Law*  
R. W. Robson *Modern Languages***St. John's**M. C. Day *Modern Languages*  
W. G. V. Harcourt *Medicine*  
S. J. B. Reynolds *Natural Sciences***Selwyn**C. J. F. Coupland *Engineering*  
T. A. N. Hollander *Engineering*  
D. C. James *Classics/Anglo-Saxon***Sidney Sussex**K. La T. G. Bond *History***Trinity**B. R. Keeping *Mathematics*  
P. J. Owen *Medicine*  
M. J. Vanhegan *Natural Sciences***DORSET POLYTECHNIC**C. G. Walker *Law***DUNDEE**A. D. K. Campbell *Medicine***DURHAM**R. H. R. Mortimer *History***EAST ANGLIA**M. K. Salmon *Computing***EXETER**R. J. Mason *Statistics*  
R. K. S. Pasley *Mathematics/Physics*  
A. J. Wilson *Chemistry***KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC**T. J. Brock *Engineering***LEEDS**D. W. Newport *Mechanical Engineering***LIVERPOOL**D. J. Ransome *Mechanical Engineering***LONDON****Charing Cross**R. G. Kanagasaby *Medicine***Imperial College**C. G. Crosskey *Biochemistry*  
R. J. Wivell *Applied Biology***Queen Mary College**J. L. Lane *Geography***Royal Free**C. P. R. Walker *Medicine***University College**A. G. Di Pinto *Electrical Engineering*  
J. M. Herd *Mechanical Engineering***MANCHESTER**P. J. Burns *English*  
G. A. Hockey *Pharmacy*  
N. Micklem *Combined Studies*  
D. R. Newman *English*  
P. J. Stephens *Pharmacy***NOTTINGHAM**B. M. Iles *Environmental Biology*  
T. P. Mardon *Chemistry and Industrial Management***OXFORD****Christ Church**T. J. H. Bennett *Music (Choral Award)*  
P. W. May *P.P.E.*  
B. J. Burman *English***Corpus Christi**S. J. Marsh *Physics***Keble**A. J. N. Ward *History***Lady Margaret Hall**M. A. Marsden *Philosophy and Theology*  
T. C. Race *Mathematics and Computer Science***Magdalen**A. W. Jones *History*  
M. S. R. Edwards *Law***Oriel**J. R. Flynn *Medicine***Pembroke**J. E. Robson *Classics*  
D. A. Sperry *Medicine*  
R. T. Carter *Chemistry*  
J. J. McKay *Biology***St. Anne's**S. J. Dewhurst *English***St. Edmund Hall**R. N. Ward *Biochemistry*  
B. D. Hicks *Physics***St. John's**D. A. P. Oppenheimer *Japanese***OXFORD POLYTECHNIC**E. W. Betts *Physics***READING**A. J. Macfadyen *Physics*  
T. A. Mayor *Food Technology*  
N. A. Trippett *Archaeology***SALFORD**P. J. Gross *Mechanical Engineering***SHEFFIELD**R. M. Groth *Mechanical Engineering***SOUTHAMPTON**N.-T. Cheng *Electronic Engineering*  
J. D. Collier *History*  
M. L. Thomas *Archaeology***SURREY**S. J. Pratt *French***SUSSEX**A. J. McLennan *Politics*  
N. R. Somerville *Mathematics*  
A. M. Stephens *History***YORK**N. G. Anderson *History*  
R. W. Bradshaw *Economics and Politics*  
P. R. Green *Economics*

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT ABINGDON



he last eighteen months have seen great building activity at the School; in fact, we have almost completed a programme which, according to our recently-retired Bursar, Group Captain Head, bears comparison with the great effort which was made to re-establish the School on its present site in 1870. The sheer size of the buildings is the first thing to attract attention: the Sports Hall, with its floor of 6,000 unimpeded square feet, and the Warehouse, with its 7,500 square feet variously sub-divided, take us into a dimension of spaciousness which until now we have found only in the Amey Hall, but which we are gratefully coming to recognise as appropriate and necessary to the Abingdon of the 1980's. Next, there is the scale of the financial outlay: a global total of £463,000 for the Sports Hall, the Warehouse, the Coach-House and the Maintenance Workshop, taken together, is impressive by any standards, and becomes all the more so when it is remembered that by far the greater part of this sum has been voluntarily subscribed by people who are prepared to show in this way their belief in the future of the School, and the quality of its work. There is yet a third dimension, which is worth considering apart from those of size and cost, namely the significance of the various buildings to the life of the School; each in its way will strengthen an important aspect of our work, and each is symbolic of a commitment which goes deeply into the foundations of our life as a community.

Of all the achievements of this "year of buildings", the Sports Hall has perhaps made most impact so far, partly because of its sheer bulk, partly because of its conspicuous position on the side of Waste Court Field — where it has provided welcome definition to a boundary which was otherwise non-descript and undistinguished — and, most of all, because it has swiftly come into widespread and popular use. It has, indeed, met a long-felt need. Growing boys need a great deal of exercise, to keep them cheerful as well as fit, and, whatever spartan traditionalists may say, such exercise is not always suitably to be found by way of team games played in the open air. The cramped miseries of the Old Gym are rapidly fading into incredulous memory as badminton, basket-ball, indoor football, cricket nets, tennis and hockey are pursued almost ceaselessly round the clock in the wide open spaces of the Sports Hall. The great thing, indeed, is that this is truly a gain for the whole School, not just for an elite sporting few. It is good, also, to be able to note that our own heavy use of the Hall does not preclude some letting to local groups, through

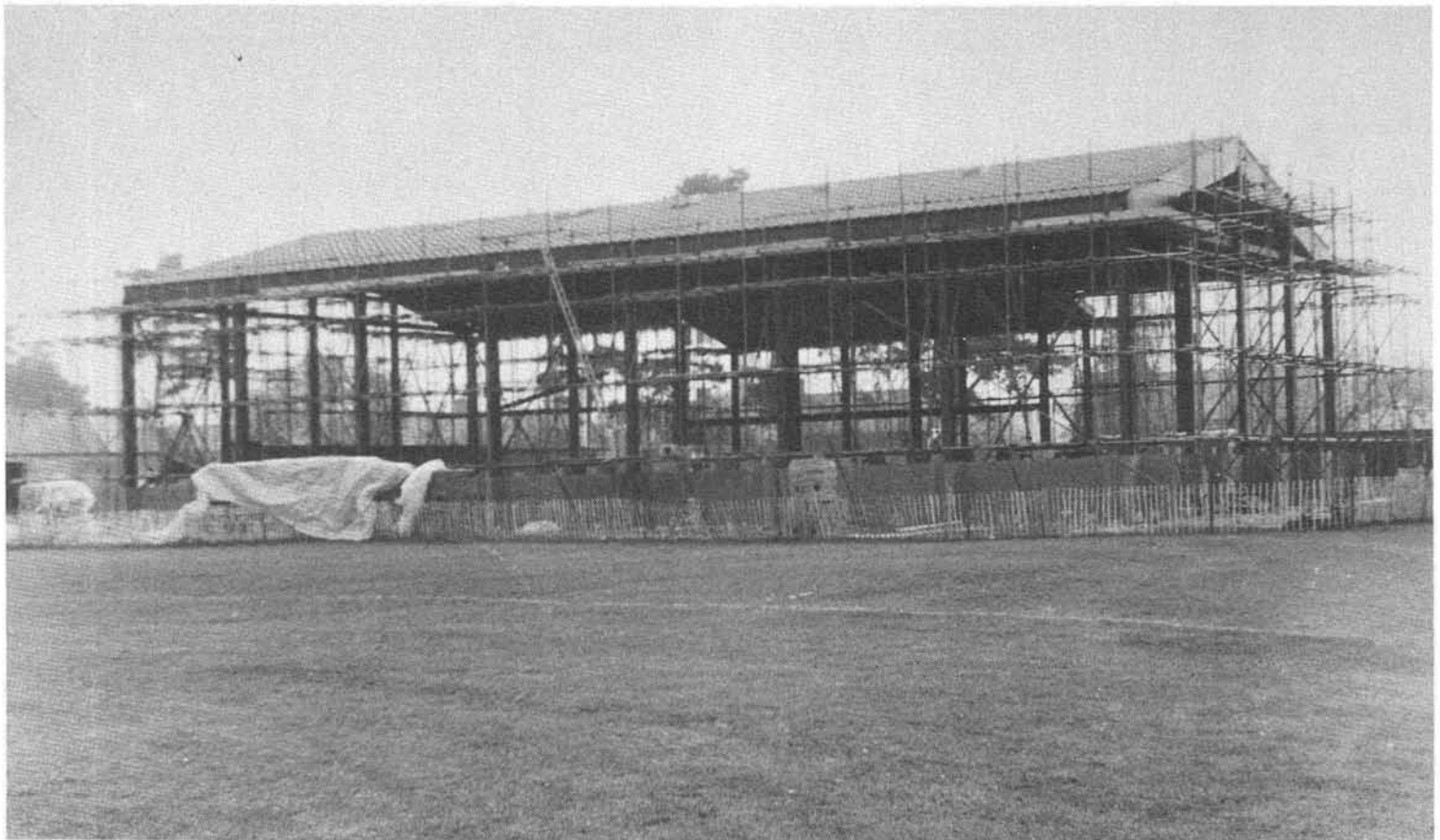


*The initial stages of construction.*

whom we may be said to be strengthening our links with the town community. Much of the credit for the conception of the Hall, with regard to its use and to its efficient layout, must go to Mr. Drummond-Hay, who presides over its operations with indefatigable good humour — fortified, perhaps, in the hope (to use his own memorable words) that it is now less than ever likely that Abingdon will become a soft School!

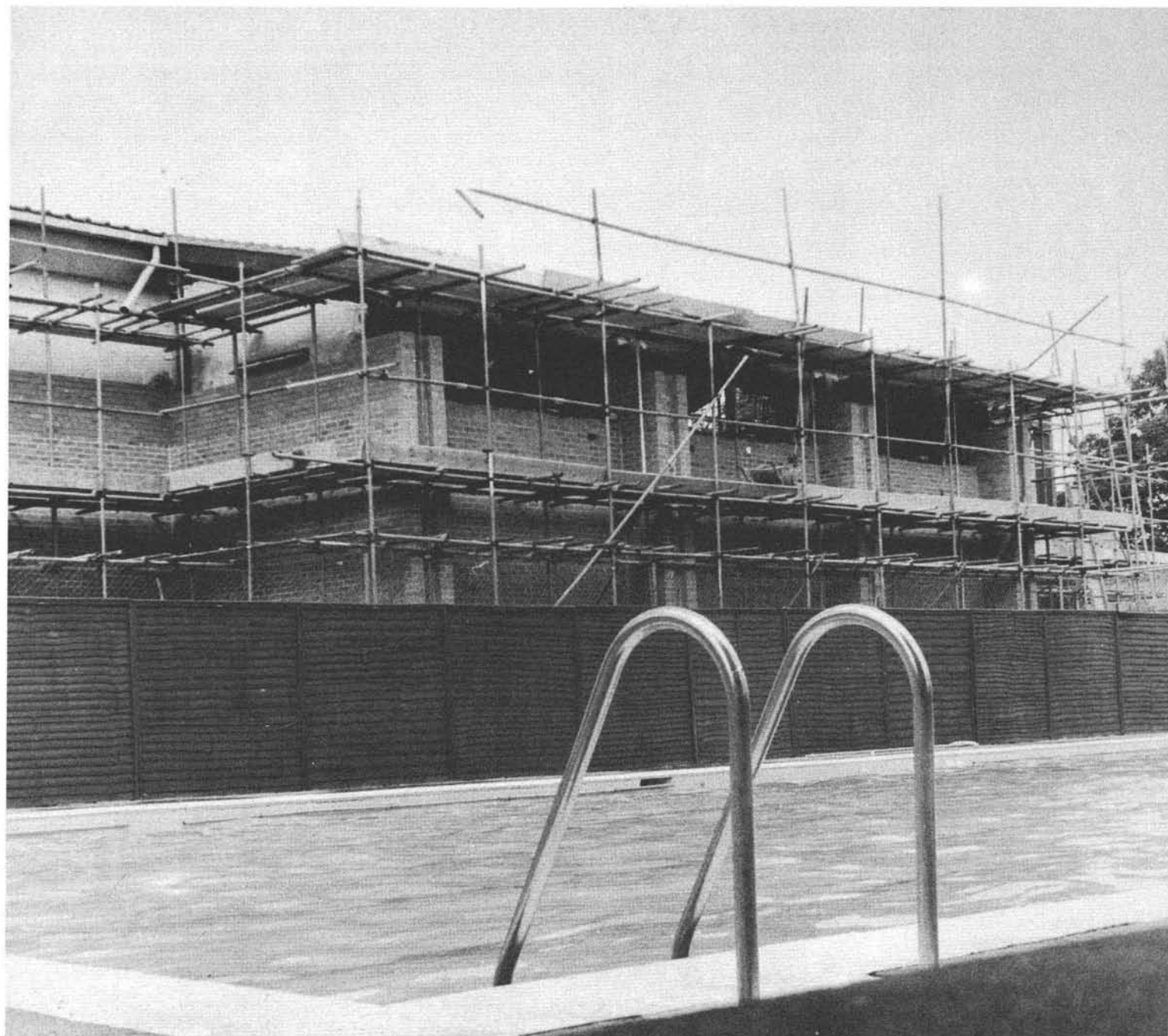
The Warehouse has not yet caught the imagination of the School in the same way as has the Sports Hall, chiefly for the simple reason that it is only gradually coming into use. All the architectural work of Phase 1, covering approximately two-thirds of the entire building, had been completed by the autumn of 1984, but much has had to be done during the succeeding nine months to equip the shell with machinery and all the assorted facilities which are necessary to the teaching of applied science in terms of today's technology. Mr. Dillon, who has played a crucial leading role in the design and organisation of the Warehouse, writes elsewhere in this issue about the courses to be offered by the Design Department from September of this year, from which it will be apparent that we are facing the prospect of a very substantial and significant development in the Abingdon curriculum. The ideal which animates this development can perhaps be summed up as that of the practically able man — the man who can translate his good ideas into working reality, who has a full understanding of the meaning of design, whose hands and whose head work in perfect harmony. The Warehouse is no hobbies centre, nor is it to be

a resort for refugees from intellectual effort; instead, it will be at the centre of the School curriculum, and all boys without exception will take foundation courses there before deciding whether or not they wish to go on to the more advanced work that will be available for them. Abingdon has always been proud of the numbers of engineers which it has sent on to university; in future, we hope not only that this flow will be developed and fortified, but that products of the arts side, as well as all the scientists, will have had their experience enriched by design work. To achieve this ambition, it will be essential that the Warehouse operation should function in closest collaboration with the work both of the Science School and of the Art School — and also, needless to say, with the all-pervading activity of the computers, which will undoubtedly be found before long in almost every department. This is no utilitarian conception: rather, it is a fully conscious attempt to re-interpret the liberal tradition of an Abingdon education in terms of late twentieth-century realities. It is enormously cheering to find that parents and Old Boys alike are responding with ready enthusiasm to all that the Warehouse implies for the future of the School.



*6,000 square feet with just the roof on.*





*The view from the Bath Street side.*

Traditional Abingdon commitments and loyalties are strongly reaffirmed by the third of our new buildings. The Coach-house, which lay derelict and crumbling for half a century to the north of Waste Court, has at long last been completely re-furbished — indeed, virtually rebuilt — to provide boarding accommodation of high quality as an annexe of Waste Court itself. Study bedrooms, generous common-room space, and provision for personal care in the shape of a tutor's flat, all indicate the style and the standard to which we are working in our arrangements for boarding today. They also say something very important about the emphasis which we are prepared to place on the role of the resident community at the heart of the School; we are not a casual aggregation of seekers after academic and other distinctions — we are a living social

organism, drawing nourishment from deep historic roots, and conscious of a sense of identity which can only come from the experience of a fully corporate life. The boarding side of the School has undergone considerable change since the end of the direct grant era: numbers have fallen, and expectations have changed — but School policy has remained firm in its commitment, and a policy of re-investment, expressed in terms of substantial re-building and re-organisation in all the boarding houses, is now beginning to pay dividends. Improved living conditions are beginning to show their effect not only on our own daily life, but also on the way in which we appear to potential parents and their sons, and we are now looking positively towards a rise in the proportion of boarders within the total School population.



Last, but not least of the buildings which have come to change the appearance of the School during recent months is the Maintenance Workshop — still incomplete, but actually acquiring its long-awaited roof as I write these words! It stands for self-help — a theme which is surely of the utmost importance to Abingdon. Conceived on a generous scale, and constructed to a high standard, it owes much to our Clerk of Works, Mr. Gregg, who drew up the plans and has been personally responsible for much of the building operation. In a larger sense, it appears as a logical step in the policy which the School has been following for some years now, of developing a capacity for looking after ourselves. Our team of skilled tradesmen are increasingly able not only to deal with problems as they arise, but also to

embark on projects for expansion. In several senses, therefore, this Workshop may stand as a symbol of the way in which life at Abingdon goes forward.

Buildings are, of course, only a part of the life of a School — but without them we cannot exist, and the story of their growth, or their decay, is a tolerably accurate indicator of the way we are going, and the state of our corporate health. A parent recently described our construction activities as "signs of a decent prosperity", a comment which we hope is as true as it is certainly reassuring. The quality of the prosperity, however, is worth a close analysis — and here the varied themes displayed in the achievements of the past eighteen months are significant for the future as well as the present.

M. St. J. P.



*The Warehouse prior to its renovation.*

# THE AMEY HALL AS AN ARTS CENTRE

## TWO HISTORIC PORTRAITS

The year 1763 was the bicentenary of John Royse's re-foundation of Abingdon School, and was marked by various celebrations, relics of which are still to be found in the School today. The Headmaster at that time was Henry Bright, D.D., who had been appointed in 1758 and who held office until 1774; various details of his regime testify to a concern about maintaining the high reputation gained for the School by the redoubtable Thomas Woods (1716-1753), and, in particular, the social cachet which had attracted a flow of titled and wealthy pupils in the middle years of the century. Himself a Wykehamist, and therefore, no doubt, deeply imbued with the idea of a "founder's cult", Bright may well have felt a lack of visible reminders of the School's antiquity, and of Royse's activity in particular. He was active in

promoting the use of the School motto (which he seems to have derived from a fifteenth-century memorial brass to a young scholar of Winchester), he concocted a totally unjustifiable coat of arms, which remained in use by the School until early in the present century — and he commissioned two copies of the portrait of John Royse from an original of which we cannot be quite certain, though it may have been a reputed contemporary portrait now (though not then) in the possession of the civic authorities of Abingdon. One of these copies he gave to the School: the other — inscribed "For the use of the Master of Abingdon School for the Time being" — passed into the possession of the Corporation.

At the same time, the Usher of the day, the Reverend John Stevenson, commissioned a copy of a portrait of Thomas Tesdale, from an original in the possession of Pembroke College. Tesdale had, of course, been the first boy

on the roll of the re-founded School in 1563, and in his Will he made a bequest for the education of Abingdonians at Oxford, which subsequently became the basis of the foundation of Pembroke College. Perhaps more to the point, in Stevenson's eyes, was the fact that Tesdale had also endowed the Ushership, of which Stevenson himself was the beneficiary in 1763.

The painter of these two portraits was an Oxford journeyman, William Green. The cost in each case appears to have been one guinea. Both portraits were ornamented with coats of arms — Royse's with his own and the fictional shield concocted by Bright, and Tesdale's with his own and a shield impaling the same with his wife's. (Stevenson, whose heterogeneous but fascinating collection of papers survive in Bodley, was a thorough-paced, if somewhat credulous antiquarian, deeply devoted to the byways of the School's history —

**Johannes Royse**



**Scholae Fundator**

unlike Bright, who appears to have been largely concerned with display.)

The portraits hung for many years in the old School Room. In Owen's mid-nineteenth-century print, they can be clearly seen on either side of the great clock which Woods presented in 1743 (and which is now to be found in the School Library), above the Usher's seat at the north end of the room. They moved to the new School site in 1870, and are clearly visible in a pencil sketch of the Masters' Common Room executed by one Williams in 1922. Subsequently, they appear to have moved down into the Undercroft when that space was fitted up as a dining hall, and there they must have deteriorated sadly before being removed, apparently during the 1950's, and temporarily disappearing from view.

References to the early history of these portraits, when noticed

during 1979, led to a search being made for their whereabouts, and they eventually came to light in the attics of Waste Court early in 1980. They were at that time in a quite appalling condition — the canvasses were badly torn, flapping from their stretchers, and so begrimed with dirt as to be almost unrecognisable. They were sent for cleaning, relining and full restoration to Mr. Christopher Wellby, of Haddenham, who also supplied new plain black frames in an appropriate style. On their return, they were hung in the two bays of the Amey Hall nearest to the stage, in positions which looked as if they might have been prepared for them, though in fact the appropriateness of the arrangement was the result of nothing more than a fortunate chance. The portraits were unveiled during a simple ceremony at prize-giving on 18 July 1981, that of Royse by the then Master of Christ's Hospital, Mr. John

Hooke, and that of Tesdale by the Master of Pembroke College, Sir Geoffrey Arthur (Pembroke College having contributed generously to the restoration of the Tesdale portrait).

As paintings, the portraits are certainly worth much more than the guinea apiece originally paid for them. Both are fine examples of the work of the country artists of the period, combining as they do an eighteenth-century roundness and a discreet sparkle, with a hieratic solemnity which faithfully suggests the flavour of the seventeenth-century originals. By virtue both of the characters depicted and of the circumstances of their origin, they rank nowadays among our more important heirlooms, and are appropriately displayed in the Hall which is the principal focus of School life these days.

M. St. J. P.

Thomas Tesdale



Scholae Alumnus Primus

The Amey Hall was opened in 1981. The members of the School community are well acquainted with its function as a place of assembly each week and as a chamber of horrors during the examinations season, but it is true to say that very few indeed fully appreciate the extent to which it is a venue, a focal point, a tiring house and an area for creative experiment in the arts, reports **James Ross**.

#### Behind the mask

The dramatic component of our school is seriously underrated by many in our midst. In the struggle for pupil's interest it tends to exert less attraction than sports and this also has a radical effect on rehearsals and the time devoted to it. Nevertheless, what does go on there is of very high quality, sometimes remarkably so. Rehearsals can go on till late in the evenings. Yet is the Hall being used to its full potential? Could more be done? What *does* in fact happen in the Hall? What sort of quality is it? How often do performances take place there? In an attempt to answer some of these questions I turned to the Director of Drama, Mr. Brown.

#### Sounds of rare quality

On the musical side of the Hall's activities we were prompted to wonder how effective it is acoustically. Does more music go on there than most people, *in fact* know about? Is such music aimed at the 'classical buffs', or are there in fact performances more attractive to those who prefer Stiff Little Fingers to Sibelius or Stravinsky? The Director of Music, Mr. James, answered a number of these queries for me.

J.R. Mr. Brown, you mention the need for versatility in the structure of the stage itself: what degree of flexibility have we in fact got?

N.J.B. Oh, quite a deal. The forestaging can be varied in three major ways.

J. R. What are these?

N.J.B. In the first place it can be level with the stage which is about two feet above the floor level, flush to the floor of the auditorium. On the other hand, it can be removed completely with the resulting space either covered in with a capacity for more seating, or removed altogether to leave the orchestra pit. Furthermore, it is even possible to split the forestaging in half, though we have only done this in musical productions where the accompany orchestra was limited in size, as in "Tom Sawyer."

J.R. Are there any other ways in which the stage can be changed?

N.J.B. We have a large number of rostra — large rectangular boxes — which can be arranged in multifarious ways to form the basis of many varied sets. The set for the recent production of *Trial by Jury*, for instance, was constructed almost entirely from rostra. But they have been painted, modified, draped, and concealed in many different ways.

J.R. You mentioned the need for acoustic variation between drama and music. How is this accomplished?

N.J.B. There are a number of changes that can be made in the Hall to make it acoustically better for musical events. The six large panels suspended on either side of the stage are reversible. They have a hard side to reflect all

sound outwards, and a cloth side which absorbs sound slightly for dramatic events. In addition, to provide a reflecting back board the black wall at the rear of the stage is used. In many dramatic productions, the white cyclorama cloth is lowered, giving greater scope for lighting effects.

J.R. Anything else?

N.J.B. The proscenium valence, the small curtain at the front of the stage, can be raised or lowered, as we wish. The music events tend to have it out of the way, while for most of the drama events it is left in, as it masks the lights and helps to focus attention on the stage.

J.R. Have you ever tried any stage configurations other than the proscenium arch?

N.J.B. We have indeed. In the recent production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, for instance, we placed approximately 70 members of the audience on the stage seated on chairs mounted on the rostra to give a stepped effect, and acted the play on the floor with the forestage at ground level and the front row of the Auditorium seating removed. This placed the audience on both sides of the performance and created a 'Theatre in the Round' effect. An earlier production, Ibsen's, *The Wild Duck*, was performed with the whole audience on the stage. The gold tabs were closed behind them so that they and the actors were in the confined space together. The audience had to be strictly limited, obviously, but they were very close to the performers and by means of this coterie effect were enabled to get intensely involved in the emotions of the play.



# THEATRESCOPE

The Touring Company of **SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE**  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SOUTHERN ARTS ASSOCIATION  
THE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

## A DOLL'S HOUSE

by

**Henrik Ibsen**

Translated by Michael Meyer



*The powerful drama of a  
woman's brave decision. . . .*

**AMEY HALL** ABINGDON SCHOOL

MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 7-30

TICKETS: £1.50 (ADULTS) & £1.00 (STUDENTS & O.A.P.S.)

AVAILABLE AT DENE BOOKSHOP, E. ST. HELEN ST. ABINGDON

**J.R.** Are there other uses to which the Hall can be put?

**N.J.B.** Well, it functions as a cinema on many Sunday evenings when the Film Society are in. Tass have used it as a venue for their annual fete, in this case removing all the seats. This feature is, of course, another aspect of our versatility. All the seating is movable/removable, and on every second row the floor itself is movable, so creating wider areas of level floor. The Hall is also used for conferences, lectures, and, of course, as an examinations area. The adjacent Music School and Art rooms have also frequently been used for various events, including workshops, pottery exhibitions and informal concerts. During shows the Artrooms double as changing rooms.

**J.R.** How much is the Hall utilised?

**N.J.B.** I am glad to see that you have elected to print a typical list representing in outline the engagements over the past few terms. This gives you some idea of the answer to your question, but as you will no doubt appreciate, that merely sketches in the public performances. The Hall is in incessant use. It is used every lunchtime for music rehearsals. As well as this play rehearsals are fitted in and outside events also have to be catered for.

**J.R.** So the Hall is under intensive use?

**N.J.B.** Very intensive, yes. And that doesn't include lessons in both Art and Music Schools, plus private instrumental tuition in the Music School for most of the working week.



*An actor in costume depicting the creation and evolution of mankind from MANTU*

J.R. How does our Hall compare with that of other schools?

N.J.B. The vast majority come nowhere near the standard of the Amey Hall. Most schools count themselves fortunate if they have some sort of centre with tiered seating arrangement, never mind a balcony with the versatility and the facilities we have. Most hall are flat-floored with very little capacity for lighting or the technical side of things. Our Hall is quite simply one of the best school theatres in the country.

**METRO THEATRE COMPANY**  
**THE**  
**RAGGED TROUSERED**  
**PHILANTHROPISTS**

A PLAY BY STEPHEN LOWE  
 BASED ON THE BOOK BY R. TRESSSELL.

7.30PM. THURS. 24TH JAN.  
 AMEY HALL ABINGDON SCHOOL  
 Tickets £2.00 (adults) £1.00 (students)  
 Available from DENE BOOKSHOP East St. Helens St.  
 ABINGDON.

TICKETS

THEN .....

AMEY HALL  
 ABINGDON SCHOOL  
 presents  
**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**  
 Thursday July 12  
 Friday July 13  
 Saturday July 14

Adults £1.50      Students £1.00  
 7.30 p.m.

**THE BETRAYAL**  
 by Harold Pinter

Cast  
 TIMOTHY DAVIES  
 ROGER GARTLAND  
 DEREK HOLLIS  
 Director  
 PETER NEEDHAM

AMEY HALL ABINGDON SCHOOL  
 WED. - MAY 29 7.30 P.M.  
 Tickets £2.00 & £1.00  
 from Dene Bookshop

J.R. Finally, Mr. Brown, how is it that we are so fortunate as to be able to persuade professional theatre groups to come to the Hall to perform?

N.J.B. This is largely because we are on the Southern Arts Council touring list. Southern Arts are a group who sponsor professional companies to tour this region, and any company sponsored by them has an option to come here — on the entire understanding, of course, that we are willing to have them.

J.R. Mr. Brown, thank you.

.....

AMEY HALL  
 DOUBLE BILL  
 FRI 22ND MAR/85  
 7.30PM  
 £2.00 (ADULT)  
 £1.00 (STUDENT)

000257

FRI 22ND MAR/85  
 TO BE GIVEN UP  
 AT DOOR  
 000257

..... AND NOW

J.R. Mr. James, how useful is the Hall to the Music Department?

T.J. Oh, infinitely. The Hall provides the opportunity for so much more music making in so many different ways.

J.R. How much use do you put the actual Hall to?

T.J. Well, rehearsals take place in lunchtimes and after school, so it is used very regularly.

J.R. What rehearsals are these?

T.J. A typical week's activities might be as follows: Mon.: Lunchtimes Brass Band with Mr. Jones + Chamber Orchestra in Studio 2.

Tues: Second Wind Band, also with Mr. Jones.

Wed.: Second Orchestra in Studio One with Mr. Andrew.

Thurs: First Wind Band in the auditorium while the School Choir trebles are in Studio 1.

Fri: Lunchtimes, School, Choir altos tenors and basses in Studios 1 and 2, and in the afternoon First Orchestra on the stage.

## 418 ABINGDON SCHOOL

### "The Spirit of Christmas"

Saturday, 8th December at 7.30pm

AMEY HALL

Tickets: £1.50 (Adults) & 75p (Students)

J.R. What instruments do you cater for in your private lessons?


T.J. We have teachers for most of the well known instruments; anything from double bass to soprano cornet, from cello to trombone, from trumpet to viola — the full range of string and wind in fact.

J.R. Could I ask, how good do you find the Hall acoustically?

T.J. Oh, very good indeed. Once all the panels are in place, the sound quality is really impressive, as was demonstrated, for example, by the Band of the Welsh Guards in their visit last term. The quality of sound there was superb.

J.R. Can you outline for me some of the different musical events that go on in the Hall?

T.J. In October last year the Abingdon Subscription Concert Society brought the Del Me string quartet in to play. In the following month we put on a joint Band and Orchestra Concert which included First Orchestra, the Chamber Choir, the First and Second Wind Bands and Brass Band, and a Brass Ensemble.



JILL FREUD  
&  
COMPANY  
in  
"A very comical  
misadventure"

# PICKWICK PAPERS

by Charles Dickens

Adapted and  
Directed by  
MICHAEL RICHMOND

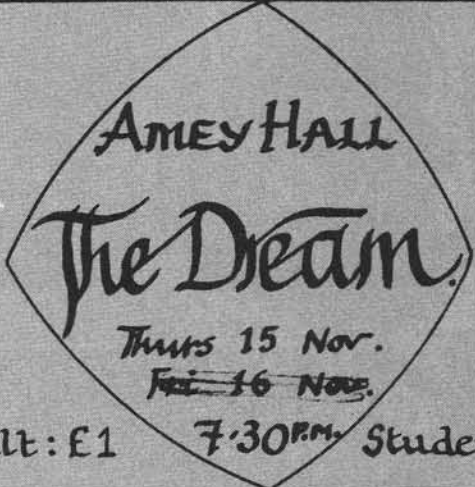
## AMEY HALL

- MON 26 NOV

7.30.

J.R. Do you ever have solo artists on stage?

T.J. Certainly. During the Michaelmas and Lent terms we have music scholars and Exhibitioners' concerts, and these are largely made up of people performing solo works. We also put on informal concerts every term which happen in Studio 1, and these too are mostly solos. In addition, the Subscription Concert Society also bring in solo artists. An example is Melvyn Tan who played the fortepiano. This is a most unusual instrument which is smaller than a normal pianoforte.



## AMEY HALL

# The Dream

Thurs 15 Nov.  
~~Fri 16 Nov.~~

Adult: £1      7.30pm      Student: 50p

189



J.R. Who are the Subscription Concert Society?

T.J. They are a group who put on four concerts a year, and to whom the general public subscribe a certain amount for the privilege of coming to their concerts.

J.R. What sort of concerts do they put on?

T.J. It varies. This year, as well as the String Quartet and Mr. Tan, they feature a Barber Shop Quartet and a solo singer, the baritone, Graham Trew.

J.R. And are they good concerts?

T.J. Oh yes, they are all of a very high standard indeed.

J.R. Where does the teaching of musical instruments go on?

T.J. It happens in the nine small practice rooms in the Music School. Each of these has a piano in and each room has been acoustically prepared. These rooms also provide space for pupils to practise in private, for teaching to take place, and

they are very useful to the Music School in general.

J.R. And what about Studios 1 and 2 – are they ever used for instrumental teaching?

T.J. Studio 2 is used for instrument instruction. Studio 1 is very rarely used for this purpose, but is in use most of the time for class teaching and ensemble rehearsals.

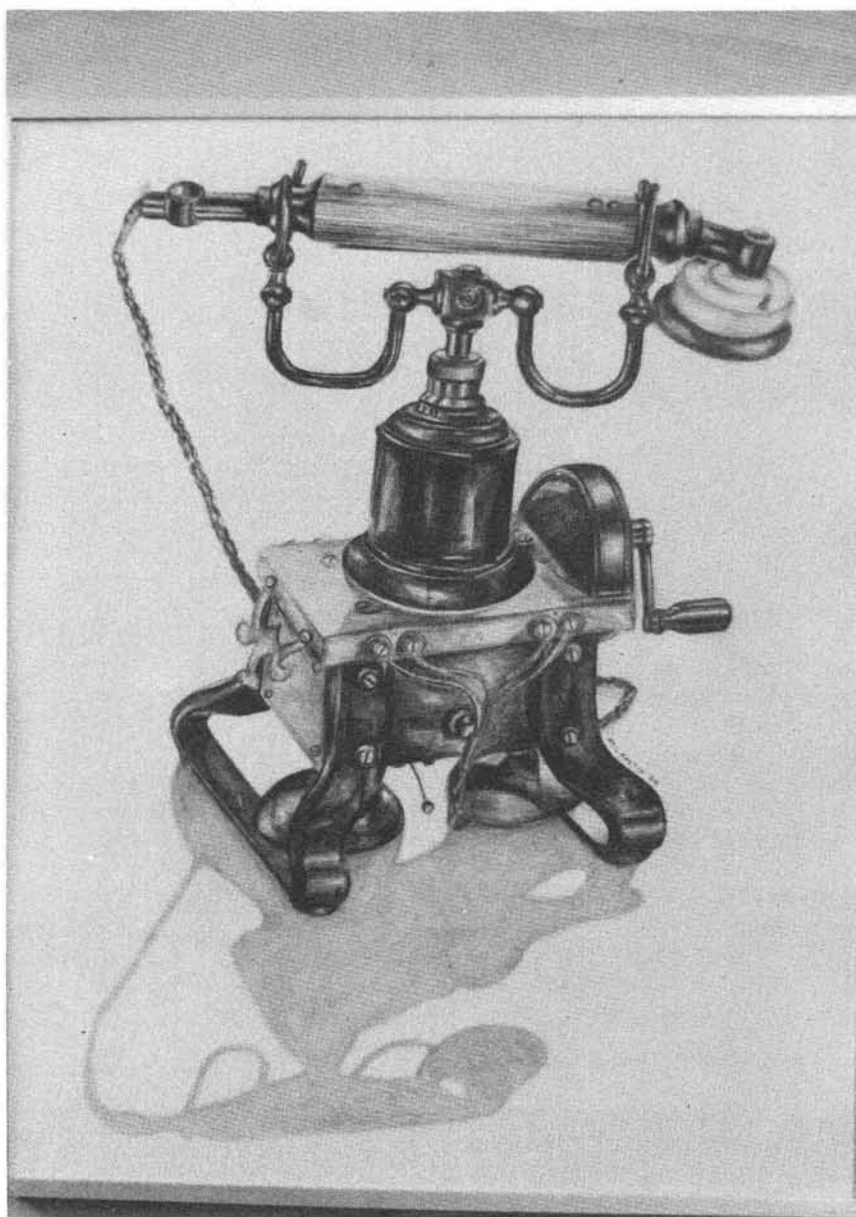
J.R. Does the Music Department ever move outside the Amey Hall?

T.J. Most certainly! The Chamber Choir in the main. They frequently travel to cathedrals and churches around the country to sing evensong throughout the year. At Christmas time they join with a small group of players to sing carols at Trafalgar Square. And each year a group, consisting mainly of the Chamber Choir, go to the Mercers' Hall to sing.

J.R. So we are musically active on many, many fronts?

T.J. Indeed we are.

J.R. Mr. James, thank you.



*Photograph of Telephone, a painting by Neil Martin 5PW, exhibited at the Public Schools Art Exhibition, Dulwich College.*



Finally, what happens behind the scenes where people on the whole don't look? This is the world of the lighting and stage crews, mess-about men, thoroughly at home in a sort of Jerome K. Jerome world. These are the people who at most only appear in a programme, but without whom the performances would be in every sense mere shadows. I tried to grab the head of lighting, William Money-Kyrle, to get a sense of what life is like in these mysterious realms and this is something of what I gleaned.

*"The Technical Department of the Amey Hall is very much an 'open-all-hours' department. It usually — yes Boli, fit that flex in there — it usually happens that we are the last people to appear on anybody's priority list of users, so there is often not really enough time to build sets and arrange lights for shows. No, James, I think that green would go better with that gell. Sorry! Often we work till late in the evening to be ready for an opening night the next day. Because of this kind of pressure we have learned to work at considerable speed. No not that sort of screwdriver, Jules; you know it doesn't fit! What? Well it didn't fit the last time! Where was I? Oh yes. For example, after Trial by Jury we collapsed the entire set and lighting rig and built a new one ready for the Symposium Revue in just twelve hours — yes that's right, you can let your eyebrows down now — and that included seven hours sleep. Not bad, eh? We like to think of ourselves as a competent and efficient team, reaching high standards in difficult conditions. Hoi, Nick, don't put that plug in there, you'll fuse the whole house — and probably burn the whole blessed place down as well. Look James, many thanks, but I think I've got to fly..."*



*Form and texture in the Pottery Section of the Art Department.*

## Performances in the Amey Hall

### Summer Term, 1984

- May**  
24 Founders' Day Concert
- June**  
11 Chris Harris, *That's the Way to do It*.  
*One man show + workshop. Very successful.*  
Exams for one month.
- July**  
10-12 Shakespeare, *Comedy of Errors* — the R.S.C. musical version. *A great success. Reviewed infra.*

### Michaelmas Term

A particularly busy term. The Hall is used every lunchtime for a music or play rehearsal and all afternoon after school, plus many evenings. There were three different drama events contending for working time, and on Sundays there was the Film Society.

### October

- 13 Cello Recital by Stephen Wilson.  
14 Subscription Concert: The Delme String Quartet.  
16 Hall hired by the theatre touring company, Riding Lights.  
22 Salisbury Playhouse Theatrescope's production of *A Doll's House*. *Entirely professional and an excellent set.*  
26 Abingdon Operatic Society (A.O.S.). Performance of *Kismet* from 30 Oct. - 3 Nov.

### November

- 7 Music Scholars', Exhibitioners and Senior Musicians Concert.  
15-16 Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* An exciting new way of using the Hall — theatre in the round: review *infra*.  
17 Orchestral, Chamber Choir, Brass Band, Wind Bands and Brass ensemble.  
18 Subscription Concert: Graham Trew, Baritone.  
19-26 Examinations.  
25 Choral Society and Chamber Choir Trebles in Christmas Oratorio.  
26 Jill Freud and Company in *Pickwick Papers*.

### December

- 4-5 Samuel Beckett's, *Waiting for Godot*. A 'polished' production: review *infra*.  
8 The Christmas Spirit. *The major Christmas Concert.*  
10 The Oxbridge play: Tom Stoppard's, *The Real Inspector Hound*: review *infra*.

### Hilary Term

#### January

- 6 Fashion show.  
24 Metro Touring Company's production of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist*.

#### February

- 1 Duke String Quartet from the Royal College of Music.  
7 Open House. *Six one-act plays. Mostly light-hearted and very successful. The plays were chosen and directed by individual groups of boys without any outside assistance.*  
10 Subscription Concert: Melvyn Tan and the fortepiano.  
14 Concert by the Band of the Welsh Guards 'The Loving Cup'. *A musical highlight.*  
22 The second music scholars concert.  
25 The Lower School Play: John Challen, *Before Your Very Eyes*: reviewed *infra*. *Over forty boys took part.*

### March

- 2 Tass fête.  
10 Subscription Concert: 'The Light Blues' barber shop.  
11 Tass discussion evening.  
13 Trickster Theatre Company in *Mantu*.  
22-23 A double bill: Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* along with *Trial By Jury*.  
26 The Symposium Revue.  
27 End of term  
28-30 Three performances of St. John's Gospel.

### April

- 15-20 Abingdon Operatic Society: *The Pirates of Penzance*.

UPPER SIXTH LECTURES — AMEY HALL — TUESDAYS 2.15 P.M.  
AUTUMN 1984

1. INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY & ECONOMIC REALITIES

- 18 Sept. — **Mr. Martin Wood** (*chairman, The Oxford Instruments Group Ltd.*)  
on "Working in Industry." — spoke about origins and development of Oxford Instruments — he was the founder.
- 25 Sept. — **Mr. David Buckle** (*Transport District Secretary & General Workers Union*)  
on "The Role of Trade Unions in British Society". — stimulating and lively defence of role of T.U.s in society.
- 2 Oct. — **Mr. Richard Smethurst** (*Director, Univ. of Oxford Dept. for External Studies*)  
on "Britain in the World Economy" — provided a crash course in economics  
— explained G.B.'s difficult position and uncertain future.

2. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

- 9 Oct. — **Dr. Antony J. Wing** (*A renal specialist*)  
on "Dialysis and Transplantation — the Dilemma of High Cost Medicine and limit of resources." — excellent — on Medicine and Ethics — who decides who lives?
- 16 Oct. — **Mr. John Ridehalgh** (*Civil Engineer*)  
on "Offshore engineering" — but provided info. about careers in engineering and spoke about Mary Rose with which he was associated.
- 23 Oct. — **Dr. Peter Hodgson** (*Corpus Christi College, Oxford*)  
on "Science and Christianity" — explained how Christianity (Judaean-Christian tradition in fact) provided the intellectual basis for the rise of modern science.

HALF TERM

3. POLITICS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

- 6 Nov. — **Mrs. Beverly Anderson** (*former headmistress and broadcaster*)  
on "Equality for Women in Britain" — absolutely first-rate. Lively and exciting plea for fair treatment of women in all aspects of life.
- 13 Nov. — **Mr. Peter Taylor** (*Political Ecology Research Unit, Oxford*)  
— on "Ecology and the Planet" — a deeply thought provoking but pessimistic view of future trends for mankind.
- 27 Nov. — **Mr. Alan Leather** (*Ruskin College, Oxford*)  
on "Aid to the Third World" — very informative and analytical — divided 3rd World into different categories.

4. DEBATE

- 4 Dec. "This House believes in always obeying the Law in a Free Society" — P. W. B. + Marcus Marsden for the motion; W. H. Z. + Rupert Robson vs the motion. Motion defeated!

5. ADVENTURE

- 11 Dec. — **Mr. Richard Willis** gave an Illustrated talk on Caving in Sarawak: fascinating and exciting.

LENT TERM 1985

1. ROYAL NAVY PRESENTATION TEAM

- 15 Jan. — at 2.00 p.m.

2. THE CITIZEN AND THE LAW

- 22 Jan. — **Mr. Andrew Leadbitter** (*a solicitor: Morland and Son*)  
on "Rights and duties of Citizenship" — very informative about the law.
- 29 Jan. — **Mr. Peter Imbert** (*Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police*)  
on "Law and Order — informative and challenging.

3. PERSONAL EDUCATION

- 5 Feb. — **Dr. J. M. Kenworthy-Brown**  
on "Health and Responsibility" — no punches pulled! Very sobering about drugs, sex, smoking, alcohol.
- 12 Feb. — **Dr. Tony Hope** (*Rivendell Assessment Centres, Radcliffe Infirmary*)  
and **Dr. Julie Chalmers** (*Barnes Unit, John Radcliffe Hospital*)  
on "Psychiatry" (*The Mind*) — interesting duette — involved the boys in a case study.

HALF TERM

4. THE MEDIA

- Friday 1st Mar. — **Mr. Bryan Gould, M.P.**  
(exceptionally) on "The Media" — very exciting and successful.

A/L MOCKS

5. CULTURE AND HISTORY

- 19 Mar. — **Mr. Nigel Hammond**  
on "Landscape and History — erudite and made us more conscious of the landscape around us.

*Lecture by Chief-Constable Imbert  
Jan 29th; 1985*

*The Chief Constable told us of the "rôle of the police in society". During his dissertation and the questions which followed the following became apparent: policemen were "only human"; mistakes could occur; political prejudice had been publicized in this last year; racists were being "weeded out"; phone tapping was rarely necessary, and only when the Home Secretary said so. He quoted Sir Robert Mark's statement that a brutal and aggressive police force merely reflected a brutal and aggressive society, but made clear that the latter did not justify the former. He defended the necessity for plain-clothed gun carriers quite effectively with an anecdote from his "days in the Special Branch". (The Flying Squad is called that, it*

*appears because it rhymes with "Sweeney Todd"). He then went on to draw a distinction between 'baddies', who are getting badder and "inadequates" who urinate in churches. When cautioned that an informer should not make the judgement of adequacy, he was obliged to say something and have it taken down, he replied "we have to, we are humane". Finally, he advised us all to decide for ourselves whether we should sacrifice little liberties in order to preserve big ones. He did not go on to advise on how to implement any contrary decisions. In a note of thanks Chief-Constable Imbert was warmly thanked for the time and trouble he had taken in clarifying these important and contemporary issues.*

H. Riches VI B.



### **The Holroyde Lecture/Discussions**

"It is all too easy for VIth Form students to find themselves on a relatively comfortable and predictable route through A-levels and on to a degree course, selected on the basis of the subjects now enjoyed, custom and practice, the imagined prestige of the University or Polytechnic concerned; with little thought of what follows after, or the longer term objectives." So said Mr. Holroyde, Director of Lanchester Polytechnic, on a visit to the school on 14 May, in an attempt to provoke the LVI into deeper thought about the problems of the next two decades, both on a personal level and also in a wider social context. Difficulties were being created by the rapid changes in technology and society which were leaving education behind, he claimed, exhorting members of the Sixth Form to turn more towards direct application technology for industry. In a swiftly changing world the countries which would lead in the future were the ones who were training their youth for places in industry: the designers, the technologists and the marketeers. Whether the world's economy will have such emphasis on jobs in manufactured goods as Mr. Holroyde seems to think it will, remains to be seen. Furthermore, the great emphasis he placed on technically minded people at the expense of those studying the humanities seems to be very misguided to me, as well as many other members of his audience.

Whether misguided or not, Mr. Holroyde's lecture accomplished its main aim (to provoke further discussion in groups of ten, which were to report their findings) very effectively. Topics discussed centred around three lists which he had prepared, from which the groups were asked to select four which would most affect their future. Subjects on the list of problems for social concern ranged from racial antagonism to famine and disease, from waste disposal to the threat of war. The more positive list considered communications, new materials, robot capacity, medical advance, new energy sources, etc. With the final list the groups were asked to consider the qualities that "you need to prepare yourselves for the leadership role which will be yours"; features included courage (physical or moral), exposure to adversity, problem analysis, communication skills and making relationships. The groups were invited to add their own points to the lists if they felt it was necessary. The final task for the groups was "to say what steps you need to take in the next six months to be certain your choice of action after school is the best one".

After debating the problems, the groups were asked to report back to the whole LVI through their chairmen. Interestingly, all the ten groups came up with a wide variety of opinions and solutions, often, however, saying that the problems were very closely linked, and that one solution was impractical without another. I hope Mr. Holroyde left Abingdon with no fears for his pension.

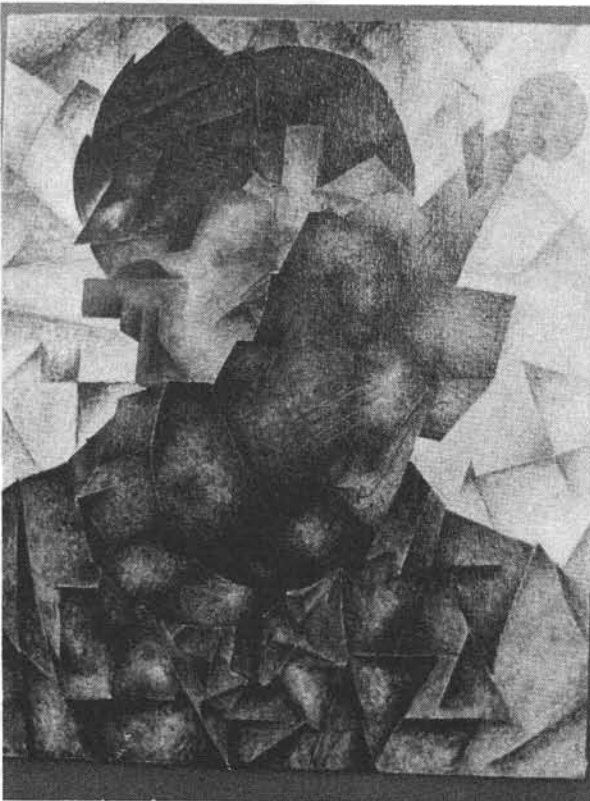
R. H. Tollis 6 M.





## CONCLUSIONS AND REPORT BACK BY GROUP 6M

After a thought-provoking and controversial talk by Mr. Holroyde on education, careers and our society, we split into smaller discussion groups, each with its own chairman to discuss our longer-term objectives. We were asked to identify the two key issues which will face our generation during the next twenty years. Secondly we were asked to choose what we considered were the two most important qualities needed to tackle these problems.



Man with Guitar, by T. Gentles 6B, Public Schools  
Art Exhibition, Dulwich College.

Our group came up with the following:

The most important problem, we felt, was the ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor. We discussed this on a national and global level.

In this country, the division between the declining north and the prosperous south, the rich and the poor, is growing, causing bitterness, racial antagonism, and Lawlessness. Unemployment and political polarisation compound the problem.

In the future, this problem will be far more serious on a global scale, as seventy five per cent of the world's unfortunate poor, already living at subsistence level, will face famine and disease, while the other quarter, (us) live in the 'lap of luxury'.

Two solutions were discussed, both involved improving education.

On a global scale this means educating the under developed countries so that they can begin to help themselves. In the meantime we thought that 'self-help' projects were more productive than just providing food.

Matters may be improved on a national level by having an equal opportunity and standard of education for all. This would encourage the mixing of social classes and give poor but intelligent children the chance to succeed.

Destruction of the environment appeared to be what we considered the next most important problem, and one that needed a rapid solution.

We discussed man's increasingly detrimental impact on his environment, citing the South American rain forest devastation, and the advancing of desert-land as two examples. We felt man has a moral obligation to protect the organisms under his care and that they are also worth preserving for their beauty and the pleasure observing them gives people. A more serious consequence could be a future lack of food and resources and a disruption of the fundamental balance of nature.

We decided the two most important qualities were: the 'application of knowledge gained' and 'social and political awareness', the more important being the latter. Each of these qualities encompasses many other skills.

We felt the only way to become socially and politically aware was to gain experience away from an introvert school system by taking trips abroad, doing voluntary work or gaining some other work experience.

Finally the application of knowledge gained at school has to be an essential quality if you want to solve problems and be a good leader. Have, communication skills and self confidence are vitally important if any answers are to be found and implemented.

A. Lowe (6M)



## THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



r. Brown's innovative approach to the problem of making Shakespeare really accessible to a school audience proved highly successful last summer, with the staging of the R.S.C. musical version of *The Comedy of Errors*.

With an excellent 1950s set and modern band arrangements, he was clearly playing on the great popularity of recent musical productions, and succeeded in what was, perhaps, an even bigger hit than those previously.

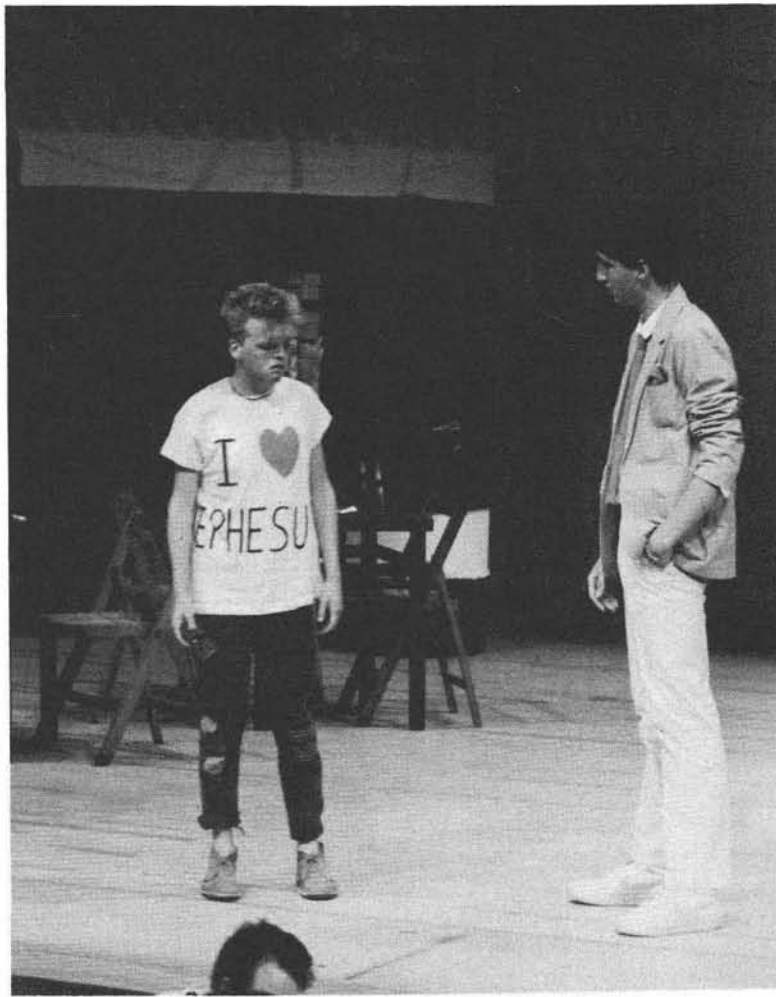


While Mr. Robinson had summoned up a sturdy troupe of O.A. die-hards (as well as some of his current music school élite) to swamp the orchestra pit, the leading actors singers suffered the perennial difficulty of having to make themselves both tuneful and audible above the accompaniment. Nonetheless, despite the occasional lack of functioning microphones, both orchestra and vocalists fared very well, particularly Julius Cranshaw, who was assigned the bulk of the most difficult songs. Since his, and many of his counterparts', performing repertoire had hitherto been limited to speaking rôles, the achievement was all the more creditable. Playing his twin brother, Simon Walker produced a lively, if perhaps not so demanding, performance, mostly spent being abused by and abusive towards his mistaken and confused wife, Adriana, played by Sian Burns. She and her sister, Luciana (Sarah Bolton), made regular and convincing appearances from stage left, offering war illustrations of the hardship of the women's lot in Shakespearean comedy. It was pleasing to see this relatively inexperienced leading cast giving as confident and enjoyable a performance as they did.

Toby Jones's traditional monopoly on the over-actor's part, executed with the typical self-assurance of a man who eats comic rôles for breakfast, looked dangerously threatened by Richard Meadows who, acting as his twin, managed equally to dominate the stage — so much so that, at times, it was difficult to tell the two apart. David Fisher and Ben Keeping also successfully wriggled their presences into the general confusion, while two suitably exhibitionist performances from James Thompson and Tom Hyder brought up the comic rearguard. Also deserving of praise was Hugh Riches as the Duke — we look forward to seeing him in many more, even nastier, rôles in the future.

Any ambitions Mr. Brown may have had towards thought-provocation in last summer's production, he must surely have had to sacrifice to the comedy, which prevailed throughout. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that, considering its success, similar experiments — blending the musical with Shakespeare — may be undertaken again at School.

E. Butler & T. Gray



## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



roducing any Shakespeare play at a School is a major undertaking simply because of its language, quite apart from any other complications, such as that of interpretation. Yet the plays which give ample scope for

visual comedy and spectacle have more of a chance, and this was certainly proven by the musical production of *The Comedy of Errors* last Summer and likewise in the 'workshop' production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, put on in mid winter during the Michaelmas term.

The latter production spanned all age groups in the School, giving younger boys the opportunity to gain valuable experience with and from their older more experienced colleagues. Mr. Brown wisely cut much of the more difficult text and instead of presenting a conventionally set tinsel-laden and poetry-slaughtering production, he gave us an extremely original and dynamic version filled with inventive effects and a cast which acted in a relaxed and unselfconscious way. As with the *Comedy of Errors*, the audience could forget about the difficulties of presenting Shakespeare on the School Stage and enjoy itself.



The play was set in the round and while this arrangement demonstrated the versatility of the Amey Hall, more importantly it created an attention-containing and intimate mood. The friendliness and informality of the proceedings was confirmed as the play began by each member of the cast in turn walking across the stage, dressed in whatever they had on at the time, and introducing themselves and their character to each side of the audience, though some in their haste unevenly emitted something incomprehensible, cast recklessly from each corner of their mouth, but it didn't matter.

It must be said that the entertainment of the evening, as implied, lay less in the beauty and delivery of the verse as in the presentation and enthusiasm with which it was executed. To give some examples:

The fairies were not encumbered by little wands and flitting little wings, but came on either chewing gum and wearing paramilitary uniform, or flitting about in tie and dyed rags. They were very effectively blocked as during the frightening impression of chaos they produced after the transformation of Bottom.

The leafy glades were created simply with a combination of green rustling tassels attached to handy stepladders (courtesy of absent-minded maintenance staff?), and extremely effective lighting using greens and reds all producing an unworldly atmosphere.

Puck was mysteriously sprightly, omnipresent and multivocal, not unconnected with the fact

that there were two of him, not exactly identical twins, but very similar in their commitment to mischief making. They were good in working together, such as when they led the lovers 'up and down', using crow scaring whistles and resonating tubes swung through the air.

The lovers were very entertaining, Hermia's diminutive stature being made very clear, especially by the pairing of him with a six foot Lysander; and Demetrius can hardly be blamed for being put off by the petulant Helena who marched around in riding boots wielding a whip. The mechanicals likewise also provided much mirth climaxing with their wildly incompetent burgomask stampede.

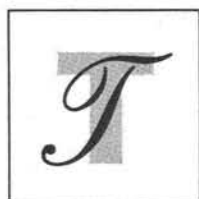
The music, which provided a background throughout the play reflecting moods as they shifted, was excellent. It was provided by Donald Cawthorne (electric piano and synthesizer) and Tom Yorke (bass and guitar) and seemed to be largely a matter of improvisation, providing pace and generally contributing to the atmospheric nature of the production.

Altogether an entertaining and relaxed evening was provided, for those who went to it. Bearing in mind the high standard of Abingdon School drama it can't be very gratifying for the people involved in such production when so few members of the School community can be bothered to go and see their work.

T. Hollander VI F.



## THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND



he end of the Michaelmas term (1984) saw the 'Oxbridge' production of 'The Real Inspector Hound'. This was, of course, an entertaining event which attracted a packed house.

Ed Butler and Guy Mawhinney gave a fair performance as Moon and Birdboot respectively, although their particularly static and detached position on stage was not helped by a tendency towards soft-spokenness, since this play depends heavily on dynamic presentation both verbally and visually. Such under-acting was forcefully counterbalanced by the presence of Mrs. Drudge (Played by Roger Smith!) who won the audience's heart by brilliantly stressing the element of pace in this play: loud, raucous, arrogantly overdone — truly a consummate performance! Hugh Peach's Simon was engagingly fresh and delightfully aristocratic,

while Alison Jalley's rendering of Felicity — the society girl — was subtle and witty, and she certainly warmed to the part. Then there was the unforgettable passion, not to mention the cleavage (to sink the Mary Rose!) of Cynthia, played by Viv Lawes — and yes, her mouth was open (?); the almost inaudible (but very effective) voice and mad wheelchair antics of Magnus (Tom Race); and the promising début of Brian Woolley as the incompetent and bumbling Inspector Hound, complete with smelly socks and Chaplinesque walk.

In the Oxbridge 'tradition' this play — A. Barrett Production — was rehearsed in the space of six days and raised £200 for the Helen House Hospice and £175 which went towards equipment for the Amey Hall, both of which are admirable achievements.

R. Dwek VI F.





# WAITING FOR

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## WAITING FOR GODOT



Waiting for Godot was the major dramatic production of the Michaelmas Term. While the content of the play was difficult in the eyes

of many, the two performances were first-rate. Part of the difficulty with the subject-matter is due to the inability to relate to the situation in hand. Prisoners in an American jail found it first-rate because they could see the situation which demanded waiting endlessly (endlessly at least in their opinion), a similar situation to that of Vladimir and Estragon.

The play itself has no 'plot' as such. It begins with Estragon (Richard Meadows) struggling with his boot. He is soon joined by Vladimir (Toby Jones) and they talk. After a considerable period they are joined by Pozzo (Ross McCracken) and his tied — literally — menial, Lucky (Richard Butterworth). There is a lengthy series of exchanges and then they depart leaving the two tramps to carry on their conversation. At the end of the first Act a boy (played by Robert Cheek) announces to Vladimir that Estragon will not in fact be coming, even though the two have spent the whole day waiting for him. The action of the second Act largely duplicates the first, thus emphasising the endless repetitions we are subjected to in our life up to death.

Vladimir and Estragon both took full advantage of the large stage, no mean feat when the text itself seems to question the validity of action. The set was simple, impressionistic, suggesting a bank on a roadside, an indeterminate place in no particular time. This was in keeping with the generalised and abstract nature of the text and allowed the actors room for movement and innovation. This they exploited with Estragon taking up his 'control' position on the mound, back centre left, while Vladimir pivoted about him in a myriad different ways as his philosophical conundrums and flights of fancy took hold of him. The

two characters both had very long parts to learn; Richard and Toby were entirely successful in this — they never faltered once to the knowledge of this critic. They brought off the numerous quick-fire repartees excellently to the constant delight of the audience, notwithstanding the inherent difficulties of the play itself. If there was any criticism, it was perhaps that the two characters were a little too similar for the contrasting roles of optimist and pessimist.

Ross McCracken interpreted the character of Pozzo, the sadist, forcefully, while Richard Butterworth was remarkably hang-dog as the recipient of his cruelty. Their respective costumes emphasised their roles. Pozzo being well dressed and portly, while Lucky was ragged and dishevelled. Perhaps the weakness of Ross's performance was that it did not fully emerge that Pozzo may be Godot. Lucky's part also demanded great physical stamina. Standing motionless and silent — apart from his vociferous exhausted wheezing! — can be extremely taxing and the fact that Richard did this so well gave an excellent contrast to his impressive solitary speech in Act I. Strikingly incomprehensible, yet put over with vigour and force, it was probably the most memorable event in the opening Act.

Robert Cheek's part was small compared with that of the others, but his appearance at the end of each act helped to remind the audience of the pattern of monotony in life. A younger boy might have been used, but nevertheless Robert rendered the part well.

The scenery and lighting were used to maximum effect. The simple set emphasised the presence of the bare tree which suddenly sprouted leaves in the second Act. This was done most effectively, large green leaves



It hurts! He wants to know if it hurts!



Lets hang ourselves! ...

... We can't. We haven't brought a bit of rope.

*being used to possibly represent a vague hope. The passing of day into night and back to daytime was done very well. All of this added to the sense of futility and monotony of life in the text. Any possibility of monotony setting in, however, was vigorously avoided by the farcical elements, such as the exchange of hats, the routine of Estragon struggling with his boots or the moment in Act II when all four main characters are lying on the stage flat on their backs.*



Carefull! He may be dangerous.

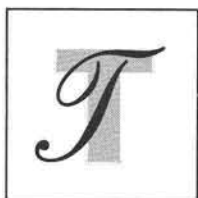
Look at that little star up there.

*Mr. Mearns' production was very useful for all sixth formers, many of whom are studying the play at the present time in either French or English. Due to the excellent acting a view of the play as a whole was achieved. It must be said that this particular piece was a very ambitious choice for a school production, but the fine acting and remarkable efforts of everyone involved meant that this production of Waiting for Godot was greatly enjoyed by all.*

M. J. Winsley VI N.



## WAITING FOR GODOT — SAMUEL BECKETT



o choose this play for a sixth-form production was both ambitious and brave: *Waiting for Godot* is a very difficult piece. Of its actors it demands not only a supreme effort and concentration, but also great

technical competence: no amount of schoolboy enthusiasm, however dedicated, could alone have squeezed success from this play. Simply to learn the lines of this circuitous dialogue (where one missed cue could mean pages omitted) required an enormous amount of work; to then deliver them with such confidence and timing as to realise both the tragedy and the comedy added talent to determined effort. Yet if these demands on the actors (and the physical stamina needed to play Lucky's role should not be forgotten) made this choice ambitious, it was brave because the play is demanding of its audience also — witness the bemused riots that followed the first Paris performances. Anybody who came to the Amey Hall expecting the relative accessibility of a naturalistic drama, rooted in a recognisable social setting, had to face the challenge of an entirely different type of theatre.

*Godot*, therefore is non-realistic drama, unconcerned with what Beckett has called "the grotesque fallacy of a realistic art — the miserable statement of line and surface." It is rather an attempt to define the essential nature of the human condition: when we watch Beckett's characters we don't see individuals but essentials. It is for this reason — to avoid specifics — that the play is set outside a recognisable, conventional social setting, and outside the normal limits of Time, Place — even of Action. The play is lodged firmly at the level of the eternal, the essential. Time, (if we exclude Pozzo's conventional watch in the first act), exists only in terms of night or

You never remember anything.



Let us consider  
the firmament.

day; likewise the place is undefined — all the information we need is in the stage direction that heads the second act: "Next day. Same time. Same place." Even action is minimal — it is really little more than non-action: an interminable waiting.

This is not to claim that Beckett is writing from a predefined philosophical viewpoint — he seems to write more to discover than to expound. (Certainly he refuses to offer definitive interpretations of his work.). The view of the human condition that does arise from this work is, however, very disturbing. Existence for Vladimir and Estragon is a monotonous waiting for something that never comes; Pozzo and Lucky, meanwhile, show clearly the inevitable downward progression of the human lot — Lucky's mind has decayed into gabbled confusion, Pozzo's whip loses its crack, he loses his sight and can no longer stand unsupported. (At which point he is described as "all humanity"). A depressing view indeed yet there is "optimism": perhaps there is the hopeful symbol of the newly-sprouted leaves in Act II; there is Vladimir and Estragon's fellowship that withstands all their suffering; there is the fact that they *do* help Pozzo in Act II; and there is the vague hope that one day Godot might indeed come. Above all, amidst all the tragedy, there is the comedy; the warmth of genuine laughter. It is in this balance between the tragedy and the comedy that the play is so fine, and this production was successful precisely because it realised this balance — the audience, aware of the suffering, laughed. For this, of course, Toby Jones and Rich Meadows in particular deserved our applause.

Beckett's portrayal of the boredom and monotony of Vladimir's and Estragon's existence is successful because it avoids ever being boring or monotonous itself. The impression of drab repetition is created by Act II closely mirroring the structure of Act I. Thus they both end with the same words — "Yes, let's go" — and the same stage direction: "They do not move". The next day we are led to believe will be the same.

Please, sir ...



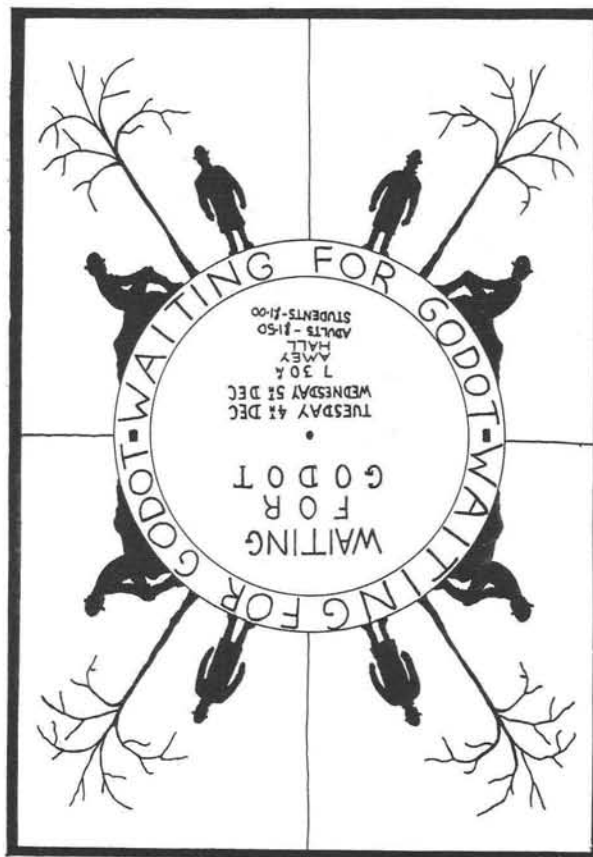
Likewise certain actions and conversations are repeated in both acts — the discussion about suicide, the playing with hats, the reference to Estragon's boots. All of which repetition is effectively symbolised in the roundsong that Vladimir sings at the start of the second act: "A dog came into the kitchen ..." Yet within this circling monotony we cannot deny the feeling of an inevitable downward movement seen clearly in the degeneration of Pozzo and Lucky:

"One day he went dumb, one day I went blind, one day we'll go deaf, one day we were born, one day we shall die".

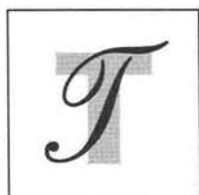
The speed of the second act — it is only two thirds the length of the first — is also a great aid in avoiding monotony in the text. So too is the comedy — this, I stress again, was very apparent in this production.

Much is left unsaid — and much of it best so. Critics can continue to argue whether Gogo has an incomplete ego, or Didi a backwards id; whether Pozzo is Godot, or Godot is God; whether Pozzo really does go blind ... The diversity of interpretation of this play has been staggering and contradictory. I wish to conclude with a tribute to all those who were involved in this production, which remained true to the tragicomedy of the text and yet never ceased to be entertaining. To entertain an audience unused to this type of drama — and yet not debase the text in the process — was a fine achievement.

B. Burman VI B.



## LOWER SCHOOL PLAY



The Lower School production of John Challen's "Before Your Very Eyes" brought a great deal of pleasure to cast and audience alike. For many members of the large team it may have been their first experience of acting and for

most involved, their first time upon the boards of the Amey Hall. William Marston must be congratulated, therefore, for the time and effort that he contributed in order to make the production possible.

What came over was the obvious enthusiasm of the whole cast. I felt that they did well with a rather weak play, consisting of a vague plot and rather bitty structure. However, they used the

play to their advantage and fashioned a series of amusing sketches. I especially enjoyed the one when the nannies and their charges all turned out to be secret agents. The timing of the lines here was most effective and worked as pure comedy.

Finn Clark and Joshua Mandel delivered their lines excellently. Mandel as the Music Hall Chairman engaged our attention and amused us with his verbosity and alliteration. Clark proved to be a villain worthy of any Victorian Melodrama or Medieval morality play.

The Horse was a welcome diversion and brought a pantomime atmosphere to the play. Perhaps Shakespeare should have used such a character for comic effect — though this may have been his intention in Richard III's lines "A horse, a horse!"



From the rest of the cast I would single out Derek Wilcox as Mildred. He made an excellent, though rather reluctant heroine, carelessly losing herself after her rescue by her escorts. The host of

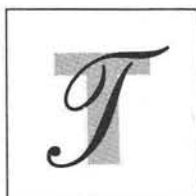
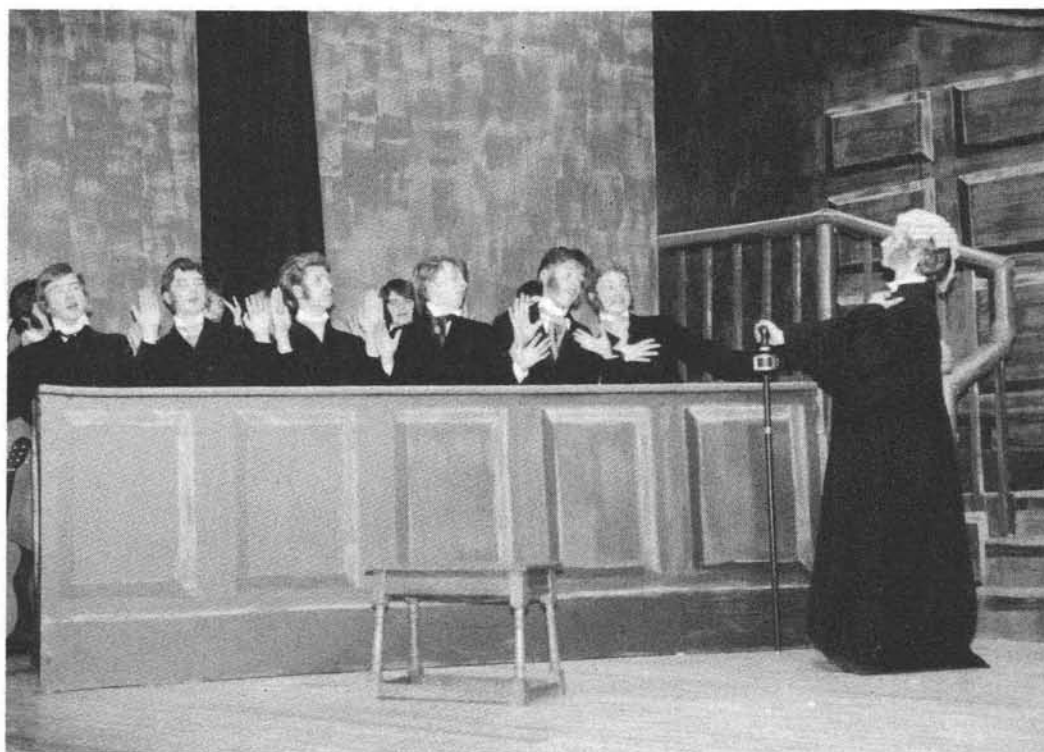
Chinamen, Dancing Girls and Red Indians contributed to the general sense of fun and helped to make the whole production a genuine success.  
A. F. T.



*"A horse! a horse!"*



# **EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOUR and TRIAL BY JURY**



he term's school production (or joint school production) was a double bill that ran in the Amey Hall on the nights of the 21st to the 23rd of March. A single evening consisted of Tom Stoppard's play, *Every Good Boy*

*Deserves Favour* followed by Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, *Trial By Jury*. The first, a judgement on a regime's disharmony, the second, a harmony on the theme of a judge.

*Every Good Boy ...* is a short play describing the treatment and plight of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union and putting it on could become a regular affair because a different production of it could be seen on the same stage a year ago. Indeed one element had come up again this spring for Jeremy Allanson was repeating his role as the mad Alexander Ivanov with his phantom orchestra in Mr. Macdonald's version. Jeremy flitted from the charmingly witty to the unfirmly aggressive which beautifully portrayed the Stoppardian style of sharing jokes with the audience while not letting his characters laugh. Richard Butterworth's IVANOV was conscience-sure throughout despite

the emotional performance of Richard Wyatt as his son. Martin Sutton and Christopher Shaw were creditable for portraying the average human being who sympathises with the prisoner of conscience but will not actively support his cause. Peter Starr as Colonel Rozinsky provided a loud and humorous end to the play.

Spotlight and a stage only used in the wings and very centre were suitably spartan to the eye but when the orchestra pit filled with real players and it was the turn of the cast of *Trial By Jury*, the audience was treated to a much richer sight. The costume was sumptuous and complemented by a classic court room stage set. Special mention could be made of Chris Pound's 'burgundy' suit, possibly a John Lane original and Santa Claus could sue for plagiarism if he had witnessed Judge Harry Eden's robe.

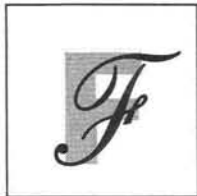
Those who know how difficult it is to sing on stage should congratulate all the performers but notably the soloists who showed more and more ease and confidence as the operetta progressed. The chorus should also be praised for its amazing support and strength. Their opening chorus of "Silence in Court" made an unsuspecting audience sit up and enjoy their sound. All relied heavily on glances to their conductor so Mr. James' musical control is certainly to be thanked for holding together what turned out to be an exact, smooth running musical performance. Stage moves and choreography would have made D'oyly Carte proud.

*Every Good Boy ...* productions sometimes defeat themselves in their mixture of political criticism and humour, becoming flavourless and dissatisfying and G & S's "Jury" without so much commitment could have been a trial. In this case neither was either.

Julius Cranshaw VI N.



## THE MUSIC SOCIETY



or members of the Music Society and for those parents and friends who support us, the year has once again been a varied one. We have raised money for the Music Department, promoted concerts,

provided refreshments and enjoyed social events. Sometimes we have managed to combine several of these activities in the same event. One such occasion was the Barn Dance held in the Dining Hall during the 1984 Summer Term. The evening was fine, so there was plenty of room to dance, while those who needed a rest or simply wanted to listen to the strains of the Wild Thyme Band were able to sit in the Masters' Garden. Everyone enjoyed the evening, and our Treasurer was pleased with the profit! Earlier in the term, we tried our hand at a Car Boot Sale — on the school gravel, by kind permission of the Headmaster. The profit on the day was only modest, but we consoled ourselves with the thought that the event did not take much effort to organize. The highlight of the term though was an evening of early music played on a variety of period instruments by the talented Sinfonye Duo in combination with a vocal ensemble directed by Mr. James. The Long Gallery at the Abbey Buildings proved to be an ideal setting for the music, and strawberries and wine added greatly to the enjoyment!

By popular demand, John Cutforth returned once more in October to provide another of his inimitable illustrated talks, this year on 'HAYDN'. In one respect things did not go as smoothly as intended. John was just getting into his stride when a part of his equipment developed a fault. Refreshments were taken early whilst a replacement tape-deck was obtained, and eventually John triumphed over adversity in his typical urbane style. A few weeks later, some forty members and friends ventured by coach to the 'big city' and enjoyed a splendid performance of Puccini's "Madam Butterfly" by the E.N.O. at the Coliseum.

There can rarely have been a more enthusiastic reception in the Amey Hall than that accorded to the Band of the Welsh Guards on St. Valentine's Day (in the Lent Term). They certainly lived up to their high reputation with a crisp performance of a virtuoso programme. Far from being an austere military event, the evening turned into quite a family occasion. Huw James (son of Terry, of course) played with great aplomb his first solo with the Band which he is currently training to join; Terry and Derek Jones helped out in a performance of the 'Toy Symphony' that held us all in raptures! During the interval, the 'loving cup' served by the Music Society added to the atmosphere of this happy occasion.

It was a pity that a similarly very large audience did not hear the recital given earlier that term by the Duke String Quartet. Those who did attend were treated to a memorable concert by these talented and enthusiastic young musicians, all but one of whom are still studying at the Royal Academy of Music. The concert formed part of the group's preparations for a concert tour and an appearance on B.B.C.2; we have surely not heard the last of them! Quite apart from the high standard of the musical presentation which of itself justified the event, it seems appropriate that we should provide an opportunity for public performance by young musicians who are one stage further in their careers than our own. I very much hope that the Society will be able to present further concerts of this nature in the future.

So far there have not yet been any special demands upon our funds. We have therefore set aside a further £500 towards the School's Grand Piano Fund, in the hope that it will soon be possible to complete the purchase of the Steinway that has been on offer for several years from a local firm.

David V. Thomas, Chairman

### ABINGDON SCHOOL CHORAL CONCERT: 5th MAY



n imaginatively planned programme of English music was presented by Abingdon School on Sunday 5th May 1985. It would have been very difficult to follow the 1984 performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*

with another Elgar work: this that memorable performance under the inspired baton of Terence

James will live in the memories of all those fortunate enough to attend, as a crowning glory of the School's choral and orchestral tradition. Elgar, however, while not actually represented in this year's programme was the underlying link between each of the pieces chosen — a point admirably amplified in the programme-notes, which were themselves an object-lesson in the art — informative and not without a modicum of Welsh humour!

The first half of the concert opened with Sir William Walton's 1937 Coronation March "Crown Imperial". There was a splendid contribution from the brass and percussion in the great climaxes and the strings offered warmth and sonority in the March's second subject. The brimming vitality of Mr. James' conducting made this performance an ideal beginning to the concert — full of high spirits and genial, but with the appropriate sense of the majestic.

Dedicated to Elgar, the Pastoral subtitled "Lie strewn the white flocks" was composed in 1929 when Bliss was thirty-eight. Elgar then in his early seventies much admired the younger composer's talent and wrote to say that while "some of it puzzled me" he nevertheless "liked it exceedingly". Fifty-six years after the work's premiere there is little to make us "puzzled" and yet there are many hints of the lyrical almost elegiac qualities which might have made Bliss a natural successor to Elgar had he pursued a career different from that which his public image and position came to demand of him. Abingdon School Choral Society coped successfully with the difficulties of the choral part-writing, although there were some unconfident entries and in the soft unaccompanied passages the words were occasionally obscured: however, given the vast expanses of the St. Helen's Sports Hall and acoustics less ideal than some English (and Welsh) Cathedrals, the general projection was good. The solo singing of mezzo-soprano was the real highlight of the performance: her beautifully focussed tone and perfectly supported voice were used with great artistry and her delivery of the text had poise and feeling. Many young artists however skilled, fail to communicate with their audience: Miss Marshall is one of those rare exceptions who has that indefinable magic which arrests the listeners' attention and succeeds in holding everyone spellbound throughout the performance. Hers was a performance to treasure and this appearance with Abingdon School must surely count as a mile-stone in her developing career. As ever the sympathetic conducting of Mr. James was a great asset.

The second half of the programme was devoted to two works by the greatest of Welsh composers — Vaughan Williams — who himself chose to live and work firmly within the confines of England and regarded himself as "essentially English". The beautiful "Serenade to Music" dating from 1938 was written for 16 solo singers, their names specified by the composer and named in the score and subsequently recorded for posterity by H. M. V. Rarely are 16 singers assembled as the composer intended, and the School's performance certainly can claim a 'first' in the Abingdon area in this respect. The performance had all the serenity and glow which the scoring denotes: the orchestral introduction unfolded in a calm and unruffled manner which was quite compelling and Mr. James's command of the structure of the work was demonstrated clearly in the finely judged transitions between the lyrical and dramatic episodes. The soloists were generally fine in ensemble although Shirley Everall (soprano) was less ethereal in her first (admittedly very exposed) entry than one could have wished. The finest of the four mezzos was Melanie Marshall, but as a team the four basses (two of them pupils of the School) won the vocal honours: Timothy Bennett, Brindley Sherratt, Stephen Smailes and Graeme Broadbent encompassed their wide-ranging music with complete conviction. The orchestra balanced very well with the singers throughout and special mention must be made of Jennifer Noll's finely-phrased violin solo and of the harpist.

The cantata "Toward the Unknown Region" is perhaps even more rarely performed. On this occasion the School Choir and Choral Society together with St. Helen's School Choir combined with the Orchestra to give a stirring and well projected account of the work. Walt Whitman's verse may be at face level somewhat abstract and ephemeral but Vaughan Williams' music is all together positive and the singers responded with a real dramatic intensity to Mr. James' reading of the work — bringing the concert to a triumphant conclusion.

