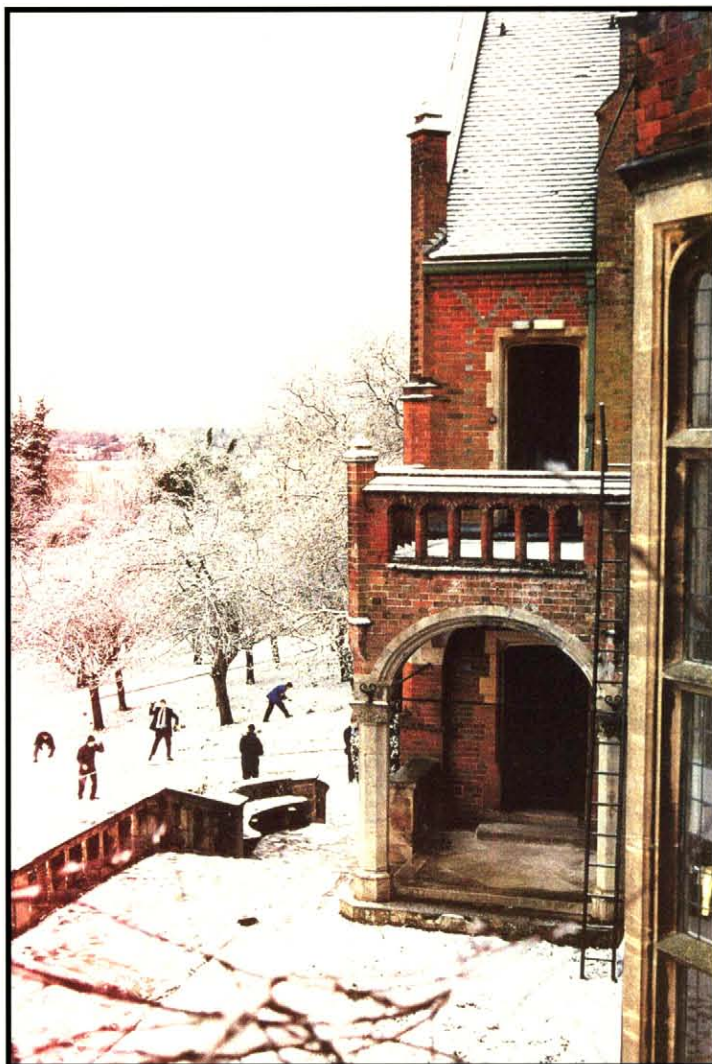


# The Court

2004 - 2005





*The College Christmas Card*

## **The Court 2004 - 2005**

**Editing, design and additional writing**

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# College Officers



Deputy Head of College  
**Adam Gilbert-Smith**



Head of College  
**Daniel Clark**



Deputy Head of College  
**Gabby Hyde**

## ***Heads of House***

Burr  
Sam Liu  
Everett  
Will Downing  
Orchard  
Jamie Orpwood  
Jessica Tyrrell  
Skipwith  
Sam Morris  
Welsh  
Stephen McCullagh

## ***Prefects***

Danika Quirke  
Josh Raper  
George Pelling  
Chris Gardner  
Jack Deakin



*Pupils listen to the Headmaster's first assembly*



## *Gregg Davies reflects on a vintage year for Shiplake College*

Moving from Edinburgh, the Athens of the North, to Henley was exciting for me and a major change for the two girls in my life, my wife Alison and daughter Anna and throughout the year they have given me a great deal of support.

The School Assembly on 3rd September was my first opportunity to speak to the school. I actually wrote two assemblies for that day, the first was a nice, warm and cuddly one about how pleased I was to be here, how much I had heard about the pupils being kind and friendly.

I changed this after seeing some of the Sixth Form come out of supper the night before, so I talked a great deal about appearance. I started with hair and moved all the way down to shoes.

I also shared my vision for Shiplake. I hoped that it would be a dynamic, purposeful, happy and caring place which produced tolerant young men and women who have a sense of humour yet are responsible and articulate with the knowledge and skills to play an informed and useful part in their society. I talked about three words that the community should keep to the forefront of their thoughts at work or at play and these were to be the bedrock on which we could all build. These three words are TRUST, HONESTY and RESPECT. Pupils have heard me refer to these words throughout the year and also the one characteristic which acts as an umbrella for all the others, and that is COURAGE. I had not expected that it would be me who would first be tested, yet in retrospect, perhaps it was the right way round.

I know the whole community of Shiplake College was rocked when one evening four boys returned to the College under the influence of cannabis. This was the test of my beliefs and resolve.

All we can do as parents and teachers is to try and educate the young people under our care about the dangers of drugs and, to this end we asked Johnny Leach, a recovering drug addict, to speak to the various year groups at the College. Hearing from a man who had almost lost everything was much more realistic and we will continue to provide opportunities from which our young people can learn.

A new College Website was one of three targets I set at the beginning of the year. The other two were to ensure the completion of Risk Assessments and to introduce a proper review and development for staff at the College.

Risk Assessments are a necessary evil these days and I believe it is important for us to remember that when we risk assess an activity, we should not be saying that we can't do it. There



*Insisting on high standards of appearance, even after Will Downing has left the Headmaster adjusts his dress for the Summer Ball*

should be occasions when, after completing the assessment, we work out that the activity is risky and, therefore, we ought to be doing it; the key is to ensure that we have done everything we can in terms of safety to prepare for the activity.

As far as my third target goes Mr Charles Johnson has now been reviewed and developed and I am sure he feels a lot better for it!

The ethos of Shiplake College means that it is highly unlikely that you will find us in the premier division of the Times Academic Results League Table when it is published. However, it most certainly does not mean that we take our academic work any the less seriously.

I have talked to staff and pupils this year about increasing the academic

rigour at the College and I have made one or two changes which have started the process.

I have started an Academic Effort League Table and, after progress reports, prizes are regularly given out to those who have worked the hardest. Staff have not been forgotten and they were urged by me to have the mantra High Expectation at the forefront of their teaching from Christmas onwards. I am keen that pupils understand the need to dress appropriately for any given occasion. It was comments from the boys that first made me think about changing the school uniform and introducing a much-discussed blazer.

The prefects have had a particularly difficult time this year having to adjust to the demands of a new headmaster. They have been extremely well led by Dan Clark and I would particularly like to thank him for all he has done to bridge the gap between students and staff this year.



*Prefects Daniel Clark and Jamie Orpwood model the new blazers*



Sport is very important at Shiplake and this has been one of those years that only come around once in a while. I had the privilege of refereeing many of the home 1st team fixtures and became extremely impressed by the skill, tenacity and dedication of the 1st XV.

The Autumn Term saw our first girls' netball team fixture. The girls' skills had improved considerably under the guidance of Mrs Kieranowski and it was wonderful to see their performance improve throughout that game.



*Mrs Kieranowski produced a competitive and skilful netball team*

The Spring Term brought the best team performance of the year. The 1st hockey XI were unbeaten and again, although they were extremely skilful, it was their mental strength that enabled them to keep their record intact.

The future looks extremely bright for the Boatclub. Eight of the nine boys involved in the 1st boat are returning next year and some strong oarsmen from the U16 team show that there will be great competition for places. Sophie Stevens and Jenny Unwin have been a very successful pairing for the girls too.



*Martin Haymes and Charlie Jenkins put in the hours of training required to win places in the GB Squad*

The Tennis Team with a 1st pair of Chris Alstadt and Harry Butcher has had a very successful season and once again won the OXIST Cup. The 1st Cricket XI have had their ups and downs and have perhaps not had the success concomitant with their talent. The purists amongst you would have hated their 20:20 kit but there is no doubting that the style of cricket provides exciting entertainment.

Drama has taken on a high profile this year about which I am delighted about. Even before the academic year started, a group of our students had the wonderful experience of putting on a piece of theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe. Proving his stamina, Mr McDonald also directed Moliere's *Tartuffe* in the Autumn Term. Ryan Donovan and Tom Bennett were superb in the leading roles but all the cast performed well. The audience were again treated to a marvellous production.

The A2 Theatre Studies group put on *The Man Who*. An independent critic wrote that any performance that poses more questions than answers must surely be considered a triumph of theatre. The AS group continued this excellence with their devised piece. Again, a startling piece of theatre based around the drug, cocaine.



*Tom Bennett,  
not just in Tartuffe,  
but also in  
The National  
Youth Theatre*

When I suggested to Miss Saker that we have a junior school drama festival she was thrilled, but as the date came closer and closer her enthusiasm began to change to desperation. Housemasters too were not sanguine that this would be a positive piece of theatre. However, the end result was marvellous! Year 9 and 10 boys from every house pulled out the stops and we were treated to some fine performances and some very entertaining theatre.

Music too has played its part in the increasing cultural life of the College. I had been warned about Malcolm Woodcock's particular style of rehearsal scheduling and I wasn't to be disappointed! However, the end results have always been very good and those of you who have been to the informal concerts will know that we have a number of excellent vocalists and musicians. Next year we hope to put on one major formal concert as well as continuing with the inclusive, informal events.



# From the Headmaster

The Housemasters again voiced their concern about the House music competition, warning me to be prepared for a dreadful afternoon of music. How wrong they were - again. Every House did themselves proud and although the adjudicating panel of Miss Saker and myself disagreed with everyone else, the winner of the instrumental competition was Welsh House and Orchard House won the battle of the choirs. With the introduction by Mr Brian Foakes of the singing group for Year 9, *Vocalmania*, I hope we can ensure that the College enjoys an increase in tone to match the volume.

As Headmaster, one good piece of advice I did receive was to ensure that two areas of the school in particular are as good as they could be. The first was the Chapel and the second the Dining Room.

You all know that we are extremely fortunate to have an excellent Chaplain in the shape of Reverend Prance. He not only leads our worship wonderfully, but is in great demand both by the Parish of Shiplake and other areas around the country. He has a great knowledge of music and we are treated to some wonderful tunes at the beginning of each Chapel Service. I believe we get the emphasis on the spiritual side of our school just about right and of course this is largely due to Robert.

The Confirmation Service and the Remembrance Day Service



*The Confirmation Service was one of the highlights of the spiritual year*

are but two major events organised by Robert and both are marvellous. Mr Hume Jones' address at the Remembrance Day Service was one which should stay in pupils' minds for a long time.

The Dining Hall is, perhaps, a different matter. No school will ever get a ringing endorsement from every member of its pupil body but I understand that since Miss Claire Leese has arrived as Catering Manager, the food has improved considerably.



*A meal on the Chinese Theme Night*

Prospective parents often ask me what I think of the food and I always say that I am the wrong person to ask because I love school food, in fact I love all food.

As ever, members of the College have been involved in a huge array of activities and we would be here a great deal longer than you would wish if I went through each one, but I would like to mention a few:

The Expedition Society continues to provide a wonderful experience for a small group of pupils. Mr Marcel Wagner and Mr Julian Seaton organise a truly fantastic itinerary and all who have ever been on a trip come back slightly changed - in a positive way!

Mr Grant Lawson has led various Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award exhibitions this year and the pupils' skills and camp, craft, navigation, trekking and teamwork were tested both in Wales and in France.



*Testing times for D of E candidates*



# From the Headmaster

The Combined Cadet Force are a very active contingent under the leadership of Major Hose and at the beginning of the Autumn Term, Senior members of the Army Section provided a Guard of Honour for the presentation and dedication of the new CCF banner at the Chapel of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. This was a National event which included a band with Pipers from Golar Academy in Scotland.



*Tim Hill  
and  
Henry Gordon  
working hard  
on CCF turnout*

You would expect me to be biased, but I was not the only one to comment that our squad of boys were the smartest there. In the Spring Term the CCF had their Biennial Inspection. Cadet Sergeant Major Alex Esslemont ably commanded the parade and conducted our visiting Inspector Officer, Captain John Murphy around the competition stands in the afternoon. There was also excitement for the Army Section at the end of that term as Colonel Belgium invited them to go and play on his toys at the Gelalabad Barracks. Colonel Belgium does not have ordinary toys; he commands a battalion of tanks!



*Charles Johnson, wonderfully politically incorrect, as an  
entertaining quizmaster*

The Babbage Society continues to attract interesting and varied speakers. One on chocolate by Dr Halliday was particularly popular. General knowledge quizzes, public speaking and the balloon debate are just three of the activities designed to boost confidence of the pupils and whenever they are asked to compete internally you can be sure that Mr Charles Johnson is never far away. He was the most wonderful politically incorrect quiz master at the Junior General Knowledge Competition and I did think that the audience had turned up not to see the competitors but to be entertained by the comedy of the quiz master!

The Campanology Society continues to make good use of the Parish Church Bell Tower and the new Film Society is attracting a large following.



*All part of the Island Adventure for Year 9*

Right at the beginning of the year, Jim Mansergh walked around the College site with me and pointed out that the College owns Lynch Island which is about 200 metres from the boat house. After I had received my training on the safety launch I took my daughter Anna out to visit the island and it was clear that this was a resource crying out to be used. Thus the idea of the Island Adventure for our Year 9 boys was born. Last week all our Year 9 boys under the leadership of Mr Jeremy Keane and various other brave members of staff completed a day of command leadership tasks followed by a night camping on the island.

I had suggested the need for tents to Mr Keane but he thought this was a luxury not needed - or deserved - by Year 9! After spending three hours taking down the waist high nettles, 64 boys in eight groups built lean-to shelters and camped under the stars in bivvy bags. Whether all the boys had a wonderful time is questionable but there is no doubting that this was a tremendous experience for all of them.

My final words are for the other woman in my life. Don't worry Chairman, my wife knows about her and everything she does for me. Mrs Ann Lazur has gently, but firmly, steered me through my first year.

*A G S Davies*



# Prizewinners

## FORM PRIZES

### YEAR 9

Nicholas Bithrey  
Anthony Kay  
Brandon Tropper  
Alastair Galloway  
Adam Middleton

### YEAR 10

Philip McGowan  
Alexander Wycherley  
Michael Pullen  
Harry Wilder  
Christopher Webb

### YEAR 11

Science (Triple Award)  
Information & Communications  
Religious Education  
Mathematics  
Art & Design  
English  
Physical Education  
Design & Technology  
Music  
Spanish  
History  
French  
Geography  
Science (Double Award)

Sam Arthur  
Joseph Colman  
Joseph Colman  
Ben Farmar  
Oliver Loudon  
Oliver Loudon  
Oliver Loudon  
Jack Narewski  
Jack Narewski  
Jack Narewski  
Stuart Roberts  
Sam Willsher  
Sam Willsher  
Sam Willsher

## SCHOOL PRIZES

For outstanding GCSE  
results in June 2004

Simon Kirk  
Kit Stormont

## A LEVEL PRIZES

For outstanding A Level  
results in June 2004

Paul Aitchison  
George Boggis  
Kate Turrill

## GOVERNORS' PRIZES

Art & Design  
Geography  
Physical Education  
Information & Communications  
Bleakley Prize for Modern Languages  
English  
Chemistry  
Media Studies  
Spiers Cup (Music)  
Business Studies  
Theatre Studies  
Biology  
Physics  
Design & Technology  
History  
Mathematics

Holly Baird  
Edward Blanchard  
Edward Blanchard  
Christopher Gardner  
Gabriella Hyde  
Gabriella Hyde  
Sam Liu  
Kate Mannix  
Kate Mannix  
Jamie Orpwood  
Henry Percy  
James Ramsay  
James Ramsay  
Azwar Rashid  
Jessica Tyrell  
Kai Zhang

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Army Leadership  
Ascelpian Prize (Visual Arts)  
Rupert Mackay (Religious Life)  
Junior Barron Prize  
Sixth Form Barron Prize  
DT Endeavour Award  
Esau Essay Prize  
Eaton Prize  
(Most Improved Readers)  
Expedition Society Endeavour  
J R Kroth Mathematics Prize  
J W Whittington Cup  
Key Skills Prize  
Larkin Cup (Singing)  
Margaret Wells-Furby Y12 Science  
Salmon Cup (Performing Arts)

Sam Morris  
Christopher Gardner  
Christopher Gardner  
Jack Narewski  
Gabriella Hyde  
Josh Rankin  
Jack Hyde  
Christopher Clifford  
Adam Middleton  
Edward Cook  
Jason Presley  
Alex Esslemont  
Konstantin Bosch  
Alex Woolnough  
Daniel Lighter  
Ryan Donovan

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD

Holly Baird  
Daniel Clark  
Alex Esslemont  
Gabriella Hyde  
James Johnston  
K K Law  
Sam Liu  
Kate Mannix  
Sam Morris  
Danika Quirke  
Ben Roberts  
Jake Russell

## SENIOR COMMON ROOM STAFF PRIZES

Edinburgh Prize  
Matthew Bevin Cup  
Caston Prize

George Dobbie  
Theo Kemp  
Christopher Gardner

## HEADMASTER'S PRIZES

Quaich Award  
(for outstanding contribution  
to the sporting life of  
the College)  
  
Alexander Everett Prize  
(for outstanding contributions  
to the life of the College)

Edward Blanchard  
William Downing  
Martin Haymes  
Leo Robarts

Daniel Clark  
Christopher Gardner  
Gabriella Hyde  
Kate Mannix  
Sam Morris  
Jamie Orpwood  
Danika Quirke

Head of College

Daniel Clark



## *Former Headmaster Peter Lapping took to the Shiplake Speech Day podium for the first time for 17 years*

Peter Lapping reflected on how Shiplake had changed since he had departed to become Headmaster of Sherborne School. "Shiplake is now a mature and wonderful school. It has sailed through difficult waters smoothly. The school has been blessed by quiet back-room workers and well served by its Chairman of Governors and successive generations of Governors."



*Nigel Gilson, Gregg Davies and Peter Lapping*

Mr Lapping recalled how one Governor, Edward Hatchett, said that he had "one set of rules in the City" but once he arrived in Shiplake he went and broke them all.

He advised the audience on essential characteristics, particularly the importance of endurance, and then recalled Einstein's words, "Try not to be a man of success but a man of values."

He suggested to the audience that the College has a tradition of producing naturally brilliant entrepreneurs. One boy had left the College with just one 'O' Level in Religious Studies. Teachers had joked that if he had acquired a qualification in Woodwork, too, he could have become an undertaker. They were concerned about his future but a few years later he returned in a Porsche and recommended to the Headmaster that he should move into the field of "buying and selling".

Eric Pollard, a Mathematics teacher, had confirmed the Headmaster's views when he said, "I'm not sure about many of these boys' Maths, but they always seem to make mistakes in their favour."

A key to any education was to help pupils to discover that "moment of truth", that sublime split-second when they discover a true talent, whether it be getting a good note from a musical instrument, moving a blade smoothly through the water or timing a perfect cover-drive.

## *The Expedition Society Prize*

Expedition leader Marcel Wagner has often thought of an Expedition Society prize. He tells the story of how it finally happened after the 2004 Southern Africa Four Nations Expedition. "Ed Cook's whole approach from the start was one of involvement and to seek out the workings of everything around him and to be a part of everything. He was at the leading edge of anything that required work and made it a point to learn what he could. He never took sides in the, always present niggles, in any peer group but lost none of his own integrity or standing in his peer group."



Driver Gys, working for Drifters, agreed that Ed should be the recipient of a prize if the company would agree to it. "We opened a door for Ed but what must be added is the way Ed took his opportunity. His involvement was such that Drifters made it possible for him to join their major trip, that of travelling from Johannesburg to Nairobi and back again, and it is purely his own endeavour that made this possible."

Ed will be waiting in Nairobi for this year's expedition as he will be working for Savage Wilderness Safaris. Another Old Viking, Johnny Boulton, has also been working for SWS this year. This has prompted Johnny to accept a place at university to study outdoor pursuits with leisure and eco-management.

After the 2004 trip all Ed wanted to was to work and travel in Africa but he has now accepted a place at Southampton University to study psychology.

Ed was the first to gain a "Drifters' Prize" but we hope that future prizes will be on offer to those who deserve them.

*M. Wagner*



*“Computers are like pupils”  
says Ruth Cotton as she looks back on a  
year of change with some help from  
Murphy’s Laws*

As ever, the Summer holidays become a hive of activity for the ICT Network Management and Support team. Armed with the new budget and plans for the year ahead they have to implement most of the plan within eight weeks.

*“When computing, whatever happens,  
behave as though you meant it to happen.”*

Last summer saw the installation of the first round of ceiling mounted data projectors which have been widely used in the ICT rooms, the Science department and the Geography department. The second round of data projectors to be installed during Summer 2005 will bring this sought-after technology to Business Studies and the English, Maths, History and PE departments.

*“When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it is probably obsolete.”*

The annual Rolling Replacement programme, last summer, enabled most of the College to migrate to Windows XP. This programme replaces around 30 computers each year and the replaced computers are redeployed throughout the College. The College has around 200 computers so they are like pupils, they arrive in their first year and all being well leave the College five years later having had an interesting and varied time.

