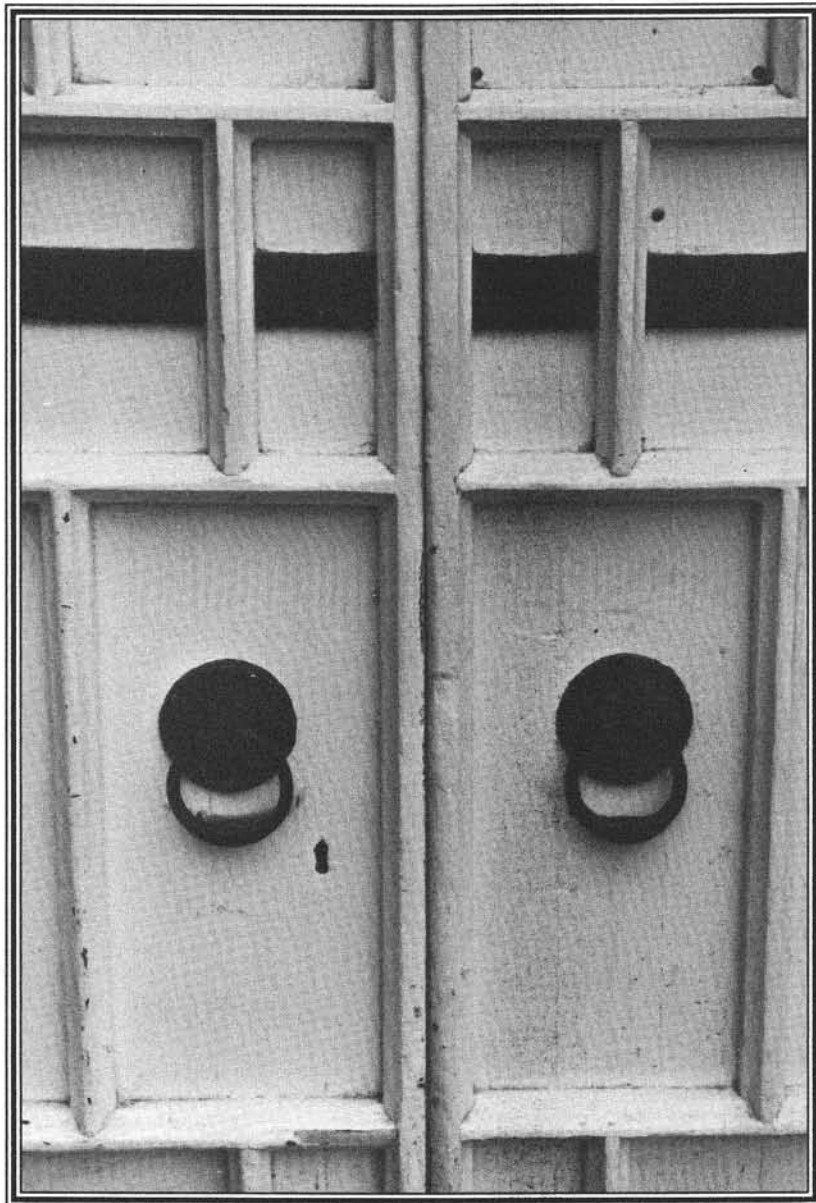


THE ABINGDONIAN



The Abingdonian

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Editorial

Imagine a fly sufficiently long lived to have sat on the wall of my study in Lacies Court for all of the last fifteen years. Now imagine him stopping his ears to everything but the interviews with prospective parents, who come and go at the rate of about a dozen a week in term-time. Finally, imagine him able to retail stories of what he has heard. Absurd, isn't it? But if such a remembering, talking fly could ever be found, he would have some intriguing stories to tell - and they would show some remarkable changes in the pre-occupations of successive generations.

In 1975, when the Direct Grant was being peremptorily terminated by a hostile government, the overwhelming majority of questions concerned the School's capacity to survive - can you cope with the threat to your existence, will you still be there to teach my son when he takes his A levels? A little later, the questions became more critical: when are you going to improve your buildings, repair your boarding houses, stock your library with books, and buy some computers? By the mid-1980s, parents brought up to be market-wise, and armed with their ISIS check lists of questions, were asking about set sizes, and examination statistics, and staffing ratios. Then the Conservative Government's reforms began to bite, and everybody wanted to know what effect GCSE was going to have on Abingdon. Most recently, the commonest single question has been about the National Curriculum - are we going to teach it, what difference will it make to our arrangements, and - perhaps most worryingly, from the Headmaster's point of view - how are we going to staff it?

Needless to say, a great deal of midnight oil has been burned on these vexatious questions, each in their turn. So far as the National Curriculum is concerned, it is clear that, even though we are not at present obliged by law to operate it, we shall in practice be very well advised to do so. In fact, our present provision exceeds that required by the National Curriculum at a good many points, and it will remain our firm intention to continue in this way. However, the balance of subjects will be affected to a certain extent, unavoidably, and there will be a need for some further innovation particularly in the area of practical work related to technology. Our difficulty, essentially, will lie in sustaining present levels of activity in the "traditional" areas, such as the sciences, modern languages and classics, while at the same time providing an adequate ration of practical work for all, without loss to either our pastoral system or our "other half" activities. This is a tall order, for an already overloaded timetable!

If you are faced with a surplus of beer for your pint pot, the only answer is to reach for a quart jug, and so we are currently looking at proposals designed to create more teaching time in the week, partly by extending the length of the school day. Obviously, there would be penalties attached to such a policy but we think that they

would be preferable to the penalties of abandoning activities to which we are at present committed, or alternatively failing to meet the demands of the National Curriculum. It would perhaps be possible to shape a compromise, in which those subjects in which the Government is less interested received less time than those which are at the forefront of their schemes. If this meant abandoning subjects with an abstract or ethical content, however, such as divinity, or diluting intellectual rigour in other areas such as the grammar and literature of modern languages, we would feel that comfort was being purchased at too great a price. It is not part of the Abingdon tradition that we should take a minimalist view of intellectual activity, and it seems possible that the ideal of academic excellence for its own sake may be more than ever in need of upholding over the next decade. Certainly, the fly on the wall seems to hear a lot of parents inquiring anxiously about our intentions in this respect.

One development which will undoubtedly be of prime importance both in enabling us to cope with the National Curriculum and also to continue to exceed its requirements, is the growth of information technology. This activity - one hesitates to restrict it by using the term subject - is being developed at Abingdon by Mr. David Haynes with a combination of imaginativeness and thoroughness which have already put the Warehouse high on the visiting lists of people who reckon to be in the know about such things. Information technology is to be seen as a service area for the whole curriculum - including much of what goes on outside the classroom as well as inside. Musical, theatrical and literary activity jostle with English, history and geography, in the queue for time at the information technology centre - and this is to say nothing about the claims of the publicists, administrators, devisers of chapel services and the enthusiasts for research of every sort.

One particularly interesting result of all this is a blurring of the rigid demarcation lines which have previously been characteristic of organisations such as Abingdon School. Collaboration between departments sometimes becomes a reality even before anyone has thought to propose it as a theory, and the oneness of all educational activity is being powerfully asserted by practical examples at every point. At the moment, it must be said, our ambitions towards integration are all too often brought up with a jolt because of the physical limitations of our present buildings and equipment; in an era when teaching rooms, for all subjects, should more closely resemble laboratories than prison cells, too many rooms at Abingdon School still look much as our Victorian predecessors created them. This problem is particularly acute, it must be recognised, in so far as the sixth-form teaching is concerned - but here we look forward with eagerness to the possibility of relief in the shape of Mercers' Court, which we hope to see con-

structed on its Bath Street site during the early 1990s. Interestingly, the fly on the wall hears less than he used to about the high costs of an Abingdon education

"High tech teaching" is only one part of the complexity of the world in which today's Abingdonians are growing up, but it is to be seen as a necessary process if we are to prepare our pupils to live in the twenty-first century. Nor must we be afraid to look outside our own boundaries. Just as there is an international flavour to any modern university, so surely there should be schools such as Abingdon which aim to achieve the highest possible standard in educational activity of a sort appropriate to the 11-18 age-group: we should be able both to accommodate a variety of national traditions, and to supply our pupils with passports of international acceptability. In attempting this, let us note in passing, we

should be doing no more than our remote ancestors, the Benedictine monks of Abingdon Abbey, servants of an international order and guardians of a supranational civilisation.

The young people who come to us in increasing numbers from European countries and also from the Far East demonstrate the attractions that Abingdon already possesses. For them, and for our homegrown pupils, it may be appropriate before too long that we should review our sixth-form courses in a radical spirit to see whether they are really meeting tomorrow's needs. The pressures induced by the introduction of the National Curriculum are in any case almost bound to lead to a renewed assault upon the A-level system - so perhaps that long-lived fly on the wall will be hearing tomorrow's parents ask about the international baccalaureate.

M.St.J.P.



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).

Director of Studies: T.J. King, M.A., D.Phil., F.L.S., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).

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

* 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).

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

D.C. Taylor, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (Modern Languages). Director of Drama.

* N.K. Hammond, B.Sc., London School of Economics (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 (Chemistry).

+ D.G. Crawford, B.A., D.L.C., Open University and Loughborough (Biology).

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

* 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).

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.

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

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

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

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

N.J. Brown, M.A., St John's College, Cambridge (English). Upper Master.

+ 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).

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

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

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. Mitra, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Classics).

A.J. Mansfield, B.Sc., Wales (Design).

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

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

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

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

D.M. Henderson, B.A., Reading (Modern Languages).

M.R. Broughton, M.A., St. Edmund Hall, Oxford (Modern Languages).

T.J. Simons, B.Soc.Sci., Birmingham (Mathematics).

I.C. Donald, B.A., Huddersfield Polytechnic (Music).

R.G. Hofton, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (History).

* F.F.R. Fernandez-Armesto, M.A., D.Phil., F.R.Hist.S., Magdalen College, Oxford (History).

* M.A. Stinton, M.A., Worcester College, Oxford (Music).

R.C.R. Milner, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (Modern Languages).

* J.A.N. Ellis, M.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge (Geography).

J.F. Henderson, B.A., Cambridge College of Arts and Technology (Geography and Economics).

J.S. Oxlade, M.A., F.R.C.O., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (Geography and Music).

* Mrs. J.E. Chapman, M.A., Brasenose College, Oxford (Classics).

A.M. Broadbent, B.Ed., College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham (Physical Education and Mathematics).

M.C. Stevenson, B.A., King's College, London (Mathematics).

R.J. Strawson, M.A., Trinity College, Oxford (Physics).

Mrs. D.A. Bigmore, B.A., Somerville College, Oxford (Business Studies).

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

Mrs. J. Boulton, N.D.D. (Design).

Mrs. S. Page, M.A., St. Andrew's (Modern Languages).
M.F. Robins, M.A., F.I.M.A., King's College, Cambridge (Mathematics).
J.J. Wilcox.

* = Senior Subject Master
+ = Housemaster

Medical Officer: Dr. D.R. May, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.
Bursar: A.G. Daley, B.A.
Assistant Bursar: Major D. Egerton-King



SCHOOL OFFICERS

Heads of School:

J.L. Oppenheimer; A.R.K. Whittaker

Upper Sixth School Prefects:

C.J.H. Barber; D.P. Brunning; D.M.J. Calderbank; D.J. Caswell; J.A. Crawford; J.S. Crick; A.M. Edwards;
J.N. Green; M.J. Henderson; J.P. Hodges; M.A.J. Kendall; M.W.L. Macintyre; T. Molloy; J.R.S. Scroggs;
J.T.W. Smethurst; M. Snow; A.H. Trotter; A.J. Wintle.

Upper Sixth Sub-prefects:

A.M. Carley-Macaulay; J.R. Cooper; B.R. Davies; B. Davis; J.M. Frost; R.G. Harrison; P.M. Haycock; L.L.
O'Loughlin; J.E. Owen; G.R. Peddy; T.G.S. Perkins; S.C. Prince; G.C. Rogers; M. Windsor.

Lower Sixth Prefects:

B.R. Marnane; S.J. Morgan.

Lower Sixth Sub-prefects:

J.S. Boorman; J.W.E. Richard; L.A.H. Charlton; I.C. Dalley; J.J. Dennett; R.G. Gerdes; R.G. Godfrey;
M.D. Gordon; R.D. Greasby; M.L. Hancox; J.M. Hardie; J.C. Hewes; J.O. Johnstone; S.D. Newton; N.B.
Richards; D.A. Sparkes; D.E. Stanley; H.E. Wilkinson; Y. Yusof.

Valete

STEPHEN BODEY

R.H.B. writes:

Long before actually coming to teach here, Stephen knew a lot about the school through his uncle, Donald Willis. He knew of its traditions (63 and all that), its friendliness and its unusually strong science side. So when a position in the Physics department became available it was not surprising that the newly-qualified Stephen should show an interest.

That was in 1968, and in those days the four members of the physics department had to share two labs and a third of a laboratory technician. This was not ideal for someone like Stephen who was a firm believer in practical work and the value of hands-on experience. Stephen took a keen interest in all things scientific and was for many years head of Lower School Science and an enthusiastic teacher of Physical Science - that cross discipline sixth form course which, regrettably, the universities have failed to appreciate. Now there are three physics labs, a whole technician, and the exciting prospect provided by the new Greening Wing - but Stephen obviously feels he should not spend too long in his first post!

Out of school Stephen will be best remembered by the boys as coach to a generation of 3rd XV's and by his involvement in non-team everything else. He was the person they would go to if they wanted that extra swim, and he was the person his colleagues would ask first if extra help was required in organising a sporting activity. Stephen was involved in many behind the scenes admin jobs - having been variously master i/c cups and trophies, photographs, stationery, school exams, to name but a few - all of them carried out with characteristic unobtrusive thoroughness.

No account of Stephen as a person would be complete without mention of his loyalty to the Baptist Church and of his involvement with their scout troop, and also of the courage with which he bore the physical disability which had put an end to his own sporting participation.

Stephen's move is a sideways one - well, all of 300 metres in a northerly direction actually - to join the physics department of John Mason School, thereby following in the footsteps of Headmaster Chris Owen who made the same move, but by a more circuitous route via Thame, several years ago.

Stephen finds it difficult to give precise reasons for his wish to move to pastures new, but maybe the influence of John Roysse lives on, for does not Sept 68 to July 89 mean that Stephen served the school loyally and well for precisely 63 terms?

DAVID CRAWFORD

JRG writes:

The news of David Crawford's appointment to be Head of Cokethorpe School came as no surprise to those who had grown accustomed to his qualities of steady professionalism and his shrewd judgement. Abingdon School has altered in many ways since David joined the Common Room some sixteen years ago, and his influence, all to the good, has had much to do with that change. However, the attractions of running his own school (and no doubt also the chance to maintain that inviolable weekly date with Frilford Heath golf course) understandably lured him away. It is an understatement to say that the School will miss him.

David joined Abingdon from Bryanston in 1973 as Head of P.E., and immediately brought his Loughborough-trained expertise to bear on the task. At the same time he took over the rugby, and during a period in which school numbers grew and fixture lists were improved, David presided over the first victories, at the top level, against our mightiest opponents: Radley, Marlborough and St. Edward's. He also brought together the Rugby Club as a whole, encouraging the seniors to feel that junior matches mattered, and that there was a common purpose in playing good rugby. As well as this, David ran for a time the Athletics Club and studied for, and took, a degree in Biology. Much of this was accomplished while he acted as Housemaster of School House for a twelve-year period. Few can have achieved so much, at a consistently successful level, in so unassuming and steady a manner. A schoolmaster of the best sort from top to toe, his understanding of the pupils was incisive and accurate, and his grasp of educational issues thorough; all those boys who came into contact with him have reason to feel grateful. At Cokethorpe he will be supported as ever by his wife Judy, whose vivacious personality and interest in the School - as well as her own extremely shrewd and thoughtful understanding of the boys - have underpinned David's role at Abingdon throughout.

PETER JONES

Peter Jones joined us on his return from South Africa in September 1981, having previously taught at Emanuel School. He quickly established himself as a most effective teacher with a fine mathematical brain, who could be relied upon to find a neat solution to any taxing Oxbridge problem. Peter was very much a traditionalist with little sympathy for the metric system, showing a strong preference for the Imperial system, particularly the pint! Peter came with an outstanding reputation as a coach of schoolboy oarsmen. In his early years at Abingdon he gave us a brief insight into his skills in this direction. The easy confidence with which he raised the sights and expectations of his crews was characteristic. Thereafter he increasingly withdrew from direct involvement on the river. What few, indeed more accurately none, can have appreciated is the selflessness with which he discussed the abilities, talents and potential of many budding oarsmen. His perceptions, insights and proposals simply confirmed time and again what we had all known, that here was an instinctive teacher of sensivity and rare quality, marked perhaps most of all by a rich fund of humour. We send him all our best wishes.

TEDDY BIRNBERG

We bade a fond farewell to 'Teddy' at the end of the summer term. Teddy was notable for his love of letters and of ideas in general, and he has retired a little early to devote himself to the untrammelled study of these pursuits. We wish him every success in his undertakings, along with quiet life and full days. Before leaving, he gave us an interview and the text of it is to be found further within these pages.

MARK BROUGHTON

Mark Broughton joined the department from Salisbury in 1986 to teach French and German, and from the start he showed himself to be a teacher with great energy and imagination; he already had experience of the pilot stage of GCSE and his help in the change from O-level to the new examination was invaluable. He set up the exchange to Paris with the Oxford High school, which he successfully combined with his hobby of photography. He sponsored the photographic society and took over the running of the volleyball, both with equal enthusiasm. He takes our best wishes to his new post as head of French at Uppingham School.

FELIPE FERNANDEZ-ARMESTO

Dr. Fernandez-Armesto left us at the end of the Michaelmas Term to pursue his interests in research and the popularisation of his views through the media. His flamboyant style was impressive as was his elegant syntax. We wish him well in the new direction he has given to his career.

SHEENA PAGE

Mrs. Sheena Page was most capable as part-time teacher for the year in the Modern Languages Department and her assistance was valued very much.

Salvete

We are very happy to welcome the following to Common Room:

Andrew Watkins, from Downside, to teach Biology and to be Master in charge of Rugby.

Michael Martin, from George Heriot's, to teach Mathematics and to be Master in charge of Rowing.

David Pope to teach Modern Languages. A former choral scholar at New College, David is, naturally, a very keen musician. He sings professionally and is looking forward to contributing to functions within school. He is also very keen on drama and is hoping to get involved in some productions in the near future.

Mlle Christine Hivet, who comes to us from Queen's College, Cambridge (but really from Lille!), and who is teaching Modern Languages. Christine has a particular interest in music and in country walking.

John Clare joins us from City of London School to take over the History Department. John's enthusiasms are manifold, but in particular include an interest in theology, in cultural activities and in travel. He has ranged as far afield as Latin America and the Far East.

Derek Collins joins us to teach Physics. Derek's initial training was in Leeds and he has spent many years, first as a field seismologist in West Africa and then teaching for a decade in Brunei. His interests include hillwalking, mountaineering and bird watching as well as a growing enthusiasm for cycling. He has had a lifelong commitment to the environment.

Sandra Hofmann from Göttingen University spent a month with us last year. We are very pleased to have her back with us for a year as German Language instructor.

We are very happy to welcome our exchange teacher from the Soviet Union, Alla Anatolyevna Malchenko from Tula Pedagogical Institute, as Russian language assistant for the duration of the Michaelmas term on a shared basis with Magdalen College School.

ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ASTON S.C. Prince	Computer Studies	KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC P. Monaghan I.A. Patrick S.G. Pratley T.J.W. Taylor	Applied Social Work Environmental Science Business & Management Studies Economics
BATH J.R. Howard T.J. Hunt G.P. Mowat	Mechanical Engineering Chemistry Mechanical Engineering	LEEDS A.M. Carley-Macaulay R.G. Collie	English English
BIRMINGHAM C.J.H. Barber M.A.J. Kendall L.L. O'Loughlin K.J. Slade A.J. Walker	Geography English & Philosophy Geology Politics & Law Economics	LEEDS POLYTECHNIC R.A. Scott	Environmental Technology
BRADFORD G.R. Peddy	Business & Management Studies	LIVERPOOL E.P. Thomas	Geology & Geography
BRISTOL A.G. Ardrey J.E. Ardrey E.W.B. Batchelor D.P. Brunning D.J. Caswell M.J. Chaddock J.P. Shepard A.R.K. Whittaker A.J. Wintle	Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering Law Economic & Social History Biology French & Italian Geography Geography Economic & Social History	LONDON Imperial B.S. Pickard C.Y. Tse King's B.P.A. Jaques St. Mary's L.C. Davies L.S.S.E.E.S. A. Austerfield U.C.L. M.J. Herd C.E. Iles M.T.H. Tomlyn U.M.D.S. M.J. Henderson Westfield D.I. Bosley	Biochemistry Physics Classics Medicine History Economics History Archaeology Medicine French
CAMBRIDGE Clare T.S. Price	Mathematics	LOUGHBOROUGH J.F. Day	Physical Education
Corpus J.L. Oppenheimer T.D. Wedgwood	Oriental Studies Engineering	MANCHESTER M.L. Windsor	Law
Jesus M.W.L. Macintyre	History	MANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC A.C.L. Procter	Computer Studies & Psychology
King's J.T.W. Smethurst	History	NOTTINGHAM B.R. Davis	Geography
Magdalene P.R. Allen	Land Economy	OXFORD Balliol J.N. Green	Engineering, Economy & Management
Robinson J.M. Brown P.M. Haycock	Engineering Engineering	Brasenose N.J. Maher	Classics
St. John's D.M.J. Calderbank A.H. Trotter	Mathematics History	Hertford A.C. Yorke	Modern Languages
CITY R.A.A. Halim	Accountancy	Keble J.R. Cooper G.P. Lee	Classics Mathematics
CRANFIELD S.C.B. Humble	Business & Management Studies	Oriel J.P. Hodges	Engineering
DURHAM M.R.J. Negus R.J. Tilley	Mathematics History	Pembroke D.N. Knowles J.R. Porter	Biology Medicine
EDINBURGH J.A. Crawford I.T. Martin	Anthropology Geology	Queen's J.C. Horsfall	Classics
EXETER D.J. Buck J.C. Crick M.R. Drewe R.D. Jolliffe P.R. Thornton J.J. Toogood	Accountancy Economics English English & Drama Geography Chemistry		

PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

J.P. Carder
J.S. Gerdes

Accountancy
Civil Engineering

PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

P.L. Waywell

Geography

ST. ANDREW'S

J.J. Barton
J. Carr

History of Art & Philosophy
Business/Management
with Politics

SALFORD

P.M. Sproston

Modern Languages

SHEFFIELD

B. Davis

Anatomy/Physiology with
Pharmacology

SOUTHAMPTON

A.J. Booth
C.J. Manning
I.W. Turner

Medicine
History
Environmental Science

SURREY

G.C. Rogers

Electrical & Electronic Engineering

SWANSEA

M. Snow

Geography

TRENT POLYTECHNIC

J.M.M. Bennett

Town & Country Planning

YORK

T.J.T. Hay

Biology



Music

MUSIC REVIEW

It is always difficult to summarise a musical year; a year which the termly music calendars remind us comprised no less than sixty separate events ranging from friendly informal concerts in the Music Studio to large choral and orchestral affairs in the Amey Hall, from services featuring the Chamber Choir both in Chapel and at Cathedral Evensong to the termly rounds of Associated Board examinations. If music has the ability to convey the whole gamut of emotions (although Stravinsky once said that "music is powerless to express anything at all") then the preparation and execution of the musical fixtures 1988-89 must have involved most of them too; frustration, despondency and even panic before an important concert, joyful exuberance and satisfaction after a concert in which the boys have again surpassed themselves and turned a would-be disaster into a resounding success.

It is a tribute to a great many people, the hard work of the music staff and the enthusiasm of the boys, the interest of Common Room and the indefatigable support of the Music Society that the music went well. The department was fortunate to have been able to count on the services of Martin Perry from Kneller Hall who covered Derek Jones' absence for the larger part of the Michaelmas term; he looked after the three bands, some of the classwork and instrumental teaching with confidence and success whilst disappearing back to Twickenham at week-ends for occasional Army commitments. We were delighted of course to welcome Mr. Jones back in the New Year, happily recovered and to hear that Mr. Perry, having completed his Bandmaster training, had been allocated his own band; coincidentally the band of the 1st Battalion, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment of which Mr. Jones was once Band-master.

At the start of the school year, sights are properly set on the bigger school concerts, the Choral Society one and the Grand Christmas Finale. However, barely a month had passed before the Chamber Choir was winging its way south to sing Evensong at Chichester Cathedral on 19th October and on the following day the first of two informal concerts was under way in studio one. In the latter there were some creditable performances by many of the previous year's first formers; the concert was also notable for being the first to use, since its Summer re-building, the Bechstein piano that had for some time been languishing in a somewhat ravaged state. It is now resplendent in its polished rosewood

casework, smart canvas cover and strengthened clamped legs and is a real performing instrument.

This was not the only material development in the Music School; the Grunert upright piano in Studio 2 was happily overhauled at the same time and the old Music School Office was gutted and refitted to make a splendid study room complete with listening facilities and electronic keyboards to facilitate GCSE composition work (with headphones!) Later in the year horn players and double bass players, both present and of the future, were to be thankful to the Music Society for their gifts of french horn and a "mini bass", the latter providing an ideal opportunity for younger (and it must be said, smaller players) to get to know this most noble instrument.

Three of the most outstanding performances of the twenty-three in the Music Scholars' joint recital were given by new boys Robert Finch (trumpet), Dominic Franks (trebles) and Andreas Luring (piano). The audience's admiration for the way in which the talented eleven-year-old trumpeter recovered like an experienced professional after a little slip showed in the warmth of its applause. Dominic, fresh from New College Choir, sang some Purcell with beautiful control of tone and line and the German pianist, here for only a year, played Bartok's "Allegro Barbaro" with confident panache and without the music. (The rest of us, please note.)

The bel canto singing required in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and the power in Bruckner's *Te Deum* were together an ambitious undertaking for the Choral Society at their concert on 26th November. If it came off, it was thanks to the skill of John Oxlade's unobtrusive but immensely supportive organ playing, a solo line-up (Jane Whitaker, Julie Unwin, James Oxley and Iain Donald) of great strength and some fine playing by a talented if worryingly incomplete "Pegasus Chamber Orchestra" from London.

In the Christmas Concert, it was fitting that the solo spot should have been given to Paul Thomas in Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto* which he performed with First Orchestra. Paul has given inestimable service to music at Abingdon over the years and latterly he had set a fine example to younger boys in both senior bands and in First Orchestra. It was a pity that Martin Perry was not available to guide the bands through their performances after all his hard work and it was at the same time a daunting prospect for the present writer to be aware of Derek Jones' watchful eye from the back of the auditorium. Derek was thankfully on the mend and his presence at the concert was warmly recognised by the audience. Under Iain Donald's direction the School Choir, augmented by Chamber Choir, sang five unaccompanied carols which introduced a welcome festive mood and First Orchestra rounded off the proceedings with Walton's exciting "Crown Imperial". Fuller reviews of both concerts appear elsewhere.

The term's school concerts were interspersed with other notable events, two Subscription Concerts given by a horn trio and by Gothic Voices and a piano recital given by John Oxlade which raised a considerable sum for Sir Malcolm Sargent's Concert Fund for Children. Derek Jones' Vale Concert Band had got the term's music making under way with its concert in aid of Leukaemia Research and John Cutforth gave an ever-inspired lecture on Schubert under the auspices of the Music Society; it was they who also arranged a much-enjoyed trip to hear the LSO at the Barbican in an all-Tchaikovsky programme.

A brass consort together with a Consort of Voices performed appropriate music at a special Civic Dinner in The Guildhall to celebrate the Tricentenary of William of Orange's stop in Abingdon.

Chamber Choir sang us out, as it were, under the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square on 15th December; it so happened that this was enjoyed also by a transatlantic audience thanks to cameras from CBS television.

The programme for the Lent term followed a format of two informal concerts, a second Music Scholars' Recital, a Choral Evensong at Salisbury and a Choral Concert involving the two school choirs in conjunction with the Choral Society in Vivaldi's Gloria and two Coronation Anthems by Handel, "Zadok the Priest" and "The King Shall Rejoice". Special mention should be made of a "Woodwind Masterclass" given by Celia Nicklin, oboe professor at the Royal Academy of Music, and of the Concert given at Pembroke College Chapel, Oxford, which was dominated by a most successful performance of Faure's Requiem and included a piece "There is a Rose" composed by Philip Saxon, a sixth form musician. Philip had already heard news that his excellent distinction (144/150) in grade 8 piano had been rewarded by a national Associated Board prize, a considerable achievement. Derek Jones was back with us to guide the Second Wind Band in their concert with Second Orchestra earlier in term. The full size and current strength of the latter give us cause for much optimism about the First Orchestra of the future.

The main musical event of the Summer Term was the Orchestral Concert on 19th May, now strategically placed before the examination year boys take their revision leave. It was a calculated risk to open the concert with three performances by Second Orchestra; music by Elgar, Delibes and Bizet. But in its now fuller format, the orchestra enjoys greater confidence and can be relied upon to play well, thanks not only to the boys' enthusiasm but in no small part to the Music Society who have provided us with the instruments needed in key areas to get the boys started. The Chamber Orchestra chose Grieg's "Holberg Suite" complete which is a lovely tuneful work and they responded well to its technical and musical challenges. After the interval, Marcello's oboe concerto with Robert Clayden (solo oboe) presented a quite different role for the orchestra. This time, under David Johnson's expert and sympathetic leadership, the orchestra must respond to the ebb and flow of the ripieno and solo passages, here a fuller tone, there a more accompanying dynamic. The soloist gave the sort of performance that has come to be expected of him; technical surefootedness in the outer movements and warmth of tone and phrasing coupled with great breath control in the central adagio.

The First Orchestra played Khachaturian's much-loved Adagio from the ballet, "Spartacus", and Mendelssohn's demanding overture, "Ruy Blas", under the direction of Derek Jones, which brought the final large school concert of the year to a close.

The informal concert of 10th May gave an opportunity for the GCSE musicians to be heard in a state of readiness before their assessment and moderation. This has become an annual event; the boys are assessed in a solo piece and in an ensemble so the audience listened to a great variety of music; a Gounod nonet, a Mendelssohn piano trio, a Handel trio Sonata, a Beethoven string quartet movement and a Mozart divertimento for two clarinets and bassoon. Two GCSE compositions were also aired, Thomas Winton's duet for violin and piano and Robert Paterson's "Nocturne in Bb minor" performed by the composer.

The Chamber Choir was very busy throughout the year and achieved under Iain Donald a very impressive standard at all their concerts and services. Their performances at Wells Cathedral and Twyford Parish Church receive fuller review elsewhere. The Music Society treated those lucky enough to get tickets to a "River Thames Music Cruise" on 22nd June which left Salters in Oxford on a fine Summer's evening. A small close-harmony group sang barbershop from the top deck, a string quartet performed Mozart from the bows and Jonathan Greenwood and Ben Kendrick played us some jazz guitar and saxophone from below the bridge.

"Captain Stirrick" was the term's musical production. The music featured traditional and authentic London Street ballads and Mr. Donald coaxed some appropriately rowdy singing from the boys, mostly from Middle and Lower School. The year ended on an optimistic note. The Associated Board Exam entry was a bumper one (nearly eighty) and achieved a 95% pass rate with some really outstanding results. The Lower School Informal Concert comprised some thirty-one performances and there were several of these which linger. Matthew Beaumont's "Happy Farmer" (tuba), Matthew Gear's Mozart (bassoon), Mark Alexander's Rieding Concerto (violin), Robert Finch's Haydn concerto movement (trumpet), Matthew Reynolds' Mozart concerto movement (French horn); all these and many more besides testify to the depth of talent and enthusiasm among the boys and the commitment and professionalism of those that teach them.

MAS

"Second Orchestra - you've done me proud."



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A PARENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Hearts beat a little faster just before the Christmas Concert. It is not just the sense of occasion as the Amey Hall fills, for as well as a shared pleasure, it is a shared endeavour. As performers anticipate a little nervously whether they can get the tricky bit at bar so-and-so right this time, when it matters, so during the performance one sees the faces of their mothers in the audience; mothers who know every bar of the part by heart, and who strain to pick the individual sound from out of the thronged orchestra. And when it goes well, and it always does seem to go well, everyone shares in the satisfaction. At times like this, J.B. Priestley's aphorism that it is by "admiration, hope and love" that we live, seems to catch the mood, and to raise us out of the everyday to something better.

The Brass Band began. There is a certain magic in it, at once relaxing and exciting, and they rounded with ease on "Those magnificent men in their Flying Machines". This was a thoroughly satisfying start, crisply unified, yet with the colour of the melody changing as it flowed between the sections. "Tango for Band" is rhythmically and harmonically more demanding, but it too soon gathered momentum. Mr. Jones was unable through ill-health to lead them, but he could perhaps take pleasure from the audience in seeing the fruits of his and Martin Perry's training on display.

The School Choir, perhaps a hundred strong, began with that Grand National of carols - "Ding Dong Merrily on High". They kept a light tone and confident warm harmonies. The treble part resembles Aintree racecourse in height and length. So, with only the occasional falter, we were safely home. There was much to take pleasure in here. It is particularly difficult to make a large choir sing quietly and slowly, but Mr. Donald produced a mellifluous and sensitive rendering of 'Away in a Manger'. An altogether encouraging performance.

Just as encouraging was the Second Orchestra. Here one sees the future in the making, and here was strength in depth, with four double basses and three bassoons to underpin the performance. Three young trumpeters strode through the Grand March from "Aida" with concentration and ultimate satisfaction. The piece gained strength as it went, and let us into a jaunty rendering of Schubert's "Marche Militaire". The timpani were crisp, and each section was able to show off its strength.

A promising innovation was the Senior Wind Octet - two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons and two horns. This provides a new challenge for experienced orchestral

players, as each individual instrument is clearly distinguished, and each contributes to the whole. With just occasional unease they handled the 'Queen of Sheba', and the Mozart 'Serenade' was wholly pleasing, allowing the bassoons to flourish.

The First Orchestra closed the first half of the evening with Hummel's Trumpet Concerto in E-flat. The solo part begins deceptively easily, but its demands build up, calling for expressiveness in the Andante and athletic virtuosity in the Rondo. Paul Thomas stood up with confidence to the challenge, and well deserved the enthusiastic applause at the end.

The Brass Consort played two short movements from the "Dansery 6" by Susato. The unity of their playing caught well the Elizabethan clarity of tune and tone, and the interleaved trumpet melody reminded one of Gabrieli. They were followed quickly by the first wind band, where eight clarinets playing as one led us at a lively pace through Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival".

The colour of the piece, illuminated by the trumpet, was alternately mellow and forceful. This was followed by the ever-popular "Instant Concert", a piece Beecham would have

called a "lollipop", easy listening and compulsively jolly - not that that should hide its musical challenge, but I am sure it gave as much pleasure in the playing as in the hearing. The timing of his entry and exit, and his engaging smile equally endeared Martin Diment on the drums to the audience.

This was a real banquet of sound, each course pleasurable in itself, but combining to make something greater. There is a time in a really good banquet where what is required



Paul Thomas plays Hummel's trumpet concerto

is a sorbet, at once cooling and stimulating, and with a flavour worth lingering over. This civilising moment was provided by the Chamber Orchestra, who played three pieces with discipline and unity. One knew that, under Mr. Oxlade's guidance, the players had learned to listen to each other's contribution, and to blend so that each part of the Bach "Sinfonia" in turn came to our attention. David Johnson, as soloist in the Largo from Vivaldi's "Winter" gave a rendering both haunting and relaxing.

Finally, to the First Orchestra again, conducted by Mr. Stinton, playing "Crown Imperial" the march written by William Walton for the coronation of King George VI. It begins with a wide yet driving theme from the violins, and opens through a crescendo of mood to a broad Elgar-like confident melody, led with an element of splendour by the brass section, who deserved their bow at the end of this concert of almost three hours of varied and confident music-making. Walton's piece evokes visions of a now-lost world of imperial pride. As we dispersed into the darkness of the December night we took pride in the performance of the school and of our sons.

D.H. Saxon

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

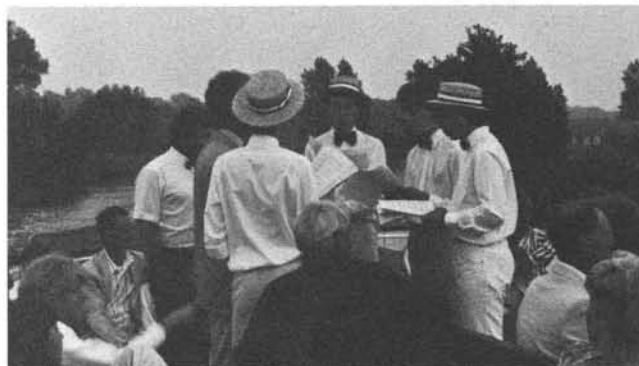
For members of the Music Society and for those parents and friends who support us, the year has once again seen some most enjoyable and successful events. Goals have been achieved in terms of raising funds for the Music Department (more about that later); we have also promoted concerts and lectures, and provided refreshments at many of the school's musical events. Whilst most activity is designed with the objective of assisting the Music Department, the common thread of enjoyment is ever present - certainly a key ingredient for success. In fact there has been the occasion when we have brought parents and boys together in social events with the objective of simply having some fun!

Through popular demand, the Society's year commenced with what has now become an annual event - The John Cutforth Evening. An excellent attendance enjoyed John's most interesting and indeed rather romantic illustrated lecture on Schubert - to many the genius of song.

A few weeks later about fifty members and friends took off for the Royal Festival Hall where they really did enjoy a festival of music from the R.P.O. who, conducted by Yuri Temirkanov, performed Tchaikovsky's Romeo & Juliet. In February, Celia Nicklin gave an excellent Woodwind Masterclass in the Amey Hall. This event was so well attended that a return visit for next year is now more than a possibility.

With such a stunning summer we were most fortunate to choose June 22 as the evening for our Thames Musical Cruise when about 100 of us were able to enjoy a leisurely evening of good food, good wine and good song whilst cruising through some of Oxfordshire's most magnificent countryside. Without question, the highlight of the event was Michael Stinton's surprise programme of live music which, with the support of some very talented Abingdon School musicians included a string

Eine Kleine Wassermusik?



Barbershop in full flow

quartet, a jazz band and some Barbers Shop Singing! The lowlight of the trip was the disappointment caused to many through the trip being oversubscribed by some 50%.

In every respect the Music Society has had an excellent year, thanks to the wonderful support of staff, parents, friends and boys of the school. Society funds were built through the John Cutforth Evening, sales of refreshments at concerts, jumble sales and raffles with the result that we have recently purchased for the Music Department, a french horn and a double bass. These instruments will be officially presented to Michael Stinton at the 1989 Christmas Concert.

On a somewhat different and very happy note in August, we also had the pleasure of congratulating Michael Stinton and his wife Clova on the birth of their daughter Pandora.

The Society's plans to benefit the Music Department for 1989/90 are even more ambitious, so once again, we take the opportunity to urge all parents to support the musical life of the school by joining The Music Society.

Paul Savage

CHAMBER CHOIR

The Chamber Choir's commitments started earlier than usual in the Michaelmas term, with the Confirmation Service being held in the Chapel only a few weeks after the beginning of term. A fortnight later the full choir spent a day at Chichester, and sang Evensong in the Cathedral; a very happy occasion, with some excellent singing. The anthem, Parry's unaccompanied Motet, 'My soul, there is a country far beyond the stars', was repeated a few weeks later for the School Remembrance Service.

On December 2nd a small group - the Consort of Voices - performed in the town's Guildhall at a dinner to celebrate the tercentenary of the Glorious Revolution. We were also invited to sing at the Culham Laboratory's Christmas Carol Concert, a pleasantly informal affair - again with a slightly reduced choir. This time the first year trebles were given a chance to show their mettle, and performed some difficult music with great panache; very encouraging for the future to have such high standards amongst the youngest choristers. This was also a happy occasion, largely due to the generous and excellent lunch with which we were provided, and some spirited impromptu football as we waited for the coach.

As this year's Christmas Concert was much nearer Christmas itself than usual, a programme of five popular carols was performed by the joint forces of the School and Chamber Choirs. The term reached its traditional end with a final flurry of rehearsals for the two Carol Services. The second effort in particular was a thoroughly satisfactory end to the term, with some good solo singing from Matthew Gear (treble) and Derek Wilcox (bass).

The holiday began with our annual jaunt to Trafalgar Square, and carols under the Christmas tree. Thanks to some lively collecting by the Westminster sea cadets, we broke the previous record for our hour's singing by some £30, making over £85 for the usual charity, the King George's Fund for Sailors.

The Lent term started with a service which has become an annual event, a full Choral Evensong in the Chapel at one of the boarders' evening services. The music for this service was repeated a few days later in Salisbury Cathedral, and included some excellent solo singing from Dominic Franks (treble) and Derek Wilcox

(bass) in Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in G major - a tour de force not just for the treble soloist, but also for the organist, JSO. This service was one of the most impressive performances the choir has produced in recent years, and we were lucky enough to have a recording made of it.

Again this year, one of the cathedral venues for the Lent term was dropped in favour of a more local concert. This was a charity event, a performance of the Fauré Requiem in Pembroke College Chapel. An impressive audience gathered for this event - perhaps more impressive than anticipated, as the chapel holds barely a hundred souls! We managed to accommodate the full choir - over forty boys, and an audience of about a hundred. Despite the squash, this was all to the good in the end, as we raised nearly £100 for Leukaemia Research. Musically it was a most satisfactory occasion, with outstanding solo work from Luke Davy and Derek Wilcox in the Fauré, and the programme included the first performance, by the Consort of Voices, of a carol by Philip Saxon.

The term ended with the usual joint performance with the Choral Society in the Amey Hall; a concert of Baroque choral works.

The first event of the Summer term was the Leavers' Service in St. Nicholas' Church. The music for this is mostly the same from year to year, so poses few problems to prepare, but this year we had a Patronal Festival Service in the School Chapel the following day, and a Choral Evensong in Wells Cathedral three days later, so the first weeks of term involved some hectic learning of notes. Wells is a delightful place, but the heat, the long coach journey, and the pressure of three services in one week conspired to weaken resolve and concentration. Whilst by no means a poor effort, this service did not reach the pinnacles of excellence we scaled in Salisbury.

In June the annual trip to Marsh Gibbon saw us in fact in Twyford, part of the same group of parishes. The term ended with the Commemoration Service in St. Helen's Church, where the anthem was Parry's 'I was glad'. As usual the choir was joined by a brass group, and on this occasion was conducted by CMM

MAS



BRUCKNER

TE DEUM

ROSSINI

STABAT MATER



CHORAL SOCIETY

The Director of Music assembled an interesting combination of talents for the Choral Concert on November 26th 1988. The Choral Society (with its blend of local singers, parents, boys, and staff) was joined by the Pegasus Chamber Orchestra (a recently formed group of students from the London Music colleges). The soloists were Jayne Whittaker (Soprano), Julie Unwin (Contralto), James Oxley (Tenor) and Iain Donald (Bass).

In Bruckner's Te Deum, the orchestra proved to be a polished group, particularly in the bursts of tutti. The piece demands a dependable brass and percussion section, which the orchestra supplied. They also complemented the chorus and soloists, particularly in a memorable twinning of first violins with James Oxley's tenor solo.

The Chorus was more confident in Rossini's Stabat Mater. It seemed to be more sensitive to dynamics and teamed up well the soloists. The piece was a great success, and I particularly enjoyed the subtle combination of voices and instruments. The bassoons and strings in the first section; the brass and woodwind in the tenor aria and in the quartet, the strings and soloists were so well balanced.

To hear James Oxley sing the tenor aria "Cuius

animam gementem" was an absolute delight. We were lucky to have heard such a talented performer and privileged to have him as a peripatetic teacher at Abingdon.

Iain Donald teaches full time at Abingdon, and his talents are no less praiseworthy. The measured rhythm of the bass solo was followed by the warm sound of the recitative with the chorus. The chorus was at its best in this section. They watched Michael Stinton carefully, made a perfect entry and listened to the solo bass voice.

In the "Cavatina", the contralto created a tremendous atmosphere which led to two fine solos by the clarinet and trombone. Julie Unwin and Jayne Whittaker were particularly strong in their duet. They sang unaccompanied in a flourishing cadenza which was beautifully performed.

The Stabat Mater was unfamiliar to many and yet surprisingly approachable. I was given a record of it one birthday. Unfortunately, it was a budget recording, and the piece had been squeezed on to one side. It was, therefore, played at much faster pace than we heard in the Amey Hall! Thank goodness for live music and a special thanks to Michael Stinton for providing such a memorable evening.

AFT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MUSIC

The first signs that the Music Department was going to find IT useful came during the summer term, when some of the GCSE musicians began appearing with their composition coursework scores printed in what seemed very close to the quality achieved by engraving. At first, I would point out mistakes and send the scores back to be corrected, but curiosity soon got the better of me, and I made my way to that small room off Lab. 23. After years of laborious copying by hand, to find such an easy method of producing high quality versions of my own compositions had enormous appeal. Like so many of us, my first few sessions on the Mac were slow, and I was continually lost in a morass of windows. Finding the right place in which to save documents went completely over my head for some weeks. Finding new fonts took months! Most depressing was the speed with which the GCSE musicians had picked things up. I suppose they have lost fewer brain cells than I have.

