



the Abingdonian
august 1998

the Abingdonian

august 1998



The Abingdonian
August 1998
Volume 22 Number 5

Once again, my thanks go to all those who made this issue of *The Abingdonian* possible, especially my colleagues, and to the Abingdonian Management Committee in particular for their help and advice.

The pupils who helped with the magazine were L. Bowden, A. Chater, K. Cheung, C. Dugan, A. Hulse, R. Hutchins, E. Lewington, B. Longworth, J. Lucas, E. Macdonald, M. O'Donovan, C. Rendell, T. Smith, and J. Zwart.

Illustrations of sport do not necessarily show the team whose article they accompany. The cover photograph was taken by S. Karim. The illustration on this page is by K. Kobayashi.

From the next issue, August 1999, *The Abingdonian* will revert to annual publication.

SH (editor)

If you would like to subscribe to *The Abingdonian*, please contact the editor at the School address.

The Abingdonian
was designed by
Matthew Wolf
for Salinger Wolf, Oxford
telephone (0385) 996281,
facsimile (0385) 999170.

It was printed by
UNiSKILL Ltd,
Eynsham, Oxfordshire
telephone (01865) 883655,
facsimile (01865) 881244.

Houses

A new system

We have been hearing a lot about the new “through-house” system to be introduced in September, and are told that this will bring about great improvement in pastoral care and continuity throughout the School, as well as greater community spirit and a greater sense of togetherness. However, worried by the possible implications of change, we turned to the Headmaster for reassurance.

**a report of an interview
with the Headmaster,
seeking clarification
of the changes to the
house system,
by P Taylor, K Thyagaraja
and A Brodie 4ASP**

The Headmaster began by assuring us that the change to the system was not a response to a crisis: there is nothing “wrong” with the current arrangements. Currently, pupils at the School are placed in a house in the Third Year, and they remain in this house until they reach the Sixth Form, where they enter Sixth Form houses.

Under the new system, the Sixth Form houses will be completely eliminated and two new houses created. Some pupils are worried about the sanctity of their study and living conditions, and others wish to be detached from their Middle School houses as much as possible, as soon as possible. The Sixth Form will still have their own study halls, but is integration the best way forward?

Plans have also been announced to introduce space in Waste Court for the scholars. Scholars will remain an active part of normal houses, but will be given a space of their own as an alternative. Some scholars are a little sceptical about the idea.

The Headmaster described the new house system as something which has evolved over time: a revised system was thought about in the Seventies and Eighties, but was not deemed suitable at those times. Now, however, it seems that the School is ripe for change and that the benefits of a new system are there for the taking.

What are these benefits? If the system works as planned, administration of the move from the Fifth Year to Sixth Form will be greatly improved. Matters such as UCAS forms and other such bureaucracy will be better organized. At present, the continuity of record keeping is poor. As the Headmaster described it, under the current system “everything has to start from scratch”.

Now, it seems, we will slip gracefully from the GCSEs to assail the seemingly impenetrable fortress of A level without breaking our stride.

In addition, house spirit should be transformed. The Headmaster is seeking to remove the gulf which currently exists between the Fifth and Sixth Form in several ways. First, having Sixth Formers in closer proximity to the rest of the population will go some ways to equalize the top end of the School. The Sixth Formers will be involved in leading inter-house sport and other competitive activities and given “opportunities of leadership”. Integration and co-operation are the key words.

Pastoral care too, is firmly in the Headmaster’s sights. “More time and space” are needed for tutors and their tutor groups. This does seem an area in which change would be a good thing, as the use of tutor periods has for many people never seemed to have a definite focus.

The Headmaster has been advocating tradition and continuity for some time now, but has also been warning us of the need for upheaval and change. Are these two ideas in conflict?

“It depends which end you come at it from,” the Headmaster stated. “Some areas of the School, such as the transition from the First to the Third Year, are periods of definite change in personal terms. I believe that Middle School boys and Sixth Formers have a lot in common.”

When asked about the effect which the change of system will have on existing pupils, who have not been taken through the system in its entirety, the Headmaster replied:

“Life is all about change: you’re growing up, my hair’s falling out, and we both have to live with it.”

Crescent

a report by R Franklin
VIJEF

In sporting terms, the Lent term was excellent. T. Betteridge rowed for the 2nd and Senior VIIIs, winning the Peterborough Regatta and coming third in the Schools Head. T. Hester and S. Rutland also deserve mention for their second place in the Schools Head coxed IVs, and the former's leadership of a Ten Tors team. J. Hayden and B. Perkins also had success, scoring three and five tries respectively in Rugby VIIIs. Whether chess is a sport is always a matter for some debate, but J. Church was part of the successful Abingdon team.

P. Makings had a very successful season as sweeper in the 2nd XI hockey, and J. Church was a spectacular midfielder. T. Evans' efforts as central defender deserve particular congratulations. For my part, I conceded some twenty-three goals in five games for the 3rd XI hockey.

The House won the Junior cricket competition and the swimming gala. A. Pike, P. Makings, T. Evans and R. Smith all represented the School 1st XI cricket. A. Hunter also gained a place in the 1st XI as a spin bowler despite being only in the Fifth Year. We wish A. Pike the best of luck in his pursuit of a County cricket place as he leaves the School.

Academically, we have also seen much to celebrate. I secured a bronze award in the Biology Olympiad, whilst E. Allen won the Sixth Form Music prize and

F. Dutton the Ancient History award. I won the Divinity prize and the Biology Prize. We should also recognize A. Pavlosky's award for greatest academic improvement. Congratulations also to N. Betteridge for winning the Third Year Boarders' academic prize, and to A. Benson on his appointment as Head of School. T. Evans received a Tappins Coaches travel award, and J. Church both the Physics prize and a Duxbury tie for service to the School. S. Karim received the Mitchell Seward Cup for debating and the Freeman Prize for service. O. Smith won the Headmaster's Prize.

The end of the School year sees a number of changes in Crescent. After a year of efficient organization and dynamic leadership, A. Pike retires as Head of House, handing over to the softly-spoken H. Watkinson. Dr. Sharp and Mr. Weir also leave this term and we wish them luck at Sevenoaks and Harrow schools respectively.

Mr. Hunter has been in charge of Crescent now for twelve years, and the time has come to move on. I am sure that all members of the House would like to thank him for the free and flexible way in which he has always run the House, allowing for both enjoyment and some often excellent examination and sporting results. We all wish Mr. Davies the best of luck as Mr. Hunter's successor.



Drummond-Hay's

a report by P Thomas
4ASP

Rather than following the tradition of excellence in inter-house competitions alone, this year has seen many boys achieve extremely high standards in many activities. However, inter-house competitions were not neglected, and there were victories in the Road Relay for the Fifth Year, as well as in athletics and the swimming gala for the Third Year.

There was other sporting success. Probably the most notable was the selection of W. Baker (captain), G. Unsworth and J. Willcox-Jones to the South West U15 rugby team which beat Gwent Schools earlier this year. J. Gardner achieved selection to the U16 Oxfordshire football team following his successes at Thame United, where he represents the U18s. G. Stalcup represented Oxford United U14s this year. I. Downie scored eighteen goals in ten matches for the Junior Colts hockey team and then played for the cricket 1st XI. M. Stockwell's run in the 1500 metres for the Fourth Year athletics team will doubtless go down in history...

J. Mansfield won the David Taylor Prize following his achievements in his GCSE drama piece *Dario Fo*, where he performed alongside M. Terry, J. Wilson and R. Fabes. M. Terry and J. Wilson also had great success in *Battle of the Sexes* and the cabaret, and

D. Boswood produced a commanding performance in *Another Country*. M. Spencer-Chapman picked up the Aitchison Cup for Musical Versatility.

House academic prizes were won by M. Spencer Chapman, M. Stockwell and T. Worthington: M. Stockwell, along with T. Butler, also achieved a gold award in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge this year.

J. Wood again deserves congratulation for his efforts with the CCF. Voted best cadet at RAF summer camp, he went on to receive the School's Leadership Prize. J. Mearns won the Richard Turner Memorial Prize, and T. Ainsworth the Science Times Cup for excellence in English.

There are many changes in store next year: M. Armstrong will be Head of House and B. Longworth, A. Hulse and J. Otterburn House prefects. We shall welcome Mrs. Manship and Dr. White to the team of tutors, and hope that they will enjoy their time with us. At the same time we bid farewell to Mr. Martin as he becomes Middle Master.

Finally, we have acquired the small area to the front of the House, and are grateful to Mr. Biggs for designing the House garden, which should be ready by the start of the new academic year.

Fishpool's

a report by ICF,
A Hutchinson 4JHT,
R Kershaw 3RPF,
and J Mather 4RPF

At the prizegiving on Leavers' Day the House was well represented, A. Kennedy and A. Hutchinson receiving the House academic prizes, and S. Evans winning the Senior Layng Reading Prize. P. Mather was awarded the Griffin Cup for Craftsmanship, and J. Persaud received the Dr. James Molloy Prize as well as a prize for his mock GCSE results.

We made an excellent start in the swimming gala, C. Brookes, T. Kingham and N. Evans winning the first three races. Special congratulations should go to N. Evans not only for his fine performance in the swimming gala but also for his national achievements in swimming.

Congratulations to the Fourth Year who won the athletics competition by seventeen points. G. Bailey won the 80 metres hurdles, A. Hutchinson the 100 metres, and J. Mather the 800 metres. M. Beckett, T. Davis and S. Sargent gave creditable performances. Beckett, Fraser, Davis and Hutchinson won the 4 by 100 metres relay and Mather, Hughes, Hamand and Bailey won the 4 by 400 metres relay, as did the Third Year team. We also picked up second place in the parlaf. The Third Years came a creditable second.

In the inter-house cricket we started badly against Mearns' and lost by twenty runs. Next we played Wilmore's, a partnership between S. Sargent and M. Beckett securing victory. Next we played the seeded Drummond-Hay's where we were definitely the underdogs. Wickets fell until M. Beckett and S. Sargent saved the day. Having secured a place in the final we were pitted against the boarders. They declared at 90, easily beatable we thought, but as soon as the first wicket fell everything collapsed.

Finally, credit must be given to those who acted in School productions. J. Margree and P. Taylor both gave splendid comic performances in *School for Scandal*. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* attracted no fewer than four members of the House: a dry C. Mason, a romantic S. Evans, an ebullient P. Garrick and a relaxed and humorous W. Gervers.

With the restructuring of the tutor groups we say farewell to RPF and thank him for all his help over the years. We welcome NMR and MAS to act as Sixth Form tutors. We also congratulate R. Bourne-Taylor on his election of Head of School, and welcome J. Morse as our new Head of House.

Mearns'

a report by RSKM

We led off strongly this year with a win (yes, a win), the House Shout. A significant proportion of the School's song birds are to be found in the House at present. Nevertheless, it remains to be done on the day. The way in which the professionals rallied and prepared for the performance showed them to be rare performers.

After this is was somewhat back to the norm with an oval score in the hockey: zero, despite battling with wind, rain and the pressing attentions of the other houses. There was some good leadership from M. Armitage, but it has to be said that the bounce from the side walls of the Sports Hall did not fall well for us.

The swimming galas were contested vigorously. S. Wood gave an object lesson to all in showing what it means to compete gallantly. The athletics was rather mixed: crucial points can be picked up as long as all events are competed for, since even coming last gains the House a point. Failure to appreciate this and to play for oneself was in evidence on one or two occasions in this event.

The inter-house cricket was a fine affair. In the first round defeated Fishpool's in a well organized team effort. Much the same spirit was in evidence in

the semi-final against the boarders and we certainly gave them a hard game. Full marks to M. Armitage and to T. Garside who took this on and ran the team very efficiently.

In fact team spirit was a very pleasing feature of the House this year. The tone was set by P. Batchelor who organized teams and scouted for players. A number of younger people showed themselves very willing to follow suit and good work was done by J. Rowe and S. Mayhew-Archer in this regard.

Academic prizes were won by R. Cork, who gained a Fifth Form prize for his mock GCSE results, and by H. Langford and T. Garside. S. Atkinson was awarded the Music Society Prize for Brass.

There will be big changes in the House in the coming session. We shall miss those who leave us and we wish them well. In particular we wish every success to S. Stratton, E. Ratcliff and R. Meunier who leave not only the House but also the School to go far afield: we wish them every happiness in their new schools.

For the coming session the Head of House is M. Bartlett, and House Prefects are R. Dawson, N. Gray, M. Harris and A. White.

School House

In sport, A. Stewart played for the 1st XI hockey, and O. Norman-Longstaff was a regular member of the 1st XI cricket, also playing hockey for the 'A' team. M. Thomas would have been pulling for the 1st VIII had not a snow-boarding accident held him up, but N. Williams and T. Tarrell both rowed for the J15s. Cross country and athletics were also supported, with F. Malone-Lee (awarded the Wintle Cup for contribution to School sport), J. Kingsley and R. Rothkopf important figures in both. The House was also well represented in badminton, with V. Lee as captain and Al. Harsono runner up in County badminton.

J. Chang, K. Cheung, M. Kay, T. Mak, R. Bryniarski and A. Stewart all played in the First Orchestra. T. Mak, who this year won the Ward Trophy for Musical Achievement and the Mathematics prize, also played Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto with the Reading Symphony Orchestra, having won their young musician competition. These musicians, joined by others such as C. Maeng and V. Lee (winner of the Sheldon Peach prize for Pianoforte as well as the Blacknall prize), entertained us all in a successful House concert. We were also entertained by the House Revue, which allowed the likes of T. Blackshaw, D. Benoliel and D. Sonuga to show off their acting talents. We are grateful to Messrs. Figgis and Taylor for their hard work in organizing this.

Established actors were also in School performances: N. Brewer took part in *Trafford Tanzi*, *School for Scandal* and *On the Razzle*. J. Montague was in *School for Scandal* and type-cast as a randy coachman in *On the Razzle*.

G. Whittaker's diligent work with the Amey Hall technical crew earned him the Larkhill trophy. K. Ma won one of the boarders' academic prizes, and R. Rothkopf a prize for his mocks results. A. Stewart won the Morland Prize for All round Merit, as well as being awarded a TASS travel bursary.

D. Benoliel and T. Lee went to Cyprus at Easter with the CCF. C. Campbell, S. Duckworth, J. Montague, F. Sagaya, T. Mak, T. Tarrell and W. Skjott have all been on Duke of Edinburgh's Award training expeditions. F. Malone-Lee (awarded a TASS travel bursary this year) was a member of a triumphant 45 mile Ten Tors team. R. Bryniarski and N. McConnell (also recipients of TASS travel bursaries) were both in the successful 55 mile team and are going to Greenland on a BSES expedition this summer.

Thank you to all the House tutors for keeping us in order. In particular to Mr. Pettitt, who is leaving. I am sure that we will all miss his rare blend of humanity and discipline. We will also be losing Mr. Davies, who moves to Crescent and Mr. Slatford, who is becoming Lower School Housemaster.

a report by F Malone-Lee
VIJFH

Waste Court

a report by TLW

These have been another two forward-looking terms. We have had more boarders than for many years and are preparing for an expansion of our day side, to act from September as a home for the Middle School scholars. To be ready for this, parts of the House are at present undergoing a refurbishment, which should see conditions here much improved.

Academically, the boarders have made a great deal of progress, most of the Upper Sixth working towards their A levels with dedication and the Lower Sixth establishing very firm foundations for their final year. In the Lower School, the Second Years have all set themselves up well for the Middle School, whilst the First Years have generally made a very pleasing start. Mention must be made here of J. Goymour who jointly won his form prize this year: a great way to begin his time at Abingdon.

"Other Half" activity amongst the boarders continues to be high, both the seniors and juniors representing the School in a variety of sports, Malaysian badminton players being most prominent amongst them. We have also had two expeditions, one mountain biking in the Forest of Dean, the other hill walking, camping and getting very wet in Snowdonia.

Our Fifth Year day boys have perhaps been the most pleasing group within the House, their preparations for GCSE being thorough to a man, a number of them coming through very strongly in the last two terms. M. Ambler won the House academic prize, after an outstanding set of mock results. It should be mentioned that throughout the year the Fifth Year have also maintained a very high level of involvement in the "Other Half", a number of them showing maturity well beyond their years. I am very sorry to see them leave.

As well as bidding farewell to our Fifth Year and Upper Sixth pupils, we will also be losing T. Schulte from the Lower Sixth, who is returning to Germany after a very successful year with us. Our most notable leaver, however is M. Jones, who has done a superb job as Head of House. His organization and dedication, here and elsewhere in the School, have been rewarded with a Duxbury tie, together with a Tappins Coaches travel grant awarded to him for his gap year.

I look forward to the changes next term with a mounting sense of excitement. I expect the House's rôle to continue evolving as the scholars bed in, the coming few years having the potential to be some of the most significant in the House's history. We shall see.

Wilmore's

a report by PJW

J. Brockbank and C. Smith won House prizes, while T. Adams and S. Allen won scholars' prizes. M. Brown, having already carried off a prize for his GCSE mocks results (as did T. Judd), was presented with a gold medal at the Institute of Physics for his performance in the National Physics Challenge competition. A. Wilson was awarded a silver medal.

Wilmore's supplied seven members of the Juniors A rugby XV. K. Shaikh was selected for the 1st rugby VII. S. Martin took charge of the house hockey, and the A and B sides were unbeaten in the inter-house competition, winning the House Cup. P. Timberlake captained the Juniors A XI hockey, and represented the South of England. K. Roche represented Oxfordshire U15s.

D. Procter and C. Thomson were an unbeaten first pair in Juniors tennis. H. Mackenzie rowed in the 1st VIII, winning two silver medals at the National Schools Regatta. He was invited to participate in the GB squad final trials in July and won the Clifford and Jane Ellis Prize for Character. B. Grady, S. Woodcock, N. Moffatt and S. Curran were all members of the Colts A crew, winning bronze at the National Schools Regatta and qualifying for the Temple Cup at Henley.

