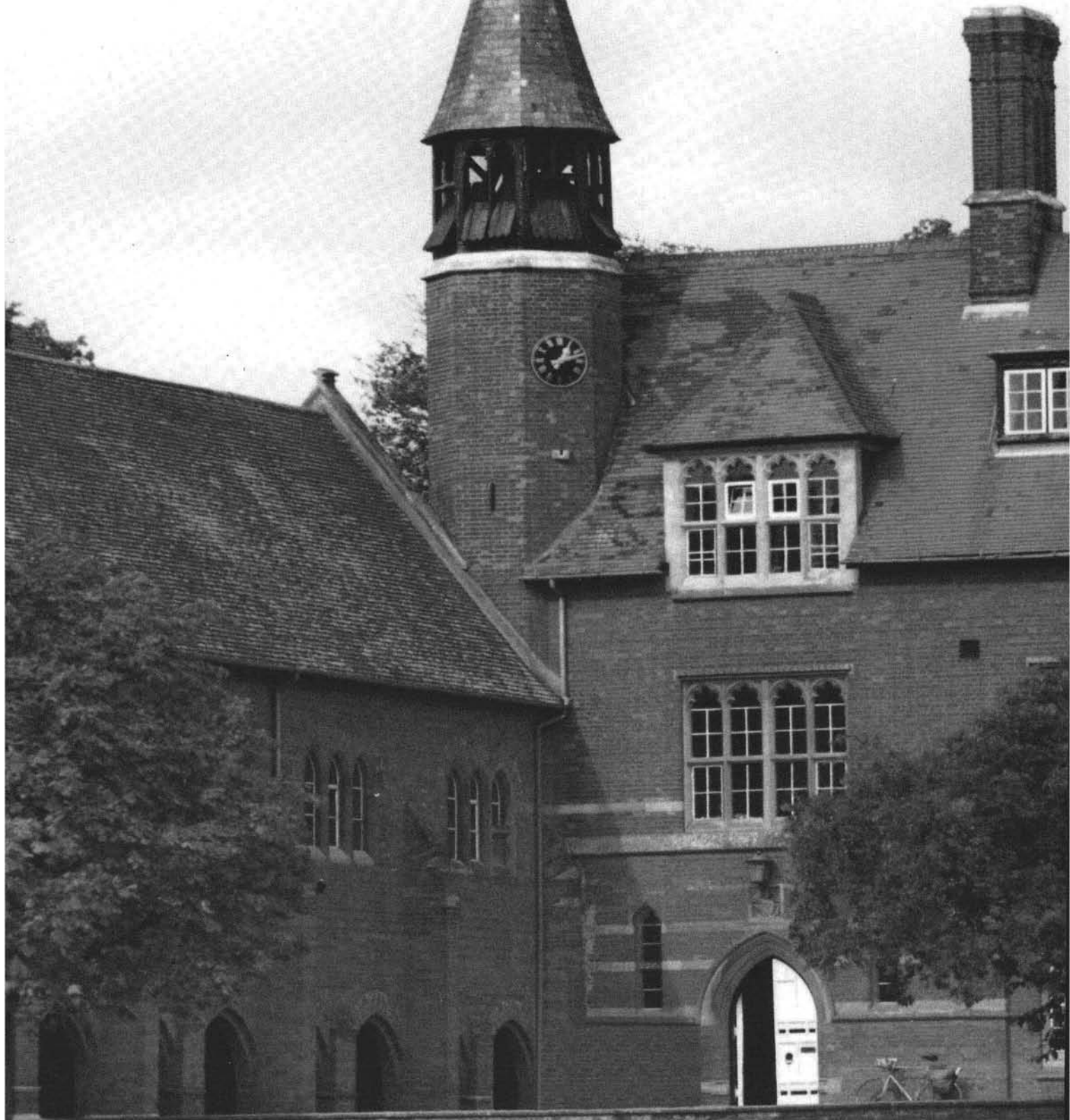


THE ABINGDONIAN



1996 Michaelmas

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New Boys 1996 - 97



THE ABINGDONIAN

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CONTENTS

Editorial 2 - 11
including

Editor's Comment
"For the Record"
Letters to the Editor

Beyond Abingdon 12 - 16
including

Outdoor adventures
Work Experience
Scotland
Greece

Clubs and Societies 17 - 20
including

Activities Fair
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Upper School Societies - Various

Drama 21 - 22
including

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
Bugsy Malone
Oedipus

Music 23 - 26
including

The Music Society
The Chapel Choir
The Choral Society
The Tallin Chamber Choir
An Organ Recital
The Grand Christmas Concert

Sports 27 - 32
including

Rugby
Golf
Badminton
Lacrosse
Football
Table Tennis
Rowing "across the Pond"

Art Display

Back Cover

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Editorial

Welcome to the first termly issue of *The Abingdonian*! This has been a hectic term for the magazine for many changes have been underway, addressing most of its aspects: production, distribution, financing and so on. The most obvious is the new termly appearance. So why an issue thrice a year, the reader may wonder?

It has become clear that in a school as big and busy as ours, one issue at the end of the year can barely mirror all that occurs in our community; and when it tried, the magazine grew ever larger and more unwieldy. Size is not everything, and it seems more effective to hold up three smaller mirrors, strategically positioned throughout the year, for a more focused overall reflection.

Uppermost, too, in the collective editorial mind has been the desirability of up to date, relevant reporting of events. "Why would I want to read about Sports/Concerts/Plays *etcetera* which took place twelve months ago? Discuss." was the editors' verbal essay title and to which no satisfactory answer could be found. A termly publication neatly obviates that problem.

Not just events, though. It has long been editorial policy to encourage dialogue and well-written points of view to have the floor in the magazine. A letter published a term ago will always stand a better chance of meriting a reply than one published a year previously. We hope that *The Abingdonian* in its termly incarnation will encourage greater dialogue and correspondence. More readers than ever before will receive this and future issues, too, so do please write or email us and let us know your views. But you only have a term to reply!

Thanks as ever are due to my long-suffering team of boy editors whose names appear overleaf and who have slaved to take on the extra workload this term, and to all those who have contributed copy for this issue. My apologies are offered if the sixty-four pages fewer have prevented the appearance of your submission in this issue, but be bold and resubmit for next term, on disk or typed, by 15th March please!

D. J. POPE

"FOR THE RECORD"

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to James Warner O. A., now in his second year at St. John's, Oxford reading Chemistry. Having come 5th in the University in his Preliminary Examinations, he is now a scholar of the College.

Reading PPE at University College, Oxford is Tim Ward O.A. He too has just been elected to a Scholarship, in recognition of excellence in his First Year exams, and has also taken up the presidency of the JCR.

Congratulations to J. Howard who was recommended for officer training by the Regular Commissions Board in September. W. Rollin, too, has appeared before the Regular Commissions Board and has been awarded sponsorship by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Congratulations to S. Brooks 2RGH on successfully passing his A-Level Mathematics Module.

J. Farrands 2RJS, D. Brown 2RJS and G. Upcott 2IAM were three winners in the W.H. Smith's young writers competition. Their work was highly commended by the Headmaster.

Congratulations to N. Marsh 2RGH and H. Monsell 1AMB for raising the largest amount of money on the Charity Sponsored Walk. They greatly enjoyed their day in London with Princess Anne and Ted Hughes.

P. Watson 5TJCG was in sparkling athletic form to win a bronze medal at the TSB English Schools Combined Events Championship at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. Competing against boys some of whom were a year or more older, he set three new personal bests. His performance also earned him a place in the England team for the home international against Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Congratulations to the 39 sixth formers who took part in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge. The paper was taken by over 30,000 pupils in Britain. Abingdon won 11 gold, 13 silver and 8 bronze certificates.

Seven boys qualified for the next round, the British Mathematical Olympiad. They were: R. Patel VIDLS, A. Cairns VIJT, E. Hew VISAE, C. Walford VIMSAG, S. Yue VIJT, C. Lubbe 6WHZ, and M. Lloyd 6BF.

Rikesh Patel came in the top seventy in Britain.

The gold winners were:

A. Cairns, A. Chan, E. Hew, M. Jones 6MJM, C. Lübbe, M. Lloyd, F. Malone-Lee 6MJM, R. Kamali VIDLS, R. Patel, C. Walford, S. Yue.

R. Jones 6DH deserves our congratulations for successfully completing his 50 miles walking in the Tour de Trigs competition. F. Malone-Lee 6MJM and A. McNeillie 6AMS successfully completed 30 miles in the same competition.

BENEFACTORS

We have been very pleased to receive a generous benefaction from Mr. and Mrs. Q. Hoodless, whose son William left Abingdon in 1994. Their gift, which will amount to some £40,000 after return of tax, will be used to help service the School's scholarship and bursary awards.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoodless have been elected Stewards of the School in recognition of their generosity.

We also wish to record our gratitude to Mrs. M. Lewis, whose son Giles, a music scholar, left Abingdon in 1992, and died tragically earlier this year. Mrs. Lewis has presented a handsome cup in memory of Giles to be awarded each year for woodwind playing. She has also presented Giles' flute and saxophone, for the use of the music department.

A plaque is to be placed in the Amey Hall, recording the times at the school of Giles Lewis and of his father, who was also an OA.

We are very grateful for the generous donation by Barry Gardner, OA and his brothers Anthony, Alan and Ian Gardner, also OAs, of a bench to be situated by the tennis courts. The gift will be greatly appreciated by large numbers of people, and it will form a most fitting memorial to Mr. Gardner's late father, formerly the tennis coach at Abingdon School.

MATTHEW HARDING, O.A.

Those with a taste for the piquant may care to reflect on the possibility that the late Matthew Harding was the richest man ever to have proceeded from an education at Abingdon School, and conceivably also the most famous since St. Edmund in the twelfth century. For most of those who knew him, however, the news of his sudden death evoked much simpler responses - shock, a strong sense of loss, and something almost amounting to bewilderment that one so vital and so flamboyant should have been so suddenly snuffed out.

Matthew Harding was born on 26 December 1953 in Sussex, the son of a Lloyds underwriter. He attended Abingdon as a boarder between 1964 and 1971. Like a good many of those who go on to achieve high success of an individualistic sort in later life, he seems to have found the conventional rigours and orthodoxies of school little to his liking, but he was less unsuccessful at Abingdon than he sometimes liked to make out, and he was certainly not "thrown out" for "being a troublemaker", as one recent panegyrist has stated. Much has been made of the fact that he left Abingdon with only one A level - and that, rather incongruously, in Latin - but his talents, if not conventionally academic, were always recognised, and the one answer which he was able to write in his Economics A level, before he was overcome by what would nowadays probably be diagnosed as examination stress, was recognised by the examiners as quite outstandingly original. On the sports field, he was a participant rather than a leader or a star. Perhaps the most important thing to note about his school days is the fact that he was one of a talented group who, having formed a bond early in life, stayed together and showed remarkable loyalty to each other in later years, notwithstanding considerable divergencies in such matters as politics. Another of this band of close friends, Raymond Deane, a precise contemporary of Harding and a close business associate, died with him in the helicopter crash.

After leaving Abingdon, Matthew Harding went to work in a bank, where he quickly became very bored indeed. A chance meeting with Ted Benfield in a city pub, however, introduced him to the world of reinsurance broking, and from 1973 onwards his rise in this field was meteoric. By 1982 he had bought out Benfield, borrowing £160,000 to buy a 32% stake in the company - a stake which increased its value to more than £150 million over the years which followed. He had a financial brain which was both brilliantly astute and exuberantly creative, but much of his success was due also to the team spirit which he was able to create in those who worked for him and around him. By the time of his death, he was close to the top of the list of Britain's richest men.

Football was always one of Matthew Harding's passions, though not one he was able to satisfy while he was at school. He became famously involved with Chelsea Football Club from 1994 onwards, where he fought a series of well-publicised business duels with another tycoon, Ken Bates. The fans saw Harding as their own man, and certainly he enjoyed few things more than receiving the plaudits of the home crowd or fraternising in the Chelsea pubs. If his temperament was populist, however, his business mind was never less than sophisticated, and the commercial aspects of his dealings with Chelsea were beginning to rival his insurance operations for importance at the time of his death.

All this brought fame, in remarkable quantities and in a remarkably short time. Matthew revelled in the public attention, and seemed not unwilling to twist the tails of those who wanted to fit him into some stereotype or another. Shortly before his death, he attracted a star-burst of media attention by contributing, with maximum éclat, the sum of a million pounds to Labour Party coffers - yet at almost the same time he was engaged in discussions with Downing Street about the possibility of funding sports centres for youth on a national scale.

Like many of his generation, Matthew Harding had left school in a spirit of some impatience with the institution, and the fact that he had at the same time formed a number of lasting friendships may have helped him to sit all the more lightly to the conventional pieties of Old Boy-dom. In 1994, however, he came back to Abingdon, for the first time since he had left, to attend an OA dinner as the guest of another contemporary, Francis Maude, and the occasion seemed to have a therapeutic effect. Thereafter, he quickly became closely involved with the business of the School, and contributed handsomely to the cost of the Mercers' Court project, in recognition of which generosity he was elected a Steward of the School in 1995. The speech which he made after presenting the prizes in the summer of that year will long be remembered by those who were present, as a tour de force of shrewd, salty communication. Less conspicuously, but at least as helpfully, he made regular visits to give advice on careers to boys who wished to consult him - perhaps feeling as he did so that he was meeting a need that had been unsatisfied during his own experience at school. The new careers rooms in Mercers' Court bear his name, an apt tribute to his practical interest.

Matthew Harding was returning with a party of friends from a football match in the north of England, where he had been supporting Chelsea, when the helicopter in which he was travelling crashed and exploded. He left a wife, Ruth, by whom he had three sons and a daughter, and a daughter also by Miss Vicky Jaramillo.

M. ST. JOHN PARKER

WORKS PROGRAMME

While boys and members of the teaching staff started their summer holidays, the School's maintenance team was preparing for what promised to be an exhausting eight weeks. The task before them was to completely redecorate and refurbish what had been Henderson's Houseroom and also to convert School House's New Dorm. from a nine man dormitory into three bedsits. To explain the scope of the works in more detail, I will cover the two projects under separate headings.

Henderson's into Fishpool's



Fishpool's new Houseroom

These rooms are located on the first floor of Big School. The two rooms were in a some what tired state having been well used over recent years. The initial concept was a thorough redecoration and the demolition of the existing housemaster's office to enlarge one room, and the creation of a new office in one half of the smaller adjoining room. However, closer inspection revealed that most of the ceiling in the larger room was in very poor condition and would, thus, need replacing. It was also discovered that a mains fusebox would need relocating which resulted in a major rewiring of the adjoining area. It is difficult to imagine the amount of dust and debris that arises after a ceiling is pulled down, but suffice to say that at times the room looked as though it had received a direct hit from a bomb, and one wondered if we were going to manage to get it all back together in time for the beginning of September. Meanwhile, our stretched maintenance team was also involved in major work in School House.

School House - New Dorm.



New accommodation in School House

New Dorm. was a nine bed dormitory, which was one of the last remaining areas of School House to be upgraded. The new plans involved creating two two bed rooms and one three man room. This was not only a major structural alteration but also involved complete rewiring, replumbing, fire detection sys-

tem, double glazing and last, but not least, designing and building all the fitted furniture in house. We were fortunate to be able to move into New Dorm a few weeks before the end of the Summer Term. One of the biggest problems was the access to the area: numerous right angled staircases are not easy to negotiate with sheets of plasterboard and assembled wardrobes and beds. The maintenance team, never ones to be fazed by such problems, came up with the idea of using a telescopic fork lift loader to move large quantities of stripped out, redundant materials and to move in the new building materials.

The End Result

I fully admit that the completion of both these major projects, in such a comparatively short time frame, was very ambitious. However, apart from a few finishing touches both areas were ready for use when the boys returned at the start of the Michaelmas Term. It is often difficult to comprehend the amount of work that goes into these type of jobs, and so I hope this brief description of the work undertaken during the Summer Holidays will give you some understanding of what is involved.

I am sure that anyone who has had cause to visit either of these rooms will agree that the standard of work is extremely high and is a fitting tribute to the hard work and skills of those involved.

D. CARSON, ESTATES' BURSAR

THE LIBRARY

The Library has undergone one of its most major changes for a long time with the arrival of the new IT. As everyone knows by now we have acquired three Macintosh Performas, with CD-ROM drives, a scanner and a printer. These computers are connected to the IT centre in Mercers' court, so the CD-ROM Library there can now be accessed from the Hooke Library. We also have a new CD-ROM ourselves: "Violent Earth", which is about movement of plates in the Earth, and resulting natural phenomena, such as volcanoes and earthquakes. It has already proven very useful in geography projects, etc.

The new IT takes up space which used to house the Arts and Sports sections, with the result that all the books in the Hooke Library have had to be moved around, to re-accommodate them. Whilst this change threw many people at first, things have now settled down, and the order of the books seems to be actually better than it was before, as the books are now shelved according to the Dewey Decimal system.

Even though the main arrivals this term have been to do with IT, things haven't been neglected on the book front. New books have been arriving in a steady stream. We now have the "How it works" series - you may snigger, but they're actually quite useful books, although they are perhaps aimed at the younger end of the school. We also have some new religion books, especially on Islam, which are sure to be useful, some modern art books, and fiction. I particularly recommend "Popcorn", by Ben Elton. It's a bit violent, but there's a message in there somewhere. Probably.

The Library's certainly improving all the time - come and see for yourselves. And we should be getting the new PC magazine soon...