*“If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.”*

As the dependency on ICT increases, behind the scenes throughout the year there is continuing improvement on network security and data security. As Broadband services improve and become available to the College, bandwidth is increased where costs can be maintained or decreased.

*“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”*

Once the Autumn Term starts the ICT Network Management and Support team will be providing Network Induction sessions to all new staff and pupils, admiring all the new laptops, purchased over the summer, and advising pupils on how to access the Internet, the College network and keep them virus free and as ever remembering some of Murphy's Laws of Computing.

*“The attention span of a computer is only as long as its electrical cord.”*

*R. Cotton*

*There was a dramatic upgrade for the  
College website this year with daily news  
appearing during term-time.*

*Did you catch these stories?*



*Ceilidh*

*Robert Prance, Chaplain, had warned the College about Celtic fringe rituals in his build-up to St. George's Day, but he had not anticipated that the Headmaster would hijack the day of England's Patron Saint, for a Ceilidh.*



*From The Guardian*

*The Guardian asked Gregg Davies, Headmaster, to contribute to the debate on spelling.*

*“It would be a poor assessment system that rated spelling above knowledge, analysis, application and evaluation. At GCSE, AS and A2 quality of written communication contributes to only 4% of the marks in most subjects. Intelligent pupils with spelling difficulties can still attain the top grades ...”*



*Please send lions, cheetahs ...*

*Year 10 pupils probably thought that Chemistry teacher, A J Foakes, had lost the plot when she had them chanting, "Please send lions, cheetahs, monkeys and calm zebras in large, heavy cages." Those with memories of Chemistry will immediately realise that this is actually a mnemonic ..*



## *Pupils made many contributions to this year's worship including a powerful address from Daniel Clark, Head of College*

"What's your name? How are you? How do you do? These are the superficial questions we ask when we want to get to know the basic details about somebody. But the real question is do you know yourself? There are times, for instance at sporting events or when we watch *East Enders*, that groups of people become as one, but for most of the time it is important that we know the person inside. I believe that you should know yourself, and if you like yourself, then you can have love for others and respect for others."

Daniel Clark, Head of College, continued the tradition of pupils standing up in Chapel and talking about what they believe in and what is important for them. He reminded his audience that whatever the religion, throughout the world, there is one God, one carrier of the message and one evil. It is important that we all believe in something more powerful than ourselves so that we will not be led astray. Humans are essentially selfish but they have to consider someone else. Even the devout Christian may not consider the needs of others.

"I still question, whether there is a God but I was Confirmed a couple of years ago to help me build my faith and since then I have grown with God," said Dan. "All I ask is for you to believe in yourselves, to believe in a God, accept others for what they are."

## *For All Soul's Tide, Catherine Saker remembered her friend Myfanwy Price*

"When Myfanwy Piper died I did not mourn the loss, but I celebrated what she had given me," said Catherine Saker when she spoke on the morning of All Souls' Tide.

"I first learnt about Myfanwy when I was a young singer in Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, a production for which Myfanwy had written the libretto. Then eight years ago I was privileged to work for her, cataloguing her late husband, John Piper's art works and the whole Piper Archive which included letters from the artists; Miro, Picasso and Alexander Calder, the ballet dancer John Cranko, and writers from Salman Rushdie to Julian Barnes.

Quite suddenly one day, she said "Why don't you move in?" and for two years I occupied the flat adjoining the house, where Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears used to stay when they came to visit. The whole house just lived and breathed art and I now realise, when I have to go to the Tate Gallery or to the Tate Modern to see the paintings and sculptures I walked past every day, just what an incredible experience it was.

Myfanwy was passionate about education and she believed that no matter how old you were, you never stopped learning. In the early 1930s

she had been one of the first women to go to Oxford University, one of her later friends there was the writer Iris Murdoch. She was addicted to reading and would read five books a week! When I returned after teaching (at the time I was working with The Henley College, Italia Conti Schools and was a coach for various West End Shows) she would peer over her glasses at me and ask, "What are you reading dear?"...this was an inspiration and partially a threat, as with Myfanwy if you were not reading and learning, you quite simply had nothing to talk about and therefore were not interesting. It was a very easy equation in her mind! When she died the one thing I asked from her family as a memento was a pair of her glasses, which they gave, along with many other not asked for things. I am now so lucky to be able to look around my home and see a huge amount of wonderful Piper Art.

I once received a telephone call asking me to pop into Waitrose on the way home and pick up some things, "I've got a nice film director called Stephen coming for supper." I returned to find Stephen Spielberg sat at the table. Other guests notably included David Hockney, Mick Jagger and of course our near neighbour John Mortimer. Myfanwy was, even in her elder years, phenomenally glamorous and wore Issey Miyake clothes and Ferragamo shoes. She was in her grandson Luke's words quite simply "the most glamorous granny in the world".

John Betjeman, the poet, adored her and was ever-so-a-little in love with her, as I suppose we all were. He wrote two poems about her, *Myfanwy* and *Myfanwy at Oxford*. When she died, those who had known her celebrated the inspiration she had given them. I sat on the hillside above Fawley Bottom with her daughter Suzanna and her grandsons Luke, Henry and Ben after having hand detonated a fireworks display of the like the valley may never see again. It was a wonderful party with fantastic food, Myfanwy's favourite wines, and the Piper Family tradition of homemade hot air balloons. I knew her for such a short time, but I think about her every day, the Piper family are now a part of my family and she will influence me for a lifetime.

*C. Saker*



*Sixth Formers helped out with an NSPCC fund-raising dinner*



## *The Chaplain reminded us of age-old values on a contemporary debate*

There are dangers in judging by appearances. There was a very successful advertisement for The Independent newspaper, a few years ago of an aggressive looking, skin-head youth running towards an old lady, to save her life. It might be a good idea if the advert could be re-run, substituting the clothes of the skinhead for the uniform of today's most likely offender, the hooded sweatshirt and the baseball cap. It might help us rethink about judging groups of people based on what they wear.

Ever since Adam and Eve pulled on their fig leaves there has been a connection between wrong-doing and how we cover our bodies. Hoods keep your ears warm but they can preserve your identity if you want to engage in criminal activity. I suppose the original "hoody" was Robin Hood.

But goodies and baddies wear hoods don't they? For every Sith Lord about to destroy there's an Obi-Wan-Kenobi trying to save.

The smartest uniforms in history have been worn by people running the most evil regimes. Isn't it often people in suits who have been far more wicked than most hoodies, robbing pension schemes, selling arms to countries that can't afford them and starting wars.

Scripture has good advice about clothes. What you wear is not nearly so important as what is going on underneath the hoods, robes, dresses, Armani suits and even the smart new blazer. Clothes are a poor judge of character.

Many of our problems will not be changed by a change of clothes. Dissatisfaction with life and lack of purpose is a spiritual issue before it is ever a social one. Spiritual well-being, becoming wired up for good relationships, for fulfilment, for meaning and for purpose, is of vital importance. Until we take that on board, even if we have the finest clothes, we shall never be really fulfilled.

### *Memories from the Chapel Year*

*Left: Ash Wednesday with guest speaker Reverend Canon Dr Simon Bloxham-Rose and Head Chapel Warden, Chris Gardner*

*Right: The newly confirmed, immediately after the Confirmation Service.*

## *A Hymn for Shiplake College dedicated to the memory of Ivan Jacklin, 1945 - 2003, and at Shiplake College 1987 - 2003*

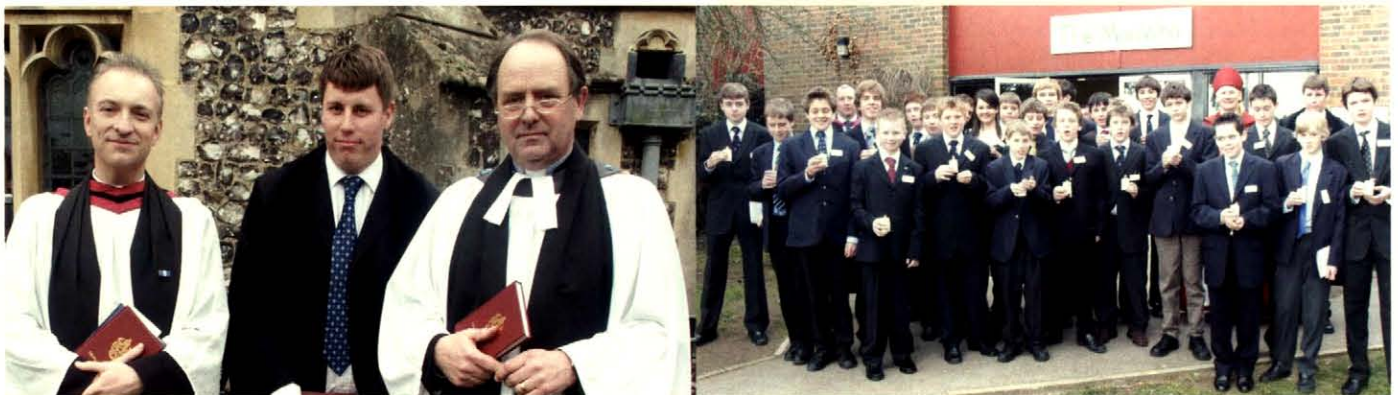
From the source and to the river,  
From the river to the sea,  
Through an ever changing pattern  
Of the seasons' fields and trees.  
Spring to Summer, Autumn, Winter,  
Daylight, darkness, sun and rain,  
Thames and Torridge, Taw and Tamar,  
Rolling on to journey's end.

Through the days of childhood laughter  
Young men's visions, old men's dreams  
Through the woods and fields of lovers,  
College towers and teenage scenes;  
Catch the spirit of the water,  
"Carpe Diem" while you may,  
Life moves on, the colour changes,  
Each new pattern, each new day.

Grow from childhood into manhood,  
Feelings charged, emotions changed,  
Seek success, acknowledge failure,  
Make mistakes and treasure friends.  
Search for God, reject, accept Him,  
Argue, question, laugh and dream,  
Bend your oars and catch the waters  
Ever calling on downstream.

Such reflections of life's journey  
Catch some glint of each new day,  
Hold your course through joy and sorrow  
Every tide means hope remade;  
Till our river turns to seaward  
Where we shall by his good grace  
Cross the bar and through the sunset  
Meet our maker face to face.

*Robert Prance*





## *Founders' Day & Ascension Day*

Nigel Gilson, Chairman of Governors, promised a unique special offer, two services for the price of one when Shiplake College rolled Founders' Day and Ascension Day into one.

Although Alexander Everett and Mrs Richardson are named as the Founders, "It is also the pupils, teachers and housemasters who should be remembered. We have something very special here at Shiplake. We live and work in a most beautiful and desirable part of England. There is something warm and good about this place which overwhelmingly produces boys and girls who have the confidence to go on and make a success of their lives," said Mr Gilson.

Later in the week it was again two for the price of one when Chaplain Robert Prance and Deputy Headmaster, Charles Johnson, left the College at 6.20 a.m. with 32 pupils bound for a chilly early morning Maidensgrove. After a short service they played an energetic game of rounders in the long grass. In the now traditional fixture, the "Munchers" beat the "Gnomes".

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## *Soon after Founders' Day the College learnt that founder Alexander Everett had died*

Alexander Everett (1921 – 2005) was a great Founder, a man of vision and beginnings. On a visit to Shiplake College, in 2003, just one of the three schools that he founded, he said that although he was over 80 his life was just beginning.



Alexander de Morley Everett, met Mrs Eunice Richardson at Ashfold School. They married in February 1958, and through Mrs Richardson's son, they became aware that demand for a traditional public school education outstripped supply in late fifties Britain where the population "had never had it so good".

After schooldays at Berkhamsted, a year of teacher training and teaching at Wellington House, a prep school evacuated from Thanet to Somerset and then back again, Everett had plenty of educational experience. In 1950 he founded Pendragon School at Bexhill-on-Sea.

The couple bought Shiplake House, the estate and an island in the river for £17,500. Shiplake College opened on 31st May 1959 but Everett had already underestimated demand, "We actually had 36 applications but I had ordered just 30 beds."

Although Everett struggled with the practicalities of starting a school, he had memories of his own unhappy schooldays and a clear vision, "I wanted to found a school that catered for everybody, a place where everybody will be happy. I wanted to create a system where everybody will have the opportunity to succeed." Choice was to replace compulsion, there were to be no bells, few rules, staff and boys would mix freely and share common rooms.

In the fledging community it was clear that the Everett's marriage was troubled, Mrs Everett reverted to being Mrs Richardson and Everett left Shiplake with a large Land Rover equipped for an overland journey from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

Somewhere in the American mid-west he encountered a circus with a sick elephant. His Land Rover replaced elephant power in erecting the Big Top, Everett remained as ringmaster for several months and the overland journey was forgotten. Briefly he returned to Shiplake before returning to America, in 1962, for the rest of his life.

The next stop was Texas. He started a diner which only provided steaks and beer. This went off well and after a short time he sold it at a good profit and opened another diner, a bit classier this time, with tables and chairs instead of benches. He sold this too, again making a good profit.

While in Texas he became friendly with a senator and persuaded him to start a school for boys. It now has over 1500 pupils and is called Fort Worth College. Two years later, now known as Alex, rather than Alec, he was on the move again, this time to San Francisco.

He had become interested in matters quite spiritual and formed a quasi-religious group based on Ying and Yang and reincarnation. To start with it was mostly conducted by post, but as the numbers grew, there were seminars and finally cruises, the last being in 2002 when they went to Norway.

Alex tired of the noise and pollution in San Francisco and drove up to Oregon where he found a 100 acre site with a small house attached. He had the site cleaned and started to build-up a farm and breed a variety of animals: donkeys, wallabies, deer and llamas. Like anything else Alex did, he made a lot of money. He also provided zoos with exotics birds.

In his 70s ill health struck Alex. He had cancer and lost the sight of an eye. He died early in 2005. "He was a remarkable man with so much charisma. He even made his life-style sound perfectly reasonable. A founder of three schools and an inspiration to so many people," said his friend Patrick Dudgeon.

*We are indebted to Patrick Dudgeon, a teaching colleague of Alexander Everett, and a friend who provided much of the detail for this obituary.*



# Leadership

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## *Year 9 learn some vital lessons about listening, learning, leading and teamwork*

It didn't sound a promising start; a dozen boys all talking at once on the Year 9 Leadership Day. A few were laying down plans, some expressing bewilderment and others suggesting that they read the instructions again. Gradually something resembling order emerged from chaos and the House teams made their way to Task One.

This was a relay race with a difference. Twelve boys had to have the baton pass through their hands on a course beginning at Shiplake Lock, along the river-bank and around the school grounds, including two oxygen sapping-hills. Welsh opted for long stretches for their star runners and five metre bursts for the less athletic, but teamwork took Burr to an emphatic win.

The Quest, Task Two, was a jumbled teasing treasure hunt, scattered over several sheets of paper. The best technique for this exercise was to sit down in a group, order and allocate the tasks.

Again Burr got themselves organised, shared the necessary information and read the small print to find that they were not actually answering on the official answer sheet.

Break-time and Burr had stormed ahead. Next was the double-point challenge of the House magazine but each house was called away for the challenge of a log time trial and Skipwith set an outstanding time. By now leaders were emerging, teams were bonding and boys were learning when to listen and question.

The magazines came in. Everett's was good, Skipwith's was a really good read and Orchard's was superbly presented and original too. Double points for the greens but not good enough. Skipwith had edged ahead to take the title and the medals.

*M. Edwards*



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## *Scenes from the Year 12 Leadership Day run by World Challenge*





*Chris Alcock's English set knew there was something fishy going on when they arrived for their English lesson to find three mackerel and a sharp knife outside the classroom*

Mr. Alcock provided some inspirational poems on food, some mouth-watering recipes and a demonstration of how to fillet a fish. The Year 9 boys then had to write their own poems on National Poetry Day.



*"It was all a piece of cake for Maureen Askin's class."*

They read about chocolate, wrote about cakes and finally, in the closing moments of the lessons sampled Mrs Askin's home-made chocolate cake.

*"Luke Foster's set found that you can have your poetry and your cake"*

They decorated cakes with piped on icing, posed for a picture and then rapidly demolished the cake.

Meanwhile, Head of English, Lowri Cook, posted poems all over the school to whet the appetite for more food and more poetry.



*Phil McGowan, from Year 10, had his poem, Body and Soul, published in "Great Minds from Southern England"*



The hills stretch to strike the sky  
And gash a hole through the cloud,  
Which then bleeds to hilltop  
A white and smothering shroud.

Water gushes down grass limbs,  
Seeping from sky-grazed top,  
Oozing, trickling, dripping,  
Straining drop by drop.

These great towering mountains of earth,  
For kingship do they rise,  
To seize nature's unclaimed demesne,  
A kingdom in the skies.

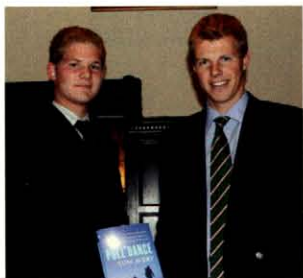
But these hills themselves are ruled;  
What a futile throne!  
How mocking a height for mere semblance  
That cannot be lived alone.

The selves of real being lie far below:  
In holes that reflect the hill's awe,  
As personality's essence drains,  
To the watered valley floor.

Intricate exposure of being  
These mirrors of life reveal all  
Encapsulated emotion lies  
Deep within each pool.

So there forms the scene:  
Changing mould and hole,  
The body bleeds its lifeblood to  
The very Lakeland soul.





## *Record Antarctic walker, Tom Avery, told the school of his adventures*

On 28th December 2002, 27-year-old Tom Avery became the youngest - and fastest - Briton to reach the South Pole, having arrived on foot from the Hercules inlet in a world-record time of 45 days and six hours. Tom visited Shiplake to tell his heroic tale to a spellbound whole school audience.

Tom told the story of the team's use of mini-parachutes that powered them across the ice; the breaking of no less than 17 ski-bindings on the journey; the privations of frostbite, altitude sickness and crevasse falls; even the attempts to sabotage the expedition's sponsorship by a rival explorer.



*Over the last four years the Kart Club have produced a vehicle a year. Craig Barker, tests the cornering capabilities of another model*

## *Henley Rotary Club Public Speaking*

The Annual Rotary Club Public Speaking is always a hugely enjoyable and very competitive event and this year's was no exception. The judges viewed the standard this year as the highest they had seen for many years.

Shiplake produced two teams in the Senior Division. After nearly two and a half hours Sebastian Morello had the difficult task of being the final speaker, supported by a wonderful Chairman in the shape of the smiling Joseph Colman and a dashing Toby Raper. Toby had the most difficult job of all in that he was running out of time as he gave the vote of thanks. Sebastian's speech about the Battle of Hastings was a triumph and the judges awarded him a commendation for an exceptional effort.



*Jessica Tyrrell, Sam Pershall and Gabby Hyde*

The "A" team were brilliant and if looks are anything to go by they were the most outstanding team of the evening. Jessica Tyrrell was a wonderful chairperson and her warm manner and all-embracing smile touched the whole audience. Gabriella Hyde looked stunning and her speech on the dangers of stationery was warmly received. Sam Pershall, always a popular speaker with the large female audience, gave a polished vote of thanks complete with rubber gloves!

As always the stars of the night were Reading Blue Coat School whose Senior Speaker gave one of the best speeches, totally without notes, ever given at the competition. All agreed he was the rightful winner of the evening. However, we were delighted to learn from the judges that our "A" team were in second place and this marks a superb effort on their part.

All six speakers showed Shiplake students at their best, not just for their speeches, but for their turn-out and wonderful good manners. They were wonderful ambassadors for the College and are to be congratulated. Our thanks too, to the parents who supported the evening.

*R P Prance*





## *An abundance of talent!*

Imagine the Head of College in thick-rimmed geek spectacles, grossly under-sized city-slicker-pin-stripe suit and a revolting pale pink shirt ... and he was just the MC. Behind him two bruising bouncers, Will Downing and Henry Percy.



How can you cram College House's outrageous abundance of talent into just one evening? Studio 29, aka Azwar Rashid and Nick Constant, began with *Semi-Charmed Life* and *Iris*. Next up were Dave Cullen and Nick Mannix with a great drum performance, old hands at the Tithe Barn gig business, their bands never disappoint. Then there was a touch of classic culture with George Dobbie's clarinet.

Leo Roberts' band, began with Foo Fighter's *Run and Tell The Angels*, providing a show-case for guests with Aussie violinist Josh Stillwell accompanying Leo on his own song *Future*.

One highlight of the evening was the debut of string-vested Dobbie-G, the Dudemaster, who rapped away with Ben Roberts and Leo Roberts providing the beat-box work. Finally, back to the girls for an almighty finale, with *Hey Mama* from the Black Eyed Peas and Usher's *Yeah*. Who said live entertainment is dead?



