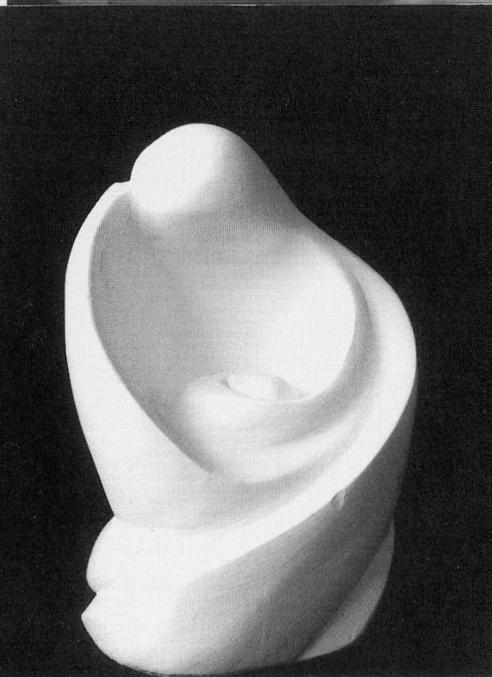
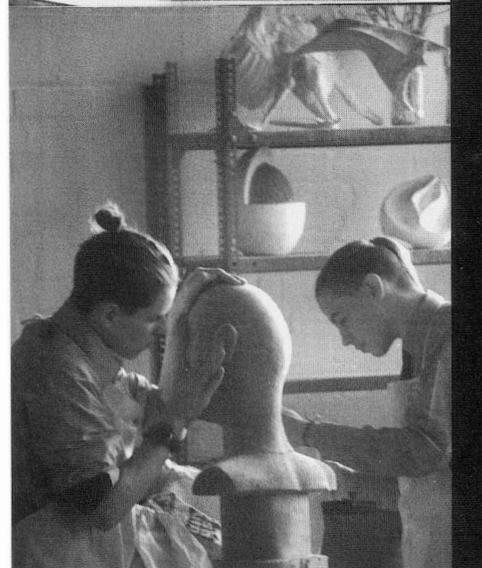
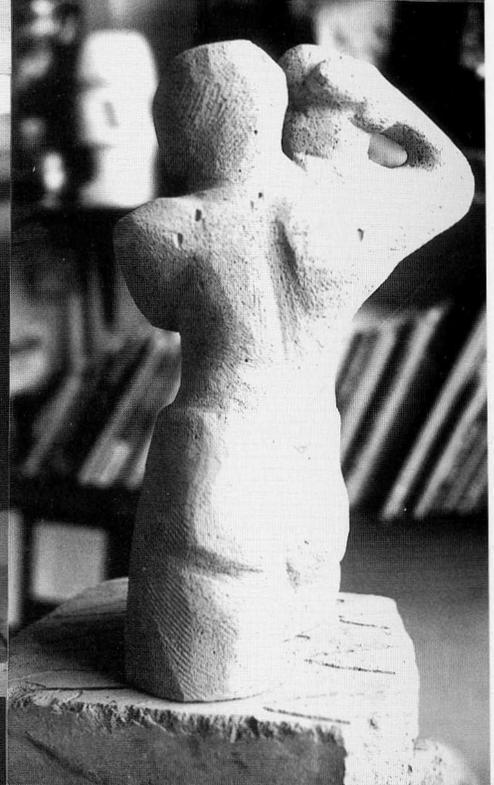
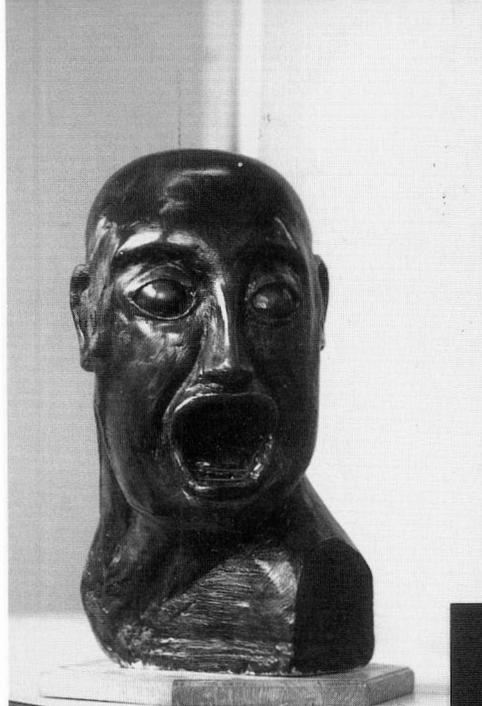
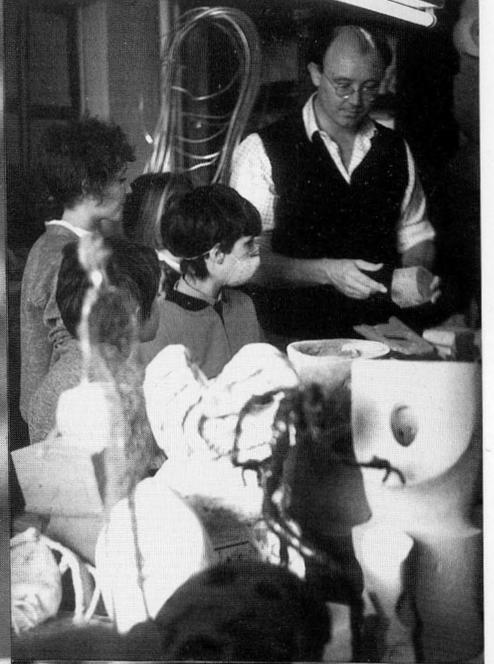
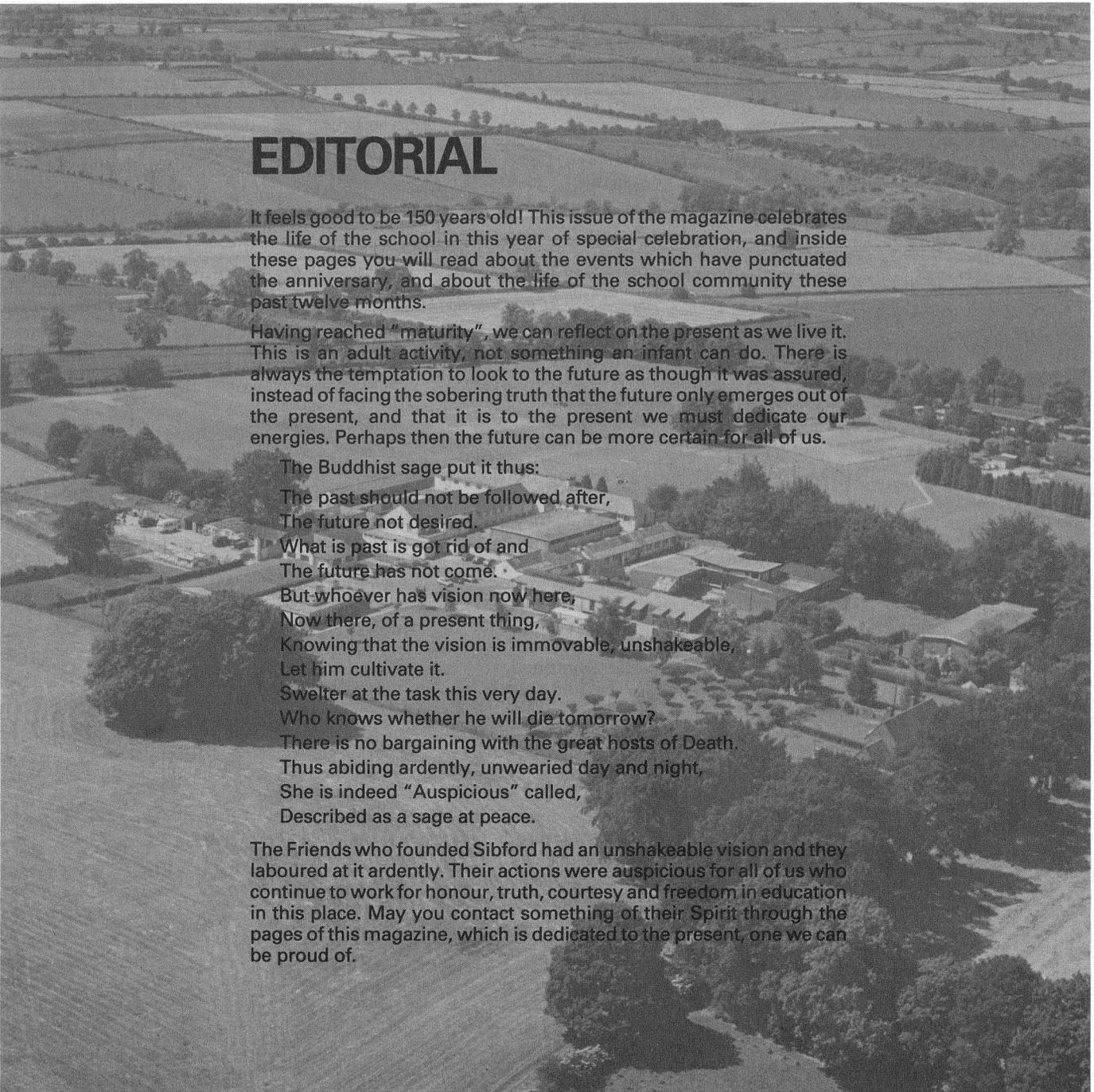


Sibford
1842 - 1992

"ART AT SIBFORD"





EDITORIAL

It feels good to be 150 years old! This issue of the magazine celebrates the life of the school in this year of special celebration, and inside these pages you will read about the events which have punctuated the anniversary, and about the life of the school community these past twelve months.

Having reached "maturity", we can reflect on the present as we live it. This is an adult activity, not something an infant can do. There is always the temptation to look to the future as though it was assured, instead of facing the sobering truth that the future only emerges out of the present, and that it is to the present we must dedicate our energies. Perhaps then the future can be more certain for all of us.

The Buddhist sage put it thus:

The past should not be followed after,

The future not desired.

What is past is got rid of and

The future has not come.

But whoever has vision now here,

Now there, of a present thing,

Knowing that the vision is immovable, unshakeable,

Let him cultivate it.

Swelter at the task this very day.

Who knows whether he will die tomorrow?

There is no bargaining with the great hosts of Death.

Thus abiding ardently, unwearied day and night,

She is indeed "Auspicious" called,

Described as a sage at peace.

The Friends who founded Sibford had an unshakeable vision and they laboured at it ardently. Their actions were auspicious for all of us who continue to work for honour, truth, courtesy and freedom in education in this place. May you contact something of their Spirit through the pages of this magazine, which is dedicated to the present, one we can be proud of.

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

CO-ORDINATOR: Michael Finch

EDITORIAL TEAM:

SCHOOL:

Editor

Literary content

Art work

Seán Kenny

Simon Horsley

Rachel Faulkner

S.O.S.A.

Editor

Assistant Editor

Photographs

Michael Finch

Caroline Bond

Russell Steed

Ian Weatherhead

F.O.S.S.

Editors

Mary Bennett

Julie Webb

PRINTERS:

H.E.Boddy & Co.Ltd. Banbury

FOREWORD

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Anniversaries come and go. While they last, we look with heightened awareness on the community whose birthday is being celebrated. We have the opportunity for critical reflection, for pardonable nostalgia, and, perhaps most importantly, for thinking ahead. How often during 1992 has reference been made to "the next hundred and fifty years"? We may not be able to look that far into the future, but a significant anniversary at least gives us renewed vigour as we all, in our own spheres, make our individual contribution to the Sibford School that has been growing, flourishing and developing now for one hundred and fifty years.

While some events take place to mark the year, and then are history themselves, daily life within the school has continued, and so it should. Yet something will remain of this Anniversary, not only in the memories of all who were at Sibford (or felt close, though for away) during the year, but also in the more tangible results of particular projects. The proposed new Business Studies Centre is one such vision, which the Old Scholars Association is helping to make a reality. A second is a history of the school, to be written very shortly. This magazine is another, and it will surely give an indication of the richness of life at Sibford. Its pages are a tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of pupils and staff, and to the keen involvement and contributions of others closely connected with the school.

An anniversary should be, if anything, a taking off and not a landing. We might of course allow ourselves a pleasurable look back on the achievements of the journey so far. And then perhaps we might consider those words from "Christian faith and practice in the experience of the Society of Friends" as we look to the future: "The cause of God demands that the young have every opportunity of growth in breadth of mind, strength of purpose and tenderness of heart, and that as years go on there shall come no stagnation or sterility, but rather fresh vision and fresh power."

John Dunston

WELCOME

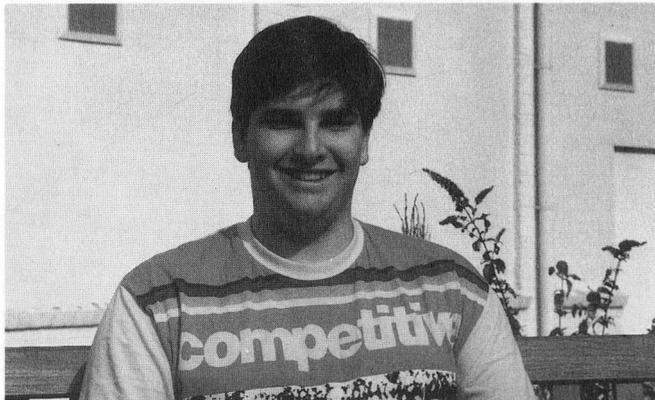
SIMON CHARD

Simon comes to Sibford directly from the Banbury Area Sixth Form Centre where he has just sat his A levels in English and Politics.

He has lived in the Banbury area for 14 years, but comes originally from the Cynon Valley in South Wales.

Simon believes that the experience he will gain from this year-long studentship, which he has undertaken in the Physical Education Dept. and as Assistant Housemaster in Penn Boys, will prove invaluable when applying to enter higher education, where he hopes to study Physical Education.

We hope that his GAP year with us will be very successful and happy.



HEATHER CLARKE

Heather joins Sibford as senior nursing sister in the San from New College School, Oxford, upon the closure of their boarding department.

She is originally from Glasgow and trained at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Heather has a close association with Helen House, the hospice in Oxford, and her special interests are musical. She enjoys choral music and occasionally may be found playing the flute.

Having worked for three years as Matron at Westminster Abbey Choir School, Heather was married in the Abbey itself, something of a privilege. Sadly she was widowed in 1987 as the result of a car accident.

We are pleased to welcome her into our school community and hope she will be happy with us here.



Heather with Dr. Runcie and some of the Choir at New College.

JANET DUNKIN

Janet joined our secretarial staff at the end of the summer term. She lives in Bloxham with her husband, Bob, and two daughters.

Janet moved to Oxfordshire seven years ago from London where she had worked in advertising agencies and at Guy's Hospital. She moved from Bloxham School to work here with us at Sibford.

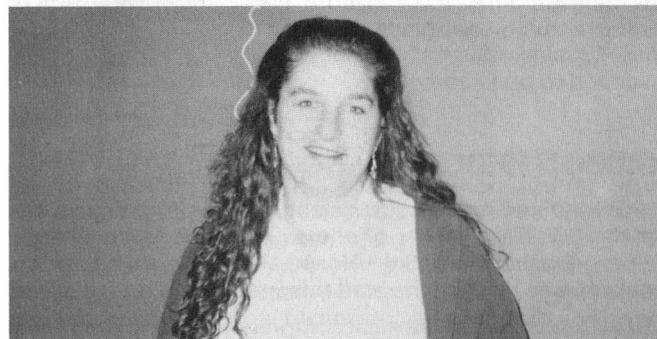
She enjoys walking, swimming and singing, and we are sure she will enjoy her time with us as part of our school community.

REBECCA FARMER

Becky comes to Sibford from Magdalen College School, Brackley, where she has just completed A levels in History and Theatre Studies, and A/S levels in English and Sociology.

She has undertaken a one-year studentship in the school, helping especially with the Learning Support Dept. and with the Drama Dept.

Next year, Becky hopes to go on to higher education and to pursue her teaching career. While she is with us, we hope she will be happy and bring us her own special contribution to the community.



RACHAEL FAULKNER

Rachael, from Cheshire in the North West of England, is artist-in-residence this year at Sibford.

She graduated from Winchester School of Art in 1991 with a B.A. Honours degree in fine art. She also spent several terms studying painting at Barcelona University and at Cyprus College of Art.

Over the last few years she has worked in a number of primary and secondary schools as artist-in-residence. Her interest in schools stems from a thesis she wrote on Art Education, which is a subject she wants to continue to research.

Rachael has taken part in Art Exhibitions in London, Winchester, Cambridge and Cyprus. She hopes, in the next couple of years, to study for an M. A. in painting.

She brings a great wealth of talent to Sibford, and we trust that her year will be very satisfying for her.



PAM GIBSON

Hello,

I'm Pam Gibson - newly appointed Head of Business Studies at Sibford.

Originally from the North East of England, I've spent 20 years in the teaching profession. This has involved me working in large state comprehensive schools and for the last 10 years, teaching in the Further Education sector working in one of the first Tertiary Colleges established in the country. I've taught on a wide variety of Business Related Courses and taught students from 11 years of age to 88. (Yes, 88 years young).

I'm currently living on Campus in "Beech Cottage" with my partner Colin and son Andrew aged 13. I also have a daughter, Sarah, who has stayed in the North East as she has just begun a degree course in English/Sociology. Oh, and I nearly forgot there's also Winston our recently acquired black labrador, aged 10 weeks!

I'm looking forward to working with students and staff, and establishing GCSE Business Studies, along with modules related to Vocational Business Administration. All this and more will eventually take place in the new "Business Centre" currently planned to open early 1993.



GIDEON HEDLEY

Gideon joins Sibford as Assistant in Lister Boys House and in the P.E. Dept. He is, of course, no stranger to Sibford, having lived in Lister Boys House all his life, but he is most welcome as he joins the staff this year.

He was educated at the local comprehensive and then spent his Sixth Form at Ackworth, a Friends' School in West Yorkshire, where he studied A levels and a Cambridge Information Technology course.

Gideon enjoys a varied and often outdoor life, with his main interest being camping and walking. He completed his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award last year, and will be involved with Sibford's own D of E scheme. He helps with the Beavers and Cub group in the village and hopes that this student year at Sibford will help him achieve his ultimate ambition, to realize a career in the Fire Service.

We are sure he will be a great asset to the school.



MARY HUGHES

Mary is with us teaching some French at the moment, on a supply basis. We are pleased that she is able to assist us in providing this subject to a wider range of pupils, and trust her time with us will be pleasant.

HEATHER JONES

"That of good in everyone" is a Quaker philosophy which fits naturally and well into Heather's own beliefs and work as a counsellor. She was therefore pleased to join the school community in January 1992 to contribute to the counselling provision provided by colleagues in the pastoral team.

Her professional background is in Art, and Psychology and Counselling, with qualifications in those areas. Some of Heather's previous appointments have included teaching, education social work, and research, as well as counselling in colleges in London and Oxford.

Heather admits to being something of a global wanderer formerly, but she is now happily settled in Oxford, her home for the past 10 years.



