

THE COURT



SHIPLAKE
COLLEGE
2000 - 2001

Shiplake College

Henley on Thames

Oxfordshire

RG9 4BW

Tel: 0118 940 2455

The Court

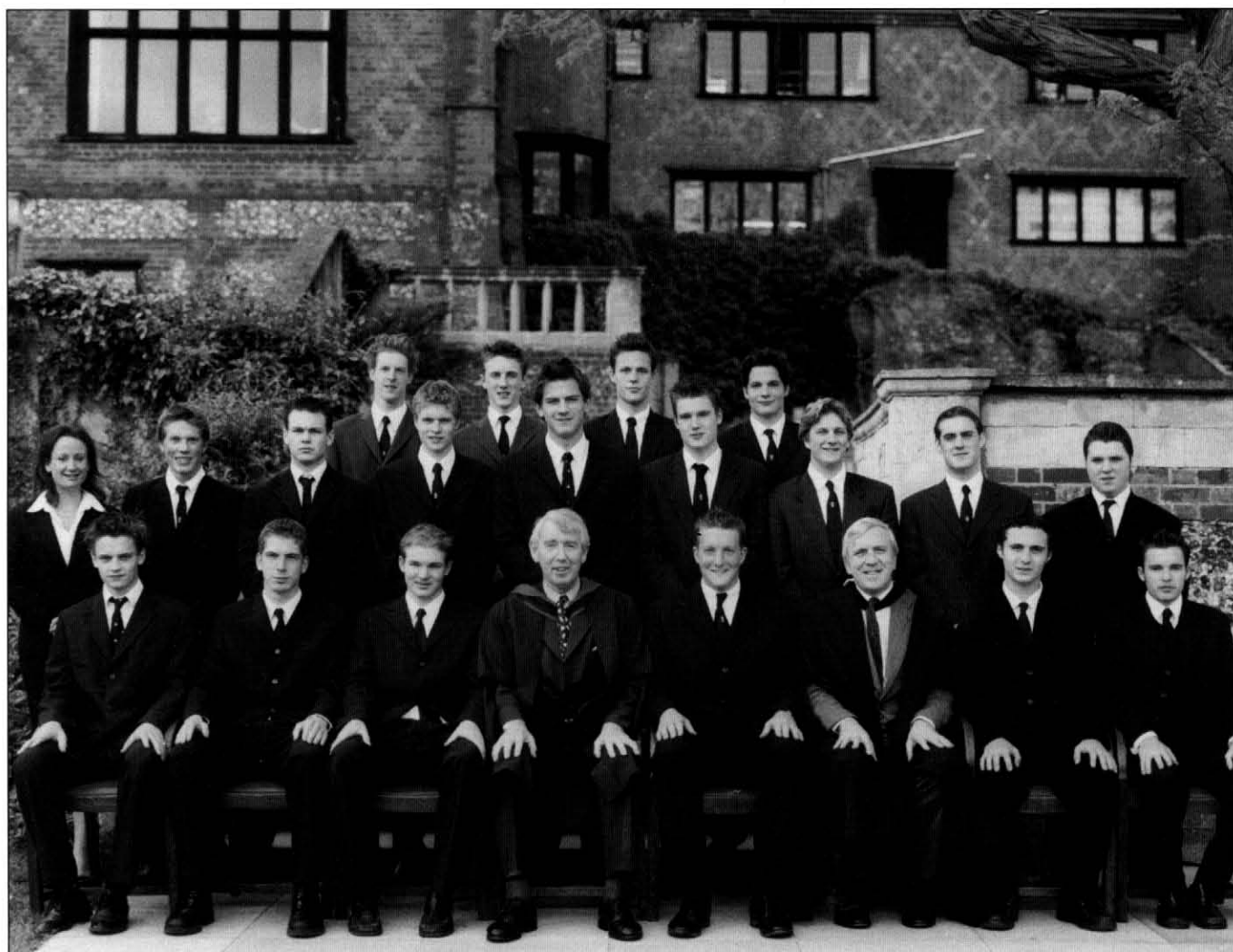
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COLLEGE OFFICERS 2000 / 2001



College prefects with headmaster and deputy head: from left to right, back row: S Hotchkiss, ML Manners, MAB Leguay, WD Paddison; middle row: JC Burridge, JC Rayner, BJ Hewson, JT Ravn, JLL Gregory, CI Grabowski, J Holt, J Darrah, PE Hutton; front row: CSN Murray, AJ Macdonald, HA Colvin, NV Bevan, JE Robinson, BP Edwards, A Susic, ET Kennedy

College Officers

Head of College

HA Colvin

Deputy Head of College

JE Robinson

Heads of House

Burr: CSN Murray
 Everett: ET Kennedy
 Orchard: AJ Macdonald
 Skipwith: A Susic and
 WD Paddison
 Welsh: S Hotchkiss

School Prefects:

J Holt, PE Hutton, BJ Hewson, JT Ravn,
 J Darrah, JLL Gregory, JC Rayner,
 CI Grabowski, MAB Leguay,
 ML Manners, JC Burridge

Captain of Rugby: WD Paddison

Captain of Hockey: J Darrah

Captain of Cricket: CSN Murray

Captains of Boats: JLL Gregory and
 E Greig



Harry Colvin, Head of College

THE COLLEGE YEAR

The headmaster, Nick Bevan addressed governors, parents, staff and pupils at Speech Day in June. The guest speaker, Mr Boris Johnson, newly elected MP for Henley, presented the prizes and talked to the pupils about taking risks in life in order to achieve success. Extracts from the headmaster's speech are reproduced here.

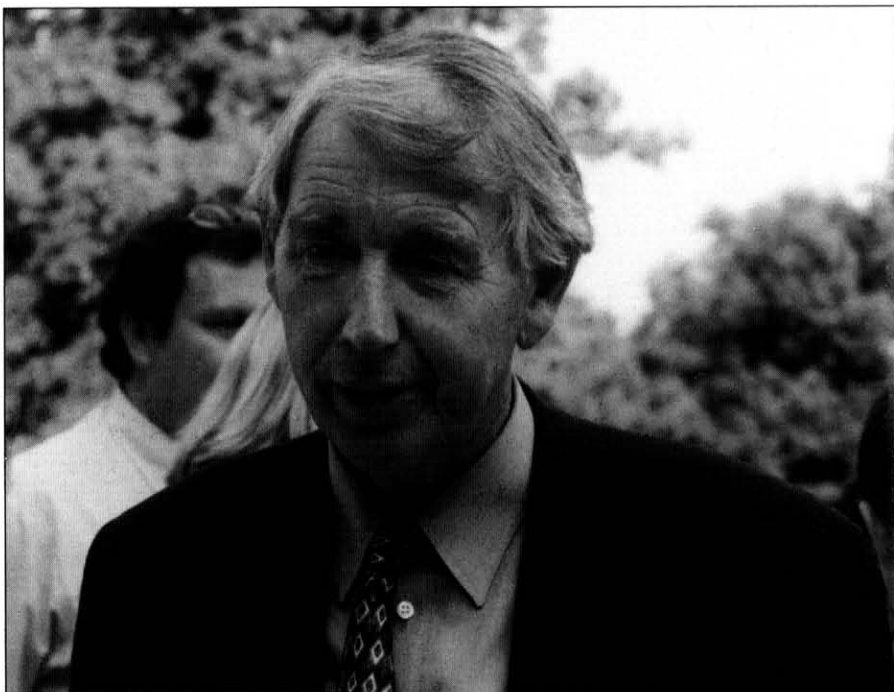
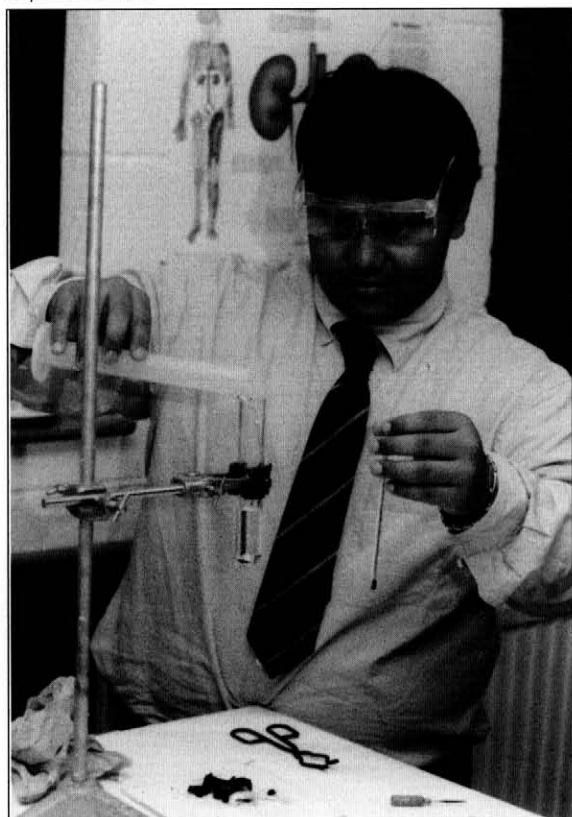
Speech Day 2001

I can hardly believe that I have been in the hot seat for getting on for a third of the school's history. But while the job I do today seems totally different, and a lot more demanding, than the one I began in 1988, I find myself basking in the reflected glory of a wonderful end to the year.

A final week when the broadness of the education we try to offer and the brilliance of our pupils is seen at its most exciting and best.

Three superb outdoor productions, all

Safwan Sobhan



Headmaster, Nick Bevan at Speech Day 2001

demanding a huge amount of work, were performed over four evenings. A cricket festival played across four schools at three age levels. The Boat Club competing with huge success at open regattas and then running its own

internal events. The Welsh House fete, the College featured on BBC's *Food and Drink*, all of Year 12 visiting Brunel University, Year 11 being introduced to the pleasure of life in the sixth form and tennis players winning both senior and junior events in the Oxfordshire Independent Schools cup.

This year has seen major academic changes and like all good schools we embraced Curriculum 2000 with enthusiasm. It must be good for a pupil to study a broad range of subjects and to suggest otherwise is to be irresponsible. Barry

Edwards, Suzie Ellis and Graham Vick very thoroughly prepared the ground and although it was a great deal of hard work I have been fantastically impressed by the efforts of heads of department, staff and pupils to make it a success. Having scrupulously followed all the guidance there is now an atmosphere of doubt. The implication, which must hurt, is that our lower sixth have been wasting their time.

Good A level grades

It seems a long time now since we began the year with some excellent A level grades, particularly from the girls. Their achievements have attracted a strong entry of girls, probably over a dozen, for the next academic year. Then we cheered and cheered when ex-pupil Ben Hunt-Davis won his gold medal in the British VIII at the Olympics and hugely enjoyed his subsequent visit to a school assembly when he spoke so well and impressed so many. Parents should be warned that our

THE COLLEGE YEAR

former pupils are an adventurous lot. The Phillis twins recently completed the Sahara Marathon - an extraordinary story of determination and courage in very demanding circumstances. Two more, Chris Marett and Alistair Smee, are now building the boat in which they are going to compete in the Trans Atlantic rowing race in the autumn. Perhaps even more remarkably, Alex Ransby, badly handicapped by arthritis and almost wheelchair bound, will shortly be setting off to sail solo round the world.

This has been another busy year for our chaplain who is nothing if not original in the way he presents the Christian faith in chapel and finds such interesting venues for services ranging from rounders at dawn in Stonor Park on Ascension Day to Communion under the apple trees in the orchard on a hot summer Sunday.

Exciting initiatives

Looking ahead I am certain that the future of Shiplake College depends very largely on improving what we offer in the sixth form. The breadth of teaching and learning experiences that we are currently and confidently improving must be matched with suitably enhanced accommodation. The architect's designs for a sixth form house for up to 40 boarders and 40 day pupils, are exciting.

It is said that without vision the people perish and we've certainly had to be very visionary this year:

Not only are there plans for new buildings but there are many new and exciting initiatives in the academic and activities pipelines which will affect all pupils next term.

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Risk failure to achieve success, says Boris



Boris Johnson, the newly elected Conservative Member of Parliament for Henley-on-Thames, was the guest of honour at Speech Day. This was just Mr Johnson's second public engagement since his General Election victory and Tom Boyle, Henley Standard journalist and Shiplake Old Boy, was eager to get a photo of Mr Johnson's new haircut. Questions suggesting that Mr Johnson might be working on a smarter image were brushed aside as rapidly as the famous blond thatch was combed.

After admitting that he "might even have been a fraction late", held-up by Regatta traffic, the *Spectator* editor and *Daily Telegraph* columnist delivered a brief but hilarious speech.

Having handed out the prizes and received some 'bone-crushing hand-shakes', Mr Johnson noted Shiplake's reputation, 'you shift a lot of water', before proceeding to his main comic theme.

"The vital thing for success is failure." He recounted how his own failures at school, notably in the swimming pool and a failed Grade One piano certificate, had contributed to the success of others.

"The British are too nervous of failure and too nervous of risk. Not that I am in favour of a national collection of failures such as Captain Scott and Eddy the Eagle but if you don't try, you won't know if you are completely rubbish at something, which you probably will be, but you just might be a success." He concluded with the wise words of Clint Eastwood in *Dirty Harry*, "A man's gotta know his own limitations."

THE COLLEGE YEAR



We shall be reviewing what we offer in the lower sixth and hopefully introducing our own broader curriculum: a Shiplake Key Skills, Study Skills and general studies course and we shall try to show achievements in all these on references and reports to universities and colleges.

In rugby we shall be trying to streamline the coaching so that everyone has a chance to learn from the best coaches. There will be fewer rugby practices, slightly fewer matches, hopefully fewer injuries but much more meaningful training and preparation. All of which will free up time for the minor sports for which there is an increasing demand. Also the CCF will no longer be compulsory. This is a major change and we shall encourage everyone to remain involved but the decision, not taken lightly, has partly been forced on us by a lack of experienced staff but also because we believe that a voluntary CCF will be much more fun, more purposeful and more effective. I suppose the test of change in a school is whether, as teachers struggle to keep up, any of the pressure generated is reflected on pupils. It is enormously to the credit of their teachers that this is emphatically not the case and I can't thank them enough for their dedication,

determination, commitment and patience as they have faced up to every new directive that has come their way without ever letting it affect the most important part of their work, the direction, education and encouragement of our pupils.

Warmth and friendliness

Parents visiting the school invariably comment on the warmth and friendliness of their welcome and the cheerful attitude of pupils and staff. At Shiplake we don't let things get us down, and we cheer ourselves up with outstanding and frequently surprising achievements like those of the last week of term. One teacher commented a few days ago that his high moment of the year was the award of an A* grade to a Year 10 pupil on a mathematics paper. It obviously gave as much pleasure to him as it did to the boy and it

characterises the personal interest teachers have in pupils. Little things matter and when I find the time to chat off the record with boys or girls I always feel a renewed confidence that Shiplake continues to move in the right direction. It is not all plain sailing and the occasional letters of appreciation from parents are most welcome. I don't go along with the correspondence in the house magazine of the Headmasters Conference where a small prize is currently on offer for the best 'parent from hell' story. One head evidently climbs out of the window when a certain parent is seen approaching, but I can assure you that is not the reason why I had French windows installed when I moved into my study. Pupil numbers are going up next term and the huge amount of interest we are generating and the vast amount of work that has to be done to keep up with the avalanche of enquiries is very much thanks to all of you spreading the word about what we offer here. I feel confident of our future; of the job we are doing and of those leaving us today to represent Shiplake in the wider world.

NV Bevan



PRIZEWINNERS 2001

Year Nine

English and French	Andrew Helps
Esau Essay Prize	Mark Cole
Mathematics	Adam Gilbert Smith
Science and PSE/RE	Alex Esslemont
History	Sam Morris
Geography	James Pengilly
Technology	Ben Ackerley
Information Technology	Christopher Gardener
Physical Education	Edward Blanchard
Art (2D & 3D)	Tom Watson

Year Ten

English and Art (3D)	Tom Sampson
Art (2D)	Stephen O'Connor
Mathematics and	
Science (Triple Award)	Mark Gourley
Science (Double Award)	
and Music	Jonathon Boulton
PSE	Marcus O'Shea
History	Piers Cadman
Geography	George Boggis
French	Tom Wright
German	Adam Green
Technology	Rory Lamrock
Information Technology	Edward Cook
Physical Education	Paddy Colman

GCSE Prizes

Tom Bellamy, Andrew Fox,
Tom Hall, Alex Howard,
Steven Wood, Simon Hurlstone,
James Wilkinson
Alex Cain, Eleanor Guy,
Charlotte Morse, Kate Ransom

School Prizes

English and History	Oliver Miller
Mathematics and Physics	Adi Susic
Chemistry	Peter Cassells
Biology	Harry Colvin
Geography and	
Information Technology	Alex Macdonald
Bleackley Modern Langs	Jo Burrridge
Business Studies	Chris Grabowski
Technology	Jack Gregory
Art (2D)	Andrew Jones
Art (3D)	William Paddison

Media Studies
Music
Key Skills - Year 12

Special Awards

Margaret Wells-Furby Science
JR Kroth Mathematics
Design & Technology Hons Award
McAlpine
Salmon
Asclepian
Spiers

Senior General Knowledge
Junior General Knowledge

Senior Public Speaking
Junior Public Speaking
Senior Reading
Junior Reading
Senior Poetry
Junior Poetry
Barron Prize Senior
Barron Prize Junior
Army Leadership Prize
Rupert Mackay Prize
JLJ Johnson Prize for L Sixth Art
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Edinburgh Prize
Matthew Bevin Prize
Caston Memorial Prize

Headmaster's Prizes (Prefects)

Andrew Jones
Tom Hall
Stuart Miles,
Edward Batchelor

Andrew Fox
Alex Cadoux-Hudson
Ben Hewson, Jack Gregory
Joel Bulkeley, Henry Percy
Joseph Holt
Jack Gregory
Andrew Jones,
Robert Yetman
Tim Lowndes
Giles Ferrier,
Boston Taylor-Raymond
Steven Wood
Paddy Colman
Andrew Fox, Steven Wood
Max Handley
Steven Wood
Nick Alstadt
Joseph Holt
Alexander Entin
Jonathan Ravn
Jo Burrridge
Simon Hurlstone
Edward Kennedy,
Max Manners, Oliver Miller,
John Robinson, Adi Susic
Robert Yetman
Alexander Entin
William Schick

Jo Burrridge, Jordan Darrah,
Chris Grabowski, Jack
Gregory, Ben Hewson, Joseph
Holt, Patrick Hutton, Martin
Leguay, Max Manners,
Jonathan Ravn, Jack Rayner
Simon Hotchkiss, Edward
Kennedy, Alex Macdonald,
Kit Murray, Will Paddison,
Adi Susic

Heads of House

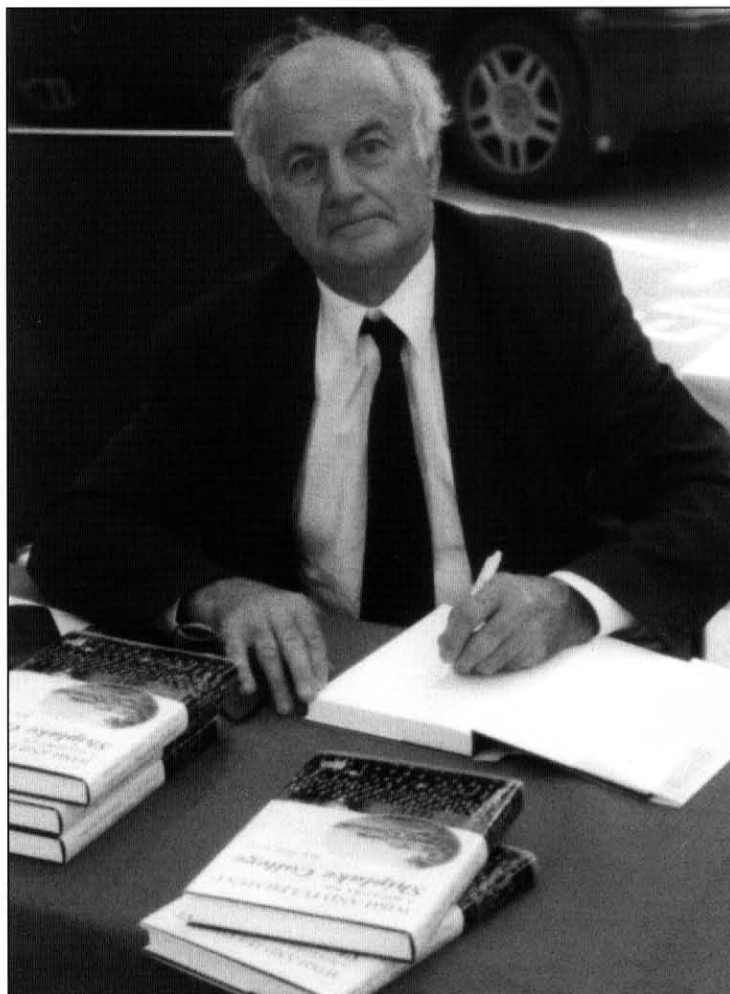
Deputy Head of College
Head of College

John Robinson
Harry Colvin

COLLEGE HISTORY

Wish and Fulfilment - A history of Shiplake College

Hans Wells-Furby's updated history of Shiplake College was published in June 2001. There are fascinating chapters on humour, major sports and the Jubilee celebrations as well as the key developments of the last 42 years. Alexander Everett's 'Recollections of the Founding of Shiplake College' will rekindle memories for all those involved in the early years of the College. Hans, who first joined the school in the sixties and served as Second Master from 1980 until his retirement in 1983, returned to Shiplake to sign copies of his book on Speech Day. As EP Hatchett, a governor from 1976 to 1991, writes in the forward to the 1984 edition, 'Historians tell the reader more about their own times than about the period they are



Book signing: Hans Wells-Furby

describing is an old adage which all students of history are taught to absorb. In *Wish and Fulfilment* Hans Wells-Furby

has had to combine the two influences. It is difficult to remain objective when one is living through a story but the typewriter, pattering away on the lawn of Tudor Cottage while most of us were enjoying our holidays, has managed to achieve just this.'