## *Remember the general election? Charles Johnson, Deputy Head, made local candidates answer questions for their lunch*

Michael Howard's leadership potential, university top-up fees, asylum-seeker policy, health and the future of secondary education were all on the agenda when Upper Sixth pupils grilled the Conservative Party's parliamentary candidate for Henley-on-Thames.

Boris Johnson, journalist and sometime television presenter, produced some top quality sound bites as he tore into the Labour Party who "ought to be ejected into outer space" for misleading the electorate over Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

He grumbled at the abolition of hunting as a response to "gratifying the primitive tribal urges of the Labour Party" and urged his audience to take "democratic revenge" for the annual £5bn blackhole in pension funds and for "taking away people's freedoms" whilst increasing costly bureaucracy.

When Daniel Clark asked if Michael Howard were strong enough to be Prime Minister, Mr Johnson remarked that his leader had been strong enough to send *The Spectator* editor on a mission of apology to Liverpool. Then in response to Jessica Tyrrell's question he denounced top-up fees and reassured James Ramsay that instead of using Labour's approach to spraying a "water-canon" of state funds at the Health Service the Conservatives would institute patient choice to raise standards, after all "people have a brain in their heads."

"I'm a bit of an immigrant myself," said Mr Johnson when James Talbot raised the issue of asylum-seekers, "I'm not passionately opposed to people entering the country." Later in the week, in the orange corner, David Turner was local, not distracted by any other job, and boasting 16 years' council experience. Immediately he played the Liberal Democrats' trump cards; scrap tuition and top-up fees, scrap council tax and provide free care for the elderly. Forecasting "a wild, wild election" he had written a scenario of how tactical voting and Tories defecting to UKIP could wipe-out the Conservative's 8,000 majority.

In the red corner, Kaleem Saeed's Glaswegian accent pleaded for his audience to become involved with politics and to use their vote. Labour had introduced the minimum wage and produced one of the lowest unemployment rates ever. He disputed Turner's claim that Labour was out of the running for this constituency.

Question Time and Jessica Tyrrell looked to "Paxo" the Lib Dem man on 50% super-tax from £100k. She questioned, he explained, she asked the question again, he answered, not satisfied she delved further. Alex Esslemont was equally persistent on pensions and tax.

Then the green welly brigade, led by Ed Blanchard and Jamie Orpwood, scented a Labour politician. Questions were raised and voices were raised and any nearby foxes would have fled. Deputy Headmaster, Charles Johnson, who had organised the visits, had to step in to control the hot air.



## *YE shareholders look forward to some good dividend payments*

The Young Enterprise Scheme is a national charity with an important mission to inspire and help young people to learn to succeed through enterprise. This year's company *Why Wait?* was very successful throughout the year. They sold £190 of shares and had profits over £1000.

The Company this year did not believe that it was all about making money. We all believe that Young Enterprise is about learning how a business should work and how effectively we could run it. I think people would agree with me that it was more about doing then just talking about it.

The Young Enterprise Scheme is celebrating its 42nd birthday this year and more than 100,000 students takes part in the scheme. With over 2,000 supporting business helping around the country a good experience because it trains most of us who will end up in some form of business.

We all believed that *Why Wait?* learnt some important lessons and all of us learnt some business concepts throughout the nine months. Our products this year were a disco for Y9 with Piper's Corner School which took a lot of organising but was very successful as we made almost £200 profits. We also sold some top quality rugby shirts.

After the success of the disco in the Autumn Term wondering what we should do next. Most of the company decided that we should look for something simple and easy to advertise and publish around school. We all decided after a while that the idea of short sleeve rugby shirts was good.

### *Why Wait? The Board of Directors*

Joint Managing Directors	William Sparkes Alex Woolnough
Joint Finance Directors	Daniel Lighter Charles Sparkes
Operations Director	Geoffrey Jones
Company Secretary	James Belgum
Joint Personnel Directors	Sam Pershall Rollo Sparkes
Marketing Director	James Dalzell
Sales Directors	Cameron Duncan Freddie Humphrey
ICT Director	Kit Stormont

One of the most important lessons that people learnt along the way is that it takes time for teams to come together. I can say that we came together in the end but there were tears and tantrums which were dealt with by Will and Alex, not forgetting Sam Pershall and Rollo Sparkes, who very often spilt up arguments as they were the Personnel Directors. We all eventually learnt from each other which I thought was very important and by the end we were all listening instead of arguing

The OCR exam in March brought some very pleasing results with merits going to James Dalzell and Kit Stormont and distinctions going to Dan Lighter and Charlie and Will Sparkes.

Many thanks to Mr McDonald who got us through the year without an outside advisor.

*Richard Binnie*

## *The Nielsen Trophy*

*Points are awarded for contributions to the artistic life of the school.*

1) Burr

2) Orchard

3) Skipwith





## *Jeremy Keane, Shiplake's version of the intrepid Ray Mears, reports on the Year 9 Island Adventure*

The inaugural Year 9 Adventure Day came about near the end of a very busy term and thankfully in the middle of a very fine spell of weather. The Headmaster's grand plan was put into place with the help of the men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from the Jellallabad Barracks and a few Staff members brave enough to volunteer. The day began with the boys being put into groups and searched for contraband items such as food, phones and ipods. After this they were sent around a variety of command tasks earning points for; not only the completion of the task but the way they worked together as a team. Teamwork was again put to the test during a tug-of-war contest late in the morning.

The afternoon saw the groups attempting to get themselves and their kit across a small stretch of river onto Lynch Island; using rafts they had built themselves. The idea was to keep the kit dry but the first few groups struggled with this and spent the afternoon drying out sleeping bags and clothing. The main task now for the groups was to clear their campsite and make shelter using the army issue ponchos provided. It was really great to see what all the groups managed to do with their areas. There were large patches of nettles and thistles and these were attacked with great vigour so the boys were all able to move around and sleep in relative comfort.

By around 6.00 pm it was clear some of the boys were genuinely hungry and each group managed to produce some much needed hotdogs and burgers on their own disposable barbecues to help ease the hunger pains. The highlight of any camping trip has to be marshmallows around the fire and there was to be no exception to this for our Year 9 boys. Mr Seaton was careful in his distribution of the sweets but generous in his advice on best stick and cooking technique. Unfortunately many marshmallows meet a fiery death after being knocked off into the embers.

Lights out was around 11.00 pm on one of the longest days of the year, and despite many protests of no sleep at all because of insects or sticks under sleeping areas or super warm army sleeping bags I saw evidence of 60 plus boys sound asleep around 5.00 am when we started to get them up to pack and leave the Island. After clearing up and being brought back to the mainland courtesy of Mr Lawson and the Navy Launch it was straight up to breakfast and into lessons.

This was a fantastic 24 hour exercise and most of the boys were extremely positive about the whole day and can look back and be pleased with what they have done and what they have achieved. The success of this day has meant that this is to become a regular part of the Year 9 programme for the years to come.

Thanks must again go to the Army for their expertise, experience and equipment. To the Headmaster for his vision and full support and to all the Staff and Students involved in making this a safe and successful day.

*J D Keane*





## *And the prize is ... a helicopter flight*

Schools like to give out books and tokens for prizes but it was a prize with a difference when Jack Emerson from Year 10 soared into the Oxfordshire skies. Old Viking Bill Eaton, had generously provided the prize of a flight in his two-seater helicopter for the two the Most Improved Readers in the academic year-group.



*Jack Emerson says goodbye to his anxious Mum*

Jack looked down on his own house in Henley and took some photos as he raced past RAF Benson at 100mph and then on over the Colleges of Oxford. "It was amazing," said Jack who was presented with the flight plan document as a souvenir.

Jack's Mum thought she was merely there to take the photos and welcome her son back but when she was offered a flight over Henley she couldn't refuse the offer.

Later in the term Ed Westnedge, who had been away on a History Trip, took his turn to soar into the skies.

## *Year 12 students got a taste for the student-lifestyle on a visit to Oxford Brookes University*

A group of Year 12 pupils got a taste of university life when Dr Snellgrove took a visit to Oxford Brookes University. At the Headington campus Nick Goddard, admissions tutor for the Built Environment Faculty, spoke about the university and the modular degree system.

On a tour round the Student Union the future undergraduates were most impressed by the opportunities for the famed student lifestyle, particularly the bar and the venue where visiting bands played!

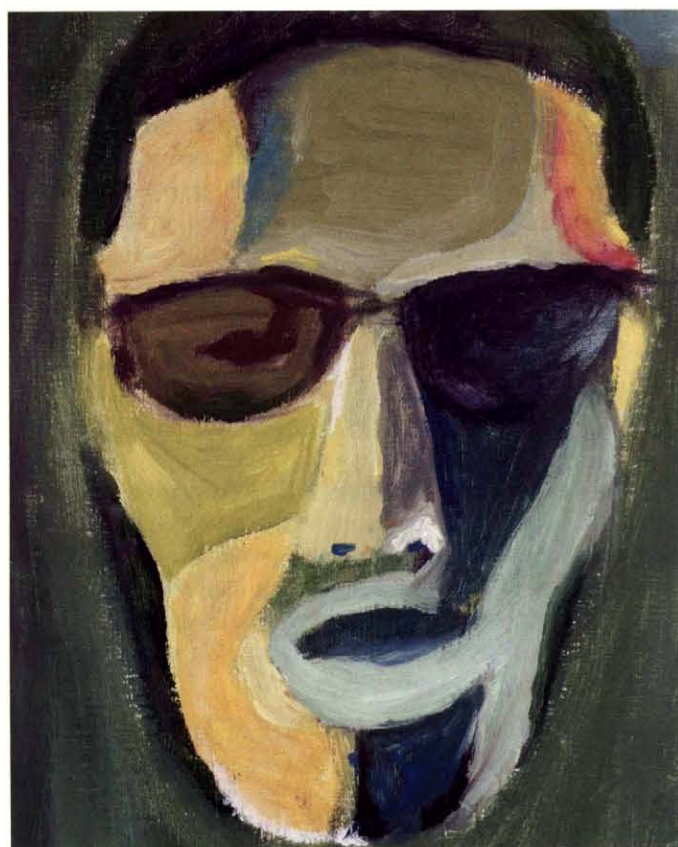
Then it was onto the Wheatley campus for some valuable information from another admissions tutor, Mike Haffey. He went through the application process and divulged what he looks for in a personal statement.

## *Art Exhibitions*

The Art Year began with a Still Life exhibition for Pupils, Old Vikings, family and friends. Then in June pupils, parents and teachers enjoyed the art on display, and the refreshments, as they admired work produced by this year's GCSE classes.

Immediately visitors were impressed by Jack Narewski's sketch-book with his tribute to Ralph Steadman's cartoon work. Jack had taken on the ideas of gaining a sense of movement and energy from the splatting of ink, particularly effective when used with hellish reds and blacks.

Ollie Loudon's hollow-eyed, gaunt facial portraits stopped many visitors in their tracks and they needed the gentler photographic sunrises of Sai Bachan's Southern Indian portfolio to recover their composure.



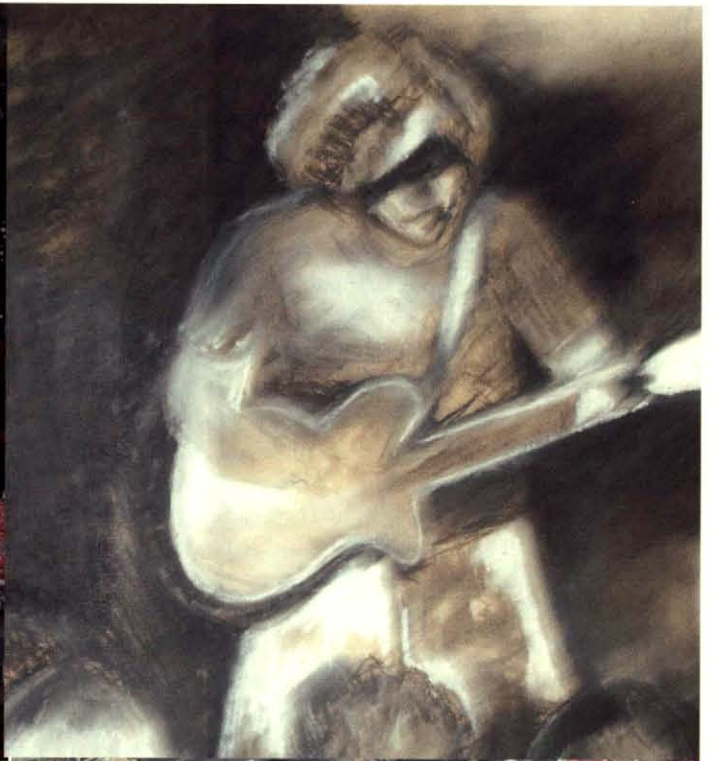
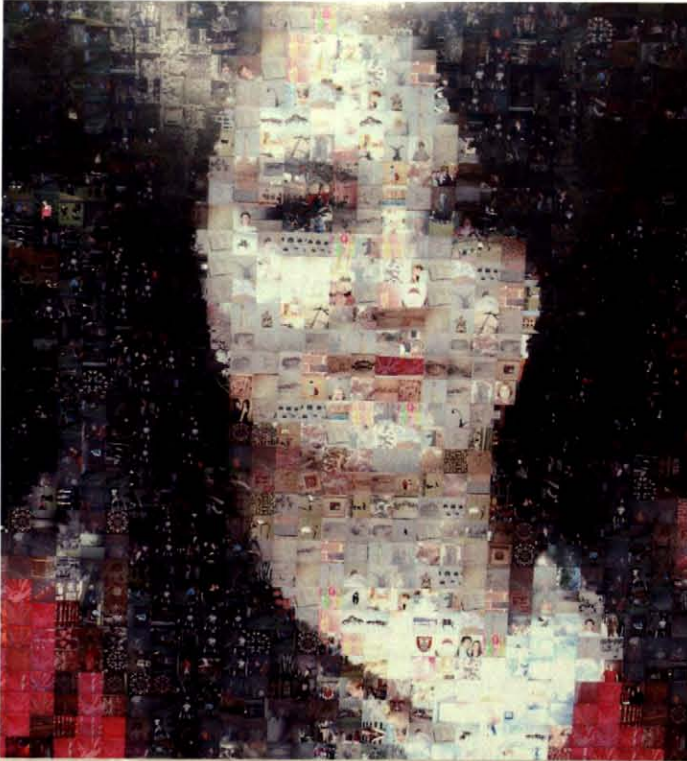
*Ollie Loudon's haunting GCSE piece*

Art teachers David Stoker and Catherine Davison have both been impressed by the level of technical skills shown this year and the vision with which those skills have been applied. Will Satch's *Decaying Leaf* used a wonderful autumnal palate of shades of brown, gold and deep red to capture the ambivalent beauty of the season.

Sam Willsher's light pastel shades brought a new perspective to some still-life arrangements and Ralph Gascoigne's snake slithering through a three-dimensional creation of tall grasses was another one of the evening's most admired pieces.

*Some of the work on display at the Sixth Form Exhibition of AS and A2 Art work is shown on the next page.*





*Top left: Danika Quirke*

*Left: Bobby Gouldstone*

*Top right: Leo Robarts*

*Above: Sophie Stevens*



## *Performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival*

It is impossible to put into words exactly how it felt to walk up Edinburgh's Royal Mile half an hour before the start of the technical rehearsal of Moliere's *The Skinflint*. Angst, nerves, fear, worry, excitement, curiosity, pride and a whole host of other emotions welled up inside me. I don't think the pupils really took stock of what was going on until the next day (Monday 23rd August) - our first public performance.

The whole thing started back in March after the College production of the play, when the then Headmaster Nick Bevan suggested taking it to the Fringe would be a good idea. From then on there was labyrinth of work to carry out - booking a theatre, hiring costumes, finding accommodation in a very busy city at the busiest time in its entire year. Nevertheless, it all fell into place. Cowgate Central Theatre had a matinee slot (1.35pm each day) and there was a Girls' Brigade camp house situated in Ninemileburn some 13 miles away from the centre of Edinburgh. The whole group could be housed there for £100.00 per night!

We met up on Thursday 19th August (A2/AS results day for those who remember) and spent the afternoon rehearsing. In the evening, the pupils went out to celebrate/comiserate and we met up again the following day. The whole day was spent rehearsing and the evening we all went into Henley for a cast pizza.

Saturday 21st August saw us making our way from Reading to London and then taking a GNER train up to Edinburgh. The journey was about four and a half hours long. We arrived at Charlotte Campbell House at 7pm. It was all very exciting. The week was spent getting up, eating a hearty breakfast, making the 1hr journey into the centre of Edinburgh, donning costumes, flogging tickets, putting on the performance, getting changed, eating, having fun, seeing other shows, then finally making the one hour journey back to our basic yet comfortable accommodation. And so the cycle continued.

I have no doubt that the experience that the pupils gained from being on the trip is inestimable. They returned more mature and more confident within themselves than when they went. There were many highlights during the ten days, but perhaps the most rewarding thing was seeing staff, parents and friends turning up, having made the mammoth journey to get there. It was so important for morale. Thank you all.

Those who participated were Paddy Colman, Tom Sampson, Danika Quirke, Julian Mills, Sam Pershall, Kate Mannix, Jessica Tyrrell, Tom Bennett, Paul Aitchison, Pierre Kunkler, Tom Coupland, Kit Stormont and Peter McDonald (my brother who gave up his holiday to support the show!)

The whole Edinburgh experience is something that will remain with us all for the rest of our lives.

*L S McDonald*

## *Calm down, it's only a play!* *The Impostor was this year's Moliere successor to The Skinflint*

"Beat me! Smack me! Whip me!" implores Tom Bennett's Tartuffe when he sins but he is such an immoral religious fraudster that he gives comen a bad name. The audience know Tartuffe's trickery long before he takes the stage

Julie and Julie, the saucy French maids, as short on French polish as they are on skirt material, set up the humour. Their cockney commentary on the duping of Ryan Donovan's naive gentleman Orgon, by Tartuffe, sets up the comedy. Ryan Donovan revels in the role of having the wool pulled over his eyes from his very first line, blind to his frustrated son Damis' (Joe Colman) exhortations.

A puritanical ageing portrait of shades of grey and black, Danika Quirke's bent-backed Mme Pernelle, also gulled by Tartuffe, is chilling as she shakes her stick at any hint of fun. Cleante, a wonderful performance of gravitas from Alex Woolnough as he dispenses mature wisdom, raises hopes of comedy rather than tragedy. He delivers the show-stopping "calm down" line.

Kate Mannix has a challenge as Orgon's wife. One moment utterly repulsed by the lecherous Tartuffe, she brilliantly switches to seducer as the plot to reveal Tartuffe's hypocrisy gathers. From the moment when Tartuffe mistakenly attempts to kiss Orgon, rather than his wife, it is all downhill for the fire and brimstone merchant.





Holly Baird as Mariane and Ed Vaughan-Fowler as Valere, a handsome couple even providing a *Strictly Come Dancing* performance, give a stylish cameo of young love but with Moliere satire tops the bill.

Tartuffe's confident rapport with the audience suggests invincibility. He sends in the wonderfully wigged George Dobbie, as a bailiff, to claim the property he has gulled from Orgon but Tartuffe's time is up. Even the King knows Tartuffe is a fraudster and Tom Morgan-Harris, pretty in turquoise, as the most mincing of policemen, hams up the rites of arrest.

Think Louis XIV décor and fashions, yet Lindsay McDonald's colloquial translation makes the characters' motivations timeless. Tartuffe has the "hots for Orgon's wife" even though Julie and Julie see his act as a "load of old codswallop". Last year McDonald's *Skinflint* received five star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe. Some Moliere aficionados believe *The Impostor* is even slicker.

## The Cast

Orgon	Ryan Donovan
Elmire, Orgon's wife	Kate Mannix
Damis, Orgon's son	Joe Colman
Madame Pernelle, Orgon's mother	Danika Quirke
Mariane, Orgon's daughter	Holly Baird
Valère, Mariane's lover	Ed Vaughan-Fowler
Cléante, Orgon's brother-in-law	Alex Woolnough
Tartuffe	Tom Bennett
Two Julies	Gabriella Hyde
Laurent, Tartuffe's servant	Jessica Tyrrell
Monsieur Loyal, a bailiff	Bobby Gouldstone
A Police Officer	George Dobbie
Flipote, Madame Pernelle's servant	Tom Morgan-Harris
Heavies	Emily Nash
	James Belgum,
	Daniel Clark

## Site Number 9

*"I'm smoking it," he thinks, or perhaps only feels.*

*"I'm smoking a rock of crack as big as the Ritz".*

*Tembe - The Rock of Crack as Big as the Ritz*

*By Will Self*

Devising an original piece of drama is a tough call, a very tough call as the last two years' intake onto the AS Drama and Theatre Studies course have found out. Not only does the performance need to come from the students' own ideas and experience of theatre but it also needs to reflect some of the aspects of the AS course content, to look in greater depth at the chosen Theatre Practitioner or to explore the issues and ideas of one of the set texts.

