

THE ABINGDONIAN

1986



The Abingdonian

volume eighteen, number four December 1986

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EDITORIAL

"INTERESTING, BUT TOUGH"?



An ancient Chinese curse wishes for the victim that he "may live in interesting times": it must be difficult for anyone involved with the profession of education in England today to avoid the conclusion that some mandarin somewhere — even if only in Elizabeth House — has been particularly free with his maledictions just recently. Problems to do with the economics and, still more, the politics of schooling have followed each other through the headlines in breathless succession, and we are already assured on all sides that education bids fair to be one of the leading issues in the next general election, whenever that may come. Among the most "interesting" topics in the list of our concerns for 1985/6 has been the new Middle School examination system — G.C.S.E.

It is fashionable in some quarters at the present time to decry the idea that examinations should have power over the curriculum, in the sense of setting its content and regulating methods by teaching. There is clearly a kernel of truth in this proposition, but, like most campaigning slogans, it grossly over-simplifies a complex idea. Although the missionaries of G.C.S.E. claim loudly that they come to liberate us all from the tyranny of examinations, it is also unmistakably clear that the earning of their all-important certificates will entail considerable changes for both teachers and taught. During the past three terms we have been trying to find out what we can about these changes, and about how they may affect us at Abingdon.

The first generation to come under the new rules will sit their examinations in the summer of 1988, having followed courses which run in most cases for two years, starting in the autumn of 1986. It is clear that in future some subjects, at least, will best be taken on the basis of something like a three-year course, of which the first part will be devoted to the laying of methodical foundations; the advantages of such an approach will not be available to the pioneer cohort — but at least everyone will be labouring under the same difficulties in this respect. In fact, the national programme as a whole has been brought in with undue haste and insufficient preparation: syllabuses had not all come to hand by the middle of the summer term, and some of the administrative machinery has still apparently to be created at the time of writing.

At least, however, Abingdon remains free from the wounds which were inflicted on other schools by the long-running teachers' strike, which had a serious effect on re-training schedules. Like other independent schools in the locality, we have been happy in enjoying a warm and trouble-free relationship with the Local Education Authority, which has meant that we have been able to join in with our colleagues in the maintained sector on courses and training activities, and have, indeed, contributed from our own resources in a variety of ways. All heads of department attended special instruction sessions at centres around the locality during the course of the spring and early summer terms, and then passed on the expertise so gained to their colleagues, on the "cascade" principle, during a day specially set aside for the purpose, Friday 20 June. Whatever doubts one may have about the general management of the national programme, it is good to be able to record that our own experience of the training process has been almost uniformly happy and positive, and that the further we have gone into the business, the more stimulating and rewarding we have found it.

It is not merely the examinations which have been changed: the Examination Boards themselves are being re-grouped and re-organised, under a scheme which is connected to, but independent of, the G.C.S.E. reform. We have traditionally dealt for the most part with the Oxford and Cambridge Board, which under the new arrangements becomes part of a consortium known as the Midlands Examinations Group; however, we fall geographically into the orbit of the Southern Examinations Group, and it is with this latter that we have so far done most of our training — for reasons of proximity in the first case. It is likely that we shall continue to draw most of our syllabuses from the Oxford and Cambridge Board, as in the past, and we are therefore doing much of the third phase of training — the "subject-specific" parts — under their auspices rather than those of the S.E.G. But there are positive inducements to shop around among the Boards, and this may mean that in future the boys will sit examinations under a variety of headings, to their advantage.

So far as one can judge at this stage, it seems likely that the innovations entailed in the G.C.S.E. need have no adverse effect on the essential quality of our teaching operation at Abingdon. We shall still, we hope, be dealing with the same able boys, and shall still aim to arouse their interest in the subjects, and stretch their abilities, to whatever limit may be appropriate in each individual case. From the wide range of options offered under G.C.S.E., we shall choose those which we consider to be the most rigorous and exacting, and if there is any suggestion that national standards are significantly easier than those which we would think appropriate for our boys, we shall not hesitate to teach beyond the syllabuses in order to provide a sound foundation

for sixth-form work. To this extent, we seem likely to be fortunate; matters could be very different, and might well be much harder to administer, in a school with a wider ability range than that found at Abingdon. More generally, we welcome warmly the shift away from "sudden death" examinations towards a system of continuous assessment which, if judiciously administered, will ensure that children of all abilities can be judged more fully and fairly on the basis of their work over a period of time, rather than their capacity to answer snap questions under stress. Seen in this light, well-run G.C.S.E. courses could provide positive enhancement to our activities at Abingdon.

Not everything in the garden looks lovely, however, and we expect to face a variety of problems over the next two years, some in common with many other schools, and some more or less peculiar to ourselves. There will undoubtedly be teething troubles over the new syllabuses, particularly, perhaps, connected with the supply of materials adequate to the new methods. Not all teachers are going to respond equally successfully, even when well disposed, to the need to do things differently in future. Most important of all, we seem certain to be faced with a serious shortage of manpower, and of teaching space to match. This last matter is not going to be easily dealt with, and in solving it we may have to accept that certain aspects of Abingdon's traditional character must be modified, or even go by the board. The inherited concept of a low-cost grammar school, in which large classes are vigorously pushed along highly structured courses by efficient and demanding teachers, sits uneasily with the notion, central to G.C.S.E., of a style of teaching tailored essentially to the needs of the individual child, and evaluated quite largely within the school by teams of teachers acting in close collaboration and therefore often double-banked or otherwise prevented from spending all their time in front of classes of their own. Nor is the question simply one of manpower — even if we had more staff at the present time, we could not possibly accommodate them, since every room in the School is almost continuously in use under our current timetable. Unless the overall pattern of numbers is to change, smaller sets must mean more teachers, and more rooms — a daunting prospect, perhaps, but we will find a way of coping with it!

Seen in a longer perspective, the image of G.C.S.E. may be thought to wear a somewhat enigmatic expression. The new emphasis on practicality — applicable science, useable languages — may be welcome to those who have begun to feel themselves cooped in ivory towers, but the experience of historians over the last twenty years, to take just one example, shows all too plainly how a cult of "relevance" in education

can quickly lead to a loss of scholarly values, and the intrusion of ideology. There are ominous signs that written communication as such may be devalued by G.C.S.E. arrangements, in favour of oral and electronically-aided modes — a process which one may feel has already gone dangerously far, and needs to be reversed rather than reinforced, if we are not to lose touch with an essential element of our intellectual and cultural ancestry. The balance of the curriculum is being altered, not always wisely: utilitarian and skill-based subjects generally are gaining ground at the expense of analytical and judgemental disciplines; minority interests (some of great respectability, such as classics) seem likely to suffer from a bias towards the big — and sometimes softer — options. Last, but by no means least, the re-organisation of the summer examination season which is being brought on by G.C.S.E. will undoubtedly affect our term dates (though it is not clear at the time of writing precisely how this effect will be felt), and may in the longer run act as a stimulus driving schools towards the four-term year, so often discussed but never till now found generally practicable in this country.

There is much to play for then, much to be won, and much that might be lost as a result of G.C.S.E. We feel, perhaps, a little like Huckleberry Finn when he explored the books which he found "piled up perfectly exact, on each corner of the table" in the house of the Grangerford family: "One was 'Pilgrim's Progress', about a man that left his family it didn't say why. I read considerable in it now and then. The statements was interesting, but tough."

M.St.J.P.

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COMMON ROOM

Headmaster: M. St. John Parker, M.A., King's College, Cambridge.

Second Master: J.R. Gabitass, M.A., St. John's College, Oxford (English).

Senior Tutor: *A.A. Hillary, M.A., Jesus College, Cambridge (History).

Director of Studies: C.D.B. Milton, B.Sc. (Econ.), London (Mathematics).

Lower Master: *M.G.H. Dillon, M.A., Edinburgh (Design).

L.C.J. Griffin, M.A., Jesus College, Oxford (Classics).

R.G. Mortimer, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).

K.G. Hasnip, M.A., Caius College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).

*W.G. Potter, M.A., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).

R.H. Baker, M.A., Queen's College, Oxford (Physics).

H.T. Randolph, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (Classics).

*H. Eden, Caius College, Cambridge (Geography).

N.H. Payne, M.A., Jesus College, Cambridge (History).

*D.C. Taylor, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).

*N.K. Hammond, B.Sc., London (Politics).

S.C. Bodey, B.Sc., Reading (Physics).

N.A.F. Pritchard, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford (Mathematics).

*R.C.B. Coleman, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Physical Science).

D.G. Crawford, B.A., D.L.C., Open University and Loughborough (Physical Education).

*T.R. Ayling, M.A., Christ Church, Oxford (Chemistry). Senior Science Master.

*J.D.E. Drummond-Hay, B.Ed., Sussex (Physical Education).

*D.J. Haynes, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford (Physics).

C. Parker, B.Sc., Nottingham (Mathematics).

*G.G. Barrett, M.A., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (English).

C.J. Biggs, Cert.Ed., Bede College, Durham (Design).

D. Jones, A.Mus., L.C.M., Cert.Ed., Royal Military School of Music (Music).

R.J. Webber, B.Sc., M.I. Biol., East Anglia (Biology).

P. Willerton, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).

W.H. Zawadzki, M.A., D.Phil., Keble and Wolfson Colleges, Oxford (History). Director of General Studies.

A.J. Gasson, M.A., Dundee (Geography).

I.A. Macdonald, B.A., Leeds (English).

(P.J. Wilmore, B.Sc., Ph.D., East Anglia (Biology).)

*T. James, B.A., F.R.C.O., Wales (Music).

G.C. Rolfe, B.A., D.Phil., Exeter and Ulster (Modern Languages).

N.J. Brown, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge (English). Director of Drama.

N.W. Hunter, B.A., Bristol Polytechnic (Design).

R.S. Page, M.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge (Chemistry).

K.D. Bingham, B.A., D.Phil., St. Peter's College, Oxford (Chemistry).

R.S.K. Mearns, M.A., M.Litt., Dublin and Jesus College, Oxford (English).

S.R. Finlow, B.A., New College, Oxford (Music).

*R.P. Finch, B.A., Reading (Mathematics).

P. Jones, B.A., Wadham College, Oxford (Mathematics).

Mrs. V.H. Fitt, B.A., M.Sc., D.Phil., St. Hilda's College, Oxford (Mathematics)

(T.H. Birnberg, M.A., Jesus College, Oxford (Modern Languages).)

I. Smith, B.Sc., Sheffield (Physics).

A.F. Trotman, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford (English).

Mrs. C.M. Manship, B.Mus., F.R.C.O., London (Divinity).

(N.M. Revill, B.A., Sussex (Modern Languages).)

A.J. Mansfield, B.Sc., Lanchester Polytechnic (Design).

*J. Townsend, B.A., Keele (Economics and Business Studies).

I.C. Fishpool, B.Sc., Birmingham (Geography).

J.R. Newell, B.A., A.R.C.O., University College, Durham (Music).

J.R. Sharp, M.A., Jesus College, Cambridge (History).

*The Rev. E.P. Lewis, M.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge (Divinity). Chaplain.

Mrs. A.M. Soper, M.A., Exeter and Keele (English).

Mrs. C. Hollands-Duverly, Licence ès Lettres (Modern Languages).

G.R. Hill, B.A., Mansfield College, Oxford (Mathematics).

A.M. Chew, M.A., St. John's College, Oxford (Modern Languages).

O. Steinsiek, Göttingen (Modern Languages).

F.J. Pott, M.A., B.Mus., Cambridge (Music).
T. Chisholm, B.A., Harvard (Biology).
(D.S.R. Crozier, B.A., Canterbury (English).)
D. Henderson B.A., Reading (Modern Languages).

Mrs. C.M. Flood, B.A., Manchester (Mathematics).
Mrs. J.A. Hogg, B.A., University College L.D.N. (Mathematics).

Medical Officer: Dr. J.C.C. Kendall, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Bursar: Colonel J.D.C. Peacock, M.A., C.Eng., F.I.E.E., F.R.G.S.
Assistant Bursar: Major D. Egerton-King.

*Senior Subject Masters.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Heads of School: C.J. Day
M.J. Lodge
Head of School House: S.A. Bray
Head of Crescent House: J.S. Allison
Head of Waste Courte: S.P. Wheeler

Prefects: N.D. Bolitho; R.L. Casale; R.D. Cheek; A.J. Corbett; J.T.C. Cracknell; T.W. Gentles; N.J. Griffin;
N.W. Hewlett; D.A. Hodgson; S.L. Lee-Jones; A.S. Lowe; R.G. Mann; C.N. Marnane; R.W. Money-Kyrle;
E.J. O'Brien; T.W. Owen; G.N.K. Peach; P.J. Starr; D.E. Sutcliffe; S.J. Wintle.

Sub-Prefects: T.J. Butcher; M.T. Elliott; S.J. Green; P.C. Harris; R.J. Jones; M.J. Landray; J.F. Lister-
Cheese; D.D. Passmore; B.C. Schmittzehe; M.D. Schofield; R.I. Sparkes; R.W. Walker; N.J. Westwood.

Valete



ROGER MORTIMER

Roger Mortimer was already well settled as house tutor in School House when I arrived at Abingdon in 1951. Over the previous 4 years he had steadily extended his authority as house tutor and his particular brand of firmness, kindness and enthusiasm for the activities of 'the boys' had made him an established and respected figure. Others must speak of his services to modern languages in the school — though I do know of his devotion to the teaching of German here — but to most people Roger has always meant rowing; by a combination of dedication, ingenuity and skill acquired as Captain of Boats at Sidney Sussex College, he built an already flourishing boat club

into an organisation that was ready for the great leap forward into eights, competition at Henley, and everything else that these things involve. How fitting that he should now be the President of the A.S.B.C., with its latest rowing eight named after him.

Roger's interest in games has always been catholic since his school days at Sherborne, and he was a pillar in turn, as the seasons went by, of the staff cricket, hockey and tennis teams. As a batsman he was a mighty smiter of the ball, and many a valuable innings he played, but his chief claim to fame must surely be as the slowest, most tantalising left-arm bowler ever. Common to both activities were his eagerness to participate and his generous acclamation of an adversary's prowess. So it was in the other games: he was a most useful man in any team.

Probably to Roger, if he had to choose, his years as housemaster of Larkhill, from 1969 to 1978, would be judged to have provided the peak of his career. Here he put his earlier experience as a house tutor to good use, building up a happy and successful relationship with boys and parents. He was hard on the malefactors, but always appreciative of solid effort and genuine endeavour. Here, of course, he would have been lost without Félicité, whose expertise as a former school house matron was invaluable in running a house, and whose natural qualities as a hostess helped to maintain a long tradition of Larkhill hospitality. Then, as now, they made a good team.

In recent years, Roger has been able to revive another longstanding interest — in shooting. A Cambridge half-blue, he has made good use of the rifle range, and has done as worthwhile a job with school sport as he had done earlier with rowing. Among his particular joys were the great success of Simon Hudson and the development of his own son, Richard's, aptitude and enthusiasm for the rifle.

A very full life at Abingdon — and much has been omitted. I must finish where I probably should have begun — with Roger's dedication to the school Chapel. It was always an important element in his personal life, and he and Félicité are fortunate in their strong Christian faith.

We hope that their retirement will be long and happy, and I am sure that their connection with the school will remain a close one, and that they will be much in evidence at future functions.

A.A.H.

* * *

Dr. Vicki Fitt leaves us after three years for a senior post at Oxford High School. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed both in and out of the classroom. In the Mathematics Department she demonstrated the rare quality of being both a very fine mathematician and an outstanding teacher. Amongst her many other roles she will be best remembered for reorganising with great flair and efficiency several Tass fetes and last Year's highly successful Open Evening.

* * *

Mrs. Carol Flood leaves to work for her husband's company after five years as a very full time part time Mathematics teacher. Her very sound and caring approach will be hard to replace.

* * *

Rupert Hill left after one year's deputising on a temporary footing for Mr. C. Parker in the Mathematics Department. He takes up a Geography post at Dover College. His contributions on the sports field in particular were enormous and very much appreciated. It seems unlikely that Lower School can ever be galvanised to quite the same degree again.

* * *

Mrs. Judith Hogg ably filled a temporary gap in the Mathematics Department on a part time basis. We are grateful to her for this and wish her well.

* * *

Dr. Simon Finlow emigrated to the U.S.A. in January 1986 after a little more than 3 years on the Music Staff. During that time he made a deep and lasting impression on his colleagues and on his pupils, both as a musician (teacher, pianist, harpsichordist, organist and accompanist) and as a Lower School Tutor. His enthusiasm for and unfailing support for the many musical activities in the school (including the initial stewardship of The Grand Piano Fund) makes his departure all the more regrettable, particularly since commitment to extra-curricular activities is such a point of contention in other centres of the profession. He was also very active on the sports field and in his final year he shouldered the main responsibilities for Lower School games.

Dr. Finlow is already greatly missed and it is to be hoped that his considerable talents as academic and performer will not be lost to another country for long.

* * *

Jonathan Newell's stay as a member of the Music Staff was brief (1 term) but he availed himself of the opportunity to move from teaching to another area of the musical profession. He, like Simon Finlow, has moved abroad — in Mr. Newell's case to Norway as a 'community' musician. Our good wishes go with him.

* * *

Francis Pott succeeded Mr. Newell and quickly established himself with the Chamber Choir and as a teacher despite the temporary nature of the job. He was very supportive of and prominent in the musical

events of the School; no-one will surely forget the dynamism of his pianistic skills nor the striking appeal of his vocal and instrumental compositions. As he moves into a free-lance career in music, we thank him and wish him well.

* * *

We were sorry to lose Mr. Richard Guppy who contributed to the teaching of Modern Languages and to rowing, but who left to pursue a career in commerce. His place was taken for two terms by Mr. Michael Chew, formerly Head of Modern Languages at Stamford School. Michael had taken early retirement to further his business interests, but was filling in as peripatetic. We wish him well in his thoughtful quest of the fruits of Germania, not least its more select wines.

* * *

The contribution made by the Biology Department exchange, Mr. T. (Townley) Chisholm, of St. Christopher's School, Virginia, U.S.A. was substantial and felt in many areas of the school. As a subject master and tutor his work was much appreciated. Without any previous experience, he proved to be an excellent boarding house tutor in School House where his versatility and charm were much valued. His contribution to the Boat Club and Film Society was clearly felt. He showed a true pioneering spirit, demonstrating how one could camp on a windswept island, when he got stranded for a week on Lundy with only seabirds and anxious islanders to tend to his needs! We send our best wishes and ask whether it is true that he may be 'doing a Master's' at Oxford in Human Biology shortly? If so, it would be a very pleasant thought indeed.

* * *

To welcome such an old friend of Abingdon and such an experienced teacher as Otto Steinsiek into our common room for a term was a happy experience, and of course a highly beneficial one. His complete command of English ensured that there were no problems of communication, and boys and colleagues could learn something of the German approach to education — rigorous in its attitude to work to be done, but combined with a warm sympathy for the problems faced by the pupils too. His stay with us was all too short and we look forward to next year when we and the Rats-gymnasium Bielefeld will be celebrating twenty years of the partnership between our two schools.

Salvete

We are very happy to welcome:

* * *

Dr. Tim King who comes to us from Magdalen College School as Director of Studies. We are very pleased to have at our disposal his glittering array of talents, academic, organisational and sporting. The equanimity with which he has resolved many of the conflicting tensions of the timetable has already earned the gratitude of Common Room. An O.A. himself, Tim takes on the mantle of Secretary of the O.A. Club and we look forward through him to the deepening and strengthening of our intimate bond together.

* * *

Miss Wendy McLaughlin comes to us from Birmingham University Physics Department to deputise for a year for Mr. David Haynes who has been seconded as Director of I.S.M.E.C. (On this more in the future.) Wendy lists her interests as astronomy, cycling and voluntary community work, but omits to mention that her General Studies course entitled 'Cooking for Survival' has been an instant success.

* * *

Mr. Tom Simons comes to us from King Edward's School, Bath, to teach Mathematics. He has already shown a facility for chess and an ability to tame the computer.

* * *

Mr. Simon Collinge joins us from John Hampden School, High Wycombe, also to teach Mathematics. He is very much a sportsman and has a particular commitment to youth football, a dedication which can include the less glamorous aspects of recovering from or ministering to injuries.

* * *

We welcome Mr. Iain Donald from Malvern Girls' School, also to teach Music and be resident tutor in School House. His interests include photography and skiing.

* * *

It is most agreeable to have Mr. Simon Andrews in our midst once again to teach Music. Simon was with us before on a part time basis for two terms and is now full time. He is currently in the throes of original composition for a mysterious piece jointly with the English Department. The outcome is awaited with no little interest.

* * *

Mr. David Henderson came to us at Easter from Maiden Erlegh School, Reading, to teach Modern Languages. As well as a strong commitment to local church activities, David has a passionate interest in games. He presently coaches rugby and cricket.

* * *

Mr. Mark Broughton comes to teach Modern Languages from Westwood St. Thomas' Upper School, Salisbury. Mark's interests are music and photography, though at present somewhat waylaid by renovations to his house near the school. He coaches volleyball and can hotly argue the merits of a Jurançon from the Pyrenees.

* * *

John Pilgrim-Morris has recently retired as Wing Commander from the Royal Air Force. He has joined us to teach Physics and Mathematics and also to coach games, rowing in particular. In this area he has a formidable reputation. He was formerly Chairman of Selectors for the International team and Olympics coach. He has made his mark upon recent winning Oxford and Leander crews. John was with us for six weeks last summer term and those of us who were fortunate enough to work with him were immediately struck by the unforceful, sure-footed way in which he pinpointed strengths, weaknesses and areas for immediate improvement. The effect on the boys was electrifying. All the signs are that in the classroom too the boys are secure under his clear, relaxed tutelage. We wish him and Jenny a long and happy stay in Abingdon.

ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ASTON

Barrett, M.G.M.
Herd, G.J.

Management
Hotel/Catering

BATH

Biggs, J.M

Business Administration

BIRMINGHAM

Elliott, M.P.
Williams, C.R.

Music
Biology

BRISTOL

Plumptree, D.A.
Sayer, M.D.
Smailes, S.M.
Sutcliffe, B.M.R.
Ward, P.M.D.

Mechanical Engineering
History
Music
Civil Engineering
History

CAMBRIDGE

Emmanuel
Starr, P.J.

English

Girton
Storer, N.P.

Natural Sciences

Jesus

Casale, R.L.
Kowszun, J.S.P.
Wagon, B.J.

Engineering
Natural Sciences
Music

Robinson

Thomas, A.D.

Mathematics

St. John's

Parker, D.E.
Winsley, M.J.

Theology
Modern Languages

CITY

Hodgson, M.E.C.
Walton, R.I.

Electrical Engineering
Aeronautical Engineering

DUNDEE

Blake, M.D.
Bouch, J.M.

Geography
Geography

EDINBURGH

Daglish, M.R.C.
Webster, P.

Medicine
English

ESSEX

Blythe, W.J.
Charlton, A.J.

Government
Sociology

EXETER

Camplin, M.D.	Biology
Meadows, R.J.	English & Drama

HERIOT WATT

Anderson, S.J.D.	Landscape architecture
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HUDDERSFIELD POLYTECHNIC

Weaver, S.	Transport Management
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KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC

Dix, J.G.H.	Physical Science
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KEELE

McDougall, P.J.	Computing
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KENT

Smith, R.B.	English
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LAMPETER

Parker, J.D.	Geography
Vokins, P.T.	French

LONDON**L.S.E.**

Hunt, A.L.	Geography
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University College

Iredale, M.W.M.	Human Sciences
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LOUGHBOROUGH

Gionis, N.	Electronics
Hudson, S.M.	Materials Engineering

MANCHESTER

Barnes, J.P.	Philosophy
Jones, T.E.H.	Drama
Mawhinney, G.D.	Law
Stanton, B.M.R.	Law

NEWCASTLE

Parry, C.D.	Politics
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NOTTINGHAM

Beach, J.H.M.	Geography
Thompson, J.A.	Mechanical Engineering

OXFORD**Brasenose**

Lay, M.D.	Physics
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Exeter

Mann, R.G.	Physics
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Hertford

Peach, H.R.W.	Modern Languages
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Lady Margaret Hall

Cowell, D.A.	Geography
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St. John's

Cheek, R.D.	English
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OXFORD POLYTECHNIC

Vince, J.D.M.	Business Studies
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PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

Allanson, J.M.	German
Ross, T.D.	Architecture
Rudge, S.C. de la	Surveying

READING

Greenland, P.J.	Typography/Graphics
McGhie, A.W.	Land Management
Parry Jones, D.L.	Land Management

SELE-HAYNE COLLEGE

Dykes, J.W.	Agriculture
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SHEFFIELD

Silk, N.J.J.	Metallurgy
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SURREY

Jones, S.	Catering
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TEESIDE POLYTECHNIC

Alner, J.E.	Business Studies
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TRENT POLYTECHNIC

Walker, S.J.	Photography
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ULSTER

Fisher, A.D.	History
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U.M.I.S.T.

Arthy, S.L.	Management Studies
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**JULIUS CAESAR**

This review was specially commissioned by the Headmaster for the Abingdonian. It was written by Martin Dodsworth, theatre critic for the Times Literary Supplement and the Guardian.



modern dress CAESAR? Why not? After all Shakespeare himself confuses time in the play. Romans did not read books with pages, but he makes Brutus do so; they did not have striking clocks, but the conspirators have their meeting broken up by a clock striking three. The truth is, when we imagine the past, it is difficult for us not to imagine ourselves there in the past, and Shakespeare knew this. His play is not an archaeologist's reconstruction; it drives us to think for ourselves what freedom is and what it costs, what good government is and what it should be. Nigel Brown's production put Caesar in a military great coat and all the trappings of a self-elected leader and his rivals into the formal suits of conventional allegiance (and of allegiance to convention), and the play came that much closer to us all; indeed, since at the outbreak of civil-war the conventional suits disappeared and the stage



was swarming with men in combat uniform, one side a little different from the others, the consequences of Caesar's assassination were graphically conveyed in the look of things.

Christian Zwart's set, economically expressive, was a great help in this. The stage was chequered in large squares of black and white, suggesting at once the marble of Rome and the game of politics so dangerously played by Cassius and his companions. At the back a simple archway was framed against the sky, a reminder that this was, after all, Rome, but one that could be removed when necessary. To either side, chunky piles of ramps gave the setting mass and weight, providing a suggestive landscape for the fighting of the last act. The colours here too were black and chilly white, to which the conspirators' sober suits gave little relief. Shakespeare's play is about passion masked by all the talk of ancient Roman virtues, of austerity and sacrifice. Set and costumes were perfectly matched to this aspect of the play.


The inhabitants of Rome were not all pillars of respectability, even of the seeming kind, however. The performance began with the tribunes entering from the back of the hall as the common people of Rome made holiday below on the stage. This was a suitably disruptive way of restoring order, and one that involved the audience from the start, with noise all about them and a milling crowd before their eyes. Some of the later uses of the

auditorium were not so convincing; the shouts of the populace applauding Caesar at the back of the hall actually distracted attention from the urgent dialogue of Cassius and Brutus going on below on the stage. But the crowd were uniformly good. Their repeated bids to run out through the audience, inflamed by the oratory of Mark Antony, were particularly impressive, combining speed, energy and theatrical discipline in most effective fashion.

One of the pleasures of the production was that everybody seemed to understand the meaning of Shakespeare's words — this isn't always the case in the professional theatre. Another was the way the cast played together, no one was being upstaged, and the rivalries on view were those of Shakespeare's characters, not his actors. The play depends on four performances especially, those of Brutus, Cassius, Mark Antony and Caesar. That of Brutus is by far the most demanding. He is the most complex character in the play. Thinker, orator, husband, friend, soldier, and politician — Brutus has to be all of these and yet recognizably one man, a point of stability in the turmoil of the drama. It is a tall order which Ed O'Brien tackled manfully. At the beginning of the play he was at something of a disadvantage. There was an emphatically atmospheric use of sound effects — trumpets, rain, thunder, the crowd's applause for Caesar — but the atmosphere was not that of Brutus the scholar-politician. He should have been able to come into his own once the conspirators were gathered in his house, but here he was rather hampered by their being crowded round a table too far to the front of stage. Though this brought Brutus closer to the audience, it also made it harder for him to establish his authority. Only with his dialogue with Portia his wife, sensitively played by Abigail Dennis, did he start to come through. From this point on, however, he went from strength to strength. His speech to the Roman people was most a convincing justification for Brutus' belief that he could preempt the audience's sympathy for Mark Antony; his playing in the quarrel scene with Cassius in the second half was gripping.

Nick Griffin's Cassius, eaten up with malice and envy, started at top pitch, which was worrying. Could he maintain the pressure? He could and did, and was a convincing soldier in the second half too. This was an Iago-like performance, obsessive and intellectual. There was no need for this Cassius to bare his bosom to the thunder-stone; his manic quality was already impressed on us quite enough without that. The contrast with Alistair Simpson's Mark Antony was bold and effective. Neither the reveller nor the politician was too much to the fore here — this was a very natural and easy interpretation of the part, not one that can have been easily arrived at. In his oration there was power and fire but no slyness; this seemed right, and made him the right companion too, for Caesar himself, who was all presence in the interpretation of Martin Sutton. Caesar may be vain, but Caesar managed to keep his vanity even from himself. Appropriately, therefore, Caesar's

JULIUS CAESAR



infirmities — the deafness, the epilepsy — were not insisted on. They were not essential. The corruption in Rome was more mysterious than that would have suggested.

This was, then, a well-played and professional production of Julius Caesar. Mention ought to be made of Sara Tappenden's eloquent Calpurnia, and of Peter Starr who, in addition to his own role as the Tribune Marcellus, took on the part of Octavius at short notice and played it without fluffing, and to decisive effect. But it is the overall quality that ought to be emphasised. Things stick in the mind — the venomous force of the crowd's attack on Cinna the poet, the desolation in Pindarus the slave's cry when he has helped Cassius to his death: 'So, I am free ...' That's the sign of a good performance and good direction.

COMEDY

TWELFTH NIGHT

Probably the most striking and reassuring aspect of Mr. Macdonald's production of Twelfth Night was the successful creation of the Elizabethan atmosphere. The all-male cast, the period costume, the realistic set design, and the distinctive inclusion of the early music, combined to create a trustworthy feeling of unity that heightened one's enjoyment of the play. This aim to achieve authenticity was more broadly reflected by the director's original and successful creation of the role of Feste's apprentice, and his adaption of certain sung parts for Feste himself. What I think can be detected here is a rebellion against the narrow and confining parameters by which Shakespeare can be conventionally produced, and a corresponding movement towards some of the freedom Elizabethan directors would have enjoyed in the contemporary dramatic conventions of the day.

Fortunately, the production was skilfully aided by the very able and developing talents of the more mature actors, such as Edward O'Brien and Richard Butterworth, as Sir Toby Belch and Andrew Aguecheek respectively. They invested something of their own humorous disposition in their parts, with the pleasing result that the more serious nature of the play was never able to overwhelm these comic actors. The characters they portrayed developed a life and reality of their own and were far removed from the commonplace stereotyping of buffooning old clowns. Peter Starr's powerful performance as Malvolio was maintained with the same conviction for each



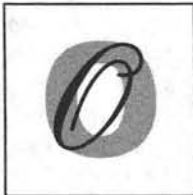
night that the play ran, which itself is a testimony to the stamina of the actor. The cunning, peevish nature of Malvolio came out quite clearly, and the gaol scene is one the impact of which will remain in the mind as the dramatic highlight of the play. Martin Sutton as the clown, Feste, and Joshua Mandel as his apprentice were vital components in the play's success, and both carried off their roles with much aplomb. Joshua's mimicry of Feste, amplified by his diminutive size, created a good deal of humour that could otherwise have been easily lost in this role.

In summary, the director's broad vision, allied with some versatile and spontaneous acting talent made this particular Shakspearian production convincing and enjoyable.

D.E. Parker (VI)



HAMLET



n Thursday 7th November the National Theatre Education Department came to the Amey Hall with their workshop production of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. From the novel and unnerving sung opening to the

body strewn finale we were given a sensitive and energetic performance. With an impressive economy of props, little lighting and costuming, the cast still managed to capture the spirit of the play and let Shakespeare's evocative language conjure up own sets. The audience was made to feel the dynamism of the play by the constant physical movement and vigorous speaking of the actors.

The star of the show was, of course, Tim McInnerny as Hamlet. He gave an understanding portrayal of Hamlet's inner turmoil and made us identify with his sensitive and imaginative character. The intonation and emotional expression of the rest of the cast was equally good. Two who deserve special mention are Richard Hope as Horatio, who combined extremely well with Hamlet, and Oliver Pierre as Claudius, the murderer of Hamlet's father and usurper of his wife and throne. The two ladies in the play, Kate Buffery as the King's wife, Gertrude, and Debora Poplett as Ophelia, Hamlet's spurned lover who goes mad and drowns herself, both gave moving performances. They were similar in that Hamlet takes his love away from both in order to concentrate on his father's command to revenge himself. The only characters who didn't look entirely comfortable were Mark Barratt and Charles Spicer as Rosencratz and Guildenstern respectively. Comedy was provided by the senility of Daniel Thorndike as Ophelia's father, Polonius.

The tangible enjoyment of the cast meant that the audience was both moved and entertained by the play and came away sobered by the vision of themselves that they had seen in Hamlet's self-destructive indecision.

S. Green (VI)



JILL FREUD — UNDER MILK WOOD, DYLAN THOMAS



Jill Freud returned to the school in October with her travelling theatre company to perform 'Under Milk Wood', a radio drama by Dylan Thomas. The Amey Hall provided the venue for their opening night of a two month tour. With their previous high standards still vivid from their past performance at the school, including 'Cider With Rosie' and 'A Jolly Berry Christmas', it was not surprising to see a full auditorium.

After a minor technical hitch with the lighting and of couple of laughs, the company launched into their first night. A simple stage set adapted well to the various scenes. This was matched by a very versatile use of lights, creating both the atmosphere of early morning and early evening exceptionally well.

Having been written as a radio play about the characters in a small Welsh seaside village, the projection of the actors' voices was paramount in creating the effect as devised by Thomas. The clarity and precision of all the actors was truly remarkable and a credit to the obvious hard rehearsal put in.

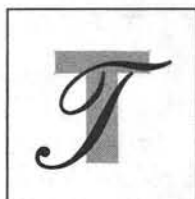
The speeches or action takes place in the small coastal village of Llareggub, a very close-knit village where it seem that everyone knows nearly everyone else. The characteristics of the characters, such as Myfanwy Price, the dressmaker and her love Mog Edwards, the draper, were brought to life by the skill of the actors, in a very vivid way and made the audience feel as if they were standing at the corner of the main street of the village, actually witnessing these people's lives. The old romantic Captain Cat brought humour to a play of many different qualities.

The warm reception of the audience at the end of the play showed how appreciative they are at Abingdon of the very high standards which Jill and her company have brought to the school. We all hope that they will return next year for another outstanding performance.

D.M.Smith (VI)



THE LONG, THE SHORT, AND THE TALL



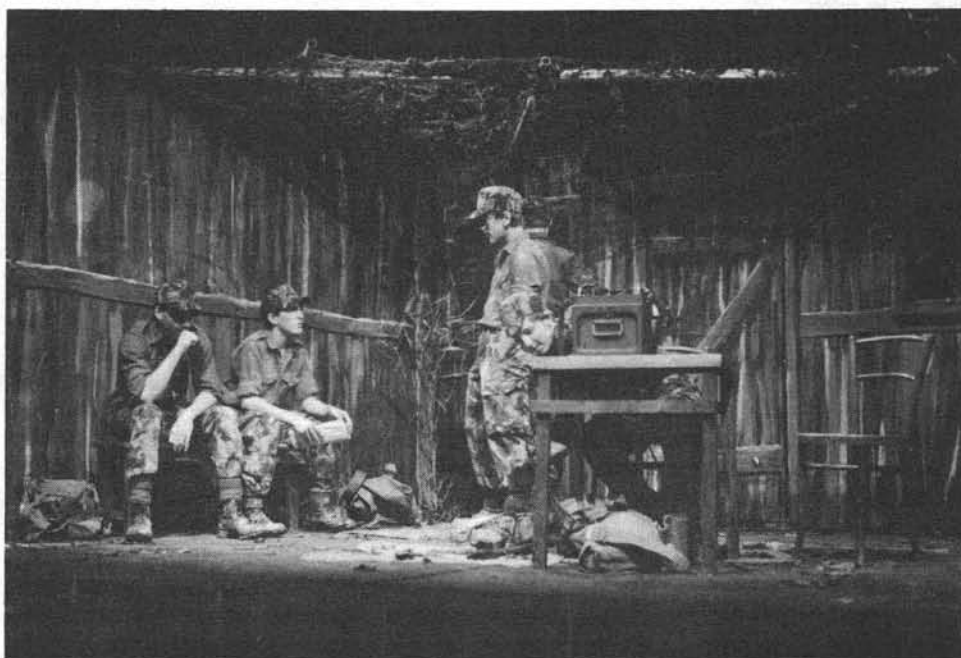
he first school production of the year was Willis Hall's (anti)war play 'The Long, the Short and the Tall', directed by Mr. Trotman.

A seven man British patrol in the Malayan jungle in 1942

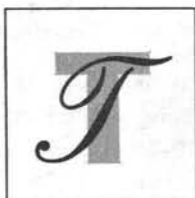
stops to rest in a shack. Though they are unable to contact their base by radio they do manage to capture a Japanese soldier whom they decide to take back as their prisoner. However they soon find out that the Japanese have broken through the British lines, and the two professionals in the patrol — Sergeant Mitchem and Corporal Johnstone — realize that their prisoner will have to be 'disposed of'. The idea of killing a man in cold blood appalls private Bamforth, the fast-talking Cockney 'barrack room lawyer', who tries to prevent it. A struggle ensues during which the prisoner is killed by the young radio operator Private Whittaker. Eventually they set off again, but are gunned down, the only survivor being the unsympathetic Johnstone.

The cast drawn mainly from people living in or near to the school, performed well; the moments of high drama were suitably dramatic, yet at the same time they were able to convey a sense of the boredom and tensions that soldiers have to face. James Crawford as the inexperienced Whittaker, Matthew Tomlyn as the family man, Private Smith, and Matthew Elliott as the Welsh man, Private Evans. All did well with fairly stereotyped parts, as did Colin Greenwood as the silent but scared Japanese soldier. 'Jules' Tiffany was suitably anti-social as Johnstone and Simon Goldsworthy was authoritative while also being uncertain, as the Sergeant. The two most demanding parts, those of Lieutenant Corporal Macleish — a sympathetic Scotsman who at first is friendly to the prisoner but through worrying about his brother who may be caught up in the Japanese advance begins to resent him — and Bamforth, a man in perpetual conflict with the N.C.O.s who nearly kills the Japanese soldier when he first appears but who eventually becomes his sole defender, were played convincingly by John Arney and James Crosskey. All the contributions backed up by Chris Zwart's realistic set design, got the 'home grown' dramatic year off to a fine start.

R. Butterworth (VI)



TRANSFORMATION SCENE: THE LOWER SCHOOL PLAY



he first that most of the school knew about this event, was the posters

announcing its performance. Abundantly displayed by Mr. Mearns, they immediately provoked a number of enquiries concerning the event. Perhaps they were the reason for the plenary audience, certainly it was not just the parents of the boys involved who turned out to see this startlingly successful and well coordinated production.

The manipulation of over 150 boys was a most ambitious feat: the play consisted of six scenes, each of the Lower School Tutor Groups being responsible for one. This meant that in a scene change of about 1 minute, 20 boys had to have their costumes removed and another 20 endowed with the same. The success of this feat was due almost entirely to the unending supervision of the omnipresent Mrs. Manship. To prevent a complete bewilderment of the audience, each of the characters was denoted by obvious parts of his costume, such as Lana's armour. Fine in principle, but fitting a tall thin boy into the same costume as a short rotund one, had previously been proved to have its difficulties.

Nevertheless, the plot was an interesting analysis of the world of faery and how dangerous it

can be to meddle therein when unaware of its perils. Being confronted by a 'Great green dragon belching forth firey fumes and smoke' was only one of the stage crew's problems; actually constructing this beast

and manipulating it successfully, with all its effects was an even more Herculean task.

The special effects crew deserve many thanks. Lighting, sound and props were almost perfectly executed and much work was put into bringing them into operation. Without these the play would have lost a considerable amount of its ability to hold the audience as enrapt as it did. Indeed an almost audible release of tension was felt at the end of the first act, after the convincing and stunning crash, as the mirror which held the Chimera at bay was broken by a bold lance.