The usefulness of the Music program soon became evident. I started with a piano duet version of some orchestral pieces I am (slowly) writing for the First Orchestra. Although slower than my pupils, it did not take too long to become familiar with the machine and the program. By the time I had made an arrangement of some music for my sister's wedding, I was becoming reasonably fluent. We were invited to sing at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the local firm of solicitors, Morland & Sons, and the Headmaster gave me a 17th century Latin grace from Winchester to try. The copy itself was probably 18th century, and used both alto and tenor clefs. The skills of Chamber Choir, great though they may be, do not stretch that far, and a modern version needed to be prepared. This could not have been simpler; punching the score in as it stood, the machine changed the clefs and transposed as appropriate, on request.

People may worry that the program is doing too much of the work; that it corrects, or at least points out, your mistakes, and that pupils will not learn the skills in theory and harmony they need. This is simply not so. The limitations of the program are such, that thorough knowledge and understanding are vital to use it to its full potential. The results can only be as good as your own skills will allow. The great advantage lies in the motivation the use of this desk-top music publishing gives to GCSE musicians; the fact that they will see a printed score as soon as they have mastered the program gives

them a great deal of encouragement to get on with the basic pencil and manuscript paper stage of composing. Nothing will ever change that; your basic ideas still have to be prepared in some sort of draft form, and the music program we use is not designed to facilitate that in any way. In fact, none of the programs I have read about seem to help much with this stage, and I am sure paper and pencil will always be the starting point as far as I am concerned.

The other great advantage of storing your work on disc is the ability of the computer to play it back to you. To be able to go from draft, to published score, to first performance (albeit rather squeaky, and limited to four parts) in only a few hours will give you some idea of the impetus using the system can give to a composer. Nor is the performance limited in this way. With the right hardware - keyboards and the like - surprisingly impressive performances can result. John Greenwood's efforts in this direction have produced some stunning results. The other day he brought in his own Roland keyboard, with a wide palette of sampled sounds, and using a variety of voices, produced some very exciting performances of one of his own compositions.

Whilst there is a place for music performed in this way - commercial music and sound tracks for example - most of us want to see and hear live performances of our works. That, after all, is what music is about. I was lucky to find such an opportunity at the beginning of this term, when the Chamber Choir needed a Mass to sing at Magdalene College Chapel a few weeks into term. I had a couple of movements of a Mass already completed, written for my last school. To make adjustments to this for a performance by the choir here, and to write three more movements to form a complete Missa Brevis took only a couple of weeks. And, as work progressed, there were printed pages which could be rehearsed, even if the movement was not complete. I am now involved in a similar operation for the music for 'Much Ado About Nothing', and the speed with which score and parts can be produced is still a source of wonder and delight. Particularly as time is getting short! And not only music. The ease of making posters, graphics for posters, programmes, Orders of Service, lists, letters, handbills, even tickets for concerts, greatly reduces the problems one often faces, arranging performances in a busy department.

In the relatively short time I have been involved in

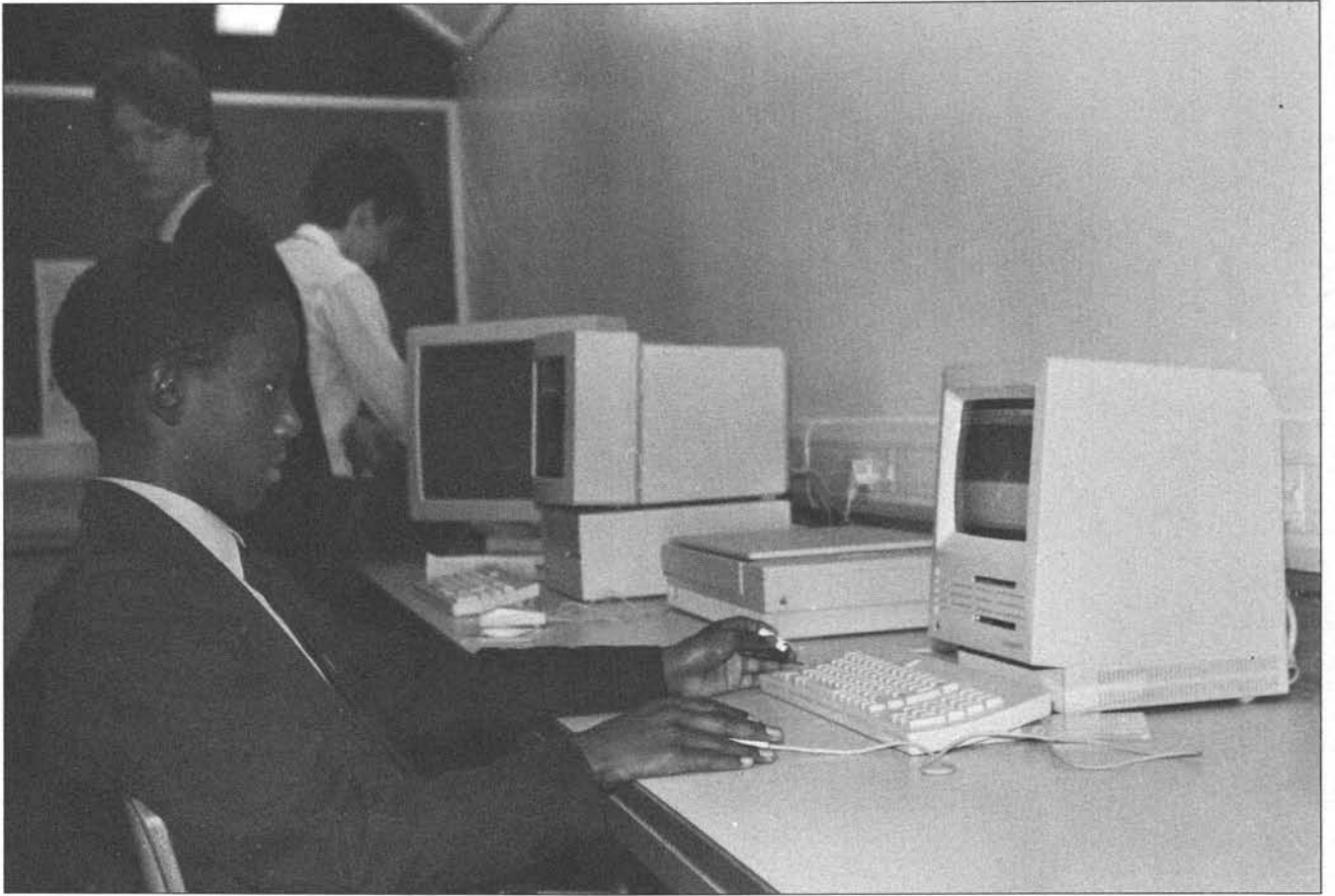
Just an Idea
by D. Calderbank

♩. 124 *Not too fast (62)*

Oboe *mp*

Pianoforte

1 *with bass octave ad lib*



IT, I have managed to produce far more work myself. Part of this was my unwillingness to commit myself to the sheer grind of a copyist's labour, and for me, the greatest boon of IT is the lifting of that burden, so I can spend more time actually composing. The copying part, using all the short-cuts and with a little practice, is so much faster, and the results (the appearance, not

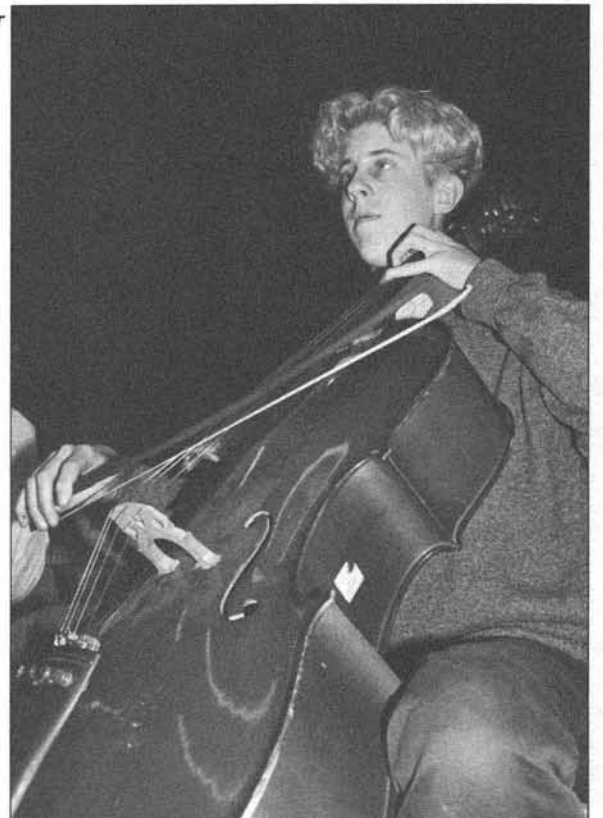
necessarily the content!) are so much better. I don't know if this applies to the other areas where IT is becoming important. I would guess so, judging by the amount of design, the geography and maths projects, the word-processing, the programming, the Abingdonian type-setting which I see going on in the IT Centre.

ICD

Study in Alabaster

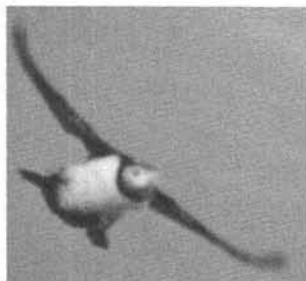


Study in Concentration: First Orchestra



Trips

ICELAND



On Friday 21st July 1989, twenty-six students and three staff assembled in front of the school, each with 20 kilogramme rucksacs and weighty hand baggage. Final contact with the civilising influence of the Thames Valley was established with a photo session for the

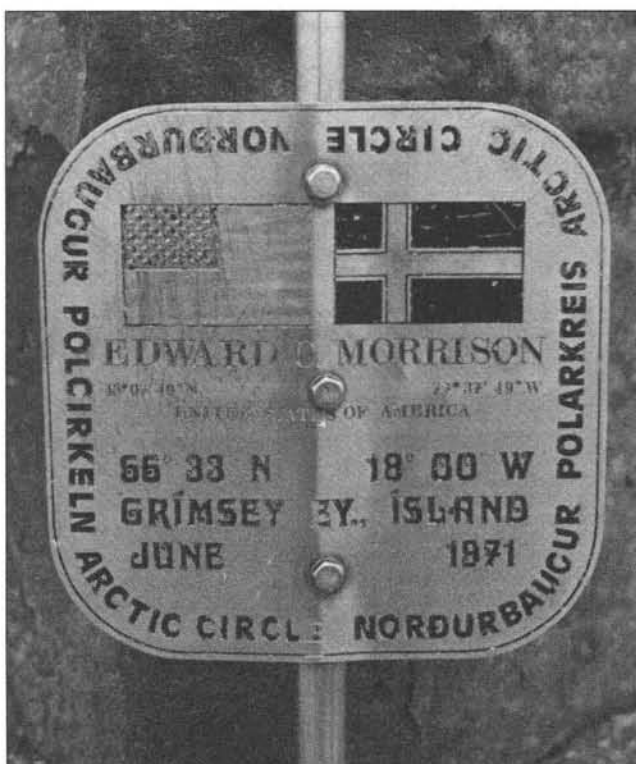
"Abingdon Herald". Then the party headed for Heathrow in the red Army bus, flew Iceland air Flight 451 to Keflavik, and, in the twenty-four hours of northern daylight, pitched tents near Reykjavik's Kopavogur stadium. Here began a month of expeditioning in a foreign land of ice and fire on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

Meanwhile, the vehicle party was carrying the food and equipment via Aberdeen, the Shetland Islands and the Faeroes to Seydisfjordur on Iceland's east coast. Alf Mansfield, technology supremo, took charge of the school's 'C Reg' minibus, with O.A. ace mechanic Steve Rudge at the wheel of the Hartford Motors Ford Transit. North Iceland was basking in a midsummer heatwave of 21°C as they arrived at Base Camp in Eyjafjordur. Before the arrival of the main party, they established contact with our host, the mayor of Arskogsstrond, Sveinn Jonsson.

After a first night in Reykjavik, the main party sped northwards, firstly over the tarmac roads, and then on the dirt tracks of the interior. It was a tourist route, an acclimatisation and acculturation with the country. The 'Golden Circle' tour brought us to Thingvellir, a double tourist trap, the site of the ancient Icelandic Parliament (culture) amidst the wilderness of the central rift valley ("a geologist's dream", said Ian Fishpool). Our first encounter with the awesome volcanic landscape of the country was at Geysir. Every seven minutes or so, Strokkur sent a thirty metre plume of boiling water into the air. We could have stayed longer in this fascinating environment, but Europe's second largest waterfalls beckoned. The dirt track took us to Gulfoss where the Hvita, 'white', river tumbles glacier-cold water into its double gorge - the source of much preliminary geographi-

cal hypothesizing from Andrew Gasson. The weather was turning, and soon the tropical heat of the British summer of 1989 was a memory, and fibrepile jackets and waterproofs a necessity. "When do we go home?" came the howl of a less intrepid hero. The showers and cold westerlies battered the Vango Force Tens that night. The one consolation was the natural hotwater pool at Hveravellir - large enough for an impromptu game of volleyball - with geothermal heat piped from the nearby steaming vents. Culture, Icelandic style, in a lava desert.

Iceland is about the size and shape of Ireland. It took the main party two days to travel across the icebound interior on those dirt track roads. By mid-afternoon on Sunday 23rd July the main party had joined the vehicle party at Arskogsstrond Base Camp. The setting was magnificent. The clear blue skies of the Arctic north



changed to crimson as dusk fell at midnight, to be replaced so soon by the cool light blues of the morning sun. The mountains, still clad with the snows of the harshest of Icelandic winters, stood proud above the waters of Eyjafjörður inlet. And, in one of the fields of hay in the narrow coastal strip to the west of the fjord, lay Base Camp. It was convenient. Whilst all shared two-man tents as the main accommodation, on hand were storerooms and washing facilities kindly made available to the expedition by Sveinn Jonsson. And, it was at the centre of an area that suited our culture-science-adventure aspirations admirably.

the Arctic pack ice. The mountaineers, campbound for two days, did at least manage one excellent mountain day with a probable first ascent of Nautadalshnjúkur via its northern couloir. Two groups took the minibuses to the Myvatn-Laxa Conservation Area. The geographers ventured up the lava cones of the recently eruptive Krafla, and an Upper Sixth trekking group did a circular tour of the lake (with a few 'well-thought out' long short cuts - Icelandic maps do not have the detail or accuracy of our British O.S. maps). It was after this phase that "fubarite" became the word on everyone's lips: an unknown geological specimen "fooled about beyond all



A sulphur vent at Myvatn



Making use of the heatwave, the first Monday was spent on reconnaissance. One group did the Rimar Horseshoe behind Base Camp, summing a snow covered, Ben

Nevis sized, peak on a fourteen hour hike. They met two Icelanders on the ridge. It was the first time in thirteen years of walking that the pair had met anyone else on the hills of Trollaskagi. Apparently the Icelanders keep well away from the inland ranges, thus leaving the freedom of the hills to the Abingdon expedition for the latter part of the short summer season. The other adventure group made our only foray to Glufurajökull glacier, at the time thought to be the most accessible to Base Camp. On the way back the Hartford minibus was flagged down. "Are you from Abingdon School?" After an exchange of pleasantries we discovered we were passing the base of the Exeter University and German group studying Glufurajökull. "We're moving out tomorrow. Going south. The weather's changing up here". It was to be unwelcome news.

The Expedition fieldwork programme was divided into three phases, each of five or six days duration, with a rest day in between. The first phase was a near washout. The weather turned with a vengeance as the north winds brought cool moist conditions straight off

recognition". There were plenty of examples in the Krafla-Myvatn area.

Following the geology of Phase One the geographers mainly concentrated on 'human studies'. The area's main town is Akureyri which they visited on several occasions. This serves a wide-ranging set of isolated fishing villages and farm communities: Siglufjörður, Husavik - the sunniest place in Iceland - Holar, Olafsfjörður, Dalvík and Grenivík. All seen and logged with geographic thoroughness. Tom Schmittzehe's personal project was the cultural history and economic prosperity of the region since the Settlement in about A.D. 900. One eccentric local historian (who spoke English, Dansk and Icelandic in one nearly incomprehensible sentence) claimed to have found evidence for human habitation in Eyjafjörður during the last ice age. Most of us remained unconvinced.



One of the great prizes of the expedition was the 'discovery' of the mountains north of Olafsfjörður. First trekked by Paul Coleman and his party preparing for the "Queen's Scout Expedition" during Phase One, it became the centre of activities for the next phase. Two trekking groups and a large party of mountaineers set out for them. As the early morning mists cleared, the mountaineers pitched their advance camp on one of Iceland's

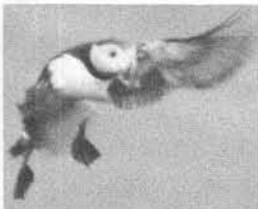
most northerly glaciers - unnamed, and not marked on the maps. The campsite was in a snowbowl that offered terrain for training in ice and snow techniques and a variety of grade one snow climbs. For many the spectacle of the midnight sun seen from atop the summit ridge on the first evening above the glacier camp was a highlight of the expedition. But the harsh realities of expeditioning were soon brought home as strong winds threatened to destroy the fragile campsite. On completing an ascent of Steinshnjukur, Ben Davis returned to find his hooped tent blown hundreds of metres across and up the glacier. Only by using the strong mountaineering hardware to secure guyropes did the group manage to stay safe in camp that night.

The training of Phase Two was followed by attempts on northern Iceland's two highest mountains, Kerling and Trollafjall. A day-long trek from Akureyri took the party to the foot of the peaks. On August 7th Colin Parker led up the final part of the couloir towards Kerling's summit plateau. The next day, in conditions always described as "dreiche" the group took the south west ridge onto Trollafjall's top. A great mountain day, ending with a traverse over a bergschrund crevasse. The mountaineering objectives had been completed.

The ecological variety of North Iceland could only be appreciated by seeing the most far flung valleys and inaccessible islands. The lush alpine pastures of Hedinshjardur were visited by the trekkers and mountain-



The Hidden Valley



As a member of the Icelandic vehicular party driving north to Aberdeen through our familiar British landscape I felt a sense of growing trepidation as I tried to envisage the unknown. The possibilities

rattled back and forth - would it be wet and cold, snowy, how dark would it become? Would we be camping on established sites? Would we see volcanos, mud pools, glaciers? Would there be familiar flora, fauna and farming? Most important - what would the food be like? Iceland proved to be so different from anything I had experienced that I was totally unprepared for the raw grandeur of this infant isle.

As one of the backpackers I soon discovered that the rules were all different here. Forget Naismith. There were no trails to follow once we had left the roads. There were no bridges, no well trodden tracks, just a lonely countryside of tussocks, marsh or razor sharp rocks from crumbling mountains. Ridge walking became a grim version of log-rolling.

The high point for me was the five day trek through one of the most remote parts of northern Iceland with Paul Coleman, Bob Darby and Julian Denee. After four days of reconnaissance and planning we were ready to

go. We set off from Olafshjardur for the mountains early on a still morning, the mist slowly giving way to glorious sun. With constant reference to our maps we picked the best route up through the deserted valley of Fossdalur. Through patches of snow and steep scree we made our way out onto the Hvanndalabjarg ridge, our W1. For us it felt like the roof of the world! For a moment we savoured the the thrill of the mountaineer, as, each deep in his own thoughts, we gazed south over the peaks of Iceland and north over a shimmering sea, past the island of Grimsey, to the North Pole. It was a difficult place to leave, but we had to find a way into the next valley to set up camp. Glissading a 60° snow slope with a 40 pound pack is not fun. We all hit rocks, ice-axe arrests working overtime. With deliberate tread we picked our way laboriously over the rock and scree into a hidden valley. Moving further into the valley we became aware of the hushed bubble of a tiny ice melt stream as the only sound breaking the momentous silence - the perfect place to camp. We may not have been the first, but we certainly felt like it. As we ate our meal we watched the red sun disappear into the mists of the valley below. This was landscape in the raw. This was the Iceland that I hoped I would find.

AJM

eers during the second phase, the wildlife sanctuary of Lake Myvatn was seen by nearly all at some time, and near Base Camp, Hrisey, "bird island", represented a worthwhile daytrip. But the real challenge was Grimsey, the remote Icelandic island that straddles the Arctic Circle. After a day bringing in the hay on Sveinn's farm, a group of ten set sail in a trawler from nearby Dalvik to spend a few days on Grimsey. Soon the island became fog-bound, the shrimps and trawlers moved south and the group appeared to be stranded, perhaps until after our flight to Heathrow. Sveinn spent hours on the telephone that night. "Every trawler captain to the north of Iceland knows about you", he said when he had finished. At six o'clock the next morning a lone yellow trawler steamed down Eyjafjordur into Akureyri with ten happy and relieved Abingdonians on board.

The help we had been given on the Grimsey trip was typical. Throughout our stay we had been given a fantastic reception. Everyone throughout north Iceland was warm-hearted towards us and wished to know what we were doing. "North Iceland 1989" is, I think, distinguished from so many other



Fluvial glacial moraine

expeditions to the Arctic north by the close links established with the local community. Some of us have been asked to return. Many will.

J.A.N. Ellis



Bird's eye view

TRIP TO BIELEFELD

As with most well organised school trips, this one started with a slight drama - a member of the party overslept and after an hour or so of frantic telephoning, he was woken up and eventually met up with the rest of the party at Heathrow airport. Thereafter the journey passed uneventfully and we arrived in Bielefeld mid-afternoon on the Thursday, and were whisked off by our exchanges to our respective homes.

The Friday was our first day in the Ratsgymnasium, most of which was spent getting used to a German school - the building itself is very similar to ours but the school day is very different; it begins at 7.40 and finishes at 1.00 with no sport or societies in the afternoon. On the Friday afternoon we were treated to a tour of Bielefeld by Herr Steinsiek.

The remainder of the ten days passed quite quickly and included visits to Bielefeld's more quirky cafés: the Papillon and the Malibu being the most popular this year. One of the highlights was the Abingdon versus Bielefeld football match which we lost rather convincingly, mainly because the females in our party seemed to be supporting the Bielefeld team!

We also went on two day trips; the first took us to Cologne and Bonn. First there was a visit to Cologne's remarkable and impressive cathedral (resting place of the Magi) and then to the Parliament buildings in the administrative capital, the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. The second trip took us to the Lipperland which included visits to the Eckerstein and the Hermannsdenkmal.

Unfortunately, our ten days were up all too quickly and, at some unearthly hour on the Sunday morning we boarded the coach for home. Special thanks must go to Mr. Revill and to Mrs. Briscoe for organising an extremely enjoyable exchange, from which we not only benefited by improving our German, but also through establishing friendships and strengthening the links between our two schools.

M.D. Gordon VIM

POLITICAL STUDIES

During the year politics sixth-formers made two visits to London: the first, in February, was spent exploring the Civil Service and Parliament.

At the Cabinet Office a number of mandarins talked to us on a variety of subjects including preparation of answers to Parliamentary Questions, Career Opportunities, and Civil Service reform. Later we visited the Palace of Westminster to watch question time in the House of Lords, the second reading of the Water Bill in the Commons, and an inquisition in a Departmental Select Committee.

In May, the judiciary was examined in our second visit: Bow Street Magistrates Court (a criminal damage case), and the High Court (fraud) contrasted two different areas of the law. The trial of an alleged armed robber at the Old Bailey rounded off the afternoon.

That evening we heard Sir Ralf Dahrendorf K.B.E. deliver a sobering lecture on "The Decline Of Socialism", in which he produced some very convincing arguments, especially in the light of glasnost and the Labour Party's policy review.

Andrew Dent VIZ

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

For half of the school's lower sixth geographers the trip was a great success, for the other half it was something of a let down.

The Rhyd-y-Creuau Field Centre is located a short walk from Betws-y-Coed, one of the less interesting tourist spots in Snowdonia. It was here that we were welcomed by an irate centre director, who shepherded us out of the over-crowded entrance hall into the Welsh rain. Once inside again we were given our rooms, and left to unpack before starting work right after supper. We soon realised that this was not going to be the holiday we were expecting.

The let down was not a fault of the facilities, even though the games room left something to be desired. The accommodation was excellent; we were housed in rooms of between two and four, each with its own basin, and one large dormitory, in which the more lively members of our number were happy to be placed. The food was variable, but there was plenty to wake and revive us, after a long day in the field. For geographical purposes the centre was well equipped; from supplying everyone with wellies, cagoules and leaky 'waterproof' trousers, to "whirling" hygrometers and Dumpy levels.

The problem was a certain member of the centre's teaching staff; one group was taught by two keen and enthusiastic students accompanied by an experienced and very competent teacher (affectionately known as "Hilawy"). The other group was taught by the director himself, though we found it more difficult to relate to his instruction.

Even though teaching standards were variable, the experience gained by the students in field work and geographical techniques was invaluable.

The week's course consisted of two Human Geography days, and five Physical Geography days, taking us all over the region. The work involved such things as asking busy shoppers a single question, and 'measuring the stone dip orientation of pebbles across a point-bar'. The units in Human Geography included: Rural Settlement Distribution, Settlement Hierarchies, and Urban Land Use Patterns; in Physical Geography: Climatology, Hydrology, Sediment Analysis, and Glaciation.

The glaciation day was possibly the most enjoyable. We spent from ten o'clock until three o'clock walking through the beautiful scenery of "Cwm Idwal" and the surrounding area. Some of our number stayed on beyond three o'clock to climb above "Cwm Idwal", led by an intrepid Mr. Ellis and Phil Johnson; having spent some time sliding down the mountain, through the snow and on their stomachs, they returned at about seven o'clock, wet, but obviously contented. We were given a lot of work to do after each day's unit, with write-ups lasting until eleven o'clock, and sometimes beyond midnight. Despite this, much enjoyment was had, and the course as a whole was extremely beneficial, giving us very useful background knowledge on a number of key subjects. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Fishpool gave us a lot of help during the course, providing extra information and sympathy when needed.

Andrew Browne VIF; Ben Curtis VIF

ARGENTAN

Once again, it was fun to be associated with the Argentan Exchange.

A good number of boys took part - including some 'repeats' - and they all seem to have found it instructive as well as entertaining. Horizons were broadened socially as well as linguistically, and I trust that some will keep in touch with their exchange-partners so as to make further visits in a private capacity.

Nevertheless, it was difficult to satisfy the ever increasing demand from the five Argentan schools, each of which was hoping to get its quota of exchange-partners. With only ourselves and John Mason School taking part this year, there was a serious imbalance, and a number of deserving French pupils were inevitably disappointed. If goodwill is to be maintained, we must try to create a greater 'equality of opportunity' between the two sides and between the sexes. One must hope that one of the Abingdon girls' schools will feel inclined to take part in future years, to counterbalance the male input from our school: though having a few more of our own pupils would be welcome.

As an exchange location, Argentan has many merits. For one thing, it has long been a twin-town of Abingdon, so links are close at many levels. It is also easy and cheap to get to. Furthermore, the surrounding area of Normandy is replete with cultural and historical interest. This year, for example, we visited the peaceful 'Pays d'Auge', notable for its apples, camembert cheese and half-timbered *maisons a colombages*. It was hard to believe that forty-five years ago their bucolic idyll was turned into one of the worst blood-baths of the Second World War. Nature, thankfully, has returned the *couloir de la mort* to its former state. But a high point of the visit, albeit a sobering one, was the visit to the *Musée de la Paix* in Caen: there, modern techniques of presentation evoke and explain the Normandy Campaign in the most vivid and moving way. Further details from my hosts, the Claudots - whose enthusiastic hospitality was second to none - and my learned colleague Dr. Zawadzki, left me much better informed about this dark chapter in the history of both countries.

In a lighter vein, we visited the picturesque little town of Honfleur, beloved of artists and British yachtsmen. A little earlier, we had been drenched in Deauville, the setting for *Un homme et une femme* (I was reminded more of *Les parapluies de Cherbourg!*). But by and large,

the weather on both legs of the exchange was very good, and kept morale high. When the French pupils came to Abingdon in April the hot summer had already started. I was able to sit, Buddha-like, if not necessarily enlightened, under a large tree in Albert Park answering their questions about English education.

In general, I was impressed by the enthusiasm on both sides. In terms of 'European awareness', we are still lagging behind our French counterparts, and some boys revealed a rather limited, 'café-centered' view of French civilisation. By the end of our stay in Argentan, however, I think a few important messages had got through: in particular, that true understanding requires respect for local mores. My own most European moment was almost surreal: I found myself among the stones at Avebury, on a quintessentially English summer's afternoon, talking earnestly to a teacher from Argentan about daily life in Czechoslovakia. Our world seems to be shrinking, but why not?

RCRM



RCRM with Mme. and M. Hardy in front of Alençon cathedral

WHZ'S PERSONAL QUEST

It was with a heightened sense of excitement that I boarded the coach just before 5 a.m. on Saturday 17 June, and embarked on what proved to be a highly enjoyable and successful exchange visit to Argentan by 29 of our third and fourth-formers and a party from John Mason School - under the enlightened and efficient leadership of Mr. Milner who proved to be a most congenial companion.

I had not been to France for many years, and never to western Normandy; so I delighted in everything I saw and heard - and tasted. Staying for ten days with the charming family of Mme. Annick Hardy did wonders for my rustic French, and I am grateful to them for taking me as far North as Bayeux and the D-Day landing beaches,

and as far South as Alençon. The couple of English lessons I gave to junior classes at the College Jean Rostand contributed, I hope, to promote the Entente Cordiale; it was also a pleasure to get to know the group of French teachers most directly involved in the Abingdon-Argentan exchange. I even enjoyed the first 40 or so pages of 'Madame Bovary' which my wife insisted that I read (in French of course) as a condition of being released from my family obligations; I hasten to add that I have not yet finished that literary masterpiece, but sh...

In view of our destination it was hardly surprising that the other book that I took with me was John Keegan's 'Six Armies in Normandy', a brilliant and moving account of the battle for Normandy in 1944

which I warmly recommend to any boy interested in military history. This brings me to another, more personal aspect of the trip to Argentan; for in addition to keeping a watchful eye on our spirited boys and savouring the delights of France I hoped to achieve a long-standing ambition of mine: to visit the places where my father had fought with the 10th Dragoons of the First Polish Armoured Division, and to find the spot where he was wounded on 18 August 1944 - on the eve of the closure of the Falaise Gap which sealed the fate of the escaping German VII Army and made possible the liberation of Paris a few weeks later.

I was very fortunate in getting to know M. Andre Clausot and his wife Isabel (Mr. Milner's hosts) who insisted on becoming my guides, and who gave so generously of their time and energy. Together (with Mr. Milner) we visited the Polish military cemetery at

Langanneire and attended a memorial service there for those who fell during the battle of Falaise. This was followed by a colourful reception in the nearby mining town of Potigny where we sipped wine with a Princess de Bourbon, the ambassador of the Polish People's Republic, a British Army Major, not to mention five-star French generals - but that is by the way... We explored the bucolic hilly countryside above Chambois which - it was difficult to believe - was the scene of appalling carnage 45 years ago, and which the local inhabitants still know as 'le couloir de la mort'.

The impact of all this was so strong that I even found myself talking French to the Headmaster upon our return. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the modern languages department for allowing me to accompany the party.

WHZ



WHZ in front of a Polish Sherman tank on Montormel near Chambois. 'Maczuga' means 'Mace' in Polish, the name of the final operation to close the Falaise gap.

PARIS EXCHANGE

The exchange with the College Sevigne is now in its third year. We had a fortnight's stay in Paris in the middle of the Michaelmas term and played hosts to the French party over Easter.

This year 12 boys from Abingdon and 15 girls from Oxford High School took part. The exchange is aimed primarily at the 3rd year, when boys have sufficient French and are generally mature enough to cope with the demands of a fortnight's stay with a family.

We were in fact very well received by the school, colleagues, pupils and parents - reflecting the now well established link and the genuine friendship there is between the schools. This was a very happy group and it is clear that all our boys benefited from the experience.

Our programme was as follows:

Sat. 22nd. Oct.		Arrive Paris Nord, join the host families.
Mon. 24th.	a.m.	Reception in college Sevigne, morning school.
	p.m.	Tour of Jardin De Luxembourg, Paris 6me., Quartier Latin, Musee de Cluny.
Tu. 25th.	a.m.	Guided tour of Notre Dame and tower, Ile St. Louis.
	p.m.	Musee d'Orsay, Place de la Concorde, Jardin des Tuileries, la Pyramide du Louvre. Vacances de Toussaint.
Wed. 26th Oct.		
-Wed. 2nd Nov.		
Thu. 3rd		Excursion to Versailles.
Fri. 4th	a.m.	Guided tour of Les Invalides, Musee Rodin.
	p.m.	Centre Beaubourg, Reception in school.
Sat. 5th		Return to Abingdon.

MRB

An individual viewpoint

I had not been to France since I was four, and I was impressed by the city's general beauty. It looked very pretty in the night lights, especially the Eiffel Tower. In the daytime Paris is even more obviously beautiful than any other major city I have seen. It has its monstrous buildings, but many are elegant and architecturally brilliant. The College Sevigne was small and had limited facilities, but we were greeted with kindness and open arms. Parisian life seems very similar to our own, if perhaps a little more laid back. It requires more maturity to handle the metro and the buses as they are very dangerous. There were many memorable events, in particular the trips and my favourite was seeing the tomb

of Napoleon at Les Invalides. This was mainly because I am a great admirer of Napoleon.

I gained a great deal from this exchange. I learned that being away from one's parents was not so bad after all, my French improved greatly and I discovered how much fun French family life is. What I enjoyed most was playing golf with a friend of the family on a tricky course in Carnac. What I did not enjoy was the seven o' clock tee-offs.

When I arrived I was very nervous and spoke very little French for fear of getting it wrong, but as my stay progressed I began to talk more and more, and did my very best to make it understandable.

R.D. Jones 3NHP

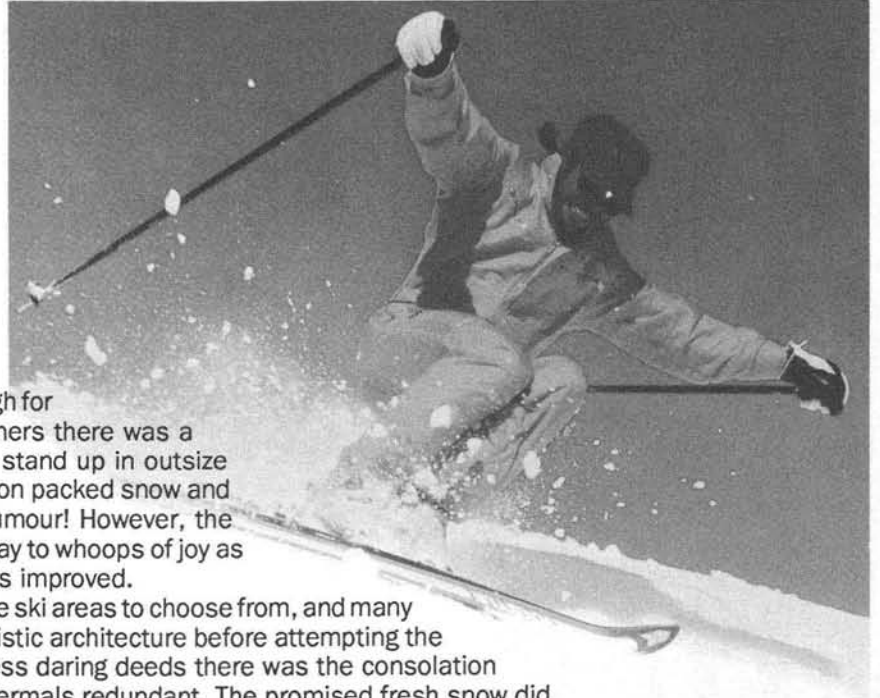
SKIING

This year's ski tour was to Chatel in the French Alps. After an uneventful flight and transfer we were relieved to be fitted with our boots and skis and to be told that the snow was good at the high station of Super Chatel. For old hands there were a few anxious moments on the first morning wondering if they had forgotten it all, but the reassurance of edges in crisp snow was enough for confidence to flood back. For the beginners there was a different set of problems - struggling to stand up in outside boots bolted to planks of polished wood on packed snow and ice does tend to test one's sense of humour! However, the worried, not to say terrified, looks gave way to whoops of joy as the week progressed and individual skills improved.

Advanced skiers had several separate ski areas to choose from, and many ventured to Avoriaz to wonder at its futuristic architecture before attempting the infamous 'wall'. For those confined to less daring deeds there was the consolation of glorious sunny weather making our thermals redundant. The promised fresh snow did not materialise and by the end of our stay the lower runs became icy and worn.

The hotel may have been short on snow but was warm and friendly with good food. As concrete bunkers go it was excellent! Apres ski was varied, including a trip to a Swiss sports centre for a swim, then an opportunity to puzzle over the rules of curling and to take in an international ice hockey match full of incident.

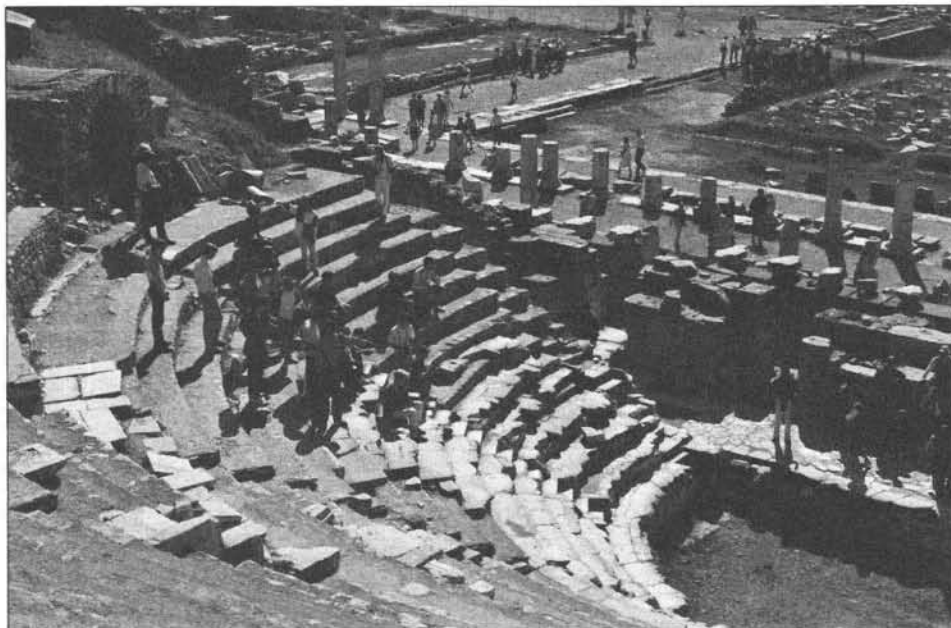
Once again the enjoyment of travel, the thrill of the mountains and the exhilaration of racing down the piste worked together to give us an exhausting but very memorable holiday.



Châtel

AJM

TURKEY



The Odeon at the top of Ephesus

One of the reasons I wanted to join this trip was to prepare myself for my forthcoming trip to Holland with the Chamber Choir. What can go wrong? Here is the low-down (severely censored by JEC).

We left Abingdon at 4.00 a.m. for Gatwick. Our flight was due to leave at 8.15 a.m., but the announced delay of 40 minutes was reduced by the action of our cowboy captain, Noel, who took off without permission from flight control!

Six hours later we arrived at the Hotel Atli II, Kusadasa. (What happened to Atli I ?). The tourist trade has left its mark on this town, although the old quarter still contains Ottoman houses and mosques. Leaving the hotel almost intact, we went on the next morning to Ephesus, an impressive classical and biblical site. Particularly impressive were the reconstructed Library of Celsus, the theatre where St. Paul preached to the Ephesians, (and Boris Randall embarrassed us with a spectacular one-man version of Hamlet, or possibly Julius Cæsar), and the recently excavated Roman houses, with their well-preserved mosaics and frescoes. After a brief encounter between Josh Mandel and a good-looking camel, we visited the Basilica of St. John.

We stayed the night at Izmir, where Mrs. Chapman paid a courtesy call to the local police. Izmir is an old port which is now the third biggest city in Turkey, and the least pleasant from the olfactory point of view. The next day we travelled to Bergama (ancient Pergamum) and saw the acropolis and the spectacular theatre, the steepest of the ancient world, where our budding thespians had another go. Returning to our coach, which was surrounded by dancing bears, we lost the main party, and a small group took an alternative tour of the Roman baths under the expert guidance of Adrian. How have I got this far without mentioning him? His help, guidance, and particularly his knowledge of the language and country were invaluable.

Our next stop was Bursa, the ancient capital of the Ottoman Empire. We stayed in four star splendour in the Hotel Kervanserai, where we were regaled with a particularly excellent breakfast, which Adrian much appreci-

ated, despite a sleepless night! After a brief tour of the bazaar, we visited the Great Mosque (Ulu çamii), our first experience of both phenomena. This was followed closely by the Green Mosque (Yesil çamii) and the Tomb of Mehmet I. The latter was flanked by the small tombs of his younger sons, strangled with a silken cord on the orders of the new Sultan, their oldest brother, on his accession. This practice ceased shortly after 1421, when this tomb was built. Younger sons were thereafter merely imprisoned for life.

Istanbul! The Hotel Çerve left much to be desired. Undeterred, the sixth form and adult members of the group visited the 17th century Çemberlitas Hamam (which is a REAL Turkish Bath) under the expert guid-

ance of Adrian. The ladies, unable to rely on Adrian's fluent Turkish in the ladies' section, entered clutching a list of vital phrases in Turkish. (e.g. 'we don't want a massage', and 'towels on at all times'.) Since they left all clothes and belongings in the changing rooms, Mrs. Chapman had no access to this list, and was thrown onto her own resources! James Hahn was the only critic of this delightful experience; but this was only the beginning of what was to become a pernicious bug.

Our first full day in Istanbul started with a visit to Topkapi, the Sultans' Palace, where we were dazzled by displays of porcelain, jewels, calligraphy, and of course the Harem. In the afternoon we visited the amazing underground Roman Cistern (Yerebatan Sarayı - which means underground palace), with its many pillars reflected in the water. Braving the guns of the riot police, we ventured to the Hagia Sofia via a political meeting. This astounding building is still in much the same condition as it was when it was built in the sixth century A.D. Despite its conversion to a mosque in the 15th Century, some of the beautiful mosaics and frescoes have survived. The focus of interest for many tourists in Istanbul is the Blue Mosque; it is also the focus for the pushiest of the street traders and shoe-shine boys. Ben Taylor had his shoes forcibly cleaned, and was rescued by the wife of our guide, Ali, and an irate Adrian!

The next day was a more relaxed affair, with a boat trip up the Bosphorus, from the Golden Horn. In the afternoon we spent our remaining money in the Grand Bazaar; some proved better at haggling than others. Adrian arranged a further extra tour of some important sites that afternoon. Firstly, the Binbirdirek cistern (cistern of a thousand and one columns - although it only has just over 200), this being an unexcavated version of the other cistern, but without any water, just six to twelve feet of silt - still impressive though. Then to the Suleimanye mosque, which the adults had visited the previous evening. This is the most beautiful and uplifting building we visited, and on both occasions all present were very moved. A few of us continued through some very depressed areas of the city to visit the Rüstempasha çamii,

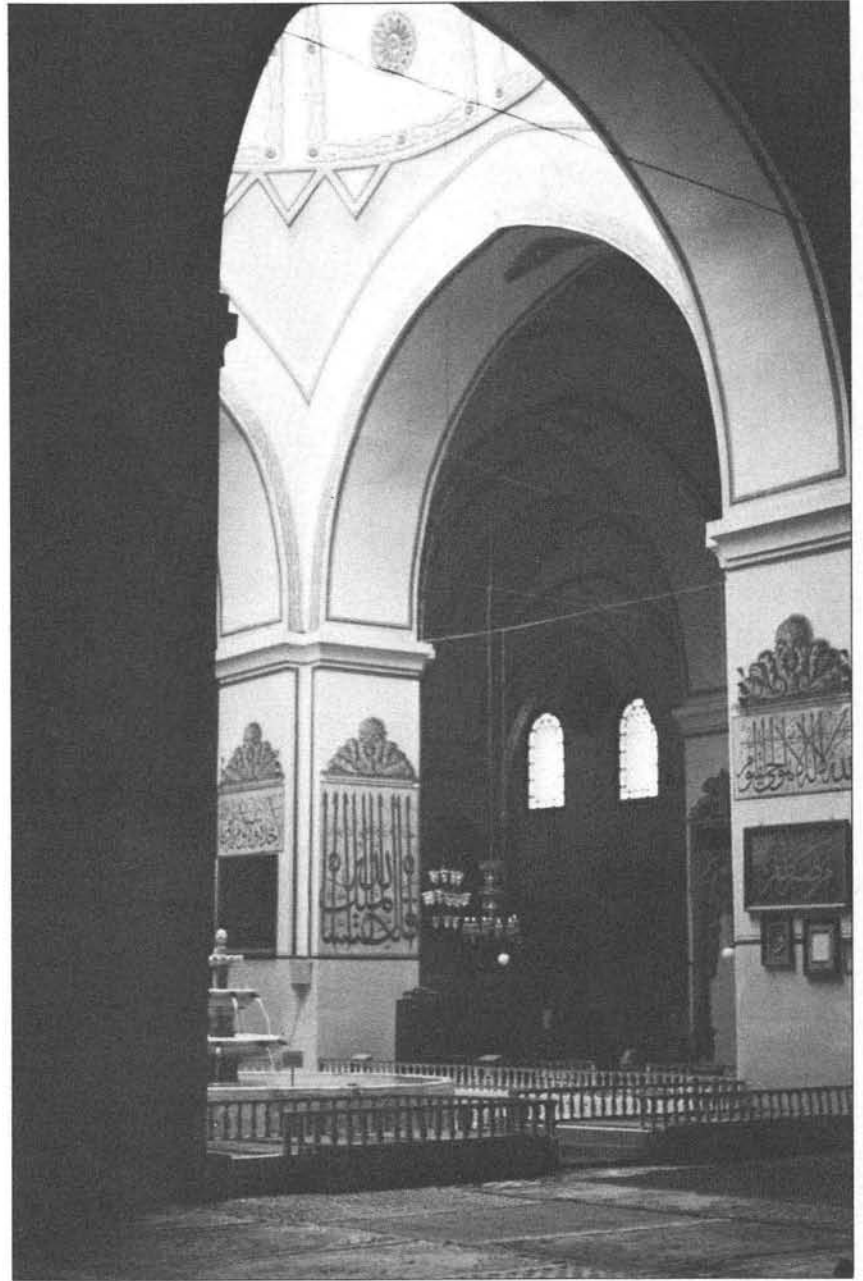
built by the Grand Vizier of Suleiman. This was decorated throughout with Iznik tiles, with their vivid blue and unique red glazes, techniques now lost to us. We returned through the spice bazaar, with its amazing scents and sights.

