

THE ABINGDONIAN



1997 Lent
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The First XI Hockey



THE ABINGDONIAN

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Editor-in-Chief : Mr. D. J. Pope.

email:dpope@rmplc.co.uk

Secretary : Martin Brown

Editors : Ashley Morris, Euan MacDonald, Shahid Karim, Charles Schmidt, Richard King,
Henry King

Additional help : Simon Arthur, Nicholas Warmingham

Photography : Shahid Karim

Artwork : Charles Schmidt *et al.*

Distribution : Mrs. F. M. Rutland

Pagesetting by : Mr. D. J. Pope

Proof reading : Dr. H. Pope

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Editorial

“Never judge a book by its cover” they say. We seem to be living at a time when external appearance is ever more important though: on the facing page of this issue you will find an explanation of the importance of our School’s motto(s) and coats of arms, and if you turn to the correspondence, you will find the youth of today concerned about political slogans and whether we can trust election promises. What of our magazine, then? To borrow an ecclesiastical metaphor, is the hockey player on our front cover “an outward and visible sign of an inward.... grace”? I hope so: our hockey teams and results get very full coverage this issue, as do the plethora of events and activities of this Lent term. I am sure that this issue will offer something of interest to every reader - if only the back cover....

Our apologies are due to the Rugby players who for a variety of reasons did not receive the *coverage* they deserved in the Michaelmas issue. As an olive branch, we hold out the (yearly) Internet edition of the magazine, where all concerned will shortly be able to read an account of their successes. Meanwhile, I must publicly thank all my pupil Editors, whose names appear overleaf, and every contributor to this issue. Please keep the contributions coming, on disc or typed please, by Saturday 28th June.

D. J. POPE

“FOR THE RECORD”

ACHIEVEMENTS

HEADMASTER’S PRIZES

The Headmaster’s prize for the best Ghost Story, written over the Christmas holidays was awarded to R. King 6AMS. W. Burn VIDLS received the Headmaster’s prize for the best Book Review. T. Murray’s 4RSE First Orchestra Tie design won the Headmaster’s Prize.

ARCO/EARTHWATCH YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

Congratulations to T. Evans 6MJM who succeeded in getting one of the 10 awards on offer. He is, understandably, delighted to have ‘won’ a fortnight observing and researching bird life in the rainforests of Tanzania - all expenses paid! I’m sure he (and the other two finalists, A. Molyneux 6AMS and T. Myatt 6WHZ who came so close) deserve hearty congratulation.

UK INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to all 70 entrants for this annual competition. From our entry the numbers awarded certificates were as follows: Gold 36, Silver 26, Bronze 6

The event gave much satisfaction to all who took part. The problems were varied in content and difficulty. The latter questions certainly stretched the most able but were well received by all. The following now proceed to the next round:

M. Pagett 5RSE, C. Kom 5SJS, T. Mak 5RSS, T. Butler 4RSE, W. Bartlett 4PKHR, B. Teh 4RSE, S. Brooks 2RGH

HOCKEY AND CRICKET HONOURS

Congratulations to I. Downie 3MDM who was selected for divisional hockey trials, in addition to the South of England Cricket Squad.

ROWING HONOURS

Congratulations to E. Russell VISCW who has been elected Captain of Boats in 1997

RUGBY HONOURS FROM 1996

Congratulations to the following boys for selection to play for the Area and for receiving their Rugby Colours:

Selected to play in the Area trial were D. Higazi VIDE, H. Dorling VINMR, D. Stewart VINAFP, P. Morse VIDLS, T. Hewes VISAE, J. Dunbar 6JEF

The following received full Colours: D. Higazi VIDE, H. Dorling VINMR, D. Stewart VINAFP, P. Morse VIDLS, T. Hewes VISAE, J. Horton VINAFP, T. Jeffries VIJT

The following received half Colours: B. Cullum VIDE, A. Howkins VIDLS, P. Wells VISAE, J. Dunbar 6JEF

Congratulations to D. Higazi VIDE who was invited to play in the match against the Midlands in the England Rugby Schools’ union

SIXTH FORM PRIZE WINNERS

Fine Art (Palmer Tame)
Chemistry (Smith)
Biology (Ford & West)
Physics (Ingham)
Mathematics
English
French
German (Birnborg)

Keisuke Kobayashi, L6DH
Matthew Lloyd, L6BF
Harry Wearne, U6DE
Corin Watford, U6NAFP
Rikesh Patel, U6DLS
Richard Ellis, L6JEF
David Lale, U6SAE
Stephen Pavlovich, U6JF

History
Geography
Classics
Economics & Business Studies
(British Institute of Management)
Music
Divinity (Bevan)
American Studies (Van Wagenan)
Russian

Robin Newnham (L6JEF)
Marcus Jones, L6MJM
Richard Ellis, L6JEF
Stephen Williams, U6DLS
& Caroline Thomas
Ashley Morris, L6CMM
Timothy Myatt, L6WHZ
Andrew Gordon, U6NMR
Niall Munro, U6SAE

“ARMA VIRUMQUE CANO?”

Iam sometimes asked questions about the School motto - particularly by journalists, and compilers of handbooks to independent schools, who seem to find such mottos of special significance. (On reflection, though, I think I should withdraw the sneer implied in that remark - perhaps we should all be much more impressed by mottos than we generally are!)

The motto which we have used for some two and a half centuries is the opening phrase of the Latin version of Psalm 89, “*Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo*”, I will forever sing praises unto the Lord. The modern Abingdonian might be forgiven for finding this a slight over-statement when set against the modest round of our Chapel services today - but there is an interesting story behind the choice of such an expression of tranquil piety.

We first find the motto used under the aegis of Dr. Henry Bright, who was Headmaster from 1758-1774. The School which Bright inherited was flourishing, and perhaps more mixed in the social sense than Abingdon ever had been before, or has been since, as the sons of local tradesmen and farmers there rubbed shoulders with sprigs of aristocracy from all the counties round about.

Bright, for his part, appears to have placed a high value on the outward marks of social success. The School was already accustomed to using the shield of arms which had been granted by the College of Heralds to John Roysse - it appears, for example, at the head of the manuscript school roll of 1732 - and Bright appropriated this in a shield which he concocted for himself, on dubiously legitimate principles. But the grant made to Roysse did not run to a motto. So Bright set about remedying what he doubtless regarded as a shortcoming - and if this seems a rather arbitrary proceeding, it was probably well within the conventions of his time.

The phrase which Bright chose for his motto may seem particularly appropriate to a school which boasts monastic origins, but these origins probably weighed less with Bright - than did a recollection of something from his own childhood. As the Old Abingdonian antiquary, W H Richardson, pointed out in an article published in the Abingdonian of April 1898, Bright was educated at Winchester College, and remained throughout his life very closely connected with the Wykehamical establishment - he was Under-Master of New College School before coming to Abingdon, and subsequently went back to Oxford as Headmaster of the same establishment. It would not have been at all surprising if he had been familiar with one of the more touching memorials which survives of a Winchester scholar, a brass in Headbourne Worthy parish church, commemorating John Kent, of Reading, who died while still at school in 1434. The brass shows the boy in his scholar's gown, and from his mouth proceeds a scroll, bearing the words “*Misericordias Dni in etum cantabo*” (sic). As it happens, the Kent family feature also in the history of Abingdon - a later John Kent left a will dated 29 October 1604, by which he “gave to the ffree Schole a good portion of money to encrease the wagis of

the Scholemaster” - £37. 15s. Od, in fact. Bright may well have thought that it would be a pleasant conceit to marry Winchester to Abingdon through this motto; in any case, these were the words that he chose to be painted under the shield which he had devised for himself, and hung over his throne in the old schoolroom down by the Abbey ruins.

So far, so good. Headmasters have this tendency towards pretentious pomposity. But when Bright left Abingdon, he left “his” arms behind, and subsequent generations, seeing them fixed in glory above the place of authority, assumed that they were thoroughly authentic, and belonged to the School as such. The motto became, quite literally, carved in stone and engraved in brass, and now adorns our letterheads and list booklets in unimpeached authenticity.

Bright's concocted coat of arms had a good innings, too. Absurdly, it was adopted by the School for public use, and held the field until the 1890s, when W H Richardson exposed its origins and caused it to be dismissed in favour of Roysse's simple shield, which is still in use today. One hardly dares to wonder what would have been Richardson's reaction to the Christmas 1996 edition of *The Abingdonian*, which gave a fresh innings to Bright's false heraldry at the head of its title page!

What, though, some people ask, about the “other” School motto - you know, the one which appears over the door into Big School and is carved also over the doors of the old schoolroom at the Abbey gate? “*Ingrederere ut proficias*”, “Enter in order that you may get on”. This is, of course, a motto too, in a manner of speaking, in that it is an injunction to action, or a statement of ideal. But it has never been associated with a shield, and, on the contrary, can be found quite commonly carved over school doorways between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. Many people have found it particularly well suited to the ethos of Abingdon as a school devoted to offering opportunity for talent without regard to the social origins of the pupils. Perhaps it would have been less attractive to Henry Bright, for that very reason.

The sum of all this is that what might be called the iconography of Abingdon School is sadly muddled. We use a shield of arms - John Roysse's - to which we are not entitled, and we add to it a motto which was imported for his personal use by an eighteenth-century Headmaster. Is there a case for legitimating the heraldry, and rethinking the mission statement? Perhaps we could recognise the symbolic significance of the millennium by reorganising our own symbolism, possibly recognising the pre-Reformation as well as the post-Reformation aspects of our history - and in that case, we might go the whole hog, and consider adopting as our motto the Greek tag which adorns the eighteenth-century library gallery, still to be seen in the old schoolroom -

ἔαν ᾗς φιλομαθῆς

ἔσῃ πολυμαθῆς

“If you are a lover of learning you shall be filled with learning.”

M. ST. JOHN PARKER

"OUR FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS"

The School's traditional acts of celebration and thanksgiving for past and present benefactors were concentrated this year on the last day of the spring term, Friday 21 March, when the annual Commemoration Service was held in the morning, and the Foundation Dinner in the evening - when we drank the customary toast to "Our Founders and Benefactors". The formal end of term came at mid day, after an academic prize giving in the Amey Hall; a list of prize winners appears separately in this issue. The Commemoration Sermon was preached by the Reverend Peter Judd, Vicar of Iffley and Provost-designate of Chelmsford, who spoke particularly about the late **Matthew Harding, OA** and Steward of the School.

The dinner in the evening was particularly memorable on three counts, namely the unveiling of a portrait of **John Greening, OA** and Steward, the investiture of **Mr. and Mrs. Q. Hoodless** as Stewards, and the announcement of an impending merger between Abingdon School and Josca's Preparatory School.

The portrait commemorates **John Greening's** outstanding generosity to the School, which made possible the construction of the science wing which bears his name. Painted by Juliet Wood, of Marlborough, it hangs in the main entrance lobby of the science building, and shows the benefactor contemplating the plans of his building, while the finished work looms behind him. It is a notable addition to the School's collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoodless were honoured for their generous contribution to the School's Endowment Fund, from which grants are made to the winners of scholarships and bursaries. Their son, **William Hoodless**, left Abingdon in 1994. The family business, Champion Employment Agency operates at all levels of the employment market in the Oxford region, and must have been concerned in starting hundreds of Abingdonians on their working careers. **Mrs. Hoodless** gave the keynote speech at the beginning of the Abingdon Schools' Careers' Convention on Friday, 7 March.

The title of Steward is bestowed from time to time, by resolution of the Governing Body, in recognition of individual acts of outstanding generosity to the School community. It is honorific, but its holders enjoy a special precedence at all major School functions, and are regarded as the senior members of the Foundation. The title carries forward an earlier tradition, by which leading members of the old Abingdonian Club were elected Stewards for a year at a time; the list of their names, which dates back to 1743 - a time of outstanding success, even splendour, for Abingdon School - contains a number which were distinguished in Church and State.

M. ST. JOHN PARKER

T.A.S.S.

The Abingdon School Society had another busy and successful term. Many of the TASS events are designed to raise funds for projects related to the school: the greenhouse project, travel bursaries etc. - and other worthwhile causes. However, we also hold a number of social events designed to enable parents to meet each other. On these occasions any charge made is purely to cover costs. One such example was the Valentine's Day Recital which was arranged jointly by the Music Society and TASS. This is reported on elsewhere in this edition of "The Abingdonian".

Abingdon saw, in the Michaelmas term, the Charity Christmas Card Sale which should not pass without mention. This event has proved consistently popular with charities, parents and residents of Abingdon for many years. TASS books the hall and arranges the publicity and a number of national and local charities are invited to set up their own stalls. The November event raised nearly £5000 for the participating charities whilst the TASS stalls raised a net sum of over £350. This latter sum is being donated to the 35 Ock Street Project.

Sadly, the TASS lecture - featuring Mr. Matthew Pinsent - had to be postponed due to illness though we are looking forward to a rearranged date in the near future. We are also working hard on this year's Summer Fair which is to be held on May 10th.

Services to the school continue to be fully provided by TASS: in particular the School Uniform Scheme and refreshments for Parents' Evenings. These highly valued contributions would not be possible without the continuing support of a number of parents. There is always room for more support so if you would like to get closer to the school and other parents please contact either Sarah Wearne (Chairman) on 01993 850295 or Pam Champion on 01869 343284

MR. LEFÈVRE

CLEANERS' COLLECTIONS

The Housekeeping staff not only keep the School clean (mud, mud, glorious mud), but also raise money for local charities.

This year they have collected, mainly by donations of gifts which are then raffled off, a staggering £1,225. Charities to have benefited include:

- Abingdon Stroke Club
- Compton Hospice
- Children's Burns Unit - Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre
- Abingdon Alzheimers' Club
- British Heart Foundation
- Marcham Road Hospital - Pain Relief Unit

If you have anything that would be a suitable raffle prize, please contact the Housekeeper, Mrs. Harrison.

R. F. M. JACKSON, BURSAR

THE CAREERS' CONVENTION

Once again, in the sub-tropical lands known as Mercers' Court, the natives of Abingdon School, St. Helen & St. Katharine's School and the Convent School gathered together to perform the ritualised annual questioning of their Elders to try and gain some idea of what circumstances had allowed these representatives of industry and commerce to obtain their positions of power.



Suited up for the occasion I proceeded past the selection of "free" books and leaflets arrayed upon the table in the entrance lobby, and on to my first destination. The school laid on a great selection of careers for me to try tonight; from architecture to xenobiology (No, I couldn't find him either). I enter the first room, or try to enter, but I notice the queue for the Biology stand stretching out into the corridor. The whole building is packed and the evening has only just started. Seeking a less claustrophobic environment I head for Engineering, to be told by a man with a spinning multicoloured raindrop that, as I do Maths, this is the career for me. Seeking a second opinion, I decided that my next stop should be Finance, only to find that my mathematical knowledge would be best used in the field of Management Accountancy. Confused by these two seemingly opposite results, I wander into publishing. Here at least, it seems, my career is not headed. A trip to see the psychologist does my present state of mind no good at all, as I learn that they are watching us watching them watching us. Feeling, and in these temperatures looking, a little like a laboratory rat, I return to an old favourite; Medicine. Here also my skills are desired, but at the price of long hours and lots of blood.

A quick jolt through Dentistry and Pharmacy leave me no more enlightened as to my new career. The Fox FM DJ Mark Chivers at Broadcasting is covered by his adoring teenage fans, so I move on. It is in Information Systems that I finally found my answer, only to be told that the job that they do will probably be radically different by the time that I get to do it.

So, was my quest fruitless? No, as I have learned a

valuable lesson. I now realise that I need to keep as many options as open as I can. The jobs we will be doing when we are old enough to be interviewed at a Careers' Convention will be very different to those being presented this evening, and I need to be prepared for most of the eventualities. Thanks to all those people who gave up their evening to talk to me, to those staff who organised the affair - in particular to **Mr. C. Parker**, whose final convention this was, and good luck to everyone who found their ideal career there.

M. BROWN 6BF

AN EMBRYOLOGY EVENING

This evening was very kindly arranged by **Mr. Davies**, Head of Biology, and it proved to be a great success. The guest was Dr. Pamela Leah from the University of Oxford. She is deeply involved in admissions to Oxford, as well as embryological research, so an important person for us to meet!

The evening began with a meal in the dining hall which gave us a chance to speak to Dr. Leah before the dissection began. Soon we made our way down to the biology labs where Dr. Leah gave us a quick lesson on embryology, so that we would be able to understand what was going on.

This I found fascinating, as embryology is one of those areas at the moment where relatively little is known. In many evolutionary biology books, like those of Richard Dawkins, phrases such as 'the gene for long legs' or 'the gene for a large head' can be found. Yet HOW does such a gene cause the development of limbs and our other physical characteristics? These are the questions embryology can answer.

We started off though, as novices, dealing with slightly less intricate detail. Genes were not looked at, in fact it was difficult enough to see the embryo! We took a fertilised chicken's egg and removed the shell and white to leave just the embryo and yolk. We then removed the embryo and looked at it closely using binocular microscopes. That's how to do it in theory anyway, but in practice it's not so easy!

Some had a lot of success though, able to see clearly the embryo's features. One person had an embryo with a beating heart, but the most interesting embryo of the evening was a pair of Siamese twins! Of course this whole area raises many ethical issues, such as the sanctity of life, and when dealing with human embryos, the unique position of our own species. Dr. Leah explained to us all the restrictions on embryo research and pointed out that once the nervous system has formed experimentation without licence is illegal. Nevertheless Mr. Davies is organising a debate for next term, involving Dr. Leah, where these ethical issues will be tackled.

Finally I extend the thanks of all who attended to Mr. Davies and especially to Dr. Leah for what was a very interesting and exciting evening.