J. Oxlade

## CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT



In anticipation of the 1985 J. S. Bach tercentenary celebrations, on Sunday November 25th, 1984, the Amey Hall — with capacity audience — was the setting for an accomplished and exalting performance of the "Christmas Oratorio" (Parts 1-3) given by the School's Choral Society and Chamber Choir Trebles directed by Terence James.





The singing of all four soloists (David Lowe as Evangelist, Eleanor Forbes, soprano, Michael Chance, alto and Gerald Finley, bass) was of the highest order, as was the continuo playing of Simon Finlow (harpsichord) and Nicholas Gethin ('cello). The lavish Chamber Orchestra, led by Jennifer Noll, was of professional standard; while the chorus and trebles responded admirably to Mr. James's vigilant baton. Particularly notable were the alto arias 'Prepare Thyself, Sion' (with Carolyn King's subtle oboe obbligato) and 'Keep, O my spirit' (beautifully complemented by Jennifer Noll's violin solo), the Soprano/Bass duet (attended by two oboes d'amore no less!) and the splendidly disciplined chorus in 'Glory to God' and 'Hear King of Angels'.

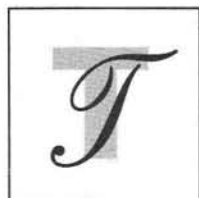
The audience was invited to join in two chorales (intended in Bach's day to be sung by the congregation of St. Thomas's, Leipzig) and, spurred on by the conductor, made a respectable showing — as well they might, given the example of the singers on the platform.

Friends of the School and people of Abingdon are fortunate indeed that music-making of such excellence should be available so near home, and everyone who heard this performance will look forward to the next major choral event on May 5th.

Lesley Sherwood

**Critic's footnote** — this concert was recorded on video-cassette (V.H.S. and Beta) which may be borrowed from the Music Department by application to the Director of Music.

## FIRST ORCHESTRA & CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



he standard of both the First Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra has risen in the last year in contrast to the ever-dwindling audiences. But perhaps the absentees generously thought that the fewer sitting in the auditorium the more responsive the acoustics, producing a sharper sound quality and hence a higher standard of concert. Alternatively since the concerts landed on a Saturday in the Michaelmas Term and on a Thursday in the Summer Term, many people may have felt sorely tempted by the praiseworthy quality of such masterpieces as 'The Price is Right' (I.T.V. 7.30-8.30 p.m.) and 'Top of the Pops' (B.B.C.1. 7.55-8.25 p.m.)! Nevertheless, undaunted, the faithful few (60 or so!) in the orchestras will no doubt continue their relentless crusade against philistinism, as ever inspired by the leadership of Mr. James, and secure in the knowledge that

"The Man that hath no Music in himself  
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet  
sounds...

The motions of his Spirit are dull as night...  
Let no such man be trusted." ('Merchant of

Venice')

In the Michaelmas Term, the Chamber Orchestra, under the auspices of Mr. Robinson, played a viola concerto by Telemann, Tim Bennett being the capable soloist. First Orchestra played several pieces — first the Slow Movement of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, James Kowszun performing with suitable plangent tone and great sensitivity, though unfortunately the accompanying strings had some problems with a persistently troublesome key-signature. From this, the orchestra moved on to Michael Hurd's 'Dance

Diversions'', light pieces played in a lively manner with great spirit. Earlier in the term, the orchestra was rehearsed in these movements by the composer himself — a rare but worthwhile experience for all.

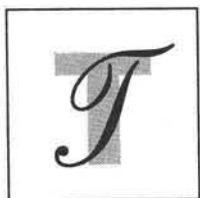
In the gap between the Michaelmas and Spring Terms, Mr. Robinson disappeared (last seen driving a brand new Mercedes) and the Chamber Orchestra found itself briefly without direction, a post soon filled by Mr. Finlow. Having played Baroque works predominantly for about five years, it was stimulating for the orchestra to find itself attempting Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik''. This was indeed very demanding, yet despite the feeling sometimes underlying rehearsals that we had bitten off more than perhaps was chewable, in the concert in May we found that we performed in a largely professional yet relaxed way, thanks to Mr. Finlow's own professionalism and meticulous attention to detail.

The First Orchestra, in the same concert, played well, performing a Gordon Jacob Symphonic Suite (in memory of the composer's recent death), Gustav Holst's 'Saturn' and Malcolm Arnold's 'Peterloo Overture'. The first and last pieces in particular were both performed especially well, particularly the latter, a piece very well chosen by Mr. James, providing as it did much diversity and an opportunity for much involvement by a very large percussion section.

The year's achievements have been well worthwhile for both those participating in them, and those who managed to hear them. Grateful thanks must go to Mr. James, Mr. Finlow and the now absent Mr. Robinson.

Tom Hollander VIF

## CHAMBER CHOIR & SCHOOL CHOIR



his has been a busy — almost hectic — year for the School Choirs. As usual the Chamber Choir programme has comprised Choral Evensongs far and wide, Concerts and (in lighter vein) Barber Shop ensembles. As

usual the Choir was in rehearsal within days of the start of a new year; there were a number of new sparkling faces — especially in the trebles — but the core of the altos, tenors and basses were experienced hands! Then within two weeks and tenors and basses were joined by sopranos and contraltos of St. Helen's School Choir for a special Choral Evensong to help the 800th Anniversary Celebrations of St. Nicolas Church, Abingdon. The event itself went well on the whole but the blend of voices was not always satisfactory, in particular because of the lack of subtlety in the upper parts which somehow didn't quite come up to our own trebles and altos. Far more satisfying was our first 'away' visit — to Chichester Cathedral, by now an annual and much-enjoyed occasion. The only discordant element was caused by the evident lack of visual unity amongst the choristers due to the new school dress regulations. Jackets of varying colours now replace suits and blazers, and so somehow the appearance overall is rather messy. However it appears that black chorister gowns may come to the rescue as and when the necessary large funds become available, and this will go a long way towards restoring the smartness which has always complemented the high singing standards.

After leading the singing in the Service of Remembrance in Chapel, the Choir prepared for Gloucester Cathedral and (trebles) for Bach's "Christmas Oratorio", which were the start of a busy December programme. The visit to Gloucester was a great success; it is a superb building for singers and, spurred on by the thrilling sounds generated by Mr. Finlow and Geoffrey Styles on the fine organ, the choir sang memorably well. The occasion was also tinged with some poignancy too — we sang the responses of Gloucester's organist (John Sanders) while he listened in rehearsal, the anthem was written by Mansel Thomas, father-in-law of Mr. James (and Mr. Thomas came to hear our performance), and it was also the day on which Mr. James' father died. The Chamber Choir then swelled the already large ranks of School Choir for "The Christmas Spirit", a concert of seasonal music which was notable for the solo performances of Cedric Littlewood (recorder), Robert Jolliffe (treble) and Judith Sawyer (soprano). A special cup of 'mulled wine' heralded the interval and caused the cheeks to flush and the music to flow merrily in the second half which consisted of choir and audience carols and songs, ably supported by a special visiting orchestra and directed by a jolly Mr. James!

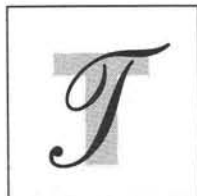
However it was Carols of a different sort which brought the Chamber Choir's term to a close — first of all two Carol Services for the School, and then the annual trip to sing in Trafalgar Square, London under the Christmas Tree, this last event being preceded by a special Advent Court service for the Mercers' Company in their Chapel that morning. What a day! By comparison the Lent and Summer Terms were more leisurely (!). The School Choir (with Chamber Choir) prepared vigorously for the big Choral Concert in May, and meantime the Chamber Choir prepared carols and other church music for its projected record later in the year, and went off to the lovely setting of Salisbury Cathedral. This was new territory for most of the choir, many of whom also enjoyed the cathedral organ as it was put through its paces by the various school organists in the interval between rehearsal and evensong. Somehow by the end of Evensong we had all reached saturation point with the organ's fortissimol!

After the May Concert, the Chamber Choir again prepared for further events. They joined various soloists and a confident-sounding second orchestra (all praise to Mr. Andrews who took over from Mr. Robinson in January) in an enterprising "ORGAN PLUS" recital in nearby Trinity Church. It was a chance for our own supporters to hear the choir on home-ground and for our organists in particular to show off their party-pieces. Special mention then should be made of Geoffrey Styles (not least on a sparkling flippant finale), Stephen Wilcox and Ceri Davies. Then we sang at Southwark Cathedral — Balfour Gardiner's 'Evening Hymn' being especially good! — and just about reached Abingdon after a terrifying thunder storm which brought the coach to a halt by the force of its hailstones. The weather was much kinder for our annual visit to Marsh Gibbon — well actually nearby Twyford this year, to help them in their appeal. The church was beautifully decked with local crafts and masses of sweet flowers, full to the brim with local people and choir supporters, and bulging with good singing. It was a rousing finale (just a few services to come at school) which — as always — is much looked forward to by the choir, not least for the hot pies served by the ladies afterwards and the summer drinks from Mr. Cutforth's cellars.

All told it has been a year of great happiness. Ensemble quality has developed greatly through the year and there have been many impressive moments for us all to remember. The Choir is in excellent fettle and is proud to have seen one of its number (yours truly!) win a Choral award at Christchurch Oxford, and another almost take a choral award at King's Cambridge. We are very grateful in particular to Mr. James for his inspiration and hard work, to Mr. Lowe (our singing teacher) for his technical expertise, and to Mr. Finlow and Geoffrey Styles for their accompaniments in rehearsals and performances. And so now to our recording, and another chapter in the life of the Chamber Choir. Don't forget to buy a copy of the record!

Tim Bennett VI N.

## THE SCHOOL BANDS



he Bands have had another excellent year! Under the leadership of Bandmaster Derek Jones, the season has seen two very enjoyable concerts and the inception of a 'Corps Band' to complement the activities of the

C.C.F.

The First Wind Band, the Brass Band and Corps Band all work from a common nucleus of experienced players, whose efforts have joined together to produce a skilful and musical set of results.

The Second Wind Band has done sterling work, producing some competent players who will move up to the other bands with confidence. They put together a very creditable programme in the recent Band Concert (May), and this says a lot for both their and Mr. Jones' patience and hard work.

The Brass Band has moved from strength to strength, playing the very varied and enjoyable programmes (from Mr. Jones' extensive library) with verve and style. In this, the efforts and achievements of Stephen Connor on euphonium and James Kowszun on cornet have been of special note, particularly a superb performance of 'Bladon Races' by Stephen.

The Corps Band started with mainly First Wind Band players who 'volunteered' to march up and down in a totally un-military manner on freezing winter afternoons. Despite the hardships and lack of true military discipline, great amusement was had by all when things went wrong! Some tolerable results were produced, and there is a reasonable basis for the band to go on to great things in the future — for example, forty people

doing a three-point-turn at once, while playing music, is rather more complicated than such a manoeuvre in a car!

The highlight of the Spring Term — and probably of the year — was surely the visit of the Band of the Welsh Guards on St. Valentine's Day. They presented a magical concert, which was wonderful for the packed house to hear, and also it was great to see Old Abingdonian Huw James playing trombone with them both as Junior Musician and as soloist.

All the bands have put huge efforts into the weekly rehearsals, playing with increasing energy and concentration throughout the year. Mr. Jones' leadership has produced great things by means of both encouragement and threats! He has selected the repertoire wisely from the viewpoint of both listeners and performers and the players have worked hard with pleasure.

The First Wind Band has had a year to beat many others. After the initial assembly in September with 'old' faces missing and new ones appearing, it soon became a coherent unit. With a combination of hard work and 'it'll be alright on the night', excellent results have been obtained. A lot of energy has been expended by section leaders getting the best results from their sections, and particular mention must be made of James Kowszun (cornet), Daniel Spring (horn), Stephen Conner (euphonium), Tom Allport (trombone), Simon James (tuba), Kingsmill Bond (flute), Stephen Wilcox (oboe) and Chris Wade (percussion) — Chris in fact on percussion in his first season.

All this work produced a brilliant Band Concert at the end of May. Khachaturian's 'Sabre Dance' was a great hit, full of dissonances, loud noises and glissandos; a Holst Suite provided a more serious classical touch, and a trombone solo to the tune of 'Can't take my eyes off you' by Tom Allport was greatly enjoyed — at least by the performer! The Grand Finale ('Instant Concert') — every tune you've ever remembered inside three minutes, complete with grunts and roars of laughter — produced wild applause and irresistible demands for an encore!

It was indeed a great year for all bandsmen, and all eight who are leaving will miss it all as much as they will be missed.

Tom Allport VIF



*The First Wind Band in rehearsal.*



## THE WAREHOUSE



"Where exactly is the Warehouse?" — the question everyone seemed to be asking me last year, sometimes because they wanted to know, and sometimes because they really meant to say, "I'm blown if I know what all this Technology stuff is about anyway." At any rate, it became clear as soon as the Appeal was launched and the building programme began to get under way, that the Warehouse was about as difficult to find as the Sports Hall was to miss, and that the aims of the "Technology Centre" part of the programme were to many correspondingly obscure. Not just a craft centre. No, not a computer centre. Applied Science? Yes, and then again, no, not altogether. Engineering? Design? C.D.T? What *is* Technology anyway?

What makes that question difficult to answer, at least in the context of the school curriculum, is that this is an area of rapid development and change. Schools that, ten or fifteen years ago, recognised the need to expand their provision for practical education and were able to respond by building technical departments equipped in the traditional manner, are now having to consider radical alterations to accommodate new approaches. On the other hand, the shortcomings of the more modern integrated design/craft learn-the-skills-as-you-find-you-need-them kind of arrangement are already apparent. Add to this current demands to provide within the school curriculum an insight into high tech methods — C.A.D./C.A.M., C.N.C. machinery, robotics and so forth, and it's not surprising not everyone can see what we're aiming at.

Abingdon has been a late starter in the field of Craft, Design and Technology. The refurbished woodwork shop opened in 1978, a development which, although modest in itself, signalled the beginning of a major expansion of the practical side of our curriculum. The Amey Hall was already under way at that time, and when completion followed two years later, this not only opened up new areas of activity in Art and Design, but also served to emphasise the lack of complementary facilities for technical craft and design work. Various schemes and sites were under consideration, the aim at the time being simply to provide a metal workshop, but it is probably true to say none would have been very satisfactory, even in fulfilling that very limited aim; and the need for a much more ambitious building project, to fulfil much wider aims, was already clear when, early in 1981, the opportunity arose for the School to acquire "The Warehouse" and adjoining land.

Now, passing quickly over the next four years (for time would fail me to tell of all the planning, the discussions, the costings, the memoranda, the re-thinking, the final decisions ... nor is this perhaps the proper place to pay full tribute to all those who were instrumental in bringing about the successful result) we have the Warehouse, fully restored structurally throughout, and with the first phase of the internal development already in use and ready for full operation from September. And you will find it (in case there are any who still don't know the way) by passing through the break in the wall by the bike sheds behind the Amey Hall, leaving the new maintenance workshop (still being mistaken for the Warehouse as recently as February this year — "Teaching down there now are you?" he said. "They must have been pretty quick getting the roof on.") on your right, and going on beyond the yew hedge. There you may find Messrs. (New Cars for Old) Rolfe and Smith and their Motor Mechanics men, making the place look like a scrap yard already as they salvage bits from their wrecked Ford to build into a kit replica Morgan sports car. Passing through the projects

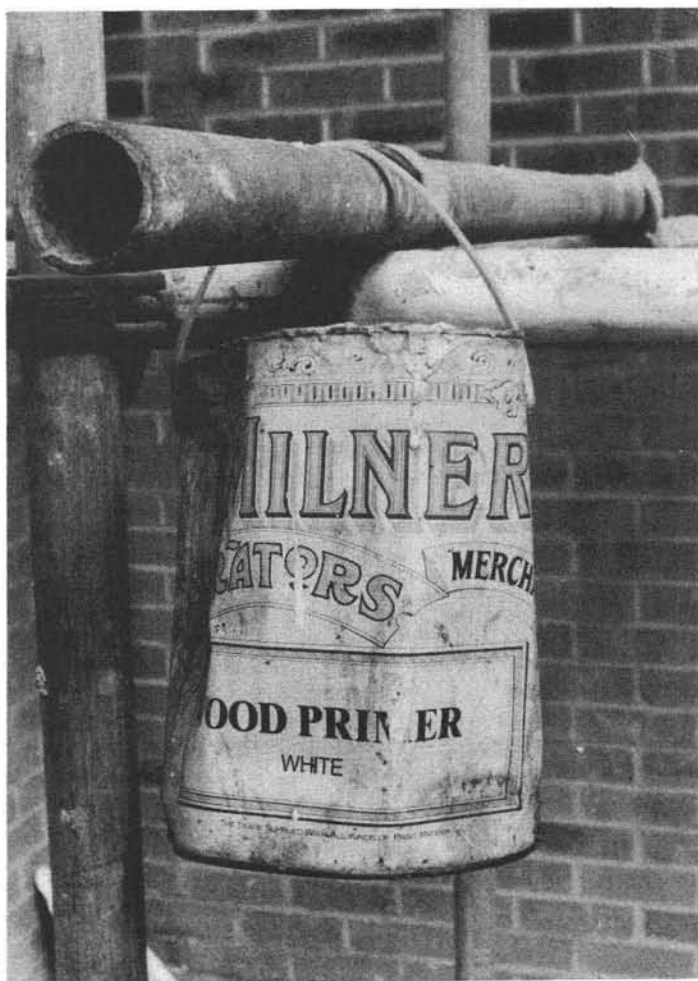


area into the main metal shop you will see the machinery and equipment which has been installed over the past few months, and proceeding to the far end you may find Mr. Haynes, complete with computers and Technical Lego, teaching the elements of electronic control technology to the fourth year — all this but a foretaste of greater things to come.

Two considerations have predominated in all we have done so far. The first was to ensure that the metal workshop was correctly sited and of adequate size, since later alterations would be costly. In line with the requirements of a design based approach, the aim has been to provide for as wide a range of processes as possible, rather than for duplication of important major items. Thus we have, for example, only one lathe and one brazing hearth which doubles as a small forge, but we have been able to afford a furnace, which opens up a whole area of design possibilities and relevant skills.

The second consideration was that of adaptability. The aims and methods of C.D.T. teaching are bound to show further changes and shifts of emphasis in the years ahead, and in the planning of the remaining areas of the Warehouse we have to take this into account. It is frustrating in many ways not to have the whole building operational at once, but there may be some gain in the end by having, albeit perforce, some uncommitted space at this stage, even if that makes it even more difficult to explain what, exactly, we are up to.

M. G. H. D.



Award winning poem for the W. H. Smith Young Writers Competition.

### A Photograph

Surely this is not my mum,  
Imprisoned by the sixties fashion.  
Hair too short, shoes too tight,  
Like every other aimless teenager.

Little does she know,  
That the exciting man she has met  
Has come to change her character.  
Will make her look at this photo  
Not with pride, but distaste.

For now, she is different.  
The responsibilities of family life  
Have made her into the mum I know,  
The approachable, sensible person

Is she really the girl the picture froze?

H. P. Acton 2 F.

## SCHOOL HOUSE

*As I have been made to think about it, since I had no real 'first impressions' (who does?) I realise that one of the aspects of School House that is not apparent in the rest of the school, is that you get to know the people of other ages much better. In normal school life you usually turn up your nose at those younger than yourself, and have noses turned up at you by those who are older. But here, because everyone uses the same facilities, and older people have to take a certain amount of responsibility for younger ones, i.e. supervising prep etc, you get to know them better.*

*Something that springs from this familiarity is that everyone gets a nickname — some develop by association, others are just one-off things. They range from 'Fer-Kin-Ner' to just plain 'wot' or 'coo' (which can be elaborated to 'racer' by simple association. (?))*

*Boarding life also has its problems, though. The gravest problem for me, and a very serious one it is too, is the lack of cultured music taste around me. There are constant music wars going on between me and most other 'inmates' in my dorm. I find myself competing with huge stereo systems down at the other end of the room, which my small recorder finds difficult to equal.*

*Another thing about School House that strikes me, now that I am made to think about it, is the amount there is to do in free time. The games room provides snooker, table-tennis and darts, there is a reading room and lastly, inside the television room usually used for cult programmes, such as 'Dallas' and 'Spitting Image'. Pastimes in the dorms seem to go in phases. When I first arrived there was a craze for various card games. This eventually polarised into plain Bridge. That craze got to epic proportions near the end of last term when a hand or two of bridge was fitted into almost any free time. The bridge craze has now given way to baseball and football, and no doubt when the swimming pool becomes available everyone will flock over there.*

*One more advantage you get from boarding is being able to get to know a few of the teachers better, and to find out that, despite all evidence to the contrary, they are human!*

Guy Peach 6 B.

## LIFE IN SCHOOL HOUSE

I shall not attempt to describe the life in School House, as that has already been done, but what I hope to do is to get over the atmosphere in the house. The spirit, although often lacking through the long, laborious Michaelmas term, is revitalised, usually when the whole house is in one place witnessing such events as the cup final and 'Miss World' since I've been in the house it has always been these external achievements that have brought back the life of the house. Even the entertainments that used to occur after the Christmas dinner have sadly fallen into disrepair.

However in the Michaelmas term, we came back to life with the School House Indoor Theatricals. The idea of the house putting on entertainment was conceived and masterminded by Matron and Mr. Willerton. The feeling towards it was, to say the least, not very enthusiastic and it's a credit to the perseverance, and enthusiasm of the two 'directors' that the evening went ahead. The programme was to consist of a performance of Dickens 'Christmas Carol', followed by refreshments and finally some poetry recitals and sketches. Everyone was involved in some way, even if they weren't acting; be it supervising the wardrobe (!) or preparing the snacks. The Lower Library was decided on as being the venue for the event, with the stairs and area in front being quite ingeniously transformed into Scrooge's house, the road outside or anything! The rehearsals were by no means smooth; since having supervised the 'angle-poise' lighting in the dress-rehearsal the director, Mr. Willerton, and us wondered whether the play would actually be going ahead. However the night arrived and quite an audience gathered, mainly those associated with or who worked in the house. We weren't quite sure what to expect. However what we witnessed made what was probably one of the most enjoyable and amusing evenings. The acting was not of the greatest class but no one could fail to enjoy themselves. Particular mention must go to John Camplin who played Ebenezer Scrooge and Euan Hirst as the gorilla. However that evening seemed to sum up for me what School House is all about. When we all pool our resources and make an effort we create a sort of spirit, and that spirit, I believe, is unique only to School House!

Ed. O'Brian (6)

\* \* \*

### A day in the life of a Glyndwr Inmate

**CRESCENT HOUSE** No wind stirs the casement windows, no owl hoots in the nearby park and no compact stereo systems play; the tranquillity is only broken by some scrotty fourth former ringing the bell at 7.30 a.m.

Nothing happens.

At 7.45 Mr. MacDonald bursts into the room angrily brandishing his watch:

"Robert..."

No reply.

"Robert..."

No reply.

"Time to get up."

"eseemmmbleeao"

Mr. MacDonald, pleasantly surprised by an uncustomary response, switches the light on and leaves. There is a sudden burst of energy as someone leaps forth and switches it off again and then — nothing happens.

Five minutes before breakfast ends and half an hour before school begins activity starts in the house. Clothes are hastily thrown on and people stumble to the dining hall to sample the culinary masterpieces of breakfast. Not much is said, except for the occasional "Oh no, that's the third time we've had curry and scones this week." (But at least that means that it should be choc-ice and chips tomorrow!).

Back at Glyndwr there is just enough time to grab a random assortment of books before rushing off to school. The next time anything happens is during morning break: After two periods of work we are badly in need of sustenance, and so the race for the kettle and toaster is on! There are three possible outcomes of this race, i) the second former has forgotten to bring the supplies ii) the toaster and kettle have broken due to prolonged use or iii) we have been pipped to the post by the cleaning ladies, who proceed to occupy the kitchen for the whole break. By now the house has well and truly woken up and standing on the landing it is possible to hear six different types of music, invariably accompanied by loud out of tune singing, drumming on the window sill and screaming guitar solos played on tennis raquets. In fact if you listen very hard it is just possible to make out the faint creaking of floorboards in the infamous 'Long loo'.

After break most people confront school again, which leaves any private study periods quiet, interrupted only by the latest gossip from the cleaning ladies or the straining vocals of Bob Dylan.

At lunch break people gather in rooms for coffee and to complain about lunch. The next exciting development occurs when school has ended at 3.30, when the house becomes filled with a most unpleasant aroma as dirty games kit is unearthed! Most inmates are involved with games, only a few fifth formers stay behind to play loud music and cultivate a "hard" expression.

With games over the next task is to try to grab a shower that works, the one furthest to the left is the most popular (it delivers almost enough water to wash under). If you're very unlucky someone would have had a bath and used up all the hot water (thanks Larry!).

Tea is the best meal of the day (despite the Viking) and the atmosphere is really friendly

unless Dave Kitchens declares "No smiling". We stay until Moira wants our trays and the lemon curd is gone. People then gather once more for coffee and toast and to complain about tea (alright, I said it was the best — I never said it was good!).

There follows 1½ hours of relative silence ('prep') during which we try to do a bit of work. In the break between preps people make the most of the ½ hour respite by making lots of noise and eating as many bits of toast as possible. There is normally some work still going on in second prep, but for some the novelty has worn off and so the kettle is switched on to provide another fix of caffeine.

After work has finished there are lots and lots of fun things to do such as ... emm ... well, going to the "chippy", queuing for the 'phone, watching episode 93(b) of Dallas on the video (again), making more coffee, or discussing life, the universe and everything. Occasionally something really exciting happens such as a water fight/shaving foam fight/heated argument/fire alarm being set off and no one knowing who by or Alfie being on duty.

The excitement of the day is now over. The only thing left to do is wait for certain fifth formers to vacate the bathroom after a ½ hour siege. (We don't really mind this because we realise that fifth formers *must* make sure that zits are at bay, no embarrassing down is left on the chin and hair is suitably spiky before retiring to bed!).

We clamber thankfully into bed, but attempts to sleep are thwarted by our having drunk too much coffee — so we argue about trivia until we tire of the effort and sink into oblivion.

No wind stirs the casement windows, no owl hoots in the nearby park and no compact stereo systems play. The quiet is only broken by the faint creaking of floorboards in the infamous long loo...

J. Allison 6P and R. D. Cheek 6T.

\* \* \*

## WASTE COURT

The addition of the coach house to Waste Court, to provide more basic living space, passed largely unnoticed through the school, being somewhat overshadowed by the construction of the new Gymnasium and warehouse conversion. Watching the building slowly taking shape all through the summer (of 1984) left us all very curious as to what it was going to be like in due course.

At the beginning of the next School year with the completion of the coach house in sight, we said goodbye to most of the upper sixth and Mr. Marston, who moved out of Waste Court itself into their new rooms. Meanwhile a few minor finishing touches were added to the inside of the building. (Such as the toilets!). A path was quickly laid down across the courtyard in time for an 'opening' ceremony, and drystone walls were built around the courtyard edge to enclose two flower beds.

So, what is the general impression of the coach house? Apart from having to run across the courtyard wrapped only in a towel at seven thirty in the morning after a shower the feeling among the new inhabitants is one of considerable satisfaction.

Waste Court itself suddenly felt so huge. For the first time, fifth years moved out of Big Dorm into the vacated study bedrooms; far more conducive to hard work! With the lower sixth tucked away in one room in the top of the house, Big Dorm was now only half-full.

The coach house extension has resulted in a fragmentation of the house, to some degree, into age-group partitions. The upper sixth over in the coach house rarely come into the same kind of frequent contact with the third and fourth years as they did before, when everyone lived under one roof, for instance. Perhaps the upper sixth prefer being where they are, away from 'marauding juniors' and perhaps the juniors feel somewhat



'liberated', but without fifth formers in Big Dorm to guide them, they have less of a lead to follow, nevertheless.

Waste Court is a very pleasant place to live in, due to the fact that the relatively small number of boys make for a friendly and unimposing atmosphere. Having no first or second years in the house makes it often a very quiet and relaxing place to be after a long day at school. The fact that the Beano is the most thumbed paper in the house and the Biggs children's pedal car gets more use from the boys, (so that's what caused the rings of black marks around the library carpet!) must say something about some of the characters you could expect to meet on a visit to Waste Court. Of course, not everyone is that 'wacky', but having to live with so many different characters in the same house makes a boarder's life so much richer and more challenging than a dayboy's in this way.

Learning how to get on with other people, however difficult, is a very important part of life as a boarder, and in perhaps one thing that a dayboy might not learn until after leaving school. Boarders can do nothing but have the greatest degree of respect for other people's needs and an atmosphere of mutual toleration prevails from the very beginning, ensuring the continued sanity of the house.

Separation from one's parents for long periods of time may be at first daunting, but develops a well-balanced sense of independence and a healthy regard for good home cooking...

Lastly, all in Waste Court would like to thank Mr. Marston for being such a lively, approachable and understanding house tutor before he leaves to take up his vocation for the priesthood.

A. Lowe 6 M.

#### A Fifth Former's viewpoint

*On arriving back to Waste Court for a new, and, as ever, unpredictable Michaelmas term, I found the area behind the House transformed. Gone was the huge tree that had shaded the crumbling remains of the old warehouse and gone, for that matter, were the crumbling remains. In their place was a 'new house', the brickwork was the same, but everything else was new, including the residents, the mice, and the colonies of woodworm, which had been replaced by equally industrious (?) Upper Sixth Formers. The previous term I had just looked upon the coachhouse as a general dump/woodstore for the workmen and where, if you were lucky, and could cut your way through rusty beds, gardening tools various, and a fire extinguisher, you could find the 'Waste Court Modelling Room', which contained cast-offs of John Schofield's model aeroplanes from days gone by, the remains of a red white and blue D.N.A. model, bits of model railway and a motorbike. Today that is all changed. Where the motorbike was is now Mr. Marston's kitchen and the contents of the modelling room, excluding the motorbike, have been rehoused, condemned to the gloomy depths of the cellars. Mr. Marston, our tireless tutor who terrorises reluctant Chapel goers, has undoubtedly benefitted the most from the conversion of the Coachhouse. The previous tutor's lodgings were cramped to say the least and being in the very top of the house were quite a climb for a tutor, especially after a night out!*

*But Mr. Marston hasn't been the only person to benefit. The Upper Sixth Formers have now found relative tranquility away from the many Third and Fourth formers as well as the four mini-Biggs! The*

*drawback is that they have no phone which leads to a sprint across the courtyard to fetch them, usually a Toby or a Julius, only to find that he is not there, and you have to sprint back again to explain to the Mum or girlfriend ... that he is not there! This ritual is less than amusing when done pyjama clad at ten in the evening.*

*There has also been a bonus for the Fifth Form who previously had to endure the endless chatter and hassle of Third and Fourths in Big Dorm, that great hangar, but now we have studies. Going from Big Dorm to our own studies is a real form of promotion which has status and which also allows for an increase in independence. You value these as you get older and spend more years in boarding life.*

*Boarding for these past three years has helped me to become more independent, to be more self-aware and responsible, not having almost everything done for me at home. Not, of course, that boarding life can replace home life, but what it lacks in home comforts it replaces with a fantastic friendly atmosphere which to me is the basis of a successful boarding life which I have certainly had so far.*

*So life in Waste Court continues, still churning out the Dallas fans found filling the TV room on Wednesday night, who will no doubt increase as the numbers of 'Waste Courtiers' increase in the years to come. Looking at new boys who continue to settle in fast and who immediately add to boarding life, I am sure that the Waste Court we all know will continue in its happy way for many years to come.*

C. Marnane 5 WTM.

\* \* \*



## CHAPEL NOTES

What did you think of the chapel?

I like it

Really?

Yes, there is something intimate about it. It is not too big, not too small. I like it.

What I was trying to say seven years ago has lingered because I have found it to be true. Our chapel may not be large and imposing like that of some other schools, but it nevertheless lends itself very happily to a variety of uses, whether for thirty or forty boys on a Sunday morning, or for two hundred or so on a week-day morning, or for the boarding community on a week-day evening, or for the faithful few at a voluntary service, or for the family and friends of a master at a baptism, or, indeed, for the individual who simply wants to shut the door behind him, sit out of sight, and be on his own for a while.

So the chapel, for all its ordinariness, is a building of possibilities. An innovation this year has been the regular week-day evening services for the boarders. The aim has been to provide food for thought as well as opportunity for worship. Of course, this is the aim of any service in chapel; but these evening occasions have been particularly successful thanks to series of visiting speakers, namely the Rev. Richard Atkinson, Mrs. Ann Corbett, Dr. Graham Scott-Brown, the Rev. Andrew King and Mr. Paul Simpson. I am also grateful to Mr. James who helped to provide an evening meditation in words and music for Lent.

However, the real key to a profitable use of the chapel lies not in innovation of any sort but in the readiness of individuals to use the place in order to share their thoughts and prayers, doubts and questions with God. This is a daunting thought for a chaplain since encouraging this kind of readiness in a busy, active community is seldom easy; but what makes the job enjoyable, as well as rather easier, has been the warmth and friendly openness of much of the community itself. In fact, I often wonder, was that what I was really sensing when I first went into the chapel seven years ago?

P. W. B.



## CHRISTIAN UNION

*In last year's Abingdonian chapel notes, Mr. Butcher mentioned that a group of mainly fifth and sixth formers had started meeting on Monday lunchtimes for prayer and discussion. This group shortly became the Christian Union, and is, I'm glad to say, still going strong.*

*"But what do you do at Christian Union?" is something we often get asked, and the short answer is "Quite a lot". At our main meeting on Monday we have visiting speakers, videos, filmstrips, or (rather more usually) one or more members of the group take the meeting on some theme of their own devising. Meetings of this sort often start with some kind of sketch or "audience participation". This term has seen meetings on subjects such as Materialism, the Masks we hide behind, and the Meaning of Faith. We were pleased to welcome Captain Richardson from the local Salvation Army to talk to us about Prayer, tho' sadly that was a Monday with snow and ice everywhere, so we were a bit depleted.*

*Christian Union provides a pleasantly informal complement to Voluntary chapel, with rather more opportunity for interruptions, comments and contributions. It has been particularly pleasant to see the C.U. expand across the ages, so that we have people from the lower school right up to Upper Sixth and Masters. Numbers have wandered about a bit over the past year, but we now usually have about fifteen people on Mondays and a much smaller core to our prayer and planning meeting on Friday lunchtimes. March 20th saw the first meeting of the Abingdon Schools Christian Union, (Organised chiefly by Abingdon School) which went very well, over*

*thirty people from six schools coming to hear a very challenging and encouraging talk by David Lawrence from the Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship (a National organisation) on the theme of "Stand up and be counted." The songs, sketches and socialising that accompanied this made for an enjoyable if slightly chaotic evening.*

*To conclude, I'd just like to say what a privilege and pleasure it's been (most of the time) running the C.U., to thank everyone who's helped over the past year, particularly Peter Starr (next year's chairman), Andrew Thomas, Mr. Butcher, the Headmaster for putting up with us, and most importantly of course Jesus Christ without whom it would all have been futile.*

M. B. Joinson 6 F.



## C.C.F. REPORT

The detailed article on the C.C.F. in the last issue of the Abingdonian did us proud, so this year we shall be brief.

Last Summer we took a record 87 Cadets and 8 officers to Annual Camp at Penhale, Nr. Newquay, Cornwall. The week was crowned with our winning of the the Penhale March and Shoot Cup — a competition between 28 schools and a visit for Mr. Gabitass who abseiled, marched and shot with the best of us. Fine weather, sand and sea air helped morale but the feeling of pride we all felt in the outfit was, for most of us, The most memorable feature of Annual Camp 1984.

In October we lost the C.C.F. National Orienting Cup to Welbeck College but we shall be back to retrieve it in 1985.

Our cadets have glided, parachuted and flown with success this year. Particular congratulations are due to Simon Arthy for his R.A.F. University Cadetship and to Matthew Lodge for his Royal Marines Sixth Form Scholarship. Congratulations also to the two Tims, Haworth and Johnson on their promotion to full Lientenant.

Thank you to Capt. Jack Fox, now getting stronger than ever for all his usual help and encouragement.

R. J. W.  
C.C.F. H.Q. March 1985.

## C.C.F. ADVENTUROUS TRAINING. EASTER 1985.

*For the third successive year adventurous training took us to Ripon, North Yorkshire.*

*The usual programme of white water canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and 48 hour walks was supplemented by a wide variety of new ideas including the 'C.C.F. Exercise' — a series of watermanship, confidence and initiative exercises divided by a 5½ mile route march.*

*The canoeing, once again created mixed emotions as this year the water was unusually high and fast. We climbed at Brimham Rocks and with 'free abseiling' and visits from a combined services climbing expert, it proved very popular. Thanks are owed to Lieutenant Johnson for his valuable assistance and also to the climbing expert who often led the climbs whilst wearing wellies!*

*As for the 48 hour walks; three groups went out during the week, two with Dave Thompson and one with Martin Haywood. Following specific routes the sixth form group leaders kept up morale and ensured an enjoyable, if tiring, two days in the spectacular Yorkshire Dales.*

*Thanks from all concerned must go to Martin Haywood, James Perrins and Dave Thompson who gave up their holidays at short notice in order to help.*

*Thanks also to all the officers for taking the early morning parades, driving and administering, especially Captain Fox for his reliable efficiency, and last but by no means least, to Sergeant Larna, our canoeing instructor, without whose careful guidance many a cadet wouldn't have seen the riverbed!*

M. Lodge 6 T.

The season opened on February 28 when, after our almost customary first-round bye, I, as newly promoted captain, led out David Oppenheimer, none the worse for his year off, and new juniors Matthew Clark and Greg Randall against St. Edward's. After an uneasy start and more than one silly mistake by the captain, we eventually won 480-330.

On March 13, after three years as 'first reserve', Mark Weatherall finally got his chance when Daniel was unavailable for the visit of Henry Box School, Witney. He clearly showed us what we had been missing as he helped us to an 830-520 victory.

This took us to the Regional final against St. Helen's, made all the more nerve-racking by threats of dire consequences in the event of defeat. On March 20, a handful of brave Abingdonians, almost lost in a sea of green, watched us save the school's pride and our necks by 840-580.

As Oxford Region Champions for the third consecutive year we now face Reading in the National last 16. After that, who knows?

Many thanks, as usual, for the efforts of coach, manager and fixture secretary, Dr. Zavadzki and chauffeur, Mr. Macdonald, and to faithful supporter and travelling reserve, Stephen Wilcox.

Clive Williams VI A.

### ECONOMISTS TRIP TO A HANSARD MEETING

For the first time this year a number of economists went to a Hansard Society Meeting discussing the House of Lords. These speakers: Lord Quinton, Professor David Marquand and Professor John Griffith delivered their respective speeches on retaining the second chamber as it is, reform and abolition. Their varied views were well received by the audience which was shown in a lively discussion afterwards. Prior to the meeting, we visited Select Committees discussing Mr. Lawson's Autumn Statement and one reviewing the effect of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. After the wine and discussions a quick visit into the House of Commons revealed Norman Fowler finishing off a 25 minute long speech to a row of empty leather benches, with only the interruptions by Michael Meacher to liven up a sombre chamber still recovering from an emergency debate and a small back-bench revolt. As Mr. Meacher negated Norman's speech we made a timely exit from the silent lobbies of Westminster to the usual hustle at Paddington station and the quick trip back to Didcot.

Richard Forrest VI F.

This year the Debating Society has had a wide following attracting boys from years I-VI — speaking from my own experience I have noticed that quite a number of boys from my year have spoken in or have been present at debates. The subjects of debates have generally been topical, since far more information can be gathered on "The Miners Strike" or "Vivisection" than on one subject which I have heard mentioned — 'Does Atlantis exist?'

A recruiting campaign took place earlier this term in the form of a "One Minute Please", organized by "The Master in Charge of Debating", Mr. Trotman, and at this lunch time talent-spotting competition it was cheering to see so many younger boys with a talent to express themselves on an unprepared subject. The younger contingent also have their own Junior Debates at which they speak, though they are obviously welcome to attend Senior Debates. The Committee decides on motions for Debates and comprises representatives of each year.

An "offshoot" of the Debating Society may be an apt description of the "Public Speaking Team". A team of three, Peter Starr, John Stamper, and Nick Griffin (Main speaker, Chairman, and Vote of Thanks respectively) had to speak on a subject of their choice for a maximum of 9 minutes in the "Youth Speaks Competition" organized by the Rotary Club. With our subject "Progress" we won the area round for the first time in our Public Speaking 'history', but came up against slightly tougher competition in the Zone Final and were unsuccessful.

Thanks must go to Hugh Riches who is endeavouring to organize a debate with Wycombe Abbey School (!) and William Blythe for publicity of events. Above all thanks to Mr. Trotman, who, with the help of the committee, has maintained the Debating Society as an activity open to everyone in the school.

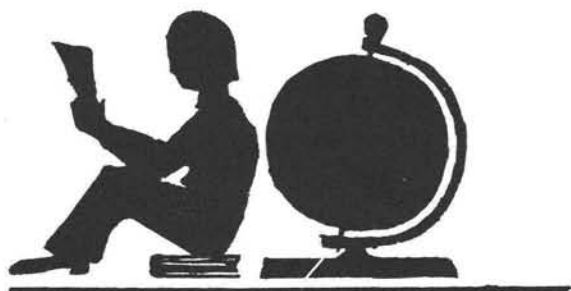
John Stamper 6 Z.

### LIBRARY

Our Librarians have proved themselves remarkably loyal. Led by three Fourth Formers, Mark Flood, David Mortimer and Ed Smith, the Librarians have worked tirelessly and have done their best to maintain a Library fit for Abingdon School. At times, they have not been helped by the equally tireless enthusiasm of those who see the Library as more of an open forum than a place of morgue-like silence, or believe that eating lunch there in is so much more refined than in the dining hall, or are unaware that we provide places for putting books after use, book-shelves. All those using the Library next year, please take note. Our Library is expanding all the time. Let's use it profitably.

W. T. M.





### SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

We were told that this year would be different. After going to Swansea for seven years, Mr. Eden thought that a change would be refreshing for the staff and interesting for us. Plymouth was chosen as the area for study and Fort Bovisand as our place to stay. It sounded almost ideal as the fort was sited on the cliffs overlooking Plymouth Sound and in the photograph looked wonderful, basking in the sunshine.