Add to this the fact that the piece has to be a team effort with all of the artistic conflicts and disagreements that this can cause and it is not surprising that the students often say that the first year of the AS Drama and Theatre Studies course is a greater challenge in performance than the second. Of course, this is the down side of the mission, on the up side it provides the students with a fantastic opportunity to create a performance that is challenging, often completely off the wall and to inventively use all of the skills they have seen and practiced on the course.

This year the AS Students chose to base their devised piece on a short story by Will Self, which concerns Tembe, who, whilst undertaking some DIY on the cellar of his North London home discovers that the house is quite literally built upon a "rock of crack". Tembe realises that he is on his way to a fortune but is also wise enough to know that he could flood the market and so the story charts his rise and eventual downfall in tough world of the London drugs scene.

The choice of the Will Self story was a good one for the students in a term that had already seen a visit from recovered addict Jonnie Leach. The group was also lucky to have amongst its members Jenny Unwin, whose father Dr Philip Unwin, the College doctor provided enormous support and assistance to the group. Most of this came in the form of another recovered local addict, Liz who conducted a fantastically open and honest workshop with the cast as a part of their research process.

So what came out of all this hard work?.....the students' final performance titled "SITE NO 9" was a hugely effective piece of theatre that encompassed physical movement skills, dance drama techniques, mime along with some very effective character creation. The AQA examiner was very impressed indeed and could see the students' obvious influences from the work of "Complicite" and "DV8". And so with all the bricks that were used to construct the building site back on Mr Greer's brick pile and all of the thousands of pieces of polystyrene that were used to create the cocaine powder consigned to the dustbin - with baited breath we wait to see just what will emerge from behind the Green Stable Yard Door next year!

## MAD DOGZ THEATRE COMPANY CAST

Tom Bennett  
Riyad Cajee  
Alice Magewick  
Sam Pershall  
Jenny Unwin

*C Saker*



## *The Man Who ...*

Catherine Saker's recent production is based on "The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat", the ground-breaking work on mental disorders by Dr Oliver Sacks. It explores the world of some of his neurologically deficient patients. "The Man Who" ... offers great challenges to both producer and performer. But then, as Ms Saker herself propounds, if one asks a student to jump only so high, that is as high as the student will jump. Ask them to jump quite a bit higher - and they will. And they did.



*Emily Nash, David Cullen, Daniel Clark & Henry Percy*

An ambitious choice: could the students enter the minds of the characters? Could they present the complex states of mind - Tourettes, Agnosia, Autism, Aphasia, Dysphasia, words beautiful in themselves but devastating in effect - in a way to engage the audience without alienating them? Could they expose the suffering yet not lay the character open to ridicule or pity? The answer was a resounding yes.

The cast of Daniel Clark, David Cullen, Emily Nash and Henry Percy did more than take on the roles. They were those afflicted human beings. We, the audience, were there - in the ward, in the consulting room. We endured the state of mind alongside each patient. Or did we? Like Dr Oliver Sacks, we wanted the doctors to spend more time listening, less time hiding behind statistics and abstract modeling. The professional distance (aka self-preservation) was made painfully yet subtly obvious. These students had been well drilled in the vocabulary of body language, the power of pacing and pause and they used their training to full effect.

The audience was provided with clip-boards, notes attached a new take on the conventional theatre programme. Yet this was far more than a gimmick. A clever touch, it placed us as observers, not as patients, as note-takers and academics, not in the same team as the patients. Try it for yourself: sit and listen to a friend opening his or her heart then repeat the event - but this time clutch a clip-board.

How can something so minor create so huge a distance between friends, let alone between doctor and patient?

During the evening, we found ourselves questioning our own attitude to the neurologically impaired. Any performance which poses more questions than it answers must surely be considered a triumph of theatre. On a practical basis, one must applaud the choice to take this performance out of a conventional theatre setting and stage it in the squash courts of Shiplake College: the clinical ward, the consulting room, the harsh lights, all added to the effectiveness of the production. Add to this the expertise of the back-stage lighting and sound effects team and this was set to be an evening to remember. Sometimes one has no need of photographs; the memory burns itself deep into the psyche. This performance of "The Man Who..." was one such event. Designed as a piece of installation art, it worked supremely well: there was hardly a frame which would not have stood alone to portray the chill loneliness of mental illness, the vulnerability of those other people. One young lad in the audience said he had come to watch the play to see if it could help him understand what was wrong with his brain: the problem is not his, it is ours. We who shy away from embracing those who are something other than normal have problems of our own. This performance made us look at some of those and re-think our own responses.





There was plenty of evidence of technical expertise: the use of back-projected images, the choice of plain white boiler suits as costumes, the bare sets, the sound effects. These all added to the overall impact of this very mature, professional production. It was an evening which engaged the audience on many levels.

Such an achievement does not come about through talent alone. What's that old saying? Ten percent inspiration, ninety per cent perspiration. One does not doubt but that this production was the result of some inspiration, plenty of perspiration, many hours of dedication by the students all stirred along by their experienced director, Catherine Saker.



There were moments of humour, moments of sadness, moments we would rather have been spared. The students took us right into the world of the neurologically impaired and showed us how it is sometimes a more comfortable place for them to be, showed us the caring cruelty of conventional treatments which aim to bring them back from their other place. This was an evening of theatre at its best. Had it been a school rugby match, there would no doubt have been parents and students cheering on every touch-line. Shame they missed this great match: it will be talked about and, even more importantly, thought about, for a long time to come. This production deserves to tour but the demands of school work - for both teacher and students - must preclude such a possibility. No matter. There must be huge, life-long rewards for all those involved in this production.

It is neither necessary nor desirable to highlight any one performance: the cast of four acted and inter-acted together at every point. They were indeed fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on such a challenging text with a teacher/theatrical director as talented, experienced and open-minded as Ms Saker. She gave of her best and her students responded - the recipe for outstanding theatre. Let there be more !

*Bridget Fraser - Artspace*

## *A Fist of Five The House Drama Festival unearths some new talent*

The inaugural House Drama Festival packed a powerful punch with five plays from predominantly junior casts produced with some help from senior advisors.

Orchard House reworked an extract from Nikolai Gogol's classic play *The Government Inspector* with Year 9 and 10 pupils, particularly Rob McCallum, making the most of the classic theme of satire on vanity and corruption.

Skipwith struck a chord with a very feminine James Sethill and Simon Mullins taking on drag roles to show the trials and tribulations of a group of teenagers preparing for *The Exam*. Rollo Sparkes donned milk-bottle glass spectacles at short notice to play Piggy in Burr's economy version of *The Lord of the Flies*. Scruffy Year 9 pupils, splattered with blood and mud, looked at ease in their role as anarchic hunters.



Everett had the A cast list of directors with Theatre Studies experienced Sam Pershall, Tom Bennett and Henry Percy directing Cameron Johnson, William Nathan, Giles Whittingham and Patrick Weiss in Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills*. A group of children fight, fantasize and swagger as they play out their dreams and fears in the Second World War West Country.

"Once upon a time ...." Salman Rushdie developed the great bath-time story that he told to his own son into *Haroun and The Sea of Stories*. Welsh enjoyed an eccentric range of costumes as they brought Rushdie's wonderful book to life.



*Pupils in Years 9 & 10,  
invited to the Babbage Society,  
enjoyed a varied programme*

## Journalism

*Michael Edwards*

Any members hoping for tips on how to make it to Fleet Street were soon disillusioned. Michael Edwards, sometime freelance journalist on food and travel, discussed the power of the pound on the press. Babbage members latched onto his assertion that circulation wars dictate what we read rather than the nature of the “news” itself.

## Feeding the world into the 21st Century

*Brendan Pavey*

The Babbage Society reconvened to discuss the challenge of feeding the world into the 21st century. Mr Pavey, Head of Geography, was in provocative mood and suggested that the answer to all our prayers was to 'eat less meat'.

It was argued that if we do not fundamentally change our attitudes and our diet over the next 50 years there will be huge shortages of land and water which could potentially lead to famine, disease and war.

Being a keen meat eater, Mr Pavey was hoping the Society could develop some convincing arguments to counter his claims, or design some solutions to the problems the world is facing as it attempts to feed its ever-growing population.

## The Abyss, Extremophiles and Life without Light

*Grant Lawson*

Grant Lawson, Head of Biology, recalled his findings during his years of research at Southampton University. As a marine-biologist he focussed on the life in the dark depths of the world's oceans.

## Solving Cryptic Crosswords

*Lindsay McDonald*

Lindsay McDonald relaxes from the stresses and strains of running the Modern Languages department with a daily onslaught on the crossword. For this session he shared years of experience as he encouraged pupils to acquire the mental agility and verbal dexterity to unravel a daily intellectual challenge.

## PeoplePower

*Luke Foster*

Luke Foster, English teacher, became social commentator, when he led a discussion on the Philippines' “Bloodless Revolution” of April 1989. Taking “PeoplePower” as his title, Mr. Foster recalled being in Manila at the time of the fall of the dictator Marcos in February 1989.

It was a revolution led by nuns who poured into the streets to protect rebel politicians. The nuns formed human chains in front of tanks as they risked their lives for what they believed to be right.

## Medieval Kingship

*Dr Toby Purser*

On the rather inauspicious date of Friday 13th, Dr Purser gave a talk on Medieval Kingship to the Babbage Society. Dr Purser started by identifying the role of the medieval king and asking how kings were made. Kings were, he proposed, possessed of magical and spiritual powers to rule over their people.

A king was made by his birth and by the religious ceremony of the coronation, a ritual still used today. Costume, symbols and images were important in making kingship work but the king also needed men around him to keep records of laws and to count the taxes.

Gradually, this growing bureaucracy challenged the power of the king so that by the end of the Middle Ages, kings did not have total power; parliament kept them in check. However, the personality of the king remained essential; a greedy, selfish and brutal king could make life a misery for his subjects, just as a fair and popular king could bring happiness to his people.

Finally, the medieval ‘bestseller’ was the story of King Arthur, the “once and future king” who only existed in people’s minds but who was the ideal king who all medieval kings tried, and usually failed, to emulate.

## The Science of Chocolate

*Dr Keith Halliday*

The Science of Chocolate was the subject of the academic year's last Babbage Society lecture. Dr Keith Halliday tempted the palates with some fascinating facts about this everyday treat.

The talk ranged from the origins of chocolate in the Mayan period to some of the properties that make it melt in your mouth. The ingredients on the back of a bar were also demystified.

There were lots of demonstrations and for some the highlight was the “blind” tasting. It was encouraging that everyone could tell the difference between Lindt and Tesco's value brands!



*Luke Foster: PeoplePower*



## The Musical Year

### Autumn

The Great Hall rafters are free from dust. Ryan Donovan's magnificent counter-tenor and Alex Woolnough's confident bass voices in extracts from Handel's *Messiah* were followed by the great talents of James Belgum, Martin Haymes, Ian Waters, Will Downing and Chris Gardner, the brass ensemble.

Leo Gibbs evoked icebergs on the euphonium while Laura Williams and Alice Madgwick's elegant cello playing led into the Junior Saxophones' *Swingtime*.

The debut of the samba band brought new heights of percussive volume; the finale by the Big Band, *Watermelon Man* and *Tequila* showing the breadth of stylistic talent at Shiplake this Autumn Term.

### Spring



In his newsletter at the end of the Spring Term, the Headmaster wrote, "The Spring Concert was probably the best, in terms of music quality, that I have heard."

The evening included performances from some promising young musicians. The Saxophone Septet performed *Blue Moon* impressively (unusually with eight members including youngsters Christopher Clifford, Michael Holiasmenos, Edward Westnedge, Toby Raper and Anthony Kay, with Johnny Potts on drums.) William Lerche performed *Summertime* on the violin capably and with confidence, his elder brother Alex having played *Study in F* sensitively earlier in the evening.

Other notable performances from older pupils included those of *Ave Verum* and *The Lord is My Shepherd* by James Belgum, Ryan Donovan, Tim Hill, Josh Raper and Alex Woolnough. (Ryan's father had flown from Gibraltar, on his way to Iraq, to hear Ryan sing for the first time. He was, understandably, visibly moved.) The Brass Quintet comprising James Belgum, Will Downing, Chris Gardner, Martin Haymes and Ian Waters played *Intrada* and *Dante* with obvious enjoyment. Performances on the clarinet from George Dobbie, Kate Mannix, Tim Hill and Alex Woolnough, on the 'cello from Alice Madgwick and Laura Williams, and on the saxophone from Sam Willsher demonstrated the usual skill and confidence we now expect.

Performances from members of staff are always of great value and Nick Brown, Gregg Davies, Shaun Gessler, Charles Johnson, Charly Lowndes, and Robert Prance (in alphabetical order, to be tactful!) played or sang with enthusiasm and gusto.

Brian Foakes, Gary Howarth, and, of course, Malcolm Woodcock are once again to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts. It was another memorable musical evening.

### Summer

What can be sadder than the sight of soggy white tablecloths with the green from the decorative covers seeping into the white.... how unfair the English weather can be. After a week of blue skies and sunshine, we were forced to rush indoors, fortunately able to follow a brilliantly organised wet weather plan.

The evening began with a staff farewell to Peter Hose and Rosemary Jones which was followed by an indoor barbecue



and ended with a superb Recital in the Great Hall.

We were encouraged to be seated for the musical part of the evening by the irresistible beat of the Samba Band.

The Brass Ensemble (Martin Haymes and James Belgum, Ian Waters, Will Downing and Chris Gardner) opened by playing *England's Glory* with confidence. Martin, Will and Chris will be greatly missed, as will George Dobbie, Dave Cullen, Josh Raper and Kate Mannix, all of whom have supported the Music Department brilliantly during their time here.

Edward Bailey, James Belgum, Nick Brown, Ryan Donovan, Carolyn Foster, Tim Hill, William Lerche, Alice Madgwick, Catherine Saker, Laura Williams and Alex Woolnough performed a stunning rendition of *Beatus Vir* (a setting in Latin of Psalm 111 for five part vocal ensemble and strings).

Laura Williams, as always, played her cello beautifully, looking as if she would float away at any moment! Back down to earth with a bump, the Saxophone Ensemble of Christopher Clifford, Shaun Gessler, Anthony Kay, Charly Lowndes, Toby Raper, Edward Westnedge, played *Summer Holiday* with gusto. The group goes from strength to strength under Brian Foakes' direction.



More beautiful singing followed, then a folky number from Chris Gardner who has progressed wonderfully on the tuba. Then, returning to singing, a superb performance by Nick Brown and Ryan Donovan of *Thou in Thy Mercy*. The voices of tenor and counter tenor were so in accord and made an amazing sound.

William Lerche played *Concerto in D* by Vivaldi with skill and confidence, and a mixed instrument Ensemble played a medley of Abba tunes. More wonderful singing followed and the evening ended, as always, with the Big Band. Their improvised solo spots were impressive, with the players apparently nerveless.

It was another wonderful musical evening and the dismal weather certainly hadn't dampened spirits!

Having been a spectator at the musical events this year, I marvel at the frantic rehearsing, the last minute inclusions and omissions from the programme, the apparent chaos, and then .... the event begins. The players perform calmly and brilliantly and the audience applauds in praise and admiration!

*L Lowndes*

## *Controversy at the House Music Competition*

The first half of the Spring Term concluded with a highly entertaining House Music Competition. There was controversy in the instrumental section. Although Orchard House provided a standing ovation for their musicians' rendition of *The House of the Rising Sun* the instrumental honours were won by Welsh House's *Walk this Way*. Orchard's subtle switch from the classical cello introduction to electric guitars won over most of the audience but maybe it was the subtle underplayed comedy of Jake Russell's triangle and Dave Cullen's superb drumming that gave Welsh their victory. Everett was highly commended for their performance of *California*.

Flanders and Swann had a very heavy influence on the House Songs section with Welsh House opting for *The Wompom* while Skipwith gave an impressive performance of *The Hippopotamus Song*. Both houses rose to the challenge of wordy and demanding lyrics with some impressive and clear singing allowing the humour of both songs to shine through.

Burr, directed by Leo Robarts and Alex Woolnough, brought controlled choral power to Rod Stewart's *Sailing* and were rightly highly commended. Clear diction from Everett also gave them a "Highly Commended" from the judges for *Morning has Broken* conducted by Tim Hill.

The judges, Headmaster Gregg Davies and Head of Drama, Catherine Saker, ultimately decided that Orchard House, with Red Hot Chilli Peppers' *Under the Bridge* was the winners of a very close contest.

*M. Edwards*



*Welsh boffins investigate a Wompom*



*Singing in Chapel has improved greatly this year*



## *Has he really hung up his amp? Can Richard Mannix really retire after fourteen years of Shiplake concerts?*

Somewhere in the midst of last-minute line-up changes, frantic sound-checks and relocation of amps and drum-kits there is Richard Mannix, veteran of fourteen years of Shiplake rock concerts bringing order to chaos, ably assisted by Brian Foakes.

Steve McCullagh, Nick Constant, Azwar Rashid and Dave Cullen got it started for a packed audience with some accomplished performances. This time they took Limp Biskit's *Mission Impossible 2* up a level with Azwar rapping the lyrics. The shirt may have read *Miller Lite* but Tobias Miller, Dylan Smith, Tom Hunter and Louis Parks were distinctly heavy. They dripped pessimism as they launched a high-decibel aural assault on the senses with the heaviest of heavy metal.

Tumbling Pebbles, wannabe successors to the Rolling Stones, stretched rock and roll to its limit with their comedy act. Guitars were purely fashion accessories as the guys in their aviator sun-glasses and waistcoats hit the *Theme to the Lion King*. Henry Percy, Jake Russell and Sam Pershall are now on the FBI's most wanted list for crimes against music but the audience loved the comic timing.

Back to the heavy rock with Aaron Phillips, Toksy Fatona and Louis Parks and the ubiquitous Nick Constant and his guitar guesting. They gave the audience their take on Nirvana's *Drain You* and Ozzy Osbourne's *Paranoid*. Ozzy would have probably nodded his black shades in approval. Throughout Kit Stormont controlled the lighting with professionalism. This was a high-energy, interactive audience who really appreciated the musician's efforts and with Richard Mannix stating that this was his farewell gig there was a tangible emotion in the smoke-machine charged air.

Next up were Tom's Kinky Bike-Shed. Oakley Loudon, Ollie Loudon, Nick Mannix and Tom Bennett got the crowd on their feet with Red Hot Chilli Pepper's *By the Way*. Their skills are a great tribute to the phenomenal work done by Shiplake's enthusiastic instrumental teachers.

Gustav and the Destroyers Jack Thomson, Freddie Durant-Pritchard, Jack Mercer and Adam Norton, joined for one number by guitar teacher Paul Wisby, demonstrated that they have the ability to take over from Dylan Smith's combo as Shiplake's future princes of darkness.

Then returning from exile it was Ali Sloane and Piers Mortimer. Legends met again to bring Caimbo back to Shiplake. Alongside their original songs, there was the classic *Back to the USSR* with Leo Robarts striking the poses, and milking the audience for one last great performance at Shiplake.





## *Prague, Vienna, Budapest*

2004 was a historic year for Europe. 15 years after the iron curtain of communism was replaced by the welcome mat of tour operators Europe was shaken once again. There was of course the enlargement of the EU, there was the war in Iraq ... but most importantly there was Shiplake's combined history and art trip to Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

A group of 40 pupils from Year 10 through to the 6th form spent five days of their Autumn half-term experiencing three of Europe's most beautiful capital cities. We arrived in the Czech Republic late on Friday night and spent our first day walking the ancient cobbled streets of Prague. Gothic magnificence, Renaissance elegance and Counter-Reformation exuberance followed one after another as each turn revealed yet another breathtaking view.

The following day took us from the city into the country and from the glory of Czech history to its more recent tragedies. The most poignant visit we made was to the peaceful rolling field that was once the thriving village of Lidice. The extermination of the village in 1942 stands as one of the most brutal atrocities of the war. The group found itself drawn to the life-sized statues of the dozens of children who were killed. Of similar age and number as us the statues spoke silently of both tragedy ... and hope.



Monday was spent watching great swathes of Eastern Europe from the comfort of a bus. In a one, rather cosmopolitan, day we had breakfast in the Czech Republic, lunch in Austria and supper in Hungary.

Tuesday was spent in Budapest. Prague and Budapest are very different ... as different as Kylie is from Robbie. The one is small, compact and beautiful, the other is brash, assertive but no less impressive. There is the majestic palace, high on its cliff top, proudly overlooking the Danube. There is the Cathedral, its roof the colour of autumn leaves, its walls covered in murals and mosaic. There are the boulevards, the squares and the mighty soviet era monuments. Most memorable of all was the dinner cruise on the Danube. Very few lingered over their meals on the last night. We were all too entranced by the floodlit splendour of Budapest as it slowly rolled by. A fitting end to a wonderful week.

