

THE COURT



1973



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The Editors acknowledge the help given in the production of the magazine
—to the writers, photographers, artists and to our printers

I. R. FRASER

DEBORAH WILSON

M. A. ANDERSON

Editorial

The Magazine this year assumes much the same appearance as its predecessor of 1972. The new image given to "The Court" was, we are certain, very welcome. The editorial staff, much to their surprise, have not this year been swamped with contributions from members of the school. Why, we ask, is this so? Well aware that with last year's leavers went some of the school's most active contributors to the Magazine, we still feel that this does not justify a reason for a decrease in the number of articles contributed by the school. "The Court" is as much a part of life at Shiplake as are any of our other numerous activities, be they academic or of the sporting variety.

Although one could not suggest a feeling of apathy prevailed within our community, the present Editors feel that the mood of last year's enthusiasm should be continued.

Does this not apply to life generally? A desire to succeed, to maintain the determination necessary to strive and attain our goal should exist in us all. This determination, so vital to life, is essential at school as well, so let us all show the ability everyone possesses to succeed, given the incentive.

College News

At the end of the Summer Term we all bid a sad farewell to the first two members of the Common Room who officially went into retirement—namely Madame E. de la Praudière and Captain E. F. R. Byng, R.N.(Ret'd). Separate articles about them appear elsewhere in this issue, but it would be wrong to dismiss them here in such an arbitrary announcement. They came here almost at the inception of College and always showed that they had the interest of the boys at heart. As they both live in fairly close proximity to College, we all hope that we shall continue to see them from time to time.

We also said farewell to Mr. D. H. Drury, who has relinquished his housemastership of Skipwith and left us for Canford School, where he is Head of the History Department. His services to the Rowing Club will be sadly missed. In addition we said goodbye to Mr. J. C. Smith, who has gone to Reigate as Director of Music, where he wish him well. Finally, Mr. R. A. Alexander, the Bursar, who has been with us for the past four years, decided that the time had come for him to move on, and we all wish him good fortune at Bedales. During his time here he not only devoted himself to bursarial matters but also was a most active participant in College life, not least being the Commanding Officer of the R.N. Section of the C.C.F.

As a result of this exodus, Mr. M. J. H. Charles took over as Housemaster of Skipwith House, and we welcomed four other members

to the teaching staff. Mrs. Suchet has come to teach English and French on a fairly full-time part-time basis; Mr. G. Watts, from Bury St. Edmunds, is our new Director of Music; Mr. K. O. Thomson teaches Modern Languages; and Mr. J. R. Scottorn is involved in English and Geography. To complete the team, Mr. J. Corbett, whose outside interests include Dramatics, has joined us as Bursar. To them all we offer a warm welcome and a long stay.

Before leaving the subject of Members of the Staff, may we say that we were very pleased to hear that Mr. D. John, our Art Master, has accepted a full-time post with us as from Spring Term, 1973.

During the year, much building has taken place in the grounds. Ten single bed-sitters have been added on to Burr House, as well as a changing room, and three new classrooms have been erected adjacent to the Science Department. In addition, a new Chemistry Laboratory is scheduled for next September.

In July the Headmaster welcomed Sir John Thomson, K.B.E., T.D., D.C.L., Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, as guest speaker on Speech Day.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Jones on the birth of a second daughter.

During the summer vacation, the Chaplain and Mr. M. W. Mash organised a short holiday for fourteen boys from Dr. Barnardo's Homes in the Southampton area. They were housed in Burr House, and boys who are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme came and helped to look after their welfare.

College Officials

September, 1972

	Head of School	...	A. D. Gordon	
BURR	WELSH		EVERETT	SKIPWITH
<i>Head of House:—</i>				
*E. K.-L. Thong	*D. T. Dalzell		*A. D. Gordon	*D. A. Youngs
<i>House Prefects:—</i>				
D. L. Gordon	B. R. Green		*A. C. Parker	*S. Akhavan
I. R. Fraser	S. P. Varnalls		*M. V. Patterson	D. Argenti
P. D. M. Carson	I. J. T. Cruickshank		M. Guillaume	M. A. Anderson
W. B. Henry			J. G. Skipper	G. N. Welbrock-Smith
M. A. Alireza			I. M. P. Clayton	S. P. Weller
			A. H. M. Burghes	A. J. Rant
			*Denotes School Prefect	
<i>Sports Captains:—</i>				
	Rugby Football		M. V. Patterson	
	Rowing			
	Hockey		E. K.-L. Thong	
	Cricket		A. C. Packer	
	Tennis			
	Squash		A. D. Gordon	
	Fencing		W. B. Henry	
	Shooting		P. D. M. Carson	
	Sailing		S. A. E. Wright	

Salvete

	BURR	WELSH	EVERETT	SKIPWITH
<i>January:</i>	J. B. Hutton M. J. Peters G. J. Richards	P. M. Beevers T. M. Morris R. Nemati M. P. G. Thompson	R. J. Cowley A. H. H. Drummond R. M. J. Hopper N. J. Scott	P. Carter R. L. Cole D. H. Davies J. W. R. Pipe
<i>April:</i>	L. B. Reilly J. B. D. Robinson	M. J. Anderton R. Blackmore A. J. M. Hopkinson		D. L. Cash J. R. Puzey P. A. Woodward
<i>September:</i>	Y. A. Bowden C. P. Collins S. C. Durant A. M. Gilbert- Scott J. R. Hardy A. J. Langguth S. Launchbury P. R. L. Laureys D. A. Lee I. Mainwaring T. J. V. Marsh J. R. D. Middleton- Stewart P. R. Moon J. D. Nonoo M. J. Peaty S. D. Shaw J. C. Stewart-Smith J. R. Warren	S. D. Bown R. L. Brazier D. P. Carey P. J. Causton B. M. Drew- Smythe J. R. M. Fullerton M. J. Nops C. C. A. Payne J. N. Weston S. R. Wiggins	J. D. Anderson A. D. Barker C. R. Grant J. J. A. Hawkins T. L. M. Hudson P. S. Lovegrove J. Millner A. Newman H. I. Roszel N. J. St. Clair P. F. Seewer N. B. Thomson K. G. Weaver	A. D. Allen J. D. Ball A. H. C. Barkman R. O. Chick R. S. Collier N. D. Cornell C. J. Giles W. Harvey B. D. Hawkins A. D. S. Horne R. J. Neville S. J. Robinson M. P. Sampson M. Shove A. R. W. Smee D. W. Thurlbeck C. L. Younghusband

Valete

	BURR:	
<i>July</i>	J. W. Lundie	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6); Head of School; 1st XV; Cox'n in C.C.F.; to Teachers' Training College.
	A. G. Britton	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (7); "A" (2); School Prefect; D. of E. Gold Award; P/O in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	A. M. Jones	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); House Prefect; Captain of Cricket; 1st XV; Hockey XI; D. of E. Gold Award; L/Sea. in C.C.F.
	A. N. Hodges	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3); House Prefect; Hockey XI; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Farming.
	A. P. Buyla	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (5); House Prefect; D. of E. Silver Award; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to St. Mary's College, Guildford.
	N. G. Mount	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (2); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.

	A. R. Crawford	5th Form; G.C.E. "O" (6); A/B in C.C.F.; to Technical College.
	P. E. Percival-Smith	5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	P. A. Adnersen	5th Form; A/B in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
December	M. R. Haydon	5th Form; G.C.E. "O" (-); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Photography.
	WELSH:	
July	P. E. L. Hunting	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (7), "A" (2); Head of House; Rowing VIII; D. of E. Bronze Award; A/B in C.C.F.
	M. M. Williamson	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6); School Prefect; Rowing VIII; A/B in C.C.F.
	P. F. Baldock	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); House Prefect; 1st XV; D. of E. Bronze Award; L/Sea in C.C.F.
	R. D. Hay	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3), "A" (1); Captain of Fencing; D. of E. Silver Award; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to the Wine Trade.
	A. B. Leake	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); House Prefect; Rowing VIII; D. of E. Silver Award; A/B in C.C.F.
	C. Viney	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4), "A" (2); House Prefect; Tennis VI; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Apprenticeship in Printing.
	D. S. Cooke	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (1); Captain of Sailing; L/Sea in C.C.F.; to Ipswich Civic College.
	J. N. Cottrell	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (2); Squash V; Tennis VI; A/B in C.C.F.; to Hurley College of Agriculture.
	D. Nesteroff	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (2); Rowing VIII (cox); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	T. D. Blair-Fish	5th Form; G.C.E. "O" (5); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
December	B. R. Green	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (-); House Prefect; to Reading Technical College.
	EVERETT:	
July	I. R. Baldry	U-VI; G.C.E. "O", (5); Head of House; Captain of Rugger; Captain of Athletics; Hockey XI; D. of E. Gold Award; to Metropolitan Police.
	R. J. S. Dand	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6), "A" (2); School Prefect; Captain of Shooting; 1st XI; D. of E. Gold Award; C.S.M. in C.C.F.; to Brunel University.
	G. N. M. Hodgson	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6); School Prefect; Captain of Tennis; 1st XV; 1st XI; Squash V; D. of E. Gold Award; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Property Business.
	P. J. Soward	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (7), "A" (1); House Prefects; 1st XV; D. of E. Gold Award; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Brunel University.
	A. P. N. Yates	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (5); House Prefect; Rowing VIII; Fencing VI; Cox'n in C.C.F.; to Hotel Management Course at Westminster Technical College.
	M. L. W. Fabb	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4), "A" (1); House Prefect; Captain of Boats; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to High Wycombe College of Art and Technology.
	G. P. C. Low	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); House Prefect; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to South Berkshire College of Further Education.
	D. P. Tatam	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); House Prefect; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Norwich City Technical College.
	R. A. Elmer	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3); House Prefect; 1st XV; 1st XI; Hockey XI; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Cambridgeshire College of Art and Technology.

	K. H. Halsey	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	A. L. Klinger	G/VI; G.C.E. "O" (1); Squash V; A/B in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	SKIPWITH:	
July	R. G. Lester	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (7), "A" (2); Head of House; Rowing VIII; D. of E. Gold Award; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	D. A. S. Adams	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (4); School Prefect; 1st XV; Hockey XI; Tennis VI; Cpl. in C.C.F.; High Wycombe College of Art and Technology.
	M. A. Humble	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6); House Prefect; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Trust House Fortes.
	J. R. Lazenby	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3); House Prefect; 1st XI; Tennis VI; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	D. A. Meech	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3); House Prefect; 1st XV; Tennis VI; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	R. V. Smith	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (7), "A" (3); House Prefect; Squash V; Tennis VI; A/B in C.C.F.; to Cardiff University.
	R. A. S. Willis	U/VI; G.C.E. "O" (3), "A" (1); House Prefect; Rowing VIII; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	A. R. Alireza	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (6); House Prefect; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Menlo College, California.
	A. J. Campbell	L/VI; G.C.E. "O" (5); 1st XV; D. of E. Gold Award; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	T. D. Beaumont	5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	V. F. Rakmil	5th Form; G.C.E. "O" (4); A/B in C.C.F.; to Further Education.
	G. W. Teeters	3rd Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
December	S. R. Coston	L/VI; 1st XI; Hockey XI; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to American College.

Speech Day

This year there was a break with tradition in so far as the Commemoration Service was transferred to the Sunday, which was also Old Vikings' Day. The reason for this was to avoid too much congestion of events during the morning while at the same time giving parents a greater opportunity of looking at the exhibitions in more leisurely fashion. In the event, Saturday, July 8th dawned wet and gloomy. Had there been divine intervention as a result of the relegation of the Service? That we shall never know but what we shall remember is that Speech Day this year was the wettest that College has ever known. Despite this, spirits were not dampened, the exhibitions were better than ever, and the demonstrations went on as planned, except for the P.E. display, which was cancelled owing to a treacherous grass surface.

The afternoon's events were set in motion by the Chairman of Governors, who opened his speech by welcoming the guest speaker, Sir John Thomson, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and Chairman of Barclays Bank, "to which many of us are, in more ways than one, deeply indebted." Mr. Southorn then reported on the Appeal and listed those items which have been completed, such as the Cafeteria and re-furbished

classrooms, and then announced that planning permission had been applied for for an extension to Burr House and a new classroom block. Next came a few pertinent comments on the delay of the decision concerning the proposed new Henley-Reading road and he concluded with a brief reference to the Rowing Club's successes and the increasing difficulties they face with regard to entering for Henley.

The Headmaster began his report on a note of optimism for the future as far as numbers in the school were concerned but he was quick to stress the point that "this increase is not at the expense of our present set-up. Forms will remain their present size, but accommodation will be increased." In addition, more boys were staying for a full two-year Sixth Form Course and the 'O' level results of 1971 spoke for themselves. He then commented on the universal problem of literacy but "those of you who have seen *The Court* magazine and 'Contrasts' will realise the considerable talent that there is, and the encouragement that is being given to the writing of English at all levels in the school."

Mr. Eggar then turned his attention to activities in the school, giving pride of place to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, in which field the school had achieved a total of 53 Gold Awards since 1963. In addition to this, many other clubs and societies were flourishing, which could only be for the good of all concerned, the careers department had developed into a highly organised complex, and school drama continued at a high level. On the games front, the school had had a useful, if not highly successful year, but the weather had been much to blame.

After this summary of activity, the Headmaster said his farewells to those members of staff who were leaving and concluded by saying "in this age of violence, it is good, I am sure, to have an atmosphere of discipline, but at the same time of understanding, where we all try to realise one another's difficulties and try to solve them. If, in some measure, we are succeeding in doing this, I feel all of us—staff and boys alike—are indirectly making a real contribution to making the country a better and less violent place in which to live."

After presenting the prizes, Sir John Thomson addressed the assemblage. The key note of his exemplary and brief speech was the value of competition throughout life and the great importance of equipping oneself with the right qualifications for what one wants to do in life plus the possibility of having additional ones in case they come in useful at some stage. He also stressed the great value of going overseas and seeing for oneself so as to get educated in the broadest sense. So he concluded and the crowds dispersed, but not, as of yore, on to the terraces for tea but to the individual houses, where it was thought that conditions would be more personal. Indeed, as a result of the weather, it all became very personal with parents, staff and boys squeezing themselves into areas which are normally inhabited by a fraction of those present for strawberries and cream in each of the four houses. Still, it was all great fun and Speech Day 1972 was deemed to have been a success.

The Building Development

The year 1972 will surely go down in the school's history as one marked by very considerable change and development. This has been accomplished through the generosity of those who have contributed to the 1971 Appeal and through a large increase in numbers. In September 1971 we were 198; in January 1973 we were 236. Too many, some will argue, but modern economics and government freezes made this increase vital if we were to keep on improving our facilities.

To house these extra boys, we have made various changes in the Main Building; the careers room is now in the main teaching block, where Captain Byng used to teach. The first room in the Flat, which was Mr. Mash's room, and was intended to be the new study of the Headmaster, is back to its old role as a dormitory.