After a 6.00 a.m. call, missed by Geoff Sharpe et al., we made our way to Gallipoli. Only a five hour journey; Adrian Pearson, who had met the pernicious bug, showed his appreciation. Repeatedly. Although our stops at the Gallipoli memorials were brief, they left a strong and lasting impression. We were late to the ferry across the Hellespont, as we had visited the British memorial.

After a good, if late lunch, we travelled to Troy, arriving only half an hour before the site closed, and with very little light left. The place resembles one of Turkey's many building sites, but for anyone with some knowledge of Homer, plus a little imagination, the place was full of atmosphere and ghosts. There was a foul wooden horse, in which the sixth formers played like twelve year olds. The twelve year olds were bored!

After a moonlit journey over Mount Ida, the scene of the beauty competition between the three goddesses which sparked off the Trojan war, we arrived at our final hotel, in Edremit. At last, another superb hotel, with its lovely sea views, and bemused bar staff (Adrian again!). It's a great shame we could not stay here longer. But then, all of us wanted to stay in the country for longer, and all vowed to return as soon as possible.

ICD



The Great Mosque, Ulu Camii, in Bursa



An Ottoman manor house near the Green Mosque in Bursa: a Mediterranean setting

THAILAND



The two nations in question are England and Thailand. England is in the developed world, whilst Thailand is in the developing world, thus the countries could not be more different, or could they?

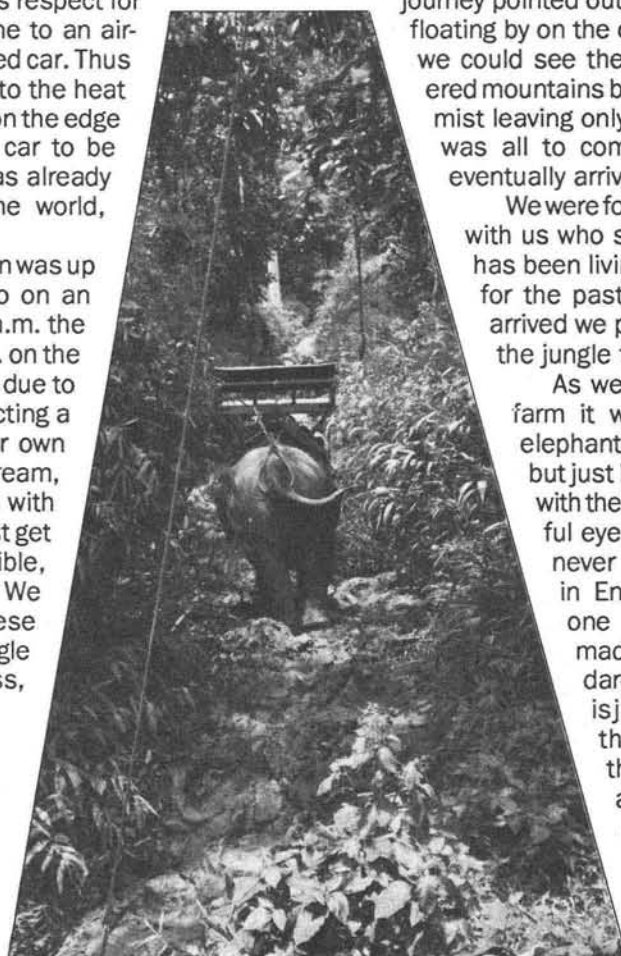
The first thing that Dickon Whittaker and I noticed in Thailand was the heat and humidity of the country. We arrived in Bangkok airport at about 7 a.m. and the temperature was already around 28-30°C, with a humidity of about 85%. We were lucky in this respect for we went from an air-conditioned plane to an air-conditioned airport to an air-conditioned car. Thus we did not really pay much attention to the heat until we arrived at my Auntie's house on the edge of Bangkok. We jumped out of the car to be blasted by the intense heat which was already having an effect on this part of the world, despite it only being 10 a.m..

After settling in, our first expedition was up North to Chiang Mai. We were to go on an overnight train and arrive at about 7 a.m. the next day. Well, we arrived at 5:10 p.m. on the Friday waiting for the train, which was due to depart at 6 p.m.. I was secretly expecting a fairly average train with beds in your own compartment. Alas, this was only a dream, as a clapped-out old train pulled up with Chiang Mai written on it. When you first get on to this old rust-cart no beds are visible, but a long corridor of seats instead. We were, however, relieved to find that these 'seats' converted into beds, with a single cotton curtain which you pulled across, to retain some form of privacy.

After a long night of bumps and jerks as the train slowly crept along we were woken up at 6 a.m. to have the beds converted back into seats. When we awoke we looked out, not to see the streets filled with cars and pavement shops, people running and shouting, but to see a vast landscape of mountains and jungle. As far as the eye could see there was nothing but jungle. The guards that patrolled up and down the train for the whole journey pointed out to us the clouds of mist floating by on the other side. As we looked we could see the base of the jungle-covered mountains being engulfed by wisps of mist leaving only the peaks visible. This was all to come to an end when we eventually arrived at our destination.

We were fortunate to have my Auntie with us who spoke fluent Thai as she has been living out in this far off land for the past 10-12 years. Once we arrived we prepared for our trek into the jungle the next day.

As we arrived at the elephant farm it was noticeable that the elephants were not chained up but just left to do as they pleased with their master keeping a watchful eye open. This would surely never have been allowed back in England, because what if one of the elephants went mad? There are safety standards in Thailand as well, it is just that no-one really pays that much attention to them. This was to our advantage, as you could offer them food, touch them and feel a part of them, knowing they are not kept in some tiny cramped cage.



An elephant, howdah aboard, lumbers off into the jungle in pursuit of his mahout

Later we actually hired an elephant to take us into the jungle. On the morning in question we arrived late and the rest of the group had left, but there was one elephant and his master still waiting for us. We climbed aboard and set off.

The jungle was so vast, packed with exotic flowers, birds, insects and animals all displaying their colours. You just can't appreciate the scale of everything in that small part of the jungle we explored. Nothing seemed to have been touched for centuries; just a small path about five feet wide winding its way was the only sign that man had been here before. The photos we took were only a memory of the great jungle we had to leave behind. Alas, we were only in these parts for three days and had to leave for the hustle and bustle of Bangkok on the same clapped-out train we had come in.

There is no doubt that one of the striking features of Thailand is how varied so much of it is, and we were to find this out as we explored Bangkok to its full extent.

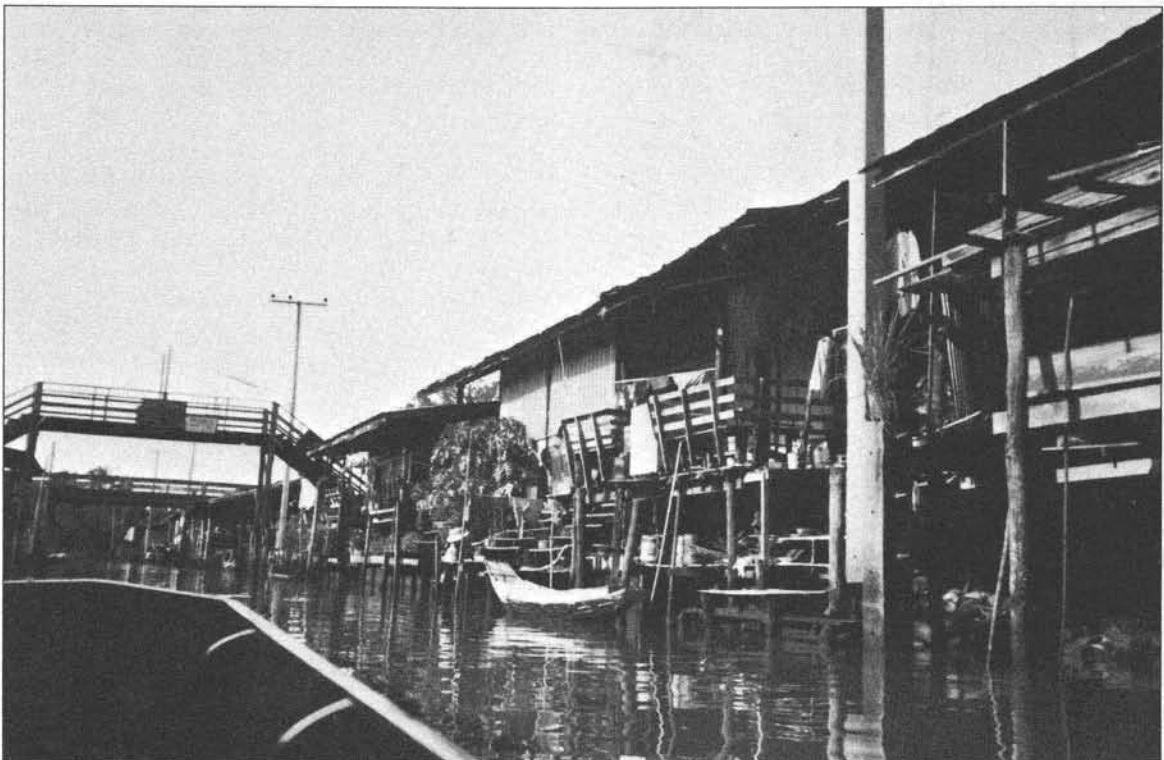
In Bangkok one thinks of temples covered with gold and splendid glories of the Kings' Palace. This is certainly true, but there is another side. Thailand has no copyright rules so everywhere are fake Benetton T-shirts and Rolex watches all being sold on the streets. When you go shopping you must be careful not to get ripped off! When we were looking around there were two people buying a fake watch, myself and an American who had more cameras round his neck than any sane person

would even attempt to carry. The watch I bought (admittedly with the help of my Auntie, as she knew the lady selling the watches) cost £7, whilst the American's watch, which was a classic Rolex, cost him around £70. He thought he was getting a real bargain as the genuine watch that he and I both bought was about £3,000. Apart from the fakes industry, tourism has played a big part in changing this city of angels, and Go-Go bars and areas that make Soho look like Park Lane are common.

After investigating these areas of Bangkok we went down south, this time to Hua-Hin. This is another area of Bangkok that two years ago was untouched, but because of the economic boom Thailand is currently going through, has become more and more commercialised. However, the beaches are still as soft and white as ever, and to put you in the picture we were on a beach that was approximately three miles long and there can not have been more than ten people on it. This changes, however, the closer you get to the hotels which have bought areas of beaches and thus the curse of tourism descends and destroys the once picturesque views.

We had indeed many more exciting moments on our holiday in Thailand, but as you can see, this once glorious country is unfortunately becoming more and more influenced by Western ways now that travel companies have realised what a gold mine they have here. But let's hope they do not ruin the untouched parts of Thailand such as the elephant treks into the jungle.

Giles Smith 5 AMB



Feeling in the mood for a chase?

ANTIPODEAN TRIP

James and I had both decided to have a year off before going to University. We wanted to use this as an opportunity to travel. Originally Australia alone was the aim (missing our cold winter in the process!) but as it turned out a round-the-world ticket wasn't much more expensive. This would in due course take us on to Fiji, New Zealand, Hawaii and North America.

Last November I headed down-under to Perth. After a few days I managed to find a job driving a combine harvester on a farm 150

miles east of Perth, a distance the locals thought nothing of driving even for a party! The farm itself was 13,000 acres, with 5,000 acres of wheat and 6,000 merino sheep. It was run by two brothers on their own. This was made possible by the large fields - some 600 acres (a square mile) in size which is larger than the whole of our own farm here in Britain - and a huge investment in large machinery, for example the £100,000 combine I was

let loose on! We started harvesting at 6.30 a.m. after as much as a 30 mile drive to get to the field. Even at this time of day the temperature had often risen to over 30°C and by lunchtime could be in the mid 40's, thank goodness for an air-conditioned cab! Unfortunately when the machine broke down you had to venture out into the searing heat and flies to repair it.

From an English point of view the wheat itself looked very poor as it was only yielding half a ton/acre (versus 3 ton/acre here). I then found out this was the best crop they had had for 16 years! The area itself is marginal for wheat growing due to the dry climate. It must be so frustrating to watch your crops dying off due to drought with nothing you can do about it. Some years after the harvest is finished they don't even have enough grain to provide seed for the following year. Problems like this make finances very tricky. Luckily the wool price has increased these last few years and this has tided them over.

Because of the good weather, harvesting is less of a panic than in England, so one was able to take Sundays off. I was invited to play cricket for the local team — little did they know that I hadn't played since the age of twelve and even then I didn't play well. I certainly didn't do the Pommie reputation for cricket much good! After seven busy weeks harvesting and ploughing often working 14 hours a day, I was glad to go back to Perth and meet James who had just flown out. There was also a feeling of sadness however at leaving a family who had made me feel so welcome in the short time I was with them.

James and I then travelled around Australia by Greyhound bus. We had a 60 day unlimited travel ticket which we certainly made use of, travelling 10,000 miles in this time. After a 30 hour journey you never wanted to see another bus again. We had a few more aims than just surfing on Bondi beach, meeting the 'sheilas' and drinking the beer although there were also other aspects to the trip. We went to the only place in the world where

In recent years it has become frequent practice for students to take off a GAP year before embarking on their higher studies. Last year Paul Allen went to the English-speaking world to get as varied experience of farming as possible before taking up his Land Management course. Charles Megaw, who is now reading Geography, focused in particular on the impact of Islam on a number of different societies while in the course of his journeys throughout Asia.

wild dolphins come into the beach and swim with humans. We visited a tropical fruit plantation, a goldmine, vineyards in the Barossa valley, climbed Ayers Rock and did a week's scuba diving course on the Great Barrier Reef. We also went to a debate in the new parliament building in Canberra, saw the historic Rocks area of Sydney where the first settlers landed and went to Ramsey Street!

After a fairly hectic two and a half months we then

had two weeks in Fiji. Having dodged the potholes in the airport runway we were ushered through a shed-like building which was customs and met by smiling Fijians offering us accommodation. The next day we took the local bus round to the south of the island. The bus which had no glass in the windows was very crowded with local people and their produce, pigs and chickens were a common sight on board. Fiji is made up of many tropical islands with their palm-fringed sandy beaches and

turquoise water. The people here were so friendly, relaxed and appeared to be unaffected by their recent coup. The main industry apart from tourism is sugar cane,. Compared to the highly mechanised Australian system it seems fairly backward with hand cutting and bullock carts for transport. It is certainly markedly different. Whilst we were there we visited a village with the thatched mud huts intermingling with more modern pre-fab buildings. After a ceremonial Kava drink, which looks like muddy water and tastes even worse, with the Chief, we visited their school. The children all seemed very happy and were busy learning English although they still spoke their native language at home. We were also lucky to have a chance to do more scuba diving in supposedly one of the best spots in the Pacific.

We flew to Auckland on Easter Day. New Zealand is a very beautiful country with great variety from flat, dry plains to rolling green hills and mountain ranges. We spent six weeks hitching round both the North and South islands and arrived in Mercury Bay the day it was announced that New Zealand would host the America's Cup there. We then headed down to Rotorua, a thermal reserve with boiling mud pools and geysers, but also a sacred Maori place. On our way south to Wellington, the capital, we were given a lift by a Maori Opera singer and we learnt more about the Maori people. From Wellington we crossed to the South Island. We then spent three days walking a long-distance path in the Abel Tasman National Park, sleeping in huts along the way. The scenery was very beautiful. We then followed the west coast down to the Southern Alps. One of the most spectacular things we did was take a helicopter flight over Mount Cook and Mount Tasman and down the Fox Glacier. After more hiking around the Milford Sound area we spent a week staying on a friend's 22,000 acre sheep station. We were soon set to work drenching sheep and ear tagging the young deer. Other days were spent mustering the sheep down from the hills and



Sheep mustering in New Zealand



Open fire cooking in the Australian outback

helping with the shearing. I found the farmers in New Zealand now a bit happier with their farming prospects having just come through a depression. They no longer rely on Britain to send their produce to but trade a lot with Japan and the Middle East. We found them very hard and unsentimental in the treatment of their animals compared with this country but they have to be or else they would soon be bankrupt. We then flew back to the North Island as time was running short and spent a few days north of Auckland where the first settlers had landed, before leaving for Hawaii.

After a couple of days in Honolulu during which we visited Pearl Harbour and surfed on Waikiki beach, we hired a car and drove round to the north side of the island where we were able to stay in free campsites on the beach meeting more people than just rich tourists. We

also spent several days on the 'Big' Island of Hawaii in the volcanoes National Park where there were active volcanoes erupting. We spent two weeks in Hawaii before the last stop on our journey - North America. James and I spent some time together in the Rockies then he went south through the United States and I travelled across Canada, before arriving home in July, just in time to help with our own harvest.

Both of us agreed that this trip has taught us many things, from learning to cope with everyday problems to meeting lots of interesting people and having many wonderful experiences, most of which we have been unable to include here. A lot of the trip was like a living Geography lesson, coming face to face in real life with what one had learned in the classroom.

Paul Allen and James Bennett



Wild dolphins at Monkey Mia

Windows on Islam



Kurdish women bringing home the shopping at the foot of Mount Ararat

TURKEY: BEHIND THE MASK

Turkey, geographically in Asia, yet politically and economically in Europe. How should it be classified? It was partly in an attempt to answer this question that I spent time in Turkey as part of a trans-Asia trip.

The affluent capital Antasa, inspired by Ataturk, planned and built in the middle of this century from a small farming settlement, is a mere island with its wide boulevards, BCG shops and fast food restaurants. In Istanbul itself there are new fashion shops in the Galeria while semi-naked children play in delapidated, medieval-looking housing under the towering minarets of Sultan Ahmed Calnii. The conditions in that part of the city are more in keeping with the goats-head strewn alleyways to be found in deep inland Turk-Karian border towns such as Doyubayazit.

I was very lucky to be granted a special pass and with it I visited the ruins of the medieval town of Ani in nomans land in the extreme east of the country beside the Russian border where continual survey from both Nato and Soviet watch-towers is the norm, and photography, loitering, pointing and note-taking are strictly prohibited, with a shoot to kill policy adopted for offenders. At least you cannot say you have not been warned!

The strategic importance of Turkey as a block to Russian intrusion into the Mediterranean has led to a large input of American capital since the beginning of the Cold War. The squandering of money on arms has subsequently left Turkey with an inflation rate currently running at 75% and the second largest debt in the world after Brazil. Turkey remains very much tied to the USA.

In Izmir, lodging with a once-active Communist who

had been imprisoned three times and tortured for his political views, I was given vivid accounts which supported Amnesty International's exposure of Turkey's Human Rights situation. All association with Communism is forbidden; communist literature is banned. The underground Communist Party in Istanbul lies dormant in fear of the authorities. Demonstrations and the formation of unions are also illegal. In Konja, five students defied the authorities by meeting secretly to discuss politically sensitive issues.

In the east 'Welcome to Kurdistan' is a familiar greeting where the most persecuted minority group predominate. Demands for an independent Kurdish state have been moderated and many simply seek recognition of Kurds as an ethnic group. Meanwhile, speaking Kurdish is an offence here in an area where very few people can speak Turkish. On the road to Hakkari vehicles are stopped by army units lying prone behind sandbag bunkers trying to keep Kurdish rebel activity to a minimum. Coming down off the mountains above Doyubayazit, we were stopped by two plain clothed Kurds clutching British rifles and demanding our passports. A paltry excuse and feigned lack of comprehension enabled us to proceed thankfully on our way. It was while we were speaking with a teacher of English in a tea house about Kurdish suppression that we were ushered away, as informers had been spotted by the spokesman's friends.

It is estimated that 95% of Turkey's population are Muslim, although Turkey remains a secular state. Despite the fact that the number of practising Muslims is much smaller, the government is unofficially trying to suppress Islam as much as possible. At the beginning of the century Ataturk identified Islam as the primary cause of Turkey's stagnation. However, in a country with a very large rural population secular penetration is limited and politics are dictated by the whims of local leaders. In Konya, a religious stronghold, women dress in purdah and the wail of muezzins calling people to pray five times a day regularly interrupts daily life. Yet only 200km away on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, the main concern seems to be picking profits from tourism.

Today's Turkey is a divided country. The bourgeoisie of Istanbul and Ankara together with the nouveau riche of the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts live in a state of isolation while the rest of the country adheres to its muslim roots with a fatalism and indifference that Islam often appears to convey. The government is seeking membership of the EEC, but I could only wonder how realistic they were being and how long it would be before their hope is realised.

C.C. Megaw

Army check-post at Hakkari



PAKISTAN

Pakistan, land of the pure or just a conglomerate of states? Folklore has it that an Indian Muslim graduate, Rahmat Ali, put together on paper in an English cottage in Cambridge the idea of the creation of a separate Islamic nation on the Sub-continent. The name Pakistan was an acronym of the provinces that were to compose it: Punjab, Afghanistan (Frontier), Khashmir, Indus, Sindh, and STAN, meaning 'Land'. However, since Pak is the Urdu word meaning 'Land (in which) the purest form (of Islam) is practised', this seems at least as good a basis for the origins of the country's name. Surprisingly, this diverse and fascinating country remains relatively unfrequented by travellers. The Afghan war and the difficulty in obtaining an Iranian visa means the 1960's overland hippy trail to Khatmandu is now an impossibility and travellers to the sub-continent generally forego Pakistan in favour of the mystique of India. The opening of the Khunjerab pass to China has made the Northern areas more popular but even those are not receiving as many visitors as their attractions warrant. Thus for those who venture into Pakistan there is the opportunity to explore in a country devoid of tourist traps.

To say Islam is Pakistan's exclusive culture is not an exaggeration. Formed in 1947 after the partition of India, it is the world's second ideological state after Israel. Not only is Islam the common religion, but it is the only binding force in a country of many different tribes and races ranging from the desert-dwelling Sindus of the South to the gun-toting Pattons of the North-West frontier and the rich Punjabis of the East.

As the sun begins to rise, the call of 'Allah'u Akbar' (God is great) by the muzzeins prompts people everywhere to begin the ritual washing ceremony before unrolling their prayer mats in the direction of Mecca and kneeling down to pray. No village, no matter how small,

is without a centre of worship. The mosques, from the enormous Bashedir mosque in Lahore to a small mosque in a backroad of Sindh, are all exquisitely designed, and decorated with Arabic calligraphy representing the 99 names of God.

The long shirts and baggy trousers (Shalwar Quameez) unite the Muslims of Pakistan in a common



Money changers at Channan in the north west

dress code. Men cut short the hair on their heads but let their beards grow long and dishevelled in accordance with the instructions of Mohammed. Women, also wearing Shalwar Quameez, have for modesty the addition of a dupalla, a large scarf worn over the head to conceal as much flesh as possible. Fundamentalists in purdah abound.

As the Pathans of the North-West frontier province and Afghanis are so fond of saying: 'for women, either the house or the grave'. In the fourth century Mohammed condemned women of Islamic nations to an inferior role in society. Since then they have hidden their identity behind the veil. It is ironic therefore that a state of Muslims who have been commanded never to be subordinated by a woman should be ruled by one. However, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would surely not have gained office had she not been the daughter of the favoured late Zulifkar Ali Bhutto, hanged during the Zia dictatorship.

The month of Ramazan is of particular significance to Muslims. During this month they are prohibited from eating and drinking during the hours of daylight. This creates obvious practical difficulties for the traveller, and the people quickly become tired and irritable so that the pace of life slows, gradually grinding to a halt.

Although the stagnation of life is obviously most marked during Ramazan, even at other times the teachings of Islam do not encourage a forward thrusting society. Since God controls one's destiny, people wait with a sense of fatalism for the paradise of the afterlife. 'Ishallah - if God is willing', uttered after every statement of intent, conveys the resignation in everyday life. Mullahs teach that there should be no deviation from the book of God and narrow-minded adherence means life is greatly simplified.

The aggression of Islam cannot be underestimated or ignored. The Quran does not condemn killing as long



A refugee crossing the border from Afghanistan



Sherpa woman in Chakung, Nepal

as it is a means of strengthening Islam. Probably for this reason the politics of Pakistan are still conducted by the sword. In the tribal areas, gun carrying is the rule, not the exception. The theme of violence was rapidly brought home to me in Quetta, when five people were gunned down in a hospital only a few hundred yards from my hotel. In Hyderabad and Kobi, a curfew was imposed when fighting between Mohajess and Sindhis caused about 70 deaths.

The Muslim propaganda machine has a profound effect on the people and in the North slogans of 'kill to USA, kill to Russia, kill to Zionists' are scarred across the hillsides. 'It is better for us all to be annihilated than be subordinated and scorned by Zionists and Americans' reads one poster quoting Khomeini. Khomeini's fatua against Salman Rushdie is just another example of this aggression translated into international dimensions. I didn't meet a single Pakistani that took exception to the death sentence and most declared that if they saw Rushdie they would personally kill him.

The Afghan war is having a profound effect on Pakistan both economically and socially. In Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan, a satellite town has emerged inhabited entirely by UN and foreign aid workers. The affluence generated by the trade of cheap goods from Afghanistan is conspicuous in the town. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are contained in UN tent and mud house camps in the surrounding areas. Some refugees, having by now been in Pakistan for ten years have set up businesses with no intention of ever returning home again. We took a jeep through the mountains to the

Afghan border behind Chaman. Standing at the Pakistani checkpost the Mujahedeen-manned post was only 150 yards away and there was a steady stream of Afghans coming across on foot, donkeys and tractors. Many broke into smiles of relief as they walked away from the checkpoint, but most looked weary from their travels. Two observers in UN landrovers oversaw events.

The Red Cross Hospital outside Quetta gives a good indication of the reduced scale of fighting in Southern Afghanistan. In 1988 the hospital complement averaged 200 patients while on 13.4.89 there were only 72 patients, with 2-3 patients arriving per day. The most recent case was a man who had a bullet hole through his abdomen that had left infection around the kidney. Khan, a young boy of 12, had lost his arm and both eyes but was in excellent spirits as nurses joked with him in their broken Pashto.

Further North in the Frontier province we made two separate forays into tribal areas. Much of the west of Pakistan remains tribal and a feudal system still operates. In those regions the national government has little or no control and it is mainly for this reason that these areas are forbidden to foreigners. However, when the dangers were balanced against the insights to be gained, the risks seemed to be worth taking.

Seventy kilometres west of Peshawar at the head of the Khyber Pass lies Landi Kotal, a small frontier town only 4km from the Afghanistan border at Torkham and 40km from Jalalabad. The road to the pass winds through barren, jagged mountains. Turbaned Pathans carry Kalashnikovs when they venture from their for-

Uygur woman in Amasya, Xinjiang province, western China



tress-like residences. These houses are enclosed in compounds of 20 feet high mud and stone walls with thick iron gates at the entrances. On the hilltops, men in watch-towers and gun emplacements oversee events. In Landi Kotal itself the atmosphere is tense but active. Illegal trafficking in drugs and arms is rife and once again men protect their interests with guns.

Further south, away from the border, Bora, the gun capital of Pakistan is situated. Here Mujahedeen leaders come to buy consignments of guns and ammunition. In a bazaar of over 200 shops every sort of weapon is available: .303 Lee Enfields, Kalashnikovs, anti-aircraft guns, scud and stinger missiles to name but a few. The guns come from all over the world and many weapons are fabricated in Bora itself. We passed a happy gunsmith who had just sold a consignment of 200 rifles, and we refrained from disturbing another who was in deep discussion over a big order. Shopkeepers squatted on floors forging new shells, unconcerned as we looked on, incredulous at the scale of illegal business. With everyone wanting to try out their new acquisition the air reverberated with gunfire, and I took the opportunity to fire a Kalashnikov into the air. Most of the weapons go to Afghanistan, but there is a large market in Pakistan as well. The rifle helps to strengthen the macho image.

However, it is not just the trade in arms that has benefited from the Afghan war, but drug trafficking is rife as well. While in Bara we had instant access to purchase at least a tonne of hashish in one shop alone. In the storeroom there were ten stacks of Marijuana pollen stacked up. The beaters and baking equipment were in full view of the main road. Harder drugs were also freely available in similar quantities. In Landi Kotal cocaine was pushed with unnerving vigour. It is estimated that Pakistan supplies half of the world's high grade heroin. Although token clamp-downs take place from time to time (probably to ensure the continuing flow of western aid) it was clear from what we saw that the flourishing drugs industry creates a large source of foreign revenue for the economy.

The thick roots of fundamentalism are growing deep in Pakistan and they permeate everyday life. Indeed extremism is on the rise, and imposition of Islamic law is a high priority for many. Thus, it was not with respect, but utter fascination that I viewed the all-embracing Islamic culture. As Conor Cruise O'Brien so poignantly remarked, "a Westerner who claims to admire a Muslim society, while still adhering to Western values is either a hypocrite or an ignorant or a bit of both".

C. Megaw



The picture shows school children in Scutch in the Kaghan Valley in the north-east of Pakistan. They come from a wide area and are of varied ages. The man seated on the right is not the teacher but the disciplinarian. In the foreground the children can be seen with their sole writing implements, slate and stylus.

BRUNEIAN VIEWPOINT

On the first day I arrived at Abingdon School, my initial impression of the school was less than I had expected. Since then my feelings have tended to change considerably. Soon I realised that Abingdon School is a great place to further one's studies before entering University.

As my friend and I were the first Bruneians to study in Abingdon School, our first main task here was to give some idea of what Brunei is like since only a few even know Brunei exists. We were given the opportunity during our weekly Roundabout courses and also during Communication Studies lessons to talk on Brunei in general. Sometimes Brunei is one of the topics mentioned during friendly conversation with friends while having lunch or supper.

The climatic differences between Brunei and here are large and so adapting to the new cold weather is a big problem at first. Just imagine, after living in a hot equatorial climate with bright sunshine and frequent heavy showers with thunder storms all year round for 17 years and suddenly discovering myself in a place with temperatures that sometimes reach below freezing point. Fortunately, after some time I managed in this type of climate!

One thing which I am sure is common with all new students is that feeling of being a 'nobody' when coming to a new school. I honestly admit that this feeling was felt by me as well. However, that feeling began to change rapidly since the students, in my year especially, are easy to communicate with and willing to accept us into the community. By involvement in several school activities like sports and being a boarder, I think a sense of belonging quickly develops.

A major cultural difference between the schools in Brunei and Abingdon School in particular, is the freedom of the pupils here to express their feelings as they wish. They will say anything on their mind without hesitation. I have found this very interesting and it surprised me a lot. This can be observed on the topics and contents of the debate in the Debating Society which is usually held once a fortnight and also in the formation of the Green Society. They touch on topics concerning political issues in this country as well as others and also there is a general awareness of environmental problems.

A problem which surprised me in this school was an apparent lack of respect towards masters among some students. I have heard masters being made targets of students' jokes and tricks. In my former schools in Brunei, such acts seldom or never happen or are heard

of. If it ever happened, the student would be bound to be dealt with severely, though not by corporal punishment. There the students even greet the teachers when they enter and thank them when the lesson is over, irrespective of his country of origin.

In Abingdon School there are many opportunities for students to brighten their future prospects. An example is the opportunities for work experience with large and successful companies, whereas in Brunei there are few chances to do so at so young an age. This helps to contribute to their success whether in applying for further education or a job.

After the summer half term, I was appointed a sub-prefect and from then onwards my life in this school has changed dramatically. I am greatly honoured to serve in this way. I must say the appointment has also affected my popularity. Now everyone seems to know me better.

Well, I guess being a foreigner appointed to this position, a minority of students were at first not too convinced about the appointment and tried to challenge my authority. For example, a few ignored my orders in the lunch-queue. They wanted to know how far they could push their luck with me, so occasionally I had to roll up my sleeves and

growl back at them. Fortunately until now, no one has pulled my leg about my appointment and everything seems to be working out very satisfactorily.

I am very grateful and feel very lucky indeed in this great school and would like to thank my tutor and all the masters for their dedication in guiding the students on the road to success.

Yunus Yusof VIM



DR. ZAWADZKI: AN INTERVIEW

ON WORK IN PROGRESS

As is widely known, Dr. Zawadzki is an authority on Polish history. He has published a number of articles on this area and has for some time now been working towards a substantial work on a leading character in the early nineteenth century. We asked him for an insight into these labours which are nearing completion and he has very kindly given us an interview in which he outlines some of the central points of interest of his study. He also suggests ways in which the subject-matter can be seen as having a particular contemporary relevance.

HA: Who exactly was Prince Czartoryski?

WHZ: Prince Adam Czartoryski was a member of one of the leading aristocratic families in eighteenth century Poland. He received an excellent education and was prepared for a great career in his country. However, he was caught in a series of extraordinary political and emotional circumstances and found that his life followed a completely different path. After the final partition of Poland in 1795 he was sent to the court of Catherine II in St. Petersburg to plead for the return of his family's estates which had been seized by the Russians. He then became a close friend of Grand Duke Alexander and his beautiful wife Elizabeth; in fact a romance followed between Czartoryski and Elizabeth and lasted for many years. When Alexander became Tsar in 1801 Czartoryski acted as one of his leading advisers and ended up as Russian foreign minister in 1804-6, an extraordinary appointment for a Pole. I suppose it's a bit like the Biblical story of the Israelite Joseph who befriended the Pharaoh and interpreted his dreams.

Czartoryski welcomed Alexander's 'liberal' policies. As foreign minister he was instrumental in organising Russian and international opposition to Napoleon, in promoting the cause of nationality in central and south-eastern Europe (the Greeks and the Serbs, especially) and of constitutional government, and in striving for a code of international relations that would ensure perpetual peace. He also showed an enlightened attitude to internal reform in Russia and was directly involved in education, the Jewish question and the peasant problem. He faced a painful dilemma when most Poles joined Napoleon in 1812 but was able to play an important role at the Congress of Vienna as an advocate of Polish statehood. He was one of the architects of the post-1815 'Congress' Kingdom of Poland under Tsar Alexander, but found himself as head of the Polish government during the war against Russia in 1831- a war, incidentally, Czartoryski first opposed. After 1831 he was in exile but was not inactive politically, and led a government-in-exile in Paris. He died in 1861. He was a man with so many fingers in so many pies who lived in turbulent period of European history; it was difficult to write about him.

HA: Was it this aspect of him that first interested you, or

was it something else? Was it to do with the fact that he was Polish?

It was a mixture. Because of my Polish ancestry I have always been interested in the history of Poland. But I always wanted to look at Poland in an international context. Czartoryski filled the bill perfectly; he was involved in Polish affairs and at the same time became one of the most eminent European statesmen of his day. His private life also provided an intriguing human story.

HA: Could you tell us a little about your Polish origins?

WHZ: Both my parents originated from what was eastern Poland between the wars: my mother from near Wilno (Vilnius) and my father from the Pripet marshes. They came to Britain during the war with the Polish army - via Siberia and the Middle East. My father fought in Normandy in 1944 and my mother worked in a Polish military hospital in Scotland - and that is where they met. It was a very romantic meeting: a wounded soldier brought in from the battle-field and an attentive military nurse. I was born in Scotland - in Edinburgh, I am proud to say. A fine city. From then on I've lived in England; my father worked first as an education officer in various Polish re-settlement camps, since many of the Polish soldiers and their families refused to go back to Poland after the war. Then my father joined the British civil service. He died in 1963. My mother lives near Stratford-on-Avon.

HA: Returning to your writing, what kind of a book is it? An analysis of events already known, or a book of original research which reveals new facts about Czartoryski?

WHZ: Both elements feature here. A lot has been written about him in Poland, France, Russia and elsewhere, and to an extent I have re-assessed what is already known to historians. On the other hand, I discovered that some aspects of his life have not been sufficiently well examined. Because I had access to his papers I learnt more about his strong anti-Napoleonic attitudes, and his interest in the Slavs and the concept of nationality. So there are new elements and areas of emphasis.

HA: How did you go about with the research for the book?

WHZ: It was very much a question of luck, although I knew where to look; his papers are kept in the Czartoryski Library in Krakow. I was given access to the archives and simply went through hundreds of boxes of loose papers and volumes of bound documents. It was a question of patiently sitting there week after week, month after month; in fact I probably spent over six months there. My last visit was a two-week stay in 1984. I also found important manuscript material in the Public Records Office in Kew and in the archives of the French Foreign Ministry. The Bodleian in Oxford and the British Library in London were also invaluable.

HA: During your stay in Poland, did anything particularly unusual or interesting happen.

WHZ: I did much of my research a long time ago - in 1969-70 - when I was working on my doctoral thesis. I

went to Poland then on a British Council sponsored scholarship, so I lived in a student hostel and experienced the life there; it was certainly a contrast with Oxford. I made some good friends. In the archive rooms nothing much happened; I sipped lemon tea and the atmosphere was very civilised. But there were certain 'adventures' with the authorities. I remember once travelling to visit an old castle with an American who could not help looking like a CIA operative; he wore the stereo-typed hat and coat, big shoes, and was very clean shaven. The local militia got interested in these two foreigners walking around, and as we approached a railway station several vans of policemen arrived, and we were detained for questioning. Who were we? What were we doing? And so on. I suppose that was a little frightening. Also, I shall never forget the bitter winter of 1969-70; the snow lay on the ground from the beginning of December till the end of March, and the temperature often fell to minus 25 degrees Centigrade. While I was there, I had a marvellous opportunity to travel widely and to visit most of my relatives.

HA: Do you see any relationship between what you have been writing about and what has been happening recently in Poland? Have your researches into Poland revealed anything in a clearer light about what is happening there now?

WHZ: Yes, there are similarities. Countries have a certain geographical position and every society possesses certain values, even if they evolve. The relationship between Poland and Russia is one of the central themes of my book. That is of course highly topical today. Czartoryski was desperately anxious to arrive at a reconciliation between the educated classes of Poland and Russia; at an honorable settlement whereby Russia's status as a great power would be maintained while at the same time Poland's desire for her own autonomous, if not totally independent, development would be respected. He felt that same deal could be arranged. But his plans failed badly; partly because the Poles dreamt of a fully independent and large Poland, and partly because many Russians were not interested in an equitable arrangement and wanted to dominate. It proved difficult to reconcile tsarist autocracy with Poland's republican traditions. And so one can look at Poland's relations with the Soviet Union today in a broad historical perspective. Let us hope that the progress made under Gorbachev to make this relationship more honest and normal will continue.

I think what happened in Poland recently was inevitable; the authoritarian system of government and the disastrous economic mismanagement could not go on forever. 'Solidarity' will probably dissolve into different political parties as the Poles rediscover democracy. In the meantime Walesa remains a kind of honest broker; he holds no office but enjoys the most prestigious position in the country. The scale of Poland's economic problems, however, remains mind-boggling, and there are still many hurdles to cross.

HA: Dr. Zawadzki, thank you.



Prince Adam Czartoryski, after a lithograph by de Antoni, 1831

ABINGDON ENTERPRISES

At the end of its third year of trading, the school's Young Enterprise company can report its most successful year yet. The aim of the Enterprise is to provide experience for sixth formers in the many and varied areas of business and commerce. This year's management has increased the firm's membership and profits to unprecedented levels, and popular products have allowed members to gain more business experience than before. Over thirty-five members of the present upper-sixth joined Abingdon Enterprises a year ago, and from them a new board of directors was selected at the end of the year 1988:

Chairman/Managing Director	Nicholas Richards
Vice-Chairman (Finance)	Andrew Dent
Production Director	Nicholas Silver
Sales and Marketing Director	James Cooke
R and D Director	Paul Hinett
Personnel Director	Hugh Wilkinson
Company Secretary	Jonathan Dennett

After the previous year's not too successful cannon project, a new product was quickly embarked upon: Framed Prints of the School.

The drawing (by C.J.B.) mounted in our own frames succeeded beyond all expectations. After weeks of lengthy research and expensive development the product received a well publicised launch in February. Orders (from discerning parents) flooded in, and by the end of the project in June, over 160 had been sold. It is estimated that over a third of school families now own one.

The company continued to market its almost equally successful 'Unframed Prints of Abingdon School'. During the year Abingdon Enterprises has made good use of its liquid assets by donating £10 to T.A.S.S. and £20 to the newly reconstituted Industrial Society.

Life at the weekly board meetings has not been dull over the past three terms (although Room 16 may lack something of the opulence of the conventional boardroom). It is widely agreed that the Company's principle aim - to provide business experience for sixth formers - has been successfully achieved this year; and on a subsidiary note, profits are currently up 1678% on last year at £234.

Lastly, thanks must be expressed to our financial mentor, Mrs. Bigmore, who has tirelessly guided us in our efforts over the past year.

Andrew Dent VIZ

THE LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower School continues to pursue a wide variety of activities with vigour and enthusiasm. Full accounts of many of these, including games, drama and music, appear elsewhere, but it is encouraging to note the large numbers of boys who have represented the school in one manner or another over the year, not only on the games field and sports hall; for instance, the contribution of the Lower School to major school musical events, as well as to informal concerts has been considerable, and although there has not been a major school dramatic event this year involving the whole of the Lower School, several took part in *Captain Stirrick* at the end of the summer term.

WAC (Wednesday Afternoon Club for the benefit of the uninitiated) continues to flourish. We were sad that Mrs Manship decided at the end of the summer term to hand on the baton (or should it be the knitting wool?) after a heroic five year stint, but under Mr Barrett's benevolent supervision it has been business as usual.

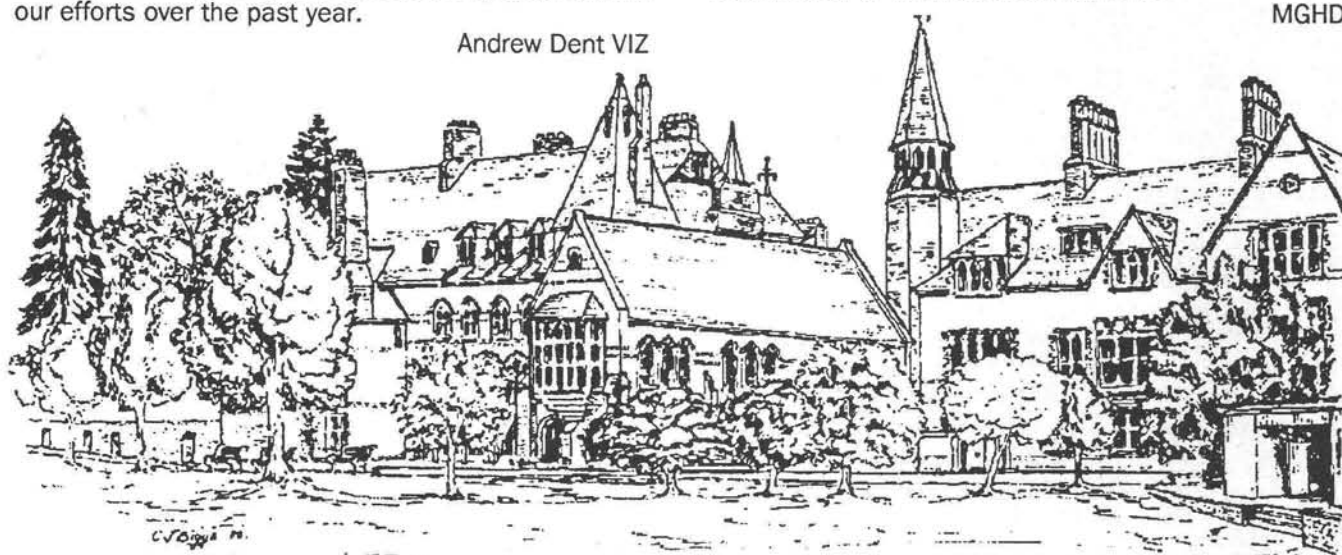
Apart from the usual Field Day excursions and the notorious annual WAC outing to Alton Towers, two main expeditions have taken place. In June, following our very successful venture last year, Mr Henderson led another trip to Normandy, this time for first year boys. This is likely to become an annual event and next year's trip is already fully subscribed.

Rydal Hall is now fully established as our new base of operations for our Easter visits to the Lake District, following the sad demise of Hammarbank three years ago. In many ways a more conveniently situated and certainly more comfortably appointed centre, it has proved popular with boys and staff alike. The weather usually provides us with experience of a variety of felltop conditions, but this year included two magnificent and memorable days walking.

This year has seen the refurbishment of the Lower School building, which although modest in scope has resulted in considerable improvements to our teaching and living environment, not least the carpeting which has significantly deadened the acoustics and has made the building, if not the quietest place in the school at least a tolerable, even congenial place to be in at breaks and lunch hours.

Finally, we welcome Mr Pope as a first year tutor this year and look forward to seeing the fruits of his resurrection of the Model Railway Club.

MGHD



CHIEF JUSTICE SIR JOHN HOLT, O.A.

NKH kindly provides us with the following information on Chief Justice Holt (1642 - 1710) culled from his reading of *Pleasant Spots around Oxford* which was published late in the last century. He goes on: It contains a nostalgic description of Abingdon Grammar School (sic), then located in the Roysse Room but goes on to relate several anecdotes about one of the most distinguished Old Abingdonians.