It must be confessed that we sixth formers set out on the Friday morning thinking more of six days' holiday ahead of us down by the sea than of any idea of work. Of course Mr. Eden and Mr. Gasson knew better; they had been on these trips before! Our idea of six days' relaxation was shattered almost immediately. We had only just arrived and Mr. Gasson wanted to go into Plymouth and have a look at the old dockyards! We hadn't even had our tea and we had been on the coach for the last three hours. Mr. Gasson just smiled at our protestations and said the trip would only last six days. Naturally enough we went into Plymouth and came back to tea thinking 'that was actually interesting!' After a wholesome tea we began to feel better. We had time to explore our new surroundings, go down to the quay and watch the divers splashing about. On windy days the waves broke right over the quay sending up spectacular walls of spray. Some of the more daring of us decided to play 'dodge the wave'; some of the more daring of us got very wet, much to the amusement of the rest of us. Even Mr. Gasson came and watched and laughed. He was not one of the daring ones.

The weather was a little unfair. We had never been to the area before so it could at least have been sunny. Unfortunately it rained quite frequently; or shall we say it seemed to rain when we were doing exercises for Mr. Gasson in the open and was usually dry when doing exercises for Mr. Eden. Always when we returned to the coach there was Mr. Gasson smiling very broadly. He was pleased with our work (even though it was a bit wet), and Mr. Eden kindly said that our enthusiasm was 'remarkable' considering the adverse conditions we had to cope with. It must be said that we did have some of the more colourful characters of the Sixth on this trip. Seeing Aiden Honley dancing in front of everybody just to earn money to buy a packet of crisps was really a sight worth seeing. It wasn't that the food was scarce, it was just that sometimes Aiden needed a little extra!

The scenery in the Plymouth area varied from the fine coastline to the bleakness of Dartmoor, both of which we visited and studied; although on Dartmoor the fog was a bit of a problem. In fact it was so bad we were prevented from seeing the only really interesting landmark on Dartmoor and that was the Prison.

After every hard day's work we would return to the joys of our residence, Fort Bovisand. There was a good atmosphere in the Fort, especially over meal times — we felt we were sharing a common experience! It was the breakfast that really took some getting over, especially when the postman came into the kitchen and picked out a sausage from the tray which ours were coming from, before settling down to his regular task of making the toast! The accommodation was a bit sparse (eighteen to one dorm) but this led to a good community spirit. Anyway, others were worse off; the masters (among whom we would particularly like to thank Mr. Fishpool who joins us in September) had to live in a machine gun post for the week. It was all valuable experience and hugely enjoyable. Even though most of the time we were standing in the rain, being gently blown by a force eight gale, it was worth it!

M. Sutton 6 B.

### SIXTH FORM ECONOMISTS' TRIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE

On Thursday 14th March the upper sixth economists attended a schools conference, and for many this was the first time they had visited the independent university in Buckingham. The conference was split into three stages arranged around coffee and the lunch break giving a chance for the students to discuss the lecture they had just heard. After an introduction or more of an advert by Michael Barratt, the Vice-Chancellor, the conference got under way with the lecture by David Greenaway on 'Unemployment in the U.K.' Unfortunately he cut short his lecture to enable the audience to ask questions but instead of the usual shower of queries everyone sat awkwardly during a prolonged silence. The second lecture by Professor G. K. Shaw on 'The Role of Expectations in Economics' was rather complicated and his detailed explanation of the intricate 'Cobweb Theory' was lost amongst the bewildered audience. After the lunch break we were taken on a tour of the 'picturesque' university before returning to the converted church for the third lecture. In this final session Mark Blaug discussed the topical question of 'Financing Students in Higher Education' concluding that the British system is inefficient, he then referred us to his Penguin book — as did the other lecturers. It was a varied day at the university and everyone seemed to enjoy some aspect of the conference.

Richard Forrest VI F.



## SKI TOUR TO MÜHLBACH, AUSTRIA



Another new venue and this time we flew from Luton to Salzburg. A short coach trip into the mountains and we found ourselves in Mühlbach at the Hotel Harlander. This was without a doubt the best hotel we've stayed at and the food served was excellent. The ski slopes proved to be of a very good standard and a decision has been made to return next December. Most problems encountered early on were of the minor variety and once Simon Tonks stopped breaking skis and Matt Cox realised that they were for standing on, everyone began to enjoy the skiing.

12.00 New Years' Eve provided the usual spectacular Austrian display of fireworks and toasts, so we were all rather bleary-eyed on New Years Day. At the end of the week each group received certificates and it was clear that Duncan Buck, John Johnston and Andrew Trump had starred on the slopes.

Jeff Drummond-Hay received a special award for breaking a leg, falling off a ski lift and John Bryden will forever be known as 'Norman'. Although the last day was spoiled somewhat by thoughtlessness on one person's part it did not detract from the overall success of the tour. The last day afforded an opportunity to look around the beautiful town of Salzburg, but the weather turned against us and cold conditions made the visit unpleasant. We returned tired, but satisfied to the equally cold, but not so white Abingdon.

P. J. W.

beats down outside and the whole café seems to be playing cards! The scene is typically French, and typical of our trip to the Champagne region. Someone slots a coin into the dukebox, and out comes the sound of that well-known French song ... 'Wild Boys'!

The incident sums up our visit to Sézanne, which combined the very English with the very French. For, in addition to hearing 'Duran Duran' at the Café du Commerce, I can also recall one evening watching on French television an incredibly badly dubbed episode of 'Starsky and Hutch', and being extremely surprised at the number of British products in French shops. Having said that, the much-experienced café life was most French, and very different to the nearest English equivalent, the pub scene. The food was also very different, whilst our exchanges themselves always spoke in French to us (not suprisingly), often becoming irritated if we spoke to each other too much in English.

There were four main day-trips — to Paris, Reims, Trogés and Epernay — which were overall well-organized and quite enjoyable. Every town we visited seemed to contain a beautiful cathedral within it, although the very flat Champagne region in general cannot be said to have been all that inspiring initially. Suffice it to say that to appreciate that type of countryside is first to gain an acquired taste for it. Particularly enjoyable was the outing to Epernay, which included a very interesting guided tour of some of the massive underground champagne cellars. The free sample of Champagne offered afterwards was also greatly appreciated!

The trip was more of a social event than anything else, especially for the older members of the English group, who went to (amongst other things) several crêperies, a French play and an all-night disco. A farewell party on the last night in Sézanne was attended by everyone, thus rounding off a very pleasant stay.

J. P. R. Lipman 6 P.

## THE MARCH/APRIL FRENCH EXCHANGE TO SÉZANNE

Qu'est-ce que tu as dit, mon ami? Oh! Non, non, ce n'est pas possible. On ne peut pas simplement...' Seated in the central Café due Commerce' in Sézanne, my two English friends and myself stare at one another, with perplexed looks on our faces, through the inevitable cigarette smoke (everybody smokes in France) trying to comprehend what our French exchanges are saying, and wondering why they are saying it so loudly. Our reddish-coloured 'Monacos' stand half-empty on the table in front of us, the sun

## BIELEFELD EXCHANGE

The tenth exchange between Abingdon and Bielefeld got off to a smashing start in the early hours of Saturday 9th of February, the details of which are best left out for the sake of Tappin's coaches! Everyone will have their own most memorable moments from this 26 hour voyage, but mine is the scene in Cologne station at three in the morning, when we were being entertained by some highly merry Germans determined to cheer us up. Both Mr. Hasnip and Mrs. Clarke deserve a lot of praise for accomplishing what seemed impossible at many points — getting us all to Bielefeld without losing anything (except sleep.)

We reached our destination on the Sunday morning, to be welcomed by families who were no doubt only too pleased to be collecting us in daylight, although most of us spent the rest of the morning asleep anyway.

Being a member of a German family was certainly an experience to be remembered. Up at six every morning, given the daily dose of bread cheese and sausage, then off to school until one 'clock, followed by dinner at home with the family. There were no lessons in the afternoon, and instead they took part in sport (volleyball, basketball, football), drama, and other such activities, which play a major part in German education.

The English of course attended various lessons, including sport, during the 10 day stay, but there were plenty of other things laid on.

The headmaster, Dr. Hilker, gave us a speech — welcoming us to the Bielefeld Ratsgymnasium, after which Dr. Ohly, Head of History at the school, talked to us about the developments and changes in Germany since the Empire was first founded in 1870, and the effects of the two world wars on the country.

Organised trips included a visit to the 12th century Sparrenburg Castle which has an excellent view onto the town, and a guided tour of the city commencing in the Rathaus (although we were unable to meet the Mayor, unfortunately) and stopping to look round the University, one of the more modern buildings in Bielefeld. Later in the week we received another tour, this time around the Ostmann spice factory, the largest of its kind in Europe. The bag of free samples no doubt had many English mothers perplexed trying to translate the labels!

Besides the thrill of watching 'Dallas' and 'Dynasty' in a foreign language, another cultural highlight of the week was an evening at the theatre to see the musical 'Chicago'. I'm not sure that I would have understood it any better in English than I did in German, but it was very entertaining nevertheless.

The customary football match became an international sports competition this year. The Germans, of course, won everything, but we held our own against the French. Some national pride was regained later in the week when Armenia Bielefeld beat Dortmund in some of the worst First Division football ever witnessed by Oxford United supporters! Perhaps this was due to the temperature, which was well below zero at the time.

The weather also caused problems over the main excursion of the week, which was originally to be a trip to snowy Souerland. This was cancelled because of the extreme cold and awkward lack of snow, so instead we went to Münster, a city full of famous cathedrals, churches, monuments, museums, and very expensive shops.

For those who were not too keen on this sort of thing, there was plenty of excitement in store for the last day. This was the day of the Rosenfest Karnival in Bielefeld — all of the Germans, and a few brave English, dressed up in the weirdest of costumes, and gathered in the specially converted gymnasium for an entertainment show/disco

which lasted all morning. It certainly provided an ecstatic climax to a most memorable exchange.

Those who had been before said that this year was at least as enjoyable as previous years, and as first-timer to Bielefeld I decided that it was easily the best exchange I have ever been on.

One impression that was made on me in particular was the value that the Germans themselves place on their link with Abingdon. The Ministry of Education in the state of Nord-Rhein Westfalen now officially recognises us as a partner-school to the Ratsgymnasium, and the enthusiasm within the school is enormous. There were over 70 Germans wanting to take part in the exchange, to the 33 places available, which is a shame really, since I'm sure that the families would have willingly accepted someone who had little experience of speaking German, to get an opportunity, to come.

Everybody who went to Bielefeld this year thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found it very worthwhile, and I've no doubt that after their accounts of the trip there will be plenty of demand for returning in 1986.

J. M. Waywell 6 K.

## IMPRESSIONS OF A GERMAN STUDENT AT ABINGDON SCHOOL

*When I came to Abingdon from the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld in the Michaelmas Term 1984 I was going to stay at Abingdon School for one year to learn the language and collect other experience for my life. My main impression is first of all influenced by the differences between the two school systems. In Germany almost all schools are state schools. Hauptschule, Realschule, Gymnasium and the Gesamtschule. The Hauptschule is comparable with the comprehensive schools ending with a C.S.E. Exam, the Realschule is similar but with a higher standard such as O-levels. The Gymnasium is a school with three years in the sixth form. The exam at the end of the sixth form is the Abitur, an exam which allows you to enter a University. You do not have any school leaving exams at the other two schools, only a leaving report. The last school, the Gesamtschule, encompasses all three different kind of schools. That allows the choice of doing Abitur or just Realschule later.*

*The schools have got up to 6 lessons teaching in the morning without any teaching or sport in the afternoon. The system in England with afternoon tuition and sport gives the student a much closer and stronger connection with the school. You spend more time with your school, and I mean 'your school', which you represent against others in all sorts of games, and this follows you in your later life in such a way that you will always remember the good old times at your school. That does not occur in Germany. The schools in Germany are mainly there to mediate knowledge. Thus you do not really find any good or helpful relationships between the masters and students which is very important. When I look at Abingdon School I see how masters care about their students' progress and development. If you take*

*the games for example, you find masters with amazing personal input and ambition. That results in the great games options and success of games results.*

*There is a difference in the actual teaching between Abingdon and Bielefeld. You find in Bielefeld a totally different teaching method. Because you have not always the pressure of some exams apart from the Abitur, you have got tests distributed over the school terms. The reports are based on these tests which have got to*

*write every four weeks. At Abingdon School the teaching is rather more relaxed which means that the students can benefit much more from the teaching. But the exams pressure at the end of three or two years is much, much stronger and harder. The final mark concentrates on two or three exams sitting which can make it very difficult.*

*However, I have enjoyed my time here so far, and indeed I might stay for the A-levels!*

Vark Heinrich Helfritz 6 T.

## A TRIP TO INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

During the Summer of 1984, I embarked on a three-and-a-half month trip going through South-East Asia and India. I left in June, having spent the previous eight months conceiving and planning it.

I took off from Heathrow airport, bound for Jakarta in Indonesia on the eighteenth of June. Having arrived there late the following day, I fell victim to the ripoff taxis operating between airport and city; a mistake I managed not to repeat again. I spent two nights and a day here, getting over the culture shock, having never been outside North-West Europe before. A local Indonesian put me up free for the second night, and I soon discovered how helpful and friendly the Indonesians were. They also had an insatiable curiosity for me, coming up to talk at any time, or just to stare at me.

I left Jakarta early in the morning, and travelled by train to the western end of the island of Java, from where I caught a ferry to Sumatra, with the locals sharing drinks and sweets, and pointing out sights such as the Krakatoa volcano. When we landed, I made my way to the bus station, and as evening descended, I had a meal by the roadside. I

spent the next thirty-six hours on a bus designed for people half my size, and driving over potholed or unsurfaced roads for much of the time. I stopped in Bukittinggi, a town up in the mountains. I stayed here for four days, relaxing and exploring the town, its markets, and surrounding features like the Sianok Canyon, and the very scenic Lake Maninjau, where I met a family who had trained a monkey to choose and pick ripe coconuts.

From there, I continued by bus north to Lake Toba, a large lake high up in North Sumatra. On the way, the bus got stuck in a tunnel, and nearly destroyed the luggage on top on the low roof of the tunnel by trying to force his way through.

I spent six days on Samosir Island in the lake, which was great for swimming in, and I tried the local version of a canoe not too successfully, and got totally sunburnt, also suffering from food poisoning. However it was great relaxation after two hard bus journeys.

I then left for the filthy city of Medan to catch a plane to Penang in Malaysia. Penang was incredibly clean after Indonesia, and you could



*The Grand Palace and attached temple, Bangkok, Thailand.*



*Donkey transport in Turpan, North-West China.*



even drink the tap water.

After a couple of days, I took an airconditioned bus to Kuantan on the East Coast. It was very cold indeed with the airconditioning. I then took a bus up the East coast to Kota Bahru, where I found a guesthouse run by some very helpful local Chinese. I was given a free lift to the Thai border the next day, and caught the train for Bangkok. I arrived there the next morning, and found an excellent guesthouse. I was booked on a flight to Hongkong the next day. I got in touch with a friend of my father, who took me out to a delicious meal that evening, and gave me a lift to the airport the following day.

Landing in Hongkong, I was surprised at the height and density of the buildings, and, in Kowloon, their decayed appearance.

I applied for a Chinese visa, which took two days. I spent this time exploring Kowloon, the Island of Lantau, and Hongkong central.

That Sunday I took the train to the border, and in a massive queue, crossed the border on foot. Once in China, I was separated from the Hongkong Chinese and taken through customs. I caught a train to Guangzhou, and connected to Guilin. The heat on the train was horrible. Guilin had some fantastic scenery around it, and its restaurants had live pigeons, turtles and snakes to choose from for your meal.

I then travelled West to Kunming, which being high up, was much colder. The thirty-six hour train journey was very crowded, and I travelled in third class. Kunming was a good town to explore, and I also went to see the nearby 'Stone Forest' where rocks have been eroded into spectacular shapes.

Further West still, was the lovely little town of Dali, only recently opened to foreigners. The locals turned on the foreigners during a fire festival, and they nearly burned us, thinking it was fun. Outside the town, I discovered that the people had hardly seen a European face before, with some people screaming in amazement when they saw me.

I then travelled north to a ten thousand foot high holy mountain called Emei Shan. It was hard work climbing the last two thousand feet, in the thin air. It was pouring with rain all the time, resulting in many landslides. I came down and travelled into Chingdu. From the train, I could see that the rain had caused severe floods. I spent a day in Chingdu recovering from a stomach complaint, before a three-and-a-half day train journey, the latter half by steam, to Urumqi in the far North-West of the country. I had a fever for a day here, before I went up into the Tianshan Mountains, and spent a couple of days staying near a lake high up in the snowcapped mountains. There was some great walking, and it was very picturesque.

The next place I went to, Turpan, was by contrast five-hundred feet below sea level, and in the desert. The people here are closely related to the Turks, and Turpan was once their capital. Its character is more central Asian than Chinese.

I then took a three day train journey East to Peking where I spent five days, looking round the Imperial palace, Great Wall, Summer Palaces and its museums. Peking also had the best food in China.



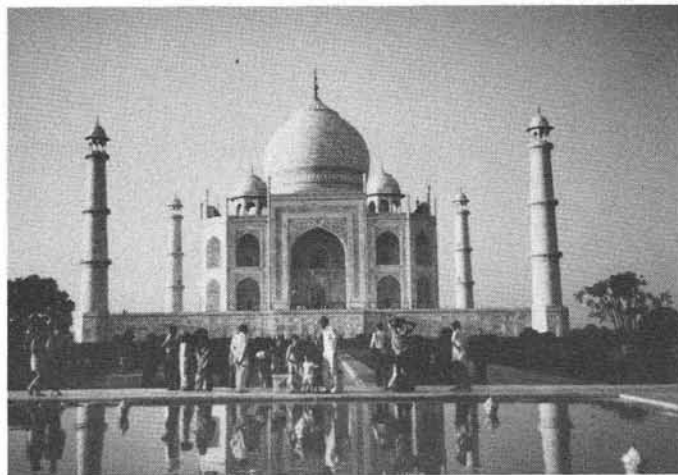
*The Great Wall of China near Badaling near Peking.*

I then travelled south to Nanking, Suzhou and Shanghai. In Shanghai, the people were more outward looking, and were very keen to practise their English or even French!

I then returned via Macau to Hongkong. I flew to Bangkok spent five days getting an Indian visa and exploring temples. Then I flew on to New Delhi, from where I took a bus north to Srinagar into Kashmir, where I stayed on the famous houseboats, before continuing up to Ladakh, across the Himalayas. At eleven thousand feet, I felt the altitude for the first two days, but I had a great time exploring all the local monasteries and palaces. The religion here is the only surviving example of the Tibetan type society still intact. The bus journey up here from Srinagar was very spectacular indeed, but I took the plane back, getting fantastic views of the Himalayas from the air. I then returned to Delhi, and having a couple of spare days, I went to Agra, to see the Taj Mahal, the most beautiful building I have ever seen, before continuing to the pink city of Jaipur, and then I returned to Delhi, to fly home.

On arriving back in England, I was struck by how grey the weather was, and also by the neatness and order compared to third world countries. There is much comfort in living in England, but I now believe that it is partly offset by the colour in life in Asia.

D. L. Spivey



*The Taj Mahal, Agra, India.*



## WINTER MOUNTAINEERING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT: FEBRUARY 1985

We left Abingdon on the bitterly cold morning of Wednesday, 13th February, and after a six hour drive, arrived at our lakeside centre — HAMMARBANK. On our arrival we were greeted by our two professional instructors, Colin Earnshaw and Greg Care, and the centre director, Peter Nattrass. Within thirty minutes we were off for a 'quick breather' of three hours, just to stretch the legs and prepare us for the following few days.

Our first full day started with a strenuous climb up the north-east ridge of Catstycam (2900 ft.). With a windchill factor of  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  lunch was eaten inside a survival shelter and we then descended to the Red Tarn face of Helvellyn in search of snow. We found enough to practise the techniques of ice axe braking and snow bollard construction (belays on snow). We returned to the centre and after supper had a lecture and slide-show in the geology of the Lake District.

With the start of day three we had amazing weather, but still no snow, so it was decided that we should be treated to some movement on steep ground. We set off for the Conistone Fells and, having left the minibus on the Walna scar road, walked up to Goats Water. From there we climbed up to the stretcher box under Dow Crag and then on up the south rake to the summit. The views of the Scafell range were excellent, the air being very cold, but clear and still. There followed a pleasant ridge walk to the summit of the 'Old Man of Conistone'. The panorama was magnificent, taking in Skiddaw in the north and the Kent estuary in the south.

In order to avoid the weekend crowds we went to a more remote part of the district on Saturday. Of the two groups one set out from the Kirkstone Pars Inn, and the other from Haweswater, the idea being to traverse across the eastern fell, and meet each other 'somewhere in the middle!' We worked our way up to John Bell, Banner and then on to Thornithwaite Beacon via a steep snow slope. After a brief lunch stop on High Street it was on down to Haweswater and home via Shap Abbey. The other group walking in the opposite direction, took time of to do some bouldering above Blea Water.

Day four brought out the primitive instinct for survival. Having arrived at Threlkeld, below Blencathra, we walked up to Scales Tarn. Digestion of lunch proved difficult as we looked somewhat apprehensively at Sterp Edge. The traverse of the edge, which is shorter but much more exposed than the better brown Striding Edge had to be taken *a cheval* at certain points. A rope was needed to safeguard a short hand and foot traverse over an exposed slab. From then on it was a straight forward scramble to the summit. Following the tense moments on Sterp Edge the descent via the narrow and shapely ridge of Halls Fell seemed relaxing. However, a fall would have had serious consequences. In the evening Ian Wall presented a superb slideshow which embraced the full range of his mountaineering experiences.

After a long drive, on Monday morning, to Wasdale, and a change for the worse in the weather, we climbed Pillar. This was our coldest day out and one or two boys began to lose feeling in their hands. Quick action prevented any serious problem but the experience served to underline the dangers of windchill, calculated on the exposed parts of the ascent at  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ . One group attempted to follow the High level Traverse to Pillar rock. Although they got to Robinson's cairn there was insufficient time to go on to the summit. Already on the traverse the rope had been used to protect three potentially lethal ice falls. The second group followed the conventional route across the summit plateau and on down to Wind Gap and the scree run into Mosedale.

Tuesday was our last full day in the hills and it was agreed that we should climb Helvellyn from the mine at Greenside. The weather had closed in and there had been a slight fall of snow. After lunch under the survival shelter we climbed up Swirral Edge and crossed the summit in a blizzard. The near white-out continued till we dropped down below Dollywagon Pike. The route down Raise Beck provided some interesting problems and two short abseils were required to bypass ice falls. Evening celebrations commenced after a visit to the Langdale and Ambleride Mountain Rescue Team Centre; an organisation run entirely by volunteers and financed by private contributions. After breakfast on the last day we set off for Abingdon; Oxfordshire had had more snow than the Lake District!

Finally Nick and Simon and the rest of the Hammarbank team would like to thank Mr. Pengelley for organising the holiday and making it great fun.

The people who 'suffered' on this expedition included Jim Rae, Aiden Honley, Dom Hodgson, Eric Porter, Andy and Dave Lowe, Dave Cowell, Bill Money-Kyrle, Jo Silk, Matthew Lodge, Alex Goodey, Rick Casale, Nick Griffin and Simon Bird.

Simon Bird 6 P. and Nick Griffin 6 B.





*Some of the 9 masters and 57 boys who went mountain-climbing at Hammarbank last Easter.*



## 55-MILE TEN TORS 1985 — DARTMOOR

This year, the 55-mile team consisted of five from the 45-mile team of last year together with Clive Parry, who successfully completed the 55-mile course last year. Clive was elected team-leader at the outset. The team, under the auspices of Mr. Smith, completed a 60-mile local practice hike along the Ridgeway and followed this up with a practice on Dartmoor at the end of the Easter holidays. The intention was for the team to complete a full 55-mile hike, although by the end of the first day the lack of real incentive 'on the Moor' left the team moving too slowly to complete the course within the specified time limits. Thus the team elected to finish in Princetown, after 37 miles of Dartmoor. By doing this, the team avoided the risk of being obliterated on one of the firing ranges. The failure of the team to complete 55 miles left team morale at an all-time low, although the desire for the coveted 'gold medal' soon picked up our confidence in ourselves. Much of the credit for the raising of our morale must go to Clive, who pointed out that the 1984 '55' team had overcome the same problem.

On Friday the 17th of May, the team arrived at Okehampton Camp in good time to find a good 'base camp' — thanks to Mr. Smith obtaining and driving a nippy minibus. We pitched camp and went to have our kit checked, having obtained our route from the organisers. After an evening meal prepared by Clive and a few others, the team got to sleep at about 10 p.m. At 4.30 a.m. the team got up, had breakfast and repacked their kit in preparation for the start at 7 a.m.

The start at 7 a.m. enabled the team to move quickly, with the crowd of 2394 other hikers, to its first tor, which for us was Sourton. The team kept up its speed to the second tor — Hare Tor. At this stage the team was doing over 3.5 miles/hour and consequently was feeling slightly tired! The pace dropped on the way to Rough Tor, due to tiredness and the bright sunshine. The next two Tors — Staple and Hartor — were reached at a speed of about 3 miles/hour. Black Tor was our next checkpoint and this was 9 k.m. away over the featureless inhospitable south moor. We arrived at 18.30, leaving not enough time to check



in at Tor no. 7 — Combestone — before the 20.00 deadline.

The team then moved on slowly in the direction of Combestone and pitched camp with four other groups in a river valley.

After a meal of beans and sausages, everybody got down to a good night's rest (some were fortunate enough to sleep!). The team woke at 4.45 a.m., breakfasted, and moved off at about 5.45 a.m. We checked in at Combestone at 7.05 and moved straight on to Sittaford — almost 9 miles away. By 12.15 we were on our way to Tor no. 9 — Steeperton — which lived up to its name. Here the team received a great morale-boost as if encountered the 45-milers on their way to Tor no. 10 — alas, our 45-mile record of last year remained intact! Arriving at Shilstone at 13.20, the team was in high spirits and knew it could not fail. After a fairly lengthy rest, the team strolled back to Okehampton via Irishman's Wall (an almost vertical ascent which Clive relished and almost ran up!) finishing the 55 miles at 15.15.

This year's Ten Tors has been the most successful for many years, with both the 45 and the 55 mile teams finishing intact, and we would like to thank Mr. Smith on behalf of all those who took part, because without his dedication, encouragement, and organisation none of this would have taken place. As a token of our appreciation of his efforts, he was presented with both team certificates.

**Team:** Clive Parry, Simon Weaver, Rupert Robson, Riccardo Casale, Steven Lawrence, Chris Day.

Chris Day 6 T.

#### TEN TORS EXPEDITION 85 — 45 MILE TEAM

This year the 45 mile team had to try and equal the success of 1984, not an easy task. Unusually for Ten Tors the entire team were novices to

Dartmoor, and having only practised there once it was still very much an unknown quantity. Nonetheless spirits were traditionally high just before the start, with everyone very enthusiastic.

Following an unpleasant route with long stretches between Tors we had reached Rough Tor, our third, by mid-day. The heat was taking its toll and water stops were frequent. We pressed on to Great Mij and then southwards onto the bleaker moor and Hartor Tor. Some of the team were very tired here, but the great spirit of the group was epitomised by a reluctant grumble of "in for a penny, in for a pound."

Having already covered just under half the distance the 8 k.m. slog to Combestone was slower than earlier on, however because of doubts about the camping situation (Combestone is in a no-camping zone). We stepped up the pace so as to check in before 8.00 p.m. At Combestone the team showed their determination and an epic 200 metre sprint by Nick Kilhams, to check us all in at two minutes to eight, brought him well deserved applause from all onlookers!

We camped at a specially provided site 2 k.m. beyond Combestone and arose at 4.15 the following morning. After a 5.30 start we had a 13.5 k.m. stretch to Sittaford Tor, the longest of the route. Reaching Sittaford at 8.40, everyone was now confident of finishing with only 17 k.m. to go. We reached Okehampton camp, via Shilstone and Steeperton Tors, shortly after 2.00 o'clock that afternoon, grateful for the training and very satisfied with our time, as novices, unlike last year's 45 mile team!

All concerned would like to thank Mr. Smith for his valuable assistance and constant support, and we especially thank Clive Williams, who having completed all the training, was unwell for the event.

**Team:** Matthew Lodge (Leader), Nick Kilhams, Mike Alner, Dave Cowell, Bob Mann, Tom Bailey.  
M. J. Lodge 6 T.



# Barrow push for charity

A YOUNG man from Wilton has just completed a 270 mile walk along the Pennine Way to raise money for research into Cystic Fibrosis pushing a wheelbarrow all the way.

William Morland (18) of Shaftesbury Road, Wilton, is the son of the Mayor of Wilton, Tim Morland, and he and his two Oxford friends, Simon Broad and Robin Groth, completed the walk in 15 days.

The Pennine Way is a long distance footpath which stretches from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland, crossing some of the most rugged country in Britain.

To introduce a certain novelty to walking this well-trodden path the boys decided to push a garden-wheelbarrow

along the complete route.

The three boys had quite an eventful journey, and discovered incidentally that cows are very interested in wheelbarrows. The news of the journey spread quickly and crowds turned out along the route to cheer the boys on.

It is hoped that £1000 will be raised from their efforts towards the Cystic Fibrosis Fund. Cystic Fibrosis is a life threatening disease seriously affecting the lungs and digestive systems of thousands of children in the country, from birth onwards.

William and his friends are already planning next year's fund-raising event. They hope to paddle a canoe down the Kennet and Avon Canal.

*Western Gazette*

'When we get there', said Robin. 'It used to be if, but now it's when we get there'. (He was wearing his 'why stop now just when I'm hating it' look). What was it that made Robin so confident of success? Was it the knowledge that our inimitable mapreading had brought us safely across the first 235 miles? Or the fact that we had all, only a few days previously, declared ourselves heroes? Or was he, more probably, being affected by that obsessive vision, peculiar to wheelbarrow pushers — a little blue label dancing before the eyes, just out of reach ... The label reads: Jones and company. Ironmongers. Rolleston Street. Phone Salisbury 5353.

A couple of weeks earlier things had been different. The admission that we were doing the Pennine Way had been greeted by fits of uncontrollable laughter. For this was Crowden-in-Longdendale, first stop along the Way for us, but last stop for those people who had started at the other end. Theirs was the unbridled mirth. Did they know something we didn't?

It felt like a long time (and a long way) since those people had seemed towering heroes and our own egos had been wilting in comparison. In that time we had learned how to win an argument with a wheelbarrow, when to cajole and caress it, when it needed pushing and when it needed pulling: how to help it up stairs, how to get it over all styles of stiles (sorry), how to put the wheel back on when it fell off. It all went a long way towards curing post-A-level depression.

And there's nothing like a bit of heroism to boost the ego. Effortlessly cruising up Pen-y-Ghent with the wheelbarrow, leaving mere pedestrians panting from admiration and exhaustion, by the wayside was one of the best moments. And there were other obstacles — Cross Fell, Hadrian's Wall, Laddow Rocks, to name but a few; there were staircases, cattle grids galore, even wheelbarrow traps (like tank traps but smaller). And of course the ubiquitous herds of cows who took quite an interest in our venture. These difficulties and more we conquered, in a scintillating series of dazzling displays of superior skill.

So we marched on victorious, soon to reach the Border Hotel and the end of the Pennine Way. We were only a few minutes late for Star Trek.

As we relaxed over our well-earned drinks, the painful realisation dawned on us. We had done it, we'd finished. Now we had to get the wheelbarrow back home. But that is another story.



*Robin Groth, William Morland, Simon Brod and their wheelbarrow finished the Pennine Way on July 24th 1984 after 15 days' walk and one rest day. Their efforts raised £1448.58 for the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust.*



## MOTOR MECHANICS CLUB



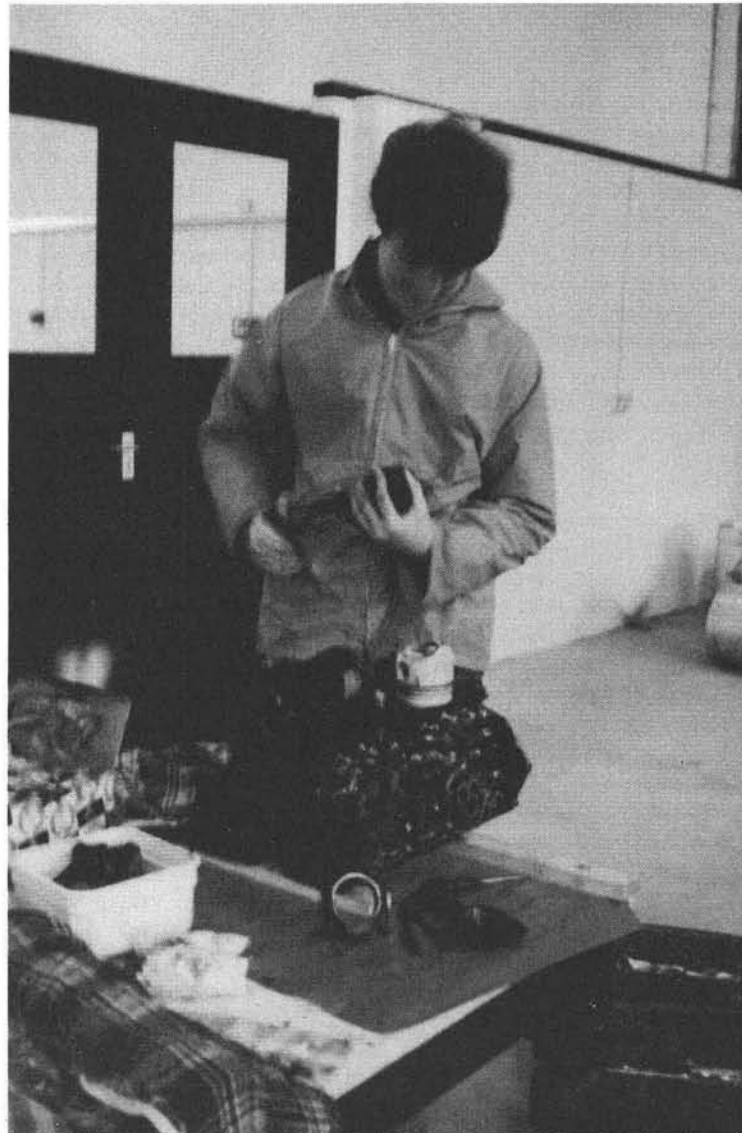
*Engine out!*

The Motor Mechanics Club has lost no time in availing itself of space in the warehouse to undertake its hitherto most ambitious project, namely the construction of a kit car. The essential idea is to transplant Ford Escort running gear on to a completely new, redesigned chassis and fibre glass body bearing more than a passing resemblance to a Morgan sports car. Fortune smiled on us in the location of a suitable donor car for a mere £75 — a 1972 saloon written off in a rear-end shunt, but, mercifully, still driveable. The breakers' yards have also been most obliging. A few telephone calls and a couple of visits sufficed to reveal the whereabouts of the high performance carburettor and manifolds required together with other essential items at bargain prices. One such bargain was a comparatively rare commodity — a 1300 GT engine, admittedly thoroughly exhausted, but complete with most ancillaries. Once rebuilt it will be used in place of the standard 1300 unit to give true sports car performance. At the time of writing it has already undergone a rebore and crankshaft regrind, and,

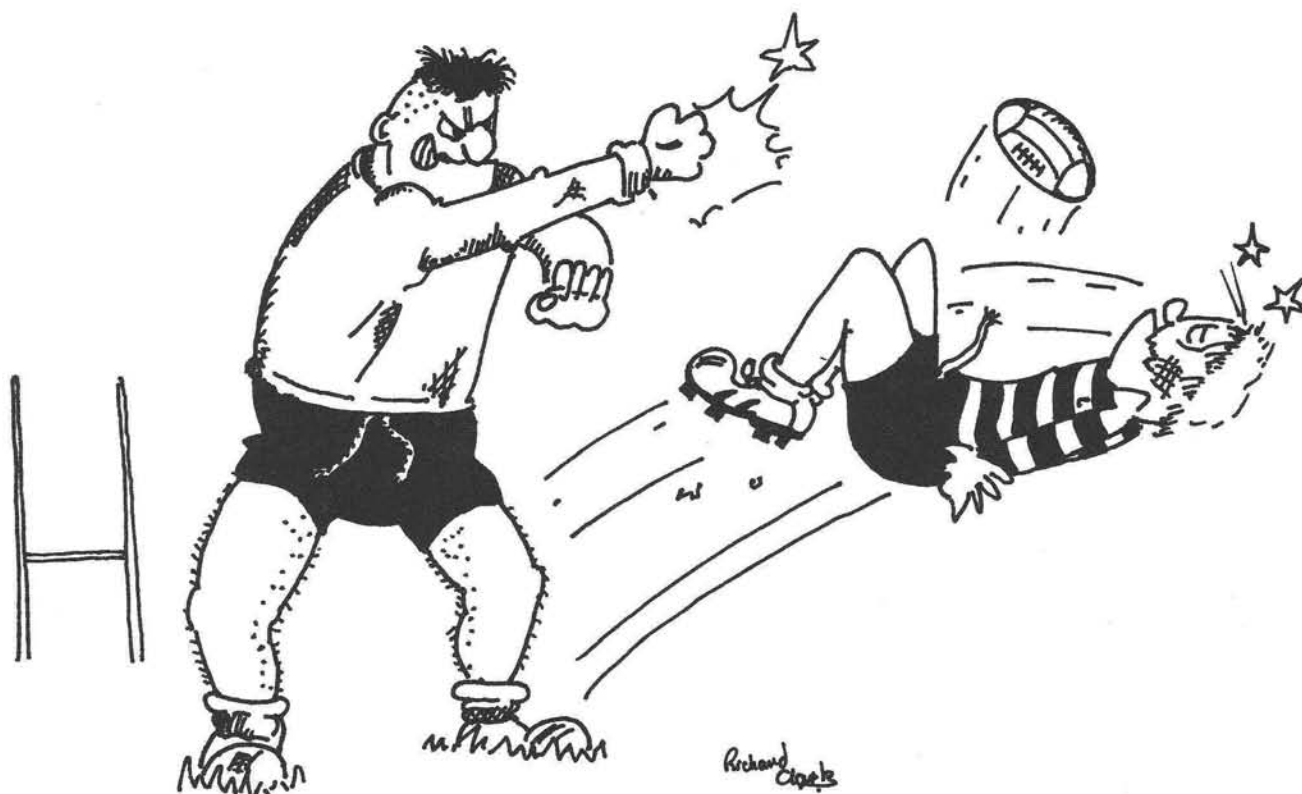
notwithstanding certain difficulties in obtaining the correct bearings and camshaft, is already partly reassembled. The new body and chassis have just been delivered, but it will be a little while before the donor car is completely stripped. Much cleaning, painting, and spanner work remains to be done before this piece of technical wizardry is ready to take to the road. Meanwhile our financial sponsor, Mr. Ian Smith, puts on a brave face with each new addition to the bill and takes a close personal interest in our progress as well as doing much of the running around and preparatory work needed outside school hours.

G. C. R.

P. S. Anybody want a slightly asymmetrical Escort bodyshell?



*David Jones fits a new piston to a con rod.*



## CLUB REPORT

It has been said, doubtless with a considerable element of truth, that one can prove anything with statistics. However, for what they are worth, here are a few of the straightforward type. In 1984 the Abingdon school rugby club achieved a success rate of 46% compared to 43% in 1983; scarcely an increase to catch the eye but nevertheless a move in the right direction. More significant, I believe, are the points totals: in 1984 — 1,035 for Abingdon teams, 1,184 for opposition teams; in 1983 — 879 for and 1,324 against. The clear implication here is that although the rugby club has only achieved a slight increase in games won those games which have been lost have been more closely contested than in the past; Abingdon school rugby teams are not pushovers for anyone.

The question may be asked, "Is our fixture list in need of reappraisal, should we not be aiming for a higher proportion of games won?" Naturally, winning is important. Few, if any, are the people who take part in competitive sport who do not actually mind about the result of a fixture. However, there are wins and wins. Victory against weak opposition, if not exactly hollow, is not as meritorious or rewarding as the defeat of opponents of high quality. Also, we should be aiming to play to the best standard we can, which means playing the best opposition, at least some of the time. One further point about our fixture list. All of us involved in

rugby in the school know that, realistically speaking, we are up against it when competing with the likes of Radley, St. Edward's and Marlborough because of their superiority in terms of allocation of time, coaches and resources, numbers playing the game seriously and, often, physical attributes. Nevertheless, these schools value their fixtures with us and when Abingdon school sides *do* win, it is a real achievement for those sides. It is important too realise too that the boot is on the other foot with regard to other schools and that we expect to win most of our fixtures against Bloxham, M.C.S. (though not this year), Reading and Newbury. One feature which distorts the statistics slightly is the fact that we play a full fixture block of ten games against the stronger schools but only a reduced one of six against some of the weaker ones.

Enough of figures and fixtures. How did the various sides fare in 1984? The Colts and Juniors both had successful seasons although the wet weather in December proved to be to the disadvantage of the Colts. The Juniors in particular had a fine defensive record, never conceding more than 12 points in any one match. The Junior Colts found life difficult. The preponderance of away fixtures did not help and often they did not get the 'rub of the green'. However, they certainly improved their defence this year. Among the older sides the first and third teams had even records whilst the second and fourth teams struggled a bit.

## FIRST XV

With the exception of the opening game and the final two the backs looked incisive and capable of winning any game. Brian Woolley, the captain, had an outstanding season at fly-half, scoring many tries himself, often through supporting at speed, and helping to create many others. Mark Boobbyer was equal top try-scorer and was a much improved player, both in attack and defence. His co-centre, Marcus Blake, was transformed from last season. Happier in the different position he was solid as a rock in defence, a much better passer of the ball and capable of making the occasional break, although still a little hesitant in his distribution once he has made one. John May and Andrew Fisher both had their moments on the wings and showed the benefits of last year's experience. Jon Ralfe, able to manage a complete and injury-free season this year, was sound in defence and a potent attacking force; in particular he symbolised the real commitment and will to win in the side. Alex Hunt had a nightmare opening game but commendably put it behind him to develop into a dependable link between the pack and the three-quarters.

