

THE ABINGDONIAN

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Thanks are due to the boys in School House for their help in constructing the cover which extends greetings in Japanese, Chinese and Malay.

The Abingdonian

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BABEL RE-EDIFIED

The academic year 1991/2 saw one particularly important development in our teaching arrangements. Technically - if not very helpfully - this is described as the introduction of "diversification" in modern language work. What this means in practice is that each of the three tutor-groups in our first year, composed of boys entering the School at the age of eleven, begins a different foreign language. Thus, one group starts work on French, another on German, and another on Russian - whereas, until last year, all groups were taught French. Boys will be expected to continue the language thus begun, until they take the GCSE examination, towards the end of their Middle School career. They may, of course, add a second modern language when they enter the third year. Boys entering at thirteen, from prep schools which will almost invariably have been doing French until that point, will probably continue with French to GCSE; however, they may, if they wish, take up a second language from scratch.

The first steps in this diversification process seem to have gone very well. There appears to be no reason to think that our eleven-year-old entrants are less capable of handling German or Russian than their equivalents used to show themselves in tackling Greek at their prep schools, until that beautiful language was elbowed aside by supposedly more modern studies. Modern methods of teaching, and the use of sophisticated classroom equipment, quickly make even the most alien forms seem familiar and manageable. In fact, it feels as if we are feeding a natural hunger for communication skills.

The effect of diversification should be felt in due course through larger numbers taking examinations in what have up to now been "minority" languages. Already, though, Russian and German are growing in popularity as our teaching methods develop to take account of the philosophy that languages should be for use in the first case. Satellite aided television programmes are playing an increasingly significant role, thanks to the generosity of TASS, who have helped to pay for the necessary equipment. On a more human level, we are relishing the presence in the School of a sequence of young people who come to us as modern language assistants - during 1991/2 we welcomed M. Guillaume Tanguy, Miss Anke Weitemeyer, Miss Antje Buchheister, Miss Cornelia Bitter, and Miss Svetlana Gavrilova, to help with the teaching of French, German and Russian respectively. Seconded from their respective universities for a few months at a time, these language assistants do much more than engage the boys in conversation classes; they bring their national identities to life in our presence, and demonstrate the practical possibilities of scholarly co-operation in a way that is as helpful to Common Room as to the boys.

Meanwhile, our programme of exchanges and visits continues to develop and flourish. 1991/2 saw the first steps in an exchange relationship with a Russian school, and contacts of various sorts have multiplied with both Moscow and St. Petersburg during recent months. Not all language exchanges will necessarily be successful; some may not even seem to justify the time and effort put into arranging them and in most cases, the effects are felt more by the individuals than by the institutions concerned. However, they are cumulatively very important in bringing about an awareness of the national dimension which is represented in school by the study of a foreign language.

Most recently, the list of languages on offer at Abingdon has been extended yet further, by the addition

of Japanese, from September 1991. The decision to offer this option to a group of Middle School boys has been supported by a grant from the Daiwa Foundation, which has made it possible to secure the services of an experienced teacher of Japanese. The arrival in the School of a small group of native Japanese is welcome but coincidental; taken together, however, these two developments suggest the possibility of exciting prospects for Abingdon in the 1990s.

Few schools, surely, can offer as many as six modern languages within their curriculum (Spanish and Italian are available in our sixth form, by courtesy of St. Helen's, who are able in return to take advantage of our Russian), and this developing emphasis on language work is no accident. A mastery of spoken and written communication is becoming ever more important in the modern world, and we are determined to do our best to equip Abingdonians to a high standard. The shift of emphasis in language work from literary content, and even from grammatical exercises, towards practical fluency, entails loss as well as gain; we would like to think, though, that a sensibly cautious approach has enabled us to graft the best of new practice on to the strongest elements of the old stock, so that boys who develop mastery of language skills will be willing to explore the reality of the cultures that lie beyond.

For language is, above all, a vehicle of culture. If the most we needed to do was to order a glass of beer, we might as well do it by carrying cards bearing symbols of little beer glasses, or punching in a universal code on a personal computer. The real value of learning a language is that it unlocks the gate to a world far larger than we are born to inhabit. The same, of course, has always applied to the study of ancient languages - so that it is heartening to note that Greek and Latin are flourishing, perhaps as never before, at Abingdon, alongside rather than in competition with the modern languages. Advances in scientific, mathematical, technological and computer codings only in the end underline the primacy of the spoken word, and of its written record. This primacy is likely to grow ever more important as the political kaleidoscope of Europe - not to mention the rest of the world - is shaken increasingly vigorously.

It is a paradox that the study of languages other than English should be of developing importance precisely at a time when English itself, or its American derivative, seems to be turning into something like a global lingua franca. But the paradox is easily set aside: the non-English speakers who learn English thereby demonstrate a versatility which will stand them in good stead in all their dealings, but English speakers who rely on nothing but their mother tongue will be bound to suffer in the business of communication, if only because they will not develop the essential flexibility and versatility of mind which is the consequence of a sound training in language work. So the study of languages remains, as it always has been, a dominant element in the Abingdon formula for the achievement of excellence.

M. St.J.P.



*Mr. John Greening, O.A., Steward of the School, prepares to cut the tape and declare
the new Greening Wing open in the presence of the whole School on 17 April.*



*Amongst those who left at the end of Summer term are, reading from the left,
J.A.N. Ellis, L.C.J. Griffin, J.R. Gabitas, R.S. Page, I.C. Donald, M.F. Robins.*

LCJ GRIFFIN: AN APPRECIATION

After a remarkable period of tenure at the School John Griffin retired last summer. We have great pleasure in publishing his own reflections as he looks back over this time. In addition, Mr. Randolph, with whom John worked so closely for many years, was very pleased to write these valedictory remarks. He has drawn, too, on the piece so very generously forwarded by Sir James Cobban who still remembers appointing John as a young member of staff.

It seems strange to write of LCJG as having retired from the School, for with characteristic generosity, he visits us each Monday to teach voluntarily and to attend to his new duties as Secretary of the Old Abingdonian Club. All the same, retire he officially did last summer, after working here for forty-four years.

Most who read this are not forty-four years old, will be amazed that anyone could serve a school for so long and will wonder what the School was like in 1947. It was small in numbers (273 in his second term, 119 of them boarders) and its buildings were limited to Main School, Waste Court, Larkhill and the Lodge, all others (and War Memorial Field) having been acquired since then. Common Room was tiny and most of its members taught subjects additional to their own, for the curriculum was much less compartmentalised than it is now. That he taught so much English (until he could no longer be spared from classics) was a delight to someone with his love of literature, especially drama, this being an interest that he shares with Mrs. Griffin herself a keen Thespian, to be seen again on stage later this term). In 1948, he revived drama at the School: for twenty-five years, he produced the annual School Play, at first in the Corn Exchange, then in the Abbey Hall. His responsibility, too, was the

entertainment that concluded Founder's Day, until the arrangements for that day changed in 1965.

"In those days a young master was expected to be a bit of a factotum", writes Sir James Cobban, who appointed him. So, besides showing his versatility in the classroom, L.C.J.G. turned his hand to helping with the Philatelic Society and the Scouts, and he was heavily involved in the C.C.F., hockey and cricket. He was in charge of hockey for thirty-two years, until Dr. Wilmore took over for the 1980 season. For nearly all his time he was in the C.C.F.: as befitted one who had served in the Royal Navy during the War, he ran the Naval Section; from 1966 to 1982, he commanded the whole C.C.F. and reached the rank of Commander, R.N.R.

Those who wonder for how many of the overseas visits now offered they can persuade their parents to pay should spare a thought for those here during the War, and for years afterwards, who had no chance of a school trip abroad until L.C.J.G. took a party to Italy in 1954. For ten years or so, Italy, Sicily, Switzerland, Paris, Austria and Denmark were visited by groups led by Mr. and Mrs. Griffin.

From its acquisition by the School in 1950 until it became the residence of the Headmaster in 1965, the Griffin family lived in a flat in Lacies Court, upon whose garden L.C.J.G. lavished attention. Resident families were more numerous in those days. Their lives and those of the boarders centred much more on the Chapel than do those of their successors. L.C.J.G. sang in the Chapel Choir and was heard with rapt attention when it was the turn of his fine reading voice to be heard at the lectern.

His departure to Wootton and its church inevitably meant that he was seen less about the School, especially

after 1972, when the annual School Play was replaced by the variety of dramatic productions to which we are used. However, just when he might have been expected to turn his thoughts with longing towards the prospect of retirement and of being able to travel abroad outside the school holidays, the introduction of the dayboy houses in 1978 gave him the opportunity for some of his finest and most enduring work. As a tutor for his last thirteen years, he gave two housemasters unswerving support and had no superior in his knowledge and understanding of tutees.

Boys and parents must have been very grateful for the individual that has marked all aspects of his work here.

It is proper, and conventional, to wish Mrs. Griffin and him a long and happy retirement, but it is doubtful whether he will ever fully retire, so long as this or other schools continue to call on him for occasional assistance. In thanking him for all that he has done, we welcome his weekly visits and look forward to seeing him also on more formal occasions.

HTR

REMINISCING

Way back in the summer of 1934, a fourteen year old school-boy came to Abingdon from Oxford to play cricket, and took an immediate liking to the School, and to the boys of the opposing team, several of whom he still remembers - the wicket-keeper, J.T.Paige, the captain, Bertie Lunghi, both of whom he has met since - and one in particular, D.Pimm, whose name he has heard read out many times in chapel on Remembrance Day, and, never without sadness, has remembered a tall, fair-haired fast bowler.

There were several other visits after that, though none that made me change my mind about school or boys, but seven or eight years and a war were to pass before the visit which was to shape my future, in April 1947, when I was appointed to teach Classics in the September.

The fact that I stayed so long was no chance, but a conscious act of policy from one who totally lacked ambition to be a Headmaster, and who was given at the outset the opportunity to indulge his own interests - coaching cricket and hockey and producing the School Play. Starting the naval section followed after a year or so, - something I was the more pleased to take on since it gave me the opportunity to give up running the Scout troop, which I did not enjoy, and, probably for that reason, was not at all good at. Closing the Naval Section down, many years later, was something I very much regretted having to do.

Obviously the school was a very different place in those days - only two hundred and fifty boys and about a dozen staff, including two ladies - Miss Bennell, who looked after the very young boys (some came when they were only eight years old) and Miss Sheldon-Peach, who was responsible for the music and sometimes took the whole school at once. With such small numbers it was not difficult to get to know most of the boys and all one's colleagues.

It is interesting to note that there were four of us on the staff teaching classics (including the Headmaster, who taught Greek to the whole of the third form) - there are still four full-time - but Latin was then compulsory up to 'O' level (a fact which led to some rather 'mixed' results). As Latin was then still a requirement for entrance to the major universities, this had to be since some boys who found Latin quite beyond them were very good at other subjects. Nor did the teachers specialise quite so much then as they do now J.B. Alston, for example, was the Art master, as well as teaching classics, while I taught some English, including, to my surprise, some 'A' level.

In one respect, however, the school has changed little - there has always been a very friendly atmosphere, both in relations between masters and boys, and in the common room itself and this, I believe, is one of the school's great strengths.

I have, of course, many memories, some sad, but mostly pleasant - and some embarrassing, as when at the precise moment when the headmaster came into my classroom, Tanner, a dog belonging to one of the senior boys, walked out from the back of the class, where I had not seen him. J.M.C. was concerned in another of them - on one occasion he walked into a classroom slightly ahead of me, and did not notice, as I did, that some books had been balanced on the door, designed for my head. The boys must all have held their breath, for the books did not fall. I don't think J.M.C. ever knew about the incident.

One of the activities which gave me a great deal of pleasure was taking parties of boys abroad, and these trips have, needless to say, produced many memories. On the way back once, from Greece we had some time to spare in Milan (one did not fly in those days) and seized the opportunity to look at the Cathedral. In that vast building we mislaid one of the boys - but he was a very sensible boy and we were not surprised to find him again at the station - in the left luggage office, where he knew we would have to go to reclaim our baggage. The two boys who missed the train from Catania (on a visit to Sicily) because they had been buying guitars, did not get quite the same welcome. Our first trip of this kind had been to Rome and Florence, when there were forty-two of us, and we arrived in Rome during a bus strike - so we mostly used the trams, which were not affected. Needless to say, they were always full, but forty-two of somehow managed to get on board. I well remember my feelings the first time I allowed the boys to go off on their own - and wondered whether I should ever see them again, - a feeling only equalled when I watched our first Ten Tors team vanish into the mist.

Memories crowd in, but space runs out.

Abingdon is a fine school, and I am proud to have been part of it for so long - proud, and grateful.

LCJG

JON GABITASS

At the staff farewell dinner held in honour of the senior leavers a speech outlining Jon Gabitass's contribution to the School was made by David Crawford. David, who is currently headmaster of Cokethorpe School, worked for many years in close association with Jon, in particular in that area which consumed so much of Jon's passion, the rugby field.

Jon and I met for the first time, when we played against each other as 17 year old schoolboys in the Public Schools' sevens at Roehampton in the early sixties. Believe it or not the team for which I was playing won! I can just imagine Jon's face in the dressing room after the game.

Our next encounter was at the Headmaster's beginning of term party in Lacies Court when Jon and Fiona joined Abingdon School. He introduced himself in typical James Bond style, "My name is Gabitass, Jon Gabitass, one b, one t and two s's!"

As Head of English he brought freshness and vigour to the department. His painstaking marking of work was exemplary, and many boys had their eyes opened to the delights of English Literature through Jon's imaginative teaching. Teaching English was his first love, and it showed. He produced plays of outstanding quality, and I can still remember his Merchant of Venice in the Unicorn Theatre. He was a consummate actor in his own right too, but then all teachers have to be!

If he taught English to a high standard, he coached rugby in an equally expert manner. He was one of those rarities who could both train and coach at the same time, without ever seeming to get out of breath. He was innovative, full of enthusiasm, and an inspirational leader. The boys did everything he asked them to, and whatever team Jon coached, its members thought they were the most important team in the School.

Jon is of course a man of many talents, an academic, an artist, a sportsman; someone who is always seeking out a new challenge, whether it be to grow the best bulbs, brew the best beer, or walk the hardest route in the Lakes in the shortest time. To be a number two was not his style, because he is essentially a leader. But as Second Master he brought both professionalism and integrity to the job, essential qualities in a good Deputy. He won the confidence of Common Room and helped solve many an apparently insoluble problem. He was always available; nothing was ever too much trouble. His self-elected space in the Common Room became the first port of call for those who wanted to bounce an idea around, or who needed help. Above all he brought fresh ideas to the whole operation, whether on the Academic or Pastoral side. Restless and inventive, Jon was always striving for perfection. Who but he, could have thought of sticky labels for Tutor cards?

Alongside Jon was Fiona, supportive and understanding, always prepared to listen and help. She got to know the Common Room well, and both she and Jon were popular and accomplished hosts. It seemed absolutely natural for them both to want to move on to lead a team of their own, and Merchant Taylor's gain is Abingdon's loss. Nobody is irreplaceable, and a number of Jon's jobs have been devolved to others. He can however look back with satisfaction, as the person who left the biggest mark of his generation on Abingdon School. We who served with him can count ourselves fortunate indeed.

DGC



Jon's expertise as a teacher of English had the unstinting acclaim of his colleagues, yet a pose in which he will be fixed in the minds of the boys and staff who knew him is that of athlete, here seen competing in the annual Road Relay.

ANDREW TROTMAN

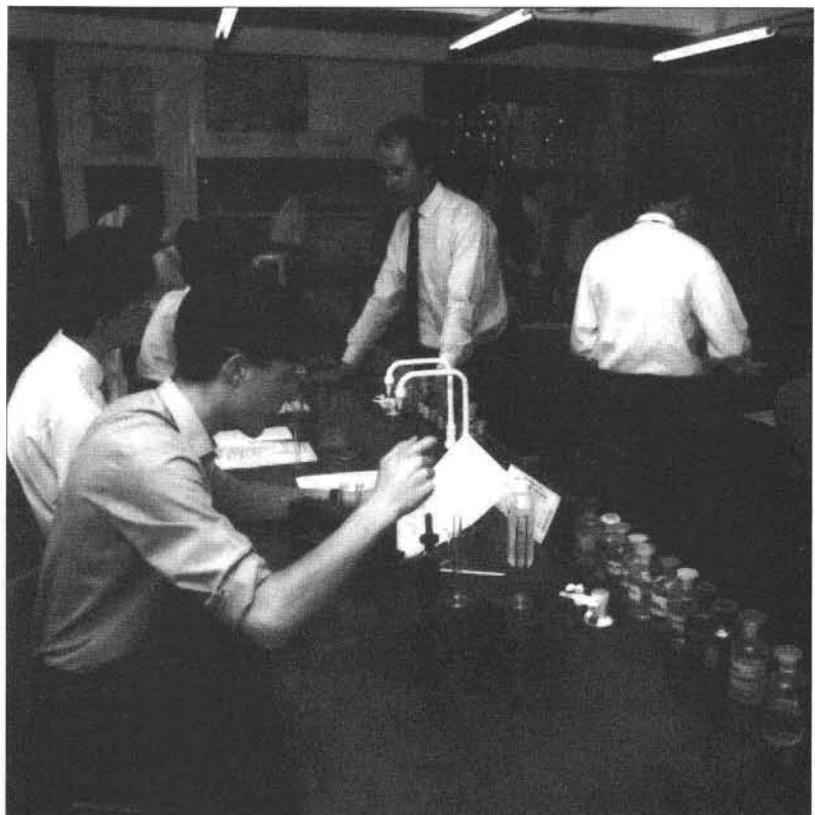
Andrew Trotman joined the English Department in September 1986 after teaching at Radley for a few years, looking to broaden his teaching experience. He instantly proved to be an enthusiastic teacher of all ages and throughout his time here managed to get the best from his pupils. His presence was very obvious too on the rugby field, where he helped the 1st. and 2nd. XV's, but he was still more important to the Boat Club, where he coached at all levels and was always prepared to help in any way, demanding high standards of rowing and of conduct generally. He ran the Boat Club for a year in Mr. Barrett's absence and produced a very successful 1st. VIII. In 1988 he took over Webber's House and rapidly stamped on it his own brand of gentlemanly energy and real concern that inspired loyalty and gratitude from the boys. He left us in December 1990 to take up the Vice-Rectorship of Edinburgh Academy and we have already missed his enthusiasm, good humour and professionalism. We hope that Mary and his two children will be happy in the chillier climate of Edinburgh and wish them all the best for the future.

GGB

STEPHEN PAGE

Stephen Page was a prime example of an increasingly rare breed - the all-round schoolmaster. He joined the chemistry department in 1981 from Fettes where he had played rugby for Heriot's and for Edinburgh (having previously gained his blue at Cambridge), sung in the Scottish National Orchestra chorus, and been a deacon of the local kirk. These strands ran through his life at Abingdon. He was fond of whatever sport he turned his hand to, and particularly as master in charge of rugby and coach to the 1st. XV. Nobody could have been more diligent in their support of chapel music than Stephen, leading with his steady baritone - and not a practice missed. And his work for the church here concentrated on the youth group at Christ Church, Abingdon. In the chemistry lab his calm, organised approach led many, very gratefully, through the intricacies of the subject. When it became clear that the three original dayboy houses needed expanding into four, Stephen was the natural as the new housemaster, and very successful he proved to be - setting high personal standards, firm but fair, knowing when to encourage, when to cajole, and, equally important, when to turn a judicious blind eye. We wish him and Sheena and their three children all born during their ten years at Abingdon every success at Wellington where Stephen has gone as deputy master. Already we miss the rows of seedlings with which the window sills of his lab were festooned: geranium growers of Somerset beware!

TRA



JULIAN ELLIS

Julian Ellis came to us from Malvern College in 1987, and in due course succeeded Mr. Eden as Head of Geography. It was clear from the start that he had a particular commitment to the outdoors. His field trips ranged from Lulworth

Cove, to Malham and Barrow on Furness, while he often took younger pupils to study the London Docklands as they developed in the course of the eighties. Before he came to us, in fact, Julian had journeyed in many parts of the globe, including in the East and this varied experience was put to very good use in an outstanding and memorable School trip to Iceland. This involved more than three dozen boys and is reported in an earlier number of *The Abingdonian*.

His love of the outdoors found further expression in the contribution he made to the CCF, where he held the rank of Captain and headed the Army section. His absence here is sorely felt and many were the excellent camps and over-nights he organised. It was impressive, then, that he found time also to run the Athletics Club, both training and taking boys to athletic venues.

We are sorry to see him go, but understand that he wishes to devote himself in the immediate future to travel and that his present plans are to embark on a major climb in the Andes. We wish him every success in the future.



J.J. Pipe 6C

IAIN DONALD

After the ridiculous decision of leaving Malvern Girls' School, Iain Donald has spent four valuable years at Abingdon. In addition to his tutorial duties, he has played an important and influential role in music at the school. Apart from teaching, he has led the Chamber Choir on trips around the country as well as to the Netherlands and Germany on concert tour. Iain was very active in the organisation of school productions, personal highlights of which included 'The Boyfriend' and 'Calamity Jane'. Furthermore, his contribution to Opera Exchange was a significant one. In introducing the Witney based group to the Amey Hall he added a new dimension to the performance of this art form in the School.

Iain's innovative flair was seen to excellent advantage in the steps he took in effecting a union between Music and Information Technology. Since then most music pupils have been able to notate their compositions and develop them to a much greater degree of refinement. This they have used to advantage with their GCSE work.

As a resident tutor of School House for three years, he was a positive and civilising influence. He created a very pleasant atmosphere there, and will be sorely missed by everyone as he assumes his new role as Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral School.

DAVID HENDERSON

David Henderson joined the staff in 1985 to teach French and German; he lost no time in establishing himself, both in the classroom and in a wide range of out of school activities. As a teacher his main interest was French, where he played an important part in the change from O level to GCSE, drawing on the experience he had gained before coming to Abingdon. He was an enthusiastic supporter of exchanges with France and developed our links with Grenoble. He was very keen that the modern language department should have a satellite receiver and it was his research here that encouraged TASS to help fund this. Computer use for language work was also one of his keen interests, and this led him to push for our post-GCSE fifth year to take the FLAW course - Foreign Languages At Work.

Out of school he was very active on the games fields, rugby and cricket in particular, and generous with the Lower School, where he was for five years a tutor. We wish him every success in his appointment as Head of Languages at the Glyn School, Ewell, Surrey.

TOM SIMONS

At Christmas of last year Mr. Tom Simons left to take up the position of Head of Mathematics at Prior Park School. He was an enthusiastic and popular teacher, much respected by boys and colleagues alike. He taught throughout the school and will be remembered in particular for organising and coordinating the teaching of mathematics to Lower School. His dedication was impressive too, for it enabled him to secure a second degree, this time exclusively in mathematics, with the Open University. His contribution to cricket was also notable and to the Second XI in particular, while to those who knew him well, a visit in the late evening was likely to result in a sizzling curry, served with panache. We wish him and Brenda every success in the new post.

MICHAEL ROBINS

Michael Robins came to us a couple of years before his final retirement as a busy part time mathematician who played a vital role in filling in certain key areas of the department's teaching, particularly at the sixth form level. It was notable that he had lost none of his enthusiasm for teaching his subject after a wide-ranging career. He was a member of the Magic Circle and once the boys had got used to his disconcerting facility for making the numbers vanish and reappear, they took to him warmly. We extend our good wishes to him and Pat in their retirement in nearby Standlake.

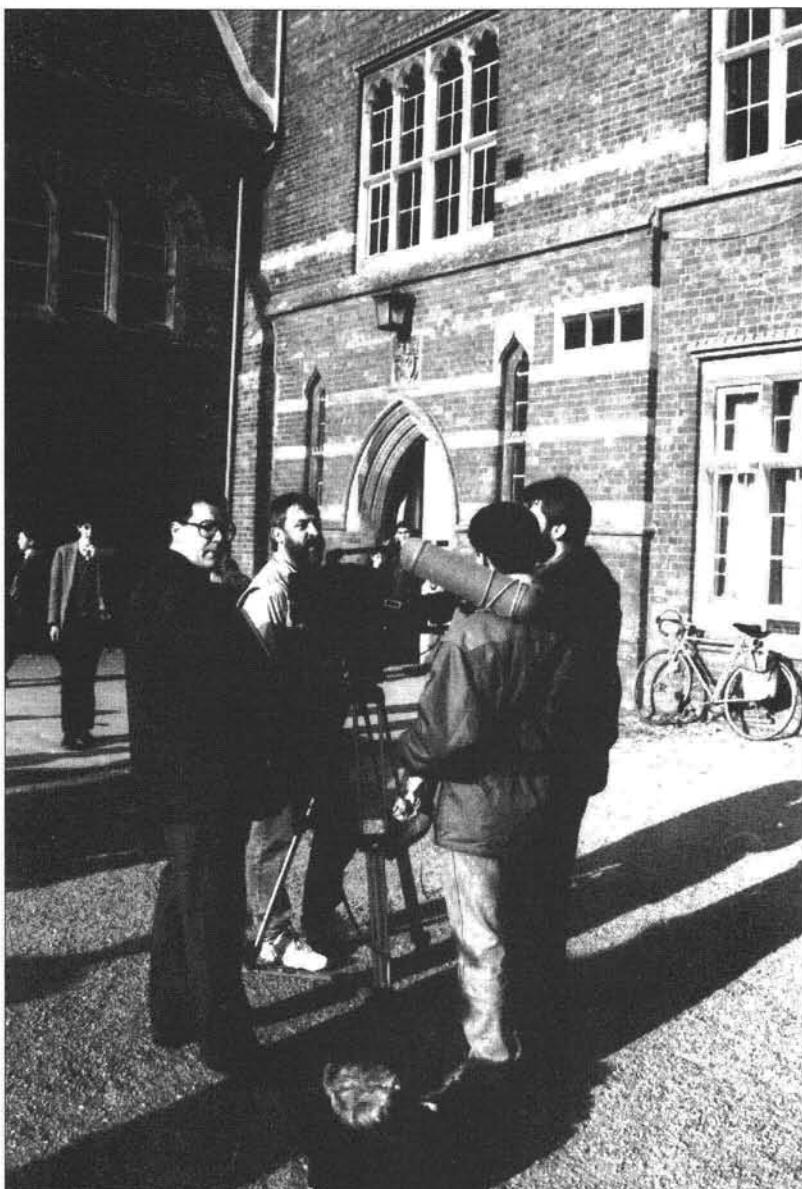
DEREK COLLINS

Derek Collins left us at Christmas of last year to take up the post of Head of Physics at St. Bede's College, Manchester. Although he was only with us for four terms, Derek impressed by his good nature and conviviality. He was an experienced teacher, having spent much time in, among other places, the emerging state of Brunei. Derek made a notable contribution on the rugby pitch, but it must be said was looking forward to returning to his family roots, where he could also pursue his skills as a long-distance cyclist.

Salve te

Common Room has great pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Mrs. A. Lawrence to teach Geography, Mr. I. Green to teach Biology, Mr. P. Raffell to teach Mathematics and to tutor in Lower School, Mr. R. Elliott as tutor in Waste Court and teacher of Music, Mr. S. Evans as tutor in Middle School, rugby coach and teacher of English, Mr. M. Maughan as Head of Geography, Mr. S. White as Head of Chemistry and supernumerary member of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Mr. F. Burrow as teacher of Mathematics and Housemaster of School House.

NEWSNIGHT COMES TO ABINGDON!



The following press release was issued on the occasion of the visit:

A film crew from BBC 2's Newsnight programme spent a morning at Abingdon School in order to examine the School's practice in teacher training.

Under new Government proposals, there will be a change in the way that teachers are trained, with more time being spent in the classroom. Abingdon has a policy whereby graduate recruits who have not yet secured teaching qualifications are supported by experienced staff, who guide them through their first few terms. When the Newsnight team heard that Abingdon was in this way anticipating Government proposals, they decided to come to the School to see for themselves.

Commenting on the visit of the BBC, Michael St.John Parker (Headmaster) said: "I would like to think Abingdon was chosen by the Newsnight team as an example of good educational practice that is, on account of our strong academic results, as well as the importance we attach to the training and development of new staff. We would be very happy to be seen in this role: the School is developing rapidly - we are about to embark on a major building programme, and pupil numbers are higher than ever. We are very interested in the Government's new proposals."



VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Since my last report, several 'old hands' have left (some after five years of solid and reliable service) and 'new hands' have come on board, many of them to do a spell of community service for their 'D. of E.'. Bennett House School continues to be a popular assignment for Sixth Form members, some of whom wrote of their experience in working with the handicapped children for our Open Day display. Bennett House can never have too many helpers, so the way is always open for more volunteers to help out there - I can sincerely recommend Sixth Formers to give it a try! It will benefit you immensely in terms of social awareness, practical and social skills and personal maturity.

In early December 1990 we held a Christmas tea party in the Dining Hall for all the elderly folk that we visit in Abingdon, the funds for which were raised by boys undertaking to do a minimum of £5 worth of 'sponsored jobs' for family, friends or neighbours. Next time, though, I shall make sure not to get the crackers from Woolworths!

There is always a need for more volunteers in the community - and for those who take it on, it must be stressed that a regular, reliable attendance is necessary if we are to be of any real use to those whom we go out to help. I still look for more initiative from Sixth formers particularly, in producing their own ideas and in taking on some organisational responsibilities.

P.W.

Charities

The first part of this report, written by Mr. Gabitass, is courtesy of the Record for the summer term. He says: "Although there has been no huge single effort this term (deliberate policy: you can't do this every term), we have probably broken all previous records for the number of separate projects. This is a tribute to the initiative, energy and idealism of the school community. Twenty-two events have been planned and carried out without loss of life or too much dignity, and the involvement at all levels of the school has been marked. These events need lots of drive if they are ever to get off the ground, and very sound, practical organisation if they are to succeed, yet each term a tide of boys comes forward with exactly these qualities.

The charity the boys have found most popular has been the Cambodia Trust which, as a feature article in the Independent Magazine explained, provides spare limbs for the unfortunate civilian victims of that grisly war. Boys have rowed, played indoor sports, held board game marathons, walked the Ridgeway and bought t-shirts to raise money, and Kingsley Jones performed a magnificent solo effort in rowing 100 km on an ergo machine without damaging his body or numbing his mind. Children's charities are always popular, as are the medical charities which, in particular, help the effort to find cures for cancer or to relieve the suffering it causes. The House Matrons have baked and sold cakes (fantastic chocolate brownies!), sixth formers have shuffled in the ice-rink in the middle of the night, or bowled at ten pins, and Robert Schofield organised a round-Oxfordshire bikeathon in which JRG nearly met a premature and tragic end on what Mr. J.F. Henderson amusingly referred to as a bicycle!

The money coming in at that stage was around £4 000, bringing the year's total to roughly £18 000 from 54 separate events. To all those who have organised or supported this magnificent effort: well done!"

Update:

Since this report there has been a significant charity event in early November to raise awareness about Tibet. This is reported on shortly by Toby Wright. However, there has also been deep and sustained interest in the situation in Cambodia and in the work of the prosthetic unit, The Cambodia Trust, which is working there and which was supported so vigorously by the School effort. In the initial fund-raising boys raised £1 500, not counting the £500+ which was spent on t-shirts. During the summer this writer was given the opportunity to go to the country to evaluate and report back on the state of progress of the prosthetic workshop which was then being constructed. The experience was a truly remarkable one. I found a people with a deep and ancient culture which suffuses every aspect of life, traumatised, poverty-stricken, in a state of war. They were assailed by malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, and at that time were trying to cope with flooding which had left 200 000 homeless and without food for the coming twelve months. Yet sickeningly, these people have been deprived of any form of bilateral or multilateral aid, as they live with the unresolved legacy of the genocide which in straight percentage terms of lost population is the worst any country has experienced in this our twentieth century. And yet, in despite of all, these difficulties were balanced by a warmth of reception, an openness, a curiosity, a breath-taking work ethic evident from dawn till



Richard Wright presents Dr. P. Carey, Chairman of the Cambodia Trust, with a cheque for £1,500.

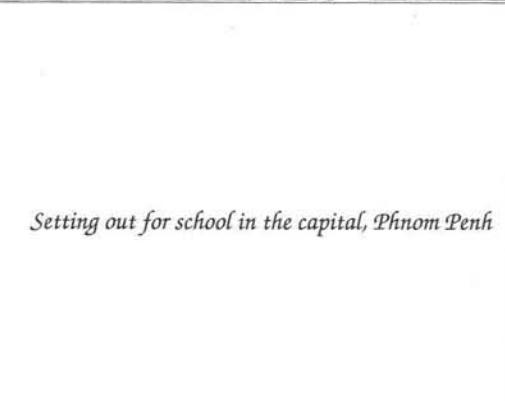
dusk and often beyond, a passion for learning of any sort, all of which offered as much food for serious thought as it was exhilarating.

And then there were the limbless, the victims of the landmine campaign. There are an estimated 50 000 of them: the International Committee of the Red Cross are in the process of doing a census. There is, however, no doubt that the number of victims per month has gone up from 300+ since the signing of the peace treaty in late October as people try to get back to their homelands before the repatriation scheme of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees gets fully under way. The boy in my House who said gleefully in a mood of black humour that he had asked his sister to buy a leg (a good buy at £19.00) not only was speaking to the point, but had his heart very much in the right place.

RSKM



At the ferry landing stage on the Mekong



Setting out for school in the capital, Phnom Penh



The statue on Independence Way shows the fight of the monkey gods, a scene from the Mahabharata



The rehabilitation centre at Kean Kleang



The illustration shows the logo of the Tibet Society, a stylised lotus flower, symbolising peace. The Tibet Society is the first charity to have been founded in Britain in the aftermath of the Chinese invasion of that country.

A TIBETAN EVENING

On Tuesday 12 November a Tibetan evening was held in the Amey Hall on behalf of the United Kingdom branch of the Tibet Society. This group was founded in 1959 'to give expression to the widespread interest and deep concern aroused in this country by recent events in Tibet.' The reference is to the uprising staged in Lhasa that year in an unsuccessful attempt to oust the Chinese from the country they had taken by force in 1950. The society has three main objectives:

- (i) By non-party political action to promote the cause of Tibetan independence
- (ii) To assist exiled Tibetans
- (iii) To promote understanding of Tibetan history, culture and religion.

The Secretary of the Society, Mr. Ugyan Norbu, gave us a very kind welcome to the evening and a short introduction. The principal speaker was the President of the Society, The Rt. Hon. Lord Ennals of Norwich. He spoke to us on subjects regarding the current situation in Tibet, including human rights abuses and the religious and cultural oppression. The talk was rounded off by Mr. Mearns who had organised the evening. We very much enjoyed and were moved by the songs which were recited after the interval by Youdon Lhamo and Anna Malcolm. There was also a wide variety of Tibetan materials on offer, not least a magnificent spread of native Tibetan carpets which were laid out in a kind of sea in the midst of which the speakers were located.

Many of the people present, who numbered about seventy, notwithstanding the appalling weather, and who ranged from members of staff to boys of all year groups, expressed a feeling of great privilege at having had this experience which gave such an insight into the situation of Tibet. Despite hearing of the repression of the Tibetan people, it was paradoxically a happy evening. I was struck by the tranquillity of the five Tibetans present and soon found I had developed a profound feeling of respect for them.

As a direct follow up a large fund-raising effort has commenced and the total sum raised so far is in excess of £300. We intend to sponsor a young Tibetan girl named Nyima Ngawang. Her father was killed by the Chinese, she is separated from her mother who lives in Katmandu and so she lives with her aunt. At the moment her education cannot be financed - a mere £150 will pay for one whole year at boarding school with all costs included. We hope to be able to support Nyima once we are sure we have enough money to finance her whole education.

T.R. Wright 6M



The picture shows the bust of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, recently made by Hamish Horsley

COMBINED CADET FORCE

The past twelve months have produced an unusual number of challenges and concerns. The CCF exists now within a framework of the early 1990's when international shifts in the world order have brought new perspectives on many aspects of our lives. Attitudes towards the services and Defence spending continue in a shifting pattern following the uncertainties which characterise a period of rapid change.

This has put pressure on organisations with military associations as people question the relevance of a lifestyle in uniform and the terrible potential of conflict. Unlike the period following the Falklands War when rightly or wrongly a boost to interest in the CCF was experienced at Abingdon, the after effects of the conflict in the Gulf has raised more questions than answers.

Recent financial constraints at all levels have made the traditional position of the CCF of self-sufficiency increasingly difficult to maintain. Grants provided from the services have dwindled as has the amount of general support available through equipment supplies, transport and skilled manpower. The organisation has to pay for more and more of its activities and this stretches our subscription resources to the limit. The subscription is remaining at the present level of £10 per term for as long as we can retain viability.

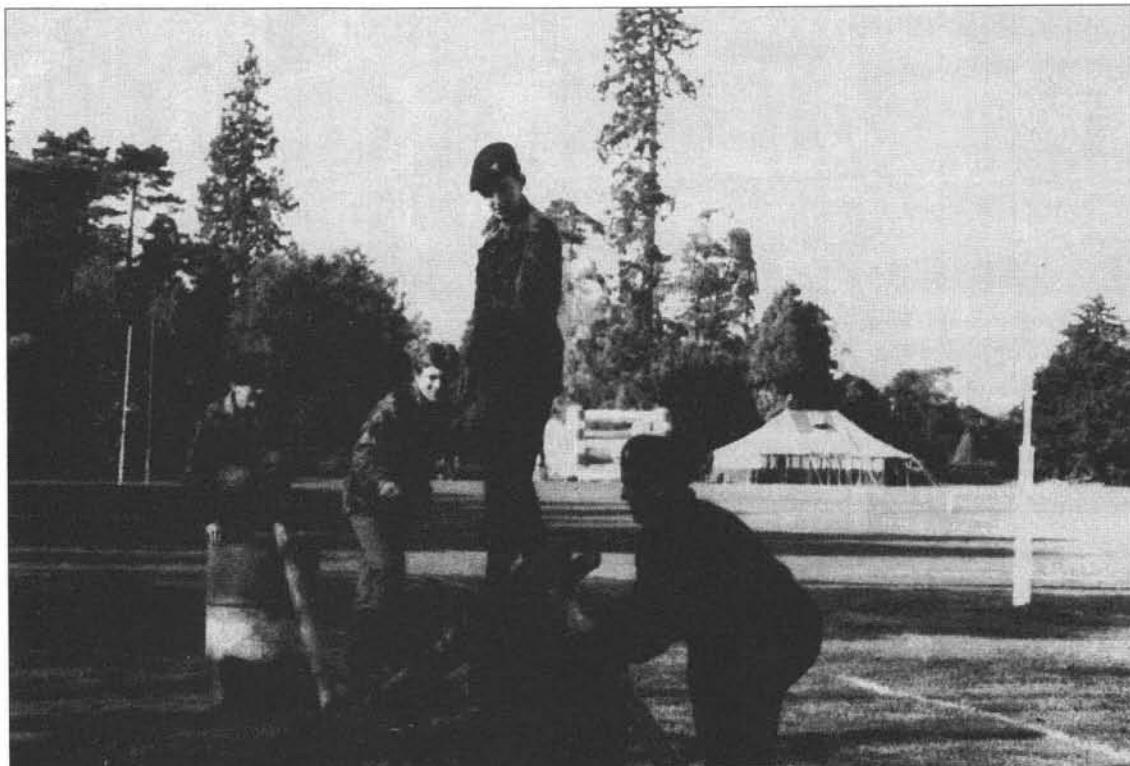
For some time now we have been unable to afford the services of the School Staff Instructor (S.S.I.) and the organisation of the stores, equipment, events and routine paperwork has fallen to officers supported by some able senior cadets. Although this has enabled things to be kept going, the cracks are beginning to show as the load increases onto a smaller group of people. The traditional pattern of Independent Schools producing a goodly number of staff with Services background and young teachers keen to do a few years in the Corps has also changed.

