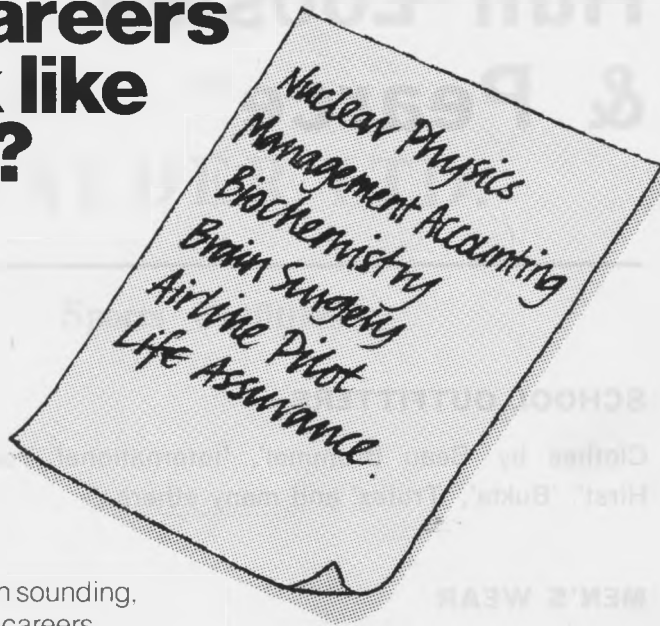


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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

EDITORIAL

It was said that, in view of the prevailing economic climate, this issue was to be an austerity number. We hope that the need for financial prudence has not spoiled the appearance of the magazine, and that the more attractive appearance of the last two numbers has been maintained. Thrift should not entail gloom.

In response to the moving and audacious posters scattered around the school there was the usual flood of contributions—let's hope we have chosen the right ones. If the *Wycombiensian* is not to your liking, then show us what it should be like with your editorial skills, literary finesse and artistic good taste, making the next one a magazine to be remembered.

M. Blundell, K. Boulton, D. Brown, N. Godden, C. Hawtree, B. Newton, C. Prince, K. Richmond, C. Sheldon, S. Widberg and J. Wigram helped in selection, collection and rejection of material. Art editor M. Eaton.

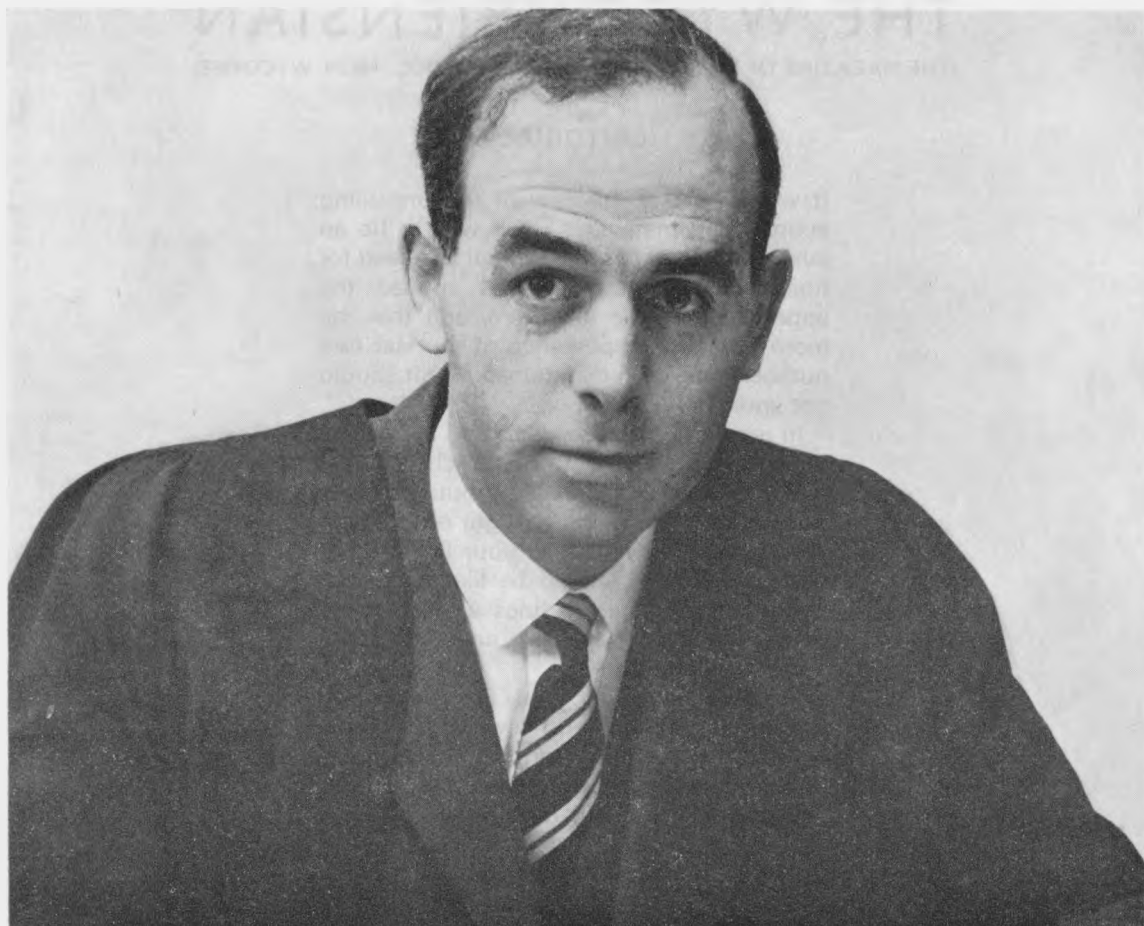
SCHOOL NEWS

Mr. Malcolm Smith, headmaster of the R.G.S. since 1965, has, as many people will know, announced his retirement at the end of this year. An appreciation of his work for the school will appear in the next issue of the magazine. We would wish him and his wife every happiness in their retirement. A concert at which many Old Boys are due to perform alongside present members of the Music Society will be held in July in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Other events due this term are the Summer Concert, Sports Day, Agatha Christie's *The Spider's Web* and Speech Day. No lack of variety here! Last term saw a procession of programmes in the Yesterday's World series with the final episode coming after the Easter holiday. *The Times Educational Supplement* gave on the whole

a favourable review of the venture—based on the first half of one programme! A more detailed account appears later in the magazine.

Two members of staff are leaving at the end of the year. Mr. Waller is retiring from the Maths. department and as officer in charge of the R.N. section of the C.C.F. Mr. Page is also leaving the Maths. department and school hockey to take up a post at Merchant Taylor's School. We wish them both well in their new lives. Mr. Roebuck is leaving the school on secondment in order to study for an Advanced Diploma in Education at Oxford. In their place we welcome Mrs. V. L. Ferris B.A. to teach history and D. G. Stone B.Sc., an Old Boy of the school, to teach Maths.



The new Head Master, Mr. Rowland P. Brown, is, like Mr. Smith, a Modern Linguist. He studied Russian at Cambridge during his time in the Services, when he was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps, and then went up to Oxford on a State Scholarship in 1953 to read French and Russian at Worcester College.

After a five year spell at Hampton Grammar School, where rowing, Russian and the C.C.F. (Army) were major interests, Mr. Brown was appointed Head of Modern Languages at Tudor Grange Grammar School, Solihull, and during his time there he studied Law and was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1966. He also found time to lead school trips to France, Russia and U.S.A.

In 1967 Mr. Brown was appointed Head

Master of the 420-year-old King Edward VI Grammar School, Nuneaton, which during his time in Nuneaton has developed into a Sixth Form College serving Nuneaton and district. He has continued to lead parties overseas, including three school cruises to the Mediterranean, and he has, like Mr. Smith, served on the Council of the Headmasters' Association, and is Chairman of the H.M.A. Sixth Form Colleges Committee. He and his family — he has three young daughters—plan to move to High Wycombe in the summer holidays, and having lived for the early part of his life on the Hampshire-Berkshire borders, he is very much looking forward to moving back south and taking up his new post in a school with such a splendid heritage.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES 1974-75

We congratulate the following on gaining Open Awards:

- J. W. M. Chadwick: Open Exhibition in History, Christ Church, Oxford.
- P. J. Flint: Open Scholarship in French & English, University College, Oxford.
- S. M. Kelly, Open Exhibition in History, Christ Church, Oxford.
- F. D. MacDonald, Langdon-Brown Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
- P. J. Hoddinott, Scholarship in Mining Geology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

Places at Oxford and Cambridge for 1975:

- C. C. Burnham: Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, for English.
- K. R. Laing: Christ Church, Oxford, for Psychology with Philosophy.
- R. P. Lockwood: Magdalen College, Oxford, for Modern Languages.
- W. H. Mealing: Magdalen College, Oxford, for History.
- N. H. Roe: Trinity College, Oxford, for English.
- M. N. Rogers: Brasenose College, Oxford, for English.
- K. Tanner: Trinity College, Cambridge, for Modern Languages.
- G. N. Townsend: Christ Church, Oxford, for Philosophy, Politics and Economics.
- I. C. Vale: Lincoln College, Oxford, for English.

UNIVERSITY PLACES 1974

- M. N. Adam: Durham, English.
- S. Amin: St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- J. B. Amos: Royal Veterinary College, London, Veterinary Science.
- S. G. Andrews: Durham, Geography.
- P. N. Barber: City, Sociology.
- D. A. Barnes: Reading, Estate Management (for 1975).
- N. J. Berendt: St. Andrews, French/Economics.
- J. Berth-Jones: St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.

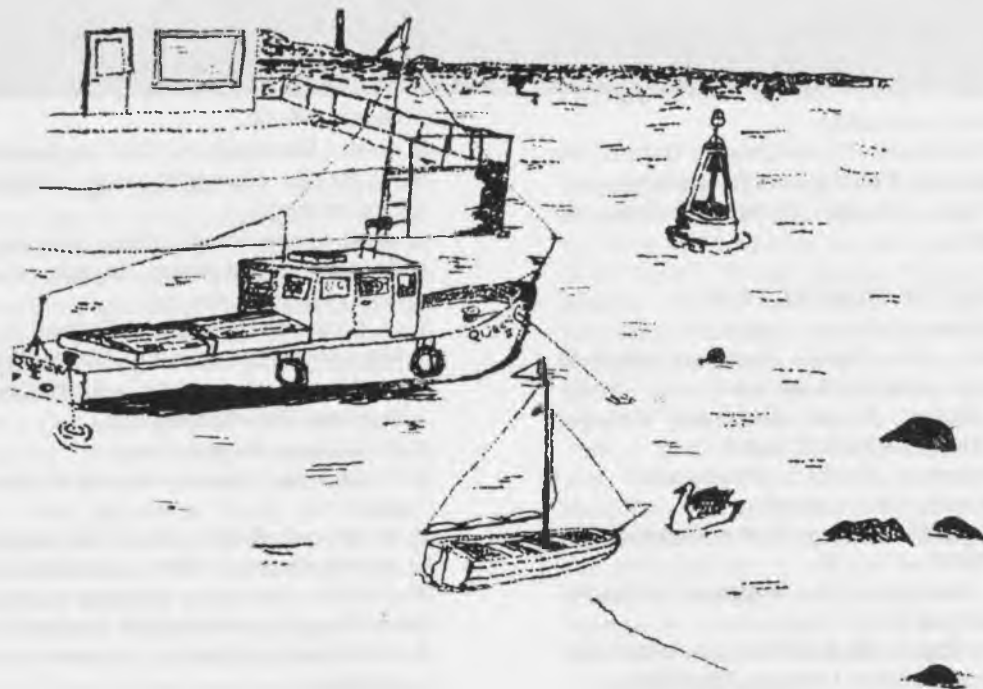
- S. Bird: Bristol, Civil Engineering (for 1975).
- K. R. Bolding: Royal Dental College, London, Dentistry.
- J. Brooks: Swansea, Economics.
- M. S. Bruffell: Leeds, Law (for 1975).
- P. J. Burnham: East Anglia, Social Studies.
- M. D. Channon: Loughborough, Civil Engineering.
- P. A. Cockett: Royal Veterinary College, London, Veterinary Science.
- T. Dowdeswell: Kent, Public Administration & Management.
- S. A. Edwards: Liverpool, English.
- J. P. Graffy: Birmingham, Medicine (for 1975).
- M. E. R. Hardy: Westminster Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- F. J. Harrison: Southampton, Electronic Engineering (for 1975).
- W. J. Hawken: Bristol, Medicine.
- P. J. Hollingsworth: Bristol, Economics.
- S. P. Hopkins: Imperial College, London, Electronics (for 1975).
- S. L. M. Hunt: Newcastle, Mining Engineering.
- G. H. Hunt: Exeter, Law.
- G. A. Johnson: Newcastle, Law.
- A. P. Jones: Bristol, Politics & Sociology.
- J. H. Jones: Royal Northern College of Music, Music.
- S. Kreft: Birmingham, Civil Engineering.
- H. Lasocki: Loughborough, Mechanical Engineering.
- K. A. R. Liebscher: Durham, Biology.
- I. D. Leigh: University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Law.
- A. J. Longworth: Imperial College, London, Mechanical Engineering (for 1975).
- R. A. Mansfield: Loughborough, Computer Studies (RAF Cadetship).
- F. P. Massey: Brunel, Law.
- S. P. Melrose: Leeds, English & History of Art.
- J. P. Newell: Bristol, Civil Engineering.
- L. J. O'Callaghan: Bristol, Geology.
- T. J. Orlik: Liverpool, Modern Languages.
- M. A. Page: Southampton, Social Sciences.
- E. J. Pearce: Salford, Biomedical Electronics.