HAZEL KAYE

Hazel lives in Oxford with her husband and her son, Alex, and joins us as our Head of Drama.

Hazel trained as a Drama specialist at the New College of Speech and Drama. Her career has taken her as far afield as Ghana, West Africa, as a VSO volunteer, and she spent six years in Arts Administration, promoting the arts, in such outlandish places as Burnley, Accrington, Oswaldwistle Huyton, New Brighton, Liverpool and Sheffield.

She has taught drama successfully and arrives at Sibford from the John Mason School, Abingdon. We extend our warmest welcome to her and look forward to a thriving future.



TRACY KNOWLES

It's hard to believe, but Tracy has only been with us less than a year, so successfully and completely has she become part of the scene at school.

She is from Nottinghamshire, and trained in Physical Education and English at Exeter University, both subjects she teaches here at Sibford. Tracy admits to a passion for football and loves to be part of the crowd at a live game. She is also a good hockey player, playing at present for Banbury Ladies and Banbury Mixed 1st XI teams.

She enjoys travel, sailing and all sports. She is already an established member of our community, and we trust her time with us will be long, fruitful and happy.



SIMON RODDA

Simon had lived in Canberra, Australia, before coming to England. He attended Radford College in Canberra, studying Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Sports Science in his final two years.

He arrived in Sibford during Spring Term to undertake a studentship. With his interest in Sports Science and his love of sport, he joined the Physical Education team. He also took on a new interest, working in the EFL Dept., and has found this very worthwhile.

Simon will be returning to Australia after the Autumn Term to begin his medical studies in Sydney, and just in time for Christmas lunch on the beach!



FAREWELL

JUDITH ALLEN

Judith joined the Art Department in September 1990, and immediately her vitality and enthusiasm permeated many different areas of school activity. Her own bold use of strong colours led to the appearance of exciting and vibrant work, including a series of murals on the main staircase. Her own work was exhibited in our public display during the Oxfordshire Artweek. This revealed much of the influence which Spain has played on her work, whilst providing the students with a valuable insight into their teacher's artistic convictions.

During her time with us she took responsibility for organising a wide range of museum and gallery visits, as well as inviting in a number of local craftspeople to share their expertise with the students. Judith's work in establishing silk painting as a medium, following the visit of the artists from the Dunford-Wood silk company, has provided a popular new dimension to the students' experience.

In her class teaching throughout the age range, Judith offered guidance and encouragement whenever it was sought. Her expertise and good humour will be missed by us all. She was a popular member of the common room and a valuable member of the Sixth Form tutor team. She leaves Sibford with our thanks, love and best wishes as she takes up her new appointment teaching Art in the Bahamas.

DAVID FOULDS

David Foulds arrived at Sibford in September 1971, appointed by Jonas Fielding to teach the slow learners and remedial students. His department was initially housed in "the Den" at the Manor, but with the help of a generous financial grant, a new building was constructed (now the school library) to house the expanding department and to cater for the dyslexic students who were then beginning to come to Sibford, and who would play so important a role in the school's future.

David was very involved in setting up and organising this new centre, as he was in the subsequent exchange of premises with the library in later years. Eventually a separate department for dyslexic students, the Specific Learning Difficulties Dept., was established, and then David continued to work with those students with other special needs.

David's wide variety of interests and skills ensured that his pupils' work was enriched by his knowledge. Music, drama, rugby and good food and drink would be just a few of the areas that his students experienced with him. The hill walking trips that he escorted on a number of occasions were great successes. If the walks did not exhaust the students, then David's social evenings certainly did!

In recent years David several times retired from playing club rugby, but always returned to the field, with the same relish with which he tackled making chilli sauce for staff barbecues. One abiding memory is of David and several colleagues and students playing Celtic music with great gusto in morning Meeting to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. (The saint could be observed joining in.)

Another one of David's joys was the cinema, and he organised evening showings on the "big screen" in the hall of popular films, to the enjoyment of one and all, also raising money for charity in the process.

David maintained his northern traditions and was often to be heard extolling the finer points of black pudding and mushy peas. Not for him the vagaries of the nouvelle cuisine nor, perish the thought, vegetarianism!

His rugby tales, good company and consideration for all he taught will long be remembered at Sibford.

KAY GOODBAND

Kay Goodband came to Sibford in August 1980, joining the Bursar's Department as School Receptionist. She stayed in this office until 1986 when Jim Graham, the then Headmaster, invited her to become Lister Girls' Housemistress and the School's Teacher of Typing. In the first year that Kay was in the bursarial section she was seriously ill and whilst away on sick leave she was tragically widowed. However, she overcame this sad event with the optimism she was always to show in adversity. Kay was immensely popular with 'her children and parents' and the void left by the loss of her husband was put to Lister's good use. Pupils were always welcome in her flat, to sit, to talk or just to admire Kay's beloved Siamese cats, and 'lame dogs' were often to be found under her wing.

Kay's interests were varied; colleagues knew of her skill in crosswords but flying, sailing, travelling, collecting jade and oriental curiosities also played their part.

Kay, despite being a Scot (or because), was extremely generous to all appeals made on her purse or time and her irrepressible good humour and optimism will long be remembered.

GARETH JEREMY

Gareth Jeremy came to Sibford four years ago. We joined the staff together, coming into an independent school from the state sector. Gareth brought many years and a wealth of experience from Banbury School, where he had been a senior member of staff. At Sibford he joined the Science Department, the Maths Department and the C.P.V.E. team; he was indeed a multi-talented teacher. It was his ability to turn his hand to absolutely anything that endeared him to pupils, and astonished his colleagues. This ranged from rugby coaching, photography, careers, arranging work experience, sailing, selling eggs - and so it goes on. Gareth is one of the most versatile people it has ever been my fortune to know.

Of course it is for his many talents in the world of musical theatre that he is well known in the local area. We were to benefit from this too, Gareth and the Banbury Operatic Society helped to raise funds for the school appeal two years ago. It was unforgettable. Gareth was definitely the star of the show, and both staff and students took great pleasure in his performance. He arranged the revitalised 'Banbury Young Musician of the Year' contest; held in the school it helped to bring the local musical community to Sibford.

His contribution to the school was both varied and enthusiastic; his commitment to Sibford showed in everything he did. As a member of the Sixth Form Tutor team he became the unofficial 'Social Secretary', and as such arranged formal dinners at Christmas, or less formal parties at the end of the year! His experience and knowledge made him an excellent tutor and an interesting teacher. It is, however, his sense of humour and his friendship that will be much missed by his colleagues. All of his friends at Sibford wish Gareth, and his wife, Thelma, well for the future.

Gill Manthorpe

WENDY HOLDEN

Wendy arrived at Sibford in 1983 to take the post of Head of Home Economics and as my Assistant in Lister Girls. I very much enjoyed working with her and remember with fondness our discussions after "lights out" when the girls were asleep. Wendy and I soon discovered that we shared many mutual interests and I even persuaded her to take to the air in a light

aircraft at the time I was learning to fly!

From Lister Girls, Wendy moved into Gillett House where she was able to broaden her experience working in a co-educational boarding house. She spent the next few years working alongside Lesley Norton helping to enrich the life of the boarders. In 1991 she took over from Lesley as House Mistress in Gillett. The children in Gillett enjoyed a very happy year under her leadership.

During her time as Head of Home Economics the subject broadened and Wendy became responsible for Cookery, Textiles and Child Development. She set up a catering course for the Sixth Form vocational pupils which included an intimate restaurant and many members of staff appreciated the culinary delights when dining there. Thank you Wendy also for the surprise birthday cakes!

Wendy has made an enormous contribution to Sibford life. She has shared her Christian beliefs and values within the community and her friendly, outgoing manner has been appreciated by all.

If you have heard Wendy sing you will be aware of her great musical talent which has increasingly flourished at Sibford. Perhaps you were lucky enough to hear her sing Katisha in the "Mikado" or were present at the Wroxton Abbey concert for the School Appeal. Wendy decided to seek professional tuition to develop her singing and this has led to numerous recitals and finally to her courageous decision to leave Sibford to pursue a musical career. We wish Wendy every success.

Lisa Chowne

GILBERT TODD

A quarter of a century is a large portion of anyone's life and Gilbert Todd spent those last twenty-five years at Sibford. He came in 1967 to live in Wayside Cottage and teach French in what was then a very small and isolated community. He used to recall how, in those far-off days before the National Curriculum and the Children's Act, if the weather turned unexpectedly fine, school would occasionally be suspended for everyone to go out and enjoy the sunshine.

Times change, and, as the school developed its work with dyslexic children, Gilbert gained the BDA qualification so that he could use his linguistic ability in the Dyslexic Department as well as in French. There, his calm, unflustered manner, kindness and sense of humour provided a serene base much appreciated by many students.

Since dyslexics are known occasionally to lose things, it was most fitting that, wearing one of his other hats, Gilbert looked after Lost Property. Staff, of course, never lose things, but they too flocked to his door, for it was he who masterminded the school's stationery supplies. He was also in evidence on more public occasions, dealing with tickets and front-of-house for many school productions.

We shall all miss Gilbert's quiet good humour, not to mention his flamboyant ties, and wish him and his family well in the future.

BEN TOWE

Student in Residence:

Assistant Housemaster in Penn House.

Ben arrived at Sibford in September 1991 and from the outset his easy manner and cheerful smile ensured that he would fit in well. His flowing locks and battered van soon became familiar on the school campus. Within the House, Ben established his position and coped well with the responsibilities the job entailed.

Of all the early tasks Ben was given, the activities of the

'Lego-mites' on Saturday mornings in Penn Boys' quiet room proved one of the most testing. The reward for good behaviour - one frame on the snooker table!! Reward for Ben came in the session after break - a game of soccer on the school field. Soccer matches would usually be Hull City v. The Rest!

In his work in the Special Needs Department and in the House, Ben had a sympathetic ear for those with problems. A number of pupils will remember his helping them through difficulties of one kind or another.

The experience he gained during his year at Sibford has clearly left Ben in no doubt as to which direction his future lies. He is off to Teacher Training College in the Autumn and he takes with him the good wishes of his friends at Sibford.

M.R.W.

ANNE WEBB

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Anne Webb, who had been working in the office for 9 months. We hope that her move to other employment in Banbury will be beneficial to her family, and bring her much satisfaction. We shall miss her here, and will always be sorry she could not be with us for longer.

LINDA ZARACH

Linda Zarach arrived at Sibford School in the spring of 1991 to cover a part-time maternity leave in Orchard Close. Within days of her arrival in the Junior Department, Mary Bennett was taken seriously ill and Linda found herself doing the bulk of the Orchard Close teaching, and producing the Orchard Close summer play.

When the Head of Drama post in the main school became vacant, Linda, whose main teaching subject is drama, successfully applied for it, and the last year has been a testimony to her many talents and boundless energy. The drama classes in the school not only benefited from her teaching talents, but also from the truly extensive programme of curriculum enrichment which she organised. Virtually every pupil studying drama in the school went out to a theatre and the range of visitors into the Drama Department ranged from a puppet theatre to a circus troupe. The successful summer production of "Toad of Toad Hall" will be an event which will be remembered by many in the school for a long time.

We shall miss Linda greatly in the school and wish her every success with her Master's degree which she is now working towards.

Simon Horsley

BOARDING LIFE

FIELDING

THE SIXTH FORM (YEARS 12 AND 13)

The year Fielding House comes of age for it is indeed 21 years since the house was opened. Having read that year's magazine, in which students write about settling in, it's interesting to see how little has changed. Most importantly, the ethos of the community seems to be there. I hope old scholars who have lived in Fielding will think back and remember this ethos as we celebrate this special event.



Some of the Tutors!

Looking back over the year gives me a mixture of feelings: pleasure at the times we have shared and sadness at the departure of students who have made the year enjoyable.

This year we launched a new course. The Government introduced yet another post-16 initiative in the latest Education Act, and so the Diploma of Vocational Education seemed to supercede the C.P.V.E. course. The new more rigorous format makes it more demanding for both staff and students alike. As usual we all rose to the challenge and enjoyed a successful year. Our vocational work had to grow to accommodate the demands of the new course, but the two shops and the walled garden go from strength to strength.

This year saw the addition of training facilities for students following both the Social Care and Catering options. The



The "In Vino Veritas" team.

caterers opened two occasional restaurants, serving high class food and giving excellent value, while the social care students worked with local people to open a day care centre for elderly members of the community. The school kitchens provide lunch, Orchard Close the space, the school minibus the transport, while the students and villagers are the workers. A real Sibford School effort, it has proved to be an activity much valued by our visitors, some of whom are old scholars. It is such a pleasure to welcome them back. Both new ventures are good training, but more importantly allow students to meet members of the local community.

We have had so many memorable events this year. Spencer and Michael played often at Meeting on Wednesdays and in concerts too. The A level art group demonstrated in their exhibitions just what fine artists we have here. Giles even built a water garden for his A level CDT in the garden of his parents' house in France (what we'll do to impress the moderators!). "Patch" was a great Sports Captain who represented both House and School in many events and was picked for the County trials.

All our former students have moved on to exciting and interesting things; Cristina to a 'new' university, Lucie to Art College, Dominic to Agricultural College - after a year's work experience first - and so on. We wish them well and look forward to their return as old scholars.

Gill Manthorpe
Head of Sixth Form

GILLETT HOUSE

Gillett House was a very warm and friendly house. As soon as you walked in, you became aware of a very good atmosphere, almost as though you were in your own home.

We were in Gillett for four years until the House closed. When we arrived, Lesley Norton was the Housemistress and Wendy Holden was the Assistant. In our third year, Mrs Norton moved across to Manor House and Miss Holden took over as Housemistress. Mr. and Mrs. Glover moved in and Mr. Glover became Assistant. Both he and Wendy did a great job, too!

It took time to adjust to Wendy as Housemistress, since we had known her for three years in another role, but everything worked out well.

Gillett was unique compared to all the other houses as it is built in the shape of a boomerang. This gave all the dorms special shapes, with sloping roofs and bowed walls. These walls conducted every last bit of sound! The slamming of the fire doors on the staircase was the worst! It made us think just how little time for relaxation the staff really had.

We had a good year together as a House, even though we thought we'd be there longer. Our staff were good and that, we feel, played a big part in making the House happy. Often we would sit and chat, free and relaxed. Of course, Gillett had its problems, but then so does every house.

Once a week, Miss Knowles would take an evening duty, and by the end of the year she had become quite good at playing on a Game Boy too!

We were all anxious when we heard that Wendy was leaving, about who would take over her post, but in the end no one did and the house came to a close. We would like to thank her, and all the staff who made our time, and everyone else's time in Gillett, a great one. Thanks.

Daniel Leshner & Lisa Rogers, Year 11

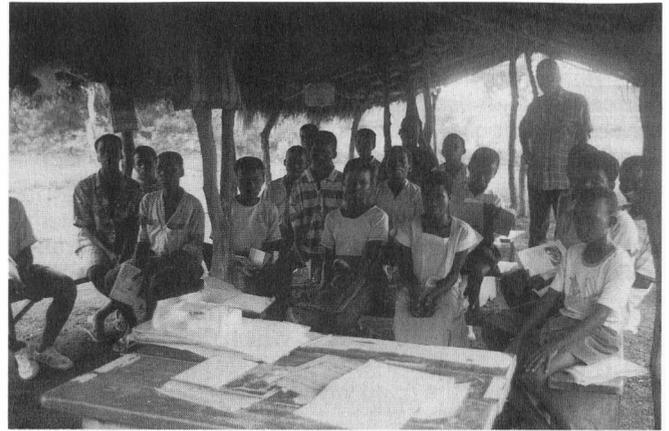
LISTER BOYS

Once again we start the year with a change in Housestaff, Trevor Parr needing to concentrate on his catering post, Gideon Hedley has taken up a Games Department Studentship and become our assistant Housemaster for a year whilst he attempts to gain admittance into the Fire Service. Obviously he is already well known to parents and pupils and very few staff have been in residence at Sibford longer. Gideon was born here. We hope that he is able to offer the boys a range of his skills in games and outward bound activities.



Yvonne and Stuart Hedley and some Lister Boys after raising £300 at the Open Day sale.

Our new House Captains are Chih-Chen Lin and Richard Johnson. Already they are working with an efficient and well united team of senior boys. An unusual and very challenging start had to be made to the year with the integration of 10 boys from Nansen and Gillett Houses. To their credit they



Students in the Ghana School

have settled quickly and sympathetically and the 'new' house has gelled together with the minimum of fuss. Under these circumstances we have felt it right to include more Deputy House Captains for this year and we are pleased that James Tipper, Christopher Legg and Daniel Leshner have agreed to share this responsibility.

We had an exciting Summer term collecting for our 'Grand Sale for Ghana' and we raised the sum of £300 on Open Day - a splendid achievement. We have recently forwarded £200 of this money to our school in Ghana as our contribution towards its running for this year and we are also very pleased that Bart Kerswell's father is doing similar fund raising at his school. The pupils in Ghana keep us regularly informed of their activities and send photographs and letters to us. We in turn have sent photographs of activities in the House to them along with recent magazines and prospectuses.

Stuart Hedley

THE MANOR - OUR FIRST YEAR

The first thing you notice as you walk in the door is the atmosphere. It feels like home. We all live in a very close-knit community where each person is accepted as an individual, for what they are.

It is a hectic house, there's always something to do and friends to join in with you. The Manor is a large and rambling building with a lovely character. It was built about 1600 and has an amazing history. The beautiful walled garden adds to the character and is a wonderful retreat, especially in summer when everything is in bloom and the birch walls act as a sun-trap.

We began our first term in September 1991 with 46 boarders. The house was an amalgamation of Nansen and Lister girls. The joining of the two houses worked better than anyone had imagined and any previously held resentment was forgotten as we settled down to a fulfilling year.

The warm atmosphere never diminished throughout the year, but got more and more intense as friendships grew. During the year there were many house-orientated activities including parties, activities and films. It was never still for a moment.

At the beginning of 1992 more dorms were opened and the house expanded further. The idea that more than one member of staff should be on duty at night was brought forward and carried out; further staff joined our team which consists of Lesley Norton, Carolyn Lovejoy, Fiona Doolan and Janet Gregory.

There is no reason to be bored at weekends now that we have a new games room and activities are on offer which include: baking, gardening, swimming, needlework and sports. We are lucky to have a large common room with T.V. and Video, including a 5th Year common room with its own

T.V. set. There is a modern kitchen with cooker, kettle, microwave and toaster.

At the beginning of September 1992 the girls from the mixed house Penn-Gillett joined us, and were fully accepted into our community. There are now no recognised divisions between the houses with Year 7 now boarding at Orchard Close our numbers are at 49 and our community thrives as we hope it will continue to do.

Naomi Cordiner, Clare Francis, Lisa Rogers

NANSEN BOYS

We were pleased to welcome Mr Cookson Jr as our new assistant Housemaster. His Monty Python videos have entertained us on weekends as has his means of transportation around the school - namely his unicycle. We are sorry that he now has to use this to travel to work in Banbury since his aged Maxi has finally given up the ghost.