Staff who will give some time to CCF activities are a rare breed these days and at Abingdon this has led directly to what must be seen as the saddest event of the CCF year. The departure of Capt. Julian Ellis during the summer of 1991 and of Georg Stindt at Christmas forced the closure of the Army Section as there simply was no one left to run it. Both these men gave a tremendous gift to the boys they organised. Through their expertise, care, and generosity together with the inspiration of leadership they enabled many cadets to achieve things that otherwise might not have been considered. They are both sorely missed.

This would not seem to be a particularly promising set of circumstances in which to flourish and it is with a sense of relief that I can report an active and successful year. All the traditional elements have been present: Adventure Training, Summer Camps, Exercises, Courses and solid routine training. In addition, some 'one off' events have added a little sparkle to our blend of activities.

A party of thirty went to Ripon in North Yorkshire for a full week of adventure training. Rock climbing and abseiling on Brimham Rocks was very successful and the water levels at Shellingford Mill provided some exciting and challenging canoeing. The campsite at Horton in Ribblesdale provided the base for some breathtaking walking in the Peaks area and one group successfully completed the Three Peaks Walk in well under the twelve hours challenge time. The accommodation, food and camaraderie were all excellent and those who attended felt a real sense of achievement.

Summer Army Camp was at Wathgill, close to the Catterick Garrison training areas and amidst some beautiful countryside. A very entertaining programme was provided by a blend of professionally organised events and our own contingent run activities. Training exercises, competitions and professional instruction was interspersed



with old favourites like the 'Grand National' cross country time challenge. Additionally, there was hill walking and canoeing in the Lake District and mountain biking in the Dales. Forty-eight cadets attended their camp and all had an exhausting but thoroughly enjoyable week.

A few days later a smaller group of RAF Section Cadets went to RAF Swanton Morley in Norfolk for their summer camp. This RAF station no longer has any flying activity and at first sight seems rather a dull choice. The reality was quite the opposite. Accommodation was tented but with full facilities provided in adjacent buildings. Another nearby building was the sports hangar where we had virtually unrestricted use of the excellent facilities.

Exercises familiarised us with the local area and an entertaining time was to be had on the river crossing activity. The combination of poles, drums, ropes and water proved irresistible to many. Visitors to the sections on station quickly revealed that very important research and development work goes on at a high level and in cooperation with the aircraft industry worldwide. For the scientific and technically minded there were some fascinating projects to be glimpsed. Day visits to RAF Wyton to see the operational Tornado squadrons proved very instructive in understanding aspects of the Gulf conflict from the insider's point of view.

Amidst many enjoyments the outstanding memory of the week for me was the way in which young people from different backgrounds mixing freely in an unselfconscious and enriching way. We were specially fortunate that a splendid group of boys and officers from Gayton High School, a North London comprehensive, were our partners for the week. Friendships were warm and a sense of purpose undeniable. I think that the Abingdon boys learned as much from this shared experience as from the specific RAF features of the week.

During the course of the year events involving smaller numbers have continued to punctuate our routine training. Eight visits have been made to Number 6 A.E.F. at RAF Abingdon for Air Experience Flying in Chipmunks and two visits to RAF Benson to fly with 115 Squadron in their Andovers. Additionally, several senior RAF cadets have had whole day flights with 115 squadron as supernumerary crew members. This has enabled them to follow a whole task from briefing through planning and execution to debriefing at the end of the day. Two weekend overnight exercises have been run, one on the Malvern Hills and another on an Aldershot Training Area. Both these were successful and brought enjoyable reality to the theoretical work done week by week in school. A small number of cadets completed continuous gliding training courses and



went solo to gain their gliding 'wings'.

A particular distinction came to Cadet Leigh Philips. He had successfully completed a very arduous leadership course at RAF Hereford during the summer of 1991 and shortly after his return was invested as one of a hand-picked quartet of Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for the County of Oxfordshire. Leigh represents the CCFs in the County for one year. His duties are mainly ceremonial and he will accompany the Lord Lieutenant on certain special engagements as an A.D.C.

After such a full report it is in stark contrast that I return to matters of difficulty. The Army Section has closed. Officers on the school staff are down to two in number. We have lost a proportion of our logistical support and entitlement to professional expertise and our ability to offer a range of activities is diminished. So what for the future?

The CCF has always been about opportunity for young people and in that context alone I believe it deserves to survive in this school. With a modern emphasis on Adventure Training and Activity rather than military training and 'square bashing' it continues to provide opportunities not easily found elsewhere. A disciplined structure and the camaraderie of group activity are other worthwhile facets in my view. At the time of writing school development plans look certain to sweep away our building and stores and no decision has yet been made as to how we are to be accommodated thereafter.

The RAF Section will continue with the fullest range of activities possible and including some traditional Army style components in order to maximise the opportunities available to cadets. As we recruit third year boys in 1992 an indication of how attractive this formula is will become apparent. In present circumstances it is the best that we can offer. At a moment in the organisation's history when the future looks uncertain we need the maximum support possible from past and present members and from the school. I hope that we get it.

CJB, Contingent Commander

Music

It is staggering and immensely encouraging to reflect on the sheer enthusiasm, commitment and loyalty that so many people bring to their music-making at Abingdon School. Those people include not only the boys but their teachers and parents and those that support in a perhaps less direct way. It is this fact that dominates an assessment of the year's music and explains the quantity and variety of musical events that seem to cram the terms. Despite termly resolutions to "thin out" the programme, the music calendars appear ever more densely packed and the concerts to involve ever increasing numbers of boys.

The building work that has been going on for several years now in the music programme for Lower School continues to bring results. Certainly the focus of a First Year Choir singing in the Christmas Concert together with the special Lower School Gala Concert in the Summer term has been an important impetus. But this has been a result, too, of instrumental recruitment among new boys together with a clearly defined Lower School music cur-



riculum with a division between "singing" and "music". There has been nationwide anxiety in recent years over the decline of singing in schools and the loss of our Folksong Heritage and it is clear that many new boys are not experienced in this vital area. We hope that our commitment to singing will bear fruit not only in the quality of the more senior choirs and the Choral Society but also in the standards of corporate hymn-singing and of course in the enjoyment that it gives to many in the years after school.

It was telling that the "Second Year Choir" performed on its own for the first time last year and that a Lower School Wind Band was assembled for its inaugural performance in the Summer term together with a much larger and more confident Junior Strings. The Music Society's overhaul of the stock of school violins has provided much greater opportunities for recruitment in this area; Mrs. Pringle's forty-five school violin pupils are now spread over

five teaching days.

The Music Society continue to improve our instrument stock - this year it is the turn of the departmental cellos to receive a face-lift whilst in addition there will be enough funds to buy one or two more three-quarter size violins for new boys to try. Although strictly speaking a result of the current year's budget, we have also taken delivery of a new Yamaha upright piano for practice use.

Of professional concerts at school there were even more last year in addition to the four Subscription Concerts. The first was the visit of Oxford Sinfonia on 28th September, a concert in which your correspondent was playing and a date difficult to forget since it coincided with the birth of a second daughter, Cecilia. The programme included a Mozart piano concerto and a Haydn symphony and it was good to see the Amey Hall fairly full. Beth Alpert, a new and highly-regarded piano teacher in the department gave a sixth form lecture-recital on the Piano and its Repertoire on 6th November. James Oxley our illustrious singing teacher gave a quite stunning recital for tenor and piano which sadly attracted a poor audience on 15th November, clearly not the best part of term for such an event. The programme ranged widely from Parry to Debussy but also included three new songs by the composer Harrison Oxley, James' father, who was present in the audience.

On 4th November the Music Society organised a most enjoyable trip to The Barbican to hear the LSO in a programme of music including Brahms' Requiem, Barber's Adagio and the Richard Strauss oboe concerto.

There were also three piano recitals, the first given by Iwan Llewelyn-Jones on 8th March, the second by Colin Stone on 24th April (a recital organised primarily for the benefit of the boarders) and a third on 29th June which was an entertaining piano duet recital given by Messrs. Llewelyn-Jones and Weale. A number of charity events deserve special mention; Derek Jones' Vale Concert Band performed twice in the year on 12th October and 12th June in aid of Leukaemia Research and raised some considerable sums. The Chamber Choir enjoyed their customary visit to Trafalgar Square on 13th December to sing open-air carols in aid of the King George V Fund for Sailors.

Finally on 23rd June the Chamber Choir, together with the Chamber Orchestra, gave a Memorial Concert for John Cutforth in the village hall of Marsh Gibbon in aid of the work of the local parish team ministry. John Cutforth died in the early part of the year and had been a long-standing friend of the school, delivering each Autumn his music lecture that had always been much anticipated over a long period of years. He will be sadly missed. The village hall was packed for the occasion of the concert in which the Chamber Choir sang Vivaldi's "Beatus Vir", some madrigals and a work for choir and orchestra written specially



for the occasion by a composer in the village, a Magnificat by Andrew McCrorie-Shand. In addition to accompanying the choir, the orchestra played Thomas Arnes' overture "Judgment of Paris", a Telemann Flute Suite with the first movements from Schubert's 5th and Mozart's 25th symphonies. The Memorial Concert replaced the customary Evensong that had been sung at Marsh Gibbon over many years by the Chamber Choir.

During the Autumn, Iain Donald was appointed Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral School. This is a prestigious post which was richly deserved, although there are many who had hoped he might stay a little longer. We all wish him tremendous success at Bristol and look forward to hearing news from him.

The calendar for the Michaelmas Term followed the usual pattern for school concerts which included informal concerts on 17th October and 21st November. These occasions, held in the Music Room, are designed to give early performing experience to the boys in front of an encouraging and supportive audience, the emphasis being on the informal with lots of loud applause. The Joint Recital for Scholars, Exhibitioners and Senior Musicians is a more formal affair; the one this term, on 2nd November, featured some twenty-one performances. Perhaps the two most remarkable ones were those of Tristan Gurney (violin) and Aidan Chamberlain (trombone). The former was an immaculate "Slavonic Fantasy" by Dvorak, full of flair and vitality, the latter, Guilmont's "Morceau Symphonique", a most impressive piece, full of technical trombone wizardry. This was Tristan's first term at Abingdon as the new third-year music scholar whilst Aidan, in his last year, was soon to gain a place on the performers course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The largest and most important occasions of the term were the Choral and Christmas Concerts. The Boys' and Adults' Choral Society joined

with the Chamber Choir of Our Lady's Convent to present a most impressive display of singing under Iain Donald's conductorship in a programme that included Bach's Advent cantata, "Wachet Auf" and Haydn's "Theresa Mass". We heard Peter Ward-Jones in the virtuoso solo harpsichord part of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 which he accepted at nine hours' notice. He joined the other soloists, Karen Wills (flute) and Nanette Richter (violin) in a marvellous performance.

The Christmas Concert on 7th December was sold out soon after half-term when the decision was taken to do an additional performance on 5th December prior to the one originally planned. All three orchestras performed together with Chamber, Brass and First Wind Bands and the complete First Year Choir in Hurd's "Rooster Rag". Particularly notable performances included Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 3 in G, BWV 1048 and Vaughan Williams' "Prelude on Rhosymedre" given by Chamber Orchestra and Sibelius' "Karelia Suite" by First Orchestra. Three soloists were able to shine; trombonist Aidan Chamberlain in the Wind Band's rendition of "Can't take my eyes off you", treble Jerome Finnis in Rutter's "O Waly, Waly" sung by Chamber Choir and violinist David Johnson in Max Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor. He gave this popular piece a most exuberant performance much enjoyed by those present.

The New Year's Concert on 23rd January was refreshingly brief, but gave important opportunities for performances by a complete Second Year Choir who sang Chappell's "The Daniel Jazz" under Mrs. . Manship's direction. Mr. Jones was away for this concert but his Second Wind Band played nonetheless, "A Simple Serenade" (an arrangement of music by Bach) and "Rock Around the Clock". Second Orchestra repeated their

performances of the Christmas Concert; Mozart's German Dance K605 No.3, Beethoven's Hymn of Joy and Bizet's March from Carmen, a rousing finale.

Informal concerts were scheduled for 1st February and 12th March; the second including the debut of Mrs. . Pringle 's "Junior Strings" among the thirty-one items, many of which were airings of Associated Board examination pieces for later in the week. There were a record number of candidates for exams, nearly eighty. The Scholars' Concert on 14th February followed the usual format of some twenty items, one of the most memorable being a Mendelssohn piano trio move-



ment by Tristan Gurney, Leo Carey and Robert Paterson.

The Strings Masterclass, presented by the Music Society and taken by Robin Wedderburn, Head of Strings at St. Paul's School, was postponed from 12th February due to heavy snow but was able to happen on 5th March. Perhaps most impressive were David Hammersley's Poulenc Serenade, Tristan Gurney's unaccompanied Bach and the Shostakovich cello sonata played with great conviction by Leo Carey and Armen Georgian. Mr. Wedderburn was riveting in his discussion and interaction with the boys and in his revealing remarks. It all made for an evening that was as enjoyable as it was compelling.

The Lower School production, "The Ballad of Salomon Pavey" was another victim of the bad weather; its cancellation was a blow to all those who had worked so hard. Mr. Donald's Chamber Choir provided the chorus in his staged performance of the pastoral, "Acis and Galatea" by Handel in two performances on 17th and 19th March. This was a superb production. A quartet of professional soloists for the principal roles of Acis, Galatea, Damon and Polyphenes were hired together with a small band for this delightful piece; Polyphenes' aria "O ruddier than the cherry" was as memorable for its characterisation as it was for mobile performance among the Amey Hall audience! Some confessed to hearing the production twice but in general the audiences were decidedly thin, a great pity.

There were five major concerts in the Summer term, a Choral Society concert on 4th May, A School Band concert on 10th May, the Orchestral Day and Concert followed by the Cutforth Memorial Concert on 22nd and 23rd June respectively and the Lower School Gala Concert

on 5th July.

For the first time and Iain Donald last with the Choral Society he chose a very ambitious programme of Constant Lambert's demanding "Rio Grande" with Elgar's "Songs from the Bavarian Highlands". Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" and Finzi's "Eclogue" for piano and orchestra completed it. The first piece was a challenging one to learn and everybody had great fun grappling with the notes. The performances were all successful and committed to video for the departmental archive!

The Band Concert is always

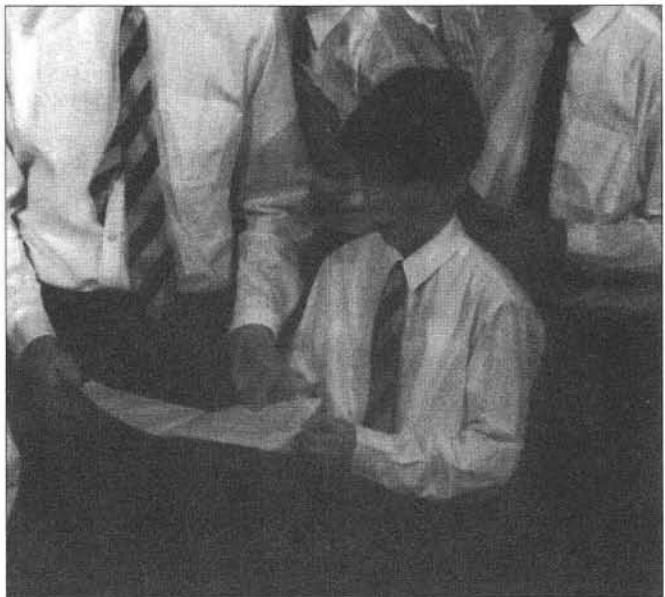
an impressive affair, the culmination of a year's hard work, and this was no exception; Mr. Jones putting all three bands through their paces in music ranging from Offenbach to Manilow. The same could be said of the Orchestral Concert, the arrangements for which followed the pattern of three years before, when it was preceded by a day of intensive rehearsal, exhausting yet rewarding.

The programme included three of the items already mentioned in the context of the John Cutforth Memorial Concert, the Arne overture, the Mozart symphony and the Telemann Flute suite played by Chamber Orchestra. The solo flute has a real concertato role in this work and this was taken with considerable flair by Thomas Mannion. Second Orchestra played four pieces under Mr. Oxlade's conductorship, a Handel march, Saint-Saëns' "Tortues" from "Carnival des Animaux", Mozart's "March of the Priests" from "Die Zauberflöte" and an extract from Orff's "Carmina Burana".

First Orchestra started the concert with Beethoven's Egmont Overture and concluded it with the Schubert symphony no. 5. Strauss' "Blue Danube" and the title music by Ron Goodwin from the three films "Force 10 from Navarone", "Where Eagles Dare" and "633 Squadron". The latter pieces made for a grand finish to the concert as well as an exciting element to the rehearsals on the day that they were learned.

An assessment of the Summer term would not be complete without mention of the informal concert on 20th May which included twenty items, the most exciting of which was perhaps the Brahms "Sonatensatz" played by John Paul Hoskins (violin) and accompanied by his teacher, Mrs. Pringle. This was a wonderful flourish with which to end the concert.

And so to the year's musical finale, the Lower School Gala Concert on 5th



July, the last night of term. Fittingly, it was a medley from "The Last Night of the Proms" performed by a now substantial Junior Strings that got the concert under way and captured the gala atmosphere that was so appropriate for the occasion. There were many performances worthy of mention; certainly a cello trio of Daniel Hammersley, Mark Pritchard and James Barralet in "Slippery Elm Rag" and the Junior Rock Group in Cole's "Granite" were deserving of their particularly warm reception.

The Second Year Choir sang from "Cats" by Lloyd Webber (the judicious octave doubling of a good number of broken voices was most effective in "Memory") and a Junior Wind Band played a recognisable "Johnny Todd". But it was the traditional songs from the "Bicinia Hungarica" arranged specially by Iain Donald for this concert and conducted by him that really stole the show. Some of the

singing here was remarkably confident, much of it known by heart and sung in parts, a real tribute to the excellent work done by Mr. Donald and Mr. Manship in class singing.

The activities of Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and the Music Society will receive separate review elsewhere but the final mention should be of a most enjoyable Barbecue organised by the Music Society for farewells to be said to ICD. The evening in Cumnor was blessed with most agreeable weather and was supported by a great many parents and friends who came to send Iain on his way and to thank him for his work over five years as a class teacher, director of Chamber Choir, director of musical productions, conductor of choir and Choral Society and his work with music in Information Technology, quite apart from his work elsewhere in the school.

MAS



Drama

ROMEO AND JULIET

Romeo and Juliet was the main production of the Winter Term and ran from 29th November to 1st December. It was directed by David Taylor and involved pupils from St. Helens and the Convent as well as Abingdon. The Director and cast worked with utmost dedication throughout the term to produce what was eventually, a success.

The "star-cross'd lovers" were played by Leo Carey and Helen Howard-Allen, in performances that combined grace and passionate excitement. The audience sat entranced in the 'balcony scene' and, at the Saturday night performance, one lady began to cry in the 'Tomb scene' - a greater tribute to the quality of these performances than any review can hope to match. Carey and Allen performed well apart as well as together and their individual scenes in Friar Lawrence's cell expressed a full range of emotion from frustration and anger to despair.

Mercutio was played by Edward Paleit, such a lively and hilarious performance that many of the audience thought it a great shame that this young blood was killed before the interval!. The 'Queen Mab' speech and the drunkard scene (with Daniel Seward's Benvolio) were the comic highlights of the play. Paleit's performance was not however limited merely to comedy as we saw at Mercutio's death. This is a tricky passage because, if carelessly done, the audience may be inclined to think that Mercutio's sprawling about on stage is simply another joke. In Paleit's performance, Mercutio's death was agonisingly real and became visibly more painful with every word. As he was hauled off, the piercingly quiet hiss "A plague o' both your houses" reduced Romeo to tears and, I am reliably informed, this was not acted.

Another lively and comic performance came from Alison Douley as the Nurse. This is a difficult role as Shakespeare's quips, puns and bawdy allusions, even where comprehensible to a modern audience are seldom funny. Douley however, carried her part off with such effortless verve and sparkle that the audience could not help laughing even when they did not understand a word.

The hopelessly disorganised Friar Lawrence was sensitively portrayed by David Mitchell. With adolescents having tantrums all around him, Friar Lawrence must be a calm, steady, comforting figure. Mitchell was all of these without ever seeming stodgy and boring. His "Now 'ere the sun" speech in Act II, Scene 3, was a treat and one of the very best soliloquies in the play. Near the end, as the Friar realises (too late) what is going to happen, the panic and dread in Mitchell's performance was so powerful, that one could not help sharing his terror.

Harry White in the role of Capulet, was brilliant, stubborn foolish and cantankerous. It was easy from this performance (and in Alex Bailey's Montague) just how the climate of hatred in Verona had been created. The aristocratic coolness of Lady Capulet towards Juliet, contrasting with genuine grief at her daughter's demise was well expressed by Fiona Smith. Daniel Seward as Benvolio had the

unenviable task of explaining to the Prince of Verona how Mercutio and Tybalt had been killed. In this, his main speech, he gave an account of the "bloody fray", almost as exciting as the fight itself had been. (The fights incidentally were choreographed by Roger Ballard and were amazingly exciting as they used full foils rather than pen-knives, fountain pens etc. as many modern productions do). Tybalt (someone who knows how to use a sword) was artfully portrayed by Alex Webster. His manner was so totally objectionable, so obviously looking for a fight, that you knew when he came on stage, there would be one. Unlucky in the fights also in love is one character who often attracts the audiences sympathy (and Juliet's hatred). Andrew McMullen got both of these with his sensitive and unfortunate Paris.

These individual 'stars' were backed up by a large and fine supporting cast, too numerous all to be mentioned. Also too numerous to be mentioned are the stage and lighting crews without whom nothing is possible; one should just mention their leaders though: Jon Turner (stage); Chris Lewis (lights) and Robert Dalby (props). The set was painted by the art school, headed by Mr. Biggs who hurt himself badly whilst doing this. (He is better now though). The music was specially composed by Mr. Iain Donald and played by Iain Donald, Thomas Magnion and David Johnston. The music was particularly effective in the "Ball scene": the first encounter of Romeo and Juliet was accompanied by an ethereal 'twinkling'. The hall seemed to stand still.

Overseeing all this was Mr. David Taylor whose vision, skill and hard work made Romeo and Juliet the success that it was.

P. Crutchlow



It's not usual for the producer of a play to write his own review, but the wintry weather in February forced partial cancellation and only an intrepid few saw the first night on Thursday 7th February and then slithered home on appalling roads. The Friday night was snowed off and by Saturday morning the set had to be struck so that someone else could use the stage. An attempt to perform it on the following Monday was sabotaged by illness and continued problems with the weather all of which meant that a dreadful amount of time and effort were wasted.

'The Ballad of Salomon Pavey' is a ballad opera about the Children of the Chapel Royal and St. Paul's in Elizabethan times. It was written by Jeremy James Taylor and David Drew-Smythe, who followed up Ben Jonson's famous epitaph on Salomon Pavey and adapted contemporary music to create an unusual and moving opera. Salomon Pavey was a child actor, famed for his ability to act old men, and noted for his fine voice. His premature death, at the age of 13, was largely due to the rigours of being a chorister under William Hunnis, the mercenary and callous Master of the Children of the Chapel Royal.

One reason for deciding to do this opera, with its cast of 26, was that our present Lower School boys are unusually talented musicians. The part of Salomon was taken by Daniel Hammersley, an active and skilled musician, and it was a pleasure to see the sheer professionalism and readiness to work hard which he showed throughout rehearsals. His stage presence, attractive voice and confident acting held the production together, but he was ably helped by fellow choristers Edward Smith and Chris McGarry. All the 'boys' showed a vivacity and enthusiasm that made the rehearsals and the production

fun, but the 'adults' in the play managed to lend real authority to both. The wicked Choir Masters, Tim Williams and Dan Armstrong, were convincingly selfish and bullying in their acting and singing, while Patrick Voss and David Hankin complemented them as the ambitious Earl of Oxford and kindly Porter respectively. The Chapel Royal boys worked increasingly well together and the St. Paul's boys had less to do but managed to concentrate hard enough to arrive on stage with real impact and make the second half impressive, although the stage within a stage became pretty crowded and the maypole dancing something of a nightmare!

It's a shame that a second night was not possible, since the confidence built up on the first night would have made it memorable - I like to think. The set, designed and painted by Gavin Craig, and built by the hard-working stage crew, was very effective and the music, directed by Mr. Oxlade was sensitively balanced and played.

Obviously, all the boys in the production had a great deal to learn and do, 90 that the cancellation of the main performance was more than disappointing. My main memory of the production, sadly, will not be of performances but will be of the sheer logistical nightmare of trying to arrange rehearsals in competition with the unbelievable range of activities that occupy Lower School boys. Nearly every rehearsal required lengthy negotiations with colleagues, all of whom suffer from similar problems, and I do not know how we would ever have got through if the games fields had been in normal use. Producing plays is always complex and hard work, but the intensity of present school life does make the process arduous! However, many thanks to all who helped so willingly and congratulations to the cast for what they did achieve.

G G Barrett

The Ballad of Salomon Pavey

An Elizabethan Ballad
Opera based on the
Children of the
Chapel Royal



The Crucible

'The Crucible' opened somewhat worryingly with a five minute bout of crackling music over a dark stage, tarnished only with an inexplicable pentagram. With this ordeal over, the audience's fears were relieved when the acting began, and still more when the quality of that acting was seen. David Mitchell was the paranoid old fanatic, Reverend Parris, and he succeeded admirably in staying true absolutely to his character and to high accent throughout the evening. His emotions were conveyed to the audience as if they were his own. Guy Rands, Playing John Proctor, Was similarly earnest and achieved a sensitive contrast between his moments of anger and frustration and the tense uneasiness of his domestic life, although perhaps he could have varied his style just a little more.

Chief amongst the female parts was that of Abigail, and Emily Richmond played this difficult role with both the spirit and the insolence required. There were many scenes of great power and impact, particularly the 'screaming scene', which for many were the highlight of the Play mainly because of the way in which the cast threw themselves into these.

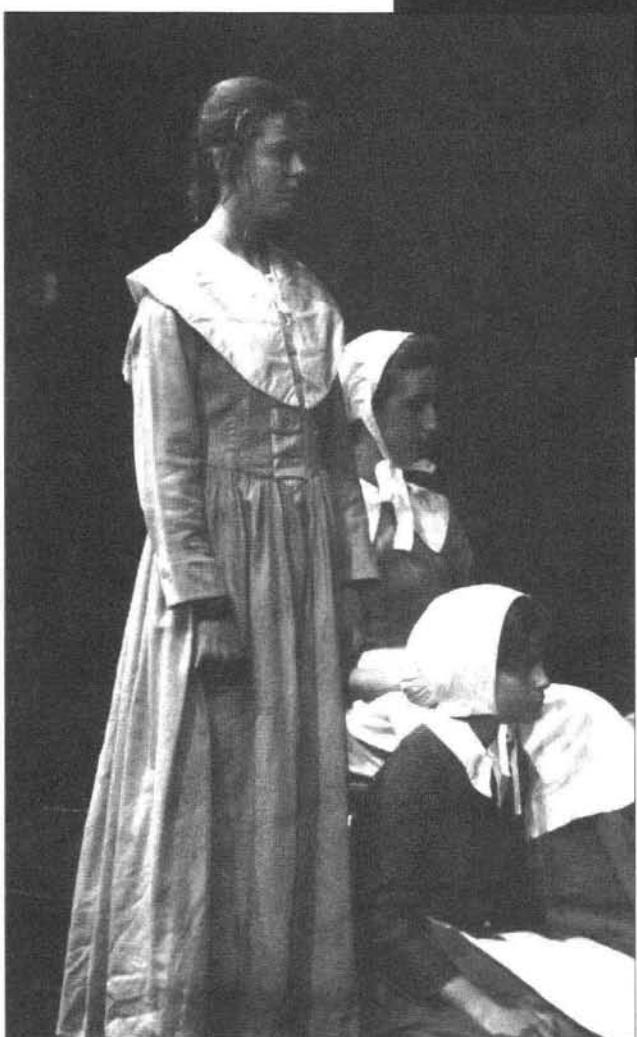
James Mackenzie took the part of Reverend Hale and portrayed well the precision of good intention and later despair of this character, though there are some reservations about whether the transition between these was made clear. Patrick Carter as Danforth had some trouble with his lines on the first night, but the prompting did not interfere with the flow of the play, and otherwise he was more than competent as the all-powerful figure of authority. There are many actors and actresses whose performances were impressive, not least Alison Donley's heart wrenching and poignant portrayal of Elizabeth Proctor, Theo Ratcliffe's booming dramatics as Hathorne and Matthew Lister's promising debut as the noble and frustrated Giles Corrie. Kristian Bevan's performance also bodes well for the future and his Thomas Putnam was usually clear and always convincing.

On the whole the spartan set worked well, because the allegorical nature of the play requires an imprecise background. However, The pentagram, though it may have looked striking, had no dramatic purpose and served only to confuse the real meaning of the play. As an allegory for McCarthy's anti-Communism, it was intended to be clear that no witchcraft was actually taking place in Salem, therefore a pentagram was out of place. Likewise, the changes of lighting when Abigail and her colleagues pretended to have supernatural experiences, seemed to lend credence to their pretence, which is hardly what Miller intended. Of course, the Lighting Crew deserve all recognition for their flawless execution of the lighting.

Despite any criticisms, 'The Crucible' was the most disturbing, thought-provoking Play to have been shown at the Amey Hall for a long time. There were few weak links in the large cast and Fiona Smith and Harry White directed a play which will have made a long-lasting impression on all who saw it. That impression is one of harrowing tragedy and a superb display of emotion and fear.



*Arthur Miller's
play was an
Abingdon
Inter-School
Dramatic Society
production*



*by arrangement with
Warner Chapell
Plays Limited.*

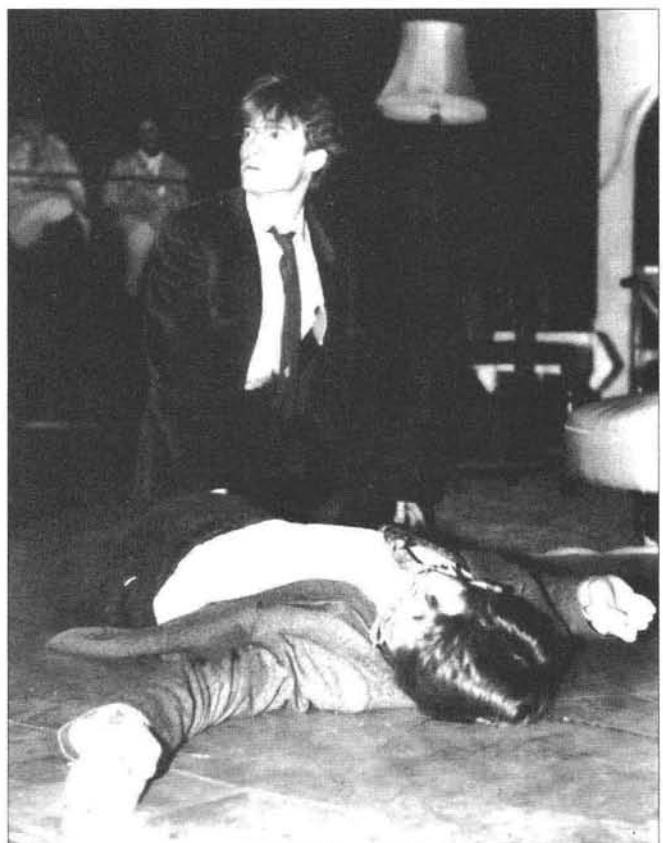
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND



"The Real Inspector Hound" was a 'one night stand' which 'happened' on the 28th February. A boys' production, it was directed by Edward Paleit. The small cast was largely made up of those who had acted in Romeo and Juliet. First performed in 1968, the play is one of Tom Stoppard's most famous. Two critics arrive to watch a second rate country house mystery. By degrees they become embroiled in its action and take the place of the victims. Reality melts into fantasy and the audience melts into laughter. Particularly notable were David Mitchell and Leo Carey as the two critics and James Mackenzie as the eponymous Hound.

The cast organised and produced the play independently, doing everything from set-building (the set was good and included the School House Games Room dear-head in a special guest appearance!) to publicity. Their effort paid off; the production was a resounding success, enjoyed by all the large audience who saw it.

P. Carter VIZ



Trips

GREECE

After the rigours of Open Day, most members of Abingdon School crawled home thankfully to rest and recover. Not so thirty-two indefatigable boys led by the tireless Mr. and Mrs. Fishpool and Mr. Revill, who were off immediately for Gatwick and a hectic Travelbound tour of Greece. A night flight meant no sleep, thanks to Conrad Purcell's ceaseless commentary, and the party arrived for breakfast in the Hotel Euripides in Athens looking a little less than their best. The view of the Acropolis? ...Acrolops? ...Acropolis from the hotel balcony cheered all but the most jaded, however, and we set off in high spirits from the Peloponnese at 7.00 am. We stopped to marvel at the Corinth Canal, and a little further on to visit the site of ancient Corinth with its Greek and Roman remains. Peter, the official Travelbound photographer who accompanied the tour, took the obligatory photo of members of the party enthroned on the Roman public lavatory and moved on (blearily by now) to spectacular Epidavros and the vast theatre and healing centre of Asclepius. At long last we reached the Electra Hotel at Tolon and collapsed into bed after a very Greek meal of chicken and chips.

Next morning we fitted in a visit to the harbour town of Nauplion before visiting the 17th century town of Tiryn and Mycenae. Our way lit only by flickering torches, we descended the steep clammy steps to the secret cistern of Mycenae, and afterwards waited for the emergence of Mr. Revill with some French girls he had been helping in the dark. We were all impressed by the massive lion gates and Tholos tombs. As we left Mycenae, an Olympian thunderstorm crashed around the hills and the road became a river - the wrath of Agamemnon perhaps?

Next, a long drive through olive groves and craggy mountain to Pylos, a quiet harbour town in the south west Peloponnese, where the hotel Miramar welcomed us. Our next stop was the Palace of Nestor, of Homeric fame, whose ornamental bath added a homely touch. After a peep inside a tholos tomb, we drove to the museum at Chora which houses the gold which only carpeted its floor. Here an international incident between the curator and Matthew Gannon was narrowly averted and we pressed on in haste to Olympia, our journey enlightened by Patrick Tompkin's antics in a 12 foot trench on a rubbish tip. He still bears the scars. Early arrival in Olympia, meanwhile, signalled a tee-shirt buying spree.

A night's rest at the Hotel Neda invigorated us for next morning's exploration of the extensive site of ancient Olympia, with the fallen temple which once housed the famous statue of Zeus, one of the seven wonders of the world, built by Pheidias in a workshop which subsequently became a Byzantine church, now ruined in its turn. We held an Abingdon School Olympic race on the ancient stadium, and the laurel wreath was won by Ben Moseley. He has ordered his statue already!

After visiting the modern museum of Olympia, we set off once more and reached Delphi via the Rion-Antirrion ferry and a drive along a mountain-bordered coastal road. No one could fail to be impressed by the magic grandeur of Delphi, the navel of the earth, and the mysticism of its



ancient stones. Here travellers came from all over the classical world to enquire from the oracle of Apollo what fate lay in store for them. Nowadays the temple is ruined but no less awe-inspiring for that. We climbed to the stadium which clings to the mountain side, where seventeen Abingdon stalwarts ran their second race of the week.

We then piled back into the coach for the final leg on the journey - back to Athens and the Hotel Euripides. That evening, seated on the Payx, the hill where the ancient assembly of Athens used to meet, we watched a sound and light show centred on the acropolis, with words provided by Herodotus and Thucydides, and plenty of red lighting to denote the burning of the city by the Persians in 480 BC. Next morning we toured the Acropolis, the theatre of Dionysus, and the ancient agora, and after lunch walked to Mount Lykabetto's where the hardier of us climbed to the summit and the rest of us had a marvellous view of the renowned smog of Athens. Coughing, we descended.

Our walk to the National Museum next morning took us past the charred shell of the Polytechnic which had been fired in a student riot the night before. (Matthew Gannon disclaimed all knowledge). In the museum we admired the splendid gold death masks and jewellery from Mycenae and tried to take in the vast number of varied treasures and objects from other periods and places in Greece.

It was a relief to drive out of noisy Athens that afternoon and under lowering skies to stand on the windblown headland of Sounion by the columns of Poseidon's temple. Mrs. Fishpool (eventually) found the ancient secret launchpad for Triremes under the cliff, and the whole party obediently scrambled down to look.

Our sleep was restless that night as we knew we were to be woken at 2.00 am to reach the airport in time of the return flight. When we had rescued Owen Moore from the clutches of a Greek airport guard who had marched him off having found a dagger in his hand luggage on the X-ray machine, we left Athens at 5.15 am and arrived back in cold Abingdon at 9.30 am British time, laden with photos and travellers' tales.

JEF



The sight of familiar, welcoming, faces at Moscow's Sheremetovo airport was an unusual experience for those of our party who had arrived at the same place before to be met by the representative of a governmental agency. The chance to stay with Russian families, to see the day to day workings of a Russian school and mix freely with the people at all times was to be a most refreshing experience after the relative isolation of staying in hotels and being driven around in a reserved bus with an English-speaking interpreter-guide. It was a sign of very different times in post-perestroika Russia that we were to be staying in an area of Moscow closed to foreigners just two years previously.

Any apprehensions we might have had about the food situation before our arrival were soon dispelled – such was the care taken of us by our Russian hosts who had laid on a first-rate programme of tours and visits. These encompassed some of the usual sights on the well-worn tourist route (the cathedrals of the Kremlin, Novodevichy Convent) and other places which were either relatively unknown or newly opened after many years' restoration, such as the Andronikov Monastery and estate of Kuskovo. We also enjoyed the rare privilege of getting into the Armaments Museum of the Kremlin (which, despite its name, contains mostly art treasures). A visit to Moscow State Circus and a performance of the ballet "Don Quixote" in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses constituted part of our cultural programme. The pupils of Moscow School No.78 also played their part in entertaining us with renditions of Russian folk and contemporary songs and performances in English of short extracts from English and American literature.

Fortune smiled upon us in the form of unseasonably fine weather. The residential areas of Moscow with their endless high-rise blocks of flats can seem rather cheerless under grey skies, but the spring sunshine brought warmth and colour to the districts less frequented by foreigners. Temperatures of up to eighteen degrees helped to dry out the verges that had been left as a squelchy quagmire by the newly melted snow. Within a few days the grass had started to appear. Yet the weather worked to our disadvantage in one respect: the soft state of the ground resulted in cancellation of our planned visit to the Tolstoy estate at Yasnaya Polyana, near Tula. However, the splendours of Zagorsk and Suzdal, two of the many towns making up the medieval defensive network known collectively as the "Golden Ring", provided an

abundance of vivid memories.

We are all profoundly grateful to Tatyana Nikolaevna, head of Moscow School No.78, and her colleagues for making our stay such an enjoyable one. It was thus with equal pleasure that we received our second group of visitors on exchange from Moscow in October on a visit which bureaucratic difficulties and blunders seemed poised to frustrate until the last possible moment before their departure. In their ten days with us they visited London, Oxford, Blenheim Palace, Warwick Castle and Stratford-on-Avon. We shall recall with pleasure the concert of Russian folk music and dance given in the Amey Hall and the generosity of their gifts.