J. M. Pearce: Imperial College, London, Electrical Engineering (for 1975).
E. H. Peters: Strathclyde, Business & Administration.
P. J. Poskett: Southampton, Electronic Engineering.
R. E. Quiney: Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
W. M. R. Ramsay: Royal Holloway College, London, Classics.
M. J. Rust: Southampton, Civil Engineering.
I. Saunders: Edinburgh, Ecological Science.
J. D. Savage: Queen Mary College, London, Biology.
I. G. Shearer: Southampton, Mathematics.
D. C. Simpson: Bristol, Medicine.
D. J. Stevens: Keele, French.
I. K. Stewart: Loughborough, Mechanical Engineering.
D. C. Stewart: Southampton, Commerce & Law.

D. R. V. Thomas: School of Oriental & African Studies, London, Geography.
M. G. Tordoff: Leeds, Psychology.
W. A. Trendell: Bristol, Economics & Accountancy.
M. J. Vaughan: Reading, Psychology.
M. W. Waring: University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Law.
I. P. Walker: Loughborough, Electrical Engineering.
P. Whitcombe: Manchester, Electrical Engineering.
P. N. Watson: York, English & History.
S. A. Yaghmourian: Kent, Economics & Accountancy.

POLYTECHNICS (Degree Courses)

A. B. Corser: South Bank, Building.
A. G. Lewis: Kingston, Economics.
A. Smith: Portsmouth, Engineering.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

RIFLE CLUB REPORT

As the 1974-75 season draws to its close we look back on the year which was an improvement on the 1973-74 season, yet perhaps was not as successful as was hoped.

Shooting for the lower school continues on Monday and Tuesday nights under the auspices of Mr. Sollars and Dr. Fair respectively, whilst Wednesday afternoons and evenings are devoted to sixth form and team practices.

A return to the arrangement of postal matches against other schools this year did much to increase the interest of those in the potential team bracket, the competitions improved, both the shooting and the attitude of team members to practices.

The results of the matches shot in the winter term were as follows:

St. Edward's School Oxford 1st VIII 945;
R.G.S. 1st VIII 929.

St. Edward's School Oxford 2nd VIII 851;
R.G.S. 2nd VIII 815.

Sherborne School 1st VIII 773; R.G.S.
1st VIII 749.

The advantage gained in interest far outweighed the disappointment of defeat, and the matches were a good preliminary practice for the 'Country Life' Competition which was itself to be shot in March. Shooting was in general an improvement on last year; however, the organisers failed to send us one of the two landscape targets required. Both teams had to shoot on the same target and we await the judges' decision on the validity of this, and the final scores.

Much has been done this year to improve the lot of those who plod across the sodden field after school to a cold, sometimes flooded range. Over £30 has been spent on much needed improved lighting, slings and sundry equipment, as well as necessary replacement targets.

It is hoped that shooting will continue to flourish next year. There is no lack of marksmanship in the lower school (we have the Bucks junior champion in our midst) and it

is hoped that the high standards will be improved upon. Next year there will be the 'Country Life' competition and individually organised matches. It is also hoped that we will enter the National Small-Bore Rifle Association Stanforth Cup for the first time in the memory of the present committee.

Finally, on behalf of the committee and all members of the rifle club may I thank Mr. Smaje, Mr. Sollars and Dr. Fair, without whom we would not be able to continue on the large scale on which we run today. Also on behalf of those for whom 'A' Levels loom I wish the club every success in future competitions.

R. J. Wallen

WARGAMES CLUB

At last we have the long awaited meetings after school from four till six on Mondays; the same day as the lunchtime meetings. Now we can play larger wargames, and even some board wargames, notably Diplomacy.

Apart from that not a lot else has happened since you last heard from us. A Naval Wargames tournament has been proposed, but no-one has got round to playing it. Most of the members of the club like to wander about from period to period, scale to scale and from land to sea.

In the previous report I failed to mention the trip to the Imperial War Museum. Under threat of the sack from the Chairman I say that all who went enjoyed it.

For all you peaceful, warlike people who can afford the paltry 15p to join you will receive exceptional value for it.

A. H. Jones

The Environmental Society submit no report this year—to conserve paper.

Are the roots of the society spreading throughout the school?

6.B

SENIOR VULTURE

This has been the second term of the 'Vulture' society which tries to introduce a larger element of 'culture' into boys' lives. There have been four trips this term and variety has been the key-note.

The first trip was to the Shaw Theatre to see Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* starring John Alderton and Sydney Tafler. This was probably the most popular outing, if not the most adventurous.

The next was to a production of Puccini's *Tosca* at Brunel University. Before the opera the Producer and the Conductor gave us two lectures on how to make an opera. The performance was generally very good and any deficiencies in the production were more than compensated for by the singing.

The last two trips have been much more adventurous and probably more rewarding.

The first of these was to Reading to see some student productions of the Japanese *Kibukki* and *No* plays. The intimate atmosphere of the hall and the unusual style of acting provided a complete contrast to the earlier trips and despite earlier fears about the success of the outing it was enjoyed by all.

The last outing was a double bill. First we went to the Royal Academy for the Summer Exhibition and were generally impressed by the work on view (despite some somewhat sarcastic comments about the more abstract paintings).

Later, we went to what was perhaps initially the least popular event but was probably the most successful in broadening our artistic experience. We went to the Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear Imrat Kahn give a recital of classical Indian music. Once we had adapted to the sound of the Sitar the concert proved totally absorbing.

Vulture will not function in the summer term—which is a pity—but will fly back into action in September when visits to a Prom, and a concert of *avant-garde* music are planned. Other ideas have yet to be hatched.

All of Vulture would like to thank the members of staff involved in the planning and organisation and hope they have found

it rewarding—Mr. D. Smith, Dr. R. Dorrance, Mr. R. Lyons, Mr. A. Manwaring and Mr. J. Mitchell.

S. D. Everson

JUNIOR VULTURE

Well, we were off again for another jolly term with our fellow 'Culture Vultures'.

The first excursion was to the Young Vic theatre to see the play *Macbeth*. The performance was unusual in so much as that the parts of Macbeth and of his wife Lady Macbeth were played by three and two players respectively. One of the Macbeths was played by none other than James Bolam, of *Likely Lads* fame. The performance went well and was much enjoyed except for one brief incident when the 'mist' created by the mixing of dry ice and water backstage, intended to give a spooky stage, failed to envelop the stage and enveloped the audience instead. Cough! Splutter!

Next we visited the Palace Theatre in Watford to see a performance of the ballet *La Fille Mal Gardee*. It differed from usual ballet as each scene was preceded by an introduction by one performer who went through all the movements of the scene to come, explaining their meaning and significance. Although it was a trifle long the visit went down well.

The third and final visit (only three this time) was to Sadlers Wells Theatre to see the company's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* preceded by a performance of another Sullivan opera *Cox and Box*. The performance was excellent, marred only by the fact that the size of the stage from our distant viewpoint was comparable with a matchbox (opera glasses were provided, and were no use at all). On top of that, not all could be heard from our seats positioned high up close to the roof (we had to mind we didn't bump our heads), and the seats were, to say the least, confining.

Despite that little episode we all agree that Vulture is worth it all.

Thanks to the Masters who helped us to have an enjoyable and interesting term.

M. Bull with P. Nagle

DRAMA SOCIETY

The school drama society has not undertaken any major production since the last issue of *The Wycombiensian*. However (don't sigh with relief too soon), following the huge success of last year's travelling production of *Cinderella*, Graham Townsend decided that a shortened version of *Charlie's Aunt* might be acceptable to those old folks homes and hospitals which we annually subject to our Christmas effort. The support of Mr. Smith and Mr. Mitchell was enlisted and the show hit the road.

In fact the show was a great success, but unfortunately it was not possible to put it on for the school, as we did last year with *Cinderella*.

At present the Thursday Afternoon drama group is working on *Saint Joan*; and I believe that in the not too distant future it is hoped to stage *The Spider's Web*.

Finally on behalf of all us sixth formers on the verge of being thrown into the cold, cruel world: Gary Philbrick, Steve Widberg, Chris Sheldon and myself, I should like to thank Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Smith for all the work they have done with us over the last few years.

Michael Blundell

THE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Things done last term:

1. Put up a few railway exhibition posters (wow!).
2. Managed to get cars round both lanes (gasp!) of the slot car circuit.
3. Nearly finished the railway (gosh!).
4. Fused all the lights.

Things to be done this term:

1. Trip to Didcot railway museum.
2. Mend the fuse.

P.S. If you were fired by all the above you are probably completely normal and have never been down to the Model Railway Club and, if you're sensible, will never do so. If you thought it was funny, you are probably a second former and are very welcome at the MRC.

M. J. Hagger

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Photographic Society or camera club has had a more active year than before. The darkroom is now functional (more or less), now that the water supply has been turned on again, and many people are making regular use of it; those people, that is, who do not have such a 'convenience' at home. It is a relief this year that we have several members from the junior school, as well as from the senior school, to carry on the running of the society in years to come.

Last term we had two interesting lectures: one by the headmaster and one by Fraser Wallace, an old boy of the school. This term, the results of the competition will be announced and it is hoped to run several excursions.

Thanks are due to the committee members: M. South (Halina), S. Matthews (Instamatic) and G. Saunders (Brownie). Also to the two caretakers of the society: M. Earl (Pentax) and G. Ryder (Pentax).

Good Shooting!

*P. (Spon) Robinson
(Praktica)*

THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

'It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' (*Luke 15: 32*).

Are you still lost? Do you know the true meaning of life with a capital 'L'. Do you know the reality of knowing Jesus Christ personally—the reality of His wonderful love, joy and peace, which words cannot express? Are you still dead waiting to be born alive, are you lost or found?

In the fellowship here at school many people have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal saviour, they have found the answer to what life is all about, through the way in which Jesus uses each

one of us in our daily lives. This past term we have had many speakers come to the fellowship and through God's word many people have been brought to the Lord.

We are planning to have speakers regularly this term as well as our Bible Studies and times of worship, which during the summer will sometimes be on the school field. If you would like to talk about the Christian life, what it all means, God's promises for you, then please feel free to come to the chapel any lunch time, we will be only too glad to speak with you.

David Gerrie

MUSIC SOCIETY

Each lunchtime sees the Music Society maintaining its high standards of playing and singing.

This has recently been displayed by the Senior Wind Band at two lunch-time recitals given in the Queen's Hall. Both were encouragingly well attended and it is now hoped that similar recitals will be organised in the future.

Both orchestras, now renamed First and Second instead of Senior and Junior as previously, are busy preparing their pieces for the Summer Concert under the leadership of their conductors.

The Choral Society, as guest artists in a concert at West Wycombe on St. George's Day, sung two sets of songs by Dyson and Britten, in the delightful surroundings of St. Lawrence's Church.

A number of the Choral Society attended a professional performance of Puccini's opera 'Tosca' at Brunel University last February at the kind invitation of Mr. Man-

der, former senior science master of this school. But, the coach broke down twice, thus delaying our arrival there by about an hour.

This year's Summer Concert is to take place earlier than usual on 21st May. Both orchestras, the Wind Band and the Choral Society will be performing. At the time of writing plans are afoot to give a farewell concert on July 10th to Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Smith to acknowledge the keen interest they have always shown in the school's music. Many distinguished former pupils have agreed to come back for the occasion to make it a fitting tribute.

The Music Society would like to thank both all those who are leaving at the end of this term for their loyal support and Mr. Holmes for his dedicated leadership during the past year.

S. R. Armstrong

G. J. Philbrick



AN M.P.'s LETTER

The Houses of Parliament
Westminster
5th January 1642

My dearest wife,

I am writing to you with the greatest haste in order to inform you of the strange but serious events that have occurred in and around the Houses of Parliament.

As you may have heard, it has of late been the policy of we supporters of John Pym to press for the control of the army and navy to be handed over to Parliament. As we expected the King refuses to agree to these demands, but I am afeared that his Majesty has now allowed the rash side of his nature to prevail and yesterday he himself burst into the chamber and demanded that five of our members should present themselves for arrest and subsequent imprisonment in the Tower. A few hours earlier the five members in question had fled on being told the King's fiendish intentions and I now hear that these men, by name John Pym, Sir Arthur Haslerig, William Strode, John Hampden and Denzil Hollies, are lying low in a London tavern of low repute.