*L R Foster*

## *Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions*

Forty five pupils from Shiplake College undertook their Gold and Silver pre-expeditions in the first week of the Easter holiday. Base camp was the Llangorse Climbing and Riding centre in the Brecon Beacons. The pupils trekked over the Beacons for three days.



They were tested on camp craft, navigation, trekking and teamwork skills. Despite poor weather conditions the final day's route took them over Pen-Y-Fan, the tallest peak in the area. After the walking expedition was finished the pupils had a day's activities at the climbing centre; which included bouldering and climbing on the indoor walls, abseiling, a pot-holing taster and then an outdoor rope and wire challenge course.

The group was instructed and assessed by a team of staff from the College, most from the CCF contingent, together with three Sergeants from the cadet training team. Each group leader chose their best overall performers from each Gold and Silver group; these were Daniel Lighter, Charlie, Rollo & Will Sparkes (joint winners), Jack Harvard Taylor, Edward Westnedge, Ludovic Downey and Joe Holmes.

Then 27 pupils from Year 10 set sail for France early on the Saturday morning of the last week of the Summer Term. They had planned a route around the historical and mythical sights of Paimpont forest. Over three days they covered 30 miles in excellent weather, although several groups covered a little more mileage as their navigation skills were well and truly put to the test!

*G S Lawson*



### *More flying for the RAF*

Despite its relatively small size, the RAF Section of the Shiplake CCF has had an extremely active year that benefited greatly from the enthusiasm of all the cadets involved. Undoubtedly the most popular activity was the flying, carried out at nearby RAF Benson with No 6 Air Experience Flight. All the cadets who wished to were able to fly on at least one of the four flying days, two other days were unfortunately washed out by foul weather.

Those who were courageous enough and had suitably strong stomachs were able to enjoy hands-on aerobatic flying in the superb Grob trainers used by 6 AEF, looping and diving through the skies over Oxfordshire. Our sincere thanks go to the very capable RAF flying instructors at RAF Benson who put so much effort into providing such unforgettable experiences for the cadets.



The RAF Section's Field Day in September 2004 took the cadets to the RAF Museum at Hendon where, in addition to viewing the huge array of RAF and foreign aircraft, we had a presentation by a veteran on the theory of flight, which was very much physics in action! The next Field Day in March 2005 was held jointly with the Army section at Bramley training area, involving field craft exercises and some hair-raising challenges on the high wire confidence area. This was a serious test of individual determination and nerve, capably and safely led by the resident Army instructors.

Mrs Seema King, the volunteer supervisor for the RAF Section, went away to the RAF College, Cranwell, to attend her commissioning course. She surprised herself in many ways by enjoying the experience hugely, particularly the formation drill, and by returning as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training). She will be in command of the RAF Section during its annual camp, which this year takes place at RAF Cosford at the end of the Summer Term and promises to be a very busy and enjoyable week for all those lucky enough to be attending. Planned activities include air experience flying, shooting on the range with the Cadet rifle, visits to all the regular RAF sections on the station to see how they operate day to day and team-building exercises. Mrs King will be departing from the school to accompany her husband (himself an RAF officer) on a posting to Germany. The RAF Section will be led next year by Flt Lt Chris Bridgeman and Plt Off Lesley Lowndes.

*Flight Lieutenant S J King*

### *Exciting year for the Army Section*

The beginning of the Autumn Term saw the senior members of the army section providing a guard of honour for the presentation and dedication of a new CCF banner at the Chapel of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and afterwards at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park. This was a national event and our selection reflects well on the standing of our relatively small contingent.



This was followed by a Field Day for all three sections which afforded an opportunity for the new recruits to receive an introduction into the activities of their respective sections. For Remembrance Sunday we had a special service in the Great Hall followed by a parade at the War Memorial in Lower Shiplake together with other village organisations. Back at the College a presentation was made to Lt Col Webb by his fellow officers.

Behind the scenes, there were a number of inspections by the regulars of the three arms in order to prepare a report for the Biennial Inspection.

The Spring Term was dominated by preparation for the Biennial Revue day. A parade in the morning followed by competitions in the afternoon. Cadet Sergeant Major Alex Esslemont ably commanded the parade and conducted our visiting inspecting officer Captain J D D Murphie RN around the competition stands in the afternoon.





Towards the end of the Spring term the Army Section visited 6 Battalion REME at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth at the kind invitation of Col Belgom where they experienced a full range of activities of which the highlight was tank rides around the training area.

Adventurous training again took place, during the Easter break, in the Brecon Beacons with preparation and training for Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions together with the use of an indoor climbing centre and an external confidence course.

All three sections had a Field day in the summer term. The Army and RAF sections joined together to visit Bramley Training area where they used the High wire course under the supervision of the Cadet Training Team.

This busy programme could not have been completed without the support of my fellow officers and the professional input of the Cadet Training Team. We wish Flt Lt King well on her move to Germany and thank her for her considerable input into the RAF Section.

*Major P G. Hose*

### *Sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and kayaking are all part of life for the Royal Navy Cadets*

The section has completed a very successful years training. 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 NCOs and I would like to thank Sam Liu, James Johnston, KK Law, Bobbie Gouldstone, Richard Binnie, Greg White, Freddie Humphrey and Daniel Lighter. In particular I would like to thank the Head of Section Sam Morris for all he has done over the last two years. 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 Collingwood this year, and undertook several interesting field days.

More cadets than ever are taking the opportunity to attend camps and courses, which this year include sailing, powerboat coxswain, first aid, adventurous training, sub-aqua course, leadership weekends and Fleet Air Arm acquaintance. 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. This year I have again been assisted by Charly Lowndes, who brings enthusiasm and variety to the cadet training. He has now joined the ranks as a Sub-Lieutenant.

*Lieutenant G. Lawson CCF RNR*

### *That sinking feeling ...*

Shiplake College RN CCF cadets were all 'lost at sea' on their summer field day. Having begun the day at HMS Collingwood with an exercise run by the Command Training Group, the cadets had learnt the value of effective communication between team members.

The afternoon's activity put this to the test under extreme conditions. Split into two teams they had to save a sinking ship, under fire from enemy aircraft.

Using the state of the art DRUI simulator (Damage Repair Instructional Unit) the cadets fought leaks in the decks and hull, as the boat heaved in the swell and filled with water and smoke.



Having had expert tuition from the NBCD TU team, they hammered wooden wedges, reinforced bulkheads and constructed vertical braces; all under the relentless flow of water, often having to submerge themselves totally as it rapidly deepened.

Unfortunately despite their valiant efforts the ship was lost with all hands, a reminder of the difficult and dangerous real life situations this simulator was designed to train for.

We were grateful for such an exciting activity, ably arranged and organised by our new Parent Establishment Liaison Officer Lt. Lee Mclocklan RN (DTO) and all the instructional and safety staff at HMS Excellent and HMS Collingwood.



## *Extracts from the journals of the Four Nations Expedition to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe in July 2004*

We landed, finally. We all could not wait to get out of our flying sardine can and onto the 26 hour train journey to Cape Town. On this journey, south to the coast, we saw many amazing sights from flat deserted land to acres of vineyards and mountainous land. The vineyards gave the land such colour.

*Nick de Roumanie*



After driving across the arid desert for most of the day we arrived at Hobas Camp. We set up our tents, got settled in, and organised our gear for the trip to Fish River Canyon, the second largest of its kind in the world. We stopped at one viewpoint for some photos and to take in the awesome sight of the largest gash in the earth I have ever seen. One very interesting area was called Music Mountain, so called because if you throw a rock at the mound of boulders it “tinged” and chimed due to the high iron content of the rock.

*“The aridity of the area is amazing; there are animals and plants here but no visible sign of water, certainly no surface water.”*

*Johnny Boulton*



We knew this would be a trip of many miles, 4,412 in fact, 5,512 if we include our train journey from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

Our reward was ample, sampling the delights of a wonderful train journey and the Cape Peninsula with its wine lands and mountains to climb before moving on to canoeing down the Orange River, visiting the amazing Fish River Canyon and then immersing ourselves in the beauty of the Namib Desert itself. We travelled widely in Namibia before following the Okavango River down in to the jewel of Africa, the Delta in Botswana after which we passed through the great Magadigadi Plain and the life rich Chobe area.

Victoria Falls and the Matopo Hills, where we literally walked with a rhino, rounded off Zimbabwe.

*M Wagner, College Expeditions Officer*





## Marcus O'Shea's 18th Birthday Speech

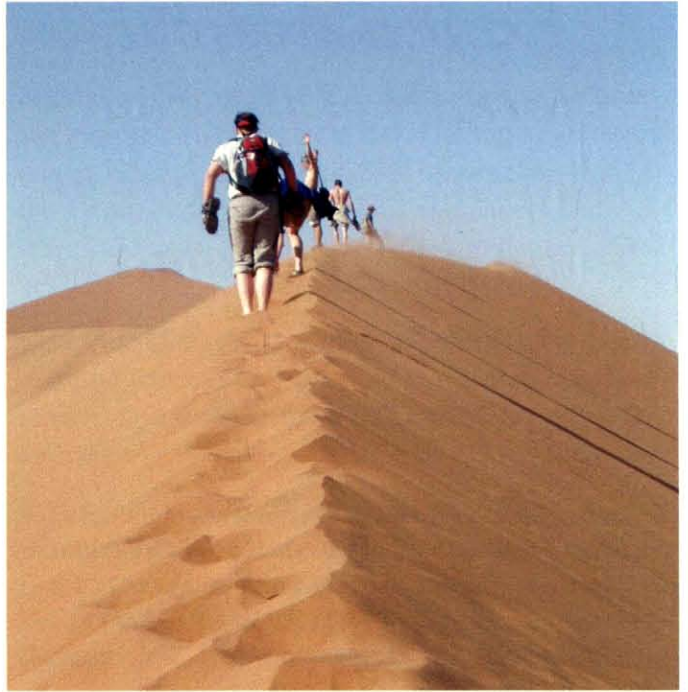
Now when people turn 18 they often think about the presents that go with it, but this trip has been the best present that I could have hoped for. I was looking through my journal the other day at some of the things we've done. We've climbed Table Mountain. I've seen Paul run from a baboon at Cape Point. I've had a black widow spider on my back. We've been canoeing down the Orange River, seen the Fish River Canyon at sunrise and sunset, both amazing. We've climbed huge sand dunes. I've seen Jordan nearly have his hand ripped off by a sea-lion. I've seen 4,600 year old Bushman engravings.

We have poled down the Okavango Delta, seen Vic Falls, we've been danced to by the Black Warrior Tribe, sung to by the Monde Primary School and we have been on so many game drives. Perhaps the greatest thing I've seen on this trip was the two elephant herds drinking together at the water hole in Etosha.

*"Just the other day Paul reminded me that I have already lived a quarter of my life, given the amazing things that we have seen and done in just one month, think what we could do with the rest of our lives."*

*"We spent that night round an open fire, talking about what we had seen during the day; Fish Eagles, Hippo Highways, Elephants and the list goes on."*

Ed Cook



We visited a school just outside Victoria Falls; this was a very emotional experience for me as I had never seen anything like this. The classrooms weren't very big but at one point I swear around 50 pupils came out of one room.

We looked at some of their workbooks and textbooks and saw one on the subject of AIDS. Children at the age of six learning about the disease as there is such a high risk. They learn all about the other diseases that can kill them that we no longer need worry about. When we think we have a hard time of it we should think of all those children.

*We shouldn't be complaining at all they have a much harder life than us just to survive.*

*Don't complain about what you don't have.*

Danielle Peachey-Simpson





## The College's 25 strong squad headed for South Africa for a testing programme of pre-season training and four tight matches

James Belgum, Ed Blanchard, George Boggis, Dan Clark, Chris Cooper, Henry Gordon, Jamie Gouldstone, Tristan Harper, Seb Hipwood, Basil Holiasmenos, Julian Kunkler, Phillip Loudon-Carter, Jamie Orpwood, George Pelling, Henry Percy, Joshua Rankin, Joshua Raper, Leo Robarts, Ben Roberts, Tom Sampson, Charlie Sparkes, Rollo Sparkes, Will Sparkes, Kit Stormont, David Wilson

Shiplake College senior 25-man rugby squad completed a very successful 17 day tour of South Africa at the beginning of August. Much had to be done before the tour to raise funds and thanks must go to our many sponsors and particularly to Paul Emerson who arranged a number of fund-raising events including a very successful and enjoyable tour dinner. The Old Viking Society made an important contribution with a Family Day in June.

*As expected the rugby was very physical and competitive, matched and sometimes surpassed by the Shiplake squad.*

We played four games, beginning with a morale boosting victory in Cape Town. Each game was a step-up. We learnt a lot from those tight games and once we returned to home territory the benefits of the tour soon became apparent.

The tour began in Cape Town with views of Table Mountain, Camps Bay, Langa Township, Cape Point and the V&A Waterfront. From Worcester we travelled to Oudtshoorn to see and ride Ostriches and stroke cheetah and white Bengal tiger cubs and on to picturesque Knysna, taking part in a mixture of whale-watching, abseiling and canoeing, and surfing at Jeffrey's Bay. An internal flight took the group from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg, visiting Gold Reef theme park and on to Pretoria to see the Voortrekker Monument and Loftus Versfeld.

After the final match the party then spent two nights in Sun City and then moved on to Mabula Game Lodge and saw lions, rhino, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and numerous other animals, on two game drives

*The welcome that the party received from host schools and anyone that they met was fantastic and the boys conducted themselves superbly, receiving only compliments during their travels and have made friends which could last for life.*

A.D. Dix



Trafalgar High School (Cape Town) Won 10 – 11  
Worcester Gym Lost 7 – 5  
Paul Sauer High School (Kareedouw) Lost 7 – 3  
Garsfontein High School (Pretoria) Lost 11 – 6





## 1st XV win county cup



The results show an outstanding season from the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. With the combination of two strong year groups, there was always the potential for a fine season, but the squad surpassed expectations in many areas. The statistics of played 16, won 14, lost 2, equalled the previous best in 1990.

The successful tour to South Africa, involving many of the squad, paid dividends, as did the inaugural South Coast King's Tournament, when the squad improved throughout the day and won the Plate competition.

Gresham's School	W 13 - 5
Reading Blue Coat	W 10 - 48
Reading School	W 27 - 0
The Oratory	W 13 - 6
Merchant Taylors'	W 6 - 12
Desborough (U18 DMC)	W 50 - 10
Pangbourne College	L 18 - 5
Dr. Challoner's (U18 DMC)	W 8 - 10
Milton Abbey	W 20 - 3
Aylesbury (U18 DMC)	L 7 - 5
Bloxham School	W 17 - 7
Henry Box (U19 Ox Cup)	W 5 - 76
Lord William's (U19 Ox Cup)	W 11 - 8
MCS (U19 Ox Cup Final)	W 0 - 16
Reed's School	W 10 - 27
Old Viking Society	W 62 - 0

Gresham's, with a reputation for high standards in rugby, made the long journey for the first full fixture of the season and were beaten, perhaps giving the side the belief in each other that was not evident in Southampton. The defensive qualities were superb with all 15 players being fully committed to the tackle, putting 'their bodies on the line' for their teammates and the College. This physical and mental toughness was a theme that ran throughout the season. What a start!

Other memorable victories and performances in the first half of the season included a first half demolition of Reading School, the local derby against The Oratory and the fantastic win at Merchant Taylors' (we were playing their second team three years ago!).

Although we were progressing well in the Daily Mail Cup, the loss against Pangbourne (who, although we had chances of turning the score around, played better than us on the day) really hurt. The eventual exit from the Daily Mail Cup was also hard to bear as the team did not perform anywhere near their best and the target was to progress through at least two more rounds.

The squad was then free to concentrate on the Oxfordshire Cup which included a hard fought semi-final against a strong Lord Williams's side. For the final against MCS the preparation was ideal (thanks to SJO and Henley RFC) with the correct balance of rest and training. Shiplake 1st XV were not going to let this opportunity slip away and in a ruthless display 'did not allow Magdalen to play' and converted pressure into points, winning 16 - 0, to become Oxfordshire champions.



This also emphasized that we had finally reached the discipline levels required to perform at the highest possible standards; 'they walked the walk, before talking the talk!'. Results are obviously important, and they should be extremely proud of them, but I also hope that the entire squad will have learnt from this experience to enhance their future, particularly in, but also outside of sport. The Lower Sixth of C Sparkes, C Alstadt, J Belgium, K Stormont (Most Improved Player), G Moseby, A Woolnough, J Smith-Jones, R Sparkes, R Lloyd and W Sparkes all played consistently well and I will be looking to them to improve and show their experience and leadership qualities next year.



Special mention, though, should go to the players from this year's upper sixth. Hooker Wilson was technically superb in both scrum and line-out to ensure that we won our own ball. The back row trio of Robarts, Talbot and Clark (Players' Player of the Year), were outstanding. All three tackled superbly, Leo always made ground and looked after the ball in attack, James provided the doggedness, no-matter who the opposition, which the others would follow, and Daniel provided quality ball from line-outs, using his athletic qualities, on our and opposition ball.

I would like to congratulate Jamie Orpwood for his fine leadership, commitment and organizational skills as captain and his fine performances on the pitch. I would like to thank Mr A Hurst who enthusiastically passed on his knowledge and experience to the squad and in particular gave the backs better lines, timing and the ability to choose the correct options in attack. I would also like to thank all staff and parents who have supported the team and Shiplake College Rugby Club during the season.



*A.D. Dix*

## *Jack Deakin reflects on mixed fortunes for the second fifteen*

The second team had a patchy season. There were highs and lows and we won more games than we have in recent seasons. There has been encouraging progress from players such as Bobby Gouldstone, Sebastian Hipwood, Myles Eve, Simon Kirk and Edward Vaughan-Fowler.

Injuries hit the squad very hard at times. Ryan Donovan's athleticism and pace promised much in the early weeks of the season but his season ended with a broken ankle during the third game.

Some high quality players moved up from the U16s to senior level and they fitted in immediately. Oliver Hitchen, who received nominations for many of the "Tackle of the Game" awards received another award at the end of the season as "Most

Promising  
Second Team  
player".



Joshua Raper and Will Sparkes deserved their award of half colours.

It was a tribute to the strength of the second fifteen that Oliver Hitchen, Jack Deakin, Sam Morris and Richard Lloyd were all able to step up to the first fifteen and play an important part in the march to cup glory.

We also enjoyed welcoming David Wilson, Kit Stormont, Alex Woolnough, James Talbot, Alex Esslemont and William Downing to our ranks when they were unable to gain a place in the first fifteen. We are also all very grateful for the expertise, hours and patience that Mr. Lawson devoted to training.

*G.S. Lawson*

## *Joy and frustration for 16A's coach*

Teamwork and commitment are the words that would sum up the U16 A squad this season. The team took their coach, Mr Martin Unsworth, through the whole range of emotions from absolute joy to incredible frustration on a daily basis. Apart from the obvious improvement of skill levels, the U16s transformed over the seasons into a more cohesive unit with a common purpose and an eagerness to play for each other. There can be no complaints about effort.

The attitude of the team was epitomised by Player of the Season, Daniel Stuart, who knows of only one direction in which to run and of one style of which to make tackles, fiercely. He was the catalyst of a number of extremely good performances by a very determine forward pack.

Stuart was ably supported by the hard running Milton and Gascoigne, the ever efficient Satch and Braithwaite in the front row, the power of Diaz-Faes, the consistency of Lee and Williams and the courage of mighty mouse Moss. The greatest day would have been against Pangbourne. Despite a narrow loss the performance of the forward pack that day could be described as nothing less than heroic. Although wins were scarce in the first half of the term, much promise was shown with encouraging performances against Bloxham, Merchant Taylors and. in particular, the Oratory School.





**W Satch  
D Stuart  
G Braithwaite  
T Kemp  
W Milton  
S Moss  
R Gascoigne  
J Diaz Faes  
W Ewart  
M Greaves  
L Parks  
O Loudon  
J Walker  
C Muluzi  
B Farmar  
N Williams  
M Lee  
M Witting  
T Crewdson  
P Jasper**

The first half of the term also saw Max Witting as the most outstanding player. The injury he suffered at half term was a real set back for the whole team. Farmar and Loudon developed into a more than useful inside back combination, whilst Ewart, Greaves and Parks blossomed towards the end of the season. Carlucci Muluzi provided the team with many exciting highlights, scoring a number of scintillating tries. His performances earlier in the season gave the team great confidence.

In the second half of the term, a draw at Milton Abbey and an honourable two point loss to the Bearwood 2nd XV was followed by deserved wins against Claire's Court and Leighton Park.

