THE STOIC



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THE STOIC

Editors-

N. H. Groves Emma J. Lascelles (Photographs) J. P. Summers R. J. H. Woolley

Frontispiece:

New hands, new mirror, loving craftsmanship, happy monkey.

Many thanks to Tim Metcalfe for the restoration of Stowe's Congreve monument. Photograph: J.E.E.

EDITORIAL

Readers of this magazine may recall that the issue of May 1985 spoke of the Spring Term of that year as 'one of the bleakest on record' for the incidence of both foul weather and illness. Any such record must surely have been surrendered to this year's Spring Term. That any sporting programme at all took place (and the following pages show that one did) was a triumph of man over nature, and for those denied such conventional activities there was an abundance of ad hoc inter-House 'fun' competitions devised largely by Mr. Weston, whose ingenuity faileth never. The spirit engendered by these events stimulated boys, senior and junior alike, to be imaginative in their dress, raucous in their vocal support and daring in their participation. The 'mean machine' Grand Prix proved the most popular innovation, and stream-lined House-designed 'Karts' were propelled by a fleet of runners round a tortuous circuit. The eleven-acre lake and Copper-bottom afforded hours of icehockey, a pleasure rare at Stowe. For many, however, it was a grim time, and the School owes a debt of gratitude even greater than usual to Dr. Brown, Sister Kennedy and her staff, as well as the House Matrons.

Academic and social life flourished remarkably well in the circumstances, despite the large number of those at some time or other prostrate in the Sanatorium or elsewhere. The trial examinations came and went without marked disarray: the drama festival achieved its familiar success, and we offer reviews of all the House plays later in these pages: the musical highlights of the term were the splendid pupils' concert and a performance in Chapel of Handel's *Messiah*. The various clubs and societies functioned normally. 'Challenge 2000' has emerged from its embryonic state and shows every promise of being a highly successful operation. We include reports on some of the Field Trips which are now playing an important part in some studies.

With Bruce and Nugent now fully installed the architects and builders have turned their attention to the major reorganization and restructuring of Temple, Grenville and Chandos, so that in due course all central Houses will enjoy their own geographical identity and modernized accommodation. A new venture, "The Campaign for Stowe", has been launched as the permanent vehicle for the raising of funds on behalf of the Roxburgh Trust.

We welcome Mr. S. Taylor to the Modern Languages department and Mr. T. C. F. Stunt to the History department. We are also very grateful to Mr. Hope and Mr. Vincent for so nobly helping the History department this term.

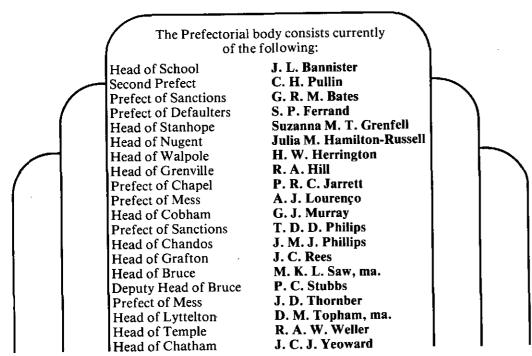
At the end of last term we said farewell to Mr. Marsden, and we offer below an appreciation of his work here. With apologies for the omissions of our predecessors we remember Dr. Jones' contribution to various fields of Stowe life, and our congratulations to Mr. Ewens on his marriage to Alison Bierman. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Eve on the birth of their daughter Megan.

We have regretfully this term to say farewell to several members of the community, in particular to Commander Burley, our Bursar for many years, and Commander Rainer, for long a member of the Mathematics department and the Naval Section of the C.C.F. In our next issue we shall remember their services in more detail, and also those of Dr. King and Miss Reeve, who will also be leaving us this term. We thank Dr. Stepputat for his work in the English department this year, and wish him success in the future. Our best wishes go to Mr. Hepworth, who will be returning to Kenya after helping in the Geography department and other fields for two terms, and to Mrs. Jeannie Wallace-Jones, whose long association with Stowe, first as matron of Bruce and more recently as Housekeeper, has earned her much respect and many friends. We hope Miss Estdale has enjoyed her year as Artist in Residence, and wish her good fortune.

We close with our congratulations to those who gained places at Oxford and Cambridge in the Autumn Term's examinations:

| Isobel C. Bunn | St. Hilda's, Oxford | English |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| S. N. Gates | Pembroke, Oxford | English |
| Elizabeth A. Ivens | Hertford, Oxford | Classics |
| R. A. G. Marsh | St. Catharine's, Cambridge | History |
| P. J. R. Stopford | Pembroke, Oxford | Chemistry |
| Stephanie M. Struthers | Trinity, Cambridge | History |
| P. C. Stubbs | Keble, Oxford | English |

Jonathan Summers



PHILIP JONES

Philip Jones arrived at Stowe in 1978, and in his seven years here he became fully involved in the varied life of the School. He approached his teaching with perception and enthusiasm, and soon established a good rapport with his pupils, particularly in the Sixth Form. As evidence of his versatility, he was happy to add some Upper School History teaching to his English in the course of time.

Outside the classroom Philip much enjoyed being a House Tutor in Cobham, Nugent and Temple. It was in Nugent (then a Junior Boys' House) that I came to appreciate his warm friendship and loyal assistance, not least during the term when he looked after the House on his own with great competence.

He devoted much time and energy to other School activities. He courageously undertook the management of the sometimes controversial *Middle Voice* magazine, and he revived the Political Club most effectively by inviting to Stowe several excellent speakers. Outside his teaching, perhaps Philip's most demanding commitment was the care of Community Service for several years. He took immense trouble over the many details of its organisation, and the highly successful Christmas parties are testimony to this.

Those who knew him closely, both staff and pupils, will perhaps remember with most appreciation Philip's readiness to listen so humbly and patiently, and to give wise and sensitive counsel. We wish him every success in his Law studies up in Chester, and we are very pleased that he has so far retained his base in Buckingham. We do not want to lose sight entirely of that unique Philippic humour.

H.D.M.

BOB MARSDEN

Bob Marsden came from Christ Church in September 1981 to replace Chris Deacon and rapidly established himself as a genial and effective schoolmaster of great ability and skill. He contributed such energy, efficiency and good sense to the History Department, where his commitment to and interest in the subject was very obvious. If he did not always suffer fools gladly, he was ready to give of his time to help the weaker brethren. Historians and Chathamites will sorely miss him and his helpful involvement, infectious laugh and sense of humour!

He was an accomplished opening batsman, an Oxford Blue, and his departure will be felt by the First XI cricketers, whom he coached. As a formidable prop forward, a reserve in the Varsity match, he injected backbone into the Colts XV. Hill walking and mountaineering are amongst his leisure pursuits. In addition to all these talents and interests stands a clear, balanced and abiding belief in Christianity. Bob goes to Loretto as Head of History and our very warm wishes go with him and his wife Julia.

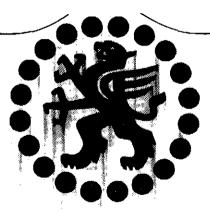
A.A.V.R.



John Doubleday (Cobham 1964) completing plaster originals for the Commando Memorial.



"Christ in Majesty" by David Wynne (Grenville 1943) on the West Front of Wells Cathedral. Photo: Courtesy Times Newspapers Ltd. (Photograph by John Manning).



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examinations in 1986 are not eligible.

Have a word with your Careers Teacher or Careers Officer and then get things moving by contacting The Manager, Graduate Recruitment, Midland Bank plc, Courtwood House, Silver Street Head. Sheffield S1 3RD



MUSIC

Saturday, December 7th, 1985 at 8.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

STOWE CHORAL SOCIETY STOWE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Conducted by DAVID GATEHOUSE

with MILES EXELBY (violin)

| Symphony No. 2 | Borodin |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Violin Concerto in D minor | |
| The Music Makers | Flaar |

Sunday, January 19th 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Music Room BUCKINGHAM PIANO QUARTET

Sunday, February 2nd, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Music Room

ABER JABBER and PENCERDD

'Aber Jabber' is a group of musicians who play ancient and folk music, chiefly from Wales, and while the very formal setting of the State Music Room does not naturally lend itself to the desired atmosphere of a 'Welsh Barn Dance' — which did rather work against 'Pencerdd', a group similar to Aber Jabber in their particular informal style — both groups gave us a colourful insight into a wide variety of music.

The usual English emotions on hearing bagpipes (a mixture of awe, amusement and perplexity) were well and truly dispelled by some excellent playing, and other instruments used, some of which had been made by Alex Eve, a member of 'Pencerdd', in the Stowe workshops, were of special interest.

In the second half of the evening, 'Aber Jabber' played some longer and slightly more formal pieces very sensitively. These worked better in the setting and managed to take the folk instruments beyond the normal repertoire of actual folk music (and into the realm of 18th century style).

An especially lively dance tune rounded off the evening, inspiring a somewhat reluctant audience to some level of participation, which concluded an interesting and enjoyable concert.

N. H. Groves P. Sawbridge

Sunday, February 16th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in The Music Room CONCERT BY PUPILS OF STOWE SCHOOL

| Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary |
|--|
| Giles Munt, John da Silva, Bryn Hesketh, Simon Cormack, Anthony Bewes, Paul Saville (trumpets) Giles Martin (horn) |
| James Sparling, Benet Northcote, Edward Rudd (trombones) Michael Hancock (euphonium) |
| Finale: Clarinet Sonata in F |
| Finale: String Quartet in C |
| Sonata for oboe and piano (1st movement) |
| Steal Away — a Spiritual |
| Adagio |
| Divertimento for piano and wind quartet |
| Hear My Prayer (Oh. for the Wings of a Dove) |
| Clarinet Quintet in B flat (Finale) |
| Sarabande |
| Mandoline |
| Estudio no. 6 |
| The Masquerade |
| Three Pieces for Piano |
| Alan Bush (piano) |

| 12th Street Rag Bowman arr. Peewee Hunt |
|---|
| Cordelia Beresford (clarinet), John da Silva (trumpet) |
| James Sparling (trombone), Carleton Royds (bass) |
| Haydn's Toy SymphonyLeopold Mozart/Michael Haydn |
| for toy instruments and strings |
| (The music was written by Mozart's father, Leopold, while the |
| toy instruments were added by Haydn's brother, Michael. |
| The recorder parts have been added specially for this occasion) |
| Stowe Chamber Orchestra and the Music Staff |

With such a volume and variety of music it would be invidious to mention individuals. We can only congratulate all those who took part in a highly successful evening's musical entertainment.

THE OCTAGON

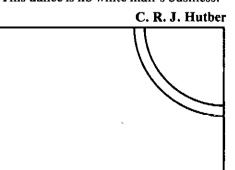
Into the circle, the muscles must obey; Bodies moving round and round, Dignity spilt on the ground.

Dancing to an empty beat, The bodies gaining speed in the dark, which marches in the night, losing air, but still move steam.

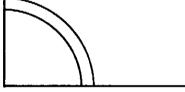
Make no mistake: This dance is no white man's business.

No-one leaves the circle now; The muscles must obey. Rising up in arms and ears: This body was made to disappear.

Make no mistake: This dance is no white man's business.



N. H. Groves P. Sawbridge



YET ANOTHER HIT

A lyric takes a lot of time; so this will be the only rhyme: Syllables needed? Doo-doo-doo. you can write a hit song as well.

So the sun always shines on T.V.? It may for you, but not for me. Who are the beeb trying to kid—A license fee of fifty-eight Pounds.

It's said that any star can cope
Never touching water or soap
But don't blame me when things go wrong
It's your own fault if you start
To smell.

It should not take much detection
To see there is no connection
Between each verse. No ham in it,
Since the words are quashed by too much sound.

C. R. J. Hutber

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Photograph by Ian Bendell



DRAMA

THE HOUSE DRAMA FESTIVAL

Topsy must, presumably, have stopped growing at some time? The 1986 Drama Festival saw a further expansion, with ten Houses presenting plays in five theatres and achieving once again a high standard of production. One of the greatest pleasures of the Festival is to see how many members of the School eagerly help in their House productions, attend others' presentations, and respond positively to the splendid efforts which are made by the actors and directors.

Our visitors this year were Freda Dowie, actress, with her writer-husband David Thompson; Tim Goodman, Director of Drama at Tring; and Alistair Snell, actor and teacher. We very much appreciated their presence and comments.

So the 1986 Drama Festival passed. After the last few years, perhaps the choice of plays was rather bland this year, though that is not to cavil in any way at the high quality of production. Serious plays often achieve a stronger response from the audience and, as Chatham showed, a serious play can also be very funny. With nine months gestation before the 1987 Festival begins its birth pangs, perhaps potential directors will read widely and summon up the nerve to try some original work. I have no wish to under-estimate the sheer nerve of any Sixth Former who takes on a House production — the standards achieved are remarkable and rare — nor would I denigrate the well-made play. But it is exciting and stimulating to take risks, to dare, to challenge, and I am confident that Stoics have that sense of initiative to create new drama for 1987. We shall see

The whole Festival owes a great deal to Mr. Scott, whose patient, imaginative guidance played a large part in its success.

I.M.S.

Congreve Club Play—November 1985 "RING ROUND THE MOON"

This was a successful production on many counts. For one thing it was warmly — at times enthusiastically — received by the audience; for another, it involved a large cast and a huge backstage crew. Many students, therefore, shared in a sense of achievement and constructive co-operation, and also obtained useful stage and dramatic experience.

What struck one first was the set. G.St.J.S., A.G.E. and M.A.C. had clearly thought and wrought to great effect, for ornate wrought iron-work was set off against artfully disposed foliage. The result was both exotic and functional. One facet of A.G.M.'s skilful direction was his effective manipulation of the set for the purpose of numerous comingsand-goings, dramatic meetings and concealments, and to present the tenderness of romance and the bustle of intrigue. Of course those responsible for costumes, lighting and set painting also contributed decisively to the spectacle.

The cast, so well served, matched this support with their energetic projection of the play and the flow of their performances throughout. James Darnborough performed admirably in the leading rôles, alternatively playing the confident, fashionable Hugo and his shy, awkward twin brother, Frederick. Since so many twists of the plot and so much romantic comedy are generated by the confusion of mistaken identity, it is easy to see that the success of the production depended critically upon the success of the central performance, which was versatile, poised and enhanced by the clear delivery of lines.

Ring Round the Moon is not only a sophisticated romantic comedy; it has also a sombre, reflective side I think it is fair to say that a largely inexperienced cast provided a gusto that very well presented the first facet, but was lacking the subtlety to realise the second aspect as effectively. Nevertheless, there was something to appreciate in every supporting performance. Harriet Lund's Diana Messerchmann was played with attractive spirit, while Katherine Shillington's Isabelle had appropriate feminine charm, though lacking some conviction in the emotional scenes. Sophie Irwin effectively portrayed Madame Desmortes looking down on the antics of others from a distinguished height, with Anna Carr no less effectively portraying the rather submissive and fadé Capulet. Michelle Andjel caught well Isabelle's meddling mother and projected her irritatingly gushing manner to the limit — if not beyond! Lady India's languid self-indulgence and general opulence were well acted by Fiona Craig.

In fact her mad tango with — to come to the male rôles — Shaun Spencer's Patrice Bombelles was a comic high-light of the play, whose spider's web of intrigue was illuminated by Patrice's nervous inadequacy. Titus Ogilvy — dignified, prim, apologetic — looked the part of Joshua, the "grumbling butler", but it was hard to hear all his lines, which was also the case with Rupert Hall's Romainville, a part which otherwise seemed perceptively acted. The millionaire, Messerchmann, was interestingly played by William Hornby, who suggested a kind of clockwork being — a man whose life had been ruled by an avid passion. The philosophical, regretful side of the character, however, did not emerge quite as well.

But, when all is said, the simple fact remains that all those involved in **Ring Round**The Moon provided excellent entertainment for appreciative audiences.

E.S.T.

Bruce—DONKEYS' YEARS by Michael Frayn

Bruce chose as their play one of Michael Frayn's entertaining comedies, "Donkeys' Years". The Rehearsal Room was packed and the confidence of the actors created a relaxed atmosphere just right for the occasion. The director, Rod Boulogne, must be congratulated both on his competent effort and on his excellent choice of actors. There were many memorable feats of acting. Shaun Spencer's rendering of the clergyman seemed to augur a great future for him in that profession! Among other things his performance was marvellously sustained. We will also remember Patrick Stubbs's tour de force for a very long time. But it was a performance without any weaknesses (and hardly anything to do for the prompter). The difficulties of space were easily overcome, and the organisation behind everything was smooth and efficient.