GCR

Zagorsk: *The Uspensky Cathedral.*





View of Suzdal Kremlin across the Kamenka river.

SIXTH FORM IN PARIS

On a cold February morning, 30 sixth formers from both Abingdon and St. Helen's schools, boarded a coach for a 12 hour journey to Paris. The first task was to try and brighten up the rather grumpy coach driver, who seemed to want to make the trip miserable from the start. When we arrived at Dover Docks, there was a slight wait before boarding the ferry, by which time everyone was desperate to get off the coach. Once on board, most made their way to the restaurant for a cup of coffee and the last English meal (a greasy cooked breakfast) for five days. Others went and looked at the shops on board, deciding upon what to buy on the return journey.

Upon arrival at Calais a five hour journey lay ahead of us. To ease the "pain" of the journey, a couple of boys and girls organised "in-coach" entertainment, which included quiz shows captured on video, and music from stereos, after the coach driver refused to turn on the radio.

Slowly, but surely, the skyline of Paris crept up. Both sixth formers and teachers breathed a sigh of relief, until we encountered the room allocation. For the boys and masters everything was fine, however, this was not the case for the girls on the trip : Three girls, one single bed and one double bed. We were told by the hotel manager, that it like that in France and there were no spare rooms.

Hunger set in, and so we made our way to the restaurant via the metro. The soups in the restaurant were fine, but when it came to the main course, matters were different, especially for those who were vegetarians. After the meal we had a "Paris by Night" tour done by our beloved coach driver, who had been sweetened up by Miss Milligan, Mrs. Bradshaw, Sir Digby-Caley and Mr. Hofton, which was enjoyed by most people. On return to the hotel, the coach went past a Burger King (which was to become our refuge for the next couple of nights as far as meals went !) a few hundred metres away from our doorstep. So that evening, Burger King was besieged by everyone, including teachers.

And so to the next day. In the morning there was a trip to the Louvre, which astounded everyone, with the afternoon free for "individual study and recreation", before meeting at the restaurant for our meal. In the evening, some went out to cafes sipping their chocolat chaud or café crème, whilst others along with Miss Milligan and Mrs. Bradshaw, discovered the pleasures of French television (whilst having a take-away).

Monday brought to us a trip round the Musée D'Orsay, which was the highlight for everyone, either by finding the Monet or some other artist that they had been looking for. In the afternoon, some of the group decided to go to the Orangerie, others to La Defense and the rest went to the Tour Montparnasse. The evening brought us yet another delightful meal at the restaurant, followed by a trip on the bateaux-mouches along the Seine.

The final day in Paris, brought us a trip up La Tour Eiffel and in the afternoon a trip to Versailles for anyone wishing to go. Those who didn't go spent time shopping for souvenirs or continuing the sightseeing around Montmartre, Centre Pompidou and the surrounding areas, which many returned to after the meal, due to it being a hive of "activity" !

We left Paris mid-morning, hoping to catch an earlier ferry, so that we could get back for our evening meal. Most of the time was spent catching up with sleep or deciding what to buy for mother, father, brother and sister on the ferry. Upon arrival back at Abingdon, everyone agreed what a good time they had had in Paris, but that the food was something to be desired.

Thanks must go to Miss Milligan and members of the sixth form for organising the trip, Mrs Bradshaw, Sir Digby-Caley, Mr Hofton and Miss Milligan for looking after us throughout the whole trip, and to the coach driver for his endless cheeriness and helpfulness.

R. Schofield VIS



SKI TOURS

UPPER SCHOOL AT ALP D'HUEZ

The tour was due to leave Abingdon at 03.00 hours, but Ben Miller was late! The run down to Gatwick, at that time of the day, was quick and easy and we found the airport almost deserted. There was time to get a snack and for Richard Newman to lose his washbag. We then boarded the Gibraltar Airways Boeing 737 for the 100 minute flight to St. Genoires airport, some 40 kilometres from Grenoble. The flight was smooth and the view spectacular as we headed towards the sun. Once we dropped below the cloud cover it was clear that all the reports had been true. This region really was feet deep in snow and excellent skiing conditions lay ahead. Julian Denée won the prize for the first fall, walking from the plane to the airport check in! Once through the airport we boarded the coach that was to take us to Alp D'Huez. This journey took us through the outskirts of Grenoble, then on up into the mountains. The final 20 kilometres involved negotiating a succession of hairpin bends, with spectacular scenery all around.

The rest of the day was spent settling into L'Hotel Hermitage and sorting out skis, boots etc. The next morning we awoke to glorious sunshine, perfect ski conditions and our first and only major accident. Richard Slater took a tumble and broke his collar-bone; a very quick and sad end to his holiday. Fortunately he was able to get back home the next day. The second day (Sunday) saw huge numbers of French skiers arriving, from the locality, so that lift queues were long and many runs crowded. A large number of snowboarders made skiing more difficult, but nobody was complaining. The slopes were clear for the rest of the week and we enjoyed a mixture of glorious sunshine (Monday and Thursday) and days when it snowed (Tuesday and Wednesday). The resort was above the clouds for much of the time, adding to the beauty of the rugged landscape.

The lift pass also gave free entry to the skating rink and the heated outdoor swimming pool, both utilised by some members of the party. On the Wednesday, early in the evening, 16 of the group accompanied by JD-H, AMB and PJW, took sledges to a nearby run and enjoyed an hour of great hilarity. The final race of the session (a non-



handicap race, open to all-comers) was won by Peter Mildenhall. PJW took an early fall, but remounted and weaved through the field to take an outstanding second place. AMB complained bitterly that he had been fouled approaching the last bend and a stewards enquiry was held. Richard Newman was severely cautioned for rough riding and Peter Mildenhall was allowed to keep the race, despite a suspicion that he was also involved in the fracas.

AJM

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKI TOUR

This year during the Lent half term the Middle School went to St. Johann-im-Pongau, part of the four valley ski area in Austria.

The outward journey was hampered by heavy snow which brought even the German autobahns to a grinding halt, but which boded well for our week of skiing. We arrived at the Hotel Post four hours late, then ski fit and a meal meant getting to bed in the early hours. Unfortunately, the heavy snow had missed the resort and it was mid-week before they had more snow to replenish the fast wearing slopes.



The resort was made up from a number of high level linked valleys. This made for varied, interesting skiing, well suited to the improving beginner. Snow conditions in the valleys were always good, allowing all grades of skier to gain confidence and improve technique. The run back down to the bus was never easy and as the week wore on and the snow wore out this run became even less enjoyable.

At the end of the week all the competitive instincts came to the fore in the group races, secret waxing of skis, weighing up of form, nervous practice and the odd side bet.

The hotel was of the traditional Austrian style, large and comfortable, the food was good, varied and there was plenty of it.

Apri-ski events included poly bagging, a quiz evening, treasure hunt, target shooting (1st B. Ulyatt, 2nd C. Dimond, 3rd K. Stopps) and a trip to the open air thermal baths at Badgastein.

AJM

RESULTS

GROUP 1

C. Sanford
M. Cooke
T. Baker

GROUP 2

J. Mansfield
A. Battye
W. Houston

GROUP 3

Wolverhampton School
Wolverhampton School
K. Stopps



EAST EUROPEAN WORKCAMPS

After the news of all the changes in Eastern Europe and having just studied the history of the area at University, I was very keen to travel to the former Communist Bloc to discover at first hand what had been happening. With my teaching experience from my gap year, I applied to work for UNESCO and gained a placement on an English Language Camp in Poland for Summer 1990 and in Hungary for this year.

Before leaving for Poland last year I had read a number of articles about the events of 1989 and so arrived at Cracow Airport with a basic understanding of what had happened. This understanding altered and developed as I travelled around the country and made Polish friends.

I was based at a camp in Nowy Sacz in southern Poland, about 40 km from the border with Czechoslovakia. The town is an important market centre for the local agricultural industry and the frequent markets provided a good opportunity to meet a variety of people. The students on the camp were all very keen to improve their English. It was often difficult to stop them talking and asking questions; they seemed to want to know everything about life in the West. An article I had read before going to Poland had stated that all that young Poles wanted to do was to move away to the West. Many of the students did want to travel but the majority wished to return to help build Poland's future, the few who said they wished to leave for good were strongly criticised by their fellow students. One of the main topics of discussion was the issue of the re-unification of Germany which, despite a few reservations, was strongly supported. Many conversations about the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, the Cold War and the situation in the Soviet Union often went on into the early hours of the morning.

Travelling around Poland helped our understanding of the country and its people. A visit to Auschwitz brought us face to face with the horrors of Poland's recent history. A tour of an industrial unit revealed the damaging impact of strict central state control on development while a raft ride along the Dunajec river showed us the beauty of the Polish landscape. The crowds at Czestachowa reflected the strength of the Roman Catholic Church which was evident throughout the country with congregations spilling out onto the streets at many churches. Whether this strong position and influence will continue as Poland gradually moves towards a market economy will be a test of this faith. A meeting with the local town major provided an opportunity to discuss the changing Polish political system and also to discover how private enterprise was being encouraged.

Polish history has often been a struggle for survival against various enemies and it is clearly going to be a long struggle for Poland to fully break from the legacy of Communism and tackle new enemies such as inflation and unemployment. It was evident that many people are finding it difficult to adapt to new ideas, especially those who had grown up under Communism all their lives; some people had done very well under the Communist system and are now feeling very vulnerable in the new political climate.

After the camp had finished we went on a tour to a number of important centres including Cracow and Warsaw. A visit to the Warsaw City Museum showed how the capital had been destroyed by the Nazis after the August up-rising in 1944. A friend took me to what had formally been the Communist Party Building; this grey concrete

building was now empty and children were using the forecourt as a skateboard playground. The building has now been given to Warsaw University to use as a library.

I left Poland after a wonderful month with many memories and good friends and determined to return to see how the country develops. This year I worked in Hungary with the same organisation but that is another story!

UNESCO recruits sixth formers, students and teachers for the camps through the Central-Bureau in London. Competition for places is high but if accepted you will be sure of a very exciting and worthwhile experience.

David Smith O.A. (1987)

MY TIME UP OVER

Spending a year 14 000 miles from home did, at first, seem like a daunting prospect, however, after learning how to deal with the crueler side of English life such as the weather and sense of humour(?), it turns out that the 'ole mother country's not such a bad place after all. I knew I was definitely in England when after my first day at Abingdon School I was called 'sport' for the umpteenth time ... Rolf Harris has a lot to answer for! And as for whether I'd give a Castlemaine XXXX for anything else ... well, we've already got the World Cup, so I'd have to agree with the ad and say no!

Living and working at Abingdon School has given me many opportunities and provided me with many experiences which could not possibly have arisen had I decided to forego a 'gap' year and head straight on to university. Basically, my life here has revolved around the sporting aspect of school life ... helping out with games lessons and coaching various sport teams (with varied success!) were probably my two main tasks whilst working here.

It was also interesting to come back to a school as a member of the teaching staff rather than as a student, and to see how it all functions on the other side. On the whole, I found the staff at Abingdon School to be very friendly and supportive, and have made an effort from day one to make me feel totally at home, an effort much appreciated. Having always been a dayboy and having to carry my ball and chain ... oh, I mean my books, to school, it was good to experience boarding life pretty much first hand. Dining-in nights and various house events, such as Guy Fawkes night, have again allowed me to experience various customs of English life and leave with me many fond memories.

And then, of course, there are the students. Were it left to their imagination I'm sure I'd be returning to a penal colony still in its first stages of infancy, whose only saving grace is a can of XXXX, a Prime Minister who cries, and an entertainer singing "Tie me Kangaroo Down" ... funny how they don't mention the rugby! Overall the students have definitely provided me with some of the most memorable experiences of the year, and have made my stay here all the more enjoyable.

As my time here is coming to an end, I can look back finally at the year and think of all the things which have happened far too numerous to include in this report. All that is left for me to do is to thank the Headmaster, Mr. St.John Parker, and the staff and students of Abingdon School for giving me the opportunity to spend a great year here, and to wish you all the best for the future.

Rod Yates

THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On Friday 1st November, on the sort of wet, windy day that stops Autumn from ever really being poetic, thirteen young Europeans and one ageing European left Abingdon School for Barcelona. We had our sleeping bags, we had our gloves, we had our woolly hats, we were ready for Europe; but was Europe ready for us?

Having reached Gatwick Airport by coach, we were surprised not to be invited into the VIP lounge but spent a happy half an hour playing around on the moving walkways. After a short delay while Guy Rands decided which of his many identities he was going to use on this occasion, we boarded the aircraft. "Viva Air" does not go in for enormous Jumbo Jets; our aircraft had a sort of rustic familiarity about it which is nice in tea shops but positively petrifying at 50,000 feet. But we were given boiled sweets (or were they bullets?) to bite and bags to be sick into and, after a few bumps, we arrived in Barcelona.

From the airport we were taken by coach towards the Pyrenees where we were to have our "team building weekend" which, though harmless sounding, we suspected of involving physical activities of an unnecessarily strenuous and stressful nature. (Mr. Milner sadly, was unable to join us for this as he had to stay in Barcelona in order to fit enough cocktail parties into the ten days). We stayed our first night in Spain in a Youth Hostel in Vic and what an eventful night it was! Three great obstacles had to be negotiated firstly there was the pile of rubble over which we had to climb in pitch darkness, carrying all our luggage, in order to get from the coach to the hostel; secondly there was the meal, a magnificent feast beginning with dry bread and tomato sauce, moving onto cold spaghetti and reaching its high point with charred chicken; our third obstacle, and the one which finally defeated us all, was to get to sleep despite Guy Rand's and Simon Jones' on-going banter.

The next day (Saturday), a tired and hungry delegation completed the final stretch of its journey with a coach trip to where the "team-building activities" were to take place. It was at this point that the European Youth Parliament really began to take shape. We spent the weekend in another youth hostel at Planoles in the middle of the Pyrenees in countryside which I can only describe as stunning. Wooded mountains and clear blue sky stretched as far as we could see; the setting was perfect and graced by deep silence; at least until 150 Europeans started trying to make themselves understood.

The purpose of the weekend was to turn the various multi-national committees into which we were divided into real teams which would work well together over the next week and I am bound to say that, in this aim, it was completely successful. The activities were enjoyable, though sometimes hair-raising (if ever I ask myself the question "Why don't you take up rock-climbing" I only have to remember this weekend for the answer), and they really made people work together. I had been very sceptical about this part of the European Youth Parliament, but it was an invaluable foundation for the week's activities.

On Sunday afternoon we were taken by coach back to Barcelona to meet our host families who, without exception, were welcoming, generous and extremely rich; Barcelona is certainly a prosperous city. It is also a surprisingly beautiful one with, apart from the "old quarter", wide tree lined avenues and beautiful buildings. It is not a tourist trap, although I think it could be, but neither is it seedy; it is a modern, well maintained city. Its most notable

quirks are the intricate and exact grid pattern of the buildings in much of the city and the citizens' interesting interpretation of the highway code.

For most of the week we worked in committees, with one British delegate in each. Every committee except one had a particular political, social or economic issue to discuss and about which to form a "resolution" (an outline of suggested policy). The last committee was made up of "journalists" whose job it was to report the committee discussions. The resolutions which were eventually formed, and which in my opinion were invariably good, were debated and voted upon over the last two days, in the General Assembly. The formation and debate of these resolutions was the main purpose of the European Youth Parliament; the ideas which came out of this work were extremely innovative and yet rarely lost sight of reality. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the week's work was the almost universal refusal to be tied either to the interests of national governments or of European institutions; both were ignored in favour of policies which had been reasoned and discussed in committee.

In a week which was enjoyable and very valuable, there are, however, two criticisms which, I think, are worth making. The first concerns Barcelona itself. Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a region of Spain with a considerable sense of independence. The EYP was the guest not of the Spanish government but of the Catalan government and, to give them credit, they made the event very special allowing us, for example, to hold the General Assembly in the Catalan Parliament itself, a very impressive building. However they wanted their share of the bargain and the cause of Catalan nationalism was repeatedly forced down our throats: firstly by Rt. Hon. Jordi Pujol i Soley, the "President of Catalonia" and a very self-important little man, and later by the "President of the Catalonian Parliament". The cause of Catalonia was constantly being brought up and there was even an attempt to force a clause about it into one of the resolutions. I do not know how many Catalans really want independence from Spain, although many of our host families' indifference suggests that it is more the concern of local politicians than of people, but in my opinion a European organisation is no place for promoting nationalist ideas. Every delegate from every country quite rightly made a conscious effort not even to give a hint of nationalism and yet the Catalan government saw fit to promote their petty grievances almost endlessly.

My second criticism concerns two of the MEPs who addressed the General Assembly at the end of the session. It seemed a pity that, after a week's enthusiastic discussion of what Europe could be in the future we had to be brought down so quickly to the lamentable condition of European institutions today. But unfortunately the MEPs confirmed our worst suspicions about the present European Parliament. They were small minded and negative in their approach, whining in their tone and, I am afraid to say, blatantly anti-British in their attitude. God save Europe from that sort of European.

Putting these criticisms aside, the EYP session at Barcelona was unforgettable: it was fun, it was thoughtful, it was exciting and it revealed to me the Europe that lies beyond the Brussels bureaucracy. I am now able to say, in my full capacity as a British cynic, that I am convinced that our future lies in Europe.

D. Mitchell VIB



Later, from 2nd. to 8th. November, some twelve boys, accompanied by Mr. Milner and the Headmaster, went on a second session of the European Youth Parliament to Barcelona. In the course of the week there were eight sessions in all which discussed twelve themes. These ranged from development and cooperation to Human rights, Information and the Media. The members of the Youth Parliament were greatly privileged in that the Catalan Parliamentary Building, El Palau de la Generalitat, was made available for the occasion, the first time the building was released for such a purpose in its history.

The topics were vigorously discussed and David Mitchell, Daniel Seward, Haig Topalian, Simon Cooke, Armen Georgian, John Paul Hoskins, Nicholas Myatt and James Mackenzie found themselves rapidly imbibing protocol and procedure in a very pan-European context.

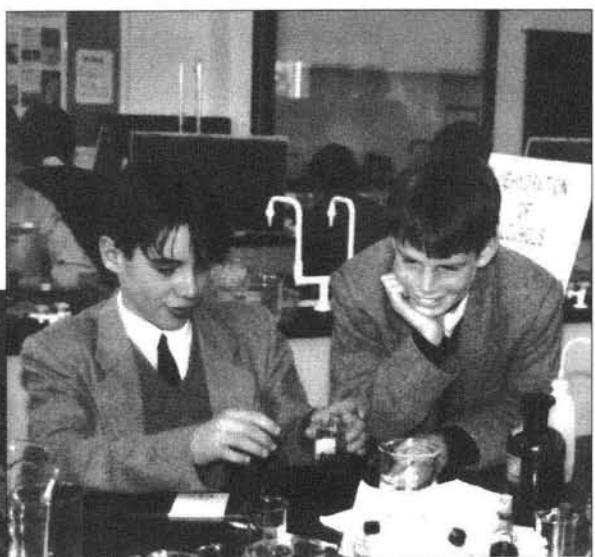
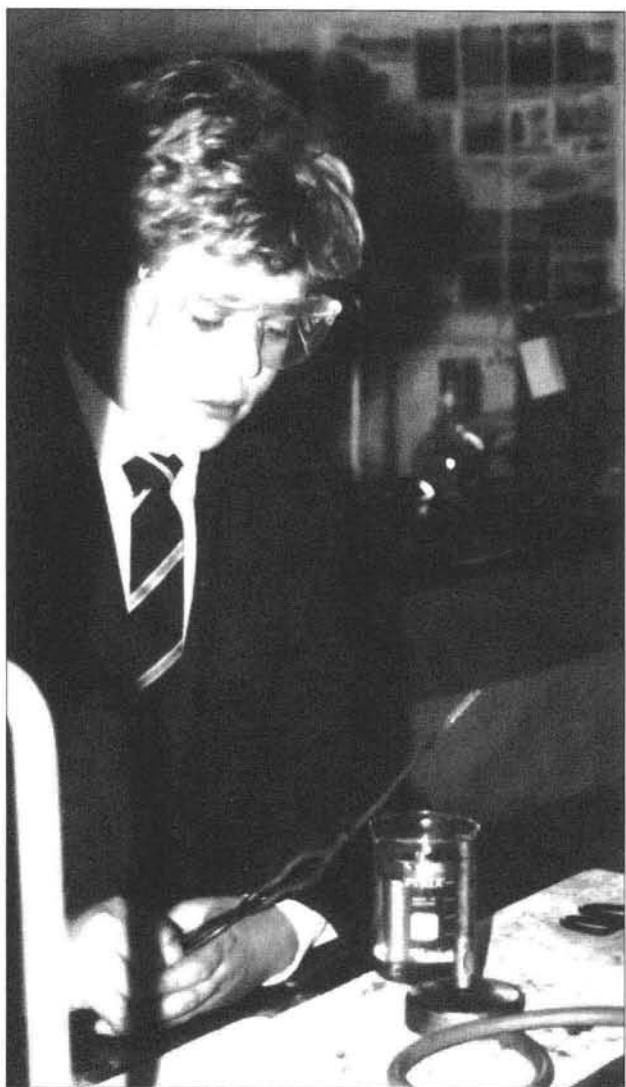
The picture shows the Renaissance façade of the Palace of the Generalitat which was designed by Pere Blai.

J. Mackenzie VIC



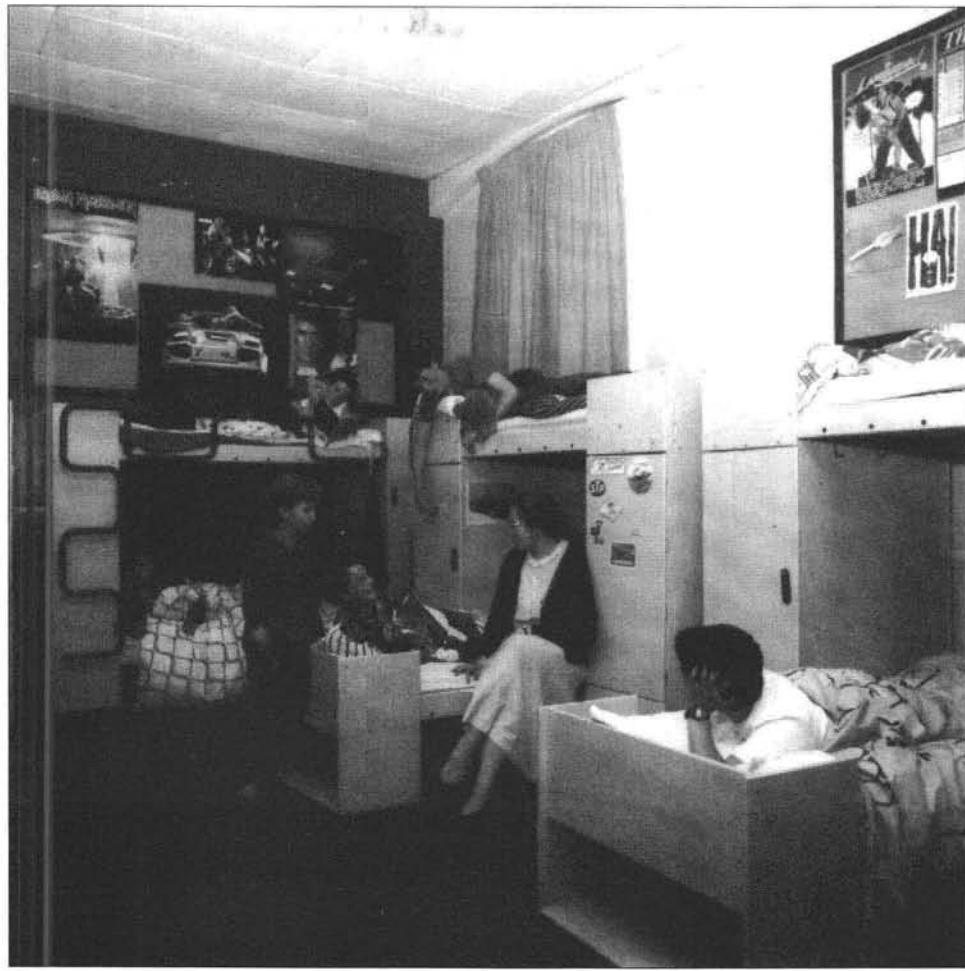
The centrepiece of the façade of the Palace shows a nineteenth century statue of St. George.

SCENES FROM THE OPEN DAY



BOARDING LIFE - A PERSONAL VIEW.

It would be possible, I suppose, to think of a boarding house as a machine and of the housemaster as a glorified mechanic. On such a model, the house exists simply to contain the boys and to provide them with essential services, while the housemaster's function is just to ensure the smooth running of the machine by his professional expertise. Even in 1854 when Charles Dickens wrote "Hard Times" he saw only too clearly how oppressive and dehumanising is an education conceived in purely mechanistic or consumerist terms. Nothing has changed on that score since Dickens' day. The house run as a mere machine cannot work in the real world because its components are people with their own wills and whims rather than inert lumps of mindless metal. In contrast the house experienced as community has a better chance of success. Whereas a machine could not hope to cope with the reality of human diversity and capriciousness, a true



community can accommodate a wide range of personalities and interests - even the occasional eccentric.

The housemaster who is faced with such typical diversity realizes that conflict is always possible. However, the possibility of cooperation also exists. An important part of my job is therefore to foster cooperation, that in time it may grow into trust and friendship. Equally I must be alert to tensions and quickly defuse them. I must also try to channel the energies of the boys in positive and creative directions in the hope that they will find fulfilment in every aspect of their lives in Waste Court. The greater the sense of community in the house, the stronger the feeling of being part of a corporate enterprise, the more secure and relaxed the boys seem to be. If at the same time each member of the house feels that

he is known individually and cared for personally, the boarding experience becomes far less strange and forbidding than even the youngest new boarder ever imagined. The great spin-off from this is a better level of performance and much more enjoyment for the boys in their lives outside the house, whether in the classroom, the games field or the concert platform.

Waste Court is a small community of about thirty people. Out of their interaction (occasionally explosive) arise the real interest and exhilaration of life here. The house is no static entity, but a dynamic organism with numerous unpredictable elements thrown in for good measure. When the biochemical balance is right, much creative and purposeful activity emerges. When the subtle chemistry goes a little awry, as it inevitably must do from time to time, the house staff have to act as trouble-shooters. It is an enormous advantage to have able and committed tutors (Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Fishpool) and a calm matron (Miss Lupton) as well as a considerate wife on hand to help me deal with any unusual or difficult situations. Equilibrium can usually be quickly restored and ruffled feathers or damaged egos delicately tended. It is one of my constant duties to promote harmony and encourage communication. If boys learn tolerance and restraint within an atmosphere of openness, the house acquires a civilized ethos and the temptation to indulge the grosser forms of vulgarity can be generally resisted.

One of the more delightful manifestations of community solidarity is the willingness of boys to support their friends at School matches, plays or concerts. There will always be a loyal contingent of Waste Court fans on the touchline at First XV games cheering on our rugby stars. We have some very faithful play-goers and music buffs, especially among our youngest members, ready to applaud their fellows in the Amey Hall. They take real pleasure in the suc-

cesses of others and often play a valuable part in bringing about such successes by practising alongside their more expert companions. It is notable that friendships made in the boarding house will often be continued in the vacations with reciprocal visits and joint expeditions. Competitiveness also figures within the corporate life. The bruises acquired in playing seven-a-side football against each other bear eloquent testimony to this.

There is, of course, far less privacy in a boarding house than in most homes. The new boys therefore have to learn social and communal skills very quickly. The wiser of them also learn to create their own "pools of silence" during the busy day by finding a quiet corner somewhere or by immersing themselves in an absorbing hobby like building kits or sketching. In spite of the emphasis on the

communal, individuality always has to be respected. If someone does not want to join in some voluntary house activity, it is counterproductive to put any pressure on him to conform. Community life must never mean regimentation, no matter how inconvenient may be the recalcitrance of the loner. Nevertheless, it is on public occasions such as theatre trips, restaurant visits or at a house barbecue, when the whole house or large sections of it are together, that Waste Court is most typically itself. People generally rise to the occasion, forgetting petty differences and concentrating on what is good in their shared experience of the house.

Typical also and not to be underestimated in importance is the daily rhythm and routine of house life. The regularities of waking, washing, changing, feeding, conversing, schooling, playing, larking, doing prep. (groan!), tidying, relaxing, showering and then finally collapsing exhausted into bed at the end of the day take on a ritual quality that is intrinsic and somehow reassuring. "The imaginative graces and delights" of which Dickens waxes eloquent in "Hard Times" are built on top of this basic structure of routine that undergirds the day for the boarder, the stable and predictable foundation of his School life. When the pattern changes to accommodate a special event such as a play, a late bedtime or the suspension of prep. (hooray!) that disrupts normality invariably adds to the enjoyment of the occasion. From the housemaster's point of view also the existence of an established routine makes supervision a little easier. Woe betide the boy who turns up late for prep.!

Waste Court suffers to some degree from having so large an age gap between the Minors and the Sixth Formers, who each represent about half of the total house. Socially the two groups tend not to mix much except in friendly competition at Pool or Ping-Pong. However, in the eyes of the small boys the house Prefects have a measure of gravitas which Middle School boys would be unlikely to recognize! Insubordination is therefore not at all common, although humorous cheekiness is more or less traditional and not generally resented. There is nothing very staid or formal about life in Waste Court, but we maintain a degree of separation from the day side of School inasmuch as visiting is restricted, partly for privacy and partly for security reasons. Naturally all the boarders have close friends among the dayboys, and this is just as it should be, so long as the house avoids invasion when 'Neighbours' is on the T.V.! We are frequently asked to put up dayboys temporarily when their parents go off on conferences etc., and it is gratifying to see how much these short stays are enjoyed.

Since so many live all together here, it is essential

that there be a fairly strict regime of tidying and inspection each day, that the fabric and the appearance of the building with its lovely spacious rooms may be maintained in tip top condition. Although there are occasional accidents, the boys seem to appreciate the investment that the School has made in preserving and beautifying the house, so we get little careless damage done during term time. I always become more concerned when we have foreign students staying here on language courses in the summer vacation. One thoughtless bunch drew cartoons all over the bedroom wall of a Sixth Former's room once. He was not amused! I also try to remind the boys that the highest standards of behaviour are expected when they are in the house, if civilized values and proper respect for the property and for each other are to be maintained. However, no one should imagine that the atmosphere is puritanical. Far from it. Rather, it is a case



of restraining the wilder excesses of the over exuberant in the interests of the maturer majority.

For several centuries the general public's opinion of boarding life was of barbarian cruelty, neglect, violence and abuse within an environment of such Spartan discomfort that the experience either made you tough enough to rule the Empire or, more frequently, warped you for life. Although this stereotype was a gross caricature, it became so influential that all good modern schools go out of their way to establish effective pastoral systems and to appoint boarding staff who are dedicated to the welfare and happiness of their charges. The same defensive outlook seems to lie beneath the provisions of the Children's Act 1989. Under the Act the D.H.S.S. and the D.E.S. are now required to make frequent and regular

inspections of all boarding houses, their facilities, their procedures, their records and their staff, to ensure that the interests of the boarders are paramount at all times. I see these developments as essentially positive, even if their origins are rooted in public misgivings about the scandalous treatment of children in a tiny number of very bad schools and Children's Homes. Abingdon School is taking a laudable stand in encouraging D.H.S.S. inspection of our boarding provision and in continuing to improve and update all our facilities. None of us are complacent, but we all believe on the boarding side that we have sound systems and committed staff at the School.

The true success of a house like Waste Court cannot be guaranteed simply by pouring money into it, because money only ensures that the fixtures and fittings have a superficial gloss. The quality of the house is to be sought in less tangible things and in more subtle areas than mere appearances. Quality ultimately has to do with the nature and the performance of the people who live together in the house. How they treat one another, the values they hold, their attitudes to guests, their manners, their industry,

their loyalty to each other and to the School, their reaction to pressure or challenge, their willingness to do more than the minimum in the service of others, their openness and their readiness to listen and respond positively to praise and criticism alike all have a bearing on the judgment about quality. I would hope that most of the boys here want their time in Waste Court to be productive of many of those characteristics that mark out the civilized person. What they learn about community living in the boarding house should help rather than hinder them in their future lives, making them capable of exercising responsibility for others and giving them a certain independence of spirit. If any turn out arrogant or intolerant, this house will have failed him as much as he has failed himself. He will not have learned the values at the heart of true community. For the average boarder I would hope that, when he leaves Waste Court, he would have happy memories of the friends he made here and remember the house as a stimulating place for work and leisure alike. He might even leave with a mild regret and a slight sense of gratitude. Or would that be too much to expect ?

AM



It has often been commented on by pupils from Germany spending time in the School that the extra-curricular side of life at Abingdon is something for which they are little prepared in their own experience. These generalisations, one suspects, are often too simplistic and so we are very grateful to Herr Dieter Steffen of the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld, for responding so generously to our request for an article in which he outlines some of the extra curricular activities undertaken in his school.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE RATSGYMNASIUM

School in Germany means, first and foremost, teaching 45-minute lessons within the framework of a curriculum largely defined by the Länder governments; or, in a nutshell, chalk and talk. So the question of extracurricular activities can be provocative as it may be taken to suggest that the notion of learning cannot be fully realised within the often 'ritualised' concept of teaching as described above. The point is that the need for extra-curricular events can be seen as an indicator of educational shortcomings, i.e. an overemphasis on the intellectual side of school, of obsolete curricula, or simply of a lack of spontaneity and creativity. Thus, extra-curricular activities should not be regarded as a generous, additional offer made by a school, perhaps even as a means of escaping the fetters of educational convention, but rather as an essential element of teaching itself, complementing work in class by such means as the continuation and testing of school activities in real life.

These introductory remarks are to make clear that, with growing bureaucratic regimentation by the German educational authorities, extra-curricular activities can by no means be taken for granted. Originating from the pedagogical reform movement of the 1920's such activities, pursued in addition to work in class, were traditionally encouraged in private schools, especially in the boarding ones. But it was only in the early 1980's, and due to structural modification in the sixth form, that so called "study group" activities such as literature, choral and orchestral music, developed into subjects in their own right and became part of the state school curriculum.

Against this background, the Ratsgymnasium can take particular pride in having offered for many years now a wide range of extra-curricular activities, which in what follows will be presented under three headings:

- a) the addition to, and continuation of, work in class;
- b) leisure activities;
- c) educational activities in the School's hostel on Langeoog, one of the East Friesian Islands.

Among the subjects that have greatly gained in appreciation, and thus in stability, R.I. has been able to attract the pupils' interests by opening up a field of religious experience that goes beyond the actual, monostructural teaching in class and may help to make up for in part for the loss of that religious experience which used to be an essential element of being brought up in a family and society.

To offer their pupils chances of religious experience R.I. teachers at the Ratsgymnasium organise, for instance:

- a) excursions and contact visits to introduce them not only to vicars or theologians, but also to charitable institutions such as the 'Bodelschwingh'sche Anstalten'; these are mental and other hospitals in Bethel, a suburb of Bielefeld. Pupils are also introduced to the archives of churches and other institutions, to enable them to study

material about such themes as 'The Church in Nazi Germany'.

b) contacts with church communities so that pupils may sample their forms of religious practice, for instance by taking part in church conventions or in the meetings of groups discussing religious topics, or by practising new forms of devotion and saying prayers.

c) workshop groups for preparing church services at the beginning or at the end of the school year or on the occasion of the school-leaving ceremony after the Abitur examination.

In addition, we give our fifth-form pupils a chance to take part in religious studies intended to introduce them to questions of the meaning of and values in life. They are invited to stay at 'educational hostels' near Bielefeld for 3 - 4 days before their Easter holidays, to organise themselves in groups of about thirty and discuss such themes as: 'Growing up without God?' or, 'Faith and the Natural Sciences: a confrontation with the background of "the brave new world"'. On such occasions they may present their ideas and findings on video, a radio sketch or a short stage scene. This may then be presented at a plenary meeting and possibly reflected on in a liturgical meditation.

Less frequently the R.I. teachers organise religious seminars for sixth formers. Instances are a study theme on the 'New Age' and there are study tours such as to Rome during the Easter holidays to study Christian iconography. More than anything else these extra-curricular activities in the upper school lead to existential questions being raised and discussed. The concern must be that such matters are not out of touch with the young people's actual experiences, for if they are, the theological insights will all too readily be dismissed as mere rhetoric and sophistry.

Religious Instruction has been dealt with here to illustrate the function of extracurricular activities as a continuation of work in class. It is true, nevertheless, that the public and the school community are more aware of other activities. For example, amongst the subjects studied at the Ratsgymnasium sport is represented by eight groups ranging from gymnastics, basketball and volleyball to hockey in addition to introductory fencing: among others, our very active table tennis team has scored successes in several school competitions.

All these come on top of regular sports lessons (which take up to two or three periods per week), and also quite a few of our pupils are active members of sports clubs. A diversity of activities like this may be interpreted as a reaction to the rather spartan sports facilities of a school situated in a city centre; but it is also meant to give our pupils an early chance of choosing their individual sport, often for life. The sports groups are good examples of the popular appeal of a particular subject created by the extracurricular activities going along with it.

This is certainly also true for such subjects as music and literature. Music is a traditional Ratsgymnasium activity important to school and public alike. Choir and orchestral concerts are important events in the school year. Their quality may be attributed to the fact that a great number of our pupils are given private tuition and encouragement, but that does not fully account for musical enthusiasm and inspiration shown by the Abiturienten on the occasion of the Abitur ceremony, which are done in the style of the 'Comedian Harmonists', a group of singers famous in the 1920's.

In recent years the old Ratsgymnasium theatre group has experienced a kind of renaissance. As the literary

study group it has enlarged its traditional repertoire by such demanding productions as Max Frisch's 'Biedermann und die Brandstifter' or Georg Büchner's 'Woyzeck' which were presented earlier this year in excellent productions largely directed by the pupils. Thus, it is not only the actors who get their due, but also those who have a more analytical or experimental approach to literature. Take, for instance, the presentation of 'Time' in literature or in the production of experimental revues; one of these - on the question of Germany's unification - was a great success last year. With their public presentation these activities in the fields of music and literature provide essential focal events for the school community and at the same time fulfil the desire for "feedback" on the part of many pupils involved in the various performances and concerts.

After dealing with the above extracurricular activities at the Ratsgymnasium, which can be defined as forms of continuation of class-room teaching, I would now like to turn the reader's attention to those which can be grouped as leisure and hobby activities. Often dependent on trends and on more ephemeral or individual interests, these groups tend to be more transient than the ones described above.

However, one of these groups has been enjoying increasing popularity among our pupils for years, and hence great stability and success. The chess group, the brainchild of an individual teacher, includes pupils of all ages and levels of ability, and forms something of a combination of dilettantism and semi-professionalism. And it may be just that happy mix which can be regarded as the key to their great success in this year's national chess competition, in which they represented Nordrhein-Westphalia, finishing fourth.

Another very successful group is the photography workshop, largely consisting of upper school pupils doing panchromatic studies in the school's laboratory; but, to be honest, the technique and technology of video recording is becoming even more attractive, so that a video studio would be a desirable extension to the photographic laboratory - a project that at present exceeds the school's means.

On the other hand, there are activities or impulses still awaiting their chance, among them a school band, the 'Alternative School Concert' and 'Rock at the Rats' which last year showed that there is great interest and talent among our pupils but that they need the school's support, financially as well as technically. Most of these activities are the result of spontaneous ideas from enthusiastic pupils and, once in existence, they prove to be quite lively.