R. FRANKLIN 6JEF

LIFE IN PRISON

Mrs. Manship of the Religious Studies department spent her half term holiday working with the prison chaplain in Grendon Underwood prison as part of her training to become a priest. It is a category B closed prison with all the prisoners being repeat offenders, it is the only Therapeutic prison in the country. **S. Arthur** talked to her about her experiences.

"The point of the prison", she explained, "is for the prisoners to face up to their crimes. They actually want to go to the prison so that they can get better. They have daily meetings in their therapy groups to go through their past and try to discover what made them do it. After these sessions, sometimes the prisoners just break down".

"Before I went", she said, "I was very worried that when I was talking to the prisoners I would not be able to forget what they had done. That I would just be sitting there thinking that I was talking to a murderer. However, when I got there it was the complete opposite - I totally forgot that they had done anything. They were so nice it was hard to believe that they were actually repeat offenders ... I never felt threatened by them - not because they were surrounded by guards; there are only four assigned to each wing of thirty prisoners; but because they just did not behave threateningly. When talking to one prisoner, I was genuinely shocked to discover what someone had done because they were so nice!"

You might wonder if you can show compassion for such criminals? "Definitely", she replied, "and not in a superior, pitying way either. The men go through hell in prison - it is an agonising and painful experience, especially so in Grendon because people have to face up to what they have done. Those who believe that prison is the easy way out are sorely mistaken. Assuming that once they come out life will just go back to normal is a dream for a lot of prisoners. Often they will have nowhere to live, and their wives will have left them. They are all incredibly worried about how they are going to fit back into normal society."

Mrs. Manship believed that it really does work, with only 10-15% of people leaving Grendon re-offending compared with the 50-80% from normal prisons. The majority of re-offences after Grendon are due to drink and drugs : very hard habits to break. Nor is there is any reason for there not being more such prisons, because they are cheaper. All the inmates do their own cooking and cleaning.

When asked whether she learned a lot she replied, "Yes. I had learned not to be judgemental and can see the people as human beings rather than just looking at their crimes." Finally, had the experience put her off crime for life? "YES" she categorically replied!

S. ARTHUR 6CMM

The Chosen One

He was chosen from all the millions
Who dreamed of a life in space.
But, as he sat in the cockpit,
A tear trickled down his face.

He looked back as his planet
Faded into the night.
As he thought of all that he'd left behind
He wondered if he had been right.

As the starlight streamed through the window
And he drifted through endless space,
He remembered again his childhood
And longed for the wind on his face.

He was the first of a new race,
Seeking a world of his own.
But his home was lost to the darkness,
And now, he was truly alone.

He thought of his shining future,
Beyond the galactic rim.
But the Earth fell forgotten behind him
And the glow of his sun grew dim.

A. WILSON 3RSE

Squirrel

There it was, scampering through the trees,
Keeping its balance as they swayed in the breeze.

It took a leap to the grass,
It ran along extremely fast,

Scaled a fence,

Into some dense

Nettles and then reappeared.

Then once more disappeared.

Suddenly it was by my feet,
Seconds later it was up a beech.

There it selected a branch,

Then it started to dance.

It leapt around as if chasing something,
Then it jumped to another with a spring.

As it left I let out a sigh,

A grey blur that blended with the sky.

And then it began to run,

Away, away, into the sinking sun.

P. BRAZIER 1A

Yes. It's the squeaky little chaps in stripy pink ties again. Here's some of the latest on what goes on down under...

Roller Blading

During the Lent term, **J. Cousin** and **L. Berryman** sent a letter to **Mrs. Bradshaw** about starting a rollerblading club. With the majority of the first year and some of the second year having rollerblading as a hobby already, the idea was very popular. We were told that the staff were going to consider the idea of the club. And, a week later in Lower School Assembly, it was announced - roller blading club was to take place on Tuesday afternoon at 4.15 to 4.45. And it was as simple as that! We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Mrs. Bradshaw** (the supervisor of the club) and everybody who put something towards getting the club going on behalf of the members.

L. BERRYMAN & J. COUSIN

Badminton

Two Lower School boys heard about a Badminton competition, and entered. In the preliminaries, **P. Craig** went out in the first round (singles) and **P. Tubman** went on to win, and received a place in the finals. More success was to come in the doubles, winning all matches and gaining a place in the finals. **P. Tubman** won a place in the final but he was beaten. In the doubles, they won outright. All in all, a successful tournament, especially when they were asked to join the under-12s county Squad.

Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir has been as busy as ever this term with two contrasting trips and a service in school. We sang an exceptional choral evensong at Coventry Cathedral, a very modern cathedral which was bombed in the 2nd world war quite badly, but has been built over and is magnificent with wonderful acoustics. It was a trip to remember! At Lincoln College in Oxford we sang another choral evensong. This chapel generated a completely different but lovely sound. Lincoln College is small but is very old and has been unchanged except for the electricity for hundreds of years. It is a beautiful sight inside and has wonderful stained-glass windows. The Chapel Choir also sang at the Candlemas Communion in the school chapel. This was very atmospheric because there were candles lit all round the chapel.

J. MOFFATT

Cross Country

At the Vale School Championships held at Radley College, Abingdon entered a first year team of four boys in the under thirteen race. Abingdon School came second, with the same point score as the winners, St. Birinus: the position of the fourth runner determined the overall win. **M. Cullen** came first and **J. Richards** came third; **D. Madden** came seventh and **S. Haste** came nineteenth in a field of over sixty. It was an exciting race with Daniel battling right to the end to keep off the much larger and more powerful looking runner up from **J. Mason**.

Model Railways

Model Railways club is held on a Monday in Whitefield garage. When we first started, the track, and the trains, were in very bad condition. We have now managed to repair quite a few of the trains, and

re-layed a lot of the track. There are still many American trains that need work, but we will come to them in due course.

MORE NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

A tribute to Mr. Dillon...

For twelve years and one term **Mr. Dillon** has been the quiet driving force behind the Lower School. A leader with very much his own style, and a sense of humour which is not always apparent to all, he has steered the Lower School through both great change and happy repetition of popular events and routine. Almost two generations of Abingdon boys have followed him to the peaks of the land and to the depths of the Earth on Rydal Hall and prefects' outings to Lulworth Cove. Many many hours have been spent in the woodwork shop whether it be bashing out boxes for the Lower School conservation group at a great rate or quietly talking through a pastoral concern with one or more of his charges. The Lower School has seen changes in the curriculum and changes in position while **Mr. Dillon** has been in charge. He has always shown patience, understanding and vision while helping to administer these upheavals and he played no small part in securing for the Lower School boys such a prime site in the new order of things. It is with this careful thought and vision that he leaves us; to travel to Bosnia with his family in the near future. There is no doubt that he will do great things out there and we wish him and his family all the very best. We thank him for everything he has done for the Lower School and for the happy memories.

CRESCENT HOUSE

This term has been a particularly successful one for Crescent, with many individual as well as collective achievements.

The inter-house Public Speaking competition was won by our Junior team in real style, with **B. Wells** carrying off an interesting speech on the Internet. **S. Balch** and **M. Rees-Jones** were also members of the team, commenting on the opposition speech and introducing Ben's.

The house hockey teams maintained great spirit as always, even if the results weren't spectacular! The team won 1, drew 1 and lost 3. The house has also been deeply involved in the running of chapel services this term. On one occasion we put on a whole range of sketches for the service, with thanks to **Mrs. Manship** for all the organisation.

The house has an excellent academic record as well, maintaining the high standards set last year. There were two applications for Oxbridge from the Upper Sixth, **J. Horton** and **R. Janisch**. Unfortunately they didn't quite make it, but to be considered of that standard is a huge achievement nevertheless.

Responsibility also seems to be a true ingredient of Crescent with **A. Pike**, **P. Makings**, **O. Smith**, **S. Karim** and **P. Hemsley** all receiving prefects' interviews. Let's wish them all the best of luck and welcome a host of prefects to Crescent for next year.

The end of term was celebrated in traditional fashion with the egg throwing competition. True to form Glyndowr won! The term finished off with a house trip to the Shaw road complex in Swindon, which was enjoyed very much by everyone. Overall it's been another great term for all of us in Crescent. Happy Easter!

R. FRANKLIN 6JEF

WASTE COURT

For the newer boys in the house this has been a term of consolidation, academic performance generally showing a steady rise in quality as people find their feet. For some of the more established members, it has been a time of preparation for the challenges ahead, the upper sixth showing very pleasing dedication as A levels approach and the fourth form showing a rapidly developing drive and maturity prior to their GCSE year. It is also particularly pleasing to hear that **M. Jones**, in the lower sixth has been awarded this year's sixth form geography prize.

Aside from academics, members of the house have continued to be active in a variety of sports. Many of the younger boys have been playing rugby for the school this term, **H. Hunter** and **I. McKenzie** both playing for the first year A team and **N. Andrews** being leader of the Minors A pack. Hockey has also been the source of much excitement, particularly amongst the fourth year, **M. Ambler** and **T. Bracher** both being regulars for the A team. The upper sixth is a rich seam of badminton talent, **J.**

Johari, **N. Kadir** and **S. Yue** all regularly playing for the school. On the river, **T. Blackshaw** coxed a J14 quad to victory in a head race at Godstow, beating St. Edward's, amongst others.

Cultural activity continues to be a central part of house life. Musicians abound, **J. Mak** playing superbly in the recent scholars' concert and **E. Mason** playing a lot of jazz. Chapel and boarders' choir continue to be well supported. In addition to these more conventional activities, a number of the junior boys have been bellringing two or three times a week and are now valued members of the teams at St. Helen's and St. Nicholas churches. **N. Yeung** is also rapidly establishing himself as a chess regular, having competed three times for the school this term.

Work continues around the house, improving facilities. We are particularly grateful to the maintenance department for their efforts in the House Office, which we hope to move back into this week. As a result of this work, other rooms in the house have been freed up, increasing the house capacity by 3-4 beds. Now to fill them!

As a final note, we have been very pleased to welcome **Ben Kirkman** to the house as our new "Aussie Gapper". He is already making himself very useful - long may it continue!

T. J. WATERS

SCHOOL HOUSE

In a term just over nine weeks in length the boarders have been frantically busy. Early in the term the House Society held another most enjoyable Wine Tasting for sixth form, parents and some Common Room members, we were grateful to our wine expert and school Governor, **Miss Jane Cranston**, of "Grape Ideas", for our evening's entertainment and education. It enabled boys and staff to relax after the intensity of mock examinations.

There were some excellent mock GCSE results, and **J. Yau** won the boarders' prize for the best grades obtained. **T. Mak** has gained a Gold Award in a National Intermediate Mathematics Competition and goes through to the next round.

There is much to report about a wide range of activities. A number of boys have contributed significantly to Chapel and Boarders' Choirs this term. The House led a service of Evensong with lessons clearly read by **F. Malone - Lee** and **A. Stewart**, **M. Kay** intoned the responsorial psalm and the prayers were sensitively said by **R. Rothkopf**, **N. Black** and **N. Brewer**. If **Mr. Pettitt** could have turned the clock back to 1662, he would have done so, but he contented himself with preaching on Cranmer. All the boarders were then entertained by the flamboyant **V. Lee** playing the D Minor Toccata, by J.S.Bach.

Victor featured again later in the term at our annual House Concert, this time playing a Mozart sonata on the piano, and accompanying **R. Bryniarski** on the oboe. The musicians of School House now set very high standards and even provide their own accompanists, **K. Cheung** assisting in this respect most sensitively. He also played "Soaring" by Schumann. A very varied programme of mu-



sic was performed by about a dozen boys but the highlight of the evening was the Brahms G major violin sonata performed by **T. Mak** and accompanied by **S. Yue** (borrowed from Waste Court). We subsequently heard that Timothy had won the Reading Symphony Orchestra's "Young Musician of the Year Prize" that same afternoon, congratulations indeed. He now has the chance to play a concerto with the orchestra next term and has received a trophy, and cheque from Lloyds' Bank.

Members of School House continue to achieve much in sporting activities. **D. Kingsley** continues to train with the GB under 18 rowing squad and he with **M. Thomas** and **I. Priest** were members of the school first VIII who achieved third place in the recent Schools' Head of the river race on the Tideway, in London. Ian has recently been offered and has accepted a tutor's post at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, for his GAP year. **E. Ryder** has been playing for the first XI hockey team, **M. Jobling** has been the stroke of the J16 VIII, and **N. Williams** has been marked out as the most promising junior oarsman. **F. Malone-Lee** has been the inspirational Cross Country runner of the term and he set the fastest time in the end of term Road Relay of 7 minutes and 58 seconds for the 2.6 kilometre lap. **Mr. Pettitt**, master in charge of Cross Country Running, set a fine example with the fastest time of Common Room.

This term we had our annual house outing to the Super Bowl, cinemas and ice rink near Swindon which was enjoyed by all. **Mr. Davies** again won the bowling honours with his usual beginners' luck, starting with three strikes!

Mr. Pettitt and **Mr. Figgis** have rehearsals for "The Lord of the Flies" well under way with a strong, enthusiastic boarders' cast drawn mainly from first, third and fourth formers. They will need more assistance backstage next term. The plan is to have three performances just before the next half term. It is hoped that parents will attend on Friday, May the 23rd. at 5.00 p.m. when they would normally be collecting boarders for the half term.

F. C. BURROW

DRUMMOND-HAY'S

Several individuals in the House have had notable achievements over the last term. **J. Wilcox-Jones** won a gold medal in the 1997 Independent Schools'

Judo Championships, in the under-14 60kg class. An amazing achievement, well done!

I. Downie has earned a place in the south-east England under-14 cricket squad, is in the Oxon. under-14 hockey team and has also had a trial for the South of England squad.

There were many other sporting achievements: five third years represented the county at rugby this season; **G. Unsworth**, **W. Baker**, **O. Thomas**, **P. Thomas** and **J. Wilcox-Jones**. Three 4th years won places in the first cricket squad for their tour to Barbados in the summer. Well done to **O. Norman-Longstaff**, **T. Fleming** and **S. Dexter**.

In the House sporting events the hockey 'A' team played 3 matches, won 3, scored 20 goals and conceded none. Against Fishpool's, 2-0 (**A. Hulse** and **S. Tompkins** scoring one each), against Mearns', 13-0 (**A. Hulse** 5, **T. Hedge** 3, **J. Otterburn** 1, **O. Norman-Longstaff** 1, **R. Fabes** 1) and, against the boarders' 5-0 (**A. Hulse** 3, **S. Tompkins** 2). As I write there remains one match, against Wilmore's, to play next week.

The 'B' team has played 2, won 2, scored 10, conceded 2. Against Mearns', 7-1 (**M. Freeman** 3, **I. Downie** 2, **J. Wood** 1, **P. Barry** 1), and against Wilmore's, 3-1 (**I. Downie** 2, **J. Wood** 1). They have two matches to play next week, against Fishpool's and the boarders.

A. Hulse won the House academic prize last term, which included an invitation to lunch with the Headmaster.

Finally, a more serious point. The houseroom has suffered a spate of burglaries over the past term, in which several valuable things have been stolen, including the music system and Mr. Drummond-Hay's bureau. We all believe that the break-ins are due to the fact that people have heard wonderful stories of the House, and had to see it for themselves!

STOP PRESS

Road Relay:

5th yr. A team 2nd in Year, 4th in School.

G. Kitto 2nd best time in year.

4th yr. A team 1st in year, 10th in School.

R. Fabes best time in year.

Hockey:

A team won A league B team 2nd in B league
Fishpool's and Drummond Hay's each had 13 points but
Drummond-Hay's won on goal difference and retained
the House Hockey Cup.

P. TOLLEY 4MDM

FISHPOOL'S

After the first term of getting used to the new House room, things began to settle down into a routine. The 5th form endured their mock exams, the 4th form enjoyed a Geography field trip and their German Exchange. By the end of the first few weeks the House occupants were accustomed to the new system and their new Housemaster. To judge by the state of the Houseroom at

the end of this term; it has been a very good system.

Following a House table-tennis tournament, which was a little slow in starting, the end of term saw a successful Road Relay for Fishpool's, with the House team coming in 3rd and **R. Bourne-Taylor** achieving 3rd position in the entire School.

It was also a good term for House hockey. Our team performed well against Drummond-Hay's, particularly **B. Watts** who scored as the final whistle blew. **R. Bourne-Taylor** (4) **D. Pearson** (3) and **P. Edwards** (1) kept up our end against Wilmore's. We even soldiered on with an understrength team, having lost **B. Hunt** early following a head injury. Against a 7 man Mearns' team we did well to score 12 with no reply; **J. Tarasewicz** played particularly well in defence here. Mention should be made of **C. Orr** (3) and **P. Langton** (2) for their stalwart efforts in this match. The A team was represented by **M. Cooper**, **A. Papps**, **J. Lucas**, **J. Tarasewicz**, **P. Langton**, **S. Campbell**, **N. Watney**, **P. Mather**, **B. Watts**, **B. Hunt**, **C. Hockley**, **P. Edwards** (Capt.), **J. Kane**, **R. Bourne-Taylor**, **D. Pearson**, **C. Orr**, **D. Baxter** and **A. Apps**. The Hockey B team was extremely strong, and unbeaten this term. The matches were all exciting, and special mention should be made of **A. Hutchinson**, **G. LeTocq**, **D. Hewitt**, **P. Mather**, **S. Wickson**, **A. Apps** and **S. Mather** whose regular goals enabled us to secure many of these wins. The final victory against Drummond-Hay's was down to super team spirit, goals by **T. Matheson**, **S. Nickson**, and excellent goalkeeping by **N. Hambridge**.

