

The Old Viking Society

Magazine 2013



New Old Vikings



Gold stars for Shiplake College?

"A good school on an upward curve, with a charismatic, no-nonsense, forward-looking head (complete with iPad and Tweets) plus a dedicated team in an enchanting location." Frequently the tables are turned. Increasingly teachers are on the receiving end of reports. Parents investing in private education and teachers applying for new jobs often take considerable notice of *The Good Schools Guide* (GSG). Waiting for the verdict after November's visitation provided anxious times at Shiplake College.

Direct, pithy and pulling no punches the GSG speaks its mind. "Beefed-up academics," and "teaching good and improving; lots of young blood with imagination, ideas and energy" is typical of the tell-it-as-it-is tone.

Plenty of praise and congratulation provided a real boost for teachers and pupils who work just as hard on the playing fields and on the river as they do in the classroom. "Big on building confidence" and "a school for children who enjoy challenges" were included amongst the compliments.

The GSG eschews conventional and bland report language for an honesty that often has readers laughing out loud. "A school for doers; dirty knees okay, wellies obligatory" epitomises a style short on grammatical conventions and big on telling parents what they want to know.

Teachers were delighted to read that "pupils say they enjoy most lessons and appreciate continual help and support of staff," and those teaching in art, design, history and geography were delighted to be singled out as front-runners in the popularity stakes.

Of course the GSG makes mistakes. It writes of a history lesson where boys not only built their trenches, complete with sandbags and duck-boards but spent a miserable 15 minutes up to their knees in cold, damp and dank conditions. In fact, volunteers spent a night drenched by torrential rain in a trench enduring the flashes and bangs of a rocket attack from Headmaster and Bursar just before midnight!

Perhaps Gregg Davies, the Headmaster, has most to be pleased about. The Guide took a Sunday Supplement approach to interviewing. "[He] talks not of potential but of targets and stretching – finger-tip stuff, climbing mountains, appreciating the journey."

Of course there is criticism, "Still no proper library (a big black mark in our book)" but planning permission has been given for a resource centre so hopefully the GSG may be giving out gold stars on the next visit to Shiplake College.

Michael Edwards (OVS Secretary)
(medwards@shiplake.org.uk)



Three generations of Skipwith Housemasters.

Keith Settle left took over in September 2012 when Andy Dix moved across to Burr. Before Andy, Nick Brown was the man in charge.

Trivia question:

Andy Dix has now served in Burr, Orchard, Skipwith and Welsh.

Has any member of staff served in more Houses?

John Foster OBE

Educated at King's Canterbury and then St Edmund's Hall, Oxford, John held a short career commission in the RAF before he moved to his first teaching job at Shiplake, teaching Biology, where he gained a reputation as an inspiring and innovative teacher. He also ran Everett House. His wife Sallie, who he had met at Oxford, was the College's first resident Housemaster's wife.

David Skipwith, Headmaster, assigned tasks to individuals and John was given the task of producing timetables whilst also Master-in-Charge of Rugby. He demonstrated his flexibility by producing lengthy dramatic versions of *She Stoops to Conquer* as well as *Romanoff and Juliet*. Rapid promotion followed with the Governors appointing him as Second Master. After David Skipwith's departure he was acting Headmaster from January to July 1963 before the appointment of John Eggar, it was a successful tenure with pupils in the College rising from 120 to 160.

In John's farewell, in the 1965 *Court*, Hans Wells-Furby paid tribute. "From the early days he has been in the thick of things, as a Housemaster, a persuasive teacher, and a time-table wizard ... In the early days Everett House was small in numbers but never poor in spirit. Soon it was rich in accommodation and its palmy days as dominant sporting house began. This success gave Mr Foster the greatest pleasure.

Not so much noticed by boys but of great importance has been Mr Foster's ingenuity. He often spotted weakness in some new idea, he has been able to suggest ways of getting round difficulties of space and shortages; he has been full of helpful ideas for boys seeking their first posts after leaving."

In 1966 he moved to Barnstaple Grammar School and began to develop the interest in emerging technology that would first see him working on a number of roles for Worcestershire Local Education Authority and latterly as an advisor in Educational Technology.

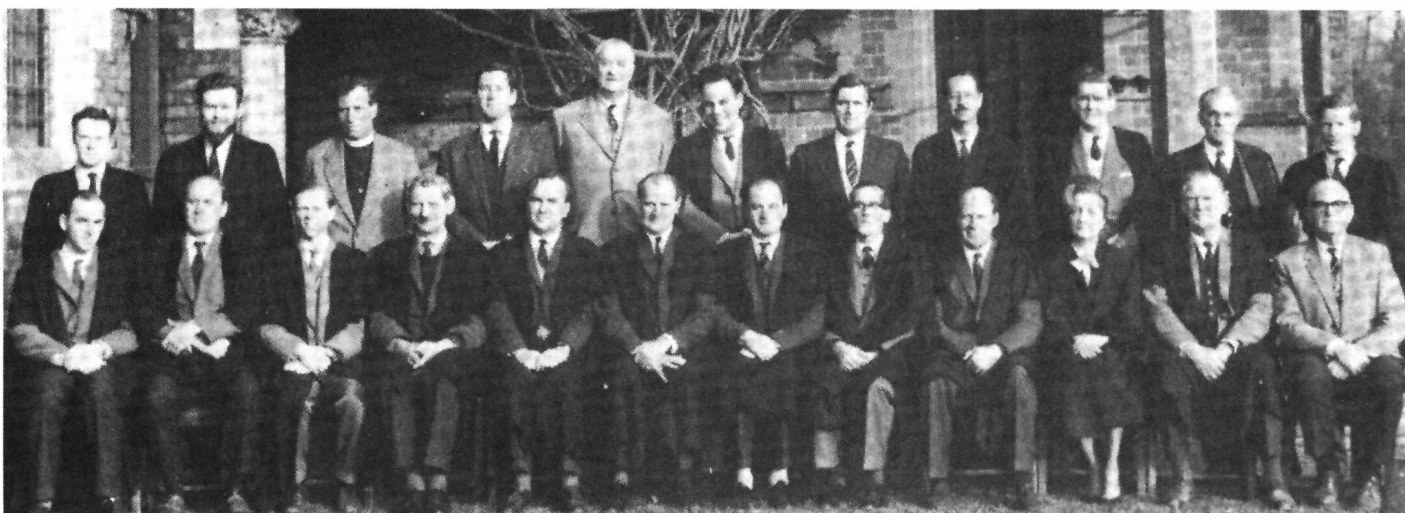
Eventually he was charged with establishing a national organisation, the Micro Electronics Support Unit (MESU) and for a while acted as its Director. His full-time working life ended in a similar body in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, John was awarded the OBE for his work with the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents.

John and Sallie Foster came to Shiplake for our Jubilee on May 1st 2009. We were not to know this would be the last time we would see them. In company with other retired College leaders John took part in the special Service in Henley Parish Church. He led the congregation in prayers of thanksgiving.

Although the staff photograph, from 1965, is faded Old Vikings may find that the names bring back memories. John Foster is fifth from the left in the front row.

Back row: J.F. Brown, M.D. Duncan, Rev B. W. Wilks, B. Humphries, Brigadier A. Anstruther, J. W. Whittington, T.S. Morris, F.T.W. Blatchley-Hennah, R. Nolan, Captain E.F.R. Byng RN, J.B. Wood

Front row: R.M. Lee, E.M. Hall, D.F.K. Welsh, Colonel W.H.C. Travers, J.F. Foster, J.D. Eggar (Headmaster), H.E. Wells-Furby, M.W. Mash, M.M. Gilliat, E. d la Praudiere, P. Bleackley, Commander R.F. Jenks RN (Bursar)



James Kohout

James Kohout, who left Orchard House in the early 1990s, died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital on 17th December 2011 aged 37. Throughout his working life he had loved the River Thames working as an engineer on boats and as a relief lock-keeper.

In 2007 he had been appointed as part of the swan upping team who take the annual census of swans and had met the Queen in this capacity in 2009. Half-a-dozen of his colleagues attended the funeral in their vivid red jackets and white trousers embroidered with the Royal crest.

At his funeral, conducted by the College Chaplain, the Reverend Stephen Cousins, James Kohout's close friend Matthew Hayles spoke of his life-long friendship with James.

"James was a one-off, and as most of you will agree, he was not the sort of person that you had a casual acquaintance with, once you knew him you always felt that you would always remain friends as he was such a generous, loyal and ever helpful friend. He was always the first to offer you help and practically the last to ask for it.

At any event that has happened in our lives, - weddings, birthdays and too many parties to mention, James has always been there, almost like part of the furniture and it is going to be extremely hard not to find him there in the future – bottle of ale in his hand, and usually leaning over the barbecue helping out.

James' interest, or some might say obsession, with military vehicles used to take him down to Beltring in Kent once a year for the world's largest military vehicle event.

There are not too many people that you meet in your lifetime that drive a tank along with various other armoured cars and speak about it like it is the most normal thing in the world."

Mike Hampson

Bill Eaton received the sad news of Mike Hampson's death from Mike's wife Sherry in Australia.

Mike was a very popular, kind schoolboy, known for his sporting achievements, cricket, rugby and hockey. On leaving Shiplake, he, his parents and two sisters went to live in Brisbane, Queensland. His father was Australian and his mother, Canadian. His two sisters are married and live in Australia, his elder brother lives near High Wycombe.

"When I left Shiplake, I went to work as a Jackaroo on a station, (far worse than being a remittance man!!) and went and stayed with Mike and his family, where I received hospitality, second to none. We had a great deal of fun, surfing at Surfers Paradise and eating appallingly cheap meals!! Many years later Mike, Nic Willcox and I met up in Sydney and I have always hoped there would one day be an OVS society for those in Australia. A man of many talents Mike began his working life building boats but then ran a retail enterprise and a horticultural business too.

About 5 years ago I stayed with Mike and his wife, Sherry. Again I received the same hospitality, however Mike seemed out of salts, which proved to be the beginning of his fight with cancer, and needless to say our surfing days were over. We have all lost a very accomplished, modest and kind man."

Hans Wells-Furby adds:

Michael arrived at Shiplake a few weeks after I had. He was introduced to me by David Skipwith. An unhappy prep school Head had lost his best cricketer during the season. Many of my later memories are battling with Mike in Staff and Boys fixtures with local villages.

Mike and I ran out a Shiplake Memorial Hall player attempting a fifth run. I lobbed the ball into Mike who completed the run out. "Very good backing up by Hampson," was John Eggar's comment.

In our early days Shiplake owed much to parental support and Mike much resembled his father in knowing what to say and how to back-up people in life as well as on the sports field.

When news of my retirement reached the far side of the world, Mike sent me a long message full of the kindest thoughts.

Mike Hobbs

From the mid 70s through to the New Millenium, nearly a quarter of a century, Mike Hobbs made a "proper job" of being Shiplake College Groundsman. It is often forgotten that Richard Evans, Independent School Groundsman of the Year for successive years was Mike's apprentice and that many of the foundations were putting in place during Mike's tenure.

As the son of a Lambourn racehorse trainer who won the 1938 Grand National with *Battleship*, Mike was born with the country in his blood. Many a rabbit, squirrel or magpie never had a second chance to testify to how good a shot Mike was.

After a stint of tobacco growing in Rhodesia for 6 years, Mike returned to the UK to drive horse boxes round the country and trade as a corn merchant. He settled, with his wife Janet, at Rush Court, just south of Shillingford Bridge and ran a market garden before beginning at Shiplake.

Mike was a fine cricketer and a gifted coach, though better with boys who were prepared to devote themselves to the game. He did not suffer fools gladly. Many a Shiplake player paid tribute to the sensible advice he received from Mike after a fifty or a big wicket haul. Warborough Cricket Club was another great love of his life and in one limited overs game Mike achieved the thrifty record of bowling eight maidens in his allocated spell of eight overs.