Work on the Head of House suite, proposed three years ago, remains on the drawing board. A major improvement has been made with the installation of new lighting. We miss the electric shocks but it's good to be able to see again.

We returned after Christmas to hear the news that we had been invaded by seven Pennites - their heating system having blown up. This was the cause of some excitement but we rose to the challenge and the usual Nansen courtesy and hospitality was gladly extended to the exiles.

We were disappointed to have to give up the Sportsday trophy but we had a number of fine individual performances and won the Junior competition. We have had excellent support from our Fielding associates this year and this has been much appreciated.

We have said goodbye to six boys during the year and we wish them the best of luck in their new positions. We would like to thank Year 10 for taking over our duties leaving us free to revise well for our GCSE's. Three of us are coming back into Year 12, the rest are moving on and will always remember the time we have spent in Nansen and the fun we've had.

Andrew Gough

NANSEN BOYS - CONTINUED

Since Andrew wrote his report the decision to close Nansen Boys has been made. Nansen opened in 1960 and since this time it has seen three Housemasters - Alan Jarvis, Brian Holliday and myself. I am sure that I can speak for Alan & Brian when I say that, despite the hard work that goes into the running of a House, Housestaff gain much from the experience of helping to care for the needs of a variety of children from many different backgrounds. In my seven years as assistant and eleven years as Housemaster, I have met many boys and I have appreciated the friendliness, spirit and loyalty which most have brought to Nansen. It has been good to meet Old Nansenites re-visiting their old haunts for it is clear that their experiences in the House still hold some fond memories for them. I have had a number of Assistant Housemasters over the years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support both to the boys and to Janette and me.

The present Nansen boys were able to choose which of the other two houses they wished to change to and I was pleased that all were given the house of their choice. We ended the term on a high note with a splendid barbecue during which we were able to reminisce about Nansen boys past and present. Gifts were given and received and Janette and I were presented with a lovely bouquet of dried flowers and a tankard for which we are very grateful. We will be staying in Nansen until next year during which time we will be completing the building work to our cottage in Whichford

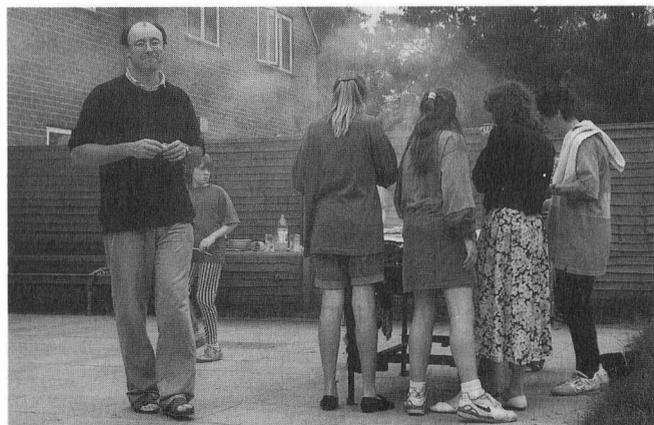
into which we shall move next summer.

Tony Skeath

ORCHARD CLOSE

The new school year began with a welcome to our resident house assistant, Christine Jones, who joined us after a varied start to her nursing career, including work in schools and industry. The first social event of the year was the Halloween Party, organized jointly by the classroom and house staff. As is by now traditional, the central corridor was converted into a pitch black and spooky cavern through which all Orchard Close elves, goblins, wizards, pixies, werewolves and witches ran the 'gauntlet' en route for the classroom. There by candle-light a selection of spine tingling tales of terror were told by graduates of Orchard Close, Mollie Tustain and Lynne Mather, and by the resident Grand Wizard, Mr Spring.

During the year Orchard Close has been out and about on local rambles, one most recently notable for the loss of Rebecca Brooker-Carey's wellington in the deep mud at Swalcliffe Common. Mercifully it was recovered some days later by a digging party organized by Christine. Further afield, boarders were treated to the spectacle of a day's banger racing near Daventry. We trust that the 'death and destruction' driving techniques will not be emulated by O.C. in years to come. Numerous other weekend outings have helped to make the full boarding experience an enjoyable one. Closer to home, weekends and weekday hobby time have provided chances for exclusive artwork, decoration making, cookery, blackberry and sloe picking, model making, rug weaving and Fimo jewellery modeling, whilst, in the playground, skateboard technique continues to stretch the laws of gravity.



Orchard Close Barbecue

Following a fascinating Sunday Evening Meeting given by local residents Mr and Mrs Ross, who breed labradors for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, it was decided to adopt this as our house charity. We shall be looking for challenging ways to raise money for this worthwhile cause, and look forward to visiting the G.D.B.A. training centre in due course.

The annual house party at Christmas was its usual cocktail of uproar, feasting and fun, with traditional games in the classroom followed by a film and food in the common room. This was followed, a few days later, by the school Christmas Hop, for which Mr Spring's collection of Hippy Kipper ties was raided by the boys.

Birthdays have been celebrated in style throughout the year with the customary cake and filmshow shared by all.

As the next academic year gets under way, we pause to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to all the parents and friends who have helped to make the Orchard Close experience such a

happy and enjoyable one.

A final cheer of praise must go to Dorothy, our Matron, and Christine, our assistant, whose unstinting energy, love, and patience have helped to create the family atmosphere for which we are pleased to be known.

Michael and Penny Spring

PENN HOUSE REPORT 1992

The new school year brought another Assistant Housemaster to Penn. The success that Ben Towe achieved in his post may be gauged by the friendly respect that he was paid by the boys. He entered fully into all House matters and we are pleased that his experiences at Sibford have convinced him that a teaching career is the right direction for him. Mr. Bunney and Mr. Foulds were also in evidence in the House covering duties as 'third person' during the year and we thank them for their help and encouragement.

We have been fortunate to have a good, supportive fifth form group during the past year and in Neville Jones, a Head of House who worked hard for the House in numerous ways. The success of the House games teams was based on all-conquering performances from our junior and intermediate teams ably selected by the senior organisers! This resulted in the House winning the House championships in Rugby, Soccer and Cricket. We are grateful to all our leavers and wish them well in their future careers.

In December the House was given a nasty taste of the dangers of fire when a person (who shall remain nameless) decided to cook noodles at lunch time, left the grill on and the cooker overheated and caught fire. An urgent visit from the fire brigade was called for and they dealt with the emergency before anything more than the cooker had been damaged. A salutary lesson for all.

January 1992 was unique for Penn when the House was closed and we were dispersed to other parts of the school, as the heating system had to be replaced. Twenty boys were accommodated in the Manor while the remainder were divided between Lister and Nansen. The disruption lasted for six weeks and we returned to a much warmer house after the half-term break. Reaction to this event varied, from those who couldn't wait to get back, to those who grew to like the new arrangements and thought they might prefer to stay in their temporary rooms. For the House Staff, appropriately accommodated in the smallest room called 'Cinderella', the return to Penn was very welcome.

Some of the Penn fifth form stayed on in House to act as hosts for the 'Israel in Egypt' gathering at the start of the Easter Holidays. The House was used to accommodate some of the visitors from other Friends' schools who had come to take part in the joint choir. The House also played host to visitors from Canada; a group of boys taking part in a musical tour stayed at Sibford for one night during the summer term.

The summer term also saw the start of the one term introductory course for E.F.L. students and three boys came to Penn to lift our Far Eastern numbers to ten. The new boys soon settled and we hope their introduction to Sibford in Penn House will prepare them for their future at the school.

The year ended on a high note with a long awaited redecoration beginning at last; we hope the House will appreciate and respect the new paint. The fifth form enjoyed a farewell gathering in June before they left us and the remainder of the House, along with a number of those joining us next term from Nansen and Gillett, celebrated the end of term with a barbecue in the garden.

PENNMAN

AROUND THE CAMPUS

CHANGING PLACES

Many of us can still remember quite vividly our first day in secondary school. As the feelings of panic subsided and we realised that there weren't bullies lurking around every corner, and piles of books and endless homework assignments waiting to crush us by their sheer volume, we came to enjoy the variety of subjects and the teachers that were to attend our learning hours. Little has changed: for pupils there are still uncertainties in facing a new school despite the fact that the curriculum is almost unbelievably different nowadays.

This year we organised two days of "Induction Visits", one specifically for Orchard Close pupils, and one for as many pupils to Sibford who could come for the day.

The first visit allowed O.C. children to follow a "mini-timetable" constructed especially for them. This enabled them to experience first hand the variety of subjects and teachers available, and to test their personal organization. As you will read below, it was a great success, and both pupils and teachers enjoyed the day.

The second visit focussed more on the role of the tutor/tutee relationship at Sibford, and attempted to address some of the endless queries that new pupils have. This was followed by workshops in Art (Mr Spring) and Technology (Mr Hedley). Again this day proved to be a happy and useful experience for all concerned.

Maggie Guy
(Head of Lower School).

A DAY IN THE MAIN SCHOOL - 17 JUNE

As I walked into the main school, my first impression was one of suspense: What would the teachers be like? Would we be surrounded by a group of atrocious giants? I walked into our first lesson (English). It wasn't bad at all. Mr Kenny was very friendly and joking. I also enjoyed our work.

Next was Maths. I was surrounded by gloom. As we entered the room and sat down, there was a great silence. First Mr. Chowne gave us a puzzle: If a farmer has a large amount of land, fire is the greatest danger. One fire = no trees. The only option is to make some firebreaks (long strips of cut down land). How many are needed?

Seeing that there was not a solution, I put up my hand, and asked how many acres there were. 'That is for you to decide' replied Mr. Chowne. We next looked at a picture made up completely from straight lines, although they looked bent in the pattern. I enjoyed that lesson.

Afterwards we had Geography with Mr. Holliday. I learnt that if all the third world countries used oil, it would only last for four years. We then had break. After buying some tuck, I went into the classroom for Religious Education. Mrs. Chowne was pleased with my piece of work. I hope I'll win the competition, though there are lots of other people.

After Music we went back to Orchard Close. I've had an excellent day. I can't wait to get up to Main School.

Stuart Mason

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

Following the news that our 1991 examination results were most encouraging, the department launched into the academic year with renewed gusto. A group of senior students visited the Royal Academy exhibition of Pop Art, taking the opportunity to view well-known works by Warhol, Lichtenstein and their contemporaries at close quarters.

This led to some excellent project work by the students in Years 12 and 13, who mounted an exhibition of this and other pieces in S7 during March. The success enjoyed by our 'A' Level candidates, Martin Gough (grade A) and Charlie Dutton-Cox (grade C), gave fresh impetus to the Year 12 students, many of whom carved some excellent stone portrait heads. The popularity of the sculpture questions at 'A' Level is increasing each year.

Year 10 made a visit to the Pitt Rivers Collection in Oxford to study their impressive selection of ethnic and tribal artefacts. Several students made use of this visit as the basis for GCSE project.

Lower down the school, the design process has formed the structure upon which most projects have been based. Topics have ranged from designing a carrier-bag for a well-known chain of children's shops to researching and producing plans for a single-storey starter home. The Year 7 students have pursued a course of basic skills, aimed at improving confidence and extending their artistic vocabulary.

As the new academic year gets under way we can reflect on recent successes, including an 80% pass rate at GCSE grades A to C, a number of stimulating exhibitions of work mounted by examination groups and an increasing range of media available to pupils at all levels. It was this range and diversity of artwork in both two and three dimensions which attracted particular praise from the GCSE moderator.

Further changes to the department's facilities are currently under way, due to the creation of an Art Suite. This will comprise a group of rooms based around the original upstairs studio; it will provide centralised accommodation for fabrics and screen printing, painting and drawing, sculpture, photographic processing and a resources room.

M.A.S.

OPENING OF NEW BUSINESS STUDIES CENTRE

Establishing a "Business Centre" at Sibford, is something which I am eager to do, assisting students who wish to sample a realistic view of business procedures.

I would like to think of it as a training area, where students (and staff), can "drop in" and use relevant resources along with up-to-date computing and office equipment. This should assist students in acquiring knowledge and transferable skills which will be of benefit and enable them to work in a relevant working environment.

An informal and friendly approach, in a supportive environment, is essential to my area of work. I use realistic case studies/assignments which enable students to learn by research, solving problems, using technology and equipment wherever possible, to assist with their results and presentations.

Links with parents, local business people, and the community generally will be especially welcome, and I would like to think that in time, these too will be established, which will enhance the relevance and nature of this centre.

Designing the centre is of course a very important element. It needs the "right look and the right feel to it". Areas for mail handling, filing and indexing, telephone/communications work, reprographics, dealing with visitors/clients and reception skills, are just a few of the areas I would like to see within the Centre.

Quite a challenge! - One which given everyone's support will be an exciting new feature for Sibford and its clients - the students!

Pam Gibson
Head of Business Studies

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPT.

The Design and Technology Department has benefited during the past year from several important gifts. FOSS donated sufficient funds for us to be able to construct a new air brushing area, their money being spent on specialist air equipment, and a further donation for computer software. Ross Kinneir, an old scholar, very kindly donated a vertical milling machine from his design company, Kinneir Dufort in Bristol, and this has enlarged our scope of work.

Clive Spare has now maintained the workshop so well that he has been able to spend more time developing teaching aids, permanent displays and labelling as much equipment as possible for pupils. It is now becoming possible to begin educating pupils by them looking around the workshops and observing equipment, tools, materials, products and hardware.



Dominic List completing the construction of his three-ton capacity water bowser.

On Open Day there was evidence of a vast range of major projects from seniors achieving excellent grades in GCSE, GCSE Mature, and A' level Design courses, along with exciting developments in projects from the foundation year.

Senior pupils have experienced visits to the N.E.C. for the Design and Technology Exhibition, The Plastics Exhibition and the Model Engineering Exhibition at Stoneleigh as well as industrial visits to boatbuilders, Lazer and Alcan Extrusions.

Room 6 continues to be developed for its dual role as an information technology base linked with graphics and the GCSE course in CDT: Design and Communication. Cupboards have been removed to make more room, and to improve the display facilities. New software (Tabs, a model making programme for the computer) has been purchased, enabling pupils of all ages to design and print out developments of geometric construction onto card. This will complement Pro-Artisan, an Art and Design package. Three more A3000's with the faster processors, are due to be added to the network in the near future.

Stuart Hedley
Head of D. & T.

DRAMA AT SIBFORD

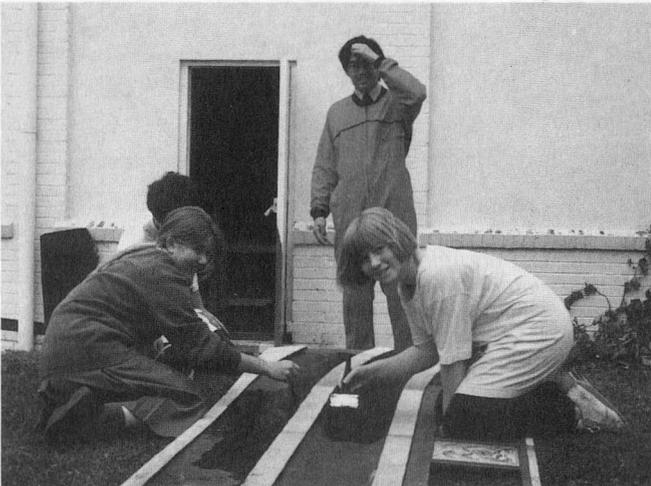
The students of the department recently mounted a production of "Toad of Toad Hall" which ran very successfully for three nights. Students were responsible for tickets, front of house, and props, as well as stage management and lighting. Linda Zarach directed the play and it was the culmination of her year with us as our teacher. We look forward to the same success in the future with Hazel Kaye, our new teacher.

Drama lessons at Sibford have a very relaxed atmosphere. Everyone in the school does drama as it is part of the timetable for Years 7-9. In these years students are taught



Tom Rought, Andrew Lovejoy and Adam Keeling practise for 'Toad', while Erlend Webb and Linda Zarach look on.

the basic skills as well as various drama games and exercises. When students reach Year 10, they have the option to take drama as a GCSE course. The course consists of 50% improvisation work and 50% scripted work, and we also learn about backstage skills in the theatre. One of the main aspects of the course is learning to work together as a team.



Chih-Chen Lin, Erlend Webb, Katie Jamison and Vicky Howes at work on scenery for 'Toad'.

At the end of every school year Sibford mounts a production, which means that those who are not studying drama can also take part, either on stage or backstage, to ensure that all runs smoothly. On these occasions different age groups come to work together and to perform before our parents and families, our friends, and members of the public.

Drama at Sibford certainly helps us build up our confidence and to express ourselves, which will help us in later life.

Rachael Davis, Year 11.

People often ask me what I do in Drama, and do I do it for fun. I say to them that I do it as an escape from real life. In drama I can be whoever I want and there are no limitations on the character I create.

Through my first year in Drama I did a variety of tasks, such as directing plays, writing soliloquys, drawing theatre plans, designing sets, performing monologues and improvisation. I directed a play called "Ernie's Incredible Hallucinations" which was performed by the Saturday Drama Club, who were ready to perform it to a high standard after the first term. The play was well received by the audience and there was a full house on both nights.

One of my tasks was to draw a plan to scale of the Oliver Studio which I could then use when planning sets and estimating audience capacity.



Duncan being passed from hand to hand as Fielding House practise a trust game.

At the moment I am preparing a play called "Krapp's Last Tape" by Samuel Becket, which will be performed in the Autumn term.

But drama is not just for those who want a life out on the open stage: it opens opportunities in other areas, like relaxation, freedom of action, understanding of literature, dance, and assertiveness training. In all walks of life the skills I have learned in Drama will come in very useful.

Duncan Carr, Year 13

THE DYSLEXIC DEPARTMENT

Musical rooms was the theme of the first term last year as we reorganised our teaching space to accommodate Stephen Bunney and Janette Skeath who were joining the Department, bringing their expertise in maths, geography and music. We also welcomed Rachel Dumbleton to work with the very youngest Orchard Close children as well as in the Senior School. By Christmas we had a suite of rooms that were a joy to learn and teach in, complete with soft furnishings by Janette and a jungle of potted plants.

Meanwhile, Stephen Bunney received his RSA Diploma and Janette Skeath took up the mantle on the Evesham course with great success, to be followed this year by Elisabeth Escher who will bring yet more areas of experience to the Department. Among her interests is the Somerset Thinking Skills Course, initially introduced to our pupils last year by Seán Kenny. A much appreciated development.



Jon-Paul, Bart & Laura (Yr 9)

Banbury Rotary Club paid us a visit one evening last November and showed great interest in our presentation on Dyslexia and its Treatment. Several went away feeling that they had learned something about themselves too. Later that month we ran a stall at the FOSS Fair which raised the money to buy some new computer reading programmes. We are very grateful to the many parents who baked cakes and sent other goods to make such a successful stall.

In the Summer Term we played host to an enthusiastic group of staff and students from the Evesham RSA Course who came to see how things are done at Sibford. They too were most impressed by our facilities and the positive approach of children and staff.