When the King received no reply he asked of the Speaker where Pym and the others were, on which the Speaker fell to his knees and told his Majesty that he was in no position to disclose their whereabouts. The King made a comment that I did not hear and went on to say that 'Our birds have flown.' Before leaving he told us all that he expected us to deliver these men unto him and that they would be fairly tried, A likely story.

I am now of the opinion that the whole affair can only have violent repercussions and that is why I am writing to you and trusting the correspondence to my valet with orders to make the utmost haste. If war is the result, I wish the Grace of God will register with the Parliamentarians, but I pray that our Puritan ends may be achieved with only the spilling of Royalist Blood.

I command you to fortify the hall in the event of war and I promise I shall return home at the first opportunity.

I send my deepfelt love to Anne, to Piers and to you, my love, and may God ever be with you and guide you in all that is righteous.

Your husband,
M. Bull

TIME

Today
Is yesterday's tomorrow,
And tomorrow
Is the next today
But yesterday
Is dead
And gone away.

C. Sinden

RETURN TO DEVIANT CITY

As I walk to my home
I see choking, dense black smoke
That shrouds the dying city.
I see people,
Aimless wanderers of a dream.
Hesitant, listless and unsure
Little figures groping through the fog.
(The fog of a grotesque nightmare.)
Their lifeless eyes see right through me
They are the last of the survivors.
I am a stranger, lost in my own home
How long have I been away
Three days or three years?
I stumble to where my flat used to be,
My hunger building is cut in two.
A body comes alive.
I remember me from the old days,
When life was good it was fine,
And when it was bad it was coarse.
I don't want to recognise me
No one wants to recognise the faker.
I am alone, lost in my own abode.
Just me, myself and the deviant corpses
Inhabit this dead and dying city.
Deviod of all life.

N. McDonnell

THE PRISONER

He sat in the dungeon, he sat dejected,
He felt disgraced, by man rejected,
Cut off from the world and all its pleasures,
Cut off from his loves, his riches and treasures.

And so he sat there all alone,
Saddened by how bad he'd grown,
And so he lived from day to day,
But freedom seemed so far away.

Before he had had many friends,
He'd kept up with modern trends.
He was so proud of powdered wig,
But now he didn't feel so big.

He dreamt of when he would be free,
And of how different things would be,
Of how his friends would laugh and scorn;
He sat there, miserably forlorn.

He thought to start his life anew,
To try his badness to subdue
To leave behind all his old ties,
To steal no more, to tell no lies.

He washed, he cleaned, he scrubbed with lye
He whitewashed him with whitening dye,
He changed the outward man complete,
But his heart filled with deceit.

J. Metcalfe

OF AN EVENING

Lately
Of an evening, from my room
I have taken to looking beyond my own horizon
Beyond the iridescent hedges
Where the lonely wander, probing
Tenderly
Carefully
Fingering the smooth blisters of their minds
That you and I call love.

C. Sheldon

MORNING

In the morning
When a plated sun has risen
And you are withered by the light
You lie across him,
And watch the twitching eyelids
While he dreams of the night.
Your fears are for the future
His are for the past.

C. Sheldon

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP 1975 TO SNOWDONIA

Fully kitted out with new fellboots, convertible cloth caps and lurid red and pink invertible 'trendy' shirts the Geography Field Trip got off to a snowy start from High Wycombe on Friday 4th April travelling to Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel in about nine hours. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot, Messrs. Cook and Gamester, rather too many 'Trendies', seven Lady Verney girls and finally the second year 6th, who successfully spread vice and 'corruption' throughout L.V.H.S.

The planned course involved studies of Highland and Lowland glaciation, the latter on Anglesey, visits to a slate mine and H.E.P. pump storage station, an Urban study of Caernarvon as well as the many aspects of field work, e.g. geographical features and their origins, rock types and changes, land usage, improvement and operation, and the effect of sequent occupants in Anglesey.

Excitement was with us every second and the speed of events was incredible. Saturday was highlighted by a strange race up Nant Ffrancon between J. Child and C. Dixon—I believe they were trying to pass water (streams?!) as many times as possible in a stipulated time. On Sunday the upper sixth were pushed off to 'the least interesting part' of the valley, the shrewd Mr. Gamester contending that they were the group 'most likely to succeed'. So while the 'Trendies' ignored

the girls, the upper sixth ignored the sheep—as best we could. During that walk minds worked overtime—thinking of ways to cook sheep and keep amused. We found many new games t' play and in fact didn't mind the valley at all—but for the sheep! Baa the way, Ossie did the best sheep impression falling in the river and a marsh!

Continuing our games, on Monday we played at miners first, then later H. 'Icarus' Talbot nearly gave us all a thrill by jumping off a dam wall in a high wind. On Tuesday Mr. Talbot suffered from wind and couldn't climb! On Wednesday we went to Caernarvon and on Thursday we played hide-and-seek with Mr. Cook in Portmadog. Mr. Cook won and the losers got wet trousers while Rupert had the Runny Bunnies!

Anyway, a good time was had by all and we did learn—lots of new games. We feel it prudent at some stage to thank Mr. and Mrs. Talbot, Mr. Cook and Mr. Gamester for bearing with us and for their not inconsiderable efforts to educate us.

Acknowledgements:—Bedpans courtesy Coca Cola U.K. Ltd.; and Mr. Cook and Mr. Gamester for their inseparable sense of humour.

Edited, censored and recompiled by R. H. Edwards from original by 'Dirty Dora', 'Sweaty Betty', 'Silly Billy' and 'Knobby Nora'—who also send their love.

FRENCH EXCHANGE—1975

*R.G.S. & Lady Verney High School
Lycee Alphonse Daudet Nimes*

For the first time the French staff are competing with the German staff for the pride of place in furthering the linguistic talents of our language students—by organising an exchange along the lines of the Osnabruck exchange.

Our party consisting of 10 boys and 14 girls and providing more than adequate worries for Mr. Edwards and his counterpart from Lady Verney, Mrs. Keen, assembled at Victoria station early on March 27th and arrived at Nimes after an arduous journey at 6.30 the following morning.

During our stay we had one organised outing—to the Carmargue when we experienced the delights of the South of France—it poured with rain nearly all day and we

spent six or seven hours sitting in a coach.

The 'lycee' having 1600 students, for the most part lacking any sort of discipline, the atmosphere appeared more relaxed than here.

Recovering from the effects of over-eating and drinking, but after spending two enjoyable but short weeks in Nimes, we had to make our way home. Our most sincere thanks are owed to Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Keen without whom nothing would have been possible, and it is to be hoped the exchange will be repeated next year (for a longer period?). Meanwhile we look forward to the arrival of the French party in July.

M. Dunkley & S. Parker

OSNABRUCK '75

Last Easter, another exchange took place with our friends from the Ratsgymnasium, Osnabruck, in the northern part of Germany.

The German boys came to England first, and had a most enjoyable time. Once again our lessons were invaded by them, but most masters were really pleased to have them! We all went to Windsor to see the Castle and other parts of the town; the Germans alone went to Ercol and Wycombe Museum. The school also organised some sport for them, and they went to London with their teachers once or twice.

The boys from the R.G.S. set off on their long journey to Osnabruck, early in the morning, the day after the Germans went home. The journey was very good, with no mishaps, apart from a slight one at the Hook of Holland. Our reserved carriage had been occupied and we ended up in a 1st class carriage, but nobody seemed to mind!

We were all very pleased indeed with our

stay. The school has mixed classes, and the school day varies from three to five hours. They go to school on Saturday, but only for three to four hours. The food was very different, with many strange things, such as the many different types of sausages and bread, and also things like pickled cabbage! In spite of all this, you could still buy English sweets!

The German families were very pleased to have us, and took us to many different places. The school organised two trips, one to Karmann's car factory and one to Kaumerer's paper factory.

I think that everybody would like to thank Mr. White-Taylor for organising everything and making it all possible, and also Mr. Durbin for accompanying us there and bringing us home. Everybody wanted to go again, as everything was so interesting and such good fun!

P. J. Green

BOARDING HOUSE REPORTS

SCHOOL HOUSE

The main interruption of the smooth and efficient running of the boarding house (to quote part of that immortal punishment line) was undoubtedly not the nocturnal habits of some 5th formers, but rather the marriage of Sue. We were very sad to see her leave and we wish her and Richard the very best for marriage and domestic cooking. But our gloom was quickly removed by the appointment of our new cook Mrs. Symonds, who we hope will be very happy here.

Reverting to the more normal happenings in the house, sport is once again well supported by the House. The vice-captain of Rugby S. J. (or J. N.?) Pearce is in our ranks, and J. N. Pearce—an unknown quantity until this season—has proved himself in the hockey team—'Supermac' is no comparison to this prolific goalscorer. The House provides many players in the badminton teams, and of course in the basketball teams also. The whole Study is now legally entitled to drive—a fact which may be a record, and talking of records, there is no shortage of music emanating from that mysterious room. Day-boys (the people in the big wide world) are entertained by the incessant music from the Old Common Room from one of the many cassette players in the House. The end of last term saw the very sad and tearful (?) departure of Kel, and so at last we can all get some work done! The prefects are working hard in order to keep up the standard set by last year's A-level brains.

Last Christmas saw the formation of 'Prefects People'—a group of four School House boarders, who if mentioned by name could well emigrate to another country (e.g. Cressex, Beaconsfield, Charndon, or Winslow). They gave only one performance and afterwards received rapturous applause. However, Pan's People still have the edge over Prefect's People (certainly in Rick's opinion).

The knowledge of Scottish football has increased and now everyone knows Aberdeen and the whole team (perhaps only two names since that's all that fanatic Neil (Och, Och) Diack knows). Rob Stewart adds the information about Rangers along with the other lunch-time window-hangers from SS.

The star-studded School House football team took the pitch a few weeks ago against the notorious Staff team. The last clash resulted in a 5—5 draw, this time the score was 4—4 . . . and then a blizzard. Our super-hard defender hopes that Messrs. Page and Hillier have recovered from the little taps received during the game.

To conclude with the most important part of this historic documentation. This is the only chance that the House has of thanking Mr. Skipp, Mr. White-Taylor and Mrs. Verling publicly, and so on behalf of everyone, many thanks for all that you do, even though we do not sometimes always appear to appreciate it all. Once again best wishes to Mrs. Symonds.

C. A. Keen

SNOW

The snow falls down
From a very great height.
On the way it gets cleaned,
That's why it's so white!

C. Sinden

UPLYME

Since the last report there have been three new arrivals at the boarding house; P. Ferguson, M. Cover, and K. Haugh. All are lower sixth formers and have had no apparent difficulty in settling down. Paul Spencer has left us and is now a day-boy, his position as Deputy Head of House has been taken over by the illustrious A. Iveson. Also I. Price has been made a prefect.

Once again Uplyme has had a strong representation in various school teams over the winter, and their efforts do not go unnoticed as A. Jones, R. Andrews and I. Price have been awarded full colours for rugby, and A. Hotchkiss half colours for shooting. A. Hotchkiss also won the fourth form cross country championship and has represented the school first team for this event regularly throughout the season. Many juniors have

also represented the school at rugby. And now that the summer term is upon us I am sure that the boarding house will be strongly represented in school teams for summer sports.

The boarding house remained active in school functions during the holidays. Nine members of the house attended C.C.F. Camps; three at R.A.F. Lossiemouth and six at Leek with the Army. Three senior members went on geography and biology beer trips! Consequently, a good time was had by all.

Our thanks to Mr. Wilson, and to Mrs. Wade for keeping us well fed. Special thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. Pattinson for the smooth running of the house.

Finally good luck to all those taking G.C.E's this summer; Mick needs it!

I. P. R. Wallis

TYLERS WOOD

This year was highlighted by two considerably different events.

The first was the trip down to Aldershot to watch Richard Edwards perform in the final England Schoolboys' Trial. The whole boarding house set off armed with its cheese sandwiches and chicken legs in the minibus. All agreed that it was a very enjoyable trip only spoiled by the fact that Richard suffered from the prejudices of the Northern selectors. However, Richard did very well to get this far and now sports a blue tie to show for his efforts. Well done Dick, and here's wishing you many full games for Wales!!

On other sporting fronts, Richard and Robin Edwards helped the 1st VII to a comfortable victory in the Bucks Sevens. A. J. Edwards and M. Noblett also represented the school at rugby and I. Wallis and M. Lee ably ran the lines for the 2nd and 1st XV's

respectively: the latter not quite so ably on occasions! A. J. Edwards also played basketball for the school, and S. Corrin and M. J. South represented the school at hockey. Congratulations to S. Corrin and A. J. Edwards on gaining their half colours.

At the moment the house is just recovering from its second major event; a complete rewiring of the house. As a result, absolute chaos reigns. Still, it should make the house a lot safer in the future!

I would like to thank the House Tutor, Mr. Edwards for all he does for us, in spite of the fact that he nearly succeeded in getting rid of the prefects with his herbal tea. And I would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs on behalf of all the boys for the efforts they make in keeping us all happy, we are extremely grateful.