K. THYAGARAJA 3RSE



OPEN DAY AUS DER SICHT EINES DEUTSCHEN

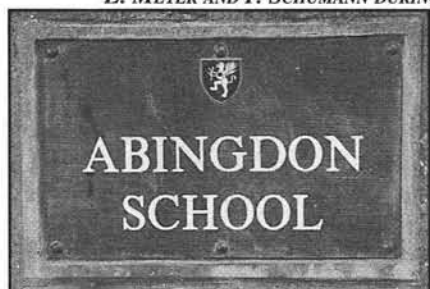
Da es auch an unserer Schule einen jährlichen 'Open day' gibt, war es für uns sehr interessant die Unterschiede zu sehen. In Deutschland versteht man unter einem 'Open Day' das Besichtigen des normalen Unterrichts. Deshalb war der Ablauf dieses Tages etwas völlig Neues für uns. Was uns auffiel war die gut organisierte Vorbereitung.

Die Präsentation der Unterrichtsmaterialien und die verschiedenen Informationen fielen sofort ins Auge. Besonders gefiel uns aber die Ausstellung der Ruderboote, da dieser Sport an deutschen Schulen nicht ausgeübt wird. Interessant für uns war auch das 'CDT Centre', was in Deutschland fast keine Schule besitzt. Die Betrachtung der dort zu verrichtenden Arbeit ist bestimmt auch für viele andere Besucher etwas Neues, da sie auf Schulen so etwas nicht erwarten würden.

Sehr großes Interesse zog unserer Meinung nach auch das 'IT-Centre' auf sich, weil es ziemlich gut besucht war. Wir denken, daß man deshalb das 'IT-Centre' auf den folgenden 'Open Days' noch intensiver einsetzen sollte. Schüler, die Besucher über das Schulgelände führen und dabei aus eigener Sicht über die Schule berichten, finden wir eine sehr gute Idee.

Was wir jedoch etwas vermißt haben war, daß sich die Gruppe, an die dieser 'Open Day' aus unserer Sicht eigentlich gerichtet war, nicht an den gezeigten Dingen teilnehmen konnten (nämlich die Schüler). Abschließend denken wir, daß an dem System des "Open Day" festgehalten werden sollte, da die große Anzahl der Besucher das beste Indiz dafür war.

E. MEYER AND P. SCHUMANN DURING THEIR EXCHANGE FROM BIELEFELD



OPEN DAY THROUGH GERMAN EYES

Since there is also an annual open day at our school, it was very interesting for us to see the differences. In Germany, the term "open day" means visiting normal teaching classes. On account of this, the way the day ran was something completely new for us. What struck us, was the well organised preparation.

The presentation of the teaching materials and the various information immediately impressed us. We were especially pleased to see the exhibition of boats since this sport is not practised in Germany. The CDT centre was also an item of interest because hardly any schools in Germany possess this. To look at the type of work produced in the CDT centre is also something new for many other visitors since they might not expect this from schools.

In our opinion great interest was also generated by the IT centre which was well frequented on the day. We think that for this reason, the IT centre should be even more prominent on following Open Days. We thought it an excellent idea that the pupils of Abingdon School conducted visitors across the school campus reporting on the school as they see it.

However, what in our opinion was lacking was the possibility for the "prospective" pupils themselves for whom this Open Day, in our opinion, was really intended. They could not take part in the exhibits. Finally it was clear from the way that Open Day ran that the large number of visitors was the best indication of its success.

TRANSLATED BY P. WILLERTON AND J.P. WEIR

CRESCENT HOUSE

This term has shown Crescent House to be its usual prolific self: under the new dynamic leadership of **P. Wells**, people have risen to new heights and overcome even more testing challenges!

Undoubtedly the major event of the term was the departure of **Mr. Broadbent**, our house tutor of nine long years. Ever popular, approachable and dryly humorous, he is a veritable fortress of a man. His leaving gift from the boys was an engraved beer tankard. He leaves behind many fond memories, my particular favourite being the manhunt he once undertook to find a couple of boys on a night expedition to Radley! And of course a warm welcoming Crescent House embrace to **Mr. Weir**, who replaces him.

On the academic front we have as ever been a model of diligence, and congratulations must go to **R. Franklin** on his 8 A*s at GCSE. We also have two Oxbridge candidates from a legendary VIth year, to whom we wish the best of luck in their interviews.

The sports field has been graced by numerous Crescent talents this term, having had no less than five people playing for the 1st XV at one time or another; this has been admirably supplemented by stars from the 3rds and 4ths. Further down we have had many boys playing for their year groups' A and B XVs, notably **B. Perkins**, centre for one of the most successful Juniors' sides ever. **W. Lui** continues to excel at Badminton, and we also boast players in the basketball and football teams.

Crescent's music has come on in leaps and bounds this term, with the birth of a Boarders' choir under the expert direction of **Mr. Elliot** which can be heard singing lustily in Chapel every week. Our numbers in the various school orchestras have reached unprecedented levels, whilst good luck must also be due to myself as I prepare for my Grade VIII Piano.

The blossoming drama skills of **E. de Bosdari** and **T. Betteridge** were on view in **J. Terry**'s production of Lord Arthur Savile's crime, a hugely enjoyable play in which Tim especially shone forth. We also look forward to seeing **B. Wells** as 'Passerby' in next term's play the 'Cherry Orchard'. We later hosted a most pleasurable Bonfire Night at which £100 was raised for Romania through the sale of hotdogs.

So ever onwards, ever upwards, as the end of term approaches we in Crescent would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and as the infamous boarders' saying goes, "Be sure to eat as much as you can before you return to School".

P. WELLS VISAE

SCHOOL HOUSE

We started the term full of optimism after the excellent A levels of the VI form leavers. **O. Guy** is now studying dentistry at Bristol, **A. Adeni** and **M. Lamit** both study medicine at Liverpool, **K. Lo** and **A. Wong** are at London University studying biochemistry and psychology. Most of last year's 5th form gained good GCSEs, returning to the lower sixth with seven new boys. We have maintained the international flavour with additions from Poland, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea, Nepal, Nigeria and Malaysia and even Barbados and Denmark.

End of term festivities included a boarders' carol service and Christmas dinner followed by the traditional games in the House when we said goodbye to our matron from "down under". Kind and generous **Anna Guyatt** has been enormously popular with the boys, immensely caring and hardworking. Her chocolate cakes for juniors' birthdays have become legendary and late "refreshments" for seniors have added to her popularity! She gave us T-shirts, whose logo she designed with **M.**

Jobling to mark her exchange and she received presents and a cheque from the boys, which she hopes to spend in Singapore on her return to Australia. We shall all miss her, and wish her a safe journey. We also say goodbye to **Martin Roberts**, a young man of few words, until he gets onto the rugby field. He is developing into a first class coach and has been a considerable help around the house and the sports hall. We wish him good luck when he returns to take up his university studies in Australia.

In the summer **D. Kingsley** was selected for the GB U18 rowing squad and gained a gold medal in the European Championships. **A. Smith** was runner-up in his quest for an Army cadetship which would have taken him to Canada. This term's rugby involved many School House boys: **M. Thomas** played for the 1st. XV, **E. Ryder** and **I. Priest** were in the 2nd. XV, successful against Radley, and **N. Williams**, **T. Tarrell** and **K. Ma** were members of the school's most successful Junior XV team who only lost one game all season. **V. Lee** is a hardworking secretary of badminton and **A. Chan** and **J. Yau** both reached finals in the Oxfordshire Table Tennis Championships.

Dedication is the hallmark too of **T. Mak**, who is a violinist of distinction. He leads the first orchestra and this week thrilled audiences at the Grand Christmas Concerts when he played the solo violin in Saint-Saens' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso". No fewer than fifteen boys from School House were involved in the music of this final week. **M. Kay** shows considerable potential and is a confident bass cantor for boarders' services and contributes much to chapel choir.

We were less successful in the annual House Singing Competition but gave an enthusiastic rendering of "Super Trouper", by ABBA: this was again directed by **Mr. Slatford** who gave unstintingly of his time for rehearsals. The whole House was accompanied by a small instrumental group led by **T. Mak** which included **K. Cheung**, piano, **R. Bryniarski**, oboe and **J. Montague**, guitar. **G. Whittaker**'s exploits with lighting back-stage make him invaluable for school productions and **N. Brewer** continued his interest in acting with a part in "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime". There is continuing and increasing participation in Voluntary Service with **Y. Ghani**, **A. Donald** and **A. Hassan** setting fine examples.

This term the boys returned to a transformed New Dorm., now three splendidly fitted rooms for senior boys, completed by the school's works department and largely the work of **Mr. Nick Barnard**. All that remains now is for North and West rooms to be redecorated and fireproofed and the modernisation of School House will be complete.

F. C. BURROW

WASTE COURT HOUSE

We started the term with a new housemaster, a new House tutor and with Waste Court full for the first time in a number of years. There was an atmosphere of excitement and uncertainty; what was the mysterious **Mr. Hullis** really like? Could he help **Mr. Waters** survive the term with his sanity intact? Were there enough beds?

Mr. Hullis soon proved his worth as we hit our first crisis of term: the bed crisis. Friendly, entertaining and handy with a drill and hammer, his help was invaluable as, with boys and parents scrunching their way up the gravel drive, we set about dealing with reluctant 'easy assembly' beds. Still, the beds were there and ready when needed, albeit surrounded by metal swarf, bent screws and an assortment of ill-fitting bolts. And so eventually, all of our new charges sank into deep, restful sleep on the first night. Except **V. Tchoukanine**. A last minute change of plan saw his expected year in Abingdon abandoned as his family moved on to the United States and so he came only to say goodbye. We will miss his rugged seriousness.

The House soon got into its stride, with everyone gelling

very well. The only concern was the rebirth of the rumour that the House was built on a plague pit and that Matron had to be specially trained to spot bubos just in case.....

Our upper sixth soon showed themselves to be fine men, led by the suave, sophisticated **J. Johari**, who contributes to voluntary service and who has encouraged **S. Alhadad** of the lower sixth to follow in his footsteps. **N. Abdul Kadir** and **R. Ismail** are working hard towards their A levels and continue to exude wit and good burnout. **J. Easton** has joined the House for his upper sixth and has fitted in well. A keen sailor, he joined **Mr. Townsend** and **Mr. Mearns** for their cross-channel hop and spends time swimming. **S. Yue**'s intellect is developing at a frightening pace as he prepares hard for interview for medicine at Oxford and his outstanding musical abilities were displayed once again at the Christmas concert.

The lower sixth are another international mix. **M. Jones** has moved across from School House and is the House expert on the waterways of Britain. **D. Hammond** has returned to the school following a "sabbatical" in Australia and **C. Lübke** provides a towering presence, both academic and physical, having come from Germany via Switzerland. As well as **S. Alhadad**, with his wicked humour and "Mudey" laugh, we also have **D. Sivarajah** who has come to sample our simple rural existence having come from the savage city well, Dulwich College.

In the second year, **D. Desai** and **M. Hylla** continue to be live wires (Depesh also winning the "tidy bed of the term" award). **N. Andrews** shines sportingly and shows maturity well beyond his years, whilst **T. Blackshaw** has won a rowing tie for coxing and performed superbly as "Fizzy" in Bugsy Malone, where he was joined by **J. Howe** who played so many parts I lost count! **J. Mak** is a newcomer to the House and has slotted into the second form very well, demonstrating superb academic and musical talents, along with a wacky sense of humour. We were sad to lose **S. Rahman** at half term. He had to return to Bangladesh and will be greatly missed.

The first year are already well settled in. **S. McKenzie** and **I. McKenzie** are not related, but both possess outrageously tough vocal cords whilst **A. Gould** has demonstrated pleasing talent in the choir so at least he is tunelessly noisy! **N. Herbert** has impressed with his determination and enthusiasm as has **H. "Duracell" Hunter** who never stops bouncing. **F. Hemsley** is growing so quickly that he may make the first eight by Easter and **N. Yeung** is developing fiendish footballing feet.

Our dayboys are also in fine form. The Junior Colts rugby C team is dominated by Waste Court playing talent (**A. Coxall**, **I. Macdonald**, **M. Pajak**, **E. Pajak**, **A. Morton**, **D. Brown**, **D. Cox**) and captained by **C. Browne**, whilst **M. Ambler** captains the Junior Colts B's where he is joined by **C. Rose** and **T. Bracher**. **R. Tattersall** continues to play county level badminton and **D. Cole** has joined him on court to represent the school, whilst **A. Wilson** continues to develop as a handy golfer. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is being tackled by a number of boys, notably **D. Alexander** and **A. Ings** and many boys are involved in music: **E. Mason** adding Bugsy Malone to an already long list of musical accomplishments.

On the staff side, **Mr. Elliot**, who has become our visiting tutor, has helped encourage a number of our boys to sing in the Boarders' Choir, something which the whole House has enjoyed hearing. **Mr. Waters** continues to go grey rapidly and is perfecting his pancake making skills by cooking huge numbers for the weekend film nights. **Miss Lupton** has provided valuable continuity within the staff and as Matron, not only dispenses help to the boys, but also sound advice to the rest of us! **Robert Parkington** has kept the boys happy every Wednesday, playing football in the gym and has provided a welcome youthful presence. It is a great pity that we will be losing him this term as he flies south, back to Australia. He has been a real asset to life here and we will miss him.

Events this term have been many and varied. On week-ends we have joined in the boarders' punting, watching films, Newbury fair and many other delights. We also had a super "Indian evening" where the House staff and Bonny and John McKenzie recreated the tastes of the Orient courtesy of Sharwoods spices, who donated vast amounts of food. The House smelt tangy for weeks. We also hosted the OA's at Open Day, which was a real pleasure and saw many ex-boarders revisiting their old haunts.

There has also been a great deal of activity aimed at improving the House environment. **Mrs. Demmar-Waters** has spent much of her spare time beginning a programme of landscaping the garden. The whole bank in front of the House has been dug up and 3 tonnes of manure dug in using an excavator. Unfortunately, the operation sparked a further outbreak of rumours about the plague, which received a final boost as a result of our attempts to clear the cellar. We spent three weeks clearing it completely and in the process found a small dog bone, which was enough to convince many that Waste Court was about to experience an outbreak. Of course, denial would have provoked accusations of an "X files" style cover-up, so plague pit it is. But a friendly one!

T. L. WATERS

WILMORE'S

At the very first assembly of term a list of winners in a W. H. Smith writing competition was announced. That list included **E. Campbell, L. Moss, B. Jack** and **A. Brodie**. So began a term in which members of the house have regularly 'made the headlines'. **P. Watson** continued his athletics success

by gaining a Bronze medal in the T.S.B. English schools combined events championship in Birmingham. His performance has earned him international selection. **S. Hughes** gained selection for the county U18 tennis team. **K. Roche** was selected for the Oxfordshire U14 hockey squad. **J. Earley** acquired a Bronze Award for the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme.

On the home front a long list of Wilmore's boys have represented the school at various levels on the rugby field, with some notable performances. **S. Laurie** achieved 6 conversions in the Colts A XV defeat of Shiplake. Stuart also gained selection for the county U16 side that played Bucks. Against Shiplake **P. Neville** scored a hat-trick of tries for the Colts B, **J. Dando** scored 2 tries for the Junior Colts C and **K. Roche** scored 2 tries for the Juniors B. Against M.C.S. **A. Holland** ran in 4 tries for the Colts B XV, **S. Allen** scored 3 tries for the Juniors A and **J. Drury** kicked 2 penalties for the Juniors B. **J. Dando** added 3 tries for the Junior Colts C XV against Stowe. **A. Cooper** scored 2 tries for the Colts B XV against Oratory.

At the beginning of term the houseroom seemed 'empty' with the loss of the table tennis table, but a second pool table filled the vacant space. A new set of lockers with 'Wilmore green'

doors replaced the old rather worn grey lockers, making the houseroom more attractive.

Towards the end of the first half term rehearsals for the house singing competition began. The chosen song was 'You've Lost That Loving Feeling' by the Righteous Brothers. The general response to **Mr. Garnier's** and **Mr. Pope's** encouragement was disappointing and a lacklustre performance resulted. The adjudicator was kind when he wrote, "The words were very clear and the tune generally perceivable." The partsong was more successful and the singers had clearly worked hard in limited time.

P.J. WILMORE

DRUMMOND-HAY'S

This has been a productive term for the House. At the start of the year a new team of house prefects took charge. The new appointments were: **J. Anderson, M. Armstrong, B. Aston, L. Butler, J. Evans, M. Jones, B. Longworth, S. Tompkins** and **H. Ronaldson**.

Drummond-Hay's won the only inter-house competition that took place during the term, the House Singing Competition, with our enthusiastic rendition of "Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines" and a small group comprising **O. Horton, P. Tolley, M. Spencer-Chapman, J. Mendelsohn-Malik, T. Richards** and **Mr. Millard** took the prize for the best part song. I promise that no-one in the House had any contact with the judge from Radley prior to the competition!

Academically, members of the house have done extremely well gaining a record 178 commendations in all. 23 people - a quarter of the house-

won Headmaster's commendation prizes. **J. Mendelsohn-Malik** should also be congratulated on winning the W.H. Smith reading prize during the summer.

Many members of the house took part in concerts and plays throughout the term including the concert of Handel's Israel in Egypt for UNICEF, the Music Scholars' Concert and the Grand Christmas Concerts. **J. Evans** played a leading role in the play "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime" and **O. Thomas** and **E. Lewington** were involved in the school production of "Bugsy Malone."

On the sporting front, **I. Downie** did extremely well to be nominated by Oxfordshire to go for cricket training for Southern England during the Christmas break. He has also been selected to play county hockey at U14 level. **G. Unsworth** was the leading try scorer for the Juniors A, crossing the line an impressive 11 times. **W. Baker**, the injury prone captain, missed half the season with a broken ankle and has now suffered several chipped teeth. **J. Gardner** and **M. Terry** were leading try scorers for the Junior Colts A, and six members of the fifth form were in the Colts A.