Current deputy head, Barry Edwards, has taken the story on into the third millennium and he looks ahead to the challenges confronting the College today. A selection of nostalgic images, ranging from the very first rugby XV in 1961 to the first generation of sixth form girls in 1999,

presents a comprehensive view of life at Shiplake over the decades.

The book is available at £20 (including post and packing). Cheques should be made payable to Shiplake College.

GUNPOWDER: REASON AND PLOT

Malcolm Armstrong was for many years the real 'Q' behind not just the Bond films but most wide-screen explosive action-packed films. Have you ever wondered how they got those marvellous explosive and pyrotechnic effects in James Bond films? We went along to Armstrong's '*Explosives in Parlour and Pantry -*

Principles and Practice' lecture at Reading University.

The first question asked was "How do you make gun powder and what is it made from?" I am not sure whether it was reassuring or worrying that the only person to know the answer was from Shiplake!

With every topic there was a

demonstration. A great way of getting your attention considering he let things off at a decibel level somewhere around a hundred. Every demonstration was a shock to the senses. Not surprisingly this lecture had to be one of the most interesting and educational experiences of the autumn term.

Tobias Clark Year 12

COLLEGE NEWS

A decade of change

Graham Vick has sat in the hot seat of Director of Studies for 10 years, a decade of academic progress for Shiplake. "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it," wrote the quality guru William Edwards Demming. Perhaps Graham's greatest contribution as Director of Studies has been the introduction of academic added value measures.

Since 1997 the Year Eleven Information Service (YELLIS) system results have demonstrated where Shiplake's strengths lie. For four consecutive years Shiplake has been placed in the top five per cent of UK schools. YELLIS results are more than just a vindication of the Shiplake way of teaching. By pupil, or department, the results are a management tool, enabling teachers to see where further improvements can be achieved.

Over the past 10 years the pace of educational change has been rapid. New subjects have arrived. Places in the curriculum for Business Studies, Media Studies and Information Communications Technology and Sports Studies have had to be found. Options columns have had to be adjusted and balanced.

Furthermore the formulation of Option Columns has been complicated by pupils' broader subject selections. The contest for option column placing between A Level Biology and A Level English has occupied many a curriculum committee meeting.

During Graham's decade the College has come through two demanding inspections with

flying colours. It is a tribute to the rigour with which he has encouraged codification of syllabi and schemes of work that the College was admitted to the Headmasters' Conference in 1998. One of the major factors in Shiplake's increased academic prowess has been the quality of teaching. Graham has been heavily involved in the development of the recruitment procedure. Sometimes over 80 applicants have applied for positions. CVs have been read, short-lists drawn up, candidates interviewed and decisions made. It is a credit to Graham, and others involved in the process, that the HMC report praised 'outstanding teaching'.

The abolition of the 'twilight zone' for junior boys, a double lesson slot running from 4.15 in the afternoon, was another

major triumph. Graham ran a working party that made the best use of morning teaching hours when pupils were alert, freed up afternoon slots for games and also created early evening cultural slots. Meanwhile there were academic prizes to award, Speech Days to organise and, after the Dearing Report, there was the introduction of Curriculum 2000 with the new AS and A2 examinations.

Director of Studies is not an easy position. During the early nineties recession, redundancies and cutbacks had to be made. Balancing cost and educational provision is an ethical dilemma. Graham has had to deal with the human cost of many tough decisions.

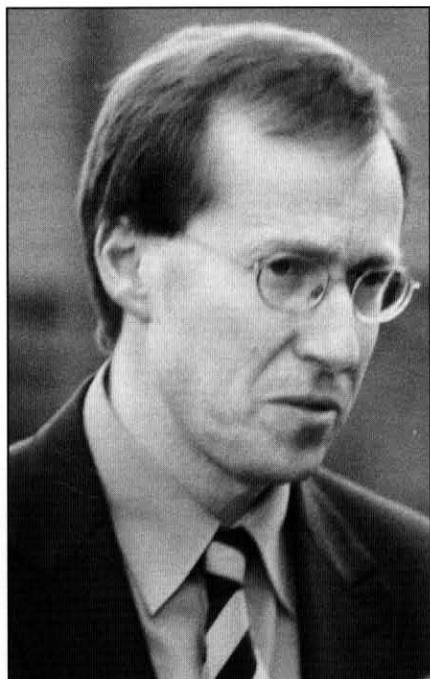
While teaching a heavy timetable and running the Mathematics department

Graham has overseen numerous parents' conferences and study guides. And somehow he has found the time to pursue his own natural history interests and embark on a PhD with Imperial College.

The work of the Director of Studies has expanded and Graham has created an experienced team for Richard Mannix, the next Director of Studies.

Derek Dovaston and David Wilson are both experienced at creating timetables and liaising with all the staff involved in organising an academic year increasingly filled with examinations including A Level modules, GCSEs, orals, practicals, trials, Key Stage 3 and Key Skills examinations.





Richard Mannix - from Orchard Housemaster to Director of Studies

Usually the position of housemaster of a day house in a predominantly boarding school creates a number of challenges. In many such schools boarders cast "part-timer" accusations. Richard Mannix has risen to the challenge of leading a house with such a strong spirit and reputation for academic, cultural and sporting success that questioning whispers are swept aside.

After 11 years of overseeing a couple of generations of day boys Richard is leaving Orchard, moving out of Meltemi and into Lower Shiplake, to take on the equally demanding position of Director of Studies. Of course he will still be coaching formidable U15 hockey teams, producing crafty junior doubles combinations on the tennis court and masterminding the now traditional school rock concert.

Richard's once-more-into-the-breach exhortations, delivered with a we-shall-fight-them-on-the-beaches tone, prior to

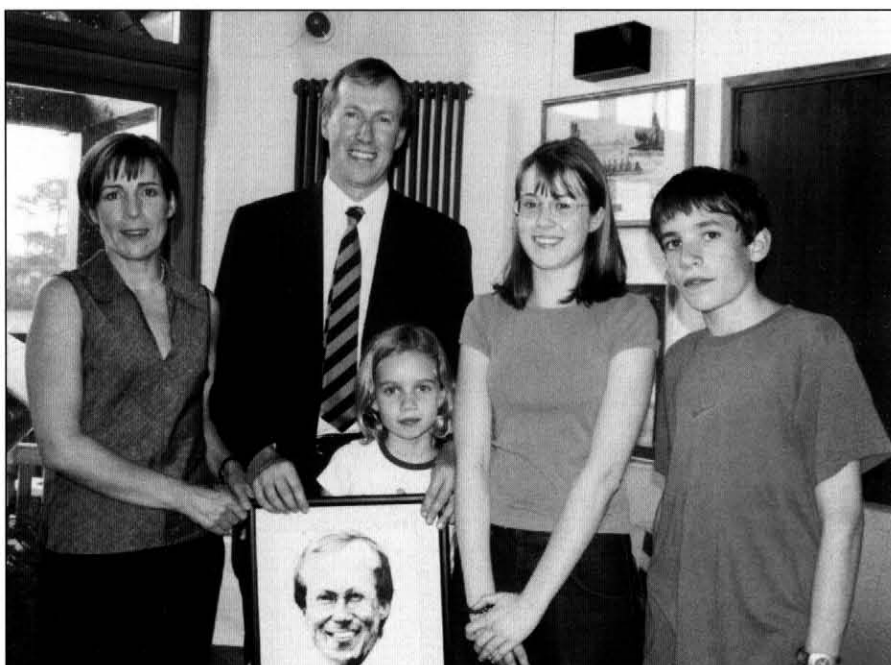
house events, such as athletics or cross country, are famous among Orchard boys for their enthusiasm and fervour. It was with immense pride that Richard watched James Aslin, his 1997 Head of House, collect the Baldry Trophy. Although a day housemaster may not have to contend with boys who are late to bed and late to rise, communications often move more rapidly than for the boarding counterparts. The phones ring a little more urgently and frequently for the day housemaster as innocent victims rush home to tell their parents how they have been wronged or how their rugger boots have been (temporarily) lost.

Maybe it was Richard who launched the "It's good to talk" slogan, perhaps Richard should have been a trained hostage release negotiator; as he is a great believer in communication and investigation. Always willing to hear both sides of a story he exudes a calmness and patience which has taken the heat out of many a situation. He has been a great comforter and a confidence builder too.

The Orchard Richard leaves is unrecognisable from the Orchard he inherited. He led a demolition group who pulled down the tatty old buildings and coped with a group of boys housed in Portakabins as a new sumptuous Orchard rose from the rubble. Inevitably Richard was a leading figure in the Pavilion Development Appeal, encouraging generous benefactors to contribute to the new buildings. As a keen DIY fan and a very practical man Richard has always taken great pride in the fabric of Orchard and encouraged pupils to really look after their accommodation. He has worked hard to provide excellent study and leisure facilities for Orchard House pupils.

It was fitting that a thriving Orchard Parents' Association should pay tribute to Richard at a May ceremony. Parents, pupils and fellow staff have all valued Richard's professionalism and perseverance in developing a day house that now attracts pupils from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and even London.

Fran and Richard Mannix and their family



COLLEGE NEWS

Malcolm Woodcock: now Senior Master

"Sixteen years of service as a housemaster," I sighed.

"Sixteen distinguished years," Malcolm Woodcock corrected.

Of course he was right. To current pupils and many Old Vikings, Malcolm Woodcock is Skipwith. It is fitting that Skipwith is housed in a large rambling 19th century house. Even away from his beloved Devon estate there is an air of the country gentleman about Malcolm. One of Malcolm's hallmarks has been a succession of grand but totally unreliable vehicles parked in front of Skipwith, sometimes a Volvo, now a Jaguar. Boys joke that he has to call out the AA an hour before every planned departure. If it were not for these trappings of modern life and the occasional whim to purchase a helicopter or maybe an island Malcolm, with his taste for the finer things in life and his love of music, might have been a gentleman out of a Jane Austen novel.

In some ways Malcolm finds the modern era very demanding and quite puzzling. "What is a web-site?" he queried. His overflowing pigeonhole could have been a Turner Prize entry: a symbolic, chaotic protest at the excessive administration



Looking ahead: Malcolm Woodcock will now devote all his time to directing music

and bureaucracy that hinders education. There were times when Malcolm discovered cheques in his pigeonhole

well past their sell-by-date. "What you've never had you'll never miss," he commented.

Malcolm will be sorely missed by Skipwith boys and tutors. As he takes on new roles as Senior Master and Secretary of the Old Vikings Society people will gravitate towards the Music Department to share his warm humour and love of music.

As housemaster Malcolm has always been generous with his time. Aside from the numerous trips running errands for the house he has been willing to supervise a boy who has somehow fallen behind with his work, assisting another who is struggling with a subject. Under Malcolm's benevolent leadership Skipwith has always been a cultural force. The house frequently seemed to raise its tempo for the house music competition and has produced more than its fair share of public speakers and debaters.

During term-time it seemed that Malcolm worked a twenty-four hour day. Late at night he patrolled the house, checking that all was well. Then he was one of the earliest risers in the morning, unlocking and making miscreants rise for the biting cold break of day.

Who says that there are no longer characters in education? At times he frustrated parents, "We've been waiting for an answer from him for two years." And fellow staff, "I put it in your pigeonhole last week."

But Malcolm had a rare ability, particularly in meetings, to see an issue in a new light, frequently after he had interjected a seemingly irrelevant Wilfrid Owen quotation or historical parallel. Most important of all he was able to bring out the best in so many of the hundreds of boys fortunate enough to be placed in his care.



COLLEGE NEWS



BBC's *Food and Drink* programme filmed at Shiplake College

BBC's *Food and Drink* programme came to Shiplake to record a Thameside edition.

"Anthony Worrall Thompson thought that this would make a wonderful location, this is his milieu and he could see the possibilities. The programme has moved on and out of the studio, we are taking it out to some interesting locations," said wine buff Oz Clarke.

The day began with Nick Bevan, Susie Ellis and Amanda Moser sampling a variety of white wines. "I don't usually like Riesling," commented Suzie, "but

there were some wonderful bottles from Australia. The only problem was that we had to keep on sipping over and over again so that they could get the shots right."

"The aim is to create the atmosphere of a English fete, even if that means dodging showers. At times our producer will drop everything just to get a landscape shot if there is a hint of sunshine,"

said Oz Clarke.

Pupils, parents and teachers recreated a village fete and invited along children from Shiplake Primary School. Bric-a-brac stalls, a bouncy castle, throwing sponges at stocks, a golf competition, a BBQ, a plant stall and picnics on the lawn created the atmosphere. The boathouse, ergometers and riverside location brought back memories of Oz Clarke's university days rowing at Pembroke College, Oxford. He hopes to accept the College's invitation to return for a row with one of the eights.

Celebrity chef Anthony Worrall Thompson ran an ice-cream tasting session, comparing different brands of raspberry ripple. Once the verdict was announced boys were delighted to clear up the remaining samples.



COLLEGE NEWS

Visit to Lloyds of London

Richard Rogers' 1980s collage of glass and copper soared into a grey February London sky. Year 13 business students had arrived to view the world of pinstripes, thin laptops and mega-bucks at Lloyds of London.

An Old Viking, Henry Summers, carrying several hefty tomes of broking, arrived to introduce us to our guide for the afternoon, Norman Clark who has several decades of insurance experience on the £300 per square foot floor. He took us to a massive conference room and acquainted us with the basics of the insurance business. Lloyds had reported its third consecutive annual loss and the world of business risk and risk management suddenly became more meaningful for pupils preparing for an A Level External Influences module.

Even a stomach-churning lift ride on the outside of engineers' Ove Arup's controversial building gave an insight into business. Lloyds are claiming £8 million costs against the firm who installed the external piping which has corroded. The good news is that the claim has been upheld. The bad news is that the piping firm are insured with Lloyds.

On our tour of a hectic trading floor we viewed expensive news coming in of sinking ships and crashed planes. We gawped at the entry recording the sinking of the Titanic and dreamed of ringing the famous Lutine Bell before leaving to tackle the rush-hour road traffic.



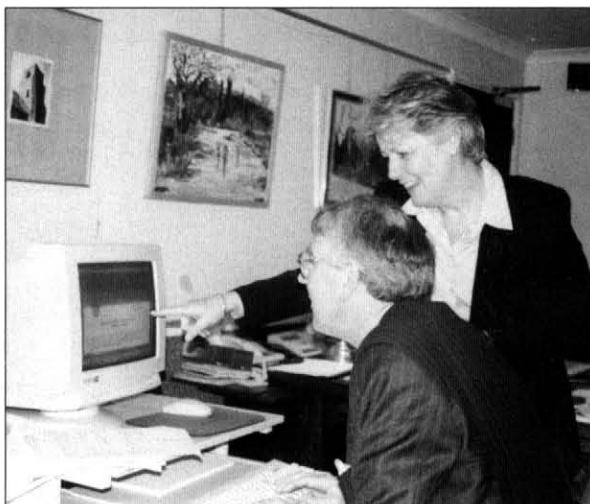
A votre service - Connect Catering

International cuisine is *plat du jour* at Shiplake

Connect Catering from Wallingford celebrated their arrival at Shiplake College with a *soiree française*. They created a baguettes, garlic and onions atmosphere as the Connect team of nine, led by Chef Steve Nicholson, donned berets and decorated the servery with tricolour flags. Lisa Rawlings had designed a spectacular *menu du jour* and wished all pupils and staff *bon appetit* at the start of a new term. After *soupe aux asperges*, diners moved on to a tasty *poulet estragon*, concluding with an outstanding *tarte tatin*.

Over coming months the caterers plan to hold Greek, Chinese, German and Spanish theme nights. "We'll probably celebrate Thanksgiving with an American evening," said manager, Ken Demmen, whose catering experience includes time spent with DK Catering and Gardener Merchant. "We aim to bring a little *joie de vivre* to meal-times. Our objectives are to make the service a little more personal and develop more of a relationship with the people we are feeding. We are always looking to provide more variety and wider choice."

Headmaster gets to grips with IT in his study



Headmaster, Nick Bevan has a lesson in managing byte-sized problems from his secretary Ann Lazar.

He had recently taken command of a new computer and was pictured putting it through its paces. Watch out in the IT room!

COLLEGE NEWS

Oswinda - one in a thousand

Oswinda Erlangga, a 16-year-old Indonesian boy, spent a month at Shiplake as a special ambassador for Indonesia.

Oswinda was one of nearly 150 Millennium Scholars taking advantage of the offer of a month at a British boarding school, thanks to a unique scheme jointly organised by the Independent Schools Council and the British Council.

"It is cold but I am enjoying the lessons," said Oswinda who observed AS lessons in Biology, Chemistry, Information

Technology and Media Studies. "In Indonesia we have no options and we have to study thirteen subjects. Here you have much greater depth and an interesting blend of theory and practical work."

Oswinda was one of a thousand applicants who had to write an essay to reach the final 16. He then came through a series of interviews to be selected as just one of four Indonesians to visit the UK.

Oswinda has won two previous competitions, representing Indonesia in a World Parliament of Children hosted in Paris and he has also taken part in a Wilderness Experience in South Africa.



Jumping for charity

Ben Bradshaw and Alex James, both in Year 11, raised £536 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children when they made a sponsored bungee jump from a 180 ft crane at Bishopsgate, London.

"That's 10 feet higher than Nelson's column," Ben explained for anyone failing to appreciate the enormity of the challenge. "If you had asked me a month ago if I ever wanted to do a bungee jump I wouldn't even have considered it. Then we saw an advert and we realised that we could get a lot of sponsorship from school."

The two jumpers selected the NSPCC as they wanted to see the donation go to a local cause and they were concerned that it should have a real impact. "The NSPCC has promised that we can go and see what difference the money makes."

Both boys now have a taste for adventure. Alex is planning a sponsored parachute jump. This time the charity MIND is in line for a donation.



Top: Ben Bradshaw jumps...

Right: Ben and Alex present their cheque to Susie Prance



COLLEGE NEWS

Bright ideas from Young Enterprise 2000-2001

This year has been unprecedented in two respects; it is the first time that the number of Young Achievers has exceeded 20 (23 to be precise) and it is also the first time that Shiplake College has had a female managing director (Emma Bond). The company has had a successful year following a shaky start. As the group was so big, it was deemed a good idea to split into two groups to allow as many pupils as possible to get involved in the business. It was soon the case

that the two groups were becoming competitive and were not working together to the best advantage. The group reunited and decided to produce CDs and vinyl clocks. Although there was a certain amount of success in this, it was actually a later idea that brought profits and showed those involved what real business is about; communication and group work. The 'no name' hoodies (sweatshirts with hoods!) were a very successful business idea and gave the company a real feel for enterprise. I was impressed by the way the group did not fall apart after Christmas, which is very often the case. Many thanks go

to all those involved and particularly to Peter Allen and Alan Wardle (the Young Enterprise Advisers) for all their help. This was Alan's first year as a YE Adviser and he provided some invaluable help to Alec Bayford and James Greenham, the finance directors. The other chief roles were carried out by Ed Batchelor (assistant managing director), Natalie Levin (company secretary), Tom Hall and Troy Benson (personnel), Tom Gouldstone (operations) and Jenni Desmond (marketing).

LS McDonald

The Neilson Trophy

This is awarded annually to the house which makes the greatest contribution to art and drama. It was given by Mark Neilson's parents and is been always eagerly contested. In 2001 the trophy was won by Skipwith with Everett in second place. For the full results, see table below.