Every year he brought a Berkshire Gent's XI to Shiplake to give the 1st XI a taste of good-natured social cricket that could be theirs when they left the College.

He enjoyed taking young cricketers to Taunton for a day out and they looked in awe as Mike chatted with the greats of the modern game. Whether it was cricket, racing or watching Swindon Town, Mike was a great socialiser enjoying food, as long as it was washed down by generous portions of his favourite beverages.

The late 80s and early 90s tested Mike's skills as the College grew and the shortage of land become an acute problem. OV's will remember running and cycling down past Shiplake lock for their rugby training sessions.

Although the winter acquisition of the riverside pitches was much closer, the transition from pasture to sporting pitches provided an annual challenge. When Jenny Tudge persuaded the Bursar to pay for Astroturf bookings it relieved Mike of the enormous burden of repairing divets on what would be a cricket outfield in just a few months time.

Mike died at the age of 72, after a short illness and we must not forget that it is immense characters such as he who made Shiplake College what it is today.

Just one of the many teams that benefitted from Mike Hobbs' coaching.



Events and Committee

OVS Committee and contacts

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Malcolm Woodcock

Via College

Max Tilney

maxtilney@mac.com



Henry Summers (Treasurer) and Ben Fitzwilliams with their wives at the OVS and Rowing Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner.

Annual General Meeting

1900 Saturday October 13th, The Great Hall, Shiplake College

1. The accounts for 2011 - 2012 were approved.
2. There was no other business.

Country Homes & Gardens Old and New Shiplake Court, Oxfordshire The Seat of Mr R.H.C. Harrison

No bit of England, to my mind, seems so English – seems so instinct with the sentiment and romance of England – as the Thames Valley. Partly, no doubt, perhaps chiefly, this is due to the presence of the river itself, for the Thames epitomises in a way that no other river in the world does the whole life and history of its country...

The view I have in my mind, the view I got from the top of the low tower of Shiplake Court, and which I dwell on a little because I felt it to be the most remarkable thing about the place – that view is certainly distinguished by no very salient or in any way striking characteristics. The spacious flat meadows that stretch far away into the distance to the south, studded with hedgerow elms standing sombre and quiet against the soft grey of the sky; the low wooded eminences and klines of rounded hills, pale blue and misty, that fringe the horizon: the tranquil cattle and horses that browse on the rich pastures or stand ruminating in the shade; the silvery beds of osiers and pale willows that suggest the moisture here present; the village church towers emerging from clustering trees; the glimpse of low tiled roofs where Sonning dozes among its flowers and fruit trees – all the features of the view are, as it were informed by the same spirit and blend into a single impression....

The dining room is panelled and floored and ceilinged with oak, of a mellow quiet colour, which throws into relief the two or three pictures on the walls ... The morning room, with painted ceiling and crimson silk damasked walls, has a Venetian richness of colouring not often met with in an English house. The library though tending to the Jacobean, and touched with the classic stiffness and formality, still keeps this early simplicity and sense of naturalness which mark the native style.

The hall is rather different, and calls for a word in itself. It is built in a much earlier style than the other rooms, and recalls a quite different state of society and a different set of customs and fashions. Long and narrow, with a high-pitched pointed roof of black beams, plain stone walls, and tone mullioned windows, it stands for that old feudal state of society, with all its fierceness, narrowness, and earnestness, which was, by and by, to expand into something more genial and humane.



The Seventies

With a spate of television programmes, exhibitions and newspaper articles recalling the Seventies, Hans Wells-Furby looks back

Dangers, toils and snares – The College in the early Seventies

The chap who grumbled to me about set books for English Literature at 16+ exams is now in the later stages of his career ... I said "look half the young people taking the exam nation-wide are girls. You have to think of their interest." While most who read alumni magazines want something not too serious, the readership is of people with experience in so many fields and in knowing how the world works they have overtaken the people who taught them.

These presidential thoughts have four starting points. Clearing out the garden shed coincided with programmes about the 1970s on Radio and Television, singing the hymn *Amazing Grace* in church and your editor's request for something about Shiplake four decades ago.

In 1971 a recording of *Amazing Grace* by the Band of the Royal Scots Greys was top of the charts for many weeks, my title for this piece is from the third verse and was a bit of a surprise. More seriously many events from the early 70s are now part of recent history. Perhaps readers have said "that started while I was away at school." That could be voting at 18, decimalisation, joining the Common Market; VAT and rapid inflation.

It is hard to know how politically aware we all were, many boys had a daily paper, most days were about getting to break, to lunch and to the weekend. Perhaps more politics were discussed in Economics periods than in History. However, I do recall an occasion when we were all good citizens in the making. The 1971 Census Sunday was after the start of the Summer Term. So after Chapel Everett gathered in the Library, now the Old Vikings' Room to fill in individual forms for people living under the same roof.



The 1979 1st VIII preparing for Henley Royal Regatta.

Fees were still counted in hundreds of pounds a year but rapid inflation was around the corner. There was a strong tradition of boys doing things to keep down the costs. Drama was strong and music was weak, the Woodcock era was several years distant. Problems in the wider world would soon put pressure on our small community.

Coal miners on strike in early 1972 led quickly to electricity power cuts during which oil-fired heating does not work. School times were changed so teaching and prep were in daylight. Torches and candles came into use after dusk. As College catering was by gas, hot food and drinks were provided as normal but what to do at the end of the day?

I hope some readers will still think of the camp fire sing songs – grand piano, open log fire and 200 candle power provided by my tilly-lamp, all together in the Great Hall. The Director of Music and I the only adults present. Between us we must have broken many modern regulations.

The autumn of 1973 saw another Arab-Israeli war as a consequence of this the oil-exporting countries greatly increased the price of crude oil, this caused another fuel crisis. The world of cheap petrol ended for ever, drivers were supposed to keep below 50mph and at Housemasters' desk level it was arranging shared lifts at any holiday and avoiding duplicating trips. At Bursar level the cost of running the College increased by 30%.

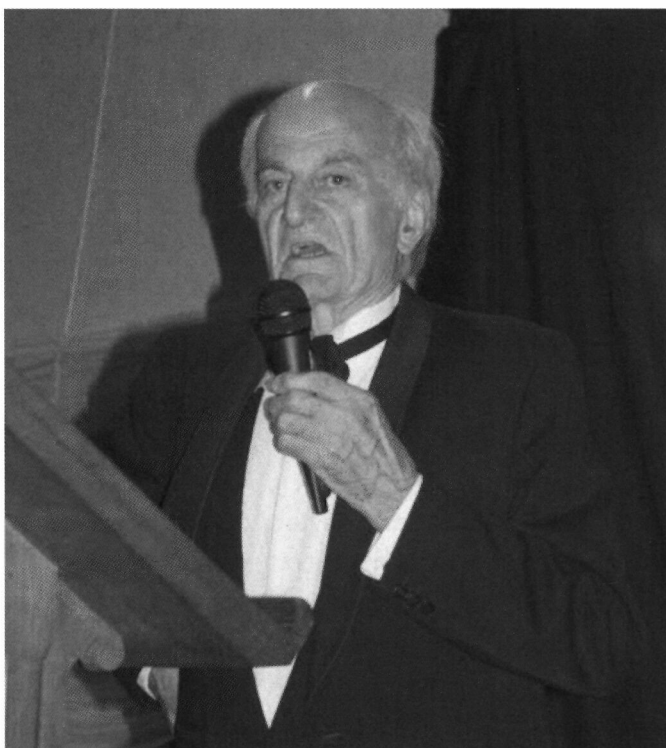
The Seventies

The general background was of increased public danger, IRA bombs in London and Aldershot. Telephone warnings of devices left in Reading. We had our own early summer bomb hoax in 1974. Whilst the Police searched College building the Catering staff served supper from the boat house with everyone queuing up much as usual. Many of those in that queue would have passed so many bomb damaged buildings in the city of London a decade or so later.

Once upon a time life was not just slogging towards exams at 16. Many needed to be stimulated after disappointing prep school years. To this end, I must have organised some ten substantial expeditions.

I do remember two small accidents and I wonder if modern regulations would allow me on-site at Roman Silchester, simply to pick-up a very lame boy and lift him over a stile.

Those who came on the Stratford trip saw a very young Judy Dench as Portia in *Merchant of Venice* and at Stonehenge we had access to the entire site soon after concerns about erosion began to keep visitors away from the main circle. So do say to people "I was at Stonehenge when you could go all over the site."



Hans Wells-Furby speaking at the OVS Dinner

In the 1970s Shiplake had a different look beyond our control. Dutch Elm Disease swept away ancient trees along Church Lane and younger trees from the front lawn down to the Thames and also from where the 1984 Jubilee Building stands. While the trees were professionally felled much of the timber was turned into firewood by chaps who did not belong to the CCF. Some of the mature timber ended as cladding for the Tithe Barn.

Was everything so different four decades ago? Best to say the emphasis was different.

At House of Commons level, Denis Healey, suddenly a back-bencher in 1970, tells us "The secretarial allowance did not pay for a full-time secretary and there was no allowance for research assistance."

At O Level there was much ground to cover but small sets gave a chance to understand individual problems. Early in the 70s I took an English O Level set for a last time. Three periods for the Language paper and four to cover the set texts in English Literature. Everyone reacted well to the problems at the core of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Some had previous knowledge of *Macbeth* which left 600 lines of Chaucer's *Noones Preeste Tale*. As learning by heart was more than common so you memorised some bits. "A maner Deye" meant "a diary kind of woman". Foreign workers are always a target. There was a prompt reaction to attacks on Flemings by "Jazkke Straw and his meynee."

Somewhere in the early 70s we reached a hundred DofE Gold Medal Awards, a reunion of these achievers was disappointingly attended. Getting folk back is still an OVS problem.

Over all presided John Eggar, increasingly successful in getting the community to look in directions he believed important. Always the master of the pithy remark he called the early 1970s arrival of credit cards "a snare and a delusion."

Time to stop. I began with snares and finding that Old Tilly lamp in my shed ... will those with us so long ago please add to this pile of memories?

Hans Wells-Furby

OVS Hockey

The Old Vikings entered two teams alongside two from the College 1st team squad and a staff team for the annual tournament held on the College astro.

The Young Guns from the 1st Team squad created an early shock holding onto a slender 1 – 0 lead until the closing seconds of the opening game versus *OVS 1sts*.

The Leavers of Zac Bigley, Alex Campbell, Jack Cowmeadow, Teddy Hewins and Harry Laflin confirmed their status as favourites with a 2 – 1 victory over the *Second OVS* team of Sam Imlay, Ollie Gordon, Jack Emerson, David Hawes, Ollie Fogden and Myles Coker.

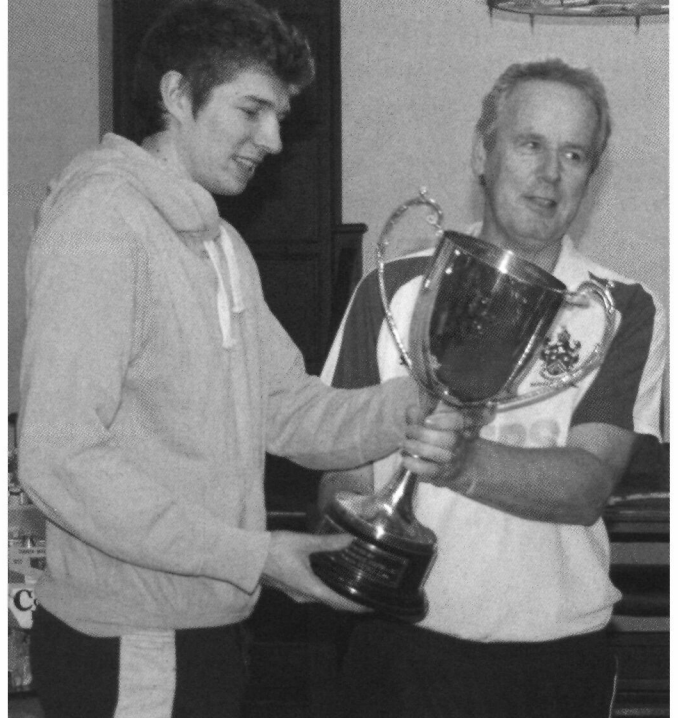
The Young Guns continued to impress with their composure on the ball and confident stick-work as they held the staff to a 2 – 2 draw.

