

# THE STOIC

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## THE STOIC

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Frontispiece:

## EDITORIAL

Five years at Stowe now cost at least £20,000 of untaxed income. This colossal figure should force everyone to see exactly what a sacrifice is involved for parents who are paying out what will probably be the largest single item of expenditure they will ever make. Why do parents make this sacrifice—and what can their children do to make it worthwhile?

Except for its setting—which is arguably the finest of any school in the country—Stowe has, in purely material terms, little or no advantage over many schools in the state system. In academic terms, the best pupils would probably get at least as good results in the grammar schools, and, although the comprehensive schools probably cannot do as much for the weak pupil, it is not buying yourself good grades to come here.

So it is, apparently, something less tangible that the £20,000 is providing. What it can buy first of all is time. In a boarding school such as this, with its inevitable isolation, there is time that a day school simply cannot provide. At almost any hour, one can find those willing to help with almost any problem—academic, practical or personal.

In the closed society of a boarding school, pupils are, at once, exposed to its own influences and protected from the conflicting ones of the outside world for two-thirds of the year. Values have a better chance of growing in such an environment and, therefore, of surviving in the world for which education is a preparation.

If, because of our isolation, we are to live together at all peaceably, civility and tolerance must develop, and concern, another vitally human quality, grows too. The hope of building 'a noble fellowship of men' is maybe not so far away after all.

Finally, whilst at a day school the range of extra-curricular activities may be available and can be used, at a boarding school it is almost impossible to avoid them. Only a very small number manage to be apathetic and sluggish enough to remain uninvolved throughout their time there.

This is a little of what Stowe can offer. But it is incumbent on the boys and girls to realise fully what a sacrifice their parents are making to give them these things. With this awareness it should not be difficult for them to justify that sacrifice.

JONATHAN KREEGER

The Grecian Valley

Patrick Wilson

## AUTUMN 1976

My review of the term must open with sad news and apologies. The summer ended tragically with the motor accident in which Graham Donald was killed on the last night of term, on his way to London Airport. He had just completed his first year at Stowe, and had already made his mark as a lively and friendly boy. We extend our deepest sympathy to his parents in their grievous loss.

It was unfortunate that no mention was made in the last issue of *The Stoic* of the departure of both Dr Priday and Sister Emery, the former as a result of a serious illness. We offer them our somewhat belated thanks for their care and devotion, with our hopes for Dr Priday's speedy recovery.

There have been, too, departures within the school: It was with sorrow that Cobham House bade farewell to its Housemaster of long standing, the Reverend J. E. C. Nicholl, at the end of last term. However, their new Housemaster, Mr A. J. E. Lloyd, has filled his place admirably. Mr Lloyd has in turn handed his position as Careers Master to Mr Larcombe. We have welcomed to Stowe Mr O. L. Ridge, who returns after some years at Manchester Grammar School, Mr A. A. V. Rudolf (© 1955), and Mr P. C. Godfrey.

The Autumn Term has, so far, been one of hard work. The Middle VIth have been settling down to studying for their A levels, which already seem depressingly close. The Upper VIth are now in top gear, working towards their Oxbridge exams. Outside academic study, the Autumn has not been a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", being rather rainy and cold; but it has been fruitful in other ways, with the happy news of several children being born to masters and their wives. Congratulations are therefore due to Mr and Mrs Mee, Mr and Mrs Drayton, and Dr and Mrs Hornby. Our warmest wishes must also be extended to Mr Meredith, who was recently married.

The ladies have been taking a very active part in school life. We were delighted to welcome a new School Governor, Mrs Bannister, the first lady to hold such a post. And at ground level, the number of girl pupils has been increased by 15. There are now 28 of us, and our number has been considered large enough to form a House. It is hoped that the original owner of the name of the House, the famous and eccentric Lady Hester Stanhope, is not a model for the behaviour of the girls. Our credibility in the School has hopefully been raised by the appointment of a Head of House and two Monitors. They take part in all the duties done by their male counterparts.

Socially, it has not been an exciting term. An Upper School Dance was discussed, but put off until next term. The Grenville "At Home" was an entertaining event, much enjoyed by members of the House and their guests. There have been several good films, including "Midnight Cowboy" and "Dial M for Murder". Members of the orchestra were privileged to accompany the redoubtable Jonathan Kreeger playing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" at a recording session, done by some associates of Mr Gatehouse. The orchestra was no doubt surprised to hear how professional it sounded, combined with Jonathan's sparkling interpretation of the work. Copies of the recording, together with some choral pieces, will be available to us at a later date.

The Congreve play this year is Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People", which opens on 25th November. Non-acting members of the School are looking forward to a production which has possibly presented quite a challenge to the cast and their Director, Mr R. M. Potter. Several people took part in the Buckingham Drama Festival this year. Helped and advised by Mr Haslam, everyone acquitted themselves well, and had a most enjoyable time.

On the sporting front, the Rucker teams have remained relatively unbeaten, as have the soccer and fives teams. The girls now have a "serious" team for hockey, and drew 1—1 against Charmandean School. We also drew against Thornton, and another match, this time against the R.L.S., looms ominously close.

And so the term has been fairly active, although it has been difficult to get down to work. It has been a term of many achievements, and everyone is easily getting into the "Autumn Term" atmosphere, with Christmas approaching rapidly. We look back on past events with pleasure, and forward with anticipation.

FRANCESCA KAY

## OBITUARY

### MRS E. CAMPBELL

All at Stowe held Betty Campbell in that special affection reserved only for exceptional people and her premature death earlier this year deeply saddened her multitude of friends.

Betty joined Stowe as Matron of Bruce in January 1964. It was immediately apparent she was blessed with a warm and caring personality which endeared her to everyone who knew her. After promotion to Senior Matron, she was appointed Housekeeper in September 1973. The obvious pleasure she showed in looking after her boys in Nugent and the deep and thoughtful interest she took in the work and welfare of her staff provided a sympathetic background to her meticulous and tireless approach to her responsibilities.

Care of others was always a predominant trait in Betty Campbell's character and it seemed unthinkable that she could ever display such human failings as impatience or irritation. It was characteristic of her that when her mother was ailing in Scotland, she uncomplainingly shouldered what she believed to be the more pressing obligation and in July 1975 sadly relinquished the way of life at Stowe which had meant so much to her. Uncomplaining and cheerful to the end, Betty died of cancer at Dunfermline in April.

### HARRY GARRETT

Stowe has been fortunate in having its full quota of colourful characters and Harry Garrett could certainly claim his niche.

He joined Stowe in 1926 as a porter, later aspiring with ample justification to Bursar's Clerk, and served with distinction under all four of Stowe's Headmasters. His first love was always Stowe and he possessed one of the characteristics of J.F. in having an infallible memory for boys' names and numbers. His exquisite handwriting earned him widespread renown and receipt of an envelope inscribed in his unmistakable copperplate always gave pleasure to the recipient. With a well developed sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and an extrovert personality, he inevitably established rapport amongst boys, masters and governors and was always fond of reminiscing about old acquaintanceships. At 65, he retired partially but continued to help in the Bursar's Office three days a week until 75 and after that helping with end-of-term accounts until the age of 82. In retirement, he continued to assist with the accounts and despatch of *The Stoic*.

Harry's hobbies were bowls and gardening. He was particularly proud of his prowess on green and garden and one needed to have time to spare when getting him on these topics.

To the end, although 85 and noticeably declining, Harry remained bright eyed and bushy tailed and never lost his characteristic zest for life.

# THE MYLES HENRY PROJECT 1976

## STOWE ICELANDIC EXPEDITION

The decision to enter for the Myles Henry Prize was made for very much the wrong reasons. We had heard it rumoured that very few people had entered for the prize and therefore our chances of getting the prize were higher than usual. (However once we had entered it soon became evident that we were not the only people who had heard this rumour.) Two friends and I had previously been considering a holiday in Iceland and much of the preliminary preparation work was already well under way and so all we had to do was to formulate our ideas quickly and put in the first application.

Since all three of us were A level biologists we were very anxious to make full use of Iceland's unique biological surroundings for an extensive study. With the help of Tony Escribano of the Iceland Unit in Buxton we managed to finalize a project which was to make full use of the glaciers that can be found in large numbers in Iceland. We knew that most of the glaciers in the region of Akureyri (Iceland's second largest town) were fairly easily accessible and that most important of all they were receding rapidly, and as a consequence, were leaving large areas of bare ground open to plant colonization. By tracing the course of the receding glacier to its snout (ice front), we could study a plant succession from the most recent plants, to the inevitable stable and climax community which is found mainly in the lower regions of the glaciated valley.

Having come to this decision about the nature of our project all that remained was for us to arrange a holiday, including plenty of sightseeing around it. Our plan was very straightforward thanks to the extensive experience of the Iceland Unit, and began with a few days in Reykjavik the country's capital. Whilst spending time here we managed to make our way out to the very spectacular waterfalls of Gullfoss and also we had the opportunity of seeing the world-famous Geysir. Although it is out of action now, there is a second smaller version spouting forth its water for all to see. The next stage of our holiday meant flying from Reykjavik to Akureyri where we conducted our study with success, even though the journeys into the mountains were absolutely shattering. Once the project had been completed all that remained was for us to become fully-fledged tourists and make our journey (on foot some of the way and by scheduled bus service the rest) to Myvatn better known as the lake of the flies. We sadly were only able to spend a few days admiring the volcanic attractions of Iceland but it was without doubt the most spectacular aspect of our expedition.

Thanks to the Myles Henry committee, several companies, Mr Nigel Broackes and a few other governors, the holiday emerged from the realms of planning and ideas and became a reality. It was without doubt a great success and I know I certainly have every intention of going back to Iceland in the future; and for me the sooner the better.

JOHN SMITH

## THE PINEAPPLE CLUB

The following account of the 1976 Transatlantic Race has been submitted by Michael Coakley, a member of the Stowe Club for Boys:

When I first heard of the Race, I little thought that I would be able to take part. There were so many obstacles to overcome—the selection, getting time off work, persuading my Mum it was a good idea, deciding which cruise to apply for and the task of finding £150 for the cruise fee in addition to extra kit and pocket money required.

However, with the aid of lots of people including the Leader at Stowe, my parents, the boss at work and Mr Peacock, an old boy of Stowe School; who very kindly paid the whole of the cruise fees, I applied and went through a rigorous selection weekend at the Police Training Centre at Epping Forest. Here we were put through our paces, although the tests seemed more suitable for selecting an Army Officer than to crewing a ship—whoever heard of taking a schooner across an assault course!

I was thrilled when a postcard arrived a few days later simply bearing the words 'Atlantic I'. Nothing else but enough to tell me that I had been selected to form part of the first crew. A training weekend was held on the L.S.P. Boat 'Dodo' in the Solent and on 25th April we joined 'Great Britain II' Chay Blyth's yacht which had been chartered specially for the race. It was very impressive—74 feet long with an 18 ft beam drawing 8 ft of water. Here was one of the fastest and most modern yachts in the world and at 17, I was about to spend a month aboard. From Portsmouth, where G.B. II as she soon became known to us was berthed, we sailed to Guernsey and then to Plymouth for the start of the Race. We spent some time familiarising ourselves with the ship and fitting her out for the voyage. On the Saturday we had an open day and many visitors, although work on preparing the boat went on as usual.

At 12.45 on Sunday, 2nd May, 1976, we set sail for Tenerife. Our routine for the next ten days was to be four hours on Watch Duty, four hours 'Golden Kip' when we could get our heads down, 4 hours 'off' when we scrubbed decks and repaired sails and then back on Watch Duty. This went on for 48 hours when we became 'Mother Watch' being responsible for Cooking and general cleaning, working from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. We never got a full night's sleep during the voyage—two or three hours at a time was the most. Mother Watch was for 24 hours—then back on Watch.

The weather was mainly fair except for the second day out when we encountered gale force winds. This day was nearly our last as the boat started to take in water. Hand pumps and buckets failed to reduce the amount of water and a 'Mayday' call was sent out. We all had to put on lifejackets and swung the life-rafts over the side ready to abandon ship. We headed for Brest in France, the nearest land, 35 miles away and a merchant ship stood by. We were all very frightened although we kept up a pretence by singing. Eventually after getting an electric pump going, the water level was reduced enough to find the fault—a food box had dislodged a pipe to a seacock and this was quickly put right. The drama had lasted for about four hours and it was a very dismal period.

No other ships were sighted during the ten days but we had a school of dolphins accompany us for a day. This proved good fun and plenty of photographs were taken. We were rather sad when they left us. G.B. II was the first of the 39 ships to arrive at Tenerife but because of handicaps was placed 15th in her class and 24th overall. We did however clock up the longest distance in 24 hours.

After arriving at Tenerife, the next five or six days were spent in doing maintenance work on the ship for about five hours a day. We then had shore leave and parties on other boats. This was great as it gave us an opportunity to meet other people and talk over our experiences. As many of the crews were foreign, sign language played an important part in our discussions. A reception was held on the Thursday when we were presented with medals commemorating the voyage. We then had a 'Cruise in Company' with an interchange of crews. I stayed on board G.B. II and we had ten different nationalities on board with us. During this period I had another near escape! When changing sails, my foot got wrapped round a forestay—one minute I was 20 ft in the air, the next 6 ft under. I was wounded badly and had to be hauled to safety but was not hurt. My only injury during the voyage was a badly burned hand when a mooring rope got wrapped round in docking at Tenerife.

The thing which impressed me most about the trip was the lack of any arguments or fights amongst the crew. Despite living in such a confined space and under extreme pressure and lack of sleep, everything was peaceful and we all got along very well together. We returned from Tenerife by Charter Aircraft on 21st May, 1976 arriving at Gatwick at 6 a.m. exhausted but happy.

I would like to thank all those who made the trip possible. I thought the trip terrific and would love to do it again. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Peacock, without whose financial help the trip may not have been possible and the Committee of the Stowe Club for Boys for their kind presentation of a Sailing Bag which proved invaluable.

In conclusion, I would recommend Off Shore sailing to any young person. The London Sailing Project run weekend and two-week courses throughout the year details of which can be had from various Youth organisations such as the Stowe Club. The Club also run basic sailing courses every Saturday for those with little or no experience—this is the way I started and I have enjoyed every minute of it. A final word of thanks to Mr J. Hamilton and all the members of the L.S.P. for all the hard work that they have put in to making the trip such a success.

## MUSIC

Music this term has been varied and generally excellent. A Glenn Miller concert was balanced by the (as always) exciting team of Mr Drayton and Mr Gatehouse at the pianos in the Music Room (of which a review will follow in the next edition of *The Stoic*). Coming later in the term are the Salomon Orchestra and the Mahler 5th, and the Christmas Concert, in which two highly contrasting piano/orchestral pieces ("Rhapsody in Blue" and a Chopin concerto) will be played.

**Saturday, 9th October, 1976 at 8.30 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall**  
THE MILLION AIRS — A GLENN MILLER CONCERT  
With Eve Boswell

The appeal-spinning Glenn Miller concert was a glamorous success. The evening provided perhaps the best "live" imitation yet heard, having been arranged by Brian Pendleton, and was most entertaining—the "proof of the pudding" being that it survived successfully for three hours. The crowded Roxburgh Hall lent itself well to evoking the nostalgia of the forties; this must have been particularly so for the older members of the audience, who actually participated in an Eve Boswell number.

The acoustics were good, apart from the piano amplification, which sounded as bad as some of the Roxburgh Hall practice pianos. The singing came over very well and produced some of the best moments in the concert. Some of the improvisation, especially the saxophone section, was good. Eve Boswell's voice was excellent and added great zest to the concert. Colin MacGregor was a fair singer but rather too talkative: the concert was not supposed to be in the vein of the "Generation Game".

Inevitably, I suppose, people were taking a fair deal of interest in their watches by the end of the concert; but it was certainly a highly entertaining and novel evening.

CHARLES CHOLMONDELEY

**Sunday, 10th October, 1976 at 8.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall**  
JAMES SHEPHERD VERSATILE BRASS

Coming as it did the very day after the Glenn Miller concert, this concert had no easy task ahead of it if it was to raise even the slightest hair of any Stoic eyebrow. But, for this reviewer, the title "Versatile Brass", was a deserved one. The evening, although by no means a "serious" one, was extremely pleasant, and the range of the band was demonstrated by the choice of pieces: from Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky to "Spanish Eyes" and Joseph Horowitz (my apologies to Mr Horowitz if he declines to be classed with the dubious, but undoubtedly popular, "Spanish Eyes").

Both solos and ensemble pieces were most enjoyable, and there was even a "mellowphonium" solo that could have come out of a Hoffnung book. The final piece, "La Bamba", was a rousing end to an entertaining concert.

JONATHAN KREEGER

**Sunday, 31st October, 1976 at 8.00 p.m. in the Music Room**

REGENT SINFONIA WIND ENSEMBLE

Sextet—*Beethoven* Four Miniatures—*Stravinsky*

Septet—*Hindemith* Serenade for 13 Wind Instruments—*Mozart*

How encouraging it is to see young groups, like the N.Y.O. and tonight's Regent Sinfonia Wind Ensemble, around the country, and what a delightful combination two clarinets, two horns, and two bassoons make when played by such instrumentalists.

The opening piece, thus scored, after a beautiful but short adagio, was exciting and moving, with a spritely minuetto and lively finale. The Stravinsky miniatures, with a beautiful but light *lento*, were a rousing contrast to the Beethoven.

I did not enjoy the Hindemith (through no fault of the players). Perhaps, as a young lady so pertinently remarked at the time, I did not understand it. Harsh on the ears, it is more fully scored and more violent than the Stravinsky. When one reads "varationen", one normally expects to hear variations, but I fear I could not detect any.

The last piece in the programme was a Mozart serenade. This long and quite attractive piece, so typical of Mozart, was an appropriate end to an interesting and—on the whole!—enjoyable concert.

STEVEN MCCARTHY

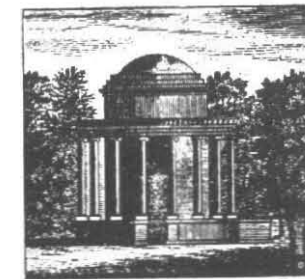
## MUSIC CLUB

At its first meeting this term the Club heard a most stimulating talk from the Headmaster on the records he would like to take with him in the unlikely event of his exile to a desert island. These covered a wide spectrum of music ranging from Beethoven's Third piano concerto to Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and contemporary South American church music.

At our next meeting we welcomed Mr Geoffrey Brand, who entertained us with a fascinating account of his energetic life as a B.B.C. planner and producer. We learnt a great deal about the back-stage preliminaries and all this gave us a valuable foretaste of the Upper School lecture given by Mr R. N. Ponsonby, Director of Music at the B.B.C. on 30th October.

At our next meeting Steven McCarthy will be talking about the piano music of Liszt.

EILUNED JONES



*The Temple of Ancient Virtues.*

# DRAMA

## "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"

One of the great pleasures of the Summer Term is the opportunity for outdoor drama and last June the Junior Congreve Club, in its third consecutive outdoor production, gave us a most skilful and amusing "Importance of Being Earnest". Ironically, in a summer of outstanding sunshine and subsequent drought, bad weather on the second night forced a retreat to the Roxburgh Hall—albeit a retreat of heroic, Dunkirk proportions, bringing with it triumph out of seeming disaster—but fortunately the weather held—precariously—for the first night and allowed a large audience to enjoy the production in the setting for which it had been planned: in front of the Temple of Venus.

"Style", says Gwendolen in Act Three, "not sincerity, is the vital thing" and style certainly was the hallmark of Mr Roger Potter's production. There was style in the overall presentation and there was style in the acting. The minor characters, no less than the major ones, were imbued with the spirit of the fin de siècle aesthete. One remembers the two butlers (the Lane of Matthew Street and the Merriman of Jonathan Villiers) both moving with great dignity and perfect poise, whilst the Chasuble of Benedict Martin was amusingly eccentric but stayed just the right side of caricature. The Prism of Peter Dunham was splendidly spinsterish and proper, the perfect portrait of everyone's unfavourite aunt. And Jaideep Gulab—not altogether unsurprisingly—made the most of his Footman!