Public Speaking

The College has had another successful year, giving the chance for a number of pupils to talk on various topics and develop important communication skills for the future. The "Youth Speaks" competition which is held in the Kenton Theatre in the spring term, saw two very impressive

speeches by Paddy Colman and Steve Wood who spoke interestingly and imaginatively on "If something can go wrong it will". The Senior Public Speaking competition was won by Orchard with James Wilkinson securing first place.

LS McDonald

	Event	Burr	Everett	Orchard	Skipwith	Welsh
Winter term	Senior Public Speaking	20	13	23	18	15
	General Knowledge			20		10
	Music - autumn recital	5	5	6	1	6
	Music - winter concert	3	7	6	6	8
	Drama – <i>The Hypochondriac</i>	8	3	3	7	8
	Sounds of the Sixties	3	2	3	2	5
Spring term	Youth Speaks			2	4	
	Music - spring concert	2	3	3	1	4
	Big Band	2	4	4	1	2
	Reading	3	4	5	7	3
	House Music		50		30	15
Summer term	Drama – <i>Gargling with Jelly</i>	9	8	7	8	3
	<i>Utterly Utterly</i>	3		1	3	2
	<i>HMS Pinafore</i>	5	9	9	17	6
	Esau Essay				10	
	Debating – Senior				20	10
	Debating - Junior		10		20	
	Total points gained	63	118	92	155	97

COLLEGE CHAPEL

It was a little after 7 o'clock in the morning towards the end of May, high up on an open common near Stonor. Thirty Shiplake pupils were playing rounders following a short act of worship. A surprised early morning walker with his equally surprised springer spaniel paused to ask what was going on. I explained we were celebrating Ascension Day. "So God is not dead," replied the passer-by, and not unkindly. "That is good to know!" And having paused a little longer to watch added, "I wish all young people were as nice as those." I felt no small touch of pride at being part of the Shiplake community.

For the pupils are good news and the vast majority, even those who cannot accept the Christian doctrine, accept the Christian ethic and respect the things for which it stands. The weekly chapel services are, mostly, readily accepted and are important moments in the week; even the singing has improved! Even more encouraging are the voluntary services, especially the House Communions on Wednesdays where quiet informality is the keynote; these regularly attract good numbers and are obviously appreciated.

In May, the Bishop of Oxford confirmed 19 boys and one girl. Once again we had a delightful 'away day' to Old Sarum and Salisbury Cathedral, climbing the tower and being led in quiet meditation by Ann Philp, the Cathedral Chaplain. Ann also visited the school for our Harvest Thanksgiving where staff and students were asked to



Shiplake College Chapel wardens

bring gifts which were piled artistically high in the Lady Chapel by Arthur de Bormann, to be sold in aid of the Sue Ryder Home and raising £200.

Other preachers over the year included the headmasters of Taunton and Alleyns School, chairman of governors, Nigel Gilson, former member of staff, Ian Lowry, the Conduct of Eton College, Charles Mitchell-Innes, the Rev'd Ian Cronk, Old Viking and Vicar of

Cinderford, Canon Bloxam-Rose from Millfield, Paul Carling from Sherborne and Norman Betts from Stoke Gabriel in Devon whose family have been vergers there since the 15th century. We were also fortunate to have persuaded our new Bishop of Dorchester, Colin Fletcher, to come and speak to us on Founder's Day. His reflections on his worldwide experience of the Christian Church made inspiring

listening and we look forward to his being with us again in September when he comes to dedicate the new chapel wardens. There have also been a number of 'home grown' preachers: the



Confirmation day at Shiplake Parish Church, with the Bishop of Oxford

COLLEGE CHAPEL

headmaster and deputy head, Andrew Cheadle, Chris Alcock and even Malcolm Woodcock was persuaded to say a few words!

Charley Lowndes gave two addresses over the year and his support to the Chapel has been much appreciated. We shall miss his company very much as he leaves us for the spires of Oxford. On the last Sunday of the academic year Jo Burridge led her wardens in an act of worship with style and great sincerity. Skipwith, Everett and Orchard all produced three admirable and differing house services over the year which added each term to the variety of the worship pattern. Next year it will be Welsh, Burr and then back to Skipwith. All the chapel wardens have worked hard - and have also laughed a lot, which helps!

Jo Burridge was the College's first lady chapel warden and her gentle but firm efficiency added much to the smooth running of the worship. Joe Holt too was always ready to stand in for any chapel warden who was away, and was always ready to go the extra mile. And finally a word of thanks to Harry Colvin, the Head of College, whose strong Christian witness inspired us all. Together with the worship, the regular stream of visitors to my little study makes the job of Chaplain non-stop but hugely privileged. Sometimes the visit is simply to say 'hello', sometimes to see if the Chaplain has anything to eat or drink, sometimes to grumble about a school irritant; sometimes there is a real problem which needs to be aired and addressed. All pupils, staff and parents know, I hope, I am there for them - and will respect their confidences absolutely. Many parents of the lower school boys have asked why RE is not available at GCSE. We are aware that there was a gaping void here which needs to be



Year 9 church crawl at Turville, where the Vicar of Dibley was filmed

filled; this will hopefully happen in 2002. Although in many ways separate from the worship, academic theology underpins and strengthens what happens in Chapel.

Thanks to Peter Hose for all the minutiae he undertakes in preparing for worship on a Sunday and to Martin Connop Price, our Vicar who allows us

Jo Burridge, Jon Ravn and Joe Holt, wardens



to use the parish church.

Nor do we (how can we?) forget Malcolm Woodcock for providing us week by week with good things from the ivories combined at times with members of the school orchestra. As the year goes on we hope to integrate a little more with our local parish of Shiplake with Dunsden. Parents and friends are always welcome at our services and if you know of anyone for whom you would wish prayers to be offered either at our Tuesday prayers for the sick or just privately, please drop me a line or ring the school.

Over the year we look back to the great occasions like the Carol Service and the Confirmation but these are not as important as the gentle rhythm of daily worship. And at the end of the day it is the boy, girl or member of staff who faithfully supports the regular communions or Tuesday prayers who make it all worthwhile. And if that is the yardstick by which to judge things, then I am delighted to be able to agree with that stranger on the common on Ascension Day morning that God is indeed far from dead at Shiplake.

Robert Prance

MUSIC

Autumn Concert

On a wet and windy October evening a fair-sized audience was entertained by a wide assortment of musicians. The programme was varied, giving students of all abilities the opportunity to "blow their own trumpet" which Stuart Laws did with great accuracy and aplomb by playing an Italian rondo solo. Tom Hall and Robert Yetman also played solo pieces which showed off the versatility of their instruments and their own experience in playing them.

This was a busy evening for Tom and perhaps the highlight of the concert came when he and Jenni Desmond played "Domine Deus" from Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The audience was spellbound and apart from the impeccable sound from Tom and Jenni one could have heard a



Jenni Desmond and Tom Hall
pin drop! Tom played again later with Andrew Jones, a Mozart serenade for two clarinets. They kept the balance well between light and shade and finished

with a good sense of fun in the last movement. The Chamber Choir sang six pieces ranging through the ages from *Lord How Long Wilt Thou be Angry* by Purcell to *Annie's Song* by John Denver; though they sounded more comfortable and confident with *The Nightingales' Chorus* from Handel's *Solomon*.

The audience was invited to guess the two sea songs and four English airs played by fifteen instrumentalists in the mixed instrumental group. A bottle of College wine was presented to Avis Rosser for the correct answers. Rory Lamrock, Robert Yetman, Tom Hall and Tom Chilton represented the Saxophone Group with a rhythmic number by Colin Cowles called *Let's Bepop*. Most concerts end with a few rousing numbers from the Big Band, but this time the Brass Group played earlier

TITHE BARN EVENTS

"The best boogie piano heard in a long time ... with these jazzy vocals, this guy is seriously talented!" read the *Blueprint* review of Daniel Smith and his band. Back in September an evening of blues and boogie woogie made a great start to another year of cultural offerings in the Tithe Barn.

Black and Blue from The Absolute Zero Theatre Company was fast and furious entertainment, a chaotic comedy radio show, where anything can happen inside or outside the story. It turned out to be a mind-boggling co-ordination of live actors, live effects and digital sound. It was home grown talent with afghan coats and shaggy hairstyles as the *Sounds of the Sixties* rolled in. From *Awopbopalooopaloopbamboom* to *I can't get no satisfaction* the audience sang

along, pure rock'n'roll as College rules banned the sex and drugs. Shiplake's finest continued to provide the entertainment throughout November. First, in the balloon's basket, world leaders met actors, and novelists argued against athletes. Then the rich brass sound of our musicians threatened the survival of a listed building as the Shiplake College Big Band returned for a third triumphal year to raise the roof of the Tithe Barn.

Angela East began the new year with *A Tale of Four Cellos*. It was an entertaining story of the cello illustrated by solo repertoire, played on the bass viol, bass violin, baroque cello and classical cello. Angela is a dynamic and controversial cellist who provides a captivating entertainment. As a pioneer of historical

music performance, her enthusiasm extends beyond the conventional parameters of music into the 19th century.

Chalemie, a baroque music theatre ensemble, delved with gusto into the seldom performed but magnificent repertoire of the 18th century popular playhouse. It was a lively, witty company of six fine-costumed performers singing, dancing, acting and dashing about the stage in their own humorous versions of pantomime and baroque theatre. Their show was entitled *Harlequin Pygmalion*. In this hilarious deconstruction of the classical story from Greek mythology, Harlequin - dancer, artist, sculptor and quack surgeon - unravels the mysteries of ancient hero Pygmalion.

CAM Lowndes

MUSIC



Singing at the Christmas concert

and produced just as much sound with an exciting arrangement of *Wallace and Grommet*.

Christmas Concert

The weather was disappointing again but a fire flickered and crackled in the Great Hall fireplace to keep the cold out and the spirits up. The only dampener on the evening was the absence of Gary Howarth who, at that very moment, was on the operating table in hospital, having fallen in the Tesco car park the night before and broken both his arms. He was sorely missed and some members of the Big Band had to be satisfied with sitting in the audience for a change. The evening began with five extracts from Vivaldi's *Gloria* sung by the choir. This included a solo confidently sung by James Larkin accompanied by Jenni Desmond. Later the choir also sang a selection of carols. The Saxophone Quintet also added to the Christmas spirit with three traditional songs arranged by John Cacava. Still on saxophone, Robert Yetman played *Banbridge Town Co. Down*, slow to start with but it improved as he warmed up. Tom Chilton also played a saxophone solo, *Bebop Bounce* by Chris



Rory Lamrock and Tom Chilton

Grumbley, which he played with a good beat and plenty of volume. Other soloists were Chris Ellaby using a very bold attack on the piano with a Chopin prelude, James Larkin who gave a polished performance of a Saint-Seans *Concerto for Trombone* and Tom Hall

played the first movement of a clarinet concerto by Mozart. Finally, Andrew Jones played *Fantasiestuck* by Schumann, which the audience obviously immensely enjoyed.

Towards the end of the concert the Wind Ensemble played Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*. A rather unusual arrangement which was followed in complete contrast by the orchestra playing a medley from Bernstein's *West Side Story*. To finish in traditional style they then played a rousing "Proms Finale" with *Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory* and *Rule Britannia*. Jane Edwards managed to raise her voice above the toe tapping, cheering and clapping audience and gave us a good reason to lift our spirits and enjoy a glass of mulled wine.

Spring Concert

With the lengthening days and the approach of Easter it was appropriate to start with Stainer's *Crucifixion*. A very moving performance bringing a few tears to the eyes. Solo parts were sung by Nick Brown, Scott Dunsdon, Barry Edwards, Matt Clark, Tom Hall, James Larkin and Rob Yetman. A first for Scott as he, his voice and his bassoon settle

MUSIC



Nic Lowry and Kit Stangroom

into a gap year at Shiplake all the way from Australia, but a last for Rob as he moves on next year.

Also taking a final bow at this concert were Andrew Jones and Caroline Lauder. They will all be sadly missed and we wish them well. They were not let off lightly before departing: Andrew Jones gave a delightful performance of Mozart's *Divertimento No 4* together with Scott Dunsdon and Tom Hall. Rob Yetman proved that even Bach can sound good on a saxophone before he joined other fellow saxophonists Rory Lamrock, Tom Chilton and Caroline Lauder in two toe-tapping numbers by Colin Cowles.

Later Tom Chilton featured as a soloist with Bart Howard's *Fly Me to the Moon* and Tom Hall played a clarinet solo by Malcolm Arnold with great sensitivity. The woodwind players also featured high on the programme with a second Mozart piece. This time with the Woodwind Sextet playing his overture to *The Magic Flute*. Magic indeed and this was followed by a very interesting arrangement of the *Paganini Variations*. The Wind Band later played a guessing game for the audience with five

traditional folksongs and dances played in a different order to that in the programme. Keeping the theme of tradition going the choir sang three favourites, *Linden Lea*, *The Skye Boat Song* and *The Lost Chord*.

Raising the decibels somewhat the Brass Group gave a stalwart rendering of the minuet and trio from Handel's *Fireworks*.

Tom Hall, Jenni Desmond and Scott Dunsdon



Difficult to think of spring when the weather and the music speak of November! To finish with, Gary Howarth and the Big Band returned with both arms in the air and a flourish with two of Gary's own arrangements, *Mambo No5* and *Chameleon*, concluding yet another good season for the Music Society.

CA Jacklin



Above: Rob Yetman

MUSIC

In the transitory world of contemporary music, bands and trends come and go but it seems that the Shiplake concert is here to stay.

For the eleventh successive year the Tithe Barn was transformed into a throbbing, pulsating, steamy

and sometimes deafening riff of today's music. In all, 18 musicians took to the stage in five bands and thrilled a packed audience with their skill.

A warm May evening before the summer term half holiday provided a platform for aspiring Shiplake stars to showcase their talents. Hours of lessons from the drum and guitar teachers, followed by lengthy sessions in the Tower music studio finally saw the piercing spotlights of the Tithe Barn. Steve Wood together with Jonathan Ravn, compered the evening, introducing



David Cullen on drums

an eclectic selection of music. James Wilkinson and his band provided a tremendous opener to the evening. His hard-hitting style with both lyrics and guitar set the tone for the evening. Ollie Roitt, a talented mellow vocalist teamed up with drummer Jon Finch to produce covers of Stereophonics and Idlewild, in their inappropriately and ironically named duo Pretty Pathetic. Joe Holt and Jan Muggenburg provided a highly idiosyncratic cover of The

Eagles' all-time great, *Hotel California*. Joe's avant-garde approach to tramelling conventions of timing and tone enhanced the enigmatic off-the-wall lyrics, with classy backing from guitar teacher Paul Wisby.

Punk lives on with sun-shaded X.Tinct. Wannabe bad boy Gordon Marshall, diminutive drummer David Cullen, the omnipresent Joe Holt and bassist Duncan Lamrock provided the acerbic angst anthems. Mike Koutsofta, honing in on what the audience really wanted and displaying great stage confidence, showed his MC skills. Missy Popular, music by Richard Steele and lyrics by Mike, gave a new slant to the age-old theme of losing the girl. Meanwhile experienced old hands, veterans of many such gigs, the kilted drummer Alex Macdonald displaying a tartan heritage with guitarists Andy Jones and Jon Ravn provided the finale of the night.

Steve Wood in street-wise, street-cred New Yorker back-to-front cap, joined them to rap Limp Bizkit's *Mission Impossible*. Quiet man, whispering Tom Michell, revealed a hitherto unseen alter ego, screaming out the backing. Wherever the gig there is always a talent scout and Jon Ravn was overwhelmed when a watching parent offered him a day in a recording studio on the strength of his original music. Richly deserved if empathy with the audience, who were rocking in the aisles, was anything to go by!

Malcolm Woodcock conducts the HMS Pinafore orchestra



DRAMA

Gargling with Jelly

Rarely can the cast of a school play have shown so much enjoyment during a production. It was glorious, unashamed fun that had the audience raucously chanting out the pantomime rituals. Originally the play was home to Brian Patten's 60s and 70s poems and songs. Additional material from Barry Edwards added topicality and a vehicle for almost 30 cameo performances.

Dr Sensible's mop of yellow and amber hair seemed charged by megalomaniac energy as he became the ultimate risk-manager; intent on eliminating all danger and interest for humanity. Kit Stangroom's gaunt looks, haunted eyes and bounding green-flared strides communicated the menace of an ego out of control. Sensible's brother, the excellent Nick Josif as Scattybags, would be Jimmy's ally, if only he could remember the antidote.

Only Jimmy Smith, David Cullen's lively and bright-eyed purveyor of youthful

Henry Percy, George Rouse, Mark Cole and Jordan Hopkin



James Christie and Rory Lamrock

dreams and poems, stood between Dr Sensible and world domination. If Jimmy took Sensible's medicine then the children of America, Russia and presumably the rest of the world would fall in domino sequence.

Before anyone begins to think that there were serious themes to *Gargling with Jelly*, the surreal, custard-pie and kick-up-the-bum schoolboy humour should be considered. This was grease-paint clown slapstick fused with farce and puns. A hilarious swab-tweezers-scalpel-salt-pepper medical scene, starring Stangroom and Dobbie, epitomised the comic rhythms.

Tom Sampson as Phil and Paul Aitchison as Ron, stole the show (and probably the box office takings too) as a pair of gangland Hale and Pace heavies who took it upon themselves to educate the audience. Brooding, broad-shouldered Ron was a man of few words; his hacksaw did the

talking. Tom Sampson gave a brilliant performance as a likely friend of the Krays who never took no for an answer.

Tom Wright created a God-damn-it-star-sparkled-yankee president. Piers Cadman's Russian diction was as crisp as snow round the Kremlin. Josh Raper did sincerity as Tony Blair

while walk-on parts for Safwan Sobhan and Sam Tsui were carried off with immense panache while Tom Coupland suggested that he could corner the market as a Santa Claus.

Changing genre, Jon Finch, beneath a copper's helmet, played a wobbling rosy-cheeked PC Plod straight out of Enid Blyton's Toyland. Max Handley's virtuoso performance as Italian Antonio, reeking of pasta as he finally convinced Jimmy to succumb to the medicine, was music hall magic. Julian Mills as NBC's Chuck was there to report the bizarre happenings. James Christie, all parental concern and respectable waistcoats, combined with slippered and mumsy Rory Lamrock to suggest how easily parents were beguiled by Sensible's no-fun doctrine. The grey chorus of Daniel Uprichard, Sam Morris and Tim Harris, deprived of their childhood, looked appropriately glum until they discovered the antidote of gargling with jelly. Mark Cole, George Rouse, Henry Percy and Jordan Hopkin were equally imaginatively choreographed. Off-stage Ollie Roitt strummed away in a tent, his compositions echoing a laid-back Oasis, accompanied by Paddy Colman and Peter Mullan.

Through the spring, the jelly threatened to slip off the plate as the performance



DRAMA

date was put back and back and it seemed that the play would never come together. Immense credit must go to the producer for his patience, perseverance and vision. The talent on view surprised the audience. Hopefully it was an inspirational revelation to the cast too.

Gargling with Jelly by Brian Patten, music by Ollie Roitt, with additional material by Barry Edwards.

Produced and directed by Barry Edwards

Cast

Jimmy	David Cullen
Dad	James Christie
Mum	Rory Lamrock
Children	Daniel Uprichard, Sam Morris, Tim Harris
Heads	Mark Cole, George Rouse, Henry Percy, Jordan Hopkins,
Dr Sensible	Kit Stangroom
Phil	Tom Sampson
Ron	Paul Aitchison
Prof Scattybags	Nick Josif
Tony Blair	Josh Raper
George W Bush	Tom Wright
Chuck	Julian Mills
Sergei	Piers Cadnam
Father Christmas	Tom Coupland
Sensible's Asst.	George Dobbie
Policeman	Jon Finch
Antonio	Max Handley
Australian PM	Tom Coupland
Indian PM	Safwan Sobhan
Chinese PM	Sam Tsui

Lighting, Sound and Backstage Crews:

Colin Thornton, Chris Gardner, Tom Watson, James Masters, Giles Ferrier, Stephen McCullagh

Musicians

Ollie Roitt, Paddy Colman, Peter Mullan
Set designed, constructed and painted by members of the cast with help from David Stoker and Graham Blackwell.



Ben Nicholas, Joe Holt and Rob Little

Utterly, Utterly

Stewth cobber! What's an Aussie doing 12,000 miles from home, dressed up in white breeches and a poncey waistcoat, prancing about with a load of pommie luvvies?