B. LONGWORTH 5 MDM

ABINGDON AS A NEW SCHOOL

Abingdon is much bigger than my old prep. school. There are about as many pupils in year 3 as there were at my old school. As a new boy there are many new faces to learn, classrooms to find, buildings to get lost in, and punishments to do. By the end of prep. school you know how to keep out of trouble, unfortunately it's back to square one at secondary school. The food is an improvement but the queue is much longer - you have the whole school trying to get in. Timing is needed so that you get there after the rush but still get tasty food! Many musical commitments are during the lunch hour (1:00 - 2:00) which can clash with changing for team practices but, of course, each teacher thinks that his/her subject takes priority over the other and there can be quite a clash.

The competition for places in teams is very stiff compared to that of prep. school. There are about three teams in each age group. There are a few non-team groups as well as Badminton and Cross-country. At my old school I did art and ceramics. But here we do many different skills, notably ceramics, metalwork, woodwork and art. There are a whole range of things that you can do after school if you haven't got a team practice. Not everyone takes the coach at 5.00 - some cycle, others walk and others take the public bus which stops very near the main entrance to the school.

Abingdon is a very big place with many activities to suit different people's taste. I have enjoyed my first term very much and I am sure I will enjoy much more to come.

D. WILSON 3 PW

Underground? What is he talking about? I am actually talking about the Lower School... yes, those squeaky little people that wear blue blazers and stripy pink ties. But we're actually a bit more than that. Here is a snippet of what we get up to.

ST. EDMUND OF ABINGDON

On Saturday 16th November the Headmaster gave a talk to the Lower School on St Edmund of Abingdon. He was at one point the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he was also a scholar at Oxford University. He was living some time in the 1100s, but it's all too long to go into here.

A. GARDNER 2RGH

CONSERVATION

Conservation is held every Wednesday at 1:55 pm. You sign up on the notice board outside the Charles Maude Room. We go to the BBONT Lashford Lane Nature Reserve where we usually work on the stream or the pond, but sometimes we have bon-

fires, burning the scrub that we cut down the week before. The landscape varies from marshland to woodland, and we do a lot of different work. Every week we go to the Bird Hide to look for waterbirds in the reed beds and the ferns. We would strongly recommend Conservation for anybody who likes getting dirty!

R. BROWNE AND C. JOHNSON, 1 GGB

THE LIBRARY ROOM

At the beginning of this term, Lower School acquired a table tennis table along with a new room. We called the room the Library Room because it was next to the Lower Library and noise would disturb the people in the Library. The games in it work on a first come first serve basis. Recently a Ladder Tournament was drawn and is underway. People not on the table can challenge those on the ladder. If they win, they write a successful challenge on the ladder and so on...

The Library Room is shared with the new Lower School Tuck Shop. This means that table tennis can be played at Break, Lunch and after school.

M. ROWLAND 2 RGH

QUIET ROOM COMPUTER

The Quiet Room is a medium sized room in which Lower School can do prep before school, at Break, Lunch and after school. This Quiet Room has recently obtained a computer, a Mac Performa 5260. It is actually owned by School House, but

NOTES FROM THE UNDER- GROUND

it is for use of the Lower School until 5:00 pm. We think this is very generous of School House, and thank them greatly.

A. GARDNER 2 RGH

BUGSY MALONE

With a cast of over 50, Buggy Malone is an ideal school play. It was a joint production with St Helen's and St Katharine's with second and third year pupils acting, singing, and dancing in the well known slapstick comedy set in New York in 1929. It was written by Alan Parker originally as a film more than 20 years ago. Since the beginning of the Michaelmas term, Miss Brown and Mr. Millard worked hard and patiently to get the most out of the two or three rehearsals a week. It has been tiring but a lot of fun, and we thank them for all their efforts.

S. MAYHEW-ARCHER 2 IAM

CHAPEL CHOIR

The Chapel Choir practises on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. It is directed by Mr. Elliott and it is really fun for everyone. In this term it has sung Evensong at Chichester Cathedral and Pembroke College.

It has also taken part in the recent "Israel in Egypt" performance on the 23rd of November, in which the School Choir, the St. Helen's Chamber Choir, and the Chora Society participated. Everyone has loads of fun in Chapel Choir and you can stay until the sixth form, starting as a treble, and ending as an alto, tenor or bass.

J. MOFFATT 1AJM
AND T. BANDY 1AMB

FENCING

On Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 pm all the fencers meet outside the sports hall. We get changed, grab our weapons for the day, and get practising. Every week we learn something new, and enjoy ourselves to the fullest extent. We learn how to use three weapons. Foil is our first weapon, then either Sabre or Epée. We have played against Cokethorpe, where we lost Sabre, but won Epée and Foil. We then played Cherwell School where we won Foil, Epée and Sabre. We played Bloxham after that, where we won at all weapons.

T. SYKES 2 RGH

CROSS-COUNTRY

There is cross country training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays every week. On Mondays and Thursdays fourteen people go out in the minibus to do hill training at either Boars' Hill or Sunningwell. On Wednesdays we go out for longer runs at Culham or Sunningwell. About once every half term we do a timed Road Relay (twice round Albert Park) to see how much we have improved. The training obviously helps, because some people have knocked up to five minutes off their original time. We all really enjoy cross country. It is a brilliant way of getting fit and we would encourage anyone to try it.

M. CULLEN 1 AJM

LOWER SCHOOL LIFE AS A NEW BOY

The Lower School is totally different to most of our old schools. I came from a much smaller one. My first job was to learn which building was for which subject and to find my way with the right books in my briefcase. I have learned my way around with the help of staff and other boys. Now I feel at home. I have had the opportunity to learn more subjects and get involved with the other half. Rugby was new to me and I enjoy it. Life at the bottom of the school has proved fine.

R. THOMAS 1 GGB

FISHPOOL'S

Over the summer holidays the houseroom was completely gutted and refurbished. The transformation was greeted with gasps of amazement and delight when I unlocked the doors on the first day of term. Our school maintenance team 'skilled craftsmen' have restored the main body of the House to its former glory, creating a light and spacious feel to the whole place. Gradually as the term progressed, we were able to improve the facilities by providing a music system securely screwed to the wall, - a ping pong table, and the pool table has been completely refurbished. Long may it last! We also welcomed two new tutors to the House, namely **Mr. Dawswell** and **Mr. Crowther**.

The first half of term was dominated by new routines and a hectic schedule of rehearsals for the House singing competition. Mr. Dawswell assisted by **D. Pearson** and **W. Pank** successfully lured the vast majority of the House on to the stage for the first time in living memory. We didn't win, in fact we were disqualified, but none the less it is the taking part which was important! Fishpool's House has been well represented on the games field, especially judging from the walking wounded on Monday mornings - **A. Papps** and **L. Whibley** were sporting particularly impressive bruises following the Pangbourne matches.

From a personal point of view, I have found my first term in the House interesting, challenging and varied. Registration reminders and town leave slips at the benign end of the spectrum, to new boy interviews, managing a tutorial team and seeing school life from a slightly different perspective at the other. Who said that being a schoolmaster was easy? In the words of **Molesworth** (does anyone still read those books?) - 'Masters usually keep their cribs and answer books in the dark depths of their desks and wot a collection there is in there - kanes, beetles, chalk, thumbscrews, old tin soldiers which have been confiscated, fotos of gurls, bat oil, fleas and cobwebs.' As a housemaster all I have to say is 'Molesworth wot are you doing with yore hair unbrushed yore shoes unlaced and wearing one footer sock ect? Do 1000000lines.' See - being a housemaster is easy!

I. C. FISHPOOL

MEARNS'

With style and panache characterised the members of Mearns' House this term: as usual. The musical gurus, **M. Bartlett** and **N. Gray**, turned in some slick, svelte, melodic renditions in the House Shout. They followed the musicological wizardry of **M. O'Donovan** (alias Bach), ably backed by the finger twinkling of **L. Mosse**. This collective leadership was very creditable in the Part Song and Unison Song. A deferential approach by the serried ranks, however, meant that we secured second place in both categories, an encouraging effort, nevertheless.

Rugby was contributed to by many, but third former **M. Ezra** made a notable debut. Yet the accolade must go to **C. Howard** who played with distinction for the 1st XV.

Other sporting credits go to **Y. Dong** who at times approached perfect elasticity on the badminton court, while **B. Brettell** came close to bringing a fox's brush in on a day that found us breathless with anticipation. **M. Pagett** continues to be a redoubtable chess opponent.

Yet sport apart, it remains the case that the members of the House are something of an artistic lot - despite **P. Norbury's** determination to attend various intriguing physics lectures and talks. **C. Mason**, **D. Wilberforce** and **M. Bartlett** were seen to advantage in such stage productions as *Bugsy Malone*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and *Images of War*. Michael had hardly given himself time to recover from this when he was seen/heard to fine effect vigorously attacking the bongo drums in the Grand

Christmas Concert. All three of the fourth year Scholars, **S. Atkinson**, **P. Gardner**, and **J. Haworth**, were key contributors in that splendid affair, while John's rendering of *Stamitz* in the Scholars' Concert was memorable. Yet they would be glad to have added to the list **D. Wilberforce** playing *Vivaldi*, **T. Morton** on the 'cello and **B. Teh** as a budding flautist, not to mention fine contributions from **S. Padmore**. Able singer, violinist and pianist **T. Herford** quickly impressed, while **H. Richards** has been playing the French Horn with distinction, not only in the First Orchestra, but also in the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra.

Yet perhaps the star turn of the term has been **O. Varney** whose enterprise led him to design beer mat clocks, scores of which were sold. A bargain at the price: £4, and an eye-catching knockout. Well done, Olly!

My warm thanks to all the tutors and to House Captain **A. Carnwath** and his team who are marshalling the Pool table with growing success.

R. S. K. MEARNS

THE VALE DRUGS LECTURE

This lecture took the form of a play presented by the local police, and centred around the life and death of a boy called Ben, because, as the friendly policeman told us: 'Everyone knows a Ben.' The set was kept simple, and consisted of a half dozen crates and a high stool which could be placed on top of each other to form backgrounds for the scenes, all finished in fluorescent yellow.

The action began with the funeral of Ben, who overdosed on cocaine and died. Ben rises from the grave and begins to tell the audience about why he died and how he could have been helped. Ben starts out as an ordinary child who has parents to nag him and mates to hang out with. He first experiments with solvents at the age of twelve when his friend finds some glue from his father's garage and Ben gets a lungful with his head in a plastic bag. This doesn't give him much of a thrill, and he avoids drugs for several years until his friends again put the pressure on for him to try cocaine. Ben's local dealer gives him a free sample to get him interested, and he gets hooked.

Ben continues to do drugs socially for a while, but soon he comes to depend on them just to survive. His friends notice that he is behaving strangely, but assume that he can cope on his own. As Ben's tolerance develops he needs more and more money to fuel his growing addiction. Soon he has no cash left of his own and turns to stealing; from his mother, his girlfriend, and from the shop where he works. He is caught by the owner of the newsagent who tries to help him, but Ben refuses to admit that he might be an addict.

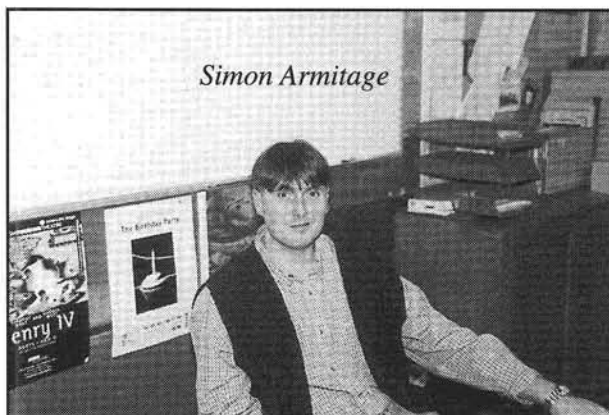
His cravings for crack grow until he can no longer pay for the drugs he needs. He becomes known as a late payer on the streets, so that no-one will sell to him. Ben now notices that he no longer has any friends, and that his parents don't understand him anymore. He finds that he is entangled in his own addiction, represented by yellow string, and he can't get out. He continues to take drugs, and so loses his job, and is constantly ill. His friends think he's a weak fool because he got addicted while they could give up. He finds that nobody either wants to help him, nor cares, and that he cannot help himself. Even on the night when Ben takes the fatal dose, downstairs his father claims that the cure for his illness is 'a sharp clip round the ear.'

The play was very direct, and its message clear: Don't Do Drugs. It also tried to help advise those people who have a friend who is an addict but don't know what to do or how to help. Though the music needed something extra, it proved an educational afternoon.

M. BROWN 6BF

SIMON ARMITAGE

Though Simon Armitage works in a prison, he does not sew mail bags. Or peel potatoes. The man described as the best poet of his generation (and a probation officer) came to Abingdon School in November to read and talk about some of his poems.



Simon Armitage

The notion of a poetry reading caused inhibitions in some of the members of the sixth form, who conceive poetry as a rather dusty and academic pastime. Thankfully, however, these prejudices were swept aside both by the poet's northern humour and the accessibility of the poetry he read.

A lot of the enjoyment was caused by the background to the poems. For example, one poem he read at another school, he told us, contains a swearword which rhymes with 'hospital-tuck'. He was taken aside by the school's headmaster in the interval and was told that the school did not like poetry to have 'language' in it. Another example is his view that the phrase 'You may now turn over and begin' - used in one of his poems - sounds just as applicable to exams as to the age of consent.

However, it was not only his youthful and energetic humour that made the afternoon successful. His view of life through a poet's eyes also seemed to appeal to the audience, many of whom were not English students. The day before - Remembrance Day - he had been speaking to an audience at eleven o'clock. It had been his duty to announce the silence. 'For the next couple of minutes, all I could hear was people's watches, as though they were chattering with each other.'

This was only the second poetry reading that I had attended, and I was initially afraid that the audience might shut off their minds when they found out that he was a poet. However, I was glad to hear people talking of the afternoon as one of the best lectures of the term. As the audience left the Amey Hall, I overheard many students discussing the talk, and the many anecdotes which Mr. Armitage told. Although there is no doubt that the afternoon was in my opinion the most enjoyable lecture this term, some doubt remains as to whether anyone will now take a greater interest in poetry. Even if they don't, at least many of their misconceptions about poetry will have been destroyed.

S. PAVLOVICH VIJFH

"Where does the atom come from?"

The first of this year's OASIS physics lectures took place on Tuesday 1st October and was given by professor Frank Close. In response to the above question he gave an enjoyable and deceptively informative talk, describing the major developments of our perceptions of the atom and its building

blocks. From the crucial early steps made by Rutherford through to the ongoing research into quarks; you really got a sense of how real these discoveries and problems were. The lecture was very clear and there can't have been many people in a fully packed Amey Hall who did not take something away from it. He gave an excellent overview of very complicated problems and inspired us to take a real interest in the subject.

From a personal point of view I was very interested to see how the problem of finding the basic building blocks of atoms (and thus everything in the world) is still ongoing and shows no signs of ending. How can we still not grasp concisely how the universe began and what matter is made of?

On a less profound level, I think the two most memorable points from the lecture were firstly Rutherford's slip in algebra and secondly the fact that professor Frank Close was 'that bloke off TV'.

R. ELLIS 6JEF

"Journalism"

The military historian, John Keegan, gave a lecture to the sixth-form entitled 'A Day at the Daily Telegraph'.

The talk started with audience participation as Mr. Keegan called upon the assembled to indicate which newspaper they read, ensuring an attentive audience. What followed was structured around the normal working day in the offices of the Daily Telegraph - beginning with the editors' arrival, followed by the journalists', and finally the night editor.

The question and answer session at the end of his talk allowed the sixth form to ask him to expand upon any of the references that he made in his talk, or simply to move the focus into a direction in which they were particularly interested. For example, one student asked him if he had ever had a 'scoop' whilst working for the newspaper. Mr. Keegan then proceeded to tell us that he had had a tip-off from a friend in America that the Gulf War was to start on that day. Mr. Keegan, trusting the source, made sure that the journalists and editors stayed on for longer that evening. As his tension slowly built and his reputation slowly deteriorated, there was no news. He went to sleep in a chair because of the strain that he was under, but, when he was awoken, a gleeful face told him that it had started.

Using this skeleton structure, and the question and answer session at the end, Mr. Keegan provided a unique impression of the journalist's day. Journalism is one of the more popular professions that school and university leavers wish to go into, and this talk enabled those with such aspirations to further their knowledge.

S. PAVLOVICH VIJFH



Professor Close

Dear Sir,

I feel that Rugby should get more coverage [in the magazine] than Badminton. The only argument that supporters of Badminton have for increased coverage is that they win more matches than the Rugby club. This is, however, because we are a school which takes Badminton seriously, and other schools' potential Badminton players play Rugby instead.

Rugby is a team game and so it allows its participants to develop more of a friendly club-like atmosphere than Badminton. Although this exists on a Badminton court, there are never more than two players in a team together and so it cannot exist as much as in a Rugby team when there are other, more social events organised.

It is also far more physically demanding than Badminton. You need only to consider those freezing November evenings when Rugby teams are running around outside, while the Badminton players hit a shuttlecock about in a heated sports hall.

People therefore warm to Rugby much more easily than Badminton so Rugby should really receive a greater coverage.

C. PEARSON VISAE

Dear Sir,

Losing a Badminton match matters, but not as much as people make out. Bloxham defeated us for the first time in two years and so we were naturally a little bit disappointed, but that doesn't mean that we did extra coaching or practising for our next match.