Style—in speech, in movement, and in immobility—was consistently upheld by all the major characters. As John Worthing and Algernon, Marc Hope and Guy Lancaster sparred with each other with polished ease. The latter's studied, staccato delivery, reminiscent of Coward, particularly suited the Wildean epigrams. It was Algernon indeed who set the spark to the First Act, whilst John Worthing, although starting less certainly, grew in stature the longer the play progressed. There was little to criticise in these two performances. Perhaps, occasionally, one would have liked a little more flippancy, as in the 'muffins' sequence, for example, and Algernon looked and sounded somewhat serious when talking of "the most wonderful Bunbury in my life". At one stage too they were wearing their boaters, thrust firm and square on their heads, like butchers, but that was the necessary concomitant, no doubt, of performing out of doors in a fierce wind! And although the costumes were overall most colourful and engagingly in-period, perhaps the two leading men were not quite as exquisite as Wilde would have liked. But then he never knew the exigencies of 'low-budget' school productions! Modern shoes and trousers pale into insignificance, however, in the face of the two performances. There remains firmly in the mind, for example, the magnificent 'stage picture' of Algernon paying court to Cecily ("I have dared to love you wildly, passionately, devotedly, hopelessly"), whilst posturing grandly at the foot of an Ionic column. One of a number of great moments.

The three leading ladies were all excellent in their different ways. Henry Hall as Lady Bracknell was every inch a society dragon, resplendent in wispy purple finery, a masterpiece of the costumier's art. Amidst a cast of good movers, Lady Bracknell moved conspicuously well. There was authority in every action and word, and even if the strong wind blowing through the trees threatened at times to take away her words, it never quite did so. Her entrance in Act 1 ("Mr Worthing! Rise, sir, from this semi-recumbent posture. It is most indecorous") was a magnificent piece of theatre, whilst Edith Evans herself could not have made more of "Prism! Come here, Prism!" In contrast to the opportunities for bravura in the part of Lady Bracknell, the parts of Gwendolen and Cecily are less rewarding. The former is probably the hardest of all for an all-male Junior Congreve Club to attempt and it is to Nicholas Clarke's credit that at no time was this apparent. The characterisation was excellent, the movements good (seldom can a Gwendolen have sat down with greater aristocratic deliberation) and the delivery outstandingly clear. Keith Springer did well with Cecily. He played the part hard, with an enthusiastic attack, and got away with it, which was no mean feat.

This then was a production of great charm, directed by a producer who knew what he wanted and drew it most effectively from a talented cast. The lordly posture, the languid gesture, the

elegant gait and the studied diction were all subtle hints of the skill of a director who was obviously very much at home in this genre. It could not have been an easy task. The play itself is extremely demanding for a young cast and the setting, involving, as it does, huge acting areas, could so easily have 'over-stretched' the action and overpowered the players. To have succeeded so splendidly was a considerable achievement.

"Have you anything to declare, sir?" asked an American customs official of Oscar Wilde. "No," came the reply. "Nothing, but my genius." Something of this genius the Junior Congreve Club successfully rediscovered last June.

A. G. MEREDITH

## BUCKINGHAM DRAMA FESTIVAL

Although still only in its fourth year, the Buckingham Festival of Music and Drama is steadily growing in reputation, and the standard of competition is rising annually. This year Stowe sent its largest entry to date including, for the first time, entrants in the Verse Speaking, Bible Reading and Sight Reading classes.

The tenor of the day was set in the first class, the 13-14 years Duologue when Ian Keith and Dan Callow gave a polished rendering from Dickens' 'Christmas Carol' as the ghostly Jacob Marley and the obsequious Scrooge respectively, which won them first place. In the next class, the 15-16 years Duologue, Stowe was placed first and second with Edward Hartington and Simon Wallace Jones' moving extract from 'Becket', runner-up to Marc Hope and Ric McGill's scene from 'Journey's End', the fight sequence of which was described by the adjudicator as 'memorable'. This was a particularly creditworthy performance as McGill had only stepped into the part at thirty-six hours notice. Rupert Bell won the Open Bible Reading class, beating Jonathan Kreeger by one mark, and although only third in their class Kreeger and Francesca Kay's extract from 'Private Lives' was refreshingly amusing, and significantly the only piece of comedy all morning.

The afternoon session started well with Joe Pélissier's Henry V and Richard Humphrey's Puck leading the field in the 13-14 years Shakespeare solo, but perhaps the best performance of the day was to follow in the 15-16 Shakespeare solo. Against considerable opposition Julie Marler, last year's winner, gave a spirited and powerful rendering of Katharina's last speech in 'The Taming of the Shrew', but she had to be content with second place behind Marc Hope whose original Porter from 'Macbeth' not only won him the class, but also the Embleton Cup for the best overall Shakespeare performance—a meritorious triumph as he had done almost all the work on the speech himself. Although disappointingly without opposition, Michael Emery, Christopher Mersey and David Burgess acted a scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' with conviction, and Humphreys and Pélissier had a brave stab at the gravediggers scene from 'Hamlet'—no mean undertaking for two thirteen year olds.

In the poetry classes Stowe won two first prizes through Duncan Boyd and Charles Montgomery (a copy of whose poem appears in this issue) with several other creditable performances. Francesca Kay was knocking on the door in almost every class she entered, and perhaps the best received performance of the day came late in the afternoon with Julie Marler's superb cockney housewife from 'There's a man in that tree' which had polish, wit and delightful conviction. All in all, it was a most successful day for Stowe, and further evidence of the school's ever-growing strength and interest in dramatics, which can do nothing but good.

C. R. HASLAM



(Above)—Miss Prism (Peter Dunham) and Dr Chasuble (Benedict Martin); and (below)—Jack (Marc Hope), Lady Bracknell (Henry Hall) and Algernon (Guy Lancaster) in "The Importance of Being Earnest"



## THE HISTORY OF STOWE XXV

### THE DUKEDOM OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS (Part 2)

In 1882, at the end of Part 1 of this chapter, the second Lord Buckingham had just become a Duke. A long hoped-for honour finally achieved. He had already been given the Garter in 1820, but, as if the Grenvilles were fated to find themselves out of pocket whatever good fortune might otherwise come their way, in this same year Wotton House, the old family seat, caught fire and was burnt out. Without waiting a moment to consider what the expense might be, Buckingham wrote to his father's friend, Sir John Soane, asking him to reconstruct "poor Wotton", and Soane, brisk man that he was, sent down somebody with a tape measure to climb about the ruins while they were still smouldering.<sup>1</sup> So Wotton was rebuilt, but what did it cost and how was the money raised?

Meanwhile Buckingham had obtained at last the strawberry leaves that had been a Stowe ambition almost since Lord Temple came into the place in 1749. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick (Proverbs 13, 12), but a Dukedom is a Dukedom however late it comes. George IV was exceedingly pleasant about it and made a point of not making anyone else a Duke at the same time. But Buckingham received no office with this final step in the Peerage, which nettled him. Of course he was not jealous, but Fremantle, Wynn and Phillimore were all actively employed and he was not, and apart from them he suffered much, had indeed suffered for a long time, from the conduct of his near relations, his younger brother, Lord Nugent, and his son and heir, Lord Chandos. With the Dukedom was given a second Marquisate, Chandos, and Buckingham's son now had this title by courtesy. Nugent's peerage was Irish<sup>2</sup> and consequently he could sit in the House of Commons. He had a seat for Aylesbury, by family influence. He was the same kind of man as his brother, stout, pink-faced, good-natured, extravagant. But whereas Buckingham was by temperament conservative, Nugent was an extreme Whig, even a radical, ardent for Parliamentary reform. He could not agree with his brother and finally begged to be repudiated by the Connection, of which he disapproved. But Buckingham had intense family feeling and could not bring himself to do it, and continued to allow Nugent to draw liberally from the dwindling Grenville funds.

If Nugent caused Buckingham embarrassment, Chandos caused him pain. Nugent was a thorough Grenville on the latter-day, warm-hearted model. Chandos appeared not to be a Grenville at all. He was slender and dark-eyed, like his mother. In character he was expansive and charming in public, when it suited him to appear so, but in private he was cold and selfish. He was however a Grenville in extravagance, spending his father's money like water without the least regard for consequences. As soon as he was of age he was brought into Parliament for the county and this seat he kept until his father's death in 1839, when he became second Duke. Being ambitious he soon began to stir and take his own line. He decided on an ultra-Tory position, and seemed to take pleasure in annoying his father. In later years those best qualified to judge, as for example Disraeli, thought him a second-rate character, almost a stupid fellow,<sup>3</sup> but there is no doubt he had an amazingly keen political nose and much political foresight. The Grenville Connection was of course valuable while it lasted, but Chandos saw, what his father and many others did not see, that the days of borough influence were numbered. He must accordingly stand on his own feet against the time when the Connection would be no more, and find support among the electors much in the same way that a present-day politician has to manage it. So he sought from now onwards for a good "cry" and the first he chose was anti-Catholicism. This of course struck at his father's most deeply felt and liberal conviction, but Chandos cared nothing for that. There were many Protestant dissenters in Bucks, and the church-going farmers were still suspicious of Popery. It was to the farmers in particular that Chandos appealed and it was they who formed his main audience and support. He had a great way with them and seems truly to have liked their society. He could always get up at a moment's notice and rattle off a speech that would bring them to their feet, cheering and waving their hats.

Anti-Catholicism was merely the hors d'oeuvre to Chandos' political career. He also tried pro-slavery, but this was abhorrent to almost everybody and had no great success. The main dish that sustained him was corn, support for the Corn Laws. The farmers, as soon as they realised Napoleon's number was up, while the war was still going on, began to worry and exclaim against the cheap foreign corn that would soon be coming in. Nor did the original law of 1815 wholly reassure them. So corn was a splendid cry for Chandos that served him for many years. Lord Grenville always disapproved of the Corn Laws, uttering in 1815 words of wisdom that ring true as ever today, but to such words his great nephew paid little attention.<sup>4</sup> Chandos became very popular among the "agriculturalists" of Bucks and rode about the county boasting that the Connection was no longer his father's but his own, which was quite untrue. His father was driven at times to lose his temper but, as with Nugent, he could not bear to quarrel seriously with Chandos and always forgave him and went on letting him have money to be used, as likely as not, against his own interest. What with the restraints imposed by his uncle, the extravagance of his brother and the ill-natured proceedings of his son, Buckingham, one may almost say, led a dog's life. Moreover, he began to suffer from the gout. During the latter half of his life almost all letters addressed to him begin with an enquiry after his health. He found what pleasure he could in the society of children and in his museum at Stowe.<sup>5</sup> At Avington he was near the sea and he also took pleasure in sailing. He was a competent yachtsman. This was another thing that relieved his mind from politics.

By 1825 Buckingham, Duke though he now was, had sunk into a state of utter wretchedness. Fremantle and Charles Wynn, now established in their offices, were cavalier, almost disagreeable to him, and the insolence of Chandos was well-nigh intolerable. His thoughts turned to travel and the sea. He decided to leave the country for a time and had built for himself, no doubt at great expense, a large, fast-sailing yacht which he named *Anna Eliza*. It is to be hoped that the Duchess was pleased at this touching piece of gallantry, but she did not come with him. Stowe was shut up, in hopes of saving money. Dr O'Connor, now decidedly cracked, was pensioned off. (The Duchess returned to Avington) In August 1827 Buckingham set forth with a party of scientific friends, an armed ship's company and a bo'sun who had fought at Trafalgar. The nautical bustle and the sea air were no doubt good for his liver and his gout, and he soon began to cheer up. During the first half of the tour, spent cruising the western Mediterranean, he appears well and happy and indeed an entirely different man. He kept a diary of the whole two years' tour, and by this one understands that he is clever, very well educated, and has an amazingly wide range of interests, in all of which he is expert. He is a first-rate geologist, a very good seaman, well up in Archaeology and Ancient history, astronomy, chemistry, zoology and botany. In the fine arts, however, except perhaps music, he is not so good. He is obliged, as travellers always are, to "see the sights". Ruins of course he views archaeologically. On Renaissance buildings, paintings and statues his judgements are those of "the man in the street". Alas, to him all frescoes are nothing but "huge daubs". If he notices a picture it is usually because he has, or fancies he has, a better example of the same master at Stowe.

He spent some time in Sicily, where he had some interesting conversations with priests. He found them surprisingly tolerant of the English church, when they understood what it was. He in his turn was very polite about their church, while making it plain that he did not belong to it. At Palermo he visited a very fine library, where he found English books among which were works by four of Stowe's British Worthies: Shakespeare, Milton, Newton, Locke. The odd thing is that the library belonged to the Jesuits, but Buckingham does not comment on this interesting circumstance.<sup>6</sup> His main object in Sicily was of course Etna, which he ascended on a powerful, sure-footed mule. His description is vivid. Next he went to Syracuse where he did some excavating, which interested him tremendously. Then away by the Straits of Messina to Naples. He had been warned about pirates at sea and bandits ashore, but he was enjoying himself and gave little thought to these perils.

Buckingham's father had succoured the French Royalists in their distress twenty years before, and King Francis I of Naples, who was likewise a Bourbon, received Buckingham almost as a brother monarch. Red carpet treatment, which he met throughout Italy, was of course very

convenient to a scientific traveller, but for the cruel and bigoted Francis himself he felt little but contempt. This was the interval between Napoleon and Garibaldi when tyranny reassured itself in Italy for a space, and Buckingham was saddened, as Mr Gladstone was later infuriated, by the knowledge that the beautiful islands around the Bay of Naples were used for the incarceration of "prisoners of opinion". But here, as with Etna in Sicily, Vesuvius was the chief attraction and the mountain obligingly put on an unusually fine display. Buckingham was carried up to the crater in a chair, his weight almost crippling the men who carried him. He remained there until nightfall and enjoyed himself enormously.<sup>7</sup>

He left Naples in April 1828 and made a cruise of the volcanic islands, then briefly to Malta where he met Admiral Codrington fresh from Navarino, back to Sicily to see the Greek temple at Segesta, then south to the grim volcanic island of Pantellaria, the worst prison-island of all. Here the yacht was obliged to ride out an appalling storm in a rocky roadstead, and it was entirely owing to Buckingham's seamanlike foresight that they were not cast away. His boat-builder, wishing to impress by the yacht's fast-sailing quality, had recommended light anchors only. But Buckingham had also taken a heavy one, with a powerful chain cable, and this it was that held them through the worst night any of the seamen could remember. They returned north-about Sicily, touched again at Castellamare, saw more volcanic islands and so to Sardinia and Corsica. Sardinia was so malarial that they could scarcely land there, but Corsica was clear. Landing at Ajaccio Buckingham sent the yacht round to Bastia and himself travelled through the island with horses, for the pleasure of seeing forests, waterfalls and spiky mountains. Finally to Genoa when he sent *Anna Eliza* home loaded with minerals, Antique fragments and Mediterranean wines.

He now took to the road, made a rapid but interesting circle in the mountains of Savoy and Piedmont, back to Genoa and south by the usual tourist route to Rome. Passing through the Apennines above Lucca his little cortege was threatened by bandits, who were however scared off by a show of arms. Buckingham arrived in Rome in November and settled there for the winter. Here he had his sister Mary, who had married Lord Arundel of Wardour and become a devout Catholic, to show him round, which was pleasant. She also took him into English society, which was tedious. But as time went by he met some interesting Italians and French. He sought an audience with Pope Leo XII, was blessed by him and was much impressed by the goodness of his character. He did some digging near the tomb of Cecilia Metella and found a sarcophagus for Stowe. He also bought some statues.<sup>8</sup> Rome was of course intensely interesting for archaeology, and he loved to stroll in St. Peter's, but otherwise he did not really like the place. The more sedentary life brought back the gout and the diary takes on a self-pitying tone.<sup>9</sup>

In January 1829 Leo XII died and Rome had the long-drawn excitement of the election of the antique Cardinal Castiglione as Pius VIII. With him also Buckingham had an audience, and this alarmed the English. They knew who he was of course, the pro-Catholic nephew of Lord Grenville, and what could audiences with two successive Popes mean but an attempt to reunite the English and Roman churches? The Italians were less interested, being convinced he was a brother of George IV travelling incognito and merely for pleasure. On the other hand the fallen Bonaparte family, who were largely assembled in Rome, understood who he was and were anxious to meet, or at least see, this mountainous Grenville, cousin of their arch-enemy Mr Pitt. Buckingham was intrigued but prudently kept his distance. He finally left Rome in May 1829 and then did meet a Bonaparte, the best of them, that interesting man Lucien, Duke of Canino, who was excavating near Corneto and finding innumerable "Etruscan" vases. Here Buckingham spent several enjoyable days and at parting was given two very fine vases for Stowe. Northward then to Florence by way of Assisi, where the "idolatry" made him, for the nonce, extremely Protestant. In Florence he diligently saw the sights but did not much enjoy himself. There was a capital museum of anatomy but the society was, well, immoral, English as well as Italian. Onward over the mountains to Bologna and Modena, where the Austrian Duke made much of him. The Duke was scientific and interesting, but then, the man was a despot with no Whigs nor Tories to restrain him. He allowed to be posted up in his dominions a proclamation by the Inquisition condemning witchcraft, liberalism and other such naughty practices. Bucking-



ham could scarcely believe it even when he saw it. Then to Padua, moribund Venice, back westward to Vicenza—which as the home of Palladio he was bound to admire—through the Lombard plain to Milan and at last over the Simplon to Geneva, where the diary ends. He finally returned to England in November 1829.

With sorrow one lays aside the diary and returns with Buckingham to renewed gout, increased debts and the horrors of Parliamentary reform. It is typical of his frustrated public life that Catholic emancipation, about which he cared so much, should have been at last pushed through Parliament while he was absent in Italy. Lord Grenville had been the presiding genius of the



movement, but Buckingham was equally staunch. It should of course be remembered that his beloved mother had herself been an Irish Catholic. Lord Liverpool was dead and the Duke of Wellington was Premier. He had made up his cabinet in his usual brusque manner. He was an old family friend of the Grenvilles but he had no use for them in Parliament. Fremantle had already been sidetracked by a court appointment and a knighthood. Wynn and Phillimore were not reappointed to their offices. This was in effect the end of the Grenville Connection. Finally the Duke of Wellington gave Charles Wynn what can only be seen as a booby prize for the Grenvilles, making him a Commissioner for the inspection of lunatic asylums.

The fall of the Duke of Wellington, the return of Lord Grey and the Whigs and the dramatic passage of the Reform Bill in 1832 form a well known chapter of English history. As the reform movement gathered strength, the nobility and gentry became seriously alarmed, fearing that if the Bill were passed the English Revolution would follow. Queen Adelaide was heard to say that she hoped she would go to execution with more dignity than Marie Antoinette.<sup>10</sup> But, after all, nothing very terrible happened. There was no bloodshed. Buckingham, shorn of his boroughs, cut a ridiculous rather than a sinister figure. The spiteful Mr Creevy observed him—

“I saw the stately Buckingham going down to the House of Lords just now. I wonder how he likes Buckingham and St Mawes being bowled out. He would never have been a Duke without them, and could there be a better reason for their destruction!”<sup>11</sup>

As it happened Chandos, with his usual acumen, managed to extract from the Reform Bill, which he cannot possibly have liked, a political triumph for himself. As the Bill was debated he proposed a clause, thereafter known as the Chandos clause,<sup>12</sup> which would give the vote to tenant farmers whose holdings were of £50 value or more. The ostensible object was to counter-balance the much increased urban vote, the real reason to keep Chandos popular with his supporters. To the disgust of Lord Grey, Parliament approved the clause and it became part of the Bill. This was Chandos’ political zenith. The agriculturists dubbed him “the farmers’ friend” and drank his health up and down the country. But from this moment he began to decline, ceasing to trouble so much about his rustic friends, wasting money and losing his temper worse than ever. He remained however, at least in appearance, a considerable Tory figure, leader of the Church-of-England, country interest, one whom the sagacious Peel thought fit to consult and even at last to make a Cabinet minister.

Buckingham’s last years cannot have been happy. On coming to the throne in 1830 William IV made him Lord Steward of the Household, the idea of which greatly pleased him. But he found it too exhausting and after a month or two he resigned, giving up all thought of public life. Gout and debts now made up the sum of his days. He had always known he ought to economise but his nature was such that he could not manage it. He sold the huge collection of prints made by his father and himself, but he went on buying property, books, mineral specimens and stuffed crocodiles. And even had he saved money Nugent and Chandos would have spent it for him. He was spared the bankruptcy of his house engineered by Chandos, as second Duke, in 1848. But by 1833 himself had sunk low and the bailiffs were already threatened at Stowe. Witness a letter he wrote, or rather that the Duchess wrote because his hand was too gouty to hold the pen, to Sir John Soane, begging very much *ad misericordiam*, for a loan of £5,000.<sup>13</sup> Things have come to a pretty pass when a Duke is constrained to borrow, or try to borrow, from his architect.