The acid test, however, was to be the last game of the season against a very good Reed's team. A fifteen man effort saw the

team excel themselves and win a well contested game by three tries to one. This was, indeed, a grand finale. The U16 team and Shiplake College owe a huge debt of thanks to the unique and passionate coaching of Martin Unsworth. In recent years his role in preparing this age group for senior school boy rugby has been priceless.

*S.J. O'Brien*



## *Progress from the U16Bs*

The guys had an excellent season which is a credit to their dedication and enthusiasm to rugby. I was proud to see them train hard and at times stay on to practise skills in their own time. Some of the key players really stamped their marks on the team, showing responsibility and beginning to control the game with their increasing knowledge of the laws and tactics.

The highlight was certainly our second game against Bloxham, whom we'd narrowly lost to in our first game. They played with heart that day, the best I've seen them play for two years. They were unbeatable, everyone gave 100% and they played as a tight unit. I personally have had an enjoyable season and I am proud of what they have achieved. I would encourage all the boys to seriously consider continuing playing next season. Keep up the great work and good luck for your future.

*S.W. Kiesanowski*

**R Haymes  
J Gillett  
J Colman  
N Gaudie  
J Pinto  
M Greaves  
W Ewart  
T Miller  
C Leslie  
J McDowell  
T Crewdson  
S Miller-Smith  
H Mitchell  
S Arthur  
S Roberts  
O Venn  
W Adler  
D Fairhead  
J Nash  
J Narewski  
T Fatona  
G Crawley**

## *"Substantial improvement" from the U15As*

The tone of the U15A season started with a Wednesday fixture at Bearwood College, when the team didn't get the rub of the green, in a match which they could have won. Captain Tom Morgan-Harris led his team from the front and spirited performances from a hard running back line failed to turn the disallowed tries into a win.

Bearwood was followed by a Daily Mail cup match against Windsor Boys which was held to a draw in an exciting performance particularly from Giles Whittingham. The season slipped away from this high point aided by injuries and depriving the team of the leadership of Captain Tom Morgan-Harris.

During the term the team improved substantially on last years scores as U14s. Notable games included Merchant Taylors' when a half time lead by the home team was turned around for a narrow defeat for Shiplake, Jack Mercer taking the obvious route to the line with the opposition ball carrier under his arm. Leighton Park gave Ollie Gordon the opportunity to demonstrate a well executed and timed run to score between the posts in a game that featured many incisive runs from Joe Weaver at full back, but the defence lost it's shape and we leaked a few tries.



By half-term, changes in position left an effective half back pairing of Jack Emerson at scrum-half and Ollie Hill at fly-half. This allowed Pat Weiss and James Dolemore to make effective runs from the centre, but they often lacked support and the ball was lost.

Over the remainder of the term the team showed that they could play very effective rugby for short periods. And the forward pack often held their own with Josh Lynch shoring up the front row and an effective but small 2nd row of Ian Waters and James Hicklin. Robert Berry often set things going from No 8 supported by Harry "Ace" Ventura and Josh Southwell scrapping for loose ball.

Alas the ball rarely got out to speedster Phil McGowan on the wing and the season recording no wins didn't accurately reflect how well the team played at times.

*J. Hill*

## Great leadership for the U15Bs

The season started with an encouraging win against Bloxham School 26-17. This was followed by a series of defeats against a number of very strong teams.

Despite these setbacks the team fought back to gain excellent wins against Leighton Park, Magdalen College and Pangbourne College.

The team was well led by Chris Webb, who showed great determination and was undoubtedly our star player. Chris was supported by a very willing group of forwards, the front five of Johnson, Hanson and Vuranoz was held together by our ever improving second row partnership of Harvard Taylor and Goddard. The back row was our most dynamic and powerful area, with Toby Raper making many try saving tackles.

The backline also had a good season with the half backs of Pullen and McCallum adding a great deal of control to the team. Charlie Ingham Clark was very solid in the centre.

Many different players were used on the wing and at full back, including Pye, Imlay, Westnedge, Manlay and Bates. Special note must go to Bates who was fearless in the tackle and when going forward with the ball. With a lot of commitment and hard training this team could be very successful next season. Well done to the players and I look forward to seeing them progress during the next few seasons.

*T. E. Crisford*

**T Morgan-Harris**  
**G Whittingham**  
**J Mercer**  
**O Gordon**  
**J Weaver**  
**J Emerson**  
**P Weiss**  
**O Hill**  
**J Dolemore**  
**J Lynch**  
**I Waters**  
**J Hicklin**  
**R Berry**  
**A Ventura**  
**J Southwell**  
**P McGowan**

**J Hanson**  
**M Vuranoz**  
**C Johnson**  
**J Harvard Taylor**  
**G Goddard**  
**F Pawley**  
**M Manlay**  
**A Verrier**  
**B Pye**  
**M Pullen**  
**E Westnedge**  
**R McCallum**  
**C Ingham Clark**  
**C Webb**  
**T Raper**  
**A Dhillon**  
**F Fontannaz**  
**S Imlay**  
**E Bates**

## Investigation: U15C Rugby

### Aim

To find out what U15C rugby is all about.

### Apparatus

**S Crump, D Richards , H Wilder, T Weekes, J Shelley, J Presley, S Horwood, R Dyer, S Bancroft-Wilson, F Fontannaz, J Hopwood, A Norton, J Uprichard, A Wycherley, E Bates, B Donald, J Cantor, F Durant-Pritchard, F Hunting, J Thompson, B Pye**

### Method

Take out all apparatus and assemble on Riverside pitches. Try to stop some bits sinking into the mud and ensure all parts are thoroughly warmed up before use. The bounds of the experiment should be marked clearly before introducing an oval catalyst. Start the reaction with a whistle and allow it to proceed, checking measurements carefully. Observe reactions of outer parts of apparatus and occasionally redirect to central reaction by simple instruction.

A warm temperature should be maintained to ensure the reaction proceeds to completion - addition of a "Red Wells" at this point can help. Keep all parts of the apparatus in full working order, if any appears to buckling under the strain, return to stores and replace at once. Reaction is completed after 50 mins or when final results exceed 50. Repeat at regular intervals during the term, trying alternative environments.

### Results

Overall the performance of all parts of the apparatus was good although the results themselves were disappointing. Several parts of the apparatus were only available for one or two trials but the majority lasted the entire season. Crump, Cantor and Wilder provided a solid front row whilst Richards and Hunting played as a pair of Flankers. Dyer teamed well with any one near him, with Fontannaz proving to be a nippy replacement. Wycherley and Hopwood did most of the booting whilst Bancroft-Wilson and Uprichard winged it a little. Horwood, Donald and Bates put their bodies on the line for the centres.

Surprise finds were Presley, whose turn of speed from the pack surprised everyone, including himself and Norton who claimed a "tackle of the match" twice. Captain and Vice Captain Weeks and Shelley developed a great sense of leadership and played with an enthusiasm that pulled many pieces through to the end of some difficult experiments. Weeks scored the only try of the season and deserved promotion to the B team.

### Conclusion

U15C Rugby is not for the fainthearted. For both boys and coaches it requires stamina, enthusiasm, tireless energy and patience.

*A.J. Foakes*



## U14A: Pace and Potential

The under 14A team played through a long season comprising 14 games. The boys showed real promise at times and I firmly believe that they will do well as they carry on throughout the school. The U14 age group as a whole have good depth as was shown by the results of the B team and the fact that most of the training was done as an A and B squad.



As the season wore on many players were asked to play for the A team and all acquitted themselves well when required. The team was ably lead all season by Middleton who showed himself to be far and away the most able all-round player. Another players to really impress were Broome who made many breaks through the centre and was deadly accurate with the boot.

Marriot proved to be nearly as effective as a brick wall when it came to stopping the opposition crossing the line. His tackling was outstanding and many 'champagne moments' came about as a result of his huge tackles. We were lucky to have pace out-wide in the shape of Collins and Pattie. Although not used nearly enough both were hard to get hold of when given a bit of space.

In the forwards we had plenty of boys willing to get involved in running the ball and making big tackles, however next season more time will need to be given to securing possession so we can keep applying pressure. It would be hard to single out names in the forwards, however it would be fair to say all have huge potential and it will be up to them to see how far they can go in this sport.

**A Middleton  
M Holiasmenos  
H Williams  
S Burgess  
J Albon  
F Greaves  
T Frosell  
J Finlay  
C Yearley  
A Kay  
J Sethill  
A Harvey  
J Hyde  
T du Luart  
J Broome  
W Lerche  
C Collins  
J Pattie  
F Marriot**

Highlights of the season would include a good run of wins in the Oxfordshire Cup. Some close games over very strong opposition and the knowledge at the end of the season we have a solid core of potentially very good rugby players. Thanks must go to Mr Brown and Mr Pavey for all their support and feedback throughout the season. Also thank you to the loyal parents who turned out in all weather, and of course to all the boys for their time and efforts throughout the season.

*J.D. Keane*

## U14Bs Learn Fast

Facts and figures never tell the full story, won six and four lost, but this team can look back on their record for the season with heads held high. If we were able to ignore the first three games of the season we would have lost only one out of seven games this year!! However, trying to forget about these games would be a crucial error in a review of this season. In fact, I believe we should concentrate on these games as a point of reference as to how far this team has progressed this season.

Narrow defeats were suffered at the hands of Reading School, Oratory and Merchant Taylors'. Thinking back to each of those games and to the way the team plays now I honestly believe that we could have won every one of those games. The team worked hard in training, listened to advice, and approached the games with enthusiasm. Some of the passages of play showed a good understanding of the game as the ball was moved fluently around the pitch and over the gain line, with forwards and backs both able to handle and recycle the ball. At times we lacked a little pace and size but that will come with time. The important aspect at this stage is that skill levels are very good.

Charles Brooker led the side very well with dedication and passion. George Talbot led the pack from the front and was often the best (and smallest) player on the pitch. Alex Green was fantastic in the pack and Harrison Davies worked very hard and scored lots of tries. Joe Perkins was a very effective link to the backs and improved with every game.

The back line will get better and better as they grow but big performances were often given by Sebastian Grant, Cameron Smart and Alastair Galloway.

The rest of the squad were all vital in ensuring a successful season and I hope that all those involved this year will continue rugby with passion and enthusiasm next season. Thanks to all the players and their parents for all the hard work and support this year.

**A Green  
C North  
S Burgess  
G Talbot  
J Albon  
F Greaves  
D Robinson  
C Sampson  
A Tang  
H Davies  
J Perkins  
J Sethill  
S Mullins  
A Kay  
C Clifford  
C Brooker  
J Hyde  
T du Luart  
S Grant  
J Wilcox  
J Finlay  
B Tropper  
C Smart  
W Nicholas  
A Galloway  
S Leonard  
H Gaynor**

*B.D.P. Pavey*



## Nearly the perfect season for the 1st XI

After the first senior squad training session I sat with second team coach Dr Snellgrove in a cloud of doubts and questions. We wondered if there was enough expertise and experience within the squad to cope with a very testing fixture list.

The first Saturday of the season and a superb away win at Pangbourne answered some of the questions. Ed Blanchard led the side with controlled passion and keeper Josh Raper was quick off his line to stifle opposition attacks.

A difficult away fixture at Lord Wandsworth College and another tenacious away win suggested that this was a team developing a very stiff backbone. Will Downing drove on from mid-field and Leo Robarts, ultimately the scorer of 32 goals in nine games, made the most of the possession. He always backed his own ability to control the ball in the D and unleash a powerful, often reverse stick, strike.



Leo Robarts

**E Blanchard (C)**  
**S Pershall**  
**N Mannix**  
**J Raper**  
**J Deakin**  
**M Witting**  
**R Lloyd**  
**T Bennett**  
**K Stormont**  
**C Alstadt**  
**L Robarts**  
**W Downing**  
**D Cullen**



Ed Blanchard

Eventually the long-awaited first home victory saw a nail-biting 5 - 4 victory over Abingdon. Shiplake kept coming from behind and at 3 - 3 it was clear that there was not a single player on the pitch who would have been content with the draw but it was the Shiplake XI who showed just a fraction more commitment and ultimately skill.

David Cullen was always on hand to back up Leo Robarts' goal-power and Grant Moseby was striking from mid-field too. At the back Chris Alstadt became an increasingly assured

defender. Nick Mannix, Sam Pershall and Max Witting were making progress almost every game and becoming high class first team players.

Inevitably injury and illness took their toll and Kit Stormont, a superb reader of the game, became a key component, in an ever changing jig-saw puzzle. Richard Lloyd stepped up to the mark and added depth and variety to our attacking avenues, meanwhile Jack Deakin and Tom Bennett were always reliable when their skills were required. Graham Braithwaite's play in defence improved game by game.

The perfect 100% season, gradually became a topic of conversation, but a difficult away trip to a fine Stowe team resulted in a 4 - 4 draw and the opportunity was lost.

At the moment this is the most successful team in the history of Shiplake College, and Adam Hurst's individual coaching must be acknowledged as a major factor in that success, but the challenge of the perfect season, remains for future teams.

*P C J Gould*

## 2nd XI glimpse the Holy Grail

Although we didn't actually win many games, the success of the season could be measured in other ways. Many of our players had come from playing 3rd and even 4th team hockey last year and the step up to 2nd team level is a big one. Not surprisingly we found it difficult to match the standard of the opposition on many occasions.

Throughout the term, it was good to see the standard of our defence improve. Tom Levin proved that he is a real contender for the 1st XI goalkeeping position next year, Phil Loudon-Carter became more and more solid as centre-back and Henry Monk began timing his tackles with greater effect.

One of the highlights was our 2-0 win over Lord Wandsworth. An occasion when our skipper Jack Deakin went on one of his, now infamous, head-down solo dribbling runs. This time, much to the surprise of us all, he ended up in their D and managed to slot it home past two defenders!

Somebody who emerged from the depths of the 4th XI this season was our right winger Ryan Donovan. Once he gets the ball in his strong position, it takes a lot to stop him on his charging runs down the line. Once within striking distance he has a superb eye for the ball and he has sent it screaming into the back of the net more often than anybody else.

Although we lost to Bloxham, our last fixture, it was during the first half of this match that all the hard work put into the practice sessions over the term, finally paid dividends. Our work rate was admirable, our marking tight, our movement off the ball fluid and our passing accurate. For thirty minutes we glimpsed the holy grail! I now know that it can be done and I look forward to trying to find it again next year!

*R.C. Snellgrove*

**J Deakin**  
**T Levin**  
**H Monk**  
**P Loudon-Carter**  
**P Jasper**  
**P Jones**  
**S Miller-Smith**  
**O Loudon**  
**T Bennett**  
**J Nash**  
**R Donovan**  
**J Walker**  
**G Braithwaite**





## *Inspired leadership for the 3rd XI*

James Dalzell certainly led from the front. He set a fine example on the pitch and was a great organiser behind the scenes recruiting, inspiring and leading a bunch of players who really enjoyed their hockey.

William Bellamy, a fine keeper, with great potential and a major role in senior Shiplake Hockey ahead of him was always likely to be busy and he pulled off save after miraculous save. In front of him Alice Madgwick and Marina Holiasmenos brought some welcome experience and technique to the defence and everyone appreciated their contribution.

**G Dobbie, A Madgwick, L Parks, M Holiasmenos, A Eastman, A Peebles, M Lee, J Pinto, C Barker, S McCullagh, O Hitchen, E Lesourd, T Fatona, M Laurenson, D Fairhead.**

*N.J. Brown*

## *An academy for the thirds?*

The highlight of the season for the 4th XI was the 5-1 victory against Rickmansworth 1st XI. We will not mention the fact that our 1st XI did not have a fixture and that Cullen and Blanchard helped out a little. Another memorable performance was against Stowe (not because Lesourd's scattering shin pads were confusing the opposition or the stories that the opposition coach shared about one Mr Johnson), when the team played their best hockey at home on the grass and showed that the training had paid off.

Continually changing training and match surfaces, from grass to astro or astro to grass, made it difficult for the team to adjust to the conditions, which usually took until the second half. A 'gentle' reminder of the commitment and work rate required to perform well also helped. Congratulations to Marina Holiasmenos, John Pinto and Alice Madgwick who deserved their promotion to the 3rd XI; thank you to Mr Brown for stealing our best players! Well done to Anthony Eastman (Most Improved Player), Craig Barker (Outstanding Player) and Matt Laurenson (Players' Player). Other fine stalwarts of the team included Louis Parks, Alex Peebles (apart from the last weekend!), Toksy Fatona and George Dobbie (great improvements in goal). Thanks to Steve McCullagh for his leadership against some fine opposition.

**G. Dobbie, A. Madgwick, L. Parks, M. Holiasmenos, A. Eastman, A. Peebles, M. Lee, J. Pinto, C. Barker, S. McCullagh (Capt.), O. Hitchen, E. Lesourd, T. Fatona, M. Laurenson, D. Fairhead.**

*A.D. Dix*

## *Size doesn't always matter - as the 15As demonstrate*

The team entered the season having had quite a hard time achieving success in the Rugby term and full of trepidation as to a similar scenario in the Hockey term.

However, though the side was slightly inexperienced and "challenged in the 'height department'" in some areas, it soon became apparent that the team spirit and level of skill showed great promise and a positive attitude began to take hold.

The first three games were very difficult though, and tested this new found optimism. However, though we lost these games against strong sides they were closely fought and some really promising performances boosted our confidence. Joe Weaver and James Dolemore had a productive time up front and were a danger to any team we played.

The defence in Josh Lynch, Ian Waters (Capt) Ollie Gordon and Toby Raper in goal, who made some great saves, developed over the season into a formidable back line. All of the players though, each made a great contribution towards the success of the team, with Jack Emerson, in particular, showing tremendous skills, proving more than a match for any opponent we encountered.

Although the draw against a very good Stowe side showed off the team's spirit, talent and determination to best effect, fine wins against Eton, Milton Abbey, Windsor Boys' and Leighton Park all contributed to the team's growing feel good factor. Never have I heard a team sing so loudly on the bus journeys to and from the matches (win or lose!) though the team's talent for singing sadly did not match their talent on the pitch!

*R.T. Mannix*

## *Harry - the Ace in the Pack*

The U15B season started with a new coach and we were all slow getting into the groove. We lost our first two games then came the game of the year. By the time the parents had arrived Shiplake were 2 goals down to Milton Abby. After a few words from inspirational captain Andy Verrier, the team decided to turn on the class and unleash the beast of Harry Ventura who ended the game with 7 of our 8-2 victory.

Unfortunately we lost more games than we won this season but the team never gave up in any match which was great to see. Every player played well all season but some deserve mentions for Daryl Richards and Bates brothers who were outstanding in defence. In the midfield we had McGowan and Potts running the show. Upfront we had Harry 'ACE' Ventura scoring bags of goals from all angles to keep the team in many of the game. Thanks again to the players for an outstanding effort all season. Special thanks to Harry Ventura and Andy Verrier for captaining the side throughout the season.

*R. McDonald*

**I Waters  
O Gordon  
J Emerson  
J Dolemore  
J Weaver  
T Raper  
S Imlay  
J Lynch  
M Pullen  
R McCallum  
E Westnedge  
J Hopwood**

**D Richards  
E Bates  
W Bates  
R. Berry  
F Fontannaz  
J Potts  
P McGowan  
A Verrier  
S Steen  
G Whittingham  
M Vuarnoz  
H Ventura**



## *The U14As*

In September, some boys picked up a hockey stick for the first time and thanks to an enjoyable first term activity they arrived at the start of the season with one of the most valuable assets a team can possess - enthusiasm!

The term was very short and a hectic schedule of matches provided limited time for practising set pieces, outfield play, passing moves and developing the confidence in each other needed to play well together as a team.

The fixtures provided a good range of opposition, from sides who were only just starting to develop their hockey through to teams who were playing together for their 3rd year. The final results more often reflected the nature of the opposition, rather than the effort put in by Shiplake. The boys put into play moves learnt in practice and in the last game of the season they played some superb hockey showing just how much they had improved throughout the season. Although only 11 boys could be on the pitch at any one time, 14 competed regularly for places with each one made an important contribution.

**Nick Bithrey:** A skilled individual with a good sense of teamwork. He is capable of playing any position on the pitch but has real talent as a forward.

**Mark Brackenridge:** Good skills and with extra strength would undoubtedly prove to be a solid team man.

**Charles Brooker:** The terrier of the team, noted for swooping on the ball in the D and helping to create many chances.

**Jack Broome:** A competitive and dedicated player. His skill steadily improved throughout the season and he showed great maturity in his final position as sweeper. Awarded full colours.

**Chris Collins:** Good skills and unlucky to miss so much of the season through injury.

**Harrison Davies:** Full of energy and enthusiasm, which when slightly curbed, allowed some great hockey movements to be played!

**Albert Harvey:** Had to embark on a tremendous learning curve of skills. He played with great flair but must listen to the team plan.

**Ben Kelly:** Stepped up to the challenge of goal keeping and shows talent in this area. Saved many blushes when the defence sprang a leak or two!