J.S.

Temple—'NOT IN THE BOOK'

This was an enjoyable production, with an entertaining mixture of comedy, melodrama and downright farce. John da Silva and Anna Carr effectively presented their paired, but contrasting, rôles: she as the breezy suburban housewife obsessed with a minor traffic violation, totally ignorant of her civil-servant husband's nightmarish descent from "predictable" bore into would-be murderer; while he feverishly attempts to escape the trap laid by an improbable Latin-American gangster masquerading as a crooked police officer. The comedy sprang from the collision of hum-drum domesticity with the wildly exotic and sensational.

John Dawson's aspiring crime-writer, who discovers that his fiction has inspired the real thing in Mr. Bennett, neatly presented awkward diffidence turning into rising alarm.

Toby Gauvain played the villainous Pedro Juarez with suitable panache and the audience also appreciated Charles Burkinshaw's and Jonathan Shillington's humorous portrayals of Colonel Barstow and Doctor Locke respectively. Alex Robson and Peter Tetlow ably performed their more conventional parts as the Bennetts' sceptical son and the Inspector, who duly sheds light on the mystery and mayhem.

The technical crew provided a small but efficient set and adequate lighting. Credit must also go to the directors, Andrew Sugars and Steve Clarke, who held everything together and ensured all was right on the night.

E.S.T.

Grenville—"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE"

Grenville chose "Arsenic and Old Lace", a conventional kind of choice for an amateur production but actually, in the context of the festival, quite a challenging and difficult one. The two kindly old poisoners were portrayed in an appropriate 'Hinge and Bracket' style, and Anselm Guise was particularly successful with his movements and mannerisms in the visual creation of a dotty old lady. Peter Evelyn and Ben de Wynter, the latter as the straight nephew deeply shocked by the discovery of his aunts' recreation, were effective anchor men — the stable performances off which the others swung.

Enter two Damon Runyon-style besuited gangsters, acted by James Adams and Rick Giles with an easy confidence and menacing presence that only deserted them when they couldn't remember their lines. The sudden, brief appearances of the lunatic Teddy were welcomed by all through Duncan Marshall's relaxed manner and good timing, enabling him to make the most of a stock comic character.

Angus Adam, the director, successfully choreographed all this along with some finely judged cameo performances through excellent casting, good farcical use of the stage, and a nice sense of the pictorial — a particularly good example being the scene of bedraggled boredom and weariness inspired by Colin Boardman's laconic policeman's interminable plot summary of the script he has written.

Well done all.

S.H.

Chandos—"THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE"

Farces are much more difficult to produce successfully than serious plays, they say. Perhaps so; but it is hard to think of more suitable material for a House play than "The Happiest Days of Your Life". A main asset is that it apportions the various rôles fairly evenly, thus denying any aspiring Olivier the chance to hog the boards. Each of the characters who took part in this engaging farce (the more engaging through being so dated, evoking the mood and language of *The Boy's Own Paper*) had the opportunity to develop his or her little parody of humanity fully as part of a skilfully integrated whole, and each did so with persuasive individuality. As the three principal males Chris Hutber,

Richard Woolley and Paul Saville romped round with a bland idiocy which would not have survived a day in any real establishment. Even more impressive, in a way, were Dicken Weatherby and Matthew Biffa as the blustering female Principal and her sex-starved assistant respectively, though the former was not always easily intelligible. Amidst the prevailing female chauvinism it was a nice touch to give all but one of the female parts to boys, though Sally Campbell's seductive femininity was very attractive in one of the more actually credible rôles. Martijn Manning gave a very neat performance of the unobliging menial who slides in and out of this kind of 'plot', and Peter Saville, a deliciously loutish schoolboy, with Simeon Anderson as an equally delicious goggling schoolgirl, well supported the antics of their seniors. The dour Northcountryman and his twittering wife were splendidly played by Johnny Kaldor and Adam Veale, and likewise the parson and his wife by Robert Kennedy and Benet Northcote, as together they helped to bring confusion to its inevitable collapse.

I must congratulate Nick Groves on his highly skilful abridgment of a full-length play into the illusion of one Act, and also on his firm control and direction of the whole operation, for the success of which timing and slickness were essential. Congratulations also to the many backstage workers. It was an entertaining, brief escape into a world that never was.

B.S.S.







Sally Campbell (left) and Matt Biffa (right) in Chandos House play "Happiest Days of Your Life"

Cobham-"PULL THE OTHER ONE" by Norman Robbins

Cobham chose "Pull the Other One" by Norman Robbins as their contribution to the House Drama Festival — a light farce in what has become their House tradition. Luke Chauveau ensured pace and achieved a good deal of movement within a tiny and necessarily cramped set. Oscar Hathaway, as Boadicea Heptinstall, in true Pantomime Dame style, showed a strong comic presence and an element of spontaneity not entirely intended by the author, while Mike Williams as Wilf Turner proved an excellent foil for him with a thoughtful, steady performance. The two other female characters, Martin Dunton and Jamey Mierins as Muriel Perkins and Virginia Brown respectively, achieved very creditable impersonations and sustained their characters very well, while James Rossiter, as H. Armitage, just prevented himself from over-acting too much and overcame various prop problems with considerable aplomb. Matt Moore held the whole thing together firmly with a sympathetic portrayal of Albert Perkins. A real fillip to the Second Act was provided by Mark Aldridge, who was entirely believable as the Rev. Elijah Nookey and whose stage presence was considerable. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment and a great deal of work had clearly been done on the set and general backstage organisation; so it was a pity that some of the cast were quite so unsure of their words and had to rely on their experience and rapport with the audience to overcome some awkward pauses.

A.M.M.S.



Chatham—"ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST"

It was brave of Chatham to choose a difficult play for their first full entry in the House Drama Festival, but their choice was vindicated and performed with splendid drive and panache.

The mixture of wild farce, serious intent, social comment and free improvisation which Dario Fo concocts in this tale of a maniac setting a police station by the heels after an anarchist has 'fallen to his death' from a window open at midnight in winter in a room full of policemen, is a volatile mixture indeed. Without cool nerve and a sense of risk-taking, Chatham's production could have become a mess. Thanks to a brilliantly effective set — the best since 'Journey's End' three years ago, in my opinion — and sustained inventiveness from actor/director Mark Jenkyn-Jones, the company brought the play invigoratingly to life. There was a true feeling of anarchic bravado in all the performances, the ad libs worked superbly and the sense of team achievement was very potent. It was a great success in all respects and congratulations are due to James McIntyre-Brown, Julian Burke, Marc Farah, Nick Chamberlain and Helen Corner in particular, as well as special praise for the outstanding bravura of Jenkyn-Jones's performance, controlled and blissfully free at the same time!

I.M.S.



Charles Lambert in Grafton House play, "Loot".

Photograph by J.M.L.



Fred Rutter, Harriet Lund, Titus Ogilvy in Grafton House play, "Loot".

Photograph by J.M.L.

Grafton-"LOOT" by Joe Orton

Over the years Grafton House has established a tradition of fine performances in the Drama Festival and this year's offering was no exception, revealing a wealth of hitherto unknown acting talent. Fred Rutter as Hal, the reprobate son, was convincingly cavalier in attitude, and the grief of the father in mourning (Simon Morgan) was almost tangible. Harriet Lund as scheming multi-murderess Nurse McMahon employed an amusing range of feminine ploys to beguile and seduce. Titus Ogilvy adopted the right tone and mannerisms for Dennis, the 'wide boy' petty criminal-cum-undertaker, while Steven Martin filled admirably the cameo part of Meadows, the honest British Bobby. Charles Lambert portrayed Truscott of the 'Water Authority' as a sinister sleuth of extreme rightwing persuasion, sadistic, violent, a kind of Holmes of the Gestapo.

The whole cast did justice to Orton in conveying his scathingly satirical view of society and attitudes — the humour could have been no blacker. However, the slight alteration to the script (for whatever reason) to introduce an Anglo-Saxonism was surely unnecessary!

D.J.E.

Walpole— 'BLACK COMEDY'

This was an evening very well spent and the Director and actors presented us with a stylish and delightful performance of this exuberantly theatrical play, so typically Shafferesque in its demands upon both cast and technical crew.

And yet the pace and adroitness achieved was flawless as the actors stumbled across a crowded stage in the darkness pretending it was daylight and fell about helplessly in the glare of the lights pretending it was dark. Peter Williams' performance as the hopeful young artist placed in a catalogue of compromising situations was scintillating even to the point of falling down the stairs with chilling verisimilitude. Stephanie Struthers memorably portrayed a spoilt and feckless Sloane with her "Daddy-Poohs" and "Whisky-Poohs" elegantly whined through the gloom. Gorringe was marvellously conceived by John Stopford as a camp Lancastrian antique collector. There was not a weak link in the cast and all managed to maintain the pace and élan so uncompromisingly demanded.

The men behind the scenes deserve special credit in presenting an excellent set and maintaining the speed with perfect synchronization of lighting and sound, and Paul Dobinson, the Director, is to be congratulated for the evident hard work and inspiration behind such a notable success.

P.A.S.F.

Lyttelton—THE CARETAKER by Harold Pinter

Lyttelton's **The Caretaker**, by Harold Pinter, was again a testing choice, with its tiny cast and often inarticulate dialogue. The centrally-sited stage became one junk-filled room, with the audience almost in it. David Jones as Aston, woodenly unsmiling but still one of Nature's gentlemen in his hospitality to Davies (the tramp whom he has salvaged from a café punch-up), reserved everything for the moment when a reference to his youth brings the story of his betrayal by his mother to electric shock treatment in a mental hospital pouring out. The passion of hurt and bewilderment, flung directly at the audience, held them totally.



Stephanie Struthers, Pete Williams, William Herrington in Walpole House play
Photograph by Ian Bendell

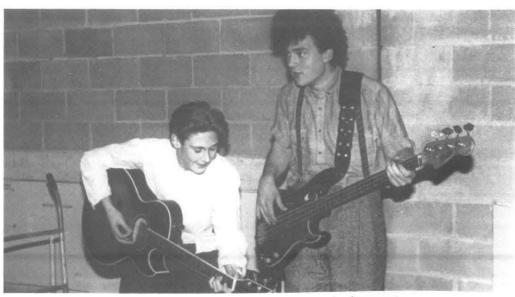
Will Hornby's Mick was played in fine contrast: knowing, menacing, fiercely protective of his brother when the outsider threatens their fragile co-existence. His tendency to rush his lines meant that some details of his rhapsody on teal-blue, coffee and cream décor were probably lost to the back benches. Dominating the play was Mike Appleby as Davies, an unsavoury rag-bag of defensive aggressiveness, cunning and mental confusion, greed and pathos. His convincing assimilation of the Cockney character extracted rich humour from the rôle as he picked his teeth or cleaned his toes through the others' rhetoric. Speaking or listening, all three were completely inside Pinter's fragmented, cross-purposed, self-absorbed dialogue. Congratulations to Director James Darnborough and the whole team for this notable piece of theatre.

L.T.

Stanhope—THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS

Paul Zindel's difficult and disturbing 'The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds' was Stanhope's choice for their inaugural production: difficult because of its precarious balance between the grotesque and the sublime; disturbing because the former so nearly destroys the latter. As Beatrice, the chain-smoking, drunken slut of a mother, Rachel Renwick first repelled then won our sympathy at the crucial moment when we glimpse her all-but smothered sensitivity. Pem Tschering's moving presentation of Tillie's child-like aspirations convinced us that just as the lotus blossoms on the crystal surface of a lake whose depths are muddied and corrupt so idealism may persist in a degenerate world. Between these two poles of the play, Georgina Arnold and Lucy Otway, epileptic and senile symbols of the crippling effects of insensitivity, gave strong performances whilst Victoria Harding was nauseatingly realistic as a high school bobby soxer. Shenaiya Khurody was under no illusions as to the difficulty of her task; she and her cast gave us a powerful and provocative performance.

R.M.P.



Matthew Biffa and Sam Godden rehearsing for the concert.



Rehearsing for the concert: Sam Godden and Henrick Takkenberg.



"Flat Hats" by A. Sugars.



Campaign for Stowe. Mr. Atkinson and the Headmaster greeting people.

A FUTURE FOR DANCE AT STOWE?

To teach ballet at a Public School might appear an impossible task, and looking back over the last eighteen months, as a visiting teacher to Stowe, in all honesty I must admit it has been far from easy. However, to date, much has been achieved.

The four girls for whom I originally came to take classical class worked well together, despite different backgrounds in methods of training and levels in standard. A small ballet 'Pas de Quatre' was successfully performed for Speech Day '85 in the Roxburgh Hall, and repeated for the Headmaster.

Early in December '85, I organised an hour's entertainment, again in the Roxburgh Hall, entitled 'The Language of Dance'. The main content was by my own pupils and colleagues and dancing in it myself. Verse, chosen and spoken most eloquently by Josine Martin, linked the dance items and the whole was excellently lit by another colleague Dave Stratton. In the end only two girls from Stowe were able to take part.

For Stanhope House 'At Home' on February 1st, despite sketchy rehearsal time, a dance item for four entitled 'Candlemas' in keeping with the time of year was performed in the Music Room. The four girls had the added advantage of Mr. Paul Drayton accompanying them with piano music by Maurice Ravel. It was a joy, for me at least, to have such excellent backing from Mr. Drayton.

Dance, and particularly ballet, is sadly thought of in England as just for girls. In the Autumn of '85 a boy pupil joined Stowe who had been highly trained in dance abroad and both he and his parents were adamant that his dance training should continue. He has taken ballet and tap lessons with me, both privately and at Stowe, and is due to take his first professional examination of the R.A.D. this next September. On Saturday, March 22nd, he joined one girl pupil of Stowe and together they danced a duet for a performance in Winslow. It was charming.

The future for dancing at Stowe seems uncertain. Most of the girls I have been teaching will be leaving at the end of the Summer Term, though the boy remains for another year.

At the risk of sounding pompous I close with a quotation from the famous American dancer/actress Martha Graham

A Dancer's Philosophy

"There is no satisfaction only a strange divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others "

Ann Steedman

(A.R.A.D., L.I.S.T.D., Adv. Teachers Cert. Life member of The Royal Academy of Dancing)



Plumage dipped in blazing gold Dripping of youth and hunger, Our nimble eagle troubled The weak in conscious slumber.

With action swift and fleeting The struggle eased with pain, The brief encountered meeting Was never to be again.

Arched with talons straining Our eagle strove to soar, Might and senses drained But strength he needed more.

Exhaustion destroyed the will And the grip of loving protection. Releasing the triumphant kill And severing eternal affection.

G. Harvey



Shenaiya Khurody

HOUSE ART & DESIGN EXHIBITIONS 1985

The year of exhibitions began early with the display in **Bruce House.** The several candidates at 'O' level in the previous term contributed a quantity of drawings, prints and paintings all of an excellent standard. The design work, particularly woodwork displayed, was of a very high standard and the projects most ambitious, the work of Charles and Robert Worsley being quite outstanding. The seat by Heard was unfinished but already looking very good.

Chatham arranged an open air exhibition on one of the brightest days of the Summer Term. Besides paintings and etchings, examples of pottery were displayed and many excellent photographic studies. Large-scale chalk drawings by A. J. Farquharson were particularly impressive. The even larger scale design projects must be commended, A. J. Walker's trailer and accompanying photographs for his 'A' level design being particularly good.

The House effort, as one always expects from Chandos, was admirable. Although short of senior artists in this particular year, computer graphics and a variety of drawings, photographs and prints from the middle age group were a pleasure to view. The panels of ceramic tiles made by N. G. Groves for the Swimming Pool — displayed as they were in a setting of fountain and waterfall in the Bain Library, were a highlight of the exhibition.

While this exhibition was well displayed and had most excellent artwork, it was not so strong in design work, with the exception of fine third year work by C. Cullen. There was more made in the workshops in 1984/85 by Chandos boys than was on exhibition here.