Buckingham died in 1839. Unfortunate, well-meaning man! His youth had been spent amid tumults and rick-burnings, in maturity he lost his boroughs and the Chartists began their riots as he lay dying. The great Grenville fortune was crumbling to dust, Parkinson’s third law was setting in with a vengeance. If only he had not been born to a peerage at such a time in history, if only he had not been obliged to involve himself so unsuccessfully in politics; if he had been born a commoner with comfortable, not vast but encumbered, means; if he could have passed his life in the pursuits he so much liked, how much better health he would surely have enjoyed, how much happier he would have been. He might even have made a name for himself in literature or science.

M. J. GIBBON

#### Notes

1. See Dorothy Stroud, *the Architecture of Sir John Soane*, Studio Books, 1961, p. 131.
2. See chapter XVI, pedigree of the Temple-Grenville family, for this peerage.
3. Spring (Bibl. 8), p. 257, note 3.
4. “Protest” drawn up by Lord Grenville against the first Corn Bill of 1815. Bibl. 2/a, Vol. II, pp. 110-112.
5. For a description of the museum see Calkin and Budd (Bibl. 11).
6. See chapters 9 and 10 for the anti-clerical significance of the British Worthies.

7. The Duke's diary (Bibl. 3, Ch. 18) has a most vivid, and scientific, description of Vesuvius in eruption.
8. For these statues when placed at Stowe see Calkin and Budd (Bibl. 11).
9. News from home added to his depression. In January 1829 he heard that "Cauty, the auctioneer" had gone bankrupt owing him £1100 "just when I can least afford it".
10. Creevey (Bibl. 5), Vol. 11, p. 300.
11. Creevey, *op. cit.*, Vol. 11, p. 221.
12. The clause was in fact first thought of by another M.P., Colonel Sibthorp, but Chandos took it over without, needless to say, acknowledging his debt. Spring, *op. cit.*, p. 259.
13. The Duke's letter is dated merely "June 13" but the year is evidently 1833 as there is an urgent follow-up letter dated October 22 1833 from the Stowe librarian W. J. Smith, successor to Dr O'Connor. It is feared that the "Phoenix Company" will resort to the "utmost extremity", but there seems to be nothing among Soane's papers to show that the loan was forthcoming. I am indebted to Miss Dorothy Stroud, Deputy Keeper of the Sir John Soane Museum, for showing me these letters.

In the same year Thomas Grenville, the Duke's bibliophile brother, wrote to the Duchess about the urgent need to sell some pictures, suggesting tactfully how they might get round the Duke's unwillingness to attend to the details (Greater London Record Office, ST61/103).

#### Bibliography

1. C. Northcote Parkinson.
  - a. *Parkinson's Law*, (1st law—Chapter 1).
  - b. *The Law and the Profits*, (2nd law—Chapter 1).
  - c. *In Laws and Outlaws*, (3rd law—Chapter 12).
 Penguin publications, all 1965.
2. The second Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.
  - a. *Court of the Regency*. 1856.
  - b. *Court of George IV*. 1859.
  - c. *Courts and Cabinets of William IV and Victoria*. 1861.
 All published by Hurst and Blackett.

On the title pages of these volumes the author is given as "The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G.", but this is untrue. In 1851, when he was a bankrupt and in sore need of ready money, the Duke sold a large collection of family letters for £800 to the publishers Hurst and Blackett. They might publish what they pleased and introduce connecting passages written by a "ghost", with the Duke's "advice". The only condition was that the title pages should state, or at least suggest, that the Duke was author and editor. It has consequently appeared hitherto that the Duke, known to us in this chapter as Chandos, was despite his many bad characteristics an able, and tolerably impartial, editor. But Mr Donald M. Schurman of the Department of History at Queen's University, Canada, to whom I am indebted for the information, has lately discovered the contract between the Duke and Messrs Hurst and Blackett, and unmasked this piece of deception. The contract is among the Stowe papers at the Greater London Record Office, Dartmouth Street, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.

3. *Private Diary* of Richard, (first) Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G., Hurst and Blackett, 1862. The Duke's voyage 1827/9.
4. Thomas Doubleday, *Political Life of Sir Robert Peel*, Smith Elder & Co., 1856.
5. *The Creevey Papers*, ed. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Murray, 1903.
6. *Correspondence of Charlotte Grenville, Lady Williams-Wynn*, Murray, 1920. Lady Charlotte was a sister of George, first Marquis of Buckingham, and mother of Watkin, Charles and Henry Williams-Wynn.
7. *The Wynne Diaries, 1789-1820*, ed. Anne Fremantle, Oxford (World's Classics), 1952. Betsy Wynne, whose diary fills the greater part of this book, married Captain, later Admiral, Thomas Fremantle, and was the mother of F. W. Fremantle of the Grenville Connection. The Wynnes are not to be confused with the Williams-Wynns (6. above).
8. David Spring, *Lord Chandos and the farmers, 1818-1846*, Huntington Library Quarterly, Vol. XXXIII, No. 3, May 1970.
9. Richard W. Davis, *Political change and continuity 1760-1885, a Buckinghamshire Study*, David and Charles, Archon Books, 1972.
10. G. G. Gilling-Lax, *Some notes on the history of Stowe*, unpublished typescript, Stowe School library.
11. *Stowe: a description*, printed by Calkin and Budd, 1838. This, the last Stowe guide-book until our own times, gives a full description of the Duke's museum, which was housed in his mother's former menagerie (see Chapter XXI).



The girls in repose . . . .

R. & H. Chapman



. . . . and in action

Patrick Wilson

Buckingham  
5

Newspapers 4 weeks  
of 4 each

UNION  
OXFORD

ORDER FORM

1813.  
60.  
1753.  
1813

the person in whose name the order is placed.



Trawling the Oxford Water

Patrick Wilson



The Beagles

## SOCIETY CHAPEL

We have welcomed the following preachers in Chapel this term: The Revd Canon J. P. M. Sweet, Tutor at Selwyn College, Cambridge; The Revd N. P. Barry, Headmaster of Ampleforth College; C. G. Turner, Esq., M.A., Headmaster of Dean Close; The Revd N. L. Warren, Vicar of St Paul's, Leamington Spa; The Rt Revd The Bishop of Buckingham; The Lord Kennet (W 1941) on Remembrance Sunday; The Revd M. Shrewsbury, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Dalston; The Revd D. Jasper of Buckingham Parish Church; and T. B. McMullen, Esq., T.D., M.A., Headmaster of Elstree School, Woolhampton, who preached at the New Boys' Service in Stowe Church.

Early in the term a hunger lunch was held and the £83 saved was sent to TEAR Fund for relief work in the Third World.

Confirmation Classes have begun well, with large numbers enrolled again this year. Parties have been to see the film of 'Godspell' and the multi-media presentations 'Yesterday, Today, Forever' in Oxford and 'Yeast' at the Royal Albert Hall in London. At the time of writing, we look forward to the Christmas Carol Service.

N. W. WYNNE-JONES

## THE CHAPEL CHOIR

A large intake has considerably swelled the ranks of the choir this term, thus compensating for the loss of a few faithful members at the end of last term. The choir has been preparing for its annual trip to Passenham church; followed by the school carol service in the evening. The choir has spent most of its two rehearsals in the week preparing our choirmaster, Paul Drayton's lyrical composition—'Nero'. This is due to be recorded by the choir in January as part of a record of music at Stowe.

CHARLES DOUGLAS

## THE STUDY GROUP

This term's series of great "Old Testament Characters" has been much appreciated and it has been fascinating to see how the lessons we learn from such characters as Abraham, Moses, Naaman and Daniel are as relevant today as they ever were. Most people think that the Old Testament is no more than past history, but through this series we have seen that the Old Testament is in harmony with the New and gives practical advice for everyday living.

Our speakers themselves have illustrated this truth, for they are Christians from varied walks of life and have included headmasters, a barrister, a chemist and an agriculturalist.

STEVEN MCCARTHY  
AUBREY BARKER

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Once again Community Service is busy preparing for the annual Christmas Hamper Campaign, under the supervision of Peter Taylor and David Marsden, and the Christmas Party, supervised by James Burton Stewart and Tony Kelly.

We have been pleased to receive visits from a number of representatives from other organisations like our own. We have welcomed visitors from the Salem Association, Warwick School and King's School, Taunton. Such visits are invaluable in helping us to overcome some of the problems we experience.

Several issues of a new, larger *S.C.S News* have been published to date and we are now including readers' mail in the newsletter.

A problem which we are fortunately overcoming at the moment is the shortage of help we were experiencing last year. It is pleasing to note a new enthusiasm towards Community Service within the school.

JAMES BURTON STEWART

## THE LIBRARY

This term 50 books have been added, which brings the total of titles in the Library to 6370. During the year 1975-76 over 4,000 books were borrowed, of which 30 have not yet been recovered. An introductory guide to the shelves for the benefit of new boys has created interest and more boys are now asking Mrs McDouall for help. The Library has in fact been much used this term. Most borrowers are conscientious and concerned over damage and losses, and many take an interest at the time of the termly check.

Included in the new books this term are several for the much used Shakespeare section and some welcome additions to the Divinity collection. We are also delighted to acknowledge the following presentations: "Fighter Pilot" by George Barclay (B 1938), presented by his mother and brother; "Angry Society" by Colin Alexander, presented by the author (T 1958); "Jane's Fighting Ships—1905-06" edited by Fred T. Jane, presented by J. V. Bartlett (T 1945); "Biography of a Colonial Town: Hamilton, Bermuda" by Sister Jean de Chantal Kennedy, and "Bermuda in Full Colour" by Hans W. Hannau, both presented by T. K. W. Hodgson (W); and "Everest the Hard Way" by Chris Bonington, presented by the Manager, Barclays Bank, Buckingham.

Finally a word of grateful thanks to the Prefect of Library, W. M. Graham (B), and to all the Library Monitors for their valuable help in the day-to-day running of the Library.

H. D. MARCUSE

Monitors: S. W. Allport (B), J. C. Broadhead, ma. (T), S. P. Taylor (G), S. T. Wild (C), M. A. N. Tomlin (C), C. P. J. Wightman (C), R. A. Burton (S), A. C. Roxburgh, ma. (W), T. J. Issaias (L), Barbara Anderson (S), D. J. Jacobs (N).

## THE XII CLUB

1976 has seen a number of remarkably varied papers presented by both visiting and home-grown speakers. Perhaps there has not always been quite as much discussion provoked by the topics as there could have been, but all the meetings have been most enjoyable. Thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Clarke and Mr and Mrs Mee for being such hospitable hosts over the year. The year was begun by our secretary of early 1976, Arvind Sethi, on "Hinduism", closely followed by Mr Clarke's researches into the arch-villain of Buckingham in the Stowe papers, Bartholomew Keeling. To end the Spring Term, Brewster Barclay spoke on "Ergonomics and its Relationship to Safety", an evening full of surprises and rather more discussion than had been provoked by some of the previous talks—with no disrespect intended to the speakers!

The Summer Term gave us Tim Issaias's talk on "Cyprus", a stimulating evening, and, the only other talk of the summer (A levels permitting no more), Professor Mark Girouard's description of "Stately Homes in England".

This term, we have so far heard three papers—Mrs Joseph McCulloch on "Looking People in the Face", a delightful talk from a lady who herself possesses an intriguing face, Mr Clarke on "Daughter of the Revolution, or, the Lady with the Squint", his exciting and fascinating research into a Stowe problem, and Jonathan Rose on "Bicentennial America", specially relevant, coming as it did a few days before the elections.

Perhaps modesty may step aside for a while to let me mention that we await the Secretary's forthcoming dissertation on "Music for the Movies".

JONATHAN KREEGER

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

So far this term the Society has met once, to hear a paper given by C. F. Roxburgh on the subject of Roman Colchester. This was an informative and lucid talk, and was illustrated by some excellent slides. Two further meetings are planned at which N. J. C. Harkness will speak on the Lost City of Atlantis and D. B. Champion will discuss cultural links between Rome and China.

S. J. SUTTLE

## THE ENGLISH SOCIETY

On Wednesday, 13th October Mr B. S. Stephan gave a talk on 'Painting and the novel'. He examined the relationship between these two forms of art, and showed, for example, how Dostoyevsky drew much of his inspiration for 'The Idiot' from Holbein's 'Christ in the tomb', and how D. H. Lawrence was similarly influenced in 'The Rainbow' by Fra Angelico's 'The Last Judgment' and in 'Women in Love' by the satirical painting of his contemporary, Gertler, 'The merry-go-round'. Meetings proposed for the remainder of the term include the showing of a filmed novel and a talk by J. S. Kreeger on the art of the cinema.

ELIZABETH FREMANTLE

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

In September, Dr Robin Wingfield (W 1958) gave an illustrated lecture to a combined group of sixth form Geographers and Geologists on the "Continental Shelf". He included aspects of both the physical and economic factors relating to exploitation of the resources of the shelf, and the discussion which followed was worthwhile.

In October a group of Lower VI Geographers attended a sixth form symposium at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The subject was "World Population and Food Supply". Two interesting talks illustrating opposing view points were followed by discussion groups and questions.

D. R. FOSTER

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Despite the departure of Mr Arnold, very much the inspiration of the Society since its founding in January 1968, the Society has continued as usual, and we hope will thrive under Mr Rudolf. Mr Clarke spoke to us about a certain statue on the west wing which suffers from a severe squint. Since most things at Stowe have been carefully contrived, this could not be dismissed as a mere joke. By a remarkable piece of detective work, Mr Clarke showed not only that the lady did not represent religion, as had been presumed, but depicted liberty; and also that the squint was a deliberate caricature of Wilkes, one of Liberty's great champions. Moreover, the symbol of Liberty used—a hat on the end of a pole—suggests that the rebellious mood of Brutus, who also used the emblem, was being continued by Earl Temple at Stowe.

Mr Petter, a retired H.M.I., discussed with us the History of European political ideas, tracing them from Thomas Aquinas to Lord Hailsham's recent views on the further development of the British constitution. There have been, he claimed, three basic political structures: the Medieval concept of Christendom, the autonomous nation state and Marxism: all of which subordinate people to an ideal. Looking to the future, he saw the E.E.C., not as the final answer of a unified Europe, but in terms of a movement towards a final world cataclysm.

CHRISTOPHER WIGHTMAN

## THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Attendances at the fortnightly film shows have been rather disappointing this term, except, that is, for the programme entitled 'The Sun'. I hope and expect that 'Sharks' will prove popular and informative.

Dr Walker, of the University of Suffolk, spoke to a large and lively audience on the subject of 'Corrosion and the Motor Car', and was diplomatic enough not to use the President's 1959 Mini as an example. We learnt much of practical value, and were grateful for his tips.

Dr Margesson, of the Rocket Research Establishment is due to speak before the end of term on the subject of 'The Design and Propulsion of Missiles'. A technology that brings many disciplines into play, this should be a fascinating and informative talk.

The field trip to the 'Alan Clark Research Station', a part of the Plessey Company provided a full day of demonstrations and talks by their most skilled staff. This proved to be, as it has in the past, a rewarding and worthwhile exercise, giving as it does not only experience of large machines normally only spoken about, but also the real research and development situation of a good company. It was only a pity that more boys could not go.

A. R. SELBY

## THE SPANISH SOCIETY

The Society has only had one meeting so far this term. Mr Roger Rawcliffe spoke to members on the subject of "How Spanish is Latin America?" His ideas, based on a term's visit to Peru almost a year ago, were fascinating and instructive. In his study, Mr Rawcliffe spoke of the history, geography and general culture of Latin America, supporting his views with a series of excellent slides. At a time when Latin American studies are beginning to occupy a fair part of the A level syllabus, Mr Rawcliffe's talk was an invaluable introduction to the topic.

We are at present looking forward to several meetings and trips to London during the rest of the year. There is also the possibility of a trip to Spain during the Easter holidays. The increasing cost of the type of holiday previously arranged has meant insufficient numbers for a full school trip. The plan at present is for a small group of sixth-formers to travel by minibus to Spain, and, using camp sites or cheap hotels as a base, to make a study of a particular area, preferably away from the tourists!

D. J. MEE

## THE BRIDGE CLUB

The senior team remains unbeaten so far this term, with a good win over St Edward's and a narrow victory over Harrow. In both matches, the junior team had convincing wins.

Barwood and Osborne came top in their heat of the Oxfordshire County Pairs and go through to the semi-finals.

Our remaining fixtures this term include a match against Bedford, the Bucks and Berks Schools Pairs and the House Pairs.

We look forward to the Oxfordshire Schools Pairs, the *Daily Mail* Cup, as well as school matches next term, although the senior team will be much weakened by the loss of Rose, Lord, Barwood and Osborne.

TIMOTHY DURDIN

The following played Bridge for the School: G. G. F. Barwood (G), T. N. F. Durdin (Secretary) (B), E. R. Freeman (C), N. D. J. Gray (Q), D. R. Hinds (Captain) (T), A. G. P. Kelly (B), R. D. Lord (T), T. S. Maynard (Junior Captain) (C), B. A. Nicholson (W), A. E. S. Osborne (G), G. G. R. Paine (T), J. H. Rose, (L), R. D. H. Taylor (C), C. Wood (S), N. D. Wright (C), J. M. Zoghbi (S).

## THE CHESS CLUB

Grenville and Temple will contest this year's Chess House Championship, Grenville having defeated Walpole and then Cobham, and Temple having overcome Chandos and Lyttelton en route to the final.

In the *Sunday Times* competition, Stowe defeated their opponents, Dr Challoner's School, by 3½ to 2½, but this was not enough to overcome an adverse handicap. Our better players should be getting more match practice next term, when regular matches are planned against schools in the Oxford and District League.

G. D. SALTER

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

This term we welcome Mr Rudolf as Chairman in place of Mr Arnold, whom we wish well at his new school and thank for his long service with the Society. We also wish Mr Rudolf well, and we feel sure that the Society will continue to flourish under his guidance. We have had only one debate this term, and there is therefore little to report on our activities; nevertheless several promising and enthusiastic speakers have emerged and we plan to have several more debates, including a balloon debate which should unearth some more speakers. It is regrettable, however, to report that attendance is not high and that a speech is seldom made from the floor.

DAVID CHAMPION

## THE FILM SOCIETY

A fine selection of films has been shown this year, with macabre comedies, romances, hard-bitten gangster stories, and almost anything else that film-makers care to produce. Unfortunately, these have all too often been marred by the infantile behaviour of a supposedly responsible number of senior boys who ought to have known better.

Polanski's "Dance of the Vampires" was enjoyable stuff, with Alfie Bass as a delightful Jewish vampire whose response to a crucifix is "Oy, have you got the wrong vampire!" Completely contrasting was Milos ("Cuckoo's Nest") Forman's "A Blonde in Love", the tender depiction of a young girl's affair. "The Maltese Falcon" showed us exactly why Bogart is still such a cult figure, and "Fellini's Roma" yet another of that director's visions of the Catholic church and bloated whores.

This term has brought "Midnight Cowboy", Schlesinger's moving account of an extraordinary friendship, with fine performances from Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight; "The Cranes are Flying", a beautiful and poignant Russian love story; and Hitchcock's "Dial M for Murder", with the delectable Grace Kelly stabbing her assailant in *such* a lovely way. We look forward to "Deep End", and maybe also to some better behaviour. Thanks, as always, are due to Mr Juneman for his unflinching interest.

JONATHAN KREEGER

## THE BUSINESS GAME

After the first round win in December last year, the board, under the Chairmanship of John Smith, but in the absence of "major shareholder" Mr Rawcliffe, who was away in foreign parts, went into the second round, with Mr Kirk kindly and expertly keeping an eye on our figures and ulcers. To the surprise of all, the second round was also won, and we reached the third round before being knocked out. Nevertheless, it was gratifying to reach the last 27 out of some 400 teams.

We are now awaiting the results of this season's first round; hopes are running fairly high, as we are in second place at the moment, with two more plays to come. Thanks once more to Mr Rawcliffe and Mr Kirk for their interest and help over the year.

JONATHAN KREEGER

## THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Over the last few months the Society has remained well supported and has maintained a high standard. The membership is just as high as it always has been and there have been numerous films, lectures and expeditions. However, I do feel strongly that a certain amount of impetus from the actual members is lacking.

The Natural History Society has a committee which serves as a link between the 'organizers' and the 'subscribers'; this committee produces many ideas itself, but it is not used to its full extent by members wishing to express their personal feelings. Therefore as we, in the committee, do not receive many opinions we can only presume our members are satisfied with what we are doing for them.

E. L. Meyer has been elected the new treasurer after the departure of Hon. A. M. Stuart who was possibly the most efficient treasurer we have had.