Roger Andrews

C.C.F. NOTES

Annual Inspection

It is very pleasing to record the visit of an Old Boy of the School, Air Commodore I. M. Pedder, Director of Air Traffic Control, to carry out the Annual Inspection of the C.C.F.

It was a great pity that on this special occasion, security regulations resulted in no rifles being available for the Guard of Honour which as a result lacked some of the pageantry usually associated with this occasion.

Whilst the Inspection programme followed the pattern of former years, a very pleasant atmosphere prevailed throughout the Inspection. In his remarks to the assembled cadets Air Commodore Pedder recollected that he joined the school as a pupil in September 1936, the same day as Lieut.-Col. Pattinson joined the school as a member of the teaching staff. He went on to explain the value of the work of the C.C.F. and to thank the Cadets, N.C.O's, Officers and Headmaster for the efforts all had put in to make the occasion such a happy and successful one. The Chairman of the Governors, Mr. J. K. Prior, was present throughout the proceedings and suitably thanked Air Commodore Pedder for his visit.

ARMY CAMP

A party of five officers and thirty-six cadets made the annual pilgrimage to Leek for Adventure Training during one of the coldest Easters experienced for some considerable time.

The sharp frosts and frequent flurries of snow gave real meaning to the survival training but happily these were not severe enough to restrict other activities.

Under the skilled guidance of Capt. R. G. Hollingworth and Lieut. A. Boreham, those who volunteered were introduced to simple rock climbing involving the use of ropes. The navigation exercise, involving a route over Kinder Scout, was in doubt because of the weather until the last moment. Happily the Mountain Rescue Centre approved and encouraged continuation with the plans—to the relief and satisfaction of all participants.

The limitation on the use of blanks and pyrotechnics reduced the excitement of the night exercise, but the hardiest were perhaps glad that their request for an all night exercise was limited to one which ended at midnight, and were grateful for the generous supply of hot soup before 'turning in' to face the infantry exercise of the next day.

A 'treasure hunt' combined with a map reading exercise was further enlivened by the additional task of collecting an object of natural interest. The day being April the first, some amusing anecdotes were related at debriefing time before the awards for the various team events. These included adventure type initiative exercises to satisfy the appetites of all those who enjoy the challenge of a problem to be attacked by ingenuity, teamwork and strength and agility.

As ever the evening meal was a highlight of each day and it was astonishing to see the quantities of roast joints, baked potatoes etc. which disappeared, only to be followed by unlimited portions of various fruit pies. Instead of the traditional roast chicken for the last evening the party had to make do on roast turkey but at least all the sherry trifle disappeared on the night and none could be found to supplement the breakfast of boiled eggs on the day of departure—to the regret of those whose memories extended to the camp of the previous year.

R.P.

R.A.F. SECTION

The highlight of the term was the Easter Camp at R.A.F. Lossiemouth. Thirty cadets arrived in a blizzard at this far-flung outpost of Empire by courtesy of a British Rail snow plough. Even though weary after the six hundred mile journey, it did not take very long for the more experienced members of the section to acquire sufficient survival equipment to deal with any possible misfortunes on the return trip.

Flying was carried out in Nimrod, Shackleton and Chipmunk aircraft, not quite as much as hoped for because of the poor

weather and the start of a Russian Fleet exercise which restricted flights available to cadets. However other activities which included the Jaguar Training Squadrons, Outdoor Exercises and a full range of sports facilities, ensured that there was little chance of boredom.

Field Day visits have included Brize Norton with a flight in a VC10, Northolt and the R.A.F. Museum at Hendon and a look at the helicopters of R.A.F. Odiham. We look forward to using the range at R.A.F. Halton for .303 shooting this term.

Gliding courses were completed during the Easter vacation by F.Sgt. Green, Sgt. Rackham and Cpl. Hannam. Bad weather beat Cdt. Sullivan but he hopes to fly solo this term. Cpl. Howe enjoyed a Britannia flight to Gibraltar as part of the overseas visits scheme.

By the time this article appears we will have 'lost' the S.N.C.O.s of the upper sixth form who have done sterling work in running what is now the largest R.A.F. Section in the whole C.C.F. This achievement reflects not only on the cadets' abilities, but also on the organisation of the C.C.F. which both trains and allows young men to shoulder responsibility.

In conclusion I should like to thank Flt. Lt. A. J. Sollars and Plt. Off. Dr. R. W. Fair for their enthusiastic help and encouragement during the past year.

C.P.S.

NAVAL SECTION

It does not seem very long since I was writing an article for the last edition so I am afraid there is little to report. The interval did contain the main event of the year however, with the Annual Inspection on March 20th. Displays by the section included a Jackstay and Hoisting Gyn, whilst other cadets were involved in life-jacket drill instruction. We also entered a shooting team for the inter-section shoot but we don't talk about that.

In the Easter holidays several cadets attended courses organised for the C.C.F. by the Navy. L/S Thornton went on a canoe course which 'consisted of canoeing in the two-man Klepper Aerius canoe, and lectures

on canoeing subjects at A.T.U.R.M. Poole. The canoeing consisted of an afternoon canoeing in a lake to get used to the canoes, followed by a seven mile trip across Poole Harbour and up the R. Piddle to Wareham, and a two-day expedition down the R. Trent from Spetisbury to Christchurch, camping the night at Wimborne Minster. It snowed during the second day, so the second part of the expedition was called off, and we spent the rest of the day canoeing in the pool at camp.'

The second account comes from A. B. Raistrick. 'After arriving at Portsmouth we were taken to HMFT *Bembridge* by bus. It was 80 feet long. The following morning we set off for the Channel Islands. After 10 hours we broke down as we entered Alderney Harbour. We had to send off to Portsmouth to get engineers to repair it. We had to keep the ship clean, do the meals and had instruction in Navigation and seamanship. We had P.T. every morning and shore leave in the evening. We each had to keep one hour's watch at night. Eventually we were flown back in a light aircraft due to rough weather.'

As ever the courses lived up to their reputation of high standards of training and enjoyment and I hope full advantage will be taken of the summer courses.

Now is the season of our content! For once again we will be spending Thursday afternoons 'down by the riverside' at Longridge, Marlow. Activities will include sailing, pulling (rowing to you!), canoeing and no doubt swimming!

I.N.H.

THE SOUNDS OF HEAVEN

Is it the sound of heaven
Rushing into this cold room
Through the broken pane?
It is a young girl laughing,
Holding in her young girls hands
A poet with golden wings
That flutters to escape.
Now he is trapped, what use his firefly glow?
The simple arcing of the carbon
Blinding, dozing all that see,
Set's this young girl silly-giggling
And puts the poet out.

C. Sheldon

YESTERDAY'S WORLD

'Five events in light, sound and movement' was what the poster said, and quite a lot of people weren't greatly helped by that. What it meant, as quite a lot of people now know, was five programmes, ranging from the Middle ages to the present day, consisting mainly of contemporary quotations read by four boys and four girls, backed by slides and music illustrating the script. This possibly sounds academic and boring to those of you who weren't there, but the 200 or so who came to each performance know different. The content and theme of each one varied widely, but they all contained their share of humour, horror, nobility, tragedy, and told us much we didn't know before.

The drawbacks to the scheme are obvious: it's not really possible to compress a whole age of man's history into ninety minutes, without running the risk of distortion and omission. (I know Galileo wasn't mentioned in the 'Renaissance' script, for example, so don't tell me). It is also difficult to hold an audience for ninety minutes when the actors are mostly static. That the programmes were all valid academically, that the views of the age were all tenable, and that the programmes were never boring, are tributes to the scriptwriters, and, more important, to Dennis Smith's production and the reading ability of all the people who took part. Obviously there were 'flat spots'; obviously

some read better and more compellingly than others; but it would be invidious to pick out individuals here. Those of us who were there know who 'starred', but the final success or failure is an overall thing.

Apart from the actual performance, I feel it is essential that the amount of work put in behind the scenes should be acknowledged publicly. The hours spent selecting, recording, and taping the music for each programme, for example: it isn't just a case of selecting a couple of records. Vetting the hundred-plus slides, organising them and projecting them correctly; collecting and presenting the material for the exhibitions; typing and duplicating the scripts. How many of you have actually thought how much time and sweat that took? A lot; and the numerous people who did it cheerfully deserve our thanks. Special mention should also go to Steven Edwards who spent many evenings at the French Embassy persuading them to give us thousands of slides, and masses of exhibition material, not to mention all the 'Blue Tack' we pinched from him to stick posters and pictures on walls.

Well, it's all over now, and most of us will also be sorry, for it has been a very interesting and enjoyable venture, which I, for one, would not have missed.

I.A.B.

RUNT

Runt . . .
I saw him once,
Shuffling and snuffling home
On his own.
Unclipped safty-pins behold,
He folded up
Dissolved, whoops!
Into a small viscous puddle.
A council workman came and swept him up.
'What the . . . ' I cried,
'Can't you stop this?'
'Why, everybody's doing it these days'

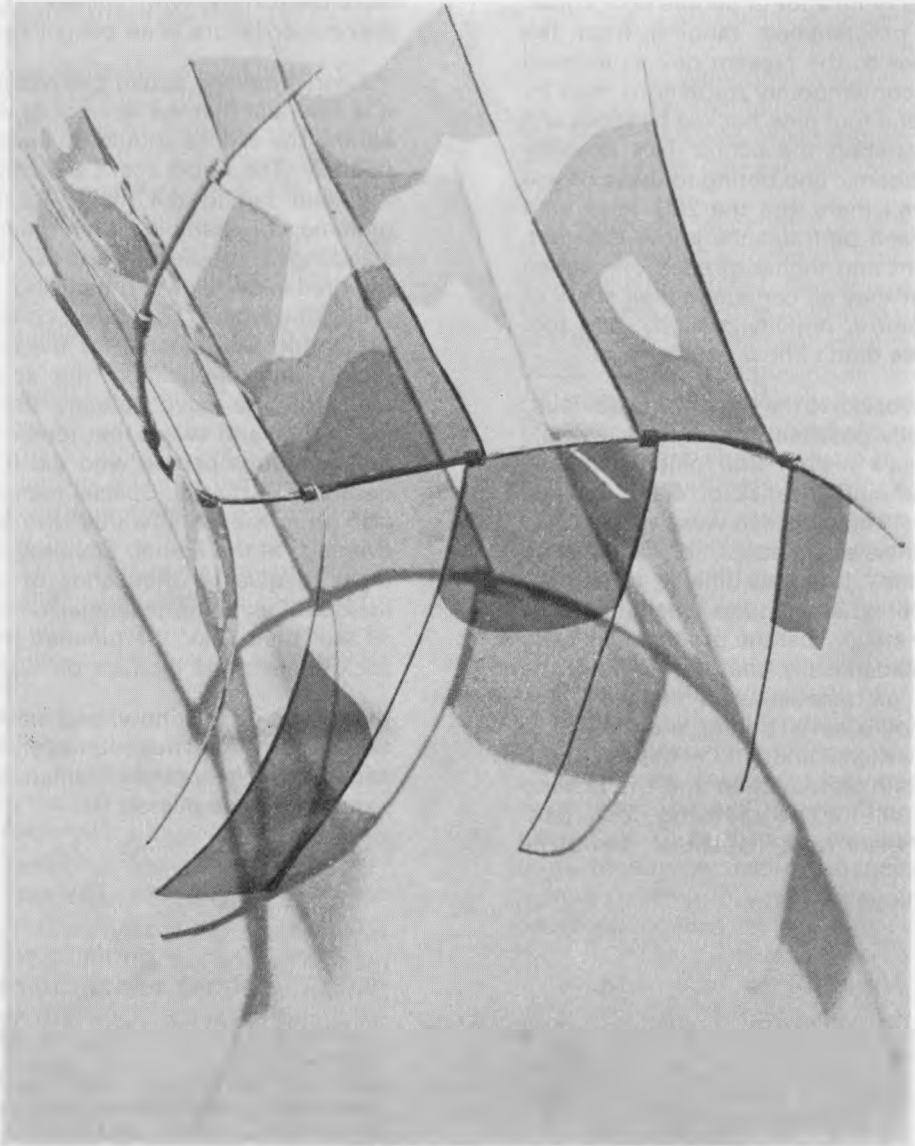
P. Dodd

COURSE FROM CHAOS

Somewhere between sorrow and the ending of
sorrow
Came you. Days of dying, weary watchfulness,
Eventual, dazy slumber slipped into vividness.
All stayed the same—as always—and it changed:
Myriad—and more—illuminations shone from your
mirror.

Now, my dear, you are gone, drifted on; sorrow may
slip back.
Yet I remember days of your presence
And, yes, all was so well.
In the fall of these my hours, I crawl forward
Though sorrow slips softly.