The Leavers versus *OVS 1sts* appeared to be a big title game early in the tournament. With Ed Bowers sweeping up at the back and Ollie Gould confident in the middle the OVs guaranteed a constant flow of possession for Callum Thomas' pace down the wing. He and Sylvester Buzzard created the chances for James Luscombe's eye for goal.

With *The Young Guns* springing a 2 – 0 victory over the more experienced *Leavers* it became a two way battle for the title. When Kit Stormont arrived as a mid-tournament signing for *OVS 1sts* it proved to be a turning point. Coming on as sub, Stormont brought the vision that eased the OVS to a 1 – 0 victory over The Staff. Adam Mallins, who had organised the staff team for his first ever game of hockey, had to leave the pitch after a fearful blow to the head. In his absence Adam Hurst, returning as a guest for *The Staff*, still managed to create chances for Andy Dix but the *OVS 1sts* went on to clinch victory.

After the tournament Peter Gould, who had umpired ten consecutive games, presented the gleaming Maundrell Cup to Kit Stormont, representing the *OVS 1sts*.

At end of the evening Jonnie Howorth, who had played his first game of hockey in his life for the staff, announced his retirement from all forms of the game.



Kit Stormont receives the Richard Maundrell trophy from Peter Gould.

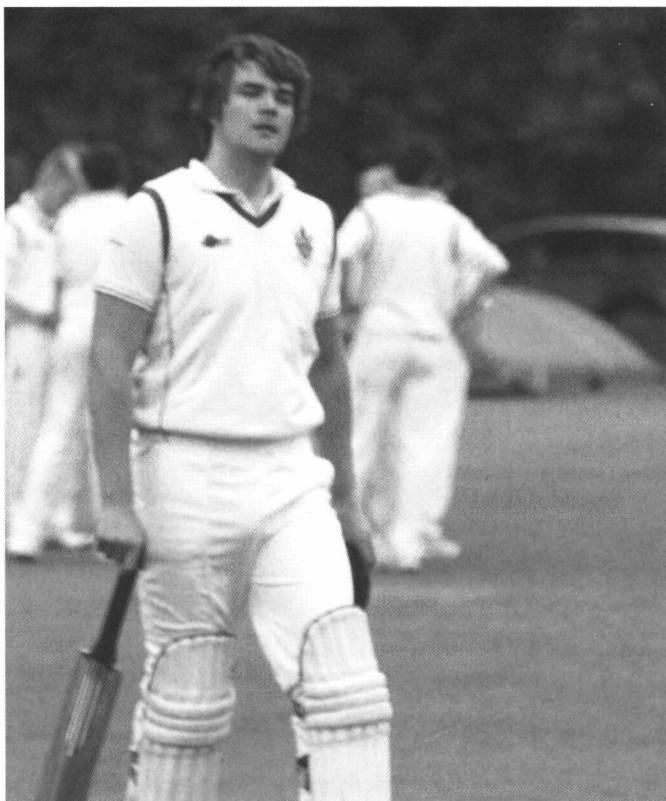
OVS Cricket

The OVS Cricket weekend has become such a popular and successful event that the players are looking to add a few more fixtures to their programme and possibly even look towards an OVS tour.

An early Friday afternoon start, due to a Ball in the neighbouring marquee in the evening weakened the OVS team taking on the staff and your editor had to emerge from retirement to make up the numbers.

Sasha Burgess with a brutal 44 and Kit Stormont 27 showed that cricket and marquees are a health and safety risk as their smashed balls into the marquee, onto the marquee roof and over the marquee. The staff hung on and produced some effective death bowling to restrict the OVS to 128 for 8 from 16 overs.

Simon Cane Hardy bade farewell to Shiplake staff cricket with a hard-hitting undefeated half-century and he was given very able support from George Seccombe. Jack Broome threatened to change the course of the game with 2 wickets and 2 balls and Rob Berry gratefully accepted a caught and bowled offering from Andy Dix but the OVs created too few chances as the staff cruised to a 6 wickets victory.



It has become something of a tradition that the OVS fixture versus The Staff mingles into a late night celebration with some of the leaving staff. Some OV cricketers returned for the Saturday match with slightly fuzzy heads.

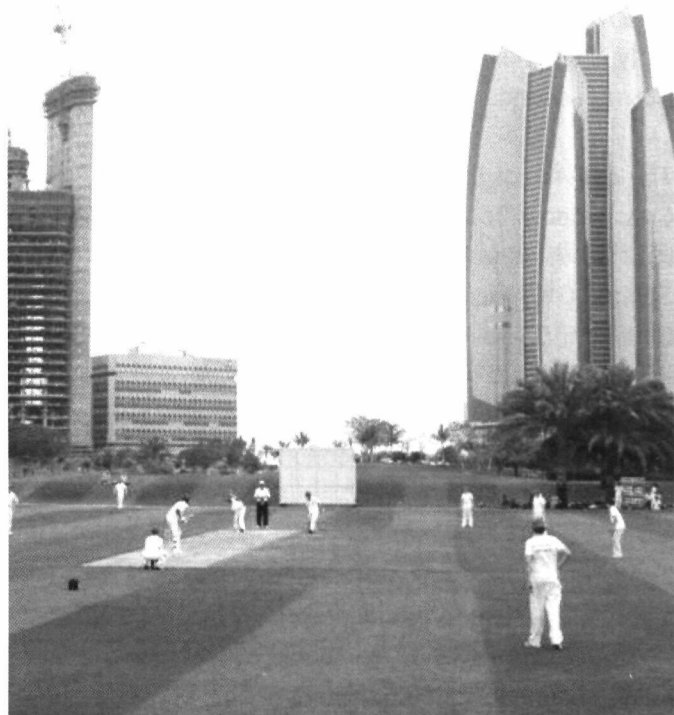
Batting conditions were tricky on Saturday with early swing dismissing Malcolm Liddell-Grainger and Kit Stormont. Sam Imlay batted fluently for 57, whilst 32 from just 19 balls for Sasha Burgess provided much needed impetus for the innings. Skipper Jack Broome weighed in with 27 as the Old Vikings were bowled out for 197.

Ben Francis gave the 1st XI a flying start with 32 and a rapid 32 from Zac Jones kept the momentum going. Their middle order contributed plenty of scores in the teens but after an excellent opening spelling from Tom Imlay both James Paice (3 for 42) and Ollie Gould (3 for 17) showed the value of experienced heads. Ultimately the 1st XI fell 33 runs short in a thrilling match.

OVS Squad:

J. Broome, R. Ritchie, S. Burgess, J. Neale, J. Black, H. Williams, K. Stormont, R. Berry, M. Edwards, M. Liddell-Grainger, S. Imlay, G. Braithwaite, J. Raper, T. Imlay, O. Gould, J. Paice

OVS Supports College Sports Tour to United Arab Emirates



The U16s touring cricket team in action at the immaculate Emirates Palace ground in Abu Dhabi.

For many parents these are tough times and it is a struggle to pay the school fees let alone pay for the extras.

The Cricket and Tennis Club had taken the innovative decision to tour the United Arab Emirates rather than the traditional enticing destination of the Caribbean.

Even though the shorter flight to the UAE was considerably cheaper there were still insufficient takers until the Old Viking Society intervened. The OVS partially subsidised two players' places which enabled the tour to go ahead.

Although the UK teams and local teams invited to the cricket tournament provided testing competition it gave invaluable pre-season training with no mention of the dreaded words "Rain Stops Play."

Rugby v Henley Hawks 2nd XV

Sam Beckett, Director of Rugby, had a vision of the OVS playing a curtain raiser to the season, warming-up the crowd before the 1st XV took to the field. He envisaged a friendly against a social side who would be making polite introductions to each other as they took to the field.

An excited OVS squad arrived to see a muscular Henley Hawks 2nd XV running through some slick backs moves that they had been honing for weeks in pre-season training. The Hawks had stepped into the breach with just days to go.

Soon the Hawks were exerting pressure on the Shiplake try-line, held-up twice from five metre scrums before they finally powered over.

Soon the game began to follow a pattern. The Old Vikings kicked clear from their 22 for the Hawks back three to run the ball back with interest but time after time the Vikings rucked and mauled ferociously gaining a turnover. Late in the first half the Old Vikings were still in contention but two late tries widened that gap.

The Hawks turned the Vikings over right from the kick-off to the second half and scored their fifth try of the afternoon.

The Hawks management were keen for them to run through their moves but the ferocity of the Shiplake tackling led to knock-ons and allowed the game to remain competitive.

As the intensity of the tackling increased Hawks were found clutching ice-bags along the side-line and Josh Raper added a sling as a fashion accessory.

A large crowd enjoyed the autumn sunshine and thanks to Sam Beckett's hard work there was agreement that this innovation should become an annual fixture.

OVS Squad:

J. Wright, R. Wright, H. Gentili, J. Raper, I. Brown, S. Holloway, A. Woolnough, E. Quelch, S. Quelch, A. Middleton, J. Albon, A. Kay, Z. Bigley, A. Humphries, J. Dobree-Carey, J. Jenkins, J. Black, J. Cowmeadow



in memory of Tim Crewdson

Shiplake College Boat Club paid tribute to former Skipwith pupil Tim Crewdson by naming a newly acquired racing VIII after him. A subdued ceremony took place on the College lawns prior to the Boat Club's Annual Dinner.

Tim had been a passionate motorbike racing enthusiast and he had just embarked on a three year apprenticeship with Steve Jordan Motorcycles after leaving the College in 2005. Not only had Tim acquired his dream job he had also been selected for training as a potential skeet shooter in the 2012 Olympics. He died in a car crash in Dorking in 2007.

Five years on his parents returned to the College for the naming of the new boat which had already raced in this year's National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham. Barbara, Tim's mother, spoke of Tim's love of the water and how he had an affinity for rowing and how much he had enjoyed childhood holidays in Cornwall. Tim had coxed his J14 Octopule at the Schools' Head and his crew had included Will Satch who won a Bronze medal at the London Olympics.

Nick Brown, Tim's former Housemaster, who had read at Tim's funeral, introduced Tim's parents. Tim's father, Nick, christened the boat with champagne. Already pupils at the College, rowing in *Tim Crewdson* are experiencing the same excitement and love of the sport that Tim once enjoyed.



Chris Cracknell (O00), from the England Sevens squad returned to the New Field to run a training session for the 1st XV.

Recently Chris Cracknell has been coaching current 1st XV member Tom Howe(below) who, after selection for the England U18 squad, was invited to Dubai for November training with the England Development Squad.

Fortunately Tom was in the country for the 1st XV's Friday Night Lights victories over Lord Wandsworth College (at the Henley Hawks ground) and away at Merchant Taylors' School.



Friday afternoon football

It should never have been called a Senior Minor Activity. Friday afternoon football, deserved better, it achieved cult status at Shiplake on a Friday afternoon in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Boys raced from Friday afternoon detention to come on for the last ten minutes of action. It was their *Theatre of Dreams*.

At one point Jeremy Keane's alleged Rugby Sevens activity melted as all of the players and their Kiwi coach decided that Shiplake's version of soccer looked more fun. Consequently 17, 18 or 19 a-side matches were frequent.

For four afternoons of the week boys played rugby and learnt combat skills in the CCF. On a Friday afternoon the two combined for a game of football that resembled the village-to-village barbaric rituals played in medieval times.