Finally I would like to point out the important function of the Pupils' Council as a representative body. On their own initiative they organise activities. Guided by upper-school pupils, they have for instance developed a system by which three upper-school pupils each look after a lower-school class, accompanying them on outings and trips, organising games and tournaments for them and visiting them during their three stays in our school hostel on the much-praised North Sea island of Langeoog. Our Abingdon friends, who may have visited it, might like to read a more detailed report of our activities and methods practised there. As this field has been and is covered regularly and in great detail in the Ratsgymnasium's annual publications, may it suffice to point out the success of projects as a way of testing the close link between curricular and extracurricular activities. Every class enjoys three visits at Langeoog. These are not just intended to be merely an 'evacuation' of our pupils to an 'enclave', but rather, to take up Erich Kästner's title, an opportunity to practise 'The Flying Classroom' as much as possible.

And that is a concept which allows me to make one or two final remarks. Essentially, extra-curricular activities should be an integral part of school; but the energies going into them are too valuable just to be instrumental in shaping and strengthening a school's profile. As I see it, the innovative effect is the more important element, embracing all fields of learning for life.

The extracurricular activities offered by a school may well be regarded as a reflection of its vitality; and I think it true to say that in this sense the Ratsgymnasium is a vital school.

Dieter Steffen.

Bethel Hospital



We have been very pleased to have Miss Conny Bitter back with us this year to spend a semester as assistant to the German Department. Shortly before leaving she offered us her thoughts on her experience as a member of Common Room.

CONNY'S VIEW ON ABINGDON

I was looking forward to coming back to Abingdon School because I had such a marvellous time when I was here for six weeks in September 1990. I came to the school to teach German and to learn English at the same time. However, my life extended beyond the regular school days. In my spare time I've been able to travel a lot round the UK. My favourite place so far has been Scotland and especially Edinburgh. I found the atmosphere of the city charming and pleasant, and this was emphasised and highlighted by the haunting castle overlooking the city itself.

I've also got to know well the English way of life. Going to cricket matches, castles, palaces and cathedrals, standing in queues, saying "please" and "thank you" (a lot), and, of course, sampling traditional English pubs and beer have all been part of England that I've enjoyed and will miss when I leave.

Learning to row I have spent some time on the river but more time in it! I find it very pleasant on the water in the evening as the darkness falls and the mist slowly clouds just above the water and the other crews creep past me. A lot of my pupils are often rowing at the same time as me and this makes it enjoyable - at least for them when they see me stuck in the river bank.

However, I also spend time in school and I have found it very different to what I was used to in Germany. Most obvious of all was the fact that the school was made up entirely of boys. This is a very rare occurrence in Germany, where the schools are mixed, but I find it a very pleasant situation here. I have enjoyed teaching most of the boys because they are relatively well behaved compared to German pupils. I've come to know people at the school who are not only English, and we have all had a good time together. I should be happy to come back every now and then, because we've had many laughs, not only improving my English, but also my Australian, Scottish, French and Russian. I think the variety of nationalities at the school is a good thing not only for the boys but also for the staff and one another. I hope the "exchanges" I have been lucky to be involved with will continue in future and give many people the chance to get to know a country different from their own.

Conny Bitter



Timothy Ward and Jonathan Winterbottom interviewed MP John Patten for Radio Oxford for which they were awarded a prize.

VIOLENCE IN OXFORD

The following is a short extract from an interview with John Patten, Member of parliament for Oxford West and Abingdon and Minister of State at the home Office, which was made for inclusion in our entry for the Hansard Society Local Radio Competition. The tape, entitled "Violence in Oxford", won the South-East regional prize in the 13-16 age group, and was later featured on Radio Oxford.

Q: What, in your opinion, is the main cause of violence in Oxford?

John Patten: When violence happens in Oxford it's the same as anywhere else in the country. It is a combination of a number of things, normally involving young men, usually between the ages of 16 and 25. First of all, they haven't learnt to control themselves and think that hitting people or sticking knives into them is a way of expressing their feelings. That's terrible since it means that the educational system has let them down and their families have also failed them. Secondly, it's very closely linked with alcohol. So many people who get taken down to the police station at St. Aldates and elsewhere after fights are so drunk that it's very difficult, so I understand, to sort out those who are the assailants and those who are the victims.

Q: Considering the large number of homeless people in Oxford, do you think the stark contrast between the relatively rich Oxford students and the homeless has anything to do with the violence?

John Patten: I think that the friction between these poor people who have got homelessness problems or who are, perhaps, addicted to drugs or alcohol, and the student body, but much more between young people who are in the town or who live in some of the big housing estates. Blackbird Leys or Marston for example, and the students, because their lifestyles are rather different, although they both sometimes focus on drink in the end.

Q: Do you think that a significant proportion of violence in Oxford is drink related?

John Patten: Yes. National figures available to me in the Home Office, where I am responsible for law-and-order issues in England and Wales, show that an increasing number of these young men who are brought down to the police station after a violent incident are rather the worse the wear for drink. The clearest links in my mind between drink and violence, and also people not having been educated in the home or in the school about the need to treat other people and their bodies with the same respect as they treat their own.

Q: On the continent there are many cafes where young people can meet and socialise, but in Britain there are only public houses where one feels obliged to have a drink. As drink-related violence is such a major factor, do you think that Britain has more violence because of this?

John Patten: No I don't. Indeed, Britain does not have more violence than our Western European neighbours. There was a large survey conducted by an international organisation, the results of which were published during the past year, of 14 Western European countries, and while Britain had got a bad record on things like car crime, which is the British disease, we actually have less violence, on average, than almost all of our Western European neighbours, which I think is rather heartening. That includes countries like France and Germany where you

have that sort of cafe society. If you are also asking me, as you maybe are, whether we should have more 'alcohol free pubs', places where young people could go, then I think the answer is yes and I am surprised that people don't see the commercial advantage of them.

We also talked to Mr. John Caulfield, the landlord of the Royal Oak in Oxford and to Sue Isles, a forensic psychiatrist who works with the homeless and the mentally ill. Mr. Caulfield suggested that the bar staff were inadequately trained to cope with dangerous situations, and Dr. Isles claimed that because many mentally ill people become homeless they feel resentment against society and often resort to violence.

However, the over-riding cause of violence in Oxford and other cities is alcohol. Because of this, whatever is done to improve the situation will be a long term solution, and therefore violence in Oxford looks set to continue for many years to come.

T. Ward & J. Winterbottom

POLITICS

Politics had another vigorous and active year. The Michaelmas term saw a day conference in the Amey Hall set up by The Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government, for Sixth Formers, both from our own and from neighbouring schools. Speakers included Andrew Adonis of Nuffield College (now the Financial Times) on Europe, Mr. Cyril Townsend, M.P., Mr. Bruce Kent, Ms. Beverley Anderson and Sir William Goodhart Q.C. who between them covered, in stimulating form, a wide range of current political issues.

The Sixth Form Politics sets spent their customary day in London in the Lent term. They took in the Bow street Magistrates Court, the Courts of Appeal. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, will soon come to know of our annual visit to his Court. Lord Stoddart of Swindon organised their visit to Question Time in the House Of Lords, and this was followed by a short evening visit to the Strangers' Gallery in the Commons with the intervening time taken by a visit to The Select Committee on Agriculture, discussing the disposal of dead stock, which completed the day.

One of our entries in The Hansard Society/B.B.C. Local Radio Competition was successful and Jonathon Winterbottom and Tim Ward won the under-16 competition for London and the South-East region with their tape concerning street crime in Oxford. They had extensive Press coverage and an extended interview on B.B.C. Radio Oxford and were entertained at Westminster by the Rt. Hon. John Patten, M.P. who presented their prize.

Once again the Politics set achieved their usual excellent Advanced-Level results with 66% gaining A or B grades in the examination.

N.K.H.

A recent innovation in School life has been the Headmaster's book review competition. The four following reviews won prizes in their respective categories.

THE JOKE by MILAN KUNDERA

The purposefully tacky cover and the nonplussingly arrogant introduction do not heighten the initial appeal of the "authorised translation" of Milan Kundera's book 'The Joke' to prospective readers. I chose it, having read 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being', a moving account of life in Prague in the aftermath of the 1968 Soviet invasion from the contrasting perspectives of three characters. I found 'The Joke' to be a surprisingly modest and self-contained novel, the antithesis of its preface, dissimilar in many ways to 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being', although certain traits are displayed by characters in both books, and one of the underlying themes in both, indeed common to all his work, is his evident love for Czechoslovakia, her people and her culture.

Kundera has often been compared to other renowned contemporary writers in the so-called "realist" bracket, notably Ginter Grass, Salmaan Rushdie and Gabriel García Marquez. Even in such distinguished company, the aspect of Kundera's work to which I am attracted most is his sheer lack of pretentiousness, and 'The Joke' is a paragon. 'The Tin Drum', 'Midnight's Children' and 'One Hundred Years Of Solitude' are all great works in their own right but they lose some of their impact in their ascent into the surreal, and the perpetual aggrandisement of their principle characters. Kundera has the opposite tendency, rather like his fellow Czech by birth, Franz Kafka. Kafka's last words in the 'The Trial' are "like a dog!" and this illustration is equally suitable for Kundera. In 'The Joke', his several themes are woven beautifully into a physically anti-climactic but emotionally heightened finale as Ludvik, the undeniably hedonistic hero who has rebelled against all tradition and conformity since adolescence, returns, his love-torn mind finally at rest, to his childhood base where his oldest friend, now the lacrymose and severely ill man who has for years almost single-handedly maintained the folk traditions in the Theravian countryside, invites him to play with the folk-band for the evening. Symbolically his friend, Jaroshev, collapses pitifully as the band, exalted almost psychedelically by the music, continues to play to a coldly indifferent audience.

The crux of the story is a postcard sent by Ludvik to his girlfriend- the original 'joke'- interpreted as a subversive parody of the Kremlin dictated ideology. The element of the Kafkaesque imagery can be seen in the subsequent scenes as we watch the progression of his increasingly futile attempts to clear his name while the original "crime" becomes blown out of all proportion without ever being elucidated entirely.

Eroticism makes an appearance in all Kundera's novels, but 'The Joke' stands apart a little in its particular character study of Lucie, the girl encountered by Ludvik when on parole from the labour-camp, befriended initially for nothing more than his sexual satisfaction. The narrative homes in quickly and intently on Lucie's clear distinction between love and sexuality (later to be abused) which confuses Ludvik and which prompts his careful introspective analysis. 'The Joke' is an entertaining story, but its tremendous value to me, especially as a foreign reader, has been the fascinating insight, both uplifting, and at times melancholic, into a surprisingly different culture.

R. Murdoch VI NKH

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES by THOMAS HARDY

Thomas Hardy is always pictured as one of the great nineteenth century authors and therefore sometimes avoided by fourteen year olds because of this.

However, despite Hardy's "heavy" reputation, I found Tess of the D'Urbervilles refreshingly speedy, with a pace that kept up through the book, as we followed our heroine's increasing misfortunes. For misfortunes they certainly are, but the poor girl's increasingly heavy burden of woes only make the book more readable. Hardy's ability to tell stories means that the story does not slow down along the way, and so you stay gripped to the page, wondering what will happen to her next.

A brief resumé of the story reveals this. The story begins when a peasant is informed that he belongs to a long lineage of great local standing. He decides to send his beautiful daughter Tess to greet their new found kin. When she goes to the D'Urberville house, she is met by the son, Alec, who is instantly attracted by her. He takes her into the house as a servant, but later takes advantage of her after a country ball, and she conceives his child. Distraught, she leaves and returns home with the baby. She is shunned by the family. The baby dies, unchristened, and she buries it, after rightly naming it Sorrow. Tess moves away from the village and becomes a dairy maid, where she is happy and falls in love with Angel Clare, a man far above her station. She marries him, but when he hears of Sorrow, much personal anguish ensues, and he terminates his marriage to Alec. However, after many twists of fortune, Tess, finally driven to distraction by Alec murders him. It is shortly after that Angel Clare returns and forgives her. For her action Tess is hunted and to be hanged.

The plot grips, but even if you did not enjoy the drama, Hardy's natural flair for description, both his wonderful countryside, and rural images and his animated descriptions of local characters are wonderfully evocative. All this combines to build one big canvas of the colourful rural life of the nineteenth century. One of Hardy's many skills is his ability to write the landscape into the scene. For instance, after the country ball Tess is whirled away into the forest by Alec; and the feeling one gets is of dark oppression. Hardy illustrates this: "Darkness and silence ruled everywhere. Above them rose the primeval yews and oaks.....but where was Tess' guardian angel now?" And later, when Tess finds some months of real happiness, Hardy uses sunshine and greenery to evoke this feeling. When Tess meets Alec again, she is pulling turnips in winter, and he comes as Evil to meet her. "The day hardened in colour... the wide acreage of blank agricultural brownness...nothing relieved the joyless monotony of things." And, finally, when Tess is captured, she is found at Stonehenge, where she lies on the slab of stone as if "on an altar". "The band of silver paleness..made even the distant parts of the Great Plain appear dark and near". Hardy talks of the sun's "hesitation" just as the men hesitate before they come to take her away.

The book is timeless in its plot, full of the kind of prejudices and double standards still known today. I thoroughly recommend it, both for the plot, and for its rendering of a now extinct rural England.

P. Gresford. 4CJB.

INNUMERACY : MATHEMATICAL ILLITERACY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES by JOHN ALLEN PAULOS

"A man who travels a lot was concerned about the possibility of a bomb on board his plane. He determined the probability of this, found it to be low but not low enough for him, so now he always travels with a bomb in his suitcase. He reasons that the probability two bombs being on board would be infinitesimal."

It is a sad fact of today's world that poor education, psychologically blocks and romantic misconceptions about mathematics have made a large proportion of the population innumerate. While most British people can count, perform simple calculations and perhaps remember some geometry, most find the application of mathematics to everyday life an onerous task. Yet if we are to live in a society rapidly becoming a technical meritocracy, and are to resist the false claims of advertisers, charlatans and pseudoscientists, we urgently need a little healthy skepticism about statistics, probability and coincidence.

In his book, John Allen Paulos (who uses his middle name to distinguish himself from the Pope) brings together many observations and anecdotes in an attempt to make accessible the sheer beauty and power of mathematics - and to put the fun back into facts and figures. Paulos is a distinguished mathematician and a regular contributor to the most specialised academic journals, but his style is captivating and his aim is to "require nothing more than common sense and arithmetic.

The first chapter is a general introduction to probability theory and statistics. Those who balk at the mention of fearsome tortures such as plane geometry or calculus need fear nothing : the topics are treated slowly and good-naturedly, and Paulos' style never becomes patronising. Moderately advanced and complex-sounding mathematical laws, the "multiplication principle" or the "binomial probability distribution", for example, become as simple and familiar as subtraction or division. Pretenders to the throne of mathematical literacy are not allowed to sit back with a sense of self-satisfaction either ; the task of explaining why, with each breath we take, we are overwhelmingly likely to inhale a breath of air exhaled by Henry V during his speech at Agincourt, is challenging for the ablest of undergraduates. Paulos answers his question in two concise paragraphs.

The next section deals with coincidence. Paulos states that "a tendency drastically to underestimate the frequency of coincidence is a prime characteristic of innumerates." The widely known fact that President Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln while President Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy seems, at first, to be proof of some wondrous harmony that holds the universe together. But, when regarded mathematically, this proof does not hold: there is a minuscule chance that anyone, specified "coincidence" will occur, but because there are so many ways in which a similar "coincidence" could come about (there is nothing special about the names Lincoln and Kennedy - try Bush and Major) that it is a virtual certainty that one will be noticed. If it is, hordes of astrologers,

numerologists and other pseudoscientists will seize it as the clinching proof of their beliefs, without bothering to consider the mathematics. We should know better.

Pseudoscientists and their claims are the main concern of the final chapters of "Innumeracy". John Allen Paulos devotes much time and space to the cause of demonstrating - in the most entertaining fashion - how many so-called verifications of their arts (as distinct from sciences) are the product of nothing more than chance. It was William Lowper who wrote that "To follow foolish precedents, and wink with both our eyes, is easier than to think". For this is what we do if we share the conviction that the position of the planets at our births, and their consequent gravitational attraction, can affect our personalities, when it can be shown that the gravitational pull of the delivering obstetrician far exceeds that of Jupiter. Astrologers, parapsychologists and numerologists are shown to rely on the innumeracy of the general population, as they make predictions and statements, dressed in flowery language, that are either impossible to falsify, or painfully obvious. A mathematically literate society would treat them with the contempt Paulos is sure they deserve.

Our world would be unrecognisably different if the average person truly understood the ideas put forward in this marvellous and important little book. "Innumeracy: Mathematical Illiteracy and its consequences" is fun to read, informative, and darkly humorous, but its greatest quality is that it is one of the few books that has a real chance of changing society for the better. I would strongly urge anyone to read it.

T. Ward 4RGH





THE WIFE OF MARTIN GUERRE by JANET LEWIS

Blinking when reading Janet Lewis's 'The Wife of Martin Guerre', is not advisable. In a book which bends itself to bus stops, boring sermons and other places reserved for casual reading, to blink would be to miss a large proportion of this volume's ninety-four pages. It is a short little book, but brevity alone cannot be responsible for a tale that initially passes across the consciousness with all the impression of a fly's footprints in sand.

To lampoon this slender affair out of hand, however, would not do its creator, Janet Lewis, full justice. A definitive effort has here been made to bring what the publishers call 'this famous incident which took place in sixteenth-century France' to life; namely, the discovery by a wealthy peasant farmer's wife, that her husband, returning after eight years' wanderings, is an impostor, and the subsequent tribulations of her existence, ending in a courtroom drama in which the real husband finally appears. At least in its conception therefore, it is a tragedy.

Yet in all other respects it is a farce, a fiasco, a débâcle. There are many indications that Miss Lewis was inclined to treat this simply as an empathetic exercise; the result, however, is apathy. It is far too obvious from the beginning that the narrator is twentieth century; furthermore, that the experiences she relates are psychologically alien to her and that finally she is attempting to reconstruct a folk tale by techniques that are not applicable to an historical novel, and therefore fail abysmally.

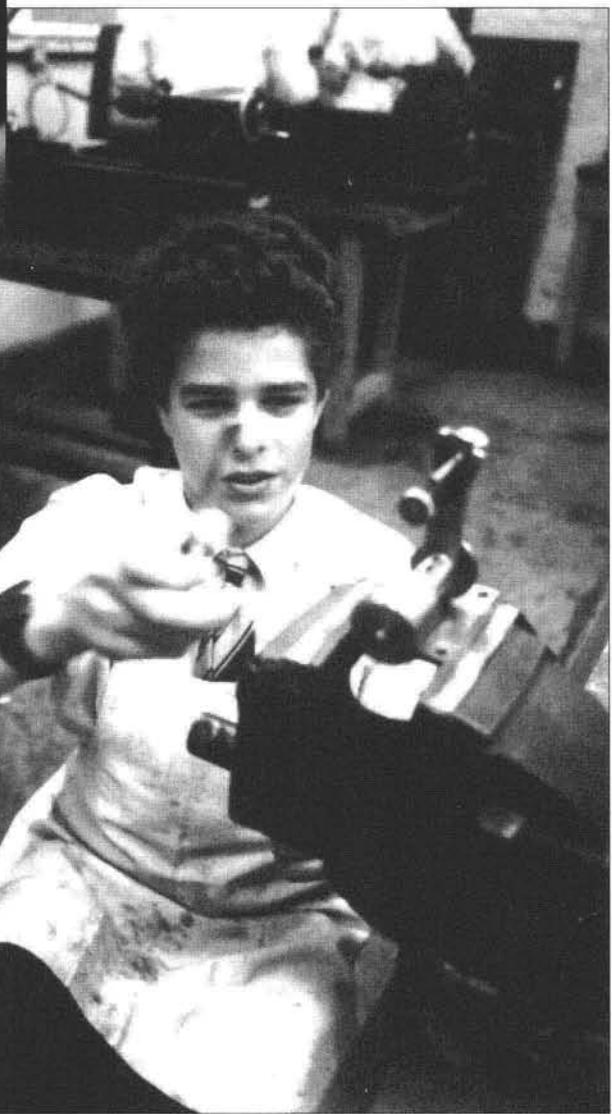
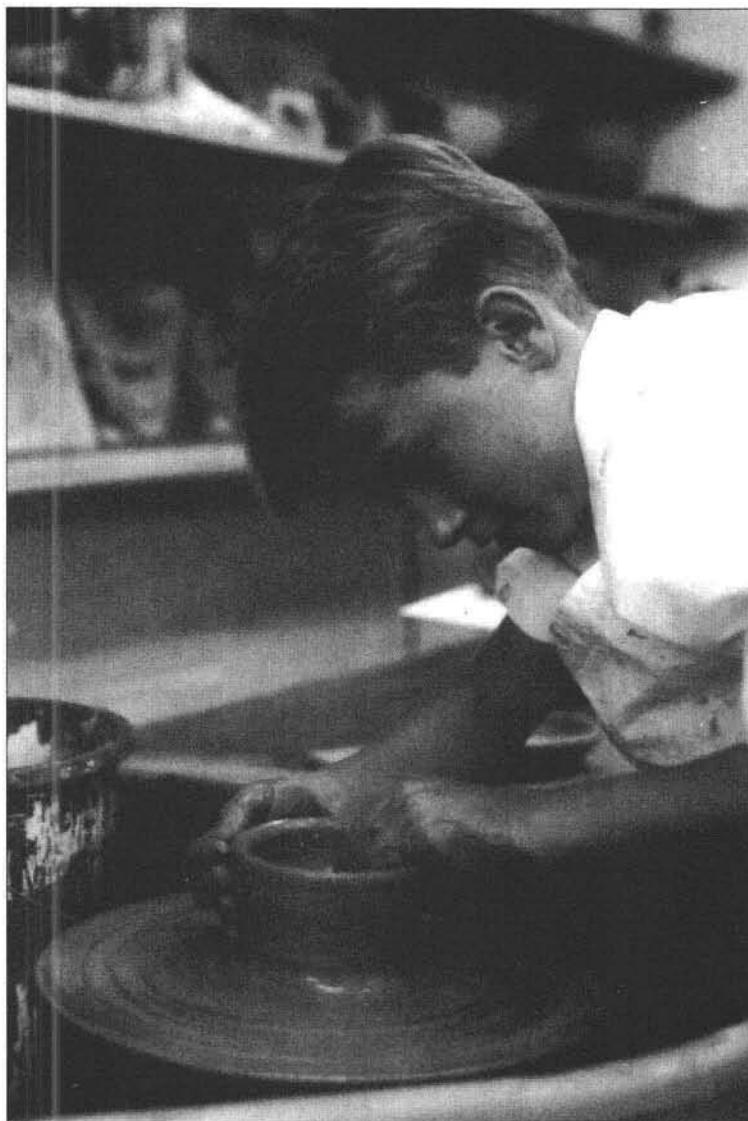
The scenery echoes the front-cover in its depiction of bright colours as somehow indigenous not only to sixteenth-century life in general but to the Pyrenean countryside. The descriptions of scenery, whilst real enough, convey a picture-book landscape which indicates the artificial imagination at work in a twentieth-century city-dweller. Miss Lewis manages to idealise rural life to such an extent that we might as well be in a clinic. We are in a world, moreover, where it never seems to rain. Such idealising of the environment, to the extent that even the killing of pigeons is perceived as some kind of surgical operation, is clearly much more suited to the realm of children's stories and Communist propaganda.

It would certainly be ambitious to extol this book, not wrong to despise it. If its cover is slightly too bright, the descriptions slightly too coloured and make-believe, the characters too bland, this is nevertheless a fine exercise in the generation of revenue. Some have embraced its brevity as 'the current of the story that carries you along': in reality, this neglect of time gives the reader a feeling of jet-lag - having just immersed oneself in one scene, one is ruthlessly, brutally dragged some years into the future; proper recuperation and a refocusing on a subsequent episode is denied by Janet Lewis's narrative 'time-bus' which whisk us off to yet another destination.

Most disturbing of all is the want of some grand unifying theme. At the end of this novel, all one is left with is lofty sentiments. Is this meant to compensate for thematic deficiency? Or is it the theme itself? Most amusing of all is the elevation of the superficial emotions described by Miss Lewis to the status of "love and hate". No doubt four hundred years ago emotions in this part of France were running high, but Miss Lewis seems to have taken their consequent subsidence over twice two centuries and interpreted it as the initial condition. In what is intended to be a dramatic climax, the 'eternal triangle' of the wife, her husband, and the impostor before the justices of Toulouse, the reader is reminded of the language of some contemporary soap opera. Indeed, the impostor's symbolic (Miss Lewis would have us believe 'noble') silence on this occasion reminds one most unfortunately of the wooden passivity of most actors involved in these soap operas. At the end one is left wondering what it was all about- this is due somewhat to the speed with which one has spanned the gap of twenty years, working out at a year every four pages- and is acutely conscious of the world of intricate emotional climax perfected by Thomas Hardy or the intensity of such scenes in D.H. Lawrence. Of course, it would be fallacious to condemn this because it does not meet the standards of these two great literary figures, but one should at least be able to acknowledge its aspiration to such heights. Unfortunately this ninety-four page affair looks rather upwards at the exalted emotions of Mrs. Cartland.

To call this little book a tragedy would be to include it in company that would be most offended by such a comparison. There is no grand unifying theme - myself, I like my grand unifying themes and miss them when they do not appear. There are no characters of complexity, or interest and all attempt at serious didacticism (of which there is more than one example) degenerates quickly into platitudes. However, the most worrying feature of this work is that it is attracting such praise in certain unofficial literary circles; to whom I say, it is high time you compared this to acknowledged authors. What was essentially a folk tale is still a folk tale: what has been described as an author is little better than a pamphleteer.

E. Paleit



BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

On the afternoon of 22 August a group of approximately 20 Upper Sixth biologists accompanied by Mr. Watkins and Dr. Wilmore left for Nettlcombe Court Field Centre near Minehead.

On arrival students and coach driver alike were welcomed. It was then that the driver waved us goodbye and we realised that we were stranded! After supper we attended a brief lecture at which the academically inclined discovered the plan of work for the week, and the more easily distracted found that our group included three girls from Rye St. Antony's, Oxford.

The first day's investigation took place on a sheltered rocky shore on the Severn estuary and a day of barnacle counting and seaweed appreciation commenced under blistering sunshine. The studies involved one major dilemma - the choice of footwear. Too casual and you struggle for grip on the lethal mud flats, too sturdy and you run the risk of being unfashionable for no good reason. One of our number elected to compete on high risk deck shoes and paid the price for such a cavalier attitude by way of a horizontal sojourn in the 'Severn slime'.

We returned to the Centre for supper followed by data collection and analysis. This was invariably followed by discussion of the trends and patterns recognisable from our data and we made any conclusions which were relevant. By this time it had become obvious that basic amenities as televisions had not yet reached the Centre. 'Neighbours' addicts became difficult when deprived of their fix.

The second day offered the opportunity to get sodden in freshwater, and so we donned wellingtons and trooped along the nearby stream. We collected invertebrates from the stream by the refined method of kick sampling. This involves placing a net into the stream and booting the river bed towards it - simple and reasonably effective. Taking our catch back to the classroom we identified our organisms by use of dichotomous keys and released them later. We then picked our favourite freshwater invertebrate and prepared a brief talk on them for presentation to the rest of the group.

The third day centred on the study of the regeneration of heather on the Quantock Hills. This involved much use of exceptionally sturdy heavy duty quadrats. Undaunted by the predictable strength of our fieldwork implements, one of the more destructive members of our group proceeded to put his head through the quadrat within two minutes of it being issued to him. The quadrat was a write-off. Overawed by the species diversity among heather of different ages, we returned to collate, discuss and conclude.

Sunday was a less strenuous day and despite the proximity of a church, the attraction seemed to lie in the graveyard. No spiritual encounters were proved beyond doubt, though some members of the group seemed very easy to convince.

The following day was A level project day. After selecting a topic of interest, we gathered in small groups to plan and execute our fieldwork. One group, in true ecological spirit, conducted a twenty-four study, staying out all night to study the relations between individuals and their environment. Once the data had been satisfactorily collected and the statistical tests applied, groups were required to give a short resumé on the day's progress and first impressions of any emerging pattern.

The final day was filled comparing two very different woodland habitats, involving quadrats of various dimen-

sions and also clinometers and light meters to build up a picture of the two study areas. By 4.00 a.m. it was, alas. time to leave. The enigmatic coach driver returned and we boarded our coach, one week older, exhausted, but ecologically enlightened.

A. Smith VIW

ABINGDON ENTERPRISES

With each new lower sixth year, so comes a new Abingdon Enterprises. This year Abingdon Enterprises, was comprised of fourteen business studies students. The idea was first put to us in the early part of the Michaelmas Term, by Miss. L. Milligan. Elections of positions then took place, to decide on who was going to be what. We had to decide upon a project to undertake that would make us all young entrepreneurs. It was eventually to be the sales of postcards in picture frames, which we sold to members of the school. Enough capital was raised to undertake our second project. Whilst decid-



ing this, the tuck shop closed down. Miss Milligan then approached the headmaster, to see whether Enterprises could undertake its running, and, of course, we seized the opportunity. Robert Stanworth was appointed Managing Director and Robert Schofield, Personnel Manager and Company Secretary.

Soon the opening ceremony of the new school tuckshop took place. A lot of hard work ensued. The first problem was the actual purchasing of food, as the cash and carry was in Oxford and so members had to use their charm to persuade teachers to take them there.

The second problem, was to share the work equally, a task that was more difficult than it seemed. And the most popular food? Well, it was not sweets, but doughnuts!

By the time we were used to running the tuck shop it was time for our successors to take over. At present, the tuck shop has re-opened under new management and we wish them the best of luck!

Many thanks to everybody who was involved and in particular Miss Milligan.

R. Schofield VIS

The following contributions were received from pupils at both extremes of the School.

A First Form Entrant

I have never contemplated in my wildest dreams a year passing as quickly as this one has. September 5th 1990 is still very vivid in my memory; I was a bewildered eleven year old following boys much older than myself who knew the school like the backs of their hands. They were going about their routines, and I was standing there, watching them. As I watched all these people, I felt my self-confidence melt, as I realised I didn't know what was going to happen next. Half an hour later, my nerves had calmed down a bit, and I began to look around. When I entered Main School, I was still just as bewildered as before. Every time I thought, "I know where I am", a new place would spring up, to confuse me.

Now that I am pretty sure that I know the school like the back of my hand, I find it hard to think that ten months ago, I stood outside the Lower School eating a Mars Bar, and staring goggle-eyed at the huge area that lay before me. As this year draws to a close, I can't believe that I have seen so many school events, and so many different aspects of school life.

B.K.Young 1W

A Sixth Form Entrant

Public schoolboys - overbearingly intellectual, unfashionable, hard-working, precocious, and upper class; at least, this was my preconceived impressions of such people. However, after attending Abingdon School for a year, my opinions have mellowed somewhat.

When I arrived on the first day of term, the buildings seemed to bear out my initial ideas - dominating, old architecture, which the school was so proud of. The first few days were uneventful, with pupils treating me with the same respect as a new item of furniture! Teachers, however, tried to treat me as though I was not new, though with little success. I realised I was new, so did they, and so did the pupils.

However, after two weeks, I was beginning to become known, and was not as intimidated by the school way of life. I now knew and recognised many of the main characters within the school, such as the 'metal' fraternity, the 'Indie' brigade, the rowers, and the rugby 'lads'. It seemed that there were many groups within the school, but everyone got on with everyone else.

What was noticeably different from my previous state school was the lack of a true school 'uniform'. Sixth formers, in particular, were allowed leeway to show individuality, which was pleasing, and I no longer felt I was at a "school", but more that it was a place of learning. It certainly was, for lessons were, on the whole, far more stimulating, and more demanding than my previous school. Prep., (for it was no longer called "homework") called for careful planning of evenings, so as not to spend too much time on one subject.

Generally, the pupils were friendly, and I was surprised at the politeness everyone showed one another. At a State, courtesy was practically unheard of, and respect was only ever shown to teachers, and very rarely to other pupils.

The size of the school was particularly intimidating, and I pity any new first year. Not only were the buildings old and large, containing many rooms, but there were also buildings for lessons five minutes walk away, down a public street. This idea, I found difficult to grasp, walking down a public street to lessons! Once arrived at the buildings, there was then the business of finding they looked like normal detached houses, with personal names such as Whitefields.

However, what was even more difficult to come to terms with was Saturday school. I had never once in my life attended school on a Saturday. Saturday used to be a relaxing day-waking up late (usually recovering from the night before), watching sport, and then going out in the evening. This was no longer the case. Saturday now consisted of waking up at 7.00 and if sport was being taken seriously, not arriving home again until maybe 5.00 pm. It took a while to become used to this, but now it seems like just another school day.

After a year at Abingdon School, my image of public school boys has disappeared (mainly because I, too, am now one). Nevertheless, the school gave me a friendly and welcoming atmosphere when I first arrived, which certainly enabled me to settle in all the more quickly.

J.Grayling 6B

A Leaver's Views

Since leaving the school and actually having the time to read the newspapers I came across a quote that made me reflect upon my time at Abingdon. The quote, 'The most important things in education are the ones you can't measure' by Dr. Eric Anderson, headmaster of Eton, helped me understand why all the extra curricular activities are important in building up qualities and finding out more about yourself in preparation for life.

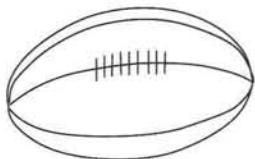
Abingdon provides an excellent service in ensuring everybody finds their own little niche, which offers them the opportunity to explore new limits. When I think about what I have accomplished at the school my thoughts turn not primarily to the educational side but rather to the activities I embarked on. I have been with various school parties to Iceland, Germany, France, Holland and Austria, as well as seeming to have covered every point of this country. This encourages an awareness of varied types opportunities that are on offer in the world. The consequence is that such activities provide confidence in taking on different tasks in due course.

Furthermore, I have always been impressed by the friendliness of people at the school and also the marked cooperative spirit. As I come to the point of leaving I know quite a few people who have said that the school has changed their outlook on life and are grateful to it. I in turn must claim to be one of these.

J. Denée VIP



RUGBY



FIRST XV

Despite losing four main rugby pitches at the start of term The Rugby Club enjoyed a hugely successful season. The combined total of games won exceeded those lost and there were excellent records achieved by the 1st XV, Colts 'A', Juniors and Minors age groups.

1st XV. Captain: Spencer Hickson.

P 11. W 8. D 0. L 3. For 211. Against 90.

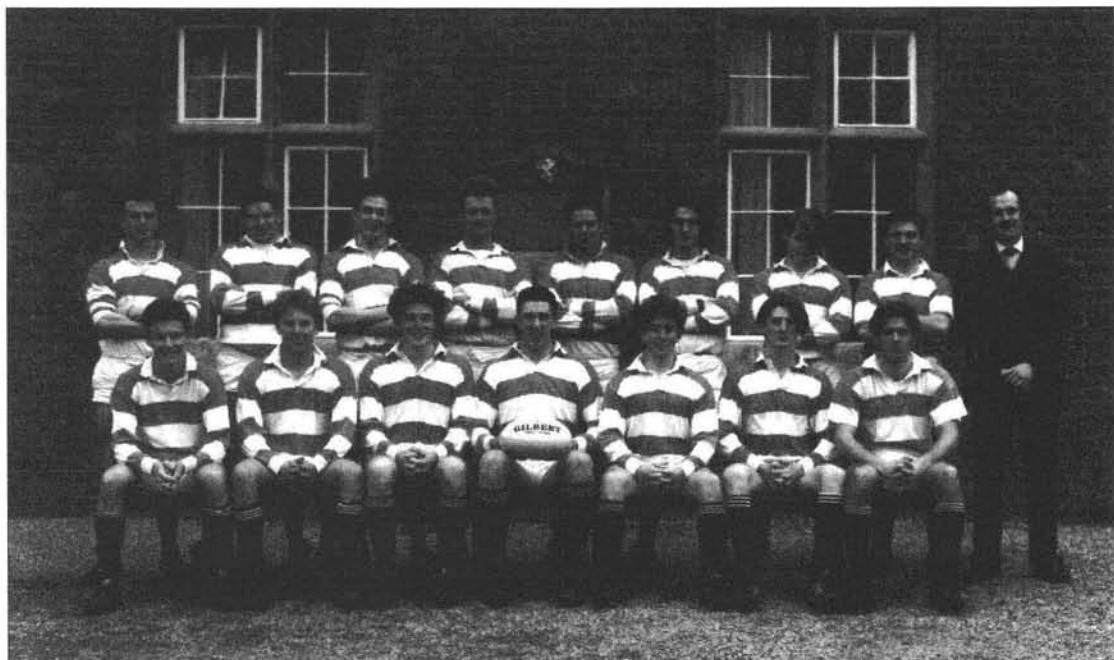
The 1st XV enjoyed a memorable season, not simply because they scored 42 tries (an average of almost four per match), but because the manner and style of their performances epitomised everything that is good about rugby football. Their desire to play an expansive, open game was always evident and this earned them a well deserved reputation

from the schools on our circuit. On reflection there were many highlights, however, the defeats of Marlborough away (16-4) and Warwick home (20-3) must rank as the best, it is some years since we have beaten both teams in the same season.

At the start of the season the traditional Douai festival was cancelled because of hard grounds and the lack of physical contact meant we were not really prepared for a well organised and battle hardened Bloxham. It was our first game, their third, and the scoreline reflected this. With a howling wind at our backs it was crucial to score points in the first half. A neat well taken try by Charlie Wakefield and penalty by Jo Allen gave us a good start but slack defence allowed them to reply with a unconverted try prior to half-time. The second half, like the

first, was dominated by the elements and it proved impossible to escape from the 22. This, plus the inevitable lack of match practice resulted in a 7-16 final scoreline; a great pity, since we knew we would have reversed the result had the game been played later in the term.

The defeat at Bloxham was followed by an excellent performance at Magdalen. In a superb display of attacking rugby seven tries were scored, with Ben Birks and skipper Hickson each grabbing a brace. A great win and a massive confidence booster just before Radley. This fixture is always very difficult but this year we were up against a side that had toured in New Zealand and Fiji prior to the beginning of their domestic season. A brave and determined display was witnessed but in the end the Radley forwards were simply too strong although we can take a



great deal of credit in losing 15-0.

Having taken such a battering at Radley we were even more determined to beat Shiplake. A tentative start soon gave way to glorious open rugby and a five try haul was returned. At Marlborough the home eight were small, light but aggressive and it took a committed and disciplined effort by the forwards to lay the foundations for victory. The match will be remembered for two tremendous tries. Martin Scott-Brown showing great pace and vision sliced through the home defence from the 22 metre line and James Tilley as elusive as ever first cut inside and then outside two defenders to score near the posts.

Victories against Newbury, Reading and Douai realised almost 100 points with only 17 conceded and provided the confidence required for] the last two difficult games. Warwick were extremely big up front and their backs were quick and elusive. Having soaked up a great deal of pressure in the first quarter we finally got a grip on the proceedings. Early ball was delivered to Andrew Lyon who started to dictate at half-back. Four excellent tries were scored, none better than the support play that led to John Richards scoring in the corner.

The St Edwards game having at first been snowed off was re-scheduled for the following Tuesday, but it proved a disappointing anti-climax. The result was more than St. Edwards deserved but in the final analysis they were too strong in the forwards.