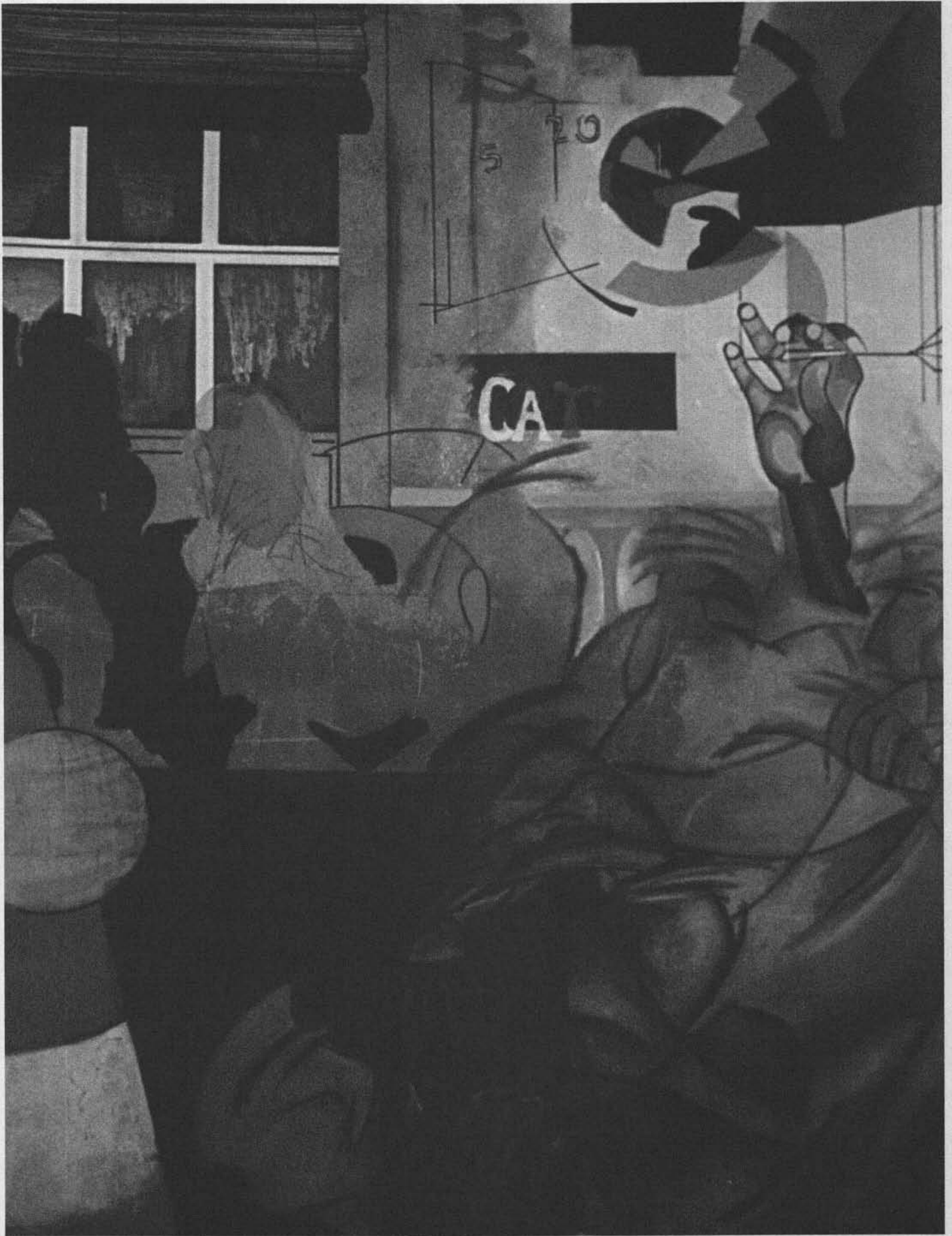
The Road Relay saw a number of notable performances. P. Peacock was the fastest runner in the Third Year, while S. Allen not only led his year group, but also

recorded the fourth fastest time in the School, prompting ASP to co-opt him for the Cross Country team. In athletics, our speciality seemed to be the parlauf, but individual wins were recorded by C. Thomson, S. Allen, S. Pickard and R. Kempson. In all the House achieved second place. We were less successful in the swimming galas, though K. Shaikh and B. Hancock recorded wins in their events. W. Burdall came fourteenth in the National Schools Sailing Association Championships, and first in the Laser radial class.

In drama, S. Allen played Adam in *Battle of the Sexes*. L. Haward played a leading role, while A. James played a "fag" in *Another Country*. C. Smith (playing the trombone) successfully auditioned for the Oxford County Orchestra, and W. Bartlett was awarded the Paul Comber Cup for Musical Creativity.

As we bade farewell to the Fifth Years, S. Allen became temporary Head of House. E. Webber had been a quietly efficient Head and I thank him for his help throughout the year. L. Haward, T. Judd and S. Martin are all leaving the School, and we wish them luck.

The final farewell is to TJCG. His careful attention to the needs of his tutees has been an example to us all. He now takes on the rôle of housemaster in one of the new houses. I wish him, and those members of Wilmore's who go with him, the best of luck.



picture by B Mather
VIDH

School notes

Olympiads & Challenges



**a report of the School's
physicists', biologists'
and mathematicians'
successes in the 1998
Physics Olympiad and
Challenge, Third
Biological Olympiad,
and UK Mathematical
Challenges,
by RJS, SPD and DJD
photograph by RJS**

The Physics Challenge is for GCSE students, although the standard of questions is much harder. M. Brown (above, far right) and P. Gardner (above, first from right) came in the top fifteen in the country, being awarded gold medals and book prizes.

The Physics Olympiad involves A level students, and in the past few years Abingdon pupils have won seven gold medals, an achievement equalled by few other schools. The best five in the country form the British team for the International Physics Olympiad competition. S. Brookes (who is still in the Third Form, above, left) came in the top thirty, winning a gold medal. M. Lloyd (above, first from left) came sixth, just missing a place in the British team (he also won the St. Catherine's College Prize for Intellectual Initiative and the Hadland cup this year). The awards were presented at the Royal Society.

The School entered five boys for the third national Biological Olympiad this year. There were 484 candidates from 115 schools, and Abingdon's success was very pleasing. F. Malone-Lee came in the top eighteen, winning a gold award. D. Hancock gained a silver award, R. Franklin and E. Knowles bronze awards, and V. Lee was highly commended.

Members of the Third, Fourth and Fifth years again took part in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, winning thirty-six gold, thirty-one silver and twelve bronze certificates, a slight improvement on last year's results.

Twelve of the gold winners went through to the next round of the Challenge: R. Asher, S. Atkinson, S. Brooks, T. Butler, D. Cole, R. Cork, P. Gardner, O. Norman-Longstaff, M. Rees-Jones, M. Stockwell, D. Walford and A. Wilson.

This year the whole of the First and Second years took part in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. The paper consisted of testing mathematical puzzles and problems, and was taken by over 130,000 pupils in Britain. Abingdon won sixteen gold, thirty-one silver and forty-four bronze certificates. The following First and Second Year boys won golds: J. Bucknall, R. Browne, P. Brazier, P. Craig, B. Crundwell, M. Cullen, C. Johnson, A. Livingstone, R. Myers, J. Paul, N. Yeung, E. Antysz, M. Gould, S. McMahon, G. Morris, and M. Rose.

M. Cullen came top in the School, and also qualified for the next round of the competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

Staff leavers

Frances Down came to Abingdon last September to teach Physics part-time. She has taught throughout the Middle School, and played a very active part in the CCF, including their very successful trip to Cyprus at Easter. She leaves us to take up a post at Downe House School, near Newbury.

Chris Lane joined the Modern Languages department in January 1997. As he takes up his retirement again, we realize how much he has contributed: erudite, experienced and rigorous, he cast a quizzical, even critical eye at our Sixth Form teaching and pointed us in new directions. He has never been afraid to state the simplest lesson, that linguistic success will only come to those who strive for it. For this message, and for the chance to profit from his human and professional qualities we are very grateful.

Adam Pettitt leaves us after four years to be Deputy Headmaster at Norwich School. He injected new life into the Modern Languages department with an enlightened approach to language teaching. A Scholars' tutor, he has also been a tutor in School House, and produced two plays for boarders, *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, and *Lord of the Flies*.

Adam took up the challenge of coaching cross country running, and his own times in the annual Road Relay will take some beating. It is a mark of his ability to communicate, inspire and hold firmly to his own reasoned views that he was elected President of the Common Room.

In 1997 he married, in Paris, the delightful and charming Barbara, selected from a whole bevy of attractive Westminster College language students whom he had the good fortune to advise professionally. We shall miss them both.

Frauke Rosenboom interrupted her English studies to spend a year in England, working as Assistant in at St. Helen's and Abingdon School. She

showed herself to be efficient, hard-working, conscientious and patient, though occasionally her patience snapped as she commented on the lacklustre performance of an A level candidate: "Er hat das Temperament einer Schlaftablette." We wish her well as she returns to Germany.

Steven Sharp came to Abingdon in 1994. He soon settled in to take a variety of Physics and Mathematics sets, and his deep knowledge of Physics gained quick respect. He was able to communicate well with boys who found Physics hard going, and was soon appointed to Crescent House as resident tutor. Steven has developed the teaching of Physics at Abingdon in many areas, especially in encouraging the study of Particle Physics topics at A level. We will miss him greatly and wish him and his wife Helen all the best at Sevenoaks.

Caroline Tanières, the French Assistant this year, though rather quiet and shy by nature and somewhat overawed by the grandness of our institution, coped well with the pressures of life in the Common Room. She made her mark, bringing enthusiasm and commitment to her work. At crucial times of the year she went well beyond her theoretical timetable, helping the Upper Sixth in particular. She will be missed for her charming smile, efficiency, good humour and tolerance of our strange ways.

Patrick Weir joined the Modern Languages department in September 1995. He threw himself into the life of the School: three exchanges, three years as resident tutor in Crescent House, co-ordinator of study skills and communication skills and latterly head of general studies and the lecture programme. He has been a prime mover in the rowing and rugby worlds, where his crews and teams have prospered through his serious-minded and technically adept training. We wish him well as he moves to Harrow.

appreciations of FD, CWL, ASP, Frauke Rosenboom, SJS, Caroline Tanières and JPW, who are all leaving the School

Musical squares

**a report of a Physics
lecture given to the
Lower School by
Mike and Wendy Gluyas
in the Amey Hall,
on February 26th,
by Harry Hunter 2A**

This fascinating talk was about science and music together. Deluged with many interesting facts, silly jokes and extraordinary demonstrations and experiments, the crowd were always entertained. The lecturers showed us a "slinky" which moved to music, and an amazing "sound waves" experiment using ping-pong balls which glowed in the dark.

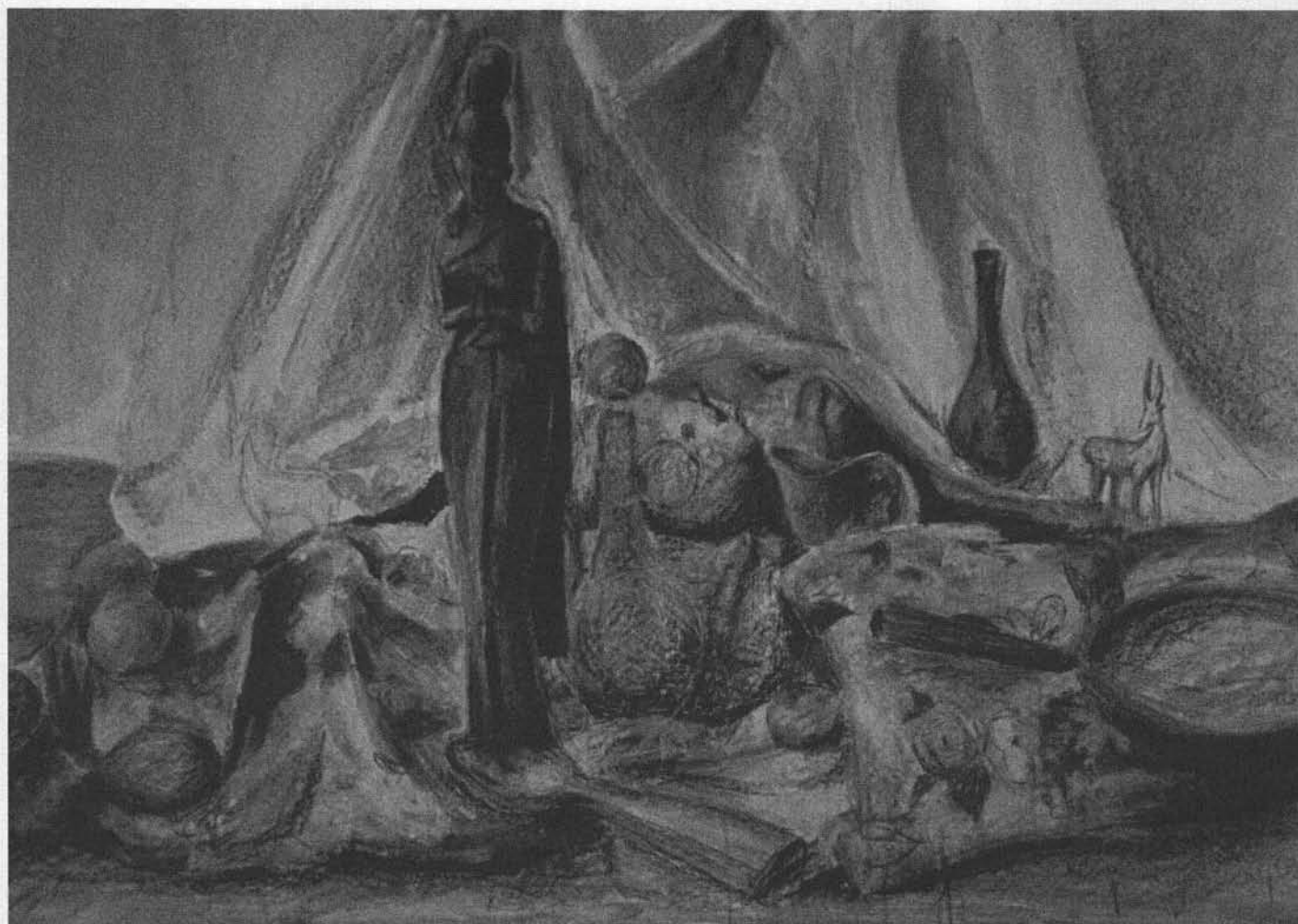
There were many other fun but factual demonstrations. For example, if you hear your voice later than usual, you stutter. This was brilliantly demonstrated by Mr. Coleman, who received a loud cheer at

the end. The lecturers also showed us how the pitch of a note seems to change as the noise gets closer and further away. Again, this was performed in a fun manner, with Mr. Gluyas running around the Amey Hall holding a long tube.

Everyone watching learned a great deal about science, and I know that I shall not easily forget what I learned that day.

On behalf of Lower School, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gluyas for giving the lecture, and Mr. Strawson for arranging it.

**picture by H Saleem
VIJFH**



Lower Sixth Challenge

**a report on the annual
Lower Sixth challenge,
modelled on the BBC's
'University Challenge',
by J Zwart 6SCW**

This annual competition took place in the final fortnight of the Summer term. After the heats, 6GCR went straight on to a nail-biting semi-final against 6NMR, the defeating them by a mere forty points. Warm congratulation from 6NMR paved the way for the second semi-final between 6DE and 6TCG. The result was even closer than that of the first semi-final: 6DE won by 150 points to TCG's 120.

The half-hour final between 6DE and 6GCR took place in the packed CMR. Thanks to their secret weapon, J. Walford, helped by C. Mason, 6GCR commanded the game throughout. 6DE did not really stand a chance, and 6GCR won by 480 points.

We are very grateful to Dr. Zawadzki, who came back from his sabbatical term specially to be quiz-master for the competition.

Debating

The Debating Society continues to expand and diversify, with many contentious motions being well aired. In the Summer term the Committee (chaired by C. Schmidt and T. Myatt) dissolved to concentrate on their A levels, handing over to the present Lower Sixth. Dr. Zawadzki, our gallant leader, was likewise not with us, being on sabbatical and substituted by Mr. Ocock.

Debates have included "This house believes life is a let down" (defeated), "Education is indoctrination: this house would ignore our teachers" (defeated), "This house believes that political leaders should set a moral example" (defeated), "This house believes that society is falling apart" (defeated, despite the Headmaster's proposition), "This house believes patients have the right to doctor-assisted suicide" (passed), and "This house welcomes the Millennium Dome" (defeated in style).

The traditional balloon debate at the end of the Lent Term was a contest for survival between nations of the world. D. Baxter (USA), T. Myatt (UK), and

Dr. Zawadzki (Poland, of course) fell to their doom in the preliminary vote, leaving C. Hignell (Sweden), N. Brewer (Bolivia) and C. Schmidt (South Africa) to battle it out in the final round, which South Africa won despite a rather distasteful speech.

Other than this mainstream activity the Society has seen action elsewhere. There have been dinner debates with Oxford High ("This house would clone its members", defeated) and the beautiful ice maidens at Wycombe Abbey ("This house would have plastic surgery", also defeated). T. Myatt and C. Schmidt also participated, with C. Hignell and juniors, in the "Youth Speaks" competition at Abingdon Rotary club, and at the Oxford Union debating competition at Rye St. Antony's. Here we failed to make the grade and pass into the next round.

The Mitchell Seward Cup for debating was jointly awarded to S. Karim, T. Myatt and C. Schmidt.

We have had a satisfying year: attendances are still rising. I wish the new committee the best of luck.

**a report on the
School's oldest
non-sporting society,
by C Schmidt VIAMS**

Bridge Club

Over the past year, the Bridge Club seems to have gone from strength to strength: membership dramatically increased after the highly successful Activities Fair back in October and, since then, more and more people have joined, so that the Club is now enjoying its most fruitful period for many years.

The Summer term has traditionally been a term for more social playing, with both the Michaelmas and Lent terms being the time for competition. Indeed, our last competition (the Schools Simultaneous Pairs Competition), held in the middle of March, was most successful: B. K. Teh and B. H. Teh should be commended

in particular for winning the heat and finishing ninth in the country. Our recent success is, of course, extremely encouraging and I would like to draw attention to the large contingents of both Lower and Upper School who have done much to improve their game.

Over the year, we have found other opportunities for competition, one of these being the extremely enjoyable and amusing Staff against Pupils Duplicate Bridge Competition, an event which we hope will become annual. Much of this could not, however, go on without the support of Mr. Raffell, whom I would like to thank for his encouragement and advice.

**a report on the Club's
successful year
by I Smith 6NMR**

Lower School activities

Bridge Club is an activity available for the Lower School. We meet every lunch time. Mr. Raffell runs the Club and usually there are eight to twelve boys involved in each session. Most of the time we do not count the points. Bridge is enjoyable because no hand is the same.

There are about nine librarians, and we all meet every Wednesday at lunch time and after lessons to enter all the new books on the catalogue, put grids in, mark "Abingdon School" on every book, and the like. The most senior librarian (Middle and Upper School) is in charge, and Mrs. Cooper or Mrs. Soper is always

there. It is good fun, as there is always a heated conversation with which you can join in. The Lower School members usually do the shelving and the older librarians are on desk duty. Many new books come in every week, so we are never short of work.

French Club is on Mondays after lessons and is run by Mr. Howe-Jones. We practise speaking French by reading plays, playing board games and watching videos where people are speaking French. The Second Years always win the games, even though they are outnumbered. The Club is useful as it gets us used to French ready for the Middle School.

**brief reports by
J Bucknall, A Champion,
A Hoath and B Street,
all of 2X**

Royse Society

**a report of the meeting
held at Lacies Court,
by J Zwart 6SCW**

Lower Sixth Scholars were invited to a meeting of the Royse Society at the beginning of June. The Headmaster hosted the event in Lacies Court with various members of staff in attendance. Dr. Paul Williams, a school governor, was the guest speaker. After supper and a guided tour of Lacies Court by the Headmaster, Dr. Williams set the ball rolling by speaking for a short while on the broad subject of "The Literate Scientist." This led on to a very inter-

esting discussion involving many strong opinions and viewpoints. A heated debate rapidly developed between the scientists and the artists amongst us, and the evening culminated in a discussion of the relevance and possible consequences of the subject to education in general and to the School.