Being the captain of Badminton, I probably get more abuse than most for playing a sport regarded as most as being for 'drop outs'. To answer these jibes, I point out that we are not a club in the school who practise four times a week, turn up for pre season training and still seem to lose quite a lot of matches. Whilst I admire the efforts of the Rugby club, we seem to be the team who can be relied on to win, when they fail.

Abuse doesn't hurt the Badminton club in the same way as it does the Rugby players. We are expected to win all of our matches, but are ridiculed when we lose. I acknowledge that the Rugby club needs extra practice to improve their team play, but surely it is time for them to appreciate that the Badminton club have so often been left to fly the school flag, by their failures.

M. EDWARDS VISAE

SPORTS RESULTS FOR THE MICHAELMAS TERM

BADMINTON

	<i>Under 19</i>	<i>Under 16</i>	<i>B team</i>
Marlborough	Won 9 - 7		
Bloxham	Won 6 - 3	Won 6 - 3	Lost 4 - 5
Rugby	Won 7 - 2	Won 9 - 0	
Radley	Won 8 - 1		
Wellington	Won 13 - 5	Won 16 - 2	
Henley College	Won 16 - 8		
Cheltenham	Won 8 - 1	Won 9 - 0	
Stowe	Lost 4 - 5		
Bradfield	Drew 8 - 8		

RUGBY

	<i>1st XV</i>	<i>2nd XV</i>	<i>3rd XV</i>	<i>4th XV</i>	<i>S. Colts A</i>	<i>S. Colts B</i>	<i>S. Colts C</i>
Bloxham	19 - 6	20 - 17	20 - 5	51 - 0	6 - 5		
Marlborough	15 - 3	5 - 18	24 - 7		12 - 5	7 - 5	0 - 24
MCS	52 - 3	11 - 0			7 - 22	58 - 0	
Shiplake	43 - 0	66 - 0			57 - 0		0 - 7
Oratory	50 - 0	10 - 5	26 - 10	13 - 13	53 - 0	10 - 42	12 - 10
Wycombe	24 - 0	18 - 44	21 - 3	40 - 10	21 - 10	49 - 17	36 - 12
St. Edward's	12 - 26	10 - 26	13 - 13	0 - 53	10 - 42	12 - 10	0 - 45
Stowe	21 - 3	28 - 7	40 - 10	10 - 21	49 - 17	36 - 12	
Reading	51 - 0	66 - 12			41 - 8	87 - 5	
Pangbourne	6 - 20	6 - 15	6 - 0	0 - 30	5 - 14	44 - 5	
Newbury	34 - 0	44 - 15					
Radley	15 - 3	10 - 5	5 - 24	5 - 63	5 - 56	7 - 18	5 - 20

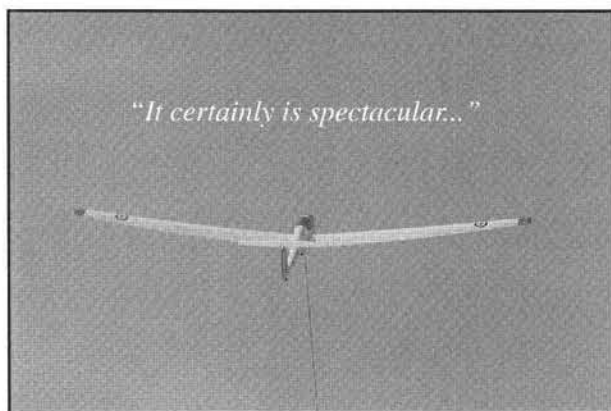
	<i>J. Colts A</i>	<i>J. Colts B</i>	<i>J. Colts C</i>	<i>Juniors A</i>	<i>Juniors B</i>	<i>Juniors C</i>	<i>Minors</i>
Bloxham	20 - 7	13 - 3					
Marlborough	8 - 42	5 - 15	0 - 29	5 - 0	14 - 15	0 - 45	
MCS	19 - 12	41 - 0	26 - 18	72 - 0	47 - 0	50 - 0	41 - 14
Shiplake	7 - 0	52 - 0					
Oratory	45 - 0	0 - 19	24 - 0	45 - 0	47 - 0	40 - 5	
Wycombe	22 - 7		17 - 5	0 - 12	0 - 24	19 - 7	
St. Edward's	0 - 19	0 - 24		27 - 7	15 - 5	0 - 24	
Stowe	22 - 7	22 - 0	41 - 0				
Reading	12 - 10	24 - 5		22 - 10	17 - 5		
Pangbourne	13 - 3	15 - 0		26 - 5	22 - 0	56 - 0	
Newbury							
Radley	52 - 3	24 - 23	5 - 27	13 - 7	17 - 7	10 - 31	
Christchurch							24 - 0
St. Hugh's							26 - 10
Dragon							36 - 0
Oratory Prep.							34 - 5

Beyond Abingdon

GLIDING

Flying has always fascinated me from a very early age and I've always tried to do anything associated with it. That is one of the main reasons why I joined the CCF. It was earlier this year that two courses came up through the CCF and so I accepted straight away. In May this year I went on an extremely intensive one day parachute jump course.

Then there was the ten day gliding course at Hullavington Barracks near Chippenham. **David**



Livingstone and I represented the school. We stayed on the army barracks next to the airfield. On arrival we received a briefing and a familiarisation flight. The gliders began to lift after only 20 metres and then appeared to climb almost vertically. From rest, it takes 2 seconds to reach a flying speed of 70mph and attain a climb rate comparable to that of a jet fighter. It certainly is spectacular.

Monday evening brought my check flight with a senior instructor. Despite my fears it turned out well. We climbed to 5000 feet having launched at 1000 feet and the silence and beauty of gliding really struck me. We could see the sea and the river Severn using only the elements.

The next day I had the dreaded Chief Flying Instructor. Flight after flight came until eventually he said "Right, this time you're going up on your own". Everything stopped and everyone was looking at me. My heart raced and the adrenaline was rushing. I was off. I flew the circuit as planned and made it back to the airfield. I finally came to a stop

and opened my canopy. All the instructors shook my hand.

I did successfully complete the course and was offered the chance to become a staff cadet. It is very hard work but it is the atmosphere of gliding that makes people give up so much for it. I have had some instruction in powered aircraft and I do intend to become a pilot, but gliding to me is true flying, using the elements with the wind rushing over the aircraft.

M. SEGAR VIDE

RACING

During the Summer holidays I successfully applied for a job with a Formula Renault Sport racing team. The meeting was organised by TOCA, a group consisting of Formula Renault Sport, Renault Spyder sports cars, Formula Vauxhall and the British Touring Car Championship. There were also other races on show: Formula Ford, Formula Vauxhall Junior, Ford Fiestas and Historic touring cars. As a result the paddock was always full.

During testing we had our own garage but, afterwards, we had to move into our own awning, so that the touring cars could use the garage. Testing was on Thursday, qualifying on Saturday and the race on Sunday.

Everyone there was really helpful and friendly, so there wasn't as much pressure as I was expecting. However, this doesn't mean we didn't have our share of problems. Our car caught fire on Thursday, and the driver crashed into a field on the fourth lap of our ten-lap race on Sunday - but this did get our car pictured in Autosport magazine - for all the wrong reasons!

C. GALE VIJFH

WORK EXPERIENCE

My Work Experience began at nine, and so I walked up to the large white door of King's Bench Chambers, and knocked. Hopefully the high and mighty beings found in resi-

dence here wouldn't notice my over-large suit and ultra-shiny shoes, bought in preparation for the Sixth Form, and put into service early in the stead of my lovely tweed jacket.

My employer, Mrs. McFall, proved to be very helpful, and briefed me about what would happen at Court, and what I should do. I was preparing to leave when she told me that the barrister I would be working with wouldn't arrive for at least half an hour, and that I should make myself comfortable until then. My enthusiasm dampened, I returned to settle in the hallway and read the Times.

On arrival we headed into the Advocates' Robing Room, where all the other barristers from the Chambers had migrated to. Mr. McGeorge donned his wig and black gown, and we went to see our client. We found that the case was fourth on the rota, and wouldn't arrive until after eleven, so we went off to review the case. After a coffee-drinking eternity the trial finally arrived.

The Courtroom was set up with a video link (apparently very rare), because children were involved. The defendant entered, and the Jury was chosen and sworn in. Various people were called in to give evidence and be asked questions, and the two barristers each presented their cases. The whole thing took several days, with lots of stops for refreshments or other reasons, and was very interesting as I got to see both sides of the case. However I can't tell you about it really, but needless to say Mr. McGeorge's client was found to be innocent.

I also got to see some Civil cases, with real people going against each other instead of the anonymous "Regina vs. Bloggs. J". These are much more heated, but tend to be slower, with even more waiting between cases.

In conclusion I think that my Work Experience at King's Bench Chambers showed me a lot about the legal process, and was very informative. The lunch breaks were long, and the people answered all of my continuously thought up questions. Thanks to all the people at KBC (if they ever read this) and I can heartily recommend this place as good Work Experience to all the prospective lawyers out there.

M. BROWN 6BF

"A look behind Closed Doors"

Very rarely does Williams Renault change its mind. Messrs Hill, Coulthard and Mansell will confirm that. However, after writing to the Formula one team requesting a Work Experience placement, and receiving a letter at Christmas saying that they have a two year wait-

ing list, I had reached the conclusion that there was no possibility of this happening. Imagine my surprise when, one Spring morning, just before leaving for school, a large white envelope bearing the impressive logo of Williams Grand Prix Engineering dropped through the letter box! It seemed that I had somehow been able to jump the two year long queue and had been offered a place for a week in the summer of 1996. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I quickly telephoned to confirm my interest.

I am sure you, along with the rest of the motor racing fraternity, wonder what really goes on behind the closed doors of the impressive Grove factory, a building which I pass every day on the way to school. After struggling with security and having immense difficulty finding my way to reception, I eventually found myself on the shop floor amongst a constant stream of spare parts and body panelling.

I spent the week working in the fabrication shop. This is perhaps the most organised part of the entire factory. The cars come in from the last race, which in this case was Silverstone, and the bodywork then has to be cleaned of dirt, rubber and the stickers bearing the sponsors' names. These stickers then have to be printed again and applied to the now clean body panelling. This process had to be repeated six times before the team went testing in France the following weekend. So, as you can imagine there was plenty of work to be getting on with.

Looking back, the week seemed to be very hectic, but by no means mundane. Perhaps the most confusing part was changing the advertising on the different cars depending on whether they were going to France, where cigarette and alcohol advertising is banned, or Germany where only the former is forbidden. There is no doubt in my mind that the highlight of the week was meeting Frank Williams, who keeps a watchful eye over his employees, but at the same time seems to care about everyone there.

My week with Williams was of great benefit to me, not only because it gave me an insight into the world of motor racing but also because I felt that I was able to be of assistance in what must surely have been their busiest week of the summer.

C. HIGNELL 6WHZ

"Heathrow 1996"

As far as I can remember, I have always been interested in planes and working towards getting a job in the airline industry. So I applied to British Airways for my two weeks' Work Experience.

Each day started at 07.15 and ended at 15.30. I

spent the first few days with the team in the workshop. I was treated like an adult, to carry on with the task allocated to me, but help was nearby if I needed it. Things were explained clearly and precisely to me.

Soon I had done all the different tasks but had not been allowed to drive. So on the fourth day they asked me to practise driving the little buggies around the tarmac. I have never driven anything before but I took to driving like a duck to water. I then drove the fork lift trucks and on the fifth day I was pulling trailers with engines on them. Four engines were delivered on the Tuesday of my second week which I delivered to the stores department.

What interested me at the work experience is the way the whole team worked. Nobody appeared to be giving out jobs, or telling people what to do. They just got on with the work. Everything was done, all looked happy and content. I enjoyed every minute of my stay at British Airways and would recommend this placement to future students.

D. LIVINGSTONE 6JEF

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

We met at Oxford Station at 8:00 am with packs averaging 25kg! There were ten of us including **Mr. Haworth**, eagerly awaiting the ten days of fun that were ahead.

By 9:00 am the following day we were climbing Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, and although it wasn't raining, the air felt saturated at 2,000 feet! The path seemed never-ending, and to our dismay so did the groans when **M. Bailey's** feet started to hurt. We set up camp by a spectacular tarn in the clouds. Getting up there was an experience not to be tried again, for we considered it quicker not to follow the footpath (how wrong we were!)

Next morning, feeling fresh, we decided to get to the top of Ben Nevis. The path up was very zig-zaggy, but when we reached the summit it was certainly worth it, with a snow fight in the middle of summer! On the way down we took another shortcut which our knees didn't like, and even though it was raining we could see our tents and so we were happy. Still in good spirits we accepted yet another early night.

We woke up the next morning to find half the group already halfway down the mountain and after a frantic rush to clear away and a speedy walk, we met them waiting outside the ice-cream shop. Camp was set up half a mile past a "No Camping for two and a half miles" sign, and the highlight of the after-

noon was watching a man on an orange bike fall off while trying to 'wheelie' through the smallest of puddles! Next we walked to a waterfall across a wire bridge where **A. Hambridge** nearly fell in! Then we walked up a very picturesque valley which was a lot harder than it looked, especially when you can't find the right corrie! At the top we all had a well earned drink before going for a swim in the tarn at over 3,000 feet.



The next day was spent casually walking into Kinlochleven where everybody ate and drank so much that walking back was extremely daunting. In the process of returning, we climbed a sheer rock face and conquered an extra two munroes by mistake.

The next day at the camp it started raining, and we were glad we weren't walking. We woke up in a cloud and getting washed was like having an icy shower (for those who dared). In the valley that evening we declined a rate of £65 to camp for the night and instead set up camp in a gypsy site. After we had taken anything of any value to us, we headed off to the pub for a nice, cool, refreshing, long awaited and rather enjoyable game of pool.

In the morning we caught the train and we travelled through the Scottish Highlands, marvelling at the scenery. Glasgow was lovely and the Youth Hostel was more like a hotel. That night Mr. Haworth took us to a very nice Tandoori Restaurant before walking back to the Youth Hostel.

Up at 8:30, breakfast at 8:45, train leaves at 9:00! Oh dear - taxis all round! Any money left was quickly spent at the extortionate buffet, but unlike our money, our memories are still with us! The expedition was both extremely successful and enjoyable, and many thanks must go to Mr. Haworth for all his effort and determination to make the Scottish Highlands yet another space well conquered by Abingdon School.

R. JONES 6DH

GREECE'96

It's 6:26 am and my dad gets caught by a speed camera as he hurriedly drives me, and my luggage, to the coach park. I've been up for almost two hours but some part of me is still in that warm bed at home. The coach is late, as are two boys, yet **Mrs. Fishpool** greets me as assuredly as ever under the glow of the street-lights.

Thirty of us, and seven teachers. Little **Robert Fishpool** is the ever-present focus of attention. Some of us have been to Greece before, for others this is the first time out of England. Some bring with them detailed knowledge of Ancient Greece, others know little or nothing. However none of us truly appreciate how fun and educational this week-long tour of Ancient Greece is going to be...

We unpack, unwind, dine, and meet up on the seventh floor for a short talk by **Dr. Zawadzki** on modern Greek history, which as we soon learn is just as colourful as Ancient Greek history. From here we catch our first glimpse of the Acropolis, the largest monument to Greece's history, spectacularly shining in the night for the Son-et-Lumière show. It seems to overshadow cheap, overspilled Athens.

The next morning is filled with a slight haze which adds atmosphere to the incredible view. The National Archeological Museum in Athens is the next stop, home to the famous Mycenaean treasures, the most famous of which is the mask of Agamemnon, pure gold, recovered from the tombs we are to see later in the week. It sits grinning at us in an inconsequential cabinet surrounded by golden ornaments to Agamemnon's power and wealth. As I try to take a photograph a museum guard shouts in vaguely recognizable English, "No flash! No flash!" so I restrain my camera from doing what it does best. We see the Roman copy of Pheidias's statue of Athene which would have stood so high in the Parthenon, a statue of Aphrodite with Pan, Poseidon about to throw his trident... so many famous works of art. A delight for sight.

After some group photos on the steps of the museum we head off towards the agora. By this time we are accustomed to the almost 2nd-world atmosphere of Athens which surrounds us. The agora is as wondrous as expected, but sadly filled with infamous "rubble". Only the Hephaiston looms almost complete amongst the trees, but even this building is outflanked by the superb American reconstruction of one of the stoa, which now houses a museum. Inside we see the original Greek sortition machine, and the klepsydra, used for timing speeches in the law courts.

In the morning we travel to Delphi, the home



to the mysterious oracle of Apollo. The view over the valley, filled with mist and bonfire smoke, is very atmospheric, one can understand why Delphi was home to an oracle. At the stadium a group of dedicated runners prepares for a race - I step aside to take photographs. In the Delphi museum we encounter the famous Charioteer, and the Omphalos, a rather insignificant looking stone which curiously was believed to be the navel of the Earth.

Refreshed by the beauty of Delphi, and the surprisingly good food (in comparison to Athens), we pile back into the coach once more for a long trip to Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic games, looking forward to a ferry trip over a small stretch of water.

A night's Olympian shopping, socializing, and sleeping prepare us for the morning, and to the focus of Olympia, the stadium. 600 feet long, accommodating 40,000 people, this was the centre of Greek sport, and we can't leave without having a race. The boys line up and sprint the whole length... and guess who wins? Richard Ellis, Olympic Champion! He smiles fervently.