We have had an expedition to the Chilterns which was run by Doctor Hornby, and 50 boys went on an expedition to the Cotswolds Wildlife Park. A large group of boys is going to listen to David Shepherd talking on his work.

Thursday Societies, this term, have been run by A. E. H. Worsley. Dr Perring came to talk on 'Australian Wildlife' and his lecture was, deservedly, well supported. He brought with him many excellent slides, some dried plants and a record of bird songs which proved to be the main attraction. There have been many films on varied topics from 'Great Crested Grebes' to 'Alaskan Pipelines'. Internal speakers will be talking on topics such as badgers, ferrets and beagles. The audio-visual centre enables us to record television programmes of Natural History interest and this is particularly useful for the Thursday Societies.

I feel the society still has a backbone of enthusiastic members which should provide a sustaining force for years to come.

STEPHEN WILD

## THE NATURE RESERVE

The Wednesday conservation group has recently been involved in many minor jobs such as mowing, bridge repairs and reed cutting. The extended dry period allowed us to dig a channel from the Oxford Water overflow to direct the water to the flight pool. While doing this A.J.E.L. unearthed an unexploded incendiary bomb, buried in the mud!

The blessings of the drought were, however, mixed. Towards the end of the dry spell when the ground was parched, an ill-fated hay-burning mission met with disaster. A burning hay-cock on the New Piece fields soon ignited surrounding vegetation and within minutes the fire had spread. When the fire brigade arrived they soon controlled the blaze and within a few minutes it was all over. The *Buckingham Advertiser* was quick to move in and the story was published in the next issue. The damage was minimal. Already the grass has re-grown and hopes are high for the survival of the hedge, some of which has already sprouted. An interesting ecological offshoot of this has been that there have recently been a large number of hares feeding on the new shoots.

On October 6th the first water flowed into the reserve lake after five months of emptiness. It is hoped that duck will soon be fighting in to feed on the seeds of the plants that grew up in the drought. The coots and moorhens have already returned in force.

Field Day this term was spent at the Wildfowl Trust reserve at Peakirk and at the wildfowl refuge at Welney. These visits were not only interesting and enjoyable but proved of great value to the members of the Duckery.

During the last few weeks we have helped in the Duckery, dredging the ponds and preparing the breeding pens. The Monday Extra team, led by Henry Worsley, has done a vast amount of work clearing the new ride, mowing and tending the next boxes.

Next term our work in the reserve will take place almost exclusively on Mondays while Wednesdays will be devoted to the Duckery. This returns to an early pattern discarded as unpopular with members. Plus ça change . . . . !

DAVID JOYCE

## THE FORESTERS

Fortunately Stowe is not predominantly an elm landscape, but our elms, like those throughout this part of England, have been decimated this year. The line of young trees along the western edge of the Course was cut down in August, and the foresters spent some weeks this term stocking out the stumps to make it possible to mow the grass right up to the fence. More serious is the infection of the elms down Warden Hill Walk, between the Boycott Pavilions and the Eleven-Acre Lake, but here we hope to turn disaster to advantage. Last winter we cleared a short stretch as an experiment, and the idea of replacing the whole of this overgrown and decaying area by an avenue of oaks has now been approved by Mr John Workman, conservation adviser to the National Trust. The mature trees have been sold as timber, and our major project for the next couple of years will be to work behind the contractors, burning out stumps, removing the scrub and preparing the ground for the new avenue.

Another problem has been the drought, though our losses have not been so serious as at first we feared. During July the foresters worked hard carrying cans of water from the lake to try to save the young trees nearby, and in September they were rewarded by seeing that most of the trees newly planted by the Temple of Venus had survived.

G. B. CLARKE

## THE DUCKERY

The duckery survived well throughout the drought and fortunately we had a constant flow through our ponds, which we occasionally flushed through with water from the Octagon. Our main worry during the drought was giving our ducklings enough shade and we were fortunate in only losing a few.

The breeding season was very successful for our Mallard of which we reared 60 plus with only a few losses early on. We have released on to the Octagon Lake 40 first year Mallard, which have flourished and have also attracted a lot of wild duck. This is one of the main objects and we hope there will be an increased permanent stock of wild duck breeding around the lakes. We are extremely grateful to Mr A. J. E. Lloyd, Dr G. M. Hornby and Mrs L. Puttock who looked after the ducks during the holiday and kept everything in trim.

At the beginning of this term we made up the pairs of our ornamental ducks which means that we shall hopefully have breeding pairs of Wigeon, Gadwall, Carolina, Mandarin, Pintail and Tufted ducks. Last year they unfortunately didn't breed but this is thought to have been due to them not being fully settled down in this new environment. Our bantams have successfully reared three young and we hope to use them increasingly rather than an incubator, which we found was unsuitable for both ducks' and pheasants' eggs.

Our principal work for this term was the draining and cleaning out of one of our main ponds. Over the last year the ducks have eroded the banks so much that the pond has become silted up, leaving only about six inches of water and about three feet of mud. The banks are going to be lined with concrete and hardcore and made into a gentle gradient which should last for some time. Our other pond which is unlined held water the whole year and so it will be unnecessary to line it.

Feeding the ducks over the winter is our main worry owing to the fact that the price of grain and other foodstuffs is so high. We would be very grateful for any contributions in this field as our finances are very low.

PAUL MARSH



## THE CORKSCREW SOCIETY

The Corkscrew Society has had a very active two terms beginning in the summer with a talk and tasting from Mr Nigel Grant of "Simon the Cellarer Ltd" on Madeira. This proved to be a very interesting and worthwhile experience. There followed a talk on English wines from Mr Williams of Merrydown and to round the term off an invitation was kindly given by Captain Stewart to visit his beef farm and to taste some patés and wines afterwards. It was a very memorable occasion and we must express our gratitude to Captain and Mrs Stewart.

This term, with the influx of new members, an introductory talk on wine was arranged, kindly given by Mr Nick Stanley (C 1974) again from "Simon the Cellarer Ltd" and there followed a visit to the cellars of "The House of Deinhard" in London, which was a most fascinating experience. Later on this term we have a talk on "Rare Old Wines" from Mr Andrew Low and yet another on English wines from Mr Alper.

The year has provided a large variety of wines and, as expected, the popularity of the Society continues to rise. Still as a unique Society amongst Public Schools, we are fortunate enough to have many willing speakers and look forward to yet another year of 'good tasting'.

JEREMY SCOWSILL  
NICHOLAS BANNISTER

## LA SOCIETE GASTRONOMIQUE

At the time of writing the Société has had one meeting, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Morris. The two chefs, Jonathan Rose and David Williams-Ellis, produced a meal of the highest quality, in which snaffle mousse was followed by breast of pigeon (shot by Williams-Ellis), and profiteroles.

S. J. SUTTLE

## ZYMASE

Zymase has continued to prosper and has recently seen a new burst of activity. We won first prize at the Buckingham Wine Show with some champagne made from grapes that we picked on a visit to the Alpers' vineyard near Cambridge. As well as the more conventional brews (such as parsnip, elderberry and elder flower—we have a nine gallon brew of the latter) some adventurous distillations have been attempted with varying success. These include coffee, rosehip, sloe and beech leaf.

Jeremy James has combined his interest in Zymase with that in printing to produce some Zymase labels which will add uniformity and a touch of class to our concoctions.

I would like to thank Mr Stokes and Mrs Puttock for mopping up behind us and for dealing with the occasional "vigorous" brew. I would also like to thank Dr Hornby for all his advice.

EDWARD FREEMAN

## THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society is at last under way with The Reverend J. E. C. Nicholl as Chairman. We have just over fifty members of whom most take an active interest in the Society.

Commander Burley very kindly gave us two first day covers commemorating the expedition which he led to Elephant Island in the Antarctic. He asked us to sell them during the auction we are holding at the end of term, the money from which he has generously donated to our funds.

Our first meeting was used to discuss our various meetings for the coming year and to elect a committee. We also distributed membership cards and competition sheets.

During our second meeting, we awarded J. A. Macdonald first prize closely followed by E. R. Freeman. The meeting also included talks on "Australian Stamps" by D. Guest and "Stamps for Profit" by K. S. Springer.

We hope to have a varied selection of speakers visiting us in the future and we have also arranged visits to the Postal Museum and to one of the large annual exhibitions.

KEITH SPRINGER

## THE C.C.F.

With the many varied activities that the C.C.F. offers, this report must necessarily contain a list of past events which, although it cannot be of great interest to the casual or uninterested reader, provides evidence of enterprise and activity, and reflects an important part of the school's life. For the record, then, since the end of the Summer Term; 3 R.N. Cadets have spent an energetic week at Loch Ewe, 57 Army Cadets attended annual camp at Oakington, sponsored by 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and 20 R.A.F. Cadets camped at West Raynham. In addition one cadet attended an R.E. Course at Aldershot, one went to Frimley Park on a leadership course and one went canoeing in Norway under the aegis of B.A.O.R. Plans for the coming months are now taking shape and include, as well as Annual Camps and Adventurous Training, ski-ing in Bavaria, a camp in Malta, and free-fall parachuting. This term 74 recruits have joined the C.C.F., the R.A. Presentation Team has paid us a visit and the Senior Under-Officer, J. D. Boldero, has organised and run a very successful night exercise.

It is therefore clear that there is plenty going on in the Corps and this may well prompt the question, "Is it worth all the effort and, particularly nowadays, the cost to the taxpayer?" (A rough estimate of the annual cost to the Treasury of "free" travel alone results in a staggering total.) The answer must surely be "Yes", for why, else, would a hard-pressed Government continue to supply the money and why should the Regular Forces be so willing and generous in their help. In this last respect special mention must be made of our mentor at Army Camp, Captain Peter Bucknall, R.R.F. (© 1959). I am sure that not only do the vast majority of participants enjoy themselves, particularly at camps and on Field Days, but also that, in giving members of the School the chance to practise discipline, self-reliance and leadership, the C.C.F. provides invaluable training for the future in both the civilian and service contexts.

M. J. FOX

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

### The Summer Camp

This year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme spent a week camping in the heart of North Wales. The party consisted of about forty boys and six masters headed by Dr Hornby. The object of the camp was to be for the boys to complete their Gold (four days walking), Silver (three days) and Bronze (two days) expeditions which form the basis of the Award Scheme.

After a long drive from Stowe the coach finally left us and the week's supplies at a small valley farmstead called Llanerch in the Lake Bala region of North Wales. Our arrival was marked by the death of a sick cow in the field which we were to camp in.

Although the Expedition is the nucleus of the week, both before and after it there were trips into the surrounding countryside to fish, climb and walk. On the first day of the camp there was a visit by the Welsh Assessor to the Gold Groups and a trip up Cader Idris.

On the second day the first of the Expeditions started. The day was slightly overcast as we set out to walk about 45 miles with 1,000 feet ascent in all. Certainly the first day's walking was spoilt by the weight of our rucksacks and on reaching the highest point, seeing how far we had to go. All the same, though, our walk took us over Aran Fawddwy (907m) which provided a superb view.

On the next day it rained virtually incessantly and we reached the camp site carrying what seemed like a reservoir in our boots. The third day brought a complete change. The sun shone all day and we had a most enjoyable day, although I suffered a brutal attack from flies in one of the large woods.

The last day was cold and wet. Though hardly able to drag ourselves from our tents we made the walk of about 10 miles in 4½ hours. The joy of completing such a walk makes it all very much worthwhile.

I think the camp as a whole was a success. Certainly going without a bath for a week is quite a feat in this modern world. Essentially the Award Scheme is a challenge which promotes an experience. It has provided for me a realisation that people today are very much unaware of their natural surroundings, which perhaps is quite a good thing, and are unprepared to rough it occasionally.

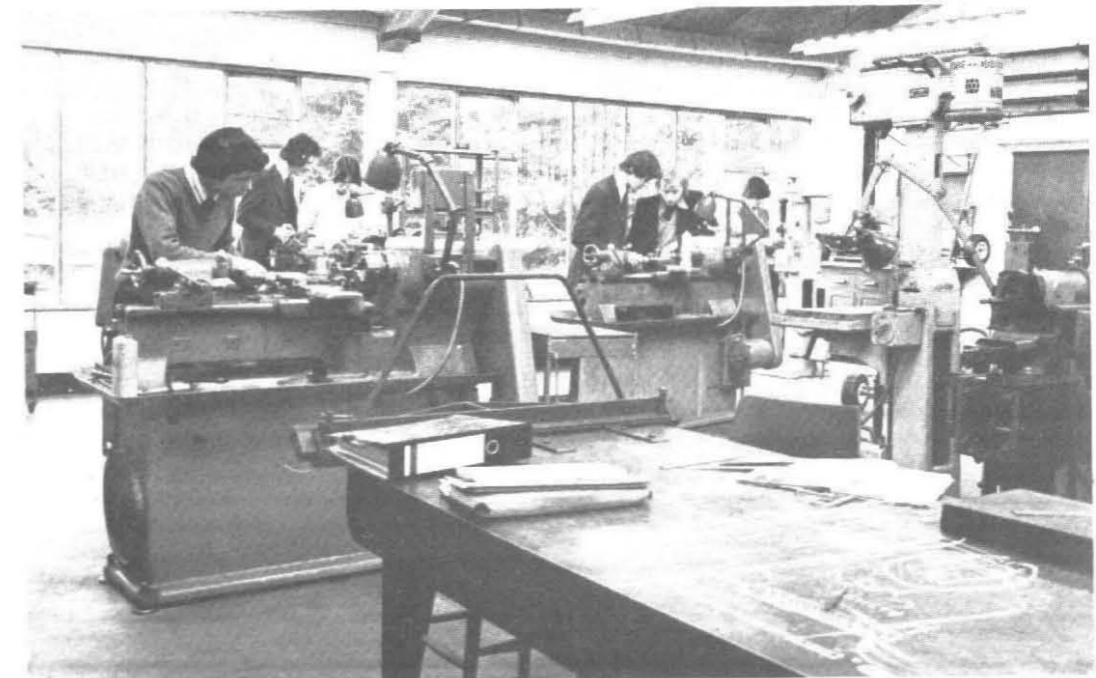
It is a pity that D. of E. is regarded by a small minority of its members as an activity to do 'because there is nothing else'. If only they could realise that immense satisfaction can be derived from a little effort, as this scheme more than makes up for what it is unable to do during the term (through no fault of its own) by the Summer Camp.

DAVID EATON



George Zambellas with his completed go-cart

P. J. James



The metalworkshop

P. J. James

# SPORT

## RUGBY FOOTBALL



### THE FIRST XV

School rugby has for some time now been better organised than any other level of the game so it was gratifying to find so many Stoics this year prepared to sacrifice a few days of their summer break in order to get into physical and mental training for the new season. The success of this work can be gauged from the results, for although at the time of writing the 1st XV has lost three out of nine games the Seconds and Thirds have suffered only one school defeat between them, the former being unbeaten.

The 1st XV, albeit against the weaker sides, started off with five successive victories culminating in a good team performance against Radley, a game won 16-11. However against Bedford, who were superbly led by international scrum half Peck, the school pack, tired by their exertions against Radley four days before, conceded defeat in the second half.

So by half term the school were playing controlled football without ever threatening to score a torrent of points. An extra match against the strong Merchant Taylors' Crosby team saw the school lose by a last minute penalty in a fine game that had the effect of galvanizing the side to a magnificent effort at Cheltenham, who were defeated 15-6. The Rugby match was eminently forgettable where on a drab day the school offered little and received nothing, losing 10-0.

The season therefore hangs in the balance. The side has ability and with a little extra drive that has been coming gradually Oundle, St Edward's, Oxford and Loretto may all go away empty handed which would be just reward for the effort the whole squad has put in.

R. T. Lewis the captain has been a tremendous force both on and off the field and to him must go much of the credit for any success the side has gained.

J. J. L. BONE

**Team:** J. W. Green (W), A. I. S. Swan (G), G. D. G. Carr (C), J. H. S. Macquaker (G), N. R. Chapman (L), M. A. N. Tomlin (C), R. T. Lewis (Captain) (B), A. Falcon (C), N. A. S. Duthie (G), R. G. Simpson (C), R. L. Law (B), M. B. A. Cliff-Hodges (Secretary) (W), S. D. Kelway (B), D. K. Mumby (T), J. A. Barratt (T), A. C. M. Low (C).

**First XV Colours re-awarded to:** M. B. A. Cliff-Hodges.

**First XV Colours awarded to:** R. T. Lewis, J. W. Green, M. A. N. Tomlin, J. A. Barratt, S. D. Kelway.

<b>Results:</b>	v. Old Stoics	Won	18—15
	v. Eton	Won	14—0
	v. Mill Hill	Won	10—0
	v. Oakham	Won	15—6
	v. Radley	Won	16—11
	v. Bedford	Lost	6—28
	v. M.T.S. Crosby	Lost	6—9
	v. Cheltenham	Won	15—6
	v. Rugby	Lost	0—10

### THE SECOND XV

For the first time for many years it is a very happy task to be writing a report on the basis of eight wins to date, but it is also a tricky one in view of the three remaining matches, one of which is against Oundelian muscle. The fact that the same team has played together for most matches has made all the difference and a splendid team spirit has developed from match to match. Much credit must go to Carr, under whose able captaincy the side maintained its undefeated record up to half term, and to Bannister who has proved such a worthy successor in the two most recent matches against Cheltenham and Rugby.

After a not very confident start to the season in the Old Stoics match, the encounter with Eton was a better performance, although not enough fiery forwards were in evidence. So torrential was the following Saturday's rain that the referee's sodden, illegible score-card did scant justice to a fine victory over Mill Hill, with better support play from the forwards and competent handling amongst the backs. Against Kettering the forwards came into their own, winning valuable possession from rucks and mauls and there were memorable tries from Horrocks on the wing. The Radley match was a closer contest but two tries from full-back Bannister clinched the result. Despite a tense spell in the middle, Stowe started and finished their game against Bedford with great gusto, Mumby scoring a remarkable total of three tries from the back row and fly-half Montgomery adding two more. An excellent display of teamwork against Cheltenham led to an impressive victory, in preparation for a much tougher match at Rugby, where a spirited second-half come-back and two splendid tries from winger Salour just saved the day.

It is not easy to single out players for comment in a team that has played with a pleasing lack of individual glory-hunting and criticism of team-mates. Wigmore's courageous tackling in the centre has been noteworthy, and the half-back combination of Holmes and Montgomery has proved most effective. Williams-Ellis has set a fine example as pack-leader and flanker, ably assisted in the back row by the lively Bradley-Williams (a very competent goal kicker on his day). Robertson and Shekell have done valiant and stalwart service in the second row and in the line-outs, whilst the front row have coped admirably against sturdy opposition. Forbes Adam has shown a remarkable capacity for winning the ball from all sorts of situation, his fellow-prop Barnard has developed into a competent all-round player, and hooker James has won his fair share in the set scrums.

H. D. MARCUSE

**Team from:** N. W. A. Bannister, ma. (L), J. E. Horrocks, ma. (S), G. D. G. Carr (C), A. P. Ward (W), N. P. Wigmore (C), N. G. M. Salour (C), N. J. Benthall (S), C. D. Montgomery, ma. (C), S. A. V. Holmes (L), T. D. Forbes Adam, ma. (L), P. T. James (C), J. N. Barnard, ma. (S), H. G. Robertson (C), A. H. Shekell (C), D. H. M. Williams-Ellis (T), D. K. Mumby (T), A. C. M. Low (C), T. S. Bradley-Williams (C), J. Hartley, ma. (C).

<b>Results:</b>	v. Old Stoics	Home	Won	29—4
	v. Eton	Home	Won	32—6
	v. Mill Hill	Home	Won	30—3
	v. Kettering G.S.	Away	Won	27—6
	v. Radley	Home	Won	11—4
	v. Bedford	Home	Won	35—13
	v. Cheltenham	Home	Won	30—0
	v. Rugby	Away	Won	10—4
	v. Sponne School	Home	Won	23—9
	v. Oundle	Home	Lost	0—16
	v. St Edward's	Away	Drawn	7—7

## THE HUNDRED

### The Third XV

The team has had its best season for several years, with a run of successes marred only by a defeat at the hands of Cheltenham.

The season opened with a game against an Old Stoic XV (we refrain deliberately from referring to it as a 3rd XV—it was considerably stronger) which we lost. From that point on the team never looked back, for in their next three matches they slaughtered a weak Eton side, and beat Mill Hill and Kettering G.S. convincingly. The Radley game turned out to be unfit for spectators of a nervous disposition, with the game in dispute right up to the final whistle, victory going to Stowe by a push-over try to a penalty. Bedford were unlucky to lose their captain who was concussed after only a few minutes of the game, but played very well and were much better than their 16-4 defeat suggests. Two tries by Ancsell, one a well-timed interception, were the highlights of this match.