There could have been no better example than our departing Year 11 students who had worked so hard and achieved so much both in confidence and GCSE results. There were many personal triumphs, too many to mention individually, but we would particularly like to congratulate Robert McBreen who achieved five Grade A's among his passes. We wish all our old friends well as they begin their AL and vocational courses.



Charlie and Jonathan (Yr 8)

And so the year ended with sad farewells to Gilbert Todd who had taught in the department for seven years, though much longer in the school.

Jenny Austing

E.F.L.

The academic year 1991-92 was an eventful year for the EFL department. In September we welcomed Csaba Sarnyai - a 23 year old University student from Budapest who was to be one of the school's resident students for the year. Csaba came to Sibford to experience life at an English Boarding School and to practise and improve his English with a view to taking the Cambridge First Certificate Examination with our Year 11 students. Csaba proved to be very enthusiastic in everything that he tackled. He helped out with the EFL department; appeared in Gillett House regularly to socialise with pupils and generally played an active part in the life of the school. He also found time to prepare for his exams which he took (and passed with flying colours) in the summer. We wish him well with his final year at university.

A new venture for the EFL department was the trips that we organised for our overseas students. There is no doubt that Sibford is a beautiful setting for a school, but many of our overseas students must gain a rather narrow view of Britain, perhaps seeing little besides Sibford Ferris, Heathrow Airport and the railway (motorway in between). If they arrive in Year 10, as many do, they will already have missed out on the history, geography and science courses that put our culture, institutions and lifestyle into a context. To begin to address this problem we started a programme of excursions to sites of industrial, historical, educational, and cultural interest. In the year to July 1992 we managed to visit Parliament; the Black Country Museum; Chedworth Roman Villa and the Rollright Stone circle; the Royal Shakespeare Theatres; Cadbury World; and the site of the Battle of Bosworth and the Civil War Exhibition in Coventry.

Where possible, cross-curricular links are made with, for example, GCSE drama students getting a tour of the RSC's two theatres at Stratford-upon-Avon. Students have a preliminary input during EFL lessons so they are familiar with what they are going to see and what it means. As a

follow-up they may do written or oral work which is useful for their exam preparation. Some trips are run with other departments and particular thanks need to go to Janet Gregory (History) and to Gill Manthorpe (Sixth Form) who included our Year 10 and 11 students on the visit to Parliament.

I will leave the last comment on the excursions to Penny Chan, one of last year's form 11 students from Hong Kong.

"These trips have given us a chance to actually understand more about England's history and culture. They have also given us an opportunity to mix with the others and practise our English as there were other year groups going with us as well.

Let's take for example the trip to Parliament. Although we weren't able to see the Prime Minister or any other famous politician, it was a very interesting trip. We learnt a lot from it, such as the administration of the government and the procedure for having a new law made.

On the trip to the Royal Shakespeare Company we were shown around the two theatres - The Royal Shakespeare Theatre and The Swan. We saw everything from the front stage to the backstage; the lighting and sound systems; the props and scenery and even a gallery which has collections of paintings, photographs and articles about the actors, characters and plays written by Shakespeare. There is also a gift shop with a collection of props and costumes we were able to try on"

Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have completed a successful visit to the Cosford Aerospace Museum and a return visit to the Black Country Museum.

Andy Glover
Head of EFL

ENGLISH DEPT

The Department entered the year under the leadership of Simon Horsley and ended it with his appointment to the new post of Director of Curriculum Development in the school. Congratulations to Simon, who was succeeded as HOD by Seán Kenny, in his new, exciting and important task for the school.

Since September, our English team has been strengthened by the addition of Tracy Knowles, who is teaching a Year 8 group this year. Welcome aboard also to Janet Gregory, our resident Historian, who is no stranger to our Dept., having taught in it three years ago. Janet is working with the Sixth Form at GCSE level, and is as equally welcome as Tracy.

1993 marks the end of the 100% coursework GCSE option which we have been teaching for 6 years now, and the introduction of a new syllabus, which our present Year 10 will sit in 1994. Next summer will also see Year 9 being assessed for the first time at Key Stage 3 in the National Curriculum. This all serves to keep us on our toes. New challenge is no bad thing.

Students experienced visits out of school to the theatre in Stratford and Oxford, seeing "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth" in rather disappointing productions, and visits within school of the author, Anne Pilling, and Tabs theatre company, who performed "Not About Heroes", a very moving play based on the poetry and relationship of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, poets of the Great War.

As we go to press, already visits to see yet more "Macbeth" and "Hamlet" are in the pipeline, and so too is a workshop on Shakespeare for Year 9. Years 7 and 8 are going to Warwick Univ. Arts Centre to see "A Tower Without Stairs", a re-telling of the Rapunzel story, and some of Orchard Close will come with us, we hope.

We will also be holding prose and poetry writing competitions in school this coming year, the fruits of which you should see in next year's magazine.

Seán Kenny, Head of English

VISIT OF ANNE PILLING

I am writing about the day Anne Pilling came to talk to us about herself, being an author, and her books.

She began by telling us about when she was young and wanted to write poetry. Then she said she was an ordinary person, but I think she is a quiet and very strict person. She has two sons, no daughters, and that is why most of her books are written about boys. She has written one book about girls, called "Big Pink", because someone came up to her in the street in Oxford and asked why she always wrote only about boys.

She also told us about her pens. She used to write in her rough book with a Schaeffer pen with a picture of Mickey Mouse on it, but it started to leak, so her husband bought her a new pen with a gold nib.

Anne used to live in High Wycombe, but now lives in Oxford. She read to us from one of her books called "On the Lion's Side." It's about a boy who goes on holiday with his parents and thinks he's really going to be bored. When he gets to the house and is shown his room he realises the wall must be new, and that six feet of room space must lie on the other side of it. So he puts a wardrobe up against the wall, unscrews the back and chisels away at the wall. When he breaks through? Well, you'll have to read it and find out for yourself. Anne also told us about her new book, "Vote for Baz" which is coming out soon.

Dan Lewin Year 7

Since this was written, Anne Pilling has published her first "adult" book, "A Broken Path" which is highly recommended. She believes that having written so many "children's" books has made her realise the need to craft her narrative very thoroughly, because children won't accept a book with defective narrative. Ed.

EXPLORING THE HUMAN CONDITION

The 1992 GCSE entries this year included for the first time fifteen candidates for Integrated Humanities. The course is 100% coursework at present, although this will undoubtedly be changed in line with current government policy on examinations. One of the major attractions of the present course is that it allows a great deal of individual input from both teachers and pupils; the syllabus is very wide-ranging and claims to offer the opportunity of "exploring the human condition" - a very ambitious idea and at Sibford we have decided to limit our explorations by focussing on five major topic units! At present these include an initial look at simple ethics under the title 'Beliefs and Values'; then we consider 'Conflict' at both interpersonal and international levels. In considering 'Health and Welfare' we look at the history and present structure of Britain's health service and compare our good fortune in this field with the needs and rights of the developing countries, making the obvious connections between gross inequalities and injustices and the roots of conflict and war.

Whilst it is important to face up to these major issues in our world it is also vital that our young people appreciate and study some of the more positive facts of life too. Our study of the family can at times be heart-warming and hilarious as well as seriously sociological! Perhaps most enjoyable of all is the study of 'Sport and Leisure' as the concluding unit. A key requirement of the course is a major piece of Personal Research. This is no small task, being sustained for several months and we were therefore proud that one of this first group of entrants, Samantha Paine, achieved a grade A for work of a notably high standard. She channelled her personal interest in green issues and how they impinge on the average family into a beautifully presented and carefully-researched piece of work and has set a high standard for others to emulate.

Elisabeth Escher
Head of Integrated Humanities

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPT.

FRENCH TRIP

Our trip began on a cold, wet Saturday afternoon. We arrived at Portsmouth harbour at about 9:00 P.M. We went into the terminal building for a break, and boarded the bus again at 9:45. We sat in that bus until 11:00 when finally we boarded the ferry!

We then had to go straight to our cabins. On the way down, I wondered why there were handrails along the corridors, but by 11:30 I knew why! The ferry crossing of seven hours was to be a rough one. We could hardly stand upright. At 2:30 A.M. we went out on deck to get some fresh air and then on to the bar for a drink of lemonade.

By the time we docked at Caen, a group of green faced children stood in the cold, waiting for the coach which would take them to Tréfumel.

During the five days which followed, we visited many landmarks and tourist attractions. One of these was Le Mont Saint-Michel, which was incredible. The main street of the town was very crowded and littered with tiny shops, restaurants and ice-cream parlours. At the top was the abbey and the churchyard.

I think something everyone gained from the trip was independence as we were allowed to go off in groups of 3 or 4 to practise our French.

I really enjoyed myself!

Lynne Mather Year 8

FRENCH EXCHANGE

Ever since I began French lessons in the first year, I had longed to go on an exchange. The whole prospect was so exciting. I knew many friends who had been on such an exchange and had raved about it, so in early 1992 I seriously looked into it and discussed it with Mrs Rudge, our French teacher.

A local company, Dragons, based in S. Newington, places British, French and German students in contact with each other. They also provide accompanied transport. I was very quickly introduced to my partner, Kathleen, and we soon began writing to each other. Kathleen came to visit me at Easter for two weeks.

This was the first time we'd met, and I'm sure she was a lot more nervous than me, even though I felt I had butterflies in my stomach. We both had a great time together and got on really well. It amazed me how good her standard of English was. I was to learn that the standard of English in France is very high.

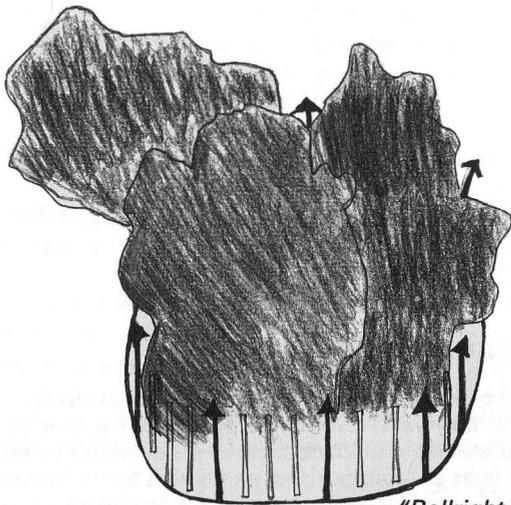
Only three months later, on the 10th July, I was on my way to Calais at 1:00 a.m. I met lots of others travelling for the same purpose, and all as apprehensive as I was. By 3:30 French time, I was being greeted by the family with whom I was to spend the next two weeks.

I stayed in Lille, in the north of France, very close to the Belgian border, and we paid many visits there. I enjoyed the old style Belgian architecture. The whole French way of living is so different to ours. It was great to see the similarities, and also, of course, the many differences.

Paris was fantastic! We spent a weekend there, visiting all the sights; the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triumph, the Louvre, and of course, Montmartre, which was amazing.

I will never forget Paris, France, the whole atmosphere. It was a wonderful experience.

Georgina Harmer, Year 11



"Rollright Stones"
by Kelly Ward, year 7

GEOGRAPHY DEPT. FIELDWORK

The senior geographers in the school continued to produce some very good fieldwork this year.

The study of tourism in Broadway turned out to be a great success, the resulting files bulging with data, maps, graphs, and photographs. It was particularly pleasing to find out that the data we assembled was similar to that of the Highways Department. I am sure that we will return to Broadway with another group and further our investigations.

The ten students who went to Borth in mid-Wales with Janette Skeath and myself took up the challenge of completing a piece of fieldwork from scratch - observing, reasoning, collecting data, planning, tabulating, graphing and analysing. The theme was coastal erosion and deposition. Work went on late into the evening and the keenest ones were busy again at 7:00 A.M. next day. It worked. We collected the completed work within a few days of our return to Sibford.

Currently, some of the present Year 11 students are studying the pattern of amenities in surrounding villages; others are studying the Rollright Stones as a tourist attraction, whilst others are looking at land use. It promises to be another interesting year.

Brian Holliday, Head of Geography

Post Script

After several years in the Geography Dept. Janette Skeath has transferred to work in the Sp. L.D. Dept with the dyslexic students. It is only right and proper to record here the debt of many geography students to Janette's careful teaching over the years, the same care she now brings to her new responsibilities. Congratulations on the RSA Diploma, Janette.

HISTORY DEPT. OUTINGS.

March 12th 1992. A year 9 History Outing to the Black Country Museum at Dudley.

As we drove into the car park I didn't think it was that big, but when I actually got out and looked through the window, I changed my mind. A tram took us to the start of our visit; the ride was slow and bumpy, but good. We arrived outside an olden days fun fair, but we didn't stop here until later.

We walked to the "re-constructed" village where we stopped at a hardware shop. The shopkeeper talked to us for five minutes before Arthur, our guide, took us to the General Stores where the lady spoke to us about how many of the tins and labels we have today were the same in the past.

Afterwards we went to the chemists, which was very interesting. We learnt about doctors and how they made

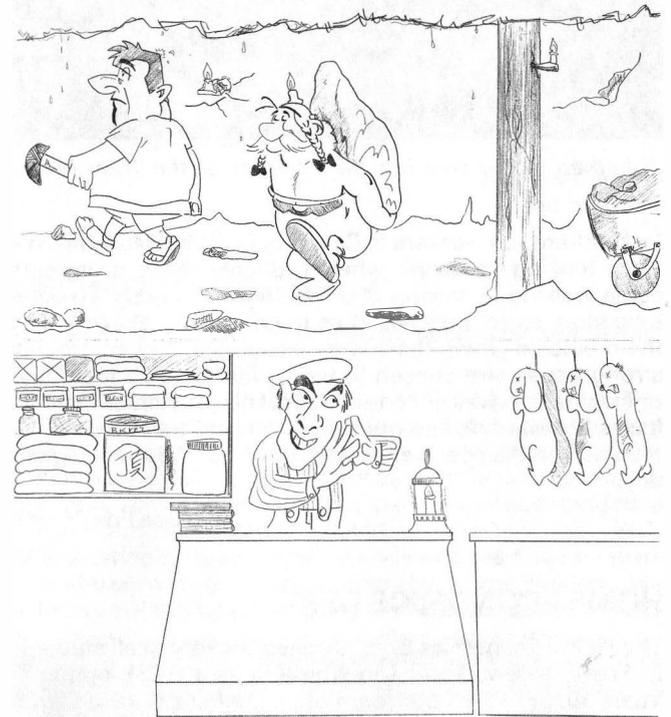
their own medicines. The chemist even made a tablet for us, there and then. Then we all trudged off to the mines!

Here we all had to wear hard hats and share one torch between three. I was with James Hudson and James Spiller. As we set off down the mine it was so low we had to duck. It was dark, but we saw that waxwork men at work in the mine, with the sound effects in the background. I even cut my knee further on, kneeling on the sharp stones.

After we came out, we went to the funfair, but I didn't stay very long. I went looking for the others in the group, and eventually found Carl Rafter, Romilly Croft and Michael Hugg. We visited the baker's shop, the Toll House and the Chapel before it was time to meet back at the coach.

Patrick Kennedy

To accompany this article is the artwork of **Philip Tsui**, who has recorded his impressions of the mine and the shops in Oriental style.



TRIP TO BOSWORTH AND COVENTRY

Firstly we went to a battlefield called Bosworth. It was very interesting and the guide showed us round all the battlefield and showed us where the fighting happened. He told us all about King Richard and about Henry Tudor. The flags which are set up to show where things happened are worth about £2,000. After lunch back at the coach, we watched a film about the battle. It was a most exciting morning and everyone enjoyed it.



Pike practice for the six strong boys!



Jonathan Snow wearing the uniform of the New Model Army.

In the afternoon we went to Coventry Civil War Museum. We were looking at things when suddenly these drummers came walking in, talking in old fashioned English. To cut a long story short, they asked us to go outside. We followed them outside where there were lots of activities set up. Six strong boys were chosen to work with the pike men, and unfortunately I was not one of them. I played skittles instead. It was brilliant fun, and quite easy to knock them down. We returned on the coach after everyone had had a really good day.

Joe Fox, Year 9

HOME ECONOMICS DEPT.

The Home Economics Dept. teaches cookery to all students in Years 7-9 and Food and Nutrition as a GCSE option in Years 10 and 11, so our room often contains the wonderful smells of super tasting dishes! Quite mouthwatering!

In addition, sixth formers following their DVE course can opt for Catering as one of their vocational areas, and during the year two groups of these senior students ran "occasional restaurants" for members of staff and other paying guests. "In Vino Veritas" and "Troubadour" were both very successful, and allowed both the cooks and the waiters to gain valuable practice in their craft, and also to learn how to balance the books!

During last year and in the immediate future we shall be introducing various design and technology aspects of the subject as our department works more closely in association with the other technology departments of the school, implementing the national curriculum.

We said farewell to Wendy Holden, our Head of Department, in the summer and wish her every success in her new ventures.

Judy Davies

Elephant Stew

Judy Davies our acting Head of Home Economics, supplies the following original recipe from her kitchen in time for Christmas and the New Year.

INGREDIENTS: 1 elephant
2 rabbits (optional)

salt and pepper

METHOD: First catch your elephant. Then cut into bite-size pieces. This should take about two months.

Enough brown gravy to cover. Cook for approx, four weeks at 450 deg.

This serves 300 people, but if more are expected add the rabbits, but do this only if necessary as people do not like to find a hare in their stew.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

For a small group of students this has been a very interesting and demanding year. Events have included a visit to the ambulance station to learn about their procedures in saving children's lives in emergencies, and a visit to the Maternity Unit at the Horton Hospital, where we gained insight into the work of the Special Baby Unit, which works with infants weighing less than 1 kg. The babies are cared for in incubators and in a controlled environment until they are able to return to their mothers. We were amazed at the cupboards full of baby clothes of all colours and sizes; we visited the wards and met a mum with her hours-old daughter; the sister in charge gave us a talk and showed a video on birth.

Two women who are members of the Natural Childbirth Trust came into school to talk about pregnancy and to demonstrate breast feeding with one of their children. Students also attended the Mothers and Toddlers group at Orchard Close, and two students used those visits as a basis for their Child Development studies.

We thank everyone involved in our studies, especially Susie Dunston and Matthew, and Fiona Doolan and Sophie, for making our course so worthwhile.

Judy Davies

HORTICULTURE - FARM AND GARDEN MACHINERY D.V.E. MODULE

As part of our Diploma of Vocational Education course in the Sixth Form we decided we would undertake a three-day course on farm and garden machinery. This was held at the Oxfordshire County Teaching Farm, Warren Farm, near Bicester. The farm teaches its students how to manage a working farm and how to use and maintain the necessary machinery. It also provides a course in tractor driving.

We attended on three consecutive Fridays in January and February. The object of the course was to teach us to locate and identify the major component parts of the engines and air-cooling systems commonly used on farms and gardens. We also learned how to service them and how to maintain their security.



Maano Obeyesekere at the wheel of a tractor during the course.

We also learned how to drive a tractor, how to attach a trailer, and how to drive in a given situation.

There were 12 of us all together, but only 3 were girls. Personally, I have learned so much about a subject I previously knew nothing about. Now I have some definite knowledge of the workings of lawn mowers and farm machines. But best of all was the tractor driving!! I now have the experience of actually driving such a vehicle.

