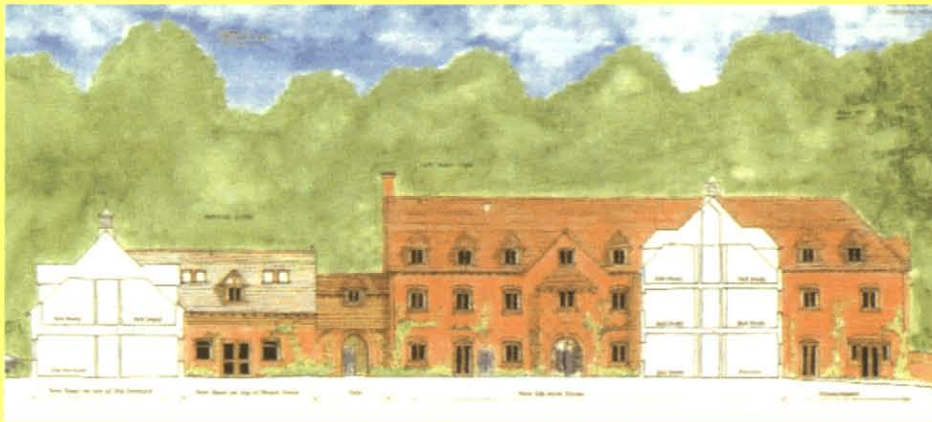


THE COURT



SHIPLAKE
COLLEGE
2001 - 2002

The Court

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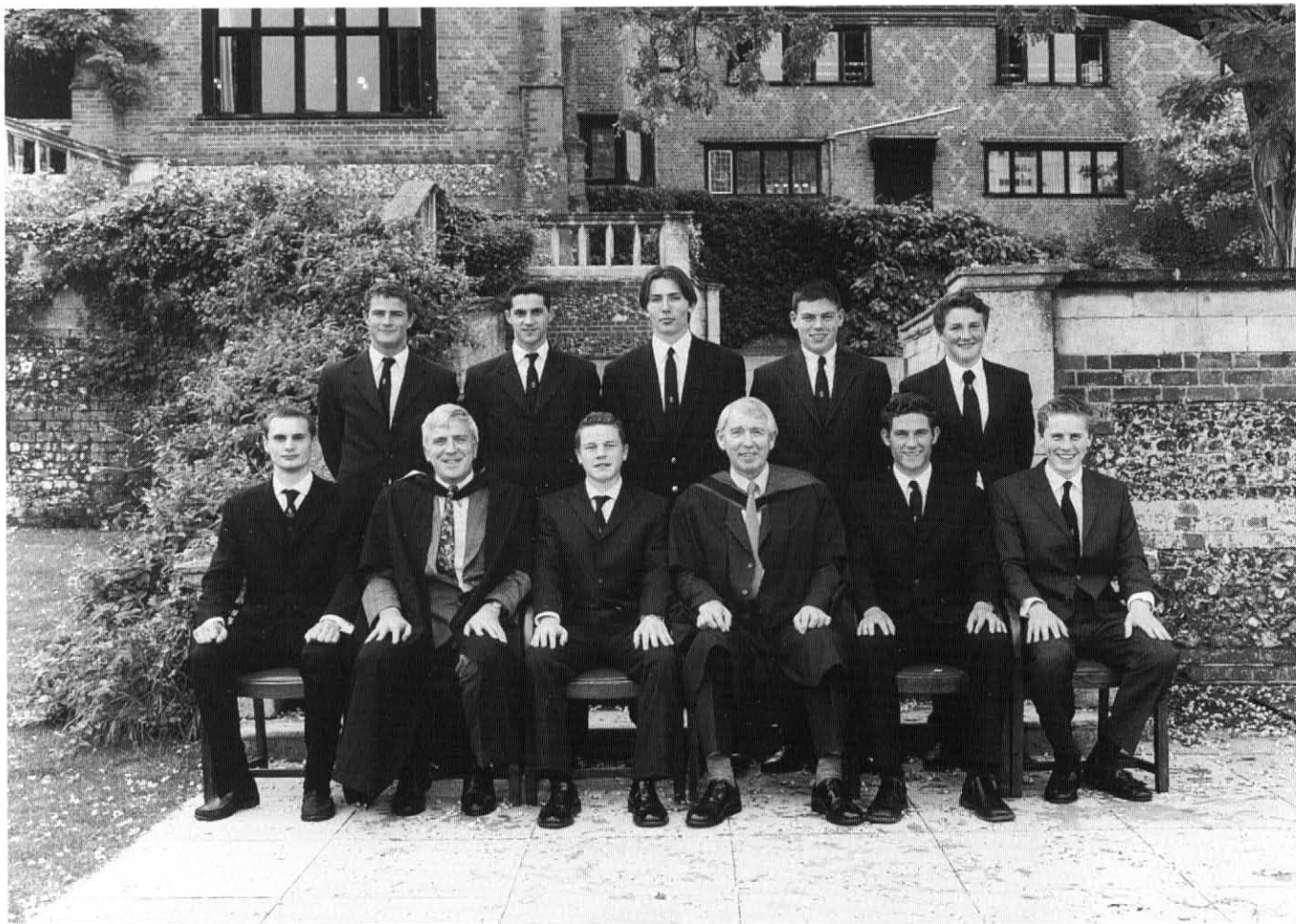
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Front cover: Architects' Plans for College House

College Officers 2001 / 2002



College prefects with headmaster and deputy head: from left to right: back row: R.M. Lightwing, F.W.I. Field-Hall, G.D.F. Marshall, N.C.P. Lowry, T.P. Gouldstone: front row: S.A. Hurlstone, B.P. Edwards, B.A. Nicholas, N.V. Bevan, J.P. Wilkinson, A.C. Fox

College Officers

Head of College

B. A .Nicholas

Deputy Head of College

J. P. Wilkinson

Heads of House

Burr	R.M. Lightwing
Everett	S.A. Hurlstone
Orchard	J.P. Wilkinson
Skipwith	A.C. Fox and S.C. Wood
Welsh	G.D.F. Marshall

School Prefects

A.C. Fox

T.P. Gouldstone

S.A. Hurlstone

R.M. Lightwing

N.C.P. Lowry

G.D.F. Marshall

S.C. Wood

Captain of Rugby: M.R. Gurney

Captain of Hockey: E.A. Batchelor

Captain of Cricket: J.H. Blanchard

Captain of Boats: J.W. Falvey



Ben Nicholas (left) and James Wilkinson discussing arrangements

The Headmaster's View

Another year, another building

Nick Bevan, Headmaster, looks back over a year of decisions

The most momentous event of the year was the Governors' brave decision to go ahead with the ambitious plans for an Upper Sixth Boarding House. Time and time again over the past dozen years the governors have shown their faith in the College and taken bold decisions. At the time of the Everett rebuild, the Pavilion and Orchard House complex, refurbishing the Stableyard and building humanities and modern languages departments on top of a renovated science department all seemed laden with risk. On each occasion the developments have been completed and the school finances remain healthy.

I believe that the £2m investment will bring many benefits to Shiplake and not just for Upper Sixth Pupils. Of course Year 13 pupils will benefit immensely from state-of-the-art single study accommodation. The shared kitchen and bathroom facilities will give them a good taste of university life and we hope that they will develop a work ethic that will serve them well in their undergraduate days. I also have confidence that the first housemaster of College House will establish traditions and systems that will endure.

Although pupils can look forward

to their final year in very comfortable surroundings, pupils from their very first day in year 9 will find that there are many advantages to the new arrangements. There will be more space in the existing houses. In simple terms that will mean the most junior boys will have more chance of getting on to the pool and table-tennis tables and as they

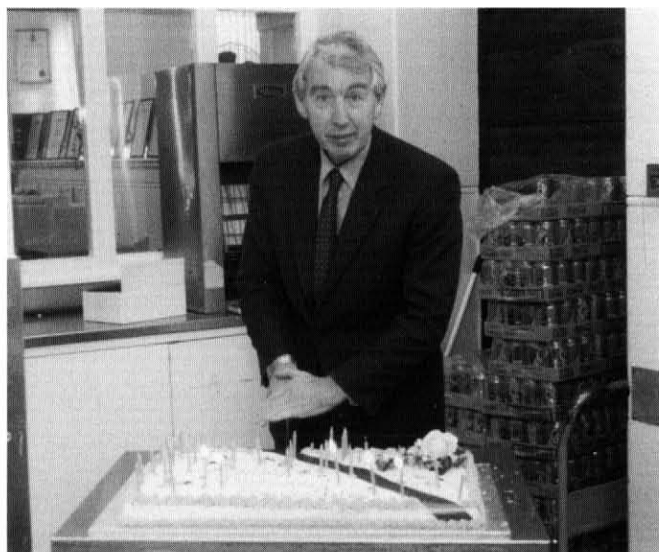
progress up the school they will find themselves in double or single rooms earlier than previously. But we must not forget the fun and friendship that many of them discover from living together in units of three or four.

The challenge for next year will be to encourage the Upper Sixth to maintain their house loyalties and to fulfil their duties with a foot in both camps. Returning Old Vikings almost always ask about their old house and I am sure that house loyalties will remain as strong as ever.

We will have to face these challenges without the energy and wise counsel of a key member of the management team. After over eight years at Shiplake as Deputy Headmaster,



Early stages in the construction of College House



Birthday Celebrations. The Headmaster cuts the cake at a lunchtime when the School Council had requested a traditional fry up to help celebrate.

Barry's achievements is recorded elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to thank Barry once again for his immense contribution to the smooth running of the College. Barry has put down firm foundations for our new man, Charles Johnson, senior housemaster from Stowe School, to take the job forward.

Similarly, after a decade, Peter Gould's calming influence on Welsh house will also be missed. Peter's contributions at Housemaster's meetings were always welcome. Continually he pressed for a better education and a continual improvement in the standard of boarding. Peter is not going too far, only to his house in Binfield Heath, and he will continue to be a key member of the English department and sports coaching staff at Shiplake. Alex Hunt has been a tutor in the Gould era and is well and truly ready to take on the mantle of Welsh House.

I also believe that we should see Charly Lowndes' rapid return to Shiplake as a heartening endorsement of all that the College stands for. When Andrew Cheadle announced that he was leaving for an excellent job at Rugby School, running their computing, it took very little time to persuade Charly that he was the next Burr housemaster.

Barry Edwards has been appointed as Headmaster of Edgehill College, North Devon. Barry has been a source of great support for myself in both difficult times and on occasions when we have been pressing forward to new goals and targets. A brief summary of

The Headmaster's View

But what of the pupils? Yet again we had a full intake for Year 9 and most of them for much of the time have had a very good year. By and large they settled into their houses and classes with a cheerful and promising adaptability. They have shown their talents in the concert hall, on the stage, on the sports field and collected enough silverware on the river to start their very own trophy cabinet.

Perhaps in future they could take a little more care over their prep and be a little more meticulous with their work diaries. I also worry that in an age of computer games, lap-tops, mobile phones and walkmans too few of them are seen with a book. There is a photo on the front cover of the school prospectus with two boys reading by the river. There are times when I worry about our position with regard to the Trade Descriptions Act. I am delighted with the efforts of Lowri Cook, our new head of English, in her and her department's efforts to encourage an interest in reading.

It is also encouraging that increasingly these new pupils are coming from all points of the compass. Shiplake is gaining a national reputation as a small caring school that, considering its size, offers a vast range of opportunities. There is a growing number of prep schools that regularly recommend Shiplake to parents and my diary is always full of visits from prospective parents. Increasingly they

head down the M4 from London lured by the prospect of their children receiving a balanced, healthy education in an idyllic green environment. Others undertake the long haul from East Anglia, Derbyshire and sometimes even the North East. They all recognise that the ingredients of a riverside location, a tremendously hard-working staff and an ethos of

returning Old Vikings. Often they arrive with impressive job titles on their business cards and pride in what they have gone on to achieve. Of course top billing has to go to Chris Maret and Alastair Smee who become the toast of Henley at a civic reception after they had rowed three thousand miles from Tenerife to Barbados. Nor must we forget the Phillis twins who ran across the Sahara.

It has been encouraging to see the Old Viking Society developing. The sporting events of Cricket, Hockey and Rugby have been very well supported and The Great Hall was filled to the rafters with laughter and memories for the OVS dinner. Our alumni usually remember their schooldays through a golden haze of nostalgia and the annual London reunion at Nick Jones' London Club, Soho House, was certainly a great night out.

Enough of the past; there is much to look forward to. The Information Communications Department continues to lead the charge into the future. The husband and wife

team of Ruth and Mark Cotton, supported by Jackie Darrell, have provided superb back-up for our ever burgeoning number of computers. Ruth has helped almost half the academic



encouragement make Shiplake a special place.

At the other end of the spectrum, after a dozen years in the hot seat, it is encouraging to see the number of

The Headmaster's View



The bursar. Counting the pennies?

staff to achieve their Teach to the Future ICT certificates at the same time as dealing with a never ending flow of crashed computers, jammed printers and servers struggling with an ever-increasing work-load. At last we are beginning to realise the true potential of our Desk Top Publishing suite. Some houses took to the I-Macs and QuarkXPress to design their house magazines and this is a momentous school magazine. Much to the bursar's delight it was designed in-house making considerable savings.

On the subject of bursars they took a fairly heavy beating in *The Times* at the end of May. It must have been national anti-bursar day when *The Times* carried not one but four articles attacking independent school bursars. Our national voice even devoted part of its editorial to attacking this misunderstood species. With over £12 million invested in development at Shiplake over the last decade there can be little doubting the astute financial skills of Jim Mansergh. As a small school lacking the centuries old endowments of the major public schools Shiplake has to watch every penny. The academic staff will testify to Jim's renowned parsimony. Almost every day we have cause to be grateful that Jim's training was in building as he deals with the growing pains of a developing school.



Tapping in the foundation stone for College House.

A headmastering friend I know whose school has been a building site for the past ten years was asked what he wanted to be remembered for putting up most. "Standards!" he replied without hesitation! And I hope that might apply to Shiplake as well.

On the important theme of standards I quote from the President of the National Association of Head Teachers who said "Schools are the last bastion of moral values which the rest of society demands from us, but from which much of the rest of society has long since retreated."

When dealing with difficult situations and disciplinary matters I must agree. But I am also confident that in principle parents would support that view and wish us to do something about it.

We try our hardest; but we are not perfect and we have to take every case on its merits. There can be few schools where there is a more dedicated staff and more sympathy for the wayward pupil. A clear set of standards and structure provides security at school and parents have to make up their minds to support that structure which may mean taking a harder line than one might sometimes like.

It is a paradox that as a community Shiplake is terrific at supporting and helping those a long way away and at a

safe distance. It was wonderful to raise so much money for those orphans in Calcutta and it was lovely to welcome them to Shiplake on their rugby tour. But we must not lose sight of the need to develop that feeling of mutual support and encouragement nearer to home and right here within our own community. Some of us have fallen well short of these expected standards of behaviour and we shall continue to tackle these issues vigorously next year. We want to tackle the whole business of relationships within year groups and dorms, between year groups and amongst the whole community. Everyone deserves respect, to be allowed the freedom to enjoy life and to feel confident within the codes of conduct expected.

As I write this we look forward to the end of the examination season, the Shiplake Cricket Shield, the Henley Regatta and end of term festivities and frolics. But by the time you read this, another academic year will have begun and once more we will be confronted by the challenges of trying to cram everything in to days that are only 24 hours long and weeks that merely have seven days. Year 12 remains a problem and I hope that the government acts to ease the pressure on this generation.

I mean it when I say how much I am looking forward to that year

Speech Day

ahead. Above all to seeing College House swing into action, and to working with two new housemasters and the largest Year 9 entry for ten years. As always it will be our aim to make the very best of our pupils here at Shiplake.

N.V. Bevan



Headmasters past and present. Peter Lapping (right) gave the address on Founder's Day.

The Chairman of Governors

Nigel Gilson, Chairman of Governors, welcomed the guest Lord Deedes, pupils, parents, teachers and friends of the College to Speech Day. He reassured parents of the healthy state of the College's finances and took care to point out that bursar Jim Mansergh should not be included among the bursars attacked in *The Times* for mismanagement. Nigel Gilson praised Jim Mansergh for his careful management of College finances and cited the College's many development projects as evidence of progress made over the last 12 years. He concluded his speech with some advice gleaned from IT guru Bill Gates' work.

Advice from Bill Gates

(Quoted by Nigel Gilson)

- * Life isn't fair so don't whinge about it.
- * If you think your teacher is tough wait until you meet your boss.
- * If you mess up, then learn from your mistakes.
- * Before you were born your parents weren't as boring as they are today.
- * TV isn't real life.
- * Be nice to nords, the chances are that you will work for one.

About the guest speaker

Lord Deedes is known to many younger people for his appearance on the satirical BBC programme *Have I Got News For You*.

In his autobiography Lord Deedes describes a life in journalism and politics during which for over half a century he has been at the heart of the nation's political business.

Above all his love of journalism, he currently works at the *Daily Telegraph*, shines through in a career to which he remains committed to this day. He has packed a whole career into the time many of us would have seen as the years for our retirement.



Lord Deedes

Lord Deedes

"I used to be in politics but now I am going straight in journalism."

So began Lord Deedes as he introduced himself to the audience. Then he remembered Speech Days from his school career when "some ancient figure completely unknown to me rambled on and not a word is remembered now or when they sat down," he joked with a wonderfully timed sense of comic self-deprecation.

On a serious note he followed on from a point made in his recent book that there is not a lot of encouragement for young people nowadays. He told pupils in the audience, "Your generation has to work a lot harder than we did," and that there were fewer distractions in an era when even radio was a novelty.

Teachers looked notably uneasy when Lord Deedes took up his main theme. "If I may offer advice," he began cautiously, "Leave enough time for day-dreaming. Allow your thoughts to roam onto something pleasant. Dream of being a success at something, it is the dreams that you have that will shape your future life. Give your ideas the time to develop."

He distilled his theme into two key sentences. "Old men dream dreams. Young men see visions."

His travels around the world have taken him to refugee camps; just six weeks prior to Speech Day he was in Sudan. He always wondered what dreams children living in appalling conditions in refugee camps could have.

He reminded the leavers that nowadays the world is wide open and that a gap year provided marvellous opportunities for day dreaming. Once back in the frenetic modern world, where they would be working long hours, day dreaming is an effective antidote to the modern enemy of stress.

"Day dream without a conscience," Lord Deedes concluded.

Prizewinners 2002

Year Nine

English	Kit Stormont
French	Tom Levin / Kit Stormont
ICT	Simon Kirk / Kit Stormont
Mathematics	Simon Kirk
Science	Nicholas Mannix
Geography	Edward Vaughan-Fowler
Physical Education	James Smith-Jones
History	Will Sparkes / James Fowke
Art & Design (2D)	Myles Eve
Art & Design (3D)	Myles Eve
DT	Christopher Alstadt
PSE/RE	Christopher Alstadt

Year 10

English	Max Handley
Mathematics	KK Law
French	Max Bigland
Geography	Adam Gilbert-Smith
Science (Dual)	Marcus Mills
Science (Triple)	Tom Watson
Art & Design (2D)	Tom Watson
Art & Design (3D)	Alex Esslemont
DT	Oakley Loudon
History	George Pelling
Physical Education	Josh Rankin
ICT	Matthew Webber
German	Matthew Webber
Music	Christopher Gardner
PSE	Daniel Clark

GCSE Prizes

Iain Duckworth, Ed Grieve
Jon Fordham, Matt Jackson
James Larkin, Dan O'Shea
Stephen Wilks
Jo Burridge, Martin Leguay
Oliver Miller, Adi Susic

A Level Prizes

School Prizes

Art & Design (2D)	Simon Hurlstone
Art & Design (3D)	Tom Bellamy
Biology	Emma Bond
Bleakley Languages	Ben Nicholas
Business Studies	Alec Bayford
Chemistry	Andrew Fox
DT	Stuart Miles
English	Jenni Desmond
Geography	Natalie Levin
History	Gordon Marshall
ICT	David Hoskins

Mathematics

Media Studies
Spiers Cup (Music)
Physics

Chris Ellaby
Andrew Webber
Tom Hall
James Wilkinson

Special Awards

Leadership Prize	Simon Hurlstone
Asclepian Prize (Visual Arts)	Pradeep Gurtarta
Senior Barron Prize	Jenni Desmond
Junior Barron Prize	Paul Aitchison
DT Endeavour Award	Ed Batchelor
Esau Essay Prize	Simon Kirk
JW Whittington (CCF Cadet)	Stuart Goldie
JL Johnson Art Prize (Y12)	David Squire
JR Kroth Mathematics	Charlie Jenkins
Key Skills Prize (Y12)	Jonathan Fordham
Margaret Wells-Furby Science	Jennifer Lock
McAlpine Prize (Reading)	James Dalzell Rollo Sparkes
Rupert Mackay Prize	Emma Bond
(Christian Life of the College)	Steven Wood
Salmon Prize	Nic Lowry
Senior General Knowledge	Tim Lowndes
Junior General Knowledge	Giles Ferrier

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

Finch Field-Hall Stuart Goldie Tom Gouldstone
Alex Howard Simon Hurlstone Natalie Levin
Jon Lindsay Nic Lowry Gordon Marshall
Andrew McDonell Stuart Miles Adrian Percival
James Wilkinson Chris Ellaby Alex Bosch

Senior Common Room Prizes

The Edinburgh Prize	Jon Lindsay
The Matthew Bevin Cup	Mark Gourley
The Caston Memorial Prize	Adrian Percival

Headmaster's Prizes

School Prefects	Tom Gouldstone Nic Lowry Finch Field-Hall Richard Lightwing Simon Hurlstone James Wilkinson Andrew Fox Steve Wood Gordon Marshall
Heads of House	
Deputy Head of College	James Wilkinson
Head of College	Ben Nicholas



Simon Kirk, winner of the Esau Essay prize for Year 9 pupils.



Kit Stangroom, took the "Square Peg in a Round Hole" award for individuality.



Simon Hurlstone celebrates Everett's Baldry Trophy victory.



A rare photo of publicity shy Jon Lindsay collecting Welsh's senior cricket shield.

Change at Shipake

"That will never change," pupils complain but it has been another year of developments

People complain cynically about life at Shiplake and members of the Senior Common Room have their say "It won't happen in my time." They shake their heads sagely and return to trying to solve today's problems. However it is essential to keep one eye firmly focused on the future and to plan for tomorrow and beyond.

Yet returning Old Boys and Old Girls always comment on the remarkable rate of change since their day. It is not only the site plan of Shiplake College that has changed drastically over the last dozen years.

The first Tuesday of the academic year saw the inaugural afternoon of voluntary membership of the Combined Cadet Force. Of course the majority of pupils remained in the CCF. For others there was the opportunity to try their hand at Bridge, Chess, Cookery, Drama, Estate Management (constructing a herb garden) and, amongst other options, the highly popular Young Enterprise scheme.

Inevitably the onward march of Information Technology is a major driver of change. Regular meetings of the ICT Committee try to foresee the future. They discuss whether that is a future of laptops plugging into the network and teachers with inter-active white boards or a plethora of PowerPoint projectors.

Lowri Cook, Head of English, ran a working party to investigate the use of laptop computers in lessons. In theory they should have been an educational boon. In practice they can be a distraction and at times pupils can work more effectively with pen and paper. A skill syllabus and a laptop test were introduced to make the most of the equipment.

An Academic Working Party looked at the difficulties of the co-

existence of the academic timetable and a busy extra-curricular programme. The effectiveness of prep and pupils' work ethics were brought into the discussion. Much of the discussion revolved around the need to help pupils who found it difficult to learn in their own study time.

Recommendations included an eight-day rotating timetable that would help to avoid pupils missing the same lessons on Wednesdays and Saturdays when they left early for fixtures. Longer lessons in the summer, when games can start later would help to create nearly one hundred hours of additional contact time in each academic year. The jury is out on the recommendations considering the need for bells, synchronised clocks and the additional work for teachers.

Also on the agenda for change is the future of the Library. A team has tackled the issues of CD ROMS, Internet access and the need for departmental resources challenging the traditional rows of encyclopaedia and books.

Outside, on traditional old-fashioned grass, the New Field has seen some changes. Two grass tennis courts have settled in quickly, playing very well, and have compensated for the loss of the hard court by the School Shop. At opposite corners of the field there is a golf green, guarded by bunkers, and a softball pitch.

The arrival of College House, for the Upper Sixth Form, calls for a new definition of sixth form roles and a new chapter in tutoring the sixth form. Then there is the automated system of progress cards and a steady movement towards reports being compiled on the school computer network.

Not surprisingly there are those who hold up their hands and exclaim, "Enough! Not another change." Change is inevitable and Shiplake is busily discussing the education of the 21st century.

Jubilee Challenge Walk

The ups and downs of a very long walk

An account of a day off for Jill McCoy and Rosemary Jones. All in the name of charity

It has been said that some people will go to any lengths to take a day off work. Had it been a really nice day with the sun shining and the birds singing I might agree, but as it turned out eight hours behind a desk in a nice cosy office suddenly became very appealing.

This is an account of the highlights and lowlights of a walk in the country – well, 25 miles actually from Wallingford to Shiplake College along the Thames Path. Not only for charity but also for a test of our mettle! No longer being in the first flush of youth (either of us) were we fit enough to complete the distance? As it turned out we were.

The first lowlight had to be being turned off a nice warm bus into the teeth of a gale and lashing rain. Feeling confused by the obvious exhilaration of the great crowd of boys, some already running (the fools) all keen to get down to the river path and start the journey home. Pulling our hats down closer and heads down we set off into the rain in the direction of everyone else.

And it rained – and rained, like it hasn't rained for months – so unfair, life can be so unfair. Still, we were there and our sponsors were relying on us to do the business. And hearts of oak don't give up at a shower of rain! Then after about five miles the first highlight, chocolate muffins and juice at 'The Beetle and Wedge', an extremely friendly riverside inn at Moulsoford. We were pretty keen by this time to make use of some "facilities" and the manageress very kindly allowed us in. We begged to take off our wet, muddy shoes, but she would have none of it. So we gingerly crept up the stairs sinking into the pale blue carpet as we went. We



Wet,



Wet,



Wet.

appreciated every moment spent in there – thank you.

