



SHIPLAKE COLLEGE

Old Viking Society



Newsletter 2005

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OVS WEBSITE

www.shiplake.org.uk

Saturday September 17th 2005

1530: OV's House rugby tournament

1900: Dinner to celebrate the opening of
the Old Viking Society Room

Guest of honour
David Sharpe (77S)

Managing Director of the London Eye

If you would like to play in the Old Boys' rugby tournament
please contact Michael Edwards - medwards@shiplake.org.uk

There will be a 10-a-side tournament with a team from each
of the five houses and a staff team.

Look out for details of the dinner on the OVS pages of the
College website - www.shiplake.org.uk



From the Editor

Shiplake - has it changed?

The more things change, the more things stay the same. Many of the OVs who visited the College for the June family day struggled to find their way round the campus. New buildings blocked familiar pathways and views, but in spite of all the change so many of them said that the community atmosphere - calm, friendly and welcoming - remained the same.

Pupils may give presentations in lessons using a digital projector, teachers may send prep sheets via e-mailed distribution lists and catering may offer a Greek theme night. *The Court* magazine looks more like a glossy Sunday lifestyle supplement than the 1960s sombre offering. The cricketers play 20:20 games in colourful "pyjamas" kit. The 1st XV wear scrum caps, Theatre Studies watch productions in Japanese and enjoy it! The girls have dance lessons in the Tithe Barn Theatre and the Cookery Club creates exotic dishes.

At Shiplake the age of Big Brother has arrived. The excuse, "I did my prep on the computer but it crashed just as I was finishing," no longer washes. Our ICT boffins can tell teachers who was logged on where, when and what they were doing.



Your editor - teaching!

But so much remains the same. Young boys stuff their pockets with conkers and sweets. They remember their prep at the very last minute, losing their pen when they most need it. They kick a rugby ball for the autumn term, hit a hockey ball throughout the spring term and then occupy the cricket nets for the entire summer term. Any boy from beyond the Home Counties is immediately nicknamed after his place of origin. "Well played, Durham!" "Great tackle Nairobi!" The opposition must think they are playing an atlas rather than a school.

If you haven't been back recently, see if you can make it to a dinner. September 17th 2005, looks to be a particularly good day for a nostalgia trip, with OV House rugby and a dinner to follow. We look forward to seeing you.

Michael Edwards, Editor

Send your news to medwards@shiplake.org.uk

From the President

Looking ahead to 50 years

There are 23 people in the December 1965 Staff Photograph and I am glad to say that four were at the Summer 2004 OVS Special Event. The senior guest was Mrs. E. de la Praudiere who had been an undergraduate at Oxford some 75 years ago. Of the eleven in the photograph still alive, nine are in contact with OVS. On the whole, from the detailed news about so many in every newsletter, their example as former staff is well followed.

When I became OVS secretary some 23 years ago, the then committee made it clear that a successful celebration of Twenty Five Years of Shiplake College, would need three years of saving money; two years of planning and a year spent getting old boys and families to come.

Those who now read this will range from those leaving in 2005 to newcomers who will be distinctly senior by 2009. During the coming year there will be the usual fixtures against teams raised by former pupils, the Old Vikings' Society, an organisation which has other aims, perhaps the most important is the yearly News, now a magazine rather than just a letter.

It is unusual for the President of the Old Students' Club to be a former member of staff, perhaps this is a sign of happy relations between those who studied and those who taught. There is an advantage in a president who has met most of those at Shiplake between 1959 and 1993.



Hans Wells-Furby

Many saying farewell at Shiplake used to joke that the only thing they remembered about their very first day was my saying, "The next five years will go by very quickly." In addition they said, "You were right about how rapid going from thirteen to eighteen has actually been."

My reminder was a mixture of hope and caution, I must have said it yearly from 1970-93, having learned this lesson in the 1960s. Would those soon to leave Shiplake think about getting involved with Old Vikings soon after they move on? New ideas are always welcome to the Committee.

To those just arrived, reading their first OVS magazine, there is a special challenge. You will be at the top of the school, when Shiplake College celebrates fifty years of progress, not five years away but only four and a half, on May 1st 2009. This case of thinking ahead, suggests that "Example teaches" so in planning for 2009 don't leave it too long before you, the readers and members, tell the OVS committee that you have ideas and can help.

Hans Wells-Furby

OV Calendar of Events

Those OVS who spoke to me on June 5th all commented that College buildings were so different but the atmosphere, the style, the mood, the warmth were all still the same.

In Summer 1960 school leaver Nick Bevan was a member of a winning Princess Elizabeth Cup crew. This meant he was a bit older than anyone who attended Shiplake, even in our first days. If OVs ever thought there was a generation gap between them and those running Shiplake College, this no longer applies. In welcoming, on your behalf, our new Headmaster, let me remind you that he grew up and has worked in the same world as you all.

Hans Wells-Furby

Contacts for events

OV Hockey

Tom Caston 07775 59367

Andrew Fox 0786 7782098

OV Cricket

Mike Baker

07768 065 553

OV Rugby

Jamie Orpwood

07796 580541

Saturday 26th February

19.30 for 20.00 OVS Dinner:

Guests of Honour

Peter & Diana Lapping

Sunday 13th March

14.00 Hockey: OVS v 1st XI

Saturday 4th June

11.30 Cricket: OVS v 1st XI

Friday 1st July

20.00 Shiplake College Summer Ball

Saturday 17th September

*15.30 OVS 10-a-side rugby
tournament*

19.30 for 20.00 Dinner to open the OVS Room

Shiplake College:

Guest Speaker, David Sharpe, OV

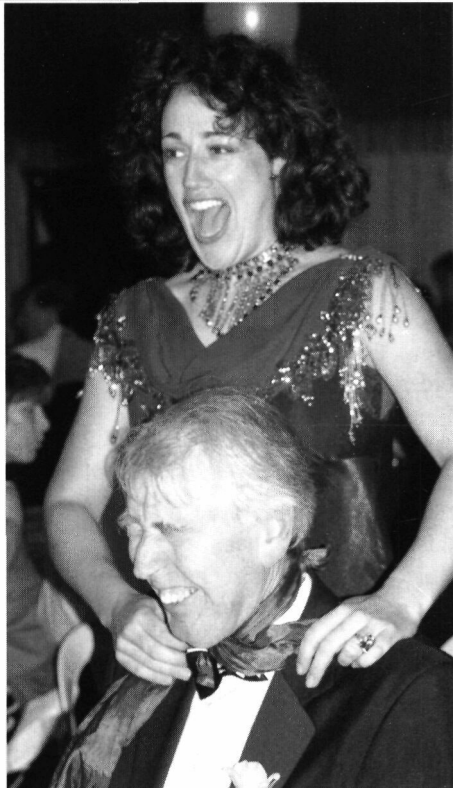
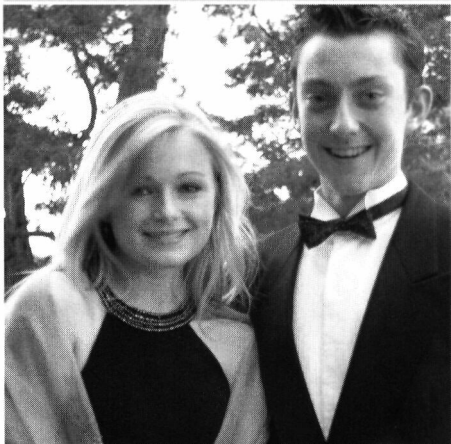
Wednesday 2nd November

19.00 OVS Annual Reunion (Soho House, London)

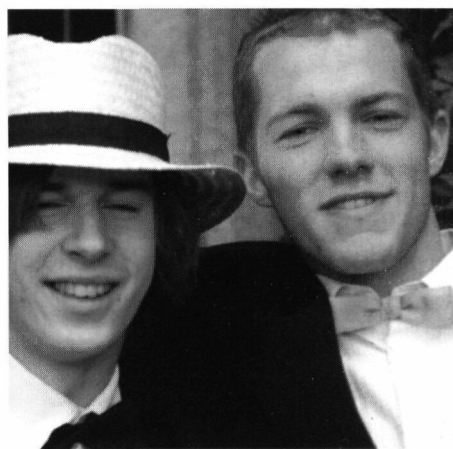
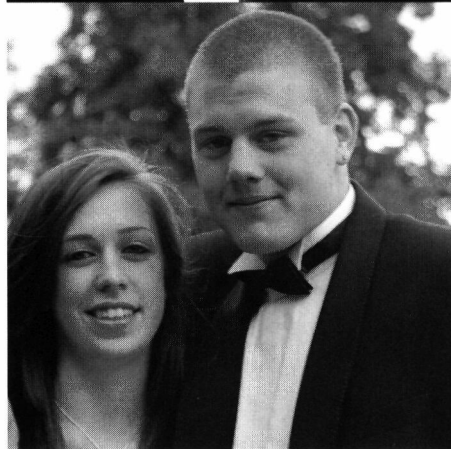
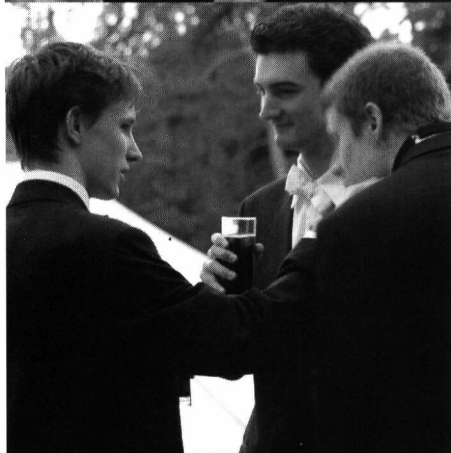
Saturday 11th December

14.00 Rugby: OVS v 1st XV

New OV's



*New OV's and Nick Bevan at the 2004
Summer Ball*



OV Gap Award

*No curriculum
and no Chinese,*

*Dan O'Shea
reports on his gap year*

I recently returned from China where I spent over 6 months and had an amazing experience. I spent the first 5 months voluntarily teaching English to less privileged Chinese children in a high school in Fujian province. I spent the rest of my time travelling around China and some of southern Asia.