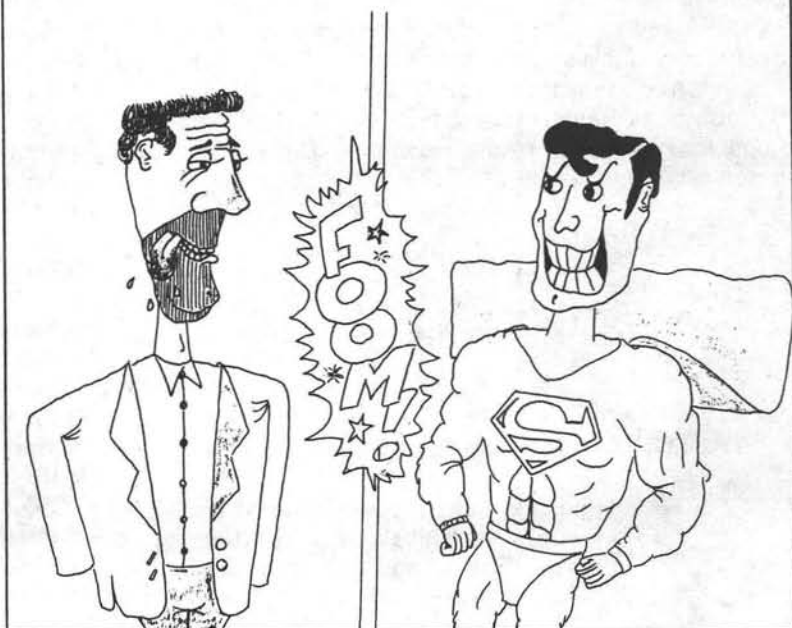
The play was rehearsed only during the tutor group's English lessons and during the Lower School Club on Wednesday afternoons, at which time the dragon and other props were constructed with much

Transformation scene.

AN AMEY HALL PRODUCTION.

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY.

7.30 P.M.



frustration and difficulty. With only this time allocated to rehearsing, the production ran remarkably smoothly with no major hitches. It would be impossible to pick out any particular performance of one boy, the whole was so well done and directed. An important part of this play was the involvement of all the boys. All the scenes had crowds or other groups on stage, and the boys exploited these to the full, even those who had no other major parts; they added a vitality and enthusiasm that was evident throughout the whole performance.

This event afforded them an opportunity, which was certainly not squandered, to experience all

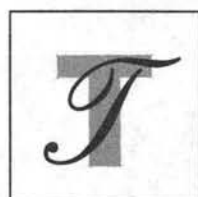


the facets of dramatisation, a very important part of their general education. They also had the satisfaction of knowing that they had produced it, and all that was needed for it, almost on their own. It was just a pity that it ran for only one night. Special thanks go to all the boys and their English masters, Ian Turner and the lighting crew, Stephen Manship for a remarkable soundtrack, the props team, and above all to Mrs. Manship without whose tireless efforts none of it would have been possible./

D.Parker (VI M)



THE LAST LAUGH



he Lower School production opened with an impressive number of boys moving in carefully choreographed positions about the stage. What it all meant was initially something of a mystery, not immediately resolved by the soprano voices to the accompaniment of modern-looking but medieval-sounding instruments. Soon enough, however, Jo Lock stepped forward to explain while the cast changed into their effective costumes. It seemed that Fortune, or the lack of it, was to play a major part in the story he was to tell us.

The three villains, played energetically by Derek Wilcox, Guy Rands and Patrick Carter, were jovial in their approach to beating up an old man and stealing his money. They then showed themselves to be foolhardy as well, which in the circumstances seemed entirely credible, when they elected to set out and find Death, not realising they had been tricked into doing so by the Old Man — none other than Death himself personified. It was an amusing moment as Guy Rands tried to work out the other plotters' plan to kill him — leaving them more of the treasure, of course! Yet as they merrily plotted to kill him, he equally merrily plotted to kill them. Tut, tut, the



moral said, they should not have been so greedy. Predictably, yet neatly enough the villains did find Death, one by poisoning, two by stabbing, just for the record. One's willing suspension of disbelief was pushed to the limit wondering if they deserved it all — they seemed so nice! Death certainly did get the last laugh, and a very nasty cackle it was too.

The whole was lively and enjoyable, heightened by good performance from Andrew Wareham as the Pardoner and Joshua Mandel Apothecary. The set was striking with the splendid 'tree' and an inn which seemed more fun than the Warwick. But for me Daniel Seward's 'Mistress Wickins' stole the show.

The music, specially composed for the production by Francis Pott, included introductory Fanfare and Galliard, and much skilful music to accompany the stage action. Outstanding among these items were the setting of 'Radix malorum est cupiditas', and the chilling "Requiem" music, sung in procession. There were also many effective solo numbers, of which the highlight (for me) was "knock, knock mother earth" which caught beautifully the atmosphere of slightly mistful calm and repose. Throughout, the music combined a mediaeval flavour with a more contemporary vigour, and was superbly suited to the production as a whole.

R.D. Cheek (VI)



JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT



minutes before the start of his debut production I asked Mr. Crozier where the best place to sit might be. "Try the pavilion on upper field" came the suggestion and from the look on his face I did not know whether he was joking or not. Knowing that he and God move in mysterious ways, I sat back not knowing what to expect.

As it turned out I became suspicious that Mr. Crozier was a dab hand at acting himself, since he had looked so nervous and ill, for the show was an immense success. Initially everyone seemed slightly restrained; if anything the audience were reminiscent of a Top of the Pops audience, too wooden and self-conscious. The musical cries out for energy and vigour: it fleetingly crossed my mind that things were fractionally lacking, a further volt or two might put things right.



Jacob bought his son a coat.

Joseph's brothers weren't too pleased with what they saw.





Hairy Ishmaelites.

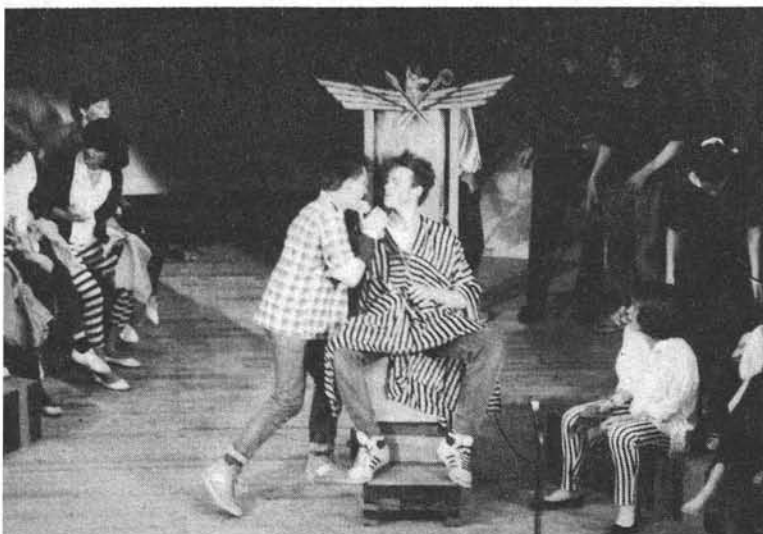


But his wife would never toe the line.

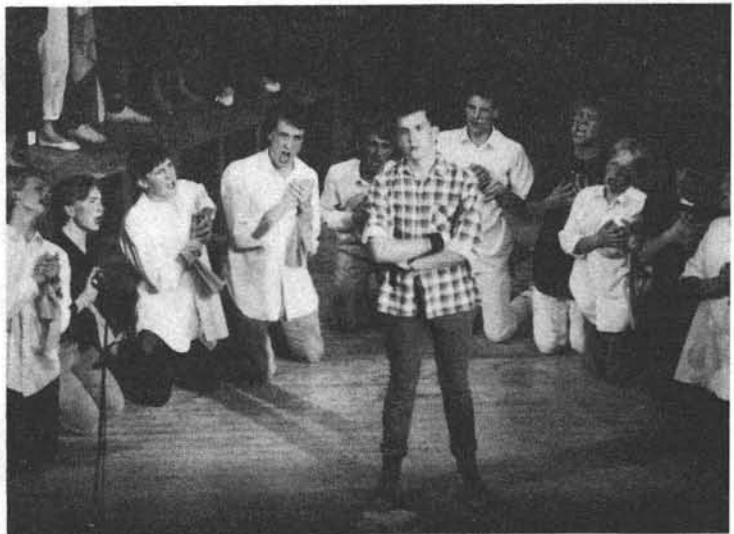
Then Ali Simpson came on with his rendition of 'Pharaoh' and instantly provided as many as Didcot Power Station at full output. The audience were instantly won with this totally convincing lesson in the virtues of being cool and groovy (and loud). At this the cast noticeably relaxed and from being a sound (!?) performance, the relationship between the performers and the audience became exciting, interesting and shared. Tom Yorke as narrator was excellent, as was his and the music generally. Would his voice have suited Joseph even better than James Crosskey's? Yet James took the part

excellently. The expression on his face after being seduced by Pharaoh's wife was a picture to behold. What ever did go on in that pyramid? In a welter of enjoyment other numbers which stood were the French song by J.P. Roberts (call him Hercule), Paddy Roberts 'Love and peace never die' and the Ishmaelites. It was good to watch — and hear — and the visible relief and enjoyment of the cast at carrying off this complicated and very demanding piece was entirely justified.

R.D. Cheek (VI)



Seven years of bumper crops are on your way.



Mighty Prince, give us something to eat.



Bup SHA WA DA WA DA



Any dream will do.

ACCOUNT OF THE ABACUS THEATRE CO. FRINGING

'The most obscure fact about Edinburgh is that it owns the world's oldest floral clock' — Edinburgh Tourist Office.

DAY 1 After thirty days of rehearsing (among other things) the four members of the Abacus Theatre company — James Ross, Julian Tiffany, Guy Peach, me — and Timmy crammed themselves into a left-hand drive Volvo Estate and set off up the M6 for Edinburgh. Apart from arguments about where to stop for lunch and whose tape we should play, the journey was uneventful until some way into Scotland when the car blew a gasket. This meant that the first Scot we met was a little old lady with a large young dog who thought we wanted to steal her phone. Having made temporary repairs at a nearby garage we eventually reached our destination, by which time the repairs had fallen off making the car sound like a motorbike race yet still needed pushing. Luckily the noise meant that people from where we were staying found us before we got lost looking for them. Therefore we had time to establish ourselves in a room in the flat and then sample Edinburgh on a Saturday night. We saw a few fireworks and many drunk people.

DAY 2 Today we went to The Venue, or rather The Basement, where we will perform. Though it could easily fit inside Music Studio One, the claustrophobic atmosphere is just what we want. Unfortunately, this atmosphere is slightly dampened by the large mural of the Jungle Book on the back wall. We met Cambridge Chaos who also will be performing here (a two-man comedy show about cricket). Later we 'checked in' at the Fringe Office, learnt they had sold five of our tickets, and collected our cards for the Fringe Club, the watering hole for the 6,000 people working in the Fringe (as well as Russell Harty).

DAY 3 We have been told that the two hardest things about the Fringe are going to bed and getting out of bed (or sleeping bag). It is also very hard to eat a square meal. In addition to we five, there are nineteen other people in the flat, two who live there, and seventeen from the Freudian Slip Theatre Co. We rarely meet them because their play is in the morning and we're always asleep when they're awake.

First-night tonight. We are performing two one-act plays which are loosely connected. The first, which went slowly, is about two people trapped on stage by a dead prompter, a hostile audience, and mutual suspicion. The second, which went well, is about a phone call with someone who claims to be the devil. Luckily the audience was attentive and appreciative, but it was small: two to be exact. However, bearing in mind that there are about a hundred shows to choose from on any one night, that the average Fringe audience size is six, and that we were an unknown company performing unknown plays, we weren't too unhappy about this, especially as one of the audience was a professional actor in the Fringe hit 'Bouncers' and who asked for a script. Then, to the Club!

DAY 4 Slept. Tonight the audience was larger. It consisted of Guy's cousin, Guy's cousin's friend, and a reviewer from the Scotsman newspaper. This time the first play went well, and the second badly, but no laughter, just the reviewer making ominous-looking notes in his black note-book. At the end he hurried off to review Rowan Atkinson and we commiserated — "I couldn't understand", said Guy's cousin. We went to The Fringe Club (again) and then, at midnight, went to see "Bouncers": it was about Bouncers.

DAY 5 Today we got up very early (9.00 a.m.) and pushed the car to a garage. We recovered from this exertion by visiting the Scottish National

Gallery. It has interesting paintings and very interesting mould patterns on the walls. We later discovered somewhere which sold relatively healthy food and so ate a great amount of Tuna Salad sandwiches (in brown bread rolls).

The audience tonight was nine *and* they liked what they saw, apart from a group who left during the interval because they had been insulted and threatened with a knife ('it's in the script').

DAY 6 This morning we had planned to go and see a play but we overslept. Instead, we tried to work out how to pay for the car repairs.

Tonight we had planned to go and see a play but we overslept. Instead, we tried to work out how to pay for the car repairs.

Tonight the audience was one. She seemed more embarrassed than us, so we only did one of the plays. This meant we had time to go to the Castle and see a huge and spectacular firework display. Afterwards we nervously bought an early edition of the Scotsman but discovered our review wasn't there (but neither was Rowan Atkinson's).

DAY 7 Saw a double-bill of plays this morning as well as one this afternoon, and a number of acts at the Club's wine-bar cabaret which is a lot less genteel than its name implies. Tonight the

audience was eight which compared favourably with the play we have seen in the afternoon which was being staged by a considerably larger and more experienced company than us — a fact which made us feel very smug even though Focus Theatre, another group who were using our venue, insisted on pulling our posters down and telling us how great they were.

DAY 8 We spent a lot of time eating toast in celebration of our impending final performance. The audience was dropped back down to three again, two of whom insisted on answering back: ("Who are they?" — "We're the audience"). For the final time we made our way to the Club, fought our way through the BBC lorries and Saturday night queues and saw Naked Mice at the cabaret.

DAY 9 Today we drove back (three hundred and sixty-three miles according to the R.A.C.) Though tired, due to late nights, an unhealthy diet and the cold Northern climate, we were happy to have sampled the hectic atmosphere of the Fringe. Now, must remember to thank Tim Gentles, T.A.S.S., Nigel Brown, Nigel Hunter (who borrowed our poster design) Mrs. Beacham, and especially Mr. Ian Smith for their help.

We forgot to visit the floral clock.

Richard Butterworth



MUSIC



omposing a music calendar is rather like planning a concert programme — or (more excitingly) a 'grand menu', each course complementing the next and delighting the senses at every stage. The Italian violinist

Geminiani had loftier thoughts when in 1751 he declared that. "... the Intention of Musick is not

only to please the ear, but to express sentiments, strike the imagination, affect the mind, and command the passions." But that accomplished gourmand (alias composer) Rossini more readily stimulates the musical appetite in his declaration:

"I know of no more admirable occupation than eating! Appetite is for the stomach what love is for the heart. The stomach is the conductor, who rules the grand orchestra of our passions, and rouses it to action. The bassoon or piccolo, grumbling its discontent or shrilling its longing, personify the empty stomach for me. The stomach replete, on the other hand, is the triangle of enjoyment or the kettledrum of joy...

The truffle is the Mozart amongst the mushrooms."

And so the musical menu took shape — in all, 44 calendared events over the year, sufficient surely to satisfy even the most stringent of appetites! Several of the 'dishes' have been examined in lengthy detail elsewhere but some acknowledgement of the rest is fitting after such a veritable banquet.

First, and certainly foremost, are the events that lie at the heart of a school's musical welfare — those that are 'home-produced'. In concert only two weeks after the academic year began, Violet Maldram and Simon Finlow (both members of the music staff) gave an impressive programme of music for 2 pianos. There were originals (including Rakhmaninov's 2nd suite) and arrangements (such as Myra Hess's evergreen version of Bach's

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring") and an appreciative audience helped revive the Grand Piano Fund. Indeed Miss Maldram herself was later to be an important benefactor in that Fund and also an architect of the scheme that was to attract tremendous support from parents and staff so that the Steinway piano could be secured. The school has much to thank Miss Maldram for, quite apart from the quality of her contribution to the school's musical life.

The music scholars and exhibitioners (all 29 of them), supported by senior musicians — too many to enumerate — presented two high-quality recitals of solos and chamber items in the first two terms — their talents are appreciated in another article, as are the respective contributions of the choirs, orchestras and bands in the Christmas Concert and of the music staff in its Gala Concert last February. However there were other choral delights before the Chamber Choir regaled us (and a small audience in Trafalgar Square) with Christmas carols. The Choral Society took advantage of the Handel Tercentenary Celebrations and presented the oratorio "Judas Maccabaeus" in what Robin Wilson, the critic, described as 'great style'. He noted in particular the excitement generated in the performance of such numbers as 'See the conquering Hero comes' (which featured boys in the treble and alto sections) and remarked on the stylish accompaniment afforded by Simon Finlow's harpsichord continuo. This was effectively to be Simon's swansong before he left the School to emigrate to the U.S.A. — a sad loss indeed for the Music Dept and for the lower school. Less

successful were the chamber choir's excursions to Chichester Cathedral and Trafalgar Square. Under their new conductor Jonathan Newell the choir found that their demanding repertoire was perhaps rather taxing at the start of a new year. Things were to settle down much more satisfactorily under their next conductor, Francis Pott, after the Christmas vacation. Indeed their visits to sing Evensong at Magdalen College, Oxford, and at Salisbury Cathedral in 1986 were happy events and Mr. Pott's temporary tenure generated much appreciation and affection.

The music diaries for Lent and Summer seem to have taken a decidedly 'charitable' appearance. Apart from the Gala Concert by music staff for the Grand Piano Fund, a group of boys gave concerts (for other charities) in Marcham Church and Witney Methodist Church, and Mr. Jones's newly-formed Vale Concert Band supported this Leukaemia Appeal to good effect. There were some splendid individual contributions here — notably the oboe playing of new music-scholar Robert Claydon, the resonant euphonium of Stephen Connor and the ear-splitting organ performances of Geoffrey Styles. But — as ever — the programmes were supported by other fine items — here from Robert Jones and Robert Coupland (violins), Martin Landray ('cello), Thomas Kenyon (piano) and the Brass and String Ensembles. Particularly effective in the Band Concert was the choir of Trumpets (mainly boys) in Gordon Jacob's "Music for a Festival".

Meantime the choirs were busy with further preparations. The pupils of singing teacher David Lowe were ably supported by an 'ad hoc' orchestra to present Handel's rarely-heard "Passion of Our Lord" in the Music Dept's old 'happy hunting ground' — Trinity Church; this performance was to see the accomplished emergence of fifth-former Daniel Spring as Evangelist (tenor). Several months later, in the roomy — if black — area afforded by St. Helen's School Sports Hall, the School Choir and Choral Society combined with a special symphony





orchestra to perform 3 choral classics — Haydn's "Paukenmesse", Rakhmaninov's "3 Russian Folksongs" (in Russian no less!) and (as finale) Borodin's exciting "Polovtsian Dances". A full house seemed duly impressed! It was indeed a happy occasion, with considerable panache achieved in the more exotic numbers!

As the choristers relaxed a little, the instrumentalists in the school's Brass Band, First and Second Wind Bands, First and Second Orchestras were busy with their own rehearsals, notably for the Summer Orchestral Concert and Band Concert. First Wind Band swung to Ellington's "Salute the Duke", Brass Band to Kaempfert's "Swinging Safari", whilst Chamber Orchestra delighted with the intricacies of Britten's "Simple Symphony" and First Orchestra with a terrifying movement from Shostakovich's 8th Symphony and a more tuneful reconciliation in Roger Steptoe's "Music for Abingdon" — a special 1976 commission — under the composer's benevolent (but eagle) ear!

The arrival of the Steinway grand piano was greeted in great ceremony by Francis Pott before he left us in July. His piano recital put the machine through its paces well and truly — after all a programme of Szymanowski, Chopin, Hummel, Brahms, Liszt, Baines, Rakhmaninov, Stenhammar and Pott himself is hardly likely to survive under a lesser model! All told it was a remarkable display of technical virtuosity.

And so the 'home-produce' continued to prosper. The Amey Hall meanwhile was host to 5 Subscription Concerts, to events organised by the School's flourishing Music Society, and to 'outside' events by organizations which (like us) greatly cherish the facilities and opportunities which the Hall offers. Indeed it was in a combined musico-dramatic setting that the 1985-86 season of events came to an end — but more of that elsewhere!

T.J.



CONCERT BY THE MUSIC STAFF



Among the fund raising efforts for the grand piano this term (Lent '86), was a concert given by twenty of the music staff. The programme was well balanced, combining the amusing, the light and the serious.

Chris Britton (flute) and Carolyn King (Oboe) shone radiantly in the wind quintet which started the proceedings. After this, a 'Grand Galop de Concert'. The six hands required could have excelled on a proper concert piano!

As a complete contrast to two brass duos, Bruce Russell sang two of Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel. Ironically Mr. Russell teaches the flute, but he certainly has a fine voice.

A duet for cello and double bass may seem an unlikely combination — and so it sounds, despite an excellent performance.

Mr. Pott and Mr. Andrews coped very well with the National Anthem, when you consider the technical difficulties of playing the piano from the floor, facing the wrong way with one's hands crossed above one's head!

To end the first half nine musicians played some jazz-folk arrangements by our saxophone teacher, John Daniels.



For me the second half proved better in its musical content. A charming set of three piano duets by Schubert were superbly played by John Oxlade and Violet Maldram. Less charming was the arrangement for one man, one piano, one tuba, of Saint-Saens' famous elephant — hopefully this will not become a standard part of the repertoire for that medium! However Mr. Potts' own 'Farewell to Hirta' should be played more often — This very atmospheric piece was, to me, the high point of the evening.

After some rather disappointing guitar duos, which were superbly played, but unimaginatively chosen, by Raymond Burley and Joe Cox, the concert was brought to a lively, if a little under-rehearsed at times, close, with a performance of the Carnival of the Animals. Eight pianists replaced the customary two, although only two performed simultaneously.

Many thanks to all the professional musicians who gave a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

R. Jones (VI)



THE SCHOOL CONCERT — NOVEMBER 30th 1985



or the five major large ensembles of the music department, this concert, the product of some sixty rehearsals, represented the culmination of the term's efforts. Few of the large audience can have been

disappointed.

A lively, well-practised rendering, by the wind band, of Johann Strauss the Elder's Radetzky March opened the programme. This was followed by a medley of tunes by Richard Rodgers. Here the excellent ensemble of the opening work declined a little, particularly in the middle section, but standards were still very high.



After this exciting start, I was somewhat disappointed with the School Choir's Breezy Bach (a rather corny arrangement of the 'Air on a G-string') and a Venezuelan Folk Song, 'Againaldo'. In general the choir were lacking in confidence and were under-rehearsed. The treble section, however, gave an enjoyable performance of 'Old King Cole', but this vast choir could have produced greater volume.

As usual, Brassband (like Wind Band, under the direction of Derek Jones) was most entertaining. Ensemble and tone were most professional. Some superb solos were backed by a well balanced and rehearsed band.

After the interval came the chamber orchestra with the most serious music of the evening. Under Dr. Finlow's expert guidance they played a sonata by J. C. Bach. A good, musical performance, but more practice with the newly added wind section and more attention to the ensemble would have been beneficial.

First Orchestra closed the concert with three works, this time with Mr. James wielding the baton. The first was Michael Hurd's Overture to an Unwritten Comedy. Not being a technically demanding piece, a lovely and witty performance resulted. This was followed by what was, for me, the highlight of the evening — Schumann's much-loved piano concerto. A sensitive and, in places, brilliant performance by Ben Wagon at the piano was well backed by a precise and accurate orchestra. Well done!

An exciting and loud performance of Ron Goodwin's theme from 'Where Eagles Dare' concluded a very good evening's entertainment. I'm sure the audience enjoyed the concert as much as we did the rehearsal and the performance.

R. Jones (6)



ABINGDON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY



have been asked to give my reflections of the past year as viewed from the outpost of the Music Society; an organisation which attempts to bring together in a common purpose parents, friends, boys, the Director of

Music and the Headmaster. The purpose in our case is the enrichment of school music through practical help at concerts (refreshments), fund raising through the various musical and social activities coupled with some thoughts for future development in the fertile soil of the music school.

Following the A.G.M., Mr. Dillon gave a most interesting account of the construction and development of early keyboard instruments including many practical illustrations. A visit to the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden was frustrated by the theatre technicians' industrial action, but we



much enjoyed a concert at the Barbican given by the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus which included the Polovtsian Dances and Carmina Burana, the latter receiving a splendidly virile performance conducted by Richard Hickox. During a fine summer evening a visit to "The Stables" at Wavendon was made for a concert of British Jazz which provided a pleasant contrast to the other events of the year.

However, these "external" events did nothing to take away the enjoyment of another John Cutforth talk (Handel — during his Tercentenary year), the pleasures of the Saturday morning Jumble Sale and the fun of the Summer Barn Dance. Once again these were our major fund raising events which enabled the Director of Music to purchase much needed shelving for the music school as well as helping towards the purchase of choir gowns. We also made a contribution of £1,000 towards the purchase (at last) of the Steinway Grand Piano which now has a permanent place in the Amey Hall. The concert given by Francis Pott in July on the newly acquired instrument was a great success and enjoyed by a large, appreciative audience.

A particularly noteworthy event was the Masterclass given by Emanuel Hurvitz, Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music and formerly leader of the English Chamber Orchestra. The Amey Hall was needed to seat those enthusiasts who attended during a Sunday afternoon and early evening and the boys who took part had a very rewarding experience. It is amazing to hear the quality and quantity of sound which a first class violinist can produce from *any* violin, but especially, of course, his own!

I began by indicating that one of our main objectives is to bring music lovers together. How successful we have been only you can judge. I hope you will be able to share forthcoming events



and to participate where you can. My only personal regret is that Mr. James has given notice of his departure from Abingdon next year; his contribution to the musical life of the school, as the Headmaster remarked recently, has been very great indeed and I can only finish by quoting (in or out of context according to your view of Beethoven's humour) "Muss es sein? Es muss sein!"

David Howard (Chairman)



THE BOARDING HOUSES



As everyone connected with the School ought to be well aware, there have been boarders at Abingdon since at least 1372 — twenty years before William of Wykeham opened his foundations in Winchester, and seventy years before King Henry Sixth, of Blessed Memory, imitated Wykeham in his foundation at Eton. The antiquity of our boarding side, however, has never been matched by the splendour of its accommodation — only one of the present boarding houses was built expressly for that purpose, and it was the School's misfortune to have been passing through a depressed and undistinguished episode at that critical period of the nineteenth century when other, similar establishments were acquiring great ranges of neo-Gothic or sub-Classical dormitory space. Boarding numbers surged at Abingdon after the last war, and a variety of properties was speedily purchased and brought into service to house the influx of boys, but the scarcity of funds entailed by the direct grant system meant that conversion work was limited to essentials, and the structures pressed into use at this time were in any case elderly, and in poorish condition.

By the mid-1970s, therefore, our inheritance consisted of the following: School House, built in

1870, to house 44 boys, but by then accommodating upwards of 70; Waste Court, a delightfully rambling old building, which probably began life in the eighteenth century as a farmhouse, was purchased in 1928 by the School, and was by this time almost semi-derelict, housing between 30 and 40 junior boys, with senior prefects to supervise them; a trio of Victorian villas around Park Crescent, namely Crescent House (purchased in 1952), Glyndowr (purchased in 1954), and The Lindens (purchased in 1973) — all of which together formed one house for approximately 50 boys; and Larkhill, a handsome stone villa off the Faringdon Road which, curiously enough, had been first built in the grounds of Lacies Court, whence it had been moved at the end of the nineteenth century, before being purchased by the School in 1945, to house some 20 boys. In addition, there were various "outposts", in Lacies Court, Heathcot and Heylyns. The state of all the main properties at this time can only be fairly described as parlous, and living conditions for the boys were of a standard that was becoming less and less acceptable to modern parents (not to mention their sons).

The end of direct grant after 1975 entailed an increase in fees which, coupled with the unattractive state of our boarding facilities, weakened our competitive position in the boarding market-place, and it was no surprise that numbers



School House: view from the west wing.

began to fall away. Our ancient commitment to the concept of a resident community was too strong, however, to allow us to contemplate with equanimity the prospect of winding up our boarding side entirely, and the decision was taken instead to rationalise and streamline our establishment, using the increase in space available per boy to improve the provision offered — *reculer pour mieux sauter*, in fact. The outhouses were closed down, and Larkhill was disposed of in 1980, thereby helping to pay for the building of the Amey Hall and Arts Centre. The renovations of the remaining buildings had to be tackled piecemeal, however.

School House itself had been re-roofed in 1974, and the roofs and exterior surfaces of all the other houses were dealt with in turn thereafter — mostly in the period 1979 to 1982, which saw Crescent, The Lindens (as it was known until 1979), Waste Court and Glyndowr re-roofed, re-guttered and re-pointed in turn.

Once the houses were watertight and weatherproof, attention turned to the interiors. Major works were carried out inside School House in 1975, when the games room and study corridor were re-floored; in 1976-7, when a fire precaution system was installed; and in 1980, 1981 and 1982, when dormitory areas were re-shaped in turn. A large part of the School House ablutions system was re-built in 1981, and re-plumbing and re-wiring were undertaken at intervals — the latest such episode took place in 1985. The

Lindens was completely gutted and converted for use in the first case by junior boarders, in 1979, when it was re-named Cobban House: the re-opening of this building may, perhaps, be seen in retrospect as the beginning of a new phase in the history of the boarding side at Abingdon, characterised by a move from makeshift expedients to accommodation designed and fitted out to a high standard, specifically for the purpose of housing boys. Waste Court, though perhaps most pleasant of all to live in, was in a worse state structurally than any of the other houses, and has required constant attention throughout; 1980 saw the beginning of a major programme of works, which continues up to the present day, but is now within measurable distance of completion with the re-furbishing of Big Dorm. and the reconstruction of the boys' ablutions, finished during the course of the current (autumn 1986) term. Glyndowr was re-wired in 1981, and Crescent House itself was given an even more thorough treatment in the summer of 1986, when a change of housemasters gave vacant possession to the workmen for the crucial period of several weeks.

Along with the major works, there has been a continuous programme of ancillary improvements. A laundry was created in the basement of School House in 1976, such spaces as garages and cellars have been built, or cleaned out, or brought into better use, and a boarders' bar has just been opened in a disused changing room for the benefit



Glyndowr

of sixth-formers (autumn 1986). At the same time, and even more important, the accommodation of the resident staff — housemasters and their families, resident tutors, and matrons — has been progressively updated and re-fitted, often at the cost of great discomfort to the occupants, who have none the less endured their tribulations with stoicism and even cheerfulness.

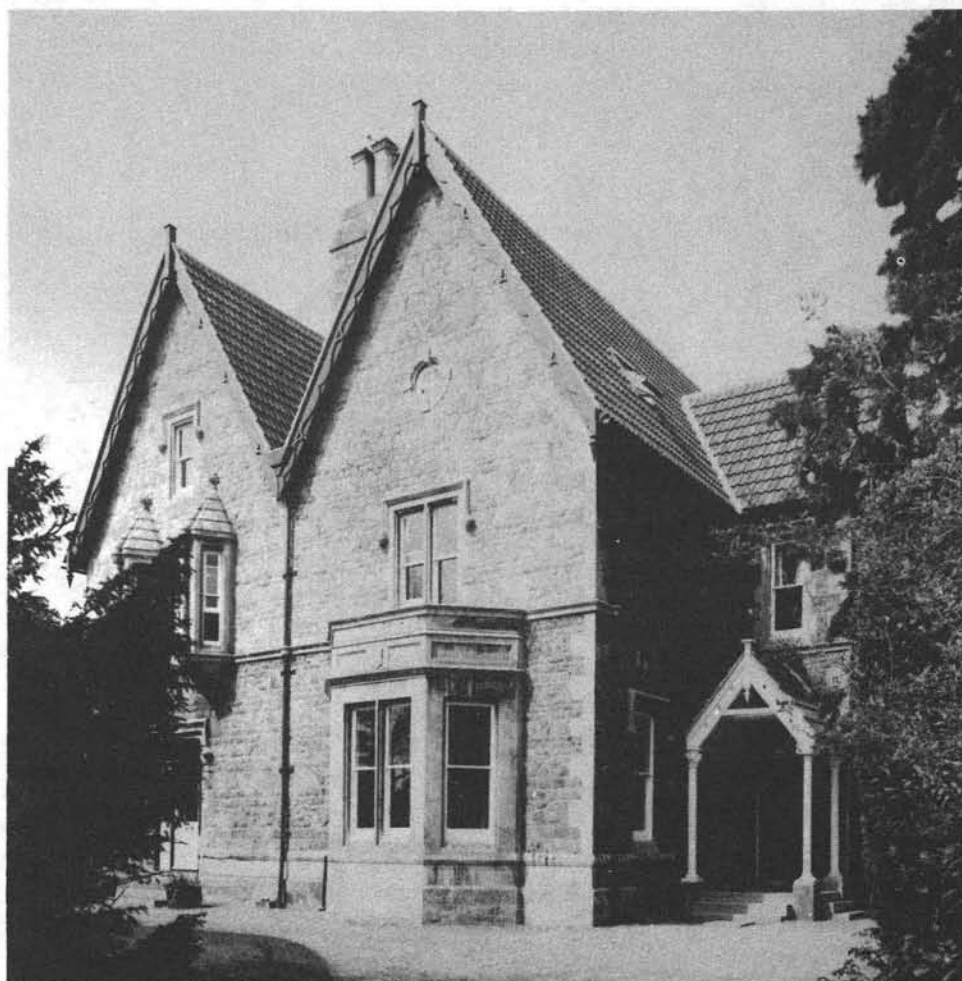
It is, surely, no coincidence that as the programme of improvements has gone on, so applications to join the boarding side have begun to climb again, and numbers are now looking more healthy than they have done for ten years. The re-expansion of boarding at Abingdon was marked in peculiarly happy form by the conversion — indeed, the virtual re-building — of the old coach house behind Waste Court, described in the "Abingdonian" for 1985. At the time of writing, every bed on the boarding side is full, and there is a complete list of registrations for 1987.

The present state of the houses is, therefore, as follows: School House has 53 thirteen- to eighteen-year olds boys, almost all of them full

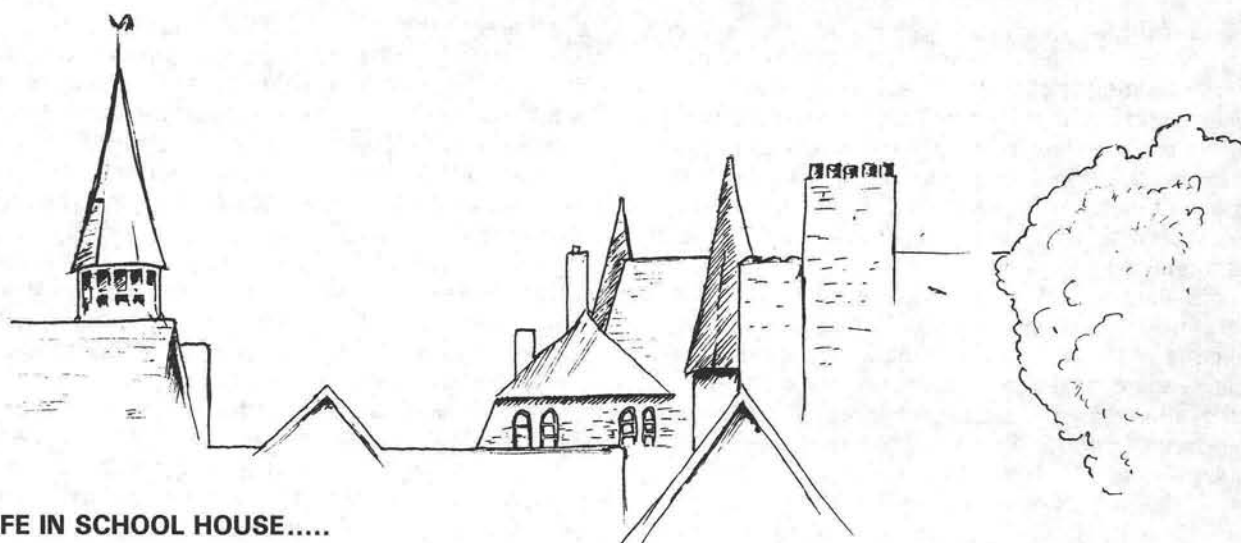
boarders, in the care of a housemaster, a resident tutor and a matron. Crescent House has 48 thirteen- to eighteen-year-old boys, almost all weekly boarders, under a housemaster and two resident tutors, together with a matron; Crescent House itself is devoted to the junior-most boys, together with some lower sixth-formers, while the fourth year occupy Cobban House, and the fifth- and sixth-form, Glyndowr. Waste Court has 36 boys, comprising 27 eleven- and twelve-year-olds, together with 9 supervising seniors who occupy the coach house; there is a housemaster, a resident tutor, and a matron.

All in all, we can say truthfully that the boarding side at Abingdon has never been so well established as it is at present, and we look forward confidently to further growth and development in the future.

M.St.J.P.



Cobban House



LIFE IN SCHOOL HOUSE.....

As we drove up to the school, I saw a very long, tall wing. It looked very old, cold and inhospitable. I was in for a big shock. I opened the heavy white door, and went up the aged stairs. They wound round and round until I reached the top. Straight in front of me there was a long gangway. As I started to walk across it, I found that my fantasies about a long wide dormitory were badly untrue. There were about five cubicles, each with three beds in them. I entered my cubicle and found my room mates; Mark Seager and Robert Gerdes. They were very helpful in making me a lot easier and not so alienated. Gradually I got to know the other boys in the cubicles and found in them the

same warmth and friendship as I did in Rob and Mark. There are about nine dormitories and eight cubicles for the upper sixth. Surprisingly, it did not take me very long at all to find my way around School House. It took even less time to get to know all the fifty-four people who live there. The games room, which consists of a snooker table, table tennis table and a darts board, is a sort of leisure centre. We often go in there to play snooker or table tennis when we have nothing else to do. We also have a reading room and a T.V. room. Every day we get newspapers and there are a wide variety for different people. In outdoor or even indoor games the competition is very



Crescent House

friendly. I personally enjoy every minute of my time here and I'm sure everyone else does as well. Typically among schoolboys, there are always little arguments but they are always resolved quickly and ended by a gentlemanly handshake. The time table is also very organized: wake up at about seven o'clock, first lesson at nine, break at ten thirty, lunch at one, then back to lessons at two till three thirty. After games, we have tea at five-thirty and prep starts at six-thirty. That finishes at about eight, and there is about an hour and a half spare before we have to get ready for bed, for lights out at ten. School House is a very friendly place and the people are very kind. I enjoy my time at school very much, and even more in the boarding house.

G. Nikkah (IV)

AND.....LIFE IN SCHOOL HOUSE

"School house only". The sign appears as you walk into the headquarters of the boarding community. Study Corridor where the upper sixth have their shaving foam fights (whoops, slip of the tongue there): did Hugh Taylor really have a phone call from a young lady at twelve o'clock at night, or did he actually want to have a wash? Ask him, the upper sixth still don't know what the accusations are all about.

On Mondays, Tuesdays through to Fridays the House goes quiet at about six-thirty, the multitudes of 3rd to 5th formers disappearing into

rooms one, two and three to do Prep. Ah Prep, who says boarders merely drink coffee? — we couldn't afford it anyway! It must be a terrible shock for the new boys who meet most of the sixth form only in Prep as they are told to 'shut up', 'Be quiet', 'Get on with your prep' or 'Come here!'.

Essentially, the House is 'Home' for a number of boys at the weekends and during the week days. We spend our hours, or at least the more energetic lower years do, playing touch rugby, baseball and cricket against the waste paper bins. The upper years, incidentally, sleep, catching up on the hours the next-day revision takes away.

Recently, Mr. Crawford, our Housemaster, has been taking the 3rd years away for Expeditions on Sundays which, I assure them, is heartily good for the soul. Their duties, which happen to include taking the laundry baskets upstairs, cleaning rooms such as the T.V room before they go to bed, and, most importantly of all, getting the Prefects' rations, must be a strain at times; but the answers the Prefects have been receiving recently about why they haven't been doing their duties, prove that they still have their wits about them.

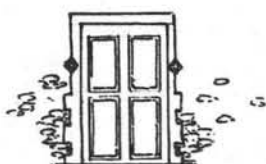
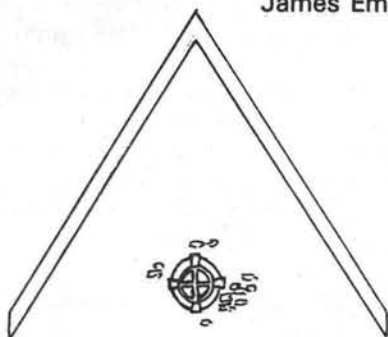
All in all, the last few terms have been extremely enjoyable for all, and the sixth form particularly. Finally I would like to thank the House Perfects namely Matthew Elliot, Andrew Stacey (our esteemed Head of House), Martin Landray, David Salmon, Robin Whittaker, and Neil Martin for the wonderful foam bath they gave me on the



Waste Court: The Coach House

occasion of my birthday, and to the gentleman who organised the 'fun and games' at one o'clock in the morning. Apologies to Mr. Crawford and Mr. Donald for waking them up.