In all levels of sport it is important to win, but it is the manner in which victory is achieved that people remember and in some respects there can be admiration in defeat. I have the utmost regard for all those that made it into this 1st XV. Their comradeship and willingness to practice hard will serve as an example to future 1st XV's and their determination and dedication to play open rugby reared great success. Such achievements are based on teamwork but a massive amount of credit must go to Spencer Hickson whose captaincy went from strength to strength. He led by example with a mature and positive approach that was always able to extract the very best from those around him. I had enormous respect for his captaincy and playing ability and wish him all the success in the future.

There were others who impressed and gained fine reputations. Ben Birks finished the season as leading try scorer with 32 points. His hard, direct running was a constant threat and his inspiration behind the scrum-mage always to the fore. Andrew Lyon has always been a total enigma but he will not have had a finer season. An ever alert if unpredictable player he was always capable of producing something out of nothing. For this alone he was more than worth his place in the team. The back row of Ben Pilling, Greg Thomson and Rob Milne played well as a unit. Pilling was excellent in attack, had good hands and was always looking

to set things up. Thomson and Milne were always sniping behind the backs with the latter having the uncanny knack of being in the right place at the right time. The front row of Ralph Winter, Scott Milne and Theo Ratcliff confronted some very large and difficult opponents but they never succumbed, instead they fought tenaciously to secure their own ball. Andy Ashley and Hickson were a fine pairing at lock, their mobility being a major part of the team's success. Of the backs none impressed more than the wings Tilley and Richards. The latter began the season tentatively but having gained selection through Wakefield's unfortunate injury, he never looked back. Tilley was our most feared player. His elusiveness, speed and change of pace was exciting to watch and he was undoubtedly our most potent attacker. Scott-Brown, at full back made the team after two games, but his secure defence and pace in attack justified his inclusion. Ben Miller at centre improved as the term went on and his finest hour came in the Douai game where two fine tries easily made him our best player. Jo Allen although at first lacking in confidence soon began to assume the fly half role and by the end of the season was orchestrating events behind the pack. He is a very talented player and should improve still further next year when much will be expected of him.

And finally, once again I must thank all those coaches who have contributed so much throughout the season, but in particular to Jon Gabitass and Andrew Trotman who are leaving us for pastures new. Both have contributed immensely to Abingdon rugby over the years and their loss will be a bitter blow. However, there is much to be optimistic about and the results of last season seem to indicate that the future could indeed be rosy.

RESULTS

Bloxham	L	7-16
Pangbourne	W	17-10
M.C.S	W	30-3
Radley	L	0-15
Shiplake	W	24-6
Marlborough	W	16-6
Newbury	W	12-0
Reading	W	54-0
Douai	W	31-17
Warwick	W	20-3
St.Edwards	L	0-16

County honours went to: S Hickson*; B Birks*; A Lyon*; J Tilley*. Other members: M Scott-Brown*; J Richards*; B Miller*; J Allen*; R Winter*; S Milne*; T Ratcliff*; A Ashley*; R Milne*; B Pilling*; G Thomson*; C Wakefield; M Lyon; D Johnson; L Golding; M Mowat.

* denotes 1st XV colours.

THIRD AND FOURTH XV'S

The season was disrupted with four games cancelled due to bad weather and we had the further inconvenience of having to train at Abingdon Rugby Club. We made a belated start, against Bloxham under the leadership of 'Big Bird' (Ed Atkins). An initial conceded score was avenged by a flurry of tries liberally distributed throughout the team. Those who sought the glory included Adrian Mutton, Jon Twinn, Phil Page, Russell Roan, Joff Dorkings (2 tries) and Mike Bowen, with a sheer self-indulgent hat-trick of tries. Anyone who had missed out on fame had a chance make up for it against M.C.S. Played in very blustery conditions, there was forward domination in the set pieces and in the loose and there was good, open play by the backs. Neil McLellan, Richard Barry, Kris Bevan, Andy Glynn-Mills and Phil Page all scored tries. Our outstanding record and our egos were boosted further by a win over the seconds in a training game. And then came the 'Radley Massacre'...

After a lot of fast running backwards even Mr. Stevenson's mathematical genius was unable to keep up with the score. The few who made it off the field alive at least had the consolation of plentiful teas and were astounded to learn that the fourths had managed the not inconsiderable feat of running backwards even faster than us and thus conceding even more points.

Several weeks later came our most memorable game, played away against Marlborough. After Radley we were fully determined to win this game. The forwards played superbly and the backs ran the ball determinedly and were also stolid in defence. It was all too good to last and in the third quarter of the game in a lapse of concentration a spate of missed tackles led to a rapid 14 points being compiled against us. The time had arrived for serious retaliation. Ed Atkins realised the need for firm leadership and took the initiative with a quick vomiting session. This enabled us to win a ruck inside our twenty-two which the backs followed up with a show of slick running and passing. The ball finally reached Jez Whetter who, having made a miraculous recovery from an apparently lacerated hand, adroitly cruised through the Marlborough defence to score us a hard-earned try.

The match against Pangbourne was, in the words of M.St.J.Parker "a closely contested game which could quite easily have gone either way". Unfortunately it went the wrong way as Pangbourne infuriatingly scored the winning try in the final minute. There was 100% commitment from all the team although in the forwards Andrew Wood and Richard Barry played exemplary roles and in the backs Ed Nolan made some determined runs.

After two games in which luck had eluded us, by way of light relief we encountered Douai, a game in which Pete Powell and Jim Burt made their debuts.

The final game of the season was against Warwick; a stronger side but everyone played superbly, not least Mark Webster in his guest capacity as lock. Man of the Match was undoubtedly Kristian Bevan who played outstandingly as full-back. As throughout the season, he was given infinite tackling practice, saving us from many an embarrassment by rarely missing a tackle and making superb counter-attacking runs.

In terms of results sheets Abingdon has surely produced more successful Fourth XV's in the past; 128 points were conceded whilst 4 points were acquired. With this singularly impressive tally, the

gauntlet has been thrown down to generations of future Abingdonian Fourth XV's. The zenith of the season was Joe Gold's stunning try. However the most memorable moment must surely be Razly Wan's masterful application of his martial arts skills in a judo throw upon a Radley player - fortunately the referee did not notice! The season was immensely enjoyable for all those who played in Game 2 and most fourth team players also played for the thirds. The whole squad would like to thank Mr. Collins and Mr. Stevenson for their commitment and for making the season so enjoyable.

N. Laing VIS

Played for the Third XV:
 Bevan, Nolan, Bowen, Twinn, McLellan, Roan, Atkins, Mutton, Barry, Page, Laing, Glynn-Mills, Skala, Hirst, Whetter, Smith, Rayner, Newman, Dorkings, Gold, Thomson, Williamson, Wood, Powell, Burt

Played for the Fourth XV:
 Cooke, Davison, Randall, Jones, R. Davies, Howlin, Gold, Lord, Razly Wan, Kinsella, Whittaker, Dippe, Powell, Burt, Pipe, Hartley, Carter, Thomson, Newman, Sadler, Smith

Results:	3rd XV	4th XV
Bloxham	W42-4	
MCS	W38-0	
Radley	L0-46	L0-62
Shiplake		L0-22
Marlborough	L6-14	L0-32
Pangbourne	L8-14	
Cokethorpe		L4-10
Douai	W24-0	
Warwick	L6-12	



SECOND XV

P 10 W 6 D 1 L 3 F 170 A 70

Despite losing tough games against Radley, Marlborough and Warwick, the Second XV still managed to record some fine victories against MCS (34 - 0), Newbury (29 - 0), Reading (33 - 0) and Douai (29 - 3). There was a healthy try count and the side was admirably led by Steffan Hutchings at scrum-half.

COLTS RUGBY

In last year's Abingdonian report AMB remarked that this was a group of players who had a notable 'determination to succeed', who 'did not like losing' and who showed dedication and enthusiasm. These characteristics were very much in evidence again this year and were rewarded by a good playing record, only two games being lost of the ten played.

Pre-season training began at the end of August under hot sun and on bone-hard grassless pitches. (The effect of the drought on the pitches was a difficulty that affected all the rugby club throughout the term.) Attendance and attitude were good and augured well for the season. The complete squad was large in number and this made it particularly unfortunate that only five matches for the 'B' XV took place (resulting from a combination of pitch problems and late withdrawal of opposition teams.)

The 'A' team travelled to Bloxham for the first match, quite well prepared in terms of fitness but very underprepared, of necessity, in terms of full contact rugby. We managed a 12 - 12 draw, showing considerable determination. The match also established that Andrew Harding could no longer be considered realistically as prop. R.J. Stratton stepped straight into the gap at tight-head and this was entirely characteristic of 'R.J.', a wholehearted player who led superbly by example.

The next two games were cancelled and postponed respectively and we next took on M.C.S. at home ten days later. This was a close encounter with Magdalen playing well, especially in the first half. Gradually, however, our scrummaging and rucking improved and we won a close game.

The following Saturday saw us take on Radley. We lost home advantage because of our pitch problems but this turned out to be of no importance. A tremendous 15 - 13 win was achieved, the winning try, from Paul Engwell, coming two minutes from time. The scrum was by now more secure and indeed strong enough to enable Ben Rayner to touch down a pushover try. James Glynn scored the other try in a victory that was much enjoyed.

The first half of the term finished with a fairly easy win over Shiplake.

The two games immediately after half-term were disappointing. We lost by 1 point to Marlborough when we could and should have won. The wind and sloping pitch were not easy to cope with, but had we had the confidence to kick less and run more, I believe we would have beaten them. The match against Pangbourne, which ended in a 4 - 4 draw, was generally unsatisfactory; tries were missed, players were sluggish around the field and tempers became frayed. In the meantime, however, the 'B' team had put in two good performances, losing only 10 - 16 to a Marlborough side who had trounced them the previous year and

edging past Bloxham by one point.

The 'A' side reverted to winning ways with a convincing win over Newbury, the forwards dominating their opponents and the defence proving sound.

Reading were then completely swept aside in a 60-point, 11-try display of impressive running and driving rugby. The opposition was not strong, but even so a lot of Abingdon play was superb.

Douai were then well beaten as another six tries were run in. By now a number of pre-set ploys and moves were working well and creating scoring chances.

Warwick, away from home, was always going to be the hardest game. To make matters worse, 'R.J.' was sidelined by a mystery foot injury, and Ben Rayner took a knock and missed the second half. However, even at full strength for the whole game we would have been comprehensively beaten. The Warwick side was a very fine, mature and physically imposing team.

Sadly, this turned out to be the last game. The team had regrouped in encouraging fashion after the Warwick experience and was determined to revenge last year's narrow defeat by St. Edward's. Ironically, considering that drought had led to cancellation of earlier games, this final encounter was cancelled because of an early and heavy fall of snow.

THE TEAM

'R.J.' Stratton (prop and captain), as has already been said, led by example, a 100% player. It was tactically necessary to play him at prop although ideally his speed around the field and commitment in the loose would have been seen more had it been possible to play him in the back row. Chris Busby displaced Jonathan McIntosh at hooker this year, Chris having the advantage of a bigger build. He was secure on his own ball, a good thrower-in at lineouts and a capable bits-and-pieces player about the field. Lee Stopps, a very strong player, filled the loose-head spot. He still has things to learn about front row play but came on well during the season. In the second row Andy Harding and Kim Taylor provided a strong backbone to the scrum and a good drive in the loose. At No.8 Ben Rayner did very well to score 10 tries; he was perhaps the most determined and most competitive player, tempted occasionally to do a little too much on his own, but certainly a key member of the side. James Glynn and Steven Ruhl were the flankers. James would knock down anyone and was truly fearless (collecting several minor knocks in the process); Steven, though smaller, was always in the right place at the right time and good at getting his hands on the ball first; he also tackled well. In fact the back row as a whole were a formidable defensive unit.

Tim Jephson and Adam Janisch continued to build on their understanding of the last two years as the half back partnership. Neither is blessed with great

pace, Tim is a competitive scrum half who knows the importance of moving the ball away quickly; Adam has a good rugby brain, a useful dummy and a cultured left boot; his defence also improved markedly. As a pair they served their backs well.

Paul Engwell, the vice-captain, was one regular centre, always capable of beating a man and possessed of a good pair of hands and feet. On his day he was also a very accomplished place kicker. Alex Webster divided his time between the centre and the wing after coming up from the 'B' team. He has considerable pace and ran with real determination both to score and to prevent tries. Stuart Gould started in the centre and finished on the wing, a better position for him as a more obvious finisher rather than creator. Nick Drake, a third quick player, was the other regular winger. Strong as well as fast, Nick just needs to work on some of the more subtle ways of getting past his opponents. Tom Ratcliff completed the side at full-back. Never one to be afraid of offering vocal advice on the pitch, Tom was a superb defender and also managed this year, despite his misgivings, to join the three-quarter line in attack.

Paul Engwell, James Glynn and Ben Rayner were selected to represent Oxfordshire in the 16 Group side.

All in all, it was a successful season and an enjoyable one as my last at Abingdon. My thanks to all the players and especially to Richard Taylor for managing and coaching the 'B' XV.

Messrs. Mitty, Watts, Jones, Funnell, Holmes, Morgan, *Morris, *Lindgren, Gannon, Bezzina, *Dickins, McIntosh, Wright, Dale, *Ferguson, Hutchings, *Wilkinson, Derbyshire, Allison and Dunphy represented the 'B' XV (* = also played for the 'A' XV).

RSP

RESULTS

	'A' XV	'B' XV
Bloxham	D 12 - 12	W 15 - 14
M.C.S.	W 7 - 3	W 10 - 9
Radley	W 15 - 13	L 4 - 30
Shiplake	W 25 - 0	
Marlborough	L 8 - 9	L 10 - 16
Pangbourne	D 4 - 4	C
Newbury	W 20 - 0	
Reading	W 60 - 0	C
Douai	W 34 - 0	
Warwick	L 0 - 54	L 4 - 36

JUNIOR COLTS

This was a difficult season, made harder by the problem with the pitches, which left the team short of match practice early on, and meant the majority of games had to be played away from home. This was an obvious handicap to the side, and under the circumstances, the final statistics of 3 victories and 7 defeats does not do justice to the team's efforts. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the convincing victory over Marlborough in one of the team's rare home games. The forwards totally dominated proceedings right from the kick off, producing quick, clean possession which gave the backs the time and space to display their skills. There was a great deal of confidence evident in the team's display, which unfortunately was often lacking in other games, and the end result was an excellent all round performance which was a joy to watch. Unfortunately, the team were unable to repeat such a performance, but with the exception of Radley, nobody overwhelmed them, and there were a lot of close games which could easily have gone the other way given more confidence initially and a bit of luck at times.

The first ten or fifteen minutes of a game are extremely influential to the pattern and outcome of a game, and too often the team started slowly and allowed the opposition to take a grip of the game, which invariably meant the team were behind before they really got going. Despite this, the side battled hard, showing great character and determination, but lacked the necessary spark and variation to break down some solid defences.

The forwards increased in confidence as the season went on, and developed into a useful unit with some big, strong individuals, but they need to work hard on their teamwork if they are to progress to being an effective force in the future. Whilst, in the backs, there is a lot of skill and talent, but on the whole, they found themselves up against much bigger opponents and struggled to create the openings, purely through a lack of size and strength.

Finally, I would like to thank Brian Marnane and Guy Horton for their parts in the leadership of the team, often in rather frustrating circumstances, and Mr. Coleman for all the time and help he gave with the running of the B XV.

AMB

Regular members of the A XV were:
 B.Marnane (Capt.), G.Horton, R.Browne,
 N.Edmonds, D.Richardson, D.Collins,
 A.Batty, B.Burbank, M.Litchfield,
 N.Woodward, B.Fuggles, C.Keith, P.Jupp,
 W.Clothier, A.Brown, H.Powell-Jones, S.Lord
 and S.Fisher.

RESULTS

Bloxham	L	4-12
M.C.S.	W	16-10
Radley	L	0-22
Shiplake	L	3-12
Marlborough	W	22-0
Pangbourne	L	6-12
Newbury	L	8-11
Reading	L	4-20
Douai	W	6-4
Warwick	L	0-18

JUNIORS

This side could scarcely have been more successful; they won all their matches, amassing 43 tries on the way, and played delightful, intelligent rugby. But their ability to score tries was actually less impressive than their outstanding defensive record: 7 clean sheets out of 10, and only 22 points in all conceded. Quite frankly, they hated giving away points; it wasn't necessary to hold frequent tackling practices for a team that had character and heart like this one. Several times they came up against sides with larger packs, but had the courage and tenacity to overcome them.

The highlights of the season? An inappropriate question, in a season that was one long highlight. The come back against Pangbourne must be supreme, however; it is certainly scored deeply in the memories of those who saw it. Two 'soft' tries early in the game left us ten points down to a large and powerful pack. We fought back to 10-4, only to relapse to 14-4. Then a superb fighting run by Daniel Thomas brought us back to 14-10, after a fine conversion by David Melin; and then, with only a few minutes left, a determined drive out of our own half, followed by an incisive run by the backs, and a chip ahead over the line, followed by an almost comic scramble for the touch-down, led to Tom Adcock getting the final touch. Melin, with no respect for the palpitation of hearts on the touchline, coolly drop-goaled his conversion: 16-14. This revival spoke for the deep reserves of courage in the side, and was a strength that was to see us through another cliff-hanger against Marlborough. At any time, however, the team could 'turn on' fierce, attacking movements from all quarters, as they did most memorably in the second half against Radley.

The quality of rugby played was always solid and often outstanding. The style was simple. The entire team wanted to run the ball, and kicking as a tactic played little part. Loose ball was rucked, not mauled, so that the backs got the quickest possible possession; we attacked from all parts of the field, and used the blind side with notable intelligence; and all players understood what was required - to run aggressively, stay on their feet, protect their possession, and support. This produced memorable flowing rugby at times, and in particular a real

sense of expectation every time we pressed on our opponents' 22, as the pack scented a score.

The side was well-balanced, then; the number 8 and left-wing were the leading try-scorers. No player bestrode the field like a super-star; this was, above all, a team of stars. We were fortunate to have two props as solid as Tony Hankin and Richard Wyatt, who were exceedingly mobile and skilful in the loose. Between them they nursed and protected James Ruddick like a couple of Mafiosi. The locks, Gareth Stow and Simon North, are not specialist jumpers but fast in the loose and very skilful in their handling, and they completed a very good tight five that was the power base of the team. In the back row, Jerry Grinsted began slowly but was soon buzzing like a blond wasp everywhere as he hunted the ball and disrupted the opposition - nowhere more effectively than at Marlborough. On the other flank Ross Hewes was the team's most improved player. An excellent tackler, Ross simply needs a fraction more pace to be very good indeed. If he hadn't been required to throw the ball in, he would have been a fine line-out jumper. Jody Collins played well, and stood out for the speed with which he snapped up loose ball; as did William Unsworth, who can play anywhere in the scrum and almost did.

The pack was a force, consistently; the backs, however, were the unit that improved most, and I cannot on reflection think of a better set of backs this term. Dominic Partridge joined the side halfway through at outside-half, and his safe hands and well-timed passes immediately had an impact. This allowed Luke List to move to centre, where he had a little more space to work in. Luke was always the back most likely to make a break from nothing, and was deceptively fast when in full stride. Ben Moss, Tom Adcock and Ben Hutt (the latter, sadly, injured after a fine game at Radley) were the other centres, and played reliably and with promise of better to come. Those who saw - and heard - Tom's x-certificate tackle at Reading will not forget it. On the wing, Chris Drake was speedy when given a sight of the line, and took his chances well to end up with an average of a try a game. Daniel Thomas's strengths were his extremely aggressive running and a lethal hand-off; he often revived the side with one of his determined runs, pushing would-be tacklers away like an over-exuberant matador. At full-back we had the bull in David Melin, whose favourite method of counter-attack was to put his head down, paw the ground and charge. David needs to improve his mobility, but he was otherwise reassuringly safe under the high ball and utterly fearless. Two players were primus inter pares; no one would begrudge them a special mention in such a fine team, because they embodied those qualities that were typical of the side as a whole. Matthew Cooke at number 8 was very skillful; he won most of our line-out ball, and his generalship of

the pack led to exciting back-row moves, powerful drives and pushovers and a personal tally of 11 tries. But it was his character that stood out most, tireless and invincibly competitive, like some Viking warlord inspiring his pack to keep going until the end. Matthew was one of two players often singled out by visiting teams as highly influential. The other was the captain, Robert Finch, who like Matthew could not bear to sit out a game injured; he had to play. Robert's courage was obvious, and at no time more amply revealed than against Warwick, when he held his team together under considerable pressure. His rugby brain was shrewd; his choice of moves, use of the blind-side and his leadership were spot-on. His own break from the base of the scrum several times turned play completely round. The side owed these two a great deal, and I owe all those who I have mentioned even more, for a marvellous term's rugby which seemed to express, time and time again, all that is most worthwhile in a wonderful game. This is, in more senses than one, a side to watch!

JRG

RESULTS

P 10 W 10 D 0 L 0
Points for: 202 Against: 22

Bloxham	W	20-0
M.C.S.	W	46-0
Radley	W	24-0
Shiplake	W	8-0
Pangbourne	W	16-14
Marlborough	W	8-4
Newbury	W	14-4
Douai	W	31-0
Reading	W	19-0
Warwick	W	16-0

Appearances:

Melin, Drake, Thomas, List, Stow, North, Ruddick, Wyatt (10); Finch, Cooke, Hewes (9); Adcock, Grinsted (8); Hankin (7); Partridge (6); Collins (5); Moss, Hutt, Unsworth (3); Brownlow (2); Diamond (1).

UNDER 13'S

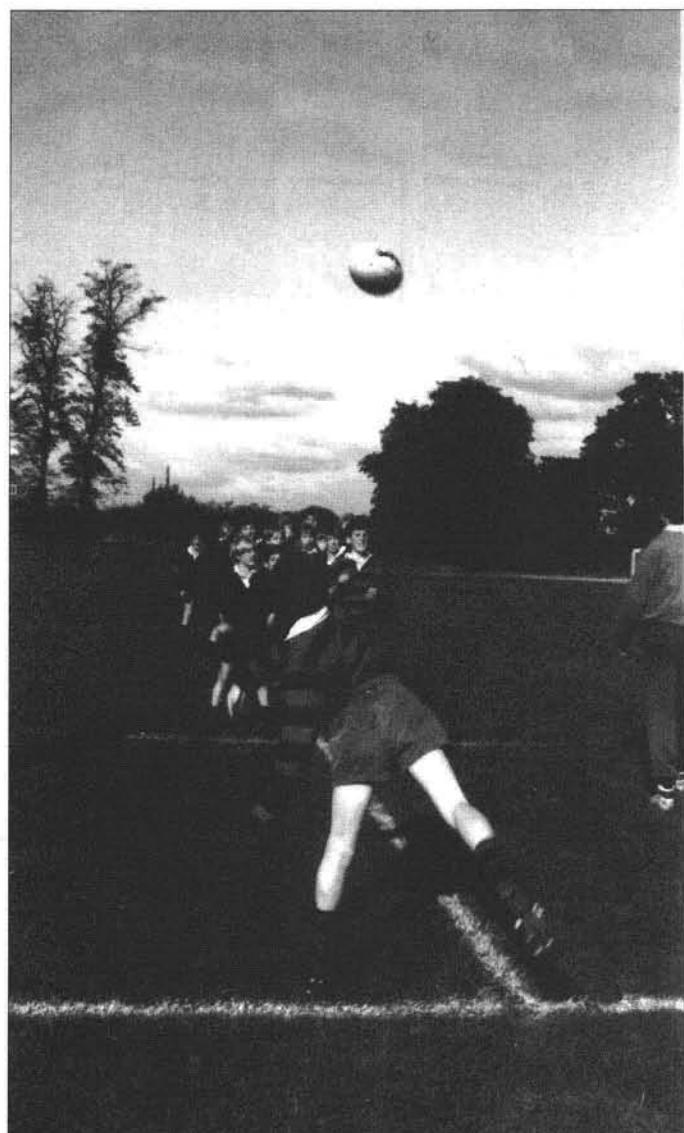
P	W	L	Pts+	Pts-
A XV :	9	7	2	
212	40			
B XV :	6	5	1	
188	28			

A most encouraging set of results, where emphasis this season has been to play open rugby in an effort to develop and employ the skills of all members of both XV's. The most pleasing aspect of this season is that fourteen members of the A XV have scored tries, and only eight tries have been conceded in nine games, four of which were in the same match! The success of the A XV has, in the main, been attributable to the high standard of Rugby played by the B XV. Their commit-

ment and enthusiasm gave the necessary challenge for A XV places, and when called upon to substitute for injured players, the standard of the rugby was as high as ever. All thirty one players have therefore played a vital part in the success of 'minors Rugby' over the past two seasons.

Anthony Ashton and Robert Finch, the full backs, were largely responsible for the lack of tries scored by the opposition. Both players are excellent tacklers and always keen to join in the line in attack. On the wings, Chris McGarry and Ansel Morris scored twelve tries between them. Given space, Ansel is a very determined runner, but he needs to work hard on his defensive skills. Chris, by contrast, is keen to run at the opposition and he makes good use of an elusive side-step. His defence is solid, and he is a very good prospect for the future. Edward Smith was not given the opportunity to play in the A XV, but he certainly made his mark in the B XV with his good acceleration and sound defence. We were fortunate this season in having five very quick centres. Tim Williams and James Arthur

rarely missed a tackle in the B XV, and their handling improved in every game. Paul Dunphy, Daniel Chadwick and James McKay contested the A XV places. James is the best distributor of the ball, and his safe hands and sound defence seldom let the team down. Paul and Daniel are very exciting players. They were the spearhead of the attack, for when given the ball, their aim was to score tries! This they did with consistent ease, scoring nineteen between them. In the future, I hope Paul will look occasionally before he passes, and Daniel will be tempted to try the low tackle! At half back there was really very little to choose between the A XV pairing of Paul Woodward and Michael Morris, and Adam Twinn and Luke Clements in the B XV. Paul read the game well, and coped admirably under pressure with his quick and accurate pass. Michael's confidence grew in every game, and although slow off the mark, he was able to penetrate the defence with his well-timed side step. Adam and Luke combined very well at half-back in the B XV. Adam's reliability and Luke's jinxing always created several problems for op-



ponents, and our inside centre!

Up front, where the real hard work is done, the pack performed well in securing quality possession in the set and loose play. The A XV front row provided the solid foundation to the scrum. Peter Rutland was never out-hooked, and he will most certainly be an asset to any XV in the future. His quick striking, work-rate in the loose, and accurate throwing in the lines out, were key factors in the team's success this season. Robert Duerr, the B XV hooker, also excelled in the set scrum and loose play. David Payne, Henry Dorling, Mark Pajak and Anthony Edmunds contested for the A XV prop berths. David booked his regular A XV place through sheer hard work, and Henry's assets were his strength and determination never to stop going forward. Mark and Anthony showed similar determination, and it will be a very interesting contest for the A XV front row in future seasons. David Hankin and Richard Binning were the 1st choice locks. David, the pack leader, was undoubtedly the strongest, most talented, and most determined forward in the XV. The team was assured possession in the loose when he had the ball. Richard was the team's line-out specialist who secured the good quality ball that was needed. Simon Morris and Oliver Cox, the B XV locks, never gave up contending for A XV places in spite of having such a force to compete with. Mr. Mitra recognised Simon as the most improved forward in his team, and Oliver was unlucky in losing his place in the A XV due to the changes in the front row.

All in all then, a most enjoyable season and one could not have hoped for a more successful two years. Both XVs team spirit has been high, and I hope this will continue as they move up through the middle school. My thanks to the two captains and pack leaders of both XVs for their leadership and help throughout the season.

I know all players will want me to give a special mention in this report to Mr. Mitra. He has certainly been the inspiration to the B XV, to such an extent that it has been difficult for me not to promote more B XV players to the 'A' side. With bellows of "Give it to Sag. Henry you are magnificent. Luke you should be in the England XV", how could I ignore such flattering comments! He certainly got the best out of all players, as the team showed in their performance against Magdalen College School at the end of the season.

JDH

A XV: M. Morris (Capt.) D. Hankin (V. Capt.) A. Ashton, R. Finch, A. Morris, C. McGarry, P. Dunphy, J. McKay, D. Chadwick, P. Woodward, D. Payne, M. Pajak, H. Dorling, P. Rutland, R. Binning, O. Cox, A. Moss, D. Higazi.

B XV: L. Clements (Capt.) M. Pajak (C. Capt.) R. Finch, E. Smith, J. Oldham, D. Jenkins, J. Arthur, T. Williams, A. Twinn, A. Edmunds, H. Dorling, R. Duerr, S. Morris, O. Cox, T. Heel, I. Silverwood, Prior.

Results:

A XV		
St. Hughs	W	48 - 0
Oratory Prep.	L	0 - 22
Pinewood	W	8 - 0
Dragon	L	3 - 4
Millbrook House	W	46 - 0
Oratory	W	38 - 0
St. Bartholomews	W	9 - 0
M.C.S.	W	38 - 4
Priors Court	W	22 - 10
B XV		
Oratory Prep.	L	0 - 28
Pinewood	W	16 - 0
Dragon	W	28 - 0
Millbrook House	W	46 - 0
Oratory	W	42 - 0
M.C.S.	W	56 - 0

Dragon School 'Sevens' Tournament - Wednesday December 5th.

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent at the Dragon School where sixteen schools took part in two competitions.

Caldicott School won their competition beating Winchester House in the final. Abingdon and Lord Williams, Thame, shared first place in their competition.

Results:

St. Hughs	W	26 - 0
Oakley Hall	W	8 - 4
Pinewood	W	14 - 4
Final:		
Lord Williams Thame	D	6 - 6.
Team: D. Hankin (Capt.) A. Morris, S. Morris, P. Rutland, A. Moss, L. Clements, C. McGarry, A. Ashton, P. Dunphy, D. Chadwick. Reserves: R. Binning, O. Greasby.		

UNDER 12'S

This was another successful season for the under 12's, with plenty of talent and enthusiasm in abundance. We were fortunate this year to have a few players who had already been introduced to the game and this greatly helped the progress of the others.

The forwards have great potential and proved a formidable force when working well together. There are some very big, powerful players who tended to dominate proceedings in most games, and this laid the foundations for the teams success. However, their superiority often led to bad habits, and their performances varied greatly during games, as well as from game to game, but that is only to be expected at this age. They should develop into an excellent unit in time, but must remember that rugby is a team game and that they must all play for one another and give of their best throughout, which includes making full use of practices in order to improve and progress.

The backs were less prominent initially, but worked hard at their game and improved immensely as the season went on. The skills involved in back play are much more complex to learn than forward play, and this coupled with a shortage of

size and power made it difficult to penetrate any organised defence. However, they practised hard throughout the year and as they grew in confidence, they began to experiment more, and found greater success in the last few games. Defensively, their tackling was very solid, with the centres Adrian Howkins and James Winearls being particularly impressive, but in general, they need to organise themselves more effectively and pressurise the opposition quicker.

Andrew Smith did an excellent job as captain, showing a great deal of dedication and always leading by example, whilst the pack was efficiently led by Henry Dorling whose experience and added presence were invaluable to the team. Special mention must go to the number 8, Daniel Higazi, who was outstanding throughout the season, both in attack and defence, and looks an excellent prospect.

There is a lot of ability in the squad as a whole, and they have developed the basic skills very quickly and effectively. There is the potential here to make a very successful team, provided they train hard and continue to show the same enthusiasm and commitment they have this year.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to all those parents who managed to turn out to support their sons in such numbers, and also to Mr. Drummond-Hay and Rod Yates for all the time and help they have given to under 12's rugby over the year.

DMH

Regular members of the 'A' XV were;

A. Smith (Capt.), H. Dorling, D. Higazi, J. Willats, T. Hewes, A. Ashurst, M. Jones, I. Priest, T. Heel, P. Talbot, A. Howkins, J. Dowling, C. Walford, M. Harrison and J. Winearls.

Those who played for the 'B' XV were;

J. Grady, G. Heatley, T. Jeffries, A. Craig, B. Porter, J. Bolle, R. Jeffery, R. Patel, A. Jones, D. Lacy, C. Purcell, J. Smith, A. Mays, P. Aiken, C. Pearson, S. Walker, S. West, G. White, O. Moss, L. Powney, A. Freeman, M. Bailey, A. Aitchison and G. Baxter.

Results.

	'A' XV	'B' XV
Larkmead	W 22-0	
St. Hughs	L 4-10	
Millbrook House	W 38-4	W 26-0
M.C.S.	W 38-10	W 12-0
Berkhamsted	W 22-6	L 0-4
Pangbourne	L 0-12	W 8-4
Cothill	W 24-4	
Summer Fields	L 10-18	
Reading	W 10-8	W 12-0

REVIEW

As the 1991 season draws to a close, I look back with tinges of disappointment, at least towards the performances of the seniors. The prospects and early season races provided real hope of a breakthrough into the top groupings. Some of the boys tried for International selection and after good land trials they fell at the first fence of the long distance rowing trials. They performed well but not quite well enough, due ,in part, to commitment to the first eight which left little time for the work in small boats required by the selectors.. It should be said that Alistair Ross has been successful, so far, and looks fairly certain of selection for Great Britain.

Hampton Schools Head race impressed- fourth overall in a good field. Henley Schools Head, third, and the Trent Head produced an excellent result in both the eight and the four. In the Schools Head we let it slip to finish 13th. Better than last year but

Injuries and exam worries took its toll and left the seniors very unsettled. A number of boys dropped out for various reasons; from exam pressure to finding the going too tough when they had to fight for their place. I am told that by older and wiser colleagues that ' dropping out ' occurs with boring regularity every year. Maybe we should aim for a first eight from the lower sixth? Controversial, I suppose but it has been done, successfully , by a number of our opponents.

On a more cheerful note, we have managed to set up the "Friends of the Abingdon School Boat Club" this year. It has taken a lot of hard work and drive to kick things into action but we are on the way. The driving force behind the project is Brian Ulyatt who has a son in the senior squad and had the original idea. He is the Chairman of the Society at the moment. The society had its first informal gathering at the National Schools Regatta and saw very rewarding success as our J-15 and J-14 eights powered their way to gold medals in their particular events both in very exciting races within an hour of each other. The seniors let themselves down. After a display of clinical racing they cruised to victory in their heat but then made the fatal mistake of under-estimating their opposition. To lose out on a place in the final by 3 tenths of a second. They were still trailing by half-a-length with 250 metres to go before they decided that they would need to do something about it.. Almost there but not quite.

Later on in the season we once more started to show true form. The j-15 eight looked stronger and better almost daily under the watchful eye of Rodney Mearns. The J-14 eight, all conversant in fluent Australian from the tongue of their coach Ian Swann, also provided formidable opposition for the very best in their category and are excellent competitors. There remained a j-15 second eight and fours and

many keen j-14 scullers who continued to work hard throughout the season.

The lack of personnel at the J-16 level this year meant that they rowed with the seniors and many showed promise rowing well in the 2nd or 3rd eights. The hard graft that has been done by them must help us to continue to improve at the top of the club and hopefully produce us a first eight which realises its full potential.

Still to come at the time of writing are the National Championships in which a number of the boys wish to participate and we are hopeful of some success with our junior -18 coxed four which we put together late in the season and which has been defeating notable opposition in the run-up to the regatta.

Some other highlights of the season include watching the first eight grind down the rest to win the senior three eights event at Nottingham City Regatta for the

' second year in a row leaving some very powerful club crews lagging behind in the later stages of the race. The training camps we held for the seniors at Stirling in October and at Peterborough in April were most enjoyable and productive. Bedford Star regatta was memorable both because it rained heavily all day and in that we came away with four trophies - junior 15 eights, junior 18 fours, junior 1 8B fours and j-1 6B sculls.

David Smith deserves a mention as our only sculler. He does have a back problem which prevents him from rowing in any boat larger than a pair, on doctors orders, so he took to sculling. He has shown tremendous progress this season and reached the final of the J-15 sculls at the National Schools from 36 entries. He

was only denied a medal by having the misfortune of entangling his blade with a marker buoy at the very end of the race and having to stop. He may well have won two events at Bedford but he was overturned on the way to the start of his final. He won his other race and he also finished up winner at Avon County Schools Regatta. Keep trying hard David I am sure better luck will come your way.

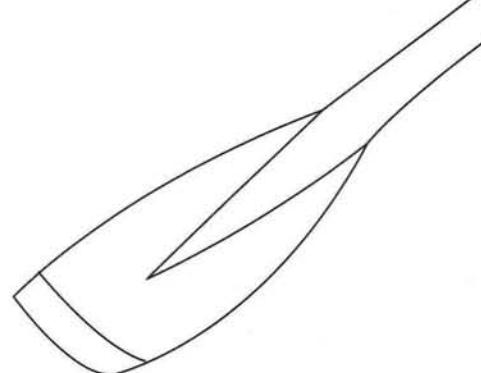
We also had an Open Day at the clubhouse run by the 'Friends' which saw a Club pairs competition with two magnificent trophies, crafted and donated by Dr. Baker, going to the winners who were Alistair Ross and Ben Ulyatt, as well as some fun 'scratch' races with many parents taking part. Of course there was a barbecue and bar to keep stomachs full and throats lubricated.

There are a large number of people who have helped us this season and I want to thank them for their time, hard-work and patience in putting up with me and with their charges. Rodney Mearns under- 15 's coach, Ian Swann, under-14's coach and boat-house 'every' - odd job man, Bill Potter grand -uncle of the club, and to all the others who have helped us with coaching, Jim Bichard, Jim Rutland, Paul Stuart-Bennett and Richard Burnell. To Paul Watkinson, Brian & Jan Ulyatt and the committee of the Friends of A.S.B.C. for all their help. Thank you on behalf of all the club.

Footnote:- Anyone who may wish to join the society Friends of the Abingdon School Boat Club" can receive a form from me at school any time. Do not miss our widely publicised social events!!!

MDM

ROWING



FIRST VIII

Contrary to popular belief, rowing is actually a thinking mans sport. At the top level, one alien movement of the hands, or for example, a premature catch will cause the boat to slow. It is this ability to think under racing pressure, when your brain is trying to tell you to stop, that wins races. The adage of 'rowers win races, not boats' has probably been over-quoted, but it is this ability from where the intense pressure of racing is derived and consequently makes victory so personally satisfying.



A quiet moment assessing the opposition at Bedford Regatta

In IV's the 1991 1st VIII squad were able to apply such theories and subsequently famous victories were recorded. The school had the fastest coxed four at the Trent Head, won two gold medals in coxed and coxless fours at the National Championships and represented England at the Home Countries International against Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

However, in the eight it never really came together when it mattered, for instance solid performances were recorded at Hampton (4th=), Henley(3rd) and

Trent(1st) Heads during the Lent term, and wins at Evesham and Nottingham City Regattas in the summer term were followed by disappointing results at the Schools Head(13th), and National Schools Regatta respectively. This shows a subtle lack of professionalism derived from a mixture of no self-belief and too much complacency at the major events. Such a strange recipe was not apparent at events such as Nottingham City, where there was not too much rivalry with other schools and everybody was switched on. The singing of 'Jingle Bells' from Spencer on the stake-boats is surely an unheard method of expressing mind positively!!.

Another problem was that we never gathered together as a crew off water. Due to other commitments the whole crew was never working together in the gym or on the ergos. These are the places where a crew should really become a team.

Other members are there to support those in difficulty and thus everybody is able to determine individuals strengths, weaknesses and limits. Also, outings needed to be discussed more although a lack of time normally prevented this. When the eight really started moving was when we had meetings for the crew on Mondays as everybody was able to communicate and express their views. This crew spirit is important in making the boat move that little bit faster but was hard to foster after the annual clash of work and sport claimed two very important victims over the critical Easter training period. Although the Peterborough training camp (in a hotel) was great fun, and the training excellent the eight did not gain in either speed or

in execution.