The first few weeks were the hardest, settling into a new and different culture and environment. Many of the local people where I was living had never seen a westerner before, so at the beginning I was stared at if I walked down the street and pointed at. Most of my students were shy at first but very curious. I quickly made friends with many of my students and other teachers. I was teaching about 20 classes of 60 students a week. I taught the classes on my own but would often have other teachers sit in the back of my class as they found my lesson and methods interesting and different to their Chinese ways of teaching.

I had no curriculum and was left to teach what I wanted as long as I improved their English and mainly focused on spoken English. At first my students were very quiet in class and it was hard to get them to talk, but I used games and quizzes to try and force them to be more verbal in lessons. Each week I enjoyed the lessons more and more as the students opened up.

The Chinese were very hospitable and welcoming and I often got taken out to meals or invited to peoples' flats. They have a great sense of humour and are very friendly people. I was sad to leave them. After my term had finished, I went back-packing with a friend who had also been a teacher in China but in a different part. We had both picked up some Chinese which made travelling around a lot easier. We went all over China, to all the popular touristy destinations like Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, and all the less touristy destinations like Tibet and central China. It took us a three day train journey to get from East China to West China, but

it was an interest-
ing ride.

We were also
joined in our
travels by Ben
Bradshaw for a
few weeks, which
made it interest-
ing as we could
see how someone else reacted to seeing
China for the first time.

*China was an
amazing experience
I will always
treasure.*

It's hard for me to know what to say about China to other people as the whole experience was so different to anything before it. I am terribly grateful for the money that was donated to me to help me live and eat in China whilst I was teaching. I wouldn't have had enough money to travel had you not helped me. Thank you so much.

Daniel O'Shea

Farewell to Nick Bevan

*After sixteen years at the helm
Nick Bevan retired in August
2004*

Nick Bevan's greatest asset has been his enthusiasm. He is a passionate advocate of boarding and Shiplake College. He worked tirelessly from early morning administration, through chapel and appointments with prospective parents, watching sport and coaching rowing; finally onto the evening meetings with prefects and teachers.

A headmaster has many balls to juggle and requires immense stamina. Nick has been blessed with good health and has been at his desk throughout the holidays, tidying up the loose ends from the previous term, eagerly discussing plans for the coming months. One of Nick's priceless abilities has been to lift his head from today's pressing challenges; to stop, think and create a vision of the future.

Headmasters have to be adaptable. After years in the classroom, on the river and in his boarding house at Shrewsbury, Nick rapidly learnt a whole set of management and marketing skills. His year as Chairman of the Society for Headmasters of Independent Schools certainly raised Shiplake's profile.



*"What has given you the greatest
satisfaction in your time at Shiplake?"
Paddy Colman (04E)*

There have been a certain number of events that have given me great satisfaction, such as the charity walks. Such whole school occasions are very special.

It is also the achievement of former pupils. If I meet the vast majority of them it is really rewarding and I feel very proud of them. What I'm hoping to look back on is handing over a school, nowhere near complete, to my successor. We are a very young school by English public school standards. It has, at this moment, an absolutely superb teaching staff. Another source of great satisfaction has been maintaining the friendly and caring atmosphere in the school.

Farewell to Nick Bevan

It has been an era of immense change. Wooden shacks have been replaced by state-of-the-art buildings. Girls have joined boys in the Sixth Form. E-mails have replaced memos. Business Studies, Media Studies, Sports Studies and Theatre Studies have all arrived on the curriculum. Shiplake has become a member of the prestigious Headmasters' Conference and the school has gained a national reputation as one of the very best small schools in the country. Nick Bevan has certainly made a massive contribution to the history of Shiplake College. We wish Nick and Annabel a well-deserved and happy retirement.

"What will you miss most about Shiplake?" Pierre Kunkler (04W)

There are millions of things, lots and lots. Firstly the place, we are very fortunate to be living in this lovely environment, seeing the view from my house. I will miss hugely my walk through the Church Yard, my 50 second commute. I will miss pupils who are warm and friendly and welcoming. I will miss Housemasters' Meetings, though they won't expect me to say that, they are generally a warm and friendly moment in a frenetic week. I shall miss watching sports, plays and concerts, when unlikely people do really well. I shall miss a really good night in the JCR, candlelit communion services and church bells.

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South Africa



OVs sponsorship contributed to a successful tour

The Old Viking Society played a major role in fund-raising for the College's 25- man senior rugby club squad tour of South Africa. OVs were amongst the generous sponsors of the tour and the June Family day, timed to coincide with the OV Cricket match and farewell to Nick Bevan, made a significant contribution to tour funds.

All four games were evenly matched, with a thrilling 10 -11 victory to begin with followed by three narrow defeats.

As expected the rugby was very physical and competitive, matched and sometimes surpassed by the Shiplake squad. The squad really benefited from this experience and once back home won their first six matches of the season, using the experience to turn some nail-biting games into great victories.

Thank you to the sponsors

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Mr. G. Sylvester
Mr. M. Trevor

Rugby Tour

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 Outdshoorn to see and ride ostriches, stroke cheetah and white bengal tiger cubs and on to picturesque Knysna, taking part in a mixture of whale-watching, abseiling, 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. The boys conducted themselves superbly, receiving only compliments during their travels and have made friends which could last for life.

Andrew Dix

Photo: On the beach

OVS family day

The OVS Family Day made a significant contribution to the tour funds, enabling a number of enthusiastic rugby players to take part in the tour when shortage of funds might have prevented them from taking part in a great educational experience.

On the main cricket square the OVS XI played the College 1st XI. The tea break provided an ideal opportunity for the OVS to bid farewell to Nick Bevan and the term's other leavers.

On New Field OV Jon Lindsey brought a team to play the 2nd XI. Tethered balloon flights and a summer fayre brought in the pennies too.

Tour dinner

A highly enjoyable tour dinner made a massive contribution of over £10,000 to tour funds. OV Jonty Hearndon, now of television fame, took on the role of auctioneer. Signed World Cup memorabilia, from Jonny Wilkinson and Martin Johnson, as well as an England Six Nations shirt inspired some very competitive bidding.



The Sixties

Alasdair Barron (61B) wrote, "I arrived autumn '58, which was sunny and clear, slept in a hospital bed in the room at the top of the stairs looking up the drive, and waited for the school to start. I was the first boy (unless you count Richard Richardson, Mr Elliot's stepson!) so it was 1:1 tuition with Mr Elliot. I was head monitor, ie head of school in 1960 and head of Burr. There was no such person in '59. Mr Austin came on the scene, I think, as the first tutor...

I passed my swimming test in March '59 - a fully clothed swim across the river just below the island. It was memorably cold. If you could swim the river fully clothed then you were allowed to take out boats.

Obviously really. I started the car club, raced (or rather drove) stripped down vehicles round the quarry, and was the first (it was cine-filmed) to baptise the tennis court with Mr Elliot and Richard - playing badly I'm afraid. The chef let us use space in a room facing the yard outside the kitchen (where he cooked vast amounts of boiled potatoes in aluminum pans) to strip down an old ATCO two stroke motor mower engine.

The idea was to use the motor to power a raft - but apart from gaining a thorough knowledge on how to decoke a two stroke, the project never came to fruition. I think it was '59 - maybe '60 when it was hot enough for more than a few to get sunstroke - which was actually quite sick making - and the school, rather late and pictorially, bought us all white cabbage leaf-like hats. During the early period I had the idea of producing (the first ever) 'Court Circular'. And in colour of sorts! On a



Banda machine we scrounged, containing all sorts of adventures and comment. Like up the Kennett Canal, way above Reading to Theale, in a tub pair. Adams and Turner and I think one other boy came with us, with stones thrown at us by local boys on a railway bridge; and on another occasion on the Holybrook, ie from above the Thames island round to below Shiplake Lock.

The Sixties

Roger Hands was my closest friend, and together with Charlie Bullock, we ran the Court Circular - I think Roger still has a set of them unless he has already yielded them up to Hans Wells-Furby.

Camping on the island in the summer was fantastic - especially with the mist rising off the river under the early morning sun. Shingler used to scratch his hair in the quiet of night, 'man walking through grass' he said - under canvas there.

When I first heard Cliff Richard, with Living Doll, it made a major impact with the magic voice. Maybe connected? The local talent was Catherine Smith, daughter of gardener Smith (I caught moles under his tutelage, but never had enough to make anything) - who lived in the lodge at the end of drive, and her friend Ann Cobb, they were the only girls for miles around, both highly delectable - I wonder how they are now.

My upstairs single bedroom was memorable for it's sparseness; a bed, a small sloping window in roof - and a collapsible corner 'desk' which I designed and the carpenter made - the place where I became a Christian while reading Luke and was subsequently confirmed in the church.

I joined the bellringers, and Mr Lindsay Smith (a local) would read the evening lessons in a most endearing and memorable way.

I was - I am somewhat sorry to say - responsible for 'firecrackers' - actually iodine crystals soaked in 8080 ammonia (which was hard to get) - making an explosive mixture applied to the jamb of matron's door (I got the idea from Tom Brown's Schooldays). It worked fine, leaving some decent sized dents - maybe they are still there.

And yes, I have swum in the water tank with others (not my idea, and not the first person) - have explored the roof space (my idea) around the top of the house, and climbed out through widows into neighbouring rooms.