When Burr moved to the Red House, it could have only 39 boarders. Thus it was always slightly smaller even with the majority of Day Boys belonging to it. However, in late July, a start was made on an extension to produce 10 bed-sitters and a changing-room. Though frustration followed frustration, though promise after promise from the builders was broken, eventually 10 seniors in Burr occupied these rooms in January. As this goes to print, the changing rooms are about to be brought into use.

Those who had the vision in our early days, to turn the stables into the main teaching block, built well. In the last two years, all the Form Rooms have been given a face lift. Room 6, from being a rather dreary tiered Lecture room, is now a larger form room, capable of taking 50 for lectures. All now have modern blackboards, tables instead of desks, chairs which have so far proved 'boy proof', and, above all, modern windows. Not to be outdone, members of the Art Club, under the direction of Mr. John, completely reorganised the Art Rooms, built a 6th Form Art Room, and we now have woodcarving going on as well as Art and Pottery.

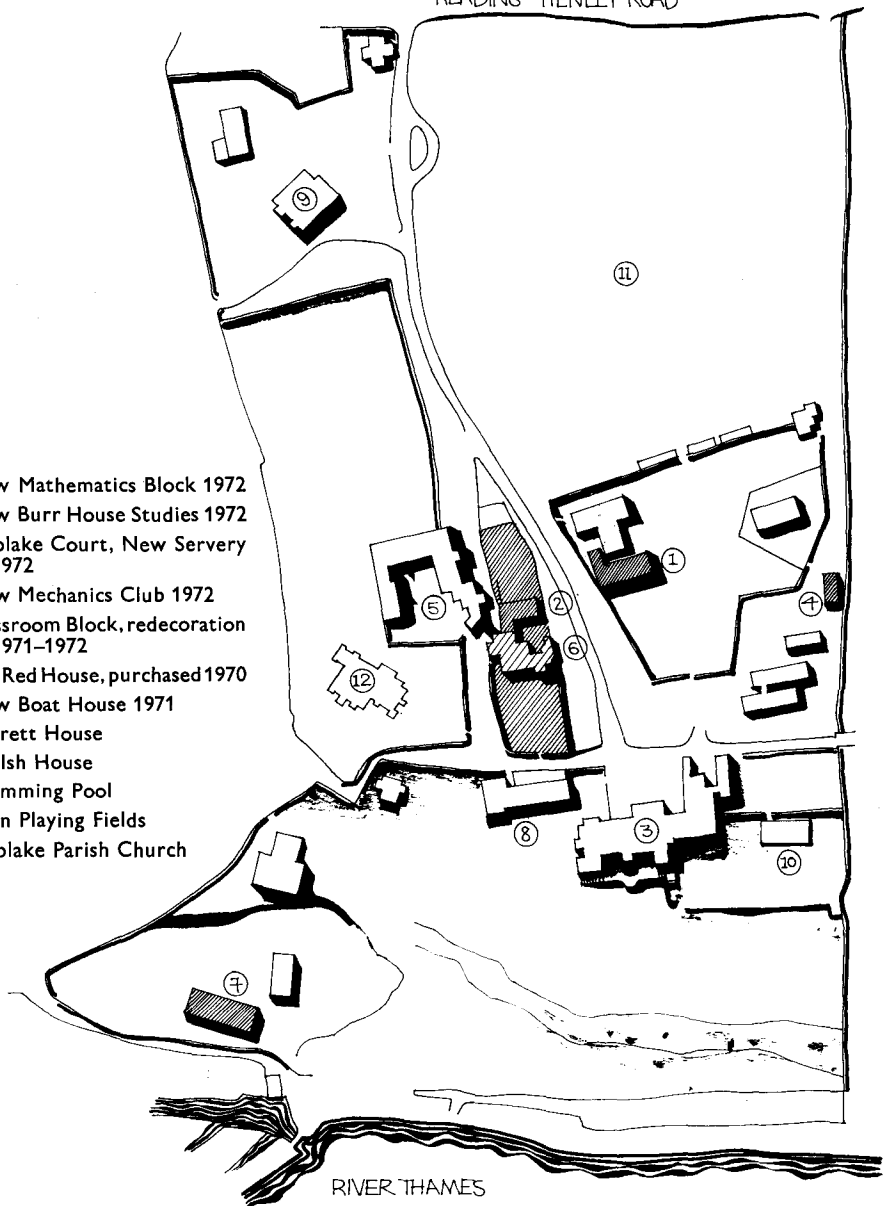
On the other side of the drive, a new Maths Block has appeared. One large room, capable of taking a double form, an office for Mr. Mash, and a small room where the computer link is housed are now functional.

What of the future? Ideally Everett and Welsh House need more individual bed-sitters and Welsh a changing-room. But the next building is a new Science Laboratory alongside the present Labs, though in traditional material, or Banbury. This will be designed so that we can, in due course, extend it, and the present Terrapin buildings will be no more.

What happens after this year is in the lap of the gods, or rather, perhaps, in the lap of the powers that control the finance of this country. A new Music School and School Shop are high on the list. A. P.E. Centre and Squash Court too. All we really need to complete everything is a fairy godmother—Any offers?

READING-HENLEY ROAD

1. New Mathematics Block 1972
2. New Burr House Studies 1972
3. Shiplake Court, New Servery 1972
4. New Mechanics Club 1972
5. Classroom Block, redecoration 1971-1972
6. The Red House, purchased 1970
7. New Boat House 1971
8. Everett House
9. Welsh House
10. Swimming Pool
11. Main Playing Fields
12. Shiplake Parish Church



RIVER THAMES



The Old Mill, Tewksbury, one of a series of photographs taken by the Chaplain for the County Guide

Chapel Notes

1971 was a year of settling down and development. 1972 has been a year of co-operation. One seldom hears now what was the usual grumble about Compulsory Service. There is more participation both in lesson reading and singing. We have experimented less, but traditional services have stood the test. In a world which is so rapidly changing and in some fields disintegrating, the Christian faith, basically unchanged for 2,000 years, stands firm as a rock. In parishes this Christmas, the number of communicants has, if anything, increased. Christianity is no more out of date than the English language. We need to remember that to be a Christian is both personal and corporate. When we worship as a community, it is necessary to have a dignified and humble approach.

I need only to mention one chapel collection this term, which was really a magnificent effort on the part of the School. The generosity not only of the School, but also of the parents, helped me to give a summer holiday to 10 delightful boys from Dr. Barnardo's. What this holiday

meant to them can really be seen in the continual contact which has been maintained ever since. The money collected amounted to £175. This, I think, is a good place to make the point that although we are grateful for the money given, the holiday would not have been possible had not so many boys given their time as well. In one sense it is easier to give money than to give oneself.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Graham Watts, as Musical Director, at the start of the Christmas Term. Although he had very little time, the term ended with a most enjoyable Carol Service in which the participation of the School was the best I have ever heard.

We met the new Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt. Reverend Peter Walker, when he came to our annual Confirmation in November. We very much hope to see more of him in the future. The following were confirmed on November 25th:—

Beak, Stephen Richard
Burrough, Timothy Cary
Carmichael, Malcolm Drummond Alexander
Corke, Henry Charles Peter
Cozens, James Briault
Davies, Dafydd Huw
Drummond, Alexander Hugo Hamish Titus
Duesbury, Charles Robert
Hancock, Richard Philip
Hopkin, Anthony Edward
Lackford, Simon Douglas

Minchin, Simon Paul
Nops, David John
Pike, Michael Charles Nicholson
Sharpe, David Storrar
Toppin, Stephen Russell
Warples, Christopher Brian
Warner, Smith Richard Naylow
Watson, William Robert Colclough
Williamson, Richard Alistair
Wilson, Richard Peter Philip

Always my thanks are due to those who help with the very considerable difficulties of running the Chapel: sister, the masters' wives, Lesson readers, Servers, the Chapel Squad, Chapel Committee and especially the Choir, who work so hard and for the most part uncomplainingly. In 1973 we look forward to even more consolidation, participation, and progress.

Amongst those who came to preach to us were: The Revd. David Jones (Chaplain of Eton); The Revd. G. F. Warner (Chaplain of Wellington); The Bishop of Dorchester; The Master of Wellington; The Warden of St. Edwards, Oxford; and Brother Paul.



Madame E. de la Praudiere

Edna Edelin de la Praudière retired last July, after more years at Shiplake than most of us can remember. She arrived in the very early days, and her graceful figure, with her exotic name, spread an aura of French, almost medieval, culture around her during these important formative years. An English francophile in the finest tradition, her influence made itself felt far beyond the classroom.

Her French scholarship was sound and deep, and she was always reluctant to accept what she thought was any lowering of standards. But like the rest of us, she adapted conscientiously, if not unreservedly, to the new audio-visual methods. It is certain that very many of her ex-pupils carry with them a livelier appreciation of the French language for having been taught it by Madame, and for having practised it, or failed to practise it, on the French schoolgirls whom she entertained every year for the delectation of the Sixth Form.

In the Common Room and at Staff Meetings, her voice was often raised in support of academic standards and against oppression, on which her views, as a woman, were often at variance with those of authority. For this, as for all her many other contributions, she will be greatly missed. She takes with her the best wishes of all, past and present, who worked with her.

Captain E. F. R. Byng

Robert Byng joined us at Shiplake in 1962, after a distinguished career in the Royal Navy. In the ten years he was here, he made many contributions to our life. As a mathematician, he was particularly good with the less able boys. He ran the sailing here for several years, and the Loan Book Shop. He was a fine cricketer and hockey player himself, and was a most meticulous coach. Nothing was too much trouble for him. He takes with him in his retirement the gratitude and best wishes not only of all of us here, but of a large number of Old Vikings.



Burr House

The highlight of this year has again been concerned with bricks and mortar. In the Spring the Governors decided that Burr should be enlarged, and so plans were produced for a single-storey block of ten bedsitters plus a changing-room for the house. The news was met with delight, and we were assured that all would be ready for the Winter Term. Unfortunately, we did not take British Industry into account, as a result of which we were disappointed. Indeed, at the time of writing these notes the building is still uninhabited but should be fully operational in January.

Owing to this expansion, we welcomed no fewer than eighteen new boys in September and had to lodge seven seniors in Shiplake House for the duration of the Winter Term.

At the end of the Summer Term we said farewell to nine leavers, including J. W. Lundie, Head of House and School, and Prefects A. G. Britton, A. M. Jones, A. P. Buyla and A. N. Hodges. To all of them and the other four go our best wishes for the future. As a result of their departure, we began the Winter Term with a brand-new Prefectoral body except for E. K.-L. Thong, the only survivor of the old brigade. He is Head of House and is supported by D. L. Gordon, I. R. Fraser, P. D. M. Carson, W. B. Henry, and M. A. Alireza.

In sport we have had a varied year. The Senior Hockey XI lost in the first round to Everett after a replay, and the Junior XI came second in the league. The Junior Cricket XI reached the final, only to play rather recklessly and leave Welsh the winners. The Junior Tennis IV won their competition, and we retained the Shooting Shield for another year. We also won the Chess Shield, thanks to Thong and N. Jumat, and Henry won the Fencing Cup. In the Rugger, the Senior XV went down to Everett, and the Junior XV trounced Welsh to the tune of 33—0 in the first round. Unfortunately, we shall have to wait until next term for the outcome of the final. The reason for this is that the 'flu' epidemic which we experienced at the end of term laid low most of the key men, and so it was decided to postpone the game until the first week of the Spring Term.

As a result of our large intake of new boys in September, we can now look forward in 1973 to meeting all the other houses on an equal footing. There should be no doubt that this will pay dividends.

For the first two terms of 1972 we welcomed back A. E. Ridell as House Tutor. It was not an easy task for him to undertake, having left so recently, but he came through with flying colours. In September we welcomed two new House Tutors: Mr. K. O. Thomson, who is resident, and Mr. G. Watts, who is the new Director of Music.

Finally, I should like to thank Mrs. Dinnage for her continued patience—where she gets it from I do not know—and her sympathy and under-

standing where the members of the house are concerned. Coupled with this, I must place on record my thanks to Thong and his team, who have already shown what they are capable of.

Let us hope that now we are a real, self-contained unit 1973 will be the best year yet.

Welsh House

HOUSE OFFICIALS

	1971-72	1972-73
<i>Head of House:</i>	P. E. L. Hunting	D. T. Dalzell
<i>School Prefect:</i>	M. M. Williamson	S. P. Varnals
<i>House Prefects:</i>	R. D. Hay	I. H. Cruickshank
	A. B. Leake	B. H. Green
	C. Viney	R. Nemati
		G. F. Thomas

This year saw the completion of the project in the roof study area. The entire area has been redecorated, replacing the soft-board on the ceiling by hardboard. One section has been converted into a Television Room and another into the House Library, and both these rooms have been carpeted. Much credit is due to C. Viney for collecting books for the Library, and for being the driving force behind its inception, and our thanks to parents and boys who have donated books are most sincere. A complete new fire-escape system has made the whole area safer. The only other structural change has been the partitioning off of Room 2, undertaken entirely by Stewart Scott-Cooper, whose maintenance work throughout the year has been invaluable.

In sport our performance has been average. The Junior Hockey team won its Shield. Captained by M. D. Stewart, it included a number of promising young players, notably D. J. Nops and N. J. S. Brown. The Seniors were less successful, mainly due to the enormous preponderance of oarsmen among them. The key shield from our point of view in the first part of the year was the Debating Shield. Having never lost this shield, we have an increasingly difficult record to maintain. I do not believe that any other house has held a shield for eight consecutive years. We had a motion on the Trades Unions, and our team was:—Chairman, R. D. Hay; Proposing: M. M. Williamson and G. F. Thomas; Opposing: P. E. L. Hunting and C. Viney. Mr. Charles (at that time our House Tutor) took the team to the Oxford Union, and whether because of that, or some very hard work, we retained the shield; Thomas's speech was specially recommended by the adjudicator. Mention should also be made of the Music Competition. Though we failed to win the shield, the House song "Tempus est iocundum" by Carl Orff, was given the award for the best individual item of the evening.

In the Summer Term the Juniors were again more successful than the Seniors. They won the Cricket Shield in a remarkable match, against what

appeared to be a far stronger team from Burr House. Stewart captained and bowled steadily. A. J. M. Hopkinson and W. St. J. McAlester were prominent among the batsmen. The Athletics Standards were very close: we were just behind Everett House; particularly outstanding were the individual performances of S. P. Varnals and S. R. Beak. In the Tennis, the Juniors again fought well, especially D. J. Nops and R. P. Hancock, our two singles players, but our real hopes lay on the river. Our line-up was very strong: P. E. L. Hunting, M. M. Williamson, A. B. Leake, S. P. Varnals and K. C. Cooke in the Senior Four, and A. B. Clayton, D. T. Dalzell, G. F. Thomas and J. J. Humphrey in the Colts. Neither crew did itself justice, and Skipwith again took the boating honours. The disgrace was slightly lightened by the performance of D. S. Cooke and S. A. E. Wright, with P. M. Beevers and T. M. Morris, in the new Sailing Competition, which they won convincingly. The other event of the Summer Term in which we excel is Swimming, and this year we were stronger than ever. M. M. Williamson led a team of remarkably high standard, among them G. F. Thomas, A. B. Leake, and P. Baldock. We won the shield comfortably, even after the disqualification of the Junior Medley relay team.