That must have been the question for gap teacher Rob Little, normally a regular Aussie Castlemaine and sports guy, as he took part in a sophisticated comedy of social manners set in lacy and refined seventeenth century Paris. Moliere-mad McDonald, aka Lindsay, Head of Modern Languages had translated *Les Precieuses Ridicules* to provide a French aperitif for Shiplake's four summer evenings of entertainment. *Utterly, Utterly* was the starter on Wednesday and Friday evenings, alternating with *Gargling with Jelly*. Andrew Fox, dignified and articulate as La Grange and Steven Wood convincing as the eligible Du Croisy, arrived on stage with the aplomb, finery and grandeur of a BBC period costume drama. Perhaps art does not reflect life as the Skipwith duo had to play the parts of two unsuccessful lovers. They expressed their dissatisfaction at rejection by Madeline and Catherine.

The mix of staff, enjoying a spell on the boards, and sixth formers worked well. Candy Jacklin introduced herself as the down-to-earth maid Marotte, and immediately gained the audience's trust as a voice of common sense. In contrast, Jo BurrIDGE and Natalie Levin, as Madeline and Catherine respectively, giggled naively, fluttered their eyelashes and displayed a whole range of affected mannerisms. This may just have been a forty-minute Moliere taster but there was work to be done. In true comic tradition folly had to be exposed, society had to laugh, punishing and excluding such 'utterly, utterly' pretentious behaviour. The instigator of their exposure was Gorgibus, a man of substance, played by Shiplake's departing twenty-first century man, Charly Lowndes. ICT whizzkid, writer, marathon runner and talented actor, Charly laid down the reality to his daughter Madeline and his niece Catherine. His pragmatic tone turned to frustration as the two not-so-bright young things failed to accept that La Grange and Du Croisy were fine young men, particularly as they were worth a few francs. The two young provincial ladies who



Finch Field Hall, Candy Jacklin, Natalie Levin and Jo Burridge

had just moved to Paris had been taken in by all that they had read about *la belle capitale* and they expected everything to be like it was in the books. La Grange and Du Croisy's courtship had not followed the literary rules of wooing to the letter so their suits were to be rejected.

Enter Joseph Holt as Mascarille, arriving in style on a sedan carried by Rob Little and Ben Nicholas. Mascarille, with his transparent tales of novels, plays and bucket-loads of sonnets, thrilled the naive ladies who fluttered their fans even more vigorously. Jodelet (Finch Field-Hall), Du Croisy's valet, arrived in a wig that would have guaranteed him Best of Breed in a Crufts' poodle competition. He assisted Mascarille in the final stages of gulling.

The delicious denouement arrived with La Grange and Du Croisy's return. They were appalled to see their servants dressed in their very own garments. Administering head-locks and wonderfully choreographed slaps they insisted that their servants strip down to their skimpy long-johns. The girls were suitably chastened, weeping and wailing,

totally exposed at the end for their ridiculous and trifling attitudes.

Throughout the performance Tom Hall, Andy Jones and Scott Dunsdon provided pavans, minuets and background chamber music, establishing the credentials for another Moliere triumph.

Utterly, Utterly was translated from Moliere's *Les Precieuses Ridicules* by Lindsay McDonald who also produced the play.

Cast

La Grange	Andrew Fox
Du Croisy	Steven Wood
Gorgibus	Charly Lowndes
Madeline	Jo Burridge
Catherine	Natalie Levin
Marotte	Candy Jacklin
Mascarille	Joseph Holt
Jodelet	Finch Field-Hall
A porter	Robert Little
Another porter	Ben Nicholas

Musicians

Tom Hall
Andy Jones
Scott Dunsdon

The Hypochondriac

To the thunderous drum rolls of the Purcell funeral music on a wild, rainy December evening, the curtains to this year's school play opened to reveal, apparently, a corpse being covered by a po-faced butler. "Oh no," the audience might collectively gasp, "a title we can't even understand let alone spell; a play of unmitigated sombreness and suffering. What a way to end the term!" Well, if we thought that, then we were totally deceived. That striking tableau heralded an evening of delight upon delight, fun, frolics and farce. Moliere had clearly had a bad experience with the French 17th century equivalent of the NHS and decided to vent his spleen (probably literally!) by lambasting all those who practice medicine and all those taken in by them and pay their preposterous fees. Though much of *The Hypochondriac* is in the spirit of *Carry on Doctor*, it does have its dark, serious side. "Doctors are peddlers of dreams," says one character; a sentiment brilliantly reinforced by a nightmarish scene at the end in which the hero, Argan, becomes



DRAMA

poacher-turned-gamekeeper by qualifying as a doctor. The sole requirement for this honour seems to be the ability to spout Latinate mumbo-jumbo in which words like rectum and scrotum appear prominently!

Lindsay McDonald's debut as a Shiplake director can be reasonably described as triumphant. A classical French satire in a racy modern translation was an inspired choice, giving the chance for many pupils to take centre stage for a few minutes. How well they took their opportunities, not least Dr Lillicrap senior, suavely played by James Wilkinson, and Dr Purgeon (the name says it all!), an aggressive, sweeping performance by Nic Lowry. And the first moment (of several) in this production to elicit spontaneous applause was the melodramatic collapse of a pony-tailed, teddy-bear-clutching David Cullen bravely playing Argan's younger daughter.

These were lovely cameo roles for individuals, but for me, it was the ensemble work by the whole company that caught the eye. While some very long speeches from characters like Cleante, the romantic lead played by Jack Rayner, were being delivered, the others remained in character, alert to the development of the speech, never upstaging but contributing to the overall dramatic sense.

The comedy revolves around the grotesque Thomas Lillicrap, inexplicitly chosen by Argan to marry his beloved elder daughter, well played by Jenni Desmond. Ben Nicholas took on the daunting role of Thomas and brought the house down with his studied gestures, shortsighted leers and absurd, lisping pontificating. It is a pity that this part, like some others, is confined to the first half of the play.

All the Shiplake lower sixth girls had



Lindsay McDonald and members of the cast of *The Hypochondriac*

parts in this play (quite an achievement in itself!) and did very well in difficult roles. Likewise Joe Holt, playing Beralde, Argan's clergyman brother who brought a calm efficiency and much-needed common sense to the increasingly manic proceedings in the household.

Anyone who was in the audience on one of those dark December evenings will remember with pleasure the performances of Steven Wood as Antoine the butler, and Andrew Fox as Argan. These two talented and experienced actors enjoyed the cut and thrust of their repartee, the buffoonery and slapstick.

They milked the jokes ("There's a doctor at the door, sir" "Which doctor?" "No, an ordinary one.") but never lost sight of the characterisation, the psychology of a *malade imaginaire* and his exasperated servant.

These were no ordinary schoolboy performances and, despite the excellence of much of the rest of the cast, they made the evening rather special.

This was a healthily smutty but never crude show although I felt by the end of

the show that I had had my fill of scatological innuendos and puns. The evening gave us much that was Hippocratic, hypocritical and, in the end, hysterical. All I can say is "Bottoms up to you all!"

BP Edwards

Cast

Argan	Andrew Fox
Antoine	Steven Wood
Beline	Emma Bond
Angelique	Jenni Desmond
Louison	David Cullen
Beralde	Joseph Holt
Cleante	Jack Rayner
Dr Lillicrap	James Wilkinson
Thomas Lillicrap	Ben Nicholas
Mr Goodfellow	John Robinson
Dr Purgeon	Nicol Lowry
Mr Florid	Harry Simpson
President	Natalie Levin
First doctor	Kit Murray
Second doctor	Tom Gouldstone
Third doctor	Arthur de Borman
Fourth doctor	Jon Ravn
Prologue	Alex Howard

DRAMA

HMS Pinafore

All the trademarks of the summer outdoor extravaganza were there. Early in the summer term, the inspired Malcolm Woodcock appeared on the lawn by the tennis courts, turning, pacing, peering and mentally converting a nineteenth century family home into the decking and rigging of *HMS Pinafore*. Pupils seeped out of examination halls onto the emerging set. The maintenance team, headed up by Graham Blackwell, began hammering and constructing. The green room turned a shade of soggy brown as boys put their art skills to practical use. Scott Dunsdon, one of the production team, was busy directing a young male chorus.

Any hour, any time and anywhere Marjorie White would be found with sheaves of notes, trying to establish routines and rosters.

The arrival of soprano Sarah Helsby Hughes, a friend of Gary Howarth's, provided a wonderful week of tuition for the cast as they benefited from her professional expertise. With a voice as big as her personality, she prepared them to perform alongside her in her



Scott Dunsdon, Emma Bond and Steve Wood

role as Josephine Corcoran, the Captain's daughter.

Equally there was a beneficial mix of youth and experience in the orchestra tent, with peripatetic music teachers David Golby, Gary Howarth and Paul Wisby putting in extensive evening overtime. It was yet another year under canvas for drummer Alex Macdonald in his farewell performance.

On two evenings Tom Hall and Andrew Jones carried straight on from their

earlier work on *Utterly, Utterly*. Credit must go to young trumpeters Stuart Laws, Martin Haymes and Chris Gardner. Will Downing and Johnny Boulton completed the pupil contingent. The staff was represented by Suzie Ellis on violin and trombonist David Wilson. When the orchestra struck up the familiar refrain of the overture the audience settled and quietened. A sail billowing in the evening breeze and the looming bows of *HMS Pinafore* had transformed Skipwith into a ship of Queen Victoria's Navy.

James Larkin as Ralph Rackstraw may have only been given the rank of an able seaman but he was a highly talented soloist with a melodic voice. In contrast, the excellent Paddy Colman was misery personified as Dick Deadeye, a limping wreck of a sailor whose dragging left leg seemed as heavy a burden as the albatross round the neck of the Ancient Mariner.

Jane Edwards gave another wonderfully accomplished contralto performance as Little Buttercup, handling the pivotal revelation of social role reversal with great sensitivity. Nic Lowry's stage



presence and impressive voice gave him the necessary status to take on the role of Captain Corcoran with growing confidence.

Robert Prance's pleasure in playing Sir Joseph Porter was clearly evident, delighting in the irony of lines such as, "Stick close to your desks and never go to sea/And you all may be rulers of the Queen's navy". It seemed that his performance may have been modelled on some of Malcolm Woodcock's more extreme intonations.

HMS Pinafore is both an aural and a visual delight. There was a touch of a thirties MGM musical spectacular as the crew of the Pinafore and Sir Joseph's sisters, cousins and aunts swirled up and down the staircase, all of them resplendent in their colourful costumes. Marines Finch Field-Hall and Richard Lightwing looked particularly splendid. There were some emerging stars in this performance. Paddy Colman will surely progress to larger roles and Ben Nicholas' hilarious conducting of the crew's vocal efforts was a comic highlight. It was encouraging that so many of the musicians will be present for future summer productions.

Cast

Sir Joseph Porter	Robert Prance
Captain Corcoran	Nic Lowry
Ralph Rackstraw	James Larkin
Dick Deadeye	Paddy Colman
Bill Bobstay	Ben Nicholas
Josephine Corcoran	Sarah Helsby Hughes
Little Buttercup	Jane Edwards

The crew of HMS Pinafore:

Paul Aitchison, Danny Lee, Sam Bovey, Gordon Marshall, Richard Butler, Julian Mills, Matt Clarke, Peter Mullan, Ed Cook, Stephen O'Connor, Scott Dunsdon, Adrian Percival, Jon Finch, Ollie Roitt, Ben Flanagan, Harry

Simpson, Andrew Fox, Kit Stangroom, Mason Jerome, Steve Wood, Joe Joynson, Rob Yetman

Sir Joseph's sisters, cousins and aunts: Emma Bond, Patsy Lacey, Jo Burrige, Jill McCoy, Jane Burt, Susie Prance, Jenni Desmond, Marjorie White, Candy Jacklin
Marines: Finch Field-Hall, Richard Lightwing

Orchestra: Suzie Ellis, David Golby, Tom Hall, Andrew Jones, Jon Fordham, Jonny Boulton, Stuart Laws, Martin Haymes, Chris Gardner, David Wilson, Will Downing, Gary Howarth, Alex McDonald, Paul Wisby

Conductor: Malcolm Woodcock

Production Team: Malcolm Woodcock, Marjorie White, Scott Dunsdon
Lighting: Paul Johnson, Jon Lindsay, Jamie Ellingham

Sound: Chris Bralick, assisted by Chris Gardner, Colin Thornton

Costumes: Pam Wiggins

Make-up: Charlotte Healy



Paddy Colman

School Debating

A somewhat different format this year (which sounds impressive but was in fact an excuse for saving time in a fearfully busy term!) found members of the upper and lower school debating against each other. Of particular note was an entertaining sparring match between young Stephen McCullagh and the somewhat larger Alex Howard of Welsh, the former arguing superbly in a maiden speech that 'Third formers should be relieved of all menial duties'.

Kit Stangroom made a gallant effort against Tom Chilton with 'Jesus is fiction' while Ben Porbeni made a well constructed case for the motion 'Immigrants will be England's future' against veteran Rob Luppi.

New to the debating chamber came the lively Jon O'Neill who, while not making himself at all popular with the ladies, showed no fear arguing that 'A woman's place is in the kitchen'. Braedon Hogan, however, gave as good as he got with a spirited return. Just out in front however was a debate of a very high standard with the unusual motion, 'Life is too short'. Andrew Fox was on top form, but a highly subtle and humorous Piers Cadman, whose individual style made him a force to be reckoned with, countered magnificently.

An excellent evening and although we have come to expect good things from many of those who spoke, it is good indeed to see new faces like Piers, Ben, Stephen and Jon emerging, ensuring that we can expect more goodies from the debating chamber in the years ahead.

RP Prance

POETRY

Junior Poetry Winner

The Tree by Nick Alstadt

As its scrawny, long arms reach out,
The animals around it that use its secure and firm body
As shelter feel its presence as the light of day fades away,
As darkness passes over its gloomy wrinkled body,
It sways to catch the last source of life,
The leaves sway in the cool calming wind,
As the glowing moon rises over the horizon into the glimmering sky,
Preparing to command an army of life erecting from the cool
Soil and out of the tall protection of the trees.

The rush of feathers as owls shoot back and forth,
As if the tree is calling the bird,
It holds out a straight and rigid hand and the bird automatically
Rests its tired body onto the protective arm of the tree,
As if the tree was there to protect the fragile creature from
The dangers of the world.
The hooting continues all through the weary night,
Howling and screaming its mysterious song to the
Inhabitants of the tree and far out into the night sky.

Its firm and rigid body home to small fragile creatures,
Its protective arms reach out and hold its inhabitants as if they were in
a bubble,
And its soft green leaves give shelter to those who are in desperate need,
Protecting them from the troubles of the world.

The Tree by Marcus O'Shea

Once an insignificant seed
Now a tall intimidating beast
It sprung from the soft soil
The outside world has accepted this tree.
Greenery hangs down from its arms
The tree reaches out, spreads its claws
It looks down on others in pride
Watching, waiting in the grass
Contorted, angular shapes
Its branches provide a walking stick
The textures stand it out.
Doves of peace try to escape from its grasp
The old man stretches out his arms, yawning
Just leave me to be, it cries
I am not the young seed anymore.

The Tree by Johnny Boulton

The gnarled old tree stands there,
Spurting out from the underworld,
Scarred like an old bear
Its tattered past left it hating the world.

With a scarred past,
The tree of humanity,
Forever will it last,
Alive with new growth.

The old tree,
Like an old man
Defies time, all winter like a knobbly knee.
Yet in the summer, it hides its wounds with new buds.

The scarred wounded demon,
Nothing goes near, birds sing all around
But none nest in the tree that's so beaten,
It evokes anger, birds fight in the branches.

The tree, like humanity,
Will live forever,
Covering wounds, in and out of reality,
Decay replaced with the new generation of buds.

Senior Poetry winner

Slave ship by Steve Wood

The sight of the distance kills,
The slave ship forces its way downstream
into the gulp of the river:
Blades slashing the innocent glistenings
as if its creation were a wound.
The slaves move limply under pressure,
Over the constant sliding mechanical slither.
Our weapons lethal, under-washing of the
noise that disrupts the hull.
The sameness of our movements
drift our minds into seclusion,
entrapped in this on-going
dimension of pain and suffering.

CONFESSIONS OF AN ICT TEACHER...

Websites, wireless cards, boot discs and barbecues - Charly Lowndes confesses...

A Monday afternoon in June, hottest day of the year so far. Nic Lowry and James Larkin are wandering about with *HMS Pinafore* scripts, Oswinda Erlangga is discussing the British legal system. On my right, some noisy people are swimming. In front of me on the lawn, the Skipwith lower sixth are sunbathing, watching Malcolm Woodcock and Simon Brown create a frigate (I think that's how they spelt it) complete with dolphin striker. Behind me, amiable tennis between friends. Jon Lindsay is scowling at a scaffold tower being built to light the three plays which are taking shape here.

The real delight of the IEEE 802.11b wireless networking protocol is that I can bring my laptop out onto this busy lawn, and write my confessions for *The Court* while reading the BBC news page.

This is the story of the real life of an ICT teacher. Last week, we had the ICT BBQ: a tradition we started in 1998 when the first IT exam was taken and Ed Dadak provided the guitar. This year Joe Holt and Jon Ravn jammed by the riverbank. (On the lawn, Tosh has just arrived with a ship's wheel: Richard Mannix is lowering cable out of the window. Chris Gardner is checking loudspeakers. Natalie Levin must have been swimming, are wet t-shirts allowed at this time of day? (Who was that parent who said we don't lay on enough for pupils to do when the teachers have stopped working?) James Christie walks past looking cheerful, his crew reached the final of its Regatta yesterday. I digress. As does Will Hunter, but he uses a digeridoo.)

Did you want a technical review, full of IP numbers and RAID drive MTBF estimates? Let me know if you feel disappointed and I'll e-mail you until your hard disc fills up.

I've hugely enjoyed the technical challenge of the last four years, building a network of around 100 computers and seven servers; managing the internet access and working with Mike Edwards on the College website. But being an ICT teacher at Shiplake is only



A sermon in the orchard...

partly about disc drives and network access privileges. I have hugely enjoyed teaching four particularly talented A Level students, Alex Macdonald, Ben Hewson, Charlie Keyser and Joe Holt. Their interest in the subject, and willingness to work hard and often, makes the job a delight. You never forget a good student.

Another side of ICT was the Great Hacking Affair, which like many affairs turned out to be short-lived with nothing much underneath the surface. This is perhaps not an episode which should include names, but the explorers in Burr and Everett who discovered the power of the monitoring software and who spent an uncomfortable evening discussing Section 3 of the Computer Misuse Act (the one that includes the five years in prison for unauthorised modification of data) learned something

worthwhile. What I learned was the basic honesty of all concerned, whose confessions and apologies came tripping out long before I'd switched on the bright lights, and with my cattle prod still in the box. Perhaps I've been a member of Amnesty International too long. Of many highlights at Shiplake, being asked to give a sermon in a service of Eucharist in the apple orchard below Everett, on a warm Sunday morning, and standing on the (mercifully well made)

cover of the septic tank to hold forth merges with marathon walks, listening to David Stoker expound on the frescos of Florence on the sixth form art trip, conducting a play rehearsal in the swimming pool, and watching my son Tim collect the general knowledge prize yet again.

I shall remember discussing maths problems with that

fantastic teacher Derek

Dovaston and exchanging dreams with Andrew Cheadle over a Castle at the end of a duty night – were we going to sail down to the Antarctic before or after starting the open-air school for those who've been expelled from at least two other schools?

Shiplake does indeed have very good ICT facilities, and I'm hugely grateful for the support of the governors, headmaster and bursar in allowing me to spend the money and time to build the system. It'll help the development of keen young minds, and the new Head of ICT, the wonderful Suzie Ellis, will continue to devise new facilities for new challenges. But Shiplake would be a special place even without a computer. Time here should be treasured: the real world can be much less fun.

CAM Lowndes

THE ART SCHOOL

The best word to describe Barcelona is 'vibrant'. We arrived at Tossa de Mar after a 22-hour coach journey, at lunchtime on Sunday 22nd October. This was the start of a most interesting and inspiring week in Spain. The atmosphere at the Hotel Continental was great as there were several other schools staying there as well. We were also treated to balconies facing the village.

On our first afternoon we were given a chance to explore the port and castle and all met up at the local museum. The museum contains work by Catalan artists as well as famous visitors to Tossa - The Babel of the Arts - such as Chagall.

On day two we studied the art and architecture of Gaudi. His buildings in Barcelona belong to the Art Nouveau period but where Art Nouveau was applied mostly to furniture, ornaments and decorative motifs, Gaudi used sinuous writhing shapes in his building and parks. Park Guell was the first place that we visited. It seems as though it is completely natural, as if Mother Nature herself made it, with walkways created from tree roots and a view of the whole of Barcelona. You could sit there forever and watch the world go on without you.