"But the glory of Abingdon Grammar School is that it can boast one of its scholars. This great man was born in the year 1642. Holt's family was connected with Oxfordshire; his father had a small estate there, and he lived to see his son fairly enter upon his career. Everything used to be against a defendant in a criminal suit; the law suspects any accused person of being guilty till he can establish his innocence; and it was quite customary to interrogate witnesses about any man's antecedents, but Chief Justice Holt suddenly stopped the Crown prosecutor as he was bringing some circumstances against a man that had occurred three years before the offence of which he was accused. "Hold, sir, hold! What are you doing? How many issues are to be raised to perplex me and the jury? Away! Away! That ought not to be". In those days of cruel criminal law it was quite usual to bring the accused party into the court ironed, and, on one occasion, one Cranburne was so placed in the dock. The Chief Justice, hearing the clanking of gyves, said "I should like to know why the prisoner is brought here in irons; if there was any danger of his escape before, there is none now. Strike them off!" That such a man was beloved by all the nation needs no telling. He also completely reversed the commonly received ruling that a man must attend his own parish church every Sunday, saying that "churches were for the use of people, not parsons, and if a man attended the service in Temple Church, for example, or Gray's Inn, how could he be at his parish church at the same time?" The often-repeated aphorism that "slaves cannot breathe in England," originated with Chief Justice Holt, but singularly enough, on merely technical grounds, as it appeared. The "Somerset case," that has been so often alluded to, was this:- A slave was sold, and the vendor sued for the amount in the Court of King's Bench, laying the issues at St. Mary-le-Bow. There was nothing in those days very remarkable in what we should consider such irregularity now, but the negro was described in the pleadings as "there sold and delivered," and the Chief Justice said, the action was not maintainable, for the status of slavery did not exist in England. If, however, he continued, the plea had stated that the claim was in Virginia, he would have been obliged to allow it.

Lord Campbell "in his Lives of the Chief Justice" well sums up the character of this great man when he says that he was not a statesman like Clarendon, and he was not a philosopher like Bacon. He might well have added that he did not resemble him in other qualities less held in veneration than philosophy, and he was not an orator like Mansfield. Yet his name is held in equal veneration to any of theirs, and there are some who consider him to be the most venerable judge that ever occupied the seat of a Chief Justice.

However, our chief point of interest in Chief Justice Holt at present is that is that he was a scholar at Abingdon Grammar School for between seven and eight years."

There is a portrait of Sir John Holt in the Grundy Library, which I purchased for the school in 1973, and I am delighted it still hangs there for members of the school to view.

NKH



VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The voluntary service group has seen a gradual build-up in numbers over the last three years; the influx of six-formers has been particularly encouraging, and our contacts with local primary schools have been strengthened. Voluntary service is not just about visiting old ladies to help with shopping or gardening, valuable activity though that is - and much appreciated by the recipients; visiting a local primary school is an increasingly popular option, to help out in the classroom or with games sessions or computing. Boys have commented both informally and in their written reports, on the value of the experience they have gained in learning to appreciate the difficulties faced by less privileged members of the society - particularly the handicapped children at Bennet House school - and to be faced with finding some short term solutions to those problems.

Two sixth formers (James Stopps and Adrian Pearson) are devoting their technology projects to meeting some of those needs at Bennet House, and it would be good to have more sixth formers coming forward with special skills to offer; but voluntary service welcomes all new members from middle or upper school. If you are willing to accept a challenge and have an hour a week to spare, then go for it!

PW

THE SCHOOL THROUGH GERMAN EYES

In the first place, our schools in Germany are run by their respective states. We don't have to pay for the same sort of education one gets here, so everybody has got the same chance, it is not dependent on money. Our lessons are all 45 minutes long and the average school day consists of 6 lessons. Between the lessons we have a five minute break, and two 10 -15 minutes breaks throughout the whole morning. So we only attend school from 8 a.m. to 1 or 2 p.m..

After school, pupils wishing to pursue physical education further may take part in privately organised sport. This is necessary, as usually the amount of sport organised by the school is not enough for most people. Up to the eleventh class (our lower sixth) we are taught a wide range of sports, for example athletics, gymnastics, hockey, etc. for 3 periods a week. From then on we can specialise in a main sport for the remaining time at school (3 years). This leads me on to say that we have 13 school years (4 primary school + 9 grammar school). These days our eleventh year is often used by pupils to go abroad.

Our curriculum is different as well. As in the lower school here, we are taught at least 12 subjects for the first two years. But different to your upper school, we have to study at least 8 subjects right up to the end. This idea is thought to give you a wider variety of knowledge.

In the eleventh year we choose our 'A' levels'. Unlike you, we have 4 'A' levels. All are written exams, whilst 2 are oral as well. Only in the last half year do we drop all subjects except our 'A' levels to prepare for our final certificate, the Abitur, which we need in order to get into university.

Another big difference is that almost all German schools are attended by boys and girls. Nor do we have school uniforms and smoking is allowed. One way and another full boarding schools are not very common.

During my stay at Abingdon I especially enjoyed the great range of afternoon activities and the facilities in the technical sector. I rowed all three terms, with more or less success, and must admit that it became part of my life at Abingdon School. As I do not have the possibility of rowing in Bielefeld this was the only sport I did here apart from volleyball in the first term. All the heads and regattas were really big events, good fun and pretty impressive, even though we did not bring home any silver in our Novice Four!

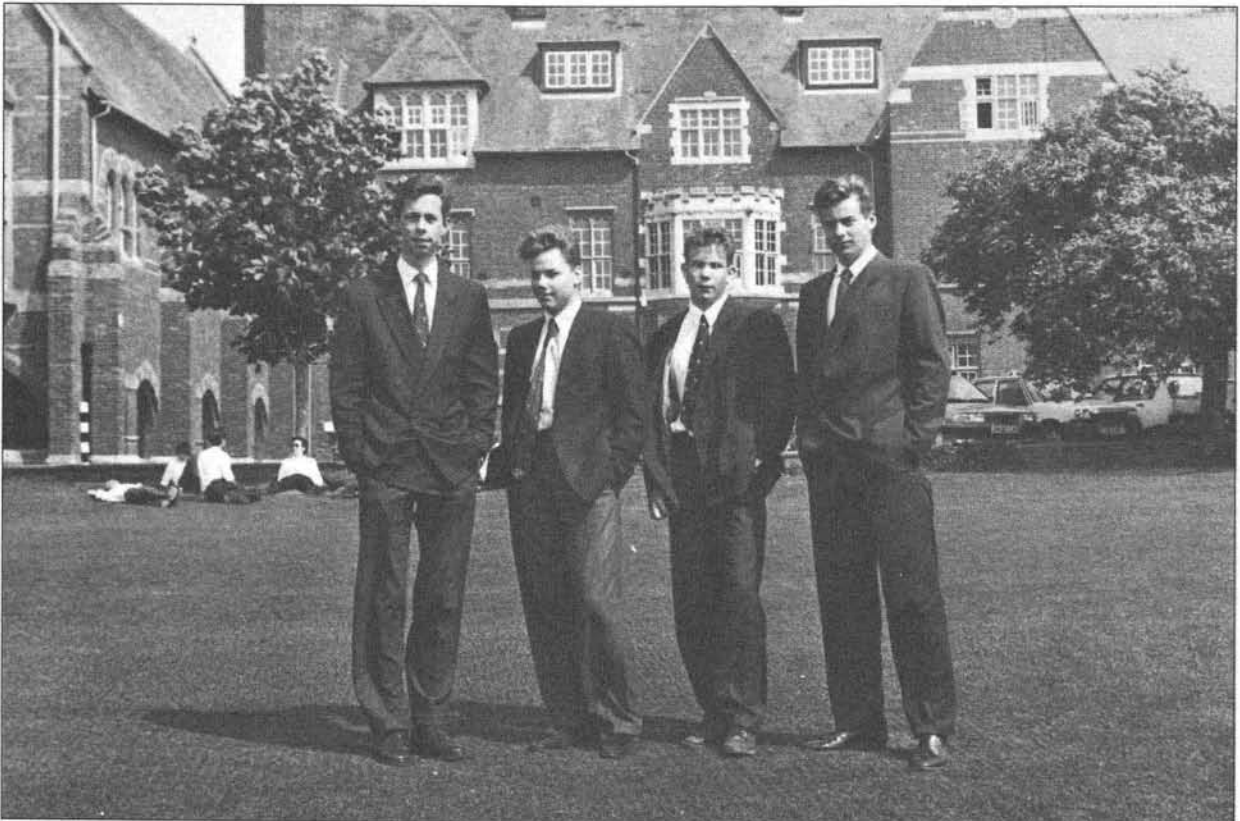
In the first two terms I spent a lot of my time producing brass cannon barrels for a radio controlled sailing ship on the computer-controlled lathe. By doing that I wrote the necessary programmes myself and I gained a lot of experience.

All my expectations proved to be completely wrong when I first came here. I had never seen Abingdon School before and was impressed by the size of the school grounds. The 'typical' English weather as well did not seem to be that English. The weather throughout the terms was in fact very pleasant. Although I missed Bielefeld a lot, I'm sure that after a month or two of relaxing German holidays, I would come back to stay another year. There's only the problem that I have to get on with my school work in Bielefeld, and so all this is only a dream.

After my experience I would advise everyone who asks to spend a year abroad; it is well worth it!

C. von Bernuth

*The German boys who spent last year in the Lower Sixth:
Hendrik Hoppenstedt, Constantin von Bernuth, Oliver Krian, Kai Warnecke*



THB INTERVIEW

Shortly before his departure, THB kindly agreed to talk about his experiences and philosophy as a teacher to Andrew Browne.

AB: Mr. Birnberg, I wonder if I could ask you why you chose to come to Abingdon.

THB: I was seeking a post as a teacher, I thought that I had a few more years to give. I had done 25 years of teaching, and I didn't think that it was fair to retire; I was just over 50, so I still had a few years left. When I came to Abingdon I had a certain amount of knowledge about the school, because one of my contemporaries at college was there as a teacher; that would have been at that the time that Mr Cobban was headmaster. He hadn't had a very good impression of the school, but told me that he thought that the school had changed a great deal. When I came here I found that he was probably right, the school had developed greatly. Abingdon was close to Oxford, I thought that this would be useful as I have contacts there. I was also impressed by the headmaster because he interviewed me and I enjoyed the interview; when I enjoy an interview, or previously when I have enjoyed an interview, I know that this is a place for me. I felt that I ought to give something of myself to a place, I wanted to do something of value: this was virtually one of the conditions; to be a 'civilising influence', heaven knows what I've been like at that!

AB: Did you plan to be a teacher?

THB: No, initially I didn't. When I left university my father was a teacher and he tried to put me off, he wanted me to go into business. I had always felt tempted to be one, because I liked working with people, I don't like office life. I did try my hand at business, and I didn't enjoy it because it was dealing with paperwork. Teaching was difficult to start with, but it became easier with time and experience. You learn about how to keep your temper and be patient.

AB: What is the most important thing teachers should aim to do, as well as teaching?

THB: Teaching a subject is not everything. As I said, I think that one of the reasons that I was employed here was to give a bit of civilisation. To me, the most important part of teaching is the exchange with personality, it's not the individual subject that matters, it's more the way you can put information across and the way that you learn it. Obviously I've tried to do this more in my General Studies than in French. Although, I feel that after you pass a certain stage in a subject, be it French, Mathematics or any other, you can actually enjoy learning something together, rather than putting it over as a definition - teacher to pupil. That's always been my aim in teaching, whether I've been successful or not I don't know.

AB: What are you going to do now that you are leaving here?

THB: When I was at university I did an elaborate study on a particular French author who is almost

unknown; his name was Bloch. He wrote a series of plays and novels in the period between 1908 and 1945. I have written most of his biography, but it has never been satisfactory to me so I want to complete that first of all. I am hoping to get it published. That will take me two or three years to complete. In the meantime I might do some part time teaching. I don't have any other particular plans, I'm lucky in that I'm in the position where I can support myself so I don't have to work.

AB: It would be nice if we could have some of your ideas on life when you were our age.

THB: Well, the situation was very different when I was 14, 15, 16, from the situation today. I lived through the war, and in 1945 when we'd finished the business of bombings, shelters and being terrified, there was a great wave of hope that the world was going to change, a new world free of wars, and I was very much a part of that generation. I was at a public school myself, at Canterbury. The interesting thing about my school was that one of the chairmen of the governors was one of the most provocative people in the church; the dean of Canterbury, and he was a communist, a christian communist. His ideas would be preached to us in Canterbury cathedral, and I think that they've always lasted in my experience. I've never been a communist, but I've always felt there should be a fairer distribution of resources, and that I should try to give rather than to take.



The pedestal in the Jekyll Garden photographed by Alex Ions, VTB, showing the stone carvings to good effect

SIXTH FORM FUTURE:

A VOICE FROM BEYOND THE BARRICADES

AB: Do you approve of today's society when they say they are out to get money?

THB: No, no I don't. I always feel that I'm speaking from a position of great luck, because I've saved up my money and I've got enough to live on. I've never really wanted for something that I've needed. I myself, in my own experience, have found that the best things in life don't come through money at all - they come from meeting people.

AB: Do you feel that religion has played an important part in your life?

THB: Oh yes; when I was your age, I had to study a certain amount of Hebrew. It was not exactly a condition of my education, both my parents were concerned that I should study my background, and since they couldn't give me a detailed education I had to go to Sunday school. I didn't believe in a full sense in those days, I still don't believe in a full sense today. I wouldn't say that I'm a religious person, in a practical sense, in a formal sense, but I would say that I'm religious instinctively; they is to say that I believe there is a purpose to life.

AB: Whatever that may be!

THB: Oh no, I know what it is, at least I know what it is for myself: man is here to show what he is best at, he knows instinctively what's best, that is the extraordinary quality of humans. It is difficult to explain right or wrong, or good or bad, but I think that we can instinctively distinguish between the two; and it is our duty to live according to the best as best we can. I believe that very firmly, and that's religion for me. Too serious perhaps, too philosophical? It's fairly simple actually, I don't believe in extremely complicated faith.

AB: If you could introduce any changes to the school, what would you do?

THB: That's not an easy question to answer I must say. There is one very important thing I'd like to see changed, I know the headmaster doesn't agree with me, because we've had arguments about it! From my experience at Milfield, I found that mixed education was a much happier experience than single sex education. I think that being brought up only amongst boys, and with a predominance of male teaching staff, one's blinkered, like horses. One doesn't really see life in the proper sense that a society should have. Boys and girls have a good influence on each other, and I think that the place could be greatly improved having girls.

I'm quite pleased and satisfied to have worked here, the pupils are generally kind, gentle, thoughtful to others and unselfish. It's always been pleasant working with such people; maybe it's just the atmosphere of Abingdon, their backgrounds, I don't know, but I've got a lot of praise for the place. Perhaps it ought to produce some more specialists, there are good students here. I like the attitude to sport here; keen, but not too keen; at Milfield, they had to win. I also like the attitude to community service.

AB: Mr. Birnberg, thank you very much.

The organisation of 'the sixth form' at Abingdon School is far more difficult than it may at first sound. Below the catch-all title of a 'sixth former' lie 238 very individual personalities, groups and blocks with their own needs, attitudes and outlooks on life. Firstly, the different situation of boarders as against dayboys must be coped with, then Prefects must be given privileges and powers without causing the antagonism evident in the 88/89 upper sixth. Such problems combine with the sheer academic pressure of the upper sixth; UCCA, PCAS, Oxbridge and A levels and the always difficult shift from adolescence to adulthood to make for a nightmare for all those directly concerned with the sixth form.

Sixth forms can be run in a variety of ways; from the ultra-liberal Henley College type system to the rigorous conformist life of some religious establishments. Abingdon falls between the two extremes; lessons are relatively relaxed affairs without becoming useless 'listen if you want' sessions, discipline is strong without being overpowering, and the School can be questioned and will reply, but once the answer is given it must be accepted. No sixth form system is perfect, but ours seems to cope with its wide variety of people and tastes fairly well. It is impossible to consider the sixth form at Abingdon in isolation from the main body of the School, and this is a trap which many advocates of the 'college' system forget. Only by isolating the sixth form from the rest of the community could it be run as a sixth form college. Whilst the arts subjects are mainly taught in the splendid Victorian isolation of Whitefields, the life of the sixth form is too integrated with the lower years to allow a much more liberal system. Boarders live with 3rd, 4th and 5th years, Prefects are responsible for the whole school, we eat together and have assembly together; in these conditions a sudden change of rules and values between the fifth and lower sixth would be very difficult.

Despite all this however, there are grumbles and complaints in the sixth form about the weight of rules and regulations we must obey, and whilst many will never be resolved to the satisfaction of all (the issue of smoking comes to mind), other rules and problems can be resolved, sensibly and reasonably. As the Headmaster said last year, there is often a problem of communication involved. These problems are arriving at a time of forthcoming change for the sixth form. It is for these reasons that as Chairman of the (at present only administrative) sixth form committee that I hope to instigate some kind of Headmaster's question time for the sixth form. As of writing (November '89) this is only on the drawing board, but I believe it would be a positive step forward and a first stage in ensuring a liberal, questioning yet constructive sixth form.

Andrew Green VIM

Art

AN ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVE

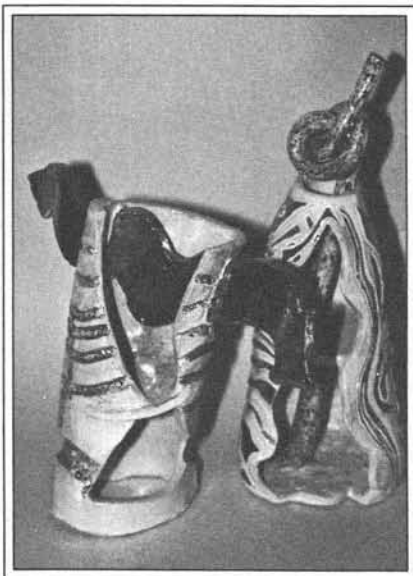
Climbing the stairs to the sixth form art studio for the first double art period of a term can be an ominous experience, for the still life which will greet you as you turn the corner at the top will be an arrangement of objects which over the coming weeks you will get to know very well indeed.

Whether it inspires you with hope or dread, the challenge of the next 15 - 20 hours of art periods is to interpret onto canvas or emulsioned card, a picture which will describe what you see by its composition, its use of light and dark, warm and cool colours, even its surface and texture, and that is enough to daunt anyone on his first Monday morning of the term!

Once the still life has been walked around and studied it is time to choose an angle from which to draw. After a couple of minutes, partly based on choice and partly by a process of elimination in which many of the prime spots have often already been seized by someone else, I settle for a position on the left at about 45°. Rummaging in my drawer, past the old paintings and drawings of previous term, I produce a pencil set. Grabbing these and my drawing board and a fresh piece of A3, I settle down on the table edge to sketch my preliminary drawings.

The preliminary sketch is meant to help you ease your way into the still life, and indeed for me I find this

is the case. It helps establish a feeling for the scale and shape of the object, the way in which they relate to each other and the general areas of light and dark. Already doing the first one, I think I have the composition I want. Nevertheless, it's best to press on and experiment a bit further.



Another 20 minutes work confirms me in my original opinion, and I square off and grid my small thumbnail sketch to help in getting the correct composition when I start the oil painting itself. A good composition is essential and there are no fixed rules to go by - composition is a natural process and is arrived at by feeling rather than design. Composition and its adherence or not to the conventions can be as individual as the style of painting itself and can make or break or break the final product.

Once the sketch is scaled up, I begin to lay out the general lines with a broad brush using a high concoction of white spirit and ochre oil paint. Again, as in the first sketch, general areas of tone and light and dark are blocked in covering up the white. Use of colour is very important for me and my paintings often appear much more colourful than the objects I am painting are in real life. Colour is an important device in trying to convey the mood of a painting, its warmth or coldness.

The initial blocking in takes time, and is essential to get the basis upon which you are to build your composition properly. Scale and positioning of the objects can be very frustrating. Nothing is more infuriating than repeated measuring of length and angle which leads to a representation on the canvas of the object you are studying, yet no matter how hard you try and how much your intellect knows is correct, it still looks wrong.

A major part of learning to look (which is helpful if you want to paint) is in unlearning the rules you have been indoctrinated with since birth. It is astonishing how different things really are to the interpretation our minds give them. When you are painting you are interested for the most part in what is really in front of you, not what you think you are seeing, and on the techniques which need to be employed to make a picture hang together.

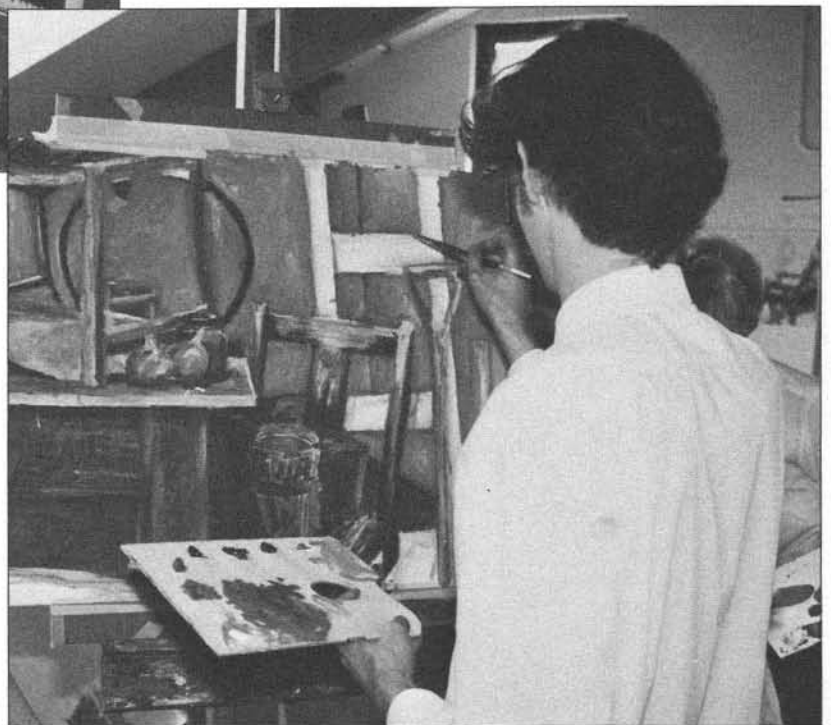
However, interpretation, the concentrated use of the mind, is very important when painting. I have not set out to create a photographic image of the still life. A camera would do that better than me. What I want to create is a personal response to what I see which, while being an individual interpretation also remains within certain agreed limits of what a 'sixth former's art working toward A level' should be.

Now that the basic colours and tones of the piece have been laid down, I can choose a spot from which I can develop the rest of the painting. I start in the middle and begin to work away industriously at the canvas, with

palette (nine colours, one white, three yellows, one green, two blues, two reds, no black!) in one hand, and brush (lots of varying widths and types of end) in the other.

In the way in which I paint I use lots of colour, as mentioned, and brush strokes are important. Early in the sixth form I was influenced by Cézanne and so my paintings display bold brushmarks and directional strokes which go against the natural lines of any particular object. Unfortunately, it can be the case that style rather than the still life becomes the motivation behind the painting. This tends to happen to me and I find that the style can readily become my master rather than being a tool I can use. Losing concentration and allowing yourself to slip into auto-pilot can happen very early.

L.D. Barrett VIM



Studies of a still life: alternative perspectives

POTTERY

The relocation of the pottery from the Amey Hall site to the Warehouse was a Godsend for my work. The old site for the pottery was one large room, high ceiling, breeze block wall, large windows and too many people, most of whom were 'just passing through'. The new site in the Warehouse is much less accessible for that purpose so that only the people doing pottery are those who want to be there which makes it very personal. The brick walls, low ceiling, open plan rooms and views onto Bath Street as well as into the Horse & Jockey give it a much more homely feeling! This feeling is so important because I can spend up to eight periods a week working quietly there. In this one area I can experience total freedom from the usual bonds of the school. Lessons are very relaxed with music playing faintly in the background. I choose to get on with my own projects with Mr Hunter there when I need him for help and advice. The times I choose to do pottery are times when there are very few people there - three or four or none at all. This makes the pottery very quiet which gives me the opportunity to think and work to the best of my ability.

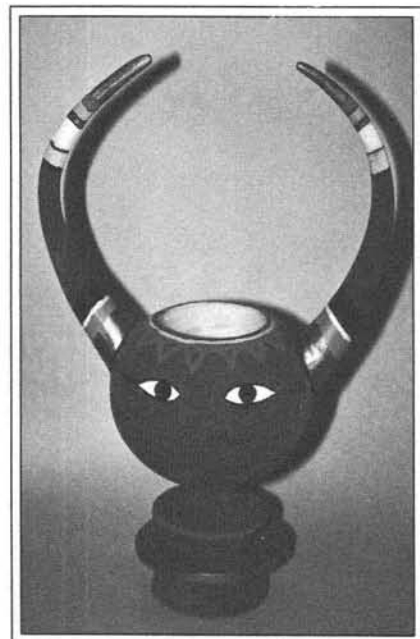
Last year in the Lower Sixth I completed two major projects, one a 12ft by 3ft mural of an ivy plant, and the other a study of the relationship between circles, squares and triangles. These both went very well but reflect the atmosphere of the old pottery area.

This year I find the atmosphere for working more congenial and I like to try out new ideas, not just those which can be done in a day, but those which involve construction and fixing. The new pottery seems to help me develop some of my ideas.

My first project this year was studying the construction of metal objects and representing this in a sculpture. I took this opportunity to find out more about the constructional properties of clay. To add to experimentation I used a clay called 'crank', which is a mixture of normal loam clay with very fine grit. This gives the clay a coarse texture. I hated using it at first, but when my sculpture was complete I knew that nothing else would have given the effect I wanted.

I then took inspiration from a living sculptor called Henry Pim. He makes thin-walled handbuilt containers

with rich textured surface decoration which relate to useful forms. I followed in Pim's footsteps copying his methods if not his work) none of which I had ever used before. I found myself using Porcelain clay which is much more delicate in texture along with coloured strips, glazes, carved plaster rolling pins and pattern



stamps. Before starting this project I had never done anything quite like it. I found that I was learning very quickly about so many different methods, and about decoration in particular.

As with everything else I have done this term, this project sparked off another. I am now busy making simple coil pots in various shapes in order to experiment in the art of 'Raku' firing. This will be the most exciting project so far because it is one discipline which I have never yet seen, let alone done myself. Raku firing involves taking the pot out of the kiln at maximum temperature and plunging it into sawdust. The sawdust combusts and burns oxygen around the pot producing unique surface and glaze effects.

Although much of my time is spent in the pottery, I do frequently venture into the art school to take part in life drawing classes and perfecting the plant studies which I must do for my subsidiary paper when I sit the Sculpture and Ceramics A-level exam in January.

I have also produced a lot of drawing and painting work which, although pieces of work in their own right, go hand in hand with pottery/sculpture which is where my main allegiance lies.

R. Greasby VIB

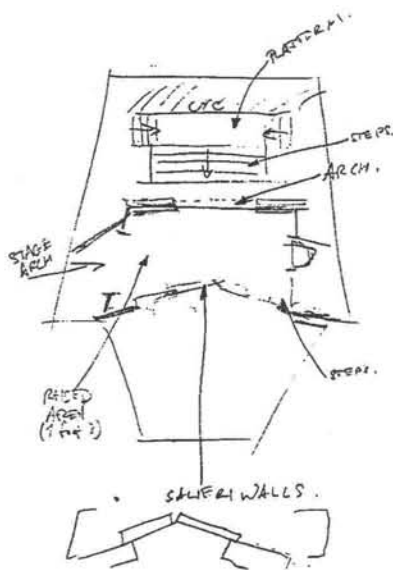
3D CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

When I was in the middle school, I spent some time watching with amazement one of my predecessors, Christian Zwart, working on a model he was constructing for a production on the Amey Hall stage, and was intrigued when I saw a play performed on the stage using a set which had been enlarged from a scale model which he had constructed.

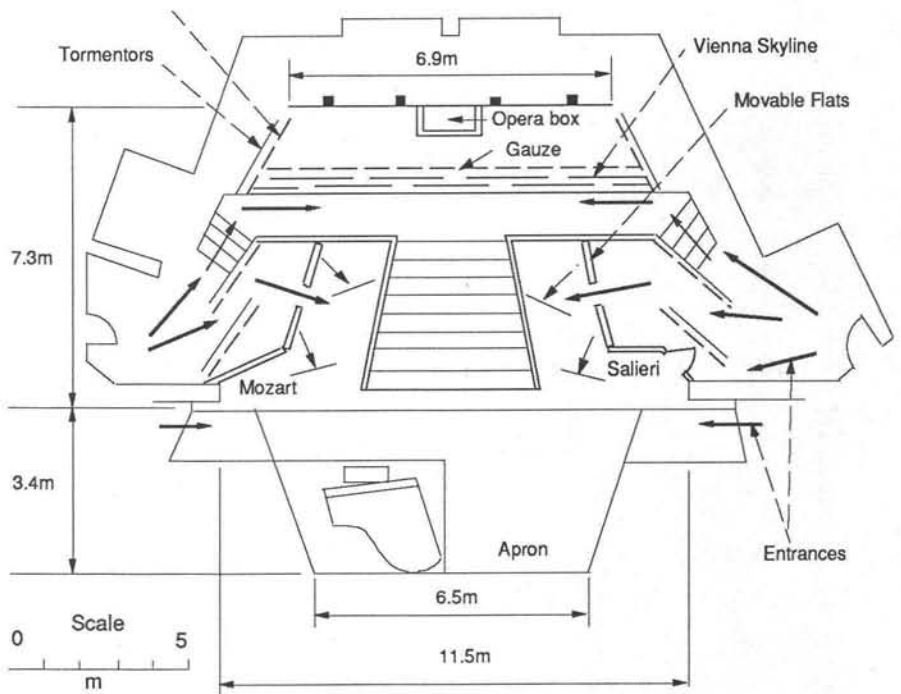
My interest in three dimensional design began here, but it was not until the beginning of the lower sixth that I really developed it, when, along with two other boys, I designed a shop-front for a local printing shop. We did the necessary calculations and then embarked on the model. It was here that I realised how much I enjoyed this side of A level art. Unfortunately, in the novelty of model making the design suffered and the result for me was less than satisfactory.

It was in this same term that I helped build the set for *The Cherry Orchard* and realised that I would like to have a go at designing for a play, so when I heard Mr Macdonald was producing *Ubu Rex* I declared an interest. Then, even before that play was performed, I learnt that Mr Taylor was to produce *Captain Stirrick* in the summer term, so once again I volunteered. Both of these plays were great fun to do and I have learnt a lot under the guidance of both Mr Macdonald and Mr Taylor. It was around this time that the idea for an inter-school dramatic production was put forward by David Ratcliff. He is my co-producer for *Amadeus*, and he asked that I should design the set. I was very happy to agree. So in every sense it was back to the drawing board and the I.T. centre.

Stage design is a complex process, like all types of design, where you have to combine the imagination and



From this...



... to this

creativity of Art with the cold truths of practicality. There is no point in designing something that will look superb when it will cost thousands. But here it must be quickly said that good ideas don't always have to be expensive, in fact simple ideas are often the most effective.

In the A-level Art exam, there is a main paper and a subsidiary paper, and I have just had to decide which main paper to take. In my case this wasn't a hard choice to make, and it has meant that I can concentrate on three dimensional design with Mr Biggs rather than on oil painting, which although great fun is not my 'forte'. Although I admire great painters such as Monet and Cézanne enormously, I feel that I can relate more to the three-dimensional nature of sculpture such as that of Rodin, and I was fortunate enough to be able to see some of these artists' work during our recent sixth form art trip to Paris.

At present I am working on an interior design project for an Art History area in one corner of our new large Art room. It requires a different approach from stage design. Here there are constraints to work within, walls, windows, ceilings and so on. You have to be more realistic, furniture has to be designed to be ergonomic and colours more subtle than for the stage.

At present we are very fortunate in the Art school to be developing the concept of 3-D construction and design, with tools and materials, such as fret saws, expanded polystyrene cutters, wire, acrylic sheeting, wood, different kinds of card and so on, enabling all members of

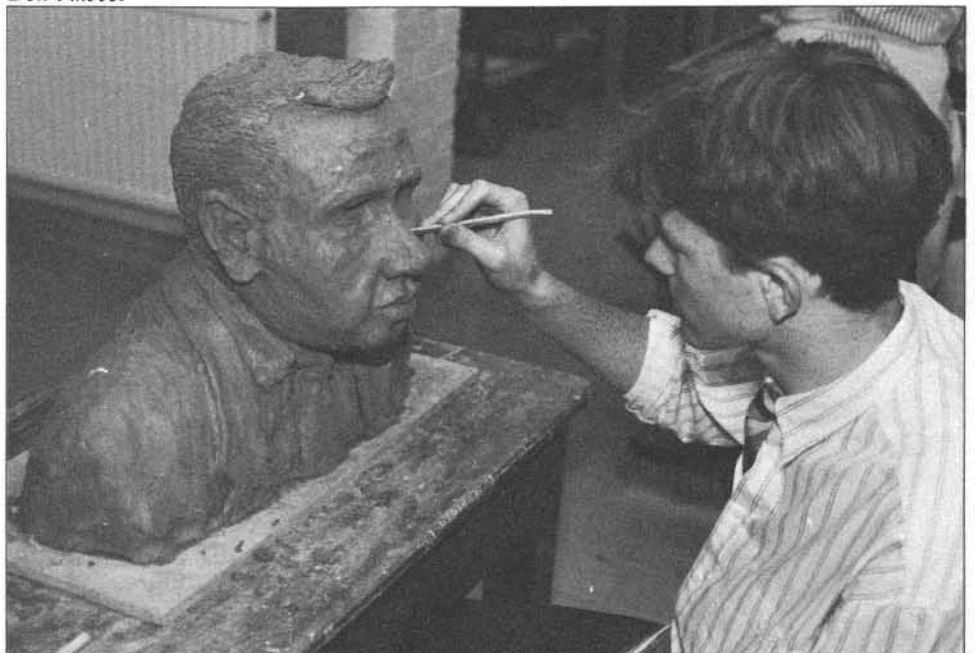
the school to indulge and develop their skills.

Recent developments in G.C.S.E. courses have encouraged students to work thematically and approach ideas from varying points of view using different materials and techniques. The new facilities enable constructions, low-relief sculptures and multi-media artwork to take their place alongside drawing, painting and ceramics. Lower School groups have built mobiles and tower structures, Middle School have been involved with skeletal structures derived from the linear qualities of perspective drawing, and there are increasing opportunities in the Sixth Form for theatre and interior design.

My own aspirations are towards architecture, as were Christian Zwart's, and I believe this to be a very exciting time for Design in general and for Architecture in particular.

Philip Johnson VIB

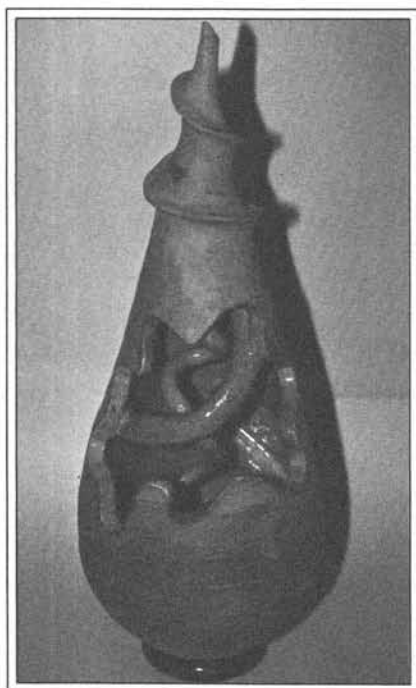
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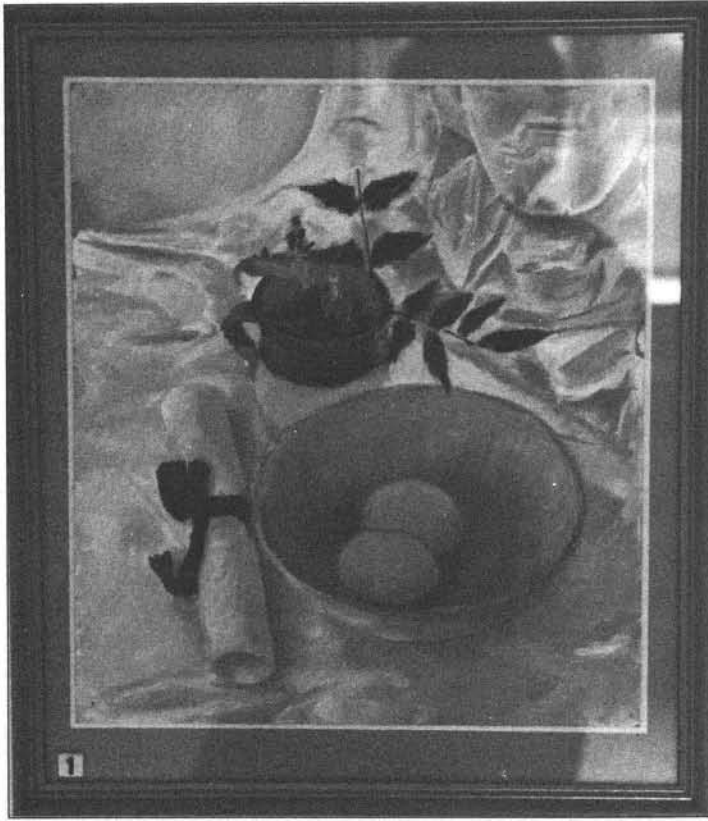
THE BOARDERS' HALL



The conversion of the old school kitchens into the Boarders' Hall has produced an excellent and much needed gallery space for pupils' work. Centrally located, the fact that it is also the main thoroughfare to lunch, means that everyone has a chance to view work produced by the art department. It is intended that at least two major exhibitions be mounted each year. The current one shows a variety of work by sixth formers, mainly paintings of still lives, plant studies and drawings from the life class which takes place regularly on Monday evenings.



Robert Scott: Still Life with Eggs



James Hahn: Junk Yard

*Harry Acton:
Copy of Head
by Lucien Freud*



CCF

REPORT

This has been a very busy year for the CCF especially in terms of camps, expeditions, and competitions. The major camps and some training are described elsewhere but it should be noted that the SEDIST Skill at Arms meeting, the Tremlett Trophy Artillery competition, a Field Training week-end at Bicester, and a visit to RAF Odiham also formed part of our programme. During the year our Tuesday training activities were enriched by presentations from the Royal Navy and Army (Household Division) and a number of 'postal shoot' events including the RAF Assegai Trophy and the Country Life competition landscape shoot.

That we have been able to sustain such a high level of activity is due in no small part to the contribution of Sgt. Keith Schofield who was our Senior School Instructor (SSI) for a year. Sgt. Schofield joined us after a career with the Guards and then with the no.16 Cadet Training Team at Bicester. He was a qualified canoeing and rock climbing instructor as well as having a thorough knowledge of military skills and cadet matters. Having a staff instructor permanently available for administration and contact with cadets made the organisation of all our events run much more smoothly. It was with regret that we said goodbye to Keith to seek employment elsewhere after the Summer camps this year. A permanent full-time salary simply proved too much for the Corps' limited resources and although the School was generous in its support the financing of this job remained mostly a CCF responsibility. In these days of budgetary restraint and hard financial decisions we have had to accept that we cannot sustain the cashflow required for a person employed along these lines. I remain convinced that the CCF requires help both at instructor and administration levels but so long as it must exist from within its own resources I can see little prospect of a permanent solution.

During this year, Flying Officer Ian Fishpool has taken command of the RAF section and Lieutenant Julian Ellis the Army section. The number of active officers within the School is now down to three and although we are fortunate in receiving some outside help the main burden falls upon members of the permanent staff. It is perhaps just as well that a perceived increased demand on boys' time coupled with a determination to avoid losing out from a variety of School activities is squeezing the Corps into a smaller membership and putting pressure on our Tuesday afternoon time. Such a situation is not all bad and we are concentrating hard on becoming a leaner, fitter organisation and striving to improve the quality of our activities.

Two separate manifestations of this striving are the improvements to our mobility in the shape of a Sherpa 13 seater minibus and the support which we mobilised for the School's Iceland expedition. Our old mini-bus after six years heavy service following an extremely strenuous previous experience with the Royal Navy finally gave up the ghost during the year and was classified as beyond economic repair. Despite our slender financial situation we were successful in acquiring an ex-Royal Corps of Transport Sherpa during the summer. The Army was instrumental in giving permission for the release of funds which helped us in this purchase

and the vehicle has already proved its worth.

The Iceland expedition was a problem on an altogether greater scale. Accounts of its success will appear elsewhere but I think it is fair to record here that without the help and work of officers of the CCF and the generous loans of equipment from the Army the expedition would not have been possible. The Combined Cadet Force is proud to have been closely associated with this venture.

For the coming year we hope to implement our carefully prepared training programme and to sustain the variety and intensity of out-of-School activity. Whatever changes are in store for us we know that the year to come will be an interesting one.

C.J. Biggs, Contingent Commander

LEADERSHIP

During the last week of the Easter holidays a group of 25 boys from the middle and upper schools took part in a Leadership Training Course at Ripon, North Yorkshire. We stayed in Deverral Barracks just outside Ripon where accommodation was basic but adequate. A self-catering arrangement with our own dining room, kitchens, briefing and recreation areas gave an instant sense of all being in this together.

The activities we undertook were very varied and included things which stretched us intellectually and physically. Everything was designed to teach us something about ourselves and to reveal our capabilities in Leadership situations. There were many useful techniques to think about and try to apply if we could.

The first two days for me were spent rock climbing, abseiling and canoeing. The climbing required a lot of determination to succeed and as well as being a personal challenge emphasised the importance of teamwork and safety. The canoeing on the white waters of the River Ure was equally challenging and gave one a real respect for the forces of nature.

Then came two days backpacking in the Dales. The six members of the group all had at least one opportunity to lead as well as numerous opportunities to learn about the dynamics of group behaviour under a certain amount of stress.

Other days and nights were filled with a whole day seminar style activity on 'action centred' leadership, night navigation and confidence building tasks, and a whole day 'challenge' along the lines of 'now get out of that'.

The camp was organised by the Combined Cadet Force in the School, but boys like myself, who were not CCF members attended and benefited from the experience.

As 'Leadership' in both theory and technique is not taught within the school curriculum but nonetheless is an important thing to have knowledge of, the experience was not only enjoyable but educational.

Nicholas Silver VIF

ANNUAL CAMP

Immediately following the end of the summer term a party of fifty cadets from both the Army and RAF sections departed for Longmoor in Hampshire for a week's camp.

Longmoor is one of the Army's permanent training camps and has very good quality buildings and facilities. Accommodation is comfortable and other domestic arrangements adequate. A bonus at Longmoor is the proximity of the training areas. It is possible to walk straight out onto these areas from the camp precincts and a variety of terrain from deep forest to open heathland is easily accessible. Even the full bore shooting ranges are just a mile away so no bone-jarring journeys in four ton trucks were needed this year.

A consequence of this proximity was that maximum time could be spent in training activities and an enormous amount was achieved. Military skills training and large scale exercises including the firing of blank ammunition formed an important section of the programme. Alongside this were various individual and team challenges such as the Assault Course and orienteering competitions. An excellent day was spent away from Longmoor at Hawley Lake, the Army Engineers water training centre. Activities here included canoeing and assault boat races.

One of the really worthwhile products of a camp such as this is to see the camaraderie develop in a way which is only possible when a group live and work together for a time. A startling example of this is the way in which a rather scrappy and untrained first parade becomes a tightly controlled drill display and parade by the end of the week in which all can take legitimate pride. This serves as living proof to any who doubt the value of the disciplined teamwork and group effort.

The enjoyment and achievement possible on such a camp can only be appreciated by those who have attended one. Most agree that the quality of training and learning by comparison with that which can be provided on Tuesday afternoons in school is a tenfold increase.

As an officer I enjoy observing and taking part in the activities but much of my 'background' task is concerned with making the training possible. This may include transport arrangements, catering requirements, and equipment and weapons logistics. Providing the circumstances under which training opportunities are available to cadets is the real satisfaction of the job.

CJB

DARTMOOR AND SNOWDONIA

On a weekend in December and another in February the CCF organised some winter training as preparation for the Iceland expedition in the summer. On Dartmoor in December we camped near Princetown and then Oakhampton walking long distances each day. It was a good opportunity to try out kit, discover what we needed, and be introduced to the 'virtues' of the dreaded Vango Mark II. The Corps had laid on the transport for the trip and the food, together with the facilities of Oakhampton Army Camp if needed. Fortunately the severe weather which Lt. Ellis had hoped for never materialised and the elements proved unseasonably gentle.

In Snowdonia, during February, we had a proper roof over our heads, but space was at a premium. Some of us ended up sleeping on the floor - all part of the toughness training. Yet again the weather was not as severe as we would have liked and snow was difficult to find. One group did have a testing time on the summit of Snowdon and their experiences convinced us that rock-climbing practice on the indoor climbing wall was preferable to the outdoor variety on this occasion.

These trips, as well as being enjoyable adventure training, provided those of us going for a month to Iceland with some food for thought. Personal kit, general equipment, and logistical planning were going to be very important if we were to survive comfortably and succeed in our aims.

J. Denée 6P



Assault Course

PARACHUTING

Parachuting is what you might refer to as a minority sport. Perceived by many as something that only a lunatic would consider, it is much safer than it looks. What inspires a person to throw himself from a fully operational aircraft half a mile high in the air? I think that most of us saw it as a challenge, or something different to try that was moderately unusual. I personally have wanted to parachute for many years, and this was my first opportunity actually to have a go at it.

On the weekend of March 4-5, twelve hardy members of the middle and upper school travelled up to the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon for an intensive training programme which would end with a jump on the Sunday afternoon.

The Joint Services Parachute Centre/Army Parachute Association Centre is one of the best jump zones in the country, and the instructors take a pride in doing their job thoroughly. The training consists of fitting the parachute, landing, aircraft drills, parachute field packing and other drills which would save your life in an emergency. Guy Atkinson was unfortunate enough to be sent home immediately for being just below the minimum age requirement. Bad luck in this form stayed with us for the rest of the weekend.