James Emmett (VI)



CRESCENT HOUSE

The first day of the Michaelmas term was much as usual in Glyndwr and barely any different in Cobban; some familiar faces had returned from Portugal and some from Waste Court, but trunks were unpacked with the expertise born of long practice and posters promptly blossomed over empty stretches of dormitory wall. In Crescent

itself, however, Nigel Hunter's take over must have been more than somewhat of a nightmare: wires dangled, plaster showered or dried, floors gaped and pipes terminated in bizarre angles. 'Just explain to the new boys' parents that all this is only temporary' came the request. If these parents had seen the state of the place just two days previously they would probably have taken their precious offspring elsewhere, but in two days prodigies of 'making good' had been performed. Novelties like central heating now graced Crescent but essentials like floors, doors and simple plumbing which had been swept aside returned just in time. There was somewhere to sleep.

The other buildings of Crescent House were improved during Charles Parker's spell as housemaster. Cobban set the standard all at once when it was overhauled and adapted for junior boarders between the McGowan and Gasson régimes. Glyndwr acquired safe electricity, central heating, new ceilings, sufficient lavatories, carpet, fire alarms and emergency lighting over three disruptive but ultimately worthwhile years. (How many readers can remember the day when the HOT water froze?) And I think the current assault on Crescent itself can perfectly well be seen as the completion of C.P.'s schemes and ambitions for his house. It's rather sad but so often the way of the world that only at times of change can obvious and long overdue improvements readily be made.

I.A. MacDonald



Waste Court viewed from Bath Street



WASTE COURT HOUSE

THE BOARDING HOUSE

Having survived a reasonably subdued final year as a middle-upper school boarding house, Waste Court has been rocked in its foundations by the invasion of 27 energetic young arrivals.

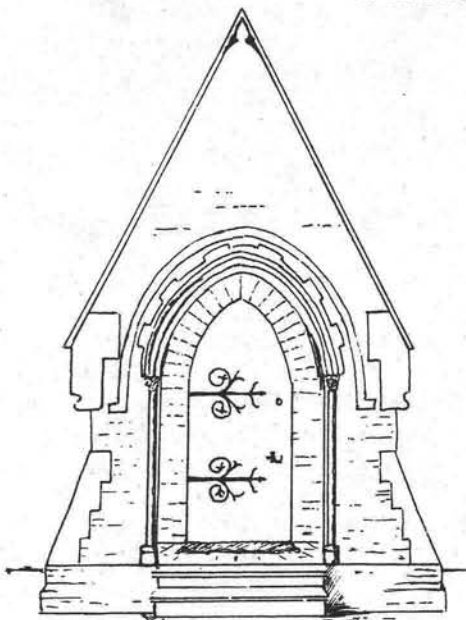
Anticipating the siege Mr. Biggs has erected new barriers (walls). Rumours of minefields and gun emplacements behind them have not yet been denied, but would-be arsonists should be deterred by the dozen or so new fire sirens with which the house has been blessed. The status quo, however, has been restored by the taming influence of two new ladies, Mrs. Fishpool, newly married to the congenial house tutor, and Miss Turier our new resident house matron.

The House's new role has brought with it many new improvements: resplendent new showers and bunk units worthy of Sir Terence Conran himself.

With all the frantic activity, the sixth form are grateful for the sanctity of the coach house, complete with its budding vicious guard dog.

We look forward to the end of the year-and a quiet room at Fairmile!

M. Schofield (VI)
& N. Clark (VI)



At 7.30 a.m. the only sounds throughout the dormitory are grunts, snores and the protestations of bed-springs.

At 8.00 only snorts, groans and people turning in their sleep can be heard. Suddenly a sleeper jolts awake, gropes for his watch and stares at it bleary-eyed. He immediately leaps out of bed and attempts to get to breakfast before it finishes. Some, awakened by the flurry, follow his example. Others feel indifferently towards the charms of breakfast and continue in their slumber.

At 8.39 everybody, back from breakfast or having just arisen, begin to prepare for school: washing, tidying appearances and grabbing books. A few minutes later there is an elusive dash across the gravel, attempting to avoid anybody lurking in order to pounce on pupils late for tutor period.

9.05 a.m.: lessons begin. In haste grabbed the wrong books. Return to fetch them. Re-enter lesson five minutes later and try to concentrate till break. Boarders then return to find cleaners suitably altering dormitories and generally exasperated at the mess.

After break lessons drag on until lunch when everyone feels reassured by the respite and the fact that there are only two lessons remaining. Many dayboys enter boarding houses seeking refuge from the hazards of their respective common rooms.

When school finishes at 3.30 most people don festering games clothes and exhaust themselves playing various sports. This is succeeded by a mad rush for the bath — the queue is invariably 10 people long and the cause of many people foregoing their tea.

Prep. begins at 6.30 and calls for thorough studying and no gambling rings. Prep. ends at 9.00 and lights out is strictly enforced by the roving Mr. Crawford and associates.

The air stagnates as people gradually fall asleep... (But who knows the secret of the missing stag's head?)

The Boarding Side Syndicate

CCF BIENNIAL INSPECTION

The biennial Inspection took place on Thursday 22nd May. The Inspecting Officer, Air Commodore Warrington, arrived by helicopter to inspect the 180 cadets and officers — one of the largest turnouts for such a day in recent years. This was followed by a full march-past led by the Bugle Band. The Air Commodore was then taken on a guided tour of many of the CCF's activities, including the hovercraft in one of its working moods as it threatened to scythe through several groups of marching cadets. After lunch, the whole contingent sat down to a CCF Presentation in the Amey Hall, with slides, music, sketches and a short programme by the military band. The Air Commodore and his team seemed suitably impressed — we have the written report to prove it.

With a certificate of efficiency for the next 2 years this contingent can now relax.

A. Corbett (VI)

CAMP 1986

Just after the end of the summer term the CCF set out for sunny North Yorkshire. After a long five-hour journey, we finally arrived at Wathgill training camp near Catterick, a recently opened purpose built complex for cadet forces. During the camp all the cadets fired SLR's and SMG's and had a chance to improve their efficiency with the .303. Everyone took part in a well planned and executed patrol exercise which included section attacks, ambushes and surviving on compo. rations for a day. The weather was variable but good for the orienteering and the very energetic escape and evade exercises. The rain cut short various activities but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the regulars or our own CCF instructors. Most of the cadets enjoyed the whole camp, with the exception of the food, and all managed to sleep nearly all the way home despite the dilapidated state of the bus, which appeared to be pre-WW1. The hovercraft was seen moving at one point, but typically it had stopped by the time the visiting General arrived to inspect it.

R. Sparkes (VI)



CAPTAIN R. FOX MBE, BEM.

After 14 years of outstanding service to this contingent, Captain Jock Fox left us at the end of the summer term, to enjoy a well-earned retirement in Lincolnshire.

Words are not sufficient to explain all Jock has done for the CCF, but all of us, cadets, officers and O.A.'s, will remember Jock's contribution to the school with appreciation and affection, and we wish him all the very best for the future.

R.J.W.

PARACHUTING

On the first Monday and Tuesday of the Christmas term 1985 eleven eager young cadets went to the RAF Sport parachute centre at Weston-on-the-Green. The cadets from our school were joined by a party of six from Hendon. Together for the first day we practised the drill: aircraft exits; and, of course, the parachute roll; along with various lectures.

When Tuesday came everyone was getting anxious: would the wind slow up enough; would we have the nerve to jump out of 'Tango Golf', the club's 'Islander' aircraft; would our parachutes open even if we did pluck up enough courage? After lunch we were about to go out to the hangar to do yet more parachute rolls when the news broke... We had fifteen minutes to get ready, the wind had finally slowed up.

After final rolls and exit practices we all got kitted out with a main 'chute and reserves. When our turn came to jump sheer terror came across very vividly, because of the white faces in the aircraft.

The initial few seconds of free fall was very frightening, but once the 'chute had opened it was fantastic. After a two-minute aerial view of Oxfordshire along came the landing. All I can say about that is that there were some very 'funny' parachute rolls.

After the excitement of the jump came the fun of watching ourselves on video (the dispatcher had had a video camera strapped to his helmet). It was a most enjoyable two days, and many people wish to continue the sport afterwards.

M. Schofield (VI)

R.A.F. CAMP — EASTER 1986

The camp, this year, was held at RAF Leamington in Yorkshire. The base was, and still is, being converted for use by the new Tornado interceptors, which meant that aircraft activity was low.

The flying itself, in Chipmonks, took place at Teeside airport, and we had two flights each during the week (with no help from the weather). We also made use of the sports centre at Teeside.

Other activities during the week included swimming, an orienteering exercise on the base, a hike over the North Yorkshire Moors and small-bore and full-bore rifle shooting.

Inter-flight competitions were run during the week, and the flight which was headed by and largely comprised of, Abingdon Cadets, won the drill competitions and came second overall.

This was a highly successful and enjoyable camp, and we look forward to the next annual camp, at an as yet unknown location.

C.M.O. Wade (VI)

CCF ADVENTURE TRAINING — EASTER 1986

Ripon this year was more arduous than usual, with the whole party of 8 officers, 30 cadets, and 12 bandsmen under canvas. The weather was generally miserable and early morning parades were almost invariably conducted in the drizzle. However, the food was its usual high standard and the training was even more varied and more demanding than in previous years. A group of 6 senior cadets conducted a 6 day extended hike of 120 km over the Yorkshire Moors. Others rock

climbed, canoed, walked, and abseiled — on two occasions over a spectacular 200ft drop to water.

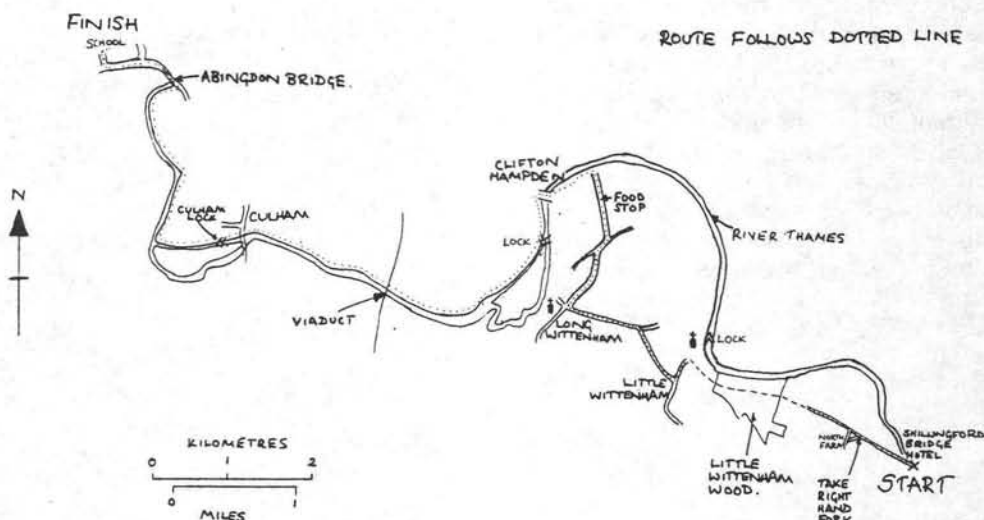
The 12 junior members of the party underwent intensive band training with Captain Jones, culminating in a final parade with a full marching bugle band of a very respectable standard.

Next year promises even more — with the added attraction of pre-booked, centrally heated barracks and wash-room facilities.

P.Harris (VI)

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ABINGDON SCHOOL: SPONSORED WALK ROUTE



THE SPONSORED WALK

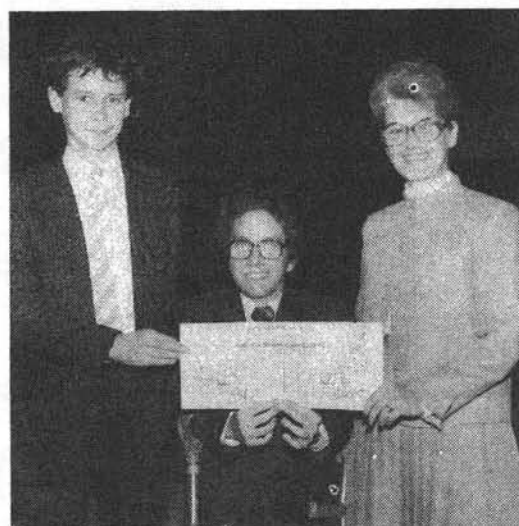
The organisation of the sponsored walk was an all round effort, mainly on the part of the prefects, especially Chris Day and Matthew Lodge who were key figures in putting the idea of a sponsored walk into practice. The idea was first conceived in the summer term of 1985, and was met with enthusiasm by both the prefects and the Headmaster. It was seen not just as a worthwhile exercise in its own right, but also as a means of unifying the school in a good cause. It was thought best to direct funds towards two charities instead of one, as this would create a broader appeal, and the ones decided on were Sequal and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. However, the summer holidays intervened and it was not until the Michaelmas Term that things started to happen.

A date was decided that would not clash with too many games commitments, and after checking with various 'official bodies', was confirmed. Then the route had to be drawn up and 'tested' by: myself, Chris Day, Matthew Lodge and J.R.G. on a wet Tuesday afternoon. Despite a slight quagmire near Wittenham Clumps, everything seemed to be O.K., so Jon Cracknell went into action producing maps, and Chris got in touch with Tappins Coaches who agreed to give us transport very cheaply, with no profit.

It was arranged for Mrs. Aldridge from Sequal to visit the school a couple of weeks before the walk was due to take place to publicize it and to make people aware of what they would be making money for.

Eventually the day of the walk came, the rainy weather which we had feared would cancel the whole event was replaced only by a freezing morning fog. Still, as Mr. Randolph had predicted, this cleared by mid-day, and the day ended up very warm. Most people seemed to enjoy the walk, and few if any got lost (even if some decided to take short cuts). Prefects lined the route to ensure a safe passage home, and Boli & Co. provided refreshments. A litter party followed the walkers making sure that there was no litter left lying around. After the apparent success of the walk itself, the financial total was awaited with eager anticipation. A high target of £7,000 pounds had been set, but this was just a wild figure intended to get people to raise more than if a lower one had been set, but we never thought we'd raise anything like that amount. In the event we raised £7,500, surpassing all expectations. The total was split equally between the two charities at assembly. Simultaneously prizes were awarded to those who had made the most money, and Mrs. Fitt's Lower Sixth form who had raised the least, presented with the record 'Money's too Tight to Mention.'! The Tutor Group which raised the most was 1S.

T.W. Gentles (VI)



Charity walk

Schoolboys in Abingdon have walked into the record books by raising £7,000 for charity.

The Oxford branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society has been given a £3,750 boost by sixth formers at Abingdon School.

The society says the sum is the largest single amount they have ever received from an individual school.

The cash, which will be used to allow families of MS sufferers to accompany them on assisted holidays, was only half of an amazing £7,000 raised by the whole school during a mass sponsored walk along the Thames.

More than 700 pupils, accompanied by many schoolmasters, walked 12½ miles from Shillingford along the riverside to Abingdon.

And of those taking part, one first form alone raised £600 — five of the boys individually raising more than £100 each, and five more accounting for more than £50 each.

The walk was suggested and organised entirely by prefects at the school. Didcot coach firm Tappins laid on seven buses at cut price rates to shuttle the walkers to Shillingford.

On Monday at morning assembly, Abingdon sixth former Tim Gentles handed over the £3,750 cheque on behalf of the school to Mrs Pat Hodgson of the Oxford MS society, and presented a similar amount to Mr Mark Aldridge and Mrs Linda Aldridge (pictured) for the Milton-based firm Sequal, which makes special equipment and aids for the disabled.

— Courtesy
Abingdon Herald

THE WALK

I had started to find sponsors as soon as I was given the sheet. The walk was twelve and a half miles from Shillingford to Abingdon. I then had a gap of two weeks before I found any more. I tried to get myself fitter before the walk by cycling, as I was not altogether sure that I would finish it.

So when Monday came I was slightly doubtful. The weather was foggy and the ground was soaking wet. When I arrived at school we had chapel service and then we caught the buses from Waste Court field to Shillingford. The buses were quite luxurious, but we were squashed up three to a seat.

We arrived at Shillingford and started to walk single-file in a group. This seemed easy until we realised we were walking to the start! I was wearing a ruck-sack, with shoes, three pairs of socks and lunch in it. It also contained three litres of orange squash and it soon began to hurt my back.

We reached the start and when we had walked a kilometre I was beginning to wonder how long the walk was. We soon came to a wood with mud that resembled the clay I used at pottery. It was slippery and consistent and I was hoping that I would reach the end of that section before I slipped over. I did not slip over and in the next field

we were allowed to go ahead of the master and three of us started to go fast. The dew in the fields was squelching into my trainers and the fields, the fog and the scenery seemed everlasting. However, we reached Little Wittenham and then Long Wittenham, and then more fields and dew until we came to the prefects selling refreshments.

I had by now taken the bottle out of my bag and was carrying it and drinking it. We eventually reached the misty river, then Clifton Hampden, with its stone bridge, and we started to eat what was meant to be lunch as we went along. We passed landmarks on the map that broke the monotony, and the group I was in followed some senior boys who went the wrong way along a road instead of along the riverbank. At last we walked past the Boat Club, through Abingdon, and then got back to the pavilion at school to have our names ticked off.

We were the first group of first formers, arriving at one twenty five. My feet did not ache until I arrived home and then had to cycle up and down hills collecting my sponsor money.

Nicholas Laing 1F



INDUSTRY YEAR

"He told me that he had set his heart on the 'Professions' and didn't even give industry a second thought; he claimed that he wanted to work with people and anyhow, in his youthful idealism, he didn't think that making a profit from manufacturing something was a particularly moral thing to do. Industry conjured up pictures of dark satanic mills and sweating labourers fuelling the blazing furnaces of iron foundries in the North of England".

How wrong he was. Any industrialist today would rightly refute that image, but more importantly despair that a decision as important as one's career was made with so little accurate information about the range of other possibilities available. Industry year '86 is intended to help fill that gap by showing how important industry is to the economy and how it affects each of us in our daily lives. As consumers we use the output from all sectors by simply eating, buying clothes or records and travelling to school by bus. And yet although we use these products and services we are reluctant to consider a career that provides them, especially involving manufacturing. Industry Year '86 is trying to encourage positive links between schools and local firms to increase the awareness amongst students of how industry works, is enriching the community and providing employment. Industrial development is a dynamic process and despite the general state of the economy many firms, especially in this area, thrive and grow, recycling their profits to expand and become more efficient: others inevitably find the pressures of competition too great.

Within most firms there is a wide variety of managerial jobs, each with its own sphere of interest and responsibility and each with its opportunities, challenges and rewards. Managers specializing in marketing, production, accounting, research and development or personnel departments all work closely with each other and those in their charge: these jobs require highly trained and skilled people to solve problems and to make the correct decisions that can make the difference between success and failure.

The awareness of these opportunities has not been as widespread here as it should be and so in sympathy with Industry Year '86 Business Studies has been introduced into the curriculum and more effort is being made to encourage boys to participate in the local economic community. The Challenge of Industry Conference, the Young Enterprise project and the school Industrial Society are three ways of complementing the activities that have already been started.

Perhaps this increased awareness will lead to considerations of courses in higher education leading to a career in industry: certainly a good decision to follow any degree course or career path can only be taken after all the information on the numerous possibilities has been gathered and carefully analysed.

J.T.



ABINGDON SCHOOL ENTERPRISES

Because 1986 is industry year, Mr. Townsend decided to establish a small company from within the school. The initial funding for the operation came in the form of a loan from Nat. West. bank, and a group of a dozen lower sixth formers began to organize and conduct the firm's first few ventures.

In Lent term A.S.E. undertook a prize-draw. Tickets were sold to boys and staff alike; the response for the latter being somewhat greater than that of the pupils. The grand draw for the cash prizes was conducted by the Headmaster and this first venture proved moderately successful. At the T.A.S.S. fête A.S.E. sold refreshments and the demand was sufficient to result in a modest profit. Probably A.S.E.'s biggest and most successful venture to date was the sale of strawberries and ice-cream at the main Amey Hall production of the Summer Term.

Michaelmas Term will see A.S.E. embark on the manufacture and retail of sledges, Christmas cards, and snooker tables of various sizes (extra little). A prototype sledge was on view at A.S.E.'s stall at the fête and interest was encouragingly healthy. Next year the running of A.S.E. will be undertaken by the boys presently in the 5th year, although investment in the firm, in the form of shares, will be possible for boys of all years, teachers and even parents.

On behalf of A.S.E., I'd like to thank all of its members who have toiled faultlessly in an attempt to raise working capital for the bigger future ventures. Thanks also to Mr. Townsend who co-ordinated and helped to manage the A.S.E.'s ventures.

A.D. Tapper (VI)

CHALLENGE OF INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Challenge of Industry Conference was a two-day conference which took place in the summer term and involved all the members of the lower sixth. It was organized by the Industrial Society and sponsored by several local firms.

From the start we were divided up into eight discussion groups each with a group advisor. The advisors came from all fields of industry and included a captain from British Airways, a store manager from Woolworths and a personnel manager from Austin Rover. The conference included an introductory session, conducted by the conference chairman, followed by several tasks and roleplaying exercises concentrating on leadership and management. There were also two simulated meetings. One was a meeting of various managers in a large department store, and the other was in the form of negotiations between trade union representatives and the management followed by an opportunity to ask any relevant questions. It all ended with an 'action session' in which each group was given the chance to say what had been gained from the conference and what should be done in the future.

On the whole the conference was conducted in a very relaxed manner with plenty of time talking to many of the speakers and advisors over tea or coffee. The conference was enjoyed by many people and a lot was gained from it.

Tim Butcher (VI)

STOCKPILER

This year the school entered two teams in the 'Stockpiler' investment competition. Each was given a theoretical capital base of £50,000 with which to buy and sell the shares of companies in the pages of the Financial Times in order to make the largest possible profit. The restriction was that we could only change our portfolio of shares once every month, which meant that we had to take risks which are not typical of the stock market. Each team of six started fairly slowly, and after the first two months had made clear profit of around £5,000. It was clear by then that it was better to buy a larger number of cheap shares rather than a small number of expensive ones, since price changes in the cheaper shares made a higher proportion of the total price. In the first month group one had made only £350 investing in expensive shares!

By following this system both teams progressed well, though mistakes were made. Group two suggested investment in electronic companies, 'Amstrad' and 'Apricot', then forgot their own advice — both share prices virtually doubled once the investment had been abandoned. Group one, however, took advantage of this and by the end of February had accumulated £19,000 profits, though nearly £2,500 had been lost in fines for "stretching" the rules. Of the 84 teams in the region the groups were 7th and 11th respectively, group one having made £10,000. The boom in the stock market ended in the final month, and both teams struggled a little, group one slipping to 9th with a final total of £66,591, and group two falling out of the top twenty (well, to 50th actually) with a total of £58,000, though this may have been due to reckless tactics which included investing in tin! The leader of group two, Ben Woodward, defended this by saying "we played to win".

J. Lister Cheese

POLITICS VISIT TO LONDON

A full day of visits to the Law Courts and Parliament began with the Appeal Court in the Strand, where we heard judges and counsel discussing points of law in a motor cyclist's appeal against conviction and sentence. This was followed by an appeal case concerning the rejection of a planning application.

The stipendiary at Bow Street Magistrates' Court committed, bailed and despatched petty criminals with some rapidity and interesting it was to contrast the two areas of the law.

The afternoon was in Parliament beginning with Question Time in the Lords and followed by Committee stage and Report stage of Registration. As red benches gave way to green we moved to the precincts of the Commons, initially to a Committee Room to hear Chris Patten M.P. deal with several clauses of the education bill in Standing Committee with masterly ability. We ended the day by visiting the Strangers' Gallery of the Commons and heard speeches from Enoch Powell M.P. and Michael Foot M.P.

N.K.H.

LOWER SIXTH CONFERENCE

On Tuesday May 6th Mr. Geoffrey Holroyde, the Director of Coventry Lanchester Polytechnic, came to speak to the lower sixth form and make them think about issues that might affect them in the next twenty years.

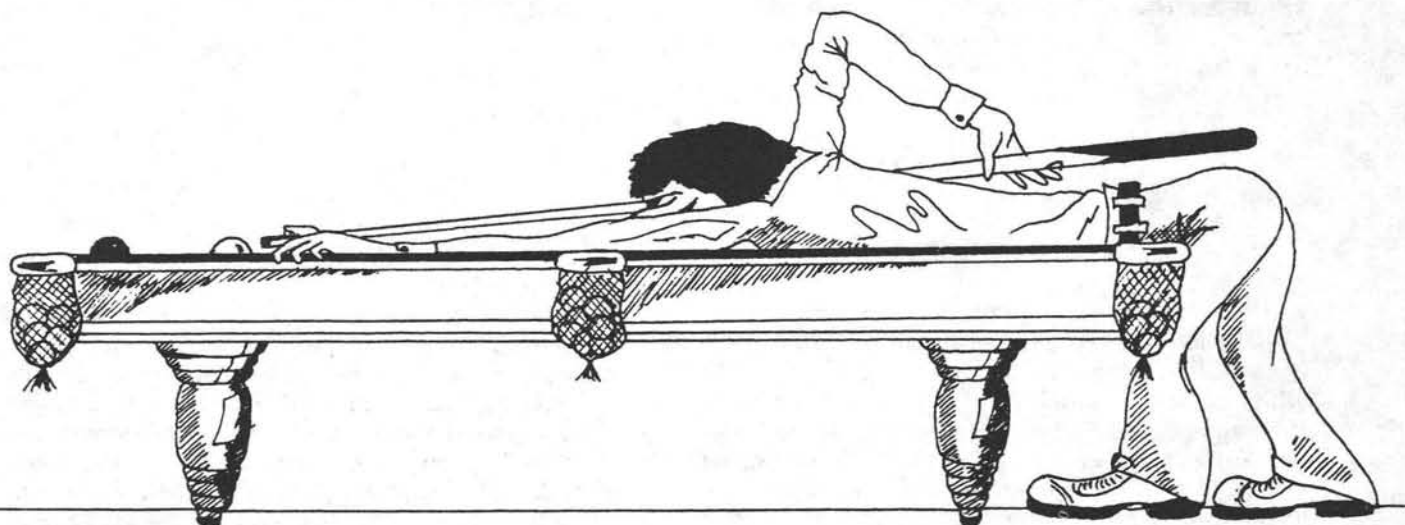
After a thirty minute introductory talk nine groups were formed, each with a chairman to organize the proceedings, and a secretary to write down the conclusions. From one o'clock until two we thrashed out answers to 5 main issues and opportunities that would affect us in the next twenty years from a list including: drugs, lawlessness, terrorism, new energy sources, and understanding between people.

It was generally felt that sixth formers should try to educate themselves in a more general way, including a year off to work in the third world, to try and develop social and political awareness and to use and apply knowledge gained in a useful and constructive way. In terms of university the sixth form would like to see 'sandwich' type courses where one year of the course is spent gaining practical experience.

The day was complemented by an hour of basic question and answer, and it was felt to have been an extremely useful day by all.

James Emmett (VI)

THE SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM



It became apparent soon after taking charge that the previous year's committee would be a hard act to follow. During an attempt to restore order Nigel Williams found coffee both in jugs and on bank statements lying in the bottom of a cupboard.

Several dissatisfied sixth-formers have claimed, with some justification, that little has changed since the new committee took over; one told me quite bluntly to resign and let a group of prefects do the job. Entertainment facilities are, admittedly, minimal — newspapers, two old darts

boards and a radio — and cushion throwing has, now, become a very popular activity. We are, however, confident of having both a snooker table and a table-tennis table installed by Christmas (1986?).

No-one needs reminding, I hope, that any suggestions of complaints should be referred to tutor group representatives. Oh yes.... if it's about painting the common room, or credit for food, see your tutor. Don't blame the committee — we can't do it all ourselves.

Simon Haynes (VI)

EASTERN MISCHIEF?

I hesitate to say what the functions of the modern journalist may be; but I imagine that they do not exclude the intelligent anticipation of facts even before they occur. Lord Curzon

I walked out of the airport, looked at several thousand identical faces, and ran for the air-conditioning. 'Come in,' said my editor, 'what can you do?' I thought that I should be honest and told him that what I could not do was spell. Then he asked me to proof read a large pile of galley-sheets.

I rapidly adopted the life of the journalist. My days were spent staring at sheets of copy, inserting full stops and correcting spelling errors; and my nights in the Press Club and Foreign Correspondents' Club. Thursday, being the day on which my magazine was printed, was celebrated by a bout of 'production day blues' at the bar of the F.C.C.. The editor would occasionally gaze into his glass and pull on his earring, saying 'We're gonna be sued, Hugh, I know we're gonna be sued.' Friday mornings were never much fun.

And then I was asked to write a story. Off I went to a press conference followed by an interview with the Marlboro man. I am not very good at interviews. The Marlboro man was excellent. He asked lots of probing questions ('Oh Oxford, isn't that where Eton College is?') and I failed to learn anything. I sat at a hostile typewriter with nothing to record. I was reassured that 'a good journalist never lets facts stand in the way' and started bashing the keys. It is a truly wonderful vocation.

A few weeks later a sundry sub-editor asked me to correct a literary quotation. I thanked God for A.F.T. and misquoted half a stanza. The typewriters and telephones went silent as the newsroom turned to me in amazement. I was told that book and play reviews were mine. I sat back blissfully and wondered if Hong Kong had a theatre.

In my arrogance, I decided to live only on what I earned, just to see if I could do it, and discovered that I had to do more earning. Freelance work was the obvious answer. I would write anything for a dollar a word. I found myself lifting from the Encyclopaedia Britannica (why did that give me a feeling of *déjà vu*?), and re-writing it with many short words and long sentences. A copy-starved features editor, and an afternoon's work could produce a thousand bucks' worth of rubbish.

However special my arrangement with the Press Club, that was not enough. After all, I was a capitalist in one of the world's most decadent consumer societies, so I sought the cheapest flats in the colony. I lived in a paddy farmer's back room, several sofas and, in my greatest desperation, dosed in the most salubrious sail-locker of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. For complicated reasons, I frequently shared with a southern Californian: 'Wow'.

I found economy and happiness in Wan Chai, on the main strip of the famous 'Wanch'. My rights to the couch cost me five hundred dollars a month, which is not bad considering that most people pay that for an hour. It was always most interesting when the fleet was in.



Tin-Hou's Temple.



Hong Kong: view from the top.

Our opium smuggling ancestors regarded Hong Kong as a pretty piece of Imperial real estate. The Chinese, however, regard the Europeans as *gwielos*: foreign devils. The British are no more than another government after centuries of changing dynasties. Mau Tse-tung, Shang Kai-shek and Her Majesty are merely the successors of Manchu Quing. So long as taxes are taken and

streets are policed they are members of the 'Central Kingdom'. The regime has changed so often, and to such little effect, that its identity is largely irrelevant.

At times, usually when I had been swindled out of money, I was extremely bigoted. But usually, as I was greeted with courteous 'jo-san' on the streets, or when magically effective gin-seng was dabbed on my wounds, I was full of admiration for this alien civilisation. However Western I am, I frequently burn a little joss in my local temple, to a particularly charming goddess called Tin-hau.

My understanding of Cantonese is too miniscule for any further comment to be valid.

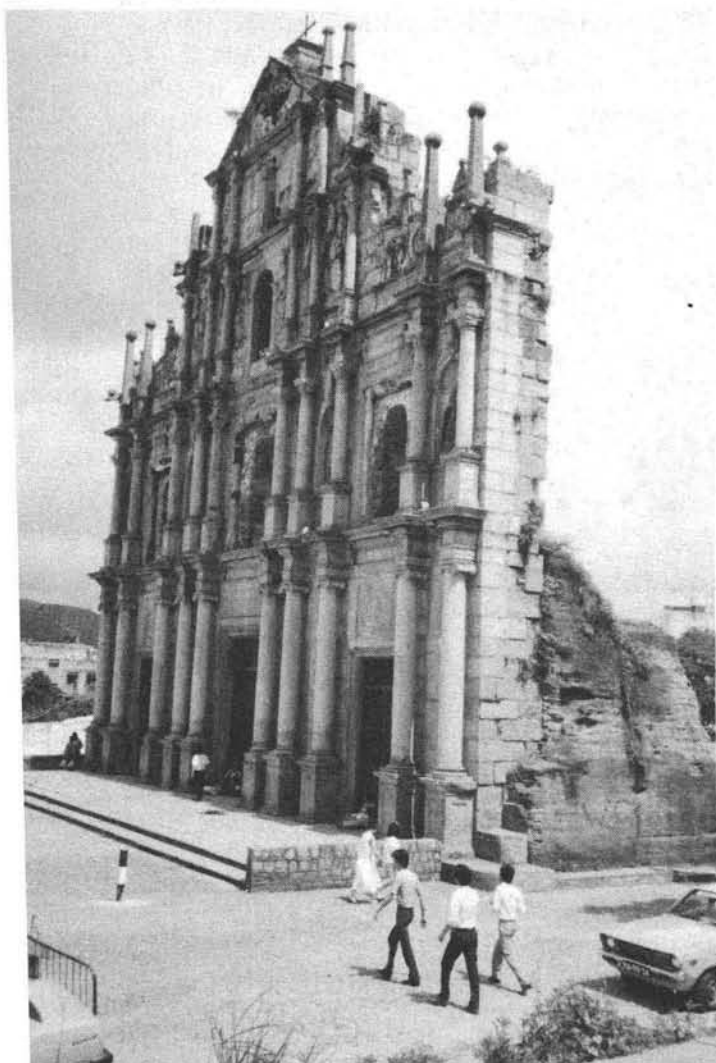
Meanwhile, in Macau prostitution, smuggling and gambling are the major industries of Macau. Ancient Portuguese canons, ruined cathedrals and a hundred grubby casinos make it very exotic. I won at roulette, lost more on taxi fares, slept under the façade of the old cathedral and strolled through the crumbling baroque gate into the People's Republic of China. It is all rather more relaxed than Hong Kong: the police carry enormous guns, but they cannot afford bullets. A short sail across the Pearl River takes you to a city of unlimited adventure. The beer is cheap and the triad gangsters are friendly. I don't know why the Portuguese keep trying to give it back.

I would hate to give the impression that Hong Kong is an interesting city. It is dull: I had to work to find those theatres. The natural beauty is impressive for about 10 minutes. The Orient really is exotic, but I would advise travel through the whole Pacific Rim. I sub-edited stories from Thailand and Japan, but never saw Bangkok or Tokyo. I was told by a law reporter that 'the East is under your skin' but then so were the mosquitoes.

I cannot recommend journalism sufficiently highly. The men and women who make newspapers are the most interesting in the world, and the power of the press is not only a clichè, it is also potentially massive.

Strangely enough I still can't spell.

Hugh Riches (O.A., 85)



Sao Paulo, Macau, in relaxed mood. Where's the cathedral?



Dragon Boat Festival: Indonesian warriors and Australian things.

HAMMARBANK — FEBRUARY 1986

On Friday 21st February, a party of 12 sixth formers set off for the Lake District on a mountaineering holiday, staying at 'Hammarbank', an "outdoor residential" centre in Ambleside. After covering the 240 miles in a record 5½ hours, considering our 50 m.p.h. speed limit with the trailer, we were somewhat disappointed on our arrival to find the lower fells and valleys covered only in a fine peppering of snow. However, we were soon reassured by our two instructors, Greg and Colin, and the centre organiser, Peter Natrass, that there was plenty of snow awaiting us 'on the tops'.

In the afternoon we immediately practised the use of ice axes, which are a necessity for winter walking and climbing. Greg and Colin led us to a fairly safe snow slope at the head of Waindale where we practised how to brake and stop a slide using an axe. This involves punching yourself in the ear with the axe head and digging your nose and face in the snow, but is very good fun once you get the hang of it! We descended in to the valley and met up with Mr. Natrass who had somehow managed to build half an igloo in less than an hour!

Our second day brought some magnificent weather with clear blue skies and brilliant sunshine. We split into two groups; one set from the Kirstone Pass travelling east, the other from the head of Haweswater walking west, and we planned to meet somewhere in the middle. We worked our way up to Small Water Tarn which was completely frozen over with about 10 inches of ice! Our first real snow slope (about 70°!) showed us how valuable our ice axe was as a '3rd leg', and after a fairly flat but icy ascent we arrived in time for lunch at the top of Mardale Ilk Bell (2496 ft.) This summit provided some exceptional views of the rest of Lakeland and the coast to the West and the Pennines in the distance to the east.



We met Colin's group arriving for lunch on Thornthwaite Crag, and after glissading down its west slope and a hard rocky climb in the wind up to Stony Cove Pike (2502 ft.), the last step to the Kirstone Pass seemed relatively easy.

Our next day was spent practising rope techniques in Greenburn, a valley just south of the Langdale Valley. We walked up to the head of the valley where we had lunch in two group-survival shelters. These are basically thin red nylon boxes capable of taking up to 13 people, each person sitting on a flap to hold the shelter down. After lunch we roped together in pairs and practised climbing and step-cutting on a steep slope just below Wetherlam (2499 ft.) Masters Townsend and Revill must deserve a mention here for their ambitious, but very time-consuming route up a small gulley! We then belayed down with the ropes and retraced our steps down the valley, having to negotiate some rather dangerous patches of sheet ice.

Day four was devoted to building your own home for the night — a snow hole. While in Wandale we had found some very good drifts about 4-5 ft. deep against a stone wall, which provided us with an ideal situation. Being able to build some kind of shelter is very important for survival in severe conditions, and although our spacious dwellings (not holes!) took us most of a day, it was very good experience. The technique is to dig out a channel by cutting snow blocks with your ice axe, or if you're lucky, a saw. You then dig out the sides of the channel and build a roof over using the blocks you have carefully cut! It sounds easy, but you need to be quite skilful in cutting good blocks without a saw. Mention here goes to Greg for the amazing perfect domed igloo he built — really quite a remarkable feat! We returned to them for the night when most people found them quite warm and slept well.

Having returned to a welcome cooked breakfast back at Hammarbank on the Tuesday morning, we spent some time learning about and practising belaying techniques and various knots. Later that morning we set off for Seat Sandal, a steep hill with a heavy snow covering, in order to put into practise what we had been taught earlier. This proved quite difficult since the snow was extremely varied in structure, and tended to break up when you least expected it to! Greg and Colin seemed fairly confident to let us try some climbing on a much steeper slope, but it was a long climb up to the first plateau, and not everyone wanted to go right to the top once we'd ascended this ridge. For those of us who did, there were some fantastic views once we got there, and Greg was able to show us some of the tarns which had frozen, something he'd never seen in all his years climbing. On the way down the wind got so strong that walking on the ice-covered slope became quite treacherous, and the ropes, now frozen rigid, didn't inspire much confidence.

Back at the ridge, we found the last of the other group setting off on a glissade down the steep slope. This is supposedly a controlled way of

sliding down the mountain, using the ice-axe we all carried as a kind of brake. However, we just sat down and let ourselves go, hoping we'd stop at the foot of the hill — we did, even if it meant using the stone wall at the end. Once we'd got back to the minibus, those who'd put the coils of rope round their shoulders had a lot of trouble removing them, having to wait till they had thawed out.

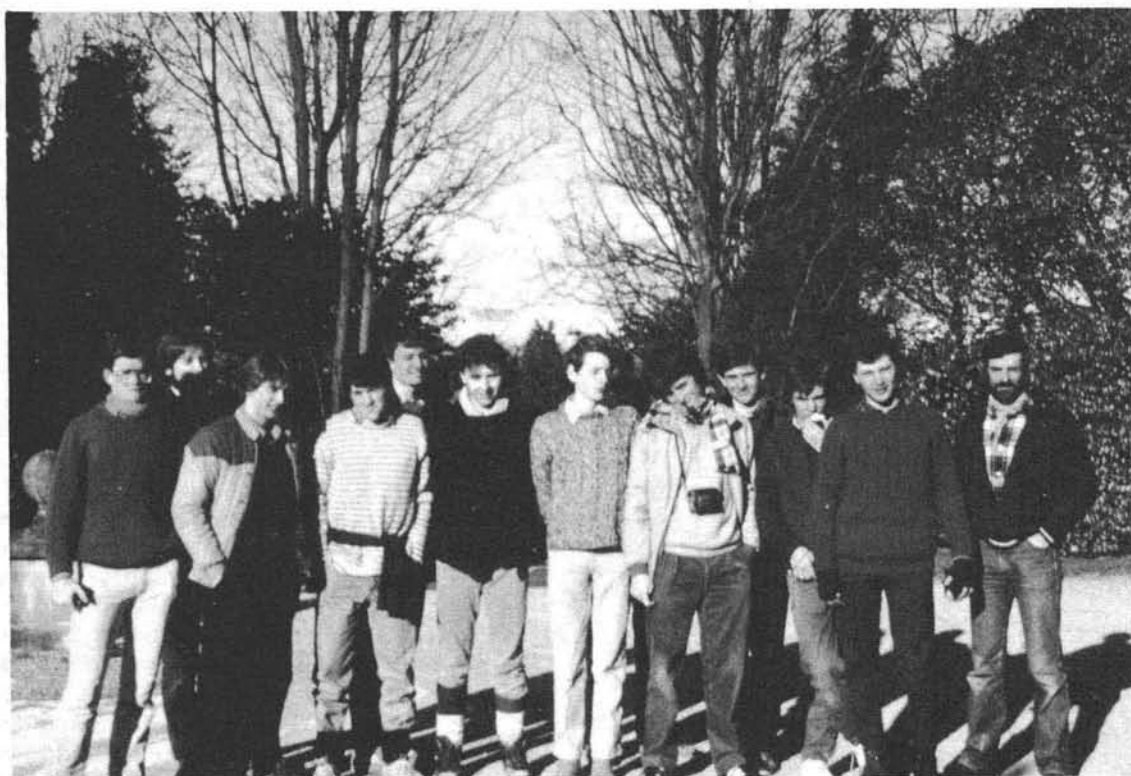
That evening, we went to the Langdale and Ambleside mountain rescue base for a talk by one of the leaders. Colin and Mr. Nattrass are both members of the team which provides its services by fund-raising and voluntary commitment. There are several teams throughout the Lake District, which makes all the difference between life and death for many people each year.