The course has provided me with a sense of my own power and control. I would say, it's a great course to take; a lot of fun, but you learn a lot too, and gain good and valuable experience.

All 12 of us passed the course, and many of us applied our knowledge on our three-week work experience placements. In addition, some of us, myself included, have been able to apply our tractor driving skills in our own jobs at home.

Melissa Sturgeon Year 13

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The 1992 academic year starts at a slightly less frenetic pace for information technology at Sibford School than did the previous year. The major innovations which commenced in September 1991, namely the building of the school's Acorn A3000 network and the launch of the laptop initiative, have now had a year in which to become accepted features of school life. With all pupils in Years 7 to 9 now receiving weekly tuition on the school's various hardware and software systems, with over 25% of pupils in the school having access to their own laptop computers and with the older pupils in Orchard Close receiving specialist tuition in information technology, Sibford School is grasping the opportunities of the "information age" with both hands (and with all fingers correctly positioned on the keyboard!)

However, the next year is not going to be a year purely of consolidation. Within the next few weeks the Acorn Network will be extended to ten stations and the next term will see major information technology innovation within the Business Studies department as the SOSA funded Business Suite is developed. The information technology team feel confident that our aim that all pupils in the school should be as confident with a computer as they are with books, pens and paper will become a reality in the next few years.

Simon Horsley
Head of I.T.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

"Your coursework was the most interesting that I moderated"
MEG Coursework Moderator

Coursework only counts for 24% of the exam - 8% for each project. Statistics, an investigation and practical applications are the project areas.

Here are some of the titles that made such an impact on the moderator.

Mentioned by name -

Clinton Jack	Profit Share Farming
Clinton Jack	Farms, Acrege and Crops
Kate Forster	The Cost Involved in Setting Up A Hot Air Balloon Company
Katy Tuthill	The cost of taking part in the London to Sydney rally comparing 1977 to 1993

Also - but not in any order

John Augar	How much does a Mars bar cost?
Matthew Walsh	The cost of decorating and refurbishing a room
George Bayraktar	Travel expenses to Holland
Jonathan Taylor	The cost of learning to drive

Samantha Payne	The cost of converting a stable to a newly designed music room
Andrew Campbell	The Campbell report on the First division
Ben	
Stratton Woodward	The cost of a reunion for 20 people
Susannah Day	The cost of setting up a 'Colour Me Beautiful' business
David Simms	Quail Keeping
Elizabeth Wilson	The cost of building a dark room
Simon Hill	The best way to spend £500 on entertainments equipment
Tom Eadie	A holiday in Normandy
Joseph Paice	Personal Stereos - which is the most popular
Kathy Cavill	Holidays - value for money
Sarah Evans	The cost of a party celebration
Mark Goodchild	Personal finance
Peter Baker	Mountaineering
Naomi Prosser	The cost of running a home
Lucy Snow	How much does it cost to run a small car for a year
Neville Jones	Skiing resorts
Robert McBreen	Maths in athletics

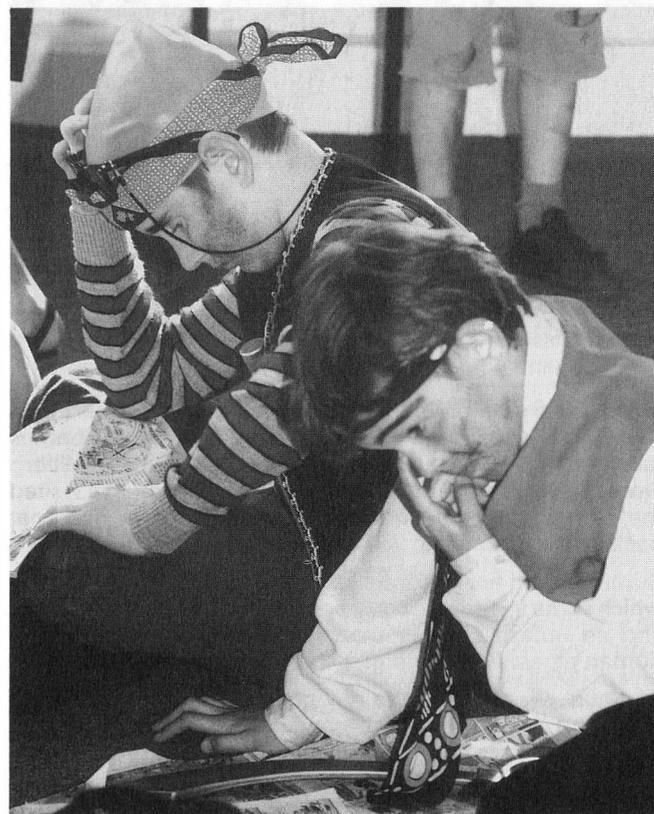
and many many more - well done

Andrew Chowne
Head of Maths

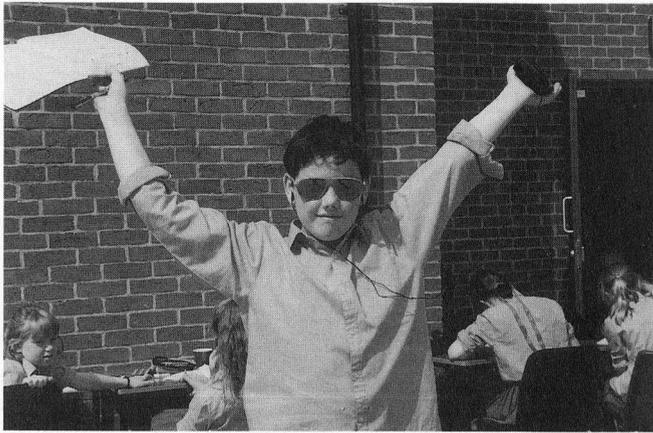
ORCHARD CLOSE 1991-92

During '91-92, Orchard Close was bursting at the seams with a capacity crowd of 38.

We have already established several traditions, such as picking blackberries and making jam in September, having a Halloween party, and producing our own play. All these things happened again this year: Janette Skeath yielded the wooden spoon over the jam pan: parents provided a magnificent Halloween feast; and all aspects of this year's blockbusting production of "Wendy and the Pirates" were undertaken with great enthusiasm by all the children. We also had our manufacturing day to make items for the FOSS



Two of the pirates



Fair, and raised about £100 on the day.

On the work side, our themes have been Colour and Light, Storytelling, Pirates and Health. Our Australian student, Hal Greenham, was able to extend the light theme to outer space and the planets. We were all sorry to see Hal go at Christmas. His instructions on the wall for making the most of our work processor remain in daily use.

During the Christmas term, outings were arranged to the Red House book publishers, a production of "The Secret Garden" and visits to the Police, Ambulance and Fire Stations in Banbury.

The storytelling term ended with 3 puppet shows all using different types of puppets, performed for the local nursery and primary schools, and the more sophisticated "Greek Myths" performed for an invited adult audience. We also went to see a production of "Alice in Wonderland".

Pirates featured large in our play, a thoroughly disreputable crew, accompanied by a mob of revolting lost boys and



girls, and a tribe of very laid back native north Americans. J.M. Barrie would have been most dismayed by the liberties taken with his story, but we like to think that Steven Spielberg would have approved! Following the production, we visited the pirates exhibition at Greenwich and took a riverboat back up the Thames to Westminster.

Summer term finished with lessons on healthy living during which some incredible facts about the human body emerged, and an amazing larger than life size junk model of the human digestive system graced the display board.

As usual, we were sad to say goodbye to our graduating class, but returned to find that with the re-arrangement of boarding houses they are still very much in our midst!

Now we're settling into the new year with a Victorian theme, partly to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the school. Many events are planned, including a Victorian school day in full

costume!

Finally, we should all, staff and children, like to thank the many parents who shared their interests and talents with us, adding an extra dimension to what we can offer. We hope that this trend will continue as we progress through the year just started.

Mary Bennett

MUSIC

A Diary Of Events

19th September, 1991

Sibford' Choral Society is re-formed, with pupils, staff and friends of the school. It seemed, at first, a daunting prospect; the whole of Handel's Israel in Egypt, to be learned for the Joint Choirs Festival next term. A small beginning to a great event.

26th September

Arrival of advance computer equipment and sound modules to establish an electronic music studio. A year later and the Director of Music is still knee deep in pages of instruction manuals. Pupil's prospects at GCSE have been considerably enhanced by this exciting equipment.



1st November

Arrival of our new Yamaha Concert Grand Piano, a gift from Quaker Trusts: into the Music School initially to await the construction of a special store room off the Main Hall.

"This piano is going to tempt more people to learn the piano than all the teaching in the world could do" - remark by one fifth form pupil on first playing the instrument.

15th November

Year 7 pupils perform their Cannibal Dance at their Parents' Evening.

9th December

Carol Singing around the village by the Choral Society - armed with lanterns, torches and carols for choirs. Last stop was the Headmaster's house where hot refreshment was much appreciated by all!

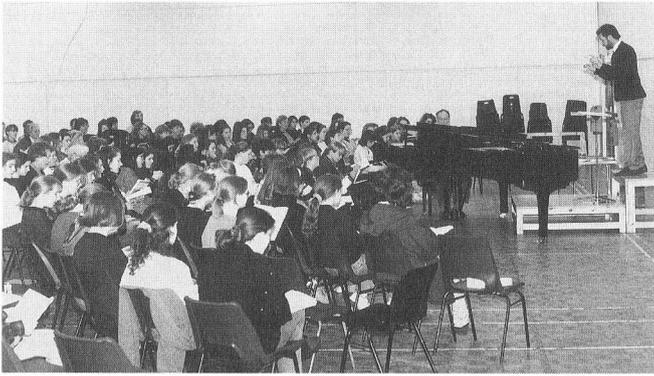
11th December

Concert Grand moved up to the Hall - and back again after the Carol Service; we just had to have it for this important event!

12th December

Carol Service. The Orchestra - drawn from Senior Pupils and Staff; the





Choir - the whole of Orchard Close and Years 7 and 8, who sang confidently and musically; the Readers - drawn from Parents, Staff and Pupils; the Congregation - squashed into every available space in the Hall, who participated throughout with obvious pleasure and made the occasion a memorable experience.

11th February, 1992

Choral Society visit to Sidcot School to sing parts of Israel in Egypt with their Choir. It was comforting to know that we had learned easily as much as their more experienced Choir!

18th February

Lunch hour recital given by Orchard Close - a cocktail of songs by the whole group and individual instrumental solos.

Concert Grand moved to its newly completed store room off the Main Hall.

26th and 27th February

Primary rounds for The Young Musician of the Year Competition. 47 competitors from North Oxfordshire, each hoping for a place in the finals.

7th March

Inaugural Concert on the Concert Grand given by Bernard d'Ascoli; an outstanding performance and a true milestone in the life of Sibford. Mr. d'Ascoli won the affections of many and we hope to persuade him to return here again.

14th March

Finals of the Young Musician of the Year Competition. 19 finalists playing to a packed hall. It was a very long evening, but most rewarding and the winning performances on trumpet and piano by Marcel Zidani have set a superb standard for future years of the competition.

1st to 4th April

Joint Choirs Festival - Choirs from all eight Quaker Schools participate in this event every three years. As host this year, Sibford provided accommodation and food, recreation and excursions, plus twelve hours of rehearsals for 277 people!

4th April

Israel in Egypt at Coventry Cathedral.



24th March

Lunch hour recital given by Wendy Holden (mezzo-soprano) and Raymond Head (piano); songs by Handel, Purcell, Gluck and Elgar, Rachmaninov's Prelude in G minor - a few moments of musical indulgence in the midst of a busy day.

26th June

Visit of Band and Choir from Upper Canada College, Toronto. 36 visitors on a two week tour of this country and stopped overnight with us, giving a pleasant evening of music.

27th June

Concert by the Banbury Symphony Orchestra. Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 Op 18 with Charles Martin as soloist. Holst The Planets Suite. Conducted by Raymond Head. Exciting music. At times it felt as if the hall roof would lift.

4th July

Open Day Concert

Throughout the year Pupils and Staff gave instrumental and vocal performances at our weekly Music Meeting. 104 Pupils received regular instrumental tuition. The following achieved success in Associated Board Music Exams:

Kylie Cobb	Flute II
Laurence Colegrave	Piano II Merit
Hannah Cossentine	Piano IV
Alex Davey	Euphonium I
Felicity Day	Piano I Merit
Jessica Day	Piano II
Hannah Gale	Piano I
Lynne Mather	Piano IV
Ellen Salway	Trumpet III
Anna Wheeler	Trumpet I
Helen Yeomans	Flute IV

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Autumn Term got off to a promising start with pleasing GCSE results. Three of my pupils achieved a grade 'A' namely: Nancy Isaacs, Naomi Buneman and Kate Hendry. For Kate this was a marvellous achievement and it reflects the support available for our dyslexic pupils at Sibford.

Sixteen pupils have chosen to study Religious Education as an option subject this year and this is most encouraging. If you visited the R.E. Department during Open Day you may have met Chi-Chin Lin or Paul Levy who talked with enthusiasm about their GCSE work. Parents had the opportunity to look at a wide range of course work tasks such as "Marriage in the Christian Tradition" and "Pollution and Conservation Issues". Paul enjoyed demonstrating the work he had produced with the aid of his lap top computer.

Open Day provided an important focus in showing parents and visitors the work of the R.E. Department for each year group. Displays of work included 'The Society of Friends' project by Year 7 pupils, 'People with a Purpose' by Year 8 and material exploring the major world religions.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Tony Mills for running the Department during my maternity leave in the Spring Term.

Lisa Chowne

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Every lesson it's the same. Plaintive cries of "Sir, please sir, what do we do?" Have they been paying attention? Surely not 20 seconds ago you finished your detailed explanation with the enquiry, "Does everybody understand what I want you to do? Anyone who doesn't? No? All right then, get on with it! "Then wham! You cover your desire to scream or to burst into tears, think "Bless their little hearts..." and get stuck into one of the most enjoyable occupations on this earth.

The new school year began with the Head of Department convalescing (well, that's his story), so Andrew Newbold and Anthony Skeath held the fort. Many thanks are due to them for a job so well done that many were unaware of my absence. At the close of the year many of our students had also done a good job, several gaining double A at GCSE.

This group were the first to take the course which originates from a research and development team based at York University, and which, in the early days of its construction, was funded by Salters.

Coming back late was not a task I'd recommend, for there seemed to be a hundred and one tasks demanding my attention. Perhaps uppermost of these was the decision to take part in the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 Pilot Assessment. As of next year (summer 1993) this will be compulsory for all schools, so it seemed a good idea to gain some experience of what it would be like for both students and staff.

The Year 9 students took the two days of written papers well, buoyed up, I hope, by the knowledge that the average degree student doesn't sit many more papers! However, by prep time of the second day, most had had enough, and I supervised one of the most tranquil hours ever....,if you discount the sound of z's being pumped into the air! The results? Pretty satisfactory really, with few surprises, though, as one would expect in an exercise of this type, areas of concern were highlighted and will be "sorted" in time for next year's Tests.

Many science activities take place on Saturday mornings and at other times, too. Electronics was a popular one, and the computer club. The younger students helped with tree and hedge planting behind the Sports Hall, and the pond was relined after its summer accident, rapidly filling with wild life and attracting more to its edges. Our thanks go to the Dept's technician Di Howes, for organising and largely carrying out this work. Fish appeared in the pond in the summer and caused one or two of us to have doubts about our eyesight or our mental states! How on earth did they get there? Theories abound, but no firm answers are yet forthcoming.

At the close of the year we bade a sad farewell to Gareth Jeremy, who had worked in the Dept for four years. We miss his humour and wish him all good luck for the future.

Congratulations. We are pleased to announce that the following students gained an 'A' pass in this GCSE exam: Robert McBreen, Naomi Prosser, John Salway & Jonathan Taylor.

Chris Cox, Head of Science

SPORTS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL 1991-92

The 1991-92 sporting year was a year in which many more pupils than in recent years represented their house or the school in a variety of sports. Results did not truly reflect the vast improvement that many teams had made on the previous year, but with nearly all teams producing victories during their season we are confident that the trend is in the



Clare Austin batting.



Caroline Cleland bowling.

Banbury School and Blessed George Napier. The netballers had a frustrating season but were rewarded with victories over Chenderit at under 13, Blessed George Napier and The Warriner (B Team) at under 14.

In November a number of sixth form pupils and three staff took part in an English Volleyball Association Coach One Award run at the school. The following are now Volleyball coaches, Maddie Johnson, Hal Greenham, Gideon Hedley, Simon Garne, Duncan Carr, Diccon Barr, Giles Upward, Symon Basham and Cristina Rodriguez-Cano!

In conjunction with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme a group of students worked towards the bronze medallion life-saving award, with Cathy Cavill, Jonathan Taylor, Lucy Snow, Gill Newbold and, more recently, Diccon Burr successfully gaining the award with a number of others passing most components and shortly to complete the award.

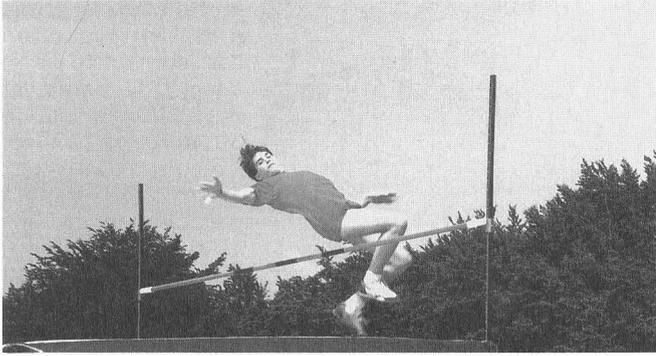
During the summer term there were a number of particularly outstanding performances. Paul Roberts, after a very solid display of batting and bowling at Lord Williams School, Thame, was selected for the Oxfordshire Under 13 cricket squad.



Adama Sadauki in the black strip of Fielding catching up.

Robert McBreen and Ben Stratton-Woodward became County Steeple-Chase and High Jump Champions respectively, with Jenny Taylor (800m), Andrew Puttick (100m), Maano Obeyesekere (Triple Jump), Jonathan Williams (400m), Antonio Darder (Shot Putt) and Nkem Igwebe (High Jump) all representing North Oxfordshire at the County Championships.

Sports Day and Quaker Sports produced a number of good performances in glorious sunshine. Sibford reversed last years result in the Southern Quaker School Athletics meeting by pipping Sidcot by 4 points. Significantly Sibford won four



Jonathan Taylor high jumping at Quaker Sports.

of the six high jump competitions on the day, which was due to a lot of hard work by the jumpers during the term, made possible by the new high jump take-off area donated by Top 86 and The Tuck Shop. This years meeting will take place at Sidcot School, where we hope to take an even stronger team than last year.

Sports day involved more participants than ever before, with heats being run in many events, producing outstanding finishes in races such as the senior boys 100m, in which Andrew Puttick inched out Maano Obeyesekere in the final 5 metres, and the junior girls long jump in which Theresa Jack beat Helen Tredwell with her final jump, to mention just a few.