Our unbroken run was terminated by Cheltenham, although Stowe had been encamped inside their half and often inside their '25' for much of the game. However, the absence of Currey, Arnold and Benthall weakened the threequarter line and Cheltenham's very fast left winger broke loose to score on two occasions.

Spurred on by this defeat we played Rugby the following Saturday, and after a strongly contested, if not particularly skilful game we achieved a well-deserved win, albeit by two penalties to one.

All players have shown a high level of skill and enthusiasm. Park at full-back has shown himself to be reliable in all departments; Arnold, though leading with his skull a little too often, has played with great penetration, and our fly-half Wightman has generally kicked accurately and has handled well. Douglas at scrum-half has captained the side with maturity and his opportunism from the set scrum has been particularly noticeable, as has his most effective overhead rolling kick into touch. Currey played with great vigour until injury put him out for the season, and wingers Ancsell and Harris have run well and are improving with every game. Crosse has hooked beautifully, admirably propped by Polad and Hardman and driven by Comery and Harkness, the latter being quite a line-out expert. Creedy Smith has been an effective No. 8 (although he does tend to stand offside) and Hartley and Standeven have played with great aggression. The list would be incomplete without mentioning Benthall, our right wing, a player with ball-sense, speed and a remarkably fine tackle. In any other season he would have been a certain 2nd XV man.

A good deal of the credit for the team's performance should go to J. J. L. Bone who has taken the time and trouble to coach the '100' with the '50' on several occasions. There is little doubt that they have learned a lot from him, and we thank him very much for his efforts.

### The Fourth XV

The team has played well this season, and the forwards have won a good deal of ball, but due to our problems in finding satisfactory threequarters the Fourths have been unable to capitalize on this possession. The three games played so far have all been lost, but only by comparatively small margins. The team was ably captained by Bourn from scrum-half before his drafting into the Thirds at inside centre, his field position being taken by Few Brown.

M. WALDMAN

J. B. DOBINSON

**3rd and 4th XV's from:** S. L. Aguero (G), N. E. Ancsell (C), J. R. Arnold, ma. (L), N. N. Bartlett (T), N. J. Benthall (S), H. R. von Bergen (C), J. D. Boldero (C), C. D. Bourn (C), C. B. Calkin (L), J. W. H. Cave, ma. (C), R. D. J. C. Chetwynd (W), N. J. Comery (C), S. C. Creedy Smith (C), J. A. F. Currey (S), L. D. Dalzell-Piper (C), H. J. Dare (B), C. P. M. Douglas (T), D. A. Eaton (C), R. Elliott (C), B. G. Few Brown (S), N. D. J. Gray (C), D. C. Guest (B), E. St. J. Hall (W), C. L. Halvorsen (G), K. E. Hardman (C), N. J. C. Harkness (T), N. B. Harris (C), J. Hartley, ma. (C), N. M. Hopkins (S), N. E. Luddington (C), I. S. Miller (C), M. J. F. Moffatt, ma. (S), J. W. Morton (B), I. L. Park (B), F. S. Polad (L), A. C. Roxburgh, ma. (W), D. H. Samuelson (L), A. W. Serre (C), A. J. Shepherd-Barron (W), C. T. C. Standeven, ma. (L), N. R. C. Standeven, mi. (L), F. N. F. Timewell (C), S. T. Wild, (C), C. P. J. Wightman (C), J. M. G. Crosse (W).

**3rd XV Colours awarded to:** N. J. Benthall (S), J. R. Arnold, ma. (L), C. P. J. Wightman (C), C. P. M. Douglas (T), C. T. C. Standeven, ma. (L), J. Hartley, ma. (C), N. J. C. Harkness (T), N. J. Comery (C), J. M. G. Crosse (W), C. D. Bourn (C).

<b>Results 3rd XV:</b>	v. Old Stoics	Lost	
	v. Eton	Won	50—0
	v. Mill Hill	Won	20—0
	v. Kettering G.S.	Won	22—0
	v. Radley	Won	4—3
	v. Bedford	Won	16—4
	v. Cheltenham	Lost	4—12
	v. Rugby	Won	6—3
	v. Oundle	Lost	4—29
	v. St Edward's	Won	8—6
<b>Results 4th XV:</b>	v. Radley	Lost	0—7
	v. Bedford	Lost	3—10
	v. Cheltenham	Lost	
	v. Sponne		
	v. Oundle	Lost	4—36
	v. St Edward's	Lost	6—15

## THE COLTS

The season began with two spirited wins, against Mill Hill and Oakham. On these occasions the XV played with considerable determination and no little skill. However the mysterious X factor evaporated away at this point—it can hardly have been due to over-confidence, and the rest of the results show a particularly sorry trend of heavy and depressing defeats.

In the main these defeats were not caused by the brilliant form of our opponents, but rather by a clear and decisive lack of guts and determination that spread like a cancerous disease through the whole club. Most of the boys in this age group simply have no idea about the level of commitment that is required if matches are to be won, or at least evenly contested. We too often seem content to drift through the motions, and are too easily knocked out of our gentle stride by teams which approach the business of winning matches in a more purposeful, whole-hearted way. Rugby football is a physical game and it is sadly apparent that many of those boys who try to play it here have no heart for this particular aspect.

Basic skills have never been mastered. The passing, tackling, mauling and scrummaging of the side has been of a poor standard, much below that which can be expected of averagely athletic fifteen year olds. What is more there has been little or no desire on the part of the players to improve. During practices and training sessions it became increasingly clear that no one was really interested, no one was prepared to listen to advice—it seemed as if the players believed that they already knew it all. A glance at the results shows how wrong they were.

Several players who played in the A XV could well and indeed should, improve to such a point that they challenge for places in the senior sides. It is to be hoped that they all realise that before this can happen a dramatic change of attitude is necessary, and they must show an as yet unseen willingness to work at their game.

J. S. M. MORRIS

The following boys played for the Colts teams: (A' XV: C. J. Allen (B), C. S. Rideout (G), R. C. Appleby (L), T. A. Cressman (C), A. E. H. Worsley (⊕), M. A. Koska (B), M. L. W. Bell, mi. (Ⓢ), S. R. Fraser-Allen (Ⓢ), F. D. G. Mezulanik (⊕), J. N. P. Forbes Adam, mi. (C), A. T. Thornton-Berry (C), C. T. Highwood (B), T. W. P. O'Brien (Captain) (⊕), R. R. Montgomery, mi. (C), J. J. Lineham (T), P. M. Ham (⊕).

'B' XV: J. P. Villiers (B), D. W. G. Enderby (C), D. R. Lindgren (B), T. S. Maynard (C), M. Al Turki (⊕), M. J. P. Horlock, mi. (W), H. J. Marriott, ma. (C), A. F. Savage (C), J. M. Taylor, ma. (Ⓢ), P. D. A. Darling (⊕), R. P. Aswani (G), W. H. Latham (C), P. D. Hammond (⊕), A. J. Holland, ma. (B).

Results: v. Eton ('A')	Lost	8—27
'A' XV v. Mill Hill	Won	10—8
v. Oakham	Won	17—14
v. Radley	Lost	4—20
v. Bedford	Lost	0—60
v. Cheltenham	Lost	4—20
v. Rugby	Lost	0—46
v. Royal Latin School		
v. Oundle		
v. St Edward's, Oxford		
'B' XV: v. Radley	Lost	20—24
v. Cheltenham	Lost	20—28

## THE JUNIOR COLTS

This is clearly a good side, one which combines size, speed and skill. To date they have won all five matches and scored 171 points to 6; their line has not been crossed. This points tally is particularly impressive as two of the matches, against Mill Hill and Rugby, have been played in difficult, wet conditions.

The pack has always won a fair share of the ball, at times scrummaging very effectively but mauling less well, while Edgerley and Watts have won some good ball in the lines-out. Edgerley, a fly-half in his spare time, who also kicks goals, Weatherbe and Thomas have all proved themselves lively ball-handlers in the loose, Moore and Hogan have been terriers on the ball, while Gull as a flanker has always been a force in attack and defence.

Outside, the strength has lain in English's powerful running in the centre and two outstandingly swift wings in Scott and Fullman; it has been a joy to see the ball on occasion handled straight down the line for the wing to round his opposite number by sheer pace. Rees is developing into a useful link with some promising flair; Baring and de Chambure have both shown their ability at times but have still much to learn.

The team's best performance has been the one against Bedford, when they ran in a series of tries and showed how effective support play can be, but they have throughout played a well-controlled, fluent game based on reasonable strength at all points. Shrewdly led by Gull, they have inevitably built up a good spirit and their progress bodes well for the future—especially as the 'B' side is also unbeaten and has won two matches against 'A' teams; players like Boyce, McConnell and Beckford are unlucky not to have found a place in the team itself.

B. H. MEAD  
A. M. VINEN

Team: A. R. J. MacKinnon (C), R. J. Fullman (B), H. J. English (⊕), G. F. de Chambure (Ⓢ), J. G. J. Scott (Ⓢ), E. R. P. Baring (L), J. D. Rees (⊕), R. A. J. Weatherbe (⊕), R. B. de A. Moore (Ⓢ), A. G. R. St Clair Burke (G), W. J. N. Edgerley (C), J. R. L. Thomas (L), M. C. J. Gull (T), R. G. Watts, mi. (⊕), J. J. Hogan (C).

Also played: R. M. R. Bannister, mi. (L), R. W. Beckford (B), N. Hartley, mi. (W), T. D. Holgate (B).

Results:	v. Eton	Away	Won	30—3
	v. Mill Hill	Away	Won	25—0
	v. Radley	Away	Won	26—0
	v. Bedford	Home	Won	64—0
	v. Rugby	Home	Won	26—3
'B' Team:	v. M.C.S. Brackley	Home	Won	4—0
	v. Radley	Away	Drawn	0—0
	v. R.L.S. Buckingham	Away	Won	34—8

Junior Colts 'A':	v. Oundle	Away	Drew	8—8
	v. St Edward's, Oxford	Home	Won	40—6

Junior Colts 'B':	v. Oundle	Away	Lost	27—0
	v. St Edward's, Oxford	Home	Drew	8—8

## THE UNDER-FOURTEEN XV

The Club's record of 1 win, 1 draw and 2 losses is not a fair reflection of the standard of football played this season. A decisive victory against Eton in the opening match was an encouraging start and confirmed that there was considerable talent among this year's new boys. Since then few changes have been made and the team has developed efficiently. However, a lack of size and weight "up front" has been a slight drawback, especially against Rugby, but good scrummaging technique and impressive tackling have often compensated.

The matches against Radley (0—0), Bedford (10—20) and Rugby (0—10) were all desperately close affairs. There is no doubt that Stowe have looked most impressive when the backs have been provided with "good ball" and Furlonger joins the line. Alas, such moments have not been frequent enough to swing close games in our favour. However, much has been achieved this year and the foundations have been laid for future success.

At forward, Walley's hooking has been invaluable and his lively 'loose' play is an example to his bigger colleagues. He has been propped by Allen who has improved considerably throughout the season and Carroll who has, perhaps, the highest work rate of anyone—as tight-head prop he has often been the first to the breakdown! Locks, Coombs and Gentle are not the ideal shape but they have consistently been good honest workers. Flankers, Pélissier and Burgess have applied increasing pressure on our opponents as the season has progressed and when they become more skilful in the use of the loose ball they will be an asset to any side. The whole pack has been competently led by Cattle at No. 8 who has the fortunate knack of relieving his pack under pressure by well timed tackles and kicks for touch, and is often in evidence in attacking moves.

Taylor, despite his stature, has been one of the most effective scrum halves seen at this level. He has a natural rucker sense which has allowed him to make profitable use of the ball almost all the time. Yeoward has become more versatile during the season but both he and Turner at inside centre have had the hardest job to do when receiving the ball under pressure. However, the latter is a fine passer of the ball and had Winstone-Partridge been fit for all our matches he would have been presented with many scoring chances. As it was, Marshall has had to fill in at outside centre and found that his lack of bulk and experience was rather a handicap. However, he is another "natural" who has learnt much and will undoubtedly find his feet in future seasons. Wingers Dew and Arbib have been superb in defence and, when given their chance, in attack as well. Furlonger has been given free rein to exploit his speed and attacking kicking and indeed when he has done so he has inflicted considerable damage on opposing sides. It is only a pity that he has not made more use of his free-lance rôle.

The enthusiasm of the remainder of the Club has done much to enhance the quality of football and members such as Antonaropoulos, Keith, Riols, Ogden, Holland, have been unfortunate not to gain places in the top team—their turn will surely come.

C. J. G. ATKINSON

## FIVES

I have always imagined that Eskimos don't eat much ice-cream, not because they actively dislike it but because it just doesn't fit in with their way of life. Stoics are like that with Fives. Many of them enjoy it when they play; more would enjoy it if they played, but most of them never or rarely make the effort that is required and it is almost unheard of for a game to be arranged without cajoling and coercing on my part.

There are, of course, reasons for this sloth. For reasons beyond our control, there have been no Fives gloves in the School shop this term so that boys are not easily able to purchase their own gloves. I hope that this position will soon be rectified. Secondly, minor games at Stowe are looked down on and largely ignored by the top games players. Whilst this attitude may not be unique, it is certainly not common amongst the schools that we play. If one generation of games players started to play in large numbers I have no doubt that this would be followed by each succeeding one but how to start the ball rolling when time is so restricted and energy so lacking?

What is happening? Well, there is certainly a nucleus of keen and cheerful players, particularly amongst the Juniors and during Activities time the courts have been fairly well occupied this term. Both Senior and Junior House matches have reached the semi-final stage at the time of going to press after some very keenly contested first-round matches and results of this and the Pairs competition will appear in the next edition.

In School matches all players have acquitted themselves well on occasions and the Junior Colts despite a defeat by a formidable Wolverhampton G.S. team, look very strong. We fared better than we have for some years against Aldenham and recorded victories over Harrow and Oakham. Unfortunately two of the Old Boys' sides that we play were unable to produce a team. Still there are many fixtures ahead, so let us hope for some really enjoyable and successful fives in the rest of the season. If you don't play already, why not give it a try?

P. R. BOWDEN

**Seniors:** W. M. Graham (B), C. J. Rowntree (T), R. J. C. S. Mitchell (W), A. J. Rossdale (L), R. A. Burton (G).  
**Colts:** C. R. Lloyd, mi. (T), P. Salariya (T), M. E. Farmer (C), G. J. J. Tucker, ma. (L).  
**Junior Colts:** G. F. de Chambure (C), M. C. J. Gull (B), S. C. Andrews (B), A. R. J. MacKinnon (C).  
**New Boys:** P. A. Marshall (C), N. D. Collins (L).

Results:	Seniors	Colts	J. Colts	New Boys
v. Harrow	0-2	2-0	2-0	---
v. Oakham	2-0	---	---	---
v. Old Edwardians	0-3	---	---	---
v. Aldenham	0-2	0-2	2-0	0-1
v. Wolverhampton G.S.	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-1
v. O.U. Peppers	2-0	---	---	---

## SAILING

Predictably, interest in sailing has always dropped considerably since the annual zenith of activity last term. However, despite the unusually cold conditions, sailing at Banbury for those who do the sport as an "activity" is due to continue until the end of November. Of the last season's final results it is worthwhile mentioning that Chandos finally beat Walpole in the final of the House matches and that Piers Symes won the individual helmsman's tankard.

This term's young and relatively inexperienced team have sailed three matches with only moderate success. The first was against Banbury Cross Sailing Club in which we suffered defeat. Following this, a match was organised against the Banbury School Sailing Club, which we won. More recently we lost against St Edward's at an away match in Oxford.

PHILIP BROCKLEBANK  
Commodore

## SHOOTING

### The Ashburton Meeting and Summer Term '303

At the end of the Summer Term, the Shooting team went to Bisley to take part in various competitions leading up to the Ashburton Shield on the final day. The weather remained good over the three day stay, during which we shot the practice shoots, which are in themselves competitions: The Wellington (200 yards) and the Iveagh (500 yards), with a fine score being produced by Jessel. However the team's performance in the other competitions was rather disappointing, failing to approach last year's good scores. We managed only 24th out of 28 in the Snap Shooting, while in the Marling, a competition in which we usually do well, we came 21st out of 25, both scores being well down on last year. Unfortunately our shooting did not improve for the Ashburton Shield, as we came 57th out of 66, compared with last year's place of 36th. Nor indeed did the cadet pair manage to reach last year's high standard, coming 49th out of 61.

HUGH VON BERGEN

### The New Range

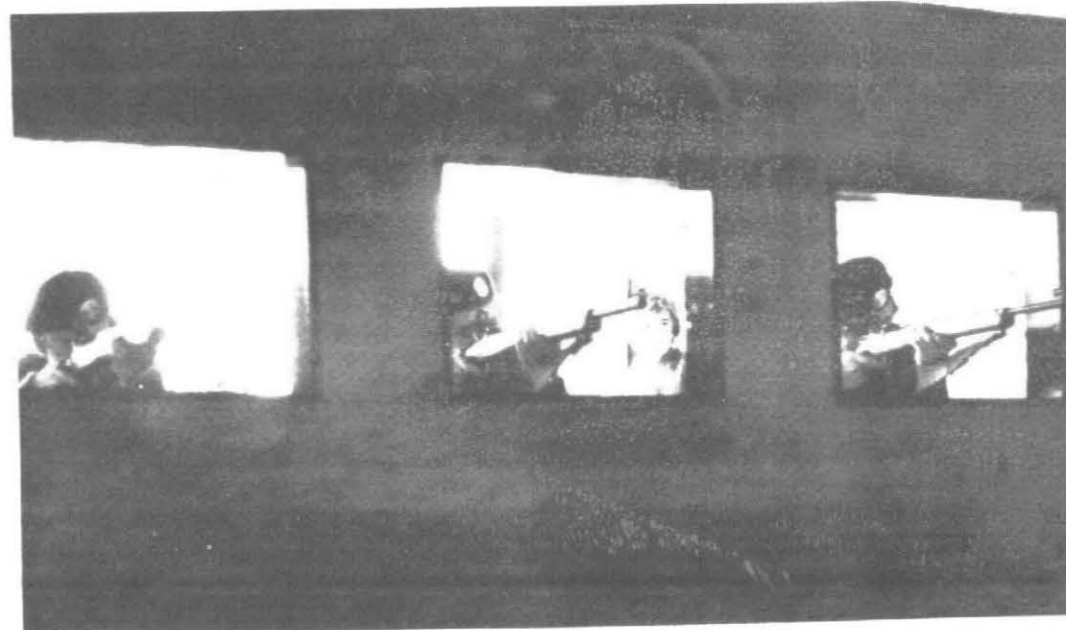
Our new 25 yard indoor .22 range is now complete and should be officially ours next term. A specialist shooting group has been formed as a C.C.F. post-proficiency option, and this term this group has been trying out the new facilities every Wednesday. We have been acquiring some averages in order to compete next term in the B.S.S.R.A. schools league with at least two teams of five seniors and four juniors. It is hoped that experienced shots will also shoot on Mondays on the new range and that everyone who has any sort of shooting ability or aspirations will be present on Mondays, Wednesdays, or both, so that we can build up a strong team.

M. A. B. KIRK

**The VIII:** H. R. von Bergen (Captain) (C), G. F. Winnington-Ingram (Secretary) (L), A. J. Jessel (G), A. Green (G), D. M. Stewart (C), M. A. C. Rutherford (C), A. J. M. Yeoman (C), R. C. Joynson (W).

**Ninth Man:** K. E. Hardman (C).

**Cadet Pair:** A. F. Savage (C), R. F. P. Bryant (T).



## SOCCER

From the start of term we were worried that this sport as well as others would be affected by the drought. However we were not to wait long before the rain softened up the pitch.

Bloxham, a new fixture, proved to be a relatively weak team, Stowe winning 3-0, Paddy Ward scoring a good goal with a strong and accurate shot.

In the absence of Mr Foster we asked a senior member of the School to referee the match against the Catering Staff XI, who had previously challenged us. Our midfield dominated throughout the game and in the pouring rain, with Charlie Bourn scoring a hat trick, we won 8-0.

A couple of weeks later we played away at Rugby, where we lost heavily, 6-0, to a strong side. After short notice we played the Royal Latin School. It was a good game. Jeremy Scowsill and Bill Graham with their well timed shots and runs proved a penetrating combination. Graham scored early in the second half, and Mike Tomlin putting an accurate shot past their goal-keeper made the final score 2-0.