**Jacob Reza:** A great eye for the ball and could be a special player.

**Charlie Sampson:** From a positive danger to a positive asset, his transformation won him Most Improved Player award.

**George Talbot:** Worked so hard on his individual skills but could still play for the team.

**Jack Wilcox:** Stepped up to mark when asked to come into the team at a difficult time. Lots of potential here.

**Harry Williams:** A natural sportsman who needs to listen to the needs of the team and help them become something a bit special.

*A.J. Foakes*

*U14A team  
and  
U14Bs team*





# The Baldry Trophy

## The U14Bs: fun and improvement

Our objective of the season was to have fun and improve our basic hockey skills. Our weekly practises were a combination of skills and drills, concluding with a passionate game.

The highlight of the season was the annihilation of Milton Abbey where I witnessed the whole team step up and play their hearts out. Toby, Alvin, Tom Laurenson, and Tom du Luart played exceptionally well. Mrs Kiesanowski was impressed with the overall improvement the boys basic skills and their determination to do well.

Congratulations to Alastair for Coaches' Player of the Year, Tom du Luart for Players 'Player of the year' and Alvin for 'Most Improved Player.' I would like to thank Anthony for his enthusiastic leadership as captain and he is certainly a player with a bright future. Many of the boys played the odd game for the As and realised that to make the A team is certainly a realistic and achievable goal. Good luck in your future hockey careers and thank you for a positive memorable season.

*Mr S.W. Kiesanowski*

**M Adamski**  
**M Brackenridge**  
**S Burgess**  
**T du Luart**  
**T Frossell**  
**A Galloway**  
**A Green**  
**J Hyde**  
**A Kay**  
**W Lerche**  
**J Perkin**  
**C Smart**  
**J Wilcox**  
**T Laurenson**  
**A Tang**  
**P Kelliher**

## The Baldry Trophy



**1st Everett**

**2nd Orchard**

**3rd Burr**

**4th Welsh**

**5th Skipwith**

Senior Cross Country  
 Junior Cross Country  
 Senior Athletics  
 Junior Athletics  
 Senior Rugby  
 Junior Rugby  
 Senior Football  
 Junior Football  
 Senior Hockey  
 Junior Hockey  
 Senior Indoor Hockey  
 Junior Indoor Hockey  
 Senior Basketball  
 Junior Basketball  
 Senior Cricket  
 Junior Cricket  
 Senior Head of the River  
 Junior Head of the River  
 Senior Tennis  
 Senior Swimming  
 Junior Swimming  
 Badminton  
 Tug of War

Everett	Orchard
Skipwith	Welsh
Burr	Orchard
Everett	Orchard
Orchard	Welsh
Orchard	Everett
Orchard	Everett
Orchard	Welsh
Everett	Burr
Everett	Welsh
Skipwith	Welsh
Orchard	Skipwith
Burr	Everett
Burr	Everett
Welsh	Orchard
Everett	Orchard
Orchard	Skipwith
Burr	Everett
Burr	Everett
Burr	Everett
Burr	Orchard





## *Twelve wins and four losses but is the 1st XI coach happy?*

Although the statistics above reflect a successful season the feeling is that this team could have done even better and at times were not tested, particularly in full afternoon matches, to ensure that they were always playing at the highest intensity possible. Cancelled matches against Reading and Magdalen could have added to the quality of matches played.

St. Martin's from South Africa certainly provided quality opposition but we were not in a position to match them so early in the season. Although we lost, one of the most memorable games, when both teams played at a fine standard, was the away trip to Reeds. In a 'time' game Shiplake batted first, facing accurate bowling, and declared on 161 for 7, after a fine start between James Talbot and William Downing, with the latter scoring 47. Graham Braithwaite played a patient innings of 43 runs. Downing also bowled two fine spells, of probably the quickest pace he bowled during the season, frequently beating the outside edge and perhaps not getting the decisions when it hit! He was ably supported by a good first spell by Grant Moseby.



There were convincing victories against Forest (3 wickets for Moseby, 50 runs for Downing), Blue Coat (Braithwaite four wickets, Downing 49), Claires Court (Moseby 84, Smith-Jones 45, Talbot four wickets) and Henley College (after losing five early wickets). The 1st XI also beat the OVS but partly due to the generosity of their captain (Tom Caston) after Shiplake lost five early wickets. Captain Edward Blanchard scoring 62 and James Smith-Jones 56, rescued the situation and OVS were bowled out for 117, with Downing taking 5 for 11. This year's low-scoring game against Pangbourne was much closer than previous years, with 'Team Downing' again making the difference with four wickets to ensure victory.

The 20s competition again added a 'spark' to the season, especially with the potential of having so many experienced players. Downing (64), Moseby (50) and Robarts (23\*) ensured a very respectable total of 150 in the first match against St Benedict's but a dismal bowling and fielding display meant that the 1st XI could not defend this total. Victories against Abingdon (Talbot four wickets, Moseby 35,

Stormont 29\*) and Dauntsey's left us relying on St Benedict's and Dauntsey's overall run rate being lower than ours. The display in the field at St Benedict's came back to haunt us!

There was also a close game against the staff team (Downing 40, Blanchard 39, NJB 3 wickets, PCJG 55, Downing four wickets), when cricket was definitely the winner and the result was certainly not important!

Special mention must go to batsman, wicket keeper and captain Edward Blanchard who has displayed the best 'cricketing brain' during my time at Shiplake, making astute bowling and fielding changes at the right time, essentially making a difference to his team's performance. Also to William Downing who has played superbly in the 1st XI for four years and scored back-to-back centuries against Bearwood (134) and The Oratory (106), ensuring wins in both games. He has this season's highest runs aggregate of 656 at an average of 46.9 and has taken 34 wickets at an average of 8.26.

I wish them and the other leavers all the best with their cricketing futures. The future is bright for next year's first XI, especially as Moseby (64\*) and Braithwaite (76) stepped up to the mark to ensure victory in the Shiplake Shield for the 1st XI and overall, Richard Lloyd scoring 31\* against Bloxham, and the talents of Stormont, Farmar, Ridgway and Donovan (Most Improved Player) and a much improved U15 side.

I would like to thank all the players for their commitment and performances during an enjoyable season, their parents for the support and Christopher Gardner for scoring. Also thanks to all the coaches of the cricket club, the groundsmen and all staff who have helped during the year.

*A.D. Dix*

**E Blanchard  
W Downing  
G Braithwaite  
D Cullen  
K Stormont  
J Talbot  
J Smith-Jones  
G Moseby  
L Robarts  
R Donovan  
J Ridgway  
J Raper  
B Farmar  
S Pershall  
R Lloyd**

## **Shiplake College Cricket Club Barbados Tour Squad March 24th - April 2nd 2006**

**R Berry, G Braithwaite, J Broome, J Dolemore,  
L Downey, A Galloway, A Harvey, J Hyde,  
S Imlay, A Kay, W Lerche, R McCallum,  
S Miller-Smith, T Raper, J Reza, M Vuarnoz  
G Whittingham, H Williams**



## *Thrilling finishes for 2nd XI*

Our first match against Reading Blue Coat was a 25 over game. We were put in to bat and got off to a flying start by Max Witting who scored 53 after 16 overs. He was supported by Will Ewart and Sam Pershall. In the remaining nine overs, we struggled to get the ball off the square and could only muster a total of 95 runs at the end of the innings. In the field we bowled a tight line most of the time and we made them work hard for their runs. Wickets fell regularly thanks to two smart catches by Micheal Lee and some accurate bowling by Sam Pershall, Ben Farmer, Toksy Fatona (three wickets), Josh Rankin, Jamie Orpwood (3 wickets) and Nick Constant who all contributed well. In the end, they had one wicket left and needed 11 runs off the last two overs to win. Thanks to a superb catch in the covers by Jamie Orpwood, we snatched victory with an over to spare! Overall it was an excellent team performance.

Against the Licenced Victuallers', our first three wickets fell very quickly for six runs which put us under pressure from the start. A spirited resistance came from Will Ewart (28) and Jamie Orpwood (31) but at the end of our 25 overs, we had only managed to muster 95 runs. Although we bowled a tight line with Jonathan Ridgway having figures of four overs for 12 runs, we could not stop them overhauling our total after 15 overs.

Put into bat again by Reed's School, we lost quick wickets early on and our middle order became bogged down against some accurate bowling. Only a cavalier flurry at the end from Ryan Donovan who scored 31 in rapid time, saved our embarrassment but we still only ended up with 73 runs after 25 overs. This was never going to be enough and, although we bowled and fielded well, we lost the game in the 16th over. Moral - we must break through the 120 barrier if we are to win a limited over game!

Our final game was against Windsor Boys' School. Having won the toss we elected to field for a change to give ourselves a target to aim for. Having restricted them well in the first 12 overs to 42 for 3, we let them off the hook a bit and they ended up with a total of 140 after 25 overs. This was a huge total by our standards. Once again, we lost quick wickets with Max Witting collecting a hat-trick of ducks!! We were 2 for 2 and it did not look good. In came Ryan Donovan with a quick 20 followed by Jamie Orpwood with 18, Dan Clark with 16, Sam Miller-Smith with 9 and Will Ewart with 13. We were making inroads! In the last five overs we needed seven an over, still a tall order. On the last ball of the innings we needed 3 runs to win!! Jonathan Ridgway( 32\*) came charging down the wicket but failed to connect! Still, although we lost, it was a tremendous effort by the whole team and the type of game that will surely bring the crowds back to the sport!!

**S Pershall, J Orpwood, J Raper, D Clark, B Farmar,  
T Fatona, N Constant, O Venn, S Miller-Smith,  
T Cracknell, M Lee, J Ramsay, J Ridgway, R Donovan,  
W Ewart, G Dobbie, S Nakajima, J Rankin, M Witting**

*R.C. Snellgrove*

## *Cup final for the U15s*

If we are to believe the press, then the reason for the current Australian team's dismal showing in the first matches of their current tour is that they have lost the will and drive to win. That most certainly cannot be said about this year's U15 team. Not only are they more motivated than the Aussies but they have probably had a better season. Coaches, parents and spectators alike can vouch for the exemplary attitude the boys showed this season and their enthusiasm on and off the pitch. Whilst on the field the atmosphere was often electric with healthy banter never straying into "sledging".



The highlight of the season must be the team's progress through to the final of the Oxfordshire Cup, losing due to some tired batting and a beguiling leg spinner, to Faringdon School. The way to the final produced probably the match of the season. Against Cooper School all seemed lost after a batting collapse left us chasing a very-gettable 138. James Dolemore produced a scintillating match-winning innings of 57 to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Clubbing the ball to all corners of the park, James showed what one man can do to rescue an apparently hopeless situation.





Good all-round team performances saw some fine victories, but also some near misses. It can never be said that the team gave up. They were often left chasing large totals produced by some impressive opponents. The fact that they regularly got to within 20 or 30 of the target is testament to their determination. Against Claire's Court, for instance we were chasing over 200 and thanks to a fine innings of 50 by Johnny Potts there must have been a time when the opponents wondered if they had scored enough.

Fine individual performances were recorded by Ludovic Downey, Sam Imlay, Jack Emerson and Robert Berry with the bat and Max Vuarnoz, Jack Emerson and Toby Raper with the ball. The side, justly proud of its fielding reputation was served well by Joe Weaver, Giles Whittingham and Robert McCallum, who all fielded superbly. The side was led firmly and skilfully throughout by Ludovic Downey and Toby Raper, from whom the Australian coaching team could learn a lot about motivation, enthusiasm and leadership!

**L Downey, T Raper, S Imlay, J Dolemore,  
J Emerson, G Whittingham, R Berry, M Vuarnoz,  
R McCallum, J Weaver, J Potts, I Waters, E Westnedge,  
J Keen, E Bates, A Verrier**

*N. J. Brown*

## *Outstanding progress from the U14As*

From a coach's point of view this was a most enjoyable season. The term started with a group of committed individuals who had lots to learn and they quickly moulded into a team that was very difficult to beat. This was proven when we walked away from the final game of the season with medals in our hands, having just won the Shiplake Shield. This progress would not have been made if it had not been for the hard work, enthusiasm and love for the game that this team showed from the very start.

The team consisted of the same 11 players for all but one game of the season - Nick Bithrey, Jack Broome, Sasha Burgess, Tom du Luart, Alastair Galloway, Albert Harvey, Jack Hyde, Anthony Kay, William Lerche, Jacob Reza and Harry Williams (Charles Brooker did an excellent job when needed as 12th man). Jack Broome led by example from the front and showed a very competitive attitude mixed with respect for the opposition. In this regard he was one of the best Captains I have seen at this age group.

The bowling was spearheaded by Harry Williams (14 wickets for 272 runs from 57 overs). He was ably supported through the season by both Jacob Reza (14 for 219 from 53 overs) and Nick Bithrey (4 for 228 runs from 39 overs) but in the final analysis our top wicket taker was Tom du Luart (16 for 149 from 32 overs). These bowlers all have the potential to be top quality bowlers in the future but the strength in our attack this season came from its depth. In one game all 10 players bowled, and bowled well. Jack Hyde took a lot of wickets early in the season and was a very effective change bowler (12 for 196 from 41). William Lerche and Alastair Galloway are also showing promise and should develop well next season.

The batting averages were topped by Harry Williams (35). Harry was awarded the prize for the best junior batsman as well as his full colours (also awarded to Nick Bithrey, Jack Broome and Jacob Reza). Very commendable averages were also gained by Jacob Reza (26), Jack Broome (25) and Nick Bithrey (19). There is a lot of potential in this line-up, and my only regret of the season is that some of the lower order batsmen did not get as much time at the crease as I would have hoped given the fact that all our players are decent batsmen.

Losses this season were recorded at the hands of Magdalen College School (lost by 10 runs), Claire's Court (lost by two wickets), Bloxham (lost by 6 wickets) and Abingdon (lost by 12 runs). We later beat Claire's Court in the Shiplake Shield and, other than the game versus Bloxham, the results could have easily gone the other way. Victories were recorded over a very strong Reed's team, LVS, King Alfred's, Windsor Boys' School, Bearwood College, Oratory, Claire's Court and Reading Blue Coat.

There are some big scalps amongst this list and this side does not really need to fear any other school. As they progress through the school I am sure that they will build on the foundations that they have laid this year. Those touring to Barbados will learn from the experience and help the whole squad to become a even more difficult team to beat in the future than they were this year.

Thank you to all the boys and their parents for their hard work and support this year.

*B.D.P. Pavey*

## *U14Bs learn that Cricket is a demanding game*

Although the first game was a mismatch against Leighton Park A side, it set the pattern for the season. In each match we played, Charlie Brooker and Alex Green would get the team off to a good start either with bat or with ball, only to see the opposition claw themselves back into the game in the later stages.

Howard Shone, Jack Wilcox and Joe Perkin made useful contributions and, on his day, James Sethill was a useful wicket keeper. The rest of the team were always enthusiastic and committed but were new to the game. They quickly realised what a demanding game Cricket can be.

The overall standard of cricket did improve over the season but because of their inexperience Shiplake were never able to press home whatever advantages came their way. I hope the team have learnt valuable lessons on which they can build on next season.

**A Green, A Tang H Shone, J Wilcox, J Perkin,  
C Clifford, J Sethill, A Davies, T Laurenson,  
M Brackenridge, C Brooker, M Adamski, M Strait**

*P.M. Davey*



## *1st VI win OXIST Cup*

The pairings for the 1st VI remained unaltered throughout the season which made selection very straightforward! Chris Alstadt and Harry Butcher proved to be a formidable 1st pair, playing with great consistency and skill, and at times they produced as high a level of performance as I can remember for a Shiplake 1st pair - and I have seen over twenty such 1st pairs!

George Pelling and Ed Vaughan-Fowler were an effective and interesting 2nd pair, for their matches were never won until the final point, as inconsistency could hit their game at any moment. The prize for the most improved pair would definitely be awarded to Henry Monk and Nick Mannix, who enjoyed a lot of success as the season progressed.

The first three matches against strong opposition from St Edwards, Magdalen and Abingdon all ended in narrow defeats, but fine victories followed against Pangbourne, Reading, Oratory and Lord Wandsworth. The climax of the season is the OXIST Tournament and this saw us playing Oratory, Pangbourne and Bloxham. On a scorching hot day we emerged victorious, and deservedly so. The players received their winners' medals at the End-of-Year Supper, which was a fitting occasion for such a fine team.

## *2nd VI*

It was a shame that more matches were not played as the players practised with real enthusiasm and a fair amount of skill too. Steve McCullagh, Jack Deakin and Olly Hitchen all drew on their previous experience and openly displayed their enjoyment for the game. Sam Tyler-Dowson, Olly Loudon, Jim McDowell and James Nash all improved their strokeplay and court awareness considerably, and they should be able to press for 1st VI places next season.

## *Junior VI*

As many matches were won as were lost, which reflected the rather inconsistent pairings throughout the season. Nevertheless a lot more skill was being shown by the end of the season by all players. Olly Gordon, Alex Pettyfer, Mike Pullen, Phil McGowan and Alex Wycherley all have the potential to be good players, but they need to practise very hard at their techniques in most departments. The new Year 9 players, Casper North, Harrison Davies and Chris Collins, also showed a lot of enthusiasm and potential, and they too will need to develop their all-round skills.

## *Coaching*

Mr Hurst, Mr Mannix and Miss Aitken provided a lot of quality coaching for the tennis players this term. Also professional coaches were able to work on particular skills with all the players on three afternoons a week, which proved to be a very beneficial initiative this season.

*P.C.J. Gould*



*The successful basketball team before their victory at Wellington College*



*Tight defence from the football team versus Eton*



*Golf on the Henley Golf Course was a popular choice of activity*



# Rowing

## *Athol Hundermark looks back on a highly successful year for the Boat Club*

As the outgoing Master in Charge of Rowing, writing this report provides a time of reflection on the success and challenges faced over the year. Committed staff, enthusiastic boys and parents, a riverside location and a boathouse full of competitive equipment make up part of the recipe. A relatively small school with a proud rowing tradition and an abundance of support

from all its community have made the Boat Club a productive environment where pupils are given the opportunity, encouragement and support to achieve at all levels.

Two pupils Martin Haymes and Charlie Jenkins reached the peak of school sporting achievements in representing Great Britain over the summer holidays. Other pupils won their first J14 tankard while all pupils learnt about who they are and what it takes to be part of a successful team and a constructive member to the community.

The depth of the Boat Club only becomes apparent when one combines the sum of all its parts and over the season all age groups showed their hand and produced some very pleasing results. The J14s

led the way early on winning the first three races in which they competed. This set the standard as the J16 VIII won at the Henley Head and the Opens produced numerous wins in eights, fours, quads and pairs. The Schools' Head of the River Race, the benchmark of preseason form, put the J14s 5th in the country with the J16s 7th and Opens 14th. While achievement is the measure of success, growth in strength and depth show true potential and something the College is building greatly.

The sprint race season brought out a multitude of Shiplake crews at numerous events with the largest contingent being over 30 crews entered to race at Thames Valley Park Regatta. The 1st Quad raced at the Gent Regatta held in Belgium where they achieved the best British School crew result and Martin Haymes and Charlie Jenkins were part of a winning Coxless Four. The

National Championships proved to be disappointing due to the inclement weather conditions but in hindsight still encouraging with the J14s proving they were competitive in both A and B events. The J15 VIII recorded the fastest time before the event was cancelled. The J16s gained a credible fifth place despite numerous set backs and the Opens produced two Championship finalist crews and the fastest school Quad of the regatta.

The final regattas of the season saw the 1st VIII winning at Docklands and the J16s winning pairs, quads and fours at the Thames Valley Park Regatta. The Girls' double, of Sophie Stevens and Jenny Unwin, also triumphed to win the first Shiplake women's event.



### **Senior Competitive Squad**

**W Adler  
J Diaz Faes  
E Adler  
J Belgum  
A Woolnough  
R Gascoigne  
W Milton  
K Bosch  
G Jones  
G White  
R Haymes  
W Satch  
C Jenkins  
S Stevens  
J Unwin  
M Haymes  
D Stuart  
T Kemp  
J Kunkler**

### **Senior Super-Subs**

**B Gouldstone  
G Crawley  
G Mongan  
N Williams  
H Gordon  
F O'Shea  
R Cajee  
M Eve  
T Hunter  
S Kirk  
T Levin  
M Thompson  
A de Haan  
W Bellamy  
B Waldron  
R Weare**



*Success at Hammersmith*



# Rowing

## J15

**F Durant-Pritchard**  
**R Hay**  
**T Morgan-Harris**  
**F Pawley**  
**I Gibbs**  
**C Ingham Clark**  
**P Weiss**  
**S Crump**  
**F Fontannaz**  
**O Hill**  
**J Holmes**  
**S Neal**  
**J Thompson**  
**H Wilder**  
**C Deakin**  
**G Goddard**  
**J Hanson**  
**J Harvard Taylor**  
**S Horwood**  
**F Hunting**  
**M Manlay**  
**J Uprichard**  
**H Ventura**  
**A Furse**  
**J Hicklin**  
**J Jackson**  
**T Weeks**

A keen and committed novice crew won their first pots at the Reading Town Regatta along with the J14s coming in first and second in the Octuples event. The very young 1st VIII produced a spirited performance at Henley and will hopefully have gained valuable experience while the Quad proved to be highly competitive, producing some of the fastest times in the event and unlucky to meet a very fast Dutch international crew on the Friday.