Wednesday was the final climb, and the conquest of all. Having walked up Greenside to the foot of Catseye Cam we stopped to have lunch before the two-hour slog ahead. The wind, which had continuously increased throughout the week, became stronger still the higher we climbed

and, at the top, was quite frightening. Colin estimated a windchill factor of around -50°C . compared with a temperature of about -10°C . Needless to say we were glad to climb down to the relative shelter 1,000 ft. below. The wind had stopped us driving along Swirral Edge to Hellvellyn, but at the time we were all pretty relieved. Down on the other side of Catseye Cam, we grouped together again and headed back to the minibus, one hour's walk away. It had been probably the most exhilarating day of the week and we'd experienced the District at its most dangerous.

Thanks must go to Colin and Gregg, to the Nattrasses who provided most appetising meals, and to Messrs. Revill and Townsend — the former with his invaluable fishnet stockings (!) and the latter re-living some memories of previous expeditions to the Pyrenees; and thanks also to the mysterious Yorkie Bar Kid who just kept on trucking.

Robert Coupland and J. Lister-Cheese (VI)



RUSSIAN TRIP, SUMMER 1985

Micheal Yeats, who left in 1984 was a member of the school trip to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the summer of last year by 17 pupils from Abingdon and St. Helens and members of staff. He has written this account of their highly successful holiday.

Thursday the 27th August. 'Things will change' Alla said as we walked along the flower lined paths in the Piskariovskoye cemetery on an overcast rainy morning in Leningrad. Discreet loud-speakers quietly played Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata'. Orderly lines of grass covered

mounds stretched out before us, flanked by silver birches. Each green mound was a mass grave, each containing 25,000 bodies. We walked back to the coach, our heads bowed, talking in low tones; behind us stood the statue of Mother Russia holding out her arms for her lost children. There are 480,000 Russian dead in Piskariovskoye civilian cemetery, less than half of those who died in the 900 day siege of Leningrad during the second World War.

Alla was our guide in the Soviet Union. "Like Allah, but without the 'h'" she had said as she



St. Basil's, Moscow.

greeted us, smiling at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, after a three and a half hour delay getting through customs. In her late 20's, with auburn hair, cheerful and intelligent, ready to ask questions and to answer them, we were all to learn a lot in our nine days together.

Saturday 31st August. It was a beautiful, sunny day: blue sky with cottonwool tufts of cloud hung above the waters of the lake dotted with islands. The temperature was around 70 degrees. We walked around the castle at Trakai set on an island in the lake, watching the sailing and rowing boats in the distance. Alla was delighted by the pair of swans and five cygnets that paddled lazily around under the footbridge to the mainland, waiting for crumbs of black bread. This was a holiday of firsts: Our first time in Lithuania, and we were Alla's first party of English tourists. It was also the first time she'd ever seen swans.

Wednesday 4th September. We stood on the step of the Reichstag, ten feet from the graffiti-daubed wall, THE WALL, looking towards the Brandenburg gate and the Panoramatur in East Berlin, where that morning, 203 metres up, we had seen the greatest divide on our trip from East to West. We stood silently, thinking, then turned back to the bright lights of West Berlin. We were going home.

The party had left Abingdon at 6:00 a.m. on Friday 23rd August bound for Gatwick and the Aeroflot flight to Moscow. Five of us had been before, none of us really knew what to expect. Dr. Rolfe had complained when we were not served caviar during the in-flight meal. Nearly everyone else had complained about the meagre rations we were served at our hotel in Moscow, having missed our dinner. Before going to bed we walked out across the Lenin hills to look out over the city by night. The next two days were spent sight-

seeing. We walked across Red Square, and photographed St. Basil's cathedral, saw the vast, 360-foot high central tower of Moscow University and the Kremlin from the outside and the inside. We included the Cathedral of the Assumption, every square foot of the walls and pillars of which were covered in gilt icons and devotional paintings. In the Park of Economic Achievements, we visited the Space Hall and ate goats-milk ice cream. Finally, we shared our over-night train from Moscow with Cubans and arrived to drizzle in Leningrad.

Our morning tour consisted of visiting Kirov Island and the Smolny, seeing where events of the 1917 revolution had taken place, followed by an afternoon tour of Peter and Paul fortress, the centre of old St. Petersburg. That evening we were taken to a Palace of Culture for a meeting with Comsomol members from a local factory. There was an exchange of gifts and an exchange of songs: after a series of Russian folk songs all that we could reply with was Mr. Taylor, with accompaniment, singing 'Old MacDonald had a Farm'. The next day we went to Piskariovskoye cemetery, and the excessively opulent St. Isaac's Cathedral, the dome of which was covered by 220kg of gold; and in the evening went to a circus where it was clear why Russian clowns and performing animals are regarded as the best in the world. On our third day in Leningrad we went to Peterhof, Peter the Great's huge palace on the Gulf of Finland, admiring both the ornate fountains and the central cascade in front of the palace, and enjoying the trick fountains in the grounds, designed to soak the unwary (most of us returned to the coach soaked!). In the evening the party divided, some going to see an opera, and others going on a boat trip down the river Neva. On our final day we spent the morning in the Hermitage, looking at a minute sample of its 3,000,036 registered works of art, and an evening trip to the Prebaltiskaya Hotel and its waterfront on the Gulf of Finland, before our overnight train to Vilnius.

The Lithuanians have the highest standard of living in the USSR and the shops certainly had



Trakai Castle, Lithuania.

more, and a greater variety of stock on their shelves: the food was better than in both Moscow and Leningrad. The Lithuanians are also very proud of their capital city, and we were taken seemingly everywhere in Vilnius, even the new suburbs which we were told were the blueprint for all others in the Soviet Union. Both evenings we wandered around the old town. A few of us even managed to be present at a church wedding. However, the highlight of our stay in Vilnius and probably the trip, was the afternoon in Trakai, the overall atmosphere one of tranquillity in this largely unknown part of Europe. That night we said farewell to Alla and crossed into Poland. That night we got little sleep; passport check followed passport check, the dour Russians replacing the smiling Poles who seemed more concerned with talking about Liverpool and European football! Kept awake as the wheels of our carriage were changed due to the different track gauges while Soviet border guards with machine guns walked along the roof, we arrived in Warsaw tired.

Warsaw will be remembered not for its sights (we visited the Old Town, Museum of Technology, Bathing Gardens and Wilowa Place) but for its strange, unsettling atmosphere. It was here that the clash was strongest between East and West. Our hotel was very rundown: stuck on the 16th floor, we had no running water, the toilets didn't work and people had been sick in the corridor. For Poles it cost £1 a night, but we had to pay £9. They were staging a Polish Punk band festival somewhere in the hotel, so there were always skinheads and mohicans in the lobby. We had to walk for over a mile to the restaurant where our meals were served. In Warsaw half the cars were Western diesel models, never seen in Moscow, and one church we visited in the old town was full of people hearing mass, while a plaque outside proclaimed Poland's greatest pride. It read- 'John Paul II : Polish Pope'. Our guide had served in the Free Polish Air Force in Edinburgh in World War II; we saw two old men fighting over a loaf of bread outside Warsaw's main department store.



Old Town, Warsaw.

We had an uncomfortable night train from Warsaw to East Berlin and we were very tired when we reached Alexandraplatz station at 9 a.m. We had generally had good weather until then; in the afternoon the rain was so heavy that those who went to look at the monument to the Soviet soldiers who had died taking Berlin in 1945 returned drenched. Very little else of what was seen on the tour can be remembered; nearly everyone was fast asleep. Next morning we were shown the sights we had missed the previous afternoon, and saw the Berlin Wall, slicing the city in two, from the observation deck of the Panoramatur. We crossed into West Berlin that afternoon, and had eight hours trying to readjust to Capitalism: an obligatory trip to McDonalds was not, as I had thought, a ritual pilgrimage, but a need to go and eat some 'real food'. Our overnight train to Ostend was punctuated by Colin Parker's disagreement with an East German border guard about taking photographs of the Berlin Wall by flashlight (the result: one exposed roll of film) and a rainy Cologne railway station. At Dover our train was delayed, enabling people to phone home to find out their 'O'-Level results, and we finally arrived back at Abingdon around 10:30 p.m.

This is the second time that I have been on a school trip to the Soviet Union, having gone in 1983. This latest trip was as interesting and immensely enjoyable, both as a holiday and an invaluable experience of four Communist countries: Russia, Lithuania, Poland and East Germany. On behalf of everyone in the group I should like to extend thanks to Dr. Rolfe and Miss Gardner, and especially to Mr. Taylor for coping with the organisation, and dealing with the frightening over-bureaucracy of the Soviet authorities, and finally putting everything together. Russia 1985 was a great success, and an opportunity that no one who went would have missed: I have no doubt that I will be going again.

M. Yeats (Bristol University)



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin.

THE SKI TRIP

With Christmas dinner still in our stomachs we went to bed the night before the holiday. I was woken up by my alarm clock at 3.30 a.m. The coach finally left for Gatwick at 4.30 and most of the journey was spent talking.

After a two-hour wait at the airport we finally got on the plane. Captain Henderson introduced us to the crew. Co-pilot Jerry was apparently going to fly the plane with his feet. We landed in Austria and went to our resort in Gosau.

After a lot of fuss and swopping we had sorted out which rooms we were in and had packed our boots and skis. Next morning we met Ernst, our ski instructor, and we had our first lesson. I was in the medium group and Mr. Hunter was in the top group. That day Donald Stanley broke the bindings of two out of his record 4 skis. That evening we went bowling and afterwards on the way back Ian Elms successfully snowballed Chris Day. Chris returned the compliment: the four foot snow-covered bank totally wrecked Ian's hair style.

Sunday was band concert day and the Sixth Formers successfully arranged for Ross McCracken to dance with Miriam. The weather for skiing was terrible that day because of snow.

The skiing on Monday in contrast was fantastic and we had the added luxury in our group of Mr. Hunter who had been relegated from the top group. That evening we went tobogganing and there were many stories of crashes into girls (accidents of course)

Tuesday was New Year's Eve and of course we had to have a glass of beer or two(?) That day Mr. Crawford managed to crash into Mr. Hunter and in the process broke a skipole. That was just after Mr. Hunter had been relegated to the bottom group.

On New Year's Day I managed the impossible. While skiing down the bottom part of the slope I managed to hit a bump while turning (to get out of someone's way) and as I was going rather fast (40-50 mph) I did a massive somersault. When I woke up the first thing I heard was Mr. Hunter in tears of laughter. Then I realised I had broken a ski, carbon fibres and all right in half. On the way back from swimming I slipped up again (verbally this time though), I said to Mr. Crawford 'You're like a father to me sir' — he has called me 'my son' ever since!

On Friday it was time to go home but first we had a day in Salzburg. While sampling the local Austrian food (in McDonalds!) I met a couple of American girls who apparently didn't smoke or take drugs, but they went to church 4 times a week. On the plane journey back we unfortunately didn't have Jerry. We thanked Mr. Hunter, Mr. Crawford and Co. on the coach back and everybody else thanked me for the free entertainment.

John Bryden (5)



A LETTER FROM AMERICA (apologies to Alistair Cooke)

As October draws near, temperatures in Richmond, Virginia are in the nineties. The cross country and soccer teams complain of the heat, but it is the football players, encased in pads and armour, who really suffer. The cycle of St. Christopher's School's academic year has begun again and the routine, not so different from that of Abingdon School, keeps me very busy indeed. Abingdon seems very far away.

But my mind's eye skips easily across the intervening time and distance and recreates images of a place and a community for which I have a lasting affection. I see again the angular, robed figure of the Head addressing his slightly numb Monday morning assembly, the long suffering prefects with the endless lunch queue,

the cross country team on its way to a river run weaving through shoppers in the precinct, the anthill of activity of the boat club, and boarders' games of tennisball and rubbish bin cricket on the School House lawn during long summer term evenings. Or I imagine the cheerful chaos of a third form biology class involved in a food test practical, the somnolent air of a lower sixth botany class made up of boys who live as if exams will never come, and the businesslike attitude of a top set of fifth form biology as they told me, "But that's not in the syllabus."

My stay at Abingdon generated many such memories as well as what I hope will be enduring friendships that were formed in the hectic rush of teaching, coaching, and running boarding houses. Perhaps no other community gives so clear a view of the light and dark sides of each personality as does a boarding school; I liked very much what I saw of people at Abingdon, students and staff alike.

Beyond the memories, the friendships, and the pure fun of the experience, the exchange has been an education, not only in the teaching of biology and the rudiments of coaching rowing, but also in the comparison of the two cultures. Each culture has its blind spots, the assumptions that are so generally shared that they are no longer thought about. Living and working in another culture makes it possible, almost unavoidable to see the peculiarities of that culture and to have those of your own pointed out to you. To me, the British concern over social unity and the willingness of the Labour Party to outlaw independent schools in order to eliminate social divisions are as hard to understand as are for you the American emphasis on the individual and the rank consumerism that may result from the idealization of the individual's wants and desires.

As a result of having lived and worked with you, I view my own culture differently. In an increasingly crowded world, experiences that reduce cultural chauvinism are good for everyone. I am grateful to the Head for making the exchange possible, and I wish the members of the school a very happy year.

T.W.C.



A ONE YEAR TEACHING EXCHANGE

St. Christopher's is a day school for boys located in the west end of Richmond, Virginia. The school consists of three essentially autonomous units; the lower school for boys (6-12 years) middle school (12-15 years) and upper school (15-18 years). The setting is a beautiful wooded area densely populated with grey squirrels. Unlike Abingdon, with its large catchment area, the clientele is mainly local. St. Christopher's suffers, as we do, from a lack of space and the sports fields are used continuously. In the first 'trimester' football is the main sport with soccer and cross-country running also offered. I enjoyed helping with the 8th grade (Bulldog) soccer team and



*The front of
Chamberleyne Hall*

became known for a short period of time as 'Coach Wilmore'! The football matches attracted large crowds to the stands alongside the main field and the enthusiasm of the players was matched by that of the cheerleaders that accompanied teams from mixed schools. In the second trimester sport moves indoors as winter sets in, with both basketball and wrestling pulling in the crowds. I was able to help with the stop watch! Spring begins very early in Virginia and sport moves outdoors once more with basketball, lacrosse and track (that stopwatch again).

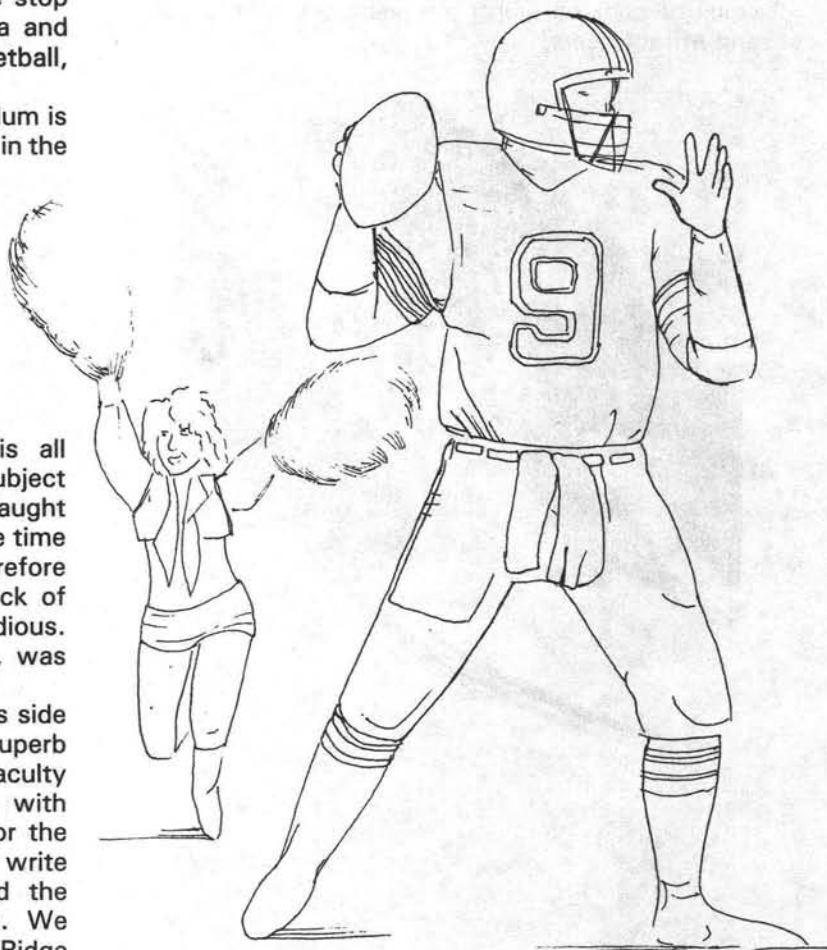
The organisation of the academic curriculum is very different in the U.S.A. Biology is taught in the

We became experts on fast food (nothing like the rubbish served in England), saw exotic birds and butterflies and with 36 television channels, most of them cable, I was able to indulge my passion for films. It was all an experience we shall never forget.

P.J.W.

9th Grade (4th year) and assessment is all internal. I was given a free hand as to subject material, which of course made life easy. I taught four different sets meeting them at the same time every day. Preparation and marking was therefore much easier than at Abingdon, but the lack of variation in the teaching made it a little tedious. The change to a five day week, however, was most welcome.

The most pleasing aspect of the business side of the exchange was working with a superb faculty, as professional and caring as the faculty here. We made many wonderful friends with whom we hope to maintain contact. As for the non-business side of the exchange, I could write pages describing Richmond, Virginia, and the wonderful time that we had in America. We visited such diverse places as the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Gulf of Mexico and Niagara Falls.



**BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY
EXPEDITION TO YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA
20 July - 1 September, 1986**

I arrived at Heathrow in rather an apprehensive mood. How would things work out? Was I fit enough? Had I packed everything? With these and other thoughts buzzing through my mind, I pushed my way through the swing doors, my huge rucksack brushing against suntanned travellers returning from their holidays in sunny and exotic places. I was heading for remoter regions.

On 20 July, 1986, one hundred young expeditioners left Heathrow Airport bound for Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, Canada. Having reached Whitehorse we were trundled up the Alaska Highway, the only road linking Alaska with the rest of North America, in an old school bus. Base Camp, on the shores of the unpredictable waters of Lake Kluane, seemed very primitive and uncomfortable compared to what we had known. Tents were erected, fire pits dug, and we split up into our scientific groups of 10-15 people.

The first three weeks of the expedition were spent in these scientific groups. I joined the geomorphology group, and as soon as things were settled at Base Camp, we trekked the 25 miles along an old gold miners' trail up to our science area, Cultus Bay, a lagoon beside Lake Kluane. Tents were again erected, and cooking areas prepared, making sure they were at least 500 metres away from the main campsite, so that the smell of cooking didn't permeate the tent fabric and attract bears!



To get to the top follow the gully!

Our scientific work was interesting and varied, centering mainly on a hydrological study of the Cultus area. Projects included an investigation into the variation of river velocity throughout the day, in relation to snow melt rates on the mountains around us. Problems here resulted from the beavers that kept on damming up parts of the creek, therefore altering river flow. We also studied infiltration, transpiration and throughflow rates in a river basin. The development of a spit in relation to wave size and direction was examined, providing a welcome contrast to the hydrology. All the data was carefully recorded, to be analysed on our return.

The second phase of the expedition involved the Snow and Ice Camp, in the area of Mount Archibald (9,100 ft), 30 miles south of Base Camp. Under expert supervision we were taught how to cross crevasses in the ice, crevasse rescue for those unfortunate enough to fall in, and ice axe and crampon techniques. Some abseiling and scree running were also attempted. For the next days, we put our newly acquired skills to the test, climbing in ropes of five, each rope led by an accomplished mountaineer, to heights in excess of 9,000 ft. The experience was exhilarating, if a little hairy at times. Views were magnificent. Glaciers, intensely white, ice glistening in the sun, were flanked by snow covered peaks. It really was breathtaking.

The final phase of the expedition was called the 'Adventure' Phase. Everybody had the opportunity to take part in a six day adventure into the Kluane National Park. Options included canoeing, rock climbing, snow and ice work, trekking and art work. Many of the adventures went into areas that were unexplored and untouched by man. I was lucky enough to join an expedition of twelve people who were planning to cover as much ground as possible in the time allotted, trying to reach peaks which gave views of the Donjek glacier and of the icefields beyond.

Travelling as lightly as possible and sleeping four to a flysheet, we blazed our way up creek beds, through the dense willow scrub lining the water courses. Once on the ridges above the creeks going was easier, although the 'escalator scree' made some parts exhausting. During the six days, we walked over alpine meadows, snow fields, creek beds, the terrain being so varied that there was always something new and exciting to see. We did manage to get views of the Donjek glacier, a massive expanse of white ice, 3 miles wide in places, that surges out of the ice fields. On the far horizon we could discern the bulk of Mount Logan (19,500 ft) the highest mountain in Canada, and as the Canadian Park Warden described it "one huge lump of rock". The days were testing, both mentally and physically, but everybody worked together and supported one another to make the adventure something to remember. The last day was spent hitch hiking in pairs down the Alaska Highway, back to Base Camp.

Returning home two days later, I regretted that it was now all over. I had made so many friends and learnt so much about living within a close knit community for six weeks. The expedition has given me valuable scientific experience, which will be useful for my 'A' Levels. It also provided excitement and adventure. More than this



Somewhere in this landscape are 5 young expeditioners.



Base camp below Mt. Archibald at 9,500 feet.

however, it has shown me a lot about myself, and how people react to one another. I was told before I left that it would be 'character building stuff' rather an out-dated cliché I thought. However, it was true, and I hope I have come away that bit more aware and that bit less intolerant of others.

Tom Owen (VI)



THE SEZANNE CONNECTION, 1986

This was the second exchange with Sézanne that Abingdon School and St. Helens have taken part in and it proved to be every bit as enjoyable as the one last year. Like most well organised School trips it started with a slight drama. This year it was provided by Richard Tilley, who discovered he hadn't brought his passport with him just as the coach was setting off. After a fifteen minute delay a very embarrassed Richard and the rest of us began our extremely uneventful journey to Sézanne.

The first planned event was an Abingdon v Sézanne schools football match which took place approximately twelve hours after our arrival. Suffering from severe jet-lag we put up a brave fight, with Matthew Clark darting around in goal like a gazelle possessed saving countless shots, but the forwards unfortunately succumbed to the wonderfully comfortable soft mud and fell asleep. Even the cheers of the St. Helen's girls (who seemed extremely happy for some reason) on the touchline couldn't stir them and the final score was Sézanne 5 Abingdon 1.

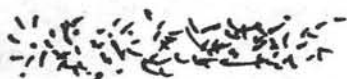
For the second year the Café du Commerce became the main attraction in Sézanne. It hadn't changed, — still full of smoke and still the same songs on the jukebox. However, due to the busy



itinerary there wasn't much time to be in there. This included an action packed trip to Paris, where we visited La Tour d'Eiffel, Notre Dame and the centre Pompidou (which was closed unfortunately, but it looked like it was very interesting!). Other trips included the customary visits to a champagne cellar and Reims Cathedral and proved to be very educational.

Special thanks must go to Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Wade and Mrs. Hollands for organising the exchange and explaining away some of our wild antics to some very bemused French. I hope all the following exchanges are as successful as this one was, I didn't realise education could be so much fun!

M. Spencer (VI)



TRIP TO BIELEFELD 1986

This year Mr. Hasnip and Mrs. Briscoe managed to get 28 boys and girls without hitch or breakdown, let alone an accident, to Germany. Consequently the trip lacked the excitement and element of surprise that the previous year had managed to find. Arriving at Bielefeld station at just after midnight, we were whisked off into the darkness and snow by our respective hosts and their parents.

The next day a brave (or foolish) few went to lessons while the remainder of the group (a clear majority including all the females) were content to lie in bed and dream about all the German they could be learning. However, by Tuesday Mrs. Briscoe had managed to get all her girls fit and well again and so the group was able to go on a coach tour of Bielefeld city, which was both interesting and informative, and allowed us to visit the University which is one vast expanse of concrete.

The rest of the ten days passed quite quickly with an England — Germany football match which avenged 1966 and a rather one-sided game of basketball which we lost convincingly — a complete failure as far as the sportsmen were concerned. However, I do feel that we did our best to keep Bielefeld financially 'in the black', with the Sugar Shack and the cafe Knigge picking up the lion's share during free periods and after school.

There were numerous informal excursions organised; some with the host family usually to give us a wider impression of Germany, others with groups of German students, including a trip to Sauerland skiing, (where we spent most of the day going up and down slopes which made the Downs look like molehills, but which were not exactly the Alps) and an excursion into Bielefeld to see 'Rocky IV' which was easily understood as Sylvester Stallone's vocabulary is rather limited — even in English and, when dubbed, he really did look like a ventriloquist's dummy.

The high point of the visit had to be the party at Herr and Frau Polpeter's, where we all, including Mrs. Briscoe, Mr. Hasnip, and even Herr Steinsiek, danced the night away with our German hosts (some more than others!). The trip to the Miele Fabrik came a very close second in the most popular event competition to the fabulous day out in Koln, the scene of so much fun



last year.... This time Herr Steinsiek showed us round this very interesting city and also parts of the Ruhr.

Unfortunately, our ten days were up all too quickly and once more we had to say farewell and board the train for home at an unearthly hour. We would like to thank Mr. Hasnip, Mrs. Briscoe, and Herr Steinsiek, together with all the others involved on the Bielefeld side of what was a memorable trip. It is a pity, perhaps, that there is not to be a repeat in February 1987 but already plans are being made for a bumper celebration of the Abingdon — Bielefeld exchange in late 1987: what a shame I won't be there!

A. Corbett (VI)

A TEACHER'S GERMAN EXCHANGE

When, on September 7th, 1985, I left for Abingdon to teach on the first exchange of teachers between Abingdon School and the Ratsgymnasium Bielefeld, it occurred to me that Mr. Revill — my exchange partner — and I would have one hundred days to get to know each other's school, find one's place and do one's work in it; and I was reminded of the 100 days that politicians and governments are given to prove how good, or for that matter, what a failure they are.

I knew Abingdon School from previous visits with parties of Ratsgymnasium pupils, and I looked forward to the challenge of teaching German at an English school I thought highly of, instead of teaching English to German pupils, which I had done for over twenty years.

It came as no surprise to me that I was given a warm welcome in the Masters' Common Room — I had enjoyed its generous hospitality before. What did surprise me (but at the same time made me feel quite at home) was the striking similarity in the way a new school year begins: with the hustle and bustle of the place getting organised again; even the 'old hands' on the staff find something new to get used to, a fly in the ointment of a complex timetable, for example; while the new boys try to find their classrooms as well as their places according to the pecking order. It seemed to me that in Abingdon the problems of this phase were born and solved with equanimity on all sides, a fact most reassuring to a newcomer.

Change of scene — from the common room to the classroom: meeting the boys and a mixture of reactions, ranging from the 'Hallo' of those who knew me from previous visits to the wait-and-see policy of some year group sets. Here was the challenge, I felt, and decided to accept it with the good intentions and the experience I had come with.

However, at least the latter failed me on several occasions; it took me some time to get used to my English pupils' attitude to work in class and to understand and accept the rôle and teaching methods of the English teacher, as determined by the country's education and examination system, in many respects different from the German education system.

In Bielefeld A-level exam papers (and there are no other school exams) are set by the individual teacher on the basis of what has been taught in class, in accordance with the requirements of the curriculum, and, sometimes with modifications approved by the educational authorities. Otherwise, in the lower, middle and upper school, the pupils get school reports twice a year, more or less assessments of academic performance expressed in marks, and these are rather impersonal compared with tutor letters at Abingdon School, which impressed me by their authors' consideration for the individual pupil's development.

Another important difference lies in the organisation of the school day: most German schools finish about 1 p.m., so that there is much less of a pastoral and extra-curricular side to school life; the idea of education still widely accepted is, that as an institution the German Grammar school in particular sets great store by developing the pupils' intellectual abilities and preparing them for further education or training, teaching them eight selected subjects up to A-level, with two formal tests to be written in at least four subjects every semester.

This excursion into the field of educational policies, lengthy but far from complete, may serve to show basic differences between Abingdon School and the Ratsgymnasium.

In Abingdon, both learning and teaching seemed geared to examination requirements to a much greater extent, especially from the fifth form on. As a result, set book lists and exam papers from previous years are very much the centre of the teacher's educational considerations, a fact which at times I felt restricted my role and capacity as a teacher, making me react to exam requirements rather than encourage the boys to take a more active part in the learning process. In retrospect my impression is that especially in the languages (rather less perhaps in French, as it is taken up earlier), the largely receptive approach weakens the active, more creative side of work in class, for instance, when it comes to practising the target language.

I am confident that the newly introduced text book, with its stimulating material, methods and effects, will help encourage the pupils to use and enlarge their power of expression in German, so that when they take it as one of their A-level subjects their command of the language will be such that the teaching process can to quite an extent be conducted in German. (However, I would not go as far as advocating a total oral approach to learning modern languages; when practised in German schools in the mid-seventies it produced rather weak results, mostly a superficial and imprecise knowledge of the target language.)

Teaching in the upper school with its small sets of 4 to 12 pupils made it possible for me to respond to the interests and personalities of the young people more individually. Being used to sets of 16 to 25 in the upper school at home, I felt it an enviable situation when in Abingdon, and I very much hope that I was able to use it to the pupils' advantage.

Of course, the aspects pointed out earlier, and partly criticised, have to be seen against the background of a nation's idea and system of education and, being a guest, I did not find it difficult to accept them as they were and practise them as well as I could, all the more so as they came along with a number of impressions and experiences that gave me food for critical thought about my German school.

Most impressive among them was the range and quality of the extra-curricular activities, a field rich in fulfilment and achievement. I remember — with admiration as well as envy — sports, musical and theatrical events of great quality and spirit, and I do feel that from the educational point of view these activities are of essential importance, both for a lively school community and for the development of the individual pupil. Similarly, the pastoral side of school life in Abingdon, based on the boarding houses, the house system, the tutor group and — as I would see it — assembly, contributes greatly to achieving that educational goal which is certainly not given sufficient care in our school system: character-formation.

As I was not used to this kind of pastoral system, I found some of my first tutor group meetings a waste of time, and even after adapting to the tutor's tasks with the help of a very supportive Housemaster, I felt a greater effect might be achieved in tutor groups formed on an age-class basis and, possibly, of a smaller size. Still, I remember my experiences as a tutor with pleasure, thinking of our lively tutees, their fields of interest, their various talents and personalities.

It was writing their tutor letters that made me fully realise the importance of education as a combined process of academic qualification as well as character-formation, and I was made aware that Abingdon School provides excellent facilities for both, among them the science block, the generously laid-out sports hall and grounds, and that magnificent multipurpose building, the Amey Hall; but I was also certain that the process required a high level of commitment throughout.

My impression was that my colleagues at Abingdon School — in addition to their considerable teaching workload — committed themselves to giving the boys (and the upper school girls from St. Helen's School) every chance of developing their individual talents and personal qualities, and that it was genuine commitment, not a matter of demonstration on the occasion of an Open Day only!

During my teacher training I met a very experienced instructor, who used to advise his junior colleagues never to expect gestures of gratitude from pupils — after all, they were entitled to be taught. All a good teacher was entitled to, he said, was the respect of his pupils and of society, the latter being expressed in terms of decent pay. Living and working in Britain for 100 days in 1985, I was often reminded of that advice (especially when seeing education caught in the machineries of politics and the media).

In a report to the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges in London I stated that '.....teaching at Abingdon School gave me a deeper insight into the English system of education and some of the ideas behind it; working together with English colleagues was a most rewarding experience personally and professionally.' And, asked if there had been 'any major personal difficulties encountered during the exchange period', I lost no time in answering 'None.' — thanks to my Abingdon School and English colleagues for their hospitality and their unfailing support.

Otto Steinsiek



Als Erinnerung an Ihren Aufenthalt, an Bielefeld, an das Ratsgymnasium und an uns!

GERMAN EXCHANGE

A comment on certain aspects of my time in Bielefeld.

During my spell of teaching at the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld one of the classes I took over was a Leistungskurs in the Unterprima year group. Initially I was rather apprehensive at the prospect of taking them in view of the fact that I would see them six times a week, and that my exchange teacher had developed an excellent relationship with them and held the class in high regard. However, my time with this group proved to be most fruitful, and I intend to spend the larger part of my essay commenting on my experiences with these 'Unterprimaner'.

When I arrived to take the class for the first time, I was immediately struck by the number of pupils; I was faced with twenty five, whereas back in England a group half this size would have been more the norm. It rapidly became apparent that the status of English as the leading international language had a considerable effect on the pupils' attitude to the subject; their approach was generally more positive than that of their counterparts who were learning German in England. I was also surprised at the high quality of English used in classroom discussion, and the ability of the pupils to argue relatively fluently about topical issues at a fairly deep level. It was interesting to note that over a third of the class had spent a year in the U.S.A., and when I queried the lack of exchanges with English schools, I was told by members of the English Department that it was generally difficult to find schools in England which were prepared to organise pupil exchanges on a termly or yearly basis. In this respect my own school does not conform to this impression; at the moment we have a number of German pupils studying for a term or more, and the venture is proving to be successful.

As the term progressed, I became increasingly aware of a feeling of class identity, something which manifested itself on a number of occasions. After I had corrected and marked my first Klausur (a time consuming and nerve wracking experience!), the pupils immediately let it be known, albeit in a mostly courteous manner, that they were unhappy about the grades; they thought that it had been marked too severely. Unfortunately, one boy behaved in a rather arrogant and irresponsible fashion, and I had to reprimand him in front of the others. This was seen by many in the group as an episode which



might tarnish their image as a class, and the 'Klassensprecherin' apologised straightaway for what had happened. The 'culprit', sensing the disquiet of his peers, followed suit. The 'Klassensprecherin' represented a concept which was new to me, but I quickly realised that she played an important role in the fostering and development of the feeling of group belonging. Whenever there were any problems concerning the class and the work we were covering, she would present them to me on behalf of the others.

The sense of class identity appeared to be quite important to the pupils, and had obviously been developed over a long period. The school owns a 'Schullandheim' on the North Sea island of Langsoog, and each year every class has the opportunity to spend two or three weeks there, doing school work and taking part in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. This facility makes a valuable contribution to the fostering of class identity: the pupils in the Leistungskurs certainly looked back with fondness on their stays there.

'Kurstreffen' also help to encourage closer ties within the group. Whilst I was in Bielefeld, I went to two of these informal gatherings, both in pupils' houses, and I was most impressed by the atmosphere of friendliness and camaraderie amongst the members of the group. This feeling was brought home to me particularly strongly when they produced photograph albums of the group's past activities, e.g. school trips, and the importance which the pupils attached to the 'Kurstreffen' was made abundantly clear by the 'Klassensprecherin', when she expressed frustration and not a little annoyance at the fact that two of the class were always reluctant to come, and frequently failed to turn up.

The chance for a teacher to meet the pupils on a casual basis at the 'Kurstreffen' made me realise how little staff pupil contact there was outside the

classroom in comparison to my school in England. My exchange teacher found this to be the case too, and regrets this lack of contact in his school. The provision of extra-curricular activities at Abingdon after school hours is an important aspect of the school day, and provides ample opportunity for the staff and pupils to get together on a less formal basis. In Bielefeld, contact is largely limited to the classroom, and when lessons are over shortly after one o'clock the school rapidly empties, the vast majority of sport and leisure activities being undertaken elsewhere. This was one area of school life I was particularly critical of because I feel that getting to know the pupils outside the classroom often makes for more fruitful relationships within it. On this point my exchange partner and I were in complete agreement.

Before finishing, I must stress that my observations are based on one class, with whom I spent a great deal of my teaching time, and are not intended to be representative of the whole school, although much of what I have said may well apply to similar classes. I was fortunate enough to be teaching a group of pupils who were fairly mature, responsible and well motivated. It should be added that the Ratsgymnasium tends to cater for children from the more affluent areas of Bielefeld.

N.M.R.



6th FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP: SWANSEA 14th — 19th April 1986

After the facilities at Plymouth were seen to be less than adequate last year, the Geography Department decided to return to the pleasant and friendly surroundings of the University of Swansea. The group of boys was accompanied by Mr. Gasson, Mr. Fishpool and Mr. Eden.

We set out from Abingdon early on the Monday morning, and the rest of the morning and afternoon were spent witnessing the relative economic and social prosperity of Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale, the Rhondda Valley and Swansea itself, although the latter was studied in greater detail throughout the rest of the week. Valuable first-hand knowledge and experience of industrial South Wales was gained, especially at Cwmbran where Mr. Gasson insisted on driving three times round a roundabout amidst cries of 'I am NOT lost, O.K.?' In the evening the group attended a lecture by Dr. E. M. Bridges, a senior teacher at the University, which introduced us to the Geomorphology of the Gower peninsula.

On Tuesday morning the group split into two parties; one studying the coastal features and scenery of the South Gower coast, and the other visiting the various villages of the Gower and attempting to assess their historical functions, present day function, prosperity, size and character by interviewing local villagers. In the

afternoon the two parties met up with each other and both studied the North Gower coast, which provides a good example of the sand beach and various types and sizes of sand dunes. Tuesday evening saw Matthew Spencer bond a strong 'friendship(?)' with the barman in the University bar, which was symbolic of our gratitude to the staff of the University.

Wednesday got off to a rather hesitant start when some of the group were rudely awakened by groans of 'Where's the toilet?' from Mr. Fishpool's room. After breakfast we were fortunate enough to go on a guided tour of the tin plate works at Trostre, Llanelli. This was useful and beneficial to our Geography course as it was interesting and surprising to experience a large industrial complex at first-hand, rather than just reading about it in a text book. In the afternoon the group split up into its two parties, each party studying either the South Gower coast, or the Gower villages.

Thursday was entirely given over to personal projects. Human or physical aspects of the Gower could be studied in greater detail either singly or in pairs. Projects included greater investigation of the south Gower coast, the effects of tourism on a Gower village, the changing focal point of Swansea city centre, and the Enterprise Zone.

The morning of Friday was taken up by a lecture and display at Swansea Museum which illustrated in detail the wealth of Swansea as an industrial centre in the 18th and 19th centuries, and its subsequent decline and poverty. A field study of the Lower Swansea valley was the afternoon's activity. The party found this an invaluable experience as it enabled us to sample the present day industrial state of the valley and we could also see various relics of the past, such as two copper smelting works, various canals and a row of engine sheds.

On Saturday morning we attempted a transect study of the city of Swansea. This involved individuals taking different routes from the outskirts of the city to the city centre, noting as they went the landscape i.e. the types and conditions of housing, the extent of shops and what types of shops there were, and whether there were areas of industrial, commercial or recreational land. Our journey back to Abingdon was slightly delayed when Mr. Eden remembered that he wanted to buy some fresh Swansea cockles, and was therefore seen frantically cycling to the market on his famous and very valuable(?) fold-away bike. We eventually returned to Abingdon at about 4 p.m. and the whole exercise was seen by Mr. Gasson, and everyone else, to be a huge success. We should like to take this opportunity, to thank the three masters for keeping us under control and making it a very interesting and enjoyable trip, on behalf of all of the group.

A.Tapper (VI)

OPEN EVENING

6.30 — 9.30 p.m.

Thursday, 21 November, 1985.

In order to get an impression of the trials and tribulations involved in setting up the second Open Evening, Matthew North and Tom Yorke approached Dr. Vicki Fitt who kindly agreed to be interviewed.

Q.: Dr. Fitt, can you give us some idea of how much organisation was involved?

Dr. F.: A great deal more than anyone imagines, actually. People think that it is quite easy, but in fact the opposite is true. There was an enormous amount of stuff to do; writing notices, asking each department for a display, organising guides, were just a few of the many things I had to do.

Q.: When were you first asked to do it?

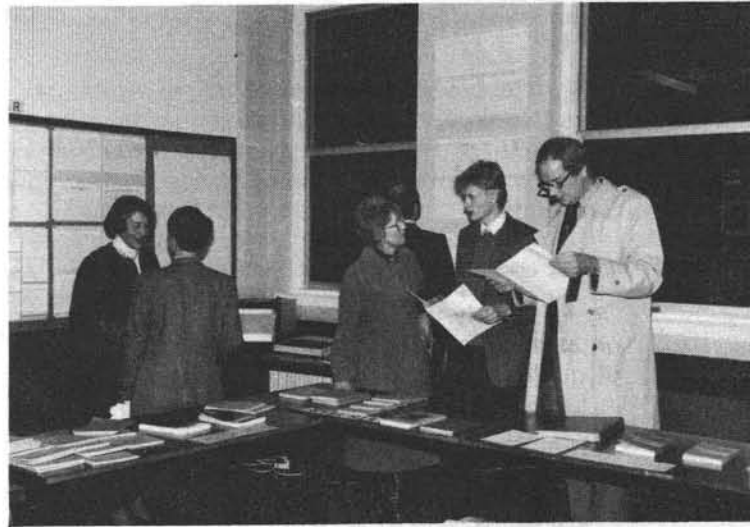
Dr. F.: I was first asked as soon as we got back at the beginning of the Michaelmas term, but work did not actually start on it until half term. I was in school practically all half term working on the Open Evening. The first half of the term was spent just planning what societies and departments were going to be covered and organising some advertising.