Parachuting is a painfully frustrating sport; the maximum windspeed at which a beginner can jump is ten miles per hour, and Sunday was a blustery day which gave the windsock little rest. There is a phrase in parachuting circles that tells one to 'Hurry up and wait!', which perfectly sums up the experience of being grounded all day. A great deal of football was played with fellow students, and sausage sandwiches were consumed in large numbers over the 'Sunday Sport' (If you're bored you'll read just about anything!), which brought some relief.

We left after all hope of a jump had passed, and headed back to Abingdon, determined to return as soon as possible, weather permitting.

Later, a second trip was made to Netheravon in an attempt to get that jump. J. Pound and N. Richards had been up earlier and made their first descents. This left the rest of us to pray for fine weather while they went off to be taught how to pack the parachutes, the next part of the course. All Saturday the wind was too strong and the cloud cover was too low. We sat in the tiny canteen eating the same food and reading the same newspapers as last time. One of the most infuriating things about being a beginner at this sport is that the wind may be too fast for you, but for the experienced with the superior parachutes it is perfect. All day the sky-divers dropped from the sky. One man did his 100th jump. Great, but we hadn't even done one. By the time the light had got too faint to jump in we had given up hope for Saturday, and didn't have much optimism for the Sunday either. Sunday came, and the weather did not look at all hopeful. We took out our parachutes in anticipation of the wind slowing down, but all morning and for most of the afternoon we were back in the canteen.

In the event I was to take longer than the main group to make my first descent. I was to jump on the 29th of June, days before the limit of my training. My disadvantage was the fact that on my aircraft I was the only first-time jumper. Seated on the pre-flight bench, I inquired of the girl next to me whether it was her first jump too; "No, it's my 54th," she replied. I felt small, but the parachut-

ist gets great support from his more experienced brothers and sisters, so there was no holding me back.

The feeling of quiet and freedom of jumping is unrivalled by anything that I have experienced, and the only regret was that we hadn't jumped from a greater height. Everyone else who I spoke to said that they thoroughly enjoyed parachuting, and I think that most of us will return in the future. I certainly intend to. I would recommend the course at Netheravon to anyone with an adventurous streak, because it is cheap and fantastic fun. On top of this, parachuting is an extremely safe sport, and taught in a friendly, relaxed, yet professional manner.

Thanks go to all concerned in the organisation of the trip, particularly to Mr. Ellis, and also to the then SSI Keith Schofield for getting us there.

The following attended the course:

H Acton	6	W Howard	6
(G Atkinson	5)	C Hoyle	6
J Bichard	6	M Humble	5
A Brown	6	J Pound	6
A Browne	6	N Richards	6
J Hewes	6	M Watts	6

C. Hoyle 6F

RAF ANNUAL CAMP

In the last week of July a group of RAF cadets visited Royal Air Force Manston. Manston is on the Kent coast, close to Ramsgate, and is one of the oldest operational RAF stations in the country. Its primary roles today are in training both military and civilian firemen and as an Air-Sea Rescue base. It is also a major diversion airfield and receives many visits from aircraft of NATO forces and shares some runway facilities with Kent International Airport.

We were accommodated in regular service buildings and fed from the Officers' Mess. Our programme laid on a variety of activities including services organised visits and less formal happenings of our own devising.

There were good fire-fighting demonstrations, shooting sessions on the range, physical activities such as 'river-crossings', visits to squadrons and air-traffic control, a day trip to France and a Bar-B-Q evening. Much appreciated were the many opportunities to fly, not only in Chipmunks and a Sea King helicopter but also in gliders.

The highlight of the week was a visit to an underground, nuclear proof, military communications HQ. For security reasons it is not possible to go into details, but suffice to say that there were too many dials and displays and that no one person seemed to know what all of them were for!

Overall I found it an enjoyable and rewarding camp.

CJB

SHOOTING

In the course of the last year there were three competitions which the shooting team entered. The first was CADSAM, the Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting, which took place in October 1988 at Ash Ranges in Hampshire. This is a two day meeting involving many different shooting disciplines on gallery and electronic ranges, using the new Cadet weapon.

The second competition entered was the 'Country Life' match which took place on 28th February in our range, using Mk. 8 .22 rifles. This involves grouping, rapid and snap shooting disciplines with a direction of fire exercise on a landscape target to conclude. We were quite successful, gaining our second ever "listing" (finishing in the top 80) with our position of 66th, the year before being our first appearance on the list. As this competition is shot by nearly every cadet unit in the country our position is most encouraging.

The last competition entered was the Cadet Target Rifle Championships on 14th May at Ash Ranges. This consists of two scored groups shot from 300 and 500 yards using the 7.62mm target rifle. As this was the team's first entry in the competition the results were not glorious, but the event was enjoyed by all.

In the shooting elements of the SEDIST patrol competition the team also acquitted themselves well coming at the top of the ratings for this. Unfortunately, the team was unable to enter the 1989 CADSAM competition because of Mr. Schofield's departure. The survival of the team depends on having someone who can train and provide transport for it, especially as our officers are extremely hard pressed with CCF commitments already.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Schofield and also to the officers for their support.

Teams:

CADSAM

M. Humble

M. Mowatt

T. Schmittzehe

G. Burgess

Target Rifle Championships

M. Watts

J. Pipe

SEDIST

'Sedist' is an annually run Army competition which pits 40 or so rival schools' CCF/ACF cadets against each other over a range of events. This year was my second and last visit to Longmoor, as competition rules forbid me from participating again. As team leader, and the only competition veteran, I knew what we had let ourselves in for. Team changes took place the week before the competition, as GCSE and Boat Club pressures took their toll. Nevertheless we piled into our transport and set off late on the evening of May 5th. Our trials began at 8 a.m. the next day with the initiative test, which was soon followed by the individual and team assault courses. These events passed not without incident; with Corporal Humble's breakfast flashing before his eyes causing us to doubt our future in the event. After a long period of recuperation we showed our true colours on the .22 shoot, where we earned 140 out of 150 available points. This was particularly impressive, as only one member of the team is a keen member of the Rifle Club. In day Orienteering, our navigator, David Megaw managed to find us eight of the ten check points, which gave us a better score than we had expected with ten minutes to go, when we had only located four. First Aid was an event in which it was possible to gain good points, and under the instruction of Matthew Watts we managed to pick up some, which no doubt pulled us up a bit from the depths of some of our less impressive performances. Practical tests tried our skills of weapon knowledge, map-reading and hand signals (!).

The final event of the day for us was the night navigation, in which we found an Army exercise and a rabid Alsatian, but failed to locate the first check point. This is a shortcoming we discovered on my last visit - the failure of any Abingdonian to use a compass when darkness arrives. Rather than holding Dave responsible (none of us knew where we were!), I would blame it on a total lack of compass teaching. This gave morale a plunge, and we turned in on a definite low. Sunday saw the 8km. speed March and Shoot, in which we finished in an average time but shot poorly. In our defence, it was brutally hot wearing webbing, combat jackets and carrying rifles, and as a result Corporal Humble suffered heat exhaustion. Furthermore, our rifles were not zeroed, so target shooting was a bit testing. We learnt a lot on the March and Shoot, particularly about the pointlessness of being obstinate to a ridiculous extent. Individual pride means nothing amongst six men who must work as a team, and a weakness must be reduced to help everyone. With two rifles for half of the run, RSM Bill Howard showed his endurance and strength, whilst the last two kilometers with two rifles was quite enough for me! I was impressed by the determination and leadership potential within the team's lower ranks, and for a scratch team we coped admirably with the considerable challenge. With a strong team and a touch more preparation, I envisage that RSM Howard's team could make it to the top next year. I shall be sorry to miss it. Thanks go to all those who assisted us; the kitchen staff for food supplies, and especially to the then SSI Keith Schofield for his support and humour.

Flt Sgt Craig Hoyle
Sgt Matthew Watts
Cpl Matthew Mowat

6RAF RSM Bill Howard
6Army Cpl Matthew Humble
5Army L Cpl David Megaw

6Army
5Army
5Army



Raft building

Craig Hoyle 6F

Drama

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

DCT's highly successful production of Chekhov's last play THE CHERRY ORCHARD was given in the Arney Hall by a first-rate cast headed by Joe Oppenheimer. The difficulties of projecting the message of any Russian drama must be amplified by the decision to present it in translation. The very Russian-ness of the play is immediately diluted by any English version (however good), and yet the parallels with Britain in the 1980's - which were cleverly highlighted by this production compensated in telling terms to make this performance both rivetting and very convincing. The speed of the production was well-judged: in a long play, with frequently changing atmosphere and the mercurial switches between melancholy and humour, the pacing is very important. Here, not only the production itself but also the atmospheric sets (designed by Paul Crutchlow and his colleagues with the help of the Art Department) and the lighting (directed by a large team), and the slick work of the stage crew (headed by the ubiquitous and super-efficient Mark Reed) contributed in a significant way.

Bitter exchanges



Richard Denniford's sound-effects, and the off-stage flute solo (expertly played by Thomas Mannion) were also notable. The costumes and make-up (St Helen's make-up team) made another important contribution to the play's visual aspects.

Whether in a well-proportioned drawing-room or the open (and perhaps not too productive) fields of Madame Ranevskaya's estate the interactions of the protagonists were clearly projected against the historical background of peasant emancipation, the rise of the merchant class and the style of the old but failing land-owning class. The problems of these highly charged and fast changing exchanges were well handled to keep dialogue flowing at an acceptable rate, and the remorseless inevitability of the estate's demise was kept in limbo to allow for the final scene, with great skill on the part of the actors. The most difficult, and longest role (that of Lopakhin) was undertaken by Joe Oppenheimer with characteristic imagination, flair and enormous energy. He sounded well inside the part and despite the

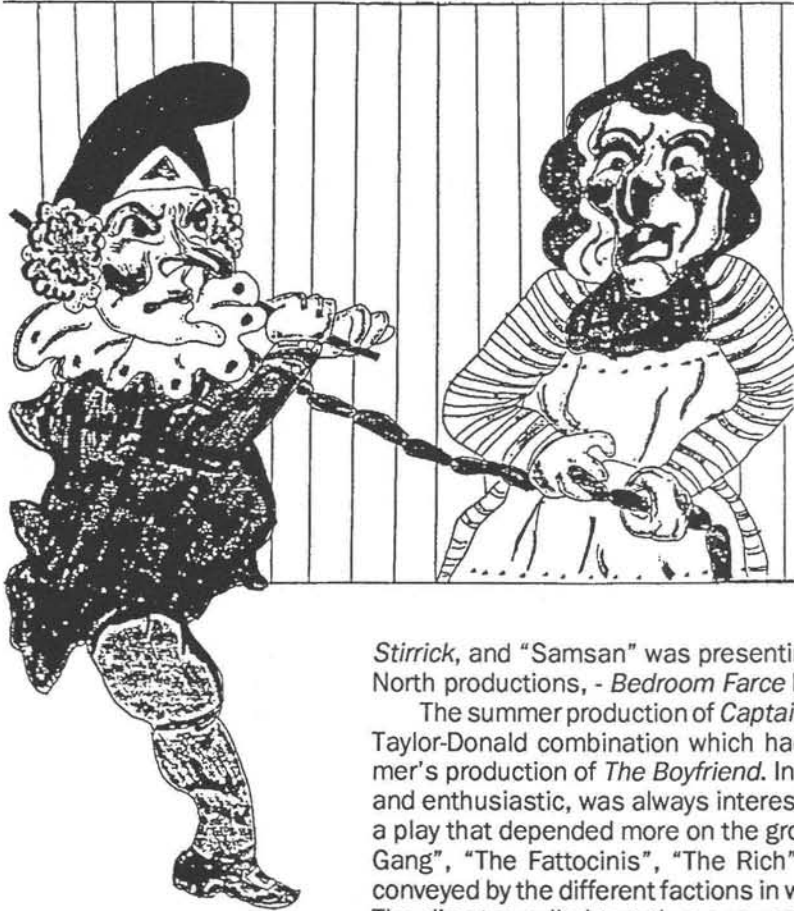
brilliantly conceived *Firs* (of Alan Welby) he was not eclipsed. Alan Welby's contorted figure as the aged, cynical footman, must remain as the most vivid and memorable portrayal of the evening and the timing and delivery were exemplary.

Anna Caldicott (*Dunyasha*), Kirsty Fowkes (*Rayevskaya*) and Nina Ross (*Varya*) gave well thought-out portrayals of these important roles, combining subtlety and imagination. Nick Richards (as *Yepikhodov*), James Smethurst (*Gayev*) and Finn Clark (*Simenov-Pishchik*) all gave intelligent and noteworthy performances. Especially notable was James North's excellent study of *Trofimov* - a fine reminder of his considerable contribution to drama at Abingdon School, and, like the standards achieved by everyone involved, a tribute to DCT's gifts as producer.

JSO

CAPTAIN STIRRICK

AMEY HALL
ABINGDON
SCHOOL



Summer term 1989 saw the Amey Hall buzzing with life. As usual the musicians were busy, the tireless Mr. Taylor was once again beginning on yet another production, *Captain*

Stirrick, and "Samsan" was presenting the last of a series of the successful Trotter-North productions, - *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn.

The summer production of *Captain Stirrick* marked the return to the brilliant, young Taylor-Donald combination which had initially come together for the previous summer's production of *The Boyfriend*. In this production the young cast, well disciplined and enthusiastic, was always interesting and lively to watch. There were few stars in a play that depended more on the group than the individual. The cast list reads "The Gang", "The Fattocinis", "The Rich" and "The Poor". What mattered was the life conveyed by the different factions in what was, after all, no great literary masterpiece. The director pulled together a young group of actors and actresses, and using the

natural vitality of the ballads and music, supplemented by the engrossing lighting and stage effects (notably the puppets and marionettes), he left the audience with a pleasing, fun evening's entertainment.

Singling out individuals is hard as there was not one person involved who could be faulted. But sticking my neck out, Daniel Seward should be mentioned for his portrayal of Ned Stirrick which suggested he has much to offer in future productions. Luke Davy's Charlie deserves a mention, as does Rachel Gabitass who coped with the series of solos with great confidence and earned everybody's admiration. Joshua Mandel as William Perfect was sinister, conniving and snide - well done to him. Well done also to the orchestra, the front of house team and, of course, the stage staff who operated as efficiently and enthusiastically as ever.

R. Jolliffe



PROGRESS



In the Lent Term, seven members of the Middle and Upper schools took part in Alfred Jarry's 'Ubu Rex', directed by Ian Macdonald. They were joined by almost an entire first year class, who played the 'extras', namely the Russian and Polish armies.

The play was written by the unconventional Frenchman, Alfred Jarry but rather than defying convention it is a take-off of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and all the usual conventions are grossly exaggerated. With this in mind, the cast was able to throw itself into an orgy of exuberance, with huge amounts of over-acting in every scene.

Rehearsals for Ubu were enjoyed tremendously by all involved and each member of the cast would alter his lines, improving the translation. The countless battle scenes made familiarity with the art of swordfighting essential and Harry White especially, as the Tsar of Russia, managed to show off his skill with a music stand, and later on an actual sword, very effectively.

The lead was played by Finn Clark, who succeeded admirably in looking the ragged mess that the part requires. Alex Chipperfield was well cast in the role of the devious Scot, Captain M'Nure, and put on an effective Scottish accent, which contrasted amusingly with Harry White's Russian intonations. Boris Randall was a remarkably enthusiastic Boggerlas, the hero of the story and Ralph Collie, as Ma Ubu, played opposite Finn Clark to make up the other half of the repulsive Ubu couple. Originally, Jarry wrote the play in order to shock, but audiences in the late 1980s are not so easily shocked as those in early twentieth century France and many of the worst expletives had been cut in the interests of taste.

Annabel Casey must be thanked for her immense help with costumes and much fun was had by the actors, trying on various assorted garments. Many quick changes had to be undergone during the performances, as insufficient actors played over-abundant parts!

It was a pity that much of the pantomime-like atmosphere of the play was lost because of the small sizes of audience, but 'Ubu' was very much an actor's play.

The set was designed by Philip Johnson and was in keeping with the Dada style of the play, although there were some embarrassing pauses in the proceedings as scenery was taken down and moved around by stage crew!

Overall the production, although not critically acclaimed or rated by the Box Offices was worthwhile and enjoyed by all of the cast.

Daniel Seward 5KDB

Tickets are by invitation only; this is adult drama. The auditorium seats a large and expectant audience, of whom at least five are adults. On stage the props define the milieu: a copy of "The Guardian" on a table (Norwegian wood) set with muesli and fruit for breakfast.

Will and Ronee are in their thirties: not easy for Jim North and Sophie Webster to acquire the requisite weight and complacency but they do both communicate successfully the ghastly trendiness of this caring couple. Will works in the media (of course) and Ronee is an administrator of a South London Community and Arts Centre. They have a lodger, Mark, played with unnerving aplomb by Rob Jolliffe; Mark works on "The Daily Express", describes himself as "God's gift to the gutter press", says "Yo" instead of "Hi", and tells dreadful jokes like "How many feminists does it take to screw in a...?"

They also have a temporary lodger, a member of Ronee's group called Ange, who is seeking refuge from her brute of a husband. Claire Lewis and Alan Welby were triumphantly convincing as this sorry couple; having previously discerned in Alan only various species of clown, I was greatly impressed by this transmogrification.

Best of all, though, was the men's group. Jim is joined by Joe Oppenheimer, James Smethurst and James Crawford (with a delightful stammer). They are types of earnest inadequates, concerned for men's rights, women's rights, bisexuals' rights, animal rights and flower rights. The subject of tonight's discussion is pornography: "I think we should start by talking about our experience of pornography. As men. Be honest about it."

Is this "Progress"? Doug Lucie manipulates our laughter - light-hearted, outraged, bitter, hilarious - until at the end it is difficult to decide which is the nastiest character. Will achieves enlightenment when he admits that his strongest feelings are "contempt and lust".

The North-Trotter axis has treated us to a lot of exciting theatre over the last couple of years, with plays by Pinter, Pirandello, Berkoff and Ayckbourn. I enjoyed Doug Lucie's venomous social comedy most of all, and fear that my education in contemporary drama will lapse now that this team of actors and producers has departed.

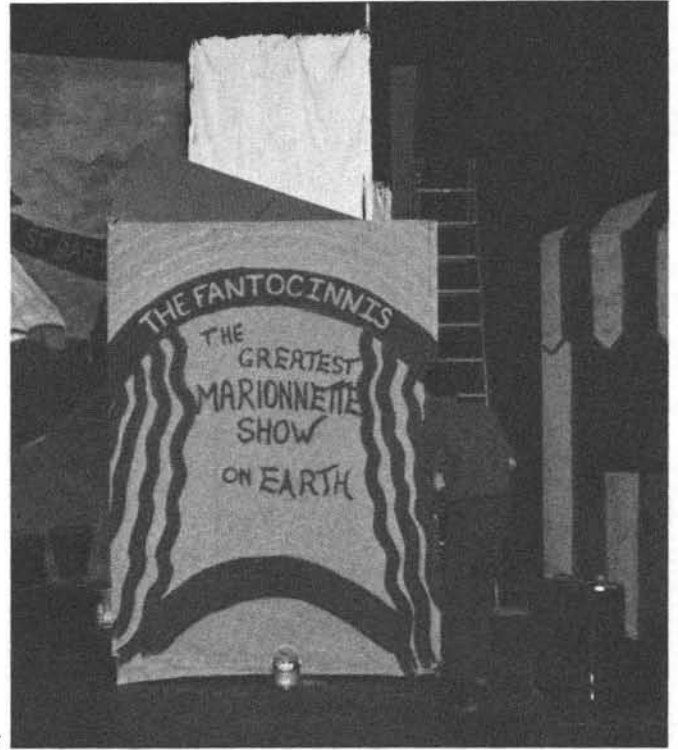
AMS

BEDROOM FARCE

Within 24 hours of the last performance of *Captain Stirrick*, the stage had changed appearance from the dark sinister dungeons and garish colours of the fair to a bedroom scene which occupied the entire stage. On several tiers stood beds, bedside cabinets, telephones and lamps with duvets and sheets in varying states of disorder. During the course of the play couples (even threesomes) would occupy the beds in ever changing combinations. Headstrong but always amusing, the characters jumped in and out of each other's beds, and soon we find the action switching from bedroom to bedroom in a way that gives the play an added rhythm. As in *Metamorphosis*, lighting played an important role in the overall effect, as our focus switched from one bedroom scene to another. The temperament of the society in which the majority of the characters live was

represented by the hurrying back and forth and the farce which reminded me greatly of Laurel and Hardy type humour. The sense of fun and sheer light-hearted zest abounded in this production, and if some must be picked out in preference to others, Magnus Macintyre and Kirsty Fowkes should be mentioned in particular. They presided regally over us all in their throne-like bed at the head of the stage and deserve a special mention for their superb pilchard/sardine eating skills!

Robert Jolliffe



Stage set in the making

CROSSWORD

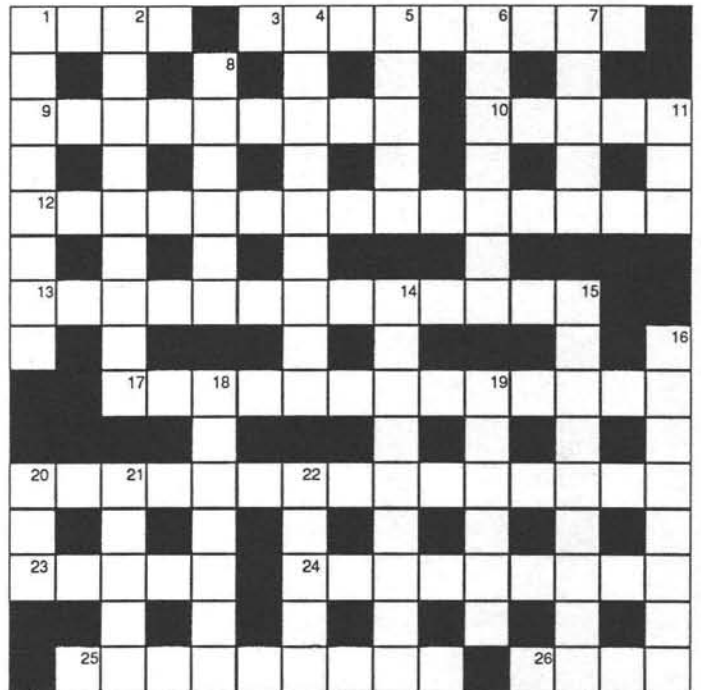
Mr. Pritchard has of late taken an increasing interest in compiling crosswords. A number have received considerable notice and he has kindly allowed us to print the following instance. If anyone should like to attempt a solution, they can send it to Mr. Pritchard, c/o the Common Room, or the editor will be very happy to pass it on.

Title: The Limit!

Each across light is connected, usually via a predictable word from a certain across clue, with the theme-word, one of the down lights. One BBC word is not in Chambers (1988) and another answer only has a derivative listed.

Across

1. Demon bowler cut back in short run (4).
3. Ian's cricket team all out (runner included) (9).
9. Brown, Somerset opener, carrying his bat, perhaps (9).
10. Sport in court returning a mighty blow (5).
12. After fixing match I play loser with feeling of pressure (15).
13. Studying the conditions for getting trophy with magical play (13).
17. White rollers flying by, dry below (13).
20. Refuge of a big apple drink when tempestuous (3,4,2,1,5).
23. They fly high when previous president initially breaks 102 (5).
24. Not out fifty in solid partnership making heavy weather thus (9).
25. Classy cover point about three times used to check depth of water (9).
26. Extraordinary year in top position (4).



Down

1. 10's source enters behind chief investigator's aim (8).
2. An odd pair from 'Home helps' can be female servants (9).
4. Keeping one hand down it is a razor... (3-6).
5. ...that removes the beard. Someone with a big mouth perhaps loses his head (5).
6. What makes Pat and Ella, unmarried, pack up the clothes (7).
7. He's a rascal using Scandinavian money to split £2 (5).
8. Lady entertainer is grabbed by stagehand losing bear (6).
11. Light blue on several new channels (3).
14. Kind of certainty Ferrari is what Mansell drives (6-3).
15. Cry ouch, I said, with jaundice symptom (6,3).
16. Drawing two lines the same length is nothing to me given four points (8).
18. Dexter briefly takes blame at number 45? (7).
19. Short putt thus unsuccessful due to poor visibility reportedly (6).
20. Champs Elysées ending in a bend? (3).
21. National winner, strange to dismiss, after a short distance was afraid long ago (5).
22. Ask for more when under 21? He did, he was! (5).

BOAT CLUB



The boat comes home

Gentle adieus from Graham Barrett

Mr Mearns' "suggestion" that I write "something for the Abingdonian" about the Boat Club seemed quite harmless until I started thinking about what to say. To my horror, my apology for a memory went into fast rewind and clunked to a halt over twenty years ago, making me feel more than usually geriatric.

When I started coaching the Junior Colts at The King's School, Canterbury,

(to get out of taking the lowest rugby game), the whole notion of such young boys rowing properly was strange and regattas had only just began to cater for them. The Boat Club had recently bought its first trailer - for two boats - and regattas were few and far between. Twenty years later, the ASBC has two trailers in almost constant motion and can have anything up to twenty entries at two or three regattas in one weekend. Things have changed.

After Canterbury's excellent fleet of boats and still more excellent boatman, I'm afraid that Abingdon was rather a shock. What Abingdon had, though, was an irresistible pioneering spirit and the sheer pleasure of helping to make everything bigger and better over the years has been an endless satisfaction - and obviously one felt too by my predecessors, George Duxbury and Roger Mortimer, to whom the boat club owes so much.

Marvellous support from boys, parents, bursars and the Headmaster made the business of finding better equipment and trying to raise our standards an exciting challenge. Taking delivery of our first brand new, really good, Italian and hideously coloured four at Henley remains an early, vivid and fond memory (as do all the wins that soon followed in it). Satisfaction at the present well-stocked boathouse will be the complementary memory, I suppose, because it represents tangible achievement, but the ASBC has always been about more than boats and equipment - sadly important though they are.

The constant pleasure of being involved in the Boat Club has been the superb enthusiasm, energy and commitment of the boys and the other coaches. Non-rowers who are not familiar with the everyday round at the boathouse cannot appreciate the scale of the enthusiasm, the sheer hard work and the tenacity that breed there: it is a part of the school where you always see boys at their best. It is a dedicated, incredibly competitive and time-consuming sport in which 'wins' count for more than the layman appreciates, and I have often wished that it did only demand strength and stupidity to succeed!

A note from RGM:

Masters in charge of rowing at Abingdon School traditionally serve in this capacity for a long while: W. Bevir, 13 years; G.J. Duxbury, 19 years; R.G. Mortimer, 25 years; G.G. Barrett, 14 years (Mr. M. Martin please note!). The reason for this is that the Boat Club has always been looking for further expansion and development, and for the person principally concerned time has flown by, with new goals in prospect and new enthusiasm from each generation of boys.

When G.G.B. took over in 1975 the Club had been enjoying reasonable success, but further advance was depend-

ent on modernising the fleet and putting the Club in a better financial position generally, the former need resting on success with the latter. G.G.B. set about these tasks with the enthusiasm, energy and good humour which have always marked his career. No doubt at this point he would indicate with some quip that this article is in danger of sounding like an obituary! The intention is very different - it is to say "Well done!" to him for his unflagging efforts to maintain standards of good oarsmanship, to persuade and encourage the oarsmen to achieve his own high sartorial standards, and to keep the fleet in as perfect a condition as

possible. Quite rightly, he cannot abide sloppiness and inefficiency, and the result has been that the Club has been a model of smartness at regattas and this has been reflected in the rowing and has led to unprecedented success.

His greatest attribute, quite apart from his financial genius, his coaching and his far-sighted planning for the future, has been his understanding of the oarsman and his ability to make rowing fun, whether in victory or defeat. There can be no members of the Club who have not enjoyed rowing, and for this they owe him a very great debt of gratitude, for that in the long term is what it is all about.

I readily confess that I shall miss being so involved with so many enthusiastic and committed boys, but I shall not miss freezing most afternoons in the winter, permanently knowing that something had to be mended or made, painting oars, fiddling with broken loudspeaker systems, writing out thousands of entries, arranging transport and packed lunches, loading trailers and endless driving to regattas, or trying to find still more money! The list could continue far too easily.

My biggest disappointments are that we never managed to achieve the consistency of our best years and that we never attracted more top coaches. I retain the nagging suspicion that Abingdon boys are too straightforward and decent to win more, but I would still prefer that crews should row their fastest through friendship and mutual trust in a club atmosphere rather than through a destructive kind of internal competitiveness that can spring from the wrong sort of elitism.

It has been a privilege to run the ASBC for the last 14 years. I shall always be grateful to all those who have made it so rewarding and who have been so generous of their time and money, although there are far too many, and it would be invidious, to mention them individually. I hope that my successor, Michael Martin, receives the same ready support, finds it as enjoyable and is able to take the ASBC to new levels of achievement.

I shall enjoy spending my newly-discovered free time looking at the superb watercolour presented to me at the ASBC party in July, and I hope that turning over the pages of my book won't be too disturbed by all those nasty, noisy megaphones on the river nearby.

THE SENIOR SQUAD

The senior squad assembled a week before the Lent term began for basic training in fours and pairs. There was plenty of individual, high-quality talent, which showed great potential, especially at the senior (Upper Sixth) end of the squad. But perhaps it was due to the good weather that we did more water work than usual and hence did not find enough time for the weights room. Attitude was slack: last year's hard attitude created a backlash which resulted in a lack of commitment in most of the squad. At any rate, the basic physical ground work was not satisfactorily accomplished

and this left the squad at a severe disadvantage towards the end of the season. Partly because of this, basic technical errors were not eradicated until late in the season (if at all). Allied with inconsistencies in technique amongst the junior members, the fastest combinations on paper did not work on the water, which led to further frustrations in training.

However, hopes were high as we took three fours to Hampton Head. The results were promising, with the 'A' four coming third out of seventeen in their event, and satisfactory performances from the other crews. At Abingdon Small Boats Head, on home waters, the 'A' four doubled up, entering the Junior and Senior 2 events. They came second and third respectively, whilst the 'B' crew came third in Senior 3.

1ST VIII

The first eights were formed soon afterwards, for Henley Schools Head, where the developing 1st VIII rowed through very wet and windy conditions to come half way down the Senior 3 field. A few major crew changes brought us to Reading University Head, again rowed in bad conditions, where the very respectable result of third out of 23 in Senior 3 boosted morale. The temporary loss of a key oarsman led to disruption in training and further crew changes. Over the four mile Kingston Head course the 1st VIII caught up with Emmanuel College Cambridge but had to slow down due to a constriction in the river, and they got away. In the Senior 3 class, we came in the top ten crews, a reasonably pleasing position.

But the crew was not settling properly and it lacked sufficient 'run' due to rushing on the slide, and power due to lack of basic physical training. More crew trials in pairs and fours and frustrating training led to a crew change immediately before Schools Head and Tideway Head. The effect, as expected, was a disaster. At Schools Head we came 19/23, compared with the usual performance in the top ten. Tideway Head, the next day, was a minor improvement: 89/400 or so crews of various quality and class, from the National Squad to the absolute Novice. We lost a potential 1st VIII member to the Ten Tors expedition, but the 1st VIII was fixed with nine oarsmen- perhaps a reflection of a lack of cohesion in the squad.

After a refreshing break of four weeks during the Easter holidays, the regatta season began with the Abingdon Leyland-DAF Power Sprints. Over the 500m sprint course, we snatched victory from Worcester RC in the first round to gain a four second TV appearance on Channel 4 in our defeat by Gloucester RC in the second round. This was followed by Putney Amateur Regatta. The stern four of the eight 'doubled-up', entering both Senior 3 in eights and fours. The eight

came second in the final to St. Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital by a length, having overcome Radley and Emanuel 2nd VIII's and KCS Wimbledon in previous rounds. After a very tiring day, the four beat Nat. West. Bank RC and London Hospital in the first two rounds, but lost to Emanuel School in the final.

Nottingham City Regatta, one of the larger regattas, is held at Holme Pierrepont, an artificial multi-lane course. Famous as much in this respect as for its notoriously consistent windy conditions, this year was no exception. Setting our sights high over the two-day event, we intended to enter both Senior 3 and Senior 2 events. Our starts were excellent: we were up on every crew in nearly every race of the weekend for several hundred metres, but our stride was not strong enough to hold off the better crews. In Senior 2, we were fourth (out of six), and in Senior 3 we made the final to come fourth again.

Saturday night in Nottingham was spent in the traditional revelries of a two-day regatta: pizza eating competitions (won by James Scroggs), etc. For the Sunday we decided to drop Senior 2 and focus our efforts on Senior 3, as 'doubling-up' on a 2000m course with very little time between each race is more than tiring. In the semi-final, we were second to Oundle, and in the final we came fifth, beating only Nottingham University.

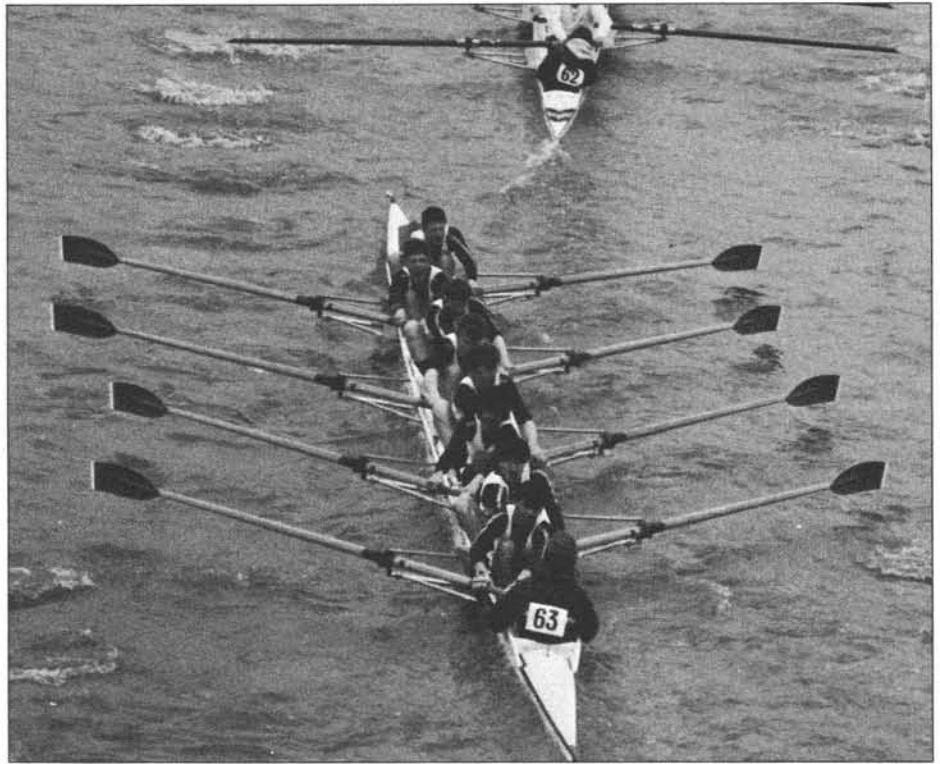
The next event was the National Schools regatta. Again held at Holme Pierrepont, it is the main event for most schools for the whole season. Our starts were not as good as those at Notts City, but the stride was better: we came third in the first round to Oundle and Cheltenham, beating Monkton Combe and RGS High Wycombe to qualify for the final. Conditions, as usual, were bad, and after a highly competitive row we took fifth place in the Child Beale cup.

We were left with about a month before the final event of the season, Henley Royal Regatta. A-levels meant we could only get together for training for the final week preceding the event. Our draw, when it came through, was disappointing: the very strong Eton crew, averaging 10 lbs. per man heavier and on top form. However, we were not to give up without a fight, and the final verdict of two and a half lengths showed we did not let the race slip past us.

The season was slightly disappointing, but it does reflect the dramatic increase in competitiveness in school rowing that has occurred over the last decade. It is no longer possible to take on the best crews in British school rowing without extensive and exhausting training which some find excessive, but there is still leeway for enjoyment, and as we all know, participation is the key element in sport in general.

I.C. Dalley VIP

*The First VIII shooting
Hammersmith Bridge
at the HOR in hot pursuit.*



2ND VIII

The second VIII assumed its final shape at the very beginning of the Summer term, to remain unchanged for the rest of the season. However, a second or 'B' eight appeared at five major Head races, though these crews were dependent on the needs of the first eight and as a result the crew was different at nearly every one of these events. Nevertheless, the results were satisfactory and showed promise for the Summer term with a settled crew. Our most pleasing result was at the Schools Head where we came third to Hampton and St. Edwards in the second eights category.

We made our first appearance of the regatta season at Poplar and Blackwell regatta at the Docklands. Our opposition consisted of a number of first eights and Hampton second eight- the only other crew in our league. Though we did not win the whole event, we did beat Hampton, a very highly regarded second eight, and with this behind us we worked up to our big date on the calendar: National Schools. Staying overnight in Nottingham, there was a practice row on the Friday evening. What with Mr. Potter's birthday (18 again?!), crew morale was high. We rowed above ourselves on

the day, and came fourth in the final, within half a length of St Edwards, Radley and Hampton.

Our season was far from over. We went to Bedford Star and Ladies Regatta where we were entered in Junior A and B eights. In the 'B' event we had a disappointing row to lose by half a length to Oundle 1st VIII. But in the 'A' event we were up against Westminster 1st VIII (third in the Championship eights at National Schools), and level with 200 metres to go. We were rowing better than ever before but had the misfortune of our number six coming off his seat and thus we lost the race. However, this gave us a real glimpse of what we could sustain against top level crews.

With this behind us we went to Marlow, which was probably the climax of our season. We were entered in the school Junior eights, and beat many of our rivals; Shiplake, Shrewsbury and Emanuel, although again we came up against a top class crew: Eton-Windsor Boys in the final, and could only make second place, but second was enough for us.

Despite lacking silver, spirit was high. It is worth bearing in mind that each

member of the crew was in the lower sixth and we all have 1990 ahead of us.
L.A.H. Charlton VIB

The whole squad would like to thank those who coached and looked after us during the season: Mr. Peter Scott, whose clear thinking helped us through several crises; Mr. Potter, whose experience and depth of knowledge led the second eight to a highly satisfactory season; and Mr. Barrett, without whose wit and humour, unflinching commitment, attention to smartness and detail, and sense of purpose we could not have had such an enjoyable year.

I.C. Dalley and J.W.E. Bichard VIP

Crews:

1st VIII: T.G.S.Perkins, S.G.Pratley, R.G.Harrison, D.P.Brunning, J.R.S.Scroggs, I.C.Dalley, J.W.E.Bichard, J.P.Hodges (Captain), A.R.K.Whittaker, R.T.Richmond (Cox).

2nd VIII: A.J.Wade, J.G.Britton, L.A.H.Charlton (Secretary), R.G.Godfrey, R.D.Greasby, J.C.Hewes, P.J.W.Eland, G.B.Harding, M.N.Haycock (Cox).

The Second VIII at the Henley Schools Head



COLTS J16

The Colts were very pleased to start the season equipped with a new Aylings eight, "The St. Edmund of Abingdon". The group started the season with an 'A' and a 'B' VIII at Henley Schools' Head. The 'A' crew powered through blustering headwinds without incident to finish an encouraging second to a very large St. Edward's crew. At Reading University Head we thought we again rowed well when braving the snow, rain and long wait at the start. Our position of third equal with Pangbourne was perhaps a little disappointing as the school had won the event the year before, but many good crews had turned out and St. Edward's again took the honours. The idea of wearing just singlets in a blizzard does not seem wise with hindsight!

The Schools' Head was our main goal of the term and the crew trained hard with an emphasis on stamina and technique. On the day it became clear that if we were to remain in the queue at the landing stage at Emanuel School B.C. we would be in danger of missing the race. So, we picked up our eight (which was now flying the 'Jolly Roger') and followed Mr. Trotman who assured us that it was only fifty yards upstream to Thames Tradesmen R.C. The fact that it was half

ston girls eight from sinking after a collision. In the race itself the crew rowed with determination but was unfortunate to find itself rowing in a void. For the latter part of the race there was no one else to chase. When the results materialised we were disappointed to find that six crews had recorded faster times than us.

With this in mind, we looked forward to the regatta season where we would be able to race side-by-side against these crews. Poplar, Blackwell and District regatta saw us start the term with a win, after powering through a good King's Canterbury crew to win by a length and keep the Abingdon flag flying high.

A hot day and twisty course at Wallingford nearly saw us go out to Radley, but rowing out of themselves and showing true grit, the crew pulled back a deficit of a length in the last 100 metres to win by a canvas. Illness and exhaustion from our semi-final did not help as we were beaten by a stylish Eton crew in the final.

Putney Town Regatta saw us win for the second time, crashing through

went on to win the gold medal at National Championships.

Confidence and morale were high as we travelled up to Nottingham for the National Schools' Regatta, which had been our target for the whole of the season. Unfortunately, it took the narrowest of defeats in the semi-final to make the crew realise the importance of preparation and not to underestimate other crews (Eton went on to win the event). It was by our own standards a disappointing end to a successful season. G.C.S.E. was then upon us and there was no more competing after that.

We would like to thank Mr. Trotman on behalf of the crews who competed at J16 level, for all the effort and time he put in, especially after the arrival of his baby daughter Eleanor. Finally, special thanks go to Mr. Barrett who always made sure that we had a fully operational boat in the right place at the right time.

M.A. Ross 6N



The Schools' Head of the River

a mile by road turned out to be another matter! Eventually, we boated from T.T.R.C., but not before rescuing a Bryan-

everything the Tideway could throw at us to beat R.G.S. High Wycombe by two and a half lengths. A J16'B' four fell victim to the classification as they were beaten by the Westminster 'A' four who had not yet raced and were still classed as 'B'. It was a shame as they had easily won their semi-final. This was the Westminster crew which

Crews:

'A' crew: C. Jones, B. Miller, G. Thomson, A. Ross, R. Winter, S. Hickson, D. Chadwick, S. Snipp, P. Silverwood (cox).

'B' crew: A. Beaumont, J. Denee, M. Davis, P. Mildenhall, P. Greaney (cox).

JUNIOR 15

The Lent Term began with great enthusiasm all round, as this year we had a good number of new recruits to the age-group capable of filling at least two eights and a four. Our first hurdle was the Head Of The River races, which invariably take place during the wet and windy period at the end of the Lent Term.

As they began to draw near, our training schedule started to hot up considerably. Sadly, our first few appearances were somewhat unmemorable. As the "A" and "B" crews were not yet finalized, there was little sense of that fanatical loyalty to one's crew which had been apparent during the previous regatta season, and our performances reflected this. Conditions at the Reading Head were among the coldest and wettest we

had ever experienced. After a three-hour wait on the river for the delayed start of the race, it came as no surprise to learn that our time was rather underwhelming. However, by the time of the final Head at Putney we were in good spirits once again: this was the occasion when the freshly picked "A" crew tried out their new boat, "The St. Helen Of Abingdon", and performed well in the typically choppy water of the Thames. Hopes were high as we anticipated the forthcoming regattas of the Summer Term.

The Summer Term kicked off with the Poplar Regatta, down in the Docklands. Our only race took place quite late on in the day when we were up against Hampton "A" crew. As we pushed off from the landing stage, there was not a

flicker of doubt in our minds that we would come out clutching pewter. However, after the first ten strokes we sensed that this was not to be: the Hampton crew proved to be a very professional bunch indeed, and beat us by several lengths. This experience was constructive, however, in that it hardened our resolve never to be last across the finishing line again.

Our first taste of minor victory came on a blazing hot Saturday afternoon at Avon Schools' Regatta, where all crews entering are guaranteed four races. This and the heat made the regatta at Avon a very demanding occasion, which the crew coped with very well. Our first two races were exactly what we had been waiting for. On both occasions we got off to a

good start, not quite leading the field, but over the next 200 metres we gradually dragged ourselves to the front, and from there we pulled steadily away to come first in both races. Unfortunately, when it came to the last two races, we just could not summon up that extra bit of power that would have held Eton at bay.

Disappointed, but by no means despairing, we entered Putney Town Regatta with renewed hope: we were to be rowing against St. Paul's. If we were to win we would be put through to the final immediately, as there were only two races for our age group that day. Naturally, nerves were stretched to breaking point as we made our way down to the stake-boat, where St. Paul's were waiting for us. In our experience, the order to start is somewhat rough and ready on the Thames, and this day was no exception. As a result, our opponents started ahead of us. Over the length of the course we never lost sight of them and indeed on one occasion we were almost level. Finally, though, it was St. Paul's who crossed the line first, having just got clear water. The whole crew was very bitter about this sharp conclusion to the day's rowing, simply because we knew that we could beat them with a length to spare. We vowed that the next time we met the outcome would be convincingly reversed.

The next time we rowed in an event was two weeks later, at the National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham. This time we were confident that nothing would go wrong, mainly because the Headmaster himself had come along to support the many Abingdon crews rowing that day. With this in mind, and the fact that the 1,500 metre course held no fear for us, thanks to the high-powered ergo training we had been put through by Mr. Mearns, the whole crew was looking forward to the first race of the day. When it eventually came, our boat had been polished immaculately, and anything that could conceivably be tightened had been.

Our warm-up went well, and consequently the row down to the start was text-book stuff. Although we weren't the first off the stake-boat we soon pulled out to second place where we stayed, having been advised to do only as much as was necessary to qualify for the semi-final.