A. APPS 4DJ

MEARNS'

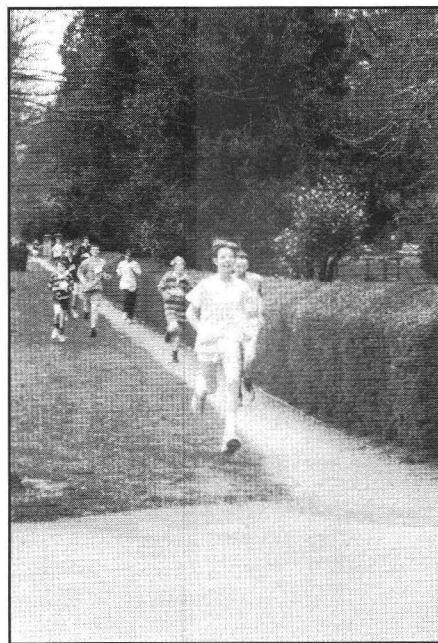
It may be the case that boys have to learn to be philosophical in defeat and gracious in victory, but when it comes to inter-house hockey Mearns' House boys have to learn to be both philosophical and gracious. For in the shaking of the urn as lots come to be chosen Fate decrees that there shall be a dearth of hockey players in this House.

I managed to get to all the fixtures bar one which was a double booking. All the matches were lost. The problem was particularly acute in the face of Drummond-Hay's who fielded the core of the School team. Although the final score was more reminiscent of a cricket match, our boys all played up and did what they could to the final whistle. Drummond-Hay's boys played in exemplary fashion throughout and treated us to a fine display of their skills. Thereafter the results against both our teams were in the order of 3 or 4 against to our occasional 1. Much the best aspect of the tournament which is spread over ten days was the way in which boys who had no particular talent or experience at the game committed themselves to it. There were some heartening performances. **P. Batchelor** was a rare scorer and he was well supported by **N. Gray**. **N. Hawker** was simply everywhere, constantly harassing and pursuing. **R. Anderson** showed real purpose. Third formers **J. Cox**, **Y. Dong** and **M. Conway** were constantly attentive in defence. **M. Sanderson** showed much fortitude, not only in goal, but also in helping to get things

organised. It can certainly be said that much was achieved and in good humour. And who knows, perhaps that elusive victory will come our way next year.

On other fronts our teams did well. In the Road Relay our fourth year group was second. Six boys went to the Head of the River and the Independent photographer published to the world the J15 VIII, stroked by **J. Mascaró** and coxed by **T. Jonckheer**. Congratulations, meanwhile, to **B. Brettell** for winning the House academic prize. **J. Haworth** continues to display a rich versatility: this time he is a member of the Junior School Challenge team. They are eagerly awaiting the semi-final in the coming term.

R. S. K. MEARNS



WILMORE'S

Judging from the academic reports this term has been one of solid endeavour. A great deal has been achieved and we can look forward to the summer term.

The singles' pool tournament ended with an unexpected victory to **A. Holland**, while the doubles' pairing of **S. Hughes** and **A. Choudhuri** proved triumphant in that competition. The House A and B hockey XIs both came third in their respective leagues. **E. Campbell** and **J. Spearing** organised the A team for which **T. Judd** produced some excellent performances in goal. The B side was captained by its topscorer himself - **S. Allen**. **K. Roche** represented Oxfordshire at the U14 level.

In the meantime the rowers have been warming up for the Summer Term. The 15A came fifth at the Schools' Head at London Tideway. Half the crew came from Wilmore's: **N. Moffat**, **S. Curran**, **H. Mackenzie** and **S. Woodcock**. **A. Wilson** made an excellent contribution to the Schools' Challenge team which has progressed to the last eight in the country, having beaten Bishop's Stortford in the Inter-Regional Competition. In the Road Relay, **P. Watson** came 24th and **S. Allen** 43rd of the 273 runners.

P.J. WILMORE

Dear Editor,

POLITICS...

It seems to me that in the coming General Election, the Conservative Party have dug themselves into a hole it will be very difficult to get out of, and that all the main opposition parties have to do is just hang in there.

The country is undoubtedly coming out of recession and the economy is allegedly looking up, but neither of these factors is likely to have much bearing on the result.

For some time now, even before Mr. Redwood took on Mr. Major for the party leadership, factions within the Conservative Party have conspired to give the public the impression, whether warranted or not that the leadership is itself divided and incapable of putting forward any consolidated policy on any particular issue. "Cash for questions", divisions over Europe, the B.S.E. crisis, and open warfare between its own MPs have given us, the general public, the impression that whatever Mr. Major may say about the Labour policies they at least could not do any worse, and may in fact do better. You cannot these days win on a fear policy alone, when if you ask the simple question "Which party is the Party you can trust?" you are pretty sure the answer most people will give you is "We cannot trust YOU".

I wonder how many leading Tories have actually settled for relegation and are secretly preparing to get in a 'new manager' for the campaign in opposition.

Of course all things are possible, but I wonder, with all due respect to Chesterfield FC, what odds the bookies will give on a Double of Chesterfield to win the FA Cup, and the Conservatives to win an outright General Election victory.

Yours etc.,

G.BAILEY 3ASP

How much longer are our politicians going to continue to try and delude us?

As we approach a general election campaign there is already a great deal of posturing on both taxation and Europe, yet I have not so far heard a single candidate, of any party, prepared to be hon-

est about what is going on.

Under a combination of various directives and the terms of the European treaties, all EC member states are bound to work for convergence of their indirect taxation policies. Britain is the only such state not currently imposing VAT on newspapers, water supplies, public transport, and new house sales. One thing we have in common with the Irish is that we do not charge VAT on food, books, or children's clothes. Under the sixth VAT directive of 1977, the UK was permitted to zero rate these items until 1997. That period has subsequently been extended until 1st January 1999. Thus within eighteen months of election we can expect the new government to be imposing such unpopular measures, doubtless excusing themselves as having no choice while gleefully accepting the massive revenue into the state's coffers. We all remember the furore when this European inspired tax was imposed on fuel, and that in itself will have to be brought into line. Come along all you would-be members of Parliament - stop this conspiracy of silence and tell us the truth!

Yours etc.,

MR. G. MORRIS F.C.A.

EDUCATION ...

Referring to the recent article about the top Primary schools in the country, I feel that I should write to inform you of my view that these tables should not be printed. I find it disgraceful that a small Primary school, with only a small number of pupils can appear second in the National tables, all because the ten pupils there can get passes, whereas a Primary school such as Coversham in Reading which has sixty-five pupils, who gained over 90% passes in English, Maths and Science, still managed to appear out of the top ten.

I feel that some very good schools, who gain excellent pass rates, are being pushed down the league table by small schools who should, in theory, get good pass rates as the class sizes are much smaller. These tables influence parents greatly and could hold the key to whether schools can survive in the future.

I would like to say that this is poor journalism and that only league tables that can be compared favourably should be printed as controversial decisions can often be based on incorrect information.

Yours etc.,

A. JOHNSON 6MJM

Beyond Abingdon



SKI TRIP

This year **Mr. Mansfield** and **Mr. Broadbent** took a fairly large party of boys from the school to the French ski resort of Les Deux Alpes. After more than a five hour journey by 'plane and coach, we arrived at the Hotel Geneppi and were immediately blessed with plenty of snow. It was everywhere, it carpeted every mountain in sight and skirted every road and building. Everyday we met our instructors and had a valuable two hour ski lesson in English. For the first two or three days people either learnt the basic skills or recaptured the standard they had previously acquired. This was made easier by the fact that the slopes and the weather conditions were perfect. The sky was crystal clear blue most days and the snow was soft especially at the top of the glacier.

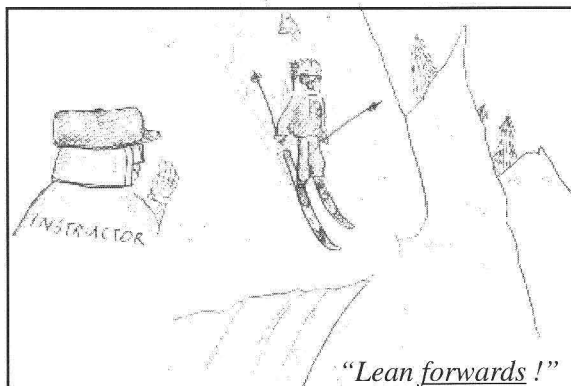
This gave Mr. Broadbent the unmissable opportunities to make entire groups look like snowmen with his unique "why has everything gone so white?" braking system. Even if you managed to escape he

would always find a way of camouflaging you.

With skiing from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day, people gained confidence and beginners were able to ski competently with the intermediate group by the end of the week. Everyone had also attempted nearly all the jumps that were possible. Some of the beginners managed to create their own singular style.

The entertainment certainly did not end on the slopes but continued in the evenings to include ten pin bowling, bum boarding, and various card games.

Looking back on the trip it was a great experience and one which I will not forget in a hurry, and on behalf of all the skiers and snowboarders, I would like to thank Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Broadbent for their organisational skills and



enduring patience.

We can't wait until next year...

J. KINGSLEY 4SPD

HIGH SPIRITS ABOARD THE SPIRIT

At 5.30am we all assembled, in body at least, on the school gravel, ready to set out for a week's sailing in the North Sea. However it became obvious that minibuses weren't designed for large numbers of large boys with large amounts of luggage, but after a bit of brain and a lot of brawn we managed to squeeze most of us in. With 'Operation Vacu-Pac' complete, we set off for Ipswich...

... It was now time for the official 'getting-to-know-the-crew' session, so we gathered down in the saloon over a cup of tea (little did we know that this would be the first of about 25 cups a day, virtually compulsory for everyone!) and introduced ourselves. Chris the Skipper, Si the Bosun, Nick the First Mate and Mark and John the other two mates made up the OYC crew. Next came the 'Oilies experience': in a mad rush everyone leapt towards the garishly yellow Guy Cotten waterproofs. After 15 minutes of heaving and panting, 12 of us emerged on deck looking like a performing troop of extremely large canaries. Though we looked rather silly we were now prepared to face the 20 ft swell and force nines that the North Sea throws at sailors. The only problem was, the water of the marina was as still as a mill pond and it was warm enough to wear T-shirts. 'Not to worry' we thought, as we motored down the Estuary towards that night's berth, Wolverstone Marina, 'before we know it Neptune will be inflicting icy squalls and snow showers on us, left, right and centre.'

With the culinary genius of **Mr. Mearns** and Jamie in the Galley, supper turned out to be a real winner: it was the combination of satisfyingly filling large portions and the jubilant atmosphere all served over the captain's table. It contained the perfect balance nutritionally: carbohydrates, proteins and vitamins a'plenty. With a full stomach we retired to bed, content in the knowledge that the next day would be our first full day's sailing.

At some unearthly hour, later reckoned to be 6 o'clock, Si the Bosun walked down the boat, 'very kindly' waking us up. It wasn't the fact that we couldn't sleep any longer but once we were in the land of the living, we became subject to the ceaseless and often very dangerous joke warfare that had been declared the night before. With breakfast finished we set sail for Ramsgate, the sun was shining and the wind was a gentle two/three, the Indian summer seemed to be a reality. However it wasn't all fun and games, as the swell induced bouts of seasickness in nearly everyone. As a result, lunch was a sim-

ple sandwich affair but nevertheless very filling (washed down by more tea).

The watch system drawn up by the Skipper meant that over the course of the week everybody would have had hands on experience of every aspect of life on board, including washing the heads! (For those unaccustomed to sailing terminology this literally means scrubbing out the loos by hand). It also meant that everybody had to cook at least two meals, based around what the Skipper suggests. The whole crew then sloped off to sample the delights of a Kentish port, (yes, Kent really does grow the best hops!)

The next morning was also an early start but due to the omnipresent kindness of Chris the Skipper we were allowed to get up at 7 o'clock. Ah the pleasures of a maritime lie-in! Breakfast, as the day before, proved lethal: new or nearly new jokes juxtaposed with the old classics rebounded around the saloon, randomly inflicting themselves on the unsuspecting sleepy eyed sailors. However with great inner strength, most of us survived, only to be faced with the prospect of 'Happy Hour', an all out cleaning blitz of the boat. Soon we were finished so we set out on our longest day's sailing so far, a channel crossing to the French Port of Boulogne. Charts were laid out, approximate routes planned and cups of tea made.

Obviously sailing to France meant we'd be crossing busy shipping lanes so extra special attention had to be paid by the watch crews. Ferries, lobster pots and general flotsam and jetsam provided most of the obstacles. The Indian summer continued with temperatures hitting 21°C, but unfortunately this also resulted in very light winds. Under motor then we reached France, arriving in the dark at about 8 o'clock. After a hearty supper of pork chops followed by fruit salad we prepared to hit *la ville*. Obviously tartan trousers and Lacoste polo shirts would have been more appropriate for an evening out with our French friends; but we had to make do with grubby sailing clothes (*sans* PVC oilies).

Next morning we had a luxurious lie-in till 7.30am and then a leisurely breakfast of the usual fine ship's victuals (toast and muesli). We were allowed the morning and early afternoon to roam around Boulogne seeing the sights of this surprisingly scenic town. Spicy merguez and omelettes satisfied our continental appetites, washed down with copious quantities of Evian. The old town, rarely seen by visitors, is a mix of narrow, cobbled streets and large turreted houses, interspersed with small cafés and boutiques.

On returning to the boat we found that due to a very low tide we had to climb about 30ft down on a very slippery rusting ladder. The more nimble

climbed down in a matter of seconds while others took their time making sure they got a really good look at the deep, dark, murky water swilling around the 1.5m gap between the ladder and the boat. When we all safely reached the saloon, we found 10 baguettes, lots of cheese and big slabs of pâté waiting for us. Of course it seemed such a pity to waste all this lovely food, so we tucked in with due gusto. We then carried ourselves up through the hatch to collapse on the deck for a well deserved nap in the hazy 'Indian Summer' sun.

The next excitement came when the more hygienic members of the crew headed off for a shower in the yacht club's changing rooms. Typically French mixed changing normally presents little embarrassment but a visiting Swedish youth crew (similar to OYC) sitting round naked brushing their teeth provided great mirth (unfortunately we could not attend the party they invited us to that evening on board their 130 ft schooner.) Those still on the Spirit were completing their 'Competent Crew' certificate which involved learning knots, rowing, basic navigation and safety. This arduous series of testing examinations nearly tripped up several crew members, but eventually we all passed with flying colours. With skills aplenty we were now prepared for the 'final challenge': the night sail all the way back to Ipswich. Navigation became all the more important as did those responsible for watching the water for debris, lobster pots, rogue 2ndWW mines etc.

We set off at about five o'clock *de l'après-midi* and suddenly realised that in the excitement of the last hour NOT ONE single cup of tea had been made. With this measure so dangerously overlooked, the situation had to be rectified fast. All available gas hobs were called into action, every kettle that could be found was filled, the teapots were checked and the tea bag situation assessed. Luckily within ten minutes the emergency was over and we could safely recall the red alert issued. With the crew grinning happily over a nice cuppa, we continued our journey towards home turf, unfortunately under motor in the now near still conditions. With darkness setting and supper being prepared, those not on watch decided the warm saloon beckoned even though the Simon & Garfunkel tape was on again! Games of cards, magazines, walkmans and sleep entertained the off watches while tea, biscuits, charts, and updating the logs were the 'on watch' themes.

At 2100 red watch was relieved by blue watch: a classic bunch of sailors. The highlights of this watch were performances of the 'Frère Jacques' and 'Whose Pigs are These?' canons. Verse after verse drifted across the sea: (parallels were drawn between us and the divine singing of the Sirens in the Odyssey). We

also had to navigate our way through seven tankers at anchor. At 0000 blue watch was replaced by green watch, so the weary choristers immediately retired to bed to rest their larynxes for further renditions at 0600 the next morning.

During the early morning the sky filled with dark cloud and drizzle but it brought no wind so we continued to motor up the estuary to the Ipswich dock, the home base of 'The Spirit'. After a short wait at the lock we continued up and moored. The final project of the week now had to be completed, a COMPLETE scrub down of decks, bunks, lockers and heads. The different watches were allocated different areas. After a couple of hours this mammoth task was nearing completion when suddenly a flying bucket of water soaked Paddy's legs. Within seconds the whole blue watch had hands on any water holding container they could find and were 'washing' each other down. Though cold and wet it was great fun and summed up the whole week: everyone got on with each other really well despite bouts of seasickness, the cold at night and the cramped conditions. We would like to thank **Mr. Townsend** and **Mr. Mearns** for organising it and coming with us, and OYC for making it a really enjoyable week.

J. PETERSON VI MSAG

YARDLEY CHASE NITEX

On the 14th of February, 30 cadets met at the activity centre ready for the half-term night-exercise. When we reached Yardley our section commanders briefed us on phase one. In this phase each section was to "reccy" one of the concrete bunkers in the area while looking for the Wellingborough base. We were then to make our way back to bunker 23 in the centre of the area.

We were all issued with 20 blank rounds each and set off. My team, led by **R. Jones**, found Wellingborough's base and did not meet any opposition. Other sections were not so lucky, being ambushed from all directions. We achieved about half our objectives and the phase was drawn.

After a brief rest at bunker 23, phase two began. Now Wellingborough were on the offensive, trying to attack our base. Each section covered an area of the ground between them and their objective. They did not manage to achieve it whilst we planted a bomb on one of their bunkers. This phase was a victory for us. After handing any spare rounds in, we headed back to our bunker for a welcome cup of tea and some sleep.



Next morning we were up at 7:30 for the final stage, which was to be an all out battle between us and Wellingborough over some chemical weapons. The first part of the phase was a race to the bunker where they were hidden. Unfortunately we did not get there first.

Wellingborough now set about trying to get the chemical weapons to the gate and we were on the defensive. At the end of the phase we had three or four sections in defensive positions at one side of a field with Wellingborough at the other side in a ditch. Eventually they rose out of their ditch and charged across the field. We opened fire, but we lost the phase as they got the chemicals and we did not force them back. Later we found out that it had been rigged, with Wellingborough having only half as far to go to the chemicals.