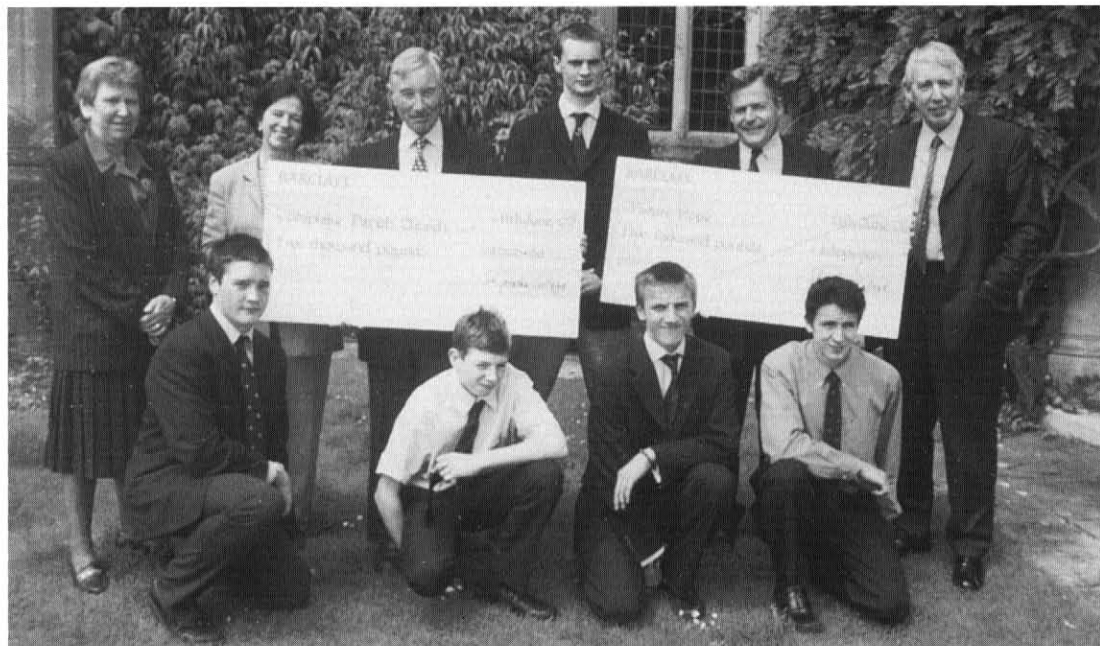
On we went finding ourselves in a great open expanse of field which by this time had taken on the resemblance to a paper chase. Various cartons and muffin wrappers stuck damply to the sodden grass. We clutched ours in our wet cold hands and glanced ahead through the rain now and then in the hope of sighting a litter bin ahead. We actually carried them on to Goring where we found a wheelie bin very kindly left in the street by a householder and on lifting the lid found that about fifty people ahead of us had had the same idea!

On we went along the river for another couple of miles, passing on the way a couple of World War 2 pill-boxes, (although what we would have been protecting from the Germans that far along the River Thames I have no idea) before heading up into the hills and another highlight – a field that was just a carpet of buttercups which on a sunny day would have hurt your eyes to look at. On past very orderly fields and well to do homes, clipped hedges, neat gardens, puddle free drives, quietly grazing thoroughbreds – all very "County", and eventually down into Whitchurch and lunch.

This had to be a highlight whatever it was. By this time we were both pretty sodden, my shoes were full of water and squelched with every step and I seriously worried how quickly you could develop trench foot. Marjorie's familiar face greeted us at the bridge and directed us to a lovely hot cup of coffee, pork pie (my favourite), chicken legs, crisps, cake, you name it. Another lowlight as the first casualties of the day became obvious. Boys that had walked in shorts and found that walking in wet shorts can cause very nasty chaffing. Others whose wet gear and footwear had let them down and could go no further, the day was over for them.

We didn't hang around too long, there's not much fun to be had eating in the rain and the longer you stopped

Jubilee Challenge Walk



Tim Woods-Ballard, representing the Parish of Shiplake and Dunsden, along with Tim Brandage, from Future Hope, both receive cheques for £5,000. Also pictured are winners of the prizes for raising the most sponsorship.

the colder you got. So it was best foot forward.

After lunch saw some of the heaviest of the rain, and we told each other terrible jokes to keep our spirits up and by this time finishing the walk became our absolute aim. Nothing was going to stop us now, not the weather, or our wet clothes, our aching limbs, not anything.

Purley was another lowlight in the form of a narrow bridge (single file traffic only) and a great volume of water flowing over it, and a car doing 30 miles an hour (at least). I felt outraged as the wall of water hit us and turned to shake my fist at the rear end of the car (a futile gesture I know). And as Jill pointed out – we really could not have got any wetter than we already were!

Soon we were on the outskirts of Reading, pink stuff was starting to bubble out through the top of my shoe and, not feeling any pain, I thought it must be a dye in my insole or something. My t-shirt was wet through under my coat and Jill's pockets had an inch of water in them plus some

diluted glucose sweets. I rang my husband to meet me at Caversham Bridge with some dry clothes and my Wellington boots, I couldn't stand the squelching any longer. Jill had worn very sensible hiking boots and her feet were as dry as a bone. Almost at the Bridge and there was Val Smallman handing out delicious ham and cheese rolls and chocolate bars. Once again fortified we trudged on to Caversham. I cannot remember a gladder sight than my husband with the dry clothes and on removing my shoes found the cause of the 'red dye', a toenail had sliced through the toe next to it – my nice new cotton socks would never be the same again.

Although it carried on raining, our spirits were lifted as we moved along the river bank through Reading, it felt like we were nearly home although we had at least another five miles to go. Past Tesco with barges tied up on the river bank and a fleeting temptation to nip inside for a hot cup of coffee. Past The Horseshoe Bridge where the Kennett meets the Thames and on around to well clipped lawns

in front of the mighty Oracle complex.

The field kitchen at work again with hot coffee and Mars Bars and another paper chase for a mile or so – we did our best to pick up as many as we could.

Suddenly we're in Sonning and stumble our way past a camera crew filming rowers gliding by. Past the Reading Blue Coat and the millionaires row with their boat houses, their manicured lawns and their beautiful houses and over the

remarkably tiny Sonning Bridge.

A real highlight the last leg! And the rain stopped! And the sun almost came out and I shook my fist at it and said – What time do you call this? Pointless really, but it made us feel better. Gradually the College came into sight in the distance, with only a few other walkers in sight, were we very late – or last – or what? And then we heard it – a Cuckoo. Definitely a Cuckoo, a sound we hadn't heard for a couple of years. Jill thought we should ring someone and let them know, there must be a cuckoo-line or something similar.

And then the final challenge – the path up to Skipwith House and those last few steps up to the library. Pressing hand on thigh to force the legs up each weary step. In just over 8 hours we had done it and despite the rain (15mm) and the cold and the aching limbs it had been worth it. Would we do it again? – well, not this week.

Rosemary Jones

Footnotes: 186 pupils completed all 25 miles of the course..... £15,000 raised ...
Donations were also given to Kenyan primary schools and St. George's Hospital, London

Christmas at Shiplake

A Christmas tale of turkey, twelve bore and Saracens

Perhaps the first sign of Christmas is when David Stoker, Head of Art, starts selling the Christmas cards. Candy Jacklin's famous photo of the Parish Church, dusted with snow, begins to appear a little more often. Then Malcolm Woodcock starts humming hymns, the Deputy Head collects times and events for Shiplake's own advent calendar, a countdown of Christmas festivities.

Can you have Christmas without a Scrooge? The Headmaster takes a break from Christmas Card writing to warn us all, "We must all keep on working until the very last day. It isn't Christmas yet. We must keep on setting prep through to the end." But Christmas gathers its very own momentum. We had to have our decorations up, exchange our Christmas cards, sing our carols and devour our Christmas lunch by December 13th.

A tinsel backdrop to the three wonderful nights of *Godspell*, with some powerful singing pouring out of the Tithe Barn, helped create the festive mood. The towering Christmas tree in the Great Hall looked down on some massive brunches on the Sunday before Christmas. Nick Brown took a break from writing Housemaster's reports to stock up with a calorie-laden plate that initially looked as if there were bacon, sausages, hash browns and burgers sufficient to feed all of Skipwith.

Burr departed to Vicarage Road, Watford, to watch an almighty Rugby Union premiership clash between Saracens and Newcastle, generously arranged by an alliance of Paul Emerson and Matt Jones, an Old Viking who is now Saracens' popular PR man. Everett and Skipwith headed for the ice-rink, although those outings may have generated some fearsome crashes of human flesh too.

Back at Shiplake the atmosphere changed for an evening Family Service led by Welsh House in the quiet calm of the Parish Church.

Dinner with military precision. Ken jovially completed the task with a goodies pack of Christmas cracker, canned drink and tangerine.

It was Chaplain Robert Prance's turn in the Chapel on Wednesday morning. He recalled his Parish Christmas of 1981, admitting that he was longing for that pre-Turkey Christmas Sherry after completing his morning services. His telephone rang and a doctor called him to a local farm. There, he was held hostage by an anxious farmer with a twelve bore. Ultimately the farmer,

worried by impending medical treatment, was persuaded to see the need for hospitalisation and released his guests to recover, after several anxious hours, over rather dried-up turkey. It was a Christmas Tale with a difference that lingered in many people's minds as Malcolm Woodcock tuned up our vocal chords for the following day with a Carol Practice.

After the House parties, the final celebration of term is the Service of Lessons and Carols held at St. Mary's Church in Henley. It is an occasion recorded in the music section of this magazine where the triumphs of the choir and congregation are truly recognised.

The first line of the final verse, of the final carol, "Yea, Lord, we greet thee" triumphantly sung effectively marked the end of a Shiplake Christmas, save for the staff Christmas dinner, but that is another story. As one Christmas ends, on December 13th, another begins.



Parents and pupils from Welsh led us through a selection of seasonal music and readings.

Tuesday was Catering Manager Ken Denmen's first Christmas lunch at Shiplake. A squad of catering servers armed with spoons, forks, stuffing, sprouts, roast potatoes and brandy butter served a Christmas

People



Flying High

Ben Bradshaw has become a remarkably young possessor of a Private Pilot's Licence

Everett's Ben Bradshaw first flew solo at the tender age of 16. He took his first flying lesson at the age of 11. After around a dozen lessons he flew solo.

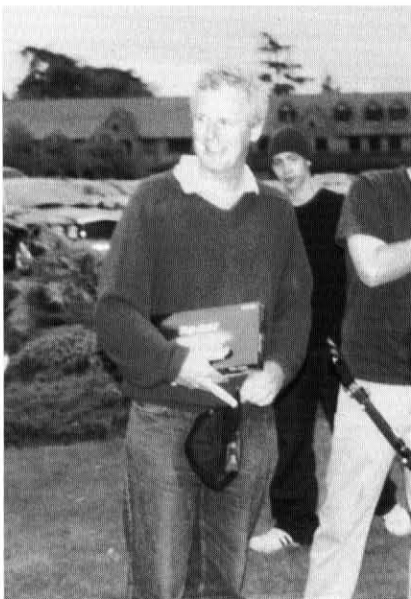
With the ambition of becoming an airline pilot he decided that it was best to begin young. He furthered his ambitions by flying with the school CCF air contingent.

Currently he is looking for sponsorship with an airline to see him through flying school. A Gap Year plan is to build up experience with an air safari in Africa.

Ben has offered a prize of a flight with him for the winner of the Everett House Lent project which is a cream cracker competition.

Housemaster Graham Wells is not convinced that he needs to accompany the winner.

Ben at the controls



Peter Gould

As Welsh Housemaster Peter Gould has exhibited the patience of a saint. He has been a great prompter, and organiser of boys who need a lot of reminders and a great encourager. One of his great talents has been the ability to point out the light at the end of the tunnel to boys wading through a morass of GCSEs, ASs and A-Levels.

In recent years it was Peter who was the first Shiplake housemaster to experience having a different species, namely girls, in his house. The first cohort proved to be a glorious success, their final portfolio of grade dominated by As and Bs and what is more, they had thoroughly enjoyed their time at Shiplake.

Welsh has always had a reputation as a hearty sporting house harvesting Baldry points by the bucket-load in rugby, cross country and athletics. Houses still fear the purple and white quartered shirts when Welsh take to the sports field but Peter has brought a civilising influence to Welsh. There has been a little more insistence in the preparations for the House music competition. Paintings, sculpture and photography adorning the Welsh house walls all testify to Peter's enthusiasm to bring a culture and civilising influence to his pupils' lives.

It was a tribute to the respect for Peter that many former Welsh pupils, both boys and girls, returned to Shiplake for the Welsh House charity fete on the final Sunday evening of the Summer Term. They spoke gratefully of Peter's willingness to talk through issues with them and the wonderful support that saw them through to university and beyond.

If this seems a brief eulogy it must be remembered that Peter is only leaving Welsh House. He will continue in the English department, on the hockey pitch and on the tennis court.



Joel Bulkely and Henry Percy prepare for take off

McAlpine Prize

Joel Bulkely and Henry Percy were the winners of the McAlpine Prize. Their reward for being the Year 9 pupils making most progress with their literacy must be one of the most unique school prizes in the country. They accompanied Sir William McAlpine, by helicopter, to Sellafield.

Peter Gould, accompanied the two boys on their flight north. Whilst Sir William attended an annual meeting the boys and teacher were shown around the plant and given an exceptionally good lunch.

People

Young Enterprise

This year, a record number of pupils took part in the YE scheme. As there is a maximum of 25 per group, it was necessary to split the 28 young achievers into two. There were therefore two Young Enterprise Companies this year. Their names were "Rush" and "Sassy Succès".

Both companies spent a lot of time discussing at the outset, without really having a purpose of where they were heading. By Christmas, it was a bit of a hurry putting together products for sale and the commitment was not always there with certain members of both companies. I was happy to see a hard-working core within each company, but on their own it was difficult to make a company work well.

It seemed to take until the end of the Spring term before many members actually realised what Young Enterprise is all about and, by this time, it was unfortunately too late. The harder workers in both groups learnt a great deal, which I hope they will find of use in future years.

Once again, many thanks to our advisers: Alan Wardle and Annette Watkinson and Paul Firchett (both new this year).

LS McDonald



Board photos - the two Young Enterprise companies combine

Senior Poetry Competition Winner

Upper sixth former Andrew Fox took this year's prize with a vividly colourful portrait of nature at work.

Bluebells.

Today the bluebell carpet is an ocean of colour and mystery
And yesterday's bulb has oozed a reservoir of majesty.
The bluebell is so often thought simple and monotonous,
But together a subtle army of power and beauty.

A forest I stride in the noon of every day
And always I would wish to float to let live
Their innocent indicators of indigo and enigma!

Inevitably as Winter comes, the cold rip-roar
Wind tears and shreds their little heads and a
Cry of death echoes through my forest, as a
Nasty season makes dull my carpet.

Andrew Fox



Poet Andrew Fox wears many hats

Over from Down Under

Tim Bright is this year's Aussie Gap Student

Tim Bright comes from Oxley College in Australia and is spending a gap year at Shiplake. He is involved with many aspects of musical life in the college, working closely with Malcolm Woodcock. His piano skills have been appreciated at various school musical events and it is usually Tim who has designed the performance programme too. He is also assisting with drama, Skipwith House and sport, helping to coach the U14 cricket teams. He has proved to be a very useful off-spinner and fielder for the staff cricket team.



Tim Bright



Jill Weld setting up the sixth form Art exhibition.

Jill Weld

Jill joined Shiplake in January 2002 to bring her knowledge and expertise to the Art Department

Jill graduated from the University of West of England with a degree in Graphic Design. She worked as a freelance designer for various companies including Habitat, The Body Shop International, Cancer Research Campaign, The Abbey National Building Society and Boots. She still continues to do some design work in her spare time.

She has made use of her PGCE from University College, Chester at the Mount School York, where she re-designed their boarding houses. Prior to Shiplake she has also taught at St. George's School for Girls, Edinburgh and Bradfield College, Reading. Her hobbies include golf and tennis.

Junior Poetry Competition Winner

Life

What is life? If but a game
Little characters on the board of life
Who can tell what will happen?
Some lucky, some not,
You could even say it was like a roll
of a dice
Or is it?

What is life? If but a book
No game of chance
Just days plain
Each day written as if in a book
Accidents waiting to happen
Are we all just actors in the script of
life?
Not in control of our own destinies
Or are we?

What is life? If but our own
A new book, not written yet
Waiting to be written
Every page is a blank page
You can decide what is written
Bad or good
Is the world really our oyster?
Or just a game
Or just a written script
Maybe a story of conflict

Jamie Pegler

Tom Boyle's Schooldays

Old Boy Tom Boyle took time off from The Henley Standard to run a number of workshops on journalism ..

In a workshop for Year 11 pupils preparing for their English GCSE examinations, Tom emphasised the importance of using active and positive statements. It is the journalist's duty to find the human interest angle in every story. Some of the teachers who had taught Tom sat back whilst the journalist taught their classes, stressing the importance of interviews and attention-grabbing headlines. "The national press sees Henley as something of a marker for Middle England and they are often interested in stories that start out locally. Sometimes a story that we research will go national in *The Telegraph* or *The Times*," explained Tom.

There were questions on controlling the media and spin-doctoring, "For me the buzz comes from uncovering and digging out the story. Journalists who try to hide-up or massage stories have sold out. That's the dark side of journalism. I love politics and that is an area I want to develop in the near future."

Lowri Cook, Head of English, was pleased that Tom had been able to supply some practical, real life applications of the language skills

All at Sea

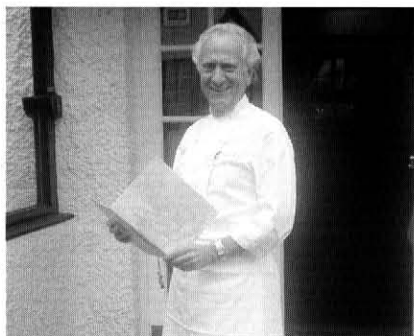
Shiplake's teachers travelled to HMS Excellent, at Portsmouth, for a day's training with a difference.

There was an option of dry training on board in the morning or the chance to take to chilly autumn seas, in vivid orange flotation and insulation suits.

The dry exercises comprised of making plans to evacuate a hostile foreign harbour followed by a selection recruitment exercise involving close reading and deduction skills.



Phil Davey, Carin Gray, Marjorie White and Barry Edwards head for shore leave.



Michel Roux at The Waterside

The Waterside Inn

When Jane Barr began a cookery club she did not know that it would lead to an invitation to The Waterside

After visiting Shiplake College and giving a talk to the sixth form earlier this term, Michel Roux kindly invited the Cooking Club to visit his restaurant, *The Waterside* in Bray. Alain Roux, his son, made us warmly welcome on our arrival. The three star Michelin restaurant is located in the picturesque sixteenth century village of Bray.

Michel Roux gave us an extremely detailed guided tour of the kitchens, dining room, wine cellar, bedrooms and last of all his offices where we met Caroline Fox, Andrew's mother and Michel's PA. Not surprisingly *The Waterside* needs little promotion but it does emphasise the quality and immaculate sourcing of the ingredients as well as the tranquillity of an idyllic riverside haven of peace away from the pressures of 21st century living.

In the kitchens we saw how the staff prepared gastronomic delicacies such as Veal Medallions with cepe duxelle, grilled kidney on braised lettuce and a puff pastry filled with sweetbreads served with a white wine jus. You could follow that with a dome of white and dark chocolate with raspberries or Michel Roux's sampler plate of six desserts.

The various staff, of which there were at least 50, start work at 8am and do not finish until at least 11.30pm, with only a short break at

11 for lunch and another at 4 for tea. Michel told us that his main priority is to keep his staff happy because if they are cheerful then this atmosphere travels through to the guests, of which over one third are regulars.

We finished with a delicious fruit cocktail, which was extremely welcome, when we also met Benoit, who is in charge of all the wine. The boys were very interested to know that you not only need to taste most of the wine before it is bought but you also need to travel to France to find it. This as a career seemed rather appealing.

If this has whetted your appetite for a trip to *The Waterside* then an a la carte meal for two averages £200 but for more modest budgets, Wednesday to Saturday a 3 course lunch is available for £36.

J. H. Barr



The Cookery club try to emulate Michel Roux

Auction of Promises raises £5,000

Nick Brown, Skipwith Housemaster, organised an auction of promises

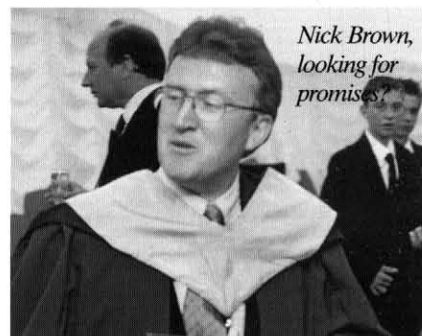
The auction of promises, held in the Great Hall on June 22nd was well supported by Skipwith parents, raising £5,000 for the College's chosen charity of the children's ward of St. George's Hospital, London and also for Skipwith House funds.

There were some remarkably generous offers from beyond the College. Henley MP Boris Johnson offered a tour of the House of Commons for 4 people while Agar Studios provided a make-over and photo-shoot.

Parents of boys in Skipwith House were generous too. There were offers of a week in a South of France villa, executive tickets to a Chelsea football match and perhaps the prize of prizes, 3 tickets for England's match against World Champions Australia at Twickenham in October.

Clearly the route to people's cheque books is through their stomachs. There were promises of 48 mince pies and the hard labour option of cooking and serving a meal for 12.

Closer to home the Brown family took up the challenge with great devotion. Leonie Brown promised home-made pizzas for all the Skipwith boys in a year group. Young Ian Brown, a future Jeeves, promised to bring breakfast in bed to a Skipwith boy during term time. Oliver Brown provided a giant bar of chocolate, and not to be left out Alice Brown said that she would make some "yummy chocolate brownies".



Nick Brown, looking for promises?



Peter Webb at work with the army contingent of the CCF

Jubilee for Peter Webb

The end of the academic year marked 25 years of service at Shiplake for Peter Webb

It is now over 25 years ago since Peter Webb taught his first lesson at Shiplake. For a quarter of a century he has been guiding year after year of Shiplake boys through O Level, GCSE and A Level English. Whether he has been guiding a bright top set or lowly bottom set strugglers Peter has helped boys to achieve results beyond their expectations.

Out of the classroom Peter has made an outstanding contribution to Shiplake's extra-curricular offering. His own wealth of rugby experience helped him to coach some highly competitive Rugby fifteens. For many years he organised regular ski trips for both the proficient and the beginners.

As Combined Cadet Force Contingent Commander Peter's workload has been immense. The forces always require everything in triplicate and every last detail, every last minute has to be accounted for. Imagine the bureaucratic and safety requirements of housing weapons on a school site in the early years of the 21st century. Just when colleagues are

about to depart for their Easter and Summer holidays Peter is to be seen loading up a minibus for another army camp.

Equally time-consuming has been the organisation of the Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes. It was a fitting tribute to Peter that the 2002 cohort produced a Shiplake record of 15 gold awards. Peter has taken D of E a step forward at Shiplake by running expeditions in Northern France.

When Old Vikings return one of the questions they always ask is, "Where's Peter Webb? I'd like to have a chat." They remember his care, concern and wicked sense of humour with gratitude.

Back to school for teachers

A number of teachers have enrolled on the *Providing for the dyslexic student* course to be run at Shiplake during the autumn term. Deborah Farnfield, from East Berkshire College, is running a 20 hour course, spread over 10 sessions.

The course covers the identification of dyslexia and a wide range of practical classroom skills to be used. The emphasis will be on developing teaching methods to encourage effective learning in all students. Topics

covered include simple but effective spelling strategies, using and incorporating study skills to improve course and examination performance.

Teachers will be given guidance on teaching techniques including revision and memory techniques. They will also be helped with identifying how different pupils have different learning styles and how these can be catered for within the classroom.

Kenya 2003

College expeditions officer, Marcel Wagner and Julian Seaton are making plans for another exciting expedition to Kenya in July 2003.

This month long expedition presents a real opportunity for both boys and girls to experience the wilds of Kenya in a unique and exciting way.

It will involve mountain trekking, white water rafting, climbing, visits to game parks and the coast and many other activities.

The expedition will also visit a small school (for a few days) in a remote rural village to meet the Kenyan students and assist them in a rebuilding programme to help improve their school.

Barbados Cricket Tour 2003

Plans are being made for the third Shiplake College Barbados Tour

On April 7th 2003 twelve Shiplake cricketers will leave Gatwick airport for the flight to Barbados. Once again the squad will be based at the Sunset Crest complex near St. James.

Accompanying staff Andrew Dix, Michael Edwards and Alex Hunt are confident that this is the strongest squad that Shiplake have taken to the Caribbean. As well as a formidable fast bowling attack the team will have the benefit of two cricketers, Ed Blanchard and Josh Raper, who played some matches on the 2001 tour. The players are also looking forward to some watersports.

Events

Bridge Club

In September 2001 we decided to form a Bridge Club and we held our sessions on Tuesday afternoons during activity time. Most members of the club had not previously played the game and we had to start from the beginning. Initially we concentrated on elementary bidding and developed playing skills gradually. The pupils learned to 'finesse', to count conscientiously the cards of each suit that have been played, when to take out trumps and when to establish a 'cross-ruff'.

Hand-evaluation has mainly concentrated upon counting 'points' – 4 for ace, 3 for king, and so on, and then assessing its strength by simple rules. The strong no-trump of 16-18 has been used throughout. Pupils have learned to reply to their partner's opener on 6 or more points and 'double-raise' on 12.

After basics had been learned, the group has moved onto more skilful techniques – both in play and in bidding.

The activity has been run so that each term pupils could opt for a new activity and so we have had some 'birds of passage' as well as stalwarts like Gary Potts (captain) and Tom Wright who have stayed throughout.

These boys have also played with us for at least one term: Patrick Talbot, Marcus Broughton-Pipkin, George Orpen, Tom Chambers, Joe

Chan, Tom Sampson, Sam Duckett, Adam Green, Mu Moawalla, Ben Porbeni, Safwan Sobhan, Sam Tsui, Alex Mullin and Nick de Roumanie. I would like to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and determination – we've also had lots of fun and arguments! An interesting hand was played early on in the club's history when bidding skills were still undeveloped.

The cards were dealt as shown in the shaded box, with East as dealer

East passed and South opened 2♥ with 16 points, a 6-card suit and a void. West passed, and North with 12 points replied with a jump bid to 4♥. This was left as the final contract because South wanted to play safe. Unfortunately as bidding skills were not all that refined the chance of a slam was missed. However, it is a difficult hand to bid to the correct level. As it turned out, a grand slam was made.

Play proceeded like this, with Sam Tsui as declarer in 4♥, needing to make 10 tricks. The other Sam sat this one out and willed his partner to succeed.

Gary led with the 3♦, and Sam took the trick with the Jack.