C. Hawtree



SKELETON LEAF
wire and cellophane sculpture

'PAINTED LADY'

No-one there;
Only blue-velvet sky and stars
To listen to my song:
Of fashion-house ladies far, far, away.
Dreaming in bed about sex and fresh air.
Sunset silhouette peeps
From the horizon
At their arising,
Eyes all filled with tears.
Putting on masks for one more day of
Theatre.
Mascara and lip-gloss glow go
Like thunderbolts to the storm.
Pistachio-green or peach
Henna coloured hair
Satin, silk and lace adorn
A golden, sun-tanned body.
Studio-lights and the camera
Snapping you for eternity,
Fashioning you into some 'Painted Lady'.

S. Parker

It's snowing ; each flake
Like a thought from the
Soul, is ruined as it touches
The Earth, We've ruined
Our Earth, we've ruined
Our lives.
Circumstance and coincidence
Are all that fire is now.
Silence is now boring,
Love is now sex ; a chemical
Affinity.
Profundity is now harmful
And breeds pessimism.
Words like these, (self-
righteous 'poets' call
them 'poems') just bore you ;
Interest in feeling is dead.
Self-centredness is worth
More than any 'A' level, now.
Don't confide, secrets are
Weapons against you, now.
Friendships now dwindle
Through apathy and absence ;
Photos are prized more than
Memory.
I don't own my body,
That President with a
Missile does : we own
Nothing but our souls
Forever, and here
They've forsaken us in
Disgrace.

C. J. Prince

LIFE AND DEATH

Life & Death is a game we all play
When we are small
You be the cowboy I'll be the Indian to-day
When you get shot please fall to the ground

Waiting round the corner is the Indian and his gun
Running around you don't see him come.
Fall to the ground
Count to five then once again you're alive

Up for another chance to shoot at him
Never knowing where he will be.
He's run off to hide again
Who knows who will win ?

Doesn't matter, down for five,
Up again :
Doesn't matter life & death
Is only a game.

But do we still play that game
Thinking that life will follow five seconds later
Thinking we've always got another chance ?
Death could be round the corner
And life won't follow five seconds after
Life will only follow if Jesus is your saviour
You've only one real chance
Because life is not a game any more
And Hell is a mass of flame burning to the core.

D. J. Gerrie

GRAND FINALE

It did not feel like a night of extremes
Not the night when the innocents screamed
Not the night when 'Kubla Kahn' was written
Not the night Van Gogh gave himself a cold halo of
insanity

I was surprised
Your bitterness cut deeply
On that rich man's lawn,
On that evening
You threw stones at the birds
And drove away the tenderness

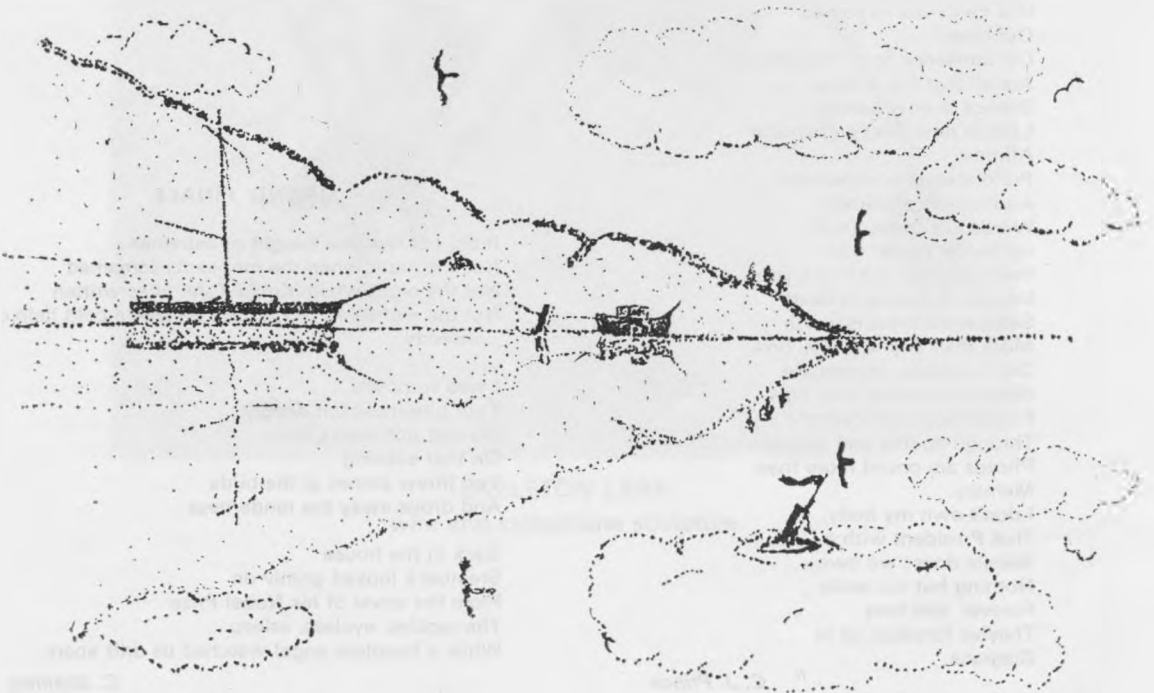
Back in the house
Steinbeck looked grimly on
From the cover of his Nobel Prize
The reptiles, eyeless, asleep
While a headless angel watched us drift apart.

C. Sheldon

HOLIDAYS

I stared out to sea,
The waves were crisp and blue, and
shining in the twilight
And on the beach, I could see palm trees
with their leaves fluttering in the wind.
I could hear the cries,
The cries of seagulls as they glided over the silver
foam,
And off the shore I could hear fishermen putting out
in their small boats.
And as I lay there on the golden beach
I thought, this is paradise.

P. D. Barker





RUGBY 1st XV 1974-75

Back row: A. D. Jones, M. C. A. Long, W. F. Longworth ; *middle row:* M. G. Lee, J. D. Child, R. D. Andrews, C. J. Hoggett, L. N. Holmes, Mr. J. R. Learmonth ;
front row: I. H. Price, I. C. Mawhinney, S. J. Pearce, R. H. Edwards (Captain), I. D. Lipscombe, R. J. Edwards, P. J. Hoddinott. (absent) S. R. Calverley,
M. G. Coups and E. N. Will

SPORTS REPORTS

1st XV RUGBY 1974-5

Altogether this has been proved a not unsuccessful season, and with a bit more experience in some positions and more height and weight in the second row the team could have proved quite formidable. As it was the effort from a small pack was admirable though the point scoring relied heavily on a few players—R. D. Andrews, S. J. Pearce and R. H. Edwards. The final record stood at Played 24 ; Won 12 ; Lost 12 ; Points for 388, Against 314. R. D. Andrews added the 4 points for his 200 at the Oxford Sevens—quite an achievement for a first season in 'senior' rugby!

After a bad start and some erratic performances the right balance in the team was at last found by moving S. Pearce out to the wing and including E. Will, a promising 5th former, at centre. Problems in the pack were tidied up by combining M. Coups at second row with P. Hoddinott, and S. Pearce was to score 10 tries in the eleven matches in his new position.

The Spring term meant the departure of N. Jones and the 1st XV had no hooker. C. Hoggett was hastily converted from the back row and by the end of the season was showing considerable promise. Until then, however, there was never much possession from scrums against good sides, though being very strong in the loose there was still adequate possession.

Half the matches after Christmas were also played without captain and full-back R. H. Edwards who appeared first in regional trials and ultimately in the Final England Trial and England Schools U/19 squad training session at Aldershot. In his absence the team tended to disintegrate, losing 48—3, 14—32 and 22—11 against a weak St. Nicholas G.S. side. On the brighter side however were victories over Emanuel, the Old Boys, St. Albans and the previously unbeaten Watford G.S. The final success of the season however was reserved for after Easter when in the Bucks Schools Sevens the R.G.S. emerged as runaway victors. In four games the 1st seven scored

96 points, conceding 4, beating Cedars School in the final 26—0.

Some mention must be made of next season and of the improvement among the younger members of the side. I. Price was erratic at times but with more confidence in his own ability he should be a very useful player next year. Similarly, props I. Lipscombe and W. Longworth are strong and have two years experience of 1st XV rugby, yet still seem to lack faith in themselves. R. J. Edwards, A. Jones, L. Holmes and I. Mawhinney provided a tigerish back row though sometimes slow to set-up second phase possession themselves. P. J. Hoddinott, I. C. Mawhinney and M. Coups did an excellent job in the second-row even though they lacked real size. Nevertheless I. Mawhinney was an invaluable line-out jumper and together with Hoddinott provided much possession not forthcoming from the 'tight'.

That is just about all, except for Simon Calverley who, once again blessed us with his speed and Jon Child, who trundled on content to let the world go round and stumbled his way to the best try of the season. Thanks Jon!

The committee: R. H. Edwards (capt.), S. Pearce (v.capt.), I. Lipscombe, I. C. Mawhinney and N. Jones.

2nd XV RUGBY REPORT 1974-5

Despite regular training sessions (come rain or shine) the 2nd XV never quite had the experience or strength to overcome opposition which was more often than not older and heavier. Some matches were lost through 'crying off' on the Saturday morning from both the 1st and 2nd XVs. On two occasions—the matches against St. Nicholas and Gunnersbury—this led to Steve Newman (capt.) being unceremoniously hauled off to the 1st XV leaving Nigel Currie (v.capt.) in charge of a herd of panicking 2nd XV players.

Throughout the season the forwards played admirably. Regular players in the

pack included Kevin Carroll, Simon Fenner, Stuart Robinson, Paul Dickinson, Murray Fane and Bill Moore (whom injury prevented playing as much as one would have liked). A special mention must be made of Robert Stewart who became very proficient at hooking the ball faster than his forwards were retreating and Paul Bedford (5ft. 4 in his stockinged feet) who performed miracles in the line-out. The team was grateful for the contributions of Mark Hagger and Dave Gerrie who played occasionally and also Martin Walker who joined the squad in January.

What of the three-quarters? Peter Chapman always looked his best on the wing. Steve Newman and Nick Hasted when together looked dangerous in the centre, while Chris Morrish and Neil Hamer performed enthusiastically and capably without excelling. Mark Jordan and Nigel Currie were the most successful half-back pairing. Mention should also be made of Bob Hammond who played a couple of games at the beginning of the season and Alan Edwards and Chris Keen who stepped in willingly one Saturday when the team was much depleted.

Thanks must go to our resident touch judge Ian Wallis who had the misfortune to take the day off against St. Nicholas and therefore missed his second and definitely final chance of stardom. His place was taken by a loyal supporter, Russell Wood, who had hardly ever played a game of rugby in his life before. Thanks are also due to Mr. S. Edwards who latterly showed signs of developing a cry of 'Come on the Seconds!' somewhat reminiscent of that of his predecessor Mr. M. Prue.

All in all, despite a lean season, a good time was had by all, the best performances being against (Emanuel, Watford, Aylesbury and Vyners. The record? Played 16; Won 5; Lost 11; For 122, Against 334. Many of the team will be returning next year and it is hoped that their hard experience during this season will yield dividends in the next.

*Steven Newman
Nigel Currie*

UNDER 15 RUGBY

The regular supporters were often heard to say, 'Who scored that one? Was it Mark or Phil?' Few could tell at first but towards the end of the season the Woodbridges' individual talents were easily recognisable. Their strong and elusive running and competitive temperament enabled them to accumulate 25 tries throughout the season.

But it was by no means only the family effort which led to a highly successful record of twelve victories, two draws and only four defeats. The backs scored 95 per cent of the tries which speaks highly of the ball handling and running skills of Woodhead, Journet, Timpson and Maclaren; the latter captaining the team with great maturity both on and off the field of play.

The effectiveness of a set of backs however is controlled by the type of possession the forwards present and therefore the success is indicative of an excellent team effort and of playing to a regular, predetermined pattern.

Although small, the forwards worked together well as a unit, often surprising many bigger packs. Bourne led the 'heavies' throughout, showing all the qualities of a fine No. 8 forward: speed, strength, and intelligent ball handling. Noblett 'pinched' most of the ball, sometimes legally, from the set scrums, while the other forwards, especially Paterson, worked hard to steal the ball away from loose rucks and mauls.

The morale was excellent throughout and it was this team spirit which led to notable victories over strong school teams and over a much stronger and older team from High Wycombe R.F.C.

The other highlight of the season, I was led to believe, was a well-deserved end of season party organised by Mrs. Woodhead. To her and the strong contingent of parents who followed the team throughout the season (and sometimes through the suburbs of London) the team and I extend our hearty thanks.

Regular players: Brown, Titcombe, Woodbridge M., Woodbridge P., Woodhead, Journet, Maclaren, Timpson, Jolly, Bourne, Chandler, Hill, Wise, Kelly, Paterson, Noblett, Gulliver.

Stephen Gamester

UNDER 14 XV RUGBY

Played 19 Won 12 Lost 6 Drawn 1

This season seemed to bring alive most of the hopes of the end of last season. Our forwards, after a few rearrangements, involving notably Corfield coming in at prop and Molesworth moving to No. 8, were as big and almost always as fast as nearly all the opposing packs we met. Billig, coming in at scrum-half, soon had a good understanding with Morrish, who fed the backs well. Despite bad passing at times, the backs won many matches through hard running in the centre. Mention must be made of Dean, who filled the problem position of full-back and whose excellent kicking won and saved many games.