In the Winter Term only the Rugby Shields were competed for. In the Seniors, M. J. Holman led a gallant Boat Club to a clear but not disgraceful defeat: the Juniors played a hard match but were knocked out by Burr House: S. R. Beak captained.

This year we have a disproportionately large 3rd Form again, so the number of VIth Formers has been comparatively small. Of the leavers who took 'A' levels, R. D. Hay passed Ancient History (E); P. E. L. Hunting passed Ancient History (E) and Economics (B); C. Viney passed English (D) and History (E), and A. B. Leake and M. M. Williamson gained 'O' level passes. Our thanks go to them for everything they have done for the House, as well as our best wishes for their future. We would also like to wish all the best to P. Baldock, R. Nemat, D. S. Cooke, D. Cottrell, T. D. Blair-Fish, J. Levinson and B. Green.

A feature of the House system in Public Schools is the 'House Spirit,' and this has always been good in Welsh House. In a report such as this, one tends perhaps to single out the glories and achievements, and gloss over the failures, without stressing the work done, day by day, behind the scenes. So many people contribute so much to the House in the way of encouragement, example and understanding. The Heads of House and the Prefects have been towers of strength, and it is largely due to their influence that House spirits are high. The support of the House Tutors is invaluable; R. A. Esau's assistance and loyalty remain constant, in spite of the fact that he no longer lives "in". J. C. Scottorn has now moved into the Lodge, and we are grateful to him and to M. W. Mash for their involvement. Not only are we lucky with the calibre of our House Tutors, we are also fortunate on the domestic side. Mrs. Cooke is very much part of the House, loyally assisted by Mrs. Martin. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and they are responsible for contaminating everyone with it!

Everett House

Since the last House Notes were written the tenth anniversary of our move into a new building in early 1962 has passed. In those far-off days Everett filled its new home with a large entry of new boys; these left very much as a group in 1966 and set up something of a cycle—a second large entry came in 1966 and left four years later. The result of this is that at the moment we have a very large number of boys in the fifth form and below and a small number of sixth formers. In the next eighteen months the former group will turn into a very large sixth form contingent. Anyway we have a large number in the House who have been together for two years and have begun to know each other very well. In fact the year 1972-73 seems very little different from 1971-73. We have had few leavers recently and the great majority are well acquainted with each other and with routine. This makes for a well knit and happy community. This all in spite of the fact that we have members who hold passports issued by eleven different governments.

The best feature of 1972 was the teamwork which led to our narrowly winning the Athletics Standards Competition. However, we only hold one Junior Shield and will at this level have to make up for a lack of 'stars' by improved team work and determination.

Our seniors have continued to give a good account of themselves in competition with the G.C.E. Examiners and on the games field. An important milestone was passed last year. The School had its first representatives selected for County sides at Under-19 level. We were all delighted that these pioneers came from Everett. Ian Baldry played for the Oxfordshire Schools Rugby XV on several occasions and A. C. Packer played cricket for Berkshire before going home to Barbados to play against the English Schools Touring Team.

A. D. Gordon has been combining being Head of School with being Head of Everett; Max Patterson has just completed his season as School Rugby captain. We continue to welcome visits from Everett members of all generations back to 1959 and indeed the Old Vikings cricket match last summer was very much an Everett affair with the House providing the bulk of both sides.

We welcome Mr. E. Kilty—an Oxford Soccer Blue—as House Tutor in addition to Mr. Jones, and Mr. J. B. Wood and Mr. G. W. Wright have been acting as Work Tutors. We are tremendously grateful for the interest they have taken in our problems.

These notes began on an historical note. We have just handed the Senior Rugby Shield over to Skipwith and if they read our notes they may be interested to know that since 1960, when inter-House Rugby began, the shield has always been won by either Everett or Skipwith. Long may this friendly rivalry last.

Skipwith House

This year has been an important one in the history of the House, for it saw a change in Housemasters at the end of the Summer Term and a record number of new boys in the Christmas Term. Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Drury moved to Canford School in the summer and they take with them best wishes for the future from all past and present members of the House, who will recall with gratitude all that Mr. Drury did to make Skipwith so successful. He is succeeded by Mr. M. J. H. Charles who has moved into Shiplake House with his wife and family.

At the end of the Summer Term, Skipwith was the holder of the Hockey, Athletics, Senior and Colts Rowing, Cross-country and Tennis Shields and had also been successful in the House Music Competition.

In the Christmas Term, the Senior House XV resoundingly defeated Everett in a splendid final and we had at last become the holders of the Rugby Shield. So ended a very successful sporting year, with much determination and skill shown in the past and with high hopes of further success in the future.

The 'O' level results in the Summer were not very good, but mention should be made of R. V. Smith's success in his 'A' levels. The current members of the Lower Sixth have therefore been struggling to build up their 'O' levels in the Christmas Term—we wish them success. Three House awards for grades on three-weekly orders were made at the end of the Christmas Term: they went to J. A. H. Hale, R. D. W. Lear and J. R. Puzey. We look forward to some good 'O' and 'A' level results in 1973.

In September, the new Head of House was D. A. Younger. S. Akhavan was a School Prefect, the House Prefects were: G. Welbrock-Smith, D. Argenti, S. ———, M. Anderson, A. Rant. During the term M. Hayes-Fisher was appointed a House Prefect; D. Tchang and C. Smith have been Sub-Prefects. Seventeen new boys entered the House in September and are showing themselves to be a good intake. The Careers Room and the Music Practice Room have been taken over as extra accommodation by the House; in January, Mr. Mash's classroom will become a temporary Skipwith dormitory to cope with a further increase in numbers. At the end of the Christmas Term, three Skipwith dormitories were required for extra sick rooms; we managed to deal successfully with the consequent problems of dispersal. Improvements are being carried out in the Day Room and we hope to paint the cubicles during the coming term. Finally, we plan to hold a Skipwith House Party at the end of the Easter Term, with buffet supper and cabaret.

Mr. Oxlade, Mr. Whittington and Mr. Randall have continued as House Tutors during the year and our thanks are, as usual, due to them for their efforts on our behalf—"under new management", but with the essential House virtues preserved.



Photo: Alan Spence

One-Way Pendulum

When I came to see "One-Way Pendulum" at Shiplake College, I had no idea what I was coming to see except that I had read and seen some of N. F. Simpson's other works years before. I knew that I might expect an experience which might not be altogether normal, and this proved to be so during the course of the evening.

When the play opens we are confronted with a picture of Kirby Groomkirby dressed entirely in black, conducting three weighing machines in the upstairs room of the house. He is immersed in trying to teach weighing machine Number 1 to sing 'mi mi mi mi,' only to get the response 'Fifteen stone, ten pounds,' which is a running gag throughout the play. It emerges that Kirby is a fanatical inventor, whose great aim in life is to teach an army of Speak-your-weight machines the Halleluia Chorus loudly enough at the North Pole to attract the entire population of the world there. He hopes they will jump up and down for sheer joy and thereby tilt the axis of the earth, so causing a new Ice Age. which will kill everybody off and so provide him with an everlasting excuse to wear black as a sign of mourning. David Dalzell played the part of Kirby with a mixture of enthusiasm and fanaticism that exactly portrayed a logical mind which, wrapped in its own world, has become totally illogical. The play revolves on this theme.

Downstairs is Robert Barnes whose function is multipurpose, at one time being part of the action and at the next standing outside it and commenting on it to the audience. In Act II his role becomes more distinctive as the detective who has been noting down all the action during the course of Act I. It is as though he represents part of our minds that covers the areas of conscience, friend, adviser; the inner eye that guides but does not dictate to the rest of the body. This was excellently done by Benjamin Green, who played the part with a lightness of touch that allowed for all these facets.

At the centre of the play is Mabel Groomkirby, the typical working mum, beautifully played by Joanna Oakes, who carries out the day-to-day chores of the home while all around her is chaos. It is as though she is the only sane member of the family, because she appears to be utterly practical; but on closer observation we see that she also is living in a dream world of her own. For instance, she pays Myra Gantry, her next-door neighbour, to come round and eat up all the left-over food because otherwise it would go to waste. Sylvia, her daughter, was acted by Nicola Coltman, who played her as a slovenly teenager of about eighteen, who seems to have no purpose in life and finds everything rather pointless. Nicola Coltman brought out all these qualities in her performance making Sylvia rather like a Woolworths sales girl from the North. Then there is Aunt Mildred, who one feels has been there throughout all eternity, for ever in the way, and since time immemorial chuntering on about

camels, wheel-chairs, Northern Lights and the Aurora Borealis: a figure in a wheel-chair lost in her past and more than half potty; someone whom one is always falling over, even when she is put in a corner, and yet who is an essential part of the family like the furniture. It is a marvellous character part to play, which Karen Stubbs undertook with a gentle humour and understanding of that sort of person, without falling into the pit of sentimentality, and consequently creating a very true and funny character for us to chuckle at. We then meet Myra Gantry, a fourteen stone ten pound wonder, who gives her services as a professional eater-up of left-overs. Absurd as this character may seem, she is very typical of many a next-door neighbour who drops in for the morning gossip, devours everything in sight, and talks complete nonsense, all at the same time. Jane Lewis, padded out like a female Billy Bunter, created a fine picture of an overweight, waddling parasite doing her best to please by stuffing her stomach with everything set before her. Against this background enters Arthur Groomkirby, pushing a wheelbarrow full of bits of timber, which he has laboriously brought in by the most difficult route, in this case through the school window half-way down the hall in the middle of the audience. He is constructing an indoor Do-it-yourself Old Bailey Court-room. Gavin Thomas took this part, playing him as a pipe-smoking, moustached middle-aged man. One of the difficulties encountered in playing this type of part is convincing your audience that you are middle-aged. I felt that greater care with the make-up in this case could have helped more than it did in overcoming this obstacle. Finally towards the end of Act I we meet Stanley Honeyblock, who completes the family picture as Sylvia's boyfriend. This is an exceedingly difficult part to play; he is a gentleman caller who is neither in nor out of the action, but just appears, and therefore all credit to Adam Clayton for making him seem real in the short space of time he appears on the stage.

And so to Act II. On the surface we have a court-case which looks like a complete send-up of a real court-case, and then underneath and weaving through that we have a sort of sleeping picture of the house. It reminded me rather of elements of Under Milk Wood where, because of this dream world, the action can slip from area to area in terms of human consciousness with a far greater ease than normal. Here we have a crazy judge administering justice with a swing of his cape, writing notes on the cuff of his shirt to remind him of what is going on and performing music-hall stunts with his bow-tie to illustrate a passing remark, all delightfully played by Iain Fraser with a certain uneasy feeling that it could all be real: an usher played by David Tchang, who reminded me of Groucho Marx in his walk and antics with a tuning-fork: the clerk-of-the court, who takes it into his head suddenly to wander round the court, read the newspaper and fall asleep, played by Michael Halcrow: the Prosecuting Counsel played by Robert Halbert as though he had been at it for years, who sets out to prove that the witness Arthur Groomkirby is in fact someone else because he has totally changed from the time of the crime to the



"The Old Bailey"—Michael Halcrow, Iain Fraser,
David Youngs and Robert Halbert

Photo: Alan Spence

present, and who elicits what was for me the key line of the play from Arthur Groomkirby when he asks him:

'Where were you, Mr. Groomkirby, before you came here today?'

Mr. G.: 'I was living in a world of my own, sir.'

Finally there is the Defence Counsel who sends the whole procedure up by a show of sheer exhibitionism, sitting on the Usher's feet, sitting on the Clerk of the Court, performing antics with his feet and delivering half his speech on his back, played by David Youngs as a complete eccentric. The whole thing added up to an 'Alice in Wonderland' finale capped by Kirby Groomkirby's weighing-machines breaking out into the full force of the Halleluia Chorus, which he is conducting. But we return to our apparent normality again in the epilogue of the play.

It is a microcosm of a man, his family, their life and dreams.

'To hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure.' (Shakespeare).

Hold the mirror up to nature. If we take this as a criterion by which to view 'One-Way Pendulum,' it appears that Simpson is showing us a crazy world; a world which the inhabitants take to be quite normal. And if there is a message to be taken from this production for me it has been a deeper insight into our human 'pottiness' to the point where we can

accept our fellow human-beings' idiosyncracies with an equal degree of pottiness. For like Mabel Groomkirby we are all of us surrounded by it and indeed are ourselves an inherent part of it.

I wish to thank Shiplake College for a thoroughly entertaining evening, for the cast who gave me their enjoyment of the production, for all the people who, though not seen on stage, contributed to making the occasion such a success, and to David Welsh the producer and director for the overall enthusiasm and insight of the production and for inviting me to review it in this magazine.

PAUL ALEXANDER.

3rd and 4th Form Play

“Oh What a Lovely War”

Perhaps the biggest hurdle to surmount in any school production is the choice of play itself. There are so many limiting features, that a producer begins to find himself discarding every idea for one reason or another. So it was in some state of curiosity that I attended the production of “Oh What a Lovely War,” by the 3rd and 4th forms, as the attendant problems in the choice of play seemed to present some towering difficulties.

To start with, this was the first time that the Lower Forms had produced a single, full-length play, and in this connection they kept up the pace remarkably well. Perhaps one or two scenes could have been cut without detracting from the impact, but none of the performances of the major characters flagged. In this they were helped by the episodic structure of the play: if a scene was a bit weak, at least it did not last too long.

Secondly this was a good choice of play because of the size of the cast, and the opportunities this presented for small, memorable cameos, without over-loading any one boy. I could not possibly mention all the characters in this article, but will restrict my remarks to the most memorable. Nevertheless great care was taken in all the parts to make good use of characterisation and the general atmosphere of the “variety stage,” which was one of the best features of the production. R. S. Halbert set the pace admirably as Master of Ceremonies, a part which I do not think came very naturally to him. Among the Officers of assorted nationalities, B. L. Brandreth looked particularly French (in fact one member of the audience who did not know him, thought he was French) and S. S. Barnes was very English, and deserved the immediate response he got from the audience. G. R. Bond as Haig had one of the hardest and longest parts, and gave a convincing performance: perhaps a little more variety would have enlivened this part. P. C. M. Aylwin played his several roles with conviction.

Among the other characters, one of the most memorable for its mild comedy was that of D. G. H. Dunbar as the Ghillie. He hit exactly



the right note and gave a less stereotyped performance than some of the others. For sheer laughter-raising, two parts stood out: A. M. Leach as the cheeky Tommy in the trenches; of all the actors Leach seemed most at home on the stage: and R. A. Williamson, as assorted females. His song was uproarious, especially the silent verse, and his 'Nurse' was an excellent character sketch. Other minor characters who hit the right note were R. N. Warner-Smith as Mrs. Pankhurst, the Scatchard brothers as runners, and a slightly drunken looking choir culled from among the seniors, who added depth, if not always harmoniously, to the voices on stage in many of the numbers.