North		East	
♠	4 7 8 10 J	♠	2 5 6
♦	5 10 K A	♦	8 9
♥	J K	♥	2 8 10
♣	4 7	♣	2 5 6 Q A
West		South	
♠	3	♠	9 Q K A
♦	3 4 6 Q	♦	2 7 J
♥	5 6	♥	3 4 7 9 Q A
♣	3 8 9 10 J K	♣	void

Sam then led to the K♥ from in dummy, and played back to the K♣ in hand. He led the 9♥ to the Jack in dummy. He fed back the 7♣ to his 9♣ in hand, following with a little ♦ to take with the 10 in dummy. He played K♦ from dummy, and Ben gleefully trumped with the 10♥, only to be dismayed as he was overtrumped with the Queen by declarer.

Sam now led a low diamond to the ace in dummy, followed by the Jack of clubs to his own Queen. He then cashed the Ace of clubs. He was now supreme, with three heart masters; he cashed the four, the seven and finally the ace to make a Grand Slam.

Well done, Sam ! Well played ! Now we have got to improve the bidding so that we can score above the line for our successes.

G.S. Vick



Riding for the Disabled

Chris Nichols and Oliver Collis have completed their third year of helping out with riding for the disabled. Chris is leaving but Oliver will continue on for his fourth year. The Henley Riding for the Disabled group originally operated out of Turville Valley but then moved on to Checkendon. At the time of the move Chris lent his own pony to the RDA for 2 terms.

C.A. Jacklin

Ollie Collis (left) and Chris Nichols.

Information Communications Technology

Information Communications Technology -The Story So Far

Last year's departing Head of ICT, Charly Lowndes, promised not to bore us with "a technical review full of IP numbers and RAID drive MTBF estimates." But the time has come for Ruth Cotton and Suzie Ellis to take stock before Charly returns

....

The College ICT facilities form an integral and essential part of everyday life at the College. Students and teachers greatly value this, as it enhances and complements their learning and teaching opportunities. There are other users too. Catering plan and present their menus, the office can track a pupil from their parents' first enquiry, through school and on into the Old Vikings Society while accounts are heavily dependent on their IT systems.

Three major ICT suites house a total of 45 PCs for use by all departments. GCSE, AS and A2 ICT courses are highly popular examination subjects but classroom based systems are available throughout the College for many other subjects. Specialised computing facilities exist for weather-logging for Humanities, experiment data-logging for science and computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture for design and technology.

In the Stable-yard Media Studies makes use of digital cameras, a video editing suite and a PC equipped with Adobe Photoshop for desk-top publishing. The Business Studies department is a frequent visitor to the computer rooms as pupils come to terms



A Sixth form scientist making good use of data-logging facilities

with producing cash-flow forecasts and profit and loss accounts. In total the College has over 100 systems available for use by the students. For more advanced Desk-Top Publishing 8 i-Macs are housed in the Desk-Top Publishing suite. QuarkXPress 4, a sophisticated industry standard software package, runs on these machines.

The campus network covers 99% of the College consisting of over 300 network outlets in 35 classrooms, 5 boarding houses and 15 offices. At any one time over 200 people are simultaneously accessing the College systems.

Some parts of the College have Wireless Networking facilities allowing truly mobile computing. All network users have access to the College file and print, e-mail, web and application servers. Internet access is also available to everyone via secure firewall and proxy servers.

Extranet and Virtual Private Networking (VPN) access allows staff (and soon students) to access all the College services whilst off-site.

The Intel Teach to the Future programme is available to the staff. The

programme aims to help teachers integrate ICT into their normal teaching and although skills are introduced the focus is on the curriculum.

Andrew Cheadle has taken on the project of developing the intranet and training staff to make use of the opportunities it provides for putting useful learning material and hyper-text links onto departmental sites.

This year Suzie Ellis, Mark Partridge and Andrew Cheadle have taught the ICT curriculum across all year groups, whilst Ruth Cotton, Jackie Darrall and Mark Cotton have provided the College-wide non academic ICT strategy and support services. Next year Charly Lowndes rejoins the ICT teaching department, bringing his wealth of worldly knowledge of all things ICT.

So we thought that we would get the facts over before he digresses about sermons in the orchard, wet t-shirts and sailing to the Antarctic.

R. Cotton and S. Ellis

Key Skills

The Key Skills Communication Curriculum

- 1) Write up your own Curriculum Vitae, but don't just write it up, make it sound interesting and exciting.
- 2) Write a formal letter to the Headmaster, properly topped and tailed, expressing your feelings about yourself, the College and your hopes for the future.
- 3) Talk about anything about which you can enthuse, for five minutes.
- 4) Talk about any topic from any academic subject you find interesting, for five minutes.
- 5) Review (with the help of a member of the English Department) any book you have really enjoyed.
- 6) Review any film you have seen you believe to be worthwhile.
- 7) Review any newspaper of your choice over a six day period, homing in on the main items of news but also topics of interest to you.
- 8) A half hour interview with a member of staff based on the year's work and your hopes for the future.

Key Skills: Communication

Pupils in the Lower Sixth studied Key Skills in both ICT and Communication. Robert Prance explains the Communications course ...

The Key Skills Communication course as set by the Education Authority proved last year to be hugely unwieldy and largely a waste of time. However since the basic principles behind the idea seemed to make sense, Shiplake has devised its own certificate in key skills which has just completed its first year.

Although there are still ways in which this could be improved I do believe we have made a good start and certainly some of the results have been very impressive.

Since we are not too hemmed in by that devilish character 'curriculum' it is an opportunity to enable students to talk and write about topics they feel are important and interesting, while at the same time gaining experience with techniques they will have to deal with later on in life.

Of the fifty seven students who undertook this course nine passed

with distinction; that is to say an average of seventy per cent or more on all eight pieces of work. Not all these were high flying academics, but they were people who applied themselves to enthusing about particular topics and thereby sold themselves well.

Eighteen other pupils obtained a merit (60-69%) and fifteen obtained passes (45-59%). The fifteen who failed, did so not because of lack of ability (there were a number of bright sparks amongst them) but rather through laziness either in failing to complete work or failing to turn up for their talks or interviews.

Key Skills Communication

Distinctions

Jonathan Fordham
Jennifer Lock
Daniel O'Shea
James Blanchard
Felicity Avann
Tom Chambers
Braedan Hogan
Alex James
David Squire

We still have some way to go to get this course absolutely spot on, but at the end of the first year I believe that this is a course which can enable a pupil to talk about things he or she really finds interesting and in so doing to grow in confidence both in writing and in speaking.

A university don, very much involved in the admissions process, told me recently that although he sees many 'clever' candidates coming forward for places at university, his experience has been that many fail to sell themselves through lack of confidence and/or enthusiasm. Here at least is an area where the Key Skills Communication course can certainly be of real use.

Particular congratulations this year go to those nine who obtained distinctions.

I must conclude with a word of thanks to the members of the English Department for all their help, together with all those members of staff who helped with listening to talks, conducting interviews and filling in assessment forms.

R.P. Prance

Chapel

From the Chaplain

Thirty years on, I still find myself saying that the nicest thing about my job, be it in school or parish, is that the most important things are quietest things. Faith has nothing to do with being sensational (although judging by some American churches you might be led into believing that) but rather finding the still small voice of God, or whatever you may care to call him/her, in the ordinary and the mundane:

"The trivial round the common task will furnish all we need to ask"

as one hymn puts it. Or

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given"

as the familiar Christmas carol runs.

I have a study, tucked away, but at the heart of Shiplake life, and it is here, where knocks on the door are the order of the day, that a pot-pourri of problems and observations, both great and small emerge. In the box to the right is a selection of last year's questions and comments.

This wide variety of problems makes for an exciting life and always worthwhile because young people, although sometimes getting a bad press, are generally wonderfully honest once you gain their trust. But the western world into which they are stepping has become so selfish and so self-centred, that it is often hard to get

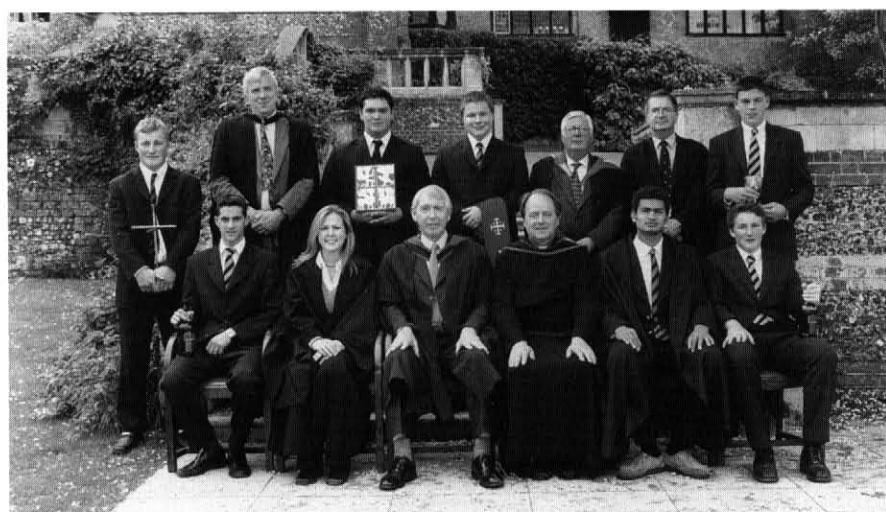
"Nobody likes me"
"Have you ever seen God?"
"Do you think I could have caught AIDS?"
"I hate my Housemaster and he hates me"
"My dog died yesterday"
"Does the Headmaster really like school food?"
"How do I know if I'm gay?"
"What does sherry taste like?"
"Can I borrow a pound?"
"I'll pay you back tomorrow"
"Did you ever do drugs?"
"My dad says church is a waste of time"
"How do I know if I'm in love?"
"Why do I have to play rugby?"
"Do you take your vicar's collar off at night?"
"Do you think I should be confirmed?"
"My mum gets drunk and hits me"
"Are you going to Tesco's?"
"You've left your car lights on (again)"
"I think our Head of House is a relative of Hitler"
"I'm a Muslim but I'd like to be a Christian"
"I'm going to run away"
"I'm much happier at school than at home"
"Is it true that Mr Cassells worked for MI5?"
"But it's so unfair"

them to understand that the truly important things in life are in fact the very ordinary, often mundane, usually very simple, and things which sometimes require a stand against going with the crowd. This is never easy to get across so it is quite understandable that the easier way for the fragile and insecure is through drugs, alcohol, or just standing for nothing and keeping your head down.

Thus, despite the image which sometimes is given of the Church, I still believe we have much to offer by way of, at very least, an oasis, a yard stick, a plumb line, a breathing point, at which to take stock of things; and at best a commitment of faith, a way of life which is the gateway to heaven, and the most sure foundation for a full and happy life that can be found.

Helping to do this over the past year we have welcomed a number of speakers including Tom Curry, Vicar of the Donheads in Dorset, Phil Jones, Headmaster of Christ's Brecon School, Father Henry Pryse from Brighton, Admiral Michael Harrison on Remembrance Sunday, Huw Ridgeway, Head of History at Sherborne, Chris Smart from Eton College, Hilary Benson from Queen Anne's Caversham, a return visit from Dr Simon Bloxam-Rose from Millfield and Paul Carling from Sherborne, Ann Philp from Salisbury, much respected former Headmaster Peter Lapping, together with our own 'home team' including the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster, Lowri Cook, Chris Alcock, Andrew Cheadle, and former Chaplain Edward Tildesley. Our thanks to them all and a double thanks to Chris Alcock for his continuing Alpha-style meetings.

As well as the usual round of worship there have again been four times in the academic year when College has paused for breath to observe particular occasions. In the Autumn Term the new Chapel Wardens were dedicated, in the Spring Term the start of Lent was observed and in the Summer, Founder's Day and



The Chapel Team

Chapel



Edward Tildesley returned to preach.

Ascension Day were honoured by acts of worship.

There was a huge uptake to Confirmation this year, so much so that brakes needed to be applied to ensure that there was no 'crowd following'! So from an initial forty enquiries, twenty seven people from the College community were confirmed including one Housemaster, one member of the Catering Staff, and James, son of Steve our great Head Chef. The Confirmation 'Away Day' was expanded this year to twenty four hours, thanks to the kind hospitality of the Headmaster of The Old Malthouse School, Langton Matravers in Dorset where we were able to escape for a few hours and prepare really well for the Confirmation day through relaxation, fun and reflection, and returning via Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals.

Next year's Confirmation will be on Sunday May 11th conducted by the Bishop of Dorchester and will be in the morning.

On Whit Sunday, Shiplake College travelled to St. Anne's Caversham to join them for their morning Eucharist. It was a pleasant occasion and it is hoped that a "home match" can be arranged for next year.

Four boys responded to an invitation to speak at morning chapel during Lent on the theme "What I believe is important." As the

Confirmation Away Day

Headmaster wrote in his newsletter, these were very well delivered with good humour and some heart-felt common sense. We are most grateful to Robert Gurney, James Wilkinson, Jonathan Lindsay and Sergei Dudin for undertaking this and we hope others will respond to this invitation next year. Sadly the Upper Sixth girls declined the invitation this time around, but next year perhaps there will be somebody?

Next term will see the arrival of new hymn and service books, following the gradual demise and disintegration of our old books. An appeal has been launched to help pay for this major expenditure and I am very grateful to all who have already shown an interest in helping. Thank you very much.

Steve Wood was an early friend and great support of Chapel when I first arrived at Shiplake, so it was with great pleasure to me that he accepted the post of Head Chapel Warden this year, soon to be supported by assistant Emma Bond. The Chapel Wardens had difficult acts to follow following the superb 2000/1 group and found it hard to work as a team. Nonetheless they have done well and I am grateful to them especially Jamie Ellingham who was always ready to go the extra mile.

There are so many other people to whom I have reason to be grateful;

Confirmation Day

the Director of Music, the readers, servers, a superb Head and Deputy Head of College, and so on.

But this report would not be complete without a particular 'thank you' to the Deputy Headmaster Barry Edwards. His gift with words makes me nervous in trying to find the right ones to use about him, especially when many others will have done this so much better. But here indeed is a 'Pearl of great price'. My experience of Deputy Headmasters is that they are not often perceived as spiritual beings! However Barry is an exception. His quiet, wise, guiding, steady-ing ("yes, a great idea but might it not be better if...." his unique way of saying "For God's Sake Don't") as well as his huge support and encouragement has been much appreciated and will be missed so very much. God bless you Barry and Jane.

As we look forward to a new academic year may I conclude by reminding all families and friends that you are always welcome to join in our worship especially on Sundays. Do please come along whenever you can. Full details of all that goes on can be found in your Chapel Card which I hope you have received.

Please note my direct line in College is 0118 940 5258.

R.P. Prance

Chapel



The Chaplain, with another flock, in the production of Hip, Hip Horatio!

Sergei Dudin Speaks in Chapel

Sergei Dudin was one of four pupils who accepted the Chaplain's invitation to speak about something that was important to them.

Robert Gurney, Jon Lindsay and James Wilkinson were the other brave souls.

It was six years ago when I made the significant decision of going to study in the UK.

Although I was 12, it was quite a difficult decision to make as I became used to living with my friends and family all the time and I knew that this would affect my whole life. However, I knew that in coming to England my education would be greatly improved, since the reputation of education in the UK, is the envy of much of the world.

So I did what I thought would be best for me and my future career. One of the main issues, which I was confronted by, was that English people are mainly self-contained, unlike Ukrainian citizens, who are more open with their emotions.

At the beginning, this felt quite strange, but then as my education continued, it is something that I got

used to within the first year. It was strange perhaps that James, last week's speaker is a day boy and yet I live further away than most of you, yet we have one special thing in common, our families: the most precious thing we have.

Living so far away, I have now come to appreciate my family even more. As every time I arrive back home for holiday, I always find time to be with my family. In this way it helps me to keep in touch with things back home. I think that I was and still am quite lucky that I have an oppor-

tunity of flying back home every six weeks, which as I know from past experiences is a rare thing with students coming from outside Europe. Perhaps this was one of the main issues, which have helped me steadily becoming used to living far away from home and taught me a skill of how to make friends in this big world.

So I wonder how you see me?

You may see me as someone coming from a very strange part of the world, speaking with a very different accent to your own. But I would like to say, "Thank you for accepting me the way I am. I have enjoyed being amongst you, I have enjoyed listening to the things you have to say."

I may not always agree with you, but I have learnt a lot from you. It is important to listen, to one another, sometimes it is better to stop and just listen, rather than to speak, about something you are not sure about.

It is the done thing to grumble about coursework, prep, the pressure of exams, Saturday morning school and maybe even about Sunday chapel and so on ...

And I have done this myself sometimes. But we do need to be aware that what is on offer in places like Shiplake is beyond price – the quest for knowledge and truth.



Sergei Dudin accepted the Chaplain's offer to speak on "What is important to me?"

Music

Classics and Concerts

Candy Jacklin reviews the high notes and missed notes of a busy year of music

The Autumn Recital began with James Larkin confidently playing the 1st movement of a Trombone Concerto by Rimsky-Korsakov. The Brass Group followed with two Baroque pieces giving James Belgum, Martin Haymes, Julian Mills, Chris Gardner, Johnny Boulton, Will Downing and James Larkin the opportunity to show their enjoyment in playing together. Boulton's playing of Mozart's "Lied", proved that the Horn alone could be just as rewarding.

The Choir sang Rutter's "Banquet Fugue", "A Whiter Shade of Pale", and finally "The Lord is my Shepherd" featuring Tim Hill's fine treble solo. Matt Clarke also sang a baritone solo with Bernstein's "Somewhere" from "West Side Story" producing a very pleasing tone. Tom Hall had the audience stunned with admiration as he played "Dance Prelude No 1" by Lutoslawski on the Clarinet.

Handel featured highly in this concert with works for both voices and instruments; Richard Butler sang the aria "Waft her Angels" from

"Jeptha" which involved some long runs requiring excellent breath control. Johnny Fordham gave a note perfect performance of the 1st and 2nd Movements from Flute Sonata in C. The light and shade between movements was good and Scott Dunsdon's accompaniment complemented Johnny's playing.

The audience was given a real spine-chilling treat, when Jenni Desmond on oboe, Nic Lowry on cello and James Larkin singing tenor, performed the Recitative and Aria "For the mountains shall depart" from Mendelssohn's "Elijah". Nic Lowry went on to play a "Minuet for Cello" by Boyce, a pleasant piece which he took slowly and very seriously. In contrast, Caroline Nochar then played Mozart's "Turkish Rondo" at a cracking pace.

The Wind Quintet with two flutes, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon played an arrangement of Mozart's Romanze from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, and an arrangement of March, Minuet, Musette and Bouree by Bach. Both pieces required plenty of concentration to maintain co-ordi-

nation, which was better in the Bach.

The audience could not conceal their laughter when James Larkin and Matt Clarke sang the "Gendarmes' Duet" by Offenbach, which they did with confidence and a dash of drama. A concert would not be complete without a good blast from Big Band to finish. There was no disappointment here, as they played "California Dreaming" and "A Night in Tunisia" at full volume and with all the gusto they could muster at the end of an enjoyable evening.

The Christmas Concert audience were encouraged to set the scene with a carol before listening to the choir singing Schultz's "Magnificat." They were accompanied by a small group of instrumentalists; both James Larkin and Richard Butler sang solos.

No doubt Handel would turn in his grave had he heard his Sonata Number 6 played on a Saxophone! But Tom Hall proved it not only possible but enjoyable too. Sullivan would nonetheless, have been proud to hear Matt Clarke, Richard Butler and Robert Prance singing "I am so proud" from "The Mikado". The



The Choir

Tom Hall



Gary Howarth (back) keeps an ear open for Chris Gardner, Martin Haymes and James Belgum. Malcolm Woodcock

Brass Group returned to the Christmas spirit with a clever arrangement by Iveson called "Christmas Medley."

Sadly this was Scott Dunsdon's last concert before returning to Australia. As a swan song he played the last movement of a Mozart Bassoon Concerto, delighting the audience with his accuracy and feeling. Later on he sang "On the Willows" from Godspell with Nic Lowry and James Larkin. The three voices blended pleasantly and captured the mood of the piece.

Felicity Avann, Johnny Fordham, Jenni Desmond, Tom Hall, Johnny Boulton and Scott Dunsdon played the 1st Movement from Gounod's Petit Symphonie for wind instruments. This gave the players an opportunity to show their talents as individuals as well as a wind quintet.

Returning again to the Christmas theme, James Wilkinson and Gordon Marshall played a piece written by James called "Christmas Time." It is not often that we have guitars played in concerts, so this was something of a treat.

Jenni Desmond and Nic Lowry returned to the limelight to play an Albinoni Concerto for Oboe, which they combined well for. The Third Form Chorus had sat patiently all

evening (as did their parents) to sing "Wachet Auf" by J. S. Bach. Their enthusiasm was matched by Peter Mullan, Kit Stangroom and Nic Lowry on drums and cello, respectively.

Big Band played two arrangements by Gary Howarth, their conductor. Both were slightly different from their normal repertoire, which was interesting. To finish the audience joined in with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" before the first mince pie of the season.

Mid-March the Music Society provided an evening of informal and light entertainment to herald the approaching spring. The programme contained several items sung by the choir, including Goodall's setting of "The Lord is My Shepherd". They also sang a medley of popular songs from shows and the traditional and well-known "Danny Boy".

Caroline Nochar played "Für Elise" by Beethoven, receiving tremendous applause from the audience. James Larkin's and Richard Butler's voices combined well in an arrangement of "Panis Angelicus" by C. Frank. The Wind Ensemble played two light-hearted sea songs and three folk songs, all in traditional style. Jennifer Lock making her debut on the flute played a Gavotte and Guige

by Handel. She performed with confidence and warmed up well for the following item where she played with Jonathan Fordham, Jenni Desmond, Tom Hall and Nic Lowry in a suite for a mixed ensemble also by Handel.

James Larkin played "Cavatine" for Trombone by Saint-Saens. A difficult piece, he performed well and with confidence which carried the audience with him. After a false start Matthew Clark played "Sonatina in A" by F. Benda and showed that sometimes it takes a lot of self-control to keep going.

As Tom Hall played his last concert piece, Tim Bright played his first. Between them they gave a wonderfully polished rendering of Bach's Sonata in G Minor on Saxophone, Clarinet and Piano. We are lucky to have Tim for a year as so many of the upper sixth take their final bow in this concert.

As some leave so others climb and Christopher Gardner is proving to be a valued member of Big Band. He played particularly well in the two finishing items. First "Li'l Darling" by Neal Heft, and secondly "Herbie Blues" which is one of Gary Howarth's own creations. A fine finish to the evening.

C. Jacklin



Keeping Bad Company



Tom Levin and the Hawaiian shirt

Charity Concert

Orchard Grooves to Hard Core Classics and Rock

Orchard's unknown motto is 'Never knowingly over rehearsed' - and so it proved with this wonderfully spontaneous event that raised £600 for charity.

The house is stuffed full of musical talent and this was an eclectic mix of spellbinding classics and rock music, with the housemaster attempting to host the show a la Jools Holland. Musicians Lowry, Desmond and Hall, aided by Ben Flanagan and Gary Howarth, set the groovy tone with "Watermelon Blues".

Albinoni got a look in as Jenni Desmond and Nic Lowry, with Tim Bright on piano, played a beautiful concerto. Tom Hall haunted us with his Tango and Charleston, a magnificent performance after a week of solid exams. Guest pianist Julie Wilks took us onto the *Titanic*, and despite hitting a minor iceberg, escaped unscathed to rapturous applause. Tom Levin, resplendent in Hawaiian shirt showed us some complex chord changes, and Martin Haymes proved that he's 'got rhythm'!

After a raffle and auction run splendidly by the Parents' Association, the mayhem truly began. Messrs Tom Hunter (drums), James

Singleton (guitar) aided by a friend on bass kicked us into gear with a gritty version of Nirvana's "Smells like Teen Spirit", followed by a grinding riff called 'Pain'. At this point farce and chaos reigned as Max Handley' lyrics, on note paper, flew into the dark corners of the stage, and he was left humming unconvincingly.

Unannounced and with a touch of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, James Wilkinson and Nic Lowry hammed and jammed, the audience now reduced to helpless giggles and sniggers. The housemaster, seeing order needed to be restored (and failing to notice that earplugs were being passed round frantically) stepped onto the stage for his party piece. James Wilkinson, seeing the doors were bolted, sheepishly agreed to solo on 'Take it Easy', by the Eagles. Realising that permanent brain damage could be avoided by singing along and clapping, the audience reluctantly joined in. Although the housemaster was guilty of closed eyes and missed words, all survived. James Wilkinson, unfazed by simple chord changes, twanged along effortlessly.

The unplugged session of Max Handley and David Geneen dealt masterfully with some Incubus and Red Hot Chilli Pepper songs. Handley's soaring vocals and guitar solos, allied to Geneen's robust sup-

port, led us naturally to the evening's finale. The housemaster bowed in awe and worship as his teen idol Mick Ralphs (Bad Company), and Steve Holly (ex-Paul McCartney and Wings), took the stage with a very nervous looking guest bass player, for a wicked 12 bar blues number which had been the highlight of the recent Ian Hunter tour. As the final notes died away the audience bayed for more. But it was not to be. We were very grateful, and privileged, however, to be entertained royally by two masters of their trade.

Will this be an annual event? Wait and see! I'm off to book tickets to see Bad Company this September.....I wonder if any Orchard pupils want to go too.....

C.E. Alcock



Compere Chris Alcock

Music

Rocking the Tithe Barn

There was a full house, not even standing room, for the twelfth annual rock concert ...

There was a strong sense of anticipation for the crowd gathering in the Stableyard. This was the start of the jubilee weekend, time to let your hair down, stomp, shout and simply revel in the exhilarating embryonic pop talent on display. For Director of Music Malcolm Woodcock it was time to position the ear-plugs a little more carefully.

Compere for the evening, Steve Wood, an experienced showman, worked the audience into a frenzy of expectation. He rapped his intros and links to the rhythm of a drum. The lights dimmed, momentary darkness, a hush of expectation and then Shambols took the stage. Gordon Marshall purred the words of two numbers located somewhere out there on the dark fringes where hard-rock and heavy metal collide. Dave Cullen beat the rhythm and Nick Constant looked distinctly Gothic on guitar.

"When I say "Rock" you "Rock" ordered Steve Wood. "ROCK! ROCK! ROCK!" commanded the self-appointed high priest of rock.