Tuesday's Sports Afternoon



The Head of P.E. practising sport of a different kind at Alton Towers.

In an effort to allow pupils to take part in fixtures without interfering with their other studies, the school has introduced a sports afternoon. This has been achieved without losing any other lesson time by scheduling the lessons on Tuesday before 2.30pm, allowing the most of the afternoon to be used for uninterrupted sport. All pupils in the school will be involved in some form of physical pursuit. This will range from a game of rugby or netball against another school to such internally organised

activities as orienteering, fitness training, sailing, movement and dance and horse riding, a programme designed to suit all interests and abilities.

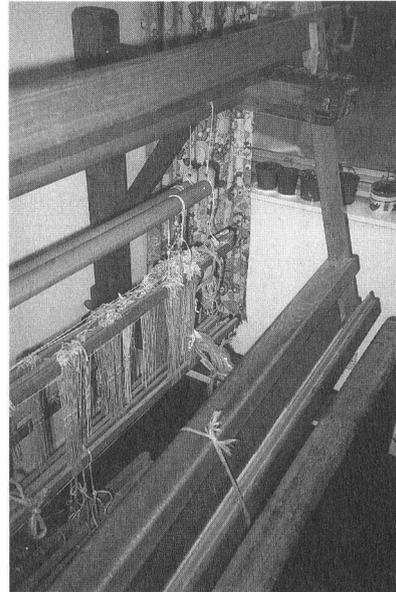
Parents and friends of Sibford School are welcome to attend matches and if any parent or friend feels able to contribute to coaching a team or running a sporting activity then the school would welcome the assistance.

Graham Thomas, Head of P.E.

TEXTILES

During the past year we have achieved a great deal in developing the facilities on offer within the textile field.

We are now the proud owners of a beautiful free standing weaving loom which is situated in the upstairs Art Room (if



you have visited the textile room you will understand why we have housed it upstairs).

This loom has been given to the School by Deborah Taylor, mother of Jonathan. The loom was worked and owned by Jonathan's grandmother.

Our next aim is to find somebody who is familiar with a loom to instruct us in its use and its capabilities and hopefully before too long we will be producing original Sibford cloth.

The 'A' Level students again took the opportunity to visit the Clothes Show Live.

Held in the N.E.C. Birmingham, this is always a very valuable education visit for the students of Fashion and Art - many original works are derived from their experience.

Another source of ideas and inspiration has again been sought from our local family - Dunford Wood. Both 'A' Level students have been very fortunate to have been helped in their studies by visiting their workshops and for Adama Sadauki her three weeks work experience placement here has fuelled her enthusiasm to go further and study Textiles at a London Fashion School.

Lesley Norton (Head of Textiles)



Artwork by Phillip Tsui

OUT AND ABOUT

These items reflect the varied extra-curricular activities which enrich life for us all at Sibford

DANCE AND MOVEMENT

On Tuesday afternoons, eight girls gather together in the Oliver Studio to create dance and movement. As a group they are very productive, usually coming up with an interesting dance combination by the end of the session, as the girls invent and explore different dance patterns and movements for themselves. Everybody enjoys the activity so much that not a moment is wasted and the atmosphere is always very relaxed and informal.

We start the session by doing some simple warm up exercises. This is followed by our teacher helping us to create quite impressive looking movements and small dance routines from very simple actions such as walking in a circle, a square, or even just walking around the room. After this we are on our own! We form little groups of not more than three or four people and work together to form a dance routine that involves the movements that we have been working on earlier in the lesson. At the end of the activity, we have the opportunity to watch each other perform our dance sketches and comment on how it was all put together and evaluate one another's creations.

At the time of writing this we have had only two dance and movement sessions, but I have been told that in the future we will have the opportunity of being videoed while in practice, to enable us to be able to watch ourselves on tape. We will also be watching professional dance videos and have the opportunity of actually taking a trip to a theatre and seeing a good dance company performing live.

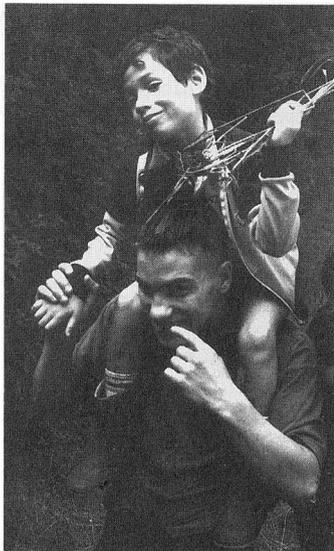
Isabel Travers, Year 11

KIDS CAMP

Kids Camp is a time to be remembered. From the very start, when a busful of helpers, mainly from Year 11, arrived in London to visit the two schools from which the kids come, there was an unexplainable atmosphere. It was good to know that these children were soon to have a great week in the country, full of fun and freedom, because judging from the busy surroundings of London, such chances would be few in their lives.

At Sibford the days began with breakfast at 8:15, or earlier, depending at what time your kid woke you up! Afterwards, the kids had lessons with their teachers for an hour beginning at 9:00. At this time, the 20 helpers would meet with Sibford staff to have a briefing about the day, and to allocate tasks. This was a chance for a break as well.

We would always meet the kids from their lessons with big smiles on their faces, bursting to tell us what they had been doing. That was soon forgotten, though, once they realised they were off out to a farm park where they could get close to the animals and feed them, visit the shops and then play



Mark Skelton in a classic pose!



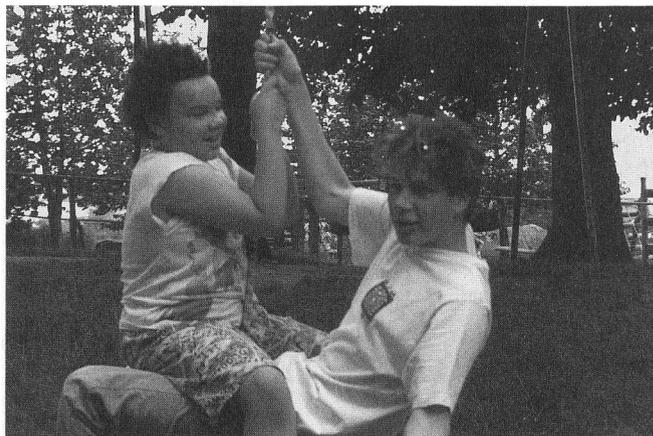
Boys will be boys!

like visiting a pig farm, or walking in the countryside, or deciding not to fly kites in the rain at a windless Burton Dassett.

Back at school, tea was followed by lessons for an hour from 6:00. This was a chance for helpers to have some time for themselves. After their class, the kids were involved in dance and drama, which prepared them for sleep after cocoa and cake for supper. Such was the daily pattern of the week.

Everyone worked hard to make Kids Camp successful and something that everyone will remember for a long time. I know I will! I learned some very valuable lessons in that space of time, and I suspect everyone else did, too. We have some of the best memories of our time at Sibford from that last week to keep for a long, long time.

Ben Stratton-Woodward. Year 11.



Alistair Faux and his Kid at Ragely Hall.

SAILING

The Sailing Club has had another good season. Robbie Easterbrook has joined Banbury Cross in his own right and is sailing his own Laser. He has started to win a few races so perhaps we have another budding Sir Alec Rose in our midst.

This year a number of pupils left the School who have been sailing with us for 5 years. So goodbye and thank you to Andrew Gough, Andrew Campbell, Neville Jones and especially Charlotte Sidebotham.

Andy Chowne

TANZANIA 1992

In July 1992 a party of Sibford pupils, staff and friends set off on an adventure that was to take them to Moscow, Kenya, Tanzania and then to the tropical island of Zanzibar.

The Game Parks in Tanzania lived up to their reputation and we saw many examples of the wildlife that before had only been introduced by David Attenborough on the Wildlife Television Programmes. The Ngorogoron Crater was in itself a spectacular feature, and the vastness of the Serengeti



Sagar Shah, Chris Carter and Chris Legg on safari

Plains had to be seen to be believed. One of the highlights was the sighting of a cheetah. What made it even more special was that she had four cubs with her.

Then we moved on south to Dar es Salaam on the coast. The campsite was called Silver Sands and well lived up to its name. Waking up the next morning to watch the sun rise over the Indian Ocean with the palm

trees silhouetted against the pale blue sky and a few local fishermen sailing made us all think just how far away from home and school we were. Then a brave Stephen Bunney was seen heading towards the waves and an early morning swim was the order of the day.

We had a smooth sailing across to Zanzibar and looked forward to settling into a hotel for a few days. Zanzibar reminded me of a Muslim Venice without the canals. The streets are narrow and winding and even the most able mapreader was known to get lost in the little lanes. Spices, slaves, bananas and funny basketwork hats for the bread are some of the images that we brought back from Zanzibar.

We travelled by truck, slept in tents, became dusty and dirty, took hundreds of photographs, bargained and bought carved animals and had a thoroughly good time. The saying that will be remembered as one that almost became a signature tune was "THIS IS WHAT I CAME TO AFRICA TO DO"

Janette Skeath.

Next April I am taking a group to Nepal to trek, to white-water raft, to do a jungle safari and to experience the splendor of the Himalayan Mountains, not forgetting the cultural side of it all. Nepal is a poor country with a fascinating blend of Buddhists and Hindus. Time is built into the trip to visit the main sites of Kathmandu.

For more information please get in touch with me at the School.

BABY BOOM CONT'D

Last year's magazine spoke of the many happy events soon to follow. This year we are in a position to congratulate several new sets of parents on the safe and joyous births of their children.



The Pick, Chowne, Guy, Bond, Excell and Glover families are all larger by one since last we appeared in print, but this time around special congratulations are due to John and Susie Dunston, on the birth of Naomi, and to Mike and Penny Spring, on the birth of Isaac.

Our two photographs show Susie with Naomi, and Isaac safe in his mum's arms.



We also extend our warmest congratulations to Kevin Wyles, Head of Maintenance and his wife Liz, on the safe arrival of their TRIPLETS! Mark, Rachel and Lee, who were born at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury on 16th October 1992. Beat that if you can!

FIRE SERVICE EXERCISE AT THE HILL

On the evening of Tuesday, June 26th a fire service exercise caused great excitement at the Hill, and was watched by all the boarders and those day scholars who stayed to do prep.

Fire appliances from Hook Norton, Banbury and Tysoe assembled outside the Manor until summoned to the Hill, once smoke was set off to simulate fire.

Six dummies had been placed in the Hill buildings: two of them on the roof; two in the roof tank room, and two on the first floor corridors. Once the smoke was sighted, the alarms rang and the school was evacuated, with all the students assembled on the field in 5 minutes.



The exercise was to rescue the dummies. The main stairs and front entrance were not used in the exercise, as this was the seat of the pretend fire. A ladder was

placed against the window of Room 22 and firemen wearing breathing apparatus entered. No dummies found, so out they came.

A 10.5 metre ladder was extended to the parapet of the building, as this was now the only means of entrance for the officers. Once the dummies were located they were lowered from the flat roof using a paragurd stretcher.

A total of twelve firemen wearing B.A. climbed up to the flat roof. The apparatus they were wearing had blanks placed over the visors, so as to reduce their vision, since in smoke one can only see about 200 m.m. Two searched the tank room, while two more searched the corridor to Room 27, and two more searched the corridor to Room 21. As they went around the building they laid a guide line. This is to enable them to find their way back out again.



The dummies were all located and brought down. Each one weighs 12 stone and they are not easy to move around. Once they were all safely accounted for, our exercise was over.

Kevin Wyles, School Fire Officer

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

This year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has again proved to be very popular at Sibford. Many of last year's group received their certificates at a presentation ceremony in Banbury along with pupils from other North Oxfordshire schools. Following this, eight of them decided to go on to do Silver and as part of this completed two very successful expeditions in the New Forest during the Easter and Summer holidays.

We ran the usual practice and assessment expeditions at Bronze level on the Ridgeway and in the Peak District. Once again a mixture of weather conditions were experienced with high winds, hail and heavy rain in March and some very hot and humid weather in June.

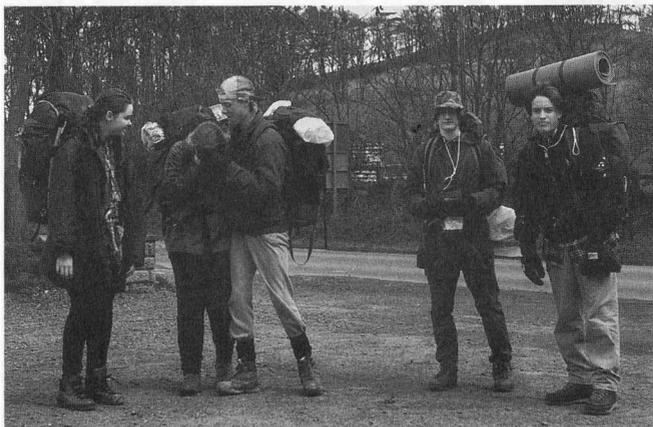
A. Newbold

The following is Rupert Silman's account of the first day of the assessment expedition.

After a reasonable night's sleep in the camping barn we were woken up at quarter to seven. I got up and packed my rucksack. I was carrying the tent, Trangia and meths, and my partner was taking the poles and food. It was my turn to help cook - we had bacon, eggs and beans for breakfast. After this I weighed my pack to check that it was less than a quarter of my body weight - it was just over, but there was nothing more I wanted to do without.

We set off at 9.15 and walked down the hill to Ecton Bridge: then we had to climb the steepest hill I have ever had to walk up. We started walking up it diagonally and then I followed a sheep track straight up. The others didn't follow and I reached a hedge before I realised they weren't with me. After five minutes waiting I took the Whistle from the First Aid Kit and blew it. Eventually I saw them about 300 metres lower down the slope. Ben was struggling so we helped him with his pack.

After a short break we started walking down the other side of the hill and on to the River Dove where we stopped to paddle, explore the caves and lie in the grass. After this we followed the river down the valley to Ilam Hall campsite. On arrival I started to cook the meal - Beanfeast and Smash - while James, Tipper put our tent up. After a pleasant evening we were ready for bed after a very enjoyable but tiring first day.



Caroline Hale, Paul Dixon, Chris Legg and Nathan Pilcher on their Bronze D of E expedition in the Peak District.

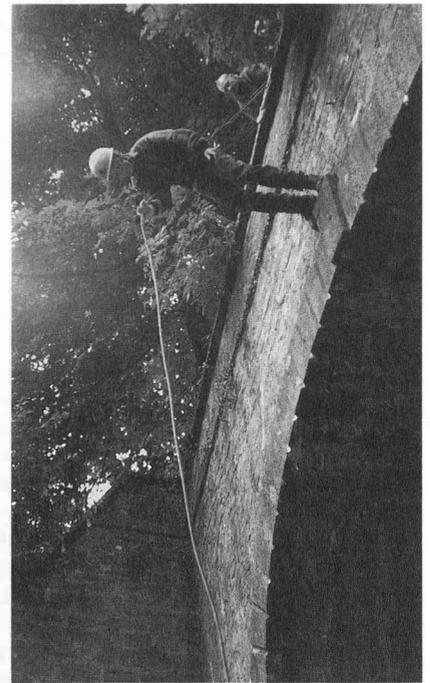
LYME REGIS ACTIVITIES WEEK

As for many years in the recent past, a number of Year 7 and 8 students set out in the early summer for an activities week, which this year was located at Lyme Regis.

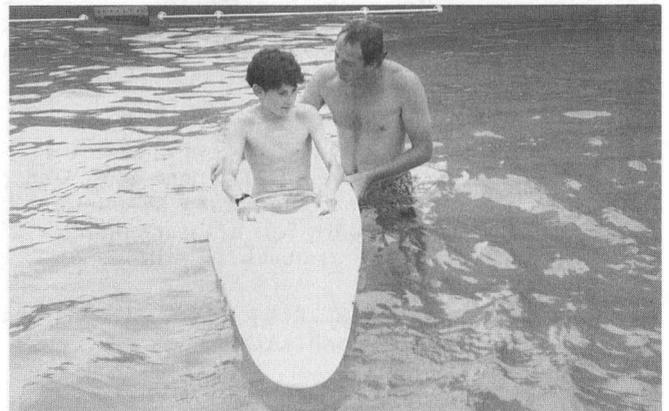
Adama Sadauki, Head Girl '91-92, accompanied the group and proved to be an excellent and very popular member of the team. Judith Allen, Andrew Chowne and Andy Newbold, the organiser, made up the staff members.

As our photographs show, a wide range of activities were undertaken, all aimed at enriching the children's experience and increasing their self-confidence. Next

year it is hoped that the activities week may take on a Mediterranean flavour....watch out for details!



Jean-Paul Booth abseiling down a bridge.



Dan Lewin about to be turned upside down in his canoe!.

THE 1992 FOX TROT - QUAKER PILGRIMAGE

Investigating Quaker origins and following the path of the founder of Quakerism, George Fox, intrigued me, and not being a Quaker myself, I was interested to learn about it, so, I went on the Fox Trot.

A group of about 20 sixth form students from the four southern Friends' schools, Sidcot, Leighton Park, Saffron Walden and Sibford, travelled up hill and down dale in the 1652 areas of Lancashire and Westmorland, trying to better understand this mid-1600's man, George Fox.

Our pilgrimage began on Pendle Hill which Fox was moved to climb, he said, by the Lord himself. A steep, discouraging trek awaited us, but determination got me to the top in the end. When Fox climbed it he had a vision of a great multitude of people, waiting "to be gathered" as he looked across into Westmorland, and to whom he would bring his beliefs in the inner light and the spark of the divine in every human person.



Melissa determinedly climbing Pendle Hill.

We remained in silence after a reading from his journal, in which he described the experience. It was at this moment, looking over to Westmorland, barely seeing what lay below, that I felt warm and almost in touch with the history of this spot.

After his vision, George Fox travelled across the country preaching. Over the weekend, we followed his route, and visited many Meeting Houses often built later in the places where he had made his mark.

Our base was Yealand Conyers, a small village in Lancashire, near Carnforth. We stayed in an Old Quaker school, now used as a kind of youth hostel. Our bed was on the floor! It was good fun, the other students great company, and I have made many new friends I keep in touch with.

Our travels took us to Brigflatts and to Firbank Fell, where George preached to 1,000 people out on the moors. He wanted to encourage independence of thought and to encourage people to really discover themselves and the inner truth they could believe in, to constantly ask questions about real religion.

We came to Kendal, where there has been an established Friends' Meeting House since the 1660s, and it is probably one of the most beautiful ones as well. It made a real impression on us.



André Kent, Hal Bayraktar and Duncan Carr (Sibford) with Maureen Scott (Saffron Walden) and Hugo Brasher (Leighton Park) atop the hill.

Our last day took us to Swarthmoor Hall, the place where Fox really "founded" the Society of Friends. We sat and ate our lunch in the very room where he once sat and discussed with colleagues.

We tried to picture the events of this man's life in one weekend. He had left home at the age of 19, to seek the truth, and he established Quakerism at the age of 28. We used the images around us, the information told to us, and our minds to recreate the ambience of a period of long ago. But more importantly it was all to help us understand what Quakerism is all about, and to form an opinion of it.