There were no touchlines, very few rules and some of the tackles would have received both red cards and custodial sentences with a sighted referee. Paddy Talbot sometimes wore a quartered, silky livery that had probably been discarded by the jockey of a fallen runner from the 2.30 race at Wincanton. Invariably it made him a target for some horrendous tackles which he hurdled like a thoroughbred. No doubt the banter was often better than the skills.

There were champagne moments: Emilien Lesourd a wannabe Dennis Bergkamp modelling his latest Arsenal kit, Basil Holiasmenos' delicate dribbling skills despite his prop-forward build, Will Downing returning from a liquid lunch with his mother, having missed the preceding double Business Studies lesson, to hit a screamer from 35 yards into the bottom left-hand corner. It was the Goal of Eternity. Sadly, he can't remember it. Tom Bennett, the consummate actor, giving a Moston-like commentary as he strode past defenders and numerous defenders missing their tackles and sliding through the mud, studs first, into the rotting fencing bordering New Field.

Away from the eyes of the Director of the Sport, autumnal fog and mist always seemed to reduce visibility, players wore an eclectic range of shirts.

Of course the Arsenal, Chelsea and Man Utd supporters displayed their wares but retro and obscure became fashionable. The prize for most obscure shirt was undoubtedly won by an Aldershot shirt purchased from a charity shop.

Amongst all the chaos some misguided souls decided that this would be "their skill" for their DofE award and they even offered to referee the mayhem to add to their log-book.

The majority of Old Vikings have had to make the decision of when to retire from their chosen sport. You vacillate between Australian cricketer Alan Border's oft-quoted "You are retired for a hell of a long time," and a desire not to make a complete fool of yourself or have a heart-attack.

It must have been around 2007, when the incident occurred, and I probably shouldn't have been playing anyway. When I'd gone into JJB Sports back in August, and tried on a pair of football boots, a crowd somewhat larger than Scunthorpe's average home gate had gathered around the fat, balding forty-something old bloke buying new football boots.

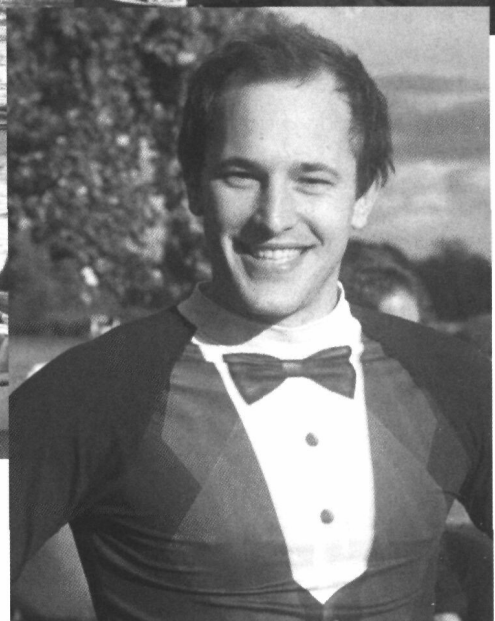
For once we played on the front field along the 1st XI cricket square. The opposition took a short corner and I intended to sprint towards it to get a tackle in. My right knee sank through the muddy mire and kept going for about half a metre. I don't know if there is anything in the Football Association's rules regarding limestone sink-holes but in the interests of Health and Safety I decided to abandon the game.

By the time the Bursar investigated, the hole had grown and he found two Welsh House boys in it up to their waists. Later, one of the boys, ever entrepreneurial, asked his Housemaster if you could buy and sell holes.

House football fixtures were cancelled for the next week whilst an alternative pitch was created.

M Edwards

OVS Regatta



OVS and Rowing Dinner

Nine crews took to the river for an OVS Regatta. There was a hard fought competition between Old Vikings crews reuniting from as far back as 1986. The successful 1964 IV had a more leisurely nostalgic outing as did the 1973 VIII who had T-Shirts printed for the occasion.

In the evening 230 guests gathered in the Sports Hall for dinner accompanied by a spectacular big-screen display recording 50 years of Shiplake Rowing History. OVs lent on a bar creatively converted from an old boat by Hugh Mackworth-Praed, 1st VIII coach. Old Vikings had travelled from Canada, New Zealand, USA, Dubai, France and Poland to be present at this historic occasion.

After a superb meal guests settled for the entertainment. Jonty Hearnden, Master-in-Charge of ceremonies for the evening, announced that the celebrations were a little premature, research had revealed that the Shiplake Boat Club had not entered a race until 1963.

Mike Shingler, part of the first IV to win a race for the College, recalled how Sam Hall, their coach, frequently used to fall from his bike as he raced along the tow-path bellowing instructions. Not knowing how big the Reading Regatta cup was, Hall had offered to fill the trophy with beer. When the crew won the event he was surprised at the size of his bar bill.

Shane O'Brien, Gold with the New Zealand IV in 1984 and now a Headmaster in Dubai, said that returning to Shiplake 'felt like coming home'. Thinking back to his victory in Los Angeles he described how difficult it was to come to terms with family and friends treating him so differently. There was even a victory parade on the back of a tractor. Shane recalled coaching Will Satch in his Shiplake days and giving Mark Hunter MBE a job coaching at Shiplake 'before he was famous.'

Ben Hunt-Davis MBE chronicled his tough route from selection for Shiplake's J14B VIII to Olympic Gold in the GB VIII in 2000. He summed up the disappointing years prior to the Sydney Olympics, 'If you keep doing the same things, you keep getting the same results.' The training, the philosophy and the result changed in Sydney.

Once the Rowing Honours Board had been unveiled dozens of guests rushed onto the stage to see their names.

The final words of the evening came from Jonty Hearnden quoting *The Sunday Times* on Will Satch, 'The future's bright. The future's ginger.'



OVS and Rowing Dinner

"I remember the summer of '73. Train, row, regatta. Train, row, regatta. Train, row, Henley."

David Dalzell.

"It was 1962 the average wage was £800 per annum. *Love Me Do* was number one. The Cuba Crisis threatened the world with nuclear war. Marilyn Monroe died and Phillip Schofield had not yet been born. Nor had the Shiplake Boat Club competed it is first regatta. We are here under false pretences as the club did not actually race until 1963."

Jonty Hearnden

"Johnny Scottorn was a great coach. He made us think that the whole world was against us and that we had to beat them.

When it came to the 2000 Olympics all the other nations put their best rowers in their VIII. GB put those left over in the VIII. No one expected us to reach the final, no one expected us to win the Gold."

Ben Hunt-Davis OBE

"We have moved into a world of one line comments and everyone at the Boat Club Anniversary Dinner could send in a comment on the event. No doubt many have arrived as I write and when published will encourage more OVs to come back. May I have three?

Shiplake has always been good at celebrations. This was another to remember.

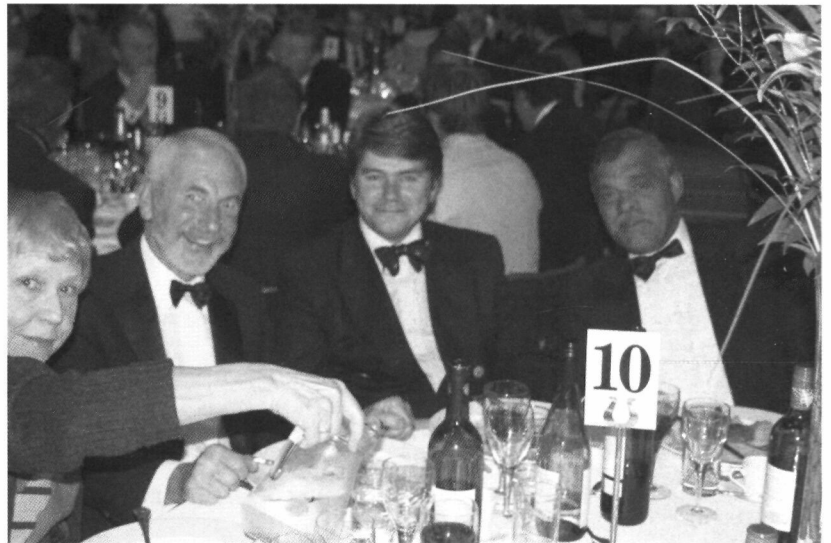
So many kindly found me with news, especially of historians among their children,.

What fun it was to sit down with people who were already at Shiplake when I arrived in May 1960."

Hans Wells-Furby



The Bar - recycled from an ancient VIII by Hugh Mackworth-Praed, current 1st VIII coach



Old Vikings' News

Gus Coulson: I arrived at Shiplake in its second year and I was fortunate enough to have been coached (Steve Fairbairn / Jesus style) by Sam Hall and rowed in the '63 and '64 first crews (the photo of us on page 13, OVS News 2012, is of the '64 not '65 crew). Also the '62 and '63 colts crews. Sam even got me through my English Language and Literature O levels - a major achievement - he later told my father that the thank you letter I had sent him, contained four spelling mistakes. Obviously a short letter.

In the first regattas the school competed in (I use the word 'competed' in its loosest sense), we had to use 'committee' boats, very unwieldy tubs some built before rowlocks were invented. The school's participation in these regattas was fairly chaotic, Saturday morning classes, then a dash in the coach's car. On one occasion the sandwiches we were given for lunch were two slices of white bread containing a smear of mayonnaise. A journey in Mr Burgess' car was a form of Russian roulette, its front doors opened facing forward which gives a clue to its age.

When we won the Novice fours at Wallingford we were taken aback in 1963 we were used to competing but not winning - Shiplake had never won anything. The school in general and cricketering Headmaster in particular were entirely indifferent. We won three more regattas only losing two races, one of which was at Marlow Regatta where the time of our final was the fastest for 40 years. We were not permitted to compete at Henley as racing started on a Wednesday. I weighed 9.5 stone, Bill Eaton and Victor Durman probably around 11 stone and Malcolm Shingler under 12 stone.

We met up for a row at the school 25 years later and found that we all were running businesses that we had started, either Shiplake taught self-reliance or else we are people nobody will employ.

Victor Durman: On another note re the brief history of the rowing at Shiplake that I received a few months back, I was glad to see a picture of our 1964 crew with trophies in the article. However, nothing was then said about the fact that our crew was the first Shiplake rowing crew to win any race.

In fact we won every race we entered apart from the final race of that season which we lost by one foot or one pull of our oars !! I have attached a picture of the oar that we all were presented with at the end of the season. My oar proudly hangs on one of my walls at home. We were the first crew to have a new boat bought by the school. Up until then we had rowed in pretty ancient boats, but the school budget did not go far enough to buy new oars, rather short sighted I think you would agree!! However, we got round this by our parents buying each of us a new oar.

23 years ago our crew returned to Shiplake, on a school Regatta day. With the help of the school we went for a training row with our old coach Mr Hall up the river to Sonning which was great. On returning to the area of the boat house we took on the school's top coxed four for a race from Shiplake Lock and we won! This surprised these 17 and 18 old lads who thought they could easily beat a bunch of old fogies.

They demanded a re-run and we lost that one much to their relief and our fatigue. None of us had been in a boat since we left school in 1964. That evening there was a black tie do at the school and our crew was inducted into the Rowing Club and I think we were made Honorary vice president or something like that.

So you can see why I felt that I needed to remind everybody how and which crew was the dynamo that started Shiplake Rowing to become the power house it has become. I say this because we showed what could be achieved with hard work and determination and great coaching.

When your Housemaster bets against you passing Maths O level a year before the exam and parents who were desperate to find a career that did not include Maths, you can see the type of scholars the early days of the school took in. As it was my Housemaster lost his bet with my Maths teacher and I passed O level and Advanced Maths. However my mother until she died never believed I could do Maths!!

The 1964 season where we won all the races we entered was the first time I had felt what it was like to succeed and I liked that feeling and it showed me I could be successful. I am very grateful to our old coach Mr Hall for picking me to row in the first boat that season.