Q.: How much was the Open Evening advertised?

Dr. F.: It was very well advertised in several different places, including the Reading, Swindon and Oxford local papers. This was done two to three weeks before the actual event and was quite expensive, about £700, but was nonetheless worthwhile.

Q.: Had anything been learned from the previous Open Evening?

Dr. F.: Oh yes, a great deal of invaluable information, in fact. We were able to polish up on



what had been an experimental one two years previous. On that occasion we had had no idea of how many people were likely to come, but obviously we had a good idea of the number of people who would come on this occasion.

Q.: What were the main headaches in the organisation?

Dr. F.: Hmm... getting enough guides was a problem. At first, two weeks before the event, there was a general lack of obvious willingness among the boys to participate in any way, let alone guiding. But we eventually, by one way or another, got enough boys to do guiding and on the night they were superb. They seemed genuinely interested and were very lively. They actually looked as if they were enjoying what they were doing.

Q.: Did anything actually go terribly wrong on the night?

Dr. F.: No, I don't think so, although there was a bit of a disaster in the dining hall. A great deal more dayboys than were expected to be asked for boarders' teas. Tea had already been brought forward to 5.00 because we had to start setting up the displays in there at 5.30., but because of the huge number of boys having tea we didn't manage to get the hall cleared and start setting up the displays until 6.15, so when the first parents arrived things were still being set up! Another problem was the car parking; there just was not enough room on the school grounds for everyone to park their cars and so there was some pretty bad and illegal parking.

Q.: Were there any subjects or out-of-school activities not covered at all in the evening?

Dr. F.: There were no subjects that were not covered, but there were a couple of activities not there at all. Sound society was omitted, which I think was a shame because something could have been done there. But in fact the master in charge was very busy with several other things. The other thing that was overlooked was Christian Union. I heard someone at the evening asking about whether or not the school had a Christian Union, so there was clearly interest in it.



Q.: What differences were there between this time and the occasion two years ago?

Dr. F.: The Lower School was plugged a great deal more this time, there was a great deal going on in there. There were, of course, several new buildings like the Sportshall and the Technology Centre, both of which were open to visitors.

Q.: What, exactly, was the objective of the Open Evening?

Dr. F.: Mainly to show current parents what goes on at their son's school and to provide a measure of publicity for prospective parents. There were, in fact, over 700 prospective parents in the Hall when the Headmaster addressed them at the start of the evening.

Q.: What was the general reaction to the evening?

Dr. F.: Most people seemed to enjoy it. Certainly many were impressed by the great variety of displays, and rightly so.

Q.: Dr. Fitt, thank you very much.

T. Yorke (VI)
M. North (VI)

While meanwhile, more particularly, on a roving brief, Harry Wylie interviewed people as they came past the displays...

Q.: Good evening, do you mind if I ask you some questions for the school magazine?

A.: No, not at all.

Q.: What displays have you seen so far?

A.: Well, I have so far seen the Science Department, Geography Rooms and the Library.

Q.: What is your overall impression of the quality and quantity?

A.: Very impressive. I especially liked the Science Department; well, science is so difficult to understand, it's always been something of a mystery to me.

Q.: What purpose are you here for this evening?

A.: We have an elder son at prep. school, so we thought we'd look at the school for his possible Common Entrance.

Q.: Have you seen the Amey Hall?

A.: No, not yet, ah, here comes my husband, must dash!

Q.: Thank you.

..... and later, in the Biology Rooms:

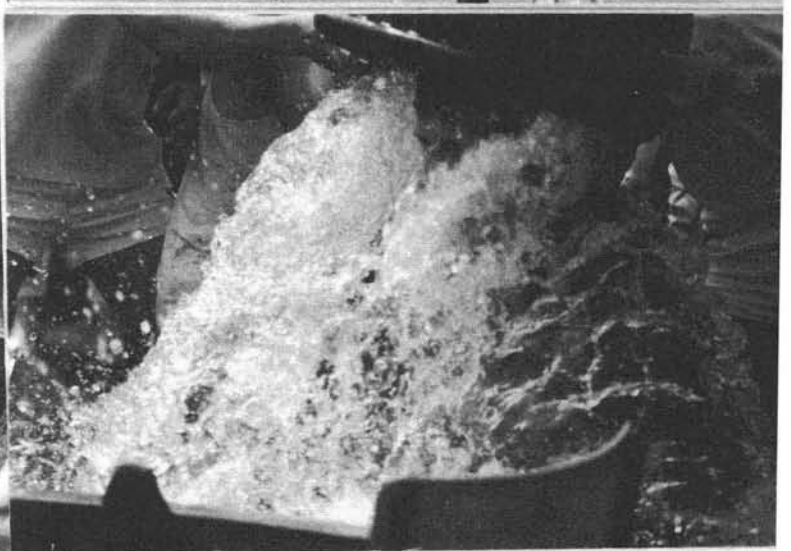
Q.: On behalf of the school magazine, can I ask you what displays you have seen so far?

A.: Well, actually I've only just arrived, but this department strikes me as very well laid out. As I am involved in science myself, I find it easy to understand, but the style and content of the displays are both interesting and informative. Yes, my initial impressions are very favourable.

Q.: Thank you



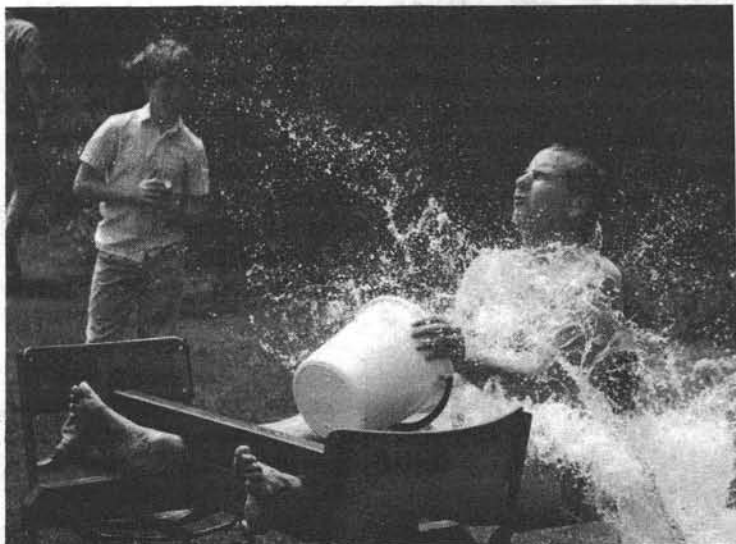
THE T.A.S.S. SPRING FETE



June 14th was a spectacular sunny day! As it happened it was one of the very few sunny Saturdays of 1986. What a day to hold the School Fête! About 2,500 staff, students and friends of the school thronged to the Upper Field to watch the attractions and sample the activities of the many stalls. Sir Roger Bannister, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, opened the proceedings with some well-chosen words.

In fact much activity had already taken place. Parents and friends of the school had donated items for sale at the Fête, and pupils had sold over 20,000 tickets for the Grand Raffle. Thorough preparations for the stalls meant that setting up on Saturday was quickly accomplished.

The stalls organised by the tutor groups were impressively successful and most earned more than at the 1984 Fete. Leading the way was 'Sponge the Master' where staff members suffered heroically to raise more than one hundred pounds. This was closely followed by 'Pay for the Prisoner' where, once again, many staff members, including the Headmaster, allowed themselves to be penned up. Other tried and true activities such as the 'coconut shy' and 'smash the china' were very successful ventures.

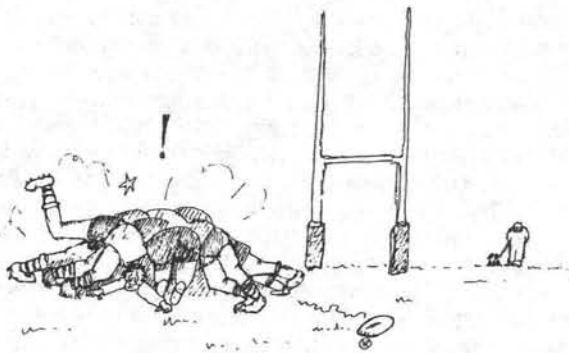


The central ring attractions, the military band and the Abingdon Traditional Morris Dancers, were much appreciated. The R.A.F. Sports Parachute Association team, 'The Robins', were superb and right on target. The tug-of-war, after some skullduggery, was deservedly won by the boys.

A particularly pleasing feature was the participation of 'school buskers' who provided real musical pleasure and diversion throughout the afternoon. The finale by the 6th form rock group, 'Never on a Friday', was a most enjoyable end to a fun day.

The two major objectives for the Fête were fulfilled. The school community had enjoyed itself and T.A.S.S raised about five thousand pounds, of which four thousand has been donated to the School to assist in the planned refurbishment of the Library.

Dr. B.J. Green



RUGBY REVIEW

The 1985/86 was marked, yet again, by law changes, most pertinently affecting the tackle law. However, the changes had little effect compared to the competitive upheaval of the previous year. Anyway, rugby players are not noted for their extensive knowledge of the laws of their own game, although I would say Abingdonians are as good as most; they tend to know where the line of offside is at any rate.

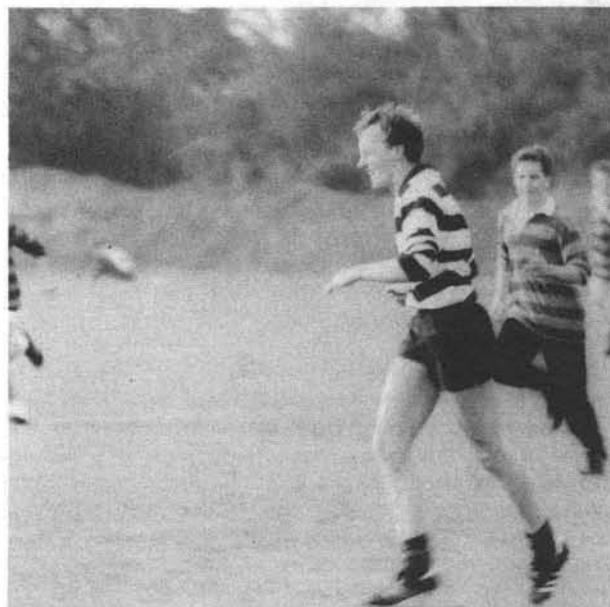
In terms of overall results the club's performance was slightly down on the last two years, but still very respectable. Most notably the Juniors had a successful season and were the only team to beat Radley and St. Edwards. The second fifteen too played with a lot of spirit and teamwork and had a successful and enjoyable season. The Junior Colts had an excellent first half to the season but had less success later. The Colts, who had not been a strong side in the previous two seasons, were competitive in nearly all their matches and were certainly a match for anybody up front. Other sides had mixed fortunes.

Quite a few boys achieved representational honours. At county level John Roberts, Timothy Taylor, Patrick Roberts, Martin Drewe and Simon Wintle appeared regularly at under-16 level while Tom Owen made the county under-18 side. Simon Wintle then progressed further and was eventually selected for the England 16 group side and played in the matches in London and also on a short tour of Italy. This was an outstanding performance and he is Abingdon's first rugby player at national level for many a year.

R.S.P.

RUGBY 1st XV

With only four wins in twelve matches 1985 was a disappointing season. Before the season started there seemed to be a nucleus of experienced forwards, a capable half-back pairing and talented if inexperienced threequarters. However, the component parts were never really welded into an effective team. The forwards usually did well enough although without ever really dominating proceedings. The backs lacked confidence and penetration although there were capable players present. However, their lack of obvious success resulted in less ball being entrusted to them which may have made the team more effective but only exacerbated the problem behind the scrum. Nevertheless, I confidently expect those players who met with mixed fortunes this year to be able to express themselves effectively on the pitch next season. The side was captained by Mark Boobbyer. Mark was not a



natural captain in the Arthurian or motivating mould. However, he was easily the most talented player in the side and was recognized as such by the whole squad. He had played as centre for the last two seasons but it seemed the natural thing for him to move inside to fly-half this year. As the season wore on he tended to take too much on himself but at his best he was able to score a try from just about anywhere on the pitch and his cover defence was always superb. His scrum-half partner was Rob Cheek whose service was not particularly long or quick but who was a thoroughly committed player and who was also strong and fit. Simon Wintle and Damian Sutcliffe became the regular centre pairing, Simon possessing a useful dummy and sidestep but not quite the pace to make a clean break and Damian being a determined and sometimes elusive runner. Richard Porter, Joe Silk and Richard Wheeler were the players who appeared on the wings, each possessing at least determination or pace but none received anything like a reasonable supply of ball. Graham Scott was the full-back for most of the games. He showed a sound pair of hands and feet and made some good intrusions into the line but was not always sufficiently committed to make ground forwards. Chris Day played for a few games when his resilient defensive qualities were needed. James Allison, the



efficient club secretary, missed the first two games with a shoulder injury but returned with great commitment to lead the pack. As a coverer and a forager he was excellent. Tom Owen, at open side flanker, was the forward who made the most impact, the strongest in the maul, the most dangerous on the break and the most decisive tackler. Bruce Blackman and Nick Suckling filled the other back row places. Both were aggressive and rumbustious players. Bruce's experience eventually made him first choice for number eight. The second row of Mike Alner and Neil Hewlett was unchanged from last year. Mike, after making a good impression last year, especially at lineouts, was disappointing this year and showed only glimpses of his ability. Neil was, as last year, very solid and one hundred percent committed. In the front row James Kowszun continued at loose head and Ben Wagon moved over to tight head to make room for Tom Walsingham in at hooker. They functioned efficiently in the scrums and occasionally made forays in the loose. The season began with excellent playing conditions and Bloxham were defeated 21-16 at home. We dominated in the scrums and handled reasonably well but the defence was appalling and the supply of loose ball was far from plentiful. At Berkhamsted forward domination continued but possession was wasted. The ball was transferred slowly and inaccurately along the back line. Individually play was reasonable but in broken play we still looked a very vulnerable side and were deservedly beaten. James Allison made his first appearance of the season in the next match at Solihull albeit not in his own kit. He contrived to get his own kit locked in the coach all afternoon (a quick dash round the pubs of Solihull failing to reveal the right coach driver). In the match itself we were definitely second in competing for the loose ball but gradually got back into the game after conceding a soft try. Five minutes from time we clinched victory with a scrappy try. The side hit rock bottom in two of the next three matches. Ten minutes into the second half of the game against Magdalen we had just scored a good try to move into a useful lead and were poised to take control of the game. Instead we were devastated by three tries in fifteen minutes. They were well constructed and executed but still eminently stoppable. Missed tackles and lack of cover ensured that they were not stopped and we went down 18-15. A very similar story could have been told of the Pangbourne match except we should have been out of sight by half time. Pangbourne could hardly believe their luck when we handed the match to them. There was no doubting the desire to do better among the Abingdon players and the despair when matters went from bad to worse but no effective action was taken; in particular there was no concerted team effort. In between these two dismal performances was a creditable display

against Radley. They worked their quick winger in for two first half tries but just into the second half we clawed our way back to 8-10. A few minutes later a somewhat fatuous try from a charged down kick led to an eight point margin and restored Radley's confidence. Their influential number eight and captain guided them to a comfortable eventual winning margin of 24-8. After half term we were well beaten by a useful Marlborough side and then moved into two easier games against Newbury and Reading, both of which were won. The Reading match saw a well-controlled performance, a contrast to some of the earlier ones. Neither game, however, provided the backs with an opportunity to gain confidence and run themselves into form. St. Edwards, with superior forward power, and Warwick, with enviable pace and talent in the backs, both inflicted heavy defeats. They were clearly better sides but we competed for the full seventy minutes on both occasions. The Old Abingdonian match was moved to the end of the season this year with the resultant strengthening of the opposition. In an enjoyable final match the old heads knew a little too much for the younger ones.

R.S.P.

Team: C. Day, G. Scott, J. Silk, D. Sutcliffe, S. Wintle, R. Porter, R. Wheeler, M. Boobbyer, R. Cheek, J. Kowszun, T. Walsingham, B. Wagon, M. Alner, N. Hewlett, J. Allison, B. Blackman, T. Owen, N. Suckling.

RESULTS

Bloxham (H)	Won	21-16
Berkhamsted (A)	Lost	3-13
Solihull (A)	Won	7-4
M.C.S. (H)	Lost	15-18
Radley (H)	Lost	8-24
Pangbourne (A)	Lost	10-16
Marlborough (A)	Lost	4-30
Newbury (H)	Won	20-0
Reading (A)	Won	18-10
St. Edwards (H)	Lost	11-35
Warwick (A)	Lost	7-35



2nd XV RUGBY

Despite a couple of early season victories over Bloxham and Solihull, it was clear from the drubbing we received from Berkhamsted that, against powerful and well organised opposition, our limitations would be ruthlessly exposed. Poor scrummaging, lack of an obvious jumper, uncertain loose play, incoherence among the backs and, above all, weak defence meant that we had to return swiftly to the drawing-board.

It has been a great credit to the seconds that, through sheer hard work and willingness to improve, they have overcome their limitations and gone on to have a very good season. No side after Berkhamsted trounced us, and the overall balance of wins against defeats speaks for itself. We need to thank the 1st XV, in part, for staying reasonably fit and healthy; without doubt the success of any 2nd XV lies largely in achieving some togetherness and therefore pattern and spirit, which can only be achieved if there are few interruptions for injury. Secondly, the presence of some 'old lags' whose commitment to the game, on and off the field, was an inspiration to others, meant that the team spirit rose throughout the season, soared after half-term, and bubbled after the Warwick match.

The pack concentrated on rucking rather than mauling the ball wherever possible. The simplicity of this plan appealed to the less nimble minds, and the ferocity of it appealed to their animal instincts. Aidan Honley ferreted, David Smith bulled and Alistair Corbett stampeded to great effect, and Bruce... well, Bruce was Bruce until he was deservedly poached by the 1sts. The pack pitted its brains on the task of scrummaging, and the experiments with variations on the put ins, wheels and secondary shoves, all began to disrupt and out-think heavier opposition. In the lines-out we never were really satisfactory, but smuggled or scrambled 'bounce ball' quite well. The backs concentrated on planned moves, and used Ashley Tapper's shrewd tactical kicks to get to a position where those moves could be used. So effective did these become that confidence rocketed, and we soon saw a back division who could really run the ball after all.

All this would have been of no significance, however, had we not developed a stout, sometimes formidable defence. It wasn't that we had a bone-crushing tackler to unleash on an unsuspecting opposition; rather that the whole side showed the sort of spirit that made missed tackles inconceivable. By the end of the season we were missing no more than one or two tackles a match. The importance of this aspect of the game cannot be stated strongly enough; it is the basis of a side's self respect and the beginning of attack. The side covered for one another and scurried around the field looking for tackles, rather than waiting for them to come. The coach, whose favourite one-liner had been 'If you really want to make the tackle, — you will.', was reduced to a welcome silence.

Sometimes the quality of football played was exhilarating. The team combined and overlapped to score some textbook tries against Reading, and at Pangbourne we hardly put a foot wrong, running in seven tries in sustained, sweeping movements that deserved a gallery of thousands. At other times late in the term, often against very strong opposition, we bit our nails as the side hung on, tackling furiously and counter-attacking bravely, either to lose narrowly against Marlborough or to win by a really tenacious effort in the climactic game against Warwick. It would be invidious to pick out individual players from a side that functioned so well together — unless it be for the gentle mockery that kept everyone in his place — but mention has to be made of skipper Ian Elms, who was



very much a player's player, and whose leadership wrung every drop of effort out of everybody. Wingers do not run in tries on two knees and a knuckle, diminutive half-backs do not make gigantic tackles, ridiculous short penalties cannot be made to work, and a certain prop does not run out of excuses to dodge training, unless the motivation is right; and for that the side must thank the red-haired fellow.

J.R.G.

RECORD

v Bloxham	Won	20-0
v Berkhamsted	Lost	0-32
v Solihull	Won	9-3
v M.C.S.	Won	13-10
v Radley	Lost	0-22
v Pangbourne	Won	31-0
v Marlborough	Lost	0-4
v Newbury	Won	35-3
v Reading	Won	17-4
v St. Edwards	Lost	0-18
v Warwick	Won	10-6

P: 11 W: 7 D: 0 L: 4 pts. for: 135 agst: 102

Those who played with any regularity were: I. Elms, C. Day, M. Lodge, P. Snow, H. Hay, D. Jennaway, A. Tapper, D. Blackman, R. Walker, D. Smith, J. Tiffany, J. Lister-Cheese, W. Reynolds, A. Corbett, A. Stacey, B. Blackman, N. Westwood, A. Honley, N. Suckling, R. Mann.

3RD XV RUGBY

This season's 3rd XV was a team with talent, promise and even a measure of commitment. We had skill in both the forwards and the backs. The only major problem was injuries — mainly to the 1st and 2nd XV's. The 1sts lost a forward, they drafted a 2nds player and we in turn lost our best forward! This knock-on effect cost us dearly, and it was a rare game in which we had our first choice of players in every position. When we did we did well.

Throughout the season the team was ably captained by Leo Cullen at fly-half. He masterminded the attacks, took all the kicks, and ran with the ball occasionally. Another key player was 'Nigel' — why Jim Rae was called 'Nigel' no one ever found out, but such he was throughout the season. Tom 'Rambo' Bailey was prop and Jim Dark was equally effective at full back. Add to this the expert coaching of Mr. Hill, an England player (albeit at lacrosse) and you have the makings of a truly dynamic team.

Many people might ask how anyone could lose with a team like this, but somehow or other we managed it. The results speak for themselves — though in fairness it should be pointed out that many of the games were in fact more closely fought than the scorelines suggest.

Thanks go to both Mr. Hill and to Mr. Bodey for their time and effort. Thanks also to our supporter; he was much appreciated.

C.S. Shaw (VI)

RESULTS

Bloxham	Won	22- 4
Berkhamsted	Lost	6-20
Solihull	Won	24-18
M.C.S.	Lost	4- 8
Radley	Lost	0-16
Pangbourne	Lost	6-18
Newbury	Won	47- 0
Reading	Won	12- 6
St. Edward's	Lost	6-27
Warwick	Lost	11-12

4th XV RUGBY

We made a good start to the season with a convincing win over Bloxham. The pack worked well during this game, as they did throughout the whole season, producing good possession for the backs. There were many notable solo performances including two hat-tricks of tries by the Captain Andy Ransome and the Scrum Leader Chris Shaw, with all of the backs scoring at least once. The next game was cancelled, leaving almost a month off before the crunch game with Radley.

The Radley match was our best game of the season and although we lost it there was great team spirit. It was a well fought match against a vastly superior pack and set of backs with more pace who tackled more decisively.

Pangbourne were another victim of solo performances with the most outstanding achievement coming from Michael Rippengal who scored three tries, and Justin Taylor (whose stature belies tremendous kicking power ability) who increased his kicking total (24 pts in just 3 games).

With an everchanging team, starved of talent by injuries in the more serious senior teams, we were forced to reach for many last minute replacements. Via various enticements and bribes, ranging from 'the honour of the school' to 'two orange segments at half time', the 4th XV finished the season in style — but not quite the way they would have hoped.

Thanks to Mr. Bodey and the ever enthusiastic Mr. Rupert Hill for all of their time, effort and 'encouragement' and to those last minute draftees who made up the numbers, with varying degrees of success.

A. Ransome (VI)

The team: B. Schmitzehe, R. Stanton, M. Elliott, D. Cunliffe, C. Steahler, J. Price, T. Gray, C. Shaw (Scrum Leader), S. Bird, A. Ransom (Captain), J. Nordmeyer, N. Martin, M. Rippengal, J. Taylor

Also played: C. Pound, M. Browning, D. Parker, R. Petersen, S. Bray, J. Stamper, P. Williams.

RESULTS

Bloxham	Won	70-0
Solihull	CANCELLED	
Radley	Lost	0-14
Pangbourne	Won	38-0
Marlborough	Lost	6-34
St. Edwards	Lost	0-46

COLTS RUGBY REPORT

It is always difficult for a team knowing the results of previous seasons and aware of the strengths of the opposition, to face up to the reality of yet another uphill battle. When winning, everything seems to go in one's favour and it is easy to keep up the spirit and confidence. When losing, however, injuries are more crucial and luck always seems to favour the opposition. Results, therefore, can be very misleading. This year's Colts XV record of P.10 W.3 L.7 goes down as a poor record. In fact six games were lost by a margin of less than 10 points of which three were by less than three points. The tally of 87 points for and 98 points against puts the season into a far better perspective. I cannot praise the side more for its determination and defensive qualities and the manner in which it approached each game. It is true to say that in several close games the team failed to take the right options or finish off moves, but apart from the Pangbourne game, the good done by the team far outweighed its mistakes. Three particular games come to mind, Marlborough. St. Edwards and Warwick. Marlborough are always a difficult side to beat, and a defeat by two points, when Abingdon had scored more tries than the opposition, was hard to take. No more so than the St. Edwards game, which was lost in the last minute by just one point — a try to Abingdon and two penalties to St. Edwards. In both matches Abingdon lost a key player at half time which put the nail deeper into the coffin, and my local pub's profits soared.

The climax to the season was the Warwick game. Everyone knew that this would be a tough game because of Warwick's unbeaten record and convincing win last season. Abingdon pulled out all stops, found a great tackler in Laurence Dore and won a tremendous battle by nine points to nil — my marriage was saved.

The forwards undoubtedly gave the opposition the most trouble. They dominated tight and loose throughout the season, and lineouts also went in their favour. The county front row of J.P. Roberts, P. Roberts, and T. Taylor completely destroyed and demoralised all opposition and won the ball against the head as much as on their own put in. Their strength was their technique and speed to the breakdown combined with the determination to outplay the opposition from the kick-off. Gavin Blake and Paul Monaghan behind them, put in as much work and both emerged as strong attacking runners. Second row forwards do not often steal the lime-light, but when the colts pack went forward Paul or Gavin were very often in possession of the ball. Martin Drew and Richard (Rambo) Moncrieff were the main spoilers of the team, and throughout the season hunted for the ball and the opposition. Martin well deserved his county cap, and Richard emerged as one of the most improved and dynamic members of the squad. Richard Winsley, the No.8 and captain, improved in every game and gave the team the confidence it so urgently needed, and his determination had such an influence on the team's morale both on and off the field. Moves were initiated by Richard from the lineout and the base of the scrum, and he was always looking to exploit the weaknesses of the opposition.

With so much possession gained throughout the season it is fairly easy to criticise the three quarters for not scoring more tries. It is fair to say that the pack has kept together for a number of seasons and have gained the confidence and experience of playing together as a unit. The backs have really never had the chance to settle and were often without a number of key players through injury — Miles Banwell, Daniel Spring, Simon Goldsworthy and Jimmy White.

Tim Bishop the scrum half and vice-captain has done an excellent job as a link man between the backs and forwards. He reads the game well and the XV is very fortunate in having a player of his calibre. Perhaps his main attribute is his ability to play both as scrum half and full back in defence! — a ploy which was particularly useful in the St. Edwards game. Outside Tim at fly-half, Neil Franklin has gone from strength to strength. He has a safe pair of hands and his kicking improved every game. Tackling was a weakness to begin with but by the end of the season this aspect of his game had also improved. Miles Banwell and Roger Appleyard linked well in the centres and Miles' injury during the Marlborough game left a very difficult gap to fill. Both centres had good pace and it was a great pity that we never saw them fulfill their true potential. Roger was also a talented place kicker when his boot wasn't waterlogged. The gap in the centre was filled by Simon Goldsworthy moving in from the wing. Simon certainly has the potential and played some good games, but there was always the doubt of his match fitness. Chris Watson, Robert Harding, Daniel Spring and Jeremy Seager all ran with determination on the wing. Chris and Robert had the pace, Daniel the power, and Jeremy the courage. When given the space all four, especially Chris, looked capable of scoring tries. Jimmy White the regular full back, had a great deal of pressure throughout the season, but never shied the tackle, and although caught in possession quite frequently, he was fearless on the high ball. Johnny Eccles playing in the last two games filled the gap admirably, and although an inexperienced kicker, made up for this with his tigerish tackling.

My thanks to Richard Winsley and Tim Bishop for all their help throughout the season. The team's success owes a great deal to their interest and involvement in the game. A special thank you to Dr. Bishop for his help and encouragement on the touch line.

The 'B' XV have also done well under the captaincy of Philip Mansfield to win two of their five games. Injuries to 'A' team players affects them most because key players are always promoted. In spite of being up against heavier packs all matches were keenly contested and enthusiasm never dwindled. Their approach to the game was to a great extent influenced by Mr. Mitra. I know the squad has appreciated his coaching skills and relentless support. It has been a bonus to me to have someone so knowledgeable about the game who succeeds in getting the best out of the players.

Finally my congratulations to J. P. Roberts, M. Drewe, and P. Roberts on their selection to the Oxon. U16 XV and to S. Wintle their captain for the first XV. To them and all the colts squad, best of luck with your rugby in the future.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

The following played for the 'A' XV:- J. White, J. Eccles, C. Watson, R. Harding, C. Megaw, L. Dore, D. Spring, M. Banwell, S. Goldsworthy, R. Appleyard, J. Seager, N. Franklin, T. Bishop (V Capt), J-P, Roberts, P. Roberts, T. Taylor, P. Monaghan, G. Blake, R. Moncrieff, M. Drew, R. Winsley (Capt).

RESULTS

Bloxham	Won	12-0
Berkhamsted	Lost	0-6
M.C.S.	Won	17-0
Radley	Lost	10-30
Pangbourne	Lost	11-18
Marlborough	Lost	15-16
Reading	Lost	6-16
Cokethorpe	Lost	3-6
St. Edwards	Lost	4-6
Warwick	Won	9-0

JUNIOR COLTS 'A' RUGBY

The 'A' team were rightly disappointed that they didn't win more matches. Their early form was impressive, but because they were not able to guarantee their own ball or win enough in the loose, they were to struggle in the later half of the season. They were very inconsistent. Against a sound Radley team and a skilful side from St. Edwards, they were able to play very well indeed. However, they showed inexperience and a hint of casualness against Warwick, Marlborough and Reading. This age group must learn to work harder in training, not simply on fitness, but upon their understanding of the game.

The forwards were able to do well, and were often more effective against better teams. Crick, Snow and Barber were reliable players and Trotter and Harrison showed great courage in defence. The pack lacked speed to the breakdown and a certain amount of fire to win the ball. Green, Tomlyn and Sandford were strong forwards, but needed to increase their work-rate, to be effective as colts.

Edwards was a recruit from non-team rugby after about three weeks of the season. He learned quickly and showed great potential. After experimenting with Snow at fly-half, Henderson settled in well and allowed the quick running three quarters, Crawford, Wintle, Clark and Hodges to attack well. Wintle was tremendous at full back and lead his team by example. My greatest disappointment was losing Ben Davis so early in the season, for he was making an impression in both attack and defence.

Martin, Patrick and Walker were effective backs, though they need to work on their pace and positioning for next year.

I was grateful to Mr. Coleman whose patience and support were invaluable.

A.F.T.

Team: Wintle (Capt.), Clark, Crawford, Martin, Patrick, Hodges, Davis B, Walker, Henderson, Edwards, Sandford, Tomlyn, Crick, Barber, Green, Totter, Harrison and Snow.

JUNIORS RUGBY 1985

After a promising start followed by one or two set-backs, this turned out to be an excellent season, both from the point of view of number of matches won, and in the manner in which the victories were achieved. The team improved a great deal as the season progressed, both in individual skills, and in team skills.

Justin Frishberg at full-back proved to be an outstanding footballer. Once he had overcome the problem of sore ankles at the start of the season, he became a pillar of strength. His anticipation and positioning were excellent, and his eye for a gap and the strength of his tackle saved the day for us on several occasions. His line kicking was his weakest point, but that will improve with time. In James Stopps and Nick Richards we had two fast and determined wingers. James in particular proved to be a match winner, being big and strong and with a good swerve and side-step. Nick was less physical, but was determined and improved significantly as the season progressed.

In the centre we had two players who really complemented each other. Jonathan Wallace was an excellent foil to Barry Marnane's more direct and aggressive style. Both were speedy runners, and possessed a range of attacking skills. They were secure in the tackle on most occasions, and were able to see gaps in the opposition line-up, and exploit them.

At fly-half, Matthew Gordon proved to be a good link man, and although he lacked a little pace he had a good

tactical understanding of the game, and he became quite adept at choosing the right option at the right time. Edward Tilley, as understudy, also showed great promise, and both players should pressure each other for a place in the team next year.

Tom Biggar demonstrated the value of a fast pass from scrumhalf, and linked well with his three quarters. He attacked well round the base of the scrum, and exploited the blind side in a sensible way. Defence was not his strongest point, but if he works to improve this aspect of his game, he should prove to be a very good scrum-half indeed in future years.

The front row of Robert Gerdes, Hugh Taylor and Andrew Charlton proved to be very sound indeed. Robert was particularly strong, and he managed to inspire the pack with his direct style on many occasions. Hugh developed as a hooker and became quite skilful towards the end of the season. Andrew had a tendency to injury, but he persevered very wholeheartedly, and was an important member of the front five.

Stephen Mitchell was a real power-house in the second row, and it was very noticeable that when he was playing well the whole of the pack did too. On his rare off-days, the team played badly. Either John Greenwood or Malcome Hancox supported him in the second row, and there was not a great deal to choose between the two. Both are big and determined, if a little lacking in physical co-ordination at the present.

The strength of the back row depended in large measure on the way Mark Annett played. He was an inspirational player for the whole team, and his physical presence proved to be crucial on many occasions. He handled the ball well, was strong and fast, and developed a good tactical sense as the season progressed. Gordon Mowat and David Ratcliffe were the flankers, and both made useful contributions. Gordon was very fast around the field, and could be very effective on his good days. David was another player hampered by sore ankles at the start of the season, but as they got better, so he became more effective.

We lost against Berkhamsted, Shiplake and Marlborough, and were deservedly beaten. These teams were better organised, and played together in a way we could not match on the day.

However, we won our remaining games: victories against Solihul, Warwick, Radley and St. Edwards are always hard to achieve, and rarely do we beat all of these teams in a season.

The fact that this team has been so successful has been due in no small measure to the amount of time and effort that Harry Eden and Peter Lewis have put into coaching the various team units. We have had a nice mix of hard work and humour, and I do not think I will ever forget Nigel Brown's 'drama workshop' to try and make us less inhibited, and the sight of strong props running towards the goal posts with their eyes closed and finally grinding to a halt whimpering.

D.G.C.

MINORS RUGBY

Total matches played: 18

Won: 11

Lost: 7

Points For: 262

Points Against: 229

If one had been asked last year to predict the likely outcome of this season's matches, the above record would have seemed a very unlikely possibility. But what was really only a very mediocre team squad last December turned out to be a side with some very exciting features (though tackling wasn't one of them). One or two first team matches, notably against the Dragon School and Milbrook House, produced some skilful and spirited rugby of a standard at least equal to that of any recent Abingdon U.13 XV. It was really only a pity that we never really learnt an obvious defensive lesson — big, fast, opposing centres have to be knocked down — or how to play well consistently.

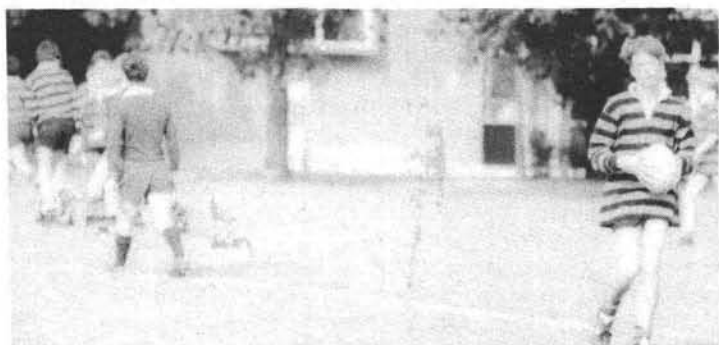
Both the first and second teams were ably lead by their respective captains, Martin Scott-Brown and James Thomson. For the 1st's, Martin also proved himself to be imaginative and elusive in attack and sometimes impassable in defence. His efforts were matched by those of Steffan Hutchings, the scrumleader, while other outstanding elements in the team included Greg Thomson and William Howard in the front row, an exciting half back duo in Andrew Lyon and Louis Golding, and the invaluable try-scoring ability of Chris Jones on the wing. The seconds enjoyed what was probably their finest hour at Magdalen College School where Douglas Williamson finally realised that he could score tries without too much difficulty. Various 'A' XVs also played some good concerted rugby and I was glad to be able to field an U.12 XV against St. Hugh's, gladder too when they won (as a result of two fine tries scored by James Tilley). Perhaps the most notable, however, was that we were able to produce all these teams at all, out of what had looked a rather unpromising squad even last March; the fact that we did is a tribute to the enthusiasm and spirit of the entire group.

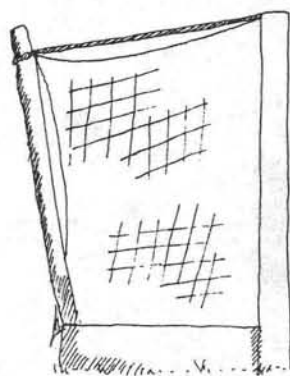
S.R. Finlow

Those who played regularly were (in random order): J. Allen, D. Williamson, D. Sweeten, M. Scott-Brown, J. Thomson, L. Golding, S. Hickson, J. Tilley, J. Twinn, W. Howard, G. Thomson, S. Hickson, S. Hutchings, B. Randall, R. Dasky, R. Milne, S. Milne, M. Mowat, C. Jones, J. Dorkings, D. Chadwick, A. Lyon, M. Lyon, J. Rayner, M. Haycock, M. Rayner, G. Rands, C. Martin, G. Burgess, J. Denee, J. Ions, K. Bevan, G. Ogden, G. Strange, D. Johnstone, R. Newman.

Colours were awarded to: M. Scott-Brown, S. Hutchings, W. Howard, G. Thomson, A. Lyon, L. Golding and C. Jones.

Many thanks are due to Mr. Townsend for his tremendous help and encouragement throughout the term. I should also like to thank Mr. Dillon for honouring me with the award of my own Lower School Colours for rugby.





1st XI HOCKEY 1986

For much of the term the weather was appalling (even so-called 'all weather pitches' were unplayable!). Opportunities for outdoor practice were inevitably limited, and due to absences the same team rarely played together twice, and the final results were disappointing. Despite that, there was an excellent team spirit and, with a bit of luck and a touch more skill, we could have converted a number of the losses and draws into the victories we gained over Leighton Park and Merchant Taylors. Two of the best games were close draws with a useful Reading side and the O.A.s, and the two enjoyable indoor events at Shiplake and Pangbourne, plus the end of term Public Schools' Festival in Oxford helped to salvage something from the disrupted season.

James Kain deserves a special mention for being the most consistent player in the eleven; he provided an excellent link between forwards and defence. Nick Suckling worked hard as centre forward, setting up some good build ups, and Ian Elms, who played in a number of positions, eventually found his most effective game as right half. A number of lower sixth formers were blooded this season. Stefan Green provided us with solid defence and excellent commitment throughout the term. Matthew Elliott played consistently well (in and out of doors), and he, Stefan and James thoroughly deserved their full colours. Ashley Tapper started the season at right half, but finished the season as a promising centre half, as Jan Nordmeyer, with us from Germany, moved up to the forward line. Jan was at his best in the indoor tournaments. Simon Wintle showed good skills, but unfortunately missed the later matches because of his representative rugby commitments. Andrew Ransome tried hard on the right wing while Damian Sutcliffe deservedly played his way into the team.

The main problem was the team's inability to put the ball in the net, either in open play or from short corners, rather than the lack of chances made. The defence and mid-field were relatively strong and the forwards were good at taking the ball into the 'D', but lacked the finishing touch; hence the number of draws or closely lost matches. Nevertheless, the team worked well and hard together and never gave up. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Payne for his support and enthusiasm, and for giving up his time for practice and umpiring.