Epidauros was a healing centre of the Greek world, and home to one of the best-preserved Greek theatres. Finally we reach the theatre, which is as magnificent as we could have expected. The acoustics are incredible; Dr. Zawadzki talks to us from the Orchestra at Epidauros.

A long flight and an aircraft meal await us. As we wave our final goodbyes to the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and Greek weather, the sun streams in through the window on the plane. Gatwick strikes us as being 21st Century, with so many lights and so much technology. Some are relieved to be back at base, whilst others would ideally have spent another week in Tolon... or two. All have enjoyed the trip, which has been enjoyable and friendly, as well as educational.

A big thank you to Mrs. Fishpool and all the other teachers - and to all the boys involved, all of whom made the trip such tremendous fun!

M. LLOYD 6BF

CHARITY WALK

There's nothing at all original about a sponsored walk, but it is a relatively uncomplicated way to raise large sums of money for charity, the whole school can be involved in safety and the expenses can be almost nonexistent so that you have nearly pure profit. I would even go so far as to say that I rather like such occasions and warm to the atmosphere that is generated. Certainly one of the pleasures is finding how readily companies such as Tappins Coaches, Cross Roads Garage and Halliday Catering respond to requests for help: between them they covered all the expenses of transport and catering.

The day itself, Monday 23rd September, was ideal and only a few drops of rain caught the first walkers as they started the route at Donnington Bridge. The towpath south along the river was firm and dry and the barbecue at Radley Boat-house was well supported by everyone and raised £1014. Warm thanks are due to **Mrs. Burrow**, the matrons, the mums and our 'tame Australians' who worked so hard to make it a success. 850 boys and staff managed to eat and walk on, leaving no litter and no mess behind them to the gratitude (and amazement) of the Radley boatmen. The prefects controlled the route very proficiently and everyone got safely back to school where three sixth formers provided a tea-cum-tuck shop that raised a further £130.

The worst part of a sponsored walk is getting in the money. The earliest contributors are those who have raised most and your view of human nature soars to grand heights: three boys made more than £100, twenty more (and my dog) raised over £50 and Lower School performed its usual miracles. Human nature seems less appealing as you start chasing the forgetful, the inefficient and the reluctant, but tutors staunchly extracted money from their tutees and the final total of £14,610.45 is a handsome sum - and the largest amount we have ever raised from a walk.

The best part of a sponsored walk is sending off the money to the charities, and this year each of them is well-known to me and we have helped them before. Farms for City Children, which gives deprived children from inner cities the chance to work

on a farm, had urgent need of a huge Aga and backup electric cooker for its latest farm at Wick Court, near Gloucester. **H. Monsell 1X** and **N. Marsh 2H**, who had raised the most money, handed over our cheque for £8500 to Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate and president of the charity, in the presence of Princess Anne, who warmly praised Abingdon School's generosity and altruism to the assembled dignitaries. We have given FFCC over £15000 in the last few years and have paid for new beds, duvets, decorating and helped wherever we can. Perhaps most memorable was the highest quality ever bottle-stall we ran at their summer fête two years ago: spirits and classy wines outweighed the bottles of fizzy drink and tomato sauce by an astonishing proportion!

Less dramatically £3000 was sent off to the tiny Buea mission hospital in Cameroon to buy physiotherapy equipment. The physiotherapist aunt of a recent old boy, **Ben Uttenthal**, is helping them to help themselves and it emerges from her letters and photos that most of the equipment they now have has been paid for by Abingdon School in the last two years. We can feel proud of what she has been able to achieve with our help.

£1850 was sent to the Goodwill Children's Villages in Southern India to pay for digging a new well and to help cope with the problems of drought and torrential rains! We have raised several thousands for this charity in the last few years and it is good to see growing numbers of children cared for and receiving an education so that they can have some sort of future to look forward to. Stabilising water supplies at one of their hostels should make their lives easier and healthier.

There was one other charitable cause supported by the Masters' Common Room - a small Ugandan two year old called Nora whose terrible leg injuries have been treated in Ireland. **Mr. Dillon** met her on a recent visit to Uganda and as a result of his appeal Common Room sent over £1200 towards the cost of her treatment, with still more being sent by the school's cleaning ladies, whose weekly charitable fund-raising sets us all an example.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone (which very much includes parents) for their support and hope that everyone feels, as I do, that the effort was worth while. Well done everyone!

G.G. BARRETT



Ted Hughes receives the Cheque ...

Clubs and Societies

ACTIVITIES FAIR

The atmosphere was tense in the Charles Maude Room as final preparations were made to stands (or, in most cases, "sits"). Boys and masters alike were busy perfecting the already impressive array of showcases as the **Headmaster** finished his speech at the front of the room. Then, at a given sign, the doors were flung open and the eager mob descended upon the well-organised layout of displays before them like ants to sugar. From my vantage point I saw a wave of blazer and tweed head toward the end of the room and then, before anybody had realised what was really going on, the first Activities Fair in Abingdon School history had begun.

The range of stalls was striking to say the least.



"...commandos brandishing semi-automatic weapons..."

From a squad of commandos brandishing semi-automatic support weapons at one end to the exciting graphics of the Duke of Edinburgh at the other, everybody involved had made great efforts. Both the Basketball and Bridge Clubs deserve special mention if only for the seemingly endless enrolment lists they were boasting at the end. **Dr. Zawadzki** and the Debating Society provided both oral and aural delights with the rhythmic, attention grabbing beats from the now famous Chairman's Hammer. Appear-

ances were also made by the newly-formed Biology Society and the little-publicised Astronomy society. **Mr. Mansfield** seemed inundated with punters every time I passed the imaginative Metalwork exhibition. Creativity was also present in the small, colourful Ceramics stand. The Brewing Society unveiled its 1996 Summer Rosé literally in the shadow of the Amey Hall Technical Crew's stall which takes the prize for the most prominent display. **Mr. Townsend** was also present to publicise his Sailing Club, and **Mr. Pettitt** seemed to be going a long way to recruit Cross Country Club members. The tiny Modern Languages presentation was also sitting patiently at the side of the room offering leaflets to whoever passed. Finally, both the Fencing and Rifle clubs spent a worthwhile afternoon educating violence aficionados on their work.

In all, the Activities Fair was one of the best



"... going a long way to recruit Cross Country Club members."

planned, organised and executed events I have ever seen at Abingdon. It provided everybody who attended with a valuable insight into the work of normally unseen organisations as well as giving a useful (and in some cases much-needed) plug. Special thanks must go to **Mr. Martin** and all the people who helped him set up this unmissable afternoon.

T. WILSON-NORTH VISCW

BREWING SOCIETY

The Brewing Society continues to be one of the more popular 'other half' activities, with huge interest being shown at the recent Societies' Fair. Following this event, the society is pleased to announce the enrolment of two new members; **D. Bailey** and **J. Day**. The lads have got straight down to work, with furious picking of elderberries, damsons, and plums taking place during the late summer. Currently in the cellar maturing are a spicy, red grape wine, sweet elderflower champagne,



and 5 gallons of elderberry wine. With these brews' maturing throughout the whole of the forthcoming year, and many more in the pipeline, it seems that the society has once again established itself firmly a force to be reckoned with. Our continued thanks to **Mr. Raffell**.

A. AITCHISON VIDE

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Michaelmas Term has been a busy one for the Scheme and the 30 new members (largely from the fourth year) got straight to work. Skills undertaken this term ranged from Young Enterprise to pet care and from the oboe to the chisel! For the Physical Recreation scheme boys swam, rowed, played squash, badminton and rugby.

Expedition training began at Trinity Church Hall with the Abingdon Open Group. The first expeditions for new members are planned for April. During half term **Mr. Sharp** took a Bronze level party of boys to the Ridgeway where they successfully completed their expedition.

For the Service section the main areas this term

were Voluntary Service (we are grateful to **Mr. Lewis** for arranging the placements) and Conservation. We have continued our work at the BBONT Nature reserve in Wootton (see the Lower School report), and a First Aid course will run in the summer for Bronze Level candidates.



Adrian Howkins	- Silver Award
William Rollin	- Silver Award
Jonathan Tarasewicz	- Bronze Award
Jonathan Earley	- Bronze Award

These boys received their Awards from the journalist Martyn Lewis at The Vale of White Horse Area Presentation at St. Helen's School.

New members will be welcomed to the Scheme in the first two weeks of each term.

V.J. BRADSHAW.

THE POLITICS SOCIETY

This was the first event **J. Peterson** and I would arrange, having taken over the responsibility from last year's chairmen **M. Smith** and **P. Rutland**. Wary of the difficulties they encountered, particularly over finance and the confirmation of the speaker, we were extra cautious in our organisation.

We both live in the Witney constituency. At the next election our MP, Douglas Hurd, is stepping down and passing on the candidacy to Shaun Woodward. I decided to invite Mr. Woodward to speak at the evening because I felt he would be particularly interesting: he is about to fight his first election. I later found out he previously worked in journalism and was the Director of Communications during the 1992 General Election (the ubiquitous Spin Doctor!).

We invited ladies from Oxford High, Tudor Hall and the Convent as well as guests from the school. Many were unable to come because we were vastly over subscribed, the final numbers approaching 100!

The evening, after all the initial worry, went very smoothly. The meal was pleasant and served admirably by the Crescent House waiters. Mr. Woodward spoke about the rôle of the media in politics and referred to his experiences as a journalist. After his address he answered questions on topics ranging from his views on Europe to the reasons why he deserves our vote.

In fact the evening went very quickly, and the effort we had put in soon became history. But I certainly enjoyed myself and hope that next term's dinner will be just as successful.

O. SEARES VISAE

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

Dr. Zawadzki writes that the Society tackled the following motions this term:

- This House believes in superstition (defeated);
- This House believes that Saddam Hussein is misunderstood (passed);
- This House believes that 90s culture is brash, cheap and short-lived (passed);
- This House would vote Labour (defeated);
- This House would bring corporal punishment back to British schools (defeated);
- This House welcomes the re-election of Bill Clinton (passed);
- This House believes that technology no longer serves the real interests of Man (defeated);
- This House would ban all handguns (passed).

In addition we held a dinner debate with Wycombe Abbey as well as our traditional Christmas balloon debate. The following pieces convey some of the lively flavour of the Society's meetings:

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IS MISUNDERSTOOD

The second debate of the year, this tested our skills to their utmost. **A. Howkins** and **G. Jones** proposed the motion, in the face of strong support for the opposition, from the floor. Opinion was running particularly strongly against Saddam, on account of his recent exploits in Northern Iraq and his attempts to target US warplanes.

A. James and I spoke for the opposition, though this task was much more difficult than it might have seemed; it became more and more apparent to the audience that the motion was more complicated than

had been initially assumed. We had to decide, not whether we condoned Saddam Hussein's actions, or his motives, but if we actually understood them. A further difficulty was to establish which of his actions we were trying to understand. Many of the floor speakers were concerned about the plight of the Kurds, although, as we had little accurate information on the subject, we were better qualified to discuss Iraqi tactics and exploits in Kuwait.

Eventually, the spectators reversed the preliminary vote, endorsing the motion by seventeen votes to fifteen, with two abstentions.

W. ROLLIN VIMSAG

THE DINNER DEBATE

The dinner debate with Wycombe Abbey is an annual event and is always enjoyable because the girls are enthusiastic debaters.

The motion for the evening was "This house would abolish the Armed Forces". **A. Howkins** proposed the motion, arguing that the money spent on the Armed Forces could be better used for strengthening our industry. **W. Rollin**, a future soldier (or so he says), asserted that our country could not lose its army as we would be open to attack. He also emphasised the prestige of the British Army around the world.

After four rousing speeches and a lively floor debate, the motion was defeated by 23 votes to 12.

From the debating chamber of the Charles Maude Room we proceeded to the dining hall for something to eat and drink.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and I hope that future evenings with Wycombe Abbey will be just as successful.

O. SEARES VI SAE

THE CHRISTMAS BALLOON DEBATE

The Balloon debate is always the high point of the Debating Society term and it is watched by a large audience from all sections of the school. The Christmas debate on December 6th was no exception with a turnout of nearly sixty. Those vying for survival at first included Clint Eastwood (**J. Dowling**), Jesus Christ (**G. Baxter**), B.A. Barracus (from the A-Team) (**P. Vlitos**), Anne Robinson (**J. Peterson**), the leader of CND (**L. Berryman**), John Major (**Mr. Goodchild**) and Good King Wenceslas (**Dr. Zawadzki**). After lively speeches and points John Major, Jesus Christ, King Wenceslas and the CND leader fell to their doom. The remaining three gave another round of humorous speeches before B.A. Barracus went the same way in the penultimate vote. **J.**

Dowling as Clint Eastwood finally emerged triumphant with 38 votes as against Anne Robinson's 21. The debate was enjoyed by all who turned up, providing an appropriate ending for what has been a good term for Debating Society as a whole.

C.B. SCHMIDT 6AMS

THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

Following the unveiling of the newly refurbished Modern Languages departmental suite of rooms along the top corridor of Big School during this term, the Society was reborn to provide a weekly opportunity for Upper School linguists to immerse themselves in foreign cultures broadcast via satellite to these new classrooms. Attendance at the weekly films and news broadcasts was dispiritingly low, however: doubtless the teething troubles of a new venture.

The round of visits to foreign language plays and talks has continued in tandem this term: Dürrenmatt's *Die Physiker* performed by European Youth Theatre at St. Helen's School attracted interest, as did the trip to *Cabaret* at the Old Fire Station. But the Society's crowning glory was the extremely informative and well attended talk entitled *The Great Thaw + 1* at the end of term, when our own **Dr. Zawadzki** addressed an interested throng on those other teething troubles in Eastern Europe. The Society is very grateful to him.

We look forward to regular and greater attendance at all events next term!

D. J. POPE

THE ERASMUS SOCIETY

The ERASMUS Society is an amalgamation of the Theological and Philosophical societies and has met this term to hear visiting speakers and to discuss ethical, philosophical and religious issues.

The first meeting considered "Psychology and Religion" and the speaker was the Rev. Beaumont Stevenson who works at Littlemore Hospital.

Professor Basil Mitchell, formerly Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University, will be the speaker at the next meeting, next term.

T. P. LEWIS

THE HISTORY SOCIETY

This term the Society yet again enjoyed the company of two eminent historians. Few come more eminent than Dr. John Roberts, C.B.E., the former Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and author of *A History of the World* and, very recently, of *A History of Europe*, who spoke to a less than knowledgeable Society about "The Wars of the Ottoman Succession". Dr. Roberts is not a man to do things by halves; he launched into 300 years of Ottoman and post-Ottoman thrills and spills in under an hour, pausing only once or twice for breath or to offer up a telling metaphor. His tour-de-force stimulated many questions from the floor. The audience was deeply impressed by the ease with which Dr. Roberts fielded questions on topics ranging from music and art to military and social issues; a cunning map question was handled with characteristic insight. The Society was left suitably awed.

Following this was quite a challenge, but it was amply met by Dr. John Stevenson, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, who spoke on "Radicalism and Reform, 1789-1832". He provided a lucid and comprehensive survey of a period of important change in British history. He opened up new perspectives on the behaviour of English radicals and explained why England did not experience a bloody revolution. His account of the 1830-32 reform crisis will have, one hopes, proved particularly useful to the Upper Sixth.

We look forward to the visit of Professor Norman Davies, the author of the much-acclaimed *Europe: A History*, in the Lent term.

N. A. MUNRO VI SAE AND W. H. ZAWADZKI

ABINGDON IN FOCUS

A small society, we meet once a week to discuss the production of a video of the school. We have been filming events involving the school for the last term, and will use this footage in our film. This footage includes rugby and badminton matches, musical events, drama, the CCF, the rifle club and many other school activities. We have support from teachers and we would appreciate that of pupils too. This product will be generally available for public consumption in the spring.

S.J. ARTHUR 6CMM
& W.R.J. DAVIS 6AMS

Drama

ally feel part of the action. Wherever you looked on stage at any one point, there were expressions and glares going on between the characters that gave the set a feeling of intimacy.

Quite simply, this play was Oscar Wilde at his best. It shows the underdevelopment of London high society masked by etiquette and highborn protocol. The progression of events down only one absurd path with absolute disregard of any other options or possibilities displays and concludes the simplistic brilliance of this staggering performance.

T. WILSON-NORTH VISCW

Before the play unfolded I was sceptical of the concept of student-directed plays; **John Terry** proved me wrong by employing professional techniques that overwhelmed his delighted audience.