All those who attended would like to thank the Headmaster, his wife, and Dr. Williams, for providing a most entertaining and stimulating evening.

Prizes

**a list of prizes awarded
this academic year
which have not been
mentioned elsewhere in
the magazine**

Academic prizes

Mercers' School Memorial (Merrett Bequest).....R. Ellis
WantageJ. Walford
BennettD. Meen
Wheeler Cup (Outstanding Academic Effort) .G. Ball
History of Art Prize (Liversidge)K. Kobayashi
Judge Medd Prize.....H. Allnutt

Sixth Form

Chemistry (Smith prize)I. Smith
ClassicsD. Silver
Design & Technology.....S. Cavender
Economics & Business Studies.....D. Baxter
EnglishA. Carnwath
Fine Art (Palmer Tame prize)S. Tompkins
Geography.....R. Newnham
History.....R. Newnham
Local History (Duffield prize)R. Newnham
Mathematics (Parker prize)D. Millett
RussianA. Holland

Lower School

C. Hall, M-L. Jones, G. Morris, R. Vasudev

Music Prizes

Giles Lewis Memorial Cup for WoodwindI. Smith
Music Society (Strings)D. Hancock, M. Hodgson
Music Society (Brass)S. Atkinson
Sawbridge Choral PrizeH. Robson

Reading Prize

Layng Reading Prize (Junior)M-L. Jones

TASS Travel Bursaries

W. Austin, M. Billinton, D. Millett, T. Myatt, C. Schmidt,
J. Thomson

Special Prizes

Older Cup and Prize for InitiativeT. Myatt
Cobban Prize.....J. Tarasewicz

Service Prizes

Headmaster's PrizeJ. Walford
David Barrett CupP. Hemsley
Mayor's Prize for ServiceD. Hancock
Duxbury TiesT. Frankum, A. Johnson
TASS Quatercentenary PrizeR. Pinckney

Services awards

**Armed Forces awards
made to pupils over the
past year**

A number of pupils, all of them in the Combined Cadet Force, have attained awards from the Armed Forces this year. N. McConnell has been recommended for one of the small number of Short Service Limited Commissions granted annually by the Regular Commissions Board; this will involve serving with the Army for a year before going on to university. R. Bourne-Taylor, one of next year's Heads of School,

has won a Army Sixth Form Scholarship, a much sought-after distinction.

B. Gancz and L. Conway were granted places on RAF Basic Glider Training courses, which involve learning to fly to solo standard. J. Wood was selected against fierce competition for the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership course at RAF Stafford this summer.



Visits & Trips

Bank of England

**a report of an
Economics & Business
Studies visit to the Bank
of England in June,
by R Hutchins 6NAFP**

The trip was organized by the Mercers' Company, an old livery company with strong links to the School, who arranged for us to have a guide around the Bank of England. The tour started with an informative video, which explained a bit about the Bank, its history and what it does.

We were then allowed to have a look at the museum, which has a number of interactive computer games including a Bank of England quiz and a "virtual" stock exchange, both of which proved challenging. Unfortunately, we were not able to see the

gold vaults, but some consolation was offered in allowing us to handle A2-size sheets of printed, real, money which needed only to be cut for use.

After the tour, we walked to the Mercers' Company, right in the middle of the city, where we were received very warmly and given tea and sandwiches, which were swiftly finished. We learned a bit about the company, including how we could become apprentices like John Roysse, the founder of Abingdon School. In all, it was a very worthwhile trip, both useful and informative.

Classics trip to Bath

**a report of a visit to the
Roman Baths Museum
on March 25th,
by Z Coe, T Dixon
and F Hemsley 2B**

The coach trip took an hour and a half. When we got to Bath, we ate lunch in a park beside the river and then went to visit the museum. We all had digital mobile talking things to tell us about what we were looking at.

I really enjoyed the fact that at School we had looked at things on paper and when we went to the baths we got to see them in the flesh, for example the

curse on Vilbia. The last part of the visit was actually in the open-air room which had the bath in it. You could see steam rising from the surface of the bath and if you put your hand within about an inch of the surface of the water, you could feel the heat coming off the water. The sacred spring smelled like eggs.

I thought that it was a very enjoyable trip and I think that it would definitely be worth going again.

French & German exchanges

a report by ASP

A group of twenty-two boys from the Third, Fourth, Lower and Upper Sixth years took part in the second leg of the French exchange over Easter, spending ten days with their exchange partners in Grenoble. This is a joint venture with Headington School and our partner schools, the College Lionel Terray and the Lycée Gresivaudan, proved welcoming and enthusiastic. Time was spent, for the most part, with host families where most of the real "work" is always done, but two days were spent in school and one day in the picturesque alpine town of Annecy. The French parents made a point of complimenting a number of boys as we left, and I had the agreeable impression that

the chemistry had worked, that friendships were made and that nothing was done to disturb the *entente cordiale*. Our thanks go to PW, whose impeccable and painstaking administration ensured that, once again, the exchange was the hitch-free undertaking which we have come to expect.

Three boys (H. Ronaldson, J. Tarasewicz and W. Pank) spent six weeks at the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld, in the Lent term, as joint holders of the Hector Scholarship. J. Tarasewicz went on to sit A level German in the Lower Sixth, and the other two based their research on current politics on interviews and work undertaken in Bielefeld.



picture by B Mather
VIDH

Munich

**a report of the
Economics & Business
Studies trip to Munich,
March 14th to 19th,
by E Campbell 6 SAE**

Twenty-seven boys from Abingdon, and eight girls from St. Helen's, with three staff, set off on the eighteen-hour coach journey to Munich. On the first day after arrival, we awoke to a 6:30 a.m. alarm call secretly organized by Mr. Townsend. One group went to the Bavarian television studios, and the second to the Bavarian radio studios. It was surprising that a seemingly fairly simple thing like a radio station employed over 4000 full-time staff. We also discovered the huge investments necessary to keep up to date in such a hi-tech industry: this station had spent years financing and installing a fully integrated computer system for collecting news from around the world.

That afternoon came the Spaten Brewery visit. The brewery was right in the heart of Munich and had been brewing beer for hundreds of years. It had benefited from a policy designed to protect the German beer industry, the banning of imported beer containing preservatives: Spaten pride themselves on the fact that their beer contains no artificial preservatives. We witnessed their impressive bottling plant in action and the bottle cleaning machine. At the top of the Spaten Tower we were given a meal and some free beer, which everybody enjoyed. The view from the restaurant was incredible: we could see all of Munich, and as it was a clear day we could see the Alps.

That evening, having written up our notes, we visited the Hofbrauhaus in central Munich. This was very traditionally German, with long wooden tables, traditional music, beer, and a menu entirely based on sausages. It also has its own place in history as it was

the venue for the early meetings of Hitler and his supporters, and also the scene of the "Munich Beer Hall Putsch" of 1923.

The next morning we visited the Siemens museum. Siemens is one of the world's foremost manufacturing companies, with over 380,000 employees. This is a company which has relied on invention and innovation to succeed: first to lay a trans-Atlantic telephone cable, and pioneers of mass micro-chip production, Siemens were also the first to introduce company pensions. That afternoon we visited the grim surroundings of the Hoechst chemical company. They made a very wide range of products, from fertilizers to de-cafeinated tea and coffee. The Germans do not go in for tea, and so virtually all of this is exported.

On the final morning Mr. Townsend took a the car enthusiasts to the BMW museum, while the rest of us went around Munich to see the sights, such as the famous main square with the huge ornate clocks.

Before leaving Germany we stopped to see Dachau, the first concentration camp in Germany: it was a harrowing and moving experience. On display were photographs and accounts of life there, and we also visited the shower rooms and the furnaces used for disposing of the dead. The group I went around with were silent throughout.

On behalf of everyone who went on the trip, I would like to thank Mr. Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Miss Fox and not least our guide, Nick, who kept us all amused.

Romania

**a report on a
charitable venture,
building a playground
for a Romanian
orphanage in the
summer of 1997,
by D Baxter VIJFH**

Supervisors:
RSS, Annette Kernahan,
Alison Hunt, Mark King
The team:
D Baxter, Rosemary
Blacking, W Bourne-
Taylor, Sarah Brown,
Louise Carter, J Dunbar,
J Ferguson, Olivia
Fraser, Victoria Jefferis,
L Johnson, A Stewart,
Jess Stott.

We began a trip which would shock us all in two minibuses, one full of equipment, the other crammed with people. I must say that for people who hardly knew each other, three days in a hot, cramped, sweaty minibus was a baptism of fire, but everyone was mature and patient to the point of saintliness.

There were twelve of us, all Lower Sixth, six from Abingdon and six from St. Helen's, with four adults. Before we even started, each school raised £6000, through TASS and a number of sponsored events. Thank you to all who gave time, effort and money to support this cause.

Arriving was a shock. Romania and Hungary seem to be a mix of rusting, industrial wasteland, and impoverished rural farming communities. However, even this could not have prepared us for our first view of the orphanage in daylight; monolithic, faceless buildings, almost ashamed of their purpose. The children seemed either unaware of the atmosphere, or at ease with it. It was their home.

The children were overjoyed to see us. Their lives are slow and we were a break from the norm. I was shocked by their reaction. They spoke broken English, asking our names, ages, and anything else which sign language allowed. Playing with them seemed to communicate more than talking.

To get attention from anyone was strange for them, and they held on to us jealously. For me it was almost too much to take in. They were not the sad and morose children whom I had expected to encounter; they were human beings, with hopes and fears. I felt privileged to have them share their feelings with me, a relative stranger.

Playing with them was unforgettable, emotional, tiring and much more. They all wanted our attention,

and sharing yourself whilst remaining sane was no easy task. However, the time which we spent with them allowed them to forge relationships with us individually, and I think all parties involved did a lot of growing up.

The playground itself had been pre-fabricated by a workshop which employs ex-orphanage children, and teaches them basic carpentry. Our job was to dig the holes and assemble the pieces. The work was physically tough, but a welcome break from playing with the children. It involved early starts and long hours, building half the day, and distracting the children from wandering onto the site.

Though the kitchens made a special effort, the fare placed before us was far from what we were used to. Breakfast was early and heavy, starchy bread with pâté or jam. Lunch was soup, and pasta with meat of questionable origin. Supper, with a welcome injection of vegetables, was eaten in a restaurant in town. It seems selfish to complain; it was good energy food, and the orphans have to endure it every day. Still, it was not for the sensitive.

One memorable day, we took the young children to the zoo. It was run down, with maltreated animals, cramped cages, and a stench of urine. Undaunted, the children were joyful throughout. They ran round again and again, always wanting to show us something which they had found. It is all the more sad that they knew no better than what was there.

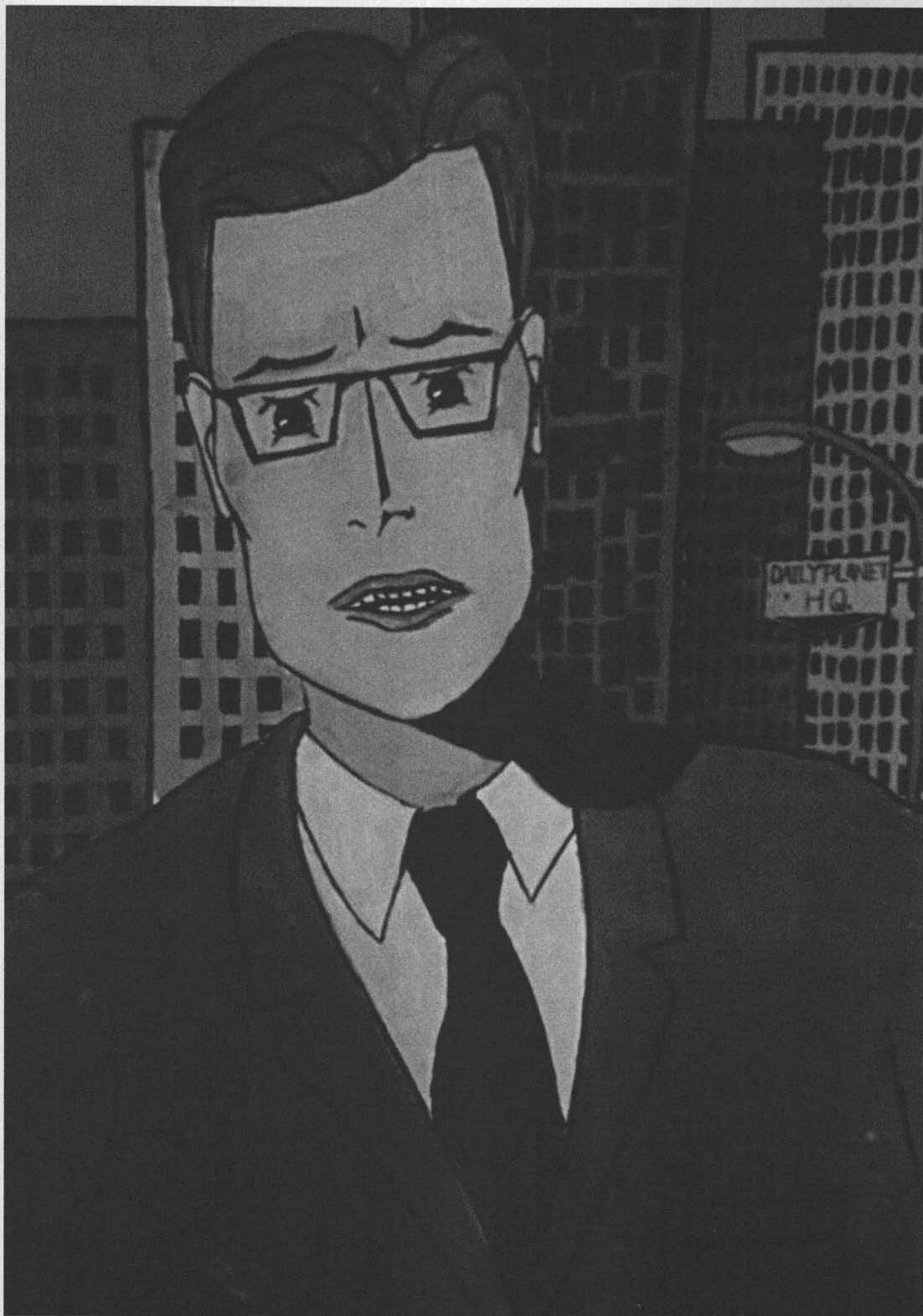
Leaving was painful for everyone. Photographs do not make up for the fact that you will probably never see someone again. The happiest thing was that, amid all the decay, we had done something positive. Everyone left something more than a playground, and brought back more than photographs.

Rydal Hall

**a report on the annual
Second Year trip
to the Lake District,
March 29th to April 3rd,
by P Tubman 2X**

The journey from Abingdon to Rydal Hall took about five hours, and when we finally arrived, we were immediately sent up a mountain. There were three groups, based on ability, and the top group usually climbed 900 metre mountains. We all climbed Scafell

Pike (978 metres), from the top of which we could see the Irish Sea. Also on offer were abseiling and swimming (in a pool of freezing mountain water). When we got back from every walk there was a race just to get to the showers, after such cold weather.



Music reports

Performing with the RSO

As part of his prize for winning a recent “Young Musician of the Year” award, Timothy Mak was given the opportunity of playing a violin concerto of his choice with the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

**a report of a concert
with the Reading
Symphony Orchestra
on January 31st,
from the perspective
of the soloist,
T Mak 6JRWB**

For the first time in my life, I played with a semi-professional orchestra. For the first time too, I made a public performance before an audience of several hundred. It was also the first time that I had played a complete concerto with any orchestra.

The concerto which I had chosen was Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto in G minor. Despite its minor key, the piece is a lively and colourful chromatic melange of artistic perfection. It is massive, lasting nearly half an hour, and it contains the longest solo which I have given. This also meant that I had to practise a lot beforehand.

On the day I was excited, but also anxious. Although I had been learning the piece since last summer, my “real” practice only began a few weeks before the concert. I had hoped to play to near perfection when I first knew about the performance, but I knew on the day that I was nowhere near this, neither technically nor stylistically.

That afternoon I had my last rehearsal with the orchestra. At about 7.45 p.m. I was on stage, closed

my eyes and started the solo. I tried to let the emotion of the music take control of my arms, but my pounding heart betrayed me and before the third page I had already made one big mistake. I calmed down after this, and played through the rest of the first movement with no more major slips. The second movement is slow, with a tinge of baroque style mingled with lyrical melodies and romantic harmony. It turned out to be the most appealing to my friends. I love the way that it can sound like a love song, and I tried to bring out this quality. The third movement was the least practised, but I just played on and at the end it felt as though I had never played it as well before. After the performance I was more relaxed and very happy, because many people came up to congratulate me.

Despite the fact that most people liked the second movement best, I feel that the first is the best, and I would describe it as artistic and intriguing. It is the musical equivalent of a landscape painting, into which the painter has put much feeling and emotion.

Brass masterclass

**a report of
an informal concert
and masterclass
with Mr. Gerry Ruddock,
on February 24th,
by S Smith 6DE**

The brass masterclass was a relaxed, informal concert intended to help brass players with general playing and performance technique. Mr. Ruddock, a trumpet teacher and member of the London Symphony Orchestra, was invited to give his advice, which he did with great skill and a liberal sprinkling of anecdotes.

The evening began with a short Renaissance dance played by all involved, as an ensemble. This was followed by various solo items before and after the interval. To start the second half, Mr. Ruddock gave a short talk about the four major orchestras in London,

as well as his personal experiences as a trumpeter. He highlighted the under-funding of orchestras by the Arts Council and the common problem of pre-concert nerves. The enjoyable programme was rounded off by another Renaissance dance, bringing everyone together again.

The concert was a great success, despite its small audience. Mr Ruddock's comments after each piece were well informed as well as invaluable, and, as Mr. Stinton said during the evening, we were fortunate to have a musician of such high quality with us.



Grand Orchestral concert

Grand it was. We heard excellent performances by all three of the School's orchestras.

The Second Orchestra, playing Verdi's *March* from *Aida*, (notably arranged by David Stone), and conducted by B. Darling, gave a particularly impressive performance. This was followed by Mascagni's *Melodies* from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and the finale from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, conducted by Mr. Stinton and M. O'Donovan (who won the Music Society prize for organ this year).

The Chamber Orchestra followed in its first warm-up run before the Italy tour, featuring the nimble-fingered E. Mason, who played the Vivaldi guitar concerto with tremendous verve. The work of Vaughan-Williams followed, with his prelude to the Welsh hymn tune *Rhosymedre* (originally written for organ), and the first half closed with T. Mak and Mr. Stinton playing the Bach concerto for violin and oboe.

This was a fine performance, and the two soloists deserve credit for their sensitive interpretation.