I was into one and two valve radios then and used to have one in a cigar box that was good for under pillow listening as a dorm monitor. With Adams I went on some long runs - 20 miles was the longest through Sonning, amazing fun .

I don't have Hans' email - so if you would pass this on to him, I'd be grateful, and tell him Miss Rheinholtz was fantastic. He was responsible for my cricket skills - the last time I played at my son's school ages ago I got three wickets - so something went in! PS I got 8 'O's at Shiplake; took a Masters at the University of Illinois, married Barbara in the US (she's fantastic and mother of our brilliant three grown up kids). We've always lived in England, now London, ride a motorbike to work, and have a European PR role with IBM."

The Sixties

Peter Carter-Ruck, the College's first chairman of governors, died late in 2003. The newspaper obituaries chronicled his outstanding success as a lawyer, specialising in some headline grabbing libel cases, but little was made of his interests beyond the Court Room. He served as a school governor for both Shiplake and St. Edwards' Oxford. Nick Bevan wrote to *The Times* to put the record straight:

"As solicitor for Alexander Everett, the owner and founding Headmaster, his was a moving spirit behind the purchase of Shiplake Court in its stunning setting perched on a bluff above the Thames. He also, in effect, relaunched the college when it ran into early difficulties. Peter Carter-Ruck, as the first Chairman of the Governors, oversaw the achievement of an amicable settlement with the Everetts in 1961.

He maintained a lifelong affection for the young public school, serving as Chairman of until 1965 and also returning to speak at Speech Day on two occasions."

Donald Watson (62E) wrote in from Israel. "As you know I was the youngest boy in the first term of 1959. I look back on the days at Shiplake with great happiness. On one point, the photograph "Lunch in the Great Hall 1959" (OV Newsletter 2004) is, to the best of my memory, wrong. In 1959 we dined in what is the Staff Common Room."

From the Old Vikings page in the 1964 Court

The following have posts with Firms:-

G. Avis: Bluemetals Ltd

I. MacKay: Crittall Metal Windows

M. Padbury: United Fresh Meat Co.

R. Sleight: British Motor Corporation apprentice

M. Shingler: Stewarts and Loyds apprentice

The following are training for professions:-

S. Batiste and C. Ferguson are at the Central School of Drama

A. Barron: National College of Engineering

V. Durman: Estate Management

T. Hands: Building Surveying

J. Osborne: Guy's Hospital School of Dentistry

We also have news of the following:-

M. Hampson is leaving for Australia to join a firm of Boat Builders

T. North is in insurance

J. Mansfield and S. Stracey are farming preparatory to Agricultural College

N. Sharp is with an oil drilling company

A. Smither is with Hillier, Parker and Royden.

C. Johnstone and C. Wigfall are going into the Wine Trade.

R. Stagnell is apprentice to a firm of Stock Jobbers.

The Seventies

Benjamin Huntington (73W) writes "I have been living in New York for the past 15 years. I have a BA in Three Dimensional Design from Kingston University and I worked in an architect's office for ten years. After that in 1989 I moved to NY and started studying Feng Shui. I am now an accredited master in Feng Shui, a member of the local board of directors for ASID (American Society of Interior Design) and I am NY state certified in interior design.

I have a wife Marianne, who is a clothing fashion designer, and a son Adam who is almost three. I run a successful interior design practice and also travel all over America lecturing on Feng Shui. I have a web site www.fengshui-ny.com"

Christophe Petit (73S), "I was the only French student at the time and I have kept many great souvenirs of a very pleasant period. I would like to find an old friend's address, also a student at the same period of time, Richard Cole.

As far as I am concerned, I have lived in Moscow, Russia for the past two years. I started my own company in consulting; proposing market studies and research for foreign companies wishing to establish their products in Russia and mainly in the textile and lingerie business, but in all various types of products including chocolate and household objects. Best wishes to everyone from that time."

Bill McAlester (76W) e-mailed, "I do a deal of work for both the RBL and the Royal Naval Association. Basically we provide help for those who need it in a number of different ways. These people range in age from the very young children to the very old, but the emphasis is on self help. In the past the College has been in the Legion Magazine for helping us."

For sheer laughter-raising, two parts stood out: A.M. Leach as the cheeky Tommy in the trenches; of all the actors Leach seemed most at home on the stage: and R.A. Williamson, as assorted females... Other minor characters who hit the right notes were R.N. Warner-Smith as Mrs Pankhurst, the Scatchard brothers as runners, and a slightly drunken looking choir culled from among the seniors, who added depth, if not always harmoniously, to the voices on stage in many of the numbers.

*D.K. Welsh review
"Oh What a Lovely War"
The Court 1973*

The Seventies

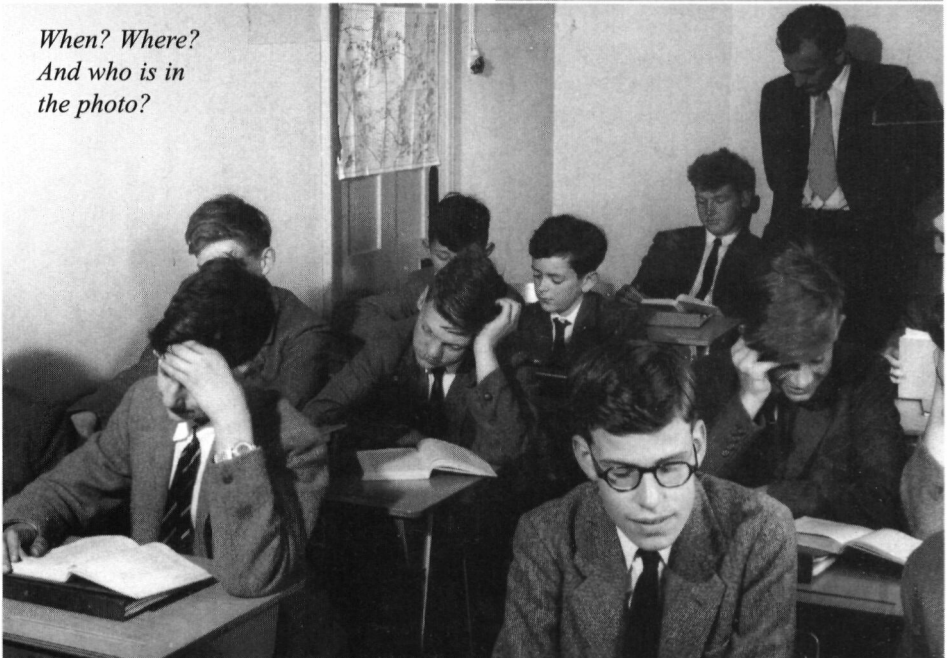
Mike Hove (76S) was transferred to Australia from Canada seven years ago. He is currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Computer Sciences Corporation and living in Sydney. CSC is a large, US based, multi-national IT outsourcing company.

Andy Priest (78S) "My news briefly, is that I sold my antique shop in Stow last May (after 18 years) and now live in Norfolk full time with my wife, Rachel and three daughters. I run the antiques business from home. We also have a holiday cottage business in North West Norfolk. I am still in touch with Mike Yates (who was in Everett) and Tom Fromant (Skipwith). Mike lives in the States with his wife and 3 children and Tom has a farm in Northamptonshire."

"Can I have something for a headache, and a plaster for my left big toe, the nail has just dropped off? Jones has just trodden on my right foot, and it hurts, and I've got spots all over. Those pills you gave me yesterday did not work and I've had a sore throat for three days, and diarrhoea for at least two weeks."

*Pat Noble
The Court 1978*

*When? Where?
And who is in
the photo?*



The Seventies

The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 6th March, 2003 updated **Nigel Baddeley's** story. "Baddeley has never been to Japan and 18 months ago he knew little about Japanese food. But in the past year he has turned his family's farm, Kentdown, which for 40 years had been churning out the white mushrooms you see in every supermarket, over to the organic production of Japanese varieties. "It was desperation, really," he says. "With the white mushroom market increasingly threatened by cheap imports from Holland, Belgium and particularly Poland, Baddeley realized he would have to diversify and find a niche to survive". Now Baddeley grows Japanese varieties and supplies the Japanese restaurant chain Moshi Moshi and top quality restaurants such as Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons.

Chris Standring (78E), "On the music front I am starting to record some new songs for a new album. I feel like it's time for me to jump back in the saddle and see what happens. It seems there is only a handful of record labels left now so I'm not quite sure who will put the record out yet. I'll be going through the usual rounds once I have completed three new tracks, which should be in a couple of weeks.

I have spent a huge amount of my time this year really focusing on my Internet ventures and strangely, out of all of them it seems that

www.PlayJazzGuitar.com has taken off the most - go figure!

The site is dedicated to resources for jazz guitarists but the ultimate focus is to sell my own home study course "Play What You Hear".

I spent a couple of months (16 hour days) upgrading the course to make it 10 times what the original version was and I must say I certainly achieved that. I was sleep deprived for way too long however and as soon as I finally finished I slept like a log for about a week!

I'm thrilled with the way the course came out and as a result, students love it too.

You can read more about it at <http://www.playjazzguitar.com/letter.html>

Oh yes, I bought a house! My first, a little late in life but I guess it doesn't matter how you get there does it? It's a lovely three bedroom house with a gorgeous back garden."

Photos wanted!

The nostalgia photos are one of the most popular elements of the Old Viking Newsletter. Sadly there are relatively few pictures from the 1970s and early 1980s. If you do have any images from this era please e-mail a copy to:

medwards@shiplake.org.uk

The Seventies

Early in the Summer term the quarry first heard the muted roar of Suzuki and Yamaha. Under the paternalistic eye of MHGH a number of boys set about the tangle of elder bushes which had until then grown practically undisturbed.