With four matches yet to play we hope for some more good victories.

The standard of football has been encouraging this term but there has been a lack of interest in the game by all Stoics in general, and very few seem to take it seriously. We sincerely hope that this attitude changes. We are hoping to obtain a proper strip and even perhaps the awarding of colours which will lead to a more serious and worthwhile approach to this sport.

BILL GREEN

**Team from:** A. N. Alder (C), N. E. Ancsell (C), J. A. Barratt (T), C. D. Bourn (C), R. A. Burton (G), W. M. Graham (B), B. Green (W), D. C. W. Horlock, ma. (W), N. G. M. Salour (C), J. M. Scowsill (T), A. I. S. Swan (G), F. N. F. Timewell (C), M. A. N. Tomlin (C), A. P. Ward (W), N. P. Wigmore (C).

<b>Results:</b> v. Bloxham	Home	Won	3—0 (Scowsill, Ward, O.G.)
v. Catering Staff XI	Home	Won	8—0 (Bourn 3, Salour 2, Scowsill 2, Green)
v. Rugby	Away	Lost	6—0
v. Royal Latin School	Home	Won	2—0 (Graham, Tomlin)

## SQUASH RACKETS

This has been both the quietest and least successful term for several years as far as results are concerned. The main reasons for this seem to be the recent policy which makes boys who would prefer to play squash rackets, play rugby football instead as their main activity, plus the fact that several prospective players seem to find it difficult to play squash after their rugby sessions—this is rather a new phenomenon, which it is to be hoped will be short lived. It also should be mentioned that an increasing number of the schools we play have recognised that squash rackets is not a minor sport, but is the fastest growing activity in the country, and have afforded it parity with other sports. Suffice it to say that this term we would have been able to field a very strong school side, but under the circumstances we have not won a single first team match—perhaps we will have to consider reducing the strength of our fixture list in the future, which would be a great pity in view of our past record in this activity, but we hope that it will not come to this.

D. Horlock and M. Banister have played every day and improved their standard considerably. They are both keen to learn and able to put into practice what they have learnt and are to be congratulated on their progress. J. Scowsill has been handicapped by illness for some of the time, and the requirements of his preparation for the Oxford Entrance examination, but in spite of this has played when he could and is improving. N. Chapman and C. Montgomery have played as often as their rugby training has allowed, but have obviously found it less easy to make progress.

A full report on the Colts team and results of all teams will be given in the next issue of *The Stoic*.

P. G. LONGHURST

**Teams:** 1st V from: N. Chapman (L), D. Carr (C), D. Horlock, ma. (W), J. Scowsill (T), M. Banister (B), C. Montgomery, ma. (C).  
Colts V: C. Peacock (L), F. Law (C), C. Wadsworth (L), S. Andrews (B); and from: R. Bannister, mi. (L), J. Beck (G), and G. Tucker, ma. (L).

## SWIMMING

### Life Saving and Personal Survival

This term we have been fortunate in having Mr P. C. Godfrey as a student from Borough Road College. Mr Godfrey has captained the Welsh team in International matches and his own early morning training programme has meant that several of the team have been inspired to follow his example and have become exceptionally fit as a result.

Mr Godfrey has also taken over most of the burden of the Life-Saving programme. This term we have 8 entries for Award of Merit, 6 for Bronze Cross, and 35 for Bronze Medallion, with A. R. Bird (T) and C. St J. Dickson (T) taking their Teacher's Certificates by instructing classes in the Bronze Medallion. It is good to see so many doing life-saving but a lot of the success has been due to Mr Godfrey and it is difficult to see how we shall manage in the future without the help of a full-time member of the staff. (How I miss the Aussies!)



Personal Survival awards are as popular as ever and we expect about 6 passes at the Honours Standard, 35 at Gold and a few Silver and Bronze. The larger groups of Bronze are generally taken next term, while this term is used for the more difficult awards.

### Inter-House Swimming Sports 1976

Sunday, November 14th was cold and foggy outside; inside it was distinctly wet but quite warm both atmospherically and competitively. A rather better seating plan this year ensured that more parents but less Housemasters were saturated with spray. My apologies!

In the Junior competition, Temple remarkably ably led by Guy Robinson had another quite strong team even in the absence of Andrew Cherry with his appendix removed a few days before the finals. They were, however, outgunned this time by Chandos whose Junior Captain Roderick Dew after a full season with the school swimming team was quite outstanding and took school records in both the 50m Backstroke and 50m Freestyle events in times of 35.4 seconds and 30.8 seconds respectively; times incidentally which could be beaten by not more than three or four swimmers in the whole school. Dew was ably backed up by Ian Keith with some remarkably good swimming for his size, and Chandos then took the relay in record time to clinch the victory. R. M. Miller and C. M. Folland both swam very well for their houses and promise well for the future.

The interlude staged by the non-competitive Junior Teams was a waiter's race, swum in pyjamas balancing a tray with bottle and glasses. This "went down" very well and was won in truly majestic style by the Grenville team where J. G. Wheaton and J. S. Knowles had the whole process very scientifically worked out down to the last pyjama button.

The Intermediate section was sure to produce a close finish with Cobham and Temple in contention and Chandos and Grafton not far behind. Matthew Street, who had trained with complete dedication every day, had the misfortune to sprain an ankle badly the night before the heats and although he then swam adequately on backstroke he failed to qualify for the freestyle event. Had he done so it seems possible that Cobham would have won the Intermediate. However, Matthew had to be content with a school record in the backstroke finals at 75.9 seconds for the 100m while Simon Fraser-Allen went down fighting in the breaststroke event to a very fit Phillip Richards who went on to break school records in the breaststroke (80.5 secs.), the 50m Butterfly (33.1 secs.) and the Individual Medley (75.2 secs.) Cobham won the relay in record time with Temple fourth, but even so in the final reckoning Temple emerged winners by 9 points.

The Senior part of the competition resolved itself into a Temple versus Cobham battle and was even more closely contested than the Intermediate with Temple House eventually winning by 53 points to 46½. The absence of the Bruce Senior Relay Team made sure that Temple also won the Relay Cup by a mere two points, a very close-run thing. Adrian Bird was the outstanding Temple swimmer with three first places, a House Record in the Breaststroke, a personal best in the Backstroke, and a School Record of 2 mins. 47.0 secs. in the 200m Individual Medley, while Tony Lomas was the best Cobham swimmer, being placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in his three events.

Temple, such easy winners last year, were very hard-pressed this time particularly with Cobham a few points from victory time and time again. They held on grimly to their lead helped once again by their divers, N. N. Bartlett winning the Senior competition, David Venables the Intermediate, and Christopher Harrison taking second place in the Junior, although diving with a waterproof plaster cast on one arm. One can hardly begrudge Temple their victory after such a contest.

F. A. HUDSON

### Results:

JUNIOR	INTERMEDIATE	SENIOR
<b>50m Breaststroke</b> Time: 44.3 secs.	<b>100m Breaststroke</b> Time: 80.5 secs. (S. & H.R.)	<b>100m Breaststroke</b> Time: 82.1 secs. (H.R.)
1. N. S. Winstone-Partridge (B)	1. P. E. Richards (T)	1. A. R. Bird (T)
2. R. R. N. Yeoward (C)	2. S. R. Fraser-Allen (C)	2. D. K. Lloyd (B)
3. S. A. Chorlton (B)	3. G. N. Lancaster (W)	3. N. R. Standeven (L)

**50m Backstroke**  
Time: 35.4 secs. (S. & H.R.)  
1. J. R. Drew (C)  
2. R. M. Miller (S)  
3. N. C. C. Clay (S)

**25m Butterfly**  
Time: 16.8 secs.  
1. I. A. Keith (C)  
2. R. M. Miller (S)  
3. C. M. Folland (W)

**50m Freestyle**  
Time: 30.8 secs. (S. & H.R.)  
1. J. R. Drew (C)  
2. I. A. Keith (C)  
3. C. M. Folland (W)

**Dive**  
1. N. D. Rossiter (C)  
2. C. F. Harrison (T)  
3. C. D. Horn (T)

**100m Ind. Medley**  
Time: 82.7 secs.  
1. J. R. Dew (C)  
2. C. M. Folland (W)  
3. I. A. Keith (C)

**5 × 50m Relay**  
Time: 3 mins. 5.8 secs. (H.R.)  
1. CHANDOS  
2. TEMPLE  
3. CHATHAM

**100m Backstroke**  
Time: 75.9 secs. (S. & H.R.)  
1. M. G. Street (C)  
2. P. D. Hammond (S)  
3. A. M. G. Glennie (T)

**50m Butterfly**  
Time: 33.1 secs. (S. & H.R.)  
1. P. E. Richards (T)  
2. T. W. P. O'Brien (S)  
3. S. R. Fraser-Allen (C)

**100m Freestyle**  
Time: 73.4 secs.  
1. T. A. Cressman (C)  
2. T. W. P. O'Brien (S)  
3. M. D. McCaldin (T)

**Dive**  
1. D. A. Venables (T)  
2. J. Markham (S)  
3. J. C. W. Hall (B)

**100m Ind. Medley**  
Time: 75.2 secs. (S. & H.R.)  
1. P. E. Richards (T)  
2. S. R. Fraser-Allen (C)  
3. R. C. Appleby (L)

**5 × 50m Relay**  
Time: 2 mins. 45.6 secs. (H.R.)  
1. COBHAM  
2. BRUCE  
3. CHANDOS

S.R. = School Record.

H. R. = House Record.

### INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Diving Cup	N. N. Bartlett (T)
100m Freestyle	A. C. M. Low (C)
Junior Ind. Medley	J. R. Dew (C)
Intermediate Ind. Medley	P. E. Richards (T)
Senior Ind. Medley	A. R. Bird (T)

### HOUSE CUPS

Junior	CHANDOS
Intermediate	TEMPLE
Senior	TEMPLE
Relays	TEMPLE
Overall	TEMPLE

## ARCHERY

Firstly we welcome Mr Rudolf who has offered to take over from Mr Arnold as master-in-charge of Archery. His persuasive powers have worked wonders over the Bursar and we now have two new four-foot targets, to replace the old ones which lacked centres.

The future for Archery looks very promising. Enthusiasm and talent have seldom been in such abundance in the Club. The health of the Club is usually reflected in the number of people owning their own bows and this is higher than ever; in the past one's own bow was almost a direct passport into the team, but next summer there will be very keen competition for places. Particularly promising is Emanuel, but Birt-Llewellyn, Murdoch and Bentley could also find themselves in the reckoning for a team place if they maintain their present keenness.

There were no more matches after the last report so we finished unbeaten. Temple won the House Cup again and A. Law won the individual; Macquaker was second, Bell third and Roxburgh fourth.

CHARLES ROXBURGH



# THE STOWE BEAGLES

The summer showing season did not prove to be as successful as we had expected it to be, but it did end on a good note with Ramrod winning the six seasons hound class at Peterborough. Hounds were also taken to Buihth Wells and Harrogate.

The Puppy Show was held at the end of the summer term and our judges were Mr John Robinson, Master of the Old Berkeley Beagles, and Rupert Gibson (T) from the Newcastle and District Beagles. This was followed in the evening by the Annual Hunt Ball which proved to be a great success largely due to the efforts of Mr Pedder and Commander Burley.

At the invitation of Colonel L. Y. Gibson, Master of the Newcastle and District Beagles, we were able to take the hounds for a week's hunting in Northumberland. The hounds were kennelled with the Haydon Foxhounds while the hunt staff stayed in Newbrough. During our visit we were able to have five meets in the Roman Wall country. The most notable of these was at Moss Kennels where a large field was entertained to two hours hunting before the hounds finally accounted for their hare. The visit also served to give the young hounds their first taste of hunting, and it was pleasing to see that most of them entered very well.

Returning South we found that conditions were much better than last year. The damp ground has resulted in good scent. The opening meet was held at Weston on October 16th, and good days were had at Brackley Grange and Blakesley

S. Curling (G) has been appointed First Whipper-in. Whippers-in are: M. Salmon (C), R. Ando (G), A. Mitchell (G).

Many thanks should also be expressed to the large number of boys who give invaluable help at the kennels.

DAVID JACOBS

## CRICKET

### THE FIRST XI

Following on from the report in the last edition of *The Stoic*, it is pleasing to report that Hayward scored another century—at the expense of Mill Hill—to bring the season's total for the School up to eight—Hayward 2, Corbett 2, Allport 2, and Stephens and Worsley one each.

Six matches were played after the last report was written, three of which were in the Festival. Against Oundle, we were put in to bat on the only rainy day of the season and having scored a promising 70 for 2 against some hostile bowling, it was disappointing that the game had to be abandoned. A middle-order batting collapse forced Stowe to play out time against the M.C.C. and the resultant draw allowed only Thomas, who defended so effectively, to emerge with any real credit. Hayward's hundred against Mill Hill helped Stowe to 219 for 3, but despite Sethi's four wickets Mill Hill hung on for a draw and at the close were 175 for 6.

The three day Festival at Wellington was as enjoyable as ever but unfortunately Stowe's cricketing fortunes suffered an end of season relapse. We played Reading on the first day and were dismissed for the modest total of 152. In reply, Reading, after losing an early wicket, batted sensibly with plenty of time and passed our total with 4 wickets to spare. The Leys took a long time to score 190—their last two wickets adding a frustrating 70 runs—but another batting collapse by Stowe batsmen, admittedly going for runs, meant that shutters went up and a disappointing draw resulted. Wellington had had an unbeaten season up to the last match of the Festival and their captain was within sight of his thousand runs. When Stowe bowled them out for 113 (Harris 6 for 22; Hayward 4 for 52), it looked as if a famous victory was possible. However, the pitch, which was already affected by rain, deteriorated, making runs very hard to come by. Corbett was out in the first over and just as Hayward, Carr and Thomas looked settled, they also succumbed to good deliveries. Thereafter, apart from a spirited rally by Allport and Stephens, we were never able to get back in the game and, in the penultimate over, were all out for 81.

Although the team's results were disappointing, there was plenty of good cricket played throughout the season and with a nucleus of Carr as Captain, Kelway as Vice-Captain, Thomas, Allport and Few Brown returning next year, our future prospects look most promising.

Cricket Cups were awarded to:—J. M. Hayward and D. F. C. Thomas—Batting; J. M. Hayward—Bowling; T. P. H. Stephens and S. W. Allport—Fielding.

C. J. G. ATKINSON

### THE SECOND XI

This has been a frustrating season: so much talent, yet so few victories! Only once were we on the wrong end of the many draws and half a dozen matches would have been won, had we had more time. To be thwarted by our inability to take the last, elusive couple of wickets became a regular pattern of our season! The causes for this frustration were varied. Sometimes it was an over-rate we tended to underate, sometimes our slow batting, sometimes lapses in the field and sometimes the bitter twist of a malevolent fate (which, for example, caused one team to put up shutters at the fall of its first wicket).

Bowling was our strongest department and on some days nearly every member of the team reckoned to bowl. Even the captain managed to get himself on by the end of the season! Of the more regular performers Mitchell was very quick but lacked consistency, Few Brown was steadier and did enough with the ball to cause trouble to good batsmen, whilst Lord too was accurate and deceptively hostile. Smith-Bingham, once he had sorted out his length, bowled with a great deal of fire and looked a good prospect, though his run-up did nothing for our wayward over-rate. Of the slow bowlers Burton took wickets with his leg-spin and gradually regained confidence, Calkin bowled intelligently and effectively and Holmes showed promise, but never had the long, regular bowl that he needed.

The batsmen found it difficult to balance the need of a lively run-rate against that of a commanding total. We either scored too slowly or too little! The captain, Duthie, showed an appreciation of what was needed and played some well-judged innings, full of firm strokes. Allport is another strong player, whose power and concentration helped him to a number of excellent scores. Williams always looked elegant but, having played himself in, he never asserted himself. Wightman had a disappointing season, but Burton always sold his wicket dear and played some very useful innings. Currey, Mitchell, Sarin and Holmes all have a good eye and natural timing, but impetuosity tended to be their undoing. Lewis saved one match with a dead bat and considerable ingenuity. Stephens (with a fine century) and Thomas batted well before moving to higher things.

In the field we were a cheerful side, but perhaps a little too amiable. Occasionally the ball would come to Allport, and (to use the phrase of the moment) it was a whole new ball game. Lewis managed to entertain the slips and to keep wicket extremely tidily. It was good to see him effectively standing up to medium pace. Duthie was a conscientious captain, who improved in his decisions throughout the season. Initially he was over-cautious, but he never made things easy for the opposition.

As the record shows, it was not a successful season statistically, but experience was gained (sometimes the hard way!) and everyone seemed to enjoy his cricket.

Results: Played 10; Won 1; Lost 2; Drawn 7.

2nd XI Colours: N. A. S Duthie (G), B. G. Few Brown (G), M. D. Smith Bingham (C), S. W. Allport (B).

3rd XI Colours: R. Sarin (C), R. D. Lord (T), R. T. Lewis (B).

A. G. MEREDITH

### THE COLTS

The standard of play improved during the latter part of the season and although we lost against Rugby it was pleasing to notice that the matches were all closely contested, and in particular

the game against Mill Hill provided a fitting climax to the year. Worsley's splendid century and Jeffreys' supporting 48 launched an exciting run chase in which the winning runs were struck in the very last over.

J. S. M. MORRIS

**Team from:** A. J. Rossdale (Captain) (L), J. A. G. Bird (T), G. R. Coates (C), J. H. Davis (B), M. E. Farmer (C), M. J. P. Horlock, mi. (W), P. D. Jeffreys (C), R. D. Kleinwort (G), A. H. Ritchie (L), P. Salariya (T), A. E. H. Worsley (♣), J. R. Harvey (L), S. C. Bowman (B).

## THE JUNIOR COLTS

It was a good season. The weather helped: it was mostly fine and often almost too hot for comfort. The boys were pleasant and enthusiastic and there was considerable depth of talent resulting in keen competition for places. Indeed, in an average season many of the boys who had to be satisfied with a second-team place would have walked into the first team. Paradoxically it was a good team without any great individual stars: all the boys contributed usefully at some time in the season. The result was a very friendly atmosphere illustrating to what extent cricket can be a team game.

There were probably a dozen batsmen around capable of scoring a fifty and it was really lack of experience and self-confidence which brought about a couple of feeble performances when chasing runs in the middle of the season. It was good to see what confidence had been gained in the successful pursuit of 140 in 80 minutes in the last match!

Staheyeff, much improved from last season, and Law proved the most consistently successful of the batsmen. They had a certain authority at the crease which some of the others have not yet attained. Nonetheless valuable innings were played by Bannister, Henderson, Gull, Wild, MacKinnon and de Chambure who must surely be one of the best French cricketers in the game! Not every team enjoys fielding practice: this one did, or at least, managed to endure it without a single word of complaint in the whole season. The fielding became very good too. It was helped by MacKinnon who was exceptionally neat behind the stumps, making the returns look good and contributing some very slick stumping. It is perhaps fair to single out for special praise Gull, who made some remarkable catches and stops in the gully, Lloyd, Andrews and de Chambure, but most of the others were not far behind.

The bowling was somewhat variable; there was nobody particularly penetrative but all had their moments. Andrews developed most and could be a very lively opening bowler with his high, smooth action; there is evidence of real pace here. Berger could not always find his rhythm but when he did his left arm over the wicket style made him a very difficult proposition. His perseverance deserves reward. Staheyeff varied his pace well and generally bowled very tidily. Lloyd was uncommonly accurate with his gently rolled leg-breaks and had some outstanding successes; Gull a little less tidy with his more viciously spun variety. Law could develop into an excellent off-spinner but at present lacks rhythm and Cameron picked up several valuable wickets with his little away-floaters. I felt most sorry for Scott, who, after a promising start, was whisked off to star in so many athletics matches that he was unable to maintain his place in the team.

Captaining a cricket side is a very difficult task. Although a little reluctant at the start Gull did more than we could reasonably have expected. He set a fine example in the field, was always thoughtful and gained a good grasp of the job as he learned from his mistakes.

The Second Team was of a very adequate standard as can be seen by the results. They played most enthusiastically, Wood and Scott, J. G. J. capturing most wickets with off-spin and pace respectively. Apart from those who gained promotion to the First Team, Dawick, Beckford, Edgerley and Salmon all made valuable contributions with the bat.

It is not always possible to say that it is a pleasure to run a School Club but this year it was indeed!