My highlight of the whole trip was Gaudi's design of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, La Sagrada Familia (The Holy Family). There are two main features of the cathedral that give it its beauty. Firstly, the unbelievable size of the building shocks the senses. It has taken almost a century to get to the stage it's at now and it might take a further century to complete. Secondly it is simply breathtaking. The two towers have a magical power about them because of their height and beauty with bright colours in glass and mosaic. Then there was a great evening, with a disco



Chris Mills, Boston Taylor Raymond, Duncan Staples

where a pupil from another school was given the opportunity to DJ.

On day three our first stop was the Picasso Museum, set in a fifteenth century palace. It contains around 3000 of his works, most of them from his childhood and youth. Picasso's amazing skills in drawing and painting were evident even at the age of nine. This was the busiest day in the week but with Mr Stoker's brilliant organisational skills it went well.

Next stop: Gaudi's Casa Mila. This was another interesting piece of architecture. It is a block of flats on the corner of a main street, its interior an open area with no straight lines anywhere. You can go on the roof where there are many strange looking chimneys, an influence on the design of Darth Vader; it is thought, but still no straight lines.

The penultimate stop was the Joan Miro Museum. Joan Miro is renowned as the best pure painter among the surrealists. His work consists of paintings and also sculptures assembled from natural objects. To me, a lot of it has a childlike perception. The final stop of the day was

at the Tapies Museum, devoted to the work of Spain's greatest living artist. It contained work from many up-and-coming modern artists and even included a Henry Moore sculpture. Day four was Dali Day. We visited the Dali Museum, almost two hours north of Tossa in Figueras, which contains much work that has not been shown elsewhere. My favourite piece here was a huge wall painting of Good v Evil. We also visited Dali's home on the coast at Port Lligat. It was interesting to see the connections between his images and his life and surroundings.

At the end of both days in Barcelona we had time to explore the Rambla. This is a wide street about a mile in length where there are market-stalls and some amazing street performers. Our trip was excellently organised by Mr Stoker and we were accompanied by Mr and Mrs Hunt as well as Mr and Mrs Vick. The whole group has asked me to say a big thank you for the time and effort all the staff put in.

Adam Palk Year 12

THE ART SCHOOL



William Hunter Year 13



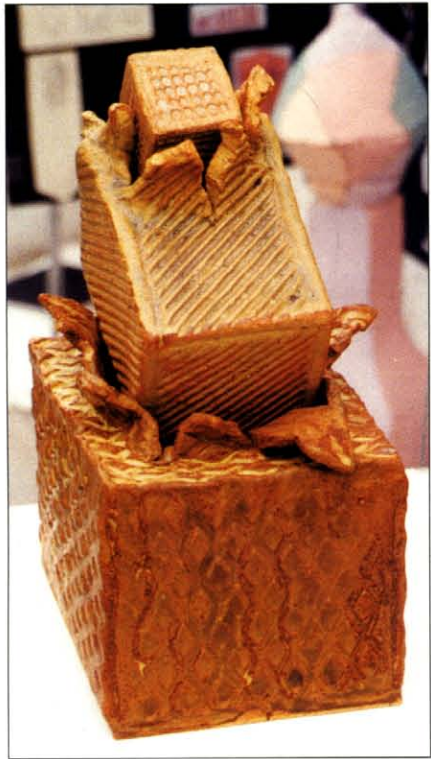
Chris Grabowski Year 13



Jack Gregory Year 13



Arthur de Borman Year 13



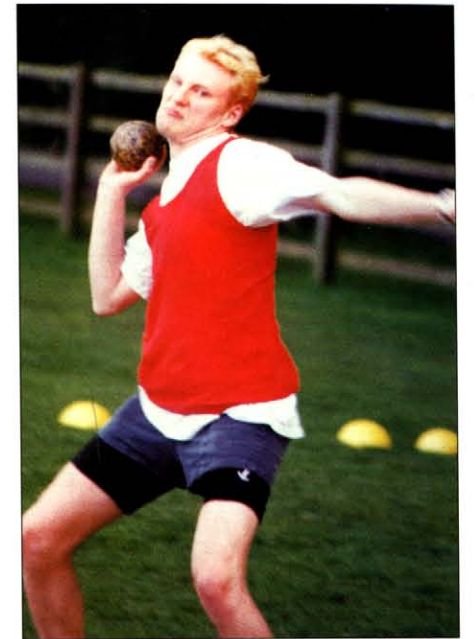
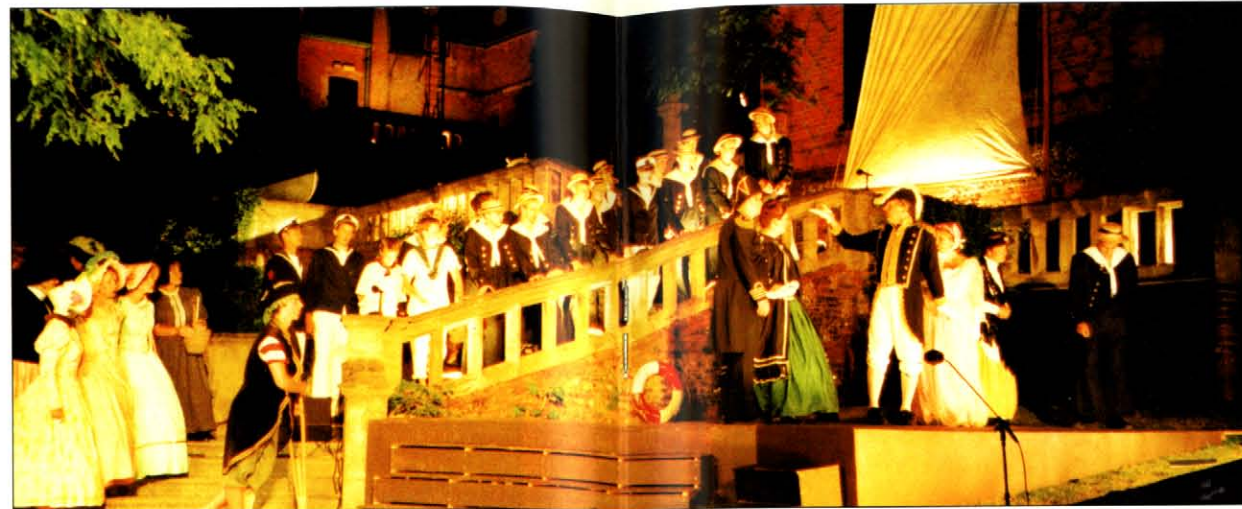
Nick Bosch Year 11



Max Manners Year 13

SNAPSHOTS...

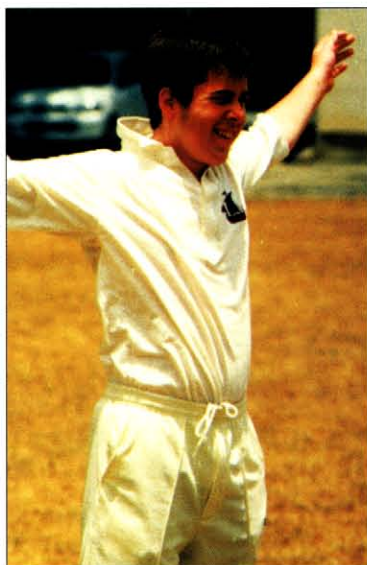




OF SHIPLAKE LIFE



TRIP TO BARBADOS



Squad: J Blanchard, E Blanchard,
M Haymes, J Christie, J Raper, G Boggis,
M Oldridge, N Baker, O Thorne,
T Sampson, G Potts, J Joyson, B Hogan,
I Duckworth.

CRICKET TOUR TO BARBADOS

Courtney Walsh, over 500 Test Match wickets under his belt, began his run-up to an in-form Daryl Cullinan. Fourteen cricketers and three staff marvelled at a backdrop of the Hall and Griffiths Stand, palm trees waving and a cloudless blue sky. Sweet aromas of flying-fish sandwiches, yams and macaroni pie drifted in from the dozens of stalls scattered around the perimeters of Kensington Oval. I read the back of a tourist's shirt, "It doesn't get any better than this."

A trip to the Barbados Test was a bonus on the April Tour. Our location along the Platinum Coast, at Sunset Crest, had already proved to be a success. Groups of three and four boys shared self-catering apartments, near enough to the swimming pool for a cooling dip and just minutes away from the white sands of Sandy Lodge hotel where everyone swam through warm, azure seas out to the floating pontoons. Even Gary Lineker had decided this was the place. Training with former Barbados fast bowler Roddy Estwick had provided a taster of Bajan cricket. But a dusty, bumpy outfield and blazing sun were unforgiving on bowlers and fielders. Accra Beach provided additional training and lean, lithe locals joined in. Beach cricket is deadly serious: they showed us how to shift stumps so that Neptune acted as groundsman, sweeping the pitch after every wave.

At Harrison College, a colonial time-warp of a school, they still study for O levels in long dark classrooms with ink-well desks. On two sides of the ground, grey stone classroom blocks, scorched black by the sun, provide a grandstand for cricket fanatics. At lunchtime nearly every classroom window, their weathered shutters survivors of countless hurricanes, framed a spectator. Below, girls with Janet-and-John brown

leather satchels strapped to their backs, scurried to lessons, their bunched black hair contrasting with blouses blindingly white in the mid-day glare.

The Harrison College batsmen were merciless on width, as was their umpire, signalling numerous wides. This was top-notch cricket. As yet another shot drive singed across an arid outfield you could imagine a Sir Clyde Walcott imperious cover-drive scraping the bark of the jump-box tree all those years ago. The score raced past 200 with only steady bowling from Oscar Thorne, Iain Duckworth and a superb outfield catch from Ed Blanchard temporarily slowing the rate.

"You gonna pitch it up?"

"Sure, I pitch it up."

"An' I don't want you bowlin' leg-side."

"I'm not gonna bo'l leg-side."

It was captain to bowler but it could have been minister to congregation at one of the island's chapels.

Our captain, James Blanchard, started well and after three overs he had cut and driven onto 22, taking us ahead of the rate. Then a rapid yorker uprooted his leg-stump. A heavy tropical shower changed the nature, but not the course, of the match. On the ultimate 'sticky dog' the spinners were unplayable. Combermere School provided a more realistic challenge. The bowling was tighter. James Christie and Ed Blanchard both took excellent catches to restrict the opponents to 170. Sadly this was to prove well beyond our batsmen but Tom Sampson and Nigel Baker both batted sensibly to save face.

Foundation College, with casuarina trees bent by incoming tradewinds, and a churchyard rambling from long-on to fine-leg, saw a recovery of line-and-length for Joe Joynton and Gary Potts. With Michael Oldridge, who took off the keeper's pads to bowl and take two

wickets, we were able to control Foundation's innings. Our chase never really ignited, sharper running in temperatures of 85 degrees never appealed, and we finished 30 runs short in a fun game.

Saturday night; a time for some relaxation, faces glowing and a squad reeking of coconut oil sunscreen. After the game we headed for a St Lawrence Gap pulsating to the sound of steelpan beats and some lively reggae.

Sunday morning; George 'Jacques Cousteau' Boggis was busy showing his entire reel of swimming-with-turtles photos. We made a trip inland, past women in white taffeta dresses and lacy hats, shielded by umbrellas-turned-parasols. They were heading for worship. Our altar was found underground among the stalactites and stalagmites of Harrison Caves, one of the natural wonders of the world.

The final full day summed up the frustrations and attraction of Bajan life. For nearly an hour we drove, in our three hired mini-buses, through sugar-cane harvests up to St Johns, only to find double-booked Lodge School already scoring at 9 an over against English opposition. We smiled knowingly, drove back, hired a glass bottom boat and went snorkelling on reefs of fire, finger and mushroom coral as well as the wreck of a Caribbean trader. Then a final round of water-sports, banana-boat-rides and doughnuts.

Awards, pizzas and thanks to everyone were the order for the final celebratory evening. In particular, to Alex Hunt for managing all the administration and finances, also to cricket manager, Tom Caston. Braedon Hogan demonstrated his D of E skills by navigating us around the island and James Blanchard showed MCC potential as a touring captain. The next tour? Probably April 2003.

EXPEDITIONS

Kenya, July 2001

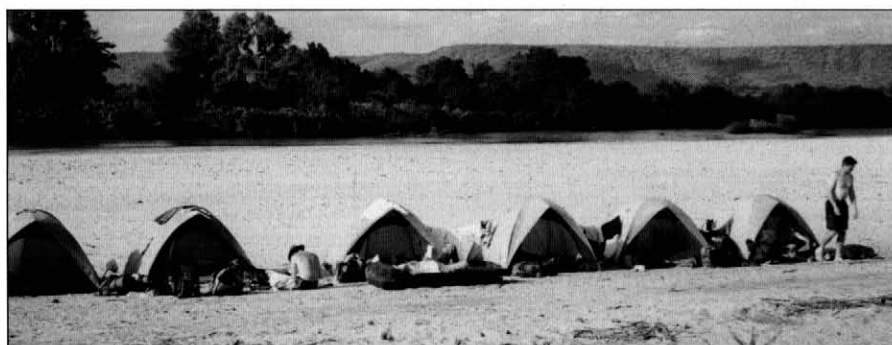
Marcel Wagner, College Expeditions Officer, organised a 25-day Kenya expedition for July.

The adventure began with a camp by the lava tube caves at Mount Suswa and from there the 10 members of the group explored the caves and trekked to the summit.

There was more trekking and climbing at Hells Gate Gorge from a base at Fisherman's Camp and after two days in the Aberdares, Marcel arranged game-watching in the Samburu Park.

The Land Rovers then bumped along the dusty tracks to a camp at Sagana which provided a good base for rafting and climbing. Mid-tour, a brief one-day trip to Nairobi was planned for stocking up on provisions before a return to the wild for rafting and climbing.

Following on from previous expeditions'



visits to Kikunduku School and various charity initiatives back at the College, the 10-man team visited Nzouni School, near Kikunduku, to assist with construction work, tree planting and assorted maintenance projects.

Finally the group relaxed along the Mombassa coast at Kilifi, visiting the Gedi

ruins and snorkelling over the Indian Ocean reefs.

Expedition party:

Ed Batchelor, Alec Bayford, Mark Bradley, Ed Bramwell, Matthew Clarke, Myles Coker, Ed Crowe, David Hoskin, Stuart Miles, Peter Walker-Munro.

Below: white water rafting



Limoges February 2001

The Modern Languages French trip set off at three o'clock on a cold February morning with 42 pupils. Although the hour was unearthly, there was a certain excitement as we boarded the executive coach and set off for *la belle France*. After sixteen hours we arrived. Limoges is a pleasant town and our host families were most hospitable.

The trip involved pupils staying with

families, allowing pupils to be immersed into the French way of life. But unlike an exchange – which is difficult to arrange in a predominantly boys' boarding school – there is no return visit.

We went to Futuroscope, an outstanding

tribute to cinema technology and had our breath taken away by some amazing films. We also visited Saintes, a quaint old Roman town and were given a challenging tour by an enthusiastic Frenchman with the essential beret.

After that was Cognac, where we – sadly – did not have enough time to sample the goods and we also toured a porcelain factory. Many of the host families commented on our pupils' good manners and willingness to practise the language. There is much to gain from a trip like this and the benefits are already starting to show.

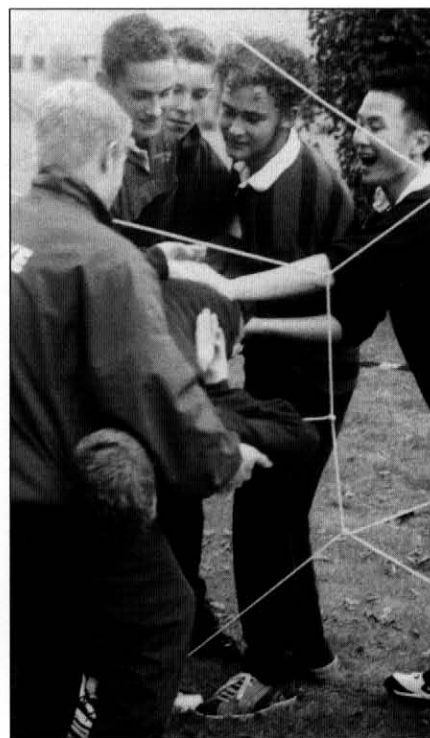
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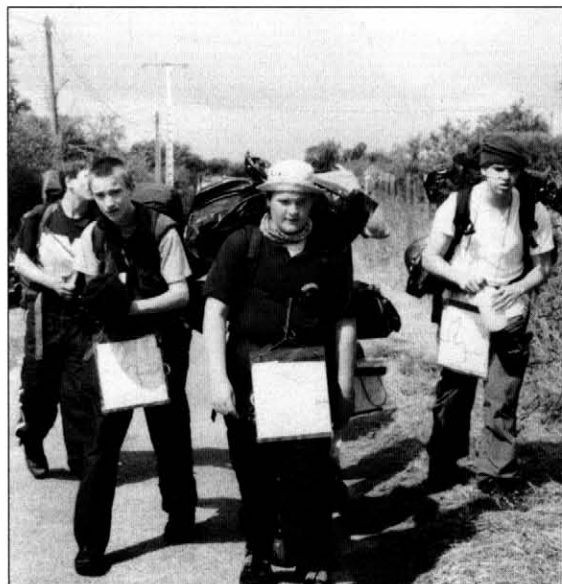
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Year 12 World Leadership Challenge



The aim of the leadership challenge is to teach the importance of communication skills, teamwork, responsibility and initiative to the lower sixth. In a day full of activities their challenges included passing a blindfolded team member through a spider's web of ropes - pictured far right.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

In September 2000 we set off for Brecon Beacons with the gold D of E Group. They were to walk 50 miles in four days for their assessment. The boys passed their pre-expedition check carried out by the assessors and fortunately the weather was reasonably kind and the group was in high spirits when we saw them. The candidates all

passed their expedition and have subsequently completed other parts of their Award.

Due to foot and mouth, the gold pre-exhibition in early March and the gold and silver pre-expedition after the end of the term had to be cancelled. However, we were able to take the silver group to Brittany for their expedition in France. Eighteen boys were involved in three groups, and all passed their expedition. Once again, the

Prefect training on board HMS Excellent...



weather was ideal for walking. My thanks to all my colleagues who have been instructors and safety officers with the silver groups: Grant Lawson, Alex Hunt, Paul Johnson and David Wilson, also to Sgt M Macdonnel for assessing the groups. Gold Awards 2000-2001: E Kennedy, M Manners, O Miller, J Ravn, J Robinson and A Susic.

PJF Webb

CCF REPORT

Options for change

As from September 2001 the corps at Shiplake will be voluntary. However, Year 9 will be introduced to the corps in the summer term and will spend three weeks with each section to see if they wish to join in Year 10.

At the moment we seem to have the majority of boys in Year 9 and Year 10 opting to join or to remain in the corps. My apologies to all parents who have supported their sons and the CCF during the year but, owing to the effects of foot and mouth disease, it has been difficult to programme the various Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, adventurous training and camps.

In January we said farewell to Brendon

Bolton who assisted with the RAF Section. His position has been filled by Scott Dunsdon and Robert Little has joined the RN Section.

This term we say farewell to Capt G Cassells who has been in the Army Section since February 1986; he was the Officer in charge of the Army Section from 1991 to 1999. We also say farewell to Lt P Johnson of the Army Section (1997-2001) and Charly Lowndes who has assisted with the RN Section; our grateful thanks to them all.

PJF Webb

Max Manners leaves the CCF after four years' service to the corps



NAVY SECTION

The section has completed a very successful year's training; in particular the new Year 10 intake showed interest and enthusiasm. The success of the training is due to the efforts and commitment of the NCOs and I would like to thank John Robinson for all his hard work in leading the section this year.

Chris Ellaby, Nic Lowry, James Wilkinson and Stuart Miles have done well in the training of the younger cadets in a variety of skills ranging from weapons testing, through navigation and seamanship to leadership skills.

This year saw our first female cadet for a number of years and Natalie Levin has taken to the role of junior NCO very well. We have strengthened our links with our parent establishment, HMS Excellent, this year with several field day visits.

Cadets were given the opportunity to

use a small arms training range, witness ship stability testing and capsize tests, undertake sea survival training and go to sea to undertake practical navigation skills on a short voyage to the Isle of Wight. We were also provided with a day aboard a working Royal Naval vessel, HMS Puncher, our affiliated ship. More cadets than ever are taking the opportunity to attend camps and courses, which this year include sailing, sub-aqua diving, powerboat coxswain, windsurfing and first aid. After several years' valuable assistance we have to say goodbye to our area instructor CPO Graham Longhurst, who leaves us to return to sea. I would like to thank Lt Simon Brown, Mr Charly Lowndes and Mr Rob Little for all their help and assistance in running the section this year.