Several Fourth Formers and above now use the track three evenings per week, and the course has several different tracks of varying gradients courtesy of Hamperl and Holubowicz, with a little help from JRS.

The Court 1978

Giles Hacking (79S) runs CG Hacking Commodity brokers, his wife is expecting another child in March.

Mike Grant (79E) runs Autoinparts, supplying specialist car accessories, in Leighton Buzzard. He is, according to Henry Summers, still eternally youthful.

Jeremy Roth (79S), set up his own company Crimson Tide, specializing in hand held computers that can access database whilst on the move. Visit www.crimsonside.co.uk

The Old Viking Room

It has often been asked of me what we as the Committee do with our funds. This year I am delighted to announce that the Committee has awarded a grant of £10,000 to the College for the refurbishment of the Old Library behind the Great Hall. This room will be known as the Old Viking Room.

The objective is to use the room as a conference room, meeting room as well as a marketing tool for promoting the College. For example it is envisaged that photographs of famous past and future OVs will feature strongly as a means of drawing awareness to the College. It will also be used for receptions and dinners.

As a committee we are delighted to have had this opportunity to support the College. It is our objective to have the official opening of the Old Viking Room on September 17th 2005 to coincide with the OVS House Rugby Tournament and a celebratory dinner.

Henry Summers - Treasurer

The Eighties

Henry Summers (80S), working at Marsh, busy with the OVS and single, gave a summary of his contemporaries.

Rupert Mackay (80B) is a vicar based at Hadley Wood, married to Hilary with four children and is a part-time property speculator.

Mark Ellis (80S) is Chief Finance Officer of Michael C Fina, a US based company and he lives in upstate New York. They have just purchased a new company in Ascot and Mark works in both Ascot and New York.

Ossie Swaine (80S) is a partner at Bishop and Sewell Solicitors and is just about to become a father for the third time.

David Saker (80E) works for Richard Green Art galleries selling very expensive paintings. His sister Catherine is now Head of Theatre Studies at Shiplake.

Steve Arnott (80W) is married, with three children and has his own Management Consultancy company, Perennial Business Solutions, ring 01483 2225855 for an OV discount!

Nick Bryant (80W) is married to Claudia and they have two daughters. Nick is a glamour photographer.

Crispin Harding Rolls (80S) is with the Mounted Police, based at the Royal Mews, patrolling central London.

Phil Broad (80O) is married with three kids aged 12, 10, and 6, living in Weybridge, Surrey. Having run TGI Fridays for a number of years, he moved on and owns the Outback Steakhouse franchise. Check out www.outback.com for your local restaurant.

Nick Jones (81W) was named as Entrepreneur of the Year by GQ magazine. The judges were clearly impressed by the flair that has produced Soho House (London and New York) and Babington House.

Bill Kanaan (85W) and Andrew Menzies called into the College to see Malcolm Woodcock. Andrew runs a design business in Los Angeles and Bill, a lawyer, lives locally in Peppard.

Hywel Jones (85), "After Shiplake I went back to Colombia and I am now living in Menai Bridge, North Wales. I have been back in the UK for three and a half years starting in London, then Bristol, Cardiff and decided to come back to where my family originally come from.

I have opened a shop selling gifts, jewellery and home design products. I am getting married in August next year. I also work freelance for television mainly for HTV which is now ITV Wales. I am looking forward to getting in touch with other Old Vikings. I did get in touch with Jeremy Woodward who was living in London but lost contact.

I still hope one day that I can take up rowing again, since it was one of my favourite sports and the other one rugby. I can't complain, after five years struggling with other expats we got rugby going in Colombia and its now ranked 86th in the IRB. I have played 10 international games for Colombia, and might go back to see if we can qualify for the next World Cup."

The Eighties

Chris Haynes (87S) retired from the teaching profession in March 2000 after a seven year stint. He is now working for a city based financial services search practice. He married Helen in December 1999 and has three children, Charlie aged 5, Jonny 2, and Olivia 6 months.

John Bartlett (87S) is now Deputy Headmaster at Papplewick Prep School. He has just returned to the UK after spending 7 years teaching in Massachusetts, New England, in the USA.

Youth Speaks

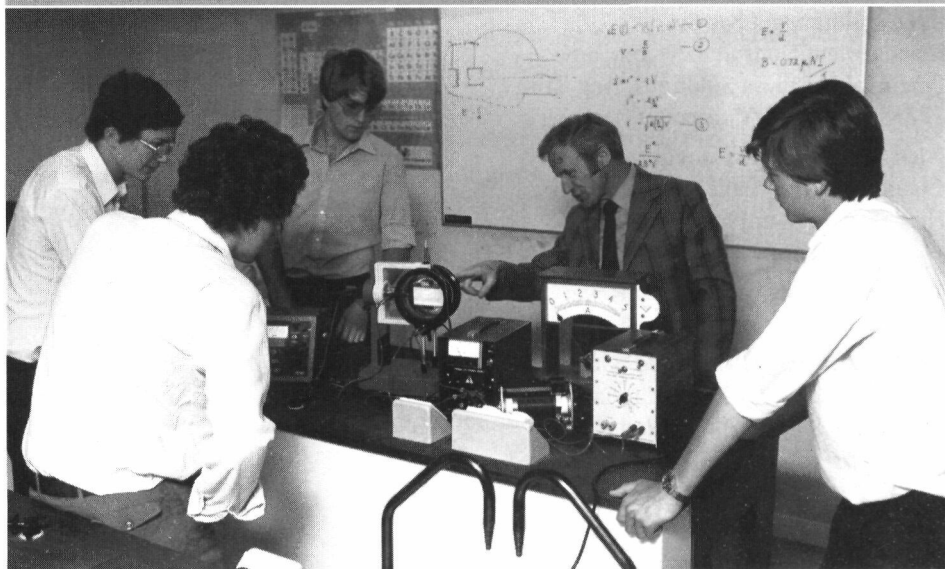
The first senior team to speak consisted of Alex Koch de Gooreynd (Chairman), James Welsh (Main Speaker) and Philip Browning (Proposer of the Vote of Thanks). The theme chosen was "A Woman's place is in the Home".

...

The second senior team chose the subject of Yuppies as their speech. It was chaired with much aplomb and decorum by Franke Browne (Everett). delivered with humour and gusto by William Furniss (Skipwith) and rounded off by John Crichton (Burr).

Nora Sanders

The Court 1987-88



The Nineties

Piers Rake (93S) "I left Shiplake after my GCSEs. My older brother, **Matt Rake** left (in 1991 I think). My younger brother, **Ashley Rake** was at Shiplake for an 'incomplete term'! Just thought I'd drop you an email to update the OVS of where we are etc!

In order of seniority (!), my brother Matt has moved out of the wine business and is now a helicopter pilot, doing his commercial pilot exams in Oxford. Although I started off by doing a fine art degree in a London art school, I took a bit of a turn and ended up going to law school! I'm now working for Reid Minty Solicitors and Privy Counsel Agents in Mayfair. Any OVS members looking for excellent business lawyers...please don't hesitate to email me (prake@reidminty.co.uk). My brother Ashley became a professional polo player a few years ago. He spends the English season playing for teams at Guards, Kirklington, the Royal Berkshire and other Clubs in the area and off season he heads off to play in Argentina."

Chris Myers (93W) "I spent two years in St Emilion, studying the production and commerce of wines and spirits, and then went to work for a company in Bordeaux called Millésima which sells to private clients, looking after the UK and Ireland. I launched both countries for the company. I left there last August, and am now working for a company called Mahler-Besse - we co own Palmer in Margaux and various other properties in Bordeaux and Spain..

I look after the UK and Ireland (again!), but sell to the trade only. Travel a bit but not too much, which is great!

I got married in September 2000 to Caroline (we met at wine college in 93!), and had a baby boy , Tom, born on Christmas day 2003. We are over the moon obviously!

Still see a few old Welsh boys (Matt Smith, Ben Chamberlain, Henry Felix, Caspar Ouvaroff every couple of years, even saw Dirk Young in a bar, which isn't surprising I suppose!).

Please send my best regards to Malcolm Woodcock, and Bob Esau. Thanks to Malcolm I am now playing the guitar (a bit...the violin I haven't played for a while), and thanks to Bob, I am in the wine business!"

Matt Jones (93W) emailed in but the gremlins must have got into the system as it was completely unreadable. Paul Emerson reports that Matt has moved on from Saracens, but please try another e-mail Matt.

Adam Etheridge (93B) sent in an e-mail, "Hope everyone is well and the school is continuing to thrive. I'm very busy at the moment working at the Albert Hall in the run up for this year's concert in aid of the RSPCA. James Chetwode is still a close friend of mine and has just had a little boy who is named Freddie. I hope that Burr House is still the best and winning all the super competitions that are held every year."

The Nineties

Ski Trip 1993

Pre Trip warm up - A number of weeks at Bracknell Dry Ski Slope.

Family Run Apartments - Shiplake arrive and the family run!

Piste Basher - a Shiplake master out of control.

Follow me - What am I doing on a mogul field?

Munchkins - Local children who cut one up and ski between your legs.

Ski Lift Queue - All in wrestling

Excusez Moi - He is apologising, but still pushing in

Apres Ski - Tobogganing, dancing, charades, quizzes. No swimming because boxer shorts are banned by the local mayor.

Peter Webb

The Court 1993-94

Duncan McCrum (94E), is back working in London and called into Soho House. After five and a half years in Sports Promotion in Chicago, and then Los Angeles, he is now working for a Media Company. He's retired from rugby after a couple of shoulder injuries but plays a lot of hockey.