This first race had been encouragingly easy, and when asked how we thought it had gone, we could boast that not one of the crew members had worked up a sweat! The semi-final was a little tougher, but again we finished in second place, and, in so doing, guaranteed ourselves a place in the final. After another clean and check-over of the boat, we just had time for a little bout of pre-race nerves before our warm-up, and then we were back out on the water, this time rowing for real. Our start was quite good and kept us level with our opponents until gradually they started to pull away. Try as we might, we were unable to take the lead, and finished a disappointing fourth. Despite this outcome we knew that we had given our all, so we were by no means demoralized by the end result.

Two weeks, and many exams later, we rowed again at Bedford Star regatta. The first of our two races was reminiscent of Nat. Schools' in that we won by several lengths without straining ourselves in any way. This victory was followed by a long break of about four hours until the final against Eton much later in the day. As the time to launch drew near, there was time for a quick pep-talk from Mr. Mearns, before we pushed off from the side. Our start was the best we had ever done in an actual race, and it got us ahead of our opponent almost immediately. However, once we took the lead, Eton fought back at us fiercely, and soon we were neck-and-neck. Gradually Eton pulled away from us as our balance started to deteriorate, and the next minute it was all over. It was the same old story - we had been beaten in the final, yet again.

The last race of the season for us came at Reading Town. We kicked off the stake boat hard, and were pleasantly surprised to find that we were in the lead and able to hold off our opponents easily. When we crossed the finish line the nearest boat was four lengths back down the course! Just as at Bedford we had a long wait before our final, but when we eventually got onto the water we were all very confident about the race, and despite a mediocre start we managed to haul the boat up along side St. Paul's, who at that point were leading the field. Sensing pressure from us, St. Paul's drove hard, but we matched them stroke for stroke, and as we headed for the finishing line there was nothing in it. When the buzzer sounded, no one knew who had won, until, after what seemed like hours, the announcement came over the P.A. system saying that Abingdon School had beaten St. Paul's by one foot. Who knows, perhaps we can win there again as J16s!

Unfortunately, the "B" crew did not win any events this year, for, like us, they were defeated in the finals by the more experienced crews. In addition to the "B" eight there was a quad which competed in most events, but again did not get any pots through lack of strength to back up their excellent technique.

Finally, all of us would like to thank Mr. Mearns for the huge amount of time and effort he has put into coaching us over the past two terms. Perhaps next term we'll get him to demonstrate his killer technique on those ergos...

A. G. Nicholson 5PJW

Crews:

VIII: R. Wright, J. Soames, J. Ortega, C. Richardson, A. Nicholson, P. Lamaison, G. Montier, B. Ulyatt, S. Day (Cox).

Quad: A. List, M. Hadland, B. Moseley, E. Scott, T. Baker (Cox).



Victorious J-15's at Reading Town Regatta



THE 'GERMAN' IV

Every year the school boat club is graced with the exceptional abilities of German oarsmen staying for a year as part of the Abingdon school-Bielefeld Ratsgymnasium exchange (otherwise known as the 'Bielefeld Rats'). This year because of the high standard in the top two school crews the three enthusiastic German boys, H. Hoppenstedt ('Hoppy'), Kai Warnecke ('Kai') and Conradin von Bernuth ('Tino') joined with two English boys, D. Pringuer and J. Mandel, to form a coxed IV. This was known as the Novice or more commonly the German IV. It was agreed that what we might lack in skill would be more than compensated for by our Continental outlook, whatever that might mean in the circumstances!

The term 'novice' in rowing covers a wide variety of ages, classes and standards as it really only means any crew that has not won an event before. As a crew, we were entering at the bottom, as only one fifth of the crew had had any previous rowing training. However, we started training early in the Michaelmas term with the intention of learning the basics before finding ourselves faced with any serious competition. Most of our training was done in old clinker-built tubs which are relatively heavy compared with the ultra-light racing machines that we eventually raced in. This however did not deter a little light-hearted competition and we challenged many unsuspecting cruisers to race as they headed up or down our reach. On the whole we preferred it when they were going downstream and our greatest achievement in

the Michaelmas term was overtaking a Thames water barge on its way to Culham lock.

Everything became a little more serious in the Lent term. The German IV was fused with another to form the Novice VIII. Training also became more intense with the infamous circuits to live through twice a week. This affront to our privacy paid off in the Reading University Head of the River. Although the weather was awful, we rowed well and eventually finished third in our class. This was our only event in the term as now the IV was split up and placed in other crews.

For us Anglo-Germans the real competition came in the Summer term. We took part in three major events and although we did not achieve outright success in any of them, we gained valuable experience. The type of race in this term is different, being shorter and perhaps more competitive as one actually races against other crews instead of against the clock.

The first race was Putney Amateur regatta which was held on part of the same course that we had already rowed in the previous term. This did not help much as we suffered from a poor start and about twenty gallons of smelly Thames water soaking and weighing us down. We finished second and didn't tell anyone that there were only two crews racing!

Our next character building event was the Bedford Star regatta. It must be admitted that in this event we tried very hard and were finally pipped only at the post. By now we had decided that it was all a matter of confidence, so in a rush of blood to the head we tried the 'psyche-

up' techniques of the first eight. It was finally proved to our disgust, however, that in this sport sheer muscle power rules, as about halfway down the course we said our goodbyes to the cox of a very big Bedford crew as they waltzed past us to the line.

Disappointed, though not without faith in ourselves we entered our final competition, the very glamorous Reading Town regatta. As it was to be our last race together we were all very keen to do well. It was a short race (800m), so we decided to go for all or nothing, even though with our incredible luck we had been drawn against a Cambridge adult crew. The start was good and we pulled away to lead for most of the course by a canvas. It was an incredible feeling, leading another crew! In fact we were so excited and thunderstruck at the novelty of the experience, that we felt we had proved our point and so when they drew level and even went on to pass us in the final run in for the line we gazed upon their efforts with disdain. Little could they know how great a victory the race had been for us!

On behalf of the whole crew I would like to thank all the coaches, but especially Mr. Barrett for his patience and skill into making us into a respectable crew. It has to be said that although we could have helped ourselves with a higher level of fitness, a lot of experience, enjoyment and interest in the sport was gained by everyone. Watch out German National Squad!

D.C. Pringuer VIC

HOCKEY

FIRST XI

Tony Edwards

Left Half. Vital part of the defence, preventing all right wings from dominating. Occasionally needs to attain more balance when tackling, but overall a splendid performance of left half play. Awarded full colours at end of the season.

Mark Seager

Midfield. Very quick and hard working. Produced many important tackles, often allowing us to control the midfield. Prefers a horrible reverse stick sweep to getting feet around the ball. Awarded half colours at end of the season.

Max Henderson

Inside Forward. Good skills, Has a tendency to over elaborate. Excellent finishing. Was sorely missed.

Alistair Kendrick

Left Half. Filled in in exemplary fashion on an awful surface at Shiplake.

Toby Hay

Captain, Midfield. Skilful as ever on the ball and provided much needed thrust in attack. Tendency to over complicate in defence and to lose contact with matches for short periods. Must work on fitness when entering college arena.

The relatively mild winter might have produced a similar season to that of 87-88 in terms of matches completed. It was not to be, however, as untimely rain storms caused the cancellation of a number of matches.

We began with a 7-0 victory over Leighton Park in which Max Henderson scored five goals. Leighton Park struggle nowadays to produce competent sides and this has clearly become a second eleven fixture. Max Henderson was soon to leave us with a recurring injury, and it was sad that he should have to bow out in a poor match against Magdalen College. We lost 1-0 and looked awful. The goal was a result of silly defensive play, which was repeated a number of times during the game, luckily without further punishment.

The Jeekyll and Hyde nature of the side was highlighted by the next game against Bradfield. Here we took total control of the midfield and played some excellent pattern hockey. The final score 0-0 reflected a problem that beset us for most of the season, that of failing to score goals in proportion to the amount of possession gained. Two victories, 5-0 against Pangbourne and 2-0 against Shiplake, sandwiched a 1-0 defeat against Radley. This was an excellent performance, particularly during the first thirty minutes, when we weathered the storm. Radley attacked with great determination and the defence was equal to it. Guy Peddy gave a fine display at full back and Jonathan Crick was solid as a rock in goal. In the second half we were at least equal to Radley and when the goal came, it was ironically against the run of play.

The match against Bloxham was very disappointing. We produced a lacklustre performance and a defence, that had previously only conceded one goal, was beaten four times. Andrew Wintle scored our only reply earning the title "Striker". This inspired him to score two more goals in the 3-2 victory over the O.A.s. This was a splendid game, full of good hockey, humour (mainly thanks to Lettie, Vic and J.J.) and endeavour. A pity, though, that only eight Old Abingdonians were able to take to the field, one of whom was dragged in at the very last moment.

The public schools hockey festival once again provided a super end to the season. We were very unlucky not to beat Wrekin and Eastbourne (the games ending 1-1) and thrashed Birkenhead 7-2. The final match against Bromsgrove was disappointing in that their more direct hockey proved successful against our possession game, and we lost 2-0.

I cannot help feeling that this side had the ability to do considerably better, but not the will/commitment to reach its full potential. With the sort of get up and go that we always see from Radley sides, we might have been unbeaten. We certainly did not come up against any side that outplayed us. Many sides were fitter, some more determined, but none more skilful. Accepting defeat with little more than a shrug of the shoulder seems to be an Abingdon disease and it is alarming to feel that it is not just a passing phase. I was lucky to play with hockey players who hated losing, not to the point of paranoia, but certainly to an extent that resulted in great effort both on the playing field and the practice ground. The resulting team spirit was something that I shall always savour and would love Abingdon elevens to taste also.

PJW

Jonathan Crick

Goalkeeper. Improved mobility enabled him to make some exceptional saves. Always cleared intelligently. Awarded half colours following Radley match and full colours at the end of the season.

Julian Green

Right Half. Developed fine skills on the ball and creative awareness. Did not mark as tightly as he should, relying on the old adage; 'their left wing is rubbish'. This proved costly at times. Awarded half colours at the end of season.

Andrew Wintle

Inside Left. Had a disappointing season overall, but ended it with a flourish. Still provided the best left to right passes throughout the season. Awarded half colours at end of season.

Donald Stanley

Left Wing. Did a very good job in a position he dislikes. Provided very important alternative attack. Could have released the ball earlier on a number of occasions. Awarded half colours at end of season.

Guy Peddy

Left Back. Most improved player. Reads the game well and has developed a good sense of position and tactics. Awarded full colours after the Radley game.

Paul Aitken

Right Wing. Skilful and speedy. Provided important thrust but needs to improve quality of final pass. Will do so once stick is held correctly. Awarded half colours at end of season.

Simon Newton

Right Back. Very quick to tackle and if necessary tackle back. Reads the game well, but at times finds himself at full stretch and cannot produce the ideal pass. Further work on striking needed. Awarded full colours at the end of season.

Barry Marnane

Inside Forward. Strong on the ball, if somewhat blinkered. Needs to develop dribbling skills. Awarded half colours at end of season.

RESULTS

First XI	Leighton Park	7-0	Henderson 5, Aitken, Hay.
	M.C.S.	0-1	
	Bradfield	0-0	
	Pangbourne	5-0	Mitchell 2 (1 p.f.), Aitken, Stanley, Wintle.
	Radley	0-1	
	Shiplake	2-0	Mitchell, Seager.
	Bloxham	1-4	Wintle.
	O.A.s	3-2	Wintle 2, Hay.
	P.S.H.F.		
	Wrekin	1-1	
	Birkenhead	7-2	Marnane 2.
	Eastbourne	1-1	
	Bromsgrove	0-2	

Second XI	M.C.S.	0-2	
	Pangbourne	4-1	
	Bradfield	3-1	
	Bloxham	6-0	
	Shiplake	3-2	
	Radley	0-0	

SECOND XI

Our season began badly at M.C.S. The (ploughed?) pitch was a nightmare to play on and, in combination with our own mistakes, led to a 2-0 defeat. Another 'disaster' then struck as we lost our energetic captain, J Green, to the 1st. XI. However, after the 2nd. XI reshuffle, a new look team emerged and, under Ali Kendrick's captaincy, the team coasted from victory to victory.

Bradfield was swept aside 3-1 and Pangbourne sank without trace 4-1. At 5-0 down Bloxham looked (and acted) disgruntled when goalkeeper, K Hyder, strode up to take our third penalty flick of the match; he missed, just like the others. Minutes later Duncan 'the defender' Sparkes redeemed our pride. He unleashed his penalty flick with such venom that no goalkeeper would have stood a chance. Anyway, the ball trickled over and we won 6-0.

Shiplake was only a slight hiccup. Having waltzed to a 2-0 lead, we suddenly found the ball in the back of our net twice in as many minutes. Fortunately,

Ed Tilley had everything under control and waited theatrically for the game's dying seconds before scoring the winner. The Radley encounter just was not hockey! In weather reminiscent of a monsoon, both teams slipped, slid, and played very good hockey for fifty very long minutes, with the match ending as a goalless draw. Had it not been for that missed penalty flick ('not another', Mr Payne groaned) we would have won deservedly, but I promised Ed not to mention that.

Set plays apart (1/25 short corners scored), the team played consistently well. The defence conceded only 6 goals all season and both Nick Richards and Kieran Hyder made some magnificent saves in goal. Duncan excelled with both stick and foot in defence alongside J. Frishberg. The midfield of James Howard, Ed Tilley and Ali Kendrick was omnipotent. James and Ali all but trussed their opposing wingers up and Ed was always in action at either end. Most of the forwards were very energetic. Hugh Wilkinson on the left wing dazzled with

his stick work but then sometimes forgot to cross the ball well. James Kingsland always gave the cliched 110% and often had a nice word for the opposition after he had scored his nth. goal of the match. Ben Davis, the old man on the right wing, finished off a very good season with two wonderful goals against Bloxham. Sadly Ben had to miss a few matches due to a rare disease, Twickenhamitis, but we hope he didn't suffer too much. James Johnstone was the team's goal-hanger and undoubtedly was committed totally, both physically and vocally. A vicious rumour began concerning his ability to score open goals but, in all truth he scored a few. B. Kendrick, M. Annett, and J. Wallace also appeared for the team as did B. Marnane when not playing for the 1st. XI.

Overall it was a very enjoyable and successful season, and for this many thanks must go to Mr. Payne for the striking efforts he made with his whistle.

James Johnstone VIF



COLTS

As can be seen from the results, the Colts teams had a respectable, though abbreviated season.

A XI

We began on a bumpy pitch at Magdalen and certainly had the balance of play, creating more scoring chances. Only one of these was put away, in neat style by Nick Hodgson, but it was enough. We were away to Bradfield and, being the senior team there, played on AstroTurf. We played poorly on it. Even when in possession we persistently tried to hit through their players with the predictable result that we lost the ball. To cap a disappointing afternoon we were locked out of our changing room.

A few days later we were in much better form against Pangbourne. We overwhelmed them 1-1. Admittedly we conceded a freak, unfortunate goal but the result should have been put beyond doubt by then.

The matches against St. Edward's and High Wycombe were lost to the weather and one against Radley was called off shortly after 1/2 time when the pitch became unplayable. Despite the playing-surface problems, we had actually been playing well. Shiplake were easily beaten in a poor quality game and we finished with a good win at Bloxham.

The goals were shared between Stefan Hutchings (4), Nick Hodgson (2), Ben Birks (2) and Ben Williams (1). This was a good solid group of players of whom the most influential and composed on the pitch was Jonathan Dorkings.

RSP

'A' team:

William Hutchings, Martin Scott-Brown, Louis Golding, Chris Turner, Matthew Mowat, Jonathan Dorkings, Ben Pilling, Paul Crutchlow, Nick Hodgson, Stefan Hutchings (c), Ben Birks, Ben Williams.

'B' team:

Thomas Mannion, Alex Webster, Chris Hicks, Stephen Thomas, Jonathon Hill, Robbie Murdoch, Robert Darby (c), James Thomson, Keith Sadler, Douglas Williamson, Justin Taylor, George Dodd.

JUNIOR COLTS

In terms of results, this turned out to be a rather ordinary season in comparison with recent sides at this level. The midfield and defence were sound enough but, with only one really penetrating forward, goals were always going to be hard to come by. It was no real surprise therefore that the team had to wait until the last game before leaving the field with more than one goal in a match to their credit.

RCBC

The Oxford game was a relatively even contest but one which Abingdon never really looked like losing. The Magdalen game was a winning draw to Abingdon with Tilley taking the ball to the left of the goalkeeper before running it in with a gentle reverse stick tap. The shooting was not on target, with at least five well struck shots going just wide. The Magdalen goal was from a weak shot deflected in by a defender whom goalie Johnson, in later matches, would have bellowed out of his line of sight and territory. Against Bradfield, on their marvellous First XI ball humming turf, we were lucky to escape with a draw, Tilley again striking the backboard. The Pangbourne pitch was much improved from our previous visit. They were a good side with one or two South of England players who, in the dying moments of an energetic contest, eventually took on our defence successfully. The Pangbourne confidence grew as once again the Abingdon forwards failed to capitalise on sound midfield and defence. And so to Radley: the rain started as we left Abingdon and the Radley hard surface was awash by half time. Once again our defence did well but the Radley forwards proved rather effective. At no time however did the opposition really gain the upper hand and Abingdon could turn the table next year if they put their minds to the task. The Shiplake game was a bizarre affair on a very small, sloping pitch, which suited the home side well as they had enjoyed much practice on their new, small hard surface pitch. The narrow pitch completely spoiled our wide wing attacking game. It will be interesting to see how that contest goes next year at Colts level on a full size pitch. It was back to the full size home ground for the final game against Bloxham and at last, in the second half, the much practised goal scoring moves eventually started to come off. Tilley was again successful and Gold controlled a right cross and popped it in on the left post to score his first of the season; may he score many more of those next year.

Johnson, in goal, grew in confidence and his ice hockey influenced style proved most effective. Smith, at right back, struck his clearances with much power and sweet timing. Wilkinson played skilfully at winghalf and the captain, Allen, who pushed up from sweeper to centrehalf during the season became increasingly good in putting the forwards on the attack. Tilley, at inside left, was the best forward, and the other forwards tried hard and improved.

The B XI were virtually unbeaten under RGH's inspirational command. At least they managed to get into double figures against Shiplake!

The following played for the A XI: DJG Johnson, AJC Smith, PAB Page, JM Wilkinson, JM Allen, SRS Milne, MD Lister, EJ Paleit, GJ Ogden, JS Tilley, JM Gold. RFH Roan and CS Wakefield also played for the A XI.

Results

Oxford School	a	won	1-0
Magdalen	h	drew	1-1
Bradfield	a	drew	1-1
Pangbourne	a	lost	0-1
Radley	a	lost	0-2
Shiplake	a	lost	1-4
Bloxham	h	won	4-1

Matches against RGS High Wycombe, Southampton, St. Edwards and Reading were cancelled because of bad weather.

JUNIORS

This was an enjoyable season, played with great enthusiasm and increasing skill by all concerned. The fortunes of the 'A' team varied: having won the first match against Leighton Park 13:0 (sic!), they encountered stiffer opposition in the matches against M.C.S., Bradfield and Radley, where greater speed and coordination in attack were evident. However, in exciting matches against Pangbourne and Shiplake, late goals secured victory for our team; and the defeat of Bloxham, towards the end of the season, was decisive. Two players whose skills were consistently impressive were Charles Hutchings and Robert-John Stratton, who together gave a solid centre to the team. Up at the front, Stuart Gould was also effective, and Paul Engwell began latterly to find a 'golden touch'.

The 'B' team, ably coached by RPF, remained undefeated: indeed, they did not concede a single goal. The victory against Pangbourne was particularly decisive. The most-improved award must go to Jones who, after a lacklustre start to the season, suddenly found his form and scored a number of good goals - visibly to his satisfaction!

RCRM

Results

'A' Team			
Leighton Park	a	won	13-0
R.G.S.	a	drew	1-1
Southampton	h	cancelled	
M.C.S.	a	lost	0-3
Bradfield	a	lost	0-1
Pangbourne	h	won	1-0
St. Edwards	h	cancelled	
Radley	a	lost	0-3
Shiplake	a	won	3-2
Reading	a	cancelled	
Bloxham	a	won	4-0
Oxford School	h	cancelled	

'B' Team			
M.C.S.	h	drew	0-0
Bradfield	h	drew	0-0
Pangbourne	h	won	6-0
St. Edward's	a	cancelled	
Radley	a	won	1-0
Shiplake	h	won	4-0
Bloxham	a	won	3-0

MINOR'S HOCKEY

JDH writes:

This has been a most successful season and the side shows excellent promise for the future. Good spirit, hard practice, and 100% commitment has resulted in this good record. The Second XI, although only playing two games, contributed a great deal to the overall success of the 25-man squad. Selection for the First XI was already difficult, and the side was never weakened when B XI players were in the team.

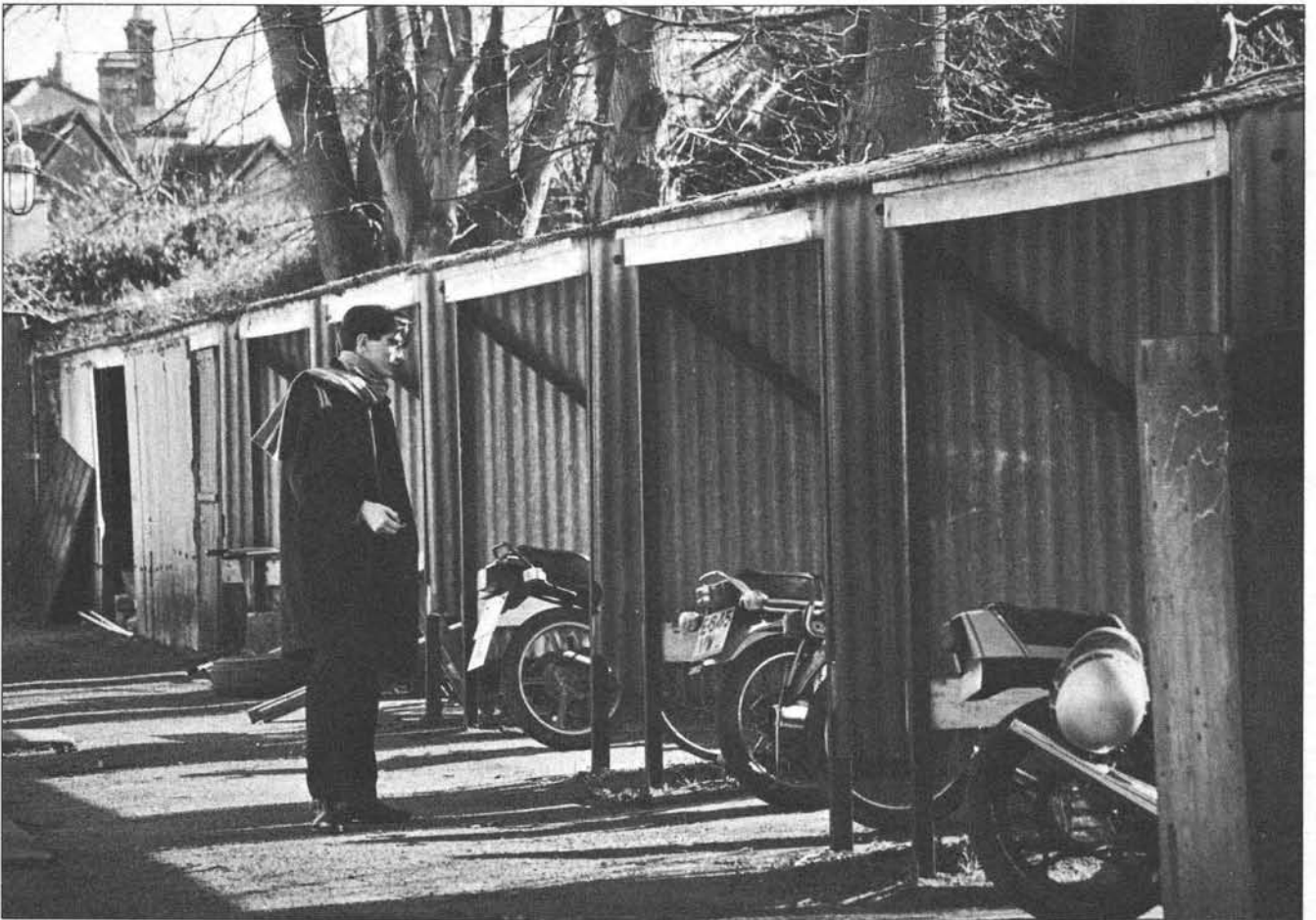
My thanks to Tom Stanworth for his captaincy, and a special to Mr. Townsend for his assistance with the coaching of both XI's. His drive, and knowledge of the game proved so important at this level.

The following played for the XI: Brown, A.L.; Jupp, P.A.; Horton, G.J.; Porter, M.D.; Browne, M.R.; Reynolds, M.D.; Stanworth, T.E.; Woodward, M.A., N.L.; Clarkson, R.M.; Marnane, B.P.J.; Litchfield, M.I. and Haynes, R.J.

Captain Guy Horton adds:

The season went very well for the U-13's. In the five games played, wins were recorded against Radley, New College, M.C.S., and Christ-Church Cathedral School. Our only defeat was against Prior's Court. Our success was mainly due to a very strong mid-field, who could all tackle well, hit the ball well, and provide good cover for each other. Our defence was also very strong, and if the opposition did break our ranks, Michael Litchfield, the Goalie, was solid in the 'D'. Up front, our forwards were always eager to shoot for Goals. The 'Two Browns' crossed the balls with speed and accuracy and Jupp, Porter, and Horton were always alert to give the final touch to score the goals. Our captain, Tom Stanworth, always tried to get the best out of his team, and whether in attack or defence, we could always depend on his hard hitting and accurate passing.

*Coming or going or a
brief moment of respite?*



CRICKET

FIRST XI

The First XI had a successful season, finishing with 5 wins and 2 defeats. They adopted a positive approach, but the combination of good batting tracks and the lack of a quality strike bowler with the ability to remove tailenders at will, often resulted in the opposition being able to hang on for a draw when maybe we deserved more. Consequently the team's victories occurred when batting second, with the notable exception of the Reading game, where in a nailbiting finish we managed to capture the last 2 wickets for just 3 runs to win by the narrowest of margins. The two defeats came on consecutive days against Radley and Brentwood. Against Radley, the team appeared to be overawed by the opposition, with only Toby Hay doing himself justice. On the other hand, an excellent stand by the Brentwood openers steered them towards victory, which they achieved with only four balls to spare.

The team's greatest strength was in batting. There was tremendous depth, including several players who could score at a rapid rate. The most consistent and successful batsman were Donald Stanley and Edward Tilley, Donald is an aggressive opening batsman, who invariably gave the team a flying start with his splendid array of strokes, but he was prone to playing across the line very early in his innings which was his downfall on a few occasions. Edward proved to be an extremely reliable number three who very rarely failed all season. He rode his luck at times, but showed immense determination and always played with an abundance of confidence.

Mark Snow was the other opening batsman, and although he struggled for most of the season with his technique, he scored a well deserved century in the penultimate game. Guy Peddy scored some valuable runs, especially early on in the season but he never seemed able to get beyond the twenties and thirties. Matthew Gordon only had limited opportunities, but showed potential as an elegant left-handed batsman; hopefully the experience will give him the confidence to perform well next season.

Of the others, Philip Page and Joe Allen showed they were capable of scoring runs at this level, while Toby Hay and Steven Prince had their moments.

The bowling was generally accurate, but lacked any genuine pace to trouble the early batsmen on such good wickets.

Barry Marnane bowled consistently well, often without any luck, and finished as the leading wicket taker, whilst Philip Page opened the attack with him and should develop into a useful strike bowler over the next two seasons, providing he can work up a bit more aggression.

The openers were well supported by Edward Tilley, who bowled extremely economically and picked up several vital wickets with his late swing, whilst Mark Snow's off spin was often difficult to get away. James Tilley played a handful of games towards the end of the season, and showed maturity to suggest that he should be a useful bowler over the next few seasons.

With several members of the team still here next season, and a strong under fifteen team coming through, prospects are extremely good for next season.

Finally, I would like to thank Guy Peddy for all his work as captain, Mrs. Tilley and the rest of the mothers for their excellent teas and Mr. Mitra for his help and support with the coaching and organisational work.

AMB

Regular members of the team were: G. Peddy (capt.), E. Tilley (v. capt.), D. Stanley, M. Snow, T. Hay, J. Crick, M. Gordon, S. Prince, P. Page, J. Johnstone and B. Marnane.

Results

P	W	L	D	A
20	5	2	11	2

St. Edwards	Drew
Ab. 201-6dec.	D. Stanley 60
St. E 124-8	E. Tilley 3-13

Bloxham	Won by 8 wickets
Bl. 55	E. Tilley 3-5
Ab. 56-2	P. Page 3-18
	G. Peddy 35*

K.E.S. Birmingham	Drew
Ab. 164-9dec.	D. Stanley 49
	Gordon 38
	Tilley 38
KES 124-9	E. Tilley 4-24
	M. Snow 3-39

Newbury	Won by 8 wickets
N. 96	M. Snow 4-18
Ab. 98-2	B. Marnane 4-24
	G. Peddy 39*

M.C.S.		Drew
Ab. 202-8dec.		E. Tilley 48
MCS 119-9		B. Marnane 5-29
Plumtree		Won by 5 wickets
Pl. 163-6dec.		
Ab. 167-5		E. Tilley 66
		M. Snow 38
Oratory		Drew
Or. 117		
Ab. 91-9		
Douai		Drew
Ab. 185-2dec.		D. Stanley 101*
		E. Tilley 49
Do. 114-6		P. Page 3-28
Radley		Lost by 6 wickets
Ab. 148		T. Hay 44
Ra. 151-4		
Brentwood		Lost by 5 wickets
Ab. 185-8dec.		D. Stanley 51
		Gordon 34
Br. 186-5		
Berkhamsted		Drew
Be. 172-7dec.		E. Tilley 3-21
Ab. 127-9		D. Stanley 43
Berkshire Gentlemen		Abandoned
B.G. 166-6		
S. Oxon. Amateurs		Drew
Ab. 250		E. Tilley 119
		J. Allen 39
		D. Stanley 38
SOA 204-8		B. Marnane 3-61
M.C.C.		Drew
MCC 222-8dec.		B. Marnane 4-69
Ab. 198-8		E. Tilley 62
		Stanley 52
Reading		Won by 1 run
Ab. 179		E. Tilley 76
Re. 178		B. Marnane 4-58
		P. Page 3-30
High Wycombe		Drew
Ab. 202-4dec.		Tilley 65
		Snow 60
		Stanley 41
HW. 124-7		Tilley 4-24
N.H. Payne's XI		Won by 6 wickets
NHP 202-9dec.		J. Tilley 3-33
Ab. 204-4		Stanley 52
		E. Tilley 46
		Peddy 44
UCS Hampstead		Drew
Ab. 247-2dec.		Snow 102
		Stanley 88
		E. Tilley 39*
UCS 176-6		
Highgate		Abandoned
Ab. 20-1		
Old Abingdonians		Drew
OA's 208		J. Tilley 5-56
Ab. 128-8		P. Page 41

Averages

Batting	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Ave.	Bowling	Ov.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
E. Tilley	17	1	697	119	43.6	J. Tilley	32.3	1	130	10	13.0
D. Stanley	17	1	625	*101	39.1	E. Tilley	185.1	67	459	33	13.9
G. Peddy	17	4	319	44	24.5	B. Marnane	201.3	41	684	37	18.5
P. Page	11	5	145	41	24.2	P. Page	167	29	461	24	19.2
M. Snow	17	1	383	102	23.9	G. Peddy	26.3	2	95	4	23.8
M. Gordon	15	4	232	38	21.1	D. Stanley	21	2	83	3	27.7
T. Hay	7	1	125	44	20.8	M. Snow	167.1	37	505	18	28.1
J. Allen	4	0	75	39	18.8	T. Hay	43	8	145	4	36.3
J. Johnstone	9	6	50	*12	16.7						
S. Prince	10	2	86	24	10.8						

JUNIOR COLTS

A glorious summer and some very good cricket. In all the games, emphasis was on attacking play, and this positive approach resulted in some very entertaining and exciting cricket. Five wins in eight matches is an excellent achievement, and the three draws saw Abingdon fighting for victory in the last hour of play.

The manner in which this year's Junior Colts approached their cricket was due to the exceptional skills of their captain, Joe Allen, with the help of an equally enthusiastic vice-captain, James Tilley. Whether in matches or practices, Joe's quiet and authoritative approach gained respect from all players. His unselfishness ensured that all players in the XI took an active part in the teams' success. Some captains do play safe, relying on the skill of one or two bowlers. Joe, however, encouraged several bowlers to have a go, as he did against the M.C.R. XI, opening with the leg-spinner!

Joe Allen, James Tilley and Alex Smith occupied the crease more than most, mainly because they were in first, but more significantly because they were difficult to remove. All three have exceptional talent and a different approach to their batting. Alex is the grafter whose main strength is on the on-side. In his last innings against Oratory he showed that he is capable of dispatching the loose delivery. As the season progressed, the off-side play improved, and he certainly has the temperament of a most

promising batsman. He must, however, try to increase his sprinting power, and aim to run the first run with more haste. James is one of the straightest players I have seen, and has all the shots at his disposal. When 'the cat' comes in and survives the first few overs, the middle order batsmen start packing their kit! James's highlight of the season was his 100 n.o. scored in equal time against Berkhamsted School. If James could control his impatience at the start of his innings, I feel confident that he will score many more hundreds in the future.

Joe's talent lies in his ability to spot the right ball to hit. Anything short, or full length, is fired to the boundary with such power giving the 'covers' little chance to see the ball. He is a very confident and mature batsman, and his 39 against the S.O.A's for the 1st XI is no doubt the first of many sound innings at this level.

With Alex, James and Joe in such good form throughout the season, the middle order batsmen very often lacked the chance to show their strengths. However, to suggest that the XI only had three batsmen is a grave injustice to the other players. John Wilkinson showed his potential in his 73 against Douai, and Chris Martin, Ed Paleit, Doug Johnson and Gareth Ogden made very useful contributions when called upon to do so. I never once felt that the batting would crumble if the first three failed, and this was proved in several games at the end of the season.

Chris Martin emerged as the most improved player in the team, a n d

he in time, together with the other players I have mentioned, will live up to my high expectations.

A team cannot win matches without good bowlers to bowl sides out. Here again James and Joe shared the honours, Joe with his in-swingers and James with his off-breaks. They are to be congratulated, on taking 50 wickets between them during this season, relying on good line and length, and variety of delivery.

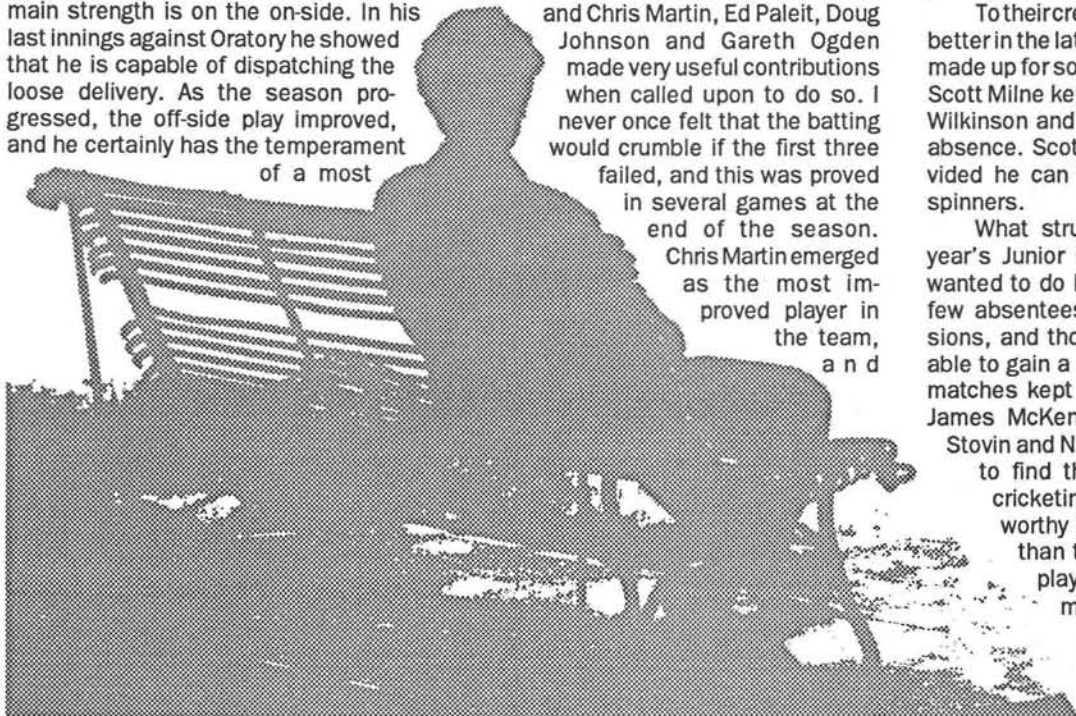
Nat Pree, I thought was the most unlucky bowler, and deserved more than his 11 wickets. Nat's extra pace troubled many batsmen, and he was unfortunate not to find the edge more often than he did. John Wilkinson and Crispian Lord, the leg-spinner are much better bowlers than their figures would suggest: given more bowling in the future, they will both be an asset to any XI.

Joe's field placing and bowling changes were shrewd and effective, and the fielding ranged from very good to unbelievable! Our fielding, or rather lack of it, lost us a win against Reading School, and on too many occasions we relied on the fielding skills of a few very good fielders.

To their credit, however, the XI fielded better in the latter part of the season and made up for some dismal performances. Scott Milne kept wicket well, as did John Wilkinson and Doug Johnson in Scott's absence. Scott has good potential provided he can come to terms with the spinners.

What struck me most about this year's Junior Colts was that everyone wanted to do his best. There were very few absentees from the practice sessions, and those players who were unable to gain a regular team place in the matches kept competing for selection. James McKenzie, Russel Roan, Chris Stovin and Nick Holloway were unlucky to find themselves in such good cricketing company for they were worthy to play in more matches than they did. My thanks to all players in the squad for a most satisfying season. I wish them every success in the future.

JDH



JUNIORS CRICKET

The following played for the XI:- J. Allen (capt), J. Tilley (v. capt), A. Smith, E. Paleit, J. Wilkinson, C. Martin, G. Ogden, R. Roan, D. Johnson, N. Pree, S. Milne, C. Lord, J. McKenzie, C. Stovin, N. Hol-loway.

Results

St. Edwards	Draw
St.E 124-4	
A. 83	Tilley 41, Paleit 30
Bloxham	Won
B. 70	Lord 4-15, Tilley 3-14
A. 71-1	Allen 41
M.C.S.	Won
A. 129	Allen 40
M. 48	Allen 7-11, Tilley 3-20
Oratory	Won
A. 163-2	Smith 76, Tilley 48
O. 90	Tilley 5-21, Lord 3-18
Douai	Won
A. 189-6	Wilkinson 65 Tilley 48
D. 48	Tilley 6-30, Allen 4-6
Berkhamsted	Won
A. 210-1	Tilley 100, Allen 82
B. 91	Allen 6-27, Tilley 4-18
Reading	Draw
A. 150-9	Allen 44, Smith 34
R. 120-6	Pree 3-33
Batley G.S.	Draw
B. 180-9	Pree 4-59
A. 162-7	Tilley 42, Paleit 35
Oakwood	Cancelled

Superb weather, Nick Watts' batting and winning the Lords Taverners Trophy for the first time in a nail-biting final made this a season to remember. Containing three under 13 players, this was a young and relatively inexperienced side who can be proud of their playing record of 9 wins and only 2 losses. Most pleasing was that everyone made a significant contribution at some stage.

We got off to a most encouraging start by beating St. Edwards, thanks largely to a fine innings by Nick Watts to whom we were to be grateful on many occasions subsequently. An emphatic defeat at the hands of an impressive MCS team looked ominous but many excellent performances followed, including overwhelming victories over Wantage and Cokethorpe in the Taverners competition. The latter contained a magnificent record-breaking opening partnership of 202 between Watts and Alex Smith. This took us to the semi-final against Cherwell School where fine bowling and fielding by both sides led to a low scoring game in which we were perhaps fortunate to scrape through by 2 wickets.

In the final we were surprised to meet Gillotts School who had knocked out the favourites, MCS, conquerors of Radley in an earlier round. Batting first we threatened to make at least 200 but had to settle for 163, a good but not invincible score. Gillotts were always ahead of the required scoring rate but when their skipper was dismissed and the score stood at 124-7, victory looked within our grasp. However, a determined eighth wicket stand took the visitors to within 7 runs of their winning target before the next wicket fell. Another 5 runs were then scored and our chance seemed to have gone. But David Allison

thought otherwise as he roared in to produce two perfect deliveries and snatch a dramatic one run win.

All this was achieved without our captain and wicketkeeper, Paul Engwell, who had taken an early holiday. In the absence of a natural leader, he did a good job during the season, particularly in the way he handled the bowlers. Unfortunately, as a keeper he has more ability than enthusiasm, an unusual combination for a schoolboy!

The batting was dominated by the left-handed Watts, who, although usually looking 'scratchy' at the start of an innings, scored 500 plus runs including two unbeaten centuries, bearing testimony to an excellent temperament and technique. Andrew Harding and Paul Engwell both showed themselves to be fine strikers of the ball but need to be more selective and patient if they are to become more consistent and successful although the former cut short several of his innings with kamikaze running. Adam Janisch was certainly the most improved batsman. He has a sound defence and elegant strokeplay, which with more strength and skilful placement of the ball should make him a prolific run-scorer in the future. On the negative side, his running between the wickets was in sharp contrast to Harding's, showing a marked reluctance to leave his ground! Tim Jephson, Stephen Ruhl and James Weedon all had their moments with the bat and, given more experience and confidence, could develop into good middle order players. Jephson's keeping showed increasing competence when required in the last two matches. David Allison has much natural all round talent. His innings against Wantage was a fine example of controlled aggression and his competitive character made him the match-winner in the epic final, but too often he let himself down with a reck-

Final Results:-	P.	W.	D.	L.
	8	5	3	0

Batting Averages

	M.	I.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Ave
J Tilley	9	9	3	100	331	55.1
J Allen	9	9	2	82	319	45.57
E Paleit	8	6	1	35	112	22.40
J Wilkinson	8	5	1	65	84	21
A Smith	8	8	1	76	145	20.70
C Martin	9	5	0	34	101	20.20
N Pree	9	4	2	12	21	10.50
R Roan	4	3	1	9	18	9
D Johnson	8	5	2	12	12	4

Bowling Averages.

	I.	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Ave
J Tilley	9	113.3	36	223	27	8.25
J Allen	8	75.5	21	194	23	8.43
C Lord	6	35	6	87		9
9.66						
N Pree	9	93	21	230	11	20.90
J Wilkinson	4	25	3	77		1 77

Best Bowling:- J Allen 7-11, v M.C.S.

J Allen 6-30, v Douai.

Best Batting:- J Tilley 100, v Berkhamsted.

J Allen 82, v Berkhamsted.



less, undisciplined approach.

All the bowlers had some good days. In form, Daniel Hartley looked a very dangerous bowler but was too erratic on many occasions. The opening attack of Ben Gannon and Andrew Harding usually bowled with life and control, the latter's 4-4 in the semi-final being particularly impressive, but often they had little luck. Alistair Mills has a good action but but lacked consistency. His spell against Berkamsted, which included a devastating hat-trick, showed his true potential. Tom Moloney looked very good in practices but had difficulty reproducing his best form in matches. Weedon's leg spin seemed rather undervalued by the captain, but he did pick up some vital wickets.

Being able to call on Alex Smith for the Taverners' matches greatly strengthened both the batting and bowling and we also glimpsed the considerable potential of Luke List from the Minors in these games.

My thanks to PJW for all his cheerful and expert help with coaching and umpiring, to David Allison for his meticulous compilation of the averages and to all the players, including those who played only one 'B' team match (a win against Carmel College U15), for their enthusiasm and hard work and for providing the wonderful climax to the season. My very best wishes go to them as they represent Oxfordshire in the National competition next year.

Regular Players: P.Engwell (capt.), A.Harding, N.Watts, A.Janisch, D.Allison, T.Jephson, D.Hartley, S.Ruhl, J.Weedon, B.Gannon, A.Mills, T.Moloney

Also Played: A.Smith (Lords Taverners matches), L.List (Lords Taverners matches), C.Busby

RESULTS

	P14	W9	D3	L2
St. Edwards			Won by 5 wickets	
St. E	147-8	dec		
A	148-5		Watts *75	
Bloxham			Won by 4 wickets	
B	64		Allison 6-8	
A	66-6			
Cokethorpe			Draw	
C	127-7	dec		
A	69-9		Watts 30	
M.C.S.			Lost by 9 wickets	
A	73			
MCS	74-1			
Oratory			Draw	
A	189-4	dec	Watts*101	
			Harding 41	
O	82-5			
Douai			Draw	
D	139-0	dec		
A	96-4		Watts 46	
Wantage *			Won by 123 runs	
A	189-7		Allison 72,	
	(40 overs)		Watts 34,	
			Janisch 30	

W	66	Smith 4-22
Berkhamsted		Won by 7 wickets
B	133	Hartley 6-22
		Mills 3-27
A	134-3	Engwell 41
Cokethorpe *		Won by 179 runs
A	243-2	Watts *125
	(40 overs)	Smith 77
C	64	Smith 3-5,
		Weedon 3-10
Oxford School		Won by 81 runs
A	151-8	dec
		Watts 49,
		Janisch 41
O	70	Hartley 5-7
Reading		Won by 42 runs
A	169-8	dec
		Harding 47
		Jephson 32
R	127	Mills 3-12
Cherwell *		Won by 2 wickets
C	60	Harding 4-4
		Smith 3-25
A	61-8	
RGS		Lost by 3 wickets
A	155-5	dec
		Smith 64,
		Harding 41
RGS	156-7	
Gillotts *(Final)		Won by 1 run
A	163-9	Smith 39,
	(40 overs)	Allison 38
G	162	Allison 4-26

* Lords Taverners Trophy matches

BATTING	I	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Ave.
Watts	14	3	528	*125	48.0
Smith	5	0	197	77	39.4
Allison	12	2	189	72	18.4
Janisch	12	3	159	41	17.6
Jephson	12	5	100	32	14.3
Ruhl	7	2	58	18	11.6
Engwell	12	1	124	41	11.3

(Qualification:- 5 completed innings)

BOWLING	O	M	Runs	W	Ave.
Smith	34.3	6	118	13	9.8
Allison	65	13	197	19	10.4
Hartley	63.3	8	195	18	10.8
Mills	30	4	97	8	12.1
Harding	98	25	271	19	14.3
Gannon	78.1	14	213	13	16.4

(Qualification:- 5 wickets)

MINORS CRICKET

Our batting stars from last year (Fuggles, Stanworth, and Pollard) never quite found their form this season and if it had not been for the exceptional talents of first year List and third years Watts and Janisch, we might well have lost all our matches this season. On the whole, our bowling and fielding have been our stronger skills, with Mark Woodward, Horton and Ulyatt ably assisting the above (mentioned with their bowling). Fortunately we had a very competent wicket-keeper in Nick Woodward and good fielders in the shape of Haynes, Marnane, Browne and Porter. Almost all the school matches were closely contested, but we often lost out through lack of concentration and commitment. Fuggles made a hesitant start as captain, but eventually seemed to get the team going by the end of the season.