As a crew we were very fit, largely due to the training done in the Michaelmas term (which included a trip to Stirling) and also because of the supply from the members of last years J16 coxless four, first eight and near first eight. Coupled with the disposal of national squad standard boats and oars it was a shame more could not be accomplished but the usual Abingdon lack of competitiveness killed us. At Henley we met a very strong St. Pauls School, Concord, USA crew, who

were seeded, but schools such as Emmanuel and Shiplake were pushing Eton and Shrewsbury respectively to their limits, when we let St. Pauls win by a length and a half.

Many thanks must go to Mr. Martin whose energy and humour maintained morale in the crew, which ensured at least we had determination. At the same time he had to keep the boat-house in one piece while it was attacked by a record membership of rowers and also was a major force to inaugurate the friends of A.S.B.C.. This society will provide an essential backbone to the club and ensures it enjoys success in the future at a time when the standard of school rowing is climbing at a near exponential rate.

1st VIII;

J.Denée*^	G.Montier*^
A.Beaumont*^	R.Claye*^h
S.Hickson*^h	C.Jones*^h
A.Ross*^h	R.Winter*
B.Ulyatt^h	
coxswain:A.Greaney*^h	

*:-Henley Royal Regatta

^:-National Schools Regatta

h:-Home Countries International, Lake Blessington, Ireland.

Finally, congratulations to A.Ross for gaining two silver medals for Great Britain at the Coupe de la Jeunesse.

VICTORIES:

VIII;-Trent Head, Evesham Regatta, Nottingham City.

IV;-Trent Head, Gloucester Head (twice), Abingdon Head, Evesham Regatta, Bedford Star Regatta, Bedford Regatta, Bedford Sprint (twice), National Championships (twice).

J.Denée VIP.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SUPPLEMENT

The squad which went forward to train during the summer holidays with a view to racing at the National Championships was made up of nine of us from the First and Second Eights, who were willing to train for a further fortnight after the end of term.

Two of the squad had been stripped of their bronze medals at the Championships the year before due to a mix up over the entry, and were eager for revenge, while three of us had won silver medals the year before, so were determined to make it one better this time. We decided to target the Junior Coxed and Coxless Fours events at the Championships and trained solidly after Henley Regatta right up to the Champs, using Bedford Regatta as a test of our speed, where we won Senior three Fours on both days (sprints were on the Sunday) and Senior two fours on the Saturday over the longer course. At the Championships themselves, for the first time the U18 National Squad crews did not make an appearance, thus leaving the field open for school crews. In the coxed four the opening round on the first day of the Championships proved



The coxless IV collecting gold at the National Championships

somewhat of a walkover, and resulted in automatic qualification to the finals on Sunday. In the final we grabbed half a length in the opening stages of the race and held off a very strong Hampton School Four, among others all the way down the 2000m course, and despite giving the Abingdon supporters on the finish a little cause for concern when the commentator announced with 500 metres to go that Hampton had reduced our lead to just a few feet, and were looking strong, we managed to hold them off to win by half a length.

Meanwhile, the coxless four had a straight three boat final against the Scottish Champions Hazelhead Academy and a Bedford School Four. In our somewhat less experienced four, we found that despite being half a length up off the blocks we were a length down to Bedford with 500 metres gone. However the Boat felt relaxed and Bedford weren't going away any more. Just after half way we put in a burst of twenty strokes and went from being a length down to being half a length up, from which point we commanded the race and took it home, beating Bedford by some three lengths with Hazelhead some way behind them.

The school, for the first time in its history had not only managed one, but two gold medals at the National Championships, with the coxed four then being selected to row for England in the Home Countries International on Lake Blessington in Ireland, where they came a close second to the Irish, beating the Welsh and Scottish crews. The season was finally ended on a high note with the two fours winning Senior 1, 2, and 3 coxed fours at Abingdon Sprint Regatta, and the Victor Ludorum Prize for most successful club at the event. Special thanks must go to Mr. Martin for all his help throughout the year, but especially the time he gave up to coach us during his summer holidays, and also to the newly formed Friends of Abingdon School Boat

Club, whose financial contribution of £250 helped to pay for the coxed four to compete in Ireland.

JUNIOR COXED FOUR:

bow; B. Ulyatt; R. Claye; C. Jones; S. Hickson; coxs.; A. Greaney

JUNIOR COXLESS FOUR:

bow; G. Montier (steers); D. Lindgren; M. Patey; C. Richardson.

G. Montier. VIB

SECOND VIII

The second eight actually started its season as two eights of near equal ability. It was in these two crews that we raced our opening race of the season at Hampton. Although everyone felt that we had pulled a good race and we had made a good start we did not actually win.

By the next race, (which was Henley Schools Head) a nearly fixed second eight had sorted itself out. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions to which the crew were unsuited, we were once again defeated although managed to come fourth.

After this event we went straight up to Nottingham where we rowed in Trent Head the following day. Although weather conditions were more favourable we had the disadvantage that one of our permanent crew members was unable to attend. This disadvantage was overcome with Mr. Martin rowing with the second eight. Unfortunately, however, although we rowed a good race, we were beaten by a couple of bigger, stronger University crews. More luck came in the afternoon however when a four made up from half of the second eight came second in their senior event by only ten seconds.

Our next event was the very important Schools Head in which we wanted to make a big impression. After a cracking race we found that we had managed to come fifth behind top second eights from all over the country, having beaten many others. We were very pleased with this result and thought that this could be the turning point in the season.

The Regatta season started off with Evesham Regatta where we were unfortunately knocked out in the first round by a very quick Monmouth First Eight. Avon County Regatta brought no more luck where we were beaten by a number of crews over a distance which was far too short for the training we had been doing. The next event was the National Schools Regatta where we got through the first round, but were knocked out in the semi-final of what proved to be easily the stiffest side of the draw. In Bedford Star Regatta we were competing [in fours, one of which managed to win its event making our first success of the season.

Planning race strategy at the Home Countries International



We were back as an eight for a very tiring Marlow course and were again beaten in the first round by a University crew.

We then went on to try for Henley Royal Regatta in The Henley Prize, but were squeezed out in the qualifiers by stronger university crews. This brought the season to an end for many of the crew but some of us went on to row and win in fours at Bedford Regatta and The National Championships in Junior Coxless Fours, beating the Scottish Champions and strong opposition from Bedford School.

Unfortunately over the whole season we had a great deal of mixing about of the eight with many people dropping out and new people entering so we hardly trained as a fixed eight for more than one week at a time. This may be the reason for the lack of success throughout the year. When we did stick together as a crew for any length of time we managed considerable success- The National Championship win being particularly striking. Finally, we would all like to express our thanks to Mr.Martin for all his help with coaching (and other matters) throughout the season, and also to Jim Bichard who came and helped us out during the summer.

SECOND EIGHT SQUAD:

M. Ferguson; D. Lindgren; M. Patey; C. Richardson; P. Mildenhall; B. Ulyatt; P. Lamaison; N. Laing; D. Chadwick; P. Powell; S. Snipp; Coxswain:-M.Haycock

JUNIOR 15

The year has been a particularly successful one and a number of excellent results have been achieved. Our year has shown great potential for the coming years.

The season started with 3 eights, of roughly equal standard, racing at Hamp-

ton Head where we all gained useful racing experience in preparation for good results at Schools Head of the River. There we all rowed well and although our talent was spread out we were pleased with the results. For the next event a trial A-eight was put together which left us little time for practice. On arrival we found that our competition from Monmouth had scratched. Not deterred we set our sights on their J16 crew. We raced with courage and although they had about 20 seconds on us at the start we managed to overtake them nearing the line. Unfortunately on landing we'd paid the price of success when we found that we had damaged our bow. David Smith also came first in a good time.

When we returned after Easter our boat looked as good as new and we were ready for the Regatta season. At Avon County Regatta we came up against the strongest crews of our age group. We entered our A and B crew and a four. The A crew beat Radley in their first heat and then met St Edwards in the second. St Edwards were organised and they knocked us out to row in the losers final. There we came third and ultimately seventh in the event. The B-eight also rowed well and came high up in the B crews. The four raced a difficult category against specialised crews and came fifth. David Smith also rowed well.

At National Schools we gained from our overnight stay and were able to have vital practices before our event. The A crew raced Bedford and two others and were able to win their heat. We qualified for the final with the second best qualifying time and so we knew that we had a hard race on our hands. On the start we were awarded with a false start warning for being late. However we managed to keep calm and made an excellent start and at 750m we were all level. With well timed bursts and counter bursts we pulled

ahead. Near the end our lead was reduced to a canvas by Bedford who made an unsuccessful last minute attempt but we held them off to win by a canvas. Bedford came second with Oundle coming third. David Smith also got to the final but unfortunately after leading for most of it, hit a buoy and came in fifth.

Next came Bedford Regatta. We arrived with 20 minutes to rig the boat and get on the water. On the start we were still sleepy from the journey but we were soon awoken by the "Attention Set Go". We made a slow time but fortunately we were quick enough to beat Kings College School, Wimbledon. Next came Oundle who we beat more convincingly. For the final we were up against old rivals Bedford who were on their own stretch of water. We rowed superbly and after a shattering race we won by half a second. The B crew did well but were knocked out by Pangbourne- a far larger school. A scratch four also raced but were again up against specialised opposition and although they rowed well, they were no match. David Smith entered J15 A and J16 B and qualified for the final in both. He unfortunately was involved in a collision with Eton's 2nd eight which ended up with him damaging his rigger and falling in the water. He thus lost his J15 A final. However he was put in a different boat for his J16 B final and went on to win it.

Next the A crew went to Marlow chasing the top crews in the country at a very prestigious event. We were given a bye and came up against Pangbourne A's and Sir William Borlase. They normally race in just fours and so were an unknown commodity. It turned out that they were better in fours and we beat them by about 5 lengths. Pangbourne however were more equal. We made a great start and even off the worst staggered start boat we had a length at 500m in. We lead the



The landing stage in winter, a scene familiar only to the more intrepid members of the Boat Club



The J 15's pull away from the victory landing stage having collected their gold medals

race for the bigger part but without a reasonable stride were burnt out. They took us using the finishing bend which was in their favour. They finally won by about three quarters of a length.

This however was not such a disaster as we later found that the time we'd lost to Pangbourne by was in fact equal to the winning time of Eton.

Next came Reading Town Regatta where we had high hopes of a nice Pewter pot to end the season with. These were heightened when we won our heat against Kingston Grammar and Bryanston by half a length.

Next came the final against Chelten-

ham. The starter's orders were unclear and we didn't hear the calls properly. However our crew reacted fast and made a good start. We were level for the most of the race until our cox took us home where we gained half a length and held it to come in only 10 seconds slower than the winners of the Senior 1 event. David Smith again in a higher age group, Senior 3 this time sculled excellently against older and bigger opponents to be knocked out before the final.

The year has been kind to us with all crews improving greatly. I'd like to thank, on behalf of all of us, those who have come and supported us so well and in

particular Mr. Mearns, Mr. Potter, Mr. Watkinson and Jim Bichard. We all look forward to a successful season next year and hopefully have a lot of fun to.

D. Richardson(5/RGH)

CREWS:

A VIII: B. Marshall(Cox), D. Richardson, P. Baker, M. Litchfield, J. Watkinson, J. McCormick, R. Davies, D. Collins, N. Edmonds, J. Sporle.

B VIII: N. Lewis(Cox), J. Finnis(Cox), J. Malone-Lee, W. Houston, A. Adie, P. Godsell, M. Clarke, W. Hoodless, P. Cooper, H. Powell-Jones, M. Laing.



The First IV thread their way to the start at the height of the summer season in the local Town Regatta

AUSTRALIAN ROWING

It was only natural that I should expect to encounter differences upon commencing coaching rowing in a different hemisphere and on the opposite side of the globe from where I am from. The first difference was realised about two weeks after the beginning at Abingdon School when a cold front crossed from Russia over Europe to England and in the process consequently froze the river at Abingdon! School rowing in Australia is a Summer sport, and it is not uncommon for crews to race and train in 40 degrees heat. Therefore to coach crews whilst it snowed and to see ice form on the blades of the oars in a split second as they moved from the finish of the stoke to the catch was not the precise welcome I was expecting and certainly different to what I was used to.

The racing genre also is slightly different in English rowing. The Lent term is devoted to Head races over distances greater than 2000 metres possibly as far as 6000 metres with the Head of the River on the Tideway over 4 1/2 miles as the championship event, and the Summer term welcomes the shorter distances with races up to 1500 metres only. Melbourne school crews race solely over 1500 metre distance, and occasionally over 2000 metres. There is only one Head race available to enter during the season raced over a winding and narrow

nine kilometre course that several schools enter. This race is conducted at the height of the Summer so it is not uncommon for it to be raced in extremely high temperatures under a fiercely burning sun, and whilst it is pleasant to follow crews on the tree lined, shaded tow path the effect on the crew itself is obvious. Therefore some coaches opt to devote the morning to a good training session and then let their crew retire to sit under a tree, sip a cool drink and watch their opposition burn themselves out.

Training on the Abingdon stretch of the Thames has proven to be a blessing as it is relatively long and somewhat undisturbed by other crews and boats at most times. Training for the school crews in Melbourne takes place for most on the same stretch of the Yarra River where John Batman, an explorer of the 1800's once claimed "this would be a good site for a city". As a result the form of the opposition crews can be diagnosed and observed. Often opposing schools will train against one another or at time apply one-upmanship on one another to gain the upper hand.

Many club crews also use the same part of the Yarra (boating mostly after the school crews are finishing) and it is quite common to see reigning and former world champion oarsmen and women, Olympic rowers and other world class medal winners train. Melbourne clubs tend to pro-

vide the majority of the national rowing team and as a result several elite crews train there.

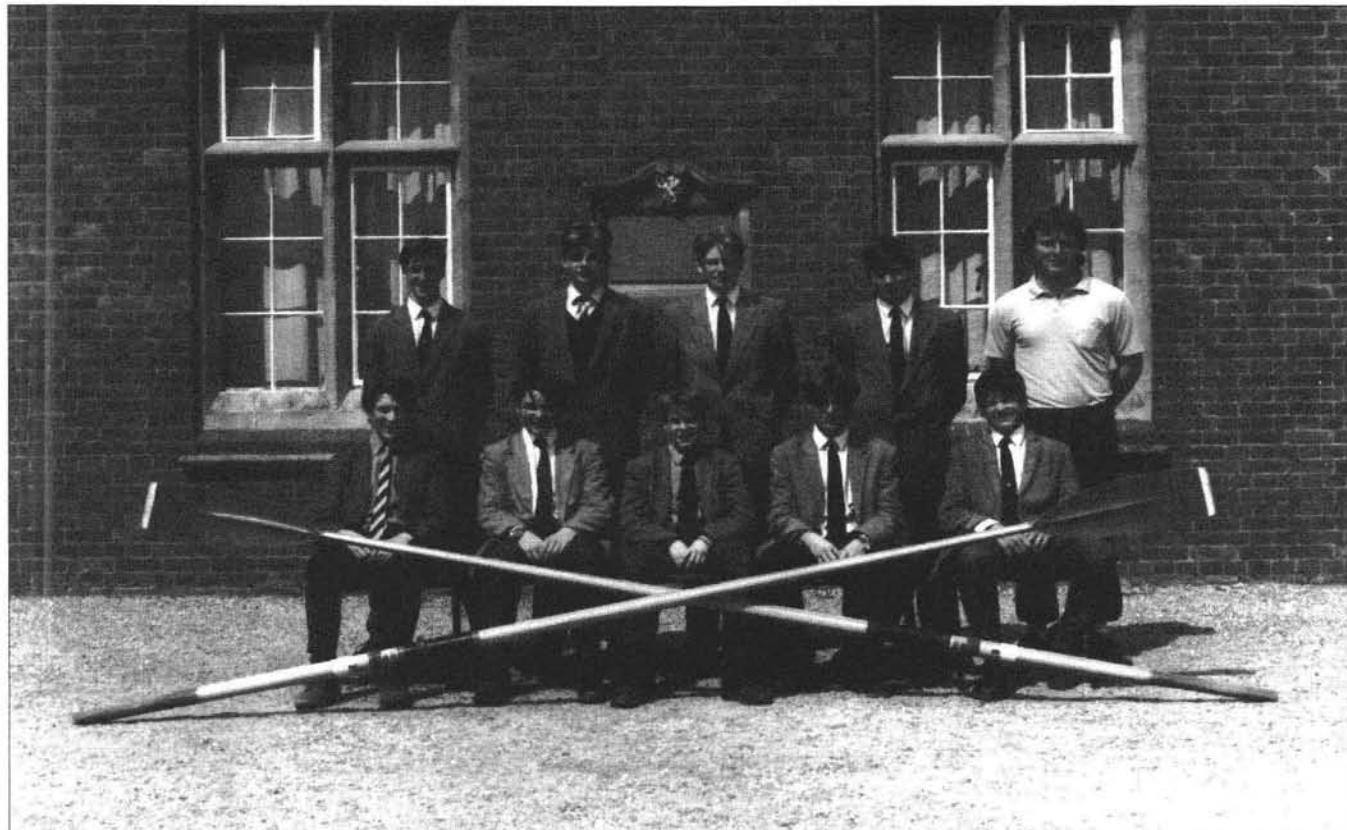
At times training can be made intrepid by the number of crews on the water or slow crews holding up proceeding but generally crews follow the rules of the river and things run quite smoothly.

Surprisingly to me a lot of the Regattas here are based on a match racing system or in other words, a one on one programme where losers are knocked out and eventually one crew remains undefeated. Because rowing is so popular in England and especially amongst schools I would have thought that sheer numbers of competing crews would warrant a lot more multi lane racing as is the setup in Melbourne, with only a very few match racing regattas.

The multi lane races tend to promote more competitiveness amongst a crew as challenges are presented during a race by every crew at any given time therefore a crew can not afford to slacken off at all. Perhaps this is why Australian crews tend to do very well at the Royal Henley regatta when they only have one other crew to beat at a time.

Gradually I have become more accustomed to the English rowing scene and despite all the differences from what I am used to, one thing that should remain similar is that the rowers will be better people for the experience.

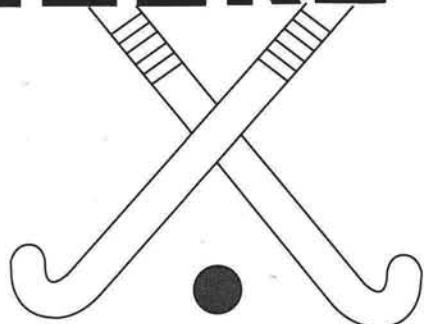
Ian Swann



The J 14 VIII who were victorious in their division at the National Schools Regatta with their coach, Mr. Swann.

*Reading from the left, back row first: C. Drake, R. Hewes, M. Cooke, A. Hankin,
J. Airey, W. Unsworth, J. Sugden, J. Collins, D. Hutchins*

HOCKEY 4



FIRST XI

What a shame that Jonathan Dorkings, the captain elect, should be unable, through injury, to play at all this season. It certainly meant that the side was weakened, but on the pitch Matthew Mowat took over and worked hard to get the best out of the team. Our early fixtures proved to be somewhat formidable and we began to record a series of defeats. Playing on synthetic surfaces against sides able to practice regularly on them, compounded our problems, but we did manage a win against Bradfield college on their Astro. It was a hard fight and a good deal of spirit was shown. We fought back from 0 - 1 and then survived a late onslaught. We were beginning to show, albeit in patches, that we were capable of playing skillful, constructive hockey. Unfortunately we then came up against a very strong Radley side, at the peak of their form and were severely mauled. By now confidence was at a low ebb, but the Berkshire indoor tournament provided us with an arena where we could at last compete on even terms. Having qualified for the finals night (this involved battling our way through the snow, in order to get to Wellington college) we made our way into the final and won a thrilling match 4 - 3 to claim the Gillette cup. The tournament included Pangbourne, Reading, Shiplake, Bradfield and Wellington, 90 that this was no mean feat.

The benefits of a new confidence were not immediate, but we soon began to do much better. The performance against Bloxham was particularly noteworthy. The Hockey Association, as always, produced a strong side and played some beautiful hockey. To our credit, it was only in the dying stages of the match

that they gained a two goal cushion, an umpires mistake costing us a goal to level the scores at 2 - 2. The H.A. players were full of praise for our efforts. We finished the season with two draws, the first where we were unlucky not to beat St. Edwards and the second where we were lucky to hold the Old Abingdonians. It was good to see Richard (Lettie) Winsley back and covering well along with Duncan Buck and Toby Hay. Mark Seager's hair looks better these days and Barry Marnane seems to have added a constant whine to his repertoire. The failure of the old boys to convert two penalties, awarded by a much maligned umpire, caused a good deal of amusement. It probably also contributed to their refusal to take part in a penalty shoot out!

Results:

R.G.S. H.W.:	L	0 - 4
Southampton:	L	0 - 2
M.C.S. :	L	2 - 4
Bradfield:	W	2 - 1
Radley:	L	0 - 8
Pangbourne:	L	0 - 5
Shiplake:	L	1 - 3
Reading:	W	3 - 1
Bloxham:	W	2 - 0
H.A.:	L	1 - 3
St. Edwards:	D	1 - 1
O. A.'s:	D	3 - 3

The Players:

William Hutchings: A good fearless goalkeeper, with excellent command of his area. At times a little impetuous, particularly with regard to going down. Needs to get up quicker from the lying position. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

Martin Scott-Brown: Did not find a tight marking role to his liking, but showed excellent

form in his old position of orthodox full-back. A major force in the indoor tournament and produced an unforgettable dribble in the St. Edwards match. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

Louis Golding: A sprightly sweeper/full-back despite being labelled 'the old man' (reference to mature good looks!). At times rushed in too quickly, but covered a great deal of ground in defence, mostly to good effect. Awarded full colours at the end of the season. Matthew Mowat: Always eager to move forward, occasionally overdoing the intricate stickwork, but often with telling effect. His legs suffered as a result of his refusing to wear pads. Kept the side going when we were down. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

Jonathan Wilkinson: A skillful mid-field player, who took over the central role to good effect. Must learn to hold off the tackle and avoid the lunge. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

Edward Paleit: A forward converted into a half back! Never fully comfortable with the new role, but worked hard to mark and subdue the opposing right wing. Must develop the reverse stick tackle and the early release of the pass. Awarded half colours at the end of the season. Did a good job as secretary - Thanks!

Joe Allen: A skillful player with the vision to make the telling pass. Produced a superb performance during the final rounds of the indoor, but effectiveness outdoors reduced by weak tackle and low work-rate. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

Ahmed Mohamed: Exceptional skills enabled him to create havoc and, especially indoors, score a number of key goals. Clearly found the pace of the games too 'hot' and needs to work on fitness. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

Nicholas Hodgson: Provided much needed thrust down the right, often with a minimum of



fuss. Excellent close control and ability to read the game, but tendency to snatch at chances that fall to himself. Awarded full colours at the end of the season.

James Tilley: Extremely fast centre forward, who often catches defences unawares. Suffered from a lack of early ball and his own tendency to place his hands too high on the stick. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

George Dodd: Developed in strength as the season progressed, with more determined running. Showed good skills in a difficult position, but needs to improve tackling back and produce a harder shot. Also Played:

Benjamin Williams: A useful left wing with a very good cross, but an unwillingness to run round the ball, rather than pull it back. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

Steffan Hutchings: A fast determined forward, whose tendency to rush things often leads to a missed opportunity and resulting frustration. Nevertheless came into the side, overcame this problem and scored important goals. Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

Christopher Martin: A long reach and good eye enabled him to make vital tackles and interceptions. Needs to strengthen his tackling and be firmer with his use of the ball.

SECOND XI

P 8 W 5 L 1 D 2

To play our first game on a brand new astroturf at Leighton Park was quite a treat. We had never played together as a team before, so we were pleased to come away with a 4 - 1 victory.

This gave us the confidence to go on to R.G.S. High Wycombe with high spirits. For most of the players this was a tedious game which ended in a draw. A slight misunderstanding between Douglas Johnson and Robert Darby was taken full advantage of by an opposing forward to give them a lead, 0 - 1. After numerous chances went missing, finally Steffan Hutchings and Adrian Mutton combined for the latter finally to tie the match.

The match against Southampton was never going to be easy, but a well taken goal by Russell Roan presented us with another draw. We then went into the Magdalen game with growing confidence. It was not as easy as we had thought, however, but the top scorer for the sea-

son, Steffan Hutchings, produced the goal we needed for victory. The victory would have been beyond our reach, had it not been for the ever reliable keeping of Douglas Johnson.

The Radley match took place on a cold, miserable day, not the sort on which you would want to play a team as precise as this one who never lost their grip on the game. After this heavy defeat we wanted to reestablish our successful run. Adrian Mutton was relieved of his duties as captain and replaced by Steffan Hutchings. Steffan's first game as captain was against Reading at home, where he and his predecessor both scored to clinch a 2 - 0 victory. Giles Smith took over in goal as Johnson was away and kept a clean sheet. The defence in this game was outstanding, Christopher Turner being unpassable, ably supported by Mutton and Darby.

The penultimate game was against Bloxham, again at home. After an early goal by Mutton we were assured of victory. On this occasion Hutchings was not satisfied with a hat-trick - he scored four! Meanwhile Lister, the dark horse on the wing, came into prominence with two goals, with the ever-consistent Crutchlow adding one more. A riposte by the opposition made little difference to the final tally, 8 - 1.

Our last game was at home to St. Edward's. This was a good game, even though played in appalling conditions. Peter Skala whose position in the team had been a little variable scored on this occasion. Joe Gold had a good game and it was pleasant to see him making good use of the midfield position, in addition to his runs down the wing. The final goal of the season which secured us a memorable victory was scored by Ben Williams

from a short corner after which their goalie with a neat lob. A fine flourish with which to end a good season. Even with the loss of two experienced midfielders, Gareth and Zabidi, we managed to produce fluent and exciting hockey which was entertaining to watch. Everybody contributed mightily and it was gratifying to record only one defeat. Mr. Payne deserves much praise for our success and we offer him a big 'thank you'.

A. Mutton 6C

JUNIOR COLTS

This was a busy and, by and large, successful season. All the players worked hard at improving their skills and emerged with a much better record than in their previous season. A good proportion of the squad turned out regularly for the extra hour in the Sports Hall in the early evening each week. This practice was particularly useful for the two goalkeepers, Otterburn and Coleman, especially as it was their first season in that heavily armoured position.

Stanworth played a stylish and reliable game and was always a steady influence as captain. Fuggles, often at sweeper, would regularly emerge with the ball out of a crowded circle and dispatch it hard and accurately to the forwards. Marsh, at left back, was a tower of strength and he too was able to clear the ball hard and cleanly. The other defenders, Horton, Ulyatt and Marnane also supported well and hotly contested their places in the team throughout the term. Woodward played a vigorously competitive game at right half and was very unfortunate to have to be off games after half-term. Cullum was able to fill his place increasingly successfully for the rest of the term and Porter played a sound game at left half, having begun the season as left wing. Rowan Browne was ably supported by his captain as the other inside forward and was very good at getting back in defence when necessary. By the end of the season the forward lineup boasted two powerful wings in Keith and Adam Brown and with Jupp beginning to make the most of the chances in the middle the goals began to go in. The Reading and Bloxham games were notable examples of a healthy scoreline. Towards the end of term a new short corner routine, learnt at Radley and definitely suited to the less than perfect surfaces, began to come into its own.

The 'B' XI, engagingly marshalled by Mr. Hofton, played a better standard of game than usual. Noteworthy performances included a stout resistance against Radley and an avenging of the 'A' team's Shiplake defeat.

The following were regular members of the team: D. Otterburn, B. Fuggles, B. Marnane, A. Marsh, B. Ulyatt, R. Browne, T. Stanworth, G. Horton, N. Woodward, A. Brown, C. Keith, A. Porter, R. Cullum, P. Jupp, and P. Allan also played.

RESULTS

Southampton	W	1 - 0
MCS	W	4 - 1
Bradfield	D	1 - 1
Radley	L	0 - 4
Pangbourne	D	0 - 0
Shiplake	L	1 - 3
Reading	W	7 - 2
Bloxham	W	3 - 0
St. Edward's	D	1 - 1

JUNIORS

The season was somewhat disappointing, but the poor training facilities were partly to blame for the rather mediocre results; an almost continual diet of 'hard surface' was no substitute for practice on grass. The team played with considerable spirit and determination, but too often careless errors and an

inability to score goals cost us games we could have won. Performances of note included those of Daniel Thomas who lead the midfield in an authoritative and forceful manner, and Robert Finch who bolstered the defence with his tireless running and tenacious tackling. Stuart Gray also provided some elegant touches on the left wing. There were few memorable matches, although the game played on the icy wastes of Pangbourne's tundra readily springs to mind. Doubts about our ability to survive set in when the opposing team arrived, dressed as Arctic explorers. Somehow we only lost 2 - 4, despite early signs of frostbite amongst our key players. On a more cheerful note, the highlight of the season was the last minute winner, courtesy of Daniel Thomas, against MCS in a closely fought match. This team has the potential to develop into a useful side if they are given the opportunity to practise on a reasonable surface, whether it is on grass or an artificial pitch.

NMR/RPF

COLTS

The bare playing records of both 'A' and 'B' XI's fail to do the teams justice; 'even' records would have been fairer.

Lack of match practice certainly told in the opening fixture. After conceding two goals to Southampton in the first half, organisation improved and the four goals were shared equally in the second half.

We then moved to Oxford to play MCS on a superb grass pitch. We stuck to our task but were well out-played. When, on occasions, we managed to work the ball to Paul Engwell at centre-forward we threatened, but otherwise the initiative belonged to Magdalen. There was another excellent grass pitch for our encounter with Bradfield which finished goalless. The team, however, was now playing much better with some constructive hockey and in some ways we were unlucky not to gain a victory.

The next game, at Radley, brought the biggest disappointment. We conceded a goal within 20 seconds being absolutely caught napping. An equaliser came fairly early in the second half and then we had a cruel shock of misfortune. A speculative hit towards our goal seemed to be going harmlessly for a 16-yard hit when it struck a goalpost. An opportunistic Radley forward was creditably following up and put in the rebound. We lost 1 - 2.

With two cancellations and half term intervening it was virtually a month before we played again. We recorded our first victory, 4 - 0, at Reading on what might be described

as an interesting pitch: it certainly required a good deal of patience. This was followed by another win, this time at Bloxham. For three-quarters of the match we dominated play but failed to convert any chances. Just when it looked as though Bloxham might sneak home by a late goal against the run of play Paul Engwell settled the match with two late strikes.

We ended with a 1 - 3 loss to St. Edward's. Actually, the game was reasonably even, the last goal being conceded in the last minute.

So, it was not a highly successful season but an enjoyable one, nevertheless. My thanks go to all the players and to Rod Yates for coaching and umpiring the 'B' XI.

RSP

Regular players:

'A' XI: C. Mitty, T. Jephson, A. Harding, S. Ruhl, C. Busby, C. Morgan, C. Hutchings, A. Webster, B. Rayner, R.J. Stratton, R. Jones, P. Engwell.

'B' XI: C. Graham, J. Glynn, R. Brown, J. McIntosh, A. Janisch, P. Ratcliff, W. Wilkinson, G. Williams, K. Deane, D. Hartley, S. Gould, M. Funnell, J. Weedon, J. Easton, N. White.

RESULTS

	'A' XI	'B' XI
Southampton	L 2 - 4	D 2 - 2
MCS	L 0 - 4	L 0 - 4
Bradfield	D 0 - 0	
Radley	L 1 - 2	L 0 - 4
Reading	W 4 - 0	
Bloxham	W 2 - 0	W 3 - 1
St. Edward's	L 1 - 3	L 0 - 3

MINORS

The U-13 squad has suffered most this season with the loss of two hockey pitches. With my few practises on grass, and the snow before and after half term, match preparation has not been as thorough as we would have liked. Nevertheless, good use was made of the Sports hall and "Hard surfaces" which gave the opportunity for a good grounding in the basic skills of the game, even though perfection indoors does not guarantee success on grass!

In the circumstances, the boys adapted very well, and approached all games with maximum determination and enthusiasm. The A XI results of played 5, lost 4, and drawn 1 game, on paper

suggests a disappointing season, but most of the defeats were by a single goal, and against sides with far more experience. The B XI were always up against it, but always tried to fight back, and the C XI game against Radley was enjoyed by all.

Our congratulations to all players for their efforts throughout the season. In such a short season it was difficult for the players to show their true potential, but there is enough talent and determination in the squad to produce good teams in the future

The following have been awarded their lower school colours for hockey: - A Morris (Capt.), P Woodward, O Moss, O Greasby, J Arthur, M Byrne.

JD-H/JT

The following played for the XI's.

A XI M Byrne, T Williams, R Binning, A Moss, A Morris (Capt.), R Finch, O Greasby, E Smith, P Woodward, J McKay, J Arthur, A Ashton, C P Ank, P Rutland.
B XI A Twinn, O Guy, M Pritchard, J Oldham, N Matheson, L Clements, C McGarry, S Watts, P Ng, C Pank, P Rutland, A Ashton, M Barwell.
C XI R Smith, R. Duerr, N Austin, D.Armstrong, A.Taylor, G. Richards, M.Greaney, J.Chivers,J.Seymour, M Pajak, S Burchett, S Kennedy

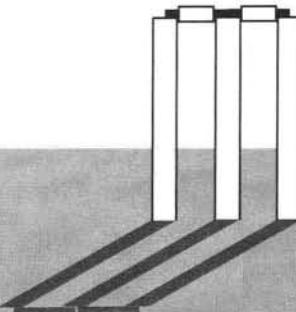
Results

	A XI	B XI	C XI
Southampton	1-3	0-2	
Radley	1-4	0-4	
MCS	1-2	0-2	
Radley	2-4	0-4	0-4
C.C.C.S	3-2		



Glyndowr silhouette viewed from Waste Court hockey pitches

CRICKET



FIRST XI

The season began disastrously at St. Edwards on a bitterly cold April day, when our early order batting collapsed to 9 for 4 within 15 minutes. The remaining batsmen recovered the situation somewhat with some very solid, determined batting, but it did not prove quite enough, and so we began with a disappointing defeat. The batsmen made amends in the next game against Pangbourne, where they amassed a total of 229 for 1 declared, with James Tilley and Joe Allen both making undefeated centuries in a 210 run partnership. Although this was scored very quickly, and the declaration came before the half way stage, Pangbourne made no attempt to chase the target and a tame draw resulted. The next game against M.C.S. also resulted in a dull draw, as M.C.S. were reduced to 18 for 3 at tea and decided to bat out the remaining 2 hours for a draw.

The first victory came against Oratory. An excellent fielding display, where every catch was held, including an amazing one handed take by the wicketkeeper Doug Johnson down the leg side, dismissed Oratory for 103 and the batsmen made light of the target to win comfortably. The next game against Douai appeared to be heading for a draw, as their slow over rate and delaying tactics seemed to be killing the game, until their umpire stirred Philip Page into action and some very quick, accurate bowling reduced them from 26 for 1 to 34 all out in the space of only 5 overs.

Unfortunately, we were unable to keep our winning streak going, and a disappointing performance in the next game against Radley led to our second defeat of the season. However, the team

bounced back tremendously at Berkhamsted, with a memorable victory in an extremely tense finish. Set to score 189 in only 34 overs was always going to be difficult, but the early batsmen all contributed useful runs quickly, and the task still appeared to be on until the loss of 4 wickets in quick succession left us needing 20 runs off the last 2 overs with only 3 wickets remaining. Even so, we continued to go for the runs and were rewarded when a remarkable victory was completed with a scrambled single off the very last ball.

Then followed defeats by the Berkshire Gentlemen, where we fell for all the old tricks when in a strong position, and Bloxham, where a sporting declaration led to a last over finish. Another close finish arose against Lord William's Thame, where some excellent batting from Adam Janisch and Alex Smith gained victory with 1 ball to spare, but the task would have been much easier had we not let them recover from 42 for 6, due to some pitiful catching and fielding.

Cricket week began with our customary game against the M.C.C. which this year, was watched by Ted Dexter along with about half the school. We acquitted ourselves well, producing one of our best fielding displays of the season to back up some accurate bowling, as they were restricted to 187 in 52 overs. Although our early batsmen struggled, John Wilkinson scored an excellent half century and the final pair negotiated the last 6 overs to achieve a very creditable draw. The game against AMB's XI produced another exciting finish after the school had struggled to 137 in 56 overs. Either side could have won off the last ball, but

the final outcome was a draw.

The remaining 2 school games both produced a result. A good all round performance against U.C.S. gave us a convincing victory, but a middle order batting collapse against Highgate the following day, left us with too few runs to defend on a good wicket, although had we held our catches early on it may have resulted in a rather different outcome.

The game against the Old Abingdonians was once again a very friendly encounter, with the turning point proving to be John Crick's rather fortuitous catch in the gully to remove James Tilley. The last pair battled hard to save a draw, but were finally 'talked out' off the penultimate ball of the match.

The game against the South Oxfordshire Amateurs ended in one of the most unlikely victories of the season. Set a target of 194, our early batsmen collapsed to 4 for 4, but Philip Page (92) and Andrew Harding (48) rescued things before Edward Paleit hit a rapid 30 to secure the win with 10 balls to spare. If that was not bad enough, we began the final game in almost identical fashion, finding ourselves at 5 for 3. But once again Philip Page (92) rescued the innings, this time with the help of Adam Janisch (59), and we were able to declare at 194 for 7. Then, as our Australian tourists appeared to be cruising along with some very stylish batting, Joe Allen brought himself on to bowl and turned the game upside down. He finished with figures of 5 for 11 in 9 overs, but it was not quite enough to gain the victory and so we had to settle for a draw.

Overall, this was an enjoyable season, with a lot of positive cricket being

played and several games culminating in very close, exciting finishes. The bowling was steady throughout the season, with very few batsmen able to get on top of it. Philip Page was the main strike bowler, taking 38 wickets at a very economical rate, whilst he was ably supported by Nat Pree and Ben Gannon. John Wilkinson was a very difficult bowler to score off, and his nagging accuracy and movement of the ball often produced the vital break through as well as proving very reliable. Our spinners had rather less opportunity, but even so, both James Tilley and Joe Allen produced some useful performances at times.

The batting was less consistent however, with the top order collapsing rather too often, leaving a lot of pressure on the remaining 2 or 3 front line batsmen to rescue the situation. James Tilley, Joe Allen and Philip Page all scored over 400 runs each, showing their obvious ability, but will all feel they could and should have scored even more. Adam Janisch had a promising first season and should score a lot of runs next year now he has finally managed to make that all important first 50, whilst John Wilkinson, Andrew Harding and Alex Smith all contributed some useful knocks during the season.

The most disappointing aspect however, was the fielding, which ranged from being outstanding at times to being downright diabolical at others. Far too often we did not take our chances, and as the old saying goes, "it's catches that win matches", and this is certainly one area the team will have to improve on next season.

With all but 2 of the players still available next year, their should be a lot of experience around and competition for places will be strong, bearing in mind the success of the 2nd XI and Junior Colts this season. Finally, I would like to thank Joe and Philip for their parts in the leadership of the team, and to send a very big thank you to Mrs Tilley and all the other mothers who have once again excelled themselves with the superb teas which are still by far the best on the circuit.

Awards for the season.

Smithson cup for all round achievement P. Page

Payne cup for batting J. Tilley

Morris cup for bowling J. Wilkinson

Full colours - J. Allen, P. Page, J. Tilley, J.

Wilkinson.