After due refreshment, we settled down once more for the First Orchestra. This half opened with V. Lee and his stunning rendition of Schumann's lyrical but amazingly tricky piano concerto. Although the orchestra perhaps sounded under-rehearsed, the end result was worthy of Victor's fine efforts. A piece of Mussorgsky came next with obscene satanic images in his *Night on a Bare Mountain*, a frightening piece (especially for the viola section) reflective of the composer's own tortured life. A rousing performance of Elgar's first *Pomp and Circumstance* march provided an optimistic end to the concert.

Congratulations go to our soloists, and to Messrs. Stinton and Elliott, not only conductors of merit, but the vertebrae of the organization which went to make the concert what it was.

**a report of a concert
given in the Amey Hall
on May 20th,
by M O'Donovan 6SAE
illustration by T Smith
6NAFP**

St. Matthew Passion

A joint choir and orchestra of almost two hundred musicians from Abingdon, St. Helen's and Josca's schools came together under the baton of Mr. Millard to perform the *St. Matthew Passion*, having rehearsed together only twice before.

**a report of the
joint choral societies'
performances of
J.S. Bach's
St. Matthew Passion,
in the Yolande Paterson
Hall, on March 21st,
and in the Wesley
Memorial Church,
Oxford on March 22nd,
by M O'Donovan 6SAE**

The choral society had been rehearsing every fortnight for the previous two terms, and the orchestra likewise for one term, before joining up for a rehearsal with the Josca's choir and the adult Choral Society on the Tuesday before the concert. This proved a tiring opportunity to test out our combined forces in the intimate atmosphere of the Yolande Paterson Hall at St. Helen's, but was a very promising glimpse of what was to come.

There was definite optimism among all the performers, although it was clear that they would have to be in top gear in the "real thing". The first performance, at St. Helen's, however, extinguished any doubts, and was greeted with enormous enthusiasm from the audience, filling the performers with confidence for the next performance.

The Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Oxford was the venue for the Sunday afternoon performance, which went equally well. The performers were even more in control of the music, compensating for singing and playing "cold", without rehearsal in a new,

dry, and carpet-filled acoustic. All the seats were filled, although there was only room enough for about half as many audience members as performers.

Congratulations must go to all those who had worked so hard throughout the preceding terms to learn the music. The number of people who merit individual thanks for this achievement is too great for them all to be named, but mention should be made of Mr. Elliott, who not only played the continuo part, but also helped in the chorus rehearsals.

All six soloists were excellent, in particular Mr. Taylor, who sang the part of the Evangelist with amazing conviction and dramatic expression, and also Henry Herford's superb Jesus. The ultimate thanks and congratulations must, however, go to the indefatigable Mr. Millard, who not only inspired everyone with his moving interpretation of this monumental work, but organized everything, from rehearsing the performers to hiring the continuo organ.

We look forward to next year and another joint performance, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

School bands

**a description of the
Second Wind Band's
activities, by D. Puri 2X,
together with a report
of the School Bands
Concert held in the
Amey Hall on May 8th,
by J Waldron 6NAFP**

All the instruments ranging from flute to tuba combine in the well-taught Second Wind Band, which practises on Monday lunch times in the Amey Hall. We have performed this year in three concerts. The present Second Wind Band has been together since September, and now we work well and play very good music together. Some of the tunes we have played recently are *Bandstand Boogie*, *Saxomatic*, and *If I were a Rich Man*.

A great success, with a good audience turnout, the School Bands Concert kicked off with the Second Wind Band playing two pieces. This band was of a very high standard considering the age groups concerned. It is to be renamed the Junior Wind Band and opened mainly to Lower School musicians later in the year.

After this came the Brass Band, conducted by Mr. Jones, and playing a selection of music ranging from Jazz to marches. The interval was followed by the First Wind Band. This included a memorable solo from S. Rutland on the xylophone in *Arranger's Holiday* (i.e. *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*). Another percussion solo was played by A. Stewart, our head boy, using the anvil, in *The Song of the Blacksmith*.

Big Band ran smoothly with the even smoother A. Bush conducting in his great jazz style. There were many solos here, especially in *Rock Around the Clock*, where an open chorus allowed almost everyone in the band to get up and improvise at the front of the stage. Solos were heard from people in the Lower School right up to the Upper Sixth, and every one of them was superb.



Italian tour

Four a.m. on the Friday morning saw fifty-six musicians, nine members of staff and a host of supportive, slightly apprehensive, but enthusiastic parents gathered outside the door of the Music School.

The coach arrived on time, was duly loaded, and after many farewells headed off for Dover. As the day brightened, we made good progress through Champagne countryside by way of Metz and Strasbourg. Our destination was Colmar, our halt for the first night. The youth hostel here was well appointed and a quick and well-planned settling in enabled us to catch a glimpse of the centre of town in the evening. Our experiences gave us no qualms about calling in here again on the return journey.

The following day saw us embark on the main leg of the journey to Florence. Industrial Basle soon gave way to some lovely alpine scenery and then to the St. Gotthard tunnel. The fully laden coach wheezed a little at this stage, but we negotiated the small hiccup soon enough and pressed on to the Italian border and Lake Como, which soon ran tantalizingly on our left. The beautifully-clad alpine foothills led us gradually down past Genoa and so to Tuscany.

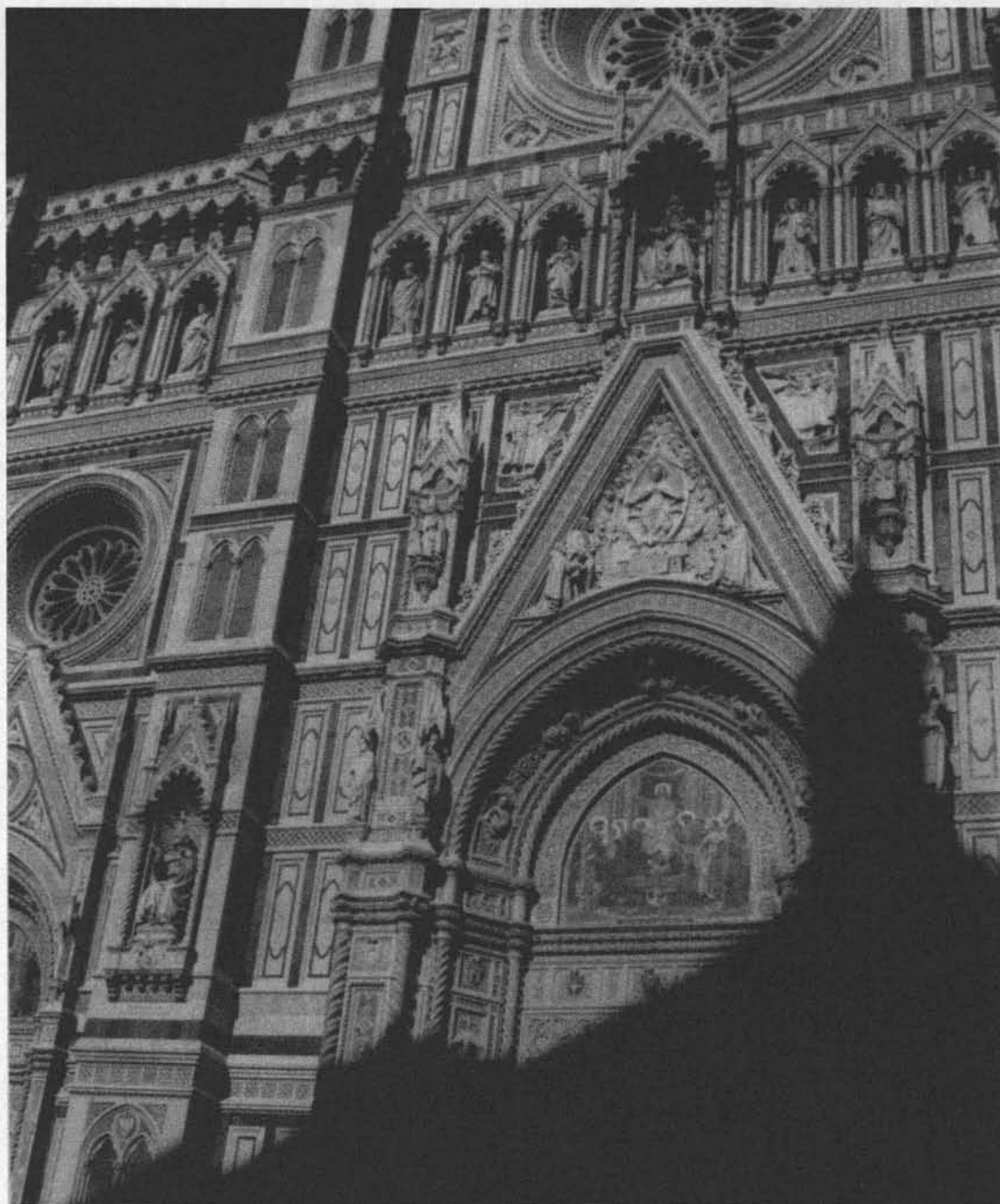
Montecatini serves as a dormitory town, well provided with hotels, for people wishing to visit

Florence. After an exploratory tour we located our destination, coyly placed on an agreeable square away from the main thoroughfares.

Our by now travel-hardened group thought the thirty kilometres to Florence the next morning, to sing an accompanied Mass at the Benedictine Church of San Miniato al Monte, a mere bagatelle. The singing here was delivered with comfortable conviction and panache. It was clear that the group was determined to rise to the occasion, inspired partly by the *ambiance*. San Miniato (named after a Third Century martyr) is located on the hill which most strikingly overlooks the city. There is a full view of the Duomo, ducal palazzo and the whole city, at least in so far as the view is not obscured by the pines, cypresses and poplars which bedeck the hillside. After lunch we practised in the church and then explored the city for some hours before returning for the evening performance. This church's monastic order is predominantly enclosed, but some monks liaised with the public and warmly indicated their support and appreciation. Something in the order of 250 people came to the concert.

The choir led off with Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, took us through Purcell and on to Boyce's *Birthday*

**a report of the
Chapel Choir
& Chamber Orchestra
trip to Italy
July 10th to 20th,
by RSKM
pictures by MAS**



Overture, just produced from an autograph score in the Bodleian; thus a world première. MAS and Timothy Mak's rendering of Bach's concerto for oboe and violin (BWV1060) was a veritable *tour de force*. The whole performance was warmly received by the appreciative audience and an encore insisted upon. This was a very gratifying vindication of the work and organization which had gone into the whole so far. Glancing out of the open doors of San Miniato in the dying light, seeing the lights of Florence coming up, and listening to the sounds of Bach in the warm evening air, was an unforgettable moment.

By now we had been joined by our guide, Senora Veronica dell Signore, and made with all speed the following day to Lucca, Abingdon's twin town. The walled town was a new experience for us, and having to carry our musical equipment through the city gates to the church because coaches are excluded was a graphic illustration of the principles underlying the Italian city-state.

Your correspondent would be happy to write endlessly about the imaginative evolution of the town's amphitheatre and the merits of chilled coffee in little-sought haunts, but our business now was getting ourselves to the church of San Frediano, founded, it seems, by an Irish ascetic of the Eighth Century. The church was classic Romanesque, cool, with a subtle alternation of light and dark. The altar was well proportioned and when the orchestra and choir were positioned on the steps we began to appreciate how wide it actually was. The marble pews to the right gave ample accommodation for the choir when they deferred to the orchestra.

It was a sad fact that a major jazz/funk concert was taking place that same evening, and there was a visiting group from the University of Cincinnati performing as well. Our audience was therefore small, but very appreciative. We were introduced in some style by the local link officer. The priest in attendance was quiet and plainly attired, but very appreciative of our musical

efforts. The pieces by Byrd, Taverner and Purcell were all well rendered, while E. Mason's account of Vivaldi's concerto for guitar was a particularly pleasing. Some of the trebles particularly distinguished themselves in their singing of Mozart's *Missa Brevis* K194. Space hardly permits me to say that in the earlier part of the day we had gone to Pisa to see the leaning tower, but were even more mesmerized by the ensemble of the Campo dei Miracoli, including the Baptistery and the Cathedral. Outside the walls there was a new stimulus in the form of the street vendors who met something of their match in the bargaining powers of our boys. And wonder of wonders, even our organizer was moved to purchase a resplendent conical Senegalese head protector at a bargain price.

The following day was one of sight-seeing. It had been decided that Viareggio was in the wrong direction and a diversion to San Germignano was planned instead. Walking through the entrance to just one wine cellar out into the back, balancing on the walls and so getting a view onto the terraced backs of the houses climbing in defensive formation up the hill was exhilarating. The numerous shops with all kinds of items, some of which were being worked even as we watched, lined the streets and gave us a foretaste of Siena which we were to see later that afternoon. The evening meal was very welcome and eaten in a restaurant facing Siena's Piazza del Campo. Here horse races ("Palio") are held twice in the summer, each runner and jockey representing a different quarter of the town and heralded by a colourful procession in mediaeval armour and much excited flag waving.

On the Wednesday we transferred hotels to Stra in the Veneto. This was to be our new base for the next three days. Thursday saw us make the journey to Venice: we experienced the canals, water buses, San Marco and a helpful two-hour guided tour which outlined some of the key aspects of the city. This included a synopsis of some of the features of the Basilica di San Marco. By chance we were inside when the lights were on, so had an enhanced view of the interior of the various domes and their staggering mosaics. The afternoon was free for wandering and sight-seeing, after which we returned to San Marco to accompany the mass with four motets: Taverner, Byrd, Parry and Duruflé. By now we had a number of parents who had joined up with the group at various stages and helped us to celebrate mass in a side chapel with a smallish congregation, filled out by a number of tourists who had found their way in as well. The choir was ranged in an arc to flank the altar and the congregation, while the non-singers, supporters and staff were arranged in seated rows behind. RSE and JEM took it in turns to conduct the pieces. Both found the experience quite extraordinary, as the complex acoustic structure took the final notes and held them for a full five to six seconds. So startling was the effect that the audience burst into spontaneous applause at the end: a memorable occasion.

Friday saw us back in the Venice area, this time travelling to some of the islands, first to Murmano where we visited a glass-making factory, then to Burano where the local activities included fishing and lace-making. There had been two highlights prior to this: an informal sing in the church of Santa Maria e Donato with its beautiful mosaics, and an impromptu run-around over lunch in the local school playground. The unscheduled highlight was an evening performance, by the Orchestra del Teatro Fenice, of Mahler's Ninth in the Palladian Palazzo Pisani, two kilometres up the road. Getting to this put arrangements under some pressure, but with characteristic Abingdon aplomb we arrived with just one minute to spare, only to find that the opera house's principal conductor, Isaac Karabtchevsky, was nearly an hour late...

On the Saturday we began to turn our steps homeward. Once again we transferred hotels, this time to Padua, and after a quick lunch took the opportunity to visit the Capella degli Scrovegni which houses a complete cycle of Giotto frescoes. Coming back out into the sunlight after this extraordinary experience we immersed ourselves once again in an Italian cultural bath by visiting the town museum. The next step was to prepare ourselves for our final concert in the church of San Francesco. This was to be the climax of the tour. The repertoire was made up of pieces which had all been performed already: the difference was that now the playing was informed with confidence as well as a consciousness that this was our last performance. From the first call for attention to RSE's baton for the opening bar of *Zadok*, it was clear that the performance was going to be suffused with vitality and *brio*. There was a feeling as well as volume in the *Rhosymedre* and the two motets. The Bach concerto was finely balanced between oboe and violin. With scarcely a break the second half began with a clear and sonorous declaration from the brass in Gabrieli's *Canzona à 8*. This time E. Mason was able to sit in front of the orchestra when performing Vivaldi's guitar concerto, and the gain in clarity and projection was appreciable. The closing piece, Handel's *The King Shall Rejoice*, was sung with something approaching fervour. The Baroque accretions in this otherwise Romanesque church were delightful and wholly appropriate for much of the music being performed. The capacity audience were warm in their appreciation and insisted on two encores, at which point it was time to acknowledge that the tour had ended on a memorable high note.

It was a happy and very successful tour and a pleasure to be with. The group was particularly good-natured yet purposeful throughout. Thanks to all who lent a hand, to MAS who initiated the tour, RSE, JEM, FCB, and DJD (our banker), to Mrs. Findlay for her invaluable medical expertise, and to Mr. Frank Toms who popped up with many helpful suggestions and an equal number of jokes. A particular word of thanks must go to Mrs. Laura Taroni, who accompanied the tour throughout Italy and who was an invaluable support at all stages.

Drama reports

On the Razzle

**a report of a production
of Tom Stoppard's
'On the Razzle',
held in the Charles
Maud Room,
March 24th to 26th,
by C Dugan 6NMR**

Mr. Figgis' superb production of Tom Stoppard's fast-moving farce *On the Razzle* was responsible for peals of laughter coming from the CMR. This ambitious joint production with St. Helen's was made to work by perfect timing, the secret to any comedy.

The story starts in the shop of the bungling, bombastic Herr Zangler (H. Watkinson). He makes a visit to Vienna, leaving his two shop assistants in charge. Christopher and Weinberl (B. Wells and J. Margree) decide to go "on the razzle" and hit Vienna (to the sound of Meat Loaf). They spend the rest of the play trying to dodge their employer in the restaurants and shops of town, which leads to some hilarious scenes of impersonation and mistaken identity.

One of the many memorable performances was J. Montague as the schizophrenic, sex-obsessed coachman. He found his love in the maid Lizzete, played by V. Brutton. C. Mason played an impressive array of parts, including Philippine, the hat shop's camp assistant. H. Watkinson managed to get everyone leaving the theatre saying his unforgettable

catch phrase: "nooooo". Particular credit should be given to N. Brewer, who stepped in at the last minute to produce a very worthwhile performance as Melchior, Zangler's servant.

Once the audience had warmed up (after being told by Weinberl to laugh like an Irishman as opposed to an Englishman), a great atmosphere was created. The intimacy of the CMR helped to involve the audience, and everyone got into the spirit. The brilliant staging brought it all to life, and the back drops, particularly to the shop, were very realistic. There was even a wire stretched across the stage for a spring-loaded cash canister. The scenery curtain rail's repeated collapse on one night brought one of the biggest laughs, in the true spirit of the play.

The final night was concluded with an extra scene, written by the cast, using altered extracts from the text. Messrs. Figgis and Pettitt are to be thanked by all for putting on a production which was thoroughly entertaining, both for those watching, and for those involved in the performances.

Trafford Tanzi/Battle of the Sexes

**a report of a production
of 'Battle of the Sexes'
and 'Trafford Tanzi'
held in the Yolande
Paterson and Amey Halls,
March 11th to 14th,
by J Evans 6SCW and
C Mason 6GCR**

This was a truly joint production, starting at St. Helen's and finishing in the Amey Hall, taking in the CMR *en route*. The arrival of a full-sized boxing ring on the Amey Hall stage was a sure sign that it was going to be a production to remember. The audiences at all four performances were not disappointed, as they were entertained by genuine enthusiasm from all members of both casts.

Battle of the Sexes was a selection of play extracts, poems and songs (many by members of both schools) on the theme of the age-old conflict between men and women. It opened with the Adam and Eve scene from Tony Harrison's adaptation of the medieval mystery plays, and moved on by way of Alan Bennett to a John Cleese and Bill Oddie sketch to a poignant extract from Brian Friel's play *Lovers*.