J. L. G. Tew's show of colour slides taken in the Camargue were inspiring and were an absorbing distraction in the **Cobham** exhibition. Despite the absence of many examples of Crinan Wilde's expressionistic drawings — so largely evident in the previous year's exhibition, the quality of work, particularly etching, and photography, was high and the display a credit to the organiser G. J. Murray.

The exhibition of design work was headed by Oke and Phillips' excellent 'A' level work and well supported by work of Nicholl, Brown and others. Over all it was a very high standard, and the effort and organisation a credit to the House.

Stanhope exhibited in two stages. An earlier display of drawings and paintings in the Aurelian Room was followed by an exhibition of dressmaking and design work held on Speech Day. The work of organising and displays fell rather too much on the shoulders of Anna Walsh, but she coped ably with the complex arrangements. Works by Camilla Matthews and Sophie Rudolf were in abundance.

The sheer quantity of exhibits in dressmaking and other design work was impressive in itself. The quality of craftmanship, particularly in the dressmaking was very high. Displaying this kind of work is difficult, and a valiant effort had been made to overcome this.

Grafton displayed a wide range of work and contributions from boys in all years were evident. At a very hospitable preview one was impressed by the way boys took great trouble to entertain visitors, the juniors, especially, who discussed their work with enthusiasm.

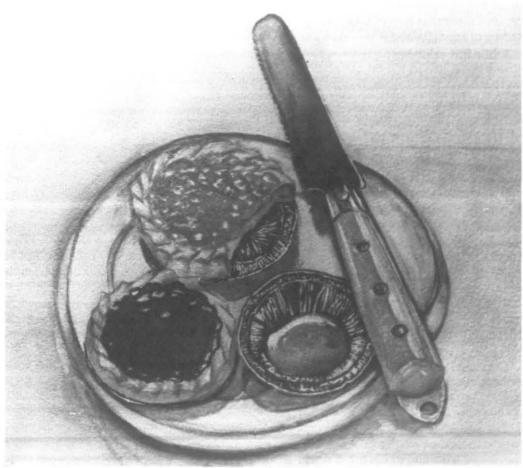
The design work of Grafton has been dominated for some time by the huge and very high standard of output of A. C. Harris, who displayed his reed boat again but also a motorised trike and much other work. It was pleasing to see some very good work from more junior members of the House.

"The Human Quartet" by R. Marsh, E. Galbraith and J. Redfern was an admirably conceived and executed human sculpture in the **Grenville** exhibition, and a most praiseworthy performance. The exhibition was well organised and work in a full range of media was immaculately displayed. The design work was varied and interesting, with outstanding work from more junior boys, such as Evelyn and Burford-Taylor, mi. We look forward to future years as these boys grow to be seniors.

In a year of very high standard exhibitions, to single out a House for greater commendation is difficult. In Art, the element of House involvement tips the balance towards **Chandos**, to whom the Cup was awarded.

The Design work in several Houses was very good indeed and choice most difficult. However, after much consideration, the Cup was awarded to **Bruce**. It should be mentioned that both Cobham and Stanhope were very close runners-up.

M.A.C. W.St.A.R.D.



Jam Tarts by Sophie Irwin



L. J. Scott





N. F. O. Terry



EL NACIMIENTO DE LA COL

-Rubén Darío

THE BIRTH OF THE CABBAGE

In the earthly paradise, on the brightest day on which the flowers were created, before Eve was tempted by the serpent, the evil spirit approached the prettiest new rose whilst she was offering, to the caress of the celestial sun, the red purity of her lips.

"You are beautiful".

"Indeed I am" - said the rose.

"Beautiful and gay", continued the devil. "You have colour, grace and smell. But..."

"But?"

"You are useless. Can you not see those tall trees full of acorns? Those, besides being leafy, give nourishment to the multitudes of animals that live under its branches. Rose being pretty is little..."

The rose then, tempted, like Eve would be later, desired usefulness so much that she became pale.

After the following dawn the good God came by.

"Father", said that flower princess trembling in her scented beauty, "Would you make me useful?"

"So be it daughter", replied the Lord, smiling. And then the world saw the first cabbage.

J. R. Collier-Wright

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

"The Model United Nations General Assembly" was a successful attempt to engage young people in debate over issues of the United Nations such as peacekeeping, apartheid, development and human rights.

With the prestigious name of the Stowe Political Society going before us, we were privileged to represent "Amnesty International" as a pressure group lobbying support among delegates of other countries in the U.N. Our aim was to press "Amnesty's" views and to encourage the other countries to denounce openly violations of human rights.

Any effect that we might have had was shown on the second day (11th January) when the General Assembly met to debate the back-up resolution: "against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". The convention had included some eleven articles including the assertion that "there is no justification for torture", that each member party should ensure that "all acts of torture are offences under its criminal law", that "victims of torture should be entitled to adequate compensation" and that "a committee against torture should be established".

During the debate we drew the attention of the assembly to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which undertakes to protect its people by law against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Although this has not yet been universally ratified, the majority of nations have at least accepted it and therefore it would have been hypocritical for them to vote against the motion.

Some countries replied by casting suspicions on the integrity of "Amnesty", suggesting that either their information was unreliable or that they did not always fully comprehend the political issues at stake. The U.S.A.'s delegation stated that "Amnesty" was a KGB-backed organisation while the U.S.S.R. thought the C.I.A. were involved.

Nonetheless, despite these attempts to cover up potentially embarrassing discoveries of torture in their respective countries, amended versions of the articles were passed by midday, and it was hoped a spirit of internationalism was promoted even beyond the confines of Westminster Hall.

Robert Marsh Adam Reed

ANGOISSE

Je vous aime.

Si simple, si pure, la vérité
Soufflée dans une oreille qui écoute,
Qui attend les mots de douceur.
Une âme pleine de vie qui point,
Qui adore, qui s'étire.
Une pensée sans fausseté, qui jamais
Ne trahit, qui toujours dit la vérité.
Rejetée.

L'âme qui se tord, qui souffre et qui meurt.
Une pensee qui gémit, finie.
Une vérité si simple et si pure,
Le souffle de l'amour.
Une oreille qui dort.

POEMS BY ISOBEL BUNN

Tears

To see the gossamer mist Blushing at the new dawn's shame, When the languor Of a cerulean sky yields to thought.

Undesecrated, virgin ice,
The silken thread of forsaken peace
Drifts to the concrete womb,
Torn idly, griping to perplex,
Murmuring warmth to the desert winds—
The lonely cry of past and present.
Shades reach darkness; moans
Mingle with limpid breath.
Jesu Jesu Jesu . . .

A wish shatters in a velvet depth And tears, blossom pale, Stain the oblivious scene. Two white wings through a blue sea Meet and part, meet and part.

Master I weep To know a lily fades.

The fated vessel labours heavily through the heaving waters which claw and rive her sides. Her groans are heard by those only who share her fears of fortune. Her mass will soon repose slumbering, Rocked gently on a deep sea bed, The caressing waves a balm to wounds, A softened light cracking her masts. Were we only assured of such calm, So would we strive through life As once did she. Life is a raging sea, Ruthless and violent to all. To those who see no port, it is the final storm.

CHAMBORD

Chambord, château de rêves, Tes courbes maiestueuses Sont à jamais empreintées sur ma mémoire. Je vois ces forêts, ou la meute Poursuit un cerf affolé, S'étendre à tes pieds; Et sous ton regard affectueux, Un ruisseau paisible dans son lit. Les rafales de l'hiver Jamais ne te troublent, ne t'accablent; Le soleil, moins brillant que toi, Jamais ne te surprend. Mais est ébloui par toi, grand palais blanc. Le roy avait raison: Infidèle est la femme, Mais toi toujours seras là, Source éternelle de songes!



CALEMBOUR

L'amour d'une fleur fané.

L'amour d'une fleur fanée.

Nous ne verrons point l'aube.
C'était la dernière ce matin;
C'était une nuit éternelle,
Une nuit d'un chiffon épais
Laissé échapper par une main
Pour nous punir.
Nous venons de voir la dernière nuit—
Une nuit qui a toujours été.

ANOTHER WALL

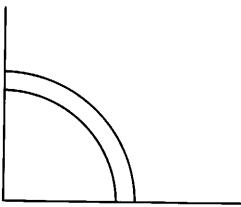
The poet desires the jewels his thoughts inspire; at every chance, laden with gifts of innocence, purity and hopes of love, overflowing with spontaneous relief from his undulating nib, drawn to those unrhythmical strokes more fiercely in flesh expressed.

His bachelor mind perceives a hazy ardour sweat: perhaps a random gesture or a swaying thigh to bathe the eye upon, and there may be the gems of inspiration enclosed by the strengthened glass for seeing through, for pressing mouths against until the fog reveals the lie.

Unrestrained, the poet sniffs his bitch, then in tranquillity reflects its worth, its paltry futility—
"even if my daring thoughts could be declared; even if she might reply"—
still like fish in separate bowls or a north star bright among a myriad of northern poles, he'd have that same grotesque divide.



Robert Marsh



THE PASSIONLESS STOIC TO HIS MUSE

With acknowledgements to Marvell

Had we but world enough, and time, Our five years here would be no crime. I could go out, enjoy my life. Passing my days without the strife. I would avoid the work and games (Throughout our time it's just the same . . .) Without restrictions, rules and chores. Which makes Stowe life just such a bore! Content I'd be with plenitude— -Of course I'd be all gratitude! My inclinations don't need taming, Nor does my understanding training. My character itself suffices To purge and chasten any vices Which may befall me. I by the side Of modesty and virtue will abide. Therefore I need no education. For that just adds to trepidation. About my little understanding Of Einstein, Keynes and Robert Browning.

But Stowe indeed we must accept
Without resentment or regret.
We must appear so gratified
Despite our being horrified That such a desperate waste of time
Should contribute to our decline,
Pursuing "pleasures" with such woe
Within the iron gates of Stowe.
But, though I cannot have my fun,
My time at least I will make run . . .

Richard W. Searby

SOCIETY

CHAPEL

Its a pity that we no longer sing the Benedicite in Chapel; for not only do we have 'medallions' above the columns, illustrating its verses, but during the period of this report we have experienced almost all the types of weather referred to in the canticle, although I don't suppose many of us thought of 'praising the Lord' for them!

The second half of the Autumn Term came to a climax with the Carol Service, which we began in more than the usual gloom in order to dramatize the introit 'Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light' by actually lighting the candles during the anthem. I am not too sure that it wasn't more distracting than helpful.

The Spring Term was a busy, and spiritually exciting one. Our Lenten addresses were given by The Revd. Jonathan Fletcher and Mr. Tim Hastie-Smith. They spoke to large and attentive audiences, visited classes and talked to individuals. Many Stoics found their words encouraging to their faith. I remember one phrase in particular, which should be the motto of every School Chaplain (and doubtless others also), "Do not neglect the important for the sake of the urgent". I must offer my particular thanks to Mr. Larcombe, who had to run the the addresses for me whilst I got over the 'flu.

At the end of the term the Confirmation candidates went on the customary two day retreat, this time back at Grendon Hall. Our leaders were, as last year, Canon Mark Rushton and Mr. James Steven; my thanks to both of them and to Mr. Farquhar for the clarity of their talks, which so many found helpful.

The term ended with a Festival Matins Service for Palm Sunday much enhanced by members of the Rugby XV who processed with with Palm branches!

Our visiting preachers have been: The Revds. David Gibson, Norman Russell, John Eddison, Laurence Gunner, John Stanton and Mark Jones, and Mr. Michael Selby. Our thanks to all of them for their sermons.

My thanks also, to those who arrange the flowers in Chapel, a difficult task in such a vast building.

At the end of this term I shall lose three very efficient Chapel Officials; my thanks and best wishes go with Philip (Mugger) Jarrett, Richard Searby and Matthew Skeate.

M.C.S-S.

CHAPEL CHOIR

Of our twenty-five members several individuals will be leaving this summer who have been quite invaluable to the choir — both for loyal attendance and for outstanding vocal musicianship. Most of these are girls, and we can only hope that their excellent example may inspire other members of Stanhope and Nugent to follow in their footsteps.

In the Pupils' Concert in February, Mendelssohn's much loved "Hear My Prayer" acted as a showcase for three first-rate soprano soloists, Lisa Tustian, Shenaiya Khurody and Sophie Rudolf, all having understudied each other's parts at that time of virulent throat infections. In the event all sang triumphantly.

The Spring Term ended, unusually, with a special Palm Sunday service, when we sang Malcolm Williamson's "A Procession of Palms", a delightfully vulgar piece which we will certainly do again if any future Spring Term ever extends so close to Easter.

P.C.D.

THE LIBRARY

The Spring Term is best forgotten! The climate in the Library was such that few people could face working in it. A promise of improved heating has been made and perhaps we can hope for better lighting as well.

It is a real pleasure to supply the needs of many borrowers, but we are dogged by the selfish few, who persist in not registering the books they take, and then in not returning them, leaving a depressing list of missing titles term after term, which almost always includes at least one useful Reference Book.

The Scott-Gall Bequest grant for 1985-86 was used to buy "The Battle of Bosworth" by Michael Bennett, "The Making of the Tudor Dynasty" by R. A. Griffiths and R. S. Thomas, and "After the Armada" by R. B. Wernham. The cost of books is such that this £60 annual gift is quickly absorbed.

Matthew Roe and Andrew Webber left two beautiful books as a reminder of their working visit to Stowe: "Australia: Spirit of a Nation" and an aerial picture book of the entire coast entitled "The Greatest Island: Australia". "Nimeiri and the Revolution of Dis-May", gift of J. P. Bodourian (Chatham 1985), and "Facts About Israel" sent by the Embassy of Israel, reflect burning issues of the day, whereas Laurence Whistler's life of his brother, Rex, "The Laughter and the Urn", Christopher Milne's "The Windfall", and a new book about "Capability Brown" by Thomas Hinde, given by M. A. Weller, Esq., are reminders of gentler moments in the past. The Urantia Foundation has sent, from Chicago, its book which aims "to guide and aid the development of the Urantia mission as it gradually unfolds in human affairs". Its "singular concern... is the spiritual regeneration of all mankind". I am grateful for all these gifts which add a diversity of interest to the Library stock.

Three girls have acted as Library Monitors so far this academic year: Sarah Lawman, Stephanie Struthers and Kate Burditt. I thank them for their efficiency and interest in the job, which is sometimes thankless. No less appreciated are the House Library Monitors, who have served throughout the year and, almost without exception, have been totally equal to the task. The end of the Summer Term is a difficult time to get anyone to concentrate on such a boring chore as retrieving Library books, but I hope for all Monitors' best efforts, perhaps, as an innovation, assisted by their successors for the Autumn Term.

Kate Burditt continues as Library Monitor and House Monitor for Nugent. House Monitors are: O. R. A. Scott (Bruce), I. Longshaw (Temple), R. M. C. S. Houghton (Grenville), M. Eyre (Chandos), G. W. Harvey (Cobham), J. P. Sparling (Chatham), M. J. R. White (Grafton), P. J. R. Stopford (Walpole), C. R. C. Farmer (Lyttelton), S. M. Struthers (Stanhope).

W.C.R.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the Spring Term the Community Service activity has continued in many directions. Regular visits have been made to Chackmore and Page Hill First Schools where a project on day and night was undertaken by a keen Wednesday group. N. H. Groves spent a day at Page Hill First School involving children in pottery. The work on Water Stratford Village Hall is nearing completion—the interior decoration has been the main target this term in view of the weather. The Autumn Term of 1986 should see the

completion of this project. Some work was undertaken in Buckingham Parish Church during the term—individual wooden chairs were nailed together in groups of six to comply with fire regulations (not as easy a task as it sounds!)

Visits to the elderly took place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays by a small but committed group of boys and girls. Tidying up the grounds of Buckingham Hospital has continued.

I. M. S. Donald and G. P. W. Foster, ma. have continued to be Chairmen of Community Service.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

N.C.G.

In a term ravaged by bad weather, illness and enforced absence, and dominated by the prospect of trial examinations, one meeting of the Society seemed enough, and not all members were both able and willing to attend even that. On February 10th Mr. C. R. Whittaker, of Churchill College, Cambridge, addressed the Society on a refreshingly unusal object, Underwater Archaeology. It was, as he himself described it, a 'pop' lecture, which he obviously much enjoyed giving. He dealt with various aspects of ancient life, particularly the construction of ships, as revealed by probing the waters of the Mediterranean. A profusion of slides greatly helped to enliven his talk. Not only full Classicists but also those studying Ancient History should have found the meeting most helpful.