The season started well, and until Christmas we had lost only four games. After Christmas we all expected to win the last five. Unfortunately, through bad luck and injury, we lost two and drew the last breathtaking game against St. Nicholas in the dying minutes, proving again that we could come from behind and win by dint of team spirit and determination. Our hopes are high for an even better season in 1975-6.

To close, I must thank all people connected with the team in any way, especially Mr. Goldthorpe for spending so much of his time with us, and Scott-James for turning up in all weathers as touch-judge.

B. J. Morgan
(Captain)

I would like to add to Morgan's report that I greatly enjoyed running this year's Under 14 XV, and I believe that many of these players will do well in future R.G.S. teams; they are a team with plenty of promise.

I hope that others in Set One enjoyed their two terms of rugby and will forgive me for the number of times they were used as opposition for the school team! Without them the team's success would have been so much less great.

I would also like to echo Morgan's thanks to Scott-James for the splendid job he did as touch-judge.

S. R. Goldthorpe
(Master-in-charge)

UNDER 13 RUGBY

In many ways this season was a trial one. How well would we fare against teams who had been playing a year longer than us? Was it possible to reach a reasonable level of knowledge and skills in the few weeks leading up to the first fixtures? Would the new idea of keeping each form together (instead of splitting the year into ability groups after 6 weeks) throughout both terms and culminating with inter-form games, be successful?

Looking back on the season the overall standard of rugby has at least come up to that of previous second forms, with two years experience.

The inter-form competition was keenly and skilfully fought, with 2E, the youngest boys in the year, winning with credit. One felt that each form had benefited greatly from playing together for the whole season.

Training sessions were attended by an average of 44 boys each week, an excellent turn-out! Variety and enjoyment were the key-stones which led to fitness and knowledge although at times it was nearly over my dead body.

The results of all our efforts gave us seven wins from thirteen games with 136 points for and 127 against. Most pleasing were the wins against teams with 2 years experience. However, some individuals do deserve a special mention. Burgess, Davies and Palmer lent thrust and power to the backs and scored 24 tries between them, whilst in the forwards Nicholls and Cheesewright were always in the thick of things.

Twenty-one boys played for the team this season. The following played more or less regularly:

3X—Dean (full-back)
3Y—Price (full back), Madgwick (wing), Billig (scrum-half), Stott (lock)
3A—Speed (centre), Molesworth (No. 8), Buckingham (hooker), Barrett (prop)
3S—Connor (centre), Morrish (fly-half), Goodwin (lock), Coburn (flanker & wing); Corfield (prop)
3T—Morgan (flanker), Shakespeare (flanker)

The following also played: Revell (3A), Tregunna (3A), Jarvis (3A), Vladar (3A) and Hawtree (3A).

Altogether we can look forward with confidence to the next season, and back with some pleasure to our 'trial' year.

D. J. Stubbs

1st XI HOCKEY 1974-5

Played 19 Won 11 Drawn 5 Lost 3
Goals for 49 Against 20

The 1st XI had a very enjoyable and successful season, with some very pleasing results: Stowe (2—0), Merchant Taylors (2—1), St. Barts. (5—0), Culham College (6—0). The losses were to High Wycombe 2nd XI (4—3), Magdalen College School (3—0) and Watford (1—0).

All the players excelled themselves in effort (but possibly not in energy), and everyone added their own touch to the general atmosphere of the team: Nick Morgan gave us a fine example of leadership and hair-styles. Michael South provided sportsmanship, British good humour and was a pillar of strength in the middle of the field (unfortunately though, pillars don't seem always to move very quickly over the pitch). Mark Barker gave some excellent displays of 'left-wing' play unfortunately interspersed with some temperamental outbursts. John (back-of-the-net) Ireland had a fine season scoring 21 goals, one or two of which were classics; possibly his season was influenced by the beads, bangles and plastic charms worn around his neck. John Wigram scored 9 goals overall, some vital, and has now retired to live in a bookcase. Chris Mould, a promising full back, reassured the team that with 'God on our side' we could not lose and insisted that our three losses were punishments for Nick Morgan's activities the previous evening. Des Lindsay managed to tear himself away from one or two of Wycombe Wanderers' games to prove himself a fine goalkeeper, supporter, abuser and avid supporter of all Mr. Page's plans. Marek Guz had a fine season, working hard at the difficult position of left back. Don't forget to remove the lead from your stick when it next breaks! Ian Quiney had a very

promising first season in the 1st team, and is hoping to continue playing next year if his right hand (which missed many a fine short corner) has recovered by then. Chris Prince, known as Cabbage to friends, had a fine season on the right wing. Despite very tight shorts he ran well with flicks, pushes and lacrosse type shots that worried all goalkeepers. John Pearce, first reserve for much of the season, played enthusiastically and finally earned his place in the team. His hard running took him into many dangerous positions and he is lucky not to have been seriously injured (as he was last year). Richard Allison played well and fitted in with the team admirably after taking over from Tim Digby who had an excellent autumn term in the team before taking Oxbridge examinations. S. Coltman, M. Cover, S. Cousens, S. Corrin, M. Hulls, A. Wilde and C. Carpenter also played for the team but not enough to warrant unseemly comment; your turn next year lads.

The school team provided six Bucks U.19 Hockey players: D. Lindsay, T. Digby, N. Morgan, M. South, M. Barker and J. Wigram.

The team would sincerely like to thank Roy Page for his efforts in dealing with the team, Malcolm Cook for arranging fixtures, and Alan Dare, our groundsman, for some excellent pitches.

C.P.J.

N.J.M.

UNDER 14 HOCKEY 1974-5

The side was the best Under 14 team the school has had for several seasons and this was reflected in the playing record of P 10, W 5, D 2, L 3. Only one side, Stowe School, was definitely superior, the other matches drawn or lost could easily have been won. Some of the games in March were played in atrocious conditions, particularly the match against Shiplake College which was narrowly lost 2—1.

The difference between this side and previous years' teams was its ability to score goals, usually a problem at this age. However the seven goals scored against Rickmansworth in December gave the forwards the confidence to hit the target.

Cook, the captain, led the side well from inside forward. He was the foundation of many good movements from mid-field and hit the ball with precision. McIndoe was a very competent centre-half, safe in defence, imaginative in attack. Crook showed considerable close control on the right wing and centred well. Stokes, Derry and Wiles all performed well and Knowles, the top scorer, although as yet a little lacking in some basic skills, proved to be a very effective centre-forward. The defence was greatly helped by the knowledge that behind them was a safe goalkeeper in Ball (3X). These players and all who played in the team still have a lot to learn about the game and I hope they will continue to work hard at the basic skills next season.

On returning to school after the Easter holidays I was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Michael Abbott. He had not missed a game during the season and had proved to be a very solid performer at right back, safe with a powerful hit. He had been vice-captain of the team and helped me considerably with the running of the team. I and the team will miss him very much next season.

Scorers: Knowles 9, Cook 6, Crook 3, Wiles 1, Amin 1.

M. W. Cook

ROWING

Well, folks, the R.G.S. Boat Club is moving into the depths of technical rowing methods. We broke into the piggy-bank in January and found there was enough money to buy £600 worth of new boat and £70 worth of new (bigger) blades. This (coupled with I.A.B.'s new, super, improved training methods), means that Old Father Thames is getting 12ft. 6½in. of new energy. Talking of training methods, do *you* know what 'fartlek' means? No, it doesn't.

Races? Oh, yes, well, the main event was the Schools' Head of the River Race, over 2 miles from Hammersmith to Putney. The 20th March finally arrived, the boats were loaded onto various vehicles, Ian Vale got

there late, and the expedition left for London. Owing to atrocious weather conditions, the start was delayed for an hour, and the 1st IV (Roj, Hoppy, Mark, Tim and Cope) put in a below-form effort, mainly because Hoppy was still recovering from his two-day ordeal on the brink of death, and because the favourites, Ealing H.S. came screaming past at Mach 1 about half a mile from the start. We thought we had better go full pressure then, and finished 5th out of 70. The 2nd IV (Colin, Dave, Ian, Bill, not to mention Johnny P.) put in an above-form effort, and finished 23rd, the highest placed B crew.

The 5th April saw the 1st IV's international debut, when we raced a team from Marlow's twin town in France, Marly-le-Roi. We beat Marly's Senior 'A' crew, but lost to Marlow. We don't know why, but perhaps it had something to do with them being an elite crew.

Much thanks to coach and captain, for spending the holidays making trestles, and painting blades and riggers. See y'all at Wallingford—if we survive the 50 mile sponsored row on April 27th.

R. D. Marshall (Capt.)

By the time this is printed, this report will undoubtedly be out of date, but at the moment (April 22nd), the 1st IV is looking sharp; the Captain is clearing the water with his blade (more or less), and technique and fitness are developing, though there are differences of opinion on what style should be employed. The Tim Airey 'Amputate your fingers on the saxboard' plunge, and the Colin Pendrill 'Dislocate your neck' wrench, are two which may, or may not, catch on. The boats are polished, the slides are gleaming, the blades are painted, my mantel-piece is empty, and we are looking for a successful regatta season once again.

I.A.B.

Boat Club II—Additional Note

As this year's 2nd IV is composed of a fairly literate group of individuals for once, it was felt that this was our big chance to deny all the snide accusations constantly brought against us by the 1st IV. For too long now we have remained silent, content to prod off up the river at breakneck speed and attend

the rigorous training sessions; for too long the Boat Club Report in this magazine has been a whitewash job, an attempt by the 1st IV to deny our existence and denigrate our achievements; now, at last, we speak.

At Putney this year we finished 23rd out of 61 entrants in the fours event. We were fifth in our class of boat and the first 'B' crew home. Unaffected by this fair degree of success, resting not on its laurels, our gallant little band continues to toil towards the great tasks ahead of us—'plus ultra'! Outings in general seem to show that we will have some interest in the coming regatta season. Perhaps at last we will rise from the watery depths of obscurity (near Marlow Rowing Club) to show the world, the 1st IV and I.A.B. our true worth.

N.B.—All thanks to Mrs. Ferris and her spirited tonic after 2 miles' gruelling racing at Putney.

C.P. et alii

UNDER 19 BASKETBALL

The season has been quite successful. There were good team performances against Watford G.S. and at Aylesbury G.S., and yet there were some disappointing games: Aylesbury at home and at Desborough School.

The season began at the old rivals—Dr. Challoner's G.S. A good performance under a certain amount of pressure with the new members of the team (C. Carpenter, R. Ault, A. Edwards and P. Dickenson) soon settling down and who developed well as the season progressed. The result of this enthralling match was a good win for the R.G.S.: 48 points to 40. Unfortunately the return fixture never quite happened since the opposition did not turn up. In order to gain vital experience of full-size courts, a game was arranged against the Wycombe Pirates (murmurs of: 'Who are they?'). It was a foregone conclusion what the outcome would be—a convincing victory for them, although it wasn't

an embarrassing defeat for us. The National Championship match at Portsmouth against Southern G.S. was perhaps the most disappointing match of the season. The full-size court was not such a great disadvantage as before, but the team failed to hit top form.

Two matches were played against Aylesbury G.S., who this season turned out to be tougher than last season (probably because Fred wasn't playing). Both games were well refereed and enjoyable, resulting in good victories for the team, although Aldersley disagreed with this and was therefore sent off as usual.

New opposition this season came from Oxford School. After losing 46–42 away, everyone was eager for the return match. Without doubt this clash was the hardest and probably the best game of the season, with the R.G.S. avenging the earlier defeat 72–59. (Thanks to Aberdeen for the good (perhaps sarcastic) scoring.)

In order to entertain the thousands of spectators who came for the match against Watford G.S., the team absolutely went to town, with Paul Dickenson enjoying his permanent stay under the Watford basket. In 40 incredible minutes the R.G.S. scored 107 points, the opposition scored 22.

My thanks to the whole team for an enjoyable season: Roger Andrews, who never failed to score vital baskets; Peter Hoddinott for the earlier fixtures, sound defence and temper; Stephen Aldersley, who although playing for his first (and last) season defended strongly (!). Chris Carpenter and Ricky Ault proved that they have great potential in their young minds and shooting arms; Alun Edwards and Paul Dickenson never failed to remain enthusiastic and will indeed be very important as the foundation of next year's team along with C. R. Carpenter.

On behalf of the whole team many thanks to Mr. Stubbs, who never failed to point out weaknesses and basic errors in our play, and who instantly rectified them.

C. A. Keen (Capt:)

UNDER 14 BASKETBALL

This season was our introduction to competitive basketball. The team worked hard and we learnt by our mistakes. This is illustrated by our rivalry with Brenchwood : we lost the first game narrowly ; the next we won comfortably and, in the last match of the season we defeated them crushingly.