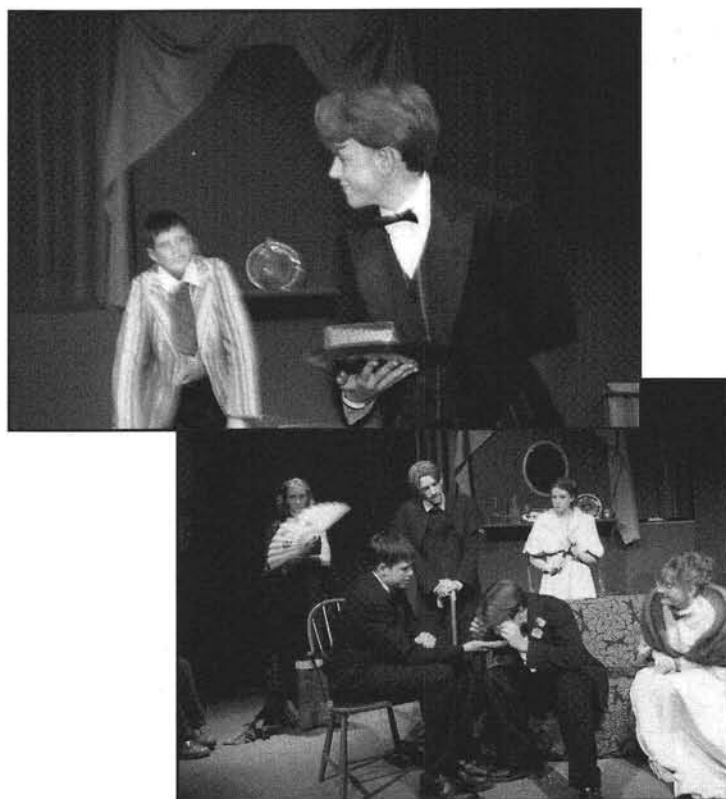
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime is a thoroughly captivating and wholly ironic read, and this literary flavour produced an exquisitely entertaining play. **Niall Munro** starred as Baines, the splendidly evil yet candid butler. It seems that Niall had prepared this character rigorously, seasoning the mix with his blatant proficiency, witty expressions and dominating voice. **Joe Evans** took the role of Lord Arthur Savile, making the most of some brilliant lines and an altogether lovable character. **Nye Brewer** was the crude and chillingly convincing cheiromantist Mr. Podgers who, despite making few appearances, managed to leave a strong impression on the onlookers. Herr Winkelkopf, a failed anarchist and exciting extrovert, seemed to take over **Tim Betteridge**, who was obviously enjoying such an animated role. However, **Allegra Rangoni Machiavelli** was faced with the challenging role of Sybil Merton, Arthur's fiancée. Although Allegra put all of her effort into making such a complex lady come to life, it was not enough and I was left with the image of a shallow, superficial character. That said, I accept that I am no expert.

The Charles Maude Room looked enchanting, with a lavish purple set and sensational make-up and costumes. These, combined with the perfect-looking brandy and ribena-resembling port made you re-

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, a play by Constance Cox derived from a short story by Oscar Wilde was what I would have generally considered to be a "good night out at the theatre". All parts were played with veracity and conviction. The highlights were **Niall Munro**, **Tim Betteridge**, **Allegra Rangoni Machiavelli** as the girl caught between her mother and the one she loves, **Abby Davies**, who didn't even try to put on a commanding tone - it really was her own voice, and of course **Joe Evans** whose thorough understanding of the acting techniques of Brecht and Stanislavski was matched only by his alcohol tolerance level.

"What a stonker" not only for the cast, but lighting/sound manager **Ash Verjee**, stage manager **Patrick Biggs** and pillar of strength **Ally Biggs**. Finally to **John Terry**.

A. VERJEE VIJFH



BUGSY MALONE

Various thoughts, collated by **John Terry VIJFH:**

"The performances were a complete success! Although the rehearsals were not. There were great performances by S. Mayhew-Taylor, H. Whittaker, N. Hedley and T. Blackshaw. Mr. Millard and his band were always on cue and so were the lighting and stage crew (well most of the time anyway!)"

A lot of the time was given up by both teachers and the pupils with nearly all of us working really hard. Only one thing went wrong and that was when Simon (Bugsy) tripped over the steps. Overall everything was great and it was worth all the practice just to see the finished product."

T. STOCKFORD 2S (FAT SAM)

"A musical involving two schools and a cast of about fifty is bound to be problematic - the last few months have, as a consequence, been an experience both challenging and exhilarating for us all. The result is the coming together of literally hundreds of people of all ages, committed to the raising of a tempest of song and dance in enthusiastic recognition of an era - the twenties - which was made for hedonistic celebration."

MS. E. BROWN (DIRECTOR)

"Bugsy Malone was a great success, with two full house performances involving various 'splurge' guns and custard-pie-in-the-face deaths of notable New York gangsters."

The band, organised by Mr. Millard, provided excellent music including the News at Ten theme tune, featuring Michelle Bracket on the alto sax."

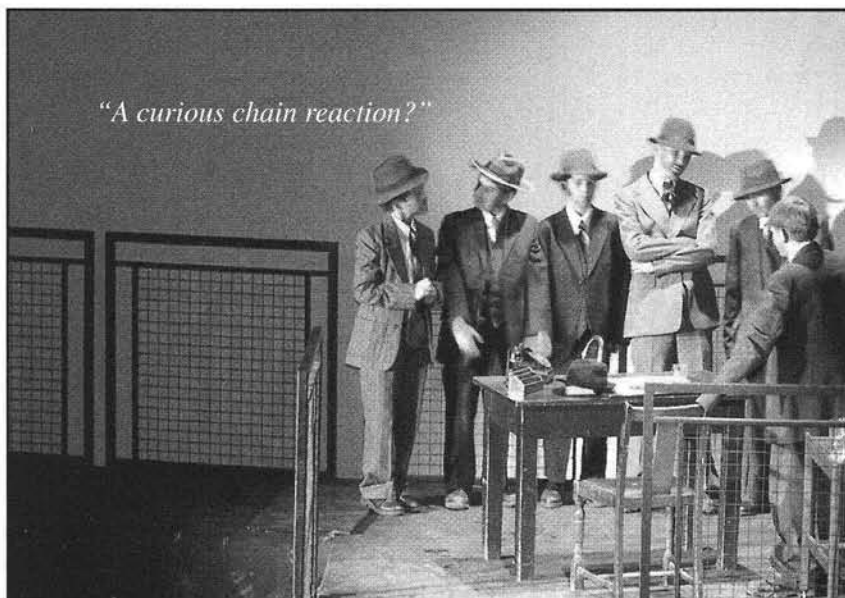
B. ROWE VIJT

"Bugsy Malone as a musical left a lot to be desired. Bugsy Malone as a much-hyped dramatic event, performed by members of the Lower and Middle school and St. Helen's, ably supported by a competent technical crew and a topnotch band, was actually quite good."

As I implied, standing on its own, the musical was a trifle prosaic. Some songs were occasionally devoid of any feeling, and scene changes tended to

be messy. It is only when one considers that Ms. Brown was working with a cast of fifty that one realises the enormity of the task.

I would like to say however that I noticed a



curious chain reaction occur during the performance; the audience, I felt, mentally made allowances for the age of those concerned and encouraged and enjoyed accordingly. The performers, spurred on by this genuine feeling of response seemed to raise their efforts. The ending of the play saw the audience practically spontaneously combust with clapping and cheering. If nothing else, Bugsy Malone has proved one sure thing: you want a successful play? Stick "Musical" under the title."

A. VERJEE VIJFH

OEDIPUS

On the 14th October the Classics Department went to see the Oedipus plays at the National Theatre. The two plays, Oedipus the King and Oedipus at Colonus, were directed by Peter Hall.

I thought both plays were done very well and that Oedipus was portrayed excellently by John Baxter. The set was simple, yet atmospheric and allowed you to concentrate on the drama unfolding on the stage. The costumes and masks especially were very convincing; even if Teiresias the blind prophet did appear rather lunatic. The Olivier Theatre, with its splendid design just like an ancient Greek theatre, really added to the effect on this occasion.

Overall this was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational evening: well worth the resultant tiredness the following day, following a late return to Abingdon.

R. ELLIS 6JEF

Music

MUSICAL SOCIETY AGM. & BIG BAND SOCIAL EVENING

This happy conjunction of events took place on 24th September. The "twinning" was entirely appropriate, not only because of the band's visit to Abingdon's twin town of Argentan during their tour, but also since the Society's financial and moral support of the tour was fully illustrative of its role in support of the Music Department.

The evening started with a full report of the tour, given enthusiastically to around fifty parents and boys by **W. Burn** (in his inimitable style) and **C. Pearson**, illustrating their talk with slides and video.

After a pleasant interlude for refreshments the Society's meeting began. The Chairman reported on the year's activities in support of all the various sides of music-making at Abingdon, including such things as social trips to Barbican Concerts and Choral Society concerts. Altogether it has been an active year for a well-established society. Nonetheless the main contribution of parents is the provision of audiences for the boys' performances. The Treasurer's report echoed this view, and confirmed the availability of funds for future tours and/or the purchase of new instruments.

Michael Stinton, Director of Music, gave a complete run-through of the year's activities and achievements: there were 51 concerts or musical events, the aforementioned tour, 187 music exams taken with 182 passed, 27 with distinction, and successful academic results at GCSE (4A*, 7A, 21B)

and at A-level (2A, 3B, 1C). He also referred to the movements of past pupils, and to the various staff changes in the department. Perhaps the most poignant of the Director's remarks was his farewell to the retiring Committee members, **Jane** and **Paul Savage**, **Diana Darton** and especially **John Smith**. John has served the Society valiantly for a decade, including long spells as Treasurer and latterly as Chairman. His unstinting efforts have undoubtedly been vital in enabling the Society to fill its very supportive role for the Music department.

John is succeeded as Chairman by **Peter Judd**, while the new Secretary is to be **Jim Hawthorth**, and the Treasurer **Hugh Clayton**. The Headmaster, as President of the Society, addressed the meeting, and endorsed all earlier tributes. He

confirmed his interest in the future redevelopment of the Music School, and encouraged parents to put forward any suggestions to the Director of Music through the Society in order to help formulate plans.

MR. G. MORRIS



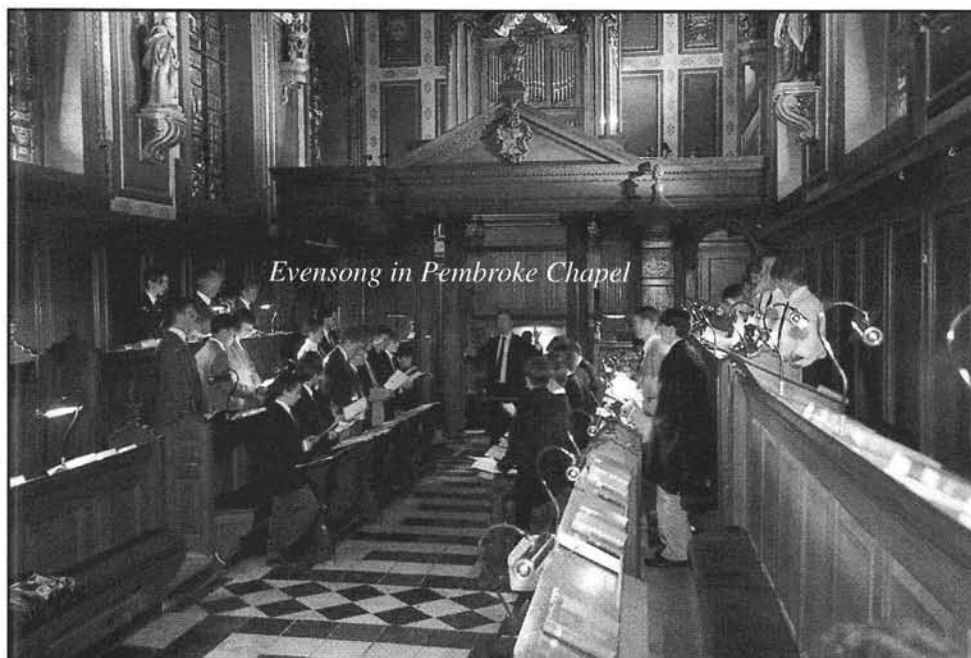
CHAPEL CHOIR

The first term of the new school year has been busy for the Chapel Choir. Our first event of the term was an Evensong service in Pembroke College, Oxford. The first service of any new year is always difficult as limited practice time means that the enthusiasm of new first years is not yet converted into raw talent. The service was

well received and we moved on to our next engagement with increased confidence.

Our second engagement of the term was our 'home match', the All Saints Day Communion in Chapel. This service gave us a good opportunity to show off our talents to members of the school, an opportunity that presents itself too infrequently in my opinion. This service showed great improvement and much promise for the future.

Evensong in Chichester Cathedral was the Chapel Choir's big event of the term. The hours of practice put in by all concerned paid off in an excellent performance. Singing music from Handel's Is-



Evensong in Pembroke Chapel

rael in Egypt, Responses by James and a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis setting by Murrill, the choir achieved a high standard of musicianship and showed some touches of great sensitivity. The choir was rewarded with a trip to McDonalds where (despite some reservations!) all ate well.

After Chichester attention turned to the UNICEF concert on November 23rd. The mad rush to learn an entire work (some 150 pages of music) meant that the members of the choir singing had only limited knowledge of the piece. The joint forces of the Chapel Choir, Chamber Orchestra and various other singing groups provided a different and challenging musical environment.

Thank you to **Mr. Elliott** and **Mr. Millard** for their support, enthusiasm and time and to the rest of the choristers for their continued effort and improvement.

A. GORDON VINMR

ISRAEL IN EGYPT

A CONCERT IN AID OF UNICEF

One of the striking features of this Choral Society performance was the imposing number of people on the stage, a sight which seemed to prompt a majority of the audience to avoid the first few rows of the hall! A reasonably large audience attended although comparatively few Abingdon pupils were present.

The evening had a good sense of dignity, appropriate to the piece's religious background, despite some phrases for example "The Lord is a Man of War" which could be misinterpreted by certain groups today. Some problems among the singers were evident, partly due to the unavoidable difficulties of performing a piece in translation.

Such technical problems were largely compensated for by the excellent performance of the musicians, despite difficulty of rehears-

als due to musicians from so many different groups being involved. Many members of the audience were struck by the surprising mixture of singers, including Abingdon's Chapel and School Choirs, not to mention the Choral Society. There were also representatives of St. Helen's Chamber choir as well as some current and past members of staff!

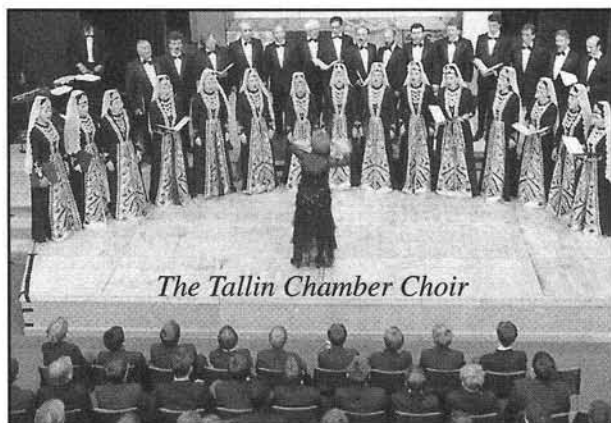
The Soloists gave an impressive performance with **Amanda Pitt** and **Joana Forbes** singing Soprano, **Alex Lestrangle** singing Alto, **Chris Watson** singing Tenor and the more familiar faces of **Mr. Burrow** and **Mr. Garnier** singing Bass.

The performance showed abundant evidence of the great effort required to produce a work of this scale, and we were left with considerable respect for the organisers of the production. I was therefore quite surprised by the differing opinions of the audience and musicians as to the success of the piece, with the former being by far the more complimentary.

R.K ING6AMS

THE TALLIN CHAMBER CHOIR

Continuing Abingdon's tradition of links with Russia, forged over many years and most recently realised in the piano recital given by Yevgeny Kafelnikov in 1993, the Tallin



The Tallin Chamber Choir

Chamber Choir gave a morning recital in the Amey Hall. This preceded the Oxford performance of their tour of this country.

The music performed by this large ensemble was reflected by their dress. The anachronisms of the women in traditional peasant dress and the men in dinner-jackets was paralleled by the choice of both ethnic and more classical repertoire. This unification of the old and new Russias was always evident in their performance; emotions present in all Russian art at the moment.

The folk elements of the performance tended to be robust and dynamic, but always tinged with the difficulty of any attempt to define the psyche and emotional sensibilities of a people in a land as vast and empty as Russia. The sopranos set their thick tone against the deep but fragile bass murmurs, bringing not only a hope, but also a fear of the nihilism beginning to creep into Russia after the collapse of communism.

The performances were dynamic and beautifully conceived and executed, being sung with a power that was often almost terrifying, but controlled by great delicacy of touch and tone. As a style of singing it was a world away from that to which we are accustomed, but without this ours would become bland, and we would never have the different perspectives offered by this, which was of the highest quality.

W. BURN VIDLS

SINGING AT ABINGDON

Singing at Abingdon is most definitely diverse, ranging from Thomas Tallis and his superb choral works, to the not so superb work of the England football team! Nobody could argue that singing at Abingdon is not varied.

As a boarder and a member of the chapel choir singing this year has taken up much of my time. Mondays mean chapel choir at lunchbreak as well as Thursday and Friday; the reward being several enjoyable services as close to the coast as Chichester and as near to the school as in the chapel.

Thursday evening for a boarder is chapel which enables our lungs to be exercised yet more. Three hymns a time, a significant amount of noise has been made over the term. The excellent singing from the congregation has been rewarded by some very interesting sermons from various preachers, all unique in their own way!

O. SMITH 6CMM

AN ORGAN RECITAL

Mr. Millard held an organ recital in the School Chapel on the evening of Wednesday 9th October in aid of the forthcoming Chapel Choir trip to Italy. To my sur-



prise it was attended not only by the usual crowd of young organists, but also by a healthy gathering of other enthusiasts who had doubtless heard about the huge efforts on the part of the performer and therefore expected a sparkling rendition of the music,

which of course they received.

The programme consisted of several spectacular pieces such as the Prelude and Fugue in A minor by J.S. Bach, contrasting beautifully with lighter offerings, such as two by F. J. Haydn, written for continental musical clocks. These (the pieces that is) can only be described as "dinky!"

Mr. Millard rounded off the evening with a crescendo from the Prelude and Fugue on the name of ALAIN, which just like the other seven pieces was performed superbly.

E. ALLEN 5SJS

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas concert number one, attended by a good-sized, if not packed, audience, got off to a rousing start with music by the Brass Band. Their efforts were all the more admirable considering that one of the four trumpet soloists in the unusual "Comet Carillon" was still recovering from illness, and the second trombone part was being played by a last-minute substitute. The inclusion of "White Christmas" as one of the band's numbers ensured that the evening began in a festive mood.