I have mentioned the comedy element frequently because this was the feature of the play which came over best. The weakness of the production was perhaps the greatest difficulty inherent in the choice of play; the serious side was beyond most of the young actors. One wondered if some of them really understood the purpose of the play, and the scenes in which the grimness of the real war was being mockingly distorted were the least effective.

Nevertheless as an entertainment, this production rated high. The talents of a very large number of boys were used, whether on-stage or off, in the sound, lighting and staging departments: and a great deal of talent was revealed. The producers, M. M. Gilliat and M. H. Charles, handled their large and inexperienced cast most expertly, and this ambitious production has set a new and high standard for the Junior Forms in the future.

D. F. K. WELSH.

CAST:

Master of Ceremonies R. S. Halbert
The Kaiser G. W. Teeters
General Moltke P. C. M. Aylwin
Austria S. S. Barnes
British Generals G. R. Bond, B. L. Brandreth
R. N. Warner-Smith
British Admiral D. G. H. Dunbar
French Officer B. L. Brandreth
German Herald J. W. Whittington
Singer R. A. Williamson
Ghillie D. G. H. Dunbar
Germany G. R. Bond
Britain P. C. M. Aylwin
France B. L. Brandreth
Switzerland S. S. Barnes
America G. W. Teeters
Commanding Officer S. S. Barnes
Haig G. R. Bond
Mrs. Pankhurst R. N. Warner-Smith
Nurse R. A. Williamson
Chaplain J. H. Malby
Pierrots W. J. Brindley, A. M. Leach
D. S. Sharpe, J. H. Malby, G. J. Richards
British Officers and Soldiers: S. S. Barnes, D. G. H.
Dunbar, R. N. Warner-Smith, P. C. M. Aylwin,
W. R. C. Watson, G. J. Richards, A. M. Leach,
B. L. Brandreth, M. H. H. McFall, G. W. Teeters,
W. J. Brindley, J. H. Malby, D. H. Davies,
M. Scatchard, R. A. Williamson, M. J. Trueman,
D. S. Sharpe, D. A. Collett.
French Officers and Soldiers: W. J. Brindley, A. M.
Leach; M. H. H. McFall, J. H. Malby, D. S.
Sharpe, W. R. C. Watson, B. L. Brandreth.
German Officers and Soldiers: G. R. Bond, D. A.
Collett.
Other Parts Played by: J. Pongpanich; M. J. Trueman,
R. A. Williamson, M. H. H. McFall; W. R. C.
Watson, M. Scatchard, P. F. Scatchard, J. H.
Malby, G. J. Richards, D. H. Davies, D. A.
Collett.
Choir: A. M. Jones, I. R. Fraser, R. L. Cole, G. N. M.
Hodgson, G. F. Thomas, T. D. Blair-Fish,
R. A. Elmer, J. K. Muir, R. I. Parkinson, S. M.
Barham.
Band: J. H. Barham, J. V. Cooper, M. Goss, A. Hoey,
J. C. Smith, D. A. Youngs.
Produced by: M. M. Gilliat and M. H. Charles;
Assisted by: M. Nayler; *Musical Director:* J. C.
Smith; *Lighting, Stage Scenery and Effects:* D.
John and members of the 4th and 3rd Forms;
Wardrobe: Miss M. Grayson; *Sound Effects:* A. G.
Ridell and A. C. Cochrane; "*Stille Nacht*" sung
by: P. Bleackley; *Costumes:* By kind consent
of Chiltern Edge School; *Properties:* Kindly
loaned by many parents and friends.

Contrasts

In the first issue of contrasts we welcomed contributions from a number of artists and writers including John Piper, Arnold Wesker, Brian Patten and Martin Wiener. This publication is seen as a new venture to encourage imaginative writing and painting in the college, and by sales to provide some contribution to charities which rely on public subscription.

The position of Contrasts 1972 is as follows: the printer's fee of £206 has been paid, all costs of correspondence and publicity have been met, and a cheque for £130 has been sent to The National Library for the Blind. We are, however, still waiting for many contributions from outside sources which should ultimately leave us with a profit for the charity in excess of £200.

We have already started work on Contrasts 1973 for which we have received several substantial advance orders. This publication will be in aid of the National Association for Mental Health.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody who has supported Contrasts and of congratulating the boys of the school who did a magnificent job selling the magazine in the summer holidays.

Contributions

Love

Love, that indefinable word
Describing our emotions
Enlightening our lives,
Illuminating our souls
With its silver sheen.
It is the bond that holds us,
Linking one soul with another.
More than friendship,
Greater joy than words can express,
Its glorious light shines on us
Brightening our lives,
Making our days pass more pleasantly
As we live with the flame of love,
Never to be extinguished.

IAIN R. FRASER.

Evanescence

Listening to the monotonous clock,
Watching the candlelight
Beginning to fade away.

Darkness engulfs the room,
As the writing on the desk
Starts to fade away.

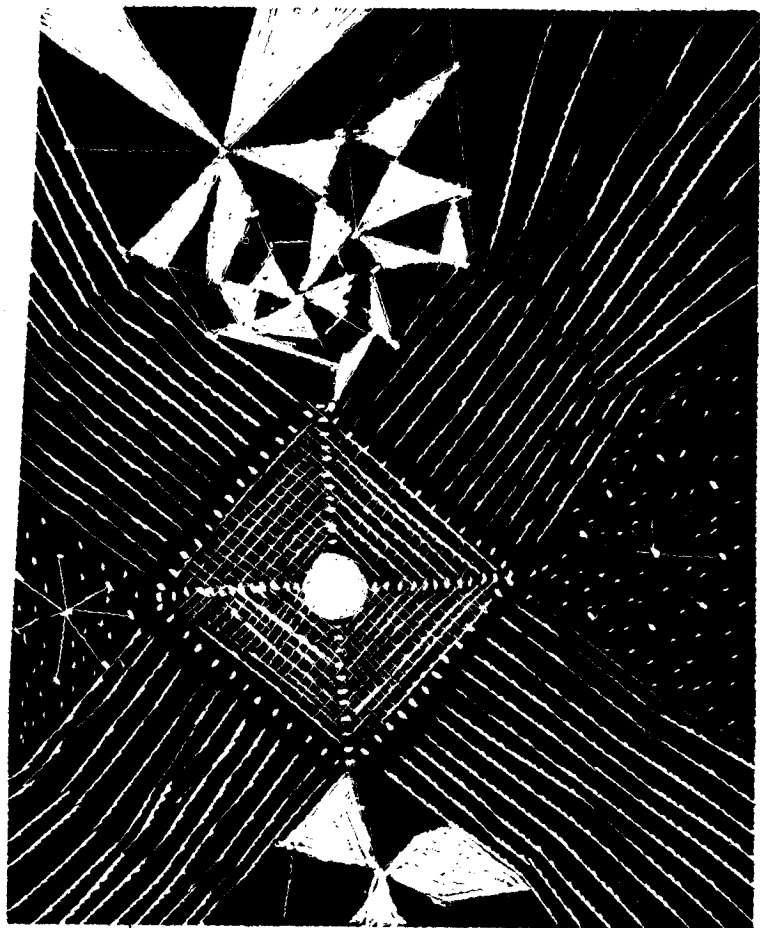
Eddies of swirling smoke
Polluting the atmosphere
Quickly fade away.

A cigarette burning
A hole in my lungs
As they fade away.

Silence once more,
The beats of my heart lessen
As they fade away . . .

Into the intangible corridors of the mind.

IAIN R. FRASER.



Falling Star

M. Nops

Embers

The embers of her soul
Lie smouldering,
Amidst the ruins of the night.

In the rising smoke she sees,
Clearly,
The events of her life
Passing before her.
Carefully she considers her existence,
Her need to live,
To thrive in a world
Where it is so easy to starve.

A lighted match is thrown
On to the charred remnants
Of her soul.
It seems at that instant she is reborn,
The purpose of her life is restored,
As the flame of her soul
Is reignited.

IAIN R. FRASER.

The Disguise

Cavalcade of movement as tired workers leave
the fields that are dressed in gold.
Little girls pass by with roses, dewy roses.

Lizard on profiled rock. The dust from the journey
has cut our eyes, we rest awhile beneath
the step of hill and naked pine.

A peasant woman wrapped in rags
kissed by summer, comes closer and watches us.
A heart of rose in her auburn hair.

A heart of blood protruding and willed
to glisten through torn rag.
She extends a child-like arm as though
expecting scraps from the table.

We are resting, eating fruit and drinking,
and she is hungry.
Poverty has disappointed her face.

She comes afraid, ghostly, unwashed,
stabbed by stones of deprivation.
She is an Angel

come to test us, test us.

JOHN LAZENBY.

Hair Poem

The glassy pebbles sleep unawakened
by the painful cold of the stormy-grey waters
that bring fluent waves.

Wind come, come and madden these waves.

Dreaming and tranced the breakwater casts
its fettered shadows. Even the sea pauses
in its race
upon the endless bodies of abandoned stones
reddened and watered.

A pebble grates against the forehead of a pebble;
its sound only briefly enters in within the margin
of my mind.

She lifts her eyes and sees
into the dark throat of the sea.

Standing, watching,
our hair locked and tied together
by the wind.

JOHN LAZENBY.

The Fishermen

The fishermen are here once more,
but again I ask why.
The river is suddenly inelegant.
I feel like asking why do you come and fish?

Eyes immovable spilling a thousand thoughts
to the air above.
Why do you come and fish?

The water sifts musically in
bringing its drowned gold leaves, its tiny galleons
its nervous whispers.
The fishermen sit, faces cupped in weathered hands;
slumbered memories congregate like the weeds
around their boots.

Sometimes trying not to notice
young couples making love on empty stomachs.
Yourself growing princess expectant.
Why do you come and fish? Is it a pleasure—
ground of thoughts? Colourful floats
plunge and bob and wade through dancing waters.
Fishermen yawn and stretch as the dead leaves of Autumn
waterfall.

Fishermen blow into cold hands.
How ugly and inhuman the hand can become
tilting the Guinness bottle.
I see no fish yet I see you cast again and again
I hear your lines cut the air
Why do you come and fish?

Perhaps
later stand gaping at your prize fish,
feel its unhealthy aroma, then let it arc
back into stillness again
and return then to sleeping off the city.
The river putting you to sleep.
Tobacco running low rolling hemp seed.

Evening shroud comes at first only
in cupfuls, then the wind fills the clouds
like sails.

No more music on the radio.
Memory stirs and eyes focus
Very suddenly on watches.
Home is a near place?

Fishermen wade home in the rain
rods over shoulders just like the soldiers they once were.
Vanish and leave no trace—Why do you come and fish?

JOHN LAZENBY.

Seal-Killers

Follow
down to the brine shore of marble sand,
down to where the unpeopled crags
spit salt water.
Your tiny seal eyes marvel, man has come.
Are his hands warm, are his eyes pleasant is he as sweet
as hyacinth flower?
No his eyes are empty flecked with white pools of ice
but suspicion urged on their unconscious seal steps of life.
A man, two men
put rifles to their shoulders; their eyes went
dark and then keen.
Smoke spiralled cycled upwards like the body of
a venomous snake. Ovation of rifles.

Seals, seals, seals, seals, seals and their
puppies on hardened sand, blood stream gushing over
ancestral love. Ponds of sap.
The hooked knife like a thistle
scrapes along the layered roof of skin,
threads of fur.
The trawler that steers home through the cold-hearted blue
will be providing
Fur to keep our women looking pretty,
Fur in which they may toy with their fingers
and within the radius of society
achieve only attention.

JOHN LAZENBY.

Blind Man

Sometimes, many times female hands
of varying degrees of compassion smooth him
with what seemed like the indestructable rearranging
fingers of time.
In his blindness he can only fumble with his tarred
and unanointed visions of love.
His eyes remain open, two small muddy pools
that are still being traced.
His altitudes have no steps of descent,
no man in white comes to spit in his eyes.
and he in turn can see no men walking as trees.
Entwined in these meshes
a gloved hand is forever holding down his brain.
There is no
protecting
prospect.
His eyes once caught alight by the oily sun
remember now only cascading darkness,
a nightfall without stars.

JOHN LAZENBY.



Crucifixion

Julian Clayton

Remembrance

When he lay a crumpled toy on the chessboard he knew he was dying.

She moved effortlessly amongst the bodies; alive or dead there was little difference; some forced a breath, others lay still like lakes in summer.

His clock had not been halted.

Alive—and she could give him earthly love.

It was hard to remember light—yes it is easy to drift away.

As if searching for a love letter in an envelope, his hand journeyed to the stained cave of his pocket and returned with a crucifix.

He buried it in the palm of his palm. Christ's head was covered by a nail.

The lines of the hand converged on the cross; he covered it in quiet direct strokings that were ungainly. The chain clothed his wrist.

She bent over him; he saw her—discernible through her whiteness, and his hand already feeling the touch of dusk travelled up to the comfort she offered.

The cross exchanged hands.

The living and the dead were connected by a memory and a small brittle crucifix.

CHARLES VINEY.

Shakespeare's House

Coaches squeal—craning necks decorate the windows.

Yes the birds have flown, have migrated to Stratford-on-Avon.

Bored by his repeated journey, the driver falls asleep.

Meanwhile they unglue themselves from their seats and stub out cigarettes on the ready hand of ashtrays.

Watching from the garden my eyes become accustomed to the steady flow of deliberate legs climbing down the greasy steps.

The sunshine cannot get at those legs—they are proected by stockings.

Then the men come.

Disinterested sunglasses cover very curious eyes. Even a cripple is wheeled out of the back, for all must see Shakespeare's house.

“‘Aw cum’ arn’ now let’s see yer,” cried one firing his Polaroid at the wife, his straw hat casting long shadows on a face sweaty with anticipation.

Handbags dangle apparently unconcerned amongst the flowers—garish trousers parade the lawns.

(The guide stands behind a bush repeating, over and over again, his lines).

“Do wee have ugh a guide?” said another secretly hoping that “we” didn’t and that he alone could rampage through the old house; raping it with his curiosity; tearing off great strips of timber for souvenirs.

The guide hurriedly stuffed his notes into the official jacket.
I saw the golden sign of his rank. A path is cleared for him.
He is an important little man.
“Shakespeare was born . . .” The guide is a goat—the people
believe and follow (but will later check up in dictionaries).
In a terrible surging crocodile they cram through the door.
That door was used to the tramp of less feet.
A leaflet on the town’s pubs in alphabetical order is left
discarded on the ground outside. The wind moves it.
The sound of Shakespeare’s serialisation can be heard if you
listen carefully to the solemn voice of the guide.
“The bedroom,” subdued titters, “Anne Hathaway,” (more
laughter—I ask did anyone take a flash photo to freeze
that immortal moment?).
Suddenly, while the sun gleamed and wasted its light on the
metal coach, I saw the great man himself come out of his
home and walk on down the road; smiling.