ART SCHOOL

Last term we were pleased to be able to welcome back Mr. Paul Millichip who gave a very interesting and informative lecture on Fresco painting and then spent some time with the 'A' level candidates discussing their work, especially the mock examination paintings.

At the end of the Spring Term the Art School invited a local painter, Mr. Alan Walker, to exhibit a set of his watercolours, drawings and prints. We were especially impressed by the quality and clarity of his paintings which so many of us strive to achieve.

The Richard McDougall Senior watercolour prize was awarded to Shenaiya Khurody and the Junior prize to G. A. Irvine. A. J. Farquharson, Philippa McLellan, Sophie Irwin and Carolina Thwaites Lastra were highly commended. The first prize for another competition for 'O' and 'A' level students, 'A Street Revealed', organised by the Milton Keynes Urban Studies Centre, was won by Philippa Stewart and the second prize was jointly awarded to Cordelia Beresford and A. J. Farquharson. During the course of the year, House Art and Design Exhibitions have been held and the Art Cup was, after much deliberation, awarded to Chandos, whose overall House effort was particularly noted by the Judges. The Design Cup was awarded to Bruce.

Last term we invited Sixth Form art students from a large Comprehensive School in Milton Keynes and from the Royal Latin School to join Stoics in an afternoon of drawing, and everyone benefited from this swapping of ideas. Etching and Ceramics continue to develop in the Art School and N. H. Groves has been commissioned to make a set of seven ceramic wall murals for the School Swimming Pool, three of which have already been completed.

Our special thanks to G.St.J.S., W.StA.R.D. and Mr. Briggs, who now joins the parttime staff, and of course, to our artist in residence, Miss Estdale, who will sadly be leaving us after the summer.

Shenaiya Khurody Philippa McLellan

COMPUTER CENTRE

Towards the end of last year Stowe invested in eleven IBM Personal Computers replacing some very much older and less advanced machines, thus shifting the emphasis of the Centre very firmly towards the type of computer used in the modern business world. This has been backed up with a wide range of software which can transform one of these IBM's into, for example, a sophisticated word-processor or a powerful graphic design tool, using a hand-controlled 'mouse' to guide the 'electronic pen'.

Rather than just attracting the esoteric few the Computer Centre's 'users' now range from the serious 'O' level programmers to the less expert Computer Club members and the games players.

Stowe now has the most advanced and extensive computer network of any school in the country and we are pleased to announce that Sir Edwin Nixon, the Chairman of IBM (U.K.), has kindly agreed to open the Centre officially on the 9th May.

With the expanded capabilities of the Computer Centre a number of projects have been completed: the Stowe Estate has been mapped out, the School 'Blue Book' has been compiled in a fraction of the time previously required and a 'modern' telephone link has been installed to give us access to PRESTEL, British Telecom's central information network, and other telecommunication services.

The Royal Society of Arts has set up an external exam specialising in word-processing, the use of databases and general computer competence. This course, lasting one term, is part of Lower Sixth's general studies.

The potentiality of this network is enormous and in an age where technology is advancing rapidly and the rôle of computers far more important, Stowe is keeping pace.

D. S. Twining

CENTREPOINT

Centrepoint continues to meet regularly on Sunday after Chapel in Mr. Marcuse's luxurious Temple flat.

Our theme for the Spring Term was 'The Parables'. Mr. Jonathan Jee started the term with a talk on 'The Great Supper'. This was followed by Mr. Tim Anderson speaking on the parable of 'The Lost Sheep and Silver', which was followed the next week by a homegrown speaker, Mr. Peter Farquhar, who gave a lucid talk on 'The Barren Fig Tree'. Mr. Peter Wells, a Schools' worker for the Scripture Union, spoke the following week on 'The Pearl and Treasure'. The first half of the term was rounded off by Mr. Richard Coombs (O.S.) who spoke on 'The Sower'. Incidentally, it was pleasing to see a particularly large turnout at this meeting — perhaps a result of the immensely successful Lenten Addresses given by the Revd. Jonathan Fletcher and Mr. Tim Hastie-Smith.

There was a light-hearted start to the second half of term with a filmstrip version of 'The Good Samaritan'. A talk on the parable of 'The Talents' by Mr. Charles Foster, a veterinary student at Cambridge, followed this, and for the last two weekends Mr. Michael Kane and the Revd. Mark Jones spoke on 'The Pharisee and Tax Collector' and 'The Grain of Wheat' respectively.

Our thanks go to the visiting speakers and especially to Mr. Marcuse who provides refreshments as well as the use of his flat.

Matthew Skeate

ANACREON SOCIETY

We held two meetings in the Spring Term; J. P. Sparling and J. T. Green cooked for the first of these. We started with a mousse, which was tantalisingly like salmon but actually made with cheese. They created an excellent pepper steak, and we finished simply with apple tart and pineapple.

The second meeting was entertained by Stephanie Thomas, with J. J. Sabey. The cooks were successful with an ambitious menu of Melon and Prawn Salad, Boeuf Stroganoff and Lemon Soufflée or Elizabethan Ring.

Our first meeting in the Summer Term involved a Stanhope team (Louisa Morgan, Pemazhom Tshering and Sally Campbell). Too many cooks did not spoil the lettuce broth followed by sweet and sour pork. The pudding of profiteroles and baked cheese cake completed an excellent meal.

The Society's new image, of cooks rather than bon viveurs, has been most successful. We thank Mrs. Hornby and Miss Pratt for letting us into their kitchens.

J. P. Sparling

LITERARY SOCIETY

Two very full and interesting meetings were held this term, illness and bad weather not-withstanding.

On Friday, 31st January, C. Baron, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., Senior Tutor at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, presented a paper on 'Learning from Lawrence's Revisions'.

On Wednesday, 5th March, E. S. Thompson, Esq., English Department, Stowe, presented a Memorial Lecture on the late Philip Larkin in a crowded State Music Room.

Isobel C. Bunn assumed responsibility as Secretary to the Society. Our thanks and good wishes go to her predecessor, R. W. E. Nelson.

P.A.S.F.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At our first meeting of the Spring Term, (the 126th of the Historical Society), we were fortunate enough to hear a home-grown speaker in the form of our ex-Secretary, R. S. G. Oliver (O.S.). He gave a very informative talk on 'Military Developments in the Seventeenth Century', an aspect of history previously unfamiliar to many of those present.

The second meeting of the term, for the benefit of the latest 'A' level course, was on 'Eighteenth Century Monarchs and their Ministers', given by Dr. D. Aldridge, who laid particular emphasis on the Whig connection with Stowe.

Recently we have been especially grateful to Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Small, who have kindly permitted us to hold our meetings in the far more comfortable surroundings of Nugent House. Also, many thanks must go to A.A.V.R. for his organisation. As for the future, the Summer Term promises yet further enlightenment.

Stephanie Struthers

BRIDGE

It is good to be able to report an upsurge of interest in Bridge, particularly in the lower part of the School. This resulted in a record 12 teams (48 players) being entered for the House Teams Cup. At the time of writing Grafton, Lyttelton 'A' and 'B' and Stanhope have got to the semi-finals. The House Pairs Cup was won in December by Chatham (M. Drage and J. Sparling).

The School lost to the Masters, and had a good battle with Radley. The first team lost by the narrowest possible margin (1 IMP) but the seconds more than made up for it with their win (16 IMPs).

A. Soutar and Amanda Fairhurst did well to come fourth in the Bucks and Berks Schools Pairs Championship at Marlowe. This earned them a trip to Reading in the Spring Term to play the County Team! They had an entertaining and instructive afternoon, being taken to the cleaners on almost every board. The Daily Mail Cup was badly affected by the teachers' dispute. We played at Bedford and were leading at the halfway stage, but blew up in the second half and failed to qualify.

We have been able to get four tables together for several Simultaneous Pairs events recently. Scores have only been received for the Junior International Event, organised by Oxford University, in which we did well. R. Woolley and Stephanie Thomas came ninth, and M. Drage with B. Topham eleventh out of 183 pairs, earning themselves hundreds of local points.

We are particularly grateful to D. Priestley and M. Drage, the joint Captains, whose efforts have been instrumental in the revival of Bridge.

> D.J.E. G.M.H.

THE PINEAPPLE CLUB

The Pineapple Club had another successful year with about fifty Third formers visiting the Club on the site of the old Pineapple Pub in London.

The visits were supervised by two members of the Lower Sixth and the staff at the Club. The object is to show both sides, the Stoics and the boys who use the Club, that neither side is abnormal and both have much in common.

This is also helped by the competitions which are held; snooker, pool, table tennis and even boxing.

The Club also organized a trip up to Stowe where they played a Seven-a-Side Football Tournament, which was won by the home side! They were also shown round the School and the two things which seemed to strike them most were: the rehearsal of the Congreve production, because few have had the chance to act and the other thing was the dormitories. It seemed incredible to them that we could sleep together, in awful beds, cold rooms, and away from home!

I hope the present Stoics will carry on visiting the Club as it does show them that there is more than our lovely environment. And I hope people will continue to help support the good work of the Club by coming to the Pineapple Ball in July or sending donations.

J. L. Bannister

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

After too long an absence the School's Debating Society is flourishing once more.

The year began with a Yuletide end-of-term extravaganza with a number of the School's notable wits extolling the virtues of Father Christmas. Not only did this serve as an amusement in the pre-Christmas doldrums but also as a reminder that School debates can be worth attending, thus securing an audience for the following term.

During last term the Society grew from strength to strength. I think that this was partly helped by tackling one of the main pitfalls of the past, bad organisation, making sure we had our dates and venues booked in advance. As a result we held three very successful and contentious debates, in which all the speeches maintained a particularly high standard.

The motions debated were as follows:—

"This House approves of Bloodsports". The motion was carried by 47 votes to 37 votes with 4 abstentions.

"This House despises the past, loathes the present and holds no hope for the future". The motion was defeated by 31 votes to 45 votes.

"This House believes that Man created God". The motion was carried by 47 votes to 27 votes.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of these occasions was that so many Stoics, particularly Junior members of the School, plucked up courage to speak from the floor.

This term we are again trying to hold three debates tackling the subjects of compulsory sport and male chauvinism.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers and all'those who have attended debates this year for making them so enjoyable, but I would especially like to thank Mr. Hirst and my Secretary, Luke Chauveau for all their efforts and I wish them the best of luck for next year.

P. J. R. Stopford

STOWE SCHOOL SKI CLUB

As dawn broke on a January morning at Luton Airport the thirteen members of the Stowe School Ski Club gathered together to fly off to Austria. After landing at Salzburg a coach journey through a winter wonderland took us to our hotel in Gotzens, about ten kilometres from Innsbrück. The skiing area here, called the Axamer-Lizum, developed for the 1976 Olympic Games, featured the Ladies' Downhill. Conveniently the main ski area was linked to the village by a beautiful long forested run. The one casualty on the trip was the Club Matron, Mrs. Shahani. She fell on an icy road and had to be taken to hospital suffering from severe concussion. A full recovery has now been made and our Matron is now in training for the next trip. The group skied with great enthusiasm, making good progress in the ski lessons. Paddy Stubbs won an award for being the member of the group having the greatest contact with the snow. Andy Samuel gained the best crash award when he had a fall at speed breaking skis, poles, and boot binding but happily no bones. Apart from a full skiing programme the après ski activities included toboganning, bowling, swimming and a fondue evening. Next January the Club is skiing in Les Menuires, a purpose-built French resort in the famous Three Valleys Ski Area, and we hope for large quantities of deep powder snow. M.J.S.

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SPORT

HOCKEY

As many as half the fixtures were lost to the vagaries of the English weather and these reports will make reference to the large number of boys who succumbed to virulent influenza. The long term effect of a foreshortened season will be seen in years to come as the basic skills will not have been practised enough by most Junior boys. Considerable latent talent was on show in the Housematches, when for the first time, players from nonschool teams could enjoy better hockey, especially on the hard surface area. Walpole won the inter-House competitions with greater difficulty this year. Their Junior team were taken to penalty flicks in two rounds and beat Chandos in the Final, while their Seniors were forced into extra time by Grafton. In an informal six-a-side tournament, Grenville Seniors and Chatham Juniors came out victorious. Mr. Tony Stairs, the new groundsman, has started to make improvements to the grass pitches, but the adverse conditions have made his job extremely difficult. The deterioration of a portion of the 'all-weather' surface will be receiving specialist treatment during the Summer to bring it back to a first class pitch. A sympathetic note should be recorded about the League programme, which yet again remained incomplete with Walpole the likely winners. The staff side took the wiser course of playing the 2nd XI, and despite hail and tired legs proved successful. We say thank you to Mr. Bob Marsden for his cheerful assistance with the Junior Colts and to Mr. Charles Cain for his coaching at the Senior levels, hoping they stay in touch with the game in their new appointments.



Stowe Ice Hockey Team.

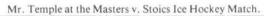


Walpole Ice Hockey Team.





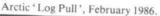
Masters' Ice Hockey Team.







Eleven Acre 'Free Time', February 1986.





THE FIRST XI

On paper, the contenders for the 1st XI looked a promising blend of enthusiasm and experience. In practice, the team was never able to settle into a winning pattern until the tour abroad. The first set-back was to lose David Jepson from the defence because of injury. The predictable snowy weather of February lasted more than a month and ice hockey was no substitute. Then illness swept through the School, causing matches to be cancelled and frustrating well laid plans. Sean Morris captained the side with a maturity beyond his years. At centre-half he played an attacking game never failing to inspire through skill, drive and fitness. Neil Hegarty, Vice-Captain, harried the opposition with speed and deft stickwork. The remaining old colour was Nicholas Hencher in goal, whose reaction time was as quick as ever, but sadly he missed the later matches.

THE MATCHES

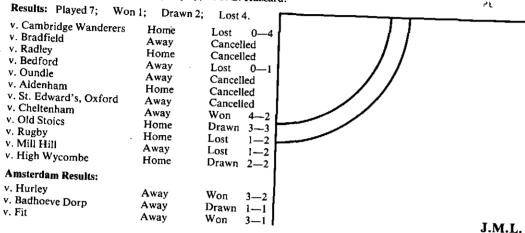
Cambridge University Wanderers brought a much stronger team than usual and to contain them to two goals in each half was a creditable performance. However, it was a fortnight later before a more equal contest could take place against Bedford, where a short corner was the only difference between the sides. It was not until after Exeat and in March that the next match took place against Cheltenham. This was the most impressive win of the term with a purple patch of fifteen minutes in the middle of the game when three goals were scored. Morris and Hegarty combined brilliantly, working passes through the centre of the field and finishing incisively. This boost to the morale of the players had a strange effect on later games, because instead of spurring them on to more creative play, it actually led to tunnel vision and a dependence on too few talented individuals. The wings, Ian Bendell and Huw Thomas, were under-used and the insides, James Oliver and Matthew White, did not dominate the midfield with confidence. This caused the half-backs to come up too far and in turn the full-backs were over stretched. Defensive errors led to losses against Rugby and Mill Hill; Angus Adam at left back, still a little one paced, will be a sure prospect next year, and Justin Phillips, right back, made good progress yet could not rid himself of rough tackling. The Old Stoic match was a happy occasion on which the School looked the more effective unit until they relaxed with a two goal advantage and had to accept a draw. The last fixture against High Wycombe was a subdued affair with evident self-discipline but insufficient energy to win convincingly. Shaun Spencer played in four matches in goal and produced some spectacular reflex saves. He will need to improve his concentration when not under pressure to avoid unforced errors. Since the term had been unsatisfactory as far as results were concerned, it was very pleasing that the complete 1st XI were available to tour abroad and to prove their worth.

AMSTERDAM

It turned out to be too early and too cold for the tulips to be in flower this year, but the warmth of the Dutch hospitality was welcome compensation. The tour started in earnest with a hard fought match against Hurley H.C. (4th in the Amsterdam First Division). The astroturf provided a marvellous surface for accurate, fast play. There was tremendous commitment and a will to win capped by two very sharp goals by Nicholas Mellor from the left half position. The later games were very different in nature as the uneven grass demanded a less refined style of play. However, despite the toll of social life in the city each night, a draw against Badhoeve Dorp H.C. and a good win against Fit H.C.were just

deserts for all the effort. Further hockey was arranged against a Veterans XI and the girls of Fit H.C. Rowland Weller played exceptionally well and Ian Bendell impressed the most in the forward line. John Stopford added solidity in defence and William Atkinson was rarely out of his depth in midfield. Sean Morris remained in complete command throughout every match and scored a superb solo goal to round off the tour. Our accommodation was close to the City Centre, which allowed time to see much of the fascinating life of Amsterdam with its canals, art galleries, diamonds and night entertainment.