The forwards found life hard on occasions, especially in the set scrums and particularly when scrummaging on wet or muddy ground. This was particularly noticeable when Andrew Ward, a strong and experienced player, departed to take up his place at Oxford. Nevertheless, those forwards who were playing their first season at this level will have gained valuable experience. A technical note; really tight, solid binding is the key to scrummaging success.

With the departure of Andrew Ward the front row settled down as James Kowszun, Ben Wagon, who was often prominent in the loose but also a not-too-accurate thrower-in at line-outs, and Simon Stanford, who successfully withstood something of a baptism of fire, propping against an England schools player in his first match.

In the second row Neil Hewlett gave 100% in every game and was also a tremendous example of intelligent commitment to practice. Stuart Sutcliffe, the club secretary, played half the season partnering Neil and in particular had a superb game against Pangbourne but then moved back to number eight, partly because we had not really come up with the right man for the job, following Simon Walker's unlucky early exit from the scene, and partly to make room for Michael Alner, who although he has much to learn proved to be easily the most effective line-out player. In the back row what was lacking was real pace and momentum-stopping tackling. James Allison and Malcolm Edmonds were the regular flankers and both gave unstinting effort. Bruce Blackman and Jo Silk also played a few games each.

The opening game, lost by one point to Bloxham, was a disastrous affair and had all the worst features of a first game. The memory was eradicated by three excellent home performances and convincing wins against Pangbourne, Berkhamsted and Solihull. Perhaps these games made us too confident of victory against M.C.S. who played with real fire and determination on their narrow pitch to win with a score in the last two minutes. The Radley match suffered from an end-to-end gale which was fine in the first half when in our favour but made for a grinding and strength-sapping second half. We were well beaten. After half-term we coasted to an easy, if somehow not very satisfactory win over Reading and then had a most peculiar encounter with Marlborough. It must have delighted the neutral spectator with a scoreline of 22-36 and a try-count of 5-6 but it was all slightly unreal. Once again we were caught out by Marlborough's wide flat passing. The weather now turned wet and the pitches

became heavy which was not what we needed. However, we defeated Newbury and the O.A. side through superior three-quarter play. Against St. Edward's we simply won no ball at all. The season finished with something of a damp squib of a game against Warwick. The pack held its own on this occasion but had difficulty in striking the ball in the scrums and the backs seemed to have become jaded.

The players seemed to enjoy themselves and I would like to thank all those who represented the school during the season. Also, I wish to record my thanks to my colleagues who coached and refereed, Andrew Thomas, touch judge for the 1st XV, the ground staff and the kitchen staff and all those who supported from the touchlines.

R. S. P.

**Team:** J. Ralfe, J. B. May, M. T. Boobbyer, M. D. Blake, A. D. Fisher, B. E. Woolley, A. L. Hunt, S. D. Stanford, B. J. Wagon, J. S. P. Kowszun, S. G. Sutcliffe, N. W. Hewlett, M. F. Edmonds, J. S. Allison, A. J. N. Ward, M. G. Alner, B. A. Blackman, J. N. Silk.

Also played: D. N. Colson, B. M. A. Stanton, M. C. Day, S. J. Walker, N. J. Silk, J. W. Scott, R. D. Cheek, R. H. P. Porter.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

v Bloxham	Lost 11-12
v Pangbourne	Won 22- 7
v Berkhamsted	Won 20- 6
v Solihull	Won 18- 0
v M.C.S.	Lost 6- 9
v Radley	Lost 6-32
v Marlborough	Lost 22-36
v Reading	Won 31- 4
v Newbury	Won 19- 4
v O.A.	Won 21- 0
v St. Edward's	Lost 6-13
v Warwick	Lost 3-18

## 2nd XV RUGBY

Looking at the season's results, the 2nd XV appears to have been a fairly average side; however the team often played above themselves and the statistics do them no justice. Throughout the season the side changed in some department in virtually every match. Injuries in the 1st XV often claimed some of the team's players and a major reshuffle at half-term left the side that played at the beginning of the season looking very different from the end of the season's line-up.

The season began with a very even match at Bloxham, where the horizontal rain and bitter wind added to the entertainment. The match was drawn 3-3, James Bouch scoring the penalty. A poor performance against Pangbourne followed by an excellent match versus Berkhamsted epitomised the erratic form shown by the side. Against Solihull a win was finally recorded, a fine performance in the first half was quickly followed by a dreadful second half, in which everyone decided to give up tackling and the match was only just won 12-10. The most disappointing game of the season was against M.C.S. We scored early on and then got complacent and lost our bottle. M.C.S. showed us how to play and this spurred us on to do likewise at Radley. Here we were very unlucky, the wind was unbelievable, passes were seen to make right hand turns in mid-air and punts up-field became chips over the top for the opposition. The score in this match, as in several of the others, did no justice to the quality of the performance.



## 2nd XV

After half term the team underwent a total transformation. The successful 3rd XV kindly donated their best players to us and hopes were restored. However a massacre at Marlborough meant that we were subjected to a Gabitass' talking-to, which lasted over an hour. We went back to the basics and from this point onwards the 2nd XV became a rugby team. We travelled to Reading and demolished them, but even then only managed to draw. Simon James scored but the try was disallowed — this would have meant a firm grip on the match for us since John Dix, who revealed himself to be a fine goal-kicker in disguise, had scored a penalty. After this match we played Newbury at home, a game that saw the "try of the century" scored by Phil Woolley, one of our acquisitions from the 3rd XV and playing in between "breaks". Nearly everyone touched the ball as we ran from one end of the pitch to the other for the touchdown. Mr. Gabitass told us not to get carried away as he himself ran up and down the touchline doing cartwheels and backsprings with delight. The St. Edward's match showed the team at its most determined. Eric Porter made some fine runs and Simon Arthy had menace in his eyes as he led the scrum to another fine performance. Teddies scored two tries, one of which Jo Silk touched down in the dead-ball area; obviously an "own-try" does exist. Seeing as St. Edward's had beaten Radley 30+ to 0, our performance against them showed how much we had improved. A final loss against Warwick was a big disappointment because we expected to win. Taking our improvements into account it would have been nice to end the season with a well-earned win.

It would be unfair to praise individuals too highly because the team-spirit and determination was the main factor behind our fine performances. Ian Elms and Chris Day came from the 3rd XV and played very well; it was a shame they came so late. The backs changed so dramatically that only a couple of the original set remained at the end of the season. Rob Cheek at scrum-half played for the 1st XV once, as did Eric Porter. Simon James showed how to run hard at defences, as did Phil Woolley, and both added thrust to our attack. The scrum always played as a unit and looked more solid as the season went on. David Colson, James Scott, and Mark Wedd were the front-row, and the rest of the scrum varied a lot as the season progressed, but they were always motivated by No. 8, Simon Arthy. Bruce Blackman, Jo Silk and John Cracknell played in the wing-forward position, the first two also played for the 1st XV, and John played in the second row with John Dix for some of the time.

Thanks go to the others who played and to Mr. Gabitass, a very patient coach, and who was our main reason for the change in determination half-way through the season. Summing up, the 2nd XV was a lot better side than their results suggest.

Marcus Winsley (Captain) VI N.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

v Bloxham	(A)	Draw	3- 3
v Pangbourne	(H)	Lost	4-14
v Berkhamsted	(A)	Lost	0- 7
v Solihull	(H)	Won	12-10
v Magdalen College School	(H)	Lost	4-14
v Radley	(A)	Lost	0-36
v Marlborough	(A)	Lost	0-42
v Reading	(A)	Draw	3-3
v Newbury	(H)	Won	23- 6
v St. Edwards	(H)	Lost	3- 8
v Warwick	(A)	Lost	0-37

## THIRD XV

Once again the 3rd XV had a very enjoyable season under the expert guidance of Messrs. Bodey and Wilmore. The result [W.5, D.O, L.5] show a reasonably successful season, but the matches were always played with enthusiasm and sometimes even a hint of skill!!

The pack proved to be the basis on which any success was founded, with the old 3rd XV campaigners Dave 'I've played for the 1st XV' Colson and Mark van Hegan and Nigel Barrat combining well with newcomers like John Alner. The Lower Sixth added their weight in the pack [Nigel Wright, Nick Griffen, Nick Suckling]. Due to the success of the pack, Game 1 very often took players to reinforce their ranks therefore, as usual, a settled side was never available.

The backs, although usually looking very useful in practice, often failed to be clinical enough in matches with vital scoring passes being dropped. Once again the backline was disrupted with promotions to Game 1, but the eventual line was Jim Gabby, Euan Hirst, Dave Fisher, Paddy Ward, Roger 'Intensive Care' Smith and Hamish Hay.

Many of the scorelines in the matches do not justify the closeness of the match and we were very unfortunate to lose our last match against Warwick.

However, winning is not everything, and the squad, I'm sure, would like to thank Mr. Bodey for all of the effort he put into the season to make it such an enjoyable one.

E. G. Hirst VI P.

## COLTS XV

If a side can win most of its matches, improve its skill and enjoy its rugby, then the season has been well worth while. Such was the case with the Colts XV of 1984. Narrow defeats against Radley and St. Edwards and a heavy defeat at Warwick could have been avoided had the colts been at full strength. It was unfortunate that injuries occurred in the key matches and to key players. This obviously had an effect on the overall skill level of the team, but very little effect on its determination and spirit.

Another factor which had an influence on results was the number of players who gave up the game for various reasons. It is frustrating for the coaches having spent four years coaching a boy in the skills of the game, but more so for the team who over the years have become accustomed to each others play. In this respect I have particular sympathy for the 'B' XV who suffer when numbers are diminished.

Positional changes were necessary throughout the season, and everyone worked hard in adapting to their new roles.

Graham Scott, at full back, kicked the team out of trouble when it was necessary and any doubts about his defence were dispelled during the first match of the season against Bloxham School. Graham was at his best however in attack and his keenness to run with the ball created the openings for the backs. The team certainly missed the pace of Damian Sutcliffe on the wing following his unfortunate injury before the season even started. He did very well to return after half term and he worked hard to regain full fitness. Carl Slater and David Jennaway ran with the determination on the wing and show good promise for the future. Their tackling improved in every game. The captain, Simon Wintle, was the spearhead of the attacks. His reading of the game and instinctiveness was an inspiration to the backs. The problem with his quick acceleration in penetrating the defence was to find support. This was



often lacking, but was a mark of Simon's natural flair for the game rather than the lack of skill of those around him. The gap in the centre left by Gareth Reayer was filled by Paul Snow. Paul is a winger and it is difficult to adapt to centre play, but he filled the gap admirably. Danny Blackman and Ashley Tapper linked well at half-back. Danny's defence and attack improved in every game and his lack of a long pass didn't seem to pose any problems. Ashley is a natural ball player with very safe hands and used the boot very effectively in defensive and attacking plays. Both players are very good prospects for the future.

The forwards improved beyond all expectations mainly because they worked as a unit, and were not hampered by as many injuries as the three-quarters. Their efforts were inspired by the pack leader Tom Walsingham, who always called for that little extra in the matches and practice sessions. Line-out play always posed a problem, but in the loose and set scrums it was the forward dominance which resulted in quality possession for the backs.

The front row of Tom Walsingham, David Smith and James Lister-Cheese provided a solid platform in the set scrum, and all three were in constant support in open play. Alastair Corbett and Bill Reynolds the powerhouse of the scrum kept up 100% effort throughout the season. Bill was seldom in the limelight because he was always in the midst of the action. Alastair was the specialist line-out jumper, and was certainly missed following his injury.

The back row of Stefan Green, Andrew Stacey and Tom Owen lived up to their reputation of last season. All three had tremendous courage especially Tom who was always first in to the tackle and quick on the loose ball. His tackling was perhaps the most significant factor in the teams success, and the only criticism that could be made of his game was that he went into the tackle too hard! Andrew and Stefan covered the field well and scored a number of tries from the base of the scrum. Being together now for five seasons this back row should dominate Abingdon Rugby at senior level. My thanks to Simon Wintle and Tom Walsingham for their help on and off the field. Their enthusiasm never went unnoticed in match analysis and the coaching sessions. The reserves who turned out on so many occasions, and the 'B' XV also deserve a special mention. Depth in strength prevented several talented players from securing regular places in the 'A' XV. Nevertheless some quality rugby was played by the 'B' XV and their record of four wins in six matches surpasses previous records. This record is even more impressive when one takes into account the number of injuries which depleted their ranks.

Much of the 'B' XV's success and the success of the squad as a whole owed a great deal to Mr. Pengelley. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the game made my job very easy, for he was really too good to be an assistant coach. In fact there was the occasion when the 'A' XV performed better without my presence on the touch line.

Team: G. Scott, D. Sutcliffe, D. Jennaway, C. Slater, S. Wintle (Capt.), P. Snow, A. Tapper, D. Blackman, J. Lister-Cheese, T. Walsingham (v Capt.), D. Smith, B. Reynolds, A. Corbett, T. Owen, A. Stacey, S. Green.

J. D-H.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

P.11 W.7 D.1 L.3

v Bloxham	Won	34- 0
v Pangbourne	Won	26- 4
v Berkhamsted	Drew	6- 6
v M.C.S.	Won	18- 6
v Radley	Lost	9-13
v Marlborough	Won	6- 0
v Reading	Won	18- 0
v Newbury	Won	17- 8
v Cokethorpe	Won	12- 0
v St. Edwards	Lost	0-10
v Warwick	Lost	6-48

## JUNIOR COLTS XV

The team had a disappointing season and suffered defeat at the hands of some rather good sides. However, what characterised their matches was a real sense of commitment to which no list of results could do justice.

Certainly there were no run-away defeats, for even in the matches versus Radley, St. Edwards and Warwick, the Abingdon forward pressure was maintained throughout. What the team failed to master was the ability to change gear as soon as possession was lost and get back quickly to defend.

The team had strength and pace, but lacked any natural ball players. Certainly we worked hard at improving their basic skills, but their concentration was not always at its best in practices. Motivated as highly as they were in matches, the team was slow to realise that commitment is also needed in training.

Richard Coleman's experience and enthusiasm was most welcome throughout the season and it was fitting that the 'B' team were to have a measure of success in their matches as their confidence increased.

Richard Winsley, J. P. Roberts and Tim Bishop took turns as captain and managed to bring out the best in their players. Injury problems did not help the rhythm in the backs and we were forced to make many changes. The forwards, however, remained an effective unit throughout the season. They outclassed everyone in the set scrum and although powerful in the loose, were often a little slow to secure possession. From the set pieces also they often took the wrong option and gave up scoring chances.

Let us hope that they will meet with more luck next year and that they build upon this season's experience.

A. F. T.

Team: R. Appleyard, M. Banwell, T. Bishop, G. Blake, T. Cole, M. Drewe, N. Franklin, J. Eccles, S. Goldsworthy, R. Moncrieff, P. Monaghan, J. A. Harrison, P. Lunn, N. Radbourne, J. P. Roberts, P. Roberts, T. Taylor, R. White, C. Watson and R. Winsley.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

v Bloxham	(H)	Won	34- 0
v Pangbourne	(A)	Lost	10-14
v Berkhamsted	(A)	Lost	0-26
v Solihull	(A)	Lost	3-18
v M.C.S.	(A)	Lost	6- 7
v Radley	(H)	Lost	10-38
v Reading	(A)	Drew	12-12
v Marlborough	(A)	Lost	0-12
v Newbury	(A)	Lost	3- 7
v St. Edwards	(A)	Lost	6-27
v Warwick	(A)	Lost	4-31

## JUNIORS RUGBY 1984

With so many new boys coming into the school at the third form level, and so little time before the first match, it was an almost impossible task to select the best players from the seventy or so boys who had elected to play the game. In fact only eight players survived from the first team chosen, to play in the last match of the season. There are others who played most of the season in a lower game, or who gave up altogether, who I hope will try again next year.

The group of boys who finally became the team, played very much as a team and not as a group of individuals, something which happens all too often at this level. Andrew Wintle proved to be a very reliable full back, and grew in confidence, so that at the end of the season he was able to play very much in the attacking rôle. The three-quarter line included Ian Patrick, Spencer Holmes and Alistair Perry who mostly played on the wings. All three had plenty of pace and determination if put away in attack, but lacked killer instinct in defence. James Crawford and Patrick Grant ran well in the centre, feeding their wingers and being prepared to make a break at the right time, James in particular proved to be a strong and elusive runner. Anthony Walker developed well as a fly half, his handling being particularly impressive. His scrum half partner was Max Henderson who proved to be the key pivotal player of the team. Max deserves much praise for persevering in this position, and for honing up his passing skills. His short breaks were devastating, and his tactical sense a real bonus.

The scrum lacked real hard, large men, but they made up in technique what they lacked in stature. Clive Woodall made the hookers spot his own, playing with real fire in the loose, and improving his throwing in. Jonathan Crick was the keystone prop and made an immense contribution in every game. He was a real trier in training and positively inspirational. Geoffrey Sandford was reluctant to become really committed, but his strength and technique were indispensable, and who will forget his try in the last game?

Chris Barber preferred No. 8 but willingly played in the second row where he formed a very tight unit with Guy Harrison. Neither are particularly tall, but both won a good share of line out ball. With the ball in their hands they were both ground gaining runners, Chris particularly. Mark Snow was a commanding player in the No. 8 position and improved with every game. He is strong and determined, has a good tactical sense, has plenty of energy, and can tackle! Henry Trotter and James Howard both developed their defensive roles as flankers, Henry particularly so. James had a cross country runners endurance and was a real ball hunter and perpetual motion man.

Our match winning record was excellent, but we still lost to the strongest opposition. Solihull and Radley deserved to beat us by narrow margins, but bad selection lost the game to Marlborough; and I must not mention what lost us the game at St. Edwards!

This is a team with a bright future. It is balanced, has pace and technique, and a certain degree of flair. Only the defence is below par, but older and bigger boys do learn to tackle properly, and when that happens the narrow losses should become wins.

Philip Butcher and Harry Eden have given invaluable help to this group, and Harry in particular honed the handling skills of the side to a fine edge. The common factor between all three of us was that we took no part in training, and sat down at every opportunity. In certain quarters we became known as 'Dads Army', a malicious slander!

D. G. C.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

v Bloxham	Cancelled
v Pangbourne	Won 32- 7
v Berkhamsted	Won 4- 0
v Solihull	Lost 0- 8
v M.C.S.	Won 10- 8
v Radley	Lost 0-12
v Marlborough	Lost 4-10
v Reading	Won 14-10
v Newbury	Won 40- 0
v Cokethorpe	Won 32- 6
v St. Edwards	Lost 7- 9
v Warwick	Won 30- 6

## THOUGHT ON MINORS RUGBY 1967 TO 1984

*It seems almost incredible to recall that when I came to Abingdon in 1966 there was no Under-13 Rugby — or Cricket, although as the Under-14 XI had May 1st as its age-limit many second-formers were involved. Thanks to Donald Willis, who was in charge of Rugby, and James Cobban, I was allowed to introduce an Under-13 XV in the following season, and thus entered upon 17 years of challenge and enjoyment. That first team played a couple of Preparatory Schools, and was well beaten; they, and I, had much to learn.*

*From that small beginning the fixture-list grew in quantity and quality, and in recent years there have been well over 20 matches a season, involving not merely the 1st XV; for a policy has developed of giving almost every boy who is keen a chance to play for the School. We have fielded half-teams, second and third teams, Boarders, Under-12s, even (to quote the players' own word, alas!) 'Dossers' XVs! It has always been my aim to give enjoyment to as many players as possible, and to encourage the teams to play an enjoyable style of open, 15-man Rugby; if the results of the First XV have suffered somewhat from this approach, it has not worried me particularly, for winning is not as important as the quality of the play, not only at the lower end of the school but at the top, the Minor's Coach must always look ahead five years!*

*A side's results depend far more on the quality of the players available than on such unimportant factors as that of the coach, and so the Minors' record has been mixed, 'though with the good prevailing. Almost certainly the best team to date was that of 1975/6, which won all sixteen matches played; almost 100 tries were scored, and if my memory is not at fault over a third of these were scored by the wingers. This year's team, although the Backs lacked the flair of Ian Graham's side, was well-balanced, and deserves mention for recording a first win over Solihull at the seventh attempt.*

*It is interesting to ask oneself how the schools' Rugby scene has developed over these years. Certainly the standard of junior Rugby within the School has been markedly raised; the average player has a greater awareness of techniques and tactics, and knows the rules surprisingly well. The most significant factor here was the decision to transfer junior games to the timetable, in 1972 I guess; as a result better coaches have been available, and it has been possible to establish a consistent coaching policy throughout the school. The boys too have been more willing to practice and learn skills than they used to be in after-school sessions.*

But there are other factors, for I believe that the standard has also risen in other schools. Probably Television has been the most significant: greater coverage, and action replays, have opened eyes to more advanced features of the game, scissors and dummies for instance, but also unfortunately to some of the less attractive features of the modern game, where there has been an increasing emphasis on winning at all costs. This too is to be seen in junior Rugby; I have to admit to some concern at the way some Under-13 players resort to unjustified aggression and intimidatory tactics to achieve the win that is demanded of them.

There is also a greater emphasis on defence rather than on attack; for me a match is spoiled when the off-side laws are 'fringed' by Flankers and half-backs as a deliberate policy to stifle the opposition's use of a fairly won ball. As in Chess, an open attacking style makes for much more enjoyment, for players and spectators alike.

For these reasons, I am increasingly of the view that

neutral referees should be used as far as possible even at Under-13 level — an outsider or even Society referee where possible, another master or parent if not. A coach, however determined he may be to be unbiased, almost inevitably does incline to one team (or the other!). While winning is not the only aim of the game, it is vital that justice should be seen to be done in the eyes of the players.

Serious injury is very rare in Rugby (there has been one in these 17 years), but the remote dangers have been more widely publicised in recent years, and some parents and Headmasters and questioning the game's safety, and suitability for all boys. I am convinced that Rugby is an excellent game for all, offering boys vital challenges in physical and mental development and helping to shape their characters for the best. To ensure the game's future, every referee and coach must insist that it is played in the right spirit, and deal fiercely with those who offend against the laws in their spirit as well as in their letter.

M. W.



## CLUB REPORT

**T**he snow that welcomed us back meant that early fixtures were lost and that training was impossible, except when the Sports Hall was available. Selfishly we would have liked more use of this splendid facility. We then started brightly with a 6-3 victory over R.G.S. High Wycombe, but immediately slumped to a 4-0 defeat against St. Edwards. This was a very poor performance and not the ideal preparation for a match against a very strong side from Southampton. Against M.C.S we took an early 2-0 lead, but an ugly incident resulted in Marcus Marsden leaving the field and M.C.S. were able, not only to get back into the game, but eventually to win it comfortably.

Another bout of bad weather set in and more fixtures were lost. Then the skies and ground cleared and we faced a formidable H.A. side. A splendid game ensued. What a pity that so few saw it. Radley came next and this was the highlight of the season. A marvellous performance, and we came within an inch (or 15 secs.) of beating them.

A mixture of wins and losses followed and we looked forward to the P.S.H.F. to even up our record. Alas the rains came, but we got in an excellent 5-3 win against Dean Close, with Mark Boobyer scoring all five goals. Sadly we then suffered two 2-1 defeats. A season to forget in many ways, but the spirit was good throughout and we managed to keep smiling.

P. J. W.



## 1st XI REPORT

With the first 3 matches of term cancelled due to snow, the season didn't exactly get off to a flying start. When the snow eventually cleared we donned our shinpads and set about playing 3 matches in a row. We met with varying success here, winning one convincingly, but losing the other two. We managed to sneak in a quick loss to M.C.S. just before the blizzards closed in on us once more.

The Sports Hall proved to be a useful asset when our indoor team managed to get through to the final of an indoor tournament at Shiplake, for the first time ever. The minibus journey saw the first of the arguments on the number of windows on the Dorchester Abbey sign, I still say it was six.

Mother Nature smiled on us once more after half term and we managed our first practice on grass, I think the total number to date stands at 3. That practice obviously paid off though, and we had a good warm up game against the Hockey Association, in preparation for the Radley match. This proved to be the high point in a very low season, a draw against an unbeaten Radley side. What a draw it was though, we were winning 2-1 until the last 15 secs! It was a game in which the whole side played well, but I think Marcus Blake at full back had the most memorable game. An away match at Shiplake proved to be a not quite so memorable victory, but the coach journey was good, the Dorchester Abbey Sign once again figuring highly.

It was about now that the season just 'slipped away', despite Boobbyers passing and Hay's stopping. The losses to Reading and Bloxham were disappointing, we always seem to play well in the first ten minutes and then peeter out gradually over the rest of the game. We never really regained our indomitable form, shown against Radley, which is a shame because we were, at last, playing as a team. Very recently though the team spirit was resurrected and we beat a Cheney team with a very hairy centre-forward, four-two.

The varying degrees of talent within our squad resulted in a poor season result-wise, but commitment stayed up throughout the season. One or two of the First team players, myself included, couldn't hit a barn door ten feet away; and stopping? Be serious. I think Boobbyer, Blake, Hunt and Hirst deserve a special mention for being able to play hockey. John May managed some very realistic impressions of a Sumo wrestler in the course of some excellent goal-keeping. Thanks are due to Tim Bennet for his inspiring leadership. I shall always remember the heartwarming cries of, 'straight back, chaps' drifting faintly across the field.

Finally I would like to thank our coach, Dr. Wilmore, for sticking at it in the face of overwhelming odds, we're all very grateful.

James Allison 6P

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## RESULTS

v R.G.S. High Wycombe	Won	6-3	Boobbyer 2, Hirst, Suckling, Hunt 2
v St. Edwards	Lost	4-1	Blake
v Southampton	Lost	4-1	Allison
v M.C.S.	Lost	7-3	Boobbyer 3
v H.A.	Lost	7-3	Boobbyer 3
v Radley	Drew	2-2	Boobbyer 2
v Shiplake	Won	4-3	Boobbyer 4
v Reading	Lost	3-2	Boobbyer 2
v Bloxham	Lost	5-2	Boobbyer 2
v Cheney	Won	4-2	Suckling, Boobbyer 2, Hunt
P.10	L.6	W.3	D.1

## P. S. H. F.

v Dean Close	Won	5-3	Boobbyer 5
v Bromsgrove	Lost	1-2	Suckling
v Forrest	Lost	1-2	Boobbyer

## THE PLAYERS

**John May:** A goalkeeper capable of the spectacular save, but occasionally prone to let in a soft one. Awarded full colours at end of season.

**Tim Bennet:** A good captain and full back who must continue to work on striking the ball clearly and with guile. Awarded full colours at end of season.

**Ben Burman:** Played in a number of positions settling eventually into the full back role. Needs to take himself more seriously and then can improve considerably. Awarded half colours at end of season.

**Andrew Fisher:** A steady, hard working half back, who came into the side for the Radley match and at no stage let us down. Awarded half colours at end of season.

**Marcus Blake:** The most improved player in the side. Began at full back (his best position) and moved up to the important centre-half slot. Awarded full colours at end of season.

**James Allison:** Eventually finished a game with clear knees. Provided the side with moments of amusement (we now know all about his sister) and worked hard throughout the season. Much better suited by the half back role than inside forward.

**Euan Hirst:** Played out of position at centre half during the early part of the season, providing a steadying influence. Switched back to the wing later on and when supplied, proved on more to be a dangerous attacker. Awarded full colours at end of season.

**Nicholas Suckling:** A determined fighter who overcome his initial clumsiness and proved to be an asset later in the season.

**Mark Boobbyer:** Call me Goals! A splendid achievement and he will be angry with himself for missing others. Refuses to hold the stick properly, but is hardly handicapped by it. Awarded full colours after the Radley match.

**Alex Hunt:** Another player with his hands in the wrong place and one who therefore finds it difficult to pull the ball from left to right. Worked hard to be creative despite that handicap. Awarded half colours at end of season.

**Matthew Cox:** Came into the side late on and worked hard to make something of a very difficult position. Suffered from a lack of speed.

**Hamish Hay:** A skilful player who needs to add thrust to his game. Good indoors, but a bit limp outdoors.

**James Kain:** Like H. H. needs to believe in himself. At the moment a player with skill who only uses it tentatively.

Also played: Jo Silk, Kingsmill Bond, Marcus Marsden.



SECOND XI

After a poor start to the season, the team greatly improved, and in our final matches we were playing some excellent hockey.

We missed our warm-up match against Newbury and although we won a scrappy game against High Wycombe, we were outclassed by St. Edwards. The Southampton match was marked by their customary violence, and it was not until the game against M.C.S. that we were able to play some good hockey. The bad weather made it difficult to select a team; in fact game one had just one normal outdoor practice this term because we were afflicted with numerous indoor games in order to try out the new Sports Hall. Encouraged by defeating the 1st XI in this practice, we went on to beat Shiplake and draw with Reading.

Then in a superb game, we convincingly destroyed Bloxham's unbeaten record, and showed our full potential as a team. After hitting the crossbar (from a distance of two yards!) and a post, our relentless pressure was at last rewarded. The excellent play of the backs left the halves free to push up and support the forwards; with brilliant teamwork and fine running we again and again penetrated their defence. Special mention must be made of Joe Silk's spectacular hat-trick and of Nick Suckling, who showed great skill and energy. The final match of the season was affected by complacency after our previous victory. Although we lost 1-3, it was a close game which could have gone either way, with four or five open goals being missed.

Ian Elms played especially well in the attack, covering much of the pitch, and never giving up. Much praise must go to our superb goalkeeper Philip Wooley who made numerous amazing reaction saves. Ed O'Brien and David Lowe played very well at the back; Dave in particular cut out almost without fail any balls that came near him, and acted as an imposing figure on the short corner run-outs. Other useful players were James Dark, who had an uncanny ability to win the ball, and the under-rated Chris Pound, who improved enormously. Potter, Nicholson, Rae and Mann also made some good contributions to what has the makings of a very good side next year. We would like to thank Mr. Payne for his encouragement and for his stimulating team talks.

Kingsmill Bond VI P.

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RESULTS

v R.G.S. High Wycombe	Won	1-0	Elms
v St. Edwards	Lost	1-6	Elms
v Southampton	Lost	0-4	
v M.C.S.	Lost	0-2	
v Shiplake	Won	1-0	Mann
v Reading	Drew	0-0	
v Bloxham	Won	6-0	Silk 3, Elms, Suckling 2
v Oxford	Lost	1-3	Silk



## COLTS

This was a difficult and short season, because of the bad weather more than anything else. It started badly with two cancelled matches and a 2-0 loss to St. Edwards, on what was our first time on grass. Then came our first win of the season, 5-1 against Southampton thanks to Andrew Ransome, who throughout the season possessed the knack of turning up with room and time on the right post, and whose hat-trick helped make him top scorer for the season. A hard fought battle against M.C.S. followed which resulted in a 3-3 draw, although both teams had a chance to win it in the dying seconds. Rain threatened the Radley match a week and a half later, but we finally played on their all weather pitch. Sterling work by David Ingram gave us hope in the second half, but a last minute goal sealed yet another Radley win, this time 3-1. Three victories against Shiplake, Reading and Bloxham followed and with them a new formation, introducing the 'Sweeper'. The Bloxham win was a great team effort but unfortunately the season ended as it began with the Berkhamsted match being cancelled.

Despite the weather, the season for me and I hope the rest of the game was an enjoyable one, and we'd like to thank Mr. Page and Mr. Revil for giving up their time to take us.

Simon Wintle 5 MJD.

**Team:** Matthew Elliott, Paul Mitchell, Stefan Green, Peter Harris, David Ingram, Graham Persson, Andrew Ransome, Ashley Tapper, Damian Sutcliffe, Simon Wintle, Daniel Blackman.

Also played: David Stickland, Nicholas Westwood.

\* \* \*

### RESULTS

v St. Edwards	Lost	0-2
v Southampton	Won	5-1
v M.C.S.	Drew	3-3
v Radley	Lost	1-3
v Shiplake	Won	2-0
v Reading	Won	4-1
v Bloxham	Won	2-1

## JUNIOR COLTS

The weather ruined the first month of this season. This was a tremendous pity especially as, by the last two matches, the team had become accustomed to one or two essential position changes, and was playing in a most exciting and skilful way.

Early on such practices as were possible were confined to small hard surfaces and it did not become apparent until play moved onto the full-size grass that the best forward, Neil Franklin, simply had to play right-wing. Various others were tried in that most important position but relative growth rates or lack of experience made it clear that, for this season at least, Neil had to be moved out. In the first match in which this was tried, against Shiplake, the team had almost all the possession but no-one was capable of handling Neil's excellent crosses. That loss was as a result of two breakaway goals. Absences in the match against Reading led to a different right wing being chosen, and that, coupled with a little slack goalkeeping, did not go well.

By far the best performance was against Bloxham. This team had been beaten by Bloxham last year and Bloxham came to us unbeaten this season. The various ploys worked well. Martin Drewe managed to control Neil's centres, some of the pace being taken off the ball by Colin Parker. Roger Appleyard made some dangerous diversionary runs on the left wing to spread the defence. Justin Hemsley who was filling in for Miles Banwell, achieved good possession. The half-backs almost ran themselves into the ground, and that said a good deal because they were the fittest half-backs we have had for some time at this level. It was good to have Duncan Buck back in the team in the second half of the term. His competitive instinct was a great benefit to the team. The half-backs had also learnt the lesson of helping the full-back when a breakaway attack by the opposition threatened. The full-backs had played steadily throughout the season. Both have a good eye for the ball. Winsley covers the ground admirably. Gold, with the help of one or two small side practices, began to see the importance of the rapid turn and retreat in defence! The goalkeeper, Taylor, had a little to do in this Bloxham success. He is gradually learning the difficult lesson of keeping the mind on the game even when it is mainly in the opponents' half.

The season provided two other particularly memorable moments, one good and one bad. The bad one was against Reading when the goalie let a shot, from outside the circle, go but did not bother to cover its rebound from the goalpost. A nippy forward nipped in smartly and, such was the consternation arising, that within two more minutes, the 1-0 lead had been turned round to a 1-2 deficit. The good memory was in the last match (which was against relatively weak opposition on a thick soft turf which led to a lot of 'topping') when Trump, who had become much less clumsy during the term, playing right-half, moved up the right wing in possession, was allowed in by the right-wing and put in a first rate narrow angle shot from the edge of the circle to score.

The second XI were particularly badly hit by the weather but high praise is due to R. P. F.s enthusiasm for keeping them active and interested.

R. C. B. C.

**Regular team members:** T. Taylor, J. Gold, R. Winsley, A. Trump, D. Buck, J. White, N. Franklin, C. Parker, M. Drewe, M. Banwell, R. Appleyard.

Also played: R. Gilmour, B. Wood, A. Harrison, S-S. So, J. Hemsley.

\* \* \*

### RESULTS

v St. Edwards	home	Lost	1-3
v Southampton	away	Lost	1-2
v Magdalen	home	Lost	0-1
v Shiplake	home	Lost	1-2
v Reading	away	Lost	2-3
v Bloxham	home	Won	4-1
v Oxford School	away	Won	5-0



## JUNIORS

The weather has a lot to answer for this season, and at times it seemed unlikely that any outside hockey would be played at all. The term began with snow, doing nothing for the training sessions in which the aim was to achieve a reasonable level of fitness without going down with frost bite. This was generally achieved although it all proved too much for Ben Jaques who (wisely?) fell foul of the ice, broke his arm and was never seen again! For the rest, practices continued to alternate between the sub-zero temperatures of Waste Court Field and the relative (!) warmth of the Sports Hall. Finally, a thaw at the end of January freed the pitches for the first time.

This new development took everyone by surprise, and gave the squad a mere twenty-four hours to prepare for the first match. Practices had shown there was plenty of skill around, but it was all rather nerve-racking, especially since the fixture was against St. Edward's. However, on the day, the nerves were forgotten, the team responded well to the novelty of playing on grass, and the opposition was defeated 5-1.

The season couldn't have started better, but elation soon turned to despair as the team slumped to two successive defeats. The first, against Southampton, was tolerable because it was a well contested match, but the second was a disgrace as M.C.S. dished out a 6-2 thrashing. The defence had no cohesion, the forwards played in isolation, and the Abingdon umpire, so embarrassed, once forgot his rôle and turned his back on the game!

A month of post-mortems later the team travelled to Radley, (of all places), to see whether it had learnt from its mistakes. The side was largely unchanged but the performance was transformed. The players supported each other well, and in all aspects outplayed Radley. Max Henderson set a fine example in mid-field, Guy Peddy had an excellent game as sweeper, and Julian Day impressed on the left wing. Andrew Wintle was extremely effective at centre-half: his goal and the one from Jonathan Karmali gave Abingdon a 2-0 lead. Radley fought back in the final quarter and pulled one goal back, but the victory was Abingdon's.

From this point the team was unbeatable, and in the final four matches scored nineteen goals. The two wingers, Leigh Hedges and Julian Day, centred the ball well, allowing Robert Stickland and Jonathan Karmali to

score on eight occasions. A further nine goals were scored by Andrew Wintle, including a double hat-trick against Cheney. Meanwhile, Max Henderson and Toby Hay kept good possession of the mid-field. There was considerable competition for the full back positions, and Messrs Green, Howard, Davis and Edwards all played well. Indeed the defence was so strong that it conceded only one goal, and the 'keeper, Jonathan Crick, was often no more than an interested spectator.

A season that includes a double against St. Edward's and Radley can't be a bad one, and in the end even the weather was narrowly beaten — we won six matches, the weather claimed five and the opposition, two. Such success was eventually achieved through good team work and a strong squad. Sixteen players were involved in the matches played, and the other seven squad members were not far behind. Because of the strength in numbers it was a pity that only one 'B' team fixture survived, but it was a good match ending in a 1-1 draw with M.C.S. — an infinitely better result than the 'A' team's.

Finally, my thanks go to Max Henderson for good captaincy on and off the field, and to V. H. F. for her help.

A. J. G.

**Team:** M. Henderson, A. Wintle, J. Day, T. Hay, R. Stickland, J. Crick, J. Karmali, L. Hedges, J. Howard, G. Peddy, J. Green, B. Davis, P. Waywell, R. Jolliffe, A. Edwards, A. Perry.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

v St. Edward's	Won	5-1
v Southampton	Lost	0-2
v M.C.S.	Lost	2-6
v Radley	Won	2-1
v Shiplake	Won	5-1
v Reading	Won	2-0
v Bloxham	Won	4-0
v Cheney	Won	8-0



## MINORS

The 1985 season has not only seen a record number of matches played at this level, but also a number of most creditable performances. To beat Radley is always a bonus, but the highlight of the season was the victory against M.C.S. at 'A' & 'B' XI. At half-term one wondered whether any more matches would be played during the season, and also what effect the numerous indoor practices would have on the field game. Fortunately the weather did improve and it was the skills acquired in the Sports Hall that were to have such an influence on results. Understandably the ability to hit the ball was lacking in the first few games, but it was the close inter-passing skills that won the matches.

No attempt will be made in this report to single out any individual player because all 30 players contributed to the success of both teams. All games were played with tremendous spirit and commitment, and the Radley result, after being 2-0 down at half time, says it all about the character of the team.

I am sure that under the keen eyes of Mr. Gasson and Mrs. Fitt next season this squad will go from strength to strength.

My thanks to Stephen Mitchell and Mark Annett for all their effort in getting the best out of their teams on the field, and to Mrs. Fitt and Rev. Butcher for other help with the umpiring of the 'B' XI matches.

My congratulations to the following on their award of minors colours: S. Mitchell, E. Tilley, K. Hyder, D. Sparkes, M. Seager, B. Kendrick, B. Marnane.

Perhaps I should have given colours to everyone, but no doubt their chance will come.

J. D-H.

The following played for the 'A' XI: K. Hyder, D. Sparkes, M. Hancox, O. Stanley, E. Tilley, (V. Capt.), M. Seager, D. King, P. Aitken, S. Mitchell (Capt.), B. Marnane, B. Kendrick, S. Compson, M. Gillan.

'B' XI Squad: S. Newton, D. Ratcliffe, J. Greenwood, W. Howard, M. Annett (Capt.), J. Kingland, J. Evans, D. Sweeten, A. Wareham, J. Stopps, D. Engwell, R. Davison, E. Creasy, R. Greasby, C. Thompson, P. Johnson, J. Edwards.

\* \* \*

## RESULTS

### 'A' XI

v Southampton	Lost	0-2
v Priors Court	Won	6-4
v Radley	Won	3-2
v M.C.S.	Won	2-1
v Christ Church Cath. Sc.	Won	5-0

### 'B' XI

v Southampton	Won	1-0
v Radley	Lost	2-3
v M.C.S.	Won	1-0





## LENT TERM 1985

**A**t the time — in fact all of the time! — this Lent term really seemed to be the most unpleasant, frustrating and disrupted by weather and illness in memory. Writing this immediately after the end of term confirms these impressions, but also makes me realise how well we actually coped. We may have missed an unprecedented number of outings, entered fewer events than usual and, grown familiar with the inside of our admirable new Sports Hall, but we also won more than usual, at all levels, and had more boys than ever rowing. Maybe such pressures and the sneaking, not to say obsessive, fear that the opposition were unaffected made us try all the harder.

Rowing started well before term for the senior and colts crews and they achieved a quite remarkable standard by the time term started. Lessons and work made the usual mess of training, compounded by the normal problems of dark evenings and school buses, but progress was maintained, if at a slower rate. A large number of third formers started to discover the joys of Boat Club life and every boat we own seemed to be doing improbable things on the river.

The traditional first events of the Lent term, Hampton and Abingdon Heads, were both cancelled because of the appalling weather and river conditions and this rather undermined the senior crews' preparations, as they were exactly ready for competition. More complications forced the abandonment of Burway and Evesham Heads and half term training collapsed too. It was with some relief, then, that we actually had some crews to take to the 4½ mile Worcester Head ten days after half term. The VIII rowed well, but the 2nd VIII won Junior Eights and the Colts won J.16 Vllls by an enormous margin from Radley and Shrewsbury and beat the 1st VIII too.