Lt G Lawson CCF RNR



Adam Green: survival training

ARMY SECTION

During the year the section had a strength of 63 cadets including 13 fourth form recruits. Lt PG Hose, OC Section, was ably supported by Capt G Cassells and Mr P Johnson. Lt D Wilson assisted with field days and adventurous training. Once again the section benefited from the professional support of the Cadet Training Team on Tuesday afternoons, field days and adventurous training.

The autumn term field day combined range shooting with fieldcraft training. Spring saw the onset of foot and mouth which necessarily reduced the opportunities for training outside the College. In the summer term we were however fortunate to have a day visit to Sir John Moore Barracks, near Winchester where the Infantry Training Team laid on an interesting programme of fieldcraft exercises and lunch, followed by swimming and a session in the gymnasium.

The fifth form cadets, who had passed



Jon Ravn, Army Leadership prizewinner and Finch Field-Hall

their proficiency, undertook CADRE training followed by instruction from visiting regular soldiers from Bicester. This assistance was much appreciated. Sadly the summer camp, which is normally the highlight of the Army Section year, could not take place, and

adventurous training had to be much curtailed.

Support for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at both Gold and Silver levels continues to be strong and we look forward to the reopening of the areas we normally use for adventurous training and expedition practices. My thanks go to the Senior NCOs, in particular to CSM Ravn, ably assisted by Colour Sgt Kennedy for their invaluable contribution to the training programme. At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Mr Paul Johnson who has looked after recruit training for four years. He left with our thanks and best wishes. Captain George Cassells also left the Army Section after many years of service as OC Section and his experience in training on Tuesday afternoons, field days, camps and adventurous training will be greatly missed.

Lt PG Hose

RAF SECTION

The year started well with an encouragingly large intake of cadets of nearly 40 which was the largest the section has known since its formation. This was, in part, a result of the enthusiastic approach of our new OC Section Flt Lt Sarah Jane McKenna. Every cadet has been able to achieve a new level of proficiency, including many of the senior cadets and CDOs who were able to top the scale at advanced level. The section has enjoyed much flying in the new Grob training aircraft at RAF Benson. Gliding has also been available, many cadets passing their induction course. Alex Howard went on a training course and gained his solo wings.



Nick Brockbanks in the new Grob training aircraft at RAF Benson

There have been week-long residential camps to both RAF St Mawgan and RAF Honnington. Great thanks have to be made to Australian gap tutor Scott Dunsdon for his help and guidance over

the last year. The section looks to the future with prospects of leadership courses and possible camps in Cyprus.

Cadet Sergeant Simon Hurlstone



1st XV

It was an interesting season with many ups and downs but dramatically affected by weather. Although few games were lost many changes had to be made to the training schedule. It is a great credit to the boys that many got on with the job in hand.

The greatest disappointments of the season involved games that we should have won but ended up losing or drawing. The Reading Blue Coat, Bloxham and Seaford games were close affairs with the forwards producing enough ball for us to win. However, the games were lost or drawn, albeit to a controversial try in the Reading Blue Coat game.

The games in which we did not perform at all well were also extremely disappointing and the games against Claires Court and Reading are best forgotten. However, the most frustrating feature of the season was the number of injuries and the effect it had on the side in terms of continuity of selection. Not only could Shiplake seldom put out the same side twice but losing key players, such as Simon Hotchkiss, arguably the most talented player in the

school, affected the side greatly. As a result of the injuries many boys had to play out of position. Jordan Darrah, Kit Murray, Chris Grabowski, Martin Leguay and Adi Susic all did extremely well. What of the pluses! The back row unit of Will Paddison (Players' Player), Robert Gurney (Player of the Year) and John Robinson proved to be a formidable unit. It was no surprise that Will Paddison represented the county and was unlucky not to go further.

The performance of the unsung heroes was also very pleasing. The front five with Christallo O'Descalchi, Alexis Sabatier and Gordon Marshall never gave up and in the backs Jamie Marshall, Alex McDonald and Richard Lightwing were ever present.

Probably the most pleasing features of

the season were the games in which everything went right and the team turned in a notable performance to win against the book. The games against the Old Vikings, Park House and Milton Abbey spring to mind. However, probably the best performances of the season were the wins against Merchant Taylors and Reeds. The win against Reeds was a fantastic result as seven regular first teamers were out with injury.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Lawson and Mr Emerson for their hard work and support throughout what turned out to be a very difficult season.

AK Lewis

Squad: W Paddison (captain), A Susic, S Hotchkiss, J Robinson, A Hutton, R Gurney,



*A Sabatier,
C Armitage,
J Marshall,
C Grabowski,
R Lightwing,
J Darrah,
T Michell,
K Murray,
C O'Descalchi
A Macdonald.
M Leguay.*



2nd XV

This year has been a good year for the Shiplake College 2nd XV and a well deserved winning season. Although not the largest team in the school, we still managed to win the bulk of our matches with speed, agility and determination.

The season started with some very challenging matches against Reading and Reading Blue Coats, but unfortunately they proved a little too strong at this early stage in the season. Despite the two losses, our spirits stayed high, and as the training got harder our playing ability

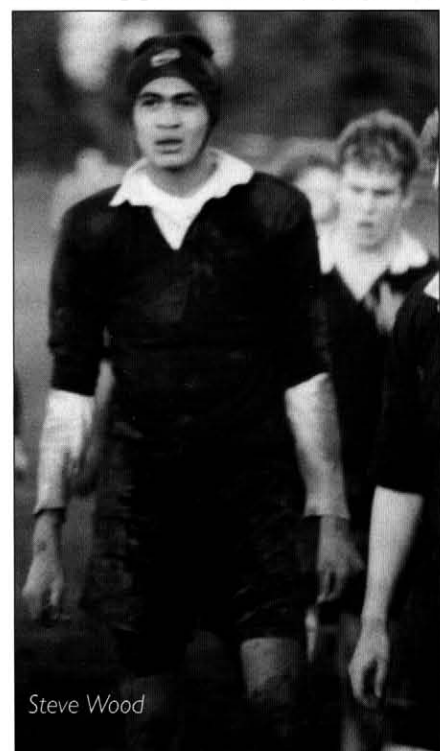
grew. We won our first match, with a 73-0 victory over Seaford College, although an easy match, we still had a lot to learn about our self-discipline. The matches continued to present us with wins but also a few problems, as some key players continued to get injured. However this did not inhibit our play too much, as we defeated Pangbourne with memorable tries from Andrew Webber and Ed Kennedy.

Our forwards have had a good season this year, learning powerful techniques, and fast fluent driving in rucks and mauls. But this could not be possible without the solid defending and fast flowing handling from our backs. I would finally

like to thank Grant Lawson and Paul Emerson for their great coaching, even if you could still feel it for days after; and their inspiring half time 'encouragement'. We must give them our thanks for a great season and I hope the following second teams have as an enjoyable season as we did.

J Ravn, Year 13

Squad: J Ravn (captain), C Armitage, J Wilkinson, T Clark, P Cassells, F Field-Hall, T Gouldstone, P Hutton, A Howard, T Bellamy, C Ellaby, O Miller, S Wood, S Goldie, A de Borman, A Webber, J Low, J Jaffer, E Kennedy.

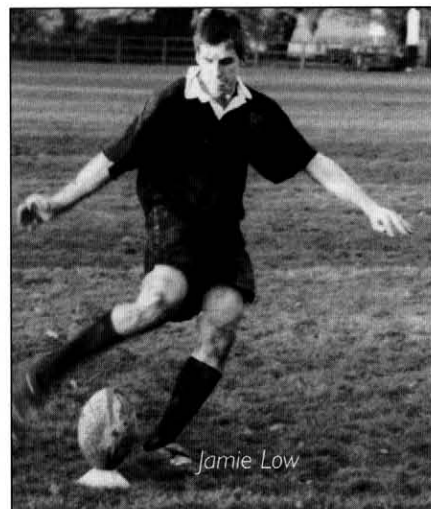


3rd XV

The season got off to a great start with every member of the team giving 100 per cent. Our losses only narrowly outnumbered our victories. But as every good player will agree it is not the winning that counts but the relief of the final whistle.

Matthew Ellis earned his Player of the Season Award for his strong determination and encouragement of the rest of an enthusiastic squad. I would like to thank Mr Lawson for coaching us and Mr Hunt for motivating us at away matches.

M Manners, Year 13



Squad: M Manners, M Ellis, N Lowry, C Lowndes, W Schick, R Luppi, A Bosch, R Butler, D Hoskins, R Hill, R Yetman, D Leung, M Ashcroft, J Oakley, M Chambers.

RUGBY



U16A

We started the season with the intention of playing as well as we did in the second half of our U15 season. This new resolution showed in the first few matches, we played with a belief in our ability and the will to win. But over time early season confidence and determination fell away a little.

Then we tried a few positional switches with some changes between the backs and the forwards. These changes produced a much better blend and we regained some of our confidence.

It was a pleasing season especially with Johnny Halsall, James Blanchard, James Larkin and Chris Mills all going on to represent Oxfordshire U16s.

Above all a great deal of credit must go to the fantastic Mr Johnson who was also involved with the county set-up.

J Halsall, Year 11

Right: Johnny Halsall

Squad: J Halsall, J Larkin, S Williams, M McCluggage, C Cort, D Staples, C Mills, M Jackson, W Goddard, J Blanchard, I Duckworth, A Pownall, J Fordham, A Entin, M Koutsofta, J Bailey.



U16B

Our first game was against Merchant Taylor's when Bramwell's radar boot meant we were camped in their half for most of the game, and hard running and tackling by Talbot made it a hard win for Taylor's.

The match against Pangbourne was the much-heralded 'Battle of the Titans', with both sides making it a fierce game.

Myles Coker took on all 15 of Pangbourne's defenders to put down one of the best tries of the season.

The forward pack of Marcus Broughton-Pipkin, Joe Chan, Richard Allen and Tom Chilton was a force to reckon with.

Charlie Price, Alex James and Chris Dicker completed the tight five giving some great shoves during the season.

Giles Osbourne just kept going and going every game. Bradshaw and O'Shea gave Cokethorpe a good workout. The back row of David Squire, Alex Ward and Tom Slater played beyond themselves every game.

Nick Bosch and Ed Bramwell shared the scrum-half job. Fly-half saw many faces including Walpole, Allan and Bramwell.

Coker, Crowe, Chambers and Talbot shared duty as centres. The wingers, Pradeep Gurtata, Jamie Bradley, Tom Saunders, Nick Pusey, Ed Aleidayno and Ed Grieve who, when given space and the ball, were all amazing. Special mentions to Tom Slater, a great captain and David Squire who finished the season 'best and fairest'.

B Bolton

Squad: R Allen, M Broughton-Pipkin, P Baxter, T Chilton, J Chan, C Price, A James, M Jackson, G Osbourne, B Bradshaw, D O'Shea, C Dicker, A Ward, D Squire, T Slater (capt), N Bosch, E Bramwell, N Allan, S Walpole, E Crowe, T Chambers, M Coker, P Gurtata, E Grieve, J Bradley, T Saunders, N Pusey, E Aleidayno, B Taylor Raymond

RUGBY

U15A

This was a very variable season for the U15As. When the opposition was of similar standard close and well-fought matches ensued, as exemplified by the fine wins over Seaford (29-15), Reading Blue Coat (32-7) and the second half against Oratory (17-10); a creditable draw with Merchant Taylors (17-17) and narrow losses to Milton Abbey (7-17) and Licensed Victualers (37-45). Against physically bigger teams, however, heavy defeats were the norm as against Reading, Pangbourne, Claires Court, Bloxham, Abingdon and the first half against Oratory.

The team was well led by Gary Potts and was strengthened by the inclusion of Basil Holiasmenos and Alex Mullins for the whole season, and Matthew



Gallick for the final match. Paddy Colman, George Boggis and Ben Porbeni gave of their best throughout the season and Tom Sampson hit his best form in the period after half term. It was also good to see Ben Flanagan develop from a C-teamer into a regular A squad member.

G Cassells

Squad: G Potts (captain), B Holiasmenos, A Mullins, P Aitchison, O Roitt, B Flanagan, P Mullan, L Sum, P Walker-Munro, K Stangroom, A Green, P Colman, M Oldridge, O Thorne, G Boggis, M Hensby, J Pond, T Sampson, B Porbeni, S Tsui, D Lee, A Gordon.

Below: U15s in training



U15B

Unfortunately we only had three games due to a lot of cancellations. After half term there was a lot of rain and we had matches cancelled due to the terrible conditions. We lost all three matches but in truth we were very unlucky. Our defeats were usually against sides with one really fast player who made all the difference, or down to a quick breakaway. Though there were times

when our defence was not concentrating as well as it should have. One of the highlights of the term was Leo Sum's great tackling and there was some excellent running by de Roumanie. Jamie Gouldstone, at scrum-half and Pierre Kunkler, at fly-half made a great partnership and thanks to Mr Caston for passing on his knowledge.

Piers Cadman, Year 10

Squad: P Cadman, L Sum, N de Roumanie, A Cadoux-Hudson, K Stangroom, J Finch, N Baker, P Kunkler, D Uprichard, J Pond, N Alstadt, J Gouldstone, J Boulton, A Gordon, J Mills, S Tsui, P Webb, J Joynson, P Aitchison, P Walker-Munro.

RUGBY

U14A

We all started our first term at Shiplake hoping to get into the U14As. Our first game was against Reeds School and we had a convincing win which started the season well. We then played Reading School and won again with great contributions from David Geneen and Mathew Webber who had 10 tries. We then played Seaford school after being trained hard by our coaches Mr O'Brien, Mr Cheadle and Mr Brown. James Talbot contributed some fantastic try-saving tackles and we emerged with another win. Against Claire's Court we started poorly and if it had not been for Ben Roberts we would have conceded many tries. We then played Pangbourne College and Max Handley coped very well as full back as did Jamie Orpwood, helping to score a great try in the second half to win the match. After half term our season came to a standstill when our pitches were flooded but we made the most of our training and fitness. We played a few more matches and then took on Abingdon. That, I would say, was the best match of the season. The whole team played so well that it was not possible

U14 B/C

For fear of them being over-shadowed by the Herculean achievement of their colleagues in the A team, I present here a testimony to the patience and dedication of at least forty boys who represented the U14 B and C teams. The two teams played eight matches and won three. The B team beat Pangbourne and Reading Blue Coat School and the C team did well to beat Radley College 22-0. The most memorable match was the C team's muddy struggle against Wellington College. Despite the conditions it was one of the best C matches I have seen.



to appoint a man of the match. There were great contributions from James Pengilly, George Pelling, Ed Blanchard, Leo Roberts and Dan Clarke. Our last match was against The Oratory where we had a lot of support from parents. The first half wasn't too good but we played much better in the second half and won narrowly thus finishing the season unbeaten!

Archie Fenton Year 9

Squad: A Fenton (captain), S Greenhill, D Geneen, J Rankin, M Webber, E Blanchard, G Pelling, W Downing, L Roberts, D Clark, J Pengilly, B Roberts, J Orpwood, J Talbot, N Beaumont, N Josif, D Barrett



U14A in triumph

The only disappointing aspect of the season was the number of fixtures which were called off. At least six matches were lost through the weather or last minute withdrawals by opposition. A number of C team players (Colin Thornton, Martin Haymes and Choi Dung-Wook) missed the opportunity to get their well deserved promotion to the B team. Others did well to represent the A team on occasion; Chris Cooper, George Smith and Max Chases all adapted superbly. Other outstanding performances were registered by Adam Gilbert-Smith, David

Cullen, Dan Jacobs, Sam Morris, James Blake-Baldwin, Nick Constant, Nick Josif.

NJ Brown

Squad : C Pickering, M Cole, G Smith, M Haymes, H Percy, M Chases, A Fontannaz, S Morris, D Jacobs, D Cullen, H Butcher, J Blake-Baldwin, A Basit, J O'Neill, A Gilbert-Smith, C Gardner, P Hudson, J Bell, J Christie, D Choi, D Barrett, N Constant, N Josif, J Southgate, J Johnston, M Bigland, L Kent, G Rouse, C Cooper, J Deakin, H Somner, C Lewis, H Monk, B. Ackerly, C Thornton, M Mills, J Raper, T Watson, J Russell.

THE BALDRY TROPHY

Events	Burr	Everett	Orchard	Skipwith	Welsh
Cross country - senior	1			2	
Cross country - junior		2	1		
Athletics – senior	2		1		
Athletics – junior		1	2		
Soccer – senior			2		1
Soccer – junior	2				1
Indoor soccer – senior	1		2		
Indoor soccer – junior		1			2
Hockey – senior			3		5
Hockey – junior			3		5
Indoor hockey – senior		1	2		
Indoor hockey – junior			2		1
Squash – senior				2	1
Squash – junior		2			1
Basketball – senior				2	1
Basketball – junior	1	2			
Cricket – senior		3			5
Cricket – junior			3		5
Rowing four – senior			3		2
Rowing four – junior	3			2	
Rowing sculls – senior	2		1		
Rowing sculls – junior	1	2			
Tennis – senior	2				4
Tennis – junior	2	4			
Swimming - senior		2		1	
Swimming - junior	1	2			
Tug of war			2		1
Sub totals	18	22	27	9	35
Cross country standards	8	12	2	16	4
Athletics standards	12	16	2	4	8
Standards totals	20	28	4	20	12
Total points gained	38	50	31	29	47

HOCKEY

1st XI

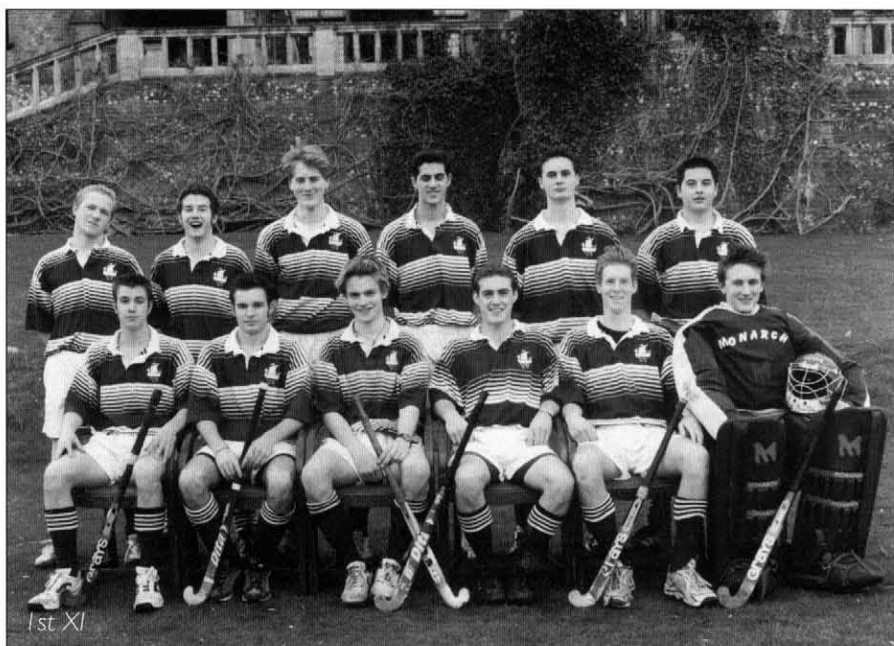
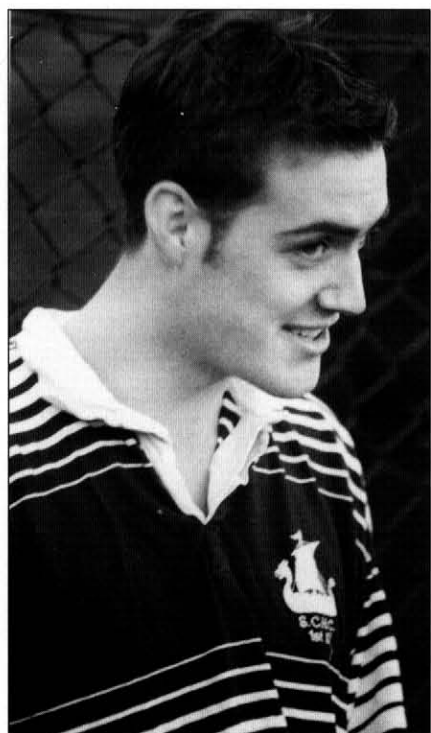
Coach's introduction

It is always fun when expectations are surpassed. The 2001 1st XI proved themselves to be a very good side, and to lose only two matches was a real achievement. Indeed, three of the five draws were games which had been dominated, having enjoyed a two goal lead. The spirit in the team was excellent, and much credit goes to Jordan Darrah's fine captaincy. Sustained effort was put in by all the players and considerable enjoyment was derived from the success of the season. With over half the team returning next season, the prospects look good too.