Your newsletter editor works hard to track down OV's. Entering Twickenham urinals on the day of the Heineken Cup final (Wasps 27 - Toulouse 20), I discovered **Mark Abberley** who had been Head of PE at Shiplake in the mid nineties. Having worked on the Sports Science exhibition at the Science Museum, Mark has returned to Henley as General Manager of Aspect Park Golf Club.

**Send your news to
medwards@shiplake.org.uk**

*David Scoins with the 1993 Cross
Country squad*



The Nineties

Alex Custance (96B), "My gap year ranged from culling deer in Richmond Park to doing the Tall Ships race from Denmark over to Amsterdam. Then onto an HND at DeMontfort University, Leicester. This turned out to be an estate agency course, but I couldn't see myself as an Estate Agent. After I graduated I moved up to Bedford with my mum and did a massive range of jobs, mainly because I didn't know what I wanted to do. These included selling the doomed ON Digital boxes and landscape gardening. Then in 2000 I got a job at the Yarlswood Immigration Detention Centre.

This was a hands-on job in the extreme. Once I tried to restrain an ex-Russian soldier addicted to heroin, who had decided that the way forward into this country is to slice and dice his torso with a razor blade in front of you, and that if you get any closer he will cut you to pieces too. It was at this point that I started to go greyer. Then, as always, life decided to put another twist in the tale, nearly 900 detainees went on the rampage and burned down the place. You could see the smoke nearly 20 miles away and all the time you were left wondering if any of your mates had died in the fire.

I decided another career change was needed. I have gone back to university and am training as a PE teacher for secondary schools. Finally I think I've found something that I will enjoy and be good at."

Tom Boyle (95B) has co-written a book with another former Henley Standard reporter, Ed Hawkins. It is an in-depth guide for sports fanatics who want to go to events abroad without getting "ripped off". Frank Keating's review read, "The book you have been waiting for - your passport, your visa, your abracadabra entry to the global phenomenon of sports fandom." Sports Ticket is published by Aesculus Press."

Will Carver (96S), "I'm working for Hewlett-Packard as a telecoms sales guy in London and Bristol and living in Fulham with Sarah (who I met at the Upper 6th dance) and my cat. It's all very grown up although I don't feel any more mature than when I left Shiplake. It's hard to believe it's been eight years since I finished!

Life is very busy one way and another but I have managed to keep in touch with and see regularly George Arkell, Andrew Sargent, Nick Riddell and a few other old boys, as well as staying in touch with Paul Moore who's been in Australia since he left uni in 2001. I also saw John Graham-Taylor in Grand Cayman at the end of last year; I was there on business but John lives there full time now."

From the obituary of **Evan Peter Currier De Santis (99O)**. "He will be remembered forever by his loving family and friends, and his resilient spirit will live on through the many lives he touched so deeply.

The Nineties

Evan passed away on Saturday night, August 21, 2004 at his home in Los Gatos, California in the loving arms of his mother, and in the adoring company of his family and closest friends. He courageously fought a four year battle with cancer, inspiring many with his tenacity, maturity, passion and poise in the face of death. The motto that carried him through the precious last years of his life was Carpe Diem: Seize the Day.

Moving to England in 1989, he spent the next ten years of his early school years at The Oratory Prep School and Shiplake, where he developed a love of history, enjoyed playing rugby, and travelled extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East with his family."

Martin Fairlie (97W) bumped into Phil Davey and gave further news on **John Graham Taylor (97S)** who combines running a bar with a photography business in the Cayman Islands. **Rob Harding (97W)** has also developed his photographic skills and is working as a wedding photographer. Martin has just started a new course

Matthew Day (97O), "I left Shiplake in 1997 and was in Orchard house under Richard Mannix. After Shiplake I took a gap year and went travelling to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Indonesia for sixth months before heading to Bournemouth University to study Business Information Systems Management. I graduated in 2002 with a 2:1 hon's degree; I am now working as a Recruitment Consultant for the construction industry and have just brought my first house in Bournemouth.

Rock Fest

Under the watchful eye of soundman, James Raikes, supported by Mr. Mannix and Mr. Woodcock, the first of three bands took to the stage. Silver Fate shocked the crowd with their set of cutting edge punk/teenage angst metal. The audience had a few minutes to recover from the full frontal onslaught that was Jon Ravn, Francis Chapman, Andrew Jones and Alex Macdonald, helped by additional vocals from Alan Pownall. Then the second band came on - *It Takes Balls* - Jassim Jaffer, Jamie Marshall, James Wilkinson, guitar teacher Ian Griffiths and Damian Crouch. This set was the stuff of legends - a stunning effort.

Damian Crouch

The Court 1998 - 99

The Nineties

I have recently seen James Turner from Everett House who is now living and working in London for Cartoon Network."

Andrew Ashby, who taught PE in the 90s returned to Australia and "got a job almost straightaway at Barker College in Sydney, a school of 2000 students, a very different experience from Shiplake. I am teaching PDHPE and running the Duke of Edinburgh Award and enjoying every minute. I married in December 2000 and my son Ned, is now one. Everything is fantastic on that front.

Occasionally my thoughts drift off to England - the view from the sick bay, the cold afternoons up towards Sonning, the Argyle and the Little Angel. I cannot recall a single bad memory. The two years I was there seem almost an eternity ago, but when I get reminders such as the Old Viking Newsletter, the memories come flooding back.

I hope everything in the Mother Country is great, judging by the recent World Cup they are! We'll give you one. My address is Andrew_Ashby@barker.nsw.edu.au"

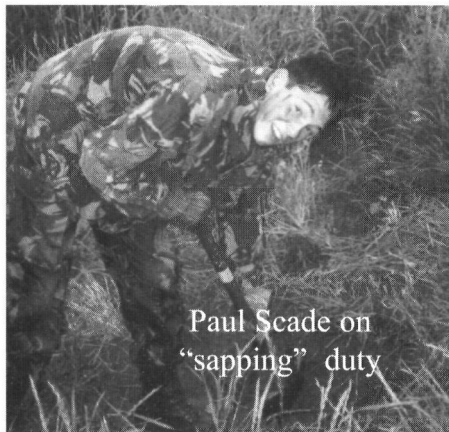
Guy Mance, once Head of Modern Languages and 1st XI Cricket Coach, returned to Shiplake for the Old Vikings Family Day. He has taken a year off from his teaching job in New Zealand to introduce his twin toddler daughters to their grandparents. Whilst he stays with his parents in Brighton looking after the children his wife goes out to work to earn their living.

Matt Alfred (99W) called into the College and met Richard Mannix. Matt had worked as an estate agent for a few years but has now moved into Executive Recruitment. Similarly **Sam Edington (99W)** has also finished as an Estate Agent and just started his own Property Search business.

Rupert Miller (99O), according to brother Ollie who is still at University and watched the OV hockey match, is now working long hours as an estate agent in Wandsworth.

Alex Abdolwahabi (99S) is studying for an aviation degree at London Metropolitan University and building up his flying hours, hopefully to gain a position as a commercial pilot in the near future.

Harry Engelen (99B), over in England on a pre-Christmas visit, spent half a day at the school. He had been working for a car sales firm but they closed down and Harry is now working in antiques with his family.



Paul Scade on
"sapping" duty

New Millennium

Fred Vitzhum (00E) and **Paddy Ranger (00E)** called into the College one Friday afternoon, Fred is in his final year of an Architecture degree at Oxford Brookes but still has a further four years of training before he is fully qualified. Paddy is running a busy pub in Cheltenham.

Tom Constable (00E) has just graduated with an engineering degree and plans to travel a little before looking for a full-time job. Elder brother **James (96E)** is working in London in recruitment.

The Quirke family have had an extended relationship with Shiplake. **Nick Quirke (00B)** is back at Shiplake coaching rowing, while sister Danika is in the Sixth Form. Meanwhile

Anthony Quirke (96B) has just been promoted by Marks and Spencer in his London job but he is busy in the evenings developing his IT skills to open up his career options.

Rob Aslin (00O) is working hard in London in property development. He is sharing a flat with **Tom Leers (98O)** who works in sales and marketing for Levis.

Charlotte Morse (00W) arranged to arrive at the College with two models and two photographers for a fashion shoot which was serving both as a feature for a fashion magazine but also as an assessment for the Journalism and Fashion degree. She used locations in the Great Hall, the Senior Common Room and some exterior shots as she put together a quirky retro look for a fashion look that she created using seven changes of costume for each model.



Henry Deakin (00E) called into Soho House. He is now running Deakin and Francis with elder brother **James (94E)**. Business is thriving and they are busy travelling the world to build sales. Henry is almost unrecognisable having lost three and a half stone due to daily visits to the gym. Look out for him running the London marathon, his target is sub four and a half hours.

New Millennium



*Hugo Lowry
and
Jessica Jonzen admire
a "Viking Voice".
Jessica has
now moved on to the
Daily Telegraph.*

Ilana Rakhorst (00W) is also looking to pursue a career in journalism and is currently on work experience at the Tatler.

Jessica Jonzen (99W), also at the Soho House reunion is working for the Daily Telegraph after doing some articles for the Henley Standard.

Alex Pemberton (00S) called into the Soho House reunion, taking a break from working on promotion for an Italian company on the Formula One circuit. Between Grand Prix he lives in Fulham.

Kelvin Yuen (00S) parked up in the courtyard for his first visit to Shiplake since leaving. He had graduated from University College London with a 2.1 in Business and Economics then deciding to branch out into Development for his MSc. With his dissertation almost finished he hopes to find a job with a Development Bank.

Tom Wood (00S) has just graduated with a Business degree from Manchester. He plans to take a break and fly out to Australia to meet elder brother **Ollie (97S)** who is doing well with his marketing job in Sydney.