James Singleton, Tom Hunter and



Unplugged - David Geneen and Max Handley enjoying an acoustic set

Tom Bennett darted through a gap in the heavy curtains and the Year 9 debutants met the full glare of audience expectation. They fiddled nervously with the amps for a second then Tom Hunter began a drum roll that started them up. Given four more years of lessons and practice in the Tower recording studio and O's and X's could become one of our best ever bands. There was a touch of Clapton, tinged with grunge, about a performance that deserved its high praise.

James Wilkinson on his guitar and Nic Lowry, swapping cello for bass, took a little while to settle in to the new formation. Gary Potts, on drums, did his best to aid the gel. Radiohead's "Creep" was competently covered by Ollie Roitt. Give him ten years and Ollie could be the next Travis, almost wallowing in the depressing tone. "Gob-smacked," was the compere's succinct judgement on Max Handley's voice. He and David Geneen had the confidence and talent to produce a relatively quiet acoustic set including one of Max's own songs.

Saving the best to last Ollie Roitt returned with his own bizarrely named band, "Dougie's Little Brother". Six months of hard work, rehearsals every weekend, shone through and a delighted audience lapped it up. With the three musicians from Wellington College taking on ASs and Ollie busy with GCSEs their opening number "Pen and Paper" was a topical choice. They followed up with "K Song" and "puppy.com". The talented quartet of Nick, Al, Nezza and Ollie are reassuringly accomplished and they have been invited to perform at the Wellington College Speech Day.



James Wilkinson on guitar

Art Essay

Red

David Hoskins produced the following essay as an accompaniment to his mixed media submission for his A2 Art assessment

"Few colours have been so heavily freighted with symbolic resonances as red," wrote John Gage in *Colour and Meaning*.

The word red derives from the Sanskrit word *rudhira* meaning "blood". But in this day and age there are many representatives of red, relating to passion, usually of a sexual nature, danger and warning and eye-catching advertisements.

Red grabs the attention as the first of the colours on the advancing part of the spectrum, the warmest of the warm colours. Scientifically speaking, its wavelength is 750 millimicrons – at the opposite end is violet at 400 millimicrons.

I believe that by capturing photos of various objects and phenomena that represent aspects of the above categories of the colour red, I will be able to present feelings associated with red. I can also create a video using these photos accompanying songs such as "Roxanne" by the Police to represent red as a passion and The Planets Suite. Holst used Mars, the red planet, to represent red anger. The music will be used to enhance the feelings produced by the colour. For the other categories such as danger and warning I will use ambient sound, for example traffic noise and lighting.

The use of red to represent passion has been developed with the iconography of the heart, which is signified by blood racing around the body as a passion for the other person. The extent of the red heart has created other objects to appear "sexy", such as ladies in red dresses, red roses and also red strawberries, which assume a similar shape to the representation of the heart. Make up artists have realised the symbolism of

red and have produced red lipstick and also red nail varnish.

The association of red with virility, danger, and sexual excitement makes it one of the most popular colours of flashy sports cars, the ultimate symbol of masculine success in wealthy countries.

Red, associated with warning, can be used in many objects around us to prevent us from straying into danger; most commonly on the roads such as traffic lights with the red meaning the sign to stop. Though I believe that until just recently in China red was the equivalent for our green for "Go!" This just shows how associations with colours can be culturally conditioned, not just natural.

Further to traffic lights, there are red warning signs, which alert the driver to a problem ahead. Among items that signify warning are blood, red chillies, red fire extinguishers, and red fire engines.

Bull fighting is another instance where red is famously seen, though apparently the cape that is brandished by the matador need not be red; the bull sees in black and white only!

Research suggests that use of the colour red within advertisements will attract the viewer by its vibrancy. Red is commonly used in advertisements such as Coca Cola, Vodafone, Levis, Budweiser, McDonalds and KitKat. All of these are major player global companies.

The use of red for attention can also be seen within the film "Schindler's List". The whole film is shot in black and white, apart from one scene where a small girl's coat is shown in red, which reinforces Spielberg's point that Schindler notices the young girl being taken away to be killed.

Red plays an important part in Nicholas Roeg's thriller "Don't Look Now" where a dead daughter's red coat, associated initially with innocence and loss, finally becomes associated with murder.

Another film which comes to mind is "High Plains Drifter" in

which the main character played by Clint Eastwood organises a small village to combat a group of evil cowboys by painting the whole village red so as to represent Hell. The idea could have come from the idea to "paint the town red."

Red can often be seen as fire within hell. The red devil has been known since medieval times. Satan, or the Devil, has been depicted with red clothes or skin. Red is the colour of hell fire and damnation and also of unbridled passion and lust.

The "Red Flag" is seen as a symbol of revolution and the Communist party, first raised during the French Revolution. The Russian communists adopted it and it was also used during the Paris Commune of 1871.

Looking at red in a different aspect and looking at the colour and sound, as when the note 'A' is played the mind will trigger the colour red. This theory was produced by Newton. There are many song artists who have used this in song for their advantages, including "Lady in Red" by Chris de Burgh, "Roxanne" by The Police.

The colour red has been one of the most powerful colours and has many historical references. One can instance the use of red poppies as symbols of the sacrifices of World War 1, derived from the poppy fields of Flanders. Red is also used for the Comic Relief charity, with an annual Red Nose Day, in this context a red nose is often seen as an act of frustration. One other charity that uses red for its symbol is the AIDS foundation with the use of their red ribbon.

After researching into the colour red I have realised that I could research the topic a lot further, looking at the impact and interaction of red with other colours and how red affects the world around us. I now have a clearer understanding of the colour and the important part it plays in the world around us, as in advertisements, with the push and pull factors for the target audience, and also the impact of different cultures on the meaning and deployment of red.

Paris Art Trip

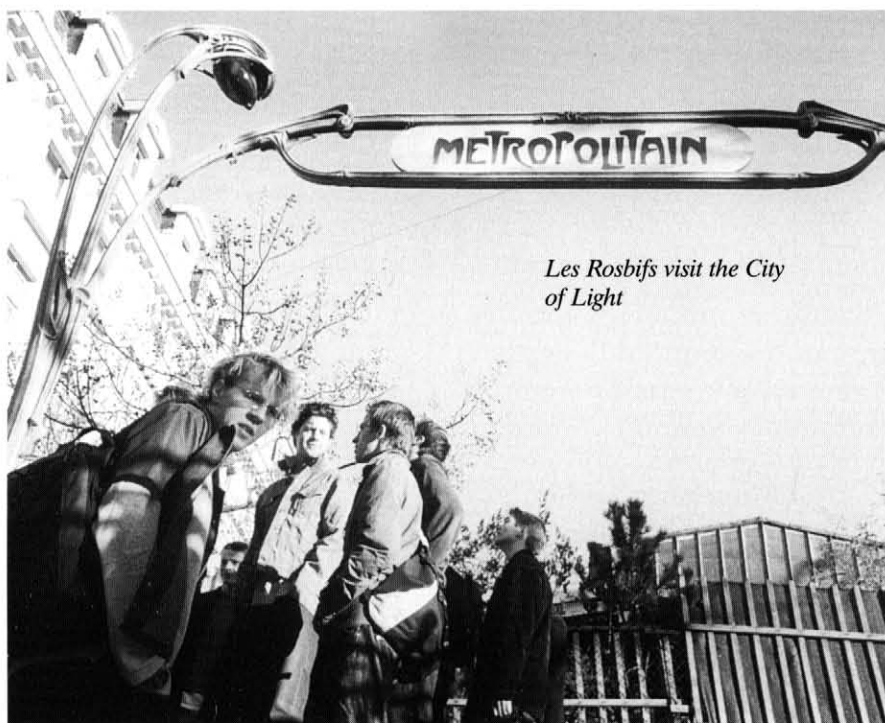
Sixth Form Art Expedition to Paris

After eleven or twelve weeks of the Spring and Summer Terms, holidays beckon. It is time to recharge the batteries; but in the Autumn Term there are still three or four weeks more to endure – would a trek to Paris to “recharger les batteries” on the final exeat be a frogmarch too far? Or would us rosbifs come away grateful to have been re-energised by the City of light?

Thoughts such as these persisted long after the decision to go was taken. On the Eurostar nearly everyone slept – necessary recuperation and sensible preparation for the rigours of the schedule ahead. Our hotel was a short walk from Gare du Nord. From there, mid-afternoon on Friday November 16th, we made our way by Metro and on foot to the Musée Picasso and found it closed!

This was a blow, considering that much phoning had gone on in the days before leaving. Checking which museums and galleries would be unaffected by the lightning strikes of museum staff; we had been informed that it was all over – but lightning struck twice where Pablo was concerned: the museum was incommunicado on the Sunday morning when we thought we’d give it another shot. So the first venue we visited was the “Beaubourg”, the famous Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano building, the Georges Pompidou Centre, with all its innards on the outside and maximum space within in which to see some of the truly astounding national collection of modern art. It knocks Tate Modern into a cocked hat.

After an excellent dinner in a pizzeria near Gare de l’Est, (the first of both evening meals elected to be Italian, obviously when in Paris, do as the Romans do), during which between five and ten thousand rollerbladers sped past on their 40 kilometre circuit of the city, a demonstration was given of the smoke-ring producing properties of the exotic



Les Rosbifs visit the City of Light

beedie (a kind of eucalyptus cheroot) and light refreshments followed.

Scott Dunsdon arrived later that night, giving valuable assistance to Carin Gray, husband Don and me for the next 48 hours. First stop for all twenty-five of us on Saturday was Notre Dame cathedral, familiar to many from Disney’s Hunchback.

Without seeing the splendour of the transept’s two rose windows, one hasn’t really seen Paris; a backlash against the overuse of “awesome” could start here. It’s a short walk from the most sublime products of the human spirit to a reminder of mankind at his most bestial: the Memorial de la Deportation also on the Ile de la Cite, the symbolic heart of the nation. “Forgive do not forget..” is inscribed over the exit.

The walk from there to the Musée d’Orsay was perhaps overlong, sunny and pleasant though the day turned out to be successful. Eating on the hoof, we still found there was too little time to take in all we should. The sensible thing was to focus on selected paintings or sculpture, chosen for their relevance to the A Level syllabus, and sit and draw. Everyone found something to admire and be inspired by both here and at our last

port of call a short walk away, the Musée Rodin.

The evening was spent in the Latin Quarter and the café-bars near our hotel (“J’ai l’oeil!” a dit le professeur.)

Sunday morning was spent in Montmatre, visiting Sacre-Coeur and the warren of streets around the Bateau-Lavoir studios where Picasso, Braque and Gris invented cubism almost a hundred years ago. Cliched and kitsch though it is, Place du Tertre proved to be a very popular stop, and numerous photos were taken and sketches dashed off; and that about concluded the art and cultural aspects of our visit to Paris. It was back to the hotel, trying where possible to ignore the loopholes in the Metro Security barrier system, collecting our luggage, choosing between Big Macs and moules, and getting safely on board the afternoon Eurostar.

A busy time, a tiring time, but as the answers to the de-briefing questionnaires made clear, overall a very worthwhile time – a change that was as good as an exeat rest and a visit that whetted everybody’s appetite to go to Paris again, and soon.

D.C. Stoker

Strasbourg Language Visit

Shiplake envahit la Capitale de l'Europe

On the 8th February 2002, twenty-one boys, two members of staff, a gap student and Mrs McDonald set off for the idyllic city of Strasbourg in Eastern France. The journey by coach was very comfortable, and our only minor hiccup was the rough ferry crossing. Throughout the crossing all staff could be found in the bar sampling the brandy and coffee deals at 10 am: to calm the stomach of course!

We arrived at Strasbourg after eight hours of travelling, tired, weary and having to concentrate in order to converse with our new families. A difficult and slightly intimidating evening lay ahead for us all.

Refreshed and soaked in the French language we travelled the next morning to the border of France, walked over a bridge and entered Kehl, a small town in Germany. It was at this point when buying gifts or food we realized the advantage of the Euro.

After eating our lunch provided by the families we returned to France to a quiet town called Obernai. Here we had a very informative and interesting tour of the small town. We saw the old ramparts that defended the town in the distant past and learned amongst other things, that a heart on the roof of a house symbolised that a woman was to be married in the house, a tradition that still holds today. It was fascinating for all to see how people were punished years ago in Obernai. On market day, Tuesday, the miscreant would be chained to a hook outside the church hall for the day. During the day he or she would be mocked, beaten and stoned by the locals for their crime. How amazing to see that hook still there today exhibiting the roots of this town.

On the Sunday, we spent "une journée complète en Famille". Personally, this proved to be the most challenging day, as we were inundated with the French language and we had every opportunity to practise our

French speaking skills. It is remarkable how much one can learn when forced to communicate in a foreign language. This is by far the best way to improve one's French.

The Council of Europe was our next venture on Monday morning. Here we were told that ambassadors from the forty-three member states meet in order to discuss their countries' problems and improve human welfare.

Much to the delight of the boys, we visited the Kronenbourg brewery that afternoon. Although the brewery in Strasbourg does not brew beer anymore, the old copper fermenters and bar made for an exciting afternoon. Especially when we got to sample the goods.

Strasbourg itself is dominated by its Cathedral. By far the highlight of the trip for many, the experience of the Cathedral, will remain in people's memories for years to come. The Cathedral is visible from almost anywhere in Strasbourg and holds the record for having the tallest spire in Europe. It is so colossal that the bishop lives in a house on top of the Cathedral. We were all aware that the Cathedral was massive but it was not until we stood next to it that we could appreciate the sheer magnitude of this building. Built in the Gothic period and visited only once by the Pope in his lifetime to date, the Cathedral is a true asset of Strasbourg and one can understand why Strasbourg is the capital of Europe. On entry into the Cathedral we all broke up and strolled around, absorbing the aura of this magnificent edifice. When walking

down the aisle, towards the huge altar, one could not miss the formidable pipe organ towering over the nave, mounted high up on the western wall. The only light that can enter the Cathedral from the back enters through a beautiful circular stained glass window that creates a mighty beam of light that falls imperiously upon the nave.

We spent our last day in two towns south of Strasbourg, Mulhouse and Colmar. Mulhouse is a modern industrial town, which does not possess a great deal of money. Thus, within the town there are lots of trompes d'œil, in English 'fooling the eye'. Where old beams or expensive stone might have been used to construct a house or town hall, they have been emulated by detailed painting, which is much more economical.

Colmar is often described as a 'mini Venice'. Home many years ago to a whole host of tanners, the river Ill traverses the town, which undulates beautifully through many houses. Colmar was the birthplace of Auguste Bartholdi, the man who designed and constructed the Statue of Liberty. Again, there is a Gothic period church, which is in the centre of town, and was used formerly as a watchtower.

I had a truly enjoyable stay in Strasbourg and the family that I stayed with was very welcoming. I can seriously advise a long weekend in Strasbourg.

Andrew Fox



Drama

Godspell

Peter Hose, Lindsay McDonald and Malcolm Woodcock combined their talents to produce a challenging musical ...

I suppose I am the best and worst of choices for reviewing this production. On the down side, I don't usually enjoy musicals and this was the first night. On the positive side - perhaps - I was new to the College and could be fairly objective.

It was a great relief to find a simple set with sparkling strands on a black backdrop that cleverly disguised entrances and lent a magical dimension. The Tithe Barn stage is not designed for casts of 35 and scenery, and the simplicity indicated that the ensemble was going to do the work of indicating time and place.

The bright, clownish costumes acted as a happy balance to Paddy Colman's slightly two-dimensional Jesus Christ, a monumental line-learning role. Dressed in white dinner jacket he was suitably suave but needed the colourful ensemble-playing and clownish attitudes to influence the audience's response to his seemingly interminable teachings. I was sympathetic to humorous touches of 'Oh Christ, not again' as we were once more encouraged to be perfect and turn the other cheek!

The production moved through a series of musical numbers in response to Christ's teachings as he strove to enlighten his disciples. On the Thursday, it must be said, they didn't look very enlightened. I gather by the Saturday this had improved but I could have done with a bit more response. It was a large troupe with lots of missed opportunities for lively reaction and group dynamics, with notable exceptions in the alert faces of James Begum, James Masters, Richard Lightwing and Paul Aitchison.

Some of the songs were beautifully rendered even though I questioned the need for microphones in so small

Production Manager:

Peter Hose

Choreography:

Lindsay McDonald

Musical Direction:

Malcolm Woodcock



Paddy Colman: Jesus

The Band:

Malcolm Woodcock,
James Wilkinson
Gordon Marshall
Tom Hall
Peter Mullan
Paul Wisby



James Larkin

The Cast

Paul Aitchison, Vikram Apte
Felicity Avann, Dominic Barrett
Ed Batchelor, James Begum
Emma Bond, Paddy Colman
Steph Crystal, Jenni Desmond
Scott Dundson, Alex Esslemont
Finch Field-Hall, Andrew Fox
Jamie Gouldstone, Tom Gouldstone
Robert Gurney, Max Handley,
Braedon Hogan, James Larkin,
Natalie Levin, Richard Lightwing
Jennifer Lock, Nic Lowry,
James Masters, Lindsay McDonald
Ben Nicholas, Caroline Nochar
Tom Saunders, Kit Stangroom
Lucinda Webb, James Wilkinson
Max Williams, Steve Wood

The Band:

Mr. M. Woodcock, James Wilkinson,
Gordon Marshall, Tom Hall, Peter
Mullan, Paul Wisby

Properties and Prompts:

Mrs M. White

Costumes & Make-up

Mrs P. Wiggins
Mrs. E Cooke

Sound & Lighting

Chris Braclik (Soundtrack Productions)
Jon Lindsay
Mrs. J. Barr
Jamie Ellingham

Stage Management:

Simon Hurlstone

Front of House

R.P Prance
Mrs. C. Healy
Members of the College

Artistic Direction:

Scott Dundson

Drama



Lindsay McDonald and Steve Wood, a fan of big hair, show their talents.

a space. The students obviously enjoyed using them Liam Gallagher-style, but their use did obscure the diction in places and limited their gestures. The 'By My Side' duo with Jenni Desmond and Emma Bond was prettily done and 'On the Willows', sung movingly with a trio of Scott Dunsden, James Larkin and Nic Lowry, benefited from the stillness that using mics can impose.

One of the best moments in terms of stylish performance came from James Wilkinson and his energetic, toe-tapping sell of 'We Beseech Thee', a really convincing moment. But again, we could have done with more choreogra-

phy from the ensemble in the background, in a number that cried out for movement. Max Handley did a good job as a charismatic teacher telling us to learn our lessons well. He managed to act, sing and move simultaneously with super audience

appeal. The band was great, with real style and a reliable rhythm that brought back the original songs, such as 'Save the People' and 'Light of the World', with authenticity. And certain scenes were memorable such as the Garden of Gethsemane and the

Temptation scene with its effective use of colour.

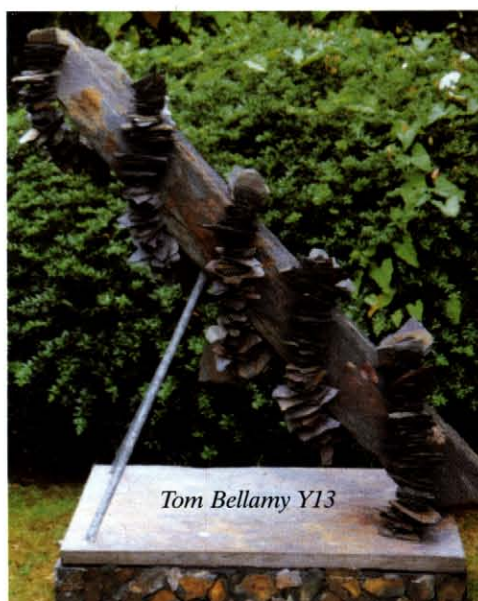
The cast and crew of this production deserve all the praise that has been sung for staging so demanding a piece of theatre that gave everyone great pride and pleasure.