CHARLES VINEY.



Design by Drummond

Sixth Form Society

President: D. F. K. Welsh

Vice-President: (1972): J. Lundie; (1973): D. Youngs

Secretary: (1972): C. Viney; (1973): M. Anderson

As usual, the meetings have been divided between papers given by boys, and outside speakers, and discussions. On the first Sunday of the Easter Term the President addressed the Society on "Animal and Human Responses." Later in the term a "Wine Tasting" was conducted by R. D. Hay: we sampled many wines, red, rosé, white and champagne, given to the Society through his father's firm. Naturally members appreciated this generosity. J. M. Coates, Esq., spoke on Communism. As a one-time teacher in Hungary, his talk, based on his personal experiences of Communism, threw a most interesting light on the subject. As our termly expedition, the Society went to the Aldwych Theatre to see The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of "Enemies" by Gorki. This was another aspect of the problems of Communism, this time in the pre-Revolution days in Russia. This was followed up the next Sunday by a visit from Mr. Paul Alexander, one of the R.S.C. actors who took part in the play. The Society members were able to discuss with Mr. Alexander the innuendos and emotions of Gorki's play. Mr. Alexander has since visited the Society with a fascinating talk on Mervyn Peake. Also, during the course of this term there was a heated discussion on "Violence," and a talk by Mark Humble on "Singapore," which he illustrated with slides and a film.

In July the Society held its Annual Dinner. This was attended by nearly all the current members: Mr. Gyles Brandreth was our Guest of Honour, and he gave us what was a perfect example of a polished "after dinner" speech. Mr. Brandreth has already achieved much in a wide variety of fields, ranging from Organiser of the National Scrabble Championship, to having written a book on his research into whether our prison system is effective. Perhaps his most publicised recent venture was to join Lord Longford's squad of investigators into pornography. We were delighted to welcome him, and much enjoyed his visit. We were also pleased that two of our Life Members, Mr. A. H. Dean and Mr. A. G. Ridell, were able to join us for the Dinner, which again demonstrated the culinary genius of the President's wife. For a charge of £1 25 each, she managed to conjure up a three-course meal with wine and port.

In the Summer Term, Mark Williamson spoke on "Apartheid," and Mrs. Deborah Rogers, who is herself Russian, described her visits to Russia. The Sixth Form project for Speech Day was a comparison between four different types of school. Members had split up into groups, and visited Oxford High School for Girls; Lord William's Grammar School, Thame; Gillott's School, Henley; and Wellington College. All groups

produced interesting research; their presentation of it was not entirely objective!

Our much appreciated expedition was to "Butley" at the Criterion Theatre, a play which was enough to put any boy off applying to a University.

In September, the new Secretary, M. A. Anderson, gave a light-hearted talk on "The Hazards of Ski-ing." There was a discussion on "The Value of Examination." D. A. Youngs talked on "Themes of Music," mainly keeping to the Symphonies of Beethoven. Andrew Gordon spoke on "The Famous Lancashire Witches." One of the most stimulating talks of the term was given by Brother Paul David, of the Society of St. Francis, following his sermon earlier in the day. As its outing, the Society went to St. Martin's Theatre, to see "Sleuth." This proved to be a most successful choice, and everyone enjoyed the evening. We were happy to see seven Life Members and their guests.

Perhaps the highlight of the term was a recital in the President's drawing room, given by Edwin Roxburgh (oboe) and Richard Burnett (piano). They played a wide variety of 19th and 20th century music, including a Sonatina by T. A. Walmisley, and "Six Metamorphoses after Ovid" by Britten. Mr. Roxburgh, who is the founder of the Contemporary Music Workshop at The Royal College of Music, also played an "avant garde" piece on the oboe, accompanied by electronically-simulated discords and harmonies pre-recorded on tape. We took the opportunity of inviting a number of outside guests with an interest in music, and these included Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Dods.

The Sixth Form Society has just entered its sixth year. Its function is to raise a variety of cultural topics and to create an atmosphere for mildly intellectual discussion. Although on occasions there are shufflings and less-than-discreet glares at wrist watches towards J.C.R. opening time, on the whole Members show a lively interest in the talks and discussions, which I and outside speakers have found very gratifying. Some measure of the interest promoted by the Society is that some fifteen old-boys have joined as Life Members; they are kept in touch with the Society's programme, and frequently attend the Annual Dinner and the theatre expeditions.

History Society

This is not really a new organisation but is an expansion of the Naval History Society that lapsed a few years ago. One thing we do owe to the old club is the idea of taking up one theme and making it the subject of a series of meetings. This year's theme is the 1914-18 War. We started with a coffee meeting, at which Mr. and Mrs. Charles were the hosts, and during which we had a series of prose and poetry readings all written by survivors of the war. Since then we have had two meetings at which a large number of slides and photos were shown and discussed.

The highlight of the term was a visit to the Imperial War Museum. We did not have as much time there as we had planned—owing to a late arrival caused by a lengthy hold-up on the motorway—and many were unable to inspect all the exhibits at the museum.

We hope to mount a small exhibition of our own next July but in the meanwhile we are trying to arrange a tour of battlefield areas in Belgium and Northern France, which we hope will take place during the Easter holidays.

Next year's programme has not yet been settled, but American History offers many interesting possibilities. All are welcome at Society meetings and we hope to continue to offer a varied and interesting programme.

Natural History Club

This year has seen a change in emphasis for the club. For the last few years most members have been involved in keeping a miscellany of small pets, notably rabbits. This was never the intended function of the club and it is perhaps a good thing that the newer members are actively engaged in observing plants and animals in their natural state.

It is hoped that this latter type of activity will expand in the next two terms, particularly when the weather becomes warmer. When boys have started serious studies in the school grounds, they have been surprised at the material available. It is then hoped to organise trips to nature reserves and other places of interest. Of the new boys C. Payne deserves mention for his very keen interest in birds and for his excellent paintings of them.

S.C.O.

Stamp Club

The Club is gradually attracting a larger membership. It has grown during the last year from a static three to an enthusiastic eight. In addition to our regular evenings during the winter terms, we have attended several interesting meetings of the Henley Philatelic Society, which have included lectures by specialists in their particular lines, from printing to individual collections. We learnt from Harrisons, the security printers, how stamps were made and checked; we saw a very fine collection of Russian stamps and heard much of their connected history.

Peter Black passed his bronze D. of E. pursuit and we have got candidates now for the higher levels in stamp collecting. We believe that we were the only club in the school to carry on during the 'flu' epidemic and if our meeting, banished from the Head Master's dining-room, was short in members to some extent, it none the less took place, elsewhere.

M.B.T.

Mechanics Club

This has existed for two years and a number of the keener boys have benefited from it. J. P. M. Ferro and M. Peters renovated a motor-scooter in the summer and displayed it on Speech Day. A lot of time has been spent on two cars during the year but there is a very great danger with this activity that the work becomes destructive instead of constructive. In fact, the area behind the huts began to resemble a scrap yard, and we should like to thank the School for its tolerance.

The School has provided the club with a double garage, which has been erected this term. This is a tremendous improvement and it should mean that tools and equipment can be safely stored. One of the problems in the past year has been that outsiders have interfered with vehicles and equipment.

It is hoped that 1973 will see the start of really worthwhile projects which can be displayed on Speech Day.

S.C.O.

Chess Club

During the Summer Term the Chess Shield was won in most convincing style by Burr House. E. K.-L. Thong and N. Jumat comfortably won all of their games. However, this coming year Burr will not find things as easy since Jumat will no longer qualify to play as Junior Representative. Moreover, the quality of chess amongst the new boys has proved surprisingly good and so a complete reversal of the status quo is possible.

Last year the Chess Ladder Competition was won by M. Alireza. He led the competition for the complete duration of the Spring Term despite the challenge of Y. Fujii. This year, A. Newman, a chess player of promise, is at present in the lead and anyone who attempts to overtake him will have to play extremely well.

Although chess is popular amongst the younger members of the School, the number of Fifth and Sixth Formers who attend is rather disappointing. Those who are interested are most welcome to attend.

Library Notes

At the start of the academic year, I. R. Fraser took over from M. Guillaume as Head Librarian, and immediately we were confronted with a dwindling staff. Two or three assistant librarians felt that they had given of their best for long enough—and our thanks are due to them—

but there was a serious lack of volunteers to take their places, although we are grateful to those new members who offered their services. Our thanks are also due to those who have stayed on, but it would be pleasant to feel that with more new boys arriving each year we should have a greater proportion of volunteers for what is, after all, an expanding service to the community.

The book-selling system in the Library has begun to prosper under the keen and careful guidance of Mr. R. A. Esau and his assistants.

The Old Viking Society, at their last Annual General Meeting, voted a sum of money to be spent on the Library. It was decided to buy two library writing desks, and we eagerly await their arrival.

I should like to express my gratitude to Fraser for all he has done as Head Librarian, and very often as assistant Librarian.

During this year we received the following presentation copies, for which we are most grateful:—

Darwin and the Beagle	given by Mde E. de la Praudiere
The White Nile	given by Mde E. de la Praudiere
The Sea	given by Capt. E. F. R. Byng
Imperial Commonwealth	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
The Age of Reform, 1815-1870	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
A History of Political Theory	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
The Constitutional History of Modern Britain, 1485-1937	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
Years of Victory, 1802-1812	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
The Growth of the American Republic	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
The Development of Modern France, 1870-1939	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
Test Match Diary, 1953	given by R. A. Alexander, Esq.
Universal Poetry	given by I. R. Fraser
Wellington	given by I. R. Fraser
Europe Since Napoleon	given by I. R. Fraser
The Congress of Vienna	given by I. R. Fraser
The French Revolution	given by I. R. Fraser
The Age of Elegance	given by I. R. Fraser
The Years of Victory	given by I. R. Fraser
The Years of Endurance	given by I. R. Fraser
Coronation Durbar, 1911	given by A. H. Southorn, Esq., C.B.E.

Sailing Club

This has been the most successful year in the club's history, blessed with fair winds and mostly dry weather.

Our 1972 captain, D. S. Cooke, did much towards the club boats, and more members than ever were prepared to work hard at the maintenance. During the year we had three matches against Bearwood College, whom we have yet to beat, and a very successful House Sailing competition which was won by Welsh. The School provided a cup for this competition.

The Winter Term 1972 has been the most memorable for years, on account of the prolonged summer weather allied with strong winds.

All the club boats were in use full-time and although almost forty new boys joined the club very little damage was done to equipment. S. A. E. Wright, the new Captain, helped by his assistants, has been responsible for continuous renovation of boats and this has involved a great deal of hard work. Certainly this has improved the standard of boats and also the ability of the boys, who have appreciated the higher standard of equipment.

It will probably be many years before we can sail until well into November, with plenty of wind and little stream. Our plans for the future are to expand the fleet of boats to meet the increased numbers and to increase the area of the boathouse to permit more storage. There are a large number of keen young members in the club and this augurs well for the future.

Officers:—Commodore: S. C. Oxlade
Captain: S. A. E. Wright
Boatswains: M. Barclay
T. Morris

S.C.O.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

A series of successful expeditions was held last Easter at our usual base in the Lake District. Once again many boys had to be disappointed because of lack of accommodation. We were fortunate in the help we had from the weather and from the help we received from so many adult helpers and Gold Award holders. All taking part made the visit a very trouble-free one, and I am grateful. It is most encouraging to find members voluntarily lending a hand with all aspects of the organisation. We are off again this Easter but because so many of those who did their Silver last Easter are too young to do their Gold, we shall be a smaller party than usual. Our aim now is to encourage members to do their Silver Expeditions when in the Fourth Form and their Gold whilst in the Lower Sixth. Nevertheless we would recommend those who can to do a pre-Gold expedition whilst in the fifth form—by doing this I am sure they will benefit to a larger extent when they come actually to do the Gold Series.

This year saw eleven boys presented with their Gold Badges on Speech Day and the Certificates at Buckingham Palace in November. At the end of the summer holidays we held a re-union to celebrate the gaining of 50 Gold Awards since the scheme started at Shiplake in January 1962. We were pleased to be able to welcome as our guests Commander David Cobb—Assistant Director—and Commander Peyton Jones—Overseas Secretary of the Award Scheme. The numbers of Gold Award holders present were disappointing but all those who did come felt that it had been an enjoyable evening.

We have had a number of Bronze series expeditions during the last two terms and we are grateful to Mr. Stracey—the Father of an Old Viking—for the use of fields for these expeditions.

Mr. Morris still continues the sterling work in the P.E. sections. Due to difficulties in obtaining lecturers the service section ground to a halt during the year. Now thanks to the help of Dr. Wells-Furby and Sister Grayson there is activity in the section again.

I would like to see more enthusiasm from more members in the Pursuits and Projects sections. It has become hard work getting members started in this section and even more difficulty getting them to be active on a regular basis. I wonder what is to blame? I do not profess to know the answer but I am convinced it is a step in the wrong direction; long after boys have completed their academic studies or stopped playing team games, if they are to live a full life, they should have developed whilst at school some interest or hobby. I hope that in the coming year more masters and parents will encourage more boys to take up some really worthwhile interest.

We had the pleasure of being invited to meet His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh during his tour of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, A number of boys were introduced to Prince Philip and all members took an active part in showing the Award Scheme at work.

In the service section a number of boys helped in the organisation of a holiday for 12 boys from Dr. Barnardo's. All who were involved found it a very worthwhile experience. We are grateful to Mr. Gilliat for his understanding and sympathy in allowing us to use Burr House and all its facilities. Mr. Gilliat has always taken a keen interest in the Award Scheme and gives up much time to the testing and training of those who are interested in shooting. I wish more boys would take advantage of his advice by participating in the reading option of the pursuits section.

I hope that 1973 will see the scheme go from strength to strength.

C.C.F. Notes

Army Section

This year we changed our cap badge, a change which results from our successful application for affiliation to the Royal Green Jackets. Affiliation was granted by the Colonels of the Regiment early in the year and we are proud to wear a Light Infantry badge on our beret. The green beret is the sole legacy from our early days with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

At last we have got out of battle-dress and instead we now wear light-weight trousers and a pull-over. This has proved a more suitable uniform for cadets.

Two other changes are the result of reorganisation of the structure of command in the United Kingdom. Our district headquarters has now changed from Colchester to Aldershot as we are now the responsibility of South East District instead of that of Eastern District. We are also assisted locally by two Wessex Volunteers in Reading and not any longer by the R.E.M.E. Depot at Arborfield.

We were inspected by Lieutenant Colonel M. L. Willway, Royal Signals, in March. The Colonel was pleased with our programme and the efforts of all the cadets.