In the interval there was an excellent cabaret in the CMR, directed by Mr. Millard, and some people had rôles in this as well as in the plays. J. Eaton, for example, was in the wings in the first play made up and wearing pony-tails ready for his performance of *Sweet Transvestite* in the interval.

Claire Luckham's play *Trafford Tanzi* followed, with different casts on alternate nights. It described the tempestuous life of Tanzi (Emily Seares and Rachel Ellis), represented by various fights between her and her family and her husband Dean Rebel (R. Dawson and M. Bartlett). The play was brought together by the referee (M. Lloyd, winner of the North drama prize), whose performance was particularly notable. The cast had been trained well by the Oxfordshire judo coach, and the wrestling looked fairly realistic. The play was bold, brash, fast and noisy, requiring audience participation in the form of cheering, jeering and the throwing of fruit at appropriate moments.

The original music written by O. Horton provided an exciting atmosphere and perhaps should have made him a choice for the musical achievement prize.

The project was enormously enjoyable to watch and a challenge to act in. Despite being extremely ambitious, they were pulled off well, a testament to Mr. Taylor's direction and the energy of the cast. The productions will long be remembered as the start of an exciting new era in drama links with St. Helen's.



School for Scandal

The setting of the CMR evoked the claustrophobic intimacy of the society of the period, the audience being able to share in the malice of the "school" scenes. Costumes, wigs and make-up were appropriately extravagant, and the use of lighting and music was elegant and refined, suiting the sense of continuous veiled cynicism and hypocrisy in much of the play. Great attention was given to detail, particularly poise and posture, ensuring that the characterization was so much more assured. All those who took part in the "school" scenes exchanged gossip (often clearly ridiculous) with obvious cruel enjoyment. In direct contrast, the uproarious drunken scene provided relief from the barbed wit of the rumour-mongers.

The use of disguises by various characters demonstrated the superficiality of society. T. Richards (Sir Oliver Surface) struck exactly the right balance between pretence to those on stage and a knowing rapport with the audience. The discovery of Lady Teazle hidden behind a screen provided one of the play's most amusing moments, Katherine Mulqueen and Lizzie Alloway (on alternate nights) both rendered speechless with surprise and shock, in contrast with their earlier argumentative self-assurance.

The performances showed, without exception, enjoyment and individuality. C. Mason (winner of a

David Taylor drama prize) was always witty and vibrant as Joseph Surface, intent on preserving his undeserved good reputation. The warm but much-maligned Charles Surface was played with suitable exuberance by J. Eaton. A. Holland affected a remarkably life-like self-obsession as the foppish Sir Benjamin, and A. Carnwath (as his "odious uncle Crabtree") combined self-congratulation and obvious absurdity. D. Wilberforce's Mr. Snake was genuinely creepy, and Mrs. Candour (Catherine Oddie) particularly enlivened the "school" scenes with her insatiable appetite for gossip. Perhaps most sinister of all in her hypocritical flattery was Lady Sneerwell (Rachel Ellis). Jenny Newman was sickeningly virtuous as Maria, and M. Bartlett (Sir Peter Teazle) made a memorable appearance "with a small sword through his body and a bullet lodged in his throat".

This was a hugely enjoyable play in which to take part. Many thanks to Mrs. Finnimore for her imaginative direction, constructive criticism and success in cajoling various would-be fops out of their shells. Thanks must also go to Dawn Lupton for her creative handling of the wardrobe, as well as to all of the production crew, including P. Biggs, who won the Larkhill Trophy and Amey Hall Service prize this year for his contributions to School productions.

**a report on a joint
Abingdon-St. Helen's
production
of Sheridan's play,
held in the
Charles Maud Room,
June 23rd to 26th,
by A Carnwath 6DE**

A Midsummer Night's Dream

**a report of the joint
Abingdon-St. Helen's
production
of one of Shakespeare's
most popular comedies,
in the Amey Hall,
June 30th to July 2nd,
by C Dugan 6NMR**

Directed by Mr. Taylor, this joint venture with St. Helen's turned out to be an ambitiously lavish production. The cast, made up entirely of Third Year pupils, made a decent stab at some very difficult dialogue. It is particularly challenging to remember the words, whilst conveying the meaning. On the whole this was achieved fairly successfully.

The play, set in and around Athens, contains a number of parallel plots which ultimately converge in the forest. The story centres around Hermia (Lucy Longhurst), who is being pursued by Demetrius and Lysander (brilliantly portrayed by J. Sasanow and S. Evans respectively). Much to her father's disgust, she is in love with Lysander, and they run off to the forest together. Demetrius follows, but is in turn courted by Hermia's friend, Helena (Amy Croasdale). The plot gets ever more complex, as they enter the domain of the fairies, led by Oberon and Titania (A. Markham and Sophie Burns). The all-powerful love potion

throws everything into confusion, with classic scenes of mistaken identity following. A group of bungling actors rehearsing for a play even get caught up in it all. W. Gervers played Bottom, who gets turned into an ass by Puck (T. Blackshaw).

The play-within-the-play provided the most entertainment, with the male cast playing everything from women and walls to wild beasts.

The original music (composed by O. Horton) was very effective. The play started off dramatically with the familiar sound of the *Mission Impossible* theme tune echoing through the Amey Hall, as the fairies entered. Combined with the sweeping torches, a brilliantly "over the top effect" was created.

Mr. Biggs' superb set, involving an intricate network of ribbons, a raised wooden star, and a dappled forest floor added to the dream-like feel to the play. Combined with the wide range of coloured lighting, it was a splendidly visual production.



Last year over 200,000 students preferred to bank with NatWest.

To find out why and for more information about
our Student Account, ring 01235 528900 and
speak to Sarah Montague at Abingdon Branch.



NatWest

More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered Office: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.
Registered Number 929027 England.

We may monitor and record your calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service.

Charities

Five-a-side football

**a report on the
Five-a-side tournament
held in aid of
meningitis charities,
in memory of
Richard Anderson**

As a result of the tragic death of Richard Anderson and the huge effect which it had on many of his companions in the School, it was decided to raise money for research into the causes of meningitis. After much deliberation we decided to hold a football tournament.

Predominantly organized by the Lower Sixth, the team entries were split into two: Lower Sixth and Middle School. Thankfully, on the day everything slipped into place: the staff cricket (which had threatened to steal our referees) was cancelled.

The fight for the Upper School cup (kindly donated by the Mercer's Court Tuck Shop) was tense, two of the stronger teams, the "Greasy Lovers" and "Twelve-Inch Wonder Boys", struggling against the Crescent opposition, the "Spice Boys". The final was unfortunately dogged by the fact that after four hours

of football the sides were exhausted, with the "Organizers" winning 2-0.

Special mention must be made of the competition top scorers, R. Smith and C. Howard with 14 goals, and the victorious side, consisting of J. Lucas, D. Pearson, S. Hughes, M. Harris, B. Watts and S. Tompkins. The Middle School competition was won by the sole Fifth Year side.

In all, around £400 was made for charity. Thanks go to all the staff who refereed, and to Mr. Martin, S. Tompkins, J. Lucas, B. Watts and M. Harris for most of the organization.

In memory of Richard Anderson, a trophy has been instituted to be awarded for sporting achievement in the face of adversity. This year it was awarded to M. Capon.

World book day

**a report on this
charity event
on April 23rd,
in support of Book Aid,
by K Thyagaraja 4ASP**

Towards the end of the Lent term, boys collected their sponsor forms for World Book Day. The money raised by our sponsored reading was to go to the charity, Book Aid, which provides vitally needed resources for poorly equipped schools in Africa and elsewhere. As an added incentive to those who took part, the Library offered two £10 prizes, one to the boy from the Lower School who raised the most money (C. Hall), and one for the boy who read the most books: me.

Parents were hugely helpful, delivering books by the box-full, so that we were able to hand on hundreds of useful books to the Book Aid collectors, and managed to contribute some £320 to the charity in addition.

As part of World Book Day, £1 book tokens were issued by the government to all children in full time education on the day. Unfortunately, I forgot about mine until after it had expired, but hopefully others made good use of them.

Computer tokens

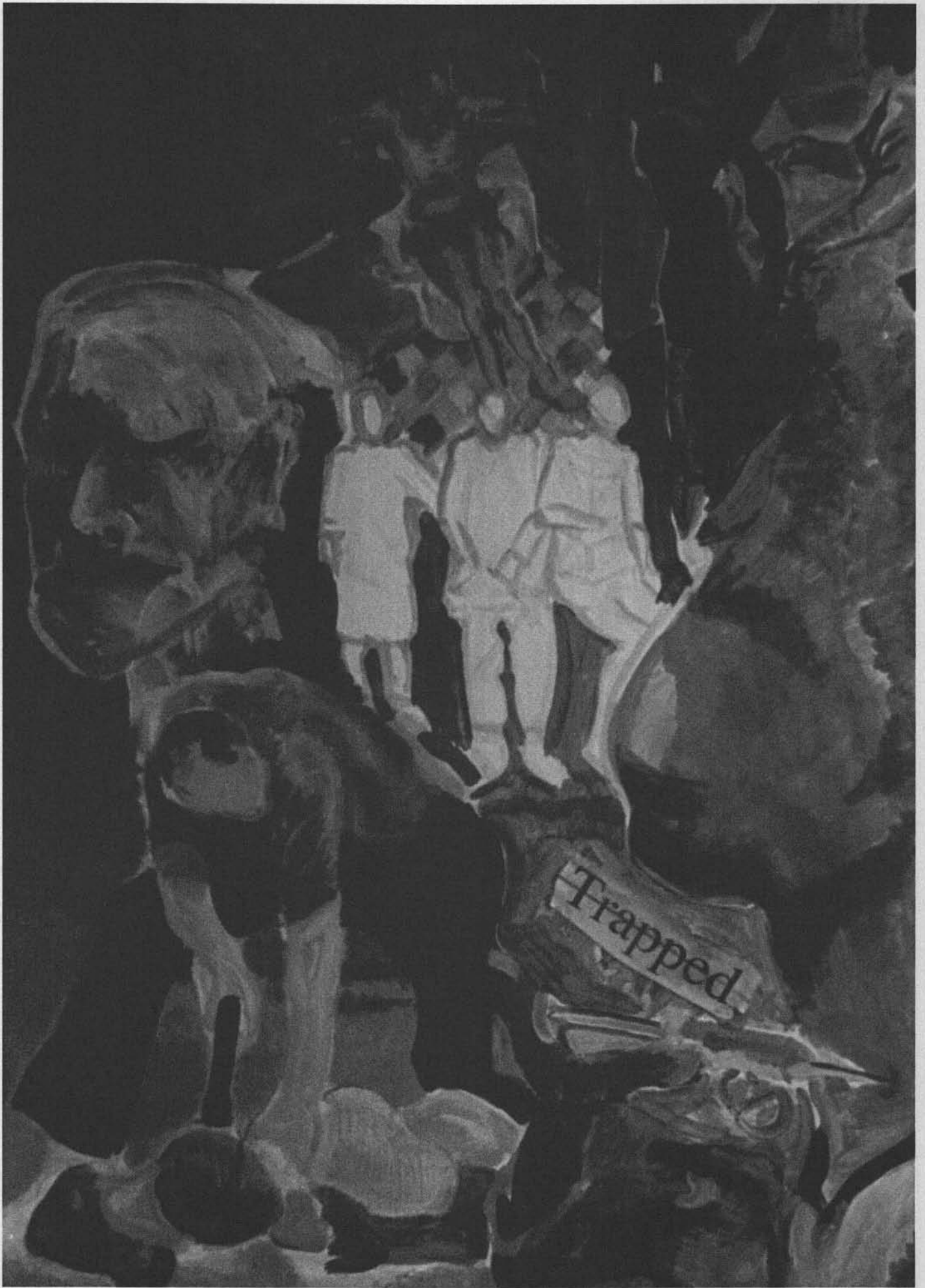
a report by R Thomas 2B

In the Lower School we started to collect Tesco computer tokens for the Kingfisher School.

As the total rose we managed to get everyone involved and raised 5065 tokens. We took them to the

Kingfisher School on Tuesday 16th June, and hope that our combined efforts will provide a computer for the children there.

We are very grateful for everyone's support.



picture by A Brown
VIWHZ

CCF reports

Cyprus

Normally adventure training camps with the CCF involve staying in a cold wet barrack block somewhere in the UK, and so ten cadets and four staff leapt at the chance to visit the First Battalion, the Light Infantry in Cyprus.

**a report on the CCF's
adventurous training
camp at Easter in Cyprus,
by J Wood 5RSE**

We arrived at Episkopi Garrison at 0530, and after some sleep left the garrison to go climbing. Two officers from 1LI set up a couple of climbs for us to try. During his briefing, Lt. Olly King told us how, as you abseil back down, the forces of gravity increase, making the fall harder. He might have got away with this, as we were all tired, but we had two physicists and a maths teacher with us...

On Saturday we had a tour of the section of the "Green Line" buffer zone running through Nicosia. In 1974 Turkish troops invaded and occupied the north of the island in response to a Greek-Cypriot coup in the capital Nicosia, aimed at uniting the island with Greece. The Turkish Cypriots declared their own state in 1983, but it is only recognized by Turkey. The island is now divided into three: Turks in the north, Greeks in the south, and a UN-patrolled zone between them. Walking between the cease-fire lines we got an idea of how petty the situation is. The respective Greek and Turkish commanders are pleased to gain two inches of land. At night the two sides hurl insults and stones.

Sunday provided the first surprise of the camp: skiing. As we neared the top of the Troodos mountains, and saw cars and coaches falling by the wayside as the snow and ice proved too much, we realized that conditions up the mountain were completely different from those at the bottom. The novices had a lesson and the rest started skiing immediately.

We were up on Monday at 0600 for PT, the morning taken up by instruction on the SA80 rifle, L96A1 sniper rifle and the 51mm mortar. In the afternoon we were on the range, firing the SA80. This was followed by a night exercise. We were divided up into two opposing sections. During the night, patrols were sent out to locate and "recce" the other section's position until 0400. Unfortunately, my section never found the enemy, although we were told the next day that we actually walked right past them. The second section, under Sgt. P. Biggs, did find our position.

Then it was into "civvies" for rioting. A group of soldiers was preparing for a tour in Ireland, and needed training in riot control techniques. We were to be rioters. Four soldiers with six foot shields lined up on each side of their armoured personnel carrier

(APC). Behind them were baton gunners (who would pretend to fire plastic bullets) and "snatch squads" (who would capture those rioters hit with plastic bullets). The lines moved forward, and we pelted them with potatoes. When they stopped, we began to kick and shoulder barge the shields, disrupting the lines as much as possible. It was excellent fun and despite the inevitable cuts and bruises we did really well, breaking up the lines in places and bending all the shields. I, however, went a bit over the top and ended up in amongst some very angry soldiers swinging batons...

The next day the same officers set up two climbs by a stream: the view was stunning and the climbs once again excellent, though slightly harder. An impromptu "death-slide" off a cliff rounded off an excellent morning. After lunch we each took a mountain bike and helmet and, after the inevitable complaints, set off upwards. After seven kilometres of mostly hard uphill slog, three stream fordings, a bit of pushing up cliff-like slopes and some getting lost, we reached our destination. Five kilometres down the track in front of us was the finish. Having been told that it was now all downhill, we needed no more encouragement.

Thursday started with horse-riding. We then were given a flight in a Gazelle, a small helicopter used mainly for communication purposes. Our flights were only five minutes long, but we were still able to see the entire camp from the air. On landing we were given a talk on signals. It then began to rain, so the programme was revised and we headed off to Akrotiri to look at the Wessex helicopters of 84 Squadron.

On Friday we again headed to Akrotiri, to visit the RAF Regiment, in charge of defending the station against attack. We donned body armour and kevlar helmets and had a ride along the perimeter in the Saxon APC which they use to patrol, looking out of the top of the vehicle, and racing along at breakneck speed over bumps and through puddles. In the afternoon high winds put paid to water-skiing and wind-surfing and we ended up having a very refreshing swim in the sea.

Our thanks go to Second Lieutenant Buick and all those members of 1LI who put up with us for a week, as well as Mr. Haworth, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. Ocock and Mrs. Down for their company.



Recruit camp

Twenty-two Third Form Recruits started the week at Longmoor Training Area, and we finished up with twenty-one, losing one to illness.

The short, sharp, shock introduction to military life left the majority of the Recruits somewhat shell-shocked during the first twenty-four hours. However, under the brotherly eye of the Fifth Year NCOs and the vociferous encouragement of the officers, and despite the inclement weather, a huge improvement was visibly achieved over the week.

The first four days were spent in barracks, with the time spent on drill and section tactics, with afternoons on the training area. The lessons learned during this time were put into practice from Friday afternoon until Saturday afternoon, in a twenty-four hour tactical field exercise. Recruits spent a night out under no more than a groundsheet, mounting patrols, doing sentry duty, being attacked, and finally, after a few hours restless sleep, being woken at five in the morning.

The culmination of the week for us all was the passing-out parade on Sunday. Wing Commander Heralfy, the station commander of RAF Oakhanger, took the salute, and also presented berets to the Recruits, in front of a proud audience of parents.

Sqn. Ldr. Haworth and I would like to congratulate all of the Recruits for their hard work and dedication, and on the very high standard which they managed to achieve during the week. The support and professional attitude of the NCOs (Alex Smith OA, Sgts. J. Wood and P. Tolley, and Cpls. R. Holman and L. Conway) made the whole task much easier. We would also like to thank our SSI "Mac" McCreedy for feeding us throughout the week (and producing a splendid lunch on his field kitchen for us all after the passing out parade) and also Lt. Col. Ashworth, whose wealth of experience was of huge benefit to us. The best Recruit on camp was T. Blackshaw, and the most improved during the week was M. Hylla

a report on the first annual Recruit training camp at Longmoor, from April 13th to 19th, by Lt. DJM Carson, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry photograph by DH

Duke of Edinburgh Dartmoor

After an uncomfortable journey of four hours, with the torture of Mr. Sandow's music collection, we did not welcome the half hour's struggle with tents on a rainy, blustery Dartmoor slope in the dark. Things progressed from bad to worse: my tent let rain in, and so I had wet clothes for the next three days.

"You learn from your mistakes", chuckled Dr. Gunn.

**a report on the first
training expedition for
the Duke of Edinburgh's
Award, on Dartmoor,
March 12th-15th,
by A Benson 6TCG
and S Smith 6DE**

Bronze, Silver and Gold Award groups participated in this expedition, as well as the 45-mile Ten Tors team. There were some 15 people taking part at Gold level.

The Gold Award people were split up into smaller groups, and we gained a real sense of team spirit, all having a chance to navigate. The unique sense of satisfaction from reaching your destination by map reading with a compass and minimal landmarks makes it all worthwhile.

We soon got a feel for the type of terrain which we would be walking over for the next three days: tufts of tough grass on the tops of tors (hence blisters and twisted ankles), followed by marshy patches in valleys (dirty, soaking wet clothes). The most amusing of these times was when A. Heather sank to his waist and grabbed the fence in front of him: a barbed wire fence. The shrill scream sent sheep and horses fleeing.