During the summer holidays we ended on a high note by winning the "Morland Cup" competition rather easily.

Colour were awarded to Fuggles (captain), List (vice-captain), Horton and N.Woodward. Others who played who haven't already been mentioned were: Lord, Finch, Clarkson, Wagner Harding and Scott.

Thanks to them, to our scorer A. Brown, to our supportive parents and to other the other coaching staff: AMS, AMB, NHP, and RH.

DMH

RESULTS:

St. Edwards BXL	Won by 20 runs.
A. 124	
St.E. 104	
Bartholomew M.S.	Won by 10 wkts.
A. 62 for 0	
B. 58 for 6	
Oratory	Draw
A. 153	
O. 105 for 7	
Berkhamsted	Lost by 28 runs
A. 109	
B. 137 for 2	
Priors Court and M.C.S.	rained off
Reading	Won by 1 run
A. 150 for 9	
R. 149 for 6	
Marlborough M.S.	Won by 10 wkts.
A. 52 for 0	
M. 51 for 8	
St. Hughs	Draw
A. 106 for 7	
St.H. 131 for 5	
New College School	Lost by 69 runs
A. 52	
N.C. 121	
RGS High Wycombe	Lost by 72 runs
A. 94	
RGS 166 for 7	
Lord William School*	Won by 7 wkts.
A. 49 for 3	
L.W. 48 for 4	
Isis M.S. (Final)*	Won by 54 runs
A. 115 for 2	
I.M.S. 61 for 9	

*Morland Cup Matches

BATTING AVERAGES

	I.	H.S.	RUNS	AVE.
Watts	3	28	64	64
List	8	90	384	48
Stanworth	4	44	76	19
Pollard	6	45	53	12.2
Fuggles	7	31	76	10.8
Porter	4	25	33	10.5
Ulyatt	4	12	28	9.3
M.Woodward	4	5	8	8
Haynes	4	13	28	7
Marnane	2	9	14	7

Also batted: Finch, Horton, N.Woodward, Lord, Browne, Clarkson, Wagner, Harding, Malcolm, Scott.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	R.P.O.	M.	RUNS	W.	AVE.
Ulyatt	2	2.5	0	5	1	5
Janisch	10	3.3	2	33	4	8.3
M.Woodward	31	3	7	98	7	10.9
Haynes	5	2.4	1	12	1	12
List	86	2.6	14	221	18	12.3
Fuggles	97	3.0	11	297	16	18.5
Horton	40	3.5	11	140	7	20
Stanworth	31	4.2	3	130	6	21.6
Browne	16	3.9	1	63	2	31.5
Porter	2	2.5	0	5	0	-
Lord	9	4.7	2	42	0	-
Marnane	2	5.5	0	11	-	-



Under 13 Morland Cup Winners

SECOND XI

The 2nd XI had a good season, only losing once with a depleted side due to examinations. The highlights of the season included two half centuries from John Taylor, a double-quick stand of 80 in 12 overs between Martin Scott-Brown and John Taylor when chasing 150 in 25 overs, a Hugh Wilkinson tally of 33 in 14 balls, Louis Golding's figures of 8-15 against Magdalen and some of John Taylor's slip catches. There were five batsmen who all scored over 150 runs and 4 main bowlers who shared the wickets. The side was ably captained by Bryn Davies, a solid middle order batsman who also kept wicket tidily. He was assisted by vice captain Tom Biggar, who usually opened the innings and finally got a half century in the last match of the season. Hugh Wilkinson ended up on top of both the batting and bowling averages, unless you take John Hill's batting average of 114 (he was only out once!)

Those who played: Bryn Davies, Tom Biggar, Hugh Wilkinson, John Taylor, Martin Scott-Brown, Jo Boorman, Paul Thomas, Louis Golding, John Hill, James Hill, John Wallace, Paul Aitken, Simon Newton, John Evans, Edward Creasey, Roy Henderson, Mark Seager.

M. Scott-Brown 6RCRM

THIRD XI

The Third XI's cricket season grew from nothing to greatness when in our first match against St. Edward's when, with 190 runs to chase, we managed a magnificent 28 all out. But at Douai Jonathan Evans scored a fifty and Philip Johnson somewhat luckily took five wickets; we still lost! Our match against Brentwood saw the Third XI achieve a victory with the captain Simon Newton scoring his much deserved fifty and Philip Goldsworthy getting five wickets. We were then challenged to a match against the oarsmen's XI which we won in style, and there is no doubt that the judgement on the season was that a good time was had by all!

P. Johnson VIB

RUGBY

1988 was a good season for the rugby club, the most successful for the club as a whole for many years. All the principal teams won more matches than they lost. The Colts had the best playing record with 9 wins out of 12 matches played. The Junior Colts might have done even better had they not lost some key players through injury late in the term. The second XV were the most prolific try-scorers. All the teams and players seemed to enjoy their rugby and play it in the right spirit. 1988 also marked the last season at Abingdon for David Crawford, for the last six years a highly effective coach to the under 14 age group, but for the nine years prior to that an equally successful master in charge and first XV coach. We shall miss his experience.

FIRST XV

None too happy memories of the 1987 season's results were in the minds of the team coaches and many of the players as the 1988 season started. Before too long these memories were displaced by happier events. Pre-season training started earlier, although on a voluntary and more gentle basis but, this allowed pre-season training proper to be more purposeful. It needed to be because four days after term started we entered the Douai tournament for the first time. This provided some much needed warm-up match practice before the season proper began. We were reasonably successful in the tournament, drawing 3-3 with Milton Abbey and then beating Kingswood, Bath, 12-4 to win our group. In the semi-final we met a fine Bryanston side, just returned from a pre-season tour and lost 0-16. It had been a useful exercise. However, there was a price to pay: Andrew Wintle suffered a knee injury. This took longer to heal than was at first expected and he was out of action until after half term.

The first 'real' encounter, with Bloxham, was keenly awaited. It was a considerable disappointment. We lost by 18-27, conceded soft tries and allowed Bloxham to dominate the second phase. The next four matches were a very different story. Against Berkhamsted, in foul weather, the team was unrecognisable from the side of three days earlier although only one change had been made, because of injury. Generally we were much more aggressive, dominating play, especially up front. Continuity of ruck ball was established, enabling our backs to show their paces. A 20-9 victory was recorded. Pangbourne

was easily defeated the next weekend and Magdalen, with more difficulty, the following Saturday. The next fixture, a midweek one, was against Shiplake and proved to be a very tough encounter. It was a hard forward struggle, won by two penalties to nil, and achieved by considerable grit and determination. Perhaps it took too much out of us because the Saturday display against Radley was disappointing. We were disrupted by losing our fly-half before half-time. Early superiority yielded no points and Radley played better as the match wore on to win by 29 points to 0.

The following Saturday, actually part of half-term, saw us travelling west (the hoped-for eastwards trip to Italy having had to be called off for various reasons). In a morning match we played Bristol G.S. In the first half we were desperate, totally asleep and turned round 15 points down. Playing more like our true selves in the second half we recovered 12 of the points but time ran out. In the afternoon we travelled the few miles to Bath to watch their hard fought encounter with old rivals Bristol.

The second half of term began with a trip to Marlborough, who were having a good season. We went 12 points down in 25 minutes and the signs were ominous. However, we clawed our way back into the game and scored a good try just on half time. We exerted considerable pressure in the second half, but could not contrive another score. Newbury and Reading were both beaten by the same scoreline, 16-9, and in both matches we came from behind to win. In both matches the rucking had become more effective and the backs were starting to buzz again. On a heavy pitch a week later St. Edwards used their forward power effectively to close us out of the game eventually. We lost 6-20 although the margin was only 4 points until eight minutes from time. The match against Warwick was the most disappointing of the season. Despite changes due to Oxford exams we

should have won this game comfortably. We had plenty of pressure and then plenty of chances but finishing was poor and we paid the penalty. The final match of the term was a first encounter with Douai. They were obviously keen to take us on and were difficult to play against. Nevertheless, we played controlled rugby, scored four good tries and ran out 18-6 winners. A final playing record of 7 wins and 6 losses was respectable although not quite as good as it should have been.

The captaincy of the side was eventually shared between Justin Hodges in the first half of the season and Julian Green in the second. Both worked hard and commanded the respect of their fellow players. James Crawford was the leading try scorer with 10; he was always a threatening attacking player. Jon Crick was the unsung hero of the front row and had a useful habit of being in the right places at the right times. In the back row James Hewes had some excellent games as an all-action aggressive flanker.

RSP

Full colours awarded to:

James Crawford, Jonathan Crick, Anthony Edwards, Julian Green, James Hewes, Gordon Mowat, Ashley Whitaker, Andrew Wintle.

Half Colours awarded to:

Jeremy Boorman, Ed Creasey, Guy Harrison, Justin Hodges, Barry Marnane, Stephen Mitchell (Mark Snow and Matthew Tomlyn were also 1987 half colours).

Also Played:

Jeremy Wilcox, Rob Gerdes, Matthew Gordon, Max Henderson, Darren King. (James Bichard and Graham Harding also made appearances as replacements.)



Results

Bloxham	L	18 - 27
Berkamsted	W	20 - 9
Pangbourne	W	21 - 6
Magdalen	W	16 - 9
Shiplake	W	6 - 0
Radley	L	0 - 29
Bristol G.S.	L	12 - 15
Marlborough	L	4 - 12
Newbury	W	16 - 9
Reading	W	16 - 9
St. Edward's	L	6 - 20
Warwick	L	10 - 16
Douai	W	18 - 6

SECOND XV

The record of wins and losses suggests that the Second XV had a high-scoring and successful season, but tended to come unstuck against their traditionally tough opponents. The truth, however, is that this team played outstanding rugby, delighted their spectators, but often had to suffer the ill-luck of injuries and other absences when they most needed a full team. Against St Edward's, for example, who scored two pushover tries to win, the team lost its number 8 after only four minutes play; and a week later against Warwick fortune maliciously scowled as four players went missing on Oxford interview and a further six were unavailable through injury. Add to these injuries the insult earlier in the term (one can see the funny side as well) of losing a match by scoring a try for the opposition, and the season is put more fairly in perspective.

That this team could often play rugby just as it ought to be played is shown by the total of 58 tries scored in their 11 matches, with 34 tries being scored by the wings and full-back, and a further 16 by the midfield. The style was fast and meant taking risks by running the ball from every corner of the field to stretch the opposition until it was run ragged; and if this didn't always work according to plan, at least it was enjoyable - fast and exhilarating to play - and watch. Such a style would not have been possible without high levels of fitness and skill, and the discipline to commit them to action. Among the backs we certainly had plenty of talent and flair. Our wings were swift, with James Howard the more powerful and rugged and Darren King sinuous and electric. Both scored numerous tries from within their own half. Darren's hat-trick of tries against Radley, and James's celebrated 'pin-ball' try against Reading, in which he bounced off half-a-dozen of the opposition and a few spectators and trees to score after an 80-yard run, were memorable high points. Usually these wings were given space by slick handling, and by the incursions of

full-back Bryn Davies, who was ever anxious to run the ball. Bryn's scorching acceleration and flair were vital to the smooth running of the team; less flamboyant yet equally important was his commitment to the final tackle, which saved the day on several occasions.

The engine room of the attack lay in midfield, where we were fortunate to have reliable and skilful players like Mark Seager, who improved rapidly over the first half of term and Matthew Gordon at half-back. Matthew in fact won the 'most-improved player' award, and would have graced many a First XV. His great asset was never to waste the ball, and he was very quick to size up a situation. His dedication to improving his skills was exemplary. When he was injured, Edward Tilley moved in from centre (and took over the goal-kicking too) and proved what a fine natural ball-player he is. Deceptively fast and an instinctive timer of the pass, he created scores of opportunities with a few deft touches. His solo try in a down-pour at Berkhamsted might well have been 'try of the season', had he not surpassed it himself against Newbury, swerving to left and right without loss of pace like a famous Australian left wing. In the centre, Jonathan Wallace was also deceptively fast and, as he tightened up his defence and improved the line of his running, he became a genuine all-round player. His long mis-passes were of international class, and he too showed the ability to take on and beat a well-organised defence. Outside him, Justin Hodges (who spent half the season in the 1st XV) was always steady and occasionally outstanding, making the critical pass at exactly the right moment or steaming off on one of his powerful, lancing runs. With steady ball and an increasing number of intelligent breaks from Mark Seager at scrum-half to keep the opposition on its toes, the backs posed difficulties for any side and were never bested. Any of them would have been a credit to a First XV, and when injuries disrupted us, it was a relief that quality reserves like Hugh Wilkinson were available.

However, such talent would have been a useless luxury had the forwards not won ball. The fast-running, high-risk strategy demanded a rucking game, at which we became proficient. Hours and hours of practice were spent on rucking drills, and often the only compensation for the pack was that the backs had to do it too. No forward had a deeper commitment to the game or team than Simon Newton, whose stature as a pack-leader grew throughout the term. Injuries meant that the other prop position was disrupted, though it was capably filled usually by Edward Creasey, Robert Gerdes and James "Oggie" Bichard. In the middle we eventually settled, after protracted negotiations with the Third XV over a suitable transfer fee, for Michael Stanley-Baker, whose fine all-round play brought a great advantage to our set and loose play, areas which had hitherto been weak. The lock positions were shared by Mark

Hancox, a fine jumper and an increasingly aggressive forager who scored 60% of the pack's tries (3), Graham Harding, who was mobile and a great scourge of the opposition from every kick-off; and Tony Walker, who brought further, much-needed solidity to the scrum and who could really 'turn it on' when the challenge was most intense. Had we, in fact, been able to call upon a regular back row then we would surely have won more matches; but with players of the calibre of Annett and Barber out of action for almost all the season, and other, short-term injuries, we were unsettled. James Owen was invaluable, however, as the steady point of reference. Tough, combative and apparently incapable of feeling pain, he played every game and had all the skills a flanker requires. Duncan Sparkes was drafted into the side, usually at number 8, where his speed of cover was impressive, and his tackling and determination deceptively hard.

34 players represented the 2nd XV during the term, 24 of whom played 3 or more games, and at times it was difficult to keep a sense of team unity. Against Warwick, for example, ten players who would have represented either the First or Second XV were absent, but our reserves played heroically, and we scored three good tries to two pushovers, while Edward Tilley achieved the statistically improbable feat of hitting the woodwork on three out of four occasions, to no avail. Sometimes our worst performances (that is a relative judgement, of course) were concealed in a profusion of tries; while our best efforts could prove unsuccessful. The performance of the depleted pack against St Edward's, for example, could scarcely have been bettered. And the exhibition of 'total rugby' against Newbury, in which backs and forwards were virtually indistinguishable, was memorable: eleven tries were scored. One of the other high points came at Radley, when we came back from being 7 - 8 down to score four tries in an emphatic 23 - 8 win.

This report contains mainly superlatives, and little adverse criticism. All the players realise that they have limitations to which they must attend if they are to improve as footballers; indeed, most of them will be back next year, hoping for promotion. They stuck to their practices assiduously, as I stick to my conviction that with better fortune over injury, the final record would have been outstanding. The quality of skill and the entertainment offered was, in 2nd XV terms, second to none. The last word must concern the captain, Bryn Davies, a Porsche of a player who could inspire equally with his attacking flair and his drive and dedication. He never missed a practice, let alone a game, and was as full of 'go' at the end of term as at the beginning.

JRG



FOURTH XV

Results

P	W	D	L	pf	pa
11	7	0	4	287	99
Bloxham			W	28 - 6	
Berkhamsted			L	20 - 22	
Pangborne			W	44 - 0	
M.C.S.			W	36 - 4	
Radley			W	23 - 8	
Marlborough			L	6 - 20	
Newbury			W	54 - 0	
Reading			W	29 - 10	
St Edward's			L	3 - 14	
Warwick			L	12 - 15.	
Douai			W	30 - 0	

Try scorers: Howard (11); King (11); Davies (9); Wallace (5); Tilley (5); Hancox (3); Booman (3); Seager (2); Wilkinson (2); Hodges (2); Gordon (2); Harrfson (1); Stanley-Baker (1); Jolliffe (1). Penalties: Gordon (1); Tilley (2). Conversions: Gordon (15); Tilley (11).

THIRD XV

As is often the case, the Third XV enjoyed a highly successful yet unrecognised season, losing only three matches after the unfortunate loss of Dr. Wilmore (due an over ambitious cover drive). As the season continued, what originally was a bunch of fifteen undedicated and somewhat unfit individuals gradually developed into a single working team who knew what they wanted, and would stop at nothing to get it.

We were unlucky to lose to a strong Marlborough team (4-8), and even un-

luckier against St. Edwards, where we lost in the last half minute (4-6). Radley once again gave us a sound thrashing, but our performance against Douai more than made up for this (66-0).

As captain, I had the great pleasure of meeting and attempting to lead a variety of characters, who I feel all deserve a mention. At the front of the pack I was assisted by David Caswell and Mike Chaddock; Matthew Hawksworth, and Jonathan Shepherd were our locks, Freddy Fulton and Paul Thornton our flankers (and probably the most reliable members of the team), Pete Jones however helped to balance the side up.

The backs were certainly imaginative and invented a penalty move of international standard, which involved passing the ball down the line while running; nine times out of ten this proved just too difficult. Paul Aitken (Nelbert Wilkins) was put at full back. The position of scrum half was filled by Kyle Talbot and David Engwell (often at the same time), and with the scrum's amazing success rate, fly half Toby Hay was kept extremely busy. The two centres were often amazingly effective, Justin Frishberg providing the skill, Miles Kendall the humour, and therefore vitally important to the team. Depending on the whims of the game one coaches, our wings included Ben Davies, Tom Wedgwood and, of course, Hugh Wilkinson.

It only remains to thank Mr. Bodey for being such an effective and understanding coach and to whom we owe a great deal.

D. Shotton

As is usual, the fourth fifteen had its share of annihilation during the season, but this was one of the more successful teams to emerge in recent years. True enough, our 40-0 defeats to Radley and Teddies were not totally unexpected, but neither did they reflect the amount of effort that was put in.

Under the very capable leadership of Daniel Shotton the pack looked formidable, and the competitive spirit of the players like Jonathan Sheppard shone through. One of the common problems within Game 2 rugby is the lack of fitness, although many of the players are blissfully unaware of this! The backs were on the whole very capable, with David Engwell and Paul Aitken regularly showing their talents (even though occasionally the score sheet did not reflect this) under considerable pressure.

As ever, much is owed to the coaching skills of Dr. Wilmore (prior to his injury) and to Mr. Bodey, who took over so well to lead both the Third and Fourth XV's for most of the season, accompanied by Mr. Brown.

It should not escape mention that the XV did have some notable successes, and when these took place everyone knew about it, but even in defeat the team was sporting, and on the whole the season was an enjoyable one. At this level, rugby is often viewed with a degree of amusement, but it must be noted that from here some excellent players graduate, and the experience is often valuable, even if the results sometimes seem to belie that.

Craig Hoyle VIF

COLTS XV

J. Burt (Prop)

Along with Andrew Ashley also the most improved player in the squad. Perhaps more so because he had to work so hard on his fitness. To his delight he discovered at the varsity match that he was heavier than both the Oxford and Cambridge props! Solid in the front row, and made his presence felt in all aspects of play. Excellent potential.

M. Scott-Brown (Full-back)

First-rate player who made his mark in every game. Reads the game well, seldom misses the high ball, and always eager to join the line in attack. Exceptional defence whose presence was undoubtedly missed in the last three games of the season. A very promising prospect for the future.

B. Miller (Centre)

Always gave 100%. Lack of speed off the mark is compensated by hard, straight running. Defence improved in every game, and a good use of the boot in attack and defence.

C. Jephson (Prop)

County trialist. Physically committed in the set pieces and one of the best tacklers in the XV. Needs to improve his speed around the field, and to accept constructive criticism.

S. Hickson (Lock)

County player. An excellent jumper in the line-out, and very committed in the set and loose. A player of excellent potential who went from strength to strength. Undoubtedly a key member of the XV.

W. Howard (Striker)

Not a natural striker of the ball, but more than made up for this in the loose. A physically strong player at his best in the thick of things. Attitude to training improved in the second half of the season. With hard work, he can be a very good player indeed.

J. Twinn (Wing)

Always tried hard, and had some good runs during the season. Like Douglas, needs to tighten up his defence.

A. Lyon (Scrum-half)

County player. A very exciting player who showed physical courage in attack and defence. Reads the game well, and tactical kicking can be devastating. Gets very frustrated on his 'off' days, and needs to control his emotions. Length of pass will be a problem next year.

B. Pilling (No.8) Captain,

County player. An excellent leader, and one of the most physically committed players in the team. Always gave his best, leading by example. A player of tremendous potential.



A. Ashley (Lock)

The most improved player in the XV. Always gave 100% throughout the season in practice and matches. Seldom in the limelight because of his involvement in the midst of the scrum and rucks. A player to watch in the future.

S. Palmer-Ward (Wing)

A very determined runner who never lived up to his early season potential. A promising player if he can tighten up his defence and show more commitment to the game.

S. Hutchings (Scrum half, flank)

County trialist. Always gave 100% in whatever position he was selected for, and a great asset to the XV. With experience he can develop into a very good scrum half, and he showed equal ability at flank. Regained his permanent position in the XV after positional reshuffle. A good prospect for the future.

R. Milne (Flank)

County player. A physically strong player with good positional sense. At his best near the opponents' try line. An all-round rugby player with a good boot and able to adapt to several positions. Defence round the base of the scrum is one aspect of his play to improve in the future.

R. Winter

A good steady player and useful in the set pieces. Needs to be more physically committed in the loose.

L. Golding (Fly-half)

Blessed with good hands and an exciting side-step. A player who has more potential than he thinks. This lack of confidence in himself is his only downfall. This can be put right, and much will be expected of him in the future.

D. Williamson (Wing)

A strong runner who, when given room, is hard to stop. Defence needs attention, but I am sure this will improve next season.

B. Birks (Centre)

v.-captain, County player. Improved in every game and was the spearhead of attack. A good eye for the gap, and a fine passer of the ball. Excellent potential.

G. Thomson (Flank)

County Player. He did the most work during the season. A very fit player who covered a tremendous amount of ground, and turned this to the advantage of his side. He will be an asset to any team in the future.

There were a number of very pleasing aspects to this year's Colts XV, not least of which was some very exciting running rugby, and the overall improvement of several players in the XV. Much of the team's success rested on the fact that the pack, ably led by Ben Pilling, provided the sound platform from which the three-quarters were able to launch their attacks.

The best performance of the season was undoubtedly against Marlborough College where the side displayed courage and commitment. The game was won, then lost, then finally won in an exciting ten minute spell. Unfortunately, one factor which hampered the team significantly was the lack of team spirit when the opposition applied the pressure. Rugby, perhaps more than any other team game, demands a continuous effort from all fifteen players. It only requires one negative response to disrupt the playing pattern of the team. This team spirit was lacking against Radley and Warwick when it was most needed.

The beauty of rugby is that it offers another chance - a chance to put things right. This year's Colts XV has enjoyed a most successful season in terms of results and I congratulate them on their commitment to the game. Temperament, however, is vital if success is to be achieved and, no matter how good the individual, it is his influence on other players in the team which is so important. The last game of the season against Douai proved this point. Down 7 - 0, all players together to put things right. "Remember we are a team", was repeated several times by the captain, and Abingdon ran out easy winners by 32 points to 7. The chance to put things right had been taken.

My sincere thanks to the captain and vice-captain for all their help and advice during the season and to Stefan Hutchings for playing out of position on several occasions at such short notice.

Thanks also to Mr. Stevenson for his assistance with the coaching. In spite of losing several key players to the AXV, his determination and enthusiasm provided a very competent B XV.

JDH

Results

P	W	L	D	pf	pa
12	9	3	0	233	77

Bloxham	W	11 - 0
Berkhamsted	W	10 - 0
Pangbourne	W	30 - 0
M.C.S.	W	30 - 3
Shiplake	W	28 - 3
Radley	L	10 - 15
Marlborough	W	6 - 3
Newbury	W	40 - 0
Reading	W	18 - 0
St. Edwards	L	0 - 24
Warwick	L	18 - 22
Douai	W	32 - 7

JUNIOR COLTS

This has been a very enjoyable and successful season, highlighted by the 'A' XV's extremely comprehensive demolition of Marlborough and the 'B' XV's notable victory over Radley.

The Marlborough game was unfortunately the only occasion the team was at full strength all season, and injuries to several key players disrupted the team's balance during the second half of the season.

Despite this, the team spirit was high throughout and the record of eight victories would have been even better but for a highly controversial try in the last minute by Berkhamsted and two injury time tries by Radley.

A great deal of the team's success must go to Joe Allen and Douglas Johnson. Joe proved to be a very astute and mature captain who controlled the game impeccably from fly-half, whilst his ability to read the game so well was exceptionally impressive for someone of his age. Douglas lead the forwards by example, and was almost always first to any breakdown. Thus his presence was sorely missed in the last few games due to an injury sustained playing ice hockey!

The front row of Theo Ratcliff, Gary Strange and Ben Fisher was solid and remained unchanged throughout the season. Ben took some vital strikes against the head whilst Theo showed on a few occasions how awesome someone of his size and speed could be.

Philip Page and Guy Rands made a successful second row partnership. Philip dominated the lineouts and produced a large supply of good possession but did not always make his presence felt in the loose.

Alastair Ross made a success of his transition to No.8, scoring ten tries with his unorthodox running which made him so hard to stop. The final forward place was taken up by Matthew Lister when fit, but John Wilkinson, Adrian Mutton, Dickon Whittaker and Robert Cooke all made useful contributions when called upon.

Scott Milne showed a great deal of tenacity at scrum-half, and linked up well with both his back row and fly half. The centres were James Tilley and Charles Wakefield, both of whom performed excellently in attack and defence. James was at his best on the crash ball and was the leading try scorer with twelve. Although Charles only scored four tries himself, he often created the openings for others as well as performing some crunching tackles, one of which brought his season to a premature end against Reading with concussion.

The wingers were Jonathan Richards and Edward Nolan who, although being reliable defensively, lacked conviction in their attacking play and should have made more of the chances created for them.

Another injury, this time to our full back Richard Wright, allowed Gareth

Ogden the opportunity to prove what a sturdy last line of defence he was. He was probably the most improved player over the season and he almost won the Reading game single-handed with numerous try-saving tackles

Finally I would like to thank Mr Coleman for the time and effort he has given to helping with the coaching and wish the team every success next season.

AMB

Results

Bloxham	W	44 - 0
Berkhamsted	L	6 - 12
Pangbourne	W	25 - 16
M.C.S.	W	18 - 0
Shiplake	W	9 - 0
Radley	L	10 - 20
Marlborough	W	22 - 4
Newbury	W	68 - 0
Reading	W	8 - 3
St. Edwards	L	0 - 28
Warwick	L	4 - 46
Douai	W	18 - 0

JUNIORS

From the outset it was clear who would comprise the A team squad, and throughout the team selection was consistently made from amongst the following:

K. Taylor, L. Stopps, R.J. Stratton, B. Rayner, A. Dale, S. Cooke, M. Patey, A. Webster, T. Ratcliff, S. Ruhl, T. Jephson, D. Bezzina, A. Janisch, S. Gould, N. Drake, R. Morris, R. Jones, J. Macintosh, N. Watts and P. Engwell.

What took longer to emerge however, was the best combination. Particularly difficult to resolve was finding positions for boys with obvious appetite and aptitude, but no previous experience of the game. While these matters were being resolved, one or two fixtures were lost to teams early on, which might well have been victories once the right blend had been achieved. The match against Marlborough comes particularly to mind. Eventually a side emerged which attempted to play disciplined rucking rugby. Even at the end of the season we could still have done with more forwards hungry for the ball, and for a three-quarter line which possessed more cohesion and penetration.

At the less exalted level of the B side, it was gratifying to see team members develop individually as players while they endured TPL and he them.

Most significantly, the season will be memorable as the end of Mr. Crawford's association with juniors and indeed with Abingdon rugby. At U14 level he will be remembered amongst other things for his ability to assess almost immediately the potential of each year's intake its likely strengths and weaknesses, and to devise an appropriate pattern of play. Week by week he would analyse each match, and introduced drills and practices, often of his own devising,

as the need arose. Above all, he impressed quietly upon us all the supreme importance of fair play, the satisfaction not necessarily of winning- though success often came our way - but also of a good performance in defeat. He obviously enjoyed his rugby and that, principally is what we learned from him.

TPL

Results

'A' Team:

Bloxham	W	7 - 4
Berkhamsted	L	3 - 4
Pangbourne	W	32 - 16
M.C.S.	W	34 - 0
Shiplake	W	10 - 0
Radley	L	3 - 6
Bris./Coke.	W	30 - 0
Marlborough	L	0 - 8
Newbury	W	36 - 0
Reading	L	4 - 16
St. Edwards	L	0 - 18
Warwick	L	6 - 26
Douai	W	15 - 0

'B' Team:

Berkhamsted	L	0 - 16
Pangbourne	W	29 - 10
M.C.S.	W	12 - 0
Shiplake	W	34 - 0
Radley	L	0 - 22
Reading	L	12 - 16
St. Edwards	L	0 - 12
Warwick	L	0 - 30

MINORS

This must have been our busiest and arguably our best Minors season for a long while. There were several contributory factors to this success. We had a very large squad of skillful, enthusiastic second years, combined with an equally skillful and keen group of first years with two or three very able third years who were under age. We were also able to 'cajole' Stanworth to play for the 1st XV, and Nicholas Woodward's brother Mark to play for the 2nd XV. So this year we had a terrific pool of good players to choose from and competition for places was keen. In addition, we had many members of staff helping with the coaching. Mr. Mitra took charge of the 2nd XV, and his very audible presence on the touchline was worth about 10 points a game to the team. Mr. Wilcox generally took the 3rd XV and was so successful in maintaining their enthusiasm and enjoyment that we arranged an historic first ever 3rd XV fixture! Messrs. Trotman, Drummond-Hay, Townsend, Crawford and Broadbent also did a tremendous amount of coaching in form games sessions and occasionally after school. It was also pleasing to see more parents coming along to support the teams.

First XV

As you can see from the results we met our toughest opposition before half term. Had we not given away a try in the dying seconds against St. Hugh's we would have beaten them. Then we gave both Oratory Prep. and Pinewood excellent games and came the closest to beating them that I have seen. Dragon 2nd XV was our disappointing performance but after this the team never looked back and went on to win all their remaining matches - even beating a Radley U14 side which was no mean achievement.

The pack had played together for three terms now and made a very good unit. Litchfield learned to put his tremendous height, weight, and speed to great effect with aggressive runs, good catching in the line and clean setting up of rucks. The other most effective forwards were hooker Browne, captain Horton and flankers Grinstead and Marnane. These all were demon tacklers, smugglers and ruckers. These forwards often dominated and gave the backs more clean possession than they have enjoyed for many years now.

In the backs we had Woodward at scrum half, Jupp at fly half, Gannon and Stanworth at centres, List and Brown on the wings and Fuggles at full back. They all tackled well in defence but were most effective in attack. Stanworth seemed able to score from any position on the field and it was Woodward who often set up the attacks from the base of the scrum. List's try against Pinewood was, for my money, the best individual try of the season.

The other regular players were Clark-son, Malcolm and Godsell. Colours were awarded to Browne, Horton, Litchfield, Marnane, Woodward, Jupp, Gannon, Stanworth and Fuggles.

Second XV

The second team may not have had such a successful season on paper but played with great gusto and commitment. It must be remembered that it is only the better rugby schools around that can field a second team. Against Pinewood, Dragon and M.C.S. they fared better than the first team. Against Radley and Millbrook House it was an older, heavier pack that tipped the balance in favour of the opposition. Apart from the Radley match all the games were closely fought and well matched. 'Stars' of the team were lanky Guyas captain, Brownlee quick-foot hooker, 'hard-man' Cooke, flanker 'terriers' Melin and Lord, nippy Mark Woodward as scrum half, excellent all-rounder Finch at fly-half and the two hard running centres Otterburn and Drake (the latter breaking his arm in the final game!). Other regular players were Houston, Milham, Wilkinson, Scott, Rees, Diamond, Hankin, Dale and Moloney.

Third XV

They only had one match against a smaller but well drilled Oratory Prep. team that rather exposed their weak rucking and tackling skills. The whole team must be congratulated though, for the way they constantly came out in all weather to develop their own skills and also provide opposition for the 2nd and 1st teams. Davies captained the team and his willing cohorts were:- Warman, Pollard, Cameron, Hoodless, Willis, Raymont, Hall, Jenkins, Fletcher, Pajak, Craig, Hewes, Shrimpton, Mortimer and Hodges.

Conclusion

Wherever we went the opposition often said this was the best Abingdon side they had seen for a while! They were a joy to teach - not only because of their high level of skill and enthusiasm but the way they were willing to listen and put into practice what they were taught. This was seen in the seven-a-side competition at Dragon school at the end of the season where it was only an amazing string of 'bad fortune' that denied us winning the second division. We lost to Runchurch 8-4 (with Litchfield as spectator!). Then we beat Lord William's school 10-0 and Christchurch Cathedral school 38-0. It was Dunchurch that went and beat Monkton Combe in the final 18-6.

The second years deserve every success next year but it will be interesting to see how they fare without the first years who seem to have as much - if not more potential! Next year promises to be even more exciting! Watch this space!

D.M.H.

Results:-

1st XV

C.C.C.S.	W	38 - 4
St. Hugh's	D	16 - 16
Oratory Prep.	L	14 - 0
Pinewood	L	16 - 6
Dragon 2nds.	L	18 - 0
Millbrook Hs.	W	36 - 6
Larkmead	W	32 - 0
Oratory	W	12 - 4
Newbury	W	12 - 4
M.C.S.	W	18 - 10
Radley U14 4th	W	12 - 10
Priors Court	W	22 - 0

Summary:

P	W	D	L	Pf.	Pa.
12	8	1	3	204	102

2nd XV

Oratory P. 2XV	L	20 - 4
Pinewood 2 XV	L	14 - 4
Dragon 4XV	L	10 - 4
Newbury 2XV	L	12 - 8
M.C.S. 2XV	W	16 - 0
Radley U14 5XV L		36 - 4
Millbrook H 2XV L		14 - 8

Summary

P	W	D	L	Pf.	Pa.
7	1	0	6	48	106

3rd XV

Oratory Prep.	L	24 - 4
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Total

P	W	D	L	Pf.	Pa.
20	9	1	9	256	232



UNDER 12'S

This was a most enjoyable and highly successful season. The record is extremely impressive, and when you add that the opposition were often older and bigger, it shows exactly how well the team performed.

The success stemmed from team work rather than from a few individuals. The forwards worked superbly as a unit, completely dominating proceedings in all but one game with their speed and quick, effective rucking. The backs started shakily, but grew in confidence as the season progressed, and anyone who was fortunate enough to see Chris Drake's textbook try in the rain at Pangbourne will remember it for a long time.

The highlight of the season was probably victory at the Moultsford seven aside tournament. We had only spent a brief time preparing for it and little was expected as we had never entered before. However the commitment and determination to win was clearly evident throughout the squad and once again team work played a major part in producing thoroughly deserved success.

Daniel Otterburn did an excellent job as both Captain and Centre, using his extra year of experience to good effect, and although Jeremery Grinsted may have been a quiet pack leader he certainly led by his example. His seemingly endless energy took him all over the pitch, often

tackling player after player in rapid succession, whilst his incredible strength allowed him to emerge with the ball from a crowd of players on numerous occasions.

The top try scorers were the half back pair of Robert Finch, who proved so effective around the blind side of the scrum, and Luke List whose speed and determination made him difficult to stop once he was in full flight.

Others who performed so well for the team were; Antony Hankin, Matthew Cooke, Richard Wyatt, Alan Walker, Daniel Thomas, Micheal Pajak, Martin Diamond, Patrick Voss, Stuart Craig, Ross Hewes, David Melin, Chris Drake, Simon North, Ian Dale, Thomas Wragg Tom Pollard and Paul Shrimpton.

There is a great deal of raw talent amongst the squad, and they have trained hard to develop a solid base of skills in a short period of time. If they continue to listen and learn as they have this year, then they could well become one of the best year groups the school has had.

I would like to convey my thanks to all those parents who turned up in great numbers to support, whatever the weather, and especially to Mr Henderson for all the time he has given to the under 12's rugby over the year.

AMB

Results

Josca's	W	14 - 0
Berkhamsted	W	36 - 0
Pangbourne	W	30 - 0
(Junior School)		
Summerfield's	L	12 - 14
Reading	W	42 - 0

MOULTSFORD SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

Salisbury	W	26 - 0
Hawtreys	W	14 - 4
Moultsford	W	10 - 0

Winners of the seven-a-side tournament.



Back Row:

*P. Voss
C. Drake
J. Grinsted
M. Diamond
M. Cooke*

Front Row:

*D. Melin
L. List
D. Otterburn
(capt.)
R. Finch*

Cross Country

As in previous years the number of keen members in the club was fairly low, although we often appreciated the participation of non-members; those who turned up for occasional training sessions and even matches when they were free from sporting commitments or otherwise. Most of the time these "Part-timers" had ulterior motives, for example oarsmen trying to build up their fitness for the coming season, but we were and still are glad to receive any support at any time.

The Michaelmas term was reasonably successful, with only losses to Haberdashers and St. Albans, who normally outrun us because this is a major sport at these schools. We also lost to Bradford in a close battle. We beat Warwick, R.G.S. High Wycombe, Marlborough and Watford, amongst others. The term ended with an eighth place at Dr. Challoner's relay. Out of about 30 teams, this was a reasonable performance considering that the first leg runner was injured on the start by one of the opposition's spikes. Special recognition goes to Julian Day's first place at Warwick, also to Andrew Carley-Macaulay's and Robert Walker's victories in their respective age groups against Marlborough. In the latter Julian Day lost his lead having unfortunately fallen almost flat on his face.

The Lent term also proved prosperous, with wins over Berkhamsted, Sevenoaks, R.G.S. Worcester, Cheltenham, Wrekin and Wycliffe in straight races, only losing to Bromsgrove and marginally to Wellington. Due to illness and injury the team finished between a third and a half way down the field in the relays. Afterwards Andrew Carley-Macaulay, Matthew Deacon, Edmund Newey and Robert Walker ran impressive races at South Parks, thus becoming eligible to run for the county. Andrew and Robert were selected, and ran at the All England Schools' Championships at Hertford, where they came fifth and third for Oxfordshire in their respective races. The competitive season culminated in a decisive victory for the team at the Vale of the White Horse Championships, and a well earned fourth position at the Worcester relays, which dismissed good competition.

The school was victorious over the Old Abingdonians, but Peter Wilson more than made up for the rest of the O.A.'s with a near miss attempting to break the long standing home course record.

The Road relay was eventful as ever. Mr. Gabitass showed up everyone else and demonstrated his level of fitness with an outstanding 8 minutes and 18 seconds. This was second to Julian Day's effort, completing the newer course (with the deviation behind the chapel) in a record time of 7:58, despite taking off the wing-mirror from the white workmens' van which to this day retains the mark.

Overall the season was enjoyed by all; Robert Walker in a spate of keenness refused to let places slip by, but his self-control was unfortunately for him not so strong in other areas. His positive attitude is an example to others, which is illustrated by such quotes as "I'd much rather be here doing this lush training session than going to (squawk) some stupid party!" On a more serious note, the active members contributed well to the success of the club; it was only the depth of talent, i.e. the number of members which was lacking.

Special thanks to Mr. Ellis, Mr. Pritchard, and of course to Mr. Baker, without whom success and enjoyment would have been infinitely limited.

Regular team runners:

Michaelmas term: Julian Day (Capt.), Andrew Carley-Macaulay (Sec.), Matthew Deacon, Edmund Newey, Mark Gelder, Paul Thornton, Steve Kenyon, Robert Walker and Oliver Meinecker.

Also:

Ian Dalley, Andrew Ross, Piers Hugill and Peter Winterbottom.

Matthew Deacon VIZ

Athletics

This has been a very successful season, particularly at the senior level. Julian Day has lead the club in a very positive way. By training hard himself, he has set a superb example to those around him. He proved to be very competitive at 800m and 1500m, even if he did leave the last burst rather late on some occasions! More importantly, he was prepared to 'help out' in long jump, triple jump or the relay.

David Calderbank was the senior sprinter, and he performed throughout the season, as well as contributing in the long jump. However, the 'find' of the season was Myles Francis whose winter training programme paid handsome dividends. He had learned the art of relaxation, and had built up considerable stamina. As a result his 200m performance was unrecognisable from last year.

We were expecting great things from James Frost in the discus and shot, but an unfortunate skiing injury kept him out of many competitions, and when he did compete it was with a considerable handicap. Robert Gerdes showed resolve in shot and discus, and steadily improved throughout the season. He was a very keen 'B' team relay man too!

James Crawford was a very valuable, versatile member of the team until he was injured. But his contribution to sprinting, long jump and triple jump was considerable. Piers Hugill trained hard and performed well in jumps too, and he

and James were a splendid combination.

David Langden, Tom Wedgwood and Ben Themen all threw the javelin at various times, and Paul Thornton came into the side for the first time this year to make a name for himself in the 1500m. This was very much a 'team', each individual working for the other. They set an excellent example to the younger boys who showed much promise.

Of the Under 17 team, Edward Nolan, Douglas Williamson, Lawrence Howlin, Charlie Wakefield and Ian Calderbank were the mainstays. They trained and competed fiercely with success.

The Under 15 team was rather thin, but Robert Walker, Theo Ratcliff and Louis Golding were real stars. Louis particularly showed tremendous improvement during the season, and although he only ran his first 800m for fun, it proved to be his best event!

It is sometimes difficult to be certain how good a team is when competing in large events, but we had considerable success against very worthy opponents this year, and the future of the club looks very healthy.

My thanks to Peter Lewis, Jonathan Townsend, Rupert Milner and Julian Ellis for all their help. They have proved hard working, inspirational coaches, and I know Julian will be much more efficient than me at keeping records!

DGC

Tennis

The 1989 season started on a depressing note for the 1st VI. In spite of initial enthusiasm, we lost our first four matches and caused Mr. Ayling considerable embarrassment by losing to Pangbourne, normally a comfortable win. A change in fortune began with a convincing 9-0 win over Carmel's unpredictable side, followed by a most heartening victory over Shiplake by 5-4. All three pairs played well, but in the end the match hinged on a spectacular comeback by James Toogood and Gavin Rogers against Shiplake's talented and inventive first pair, from 0-6 in the first set to win the second 6-1.

While overall the 1st VI had a somewhat disappointing season, the U16 team was consistently strong, winning all their matches except those against Oratory and Radley. No one player was outstanding, but there was always a good spirit and complete commitment in the side, and some gritty performances ensured a succession of encouraging results. Let's hope these virtues are retained as these players move on to the senior teams! The U15's were no mean performers either, always trying their best, and ending the season with three wins to three losses.

The Buckley Cup was a quiet affair,

with many of the upper-sixth formers dropping out as A levels loomed. In the quarter finals, there was one surprise defeat when Mark Seager fell to Darren King's sound singles tactics, and Justin Frishberg had to survive a tough first set in beating Cyrus Nikkhah. Justin Frishberg then lost the final to Gavin Rogers, 6-1, 6-0.

The end of term match against the Old Abingdonians was a happy occasion. Thanks to Dr. King's organisation, the O.A. side was strong (they even had a reserve, unheard of in recent years), and some uninhibited tennis was played with see-sawing results; the final score was 5½-3½ to the O.A.'s.

I would like to thank Mr Ayling, Mr Reville and Mr Hunter for their support and encouragement - even if sometimes in vain - during matches, Dr King for organising the Buckley Cup, Tim Robson for his coaching, Mrs. Bigmore for her enthusiastic help of non-team players, and TASS for providing the grant (if not quite enough weedkiller!) for the two new hard courts.

G.C. Rogers

Teams were chosen from:

1st VI: G.C.Rogers (Capt.), J.J.Toogood (Sec.), J.L.T.Frishberg, M.N.Seager, A.Kendrick, J.Carder, S.G.Mitchell, C.Nikkah, B.C.Williams

2nd VI: J.N.Green, C.Nikkah, D.R.King, P.M.Winterbottom, J.M.Kingsland, M.D..Deacon, S.G.Mitchell, M.A.Gillan, J.E.Ardrey.