Old Vikings' News

Derek Drury (Staff) writes: I had the honour of running the Boat Club from 1966 – 72 (although I was also Housemaster of Skipwith). During the period we managed to shift to rowing in eights and raised money to purchase new boats. I have my detailed coaching logs of those years with results at Regattas. Building up steadily, we ultimately were, I felt justified at having a crack at Henley, having won Senior C at Reading. They were beaten by St. Paul's Concord (an American crew) in what was recorded as the fastest time of the day: Concord did 7.06 and the winning time in the final was 7.04.

Simon Griffiths (64S), who now lives in Leicestershire, wrote in. I was in Skipwith House when David Skipwith was Housemaster more than 50 years ago. I have only been back once formally and that was for the 25th. I have lived in this village of Kirby Muxloe all my married life with my lovely wife Odette. We have two sons and two grandchildren. In the pictures of the old boys they look so young, but I do not feel that old, time is a funny thing.

One of my fondest memories is of camping on the island on a Saturday night but I think one could only do it if one had passed the swimming test which consisted of swimming across the river fully clothed.

I'm **John Stephens, Everett 1958 to 1965** and was a rower from early on but only in the second four for my last two years even though we beat the times of the A crew at various regattas winning three regattas and being entered for Marlow at the beginning of the 1965 summer holidays.

For some reason I can't remember the A crew attending. The Regattas were Reading Working Mans', Pangbourne and Whitchurch, where we broke the course record, and I think Wallingford, but I could be wrong on the last one.

The Second IV, 1966

I would also like to correct something in Hans Wells Furby's book *Wish and Fulfilment* and that was that I, along with Richard Devas, were both awarded the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award at the same time and we both went to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party to receive it from him.

There are a few other errors in the book but I'll admit that history is often in the eye of the beholder.

Michael Griffiths (65W) I have not corresponded before but I am just browsing the Old Vikings' Magazine and my eyes alighted on the article regarding rowing at the college. On page 13, I note that the team captioned was the 1965 first boat when in fact the team depicted is the 1964 boat

I joined the college in 1962 and was in the Junior Four in 1964 and in the 2nd four in 1965. In that year the 1st boat swept all before it with the exception of one regatta.

My main memory of the late Sam Hall was on an OVS day many years later when I introduced my wife to Sam who then proceeded to regale her with some rowing memories. Apparently as a young rower, with a sense of humour, it was purported that on hearing that we were entering the Reading Working Men's regatta (subsequently renamed the Reading Town regatta) I asked Sam if it was necessary for the crew to join a trade union! My wife just said "Typical".

As for me when I left Shiplake I returned to my native Leicester where I have spent all my life. I retired 3 years ago and lately ran the mailroom and distribution department at the Alliance and Leicester bank at their Headquarters.

My main interest has been in local politics. I have twice been Mayor of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston in 1993 and 2010. I also have been an elected County Councillor since 2011. In 2013 I shall be retiring from frontline local politics as I shall then have been involved for 40 years, 32 as an elected member



Old Vikings' News

Derek Banks (71S) Well, its 8.15 pm and after 35 years running my own business, I really should be somewhere else than in the office. However, I've been reminiscing over the latest edition of the Old Viking magazine, always a fond read.

I saw the Rowing Honours list and wonder about 1971.... I think... that was the year Shiplake entered a really light VIII in the Princess Elizabeth to be just beaten by some American heavyweights. Derek Drury was the coach and also Skipwith Housemaster. '71 must have been my final year as I arrived in '66.

The training we did in those days was virtually all in single sculls. A clinker boat called a rum tum (?) was the first boat we went out in, really stable boats.

At the start of the season we beat Imperial College at Wallingford, dead heat and then an immediate re row over half the course! Imperial got better through the summer and I think won the Britannia at Henley.

We did well in the IV and I think won at Reading and Marlow where we beat Eton in the final. We all thought we were heading for a Henley entry in the Britannia but for some reason at the last minute the boat which was to be borrowed from Eton (a shell IV) fell through. I know James Wills and I were asked to row in the VIII as we were heavier than most, but we both declined so as not to displace two of the Eight. Pity but two years ago I had the pleasure of seeing my oldest son Tom row for Exeter University where he has just qualified as a Doctor.

My second oldest son Alex (Wycherley) just qualified at Birmingham doing Geography, he got a 2.1. Alex left Shiplake in 2008. He is now working to save up for some travelling.

I still row from time to time aged 58 and have two 1962 Eton College single sculls in the garden, one fully restored, the other waiting.

I'm very lucky, a gorgeous wife, Debbie, five kids and it has been a life afloat ever since Shiplake, even before as I went to Moulsoford first and was born on the Thames. Qualified as messing about on the river, not much more!

Richard Hudson (75): My Mother now 86 years old, phoned in with news of my brother William and myself, and as always got our names the wrong way round, William is the Grower, I am the Building Contractor.

Alistair Newman (77E) has flown to Ulan Bator, in Mongolia, to teach English. He arrived just before the new academic year began to find little in place for the coming term, no plans, no photocopier, no computers and few English text-books. In winter temperatures drop to minus 30 centigrade and power-cuts are frequent. He has been given a group of 77 for chess but he has a room with 12 chess desks so play is possible. Known to the pupils as Mr Ali he promises more news to come.

He has certainly obliged with the news that on 18th November he became engaged to Nyamaa a lawyer and teacher in Mongolia.

Neil Russell (82W) I have just received the OV mag and as is always the case have just spent the last couple of hours reading and re-reading and reminiscing ... all great stuff and delighted to see Shiplake going from strength to strength.

If I could make one comment after reading the rowing section and reading Peter Lapping's account 'Sports at Shiplake 1979 - 1988'. There seems to be very little account of the rowing crews in this period. I was lucky enough to be in a successful crew that was coached by John Scottorn. I have listed the main achievements for each of the four years below:

1979: J14 crew was unbeaten. National Schools' Champions in Vllls

1980: J15 crew was unbeaten. National Schools 'Champions in Vllls and also National Schools' silver medalist in composite 4 - J16

1981: J16 Crew was unbeaten. National Schools Champions in Vllls

1982: National Schools' Champions coxless IV, selected to represent Great Britain in junior coxless IV.

In the entire four year period this particular group of boys were only beaten once. A record which I do not think has been equalled or beaten to this day. I hope you do not mind me filling in the blanks on this period of Shiplake's rowing history.

Old Vikings' News

Jeremy Cannells who taught Physics at the College from 1980 to 1982 called in on a trip to Europe. He is now a Professor of Software Engineering at Gannon University, Erie in Pennsylvania. He gained his experience working in the Electrical Engineering on Embedded Software and steadily caught up on his education by taking a number of electives in web and database design at University. After leaving Shiplake he taught Physics at the American International School in Nice and was heading to the South of France as part of his European travels, and hoping that he might be able to find a place in a French school for his 16 year old son to study.

Jeremy Woodward (89W): Many thanks for sending me the latest copy of the Shiplake OVS magazine. Having put in five years of hard work on the river for Shiplake between 84 to 89, I especially enjoyed reading this copy with all the coverage of the crews over the years.

I was in Welsh House and had the pleasure of spending both my Sixth Form years in the First VIII squad and a large part of the seasons in the VIII, so thought it only right to send in your missing details for both those crews.

The 1988 crew was a bit of a mix-and-match and never really clicked or performed, due to constant changing of crew members, right up to HRR.

The 1986 1st VIII



The squad was swapped between several coaches (Webb, Hayter and Lister), with them trying a First IV combination, with the rest of the squad in a 2nd and 3rd VIII. In all, the VIII in various formats only made Senior 3 that year, won very little and only qualified for the Schools' Race at HRR. Sadly, we went out in the first round of that as well!

1989 was a totally different story and the crew really pulled together right from the start of the season and we did have a fantastic finishing day at HRR for the year of 1989. We had a great season under coach Mark Hayter and to date (as I understand!) are the only Shiplake crew to get through to the finals of HRH, which fell on my last day at Shiplake. Sadly, we just got taken by Hampton School during the second half of the race and lost by a length. Our stroke, Ben Hunt-Davis, went on to be in the well-known gold medal Olympic VIII.

My younger brother **Rolf Woodward (96W)**, also of Welsh House, is still doing the occasional (mainly voluntary) cycle event organisation for the UCI mountain bike world cups. He's kept fit and we regularly seek out adrenalin filled, off-road cycle races or events around the world. This year we're doing the Trans Province off-road stage race in the French Alps

A quick summary of my time since leaving Shiplake in 89: I went to Queen Mary University in London and read Aquatic Biology. Aquatic Biology was always a passion of mine, but a tough field to get work in within the UK.

Old Vikings' News

So after several small projects and a host of not so rewarding fill-in jobs, I went to King's College London and studied MSc Aquatic Management. From there I worked for the National Rivers Authority for a while, then transferred over to Thames Water's Biology section, where I worked until 2000.

Within Thames Water, science research was downsized during the five year period and my positions became more and more technical and IT related. At this point it made sense to become properly qualified in this area and make the most of the UK technology boom. In 2001, back at college again, I obtained a host of Microsoft system qualifications, then began working for several good technology companies in and around London. In 2004 I set-up my own small IT consultancy which I'm still running now. Rolf helps me a great deal with the specialist Apple Mac projects as he's also very technically minded.

During the past year, I also volunteered for work with LOCOG, the body responsible for rolling out the Olympics this summer. So far I've helped with the running of the mountain biking test event at Hadleigh Farm and am currently helping deliver the track cycling test event (also the UCI World Cup) at the Olympic velodrome. This makes a nice contrast to IT and should take up quite a chunk of this year's summer!

Outside work I have a lovely wife to be, travel regularly and sport still plays a big part of my life.

Charles Stuart-King (92E) I have ended up working in the creative field. After a little stint in the wine and film industry, I pulled my socks up and went back to school and got a BA in Graphic Design and then moved to the US in 2000. Since then, I have been designing websites and more recently ipad/iphone apps.

I got married in 2008 to a lovely girl called Katia. She is wonderfully international. Mother from NZ, father from Norway.

Alex Huggan (93B): I love seeing Shiplake news and I think watching this year's eventful boat race spurred me to write to you and update you on my recent activities.

Business is going well, I am further increasing my company's share within the Olympic media coverage. I am representing an adventurer called Kenton Cool, who is currently at Everest Base Camp just about set off for his 10th Everest Summit and fulfil the Olympic Games Pledge after 88 years.

I launched the Olympic Games Pledge on BBC Breakfast News a few weeks ago and since had global media coverage! Which is fantastic as it is such a great story about the original 1922 team who mapped and surveyed the first ever routes to the Everest Summit that were all awarded an Olympic Gold Medal for Alpinism for the efforts on Everest.

At the medal presentation in 1924, Lt. Col Strutt, made a pledge to founding father of the modern Olympics to take one of the medals to the top of the world. This pledge or promise was never fulfilled and forgotten for 88 years, until recently and my client Kenton is now fulfilling the pledge for Great Britain.



Alex Huggan with some well-known faces!

Old Vikings' News

Steve Fox (Staff) who attended the rowing dinner, and who has just finished a stint at Shrewsbury School as a Housemaster, gave an update on some of the coaches from his days at Shiplake.

Richard "Thrust" Boulton (Staff) is now Chief Coach (Juniors) at the ARA but had a prior engagement for the evening of the rowing dinner but sent his apologies. Austin "Bucky" Clayton (the 1993-4 Princeton Fellow) is now a high-flying lawyer with Johnson and Johnson in New Jersey. He's married with three children so having even a few days off to catch an appropriate flight would have been a really big ask.

Dan Alexander (94E) Things are good with me. I am married with a 2 year old boy and girl of 10 weeks so no rest, well worth it though. I am working for an IT support company specialising in the hospitality sector.

Eagled-eyed OV's watching the Olympics would have seen **Mark Abberley (Staff)**, former Head of Physical Education at Shiplake being interviewed, after Nicola Adams' historic gold medal in the Women's Boxing. Mark was appointed as the Chief Executive of the Amateur Boxing Association of England in May 2011. He is responsible for delivery of the ABAE's Whole Sport Plan to increase participation in amateur boxing. Previously Mark was a Regional Cluster Manager in the David Lloyd Leisure Group.