PCJ Gould

The team set a good example to the rest of the club by defeating Windsor Boys 3 - 2 in the opening match. Captain Jordan Darrah, with three years' first team experience, set the tone. In a 3 - 0 win over Pangbourne, newcomer Simon Hurlstone impressed with his

Jordan Darrah, captain 1st XI



defensive skills, but a well drilled and confident Lord Wandsworth team defeated us 5 - 2. However, the score did not reflect the eye-opening saves by keeper Max Manners.

With apprehension we travelled to the Berkshire Schools Indoor Tournament and were surprised and delighted to contest the final against Desborough, having defeated Reading and Bradfield along the way. This was the first time Shiplake has received the Plate Trophy for the runner-up.

Abingdon proved to be one of our toughest hockey matches. A nail-biting 1 - 1 draw was satisfying with Kit Murray and Finch Field-Hall working well in the attacking D.

After the long journey down to Milton Abbey, the team was disappointed with a 2 - 2 draw in a match which we had dominated. Nonetheless, Robert Gurney displayed both his defending skills and his ability to read the game from the back. Although away at Magdalen College we did well to achieve a 2 - 2 draw.

A weakened 1st XI team went to Mill Hill and gained a confidence-building 3 - 2 victory thanks to Jordan Darrah's calm

influence. An experienced Hockey Association team at Reading provided a good 2 - 2 draw, Ed Batchelor penetrating the right wing with speed and talent. A 2 - 2 draw against Leighton Park was disappointing but Ed Kennedy defended firmly to ensure the draw. An impressive 5 - 1 win over Reading School was partly built on Jassim Jaffer's on-the-ball fluidity. Despite our worst result of the season, a 7 - 1 defeat at Bloxham, Andrew Fox was strong at the back and consistently won tackles. A convincing 7 - 1 home victory over Reading Blue Coats was a welcome return. The lethal speed and sheer textbook skills of Ashley Hutton was a lesson for all of us. As ever, the staff match was a fun event enjoyed by many spectators, followed by the concluding OVS game with a deserved 4 - 2 victory.

Andrew Fox Year 12

Squad: M Manners, R Gurney, A Fox, S Hurlstone, E Kennedy, J Darrah (captain), S Hotchkiss, A Hutton, F Field-Hall, E Batchelor, K Murray, J Jaffer.

HOCKEY



2nd XI

A blend of a youth policy and some old heads produced a good start with a 2-1 win over Windsor Boys but a 0-1 defeat on Pangbourne's shale pitch halted the momentum. The Lord Wandsworth game was a hard fought battle which ended in a 3-3 draw. There was tension in the air when, with two minutes to go, we were drawing 1-1. This was largely due to the superb performance of de Borman in goal. Sadly we still lost 2-1. Our annual pilgrimage to Milton Abbey was rewarded by a fine 4-0 win on grass and revealed the sound positional sense of Chambers who scored two goals in his first game. By now the potent combination of Fordham dominating the right flank and Cassells,

Gurtarta and Chambers, waiting to strike on the opponents' D became a regular feature and enabled us to score a record 31 goals (Gurtarta 13, Cassells 5, Chambers 5).

The 1-1 draw against Magdalen College was great and credit must go to our defensive back three. Summers, Miller and Keyser all resisted waves of attacks. Against Bloxham even our midfield of Wood, Leguay and Allen, normally tireless, could not prevent us losing 5-0. Three of our biggest victories were against Mill Hill (8-2), Leighton Park (4-1) and John Hampton School (7-1) with Gurtarta scoring 11 goals.

RC Snellgrove



3rd XI

The third eleven under Tom Caston's energetic management provided a season of entertaining hockey. As ever the 3rd XI provides a training academy and vital match experience for those players on their way up. It was soon evident that James Larkin's eye for goal and strong hitting would take him up through the ranks. Chris Mills, James Blanchard and Myles Coker, working hard and creatively in mid-field, were all learning their trade well.

For some of the older hands who might possibly have reached a 'grass' ceiling in terms of hockey skills, there was the opportunity to try their hand at man management and motivation skills, building spirit and morale. In particular Jon Ravn's stern tones did much to organise the defence. The reliable Joe Chan and Iain Duckworth provided excellent cover for keeper Alex James. Though many of the team claimed that they could have shown greater skill if they had spent more time on Astro turf, at the end of the day it had to be regarded as a successful season for a spirited 3rd XI. They certainly won more matches than they lost, created some goals and many more chances.

Chris Grabowski Year 13

Squad: C Grabowski (captain), J Larkin, J Blanchard, M Coker, V Apte, C Mills, J Jamieson, A James, J Ravn, J Chan, P Talbot, H Simpson, R Hill, M Ellis.

2nd XI squad: A de Borman, J Summers, O Miller, C Keyser, P Talbot, J Blanchard, S Wood, M Leguay (captain), R Allen, J Fordham, P Gurtarta, P Cassells, J Greenham, T Chambers, A Alstadt.

HOCKEY

4th XI

The hockey term went well for the 4th XI. The team had its ups and downs with a memorable victory against Pangbourne with both Mark Chambers and Tom Gouldstone scoring. As the season progressed it became clear that illness, injury and a lack of strength in depth were hampering our play. Nevertheless we maintained our spirit and built on our teamwork. Tom Slater in goal was particularly important in holding things together and he was given excellent support by his defenders.

Shaun Walpole and Patrick Baxter played some outstanding hockey in midfield and around the opposition goal. Consequently it turned out to be a successful season and a lot of credit must go to our coach Mr Hunt.

Tom Gouldstone Year 12

Squad: T Gouldstone (captain), A Berry, N Bosch, A Bosch, E Crowe, E Bramwell, A Howard, S Walpole, P Baxter, M Chambers, H Simpson, R Yetman.

Jon Finch, U15A, training



U15A

It took time for the team to settle into a regular formation and method of play. While the changes were being made to find out who suited what position, we played two of our toughest fixtures against Abingdon and Lord Wandsworth and we suffered two heavy defeats. Once the players settled though, the rest of the season was definitely a team effort and it would be difficult to single out individuals. However, Oscar Thorne played a fine midfield role, dictating our play and proving a good captain. Our first win was over Milton Abbey in one of our rare games on grass. The

determination shown by the team and its strong self-belief was very encouraging to see.

Our win over Leighton Park was particularly noteworthy as we had six A team players out of the team on a school trip. The 'new' team played a tremendous game which I am sure they will remember.

We finished the season in fine style with two wins, one against Reading Blue Coat and finally a comprehensive victory (11-1) against Windsor Boys School. Tom Sampson finished off a very hard working season as striker with six goals. Overall we won four and lost seven, but the team should feel proud of their performance and things do look promising for the future!

Colours were awarded to: Oscar Thorne, Jon Finch, George Boggis, Alex Mullins, Michael Oldridge and Tom Sampson.

RT Mannix

Squad: O Thorne, J Finch, G Boggis, A Mullins, M Oldridge, T Sampson, N Baker, J Boulton, N Brockbanks, P Cadman, J Gouldstone, J Mills, D Uprichard, G Potts.

HOCKEY

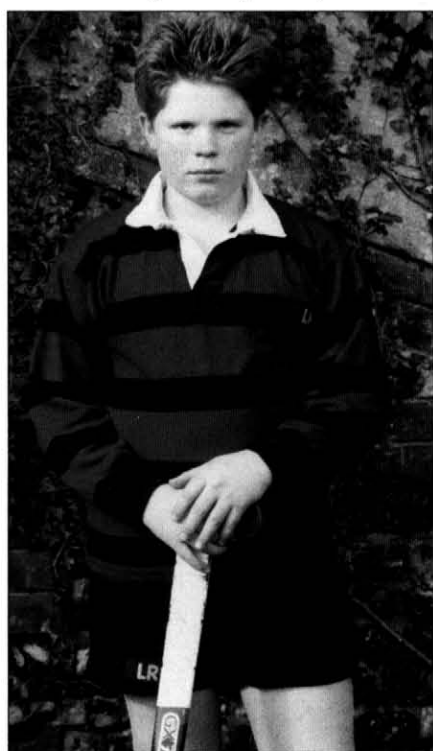
U15B

Even though it was a tough season the boys' enthusiasm never waned. Training sessions were fun most of the time and new skills were learned and put to the test in each game.

Despite the weather we only had one game cancelled, against Windsor Boys. Most of the games were very close defeats; many could have gone either way, especially the one against Bloxham. The boys' only victory was against Reading School. Thankfully the final score was 6-5 to us. Three goals were scored by Adam Gordon, one by Matthew Gallick, Ed Cook and Daniel Uprichard. Soon after this Ed Cook became a successful goal-keeper showing he could turn his hand to any position on the hockey pitch! Credit must go to all the boys who pushed themselves to the limit in all games.

LE Ecclestone

Squad: G Potts, B Flanagan, T Wright, N Brockbanks, E Cook, J Edington, S O'Connor, A Gordon, N de Roumanie, J Joynson, M Gallick, M Gourley, J Symons, P Walker-Munro, J Mackay, T Coupland.



U14A

A winning season! Four convincing victories, three exciting draws and three narrow losses bear testament to an excellent term's hockey for this year's A team. Thirty goals were scored and only 17 conceded by this able and enthusiastic squad, led by captain Leo Robarts who led the way in scoring 10 goals. He was supported well by vice captain Will Downing, a crucial player at centre half.

All the squad made valuable contributions, including Josh Raper in goal, Ed Blanchard, centre forward and David Geneen, right wing. There were excellent performances in particular against a strong Magdalen College School side, where we drew 2-2. Against Windsor Boys' School, we won 4-2, producing some of the most fluent moves of the season.

NJ Brown

Squad: L Robarts, W Downing, J Raper, J Southgate, N Beaumont, C Cooper, G Pelling, H Butcher, D Cullen, J Rankin, G Rouse, E Blanchard, D Geneen, C Pickering, J Talbot, M Cole. Colours: L Robarts, W Downing, D Geneen, J Raper. Left: Leo Robarts, top scorer of season

U14B

The team started the term successfully and their enthusiasm was high as they won their first match with ease. After the first game we agreed that every member of the squad would get at least one game during the season. Then came the real nail biter of our first game on Astroturf, unfortunately the success of our first game was not sustained as we lost 6-2. The boys' attitude and spirit plummeted to an all-time low but captain James Talbot managed during the next two training sessions to lift the boys' confidence for the trip to Milton Abbey. A return to mud, after Astroturf, in appalling weather, reminded the boys that they should pack boots as well. It was a hard way of learning the lesson as they lost 2-0.

SJ McKenna

Squad: J Talbot (captain), M Cole, J Bulkeley, N Josif, C Gardener, J Russell, C Pickering, A Basit, T Subsaeng, P Willasey-Wilsey, P Hudson, D Jacobs, M Mills, G Dobbie, S Greenhill, J Hopkins, G Smith, S McCullagh, H Monk.

CRICKET



1st XI

Tom Caston's pre-season prophecy to *The Cricketer* that the batting was fragile and that much depended on captain Kit Murray proved worryingly accurate. At the top of the order James Blanchard played straight and had time against the quicks but he found it difficult coming into the 1st XI as a fifth former. Ollie Miller could power a ball away off the back foot but his footwork was a little too tentative against the moving ball. Chris Grabowski had returned to cricket from the river and was feeling his way back. Ferocious cuts and pulls from Ashley Hutton promised much but he was prone to misjudging length. Of course much depended on Kit Murray playing a captain's innings. Like England skipper, Nasser Hussain, he succumbed early in the season to injury, a fractured thumb kept him out for many key games.

At times there were some batting collapses approaching the calamity of an England innings. Not only is it difficult to win a match when you have less than 100 on the board, it is also hard to believe you can win. Yet such was the commitment of this side that they bowled and fielded magnificently,

creating pressure and taking wickets when it seemed that the opposition should be cruising to victory. Finch Field-Hall was simply magnificent in the field, swallowing up the ground with long strides, swooping and picking up in one



fluid movement, rifling in a throw to the keeper. Ashley Hutton was not far behind.

Despite the disappointments and losses Tom Caston's team kept on working. On blisteringly hot days they applied themselves in the nets. Tom putting on his pads and showing how it should be done. Then there were tough fielding sessions. Nor must the contribution of scorer Duncan Lamrock be forgotten. It was the game against the Old Vikings that showed progress was being made. The OVS made a flying start but the 1st XI concentrated and kept their heads. Hutton with his 'Satanic' action and Finch Field-Hall with his flowing run-up were always a handful for batsman. The reliable, metronomic Matthew Ellis and John Jamieson proved to be good support.

Against the OVs Finch Field-Hall and Charlie Armitage showed that they were becoming more than bowlers who could bat a little. They both played determined innings against a rapid OV attack to see the 1st XI through to a narrow victory. Charlie took the promise on and scored an encouraging half century in the Shiplake Shield played on the last Sunday of the term. This was a young team, there were only three upper sixth players, and the nucleus of lower sixth players should fare much better next season. Coach Caston created an excellent team spirit and tightened the players' technique with some excellent encouraging coaching.

Squad: K Murray (captain), O Miller, C Grabowski, M Ellis, V Apte, J Jamieson, A Hutton, F Field-Hall, C Armitage, J Blanchard, N Alstadt.

Vikram Apte, practising in the nets

CRICKET

2nd XI

Having played just two matches, both against Reeds School, this must rate as one of the most unusual seasons in the history of 2nd XI cricket at Shiplake. In the first match Reeds scored 157 for 5 declared with a good spell of bowling from Rob Yetman who took 4 for 43. In reply we only managed 74 all out with Gouldstone, Larkin and Yetman being the only batsmen venturing into double figures.

The return match was much closer. Having won the toss, we elected to bat and notched up 91, thanks to a fine innings of 43 by Gouldstone who eventually ran out of partners. We then made Reeds struggle to reach our total, due to some accurate bowling from Lindsay (3 for 11) and Yetman (3 for 34), but reach it they did in the dying overs with the loss of seven wickets. A



great deal of credit must go to the squad who turned out to net practice week in, week out, even though fixtures continued to be cancelled by the opposition or rained off.

RC Snellgrove

2nd XI

Squad: B Hogan, R Yetman, S Hurlstone, T Gouldstone, C Mills, M Chambers, M Koutsofta, A Howard, J Lindsay, I Duckworth, E Crowe, J Larkin, C Price.

U15

The season started on a wet note with the first match against Pangbourne being cancelled. Once the season got underway strong bowling performances were seen from Jon Finch, Julian Mills and Tom Sampson. This was complemented by some solid batting in the top order from Joynson and Thorne, with some quick scoring lower down the order from Julian Mills and some belligerent strokes from Michael Oldridge.

A run of three losses was stemmed by a convincing win against Bearwood at home followed by a win against Leighton Park away. On both occasions there were contributions throughout the team. Wicket-keeping duties were shared by Oldridge and Boggis, the latter taking on the job for the first time. Although it could not be described as a



hugely successful season it was pleasing to see individuals developing and improving. With continued application through winter nets a number of the squad will be ready to challenge for 1st team squad places next year.

AF Hunt

Squad: J Finch (captain), O Thorne, J Joynson, T Sampson, N Baker, G Potts, J Mills, M Oldridge, G Boggis, N de Roumanie, A Gordon, B Flanagan, S Sobhan.

Pictured above: U15 squad

CRICKET

U14A

The U14s had an outstanding season winning most of their games, 17 in all, culminating in a fine win over Pangbourne in the final of the Shiplake College Shield Cricket Festival.

The side gained most of its strength through a few influential players who scored a great deal of runs particularly against weaker opposition and this enabled the bowlers to bowl at a target. At the heart of the batting was Will Downing who scored three centuries and three half-centuries, unprecedented in Shiplake's cricketing history and probably accomplished by only a few in U14 school cricket. Ed Blanchard 'came good' with the bat towards the end of the season. Among the 50s he scored, the two in a day at the Shiplake College festival were very special.

The bowling on the other hand lacked penetration and the fielding lacked consistency, despite some spectacular catches from Leicester Kent. Will Downing always looked sharp when his tail was up and Josh Rankin always opened the bowling with a good line, length and control of away swing. David Cullen showed promise with the bat and bowled with a well controlled swing to become a useful change bowler.

James Talbot, who shows real promise as a batsman, also did well with the ball in his hand and did a fine job when asked to keep wicket. However, find of the year was Leo Robarts, he matured well and turned into a genuine all-rounder; his left arm spin really developed gaining him a six wicket haul and a four wicket haul towards the end of the season. Special mention must be made of Chris Gardner and Patrick



Willasey-Wilsey who did an admirable job scoring for the team throughout the season.

AK Lewis

Squad: D Cullen, L Robarts, J Talbot, W Downing, D Geneen, G Rouse, A Basit, L Kent, J Rankin, C Cooper, J Southgate, J Bulkely, J Raper, M Webber.

U14B

Every Year 9 boy who opted for cricket this season was given the opportunity to play at least one match for the school and over 23 boys represented the B team. Many had played little cricket before and the commitment and dedication was excellent. Every boy improved his skills and also contributed to a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere in training and matches. There were many keenly contested matches and those against Radley, Reeds

and Wellington can be singled out as particularly fine performances. The final match of the season, against Licensed Victuallers School, was perhaps the highlight, producing a superb victory. Individual performances of note were some fine batting by Nick Beaumont and Josh Raper and reliable bowling from Harry Somner; Chris Cooper, Patrick Willasey-Wilsey and Leicester Kent. The team was ably led by George Dobbie who was also a reliable wicket-keeper. Josh Raper shared the captaincy in the later part of the season and led the way with some captain's innings. It was a credit to all the boys that a number of the squad were called upon to represent the A team.

NJ Brown

Squad: G Dobbie, J Raper, P Willasey-Wilsey, H Somner, N Beaumont, L Kent, J Southgate, D Jacobs, P Hudson, G Smith, G Rouse, D Geneen, J Rankin, M Cole, M Mills, N Josif, J Bulkely, T Suebsaeng, C Pickering, J Hopkins, A Fontannaz, J Russell.



THE BOAT CLUB

1st VIII

With the river more often than not in flood the autumn and spring terms training proved incredibly frustrating. An abnormally high mileage was accumulated on ergometers and thousands of kilograms of weights were lifted and shifted.

Racing action was virtually non-existent owing to cancellations except for the efforts of Ed Greig and Jack Gregory in GB National Trials.

Excellent performances earned them invitations to training camps in Seville and Brive. Although on the brink of selection at several stages they never quite shone enough in pairs racing to go all the way but they were clearly a potent force in bigger boats as the Shiplake season unfolded.

The squad entered the Easter training camp in Sarnen with no form guide as to how fast they were or could be. A very demanding and productive week ensued. With the bad weather behind them the boys were eager to race and it became obvious at Hammersmith Regatta that things were heading in the right direction. The bow four scored a very good second place in Senior 3 fours while the stern four won the Senior 2 event well and the day culminated with an exciting win in the Senior 3 eights.

Racing Senior 2 eights at Notts City and Wallingford was a very tall order but the stern four managed to notch up another impressive win at Wallingford. Emulating last year's feats at National



Shiplake 1st VIII competing at Henley Royal Regatta in July

Schools was never going to be an easy task. The Child Beale eights was one of the most fiercely contested events of the regatta. To qualify for the final was no mean feat but the style in which that was achieved was sensational. To sprint from fourth place with 250 metres remaining to win their semi-final in the fastest time of the day was an unbelievable performance. Sadly it could not be repeated two hours later when Shiplake was narrowly beaten into fourth place in one of the best races of the regatta. The coxed four raced maturely for a very creditable fourth in the Championship event. Two fourth places left the oarsmen disappointed and without medals but the standard and style of racing should be a source of pride.

Again, the application of the crew could not be questioned with some exciting performances in the run up to Henley, including another win for the coxed four against stiff American opposition at Reading Town. The maturity of the crew

showed through on the Wednesday at Henley Royal Regatta when they did not panic at being a length down to Kings Canterbury at half way but rather applied the pressure to row through and gain a handsome one length victory. Thursday saw another gutsy row only to go down to the selected Redwood High School crew by a length.

Jan Muggenburg, Jack Gregory, Ed Greig and Will Paddison deserve mention for two years' service in the first eight and for being the core of a respected Shiplake squad. John Robinson's committed approach saw him acquit himself well in the demanding crucial six seat. Tom Bellamy, Jamie Falvey, Gordon Marshall and James Wilkinson should form a strong nucleus for next year's group.

SJ O'Brien

Squad: J Falvey, W Paddison, J Muggenburg, J Robinson, E Greig, J Gregory, T Bellamy, G Marhsall, J Wilkinson.