We were then entertained by Second Orchestra, conducted - as has been the case for several years - by the A level music students. The conductors spurred the orchestra on with encouraging gestures, nerves which were apparent on the long walk to the music desk were soon dispelled once each of the three pieces was safely underway.

It was left to Big Band to close the first half of the concert, with some enthusiastic, lively playing. Particular mention deserves to go to **M. Spencer-Chapman** for his solo in "Li'l Darling", and to **H. Dorling** for his outstanding drum solo in "Two Minute Special" - an apt description of his performance in both duration and style, although as usual in the Big Band there were many others who had their own chance to shine, under the watchful eye of leader **Mr. Simon Currie**.

During the interval, a choice of entertainment was provided, with music from both the Wind Octet, playing in the hall, and the saxophone quartet, who were serenading those queuing for interval drinks in the Art Room.

And so to the second half. First Wind Band led off, with a stirring rendition of a Wagner march; the mood was then abruptly altered as we were led on a Disney tour of the World, in a very effective arrangement by Christenson, which bandmaster **Mr. Derek**

Jones said reminded him of his recent holiday to Florida. The seasoned favourite "A Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson ended their contribution, and highlighted their well-disciplined playing.

The First Year Choir then took to the stage, and their considerable numbers were marshalled into a massed choir by **Mr. Elliott**, performing extracts from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", with **Mr. Millard** at the piano, along with **T. Bartlett** on bass guitar and a partially obscured **H. Dorling** on drums. Their singing was surely one of the best performances by a first year choir for some years.

It was left to First Orchestra to provide the finale; four works presented the talents of the various players. The energetic "Light Cavalry Overture" was but a prelude, for this was then followed by **S. Yue** playing the Grieg Piano Concerto. To attempt



this well-known work at all deserves admiration, but **Stephen**, playing from memory, demonstrated that he had it well under his fingers, and despite small signs of nerves gave a performance full of drama.

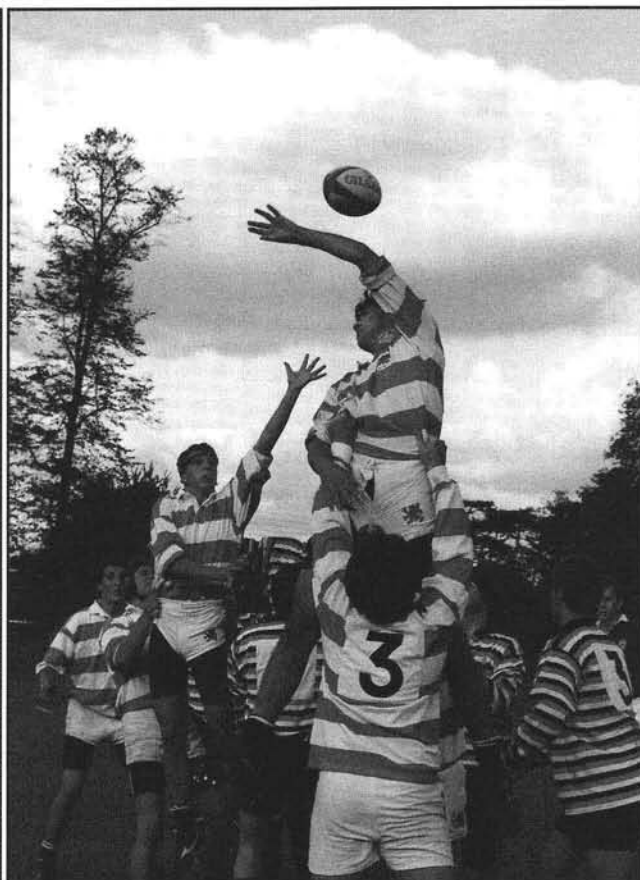
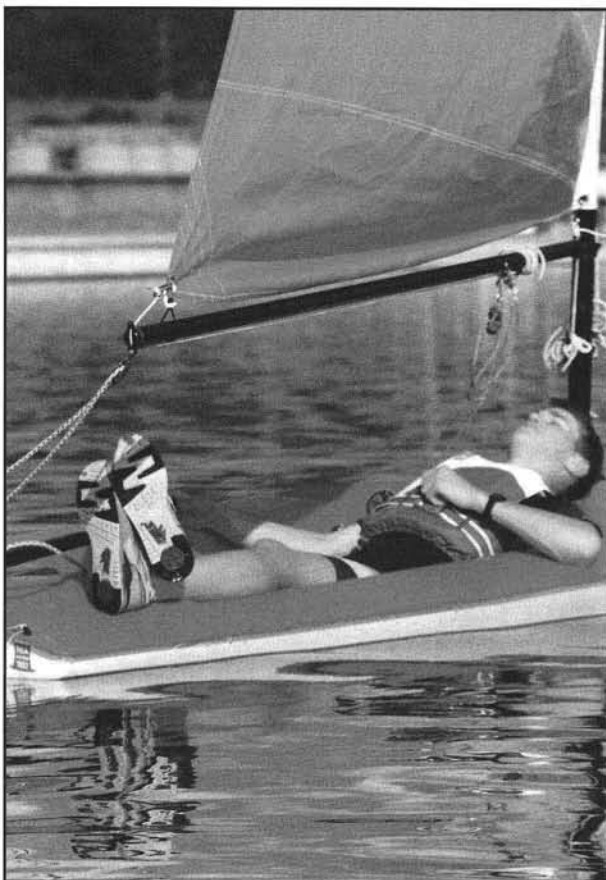
This was certainly a hard act to follow, but **T. Mak**, emerging from his leader's seat where he had been unobtrusively playing in the preceding two pieces, gave an extremely impressive performance of the Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens, with real virtuosity and lots of feeling which made the audience sit up in rapt attention.

We were not to be allowed home before the customary singing of a carol, in this case "O Come All Ye Faithful". The lusty singing by the audience no doubt benefited from the advice given by **Mr. Stinton** before we began.

It was heartening to see that the different performing groups are all flourishing, with the many players clearly enjoying themselves. Surely there can have been none who did not derive enjoyment from the varied entertainment offered, and so we set off home well satisfied, whistling all those tunes

H. MORRIS OA

Sports



RUGBY

The rugby club has had an up-and-down season, with the 1sts beating the lesser schools but losing to the bigger schools we play (overall W4-L3). Several members of the 1sts have been represented at county level including **J. Dunbar**, **D. Higazi** and **H. Dorling**. The 2nds paralleled the 1sts in results but with an inferior points' difference. The most successful school team has been the Juniors' A and there follows a report on their season. Things look promising for next year with several L6 formers impressing in the top two teams and some star individual performances from the Senior Colts'.

However the Senior Colts' A had a disappointing season only winning two games against much weaker sides. The B's had a much better season winning four and only losing one to Marlborough.

The Junior Colts' A won five and lost three but things look promising for their step up to the Senior Colts. The B's achieved exactly the same results showing the ability throughout the squad.

The Juniors' A had the best record, winning seven and only los-

ing one and scoring over 200 points over the season. The Juniors' B also impressed and we will watch this group with interest as they carry on up the school.

The Minors' only had one game against Oratory Prep and the As won convincingly 34-5.

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ

1st XV

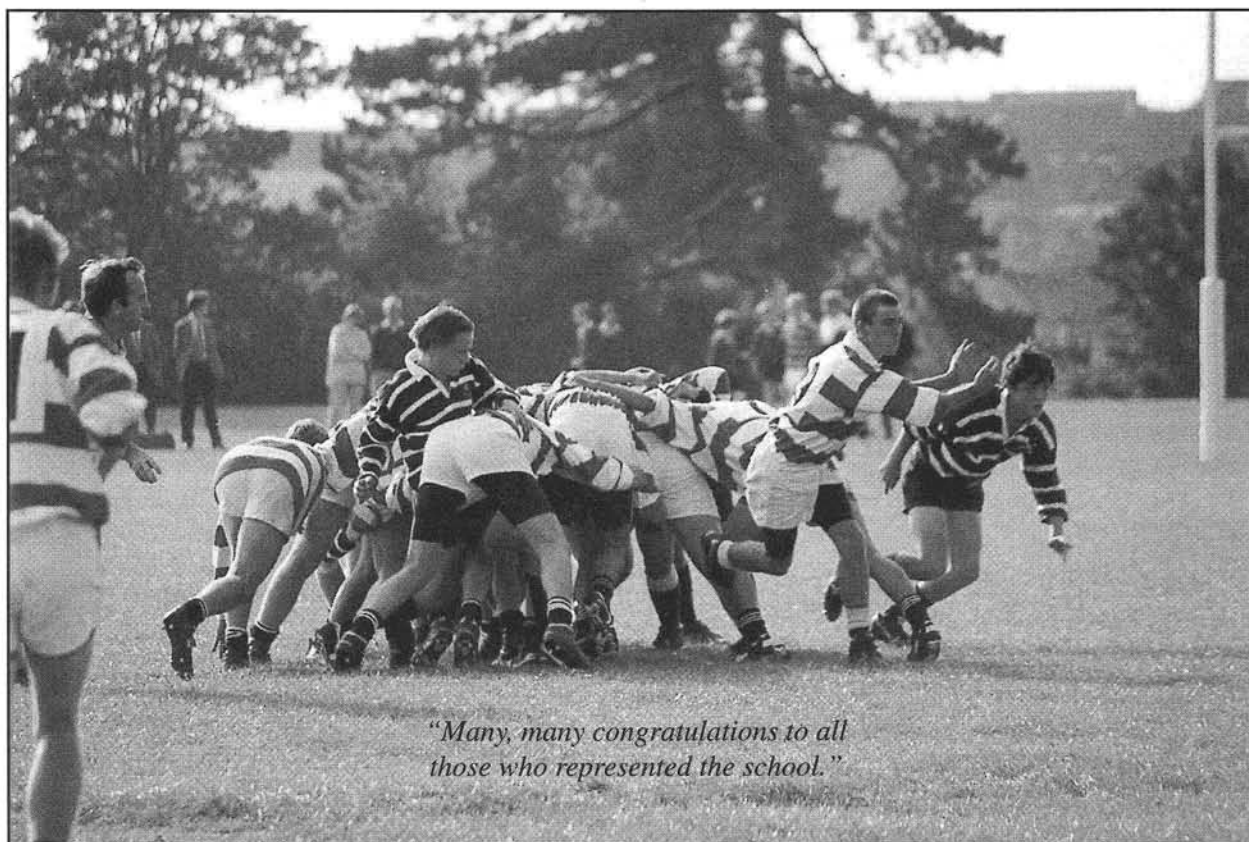
The season started slowly for the 1st XV, with a disjointed and unconvincing victory over a rugged Bloxham side. We failed to stamp our authority on the opposition from the start and we found it hard to gain the forward supremacy we had enjoyed at Douai. As would become a regular problem, we were not helped by the standard of refereeing and had several tries disallowed which, if given, would have made the win more respectable.

The next game of our season was away at Marlborough, who would go on to record some notable victories later in the season. After a good start we completely dominated in every aspect of the game, we allowed Marlborough to come back into it with a soft try. Despite pounding their line for long periods in the second half we failed to score and con-

ceded another soft try. Our inability to convert pressure into points was something that would come back on us later in the season.

After a lengthy break, we faced up to MCS on Open Day and with a substantial following blew them away with a display of running rugby that amazed even ourselves. The pack achieved complete dominance and set up quick ball which the backs utilised with ruthless efficiency. Dotted between these moments of brilliance were **P. Morse's** tries, which would have graced any international.

Four days later, we put 40 points on a Shiplake side who were on a damage limitation exercise and spent most of their time acquiring various injuries and killing the ball. Then came, perhaps, our finest victory of the season at Stowe. We had heard a great deal about their pack and back-row in particular and prepared ourselves for a very physical encounter, which we received. Our attitude was excellent throughout and we took the game to them. Tackles were put in all over the pitch and we kept our discipline, despite losing **D. Higazi** at half time through injury. The only disappointment of the game was that we didn't put more points on them!



"Many, many congratulations to all those who represented the school."

We then played Oratory expecting nothing less than a win, but due to several injuries and a bit of overconfidence, we ended up with a disappointed draw.

After half-term we played R.G.S. High Wycombe in difficult conditions and yet another suspect referee. After a good start we got sloppy and allowed R.G.S. to 'score' two soft tries. In the second half we found it hard to get out of our 22 and despite a powerful forward drive in the dying minutes of the game were unable to regain the lead as the penalty kick flew agonisingly wide.

A week later we faced an unbeaten St. Edward's side who had toured South Africa in the summer. St. Edward's had a good side but we all know we should have won this one. Again we had several tries disallowed and found it hard to deal with their size and pace in the backs. However it was only two tries in the last ten minutes that at the end flattered them greatly. The difference between the two sides on the day was that they took their chances, few as they were, and we did not.

We then beat Reading easily and prepared to take on Pangbourne. This was a game we really should have won, despite being under heavy pressure in the first half. We turned round at half time 6-5 ahead and were in control, but as they lost their discipline they began to throw punches and as a result we took some injuries and our side suffered. Once again it was a few late tries that finally beat us.

We next played Newbury, and with a lot of new players, stuttered to a 20 points to 6 win. As before, the referee's interpretation of the laws was questionable and our continuity suffered accordingly.

And so we came to our final game of the season: Radley, a game ruined by bad refereeing. Despite being encamped on their line for nearly all of the first half, we couldn't score and were punished for it as the referee decided to award Radley a penalty try. During this game the true mettle of the side shone through. **W. Bourne-Taylor** at full-back was immense and as always the tackling in the three-quarters was aggressive. James at scrum-half harried and hassled their scrum-half all game deny-

ing him time and space. The front-row of **P. Morse**, **A. Stewart** and **H. Doring** worked tirelessly at set-pieces and in the loose to win the ball. **M. Thomas** in the second-row won all his line out ball and disrupted theirs and his work rate was awesome. Alongside him **D. Stewart**, though heavily dazed, played with his customary passion and vigour. Douglas should have gone off, but showed his determination to win, by staying on. In the backrow, **T. Hughes** put big tackles in all day and cleared up a lot of the line out, once again his aggression and work rate shone through. On the other flank, **D. Higazi** was excellent as was his season. He tackled everything, secured not only our possession but also theirs, and his leadership was inspirational.

Juniors' A XV

The juniors' A team have had an excellent season winning seven out of the eight games they have played. The squad came together at the start of the season and gelled immediately. After a long wait the team finally started the season with a very tough match against Marlborough. In a scrappy and gruelling match the juniors scraped to a 5-0 victory after a first-half try from **K. Shaikh**.

This difficult first encounter was then followed by two rather less demanding matches against Shiplake and Magdalen. These matches resulted in a 45-0 victory over Shiplake and a 72-0 victory over Magdalen. A rather more difficult match then followed against the Oratory which the juniors won 17-5 to complete an unbeaten first half of term. The players realised however that the more difficult fixtures were yet to come in the second half of term.

On the first Saturday after half-term the juniors got a big shock when they suffered a heavy 33-0 defeat against R.G.S High Wycombe. However, the players then bounced back excellently to produce one of their best performances of the season beating St. Edward's 27-7, playing with great style and confidence. Next the squad faced a difficult away fixture at Reading. On a terrible pitch the team produced a poor performance but still managed to leave with a 22-7 victory. To end a difficult week the

juniors then played away to Pangbourne. The conditions were made very difficult for the backs to receive any ball at all, but the forwards worked very hard and the backs used the little ball they did get to good effect. After trailing early on the team came back to win 26-5.

The squad had few changes all season and the players built up an excellent team spirit. The main try scorers were **G. Unsworth**, **S. Perkins**, **J. Wilcox-Jones**, **K. Shaikh** and **W. Baker** although most of the team got on the score sheet. The goal-kicker for the team was **I. Downie** and he proved to be very reliable. Overall the whole team played superbly well, producing an excellent season.

The complete squad was; **William Baker**, **Peter Thomas**, **Iain Downie**, **Sebastian Perkins**, **Oliver Thomas**, **Matthew Beckett**, **Chris Hughes**, **George Unsworth**, **Peter Gooch**, **James Wilcox-Jones**, **Sebastian Allen**, **Tom Tarrell**, **Daniel White**, **Daniel Smith**, **Martyn Ezra**, **Nick Williams**, **Kelvin Shaikh**, **Kenneth Ma** and **James Hayden**.

P.THOMAS 3ASP

These boys are to be congratulated on their efforts and achievements this term. They are a very talented team and ought to go on to become one of the school's most successful sides. They have been good fun to coach, and exciting to watch. I would like to give a special mention to **W. Baker**, who has been an excellent captain, and has also had to cope with a serious injury jinx! The results have made the whole season very enjoyable.

I must thank **Mr. Burrow**, **Mr. Hamilton** and **Mr. Watkins** for their expert help in coaching the team; it really has made a lot of difference. Also, I would like to thank **Mr. Maughan** for refereeing several of our matches - and doing a very good job. Finally, a very big thank you to all the loyal parents who have supported us this term. It's great when you play away somewhere like Pangbourne and find you've got more supporters than the home team! Many thanks to all of you - and I hope you've enjoyed the matches as much as I have. Best of luck to the team in future.

S.A.EVANS

DOUAI RUGBY FESTIVAL

This tournament regularly attracts teams from England and Wales, and the matches are fiercely contested. The duration of each match was 12 minutes each way and we managed to win ALL five of our games including the final against Berkhamsted.

The manner of victory was all the sweeter since many of the participating schools had just returned from successful tours to Australia and South Africa. We scored nine tries in total, but more importantly, we didn't concede a single point all afternoon.