Team: 1st XI: N. E. Hencher*, A. R. Adam, J. M. J. Phillips, N. J. R. Mellor*, R. S. M. Morris* (Captain), R. A. W. Weller*, H. R. Thomas, J. R. C. Oliver*, N. R. Hegarty* (Vice-Capt.), M. J. R. White, I. O. Bendell. Also played: S. H. Spencer, O. Q. Ripley, A. J. E. Hazzard.



COLTS XI

A combination of illness and Arctic conditions prevented a most promising Colts side from proving its real quality. However, in the six out of the ten scheduled matches played, a record of four wins, a draw and a loss was far from disappointing.

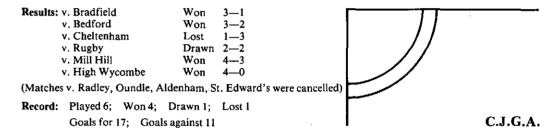
From the start it was clear that the natural inclination of the best players was to attack and that defensive tactics would have to be improved rather than be expected to develop automatically. Up front, the central trio of Laurence, Williams and Pumphrey put together some of the most exciting moves your reporter has witnessed at this level. The "insides" were perhaps not quite as dynamic in recovering to defensive positions but their attacking power earned them a handsome average of almost three goals a match. On the flanks, Jefferson played an increasingly efficient rôle as a reliable stopper and passer of the ball — essential qualities on the left — while Bailey was speedier on the right but sadly less used. At half-back, Macmichael in the centre, after a languid start to the season. began to make increasingly effective use of his skills after the snow had disappeared. Mahbubani on the right was a great force when going forward but rather less so in retreat! Atkinson, naturally another attacking player, was persuaded to fill the left-half position from where he not only read each game with mature vision but invariably took effective action. But for his influence the team's defence might have looked rather bare. This is not to take any credit away from the back division where Smith, after some early competition, secured his place at left back and Rotheroe's deputies, especially Lavers, gave very determined support. They played with great heart, but even so, Rotheroe's absence

through illness was a considerable misfortune for, in his few appearances, his poise and control gave the defence considerably more stability. Finally, the only position for which there was genuine competition was in goal. Thorogood certainly looked the sharper at the start of term but as he lost some of his timing so did Woodford improve and win his place. Both are class goal-keepers and served the team well.

The record achieved by the above members demonstrates the character of the team. As many as seventeen goals were scored in the six matches but, at the same time, eleven were conceded indicating no lack of excitement at either end of the field. The victory over a strong Bedford team was perhaps the most satisfying result, but it was also a delight to see the season completed with eight goals in the last two matches including hat-tricks from Williams and Pumphrey. Equally pleasing was the friendly but competitive spirit in which matches and practices were played, and in this respect the contribution from the Captain should not go unmentioned.

It was, therefore, a most enjoyable, if disrupted season, and all members of the team should be ready to compete for places in next year's 1st XI.

Team selected from: W. J. P. Atkinson (Captain), S. F. Allison, T. W. Bailey, T. W. Baker, G. A. Jefferson, N. A. C. Lawrence, P. M. Lavers, A. R. Macmichael, J. C. Mahbubani, R. B. Pumphrey, D. T. H. Rotheroe, S. McG. G. Smith, T. E. Thorogood, S. P. Williams, C. C. P. Woodford.



JUNIOR COLTS 'A' XI

By beating High Wycombe convincingly in the final game we ended a very encouraging season. Though it was not spectacular in terms of the results, the team played with great determination and spirit, and, if the dreadful mid-term weather had not intervened. would have been able to make even more progress in personal skill and team tactics. However, as our natural style of play favoured a grass surface it was ironic that all our matches except the last were played on fast artificial pitches which exposed our lack of speed and physical presence. Our defence was most suspect when faced with hard running, elusive, skilful forwards, and we were often caught very flat and exposed on our own 25 yard line. Golder and Peres were towers of strength in the organisation of our defences, the former improving dramatically with every game. In goal Long, new to this position, played very well, saving us on many occasions with his brave anticipation.

Of the forwards Gorlee and Smith provided most of our opportunities, the latter also fulfilling his rôle as Captain efficiently and conscientiously. This was an enjoyable season spoilt by the weather but a hopeful one for the future.

YEARLINGS 'B' XI

The weather and illness caused the cancellation of all but one fixture, that against Rugby, away. Much enthusiasm was evident and some skill, especially in defence, but two early goals were not quite enough to secure victory, the final score being 2-3. An extra match, in response to popular demand, involved a 'B/C' side away against Lambrook, achieving a goalless draw, perhaps in diplomatic deference to the previous term's Head of School.

Team v. Rugby: M. C. G. Atkinson, mi., J. M. T. B. Berthoin, S. C. Cormack, R. M. A. Fisher, A. C. C. Haviland (i), P. J. S. Haviland (ii), T. S. Mash, L. D. Powles, M. W. Pumfrey, mi., M. Skjott, P. A. Would.

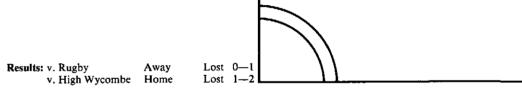
M.J.B.

UNDER 14 XI

It is not easy to write a report on the hockey played by the Under 14 XI this year as so little play was possible. It is unnecessary to bemoan the fate of so many matches because of the atrocious weather — suffice it to say that although the term started on the 15th January the first match was played on 11th March, and of the eight matches arranged for the team only two were fulfilled! The unusually long period of bad weather was particularly disappointing because there were plenty of promising players who could have become much better under normal circumstances, and it is to be hoped that they will reap their just deserts next year. Training and practice time was at a premium and was usually undertaken on terrible terrain or for shorter periods on the hard playing surface when it was their turn. However, some remarks are possible about individual players, but they are based on performances in only two matches and on practice sessions. L. A. Wates played in goal and made some good saves, but his somewhat unorthodox approach to positional play meant that he was always vulnerable. It is to be hoped that he will practise with seriousness before next season or he may find that others will catch him up! Full backs were B. Tuttle and C. E. Spencer. Tuttle made immense progress and given normal development in his play he will do very well in the future because he not only has ability but also is prepared to listen to advice and learn from his mistakes. Spencer also played well but he must master a tendency to be erratic. He can hit the ball hard and straight and tackle well, but he must be sure to find his own men with his clearances. W. J. Miles played at centre half and improved a lot, and had he had more time to learn the basics of the game he would have done better — he may well play in a less demanding position in the future. M. A. Rolt is a good prospect — intelligent, skilful and reliable — and if he can make himself more determined he will progress to the 1st XI in due course. R. C. Houghton played sensibly at half back and showed that he too is a good prospect, he is strong and quick-witted, but at present finds it difficult to 'read' the game - this may come with experience. R. P. Wachman played on the right wing and made some excellent centres. He is quite fast, runs straight and moves well, but he must be careful to keep his positional play wide and to put his centres in the right place for the other forwards. J. C. Burrough, in addition to being a sensible Captain of the team, showed considerable potential. He can take and give a pass with accuracy and he moves very well off the ball. If

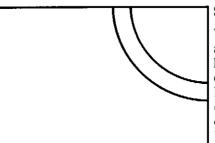
we had had a full season I would have expected him to show more powers of recovery and more pace in attack, but I am sure these attributes will come with experience as he progresses up to the 1st XI. He will do well, R. D. Hazell was centre forward and was probably the most industrious member of the team. What he lacked in size and strength he made up for in stamina. He will make his mark in the future, although I suspect it will not be in this position. W. Stoppard moved well with the ball at inside left and showed that he can pass accurately to left or right. He improved his positional play a lot, and he will go from strength to strength in the years ahead because he is keen, M. J. Jefferson made a promising start to his hockey at outside left, where he seemed to be something of a 'natural'. He is quick, keen, has a solid centre, and covers back well. He would make more progress if he gave additional time to trying to improve his skills and he must not take criticism of his play as criticism of himself — it is never made this way to a games player at this level. I think he will do well in the future. N. P. Blackwood also played for the team and I think he may well have gained a regular place had there been more matches — his time will come. Many others showed promise, but as said at the beginning of these notes, as a hockey season, this one never really started! The main memory of the long weeks of foul weather and illness was one of surprise and admiration of the way the boys took it so well and continued to be keen to get out and play in all conditions — they deserve success and enjoyment from the game in future.

The stark results of played two, lost two, cancelled six are largely irrelevant, particularly as both losses could well have been reversed.



Note:-Matches versus Bradfield, Radley, Bedford, Aldenham, St. Edward's, and Cheltenham were cancelled.

P.G.L.



STARS

When it is dark and they are tight asleep, a laden quietness not like purity of dawn hangs round with secrets closeted close to its chiselled, weather-beaten brow. Faded flowers, one perhaps whose precious bud once blossomed, hang in expectation of the dawn, comprise the fruitless chase of minds at sea lapping back and forth longing for an oyster shell. All the ends of days are here: the doubts, suspicions, fears and hopes, mostly hopes which gather in the mist. Oblivion hovers ever near, exit for a dimmed desire to unfurl destiny and thought and fear extinguished, ready for the sun's rekindling flames.

Robert Marsh

RUGBY



Photo by Ian Bendell

First XV v. Old Stoics

FIRST XV

This season was the most successful, in terms of results, for two decades. All the matches played were skilful, but the most encouraging feature of the XV was the manner in which the successes were achieved. The squad was prepared to work hard in training and the enthusiasm on the field was well rewarded. Credit for this must go to the captain Jarrett, who not only displayed exceptional wing forward skills himself, but led by his tenacious example in attack and defence, encouraging his colleagues with an infectious personality, gratifying to witness in an educational establishment intent on creating leaders of men. The XV remained a constant formation throughout the term, enabling a camaraderie to develop wherein niggling strains and bruises could be shrugged off in the heavy commitment. We were hit by injuries of course, two in the match against Radley which upset the rhythm of play, allowing the opposition to gain control in a well contested game. However, equal determination and skill was shown by the reserves in subsequent games, making selection a difficult task.

The half-term tour to Ireland was a fine motivator for continued effort throughout the term and helped enormously in making the boys' mental approach to the second half of the season more realistic. With continual training, the level of fitness helped during matches following half-term, although the second game was lost to Oundle by an odd point. Oundle displayed a versatility in the back division which for the first time confused our well organised defence and despite a later rally we were unable to win.

The success of the team was due largely to the strength of the forwards. Takkenberg, Weller and Bramley demonstrated courage, experience and mobility in the front row, whilst behind them Simpson and Mattingly were towers of strength in the lineout and scrummage. Jarrett, Allerton and J. Phillips combined well in providing plenty of loose ball for the three-quarters to work with. The defence, too, was brave and resolute.

At scrum-half, breaks by Oliver were incisive, and his service to Morris fast and fluent. The latter provided the tactical appraisal of the game and with tenacity and insight became the pivot around which the team worked. The midfield play of Boardman and Thomas was adventurous and inventive in attacking and solid in defence. Clarke and Harel on the wings had real pace and penetration, scoring many thrilling tries during the season. At full-back, Phillips developed as a shrewd attacking player, his brave cover tackling often preventing certain tries.

We look forward to next season with eager anticipation. Well done!

L.E.W.

Colours: P. R. C. Jarrett, R. A. W. Weller, M. S. Bramley, H. P. Takkenberg, S. M. W. Simpson, I. D. Mattingly, J. R. O. Allerton, J. M. J. Phillips, J. R. C. Oliver, R. S. M. Morris, H. W. Thomas, C. B. Boardman, S. J. Clarke, C. P. Harel, T. D. D. Phillips.

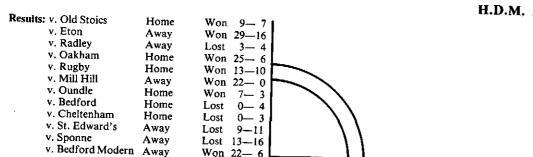
SECOND XV

The team can feel encouraged by this season's results, although they must have found it frustrating to lose five matches by the slender margin of four points or less. Perhaps the master-in-charge should take some of the blame for suggesting a premature celebration after the Oundle match — the first victory over our Northants rivals in more than 15 years. We then proceeded to lose the next four matches, including two memorable encounters with the hitherto unbeaten sides of Cheltenham and St. Edward's. However, we ended on an encouraging note with a sound victory over Bedford Modern.

The team played with a fine spirit throughout the term, and it was reassuring to know that the 3rd XV had a strong band of men if we needed to summon reinforcements. This was clearly demonstrated in the match at St. Edward's, where the try-scoring Matthews and the flying Thornber made such an effective contribution to the forwards and backs respectively. Herrington led the side most ably in the first part of the term, and then Yeoward proved an admirable successor as well as a powerful scrum-half. In the back division the elusive Hegarty and sure-handed Adams showed much promise, and Bates tackled as fearlessly as ever.

The forwards had the advantage of playing together for most of the season. Jones-Perrott set a fine example as pack leader, and Colfox and Hichens were sturdy allies in the second row, although one felt that the former did not always fulfil his true potential. The front row of Boddy, Harrison and Rice formed a powerful unit, with hooker Harrison outstanding in the loose play (apart from one occasion when he became 'overheated'). Leigh, P. Maskell and L. Scott provided a lively and versatile back row, and it was a great disappointment that Scott, after his superb, match-winning contribution against Rugby, seemed to retire into the shadows towards the end of term.

In conclusion, the side seemed to enjoy its Rugby and, although there were a few blemishes in the record, the level of commitment and determination bodes well for the future. I hope the leavers will continue to enjoy their Rugby on other turf, whilst the younger players return in September to achieve still greater things.



Played 12; Won 7; Lost 5; Points for 152; Points against 86

COLTS 'A' XV

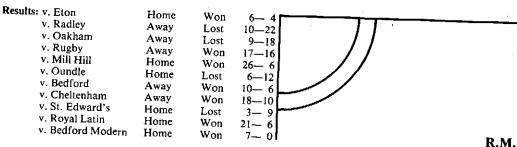
Early season predictions for the Colts 'A' XV were not encouraging. Indeed, this scribe was on record as saying that he would regard winning three games as a successful season. Others were not quite so generous! This was also the period of some extravagant thinking about the style of Rugby that was going to be played. Fifteen-man Rugby was to be the order of the day, the ball spun wide on every occasion with men in support. At least if the side was going to lose, it was going to enjoy itself and so was the coach. Early season also saw a period of experimentation with the positions of various players. A number of them found themselves in unfamiliar positions and some even played matches in these positions. Yet after the first two matches the old order returned and a rather different style of play emerged. With a pack of eight tight forwards, a big and capable boot at fly half and some opportunist three-quarter play, the team settled down well and was eventually a match for any side that they met. Why the change? Firstly, it became clear that the side simply did not possess the handling skills required for a more expansive game. Secondly, a number of injuries forced a re-appraisal of certain positions and the attributes of particular players. Thirdly, the team discovered that even if they could only do a limited number of things with the ball, to deprive the opposition of the ball and thus opportunities for them to do anything was a legitimate game plan. In the end this proved

The season started with an important confidence-boosting win against Eton on the North Front. This win was essential if the team was to stand any chance at Radley the following Saturday. As it was, the Radley backs proved too strong, but some encouraging features from our play emerged. The pack won a greater share of the ball and William Atkinson scored a marvellous try down the blind side. However, changes followed. David Rotheroe and Robert Pumfrey swapped positions and both automatically looked more

at home. Another hard away match followed at Oakham. Another encouraging performance by the pack against some larger opponents, and a well-taken try by David Rotheroe at outside centre showed there was room for optimism. Unfortunately a serious injury to Jason Roberts deprived us of his services for the rest of the season, a fact that led to further re-organisation of the back division. The match at Rugby proved to be the turning point of the season. As the game went on the team visibly began to realise that they could win the match, and thanks to a handling movement starting deep in their own half scored a marvellously entertaining try to secure the lead. To the coach's dismay Rugby seized on some slack defence to score a last minute goal which gave them a two point lead. However, a coolly taken drop goal by the captain with the last kick of the season saw a well deserved victory. With confidence high Mill Hill's unbeaten record was taken from them in a tough and very physical match on the North Front. Mill Hill's huge pack were rather surprised and angry to concede two push-over tries! The game against Oundle was not seen by the coach but a two point lead was apparently held with five minutes to go. Bedford away are never an easy proposition but again hard scrummaging, committed team defence and a marvellous individual try from the captain saw a creditable victory. Next came the highlight of the season. Cheltenham were reckoned to be good and they never give the easiest of welcomes down there. However, the pack was irresistible and the backs with a supply of good ball scored three memorable tries. Who said they couldn't run with the ball! Inevitably the reaction occurred. Complacent and distracted by exams the team got exactly what it deserved against St. Edward's - nothing! However, the season ended with two good wins. Royal Latin 2nd XV could not cope up front while another opportunist try by David Rotheroe saw off Bedford Modern on a swamp-like North Front.