That was the end of a thoroughly enjoyable exercise during which all cadets fired the rifles. Thanks must go to **Mr. Hullis** and **Mr. Haworth** for organising the exercise, and to Wellingborough school for providing us with some opposition.

J. Wood 4ASP

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Thirty boys from the lower sixth went to Wales at the start of the Christmas holidays to return as young men.

Mr. Haworth, Mrs. Fishpool, and a volunteer parent drove us to our youth hostel in the picturesque surroundings of Snowdonia. Arriving late on Friday evening, we only had time to plan our ascent of Snowdon on the following day. Little could we have expected the adverse weather conditions which hindered our assault on the summit of Snowdon, which resulted in one of the two groups having to abort their mission. This meant that Mr. Haworth was denied his victorious cigar at the top. That evening we were rewarded for our vigorous achievements with truly British fish and chips.

The following morning, we did some rock climbing and abseiling. This increased our trust in each other as we had to check each others' safety ropes.

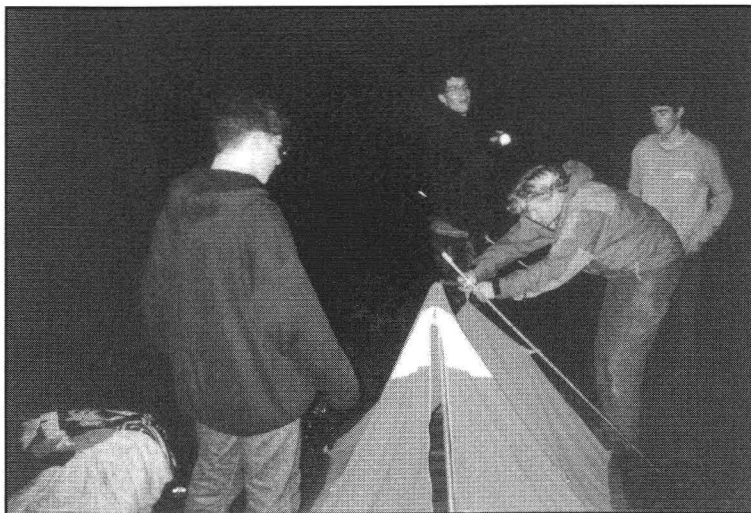
That afternoon we ventured to Llandrogyn dry ski centre, which had to be the highlight of our weekend as half of the group had never been skiing before. Nevertheless they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

That night the more hardy of the group camped out in a nearby field. When we got there we found ourselves a couple of tents short, but this hiccup just tested our developing qualities and we dealt with the situation admirably.

Our last morning was filled with activities by the river which included building a rope bridge, which turned out to be harder than it sounds.

Everyone got a well deserved rest on the return journey and I would like to thank the accompanying staff for all the effort they put in to make this weekend work so well and help us on our never ending trail to becoming fully developed.

D. SILVER 6BF



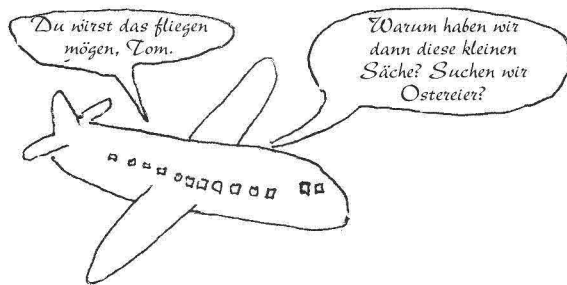
BIELEFELD 1997

This year a group of sixteen pupils took part in the German exchange. The group was accompanied by eighteen St. Helen's girls, **Mr. Weir** and **Mrs. Hurrell**. There were three excursions to Münster (where we were lucky enough to bump into **Sonja**), Hameln, and Köln. We were given a very hospitable welcome and all of the group experienced life in a German school which was horrifyingly easy: "pupils went home at one o'clock and there was no homework to speak of" (**R. Rothkopf**.) There was a treasure hunt and a diary competition: some of the entries from the diary competition are published below. The competition was won by **T. Judd** although there was fierce competition particularly from **P. Gardner**, **S. Atkinson**, **M. Hawksworth**, and **R. Rothkopf**.

Dienstag 11. Februar

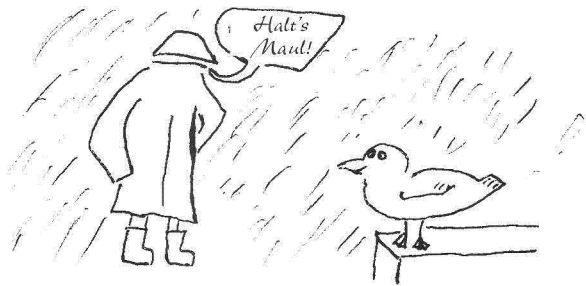
Heute sind wir in Deutschland angekommen. Wir sind um 1100 in Abingdon abgefahren und wir sind am Heathrow Flughafen um 1245 angekommen. Ich war nicht so glücklich weil mein Vater mir einen Koffer gegeben hat, den ich nicht gebraucht habe und der sehr schwer war. Ich habe fast entschieden den Reiseführer, den mein Vater wollte, nicht zu kaufen...

Mittwoch 12. Februar



...Erstens bin ich zu einer Lateinstunde und eine Musikstunde gegangen. Der Musiklehrer war sehr schlecht gelaunt. Dann sind wir zur Halle gegangen und der Direktor hat uns begrüßt. Es war ein guter Tag aber es hat sehr stark geregnet.

Ein neues Wort für heute: der Regenschirm



Dienstag 13. Februar

Heute sind wir nach Hameln gefahren. Erstens haben wir ein Museum besucht und dann sind wir in der Stadt spazierend gegangen. Ich habe ein bisschen eingekauft und dann bin ich mit meinen Freunden zu einem Café gegangen. Ich habe ein Kase-Schinken Sandwich bestellt.

T. JUDD 4PKHR

Der Rattenfänger



Jetzt kennen wir, wie er es gemacht hat!!

Cultural Reflections

IRENE GUNSTON EXHIBITION

On January 13th the Boarders' Hall displayed an exhibition of sculpture and other work by the artist Irene Gunston consisting of bronze figures and original charcoal sketches. Her sculpture apparently draws on European art from various periods both Classical and Mediaeval and is created with traditional casting techniques. There are also connections with the traditional sculpture of other cultures such as those of Africa and India.

Neither period however was obviously apparent in the exhibits. The proportions of the figures were too exaggerated for the classical period and the objects often too modern for the African and Indian. The still life sculpture for example was composed of mainly 20th Century objects all slightly exaggerated in size. What was not obvious to the viewer was the enormous amount of time and effort which had gone into the creation of each piece. Few of the bronze sculptures had been created in under three months, in a complicated process involving work in clay, plaster and wax before casting. The larger pieces have to be hollow, as in solid bronze they would not support their own weight. The attractive green finish is created with the addition of chemicals after casting. Irene Gunston's work has previously been on display in galleries in Swansea, Clyde and London.

R. KING 6AMS



IRENE GUNSTON EXHIBITION - THOUGHTS

"Great figure sculptures, with a presence of thought. The forms are simple yet non-clinical, which gives them a pure feel." **K. KOBAYASHI, 6DH**



"Intrigued to see everyday things depicted in the "Sculpture's Lunch" Bronze. Interested in the way the objects had a cartoony bulbous look." **T. SMITH, 5PKHR**

"Voluptuous figures. Intricate in its simplicity. Ancient inconceivably difficult process of Bronze casting performed with considerable skill." **A. BROWN, 6WHZ**

"The sculptures seemed to jump out at you and were true to life. The large table especially was very interesting - it gave you a baby's eye view of the lunch." **R. SMITH, 5JPW**

"The woman with the plate of spaghetti was unnerving because I didn't know how she was feeling or thinking." **G. KITTO, 5MDM**

"Each of the pieces had an inner meaning which appeared different to each observer. Extraordinary." **W. YIP, 5RSE**

"Incredible how common objects can be turned into beautiful art." **P. LAYTON, 5**

"Generally very interesting but not something I would stare at for ages." **W. SMITH, 4DJP**

"Informative, Different, Bold and Surreal." **H. DUFF, 4PKHR**

"Some pieces drew me back to look again and again. There was always something more to discover." **C.J.BIGGS**

JANUARY - A SHORT STORY

It has been proved that the murder happened as follows.

Returning home from work, Arthur Halliwell (32, actuary) discovered a burglar in his house. After a brief struggle, Arthur found that he had got himself in the following dilemma. Having been trained in a military academy before taking up his PhD in mathematics, Arthur was able to force the burglar into a position out of which he could not escape. With his knee just above the small of the burglar's back, one hand on the burglar's forehead, and the other hand reaching for the burglar's pistol, Arthur realised that he too could not escape from this situation without risking his life. Were he to release the burglar in order to reach for the pistol he would run the risk of being beaten to the weapon by the burglar. On the other hand, were he to remain in the same position he would not be able to reach the gun - all he could do would be to break the burglar's neck.

On finding himself in such a dilemma Arthur began to sweat. The burglar too realised the desperate nature of both their predicaments, and was, like Arthur, attempting to think of a solution. The burglar, however, was aware that were Arthur to become any more nervous, then he - the burglar - would receive a broken neck.

Mr. Hampson, Arthur's neighbour, had witnessed the struggle from the comfort of his own house. The open-curtained, brightly lit room of Arthur's house seemed like a real-life television. By looking into the room Mr. Hampson was able to enjoy the sort of violence that one pays one's licence fee to see. Caring neither for Arthur nor the burglar, he did not cross the road to help either person. He soon grew bored with the dilemma of both people, however. It provided no entertainment for him so he tried to add some excitement by calling the police.

Soon the blue lights were cutting through the night, as were the sirens. Mr. Hampson enjoyed the thought that many neighbours would be awoken by this noise, but his pleasure subsided when he realised that they too would be witness to what he believed was his own interactive, real-life television. Mr. Hampson was a very selfish man.

Both Arthur and the burglar panicked on hearing the siren. The burglar, realising that his predicament was growing increasingly worse, lunged at the gun. Arthur, however, had expected this reaction, and, before the gun was reached, the burglar had received a broken neck. The police, on entering the murder scene, shot the murderer.

S. PAVLOVICH VI JFH

JANET BOULTON EXHIBITION

March 4th saw the opening in the Mercury Gallery, London of an exhibition of the work of **Janet Boulton**, well known in the school art department as a teacher of both GCSE and A level artists.

The work itself uses the traditional concept of still life painting, presented in a distinctly 20th century style. There is little tradition about the finished pieces, however. The subject matter, mainly collections of small bottles, is often arranged in rows and placed in front of a mirror. The combination of many translucent objects, reflected by their background or placed on a glass surface, makes the actual arrangement hard to visualise, as one can see both through and behind the forms.

The forms themselves have little solidarity of their own, though, and their arrangement can appear to change while you watch. The medium of water-colour cleverly allows them to be displayed under layers of pigment, with the colour appearing as a series of translucent veils. The objects' original form, behind several washes, suggests objects on more than one plane, whilst the tone is often so light and beautiful that the pigment still seems suspended in the water.

Although the concept of still life appears repeatedly, figurative works appear as well, sometimes with only the merest hint of a form being visible. The paintings are displayed attractively against plain white backgrounds, with enough lighting to show the clarity of the work without affecting the tone.

The display is Janet Boulton's fourth solo exhibition, and will be on view for the next four months. If you cannot get to London to see this unmissable exhibition then watch this space for a reproduction of the pieces!

R.D.S. KING 6AMS

CHARRED

The wind howled bewildered across the scorched earth.
The dust is picked up in great columns of air turning on
into themselves

Sweeping over the waves of sand baked by the eternal
sun,

Weeping for a cool salty tear from the charred sky.
Mirages dance on the silky horizon playing on lost
hopes.

Ever pressing on through drought and famine.

Bones lay forgotten on the scavengers' plain
Never to see pastures green, supple with lush grass and
Torrents rushing wild over soaked leaves of tall ripe
trees

Pressing to reach the fluffy white clouds ready to yield
the next shower.

B. GANCZ 5DJP

Drama

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

More than any other Chekhov play, "The Cherry Orchard" is about characters, individuals. It deals with their positions in a cross-section of society in a key time in Russia's history.

It was perhaps appropriate then that the best sections of this performance, as directed by **Mr. D. Taylor**, were not those in which there was a large grouping of people - like a dance - but when individuals had their moments. This was illustrated nowhere better than in **J. Terry**'s playing of the scene that proves to be the turning point in the play.

Lopakhin, the self-made businessman from the family of serfs that lived on the estate, buys the cherry orchard, thereby severing the bonds between the past: security in childhood, and the present: social upheaval.

John played the scene with a sustained intensity, never falling below the level of emotion necessary to put across the full impact of what has occurred, and yet not creating the melodrama that would render Lopakhin's drunken state entirely ridiculous.

For all the past, naive criticisms of Chekhov's work: the pauses and apparent tedium of various dramatic devices like irritating music or sounds, (like Yepikhodov's squeaky shoes, made full comic use of by **D. Boswood**, whose frantic, despairing character and body-language were appropriately at odds with the world,) "The Cherry Orchard" is a very intense play. **A. Verjee** proved this as Trofimov, the ever-optimistic though not entirely convincing student. He was admirably mature and passionate throughout, perhaps at his best in his appeals to Anya (a very natural and sympathetic **F. Cover**) to look to the future and happiness to come.

As Liubov Ranyevskaya, the owner of the cherry orchard, **C. Collins**' remarkably difficult



aim was to portray a despairing woman, but one who is both weak-willed and stubborn to let go of her past. Charlotte's achievement was to combine the two in a natural, entirely credible way, assisted by a significant stage presence. She was aided too by **M. Lloyd** as her brother, Gayev, who coped extremely well with his character's eccentricities and brought genuineness and at points tear-welling emotion to the complex part.

C. Mason's stage presence has never been disputed; and I wouldn't dare dispute it with him. His entrances are greeted with eager anticipation from the audience, anticipation rarely disappointed. Interestingly though, it was his final,



distraught departure scene from the stage that proved his most effective. Here, his role of Semionov-Pischik, an eccentric, often pitiful landowner, gave him scope to demonstrate his considerable comic abilities while contrasting splendidly with the emotional strains of inevitability inherent in the drama.

I could go on. Live music and a finely choreographed, natural dance behind an innovative and very effective two-piece set design gave the performance true-to-life atmosphere. Many things in this evening seemed to go to a masterful directorial plan.

A. Verjee spoke for many, not just those involved in "The Cherry Orchard", when he gave the customary final night speech. Referring to **Mr. Taylor's** passionate involvement and terrific commitment, he eloquently summed up Abingdon's own tragedy: the loss to retirement of someone who has done so much to fortify the school's reputation for drama. Like "The Cherry Orchard", Abingdon School is moving towards a dramatic new future; unlike the play, it will be trying to keep up the standards of the Taylorian past and not at once trying to strive for the very, very difficult: something better.

N. A. MUNRO VI SAE.



THE MISER

Stars: Sarah Colman, **David Mitchell**, Robert Thorogood and Robert Webb.

A small but select audience visited the Amey Hall on a Wednesday night to watch a production of the French comedy, *The Miser*. Recently translated into English by Alan Dury, the small cast and sparse set successfully pulled off the complicated story of love, and money.

David Mitchell, an Old Abingdonian himself, was revisiting the school by playing six of the fourteen characters! The four members of the cast amply filled the remaining eight. Whilst this made a slightly confusing watch, it did create a good comic effect, with characters hiding under tables at one moment before coming through the door as somebody else the next. However, the characters were even able to talk to each other, with clever use of tape, videos and perfected timing.

Robert Webb was brilliant as the money grabbing old man Harpagon - 'The Miser' the play is named after. He is only interested in money and attempts to sell his children off in marriage! Robert seemed genuinely interested only in his money, and acted accordingly throughout.

Whilst the set was sparse, it served its purpose and it even managed to change halfway



through without any effort - they just turned it round! A classic scene was when they pointed out how stingy Harpagon was when he was the only one who knew how to turn on the lights - he led everybody else to believe that they were broken!

S. ARTHUR 6CMM



'THE HOMECOMING'

Roger Michell's version of *The Homecoming* shows true Pinter qualities but also strays away from the traditional in some ways.

Staged at the National Theatre, Michell employs an enlarged set showing every room through a gauze screen. This detracts from the play's claustrophobic atmosphere, but also adds realism - often missing in Pinter productions. Instead of concentrating on one place, you see the characters walking around - when you see Teddy sitting on the bed with his head in his hands it acts as further characterisation.

The characters work together well creating a hostile atmosphere from the very beginning. Max the father is constantly arguing with his son Lenny and his brother Sam. The arrival of Teddy and Ruth from America is the basis for the title "The Homecoming". The story is based on the family and the struggles that go on within it. From shy and nervous, Ruth ends up dominating the household as she relaxes back into her original guise as a prostitute. She decides to stay in England with the family while Teddy goes back to America to look after their children.

The characters themselves seem to be well casted but with slight variations from the normal. The three men in the house ; Max (David Bradley), Lenny (Michael Sheen) and Joey (Eddie Marsan) are too highly strung, leading them to exaggerate their main characteristics. Max, the scathing old man, is too manic at times and his laughter at the end of act one is very demonised. His son Lenny, the pimp, seems actually to be intelligent rather than trying to be intelligent - this makes his stories which mould his characters sound totally implausible; whereas his brother Joey comes across as too stupid, which makes his role much less important. Their Uncle Sam (Sam Kelly), a weak character in the play, is made even more so with his pills and coughs. Despite the realism of the set, Sam's death was incredibly stupid and took away something from the climax to the play. Ruth was played brilliantly by Lindsay Duncan, she seemed to captivate the attention of all the characters and the audience with her ice-cold demeanour. Teddy (Keith Allen), credibly caught between the classes, is suitably subdued but does

not come across a particularly strong character.