We learned how to spot where these areas were most likely to be on the map, as well as where to get water from a stream. The weather refused to get any drier during the afternoon, particularly at the summit of the tors where low-lying cloud tended to gather, and the climbing began to get steeper, particularly with a scramble across the deep, narrow valley of Tavy Cleave. It had been a hard day, partly because of our inexperience of serious walking and partly because of the rain.

The second day was much drier with little or no rain during the night, even though it was still cloudy. Spare dry clothes were made use of, and Dr. Gunn decided to allow some of us to walk without his guidance. This was much more relaxing and fun, since there was no one watching our every move and we could walk more at our own pace. The day started with a short but very steep climb up Brat Tor, which reminded us of how difficult yesterday was, in case we had forgotten.

After the much more enjoyable jog down we soon arrived back at Tavy Cleave, this time crossing at an even steeper point requiring us to get across a much

larger river at the bottom. With the visibility much better, there was a much better view, which I would have appreciated even more had I not fallen in the river and had to climb with wet boots. It was at this point that we diverged from the first day's route and headed south.

Before lunch we caught up with another Gold group who had travelled both days without supervision. By the afternoon, one in their group was having ankle problems and some of us were finding the route hard, so six of us broke off at another steep valley by Devil's Tor and followed the river without crossing it and climbing again. We met up about two hours later at the campsite where we would spend the night, having found out that the proper route would have been quicker if we had managed to climb the tor.

It was decided that a morning of light walking would be enough for the third and final day. Staying in the groups set on the second day, we shared one rucksack of food, medical kit and the like between us. The sun actually started to shine and most of the cloud had gone after a cold night. There was only one major tor to climb, which we managed to skirt around, before we took a long stop at a particularly scenic spot. After this was a river to cross before following the road to a car park where the minibus was waiting, signalling the end of the expedition.

On reflection, despite problems such as tents which rained on the inside, falling into bogs and potholes, and extreme tiredness, this expedition was very useful and enjoyable. People became a lot more generous with their sweets and equipment, and also became more tolerant. I also made friends with people from my year whom I only previously knew in passing.

When it was time to return everyone regretted having to go, although they were a bit relieved to avoid any more blisters. We were all very appreciative of the hard work put in by Dr. Gunn, Mr. Haworth and Mr. Sandow.



The Porsche Boxster.

Complete your education at Dick Lovett.

The Porsche experience starts at Dick Lovett in Swindon.

We have been official Porsche dealers for over 25 years. We offer

- New 911s and Boxsters available for demonstration
- Probably the best selection of previously owned Porsches
- Vehicle servicing at affordable prices, with collection, delivery and loan cars available
- The full range of genuine Porsche parts and accessories

Visit the Dick Lovett Porsche Centre today.

The end of your education and the start of a great relationship.

Dick Lovett, Ashworth Road, Bridgemead, Swindon SN5 7UR.

Telephone **01793 615888**



PORSCHE

Dick Lovett

Official Porsche Centre



SALINGER'S
OXFORD

There are
fewer than 129
revising days
until
Christmas.

If you are sitting **'A' level modular exams** or mocks
this January, *Salinger's* will be able to help.
We will be running a series of short, module-specific
revision courses during December and January.
Contact us by phone or fax on **(01865) 516811**.

The Baker Award

The Baker Award, a new initiative this year, is the Lower School's equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. It is named after Mr. Roger Baker, a long-serving member of staff at Abingdon School until 1994. As a skilled teacher of mathematics, committed voluntary worker, energetic marathon runner and experienced mountaineer, he encapsulates the spirit of the Award.

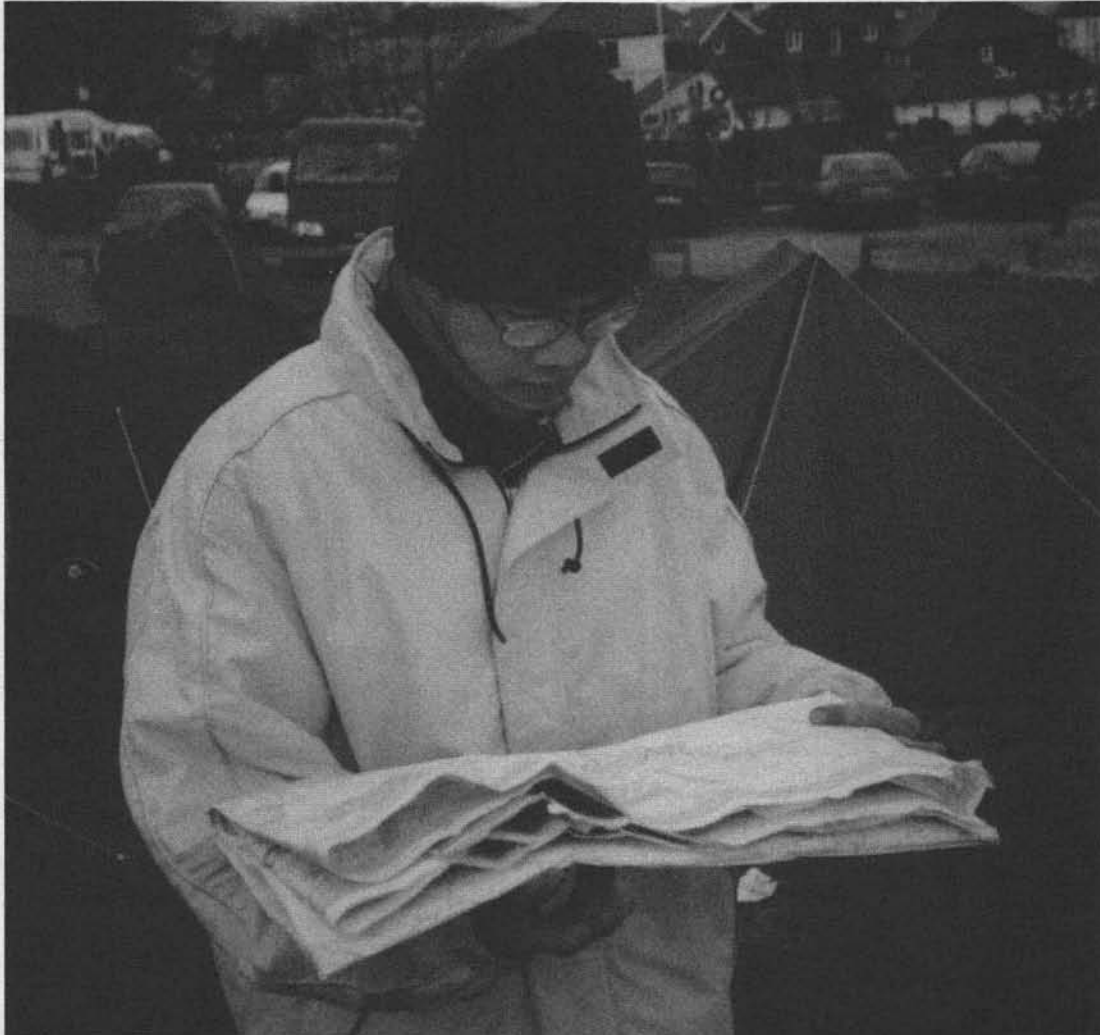
Every member of the Lower School was given a small blue book at the beginning of the School year, and at some point in any after-School activity gets the teacher to sign a certain page in the book. The page which is used depends on the category it is put under.

The categories are service, skill, physical recreation and expedition. Service includes anything which means that you help other people (Lower School prefect or librarian, for example). Skills are anything which require some form of skill (playing a musical instrument or being in a choir). Any form of sport is acceptable for the

physical recreation category. The expedition category requires the pupil to stay two nights away from home at some stage in the School year.

The award is a very efficient way of finding out what certain boys are doing as their other half activities, and if it is thought that they are not taking advantage of the facilities available, they can be encouraged to do more. Participating in the scheme helps boys to make new friends, develop their interests and skills, and play a useful and responsible part within the School community.

**a report on the Lower
School award scheme
by J Chater 2B
photograph by DH**



Sports reports

Lower School

reports of Lower School
athletics and badminton
by M Johnson and P Craig 2X

Mr. Spencer was normally in charge of athletics training sessions, which took place for the Lower School on Mondays and Thursdays. Field events included high jump, long jump, shot-put, discus and the javelin. If you enjoyed any of these you could come and practise one or more.

On Wednesdays we went up to Tilsley Park to practise. At Tilsley Park we got to use proper equipment, which was much better. J. Richards has proved to be the expert at track events, as well as at cross country running.

You never know, you might have a hidden talent for something, like me. I cleared 1.50 metres on the high jump by about 10 centimetres, which may be a record for my age in the School.

Although badminton is a round-the-year activity, it does stall for a while in the summer term, owing to exams in the Sports Hall. It happens every day of the week, but on Saturdays Lower School gets priority and you usually get to play all of the time. Mr. Macdonald is in charge and there is a friendly atmosphere. We did not have any matches, but that does not matter.

Badminton

10/1 Wellington (H) Won 21-3
24/1 Cheltenham (A) Won 12-6
20/1 Rugby (A) Won 9-0
28/1 Oratory (H) Won 14-2
4/2 Millfield (H) Won 22-8
7/2 Marlborough (A) Won 30-0
14/3 Eton (H) Won 19-2
report by IAM

For the first time in a generation we have had a completely unbeaten season. It was particularly pleasing to find that we could take on, and beat, what is often considered the bench-mark of sporting excellence in the public school sphere: Millfield.

Having so many powerful players, we may, paradoxically, field teams in danger of losing a match: if the top squad completely flattened a school in the Michaelmas term, then for the return fixture in February, we might substitute some less experienced players who will struggle to win.

If the opposition understands that we have not suddenly lost our form this practice is fine, but last Lent term one school forgot this and sowed the wind by getting uppity. They reaped the whirlwind later and got the benefit of the Abingdon "murder machine" at full strength.

Abingdon boys came close to cleaning up completely at the Oxfordshire Area Schools Tournament, winning the boys' singles and doubles at U12, U14, U16 and U19 levels.

In the County finals A. Salam won the U12 boys' singles: A. Salam and A. McKenzie won the U12 boys' doubles: B. Chadwick reached the second round of the U14 boys' singles: F. Hemsley and P. Tubman were runners up in the boys' U14 doubles: Al. Harsono was runner up in the boys' U16 singles: Al. Harsono and Y. Dong were winners in the boys' U16 doubles, and An. Harsono was runner up in the U19 doubles.

At the very end of the Lent term we made a new departure and held a mixed fixture with the girls of Headington School. All those involved seemed to enjoy it and we have been invited to return next term.

This July we lose four of the 'big six'. P. Biggs not only has an enviable reach but a patient temperament and a growing range of shots. An. Harsono has only been at Abingdon for five terms and professes to be a swimmer rather than a badminton player. Nonetheless he has rapidly made himself into a very effective competitor. His regular partner was K. Kobayashi, and they have been a rewarding pair to watch. Sometimes, like many second pairs, they have nearly been defeated by the opposition's best, but then have dug themselves out of trouble with reliable serving and good-humoured court coverage.

Only alphabetically does V. Lee come fourth. He has been on the strength for more years than I care to remember. A naturally fluent player, though maybe not a naturally mobile one, he has the power to get himself out of trouble, mostly. As an ambassador, though, he has seldom been bettered, taking on the duties of captain with composure and dignity.

Abingdon has been represented by: (U19) W. Lui, V. Lee, K. Kobayashi, P. Biggs, A. Brown, J. Yau, An. Harsono, A. White, J. Spearing, J. Tarasewicz, B. Adrian, A. Aziz, J. Earley, B. Longworth, L. Chan, T. Frankum, J. Chang: (U16) M. Yeung, Al. Harsono, R. Tattersall, J. Ma, E. Webber, P. Slater, N. Page, D. Cole, D. Mitchell, Y. Dong, A. Bitmead, J. Mendelsohn-Malik.

Colours are held by W. Lui, V. Lee (captain), K. Kobayashi (secretary), An. Harsono, P. Biggs, and A. Brown. Half colours are held by J. Yau, Al. Harsono, A. White, J. Spearing, J. Tarasewicz, J. Earley, B. Longworth, L. Chan, T. Frankum, M. Yeung, R. Tattersall, P. Slater and A. Bitmead.

3rd XI Cricket

We were able to field a particularly strong and keen side in two of our three matches. Particular benefits of the large number of Game One rejects include R. Dawson's often spectacular fielding, T. Smith's unwavering faith in the umpire's decision, and large amounts of frankly unjustified self confidence.

In the first match, against Eton, we made 140 for five in the allotted thirty overs. T. Smith survived an understandably confident appeal on his first ball for a catch at the wicket, going on to make an attacking forty not out. He was well supported by a stylish twenty from B. Hewett and A. Carnwath contributed an uncharacteristically aggressive twelve not out. Unfortunately, we narrowly lost, having bowled too many bad balls and dropped too many catches.

At Radley, moreover, we were absolutely hammered, although L. Butler bowled a fine opening spell and accurate A. McTier restricted them when they were really threatening to hit out. He cannot have done that well that well, though, because they still made a daunting 270 for five. We were then all out for only ninety, with A. Benson being the only one to really assert himself (his thirty-seven included our only six). The last match, against MCS, was played by a rather make-shift team, mainly of Fifth Year pupils, though our regular captain, T. Bracher, did a good job with what we had.

Thanks to all those who turned up to make sure that fixtures could go ahead, and to Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Drummond-Hay for all their coaching.

report by A Carnwath 6DE

Junior Colts A XI Cricket

Confidence was everything for this age group. When the force was with them, they batted with purpose, bowled accurately and fielded with great enthusiasm, but under pressure this confidence was fragile.

In a season of four wins, four losses and two draws, there were many successes, some from unexpected quarters, but only occasionally did all the best players perform well simultaneously. The bowling of I. Downie (together with his ferocious hitting) and the calm technique of P. and O. Thomas always promised to be the keys to winning matches, but they were ably supported by the bowling of Fraser, Drury and Hutchinson, and

by D. White, who became increasingly effective. The batting was always brittle, but Mather, Winearls and Hutchinson again all made contributions.

Mention must also be made of the mature, thoughtful and intelligent captaincy of P. Thomas, who used his resources well and worked hard at maintaining morale at even the gloomiest moments.

The following players represented the team:
P. Thomas (captain), O. Thomas (wicket), I. Downie, J. Mather, A. Winearls, A. Hutchinson, J. Drury, A. Fraser, D. White, M. Beckett, T. Garside, M. Walker, R. Kempson.

25/4 MCS (A) Won by 64 runs
2/5 Eton B (H) Lost by 9 wickets
Lord William's (A) Lost by 5 wickets
9/5 Reading (H) Won by 7 wickets
Radley Lost by 94 runs
16/5 Lord William's, Thame Drew
Wood Green Won by 55 runs
6/6 Bloxham (A) Won by 132 runs
Gosford Hill Lost by 61 runs
27/6 RGS, High Wycombe (A) Drew
report by JRWB

Juniors B XI Cricket

A season which promised so much became a damp squib. This year we had a particularly strong squad. It may have been short of stars, but the number of competent cricketers made selection of the B XI very difficult indeed.

We began against Eton D XI, and this game was a classic example of "catches win matches". Some were easy, others difficult, but we could have been facing a target of around fifty. Instead Eton scrambled their way to a total of 133. E. Dingwall and J. Brockbank gave us an excellent start, but we lost our way. We fell behind the run rate and lost wickets as we panicked.

Nevertheless it was a pleasing performance in all. Everyone worked hard, and we felt that we would soon be winning matches.

We next played Bloxham and, having scored 158 for seven, we bowled out the Bloxham side for twenty-three. This was a real indication of our strength. P. Peacock scored forty-seven.

That turned out to be our season. Matches against MCS, St. Edward's and Pangbourne were lost to the weather. A. White and T. Spearing bowled well when they were allowed to, but we were left to reflect on what might have been.

report by PJW

U13 XI Cricket

Won: 3 Drawn: 4 Lost: 6
report by PKHR and H Hunter 2A

The season as a whole was as mixed as the weather, and the statistics barely do justice to the side. The results disguise some very close and exciting finishes which could have gone either way. Abingdon's main problem was a lack of consistency in all departments.

There were some good batting performances, however. J. Watkins proved to be a good timer of the ball, who wisely selected the one to hit. His fifty-three against MCS almost set up an unlikely victory and thirty-five not out knocked St. Birinus out of the cup competition. E. Gurney was a reliable and competent opener who made many useful runs. His most memorable scores were fifty-six, forcing Eton onto the back foot, and thirty to shore up the innings against Berkhamsted. An able and attractive batsman emerged in the shape of J. Florey, who played many delightful innings (such as thirty-three against Eton), and never let the side down. A captain's innings of thirty-five from H. Hunter ensured the side a respectable total against a very strong Cothill. There were also useful contributions from M. Martin, H. Holland, R. Wood and R. Webber.

The bowlers worked hard throughout against some very sound batting sides who gave little away to chance, but they were rarely able to penetrate sufficiently to bowl out other sides. Always consistent and an ever present threat throughout, Hunter produced a commendable five for fifteen against Thame. Reliable

and lively in the attack, Watkins made batting difficult for the opposition. Four for ten against Berkhamsted was an outstanding performance. Although not a regular, S. Holland's four for five against MCS was exceptional. There was also good bowling support from Webber, Florey, Wood and H. Holland.

Martin and J. Cousins both gained much experience behind the stumps, with the latter developing particularly well. Fielding was weak at times, and quite often missed catches did cost matches. However, several players developed their technique. Both Hollands were useful at cover, Watkins was always sharp at slip and Hunter threw well from the deep. The side generally worked with enthusiasm, but occasionally concentration lapsed and this will need working at in the future.

In the B XI matches, D. Madden took the helm and guided the side to victory over John Mason, but we were narrowly beaten by King Alfred's and Wallingford. F. Hemsley took four for ten against Wallingford and I. McKenzie made eighteen against King Alfred's. S. McKenzie, J. Moffat, A. Gould, D. Puri, D. Persaud and R. Cox all made useful contributions at different times.

We congratulate Hunter, Watkins, Webber, Florey, Wood and Cousins for gaining well deserved colours. Thanks to Hunter and Watkins for captaining the side, and to Mr. Probyn for his help in coaching.

Cross Country

report by R Ellis VIJEF

The first indication of promise for the season came in the Dr. Challoner's Cup relays in November. J. Kingsley and I were the fastest (both running the course in just over ten minutes), and the rest of the slightly under-strength team performed well, bringing us home in eighth place. Among those stepping in to fill gaps was G. Kitto, whose presence at Dr. Challoner's (and more notably an excellent sixth place against Radley, Harrow, Pangbourne and Bradfield) really helped us out.

In December, two Second Year pupils, M. Cullen and J. Richards, won medals at the Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships and were selected to represent the county in the National Championships at Cardiff. They performed excellently there, and went on to run for Oxfordshire Schools in the English Schools Championships, the most prestigious event of the year. Competing against Third Years, they gained valuable experience for the future.