P. R. BOWDEN  
B. H. MEAD

**Team:** M. C. J. Gull (Captain) (B), C. R. Lloyd, mi. (T), M. P. Staheyeff (♣), J. J. O'G. Cameron (L), M. M. Berger (♣), S. C. Andrews (B), F. E. J. Law (C), R. M. R. Bannister, mi. (L), A. R. J. MacKinnon (C), G. F. de Chambure (♣), G. A. Wild (♣), J. Henderson (T).

**Also played:** J. G. J. Scott (♣), W. J. N. Edgerley (C).

**Results:** v. Ipswich School (Home)  
Ipswich 95 (Lloyd 9 for 33)  
Stowe 99 for 4 (Staheyeff 29 not out, Lloyd 20, Law 21 not out)  
v. Cokethorpe (Home)  
Stowe 182 for 3 declared (Bannister 50, Cameron 50, Staheyeff 33 not out)  
Cokethorpe 19 (Berger 8 for 9, Andrews 3 for 8)  
v. St Edward's (Away)  
St Edward's 128 for 7 declared (Scott 4 for 27)  
Stowe 129 for 5 (Henderson 50 not out, Scott 22)  
v. Dean Close (Away)  
Dean Close 135 for 6 declared (Staheyeff 2 for 12)  
Stowe 80.  
v. Bedford (Home)  
Bedford 135 for 6 declared (Lloyd 4 for 58)  
Stowe 103 for 9 (Bannister 30, Law 21)  
v. Oakham (Home)  
Stowe 160 for 4 declared (Staheyeff 52, Wild 44 not out)  
Oakham 96 for 8 (Callan 68, Andrews 2 for 17)  
v. Radley (Away)  
Stowe 129 for 6 declared (Gull 39 not out, Law 20, de Chambure 15 not out)  
Radley 71 (Berger 2 for 6, Staheyeff 2 for 9, Law 2 for 9, Gull 2 for 3)  
v. Rugby (Away)  
Rugby 121 (Cameron 3 for 0)  
Stowe 108 for 8 (Staheyeff 24, Lloyd 20)  
v. Mill Hill (Away)  
Mill Hill 140 for 9 declared (Andrews 2 for 11, Cameron 3 for 27)  
Stowe 144 for 3 (MacKinnon 36, Gull 37 not out, Law 36 not out)  
Played 9; Won 5; Drawn 3; Lost 1

**Second Team from:** G. T. Wood (Captain) (C), J. G. J. Scott (♣), W. J. N. Edgerley (C), M. A. J. Salmon (C), The Viscount Dawick (L), D. R. Lindgren (B), P. M. Joseph (B), R. E. T. Sanders (♣), R. W. Beckford (B), E. R. P. Baring (L), J. Gulab (♣), A. M. Gale (♣), J. J. Scott (L), H. J. Marriott (C), J. A. Carroll (T).

**Results:** v. Wellingborough (Away)  
Stowe 145 (Wild 32, Dawick 18, Baring 27 not out)  
Wellingborough 26 (Wood 4 for 4, Joseph 3 for 5)  
v. St Edward's (Away)  
Stowe 90 (de Chambure 18, Andrews 17)  
St Edward's 78 for 9 (Wood 5 for 18, Baring 3 for 17)  
v. Bedford (Away)  
Stowe 151 for 9 (Wild 22, Dawick 23, Salmon 21 not out, Beckford 41)  
Bedford 117 for 7 (Scott 4 for 31)  
v. Radley (Away)  
Radley 139 for 6 declared (Scott 4 for 12)  
Stowe 140 for 3 (Henderson 41, Edgerley 54 not out)  
Played 4; Won 2; Drawn 2; Lost 0

# LAWN TENNIS

## Youll Cup—Wimbledon July 1976

After we had won the last nine matches during the term we felt that we would have a reasonable chance of going some way in this competition, and as it turned out we did quite well. The team consisted of J. M. Scowsill (Captain), D. C. Horlock, F. Mauran and A. P. Ward, and after a first round bye we played Wellington College and won by two matches to one. We next had to play a strong Wycliffe College team, and after the second pair had lost their match, our first pair won, and it was left to Scowsill to clinch the match in a singles encounter with the Wycliffe singles player, which went in our favour. At the quarter final stage we had to play Aldenham, and felt quite confident of the result. However, Scowsill and Horlock unexpectedly lost their match, while Ward and Mauran excelled themselves by winning their tie, and this left Scowsill to play Hunter to decide the result. Hunter won the first set, Scowsill retaliated by easily winning the second set 6—0, and was all set for a victory. But, in the end, after an extremely well fought match, Aldenham won the day, but it has to be remembered that Scowsill had not yet recovered from the injury to his hand he had sustained earlier in the season. All in all congratulations should be extended to the Stowe players for their performances in this competition, and to the first pair in particular.

P. G. LONGHURST

# HOCKEY

## THE UNDER-FOURTEEN XI

This report was unfortunately omitted from the last issue of *The Stoic*, and is printed here with apologies for the delay.

This team played with great spirit and determination, and did not lose to any other school team of their age level. Although there was no really outstanding player, there were many who were more than competent and who showed considerable promise for the future. J. R. Thomas was keen to play in goal, and he made some courageous saves, and during the course of the term improved considerably. M. C. Gull and C. A. Wadsworth proved to be an extremely reliable pair of full backs: they tackled excellently and distributed the ball intelligently and accurately. M. Barker was at centre half, and after a few games in which he had a tendency to commit himself to the tackle far too early, he learned to select the more opportune times to attempt an interception and to position himself sensibly. J. G. Scott at right half played some excellent games and proved that he has a heart as big as a house and he supported his forwards well. A. R. MacKinnon showed the most skill in the team, particularly in his passing from the left half position, and is to be congratulated on his general appreciation of the game. He tackled well and soon picked up the technique of distributing the ball in any direction. The forwards all played well, but were somewhat reluctant to shoot quickly, and tended to take the ball to the goal line before attempting to score. J. Markham showed consistent skill and laid on some excellent passes, but would be even more effective if he would shoot earlier as he has a furious shot, while the other inside forward A. M. Roxburgh developed into an accurate passer of the ball and dribbler, and he scored some extremely well taken goals. However, neither inside forward made sufficient use of the square pass during his attacking moves, but it is clear that they have a lot to offer in senior hockey in the future. S. A. Furlonger played centre forward most of the season, and with his unorthodox style he scored some very useful goals—indeed he was joint top scorer with Roxburgh—but he must check a tendency to obstruct with his right shoulder when dribbling past an opponent. Three boys shared the wing positions during the term and between them they did very well indeed. A. R. Boyce was a good runner who centred well (and scored some useful goals), T. M. Holland improved tremendously week by week and made some excellent runs down the left side of the field and showed particular promise,

while R. W. Beckford showed as much determination as it is possible to show on a hockey field and played some fine games in the process, besides improving his skill immensely in the process. All in all it was a very satisfactory term's hockey, and above all it seemed to have been enjoyed by all the members of the team—for which the joint captains A. R. MacKinnon and A. M. Roxburgh are to be thanked and congratulated, as they brought out the best from the team. It seems clear that the future of Stowe hockey is safe in their hands.

P. G. LONGHURST

Results:	v. Bloxham	Won	6—1
	v. Dean Close	Won	1—0
	v. Aldenham	Won	1—0
	v. Radley	Won	2—1
	v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Drawn	2—2
	v. M.C.S. Oxford	Won	3—0
	v. Pangbourne	Won	1—0
	v. St Edward's, Oxford	Drawn	1—1
	v. Dragon School	Won	2—1

# OLD STOIC NEWS

M. A. Knight (C 1976) has been commissioned into 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers.

R. J. McCay (C 1956) has been appointed Headmaster of the Altrincham Preparatory School for Boys.

L. E. O'Brien (C 1976) has been commissioned into the Irish Guards.

J. P. Paterson (B 1974) has been awarded an Exhibition in Engineering at the end of his first term at Keble College, Oxford.

G. Roy Thomas (B 1948) has been appointed Chairman of the British Legal Association for the year 1976/77.

G. W. Thornton (B 1933) has been Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire since December 1971.

S. P. E. C. W. Towneley (C 1940) is Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

P. A. Viton (C 1968) is a Professor in the Department of Regional Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

# MARRIAGES

C. R. H. Archer (T 1968) to Mary Jane Blaikie on 27th March 1976.

N. G. N. Ashford (C 1961) to Sally Heap on 6th November 1976.

R. Carter (L 1970) to Candace Hutton on 18th September 1976.

D. Hadfield (W 1963) to Gillian Anne Stafford on 31st May 1976.

W. R. C. Heap (W 1958) to Janet Holmes on 21st August 1976.

The Hon. Sir John Henniker-Major (B 1934) to Julia Marshall Poland on 8th May 1976.

J. Henniker-Major (C 1970) to Mary Mathieson on 18th September 1976.

A. V. Hope (G 1968) to Maureen Simmers on 16th September 1972.

D. L. Chilver (G 1969) to Patricia Gourley on 12th September 1974.

D. A. Julius (C 1972) to Caron Sue Myers in Spring 1976.

M. A. A. Lawford (B 1963) to Penelope Keeble on 10th June 1972.

M. A. Liver (G 1963) to Elizabeth Marian du Mello Kenyon in 1971.

S. B. Penfold (B 1967) to Patricia Helen Clove Wilson on 12th January 1974.

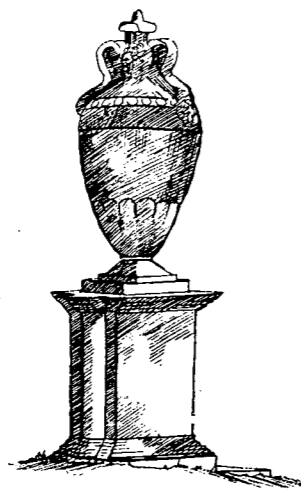
## BIRTHS

To the wife of:

- C. P. M. Champness (C 1965) a daughter on 20th February 1976.  
D. L. Chilver (G 1969) a daughter on 28th July 1975.  
C. Day (W 1962) a son on 14th March 1976.  
T. A. S. Duffy (B 1960) a son on 15th October 1973 and a second son on 6th November 1975.  
M. A. Ferguson-Smith (G 1949) a daughter on 10th May 1976.  
D. Hadfield (W 1963) a daughter on 29th March 1976.  
C. Honeyman Brown (G 1966) a daughter on 15th September 1976.  
A. V. Hope (G 1968) a daughter on 19th January 1976.  
M. A. A. Lawford (B 1963) a daughter on 11th May 1973, a son on 6th August 1976.  
E. A. C. M. Morgan (T 1965) a daughter on 26th July 1976.  
S. B. Penfold (B 1967) a daughter on 27th June 1976.

## DEATHS

- The Hon. C. W. H. Allenby (C 1928) on 2nd December 1975.  
M. W. Barron (G 1935) in 1972.  
Colonel G. G. Fowke (C 1932) c. 1972.  
J. B. Hilton (C 1972) on 4th September 1976.  
P. Johnstone (C 1939) on 13th March 1976.  
E. H. D. Low (C 1928) on 19th October 1975.  
G. B. S. Osborne (G 1940) on 6th November 1976.  
D. W. Partridge (W 1943) on 22nd May 1976.  
G. C. C. Rowley (T 1940) on 11th February 1976.  
A. I. Sladen (G 1935) on 2nd July 1976.  
M. M. F. Spooner (B 1950) in 1956.



## STOWE APPEAL 1976

The Appeal continues to progress, in spite of the present economic difficulties, and at the time of going to press over £140,000 has been raised through the great generosity of many Parents, Old Stoics and other friends of the School. With further promises of support we are hopeful of passing the three-quarters stage by the end of the year, when forty-two meetings will have been held.

As reported in the previous edition of *The Stoic*, our meetings continue to be most enjoyable and much credit is due to the Headmaster, Peter Morris, the Chairman of the Appeal, Michael Ridley the Vice-Chairman, and Bernard Ashford who is responsible for the administration. Their untiring efforts are chiefly responsible for this encouraging start. I should explain, however, that of the figure raised so far, some £90,000 is under covenant. This, of course, brings advantages in the longer term, but the sum actually banked, mainly on deposit at 17 per cent, is only £50,000. It seems fairly safe to estimate that by July 1977, £85,000 will be available for spending, but as the cost of the Sports Hall is £125,000 any shortfall will have to be borrowed at very high interest rates. We obviously wish to avoid doing this, so it is essential to keep up the momentum of the Appeal at this stage.

Planning approval for the New Hall has now been given, subject to receiving demolition authority for the gymnasium from the Ministry of the Environment, so it is hoped to start work early in the New Year.

All of us who are directly involved with the Appeal are very grateful indeed to everyone who has responded quickly and got us off to such a good start, but may I ask those who have not yet done so, but intend to do so, to help give it the boost it needs by sending a donation now? Any sum you can afford will bring encouragement just when it is most needed, and reduce the sum we shall otherwise be forced to borrow at such great expense.

LORD CHELWOOD, M.C., D.L.  
(Tufton Beamish T 1931-35)  
APPEAL PRESIDENT



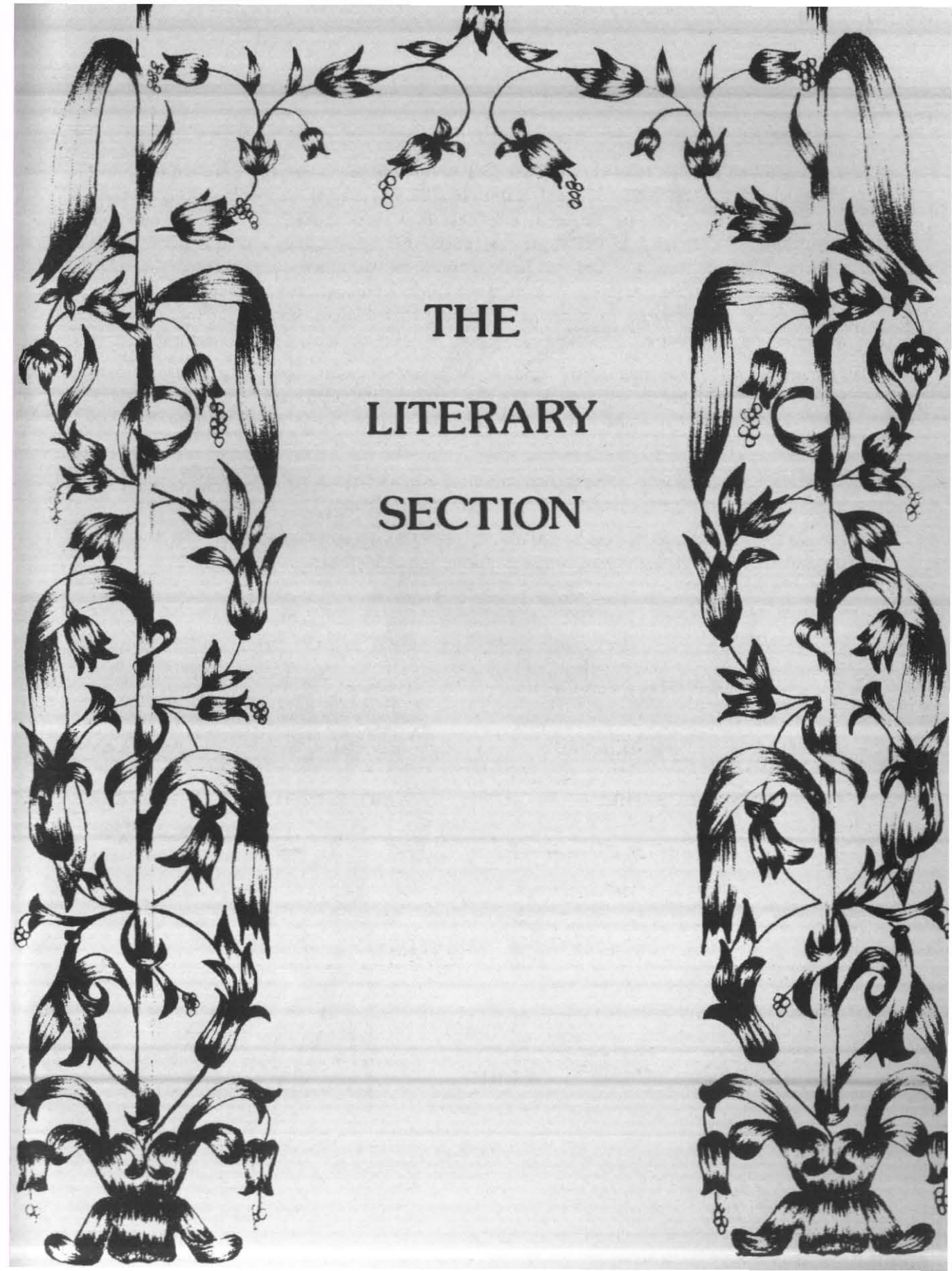


Mr Tom Hearn at work restoring the grotto . . . .



. . . . Prospect from within

Adrian Clarke



THE  
LITERARY  
SECTION

## EDITORIAL

While glancing through some copies of *The Stoic* of three or four years ago, I noticed that of all the articles in the Literary Section, only a small fraction was poetry, the rest consisting of essays and short stories. This year, however, only one short story appears, and this the only one submitted. One cannot help wondering why poetry has become such a popular form at the expense of prose. It could be said that while it takes real talent to write a short story which is both original and stylish, anyone can write down random thoughts and ideas and call it poetry—this would account for many of the very ordinary contributions, but not for those that are powerful and imaginative.

The answer is, I think, that poetry tends to be regarded almost solely as a means of self-expression, rather than as an academic exercise. Many of the poems are highly personal, with little awareness of rhyme and metre. It is certainly easier to write poetry than prose as an emotional outlet, and this probably accounts for the number of poems.

There are, however, poems in this section composed in more classical styles, such as "Sentimentalist to a Village Tree", the translation from Horace, and the Haiku.

I do not think that this section can be said to reflect opinions and attitudes at Stowe. It is, however, the only source of original writing in the magazine, and as such deserves attention.

EDITORS: R. D. LORD C. F. ROXBURGH F. M. KAY

COVER DESIGN: J. HILL ART WORK: J. S. KREEGER  
J. W. M. RITCHIE  
J. HILL

## A TRAILING LIMB OF FIRE

A trailing limb of fire  
Careered to the coarse carpet below;  
A dancer, a painter, a flier,  
This leaf knew how to glow.

Cast off from a myriad of memory  
Sailing into an unknown Autumn,  
A graceful path to unity  
With the earth, at one.

The wild wind whispered at his tree  
And unrest released his fraternity:  
Now, before a wish, he is free,  
His descent now breaks eternity.

This trailing limb of lethargy  
Will die before his time,  
Always motion is a story  
This limb of fire, a mime.

L. J. M. SKAGERLIND



## WINTER

Why You?  
Sometimes I wonder.

I'm, statue cold  
Like a stone Pieta  
Grieving over a broken body.

We're worlds apart.

A marble coldness  
Grips my heart and freezes my smile  
Makes me repeat my lies and sink  
Into banality,  
Shivering behind a brittle façade  
Through which the veined black ice comes.

No doubt  
The enmity will slowly creep in  
And finally grip us,  
Like drowning fish gasping the grey air.

F. KAY

**ALTERNATIVE  
PLEASURE**

Leaf.  
Uncomplaining persistence  
Delicately living.  
Its existence  
is

beauty.

Woman  
Lies naked in the dark  
Starklessly black,  
The slow flowing  
Form unseen  
but the source of beauty  
is its being.

Church.

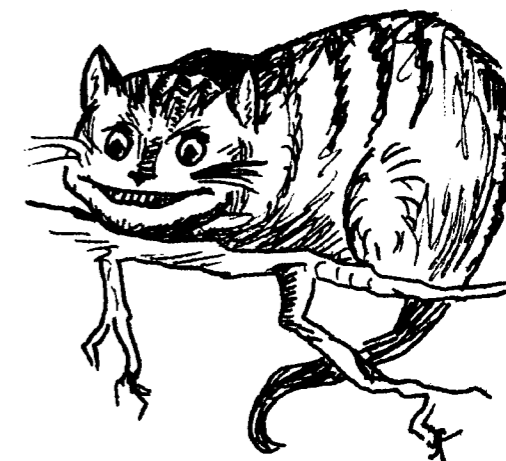
Grey stone harsh  
And damply dusty.  
Simple beauty  
is hard to realise,  
fabrications easy to  
despise especially  
through commuter eyes.