James Allison (VI)



1st XI RESULTS

v Leighton Park	Won	1-0
v M.C.S.	Lost	2-4
v Reading	Drew	0-0
v Bloxham	Lost	0-4
v Berkhamsted	Lost	0-1
v O.A.s	Drew	1-1

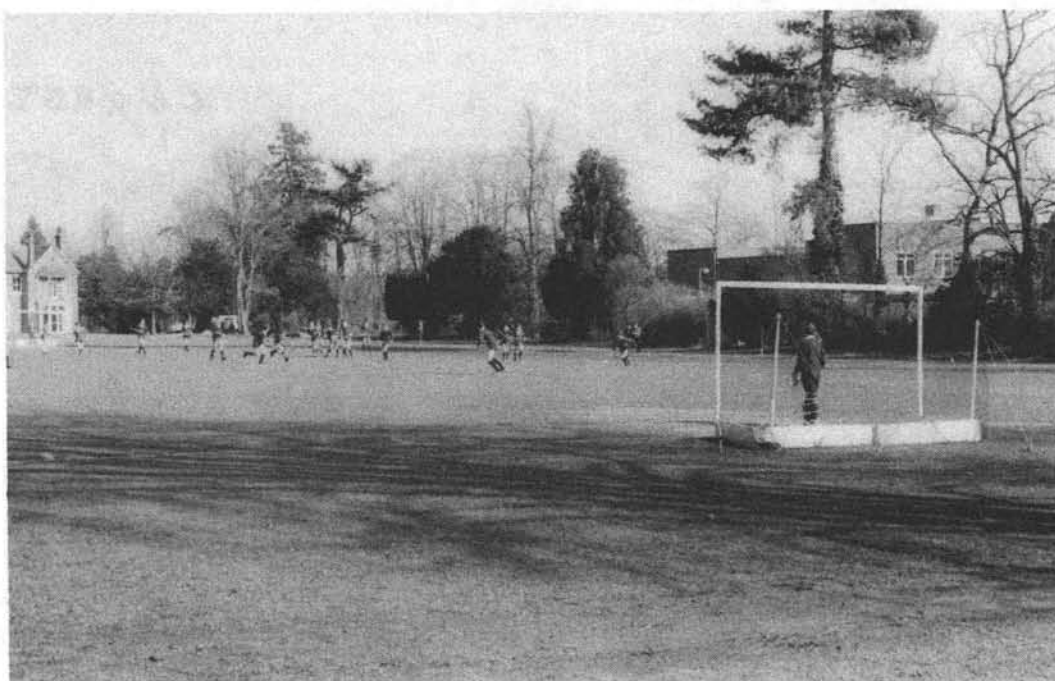
FESTIVAL RESULTS

v Uppingham	Lost	1-3
v Merchant Taylors	Won	2-0
v Whitgift	Lost	1-3
v Wrekin	Lost	1-2

2nd XI HOCKEY

Due to continual 'Founder's Day' type weather, our match experience as a side this season was sadly rather limited, but what we lacked in team practice in match situations we made up for in determination to win. This determination gave us a very satisfying victory over M.C.S., an individually much more skilled side but one with little of our enthusiasm and none of our effort. We then had to wait a further four weeks for the weather to relent, and when it eventually did we beat Reading in a convincing, though hard earned, victory.

Our short corners left a lot to be desired throughout the season due to our lack of team practice, and we were more than happy when somebody managed to stop the ball for the hit! Short corners apart, the standard of play was fairly good, with Chris Pound setting a fine example in his ability to stop the ball, and Jim Dark doing a great job throughout the season supplying the wings. Dan Blackman battled hard along the left for the ball in all our matches, but unfortunately his good work crosses weren't always by the insides and centre forward. John Loosemore did, however, seem to score when we needed him to and saved our record in our last two games against Bloxham and Berkhamsted. In these last two games our previous commitment to win against better teams was lost against worse ones, and we made heavy weather of what should have been easy wins. We actually succeeded in scoring from a short corner which saved us from a potentially embarrassing situation (and more training!).



At the end we managed to hold onto our 100% record, mainly due to the hard hitting of Paul Mitchell and the uncompromising tackling of Giles Potter at the back. Many thanks to Mr. Payne and Mr. Biggs for their good-humoured coaching, and refereeing, and thanks also to Mr. Crozier for his uphill struggle trying to teach us how to take short corners.

James Rae (VI)

COLTS HOCKEY 1986

The colts hockey squad was not a particularly strong one this year and only just numbered the twenty-two players required. The weakness was felt particularly at 'B' team level and few players in the side were pressing for promotion. Nevertheless, everyone played with enthusiasm.

The first two matches were cancelled and the season finally got underway against Magdalen. In an even match we paid the penalty for not putting away chances in the first half. Snow then descended the very next day and wintry conditions then prevented hockey being played on outdoor surfaces for the next month, during which time five fixtures were lost. Momentum was maintained as well as possible by practising on the hard tennis courts and in the sports hall. When the weather relented the season ended with a flurry of four matches in eight days, during which time the team certainly started playing better hockey although the defence continued to look a little porous. Perhaps the best performance was against Radley on their hard surface where we conceded the only goal with ten minutes to go. The Bloxham match saw both sides on top for periods and the lead exchanging hands throughout the game. A draw was a fair result. Reading and Berkhamsted were both out-played, although not decisively so.

There were no real stars in the side but the players who did make notable contributions were Johnstone in goal, Winsley, who marshalled the defence, Drewe, who tackled and ran tirelessly, and Franklin, who was the most keen to get shots in on goal and who scored the diving goal of the season.

R.S.P.

The following played for the 'A' XI: Johnstone, Eccles, Winsley, Gold, So, Drewe, Buck, Trump, Appleyard, Banwell, Franklin (Capt), Parker.

Blake and Hemsley each played once.

'B' XI: Blake, Gold, Nolan, Mansfield, Gilmore, Harding, Wood, McIntosh, Hemsley, Boland, Burgass.

Also played: P. Adams, Kenyon, J.P. Roberts.

RESULTS

A XI		
M.C.S.	Lost	0-1
Reading	Won	2-0
Radley	Lost	0-1
Bloxham	Draw	3-3
Berkhamsted	Won	1-0
B XI		
M.C.S.	Lost	2-7
Radley	Lost	1-6
Bloxham	Draw	1-1

JUNIOR COLTS HOCKEY

This turned out to be a most exciting and enjoyable term of hockey. The team had played promisingly last year as Juniors so, although a little reshaping was due to unavailability of players, the first two decisive wins against disorganised Leighton Park and a small High Wycombe side were not unexpected. Indeed they were rather too easy for comfort because Magdalen were known to be a strong side full of large, fast players. We were also, at that stage of the season, trying out a new formation, which was soon abandoned in favour of the conventional 5-3-2-1 pattern.

After the Magdalen match, which was vigorously contested by both sides, the bad weather set in and the next match was not until a month later against Reading. Fortunately the interest had been maintained during the interim by six-a-side games in the sports hall and hard surface practices, the former being usually good exercise for the goal-keepers. Reading were enjoying a particularly successful season and a draw was a fair result. In the Bloxham game the team began to reap the benefits of their practices. The length of the pitch allowed Wintle, who had taken over the captaincy from the injured Henderson, to play both a suitably defensive

and a decidedly attacking role as centre-half. The Berkhamsted pitch was much longer and more goals might well have come had we not tried to repeat the Bloxham pattern. The three goals came in the first fifteen minutes and after that the pitch began to cut up very badly after the month's frost.

Two rearranged games were then squeezed in to the end of term, and the team was by now in full song. Their performance against an unusually strong Oxford School side (which then went on to beat MCS a few days later) was particularly heartening in view of the goal scoring capacity of Giles Martin ably fed by the remainder of the team. Arguably, the match was won, however, by Jonathan Crick with some excellent 'keeping on the edge of his circle in the first half. The team made a more positive start to the final match against Pangbourne in spite of being on an unfamiliar hard surface. The inside forwards played a useful defensive as well as attacking game and the left wing moved increasingly to the centre of the field as he repeatedly dribbled round the goal-keeper. Maybe he should be next season's inside left?

Many thanks again to RPF especially for his help in those frozen sports hall days and for keeping the B-XI in a winning frame of mind.

R.C.B.C.

Team: J. Crick, J. Green, G. Peddy, A. Edwards, J. Howard, A. Wintle, B. Davis, J. Crawford, R. Joliffe, B. Jaques, T. Hay, M. Henderson, G. Martin.

RESULTS

v Leighton Park	away	Won	6-0
v RGS High Wycombe	home	Won	6-0
v Magdalen	away	Lost	1-3
v Reading	home	Drew	1-1
v Bloxham	away	Won	6-1
v Berkhamsted	away	Won	3-0
v Oxford School	home	Won	6-2
v Pangbourne	away	Won	5-2

JUNIORS HOCKEY: 1986

The weather was fair at the beginning of January, and fears of a repeat of last season's disastrous start were (naively) dispelled as players had the rare luxury of practising on grass for the first match. The squad showed plenty of potential and it was no easy task selecting the best 11. However, decisions were made, the game went well and a victory over High Wycombe was secured by means of a hat-trick from the captain, Stephen Mitchell.

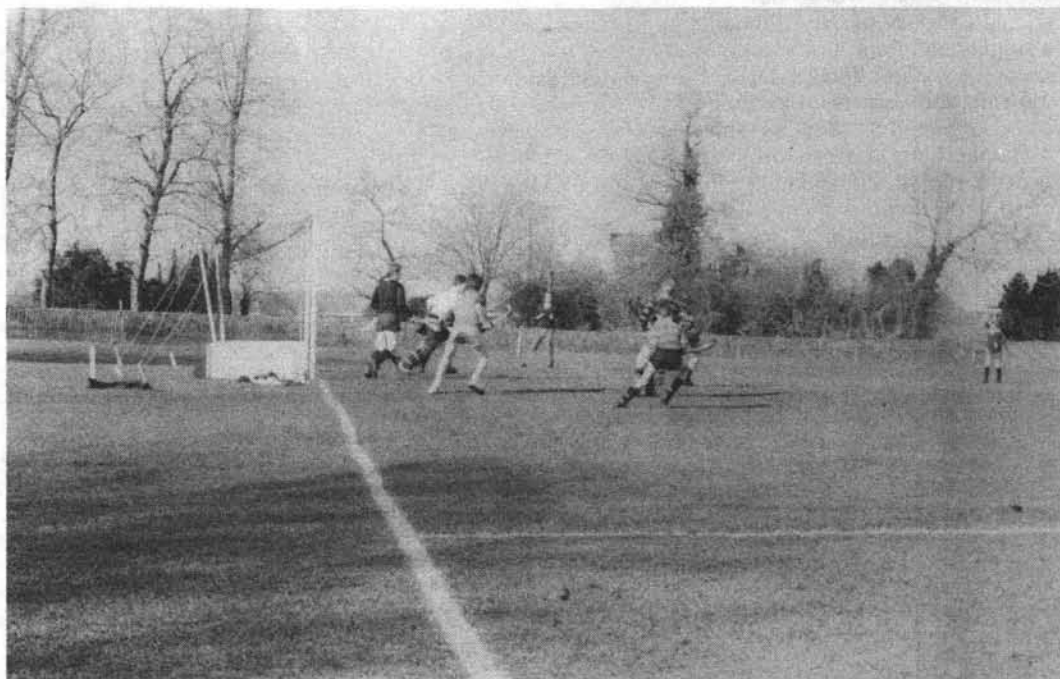
It was at this point that the weather was once again to decimate the fixture list. Rain and gales followed by frost and snow were to permit only one match in the next six weeks: the hockey season was back on its usual course!

During February the pitches remained unplayable and for the second year running there were secret fears that conditions would never improve, but no-one gave up! Practices kept up and fitness was maintained just in case the weather relented.

The sports hall once again improved a great asset and the Thursday session were both popular and productive, although some of the so-called forwards, (Julian, Hugh and Stephen spring to mind) found it incredibly hard to score, even when they outnumbered the defence three to one! Enthusiasm for Wednesday afternoons on lower field was rather more subdued (!) and considering the harsh conditions it was hardly surprising that during training runs the occasional respite was sought (Paul ?) behind the rifle range. Six-a-side tournaments on the hard surface were numerous, and credit must go to everyone for a positive and cheerful approach. The competitive spirit kept the players sharp, and this was to prove invaluable in March when an improvement in the weather saw the return of the school matches.

The team travelled to Reading for the first match of the 'new' season, and won a rather scrappy game 5-1. The mud caused a number of problems but didn't prevent Julian Day from scoring the second goal from close range. Subsequently it emerged that he had used his feet to help the ball into the net; but then he always did find it difficult to score legitimately!

Bloxham posed no major problems, and in a one-sided game Hugh Wilkinson actually managed to score a goal and thus secured his place in the A XI. However, at Berkhamsted the team struggled — first to find its



goalkeeper (who as usual was still donning his kit when he should have been warming up) — and then to remember the purpose of the visit. The softest goal imaginable was conceded in the fifth minute, and the substitute is still being bribed not to divulge the full text of the comments made on the sideline by the Abingdon umpire!

The turning point came when the forwards actually exploited one of the countless gaps in the opposition's defence and scored! After this, (and a few well chosen words of 'advice' at half-time) goals came quite easily as the result indicates. The Berkhamsted coach was impressed; nevertheless, the team had 15 minutes' silence on the journey home to reflect on its poor start to the game.

The final match of the season was a re-arranged fixture at Pangbourne and this time the team proved from the start what a capable outfit it had become. The home side played a tough game and certainly put Abingdon under considerable pressure, but the defence was more than equal to it and Kieran Hyder saved a penalty for good measure. Meanwhile, the forwards, well supported by the midfield trio, scored three goals. The game had been won, but not without a scare. In the first half, Donald Stanley scored an excellent goal; in the second period he was forced to admit feeling too ill to continue and had to come off with 20 minutes still remaining. Officially there was a substitute, James Johnstone, but there were one or two worried faces when he took the field because he was ranked 23rd in the squad! There was no need to worry. No better proof of the depth of ability in the group could have been provided than by James in those final few minutes. He had begun the day by not making the B team and he finished it by playing for the A XI and impressing everyone around him. Pangbourne were beaten, the season was over, and the match ball was presented to Julian Day for two years' excellent service to Juniors Hockey.

Meanwhile, at Abingdon, the B XI was notching up its fourth victory out of four, beating Pangbourne 3-0. Bloxham and M.C.S. were also beaten but the highlight of the B XI's season must have been the 3-0 win against Radley. Any victory over the local rivals is good, but this one was accomplished in great style. It was a delight to watch and praise from a defeated Radley coach at the end of a match is praise indeed.

The success of the B XI was largely a result of excellent team work, but perhaps special mention should be made of: Nick Richards, who did not concede a single goal; Paul Aitken who, at the other end, scored seven times and finally, Barry Marnane, who captained the side and controlled the midfield.

So ended the 1986 season. In January it seemed that matching last season's performance would have been a major achievement; in fact it was improved upon, and leaves an even more formidable challenge for next year's group. The squad possessed skill, commitment and enthusiasm, and it was these qualities that brought success. Coaching and general supervision of the two sides was an enjoyable experience and it would be hard to find a better group of boys — but it would be nice if someone just occasionally said thank-you.

A.J.G.

RESULTS

Juniors A XI: P.6 W.5 D.1 L.0 Goals 19-3

High Wycombe	Won	3-0
M.C.S.	Draw	1-1
Reading	Won	5-1
Bloxham	Won	3-0
Berkhamsted	Won	4-1
Pangbourne	Won	3-0

Team: K. Hyder, M. Deacon, D. Sparkes, S. Newton, E. Tilley, D. Stanley, M. Seager, J. Day, S. Mitchell (capt.), H. Wilkinson, B. Kendrick.

Goals: Mitchell 7, Wilkinson 5, Kendrick 5, Stanley 2, Day 1.5.

Juniors B XI: P.4 W.4 D.0 L.0 Goals 13-0

M.C.S.	Won	1-0
Radley	Won	3-0
Bloxham	Won	6-0
Pangbourne	Won	3-0

Team from: N. Richards*, N. New*, R. Davison, J. Johnstone*, B. Marnane** (capt.), J. Kingsland, J. Pound, S. Compson, P. Aitken*, M. Gordon, J. Wallace, P. Goldsworthy**, J. Frishberg, D. King, J. Taylor.

(* = played once for 1st XI; ** = played twice for 1st XI)

Goals: Aitkin 7, Goldsworthy 2, Compson 2, Kingsland 1, Pound 1.

MINORS HOCKEY

Full seasons of Hockey are becoming very rare these days, no more so than this season which was restricted to about three weeks. Fortunately the Sports Hall saved the day, providing the opportunity for skill, internal tournaments and two internal matches. All teams benefited from this facility, but Minors Hockey benefited the most, because basic stick work and control are best introduced on a true surface and in a confined area. This being so, it was very frustrating not to be able to fully extend the skills learnt in the Sports Hall to the field game. The weather conditions therefore restricted the full potential of the players. Nevertheless, some good hockey was played and all players are to be congratulated on braving the elements and approaching the practice sessions and matches with the maximum effort and enthusiasm.

Of the seven matches played, the A XI suffered only one defeat, against Radley under-14 side, which is a very good record. It was particularly pleasing to beat M.C.S. because this is always a keenly contested game.

All players improved their skill, but particular mention must be given to Steffan Hutchings, Jonathon Dorkins, Martin Scott-Brown, Ben Williams, Paul Crutchlow, Andrew Lyon and Matthew Mowat who emerged as the most improved players. The award of their Lower School Colours for Hockey is thoroughly deserved. It is not possible to award Colours to everyone, but this is not to say that the other players in the squad gave less. In fact it was the good team spirit and the eagerness of each player to make a contribution, that won the matches. My thanks to Steffan Hutchings and Jonathon Dorkings who shared the captaincy, for their help on and off the field. They were both eager to try and get the best out of their players in trying to win matches, but to their credit, kept up the good spirit when things went wrong.

I am sure the squad is very grateful for all the hard work put in by Mr. Hill and Mr. Townsend. Having three coaches at any level is a bonus, but a special bonus in

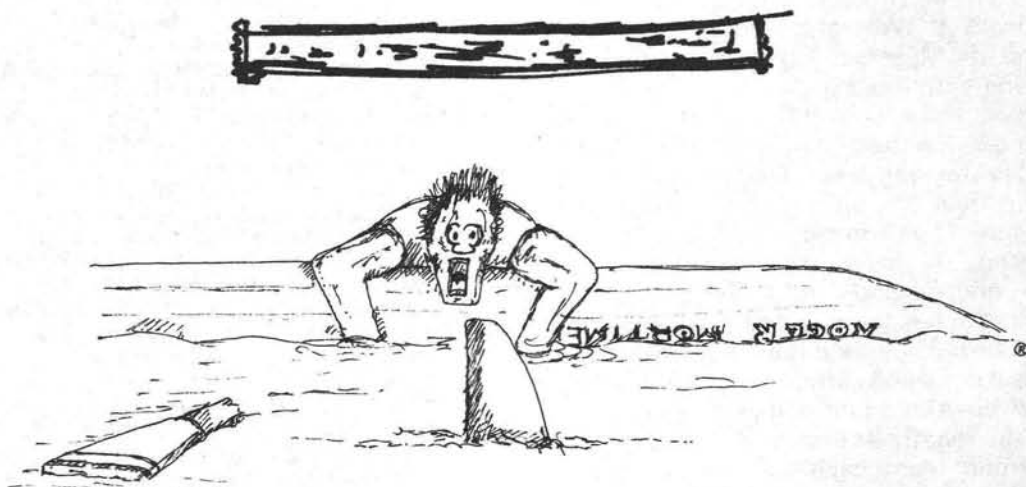
having two coaches with such enthusiasm and commitment. It was certainly a season where the weather conditions favoured the players rather than the coach, but on no occasion did either Mr. Hill or Mr. Townsend forsake their responsibility to the boys.

J.D-Hay

The following played for the A XI: Howard W, Hutchings W, Hickson S, Mowat M, Dorkings J, Scott-Brown M, Hodgson N, Sweeten D, Lyon A, Darby R, Crutchlow P, Williams B.

RESULTS

Priors Court School	Won 10-2
Priors Court School	Won 5-1
Magdalen College School	Won 3-2
B XI	Lost 0-4
Radley College	Lost 0-2
B XI	Lost 0-2
Christchurch Cathedral School	Won 5-1



ROWING 1986

The Lent Term was about as unpleasant as possible in terms of the weather. Our results at senior level, however, were the best on record. I was fortunate to inherit a strong squad of oarsmen who had had success throughout their career. Their commitment to training and excellent team spirit contributed to making the season a memorable one for all concerned.

The whole club rallied to support me in the role of master-in-charge while G.G.B. was away in Australia. We were blessed with a remarkably trouble-free time with our equipment which was due to the fact that G.G.B. ensured that boats and coaching launches were in good working condition. Our coxwains ensured that they steered good courses too! When I observe other schools at regattas, I am heartened that our boys make an effort to treat their equipment properly.

The Head races in the Lent term were particularly successful for the senior crews. An impressive start at the Abingdon Head in pairs and fours was followed by wins at Worcester, Reading (winning the Bourne Cup for the first time) and Kingston. In the School's Head they finished fifth, which was a record for the A.S.B.C. After a wet but enjoyable training camp in Wallingford, the First Eight went on to win at the Metropolitan, Putney Town, Birmingham and Bedford regattas. A poor draw in the final of the Childe Beale cup at National Schools' saw the crew lose by the closest possible margin. That was perhaps the greatest disappointment of the season. At Henley they were beaten in the first round of the Special Race for Schools by the winners, St. Edwards.



The second Eight improved throughout the season and showed real determination to peak at Birmingham and Nottingham. Their second place in the Elsenham Cup was a great achievement, for there were some very strong crews in evidence on that day.

The colts rowed well at Worcester Head, where they beat Radley and lost to Shrewsbury by a mere second over a twenty minute course. They also gained valuable experience in the Head of the River Race from Mortlake to Putney. They were worthy winners at Wallingford and Birmingham, the crew and Mr. Mearns being rewarded for their hard work and enthusiasm.

The Junior colts showed a great deal of potential and were to show form later in the season. Mr. Potter was determined to concentrate on technique and his crew certainly improved because of this. Their wins at Putney and Bedford were pleasing. A lapse in concentration at Wallingford and a poor draw at Nottingham however must have been a disappointment for them. Mr. Chisholm was determined to lift the spirits of the B crew and certainly managed to help a number of boys to improve their rowing. Their success at the regatta at Eton was a just reward. This age group must capitalize on this year's efforts and ensure that progress continues.

Mr. Jones was certainly heartened by the enthusiasm of his J14s. They were a very pleasant bunch and I enjoyed taking the 'B' crew for the afternoon to Bedford. The eight improved considerably during the season and by the end of the summer term were quite impressive. They were second in the 'B' event at Nottingham and went on to win at Bedford Town regatta.

We were joined on the river by Mr. Pilgrim-Morris who spent about ten days with each age group during his six weeks with us. He has now joined us full-time and has brought a great deal of enthusiasm and experience to the club and has made the Michaelmas term sculling option a tremendous success.

Peter Scott (O.A.) provided valuable help again this season and so too did Tim Parr. They were both willing and able to give up their free time to help coach Abingdonians. I was most grateful to them and to David Passmore and Neil Hewlett as secretary and captain. Thanks too for all of the support from parents and friends throughout a most enjoyable rowing season.

A.E.T.



RESULTS 1985

ABINGDON SCHOOL BC

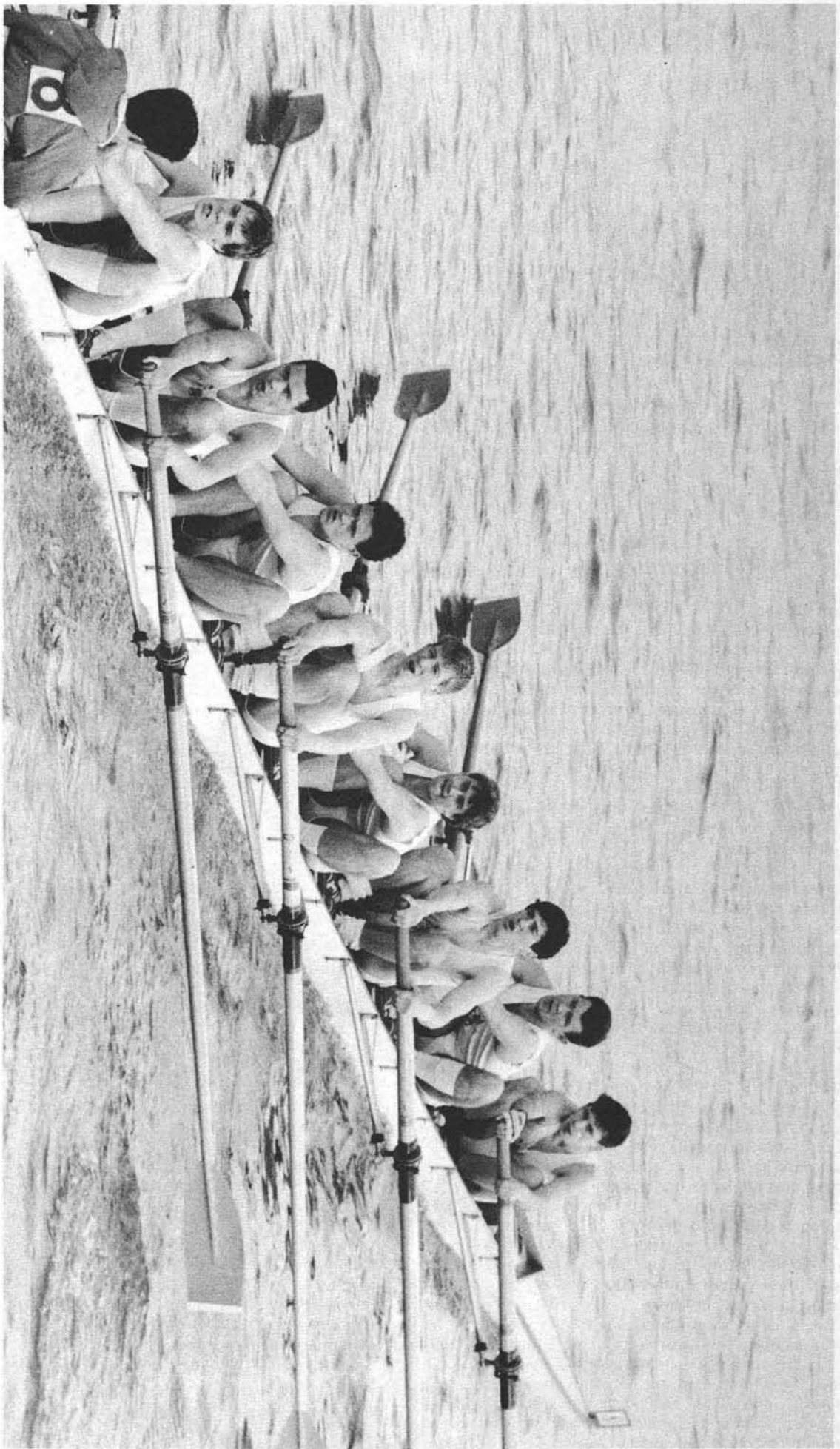
- 80: S. Jones, R. W. Money-Kyrle, N.V. Challenger, *J.C.H. Dix, N.W. Hewlett, D.A. Hodgson, T.W. Gentles, G.M.H. Peach, cox R.T. Richmond (*R.J. Tyack), S.C. Kingston Hor, *Metropolitan, *Reading Am; Sch/J Wallingford.
N.D. Bolitho, V. Helfritz, T.D. Ross, A. Honley, J.J.E. Tiffany, R.J. Tyack, D.D. Passmore, R.D. Cheek, cox D.R. Chadwick, J. Worcester HoR; Sch/J Bedford; Sch 2 8s Hereford Sch.
J.S. Wissett, M.D.W. Schofield, I.J. Green, T.J. Butcher, T.W. Owen, T.R. Walsingham, S.J. McConnell, A.M. Stacey, cox G. Burgess, JU-16 Worcester HoR.
T.M. Bishop, N.A. Woodall, S.R. Angus, D.W. Spring, S.J. Goldsworthy, C.C. Megaw, M.C. Drinkwater, R.A. Scott, cox J.H. Lock, JU-15 Mortlake, Walton.
J. Hall, D.W. Knowles, T.J. Kenyon, C.H.L. Ashton, T.G.S. Bichard, P.R. Allen, R.J. Jameson, J.M.M. Bennett, cox B.J. Dyer, JU-15 Bedford.
T.J. Hunt, M. Stanley-Baker, J.C. Carr, R.G. Harrison, P.W. Jones, J.R.S. Scroggs, J.A. Crawford, J.P. Hodges, cox M.R. Schofield JU-14 J. Walton.
4+: T.W. Gentles, D.A. Hodgson, N.W. Hewlett, G.M.K. Peach, cox R.T. Richmond, S.C. Abingdon HoR.
J.J.E. Tiffany, A. Honley, D.D. Passmore, R.D. Cheek, cox D.R. Chadwick, N. Evesham, T.W. Owen, T.R. Walsingham, S.J. McConnell, A.M. Stacey, cox G. Burgess, JU-16 Evesham.
*J.S. Wissett, M.D.W. Schofield, I.J. Green, T.J. Butcher, cox G. Burgess, JU-16 Abingdon HoR, Reading Town (*T.W. Owen), T.M. Bishop, C.C. Megaw, M.C. Drinkwater, N.A. Woodall, cox B. Dyer, JU-15 Abingdon HoR.
2-: T.W. Owen, T.R. Walsingham, JU-16 J. Walton.
Coaches: G.G. Barrett, W.G. Potter, A.F. Trotman, P. Jones, R.S.K. Mearns, R.C. Guppy.

RESULTS 1986

- 80: T.W. Gentles*, T.R. Walsingham*, T.W. Owen*, D.D. Passmore*, N.W. Hewlett*, V.H. Helfritz*, D.A. Hodgson*, G.M.K. Peach*, cox P.A. Gingell*, S.C. Kingston HOR; Worcester HOR; Worcester HOR; Reading HOR; Metropolitan; S.B. Putney Town; Bedford; Elite Birmingham Schools-Junior Birmingham.
B.C. Schmittzehe+, N.D. Bolitho+, C. Staehle+, A.M. Stacey+, J.J.E. Taffany+, R.W. Money-Kyrle+, S.J. McConnell, M.D.W. Schofield+, cox J.C. Taylor, D.M. Morrison, S.C. Birmingham.
N.A. Woodall, P.R. Allen, T.G.S. Bichard, D.A. Spring, R.A. Scott, C.C. Megaw, T.M. Bishop, T.J.H. Bennett, cox D.R. Chadwick, J-16 Wallingford, Birmingham.
N.S. Avenell, D.N. Knowles, C.M.B. Milton, J.A. Hodgson, J. Hall, C.H.L. Ashton, P.J. White, R.N.J. Jameson, cox P.N. Adams, M.P. Owen, L.C.W. Dore, R.G. Harrison, S.G. Pratley, J.C. Carr, J.R.S. Scroggs, P.W. Jones, cox G. Burgess, J-15 Putney Town, Bedford.
A.R.K. Whittaker, M.G. S. Williams, M. Stanley-Baker, A.H. Trotter, O.S. Matthews, M.T.S. Tomlyn, M.D. Wright, U.L.E. Neale, cox A.A. Beaumont/J.A.D. Mercer.
I.C. Dalley, R.G. Godfrey, L.A.H. Charlton, M.S.F. Annett, R.D. Greasby, J.C. Hewes, A.J. Wade, R.T. Richmond, cox A.P.J. List, J-14 Bedford.
C. Nikkah, G.B. Harding, J.G. Britton, J.W.E. Bichard, R.E. Clarkson Webb, J.A. Smith, A.J.A. Thomson, B.J.A. Curtis, cox J.G.M. Taylor/B.C. Ulyatt.
4+ N.W. Hewlett, V.W. Helfritz, D.A. Hodgson, T.R. Walsingham, cox P.A. Gingell, S.C. Abingdon HOR; Junior Wallingford.
2- D.D. Passmore, T.W. Owen, Junior Abingdon HOR.

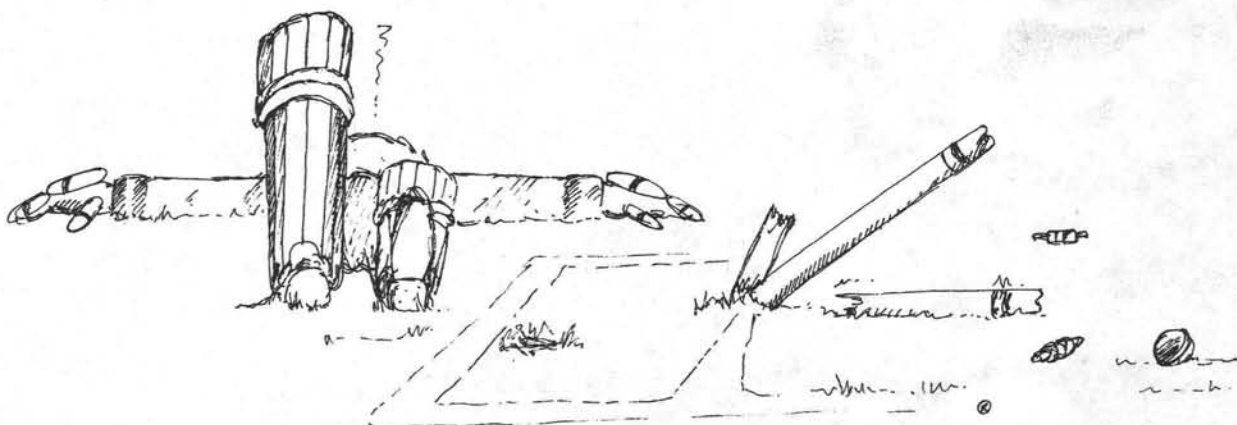
* Full colours

+ Half colours



The Schools' Head of the River Race — 1986. The First VIII shooting Hammersmith Bridge.

— HOWZAT!?



CRICKET 1985

The First Eleven

The First Eleven, who had only lost one match in 1984, went one better and maintained an unbeaten record winning eight of their matches outright, and most of the others 'on points', as the results below indicate. It was a pleasure to watch the XI, which included a number of exceptional schoolboy cricketers — notably Marcus Marsden, Mark Boobyer, Matthew Cox and Jeff Hutchinson — gell together into a strongly competitive and successful team. The victory over Radley was typical in that it reflected a team effort with every member contributing, either by making runs, or by taking a wicket or a catch.

Other highlights were the decisive victories over the Berkshire Gentlemen and the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, a one run win over Abingdon C.C., who lost their last nine wickets for 39 runs, and the dismissal of Douai, who actually went from 20 for 2 to 22 all out.

Mark Boobyer ended his Abingdon School career, as he had begun it, with a century, his third of the 'cricket week', and was only 35 runs short of the 1000 for the season. Matthew Cox took 53 wickets with his slow left arm spin and was selected for the public schools' Trial Match. Jeff Hutchinson (46 wkts.) will never forget his 8 for 25 v Radley. Marcus Marsden's tactical shrewdness and all round experience was a bonus, and he captained the side with conviction. Euan Hirst kept wicket well and his good humoured enthusiasm was 'catching'! Jason Haynes (Hon Sec.) developed into a reliable opening partner for Boobyer, Stuart Sutcliffe regained his confidence and form, James Bouch and Graham Scott (who fielded brilliantly) shared crucial recovery partnerships in the S.O.A. and Radley matches. Stefan Green, Simon Evans and John May had few opportunities but played important supporting parts on occasions.

At the Cricket Club Dinner, with the Rev. Hugh Pickles presenting the awards as Chief Guest, Marcus won the Smithson Cup, Mark the Slingsby Cup, Matthew the Morris Cup and Graham the Henderson Prize. As I hand over, and wish every success, to Munna Mitra, I am conscious of how many people, too numerous to mention individually, have helped me play

what has been a rather long innings — colleagues, coaches, umpires, groundstaff, scorers, caterers, supporters, not to mention my wife! War Mem has given me a lot of pleasure and good memories. Thank you all, and thank you, Marcus and your XI, for such a superb finale!

Nigel Payne

ABINGDON SCHOOL 1st XI 1985

ST EDWARD'S (a) Abandoned

St Edward's 163 (Cox 4 for 39); Abingdon 79 for 4 (Haynes 37).

ST ALBANS, Pretoria (h) Drawn

Abingdon 142 for 4 dec. (Boobyer 62, Marsden 37 n.o.); St Albans 107 for 8 (Cox 5 for 23).

PANGBOURNE (h) Drawn

Pangbourne 147 (Cox 4 for 63); Abingdon 97 for 5 (Sutcliffe 59 n.o.).

ST BARTS, NEWBURY (h) Won by 5 wkts

Newbury 121 (Hutchinson 5 for 34, Marsden 5 for 29); Abingdon 124 for 5 (Boobyer 46).

ORATORY (a) Won by 160 runs

Abingdon 227 for 3 dec. (Boobyer 123, Sutcliffe 45); Oratory 67 (Cox 6 for 3).

BERKSHIRE GENTLEMEN (h) Won by 78 runs

Abingdon 182 for 7 dec. (Boobyer 88); B.G.s 104 (Hutchinson 5 for 36, Cox 4 for 34).

ABINGDON C.C. (a) Won by 1 run

Abingdon 111 (Haynes 33); Abingdon C.C. 110 (Cox 6 for 26).

BERKHAMPSTEAD (a) Drawn

Abingdon 190 for 3 dec. (Cox 66 n.o., Boobyer 41, Sutcliffe 35); Berkhamstead 80 for 9 (Hutchinson 5 for 39).

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AMATEURS (h) Won by 68 runs

Abingdon 193 for 8 dec. (Bouch 61, Nicholson 33, Scott 31); S.O.A.s 126 (Hutchinson 5 for 41)

RADLEY (h) Won by 75 runs

Abingdon 118 (Bouch 31); Radley 43 (Hutchinson 8 for 25).

DOUAI (h) Won by 139 runs

Abingdon 161 for 5 dec. (Boobyer 71, Haynes 41, Sutcliffe 35); Douai 22 (Marsden 5 for 5, Cox 4 for 7).

N.H.PAYNE'S XI (h) Drawn

N.H.P's XI 151 (N.H.Payne 34, A.Mitra 31); Abingdon 123 for 7 (Bouch 44, Marsden 43).

M.C.C. (h) Abandoned

Abingdon 124. M.C.C. 43 for 1.

R.G.S. HIGH WYCOMBE (h) Drawn

Abingdon 174 for 0 dec. (Boobyer 81 n.o. Haynes 73 n.o.); High Wycombe 138 for 9 (cox 5 for 57)

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL (h) Drawn

Abingdon 207 for 3 dec. (Boobyer 102, Sutcliffe 44); M.C.S. 108 for 7.

R.G.S. COLCHESTER (h) Drawn

Abingdon 263 for 2 dec. (Boobyer 136 n.o., Haynes 74); Colchester 239 for 9 (Kowszun 6 for 48).

BLOXHAM (h) Drawn

Abingdon 146 for 9 dec.; Bloxham 72 for 6.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD (h) Won by 137 runs

Abingdon 213 for 4 dec. (Haynes 72); U.C.S. 76 (Marsden 4 for 24).

OLD ABINGDONIANS (h) Drawn

Abingdon 209 for 7 dec. (Boobyer 118 n.o.); O.A.s 137 for 6 (B.E.Woolley 64).

PLAYED 19 WON 8 DRAWN 9 LOST 0 ABANDONED 2

Matches against BRENTWOOD and READING were cancelled.

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES 1985

BATTING	Innings	Not Out	Highest		Average
			Runs	score	
M.T. Boobyer	18	3	965	136*	64.3
M.A. Marsden	16	8	271	43	28.8
J.C.P. Haynes	19	1	482	74	26.7
J.N. Bouch	14	5	212	61	23.5
S.G. Sutcliffe	17	1	372	59*	23.2
M.C. Cox	16	2	264	66*	18.8
J.S. Hutchinson	7	3	74	19	18.5
G.D. Scott	7	1	89	31	14.8
S.J. Green	6	2	48	15	12.0
J.B. May	7	2	33	13*	6.6
E.G. Hirst	6	2	24	13*	6.0

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	QC
M.C. Cox	150	40	483	53	9.1
M.A. Marsden	188	57	390	36	10.8
J.S. Hutchinson	215	75	523	46	11.3
S.D. Evans	54.3	17	155	9	17.2
J.B. May	70	16	268	7	38.2

CRICKET 1985

THE SECOND ELEVEN, captained by Mark Weatherall, went in for hattricks of all kinds, starting with three wins, followed by three draws, and three 'near misses'! Particularly unusual were the hattricks, taken in the same Newbury innings, by Graham Nicholson and James Kowszun. With the bat, Graham Nicholson, Stefan Green and James Dark all made half-centuries.

THE THIRD ELEVEN, led by Marcus Winsley, looked a promising one on paper with Clive Williams and Paul Rainsden a useful pair of bowlers, but sadly cancellations frustrated their smaller fixture list.

THE JUNIOR COLTS won 5 of their 9 matches. Peter Lunn (capt.) averaged 44 and took 21 wickets and was selected to play in the Public Schools' Colts Trial. Neil Franklin scored three fifties and Michael Herd took 19 wickets. Lunn and Franklin (U.15s) and Richard Tilley, Tim Greenland and Herd (U.14s) represented Oxfordshire on occasions in the holidays.

THE JUNIORS had an outstanding season, winning 9, drawing 3 and losing only once, by 4 runs, to Radley in the Lord Taverners Knock-out Event. Stephen Prince (capt.) scored 300 runs, and good allround performances came from Robert Jolliffe, Guy Peddy and Mark Snow. Peddy and Snow were selected for the U.14 Oxon. Squad.