U16 VI: B.C.Williams, J.W.Dorkings, N.C.Hodgson, A.D.Lyon, P.S.Crutchlow, J.J.Deaman, T.J.Barton, J.M.Gold, S.M.Da Costa.

U15 VI: J.M.Gold, S.M.Da Costa, M.A. Lyon, R.H.R.Bell, T.J.Barton, D.J.Smith, P.A.Jupp, N.P.Rees.

Results

Oratory	1st	L	3 - 6
	U16	L	3 - 6
MCS	1st	L	3 - 6
	2nd	L	2½ - 6½
	U16	W	7 - 2
	U15	L	4 - 5
Pangbourne	1st	L	3½ - 5½
	U16	W	9 - 0
	U15	W	6½ - 2½
Berkhamsted	1st	L	2 - 7
	U16	W	6 - 3
Camel	1st	W	9 - 0
	U16	W	7½ - 1½
Shiplake	1st	W	5 - 4
	U15	L	2½ - 6½
Bloxham	1st	L	3½ - 5½
St Edward's	1st	W	7½ - 1½
Cokethorpe	2nd	W	9 - 0
	U15	W	7½ - 1½
Radley	1st	L	2½ - 6½
	2nd	L	3½ - 5½
	U16	L	3½ - 5½
	U15	L	1½ - 7½
	1st	L	3 - 6
RGS H.W.	1st	L	3 - 6
	U15	W	6½ - 2½

OA's 1st L 3½ - 5½

Full colours were reawarded to G.C.Rogers and J.J.Toogood.

Half colours were awarded to J.L.T.Frishberg, M.N.Seager and A.Kendrick

Fencing

A large intake of talented beginners promises a successful future for the club. The main squad this year, however, consisted of L.O'Loughlin, T.Schmitzehe, N.Richards, C.Burchett, E.Nolan and J.Richards.

The traditional first match of the season against a strong Marlborough team, ended in the traditional heavy defeat. It was the final hit of the competition that cost us victory against St.Edwards, in a match where poor presiding also played its part. However, from this point the team went from strength to strength, beating both Charterhouse and Headington School. The final match against Stowe was a hard fought one, in which the 'A' team came back from behind to win in the final bout.

Four more full sets of equipment have been purchased by the bursary, and Dr.Clare has now agreed to take over as master in charge of fencing.

Half-colours were awarded to T.Schmitzehe, N.Richards, C.Burchett and L.O'Loughlin.

N. Richards 6Z

Volleyball

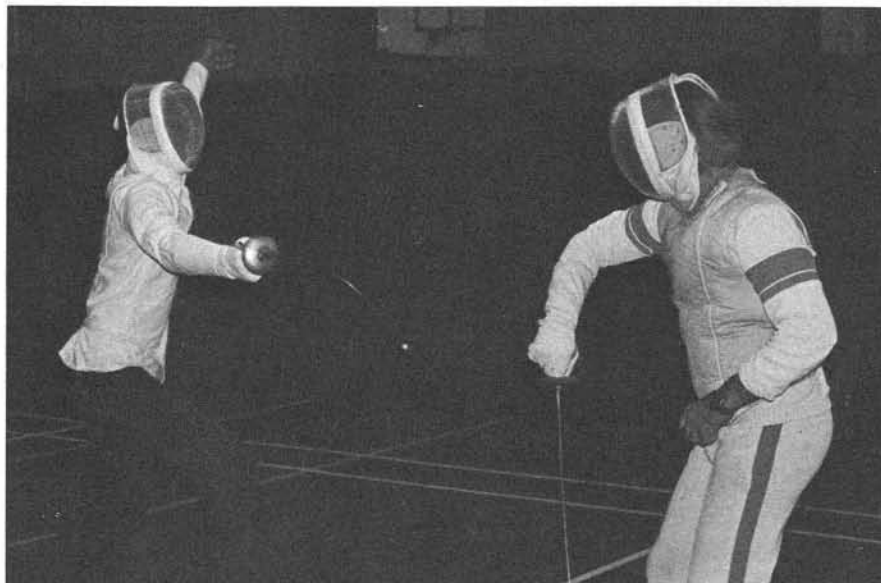
The school year saw the Volleyball Club grow from strength to strength. This is reflected in the results: out of the eight matches played, six were won and two were lost. But more importantly, the level of play improved beyond recognition, and the atmosphere in the club remained good throughout.

The season got off to an excellent start with matches against Henley, Larkmead and Radley. We won all three, providing a good lead up to the main event of the year: the Oxfordshire County Volleyball Championships. Two teams were entered. The first team won five of its six matches and came second in its qualifying group. The second team excelled itself, only losing to Henley's first team, and finishing second in its qualifying group as well. The playoff for third place was between our first and second teams. Fortunately, the first team won.

More matches were played after the Championships. Henley, whose first team had won the Championships played the first team twice. This resulted in one win and one loss. A second team match was also organised between the schools, which we won convincingly. Our only other defeat of the year was to the older and more experienced Oxford Poly. team.

The success of the club is largely due to the dedication of the players who turned out to three or four practices a week. Regular first team players included Jon Dennet, whose never-ending attraction to the net provided Mr. Broughton with an ideal target for rebuke, Andrew Wareham, Dave Engwell and Nick New. Mark Hancox was constantly energetic and Stefan Banks helped out from time

En Garde!



to time, as did James Ryan. Regular second team players included Iain Williams, James Hall, Rob Bailey, Matt Rogers, Nick Bingham, Luke Barrett, Mike Stanley-Baker, Scott Shand, Joshua Hardie, and the 'Wedding Present' T-shirt which called itself Adrian Pearson! Throughout, all showed a complete lack of dress sense and colour coordination with some truly sensational shorts.

The season ended in style with the Volleyball Club Dinner. A great time was had by all, and the celebrations were heard all over Abingdon. However the evening was somewhat saddened by Mr. Broughton's farewell speech, who unfortunately had to leave the school at the end of the year. His incessant coaching is solely responsible for the present state of the club, and without him we would still be digging with our knees bent. The sight of Mr. Broughton with a pair of bright pink and yellow Bermuda shorts over his best suit trousers, with a matching 10" kipper tie bound loosely around his neck will stick in my mind for a long time to come. We all thank him for the time and effort he put into the club, and wish him luck in his new school.

The club is now in a new state of management, headed by the capable Mark Hancox, with Dr. Zawadzki for moral support and (amateur) referee. We have recently entered the National Under-18 Championships, and are training five or six times a week for the first round on October 29th against Arborfield, Reading. Recent form is extremely encouraging, and I see no reason why we shouldn't do well.

Despite its success the club is not without its problems, the main one being the narrow-minded attitude that some of the players and coaches involved in the school's mainstream sports have towards it. They view volleyball as a 'soft option', and see their own sports as superior to it. But with three first division players, three wins over the county champions Henley, and a very convincing win over Radley (something which every other club in the school has failed to achieve almost without exception), the days when the club was for dropouts from mainstream sports are over. Although we are still a long way from the stage when a first team volleyball victory is treated with the same respect as a victory for the

rugby first fifteen, last year was a big step in the right direction.

One last thing: new talent from lower down the school is needed and would be very welcome. If anybody is interested, see myself, Mark Hancox, Dr. Z, or just turn up at any practices.

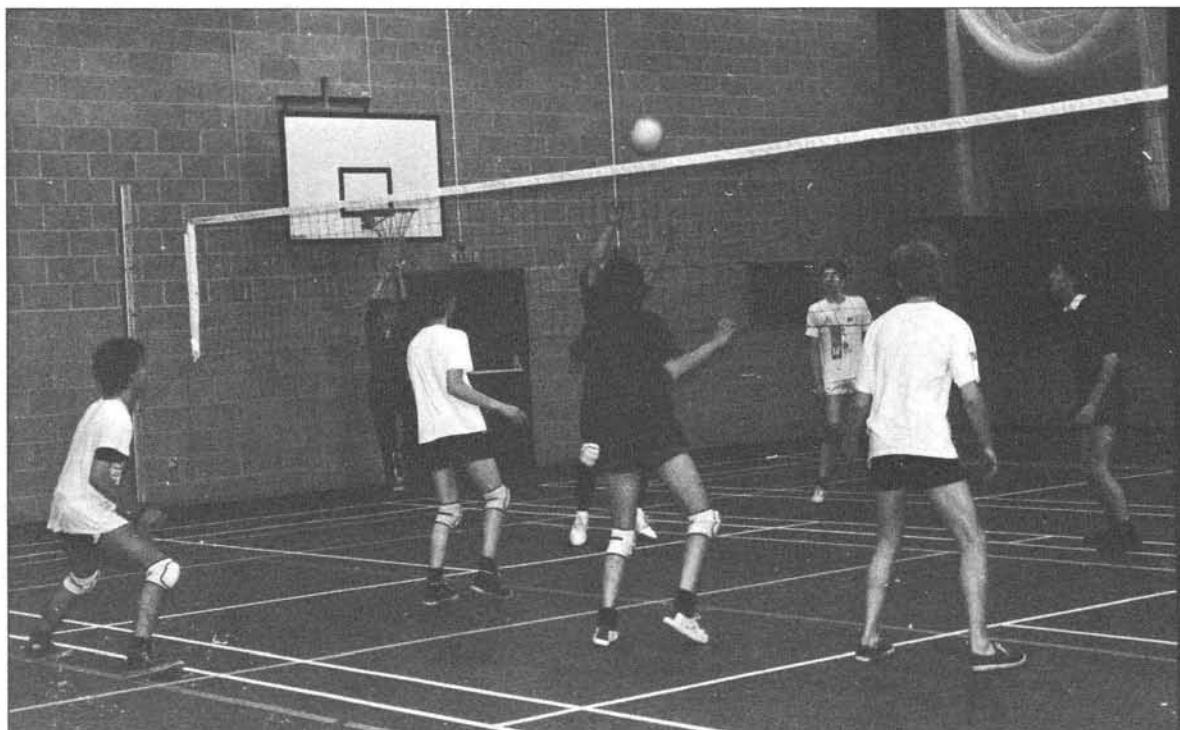
Results		
Henley College	W	3-0
	L	2-3
	W	3-2
	W	3-0
Oxford Poly	L	2-3
	W	3-0
Radley	W	3-0
Cherwell	W	3-1

Also the first team came third and the second team came fourth in the County Championships.

Half-colours were awarded to the following people (the first team) at the end of the summer term:

Mark Hancox. (Captain), James Stopps, David Engwell, Nick New, Stefan Banks, Jon Dennet, James Ryan, Andrew Wareham, Iain Williams.

Congratulations to all in the club.
James Stopps VIZ



Badminton

The badminton season was, yet again a successful time. Starting from the top end, the U19 team had little opposition in the Oxfordshire League or for that matter against any of the schools we played. Jeremy Carder and Steven Prince played first pair and the other four were selected from C. Nikkhah, J. Boorman, I. Martin, J. Toogood, A. Kendrick, a very strong line up. The

U19 comfortably won the league final against Wantage School for the loss of a handful of points.

The U16's met a very good U16 Larkmead team. In recent years we have managed to get two out of three teams in the final and this year it was the U16's turn to sit it out. It was nice to see that the players i.e. Barton, Coleman, Dearman, Cooper, amongst others were very enthusiastic and positive even though their team was not so strong as last year.

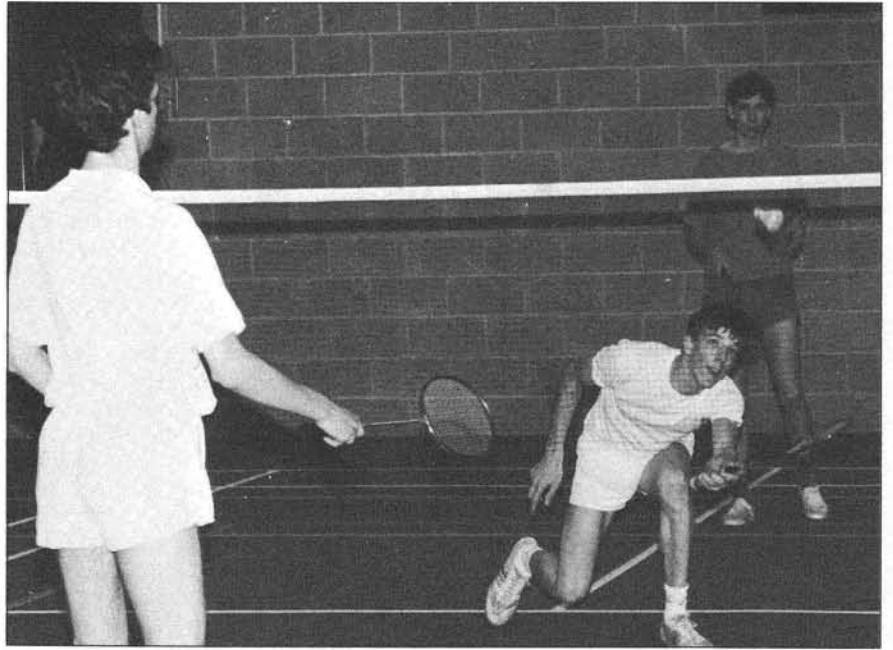
The U14's had a competitive season. Daniel Blake has been a most impressive No.1 player, while he and Russell Bell make a difficult pair to beat. The U14's reached their final in style and won 7-2 v. Larkmead; Blake, Bell, Carder, Carr, Hancox and Mills were the players on this occasion.

The U19's went through a period of complete dominance, only once did I see David Boorman pushed in a school match but he still went on to beat his opponent

from Mill Field School. Gradually, our strength has been diminishing. David and Richard Tilley left 2 years ago and now J. Toogood, A. Kendrick, J. Carter, A. Prince and I. Martin are leaving

However, it is encouraging to see so many people wishing to join the badminton club and keep it as strong as ever. Finally I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Macdonald for his unfailing support throughout the season and for sacrificing so much of his time for the club; also to Mr. Ayling and Mr. Hunter, without whose help the supervision of games time would have fallen to pieces.

C. Nikkiah VIB



Golf

Abingdon achieved a respectable 6th place out of 23 schools in the regional qualifying round of the Golf Foundation national stroke-play event. Victory in the English Finals would have been rewarded by an International event played over three days at the home of Golf, St. Andrews; quite an incentive! The winning qualifying gross score at Stratford Golf Club was 244 by the Royal

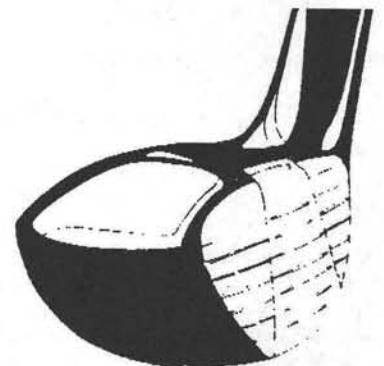
Grammar School, Worcester, with three rounds in the low 80s, too, but our combined score was 11 strokes more than Worcester's.

The Hill-Samuel sponsored Public Schools Foursomes is a popular event which frequently involves desperate finishes on the 18th green. We almost upset Eton (who got to the finals last year) at Huntercombe. In three fluctuating matches, Bill Hutchings and Daniel Parsons won their game 3 and 1, James

Tilley and Lee Stopps lost 3 and 2 and Jonathan Evans and Ed Tilley went down by one hole, having held a lead for most of their round. The recent agonies in the Ryder Cup showed how team and foursome golf has a welcome and quite different 'feel' about it.

Other friendly matches this term have been played against Bristol Grammar School and the Oratory, with contributions of contrasting styles from Jeremy Pound, Jonathan Taylor and Justin Frishberg. Meanwhile, the golf lessons at Frilford Heath will continue, I hope, to introduce stars of the future into the game...and, perhaps, a 'free' trip to St. Andrews? The master in charge remains hopeful!

NHP



Brewing

The Brewing Society was formed during the summer for sixth formers who have a particular interest in brewing 'zymotic beverages'. The main aim is to share information, hints and experiences so that members can improve the quality and efficiency of their brewing. Progress was initially hampered by the lack of a room in the school to brew in, but this did not prevent most members from brewing at home with their own equipment.

Jon Britton quickly established himself as a master in the art of cider production. His ciders were characteristically extra dry with plenty of sparkle and of a very high quality, especially his draught version which had an excellent West Country flavour.

Many different types of wine were made, including the ever popular dry white and full-bodied red table wines, but Robert Gerdes distinguished himself in this field with a series of highly crafted, respectable wines.

A few lagers were made, some notably by Tam Richmond which had a heavy head and a pleasant aftertaste. Attempts at any real stouts resulted in little other than drainwater, and this is one area the society hopes to improve on in future years.

Bitter was by far the most popular brew, with varying results. A wide range of traditional bitters was produced, each with a unique character and depth of flavour. Mike Carter deserves a special mention for his attempts at making a bitter using the original ingredients of malt and hops in the traditional manner that very few brewers adhere to today. But perhaps the greatest acclaim of the year belongs to James Richard, who brewed some very gratefully received bitters under the harshest of conditions on the Iceland expeditions.

Cheers!

I.C. Dalley 6P

Debating

The Second oldest society in the school, the (in)famous Debating Society, has had an eventful year, undergoing important changes and reestablishing itself as one of the greatest and most prodigious organisations in the school. The most noticeable changes have occurred in the hierarchy. The sponsoring master, the unforgettable Doctor Fernandez-Armesto departed to higher things

at the end of 1988, to be replaced by the enthusiastic and ever-present (well, almost) Mr. Milner. Alan Welby might have seemed a hard act to follow as people's poet and Chairman, but the latter position has been filled by not one, but two great pillars of the society - Andrew 'le debateur' Green and Luke Barret, who have pledged themselves to a tough, no-nonsense approach, with impeccable organisation. Your correspondent has taken Len Iles's place as Secretary, and in this department a great step forward has been taken in the purchase of minutes book, in which is kept a record of every debate for posterity. The rest of the House has been made up of the traditional mixture of trendy lefties and, pseudo-intellectuals and staunch Thatcherites, although a lack of lower school members has been noticeable; more next term maybe?

Regular speakers have included Justin Frishberg, Piers Hugil, James Hall, Finn Clark and Boris Randall, but many others have made their stand, either as main speakers or from the floor. Andrew Dent must receive a special mention, as he has been an invaluable Deputy Secretary when I have been speaking or in the chair.

It is not possible to discuss in detail all the debates which have been held, but there are some memorable highlights. At the beginning of the summer term a packed house- 61 people- were narrowly persuaded by a mammoth speech from Doctor Zawadzki to believe in a United States of Europe, despite the eloquent and theatrical opposition of Mr. Brown. The house was equally divided on the question of the applaudability of the Thatcher Decade, as it was this term on the motions, 'This house would rather be a Lager-Lout than a Scholar' and 'This house knows Mr. Gorbachev to be a greater threat to world security than any other Soviet leader since Stalin'. This fine balance shows how close and exciting many of the debates have been. One of the high points of this term was a 'Balloon Debate', in which God, Henry V, and Jimmy Swaggart were ejected in favour of Alan Welby, portrayed with remarkable accuracy by Andrew Green. Does he, too, have Mexican Blood in him? Forthcoming attractions include the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition, in which three teams are entered, and a Dinner Debate with guests from Wycombe Abbey. And, of course, there will be Friday afternoons when whichever room the society manages to purloin will become a den of eloquence, wit and noble sentiment. The Debating Society seems set to be the refuge of many a politically-aware pseudo-intellectual for many years to come.

Joshua Mandel (Sec.) VIC

Chess

My pride over the chess club's second best season ever (last season being the best) is balanced by regret that we shall not be able to repeat the performance for several years. Four of the best six players left at the end of the season.

The first VI once again reached the last eight out of 400 schools in the 'Times British Schools' Chess Championships. This time we travelled to Plymouth to be beaten 2.5-3.5 by Truro school, who ultimately finished third in the competition. Although Truro sported both Michael Adams (Britain's youngest Grandmaster) and the British U16 champion, it was the uncharacteristic loss by John Bryden on bottom board which clinched it. We shall all remember the minibus journey there and back, during which we touched 110 m.p.h. and made Abingdon to Plymouth in two and a half hours!

Once again, we won the Oxfordshire U18 league. Stephen Prince, reluctantly called from retirement, won all his games in the 'Times' and in the league. Five of our players were in the Oxfordshire team of twelve which won the minor counties junior championship. Nick Jakubovics, Mark Nightall and Philip Saxon played for the Oxfordshire Senior teams. Nick was sixth in the U18 championship (with another two years to go) and Philip was the Oxfordshire U18 champion. Our U13 team did rather well in their league.

I would, however, exchange Chess's status as one of the most successful school games over the past two years for an attendance of fifty boys instead of five at Chess Club meetings. Where are the Abingdon Intellectuals?

TJK

Results

First VI: N.Jacobovics, J.Cooper, P.Saxon, T.Price, S.Prince, J.Bryden.

M.C.S.	W	4.5 - 1.5
Larkmead	W	6 - 0
Common Room	W	4.5 - 1.5
M.C.S. ('Times')	W	4.5 - 1.5
Bishop Wordsworth	W	5 - 1
Warneford School	W	4 - 2
Marston M.S.	W	5 - 1
Oratory 'B'	W	5 - 1
R.G.S. High Wycombe	W	4.5 - 1.5
Truro School	L	3.5 - 2.5

U15		
Larkmead	W	5 - 1
M.C.S.	L	0 - 6
Fitzharry's	W	5.5 - 0.5

U13		
Fitzharry's	W	6 - 0
Marston Middle	W	4 - 2
M.C.S.	D	3 - 3
Dragon	W	5.5 - 0.5
Larkmead	W	6 - 0
Oxford H.S. for Schools	L	3.5 - 2.5

Lit. Soc.

In the summer term, the old upper sixth literary society was showing signs of ageing - the pursuit of variety had led it into dubious territory, (a play by Picasso?) and the pressure of 'A'-levels meant that meetings were becoming scarcer. It was time for a new start, and there seemed to be a good deal of interest among the lower sixth in forming a new group. Demand seemed to be for a more modern approach, and the tone was set by Antony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* (suggested by Bill Howard). A line of dark, violent books ensued, and by the time we had dragged ourselves through the Brighton underworld (Brighton Rock) and explored Ian McEwan's shocking portrayal of death and incest (*The Cement Garden*), more optimistic works by Graham Swift and Penelope Fitzgerald were welcomed. The need for something 'greater' was fulfilled by the poems of William Blake, and by this time Mr. Bimberg had agreed to join us and was stimulating discussion with his wide knowledge. There is not time to cover any longer 'classics' in the week between sessions, and so more recent literature continues to form the staple diet of the society, the short stories of Angela Carter being the most recent example. However, enthusiasm is still fairly high and although attendance has been smaller of late, the future looks bright enough.

H.P. Acton 6Z

Mod. Lang.

It was with great aspirations and ambitions for the year to come that the Modern Languages Society Committee attempted to think up an original programme. Unfortunately, the "original ideas" had either already been thought of or were unsuitable. Nevertheless, the term commenced and eventually a "Boules Evening" was organised, a battle of the Titans ensued, the result of which still seems rather dubious. Despite the fact that the "Boules Evening" was the only event organised for the Michaelmas term, with a radical purging of Committee members the Lent term began on a slightly more organised note.

In a vain attempt to become more cultural and explore the vast avenues and possibilities of a more European base from which to work, tickets were ordered for the Scottish National Opera's production of "Don Giovanni". The

prospect of forty young philistines (among whom I find myself included) being unleashed upon the stalls of "The Apollo" may sound a daunting prospect even to the most emotionally sound of teachers. However, the behaviour of the party was impeccable, a credit to the respective schools. Even though the lack of subtitles meant that in places the plot was pretty hard going, the quality of the production compensated. I can be safe in saying that the trip was a great success and has given inspiration for further trips in the future.

Don Giovanni was to be the major event of the term. Other events were arranged which although they took less organisation were by no means less enjoyable. A "Franglais Evening" was planned and beaucoup de pleasure was gained by all. Special thanks must go to Dr. Zawadzki for an excellent introductory talk; to Philip Sproston and Matthew Watts for being Subject masters in the numerous, but nevertheless entertaining, rounds of the popular radio series "Just a Minute". The initial problem of trying to speak for a minute on subjects such as "Queen Victoria's Drawers" in "Franglais" was soon overcome and there they turned out to be a number of closet franglais speakers in our midst probably dating back to the days of G.C.S.E. The only other meeting of the term was to show the cult French film "Subway" starring Christopher Lambert and Isabelle Adjani. This is a film with a complicated sounding plot but which is well worth seeing if you ever get the chance.

Arranging meetings for the Summer term proved to be more difficult than expected with the exam period swallowing up the Upper Sixth and so reducing numbers. The film "Diva" was shown twice (the first showing proved to be at an inconvenient time and only six members turned up) and the grande finale of the year was the Summer Barbecue on a fine evening at the end of term.

All in all we had a successful and rewarding year and many thanks must go to Mr. Milner, Miss Smith at St. Helens, the committee members and to the members themselves.

Joseph C. Viner VIB

Rifle Club

During the Easter and Summer terms the Club ran one senior and two junior teams in the British Schools Small-bore Rifle Association League. The Junior A team won its league beating all-comers. William Hartley distinguished himself by shooting several 100's and gaining 20th place in the National Junior Championship Competition.

So far during the Michaelmas Term, the senior team has beaten all other teams in its league, namely Bloxham, Bedford Modern, Bryanston School and Hurstpierpoint College, while the junior team has been beaten in league fixtures with Charterhouse, Edinburgh Academy, Gordonstoun, Hurstpierpoint and Epsom College.

Teams are:

Senior A
Junior B
Rayner, J.D.
Kinsella, S.J.
Pipe, J.J.
Tumer, S.A.J.
Browne, A.
Moloney, T.E.
Watts, M.C.

Frost, N.R.
Drew, S.R.

Captain - Matthew Watts
Secretary - Andrew Browne

NKH

Wargaming

Wargaming Society has had a good year. The recent innovation of competitions has proved to be popular, and continued in the early part of the year, with AD&D, MERP, and Space Opera being among the games used. A gratifying level of membership allowed us to buy more - and better - games than ever before. One or two purchases were rather unusual, but they nevertheless proved popular. The recent change in Lower School procedure which banned 1st and 2nd formers from Wargaming from 2-00 until 3-30 on Wednesday afternoons affected turnout, but the Society still carries on.

Finn Clark VIM

Chaos

Chaos is a new science. In many ways it is a branch of applied mathematics, but it is concerned with natural phenomena such as turbulence and the weather, and not with abstract concepts. I have been asked to write briefly about the subject and about the activities of the Abingdon Chaos Society, which I formed at the beginning of this year. This is not an easy task: Chaos is a wide field and it relies heavily on spectacular computer graphics for much of its appeal. However, I will try to explain how and why I became interested in it and why I thought it might be a good idea to form a school society.

My first encounter with Chaos, although I didn't realise it at the time, was in October 1983, when I read an article about Fractals in that month's issue of *Acorn User* (I had and still have a BBC Micro). Fractals are shapes which look pretty much the same no matter how much you magnify them. Straight lines also have this property, but a circle for example does not. If you look closer and closer at a bit of a circle it becomes more and more straight until eventually it looks like a straight line. Fractal lines are not straight; they are jagged, but because they look the same on all scales, they remain jagged no matter how much you magnify them. To a close approximation many things in nature are fractals: a coastline is a good example. The closer and closer you look at a coastline, the more detail you see. You see new headlands and bays, previously too small to be visible, on ever-decreasing scales. Eventually the process (probably) breaks down, because eventually you are looking at single particles which (we believe) cannot be broken down any further.

Fractals cannot be described by single equations but by processes. Here is an example. Start with a straight line, say 9cm long. Divide it into thirds (3cm long) and draw an equilateral triangle with sides of length 3cm such that one side of the triangle is the middle third of the line. Rub out the middle third of the line. What you have done is replaced a straight line made up of three 3cm segments by a line with a bump in the middle made up of four 3cm segments, each of which is a straight line. Now look at each of these four lines in turn and repeat the process. In other words divide the 3cm line you are considering into thirds (1cm long) and place a 1cm equilateral triangle in the middle and rub out the middle third. Do this for all four straight lines. You now have a jagged line made up of sixteen 1cm lines. Keep repeating the process for ever. If you can't wait that long, give up after about four repetitions - by then the lines making up the jagged line will be pretty small. Figure 1 shows the process in action. Each time the

process is applied every line is divided into three and replaced by four lines of the same length. This means that the overall length of the jagged line increases by $1/3$ (i.e. the new length is $4/3$ times the old length). If you do it for ever the result will be an infinitely long line in a finite space! This is a fractal and most fractal lines are infinitely long. Since to a close approximation a coastline is a fractal, a coastline is very long indeed - the closer you look, the more you see and the longer the overall coastline appears to be.

Fractals are rather strange objects - infinitely long lines in a finite space - yet they seem to be a much better model for natural objects than circles or triangles. There is a new geometry called fractal geometry to describe the properties of these objects. The old geometry of Euclid no longer seems relevant to natural things as the following story illustrates: A farmer hired a team of scientists to advise him on improving his dairy production. After six months work they produced a report. The farmer began to read it, only to encounter the opening sentence: 'Consider a spherical cow'.

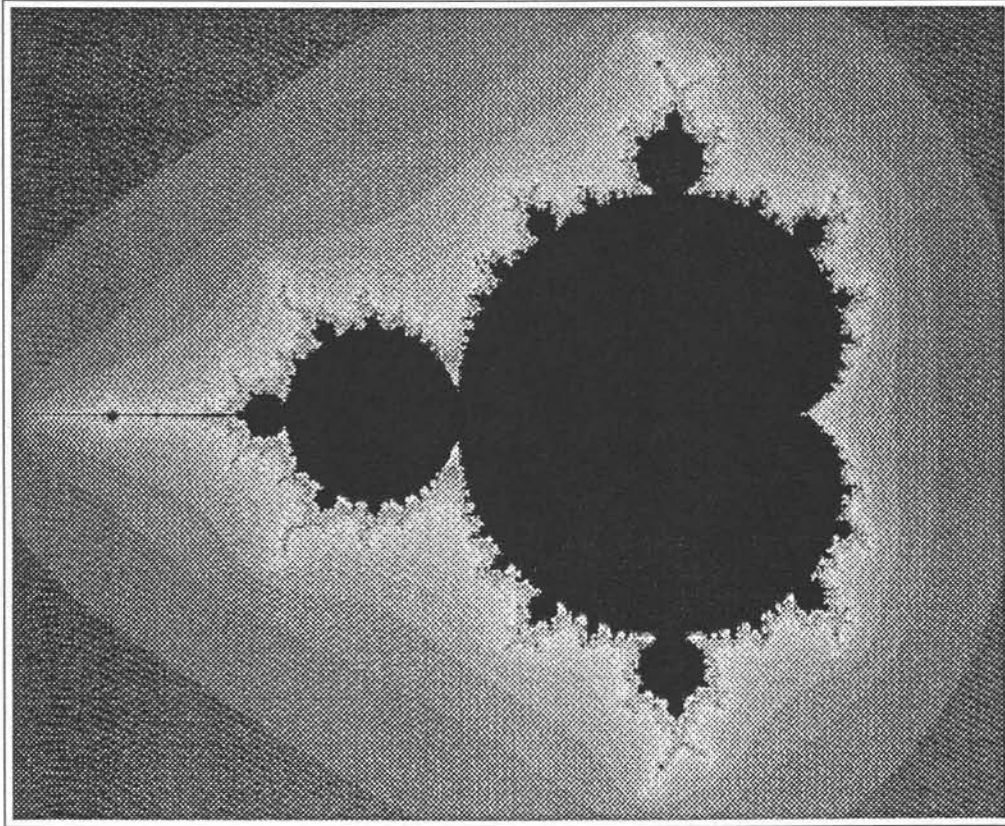
Benoit B. Mandelbrot, the inventor/discoverer of fractals, summarised this in his book *The Fractal Geometry of Nature*: "Clouds are not spheres, mountains are not cones, coastlines are not circles and bark is not smooth, nor does lightning travel in a straight line." In 1979 Mandelbrot made a startling discovery and six years later an article on it appeared in *Acorn User*. It concerned an object now called the Mandelbrot set. The Mandelbrot set is perhaps the most complicated object in mathematics. It has infinite detail like a fractal, but no two parts of it on any scale look exactly the same. Indeed the closer you look the more complicated it seems to get. Yet paradoxically, it all comes from one simple equation: z^2+c , the quadratic equation. I stated earlier that fractals could not be described by single equations. This is true; there is no single equation for the Mandelbrot set. The Mandelbrot set is produced by 'iterating' the equation z^2+c for different values of c and seeing what happens. I will try to explain what I mean by this by a couple of examples. Iterating means doing the same thing over and over again. Mathematically the iteration scheme is written down as follows: $z_{n+1} = z_n^2+c$. What this means is that to find the next value of z , you square the current value of z and add the constant c (the subscript is used to distinguish between different values of z). Consider for example the value $c=1$. Start with $z_0=0$ (the initial value of z is zero). Now find z_1 : $z_1 = z_0^2+c = 0^2+1 = 1$. Next find z_2 : $z_2 = z_1^2+c = 1^2+1 = 2$. We repeat this process and get the following sequence of

values: 0, 1, 2, 5, 26, 677, 458330.... The numbers seem to be getting larger. Mathematicians say that they are tending to infinity. Chaologists say that for the value $c=1$, the point $z=0$ is in the basin of attraction of infinity, because as you iterate it the numbers you get tend to infinity (infinity is an 'attractor'). Does this happen for all values of c ? If we try $c=0$ and start with $z_0=0$ we get the sequence of numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0.... This obviously does not tend to infinity. For $c=0$ the point $z=0$ is a fixed point. Much stranger things than this happen. For example for $c=-1$, the sequence starting with z_0 is 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1....

By a mathematical trick, involving numbers called imaginary numbers, each value of c is represented by two numbers, a 'real part' and an 'imaginary part'. These two numbers are used as coordinates to plot points on a computer screen. The above values of c would have coordinates (0,0), (1,0) and (-1,0). The value $c=i$ would have the coordinates (0,1), since i is an imaginary number. For those interested, i is defined such that $i^2=-1$, but the details of this mathematical trickery are not important. What is important is that we now have a plane (a flat surface, not an aircraft!) made up of possible values for c .

The Mandelbrot set is the set of values of c for which z does not tend towards infinity (starting with $z_0=0$). $c=0$ and $c=-1$ are in the Mandelbrot set, but $c=1$ is not. Points in the Mandelbrot set are plotted in black; other points are coloured. The basic concept is a very simple one, yet it produces an immensely complicated shape, a sort of bug-like creature, full of spirals, filaments and, in true fractal spirit, small copies of itself. I stated earlier that no two areas look identical, but many parts look almost the same. The whole shape is littered with small copies of itself, which are slightly distorted, or have extra-bits added. Like much of chaos, this has to be seen to be believed. The program I had for my BBC took several hours to plot the Mandelbrot set to a reasonable resolution. It is not surprising therefore that I did not use it very often.

I had a vague idea that the Mandelbrot set was somehow linked with turbulence, but I did not really know what Chaos was about, not even after reading a review of a book called "Chaos" in the *New Scientist* about a year ago. Last autumn (1988) I was in Blackwell's with some money and decided to buy the book, which was (and still is) prominently on display. It set me back £12.95 for a hardback copy (it is now available in paperback) but I am very glad I did buy it. "Chaos" (by James Gleick, a science writer) is an excellent book. It presents



Chaos in a historical manner i.e. it is not highly mathematical, yet it covers many of the ideas of Chaos in great detail as well as the personalities behind them: Smale, Mandelbrot, Feigenbaum, Lorenz, Ruelle, May, Yorke....

I was completely hooked. I recommend that everyone should read the book. Shortly after I had finished reading it, there was an excellent programme on television. It was part of the Equinox series on Channel Four and like Gleick's book it was simply called "Chaos". It was this that convinced me that Chaos was something really important and amazing. Soon I was writing very short and simple computer programs to demonstrate some of the fundamental ideas. I showed them to Mr Finch and the maths set, and one of their number, John Bryden, told me he had recorded a video of the Equinox programme and we all watched it. I have now seen it five times, and I wouldn't mind seeing it again!

It was late in 1988 when I first had the idea of forming a Chaos society and I told Mr Finch on the last day of the winter term. The following term the Chaos society was under way.

Why form a school society to deal with an obscure and complicated area of current research? Will anyone be interested? These questions bothered me, but I was convinced that Chaos was not obscure; it was fundamental. Some

schools have a maths society, so why not a Chaos society? I didn't want it to have the same status as a maths society (i.e. only for a select group of keen mathematicians), but wanted it to be open to all who just wanted to know a little about the subject. The video (except in one place) is very easy to understand and, I thought, of universal interest. Ideally, I feel it would be a good idea to show it to everyone in school perhaps in a maths lesson at some point in the fourth form.

My idea was that after showing the video, areas of the subject could be discussed in more detail for those who were interested, and then the most dedicated could actively seek to find out more for themselves. I was pleasantly surprised by the turnout for the first meeting in which I tried to give as good an introduction as I could with my limited knowledge and speaking ability. As I expected, turnout for later meetings declined although the screening of the video was popular. This, I think, is a pity since Chaos deserves a wider audience. Robert May expressed this view when he wrote in Nature magazine: "Not only in research, but also in the everyday world of politics and economics, we would all be better off if more people realised that simple nonlinear systems do not necessarily possess dynamical properties." What he means, in slightly plainer lan-

guage, is that simple rules can produce very complicated behaviour, and so complex behaviour does not necessarily imply complex causes. If you don't believe this, take a calculator (or a computer) and try the following:

1. Start with 0.5 on the display.
2. Press $\times 2$, $-$, 2 , $=$, and note the result (-1.75).

3. Repeat step 2 until you get bored.

This is the quadratic z^2+c again, with $c=-2$. Here are some of the numbers you get: -1.75, 1.0625, -0.871..., -1.241..., -0.459..., -1.788..., 1.200..., -0.559.... Now try the same thing with 0.51: -1.7399, 1.027..., -0.944... Very quickly the results get very different from those of 0.5. Even 0.5001 will soon behave very differently. What I am trying to say is this: even the simple operation of squaring a number and adding a constant can produce numbers which look as random as fluctuations on the stock exchange. In the first sequence note that there are a lot of negative numbers, then suddenly a positive one. When something strange like this happens in another context, people are eager to look for complex causes. Chaos teaches us that maybe there is no cause at all. The strange behaviour is simply the result of a simple process we do not understand.

D. Calderbank

Railways

In December 1988, the society went to London, travelling from Didcot to Paddington by train. Our visits included the London Transport Museum at Covent Garden, Old Oak Common Depot (which serves trains operating into Paddington), and the olde-worlde terminus of St. Pancras.

In March, we broke new ground with a trip over the scenic Settle-Carlisle line. We travelled by train from Oxford to

Birmingham where we caught another train bound for Carlisle; due to engineering work on the West Coast main line, the train was diverted over the Settle and Carlisle. Thanks to a hair's breadth connection in Carlisle, we made a second trip over the S & C. Luckily, this majestic line has since been reprieved from closure.

The summer saw us steaming once again down the Severn Valley Railway in

Worcestershire. We caught a train from Oxford to Kidderminster where we boarded a steam train for Bridgenorth. After a quick look round the engine sheds there, we returned to Kidderminster and thence to Oxford via Worcester.

Looking to the future, we intend to visit the National Railway Museum at York on the November exeat. Anyone interested in joining the Society will be very welcome.

CP



Reprieved



Obituaries

COMMANDER ROGER HOYLE RN (RET)

Sir James Cobban kindly provided the text of the following commemorative remarks:

Commander Roger Hoyle, who died on 29 September 1988 in his 87th year was the first bursar of the school. He must have been one of the last naval officers to start his training at Osborne. He saw service at the tag-end of the First War as a midshipman in the Red Sea area, in the Second War as a skilled gunnery-officer in the Mediterranean, before being recalled to work in the Admiralty at Bath on the new radar system. On his retirement from the Navy in the summer of 1947 he was appointed to Abingdon to the newly combined office of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors.

We didn't know much about bursars in those days. Looking back now, it seems incredible that the entire administrative staff consisted of one loyal but untrained secretary, while my wife (equally untrained!) looked after the feeding of all the boarders. The wisdom of the Governors' choice soon became clear. The School was poised for a big leap forward, with war-time controls easing off and with AERE just opening up. We could not have risen to that challenge if it had not been for the steady support of Roger Hoyle.

I cannot do better than quote from what I said of him in the ABINGDONIAN of September 1966:

"For 19 years he devoted himself loyally and selflessly to the interests of the school, regardless of unpopularity, unsparing of time and energy. A man of great kindness and infinite patience, he was always ready to deal with anything from a blocked drainpipe to an exigent headmaster, what time the strata of papers on his desk grew ever deeper: and the office hours he kept would nowadays be considered a disgrace to any self-respecting man. A bursar has none of the glamour of a headmaster, he gets none of a headmaster's excitements or triumphs, but the plain fact is that the material development of the school in the last two decades has been largely due to Roger Hoyle. We wish him and Mrs. Hoyle happiness in the retirement that he has doubly earned."

That tribute still stands. Now that time has sharpened perspective, I am more conscious than ever how much the school in general, I myself in particular, continue to owe to Roger Hoyle. If you seek his monument - though Roger, most modest of men, would deplore such curiosity - you need only look around at all the buildings of that era.

In the event he was able to enjoy over 20 years of active and happy retirement. When the final illness struck, he refused an operation which at best would only have prolonged a half-life. He died peacefully and with dignity, with his family around him.

To Marjorie, to Hugo, to Angela (who had flown back from Australia), the School offers its sympathy. They can remember him with affectionate pride. To me he will always remain not only the most loyal of colleagues but also the staunchest of friends.

Two boys in the School, and a very recent Old Abingdonian, have died since our last edition.

RICHARD TURNER

Richard Turner joined us in 1986 from the King's School, Rochester, but it soon became impossible to think of him as a late arrival. The warmth of his disposition and the positive quality of his approach to life, together with his wide-ranging natural abilities, impressed and attracted everyone from the moment he entered the School. The lymphoma which was to prove fatal to him was apparent for many months before his death, but he bore all his illness, and the difficult treatments associated with it, so buoyantly and gallantly, that sympathy seemed hardly necessary - admiration and affection were the universal reactions. He died on 8 December 1988, while still in his lower-sixth year, and his funeral took place in St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, a week later, immediately after the end of term, in the presence of a great crowd of boys, staff, and friends of the family. The Service was conducted by the Vicar of Abingdon, the Reverend David Manship, and a powerfully moving sermon was preached by the School Chaplain, the Reverend Peter Lewis.

BEN OWEN

The Owen family, by contrast with the Turners, have been closely connected with Abingdon School for many years - Mr. Chris Owen taught here with distinction from 1962 to 1973, before moving to Lord Williams' School, Thame, and then eventually back to Abingdon as Headmaster of John Mason School. He and his wife Marion are thus at the centre of a large, but also closely knit circle of friends. Their younger son, Ben, joined Abingdon in September 1982, and was making a name for himself as a young man of marked versatility, great charm and powerful integrity, when he was diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia in April 1988. Although fully aware from an early stage of the implications of his condition, his calm self-possession, dry humour and firmly tranquil determination to fight the disease to the very end created an enormous impression on all who were privileged to know him during this period; in fact, it would not be going too far to say that his maturity shamed many of the adults who had to deal with him. Almost to the end of his illness, he was engaged in a variety of constructive activities, many of them connected with his membership of St. Helen's Church congregation, and he led an effort which raised more than £1,000 for leukaemia research. His last appearance at the School was at prize-giving, when, although deteriorating rapidly, he came in to receive the Ellis Prize for character - an act of courage which was recognised by a very special quality in the audience's applause. He died on Thursday, 20 July 1989, and his funeral took place a week later, followed on the same evening by a service of reflection and commemoration in St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, which was attended by a great number of boys, staff and friends of the family. The Vicar of Abingdon delivered a homily, and music was sung or performed by the choir of St. Helen's Church and others of Ben's friends and colleagues.

PAUL SNOW

Paul Snow was the older of two brothers who attended Abingdon in the 1980s - he entered in September 1982, having previously attended St. Hugh's, Faringdon, where his father is Second Master, and left in 1987 to read management systems engineering at Hatfield Polytechnic. He lost his life in a tragic electrical accident on Friday, 29 September 1989. The funeral took place at his home church of St. Mary's, Buckland, on Thursday, 5 October, when the School was strongly represented by a party including the Headmaster, several members of staff, the heads of school, and a number of friends. Paul's younger brother, Mark, who left Abingdon in the summer of 1989, flew back from Australia, where he is serving a term as a tutor at Canberra Grammar School, in order to be present. Paul was the sort of young man who made life better for all around him: always cheerful but never loud, practical and realistic without a trace of dullness, positive and responsible without obtrusiveness, he was the quintessential backbone type, and it was apparent from the moving tribute paid to him at the funeral by the Principal of Hatfield Polytechnic that he had made a quite exceptional impression on the life of that institution. It is characteristic that the accident which killed him should have been sustained while he was helping a friend. He was a leading figure in the School CCF, a cheerful member of the Amey Hall set-building team, and a lively contributor on the games field - but that is only to scratch the surface of a range of activities which he enjoyed with enormous gusto, and in which he always contrived to give pleasure to other people as well as himself. There will have been not a few people in Buckland Church on 5 October who were reminded, once again, that the best are often called first.

The back cover shows the arms of Pembroke College, Oxford, from a beam in the Grundy Library. The bearings are those of the Earl of Pembroke, paly azure and gules, three lions rampant argent, with an augmentation granted by James I, namely a chief of the badges of England and Scotland - argent a Tudor rose gules pointed vert, and or a thistle's head pourpre and vert. The latter may have been considered particularly happy in view of the fact that the arms of Thomas Tesdale, O.A., effective founder of the College, contain a thistle or 'teazle' as their principal charge.