The pauses, for which Pinter is famous, were prolonged and made the beginning rather slow. However in the first scene, involving Ruth and Lenny, the silences are used to great effect, heightening the dramatic tension.

The question to ask yourself at the end of the play is : 'Do you care what happens to the family in the future?'

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ

THE LORD OF THE FLIES

Just before the Summer half-term **Mr. Pettitt** will be directing a boarders' production of William Golding's novel 'Lord of the Flies'. Is this popular story a fable or just an involving tale, and what does it have to say to a nineties Abingdon School? Those of you who have only read the book may find it dated, but I would argue that beneath the trite language is a timeless and realistic masterpiece.

Mr. Pettitt and his cast have the immediate advantage of the perfect setting. Abingdon School, like Golding's imaginary desert island, is a microcosm of human society, secluded from outside influence, unavoidably hierarchical, productively idealistic and occasionally cut-throat. How powerful is the play for the actors? Peter Brook, director of the 1950's film version, kept his entire cast imprisoned on a Puerto Rican island to create the tensions and relationships described in the book.

The childhood actors of Brook's film bear testament to the great effect that Golding's view of a naturally savage society can have. For many, the film was the focus of their entire lives. Will characters like Ralph and Simon have this transforming effect on the actors who play them at Abingdon? I believe they have the power to do so.

The play can give many messages, many different morals, but to the school, it has the power to show that despite alcohol, nicotine, drugs, football, the Internet, - it is the human spirit that is the most powerful, the most genuine and the most savage force on our lives and our society. In a school like Abingdon it is often easy to forget this. 'Lord of the Flies', no matter what its interpretation, will deserve a very large audience.

J. TERRY VIJFH

L'ECOLE DES FEMMES

Adam Robert's one-hour version of Molière's first five-act comedy was performed at St. Helen's & St. Katharine's School, and later at Headington, to appreciative school audiences which included a sizeable contingent from Abingdon School. As Molière himself acknowledged, setting out to make people laugh is a "perilous enterprise"; especially so, one is tempted to add, when the audience is English and the language is French, though admittedly prose rather than the verse of the original. In such circumstances, it is easy for the director to become patronising and to give priority to exaggerated gesture and an abundance of clowning.

Laudably, the company avoided these pitfalls; the four actors not only demonstrated versatility in playing several roles each but, through clear diction and mime, were able to communicate Arnolphe's obsessive interest in the problems affecting marital relationships. In a sense, of course, the situation is pure pantomime: the tyrant loses the girl he has educated and virtually imprisoned to keep her unsullied. Agnès is so "innocent", however, that she is unaware of the harm she causes when she tells Arnolphe of her love for Horace whom she had espied one day from her balcony!

In reality, the comedy is subtle. Arnolphe is defeated by his own weaknesses as much as by his guileless rival or servants. His doctrinaire scheme is subverted by the force of instinctive feelings. Through such insights Molière transformed farce and expressed controversial views on social issues of contemporary and universal significance, including female emancipation. Adam Roberts did not have the space to develop these points, but the young spectators were afforded a glimpse into the art of a comic writer of genius and enjoyed the show, which, as Molière himself never tired of saying, is surely the main point.

C. W. LANE

AMADEUS

Having seen a performance of Pushkin's original 'Mozart and Salieri', I was intrigued to see a production of Peter Shaffers 'Amadeus'.

The story is narrated by an old Salieri, as he recalls how Mozart ruined his life and how he tried to block Mozart's progress. The Italian Salieri was the court composer for the Austrian Emperor and believed God had chosen him to write God's music. However his career was threatened by the young

upstart Mozart. Salieri is the only person who can appreciate Mozart's brilliant music but cannot comprehend why God gave such an idiot this talent. Out of jealousy Salieri tries to block Mozart at every opportunity. Mozart is reduced to poverty and eventually dies from typhus. However in one last attempt to be remembered in history Salieri claims that he poisoned Mozart - but as is his fate nobody believes Salieri.

The play was

performed by the Oxford Youth Drama group at the small Burton-Taylor Theatre in Oxford. The bitter and twisted Salieri gave an excellent performance. Mozart was possibly too manic, but always raised a laugh from the audience. The supporting actors and actresses were good, however their accents could have been improved.

In contrast with Pushkin's 'Mozart and Salieri', 'Amadeus' has a much deeper plot. However the length of the play means the emotions are not so concentrated. It was obvious that Shaffer had directly copied several lines from Pushkin's work, but the play is different enough to be hailed a classic in its own right.

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1777), Anonymous oil painting

Music

SCHOLARS' AND SENIOR MUSICIANS' CONCERT

This evening saw some of the school's top musicians take to the stage: what a treat for the audience! But it was unfortunately largely made up of the parents of the boys performing, accompanied by their friends and relatives. Those who didn't go missed a splendid concert. The programme was varied, from Quilter and Bass, two relatively unknown composers, to Mozart and Beethoven. The performers were equally varied and many years of the school were represented, from the First Year through to the competent Upper Sixth A-Level musicians.

The concert opened with a very technically demanding piece for violin by Bartok, played enthusiastically by **Matthew Hodgson**. The diversity of music carried on throughout the programme. One of the more light-hearted pieces was the "Swing Caprice" written by Bass for the viola and played with feeling by **Matthew O'Donovan**. Other notable renditions were given by **Simon Rowe** playing Rachmaninov's Prelude Op.3 no.2 and **Lee Dickinson** playing pieces by Ibert and Handel. Those mentioned here are only a few of the many who performed in the concert and all are worthy of praise. In summary it was a very pleasant evening.

A. MORRIS, 6CMM

A SONG RECITAL

On St. Valentine's Day evening a recital of romantic music was held in the Amey Hall. The flyer advertised 'an evening of songs from Mozart to Porter', but such greats as Handel, Purcell, Vaughan-Williams, Haydn, Britten, Puccini, Dvorak and even Gershwin were also aired. Some of the music dealt with love unrequited, some was more optimistic in tone. It was a carefully selected programme ranging from the obscure to the famous and from the traditional song to the humorous. The audience was clearly affected by the selection of the songs and readings, and the performers received much well-deserved applause at the end of the evening.

The evening belonged to Amanda Pitt (Soprano) who possesses great skill, and whom I had first heard on the radio, but this is

not to decry the impressive performance of baritone Justin Harmer (standing in for Bruce Russell) and Dave Moody plus assistant (on the piano). The music was intermingled with roughly contemporary readings read (rather exaggeratedly I thought) by Gillian Pitt.

The audience was much larger than I had expected. One Sixth former present, **T.Sapsford** won the "Best Couple of the Evening" competition (though naturally not by himself). Liquids and canapés in the interval were graciously provided by TASS.

C. B. SCHMIDT, 6AMS



A NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

The atmosphere here was a very informal one: the audience was made up almost exclusively of the parents of the boys performing. The first half of the concert opened with the Second Wind Band, starring **Mr. Luckett** and also **Henry Dorling** on the drums. Next on was the Second Year Choir, with their excellent rendition of "Noah's Ark", very similar in style to the performance given by the First Year Choir of "Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat". It's an enormous credit to the staff in the music department that they managed to get such a large group of boys together! This concert gave both groups a chance to perform, which they were denied last year.

The second half consisted of several A-Level musicians, playing some of their recital pieces. Many left at the interval; they would have done well to stay and listen to these exceptional performances by **Geoffrey Clayton**, **Simon Capper**, **Paul Soulsby**, **Oliver Swadling**. Unfortunately, **William Burn** was not able to perform having been taken ill earlier in the day.

A. MORRIS 6CMM

INFORMAL CONCERT

On the evening of the 11th March we were entertained by a small proportion of Abingdon's musicians. Many proud parents were at the concert to see their sons perform to a fairly select audience. There was a large variety of music performed in the concert, ranging from 17th century composers like Purcell to the likes of Debussy from the 20th century represented. The instruments played in the concert were also varied.

Studio One was unusually full of proud parents, relatives and other boys, so much so, that there were no chairs left for the Horn Quartet (**S. Atkinson**, **E. Webber**, **H. Richards** and **A. Thomas**): they were then left to play their piece standing!

The evening provides a useful forum in which boys can perform to a relatively small audience, and the concert is often used as good exam practice. The evening was very successful, and I, as I'm sure do many, look forward to the next such concert.

P. MARTIN 6WHZ

STRINGS MASTERCLASS

The string players in the school were lucky enough to be able to attend a Masterclass held by Yossi Zivoni, International Concert Violinist, Professor and Fellow of the RNCM. The evening saw Mr. Zivoni put six of the school's violinists through their paces.

Yossi Zivoni was born in 1939 in Tel Aviv, and graduated from the Israeli Academy of Music at eighteen. He went on to study under many great violinists. He has toured extensively throughout the world and has played concertos with many of the best global orchestras. Mr. Zivoni has a wide repertoire at his disposal, and has had several contemporary pieces dedicated to him! He is now a Fellow and Professor at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he also teaches the violin (**Tristan Gurney O.A.** has lessons with him).

The first player to perform was **P. Wells**, who was obviously very nervous but even so he played very well. Mr. Zivoni concentrated largely on his Vibrato and trying to create a purer tone. Second on the platform was **J. Howarth**, here Mr. Zivoni picked up on some expressive points and also worked on the pressure used on the violin to create a different quality of sound. **T. Herford** entered the Masterclass at a very late stage, but performed very well and Mr. Zivoni said that his performance was "very musical". **M. Hodgson** played a Bach Sonata, which impressed Mr. Zivoni. He had some very practical points to suggest, including the idea that he reglue his bow to improve the way he holds it. **D. Hancock** played three lively Romanian Folk Dances by Bartok, to which Mr. Zivoni replied that he should "think more of Hollywood"; encouraging Daniel to play more enthusiastically. **T. Mak** was the last to perform, and he did so very well, as is his characteristic. Mr. Zivoni concentrated on the Tempo markings of the piece, but there was little to criticise really.

The evening was excellent from the audience's point of view and I'm sure it was useful for the performers. Mr. Zivoni commented very well on the playing and always suggested improvements. I look forward to the next time we are lucky enough to have such an accomplished performer and teacher for another Masterclass.

A. MORRIS 6CMM

CHAPEL CHOIR

On 25th January, the Chapel Choir sang Choral Evensong at Coventry Cathedral. This is a huge modern building constructed after the old Cathedral was bombed in the Second World War. It was certainly an impressive venue, as the Choir was all but dwarfed by the vast indoor space, illuminated by the huge glass south facing windows. To match the occasion, the Choir sang "O Lorde the maker of al thyng" by Joubert, with Preces and Responses by **Terry James** (sometime Director of Music at Abingdon School), an Introit by Vaughan Williams and the Evensong Canticles to Stanford's setting in A major. **Mr. Millard** conducted the Choir on this occasion; which offered **Mr. Elliott** the opportunity to play the enormous Cathedral Organ. From the singer's point of view, the Service went predictably smoothly and was a success as always.



The highly ornate Chapel of Lincoln.

Wednesday 5th March saw us in action again, this time at Lincoln College, Oxford. The small but highly ornate Chapel was a complete contrast to our previous expedition, but just as highly beautiful with its famed stained glass depictions of the prophets and apostles. This time **Mr. Elliott** resumed his rôle of Choirmaster and **Mr. Millard** enjoyed the opportunity to play the organ. The Service began with **Terry James'** Preces and Responses; the Canticles were set by **Batten**; **Bernard Rose's** Responses followed and the **Joubert** an-

them was repeated at the end. It was another superb achievement for the Choir, and particular mention should be made of the commendable performance of the soloists.

E. ALLEN 5SJS

BOARDERS' CHOIR

The last two terms have seen the renaissance of the Boarders' Choir in the school. The primary function of this keen group of young singers has been to provide a special contribution at the regular Boarders' Evening Services held throughout the term. Drawn from all three of the boarding houses, the group rehearses once a week on a Thursday evening.

At first the repertory was quite simple, focusing on unison accompanied anthems, notably by Stanford, Vaughan Williams and Harris. As rehearsals have progressed, numbers and expertise have increased, and it has been possible to tackle more challenging pieces in four parts and even unaccompanied! The choir proved to be the mainstay of the Boarders' Carol Service at the end of the Michaelmas term. It is hoped that, given the focus of interest in choral singing in the school at present, the number of singers and the quality and scope of performances will continue to grow. My thanks are due to the **Chaplain, Mrs. Manship, Boarding Housemasters** and the loyal boys themselves for their support in helping to make this a now thriving part of the boarding life of the school.

R.S.ELLIOTT



“ZZZ” / “MECCA” CONCERT

Any sort of labelling, be that yoghurt labelling, suitcase labelling or person labelling is dangerous. I heard recently about an unfortunate gentleman from south London who was struck profoundly deaf after going to a concert in the '70s. This was not a Mozart concert. No, it was labelled a “rock” concert, and contrary to my last review of Mecca and ZZZ in “The Abingdonian”, the bands do not play what might be termed “pop” music, or not as we might recognise it. I say this, desiring an end to my persecution by band members, some rather tall, over this incorrect labelling.

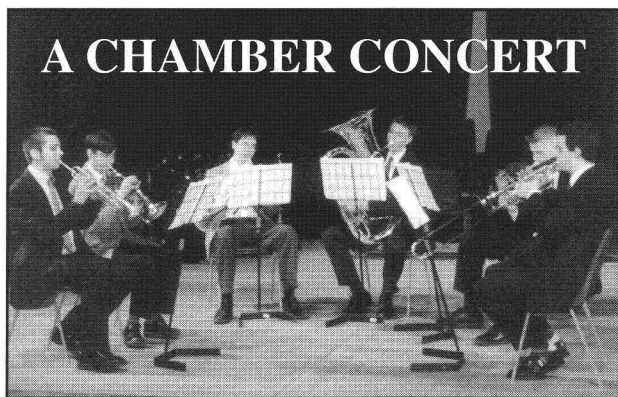
A quick résumé of events since my first experience of their music is dominated by Mecca, which has played in countless venues, recorded several of their songs professionally and even got themselves reviewed in a local music publication. No surprise then that Mecca's playing has become more stylish, confident and more natural, whilst ZZZ, although certainly not losing any of its depth and considerable talent, appears to have sacrificed creativity in expression for intensity in **S. Barwell's** lyrics.

The band seems to have settled into a certain image which, so long as its members are happy with it, may serve them well; nonetheless they no longer seem to infect the audience with the same unequivocal statement of personality and intent that they once did. Mecca's musicians know who they are and what they are attempting, and they pull it off remarkably well. And they need to, they have a reputation to keep up. Some of their songs are now disturbingly catchy: this was the first time I could distinguish **J. Terry's** intelligent and un-clichéd lyrics properly - a fault of acoustics, not intoxication.

If I were to say that the band was perhaps a little too loud at times, I would probably be confused with a man three times my age. Removing my polo neck sweater, I will only comment that the secret to success in this music game seems to be development. Get trapped in a character and you must accept what follows, whether that is a loss of audience or a lacking of lustre; sparkle and entertain instead by keeping a style, but moving with an image.

N. A. MUNRO VISAE.

A CHAMBER CONCERT



Clubs and Societies

CHESS CLUB

Although we had a good run in the TIMES knock-out competition, we nearly lost in the first match to the young Magdalen 'B' side. Being so young they only needed 2.5 to win, and with the match in the balance at 2-2 it looked as if we were going to make an early exit. However, our team spirit shone through to scrape home 4-2.

In the annual match against the MCR, we showed the staff that we meant real business, beating them 4.5-1.5, with their only points coming from debutant **Dr. White**, who drew against **J. Church**, and dark horse **Mr. Sharp**, who won against **B. Darling**.

We are still in the runners-up league of the TIMES competition, with a match on March 19th, but with new blood hopefully coming into the side next year, and with **S. Bough** going from strength to strength, we hope to have a side capable of beating Magdalen!

The following have represented the senior side this year:

S. Bough, M. Simmonds, A. Roberts, J. Church, B. Darling, M. Stockwell, M. Pagett, J. Haworth, A. Wilson, M. Bungey.

Results:

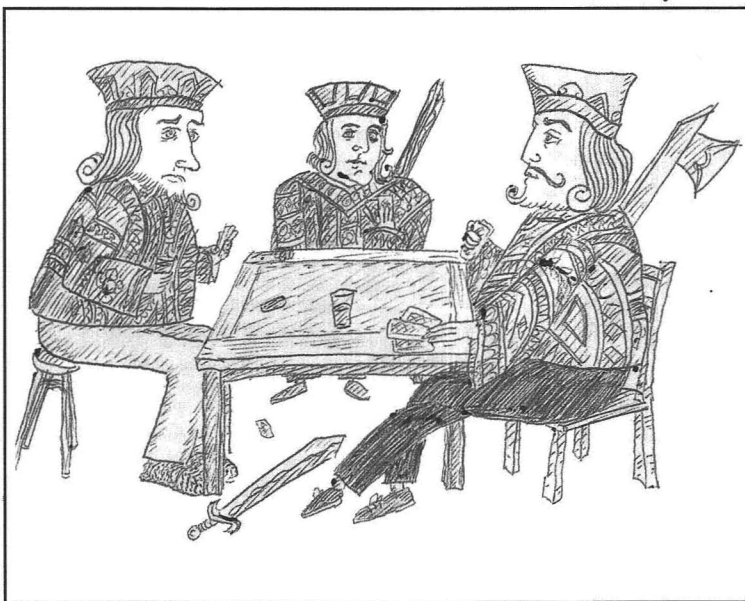
TIMES v Magdalen B	4-2
FRIENDLY v Oratory	3-3
TIMES v Oratory	5-1
TIMES v Henry Box	3.5-2.5
TIMES v Magdalen	2-4
LEAGUE v Magdalen	1.5-4.5
FRIENDLY v MCR	4.5-1.5

J. CHURCH 6AMS

BRIDGE CLUB

Following a recent advertising campaign, the Bridge Club has enjoyed a revival in numbers, with many beginners as well as experienced players turning up to play during the lunch hour and on Wednesday afternoons. Many people

have been able to improve their bidding and playing skills notably, and the term reached something of a climax on Wednesday 12th March with the EBU Simultaneous Pairs' competition. This was a national event, with many pairs from different schools over the country taking part. The scores have yet to



be processed but all were pleased with their performance. Following the success of this event, we hope to establish a 'league' system within school, holding internal competitions every week, so we are increasingly on the lookout for new, interested people to join. As an appetiser, here is a sample hand for you to find the best North/South contract and how you bid for it...