L. Cook



Jennifer Lock, James Larkin, Nic Lowry & Felicity Avann in song

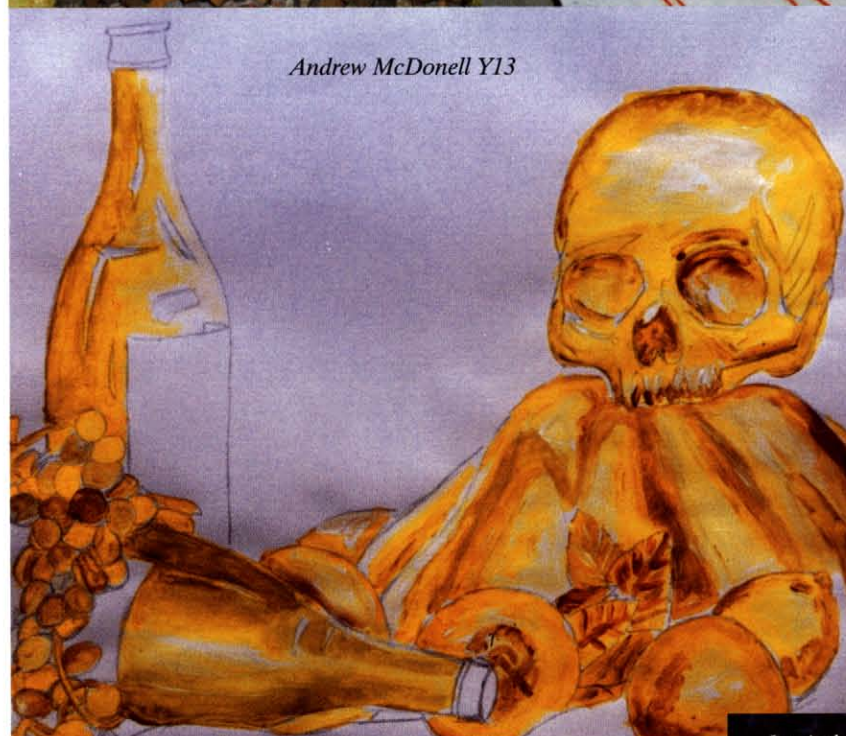
The Art School



Tom Bellamy Y13



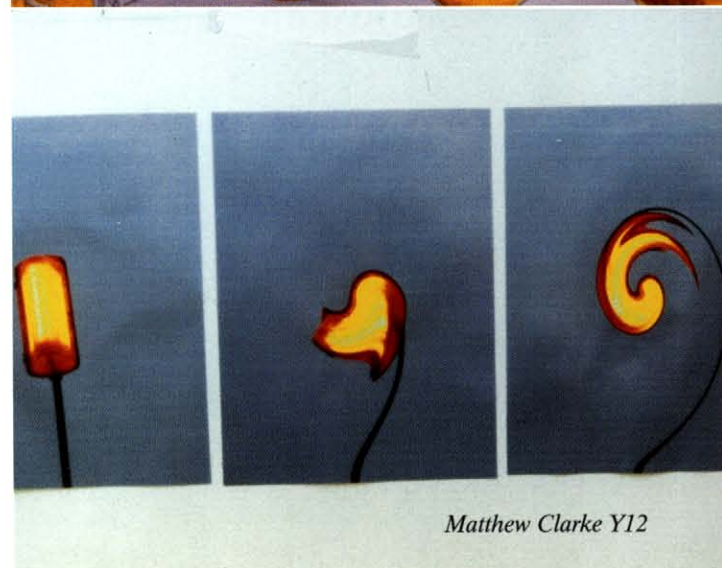
Tom Chambers Y12



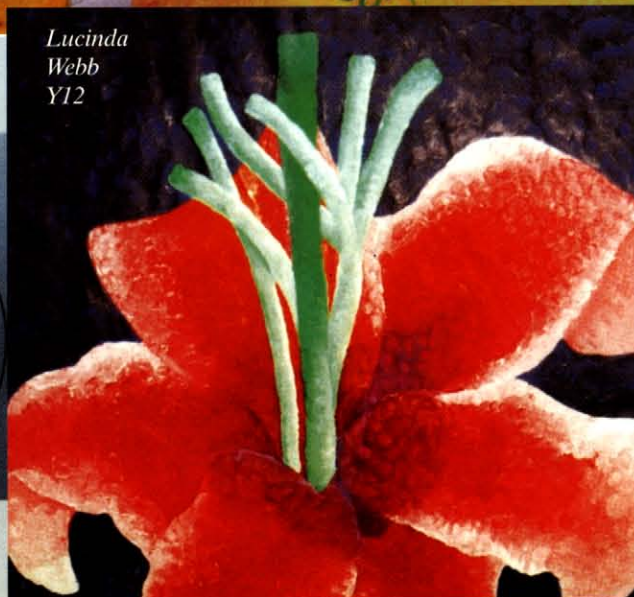
Andrew McDonnell Y13



Caroline Nochar Y12



Matthew Clarke Y12



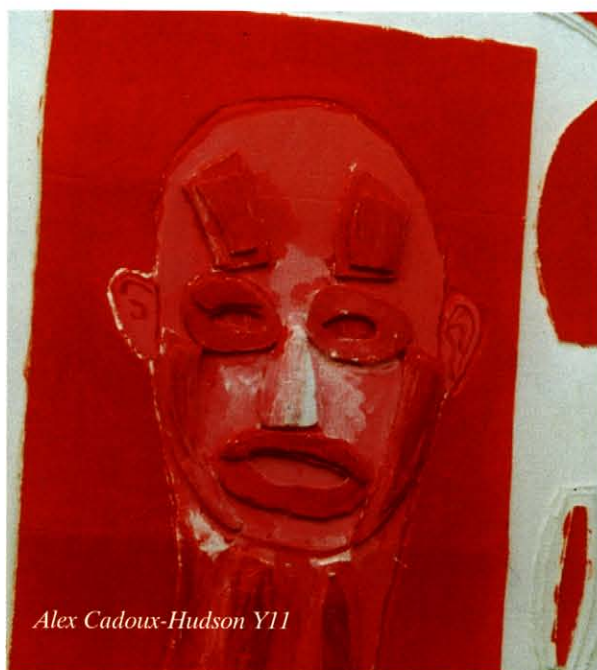
Lucinda Webb Y12

Snapshots of the year

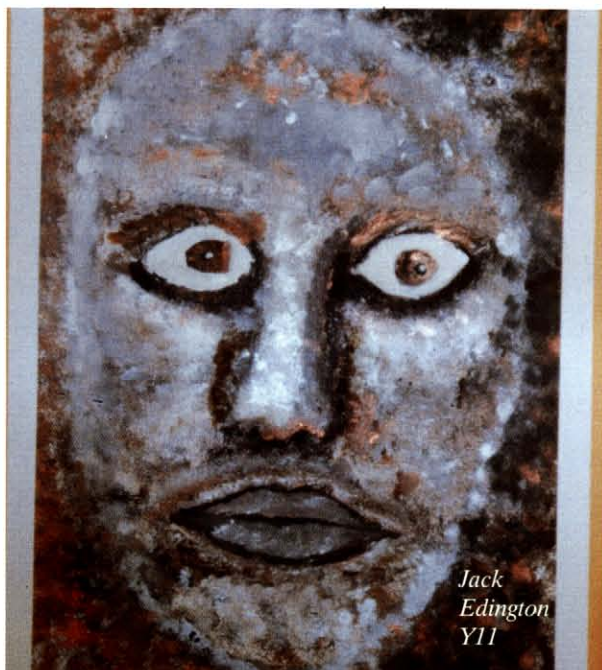




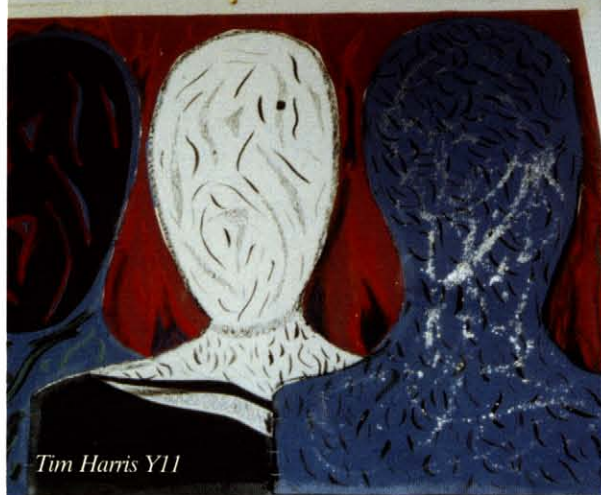
The Art School



Alex Cadoux-Hudson Y11



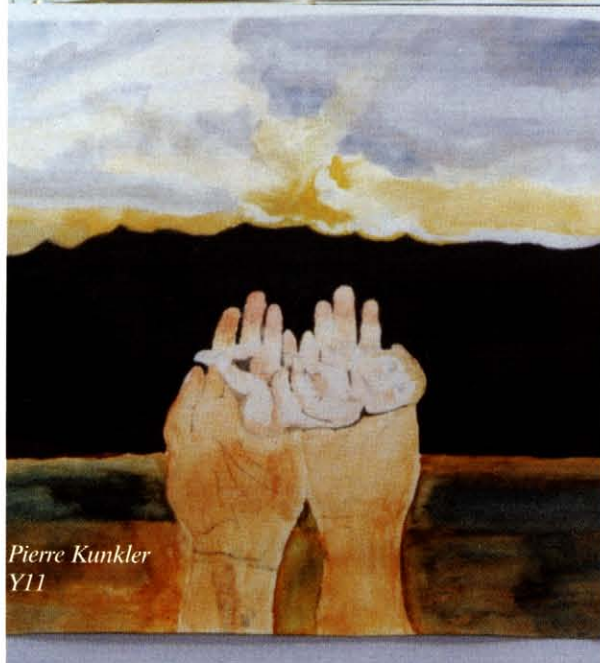
*Jack
Edington
Y11*



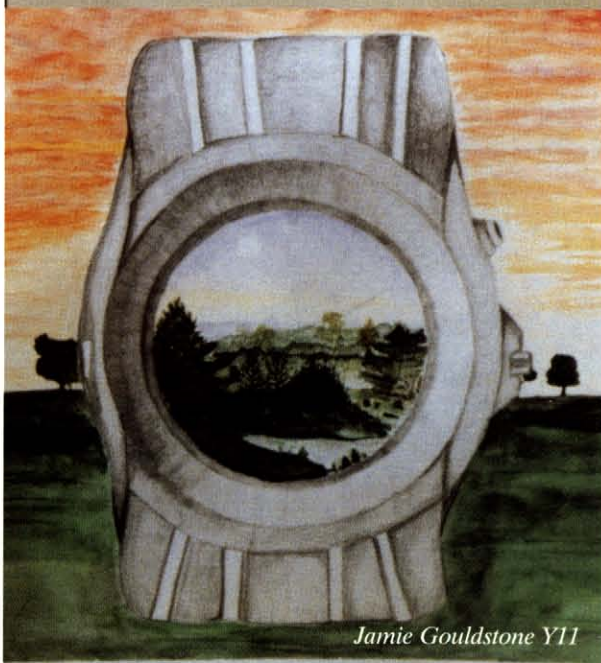
Tim Harris Y11



George Boggis Y11



*Pierre Kunkler
Y11*



Jamie Gouldstone Y11

Drama

P'Tang Yang Kipperbang

Lowri Cook chose Rosenthal's rites of passage, coming of age, forties grammar school period piece for her directorial debut at Shiplake



A troubled Miss Land, played by Stephanie Crystal

This intriguingly titled piece, originally a TV play, charts the adolescent fantasies and frustrations of a group of grammar school boys. Put like that, it sounds pretty banal: boy meets girl, has smutty thoughts, is teased by his friends, and plucks up his courage to grab his first kiss with the girl.

Maybe, but Jack Rosenthal is an inventive writer and he never allows that potentially corny situation to become anything like cliché. Most notably, he interweaves this school locker-room drama with, of all things, the 1948 epic test Ashes Series. John Arlott's rustic burr, beautifully emulated by Rae Jones in this production, allows us to glimpse the heightened emotions and passions of the teenage years. Seemingly overwhelmed by the Australian bowlers young Alan Duckworth saves England with a majestic innings of 364, only to struggle to score the final single off the final ball of the match for victory.



Ed Blanchard as Duckworth

Hyperbole perhaps, but an interesting metaphor nonetheless, even without the usual gags about "bowling a maiden over". These cricket scenes were well mimed by the boys, which I thought was surprising until I remembered that the two actors battling, James Talbot and Edward Blanchard, had scored heavily last summer for the school team.

Blanchard played the main character, Duckworth (or Quack-Quack), as a thoughtful rather puzzled young man, attempting to be philosophical, metaphysical even, despite the crudity and scoffing of his pretty yobbish friends, convincingly played by James Talbot and Dan Clark, wearing school caps straight out of Just William. When all his efforts to attract the attention of Anne Lawton, played by Clare Gosling, appear to have failed, he is cast in a school play opposite her (another piece of Rosenthal inventiveness) and that means he gets to kiss her. The final section of P'Tang is very funny, as the rehearsals involving Anne, Quack-Quack and his erstwhile rival for love (both in real life and the school play), Geoffrey Whittaker, moves towards performance. The kiss eventually becomes something a little different, but in his way, Quack-Quack has matured, become a man, learned about the opposite sex, and, more importantly, about himself. In cricketing parlance, he does score the winning run but it is not a huge heave for six out of the ground, but a subtle, elegant single, less spectacular for the crowd but just as worthwhile.

The Cast

John Arlott	Rae Jones
Headmaster	Dominic Barrett
Tommy	Max Handley
Gym Teacher	Alex de Haan
Geoff	Michael Thompson

The Gang

Shaz	James Talbot
Duckworth	Ed Blanchard
Abbo	Dan Clark

The Girls

Miss Land	Stephanie Crystal
Anne Lawton	Clare Gosling
Botany Teacher	Jennifer Lock
Girl	Jennifer Lock
Eunice	Amy Crawford
Majorie	Felicity Avan

The Boys

David Cullen
Sam Pershall
Richard Lloyd
Craig Barker
Tom Levin
Richard Oldridge

The Crew

Director	Lowri Cook
Technical Director	Jane Barr
Costumes	Pamela Wiggins
Lighting	Kit Stormont
Set	Edward Vaughan-Fowler
Props	Richard Binnie
Stage Hand	George Dobbie
Sound	James Belgium
Programme	Tim Bright



Dominic Barrett's Headmaster

Drama



The cast receive the applause on the triumphant last night.

Much of the rest of the play reinforces this central theme of maturity and decision-making. Even the English teacher, a sophisticated, spry and thoughtful confident lady played excellently by Stephanie Crystal, can-



not make up her mind about her relationship with the shambling, chain-smoking caretaker, poignantly portrayed by Max Handley. There are strong insinuations of a former affair with the oily, bumptious, Dickensian headmaster, a part in which Dom Barrett was able to indulge himself

So the human heart, says Rosenthal, is a peculiar organ, way beyond the control of most adults, let alone children. How much simpler to stick to the physical side of life: a

quick fumble with Eunice after PE, a "Boys Behaving Badly" type conversation, epitomised in the suggestive, if nonsensical P'Tang Yang Kipperbang greeting and farewell: and even cricket!

This was a very enjoyable first production by our new Head of English, Lowri Cook, who arrives with a string of theatrical credits from Queen Anne's to her name. Her use of the Lower Sixth girls, including Jennifer Lock, Amy Crawford and



Felicy Avann, added a new dimension to Shiplake junior drama.

If I was looking to criticise, I might mention the rather slow continuity and some of the words were inaudible. But that would be churlish

– the audience thoroughly warmed to the action, which spilled into the auditorium on occasions, and to the age old dilemmas of adolescence, where you can be a Quack-Quack, described as a "beast of the field" or a Geoffrey ("I don't do P'Tang Yang Kipperbang"). To finish on another cricketing metaphor, here were boys practising their batting techniques so that, in due course, they would be ready to face whatever tricky deliveries the female opposition might choose to produce.



B.P. Edwards

Summer Production

Jubilee Promenade

A celebration of British music and culture, from Handel to Holst and from Church to Stableyard

Malcolm Woodcock was determined to capture the national mood of a "summer" that had seen flypasts over Buckingham Palace and tears of pride and despair as England took their rollercoaster ride through an oriental World Cup.

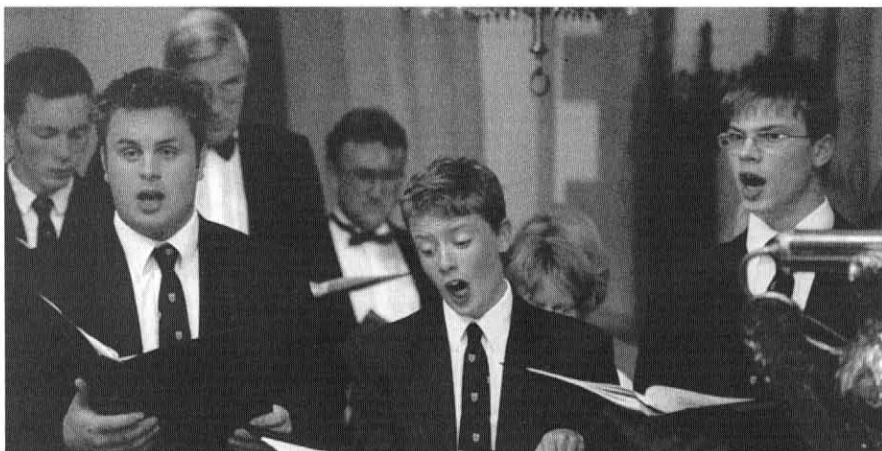
Remember that Malcolm is a man who doesn't like "abroad" and does not possess a passport. Union Jack bunting proclaimed the forthcoming cultural feast and even the programmes came in three varieties: red, white and blue.

Sacred Vocal Music

The parish bell-ringers provided a very British overture as the audience gathered for the first part of the evening's entertainment, a programme of Sacred Vocal Music. Purcell's "Rejoice in the Lord Alway", known as "The Bell Anthem" provided an apt start given the ecclesiastical setting.

For members of the audience who had walked 25 miles through the April rain to raise £5,000 for the new parish organ the superb acoustics were just reward for their efforts.

James Larkin took to the pulpit for a



The Choir

sensitive solo rendition of Handel's "Comfort Ye - Every Valley", giving an outstanding performance of the recitative and aria from the first two movements of Handel's most famous oratorio. The professional players in the orchestra brought out the best of the choir.

The audience rose and swelled the volume for those two patriotic hymns that are often hijacked for jingoistic purposes "I Vow to thee my country"

and "Jerusalem". Wesley's "Ascribe Unto the Lord" sent the audience melodically on their way to the Stableyard for the next act of the evening's entertainment.

British Concert Music

Clarke's "The Prince of Denmark's March" was the aperitif to a recital that had a touch of "The Last Night of the Proms" with the audience waving their Union Jacks and

British Concert Music

The Prince of Denmark's March
Trumpet Tune
(For Brass Ensemble)

J. Clarke
H. Purcell

Brass Group

Julian Mills, Christopher Gardner, Martin Haymes, James Belgum, Stuart Laws (Trumpet), Jonathon Boulton (Horn), James Larkin, Will Downing (Trombone)

Carol and Prelude for Clarinet and Strings
Thomas Hall Clarinet

G. Finzi

The Silver Swan
Brightly dawns our wedding day
Choir

O. Gibbons
A. Sullivan

The Vagabond, The Roadside Choir
Whither must I wander
Barry Edwards - Tenor, Gary Howarth - Piano

R. Vaughan
Williams

Mountains
Tim Bright

P. Skulthorpe

May no rash intruder
Choir

G.F. Handel

Fantasia on British Sea Songs
Nick Brown - Tenor

arr. Henry Wood



James Larkin

Summer Production



A patriotic choir

showing a willingness to participate fully. Tom Hall's performance of Finzi's "Carol and Prelude for Clarinet and Strings" was his final farewell to Shiplake music, concluding five years of outstanding contributions. Similarly "Three Songs of Travel" by Vaughan Williams was an appropriate farewell for Barry Edwards as he departs on his travels to Devon. Barry has sung with numerous choirs in distant destinations such as China and the USA. The experience and power of his well-trained voice will be missed.

There was a brief acknowledgement that there is a world beyond Dover with the merest gesture towards the Commonwealth. Australian pianist Tim Bright gave a masterful interpretation of Peter Skulthorpe's "Mountains", symbolising the great mountain ranges of Tasmania.

Conductor Malcolm Woodcock

began with a light touch for Henry Wood's arrangement of a Fantasia on British Sea Songs but it concluded in mischievous quadruple time that delighted the audience. Tenor Nick Brown sang "Rule Britannia", the Rs reverberating round the Stableyard, though at times the full impact of the choir had been lost, set as they were behind the orchestra in a corner. Gary Howarth continued to move between brass and keyboards with customary expert virtuosity.

Hip, Hip Horatio

With the last of the light fading and chill winds rustling the chestnut tree, the audience settled once more for a light-hearted romp through Nelson's life from his birth in a Norfolk vicarage to his death and posthumous honours after Trafalgar. It proved to be a busy evening for narrator James Larkin whose singing provided the



Dan Clark and Max Handley

continuity for homage to Britain's greatest naval hero.

That song and dance utility pairing, Max Handley and Dan Clark, stepped their way through scenes set in 20th century Trafalgar Square, to open and close this very light opera. Robert Prance was wonderfully perturbed as the father of a large, unruly brood of children, puzzled by the problem of deciding what to do with the diminutive Horatio, cherubically played by Bobby Gouldstone. Seemingly the decision to send him to sea was apt.

The audience laughed at a hilarious steel-drum and calypso shirts portrayal of Nelson's time in the Caribbean. Steve Wood was limbo lithe as the leader of the dance troupe. The dancers went off in a conga line towards a beach and palm tree coastline that the audience had created in their minds.

Jane Edwards and Richard Butler



Tenor Nick Brown



The audience

Summer Production

provided a peaceful rural interlude with some agricultural jokes and rich Norfolk accents before the elegant glamour of an evening in Naples with the British ambassador. Richard Lightwing, dashing as Nelson, was accompanied serenely by the elegant Lady Hamilton, previously known as Emily Jonzen before the ultimate regal makeover.

Spectacularly lit battle scenes in the Mediterranean saw Jon Lindsay, master of the switches, in action for the final time. His honours as a back-stage maestro are almost as numerous as Nelson's mentions in dispatches.

A dramatic sea-battle ensued amid the smoke and realistic sound effects, during which Richard Lightwing's noble Nelson was mortally wounded. He was carried below by his adoring crew to wallow in the tragedy of the death scene. Marjorie White and Lindsay McDonald must also be credited with bringing a remarkable sense of cohesion to the scenes involving the Year 9 boys.

One bizarre highlight of the evening came when your official magazine photographer became trapped in a pincer movement at the Battle of Trafalgar. A veritable armada of cut out galleons, each manned by a Year 9 boy crouching behind his plywood cut-out, surprised the photographer when they suddenly emerged from

the English department. He should have known better having seen a bizarre *Blue Peter* like production line of "Here's a galleon I made earlier" in operation for much of the preceding week.

Malcolm Woodcock has served three headmasters. It has been said that he was appointed by John Eggar, moderated by Peter Lapping, and let loose by Nick Bevan. A spectacular God Save the Queen finale with wave after wave of deafening volleys of fireworks, illuminating dark skies, and even more smoke and loud sound effects on the second night suggest that Malcolm is becoming more adventurous as the years pass.

M. Edwards

The Cast

Narrator James Larkin

Tafalgar Square 20th Century
Max Handley and Daniel Clark
with
Craig Barker, Bobby Gordon-Smith,

Ravi Gurtarta, Paddy Jones,
Julian Kunkler, Richard Lloyd,
Philip McIntosh, Richard Oldridge,
Jonathon Ridgway
Edward Vaughan-Fowler

Nelson's Childhood at a Norfolk Parsonage
Robert Prance

Duty takes Nelson to the Caribbean
Steve Wood with
Max Bigland, James Blake-Baldwin,
Mark Cole, Douglas Coppel,
Jack Deakin, George Dobbie,
James Fowke, Sam Greenhill,
Oliver Hitchen, Jordan Hopkins,
Nobo Inoue, William Jackson,
Sam Morris, Charlie Page,
Jamie Pegler, Charlie Pickering,
Josh Raper, George Rouse,
Jamie Salmon, George Smith

England is at peace
Jane Edwards, Richard Butler

The pressed sailors are at work on deck

Edward Adler, Chris Alstadt,
James Belgium, Bobby Gouldstone,
Freddie Humphrey, Piers Mortimer
Alastair Sloane, James Smith-Jones,
Rollo Sparkes, Alex Woolnough

Nelson, now the naval hero, visits Naples and meets the British ambassador, Sir William Hamilton and his wife, Emma

Richard Lightwing with
Nick Allen, James Bailey,
Lowri Cook, Jenni Desmond,
Finch Field-Hall, Emily Jonzen,
Duncan Malcolm, Oliver Thornton,
Marcus Broughton-Pipkin

Nelson is successful in actions in the Mediterranean, against the Spanish at St. Vincent's Cape, against the French at the battle of the Nile and against Denmark

James Bennett, Tom Bennett,
Richard Binnie, Cameron Duncan,
Ghalib Gelu, Henry Gordon,
Tristan Harper, Geoffrey Jones,
William Hetherington, Alex Musaji,
Sam Pershall, Gregory White,
Shahin Shekerzade

Nelson is recognised as a hero by Londoners of all classes

Max Handley and Daniel Clark

Backing Group

Alex de Haan, Timothy Hill,
Scott James, Michael Thompson,
Philip Loudon-Carter
and
members of the choir.

Lighting

Jonathon Lindsay, Simon Hurlstone

Costumes

Pam Wiggin

Sound

Soundtrack Productions

Programme

Tim Bright

Production Team

Marjorie White, Malcolm Woodcock,
Lindsay McDonald



Emily Jonzen and Richard Lightwing

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



Celebrations at Shiplake for Duke of Edinburgh Award Candidates

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

David Wilson reports on the June expedition to Brittany

The last week of the summer term for some Shiplake boys was spent on a three day trek around Brittany, France as part of their Expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At 0830 on day one 15 boys in three groups start walking from Les Rues Gaspais. They walked southwest from here through the Forêt du Paimpont, through the Vallée St. Amant towards the Trecesson Chateau. This 15th century Castle in the Compeneac region of Brittany has stories of local noblemen hearing about the epic adventures of the round table sung by a travelling minstrel. From here, the southernmost part of the route, the journey heads northwest towards Trehorenteuc.

On the way they pass close to 'le Tombeau du Geant'. This tomb which is now occupied by some large monolithic stones is only part of the legend of this region of France.

The Valley of no Return, 'le val sans retour', with its deep red slate loses its visitors in the maze of valleys. Whether this is due to the iron ore, which sends the compasses wild, or the reported ghosts no one is really certain. The valley is reputed to be haunted by Vivian, the half sister of King Arthur.

She established herself there to exercise the sciences she had learned from Merlin. Betrayed by one of her lovers, wounded in her love and in her pride, she avenged herself by turning the guilty parties into stone; they became the Rocks of the Faux-Amants, which dominate the valley.

Then she enchanted the valley; faithful lovers may cross it without risk, but all unfaithful ones remain there, prisoners of an invisible wall of air.

At the end of the valley is The Golden Tree. In September 1990, the valley was burned for five days. In memory of these events and to remember the necessity not to bring fire into the forest region Francois Davin created the 'Gold of Broceliande' often called the Golden Tree. The black trees surrounding it symbolize the burned forest. Gold, an inalterable metal, is traditionally associated with immortality.

From here the boys walk a short distance to the campsite. After a hard day's walking it is important to pitch tents and wash those tired feet. Then there is the job of cooking supper.

After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast they set off for the long

journey to Paimpont. After passing by 'Jardin aux Moines', the monks garden, a 27m long quadrilateral formed with alternate blocks of red slate and white pudding stone erected circa 3000 B.C., they cross at Folle Pensee (translated as "mad thought" but is actually the name of the village) to join the GR de pays 'Tour of Broceliande' one of the national routes in France.

This takes them along one of the well worn routes of Brittany. Turning north off this route takes them to 'le chêne a Guillotin'. Guillotins Oak Tree has a circumference of over 10m. This favourite lunch stop brings a brief respite and a look at another piece of history of Brittany. From here it is a short 3-4 hour walk to the Campsite at Paimpont and a look at its famous Abbey.

The next and last day sees the boys walking in excess of another 17km with heavy rucksack. While the warm weather was nice for some, for the boys it meant taking in plenty of water and regular rest stops. Although the navigation route in France may not be as difficult as the Pre-expedition was in Wales at Easter, the physical strain for some was greater. It is to their credit therefore that they all completed this part of their Duke of Edinburgh award and were certainly the best behaved group of boys we have taken to Brittany to date.

D. Wilson



Combined Cadet Force

Army Section

During most of the year the section had a strength of fifty-two cadets of which sixty percent were recruits from the fourth form. The team of Lt D. Wilson together with Cadet Sergeant Major Stuart Goldie ably assisted by Cadet Sergeants Tobias Clark, Gordon Marshall and Jon Lindsay organised a full training programme for the recruits. Despite the difficulties caused by the demolition of the armoury and store most of the recruits will have completed their proficiency tests after the summer camp at Wathgill, North Yorkshire.

The Autumn Term field day consisted of an overnight exercise at Bramley. In the Spring Term orienteering and field craft exercises were completed on Training Area E1/E2. The Summer Term field day was given over to the charity walk. Our first year as a voluntary section, post foot and mouth, has been completed reasonably smoothly. Once again a healthy number of recruits attended adventurous training in the Brecon Beacons as part of their preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are, as always, very grateful for the assistance given during the year by the Cadet Training Team.

Lt P. G. Hose

CCF Summer Camp

Wathgill 2002

15 Cadets gave up one week of their holidays to attend this year's CCF Camp at Wathgill in North Yorkshire. After an initial period of instruction and revision on section patrolling Cpl Bramwell acting as Platoon Sergeant led a platoon attack that saw Yr 10 cadets firing blank ammunition for the first time.

At the ranges the next day all cadets had the opportunity to fire cadet GP rifles and LSW's (light support weapons). That evening the March and Shoot competition was the highlight of the day and saw Shiplake



Army Camp briefing

CCF come second equal to Edinburgh Academy. The team from all age groups included two junior cadets Esslemont and Orpwood.

The next 48 hours was spent planning and carrying out various military manoeuvres including stopping out on an overnight exercise in a defended harbour area, the only casualty being Cdt Roberts with a twisted ankle. After the overnight exercise the cadets spent a relaxing evening at the seaside.

The Leadership package on day 5 involved all cadets getting to grips with a series of command tasks. They learnt the importance of planning how to tackle problems, how to give a good briefing and how working together and supporting one another can lead to success. That afternoon was spent receiving instruction on the importance of communications provided by the Royal Signals. This included assembling radios and establishing a communications network around the Wathgill camp. The evening event was an obstacle course where all cadets performed exceptionally well and come a close second in the competition.

The Adventurous training package on the last day gave all cadets the opportunity to rock climb and abseil. Cdt Jacobs showed his agility here and excelled in this area while others, including some officers, found it not so easy.

The final event of the week was the orienteering competition. A senior team made up of Cpl's Bramwell, Hogan, Saunders and Squire made an

excellent effort and scored the highest total of the day which earned them the praise of 4CTT who had organised the event. L/Cpl Cook shone as one of the middle ranking cadets on the course.

All in all a very busy, tiring but fun packed week.

Lt D. Wilson

CCF RN Section

The section has completed a very successful year's training. This was the first year that the corps has been voluntary for Years 10 and 11 and I was very impressed with the new intake's interest and enthusiasm.

The success of the training is due to the efforts and commitment of the NCO's and I would like to thank Chris Ellaby, Nic Lowry, James Wilkinson, Stuart Miles, Natalie Levin and Jamie Bradley. All have done well in the training of the younger cadets in a variety of skills ranging from the role of the Royal Navy, ship and aircraft recognition, through navigation and seamanship to leadership skills. We continued to strengthen our links with our parent establishment HMS Excellent this year, and undertook several interesting field days organised by our new Area Instructor CPO Cooper. These included a trip to the National Maritime Museum and HMS Belfast. We were again lucky this year to be provided with a day aboard a working Royal Navy vessel, HMS Puncher, our affiliated ship. More cadets than ever are taking the opportunity to

Combined Cadet Force

attend camps and courses, which this year include sailing, powerboat coxswain, advanced canoeing, military training with the Royal Marines, windsurfing and first aid. With a smaller number of more committed cadets we have also been able to undertake more waterborne training in the summer term. Tuesday afternoons have been busy with sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and kayaking on the River Thames. After several years valuable service we had to say goodbye to Lt Simon Brown, who ran the section so ably before I took charge. His knowledge and love of the sea and sailing was infectious and many cadets have benefited from his patient instruction and advice over the years. It was fitting that he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal for service to the CCF (RNR) in his final term at Shiplake.

Lieutenant G. Lawson CCF RNR.

RAF Section

Even though admission to the RAF Section had become voluntary it was encouraging that nearly 30 cadets remained in the section and that there was a good intake of Year 10 recruits.