W. D. HAWTHORNE

**THE MONOTONY OF LIFE  
WHICH IS ME**

So many glimpses of life per second  
Each unique and more beautiful  
Than the next.  
How can one life experience  
Be more mundane  
Than the next?  
There are no contrasting or relative  
Quantities qualitative.  
Just different.  
A conveyor belt of accessories.  
And one of ideas  
Just different.  
The cultivator of crops  
The discussion lecturer  
Both vital.  
The introvert, the extrovert,  
The norm, the extra-ordinary,  
Both vital.

R. D. J. C. CHETWYND



## ESCAPE?

When nothing is certain but gnawing doubt,  
When nothing is sure but insecurity,  
You look around, but there is no earthly hole to hide you;  
Too easy for you, too hard on you, are the realms of fantasy,  
Where a battered spirit seeks shelter, like a ship to wrecker's lamps.  
Beware the misty, ethereal dreams in seedy smoke-filled rooms,  
And the false tranquility from each tiny tablet,  
Ahead on this path lies the needle-sharp danger

    Stabbing again and again, ruthlessly, remorselessly,

    Until only a crumpled wreck breathes his last in the gutter.

Or perhaps conjure up demons and devils to ease the strain,  
Forget the world in some frenzied moonlit rite.

But these dark journeys beyond the grave bring short-lived solace  
For ghastly figures invade your every dream

    Looting and plundering your helpless sanity,

    Until only mindless flesh is left to crawl to the asylum.

So where to go when the pain is strong

When tide in man is ebbing, the will to live is dying?

Cannot the spirit fly free, safe from the body,

With the mind detached and hanging in-between,

Life is unchanged—but you no longer live it,

Warmly wrapped, you may gaze downwards, smiling and detached

The cries and lives and loves below now so unreal

Can barely penetrate the morning mist

Inevitably, tragically, for each high flier comes the time to crash.

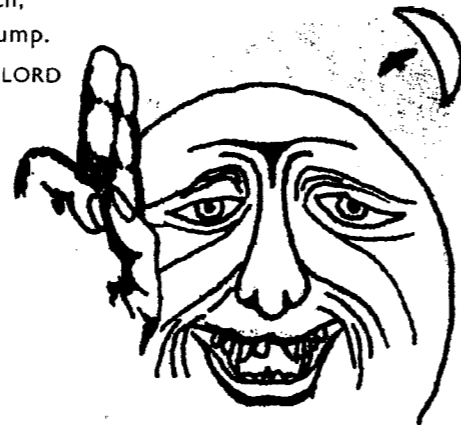
There is no escape.

The only hope is to find someone ,

Someone to steer you gently back to earth,

So beautifully you do not even feel the bump.

R. D. LORD



## THE DREAM

Last night I had a dream.

A wonderful dream.

And in that dream,

Like a crystal embedded in a rock,

Was a brand new concept. An idea.

I shivered with excitement.

And then I wrote it down.

Only for safety's sake. As I knew,

That if I wrote it down,

And actually had taken the effort

To put pen to paper,

It would never escape my mind.

But in the morning I awoke,

Depressed.

I had forgotten the idea.

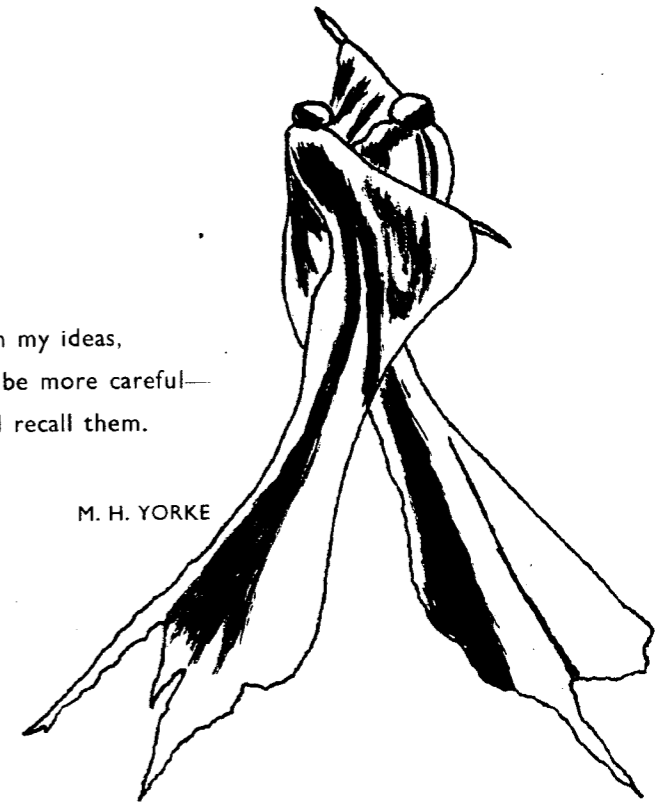
So I trained myself not to write down my ideas,

In my dreams; thinking that I would be more careful—

And not be too confident that I could recall them.

But I never had another dream.

M. H. YORKE





### AFTERTHOUGHTS

In unreal contortions the corpses sprawl,  
Writhing silent souls sallying from throats,  
Which vomit foul oaths upon death's dark thrall,  
While Death, in wait for new souls, gladly gloats.

Each body a person, a one-time soul,  
Each corpse was once filled with a throbbing life.  
Each death a loss to the world as a whole,  
Each murder thickens Earth's foul darkling strife.

The job is over: we've taken by raid  
The fort where pointless bloodshed had been planned;  
I tensely crouch on one my hand has made  
A lifeless sack—that had contained a man.

I taste again the ice that froze my fears,  
I hear the thirst for blood that drove my arm;  
I feel again his scream that clawed my ears,  
I see his eyes popping shout, "I mean no harm."

He was one such as me; a man who loved;  
But now, his ribbed hands scratch the Godless sky . . .  
Seeking He who, juggling Earth, badly muffed,  
In letting Man both kill his own, and die.

E. L. MEYER

### THE BOTTLE

I don't know why I started watching the bottle. I was quite happy writing out Geography notes but when I glanced round, it was there. Noticing it in passing I started writing again but it gently persuaded my eyes from the writing, lying where I had left it in neat little groups of letters.

After all what's odd about a bottle? and yet mine was somehow different. It stood, stiff-backed, almost military, on the coffee table. Inside it was empty, but, as I looked I saw it wasn't. No, it was full. Full of nothing, to the top. I realized with horror that it was not contained in the bottle, it flowed sluggishly out of its neck, oozed down the side and was collecting, like a pool, on the table.

'Ridiculous'. I brought myself up sharply, nothing cannot exist in itself. But still it oozed and now dripped slowly to the floor, each drop like molten gunge. I looked round the room. Somewhere there was a cork. Ah! it lay where I had left it, on the bookshelf behind the table. Behind the table with the bottle on it. The bottle knew what I meant and the room suddenly iced. It had to be corked. The drip dripped on and the pool on the carpet, smudging the design grew slowly towards my chair.

In desperation I took history texts, and piled them dam-like round the growing pool. The pool lay momentarily confined behind a physical barrier. As I watched the dam filled and I knew it was futile. I must staunch the flow at its source. I ran up, trying to catch the bottle unawares and made a grab for the cork. I had it and I reached wildly for the bottle. As my fingers wrapped round the neck I felt the cold sludge that emanated from its heart flow with renewed vigour. The bottle screamed and blasted through my mind. Reeling I madly stuffed the cork into the neck. It caught and at last went home. The flood was stemmed but not the noise. Horrendous screams filled the room, reaching like icy fingers up my spine. I buried the bottle in the bin, cramming blankets, cushions over it to try and silence the banshee wail. No good, throat dry and neck tingling I reached in and gripped the evil thing. Expecting demonic teeth I was surprised at its smoothness. Still it screamed. I drew it from the heap and with a final effort hurled it hard at the wall at the far end of the room.

As I let the bottle go the screaming stopped. I watched fascinated as the bottle cartwheeled gently towards the wall. Too late I understood: the bottle giggled sinisterly and carried on inevitably. Too late I realised. The laughter grew and filled the room more loud than Pan in wrath, too late I saw my failure and the bottle hit the wall. It shattered, beautifully, on the wall and sprayed like a fountain round the room. Green glass embedded in my head and body I slumped, falling at last into the growing void now freed of its captor.

A. J. CLARKE

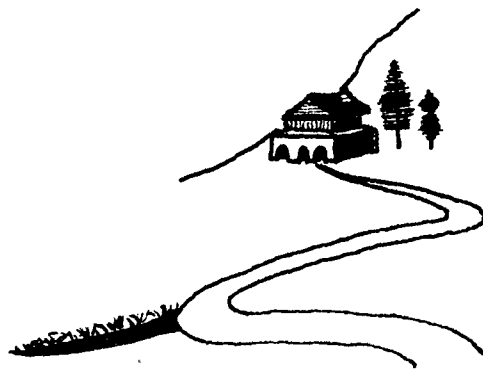
### DECEIVED AGAIN

It seems the years,  
Like a grey mist,  
Have floated down  
Unnoticed.  
Still a silence  
From that time,  
Blows quietly,  
Lost  
In a storm of  
Faces and promises,  
Both yet to come true.

Sometimes,  
When the people I'll never know,  
Are the only people  
I do,  
That silence,  
Says something I can't quite hear,  
And I wish I knew who to be.

Then,  
No matter how fast I run,  
You,  
Are always there,  
With your noise of knowledge and words,  
Smiling softly,  
A smile which fast fades,  
As you turn away,  
Pulling me back,  
Silence broken,  
And all those years  
Deceived again  
By you.

C. D. MONTGOMERY



### A SENTIMENTALIST TO A VILLAGE TREE

Strong are your branches, village tree, long have you stood  
Shadowing this quaint old square—covered in your wood  
With lovers' pledges to be true—  
But who remembers? Only you.

Gone are all those fierce fired passions—they are scattered  
Like your autumn leaves—these little things that mattered  
Then, so much, are blown away,  
For quickly dies love's little day.

Alas! Too soon old age turns youthful lovers sour,  
And then comes death. How brief indeed their passing hour,  
Those many lovers you have seen—  
How swiftly gone, once they have been.

Old tree—I wonder what tales you could relate  
Of those strict village elders—they always prate  
Of virtue—yet they once knew  
Love's madness, they were lovers too.

Would you could tell the children who now play  
Beneath your branches how swiftly flies the day—  
The lovers to prolong their joy,  
While still they may their hearts employ.

Old tree, when I have died, please witness still  
My childrens' children play and see no ill  
Befalls them—and, if you can, tell  
Them 'Life's short—but live it well'.

D. R. B. CHAMPION

### ODE TO A WINE JAR

Come down old friend, you who were bottled at my birth,  
Whether fierce quarrel you provoke—or else loud mirth,  
Debauchery or drunkenness  
—Or even easy sleepiness.

Come off your shelf, for Corvinus wants a mellow  
Wine—stoic he is, but though a staid old fellow  
He'll like your choice old Massic juice  
—Wine even let old Cato loose.

Bacchus lends wit to fools—opens wisdom's coffers  
To the dullest minds—to the coward offers  
Courage— he soothes the anxious mind  
—Wealth can the pauper in him find.

So, wine God, come, and smiling Venus—please lend  
Your presence—and you, three Graces—please attend  
With you we'll while away this night,  
Till Phoebus puts the stars to flight.

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN  
BY D. R. B. CHAMPION

### THE JESTER

He somersaults, rolls  
Cartwheels and twists — a bad fall  
Roses or tulips.

### DOORS

Open for the good  
But closed for the sinner  
Nothing to the ghosts

### SOCIETY

We are unperturbed  
By hatred, murders, killings  
Till it comes to us.

## HAIKU

### DRUGS

Poppies grow alive  
A field of blood red splendour  
Death for the taking.

### BLIND

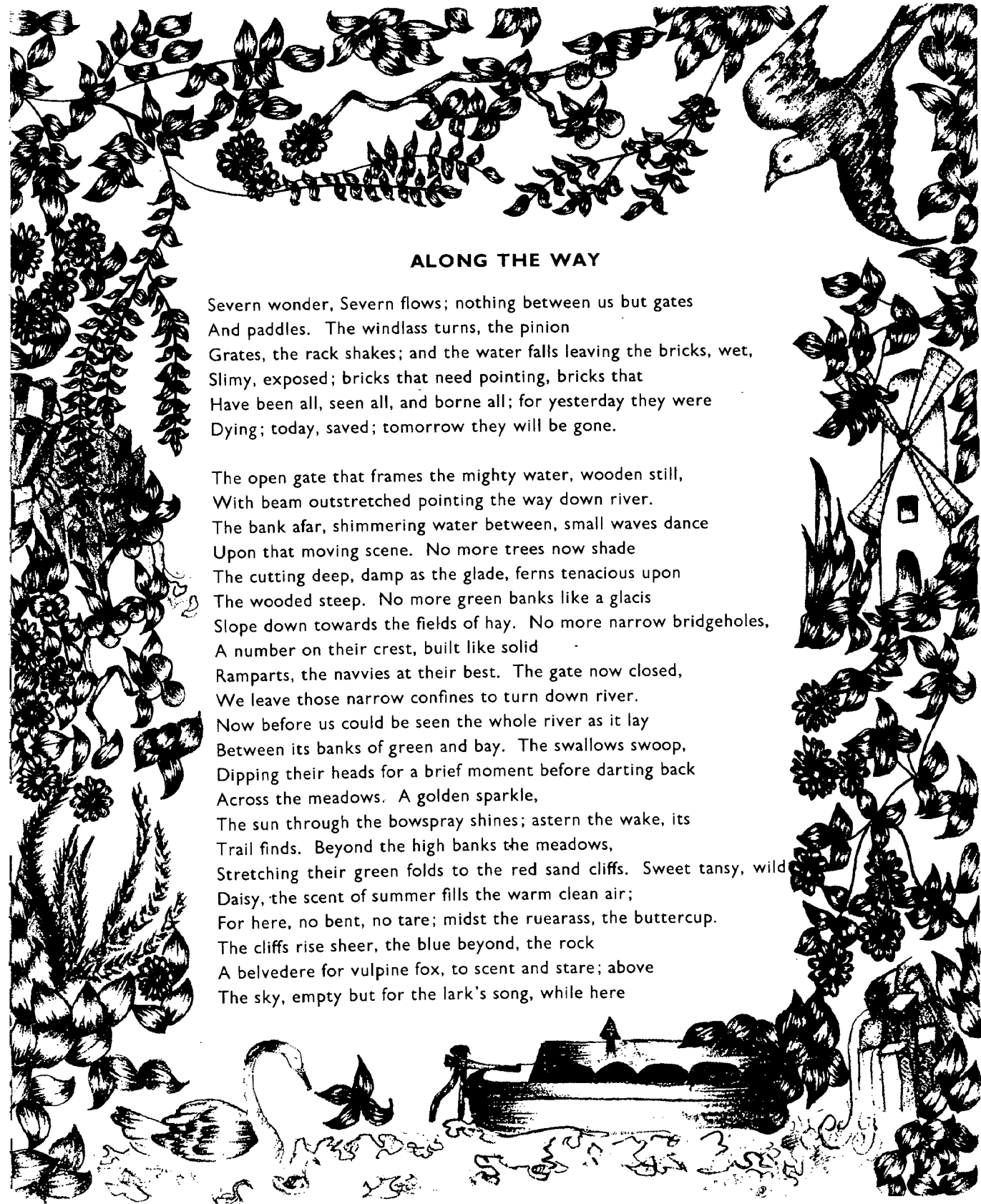
Darkness for colour  
Hazed shadows friend or foe  
Grass is something green?

H. P. OGDEN    N. D. COLLINS    M. S. EMERY  
D. E. CALLOW    I. A. KEITH

### ALONG THE WAY

Severn wonder, Severn flows; nothing between us but gates  
And paddles. The windlass turns, the pinion  
Grates, the rack shakes; and the water falls leaving the bricks, wet,  
Slimy, exposed; bricks that need pointing, bricks that  
Have been all, seen all, and borne all; for yesterday they were  
Dying; today, saved; tomorrow they will be gone.

The open gate that frames the mighty water, wooden still,  
With beam outstretched pointing the way down river.  
The bank afar, shimmering water between, small waves dance  
Upon that moving scene. No more trees now shade  
The cutting deep, damp as the glade, ferns tenacious upon  
The wooded steep. No more green banks like a glacis  
Slope down towards the fields of hay. No more narrow bridgeholes,  
A number on their crest, built like solid  
Ramparts, the navvies at their best. The gate now closed,  
We leave those narrow confines to turn down river.  
Now before us could be seen the whole river as it lay  
Between its banks of green and bay. The swallows swoop,  
Dipping their heads for a brief moment before darting back  
Across the meadows. A golden sparkle,  
The sun through the bowspray shines; astern the wake, its  
Trail finds. Beyond the high banks the meadows,  
Stretching their green folds to the red sand cliffs. Sweet tansy, wild  
Daisy, the scent of summer fills the warm clean air;  
For here, no bent, no tare; midst the ruearass, the buttercup.  
The cliffs rise sheer, the blue beyond, the rock  
A belvedere for vulpine fox, to scent and stare; above  
The sky, empty but for the lark's song, while here



Below the peewits throng. The mighty span of Upton Bridge,  
A memorial to Telford's courage; a world  
Above, one beneath, yet as far apart as sky and heath.  
The watersteps, a weazen man sits there,  
Remembering, thinking, thoughts once live, now but clouds drifting  
Slowly across his eye, now, stillness, hesitate  
Upon that moment; fie upon thee, Oh feckless, Oh to  
See, to be, as weaning weasel, the imminence  
Of life, no thoughts to steal, as one imago take to  
Wing; so wish, Oh mortal thing. The dusky  
Gloom as evening lingers into night; the fulgent moon, a  
Fugitive in full flight across the heavens.  
And here the waters meet, each one come together, subfusc,  
Discreet; they have flowed, and flow, and flow for ever.

Moored beneath the flour mill, windows glow through cobwebbed pane  
And dusty sill; the steam driven stones seem  
To grind away even time itself; while past the boat the  
Mill stream, with stealth it flows the earth's soul's sooths to  
Carry to the ocean's depths of unlit truths. Darkness falls,  
Life, quiet, asleep, only the mill the watches keep.

The first shades of early morning light spill over the dark,  
And with it the night dissolves to slumbrous  
Dawn; now, a new day is born, the sleeper wakes as the first  
Bird a wing shakes before breaking into song.  
The outlying mass of Bredon Hill, a reminder of  
Jurassic days when the Archaeopteryx perched  
In Ginkgo tree warming feathers in the sunny haze of  
Deltaic mist, and the dinosaurs roamed  
The forest. The sun rises still, Tewkesbury Abbey and  
The towering mill seem but dim and distant  
Shadowings of a picture once so full, now as an etched  
Figure upon the mind. Ahead lies Pershore Bend  
A blue ribbon lain on cloth of green, a silent water  
Reflecting the other's sheen. Here, at last,  
Is Lucy's lock, here it was in common lea she watched her  
Flock, a serf, a servant to the earth, waiting  
For the hour when all become freemen; bound no more to field

And fern, no more to hill and pen. The horseshoe weir  
Beside the lock fills one with a sense of fear, but also  
With admiration and wonder, for in  
That foaming water swirls a benignant spirit that bore  
Life forth from earliest fate and will carry  
It to the final destination. Now passing through the  
English Garden: Evesham Straight and Ferry Corner;  
Beside, the fields of strawberry flora, sloping orchards  
Filled with fruitful trees, the hum of bees in  
The bramble flower. Placed between the alder bushes, the  
Young man, with rod and line, he fishes patient  
Water, waiting, faithful; he too will soon be Thine. Close lie  
The boats, side to side, a tie to the shore, where the  
Owners true to lore drink the ale from tapped cask, sitting  
Round upturned barrel; the replenished flask  
Standing there. Bidford Inn beside the bridge, the bridge astride  
The river; the sandstone arches, they all differ,  
Block upon block through the ages they have stood; tempestuous waters  
And tireless sun, they will remain till all is done.

Leaving Stratford Lock behind, the day is passing into  
Evening, the sun is lowered towards  
The earth; soon the Lucifer will rise and shine on till the  
Morning skies once more besiege Darkness's keep.  
The azure blue of Hal and Hamlet, Lady Macbeth and  
Falstaff too, stars in a cast of bronze statue.  
Poling, In out, In out, that is what winding the boat is  
All about. Heading back the way we came,  
Bidford, Evesham, and Tewkesbury mill, entering the  
Severn, the Avon seems but a tiny rill;  
Upton, Worcester, and Stourport again; turning into the  
Canal is like leaving the main for harbour peace.

M. DE HAMEL



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