♠	K 9 5 2
♥	A K Q
♦	J 10 7
♣	8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

(North Dealer,
None vulnerable)

♠	A 8 7 4 3
♥	7 5 4
♦	A Q 9
♣	10 4

I.SMITH 5ASP.

AN ARCHERY CLUB?

Archery is thought of by most people as a minority sport, but the majority of you will in fact have a club within five miles of your house.

I have been shooting for about a year and a half now, and I have found it to be a very challenging and enjoyable sport. It is also a lot more energetic than many people imagine. My best area is target archery. In this, I have been lucky enough to be selected to shoot for the County. I am currently placed fifth in the County, behind the rather stern competition of two of the best juniors one of whom has shot for England a great many times.

About a year ago now I was made the Junior Representative of my club. This post has enabled me to get involved in the world of archery very much. It is my hope that I will eventually be able to start an archery club here at school. I would like to think that many of you might like to give it at least a try. Maybe some of you will become as enthusiastic as I am.

D. WYNDHAM-LEWIS 6CMM

HISTORY SOCIETY

Professor Norman Davies on

**THE EAGLE AND THE SHAMROCK:
POLAND AND IRELAND IN MODERN EURO-
PEAN HISTORY**

At the beginning of his talk Professor Davies referred to the importance of connecting different areas of history. He commended Abingdon's history department for linking the study of British and Continental history, and proceeded in that vein, comparing and contrasting Poland and Ireland. Eyebrows were certainly raised at his suggestion that there were obvious similarities between the two countries, but Professor Davies confounded many of our doubts.

His discussion of each country separately and his subsequent analysis of both together allowed the Society to share an exceptional, highly discerning view of religion and culture (both countries harboured a "citadel of culture" - at times the last remaining element not to be destroyed), of the fighting temperament of each country, and of the pains and struggles of invasion and emigration.

With his extensive knowledge and experience of both Poland and Ireland, Professor Davies cre-

ated not just a historical picture but also vivid psychological insights into the people of both lands. He made very effective and entertaining use of that often abused historical device: the anecdote. Clarity, relevance and some colourful verbal illustration ensured that those present (and there were nearly fifty of us) enjoyed a remarkable evening.

N. A. MUNRO VI SAE

ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

The Astronomy Society is a little-known band that meets once a week to hear lectures and to discuss the subject of astronomy. Unfortunately, over the past few years its following has diminished somewhat. This term, however, has seen a turnaround for the Society, with one of the lectures attracting an audience of almost 40. The name has also been changed to cover a wider scope of interest, so, from henceforth, the Society shall be known as the Physical Sciences Society. The general aim of the society is to let the younger members of the school learn about the fascinating things in our universe, and also to give the older members of the school a chance to brush up on their skills as scientific lecturers. Over the past year there have even been lectures from the Lower School.

The lecture programme this term has indeed been exciting, with subjects as diverse as 3D imaging, neural networks for computers, and the conclusion of the lecture on black holes, timewarps, relativity and quantum physics.

All eyes have been looking up at the night sky this month for the arrival of the most spectacular comet this century, Hale-Bopp, which promises to outshine even the brightest stars in the sky.

In addition to these events, the Society became more practical this term as it attempted to put the school's very impressive telescope back into commission, and a trip to the Ridgeway is soon to be organised to have a look at some of the amazing astronomical phenomena in the sky at the moment, from spectacular nebulae millions of light years away to the breathtaking planets within our own solar system. Watch this space!

J. SHOCK VIDE

THE SEA.

Giant, blue-green swirls,
Foaming, an awesome power
Man cannot control.

S. COATES VI MSAG

DEBATING SOCIETY

This House Is Glad To See The Back Of Chris Evans:

An entertaining and witty debate over the celebrity's early departure from the Breakfast Show on Radio One because he could not have Fridays off to do his television show. Passed, but by a close majority.

This House Would Refuse Asylum Seekers:

Heated and fiery speeches for both sides in a debate following the recent protests inside and outside Campsfield House, the government's illegal immigrants detention centre at Kidlington. The motion was decisively defeated.

This House Believes In Selective Censorship:

In the light of political debate over "Video Nasties" and censorship of information this motion was defeated by a very close majority in a rousing and energetic debate.

The Debating Society has also been heavily involved in the ongoing Public Speaking competition at both Junior and Senior levels and wishes to thank **Dr. Zawadzki** for his continuing support.

T.L.MYATT 6WHZ

T.E.S. NEWSDAY 14TH MARCH

You will all by now have seen the product of this day's strife for the Editors of this magazine; The Abingdon Echo, a newspaper in its own right. This was the first time that this school has taken part in Newsday, an annual competition held by the Times Educational Supplement, and so we had no real experience of what to do or what to expect. However we bravely dared to attempt this gargantuan task; to create a complete newspaper in a day.

Immediately we realised that preparation would be needed to accomplish this. We were aided immensely by a trip made by the Editors to Canary Wharf, to be given a guided tour of the workings of the Independent by the Literary Editor of the Independent on Sunday, Mrs. J. Dally, to whom we are extremely thankful. This showed us how much preparation would be needed if Newsday was to be anything other than an utter disaster. Whereas before we had thought that it would be possible to wander in at 8.30 in the morning, type and pageset for a while,

then produce the newspaper and still have time to sit around and look back on what we had done, now we saw, much to our astonishment, that we would need to do much, much more work than that. Even with its vast staff the Independent just runs to deadline, and we only had nine people, most of whom were reasonably computer illiterate. Thankfully Mrs. Dally and her colleagues gave us many ideas concerning the newspaper, along with information, books and pictures which we could use.

With a clearer image in mind, we set out to make this project into a success. We began to write articles which might be included in the various sections, to read background publishing material, and to collect adverts and interviews for use on the day. By the time of Newsday, each Editor had put as much as a week's uninterrupted work in his section.

On the day, we arrived early, watched the news, then typed and scanned until lunch time. After lunch we began the pagesetting, which was where problems arose. Not many people had used Aldus Pagemaker before, and we each had to learn from scratch how to make up our pages, and then we had to shout at each other to figure out what articles had been put where, justify our columns, put in Headers and fight for adverts. In the end only about half the articles written went into the finished product. By the time the printer spat out the finished pages the deadline was past, and we still had to make 1000 copies and distribute it. Resigned to their fate, five brave Editors toiled until early in the morning to get the newspaper to you by the next day.

So was it a failure? We missed the real deadline, but we each triumphed in our own manner, and hopefully this effort will pave the way for many more successful future attempts. All felt rewarded by their participation in this great scheme, and we have learnt a lot about making news, which should help the next few Abingdonians. All that remains is to thank our teachers -for their tolerance, **Mr. Haynes** for the use of the I.T. Centre for a whole day, and to wish future participants the best of luck.

M. BROWN 6BF

HAIKU.

Just a few lines is
All it takes to make a good
And clever haiku!

B. CULLUM VI DE

SAILING.

Afloat on the sea
To and Fro then Back and Forth.
I'm totally in charge.

A. ASHURST VI SAE

Sports

1ST XI HOCKEY

I do not think I have ever been associated with a side that was so unlucky as this. On two occasions goals were conceded inside the last two minutes and victories slipped away. Nevertheless the old adage still holds true; 'that you make your own luck' and we have to be honest and say that we contributed to our own downfall through naivety of approach.

After several productive pre-season training sessions we went into the first match of the season with high hopes. We began the season with an ill-timed visit to our strongest opponents and were given a lesson in the skills of hockey by Southampton. We lost 9-1 to a side including one international and several regional players, with **J. Thomson** scoring the only goal from a short corner.

From this point our season could only get better, and the next week we outplayed and beat Leighton Park 3-0. This was followed by a disappointing defeat at the hands of Pangbourne. Despite gaining a higher proportion of the possession we were unable to convert pressure into goals. Then playing on grass for the first time the team faced Reading. Abingdon totally dominated the match although a solitary goal from captain **D. Higazi** ground us out our eventual victory. Having endured a poor grass pitch the week before we played Shiplake on Reading's water-based astro, the venue for the varsity match in recent years. The superior surface allowed our true skills to flourish and we ran out worthy winners 5-1. **D. Higazi** scored a first half hat-trick and **J. Thomson** grabbed a brace in the second-half, thanks to excellent service from wingers **S. Potter** and **T. Allen**.

Next came the match against our local rivals Magdalen College who had won this fixture 7-0 last year. Having conceded early goals, the team rallied under stand-in captain **A. Howkins** and almost levelled the match, but tired in the later stages - the match score ending at 2-1. The Bloxham fixture was the first where we allowed the

opposition to equalise in the dying minutes.

After half-term we first of all played Stowe. In an extraordinary game where we dominated long periods and won 28 short corners, our failure to score resulted in a disastrous loss as Stowe sneaked a second-half goal. From this point on the season seemed to take off. An excellent result against the Hockey association, which did the reputation of the school hockey a deal of good, was followed by the team almost pulling off a famous victory against St. Edward's. After two goals by **E. Ryder** we should have won but another last minute equaliser meant that the honours were shared.



The season ended with victory over Berkhamsted and a creditable performance in the St. George's College Six-a-side tournament. The final match was against the O.A.s at Tilsley Park and was played in good spirits. The match was an exciting, open and at times attractive

game with the school running out winners 5-3. **Chris Keith** and **Stuart Gray** were in fine form for the O.A.s and **Chris Mitty** in goal still had a trick or two up his sleeve.

Everyone pulled together throughout the season and responded to **D. Higazi**'s excellent captaincy. **A. Howkins** and **T. Evans** were as good a pair of full-backs as I have seen and all the players developed their skills and tactical awareness as the season progressed. Full colours were awarded to **A. Ashurst**, **A. Molyneaux**, **T. Evans**, **J. Thomson**, **E. Ryder**, **S. Potter** and **T. Allen**.

Scorers :

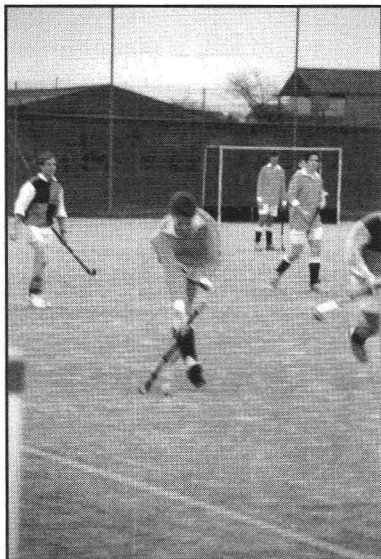
D. Higazi	10
J. Thomson	5
E. Ryder	4
J. Howe-Davies	2
T. Allen	1
R. Jones	1

P. J. WILMORE & A. HOWKINS VI DLS

2ND XI HOCKEY

v. King Edward's School, Southampton	1 - 4 (h)
v. Leighton Park	Cancelled
v. Pangbourne	1 - 3 (h)
v. Reading	5 - 2 (h)
v. Shiplake	3 - 1 (h)
v. Magdalen	Match Abandoned (Draw) (h)
v. Bloxham	3 - 1 (h)
v. Stowe	3 - 2 (h)
v. St. Edward's, Oxford	0 - 2 (a)
v. Berkhamsted	0 - 0 (a)
Played 9	Won 4
Goals for 16	Lost 3
	Drew 2
	Goals against 15

The season started off badly with two very disappointing losses. First a game that we were very unlucky to lose by 4 goals to one. The only real difference was in the amount of practice that KES had obviously had. Our second scheduled match against Leighton Park was cancelled, due to Leighton's illness, a disappointing outcome as Abingdon usually beats Leighton Park with ease. Next came Pangbourne at home and another poor defeat. Our first two losses were redeemed with our emphatic 5 - 2 win against Reading. Having drawn the first half 2-2, we went on to crush the opposition with two very quick goals and later a penalty flick after tempers had been raised somewhat!



Shiplake at home was a very hard fought match in which another draw at half time (1-1) produced 2 quick goals at the beginning of the second half. We were very unlucky not to score more but War Memorial Field prevented us! Our next game was deemed to be a draw (by us anyway) as the game was abandoned due to hail storms and heavy rain with about 10 minutes to go.

The second half of the season started well with two very good wins - Bloxham 3 - 1 and Stowe 3-2. Unfortunately our unbeaten run since the first two games died a sudden death in our last two. KES away was the second most disappointing match: we played below standard and unfortunately let one goal in in the first half. We were very evenly matched teams but we just couldn't get through their excellent defence. In the last five minutes of the game they scored once more to leave the final score 2-0. Next came the most disappointing result of the season, Berkhamsted away. On a pitch that can reasonably be de-

scribed as worse than War Memorial it was impossible to score even though we completely outclassed them in every area of the game!

Full list of players:

Gilley, R.M.J., Cullum, B.J., Howe-Davies, M.J., Mackenzie, H.A.M., Moss, O.G., Smethurst, J.E.L., Porter, B.G., Sapsford, T.D., Stewart, A., Brown, A.R., Lloyd, D.A., Jones, R.P., Jones, T.W.W., Wagner, E.J.

Player of the season was **P. Wells** for his stalwart defence and innovative attack. Finally, on behalf of the team, I would like to thank **Mr. Crowther** for an excellent season.

B.J. CULLUM VIDE

3RD XI HOCKEY

This has been a highly successful year for the 3rd XI, losing just one match all season.

We got off to a good start with a draw against a strong Pangbourne side, the goal coming from **J. Grady**, and **P. Bareham** proving his skills as a goalie. Following this was a deserved win against Shiplake, in a game dominated by Abingdon, due to the solid defence by **P. Makings** and **C. Bowler**, and inspired play by guest star player, **N. Fisher**. **J. Cook** scored a meagre two goals for us.

MCS, however took advantage of torrential rain at Tilsley, to scrape a 2-0 win. To prove this was just a freak one-off, we beat Stowe with an excellent, well-placed goal by **J. Wearne** shortly before full-time, and managed to hang on with a goal-line clearance by **C. Bowler**, and some agricultural defence by **J. Towe** and **S. Walker**.

Against St. Edward's, the team performed equally well, **A. Smith** and **J. Chivers** using their sticks to full potential, and with a beautiful cross by **J. Grady** being converted into a 1-0 result by skipper, **J. Easton**.

Finally, in the last match of the season, the team's best effort came against Berkhamsted. A soundly hit shot from the back of the D by **C. Walford** gave us an early lead. Shortly following this, a beautiful long corner hit in by **J. Wearne** was struck perfectly by **J. Cook** sending the ball into the back of the goal, like a ballistic missile. **J. Grady** made it 3-0 before half-time. Berkhamsted came back with two goals, from some confused defending and an unfair penalty, before **C. Walford** buried the ball in the goal, off the post. Final score 4-2. Our thanks this season must go to **Mr. Townsend** and **Mr. D. Evans**, who were instrumental in our success.

Pangbourne	D	1-1	Grady
Shiplake	W	2-1	Cook (2)
MCS	L	0-2	
Stowe	W	1-0	Wearne
St. Edward's	W	1-0	Easton
Berkhamsted	W	4-2	Walford (2) Cook, Grady

P. Bareham P. Makings J. Easton (capt.) P. Talbot J. Towe
A. Smith C. Walford R. Franklin C. Bowler J. Chivers
J. Cook O. Smith S. Walker J. Wearne J. Grady
N. Fisher C. Walford

E. MacDonald 6WHZ

COLTS' A XI HOCKEY

Won 3: Drew 2: Lost 2

Southampton 2-2 Pangbourne 7-0 Reading 3-0

M.C.S. 0-3 Stowe 3-2 St. Edward's 0-1 Berkhamsted 0-0

We started off well against a Southampton 3rd XI, who had some strong defenders. We piled on the pressure, but it seemed as though we couldn't quite score. They hit us on the break, and we found ourselves outnumbered at the back on several occasions. This was to become the story for most of the season.

When we did score we did it in style. **P. Edwards** proved a great asset with his powerful shots, as did **A. Hulse**. **L. Butler** was our lone striker and held up the ball well, whilst our halves lumbered up to help. Our wingers, **D. Pearson** and **A. Hulse** proved excellent throughout. It seemed no defender could keep up with Daniel, and thus his service was the source of many goals. We had three extremely skilful halves. **B. Hunt** holding the ball up was never stumped for a way past the opposition. **N. Gray**, the hard man of the team proved towards the end of the season that we found the position for him, but he must get fitter. The backs were a bit shaky when the ball was in our D. However most of the time the ball was cut out before that danger threatened. **J. Otterburn** proved solid throughout, and was probably the best defender of the season. **J. Tarasewicz** in his new role at right back showed he was much more powerful than we thought. He kept tabs on all left wings. Equally **M. Jones** at left back was excellent in the tackle and marking. **P. Langton**, a late addition to the side slotted in well, and tackled solidly. **S. Tompkins** at sweeper had very little to do most of the time, which is credit to his fellow defenders. We mustn't forget **W. Smith** at the back, who cut out any silly mistakes, and made excellent saves in all the games.