This was the first time we have won this tournament having been beaten twice in previous finals. This was a very significant achievement and a great boost to the domestic season which began against Bloxham the following Wednesday. Many, many congratulations to all those who represented the school.

A.D. WATKINS

"HERO HIGAZI COMMANDS VICTORY"

Reading was swept away by a rampant Abingdon team, masterminded by their inspirational captain **D. Higazi**. He helped himself to a hat-trick of tries against very poor opposition, in a match which saw **P. Aiken** return to his old stamping ground. Aiken was met with a chorus of boos when he touched the ball, and the *Old Abingdonian* struggled to cope with the lively Abingdon team.

The ubiquitous **J. Dunbar**

opened the scoring for Abingdon and further tries from **B. Cullum** and **C. Spencer** put the home team in a clear 18-0 half-time lead. Despite losing **T. Hewes** at half-time through injury, Abingdon dominated and after Dunbar had scored his second try of the match and **T. Jeffries** got his name on the score sheet, Higazi stole the show with his second half hat-trick. **J. Horton** pushed the score up with four conversions and a penalty and with the help of **P. Wells** and **A. Ashurst** as replacements later, Abingdon cruised home to a 51-0 victory.

M. EDWARDS VI SAE

stantly, with **S. Duckworth** making many good breaks through the centre. However we could not convert this good play into points, although we thought that we had scored when our flying right wing, **M. Kom**, went over in the corner, only to drop the ball. Shiplake scored their try due to a couple of missed tackles on the half-way line and their player running in to score under the posts.

At the start of our third match we were again caught dozing and were punished by a very well organised side. We hardly ever got out of our 22 and conceded six tries in the

first half. We did not let our heads drop, despite being pegged back constantly, and only let in three tries. This was mainly due to excellent and nonstop tackling, especially from **F. Sagaya**.

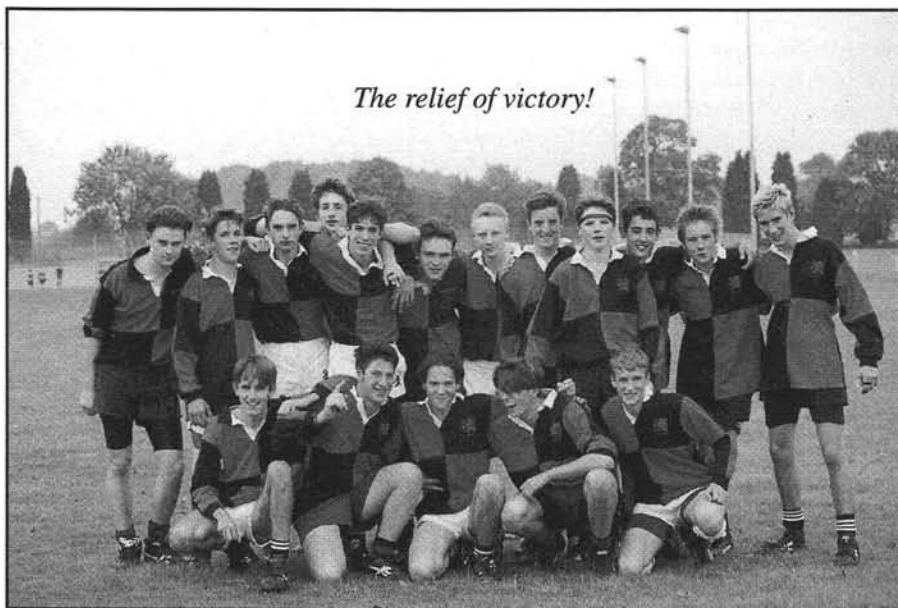
We went into the last match of our season determined to score a point, also with the threat

that **Mr. D. Evans** (our coach) would resign from his post at Abingdon and never speak to us ever again if we failed to score! This game went from end to end after, as was now our custom, getting off to a slow start and conceding two early tries. With only ten minutes to go and still no points on the board we started to run at the opposition, and were awarded a scrum close to their line. **J. Morse**, a last minute comeback to rugby due to shortage of players, picked up from No.8 and dived over the line for a try, much to the coach's relief.

The Squad: **P. Norbury** (capt.), **A. Croft** (pack leader), **E. Allen**, **C. Rendell**, **N. Lefèvre**, **C. Campbell**, **F. Sagaya**, **S. Risoe**, **J. Eaton**, **A. Chater**, **B. Hunt**, **M. Stocks**, **S. Duckworth**, **B. Aston**, **T. Norton**, **M. Kom**, **W. Yip**, **S. Rutland**, **O. Whitaker**, **J. Morse**

P. NORBURY 5JAR

The relief of victory!



COLTS "C" TEAM

With the Marlborough match being the first of the season, we were dozing for the first five minutes and conceded the first of four tries through slack tackling. We then started playing rugby and held them at bay for a long time with many crunching tackles, especially from **C. Campbell**. The next two tries were let in with their inside-centre scoring two interception tries. After half-time we held out well and only conceded the one try and that was through sheer pressure from a big physical side.

Our second match was against Shiplake, and we might have won had it not been for both sides turning up wearing almost identical strips. This time we were at them from the very beginning, pressurising them con-

GOLF

The Golf team has progressed to the semi-final stage of the South Central Region of the H.M.C. Schools Foursomes annual competition. On October 8th, playing at Frilford Heath, our three foursomes partnerships of **James Willats** and **James Howe-Davies**, **Tom Burton** and **Ed Russell**, and **Alastair Ferguson** and **Tom Fleming** comprehensively defeated K.E.S. Witney 3-0 with 6 and 5 margin victories. The semi-final stage will be played in the New Year.

James Willats, James Howe-Davies and Alastair Ferguson represented the school in the Gott Foundation Team Strokeplay Championship played this year at Beaconsfield Golf Club on 23 September; their overall total was very respectable, but such is the current high standard of junior golf that we were unable to threaten the remarkable winning score by St. Edward's of 232. James Willats' gross score of 81 on a 'new' course reflected his excellent consistency of striking.

Frilford Heath's condition, for the second year in succession, has suffered from spells of drought and, literally, thousands of rabbits (not only the golfing variety!), but its three courses continue to be challenging venues for members of the Golf Club.

Tom Fleming has won some recent medal competitions; he and Alastair Ferguson have represented Frilford Heath in a number of Junior events.

N. H. PAYNE

BADMINTON

Though the Oxford Schools' Badminton League has been allowed to fold, and the English Schools' Competition is now for mixed teams and we have not yet been able to find a partner, there have certainly been enough matches to keep us busy this term.

The Under 19s have beaten Marlborough, Bloxham, Rugby School, Radley, Wellington, Henley College and Cheltenham, only narrowly losing to Stowe School when badly under strength through illness and drawing with Bradfield.

The Under 16s have beaten

Bloxham, Rugby School, Wellington and Cheltenham. This is all the more creditable when one remembers that the Under 16s sometimes play as a 'B' team against older teams from other schools.

Mainstays of the teams have been **M. Edwards** (captain) **V. Lee** (secretary) **W. Lui** (boy wonder) **N. Kadir**, **P. Edwards** (when fit), **T. Shellard**, **A. Brown**, **J. Johari**, **Y. Ghanni**, **L. Chan**, **S. Yue**, **K. Kobayashi** and **P. Biggs** for the U 19s, **J. Tarasewicz**, **J. Earley**, **R. Tattersall**, **M. Yeung**, **J. Spearing**, **N. Gray**, **J. Yau**, **J. Mendelsohn-Malik**, **A. Harsono**, **B. Longworth**, **E. McMahon**, **P. Slater**, **N. Page**, **D. Cole** and **J. Ma**. I am struck by the envy by visiting staff of the strength in depth that we can call on; and this list probably makes the point.

I. A. MACDONALD.

LACROSSE

Even though three goals were scored for the first time, Abingdon still couldn't beat St. Helen's in the annual lacrosse match.

H. Dorling, dressed like a fortune teller, shot Abingdon into the lead and despite problems with **P. Morse**'s skirt spending more time on the floor than on him, Abingdon held the advantage until **Emily Hare** equalised. **T. Jeffries** gave Abingdon the lead again but shortly afterwards **Hannah Rhodes** got St. Helen's back on level terms.

Kate May recaptured the lead for St. Helen's and with a fourth goal from **Hannah Rhodes**, again, St. Helen's looked to be in an unassailable position. Abingdon did, nevertheless, still fight on but had a goal controversially disallowed for no apparent reason. **J. Horton** scored to give Abingdon a glimmer of hope, but it was too late by then.

The day belonged though to Father Christmas. He came on for a little jog around the pitch, wearing his beard, hat, and very little else, and brought cheers from everyone!

M. EDWARDS VISAE

Abingdon 3 St. Helen's 4

FOOTBALL

The opening game saw a lower sixth team face Marlborough in a definite mismatch. Despite the pitch being a real treat: perfectly flat with quick, short-cut grass and continental style goals, indicating how seriously Marlborough takes football, we were on the wrong end of an embarrassing 12-2 defeat, with **A. Campbell** scoring the two goals.

The lower sixth then took on a very weak St. Edward's team. Despite the pitch being very bad and being 2-1 down at half time, they fought back to win 5-3. Goals came from **R. Ellis** (2), **D. Hammond**, **R. Ismail** and **A. Johnson** with the best goal of the game.

The 1st XI then played the St. Edward's 1st XI. In a diabolical performance from the school's 'elite', we crashed to a 3-0 defeat. Not helped by a comical own goal from **A. Johnson** after 10 seconds, we were completely outclassed in every part of the game and didn't look like scoring. The performance brought laughs from the 'Teddies' fans.

Players who represented the school were: **C. Hignell**, **R. King**, **A. Hall**, **T. Smith**, **N. Warmingham**, **R. Ellis**, **A. Johnson**, **D. Hammond**, **T. Allen**, **A. Campbell**, **A. Grady**, **J. Lucas**, **C. Bowler**, **J. Bolle**, **R. Patel**, **R. Ismail**, **M. Edwards**, **P. Edwards**, **A. Carter**, **A. Smith**, **J. Johari**, **B. Porter**

N. WARMINGHAM 6DH AND
M. EDWARDS VISAE

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The year started with a competition to fill four vacant places and turned up fresh talent in the middle school. In the regular weekly sessions, the introduction of a ladder system has proved popular, sharpened the players, and helped in the selection of the team to represent the school in the Oxfordshire Schools' Table Tennis Tournament in November at Banbury.

The U19 team of **C. Walford**, **J. Yau**, **A. Chan** and **A. Cherry** played very well and provided a nail-biting final. They beat North Oxfordshire Technical College in the first round and met Blessed George Napier

School in the final. At the end of the singles matches the score was 4 sets each and all rested on the doubles. Corin and Joseph narrowly lost the first game 19-21, came storming back in the second to win 21-10 but eventually lost 13-21 in the third. The U16 team of **J. Yau**, **M. Munro**, **C. Watney** and **S. Khan** started well with a 5-3 victory over Blessed George Napier 'B' but were then beaten by both Banbury and Blessed George Napier 'A', two very strong teams. Special mention must be made of the excellent form of **J. Yau** who played for both teams and was unbeaten in 9 sets - 18 games won and only 2 lost.

K.D.BINGHAM

ROWING IN AMERICA

The half term trip to America was seen as an opportunity for some early pre-season training, as well as sampling some of the finer points of American culture.

After two flights via Minneapolis, we landed at 10 pm USA time in Atlanta, followed by a 150 mile drive to Augusta, arriving at a motel at 1.30 in the morning, having been up for twenty-four hours.

Rowing began 5 hours later, with our first visit to Augusta rowing club. Races had been planned on Thursday and Saturday against their Junior 18 boys' crew, which gave us three days to throw together a respectable VIII and IV. Intensive training followed along the three mile stretch of the Savannah separating Georgia from South Carolina. We managed two outings a day, frequently punctuated by visits to the many fast-food restaurants in Augusta. Wallets grew thinner and waistlines grew wider.

Thursday arrived, with our inexperienced (and fatter) crews taking on the might of the Augusta 1st VIII and their development IVs over two ten minute pieces. Due to a slight coxing error round the first corner, we closed the door on their VIII and forced them to stop, leaving us to draw out a length lead which we kept to the end of the race. The IV's opposition put up resistance in the first few minutes, but our crew's strength and experience shone through, and they won by a comfortable margin. Look-

ing for revenge, Augusta pushed hard off the start in the second race, and we didn't respond to their substantial lead until late into the second half of the race. Patriotic pride was left intact, however, as our VIII's titanic last push took three lengths from Augusta round the inside of the last corner, resulting in a convincing victory, claimed in the dying seconds of the race. The IV won with similar professionalism.

each race. The composite VIII with the Abingdon rowers also rowed well, coming a close second to the Augusta 1st crew on several occasions, beating the Augusta novice VIII easily. Final score: Abingdon 6 - Augusta 0.

After a couple more outings on the Sunday, we had to bid farewell to the American families we had stayed with for the week, and return home on an overnight flight via Detroit, stopping only briefly for a quick trip



"We... forced them to stop, leaving us to draw out a length lead...."

The pressure relieved a little, we allowed ourselves some free time to shop in the Augusta mall, eat more junk food and go bowling. These pleasures were short-lived, for Saturday came all too soon, and the burden of Britain's honour was again on our shoulders.

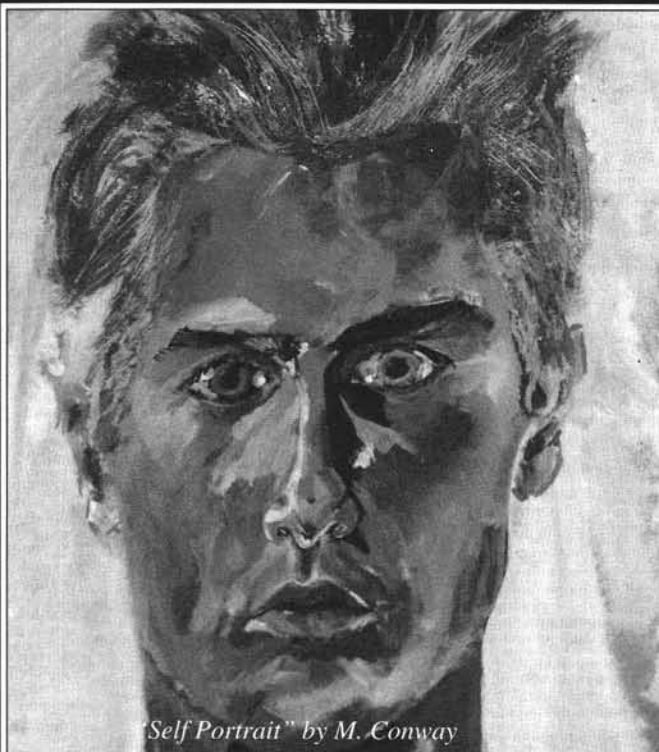
With minor crew changes, the unbeaten VIII took to the water, confidence boosted with the two previous victories under their belts. The IV was amalgamated with an Augusta IV into a composite VIII, resulting in a four way VIIIs race over four five-minute pieces. The undeniably fitter, if not as powerful, Augusta 1st VIII were in contention for the first minute of each of the pieces, but fell increasingly behind as the Abingdon VIII found their rhythm and got faster over

into Atlanta. We arrived home at midday on Tuesday leaving us only half a day to recover our lost sleep, before returning to school on Wednesday morning!

We would like to thank **Mr. Martin** and **Mr. Slatford** for the trip, and for providing the transport and their indispensable coaching expertise, without which the trip would have been much less rewarding. Most of all we would like to thank the American families who put us up for the week. Their kindness and generosity were overwhelming as was their hospitality and trust towards us. Many of us took gifts, but they were as nothing compared to the goodwill and consideration shown to us.

**T. FRANKUM 6WHZ,
& A. McNEILLIE 6AMS**

The many faces of Examination Art...



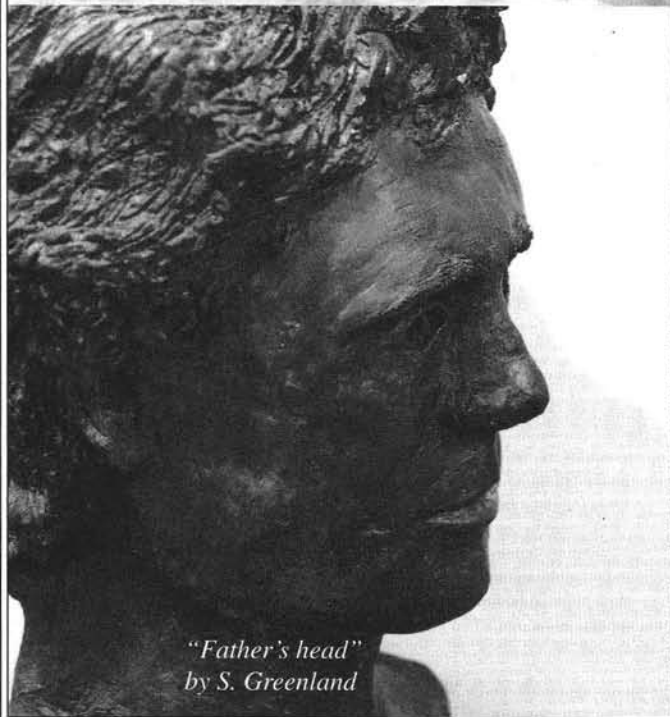
"Self Portrait" by M. Conway



"Old Lady" by A. Brown



"Two Heads" by P. Tompkins



*"Father's head"
by S. Greenland*



"Self Portrait" by M. Simmonds