Highlights of the year included the award of a scholarship for a week long gliding course won by Alex Howard who had already gained the right to glide solo last year. Members of the section are following his example, beginning their gliding career with introductory gliding courses at nearby RAF Benson. Our local RAF



George Rouse busy on the Thames

station has continued to serve the section well with cadets able to gain flying experience in the Grob training craft. During the holiday a group of cadets are flying North for a camp at RAF Kinloss in Scotland.

It was a great honour for the section that Cadet Flight Sergeant Simon Hurlstone was rewarded with the Army Leadership Prize on Speech Day. Flt Sergeant Alex Howard and Corporal Jonathon Boulton have both made major contributions to the smooth running of the section this year, encouraging the cadets to make great progress. Sadly OC Section Flt Lt Sarah Jane McKenna is leaving Shiplake this term. She has brought a wealth of flying experience to the RAF Section and her enthusiasm and energy have both enabled many cadets to enjoy their time in the RAF Section.

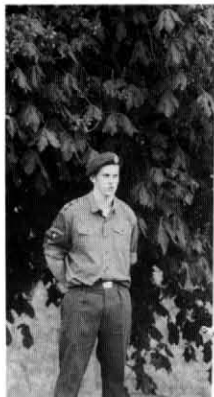
Cadet Sergeant Simon Hurlstone

Beating the retreat

Members of the British Legion, pupils, staff and visiting parents gathered on the College lawns for a highly impressive "Beating the Retreat" ceremony performed by a portion of The Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Duncan Stubbs, Director of Music, led the degree-trained musicians through a spectacular programme of music on the march. After delighting the audience by weaving intricate patterns to the beat of Les Miserables the band came to halt for a high tempo rendition of "633 Squadron" and "Theme to the Dambusters". The evening concluded with cadet members, Alex Howard and Matthew Ashcroft, of the Shiplake College Royal Air Force contingent, lowering the flag.

The band is generally regarded as the premier military band in the United Kingdom. As such it is always in great demand, undertaking 370 engagements a year and travelling more than 64,000 miles every year.



Alex Howard and Matthew Ashcroft



A scene from Beating the Retreat

Rugby



Back Row *I. Duckworth, A. Webber, A. Howard, C. Mills, G. Marshall, C. Ellaby, T. Bellamy, S. Winthrop, A. Steel-Wakefield, T. Clark, S. Goldie.*
Front Row *J. Jaffer, S. Wood, J. Wilkinson, E. Batchelor, R. Gurney, R. Lightwing, F. Field-Hall, C. Armitage*

1st XV Rugby

If a season was judged on results alone then you can say this has been a very disappointing one, but as always statistics do not show the whole picture.

Yes, results do look bad but one cannot fault the tireless way in which this squad, to a man, has worked to improve his own and the team's performance. It is a credit to them all they way they have buckled down to the task and nobody can say that they haven't enjoyed it and improved during the term.

It was always going to be a difficult season with few players with first team experience, added to this the horrendous injury list, which for the first time in memory led to the cancellation of two first team fixtures. However, at no time were there

moans or complaints; all involved accepted the situation and made the best of it as shown when they produced some of the most entertaining rugby seen on the 1st team park, when they ran in seven tries to beat Merchant Taylors. There were some horrendous results as well – Reading School, Blue Coat and Abingdon!

Some of the most pleasing performances were in defeat. Who will ever forget the quite outstanding team effort when the 1st team lost in the Cup semi-final to Henley College? If it were not for their England winger we would have taken a very impressive scalp.

Two days later, tired, bruised and ready to throw it all in, the team produced another unbelievable performance at Oratory School. With the rub of the green we would have won both matches.

Yes, results do look bad and the short-sighted will only look at the results; but I can honestly say from a coach's point of view, one could not have had the pleasure to work with such a co-operative, willing, gutsy and pleasant bunch of rugby players. They were a credit to themselves and the College.

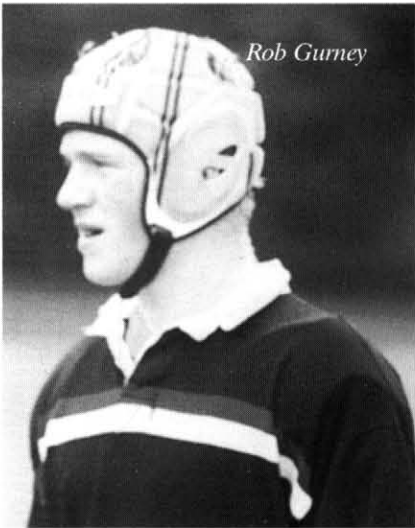
These boys were admirably and efficiently led by their Captain Rob Gurney. They have certainly learnt a great deal and have most definitely enjoyed their season. Results don't mean everything.

P. Emerson

2nd XV

The season started well with an excellent win against Reeds School. Unfortunately for the 2nd XV this meant losing players to the 1st XV and as the season progressed injuries necessitated frequent team changes. However several 3rd XV players soon became regular members of the 2nd and even 1st XV. This revealed the true value of squad training.

If you judged the season by wins we did not perform well, but we competed to the end and never gave up in any game. The forwards this year were excellent and secured valuable first and second phase ball. Several "old heads" in Year 13 gave the team stability and cohesion. Lowndes, Gouldstone, Marshall, Steel and



Rob Gurney



2nd XV

Rugby

Goldie deserve special mention.

Players' "Player of the Year" went deservedly to Alex Bosch who exemplified the team's spirit and attitude. Several new and exciting talents emerged from the Year 12 players, in particular Williams, Chan, Fordham, Hackford, Duckworth, Talbot, Price and Gurtarta. All showed excellent handling skills, strong and positive lines of running and were good team players.

I enjoyed coaching the squad this season and my only regret is that we started most games with a weak first half but always seemed to produce an excellent second half performance. The highlight of the season was the game against Pangbourne 1st XV, a determined and spirited performance where we made them fight for a very narrow victory.

Squad: S. Goldie, G. Marshall, D. Hoskins (Capt.), E. Aleydeino, N. Allan, A. Bosch, J. Blanchard, M. Broughton-Pipkin, J. Chan, M. Coker, I. Duckworth, M. Ellis, J. Fordham, T. Gouldstone, P. Gurtarta, G. Hackford, S. Hurlstone, M. Jackson, T. Lowndes, G. Osborne, C. Price, D. Squire, R. Steele, P. Talbot, M. Williams

G.S. Lawson

3rd XV

An overall "shortage" of players (especially in the "front row") and some bad injury problems made it dif-

ficult to field a 3rd team at times, but the squad responded very well. Several players were called upon to represent the 2nd and even 1st XV's in addition to their first love - the 3rds.

The season started well with a win over Merchant Taylor's 4th team (15-5) when the squad was at full strength, but this was followed by narrow defeats to Bearwood U16A (12-17) and Bloxham 3rds (5-12), and heavier defeats by Oratory 3rds and Abingdon 3rds.

The squad was well led by Nico Lowry, who also represented the 1st and 2nd teams and was awarded "half colours" for his efforts.

Squad :- M.Broughton-Pipkin, T.Lowndes, M.Ellis, G.Osborne, B.Hogan, S.Miles, M.Jackson, S.Hurlstone, D.Ealand, O.Thornton, D.O'Shea, N.Bosch, D.Squire, E.Aleydeino, T.Chambers, J.Fordham, E.Bramwell, J.Oakley, E.Crowe, H.Abu Nahl, M.Ashcroft, E.Grieve, N.Wansa

G. Cassells.

U16A Rugby

This was an exciting season for the U16A Team. The improvement in attitude, skills and team spirit throughout the term was great to see. Opposition teams expecting a pleasant day out suddenly found themselves confronted with a well-organised and

disciplined unit.

A handful of pleasing wins was achieved but probably the most satisfying results were drawn games against Claires Court and Magdalen College School. Although losing to Bloxham by five tries to three, this was probably the most impressive rugby the team has played.

The forward pack led by Colman, Holiasmenos, Mullins and Kunkler developed as a force to be reckoned with as the season progressed. The halves of Thorne and Boggis created headaches for opponents whilst the handling and running of Sampson, Green, Porbeni and Lee developed into a reliable and often slick set of backs.

Huge thanks must go to Mr Martin Unsworth of Henley Rugby Club who introduced a skilful and flowing form of rugby to the team and more importantly installed a pride in themselves and a passion to get out there and compete with any standard of opponents.

Squad: D. Lee, B. Porbeni, A. Green, T. Sampson, J. Mackay, N. Alstadt, J. Gouldstone, G. Boggis, O. Thorne, P. Colman (C), P. Kunkler, P. Mullan, A. Mullins, O. Roitt, J. Boulton, M. Jerome, G. Potts, B. Holiasmenos, B. Flanagan

S.J. O'Brien



Training for the U16 squad

Rugby

U15s Win County Cup

Magdalen College School 7
Shiplake College 20

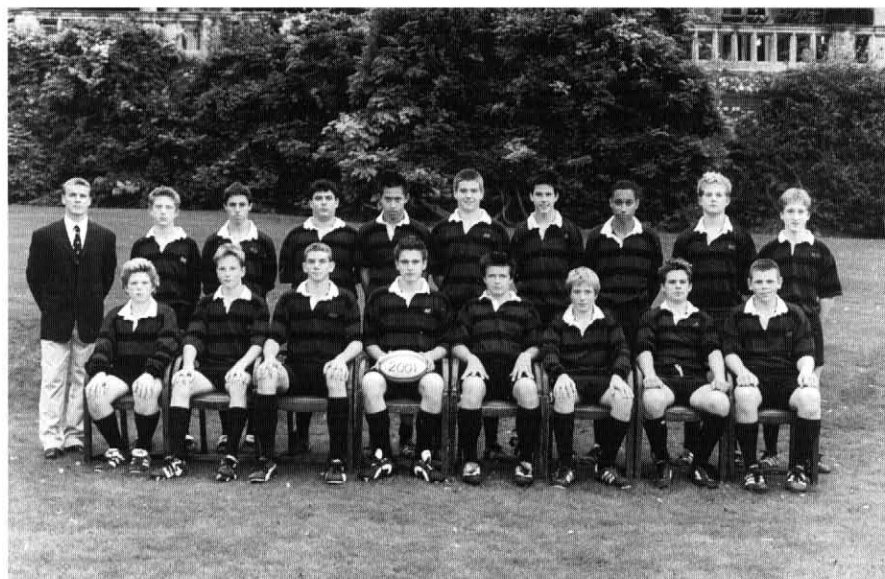
Shiplake travelled to Gosford All Blacks Rugby Club, Kidlington for the final of the Oxfordshire U15 Cup. Against the slope and the wind, Shiplake had most of the possession, but not territory, in the first ten minutes. Much of this ball was turned over due to strong tackling from MCS and the occasional wrong option taken by Shiplake. One of these occasions resulted in the first score of the game, when the Magdalen fly-half was allowed too much space, scoring a fine individual converted try. Shiplake recovered well by speeding up the pace of the game and using more width from quick penalties, taken by scrum-half George Pelling, and supported the ball carrier.

Shiplake's only score of the first half began in their own 22 with an initial run by Ed Blanchard who put Matthew Webber into space on the wing. He was supported superbly by the forwards including Jamie Orpwood, Daniel Clark, Ben Roberts and James Talbot who interpassed well. The try was eventually scored by Captain Archie Fenton who ran strongly through numerous tackles before touching down.

MCS had the better of the second half's early exchanges due to powerful rucking but Blanchard relieved the pressure with some good kicking, chased well by Rankin and Greenhill. This tactical play resulted in a penalty, which was calmly kicked by Blanchard for an 8 - 7 lead.

Shiplake's desire to keep the ball alive with improving communication and work rate allowed Sam Greenhill to score from 30 yards out. Blanchard converted. Even though MCS were now 15-7 down they continued to exert pressure but a 60 yard clearance from Downing gave Shiplake breathing space.

Finally, Pelling chased his own kick through the blind side defence, to



score in the corner. Shiplake had clinched the cup, an excellent reward for hard work throughout the season.

Squad: N. Beaumont, J. Talbot, J. Orpwood, B. Roberts, J. Pengilly, M. Handley, D. Clark, A. Fenton, G. Pelling, E. Blanchard, M. Webber, W. Downing, D. Geneen, S. Greenhill, J. Rankin L. Roberts, G. Smith, M. McCarthy, J. Raper, J. Blake-Baldwin, A. Gilbert-Smith

The squad also progressed to the fourth round of the National Daily Mail Cup, beating Lord William's School (5-13) and Gillotts School (5-12). They were knocked out of the competition by a very strong

Wellington College side (41-0), in a more competitive game than the score might suggest.

The Shiplake players took a long time to recover from this defeat, having not lost before, but have now learnt this very important and valuable lesson, as the last two rounds of the Oxfordshire Cup showed. This will have helped to make them even stronger players in the future.

I would like to congratulate all the boys who have played on their success and thank them for their effort and commitment throughout the season.

A.D. Dix



U15B squad: J. Deakin, M. Haymes, A. Fontannaz, N. Constant, J. Blake-Baldwin, C. Pickering, D. Barrett, G. Rouse, E. Kleyhans, H. Somner, T. Watson, N. Josif, M. Bigland, G. Smith, D. Cullen, S. Morris, A. Basit, C. Cooper

Rugby

U15C Rugby

Like Kamikaze pilots or lambs to the slaughter we walked on to the field knowing it was going to be a blood bath. With Butcher's kick-off rolling over the ten metre line we piled into the opposition, with our hearts on our jerseys and gum shields firmly in place we began the long and tiring haul to victory.

With speed and grace the opposition came at us time and time again – with bodies on the line (Adam Fontannaz can testify) we fended them off just waiting for our opportunity to strike back. At last a penalty, tap and run, Charlie “Bulldozer” Pickering puts his head down and goes, like skittles on a bowling alley bodies fly in all directions, with Teoi and Jake running in close support (well not that close). Colin “Lightning” Thornton sends the ball down the line with “Quick Hands” Lewis, the enemy is caught mesmerised as “The Pace” James Bell flies into the corner flag. Oakley “Dissect the poles” Loudon makes easy work of the kick after all those hours of training.

A tight game ensues with neither team giving an inch and under the marshalling of Captains Leicester “Psycho” Kent and James Johnston the team operates like the well oiled machine it is, as the pack including Marcus and Henry get down to do the dirty work at lock. The back line always in position darts left and right probing for the tiniest of gaps – and with Stephen and Joel we could utilise even the smallest of spaces.

As half time drew upon us our super subs (Jordan, Mark and Paul) came alive with anticipation, as they were ready to make their presence felt. With our bodies re-energised and raring to go, our minds focussed on one goal, get the ball and keep it. We used our battering ram over and over again as James Southgate crossed the gain line driving us up the field.

In the dying minutes a loose ball pops up and the opposition centre



U14s training

pounces and like a bullet he homes in on our try line and within metres Ben “The Blade” Ackerley makes a match-saving tackle that sees the game through to full time. All over and our 100% non-winning streak sees us relaxing in glory as we know next year we will rise again.

Squad: J. Bell, J. Buckley, T.Suebsaeng, C. Thornton, B. Ackerley, H. Butcher, J. Johnston, L. Kent, H. Percy, J. Southgate, P. Hudson, C. Lewis, O. Loudon, M. Mills, M. Cole, J. Hopkins, C. Pickering, A. Fontannaz, S. McCullagh, H. Monk

A. Hundermark

U14A Rugby

The U14As had a very good season, often facing teams who had been playing together for over 2 years. Winning the majority of the games we played, we had some very narrow wins and a couple of narrow losses. We also had an exciting and very rare draw against Milton Abbey, unfortunately conceding a try in the very last minute.

Over the season we had very strong parental support which helped us play and for our last match nearly every parent came. We had some outstanding performances, some strong running from the base of the scrum by Jamie Pegler and Tristan Harper.



U14 A squad

Rugby



U14B squad

Some superb kicking from Ali Sloane won us some matches.

We would like to thank Mr Smye and Mr Brown for passing down their knowledge to us throughout the year.

Kit Stormont

Squad: K. Stormont, T. Harper, W. Sparkes, R. Sparkes, C. Sparkes, C. Alstadt, J. Belgum, A. Geary, J. Pegler, O. Hitchen, A. Sloane, J. Singleton, P. Mortimer, T. Levin, A. Woolnough, R. Lloyd, J. Smith-Jones, S. Hipwood, B. Gouldstone

U14B Rugby

B Teams never have it easy! They lose players, have matches cancelled or meet larger schools with fourteen year old giants playing for them.

However, this year's team have done extremely well and notched up some excellent results. Throughout the season the B team trained alongside the A team, and at times it was difficult to say who was in which team, such was the commitment and skill of the B players. The fact that four boys, James Smith-Jones, Bobby Gouldstone, Sebastian Hipwood and Rida Farage, played regularly for the A team is testament to the depth of skill within the year group.

Excellent wins were recorded against Milton Abbey and Bloxham Schools and there is no doubt that the team, with a large squad of players improving immeasurably over the course of the season.

Special mention should be made of James Smith-Jones who, in a nor-

mal season would have been a regular A team player but who, because of the embarrassment of riches in the A team, played most of his games for the B team. As captain and scrum-half he led from the front, displaying great determination, strength and skill.

Thanks also are extended to Mr Mark Bayliss who coached the team throughout the season and through a mixture of skill, humour and great loyalty, offered the boys the highest level of coaching.

N.J. Brown

Squad: J. Smith-Jones, D. Coppell, R. Oldridge, R. Cajee, S. Kirk, A. De Haan, S. Hipwood, G. Jones, R. Jackson, R. Farage, J. Kunkler, S. James, E. Vaughan-Fowler, R. Gurtata, A. Frost, C. Barker, N. Mannix, B. Gouldstone, G. White, J. Bennett, T. Bennett, S. Pershall, G. Gelu, P. McIntosh, J. Ridgeway, P. Jones

U14C Rugby

The fourteen c's and CEA
 Played rugger on a pea green field
 They took some balls and plenty of falls,
 But mostly forgot their (gum) shields,
 CEA looked up to the skies so high,
 And stirred up his happy band so few
 O tackle them low it won't make you cry
 "You know what you have to do
 To do
 To do
 You know what you have to do!"
 The team said to me, "We are not too slick.
 Our passing and scissors are awry."

U14C squad



We can kick, or give the ball a flick,
 Yet how do we score a try?
 I said "Give it to Cajee,
 Let him run for the line!"
 So from a tap penalty,
 He sprinted off shouting "Mine!"
 Shouting "Mine"
 Shouting "Mine"
 And sprinted off shouting "Mine".
 CEA turned away, Cajee kept veering
 Shrugging off bodies in blue,
 The others were cheering, to the line
 he was steering,
 Daring it to be true,
 At last he crashed under the posts
 The team danced and cried with joy
 Points on the board
 And the enemy horde,
 Stared at the muddy Shiplake boy.
 A season of spills and plenty of thrills,
 Has ended with much discovered,
 The whole team gained plenty of skills,
 And even Cajee has recovered!
 Come next season, raring to go,
 You'll see them lining up ag'in,
 Determined this time not to go with
 the flow,
 But score more tries and win
 And win
 And win
 But score more tries and win

Squad: A. Glyn, R. Cajee, M. Eve, C. Jenkins, G. Gelu, A. Musaji, H. Gordon, J. Salmon, E. Adler, J. Ridgeway, R. Jackson, J. Bennett, T. Bennet, S. Shekerzade, P. Jones, C. Duncan, T. Hunter

C.E. Alcock (with profuse apologies to Edward Lear)

Hockey



1st XI Hockey



2nd XI Hockey

1st XI Hockey

Most teams can look back on their season and see a turning point. For the 1st XI of 2002, it happened in the fifth match of the season, after four consecutive defeats. At home on the grass against Milton Abbey, we were 2-1 down with a minute to go. In spite of dominating the game, another depressing defeat was moments away. But then the vital equaliser was scored and a huge sense of achievement and a pulse of self-belief felt by all the players was visible to all.

The team realised they were a good side, then played with a new spirit and conviction, and quite deservedly won the next four matches, enjoying victories over Magdalen College School, Reading Blue Coat, Leighton Park and Mill Hill. The reliable back three of Wood, Hurlstone and Fox were well marshalled by the skilful Gurney, with Steel-Wakefield displaying ever-increasing confidence in goal. Allan, Field-Hall and new-comer Thorne battled away energetically in midfield, providing good service to the flying wingers Batchelor and Fordham. The striking partnership of Jaffer and Greenham relied on touch rather than pace, but both found space and made good use of their opportunities.

The highlight of the season was the superb team effort to defeat Stowe 3-2. Shiplake's motivation and desire to win was evident in every

player, and maintained throughout the whole match. Such a fine display should have been enjoyed by more than just the handful of loyal supporters.

I thank Rob Gurney, Ed Batchelor and Andrew Fox for their tremendous contribution to hockey at Shiplake and particularly to the 1st XI over the last three years. Their blazer badges were richly deserved.

Squad: E. Batchelor, A. Steel-Wakefield, R. Gurney, A. Fox, S. Hurlstone, S. Wood, F. Field-Hall, N. Allan, J. Fordham, O. Thorne, J. Greenham, J. Jaffer

P.C.J. Gould



Captain - Ed Batchelor

2nd XI Hockey

The season got underway well with a fine 1-0 victory against Windsor Boys. The team moved the ball around well in the second half and all the indications were that it was going to be another successful season.

The next two games against old rivals Pangbourne and Lord Wandsworth were hard fought and, although we lost to Pangbourne 1-2 and drew with Lord Wandsworth 2-2, they were both excellent games to watch and Oscar Thorne showed us what an eye for goal he had by scoring all three goals.

At around this point we were beginning to be hit by the talent scouts who removed Blanchard and Duckworth from our midfield and this contributed to our heavy 4-0 defeat at the hands of Abingdon.

The next game, on grass, was very tight. Very solid defending from Joe Chan and Alex Mullins at the back could not prevent Milton Abbey sneaking a last minute winner.

Our most difficult game, certainly on paper, was against Magdalen College School. At half-time we found ourselves 1-0 up, thanks again to Thorne, and we know that we were in for a rough ride in the second half. We were right. It was all hands to the pumps and in the end we managed to weather the storm and hold them to a 1-1 draw which was our best result against them for a long time. The

Hockey

down side was that Oscar was elevated to the 1st XI.

We all enjoyed ourselves against a weak Leighton Park side and a few more names started to appear on the scoresheet (Crowe, Price and Boggis) and eventually we beat them quite comfortably 3-5.

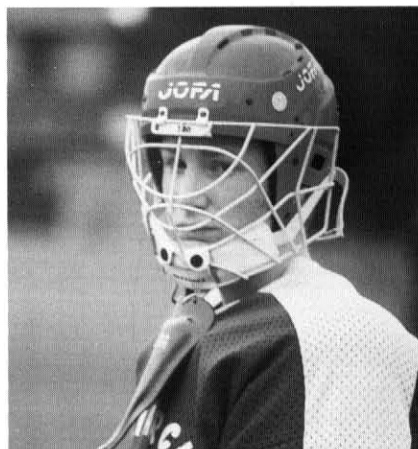
After this game our performances became rather more unpredictable. We lost heavily (5-1) to both Bloxham and Reading School. The Bloxham result was forgivable as they were a very strong side but the Reading game is just better forgotten! We then managed to snatch a draw from the jaws of what should have been victory against Reading Blue Coat!

Our third taste of success came late in the season against Mill Hill, with Apte and Gurtarta finally hitting the back of the net to give us a convincing 4-0 win.

A special mention must be made of our right winger George Boggis who, unstintingly, gave his all for the side by never giving up, running at least six miles every game and snapping at the heels of the opposition when he lost possession - an example for others.

Squad: J. Blanchard (Capt.), C. Mills, N. Baker, J. Chan, M. Coker, I. Duckworth, P. Talbot, C. Price, G. Boggis, P. Gurtarta, V. Apte, T. Sampson, E. Crowe, O. Thorne

R.C. Snellgrove



Keeper - Johnny Boulton

3rd XI Hockey

Overall the 10 match season was a huge success; winning 5 drawing 2 and losing a mere 3. Most importantly there was a great team spirit throughout from the forwards, midfield and backs. All eleven players and the reserves contributed, whatever their year, giving a wide knowledge and experience of the sport. For some it was the first season of hockey ever.

Our wins were slightly spread through the season, but towards the end of the season we were on fire, winning four consecutive matches. There were some outstanding performances from Daniel Uprichard, Ed Cook and Matthew Ellis brought out by our coach, the humorous and amazingly patient Mr. Hunt.

Squad: B. Nicholas E. Cook
D. Uprichard, M. Ellis, J. Mills,
S. Winthrop, J. Finch, M. Oldridge,
P. Cadman, N. De Roumanie, J. Larkin,
N. Baker, M. Ellis

Ben Nicholas

U15A Hockey

In previous years there have been many occasions when our effort has not been rewarded with results but



The 3rd XI

not this season. This year we have had a great season. 6 wins, 3 draws and 2 lost. 30 goals for and 14 against.

We were much the better team against both Pangbourne and Lord Wandsworth but they held us to frustrating draws. Though we also drew against Bloxham this was a game of such high quality astro hockey the result was of lesser importance and the game was enjoyed by all.

Beating Windsor Boys' School revealed our ability to score very well worked goals and the following overwhelming win against Reading School produced some more marvellous team goals. One of our regular supporters for many years remarked that seldom had he seen such well worked goals at any level at Shiplake. David Geneen and Leo Robarts played a key role in creating such goal scoring opportunities.



Team talk for the U15As

Hockey

For both our hardest matches against Stowe and Magdalen College School we sadly had three key players missing which was a shame. We lost them both 1-2, but it was good to see the players who came into the side do such a fine job.

We were blessed with a very well balanced team and everybody contributed to our success. However, Joshua Raper in goal was a tower of strength and a real talent for the future. Ed Blanchard's wonderful movement off the ball and powerful, skilful runs were very influential in our success. David Geneen on the right wing was so fast that his penetrating runs time and time again opened up even the best defences. David received the award for the most outstanding contribution to the effectiveness of the team.

Finally, in the heart of the team was the dominant presence of the captain Will Downing. His controlling of the midfield, helping out in defence and supporting the attack proved a real inspiration to the team. Will was a worthy winner of the Players' Player award.

Squad: W. Downing, L. Robarts, D. Geneen, J. Raper, D. Cullen, J. Blanchard, H. Butcher, N. Beaumont, H. Pelling, J. Talbot, J. Southgate, S. Greenhill

R.T Mannix

U15B Hockey

The season started well with a well deserved 6 – 1 victory over Pangbourne. George Rouse scored 4 of the 6 with Oakley Loudon and Abdul Basit adding the other two, making this first game a very rewarding one. Unfortunately Rouse was "discovered" by the 15A's coach!