A week later the postponed, and much reduced, Abingdon Head was held, but we only entered four crews instead of thirteen. The stern four of the 1st VIII won Senior 'C' Fours very well, the bow four of the Colts VIII won J.16 Fours and the J.15s won their class. The fourth entry, a Novice four, came second by one second after an unfortunate clash with a slower crew it was overtaking. The event was, then enjoyable as well as convenient, and the same could be said for the Reading School's Head on the next Wednesday. Four of the younger and less experienced eights and a four returned with the J.15 and J.14 trophies, which was encouraging since they were in parallel crews and the J.14s were racing for the first time.

The main event of the term, as always, was The Schools' Head of the River at Putney, on the following Tuesday, the 19th of March. The 1st, 2nd and Colts Vllls, starting 16th, 21st and 18th respectively, all rowed well to come 9th, 16th and 26th. The 1st VIII's 9th is as high a position as we have ever achieved, though it wasn't an inspired row and it is always hard to find the stream: the 2nd VIII were the second fastest Second Eight: the Colts VIII came second, sadly, by less than a second to St. Edward's in the eight minute race. Parallel J.15 crews did well enough (64th and 82nd) and a J.14 'A' crew made its first appearance and came a reasonable 111th.

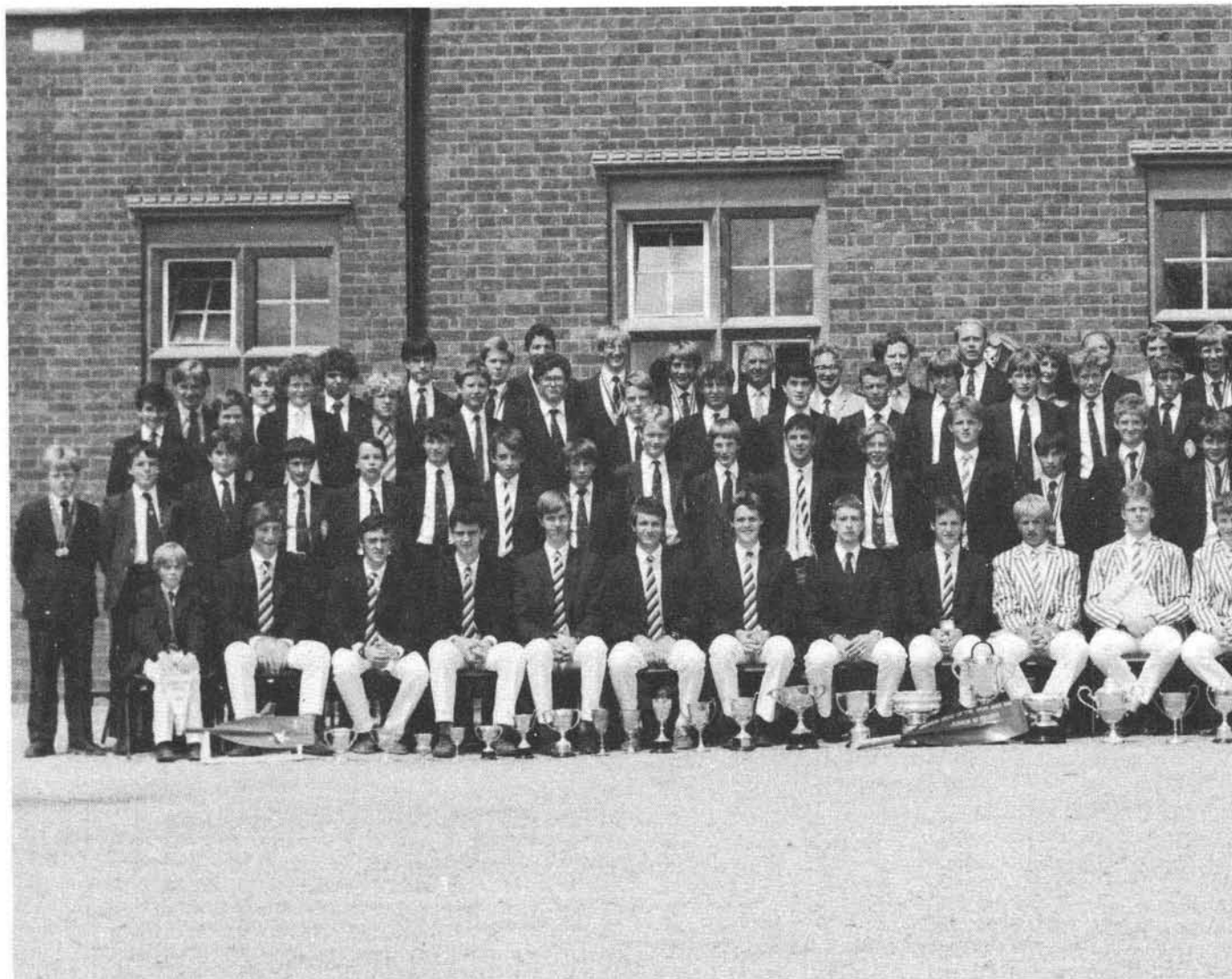
Close on top of this, though, for the 1st and Colts Vllls, came Kingston Head on the following Saturday. This is a longer, 4½ mile race and always has a strong club and college entry, quite apart from schools. The 1st VIII made admirable use of its practice outing and rowed on top form to come an excellent 9th overall to win Senior 'C' Vllls with considerable ease. The main pleasure of this result, though, was beating Eton 1st VIII by 16 seconds and beating four of the other eights who had beaten us at Putney by even larger margins. The Colts also had a good day's rowing, but were unfortunate to be beaten by K.C.S., Wimbledon, by 6 seconds.

The final event of the term was The Head of the River, which the 1st VIII entered with some trepidation since it's a long, complicated course and there are over 420 eights racing. A practice outing on the Thursday before did much to allay fears and the race itself on the Saturday was tremendous fun. The 1st VIII overtook six crews and rowed smoothly and strongly to come 69th and second by a tiny margin in Senior 'B' Eights. The whole undertaking was much improved by the hospitality of Emmanuel School, who gave us rack space in their boathouse and gave us boating facilities.

Apart from winning a record number of Lent term events, the term was also distinguished by the very welcome arrival of three new coaches, Messrs. Trotman, Guppy and Cook, and by the launching of three new nifty (not to say precarious) aluminium launches to put them in, which rejoice in the named 'Tigger', 'Kanga' and 'Roo'. We also launched a new Janousek Coxless Pair, dreadfully names 'Polar Peril', and the Club's fund-raising drive in the Easter holidays raised a superb £1400 to pay for it, which averaged out at about £18 earnings per boy. The hope now is for some decent weather and a superb regatta season.

G. G. Barrett

Footnote: Publication of the 1985 Rowing Almanack in March, with its record of the 1984 season, showed to our delight that the Boat Club had been the most successful club in eights of any school or rowing club in the country. Our total number of wins put us level with Eton and comfortably ahead of Radley, Shrewsbury and St. Paul's — a very satisfying thought!



*The whole club at the end of the 1984 season with its record 31 trophies.*

#### CREWS AT THE SCHOOLS' HEAD

**1st VIII:** S. Jones\*, R. W. Money-Kyrle, N. V. Challenger\*, J. C. H. Dix\*\*, N. W. Hewlett, D. A. Hodgson, T. W. Gentles, G. M. K. Peach, R. T. Richmond (Cox).

**2nd VIII:** N. D. Bolitho, V. Helfritz, J. J. E. Tiffany, A. Honley, T. D. Ross\*, R. D. Tyack\*, D. D. Passmore, R. D. Cheek\*\*, D. R. Chadwick (Cox).

**J.16 VIII:** J. S. Wissett, M. D. W. Schofield, I. J. Green, T. J. Butcher, T. W. Owen, T. R. Walsingham, S. McConnell, A. M. Stacy, G. Burgess (Cox).

**J.15 VIII:** M. R. C. Holmes, J. M. M. Bennett, J. Hall, P. R. Allen, T. M. Bishop, C. C. Megaw, M. C. Drinkwater, N. A. Woodall, B. J. Dyer (Cox).

**J.15 VIII:** C. J. M. Fulton, D. Knowles, R. N. J. Jameson, C. H. L. Ashton, S. R. Angus, D. W. Spring, T. G. S. Bichard, R. A. Scott, D. M. Morrison (Cox).

**J.14 VIII:** J. C. Carr, T. J. Hunt, J. S. Gerdes, J. R. S. Scroggs, J. A. Crawford, R. G. Harrison, P. W. Jones, J. P. Hodges, M. R. Schofield (Cox).

\*\* Full colours

\* Half colours

#### FIRST VIII

After a Head season plagued by misfortune, we prepared ourselves for the term's first regatta at Evesham with real determination and the mental boost of using our new Carbocraft eight, 'George Duxbury'. Unfortunately we had to beat the 2nd VIII to win Senior 'C' Eights, but we did win the event very convincingly and felt greatly encouraged. The following weekend we went to the Metropolitan Regatta at Thorpe, which offers four lane racing, and here we won Senior 'C' Eights again after some good rowing and just lost the final of Senior 'B' Eights, setting the day's fastest time in the process.

Our first disappointment was at Hereford Schools' Regatta. We never really got going and made a tactical mess of the first round and were beaten by Cheltenham. We regained our confidence at Worcester, though, and won Senior 'B' Eights in fine style, beating Reading University and Staines Boat Club on the way. This made us feel good for The National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham, where we entered the Childe Beale Cup. We only came third in our heat, though, and ended up fifth in the six lane final, with Cheltenham winning again. We did not row badly: we just did not go fast enough or respond quickly enough to the changing race situations.





We had to change the crew for Marlow and afterwards, as Mike Yeats' exams made rowing at Henley impossible and Huw Peach was less affected by the exam timetable. We entered Senior 'B' Eights and the Sprint Eights at Marlow, but the standard was very high and we went down to Nottingham University and to an enormous Canadian crew. All our attention was then focused on Henley and we managed to get in a little training on the course and enjoyed the atmosphere and the nervousness it induced. The draw threw us against Hampton School in the first round of The Princess Elizabeth Cup and they narrowly beat us, thus ending our hopes. The experience was worth it, though, and we did have fun after we had been knocked out.

We had another crew change because of age complications and we rowed really well at the last ordinary regatta of the term at Bedford, but were beaten by Groton School, U.S.A., in Senior 'B' Eights. We did not mind too much, though, as we were aiming at The National Championships at Nottingham a few days later. Here, in Junior Eights, we bungled our heat to come third, but rowed very much better in the repechage, which we won. In the final we came third to St. Paul's in a very fast time and were invited to represent the South of England in the Anglo-French match at Thorpe the next weekend. This proved to be an interesting experience and encompassed a two night stay near Thorpe and a banquet. In the race against France, they false-started many times, but eventually we got off and had a really tough race, losing by ten feet over the 1500 metres. It was a good end to an enjoyable and, we felt, reasonably successful season, and we are very grateful to Mr. Jones, coach extraordinaire, who helped us to help ourselves.

Tom Race

## SECOND VIII

After a promising 17th place at The Schools' Head the crew began training in the last week of the Easter holidays with considerable enthusiasm. Our first event was Senior 'C' Eights at Evesham, but some unfortunate illness left us inadequately prepared. However, we did beat Wadham College and Clifton College 1st Vllls in the first two rounds before meeting our own 1st VIII in the semi-final. We rowed a hard race and only lost by half a length, followed by the satisfaction of watching the 1st VIII win the final with ease.

The following Saturday we double entered Senior 'C' and Junior Eights at Mortlake Regatta. We narrowly lost the first round of Senior 'C' to the eventual winners, Midland Bank, but in the Junior event we beat Hampton 2nd VIII and were then up against St. Paul's very good 1st VIII in the final. We started very well and surprised them by being level and then stretched to half a length lead when our J.15 VIII crashed into St. Paul's! No serious damage seemed to have been done, though we afterwards learnt that one of the St. Paul's VIII spent the night in hospital. In the re-row St. Paul's were ready for us and beat us, but only by a length. The next day we changed into a four and rowed at Carmel, where we were pleased to win Junior Fours, beating Cokethorpe and Windsor Boys' 1st IVs.

We returned to the Tideway for our next regatta, Putney Town. We entered Senior C Eights and very happily beat Bryanston 1st VIII in the first round. We rowed better still in the next rounds and won the final from Vesta R.C. and Wadham College again. Greatly cheered by this we entered the Second Eights event at Hereford Schools with the intention of finding some 1500 metre racing. This proved to be the high point of our season, as we rowed at our best and beat Monmouth, Shrewsbury and Pangbourne on our way to winning.

After these successes we looked forward to Worcester, but sadly illness struck and a new crew went down to Monkton Combe, although we did beat Bedford in the first round. We then set about our final preparations for The National Schools' Regatta, where we were in the Elsenham Cup for Second Eights. Our rowing was well below previous standards, though, and the opposition faster than we had expected. We qualified for the final but could only managed fifth place behind crews we had beaten earlier in the season.

Huw Peach left our crew after this for the 1st VIII and we were far from ready for the very good Marlow Regatta. Excellent coxing enabled us beat an Eton crew, but we lost the final of School Eights to Radley 2nd VIII. After this, exams made a considerable gap and we only regrouped for Bedford Regatta. Despite limited training we were very determined and won our way through to the final and our last win of the year over Oundle, by four feet. This was a tremendous culmination to a very enjoyable season, for which we thank Mr. Jones.

Richard Tyack VI N.

## JUNIOR 16s

A very good Lent Term, which included winning the Schools' Head for the second year running, augured well for the Summer. In terms of 'wins' it was more successful than our J.15 year, but it was less satisfying in that we only occasionally reached our full potential in races, which made the season frustrating at times.

We started off well at Evesham Regatta, where we doubles entered J.16 Eights and Fours and won both. At this time our unbeaten record began to be a problem because other crews wouldn't enter the same regatta as us. Wallingford was a good example of this, but some complicated arrangements ended up with Bryanston challenging us — but of course we won. The next regatta was Walton Junior at Thorpe, where we entered J.16 Eights and Fours and the stern four entered J.18 Fours. The result was some good experience, as intended, in multi-lane racing. The bow four got knocked out, but the stern four surprised itself by rowing through to the semi-final. This made life complicated: should the four go for a place in the final or treat the race as a useful warm up for the Eight's final twenty minutes later? In the end, the four went out to enjoy themselves, simply, and found themselves very much in the running at 250 metres. They really tried then and were just edged out of a place in the final by a good Hampton 1st VIII crew. A quick dash into the eight and a very good row against Kingston G.S. and K.C.S. Wimbledon, left us with the 'pots'.

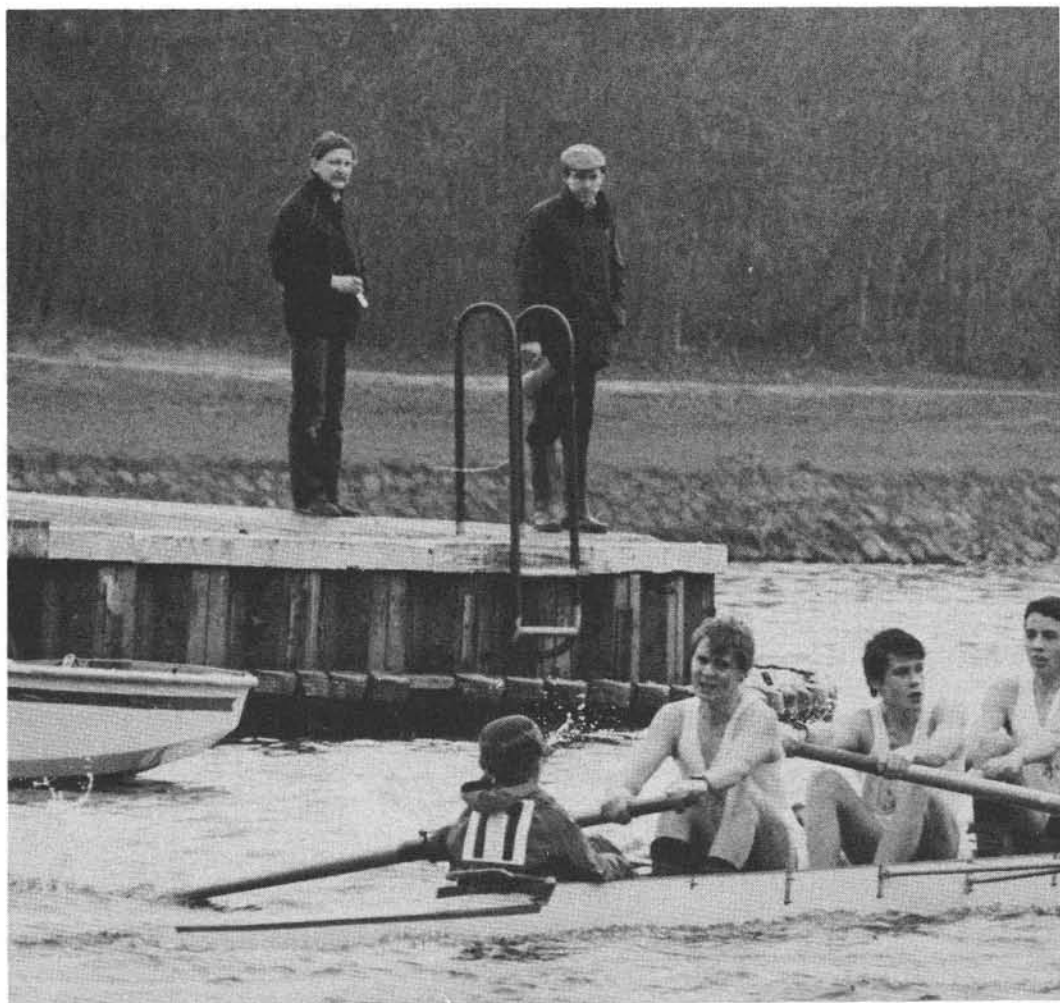
Then came the long-awaited confrontation with St. Edward's at Hereford. We met in the second round of J.16 Eights and started very tensely, with lots of blade clashes in the first 250 metres. It was a close race but we pulled a length ahead in the second half and held it: very exhausting and enough to put anybody off for life! Still, like the fanatics we are, we went into the final with the sole intention of breaking the course record, which we missed, but we did win easily from Cheltenham. We won again the next week at Worcester, where we met Shrewsbury for the first time, and then we went to Walton Regatta. We wanted 1500 metre experience, so we double-entered Senior

'C' Eights and J.16 Eights. In Senior 'C' we began by racing St. George's 1st VIII, who pulled ahead of us but then cracked as we kept on the pressure and we beat them by half a length. Shortly afterwards we raced St. George's J.16 VIII and won easily so that we were in both finals which were, inevitably, within half an hour of each other. In Senior 'C' we raced the very fast Shiplake 1st VIII, who had come 3rd in the Schools' Head. They shot off very quickly and we stayed with them until half way when we let them go and set our minds to winning the next race, the J.16 final against St. Paul's. The race was closer than we would have liked, but we won, to their considerable annoyance.

At the big events of the season — National Schools', Marlow and The National Championships — we did not fulfil our expectations. We came second to St. Edward's at N.S.R., lost again to them at Marlow and again at National Championships, as we could not match their speed off the start and could not row through them. Another win at Reading Town Regatta in the midst of these events did not really offer much consolation. At about this time, though, our 'B' VIII began to show its colours. They came fourth in their 'B' event at National Schools' and had a marvellous day at Bedford Invitation Regatta a few days later and won all their six races in fine style. This was not the end of our group's winning ways, though, as our two coxes went to the Dragon School Regatta and covered themselves in medals for their sculling prowess.

Looking back, it is amazing how the crew stuck together, since most of us had some irritating characteristic which emerged at some stage or another. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, though, and 13 wins improved on our record of the previous year. Our thanks go to Mr. Barrett, especially as he often tells us how tough it is for him having to use the throttle *and* the steering wheel at once. We would also like to thank our cake-makers and of course our pink, bobble-hatted and very influential Pink Elephant mascot.

Guy Peach and Neil Hewlett 6 B.



### JUNIOR 15s

Having trained hard in the Heads' season, and greatly improved upon both our technique and endurance, we went to our first regatta at Mortlake, aiming to make an impression on our opponents. We did exactly this, but not in the manner that we really intended. Having beaten Emanuel in the first round of J.15 Eights, we dead-heated with Hampton in the next. On the way back to the re-row, though, we crashed into St. Paul's 1st VIII at a point when they were just behind our 2nd VIII. Neither boat was much damaged, but there was an injured Paul's boy who spent the night in hospital. The season had indeed begun with a bang!

Undeterred, and having gained experience in fours at Carmel, the 'A' VIII went to Walton Junior Regatta at Thorpe and recorded notable wins over both Hampton and K.C.S. Wimbledon, to win the event. The next week at Hereford we decided to row in fours: the 'A' IV won the event and the 'B' IV got through two rounds of its event.

Hard training now aimed at the impending National Schools' Regatta and on the day we reached the final and finished fourth by a very small margin. The season ended with Bedford Regatta, where both 'A' and 'B' VIIIs rowed well through a couple of rounds. Shortly before this the B VIII had rowed in the Bedford Invitation Regatta and had one of its best and most enjoyable days.

Grateful thanks are due to Mr. Potter and Mr. Birnberg, who made sure we enjoyed a pleasant and quite successful season.

Tom Owen 5 HE.

### JUNIOR 14s

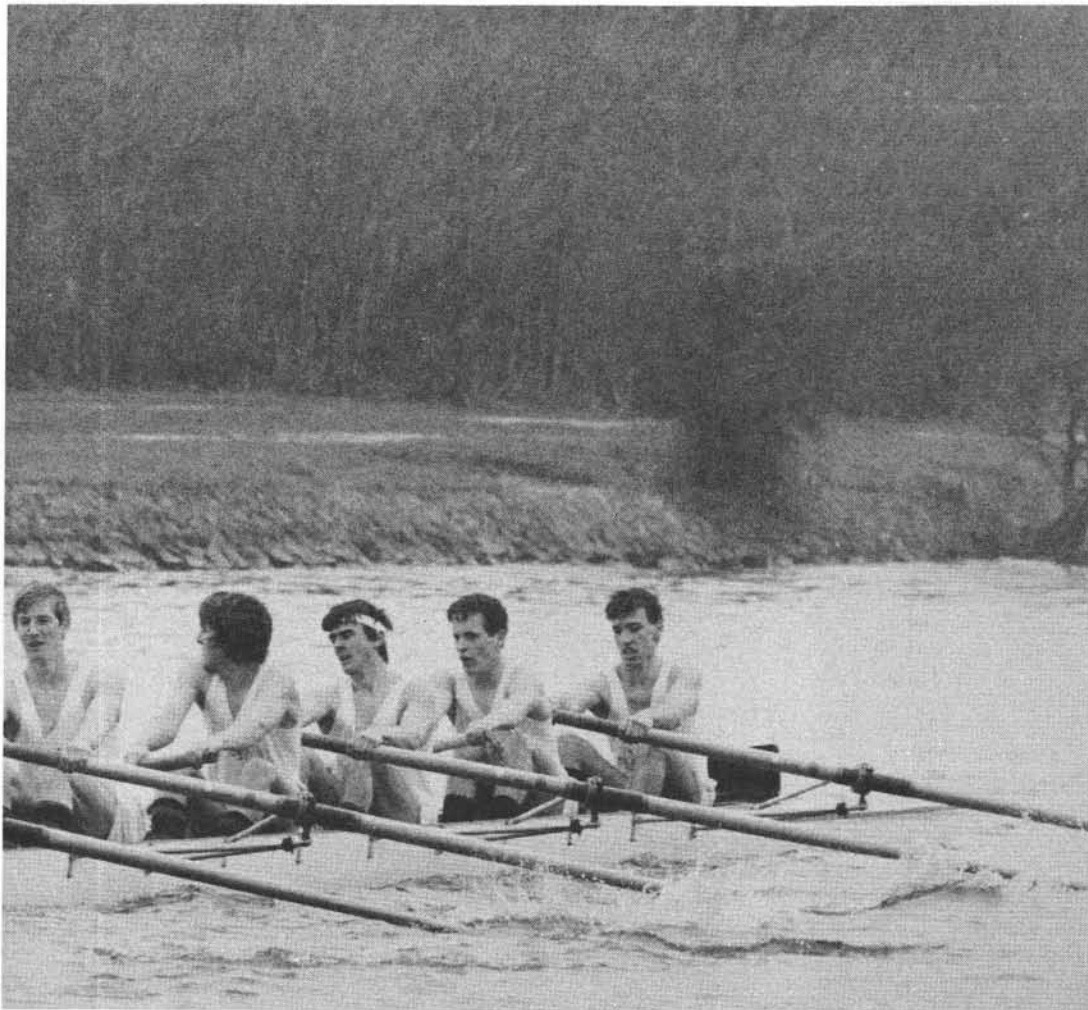
We began the summer in good shape after a fine first term of rowing, winning at Reading School's Head and having a good day at Putney.

We sent two equal fours to Carmel for our first regatta experience, but both crews lacked skill and fitness and were dismissed early on. Therefore we returned home intent on proving ourselves in our first eights event. This we most certainly did, as, at Walton Junior, we sailed through the first heat and scraped a victory by a canvas in the final, despite a minor upset towards the end. This was to become quite a habit...!

The next regatta was Hereford Schools'. On a scorching day we won the first two rounds, but met our doom in the final against the dreaded St. Edward's. We had tasted real defeat for the first time and thirsted for revenge at National Schools'. We rowed well there, on the six lane course, winning the first heat comfortably. It was a very hot day and we spent five nervous hours until the final 'psyching' in the shade. Pressure was unbearable at the start, aggravated by the marshal getting annoyed about aligning. We put this behind us, however, and rowed a hard first 750 metres, at which point we were trailing St. Edward's and Kingston G.S. With 250 metres to go we gave our all and managed to cross the line in front by 0.53 of a second. This is a day none of us will forget, and the School has never won J.14A VIIIs at National Schools' before.

So far only the 'A' crew had been involved in regattas and Reading Town was to be the testing for the other crews. This was the first time in the Club's history that three J.14 crews were floated in any one event. Unfortunately they were outclassed, but they enjoyed themselves and gained some experience which proved to be vital for Bedford later. The 'A' VIII won J.14 VIIIs, though, beating Radley by two lengths in the final. Another pot each for the collection!

*The First VIII winning Senior C VIIIs at Kingston Head, 1985.*





The final regatta was Bedford to which we sent an eight and a four. The 'A' VIII powered very easily through the first two rounds, winning by ridiculous margins, but the final was to be the real battle — against St. Edward's again. We were determined to prove that we could win a race against a good crew by more than 0.53 of a second. To add to the drama, the final was aborted after a sculler capsized in our path, but in the re-row we beat St. Edward's by over two lengths and made our point! Our four did well, too and rowed through round after round to victory, giving their coach, Dr. Fitt, her first coaching victory. Congratulations!

So ended a very successful term, with a record number of wins for an Abingdon J.14 crew, which wouldn't have been possible without the coaching and encouragement of Mr. Mearns, complete with red mac and wellies worn everywhere, regardless of the weather!

Paul Allen N NHP. and Charles Megaw 4 SCB.

#### CREWS AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS' REGATTA

**1st VIII:** R. J. Wivell\*\*, K. B. Welby\*\*, P. Dominey\*\*, D. A. Sperry\*\*, J. C. H. Dix\*\*, T. C. Race\*\*, M. C. Yeats\*\*, T. J. Brock\*\*, R. W. Spivey\* (Cox).

**2nd VIII:** B. J. Wagon\*, N. V. Challenger\*, T. D. Ross\*, A. J. Macfadyen\*, W. G. V. Harcourt\*\*, H. R. W. Peach\*\*, S. Jones\*, R. J. Tyack\*, R. T. Richmond (Cox).

**Colts 'A' VIII:** T. W. Gentles, J. T. C. Cracknell, J. S. P. Kowszun, R. W. Money-Kyrle, N. W. Hewlett, D. A. Hodgson, T. M. Sutton, G. M. K. Peach, J. P. Hedges (Cox).

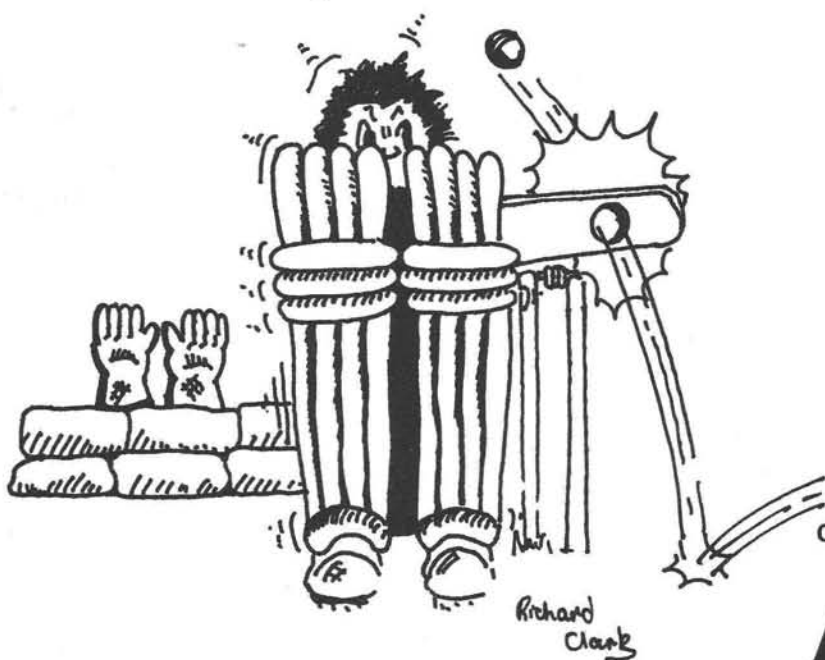
**Colts 'B' VIII:** N. G. Wright, A. J. Goodey, T. J. Adams, A. Honley, J. J. E. Tiffany, D. D. Passmore, N. D. Bolitho, R. D. Cheek\*\*, P. W. Jones (Cox).

**J.15 VIII:** J. S. Wissett, A. M. Stacey, I. J. Green, T. J. Butcher, T. W. Owen, M. D. W. Schofield, S. McConnell, T. R. Walsingham, R. I. Sparkes (Cox).

**J.14 VIII:** T. M. Bishop, N. A. Woodall, P. Monaghan, D. W. Spring, S. J. Goldsworthy, C. C. Megaw, M. C. Drinkwater, R. A. Scott, R. D. Greasby (Cox).

\*\* Full colours

\* Half colours



#### CLUB ROUND-UP

**A** record season for the 1st XI, an unbeaten Junior Colts side, a Juniors XI which again reached the final of the Area Lords Taverners' Knock-out Competition and an unbeaten Minors 1st XI which retained the Morland Trophy. And a dry summer, too! Mark Boobbyer and Brian Woolley, for the 1st XI, and Stefan Green, for the Junior Colts, scored centuries; Stephen Prince scored over 500 runs, a record, for the Minors; Huw James took a hat-trick for the 3rd XI v St. Edward's — just a few of the individual highlights of an enjoyable and successful cricket term. A sincere thank you to all who helped to make it so, groundstaff, coaches, umpires, caterers, scorers and 'T.A.S.S. Mums'. A particular word of appreciation to Martin Woodgett, who has developed Minors cricket so well over the years; we shall miss him but are delighted to welcome his successor as Head of Classics, Munna Mitra, who played first class cricket when up at Oxford; good news for the Common Room XI!

Finally, read the Alligators (Old Boys) report! Would you expect to score over 300 runs in a one day game, declare — and then lose?

## 1st XI

3.20 p.m. and declaration time with Abingdon's score at 242 for 4; sounds like a plumb wicket in mid-July with a suitably fast War Mem. outfield and a good toss to win! Well, it certainly was a fast outfield, and a good, hard wicket, too, as Mark Boobyer (131) will recall with relish — but this was Sat., 28th April and the fourth day of a summer term to be remembered not only for its uncanny hours of sunshine (N. H. P.'s aging overcoat — or should it be the aging N. H. P.'s overcoat? — can rarely have been worn under that extra long umpire's coat so little!), but also for a record nine victories. Only one match was to be cancelled; another record, perhaps, because this was 'due to industrial action'!

So the first match against St. Edward's produced a convincing batting performance, but an opening win was in fact denied to us by our opponents' last wicket pair — or was it more truthfully because of a dropped catch or two? Never mind; decisive and consecutive victories followed over Pangbourne (Cox and Cowan enjoying good form, as they had in the first match), the Oratory (Jeff Hutchinson's virtues of line-and-length making an early impact with a 'mini-bat' winning 8 for 28!), the Berkshire Gentlemen (Boobyer and Woolley putting on 136 for the first wicket), Brentwood (a notable 57 from Newman) and Berkhamsted. The S.O.A.s then just escaped defeat after struggling against the contrasting spin of Day and Cox, following an excellent 66 from Marsden which had earlier revived our batting fortunes. The first half of the season could hardly have gone better, as far as results were concerned, and the record nine wins looked within reach. So it proved, with three games in hand. After draws against Radley, Douai and the M.C.C., victories over N. H. P.'s XI, Reading (a fine century for Woolley and some aggressive bowling from Marsden), Magdalen (dismissed for just 27) and Colchester, equally overwhelmingly, but this time by 10 wickets.

Of course we had our less auspicious days, one of them being at High Wycombe who deservedly inflicted on us our only defeat. But more often than not our well balanced attack, shrewdly handled by Martin Day, held the initiative. It's the best bowling sides which win the most matches and it must be very unusual for four bowlers to take 30 wickets or more. Matthew Cox took 41, Marcus Marsden 38, Jeff Hutchinson 32 and Martin Day 30. Their contrasting and complementing qualities meant that there was someone to find a response from the wicket. John May was a patient 'reserve' bowler who had too few opportunities; his figures do not, however, do him justice and he can fairly claim that his victims were all top of the order batsmen (any queries to J. D-H. please).

Mark Boobyer and Brian Woolley were arguably the best (and certainly the most successful) opening pair of batsmen since John Slingsby and Nigel Marsh in 1978. Mark reached a half-century eight times in his 14 innings and added an increasingly wide range of attacking strokes to his sound defence. He scored over 700 runs and was unfortunate to miss a second century by one run v the B.G.s. Brian Woolley scored a 50 on seven occasions and thoroughly deserved his 'ton' at Reading. Consequently the sound start which is so important was usually achieved. The No. 3 slot was shared between the rather less consistent Dave Newman (although he looked a much improved player) and John Cowan (who began well with a fifty in the first match but later lost form and confidence.) Matthew Cox cheated the paying public by giving his wicket away too early on, but I'm looking forward to lengthier entertainment in '85. Marcus Marsden came into his own as an all-rounder and gave the middle order some

necessary substance with some important contributions, notably against the Oratory, S.O.A.s, Radley and Bloxham; he had a very respectable average of 36. Of the other batsmen, Jason Haynes and Stuart Sutcliffe had their moments but their chances were inevitably restricted. It's not a fair game for the later order; perhaps they will have more opportunities this year, and I hope Jeff Hutchinson will, too — he's much too good looking a player in the cricketing sense to be going in at No. 9.

The season ended with the Old Boys' match being played on the final Saturday of term, a welcome return to a post University-term date. The game ended 'honours-even' after the O.A.s were set fair for victory at 161 for 3 chasing 201 for 8 dec. (which included a fine 84 from Mark Boobyer and a characteristically well timed 'generous to both sides' declaration from Martin Day). Simon Hobson's 64, supported by Simon Rushton and Gerald Lowes, had set the O.A. innings on its way, but Jeff Hutchinson and Martin Day broke through, and then Marcus Marsden brought an embarrassing panic into the O.A.'s dressing room with a 4 for 19 second spell, including the 8th and 9th wickets in the last over! So the 1st XI finished as they had begun eleven weeks earlier against St. Edward's almost forcing a victory with the last man at the wicket. Eleven weeks of good cricket with the game itself the ultimate 'winner'.

Martin Day (Capt.) and Mark Boobyer were joint winners of the Smithson Cup for 'all round cricketing merit'. Marcus Marsden won the Morris Cup for 'best all-rounder' and Jeff Hutchinson won the Henderson Prize. Brian Woolley's batting and wicket-keeping, together with his rugby and hockey abilities, unarguably deserved the award of the Slingsby Cup.

N. H. P.

Regular members of the XI were: M. C. Day (Capt.), B. E. Woolley, M. A. Marsden, M. C. Cox, M. T. Boobyer, D. R. Newman, J. A. Cowan, J. S. Hutchinson, J. B. May, S. G. Sutcliffe, J. C. P. Haynes. J. N. Bouch played on occasions.

## 1st XI AVERAGES 1984

BATTING	Innings	Not Out	Highest		Average
			Score	Runs	
M. T. Boobyer	14	2	131	708	59.0
B. E. Wolley	17	2	117*	624	41.6
M. A. Marsden	13	4	66	332	36.8
D. R. Newman	15	0	57	384	25.6
J. A. Cowan	14	2	52*	213	17.7
M. C. Cox	15	1	38*	191	13.6
J. C. P. Haynes	13	5	18	71	8.8
S. G. Sutcliffe	14	2	23	89	7.4
BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	QC
M. C. Day	136	35	394	30	13.1
M. A. Marsden	223	71	503	38	13.2
J. S. Hutchinson	149	41	427	32	13.3
M. C. Cox	191	66	549	41	13.4
J. B. May	77	14	268	5	53.6

## RESULTS

P.18 W.9 L.1 D.8 Ab.1

St. Edward's (H) Drawn

Abingdon 242 for 4 dec. (Boobyer 131, Cowan 52\*); St. Edwards 180 for 9 (Cox 4 for 60, Day 4 for 67).

Pangbourne (A) Won by 45 runs.

Abingdon 164 for 8 dec. (Woolley 54, Cowan 40); Pangbourne 119 (Cox 5 for 48).

Oratory (H) Won by 92 runs.

Abingdon 167 for 6 dec. (Marsden 54\*, Newman 35); Oratory 75 (Hutchinson 8 for 26).

Berkshire Gentlemen (H) Won by 8 wickets.

B. G.s 214 for 8 dec, Abingdon 216 for 2 (Boobyer 99\*, Woolley 74, Cox 38\*).

Brentwood (A) Won by 147 runs.

Abingdon 213 for 7 dec. (Newman 57, Boobyer 52, Woolley 39); Brentwood 66 (Day 4 for 15).

Berkhamsted (H) Won by 5 wickets.

Berkhamsted 80; Abingdon 81 for 5 (Cox 30).

South Oxfordshire Amateurs (H) Drawn.

Abingdon 164 for 7 dec. (Marsden 66); S.O.A.s 112 for 9 (Day 4 for 20).

Radley (A) Drawn.

Radley 210 for 6 dec.; Abingdon 188 for 5 (Woolley 78, Marsden 52\*, Newman 46).

Douai (A) Drawn.

Douai 130 for 9 dec. (Marsden 4 for 42); Abingdon 117 for 8 (Cowan 37\*, Marsden 32).

N. H. Payne's XI (H) Won by 54 runs.

Abingdon 165 for 6 dec. (Woolley 56, Newman 45, Cox 37); N. H. P.'s XI 111 (Cox 4 for 15).

M.C.C. (H) Drawn.

Abingdon 166 (Woolley 51, Boobyer 50); M.C.C. 120 for 8 (Cox 5 for 27).

Reading (A) Won by 101 runs.

Abingdon 247 for 7 dec. (Woolley 117\*, Newman 46, Boobyer 40); Reading 146 (Marsden 5 for 57).

High Wycombe (A) Lost by 4 wickets.

Abingdon 143 (Boobyer 54); H. Wycombe 144 for 6 (Hutchinson 4 for 45).

Magdalen (A) Won by 138 runs.

Abingdon 165 for 7 dec. (Boobyer 67); M.C.S. 27.

Colchester (H) Won by 10 wickets.

Colchester 142 (Marsden 4 for 24, Cox 4 for 39); Abingdon 145 for 0 (Boobyer 78\*, Woolley 62\*).

Bloxham (A) Drawn.

Abingdon 127 (Marsden 43); Bloxham 110 for 6 (Marsden 4 for 35).

University College School (A) Drawn

U.C.S. 92 for 3 (rain).

Old Abingdonians (H) Drawn.

Abingdon 201 for 8 dec. (Boobyer 84); O.A.s 184 for 9 (Marsden 4 for 75).

The match against Newbury was cancelled 'due to industrial action!'





## 2nd XI CRICKET

Captaining the 2nd XI is an enjoyable job, although sometimes frustrating. There were, perhaps, more frustrations than usual, as the team never really fulfilled its potential. However the team was young (mainly 5th formers) and maybe the results will be better next year.

Reviewing the season, there are many fine individual performances to note: The highlight of the game against Magdalen was a fine 73 by James Bouch, who played for both the 1sts and 2nds during the season. Against Berkhamsted we ran up the highest 2nd XI total of the season due to Eddie O'Brien's 49 and came close to victory.

On a sweltering afternoon the Radley batsmen prospered, scoring 187-5, and it was Robin Garnett, scoring a slow, but confident, 34 against some hostile bowling, who helped us to a respectable draw. The next match, against Reading, was our only victory of the season. After a moderate total of 125 had been achieved, Paul Rainsden and Nick Pond scuttled out the opposition, in their own individual ways, for 46, while their captain stood praying the rain would hold off long enough for the victory to come!

The final match, against Bloxham, saw magnificent bowling by Paul Rainsden who took 7-22. There were also two 'Abingdon XI' matches at the end of term, in which some fine innings were played by Jason Haynes, Stefan Green, Graham Scott and, in particular, James Bouch who scored over 100 runs in these two innings.

Summing up, the potential is undoubtedly there, and there are several players who will be very good. Paul Rainsden, once he learns some manners, will be an excellent spinner to have in the side. Richard Elsey, who captained the side at the start of the season, was lively in the field and hard-hitting with the bat. Jimmy Dark was consistent, but never got the high score he deserved. Thanks also to Jimmy Kain, who kept wicket, and to Graham Nicholson, Simon Evans and Huw James who played at various points during the season, and to Mr. Marston and Mr. Page for coaching and umpiring.

Mark Weatherall VI N.

**Team:** Mark Weatherall, Edward O'Brien, James Dark, James Bouch, Nicholas Pond, James Kain, Richard Elsey, Simon Evans, Paul Rainsden, Robin Garrett, Huw James, Graham Nicholson.