I have learned a great deal

and as I go on learning I appreciate the ideals of a society of friends respecting every individual, despite religious, ethnic and social differences, and respecting the presence of God in each and every one of us. I think this is why we have set periods of silence - to try to search for him.

Melissa Sturgeon, Head Girl '92-93.

150TH CELEBRATIONS

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

We felt that it would be right to give thanks to God for the 150 years that Sibford has been in existence, so a commemorative Meeting for Worship was planned as the opening official event of the celebrations.

About 160 people representing the Owing Monthly Meetings, Old Scholars, FOSS (Friends of Sibford), Staff, Parents and Scholars came together for Meeting at Sibford Gower Meeting House during the afternoon of Sunday March 29th. Outside the weather was grey and wet but by contrast inside the atmosphere was of happiness and enjoyment. Much of the ministry was anecdotal and focused on the specialness of Sibford. The general message was that the caring nature of the school community had helped many students in the past and hope was expressed that this good work would continue into the future.

After the Meeting a commemorative tree was planted in the burial ground by Norman Coxon (an Old Scholar and a member of Sibford Meeting) and by senior pupils of the School. Hopefully, future generations of Friends and scholars will see the tree on leaving the Meeting House and think of the importance that the Friends of Sibford Meeting have played in the life of the School.



Tree planting at the Gower Meeting House.

When the tree had been planted and photographs taken everyone travelled back to the School for afternoon tea in the Oliver Studio. This proved to be a very pleasant end to a successful occasion.

FUN DAY Monday May 4th 1992

The main celebration event for the present day pupils was a Fun Day which was held on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday. The pupils were given the opportunity to undertake various activities and workshops that they would not normally do during school time. The pupils tackled these sessions with great enthusiasm, which for some was quiet difficult as they were still suffering from sore feet obtained during the previous day's sponsored walk. It is difficult to write about specific events because they were all so much enjoyed but I feel it necessary to single out the circus skills workshop for special mention. The sight around school of pupils of all ages practicing juggling, unicycling, gymnastics and clowning around was great fun. An event that I am sure will be repeated in the near future.



Stephen "officiating" at Quaker Sports Day.

The events on offer during the day were; basket ball coaching, jazz dance, tennis coaching, calligraphy, collage work, art work, all day cycle ride, magazine writing, circus skills, comedy theatre, music workshop, model making, an outside mystery trip to Drayton Manor, and gymnastics.

BARN DANCE

After a number of changes of plan it was decided to end Summer Term with a Barn Dance on Saturday July 11th. The event was open to all members of the wider school community.

As with a number of events this summer the day was an extremely wet one but this did not prevent over two hundred people congregating in the Marquee, which was pitched outside Rooms 1 to 4. Dancing was to the HOOKY BAND who kept people fully occupied to midnight. The School kitchen staff provided a barbecue supper which was eaten either under the varrendah on in the class rooms off South corridor.

One very pleasing aspect of the evening was the number of recent old scholars who attended the event. They had great fun catching up with friends and talking to the staff present. Many of them stayed the night camping in the pavillion and in other rooms around the campus. The following morning breakfast was served in the Home Economics room and was followed by clearing up.

The thanks of everyone present must go to Judith Allen who spent so much of her time organising the event. Sadly, she is no longer on the staff of the school but hopefully this means she will be able to attend the next Sibford barn dance without any of the pressures of being an organiser.

To conclude this article I would like to thank SOSA who kindly gave the school a generous grant to help fund the 150th Celebrations. I know that all the events were much enjoyed by everybody who took part.

Stephen Bunney
Deputy Headmaster

THE CLASS OF 1992.

To celebrate our 150th anniversary we have borrowed an idea from the yearbooks produced in American schools. We asked the students leaving Sibford at the end of their courses to select representatives of their year groups in whom they identified specific qualities, and we profile those students here. We salute them because the school's greatest asset is its students. As they leave us they leave something of themselves behind, and they take something of Sibford away with them wherever they go. May God bless them in their futures.

YEAR 11 SPORTS PERSONALITIES

KATHY CAVILL AND MARK GOODCHILD.



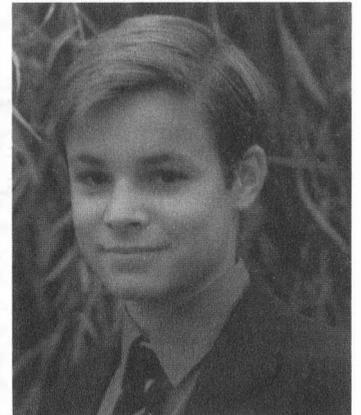
Kathy Cavill

Kathy is from Banbury and joined Sibford five years ago from Hill View primary school. She plans to go to university and find employment in the legal profession after she completes her A levels at Banbury Sixth Form Centre, where she plans to take a GCSE in Physical Education.

Kathy took an active part in school drama and music as well as sports. Her commitment led to her becoming captain of many of the school teams in which she played. Kathy

remembers with fun the water fights of her second year in the school and the close relationships between staff and pupils. She also says, "I believe that students who come to Sibford become much more confident in themselves and around others."

Mark came to Sibford two years ago from High Wycombe when his father's job brought the family to Banbury. Since then, Mark has established himself with many of the local sports clubs and as a serious sportsman in the school. His abilities helped him overcome the problems of joining a new school and have gained him many new friends. He, too, captained many of our teams.



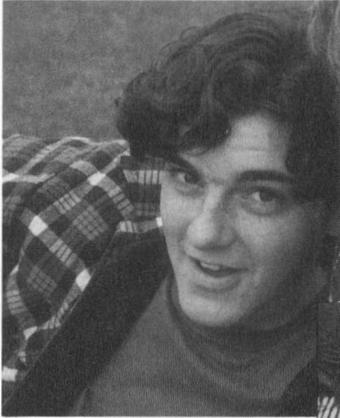
Mark Goodchild

Mark will study A levels at Banbury Sixth Form Centre, and is thinking about a career in engineering, surveying or architecture. Echoing Kathy's comment, Mark says, "I feel that Sibford has given me more self-confidence" and that the smaller size of our school makes it "a closer community, which I feel is a good thing."

YEAR 11 STUDENTS MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

DAVID SIMMS AND SUSANNAH DAY.

Susannah came to Sibford as a first former from her home in Birmingham and will go on to study A levels at Worcester



David Simms

in its remote location "in the middle of nowhere", and thinks that Sibford helped develop in her qualities of friendliness, communication, responsibility and confidence. No wonder her peer group think she will succeed!

Sixth Form College. She hopes to work in the world of film and theatre, perhaps acting or perhaps backstage work. She has been involved in school drama productions and found it fascinating work.

Susannah believes part of Sibford's special quality lies



Susannah Day

YEAR 11'S BEST STUDENTS

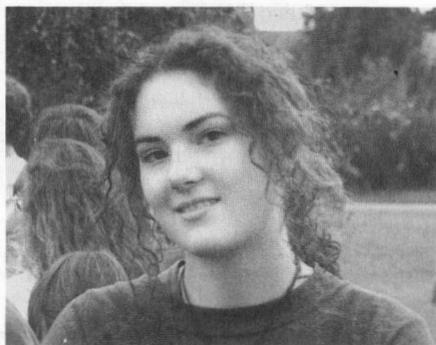
DAVID SIMMS AND NAOMI PROESSER.

David was selected in two categories, which is quite an honour. He lives in the village of Sibford Ferris and received most of his primary education at home before joining us at age 11. He goes on to Morton Morrel Agricultural College and hopes to work in estate management one day. He is drawn to outside work and work involving animals.

David believes that the school helped him relate to people his own age and he enjoyed the international nature of the school, saying, "It is interesting to learn about people's different religions and cultures." His happiest memories are from his last year in the school when he feels he was given more responsibility.

David was one of the students involved in a serious car crash in the summer and he writes, "I would like to thank all those who put themselves out to help us when the six of us had our accident." He also recalls that some of his best friends were once people who bullied him. That just shows how one can always win people around!

Naomi joined Sibford as a second year in September 1988 after moving into the area, and leaves us to study A levels at Banbury Centre. She is drawn towards the study of European law and language.



Naomi Prosser

Naomi has performed on the piano many times in Meeting and was active in music/drama productions. One of her happiest memories is taking 9½ hours to complete the sponsored walk for Kids Camp this year! She tells us that as a result of her time in Sibford, "I have more tolerance and understanding of people's beliefs, and finally I have the confidence to express myself, even if I am still shy about

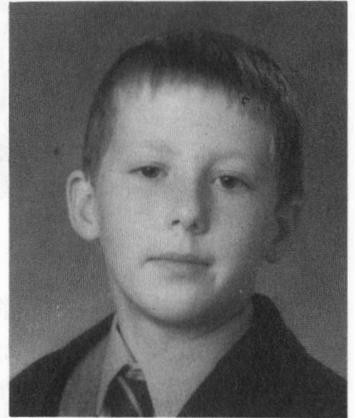
performing in public."

She is also looking forward already to the first reunion of the class of '92.

YEAR 11 STUDENTS SUPPORTING THE CREATIVE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

SIMON HILL AND TOM EADIE.

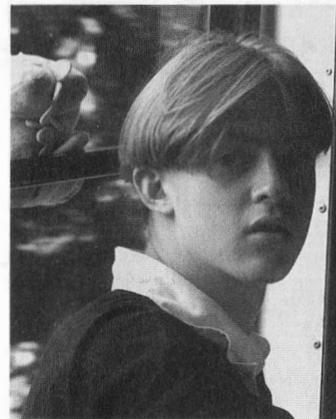
Simon joined us as a third year student from Lichfield Cathedral School where he has been a chorister. During his time here he sang on many school occasions. He goes on to study A levels at Plymouth College hoping to become involved in technology and computers in television, or a systems engineer for a large company. He was our Saturday night hop disco wizard!



Simon Hill

One of the positive things Simon identifies about the school is that "problems with handwriting, which have hindered many students in previous schools, are recognised and accepted, and the person is not made to look stupid." He feels he now has a more positive outlook on life and has also "overcome some of my lack of confidence (but not much!)"

One of his unhappy memories has to be getting run over by a cyclist on the sponsored walk, but happily he made a good recovery from his injuries.



Tom Eadie

Tom came to Sibford from an American school on an airbase in Sicily in 1988. He is British and his parent's work brought them to the island. They are now living in the UK once again. He is currently a member of Sibford's Sixth Form, following the Diploma in Vocational Education course, concentrating on horticulture, design technology and theatre studies.

Tom hopes to eventually work either with stage lighting or in agricultural engineering. He was chosen for this award by his peer group because they recognised his commitment and talent in lighting school drama productions such as "Toad".

His worst memory of Sibford is the strangeness of his first day, but his happiest time was his time in Year 11, so things must have changed for the better! Tom was also Deputy House Captain in Lister Boys - a man who makes his mark.

YEAR 11 PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

KATY TUTHILL.

Katy joined us in 1988 from the Beachborough School in Brackley, and goes on to the Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion to study cooking, textiles, German, Spanish and French. She wants to travel and base herself in France for a few years, possibly working with young children eventually.



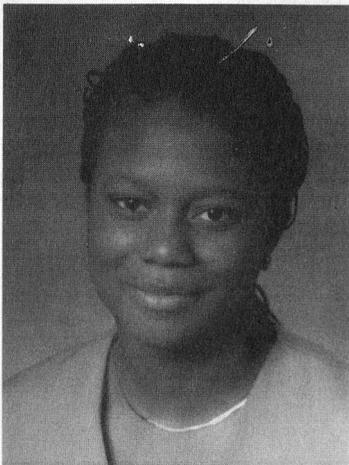
Katy Tuthill

Katy feels that Sibford developed a more open mind in her, and a willingness to listen more to other people. Her forthright and vivacious nature won her this award from her peer group, who also recognised her commitment on the games field. When asked why she thought she was chosen as personality of the year, she replied. "It's a really hard question to answer, but I am really honoured! Thank you."

SIXTH FORM SPORTS PERSONALITIES

ADAMA SADAUKI AND ANDREW PUTTICK

Adama has just completed a two year course in Fielding and is from northern Nigeria. She came to us from Abbot's Hill School for Girls and became our Deputy Head Girl 1991-2. She leaves now for art college to study costume design, hoping to be employed as a "creator of one sort or another."



Adama Sadauki

Adama is an active sportswoman, taking part in all school based sports and even playing with Maggie Guy for a local ladies lacrosse team in her spare time. Her happiest memory of Sibford is accompanying lower school pupils on Activities Week, and she says the school has taught her "how to live with all kinds of people." She wishes happiness and a full life for the school and for herself.

Andrew was known universally during his time here as "Patch" and joined us in 1989 in Year 10 from the Weald School in Sussex. He is now moving on to Chichester College to firstly complete a City and Guilds course in sport before undertaking his BTec in sport. His ambition is to become a sports coach, not surprisingly.



Andrew Puttick

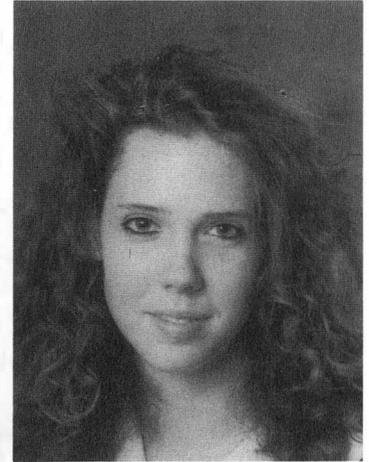
Andrew lives for sport and for fun, and really enjoyed making new friends at Sibford. He is happy to

recount how his ability has improved while he's been here and says in summary, "At Sibford I have had my ups and downs, but I think the school has been all right. I have made good friends here."

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SUPPORTING THE CREATIVE LIFE OF SCHOOL

ADI THOENEN AND SPENCER HOWARD.

Adi joined Sibford from South View Junior High in the US in 1988 as a Year 10 student. She has just completed a two year course in Fielding and is hoping to study art at college, perhaps to ultimately become an artist.

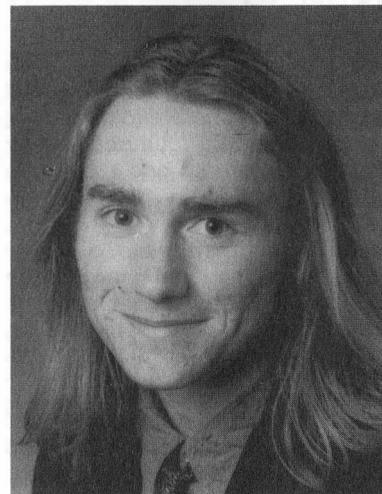


Adi Thoenen

Adi says that at Sibford she was helped to become more her own person and that we have "some beautiful caring people it's hard to find at any other school," She most enjoys her memories of the cast and crew party after the production of "Peer Gynt", meeting Spencer and the summer of 1991.

Although she knows she worked very hard at her art, Adi is flattered that the Sixth Form chose her for this award. Her last words are, "I will miss all the good times I've had, and remember and cherish all those who have been close to me during my time here."

Spencer came to Sibford as a Year 9 student in 1987 from Lincolnshire, his home county. He has completed a two year course in Fielding and goes on to study art to BTec and HND levels at Lincoln College. He hopes to make a career in the worlds of art and music.



Spencer Howard

Spencer led the school band through several incarnations and was always a very popular performer at Wednesday morning Meetings, as well as a solid member of the musical crew in school productions. He won the Wilfrid Satchwell Music Cup for outstanding music making in Sibford in both 1991 and 1992.

His happiest memories of the school attach themselves to the scenic setting of the village and the countryside around, and he enjoyed the small size of the school. As he leaves us he asks Sibford not to be sexist, something worth thinking about.

SIXTH FORM PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL ARTHUR

Michael had his nickname, too. He was "Ratty" to all his friends, although they probably had not read "Wind in the Willows". He came to Sibford as a Year 9 student in 1988 from Wembley High School, leaving us to study music at Chichester College. Michael eventually hopes to make his career in the music business.

He can't understand why the Sixth voted him as their personality of the year, but he does hint at it when he says, "I seem to be quite lively, but I'm just being my normal self!" Along with Spencer, he was a member of the school band, a very able drums and guitar player.

Michael also said, "I've enjoyed every single minute at Sibford School. I'm very glad and lucky to have come here, and I wish the best for everyone."



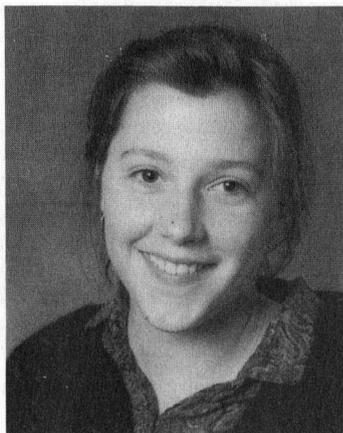
Michael Arthur

SIXTH FORM'S BEST STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

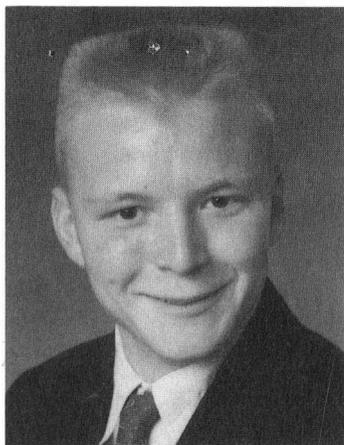
GILES UPWARD AND JENNY LEATHAM

Jenny has just been in the school one year, having come to us from Our Lady's Convent in Abingdon. She is Deputy Head Girl 1992-93 and was Deputy House Captain in Fielding last year. She hopes to go on to study occupational therapy and to make that her career.

She likes the friendliness of Sibford and feels that being a termly boarder is rounding her out as a person, and increasing her self-confidence. She has gained great satisfaction out of this award, and feels good about working hard and punctually as a student. Her hope? "For next year to be as good as this."



Jenny Leatham



Giles Upward

Giles came to Sibford as a first former when he transferred from Blessed George Napier school in Banbury. He's a local man, from Adderbury, and was Head Boy 1991-92, completing a two-year course in Fielding. He is going to take a Management and Catering HND course in Brighton or Bournemouth, hoping one day to run his own nightclub or a sports complex.

Giles says that when he first arrived as a shy dyslexic student "I wouldn't say boo to a goose", but that his years in Sibford have given him the confidence to interact with people successfully. He's especially glad to record that he feels Sibford teachers cared for him, and accepted his dyslexia without fuss.

He played in the school volleyball and rugby teams and was fortunate to have chosen areas of study in his DVE course (Catering) and at A level (CDT) which he really enjoyed. This

is why he thinks he was chosen for this award. One particular happy memory for Giles in running an occasional restaurant called "In Vino Varitas" with his fellow chef, Nigel Gates. Members of staff and their friends will all testify to the quality of the food they served. Now Giles is looking forward to being active in SOSA.