Subsequently the matches became more difficult and we failed to achieve another win. Illness during the middle part of the term contributed to the following defeats against Milton Abbey, Bloxham and Abingdon.



The U15A squad

The spirit and the attitude never faltered however and our luck started to change towards the end of term, when although we did not win against Windsor Boys and Reading School we showed more skill and the results were closer. This enabled us to end the season in a more upbeat mood.

George Smith and Marcus Mills took turns to captain the Bs and were successful at leading and motivating their team-mates. Credit must go to Sam Greenhill in the centre and Chris Cooper who played very effectively in defence when he returned after a leg injury. Much aggressive tackling saved many goals once again!

Squad: M. Cole, C. Pickering, J. Deakin, S. Greenhill, A. Basit, G. Smith, G. Rouse, M. Mills, C. Cooper, O. Loudon, P. Hudson, N. Josif, J. Bulkely, H. Monk, S. McCullough

L.E. Eccleston

U14A Hockey

This year's Under 14 A Team underwent many stern tests of commitment, skill and character and passed them all with flying colours. Once again the likes of Magdalen, Abingdon and Bloxham proved just a little too much for our boys, yet, in all these matches, the considerable individual skills of



The U14A squad

Hockey

Ali Sloane, Piers Mortimer, Chris Alstadt and Nick Mannix were evident. So too, the massive commitment of goalkeeper James Smith-Jones. Against Bloxham, the opposition coach had to concede that James was a far better keeper than their own, who, it turned out just happened to be the county keeper!

Throughout the season the skills of Jamie Pegler, Alex Woolnough and Charlie Page developed, so that by the end of term they too were making significant contributions to the side's success. Tom Bennett and Sam Pershall played well in the midfield and Kit Stormont and Richard Lloyd supported them well on the wings and also in midfield. Bobby Gouldstone and Tom Levin played a few games and fitted in admirably.

A well-balanced side achieved a well balanced season, winning as many matches as they lost! If results depended purely on spirit, commitment and a large slice of skill, then it was most certainly a winning season.

Squad: A. Sloane, P. Mortimer, C. Alstadt, N. Mannix, J. Smith-Jones, J. Pegler, A. Woolnough, T. Bennett, S. Pershall, K. Stormont, R. Lloyd, B. Gouldstone, T. Levin

N.J. Brown

U14B Hockey

In the beginning we looked like a team that just lacked height. The first couple of matches were fairly disappointing but soon we were playing as a team. From then



Waiting and watching



Warming-up.



There's an umpire in there somewhere.

on we were putting 100% into each match.

Although we did not win many matches, we all still felt that we had won because of the effort everyone put in, from Sherkerzade in goal to Paddy Jones up front.

We had a particularly strong defence with Douglas Coppell on the right, Phillip Loudon-Carter on the left and Tom Levin in the centre. Will Jackson and Bobby Gouldstone played hard in the middle. Richard Lloyd and Captain Edward Vaughan-Fowler were the goalscorers along with Paddy Jones and Ravi Gurtata. Bobby Gordon-Smith tackled well and supplied some top quality balls. Craig Barker also gave some brilliant passes and Alex Musaji competed fiercely.

At the end of the season Richard Lloyd was voted Players' Player along with Tom Levin being voted Coach's Player at the Hockey Club Supper.

Overall the whole team needs to give a special thanks to Miss McKenna and Mrs Cook who took the time to train us and umpire. As a team deprived of height we proved that size does not matter and that it is attitude, application, effort and a willingness to play for the team that count.

Squad: E. Vaughan-Fowler, T. Levin, P. Jones, P. Loudon-Carter, R. Lloyd, R. Gurtata, C. Barker, A. Musaji, D. Coppell, B. Gordon-Smith, S. Sherkerzade, B. Gouldstone, S. Hipwood, F. Humphrey

Tom Levin Year 9

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

It has been said before, to excuse a season with more losses than wins, but this 1st XI should be judged on its age, commitment and improvement throughout the season and not on results alone.

Joe Joynson opened the batting, with fine defensive technique throughout the season and showed early promise during the first encounter, scoring 28 against St. Martin's from South Africa. There were other fine performances from Vikram Apte, 26 runs, and Simon Winthrop taking 3 wickets for 10 runs, but the opposition were too strong on the day. After a further defeat against Windsor Boys', the side earned its first positive result with a draw against Henley College. Julian Mills bowled superbly, taking 4 for 38 and captain James Blanchard (35 not out) and Simon Winthrop (34 not out) put on a stand of 80 runs, which turned out to be the highest of the season.

Apart from 25 runs from Tom Gouldstone, the side were dismissed cheaply and lost against Pangbourne College but then had their first win against St. Edward's 2nd XI. Joe Joynson (17 runs) and Oscar Thorne (20 runs) laid the foundation for the 104 run total, with William Downing (39 runs). Shiplake College won by 26 runs with Tom Sampson taking 3 wickets in one over. The next performance, against Reading Blue Coat was probably the most disappointing of the season. With Shiplake batting first, wickets again fell at regular intervals, but William Downing (36 runs) helped the side to a low but defendable total of 116. In the field Shiplake were poor, dropped numerous catches and appeared to have lost the desire to make the opposition work for every single run. Shiplake lost by 6 wickets.

During the following week though, the squad worked hard in training, particularly on fielding and produced the most 'professional' and

clinical performance of the season, beating Claires Court by 10 wickets. Shiplake were alert in the field with fine catches taken by John Finch, Iain Duckworth and Tom Gouldstone and William Downing earned the season's best

bowling figures of 5 for 20. Claires Court were all out for 45. Joe Joynson (17) and Oscar Thorne (20) then batted with maturity, against a fine bowling attack, to reach the required total. Claires Court did have their revenge later in the season, when they knocked us out of The Shield

Even though the side lost, the game against Reading School showed positive signs for the future as Oscar Thorne gained confidence from training and took 3 for 15, bowling an excellent spell of leg spin. William Downing also scored a free-flowing 67 runs, the team's only fifty of the season, to which he would later add another 47 runs during the second victory of the year at home to Bloxham School.

The final win of the season was against The Old Vikings, in a closely fought low scoring game. Braedon Hogan, who kept well all season, took 3 catches behind the stumps. William Downing, Oscar Thorne, Tom Sampson and Julian Mills took 2 wickets each, with the latter taking the prize wicket of Tom Caston, caught by Tom Gouldstone, who is still grinning!

Appearances were also made by Finch Field-Hall, Edward Bramwell, who took 2 wickets at Pangbourne and Alex Steel-Wakefield; the latter two will feature more next year. William Downing must get a special mention for achieving the highest runs total (280), the highest average



1st XI squad

of 23.3 and took 13 wickets. I am sure he will look to improve these figures greatly in future seasons. Julian Mills bowled consistently straight and was the highest wicket taker with 15.

I thank all the boys for their hard work throughout an enjoyable season and James Blanchard for his excellent leadership. With almost all of the squad remaining, as long as continued dedication to training and increasing maturity in shot selection occurs, the future looks extremely promising. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the coaches, Jane Burt for her organisation, Richard and Simon for the grounds and Ken, Steve and Dave for the teas.

Squad: J. Blanchard (Capt.), T. Gouldstone, B. Hogan, I. Duckworth, J. Joynson, W. Downing, J. Mills, E. Bramwell, O. Thorne, S. Winthrop, J. Finch, T. Sampson, F. Field-Hall, A. Steel-Wakefield

A. D. Dix



Openers Joynson and Blanchard

Cricket

2nd XI Cricket

Although it was, once again, a much reduced season due to exams, it was nonetheless quite a successful one. We made a policy of playing only limited over matches this year and I think this heightened the interest for all concerned.

The first match was against our old rivals Pangbourne who managed to score 129 from their 30 overs. In reply we could only muster 84 with Alex Steel-Wakefield top scorer with 31.

A much improved batting performance was seen against St. Edwards with Steel-Wakefield and Crowe putting on most of the runs in a total of 124. The nagging length of Potts and the deadly guile of Lindsay ensured that the opposition was restricted to only 53 and our first victory was under our belt!

Inspired by this success, we then went from strength to strength. With the side bolstered by the inclusion of Finch Field-Hall, we overwhelmed Reeds with a massive total of 220 thanks mainly to a swash-buckling 115 from Field-Hall and a very rapid 38 from Howard. Some good tight bowling from De Roumanie and Steel-Wakefield which followed, meant that Reeds could only manage 122 at the end.

Our bowling also played a big part in restricting Reading School to only 84 and a good knock again from Steel-

Wakefield and Finch gave us a win with seven wickets to spare.

Overall then, a short but sweet season and I would like to thank Alex Steel-Wakefield for captaining the side with such a positive attitude and Jon Lindsay for ... well just being Jon Lindsay!

Squad: A. Steel-Wakefield (Capt.), A. Howard, E. Bramwell, G. Potts, G. Boggis, E. Crowe, N. Baker, N. DeRoumanie, J. Larkin, J. Lindsay, S. Hurlstone, G. Potts, F. Field-Hall, J. Bradley, J. Finch

R.C. Snellgrove

U15 Cricket

The season began, for some, in January. Ed Blanchard, Josh Raper and James Talbot were always keen to work on their batting and Josh Rankin began developing that nagging off stump length that was to prove so effective once the days lengthened. But it is the glorious uncertainties that make cricket the game that it is. No one can remember Leo Robarts batting in the nets but once the season arrived his batting developed beyond the potential shown last year.

A sound season-opening victory over Pangbourne suggested what was to come and what might have been. Wickets were shared between Rankin, Talbot and Cullen. Two run-outs demonstrated how sharp the fielding could be, but a 5 in the opening overs

of the season showed that fielding concentration could also slip. Talbot contributed an essential 40 but the tail wagged with Abdul Basit and George Smith seeing the side home when victory was far from assured.

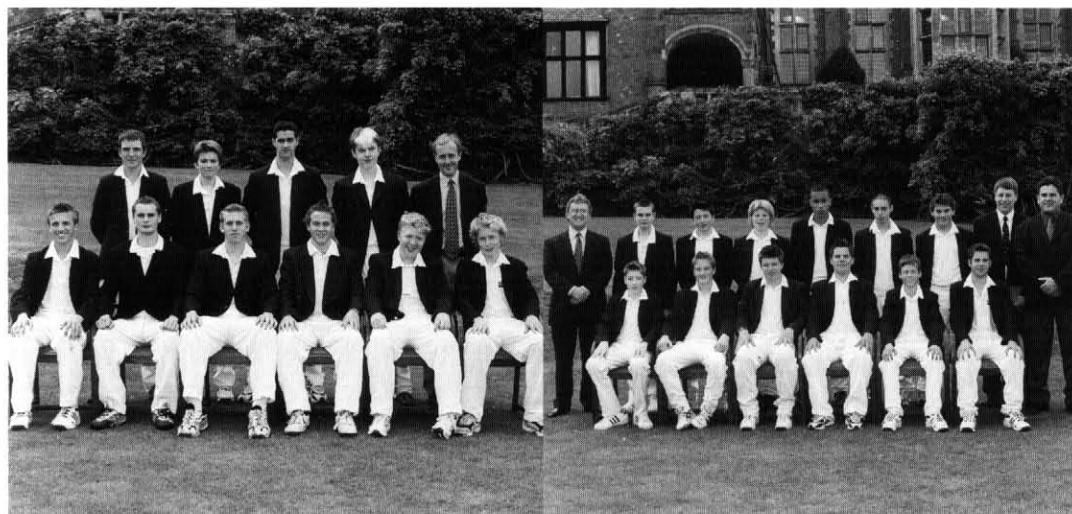
Will Downing, three times century hero last season, spent most of his season in the 1st XI, but a powerful cameo innings against Reading Blue Coats hinted at the devastation he could have inflicted on Under 15 bowling. One savage blow cleared the road and hammered onto Mr. Hunt's front door.

Ed Blanchard, kept wicket and captained with increasing assurance, and during his absence a confident Josh Raper took on the skipper's role admirably. Chris Cooper and David Geneen showed their athleticism in the field and Jack Deakin was a committed team player. David Cullen, correct with bat, consistent with the ball, and lively in the field was always likely to make key contributions.

There were disappointments, such as the failure to pass 80 against Magdalen College School, but there were also some emphatic victories. Leo Robarts' 71 set up a 55 run limited overs win versus Licensed Victuallers' School and Bloxham succumbed to a very depleted side. An unbeaten 71 from Blanchard proved to be the highlight of a nine wicket victory over Reeds.

Squad: E. Blanchard (Capt.), J. Raper, J. Talbot, D. Cullen, D. Geneen, G. Smith, J. Deakin, C. Cooper, L. Robarts, A. Basit, L. Kent, M. Webber, J. Rankin, S. Greenhill, M. Mills

N.J Brown & A. Hunt



2nd XI squad

U15A squad

Cricket

U14A Cricket

The U14As had a very encouraging season. In all there were eight victories with a further four matches that slipped away and just two draws. With a little more application and concentration, particularly from the batsman, these losses could have been converted into wins.

Alastair Sloane led the way with 390 runs scored at an average of 35.5. James Smith-Jones scored over 200 runs and averaged over 25, also keeping wicket, although injury deprived him of a few games. Captain and opening bat Kit Stormont proved reliably consistent at seeing off the opposition's opening bowlers but never went on to get the really big score that his application warranted. Richard Lloyd also made excellent progress as an opening batsman prepared to wait for the bad ball.

A highlight of the season had to be Sloane's double hat-trick, 4 wickets in 4 balls, in an impressive burst of pace bowling against Leighton Park. Sam Pershall, with 17 wickets at just 10.5 each was consistency personified. With Jon Ridgway taking 16 wickets and Alex Woolnough 14 the opposition were always likely to find batting difficult against a formidable pace attack.

In the field it was Woolnough who led the way with 9 catches, followed by Bobby Gouldstone's 4 and

Nick Mannix fielded competently too.

Sound fielding was a contributory factor in the final triumphant Sunday of the season. Playing at home on the 1st XI square both Pangbourne and Claires Court were comfortably defeated as the U14 Shiplake Shield was won.

Squad: K. Stormont (Capt.), A. Sloane, J. Smith-Jones, R. Lloyd, C. Alstadt, S. Pershall, P. Jones, J. Ridgway, R. Lloyd, B. Gouldstone, P. Mortimer, A. Woolnough, C. Page, N. Mannix

P.M. Davey

U14B Cricket

The under 14 B cricket side had an encouraging and enjoyable year in 2002. The team members were an eclectic group consisting of many first time cricketers and a few boys skilled in the basics of the game. Early matches were a struggle for the team as almost all members were only familiar with the backyard variety of cricket. The team went from strength to strength, eventually beating a team from Radley College.

Charlie Page led by example with the bat, the ball and with his general attitude on and off the pitch. The team showed more talent for bowling than batting, and because of this the team relied on the same names week in, week out to get the runs. Sebastian Hipwood hit the ball firmly

and well, and thus preferred hitting boundaries to running singles. After a slow start to the season, Shahin Shekerzade showed the most promising batting technique of the team. Alex Musaji and Piers Mortimer would consider themselves all-rounders, as they are, but their contributions with the bat were especially important. Doug Coppel was perhaps the most inexperienced player at the beginning of the season, but showed the greatest over all improvement within the team, culminating in a determined batting effort which led to the only victory of the season. Richard Binnie proved to be an invaluable scorer.

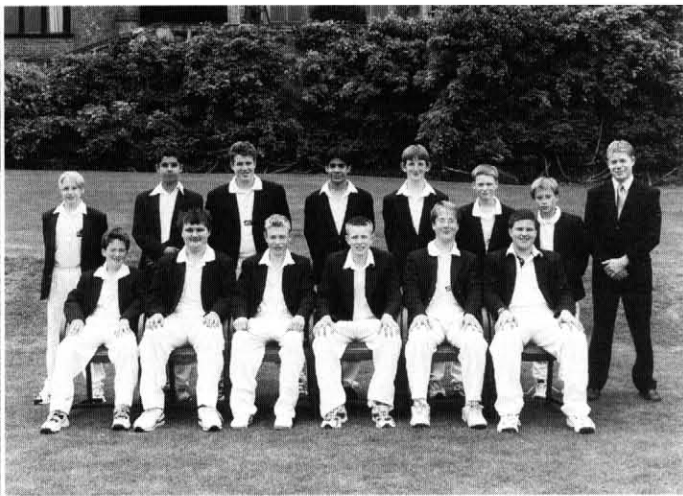
Phillip Loudon-Carter warmed to the task of wicketkeeping very quickly. By the end of the season Craig Barker was a first change bowler who at times showed glimpses of real talent. Richard Oldridge and Will Jackson were our opening bowlers throughout the season. Richard showed great consistency while Will was the attacking, although sometimes erratic, bowler of the partnership.

Squad: C. Page, R. Gurtarta, F. Humphrey, B. Gordon-Smith, S. Hipwood, S. Shekerzade, A. Musaji, P. Mortimer, D. Coppel, R. Binnie, P. Loudon-Carter, R. Oldridge, W. Jackson

T. Bright



U14 A Cricket



U14 B Cricket

Rowing

The Boat Club

As Master in Charge of Rowing, I would have to feel pleased with my first year at Shiplake College. Six head wins were followed by 20 regatta victories (if my reckoning is correct!) with a handful of losing finalists. The bulk of those wins seemed to come from the junior section of the club with the J14s achieving seven regatta wins and the J15s a total of 11 Head and regatta victories. There is a good and competitive spirit in this section and I look forward to these guys continuing in the same vein next year.

Led by Athol Hundermark and ably assisted by Chris Alcock and Grant Lawson, the J14s have had a superb season. With wins coming in doubles, quads and octuples, this squad have showed strength in depth. With no less than 38 members the vast majority of these were able to compete in at least one regatta including a private match versus Oratory School. They have had an enjoyable season and I hope that most of them will decide to carry on to achieve even greater things at J15 level.

The J15s have also had a most successful season. While the majority of wins have come from the quad of James Blake-Baldwin, Martin Haymes, Archie Fenton, Alex Esslemont and coxes Colin Thornton



The J14's massive squad

and Tom Bennett, there is more talent spread across the squad which I hope will be developed further at J16 level.

The quad started off with a fine win at the Schools Head of the River in March. They then ended the season with a comfortable victory at Reading Town Regatta. In between they remained unbeaten (well, almost!), achieving a total of 8 wins.

The highlight had to be their gold medal in J15 4+ at National Schools Regatta on the Saturday. This was

supposed to be a "fun" event with no real pressure. However, the following day they could "only" manage a bronze in the J15 IV+ . This was effectively their only defeat of the season, still an excellent achievement after competing five 2000m races in two days. Added to this they experienced the opportunity to race in the qualifying event for the Fawley Cup at Henley Regatta, minus cox Colin Thornton. Keeping a "low key" attitude, they missed out on making it



The J14 octuple crew



The Sparkes tripelets show their trophies

Rowing



Victory at Bedford for the J15 crew

into the actual regatta by only 12 seconds. It all bodes well for next year when I hope to see other members of the squad try and challenge for places in the top boats, perhaps two quads competing at Henley Royal Regatta?

This year saw oarsmen in the J16 group face a big step up in standards as rowing suddenly becomes a lot more serious in this age group. Although plenty of good technical training was completed during the Spring Term the result at the Schools' Head of the River was quite disappointing. The rowing was of a respectable standard but the lack of aggression allowed the row to be a little too comfortable.

Following Easter the group was split into a quadruple sculls and a coxed four to introduce an element of competition. The coxed four of Danny Lee, Paddy Colman, Pierre Kunkler, Peter Mullan and Rory Lamrock struggled to find form but raced a number of times, competing well in novice eights, combining with four sixth formers. They did well to gain a place in the final at the National Schools' Regatta and it was good to see Pierre Kunkler win his novice pot at the Thames Valley Park Regatta.

Meanwhile the quad of Paul Aitchison, Adam Green, Basil

Holiasmenos and Alex Cadoux-Hudson rose to the challenge and became an effective racing unit. They surprised themselves at National Schools and progressed impressively through the heats and semi-finals to gain a place in the final of a very competitive event. The boys also showed their versatility racing well in the singles and double sculls with some good results. They were rewarded at Thames Valley Park winning a well deserved pot in J16 quadruple sculls and also performed with great credibility in the qualifying race for Henley Regatta. All of this was a very

sharp learning curve and they have gained a lot from their coach Shane O'Brien which should form a good base for them to compete at Under 18 level next year.

The seniors have had a lean season in terms of wins. However, the 1st VIII achieved a great deal, led by Suzie Ellis. They started well with two wins at Hammersmith Regatta. They then found the going very tough at Notts City and Poplar Regattas. The standard of competition at this level is very high and they by no means disgraced themselves. However, drawing on such a small pool of available oarsmen, they continued to improve their technique and fitness, maintained a professional and determined approach and stuck to their task throughout. It was therefore a major disappointment to them to miss out on a final berth at National Schools by the smallest of margins! Success and failure can be divided by the smallest of margins! It was just bad luck to then draw Groton School of the United States in the first round of the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley Royal. Groton went on to reach the semi-final of this event.

The sixth form girls rowing began slowly but Sally Unsworth did a fine job coaching, encouraging and motivating them. As the season neared the end with 4 girls competing in crews at



The 1st VIII rowing at Henley Royal Regatta

Rowing

Marlow Town and Thames Valley Park the girls suddenly found the urge to do more. I am sure that Shiplake College should see much more of the girls rowing over the next couple of years.

All in all, it should be said that Shiplake showed that its rowing is still very competitive. I have to thank all of the coaches and rowers for all of their efforts. I must not forget Austin, our boatman, who kept our fleet in the water! Matthew Ashcroft and Adrian Percival also did a great job in making sure that the boats were ready for launching.

A big thank you must also go to the parents who drag themselves from regatta to regatta offering much needed support and encouragement. Indeed, our parents' supporters association now seem to be refocused and ready to develop this support of the Boat Club. Our Boat Club Dinner seemed to go down well with a great speech from Kathryn Grainger, an Olympic Silver Medallist from the Sydney Games. I must thank Chris Gardner from Burr for his editing of the Boat Club video which will hopefully go on sale in the Autumn Term. However, its showing at the Dinner in March had a small technical hitch (no sound!), further footage of the remainder of the season is still to be added. Its sales will be a useful fund raiser for the Boat Club.

My thanks to the Headmaster for his continued support, and I look forward to the next round of heads and regattas and a possible rowing tour next Easter. Thanks also to Jamie Falvey as Captain of Boats and to the rest of the Boat Club Committee (Stuart Miles, Tom Saunders, Matt Jackson, Charlie Cort, Alex Esslemont and Alex Cadoux-Hudson) who put forward their much needed ideas and support.

M.B. Partridge



Mountain back-drop for camp training.

Swiss Rowing Camp

Leaving a country that has an abundance of rivers and lakes that are suitable for training I was aware that the venue we were heading to had to have something special to offer.

The pupils flew to Zurich with Ms Ellis and then caught the train to Sarnen where we had arrived a few hours earlier after towing the trailer through France. I was taken back by the setting that played host to training camp; tall pyramidal peaks covered in snow flanked an icy blue lake about 3 miles in diameter. The accommodation was warm and comfortable and well equipped to deal with the needs of rowers.

The rowing was excellent and it was great having such a large expanse of water on which to train in comparison with the twists and turns of the Thames. The clean clear water that had restricted access for motorboats was a far cry from the murky waterways we had already spent so many hours on. I feel the rowing camp served its purpose well in uniting the crews and providing them with the essential preparation for the long season that lay ahead.

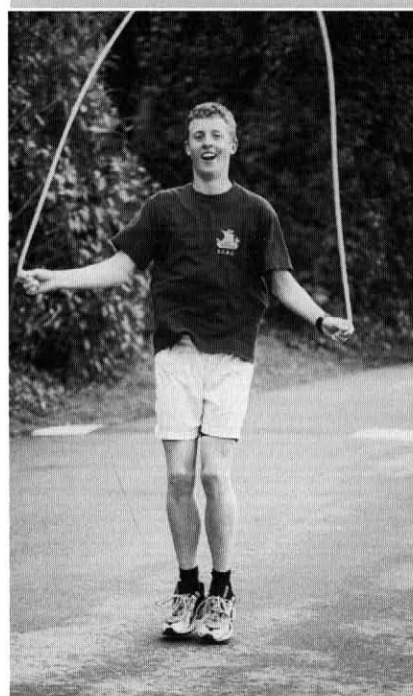
In order to ensure that it wasn't all work and no play we headed up to the local ski resort to take in the beauty of the area and try our hand at the slopes.

Without the efforts of Mr Partridge and Ms Ellis this trip would not have been possible and it is their commitment and dedication that has made this year such a success in the growth of the rowing club.

A. Hundermark

Squad

Jamie Falvey
Gordon Marshall
Stuart Miles
Charlie Cort
Tom Saunders
Richard Lightwing
Chris Ellaby
Matt Jackson
James Wilkinson
Alex Cadoux-Hudson
Paul Aitchison
Alex Esslemont
Martin Haymes



Tom Saunders training!

Tennis

Tennis Club

The tennis club has once again had a good season. The two new grass courts have been fantastic and I would like to thank Richard Evans for all his hard work in getting them ready and looking after them throughout the year.

The players have played 54 matches excluding all the singles tournament matches — quite a season!

I would like to thank the coaches; Peter Gould and Jane Barr for coaching and encouraging the Seniors, Richard Mannix for all his support, coaching and guidance with the junior team, Lorraine Eccleston for coaching the girls and David Wilson who has run the leagues for non team players. Without their dedication and support the club would not be the competitive and fun club that it is. Thank you also to Lowri Cook who has been in charge of Tennis as an activity on Friday afternoons and to Jill Weld who has assisted Lorraine in coaching the girls.

Well done and thank you to Jamie Summers the Club Captain and Nick Allan the Secretary.

The fun day of mixed doubles with Queen Anne's

Sixteen senior members of the club drew partners and had an enjoyable afternoon playing in a mixed doubles round robin tournament. The weather was a bit unstable but we were able to complete the matches. Our thanks again to Heidi Marvin at Queen Anne's who made it all possible.

Notable victories and narrow defeats

The first VI did well to beat The Oratory and Pangbourne. We play fixtures against big tennis schools and it is very much to our credit that we get invited back to compete with the likes of Wellington and Radley.



1st squad

Outing to the Stella Artois

Seats on Number One court for Brit Dalgedo v American Mamit promised much but after just seven games the covers had been on twice. Jane Barr's group tried their luck on Centre Court, for Rossett v Parmar but the heavens opened once again. So they left Queens Club hoping for better weather next year.