The forwards, Speed helped by Coburn, showed aggressiveness and finishing power ; Highton and Morrish, lacking height, made up for it in skill and shooting ability. The guards, led by Morgan and Goodwin, were on the whole a strong line of defence. There was good strength on the bench with Andrews, Shakespeare, Dean, Vldar and Price.

We must thank Mr. Gibson for his very useful practices twice a week : he kept us working hard and made sure our priorities were correct. C. Keen also helped teach us match play and tactics. Thanks to other members of the squad for attending practices and coming to matches to keep our seats warm.

After an experimental season we keep our fingers crossed for a promising future.

P. Morrish (Capt.)

INTER-FORM BASKETBALL

The inter-form basketball competition took place during lunchtimes in the spring term and the majority of the fifty games played were keenly contested, and all of them filled the gym with enthusiastic spectators. Games were played on a league basis to get the fairest results, which were as follows in the junior and middle schools.

1st	2A	3A	4S	5S
2nd	2B	3S	4X	5Y
3rd	2E	3T	4T	5T
4th	2D	3Y	4A	5A
5th	2C	3X	4Y	5X

The sixth-form competition was run by alphabetical groupings with P. J. Hoddinott's team beating those of R. D. Andrews, C. A. Keen and D. M. Bucknall.

D. J. Stubbs

CROSS COUNTRY

In the Spring term, the fixture list was shrunk to four events to avoid the embarrassment of persistent defeat. Sir William Borlase obliged us by providing the one victory of the whole year while Harrow County casually imposed a crushing defeat (they didn't even use their best runner). At the Oxford Relay the RGS ran well to come 20th (about half way down the field) and at Dr. Challoner's the RGS was 16th—or 6th from last.

Part of the trouble was, as usual, inability to get out the best team at any one moment ; we didn't even have a full team for the photograph, never mind the matches!

The silver lining to this black cloud was provided by the Under 17 team winning the district trials and by John Hoy getting into the Bucks team (he came 96th out of several hundred in the All England Race at Derby). Of the first team, Jolly, Woodman, Gray and Hotchkiss all tried hard and occasionally seemed to enjoy themselves. Others such as Shramm, Merriman, Dixon, Watts, Coulter, Chandler, Newton, Paull (sorry if I've missed anyone out) supplied a few laughs if nothing much else. Philips, Stanyon and Molesworth put in some good running in the district trials.

Thanks go to Mr. Wilson for helping with matches, to all boys who ran in the district sports and the kitchen staff for providing teas.

J. Roebuck

Master in charge

Intra-Form Results (Individual)

Open : J. Hoy

5th Form : J. Hoy

4th Form : A. Hotchkiss

3rd Form : Molesworth

2nd Form : Kelly

FENCING

Following the raising of an impressive £90 by the club, the RGS has become 'electrified'. It is regrettable (yet somehow inevitable these days) that most of the new equipment has spent its time back with the manufacturer being repaired, but the main point is that the RGS club has acquired new status in the eyes of other schools. It suddenly seemed possible to have more matches. Thus the RGS can now field three foil teams as well as epee and sabre teams and so far has the distinction of being unbeaten in major matches. In the Spring term victories were recorded over Pangbourne, Radley and Stowe, in each case by fairly comfortable margins.

Success, however, has not been confined to matches. In the Berks, Bucks and Oxon competitions, the RGS had a grand total of eight finalists: Speed (1st) and Vladar (5th) in the Under 14, Leece (3rd) and Woodman (4th) in the Under 19 and Leece (2nd), Woodman (3rd), Barry (4th) and Rackstraw (5th) in the Under 20. This realised a haul of one gold, a silver and two bronze medals. Speed went on to get a second gold in the Southern Section Under 14 by taking first place. Consequently he will be going to the All England Finals in Cheshire on May 17th.

The basis of our success lay with the first four fencers. Both Leece and Woodman have improved to deadly proportions; their intelligent aggressiveness has upset adversaries to good effect. Barry's lack of training hardly seemed to make much difference to his performance and Rackstraw's crab-like style successfully bewildered enough opponents.

Obviously Speed, the Under 14 champion, could develop into a good fencer, perhaps a senior schoolboy champion? But his strength (such an asset at the moment) will matter less later on. Furthermore, he needs to acquire greater sophistication in attack and defence.

This year's leavers will undoubtedly create a gap in expertise that will be difficult to fill. So next year's results will depend on a group of able but inexperienced fencers (namely Richmond, Shepherd, Owen, Saw, Noblett, Poston and Radvan) and others whose poor

attendance for training has not brought out their full potential. (Hint!).

I would like to thank Andrew Leece and Graham Woodman for the keen and efficient help they have given to the club and to Justin Barry and John Rackstraw who have regularly helped to provide winning teams. Final thanks go to the parents of the captain who came to Reading to pick us up after one of the minibuses (it shall remain nameless) lost a wheel.

J. Roebuck

Master in charge

Bucks, Berks & Oxon League

We entered the B.B. & O. League mainly to gain experience fencing against senior teams, and as the R.G.S. was the only school team entering the other eight teams presented quite a challenge. Once the league began, though, our results seemed quite good and up to now we have won four and narrowly lost two of our matches.

RGS v. Salle Porter	Won 5—4
Wellesbourne	
(night school)	Won 6—3
Reading	Lost 4—5
Wokingham	Lost 4—5
Reading University	Won by default
Bracknell	Won by default

Many thanks to Mr. J. Roebuck, G. R. Woodman, J. Barry and J. Rackstraw for their participation.

G. Leece

SAILING SOCIETY

This term the sailing society has become more active: we have had two films, both of which have been fairly well attended.

The school is sending three boats to the selection trials at Great Moor Sailing Club for the National Schools Sailing Association Regatta. This regatta is to be held at Derwent Water in Northumberland (in the summer holidays) and we wish possible RGS entrants every success.

Stephen Gray (hon. sec.)

BADMINTON

The growth of badminton in the school is reflected by the increased number of teas ordered from the 'tuck-shop'. Thanks to the very efficient secretary (and gambler) Kumar Guha. This is the first year that 1st and 2nd teams have been able to be fielded independently of each other. The regular 1st VI sometimes consisted of Chris Keen, Kumar Guha, Derek Lindsay (occasionally), Geoffrey Lewis, Peter Hoddinott and Michael South. Both Stuart Woodward and Richy Ault were always willing to step in at short-notice and always played well.

The 2nd VI (the anonymous captain of which doesn't wish to write a report) was mainly 5th formers, who gained vital ex-

perience and promised well for the future. Enthusiasm not only amongst team players, but also in the Friday evening players could not be higher. There was a large pool of players from which the 2nd VI was picked. Regular players included Chris Morrish, Kelvin (Hazel) Jouhar, Ricky Ault, Chris Carpenter, John (Hockey Star) Pearce, Peter Harvey, Stuart Robinson and others. Many thanks to all of them and I hope that they've enjoyed the season. It remains only for me to thank Mr. White-Taylor sincerely for the 'behind-the-scenes' work which he has done and for keeping the shuttlecock situation tolerable.

C. A. Keen (Capt.)

JONI

From your concrete ivory towers,
In suicidal leaps, come songs
Each one a subtle confession
Of your less than average love-life

Each one a drop of you,
Mystically topping your reservoirs of passion,
Pouring out exact and equal measures
While we gulp greedily, as much as we can find
In our own lives

Each one, with a figure skater voice
Hissing and scratching on the ice,
Pirouetting smoothly,
Changing ranges.

Vicious circular songs.
Your brittle image smashes
To a thousand thin splinters
Leaving only the butterflies
Trapped in the record grooves.

C. Sheldon

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

The Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held in the E. R. Tucker Memorial Room at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday, March 22nd, 1975. Twenty-one Old Boys were present. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. Malcolm Smith.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were then read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the minutes:—

(a) The Financial Report

The balance sheet drawn up by the Hon. Auditor, A. E. Franklin Hole, was accepted. The continuing fearsome increase in magazine costs and postage was noted. The Headmaster expressed his own concern at the considerable expense of the printing of the magazine despite the new methods of production. He would give the matter his serious attention. The Hon. Sec. was given permission to withdraw up to £200 from the Club's Building Society account to meet increased costs.

Old Boys present suggested that in order to reduce the drain on the Club's funds it might be advisable to print the Old Boys' Notes in one edition of the magazine each year and only send out this magazine. Others thought a cheaply duplicated copy of the Notes and no magazine could be sent to members. The meeting finally decided that the Committee should meet and give the problem its attention.

Franklin Hole was thanked for the help which he gives so willingly.

(b) The Election of Officers

The officers for 1975–76 are:—

The President: Malcom P. Smith, Esq.
The Chairman: The Rev. A. J. Skipp.
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. A. Grant,
S. Morgan.

Committee:

The Rev. A. J. Skipp (1929–37)
J. K. Prior (1934–40)
G. C. Rayner (1937–45)
S. A. Goulborn (1928–36)
C. R. Rollason (1965–71)
R. S. Wombwell (1960–67)
S. E. Hands (1915–20)
G. W. Ray (1917–23)

J. P. Lord (1934–38)

G. E. Green (1940–46)

G. W. West (1935–40)

Hon. Secretary: M. M. Davies, Esq.

Hon. Auditor: A. E. Franklin Hole, Esq.

(c) The Governing Body

J. K. Prior (1934–40), Chairman of the Governors, reported a slight change in the make-up of the Governing Body. There were still fifteen governors, five Foundation Governors, five from the County, three from the Local Authority and two Parent Governors.

The Headmaster was thanked for conducting the meeting, the Hon. Sec. was thanked for his work and then all repaired to the Junior School Dining Hall for the Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner 1975

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, March 22nd, 1975. One hundred and two Old Boys gathered to welcome and pay tribute to their Guest of Honour, Mr. L. J. Ashford, M.A., who is retiring this year as Headmaster of Burnham Grammar School.

R. Pattinson, Esq., T.D., E.R.D., M.A., proposed the toast to Mr. Leslie Ashford. He outlined Mr. Ashford's contribution to the Royal Grammar School and education in Buckinghamshire in general. Mr. Ashford was Head of the History Department from 1947–60. His scholarship and dedicated teaching produced first class results. He was also a most loyal colleague who as the staff's elected representative stoutly upheld their rights. He was the staff's 'shop steward' in those early days after the war. He was the author of the History of the Borough of High Wycombe and co-author with Mr. C. M. Haworth of the History of the Royal Grammar School. He was chairman of the Bucks Committee of the Joint Four Secondary Association and as co-opted member of the Bucks Education Committee had played an influential part in defending the Bucks Grammar Schools. Mr. Pattinson wished him every happiness in his well deserved retirement.

In his reply Mr. Ashford said that on his

arrival at the School in 1947 he had found a great warmth and spirit about the place. He met a nucleus of men who had served or were to serve the School most of their teaching lives. The School was fortunate to possess such men. He then delighted the gathering with some of his experiences as the Headmaster of a mixed grammar school. The battles fought over the length of skirts and the height of heels were particularly thrilling to a gathering which only knew of boys. He thanked the Old Boys for the honour they had done him and hoped that the School would survive the danger ahead.

R. J. Martin-Fagg (1962–68) proposed the toast to the School and Club in an amusing speech of quite astonishing irrelevance.

In his reply the Headmaster thanked him for the toast and for being such an agreeable chap. The School continued to produce very good examination results. The numbers were below 1000. Among the governors were now two 'mums'. Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Tite as parent governors were firm allies. The School continued to excel at all manner of games and out-of-school activities. Serious external crises threatened however—pressure might well be applied if the authorities did not toe the comprehensive line. He had enjoyed being together with the Old Boys once again—the following Tuesday his successor would be chosen by the governors and he hoped that all would gather again next year to hear the next instalment from the new Headmaster.

DEATHS

Staff

C. E. SLADDEN, Esq., D.S.O., M.C., M.A. (1951–58), suddenly and peacefully on November 27th 1974, aged 84 years.

Mr. Cyril Sladden came to teach chemistry at the School when he retired from Eton in 1951. He brought with him a very special quality which inspired great respect and affection in all who knew him. He died at 'Seward House', Bodsey, Evesham, Worcs. in the house in which he was born. He leaves two sons.

Old Boys

F. R. CRAFT (1915–20), on February 22nd 1975, aged 69 years.

Frederick Robert Craft founded and ran F. R. Craft Ltd., house furnishers, in Desborough Road for 50 years. For many years he was an active member of the town's Chamber of Commerce and for the last ten years was chairman of the Desborough Road Traders' Association. Throughout his life he was known as a man who kept his eyes on events in the town and his letters to the editor often appeared in the *Bucks Free Press*. He leaves a widow and a son.

K. R. OAKESHOTT (1930–38), on December 15th, 1974, aged 54 years.

Keith Oakeshott gained an Open Award in Classics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and after graduating served for a while in the R.A.F. before joining the Foreign Office. His varied career took him to Rangoon, Cuba, Moscow and he was at one time Consul General in Hamburg. Before his death he was Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. He was awarded the C.M.G. He leaves a widow with a family.