Half colours - A. Janisch, D. Johnson, B.

Gannon, N. Pree, A. Harding,

J. Hill, E. Paleit and A. Smith.

RESULTS

P 18	W 6	L 6	D 6
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St. Edward's: Lost by 4 wkts.

Ab. 124

St. E. 128-8

Lord Williams,

Thame: Won by 6 wkts.

L.W. 130 J. Allen 3-34

Ab. 132-4 A. Janisch 41*

Pangbourne:	Drawn	
Ab 229-1d.	J. Tilley 112*, J. Allen 101*	
P 113-6		
RGS:	Drawn	
Ab. 158	A. Janisch 37	
H.W. 112-6		
MCS:	Drawn	
Ab. 206-8d.	J. Wilkinson 42, J. Tilley 40	
MCS 138-4		
MCC:	Drawn	
MCC 187-6d.	N. Pree 3-49	
Ab. 139-9	J. Wilkinson 55	
Oratory:	Won by 8 wkts.	
Or. 103	J. Wilkinson 4-2	
Ab. 104-2	J. Tilley 44	
AMB's XI:	Drawn	
Ab. 137		
AMB's 133-9	P. Page 4-24, N. Pree 4-56	
Douai:	Won by 129 runs	
Ab. 163-6d.	A. Harding 48, A. Janisch 41	
D. 34	P. Page 6-11 B. Gannon 3-5	
U.C.S.:	Won by 131 runs	
Ab. 224-2d.	A. Smith 77*, J. Tilley 60	
UCS 93	J. Wilkinson 4-12, J. Tilley 3-25	
Radley:	Lost by 110 runs	
R. 221-6d.		
Ab. 111	P. Page 41	
Highgate:	Lost by 6 wickets	
Ab. 140	J. Tilley 37	
H.142-4	P. Page 3-52	
Berkhamsted:	Won by 2 wickets	
B. 188-4d.		
Ab. 189-8	J. Allen 55	
Old Abingdonians:	Lost by 31 runs	
OA's 171	P. Page 6-2	
Ab. 140	J. Tilley 64	
Berks. Gents.:	Lost by 20 runs	
BG's 198-8d.	J. Wilkinson 4-36	
Ab. 178	R. Yates 51, P. Page 40	
South Oxon Ams:	Won by 3 wickets	
SOA 193-7d.	P. Page 3-60	
Ab. 196-7	P. Page 92, A. Harding 48	
Bloxham:	Lost by 7 wickets	
Ab. 172-4 d.	P. Page 49*, J. Allen 40	
Bl 174-3		
Christchurch (Australia):	Drawn	
Ab. 194-7d.	P. Page 92, A. Janisch 59	
Ch 153-7	J. Allen 5-11	

SECOND XI

The Second XI attended preseason nets eager to embark on a summer of challenging cricket and looking to become a cohesive force just below the highest level. These hopes were revealed as almost naive as the season progressed, with integral parts of the team being lost to the examination room or pilfered by the First XI to bid for glory among the elite.

Just moments before the captain was due to declare the season officially open by inviting St. Edwards skipper to field, the heavens opened and a hail-storm of considerable wicket freshening capability reduced the team to a period of anxious waiting, the captain leading the team in prayer requesting a more amiable climate. After several early loses to balls which behaved improperly, Gareth Ogden and Paul Engwell dug in and steered us away from danger. The match was eventually drawn, mainly due to tight bowling from Chris Martin, Daniel Hartley, and Russell Roan.

The Oratory were dismissed relatively easily, and after a few nervous moments the middle order made sure of a solid win. Freak weather, a deteriorating wicket, and rash batting saw us in all sorts of trouble against Berkhamsted, but we were surprised to see the opposition crumble in more alarming fashion under the pressure of all out attack - the only way in which to defend our merge total, despite some inspired spins from Crispian Lord they held out for a draw. Pangbourne was a different story, with Russell and Crispian annihilating a deliberating Pangbourne on a very green wicket., and the openers were left to record a ten wicket victory, the result being almost as improbable as the rumour that the captain that the captain was seen smiling at post-match celebrations. Bloxham this year was exciting; we lost, but wit one wicket with three balls left. Explosive innings from Russell and David Allison enabled us to post our first flattering total of the season. However, our bowling was just not accurate enough in the early overs and from then on, we were forced to play defensively, plainly not our natural game. Reading saw torrential rain, a first rate pitch, and an early declaration combined to produce a nail biting finish. The batting was solid, the captain contributing a typically unspectacular half century, and the game swung back and forth from over to over throughout the Reading reply. The situation before the last ball was Reading requiring 5 to win. It was steered to cover, two runs were taken and the match drawn.

A draw followed at High Wycombe, but matches against Wantage and the O.A.'s produced two batting highlights: Nick Watts' 62 versus Wantage and Paul Engwell's 85 against the Old Abingdonians were commendable in a year when only three half centuries were scored at Second XI level.

The determined core of the team was made up of Neil McLennan, Andrew Sweeting, Mike Bowen and Ben Miller. All were versatile, committed, competent and invaluable assets to a team where personnel changes were inevitable throughout the season. Chris Martin and Russell Roan were reliable and solid bowlers but back up was lacking somewhat, although Crispian Lord became a thoughtful and testing spinner. The batting had slightly more depth than the bowling, and several players including Gareth, Paul, Nick, Mike and David looked commanding at the crease. Overall the season was marked by the fact that everyone in the squad had the ability and application to make a difference to a game. Everyone contributed, proving cricket is at its most enjoyable when played as a true team sport. Our thanks are due to Mr. J. Henderson for his logical coaching, learned tactics, and unfailing good humour throughout the season.

A. Smith VIW

Team (from): A. Smith (Capt.), N. Watts, M. Bowen, P. Engwell (Wkt.), G. Ogden, R. Roan, C. Martin, D. Hartley, D. Allison, C. Lord, N. McLellan, B. Miller, A. Sweeting.

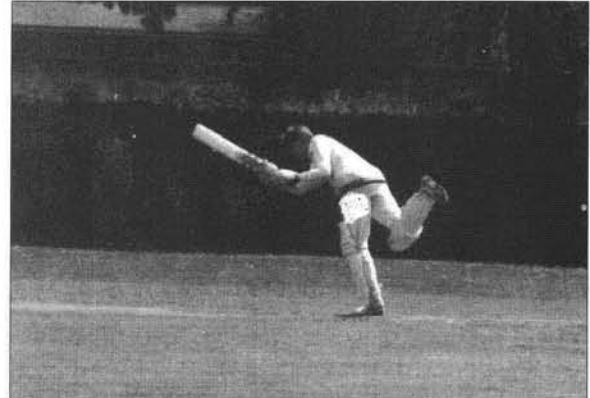
THIRD XI

The Third XI squad had a much better balance of players this year, building around a good core of senior players such as Robin Murdoch, Keith Sadler and Barry Gale each with several seasons experience at this level. Chris Hornbuckle brought his own style to the team as captain, never stuck for a word and full of energy in the field. The main improvement in the team was in the quality of the bowling, Chris Stovin, Andrew Sweeting and — Mills produced accu-

rate spells to complement Keith Sadlers mixture of fast and wide and fast and unplayable deliveries. Ben Miller put pay to the myth that rowers cannot bat with power and style with fine displays of attacking and defensive batting. While Steven Ruhl, Robin Murdoch and Barry Gale all made useful contributions to the run making side of things.

Thanks mainly to Chris Hornbuckle the team worked well together and we finished up with having our most successful season for some time.

AJM



JUNIOR COLTS

This may not have been the wettest or coldest season on record, but I certainly cannot ever remember coming off the field before - for a snow storm! The weather, however, has not dampened the players' enthusiasm, and all matches were contested with a result in mind. Injuries to key players during the season, weakened the bowling attack, but in spite of a small squad, finding enthusiastic replacements was never a problem. Batting proved to be the team's strength, and when batting first, our top order batsmen gave our bowlers plenty of runs to play with, aided by some very sharp fielding. Richard Haynes' reflex catch in the M.C.S. game, and Sheridan Lord's catch at mid-wicket at Pangbourne, were indeed two moments to savour. An added bonus was the wicket-keeping skills of Robert Finch, an exceptional keeper, who set the tone in the field. The prize for fielding this season certainly goes to Robert for his alertness and reliability behind the stumps. We have not had an abundance of keepers at this level, so to have a 'natural', has made all the difference.

Tom Pollard and Luke List, the regular openers, had an outstanding season, with Tom averaging 38.0, and Luke 28.8. Tom is the grafter and Luke the wrecker! Both players have a good eye for the ball. Tom's sound technique and patience seldom wavered, and Luke was the victim of the 'bad ball', when his concentration failed him. Ben Fuggles, the captain and no.3 batsman, lead from the front, and even injury did not interrupt his constant flow of runs. He is the best batsman in the eleven scoring 339 runs in 7 innings at an average of 67.8. He will no doubt remember his two centuries against M.C.S. and R.G.S. High Wycombe. These were fine knocks, dispatching the ball far and wide, much to the annoyance of the local community. He has a very promising future ahead of him and I hope his success this season will give him the confidence to strive for even greater success in senior cricket at the school. Guy Horton, batting at no. 4, never really managed to fulfil his potential. He is an aggressive batsman who times his shots well, but over-use of the right hand was his downfall, just as big innings was materialising. Robert Finch too, will look back on a frustrating season with the bat. Unfortunately, he was seldom given the opportunity to play his natural game. Batting at no. 5, he found himself in the position of either going for the runs, or coping with the odd collapse, and running out of partners! He has a long future ahead, and like Guy, he is a good enough player to cope with a temporary loss of form. Sheridan Lord, Rowan Browne, and Barnaby Ulyatt were also denied the chance to fully develop their batting skills. Rowan demonstrated his talents in a very determined innings, at the Oratory, while Sheridan and Barnaby showed 'the stars' how to bat at Reading! The tail was never

called upon to save the day, - but one knew that the talent of Richard Haynes, John Winterbottom, Richard Clarkson, Ben Utenthal, and Brian Marnane, was there - if needed!

Luke and Ben were the spearhead of the bowling attack. Luke was the most consistent and economical and his 17 wickets at an average of 11.7 is an outstanding achievement. Ben also bowled extremely well taking 12 wickets at an average of 14.3. Between them they bowled 147 overs in 18 matches with a strike rate of around 30. John Winterbottom and Guy Horton also bowled well this season, but John had difficulty bowling to the left-hander, and Guy lacked consistency in length. Given more opportunity to bowl in the future, I am sure they will master these weaknesses. Rowan Browne and Ben Utenthal were the most successful spinners in the side, and were given the opportunity to bowl in all the matches. Both like to give the ball plenty of flight, but lack consistency of length, which is vital for this type of bowling. Both players, however, demonstrated their effectiveness in two match winning games - Ben's 5 - 19 in an eleven over spell against Pangbourne College, and Rowan's 4 - 4 in 3.4 overs against Douai! Richard Haynes was unfortunately not given the opportunity to bowl as much as he would have liked, and so never managed to get amongst the wickets. There is enough talent there however to reap rewards in the future, as is also true of Tom Pollard, who would be annoyed if mention was not given to his bowling talents in this report! Barnaby Pree's season was cut short with an unfortunate injury, but I hope this will not dampen his interest in the game, as he too is a promising bowler.

My thanks to Ben Fuggles, and Luke List and Tom Pollard in his absence, for their good captaincy. Matches have been keenly contested in the best possible spirit, and all players have responded to their leadership. My thanks also to Mr. Watkins for his help with the umpiring. A break from the action is always a bonus, and I am most grateful for his assistance. The XI is also grateful to Richard Haynes for his full and accurate statistics, and Richard Clarkson who scored in so many matches.

JD-H

The following played for the XI:
 B. Fuggles (Capt. and county U-15 player),
 T. Pollard (V. Captain and county U-14 player), L. List (V. Capt. South of England U-14 and county player), R. Finch (County U-14 player) and R. Browne, R. Clarkson, R. Haynes, G. Horton, S. Lord, B. Marnane, B. Pree, B. Ulyatt, B. Utenthal, J. Winterbottom.

RESULTS

P11	W 4	L 1	D 6
St. Edward's Ab. 111 - 10 St.E. 64 - 4	Drawn Horton 28 Fuggles 4 - 30		
Pangbourne Ab. 122 - 6 P. 92 - 10 19	Won Pollard 34 Utenthal 5 -		
MCS Ab. 232 - 1	Won Fuggles 107* Pollard 103*		
MCS 12 - 10	List 5 - 6		
Oratory Ab. 122 - 7 0. 123 - 3	Lost Pollard 33		
Douai Ab. 187 - 5 D. 67 - 10	Won Pollard 77 Browne 4 - 4		
3rd XI J. Cts. 179 - 7 3rd XI. 93 - 10	Won Pollard 68 Browne 5 - 23		
Berkhamsted B. 173 - 9 Ab. 77 - 3	Drawn List 3 - 27 List 33		
Bloxham Ab. 133 - 7 B. 102 - 9	Drawn List 38 Fuggles 3 - 42		
Reading Ab. 129 - 10 R. 120 - 5	Drawn Lord 44 Horton 3 - 52		
Lord Williams Ab. 133 - 9 LW. 71 - 7	Drawn Fuggles 69 List 3 - 15		
RGS HW Ab. 183 - 2	Drawn Fuggles 110* List 66		
RGS. 95 - 5	Browne 3 - 28		



JUNIORS CRICKET

P 8 W 4 D 2 L 2

This was not a memorable season by any stretch of the imagination, and any recall of events has been made harder by the mysterious disappearance of the scorebook towards the end of the season, hence this mercifully less detailed report than usual.

Unfortunately, I do remember vividly the first game of the season when we were annihilated by St. Edwards. They made 194 for 4 dec. and we replied with a pitiful 30 all out in 12 overs - what a nightmare! Things could only get better, and they did, although dramatic batting collapses were rarely far away.

The highlight of the season was an extraordinary win against Bloxham. Chasing about 120 we had our usual poor start with 4 wickets down before we reached 20. Gary Stow (41) then produced his best knock of the summer and ably supported by Ben Moss took us to within 25 runs of victory before another collapse found the last pair at the wicket with about 20 runs still required. Against all the odds, the previously unrated Edward Cooper and Matthew Hodges steered us home with much courage, coolness and some style.

When we could call on the young U15's, Luke List(capt.), Tom Pollard and Rob Finch for the Lords Taverners Matches we looked a much stronger and better balanced side. Following a bye through to the 3rd. round we easily disposed of Oxford School but were given some very anxious moments by a spirited Lord Williams team before reaching the final of the competition once again; this to be played at the start of next season against the old enemy, Radley.

Dominic Partridge captained the side in the 'friendly' matches with increasing command and confidence and clearly has the ability to become a very useful all-rounder. His offspin bowling developed most promisingly, usually showing good control of flight and change of pace although he failed to fulfil his potential as a batsman, too often lacking the discipline and patience to build an innings.

His opening partner, Martin Diamond, was a model of concentration and application and produced several long innings. His lack of scoring shots at the moment means that time at the wicket is not reflected in runs scored but if he can develop these he can become a force to be reckoned with. William Thomas has more batting ability than most, winning the game against Douai almost single-handed. He is particularly strong on the legside but like nearly all of the team, too inclined to throw his wicket away when apparently well set. His medium pace bowling could also have a future. Gary Stow is another with much all round potential. He bowled quite accurately, with his pace and swing troubling most batsmen. He had a rough time with the bat to start with but came good eventu-

ally. Given his determination and willingness to learn he should go from strength to strength. His opening bowling partner, David Melin, has an abundance of natural talent which has yet to be used to the full. A hostile left arm bowler with the ability to move the ball, he could be lethal at times but too often lost control of both line and length, witness his 6 wickets against Oxford School interspersed with numerous wides and no-balls. As with his batting, more concentration could turn him into a fine player.

Of the rest, James Dolleymore often looked the part as a batsmen but would then get himself out. Alex Shellard threatened to make a good score on several occasions but usually incorrect footwork caused his downfall. As as a slip fielder he has a fine pair of hands. Ben Moss was at his best hitting hard off the frontfoot and made some significant contributions when others failed but he needs to tighten up his defence. Jamie Aldred lacked nothing in enthusiasm and courage, hitting well through the offside but looked very vulnerable to any ball pitched on his legs. He could look good at times behind the stumps, and worked hard to improve, but perhaps a lack of concentration and taking his eye off the ball led to bouts of untidiness and a few too many byes.

Edward Cooper was usually very accurate with his medium pacers but would benefit from a little more penetration and change of pace. He is another who is prepared to work at his game and so must improve. Matthew Hodges swung the ball considerably and had one particularly devastating spell of 4 wickets in 3 overs in one match. A natural mover in the field, he could develop into a highly effective cricketer.

A very pleasing feature of the season was the enthusiasm of the reserves who all contributed enormously to practice sessions and were rewarded with a fine win over Berkhamsted's B XI, the ever loyal Daniel Thomas scoring 39.

Congratulations to Luke List(capt.), Tom Pollard (opening bat) and Rob Finch (wicketkeeper) who were regulars in the highly successful Oxfordshire U14 team and to David Melin and Gary Stow for being selected for one match.

We were very fortunate to be served by two keen and efficient scorers, Andrew Callaghan and Christopher Bowman.

Finally my sincere thanks once again to PJW for helping me through one of our more difficult summers, and for losing the scorebook - one of his most astute contributions!

RPF

Regular Players:

D. Partridge (capt.), M. Diamond,
W. Thomas, A. Shellard, G. Stow, D. Melin,
J. Dolleymore, B. Moss, E. Cooper,
J. Aldred, M. Hodges. Also Played: L. List
(Lords Taverners matches), R. Finch (Lords
Taverners matches), T. Pollard (Lords
Taverners matches), G. Carling, R.
Beaumont, M. Pajak, D. Thomas,
A. Brownlow.



MINORS

P 11 W 5 D 2 L 4

Nineteen players represented the Minors in the eleven matches played; as a result, there were some intentionally weakened sides selected in order to give plenty of the squad a chance. This does not, however, fully explain the inconsistent results! Some of the fixtures against the stronger opposition were lost comprehensively as the scores below indicate. The batting was inclined to be fragile and disappointing; nevertheless, Henry Whalen, Stephen Watts, Simon Kennedy, Michael Morris and Paul Woodward all played some good innings, if not enough of them! Watts' 75 against MCS was particularly memorable.

The bowling, if too often lacking in consistent 'line and length', was usually more reliable. James Prior, David Jackson, Whalen and Watts were the best of the medium pacers, whilst Paul Clements and John Oldham bowled some promising spinners. Woodward kept wicket soundly, but the quality of the fielding was very variable. We hope that 1992 will see this side develop, with some new 3rd. year 'blood', into a strong team in which all three departments of the game are functioning well on the same day! Despite the reservations, the Minors still achieved a creditable 5 victories, with 4 losses and two draws. They were a pleasure to be involved with, and we congratulate them on their good humour and always sporting approach.

NHP/PKHR

The following played:

H. Whalen, P. Clements, J. Prior, D. Jenkins, M. Morris, J. Oldham, A. Moss, S. Watts, S. Kennedy, P. Greasby, P. Dunphy, A. Deane, S. Burchett, R. Duerr, O. Guy, N. Matheson, J. Arthur, C. McGarry and D. Armstrong.

Results

St. Edward's	Lost by 116 runs
St. E. 172 - 3d.	
Ab. 56	Woodward 23

Oratory	Won by 70 runs Morris 44, Whalen 31, Woodward 22
Ab. 127 - 7d.	
O. 57	Prior 4 - 16, Whalen 3 - 6, Oldham 3 - 5
Coopers	Won by 9 wkts.
C. 63 - 3	
Ab. 65 - 1	Morris 30 n.o.
Henry Box	Won by 10 wkts. Jenkins 4 - 5
HB. 25	
Ab. 26 - 0	
Berkhamsted	Lost by 65 runs
B. 122 - 2d.	
Ab. 57	
Priors Court	Won by 57 runs
Ab. 107 - 7d.	
PC. 50	Moss 3 - 7, Whalen 3 - 8
MCS	Draw
MCS. 191 - 4d.	
Ab. 136 - 8	Watts 3 - 8
St. Birinus	Lost by 7 wkts.
Ab. 58	
St.B. 61 - 3	
Reading	Draw
R. 101 - 7d.	
Ab. 2 - 8	Prior 3 - 19 Kennedy 29
St. Hugh's	Won by 7 wkts.
St.H. 72 - 8d.	
Ab. 74 - 3	Kennedy
26n.o.,	Morris 21
New College	Lost by 98 runs
NC. 134 - 6	
Ab. 36	Whalen 5 - 44

UNDER 12'S

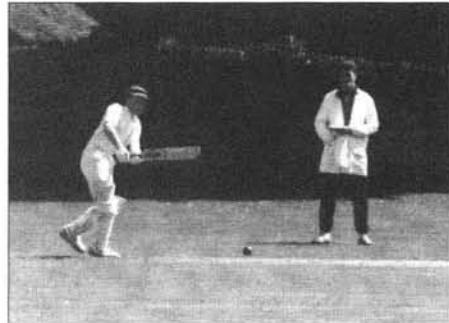
P 7 W 2 D 2 L 3

Because of the sad demise of serious cricket in primary schools, many of the boys in our First year have little or no experience of the game when they arrive at Abingdon. Some of the schools whom we play have much more experienced cricketers than ours, so we inevitably struggle to be competitive. A further irony in 1991 is that no less than three players who showed real promise have now left the school. We wish Ansel Morris, James Barralet and Michael Harrison well in their new schools. Nevertheless, several remaining players have potential, especially Dorling, Winearls, Edwards, Cook, Coates, Higazi and (Andrew) Smith. Many others also played for the side and showed laudable enthusiasm. Dorling in particular led from the front. He opened the batting, opened the bowling and fielded with tigerish zeal.

The season started badly with two heavy defeats at the hands of Milbrook and Eagle House. The third

game was much tighter but ended in a third successive defeat by Berkhamsted, this time by two wickets. The players then picked themselves up and defeated Priors Court convincingly. The next match against Hampshire U-11's was drawn, largely because of the contribution of a 'guest' player, Henry Whalen, who played because of the illness of Alex Moss. Whalen bowled very straight and scored over half of our runs, supported by Dorling. We then defeated Josca's and drew the last match against Christ Church Cathedral School. Edwards played particularly well at the end of the season, timing the ball sweetly in spite of an oversize bat! The 'B' team also had a game against Steventon, but lost against a side containing three of our 'A' team stars. What was most encouraging was the steady improvement in our technique both among batsmen and bowlers during the term. Let us hope that all the players will remember the basics and develop the 'straight bat' and the 'high bowling arm' as they go up the school.

AM



Cross Country

As is often the case, the Cross Country Club enjoyed a season of generally sound results with just one or two disappointing defeats. However, there were notably fewer fixtures this season, due to the fact that membership was alarmingly small. Although this handicap was more than made up for by the high level of commitment, general camaraderie and the friendly atmosphere created by the regular team members. There were six matches during the Michaelmas term including Bradfields, Warwick and Berkhamsted, at which all team members ran with courage and determination against formidable opposition.

The Lent term brought only four matches, two of which were regional selection races. The first of these, the Vale of White Horse District Championships at Radley, proved particularly tough as a result of Christmas over-indulgences and general lack of fitness. At our only relay of the term, St. Albans, our performance was hampered by absenteeism as several team members were involved in mock examinations. This resulted in Jon Winterbottom having to run two relay legs on the day. The annual road relay was a success again this year, with an increasing number of entries and new faces on this familiar circuit. As always, the season was rounded off by the Old Abingdonian match on the Sunningwell course, during which the Old Abingdonians were reminded of the agony of encountering Byworth Hill.

Over the course of the season, full colours were awarded to Jonathon Smythe, the consistently impressive captain and Mark Webster, the club secretary.

Half colours were awarded to Jon Winterbottom and Darren Chadwick and were reawarded to Rob Walker. The following were particularly noted for their enthusiasm and dedication to the club: A. Adie, N. Ball, P. Shrimpton and P. Moloney. Thanks are also due in particular to Messrs. Pritchard and Stindt and especially to Mr. Baker whose help, support and organisation made the season enjoyable for all.

R. Walker 6R

FIXTURES 1990-1

First VI			
Oratory	W	4 - 2	
St Edward's	W	5 - 1	
St Edwards	W	4 - 2	
Highworth School, Swindon (Times)	W	5.5 - 0.5	
Dolphin (Times)	W	6 - 0	
Bishop Wordsworth, Salisbury (Times)	L	3 - 3 (age)	
U/18			
St Birinus, Didcot	W	3.5 - 2.5	
Oxford School	W	5 - 1	
M.C.S.	L	2 - 4	
2nd VI			
Oratory	W	4 - 2	
B VI			
Oratory B (Times)	L	1 - 5	
U/15			
St Birinus, Didcot	D	3 - 3	
U/15			
O.H.S. for Girls	W	3.5 - 2.5	
Oxford School	W	4 - 2	
Juniors			
Oratory	D	3 - 3	
U/13			
Larkmead	D	3 - 3	
O.H.S. for Girls	W	4.5 - 1.5	
M.C.S. 'A'	L	2 - 4	
M.C.S. 'B'	D	3 - 3	
Frideswide	L	0.5 - 5.5	
St. Birinus	L	2.5 - 3.5	
Dragon	W	4.5 - 1.5	

1st VI: N. Jakubovics (Capt.), N. Hodgson, B. Randall, C. Lord, J. R. D. Arthur, A. Bingham, N. J. Matheson, A. Walker, J. Ellis.
U/13 VI: J.R.D. Arthur, N. J. Matheson, H. Whalen, T.J. Rendell, R. Patel, R.J. Kay, A. Oldham, M.R.N. Jones, S. Kennedy.

Chess

The Club played twenty-two matches, of which only twelve were won. It will be some time before we again taste real success. We lost our Oxfordshire league U/18 title, forced to play MCS with four players short. Nick Jakubovics, an outstanding junior at national level, and a mainstay of the team for seven seasons, unfortunately lost against Bishop Wordsworth's, thus depriving us of our usual win in the local zone of the Times' national tournament for schools. Nick Hodgson emerged from long-term retirement, winning all his games after apparently allowing his opponents to walk all over him in the early stages. They, and Bernard Randall, have now left.

Their replacements, however, look rather exciting. James Arthur, Adrian Bingham and Nick Matheson have gained valuable first team experience at an early age and Jeremy Ellis, though no spring chicken, is improving rapidly. With virtually the same first team for four seasons we expect to re-assert ourselves locally before long.

T. J. King



Badminton

We had high hopes at the beginning of the season but they were only partly fulfilled. The U19 A team actually reached the Oxford Schools' League final but was runner up to Henley College. The U16 A team all but reached the final of the league having won 26 games to Wantage's 27. Russell Bell had unfortunately injured a foot just when the matches were closely packed and missed the critical fixture against Wantage. It would have been just had the team reached the final though the outcome could well have been another U16 loss to St. Birinus.

Ill health dogged other prospects, too: Daniel Blake was smitten just before the Browning competition match against Highworth so everyone shuffled round



and Richard Haynes joined the A team a year young and put in a sterling performance though eventually the verdict went the other way. Alastair Mills and Richard Haynes formed a very good partnership this season, flair and thought complementing each other well and the other regulars in the U16 A's were Duncan Hancox and Robert Carder. The U16 B's got better as the year developed. The team was drawn from Felix Carr, Douglas McMahon, Ronnie Wong, Matthew Porter, Barnaby Ulyatt, Matthew Dearman, James Mackenzie, Russell Clarke, Andrew Davies and Francis Aish.

The U14's also profited from match experience. A 7 - 0 defeat by Larkmead developed into a 5 - 2 loss to St. Birinus, but the next game was a 4 - 3 win over M.C.S. and great was the rejoicing and relief! The team settled to Tom Pollard, David Jenkins, Martin Diamond and Ian Jackson, Andrew Bennett and Matthew Hodges; though Duncan Hartley, David Lourie and Jeremy Sugden also played with promise.

And so to the U19 teams' season. The A team was usually Malek, Ahmad Mohamad, Nick Myatt and Tom Barton, Razly and Zubir, with Latif as the regular

number 7. Very few games were conceded until the final of the Oxford Schools Competition and even when losing here they played with flair, variety and humour. The B team had a rollicking good time of it simply playing for fun though almost inevitably losing to the teams that the A's would later beat. Steven Da Costa, Hazly, Shaiful and Robin Gwyther, Neil McLellan, Alastair Abbott and Jeremy Dearman figured in the team which did actually manage to beat Bloxham. Other matches outside the Oxford area included new fixtures against Cheltenham and Bradfield both of which we won.

The internal doubles knock out competition was played complete on October 13, the Abingdon School Open Day, when

Daniel Blake and Russell Bell beat Malek and Nick Myatt in the final having weathered some less serious challenges in earlier rounds.

It seems to have become traditional that we end the season with a visit to the finals of the Yonex All England Open at Wembley and thither the faithful minibus duly wended its way on the last Saturday of the Lent term.

Full colours are held by Malek, Zubir and Razly and are awarded to Nicholas Myatt, Tom Barton, Daniel Blake and Russell Bell. Half colours are awarded to Latif, Ahmad Mohamad and Steven Da Costa, and many thanks to Mrs. Bradshaw and Mr. Ayling without whom it would have been impossible to have the games covered.

Captain, T. Barton
Secretary, D. Blake.

I.A.McD.

Tennis

What makes a good tennis season? Reasonable weather seems essential, when so much of the play is on grass, and we had this - at least it was dry, though too often drab and sunless. Encouraging results and some unexpected victories help, and there were these too: if not a vintage year, at least the wins considerably outnumbered the losses. But above all you need to be aware of real enjoyment of the game, enthusiasm, and developing skill; and here it was the members of the junior team who had the edge.

The first fixture, against Magdalen College School, was curtailed by a downpour in the morning to a match between 1st VI's only. The balance over the last two decades has been decidedly in M.C.S.'s favour, so it was with some relief, satisfaction even, that a draw was recorded. Indeed, if only two tie-breaks had gone our way . . . but that's a line one has heard so often. If there were no stars in the 1st VI, neither were there serious weaknesses. Ben Williams and Joff Dorkings could be commanding when on song. The regular second pair of Tom Barton and Russell Bell combined classic stroke production with curiously contrived yet inventive shots, often to the consternation of the opponents. Nick Hodgson and Martin Scott-Brown, the third pair, began the season rather dismally in terms of results but improved immeasurably, clearly enjoying their matches and committing themselves fully, in spite of the proximity of A levels, and always managing to play with such infectious good spirit - an altogether heartening spectacle.

In the colts and junior colts sides, two pairs in particular stood out: Jupp and Carder, and the third-formers Margo and Gray. Philip Jupp is by instinct a forceful player who last year lost too many points overhitting. Now he has gained further strength (he can serve as powerful an ace as anyone in the sixth form) but he has developed greater control and patience. When teamed up with Robert Carder whose approach is unorthodox, highly individual but determinedly effective, nobody was able to beat them. Their most impressive scalps were Radley's. Gideon Margo and Stuart Gray as yet lack the pace of the senior pair, but produce technically very sound and thoughtful shots, keenly attacking their opponents' weaknesses. Overall their results were impressive, and they were well supported in particular by Nick Rees, Chris Keith, Philip Allan and Matthew Eyre-Brooke.

By starting the Buckley Cup competition well into the second half of term, the upper sixth formers are effectively excluded; the compensation is a tauter, less disrupted tournament with fewer walkovers in the closing stages. Russell Bell in the top half of the draw was forced to struggle to beat Daniel Smith in the quarter finals and Gideon Margo in the semis, while Tom Barton had a some-

what easier run in the lower half, only to falter in the final.

My thanks go to Lynda Milligan, Nick Revill and Stuart Evans for all the hours they put in, to David Bagshaw and his men for their work on the grass courts, and to the Almighty for providing enough rain at the right moments to keep the grass green to the end of term, and beyond.

TRA

The 1st and 2nd VIs were selected from B. Williams, J. Dorkings, T. Barton, R. Bell, N. Hodgson, M. Scott-Brown, S. Da Costa, J. Gold, M. Lyon, D. Whittaker, P. Carter, R. Dippy, O. Vallee, P. Jupp, A. Ashley, D. Smith, A. Glyn-Mills, J. Barton, R. Carder, M. Buckley.

The U16 and U15 VIs from F. Carr, N. Rees, D. Blake, M. Dearman, R. Brown, B. Keith, D. Hancox, P. Jupp, R. Carder, G. Margo, S. Gray, C. Keith, P. Allan, M. Eyre-Brook, W. Clothier, N. Woodward.

RESULTS

M.C.S.			
1st	D	4.5 - 4.5	
2nd	L	2 - 7	
U15	W	8 - 1	

Oratory			
1st	L	4 - 5	
U16	L	1.5 - 7.5	
U 15	L	2.5 - 6.5	

Bloxham			
1 st	W	7.5 - 1.5	
U16	W	5.5 - 3.5	
U15	W	7 - 2	

R.G.S. Worcester			
1st	W	5 - 4	
U15	W	7 - 2	

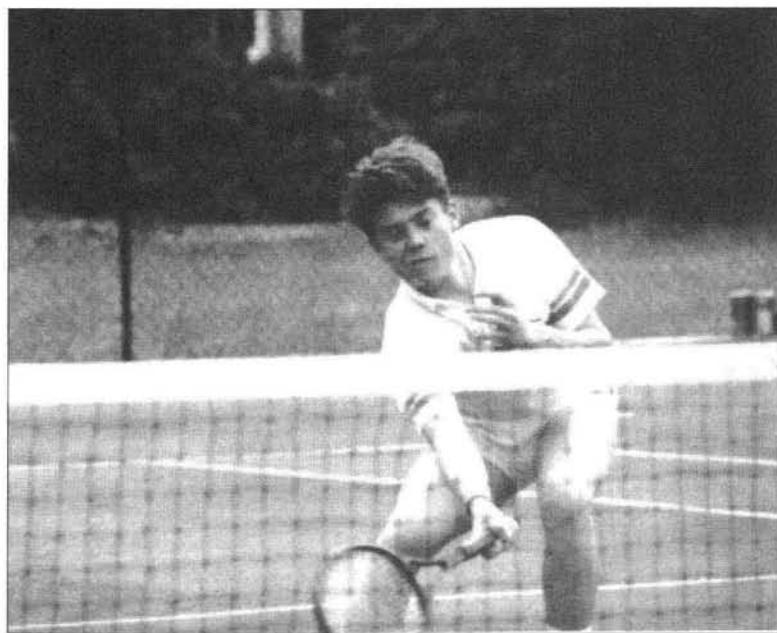
Shiplake			
1st	W	6 - 3	
U15	W	7 - 2	

R.G.S. High Wycombe			
1st	W	8.5 - 0.5	
U16	L	1.5 - 7.5	

Pangbourne			
1st	D	4.5 - 4.5	
2nd	L	4 - 5	
U15	W	8 - 1	

Radley			
1st	L	0.5 - 8.5	
2nd	L	3 - 6	
U 16	D	4.5 - 4.5	
U15	L	4 - 5	

Bearwood			
A VI	W	5.5 - 3.5	
U 15	W	7.5 - 1.5	
O.A.			
1st	L	2.5 - 6.5	



Fives

I am pleased to report that there has been some progress in the Fives Club since I last wrote for this magazine- at last we have had a win against Radley!. Our Junior IV beat theirs at home in January, which was an enormous boost to everyone's morale, and resulted in the awarding of half-colours to C.Beach, M.Beaumont and R.Samuels, who are now the proud of those distinctive ties!. A.Winton was also awarded half colours during the year and is now Captain.

Although we still feel the lack of good Sixth Form players, several boys have worked hard to improve their play and are now rising fast through the ranks; particular mention should be made of N.Carson and B.Strawson, and there are several promising 3rd Formers who are new to the Club. Our practical difficulties have been eased a little by the fitting of shutters to the gaps over the back wall in both courts, the regular sweeping of the floors by the school maintenance staff, and the sharing of the supervision of games among 3 members of staff. I am most grateful to H.T.R. and T.P.L. for their help.

PW

Rifle Club

The Rifle Club has had a successful year, especially for the Senior team who won their league competition in the Lent term. Schools beaten include Warwick School, Bryanston, Bedford Modern, Eastbourne College and Hurstpierpoint College. The team consisted of five members who all received full colours: J. Rayner (Capt.), W. Hartley, J. Pipe, S. Kinsella, and N. Frost.

The junior team did not win their league, but came a creditable third beating Bethany school, Bryanston Modern and Queen Mary's Basingstoke. This team included four members: T. Baker, T. Moloney, D. Malcolm and B. Utenthal.

On the thirteenth of February, eight boys shot at Oxford with the university winning narrowly. We hope for revenge next year.

In the international competition in the summer term the winners were W. Hartley, for the seniors, and D. Malcolm for the Juniors.

With many new faces in the club, and the introduction of new training rifles, the future of the club looks promising, and we all hope for even greater success.

J. Pipe

Ten Tors 45

After a practice of two days on the infamous tors of Dartmoor, we began our intrepid adventure on May 19th (at four o'clock in the morning). We had already had our kit carefully checked the night before, and had a chance to view the equally infamous Ten Tors safety video. None of us could believe how wide awake we could be at half past four in the morning as we had our breakfast at base camp. Then it was a final check of equipment and off to the starting point.

At seven o'clock the Ten Tors prayer was read and the starting pistol fired. Our navigational skills had not been fully tested, because we had had such beautiful weather for our practice sessions, and I became a little worried when everyone went off in different directions; this concern was to prove justified later.

Disaster struck initially at the first Tor when Mark Hadland decided that he would not be able to complete the challenge with his rather nasty blister. He thought it would be best if he were to drop out at this stage rather than slow down the rest of the team. I was very sorry to lose him and would like to commend him on his very unselfish attitude.

We all felt as if we had let ourselves in for something more than we had bargained for, but we had a job to do and I was there to make sure that it was done. Besides we had climbed a worse Tor than this on our practice.

All seemed to be going well after that and morale was high, but the rough heathland was going to prove me wrong! Anthony Moody was the victim this time and had to pull out at the third Tor with a torn ligament in his knee.

Then there were four... and this was how it stayed until nightfall. We pitched our tent just before the sixth Tor, and staggered up in the early hours of the morning to find the check-in point. I assured everybody that the fog surrounding us would clear after our very rushed and rather odd breakfast....I was wrong! The sixth Tor, which we had planned to reach in about an hour took us more like four, as we explored the moor in a little more depth than we had intended!

From then on, it was against the clock. Blisters were raging, everyone was tired and my leadership skills were tested to the limit to keep morale high. There was, however, one possible way in which we could make it; we joined another group who had completed the course twice before and lived fairly locally. Unfortunately, even their expertise wasn't enough to find the ninth

Tor in the white-out and as the hours rolled past, we all realised that this as far as we would get. The journey back was overcast with disappointment, but it was encouraging to hear that we were by no means the only ones to come to a sticky end. Shattered, we all went to sleep in some very unusual positions in the back of the minibus.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the team, Mr. Stindt for his support and immediate involvement, Mr. Baker for his knowledge and organisation, and Mr. Smith for his overall help and encouragement (we were all sorry he could not be with us on Dartmoor).

B. Moseley

TEAM: P. Lamaison, E. Scott, N. Myatt, A. Moody, S. Milne, M. Hadland.

Ten Tors 55

This team was drawn up as a last minute decision with two members (Ben and Alistair) being transferred from the 45 mile team with which they had trained to fill the gap in the 55. Inevitably, this caused a certain amount of disruption but we all set about the slightly more formidable challenge with enthusiasm and no lack of determination.