Singles Championships

Jamie Summers beat Nick Alstadt in the senior singles but there was an Alstadt victory in the Junior singles when Chris defeated Henry Pelling

Playing in the new Oxfordshire Independent School's Tournament

This has yet again been a huge success and our sincere thanks once again to Mike Dean at Radley and all of the OXIST committee that have helped to make this major event possible. Schools that entered included Radley, Abingdon, Pangbourne, Bloxham and the Oratory. All team members deserve to be congratulated for a fine effort.

The junior squad came third in the top pool and the senior colts also came third in their pool. The seniors won their pool for the second year in a row.

The Juniors

In the first round of the OXIST cup the Juniors beat Radley 2nd team,

Abingdon and Oratory School to be overall winners on the day and through to the top pools. Overall we had a great season beating teams like Pangbourne, Reading and Wellington before sadly we lost our final two matches with our team heavily depleted on both occasions. Harry Butcher (Captain) and George Pelling were sharp and consistent at first pair and an exciting new

Year 9 pairing of Chris Alstadt and Ed Vaughan Fowler at second pair made a major contribution to our successful season. The third pair, Henry Monk and George Rouse did a fine job with James Southgate and Stephen McCullough ably supporting the team.

A.R. Cheadle

Squads

Juniors

Harry Butcher
George Pelling
Chris Alstadt
Edward Vaughan-Fowler
Henry Monk
George Rouse
James Southgate
Stephen McCullough

Senior Colts

Pradeep Gurtarta
Jamie Gouldstone
Johnny Boulton
Joe Chan

Seniors

Jamie Summers
Mutch Moawalla
Nick Alstadt
Jennifer Lock
Andrew Fox
Nick Allan
George Hackford
David Hoskins

Sports

Badminton

This was the first serious badminton season at Shiplake for 4 years. All the players and coaches were really enthusiastic about it. We played against Reading School; all the boys had a positive attitude and fought well for each point. Unfortunately we lost to stronger and more experienced opposition. Dave Hoskins was a star, beating his opponent in the singles.

The other match we have played was against staff. Absolutely everyone enjoyed it but took it seriously. Once again the team showed a high level of skills, motivation and fitness, that resulted in an 11-5 victory for the pupils. Dr. Snellgrove and Mr. Gould were unbeaten as a staff pair.



Badminton squad

We want to thank Mrs. Barr and Dr. Snellgrove for being very patient and motivating coaches. We are going to enter the Berkshire league next season, planning to put out a junior and senior team.

Alex Entin Y12

Squash

Squash at Shiplake took a major step forward this year with the reintroduction of matches against other schools. While the number of matches has been limited, the quality of the opposition has not.

All squad members have trained hard this year, under the expert guid-

ance of Luke Gosnic. Vikram Apte and Andrew McDonnell worked particularly hard to improve their game and were awarded full colours for their commitment and vastly improved play.

A record of played 5, won 1, lost 1 reflects well when considering the strength in depth of the large schools like Eton College, Aylesbury Grammar and Bloxham. It is hoped to play more matches next year as schools integrate Shiplake into their fixture lists.

Squad: V. Apte, A. McDonnell, J. Symons, M. Moawalla, P. Webb, N. Alstadt, J. Gouldstone

J. Blunsdon

Athletics

Honours were shared this year over three frantic, competitive athletics afternoons. Every house made their mark.

With a strategic assault of military precision over the two standards afternoons, Everett House marched through to take maximum points, so influential in the Baldry Cup. A strong showing by Skipwith took them into runners-up position.

Everett also took the honours in the Junior Championship while Burr dominated the seniors making a clean sweep of the 4 x 100 events. Burr's dominance in the relays was emphasised by their 4 x 400 team where Richard Lightwing's final leg of Olympic proportions overtook the entire field to snatch first place.



Shane O'Brien organises



Mutch Moawalla on the long jump

Other individual performances worth noting were Johnny Fordham and Gordon Marshall winning the senior sprints and middle distance events whilst Tom Saunders sped to glory in the 1500m. Richard Lloyd of Year 9 did well to take the Junior 1500m, with David Geneen, Dan Clark and Matthew Webber also picking up titles.

Welsh House showed well to finish runners up in the Senior Championships. Not to be outdone Orchard finished the three days of gladiatorial competition, leaving all others in their wake, by dispatching all challengers with an impressive show of strength and teamwork in the tug-of-war.

S.J. O'Brien



The sprints

Cross-Country

A change in the sporting calendar this year saw the cross-country series take place in November. This proved highly successful with the events being blessed with three cold, crisp autumn afternoons. Good conditions allowed the riverside course to be reinstated so the cross-country was truly "cross country".

A pleasing spirit and mass participation was evident. Everett dominated the first race in both senior and junior sections but Skipwith returned to take the honours in the illness-ridden second round. An impressive effort by the Welsh Juniors in the final race saw them snatch the junior standards title whilst Everett hung on to the senior and overall standards points.

However, in the Championship race, Skipwith excelled to win in both junior and senior team events. Alex Cadoux-Hudson deserves special mention for dominating and winning the senior Championship from Year 11. Meanwhile in the juniors, Alex Woolnough won the first two Year 9 runs in convincing style but he suffered breathing problems in the final championship race which allowed Jamie Pegler to win the junior championship with a very strong run.

Feelings of a competitive spirit and house rivalries were to the fore. Many people have revelled in the discovery that running for twenty minutes does not actually cause permanent physical injury. Several people (unnamed) were even rumoured to have practised!

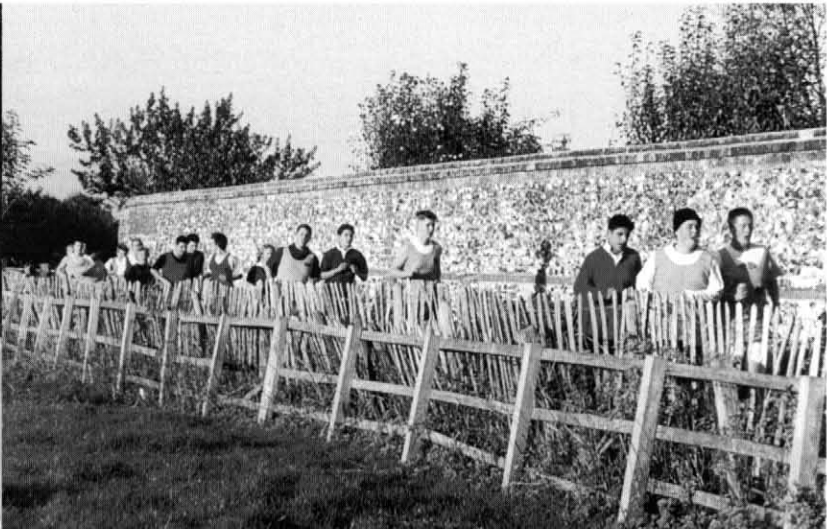
S.J. O'Brien

The Baldry Trophy

- 1 Everett 64 points
- 2 Burr 48 points 3 Welsh 37 points
- 4 Skipwith 31 points 5 Orchard 25 points

Baldry Trophy Results

Senior Cross Country	Skipwith
Junior Cross Country	Skipwith
Senior Athletics	Burr
Junior Athletics	Everett
Senior Rugby	Burr
Junior Rugby	Everett
Senior Football	Everett
Junior Football	Orchard
Senior Indoor Football	Everett
Junior Indoor Football	Orchard
Senior Hockey	Welsh
Junior Hockey	Skipwith
Senior Indoor Hockey	Orchard
Junior Indoor Hockey	Skipwith
Senior Basketball	Skipwith
Junior Basketball	Everett
Senior Cricket	Welsh
Junior Cricket	Welsh
Senior Rowing Four	Burr
Junior Rowing Four	Burr
Senior Rowing Sculls	Everett
Junior Rowing Sculls	Welsh
Senior Tennis	Welsh
Junior Tennis	Burr
Senior Swimming	Everett
Junior Swimming	Everett
Tug of War	Orchard



New Staff



Charles Johnson

Educated at St. Edwards, Oxford, Charles Johnson progressed to Oxford University where he gained an MA in Modern History. His specialist interests lie in Tudor and Imperial History. Before gaining a PGCE from Oxford he worked for Jardine Matheson PLC on their graduate training programme.

During his time at Stowe School he ran the Army section of the School CCF, coached swimming, waterpolo and rugby and was the master in charge of beagling and clay-pigeon shooting.

He is married to Vanessa, a part-time compliance officer in the financial services industry, and they have two young children Camilla and Henry. The family will be living in Tudor Cottage.

Charles, Housemaster of Grafton House from 1993, became Stowe's Senior Housemaster, and for 2002 he chaired the HMC Rugby Group of Senior Housemasters. However, he has remained busy in the classroom teaching history throughout the school, including Oxbridge teaching and also teaching Politics and acting as de facto Head of Department. During his academic career he has been an Assistant A Level Examiner for the Oxford and Cambridge Board.

He has been a county swimmer for Oxfordshire but currently his interests include mountain walking, long distance path walking and reaching remote places in holidays.

Charly Lowndes

Charly Lowndes needs little introduction for most readers. Charly is returning to Shiplake after a year at Magdalen College School, Oxford. He will take over from Andrew Cheadle as Burr Housemaster. For those who do not know, in recent years Charly he has added a PGCE to his Oxford PPE degree in addition to an Open University IT BSc.

As well as tutoring in Burr, during his first four year stint at Shiplake, he helped out with virtually every aspect of school life. Directing plays, jogging around the cross county course and preaching sermons. He also took a prominent role in the Naval Section of the CCF

Keith Buckler

Keith will be teaching Physics. He is married with two children. After A Levels at Farnborough College he gained a Physics degree from the University of Surrey. He has been busy with training and presentation for his most recent employer Miles 33 Ltd in Bracknell. Previous employers in the IT industry have included Racal and Hirst Research Centre.

He is secretary of Sandhurst Lawn Tennis Club and plays badminton during the winter. He is an occasional dinghy sailor and skier but a regular cyclist. He enjoys mountain walking, guitar, history and gardening.

Emma Buckmaster

Emma will be working in Learning Support and helping pupils overcome their difficulties with Mathematics. She will be living on site with her husband.

Initially educated in Somerset, Emma read Biological Sciences at Exeter University and stayed on in Exeter to gain a PGCE. Emma has taught at Maplewood School, Cranbourne School (Basingstoke) and Maiden Beech Middle School. She is a keen traveller having spent 4 months in Mexico and

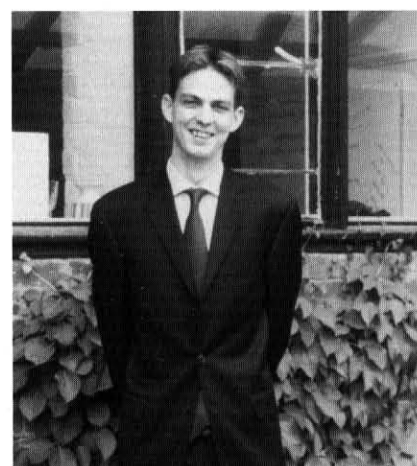


Central America, time in Sri Lanka and various parts of Europe. She enjoys a mixed programme of sports including Netball, Yoga, Pilates, Swimming and going to the Gym.

Luke Foster

Luke is currently working with a former Shiplake teacher, Phil Parker. They are employed by Lymington Holidays in Oxford, an organisation that provides a variety of activity holidays within a Christian framework. Based in the Everett Tutor's flat, Luke will be teaching English.

He was educated at Faith's Academy in Manila, in the Philippines, before taking A-Levels at Eltham College. At St. Anne's, Oxford, he read English. His dissertation focused on the poetry of John Donne, a writer whom he will be covering with the sixth form. Luke's interests include rowing, badminton and basketball.



Leavers

Barry Edwards

After eight and a half years at Shiplake Barry Edwards is departing for a Headship in Devon ...

Quite simply Barry Edwards has done everything at Shiplake. On the higher plane of strategic thinking he has chaired Development Committees, worked with governors and planned the introduction of Curriculum 2000. On a more mundane level his was the voice that moved a million chairs for over eight years of assemblies, concerts, examinations and services.

He arrived at Shiplake after a distinguished stint as Head of English at Highgate School and he continued the good work with excellent GCSE and A Level results at Shiplake. His love of theatre was always evident, most recently in a hilarious outdoor production of *Gargling with Jelly*. Other Edwards productions have included *My Very Own Story* and *Zigger, Zagger*. His superb voice was a welcome addition to almost every choral occasion.

Commanding performances as the Staff Soccer Team's centre-half reminded us of Barry's own sporting



Barry Edwards' final performance in Jubilee Promenade

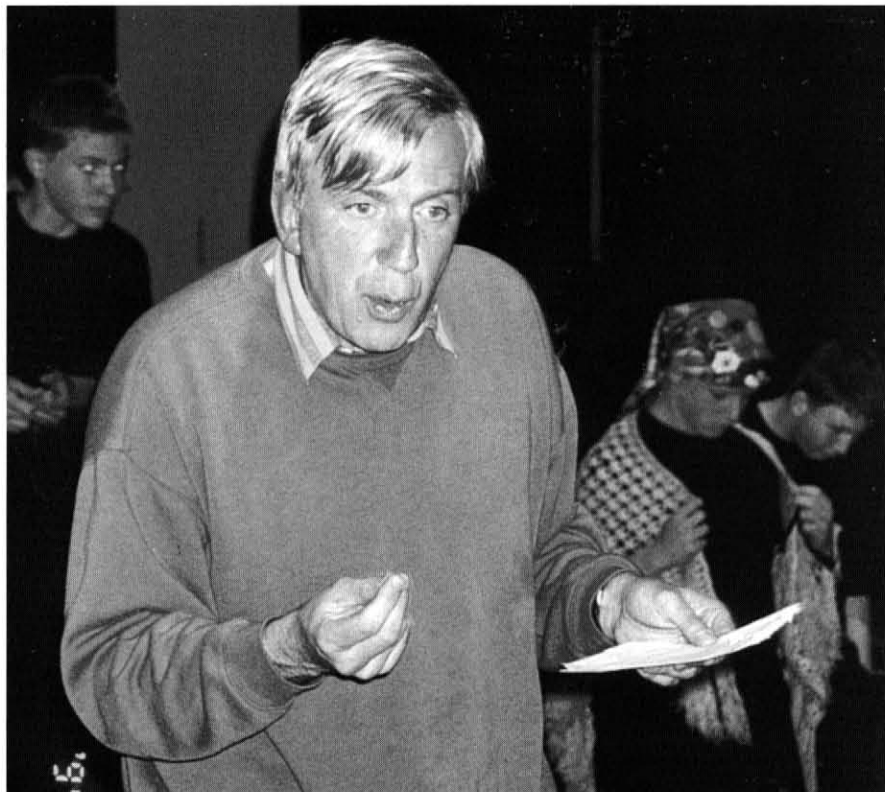
pedigree and he proved to be a highly competent cricket coach and a willing soccer referee.

There are many demands on a deputy head. He has to be a sounding board for the Headmaster and willing to shoulder the burdens of taking difficult and immediate decisions if the

Headmaster is absent.

"Exemplum Docet" is the school motto and Barry has led by energetic example. A Deputy's life is not always a social round of cucumber sandwiches and chilled chardonnay. Barry has had to provide the cover for absent teachers and cajole exhausted colleagues to chaperone a Saturday night dance. At the same time he has helped to create the Staff Development Scheme, conducted many staff appraisals and become adept at boosting the morale of despairing teachers. His sense of humour has been of immense value, defusing tense scenes when a tired colleague has been confronted by yet another chore.

The Governors of Edgehill School, Bideford, North Devon have made a wise choice. In appointing Barry as their first Headmaster, after generations of Headmistresses, they have also secured the services of his wife Jane who will make a great contribution to the life of the school. We wish the Edwards family well and look forward to welcoming back Barry as a guest preacher.



Leavers

Andrew Cheadle

The Burr Housemaster Heads for Rugby School

It was inevitable that Rugby School would snap up Andrew Cheadle for the position of Head of ICT as soon as he applied. Consider the CV. An athletic South African who has served in his country's army, run ultra-marathons, played tennis at a high



Andrew Cheadle

level and gained real-life work experience as an accountant. Then there was teaching experience in London and at Pangbourne. First of all at Shiplake he had taught ICT and Mathematics, soon promoted to Head of the ICT department. He proved to be a highly successful rugby coach and ran a Rugby tour to Australia, coached a little hockey and demonstrated his prowess as a tennis player.

Life's prizes go to the fast learners. Andrew studied for an IT MSc at Reading University, progressed rapidly from tutoring in Skipwith to Housemastering in Burr and along the way turned himself from a wild squash beginner into an accomplished master.

Yet there is more to the package. Wife Caroline, now mother to Emily and Jessica, is a geography teacher and accomplished hockey and tennis coach but well versed in the support needed by the 24 hour resident housemaster. Rugby would have appreciated that it takes a special kind of family to thrive amid the frenetic pace of

boarding school life.

Burr will miss the Cheadle style. Andrew was the first Shiplake housemaster to really apply IT systems to a boarding house. Rules were firm and the Burr house spirit stormed to a Baldry Trophy victory. Tutors were nurtured and it is fitting that Charly Lowndes, a Cheadle protégé, will take over as Burr house master.

Carin Gray

Carin's intense enthusiasm helped her pupils to often create 3 dimensional art-works beyond their expectations. She cared for her pupils and was passionate about their progress: cajoling, judiciously criticising and above all encouraging and inspiring.

Carin was keen to ensure that her pupils received recognition for their endeavours. She believed that her protégés should take pride in their work and took considerable time and care over displaying their pieces. During her 3 years at Shiplake there has been a broadening of the subject, an exciting willingness to experiment with a variety of materials, textures and methods. Perhaps this was epitomised in Charlotte Morse's A Level A Grade *Chastity Belt*. A beautiful, but disturbing, creation of clay, light billowing lace and cold grey metal.

David Stoker remarked: "Funny that English was not the first language of either Angharad, Carin's predecessor, or Carin; but what mattered was their fluency in the universal language of Art. There were 'no translation problems' between Carin and me! Her advice to her pupils was always spot on."

It was to the blue icy lakes and natural green vistas of Sweden that Carin often retreated at the end of term. She would return with tales of temperatures well below zero, her mind freed from the pressures and frustrations of the previous term and her artistic vision revived.

Few teachers can say that they have been head-hunted but perhaps it is a sign of the times, and of Carin's



Carin Gray

quality teaching, that Andover College made it their mission to lure Carin away from Shiplake. Soon they will learn that those quiet little chats with pupils around the bench and kiln will also help to dissolve away some of their pastoral problems.

Sarah-Jane McKenna

After two incredibly busy years at Shiplake, Sarah-Jane has been promoted to Head of Physics at Windsor Boys' School. Above all else Sarah has been a great success in the classroom, enthusing pupils with her own fascination with Physics and encouraging them to apply theory in everyday contexts.

A mark of her ambition has been her willingness to develop her own skills as a teacher, be it on courses or within her laboratory. No one will forget her wholehearted support for the national Science Week and the excitement of the paper-aeroplane competition.

Sarah Jane dragged a long-forgotten trampoline out into daylight and proceeded to give an astounding display of aerial acrobatics. Soon boys and girls were queueing for coaching. Out in the cold Sarah did some sterling work on the hockey pitch, coaching junior teams.

A direct, no nonsense, tell-it-as-it-is approach was ideally suited to the

Leavers



Sara-Jane McKenna

demands of military discipline. The Air Force Section of the CCF flourished under a leader with extensive gliding experience.

Sarah-Jane has shown her flair as a manager and there is no doubting her potential to become an excellent Head of Department, and in time, a future Head of Science.

Marjorie White

Marjorie is a great believer in community and supporting your fellow man. Within the close community of a boarding school these are invaluable assets. When, fourteen years ago, Marjorie agreed to provide short-term cover in the English Department, few people realised what an important role she would play in Shiplake life from Sunday Chapel to Athletics Standards.

Having served as Head of English at Gillotts, Marjorie brought a wealth of teaching experience to the English Department and went on to provide expertise and patience in the Learning Support department. Many pupils have Marjorie to thank for their progress in overcoming problems with their language skills.

Many of us have memories of Marjorie singing with choir and helping out younger musicians at the concerts or carol service. Come Summer Marjorie was a tireless supporter of Malcolm Woodcock's Summer spec-

tacular. Whether it happened to be *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Mikado* or one of Malcolm's creations Marjorie would spend hours developing the choreography. Her husband Malcolm has been a great supporter of the school, watching hockey on the coldest



Marjorie White

of days and always engaging pupils in conversation. Marjorie's absence with pneumonia and the subsequent Common Room chaos as staff attempted to provide their own coffee provided a warning of how much we have come to depend on Marjorie.

Simon Brown

Simon Brown inhabited a subterranean Aladdin's cave of drill bits, washers, keys, switches and bits of wood that might just come in handy one day. He was a veritable magician at coaxing ailing boilers back to life, working miracles with temperamental machinery.

As Clerk of Works Simon's job description would have covered several pages but suffice to say that he was at the sharp end of any heroic effort to overcome floods or pestilence. The bane of his life he christened Flyns, flipping little yellow notes, annoying bureaucratic burdens.

With a seafarer's beard and a ruddy Ancient Mariner complexion there was no doubting that Simon was a man of the sea. He loved introducing



Simon Brown

Naval Cadets to the intricacies of fathoms, mud-flats and bearings on vast shades of pastel-blue sea charts. Fittingly Simon's last working day was April 30th, a day when he donned vivid yellow water-proofs to direct the charity walkers, a retirement date timed to ensure that he made the most of a summer of sailing.

Anna Greaves

Anna arrived at very short notice to plug a gap in the timetable. During her three years of part-time teaching at Shiplake she provided a wide range of teaching including GCSE English and help with Learning Support.

She proved to be quietly effective. Pupils appreciated her understanding and sympathetic approach. She had a natural sympathy with the challenges they faced, whatever the level of course. The English department are immensely grateful for her cheerful adaptability and loyalty.

Kate Fotherby

Kate has been a hugely popular Welsh House matron. The pupils have appreciated her care and concern for their well-being. She has a wonderful sense of fun but has been loyal and supportive in times of crisis. After 5 years in Welsh, Kate has decided that the time has come for her to find more time to devote her own family.

Leavers' service

Barry Edwards's address to the leavers on their last morning at school, on the last day of the summer term ...

It is a lady's privilege not to divulge her age but, as a man, I have no such scruples, and I'm happy to tell you that on 1st August I shall be celebrating, if that's the right word for it, my 50th birthday. 50! Half a century. Sadly, rather more than half a lifetime. Indeed, in former times, I ought, by rights, to have been dead by now – the average life expectancy in Medieval England was about 45. But I intend to go on for a while yet, at least until all of you are 50. At some point, and for the last time ever, after the age of 80, shall we say, I shall take my Shiplake College photograph taken in September 2000 in my shaking hands, I shall hold it close to my misty eyes, and I shall scan the faces as best I can, and what will I make of all of you?

Sadly, there will be a few whose names will long since have seeped away from my memory because, to be honest, I hardly know you now. Although this is a small school, our paths have not crossed. You have not been sent to me for any disciplinary reasons - well done - and though I probably signed a few commendations for you when you were younger, that is hardly the basis for a meaningful relationship between teacher and pupil.

Then there are others of you whom I haven't taught but, for some reason, we have impacted, (as the Americans say) on each other's lives. I could mention Troy Benson, who I can still see, and probably will at the age of 80 plus sitting at the Grand Piano in the Tithe Barn and playing the theme music from Titanic over and over again. There are several more of you in the same category, I hope I will remember at least by name in 30 years time, unless by then senile dementia has crept in.

Then there is another group of you, mostly those I taught for 3 whole years from the 3rd to the 5th Form,

who will always hold a place in my heart. Don't misunderstand me when I talk of my heart; the word I am groping for is affection, an under-used word today, conveying an emotion of warmth, satisfaction, tinged with nostalgia.

I think affectionately of many pupils it has been my privilege to teach in the last 28 years; some of whom I've had no news for over a quarter of a century; a very small number who have gone on to become famous, like Ali G and David Baddiel; and an equally small number who actually keep in touch with me and let me know what is happening in their lives.

And several of you will be held in affection by me until my dying day. As I look around the church, I can see some of you now, my lead characters in *My Very Own Story* which was one of the most enjoyable productions I have ever undertaken.

Since I have divided you into categories, let us not blinker ourselves and pretend that there isn't another group, the group that hasn't made it, for whatever reason, to this moment of farewell, those who were asked to leave and those who couldn't quite fit in academically perhaps or socially. And it is only right that we think now of someone whose death 30 months ago made such an impact on us all. However much we have accepted the tragic fact that Tom Stafford would not be sitting here at this Leavers' Service today, remember that his parents still find it desperately difficult to accept it, that their son who entered this school to gain exam passes to benefit his future has no future life. Let us think of them and Tom.

I didn't intend this address to make you sad on this special day though you will sense that nostalgia is a bitter-sweet feeling, a complex emotion that even I, as an English teacher who has left 3 other schools as I'm leaving this one today, cannot really put into words. The truth is that you, the class of 2002, have shared much, enjoyed the same jokes, sat the same exams, grumbled about the silly rules, (sorry about

those by the way,) savoured the same victories on the playing field and river. You are bound together by those common experiences, and you will, in a sense, be bound forever. But now you break free, you go your own ways and forge new lives that, quite rightly, no longer involve Shiplake College, no longer involve many of the people in this church, including me. And that breaking free is exhilarating, yes, but also a little frightening and a little sad. I share those feelings.

So let's end by celebrating the past. What I can guarantee is that, when I do think back to my time, which has largely been your time, at Shiplake College, I may or may not remember you, or you, or you, but my goodness, I will remember the years with pride and pleasure, and, for that, every one of you has played your part. We have all, each one of us, caused Shiplake College to go from being what it was when we individually came here to what it is now and even what it will be in the future. So in that sense, we will remember each other: when you are 50, you may or may not recall that tall guy with the grey hair, the sarcastic sense of humour and the tie that was always twisted round the wrong way, (that's me, by the way!), but you will, I hope, remember the camaraderie, the fun, the growing up, the mishaps, the triumphs that characterised your time at Shiplake and in that sense you will remember me, Mr Cheadle, Mrs White, Miss McKenna, and I will remember all of you too.

*Back cover:
River morning by Ben Bradshaw,
Year 12*



SHIPLAKE COLLEGE

HENLEY ON THAMES

OXFORDSHIRE

RG9 4BW

TEL: 0118 940 2455

www.shiplake.org.uk