So the season ended with seven victories and four defeats. The side was lucky in that it stayed injury-free for the most part. This enabled people to develop confidence in those around them and fit in well with an established pattern of play. The pack were never beaten and proved formidable in the scrummage (the best that this coach has seen at Colts' level at Stowe) while the backs grew in confidence as the season progressed and scored some memorable tries in the end. In the pack the front row of Arlon, White and Mahbubani was tight and solid, and White proved outstanding in the loose when alert. Weatherby and Reed were the type of driving second row everyone wants and were uncompromising in the tight. In the back row Holland improved enormously during the season and often steadied the ship at critical moments. Fairhurst, while lacking the blistering pace he reputedly had in the U.14s, was committed and aggressive. Martin jumped well in the middle of the lineout, supported in the loose but like the other two in the back row was too 'upright' to prove really effective in the loose. At scrum half Atkinson's service was efficient and sound. Perhaps his greatest quality was his composure and steadiness under pressure. Pumfrey at fly half captained the side well, kicked out of the hand superbly and made a number of lovely breaks. Williams at inside centre (once he had moved there after a spell at full back) proved a real handful in attack and defence. However, he needs to discipline himself to fit in with the needs of those around him. Rotheroe, though not strong in the tackle, was very quick over the first few yards and scored the most number of tries, mostly opportunist efforts from broken play. On the wings a number of people were tried. Bailey was excellent going forward but restricted in defence. Kerr Muir ran strongly in the latter part of the season once the ball was in his hands but showed similar problems under a high ball. Lawrence came into full back once recovered from an annoying infection and proved very safe under the high ball and supported well.

All in all a good season and one which this coach enjoyed more than any other in his four years here at Stowe.



COLTS 'B' XV

The spirit of the Colts 'B' side was good, with many fighting performances showing great grit and only Oundle totally outclassing the side. Highlight of the season was the win over Bedford when the pack was aggressive and the backs penetrating. It was difficult to field a settled side and with Roberts, Hesketh and Laurence all missing substantial parts of the season the knock-on effect in the 'B' team was marked. Special mention should be made of Horn (the Captain) who always worked hard at flanker, Lawman at hooker who was tireless and Dunton at scrum-half who always played with great bravery. The tackling of Lavers improved greatly as the season progressed and became much more physical, and the line-out work of Airikkala made great strides towards the end of the season.

In all, this can be judged to have been a successful season in that the heavy defeats of the previous year were cut dramatically, enabling a number of much closer games to be played. In many cases the matches were lost because of a silly error. If the season were to be replayed now, half of these games which were lost would probably be won.

JUNIOR COLTS 'B' XV

The 'B' team's season was characterised by a lot of spirited defending but utterly unconvincing attacks. The hopelessness of this situation thus led to occasional disheartening lapses of concentration when the tackling collapsed and a score was allowed, but it is their line with renewed vigour.

The forwards had a lot of success and frequently won their battles against packs who appeared stronger, but ironically this did not help as they never took the ball forward themselves, but simply passed it back and lost ground. The backs, faced with the fact that they could not run at their opposition effectively, demonstrated an equal lack of imagination as to the alternative courses of action available to them.

A disappointing season, then, and yet the team was only completely outplayed by one team, holding nearly all the opposition to a very close score-line almost, and often, to the final whistle. They have proved that they can tackle, defend against and win ball from all their opposition; shrewder tactics from the backs is all that is necessary to reverse these results next year, and that is learned with experience.

K.R.S.H. S.H.

THE YEARLINGS

Apart from the successes at the start and end of term, the victories were hard to achieve, and many players were learning the rudiments of the game. New, too, was the commitment required in School matches. The physical demands made all through the season were that much greater than most players expected in comparison with their Preparatory School days. Qualities of speed, strength, skill and endurance are the everyday requirements for every player. Gone are the days when slow heavyweights survived in the pack and sprinting was the key to three-quarter play. Now forwards must handle well and backs must ruck and maul efficiently. This year there were consistently good performances from a select few. Stoppard, the Captain, ever dogged and determined showed reserves of energy in every match; Houghton, at lock, revelled in the aggressive nature of the game but competed intelligently too; Havilland, a flanker, tackled anything in his way, usually twice his size, with complete self-disregard; Arlon switched from the scrum to scrum-half learning quickly and made good a difficult job. Those were the players with a broad understanding of the game, and the others did their best in support. Saville and Pumfrey could become giants in the future; Miles and Spencer have considerable natural ability but need to find the right position in the front eight; Hogbin excelled in the set pieces, throwing in at the lineout and hooking, but has a moderate appetite for anything else.

In the backs, Ridley showed some blistering pace; Jefferson handled the ball well; Aiyela and Powles had moments of effective rugby on the wings; Tuttle and Would shared the honours at full back. Others who played in some matches included: Barker, Skjott, Hazell, Marr and Clover-Burrough. In conclusion, a team is only as strong as its weakest player. It often takes only one mistake somewhere for a good opposition to create overwhelming pressure. Inept tackling was too much in evidence and for every one tackle missed someone more courageous has to do twice the work.

Team: P. A. Would, B. Tuttle, O. I. Aiyela, L. D. Powles, G. B. K. Ridley, M. J. T. Jefferson, T. D. L. Arlon, M. W. Pumfrey, M. W. Hogbin, P. R. Saville, R. C. M. Houghton, C. E. Spencer, W. J. C. Miles, W. Stopford (Captain), P. J. S. Haviland.

J.M.L.

SEVENS

Seven-a-Side Rugby demands a very high standard of fitness as a pre-requisite. This term a squad of players trained very hard and with determination even through the hazardous Arctic weather. Their efforts were rewarded with a fine performance in the National Schools Competition at Rosslyn Park. For the first time Stowe qualified for the last 16, even without two key players who were unavoidably elsewhere on a Geography Field Course. A very strong Trent School side beat us convincingly, though a number of the boys who played will be returning next season with an appetite, I hope, for going even further in the competition.

Team: P. R. C. Jarrett (Captain), T. W. E. Harrison, S. M. W. Simpson, J.M.J. Phillips, R. S. M. Morris, T. D. D. Philips, H. W. Thomas.

WATER POLO

Not a successful season by the standards of last year, but the potential in the players is very encouraging and should produce a very strong team next year.

In the U.19 side, Tony Lourenço set a good example as captain to the rest of the players. Robin Priestley and Rod Boulogne gained valuable experience and could possibly gain some representative honours next season if they work hard.

The U.16 side led by James Arlon showed a great willingness to listen and learn. Although they played well in games their lack of experience was reflected in the results.

Without exception all the U.14 players were making their debuts into the game of water polo. Their efforts could not be faulted in the two games they played. I only hope (Jimmy) Hill and his men now have the water polo bug and will be raring to go next season.

By far the most enjoyable and exciting fixture in my opinion was against Q.E. Barnet. All three matches were close affairs, the U.19s drawing 4—4, U.16 losing 2—1 and the U.14 losing 5—3.

The U.19s largest winning margin was against Uppingham, 27-0.

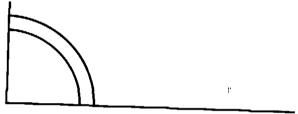
Colours Re-awarded: A. Gonella, J. Thornber. Awarded: R. Kirkup, P. Maskell, A. Lourenço. Half Colours: N. Holland, J. Arlon, M. Farah.

Results:

U.19: Won 3; Lost 3; Drawn 1

U.16: Won 2; Lost 3

U.14: Won 0; Lost 2



HOUSE WATER POLO

This proved to be a very exciting tournament. The two favourites Bruce and Lyttelton went out surprisingly in the first round to Cobham and Chandos respectively. Grenville disposed of Temple and Walpole beat Grafton.

In the semi-finals Cobham managed to overcome a muscular Chandos with some fine teamwork shown by Thornber and Moore! Walpole narrowly beat Grenville with a good defensive teamwork display.

Cobham, led by J. Thornber were to play the holders Walpole, led by R. Kirkup. The game was very closely played. Walpole played a tight defensive on the dangerous Thornber, making good use of substitution. Walpole edged in front early on and managed to hold the gap until the end. The final score was 5—3.

Overall I was very impressed with the standard of play and determination from the Houses.

G.R.B.

GOLF

In late November on about the last suitable day, weatherwise, the School foursome team of three pairs won their first round in the Hill-Samuel School Foursomes '85-86 Tournament, defeating Oakham on their home course at Luffenham Heath by two matches to one. The second round is being played on the same course against Uppingham early in the Summer Term.

The bad weather meant the cancellation of three fixtures in the Spring Term, but matches were played against a very strong Old Stoic team at Sandy Lodge (lost 5-1), Ellesborough Golf Club at home (lost 5-3), Buckingham Golf Club away (halved 2-2) and Collyers College at Mannings Heath (won 7-2).

In the Easter holidays we were without Caspar Yeoward, our Captain, for the Micklem Trophy, but had a good run defeating Wellington (3-2), and Charterhouse (3-2) before succumbing to a very strong Rugby side 4-1 in the final. Mark Gardner played particularly well, winning all his matches, and Patrick Cooper at number one went the full distance with all his opponents, only losing at the 18th, 20th and 19th. If we succeed in defeating Uppingham in the second round of the School Foursomes we shall meet Rugby again in the area final at Buckingham — this time we hope with Yeoward fit enough to play. The Micklem team was: P. Cooper, D. Douglas, M. Gardner, M. Bramley and P. Williams.

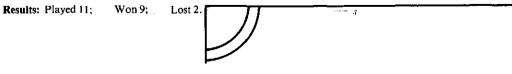
A new development has been the inauguration of a Monthly Medal Tournament during School terms coinciding with the Stowe Club Medal weekends, open to both pupils and staff. Mark Gardner won the October tournament with a 76 (net 61), runner-up David Douglas 74 (net 62). There were ten entries. In March there were eleven entries and the winner was Simon Corben 79 (net 61), runner-up David Hope-Johnson 82 (net 63).

M.D.D.

BADMINTON

When I inherited the Badminton Club from Mr. Haslam in September, I was very surprised at the wealth of talent, especially amongst the older players. The first pair of Allday and Hill set a superb example for the rest of the Club. Allday, with his talkative, energetic power-play complemented Hill's nonchalant, subtle style perfectly. Maghazeh and Richards improved considerably as the team progressed, soon threatening the supremacy of the first pair. As they will be the only senior players returning next season they will deservedly take over as first pair. Mellor, Reed, Priestley and Nicholas fought hard for the third pair position, and provided excellent support to the first two pairs. It was this depth that enabled Stowe to continue its fine tradition of exciting, successful Badminton.

In the first term, we beat Uppingham 9—0, Mill Hill 7—2, Oakham 7—2 and the well-coached Abingdon, complete with County player, 5—4. In the second term, however, we suffered our first defeat, in the return match at Uppingham. Despite Maghazeh and Richards winning all three of their games, we missed the services (no pun intended) of our first pair and went down 6—3. The re-match at Abingdon provided some of the finest Badminton of the season, with all players showing a delightful mixture of power and touch. The score line of 7—2 gives some indication of our dominance, with Allday and Hill brilliantly fighting back to avenge their defeat by the Abingdon first pair in the previous term. We again fell to R.G. S. High Wycombe 5—4 in the final match of the season—Maghazeh and Richards unable to get the better of their opposite numbers in the last gruelling game, going down 13—15, 15—13, 14—18.



THE COLTS

The Colts team had less good fortune, losing to Uppingham and Mill Hill in the first term, but beating Oakham. Numerous combinations of players were tried before something like a settled team was achieved. Dunton, mi. was by far the most stylish and consistent player, with his older brother and King showing steady progress in the second term. Some of the players desperately need to improve their fitness, anticipation and court-coverage. Defeat was too readily blamed on players having contrasting styles of play to their partners, but as five of the six will still be Colts age next season, their prospects look good.

Results: Played 8; Won 2; Lost 6. Colours (Re-awarded): R. Hill, J. Allday, D. Priestley. Colours (Awarded): M. Maghazeh, J. Richards, H. Ellman-Brown, J. Nelson, M. Dunton, mi., L. Nicholas.

M.D.

CROSS-COUNTRY

We had a successful term in Cross-Country, culminating in an exciting five-cornered match at Oundle. Schools competing were: Oundle, Wellingborough, The Leys, Stamford and Stowe. Oundle won on their home ground and we were narrowly pushed into third place by Wellingborough in the Open.

Highlights of the Inter-House Finals were a new record in the U.17s set by Simon Montford, who broke the existing record by exactly three seconds. James Vernon ran strongly to win the Junior race while, in a very exciting finish in the Open race, Bas Nicholl defeated Stefan Gates for the first time this season, although Gates' course record from last year still stands. Lyttelton were victors in the Open, Cobham in the U.17s and Walpole the Juniors. Stanhope and Nugent were pleased to be able to put forward teams for this event for the first time, Nugent scoring a comfortable win. Julia Hooper (Nugent) came in well ahead of the field.

Our Senior team in finishing 7th out of 20 schools competing in the Midlands Public Schools Championships recorded our best ever performance in this event. (Last year we were 13th). Seven of the eight runners who competed this year are eligible again next year and this augurs well for another successful season next year. The U.17 team are a young team all of whom will be eligible to run at U.17 again next year when we will be able to build upon the valuable experience they have gained this year. We have some very able runners in James Vernon, Edward de Jonge and George Miller at the U.15 level who have represented the School with great promise.

Colours have been awarded to:

Full Colours: S. N. Gates (re-award), J. S. R. Nicholl, C. R. J. Hutber, M. R. Appleby.

Half Colours: P. R. A. Shackleton.

Colts Colours: S. E. Montford, M. J. M. Lawman.

Secretary: J. S. R. Nicholl.

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SHOOTING

Shooting continues to flourish as a very popular sport during the Monday extra and C.C.F. time slots, with over 50 students shooting regularly each week, during the Autumn and Spring Terms.

The Autumn Term got off to the usual exciting start with the Casualty Cup Competition, Chatham retaining the Cup in a close fought final. Two teams were entered for the B.S.S.R.A. Autumn Leagues and both ended up in second place in their respective divisions. Both teams were of relatively young shots, with only two members of the Middle Sixth firing currently. They made a promising showing which augured well for Spring Term entries.

P. Garton who has been made Club Captain for this season had the best average on ten bull targets, scoring 91.00. He was closely followed by G. Harvey with 90.6 and H. Burford-Taylor this year's Club Secretary with 90.25, B. Hesketh, J. Clegg, M. Appleby and J. Hazell all fired for the 'A' team and averaged over 90.

The 'B' team firing on the easier five bull targets shot consistently well, with A. Sugars and J. Darnborough averaging 93.4, M. Williams 92.8 and M. Moore 92.3. J. Mierins, A. Rutter and A. Talbot-Rice all fired regularly for the team.

The Spring Term saw us entering three league teams, all showed good progress with the 'A' and 'B' teams leading their respective divisions until the final fifth round. Here we were tragically unable to enter any cards as our indoor range was severely damaged by a falling branch during the storm force winds at the end of term! In the event both teams ended up third, but the moral victory was ours as all members of both teams had improved their averages over the previous term by at least 1.5 points per man.