After three training expeditions - one of which was on the moor itself, we found

ourselves in the midst of some 1000 eager (sane?) competitors down on the cold Dartmoor hills on a Friday evening.

We secured ourselves a small patch on the teeming hillside in which to spend our first night before the actual course and then moved on to the first stage of the event - the equipment checking.

After this, we had what was to be our last solid meal for the 48 hours - we all went down the chippy. Next thing we knew, it was 4 a.m. and some maniac out there was playing 'Chariots of Fire' over the public address system to wake us up - this was the first time when we all began to wonder why we had got involved.

Problem number one was now upon us - getting up. Reluctantly therefore, we got up, had a rushed breakfast and got ourselves ready for the fun bit. At seven we were all lined up and after the Ten Tors prayer had been read we were finally off.

This was where we hit problem number two - we were off; we were off for 55 miles; all very well and good - but where to? This was the big question. Not too surprisingly we opted for the sensible method of following another team which was looking fairly professional about the whole affair. After about an hour we were forced to have our first blister stop - a fact which annoyed us greatly since we had all spent large amounts of time trying to break in our boots to avoid precisely this problem.

The next dilemma which Dartmoor threw at us was the rather more significant bog problem. This was probably something which we should have expected with our chosen route - but seeing as there were only a couple of those marsh symbols between the start and Tor one, we had decided to ignore them. As it turned out, not one member of the team escaped completely, the worst hit being David Megaw who sank right in up to his chest.

By the time we reached the first Tor a couple of hours in we were already a fairly bedraggled bunch. We had expected to be in pretty good shape at this early stage and the problems of the first leg presented a rather worrying picture of what lay ahead. We had also begun to realise that although the course may well be fifty miles as the crow flies, we were walking it, and the good old hills were set on doubling the distance.

Anyway, things carried on pretty much in this fashion - hills, bogs, getting lost, more hills and more getting lost. Not much we could have done about the hills, we decided afterwards - but our navigation did leave a bit to be desired. By nightfall, after a mini crisis in finding Tor five and having to sprint to reach it before the 'closing time' of eight, we had covered more than



half the distance and we set up our first real camp, then crashed out in complete exhaustion.

Daylight brought us another shock - we were greeted with a complete white-out. Fortunately however, several cunning members of the group had remembered advice we had been given about noting the bearing of the next Tor before camping on the first day. Not so fortunately, no one could remember what this bearing was, and so having caught sight of another group we were back to playing 'follow my leader' again. Needless to say, we did not have too much success with this policy and it took us some three hours to reach a Tor we had hoped to gain in one.

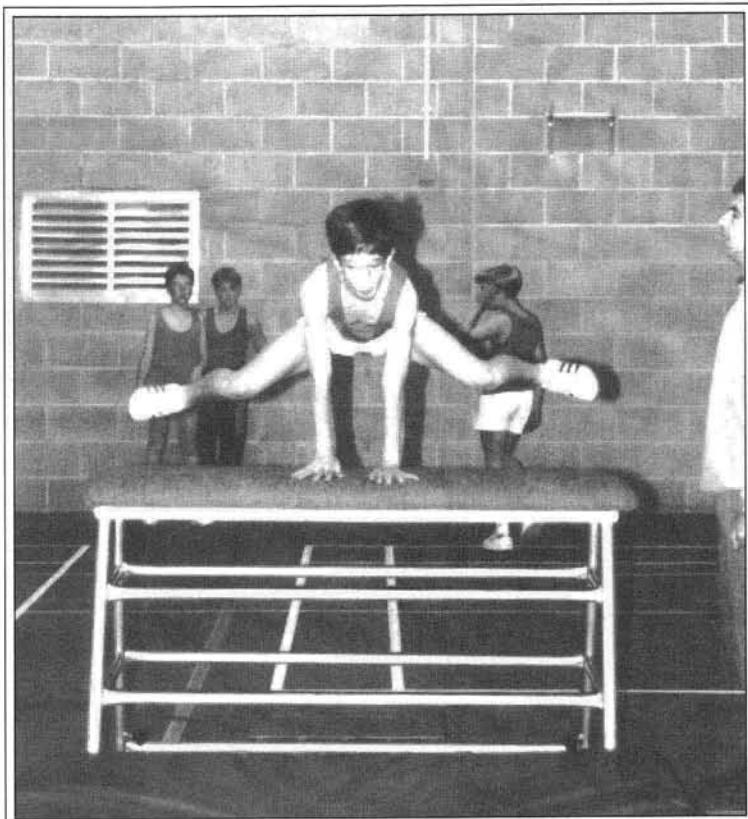
Contrary to some of our more optimistic expectations, the weather did not lift and we had this same problem with Tor seven. A similar problem at any rate, for although we managed to find the Tor itself in not too bad a time, we spent over two hours searching for the well-hidden check-in tent on the top.

By this stage we were faced with the unhappy prospect of time trouble - we were not going to make it to the tenth Tor before the deadline, even if we ran! Having come to this conclusion we reluctantly decided to pull out at this stage rather than continue fighting what was increasingly becoming a losing battle.

Despite the obvious disappointment all round, it was very encouraging - even before we reached Abingdon - to hear talk of a repeat attempt. With this in mind, preparations are already well under way for Ten Teresa 1992 - 'The Revenge'.

B. Moseley

Team members: A. Abbott, D. McGaw, B. Moseley, M. Mowat, P. Powell, M. Trump.



Fencing

After an uneventful Summer and Michaelmas term, the Fencing Club is expecting a more active Lent term with matches lined up with various schools

including Headington and our traditional fixture with Stowe which, it seems, has now become a regular occurrence. A change of captain and secretary at the top and an increasing numbers of people becoming interested and involved in fencing has allowed us to field a larger number of teams than in previous years, including a number of girls from other schools, and matches are being arranged for fencers of all standards.

With our grant from the school we have been able to purchase new team equipment to replace our losses at the end of last year and also to obtain the necessary items to allow us to set up two full electric pistes. So as to prevent any further problems concerning kit, the Club has also appointed an armourer with duties including the safekeeping and servicing of the equipment.

This term, it seems, the squad has been fraught with injury and most fencers have succumbed at some time or another thus hindering team practices. Little remains to be done except wind up the term with the obligatory Christmas competition taking place on Wednesday. We are, as ever, eager to recruit new faces to the Club and there will be trial sessions for all interested at the start of the Lent term.

J. Matheson



Sailing

Sailing can only come to the attention of most of the school on the rare occasions when a new trophy is carried back from some distant regatta. Those - perhaps rather few - readers of the Abingdonian who have tried to view a regatta from the shore will have found it a discouraging experience. If you are on the land you will see little except a few sails milling about in the distance: from a boat you will see more, but, unless you have taken part in a regatta, you will be unable to visualise what is happening. Sailing itself looks easy, but when you are only just above the surface of the water locating the mark let alone finding the quickest course is very hard going.

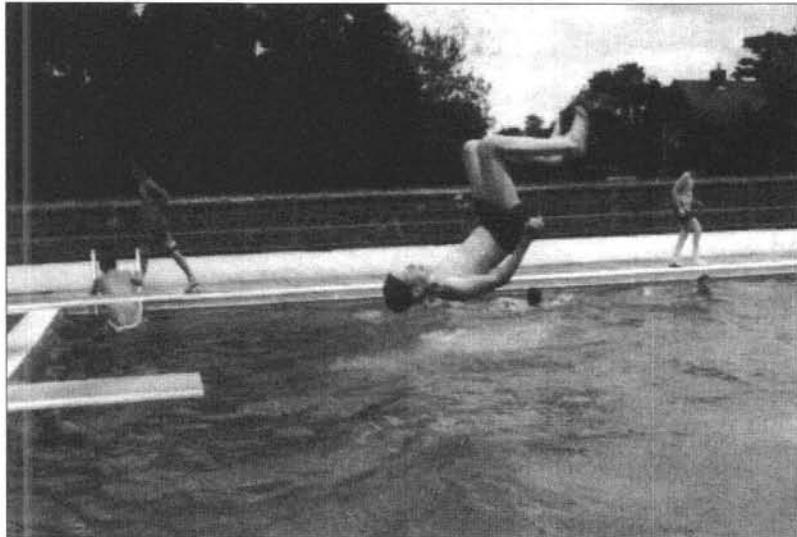
Why am I writing this year? The reason is that Abingdon has several fine sailors and I hope that their achievements will encourage more to join them. The school sailing club can do little more than encourage interest and point boys in the right direction. The result is because of their individual efforts. In looking at the results remember that in the competitions mentioned there will be the best sailors from the whole country.



Will Clothier has kept up the school's strong Topper tradition.

I hope that these remarkable results, David Johnson's in particular which was a splendid climax to an outstanding career at the helm throughout most of his time at the school, will encourage more of those who come to Farmore to enter competitive sailing.

RJS



Golf

The recent nail-biting finish to the Ryder Cup dramatically drew attention to the charms and agonies of team golf. Even the most hardened of professionals was driven to tears. In contrast to the more familiar strokeplay events, our school matches are, of course, team competitions, with the added spice and pressure which this form of matchplay involves.

Lee Stopps, Paul Lamaison and Tom Barton represented the school in the 'Gold Foundation' event played at Long Ashton, Bristol. Torrential rain and a water-logged golf course meant that play for the later starters was abandoned after 14 holes. Most competitors, however, played a full round and two scored impressive 73's. Millfield won the regional event, but Lee Stopps' score (up to the 15th. hole) was one of the better individual returns.

In the 'Hill-Samuel' Public Schools' Foursomes we lost a very close match against Eton 1 - 2. Lee Stopps and Luke List played well to defeat their first pair by 2 holes; Tom Barton and Paul Lamaison lost 4 and 3 in the third pair, and all hinged on James Tilley and Russell Roan who recovered well in their match. In an exciting finish James holed a brave six foot putt on the 18th. green, but Eton holed their four foot for the match to win 1 up.

Friendlies have been played this term at Frilford Heath and Bristol Grammar School (lost 21/2 - 31/2) and the Oratory (halved 3 - 3) and a middle school team of six promising young golfers enjoyed a nine-hole match against Radley on their own delightful golf course.

Full colours have been awarded to Lee Stopps who was chosen 'Young Golfer of the Year' by Frilford Heath Junior Section, and half colours were awarded to Tom Barton, Paul Lamaison and Russell Roan.

NHP

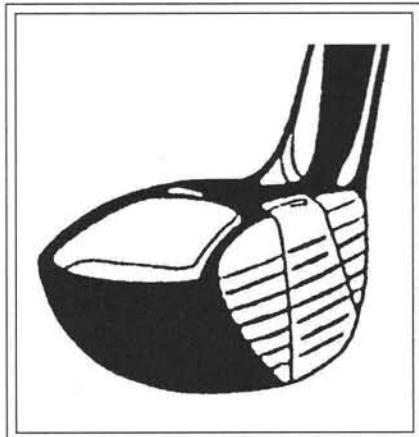
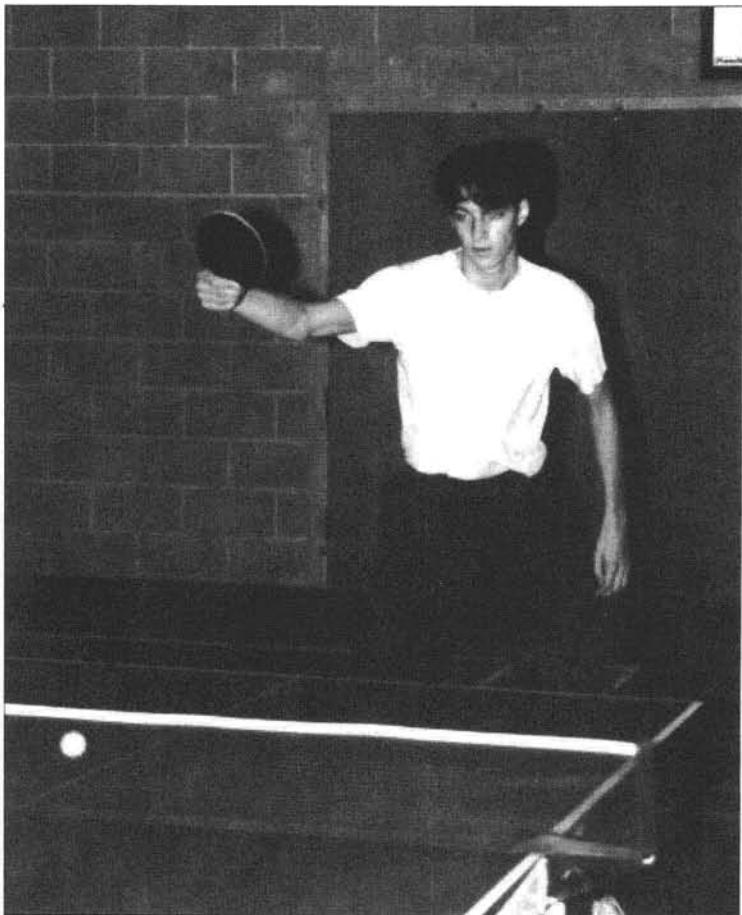


Table Tennis



The table tennis club started the year with the strongest membership, in terms of ability, since its formation and was able to field both an U19 and an U16 team in the Dunlop Schools Team Championship.

The U19 team consisted of two of the survivors of previous teams, Martin Haycock and Nick Myatt, together with Alistair Abbott and Ulrich Schoof. This strong team defeated both its opponents without losing a set in the county rounds but came up against even stronger opponents then to lose in the Area Finals at Newbury.

There was fierce competition within the club to play in the U16 team. The four chosen, Alistair Mills, Jon Winterbottom, Mark Woodward and Nick Woodward put up a good fight in the county rounds and finished a close second in a group of four. The winners of this round had to withdraw and so the U16 team represented Oxfordshire in the Area Finals. Here they gave a good account of themselves gaining valuable experience of playing at this level.

In the weekly sessions throughout the year, there is a strong spirit of friendly rivalry and the general standard of play continues to increase.

During the year, Martin Haycock recorded some remarkable personal achievements. These included winning the County U19 Schools singles, the Didcot League Junior, U21 and Men's singles titles and rising to a rank of 24 in the country in his age group.

KDB

Enterprise

With each new lower sixth year, so comes a new Abingdon Enterprises. This year Abingdon Enterprises, comprised of fourteen business studies students. The idea was first put to us in the early part of the Michaelmas term (1990), by Miss. L. Milligan (one of our Business Studies teachers), who managed to convince all of us that we would gain something out of it, (little did we know what we had let ourselves in for!). Elections of positions then took place, to decide on who was going to be what. With the assistance of Miss Milligan throughout the whole year, we had to decide upon an object to undertake that would make us all young entrepreneurs. It was eventually to be the sales of postcards in picture frames, which we sold to any member in the school who was interested. Enough capital was raised to undertake our second project. Whilst deciding this, the tuck shop had closed down, due to the retirement of Mrs. Dunsdon and Mrs. Bosse. Miss Milligan then approached the headmaster, to see whether Abingdon Enterprises was capable of undertaking

the running of the school tuck shop, and, of course, we grabbed at the opportunity. Robert Stanworth (Managing Director) and Robert Schofield (Personnel Manager and Company Secretary), together with Miss Milligan drew up proposals for the headmaster to study and then discuss with us.

Before any of us knew it, it was Opening Ceremony of the new school tuckshop and the start of a lot of hard work. Our first problem was the actual purchasing of food. The cash and carry was in Oxford and at the time no-one in Abingdon Enterprises had passed their driving test. So Abingdon Enterprises, used charm, charisma and bribery to persuade teachers to take us there, at least until someone passed their test.

The second problem, was to find out when people were available, so that everyone had their fair share of work. A task that was more difficult than it seemed.

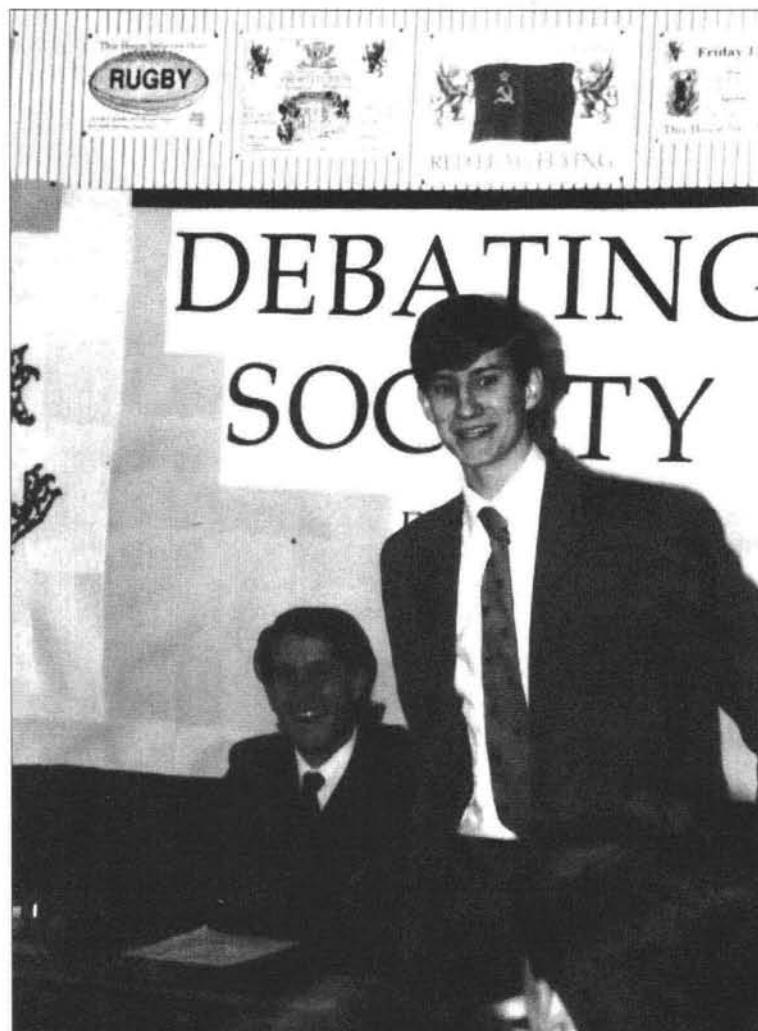
And the most popular food? Well, it was not sweets, but doughnuts! However, it was not always possible to collect them before school and so it was decided that we would have to discontinue that

particular range.

As we were getting used to running the tuck shop our first year was nearly over, and so we had to think who was to take over the running of the tuck shop. It was decided unanimously, that the next Abingdon Enterprises was to take over. As I write this, the tuck shop has re-opened under new management and we wish them the best of luck!

Many thanks must go to the Headmaster for allowing us the opportunity to run the tuck shop, Miss Milligan for her support and advice throughout the whole year, Mr. Townsend, numerous masters and everybody who took an active part in Abingdon Enterprises who were : R. Stanworth (Managing Director), R. Schofield (Personnel Manager and Company Secretary), M. Powell (Art and Graphic Design Manager), J. Kirkham (Stocks Manager), S. Bell, R. Claye, B. Fisher, S. Gould, B. Keith, P. Lamaison, Mustamir, Shaiful, D. Smith and J. Soames.

R. Schofield VIS



Debating this year has been a story of harsh, wild, intrepid pioneers, boring (in more senses than one) their way through the hard rock of school opinion. It has been a year of battle, adventure, strife and a gavel. Yes, a gavel; a mighty, hard wooden club, bringing order to the barbarians of Room 5. Order, but not civilisation, for to a rugged organisation like the Debating Society, civilisation means nothing. In one of the first debates of the year, the House resolved to invade France, of course with the full support of Mr. Tanguy, and soon after, it concluded in another debate that, Size is Everything.

In our bravest move of the term, we dispatched Mrs. Thatcher to the gallows in a Mock Trial; after that her career was ruined. The leader of these intellectual frontiersmen was a man with cruel eye and silver tongue, looking like a gnome but wielding the gavel like a battle axe: Bernard Randall. Not only within the school, but throughout the country did these warriors march, sweeping the girls of Wycombe Abbey and Headington schools off their feet with eloquence, dashing good looks.

Yet again, David Mitchell, Leo Carey and Daniel Seward burnt a path to the final of the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition, while Bernard Randall,

Edward Paleit and Sean Boyd fought bravely at the English Speaking Union, before having the prospect of success snatched from them by an organisation jealous of their brilliance. At home however, the Society continued to grow. Bernard passed on the gavel to David Mitchell and Daniel Seward, while Edward Paleit became Secretary. The weight of these three, combined with that of Harry White, whose failure to win debates is equalled only by the distasteful nature of his comments, has been felt in the Society since April. Still wisdom continued to gush forth from the bearded old men of Room 5, as they concluded that Italy was far enough for Gazza, that one Virgin Birth was enough for eternity, and that Shakespeare should be taught in schools. But the Society's decision that The USSR will not survive the Century was not merely wise, but prophetic, occurring ten months before the Moscow coup - a far cry from our resolution of 1937, that Adolf Hitler is no threat to Europe.

But the Debating Society is more than a story of brilliance, wit and nerve, because it also involves Mr. Milner, our sponsoring master, without whose support many a good idea would never have been realised. Another realiser of the seemingly impossible, has been Mr. Hayes whose computer sorcery conjured up

the fearsome heraldic beasts, (the Griffens - Chas and Dave) which now symbolise the Society. His Macliteracy also helped us to MacProduce Macstunning Macposters.

Other supporters of the society were brought together for a massive balloon debate: Robin Hood (Dr. Z.), Henry VIII (Mr. Clare), Saddam Hussein (Rev. T.P. Lewis), Cyrano de Bergerac (Mr. Tanguy) - by then a regular speaker - , in addition to Ghengis Khan (Harry White) and the eventual winner, Sir Dennis Thatcher (David Mitchell). And so it came to pass that the Debating Spirit was preached even among the Gentiles. And lo many among them took themselves unto Egham, and spake, and the Judge saw that it was good. And they said unto them, 'Thou shalt go even unto Barcelona, and there thou shalt converse with all the nations of the Earth.' And so it was that the Society did prosper and multiply upon the face of the school, and it came to pass that not twenty, but a hundred flocked unto Room 5 on the afternoons of Fridays. And at that time it was known that even if the Abingdon School Debating Society should last for a thousand years, men would still say "This was their finest hour".

D. Mitchell VIB, D. Seward VIC

Challenge

Last year was a particularly successful time for the Schools Challenge team. Abingdon reached the national quarter-finals, and claimed the Oxfordshire regional championship for the sixth time in ten years. The team finally went out of the competition after a close match with Nottingham High School, which was played at Warwick School.

The captain of School's Challenge was Matthew Trump, and the other Senior team member was Chris Burchett. Tim Ward and John Asher were the junior members, although Ben Uttenthal played two games as a reserve. Dr. Zawadzki was once again in overall charge.

The first two matches were played at St. Edward's School, for the title of Regional Championship. After a comfortable victory over Radley, Abingdon went on to beat St. Edward's, in an exciting game, and to win the title.

The next month, played in the Lent term, was against Bristol Cathedral School. The team travelled to Bristol, and having arrived over an hour late succeeded in beating the home side after a very close game. This victory in the Inter-

Regional stage took us to the last twelve nationwide. A fortunate bye then placed us in the last eight.

The finals were held on June 22nd in the shadow of Warwick Castle. Abingdon was drawn against Nottingham High School, and the match was the first quarter final to be played. After the first two rounds Abingdon was leading 100-0, but after 15 minutes Nottingham had closed the gap to 50 points. The game progressed and Nottingham briefly took the lead, which Abingdon then snatched back with five minutes remaining. At the two minute warning Abingdon was ahead by 20 points. However, in a nail biting climax, Nottingham pulled ahead to win by 50 points.

Nottingham went on to win the competition, beating their other opponents by larger margins. Abingdon also ran out of luck in the plate competition and met with little success.

T. Ward 5RGH

Mod. Lang.

The summer term saw a new lease of life for the Modern Languages Society. After a short time in the wilderness, the society (under new management!) bounced back and became more popular than ever before with membership reaching an all-time high of over 80 people from both Abingdon School and St. Helen's. Members were treated to a varied and interesting programme of events, including two trips to the Royal National Theatre to see adaptations of Durenmatt's "The Visit", a powerfully inventive and enthralling production, and Kafka's "The Trial", a threatening mixture of serious drama and grotesque humour.

Film buffs were well catered for - "Cyrano de Bergerac", the most expensive French film ever made, was enjoyed by many at Wallingford's "Corn Exchange", whilst our two trips to the "Maison

française" to see the old favourite "Diva" and the new classic "Trop Belle pour Toi" were heavily oversubscribed. Both films were subtitled, though for the latter, the Maison française had kindly arranged the seating so that a piano blocked the last two words of each subtitle, and my futile attempt to explain that it was a deliberate ploy to help people improve their French was rejected!

The gourmets amongst us were treated to an evening of sparkling French conversation and cuisine at the local restaurant "Chez Joel", where the food was served by our own French assistant turned waiter M. Tanguy. The term was rounded off by Mr. Willerton's highly informative talk on Existentialism.

The society has grown from strength to strength, and although at present events have been somewhat French and German orientated, we hope to expand to cover more languages in the future. Finally, thanks must go to Mrs. Bradshaw and Mrs. Hurrell for putting so much time and effort into the society.

S. Jones VIS

Railway

The very modest support for the Railway Society over recent months has meant that activities has been restricted to a once per term outing. These have nevertheless been interesting and successful if not very well supported. In the Autumn of 1990 we took advantage of the school's membership of the National Railway Museum to travel by the East Coast main line to York; we saw the Great Railway Show and also one of the better model railways at York station. In the Lent term we went Network South East to the Kent and Sussex coasts and in the Summer term we made the Society's third visit to the Torbay Steam Railway in glorious Devon. Just before Christmas we went to Stansted Airport to try out the new rail link and also see just how far it was! On the return journey we went to the London Transport Museum at Covent Garden and spent time visiting some of the main line termini. The photograph shows the group at King's Cross with one of the new East Coast main line trains.

M. Fletcher 4LAM,
P. Harrison 4LAM, H. Morris 4DJ



COMMON ROOM

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

Senior Masters: T.R. Ayling, M.A. Christ Church, Oxford (Chemistry).

T.J. King, M.A., F.I.Biol., D.Phil., F.L.S., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).

+*N.W. Hunter, B.A., Bristol Polytechnic (Art).

- * 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).
N.A.F. Pritchard, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford (Mathematics).
R.C.B. Coleman, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Chemistry).
- + J.D.E. Drummond-Hay, B.Ed., Sussex (Physical Education).
- * D.J. Haynes, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford (Information Technology and Physics).
C. Parker, B.Sc., Nottingham (Mathematics).
- * G.G. Barrett, M.A., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (English).
C.J. Biggs, Cert.Ed., Durham, B.A., Open University (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).
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).
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).
- + I. Smith, B.Sc., Sheffield (Physics).
Mrs. C.M. Manship, B.Mus., F.R.C.O. (CHM), G.R.S.M., A.R.C.M., London (Divinity).
N.M. Revill, B.A., Sussex (Modern Languages).
- + The Rev. A. Mitra, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Classics).
- * A.J. Mansfield, B.Sc., Wales (Design).
- * J. Townsend, B.A., Keele (Economics and Business Studies). Sixth Form Master.
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).
R.G. Hofton, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (History).
- * M.A. Stinton, M.A., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Worcester College, Oxford (Music).
R.C.R. Milner, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (Modern Languages). Director of General Studies.
- + J.F. Henderson, B.A., Cambridge College of Arts and Technology (Geography).
J.S. Oxладе, M.A., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (Geography and Music).
School Organist.
- * Mrs. J.E. Fishpool, 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., A.K.C., M. Litt., King's College, London and Brasenose College, Oxford (Mathematics).
R.J. Strawson, B.Sc., M.A., Trinity College, Oxford (Physics).
- * J. Clare, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (History).
A.D. Watkins, B.Ed., M.Phil., Exeter (Biology). Sixth Form Master.
M.D. Martin, B.A., Herriot-Watt (Mathematics).
D.J. Pope, B.A., New College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
Miss L.A. Milligan, B.Sc., Salford (Economics and Business Studies).
Sir Digby Cayley, Bt., M.A., Downing College, Cambridge (Classics).
Mrs. V.J. Bradshaw, B.A., Sheffield (Modern Languages).
S.A. Evans, B.A., Durham (English).
P.K.H. Raffell, M.Sc., York (Mathematics).
G.A. Stindt, B.Sc., Stellenbosch (Physics).
- + F.C. Burrow, B.Sc., Bristol (Mathematics).
R.S. Elliott, M.A., Durham (Music).
- * M.J. Maughan, B.A., Liverpool (Geography).
- * S.C. White, M.A., B.Sc., St John's College, Oxford (Chemistry).
Mrs. J. Boulton, N.D.D. (Art).
I. Green, B.A., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).

S. Hunter, B.A., Bristol Polytechnic (Ceramics).
 Mrs. A. Lawrence, B.Sc., Bedford College, London (Geography).
 Miss C. Bitter (German Assistant).
 Mlle. G.A. Requi (French Assistant).
 I.G. Swann, Dip.T., G.D.S.E., Victoria College and University of Melbourne, Australia (Physical Education).
 * = Senior Subject Master; + = Housemaster.

Medical Officer: Dr. D.R. May, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.
 Bursar: A.G. Daley, B.A.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Heads of School

J.W. Dorkings
 S. Hickson

School Prefects

B.R. Clothier; D.P. Peters; D.R. Chadwick; B. Pilling; J.M. Denée; M.W.G. Scott-Brown; L.M. Golding;
 M.W. Webster; P.A.B. Page; B.C. Williams.

Sub-Prefects

J.M. Allen; J.G. Richards; L.J. Carey; M. Said; P.S. Crutchlow; J.B. Smythe; P.D. Haynes; A.T. Sweeting;
 N.C. Hodgson; J.S. Tilley; J-P. Hoskins; B.C. Ulyatt; S.L. Hutchings; C.S. Wakefield; B. Miller; R.A. Wan;
 E.J. Paleit; J.M. Wilkinson; B.C. Randall; R.J. Wright; G.D.G. Rands.

ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

BANGOR

Atkinson, G.A. Biology and Oceanography

BELFAST

Mildenhall, P.J. Geography

BIRMINGHAM

Hyde, A. Biology
 Milne, R.A.S. HND Computer studies

BRISTOL

Samah, H.B.A. Economics and Accountancy
 Abdul Rashid, N.A.R. Economics and Accountancy
 Clark, K.D.P. Mathematics
 Davies, R.P. Chemistry
 Jones, C.R.G. Mechanical Engineering
 Mannion, T. Mathematics
 Paterson, R.D.A. Mathematics
 Rayner, J.D. Aeronautical Engineering
 Sadler, K.C. Mechanical Engineering
 Thomas, J.G.A. Zoology
 Winton, T.H.G. Electronic Engineering

CAMBRIDGE

Girton
 N.S. Jakubovics Natural Sciences
Gonville & Caius
 R.S. Murdoch Law
Jesus
 N.C. Hodgson History
Magdalene
 M.N. Haycock Land Economy
St. Catherine's
 A.J. Hart Natural Sciences
Trinity
 S.C. Davis Mathematics
 A.J.R. Ions Economics

CARDIFF

Bowler, J.E. Economics

CREWE POLYTECHNIC

Mowat, M.J. HND Business/Management studies

DURHAM

Brown, A.J. History
 Morgan, S.J. Economics

EDINBURGH

Acton, H.P. Combined/General course
 Hall, J.P.M. Psychology (Social) & Philosophy

EXETER

Gordon, M.D. French
 Kenyon, S.L. German
 Powell, A.P.F. History

HATFIELD POLYTECHNIC

Lowman, R.C. Civil Engineering

HULL

Parsons, D. English
 Whetter, J.A. Economics

KEELE

Viner, J.C. French and European language

KENT

Dalby, R.M. Law

KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC

Birks, B.H. Economics
 Chadwick, D.R. History
 Miller, B. Applied social work
 Newman, R.A.C. Geography (physical) and Computer studies
 Twinn, J. French

LANCASTER

Saman, A.L.B. Mathematics and Accountancy

LEEDS

Curtis, B.J.A. Business/Management studies and French

LEICESTER

Dennett, J.J. English

LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC		OXFORD	
Glyn-Mills, A.D.	Business/Management studies	Keble	
LIVERPOOL		C.M. Burchett	Chemistry
Taylor, J.G.M.	Mathematics and Computer studies	Lincoln	
LONDON		B. Pilling	English
AEHC		New	
Pegram, N.J.	Geography	A.E. Green	PPE
Courtauld Institute of Art		Oriel	
Green, T.	History of Art	B.C. Randall	Classics
Goldsmiths		Queen's	
Wilkinson, T.B.	French	M.W.G. Scott-Brown	Biochemistry
Imperial		St. Peters	
Said, A.M.M.	Mathematics	J.M. Evans	Modern Languages
LSE			
Hamzah, M.Z.	Economics with Accountancy	OXFORD POLYTECHNIC	
Queen Mary and Westfield		Davis, M.J.M.	Geography
Golding, L.M.	History	Hicks, C.J.	Engineering (general)
Lyon, A.D.	Geography	Pegram, N.J.	Geography and History
RHBNC			
Bailey, R.O.	Psychology	PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC	
Buckley, M.J.	Politics and French	Hornbuckle, C.N.J.	Business/Management studies
Courtenay-Snipp, S.O.	Geography and History	SALFORD	
Smythe, J.B.	Geography	Page, P.A.B.	Physics
Peters, D.P.	Geography	Walters, I.S.	Electronic engineering with medical technology
UCL			
Pringuer, D.C.	Anatomy/Physiology	SHEFFIELD POLYTECHNIC	
Thomas, S.K.S.	History	Engwell, D.J.	Law
Veterinary		SHEFFIELD	
Rayner, M.P.	Veterinary Science	Dearman, J.J.	Dentistry
Wye		SOUTHAMPTON	
Hadaway, T.E.	Agriculture	Bailey, A.	Computer Studies and a Modern Language
O'Shea, K.M.R.	Agriculture	Calderbank, I.M.J.	Business/management studies and accountancy
LOUGHBOROUGH		Clothier, B.R.	Maritime Technology
Turner, J.M.	Chemical engineering	Denee, J.M.	Economics
MANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC		Dodd, A.G.	Mechanical Engineering
Gerdes, R.G.	Psychology (social)	Duck, S.J.	Music
MANCHESTER		Gale, B.J.	Economics and accountancy
Abdullah, W.R.	Law and Accountancy	Wormald, R.C.	Mechanical Engineering
Goh, L.G.V.	Medicine		
NORTH CHESHIRE COLLEGE		ST. ANDREWS	
Humble, M.J.D.	Business/Management studies and combined/leisure	Ashley, A.C.	Biology and Geology
		Cooke, N.J.C.	Psychology with Business/Management Studies
NOTTINGHAM		SUSSEX	
Aitken, P.	Social Policy/Administration	Cuss, D.A.C.	Geography
Crutchlow, P.S.	Geography		
Lewis, C.A.	Chemistry		
THAMES POLYTECHNIC			
		Hickson, S.	Business/Management studies

OBITUARIES

TONY HILLARY

Tony Hillary, an Essex man, born in 1926, was educated at Brentwood, that Abingdon of East Anglia. After a stint in the army out in Egypt he read History at Jesus College, Cambridge- and only just missed his cricket blue.

Appointed to Abingdon in 1952, he taught for thirty-six years, a long span broken only by a term spent as schoolmaster-student at Christ Church, wherein he produced a workmanlike little book on Cromwell. As an historian he provided wonderful back-up for that indispensable anchor-man Donald Willis. A competent teacher with all ages, he was in his element as a sixth-form master.

On the boarding-side, he started the hard way, as at tutor at Waste Court. He stood in for a term at Larkhill during an interregnum. Then he took over School House in 1967. At that particular period it was a great comfort for an aging HM to know that it was in such safe hands.

Classroom - and house - and of course the cricket field. I shall always remember with gratitude his long and productive partnership on and off the field with Gerald Smithson, that splendid groundsman-coach. During the summer holidays he relaxed by playing for Berkshire.

In 1953 he ran, without outside help, our Quatercentenary Appeal, which netted in today's terms upwards of a million pounds. But it was something more than devotion to duty which had led him to haunt my private office. At Easter 1957 - conveniently before the cricket season - he married my then secretary Gillian Healey. No one could have made a better wife or mother.

Then in 1987 he told me simply, unemotionally, of the dark shadow that had fallen. The following year he retired from the School and went to live with Gillian in Cornwall, that country which she had taught him to love. There he died peacefully on 20th June after a long gallant struggle.

Those at the thanksgiving service in the School Chapel on the 29th September represented so many more whose lives were enriched by Tony Hillary. What marked him out was that combination of qualities, loyalty, decency, humanity, sheer common sense, which his deceptive air of diffidence failed to hide. My own memories of him are particularly poignant because there was an unusually close rapport between us.

To Gillian and Andrew and Claire we offer our deepest sympathy, they will remember Tony with pride and affection. So will the School.

J.M.C.

DR. JOHN FISHER MBE JP

John Fisher returned to Abingdon when he was invalided out of the Navy after Anzio (I heard only recently of his mention in dispatches). For thirty-five years he served as the school doctor. Generations of boarders, many dayboys too, have good reason to be grateful from his ministrations.

For me he was far more than doctor. Our families (their four sons, our four daughters) were brought up together. It was largely his support that kept me going

after two personal crises. As chairmen of our respective benches we had an unusually close liaison.

On the Tuesday he played golf as usual. Three days later (8th November) he died peacefully while awaiting an operation. Not a bad end for a man of 84. The respect and affection - yes, the love - in which he was universally held was evinced in the congregation which packed St. Nicolas' Church for the service of thanksgiving a week later.

Unstinting in his friendship and in his care for others, John never paraded his private griefs. Now he is reunited with his beloved Molly, with their son Peter, killed with his wife in a road accident, with his grand-daughter June. I salute a dear friend, a man of natural goodness.

J.M.C.

KATIE COBBAN

Katie Cobban, an account of whose work follows, will be remembered with affection by older members of the School community.

....You may know that Katie spent all her teaching life up in her native town of Scunthorpe, the last twenty-three years of it as head of a large infant school; she was reputed to know all of her five- and six-year-olds individually, up to six hundred of them at once. As soon as she retired in 1963 she came down to Abingdon to look after my four motherless daughters and to back me up as headmaster and housemaster, first in School House and then at Lacies Court. When my turn to retire came in 1970 we moved to Steventon and then in 1983 to Sherborne. Without her support I could never have managed to continue to lead a busy life.

Then some four years ago she became the first resident in the newly-opened Tyndale Nursing Home at Yeovil (run by my daughter Hilary and her husband Chris). She was delighted when last year I became her neighbour in Coverdale; in the evening of her life she found increasing joy in her relationship with her eight great-nephews and great-nieces, now of an age with those teenagers she had looked after so well a generation ago.

She had never enjoyed good health, and the day came when an operation was essential if she was to have any quality of life. Immediate recovery was good. But two days later she had a stroke and the following day developed pneumonia. We knew we were saying good-bye to her on the Saturday evening. She died peacefully and with dignity early in the morning of Sunday 20 October.

The funeral took place in two parts on Thursday 24 October. Private cremation in the morning at Yeovil was followed by a splendid service of thanksgiving, and the interment of the ashes, at Castleton Church, Sherborne, in the afternoon, a service in which seven of the grandchildren took an active part. Our gratitude to the Revd. Stephen Lake and to Mr. David and to Mr. David Rivett, the undertaker, is far more than conventional.

For someone of firm and uncomplicated faith it was a fitting epilogue to this life, a prologue to the life to come.

James Cobban.