We were unlucky not to come away with more wins. St. Edward's, Southampton, Bloxham, and Berkhamsted were all games in which we dominated, and perhaps we might have won. And of course well done to all those who stepped in.

W. Smith, S. Tompkins, J. Otterburn, M. Jones, P. Langton, J. Tarasewicz, N. Gray, B. Hunt, P. Edwards, L. Butler, D. Pearson, A. Hulse, T. Andrews. Stepping in: **B. Watts, T. Hedge, W. Ranscombe J. Lucas, P. Norbury**

S. TOMPKINS 5PW

COLTS' B XI HOCKEY

This was a poor season, but with the A team having many injuries and illnesses, we were frequently without key players. This was also not helped by poor pitches and dubious umpiring, but excuses aside we did have some good games.

The Pangbourne game was a very good result, as we played well in the first half, with a good goal being scored by **P. Neville**. We then defended excellently in the second half to keep the score at 1-0, despite **E. Campbell's**

injury.

The Shiplake game was not quite as impressive as it was in fact a mixed A and B XI with five of the goals being scored by A team players, **B. Hunt** getting a hat trick. The final five minutes were probably the most entertaining : in a desperate attempt to get the tenth goal I (the goalkeeper) came up for the final two short corners.

Perhaps the most disappointing result was against St. Edward's, where we played the best hockey of our season, in the first ten minutes to go one up. We then let the game go - conceding the equaliser just before half-time and then conceding two more just after the break.

Special thanks to **Mr. Payne** for coaching us this season.

J. Lucas, P. Norbury, W. Ranscombe, E. Campbell, B. Watts, T. Hedge, J. Spearing, C. Hockley, C. Orr, T. Andrews.

Southampton	1-4
Pangbourne	1-0
Shiplake	10-0
MCS	0-2
Stowe	1-2
St. Edward's	2-3
Berkhamsted	0-4

JAMES LUCAS 5DJJ

JUNIOR COLTS' A XI HOCKEY

There were fewer wins than losses this term but there was a good spirit in the team and sound foundations for success in 1998. The wins were against Pangbourne, Shiplake and Berkhamsted. In all, 14 goals were scored and 22 against. Most of the team's goals came from the centre-forward position : **T. Bracher** in the early games and **J. Gardener** in the later matches. **M. Ambler** proved to be a good goalkeeper especially in the Stowe and Bloxham matches. The support from the midfield was excellent as **T. Fleming** (captain), **S. Balch** and **R. Fabes** laid on numerous chances for the centre-forwards. Other players in the team were **S. Martin, P. Mather, A. Bitmead, A. Apps, B. Wells, M. Freeman** and **S. Nixon**. The biggest win of the season was 5-3 against Shiplake, however the best effort was against a very strong St. Edward's side : the final score was 2-4 but the team had been 2-1 up. Tilsley Park was a great bonus and something to look forward to next year.

R. C. B. COLEMAN

JUNIOR COLTS' B XI HOCKEY

After a bright start, the 'Bs' lost their way. Perhaps the early success against Pangbourne and Shiplake engendered a certain complacency ; perhaps later disasters were some kind of punishment for their (unwitting and undetected) deployment of twelve men against one of the aforementioned schools, a fifteen-minute spell of commanding hockey. For the most part, the season was characterised by a yawning hole in midfield and a dreadful series of lunging, match-losing tackles ; and no one

appeared to grasp the implications of the off-side rule's demise. Unfortunately, Abingdon's opponent did. The last match of the season, against Berkhamsted, afforded some hope for next year : although defeated, the team was galvanised by the arrival of a genuine midfielder, **A. Bitmead**, ably supported by **C. Browne**, whose mazy runs at last led somewhere, he showed what can be done.

R. G. HORTON

JUNIORS' A XI HOCKEY

At the first coming together of all the hockey players, the season had a very promising outlook as the best players from a very successful minors team were joining with a number of very talented new boys. Despite this the season got off to a bad start with a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Southampton. During the rest of the season we had some other disappointing results against the Dragon, St. Edward's and Bloxham (although these may have been the result of key players being lost through injury or absenteeism). Even considering these results the season has certainly been successful.

The main successes were convincing defeats of Pangbourne, Reading and Shiplake. However the highlight of the season was the dramatic winning of the Merchant Taylor's tournament. We proved that when we played as a team we could be a formidable force. Many thanks must go to **Mr. Revill** who coached the side and **Hugh Laurie** who helped out and allowed Mr. Revill to improve his social skills by helping out with the refereeing. Overall, it was an extremely successful season.

The squad: **I. Downie (c)**, **S. Allen**, **D. Eastwood**, **T. Matheson**, **K. Roche**, **G. Unsworth**, **J. Mather**, **P. Thomas**, **G. Coppock**, **O. Thomas**, **R. Anderson**, **J. Eighteen** and **S. Perkins**.

Top goalscorers: **I. Downie 13**
T. Matheson 6

P. THOMAS 3ASP

JUNIORS' B XI HOCKEY

The team had a mixed season, but not one to be ashamed of. Team spirit was high and we performed well together. **Mr. Finch**, our coach, encouraged and helped us in every respect. The top scorers at the end of the season were : **A. Hutchinson** with 4 goals and **A. Brodie** with 3 goals.

Shiplake	Won 7 - 0
MCS	Drew 2 - 2
Bloxham	Lost 2 - 1
St. Edward's	Drew 1 - 1

Sanderson, **Fraser**, **Gooch**, **Fudge**, **Sargant**, **Eighteen**, **Perkins**, **Teddy**, **Hutchinson**, **Rowley**, **Brodie**, **Garside**, **Rabindran**, **Drury**, **Wright**.

A. HUTCHINSON 3DJD

MINORS' A XI HOCKEY

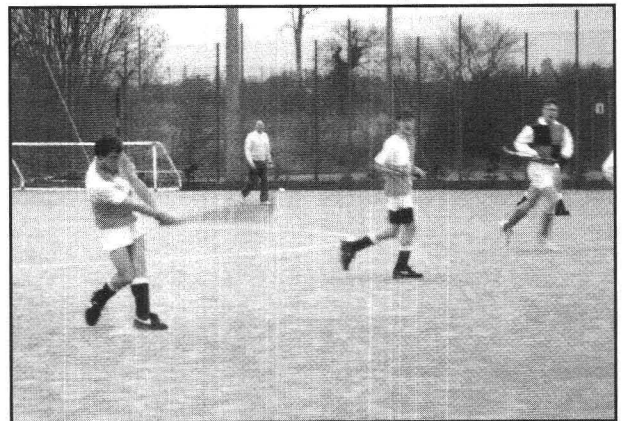
Last year, Minors' A had a brilliant season, and this year they were hoping to carry on the winning ways.

Our campaign started against M.C.S. We led twice in this game until the last attack when they equalised. Next we went to the Dragon. We dominated the midfield, but lacked the finishing touch, until **T. Spearing** struck a powerful shot past the Dragon keeper. We then faced St. Edward's on a poor grass pitch. Everyone pulled together as a team, and we overcame this challenge with ease. Radley was our next game and we played very well with some great saves from our new first year keeper, **A. Evans**. After Radley we took on M.C.S. again. This was our first bad game, and it showed by the result. Our final game was against Prior's Court. They were by far the better team, with better skills and quicker and stronger players than us. When they were 6-0 up, an unfortunate incident happened, resulting in **M. Armitage**'s nose being broken. The game was immediately called off, and fortunately for us, the game was proclaimed a draw, by **M. Armitage**.

Rugby Colours have been awarded to: **S. Osborne-King**, **M. Browne**

Hockey Colours have been awarded to: **A. White**, **R. Kershaw**, **S. Osborne-King**

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ



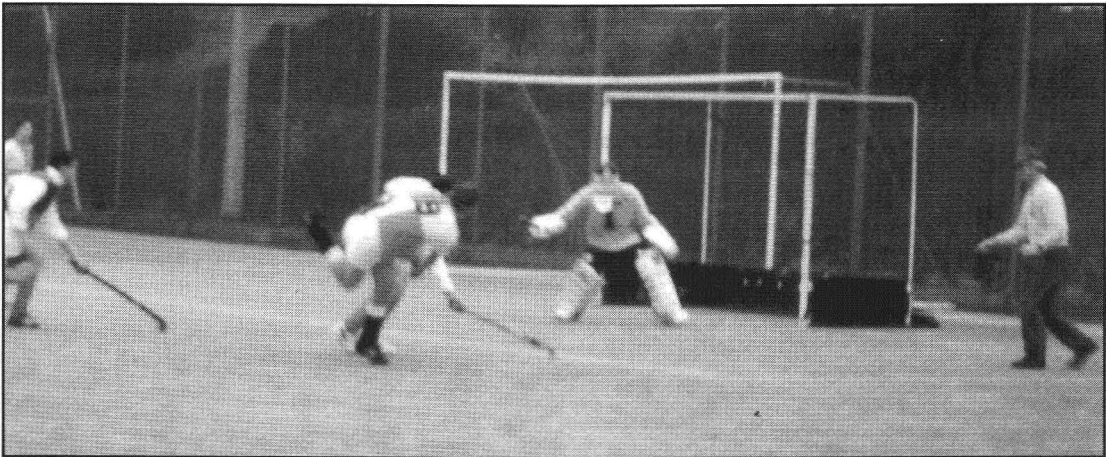
HOCKEY HOUSE MATCHES

There was a close finish to the hockey tournament this year with both Drummond-Hay's and Fishpool's gaining 13 points. In the A division the powerful Drummond-Hay's team scored 27 goals, conceding none. To decide an overall winner the matches between the two Houses were taken and the goal tally was Drummond-Hay's 3, Fishpool's 2. By the narrowest of margins, then, Drummond-Hay's won the Cup, which they retain from last season. The matches were played, for the most part, in excellent spirit and there were a number of unsung heroes, who battled away with skill and endeavour. **M. Freeman** of Drummond-Hay's, **N. Hawker** of Mearns', **G. Coppock** of Fishpool's, **T. Judd** of Wilmore's and **A. Wilson** of the Boarders all deserve a mention in this respect.

P. J. WILMORE

HOCKEY RESULTS

	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	Colts A	Colts B	J. Colts A	J. Colts B	Jun. A	Jun. B	Min. A	Min. B	Min. C
Southampton	L 1-9	L 1-4		D 2-2	L 1-4	L 0-5		L 2-3				
Leighton Park	W 3-0											
Pangbourne	L 1-3	L 1-3	D 1-1	W 7-0	W 1-0	W 2-1	W 5-0	W 3-1				
Reading	W 1-0	W 5-2		W 3-0		L 2-3		W 8-0				
Shiplake	W 5-1	W 3-1	W 2-1		W 10-0	W 5-3	W 2-0	W 5-1	W 7-0			
Magdalen	L 1-2		L 0-2	L 0-3	L 0-2			L 0-3	D 2-2			
Bloxham	D 2-2	W 3-1				L 0-3		L 0-2	L 1-2			
Stowe	L 0-1	W 3-2	W 1-0	W 3-2	L 1-2	L 0-3	L 2-5					
Dragon								L 1-2		W 1-0		
Millbrook Ho.											W 8-0	
Oxford School								W 6-0				
New College											L 1-3	W 1-0
H.A	D 3-3											
St. Edward's	D 2-2	L 0-2	W 1-0	L 0-1	L 2-3	L 2-4	L 1-6	L 0-3	D 1-1	W 4-0		
Berkhamsted	W 1-0	D 0-0	W 4-2	D 0-0	L 0-4	W 3-1	L 0-3	W 3-2				
Radley										W 3-1	L 0-5	
M.C.S.										L 0-2	W 1-0	
Priors' Court										L 0-6	W 1-0	W 6-1
O.A.s	W 5-3											
Southampton												D 2-2
John Mason												W 3-0



HOUSE HOCKEY RESULTS

A Division	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JDH	4	0	0	27	0	8
ICF	2	1	1	22	5	5
PJW	2	0	2	5	15	4
Boarders	1	1	2	5	10	3
RSKM	0	0	4	1	30	0
B Division	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ICF	4	0	0	13	7	8
JDH	2	1	1	12	5	5
PJW	2	0	2	12	10	4
Boarders	1	1	2	9	10	3
RSKM	0	0	4	5	19	0

HOCKEY

1ST & 2ND VIII ROWING

The season began tentatively with few events in this term, giving us few chances to gauge the opposition from other schools. Seat racing in pairs produced provisional first and second eights, which competed in three events over the term. The first couple of weeks were spent land training, as conditions on the river were unsuitable for rowing, but on the rare occasions that we



managed an outing, small boats were used, practising for the G.B. selection trials at Kingston. On February 1st the seniors were out in force, the first eight going to Peterborough Head, and the second eight going to Hampton Head. The first eight notched up their first win of the season, winning the event by twenty seconds from Shrewsbury and Eton, and finishing sixth overall in a very strong field of entries. The second eight were thrown in the deep end, coming up against such crews as Hampton and St. Paul's first eights, but competed successfully against strong opposition.

This was also the day of the boat club dinner, which was a great success and included large numbers of representatives from all age groups. The guest speaker was Donald Macdonald, president of the Oxford University Boat Club during the 1984 rebellion.

For the first eight, the next few weeks were spent in pairs, with the second eight training as a unit to gain boat speed. On the first weekend of half-term, seven oarsmen went to Kingston to qualify for Great Britain Easter Assessment Trials. Unfortunately due to illness and administrative problems, only **E. Russell** and **T. Frankum** were selected, three of the eight being unable to compete on the second day. Fortunately the situation was reversed two weeks later, with more performing well at Peterborough trials, filling the first and third positions in the standings. **R. Pinckney**, **D. Livingstone**, **D. Kingsley** and **J. Strong** were all selected, which means that six Abingdon rowers will be going to the Easter trials, which I believe is the most that the school has ever had invited.

This success was followed up at Reading Univer-

sity Head, with the first and second eights competing in junior and senior three events respectively. The first eight rowing with **I. Priest** at stroke, rowed well to come second in their event, beating Kingston, Eton, Shrewsbury and St. Edward's first eights to name but a few, and beating Pangbourne second eight by ten lengths. The second eight showed great improvement, overtaking Warwick University and finishing fourth in the second eights, beating the Hampton crew comfortably, whom they lost to at Hampton head.

The major event of the Lent term is the School's Head of the River, which takes place on the Tideway in London, on the last Wednesday of term. Both eights have trained extensively for this event over the preceding weeks, as this is one of the three big events of the season, along with National Schools and Henley Royal Regatta. Unfortunately the first eight did not row to their full capacity, but still managed to come third behind St. Paul's and St. Edward's, which is the highest position that the school has ever come. The second eight improved notably on last year's performance, finishing in fifth place from last year's tenth, and showing great potential for the regatta season next term.

Crews :

1st 8 : **E. Russell**, **R. Pinckney**, **D. Livingstone**, **T. Frankum**, **D. Kingsley**, **M. Thomas**, **I. Priest**, **J. Strong**, **A. White** (Cox).

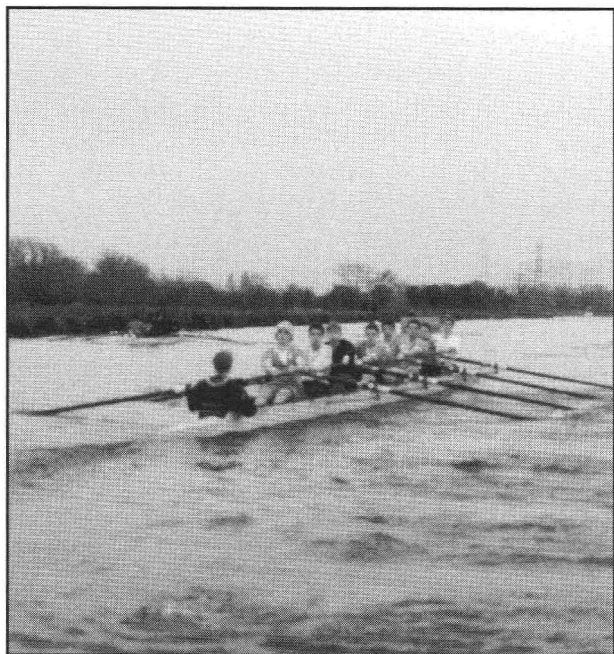
2nd 8 : **M. Capon**, **J. Whibley**, **O. Marshall**, **S. French**, **T. Jefferies**, **P. Hemsley**, **B. Mather**, **N. Morrell**, **J. Lyall**, **G. Harrington**, **G. Whittaker** (Cox).

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ



JUNIOR 16 SQUAD

The squad assembled in January and what became apparent very soon was that the rugby players had not fully recovered from their intensive pie-eating over Christmas. After only a few outings in winter conditions we entered two equal eights for Hampton head. In a field of first eights we did as expected and finished quite low down, but the crews, with guest appearances by **Will Bourne-Taylor** and **Nick Morrell**, finished only three sec-



onds apart, the crew in the Derwent King winning narrowly. After some hard training and selections based on ergo tests, we entered the first eight for Reading University head. In a strong field we did well, catching up eight lengths on our old rivals Shiplake, who beat us several times as J15s, and finished sixth in our division.

After another ergo test and more training came the climax of the head season, School's Head of the River. We entered the eight and two fours. The eight finished seventh, only twenty seconds behind the winners Radley, and have caught up fifteen seconds on them in only three weeks, which bodes well for the regatta season. The fours rowed well, but both suffered equipment trouble.

Throughout the season **Mr. Slatford** has worked miracles with our bad habits, and is finally beginning to mould us into a respectable squad. The prospects for next season are good.

1st eight:

A. Garrod (cox), M. Jobling, R. Hutchins, W. Horner, R. Bourne-Taylor, A. Benson, H. Watkinson, G. Kitto, A. White

1st four:

M. Cooper, E. Cox, D. Himpson, T. Hester

2nd four:

J. Morse, P. Anderson, N. Lefevre, S. Rutland
cox S. Hutchins

R. BOURNE-TAYLOR 5KDB & R. HUTCHINS 5DJD

JUNIOR 15 SQUAD

It has been an eventful term for J15 rowing, even though strong winds and high rivers put paid to half our events.