The best individual performances of the term were: from the 'A' team G. Harvey scoring 94.8 (the Stowe highest for three seasons on ten bull targets) and P. Garton with 93.3. Both these individuals entered the .22 calibre Association Championship and reached the semi-final but failed to qualify by one point in three hundred for the final! The 'B' team's best performances came from M. Williams and J. Mierins averaging 96.3, A. Sugars and J. Darnborough making 94.0, followed closely by B. Boultbee and M. Moore with 92.0. The 'C' team ended third in a division with some tough opposition with encouraging performances from A. Rutter, Suzi Grenfell and A. Diamond, all newcomers to league shooting.

In the C.C.F. Country Life Competition the team of eight scored an estimated 756/1000 h.p.s. This is only 9 points behind last year's best score of 765 and is yet to be confirmed by official publication of results.

In summary, it has been an encouraging .22 season of progress, sadly without actual victory, which was largely prevented by bad weather. We can look forward to success next season with this experience behind us, and to a good full-bore season ahead.

S.O.C.



SCULLING

Since the appearance of the last Sculling Report in *The Stoic* the Sculling Club has been busy, and a variety of wins have been recorded in external competition.

In the Summer Term of 1985 the Club had five regatta wins. At Birmingham Regatta Simon James won Novice Sculls and Junior 16 Sculls, while Adam Bradbery won Junior Sculls. At Northampton Regatta Simon James won Junior Sculls and Junior 16 Sculls.

In addition the Summer Term of 1985 saw regatta finals reached at Stratford-on-Avon, Loughborough and Evesham. James Taylor was a little unlucky to lose a number of Novice Sculls finals, and Adam Bradbery did particularly well winning the heats at Senior Club level.

A notable feature of the 1985 Summer was the Club's venture into Double Sculls at Northampton Regatta, where Stowe reached the final before losing to St. Ives R.C.

The Autumn Term 1985 saw the Sculling Club making good progress in the processional, long distance races which are a feature of autumn sculling. James Taylor won the Novice Division in the St. Ives Small Boats Head, and Alex Livingstone-Learmonth won the Junior 15 Sculls, and Simon James the Junior 16 Sculls Division, at the Evesham Head of the River. The Club had an outstanding day at the Wycliffe Small Boats Head, where Adam Bradbery won the Senior Club Sculls, Simon James won the Junior Sculls, Alex Livingstone-Learmonth won the Junior 15 Sculls, and M. J. P. Hancock won Junior 14 Sculls.

The one sad feature of the end of the Autumn Term was the departure of Mr. Masters from the Common Room. He had contributed notably to the success of the Sculling Club, and all were concerned as to how the gap caused by his departure could be filled. Fortunately Mr. Hepworth arrived to join the Common Room, at the start of the Spring Term—albeit only for a short stay at Stowe. A one-time Master i/c Rowing at Eastbourne College, he has quickly proved to be a valuable addition to the Club.

The Spring Term 1986 saw the Club racing in two Head Races at Cambridge, but a number of other events were cancelled because of ice, and at times we were unable to boat at Northampton for this same reason—so losing valuable practice. The Cambridge races did however give an opportunity to let the senior boys gain experience in the double scull, and, using this boat as a building bloc, we were able to contemplate an entry in the Schools' Head of the River Race, held over a part of the Boat Race course on the Thames.

The Schools' Head of the River Race attracted an entry of 126 VIIIs, and 98 IVs. The IVs Division included Quad Sculls, Coxless IVs and Coxed IVs. Our plan was to enter the Quad Sculls Division, and, for this purpose, having no boat of our own, we borrowed an Empacher Quad from Thames R.C. Two days of the Exeat were spent at Putney, in bitterly cold weather, getting used to the boat, and to the sometimes difficult conditions of Tideway water. Westminster School kindly provided us with both a coaching launch and useful opposition.

In the actual race, on 11th March, the crew got off to an excellent start, and at Hammersmith were clearly gaining on the Kingston G.S. Quad Scull, which had started ahead of Stowe. The Kingston crew was overtaken at Harrod's Depository and Stowe crossed the finishing line at Putney looking like a possible winner of the IVs Division overall. When the times eventually came out Stowe proved to have been the second fastest IV overall, and the winner of the Quad Sculls Division. The winner of the IVs Division was Tiffin School with Eton third. This was undoubtedly the Sculling Club's most impressive performance to date.

Quad Scull: Bow and steers, J. R. M. Taylor; 2, S. A. James; 3, A. I. Livingstone-Learmonth; str., A. W. Bradbery.

W.S.L.W.

SOCCER

There was only one match this term because of illness and poor weather. This took place at Bedford on Thursday, 23rd January when our team was beaten 4-2 by a well organised side. Surprisingly, the match was given a brief write-up in the *Daily Telegraph*.

T.C.

GIRLS' SPORT

HOCKEY

Unfortunately the Hockey season was dominated by the weather and all but one of our Spring Term fixtures had to be cancelled. Only four matches were played overall, of which two were won and two lost. Lisa Tustian captained the side with Sarah Lawman as Vice-Captain. Both girls gained Full Colours.

B.T.

LACROSSE

As the season was hampered by illness and injury, 18 girls were in the Lacrosse match squad. Eleven matches were played, of which we only won two, although many of the scores were close. Camilla Matthews was an efficient Captain and helped to instil some enthusiasm into her side. Before sustaining an ankle injury, Sally Campbell was selected to play in goal for the Bucks and Oxon County team—another Stowe 'first'! Camilla and Sally were both awarded Full Colours. The Sapphire Browne Trophy for the most improved player was won by Annabel Arnold.

J.A.N.

NETBALL

Captained by Ruth Harford, the Netball team had a successful season, winning four matches very convincingly and losing only two. Ruth gained her Full Colours.

B.T.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD COURSE

As many anxious parents will no doubt have read at the time, a party of fifty LVI 'A' level pupils and three members of staff encountered at the end of last term a set of weather conditions which lived up to and indeed exceeded our every possible expectation of Snowdonia in March. Despite these adverse circumstances, the intrepid group bravely battled on and the intensive six day course, often described as the key to success in Physical Geography at 'A' level, was productive but still managed to maintain a friendly and fairly relaxed atmosphere.

We stayed near Betws-y-Coed, about 18 km East of Snowdon itself, at the Draper's Field Study' Centre where both the teaching facilities and accommodation were good. The course was jointly organized and tutored by Stowe Geography Department and the Field Studies Council, a combination which allowed the best of both analysis and description to be achieved.

The memories of glacial landforms in Cwm Idwal and the Nant Ffrancon valley, till fabric analysis at Llienawg in Anglesey, hydrological studies in the upper Conwy catchment and cliff forms at Black Rock, Portmadoc, will remain in our memories well beyond the 'A' level examinations in a year's time.

N. H. Groves

BIOLOGY FIELD COURSE

On Saturday, 22nd March a group of nineteen Stoics, under the expert supervision of Dr. Hornby, were packed up into a mini-bus destined for the primitive regions of the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales. We were prepared to fear the worst but after five hours driving the accommodation was found to be far from primitive — to everyone's apparent relief. Thus had begun the Biology Field Course's "Study of the Seashore".

The School had rented three cottages, idyllically situated within easy walking distance of the shore where we were to be working. This location was ideally suited to the needs of the Biology Course as a vast variety of types of sea-shore, from sheltered to exposed, from rocky to sandy beaches, could be studied.

We spent the first full day getting used to identifying the diverse collection of animal and plant life present on the shore-line. After working in the evening we were able to relax in pleasant company with locals who live close to the cottages.

The next few days were very beneficial as projects were designed, carried out and concluded. Many objectives were achieved and it was interesting to be forced to develop skills in drawing conclusions about things which previously appeared unrelated. I do not think that anyone who attended this course, could have left without learning something, if not biological, then certainly about the wicked Welsh winds which proved a hindrance to work.

Our thanks must go to Dr. James, Dr. Hornby and Jenny (our cook) whose patience and skill ensured that the whole trip was thoroughly successful and enjoyed by all.

Thank you.

Sally Campbell

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION

This year's expedition to Nepal was the most strenuous since our long trek in Ladakh and Zanskar in 1983. We had planned a 17 day trek of considerable variety — a spectacular ridge walk, three passes — one over 15,000 feet, — warm valleys and as always a lot of up and a lot of down. Twenty-two people gathered in Kathmandu including fourteen members of the Lower Sixth, three members of staff, one young and one not so young Old Stoic, the father of one of the party members and two friends who had accompanied us last year — Brigadier Montagu and Major Wylie-Carrick. With a party of such size it was decided to split the groups and trek the same route in different directions. Neither party quite managed to achieve its objectives. The Tiru Danda ridge was plastered in late snow and for one party this meant several long days working up the valley below: the other party managed to cross the ridge and drop into another, fascinating and unmapped valley. For both parties the high pass crossing was an adventure — one crossing on crisp snow very early in the morning of a peerless Himalayan day; the other struggling through waist deep snow late in the day and manhandling porter loads as they did so. The weather was rather unkind and illness struck rather too often. But everyone had some marvellous and greatly rewarding times and I have no doubt that all of us have brought back memories to dine out on. As one of the boys said: "It was seventy per cent magnificent, twenty per cent O.K., ten per cent sheer misery".... That's not a bad proportion!

R.M.P.

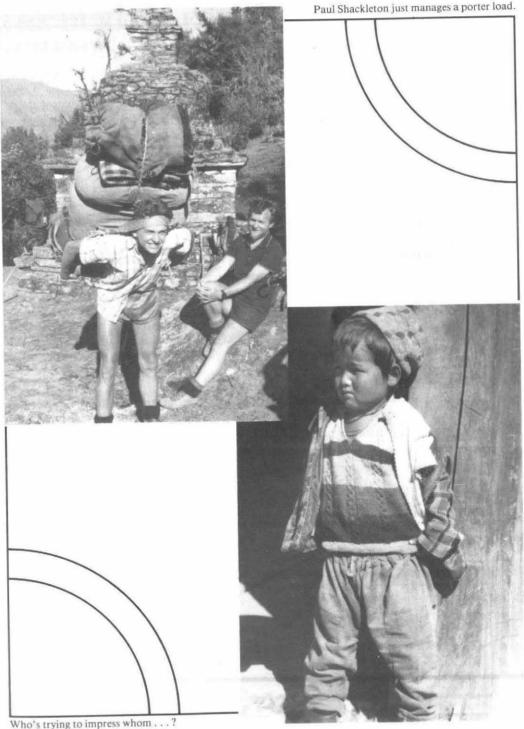
IMPRESSIONS OF NEPAL

After spending a month in Nepal, a room becomes a cell. A period follows where you feel nervous without the mountains at your tent flap and a bed feels uncomfortable.

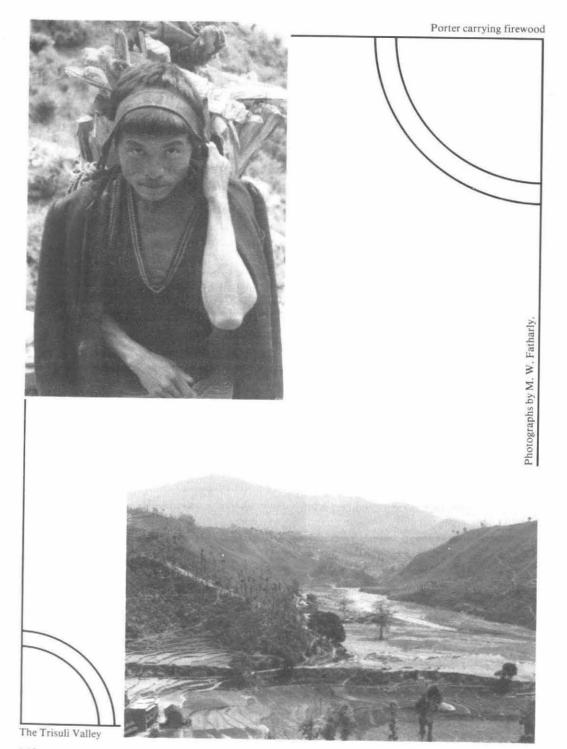
One of the first emotions that hits you after leaving the domesticated Kathmandu is one of immense humility. This arises from the sudden realization that no one in Britain does an 'honest day's work'. After the first day of glorious ascension you begin to notice the poverty of the Nepalese people. Porters carry at least their own weight in Stoic kit bags and camping amenities for, at the most, a pound a day. The chief sherpa or Sardar only earns about two pounds fifty a day — a large wage by Nepalese standards.

During the trek, a friendship springs up between sherpa and trekker. This arises through a dependance on the sherpa's skill and knowledge of the land and the trekker's interest in it. These ever-smiling leaders took us up humid valleys onto misty snow-capped mountains, through times of sickness and depression, health and mirth. We were sorry to leave these proud mountain people.

Patrick Gladstone Nicholas Marsh



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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

Since I last reported our activities we have enjoyed two Summer Camps and three Field Days.

In the Summer of '85 the Bronzes travelled to the Peak District where they all embarked on their final qualifying expeditions for which they had been training throughout the year. This exercise went extremely well with all the boys successfully completing their 15 mile routes.

During this Field Day the Silver and Golds travelled to North Wales and had a very exciting time as they covered some arduous routes in varied weather conditions.

The two Summer Camps went very well indeed with the boys acquitting themselves admirably in atrocious weather conditions. The Silvers travelled to the island of Skye and the Golds to the Cairngorms, where they undertook assessment walks of 30 to 50 miles respectively.

The Autumn Field Day trips were to Shropshire and the Brecon Beacons and both went smoothly and were enjoyed by new-comers to the organisation.

The intended Spring Field Day exercises to Dartmoor and the Forest of Dean had to be cancelled at the last moment because of illness and severe weather conditions. An alternative hastily organised programme in the Chilterns was a very good second best and went a long way to offset the boys' disappointment at not being able to go to the original destinations.

The cancellation was particularly disappointing in the case of Dartmoor as Stowe D. of E. has not been there for some time and everyone was looking forward to walking over some new ground. All is not lost, however, as we plan to implement our Spring Field Day programme this Summer Term.

In addition, throughout the year, the boys have participated in Community Service and Residential projects and have also followed their Skill and Physical Activity programmes.

Our Summer Camp will be a combined Silver and Gold trip to the Cairngorms at the end of term, to which everyone is looking forward, both boys and staff.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking all the staff involved with the D. of E. for their tremendous help and support in all aspects of the scheme.

K.R.S.H.



The Tomple of Antient Virtue.

A VOYAGE ABOARD THE 'SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'

As I neared Empress Dock, Southampton, I caught my first sight of the Sir Winston Churchill, her 120 ft. masts towering high above the surrounding docklands.

When I reached the ship she turned out to be all that I had expected; 150 of beautifully styled tall ship, much the same as those sailed by seamen of the last century. She lay alongside her sister-ship the *Malcolm Miller*, also preparing for a fortnight's voyage to the Continent. Having boarded the ship and met the Captain I joined the other 38 trainees and we spent the next few hours learning how to sail the ship and how to climb the rigging, preferably without falling off.

The next day we set off down the Solent with the intention of heading for a French port. After a couple of days sailing in the Channel we reached Cherbourg and decided to stay for 24 hours. During our first encounter with rough Channel weather I had been one of the few not to suffer from sea-sickness; however, while in Cherbourg I was unfortunate enough to suffer from a bout of landsickness! Admittedly, it was the morning after a night out on the town, but due mainly to the unusual feel of solid ground.

Our next port of call was Alderney, one of the smaller Channel Islands with a great deal of unspoilt charm and beauty, not to mention duty free shops of which we all took advantage. We spent a day in Alderney before setting sail for the South Devon coast, finishing our stay with a barbecue on the beach opposite the Schooner. It was during the passage from Alderney to Dartmouth, our next scheduled stop, that we encountered the first really rough weather of the trip. It was the moment I had been waiting for and was tremendously exciting as waves crashed over the bow of the ship in gale force winds. It was a great relief, however, and a well earned rest when we finally reached Dartmouth, but also a moment I won't forget because of the enormous pride I felt in being part of the ship as we entered the harbour, manning the yardarms to the salutes of countless naval ships and private yachts.