Camp was held at Crowborough in July. The training area, Pippingford Park, provided good cover for battlecraft and was an excellent place for initiative tests and raft building. The cadets fired modern weapons on the rifle range and fired the now obsolete Energa grenade at an old car in the camp area. They also visited Lydd to see the Scots Guards practising riot control in urban areas. The camp was a thoroughly good event and at the end Lt. T. H. Bullock, Royal Anglian, O.C. the Cadet Training Team,

told our cadets that it had been a pleasure to meet a well behaved and cheerful contingent.

We combined our Field Day in the Summer Term with Reading School and shared the organisation of orienteering and battlecraft.

A number of cadets have now gained certificates under the new proficiency arrangements and the results in the compulsory subjects have been quite good.

Our best recruit this year was J. Pongpanich.

No boys attended Army courses during the year, but it is hoped that Cadet P. B. Black will attend a P.T. course in December and that Cadets B. Baldwin and C. C. Nixon will attend the leadership course at the Cadet Training Centre next year.

On the occasion of our Annual Inspection this year, the salute will be taken by Rear Admiral J. G. Jungius.

Naval Section

This year the Naval Section's pattern of training has continued as before, but with some improvements to Field Days, both of which proved a great success. In the Summer Term the day was spent at *H.M.S. Royal Arthur*, the R.N. Leadership School, where the whole section "had a go" at various initiative tests, involving transporting barrels across chasms, raising heavy anchors off the ground, building pyramids, and so on. After lunch everyone then went round the obstacle course, which meant carrying a large log across rivers, iron girder frameworks, across rope walks, through conduits, and over walls. Although everyone finished the day exhausted—and wet—it was agreed to be the most enjoyable field day for some time. In the autumn a team came up to the College from *H.M.S. Vernon* as a change from us going down to them. This enabled the cadets to undergo many of the tests required for their Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency Exams in such subjects as Power of Command, Boats Charge Certificates, and Drill. In addition eight divers gave a demonstration and a display and whetted the boys' appetites enough for a large number to take "a plunge" in the river, duly kitted out in divers' suits, etc. It is hoped as a result of this to form a diving section in the Corps under the auspices of *Vernon*.

We continued to make as much use as possible of the river for boat work during the year, and joined with the Army Section to put on a small combined operation at General Inspection. Some of the cadets under the supervision of Dalzell also built a radio-controlled M.T.B. which it is hoped to use for teaching Rule of the Road on the swimming pool.

Cadet Cox'n A. P. N. Yates left in the summer, and D. T. Dalzell, who passed his Advanced Proficiency Exam in the autumn, is now senior cadet having been promoted to Cadet Petty Officer, Cox'n designate for the Spring Term 1973.



Boat Club

The year started with the whole club boating from the new boat-house which was completed during the end of the previous term.

Two senior eights boated regularly supported by a colts eight and two junior colts fours. In the Spring and Summer Terms a large number of novices took part in outings, P.T. and runs.

In the Spring Term the 1st eight won the Reading Schools' Head of the River with the 2nd and Colts eights obtaining good places. The 1st eight did well to come 20th in the Reading Amateur Head of the River.

In the Summer Term all crews took part in a number of regattas, putting up some encouraging performances. Our ability to get to different regattas was considerably facilitated by the use of the new trailer made available with the help of Mr. Douglas, to whom sincere thanks are due.

The 1st eight were successful at Gloucester Schools' Regatta and in the senior 'C' section of Reading Amateur Regatta and were close runners

up on numerous other occasions. They were split up towards the end of term and R. G. Lester and P. N. Yates put up a good showing in sculls and pairs at Reading Town Regatta.

The Second eight had some good races but were unlucky to achieve no wins. They were also split up and rowed as a four in the Reading Town Regatta.

The Colts eight were fast enough to compete on even terms with most crews of their age and were extremely unlucky not to come out as winners in at least one of the very tight finals in which they were involved.

The Junior Colts fours put up good performances in extremely competitive fields.

The year was rounded off with the House Regatta, in which Skipwith House ran out clear winners in both sections.

At the end of the year we learned that we had regretfully got to say goodbye to Mr. Drury, whose excellent coaching had resulted in the last two successful seasons for the 1st eight and whose enthusiasm and hard work have for several years been an inspiration to all concerned with the club whether as coaches or oarsmen.

Cricket Club

1st XI

Played 12: Won 5; Lost 3; Drawn 4

This was a season of contrasts. Good victories against the Headmaster's XI and the South Oxfordshire Amateurs contrasted vividly with ignominious defeats at the hands of Reed's School and Reading School. Insipid batting performances contrasted trenchantly with penetrative bowling performances. The averages at the end of this report highlight the main weakness of the side. Only three batsmen averaged over 20, and this was in a season of generally good batting wickets. There was a general failure to punish the bad ball and to build up an innings with care and thought. Once again the value of singles was ignored and too many batsmen fell while trying to hit the ball hard instead of placing it in the gaps. It is impossible to score runs consistently without real care and concentration. Both of these attributes were lacking this season.

The strength of the side was in the bowling and fielding. The opening attack of C. Packer and J. Lazenby proved to be too much for many of our opponents, and with the unpredictable flair of R. Elmer and the dependable accuracy of M. Patterson to follow, there was enviable depth in attack. E. Thong as usual bowled steadily, but without the success of previous seasons. However, he still managed to capture important wickets and would be a valuable asset to any school side.

There always appears to be a dearth of spinners at school level and so it is encouraging to see two spinners, R. Dand and A. Gordon, among the

wickets. Both bowled sensibly and with deserved success, although the wickets were not always kind to them. Of the bowlers, it was undoubtedly Patterson who was the unluckiest. His line and length were seldom wayward and yet he failed to take wickets. One can only suggest that it often pays to bowl badly, because the batsmen are too wary of a steady bowler.

The opening batsmen, D. Youngs and S. Mitchell, failed to give us a regular and sustained start that is always valuable, although both batted well on occasions. If Youngs survived the first few overs, he gained in confidence and looked a potentially good batsman. Mitchell played some valuable innings, notably against Stoneham and Oratory, but was too often bowled whilst pushing tentatively forward. A. Jones failed to achieve the success that one felt he deserved. He was determined to do well and lack of runs undermined his confidence. He played some useful innings, especially against Oratory and the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, when he produced some fine shots. He improved as a wicket-keeper during the season, bringing off some fine catches and producing some spectacular (if not always necessary) bye-stopping dives. His captaincy was usually sound and on two vital occasions his appreciation of the situation led to match-winning decisions. His own dedication to the game set an example to the rest of the team, although on occasions one felt that his enthusiasm made him criticise when quiet words of encouragement would have produced the desired results.

The fielding was good except for occasional understandable lapses, and mention should be made of the voracious fielding of Packer, who seized on the ball with relish and succeeded in hitting the stumps with unnerving accuracy on more than one occasion. Mitchell and Thong also produced fine pieces of fielding and rarely gave away any runs.

Final mention should be made of the all-round performance of Packer, who was asked to play for the Berkshire Schools Senior XI. Before returning to Barbados, he played in one match against Wiltshire and took 4 wickets for 33 runs. In the report of the match it was said that "Packer was mainly responsible for Wiltshire's early setbacks, and generally bowled with promise." I hope that others will follow in his footsteps.

The following were re-awarded their Full Colours:—A. M. Jones and E. K.-L. Thong.

The following were awarded their Full Colours:—A. C. Packer, M. V. Patterson, R. J. S. Dand, A. D. Gordon, and J. R. Lazenby.

The following were awarded their Half-Colours:—S. C. Mitchell, R. A. Elmer, and D. A. Youngs.

The Todd Trophy for all-round contribution to the Cricket Club was awarded to A. M. Jones.

Appointments for 1973:—To be Captain: A. C. Packer; to be Vice-Captain: A. D. Gordon; to be Hon. Secretary: J. M. P. Clayton.

The regular members of the XI were:—A. M. Jones, A. C. Packer, S. C. Mitchell, D. A. Youngs, A. D. Gordon, R. A. Elmer, E. K.-L. Thong, M. V. Patterson and R. J. S. Dand.

The following also played:—S. R. Coston, J. R. Lazenby, M. Hodson, R. Parkinson, J. M. P. Clayton and A. R. Crawford.

D.S.P.

RESULTS

- May 7th. v. Stoneham School. Home. Match drawn.
Shiplake 127 for 9 dec. (Mitchell 50, Elmer 33 not out).
Stoneham 68 for 8.
- May 13th. v. Headmaster's XI. Home. Won by 7 wickets.
Headmaster's XI 58 all out. (Packer 5 for 13, Elmer 3 for 6).
Shiplake 60 for 3. (Packer 32 not out, Gordon 23 not out).
- May 20th. v. Bearwood College. Away. Match drawn.
Shiplake 109 all out. (Gordon 39).
Bearwood 61 for 7.
- May 24th. v. Leighton Park School. Away. Match abandoned—Rain.
Leighton Park 120 for 9 dec.
Shiplake 43 for 3. (Packer 25 not out).
- May 31st. v. Reading School. Away. Lost by 100 runs.
Reading 168 for 4. (Sawyer 55, Sillence 43 not out).
Shiplake 68.
- June 10th. v. Redrice School. Home. Won by 8 wickets.
Redrice 40 all out. (Lazenby 7 for 12, Packer 4 for 22).
Shiplake 41 for 2.
- June 11th. v. South Oxfordshire Amateurs. Home. Won by 8 wickets.
S.O.A.'s 166 for 9 dec. (Frankenburg 58, Summers 31, Packer 5 for 38).
Shiplake 172 for 2. (Jones 42 not out).
- June 17th. v. Abingdon School 2nd XI. Home. Won by 95 runs.
Shiplake 177 for 6 dec. (Packer 73 not out, Lazenby 41).
Abingdon 82. (Lazenby 4 for 17, Packer 3 for 15).
- June 21st. v. Oratory School 2nd XI. Home. Won by 7 wickets.
Oratory 121. (Elmer 5 for 10).
Shiplake 123 for 3. (Mitchell 54, Jones 38 not out).
- June 27th. v. Lord Wandsworth College. Home. Match abandoned—Rain.
Lord Wandsworth 87. (Thong 5 for 24).
Shiplake 15 for 3.
- June 29th. v. Reed's School. Home. Lost by 10 wickets.
Shiplake 50.
Reed's 53 for 0.
- July 9th. v. Old Viking Society. Home. Lost by 93 runs.
O.V.S. 196 for 8 dec. (R. Devas 60, D. Lansdowne 53).
Shiplake 103. (Mitchell 30).

1st XI AVERAGES

BATTING

	No. of Inns.	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
A. C. Packer	11	4	163	73*	23.3
A. D. Gordon	10	4	127	39	21.3
A. M. Jones	11	3	165	42*	20.6
J. R. Lazenby	3	0	57	41	19.0
S. C. Mitchell	11	0	185	54	16.8
R. A. Elmer	5	1	62	33*	15.5
E. K.-L. Thong	7	2	35	8*	7.0

* Indicates not out

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J. R. Lazenby	33.3	6	80	11	7.27
R. J. S. Dand	21.5	2	88	9	9.78
A. C. Packer	116.2	29	278	26	10.7
E. K.-L. Thong	89.5	21	209	17	12.3
R. A. Elmer	67.5	15	178	11	16.18
A. D. Gordon	26.0	5	87	5	17.4
M. V. Patterson	45.0	12	117	5	23.4
<i>Also bowled:—</i>					
S. R. Coston	8.0	0	20	3	6.67
A. M. Jones	8.1	0	44	3	14.67

Wanderers XI

This was a mixed season for the Wanderers, winning only one of the five matches, and drawing two. Despite the solitary victory, some good cricket was played and the aim of the Wanderers—to provide enjoyable matches against good local opposition for anyone who wants to play—was again achieved. Undoubtedly, “Man of the Wanderers” this season was Charlie Packer, who appears to revel in the type of cricket where there is less at stake. One of the highlights of the season was his innings against Shiplake Memorial Hall, but I am sure that the most gratifying moment for him was producing figures of 5 for 46 against his village team. The figures hide the fact that he disposed of his brother-in-law with one of the best balls of the season. Other valuable contributions came from Messrs. Esau and Eggar, and R. Elmer reserved some of his best performances for the Wanderers. It would perhaps be invidious to single out too many individual performances, because everyone contributed a great deal to this season’s matches.

Perhaps I may take this opportunity of thanking Sister Mary Grayson for organising the teas and Harry Webb, the groundsman, for preparing the pitches and coping with the sometimes awkward demands of the Master i/c.

What of the future? The standard of cricket is undoubtedly rising throughout the School, and the recent influx of boys at the lower end of the School will ensure that this improvement will continue. New nets are being specially laid on the new field and the senior nets are being extended. The juniors, who have hitherto had to depend on the munificent protection of a large tree, will be able to benefit from the somewhat smaller protection of a new score-box.

D.S.P.

RESULTS

- May 16th. v. Reading University Academic Staff. Match drawn.
 Reading U.A.S.C.C. 136. (R. A. Elmer 4 for 14, J. D. Eggar 3 for 30).
 Wanderers 95 for 7. (R. A. Esau 26, D. S. Partridge 32).
 June 24th. v. Turville Park C.C. Wanderers lost by 4 wickets.
 Wanderers 145 for 8 dec. (A. C. Packer 33, D. S. Partridge 44).
 Turville Park 146 for 6. (A. C. Packer 5 for 46).

- July 1st. v. Shiplake Memorial Hall. Match drawn.
Shiplake Memorial Hall 126. (A. C. Packer 5 for 24).
Wanderers 105 for 8. (A. C. Packer 72).
- July 2nd. v. Coppid Hall. Wanderers won by 8 wickets.
Coppid Hall 102. (R. A. Elmer 3 for 16, E. K.-L. Thong 3 for 31).
Wanderers 105 for 2. (R. A. Esau 43, A. C. Packer 50 not out).
- July 9th. v. Blount's Court C.C. Lost by 4 wickets.
Wanderers 118 for 9 dec. (R. A. Esau 38, D. S. Partridge 30).
Blount's Court 119 for 6.

2nd XI

It is difficult to field an unchanged team from match to match because of the calls to the 1st XI and because of the non-availability of certain players who were required for Tennis matches. However, the team played some enjoyable cricket and the performances of J. Lazenby and R. Elmer in the first two matches gained them places in the 1st XI. A. Crawford showed that he had a good eye, but he lacked the application that would have produced more complete innings. J. Cozens began the season in promising fashion, but his susceptibility to fast bowling led to his downfall on more than one occasion, although he did produce some good strokes.

The following played for the team:—J. Lazenby, D. Adams, J. Cozens, A. Crawford, M. Hodson, J. Clayton, G. Hodgson, M. Alireza, C. Viney, S. Low and R. Parkinson.

2nd XI Colours were awarded to:—J. B. Cozens, J. M. P. Clayton and R. Parkinson.