R. WORLEY (1920–23), on January 7th 1975 in Wycombe Hospital after a long illness, aged 67 years.

Reginald (Reg) Worley founded his garage in Hamilton Road 40 years ago. He built up a fine business based on honesty and reliability. Outside business he lived for his home and his garden. He leaves a widow and a son and daughter.

F. YOUENS (1905–11).

Sotheby's held a sale of campaign medals in February 1975. One of the medals up for sale was the Victoria Cross awarded to Lt. Frederick Youens, Durham Light Infantry, in 1917.

P. THORNE (1933–39).

In the autobiography of Frederick Brittan' Litt.D., entitled 'It's a Don's Life', the following paragraph appears:

'Of the 124 Jesus men who are known to have died in the war there was none for whom I had a greater affection than I had for Peter Thorne, William Anderson or

Lambert Shepherd. Peter Thorne, the youngest of the three, did not come up from High Wycombe Grammar School until 1940. He read for the English Tripos and had rooms on my staircase, immediately under Q. He was a versatile man: he rowed in the College first boat, was a wing forward in our first Rugby side, sang in the Chapel choir, edited "Chanticleere" and was a leading Rooster. In the summer of 1943 he went into the Air Force and soon afterwards was sent to Canada to be trained. He wrote to me from Canada enclosing an article for the *Cambridge Review* and saying how much he had enjoyed life at Cambridge. "Rowing, Reading and Roosting—all at Jesus. What more could a man want?" he wrote. When he arrived back in England he was commissioned and took part in operations against Germany. Early in 1945 he was killed in action, leaving a widow and an infant daughter. Tall, fair, of fine presence and of magnificent physique, he was outstanding intellectually also. A born leader and teacher, and mature beyond his years, if he had lived he must have risen to eminence, whatever career he followed.

*Jeune, brave, riant, libre, et sans
fleurissures,
Je vais m'asseoir parmi les dieux, dans
le soleil.'*

NOTES

ABBOTT, D. C. (1965–71) is following a general apprenticeship with British Airways at Heath Row. He finds it a very challenging and rewarding course. He can recommend it and advises that two 'A' Levels are required and one applies in January for the September start. He sees M. S. WALLER (1966–72) who is still an operator in Test Group. He is in charge of shipping programmes on tape to other airlines.

BERKS, J. G. (1961–68) was married in March 1973 to Miss Mary McPhail whom he had met at Manchester University. They live in Didcot near Oxford where his wife is doing biochemical research. He is still

working for Lloyds Bank in the Trust division of the Reading office. When he reads in the Notes of various exploits of other Old Boys around the world, he feels he is living a very conventional life, especially for one who, when at school, was able to give his address in the Grey Book as 'Nassau, Bahamas'.

BLEWETT, P. C. (1966–73), a member of the South Bucks Judo Society, earned a place in the 'British Olympic' squad by winning a silver medal in the British Young Men's championship at Crystal Palace. He lost a 10 minute final by the narrowest of margins—one point. He is the current British Junior silver medallist.

BRIDEN, J. C. (1949–57). We have another professor. 'Jimmy' Briden is now Professor of Geophysics at Leeds University. In May his cup ran over with the birth of Hannah Rachel.

BROWNE, R. P. (1953–61) was promoted to the post of Deputy Headmaster at the Kennet School, Thatcham last summer. Kennet is an expanding 1,150 pupil mixed Comprehensive and so far all appears to be going well. He would very much like to hear from old school friends or staff at his address, 4 Bell Holt, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks.

DAVIES, R. O. (1963–69) completed his H.N.D. in Business Studies at Wycombe College of Technology and Art and is now Export Manager for Chippy Heath furniture.

DAWE, R. C. (1946–50). Pharmacist Richard Dawe gained a high honour recently. He arrived at his local bank in Hammersmith when a daring raid was being carried out. Realising what was happening he ran to his van ready to chase the robber. A gunman, carrying a self-loading rifle, ran to the car park to make his getaway. An off-duty policeman drove his car in front of the raider's. Richard immediately positioned his van behind, completely blocking the gunman's exit. For his courage he was presented with a Binney Memorial Certificate. There was one snag about his bravery however. When police arrived

- with a dog, the dog attacked him and tore the seat from his trousers before being directed at the robber.
- DOWDESWELL, T. (1967–73) found the transition from school life to that at Canterbury University so dramatic that he was quite overwhelmed. By February he had recovered and wrote that the range of activities at Canterbury is unlimited. He has been in touch with E. P. GIBSON (1965–71) until recently secretary of the gliding club. He is involved on the political side too and here he meets S. A. YAGHMOURIAN (1967–73). If anyone from the R.G.S. is coming for interview or wishes to see the University, Terry would be pleased to welcome him and show him round.
- ELIAS, M. J. (1962–69) obtained a degree in English, History and History of European Art at Oxford Polytechnic in 1973. He was in India and Nepal for seven months after that—eventful months in which he was jailed for a night, saw Everest and the Yeti and made his way back from Katmandu to Delhi penniless. In December last he was training with Brent Borough Council to become a housing manager.
- GOULBORN, S. C. R. (1957–64) is working for Associated Dairies in Yorkshire. He is a marketing executive attached to the Dairy Foods Marketing Division and is involved in running a major consumer advertising campaign aimed at changing buying habits. He now lives in Horsforth near Leeds and is married with two children. His father S. A. GOULBORN (1928–36) writes that following local government reorganisation he has been ‘abolished’ as an Alderman and is now a District Councillor and Chairman of the Housing Services Committee of Wycombe District Council. He is also a Justice of the Peace for the County instead of the former Borough. He is a governor of the R.G.S., the High School and John Hampden School and a manager of six local primary schools.
- GREEN, R. P. H. (1953–61) is happily settled in St. Andrews where he is teaching and researching in Latin. He and his wife Anne now have a daughter Rosamund who was born in 1973. He has met the three Shelton brothers up there and recently missed Professor G. D. B. JONES (1947–55) who chaired an archaeological conference in St. Andrews on rescuing the evidence of local history from the developer. Professor Jones has just returned from a month’s work in Southern Spain where Rio Tinto generously allowed him every facility to dig at Huelva. He reports that there is fantastic archaeology there.
- GRIMSDALE, W. T. (1920–25) is a Director of Sir Elly Kadoorie Continuation Ltd., St. George’s Building, Hong Kong. He has C.B.E., F.C.A., J.P. after his name and the Hon. Sec. has it on good authority that he is a very well-known and much respected man in Hong Kong.
- HALL, A. G. (1933–38). After 36 years in Community Public Health Administration in High Wycombe ‘Bert’ Hall transferred on the 17th February in the newly reorganised National Health Service to the post of Hospital Secretary, Amersham and Chesham Hospitals and the Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles.
- HODGE, W. F. (1952–57) recently contributed greatly to a programme on Thames Television, ‘A Place in Europe’. The TV critic of the *Daily Telegraph* wrote: ‘The Château of Vaux-le-Vicomte near Paris was seductively photographed by Frank Hodge who made it look the most desirable of residences.
- KNOX, A. J. (1958–65) is now responsible for all BBC TV Video-taped programmes made for sale abroad. The introduction of colour television in Australia and New Zealand has made him a very busy man.
- KRAMEK, A. E. (1966–69) has passed out of Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He obtained a degree in microbiology at Reading University and joined the Royal Navy in September 1974. He will take up his first appointment on the Commando ship, H.M.S. *Hermes*.
- LOWE, D. A. (1965–73) has been elected secretary of Caius College Musical Society and on to the committee of Cambridge University Musical Society. He is preparing himself for a summer concert tour to the South of France.

- MARTIN-FAGG, R. J. (1962–68) is lecturing in Managerial Economics at Slough College and is now in the employ of Berks. This is the most satisfying job he has had since leaving university but he doubts if it will be for ever.
- MINTER, C. (1949–54) is now Minter the Post. He is Postmaster at Gwastadcoed, Aberangell, Machynlleth, Powys. He also runs the village shop.
- MONAGHAN, N. (1965–72) has nearly completed his second year of Law at Newcastle University—it has been very strenuous. JOHNSON, G. A. (1966–73) has decided to read Law at Newcastle too. Monaghan occasionally meets HUTCHINSON, J. (1965–72) who is reading Economics and HUNT, S. L. (1967–74).
- OAKEY, N. J. (1969–74) was, when he wrote in August 1974, delivering new and repaired faulty televisions, radios and record players for Brandons of Beaconsfield. This enabled him to see the inside of the houses of the upper middle-class with which the area abounds. In October he went to Southampton University to read English and History.
- OXLEY, A. J. (1954–61) wanted to get in touch with Capt. E. L. 'Butch' Barrett and wrote. He is still with Southern Electricity but in a very pleasant area—working by the sea at Weymouth.
- PEARSON, F. W. (1967–73). Fraser Pearson how writes articles for the *Bucks Advertiser* under his own name. He started work as a Trainee Journalist on this paper and followed GRIFFITHS, N. P. (1966–69).
- PRIOR, P. J. (1929–36), 55 year old chairman of Bulmers Cider, got himself written up in a chat column of the *Sunday Telegraph* Business Section. His most embarrassing moment came after an exuberant and fulsome newspaper article told of his habit of quitting the company's chair to do the ordinary humdrum jobs of his workers. The highlight of the article was how Prior became a driver's mate on a delivery run. Some time later he was lowering barrels of cider into an extremely difficult pub cellar. The landlord came out with the offending newspaper article in his hand and said, 'Your public relations people churn out a load of old bull about your chairman, mate', and he darkly informed Mr. Prior, 'I would like to see your bleeding chairman getting barrels down into my cellar!' Peter Prior crept away back to his lorry—he couldn't tell the landlord what a load of Old Bulmers he was talking!
- ROBERTS, S. C. (1965–72) is in the third year of the Town Planning Course at Manchester University. He visited Amsterdam on a Field Course in April to study the planning aspect of the City. He frequently sees BOULT, R. S. (1964–71) in his fourth year of the Planning Course and occasionally meets SOLOMON, M. (1965–72) now preparing for his finals.
- ROLFE, R. H. (1919–26) having worked for 47½ years since leaving school, is now enjoying the life of a real English Country Gentleman at 'Green-Tiles', 52 London Road, Twyford, Reading.
- SADDLER, A. J. (1947–54) sends good wishes for the preservation of the status of R.G.S. before moving to Trent College, Long Eaton, Nottingham as Second Master. He is still singing—last February in Highgate School's performance of the Brahms' Requiem but he is nothing like as pretty as he was in Gilbert and Sullivan in 1948.
- SCRUTON, R. V. (1954–61). Dr. Roger Scruton's new book *Art and Imagination, A Study in the Philosophy of the Mind* was given a whole page write-up in *The Times* Literary Supplement on March 21st. The Hon. Sec. couldn't understand a word of it.
- SNODIN, D. N. (1959–66) had a play, 'Suggest Tuesday', produced on BBC 2 recently.
- STEVENS, J. A. (1959–66) is still working for a German publisher on English language materials for German schools. He occasionally meets FERGUSON, M. R. (1956–63) who is doing the same job for another publisher. He got married on 31st December 1974 to Miss Mechthild Günther from Paderborn. His brother, STEVENS, R. B. (1961–68) also got married—in April 1974.

WAKEFIELD, D. A. (1958–65) completed his course in nuclear physics at Greenwich and is now serving on board the Polaris submarine H.M.S. *Repulse* carrying out deterrent patrols in West Scotland. Also serving on board is Chief Marine Artificer Jack BOVINGDON (1957–62). R. HOOLE (1963–68) appeared in the mess one evening—he was serving up there in a minesweeper which called in.

WHITING, R. H. (1936–42) is a Personnel Manager with a large engineering concern and moved recently from Cumberland to Manchester.

WINTER, P. E. (1960–68) is back from New Zealand and has settled down again, for a while anyway, in London. He is now working for the Intermediate Technology Development Group whose chairman and founder E. F. Schumacher, has been on television a lot. His book *Small is Beautiful* created a stir when it appeared in 1973 and led Philip Winter to write to him and ask for a job. The Group is concerned with researching, developing and applying low cost appropriate technologies for developing countries and increasingly for rich ones too. Philip is still climbing and active in West London 'Friends of the Earth'. He has applied to do a part-time M.Sc. in Economics. He hasn't lost the travel bug and intends to visit the States, Africa and S. America when money and time permit. He sees S. E. 'Yogi' TOMS (1961–68) often and the latter still plays good guitar. His jug band started in 1967 is still going strong having undergone a few transformations.

WOODBRIDGE, J. R. (1966–73) writes from Nottingham University where he is enjoying his geology. At Easter he spent a fortnight on the Isle of Arran on a field trip. His brother C. C. WOODBRIDGE (1963–69) has been working since 1973 for British Steel at Teesside.

Owing to the increase in postal charges, the Hon. Sec. has decided not to send out receipts for subscriptions paid by cheque unless requested to do so.

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