THE MINORS enjoyed mixed fortunes, but did well to get to the final of the Oxon. Morlands' Knock-out Event. Jonathan Evans, Donald Stanley, Edward Tilley and Jeremy Boorman made most of the runs, whilst Tilley, Barry Marnane and Ben Kendrick were the most successful bowlers.



CRICKET The First Eleven

W 6 D 9 L 4 A 2

The bare statistics reflect a moderately successful season for the First Eleven although not a record comparable in excellence with 1985, which was an 'annus mirabilis'. The four match-winners of 1985 had all departed to 'fresh fields and pastures new', thereby giving scope to some new young players to catch the eye. In general, the new side cohered and played as an effective team under the quiet but determined leadership of Jason Haynes. He led from the front and set an admirable example both with the bat and in the field. Growing ever more in confidence as the summer progressed and matured into a seemingly endless idyll of blazing sunshine and rock-hard pitches, the captain showed ever less inclination to give his wicket away. In nineteen innings he amassed 953 runs at an average of $63\frac{1}{2}$ and looked like threatening John Slingsby's record-breaking tally of 1002 runs in a season, until an unlucky top-edge in the final game robbed him of the palm when he was looking ominously in command.

Among the other batsmen, Graham Scott, Peter Lunn, Graham Nicholson and Neil Franklin all averaged in the twenties and scored half-centuries of some distinction and grace. Of the senior batsmen only Stephan Green failed to come off consistently, but he made up by bowling well and catching superbly. Both Lunn and Franklin looked good, the former meticulously correct and the latter blessed with the gift of exquisite timing. Scott was dogged and determined to the same extent as Nicholson was flamboyant and unpredictable at the crease. Solid batting was behind their victories over St. Bart's., Brentwood and Reading and tight bowling accounted for wins against St. Edward's, Highgate and Old Abingdonians.

Three bowlers took a lot of wickets: Lunn, Kowszun and Green, the last of the trio averaging only $14\frac{1}{2}$ for each of his 19 wickets — an excellent effort. Lunn bowled consistently all season and ended with 26 wickets at 22 runs per wicket, while Kowszun, having started wildly in April, finished the summer bowling very straight and with surprising hostility for a man of ample girth and an alarming tea-time appetite. Peter Williams came into the side in the second half of the season and took twelve very cheap wickets (17 runs each) and we will depend very much on him to take on the mantle of James Kowszun in 1987. Jo Silk was unlucky not to get more victims, but he was responsible for securing the victories over Highgate and Old Abingdonians by hitting the stumps at critical moments and so obtained some compensation for earlier disappointments. James Dark was top of the averages with 3 for 34 — clearly we should have used him more, but perhaps the captain wanted to give the opposition a chance, protected from the wiles of Dark's lazy flight and deceptive turn. Ah, what might have been! In similar vein, we were deprived of the services of Simon Evans for most of the season owing to a nasty knee injury sustained 'in the Sixth Form Common Room'!

Of the four defeats, our usually solid batting failed us at Bloxham and Radley, although Neil Franklin scored a brilliant half-century in the latter game. The defeats by M.C.C. and Colchester R.G.S. were not so shameful, both being tight and interesting contests. With a little more assistance from the goddess Fortuna, we might have turned five of our nine draws into glorious victories, but our lack of really penetrating bowling proved costly and the last wicket or two could not be knocked over.

The high points of the season included two great hundreds by Jason Haynes in cricket week and a devastating spell of 5 for 26 in 16 overs by Peter Lunn against St. Edward's. The nadir was probably our failure to convert a winning position against High Wycombe brought about by a remarkable display of vigorous hitting by Graham Nicholson (64 runs in 37 balls) into an actual victory. The players generally showed an admirable enthusiasm and esprit de corps. Tim Greenland as wicket-keeper, Graham Scott and Neil Franklin in the covers, and Stephan Green and Jo Silk in the outfield all had good seasons in the field. With quite a few 'class' players staying on and several young cricketers contesting for places, 1987 should be another worthwhile summer.

Particular thanks are due to David Bagshaw and his groundstaff for good wickets, and to all those members of Common Room who gave their time to coach schoolboys from the First Year to the Sixth.

Lunch and tea ladies have also done a great deal to make the games enjoyable and gastronomically successful even when cricketing skills were far to seek.

A. Mitra



STATISTICS

P 19 W 6 D 9 L 4 A 2
(Abingdon Cricket Club and Douai)

Wins

St. Edwards's
St. Bartholomew's
Brentwood
Reading
Highgate
Old Abingdonians

Losses

Bloxham
Radley
M.C.C.
Colchester

Draws

Pangbourne
Oratory
Berkshire Gentlemen
Berkhamsted
South Oxfordshire Amateurs
High Wycombe
Magdalen College School
N.H. Payne's XI
University College School

AVERAGES

BATTING	Innings	No.	Runs	Highest Score	Average
Haynes	19	4	953	117	63.53
Lunn	18	1	426	85	25.05
Franklin	11	2	191	55	21.22
Nicholson	17	3	288	64	20.57
Scott	19	0	385	58	20.26
Green	14	1	113	23	8.69

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Green	102	19	276	19	14.52
Nicholson	70.3	14	253	15	16.86
Williams	76	22	203	12	16.91
Lunn	201.4	50	571	26	21.96
Kowzun	180.2	55	487	21	23.19

Full Colours

Haynes, Scott, Kowszun, Nicholson.

Half Colours

Lunn, Franklin, Green, Silk, Williams.

THE SECOND ELEVEN 1986

Capt: E. O'Brien

P 12 W 3 L 4 D 5

Confronted with adversity in the form of examiners, injury, apathy and weather, the 2nd XI had an undistinguished, but dogged, season. Selection problems were continuous. In the course of the term, 32 players appeared, and 19 played at least three games. The style of cricket was therefore makeshift, although most games followed a recognizable pattern. Although the side was never bowled out for under 90 — an achievement for which not our skills but those of Mr. Bagshaw probably deserve the credit — 140, a bare declaring total, was only passed on three occasions (Bloxham, Newbury, and M.C.S.) There were several consistent batting performances, however. Dark made 209 runs in eight appearances, scoring our only half-century in a rain-soaked win over Brentwood; Westwood's elegance was surpassed only by his patience as he accumulated 179 runs in nine innings, and Sutcliffe's 142 runs in six included most of our rare moments of truly aggressive scoring. Nevertheless, bowlers were left with insufficient opportunity for attack, and in spite of energetic and effective fielding we were too seldom able to clinch victory (despite having taken six or more wickets in four out of five drawn games) or to escape last-minute defeat (Radley, for example, were obliged to bat 47 overs, chasing 134 runs, for an eventually well-deserved win.) Clark's promising left-arm bowling proved one of the discoveries of the season: he never bowled badly and his 13 wickets at 10.6 each were well-deserved. Williams' genuine speed was more erratic, but it yielded our most devastating single spell of 7-31 against Pangbourne, when, although batting second for once, our customary inability to score quickly meant that even the modest target of 131 in 33 overs proved sadly out of range.

In a season of unusual fluidity, particular thanks must go to those whose constancy gave us all a reassuring illusion of stability. Winsley, who played in every game, contributed magnificently, both as a dependable all-rounder, and as a talented acting-captain during G.C.E. time, when his natural gifts for sportsmanship and tact were blended to very valuable effect. Mandel sat, like Patience, in his monumental scorebox, recording our deeds with inimitable cheerfulness. War Mem. teas were unsurpassable. We enjoyed the end of Term dinner, too, and as for the cricket, well, there's always *next* year...

J.R.S.

SECOND XI CRICKET STATISTICS

BATTING	Innings	Not out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
Dark	8	0	225	50	28.1
Sutcliffe	8	0	169	46	21.1
Westwood	9	0	179	48	19.9
Kain	7	2	97	39	19.4
Stamper	9	1	145	45 *	18.1
Clark	6	1	72	34	14.4
O'Brien	5	0	64	28	12.8
Garnett	7	1	62	20	10.3
Herd	7	3	41	13	10.2
Winsley	11	1	79	32	7.9
Whittaker	5	2	6	6 *	2.0

* = Not out

Also batted: Wheeler, Buck, Alner, Roberts, Williams N., Howard, Williams P., Haynes, Mansfield, Green, Walker, Waywell, Landray, Butcher, Blake, Drewe, Davies, Allison, Blackman.

SECOND XI CRICKET STATISTICS

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Average
Winsley	33	2	91	10	9.1
Clark	82	22	169	15	11.3
Williams P	42	5	107	9	11.9
Landray	24	8	72	5	14.4
Herd	48	7	150	9	16.7
Whittaker	59	13	135	8	16.9
Buck	44	7	97	4	24.2

Also bowled: Garnett, Sutcliffe, Stamper, Dark, Wheeler, Honley, Haynes, Green, Davies, Alner, Westwood, Walker, Roberts, Williams.

THIRD XI CRICKET

A truncated season, largely because of the weather, left us with only four matches played. Like all the best 3rd XI's, the results make very mixed reading. This is partly because the strength of the opposition varied enormously, and partly because we lost our better players to the 2nd's and 1st's as the season progressed. At our best — against Brentwood and Radley — we played very good cricket, and well up to our abilities. Particularly against Radley, who were quite clearly better cricketers than we were, we kept at it, winking them out by steady bowling and determined fielding, and then contributed to a tense finish because we never gave up, even when the odds seemed stacked against us. That game could have gone either way; it is a pity it had to go against us. The Brentwood game was another story, where the opposition was bundled out by a fine spell of fast bowling by Richard Clark, and then, riding on the crest of a wave of confidence, we swept past their total with only one wicket down.

The other two games are rather more hard-luck stories. In both cases we seemed to be playing at a level higher than we should have been. Cokethorpe 1st XI are now more than a match for our 3rd's, and although we were hardly disgraced, we were soundly beaten by a side that was obviously much stronger than we were. The game against St. Edward's verged on the farcical. They had their full Colts side out, while we had had the utmost difficulty fielding a side at all. The philosophers in our side put it all down to experience, but it was a pity that that turned out to be the last game of the season.

The matches, and the practices, were all approached in a very good spirit. As befits a 3rd XI, nothing was taken *too* seriously, but when the chips were down,

and the side could see the prospect of a good result, then levity was put on one side, and the whole team pulled together. I don't want to single out individuals, except that I would like to thank the Captains, Vince Paige, Paddy Roberts and Nigel Williams, for taking on the onerous responsibilities of leading the side.

D.C.T.

RESULTS

v. Cokethorpe 1st XI 7th May Cokethorpe 144 for 4 dec (Bird 3-41) Abingdon 65 for 9	Drawn
v. Brentwood 3rd XI 21st May Brentwood 80 (Clark 5 for 15) Abingdon 81 for 1 (Suckling 33 not out, Greenland 27)	Won — 9 wickets
v. Radley 3rd XI 7th June Radley 99 (Roberts 5 for 31) Abingdon 95	Lost — 4 runs
v. St. Edwards Colts St. Edwards 220 for 2 dec Abingdon 82	Lost — 138 runs

JUNIORS CRICKET

Although lacking the depth of talent of recent years, the team lacked little in determination and keenness, and this is reflected in their very good playing record.

After two frustrating draws with mediocre opposition the season came to life with a fine 7 wicket win over a supposedly strong M.C.S. side. Excellent bowling and fielding, led by Edward Tilley (4 for 6) hustled out the opposition for a mere 62 runs leaving a target that was achieved with few alarms. The true character of the team was displayed against a most useful Wantage XI and against the old enemy, Radley. Sensible lower order batting and more excellent bowling by Tilley gave us a 30 run victory in the Wantage match and an unbroken 9th wicket stand of 50 between Barry Marnane and John Wallace seemed to demoralize Radley, who surprisingly gave up the run chase after a good opening partnership.

The best all round team performance came in the quarter finals of the Lords Taverners when we again proved too good for M.C.S., so it was disappointing to be outplayed by a determined Thame side in the semi-final — our only defeat of the season.

The team was ably lead by Matthew Gordon, a left-handed allrounder of great potential. Given a little more discipline in his batting and a little more confidence in his bowling he could develop into a high class player. With his wide range of well timed shots and consistent medium pace bowling, Edward Tilley (308 runs, 24 wickets) had a most rewarding season. Together with his excellent fielding and wholehearted approach he can undoubtedly look forward to even more success in the future. Donald Stanley, promoted to open the batting halfway through the season, gave us several excellent starts, showing a sound defence and fine attacking shots. He also made some useful contributions with the ball.

Regular opener, Tom Biggar, clearly benefited from his experience in last year's team, displaying far more confidence and strength in his strokes, making three solid fifties and featuring in an impressive opening stand with Donald Stanley, of 128 against Reading.

Having missed the first two games through injury Hugh Wilkinson soon raised the standard of the fielding, pulling off some superb catches, none better than the absolute 'blinder' against St. Edwards that had to be

seen to be believed. A good, clean striker of the ball, he often provided the quick 20 or 30 needed towards the end of an innings.

The progress of James Johnstone behind the wicket was one of the most gratifying aspects of the season. He has a good pair of hands, much courage and enthusiasm, and even a broken nose failed to keep him quiet for long!

Philip Goldsworthy, the boy with the 'golden arm' invariably took wickets at vital stages with his left arm. Early promise with the bat failed to materialize, where his concentration often let him down.

Barry Marnane (17 wickets) proved the most effective of the opening bowlers. On some slow wickets he lacked penetration, but shortening his run up has seemed to improve his rhythm and should give him something to build on for next year. His batting in a crisis was certainly a revelation. Our fastest bowler, John Wallace, never quite did justice to himself, mainly due to his inability to bowl a consistent line. However, by the end of the season there were encouraging signs of improvement and he still has time to develop his full potential.

Leg spin bowlers need self-confidence, the confidence of the captain, and the cooperation of the fielders. Too often Stephen Jennings lacked at least one of these attributes, but with more experience he could become a valuable member of any team.

John Taylor possibly tried too hard at times, though he should be encouraged by his improvement towards the end. Simon Compson showed that he was not afraid to hit the ball, but needs to be more selective in his stroke play. Simon Newton, Philip Johnson and Robert Clayden all contributed to the fine spirit in the team, and they have enough talent to make their mark in the future.

Once again my sincere thanks to A.J.G. for his invaluable help and support. Although we both had our low points, his abortive trip to Berkhamsted in steady rain, the sight of boys sunbathing on a pitch apparently too wet for play, and my 5 hours of torture at Oratory on what seemed like the North face of the Eiger, we both had a most enjoyable season with this happy and enthusiastic team.

R.P.F.

RESULTS

P 13 W 5 D 7 L 1

A v	PANGBOURNE	Draw	
	A 175-2 dec.		Biggar 55 n.o. Stanley 43 n.o. Gordon 41 Tilley 3-16
	P 87-8		
H v	COKETHORPE	Draw	
	C 121		Marnane 4-37 Stanley 4-25
	A 97-6		
H v	M.C.S.	Won	by 7 wickets MCS 62 Tilley 4-6
	A 65-3		
A v	ORATORY	Draw	
	O 138-9 dec.		
	A 62-2		
H v	WANTAGE	Won	by 30 runs (40 overs) Gordon 31 Tilley 4-24
	A 106-9		
	W 76		
A v	CARMEL	Won	by 148 runs dec. Gordon 56n.o. Biggar 53 Wilkinson 31n.o.
	A 175-3		
	C 27		Gordon 4-13 Goldsworthy 4-5

H v	RADLEY	Draw	
A	R 125-8		dec.
	70-4		Tilley 3-19
H v	M.C.S.	Won	by 53 runs
A	162-6		(40 overs) Tilley 44,
			Stanley 36,
			Wilkinson 32
	MCS 109		Stanley 3-12
A v	OXFORD SCHOOL	Won	by 68 runs
A	157-3 dec.		Tilley 57 n.o.
			Gordon 40
	O 89		Marnane 5-18,
			Jennings 3-44
A v	READING	Draw	
A	201-5 dec.		Stanley 65, Biggar
			52
	R 139-6		
A v	THAME	Lost	by 7 wickets
A	89		
	T 91-3		
A v	RGS HIGH WYCOMBE	Draw	
A	169-9 dec.		Stanley 59, Tilley 57
	RGS 121-8		Gordon 4-48, Tilley
			3-21
A v	St. EDWARDS	Draw	
St.E	140		Gordon 4-43
A	3-1.		(Rain stopped play).

JUNIOR COLTS CRICKET REPORT

The season got off to a very good start with two encouraging wins against Bloxham and Pangbourne. With fewer cricketers in the year group than in previous years and two regular 'A' team players trying their arm at tennis, it was feared that the team might struggle in terms of depth and experience. As it turns out, the most pleasing aspect of the season was the contribution made by those who had not normally been in the front line. What transpired was a team with seven all rounders, capable of batting down to No. 11, and selection was never easy with everyone so determined to play in the eleven.

Robert Jolliffe, averaging 20.3 runs for the season, was the regular opener. He was always looking for runs, and showed a wide range of attacking shots particularly on the off-side. No one else really established themselves as an opener. Stephen Prince showed much potential, but never managed to find his true form. Choosing the right ball to hit is always a problem and I felt Stephen was unlucky to be caught out on so many occasions just as he was getting his eye in. Guy Peddy had the same problem at the beginning of the season, but once he realised it was possible to score runs with a straight bat he soon gained in confidence, and produced a number of excellent innings. Roland Hill and Lee Hedges also found themselves opening the innings. Roland's defence was solid, but he tended to get into a rut, and found it difficult to take advantage of the loose delivery. Lee lacked confidence at the start of the season, but once the runs started to flow, he gained in confidence, and I am sure he can look forward to a good future with the bat. Mark Snow had a very frustrating start with his batting — always looking in good form until he was out. Fortunately runs did come by the end of the season, and we were able to see his class in the Oakwood game. Peter Waywell grew in confidence in every game, and emerged as the most improved batsman in the side. The same could be said of Bryn Davis who looked capable of scoring a lot of runs if only he could improve his off-side play. Toby Hay found his form in the Radley game, and thereafter

batted with more fluency. Jonathan Crick's wicket keeping skills surprised us all — I cannot understand how he has kept this talent a secret for so long because he is a very promising keeper. He is also an ideal player when a collapse is imminent and like Paul Thomas, James North, Tim Molloy, Ian Martin, and Daniel James enjoyed some inspiring innings to save or win a game.

On the bowling front, Mark Snow bowled relentlessly throughout the season. He must be congratulated for his perseverance and calmness when catches were not always to hand, as he certainly had to earn his wickets. Mark was well supported by the leg-spin of Paul Thomas, whose bowling will be more appreciated in all-day games of the future. Robert Jolliffe was the leading wicket taker. His seam bowling always looked menacing and once he got into the groove he was able to bowl with consistent accuracy. Guy Peddy did not have the same success as he did with the bat, but he too bowled well on occasions. As one goes up the school however, length becomes more important than speed and he must work hard on this in the future. Bryn Davis, Toby Hay and Lee Hedges were also called on to bowl and they never let the side down. Given more bowling I feel confident they will all be useful bowlers in the future.

The XI's fielding ranged from amazing to very competent! Some remarkable catches were dropped, but on the whole everyone tried to field well and by the end of the season reached a high standard.

The XI's success was undoubtedly the sound leadership on and off the field of the captain and vice-captain. Both helped a great deal in creating a competitive and enthusiastic atmosphere, and I am most grateful for all their help.

The B XI, depleted in numbers, enjoyed some good matches. Most players had a game for the A XI and made a useful contribution.

Congratulations to Mark Snow and Guy Peddy for playing in the Oxon U15 team. Their selection was thoroughly deserved and I hope their success in county cricket continues.

A special thank you to Mr. Page who once again played a major part in ironing out the weaknesses in the batting and bowling.

The following played for the XI: S. Prince (capt.), M. Snow (v. capt.), G. Peddy, R. Jolliffe, T. Hay, L. Hedges, B. Davis, P. Waywell, D. James, P. Thomas, R. Hill, I. Martin, J. Crick, T. Molloy and J. North.

Leading Averages

Batting	Runs	WS	AVE
Guy Peddy	427	81	42.7
Robert Jolliffe	244	77	20.3
Mark Snow	146	69	14.6
Stephen Prince	126	27*	14.0

Bowling

	Runs	Wickets	AVE
Robert Jolliffe	288	22	13.0
Bryn Davis	169	11	15.3
Paul Snow	406	18	22.5
Guy Peddy	238	10	23.8

Results

Bloxham	Won by 2 wickets
B. 122 (Jolliffe 5-26)	A. 123-8 (Davis 30*)
Pangbourne	Won by 73 runs
A. 146-5 (Jolliffe 77)	P. 73 (Jolliffe 7-38)
M.C.S.	Drawn
M. 221-4	A. 79-2
Oratory	Abandoned
A. 99	O. 5-2
Berkhamsted	Won by 8 wickets
B. 147-3	A. 148-2 (Jolliffe 47, Peddy 46)
Radley	Lost by 8 wickets
A. 50	R. 51-2
Reading	Lost by 7 wickets
A. 179-8 (Peddy 79)	R. 180-3
High Wycombe	Drawn
A. 176-7 (Peddy 81, Davis 31*)	H. 105-7 (Snow 4-55)
Monkton Coombe	Drawn
M. 215-8 (Thomas 3-57)	A. 1919-9 (Jolliffe 55, Peddy 57)
St. Edwards	Drawn
A. 96	S. 83-9 (Davis, 6-46, Snow 3-38)
Queen Elizabeth	
Grammar School	Drawn
A. 96.	Q. 83-7 (Jolliffe 3-45)
Oakwood	Won by six wickets
O. 183-9 (Jolliffe 3-45)	A. 185-4 (Snow 69, Peddy 45)

MINORS CRICKET 1986

This has been a most enjoyable season which has seen some good cricket. 25 different people played for the U13 and everyone had something positive to contribute; indeed much of the team's success was due to the camaraderie and spirit that existed. We were more of a bowling side than a batting side and Golding, Scott-Brown, R. Milne and Pree all bowled a lot of overs and took 61 wickets between them. Everyone was eager to bowl and several others picked up useful wickets at different stages of the season. Gale was a good captain and his field placing and the enthusiasm of the fielders kept opposition runs down and we caught a number of good catches. Golding, Hutchings and Turner were the most successful numerically but Darby is the most nonchalant fielder who makes no fuss.

James Tilley accumulated 205 runs throughout the season which is an excellent total, especially as he was playing up a year group this year. Tilley, Scott-Brown, Golding, Darby and Milne all had big scores at some time. Allen, Gale and Hodgson all looked as if they would make good scores and several others made useful contributions at important moments. There is too great a tendency for swinging across the line instead of playing straight and this heinous habit cost a lot of wickets.

Overall there was a lot of cricket played, and attendance at practice was excellent. My only regret over the whole year is that Pree failed to score a run!

U13 Playing Record: Played 12 Won 6 Drawn 3 Lost 3

U12 Playing Record: Played 2 Won 0 Drawn 0 Lost 2
S.R. Finlow

The Oxfordshire Cricket Umpires Association Junior Quiz

Having won this quiz for the past two years, the team was under great pressure to make it three in a row. An excellent replacement for last year's captain, Clive Williams, in the shape of Donald Stanley took the under fourteen position, while Tim Greenland and Nigel Williams took the under sixteen and under eighteen positions respectively. After a couple of evening practice sessions the team went to Trinity College Cricket Pavillion on Saturday 16th November to answer questions on the laws of cricket. The opposition ranged from poor to very good, but the team survived the inevitable nerves, and finally emerged winners. However this does not mean that we keep the trophy for ever!

N. Williams (VI)

Tennis

Tennis has flourished during the 1985 and '86 seasons, in spite of the loss of the 'swimming pool' court to the Sports Hall. A reduction to only two hard courts has meant a shortage of space for non-team players and might well have led to embarrassment at school match level, except that the weather has been either kind (and so allowed matches to be played on both grass and hard surfaces) or so frightful that tennis on any outdoor surface would have been impossible. Nonetheless we look forward to seeing the planned new hard courts appearing behind Cobban House in the coming year if they survive the budgetary knife.

The bald statistics for the two major teams show the first VI losing only three matches during the two seasons, while the U16 VI have lost none. The most memorable cliff-hangers in each year have been the 1st VI matches against Radley. In 1985 at Radley our first pair of Garrath Reayer and Richard Walker were out of sorts and only halved each match. On the other hand, the second pair of David Polgreen and Rupert Robson played their best tennis of the year, trouncing all but the Radley first pair with whom they halved. The match result was a 4.5 - 4.5 draw. The return match in 1986 at Abingdon saw our first pair of Reayer and John Loosemore in commanding form, losing only six games all afternoon, but unable to inspire the other pairs. The final set of the day was between Radley's first Pair and our third pair; a tie-break had been reached and we needed to win it to halve the match. In spite of our holding three set points and much spectator's breath, this set was lost, and with it the match, 4 - 5.

Our matches against M.C.S. were traditionally played early in the season, in the first week of May, when new partnerships are still being tried, and teams rejigged. Last year on our home patch this seemed to work to our disadvantage, and we lost 3.5 - 5.5. But at Magdalen this year it was their team that had not settled (though thereafter it had a most successful season) and we won comfortably, 6.5 - 2.5.

Perhaps the happiest matches have been those with a decided family flavour against the Old Abingdonians, who have organised themselves again after a few years of disarray. There have been as many as three Robsons on the court (laid end to end nearly 20' of them!) ,with Andrew and James for the O.A.'s when Rupert played for the school; two Days, with James against Chris; and those former captains of the 1st VI, Martin and Antony Haywood. The results of the matches seem to depend on whether the extra experience and weight of the older but perhaps unfit men more than counterbalances the reflexes of the in-practice youths; in '85 it worked one way and in '86 the other.

In the world of the various schoolboy team competitions fortunes have varied. Our first foray into the Glanvill Cup brought us in drizzle to Eton. After beating Lord Williams, Thame, we lost a very close match to Eton in which the number of sets won by each side was the same, though not unfortunately the number of matches. In two successive years we have not got beyond our first round match in the Youll Cup at Wimbledon, though the Juniors in the Thomas Bowl did well: in 1985 Giles Martin and Antony Walker got through to the quarter finals, falling then only to the eventual winners, Repton; and in 1986 Antony Walker and Matthew Clarke beat Malvern, Rugby and Radley before again going out in the quarter finals, this time to Reigate. This same pair had considerable success in the British Schools intermediate event, the Milbourn Cup, in both 1985 and 1986. But the greatest achievement in open competition, was undoubtedly that of Garrath Reayer and John Loosemore (new to the sixth form) in

the Clark Cup, the British Schools' senior competition. They beat Bryanston, St. Paul's (the second seeds), the German School and Norwich School, each player making the most of his individual opportunities and, when it went to a deciding doubles, playing grittily and effectively as a pair. The move from the Bank of England ground to the clay Queen's Club for the semi-finals saw the end of their challenge. Reayer began in ruthless form, winning 6-0, 6-0; but Loosemore looked uncomfortable on this surface, and then a tired and somewhat disoriented pair failed to make their mark in the doubles. The disappointment was obvious as they had beaten stronger pairs earlier in the week and would much have liked to have had a crack at Repton in the final.

This summer saw David Polgreen, Chris Day and Andrew Thomas leave from the senior sides and Justin Heenan from the juniors. A strong nucleus of sixth- and fifth-formers remain, so the immediate prospects for 1987 look bright. There is, however, less strength than usual in the lower school.

My thanks go to Nigel Hunter and Nick Revill for their many hours so willingly given, and to David Bagshaw and his groundstaff for the continuing improvement in the surface of the grass courts.

T.R.A.

The following have represented the school during the last two years:

At 1st VI: G. Reayer, R. Walker, J. Loosemore, D. Polgreen, C. Day, (full colours); O. Money-Kyrle, R. Robson, M. Edwards, (half colours); A. Thomas, G. Martin, S. Wintle, R. Wheeler.

At 2nd VI: S. Johnson, A. Hunt, B. Bilboul, G. Potter, A. Salleh, C. Parker, M. Boorman.

At Junior VI: G. Martin, A. Walker, D. Boorman, J. Gold, J. Heenan, M. Clark, M. Banwell, G. Rogers, J. Toogood, A. Trump, A. Maughan, J. Frishberg, J. Green, M. Seager, A. Edwards.

RESULTS

1st VI:	1985	1986
v Shiplake	W 7-2	W 6.5-2½
v M.C.S	L 3½-5½	W 6½-2½
v Reading	W 6-3	W 8-1
v Douai	W 8-1	W 9-0
v Carmel College	W 6½-2½	W 7½-1½
v Pangbourne	W 5-0	W 7-2
v Bloxham	W 7-2	W 7-2
v Radley College	D 4½-4½	L 4-5
v RGS High Wycombe		W 6½-2½
v O.A.'s	W 5½-3½	L 4-5
2nd VI:		
v M.C.S.	L 4-5	L 3½-5½
v Reading		W 8½-0½
v Radley College	L 1-8	L 0½-8½
U16 VI:		
v M.C.S.	W 6-3	W 5-4
v Douai	W 9-0	W 9-0
v Carmel College	W 8-1	W 7-2
v Bloxham	W 7-2	W 8½-0½
v Radley College	W 5-4	W 6½-2½
v RGS High Wycombe		W 7-2
U15 VI:		
v Shiplake	W 9-0	W 6½-2½
v Reading	W 9-0	W 7½-1½
v Pangbourne		W 6½-2½
v Radley College	D 4½-4½	L 0½-8½

Fives

Fives club met for the first time this year on September 13th to nominate Peter Starr as Captain and to vote a not unreluctant Charles Rogers as Secretary.

What is fives? Well, it's a game that bears a striking resemblance to squash except that you use a padded glove to hit the hard cork ball instead of a racket. The courts are situated at the back of the day-boys' changing rooms and once you have waded through the dead leaves, avoided the nettles and navigated the mud you find yourself directly in front of two apertures from which cries of anguish can be heard.

'God, can this be happening to me?'

Usually the grinning face of Giles Potter appears while an exhausted 3rd, 4th, 5th-year, or even myself, appears on occasions, staggering through the door after Giles has beaten them thoroughly.

However, we were extremely fortunate this year to have had the chance to play Radley. The junior team, under Tim Kiteley, equalled Radley on games but unfortunately lost on points. Meanwhile, the senior team, consisting of Giles Potter, Robert Wilde, Neil Riches and Jimmy Dark, lost all but one game, (well done Neil) but the opposition was tough!

The fives club is, however, grateful for the supervision of Mr. Willerton, Herr Steinseik and Mrs. Manship who turned out each lunchtime and afternoon to see who didn't turn up, (usually Peter!).

James Emmett (VI)

Golf

The golf team, apart from playing a handful of friendly matches against local schools, again entered teams for the 'Golf Foundation' Schools' Stroke-play Championship and the 'Hill Samuel' Public Schools' Foursomes Competition. This year Peter Lunn, William Howard and John Loosemore represented the school in the stroke-play event at Stoke Poges Golf Club, and they were joined by Michael Herd, Peter Rosenfeld and Tim Taylor in the Foursomes.

Introductory lessons, given by the professional at Frilford Heath, continue to be in demand, and we are again indebted to the 'Golf Foundation' who subsidise the costs and who are so active in the encouragement of young golfers nationally.

N.H.P.



Badminton

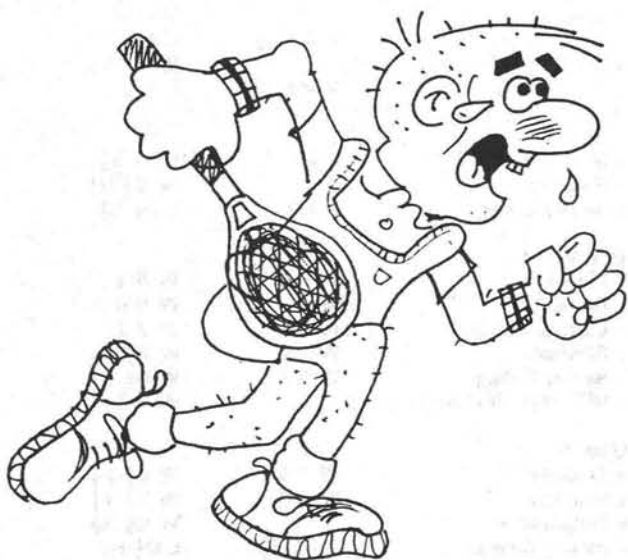
Success story of the year is the U16 team. An unbeaten record in the Oxford Schools' competition was crowned by victory in the final at Redefield over Larkmead on March 19th. David Boorman had performed splendidly in the early rounds, but tendon problems prevented him from playing for much of the Lent Term and in the final. All the more credit, therefore, to the remaining squad which included Stephen Prince, Jeremy Boorman, Richard Tilley, Adrian Maughan, and combinations of Alistair Kendrick, Andrew Friedhoff, Martin Diment and Tim Molloy.

Even without David Boorman the team got to the regional semi-finals of the Barclays Bank competition at Bury, Lancashire but were knocked out by the winners after a game struggle. By any reckoning they deserve colours, but these cannot be awarded until the 6th form.

Other amusements included a huge compound fixture between Abingdon and M.C.S. U12s and U13s, a succession of jovial though not ignominious defeats for the U19s, and an all Boorman final to the School Doubles competition where David and Mark were beaten by Jeremy and Stephen Prince. It seemed only fair — David won the singles cup in the Michaelmas Term.

We should record our thanks to Michael Chew who brought new reserves of guile and cunning to our games sessions, and to Neal Gingell, long suffering and unflappable secretary. Mrs. Beecham's ability to wring order out of chaos and cooperation out of incompetents is legendary and has been nowhere more active than on behalf of the Badminton Club. It has been very much appreciated.

I.A.McD.





Cross-Country

MICHAELMAS TERM 1985

The Cross Country club had one of its best seasons this term, although the colts' outstanding potential was often reduced by a weak senior squad.

The term began with a win over Haberdashers' at home (36-46), with Mark Head winning the race in convincing fashion. Mark went on to lead Abingdon to victory against Warwick (24-63), supported here by Steve Lawrence and Rick Casale. Then at the Millfield relays he was the fastest colt, the colts team winning their age-group race in this most prestigious event.

The next event of the term was the 7th Abingdon Relay — a masterpiece of organization by Steve Lawrence, Mr. Baker and Mr. Pritchard. Over 60 teams entered, the race being won by Harrow Weald (Abingdon only managing 16th amongst such tough competition).

The term continued with a win against Brandfield, a 2nd place in a quadrangular at Dr. Challoners (seniors) and wins for the colts against Marlborough and Millfield, at the Oxford Schools Championships, and at the Kingham Relays, Mark Head again featuring prominently in all three events.

Then the lack of senior runners began to show up at the two big relays events: at the Orange Hill classic we could manage only 8th and at the Dr. Challoners Relay, only 9th — both teams comprised almost solely of colts.

The final event of the term was the Oxon. 3A's championship, at which the whole club turned out and produced some very respectable results — notably a convincing win for the colts, yet again.

Club Champions for the Michaelmas Term were Steve Lawrence (senior), Mark Head (colts) and Julian Day (junior).

Regular team members were: R.Casale (Captain), T.Slater (Secretary), S.Lawrence, M.Head, T.Payne, N.Woodall, J.Blake, C.Littlewood, P.Allen, J.Day, M.Deacon, N.New, I.Dalley, M.Gelder, C.Hoyle and T.Richmond.
Full Colours were awarded to Mark Head and Half Colours to John Blake and Nick Woodall.

LENT TERM 1986

The Lent term continued very much as the Michaelmas term, our paucity of senior runners continuing to be our main problem.

The term began with easy home wins against Warwick (21-75) and Bromsgrove (50-93) and then Abingdon won the Milton Trophy at the Vale of the White Horse Championships, most convincingly, winning two age groups and coming a very close second in the third. The colts and juniors then repeated their success in a quadrangular at Berkhamsted and in the Leighton Park Relays. Creditable performances were also put up in the larger relays at Haberdashers, St. Albans, O.U. Tortoises and R.G.S. Worcester, but by the end of the term many were feeling jaded and we were certainly not at our best.

Mark Head and Julian Day ran in the All England Championships in Durham. Mark was the 2nd home for Oxon. in 171st place in the colts race and Julian led the county team home in 181st position in the juniors race.

Club Champions for the Lent term were Cedric Littlewood (seniors) and Mark Head (colts) and Gordan Mowat (junior).

In the inter-form Road Relay, VI Crozier repeated their success of last year but were pressed all the way by Randolph's 5th-formers. Other year group winners were 4th Colmans; 3rd Crescent-Waste Court; 2D; and 1P.

Regular club runners were: S.Lawrence (Captain, T.Slater (Secretary), M.Head, C.Littlewood, T.Payne, J.Blake, P.Allen, J.Day, C.Hoyle, M.Deacon, I.Dolley, M.New and M.Gelder. Full colour this term were awarded to Cedric Littlewood.

Tim Slater (VI)

Athletics

Abingdon has had many fine athletes in the past, but I doubt if any have been better than David Lowe. He has been the outstanding athlete of this year, not only because of the standard achieved in his specialist discipline, but because of his versatility.

He has beaten a whole range of competitors in the 100m, Shot, Javelin and of course the Discus. He has also been a key man in the 4 x 100m relay. To come second in the All England Schools Championships for the second year running in the Discus was a fine achievement, as was his best throw for the season at about 50m.

Of course one man does not make a team, but David has demonstrated the difference between being a prima donna, and being a team man. He has always been willing to sacrifice performance in his main event, by doing other events for the good of the team.

Not everyone has done this, and some have refused to compromise their performance in their main events. Perhaps the media is somewhat to blame, for there is a continual emphasis on being number one, and not giving credit for good performances by those who finish other than first.

For a school athletics TEAM to function, those involved must be prepared to work for the good of all rather than just for themselves. Some must be content to play second fiddle to someone better than themselves, and to get their satisfaction from improving their own performances and getting those vital points for team victories.

At Abingdon we have often had outstanding individuals, but have not had a good series of second string men who have backed up the main performers in the way they should have done. Perhaps next year we can find a new TEAM SPIRIT, with less emphasis on personal performance alone.

D.G.C.

CLUBS and Societies

The Modern Languages Society

In September 1985, after much discussion, the committee decided that there would be changes within the society. Events would now only be open to members made up of people studying a language in the sixth form. In restricting members to around 50 from St. Helen's and Abingdon it was hoped that the evenings would become more intimate, enabling us to deal with varying tastes. With this in mind a wine-tasting evening was organised, catering for a small group from both schools. It was conducted by Mr. Trennaway, who kindly came to talk to us on the subject of wine, from the Lamb Wine Vault in Wallingford. The evening was a

success and there was an opportunity for all wouldbe connoisseurs to air their views. It was decided that our pallets were generally too young to appreciate full bodied red wines, though there were a few who disagreed!

In the lent term the cult French film 'Diva' was shown to a small but appreciative audience. During the later stages of the term plans were being put into action for a dinner-dance, to take place early in the summer term. Mrs. Schmittzehe had generously offered to cook a French meal, which was not refused, and so on 6th May, after much hectic organization, a team of eight waiters and waitresses (two of whom were French) stormed into the dining hall, and in a remarkably short space of time created a dance hall and a candle-lit restaurant.

The first clientele arrived just after seven o'clock and were served apéritifs, and the scene was just as busy back stage where our chef valiantly coped with large quantities of 'Haute cuisine'. After the first dance session a starter of 'escargots' was served, and within minutes each table was a hive of activity as people tackled snails, many of them for the first time. The main course of 'coq au vin' followed on swiftly, whilst the waiters, in between mouthfuls (they had to eat too) glided from table to table, speaking French all the time, helping things run smoothly. A refreshing salad followed by Camembert cheese came next, and for a moment the pace relaxed, everyone enjoying the spirit of the evening. The final course was served about ten o'clock, 'tartelettes' and 'creme caramel' proving a fine finish to a superb meal. A toast was proposed to Mrs. Schmittzehe and members of the staff and a bouquet of flowers was presented. Everyone had been pleasantly surprised by the evening, but it had worked well through much hard effort.

I should like to thank: Jonathan Waywell, Chris Shaw, Matt Spencer, Ben Schmittzehe, and Fiona Hill and Anna Britnor Guest from St. Helen's, for their help throughout the year. We are grateful for the support of Miss Nicols, Mrs. Hollands-Duverly, Mr. Hasnip, and especially Mr. Taylor whose advice has been invaluable over the past year. We all wish next year's committee the best of luck, and thank you for all your support.

Neal Gingell (VI)



Motor Mechanics

Progress on the kit car project has not been noted for its rapidity. True, the rear suspension came together with remarkable ease and the gearbox soon mated to the rebuilt engine ready for mounting on the chassis, but there the simple bolt and spanner work ended. Much remedial work was required to counteract manufacturer's error. The gearbox and radiator mountings, for example, had to be cut off and rewelded in the correct position. The rest has been a gigantic mix and match exercise. The bodywork, having been conceived along Triumph Herald lines, refused to accept the Escort pedals and still leave room for the steering column and brake master cylinder! Spitfire pedals provided the answer — eventually! Ever tried converting a Spitfire clutch pedal from hydraulic to cable operation? Once the steering column had been lengthened a Triumph 2000 obligingly provided the linkage required to connect it to the rack. In short, it has been modification and improvisation all the way. Meanwhile the boys have developed strong muscles heaving the body on and off the chassis with great regularity. We hope that the worst of the mechanical problems are now over, though the electrical equipment will deviate sufficiently from the original Escort specifications to present some knotty problems with the wiring. Launch date for this mechanical marvel with the Morgan-shaped body, Escort running gear, MGB wheels, Marina wipers etc.? No predictions: let's just say it's about three quarters completed.