RESULTS

- May 4th. v. Crookham Court 1st XI. Won by 138 runs.
Shiplake 157 for 9 dec. (Lazenby 56).
Crookham Court 19. (Lazenby 6 for 7).
- May 11th. v. Cokethorpe School 1st XI. Lost by 4 wickets.
Shiplake 69.
Cokethorpe 70 for 6. (Elmer 4 for 13).
- May 20th. v. Bearwood College 2nd XI. Lost by 7 wickets.
Shiplake 121. (Crawford 35, Clayton 20).
Bearwood 122 for 3.
- May 31st. v. Reading School 2nd XI. Won by 21 runs.
Shiplake 80. (Lazenby 27 not out).
Reading 59. (Adams 6 for 12).

Under-15 XI

v. Stoneham	Won
v. Cokethorpe	Won by 8 wickets
v. Bearwood	Drawn
v. Redrice	Won by 9 wickets
v. Abingdon	Lost by 1 wicket
v. Oratory	Lost
v. Lord Wandsworth	Rain stopped play
v. Reed's School	Drawn

The 1972 season was successful with only two matches lost. There was a good team spirit throughout and several of the younger players showed considerable promise. S. J. Low captained the side well, if on occasions a little too diffidently. His fielding set a high standard, but he never quite reached his peak as a bowler.

Hopkins, though not always successful, showed great determination as a bat; he should make runs next season. His fielding was excellent and a good example to the side.

J. B. Hutton and Malby were potentially our two best bats, though Hutton must guard against too casual an approach. Malby's keenness and conscientiousness were a very good example to the side. He also proved a reliable bowler.

S. D. Barnes did not really come off as our wicket keeper, but his batting was a great help and improved as the season went on.

J. Pongpanich showed considerable promise, but in many ways his approach was far too casual.

Adams, though occasionally erratic, bowled well.

Bond proved a useful "slogger" for the side.

H. Alireza was a useful member of the team and he too improved as the season went on.

On the whole it was a promising team and we look forward to next season when we hope to have our own nets and score-box.

Rugby Club

With the exception of the U-15s, who have had a splendid season, all school sides have had to struggle for success this year. To a certain degree this can be accounted for by sheer lack of numbers in the senior games: the 1st, 2nd and U-16 XV's have been selected from a total of seventy boys. But with over one hundred boys in the junior games the future looks promising.

Newspaper critics, keen to strip away the remaining vestiges of tradition, inform us that the Varsity Match is moribund: I doubt it. For my money it retains its aura, and if ninety boys and masters from Shiplake did not see an epic battle on December 12th they did see an absorbing contest and a feast of the fiercest tackling one will see on a rugby ground anywhere.

One of the most exciting aspects of Shiplake rugby at the moment is the increasing involvement of old boys in the game. A growing number of Old Vikings are joining clubs and now, apart from their annual match against the school, they have organized an annual fixture with Bearwood College Old Royals, and a match versus Ruislip R.F.C. in January 1973.

Our particular thanks this season go to Colin Dalton and Michael Kann of Henley R.F.C., who have kindly given up their time to coach new boys on Friday afternoons. I should also like to take this opportunity of

thanking the new members of the Common Room, Messrs. Kilty, Scottorn and Thompson for the assistance they have given on the rugby field this term.

Once again I am able to end my report on a high note of individual achievement which has its roots firmly embedded in the whole ferment of Shiplake rugby for, in the footsteps of Ian Baldry, J. M. B. Clayton has been selected to represent the Oxon U-19 Group in their Christmas matches. Our heartiest congratulations go to him.

Special Results:—

Bearwood College Old Royals 15, Old Vikings 0.

R. A. Esau's XV 29, Shiplake Past & Present 22.



Lineout against the Old Vikings

Photo: Michael Haydon

1st XV

This has been a disappointing, but nevertheless highly enjoyable season. Disappointing, because with nine of last year's XV available I was looking forward to considerable success; enjoyable, because I had a very nice group of boys to coach.

M. V. Patterson proved himself an able captain who grew in stature as the term progressed. One should not under-estimate his quiet approach; his influence, if not superficially salient, was absolute, and as a player, moved from prop to No. 8 by necessity, he was a model of consistency.

Of the other senior members S. Akhavan struggled for confidence early on, but eventually proved his power of penetration and matured into a good rugby player; A. D. Gordon played with courage and determination at full-back and his tackling was second to none; and S. P. Weller's strength and surpeme fitness made him an invaluable asset in the 2nd row.

Of the younger stalwarts J. M. B. Clayton had another magnificent season; S. C. Mitchell was hounded by injury throughout the term and his was a loss which we could not afford; A. H. M. Burghes developed into a very skilful hooker and was, perhaps, the most improved player in the team; T. W. Gore acquitted himself well on all occasions and his technique, which is often immaculate, has been aided by increased strength and robustness; M. J. Holman's power in the scrummages and his ability to provide good ball for the scrum-half were often squandered by his enjoyment of the physical *mêlées* for their own sake. With his concentration on the ball and his function in mind Holman is a forward to be reckoned with.

Of the new members, E. K.-L. Thong developed into a serviceable scrum-half and, although his pass was a fraction slow, he performed some vital tidying up behind his forwards; D. Argenti at outside-half was either brilliant or less than mediocre and his loss of form and confidence midway through the term was more than a contributory factor in our doldrums; M. A. Anderson soon established himself at flank forward and it should not be forgotten that the tactics relating to his torpedo throws yielded much of the surprise possession from which our tries were scored; N. Jumat defended well on the wing, but he must learn to attack harder; W. Yeung soon found a regular place in the front row, and, as a harrying forward, he is a fine prospect for next year; R. Douglas missed several matches because of injury, but he is an intuitive rugby player and his turn will come next season.

Of the other boys who played for the 1st XV D. A. Youngs, W. B. Henry, G. N. Welbrock-Smith, M. Alireza, C. S. Smith and I. F. Zihni did their best in difficult circumstances.

As far as illness and injury were concerned we once again had no luck. Mitchell and Douglas missed at least three matches each, Anderson, Akhavan and Jumat missed two, and a handful of players missed one. In a small school injury can upset the whole balance of team organization and only on one occasion throughout the whole term did we manage to field a 1st XV at full strength.

Apart from ill-luck before actually starting, we often had little luck on the day itself. On September 30th, following a poor start against Reed's, we travelled to Redrice School without Mitchell, Gore and Argenti,

only to lose Jumat for the whole of the second-half. In the Old Vikings' match we lost Douglas after ten minutes and in the next match against Lord Wandsworth's College Holman had to leave the field after five minutes. In the second half of this encounter the boys played with commendable spirit, but the mounting pressure took its toll and both Douglas and Clayton were forced to watch from the touch-line as the remaining twelve Shiplake players struggled to achieve the impossible.

This was a match which I shall never forget, for just as the hopeless defeat at Pangbourne plumbed the depths, so this performance marked the high point of the team's collective ability and will to succeed. I have never felt more proud of a Shiplake 1st XV than I did on this day, for it was to me, as it was to Alan Dyson, the Lord Wandsworth's coach, "the finest exhibition of team spirit from a school side."

RESULTS

Home v. Reed's School 1st XV	Lost 0—56
Away v. Redrice School 1st XV	Lost 3—32
Home v. Abingdon School 2nd XV	Won 39—25
Home v. Old Vikings' XV	Won 15—4
Home v. Lord Wandsworth's College 'A' XV	Lost 23—25
Away v. Bearwood College 1st XV	Lost 4—34
Away v. Pangbourne College 2nd XV	Lost 0—4
Home v. Ranelagh School 1st XV	Won 10—4
Away v. Newbury F.R.C. Schools' XV	Won 43—10
Home v. Henley Grammar School 1st XV	Drawn 15—15
Won 4; Drawn 1; Lost 5; Points for 152; against 209.	

2nd XV

Persistent injuries to 1st XV players inevitably meant that the 2nd XV was weakened from the early part of the term onwards. Our two strongest three-quarters were called to first team duties after only one game for the seconds. It was in the three-quarters that we remained relatively weak throughout the term. Fortunately, the forwards, led by D. A. Youngs, were settled very soon and stayed together for the whole season. The proved to be the mainstay of the team.

After four defeats, culminating in a thrashing by a Radley XV composed mainly of 3rd year Sixth Form boys, the situation improved dramatically. A very close game against St. Bartholomew's Grammar School heralded the start of the revival. The team spirit and determination, which had stayed with them despite their defeats, proved very difficult for the opposition to contain.

The 2nd XV had to wait until they met Lord Wandsworth's College for their first, and sadly their only, victory. This was a hard-fought game in which the forwards won a great deal of good second-phase possession. Lord Wandsworth's pack had the extra height and weight with which to dominate the set pieces, but our forwards were much more mobile

and quick to pounce on the loose ball. Our opponents looked very dangerous at times but thanks to courageous tackling by our three-quarters, the score was a close 6—10 at half-time. It was in the second half that persistent pressure brought the winning try.

After a disappointing game against Bearwood the seconds finished the term with their best performance. Although the result was 12—6 to Pangbourne, this match was full of incident and effort. Because of the slippery surface, neither side was able to produce any sustained three-quarter movement and a lot was demanded of the pack in the loose. They responded well—every forward put in a great deal of work. This effort could well have been rewarded with a victory. Even so, this match was a fine way to end a term of 2nd XV rugby, which, although rarely successful, was always enjoyed.

Team:—S. R. Coston, E. Alireza, A. D. Fergusson-Edgar, M. A. Alireza, C. Petit, R. J. Douglas, G. N. Welbrock-Smith, J. A. N. Russell, D. A. Youngs, J. B. Cozens, W. B. Henry, P. R. Moon, C. S. Smith, J. K. Muir, M. R. Haydon, P. A. Lewis, R. I. Parkinson.

Matches:—Played 8; Won 1; Lost 7.

E.L.K.

Junior Colts XV

This year's team was the most successful junior team of recent years and their success may be attributed to all-round ability and a willingness to attempt to play good rugby whatever the conditions. Although few team changes were made during the season, there were several players who were capable of stepping into the team whenever the opportunity presented itself, and this was another factor that contributed to their success, because it meant that the standard in practice games was higher than in previous years and no member of the team could afford to rest on his laurels.

The main strength of the side lay in the intelligent play of H. Alireza at fly-half. He was a player who combined consummate balance and flair with remarkable strength and power. Although he was almost the complete rugby player, with an ability to kick intelligently, to tackle hard, to side-step off either foot and to seize on any half-chance, it was his loss through injury for the last three matches that in fact revealed his main weakness. Without him, the three-quarters were unable to move as they had done with him. This was partly because of previous lack of opportunity and not lack of ability. Alireza had been able to break on his own too often and he failed to allow his three-quarters sufficient movements with the ball.

N. Brown, at scrum-half, improved noticeably during the season and he could prove to be a useful asset for the future if he speeds up his delivery from the base of the scrum. He tended to take one or two steps before passing and, against better opposition, this could have proved to be fatal. Of the three-quarters, J. Hutton showed some flair in attack and tackled

well in defence. The remainder, although often good in attack, frequently failed to produce good all-round performances because of an inability (or unwillingness?) to tackle. B. Brandreth, at full-back, was an enigma, occasionally kicking well and moving intelligently into the line, but sometimes producing frighteningly inept performances.

The pack, although not large by Junior Colts' standards, proved to be more than a match in the tight, mainly because of improved technique, and their play in the loose was often efficient and enterprising. The victory against Bearwood College, always strong opposition, was the result of good forward play in the loose and this managed to upset the opposition at crucial moments. C. Duesbury replaced R. Williamson as hooker after five matches, although the latter had been hooking well. Duesbury was, however, a fearless tackler and his hooking had improved noticeably by the end of the season. C. Truman and A. Newman, the props, were good in the tight, but often too slow in the loose. Of the remainder, R. Duckering deserves mention for his indomitable work in the loose, when he won ball after ball from the mauls. His one weakness, which he has the ability to overcome, was a tendency to hold the ball for too long before feeding it out to the backs. The back row of S. Barnes at No. 8, and A. Horne and P. Bradshaw, the flankers, was effective in attack and defence, although they did not always tackle with sufficient power to create a ruck situation. The pack worked as a unit for most of the matches, although, perhaps inevitably, there were occasions when skilful and powerful rugby gave way to incomparable mediocrity caused by lack of thought. However, the standard of junior rugby has now been shown to be improving and there is evidence from the lower Games that it will continue to do so.

Junior Colts' Colours were awarded at the end of the season to:—H. Alireza, S. Barnes, P. Bradshaw, N. Brown, P. Carter and R. Duckering.

The team was selected from:—B. Brandreth, S. Launchbury, J. Pongpanich, J. Hutton, H. Roszel, D. Davies, H. Alireza (capt.), N. Brown, C. Truman, C. Duesbury, A. Newman, P. Carter, R. Duckering, A. Horne, S. Barnes and P. Bradshaw.

Also played:—R. Williamson (five times), D. Carey (once) and N. St.Clair (once).

RESULTS

Sat.,	Sept. 16th	v. Reading School 'B' XV	Away	Won 54—0
Wed.,	Sept. 27th	v. Reed's School 'B' XV	Home	Won 27—0
Sat.,	Oct. 14th	v. Marlborough College 'B' XV	Away	Won 22—0
Tues.,	Oct. 24th	v. Lord Wandsworth's College	Away	Lost 13—49
Sat.,	Nov. 11th	v. Bearwood College	Home	Won 19—14
Wed.	Nov. 15th	v. Pangbourne College	Home	Won 36—0
Sat.,	Nov. 18th	v. Reading Blue Coat School	Home	Won 38—3
Tues.,	Nov. 21st	v. Wellington College	Away	Lost 6—21
Thur.	Nov. 30th	v. Henley Grammar School	Away	Lost 13—29

Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3; Drawn 0

Points for: 228; Points against: 116

D.S.P.

Hockey Club

1st XI

Once again this was a season that was affected by the ravages of wind, snow and rain. This was an unwelcome anathema, not only because a number of school matches had to be cancelled, but also because the standard of hockey throughout the school has been improving, and the annual problem of snow and/or sodden pitches prevents the younger boys developing their skills. Next season we shall have the benefit of access to an all-weather pitch in Henley and this will ensure that everyone will be able to play a certain number of games whatever the weather.

The 1st XI showed in the six matches they were able to play that they had a great deal of potential. Their practice before the first match had been limited to a five-a-side indoor hockey tournament, arranged by the Berkshire Schools' Hockey Association, and two unsatisfactory practices. It is not surprising, therefore, that the side failed to play as a team and was defeated.

In subsequent matches, however, they showed their true form. The strength of the side lay in the halves and in the willingness of the side to chase the ball and to think far more about the pattern of play. The ubiquitous halves, E. Thong, S. Mitchell and M. Patterson, distributed the ball intelligently and often, having broken up an opponents' attack, they moved forward quickly into attack themselves. It is rare at this level to find halves who were able to attack and defend efficiently, but this they did with complete effectiveness, and they rarely, if ever, surrendered control of the middle of the field.