We made our final stop-over in Falmouth, before heading out round Land's End on the final stage of the voyage up to Avonmouth in the Bristol Channel. This was by far the most gruelling leg of the voyage as we pounded into huge seas and winds reaching force eleven at times. It was when the weather took a turn for the worse that I began to regret my eagerness for going up aloft as, being one of the few that actually enjoyed climbing to 100 ft. above the deck, I was called upon to do most of the jobs required up in the rigging, a task which becomes quite hair-raising when the boat is rolling around beneath you! But despite the weather we all reached Avonmouth in one piece and had a well earned rest before marking the end of the voyage with a party that evening.

I left the Sir Winston Churchill having thoroughly enjoyed the two week voyage and feeling I had taken part in a completely unique and valuable experience which I would remember for a long time. On leaving I was very pleased to be asked to return as a member of the permanent crew; so in the years to come I hope to continue my association with the S.T.A. Schooners and spend many more enjoyable weeks aboard them.

Simon Billington

C.C.F.

As the winter held its grip on Stowe, the C.C.F. underwent a rapid Arctic warfare training programme and managed to complete a full range of activities for Field Day in March. The Proficiency Company was well entertained by the Royal Pioneers at Bicester and competed for the Inter-Section Royal Pioneer Corps Shield. Once again this prize was awarded to the section led by Sgt. E. Hamilton-Russell, who must be thinking that he owns the shield by now. The R.E.M.E., Pioneer and Skill-at-Arms Sections went shooting on Otmoor ranges. Fortunately, the ranges are in a hollow which prevented those on the firing point from being frost-bitten in the keen easterly wind. The cadets were given a rare treat in that they were able to fire our L.M.G. for which .762 ammunition is hard to get hold of. The lakes at Stowe being frozen, the R.N. Section went to the then British equivalent of the South Pole - The South Downs, which was one of the few areas that had experienced fresh snow falls. The section came back flushed by their success at digging a way to the Youth Hostel they were staying in and by not losing anyone in the large snow drift covering the hill tops. The Advanced Training Section set out on their exercise Snowchase on Field Day by having to cross the assault course to reach their transport to the exercise area. The Oxford Bridge had been inconveniently mined and a crossing of the iced Oxford Water also had to be accomplished. The Section's task was to blow up enemy missile positions and survive in the field until recalled, but they had to find their rations first, which had been 'dropped by parachute' somewhere in the training area. The threat of starvation meant that the ration packs were quickly found and consumed.



During the Spring Term two Army presentation teams visited us. The Royal Armoured Corps gave a very interesting talk which was backed up by a detailed display of computers, models and photographs. The officer giving the talk was greatly encouraged when he asked the cadets, "How many of you are thinking about a service career?"—40% of the cadets put their hands up. The Royal Artillery came next with a most entertaining talk about the modern use of Artillery and even gave us a demonstration of acting, when one of the officers giving the presentation burst into the room as a rather convincing Russian General.

Proficiency Company has continued its training successes with a very pleasing turn-out for their drill test when all present passed and gained favourable comments from the inspection team.

Once the Arctic weather left us the gales came and tried to cause problems for us by causing a tree to drop a rather hefty branch through the roof of the indoor range. Fortunately no-one was inside at the time and a rapid response by R.S.M. Brannan and our local branch of the T.A.V.R.A. soon made the range as good as new. In fact, the word is that the indoor range has even benefited, for the roof does not leak any more.





Recruits under training.

A 4-ton truck laden with stores, tentage, dinghies plus a landrover and canoeing trailer crossed the Oxford Bridge from Stowe during the holidays to commence this year's Adventurous Training. The wet journey down gave the contingent staff a foretaste of weather to come. Base camp was set up in caravans at Llangorse Lake in the Brecon Beacons National Park, an idyllic setting in summer but rather bleak in what the weather men quoted as being the coldest April since 1917. Snow could be seen on the surrounding hills and Lieut. Bevington, the officer in charge of water activities for the camp hoped that he would not have to crack ice to launch the dinghies. The cold water discouraged capsizes in the dinghies and eskimo rolls in the canoes. Cadet Martin broke a longstanding record by not capsizing his dinghy. Sergeant Schofield from the Cadet Training Team braved the cold winds to teach cadets the pleasures of canoeing. The conditions encouraged all participants to put in fast times for the race around Llangorse Lake, especially Corporal Tetlow. An extensive briefing on the principles of mountain walking was given by Capt. Mullineux, officer in charge of mountain activities. After an initial training day a three day expedition on the Black Mountains followed. The expedition was marked by the wide range of weather conditions from sun to snow. All the ridge tops were blanketed in snow, making them picturesque at best, but heavy going where there was slush and nuisance when the fog came down. Towards the end of the second expedition day our luck with the weather ran out and on cue from the weathermen the rain arrived.

Rain fell below the cloud base whilst it snowed on the fog-bound ridges where we were walking. The cadets learnt how quickly bad conditions can come and their waterproofs were given a severe test, but all remained cheerful and walked well.

R.S.M. Brannan throughout the camp managed to organise the right stores in the right place and provided, on a rather soggy day, a most welcome cosmopolitan soup made from at least five different varieties. After a short navigation exercise to conclude the three-day expedition in the hills the cadets took part in a gournet meal competition in the evening. They had to produce the most impressive meal they could for a set amount of money. On the morning of the competition day cadets were seen scouring the limited shopping area in the small village of Crickhowell for all the delicacies they could lay their hands on. The results were magnificent, the judges were treated to a wide range of courses, beautifully presented. The winning team produced a meal, cooked largely by Cadet Wright, that included garnished steaks, strawberries and cream; they even attended to such details as flowers on the table.

The camp ended with a 'team' meal in Llangorse where a debriefing session was held and a toast was drunk to the Queen on her 60th birthday.

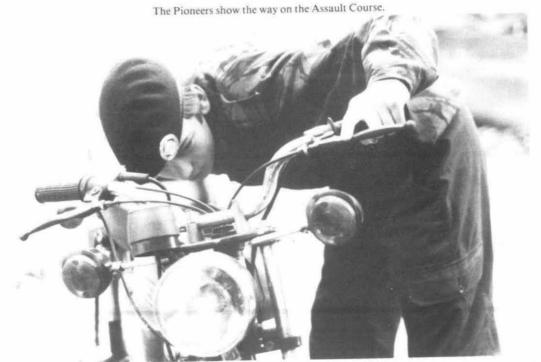
1986 is inspection year for the C.C.F., and already we have gained an excellent administrative inspection report which gives much credit to R.S.M. Brannan, and we look forward to a good inspection day on May 29th.

M.J.S.





The R.E.M.E. Section at work.



Photographs by M.J.S.

THE STOWE BEAGLES

We have again had much support from Stowe boys with six in uniform, that is: myself as Master and Huntsman; Senior 2nd Whips, Dominic White and Jonathan Summers; and Junior 2nd Whips, Nick Marsh, Mark Burditt and Sandy David.

This year's hunting season has been difficult, with poor scenting due to bad weather. Nevertheless hounds have hunted well, giving us some very entertaining days and allowing us to finish the season with a tally of 14½ brace. Credit should be given to the Whippersin who have had a harder task than usual this season, because of the poor scent.

We enjoyed success in last summer's showing season and were very pleased to win several unentered classes, that is, classes for young hounds, and so it bodes well for the future. This year we hope to show at three hound shows as usual: Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate; South of England Show at Peterborough; and Royal Welsh Hound Show at Builth Wells.

We shall also be displaying hounds at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

At the kennels we have as usual been busy. Last summer we finished the building of our new whelping lodges and straw bay; other small improvements have been made throughout the winter and we shall soon be scrubbing and painting in preparation for our Puppy Show at the end of term.

Last holidays we took part in an interesting and novel charity event in Chackmore called Honda and Hound. We rode a cross-country course on three-wheeled Honda motor-tricycles with the hounds following while a field of almost 80 people on trikes followed. The charity, for handicapped children, has raised to date (April), £16,350.

Finally I would like to wish next year's Master the best of luck.

A. M. Jones, M.H.



OLD STOIC NEWS

F. P. G. Aldrich-Blake (Chatham 1961) presented The Natural World — Land of the Tiger on B.B.C.2. March 1986.

The Revd. B. F. Brindley (Grenville 1950) has been appointed Honorary Canon of Christ Church, Oxford.

Sir Nigel Broackes (Chatham 1951) was appointed as a non-executive Director of DCL (Distillers) November 1985.

C. L. Brook (Chatham 1944) appeared in "I Claudius", a serial in 12 parts on B.B.C.2. 1986.

J. D. Buchanan (Walpole 1935) has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Truman and Knightley Educational Trust. September 1985.

D. P. Choyce (Cobham 1935) has been given the Distinguished Achievement Award for 1986 by the American Society of Contemporary Ophthalmology.

J. F. Connell (Grenville 1942) has become President of Distillers. April 1986.

D. L. Donne (Grenville 1943) has been appointed as Chairman of Asda — MFI Group. 1986.

O. A. W. Dilke (Bruce 1933) published Greek and Roman Maps, in the Series "Aspects of Greek and Roman Life". 1985.

H. L. Goodall (Lyttelton 1974) young composer who revised Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas" for Television was shown on I.T.V. The South Bank Show. February 1986.

C. E. Guiness (Cobham 1942) is the new Chairman of the Brewers' Society. He is the Vice-Chairman of Guiness Brewing Worldwide and Guiness (Great Britain) as well as Chairman of Harp Lager and a Director of Guiness plc. (1985).

J. A. Hayward, O.B.E. (Grafton 1941) was created a Knight Bachelor in the New Year's Honours List 1986.

Sir Nicholas Henderson (Grenville 1937) was appointed to Lord Warden of the Stannaries of the Duchy of Cornwall, November 1985. He also delivered the Oxford Romanes lecture in the Sheldonian Theatre on the different approaches to foreign policy of Germany, France and the United States. February 1986.

The Lord Henniker (Bruce 1934) has been appointed an Honorary (Lay) Canon of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral.

J. M. F. Holland-Gems (Lyttelton 1967) has been awarded a joint second prize in the J. T. Grein Awards for Established Playwrights. He also appeared in the "This is Your Life" programme on R. C. N. Branson.

The Rt. Revd. C. C. W. James (Chaplain 1956-1959) has been appointed Chairman of the Church of England Liturgical Commission. 1985.

H. V. Kemp (Chatham 1931) has published his "Collected Poems", and thereby earned considerable critical acclaim. 1985.

C. J. Lockhart-Mummery (Grafton 1964) has been appointed Queen's Counsel. March 1986.

P. B. Lucas (Grenville 1934) published his new book "Out of the Blue" (Hutchinson). November 1985.

The Hon. Sir John Sainsbury (Grenville 1945) was elected an Honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple. He also received the degree of D.Sc. (Econ.) from the University of London on their Foundation Day Ceremony, November 13th, 1985.

W. G. Sharp (Lyttelton 1981) gained a First in Japanese and Korean from London University. 1985.

D. R. Stevens (Walpole 1954) joined the Board of Britannia Arrow Holdings. January 1986.

H. T. Thornton-Berry (Chandos 1946) was elected Deputy Lieutenant for the County of North Yorkshire. 1986.

M. G. T. Webster (Walpole 1938) has been elected Chairman of the Truman and Knightley Educational Trust. 1985.

P. G. Worshorne (Grafton 1941) has been appointed Editor of the Sunday Telegraph, February 1986. He has been with the paper since it was launched in 1961, and became Associate Editor in 1976.

COMMISSIONS

The following have been commissioned into the Regiments stated:

G. H. J. Bentle (Cobham 1983)—Army Air Corps. December 1985.

C. B. Hopkinson-Woolley (Temple 1982)—4/7 Dragoon Guards. December 1985. (Winner of the Sword of Honour).

W. R. I. Smith (Walpole 1983)—Army Air Corps. December 1985.

P. H. M. Swire (Chatham 1983)—Grenadier Guards. April 1985.

G. M. Tytherleigh-Strong (Lyttelton 1984)—The Blues and Royals. 1985.



BIRTHS

J. M. Burnell-Nugent (Grafton 1967) a son on 10th March 1986.

H. J. Carnegy-Arbuthnott (Bruce 1974) a son on 28th February 1986.

J. A. Clarfelt (Chatham 1970) a daughter in February 1983 and a second daughter on 6th May 1985.

T. B. Cobb (Walpole 1969) a son on 12th November 1985.

J. A. Henniker-Major (Cobham 1970) a son on 17th December 1985.

A. R. V. Hodge (Grafton 1972) a daughter on 7th October 1985.

C. J. Karpinski (Grenville 1969) a son on 13th March 1986.

G. C. Kimber (Bruce 1972) a daughter on 30th January 1986.

Catarina E. Leigh-Pemberton (Stanhope 1979) (née Cowan) a daughter in December 1985.

N. J. L. Martin (Walpole 1966) a daughter on 16th October 1985.

N. P. Milne (Chandos 1967) a son on 23rd January 1986.

H. C. Mytton-Mills (Walpole 1973) a daughter on 23rd February 1986.

R. A. S. Osband (Temple 1967) a daughter on 24th June 1982 and a son on 17th September 1985.

J. H. Rose (Lyttelton 1976) a daughter on 22nd August 1985.

P. B. Salmon (Grenville 1975) a daughter on 22nd August 1985.

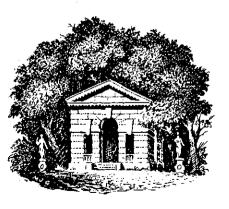
F. N. Stewart-Wood (Temple 1964) a son on 18th January 1982 and a daughter on 27th April 1983 and a second son on 22nd June 1985.

T. C. Thomson-Royds (Chatham 1967) a daughter on 11th December 1985.

M. C. H. Vey (Bruce 1974) a son on 2nd November 1985.

C. L. W. P. Waud (Chandos 1973) a daughter on 15th April 1986.

J. F. Z. Ziegler (Temple 1967) a son on 23rd July 1977 and a daughter on 4th October 1979.



MARRIAGES

- D. G. Choyce (Cobham 1973) to Penelope Jane Dean on 12th October 1985.
- J. A. Clarfelt (Chatham 1970) to Dinah Nabarro in November 1976.
- S. P. Clegg (Chatham 1978) to Hilary Ann Davis on 10th August 1985.
- Sara E. Howell-Williams (Stanhope 1983) to John Snell on 2nd November 1985.
- H. F. St. H. Jeune (Temple 1958) to Sonia Gay Johnstone on 18th March 1986.
- A. R. Jones (Chandos 1974) to Suzan Caroline Frith on 22nd November 1985.
- T. R. Lancaster (Walpole 1973) to Sasha Sheppard on 9th October 1985.
- P. Mackintosh (Grenville 1945) to Sheila Mackay on 18th April 1985.
- R. P. Macnamara (Bruce 1972) to Mary Clare Asquith on 8th April 1986.
- C. J. Manton (Lyttelton 1972) to Lynnabeth Lanham on 6th October 1984.
- R. A. Nicholson (Cobham 1953) to Gabrielle Marie-Louise Dion on 10th May 1971.
- J. H. Rose (Lyttelton 1976) to Julia Caroline Stanley on 15th September 1984.
- Dr. I. A. Roxburgh (Grenville/Walpole 1935) to Patricia Wilson on 18th October 1985.
- S. L. Shneerson (Temple 1972) to Helen Margaret Bray on 14th September 1985.
- J. P. H. Spencer-Cooper (Temple 1973) to Caroline Wilees on 1st June 1985.
- F. N. Stewart-Wood (Temple 1964) to Marianne Julia Yates on 24th August 1979.
- P. S. A. T. Stheeman (Walpole 1974) to Monika Ernestine Velder on 3rd October 1985.
- R. H. White-Smith (Bruce 1941) to Judith Harvey Woolley on 2nd November 1985.



DEATHS

- B. T. Aikman (Temple 1931) on 8th January 1986.
- Mrs. Jean Barr wife of the late B. A. Barr (Staff 1937-1967) on 8th November, 1985.
- M. L. Case (Chatham 1929) on 25th September 1981.
- P. D. A. Chidell (Grafton 1930) on 12th February 1985.
- M. duP. Cooper (Staff 1940-1942) on 15th March 1986.
- G. G. Riddick (Chandos 1938) on 23rd March 1986.
- E. Russell-Roberts (Bruce 1930) on 22nd July 1985.
- C. D. Sansom (Bruce 1943) on 1st January 1986.
- J. C. N. Wood (Grenville 1984) on 13th April 1986.



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