The large group from last year was whittled down to just over thirty this year, still a fair size, but more manageable than sixty!

These were split into two equally sized groups, based on ability from the year before, and both started to try and find suitable crews to row in. Sporting some pretty odd names on the notice board, four crews went out twice a week for two or three weeks until we had a basis for A, B and C crews. These were not solely selected from the river, but from runs of varying distances, ergo tests and the occasional 'power to weight' ratio examination to keep the larger of the squad quiet before they got too pleased with the aforementioned ergo scores.

Even so, the crews for our first head at Hampton were by no means small. Unfortunately, we were devastated by illnesses a few days beforehand, losing four members of our A crew, therefore having to borrow four from the B crew, who in turn did the same to the C crew, meaning that the latter had to drop out of the event. Because of this, the results were not as we had hoped, and so it was back to the river for more technical work with **Mr. Garnier**.

The weather then started to play up and the next two heads, Henley Schools and Reading, were cancelled for our age group. So we seriously lacked race experience, which would be vital later. Instead of these heads, we went up the river to Radley and had races with them, losing two-one on the final piece. We put it down to their home advantage. Unfortunately, our top boat had to be returned to Aylings who are completely remaking it, as there had been a problem with the shell.

So finally School's Head arrived, and with it bad weather that jeopardised the whole event. We got on to the river after the A crew had been fined for using police cones as slings, and had our first experience on the Tide-way. It wasn't that friendly! The B crew had a good race, finishing ninth in their division, while the A crew, despite a badly timed start and a completely wrong race line, entirely missing the current, came in fifth overall in the short course race.

All in all, not a bad term's work and hopefully some pot-hunting to come!

The crews are:

A crew:

P. Tolley (bow), P. Given, M. Brewer, G. W. North, B. Grady, T. Marsh, A. Gates, J. Persaud, T. Jonckheer (cox)

B crew:

N. Hayes, L. Whibley, J. Wilson, S. Woodcock, H. Mackenzie, S. Curran, N. Moffatt, J. Mascaro, O. Varney (cox)

L. WHIBLEY 4KDB

JUNIOR 14 SQUAD

The J14s started rowing this Lent term. They were coached by **Mr. Weir**, and **Mr. Waters** took the rowers for fitness training.

For their first event they entered the St. Edward's head. The octuple did not do as well as expected, yet both of the fours did extremely well, with one of the fours winning its event. The four was stroked by **T. Beardsworth**, with **N. Williams** and **W. Baker** in the engine room, and **D. White** at bow.

They then had a training session with Cheltenham College, interspersed with races against the Cheltenham J14 squad. Abingdon soundly beat Cheltenham in all of the pieces, winning the final race by a comfortable seven lengths, all the more impressive when considering that they were a minute behind Cheltenham at St. Edward's head.

The J14s were going to race in the School's head on the last Wednesday of term, but unfortunately the J14 division was called off due to extremely bad weather conditions. The octo is improving all the time, and will hopefully be a major threat by National Schools Regatta. The crew, as it would have been at School's Head, is as follows:

J. Wilcox-Jones (Stroke), N. Williams, W. Baker, D. Smith, D. White, C. Hughes, T. Beardsworth, M. Watkinson (bow)

W. BAKER 3ASP BADMINTON

We have been kept busy this term with new teams providing surprisingly strong opposition for us. The U19s beat Rugby, Oratory, Wellington, Bradfield and Eton, but succumbed to Millfield and Henley, the first time we have played friendly matches against them. The U16s lost two matches, against Millfield and Bradfield but won the others convincingly.

The time has come where the 'oldies' say goodbye. **S. Yue, N. Kadir, J. Johari** and I will all leave, and move on to pastures new. I'm sure we all have our memories. The moment that sticks in my mind most, during the seven years that I have represented the school, is when we turned up to play a match against Radley expecting to be finished at five o'clock, and demolishing them so quickly that we were all home by half-past-four.

Everybody deserves a mention for playing in the most successful school team, so here goes: **M. Edwards** (Captain), **V. Lee** (Secretary), **W. Lui, P. Edwards, N. Kadir, J. Johari, T. Shellard, L. Chan, K. Kobayashi, S. Yue, P. Ewing, J. Early, J. Tarasewicz, J. Spearing, R. Tattersall, P. Biggs, N. Gray, Y. Ghanni, M. Yeung, J. Yau, J. Mendelsohn-Malik, A. Harsono, B. Longworth, E. McMahon, P. Slater, N. Page, D. Cole and J. Ma.**

The last thing to do before I sign off is to thank **Mr. Macdonald**. The badminton club is very much a one man show, and his efforts do not go unappreciated. Also thanks to **Mr. Ayling**, who is a more than capable understudy!

Millfield	U19 lost 31-17,	U16 lost 28-23
Rugby	U19 won 9-0,	U16 won 9-0
Oratory	won 18-6	
Wellington	won 24-8	
Henley	lost 11.5-4.5	
Bradfield	U19 won 14-13,	U16 lost 16-12
Eton	won 15.5-2.5	

M. EDWARDS VI SAE

G.B. BADMINTON STAR AT ABINGDON

It's very rare for the school to have a Great Britain player at the school to coach the teams, but the badminton club have been fortunate to have the coaching experience of Julie Bradbury. Bradbury, one of the best British prospects, has primarily been helping the younger members of the school to improve, but more recently has also assisted the top players in their games, giving them helpful advice and hints.

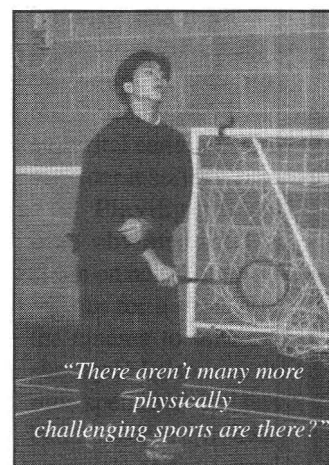
Fitting in coaching to her already packed schedule is an achievement in itself. Only last week she was in Sweden for the Swedish Open, in which she came runner-up, and returned just one day before the biggest tournament in Britain. "The training is tough. I spend four or five days a week at Milton Keynes with my coach", she comments "but the improving facilities and enthusiasm of teachers and boys makes me want to do coaching too," she added.

And what of badminton's reputation as being a soft sport? "What do you mean by soft?...There aren't many more physically challenging sports are there? Badminton is very quick and it's unfortunate that it has this reputation of being a 'soft' sport, when so many people play it and enjoy it. I certainly don't consider it soft!"

Playing all the time obviously puts a strain on her: "I love going out for a meal or to the cinema to unwind," she says "I also love the time spent with my husband because I'm away so much and we don't spend as much time together as we should do. ...I think that if you are serious about wanting to be a professional player, you have to put in the time and effort, you can make it if you're good enough"

Fine words indeed from somebody who receives the utmost respect from everyone she has met. She has managed to bring badminton alive again at school now all the matches are finished, and made people realise that they can succeed if they want to. We all owe her many thanks for the time and effort that she has put in with us.

M. EDWARDS VI SAE



"There aren't many more physically challenging sports are there?"

FOOTBALL

Results:

vs. St. Edward's	lost 3-0
vs. Shiplake	won 3-0
vs. St. Edward's	lost 3-0
vs. Kingham Hill	drew 0-0
vs. Radley	lost 3-1
vs. Hamilton Academical	lost 6-2
vs. Henry Box	won 3-2
vs. Marlborough	drew 0-0
vs. Cokethorpe	lost 2-0
vs. Radley	won 5-1

The football team proved to be one of the hardest-working teams, if not one of the most successful last term. They played ten matches before The Abingdonian went to press and another two afterwards. Although their record is statistically poor the trouble **A. Carter** went to in order to arrange fixtures was creditable, and in no small part it was his and his team's early season enthusiasm which counted towards the eventual acquisition of a school kit and improvement in football's reputation at Abingdon.

Apart from the match versus Hamilton, a men's team from Thatcham, the team could have won every match. The team's finest hours were a storming comeback versus Henry Box, including a beautiful 25-yarder from **A. Smith**, and the drubbing of Radley, surely the greatest team performance the school has ever seen. The rout was started by **P. Morse**, smashing in a fine goal after a corner. In the second half **A. Johnson** and **L. Johnson** added to two goals arrowed in by **T. Allen**, the man of the match. The rout was complete, with **J. Lucas** being rarely threatened after a fine defensive performance, superbly marshalled by **A. James**.

The lower sixth and fifth-year boys in the squad showed that next year the school can look forward to an equally productive season and can expect a few more victories, provided the lower sixth and **Mr. Figgis** can follow Alex's excellent fixture-arranging record.

Special mention goes to **J. Lucas**, our prodigious goalkeeper, **A. James**, our most consistent defender, **P. Morse**, a colossus in more ways than one in central midfield and **A. Smith**, possibly our best performer. Thanks go to **Mr. Figgis**, **Mr. Henderson** and **Mr. Hamilton** for giving us a chance.

Squad (no. of goals scored): **A. Smith** (2), **J. Bolle**, **J. Lucas**, **P. Morse** (1), **A. Carter**, **A. James**, **A. Johnson** (5), **A. Hall**, **N. Warmingham**, **B. Porter**, **K. O'Leary**, **T. Allen** (2), **M. R. Ismail** (1), **M. Edwards**, **I. Grant** (1), **L. Johnson** (1), **R. Patel**, **N. Munro**, **G. Jones** (1), **P. Edwards**, **C. Howard**, **J. Grady**.

J. BOLLE VI DE

ABINGDON TEACHES RADLEY A LESSON

After losing to Radley earlier in the season Abingdon was determined to turn the tables on the 'old enemy'. Following another disappointing result against Cokethorpe the team came into the game hoping to kick-start their season. Sporting a new line-up the team entered the hostile atmosphere with confidence.

They avenged the previous 3-1 defeat by winning 5-1, and therefore 6-4 on aggregate. The first goal went to Abingdon when from a corner **A. Johnson** forced a save from the keeper and **P. Morse** fired the ball home. Radley equalised as they headed in from a free-kick. The first half was shaded by Radley who played better football than Abingdon. However Abingdon battled away thus neutralising the threat.

Abingdon stepped up a gear in the second half as they took complete command. **A. Johnson** again started the avalanche of scoring for Abingdon, as he chased a ball over the top, raced clear of defence, cut inside one player and buried the ball into bottom of the net. **T. Allen** then made it 3-1. From a short corner, he collected the ball, ran into the box and curled a deft shot round the keeper. He increased the lead further as another corner looped to the back post and he rifled it in from a tight angle. He could have had a hat-trick, but his 35-yard free kick smashed against the bar.

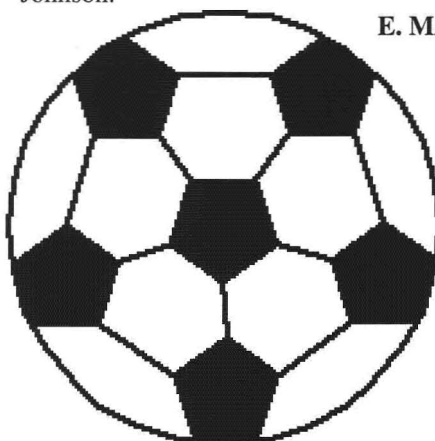
A. Carter came off at half-time because of injury, giving **L. Johnson** his chance. He completed the rout as he scored a farcical goal: after a good run he was knocked over, but as Radley cleared the ball it went straight back to grounded Luke, who swung his leg to sweep the ball home.

The goalkeeper **J. Lucas** had only a couple of saves to make as the defence was very rarely troubled. **A. Hall** played the game of his life alongside the other defenders, as they stifled Radley completely in the second half.

It was a brilliant match to watch as both teams played a passing game, with Abingdon finding space as Radley pushed forward. Radley attempted to play a very attacking game through the midfield channel but could not find the space.

Abingdon lineup - Lucas, Allen, Bolle, James, Hall, Morse, Smith, Carter (Johnson 35 mins.), Porter, O'Leary, Johnson.

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ



BASKETBALL

Basketball is not a 'main' school sport at Abingdon, nevertheless its presence is well known and its popularity amongst boys is rising.

There are two levels of basketball in the school : there is a middle-school group made up of mostly 3rd and 4th formers who definitely have what it takes, and a senior group which is mostly the upper school.

So far this term the seniors had only played two matches due to **Mr. Hamilton's** injury which had occurred in the beginning of term and resulted in the cancellation of many matches.

The two matches were lost, both to Radley, but we were not beaten by much (in Basketball terms) : the scores were 44-28 and 50-32. These results do not do us justice as the teams were very equal. The only difference on our part was the lack of game experience, whereas Radley have played many matches this season. They also had the confidence to use their skills, whereas we were a bit drawn back and hesitant - not our usual style.

All in all, this year's team is a better unit, as before we used to rely on the talented few. We have now learned how to play effectively together and create more chances due to the excellent coaching of **Mr. Hamilton**. The basketball club would like to thank him for the time and effort he has devoted to the club, and we hope basketball will continue to develop within the school.

S. ZALOUMIS VI NMR

RIFLE CLUB

January saw the club's second term under the direction of **Mr. Hullis**, since his joining the school at the beginning of the year. Following considerable middle school interest since then, we have successfully run a senior "A" and "B" team this term, with excellent results so far. Having maintained a substantial lead in rounds 1-4, of the British Schools Small Bore Rifle Association League we have only to wait now for the final result.

The "A" team (**O. King, D. Dearlove, J. Shock, R. King** and **M. Billington**), have been particularly successful with an unusually high average in competition shooting. Our thanks to **Mr. Hullis** for considerable improvements to the range, and the addition of a new rifle, number

7. We expect to run both "A" and "C" teams next term despite the absence of the fifth year and upper sixth.

E. MACDONALD 6WHZ

CROSS-COUNTRY

The 96/97 season for the cross country club was one of many ups and downs, but it must be remembered, primarily, for the emergence of a strong and highly promising junior section.

Since the departure of **Mr. Baker** the junior section of the club has struggled as a result of the inevitable separation between Lower School and the rest of the school and the lack of a separate cross-country master to look after the different needs of the younger runners. This season has seen a change brought about by **Mr. Pettitt**, aided partly by myself, which has enabled many excellent runners in the Lower School to represent the school and to do themselves proud. Despite the fact that many of the matches were against older opposition, the junior team performed admirably led by an excellent first four of **M. Cullen, J. Richards** (both first year) and **J. Kingsley** and **R. Rothkopf** (both fourth year). Others who ran well were **A. Evans, R. Webber, G. Bailey, S. Haste** and **D. Madden**. Matthew, John, Stuart and Daniel all ran exceptionally to take second place in the Vale championships: a race that **M. Cullen** won with **J. Richards** third. Overall, it was highly encouraging to see so many runners from Lower School and next year we can look to build on this excellent beginning with a wider programme of matches.

As for the senior team, we were often crippled at the last moment by badly timed illnesses which often led to a weak link in a team that could have featured very highly in many important events. Nevertheless, the season was still the best that the club has had for many years: we had best ever performances at the King Henry VIII relays in Coventry and an excellent debut at the Knole Run at Sevenoaks where **F. Malone-Lee** finished fifth in a field of over 250. We performed well at the Tortoise Relays in Oxford, narrowly missing out on the trophy, and the Haberdashers Aske's Relays, where we were the only team to complete the whole course following a marshalling error. Francis went one better than last year by winning the Merchant Taylor's Race cup and he was also Oxfordshire's top runner in the English Schools Championships at Newark.

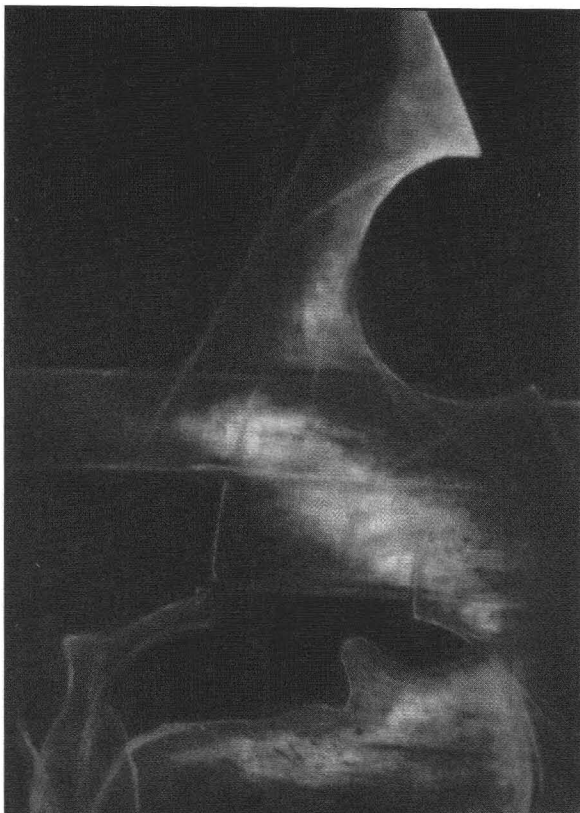
Throughout the season there were many consistent performers and these included **J. Dowling, R. Janisch** and **O. King** and we were often bolstered by the presence of **R. Bourne-Taylor** when he was excused from his rowing commitments.

Thanks must, of course, go to **Mr. Pettitt** whose constant support and effort throughout the year has enabled the cross country club to run as successfully as it did.

On a final note it should be mentioned that whilst we are undoubtedly better than Radley, we will not be able to approach the likes of Winchester until we receive the support and consideration that we desperately need.

R. ELLIS 6JEF





*Lent
Term
Expressions*