## RESULTS

v Pangbourne	A.133 P.136-3 Lost by 7 wickets
v Magdalen C.S.	A.131 [Bouch 73] M.133-4 Lost by 6 wickets
v Brentwood	A.152 [O'Brien 48] Lost by 2 wickets
v Berkhamsted	A.71 B.72-4 Lost by 6 wickets
v Radley	r.187-5 A.90-5 [Garnett 34] Drawn
v Reading	A.125 [Weatherall 47] R.46 [Pond 5-23, Rainsden 5-18] Won by 79 runs
v R.G.S. High Wycombe	R.150 [Weatherall 6-36] A.78 [Weatherall 45] Lost by 72 runs
v Bloxham	B.122 [Rainsden 7-22] A.106-9 Drawn
v O.A.'s	A.223-5 [Bouch 55, Scott 50, Green 52] O.224-7 Lost by 3 wickets
v Plymouth College	P.200-4 A.164-8 [Bouch 49, Haynes 49].

## 3rd XI

As usual the season started with the traditional defeat by Cokethorpe 1st XI. The team seemed to expect to lose and even Doc. Wilmore's exhortation to "knock it over their heads" didn't seem to help much.

The long trip to Brentwood was rewarded with a good win, Evan Hirst and David Colson adding 60 for the fifth wicket when things had been looking bad. Clive Williams bowled well and Brentwood never looked like getting the runs.

We had a very exciting if low scoring game against St. Edward's. A hat trick by Huw James, aided by a superb catch by Nick Burgoyne in the gully had St. Edward's at 24 for 9. But their last pair put on another 32 and we just managed to creep home.

Then there was the victory over Radley! This was mainly due to the second wicket partnership between Mark Durand (37) and Marcus Winsley (34). A good fielding performance in very warm conditions helped us to romp home.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of key players, we lost the last two games. Douai had some luck even if Marcus Winsley turned his arm with some very interesting non-spinners.

The team's thanks must be extended to Mr. C. Parker and Dr. P. J. Wilmore for their backing and excellent umpiring. I hope that next year's team will be as brilliant!

David Colson

The following played regularly: D. Colson (Capt.), M. Blake, N. Burgoyne, E. Butler, E. Hirst, H. James, S. Littlewood, J. Ralfe, R. Slater, C. Williams, M. Winsley.

Also played: J. Alner, J. Beach, M. Durand, J. Lipman, V. Paige, G. Sowerby, A. Thomas, P. Ward.

## RESULTS

Cokethorpe	(H)	Lost by 89 runs
Brentwood	(A)	Won by 59 runs (Williams 4 for 9)
St. Edward's	(A)	Won by 4 runs (James 6 for 17 including hat-trick)
Radley	(A)	Won by 5 wickets (James 4 for 23, Winsley 34, Durand 37)
Douai	(H)	Lost by 4 wickets
Reading	(A)	Lost by 107 runs (Winsley 4 for 31)

## JUNIORS CRICKET

Although blessed with some very talented players it took some time for the team to realise its true potential.

An easy win over a weak Pangbourne side in the first match even followed by some disappointing results, including a humiliating defeat by 9 wickets at the hands of M.C.S.

However the shape of the whole season was changed dramatically by a memorable victory over Radley. Floundering at 24 for 4 another batting disaster threatened but Richard Tilley 54 n.o. and Neil Franklin showed great character and gave us a respectable score of 114. Radley's batting was surprisingly frail against the spin of Nigel Radbourne (4-33) but it looked as though the old enemy would thwart us once again with an obdurate last wicket stand until Franklin returned to grab the vital wicket with time running out.

Given this morale boost the team proceeded to put together some excellent performances to record 6 wins and 3 draws in their last 9 games. Of these, the highlights were a nine wicket win at Reading and 3 comfortable victories in the Lord's Taverners Trophy to take us through to the final once again where we meet Radley in a match to be played at the start of the 1985 season.

The main strength of the side was in the number of genuine all rounders it contained. The captain, Nigel Radbourne, is a player of outstanding ability, as a batsman, he has a very sound technique allied to a superb temperament and at present only lacks some power in his strokes, particularly on the off side. Scoring over 400 runs and taking 34 wickets with his tight off breaks amply illustrates his worth and he will be sadly missed in the future.

Although his bowling failed to come up to expectations, Richard Tilley more than made up for this with his very consistent bowling. He displayed a very straight bat and intense concentration and once he started moving his feet more positively he developed an impressive range of shots. His many good scores included three fine 50s.

Confidence was the main problem with one of the most talented batsmen, Neil Franklin. Although a gifted stroke player he failed to contribute significantly on too many occasions but if he can tighten up his defence and get some high scores under his belt he should fulfill his potential. He had a much more satisfying season with the ball, bowling usually with much life and accuracy and claiming 23 wickets.

Tom Gosling always looked defensively secure with the bat and will make runs as he becomes stronger, and his bowling merited respect, although his captain sometimes seemed to forget this!

Another player who could become a genuine all rounder is Michael Herd. Probably the unluckiest bowler (18 wickets), he repeatedly beat the bat with his late away swing without reward. Although he did not make a large score he has the ability to become a more than useful middle order batsman.

None of the bowlers were complete rabbits with the bat although Alisdair Simpson did his best to disprove this theory! His bowling action also left much to be desired but his pace and hostility earned him 18 wickets. He must work on a more consistent run up and delivery stride if he is to make real progress, however.

Robin Gilmour and Richard Winsley had no pretensions as bowlers. Gilmour made some important contributions but often contrived to get himself out in the most unlikely ways. Winsley a natural hitter, came through with some excellent 'knocks' towards the end of the season, having worked hard at being more selective about the ball to attack.

Tim Greenland showed all the enthusiasm and commitment essential for a wicketkeeper. (110 catches, 5 stumpings). He took several fine catches and his ability to stand up to the slow bowlers was very impressive at times. His batting was very enigmatic however. Again more confidence which can only come with plenty of runs in the middle, is needed here.

When called upon Roger Appleyard demonstrated his natural ball sense and with more experience could become a valuable all rounder.

Philip White, although looking the part unfortunately was unable to make the most of his few opportunities. Along with Radbourne, Winsley and Franklin however, he shone in the field.

In most other years, players like Philip Mansfield, Richard Clark, Tom Kenyon, and John Johnston would have played more games and all have the talent to make the grade in the future.

One consolation for the loss of Radbourne is the arrival of Peter Lunn the county captain, who in his one game in September showed his class both with the bat and the ball.

Finally my sincere thanks to Stephen Wilcox for his very accurate and conscientious scoring and once again of course of A. J. G. for his invaluable support as both coach and umpire — what would I do without him!

R. P. F.

## RESULTS

		P.16	W.8	D.5	L.3
A v	Pangbourne			Won	by 69 runs
	A	153-7 dec			Radbourne 36
	P	84			Tilley 4-22, Gosling 3-8
H v	Cokethorpe			Draw	
	C	113-9 dec			Simpson 4-22, Radbourne 3-15
	A	96-7			Gilmour 31
H v	M.C.S.			Lost	by 9 wickets
	A	40			
	M.C.S.	44-1			
H v	Oxon U.13s			Draw	
	O	149-5 dec			
	A	146-6			Radbourne 55, Tilley 33 n.o.
A v	Berkhamsted			Lost	by 3 wickets
	A	67			
	B	68-7			Franklin 3-12
H v	St. Edwards			Lost	by 2 wickets
	A	66			
	St. E	67-8			Simpson 3-12
H v	Radley			Won	by 16 runs
	A	114			Tilley 54 n.o.
	R	98			Radbourne 4-33
H v	Douai			Won	by 5 wickets
	D	35			Herd 4-13, Simpson 3-11
	A	36-5			
A v	Oxford School			Won	by 69 runs
	A	132-4 dec			Radbourne 61 n.o.
	O	63			Radbourne 4-10
A v	Reading			Won	by 9 wickets
	R	94			Herd 3-19, Simpson 3-23
	A	95-1			Tilley 50 n.o.
A v	Burford			Won	by 25 runs
	A	123-5 (25 overs)			Tilley 35, Franklin 35
	B	98-7 (25 overs)			
H v	R.G.S. High Wycombe			Draw	Radbourne 4-49, Franklin 3-29
	R.G.S.	147-9 dec			
	A	102-9			
H v	Rev. Pickles' XI			Draw	
	R.P.	187-7 dec			Radbourne 46, Winsley 35
	A	132-7			by 112 runs
H v	Wantage			Won	Radbourne 76, Winsley 42, Tilley 36
	A	185-5 (40 overs)			Radbourne 6-13
	73				
A v	Bloxham			Draw	
	B	207-4 dec			
	A	99-5			Winsley 50 n.o.
A v	Bicester			Won	by 60 runs
	A	151 (40 overs)			Tilley 53, Lunn 49
	B	91			Simpson 3-18, Lunn 3-22, Radbourne 3-27

Usual Team: Radbourne, Tilley, Gilmour, Franklin, Winsley, Gosling, White, Greenland, Herd, Simpson, Appleyard, Also Played: Mansfield, Clark, Kenyon, Johnston, Lunn.

## JUNIOR COLTS

It is always good to report on an unbeaten season especially when all eleven players contributed to the team's success.

The pre-season net practices saw the depth of batting and the selection of the 6th batting place always posed a problem. The strength of the batting was soon to be realised in the nine wicket defeat of Pangbourne College in the first game of the season, and in subsequent games when the tail-enders outshone many of the middle order batsmen. In fact the side was never bowled out. It is the bowlers however that usually win matches, and once the season got under way, more and more all-rounders emerged. The fielding too was competent and any lapses in the field was more than compensated by the sound fielding of David Ingram, Graham Scott, Simon Wintle and Damian Sutcliffe. What was to impress the spectators most was the spirit in which each game was contested to the last ball. Apart from the Radley game played on a very good batting wicket, a result was always in the captain's mind. Even at the risk of giving Stefan Green another over David Ingram never adopted negative tactics. The junior colt's success owed a great deal to their captain. Throughout the season David's patience and determination prevailed. On the field he led the side on his own unperturbed by comments on his bowling changes. In the four hour game there is a tendency to over-bowl the seamers, but David persevered with his spinners who in the end won the matches.

Some might feel that it is a pity that an Aussie should head the batting averages with an average of 98.5, but as this was no fluke, credit must be given to Stefan Green for an outstanding season. Sixes do come relatively easy on Upper Field and there was an abundance of these from Stefan's bat. I was more impressed by the way in which he controlled his zest for boundaries and his efforts to keep the ball on the ground. His century against Reading School illustrated this patience which was lacking at the beginning of the season. Graham Scott batting at No.4, and although not scoring as many runs as Stefan, made an equal contribution with the bat. He was the architect of the innings in several games, and certainly Radley and High Wycombe would have been pleased to see the back of him. Like Stefan, he wanted to force the run rate, but was able to drop anchor when a collapse threatened. Damian Sutcliffe, Julian Freeston and Nick Westwood shared the openers role. Damian was the more aggressive of the three, but lack of concentration let him down when there was promise of a big innings. Nevertheless he has good potential and will soon learn to respect the good delivery. In contrast Julian and Nick had the patience that one looks for in an opening bat. A lack of form following his one hundred opening partnership against Pangbourne resulted in Nick's decline in confidence, but no doubt this will be restored next season. Julian however gained in confidence and by the end of the season was the most improved batsman in the side.

Simon Wintle's batting also improved as the season went on and he showed his true form in the C.R. game. He has the full range of shots, and with fewer lapses in concentration, he is capable of building a big innings. David Ingram failed to produce the kind of form that he has been used to in the past. Every cricketer experiences a lack of form at one time or the other and it is good that he has got this out of the way. I am sure he will be in the runs again next season, but he must work hard on his leg side shots. David will no doubt look back on a disappointing season with the bat, but he can

be well satisfied with his captaincy and excellent fielding. Due to the depth in batting, Richard Howard and Jeremy Greenland never really got the chance to show their potential. Both are stylish batsmen however, and I hope next season they will gain in confidence because I don't think the demands of opening batsmen are beyond their capabilities.

I always looked forward to the arrival of Robin Whittaker, Peter Williams and Paul Snow to the crease. They showed against St. Edwards and Berkhamsted the ability to win matches in stylish fashion!

Jeremy Greenland's keeping improved by the end of the season, but as the fielders take their cue from the keeper, alertness throughout the game is a key factor, and Jeremy must work hard on his concentration.

The team had a mixture of fast bowlers ranging from the accuracy and consistency of Peter Williams to Stefan Green. Peter is most certainly a good prospect for the future and I hope he will be able to master the ball leaving the bat in the same way as his deadly inswinger. No doubt the find of the season was the wrong footed style of Michael Rippengal. Bowlers have had success with this type of delivery and Michael was able to generate a fair amount of swing and pace. His length and line was wayward at times, but when he got it right he certainly mesmerized the most competent batsmen. Stefan Green certainly had the pace and bowled well on occasions, but contrary to popular opinion I feel his strength lies in his batting. Stefan however certainly had variety in his choice of delivery which was his key weapon! Robin Whittaker, Nick Westwood, David Ingram, David Stickland and Damian Sutcliffe did not bowl enough to warrant an assessment, but I am sure there is a lot of potential amongst them.

The side was very fortunate in having three good spinners. Graham Scott the off-spinner and most experienced of the three, bowled extremely well throughout the season taking 25 wickets at an average of 9.6. Paul Snow, bowling leg breaks, lacked Graham's experience but as the season got under way he also proved to be a vital wicket taker. Simon Wintle began to show his skill at the end of the season and from what we saw it seemed a pity he hadn't bowled more often.

The tour to Rotherham at half-term was again spoilt by the weather, but there was enough good spirit in the side to enjoy the trip in spite of little cricket being played.

The strength of the Junior Colts XI prevented mainly promising cricketers from gaining regular places in the A XI, but no doubt their turn will come in the future. The squad I am sure will want to thank the Rev Butcher for his help with the coaching and umpiring. There is no substitute for his knowledge and enthusiasm for the game, and I hope he will continue coaching at this level in future seasons.

J. D-H.

**Team:** D. Ingram (Capt), D. Sutcliffe, N. Westwood, J. Freeston, S. Wintle, G. Scott, S. Green, J. Greenland, R. Howard, M. Rippengal, P. Williams, P. Snow, D. Stickland, R. Whittaker.



## RESULTS

v Pangbourne (H)	Won by 9 wickets
A 136-1	Sutcliffe 51, Westwood 49
P 135	Williams 4-29, Green 4-28
v M.C.S. (A)	Drawn
A 150-9	Green 52*
M.C.S. 99	
v Oratory (H)	Won by 26 runs
A 135-5	
O 109	Williams 6-34
v Manchester Schools (A)	Drawn
A 105-7	
M.S. 192-7	Rippengal 4-50
v Berkhamsted (H)	Won by 1 wicket
A 84-9	
B 83	Wintle 3-12
v St. Edward's (A)	Drawn
A 124-9	
St.E 145	
v Radley (A)	Drawn
A 105-5	
R 204 2	
v Reading (H)	Won by 98 runs
A 187-7	Green 110*
R 89	Scott 5-29, Snow 3-32
v R.G.S. High Wycombe (H)	Drawn
A 106-5	Freeston 34
R.G.S. 161	Whittaker 3-12
v Bloxham (H)	Won by 97 runs
A 174-8	Freeston 54*, Green 45*
B 77	Scott 7-24, Green 3-8

## THE ALLIGATORS 1984

Two draws, two defeats, splendid weather and good fun — these were the ingredients of another enjoyable Alligators week. The highlight was undoubtedly the extraordinary game against St. Edward's Martyrs, in which the Alligators made 317 for 7 dec. and promptly lost! It was the first time most of us had been on a side that made over 300, let alone in a match when both sides achieved the feat. Julian Shellard's 144 was the central contribution that day. Other good performances came from Dennis Lanham with 5 for 41 against the Gypsies and Simon Hobson with 79 against the S.O.A.s. It was good to see younger players taking their place in the teams alongside those of maturer vintage. As 1985 is the anniversary of Alligators Week we look forward to as many people as possible taking part in the celebrations.

P. N. S.

## RESULTS

Alligators 205 (S. Hobson 79); S.O.A. 159 for 8.  
Alligators 163 for 9 dec.; Berkshire Bantams 164 for 6.  
Alligators 317 for 7 dec. (J. Shellard 144, a. Mcphail 59); St. Edward's Martyrs 319 for 6 (S. Talbot-Williams 116).  
Alligators 180 for 9 dec.; Gloucestershire Gypsies 163 for 9 (D. Lanham 5 for 41).



## MINORS

Two players dominated this very successful season, and earned themselves immediate recognition in this report. Stephen Prince more than fulfilled his early promise, and became the first Under-13 to surpass 500 runs in a season, in spite of his coach's rule of retiring at 50; he averaged 68.12 in 16 innings, and set a record that will stand for many years. Stephen not only had the natural flair and range of shot, he had the necessary character too, scoring runs quickly without taking risks; he was also, incidentally, a shrewd and positive Captain and useful change bowler, as we saw especially in the Morland Cup Final. Paul Thomas took 39 wickets, a remarkable haul for a right-arm leg-spin bowler, and topped the bowling average. Like Stephen, he had an outstanding temperament and kept his head even on the rare occasion when his length strayed and his bowling was punished.

The success of these two encouraged the others to play with confidence, notably the other three to win their colours: Andrew Wintle perhaps lacked real class, but hit the ball with power and natural timing, and made excellent progress as a late choice for wicket-keeper; Robert Jolliffe has real potential as an all-rounder, but often failed to do himself justice through over-enthusiasm; Leigh Hedges may have been disappointed with his batting, but his well-controlled in-swingers put him second in the averages.

All the others were in the team on merit, and played their part, as the statistics show. The XI was never dismissed, and the one mediocre score was that against M.C.S., Oxford; while they had a good team, it is fair to add that they declared very late, and we lost wickets in a noble attempt to beat their total in 15 less overs. The wins against Berkhamsted and High Wycombe were particularly pleasing, as they are always strong opposition.

In Oxford Schools (20-over) League our teams had their usual mixed success, and some good finishes; the Gryphons reached the semi-final before losing to the eventual winners. Because of various forms of educational inaction the XI reached the semi-final of the Morland Cup without playing a match; Richard Tilley's batting played a crucial in the retention of the Trophy.

The other teams were less successful, mainly because there were few good first-year players other than Edward Tilley and Donald Stanley, and some of those who played against Hampshire had played very little serious Cricket; as I have said before, Cricket must be started young to ensure success.

M. W.

1st XI: S. C. Prince (Capt.), E. P. Thomas, A. J. Wintle, R. D. Jolliffe, M. D. L. Hedges; R. C. Stanley, J. S. Crick, R. C. Stickland, J. Karmali, E. J. Tilley, D. E. Stanley, M. J. Henderson.

## RESULTS

Oratory School (H) Won by 83 runs.  
 Abingdon 171 for 9 dec. (Wintle 69+, Jolliffe 33, Karmali 26)  
 Oratory 88 (Prince 4-12, Thomas 4-34)  
 New College School (H) Drawn  
 Abingdon 159 for 4 dec. (Prince 46, Jolliffe 41, E. Tilley 32, Wintle 30)  
 New College School 84 for 8  
 Magdalen College School (H) Drawn  
 M.C.S. 123 for 7 dec.  
 Abingdon 100 for 8 (E. Tilley 36)  
 Prior Park School (H) Drawn  
 Abingdon 164 for 7 dec. (Prince 59, R. Stanley 30, Wintle 20+)  
 Prior Park 121 for 8  
 Berkhamsted School (H) Won by 9 wickets.  
 Berkhamsted 83 (Thomas 6-19, Stickland 3-23)  
 Abingdon 84 for 1 (Prince 41+, Crick 36+)  
 Reading School Won by 48 runs.  
 Abingdon 145 for 8 dec. (Prince 51+, E. Tilley 20, D. Stanley 20)  
 Reading 97 (Thomas 4-37, Hedges 3-4)  
 Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (A) Won by 8 wickets.  
 High Wycombe 96 (Thomas 4-24, R. Stanley 3-18)  
 Abingdon 99 for 2 (Prince 52+)  
 Morland Cup for Oxfordshire Schools (20-overs):  
 Semi-final: Abingdon 102 for 6 (R. Tilley 42, Prince 31)  
 Henry Box, Witney 60 (Thomas 6-29, R. Tilley 3-20)  
 Final: Abingdon 118 for 2 (R. Tilley 46+, Prince 32)  
 Lord Williams's, Thame 103 for 5 (Jolliffe 3-31)

Other Matches:  
 1st XI v Westcliff High School for Boys (H) (20-over match)  
 Won by 17 runs.  
 Abingdon 91 for 3 (Crick 42, R. Stanley 32)  
 Westcliff 74 for 9 (Hedges 3-4)  
 'A' XI v Millbrook House School (H) Drawn.  
 Millbrook House 197 for 8 (Jolliffe 3-54)  
 Abingdon 58 for 9  
 'A' XI v St. Hugh's, Faringdon (A) Won by 7 wickets.  
 St. Hugh's 65 (Stickland 3-1, Kendrick 3-13)  
 Abingdon 67 for 3 (Stickland 28+, D. Stanley 24+)  
 'A' XI v Josca's School (H) Won by 8 wickets.  
 Josca's 40 (Hedges 5-1, Kendrick 3-7)  
 Abingdon 43 for 2 (Prince 29+)  
 2nd XI v Christchurch Cathedral School 1st XI (A) Lost by 3 wickets.  
 Abingdon 39 (Crawford 20)  
 Christchurch Cathedral 40 for 7.  
 Under 12 XI v Bearwood College Under-13 XI (H) Won by 7 wickets.  
 Bearwood 49  
 Abingdon 50 for 3  
 Under 12 XI v Hampshire Primary Schools XI (H) Lost by 92 runs.  
 Hampshire Schools 167 for 5 dec.  
 Abingdon 75 (E. Tilley 24)



*At the beginning of Lent Term an idea reached unforeseeable heights just before the Easter break. With permission from the headmaster and generous enthusiasm from sponsor Mr. Trotman the first edition of the school's most recent newspaper, 'The Liberator' was published on February 13th 1985.*

*On March 25th the two editors, Richard Tollis and myself, travelled up to the House of Commons to interview the M.P. for Oxford West and Abingdon, Mr. John Patten, a former governor of the school.*

*The interview had been proposed by Mr. Patten outside the Peachcroft Shopping Centre of all places and finalised by letters to and from his secretary. Obviously the invitation was taken up with much excitement, enthusiasm and expectation and we entered into the spirit of the occasion taking a taxi to a 'wine incorporated' lunch in the city followed by a long taxi ride to the Commons, where we bypassed hundreds of people queuing outside and strolled through the entrance gate.*

*Having watched Norman Tebbit display his potential as one possible successor to Margaret Thatcher, we left the gallery of the Commons and met Mr. Patten in the central lobby. He took us to the M.P.'s canteen where over a very large pot of tea we asked him some 'probing' questions on his constituency and the country in general. Even though the interview was only for a small school newspaper the friendly M.P. still hedged some of the questions in true political fashion. The questions ranged from topics such as the lack of cohesion between planners and residents, the resiting of Oxford United's football stadium and the condition and atmosphere of the town of Abingdon.*

*What with prior commitments and a hectic schedule Mr. Patten could only spare half an hour, but bearing in mind the busy life of the junior health minister this was most generous. He provided the two of us with a day to remember, for which we are most grateful.*

J. Haynes 6M.

Q: How difficult do you find it combining your constituency and ministerial work?

A: With organisation, no particular problem.

Q: But wouldn't you find it easier if your family home was in Abingdon?

A: I commute up and down between the two places and what I like to do, like most M.P.'s is to get around the constituency each weekend. The combination of the two 'duties' is something I learnt the hard way because when I was M.P. for the old city of Oxford I was taken from the backbenches and asked to go to Northern Ireland where I had to learn to organise my life in three places each week, Oxford, Belfast and London. Now I arrange my life with four days in London where I do my ministerial job and my job at the House of Commons and Fridays and Saturdays in the constituency.

Q: In the copy of 'The Liberator' we sent you there were a couple of articles about violence in Abingdon, especially after dark — what do you think could be done about this sort of violence?

A: Well, there are disturbing reports of violence in both the Charter area and also East and West St. Helens Street. I have a number of meetings with the police and I think it's up to the magistrates to take a very firm line with convictions. I must say that I have never felt frightened walking through the middle of Abingdon though I do sometimes feel nervous walking down the Cornmarket in Oxford after eleven o'clock at night. I think it's got a lot worse in the last six or seven months because of the effect of the miners' strike — instead of looking after people from the Vale of the White Horse the police have been at the pits. Perhaps there hasn't quite been the policing recently there should have been.

Q: Are the troublemakers receiving the wrong type of treatment?

A: I think the bench has got to take into account that there are some young first offenders who have been led astray by some older character and who might well, through 20 hours of community service, and having to report to the police and all the rest of it, actually reform quicker. Whereas the danger is if they were locked up somewhere to be given a short, sharp shock they might well learn all sorts of tricks. On the other hand there are some tearaways who I think deserve some very tough treatment. That's the sort of judgement for the bench really.

Q: What is Mrs. Thatcher's committee doing about football violence?

A: A whole range of things. They're looking into the possibilities of things like the banning of the sale of alcohol in football grounds and the shutting down of pubs — which happens anyway. I think there's a whole range of other things to do with crowd separation.

Q: Again, though, that's not a cure, rather a preventive measure?

A: Well I don't know how you can cure people who want to use sport as a way of venting their feelings. I cannot understand why there is virtually no hooliganism connected with sport in America, a country with a more violent, gun-ridden society where there is a fantastically large number of murders each year. You would have thought that if it was a violent society it would have translated itself into the violent support of teams. It doesn't. It's exactly the same as the drugs problem (one of my particular concerns is heroin and hard drug abuse). It's very easy in this country to say that unemployment is at the root of at least part of the problem, but then look at a country like Sweden or Switzerland, where's there's initially nil youth unemployment and they've actually got a far worse drug problem than we have. In the sixties, when there were the first signs of a drug problem, we were told that with very low unemployment the problem was caused by affluence — so it's very hard to find the actual reason.

Q: Do you think Abingdon is becoming a bit run down?

A: Oh no, I certainly think it's the contrary. I think Abingdon must be one of the most booming towns in the south of England. It's got one of the lowest rates of unemployment and youth unemployment in this country and it's got an enormous number of new developments, new factories and new housing.

Q: If you're a teenager what is there to do in Abingdon?

A: Well there are new centres opening; the one at Peachcroft is opening soon. There's a community centre opening there, too, which will have facilities for young people. But what have young people been doing in Abingdon in recent years — there's never been much of a problem before? There's also new sports developments going on in Caldicott and I, myself, don't see that any young person can say that 'no-one's providing me with anything to do'. To a certain extent they should go out and find things for themselves.

Q: Do you think local planning procedure is too remote from the people concerned and that it fails to take them into account?

A: I don't think it is remote, I think there's an enormous amount of consultation — some people say there is too much consultation that it takes a long time to get anything actually done. You know some people try to criticize the Vale of the White Horse Council, and that's fair enough because, like the government, they're there to be criticized, but the Council have introduced all these new shopping centres and business parks, and all the rest of it. They're also spending several hundred thousand pounds this year, within the Vale, to help people in need. They seem to be very good at doing this sort of thing.



**Q:** *On Peachcroft Estate houses had been lived in for up to ten years before shops of any sort were built. Don't you think that the shops should have been built first?*

**A:** *I think it's totally wrong that the County Council planners could have forced these houses on the Vale of the White Horse without making proper provision, not just for shops, but also for a whole range of other facilities.*

**Q:** *Now Oxford United are in the First Division do you have any thoughts about where their new stadium could be built? (Places in your constituency have been suggested).*

**A:** I think it's very easy to say it musn't go 'there' and rather harder to suggest an alternative — I'd like to do both these things. I don't think there is anywhere in my constituency where it could go, because if it did it would have to go into the 'green belt'. This area which separates the north of my constituency, North Oxford from Kidlington, and the south and west of my constituency, Oxford from Abingdon, is so thin — it is only a mile or less at times — that if you put a football stadium in it then that would be it, and there would be no reason for bothering about the green belt anywhere. The whole area from Kidlington through Oxford to Abingdon would then be one great urban sprawl. I think that there's one very good site, which a lot of local people want, on the Watlington Road at Blackbird Leys and bearing in mind that there's very good access from the A40, I can't understand why they won't put it there.

**Q:** *Isn't Blackbird Leys a bit of a rough area?*

**A:** Well I represented it for four years and it's got a bit of a rough reputation but I think it's unfair; most of the people up there are very law abiding, and also, are Oxford United fans.

**Q:** *Have you anything to say about the cervical smears?*

**A:** Well, the two or three cases in Oxford looked as though it was because the doctor, or others involved, decided, for reasons that I don't understand, not to pass on the information. We can't have any control in the National Health Service over human error, but what a tragic cost.

**Q:** *Isn't it just an example of general inefficiency?*

**A:** I think there is a lot that needs to be put right inside the National Health Service. At the moment we are spending more money than has ever been spent before, taking into account inflation. We are now spending 17½ billion pounds in 1985/86. We are now treating substantially more patients than ever before. We're building a billion pounds worth of new hospitals, that's about the biggest building project in the N.H.S. since 1948, and yet we still have problems like this emerging. A recent survey showed that the N.H.S. had 25% more vehicles than drivers to drive them. Anyone can spend money and anyone can wave banners, but what is actually wanted is delivering the service in the most efficient way possible. I do think it is immoral to waste money in the N.H.S. when that money should be being spent on patients, and that's what we're doing some of the time.

## Tennis

The 1984 tennis season contained many outstanding performances and despite the problem of court space due to the construction of the new Sports Hall, the fine weather all summer allowed the club to operate very successfully.

The 1st VI led the long list of school successes, winning six out of their eight matches. The most notable matches were a narrow defeat to old-rivals Magdalen College School in the first match of the season; an outstanding 7½-1½ victory over Radley, with Antony di Pinto and Tony Haywood playing their best tennis of the year; and a disappointing but predictable loss to the powerful R.G.S. High Wycombe side. Garreth Reayer and Adam Spring had another good year as leading pair, losing only one match throughout the whole season. Antony di Pinto and Tony Haywood were annoyingly inconsistent at times but were devastating when on form. The third pairing was David Polgreen and Robert Minter with Rupert Robson replacing Robert as A-Levels approached.

At junior level the school has many exciting prospects, none more so than Giles Martin and Richard Walker who play with great flair and enthusiasm. If they can only curb their flamboyant temperaments they will provide ample support for Garreth Reayer in the seasons to come. The Colts had an unbeaten season; with draws against Magdalen College School and R.G.S. High Wycombe and 5-4 victories over Berkhamsted and Radley. They always struggled to be consistent and there was no outstanding pair, results being even between Giles Potter and Chris Day, Richard Walker and Giles Martin and Oliver Money-Kyrle and Ben Bilboul. The Junior Colts also showed promise, losing only to Radley in a close match.

The major advance made in school tennis in 1984 was the wide participation in national schools' tennis competitions. In June an U.15 team took part in the Midland Bank Championships and having beaten Fitzharry's and Faringdon to reach the area final they came unstuck against an unremarkable side from Lord Williams and crashed 1-5.

A busy playing schedule began in late July with three teams entering the Barclays Bank championships at U.19, U.16 and U.13 levels. Adam Spring and Tony Haywood played in the Clark Cup and having beaten Worksop 2-0 were unlucky to face R.G.S. High Wycombe. However they were involved in a splendid match with Adam saving match points to win his singles and take the tie into a deciding doubles which they lost after three close sets. In the Milbourn Cup, there was further disappointment with the performance of Garreth Reayer and Richard Walker, of whom much was expected. Having beaten Lancing College they went down to Taunton in the second round. However all this was compensated for by the outstanding success of Giles Martin and Matthew Clark in the Curtis Cup. Determined and gritty tennis saw them through to the final, which was played on a wonderful day at the splendid Queen's Club in London. Having been coached by former British No.1 Roger Taylor, rubbed shoulders with the Duke of Gloucester and had lunch with the delectable Sue Barker they seemed to feel the pressure the occasion and went down 0-2 to Edgarly Hall after two close singles matches. Nevertheless the experience will greatly benefit them in the future.

The scene shifted to Wimbledon on July 23rd. The Youll Cup provided the biggest disappointment with a second round defeat against Eton (during which Antony di Pinto and Tony Haywood were victims of some ridiculous umpiring). This however allowed the team to enter the plate event. After an easy victory over Woodhouse Grove they suffered a setback when Garreth Reayer had to pull out with a recurrence of an

old ankle injury. But David Polgreen proved to be a more than adequate replacement and the team marched into the semi-finals. Their match against the eventual winners R.G.S. Newcastle was a tense and dramatic affair. Antony di Pinto and Tony Haywood came within one game of victory before losing and then David Polgreen and Adam Spring saved three match points before squaring the tie. But the unusual points scoring system gave Newcastle victory even when the next two matches were squared.

The Thomas Bowl team of Giles Martin and Richard Walker fulfilled their exciting potential by reaching the semi-finals with victories over U.C.S., Winchester, Oundle and Radley before losing in three sets to Reigate. It was an enjoyable week for all concerned and thanks must be given to Mr. Hunter for his willingness to transport the team to London every day.

The competition for the Buckley Cup was successfully completed by the last week of term. From the outset it was obvious that the top seed Garreth Reayer would have few problems in retaining his title. He didn't drop a set in his five matches, including a 6-2, 6-4 semi-final victory over Tony Haywood and a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Adam Spring in the final. Adam had reached his third successive final with a 6-1, 6-3 semi-final victory over Antony di Pinto but Garreth's natural ability and stroke-play saw him through.

Thanks to Messrs. Ayling, Hunter and Halstead for their encouragement and patience and to the groundstaff for providing an excellent set of grass courts. The only shadow cast on the season was the disaster of the O.A.'s match when no O.A. team could be found (yet again).

Adam Spring

## RESULTS

### 1st VI

v Magdalen	away	Lost	4 -5
v Shiplake	away	Won	9 -0
v Reading	home	Won	7 -2
v Pangbourne	away	Won	5½-3½
v Bloxham	home	Won	7 -2
v Carmel	home	Won	7 -2
v Radley	home	Won	
			7½- 1½
v High Wycombe	home	Lost	2½-6½

### 2nd VI

v Magdalen	home	Won	5½-3½
v Reading	home	Won	7 -2
v Radley	home	Lost	3 -6

### Colts

v Magdalen	home	Drew	4½-4½
v Bloxham	home	Won	8½- ½
v Berkhamsted	away	Won	5 -4
v Carmel	home	Won	9 -0
v Radley	away	Won	5 -4
v High Wycombe	home	Drew	4½-4½

### Junior Colts

v Shiplake	away	Won	5 -4
v Reading	away	Won	9 -0
v Pangbourne	home	Won	9 -0
v Radley	away	Lost	3½-5½



# Fives

The Fives club has had a magnificent year. After the lamentable inactivity of previous seasons, many of you may perhaps not even know what this excellent game is; suffice it to say that it is a rather superior version of squash, played with well-gloved hands and a larger and harder ball. Fives has now at last begun to realise its full potential: under the inspired leadership of its zealous captain and vice-captain, and with the boundless support given by Mr. Mitra, the Fives team has been travelling the country, rising to successive heights. What perhaps stands out most is the level of commitment and effort the senior members were able to give to this rising sport. Although the players had no coaching until the arrival of the able Mr. Mitra, we acquitted ourselves very well in the Michaelmas term. We drew in a tremendous match against Bradfield, and then went on to hammer Marlborough by 204-58, a game only made possible by the very generous intervention of Mr. Birnberg who took the team there.

Early in the Lent term the team went up to Rugby where we were able narrowly to defeat that school at its own game. At both Bloxham and Bradfield we were affected by the strange courts; this is a constant problem because most other schools have fast and high courts which present something of a problem to us Abingdon players who are used to our own rather holey concrete courts. Although outclassed by Bloxham, we drew once again with Bradfield. Then came the most exciting match for what may be decades. In previous years, the school's once yearly match was against Radley, a game in which we were generally hopelessly defeated. However, this time, we had two match points before losing 79-76 against a strong team; this perhaps best reflects the staunch progress made this year by the club. What is now needed for the Fives club is a continued influx of athletic and committed players; it is sad to think that if this does not happen, the achievements of the last year will be for nothing, as the members of the first IV are all in the VI form.

Yet, underneath the rather more ostentatious efforts of the senior players, the club has been building a solid foundation, supervised by Mr. Willerton. We have managed to persuade some new members to take up Fives in addition to their other sports — a practice followed at all the top Fives schools. Players such as Neil Riches, the captain of the juniors' team, have begun to show real aptitude for the game, and I hope that Peter Starr who played for the team this term will lead it to victory next year. The juniors' competition was won by the rather senior Mark Weatherall while the seniors' knockout was won for the third time by Kingsmill Bond who defeated the excellent but unlucky Tom Allport 15-3, 15-10 in the final.

There has been a very good term spirit in the first IV which led to some extremely enjoyable games. Nick Storer was a reliable and able player who won crucial points in several games. Tom Allport with his amazingly long reach was a tremendous retriever of the ball who never gave up and will be a very good player if he learns to keep the ball out of the centre of the court. Philip Vokins, the vice captain, often played superbly, after masteringly perfectly his left hand and the smash. Kingsmill Bond, the captain of this excellent team, has enjoyed himself enormously, and he would like to thank Mr. Mitra for his enthusiasm and match-winning coaching, the masters and boys of the schools we played for their generous entertainment and above all the team for its unique spirit and determined sense of purpose.

Kingsmill Bond VI P.

# Badminton



Michaelmas 1984 saw the opening of the School's new Badminton Hall (elsewhere referred to as the Sports Hall). By way of celebration we instituted a number of new teams — U.14 and a sort of U.13/12 and a policy of not playing people "up." The result was a rather impoverished U.19 team, but also the chance to play for the school for people who might not otherwise have.

This year the U.16s got through to the second round of the Barclays Bank Competition before meeting most of the Hampshire Squad ... They also lost to M.C.S. but honour was retrieved by the U.13s after some of the most intensive play I've yet seen.

The singles knockout competition culminated in an all Boorman final: David beat Mark.

Other Michaelmas Term results were victories by the U.16s and U.14s over Gosford Hill and John Mason Schools and an unfortunate loss by the U.14s to Larkmead. The U.19s lost to King James's College Henley despite a splendid singles victory by Paul Greenland.

Flu, Snow, and Hockey notwithstanding, Badminton matches were also played in the Lent Term. Henry Box U.19, Segsbury U.16 and Matthew Arnold U.14 were beaten though R.G.S. High Wycombe, Matthew Arnold U.19, Oxford School and Stowe proved too strong for our rather young teams. N.U.T. action prevented Icknield of Watlington from playing our U.16s

Over the weekend of March 2/3 some encouraging results came in in the Oxfordshire junior restricted tournament. Jeremy Boorman won the U.13 boys' doubles and was runner up in the mixed doubles. He also reached the semi-finals of the U.13 boys' singles. David Boorman won the U.15 boys' and mixed doubles, Stephen Prince was runner-up in the boys' doubles and both Stephen and David reached the semi-finals of the boys' singles before being knocked out. These three are now sponsored by Pro Kennex the Badminton Equipment Manufacturers.

There is growing enthusiasm for Badminton in the first form. A 'loss leader' U.12 match with a novice team against M.C.S. was contested with enormous gusto and numerous enquiries followed as to when boys could join 'properly'.

This has been Paul Greenland's last season with us. He has played Badminton since the second form and been a mainstay of the various age group teams as he has risen through the school. He has spent hours patiently encouraging younger players and his placid benignity will be missed by everyone in the club. He has played some splendid games as Captain: even when the whole fixture was lost he often provided a little face saving success.

I. A. M.c.D.



# Athletics

Having to take over the running of Athletics from Nick Pritchard has been a daunting task. For over eleven years Nick has been the chief Guru of the Athletics Club, building it up from year to year, and communicating his enthusiasm for the sport to all. The middle distance runners have benefited particularly from his benign wit and knowledge of Oxford United. Statistics and lists abounded, and small black books kept in the inner pocket of a jacket, held vital statistics of past, present and possible future performances of all involved in the circus. Trips on away matches saw the miracle of team selection from the front seat of the coach, with more permutations than either Littlewoods or Vernons have ever dreamt of. Hurdlers were made





The outstanding athlete in the club was David Lowe, who set new school records for the shot and discus, and competed in the 100 metres, javelin and occasional long jump too. His performance in the All England Schools Championships was quite outstanding. We have never before had someone who has come second in the U.20 age group in a throwing event. Considering the number of potential competitors in the Country, his discus throw of over 44 metres and second place was exceptional.

My thanks to Mr. Pengelley, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Baker for their help and advice, we look forward to the next season and a chance to improve and strengthen all age groups in the club.

D. G. C.



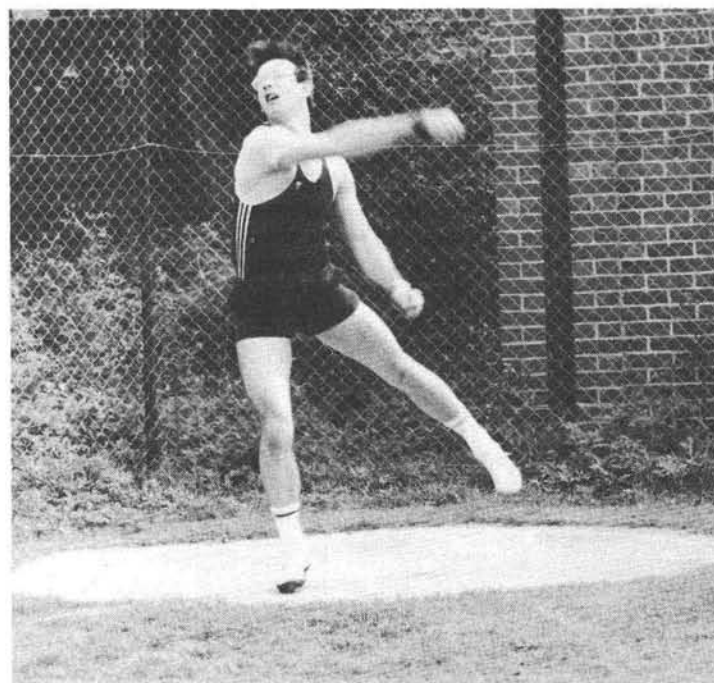
from shot putters, and sprinters from steeplechasers. Nick it was, who with Stewart Cameron organised the 'Adkins' meetings, bringing some excellent schools from far away to real quality meetings. It was also Nick's idea to invite the local State Schools to an 'Abingdon Schools' meeting, and to persuade the Council to donate the prizes. Nick's reign as Master i/c has been vital and innovative, and many Abingdonians will remember with gratitude the time and immense effort he has given so freely to so many individuals.