Mark Hayter (Staff): The following got together (among others!) at Henley today to welcome the Olympic Torch to Leander Club: Malcolm Carmichael, Richard Lester, Ben Hunt-Davis, Mark Hayter (ex staff).

I also ought to inform you as I have not managed to do so before that on the 1st July I was ordained deacon in Hereford Cathedral and now am deployed as Assistant Curate in the St Weonard's group of parishes.

Oscar Koo (95S) is currently working as a Quantity Surveying Manager for a 5 star hotel in Paris but is considering a move back to Hong Kong where his previous employer has offered him a good job. He still remembers the excellent advice that Dr Snellgrove gave on Oscar's career path. "I still remember you teaching me English and I really enjoyed my time at Shiplake."

Giles Lunn (97O): Unfortunately I won't be able to make the OVS Regatta and dinner in October as I'll be on my honeymoon in Hawaii. I'm not sure my fiancée, Sarah, would understand if I told her that we had to cut it short! If I had been around I would definitely have come along. My rowing career at Shiplake was a very memorable and enjoyable time. I finally found a sport I was really good at and was lucky enough to be in crews that got a Bronze at the National Schools' Regatta, won at the Schools' Head of the River, and won at the National Championships of GB.

Every year I go to Henley Regatta I give Shiplake a good cheer, one day we'll win! I fondly remember the two races I had at Henley and although we lost both times they were very exciting. The second time I rowed there, in the first eight, we were a length down about a third of the way into the race only to draw level through the enclosures and finally lose, on the surge of the boat, by three feet! I hope all goes well at the OVS regatta, and I look forward to hopefully being able to make one of the reunions in the near future.



*Tim Scoffham
Nick Bates
Toby Douglas
Ollie Gradden
Tom Constable
Nick Lay
Richard Jacob*

Old Vikings' News

As I mentioned I'm getting married to Sarah who I met two and a half years ago. She works as a lawyer and after being in Private Practice since she graduated has recently moved in-house and has joined me at Foster Wheeler. Come September I will have been working there as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer for ten years. It's amazing how the years roll by! Sarah and I looked at having our reception at Shiplake College and came for a look round, but unfortunately there were no dates available until 2013! Instead we are having our reception by the river at Henley Business School after our wedding at St Barnabas Church in Emmer Green.

Last December we also bought a house together in Caversham Heights, so as well as lots of wedding planning we've also got lots of on-going DIY which is keeping us very busy.

Eleanor Guy's parents wrote in to update the OVS database with the news that Eleanor (00S) had been Mrs Morrell for eight years and was expecting her third child in May.

A colourful portrait of himself and **Finch Field-Hall (02B)**, on the cover of the 2012 Newsletter, prompted **Richard Lightwing (02B)** to phone in. He has returned to university, this time at Newcastle to study for an MSc. At the time of contact he was busy with a 20,000 word dissertation on Industrial Property Markets, Finance and Investment. His employees have kept his job open so he may well return to London to work in the near future.

Tobias Clark (02O) who is now Tobias Kingsley Hanley wrote in from Brighton to say that he is a Retail Analyst for one of the large banks. He is married to a secondary school teacher and has a one year old son. **Dan Clark (005)**, his younger brother, is Manager of one of London's top Bistros.

Jamie Gouldstone (04B) phoned in looking for sales from the Old Vikings for his new employer Smart Turnout but the OVS purse strings are held very tightly. He reported that elder brother **Tom (02B)** is enjoying a wonderful lifestyle living near Vancouver in Canada. Tom acquires business for a construction company. Youngest Gouldstone, **Bobbie, (06B)** is celebrating having passed his RCB, to follow on in service life in father's footsteps, by travelling. He was escaping the winter weather in Rio as Jamie spoke. Jamie thinks that Bobbie will ultimately look to join the paras.

Nick Milo (many of you will remember him as **Nick de Roumanie**, who left Burr in 2004):

On the 1st April 2010 (my 25th birthday) I received the title of HRH Prince Nicholas of Romania after King Michael of Romania changed the fundamental Rules of Romania in 2007.

Since 2007 I have become more and more involved in public life and slowly taking on my public duties in representing King Michael of Romania in National and International events.

In April 2008, I joined an environmental charity called Mai Mult Verde who worked with schools around the country in a project that was aimed at cleaning up the river banks across Romania. I joined this project for several days in Eastern Romania where I took part in all events and clearing the river banks.

In 2010, I became a patron of a charity that has been set up by the British School of Bucharest and named the charity Planet BSB. Planet BSB aims itself at educating their students of all ages about the importance of the environment and why we should care for it. Within the school they have eco warriors that monitor the progress and the recycling system set up.

In 2009, I started at university after being an outdoor instructor in the UK and Africa. I studied Management at Royal Holloway University until 2012 where I then moved permanently to Bucharest, Romania.

Since arriving and taking my role I have represented the Royal Family and Romania in many events and supporting many charities.



Prince Nicholas

Old Vikings' News

Robert Prance (Staff): I have now qualified as a signalman and start at Harman's Cross box once a week when the season starts. Next year the line will be running trains onto the main line at Wareham which will be good news.

Rollo Sparkes (06B) featured in the National Geographic Traveller's Photography Competition publication. Rollo wrote, "I was taking part in a baseline survey on the effects of climate change on the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica, when I took the image of a red-eyed tree frog and was amazed with the results."

Alex Ingham-Cark (079): Today **Charlie Ingham-Clark (08E)** was made Free of the City of London and of our family Livery Company, The Clothworker's Company, a great privilege and honour which in true Shiplake tradition he did us all proud.

The City Freedom Ceremony takes place in the City of London in the Court of the Chamberlain of London.

Whilst shopping in Reading, **Doreen Gow (Staff)**, once the keeper of the OVS Database, met **Alex de Haan (06S)** who was working in the Carphone Warehouse shop. Alex had graduated with a Biology degree and had since married a Brazilian lady and was planning to move to Brazil. That is the only happy ending as Doreen did not buy a phone from Alex.

Martin Haymes (05O): I have read the latest edition of the OVS magazine and thought I would give you my first update since leaving the College in 2005 for the next edition.

After leaving in 2005, I studied Business Management at Oxford Brookes University and competed on the International rowing stage whilst juggling my assignments. During this time I was able to travel round the world as far as Australia competing for Great Britain whilst being funded by Team GB.

After finishing University and having had a keen interest in sport, I decided to pursue an active career and after four years of gaining further qualifications and experience, I am now into my fourth month working for Marriott International as an Assistant Health Club Manager.

This is in one of the UK's largest hotel health clubs and will shortly be completing a qualification that will enable me to train Marriott associates in First Aid across the UK and Europe.

Joe Holmes (08O) has managed to align his interest in railways with career progression and he is on the First Group's Graduate Training Scheme. Writing in March 2012 he had just started a placement based in Stratford where he is working for the Olympic Delivery Committee for six months.

Mrs Downey sent in news of her two sons. **Ludo Downey (08W)** has graduated this year and is now working for a financial recruitment company by the Savoy. He is very happy and will move into a flat with a Shiplake friend in October.

Brough Downey (10E) had a gap year and travelled round South America and is about to start his second year of university. He also keeps in touch with a group of lads a lot of whom are off to his new university house next weekend. He is now the tallest in the family at 6' 3".

Adam Davies (09W) has graduated from Loughborough University with a First Class Honours Degree in Geography. He would like to thank Tom Caston and Alex Hunt for all their help whilst he was at Shiplake.

Your intrepid OVS Magazine editor emerged from the mirages of the desert like Lawrence of Arabia, save for the fact that he was driving a hired Peugeot, rather than riding an Arabian Stallion in search of **Shane O'Brien (Staff)**, Shiplake's incredibly well-respected former College Housemaster and Deputy Head. Journeying from Abu Dhabi past the road to The Empty Quarter he had traversed the desert in search of Shane who is living in a very pleasant villa in the Arabian Ranches area of Dubai.

Shane is now Head of the Senior Section of Jumeriah English Speaking Schools and is rightly very proud of what is an impressive school with a long waiting-list.

Old Vikings' News

The school, just eight years old, is purpose built, with strategically placed palms obscuring the harsh desert landscape beyond. As it was the Festival of Eid the cranes had stopped on the extension to the school.

"You can almost hear the dirham clicking away on the electricity meter," said Shane as he gave me a tour of a deliciously air-conditioned Sports Hall. Entering the Assembly Hall, "Assemblies have to be non-religious as we have so many different races and religions that it is difficult, only 7% of Dubai's population is Emirati, but I have introduced the United Arab Emirates' anthem to bring a sense of unity and belonging. We started off with the junior orchestra playing the music and we have steadily learnt the words – in Arabic."

Then it was back to Shane's villa for a delicious chicken lasagne that Shane had cooked whilst Paola told us how much she was enjoying her job as an Educational Training organiser and occasionally mentioning how good the shopping was in Dubai. My expenses claim form is yet to hit the OVS Treasurer's inbox.

When **Matt Barrett** left Shiplake's five years ago the Headmaster said that Matt was leaving to become Head of Geography at Waddesdon School, near Aylesbury, before becoming a Headmaster. It seems that Gregg Davies' prophecy is on the way to becoming fulfilled. Matt has been promoted to the position of Head of Teaching and Learning.

Matt returned to Shiplake at the start of the Autumn Term to give the staff a lively action-packed training session on Effective Teaching Strategies. One of these involved singling out Brendan Pavey, isolating him in the spotlight and firing Geography questions at him.

Charley Lowndes (recently retired Burr Housemaster) : Life does seem a little emptier without fifty fine young men living next door, but Lesley and I are learning to cope with the free time and delightful lack of responsibility - the neighbours are remarkably slow to ring the doorbell to ask to borrow a saucepan, or football pump, or explaining why going to Church would get in the way of their studies and all the other reasons to chat. Thanks in part to very generous leaving presents from the Old Vikings and SCR, we have just spent much of September with our son and his wife in New York, plus her family variously in Maryland, West Virginia and Washington DC.

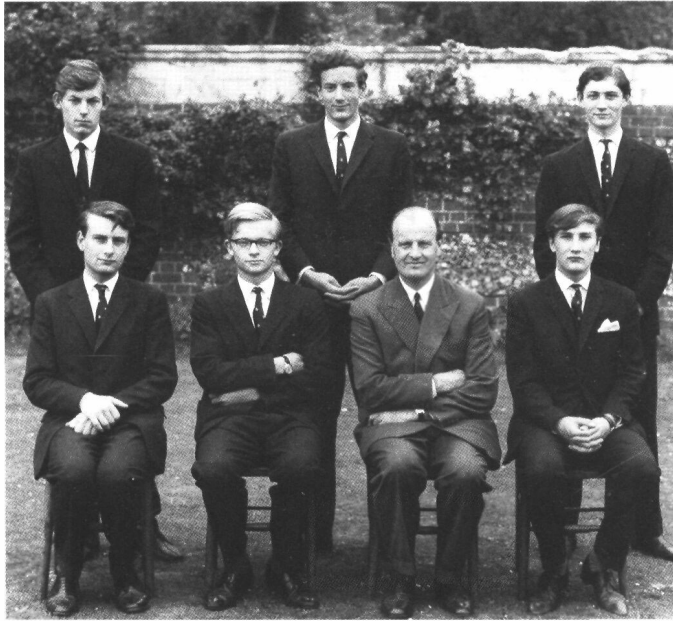
We were away for much of September, the huge treat of running away from the new academic year. We're not quite sure where all the cash came from so can only say a huge thank you to all for that fantastic leaving present, along with many other gifts, cards and personal messages which reassure us that that last ten years wasn't quite such a muddle as we feared at times.

I am not fully retired – I seem to have enough to do as an Open University tutor on various IT modules, and also as a student myself, taking courses in creative writing (Haikus'R'Us and other games) and digital photography, where I'm learning a lot about processing with Adobe Lightroom.