All crews were excellently supported by extremely dedicated coaches. Tom Crisford, Nick Quirke and Sally Unsworth deserve special mention for their exceptional hard work with their prospective age groups. The Boat Club has also been very fortunate with the assistance given to it by the school and the excellent equipment maintained and supported by Austen, our full time boatman. This has meant more boys have spent more time on the water than in past years.

Every boy and girl in the Boat Club was given the opportunity to compete and one regatta that optimizes this was the internal regatta where much fun was had by all. The diversity of juniors, seniors, boys and girls all combined in the nine eights unifies both the Club and supporters in commending the positive and healthy environment that



## 75km row for charity

Sophie Stevens and Jenny Unwin found an unusual way to unwind after the stresses of Sixth Form AS examinations by rowing 75 kilometres. Their epic journey began at 5.30 am at Oxford City Boat Club on a Saturday morning.

They were given great support by fellow Sixth Formers Tom Levin and Charlie Jenkins, in a motor launch, until they broke down at Mapledurham. Both girls had completed regularly at rowing events throughout the year and the benefits of their training kicked-in. They carried on rowing while their mechanical support vehicle just drifted to the bank.

Sophie and Jenny powered through to complete the marathon row in just 13 hours, of which 11 were spent in the boat. They have already raised £500 for the four impoverished Kenyan schools that the College supports. Both girls took part in the school Kenyan Expedition and are able to see how their money has been spent.





# Rowing



## J 14

J Albon  
E Bailey  
F Greaves  
E Ho  
M Holiasmenos  
R Lessmann  
A Middleton  
J Pattie  
A Wallis  
S Grant  
S Leonard  
J Lloyd  
F Marriott  
R McKellar  
S Mongan  
W Nathan  
C Sampson  
B Tropper  
C Yearley

J Green  
S Howe  
B Kelly  
A Meerman  
E Pinker  
J Finlay  
T Frossell  
J Goddard  
S Mullins  
W Nicholas  
J Sethill  
P Kelliher  
D Robinson  
C Smart  
A Winslade  
A McArthur  
P Custance  
D Tookman

The Shiplake College Boat Club Supporters' Association has been a tremendous support in promoting and channelling parents' enthusiasm. The drinks party and fantastic encouragement at regattas developed a wonderful atmosphere which has been gratefully appreciated along with the generous funds raised by the Auction of Promises.

The Boat Club is here to nurture and develop the best interests of every pupil who passes through its doors and while not all win medals and tankards they have each surely won more than those who have never tried. The multitude of victories over the season will hopefully fuel the determination and belief in all of us that Shiplake College Boat Club is a proud tradition that will endure and prove victorious for all who compete. May the Shiplake College Boat Club continue to grow from strength to strength.

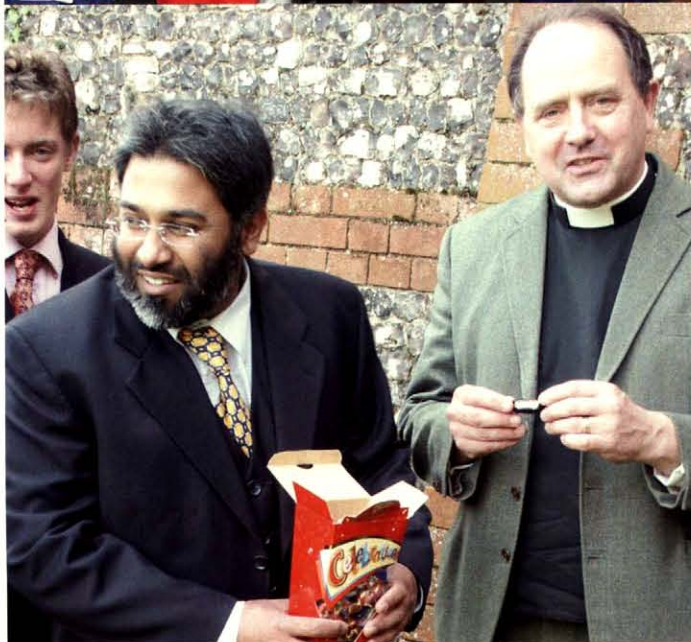
*A.T. Hundermark*





# *Memories of the year*

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## *Jim Mansergh*

"In a young school which is still growing and finding its identity somebody has to keep their feet on the ground and have a deep understanding of how a business works. It was indeed Jim who held the place together through some very demanding times. There have been years leaner than any member of the community would realize and his steady and very firm hand on the tiller steered the ship through many dangerous waters. It saddens me deeply that we cannot thank him properly for the huge contribution he made to this College; in its long term history Jim will be ranked amongst the very few who made it the great little school that it is today," says former Headmaster Nick Bevan who worked very closely with Jim Mansergh for 16 years.

There were many tributes to Terence James Mansergh at the Memorial Service held at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Shiplake. Jim Mansergh had been a Christian gentleman, an engineer in Third World Africa, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and an utterly loyal Bursar to Shiplake College. He had a superb intellect and was a modest man of charm, humour and charisma.

"Jim" Mansergh, was born in South Africa in 1938 and died in hospital on June 3rd 2005. He had battled with ulcers, cancer and heart problems for the last nine months of his life but still found the determination to return to his desk for a short spell.

Graduating with a Mechanical Sciences degree from Kings' College, Cambridge, in 1959, where he had excelled as an all round sportsman, Jim soon took a posting overseas. For 20 years he worked first in Pakistan, then Nigeria and East Africa where he had to show courage, imagination and bravery when trading conditions often deteriorated rapidly. As well as demonstrating talents for rapid analysis, problem solving and instinctively doing the right thing, Jim shared his passion for golf, tennis and bridge with his colleagues and neighbours.

Jim had met Pam in his last year at Cambridge and they had married in 1961 but Nigel was born in Lahore, Vanessa in Dubai and Amanda in Bedford. Nigel recalled how his father had loved his career and although there may have been a frown on his face at times he was always smiling inside. Fellow engineer Dennis Carey



predicted that those people lucky enough to progress to Heaven would find that Jim would have installed a new drainage system and refurbished the Pearly Gates.

The Reverend Robert Prance, who took the service, said, "Being a Bursar is one of those jobs most people wouldn't do for the world. Who would want to be a Bursar? Fortunately for Shiplake College, Jim did and he had an amazing track record."

The College Chaplain recalled that Jim had a passion for the community which he had come to love. For nearly twenty years, as Bursar of Shiplake College, Jim had overseen a succession of building developments. And Jim's influence and wisdom was not contained to Shiplake. He became a governor of St Piran's School in Maidenhead where he was integral to their development projects. Soon after that he was appointed to the Board at Wychwood School in Oxford. His reputation went far and wide within bursars' circles and he could undoubtedly have moved to a much bigger school. However he remained loyal to Shiplake and for that we all remain eternally grateful.

Recalling the tribute to Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's, Robert Prance echoed the words, "If you seek a memorial, look around you."



## Peter Hose

For three decades and four Headmasters Peter Hose has willingly taken on a whole host of activities. He has taught Economics, Mathematics, Politics and most recently Business Studies.

Peter has always made a massive contribution to the College's extra-curricular programme. He was a very successful rugby coach, enjoying two unbeaten seasons with the 2nd XV and also enjoying great success with the 2nd VIII. Recently he has provided superb opportunities at Sonning Eye for successive generations of sailors. Peter always had a natural feel for sports and took up skiing in later life with much success.

When Peter Caston, Housemaster of Burr, died in service Peter immediately stepped into the breach and ran the House with great efficiency. Although he then moved across to the day House of Orchard he could not escape from boarders, having ten of them sharing Plowden Cottage with him. Another major role for Peter took place during his time as Director of Studies when he oversaw the introduction of GCSE examinations in the place of O Levels.

In addition Peter has been a great supporter of Chapel both at Sunday and Communion services. For many years Peter has run the CCF Army Section and took over as Contingent Commander in September 2004. Even though he is retiring from teaching he will continue as Contingent Commander of the CCF at Shiplake.

Producing plays, being "Minister of Transport", that involves booking all the school's coach and minibus needs, and dealing with the weekly calendar are just some of the many jobs that Peter has mastered with a quiet professionalism.

## Graham Wells



"In all my years of working in education I know of no colleague more deserving of the position than Graham Wells," was Headmaster, Gregg Davies' comment on Graham Wells' appointment to the position of Deputy Headmaster at the Royal Wolverhampton School.

Eight years ago Graham arrived at Shiplake to teach Geography and to coach the rugby 1st XV. After just a year he took over as



Everett Housemaster but Graham has always been versatile and willing to adapt to any challenge. During his time as Housemaster he has also stepped into the breach running the Boat Club and also acted as Head of Geography.

Last August, at the end of another busy academic year Graham somehow found the energy to row 208 kilometres through the French canal system, winning the race from Toulouse to Beziers with four fellow fanatics. Yet it is for his care, humour, patience and utter professionalism as a Housemaster that Graham will be remembered at Shiplake. Sadly not only is Shiplake losing a Housemaster, it is also losing a very popular matron as Graham's wife, Sylvia, moves north too.

## Athol Hundermark

Athol's departure will leave a huge void at Shiplake. He has been a very popular and successful member of the Geography department and transferred his teaching skills to ICT too. Beyond the classroom Athol has been first an Everett and then a Welsh House tutor, helping Year 9 boys settle into Shiplake.



It is on the river that Athol will be missed most. He has combined a quiet determination with the ability to inspire athletes to perform at the highest level. Few coaches have the privilege to say that they coached a school crew to gold at the National Schools regatta but that was what Athol achieved in 2004 with the J16 VIII. In his early days Athol also coached rugby and helped out with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Athol may have fonder memories of his 2005 marriage to Nina in a fairy-tale wedding with a guard of honour formed by senior members of the College Boat Club. Although he had already been appointed to Abingdon School as Master-in-Charge of junior rowing, Athol loyally stepped into the breach to become a highly efficient Master-in-Charge of Rowing for his last two terms at Shiplake.



## Lorraine Eccleston



Lorraine's five years at Shiplake have been more than busy. She has taught History, round the clock, often offering extra evening lessons to help Sixth Formers reach their desired grades.

For her first two years Lorraine coached U15B hockey and created some very spirited teams. As the

number of girls in the school has increased so has Lorraine's contribution to Netball and Tennis, providing enthusiastic coaching in the most inclement weather. She has also helped out with one of the most popular activities in the school, advising budding chefs during the Tuesday afternoon cookery class. Lorraine has also used her make-up skills for the cast of many plays, quickly dashing out to calmly perform front-of-house duties.

Lorraine's contribution as a tutor in Everett and then Skipwith will be missed too. Throughout her time she has been the House representative on the Pastoral Care Committee playing a vital role in the flow of important information between Committee, House and Classroom. Another major role has been responsibility as Key Stage 3 Examination Secretary, always ensuring that these May examinations run smoothly. With Lorraine's departure, we will miss her hard work in running the Sixth Form council and meticulously masterminding a succession of social events. There can be few greater achievements than successfully running a Sixth Form BBQ. We wish her well at her next school.

## Emma Buckmaster

At some stage the Pope should consider Emma for canonisation. In her role as a Learning Support teacher, and a remedial mathematics specialist, helping the lower sets to overcome their difficulties, Emma displayed care, consideration and patience well beyond the call of duty. Alongside the smile and the fun in the classroom, Emma was a very well organised and professional teacher who helped the Learning Support Department to make significant progress.



Out of the classroom, as a resident member of staff, Emma was an enthusiastic netball coach for the girls. After the birth of her daughter Anna she has decided to focus on her role as a mother and take a break from teaching.

## Steve Kiesanowski

When Steve Kiesanowski arrived in the UK he soon met up with fellow Kiwi Jeremy Keane. It was Jeremy who recommended Shiplake to Steve and after a game of cricket for Windsor Boys' staff at Shiplake, Steve decided that Shiplake would be a good place to teach.



In his two years at Shiplake Steve has done nearly everything. He arrived to teach Maths but soon found himself helping out with ICT and Physics. Boys and girls didn't just find Steve's lessons challenging they struggled with various pronunciations of his name too.

As a former PE teacher Steve was willing to put his body on the line when it came to coaching rugby. For the Spring Term it was hockey then softball in the Summer Term. Meanwhile Steve was busy with the Army contingent of the CCF and also tutoring in Everett.

With Steve came his wife Rochelle who has been a very enthusiastic coach of the girls' netball team. It is a pity that family life in New Zealand is pulling them home, via Los Angeles, as they have both been very successful at Shiplake.

## Jane Aitken

Jane Aitken initially arrived at Shiplake to teach a handful of Learning Support lessons. Soon it was discovered how flexible and valuable a staff member Jane could be. GCSE English was added to her timetable and then, during Graham Vick's absence for illness, Jane taught Maths too.

The Year 12 girls really appreciated having Jane as their tutor; she helped them to see the problems and advantages of learning amongst so many boys and men. Jane made a wonderful start to her teaching career and now she is heading for Oxford University to take a PGCE.



## Marta Hamlin

Marta belongs to that exclusive club of teachers who leave Shiplake and then return. Arriving first in 2000 Marta taught a part-time timetable of Spanish. Then in 2003 Shiplake needed her services and she returned. "She is one of the kindest and gentlest woman that it has been my pleasure to know," said Head of Modern Languages, Lindsay McDonald.

Marta and her husband have sold their home and are taking something of a midlife gap year as they travel to Columbia to undertake some charity work. Who knows, Marta may yet return for a third spell at Shiplake?



## Dr Keith Halliday



Keith was originally employed to teach some Maths and Physics beginning in January 2004. When Ivan Jacklin died, Headmaster Nick Bevan scrutinised Keith's impressive CV again and decided that Keith might suddenly be better suited to Chemistry.

Keith took to Chemistry immediately, though it did involve many hours of

preparation. "I always try experiments out", said Keith and he loved experiments. "His experiments were always colourful, smelly, slimy, gooey and explosive. There was always a mad glint from behind the safety spectacles. He is just a natural teacher," says Head of Science Dr Bob Snellgrove.

The only problem with working at Shiplake was the fact that Keith faced a daily round trip of 72 miles to get to Shiplake. Radley College is much closer to home but Shiplake will miss a man who made the transition from novice teacher to highly organised Head of Department in just two terms.

## Seema King



Seema arrived at Shiplake in January 2004 to teach a little Mathematics. Like so many staff she found herself drawn into Shiplake's web. She used her RAF experience (her husband is a Squadron Leader) to step in and take control of the RAF contingent, providing some fascinating days for the cadets.

In the classroom Seema was a great encourager who was always able to get the best out

of her pupils. She increased the timetable, at short notice, to help out the Maths department in Graham Vick's absence. Now that she has followed her husband to a new posting in Germany she will be missed.

## Maureen Askin

Maureen thought that she had retired from teaching when she was tempted by a few periods of IELTS at Shiplake. She provided a great deal of support for the Overseas Pupils who take the IELTS English qualification as part of their route into University.

After that success Maureen was called upon to take some Year 9 English and to contribute to the Learning Support Department with some individual lessons. Now she and her husband have decided to make their retirement more definite with a move to Milford-on-Sea.

## Rory McDonald



"Before I employ someone I like to know all of their faults and I certainly was aware of Rory's. At Fettes I had known him since the age of nine and he had appeared in my study for a great variety of reasons," said Gregg Davies at Rory's farewell.

At Shiplake Rory has made massive contributions during the Hockey and Cricket terms as a games coach. Although he has been very useful to the

Grounds Department this is probably not an area where he will choose to develop his career. He has gained more pleasure wicket-keeping for the staff XI, competently taking an incredible, and highly challenging, variety of bowling!

## Rosemary Jones

Twenty one years ago Rosemary Jones began her secretarial life at Shiplake. Since then she has been the welcoming telephone voice of Shiplake but also the gatekeeper rejecting unwanted sales calls for busy staff. She has helped everyone with countless typing jobs whilst relaying the messages that help the College to function efficiently.



Rosemary has been a great organiser and supporter of the College Ball, gently persuading people every year that it is an unmissable event. The Old Viking Society are also grateful for her sterling work with their database for many years and also for her support of OV events.

Rosemary and her husband Rae are going on a world cruise and then Rosemary hopes to take on some part-time secretarial work.



# The Ball





**Neil Walne** took up his appointment as Bursar on 1st August. His first degree is from Loughborough University and he has an MBA from Cranfield. He comes to us from the Royal Engineers where he had a similar bursarial role.

**Paul Rowan** joins the school as Head of Mathematics. Mr Rowan was educated in Banbury and gained his degree in Mathematics from Nottingham University. He joins us from Kingham Hill School. Mr Rowan is a highly qualified table-tennis coach.

**Dr Michael Garstin** is joining us as Head of Chemistry. Dr Garstin is a very experienced teacher having taught at the John Lyon School, Millfield School and Upper Canada College in Toronto. In addition, he was College Principal of Brook House College in Market Harborough. Dr Garstin was Housemaster at Millfield School for nine years and has an abundance of managerial experience.

**Simon Dennis MBE** is joining the College as a teacher of Biology (and Chemistry) and also as Master i/c Rowing. Mr Dennis was educated at St Pauls's School, gained his first degree at Imperial College and then completed his Masters in Human Evolution and Behaviour at University College. Mr Dennis is currently Chief Rowing Coach at Imperial College. He won a gold medal at the 2000 Olympic Games as part of the GB rowing VIII.

**David Brenton**, with a degree in Physics from Aberdeen University and a PGCE from Aberystwyth, is joining the Physics Department. He has taught in Swansea and more locally at the Licensed Victuallers' School and at Desborough School. He will be a resident member of staff and taking on the role of Examinations Officer.

**Tom Caston** has been employed to teach Geography. Mr Caston was a pupil at Shiplake between 1988 and 1993. After a brief dabble with banking he came back to Shiplake as a House Tutor for two years and then went on to King Edwards' School, Bath. He joins us from the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.

**Matthew Barrett** also joins us to teach Geography. Mr Barrett was educated at St Edwards's School, Oxford and gained his degree at Nottingham Trent University. Mr Barrett is an international cox and has experience of coaching rowing. He joins us from The Leon School and Sports College in Milton Keynes.

**Marie Hermel** is joining our Modern Languages Department. Ms Hermel gained her degree in Modern Foreign Languages with Education at Kings' College London and has been a teacher of French and Head of Citizenship at Debden Park High School in Loughton, Essex.

**Michael Hood** is rejoining us as a part-time teacher of Business Studies. Mr Hood was previously Head of Business Studies at Claires' Court and is well known to the Common Room. He joins us to help set up a new Business Studies BTEC course.

**Carol Forde-Halpin** joins Shiplake as a part-time teacher of Learning Support. Mrs Forde-Halpin has previously taught at Newlands Preparatory School in East Sussex. She joins us from the Oratory School where her husband is a Housemaster. She will also be available to our Mathematics Department.

**Fay Kowalczyk** also joins the Learning Support Department as a part-time teacher. Mrs Kowalczyk is a highly qualified lady and joins us from Carwarden House School in Camberley where she has been separately Key Stage 4 English Co-Ordinator and the Deputy Headteacher. She also worked for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as an LEA Officer.

**Titus Anagho**, part-time, will be joining the Mathematics Department. He has a degree from Cardiff University, a PGCE from Swansea and a MSc in Network entered Computing from Reading. Locally he has taught at Claires Court and Cox Green Schools.

**Liz Vlotman** will be teaching part-time Learning Support. Her first degree is in History and Psychology from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. As well as being a professional tennis player she gained a RSA Specific Learning Difficulty Diploma. Recently she has taught at St. Mary's in Henley.

**Chris Bridgeman** arrives as a part-time teacher of Art. He has a Graphic Design BA from University of West of England, experience as a professional actor and has taught at the London Oratory School. He will be in charge of the RAF section of the CCF.

**Karen Tross Youle** has now joined Shiplake permanently to work in the medical wing after helping-out for the Summer Term.

**Rona Wyld** will also be working in the Medical Wing.

**Anna Pritchard** joined the College in August as Assistant Registrar.

**Karen Strickland** has been appointed as Matron of Everett House for the start of the Autumn Term. Ms Strickland is currently part of the Burr domestic team.

**Julie Knight** is returning to Welsh House as Matron.





*Danika Quirke's winning entry in  
The Orchard House Photographic Competition*





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