We fielded three competitive groups for school matches, but only the Under 15 group could be really regarded as a team. The others relied too heavily on two or three outstanding individuals, and did not have enough depth to ensure consistently good results.

The Under 15 team beat Warwick, Bradfield, Marlborough, Berkhamsted, Wellington, Radley, Cheltenham, Dauntsey's Queens Taunton and Bryanston at various times, and only lost narrowly to Eton, Highgate and St. Edwards. This could be a really outstanding team, with individuals like Mark Head, Anthony Payne, Chris Watson, Lawrence Dore, Guy Riches, John Blake, Richard Bakesef, and Anthony Harrison showing themselves to be class athletes with plenty of enthusiasm.

The U.17 team was well supported by Matthew Lodge, Andrew Lowe, Nick Kilhams, Bruce Blackman, Jon Davis, Joe Silk, Stephen Lawrence, Simon Wheeler and Neil Aldridge, but there were those who did not train as hard as they might have, and we lacked the depth of the youngsters.

At the senior level Roger Smith, Jose Phillips, Robin Groth, Nigel Somerville, David Lowe, Nick Silk and Matthew Iredale had to be prepared to take on some very strong opposition, and this they did with great courage. They beat Bloxham, Eton and St. Edwards, and never disgraced themselves. Roger Smith led the way with gritty performances encouraging others to do their best.



## The British Classic Half Marathon

This was held on June 9th at Milton Keynes and was an event with over 1,500 runners. The team consisted of Graham Sowerby (Captain), Clive Parry, Ric Casale, Tony Payne, John Blake and Tim Slater. The race was a tough one with warm weather and some wind. The course went along the roads of Milton Keynes and around the local countryside. There were several sponging stations where the team indulged in refreshing their thirst and then conducting water fights with the remainder. Ric Casale was the expert at this pouring a beaker of water over his unsuspecting captain. The course was an exciting one and just to add to the excitement there was a huge hill 2 miles from the finish. Clive Parry finished first in a fine time of 1 hour 23 minutes closely followed by Ric Casale and the rest of the team. Despite losing his rhythm at about 9 miles the captain still managed a 5½ minute last mile and knocked 3 minutes off his personal best! So the end



came and with it an agonising wait, had we collected any trophies. The ever pessimistic Clive was sure we would not have won. But how wrong he was, up on the results board shot the great announcement we'd won. Amongst scenes of jubilation even Clive admitted he thought we might win from the start! We had defeated such teams as Marks and Spencer, Aston Martin U.K., Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen Sport. We also picked up two individual awards the 2 and 3 U.18 trophies. So we went to the presentation ceremony where yet more surprises lay in store. Two very attractive young ladies from Radox who sponsored the race were giving sports bags out to the winners. Ric and his captain were hoping they might also allow a kiss for the winners but it was not to be. Tim and Ric collected their individual awards first and then it was the team prize. The captain had never collected a trophy before and so enjoyed the presentation of the team cup immensely, the cup was awarded to him by the Mayor of Milton Keynes who commended the team on its fine performance. To round the ceremony off everyone was presented with a small shield. Then it was off to have our pictures taken by the local press and home. The team unfortunately was deprived of its star "master runner" who managed to tear a muscle when trying to train behind the rest of the teams back, better luck next time Mr. P.

I. G. Sowerby VIN.



# Cross-Country

## MICHAELMAS TERM 1985

Shortly after the beginning of term we ran at Haberdashers Aske's School, and beat both their 'A' and 'B' teams. The St. Albans relays also proved a success as Abingdon won the 'B' race. Next came the Millfield Road Relay, where we came 5th out of 27. The 6th Abingdon Road Relay was huge — a colossal piece of organisation doubling last year's entry — no less than 80 teams competed on the day. Simon Weaver deserves a mention for the part he played, and for the fluorescent tape that dangled all over the course. R. Casale, S. Lawrence and C. Parry were the fastest Oxon Individuals.

We won our next 2 home matches against Warwick and Oratory, but our 3rd against Bradfield resulted in a narrow defeat. The Juniors entered their first relay at Dr. Challoner's and came 10th out of 19. The Juniors lost against Larkmead but the Colts won, with Tony Payne winning the race (having a bit of the glory that Mark Head had stolen in previous matches). Abingdon won their next match at R.G.S. High Wycombe; and when up against Coventry, the Colts won for the first time ever, although both Seniors and Juniors were defeated.

The Orange Hill was a 'Classic' Relay, with a few of our runners 'motoring' round the course in very fast times — we finished 9th and 14th out of 21. The last fixture of 1984 was the Oxon AAA Championships where the U.13 team won, the U.15 teams came 2nd and 3rd, and the U.17 team won — what a way to finish the term! The Club Champions were Riccardo Casale, Mark Head and Craig Bramley, Riccardo Casale and Steve Lawrence were awarded full colours.

## LENT TERM 1985

A crowded fixture list of relays and away matches made the term a very busy one. The first years challenged Larkmead and although they lost, M. Mowat of Abingdon won the race. 12 runners competed in the Intercounties held at Leicester and Shrewsbury, having been selected at the Oxon. 3A's. The Vale of the White Horse Championships followed, with the Colts winning their race and the Seniors coming second. 11 people were selected to represent the Vale in the Inter-Area (which was still held in atrocious snow conditions at South Park, Oxford). Next we competed in 4 relays at St. Alban's (finishing 10th), King Henry VIII, Coventry (25th), Haberdashers Aske's (6th) and the Tortoises Relay (9th).

At last we had a home match, against Wellington, which both Seniors and Colts won comfortably. Then another couple of relays ... The first was at Leighton Park, which is always a favourite. In the Colts race, Tim Slater and Mark Head proved too much for the rest of the field and the team won, whilst the Seniors 'A' had to be content with 2nd. At R.G.S. Worcester Relays, the Colts team won again and the Seniors came 4th.

The Inter-Form Road Relay was the biggest ever with 56 teams competing. G.G.B's lower sixth form team won and Clive Parry ran the fastest lap. Tim Slater, Tony Payne and Dominic Parker ran in the All England at Norwich. Full colours were awarded to Dominic Parker and Simon Weaver; the Club Championships trophies went to Dominic Parker, Mark Head and Gordon Mowat.

R. Casale 6 M.





# Orienteering

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Despite the usually appalling weather, and the extremely unsociable times at which the minibus leaves, School orienteers have been active as usual during the Autumn and Spring terms with some success. As well as competing in both colour-coded and badge events, boys have often stayed after the running has finished to help with the results, or to pick up litter.

Last November two teams of orienteers attempted to retain the title at the C.C.F. orienteering championships at Long Valley near Aldershot, a place renowned for its man-eating quicksands churned up by tanks. Fortunately it was dry and no one got seriously stuck, but unfortunately we lost, despite some good times, and the trophy went to another School. This was despite some incredible arithmetic by the Army, who were running the event, and who managed to remove 100 minutes from the time of one of our slowest runners, Nick Kilhams, bringing him into the top few in the event and making his time the fastest from the school!

New talent has, as always, been appearing in the Middle School; the most notable being Charles Megaw, who put Mr. Baker and Neil Challenger to shame in one event where he entered the course for a higher age group than his own.

Participation from the lower end of the school has been a little variable, which is a pity, as orienteering has so much to offer. It is an unusual sport in many respects: as much thought and concentration as physical effort is required, and anyone can take part. Orienteering is as competitive as you want it to be, with the whole families walking round a course at one end of the spectrum, and international competition at the other end.

Finally, we must mention Mr. Baker, who has always been ready to transport us to events, despite the usual lower school attempts at riots en route.

Neil Challenger VI A. and Kevin Allen VI H.



## 5-a-side Soccer

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In the first term that the Sports Hall was open there was a vast response to the opportunity of playing five-a-side soccer. The time offered was 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. Dozens of boys from all year-groups were interested. A league was suggested but we opted for an all-in tournament each week where four teams entered and each played each, making six matches in all ensuring a clear winner on points or goal difference if necessary. Different teams competed each week and each team could expect on average to play once every three weeks, though a lot depended on handing in the next week's entry between 8:30 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. on the Saturday morning!

Due to other sports causing pressure on availability we were offered 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Fridays in the Lent Term and so with buses leaving at 5 fewer boys were able to play. Now certain teams played regularly and a pattern emerged with various personalities gaining reputations: Nick Suckling with his forceful running, Graham Nicholson with his close controlled dribbling, Jason Haynes playing with bare feet after his shoes were banned for marking the floor, Duncan Buck for scoring goals against older players and Graham Sowerby for his spectacular goalkeeping. Often a report on the tournament was written up in Lower Corridor and this created much interest. We all look forward to a new season after the summer break.

N. A. F. P.



The highly successful run of the Golf team finally came to an end on April 30 on the last green at Huntercombe in the final match of the 1985 Qualifying semi-final of the Hill-Samuel Foursomes Competition. Bradfield won an exciting match 2-1.

The 1984-5 team of six (Chris Herd, Simon Tonks, Paul Rainsden, Rupert Robron, Martin Day and Jo Silk) had last summer repeated the achievement of the 1983 team by winning their Regional Competition and playing in the National Finals against several other schools.

The final was played on the famous Royal Clinque Ports Championship course at Deal, home of the Halford Hewitt, and was eventually won by Tonbridge School.

In October, Chris Herd (who had won a number of local Frilford Heath open competitions recently and now plays off 4 handicap), Paul Rainsden and Simon Tonks represented the school in the A.E.R. Lingus stroke play event at Stoke Poges. Since Martin Day left at Christmas, Peter Lynn, a talented young golfer, who has recently joined the school in the 4th form, has played in the team. He and Paul Rainsden won their match 3 and 1 against Bradfield.



Introductory golf lessons, given by the professional at Frilford Heath, continue to be popular, and we hope the recent successes of the golfers, will encourage the new team which must now be found.

N. H. P.



## Rifle Club

The Rifle Club has around 30 members taken from the 3rd year upwards. It has established itself as a minor school sport with a reasonable amount of success.

This year saw the Junior team (Under 15) come to the fore by winning their division in the "British Schools Smallbore Rifle Association" league.

The team was:-

	average (ex. 100)
C. Wade	95.4
B. Dyer	94.6
M. Tomlyn	85.4
J. Hall	83.4

(Shot on School and Cadet 5 Bull Targets)

The Senior team (Under 18) fared less well after the B.S.S.R.A. administration lost the team's paper work and eventually, after a few frantic phone calls, was put in Division 3 somewhat above the teams average.

They did, however, come a creditable 4th place with top scorer S. Hudson achieving the top average in that Division.

The team was:-

	average (ex. 100)
S. Hudson	97.6
M. Lay	92.4
S. Stanford	91.4
K. Allen	89.0
C. Parry	89.0

(Shot on Senior 10 Bull Targets)

The equipment buying continued with the Club purchasing a B.S.A. Mk. 3 from its own funds, and with a substantial and gratefully received grant from T.A.S.S., an Auschütz 1807. Both of them are for team use only. The latter would not be out of place at a Senior International event.

Individual achievements this season were notable with Allen, Hudson, Lay and Stanford getting through to the second of the B.S.S.R.A. individual championships, more than in any previous year.

Hudson and Lay were the only ones to qualify for the final, where Hudson, last year's winner and 1983's runner-up, was soundly beaten with 294 ex. 300: 4 points behind one of his National Junior squad colleagues.

For the Home countries International Hudson was again selected for the England team who beat Scotland by 1 point out of 2000!

Michael Lay has started the outdoors season well by winning the County open Junior Champs., which has been held for the past 2 years by Hudson, so the club is really dominating the county Junior scene. Wade showed great promise with a fine shoot to take 3rd place in the West Kent competition Junior section; he received a silver medal and a 'B' Class badge.

Although 3 positions shooting isn't done at school Hudson has continued to do well at the Hanwell rifle club coming 2nd in the B.S.S.R.A. 3p champs and recently falling 1 point short of the British Under-21 record in trials for an International match.

He also won the British 3p Junior indoor championships for the 3rd time in succession.

With Michael Lay being the only non-leaver of the Seniors the team next year will be almost entirely new, and I wish them a very successful season.

S. Hudson VI F.

R. G. M. writes:

*The club has participated as usual in the B.S.S. R.A. Leagues with some success. The Senior team held its own in the company of some of the top shooting schools, and the Junior team won its league in the Spring competition. The Captain, Simon Hudson, has represented the successful England Schools' team for the third year running. He is also in the National Junior Team and will be shooting for Great Britain in various competitions at home and abroad.*

*We are particularly grateful to T.A.S.S. for*

*enabling us to purchase an excellent Anschinty rifle which has helped our Juniors to improve their scores quite considerably. Although we can supply most of the equipment needed, it would be nice if our keen shooters could get shooting jackets: perhaps some parents would view sympathetically every such requests from their sons!*

*Finally our thanks to those parents who help and support us, and to members of R.B.L. Abingdon and A.E.R.E. Harwell clubs.*



## Film Society

The Society has had another successful season, showing a variety of films to suit popular taste. The films were of varying standard although they erred towards being commercial.

"Clash of the Titans" was the première for the Michaelmas term and was fairly well received amongst younger members but not as well recieved as "Pink Floyd — The Wall," which played to a near packed auditorium. Incidentally a special sound system was set up to 'enhance' the powerful tone of the film's music. People had fun afterwards arguing as to what the film itself was about — no doubt we all have our own views.

"Time Bandits" drew more crowds to see a collection of dwarfs stumbling about the universe, meeting famous stars on the way. What hokum! "Outland" proved to be one of the term's better movies — highly unoriginal — a good old fashioned (corny) western (High Noon) except that it was elaborately staged in space.

Other films were "Being There," "East of Eden" — yes the original, and the wonderfully bizarre "Marathon Man," with the notable absence of "Easy Rider" which failed to arrive.

Lent term faired well, with even more commercial films, not including "Whose Life is it Anyway?" — a disturbing look at Euthanasia, sensitively acted.

Horror-shockers seemed to be the term's theme with the infamous "Scanners," "Poltergeist," and "Cat People" — films which with no real content still manage to be popular and even mildly entertaining! Perhaps audiences like seeing the likes of Naslassja Kinski turn into a panther or whatever.

"Easy Rider" arrived at last to a non-appreciative audience even though admission was free. "Heaven Can Wait" and "Capricorn One" were both above average films. "Who Dares Wins" was highly anti-climatic and not even as tantalising as an average episode of "The Professionals".



All in all it has been a successful and prosperous year, with much effort from K. Van der Post, R. Cheek, M. Lodge and J. Alison in being projectionists and designers of many 'entertaining' posters. We should all like to thank Mr. Birnberg for his invaluable assistance in running the society. Finally, thank you for supporting our shows and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Neal Gingell (L6)



## ***Wargaming Society***

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It has been an eventful year for the Wargaming Club between 1984-5. Mark Weatherall, the Club President, after steering us through the 1984 session resigned his position due to other pressures at Christmas. The Club President now is R. Wilson with Mr. Willerton still sponsoring the Club. This year saw the Club spend its remaining wealth (raised by a subscription on 1984) on a number of quite expensive board games that would have been hard for a single person to afford. The Club games now include such titles as 'Frederick the Great', 'Freedom in the Galaxy' and 'Fellowship of the Ring' as well as a number of smaller games for the Lower School Wargaming Club.

The Club's membership continues to expand with more senior members of the school now joining in. In fact its popularity has meant that the Club goes on during lunch times and after school as well as on Wednesday afternoons.

There has been a change in the current trends of the Club. This year has seen the decline of the infamous 'Dungeons and Dragons' in popularity amongst the Middle and Upper Schools, although it remains popular in the Lower School. Generally there has been a demand for more complex and different games such as 'Middle Earth Role Playing Game' and 'Call of Ithulhu'. The majority of board games continue to be historical, including such popular titles as 'Frederick the Great' and 'Caesar's Legions'. Recently there has been a great surge of popularity in a Wargame played through the post, called 'Crassimou's World'. Currently there are several different groups of people playing this game and only its high cost is preventing others from joining in. Finally the Board game 'Apocalypse' has become a very popular game, partly because of its simple rules and also because the game allows a lot of scope in developing the game. At the present time there are few figure wargamers in the Club, but hopefully more can be encouraged to enter this aspect of Wargaming next year.

R. Wilson 6 M.



## ***Railway Society***

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After an initial meeting in September the Railway Society has been shunted up a siding until quite recently. However the onset of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of God's Wonderful Railway started the adrenalin flowing again; the month of June has been busy.

On Sunday 2nd June we visited the Great Western Society's headquarters at Didcot and enjoyed one of their best displays with eight locomotives in steam including L.N.E.R.'s "Blue Peter." Three days later a small party (restricted to eight by British Rail safety requirements) visited Oxford Signal Box and had an enthralling insight into the realities of playing trains. The senior man in the box, retiring from his post that very day, explained the intricacies of track circuits, multiple aspect colour signals, route setting etc. One member of the party was much reminded of his mis-spent youth when he was often to be found in the local station box!

At the time of writing we look forward to another successful visit to the Severn Valley Railway taking advantage of there being no morning school on Saturday 22nd June. This will be the first time that we have seen the recent extension of the line to link up with British Rail at Kidderminster. And there is talk of the possibility of another outing, mainly for Lower School, before the end of term...

I. K. B.



## "Er, excuse me, Sir."

It was raining heavily as the black van pulled up. The words "SKAGGS INDUSTRIES" were printed prominently on the side with gold paint. The droplets that hit the muddy wheel hubs left clear trails as they went. A bulky case was tied to the rusting suitcase rack on the roof, which was now without doubt ruined due to prolonged exposure to the elements. Violently a side door swung open and a middle-aged man quickly stepped out. He wore an old pair of suit trousers, which became muddy as he splashed amongst the puddles, several large shirts and a woollen cardigan which he clung to his body. Reaching up he feverishly undid the ropes and, with difficulty, took down the case. Quickly he dragged the case up the station steps, pushing his way through the crowd inside. At platform three gate he showed his season ticket and charged after the leaving train. But it had already picked up too much speed and he was carrying a very heavy case. Cursing, Skaggs watched the last carriage leave the station.

Two young adults in brown suits, both with umbrellas, approached Skaggs.

"Er, excuse me sir," started the first.

"We'd like to make a little business proposition," continued the second.

"I'm sure you'd be interested," added the first.

"It's this watch you see," said the second displaying a solid gold clock face and its leather strap, "it works perfectly normally, unless you turn this screw backward," he said indicating the adjusting screw.

The first man took the watch and carefully rotated the screw backwards.

"Because if you do, time also goes backwards." The second man's final words were somehow blurred. Skaggs quickly put his hands over his ears — the resulting sound of running water was too much. All sight exploded into a whirlpool of spectral colours. Air vibrated to a point where Skaggs thought his eardrums would burst. Then silence and a falling feeling. Now the three men had arrived back on the station ten minutes ago.

"You see our point," snapped the first.

"You can catch your train now with nine minutes to spare," stated the second pointing to the motionless Inter-City.

Skaggs stood spellbound.

"Oh!" he finally managed to mutter. "That's very interesting, very interesting."

"And to you, a snip at the price of five pounds!" said the first man.

"I, I, I'll take it," replied Skaggs.

"Good! Sign here," ordered the second man. Skaggs reached into his pocket and took out a felt tip.

"No, no, no. Here use this. I do think ink is so much better," commanded the first producing quill pen. Accidently he jabbed the nib into Skaggs' wrist.

"Aaahh," shouted Skaggs, clutching his wound.

"Never mind, sign up now," continued the first forcing the pen into his hand. Skaggs signed the paper.

"Could I have a copy of the contract?" inquired Skaggs.

"Oh, yes," replied the first handing him a rolled-up scroll bound with string. "We'll be back in a year to collect the watch."

Then, as quickly as they came, the two men left.

As the second man went round a corner he added, "It can only be used three times and two."

Skaggs shouted and leaped about with joy. For several minutes he reeled with the most ear splitting laughter, receiving several odd stares from the public, before he pulled himself back together and briskly left the station. He left the case where it was. He was unable to find any company willing to buy novelty hand-grenades anyway.

The following day the main news issue was some worthless shares of an oil company about to become bankrupt becoming priceless as they struck shallow oil deposits in northern Oxfordshire. It was simple. Skaggs went back in time purchased all the shares, and became a millionaire the following day. Skaggs had more money than he could imagine. He used his watch a further three times in the next fortnight and began to live out his life in style. Skaggs had always dreamed of owning a luxury caravan and being able to cruise the country, spend the night where he wanted, amongst Nature's endless beauty. Now, he had the money.

He ordered an enormous caravan. Externally it was bright yellow with red fittings. Inside it was fit for a king. The large bed at one end was an extravagant four poster; it had an oaken table and a superbly fitted kitchen. The latest labour saving devices were all included. To finish it up it was wooden pannelled, had silk curtains, and a hidden safe to store his fortune. This was towed by a powerful Range Rover.

After a year of luxury he was pondering over his computer's move in chess when he remembered the first man's words.

"We'll be back in a year to collect the watch."

Skaggs frantically searched for the contract. He had never actually bothered to read all of it. He had put it in the safe and the steel door was open. He kept most of his money in gold and jewellery but on the bottom shelf he had three, slim, executive cases full of cash, in ten and twenty pound notes. He opened the first case, throwing all the money to one side, he even looked in the inside pockets but he found nothing. Throwing that aside he searched the second case but that was to no avail. It was only in the third case, underneath two layers of ten pound notes that he found it — curled up and fastened by string. Frantically he skipped down to three smaller paragraphs, literally in small print. Section thirty-one B read,

"I also hereby give my watch, heart, body and soul one year hereof to those who made this contract with me."

That was enough for Skaggs, the word 'soul' echoed through his mind. He ran out to the Rover only to find he had left the ignition keys in the caravan. Skaggs knew he had to escape but then out of the corner of his eye he saw two men approaching in dark suits. The men to whom he owed his soul. He crouched down hoping the men would not see him. They did not, luckily. They went to the caravan.

"Mr. Skaggs, Mr. Skaggs. It's us, We've come to collect your watch," said the first man knocking on the caravan door. The first man pushed open the door and walked in. The open cases of scattered cash have their contents blown here and there by the breeze.

"It seems our bird has flown," said the first man to the second. But the second man saw Skaggs slowly leave the Range Rover and prepare to run towards the woods. In an instant the two young men were upon Skaggs.

"The watch, if you please," smirked the first man.

"And your soul," added the second as they both underwent a terrifying transformation. Their ears became pointed, their teeth protruding, their eyes slanted, fingers longer, fingernails claws, skin pitted with the sin of many millenia.

"I am Lucifer, and this is my arch-devil," hissed the first man.

"Your soul is our main interest," stated the second.

"You haven't beaten me yet," shouted

Skaggs. "You're not so clever as you think you are. I've still got one more time. I can use this watch and I'm going to get back before this whole thing even started." Swiftly Skaggs turned the screw backwards.

It was raining heavily as the black van pulled up. The words "SKAGGS INDUSTRIES" were printed prominently on the side with gold paint. The droplets that hit the muddy wheel hubs left clear trails as they went. A bulky case was tied to the rusting suitcase rack on the roof, which was now without doubt ruined due to prolonged exposure to the elements. Violently a side door swung open and a middle-aged man quickly stepped out. He wore an old pair of suit trousers, which became muddy as he splashed amongst the puddles, several large shirts and a woollen cardigan which he clung to his body. Reaching up he feverishly undid the ropes and, with difficulty, took down the case. Quickly he dragged the case up the station steps, pushing his way through the crowd inside. At platform three gate he showed his season ticket and charged after the leaving train. But it had already picked up too much speed and he was carrying a very heavy case. Cursing, Skaggs watched the last carriage leave the station.

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G. S. Sandford 3 LCJG.



This period photograph of the Main School, taken from just above the Lodge, has recently come to hand. It may be that a reader can pinpoint the date with some accuracy. If so, we should be very happy to hear from them. — Ed.



# O.A. NOTES

## DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths:

**C. Taylor** (1909-16) died in Abingdon on 9th December 1984. His three **Homewood** grandsons have recently left the School.

**A. M. Thatcher** (1919-28) who lived at Worksop, Notts., died on 5th January of this year.

**A. B. Blackmore** (1922-28) died last year in Exeter. A posthumous collection of his poems, mostly in praise of his native Devon — 'The Bells of Kentisbeare', has been published by Rotapress, Combe Martin.

A memorial service was held on 30th March in the School chapel for **Mervyn Gray** (staff 1931-73). The address was given by **Sir James Cobban**. Mervyn's obituary is elsewhere in this magazine. His son, **Dr. Peter Gray** (1958) read the lesson. His widow, Irene, lives at 15, Abbott Road, Abingdon.

**R. H. Marshall**, who was a pupil at the School in the late thirties, died in Dubai, Trucial Oman, in January 1982. His son David wrote recently from 5, Warren Rise, Woddingdean, Brighton.

News has recently come through of the deaths of **E. H. Thomas** (1911) from Sandhurst, Kent, and of **A. J. Wise** (1970) whose family home is in Stroud, Gloucestershire.

**D. G. Light** (1975) after coming down prematurely from St. Johns' Oxford to join the Rhodesian armed forces, later transferred to the South African army. He was killed in action in Namibia on 13th February 1985.

**T. S. Saunders** (1983) died as a result of a fall at Exeter University, where he was reading Chemistry. Tom will be remembered particularly for his gymnastics displays at the School, and his genial sociability will be sadly missed.

## NOTES

Three O.A.'s. at last year's O.A. day, all of whom left around 1930, were **A. B. Blackmore** (1928) from Exeter, having retired from farming in Columpton, Devon; **M. Ogle** (1929) has retired to Radcott, Faringdon, after a career in the Colonial Education Service; **W. R. A. Kettle** (1930) is a retired Army major living in Exbourne, Devon.

**R. C. S. Clarke** (1932) at the age of seventy, is returning to Lagos to work with Guines Coast Engineering Ltd.

**Colin Leighs** has just retired after 33 years with the Kenya firm of Price Waterhouse. His contact will be maintained with Kenya through his son and daughter-in-law who teach at a Nairobi school. Colin and his wife are retiring to Eastleach Turville, Cirencester.

**Brigadier R. A. Clay, C.B.E.** (1948) left the Army in January 1985

**Maj. H. B. Stevens** (1951) is currently with the Services Booking Centre in London. His brother **W. N. R. Stevens** (1956) is an industrial research consultant based in Nottingham.

**Col. Hugh Leach O.B.E.** (1952), after 26 years service between the Nile and the Euphrates followed by two years in the F.C.O. London, has been given a sabbatical year and is studying 'Islam and Islamic revivalism'. He celebrated his fiftieth birthday with a month's walk across the Western Himalayas.

**M. K. C. Grigsby** (1955) was profiled at length in the 'Listener' of 8th November 1984 for his work as a documentary filmmaker.

**Dr. B. L. Smith** (1957) gave a paper last year in Manila in the Philippines at the 8th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists. He followed a post-congress meeting in Sydney with a visit to Melbourne where he met **Paul Older** (1956) who is consultant in charge of the Intensive Care Unit at the Western General Hospital, Melbourne. Paul with his wife and daughter are fine and the last O.A. they had seen that way was **Ron Coleman** and his wife on a world tour.

**I. L. McLoughlin** (1956), a Principal Engineer with the Cumbria C.C., was ordained priest, to the non-stipendiary ministry, in Carlisle Cathedral on July 1st 1984.

**Dr. H. C. Bowen** (1957) is Research Manager in information technology for Plessey. He lives in Redlynch, Salisbury.

Both **J. B. Robins** (1957) and **J. C. Spinks** (1957) are working for Woolworths in Cape Town.

**W. C. Broad** (1957) is a manager for Austin-Rover, living in Solihull.

**G. Dimond** (1958) lives in Abingdon and is a site agent for Costain Homes

**B. P. Gardner** (1958) is Head of Administration at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

**B. G. Phillips** (1958) is managing director of a firm manufacturing air-conditioning plant. He lives at 19 Orchard Grove, Orpington, Kent.

Congratulations to **Dr. M. S. Bretscher** (1958) on his election to F.R.S. he is a member of the scientific staff of the M.R.C. Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge.

**Graham Crow** (1959) wrote from Llangattock-Vibon-Avel, Monmouth. He took a M.B.A. at the Manchester Business School between 1979 and 81. He has a special interest in the use of computers in personnel and is on an assignment with the Water Research Centre. His brother **Charles** (1957) is at 19 Paul Street, Balmain East, New South Wales 2041, Australia.

**T. Davies** (1959) is the Registrar at the West London Polytechnic

**Peter Evans** (ca. 1960) is setting up an exhibition company with premises in London, Manchester and Bristol. He followed his time in the Civil Service with a spell as a mature student in Cambridge and marketing in London. He lives at Bourton in Dorset.

Congratulations to **Lt. Col. Christopher Pickup** (1960), Army Air Corps, on being awarded the O.B.E. for gallantry in Northern Ireland.

**Dr. K. N. Haarhoff** (1960) is now a Director of the firm of merchant bankers, Singer and Friedlander.

**Rev. R. T. Moll** (1960) now teaches at Bishop Reindorp C.E. School, Guildford

**Rev. R. M. Johns** (1960) is Minister of Fort Garry United Church in South Winnipeg.

**I. W. Moss** (1961) runs a garage, a golf driving range and a miniature golf course at Maldon in Essex.

**G. A. Hall** (1962) has been appointed Head of the French Department at Yarlet Hall, Stafford.

**D. C. S. Venn** (1962) has an architectural practice at Hillingdon, Middx. He and his wife Jane live in Wooburn Common and have three sons and two daughters.

**R. H. M. Burridge** (1963), having practised as a barrister in London, is now a lecturer in Law at Warwick University.

**M. A. Faires** (1963) works with a double-glazing firm based in Cardiff. His address is 3 Deepdale Close, Cyn Coed, Cardiff.

**M. S. Livingstone** (1964) having retired from the Royal Navy, is running his own Design firm at Totnes, Devon.

**Ian Newbold** (1964) is now second senior in a partnership of seven solicitors practising in Taunton; he is married and has a family.

**Dr. T. J. King** (1964) who teaches Biology at Magdalen College School, Oxford, has been elected to a schoolmaster visiting fellowship for the Lent term 1985 at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

**Maj. D. G. Clublely** (1965) returned to the U.K. in April to command a Battalion at Colchester.

**Michael Nurton** (1961), who has scored more than 10,000 runs in Minor Counties cricket, is thought to hold the record for the most runs scored in this competition. He is a physical education teacher at Canterbury.

**T. B. Moore** (1965) is an Architect for the Cotswold District Council.

**R. R. Risher III** (1965) works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

**David Clare** (1966) wrote from San Diego, California where he has been living for the past five years with his wife and two sons. The British Olympic Rowing team had their training camp there last year; David captains the local rowing club. He works in computer software. **David Tanner** (1966) recently spent some six weeks with the Clare family in San Diego.

**K. A. Mein** (1966) is head of the internal audit with United Dominions Trust, based in North London. He lives in Rowstock.

**Julian Kenny** (1967) lives in Vancouver with his wife and two young sons, Robert and Jason. He, with five others, has established a flourishing Law practice in Vancouver. He visited Abingdon this Easter, saw the School Eights at practice and, perhaps on the strength partly of the rowing nostalgia, dined out with the Potter family.

**A. W. Hills** (1967), who is the Chief Secretary, and **P. J. A. Fysh**, (1956) the Personnel Manager, gave Sir James Cobban lunch last July at the Atomic Energy Establishment at Winfrith. A. W. Hills lives with his wife and three sons in the Dorset Dorchester.

**C.M.B. Wharton** (1967) is Senior Manager at Westland Helicopters.

**Peter Blackburn** (1967) has spent his third Xmas in Abidjan on the Ivory Coast, where he and his wife work as journalists. They have two daughters, Vanessa aged 4 and Audrey aged 2. They recently paid a visit to Zaire. It was good to see two of Peter's articles in the Financial Times's February Supplement on Nigeria.

**David Faires** (1967) wrote from Watford where he is in Trading Standards. He recently came across two O.A. solicitors in an over-loaded lorry case! His wife, Elaine, was expecting their second child.

**J. J. A. King** is co-author of two imaginative history study booklets on the World Wars.

**David Murphy** (1968) has moved from the post of Director of Music at Lord William's, Thame to Director of the Music Course at Pimlico School, London.

**M. F. K. Scott-Baumann** (1968) has published a text-book 'Conflict in the Middle East', part of a series called LINKS: Twentieth Century World History Books. He lives in Stanmore, Middx.

**R. K. Blackburn** (1969) is working for the Commonwealth Development Corporation as Financial Controller of Malawi's Tobacco Authority.

**Charles Utley** (1969), who is a London barrister, was much impressed by 'the magnificent performance of the Abingdon oarsmen' in the Mortlake Spring Regatta last year.

**Dr. A. D. Berlyn** (1969) obtained a Ph.D. in Veterinary Entomology at Glasgow University. He married Pat Wardle in 1976 and they have two daughters, Ruth and Joanna. He was a Countryside Officer in Leicestershire and is now a Project Officer with the East Fellside and Alston Moor Project, Penrith, Cumbria.

**David Marshall** (1970) wrote from Woddingdean, Brighton. He married in 1975, obtained a B.Ed. degree from the Brighton College of Education, specialising in social psychology, in 1977 and is currently a motorcycle patrolman.

**Dr. N. J. Beeching** (1970) is Senior Registrar in Infectious Diseases in Auckland, New Zealand. His son Adrian was born in January 1983.

**Dr. K. P. Brown** (1970) is a G.P. practising in Bideford, Devon.

**Clive Chafer** (1971) wrote from Oakland, California. He changed from a disappointing one year Business Administration course to an acting course from which he graduated with the top student award. He has just enjoyed a 'most successful year, performing in 8 shows in the San Francisco area'.

**James Dunkerley** (1971) is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London. His second book 'Rebellion in the Veins: Political Struggle in Bolivia, 1952-82' was published by Virgo Books last June.

Congratulations to **David Howat** (1971) on his marriage last July to Miss Jean Buchanan-Smith. For the past three years David has been managing a 25,000 acre forest in the high veld of Southern Swaziland on loan from the Forestry Commission to the Shiselweni Forestry company.

**I. F. Gardner** (1971) is a customs officer at Heathrow.

Congratulations to the **Hon. F. A. Maude** (1971) on his marriage on 4th October 1984, at the Crypt Chapel of the Palace of Westminster, to Christina Jane Hatfield.

**Christopher Stockwell** (1972) has been based in New York for the last three years. He is Vice-President of a U.S. subsidiary of the S & W Berisford Group engaged in oil and gas exploration and development. He can be contacted through Berisford P.L.C., 50 Mark Lane, London.

Congratulations to **C. A. Nasmyth** (1972) on his marriage in October 1983 to Mary Kerr, née Forshaw. He has three step-children and is an Art teacher at Tulketh High School, Preston.

Congratulations to **Rory Wardroper** (1972) on his marriage to Miss Catherine Bolitho, eldest daughter of the late Sir Edward Bolitho and of Lady Bolitho of Tresidder, Cornwall, last December.

**M. E. Burton** (1972) lives in Winchester and, after training as a teacher, now runs his own unusual form of semi-instructional entertainment — Zippo the Clown and Company.

**Thompson news:** **Michael** (1973) is teaching Modern Languages at Wellingborough School, Northants; **Paul** (1974) is married with one child. He has been with Unilever since his Greats degree at Balliol, Oxford, and has accountancy qualifications; **Simon** has qualified as a doctor and is in G.P. training in Salisbury.

**A. J. Madin** (1973) wrote from Hong Kong where his wife and three children, Steven (7) and twins Angela and Christine (4) are enjoying the weather. He is Detective Senior Inspector working as officer in charge of a Serious Crime squad; the work is interesting and the hours long.

Congratulations to **C. P. Hey** (1973) on his marriage on 21st, April, 1984 to Christine Oakley.

Congratulations to **R. D. Tauwhare** (1974) who is at the High Commission in Nairobi, on being awarded the M.V.O. by the Queen after the State Visit to Kenya in November 1983.

**Lt. Pieter Cox** (1974) graduated in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Newcastle. He served in H.M.S. Revenge as the Tactical Weapons Engineering Officer, worked in the Submarine Attack Teacher in Faslane and is now probably shore-based in West Scotland.

**Andrew Gotch** (1975) is married. After a Classics degree at London he is now working on Palaeography at Lincoln College, Oxford.

**Dr. Nicholas Tresidder** (1975) has qualified in Medicine from the London hospital and wrote of his plans to spend much of this last year with two friends in a 32 foot yacht bound for the Caribbean and back before going into General Practice. His elder brother **Hereward** (1971) is a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse and has recently spent two years in Khartoum.

**Michael Howat** (1975) coaches cricket at Kingston Grammar where he has recently been appointed Head of the History Department. Michael is captain of the Quidnuncs and of the local village team. His father has published another cricket biography — a life of Walter Hammond.

**Dr. Colan Robinson** (1976) is an anaesthetist in Weston-Super-Mare having spent 6 years in Manchester where he got his medical degree and did his House jobs. He quite frequently sees and skis with **Christopher Bartlett** (1976). Colan has asked O.A.'s. to contact him through his home base of Greenacres, Shirenewton, Gwent. NP6 6BJ.

Congratulations to **John Sackett** (1976) on being awarded a Ph.D. for his work on Electron Beam Lithography at the Engineering Department of Cambridge University. He is now a design engineer for Texas Instruments in Bedford.

**Lt. Alistair Halliday** (1977) was serving with H.M.S. Gavington in Cyprus when it was called in as part of an international fleet to clear mines which have crippled oil tankers sailing in the Suez Canal Gulf. He has been in the Royal Navy for six years and is a navigation officer.

**R. J. Short** (1977) is a V.A.T. officer in Wolverhampton while his brother C. Short farms in New South Wales.

**Gerald Lowes** (1977) is a member of the O.A. Committee and is with Phillips & Drew who are stockbrokers specialising in the Traded Options market.

**Kevin Stanton-King** (1978) attended the O.A. day last year with his fiancée, Wendy Rawson. Both had recently qualified as doctors at Leicester University. Kevin was House Officer at Leicester General Hospital.

**Martin Dennis** (1978), who has enormously enjoyed his time at Nottingham University both in the field of medicine and in the Cricket and Rugby teams, is to be very warmly congratulated on his latest success: it is very unusual for a young doctor to pass the first part of his F.R.C.S. examinations without several attempts but Martin has managed to do just this.

**Richard Feltham** (1978) graduated from Exeter University in Law and is on his way to full accountancy qualifications with Toule Ross and Co. in Leeds.

**Peter Moore** (1978) is an Assistant Warden with the R.S.P.B. He has worked at the osprey reserve of Loch Garten in Scotland recently.

**Jeremy Westmore** (1979) wrote to say he has a good job underwriting in Marine Insurance in the City. He is in touch with numerous O.A.'s.

**Andrew Byfield** (1979) is doing his Bristol Ph.D. on the flora of the Lizard, Cornwall. He has been helping with a series of wild flower programmes produced by the B.B.C. at Bristol and wrote most appreciatively about the part **Jeremy Milton** (1978) was beginning to play in the botanical world. Jeremy's most untimely fatal accident was reported in the Griffen last year.

**Simon Moore** (1979), following his Engineering degree at Robinson College, Cambridge, is now with the I.B.A. as a research engineer on satellite television.

**R. S. Drew** (1979) graduated from Reading University with a Land Management degree. Having worked in private practice in High Wycombe and Reading, he has recently qualified as a Chartered Surveyor, has been elected an Associate Member of the R.I.C.S. and is now working as a Regional Development Manager for the Argyll Group.

**R. J. McMahon** (1980) after reading Law at Liverpool University has been awarded an Entrance Bursary from the Masters of the Bench, the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

**Paul Burren** (1980) has been selected to be a member — as a marine biologist — of the British Antarctic survey team, which embarked last November.

**Nicholas Burd's** (1980) high success in auctioneering competition has been followed up by two Radio Oxford programmes. Whilst at Bristol, he represented the University Riding Club in events in Germany, Holland and France. Having obtained a Land Management degree, he is now with Donaldson's based in Bristol.

**Tim Cook** (1980) has had a wonderful time in the Army, from which he retires this year. He has decided to go to University and has been offered places by three. A year in Germany, two years in Cyprus and a tour in Belfast gave him a fairly wide experience of military life, by current standards, and he is now eager to equip himself for a civilian career.

Congratulations to **David Phillips** (1984) on his appointment as captain of the Great Britain Universities rugby league team which toured France this Spring.

**Paul Spencer** (1982) is President of the Union at Strathclyde University. He was voted the best individual speaker in the Observer Mace debating competition, the final round being held at Glasgow University. The World championships should take him to Vancouver next year.

**C. Evans** (1983) who is reading Physics at Birmingham University, has been awarded a Brockhouse Scholarship by that university.

Congratulations to **Gareth Harper** (1981) on again being awarded blues for soccer and hockey at Cambridge.

Congratulations to the following for achieving Firsts in last summer's exams: 1981 leavers — **Timothy Fellows**, Natural Science Part IB at Queen's, Cambridge; **Geoffrey Brown**, Natural Science Part II, Chemistry at Trinity, Cambridge; **James Nicholls**, Natural Science Part II, Physics at St. John's, Cambridge. 1982 leavers — **Christopher Johnson**, Honour Mods. in English at St. Catherine's, Oxford. 1983 leavers — **Timothy Bugg** and **Andrew Fisher** at Emmanuel and Clare, Cambridge, respectively and both in Part IA of the Natural Science tripos. Timothy has been elected to a senior scholarship and has been awarded a college prize.