Some disruption for rugby on the riverside pitches during a wet November 2012.

John Turner



John Turner, front row, second from left with the 1965 prefects.

Governors and teachers honoured John Turner's outstanding service to Shiplake College at the end of the 2012 Autumn Term with a dinner celebrating 34 years of dedication as a College Governor.

At the 2012 Prize-Giving ceremony Tim Eggar, Chairman of Governors had paid tribute to John's wise advice, "With prudent guidance he has overseen the financing of the College's extensive building programme over the last 34 years."

John Turner arrived as a pupil in the College's second term in 1959. He returned with a wealth of business acumen and shrewd understanding to the challenges and constraints of a small but growing school in 1978. John's era has spanned the reigns of four Headmasters and they have all been grateful for his wise counsel as former pupil, financial advisor and parent.

Nick Bevan, Headmaster for some of John's years paid tribute to a valued governor. "He was a loyal, conscientious and painstaking chair of the Finance Committee where all the real work of governance is done; tolerant of over-ambitious plans of heads and staff bringing realism to their ideas; very supportive and encouraging and genuinely interested in the development of the school, its staff and pupils. I could have done with someone like him on the boards of all the other schools I have governed."

There is nothing like a Jane



Ubiquitous, understanding and utterly dedicated, Shiplake College bids adieu, after 16 years, to its foremost pioneering woman: Mrs Jane Burt. In 1996 Jane left her role at Gillotts as whole school matron to become the Orchard House Matron and Domestic Bursar. Her impact was colossal and immediate, as Orchard House, with 75 pupils, moved in to their new accommodation; Jane swiftly went to work ensuring her charges, Housemaster included, settled in. The then Bursar, Jim Mansergh, trusted her implicitly with staff accommodation and her austere ways of budgeting.

Jane's organizational skills were legendary. Parents' drinks, open mornings and events could be set up in the twinkling of an eye. Better still, Jane knew everybody. Any prospective parent, on meeting Jane, would simply relax and share friendly, jocular banter, and know their son would have a wonderful 'mother' figure in Orchard. When girls joined Orchard, they too realized that she could be a great confidant, but no pushover! Her wisdom, experience and advice, tinged with a tough love approach, ensured pupils and many staff negotiated 'troubled waters' safely. A child of the 1960's, with a fondness for George Harrison, she melted momentarily when his son Dhani entered Orchard. Liberal and progressive she could be, yet there was a complete intolerance of poor standards, behaviour or rudeness. To her this was unconscionable and she was fearless when telling others her views.

Passionate about sport, especially cricket, Jane prowled touch lines at House matches, supplied chocolate to weary players, exhorting and coaxing in equal measure. Her restless energy, optimism and chutzpah often manifested itself in tuneful singing in Orchard, charming those who heard and lifting their spirits. No wonder Orchard won so many music competitions!

Now Jane will become the heartbeat of her beloved Harpsden, ensuring that church, cricket club and fete run like clockwork. Somehow though, her presence will linger, and many will still beat a path to her door for tea and advice. She can be compared to that legendary woman of great virtue in the book of Proverbs:

Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."

Chris Alcock (former Orchard Housemaster)

Stephane Le Paih



Eleven years ago Stephane brought the culture and the language of Brittany to Shiplake. He implanted an authentic Gallic aura at the heart of the Modern Languages Department, arriving from Latymer School.

He arrived at Shiplake as part of a teaching odyssey that had taken him as far as the Canary Islands before arriving at the Thames. Becoming Head of Modern Languages is a challenging task. In recent years Stephane raised the standards of the department to achieve outstanding academic Added Value results.

As a seriously talented footballer Stephane was keen to provide some soccer as an alternative for the boys who did not fit easily into major sports and as a relaxation from the intensity of rugby and hockey for others.

He worked hard to take an ever-changing squad to interesting fixtures at destinations such as Eton College, St Edward's and Marlborough. Rarely did he get the chance to drill and train his squads but they produced some morale boosting wins. Away from the College he used his experience as a teacher and his love of soccer to coach boys at local clubs..

Stephane's self-catering trip, with the boys shopping and cooking for themselves, using the riches of St Malo's gastronomic tradition, became a regular Easter favourite in the Shiplake Calendar. Equipped with bikes Stephane guided the tourists round the highlights of Breton life and culture.

Charly Lowndes

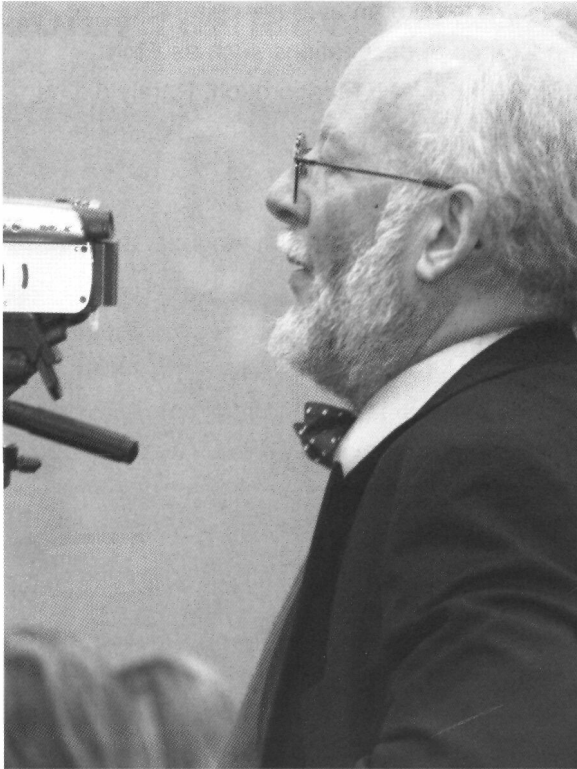
Charly missed Shiplake and Shiplake missed Charly so after just a year at Magdalen College School, Nick Bevan, the then Headmaster, invited Charly to return to take over the reigns of Burr House, during his second stint at the College.

Charly and his predecessor, Andrew Cheadle conducted the handover and induction while sailing across the Channel.

"I am unbelievably well," was Charly's frequent reply to polite enquiries. Such unquenchable optimism and positive energy encouraged Burr boys to take on the challenges of their academic studies and propel Burr House to Baldry Trophy Challenges. Inevitably, the charming manners, the sparkling and witty conversation and the willingness to take a keen interest in everything under the sun rubbed off on Burr boys and Charly was immensely proud of his protégées.

Burr led the way with technological initiatives with social rooms housing computers so that pupils could quickly contact their families in the days before smart phones became commonplace.

The Burr blog, with Charly's superb photos, and commentary on school life led the way. The decision to turn the Burr kitchen into an American style diner was typical of Charly's flair and some would say eccentricity.



After a career in British Forces Broadcasting Charly had a wealth of practical examples to furnish his IT lessons and his initial spell of teaching at Shiplake, before his brief Oxford sojourn, had taught him how to inspire and get the best from the Shiplake pupil.

Yet Charly was always eager to take education beyond the classroom. He loved Tuesday afternoon and the opportunity to take Naval CCF sessions beyond the maps and charts in the classroom and out on to the Thames and beyond.

If there were a chance to take a bus-load of Cadets down to Portsmouth or onto the Solent then Charly would seize it. A great supporter of DofE, Charly enjoyed giving silver and gold candidates the opportunity to put their skills into practice be it in the Brecon Beacons or in Brittany.

The time has come for Charly and Lesley, who has served spells as Burr House Matron, Learning Assistant, and in the Music and Careers departments, to move to their house in the Malvern Hills, where Charly will keep busy with part-time work tutoring Open University students. We look forward to hearing about them at Old Vikings' reunions.

AJ Tracey



AJ was born for Shiplake she loved her chemistry, cricket, hockey, rugby and CCF. AJ inspired pupils with her imaginative passion for Chemistry, loving practical work, particularly if it produced colourful explosions. Any pupil with a tie not hugging the collar or daring to drop a slither of litter was at risk of a high-decibel reprimand from the eagle-eyed AJ Tracey in her relentless pursuit of higher standards.

Having played International Cricket for Zimbabwe's ladies AJ brought a focus and intensity to training and competition as she coached rugby, hockey and cricket teams, imbuing teams with new determination. As a highly qualified Hockey umpire she was in constant demand from the hockey club.

Yet AJ's major contribution to Shiplake was probably her five years of duties and dedicated service as the Girls' Housemistress. Settling girls in and welcoming them into the Shiplake Sixth Form and then managing the creation of Gilson House is a central part of the AJ Legacy.

Even though she had weighty responsibilities she was always willing to pull on military uniform and don her camouflage paint for a day of exercises with the CCF.

AJ, and her daughter Amelia, head for a prestigious school in Coventry. But when the wind is in the right direction I am sure that we will hear her chastising some misguided adolescent who has transgressed.



Dan Swan

Impressing as Head of Physical Education, after the short trip from Reading School, Dan became Director of Sport after just a year at Shiplake. The number of pupils within the College was increasing but the Sports Hall had not grown, nor were there any additional playing fields.

Imagination and flexibility were required to schedule an activities programme for the newly formed Lower School and at the same stage the Sixth Form girls' games programme was still developing.

Meanwhile the PE Department continued to recruit large numbers of pupils for both GCSE and A Level with a shortage of teaching space and there was also the challenge of developing exciting content for Lower School PE lessons. Through a combination of strategic planning, tactful discussions and acerbic wit Dan managed to make progress on all fronts.

As if these challenges were not enough, he also had responsibility for risk assessment and safety for all trips and expeditions leaving the College. Continuing the work undertaken by previous Directors of Sport, Dan constructed an extensive programme of overseas Sports Tours.

Dan led an unbeaten tennis team on the St Lucia tour, coaching one of his charges to victory over a nationally ranked star. He and Simon Cane-Hardy took the boys' Bromance Award as couple of the tour.

A massive fund-raising effort enabled pupils to take part in cultural and sporting adventures that they will remember for the rest of their life and which did not make quite as large a dent in parents' pockets as they might have feared.

Inevitably the role became more managerial and perhaps a statue of Dan, phone to ear, should be erected outside the Sports Hall, as a memorial to the skilled administration required to run Shiplake's extensive sporting programme. Professional coaches were brought in to raise standards while new activities, such as judo and real tennis, gave pupils more choices.

Meanwhile Dan, an experienced rugby coach with Berkshire, was performing some imaginative coaching with his rugby teams and providing a wonderful team experience for some very social hockey teams.

Dan departs to become a Housemaster at the Royal Alexandra and Albert State Boarding School in Reigate. One of the hallmarks of a true professional is leaving a structure in place that can be maintained and helping to appoint a man you know will successfully take the role on.

Simon Cane-Hardy

Simon quickly acquired a reputation as the "trip specialist" helping out when an extra pair of hands were required on the History Department Battlefields Trip, the U14 West Country Rugby Tour and Simon also travelled to Malaysia with Hockey, St Lucia with cricket and to France for skiing.

Yet there was much more to Simon than just "jollies". Soon his Everett Housemaster found that he was an utterly reliable resident tutor who immediately achieved the difficult balance of providing welcome and support for the arriving Year 9 boarders, yet also put in place the discipline and structure essential for each individual's development.

In the History Department Simon rapidly developed his skills as a highly successful and much appreciated teacher, even asked to provide training for the rest of the teaching staff. Always on the fast-track he soon became Head of Department.



Once the day's lessons were over Simon was very much at home on the sports field passing on his expertise to his rugby squads. As a former Sussex U21 batsman it was in the area of cricket coaching where Simon excelled, immediately joining with Andy Dix to provide a formidable 1st XI management partnership. Simon volunteered to take on responsibility for Staff Cricket. His amiable leadership ensured that matches were always oversubscribed with staff cricketers looking forward to an enjoyable evening, whatever their cricketing aspirations.