The Lent term saw the majority of matches, starting with the Knole Run at Sevenoaks. This is a huge race, and everyone deserves credit just for

completing the six mile course. F. Malone-Lee finished thirteenth in a field of over 250. The other big event of the season was the King Henry VIII relays in Coventry: we did well, finishing fifteenth out of around thirty-five teams in a highly competitive meeting. N. Hawker and G. Bailey both ran very well, competing for the first time in this event.

We ran at Haberdashers Aske's in their relays, with R. Rothkopf running particularly well. The other highlight of the season came at Worcester, for which we entered two teams. The U16s ran well despite their inexperience: the real star of the team was S. Allen, running at short notice, who ran so fast on the first leg of the relay that we missed his finish.

After seven years of cross country running at the School, F. Malone-Lee and I will take with us many memories, and we hope that Mr. Pettitt, also leaving this year, will look back fondly at being in charge of the Cross Country Club. We wish him well. Next year there will be joint captains, N. Hawker and R. Rothkopf. I hope that their time will be as enjoyable as my own has been.

1st XI Football

After the Michaelmas term friendlies, we approached the term with a great confidence. We had a squad with experience last year and numerous people who had played club football. Our first game was against St. Edward's, our hardest opposition last year. In the second half we were dominant and were unfortunate to concede a goal. Undoubtedly it was our best performance of the season, and we had proved that we could soak up pressure and score goals. It was a great boost.

The Cokethorpe game was physical and harder than we had anticipated, until in the second half they collapsed. An own goal was the last goal which we conceded all season. The tensest game was at Radley. The side was predominantly Lower Sixth: with M. Harris captaining the side for the first time and A. Heather's excellent performance at the back, there was a lot of promise for next season.

After half term we had a pitch and goals, so at last we could have home games. Against Kingham Hill and d'Overbroek's we dominated. The second Radley game was described as boring by spectators, but with a surface that did not encourage the passing game (which both sides wanted to play), it was scrappy. Our final game of the season, against the European School, was the hardest which we played, and we could have faced our first defeat.

The season was excellent, and the team showed confidence, determination and enthusiasm. The performances of A. Johnson, A. Hall, K. O'Leary and T. Allen will be missed next season, but with the nucleus of the squad in the Lower Sixth there is great potential. Thanks to A. Hall for arranging the fixtures, Mr. Pritchard for refereeing, and Mr. Figgis for transport, training, and for the goals.

St. Edward's (A) Won 3-1
Cokethorpe (A) Won 6-2
Radley (A) Won 1-0
Kingham Hill (H) Won 5-0
Radley (H) Won 2-0
d'Overbroek's (H) Won 6-0
European School (H) Won 1-0
report by J Lucas 6NAFP
illustration by N Hayes 5RSE



1st XI Hockey

10/1 Radley (A) Lost 1-2
17/1 Southampton (H) Lost 1-5
28/1 Pangbourne (A) Won 3-1
31/1 Reading (H) Won 6-2
4/2 Shiplake (H) Lost 2-3
7/2 Berkhamsted (H) Won 4-1
11/2 MCS (H) Won 4-0
25/2 Bloxham (A) Won 2-0
26/2 St. Edward's (A) Lost 0-2
28/2 Stowe (A) Drew 2-2
4/3 Merchant Taylors' (A) Lost 1-2
22/3 Northwood (H) Won 1-0
22/3 OAs (H) Lost 3-5
report by DVC

The 1st XI mixed a series of inspired performances with only one embarrassing defeat. Congratulations are due to Shiplake, but the five-minute spell in which we conceded three goals was truly ghastly.

In all our other matches, we maintained an excellent standard, balancing the flair and dynamism of T. Allen and T. Jones up front with the resourceful defensive skills of T. Evans, M. Howe-Davies and J. Otterburn, as well as W. Smith's dominance between the posts. T. Jones was leading scorer with ten goals, but there were also significant contributions from J. Thomson and P. Edwards. J. Thomson's penalty corner conversion against Reading stands out: a strike worthy even of Callum Giles.

Our losses to King Edward's Southampton, Merchant Taylors' and St. Edward's were all close contests against top class opposition, in which either side could have won. On the credit side of the balance, the victories against MCS and Northwood (one of the most successful hockey schools in South Africa) were impressive team performances. Our best result, however, was the drawn match against Stowe. The match started in blizzard conditions, with the pitch

covered by a hailstorm. A heroic performance against a very strong Stowe side, in which two Abingdon penalty corner conversions were surprisingly disallowed, provided impressive evidence of the talent in next year's team. B. Hunt, A. Hulse and S. Tompkins all made significant contributions and will provide a strong nucleus of players for next year.

I particularly wish to thank all the team members from the Upper Sixth who are now going on to bright futures: J. Thomson and T. Allen, for their leadership of the team; T. Jones for his enthusiasm and goals; E. Wagner as special team star; A. Stewart for his distribution skills; A. Molyneux for his incisive running with the ball; M. Howe-Davies and "Mr. T" for the insouciance of their defensive play; and R. Jones and S. Potter for "being there". Finally, congratulations to J. Thomson and T. Jones for their selection as members of the England U21 squad.

The following players represented the team: J. Thomson, T. Allen, A. Stewart, P. Edwards, T. Jones, A. Hulse, R. Jones, S. Potter, B. Hunt, S. Balch, S. Tompkins, D. Pearson, W. Smith, J. Otterburn, M. Howe-Davies, T. Evans, A. Molyneux, P. Bareham.

2nd XI Hockey

17/1 Southampton (A) Lost 0-7
24/1 Berkhamsted (H) Won 2-0
28/1 Pangbourne (H) Won 4-1
31/1 Reading (A) Won 1-0
4/2 Shiplake (A) Won 2-0
11/2 MCS (H) Drew 2-2
25/2 Bloxham (A) Won 2-1
26/2 St. Edward's (A) Lost 1-4
28/2 Stowe (A) Drew 0-0
4/3 Merchant Taylors' (H) Lost 1-2
report by P Makings VIAMS

This was an extremely successful and enjoyable season under the watchful eyes of our coach, Mr. Sandow, and J. Church, who was never short of an inspirational word or two.

Our season reached its pinnacle with a breathtaking performance against Shiplake. The highlight of this game was a superb solo goal by B. Hunt, who modestly claimed that he had only scored owing to the fact that he miss-hit his shot.

A. Hulse's rise throughout the season should be noted and he was so prolific for us that we ended up having to share him with the 1st XI. D. Pearson was a speedy menace on the right wing, scoring two crucial goals against MCS, when the opposition played an interesting amalgam of rugby and lacrosse and passed it off for hockey. J. Wearne was a veritable dynamo at right half, constantly snapping at the heels of those who dared to dwell on the ball in his presence.

J. Church played in a holding role, and frequently found himself overcome with emotion and "in the zone" during matches. E. Campbell and P. Norbury rotated at left back and gave the team a youthful zest, whilst J. Smethurst added a streetwise edge to the defence and frequently played outstanding games. I shouted a great deal at everyone, and broke Mr. Sandow's glasses. P. Bareham was magnificent and moody in goal, pulling off one remarkable headed save against Bloxham.

We improved dramatically throughout the season, and only missed out on an extremely creditable draw with Merchant Taylors' thanks to my agricultural instincts taking over in the last minute and then any semblance of co-ordination deserting me shortly afterwards. My thanks to Mr. Sandow for a great season and to the rest of the team for putting up with my tantrums on the pitch.

Colts B XI Hockey

After only four practices, we played our first game against a more senior and experienced side. They outdid us for size (as did most other schools), but it was a well fought game, though the score line gives us little credit. Shiplake was an excellent example of how poor our firepower was, even though we came away with a win. The game against MCS we also should have won. We went ahead by a goal from S. Nixon (who scored in all but two games), but because of a mistake in each half by the defence, we ended up losing a game which we could have easily won.

Against Bloxham we were once again a goal in front when two quick goals caused us to lose heart and

give up. Last year against Stowe we lost 5-0 in a game in which Mr. Hofton described our performance as: "the worst I have ever seen". This year, the result was completely reversed, and it seemed strange that we had managed to lose to them in the past. The game was in full flow until a sleet and snow storm forced us off the pitch.

Against Merchant Taylors', our inability to mark a player or clear the ball showed up. We had a goal disallowed, even though their players also thought it was a goal. Our final match of the season, against Pangbourne, saw us cruise to victory, even though T. Coe let in one of the stupidest goals ever.

17/1 Southampton (H) Lost 1-3
24/1 Berkhamsted (A) Lost 0-2
4/2 Shiplake (A) Won 2-0
11/2 MCS (H) Lost 1-2
25/2 Bloxham (H) Lost 1-3
26/2 St. Edward's (A) Lost 0-2
28/2 Stowe (A) Won 6-0
4/3 Merchant Taylors' (A) Lost 1-3
Pangbourne (A) Won 3-1
report by M Rees-Jones 5JPW

Junior Colts A XI Hockey

Everyone played a part in what was ultimately a very successful season. Possibly the best win came against MCS. The score line does not do our performance justice, with MCS scoring two late goals which should not have been allowed. By then, though, we had won the game handsomely; in response to their opening goal we had immediately struck back with three. K. Roche had a marvellous game in mid-field and I. Downie produced his second four-goal haul.

We appeared to lose momentum completely after half term. At Bloxham, on a sticky grass pitch, we just did not compete; this disappointing performance was followed by another against St. Edward's, who gave us a lesson in the art of strong, efficient hockey. A number of players will want to forget this match.

It was beginning to look as though a good season was about to fall apart, but we were on fighting form against Stowe. Even though the opposition proved weak, better sides would have had their hands full too.

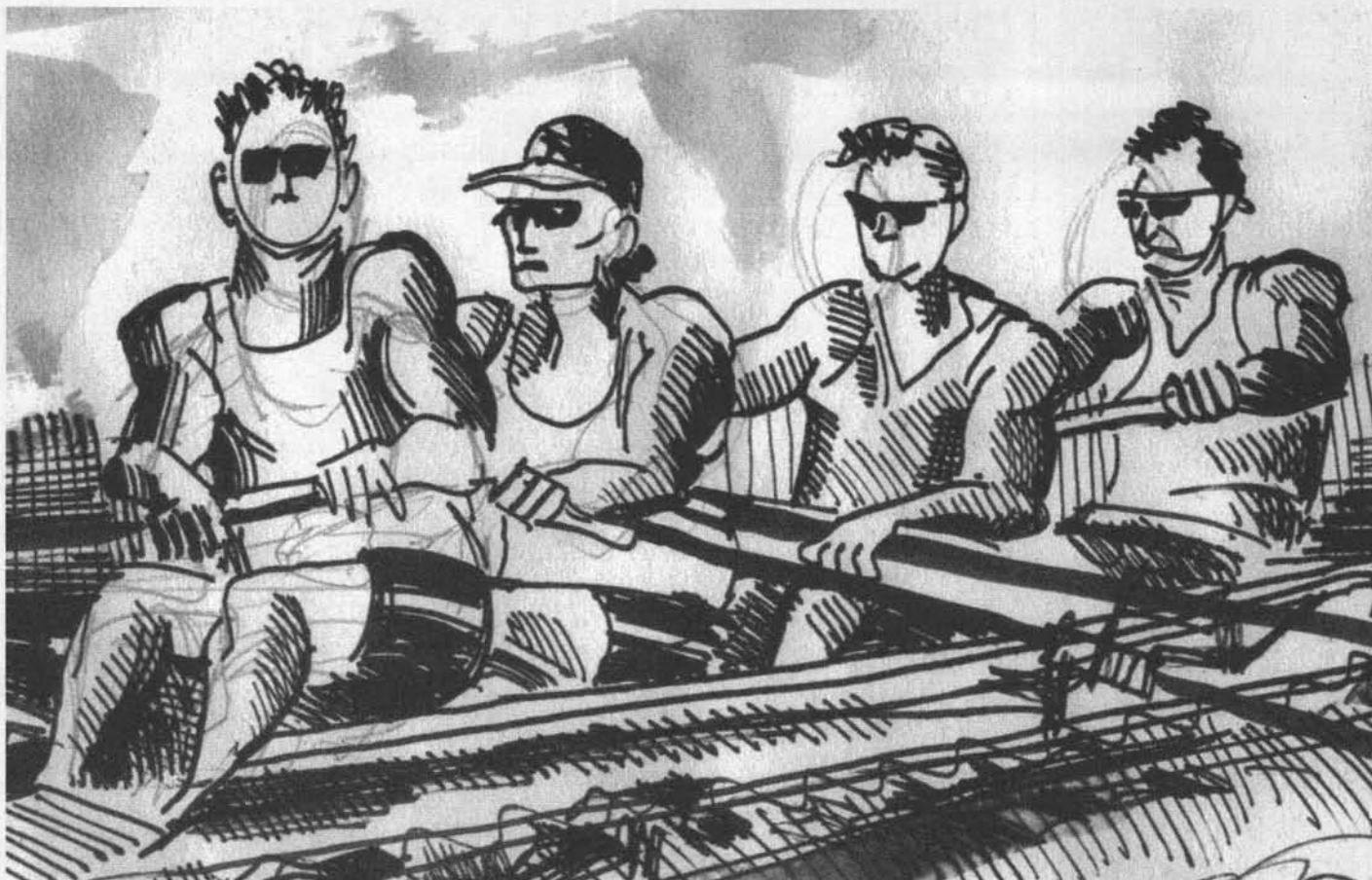
We finished the season with a victory over Merchant Taylors. I. Downie gave an exhibition of striking, with four goals, the last of which oozed class.

A. Fraser was a fine captain, leading by example and with enthusiasm. Defensively, we were effective in breaking down the opposition's attacks, but weak in coming away with the ball. O. Thomas, P. Thomas and P. Gooch all made vital tackles, but at times we lacked both the confidence to throw the ball around at the back and the ability to crash the ball away when under pressure.

In mid-field we were tireless and, at times, sharply efficient. When J. Maher, S. Allen and K. Roche were all "on-song" we looked like a real hockey unit. Quick interchanging passes put our weaker opponents on the rack, but we need to develop this tactic a stage or two further in order to be able to compete with the "big boys" on even terms.

T. Matheson and G. Unsworth provided the team with width and speed on the flanks, while I. Downie provided the most potent striking force which I have seen at Abingdon. Nevertheless we were tactically naïve at times and need to start attacks from deeper positions, use the lay-off more and remember the absence of off-side.

17/1 King Edward's,
Southampton (A) Lost 2-3
21/1 Oxford School (H) Won 9-0
24/1 Berkhamsted (A) Won 3-0
28/1 Pangbourne (H) Won 2-1
4/2 Shiplake (A) Won 3-1
11/2 M.C.S. (H) Won 5-4
25/2 Bloxham (A) Lost 0-3
26/2 St. Edward's (A) Lost 1-6
28/2 Stowe (H) Won 5-0
4/3 Merchant Taylors (H) Won 4-2
report by PJW



1st VIII Rowing

Cox: A White
Stroke: D Livingstone
7: H Mackenzie
6: R Frankum
5: R Pinkney
4: M Capon
3: W Bourne-Taylor
2: R Bourne-Taylor
Bow: P Hemsley
Coach: MDM

report by G Kitto 6SCW
illustration by N Hayes 5RSE

At the Reading Head, we made ground on Radley, and came third, a pleasing result. In the GB trials at Kingston, our first pair (R. Bourne-Taylor and T. Frankum), came third, our second pair (H. Mackenzie and G. Kitto) came eighth, and our third pair (M. Capon and P. Hemsley) came fifteenth. The top and third pairs were selected for the Easter trials in Nottingham.

At the Schools Head we started fourth, and rowed well, eventually finishing second, a great achievement and a School record. St. Edward's were twelve seconds ahead, but we hoped to lessen that by the time of our next meeting. However, they were not to be seen at the Eights Head, where we started sixty-seventh, and finished fifty-third, a very pleasing result: only St. Paul's beat us.

The regatta season began at Ghent at the end of the Easter training camp in Belgium, with the final line up for the VIII decided. The bow four won a gold medal in the Junior IV event, and in the VIIIs event, Westminster were gradually broken by the pace of the superior Abingdon boat.

The Poplar Regatta was a fairly successful weekend, R. Bourne-Taylor and H. Mackenzie gaining selection to the GB summer trials. Two bronze medals were won in the stern and bow IVs, and the VIII made the final. T. Frankum was invited to represent Great Britain at the Munich regatta.

The VIII had a very tough heat at the National Schools Regatta, against Eton, Hampton, Radley and Shrewsbury. However, the VIII found themselves two lengths up by the 1000 metre mark and cruised over the line comfortably ahead of the rest.

The line-up for the final was Eton, Abingdon, St. Edward's, Radley, St. Paul's and Bedford. As in the heat, Abingdon took the early lead, but Eton, in the favoured lane, crept past and Abingdon came in second, ahead of Radley, Abingdon's best ever result in this event. On Sunday the stern IV came in second behind the top St. Edward's IV, who won narrowly in the more sheltered lane.

After a much-needed break the VIII went to Reading Amateur Regatta where Radley and Isis were defeated with ease in the first rounds. Luckily for Hampton, near-monsoon rain led to the cancellation of the final.

The VIII won both Elite men's sprints and Senior 1st VIIIs at Marlow Regatta, beating Eton and Isis respectively. This was the first time that these events have been won by an Abingdon crew. At Reading Town Regatta, two pairs (D. Livingstone and H. Mackenzie, P. Hemsley and M. Capon) won their events in style (especially the latter who had to re-row after a dead heat).

At Henley, having beaten Canford and Oretory in the Princess Elizabeth, the VIII lost to Westminster.

2nd VIII Rowing

The Schools Head was the focus of the Lent term. We were disappointed with our third place behind Hampton and Eton. The Eights Head requires five hundred men's VIIIs to battle against each other and the clock at the same time. We managed to move up twenty one places on last year.

We were to get an early taste of regatta racing at Ghent International Regatta at the end of our week in Belgium. The 2nd VIII's coxless IV raced exceptionally well, losing only narrowly to the 1st VIII's IV in the same event. Well ahead of all other opposition, they claimed silver medals in the Junior IV event.

We launched straight into the season with a race at Poplar. The VIII beat a Radley crew who had evaded us throughout the Head season, and a number of first VIIIs, and made the semi-final.

In need of race practice, we attended Avon County Schools Regatta. In the final a storming start gave us the edge over Monmouth and Canford, but left us just behind Radley. We rowed very hard over the short course in the closest-fought battle of the season, holding our position to come in second for another silver medal.

National Schools was next. In the semi-final a slow start left us with everything to do, and a well timed push at 1000 metres saw us pull back from fifth to second, surprising Hampton and not least

ourselves. We were well rested by the final, but had a very bad start again. Just as all on the bank were beginning to give up hope, we put in an almighty effort and cruised through the field. For the shocked Hampton, being rowed through twice in one day was too much, and they faltered. We took full advantage and moved up another couple of men on them. This left us in third place with only 250 metres in which to catch Radley and Shrewsbury. Alas, we crossed the line fourth by a matter of inches.