G.C.R.

Wargaming Society

1986 Membership has stayed consistently high at around 50, most promising of all being that the majority of these are in the lower school. Wargaming at Abingdon looks as if it's here to stay.

There have been a number of successful visits by members of the Club to Wargaming Conventions, for example, 'Armageddon '85' and 'Games Day'. One particular outing to a convention yielded excellent results since M.Cavell and M.Lay won the 'Star Fleet Battles' championship — well done!

Countless new games have emerged but special praise must go to 'Junta', a power wielding game set on Latin America. This game is a classic and has proved extremely popular at the club.

The club has also been blessed with the donation of two excellent books entitled 'Wargames Through the Ages', by veteran wargamer D. Featherstone. They are excellent books and I recommend them to historians as well as the general wargamer.

Many thanks must be given to Mr. Willerton for his support over the last few years and by R. Worth for his support and advice. The club has come a long way since myself and S. Jones established it in 1980 and I wish it the best for the future.

R.Wilson (VI)



A new school year and a new committee, but Film Soc. itself remains basically unchanged. We are still the biggest society in the school, boasting nearly a hundred full members, and a good number who guest pretty regularly. We are also still making money — the savings are being stored up for a new projector, and we have nearly a thousand pounds towards it, at the last count. We stuck to the well tried formula: big name films, to bring in the money; 'good films' to keep us respectable as a Film Society; and a few little known films simply because we liked the sound of them. The Michaelmas Term followed this almost exactly, and was moderately successful — no spectacular profits and no huge losses. The films themselves ranged from the appalling to the superb. At one extreme 'To Be Or Not To Be?' is better forgotten (as we hope it has been by most people); and at the other we had 'The Day Of The Jackal', the film of Fredrick Forsythe's classic thriller about the attempted assassination of De Gaulle; and 'Midnight Cowboy', a depressing look at the seedier side of New York in the Sixties. The biggest turn out of the term was for the well-known American High School comedy 'Porky's', which managed to fill the dining hall almost to bursting point. The most surprising film of the term was probably the Woody Allen film 'Sleeper'. Turn out for this was relatively poor, but I don't think anyone in the audience regretted their decision to go.

The Lent term was even more successful: more members and better turn outs. The term made its money on three big name films: 'Police Academy', a predictable but funny American comedy; 'Purple Rain', 'Prince and the Revolution', in a music film with a surprising amount of plot; and 'The Company of Wolves', a complicated horror film involving dreams within dreams within dreams etc... The term's only really 'good film' had a bit of an unfortunate time. We had ordered 'Gandhi' before it was announced that it would be on television, and it was conveniently screened about three weeks before our showing. I think the audience (all 5 of them) enjoyed it, but the committee were too worried about the ninety pound loss to really watch with any great enthusiasm! The term's other films: 'Risky Business'; 'The Natural'; 'Unfaithfully Yours'; and 'Raging Bull' (the thinking person's 'Rocky'), all did moderately well, and the 'Gandhi' disaster was eventually covered quite easily.

The Summer Term is traditionally a bad time for Film Soc., and we haven't run during it at all for some years. This year, by way of a change, we bowed to popular demand and did show a film: 'The Hunger'. This was a seniors only film, a convoluted tale of the last days of a vampire's lover, whose mortality catches up with him rather suddenly after being held at bay for some 400 years. Clever photography and great special effects carried the intricate plot through very well, and, in my view, this was one of the best films of the year. Unfortunately my views do not seem to be universally held; and the turn out wasn't good enough to warrant another film in that term.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the members of the committee, especially Alistair Corbett and Mike Schofield, who never seem to stop working (even to watch the films), and, of course, Mr. Birnberg and Mr. Chisholm, for their support and sponsorship throughout the year.

Chris Shaw (VI)

appears to be little support for Mrs. Thatcher's government in the debating society and the motion stating that this house had no confidence in Her Majesty's Government was narrowly passed, and then later on in the year the house asked for Mrs. Thatcher's government to resign in the light of the Westland affair. The house also felt that imposing sanctions in South Africa would be a bad decision and the house supported President Reagan's 'Star Wars' campaign by one vote only. The highlight of the debating year for me, and I am sure for many others, was when we were treated to Mr. Sharp and Mr. Lewis' differing views on the idea of a fixed channel link. Characteristically, Mr. Sharp was strongly opposed to the link and managed to persuade the house to vote against the fixed link, despite a very eloquent speech by Mr. Lewis. Thus, it has been a good year for the debating society and if the floor were to learn to adhere more closely to a few very basic rules of courtesy for fellow speakers and their views, then debates would flow along more swiftly. Finally I would like to thank the previous secretaries of the debating society, Mr. Parker Jnr. and Mr. Stamper, and the previous chairmen, Mr. Butcher and Mr. Griffin. Also thanks to Mr. Smith and Mr. Nolan for organising publicity, and many thanks to Mr. Sharp on behalf of all of the debating society for his organisation and irreplaceable participation.

A. Tapper (VI)



THE DEBATING SOCIETY

Friday afternoon at the lecture theatre is well established as a regular event amongst many members of the school. This last year has seen a large increase in interest and participation in the debating society, the average attendance being just under 50 boys. Many issues have been avidly discussed and debated; some serious, others light-hearted. The house voted very strongly against the idea of greater police power, the reunification of Ireland, the abolition of trade unions, the assumption that nuclear energy is the answer to the energy crisis and the re-introduction of the death penalty. The house also felt obliged to condemn the U.S. air attack on Libya and reject the idea that the church no longer had a place in modern society. There

Rifle Club

With the retirement of Mr. Mortimer, who has done so much to build the club up, and a recent large intake of 3rd years, the rifle club and Mr. Hammond both became stretched to their limits. But two masters have stepped in to help, Mr. Smith and Mr. Mansfield, both with previous shooting experience. The new system is proving a great success and the club has now settled down.

The competitions have resumed, with several new members entered, and we hope this will encourage others to have a go.

The club shoots regularly in several different team and individual postal competitions. In the Michaelmas and Lent terms there are the British Schools Smallbore Rifle Association Autumn and Winter Leagues. The school normally enters a junior and a senior team for each competition.

The BSSRA also runs an individual 'championship' competition, for which fewer people are entered from the club.

Every term the West Kent Rifle League runs an individual competition, and in the Autumn term one named the 'Prince William of Wales' shoot. Anyone is allowed to enter and class badges are awarded to those scoring highly enough.

Last year was a successful one for the club and the following are last year's results.

Michaelmas term 1985

BSSRA Autumn League:

The A-team came top on aggregate, 3rd on points.

The B-team came 3rd on aggregate, 1st on points.

Prince William of Wales:

C.M.O.Wade qualified for the B-class badge with 287 points.

M.D.Lay qualified for the C-class with 280 points.

P.C.Harris qualified for the D-class with 268 points.

Lent term 1986

BSSRA Spring League:

The A-team came 3rd overall.

The B-team won their division.

BSSRA Championships:

C.M.O.Wade came 12th overall, qualifying for a medal.

International: M.D.Lay was a reserve for the England schools A-team.

C.M.O.Wade shot for the England schools B-team.

Oxfordshire Championships:

M.D.Lay won class-D and C.M.O.Wade won class-C, shooting for the Royal British Legion Rifle Club, Abingdon.

Summer term 1986

West Kent Rifle League:

M.D.Lay scored 287 — B-Class.

P.C.Harris scored 287 — B-class.

C.M.O.Wade scored 283 — C-class.

R.G.Mortimer scored 272 — D-class.

M.St.J.Parker scored 270 — D-class.

T.D.Wedgewood scored 270 — D-class.

M.T.H.Tomlyn scored 263 — E-class.

O.Money-Kyrle scored 259 — E-class.

Meanwhile, C.M.O.Wade has won class C Oxfordshire at the Oxon+Bucks meeting this Michaelmas term, shooting with the Royal British Legion Rifle Club.

Two senior teams are shooting in this term's BSSRA Autumn League.

C.M.D. Wade (VI)

Chess Club

The Chess Club at Abingdon has for long been particularly associated with Mr. Woodgett. It was in many ways his brainchild, and was nurtured by him with unstinting care and attention. It was a matter of considerable concern, therefore, that there should not be a sudden collapse of the activity after his departure. Certainly his was a difficult mantle to don, given the generosity of his contribution, in particular at the Lower School level where chess was a byword for excellence and prowess. In the event, the activity has maintained its steady level of activity during the interregnum following upon his departure. The full gamut of teams have played, U-13, U-15, U-18. While many games were won and others were bitterly lost — no Abingdonian lightly concedes possession of the fourth rank — all were hotly contested in a good spirit. The youngest team saw the inception of a whole new generation of players. They were blooded against the usual competition — Larkmead, Bishop Kirk, Marston, Fitzharry's, M.C.S., Dragon and Oratory, though it was regretted that the concurrent teachers' action prevented the full complement of games from taking place.

It is a feature of the U-15's and U-18's that they simply have less competition. There are fewer schools in the immediate vicinity which field teams in these year groups. On the other hand, there is the Times competition which, once the hurdles of the local teams are overcome, go on to compete regionally. We failed to achieve this objective this year, going down to M.C.S. by the narrowest of margins, $2\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$, while at the senior level we defeated Marston $4\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$, but lost the decision on age difference. Individual boys make up the competitive leeway by playing for clubs and also representing the county sides (Oxon & Berks). Thus, while N. Williams, M. Clark, J. Cooper, P. Saxon and the Casale brothers, R. and M., are active at club level, they have also represented the county, frequently meeting M. Nightall playing for Berkshire! Even the first formers, B. Ulyatt and B. Moseley played in a congress at Wargrave.

Riccardo Casale (Capt.) and A. Thomas (Sec.) were generous with their time and organising skills, regularly giving lunchtimes to playing against and encouraging the junior boys. In consequence the club overflowed from the usual venue, Room 34, to the Portakabin, Room 16. There was full provision of sets and clocks, including older sets for practice sessions. The kitchens were importuned for refreshments during matches and not found wanting. This was a popular innovation. Chess books were let out on loan and the neophytes encouraged. Well nigh 50 boys signed up for the Lower School League. Markedly strong players emerged, notably N. Jakubovics, L. Golding and N. Hodgson. The club is in effect in a healthy position for the season that lies ahead. None of this would have been possible without the most generous support of Mrs. Manship and Mrs. Soper. I have been very really indebted to them and thank them gratefully here while I pass on the role of master in charge to Dr. King who comes to us with a fund of chess club experience from M.S.C. He will have been pleased too, I am sure, to have seen Mr. T. Simons active on this front.

It remains, finally, to speak of the remarkable achievements of N. Jakubovics, currently in the third year. In his first year in the school he won the First Form Cup and the Lower School Shield, and won the latter again in his second year. A running list of his collateral chess activities follows and it should help to put matters in perspective by saying that in view of his natural school commitments he substantially underpractises in comparison with his peers who are at the forefront of the game nationally.

September 1985 — date of publication:

Local club and league chess at adult level:

Scored 9 wins out of 10 games and is currently top board for Oxford City III in Div. 3 of the Oxon and District Chess League.

Scored 3 out of 5 in Oxford City Championship.

Won junior section of Oxford City lightning championship.

Junior tournaments:

Joint winner of Berks & Bucks U-18 Open Championship.

Joint winner of Oxon Schools' U-15 Championship.

Winner Oxon U-13 Championships.

Senior County:

Has been selected regularly for Oxon II, scoring 2 out of 5.

Adult tournaments:

Scored 4 out of 5 in U-125 grade section of Kidlington tournament and won a prize for the highest placed junior.

Scored 4½ out of 7 in the Southend Open, winning the grading prize for U-135. By nearly three years he was the youngest player in this 90-strong event won by an International Master and former British Champion.

County Schools:

Represented U-18 and U-16 teams with 1 win and 1 loss.

Other events:

Attended National Southern Counties training tournament weekend staged by International Master, Shaun Talbot.

Second in the U-160 grade section of the Cotswold Championships.

Second in the U-125 grade section of the Hereford Congress.

Second in the U-150 grade section of the British Isles Open Championships.

Second in the U-13 age section of the British Championships.

Finally, one of Nicholas' games in the British Championship, which was played in Edinburgh, attracted sufficient attention to be published in the vademecum of all players, *Chess* magazine, for September 1985. The score was: A. Watts *White* N. Jakubovics *Black*.

R.S.K.M.

1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-QB3 3. B-B4 N-B3 4. N-N5 P-Q4 5. PxP N-Q5 6. P-QB3 P-N4 7. PxN PxB 8. PxP QxP 9. Q-K2 QxNP 10. PxN dis ch K-Q2 11. Q-KB3 QxN 12. QxR B-B4 13. Q-B3 R-K1 ch 14. K-B1 B-N2 15. QxB Q-B4 16. Q-N5 ch P-B3 17. QxB Q-R6 ch
White resigns.

LIFE UNDER THE STAIRS — A REFLECTION

It seems far more than four years and two months since my first day at Abingdon School and I can remember going home and reporting that I had met a Head Boy called Ian (Burnett) and the only members of staff whose names I could remember were Smith (DRS) and Brown (NJB) and the other was unpronounceable — WHZ, of course! Everything was bewildering to a new girl,

but everyone was very kind and patient, and it didn't take me too long to get the hang of names — at least those of the staff. And I suppose, now, that I could put names of some sort to about two thirds of the current inhabitants.

At first life was a complete blur of faces and paper, paper and more paper! Noises too, of course, abounded in the office: the duplicator, the photocopier (and thereby hang several tales), the buzz of incoming calls, the ring of the internal phone, and above all the constant chatter of the exchange every time someone picked up a telephone somewhere in the school. At times all would be going at once — but I never had a decibel counter; it might prove an interesting exercise for some young physicists! Of course, all these noises were semi-permanent, and were occasionally punctuated by the high-pitched shriek of a fault in the electrics, or the warble of the fire alarm. I gradually got to know and understand them all. It was never dull, occasionally quiet, but usually very busy, and often positively hectic. However, although it sometimes drove me quite mad — I did enjoy it!

By about my third term I had got into the swing of things, and quite missed the place during the holidays. I also achieved my first (and only) coup — in getting the office painted and acquiring new curtains. I shall always be grateful to the then bursar — Danny Head. My daughters got used to being seen helping me out with the post on busy evenings, and there seemed more and more to do as each term went by. Staff came and went, and by the end of last term there were more than two dozen members of Common Room who were more recent arrivals than I.

There was always the capable and good-humoured help of Heads of School, and numerous prefects to hand, sixth-formers for tours and, of course, not forgetting the second form and 'box duty'. I remain unconvinced that any second-former ever did this willingly (except perhaps on the very first 'responsibility' occasion) and by the end of the summer term in the second year it had become a positive chore to most. However, on the whole they were willing and able and prepared to be soaked, frozen or boiled as the appropriate term demanded in order to get the mail through at all costs! Summer Term was always the worst for the non-appearance of 'box duty' boys, chiefly because cricket was always far more important (and rightly so!). And talking of cricket, I quickly discovered that a radio tuned to Radio Three during a Test Match brought a steady stream of visitors, both boys and staff.

There was always something to do, and rush jobs were often the norm — from exam papers to concert programmes, to end of or beginning of term services. There were compensations, however. Mugs of coffee before 9 am (to the envy of other members of staff) and tea at 3 pm, all kindly prepared and carefully carried to me by one or other of the 'laundry ladies' — I shall always be grateful to Beaty and Janette.

I mentioned the tale of the photocopier — more like a saga really. There will be many of you who remember 'Mildred' who served the office nobly (well, usually) until GGB stepped in and swept her into temporary hiding in the book room. For those

who never found out, she found pastures new in the Bursary, together with a more gentle way of life, suited to her advancing years. A succession of trial machines in both the office and the MCR led to the prolonged stay of the enormous Xerox, which helped with production of huge posters covering every aspect of school life for Open Evening in 1985. It also led to my prolonged stay at school on the Friday before Christmas waiting for it to be collected! Eventually in January of this year we settled down with a new machine in the MCR and a second hand one in the office, which, up to the time of writing, has behaved itself admirably.

Other machinery became less reliable, but with its non-stop use this was hardly surprising. Through 1983+4 I kept a fairly accurate record of the number of sheets of paper passing through the old duplicator — the horrifying total was close to 200,000 which rather makes one stop and think — and that was three years ago! However, as I write, a week after the end of term, that too has recently been replaced by a smart, modern — much cleaner — machine which has already proved its worth as far as I'm concerned and no doubt will continue to churn out paper for a good few years into the future.

In trying to list what the job entailed term by term for my successor I came completely unstuck halfway through the Michaelmas Term, and came to the conclusion that she would have to find out as she went along — much the same as I had done. I can remember being asked to do some task in my third term at Abingdon, and asking — in all innocence — 'Do I do that too?' — the list is certainly unending.

It only remains for me to say that despite all the trials and tribulations of working in 'the cupboard under the stairs', they were the main stairs and therefore all school life passed by the door and a large section of it also stopped and came in. I have made many friends at Abingdon, amongst both staff and boys, and these, together with the presents, for which I thank everyone concerned, will always serve as a reminder — should I ever need one — of 'some of the happiest days of my life.'

Mrs. P. Beacham.



MR. C. PARKER INTERVIEW

Mr. Charles Parker spent the five terms from January 1985 to July 1986 involved in the rewriting of four S.M.P. Mathematics text books for 11 to 13 year olds. James Lister Cheese and Tom Yorke interviewed him for the Abingdonian about this period away from teaching.

Q.: Mr. Parker, what was the problem with the former edition of the S.M.P. text books?

CP: Apart from being too heavy to carry around, the books were completely out of date. They had been published in 1965/66 — so they are twenty years old — the calculator was not being used, we were not nearly as used to metrication as we are now, and ideas we then thought very important have drifted into the background.

Q.: Why were you chosen to act as editor, and what was your involvement otherwise?

CP.: I've been involved with S.M.P. for 12 years, and helped write five or six chapters for the second edition of books 3, 4 and 5 for 13 to 16 year olds. The S.M.P. were also looking for somebody with experience in teaching pupils from 11 years of age, directly relevant to the new books, and I had already worked with S.M.P. books 3-5, so I knew what to 'aim' for.

Q.: How many people were you helped by?

CP.: For the 55 chapters ten people, including Mr. Finch, were involved, but only myself and a teacher from Oakham had previous experience in writing and 11-plus teaching which meant a fair degree of responsibility fell on us at the discussion stage.

Q.: How did you go about the revision, and to what extent were the books rewritten?

CP: About two years ago we had a meeting to discuss a provisional list of topics; these were then divided among the ten, each of whom had individual interests. Drafts of the chapters were then written and submitted to other schools — Oakham, Walthamstow Hall in Kent, and Croham Hurst in Sussex all played a part — who returned the drafts having made their comments. I then spent a lot of time collating the annotated copies and tried to steer the middle course, rewriting again if necessary.

Apart from parts of a couple of chapters which had stood the test of time, the revisions were virtually brand new in order to give them a more modern emphasis.

Q.: How important a factor was time?

CP: It was very important and extremely demanding. Books normally take a year to be published after the final draft is given to the printer, so we only had two terms to finish Book One if we were to meet the deadline of September 1986. The other three books will be published next February, September and February (1988) so the pressure was not so great on them. After some very hard work we got the first book to the Cambridge University Press on time.

Q.: When do you expect this edition to require further revision?

CP: I expect it will see me into the grave!! Seriously, though, I hope it's not twenty years like the last one. Within that time we've jumped from



logarithm tables to slide rules to calculators and many boys now have access to personal computers. I think about ten years will be long enough.

Q.: How do you expect the new G.C.S.E. examination to affect the books?

CP.: GCSE was already in the pipeline when we started the revision, and we've taken it into account. The emphasis is very much on pupils thinking for themselves, rather than repeating a given example.

Q.: Would you like to be involved in the next revision?

CP.: I don't think it's right for the same person to do the thing twice because he has too many preconceptions the second time round. The school was also very generous in giving me five terms away, although I did teach a junior form for all this time, and it wouldn't be fair to ask for that kind of time off again. I would like my association with SMP to continue, and perhaps I may take on a similar venture in the future — though I don't think I'd be able to have the same level of commitment.

Q.: Finally, did you find the whole experience worthwhile?

CP.: Certainly — I don't have any regret about spending so much time away. It was hard work, especially when the pressure was on to meet the printing deadline and I had to go through the proofs to find the printing mistakes, with only a fortnight to finish the second book as well. But after 25 years it was a welcome opportunity to have a change although, of course, I remained as housemaster. Yes, the experience was very worthwhile indeed.

Q.: Mr. Parker, thank you very much indeed.

J. Lister-Cheese (VI)
and T. Yorke (VI)



A YEAR AT ABINGDON: A VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER

The grand red buildings of the school appeared as I rounded the corner of Conduit Road. However, it wasn't until I was closer that I realised that most of these were younger than the original old spired fortification which was obviously the main feature of the school. This was to be my home for the year. My home, that is, during the school day.

Tentatively, and self-consciously, I manoeuvred the car up the sweeping drive and headed towards what I suspected was the car park. The Gravel, as I was informed later, is the meeting place for various school outings, and houses not only staff vehicles, but also cars belonging to senior boys.

Boys! My first impressions of this nebulous population, were that they didn't look very different from what I'd left behind in Australia (except that they seemed, on average, skinnier.

This perception became more alarming to me when I consciously realised that most of them huddled under thick overcoats!). However, being used to candy-striped blazers, white shirts and jumpers, last weekend's sun tan and 'No, Sir, my hair goes that colour during summer', I was struck by the endless drabness and practicality of the variety of grey uniforms which seemed to be in competition with the cold grey sky. Contrasting with this, the plethora of school ties bemused me, and even now I don't understand the meanings of the eighteen, or is it twenty-seven, of them. Apart from these differences, there seemed little to distinguish an Abingdonian from a Scotch Collegian. Of course, I was proved wrong, but that is what makes people interesting: the differences.

Car parked, and feeling as inconspicuous as a new boy on his first day at school, I drifted towards the heavily bolted white double doors at the base of a high belfry-topped tower.

The building, rabbit-warren'd, and typically inadequate but quaint, seemed over-crowded, even though it was early in the day and most of the clients had not yet arrived. Pressed against the wall of the staircase to protect myself from the human missiles catapulted down the stairs, I made my way to the sanctuary of the Common Room.

Antiquated, smelling of centuries of paper, chalk and stale tobacco, the rooms were strangely inviting. The red leather chairs, polished from use, swallowed their occupants in gentleman's club style. The only tributes to modern technology were the out-of-place photocopier in one corner and the banks of coffee-makers in the outer common room. Everything else about the MCR seemed to have arrived when the school moved to its present site, one hundred and sixteen years ago.

I had wandered this far into the body of the school without much problem, but the worst was yet to come. Names! At the best of times I remember faces better than I remember names. Having been at the same school for seven years, learning new names of the occupants of classes became increasingly easier because I tended to know many of the new boys either through previous contacts, involvement in sport, through reputation or 'aren't you the brother of.....?'. Here, however, not only was I confronted with a sea of new faces and meaningless lists of boys' names, but I also had the daunting task of meeting and 'getting to know' a mass of new colleagues. This problem was further exacerbated by the use of initials instead of names when referring to any member of staff. Therefore getting to place a face with the name Mearns was one thing, but placing anything with RSKM was just about impossible until I realised that they were one and the same thing. The struggle with names took its toll, and the end of days during the first week found me exhausted from learning. I now know what it must be like for a boy joining a new school.

Being away from home, friends and things that you take for granted like cold beer, noise, openness and overt enthusiasm, it was difficult during those first weeks not to find fault with

everything that was different. I continually found myself quietly scoffing at the quaint ways of English education, but as time has gone on, I have come to realise that there are reasons for everything. 'We don't do it like that in Australia' simply because Australia is different. The same went for relationships between staff and boys. Having come from a very personal system, the reservation of the English way of life grated with me. I found the English unwillingness to communicate difficult to comprehend. It was obvious from the characters I was teaching that they had much to offer, but I began to equate reticence with pure bloody-mindedness.

That was how I felt at the beginning of the year. There are many aspects of life at Abingdon that I would never be able to accept, but there is much that goes on here that I will remember with affection for ever. Seeing Tom Owen and partner training on the river in the first week of February surrounded by snow and ice; hearing 1B read to me for the first time; Nigel Brown's production of Julius Caesar; Richard Butterworth's 'musical jam' for Africa; the thrill of producing Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat with Simon Andrews; watching the 1st XV play; being able to add more fuel to my passion for the language and medieval history are only some of the wonderful experiences I will return to Australia with.

If, however, there is one lasting impression I will have of the school, it is that here is a place of immense potential. Everywhere I looked at Abingdon there is potential. Historically, it has more right to be proud than many of the younger public schools. Abingdon has a Common Room of scholars whom I would class with the best that I have ever taught with. The talent and breadth of experience of the Common Room is enough to make any other school envious. The facilities, although not the best I have taught in, have such a pleasing setting that any improvements would be felt ten-fold. Last, but most important, Abingdon can boast a company of young men whose enthusiasm, friendliness, interest, caring and responsibility, both for themselves and others, would make them the rightful boast of any school anywhere.

I shall miss Abingdon School, the boys and friends I have made here. I shall miss the changing of the seasons and Mr. Randolph's weather forecasts. I shall miss riding my bike to school along what must be the most beautiful stretch of water anywhere. I won't, however, miss English food or English summers. I would like to thank the Headmaster, Mr. Parker, for giving me the opportunity to spend this year at Abingdon, and the Common Room and boys of the school for making it a year that I shall never forget.

D. Scott Crozier

Obituary

MISS ROSEMARY HICKMOTT

Mrs. B. Woodley writes: It was with great sorrow that we learned of Rosemary's death. She became ill during the Lent Term and after a short period in the Churchill Hospital she died peacefully at home on the 20th July 1985. Rosemary had been a matron at Abingdon school since 1969, working at Crescent house with Bill and Angela Potter, moving to Waste Court in 1971 where she worked with Keith and Audrey Hasnip until 1979. She then returned to Crescent house when Charles Parker became housemaster. She went about her duties with an air of quiet determination. Her affection for the boys, staff and school was shown by many acts of kindness.

Rosemary loved to entertain her friends and many of us enjoyed her hospitality both at Crescent and Waste Court, where the room had a large window overlooking the sports field. Here Rosie dispensed home made cakes and tea. It was a haven of peace in a busy community. She loved to hear the amusing stories about the School and the boys. Rosie was the most gentle person one could meet but showed great courage during her illness and her concern and thoughtfulness to all who visited her in hospital was most touching considering the seriousness of her illness.

To commemorate Rosie's birthday, 28th September, a friend arranged flowers in the School Chapel. Her friends and colleagues at Abingdon School donated money for a garden to be planted in her memory. This garden can be seen in front of the Amey Hall which is a very appropriate location as Rosie loved music and flowers and often attended productions performed by 'her boys' at the Amey Hall. She was also a member of the Abingdon School Choral Society. A garden seat is also being made by the woodwork department and is to be placed outside the Avernus, a place well known to Rosie, where she dearly loved the fellowship of those gathered there, to drink their after-lunch coffee. Rosie's garden is there for all to admire. It is a reminder, if we need one, of a dear person, sadly missed.

O.A. NOTES

DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths:

T.P.R. Layng (1913): Died on March 28th 1985. He was an undergraduate at Jesus College Cambridge and subsequently taught at the County Boys School, Cambridge for 42 years. He was much loved and respected by his former pupils. In his retirement he contributed very substantially to the Cambridgeshire archives. His widow wrote from Stableford, Cambridge. His father **Rev. T. Layng**, was headmaster of Abingdon school until 1913.

M.A.J. Payne, who entered the school in 1966, died last year. His father, M. Payne, wrote from Farnham St. Martin, Bury St. Edmonds.

N.R.H. Pollard (1972), who was a member of an exceptional school IV, died last November.

J.P. Seaver (1974): Died this year after contracting malaria on his way back from a two year spell in South Africa. He was a chartered accountant managing the Cape Town office of Peat Marwick. He captained the school cricket XI and also played hockey and golf for the school.

News has also come through of the death of **G.S. Sturrock** (1925)

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire naturalist trust unveiled an educational display at the Dry Sandford nature reserve in memory of **Jeremy Milton** (78) this July. His species list of higher plants for the inner reserve is a valued standard reference.

NEWS

P. Cox (34), who lives in Southmoor, is the President of the OA Club.

D.C.K. Wright (27) is currently mayor of Blandford in Dorset. **J.D. Thomas** (47) has recently retired from a career as a quantity surveyor, lately on the Harwell and Culham Laboratory sites. He and his wife live at Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria and would dearly like to hear from others of the wartime and late Grundy era. He has recently been in touch with **J.A. Garner** (48) and **G. Good** (48).

D.R.G. Andrews (52) has recently resigned as chief executive of Land-Rover Leyland.

J. Hines (54) a civil servant in Wellington, New Zealand, and a keen marathon runner, visited the Headmaster last September. **J.J. Swainston** (55) is a manager with the Animal Foodstuffs in Australia.

W.J. Courage (58) has been promoted to Brigadier.

D.J. Brice (61) is an R.N. Commander, currently 'driving' frigates.

R.C. Platt (62) qualified as a chartered surveyor in '69 and established his own practice in Maidenhead in '70. The firm has now expanded to eight offices and amongst his partners is **S.R. Wilson** (63) who is also a chartered surveyor.

J.R. Veysey (62) wrote at length from Upper Hutt, New Zealand. He describes himself as an enthusiastic 'Jack of all Trades' and the list ranges from T.V. Producer to part-time night porter, with a marriage and two sons along the way.

C.J. Dean (63) is working for an M.Ed. degree at the University of Toronto.

Lt-Col. T.A. Marsh (63) has recently been promoted. He is on a Joint Service Defence course at Greenwich, thence to command the Parachute Regiment depot. He is President Elect of the O.A. Club.

Dr. N.P.W. Coe (64) is now the director of Surgical Education at Baystate Medical Centre, Maine, USA.

P.A. Wedgewood (64), who is the British Airways public affairs man in Denmark, met in February, for the first time since leaving school, Captain **Peter Godfrey** (64) at Kastrup Airport, Copenhagen. Peter had just flown in a Boeing 757 on the fiftieth anniversary of BA's first flight to Copenhagen.

Shellard news: P.N. (64) is with Dean's, the publishers, in London and J.J. (71) has recently been made a director of Richard Ellis, property developers in London who are favourite for the GLC building contract. Both will be playing in Alligators week, as usual.

Dr. T.J. King (64) moves from teaching Biology at Magdalen College School to be Director of Studies at Abingdon School. He will also be Secretary of the O.A. Club.

C.E.I. Day (65) has hit the headlines as the only practising homoeopathic vet in the U.K. treating farm animals in a large agricultural practice. He is President of the recently formed International Association for Veterinary Homoeopathy. He is based at Stanford-in-the-Vale and has a son at the School.

N.D. Keen (66) works in the distribution side of Cadbury Schweppes in Birmingham.

C.P. Ridout (66) was married in '76 and has two daughters. After four years at Art College and postgraduate study, he helped to set up the Art department at Bath University. He has been in architectural salvage and is presently working with computer based musical instruments in a recording studio.

Lt-Cdr M.C.G. Holloway (66) is at the R.N. Staff College at Greenwich for eight months, thence to Ottawa.

P.H. Blackburn (67) is a journalist based in Abidjan. He has recently been to Sierra Leone and Liberia and visited Nigeria on a Financial Times survey earlier this year.

J.D. Evans (67) moves from Canford School to be head of English at Radley College.

Y. Doganoglu (68) moved from academic life to big business and is now national accounts manager, commodity explosives, for C.I.L. Inc. which is the Canadian subsidiary of I.C.I.

Dr. A.J. Iddles (69) spent most of 1985 as senior surgeon on SS Canberra and has now returned to the Pacific Princess.

P.M. Annett (69) is married with three sons. He has been an arboriculturist with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the past thirteen years.

G.R. Evans (69) works for the John Lewis Partnership (retailing) and a recent promotion has taken him from Berkhamsted to Newcastle. He is married with a two year old son.

Dr. A.J.M. Crocker (71) is working for the Churchill Hospital in Oxford.

J.Q. Rowley (71) is a scientific officer to the Tropical Research and Development Institute.

R.S. Conibear (71) is managing commercial properties in the south of England for a CI-based company, Badix Properties.

P.M. Cowley (72) is joint director of English Studies at the Euro-Japanese exchange foundation at High Wycombe.

J.M.H. Hutchings (72), with a degree in economics in 1977 from Reading, joined the Territorial Army in 1979, where he was recently joined by Surgeon-Captain S.de Lusignan (76). He became a solicitor in 1983 and is with Hughes Watton of Piccadilly.

M. Crofton Briggs (74) is a senior planner with the Guildford Borough Council. He married in 1984 and his wife, Ruth, is a graphic designer.

D. Lewington (74) is married and is now with air traffic control at Leuchars, Scotland.

V.T. Pugh (74), after a year at the Culham labs, and a degree in physics at Southampton, worked at the Rutherford lab for seven years on neutron beams. He is now with a computer consultancy firm, and is currently working on the slim long versus the short fat frigate design at Bath. His wife is also in computing.

N.J. Tattersfield (75) is teaching English and is in charge of drama at Carmel College.

C.W.P. Hobson (76), Royal Marines, has been scoring quantities of runs for the Combined Services, an 80 was recently noted.

G.D. Morris (76) graduated from Swansea in Chemistry with Economics. He qualified as an A.C.A. while working with A. Anderson and Co. in Bristol. He is now finance director with Bluebird Toys in Swindon. He would welcome contact from O.A.s, at 72, Rowham Mead, Hotwells, Bristol.

T. Walker (76), after a degree in botany at Oxford, was employed at Kew Gardens and is now second in command at the Botanic Gardens in Oxford.

Dr. T.F. Booth (77), after a degree in Bath and a Ph.D. in London on cattle pests, is now at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver doing a post doctoral fellowship on the retina. He enjoys skiing, mountaineering and sailing.

D.A. Greig (78) sang baritone in a choral concert in May in the Amey Hall as one of four professional soloists.

M.T.L. Rivers (78), after a degree in Business Operations and Control at Salford and programming for BP in London, is now assisting in the development of ULA Oilfield in Norway. He has recently married.

J.W. Slingsby (78) was married last year, and is now the recreation manager at Ampleforth.

P.J. Malein (78) is to be congratulated on his marriage to Miss Isobel Robinson last December. They will live in Papua, New Guinea.

N.G. Williams (79) is to be congratulated on his marriage in St. Lucia, West Indies, to Miss Sheralyne Britton. Whilst with the Royal Marines he won the Combined Services tennis singles title. He has now left the Marines and is a military instructor.

M.D. Andrews (79) is married to a Canadian Rhodes scholar and is working in Vancouver with the law firm of Russell and Dumoulin.

Doherty news: **H.M.L.** (79) is an accountant in the City, and **T.P.L.** (79), who is married with a baby daughter, is working as a chalet designer with Scania.

J.S. Vokins (79) is to be congratulated on his marriage in June of this year.

R.C. Morrison (79) was married in July 85 to Miss Hazel Rudd. He has recently been promoted to Sports Editor at Radio 210. The following, who left in 80 or 81, studied medicine at Oxford or Cambridge, and are all now at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, working on their clinical studies:-

G.D. Harper, M.E.H. Emerton, R.J. Thompson, G.C.M. Black, G.L. Radford-Smith, G.A. Khakoo, J.H. Mercer.

G.D. Harper (81) has added Oxford hockey and soccer blues to those he won at Cambridge and went on a soccer tour to China this summer.

T.J.C. Haworth (81) graduated from Reading in land management and is now working with Ladbrokes. He has been the O.A. Sports Secretary and helps with the school C.C.F.

R.G. Hooley (81) with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from King's, London is now Acting sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

B.R.P. Macintyre (81) should be congratulated on his first in History at Cambridge last year.

A.J. Colgan (81) and **C.C. Wright** (82) have been appointed to permanent commissions in the RAF.

J.S. Saunders (80) should be congratulated on his first in Mathematics at St. Andrew's University, in the course of which he was awarded the Alexander Stewart prize. In the summer of 84 he took a job with the radiological protection board doing 'real maths'. Both he and his wife are now researching: he in maths and she in Shakespeare.

D.D.L. Cockram (81), following a degree in medieval archeology at University College, London, was helped through Sandhurst by a bursary from the 17th/21st Lancers. He has had what he describes as an 'unsuccessful crack at Aintree'.

R.L. Wilden (81) with an Oxford degree in Physics is now working as a Systems Scientist 2 in the high power division of the communications research laboratory at the Marconi Research Centre at Great Baddow near Chelmsford.

L.V. Casey (81) studied, for his final year of the Southampton Civil Engineering course, at France's elite engineering school, the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées. He is now an engineer working in France.

G.P. Lanham (81) has played for the Crusaders against the Authentics (Cambridge Vs. Oxford 2nd Cricket XI)

M.W. Murray (81) changed from English to Fine Arts and is now with Sotherby's in New York, specialising in C19 Paintings.

R.D. Higett (81), after a degree in mechanical engineering at Liverpool, is working for a computer firm in Camberley.

J.B. Hyndman (81), following a botany degree at Oxford is now researching in biochemistry at King's College, London.

A.A. Carmichael (81) following a period with Lloyd's bank is now on the sales staff of Hartwells of Abingdon.

M.G.H. Llewellyn (81) is working on a medical research project in Edmonton, Canada.

P.D. Fulford (82) has graduated from Exeter after a four year chemical engineering course. He joins the R.A.F. at Cranwell this October, training to be a navigator.

P.R. Spencer (82) in a recent 70 team world university debating championship at Cornell University, was voted the fifth best individual speaker. He also took part in eight days of Oxford Union debating for Live Aid.

S.D.J. Clark (82), who was an organ scholar at Hertford, Oxford, is a freelance musician and has been assistant conductor to the English National Opera.

A good number of O.A.'s were rowing at Henley this year:

C.M. Jones (74) for London in the Thames Cup; **A.J. Capel** (75) for Quintin; **I.M. Burnett**, who is president of the London University boat club, was at bow in the VIII and in the Visitors IV bettered the record for part of the course; **J.T. Charlesworth** (83) for Sheffield; **D.J. Ruiz** (83) coxed Selwyn; **M.N. Saunders** (83) in the Newcastle University IV; **P. Dominey** (84) for Thames in the Goblets; **W.G.V. Harcourt** (84) for LMBC, St. John's, Cambridge; **H.R.W. Peach** (84) and **T.C. Race** (84) for Isis; **D.A. Sperry** (84) guested for BNC; **R.J. Wivell** (84) for the Imperial College VIII; **M.C. Yates** (84) for Bristol University.

A.N. Hall (83) has captained the Bristol University rugby XV.

D.G.E. Hayne (83) is a nursing assistant at the Fairmile Psychiatric Hospital before going to the College of Ripon and York St. John to read for a degree in drama.

P.G. Moreau (83) is reading Urban Studies at Sheffield University where he edits a student magazine.

D.D.R. Holder (83) and **S.C. Tonks** (85) are both assistants at golf clubs.

Congratulations to the following, who left in '83, on gaining First Class Honours in their Finals: **G.E. Butler** for History at Cambridge, **T.D.H. Bugg**, **R.G. Fellows**, and **A.D. Fisher** for Natural science at Cambridge, **A. Fergusson** for Architecture at Kingston Polytechnic; also to **M.J. Stott** (81) for Modern Languages at Cambridge.

A.M. Robson (82) has played bridge for England in the under 25 team.

Congratulations to **J.E. Robson** (83) on being awarded a golfing blue at Oxford. After a Second in Classical Moderations, he has now changed to Experimental Psychology.

R.H.R. Mortimer (83) is secretary of the Durham University small bore rifle club.

J.M. Herd (84) rowed in the British Heavyweight VIII at Mannheim.

D.B.F. Guimaraens (84), following in his family footsteps has contacted **E.R. Jouault** (58), who owns an Australian vineyard, and will be taking a degree in wine manufacture in Australia. His sister is engaged to be married to **N.J. Tomlinson** (84).

C.J.F. Coupland (85), who is reading engineering at Selwyn, Cambridge, has been awarded a National Engineering Scholarship.

B.E. Wooley (85), who is reading French at Surrey University, is the sports secretary for the O.A.Club.

K.La T.G. Bond (85) is now very good on a horse and pretty good at Spanish: he is spending a year as a cowboy on a 10,000 acre estate in Argentina, before reading History at Cambridge.

B.S.J. Burman (85) and **T.E.H. Jones** (85) travelled for several months through India and the Far East ending up in Indonesia in September.

J.T.C. Cracknell (85), is heartily congratulated on being awarded a Short Service Limited Commission with RMA Sandhurst before going up to university.

A most successful dinner was held at the School for O.A.'s of the **Eric Anderson** era (70-75) Dr. Anderson was present as were about 80 O.A.'s.

R.C.B. 7-86