Simon's final destination at Shiplake was the high-pitched voices, cauldron of perpetual motion and lost games socks that it is the Lower School. Popular with parents and pupils, Simon soon adapted to the tears and minor traumas that make up the roller-coaster of life for 11, 12 and 13 year old boys. He encouraged the boys to become more self-reliant and resilient, enjoying Year 7s final treat of a week's adventure holiday near the coast. Simon took great pride in the growing maturity of his charges as they took on high-ropes challenges with increasing nonchalance and surfed the Atlantic rollers.

With his ability to model a jacket - alternatively featuring lining, cut and vents - his comments as the guru of Senior Common Room fashion may lead to a decline in Shiplake sartorial standards.

Rich Starr



In the summer of 2007, a young man with a tan from the High Andes in Peru arrived as resident tutor in Burr House. Welsh-speaking Rich Starr had started his teaching career in reverse, teaching English in Peru, before coming here to teach Spanish and French. In Peru he also found a wife, the beautiful Agueda

Rich quickly established himself as a member of the Bow Tie Thursday Society, sartorially embellished with Andean waistcoats and post-modern suits. He has been an enthusiastic fundraiser for the annual chocolatada festival in Agueda's home town of Huancaya – helping to provide toys and a mug of hot chocolate at Christmas for every child.

He has learnt some Japanese and a few words of Thai, and how to play the flute - playing as 1st Flute in the Junior orchestra. As Master in Charge of Football he has encouraged and enthused, also running Senior Common Sweepstakes to benefit charity as well as the happy winners for the First Red Card and other prizes. As a Pilot Officer in the CCF, he has played a key part in the RAF Section, on camps and Field Days and trips to RAF Benson.

His major role has been in Burr House where he has tutored almost every boy now in the house, guiding waves of year 9 new boys through their first years, feeding them pizza in his flat with Agueda, writing detailed and eloquent reports and encouraging them to aim high.

After five years in the job, Rich and Agueda have decided to move on and are moving over the water, to Reading Blue Coat school, at Sonning. We expect football fixtures to be fierce.

Michelle Baker



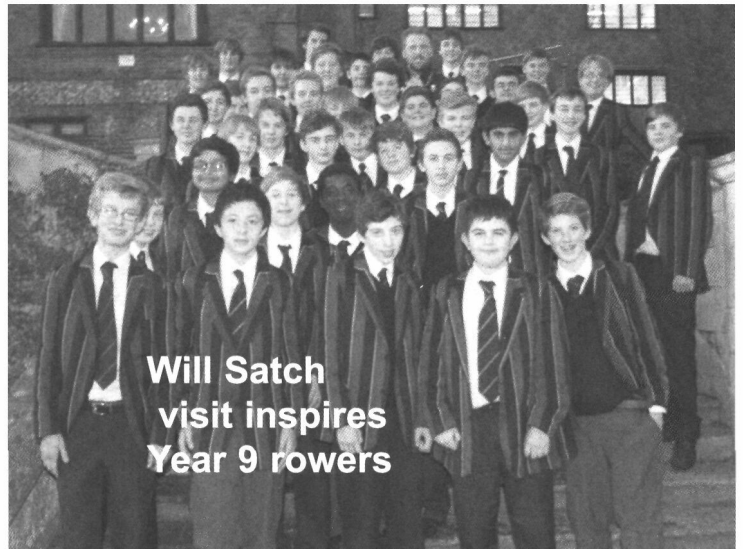
Arriving as Miss Taft and departing as Mrs Baker, Michelle had a challenge. She took over an English department that had been very well managed by a long-line of Shiplake illuminaries - Esau, Lowry, Gould, Alcock, Davey and Cook. Examination results were excellent and added value scores were superb. Michelle would have to work hard and she certainly did.

It may not be glamorous but Michelle devoted hours to marking, covering her pupils' work with scores of helpful comments and encouraging her colleagues to do so too.

Nor was Michelle afraid of innovation. She ran belly-dancing classes for the females on the staff and for sixth form girls. She was prepared to introduce new ideas to the English Department too. They collaborated with Brentford Football Club on a reading project. Pupils visited Shiplake Primary School to read their stories to audiences of young children.

Then there was the book. As part of Shiplake's 50th Anniversary celebrations, Michelle cajoled and encouraged colleagues to contribute anecdotes and stories to a publication, *Shiplake Stories*, to mark the anniversary.

Matt, Michelle's husband has moved to Rugby School, and Michelle is taking a well-earned rest from teaching, looking after Milo, their young son.



"I wasn't even in the top three for an ergo when I was in the Shiplake J14 VIII," Will Satch, Olympic Bronze Medallist in the 2012 GB Men's Pair, told Shiplake College's aspiring Year 9 rowers.

'You just have to let go and let it happen, just keep pulling harder. You set yourself small targets and you just keep on going. Now the next target is Gold in 2016. My partner George Nash was the one who had the pedigree. He had been to all the big events. I hadn't. Then in the last six months before the Olympics I got my body to where I wanted it to be,' Will continued.

'I train for about four and a half hours a day usually. Weights, second breakfast, then 20 to 24 km on the water, followed by an ergo of 16 – 18 km. Some rowers exaggerate it all and talk of a lot more hours and consuming 9,000 calories but 6,000 is enough for me, plenty of chicken and pasta,' Will answered when questioned about diet and training regime.

When Will's former coach Tom Crisford, now Head of Boats at the College, asked Will about his greatest experience since the Olympics Will talked of how, at a party in the second week of the Olympics, he had just seen the Prime Minister when he was introduced to the cast of *The Expendables*, 'These guys are A List celebrities and I am on the Z List. Absolutely awesome.'

'You guys are at the perfect school, maybe one of you will be pushing me for a place in the 2020 Olympics. You've got the river here, right on your doorstep. Leander Club is there in Henley and the GB lake at Caversham is just down the road. Some of you in this room will grow to be bigger than me but it is not about size it is about what's in your head,' Will concluded.

The Leavers' Service

When I was asked to address The Leavers' service. It made me think about why we were here. What is a school ?

Why is it normal for children to spend up to sixteen years away from home for much - or for boarders, all - of the day ?

I blame the Greeks. Schools had started by the glory days of the Athenian democracy, about 500 years before Christ. They were different from today. The dress code? Naked, often (for boys). The food? Porage. Followed by porage, with a little fish; some olives perhaps. But mostly porage. The learning though was not so different. Sport, maths, music, and poetry. For the Spartans, a form of CCF, with martial arts as a compulsory extra.

About then, there were a bunch of thinkers who called themselves the sophists. 'Sophos', which happens to be the trade name of an anti-virus-package sometimes used here, means 'wisdom'. Originally it was used in a wide sense, such as the skill and wisdom of a charioteer, or sculptor. Then the word was used about philosophers, those who loved wisdom. You can read arguments for and against the Sophists ...

And that's the point!

It was exactly those early teachers who started the habit, still taught today, of asking questions, and putting both sides of the argument.

That approach in itself is open to question. When I ran radio stations for a living, it was a very real argument for journalists. Are there really two sides to a story? Should we report the views of those in favour of torture. Plenty of people have argued in favour of it, including some very senior figures of United States Government Agencies at times. Are there ONLY two sides? Bring in any religious debate and there are many more than two sides.

The Sophists, wrote Professor Peter Hall in a book I was given by the Revd Robert Prance a week before the end of term, "represent the very beginning of rationalist western culture: self observing and self critical; critical also of dogmas, myths, traditions and conventions."

I could go on. I could talk of that great Greek teacher Socrates and how he was tried and sentenced to death, for not believing in the gods of the state, amongst other crimes.

I could talk of one of my living heroes, Professor Howard Gardner, who explored creativity and wrote that creative individuals "tended to be marginal [slight outsiders] because of gender, or ethnic origin, or nationality, or social class."

I could talk of Alan Turing, born 100 years ago on Saturday (he was born on 23rd June 1912). He was one of the great minds of last century; he had a tough time because he was gay. Another marginal creative.

I will talk about another creative man - Dr Ian Yorston, director of digital strategy at Radley, and why his blog is called "The Unreasonable Man".

The phrase is by George Bernard Shaw, one of the great beards of the last millenium. "The reasonable man adapts himself to the conditions that surround him. The unreasonable man adapts surrounding conditions to himself. All progress depends on the unreasonable man."

So I go back to those Sophists, running their schools in the shade of olive trees, drinking wine, asking questions, seeking explanations. And this is what I think we can learn from them:

BE UNREASONABLE.

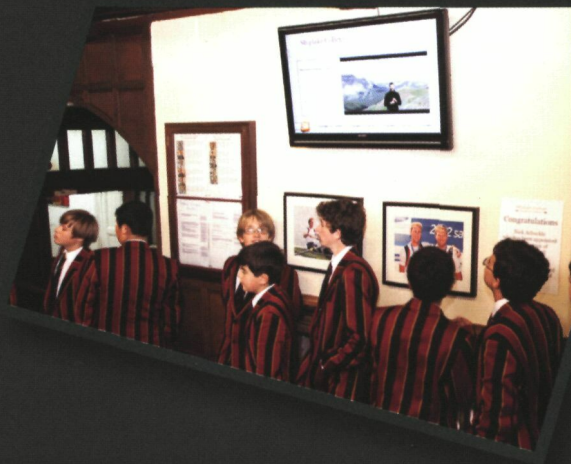
Read a lot.
Ask questions
Don't be afraid to be different.
Be true to what you believe.
Be nice to people; be nice to the planet.

Charly Lowndes

ONELAN gets more from your signage

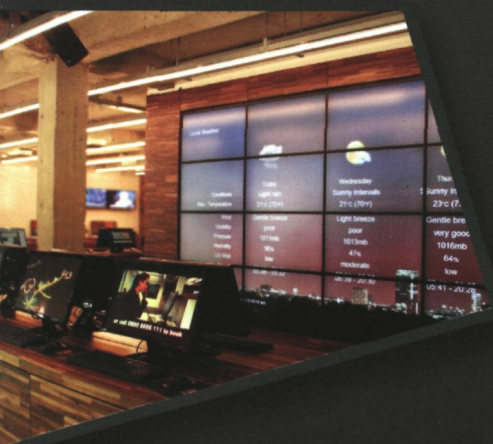
Digital signage in Education

Through the use of screens placed in reception areas, staff rooms, canteens and boarding houses Digital Signage has become a proven method for communicating with pupils, students, staff and guests alike.



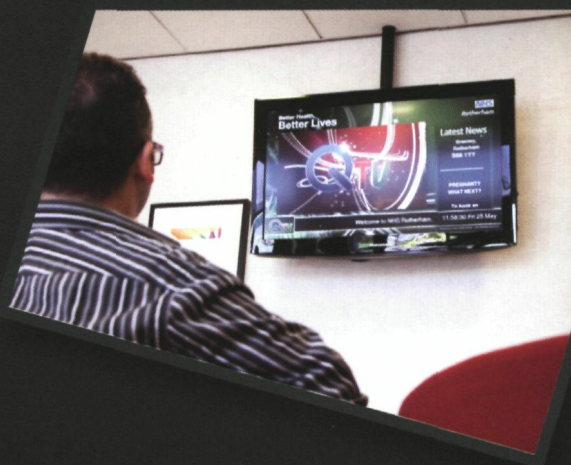
Digital Signage in Retail

Retailers are always looking for new and innovative ways to communicate with customers. Digital signage enables them to create flashy, eye catching content in tighter timeframes by reducing the need to produce, distribute and dispose of print collateral.



Digital Signage in Health

Digital signage can enable healthcare providers to interact with and communicate key information to various stakeholders, and at the same time entertain, for example with live tv, news and health information.



Digital Menu Boards

Digital menu boards enable restaurant and bar managers keep pace or stay ahead of their competition. Restaurant managers are able to incorporate full-motion video into their menu displays and instantly update content to account for last-minute product and price changes for a single location or multiple locations, from anywhere in the world.



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