After a brief and unsuccessful (chaotic?) attempt to implement the modern 4-2-4 method of play, we reverted to our previously successful method of relying on the inside-forwards to act as the links between defence and attack. Both A. Jones and A. Gordon created an efficacious link and J. Clayton, at centre-forward, has now added greater skill to his hitherto rumbustious approach and he scored some vital goals. The wingers, D. Adams on the right and N. Hodges or S. Coston on the left, although lacking speed with the ball, were sufficiently skilful to add to the cohesion of the forward-line—a factor lacking in previous years.

In defence, the backs were capable, but sometimes failed to appreciate the danger from opponents' attacks, before the attacks actually materialised. This led to situations when they were caught on their heels, but they usually managed to recover. R. Elmer was in goal for the first part of the season and he made some good saves, although lack of serious concentration did contribute to two unnecessary goals. His absence led to his replacement in the latter part of the term by I. Baldry, who carried on where he had left off at the end of the previous season—pursuing the

ball with his usual vigour and once again seldom being averse to taking "man and ball."

One of the most encouraging features of this side was their desire to enjoy the hockey and once again this was shown by the way they practised in snow and rain with remarkable ebullience and application. Next year's side will be able to draw upon nine players with 1st XI experience and competition for places should be keen

Old Colours were:—E. K.-L. Thong, M. Patterson and M. Guillaume.

Full Colours were awarded to:—A. M. Jones, A. D. Gordon and S. Mitchell.

Half Colours were awarded to:—J. M. P. Clayton, D. Adams, D. Youngs and G. Welbrock-Smith.

The following played for the team on more than one occasion:—I. R. Baldry, R. Elmer, P. Jackson, M. Guillaume, G. Welbrock-Smith, E. K.-L. Thong (capt.), S. C. Mitchell, M. V. Patterson, D. A. S. Adams, A. M. Jones, A. D. Gordon, J. M. P. Clayton, S. R. Coston and N. Hodges.

RESULTS

Jan. 23rd	v. Chiltern Casuals	Home	Lost 0—1
Feb. 24th	v. Lord Wandsworth's College	Away	Won 3—0
Feb. 26th	v. Reed's School 2nd XI	Home	Won 2—1
Mar. 4th	v. Abingdon School 2nd XI	Away	Won 2—1
Mar. 9th	v. Masters' Common Room XI	Home	Won 5—1
Mar. 12th	v. Old Vikings' Society	Home	Drew 1—1

2nd XI

Although the team played only four matches, they showed that there was a good deal of promise for the future and they showed a remarkable acquisition of skills on what can only be described as appalling pitches. It is to be hoped that next season will provide us with an opportunity to play all the planned matches, because there are a number of potentially good hockey players coming up from junior teams and it may even be possible to produce a 3rd XI.

Under the able captaincy of R. J. Dand the team won three of the four matches and drew the other—no mean feat against good opposition. It was only the survival of a number of young players from last year's 1st XI that prevented several of this team playing for the senior side. The halves, R. Dand, M. Hodson and A. Alireza, all produced fine performances, although there was one weakness that was common to them all and that was an inability to recover quickly when the ball had been pushed past them. If it had not been for the steady play of the backs, P. Jackson and J. Cozens, the team would have conceded more than four goals. However, the defence usually played well and their distribution of the ball to the forwards contributed much to the success of the side.

The forwards created several goal-scoring situations, but let the opposition off the hook on several occasions by over-hasty shooting and/or a wrongly judged pass at the critical moment. However, they made up for this by a continuous willingness to run at the defence and to fight for

the ball. This was the most encouraging feature of the play and effort will always bring just reward sooner or later. A. Packer on the right wing and S. Coston on the left-wing improved noticeably during the season and Packer frequently opened up the defence with incisive through-balls. It is a pity that he had a tendency to try to finish off his own good preparatory work, when a pass to the back of the circle would have opened up the defence for the centre-forward or inside forwards.

RESULTS

Jan. 20th v. Crookham Court 1st XI	Won 3—1
Feb. 23rd v. Reading Blue Coat 1st XI	Drew 0—0
Feb. 26th v. Reed's School	Won 2—0
Mar. 1st v. High Wycombe College of Art and Technology	Won 6—3

The following played for the team on more than one occasion:—T. Beaumont, P. Jackson, J. B. Cozens, R. J. S. Dand, M. Hodson, A. Alireza, A. C. Packer, M. Alireza, S. Akhavan, D. Argenti, N. Jumat and S. R. Coston.

Half-Colours were awarded to:—R. J. S. Dand.

Football Club

The last season has been one of ups and downs for the club, but the results have shown our vast improvement. Over the last season, we have played nine matches, of which we won four, drew three and lost two. For the first time in our history we had the pleasure of beating Mr. R. A. Esau's XI, by 4 goals to 3. The match was played in vile conditions, but superior Shiplake skill won against the superior weight of the opposition. Over the last season, our team accent has been on youth, and we have often tried to 'blood' new players with experienced veterans.

In the spring of 1971, it was decided to purchase new colours and twelve new Crystal Palace shirts were bought. I only hope that these new colours will remain the colours of Shiplake College Football Club.

During the Summer Term, an inter-house football competition was started and a shield was purchased to be awarded to the winning house. The final was between Skipwith and Everett, which Skipwith finally won, after a very tough and exciting match, by 4 goals to 3. The Headmaster was kind enough to buy the club a pair of new football nets and they have proved that it was money well spent.

In the Autumn Term, we played against Crookham Court and drew 3—3. Then we were lucky enough to arrange a fixture against Licensed Victuallers' School of Slough, who are one of the best School sides in the south of England. The Shiplake team finally lost by the narrowest of margins, 2—1. Everybody played to the best of his ability, and it was marvellous to see what great potential we have as a team.

Over the last year, we have been greatly helped by Mr. R. A. Esau, Mr. D. S. Partridge, Mr. N. A. Randall and by our new coach/manager,

Mr. E. L. Kilty. I wish to thank them for all the marvellous help they have given us. I would also like to mention Mrs. S. M. Welbrock-Smith, for washing all of our team kit; we are all very grateful.

Regular members of the 1st team were:—M. Jones, S. Barnes, S. Akhavan, M. Paterson, G. Welbrock-Smith (capt.), D. Nops, S. Mitchell, D. Argenti, H. Alireza, C. Packer and M. Alireza.

Also played:—C. Petit, N. Jumat, E. K.-L. Thong, S. Launchbury, P. Bradshaw, P. Carter and R. A. Elmer.

G. WELBROCK-SMITH,
Captain.

Tennis Club

The tennis club was at its maximum capacity of sixty-four full-time players. The keenness of a growing number of seniors in the game is rewarding though these are not always the School's natural ball players.

The results of the 1st VI were disappointing, but only three of the 1st VI had any match experience. Our 3rd pair were frequently out-classed, and the second pair rather too inconsistent to win under match conditions.

The following played for the 1st VI:—G. N. M. Hodgson (capt.), D. A. S. Adams (vice-captain), A. C. Packer, J. R. Lazenby, C. Viney, R. V. Smith and J. N. Cottrell.

1st Tennis Colours were awarded to:—Adams, Hodgson and Packer.

The results were as follows:—

v. Pangbourne College 1st VI	Lost 4—5
v. Wellington College 1st VI	Lost 3—6
v. Bradfield College 'A' VI	Lost 1—5
v. Lord Wandsworths College 1st VI	Won 5—4
v. Reading School 1st VI	Lost 1—8
v. Leighton Park 1st VI	Lost 1—8
v. Bearwood College 1st VI	Cancelled due to rain
v. Old Vikings	Lost

The juniors were mainly not full-time tennis players and it was difficult to get individuals for matches. Potentially we had quite a strong team, but this difficulty meant that our actual results were poor.

The Under-16 team won one and lost five of their matches.

The following boys played at various times:—M. H. M. Hodson (capt.), S. R. Coston, E. Alireza, N. Jumat, P. J. Jackson, R. F. Hancock, D. J. Nops, D. C. Mitchell, J. M. P. Clayton and S. J. Low.

The results were as follows:—

v. Lord Wandsworth's College U/16	Lost 1—5
v. The Oratory School U/16	Abandoned
v. Reading College U/16	Lost 3—6
v. Abingdon School U/16	Lost 3—6
v. Leighton Park U/16	Lost 3—5
v. Bearwood College U/16	Won 7—2
v. Wellington College U/16	Lost 4—5

The senior house matches were won by Skipwith, with a team of D. A. S. Adams; J. R. Lazenby; S. R. Coston; S. C. Mitchell. The runners-up were Everett, with G. N. M. Hodgson; A. C. Packer; M. J. M. Hodson and R. J. Douglas.

The junior house matches were won by Burr, with a team of N. Jumat; P. T. Bradshaw; J. B. Hutton; S. J. Low. The runners-up were Welsh, with D. J. Nops; A. E. Hopkins; S. R. Beak; and D. L. J. Fazan.

Again last Summer Term an inter-school tennis tournament was arranged, with the staff partnering the boys. The winners were A. D. Gordon and S. R. Coston, who defeated Mrs. Gilliat and R. J. Douglas in the final.

For the first time in a couple of years, the School entered the Boys Schools Championships which were played at the Wimbledon All-England Grass Courts. The School was represented by G. N. M. Hodgson and D. A. S. Adams. In the singles, against Bradfield, Hodgson lost the 1st round, while Adams won his, but defaulted in the 2nd round. In the doubles Hodgson and Adams put up a good fight, but lost to Bradfield 2—3. Bradfield went on to the semi-finals.

It was the first time we were able to play against a team of Old Vikings. Their team was A. H. Dean; S. Wellby; D. S. Culshaw; A. G. Ridell. Both O.V. pairs beat the schools pairs, although the school captain, Packer, was unable to play as he was also in the 1st XI cricket team, which was playing at the same time.

Squash Club

In the Spring Term the Senior V played four matches, lost two and won two. We had an experienced side but most of the team were unable to have serious practices because of hockey. A. C. Packer played well although he was confronted more often than not with an opponent who knew more about the game. R. Nemati, who only started the game recently, played with confidence, improved quickly and in the house match beat Packer. A. Gordon, G. Hodgson and A. Klinger also played with determination but with insufficient practice, at any rate in the case of Gordon and Hodgson.

The juniors in this term were lacking in experience as many of them can play only once a week if that. They played three and lost three. Those who played for the team were D. Dalzell, W. Yeung, G. Thomas, E. Alireza, D. Nops. The House match predictably was won by Everett House. The House teams were:

The House teams were:—

EVERETT: Packer, Gordon, Hodgson, Klinger and Parkinson.
BURR: M. A. Alireza, Crawford, Jones, Britton and Jumat.
WELSH: Nemati, Cottrell, Yeung, Viney and Nops.
SKIPWITH: R. V. Smith, Adams, Hayes-Fisher, Willis and C. Smith.

During the Winter Term the seniors played four matches, lost three and won one. Packer improved considerably and now ranks among the best players the School has produced. We were unfortunate to have lost Nemati, and R. Parkinson, a much more controlled and aggressive player now, was injured for most of the term. M. Hayes-Fisher, M. Guillaume, M. Alireza and D. Dalzell also played.

The juniors played four matches, won two and lost two. G. Phillpotts and M. Shove, two new boys, are particularly promising, and R. Hancock has improved with greater experience. Others who played were S. Low, R. Hudson, D. Carey, and A. Newman.

Winter Term results:—

1st:—

v. Carmel	Lost 1—4
v. Reading Blue Coat School	Won 3—2
v. Pangbourne College	Lost 1—4
v. The Oratory	Lost 0—5
v. Leighton Park	Cancelled

Juniors V:—

v. Reading Blue Coat School	Lost 1—4
v. The Oratory	Won 4—1
v. Pangbourne	Lost 5—0
v. Carmel College	Won 3—2

Athletics

As last year, the Inter-House Standards were in two groups, A and B. These again took place on Tuesdays and (voluntary) on Mondays and Wednesdays. Turn-out was good but the standards a little low, although the results, as you see, were very close.

The Inter-House Athletics went down very well, and five records were broken—two track and three field.

RESULTS

INTER-HOUSE STANDARDS

1st	Everett	400 pts.	ave. 7.27
2nd	Welsh	383 pts.	ave. 7.22
3rd	Burr	306 pts.	ave. 6.80
4th	Skipwith	367 pts.	ave. 6.79

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

1st	Skipwith	211 pts.
2nd	Everett	188 pts.
3rd	Welsh	183 pts.
4th	Burr	160 pts.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS FOR 1972 AND RECORDS

	Group A	Group B
100 yards	P. J. Soward (E) 10.5 (<i>equals record</i>)	Jumat (B) 12.2 <i>Record: Soward (E) 11.4</i>
220 yards	Soward (E) 25.9 <i>Record: Soward 25.3</i>	Inglis (W) 26.8 <i>Record: Alireza, A 26.6</i>
440 yards	Varnals (W) 57.4 <i>Record: Chiswell (S) 57.3</i>	Inglis (W) 59.6 (<i>record</i>)
880 yards	Hunting (W) 2m. 17.4 (<i>record</i>)	Wright (W) 2m. 28.8 <i>Record: S. Mitchell (S) 2m. 24.7</i>
Mile	Carmichael (S) 5m.08 <i>Record: L. Phemister (E) 5m.06</i>	Bradshaw (B) 5m.23 <i>Record: Mitchell 5m.08</i>
High Jump	Fabb (E) 5' 2" <i>Record: McGuigan 5' 6"</i>	Halbert (S) 4' 7" (<i>equals record</i>)
Long Jump	I. R. Baldry (E) 16' 11" <i>Record: Baldry 18' 9"</i>	Nops (W) 14' 3" <i>Record: Soward 17' 9"</i>
Shot	Nemati (W) 33' 10½" (<i>record</i>)	No competition 1972 <i>Record: Massaquoi 34' 10"</i>
Discus	Parkinson (E) 95' 3" <i>Record: McGuigan 96' 10"</i>	Jumat 93' 6" (<i>record</i>)
Javelin	P. A. Andersen (B) 122' 3" (<i>record</i>)	Evans (S) 113' 3" (<i>record</i>)
Relay (4 × 440)	Everett: 1m.47	Skipwith: 1m. 54.2

Fencing Club

Since our last news, the numbers have greatly increased, and we now have 16 members, including W. B. Henry (captain), and D. G. H. Dunbar (Hon. Secretary).

Owing to lack of numbers before the Winter Term, no Inter-House Fencing took place, but we did have the Individual Foil, which was a victory for W. B. Henry of Burr House. This event will always take place in the Easter Term now, and trophies given to those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The name of the winner will be shown on the Inter-House Fencing Shield.

Fencing against other Schools was limited to one match against Bradfield College, and Shiplake won, six to three; but now we have more members, we should be able to have more teams taking part, and develop a wider fixture list.

Holders of awards are:—

W. B. Henry, A.F.A. Bronze; D. G. H. Dunbar, A.F.A. Bronze; J. Pongpanich, A.F.A. Bronze; *B. Hawkins, A.F.A. Bronze.

* New member this term

The Club would like to thank Robert Hay, who left us in July, for his services as Captain of Fencing, 1971/72.

HIGGS & Co., HENLEY