THE BOAT CLUB

Swiss Rowing Camp

With the River Thames in flood for so much of the spring term, this year's senior rowing camp in April was much needed to catch up on some training. The Swiss National Rowing Centre at Sarnen, with its five km lake, provides the flat water and perfect conditions needed for some serious pre-season training. The plan was for 25 senior rowers to fly from Heathrow to Zurich and then travel across to Sarnen, meanwhile the boats would be driven to Dover, take a ferry over the Channel and then carry on to Sarnen. Australian gap student Rob Little should have been part of that convoy, but he had a dispute with the authorities over the exact role of a passport. He believed that you only had to possess a passport while the authorities believed



that you actually had to present the passport when crossing borders.

Eventually Rob had to catch a flight too.

For the 1st VIII, trained by Mr O'Brien, it was a tough week. When the sun appeared on the first day Mr O'Brien's shorts appeared too. That was the last we saw of the sun all week. Miss Ellis trained the J16 crew and Mr Wells looked after a 2nd IV. There were three outings a day for each crew and we must have been averaging 25 - 30 km a day.

With such a heavy workload we were very happy to chill out in the Internet Cafe and the restaurants of Sarnen. One highlight of a busy six days was a walk up into the hills and some spectacular views of the lake and mountains. All our thanks go to the staff for organising a very worthwhile rowing camp.

Richard Lightwing Year 12

3rd VIII

The prime aim of this year's 3rd VIII was to be a contender for the West Cup at the National School's Regatta at the end of May.

We had a very good reason to be there because this regatta began life as a small invitation event, organised by the late Mr Desmond Hill, 55 years ago. He wanted to provide an opportunity for school oarsmen below 1st and 2nd level to compete against each other. In 1947 just three crews met on the Thames.

This year, over one hundred schools and clubs converged on Holme Pierrepont for a packed two-day programme. We had the potential to fulfil our aim, even

though injuries earlier in the season had hindered our progress. We had a strong incentive to do our best, as the head coached us.

It had been a most disappointing season for all rowers, surely the worst in living memory, owing to winter flooding and foot and mouth disease but we still managed to train effectively and race competitively.

Our first regatta was Wallingford, held this year at Dorney Lake. We managed to feature in two finals but regretfully, were not able to qualify for the podium. We had to console ourselves with the knowledge that we had competed in the first open event at this fantastic new rowing course.

Our second regatta was National

Schools. Again we got through to the final but we were up against strong opposition from Hampton and Pangbourne. We had achieved our objective but, unfortunately, we missed out on a medal.

The crew was made up of competitive and well-motivated rowers who all had a burning desire to win. We had a talented stroke pair, Clarke and Wood, a powerful middle four, Staples, Luppi, Lowry and Ashcroft, plus a technically sound bow pair, Webb and Pusey.

Nic Lowry, Year 12

Squad: B Nicholas, M Clarke, S Wood, D Staples, R Luppi, N Lowry, M Ashcroft, P Webb N Pusey.

THE BOAT CLUB

J16

The J16 rowing squad had a very successful season. In the first regatta of the term the crew won two events at Hammersmith Regatta. This theme remained throughout the season. Victories followed at Wallingford, Thames Valley Park and Reading Town. At National Schools Regatta, Johnny Halsall and Mark McCluggage gained a very commendable bronze medal in the coxless pairs event. For most of the day they were the fastest crew in the event, winning their heat and semi-final with ease over the gold medallists. However in the final they succumbed to the very rough conditions and did their best to stay afloat in the middle of the course, charging back at the end to narrowly miss the silver medal.

Thus the standard that nine rowers and one cox attained was extremely high this season. The boys have raced in a combination of boats this term, eights,

fours, pairs and singles. In doing so they have competed against and beaten the best crews around. Abingdon, St Paul's, Hampton and Eton have all been beaten by various combinations of these ten boys.

Johnny Halsall, Mark McCluggage, Matthew Jackson, Charly Cort and Jamie Falvey (cox of the first eight) are going on to GB J16 trials where we wish them best of luck.

My highlight of the season has been watching the disappointment of competing crews as they have been beaten by a much smaller school. I don't think that they had reckoned on the hard work and determination that these boys have shown. The group's J16 colours were thoroughly deserved.

SK Ellis

Squad: M McCluggage, G Osborne, W Goddard, A Entin, D Ealand, T Chambers, M Jackson, C Cort, J Halsall, D Squire.



J16B

Intrepid and brave
Inclined to rave
We trained with every crew
Yet the chance of a race
We forever did chase
Amidst floods and much ado

Racing at Borne
We were forlorn
Coming in third and last
The 3rd VIII took two
The coach felt pretty blue
Chances to win in the past

Did GCSEs
Or scandal and sleaze
Deprive them of winning a prize?
Maybe technique
An unlucky streak
Or too many "Big Macs and Fries"?

'Twas a shame
That mistress fame
Should elude them again
Yet it was fun
At Sonning with a bun
To muse on what might have been
We'll strive with our oars
To avoid being bores
And become a synchronised
machine

(in our dream!)

CE Alcock

Squad: J Bailey, T Saunders, O Collis, C Nichols, P Webb, M Clarke, A. Entin, E Grieve, R Lamrock.

Olympic gold medallist Ben Hunt-Davis, back centre, with senior rowers Ed Greig, Jan Muggenburg, Will Paddison, Jack Gregory and Ben Hewson

THE BOAT CLUB



Sculling on the sports fields during the floods

J14

This year's training was severely hampered by the poor weather. Flooding and strong currents meant we had little opportunity to train on the river during the spring term. However, all the boys undertook land training with great enthusiasm and despite these difficulties all have significantly improved their sculling technique.

Adverse weather also disrupted the

racing programme and limited the number of regattas we could compete in. The A squad enjoyed quality coaching from Ali Brown, a GB lightweight rower. They had wins in the J14 quad events at Chiswick Regatta and in the J14 octuple at Walton Regatta. The B squad also raced well this year, again both in quads and an octuple. At Thames Valley Park regatta the B squad entered five crews in three events and one quad raced

extremely well reaching the final and losing by only a narrow margin.

During the final regatta of the season at Reading Town all J14 crews raced well, the B squad being rewarded for their effort and perseverance over the season with a win in the J14B quad event. I would like to thank my fellow coach Rob Little for all his help and advice, and he did well to motivate the boys during a difficult season.

GS Lawson

A Squad: J Blake-Baldwin, D Clark, A Esslemont, A Fenton, M Haymes, J Johnston, J Orpwood, C Thornton, T Watson.

B Squad: B Ackerley, D Barrett, J Bell, M Bigland, M Chases, J Christie, N Constant, J Deakin, A Gilbert-Smith, M Handley, C Lewis, O Loudon, M McCarthy, S Morris, J O'Neill, H Percy, B Roberts, D Uprichard.



Senior oarsmen training on the Thames

TENNIS

The Tennis Club

The tennis club has had another good season. With modern synthetic strings and fast draining Astroturf courts, we have been able to play in all weathers. Excluding the house matches, singles, tournament matches and the family day, we have played 33 matches.

Mr Gould and Mr Wilson took the senior teams, Mr Mannix coached and developed the juniors, Miss Eccleston coached the girls and Miss McKenna, together with Miss Eccleston, ran the leagues for non-team players. Without their dedication and support the club would not be the bubbling, competitive and fun club that it is. The captain of the club was Martin Leguay and Jamie Summers was secretary.

Senior members of the club had an enjoyable afternoon playing in a mixed doubles round robin tournament with Queen Anne's School.

The first VI did extremely well to beat the Oratory 8-1 and Pangbourne 7-2. We play fixtures against some big tennis schools and if we take numbers into account, 60 players in the club and five tennis courts, it is very much to our



credit that we get invited time and again to compete against Wellington, Radley and Bradfield.

A group of seventeen of us went to the Stella Artois tournament and had a great time watching Rusedski, Henman, Sampras, Safin, Black and Palmer. Congratulations to Jamie Summers who defeated Simon Hotchkiss in the Senior Singles and Nick Alstadt who defeated Harry Butcher in a thrilling battle to clinch the Junior Singles Championships.

The new Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tournament was a great success, thanks to Mike Dean at Radley and his committee, who ran this new event.

As well as Shiplake, Radley, St Edward's, Pangbourne, Bloxham and the Oratory were represented. The Colts IV consisting of Pradeep Gurtata, Nick Allan, Nick Alstadt and Alan Pownall did well in the first round of the tournament and went through to the winners' pool and both our juniors and seniors won their pools. Every player was awarded a medal and the juniors and seniors were presented with the Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tournament trophies.

AR Cheadle

Senior Squad: M Leguay, J Summers, S Hotchkiss, J Greenham, J Burridge, C Keyser, J Darrah, A McDonnell.

Colts: N Alstadt, N Allan, P Gurtarta, A Pownall.

Junior Colts: H Butcher, G Pelling, J Gouldstone, J Symons.



Oxfordshire
Independent
Schools
Tournament
winners:
Jack Symons,
George Pelling,
Jamie
Gouldstone
and Harry
Butcher

TENNIS

The 2nd VI tennis adopted a squad system again this year with several players involved. Jo Burridge ably led as team captain with both her vocal encouragement on court and her organising of players off court. After close matches between Magdalen College and Abingdon they finally had a deserved draw with Pangbourne. Andrew Fox was probably the player of the season, his returns of serve gaining him many points.

Other members of the squad with notable contributions were Pradeep Gurtata, Harry Simpson, Andrew McDonnell and Harry Colvin. Nick Allan played a few games for the 2nds but was on the fringe of the 1st team for much of the season.

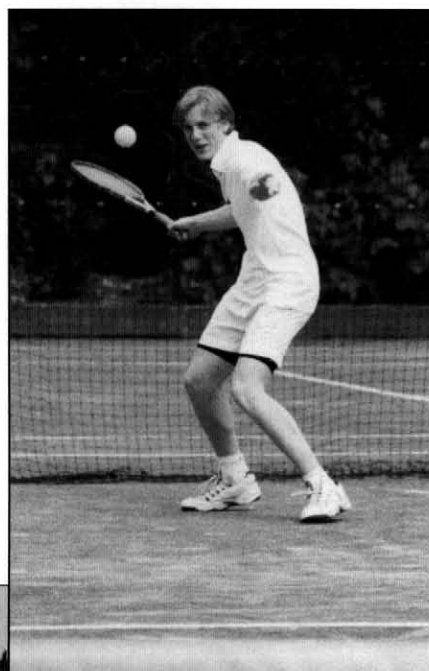
The final game of the season saw the 2nd VI play an experienced SCR team. The headmaster, deputy headmaster, director of activities and the chaplain played and it was a most enjoyable afternoon. The final score was 6-3 to the 2nd VI.

D Wilson

The girls' IV



Squad: J Burridge, A Fox, P Gurtarta, H Simpson, A McDonnell, H Colvin, N Allan.



In action: top left, James Greenham, above: Andrew Fox and left Jamie Summers with Andrew Cheadle in the background

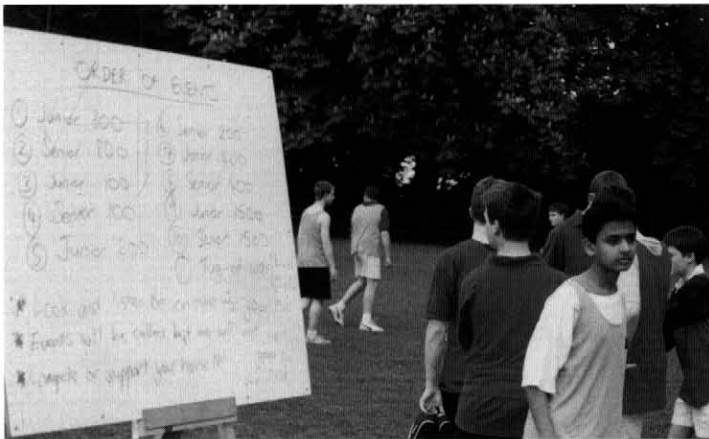
ATHLETICS

It took a long time for the athletics track to dry out but once it did there were some excellent performances. In the standards every house was eager to get its competitors out to collect their As, Bs and Cs. On the track Everett

powered their way through the sprints, 400m, 800m and 1500m to accumulate the points and jogged over to the long



On their marks... competitors in the 1500 metres jump and shot putt to consolidate their lead over second placed Burr.



SPORTS ROUND UP



Soccer

There had been plans for more soccer fixtures to be squeezed in throughout the rugby and hockey seasons. Early in the autumn term we welcomed senior and junior soccer sides from Eton. Senior and junior house soccer leagues were completed, with each team playing four matches before the rain set in. In

the senior event Orchard played some fluid football in front of a very sound back four though at times Welsh looked set to challenge them. There was much enthusiasm prior to three fixtures against St Edward's School, Oxford, but again they fell victim to torrential rain. As the weather had been so bad the previous term, the annual staff v 1st XI soccer match was played on the first

Friday of the summer term. The match as always was played at a furious pace with little time for settling on the ball. The staff took an early lead and with a spectacular free kick from Tom Caston ended 3-0 up at the break. In the second half with many of the older legs on the pitch tiring the 1st XI began to exert their control on the match. Some good passing play ended with Alex Macdonald scoring. Eventually with perseverance, a large slice of luck and two deflected goals, the match was level at 3-3. With time running out a fourth goal seemed to seal the victory for the 1st XI. Then a handball in the box gave the staff a last minute penalty that was slotted away coolly and the match ended 4-4. The staff seemed more pleased with the final score and it certainly lived up to the old cliché 'a match of two halves'.

D Wilson



J Blunsden, B Hogan, J Jamieson, A McDonnell, V Apte, C Keyser

Squash

Squash enjoyed a much higher profile this year.

Throughout the year the numbers taking squash as a full-time sport grew, with many talented players benefitting from professional coaching which

enabled us to compete with other schools.

The 1st VI had a number of fixtures, defeating a weakened side from Eton and learning from less successful matches against Pangbourne and Downe House.

The final match, against the staff, was

convincingly won by the opposition! Next year will see a greater number of difficult but challenging fixtures.

J Blunsdon

Squad: V Apte, J Jamieson, C Keyser, A McDonnell, B Hogan.

Swimming

The swimming gala was the last house event of the year and the destination of the Baldry Trophy was in doubt until the final relay races assured Everett of their victory.



NEW STAFF



Lowri Cook

Our new Head of English is already familiar with Shiplake College. Her husband, Nick, gave long and distinguished service as a governor. Lowri, resident in Lower Shiplake, is just moving a couple of miles up the road from her position as Head of Drama at Queen Anne's School. Currently she is studying for a M.Ed (Professional Development) with Westminster College, her thesis is a study of the use of ICT in teaching English grammar. Lowri is a keen theatregoer and enjoys tennis, swimming, rowing and walking.

Jane Barr

Jane, a Henley resident, is looking forward to a much shorter commute before she starts her day's Maths teaching. Previously she had to cross Reading to arrive at Crosfields School and the Abbey School. With a B.Ed in Mathematics and a MA in Education, her thesis focused on ICT, she is well prepared for the challenges ahead. Jane will also be involved in the development of girls' activities at Shiplake.

Mark Partridge

Mark is coming to Shiplake to teach Information Communications Technology and to give some assistance to the Business Studies department. With a B.Ed in Business Education, sales and marketing experience and five years' teaching at Claire's Court, he is well equipped for the position. A Commonwealth gold medal, with the GB VIII in 1994, is a highlight of his CV.

Andrew Dix

Andrew Dix is Shiplake's new Director of Cricket and Rugby. He has an impressive pedigree of county representation in a number of sports. Having gained a BSc from Loughborough University in Physical Education and Sports Science he remained at Loughborough to study for a Post Graduate Certificate of Education with Mathematics as his second subject. Andrew is moving from the Forest School, Winnersh.

Athol Hundermark

Athol Hundermark joins Shiplake as a Geography student teacher. Brought up in South Africa, he graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc majoring in Geography, Human Kinetics and Ergonomics. He stayed on at Rhodes to complete a Higher Diploma in Education and tutor first year Geography students. In 1996 he represented South Africa in the World Rowing Championships, other interests include diving, hiking, skiing, squash and swimming.

Scott Dunsdon



Scott Dunsdon is spending a gap year at Shiplake after leaving Melbourne Grammar School. He is working alongside Malcolm Woodcock in the Music school, often using his ICT skills to produce programmes. Few people know that Scott has also studied Mandarin for six years.



Rob Little

Rob Little, from Guildford Grammar School, Australia, has provided invaluable assistance to Ceramics, Media Studies and helped out on the river. Rob arrived in the UK with a desire to broaden his horizons and develop greater independence before settling into the next phase of his educational and career development. He is well on the way to achieving that objective in his gap year.

STAFF LEAVING

Charly Lowndes

After prep school and university in Oxford, Charly Lowndes is returning to his old haunts at Magdalen College School. During his stay of four years as head of IT at Shiplake Charly has overseen the development of a network of over 100 machines through classrooms, labs, houses and administration. He also successfully introduced A Level IT.

Charly has been prominent in virtually every area of school life. As a tutor in Burr he played an important pastoral role. He masterminded the Thursday evening programme of cultural events in the Tithe Barn Theatre and was always willing to take to the stage himself. While at Shiplake he added a PGCE to his Oxford PPE degree and Open University IT BSc.

A survivor of the London Marathon, Charly was always willing to jog around the cross country course or help out with athletics standards. A keen sailor who once crossed the Channel with Andrew Cheadle, he was happy to help with the CCF Navy section.

Charly hugely enjoyed his time at Shiplake and looks forward to Oxford.

Bill Brownbridge

Bill Brownbridge said a fond farewell to Shiplake College after 15 years as catering manager. Following a career in the Army this was Bill's longest stay at any one location.

Bill has been a loyal servant of the College. Every day he managed to feed each boy, girl and member of staff in the College, producing over 400 lunches daily as well as catering for many special occasions. He has packed up rations for Duke of Edinburgh expedition breakfasts, made coffee for visiting preachers, provided lunch for Kate Adie

and supper for Sir Garfield Sobers.

At a recent Sunday lunchtime College staff and suppliers gathered in the Great Hall for a tribute lunch that took the form of a *This is Your Life* occasion. Bill said his final goodbye at a school assembly and presented a world atlas to the College library. Bill and his wife retire to a home in Mudeford so that Bill can spend more hours supporting his beloved Bournemouth Football Club.

Paul Johnson

Pupils came to appreciate Paul's warm-hearted humour in the Design and Technology rooms and on the playing fields and imitations of his deep Geordie tones used to echo around the school. It was Paul who rose to the challenge of acquiring a grant from the Worshipful Company of Stationers, driving the scheme through and helping to design the desk top publishing suite. He taught the first DTP course.

Paul also helped to raise the profile of Shiplake rugby. As an Oxfordshire selector he made sure that Shiplake boys were encouraged to support their county and brought county training sessions to Shiplake. Then there were his popular Geordie rugby tours and a Shiplake triumph in the Oxfordshire U15 cup. In the summer he devoted hours to coaching cricket and umpiring. Paul spent many hours on duty in Welsh House. He also tightened up the rules and supervision of the JCR bar. He proudly wore the CCF uniform, army section, and helped pupils to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We wish Paul success on his promotion to Head of Design and Technology in Derbyshire. He will now be able to enjoy his fly-fishing more frequently on the northern trout streams.

JR Seaton

Tom Caston

A former housemaster's son and old boy, Tom Caston returned to Shiplake after gaining a Geography degree at Exeter University and spending a couple of years as a City dealer. He came to Shiplake to learn his trade as a teacher and took to it with enthusiasm.

Tom was heavily involved throughout the school. As a resident tutor in Everett he welcomed two new intakes.

An outstanding cricketer, he was the ideal man to coach the 1st XI. There were also some spectacular innings for the Wanderers, the team of boys and staff. On the Barbados tour he was cricket manager and spent more than his share of time on beach duty.

Tom also coached junior rugby sides and brought a spirit of fun to 3rd XI hockey. Few will forget his dynamic performances for the staff soccer team. Tom is moving on to a day school in Bath - but will be back to score many more runs for the Old Viking XI.

GP Wells

Adrian Lewis

Adrian leaves Shiplake after just one year as Director of Cricket and Rugby. Adrian was attracted by the potential he saw at Shiplake for developing two of our major sports.

During his first term he developed a 1st XV with a highly effective pack of forwards providing quality possession for the attacking instincts of the backs.

This year's appalling weather meant that he was often confronted with large groups in the Sports Hall and was still able to provide quality coaching.

If he happened to pass a cricket net, he strode up and immediately delivered an immaculately pitched leg-break that would not have disgraced Shane Warne. It's a pity he could not have stayed with us for a longer period.



Pastures new... U6th leavers 2001



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