Henry de Lloyd (00E) has graduated from Exeter University with a 2.1

Ian Hayden (00B) has graduated from Canterbury University with a 2.1 in Business Studies and Music. He is now looking to pursue a career in property.

Harry Simpson (01S) watched the OV rugby match and reported that he is still living in Fulham with his parents and he is working at Lloyds as a Junior Broker with Glancairn.

Jo Burridge (01W) was at Soho House and reported that after graduation she has a position on a Management Training Course with Fennicks at Brent Cross. Elder brother **James (99O)** is delighted to have a contract working for BBC Radio Northampton.

New Millennium

Tom Chilton's (01E) website www.tomchilton.com tells the story. "With victory in Round 9 he became the youngest ever winner of a British Touring Car Championship race. Tom had to overcome electrical and mechanical problems in the first two races, but with an incredibly mature drive from 10th on the grid in the third, history was made."



Jan Muggenburg (01B) met up with the Shiplake crews at the Ghent Regatta in Belgium. Jan is studying business in Cambridge and is currently on a two year intern spell with Shell. There is a possibility of a Shell posting to the Far East at the end of his course.

Jonny Ravn (01E) e-mailed in, "Just writing to send my best wishes to every one still at Shiplake. I am currently working on projects with a charity called The Trussell Trust.

I am still playing music, unfortunately not with Andy Jones and Alex Macdonald, but with some friends who live more locally.

Also last year I got a place on a 30 foot catamaran and travelled from England to Portugal, then to the Canary Islands and finally across the Atlantic to St. Lucia for a few months. It was amazing and I am hopefully going to travel Europe in a camper van next...we'll see. Please pass on my kindest regards to Mr. Wells and the other teachers."

Braeden Hogan (02O) had the tale of his gap year published in the Henley Standard under the headline "Good on yer, cobber - Henley pom hits the saddle as Aussies face cowboy crisis." Braeden is working at a cattle station in rural Queensland.

"I'm doing a bit of everything - driving tractors, riding the farm bikes and getting out on the horses to muster cattle ... I wanted something outdoors and adventurous and I certainly found it. I also wanted to push myself and find out a bit more about who I am and what I want to do in life."

Steve Wood (02S) appeared stylish and smiling in a May Day edition of the Daily Telegraph. Journalist Sarah Standing included Steve in her recollections of her introduction to Salsa. "With me was Johnnie and our lodger, Steve Wood, both of whom are pretty nifty on the dance floor. Steve moonwalks over to the kettle every morning on his way to make breakfast .."

Staff News

The invitations to the OVS family day produced a number of letters to **Hans Wells-Furby**. He kindly collated the news of those present and those who could not make it.

Dr. Tony Salmon was the original school doctor and was at the Summer Family Day. He apologizes for being "a most inactive Honorary Member of OVS but remembers his 27 years with the College as a most rewarding part of medical practice."

John Brown and wife Audrey live at North Berwick. John wrote at length about the 1st XV of 1968, correcting the labeling of a rugby photo in the recent newsletter. John was still Master i/c rugby then and the 1st XV wore white shirts with the Viking Badge. He believes the photograph is of the Colts team of that year. Hans reports that John is very busy doing a little teaching in one of the local primary schools, keeping fit in the gym, Ballroom Dancing and playing Bridge.

Miss Monica Tomalin has memories of the College as long as anyone's, having started as School Secretary 45 years ago. She had doubts about coming to the Family Day but was glad she did come to see how well, Mr. Woodcock, Henry Summers and the Committee had arranged everything. It seemed apt that the afternoon of remembering overlapped with remembering the D Day Events of sixty years ago.

Mrs Edna de la Praudiere must be the oldest of those who helped Shiplake in early days. She went up to Oxford in the late 1920s and her memories span the last century. Living locally she has been a guest at so many events, many will remember her at the 1999 celebrations.

Mr. George Wright, Master i/c Rowing and Head of Science, recalled plotting with John Eggar to put an agricultural building on agricultural land, the Big Boat House of the early 1970s. He also recalled D Day "Being second echelon, we were getting a convoy through the London docks."

Mr. Trevor Jones (Geography 1969-75) has retired from Wycliffe College after 29 years there. At Shiplake he was one of the founders of successful "J16" rowing. In retirement he will be teaching Navigation at evening classes in Cheltenham. He has moved from being one of the early surfboarders in the 1960s to owner of a 38 foot Ketch moored on the Tamar, opposite Devonport.

Mrs Betty Cosgrove, in charge of exam entries before Jim Kroth, now lives near a daughter in Aberdeenshire. Some will recall her husband Travers talking about the Normandy campaign. He landed on D Day plus 10 and drove his Bren Gun Carrier as far as Hamburg. He has vivid memories of liberating parts of Holland.

Tim Callingham wrote on 6th June 04 to say, from the viewpoint of being suddenly 55, that the relaxing Shiplake atmosphere was the same as 40 years ago, even if the buildings were not.

Staff News

He runs an office cleaning firm "Endless Cleaning", HQ at Ascot. Tim lives near Pewsey, in Wiltshire but keeps an eye on the business from a flat in Maidenhead.

Tim was a key figure in our early cricket seasons when we ran only 1st XI and U14 sides, plus a Wanderers side against Henley Police. Tim thinks a side of over 50s should play again at Shiplake for old times sake.

One of the more active visits came from **David Scoins**. He is at Plymouth College where he is Senior Housemaster and still very busy with sport. David arrived very early, caught up with ex-colleagues and even dropped into Graham Vick's lesson to help out with a spot of A Level teaching.

*Another
mystery
photo
from
the
archives*



*Graham Vick
gathers together
a clay-pigeon
shoot*

Staff News

After twenty seven years Peter Webb leaves Shiplake

Peter Webb was offered a post at Shiplake while doing a term of teaching practice before qualification. Nothing very odd about that except that he came for ten weeks and remained nearly three decades.

In the mid 1970s Shiplake grew considerably (240 in 1974, 320 in 1979) and the teaching staff increased accordingly. John Eggar had already found Paul Emerson and Tony Hooper to strengthen Sports coaching and liven up work in the class room. Peter's cheerful, outgoing personality was just what we needed. John Eggar asked senior staff about this student and all said the usual advertising would not produce a better candidate. Curiously Peter now points out that he is leaving without applying for another job. His years of contributing to Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme activities and to the Combined Cadet Force leading to an invitation to help with Army Cadet training based at Frimley. Now watch out for Peter Webb the commuter.



A major's uniform suited Peter, he was one of those rugby players who always looked neat and tidy. Even a sprint in the Staff Relay Team (with the above Emerson and Hooper) left him unruffled. Peter appeared occasionally on the cricket field. I think I remember one fifty when playing for the Wanderers. Furthermore Peter became a useful Boat Club coach.

Just as with the CCF, in following traditions set by Eric Pollard and Richard Lee, Peter did some remarkable work in the footsteps of Peter Hose. PJFW followed PGH in taking 2nd XV rugby to continued success. Tall and boney seniors played hard and hectic rugby winter after winter, not often losing and having a great deal of fun. What with start of holiday events; away fixtures and regattas was Peter Webb ever

at home? On one long ago occasion Peter agreed to monitor the Bar at the Sixth Form dance. A well known character briefly contested Peter's ruling that he had imbibed enough, just one of the many occasions when Peter Webb was clearly in charge.

Hans Wells-Furby

Staff News

Over her 16 years at Shiplake **Candy Jacklin** filled many roles with an admirable sense of duty; no role was ever too time-consuming or too much hard work for Candy. She served as laboratory assistant in the Science Department, then as Housemaster's wife in Everett house. Candy was always ready to help out, to be on hand, and always a stalwart supporter of the choir, she became a highly efficient Music Secretary. After Ivan's death Candy decided to leave Shiplake and depart for the peaceful haven of her home in North Devon.



Eight years ago **David Wilson** arrived as a young, single assistant Chemistry teacher. Now he leaves to become Head of a large Chemistry Department at



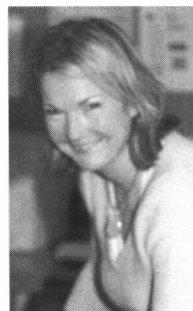
Wellington College. Along the way he became Head of Chemistry at Shiplake, married Laura and gained an MSc in IT from Reading University.

On the football field David worked hard to produce football teams from boys who spent most of their time playing rugby and tackling like centres. In Burr he was a patient and resourceful tutor while his IT skills were invaluable when the timetable season came around.

Wellington College judged that this package of skills was just too good to miss.

After 18 years **Dr Sandy Terris** has passed on the stethoscope to Dr. Phillip Unwin. During those years Sandy has run twice weekly surgeries and undertaken countless medicals on new boys and new staff. He became a very important member of the community, always willing to call in to see an ailing resident or a sick member of the family. Sandy continues to dispense pills, potions and wisdom at his Henley surgery but now that he is free of his commitments at the College he may be able to spend just a few more hours at Henley Golf Club.

Suzie Ellis arrived, five years ago, to fill a few gaps in the ICT and Maths timetables. Shiplake soon discovered that she was an exceptional teacher. A wealth of experience from coxing the GB crew was soon utilised down on the river and she coached some very successful crews.



Suzie heads for Kingston Grammar School, to be their head of ICT. She will be missed, particularly by the many pupils she has helped as an Orchard tutor.

Jill Weld created a wonderfully reassuring working atmosphere in the three dimensional world of Shiplake's art department. Pupils were inspired by Jill's own success as an illustrator of commercial work. One of her greeting cards sold over a million copies.

Staff News

Jill was a highly talented sportswoman and she shared her talents on the hockey pitch and on the tennis court. Jill left Shiplake to give birth to her first child, Patrick.