At Marlow Regatta, although we rowed well, we were destined to lose by a length to Oxford Brookes. Not disheartened, we concentrated on the Sprints race: a storming start gave us the lead and we held it past the grandstand. A shocked St. Paul's then pushed for the line and we could not compete with the huge bend in their favour at the finish.

At Reading we entered two VIIIs events and one IV. In the Junior VIIIs we finished third in the final. In the Senior VIIIs IV event we easily dispatched Shiplake and an American crew to find ourselves in the final against our own J16's. We had a good tactical race and won by just over a length. At Henley, we beat Bedford Modern's 1st VIII but lost to Hampton's 1st VIII: a very good performance.

Our thanks go to Mr. Garnier who coached us and taught us so much this season.

Cox: E Knowles
Stroke: G Kitto
7: T Betteridge
6: W Horner
5: A White
4: M Jobling
3: O Marshall
2: N Le Fevre
Bow: R Hutchins

report by W Horner 6NAFP

J16s Rowing

We had a substantial but weakened squad at the beginning of the season, and decided to play our cards too soon: after the mock GCSEs, we split into two matched VIIIs for Hampton Head. One VIII finished second behind Kingston. A basis for "A" and "B" crews was established, and training got harder.

We still had not faced the big rowing schools, and they had not been enticed by Reading Head or Henley Schools Head. We, on the other hand, needed all the race practice we could get in the build-up to Schools Head. Practices were disjointed, as academic work began to play an increasing part in a hectic term.

Hoping for a top three finish at the Schools Head, and getting the conditions in which we row well on the day, we were relatively confident. However, carrying two ill people, the VIII suffered a seat failure and finished a respectable fifth. The two IVs which entered finished with reasonable times.

After a good training camp in Belgium, we returned to England fully revitalized, thanks to our New Zealand coach, Mr. Williams.

Poplar Regatta was our first outing in the regatta season. We won the J16 coxed IVs, and came third in

the J16 coxless IVs (although we were hit by a Latymer crew with no sense of direction). N. Moffatt and S. Woodcock, our top pair, would have won the regional competition, were it not for some "interesting" steering.

Avon County, the warm up to National Schools, is a quaint little regatta where both the A crew and the B crew won, helped by the absence of Eton and Radley. One week before National Schools the A crew lost S. Curran, J. Persaud stepping in for the big race. In the final the A crew came third behind Eton and Radley. The B crew failed to make their final. On Sunday a J16 coxless IV won a bronze, as did a J16 pair. Although we came third again at Marlow, a coxed IV won at Reading Town Regatta, beating the middle IV from the 2nd VIII.

Although the VIII did well to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley we lost to Oriel College in the first round.

In all, we had a highly successful season, winning events at every regatta apart from one. A big thank you to Mr. Slatford, who had the patience to put up with us during this testing time.

"A" Crew:
Cox: O Varney
Stroke: L Whibley
7: G Whittaker
6: S Woodcock
5: B Grady
4: S Curran
3: N Moffat
2: J Mascaro
Bow: A. Gates

"B" Crew:
Cox: T Jonckheer
Stroke: M Shields
7: S Atkinson
6: T Marsh
5: P Tolley
4: J Persaud
3: M Brewer
2: P Given/D Boswood
Bow: N Black/L Conway

report by L Whibley 5KDB

J15s Rowing

Cox: D Wilson
Stroke: M Watkinson
7: J Hamand
6: N Williams
5: J Willcox-Jones
4: S Allen
3: D Smith
2: T Tarrell
Bow: T Davis

J15 IV
Cox: A Wyman
Stroke: T Beardsworth
3: W Baker
2: K Shaikh
1: G Larsson

Coaches: Mr. Weir, JPW
report by J. Willcox-Jones 4CJB

The first race of the season was at Hampton, a fair performance, with our position approximately fifty seconds behind the fastest crews. At Henley Schools Head and Reading Head we narrowed the gap.

At the Schools Head all the major schools descend upon London to race over part of the boat race course. Our position was a creditable ninth, only eighteen seconds behind Radley (the winners). At the end of the Lent term there was also consolation for the Novice IV (J. Herbert, G. Larsson, R. White and A. Whyman), who beat Radley's 3rd IV.

However, absence plagued the season. The squad itself had great potential, but it was difficult to get any consistency with the crews owing to other commitments. With expert coxing from D. Wilson we nevertheless got off to a storming start at Poplar. Our technique was good, but the lack of fitness in the bows was telling and we experienced a very dramatic fade, going from second to fifth.

We were able to field our strongest coxed IV at Poplar: in the final they faced, amongst others, Bedford, Monmouth, and Hampton. They raced well, and the dynamic stroking of M. Watkinson saw us row through Hampton for the second time in one day: we were rewarded with a bronze medal.

The following week was Bedford Regatta and a chance for S. Allen. And prove himself he did, for we were to row against the very same crew which had beaten us at Avon. This time the deficit was half a length.

Having gained race experience we were able to select a crew for the National Schools Regatta. The VIII rowed well in the heat and were the second fastest qualifier: the race was very controlled and went according to Mr. Weir's plan of rowing at three quarter pressure. The sight of Abingdon rowing at thirty, whilst St. Edward's, Cheltenham, and Winchester thrashed away at thirty five at least one length behind was an image to be treasured.

In the final, the crew was asked to row the first half of the race in a controlled way and to try and stay in touch, until 1000 metres. Westminster and Shiplake went out to a lead of half and one length respectively off the start, but Abingdon put a huge push (as if they were starting the race again) and demolished a resistant Westminster crew. It put them within a canvas of Shiplake. Unfortunately Watkinson's push had so exhausted the crew that they let Shiplake creep away towards the end to win by a length.

Our thanks go to our coaches for all their help and encouragement this season.



1st XV Rugby

A lack of good pre-season preparation before the Douai Festival resulted in an experimental side losing to St. Edward's before going on to beat the other sides in our group convincingly, and confidence was high.

Our first game, at Bloxham, was always going to be one of our toughest. Bloxham's large and experienced pack soon gained control over our smaller front five, and established an early lead. Gradually, however, our more mobile pack gained some possession, and in the last few minutes of the game S. Harrison scored to bring us victory.

Two weeks later, a more settled side took the field against Marlborough. Their victory flattered them, but our failure to convert pressure into points would haunt us later in the season. A week later we beat MCS in a bad-tempered and poor game, following which we trained hard and prepared for Stowe. They are always a tough, physical side, and we expected a hard game, which we got. Early tries by G. Mills and J. Dunbar set us up nicely, and as the rain came down we grew in confidence, playing some excellent rugby, with A. Pike, S. Harrison and C. Howard all scoring superb tries. By now the pack was developing into an efficient rucking unit with an excellent lineout.

Full of confidence, we travelled to Oratory, and on a muddy pitch, in front of a hostile crowd, we completely dominated the game. We travelled home confident that we could beat everyone at St. Joseph's Festival at Ipswich.

Our first match at Ipswich, against Sedbergh, was frustrating. A good start gave us the lead, but Sedbergh levelled before half-time and despite a desperate late effort from behind our own line we were unable to score, losing 12-10. Disappointed, we went on to lose to Colston's, but then beat Felsted with tries by G. Mills and C. Orr, and had the distinction of not coming bottom of our group. The next day, our injury-stricken side took to the field: defeat by Marlborough and Merchiston Castle forced us to abandon all hope, and we lost to the St. Joseph's side. Over half term we recovered from our injuries.

Against St. Edward's we lost 13-46 in the rain. Tries from J. Thomson and W. Bourne-Taylor eased the pain of defeat. Following a week of being asked why we were so bad, we travelled to Pangbourne for what was perhaps our unluckiest match of the season. In the rain and against a powerful side, the team found the desire and passion which it had been

lacking. Only a charged-down kick in the dying minutes denied us the victory which we deserved.

Victory against Reading followed, but then came defeat against St. Bartholomew's, Newbury: we played poorly against a determined side. Our preparation for the Shiplake game was hard and determined as we looked to set our season back on track, which we did with style. In heavy rain, on a boggy and small pitch we played with pace, skill, aggression and ruthlessness. If the game against Pangbourne was a passionate one, then the Shiplake performance was technically perfect, as we ran the ball everywhere with frightening success.

A week later came our finest eighty minutes of the season. Against Radley, we combined for the first time the passion of Pangbourne match and the technical proficiency of the Shiplake game. In front of a huge and enthusiastic crowd we beat Radley 12-11, with four penalties from G. Mills. No one who saw the game could deny that we deserved to win: in truth we could have won by more if we had had a bit more luck at crucial times. The crowd was incredible, and the pack were everywhere. Time and time again we were on the brink of scoring, only to be denied by a last-ditch tackle. At the end, joy combined with fatigue.

The final game of the season, against the touring South Africans from Wynberg Boys' High, was an anticlimax, one game too many. We found it hard to deal with their pace and power: they deserved to win.

The side changed a lot during the season, and it would be difficult to justice to everyone who played. A. Stewart played exceptionally all season, as did H. Watkinson and A. White. D. Livingstone was the most improved forward. P. Hemsley, J. Adams, A. Benson and J. Thomson all played well, but it was the trio of M. Thomas, R. Bourne-Taylor and J. Dunbar (captain and winner of the 1st XV trophy) who played together the most. M. Thomas' lineout play was exceptional. S. Laurie grew in stature throughout the season. The dynamic pairing of G. Mills and C. Howard should go down in history, whilst there were two devastatingly effective wingers, S. Harrison and A. Pike (who won the Slingsby Cup for sporting excellence).

The entire squad would like to thank Mr. Hamilton for all his efforts during the season and for always believing in us. Despite occasionally showing signs of madness he worked hard with a side which was not as talented as previous years. We would also like to thank Mr. Richardson, Ben Prior and all those who came to watch us play.

Bloxham (A) Won 12-11
Marlboro' (H) Lost 9-31
MCS (A) Won 20-8
Stowe (H) Won 46-0
Oratory (A) Won 32-7
Sedbergh (A) Lost 10-12
Colston's (A) Lost 0-30
Felsted (A) Won 12-10
Marlboro' (A) Lost 0-15
Merchiston (A) Lost 5-17
St. Joseph's (A) Lost 0-12
St. Edward's (H) Lost 13-46
Pangbourne (A) Lost 8-13
Reading Won 68-0
St. Bart's Lost 3-10
Shiplake (A) Won 49-0
Radley (H) Won 12-11
Wynberg High (H) Lost 13-32
report by J Dunbar VIJEF

Juniors A XV Rugby

13/9 Bloxham (H) Won 34-5
20/9 Marlborough (A) Won 41-0
4/10 MCS (A) Won 36-5
15/10 Oratory (A) Won 33-3
18/10 RGS High Wycombe (H)
Won 30-27
8/11 St. Edward's (H) Won 27-14
15/11 Pangbourne (H) Won 48-0
29/11 Shiplake (H) Won 40-5
19/12 Reading (A) Lost 3-7
6/12 Radley (H) Won 6-0
report by J Farrands 3JHT

We were an almost totally different side to that of the year before, but more confident owing to the new faces. We would prove to have one of the strongest back lines in the country at our age group. We demolished an inferior Marlborough side, but were up against it at Oratory when we were faced against a much larger side, and were driven off the ball on more than one occasion.

The RGS match was the closest and most physically challenging by far. A nasty shock was lurking not long after kick-off when they got an early try. However, the forwards rucked and scrummed superbly all match, and the backs tackled brilliantly. We were very complacent going into the St. Edward's match, and this did not help. There was no aggression in the forwards, and we were rucked off the ball several times, St. Edward's going 7-0 ahead. We knew that a defeat was out of the question, and came back to another victory.

Pangbourne were a weak and predictable side, leading to their complete annihilation by the end of the first half. Likewise, the Shiplake match was won by half time. The Reading fixture was rescheduled to later in the term because of illness. On a bitterly cold Wednesday afternoon we did not play the standard of rugby which we were used to.

Finally, the Radley match. The score-line did not reflect the game as far as possession was concerned. We outplayed them in each half. They did come very close to scoring on two occasions, but some outstanding tackling denied them the points. This was a great end to a very successful season.

The following players represented the team: A. Addis, G. Stalcup, A. White, N. Dalglish, J. Hedges, R. Balch, P. Garrick (captain), R. Kershaw, T. Gallard, N. Andrews, J. Farrands, P. Timberlake, C. Thomson, R. Hamilton, S. Higazi, M. Browne, W. Gervers, J. Sasanow, J. Rowe, R. Turnbull.

Minors A XV Rugby

11/10 St. Hugh's (H) Won 12-10
15/10 Dragon (A) Lost 0-36
18/10 Oratory (A) Won 17-7
1/11 RGS High Wycombe (A)
Abandoned
18/11 MCS (H) Won 5-0
29/11 Pinewood (A) Won 17-5
3/12 Christchurch (H) Won 35-0
14/1 Reading (H) Won 17-5
21/1 Cothill (A) Won 32-15
31/1 Brockhurst (H) Won 19-8
report by H Hunter 2A

The Minors A team had great potential, and showed skill throughout the season, recording excellent wins over Cothill and Christchurch, with other very hard games against St. Hugh's and MCS. The one loss of the season was against a bigger, faster and stronger Dragon team; however, many feel that, had it been our final game, the scores would have been much closer. Despite this defeat, it was a good season; with seven tries from H. Monzell and five each for J. Chater and D. Puri, we had many points for our supporters to cheer about.

Other scorers were T. Dyson, A. Marsh and T. Gater (one each), R. Muirhead, J. Paul and J. Watkins (two each), and P. Tubman and R. Morrice (three each). There were conversions from M. Burnard (two) and R. Muirhead (six). Although not everyone scored,

everyone who represented the team at any time gave it everything. Not one person was a failure or disappointment to the team or School.

Those representing the Minors A XV were J. Barclay, M. Burnard, J. Calnan, J. Chater (captain), R. Cox, T. Dyson, T. Gater, S. Holland, H. Hunter, A. Marsh, S. McKenzie, H. Monzell, R. Morrice, R. Muirhead, J. Paul, J. Prinold, D. Puri, M. Smith, P. Tubman, J. Watkins and T. Wilson.

Those awarded colours were J. Chater, R. Cox, T. Dyson, H. Hunter, S. McKenzie, H. Monzell, R. Morrice, J. Paul, D. Puri, P. Tubman and J. Watkins.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr. Drummond-Hay and Mr. Slatford for coaching us, and our loyal supporters for making the effort, in good weather and bad weather, to watch us. Thank you.



Tennis

Certainly a mixed season, with wins at 1st VI level hard to come by, but with plenty of talent in evidence through the School to build on over the next year or two. The 1st VI seemed to come across some very good opposition and pairings were tinkered with in order to try to find more effective combinations. The wins over Pangbourne and Bloxham were satisfying, and we should have come away with another victory in the best match of the term, against Shiplake.

In the Midland Bank U19 competition, the Glanville Cup, we gained a walk-over against Cooper School in the first round, then lost to a powerful Bradfield in a repeat of last year. In the Youll Cup (the Public Schools Championships) at Eton we again got through the first round against Bromsgrove, then defeated Uppingham in the second round. This meant that we sampled the rarefied air of the third round, where we discovered that the balls certainly do travel faster in this atmosphere, especially when hit by the second seeds, Repton. We did not progress to the quarter-finals.

Throughout the term M. Howe Davies proved a valiant captain in the face of adversity, while J. Thomson was always an effective player. S. Hughes (playing in the 1st VI for the third year) was always stylish and consistent; the presence of N. Gray, R. Tattersall, A. Apps and P. Barry next year is encouraging, along with some other promising U16 players who performed well. The 2nd VI combined experi-

ence and expertise in equal measure and were unlucky not to finish the season unbeaten.

During the course of the term full colours were awarded to M. Howe Davies, and half colours to J. Thomson, N. Gray and R. Tattersall.

The junior half of the club gained some pleasing results. In the Midland Bank U15 competition, we won through to the county semi-final stage, via regional wins over John Mason and Gillotts School, before losing to a strong MCS team. In the Thomas Bowl at Eton we entered two pairs, G. Unsworth/A. Brodie and P. Gooch/J. Rowley. Both had tough draws (Harrow and Cranleigh respectively) and lost, also proving unable to prosper in the plate competition. The U14 pair of D. Procter and C. Thomson did very well to win the South-west Oxfordshire doubles at Radley, thereby qualifying for the county finals at Headington School. There they played some excellent tennis and finished runners-up to Banbury School, by a single game. A fine achievement.

The Lower School Doubles competition (run very successfully by the boys) was won by D. Madden and J. Lewis, who defeated M. Cullen and J. Moffat two sets to one in an excellent final. The Buckley Cup (the School's singles tournament) was won by A. Heather, who defeated C. Watney by two sets to one in a very competitive, sporting match.

Many thanks to TRA, NMR, BF and BJLS for all their help through the term.

1st VI
 29/4 MCS (H) Lost 1-8
 2/5 Pangbourne (A) Won 5½-3½
 9/5 Oratory (A) Lost 2½-6½
 13/5 Shiplake (A) Lost 4-5
 16/5 Bloxham (H) Won 8-1
 24/6 Cokethorpe (H) Lost 4-5
 27/6 Radley (A) Lost 2-7
 27/6 Oratory (A) Won 5-4
 27/6 Merchant Taylors' (A) Won 6-3

2nd VI
 2/5 Pangbourne (A) Won 6-3
 9/5 Oratory (A) Won 7-2
 13/5 Shiplake (H) Won 7½-1½
 16/5 Bloxham (H) Lost 3-6

U16 VI
 29/4 MCS (A) Won 6½-2½
 16/5 Bloxham (A) Lost 4-5

U15 VI
 9/5 Oratory (H) Lost 4-5
 13/5 Shiplake (H) Won 5-4
 16/5 Bloxham (A) Won 5½-3½
 27/6 Radley (A) Lost 3½-5½

U14 VI
 9/5 Oratory (H) Won 6-3

U13 VI
 4/6 Cothill (A) Lost 3-6

report by SAE

New options for your **Gap Year**



1 3 month Career Training

Whether you plan to work in business, become a doctor or simply want to be able to **earn top money** "temping" in your year off it makes sense to have *recognised* business skills before you start.

In just **three months** of intensive training you will learn the software packages and business administration skills you need to perform in a modern office environment.

Options include Business Practice with modules in PR & Marketing with a research based report study or Business Languages in French, Spanish Italian or German.

Plus expert help in finding well paid Gap Year Jobs

All our students receive professional career guidance from our on-site recruitment specialist. Indeed, many obtain job offers even *before* completing their course.

2 12 month Advanced Diploma ICM Business Studies

Equivalent to an HND and focused on relevant, practical management skills to maximise your immediate potential. Opportunity for entry on First Track MBA Programme.

3 9 month Media Management

Essential training for a career in the world of Marketing & Advertising, the course covers both marketing theory and practical graphic design techniques with live ad-agency case studies and using sophisticated Desktop Publishing facilities.

For a free copy of our Prospectus phone :

(01865) 240963

St.Aldates College

Rose Place, Oxford OX1 1SB
E-mail: emma@aldates.demon.co.uk