Keith Buckler spent two years at Shiplake for his first teaching job. Having qualified as a teacher he has moved just across the river to Reading Blue Coat School, to broaden his experience of teaching Physics.

Although he worked long hours, preparing his lessons and trying out new techniques, Keith was often found in the Sports Hall coaching badminton or out on the tennis courts helping the teams. We look forward to seeing him return with Blue Coat teams.

Gina Withers has worked at the College for 20 years. She began as a cleaner, forming a legendary partnership with Maureen, and then in the early nineties, when the vacancy arose, she became the Everett House matron. Boys, cleaners and house tutors have come and gone but all the time Gina has remained calm and patient; always ensuring that her charges are cared for, always ready to help the new boys settle in and to listen to problems. We wish Gina an enjoyable retirement.

Jill McCoy is retiring after many years at Shiplake. Jill began in the office but in recent years she has been the Careers Secretary assisting with university applications. Another part of Jill's work has been the massive task for finding work experience placements for an entire year group.

Congratulations to **Emma Buckmaster** on the birth of her daughter Anna. Currently Emma and her husband are to be seen serenely pushing a pram in the grounds but Emma will be returning to work soon.

Graham Wells and **Shane O'Brien** spent part of their summer holiday, with three fanatical colleagues rowing 205km from Toulouse to Beziers, winning the event with 28 minutes to spare. "Weather conditions were not ideal. Temperatures peaked at 35 centigrade and then we had a mini tornado."

Staff illness

Jim Mansergh was rushed to hospital in September with a burst ulcer and was very poorly. During the treatment the doctors discovered that he had cancer and he is still in hospital receiving treatment.

Many OV's will know that **Graham Vick's** wife Mary has been receiving treatment for cancer for several years. Over the October half-term holiday Graham was diagnosed as suffering from non-Hodgkin Lymphnode. He is currently at home receiving treatment.

Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to all Old Vikings for my gift. It was most unexpected but very much appreciated. I wish you all success, health and happiness, and a special thank you to Everett OV's for making my days there so enjoyable.

Gina Withers

New staff

Keith Halliday joined Shiplake in December 2003 as a Chemistry teacher and became Head of Chemistry in September 2004. After gaining a Ph.D at Cambridge he worked for Esso and then became deputy head of Research and Development at Bookham Technology.

Seema King graduated from the University of Wales, gained a PGCE and then worked as Business Manager for Crowd Dynamics Ltd before returning to teaching. As well as teaching Maths, Seema runs the RAF section of the CCF.

Adam Hurst coached hockey and cricket last academic year then decided to embark on a full-time career teaching English. He had a busy sporting upbringing playing county hockey, cricket, tennis, squash and having a rugby trial for England. As well as helping coach the 1st XV, Adam is a Welsh House tutor.

Maureen Askin began by teaching a few lessons of English but like many newcomers to Shiplake her skills were soon appreciated and her timetable has steadily grown. She is now a part-time teacher of English and Advisor on Special Needs.

Carl Lyon arrives from Oundle School to become Head of ICT and is currently studying for an MA in Professional Studies. He is already proving to be a great asset with his badminton and football coaching.

Jane Aitken, who had been teaching a few periods in Learning Support, has increased her timetable to help cover in Graham Vick's absence.



Catherine Davison is another teacher who began with just a few lessons but is now nearly full-time. Catherine's commercial assignments have included work

with Laphroaig Distilleries and the Bank of England. She was winner of the Vogue/Sotheby's/Beaton Award for illustration in 1995.

Kevin Dolan flew in from the Colgio Hispano Britanico, Lanzarote to teach Physics at Shiplake. After gaining his degree from Brunel University he worked in Production Management for three years before completing a Physics PGCE at Birmingham University.



AJ Foakes has tasted the glamorous teaching locations of Zimbabwe, Kenya and the Seychelles. She joins Shiplake to teach Chemistry and bring her considerable experience of

cricket, hockey and rugby to the school.

Josh Stilwell has been this year's Australian Gap teacher, taking a year out from Monash University. Malcolm Woodcock has greatly benefited from Josh's musical skills but Josh has also helped with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

From the Headmaster



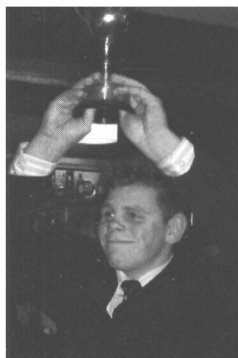
Gregg Davies' first impressions of Shiplake

Once I had been appointed in December 2003 it was a strange process to

watch, from afar in Edinburgh, a school that would soon become the centre of my life. I heard of a young 1st XV rugby squad finishing their season strongly. I read a review of Lindsay McDonald's superb production of Moliere's *Skinflint* and I sensed that pupils in their exam years were making good progress. Then I travelled down to Nottingham to see Shiplake's J16 VIII triumphant at the National Schools' Regatta. Meanwhile the 1st XI cricketers were having one of their best ever seasons. My sister, ever the optimist, listening to my enthusiasm, reminded me, "The school is doing well, down is the only direction now."

Having moved into Court Mead, I witnessed Nick Bevan's delight at an A

Level pass rate of 93%, and he reminded me that for some of the pupils heading off to University such heights had been unthinkable just five years ago.



The pressure mounted. GCSE results day arrived with a pass rate of 81%, much, much better than anything Shiplake had ever achieved before. Nick Bevan was going to be a hard act to follow.

Naturally I was a little anxious about moving to Henley and a new school. I need not have worried. With my family, my wife Alison and daughter Anna, we have received the warmest of welcomes. Everyone has done their utmost to make us feel at home and enlighten us on of Shiplake's idiosyncrasies. The Shiplake community has even become adept at tracking down and returning Darwin, my wandering dog.

The College have given us a wonderful start. Having refereed some of the 1st XV matches I have been delighted to raise my arm to signal try after try and then they went on to win the Oxfordshire Cup. The singing in Chapel has improved and I am delighted that the vast majority of the boys and girls have heeded my advice on haircuts and style.

From the Headmaster



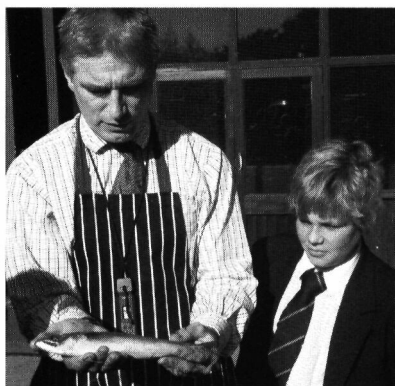
A dynamic Young Enterprise company are promising to make a profit, Malcolm Woodcock conducted a wonderful recital and Lindsay McDonald is rehearsing his thespians once again. The English Department's response to National Poetry Day, with Chris Alcock filleting a mackerel to inspire budding poets, exemplified the Shiplake approach.

It came as no surprise that we had two busy Open Mornings. First we were inundated with potential Year 9 applicants and then we had 17 girls and half a dozen boys touring on the Sixth Form Open Morning. As I write forty pupils and six teachers head for Prague on an Art and History expedition. Shiplake College really is thriving. My sister's words continue to echo ...

I have been impressed by the healthy state of the Old Viking Society too. Many larger and well-established schools would be envious of a database numbering well over 2000 alumni. That statistic, and a well supported calendar of social events, is a tribute to successive committees and OV's' affection for Shiplake. The College is very grateful for the interest the society shows and I am looking forward to see the results of the OVS' generous donation of £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the Old Library, soon to become the Old Viking Room.

It was a great night at Soho House where I met many interesting and lively OV's. I look forward to working with your committee and meeting more OV's in the future.

Gregg Davies



Rugby

College 1st XV 10 OVS XV 7

At the end of the Autumn Term this ought to be a friendly fixture but it just doesn't turn out like that. The Old Boys are determined to demonstrate that they were the generation who knew how to play rugby.

On the other hand the current generation are out to prove that school rugby has moved on. They train harder and they are more tactically aware. Nor have they drunk quite as much beer as the "old men" pulling on the OV shirts.

The College started well. In his last game of school rugby Basil Holiasmenos punched some big holes around the fringes and George Boggs demonstrated that he had only got quicker as the season had progressed. Tom Sampson, Johnny Boulton, Joe Joynson, Pierre Kunkler, Nick de Roumanie, Ollie Koomen and Nigel Baker were all keen to make a final mark.

The OV forwards steadily began to gel. Dave Hoskins, Max Williams, Chris Mills, Tim Lowndes and Nic Lowry providing some possession for Iain Duckworth to unleash the pace of Richard Lightwing, Finch Field-Hall and two Webbers, Andrew and Matt.

On the touchline Ed Batchelor had taken on the role of manager and loudest supporter but there was little he could do to prevent the 1st XV's try.

Twenty five metres out, Jamie Orpwood drove into the defence and slipped a perfectly timed pass. Leo Robarts took the ball at pace and charged through the

tackle to sprint in under the posts.

Then Richard Lightwing, playing three times a week, received the ball in mid-field, found half a metre with a side-step and accelerated to the line.

Into the second half the OVs were surprised by the physical presence of the current generation and all their attacks were rebuffed. With just ten minutes to go College fly-half Ed Blanchard, who might have watched the World Cup final, decided that it was time to edge ahead with a drop kick.

OVS: C. Mills (Captain), J. Halsall, N. Lowry, D. Hoskins, S. Wood, T. Lowndes, C. Armitage, R. Gurney, A. Webber, M. Webber, M. Williams, C. Ellaby, I. Duckworth, R. Lightwing, J. Fordham, E. Batchelor, M. Coker, A. Entin

College: B. Holiasmenos, J. Talbot, J. Orpwood, P. Kunkler, M. Handley, L. Robarts, D. Clark, P. Colman, G. Pelling, G. Boggis, J. Gouldstone, E. Blanchard, T. Sampson, O. Koomen, W. Downing, A. Esslemont, J. Boulton, D. Wilson, N. Baker, N. de Roumanie, J. Joynson, J. Hazell

Hockey

College 1st XI 4 OVS XI 3

It began as an even end-to-end contest. The OVs had plenty of poise on the ball, weighing up the options and willing to look for that perfect defence-splitting ball. Early OV pressure produced some short corners but a skilled 1st XI defence were quick off their line to stifle the pressure.

Thorne and Blanchard were eager to turn defence into attack and the OV defence had to react rapidly to some quick counter-attacks. Keeper Ollie Smith made some outstanding saves.

The match was scoreless for 25 minutes until George Boggis was first to react to a goalmouth scramble. The crowd had scarcely finished applauding before Boggis had scored again. By now the 1st XI had realised that Boggis was to be their main attacking threat. Twenty five yards out, Boggis received the ball, skipped around two defenders and screamed an unstoppable shot beyond the diving Ollie Smith. Three attacks in three minutes had changed the game.

They may have been 3 - 0 down at half-time but wise OV's were not perturbed. Into the second half and Ben Radford and Richard Jacob kept things tight at the back. Ed Batchelor was as inspirational as ever and Simon Hurlstone held things together. Nick Bates scurried while Will McMullan, Jordan-Darrah, Ollie Gradden and Simon Hotchkiss kept their patience.

Then jet-lag began to kick-in with the 1st XI. They were recovering from a ten and a half hour excursion to play at Milton Abbey the day before and the OV's produced a brilliant tactical plan. They played all fourteen of their squad at once. Jamie Ellingham began to win even more vital tackles, James Burridge's pace was taking effect and up front Finch Field-Hall was finding acres of space. A flurry of three goals brought respectability to the scoreline.

OV XI: O. Gradden, E. Batchelor, S. Hodgkiss, R. Jacob, S. Hurlstone, W. McMullan, J. Darrah, B. Radford, F. Field-Hall, J. Ellingham, J. Burridge, R. Gurney, O. Smith, N. Bates

1st XI: O. Thorne, N. Baker, G. Boggis, E. Blanchard, J. Raper, C. Alstadt, A. Sloane, G. Moseby, P. Mortimer, L. Robarts, C. Stormont, T. Sampson, W. Downing

Cricket

Mike Baker had worked hard for weeks with e-mails and phone calls to put together a team ready to compete with an exceptionally strong College 1st XI on a winning streak.

The College batted first with Ed Blanchard and Joe Joynson putting together a solid opening partnership. Joynson was to become the platform for a commanding score of 210 for 5. His 81 not out allowed skipper Oscar Thorne, and then James Talbot, the freedom to play their shots. David Jacob, Richard Drummond and Dom Baretto all produced tidy spells as they tried to restrict the run rate. Drummond finished with two quick wickets in his final over. Although Chris Grabowski fell quickly Tom Caston (26) and then David Jacobs (34) ignited the run chase. Then Julian Mills, an OV by the time you read this, and Ali Sloane, both took 3 wickets each. Four ducks from the last seven batsman left the OV XI 85 run short of their target. Perhaps the distraction of the beer tent, the pig-roast and dozens of returning OV's, with wives and girlfriends, proved too much.

School Sport

Rugby

There was no doubting the value of the South Africa tour nor the remainder of the 1st XV's preparation. Although Jamie Orpwood's team began slowly in the South Coast Kings tournament the skipper returned proudly clutching the Plate. A run of six successive victories followed. Shiplake dominated versus Oratory but only emerged with a 13 - 6 victory. A much more impressive performance away at Merchant Taylors' followed when Shiplake played into a gale for the first half and conceded just a solitary penalty goal, then going on to wrap up a great away win in the second half. A good run in the Daily Mail Schools' Cup took Shiplake to the quarter-finals and the team won the Oxfordshire Cup. The 2nd are playing in a Super Six competition and are keeping their hopes alive with some powerful rugby. The U14As have gained some good wins but as yet have come out on the wrong side of some narrow defeats at the hands of larger schools.

Hockey

With only five experienced 1st XI players remaining there was some anxiety about the make-up and quality of the team. Immediately four boys from the Fifth Form, Alstadt, Moseby, Sloane and Stormont, staked their claim for 1st team places and never relinquished them. The team gelled together very quickly and progressed into a quality side with a decent record of 7 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses.

There was strength in depth too, with the 2nd XI recovering from a 0 - 2 deficit versus Abingdon and an emphatic 5 - 2 victory over Milton Abbey down in Dorset.

The U14As showed some promise, particularly with a local derby win over Pangbourne, and the amount of time the juniors now spend training on astro turf, at Reading and Henley, helps them to develop their skills rapidly.

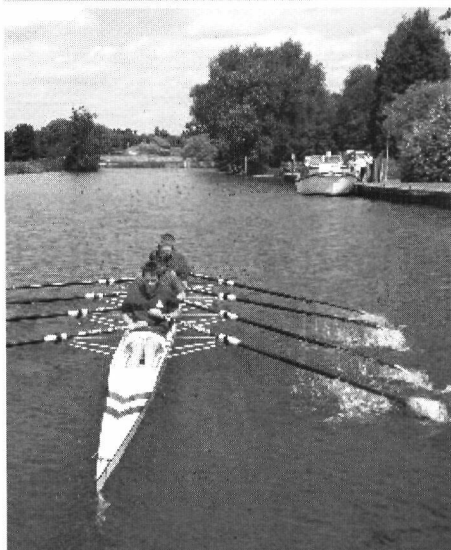
Cricket

The 1st XI had a superb season with 10 wins, just 1 draw and 3 losses. A real boost to the end of season was a schools 20:20 competition. The players wore maroon kit, with name and number on their back, and dived around in pursuit of a white ball. Black sightscreens challenged Andy Dix, 1st XI coach, for a while, until he draped some borrowed Tithe Barn curtains over the sightscreens.

The 1st XI batsman went berserk in the first game against Dauntsey's scoring 230 from 20 overs. Captain Oscar Thorne lead the way, as he did throughout the season, with 84 from just 30 balls. Shiplake were knocked out of the competition by Abingdon School, by just 2 runs, and Abingdon went on to contest the final at Edgbaston. School cricket is very different nowadays.

Good performances by the 1st XI and by the two junior teams, notably a huge hundred from Max Witting, helped Shiplake to win the Shiplake Shield on the final Sunday of term.

College Sport



Rowing

The undoubted highlight of the 2004 season was the J16s victory at the National Schools regatta. The value of the Senior and J16 oarsmen training together and racing together was demonstrated when Julian Kunkler was able to jump straight into the breach in the J16 eight, when Geoffrey Jones had been diagnosed with glandular fever. With the majority of this crew progressing to the Sixth Form, possibly joined by one or two talented newcomers, the prospects, with a full winter's training under their belts look promising for the Seniors.

As ever a large number of juniors have taken to the water with considerable aplomb. In addition two of the girls joining the Sixth Form, Jenny Unwin and Sophie Stevens, have commenced training, and Jenny earned a reward for her endeavours this term by winning her event at the Weybridge Silver Sculls.



Tennis

With five boys having experienced 1st VI tennis there was considerable optimism and places in the 1st team squad were keenly contested. Once the team got into their stride Oratory, Reading School and Pangbourne were all comfortably defeated. In the OXIST competition inexperience at singles showed but in the pairs Shiplake easily claimed the second place.

The seconds had a large squad which was beneficial with the conflicting demands of an ever growing summer examination season and they had some excellent results.

A strong junior squad, managed by a combination of Richard Mannix and Keith Buckler, took part in some thrilling matches. Fortunately, the Shiplake players held their nerve to clinch some tight victories.

The AGM

Annual General Meeting of the Old Viking Society

8.30 p.m. Tuesday 2nd November, Soho House, London

Minutes

1) Apologies for absence from Ben Fitzwilliams. In his absence Charlie West acted as Chairman.

2) The Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as an accurate record.

3) Henry Summers, Treasurer, reported that OVS finances were healthy. Donations to the OV Gap Fund continued and the OVS had donated £10,000 for the refurbishment of the Old Library, to be named the Old Vikings' Room in future.

4) Henry Summers and David Dalzell were re-elected to the Committee, both proposed by Charlie West and seconded by Malcolm Woodcock.

5) The Headmaster's report:

The College was in good shape. Gregg Davies reported that he had inherited a fantastic school from Nick Bevan with a healthy intake of 72 third formers and the best examination results for many years. Lindsay McDonald's actors had not only performed superbly at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with The Skinflint but also marketed the tickets very effectively.

Malcolm Woodcock had produced a superb music recital recently, the rugby 1st XV had only lost one match and both Badminton and Netball teams had played their first games.

The Headmaster challenged OVs to get fit for a 10-a-side OV House tournament on Saturday September 17th 2005, followed by the official opening of the Old Vikings Room and dinner.

He reported that Jim Mansergh, Bursar, was seriously ill, in hospital, with cancer. Graham Vick, too, was absent from school with suspected cancer. The recent death of a boy's father had contributed to the sad times at Shiplake.

He reminded OVs of the 25% discount available on Shiplake fees for their children.

6) The Acting Chairman thanked the Headmaster and welcomed him on behalf of the OVs. The OVS wished the Headmaster good luck.

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Thank you to Jane Edwards and Lesley
Lowndes for proof-reading this edition.

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Alternatively visit the Old Vikings' section of the school website at www.shiplake.org.uk

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