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

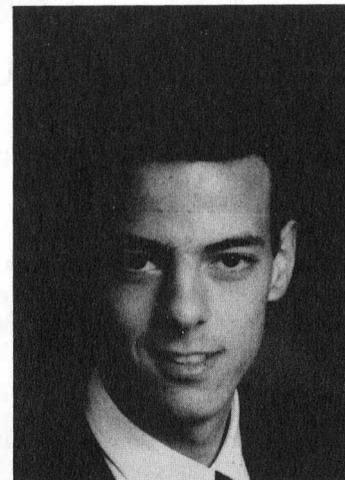
JAMIE VAUGHAN AND LUCIE HARMER

Jamie came to Sibford as a Year 12 student from his boarding school of St. Bede's in Sussex and is now studying at Epsom School of Art and Design, where next year he will begin to study Special Effects.

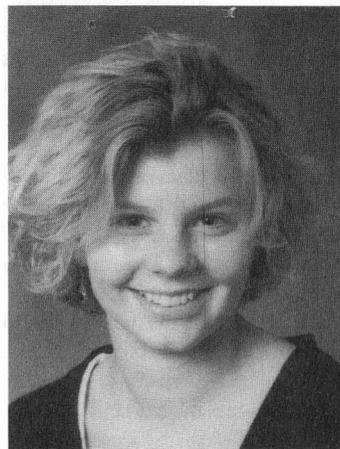
Jamie's passion is to all things to do with the world of film, cinema and video. He is a dedicated Trekkie, (a fan of "Star Trek") and has a wide collection of videos, running the Wednesday video evening in Fielding last year.

Jamie hopes to make his career in the film industry and is fortunate enough to have worked with Jim Henson's company of special effects artists for his DVE work placement. In two years time he will go back to work with them on Francis Ford Coppella's next planned film project.

Jamie tells us that he really misses all his friends at Sibford and will certainly be back for Bonfire Night. Maybe then we'll see some more Vaughan special effects!



Jamie Vaughan



Lucie Harmer

Lucie Harmer came to Sibford in Year 7 from the local primary school in Sibford Gower. She is a resident of Chipping Norton, and is now studying in her foundation year at Banbury College of Art.

While at Sibford, Lucie most valued the friendships she made and the warmth of the community. She was ultimately selected as Head Girl '91-92, a post she took very seriously. One of her great strengths at school was in textile design, but now she feels

herself being drawn towards a career as an illustrator in graphic art. Time will tell.

A real and lasting impact of her time in the school is an increase in her self confidence, something her parents clearly see in her and are happy to credit to Sibford. We look forward to seeing plenty more of Lucie as such a popular local old scholar.

LITERARY SECTION

As every year, this central part of the magazine features a selection of prose and poetry from the pens of our students. People have commented on the serious and even morbid nature of some of the works, to which I would reply that it is surely a sign of health and courage in our young that they can face some of the bleaker facts of our century head on, and not dodge them in sentiment and false jollity. The

THE BIG DAY

It was coming nearer with each tick of the clock. Soon nothing would be left, just rock and sand. The human race would be lost forever in time, never to be found again.

Sitting in the cave, Rob was thinking of the hard times to come and of how good life used to be. He was only seventeen when it happened, with his whole life ahead of him. If only things were different, he might still have. But they weren't, and the 16,000 or so left alive had to cope with the consequences.

Every day the danger crept nearer as the poison spread. Soon it would be all over. A year or two at most and the world would be empty of the race that had destroyed it, the human race. Not only the human was dying, but everything. Soon the pain and torture would end and the nightmare would be over.

Rob had pushed these thoughts to the back of his mind over the past year, but now they were coming back. He pushed them away again as he thought of what he wanted to do with the time he had left. He had not seen a human since it had happened, nor did he want to, he was so full of hate. The nearest occupied area was over 100 miles away, and he was grateful for this.

The entrance to the cave was stuffy with the smoke from the fire, so he stepped out into the bare grey land to think of what he must do. From the hill where he stood he could see only as far as the sea and nothing beyond.

He had often thought about walking out into that blackness and finding his parents, but deep inside he knew they were dead. He was scared of the day the world as he knew it would end, and he needed time to think. Now he had no laws, no duties and the only person he owed anything to was himself. He realized that with such a short time left it wasn't useful thinking of little things - he had to be strong and in his mind he had to be clear when he died.

And so the last few inhabitants of the Earth became extinct.

The Earth became rock and sand, all because of man's destructive path. No more sounds to be heard apart from the winds on the plain, but somewhere a flower grows. A second chance for Man?

Virginia Boulton, Year 9

Christmas pieces strike just the right note of real happiness, I think.

These pieces have been selected because of their descriptive qualities. The piece from Helen Yeomans is the introduction to a far longer essay which continues in the same highly stylized fashion. The others are all complete. Each one is excellent in its own way, and was a pleasure for the teachers in the English Dept. to mark. I hope you enjoy them, and that they make you think.

Seán Kenny, Head of English

BLACK SHADOW

I have to go to school tomorrow.

They called me ugly. I wasn't ugly, was I? They hurt me, and what had I done to them? Nothing. Nothing at all.

They said, "Just ignore them." But I can't, it hurt me too much. People say I'm weak, but I'm not just very sensitive. They know that. They do it for power; they see someone with less confidence and it feels good to beat them down. But where does that leave me?

I feel so cold. The room is hot. It's as if... as if a shadow is hanging over me, a dark, terrifying shadow. A black shadow. It's always with me reminding me of what they did, making me more and more scared.... I hate that black shadow. I didn't want it. It won't leave me alone.

It's been months now, months of this every morning.... before all this, there was a roundabout. When I was young I remember hating that roundabout. I thought when I sat on it that it would keep going round for ever, a never ending circle and I was trapped. That's how I feel now. I can't see an end, a way out. All I can see is it, going on forever, with their hurting me, and me hurting my parents when I say I can't go.

When I did finally sleep, it was on a pillow wet with tears.

Helen Yeomans, Year 11

CHRISTMAS

As she sat there, combing her long, long hair, I looked on from another chair.

The dog lay curled by the fire's side.

The cat on her lap purred from deep inside.

The twins' stockings in white, green and red,

Hung calm and expectant at the end of two beds.

The twins in their beds were warm, not cold.

As we watched the dying embers slowly grow old.

Jessica Day, Year 9

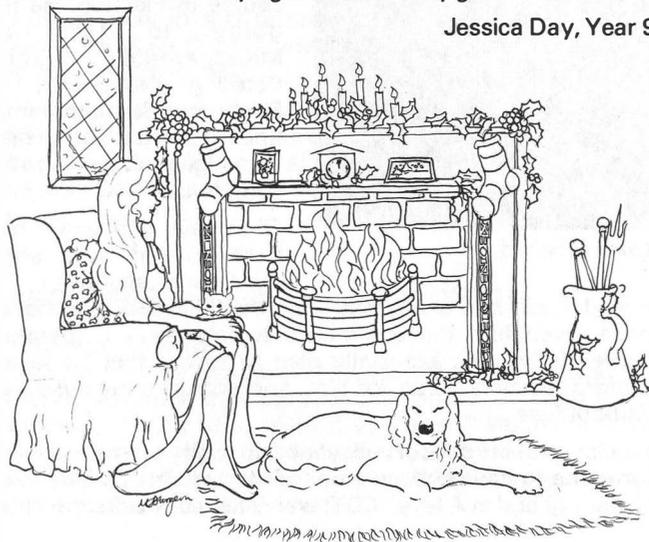


Illustration by Melissa Sturgeon

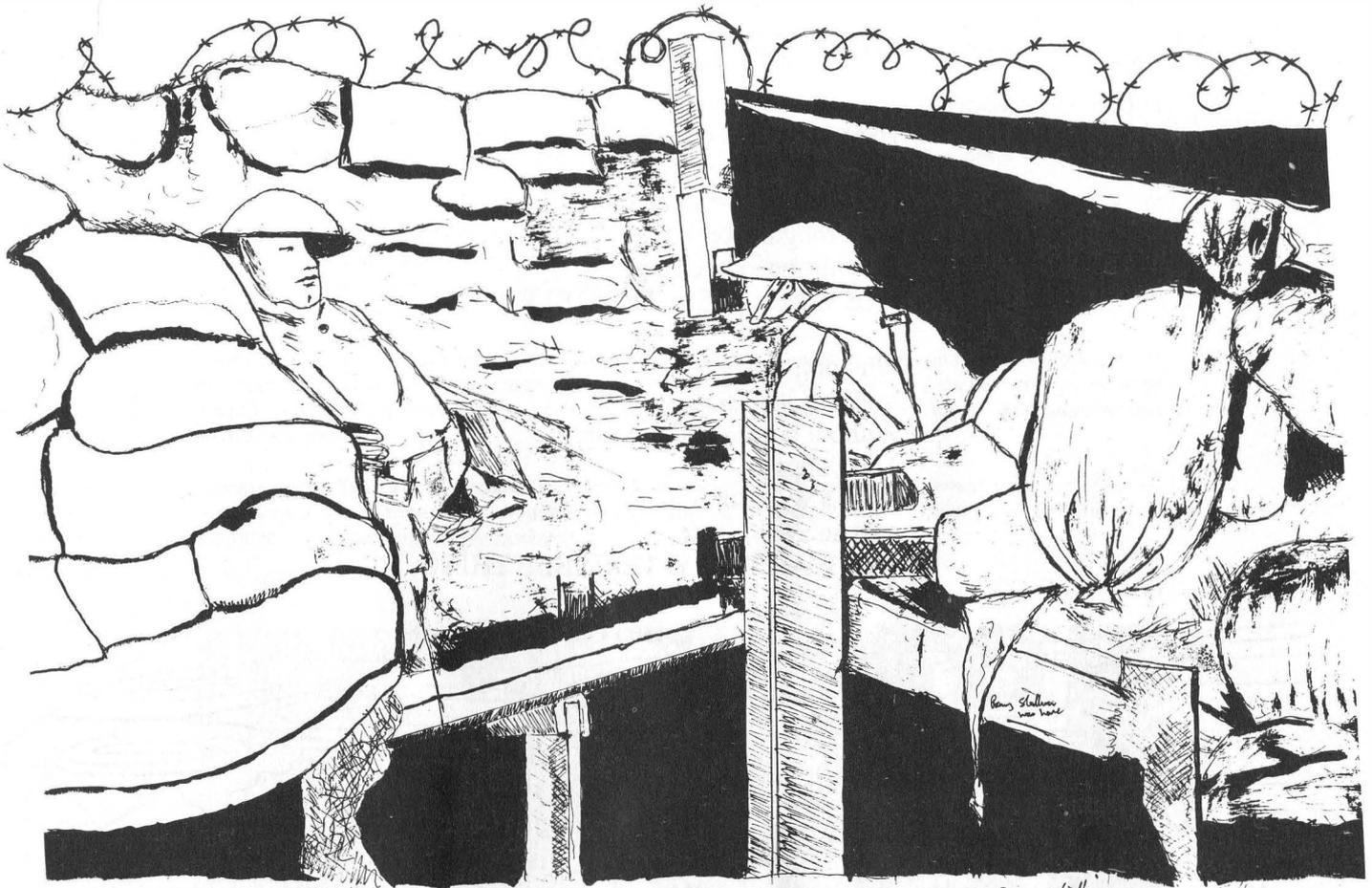


Illustration by Rony Stollman

OVER THE TOP.

It was the time, the time to die.
I wanted to know why I must die.
Hague was my killer, not the Hun.
It was not the bayonet, not the gun.
I was to die for the glory of other men.
Unknown men, safe in the officers' mess.
The whistle blew and over we went.
Shot if we stayed and dead if we ran.
A mad dash across the mud filled wasteland.
In the madness of war.

Tom Rymer, (Year 9)

THE WAR

They came in thousands,
They died in hundreds,
The war was a terrible thing,
They fought like tigers,
They dropped like flies,
THE WAR WAS A TERRIBLE THING,

Why don't they talk,
And sort it all out,
Without bombs and missiles
And things?
What a waste of life,
And an awful strife,
THE WAR WAS A TERRIBLE THING.

By Ben Coleman (Year 8)



Illustration by Kent Doo

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

One odd Christmas, well, odd Christmas Eve, I couldn't go to sleep. It must have been about two o'clock in the morning and my stocking was still hanging limply from my bed. I crept out onto the landing and down into my two younger sisters' bedroom. Their stockings, oddly enough, were, miraculously brimming with presents.

I heard the latch of the stairway door rattle and the thud of the supposed Father Christmas walking upstairs. My father walked into my room. Slung over his arm was an old blanket with a teatowel over it. He looked very surprised and asked suspiciously, "Adam, what are you doing?" I answered feebly from the distance, "I need the loo."

Later that night, I still hadn't gone to sleep when there came more footsteps on the stairs and someone entered my room. I closed my eyes tightly and pretended to be innocently sleeping. I heard the pin being pulled from the foot of my bed and the person went away. About ten minutes later the person replaced my stocking and went away again.

I jumped up in a frenzy of excitement and emptied my stocking, I was standing on the end of my bed when my father walked in and immediately crouched down. I turned away and got back into bed. Father Christmas had forgotten to put an orange in my stocking!

Adam Keeling, (Year 8)



Illustration by Hal Bayraktar



FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

INTRODUCING FOSS

What is FOSS?

FOSS exists to assist, and foster support for, Sibford School in all aspects of its functioning.

What are its aims?

We aim to raise funds so that provision can be made for additions and improvements to the equipment and the amenities of the school. Through that objective we aim to unite all friends of the school, in particular parents of present and past students, and members of staff. We are currently considering other ways in which we might contribute to the continuing development of the school and staff/parent relations, and would very much welcome suggestions as to how this could be accomplished.

Who can belong?

We welcome support and interest from all friends of Sibford School. Unless they opt out, parents belong automatically by virtue of an annual subscription paid with school fees in September.

What do we do?

FOSS organises a variety of social and fund-raising events throughout the school year. We also distribute your subscriptions in response to departmental requests for money towards the purchase of equipment.

What we need

We value your subscription but need your active support and help in our activities. We are only as good as you allow us to be. We need your interest to continue the growth and development of the school.

What has FOSS done?

Many major projects have benefited from FOSS support over the years. A small sample of projects supported include:

1. Lighting and sound equipment for the Oliver Studio.
2. Life-saving equipment for the swimming pool.
3. Computer and equipment for the resource area.
4. Support for prize-winning drama productions.
5. Provision of telephone systems for boarding houses.
6. Equipment for the Sports Hall.

In the ten years since 1981 the total raised was close to £17000.

How is FOSS organised?

We have a committee with a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and other members drawn from parents, friends and staff. Our AGM is usually held on Open Day, and we are always delighted to see members old and new, and to receive offers of help on the committee. Our first meeting of 1992/1993 was a very positive and interesting one, with lots of new members brimming over with ideas. The suggestion of a 'brainstorming' session on the role of FOSS in the school, to which all members would be invited was enthusiastically received, and this gathering will probably take place on the Friday of Spring first exeat.

Details will be sent by mail.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL.

CHAIR'S REPORT TO FOSS AGM, 1992

(excerpt)

Welcome to you all and to this, the AGM of the Friends of Sibford School. I find it a little difficult to believe that my year as Chair has passed so quickly. As I look back over the last 12 months I recall with much gratitude the committee members' interest and commitment to FOSS, and their generous support of myself as Chair. I also recall many special moments, and immediately that special carol concert springs to mind, with its evident peace and spirituality. I felt very privileged to take part in it.



Mary Faux

The School faces tremendous challenges as it moves through current difficult times and into this decade, and so FOSS must also evolve, seeking to develop a role which will enable both to flourish. The committee have therefore decided to review the function and constitution of FOSS. The forthcoming year will require much thought and dialogue between school, parents, friends and School Committee. The Parents' Charter too may have some influence on our deliberations... We have begun the process with our debate this morning, and have also obtained information from equivalent organisations in other Friends' schools. FOSS committee are conscious that most secondary schools have difficulty finding support for PTA activities, and for FOSS this is compounded by the distance many parents would have to travel to take part. However, we must also remain sensitive to the fact that school is the students' space, and as they grow towards independence they may not necessarily welcome high levels of parental involvement or visibility. Balanced against these considerations are the school's acknowledgement and appreciation of our continuing support.

We hope as a committee to meet as many of you as possible during the next twelve months. These are challenging times for us all. We all have many competing demands on our time and energy, but I ask you to reflect on what Sibford

School provides: perhaps you may be able to support it in all its activities through FOSS. If so, you will find a warm welcome from the committee.

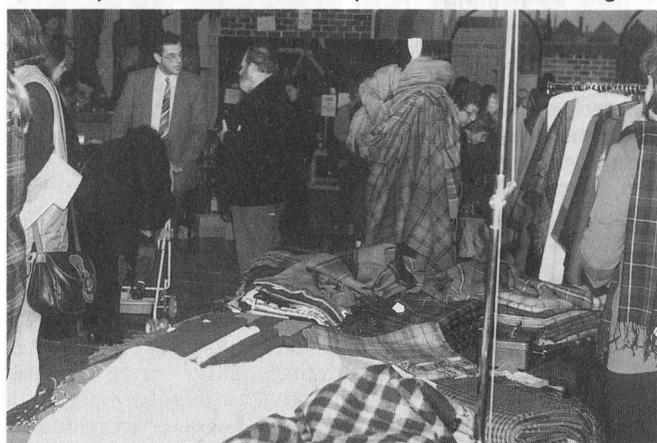
Sadly, we are saying goodbye to several committee members. Richard Tustian is standing down as Treasurer after a number of years looking after our finances extremely efficiently. Thank you, Richard, for your service to FOSS: we are delighted that you have agreed to stand for election to next year's committee as an ordinary member. Wendy Holden has been our very supportive staff representative this year, and despite her busy schedule in school has always offered her active involvement in FOSS events. Thank you Wendy, and our good wishes for your next venture. Jacky Walsh has for many years now been the inspiration and organising force behind FOSS cafe. She is retiring from the committee this year and we thank her for all her hard work – she will be sorely missed. John Baseley has over the years provided unstinting support to Sibford, and was our Chairman last year. This year he undertook and represented FOSS on the SOSA committee. His interest and thoroughness were again evident in these areas, but unfortunately he had to relinquish these activities for personal reasons during the



pies munched. There were many new stalls, ranging from water colours and dried flowers, new books and toys, to object d'art and mountains of delicious home-made produce. The FOSS cafe was in action all afternoon and the event seemed to be enjoyed by all. Profit from stall-holders was £145, from FOSS cafe £113.06 and from the FOSS stall £49.43.

Following the Fair, John Dunston gave an illuminating and thought-provoking talk on his travels as a Winston Churchill scholar in China. Two sixth-formers, Nigel Gates and Giles Upward, provided some wonderful food afterwards to accompany the wine for which a small charge was made, contributing £8.71 to FOSS funds.

Ann Bond, sometime Chair of FOSS, arranged a sale of carpets at the school which made a profit of £60.64 for FOSS. We also had a very enjoyable barbecue at Sports Day, which raised around £30.00. FOSS members also helped at the Joint Choirs' Festival in Coventry Cathedral and chatted to new parents at the Holly House lunch on Open Day.



Spring. Frank Surry and his computer are now looking after membership records. Sylvia Chester has been part of the FOSS committee for a good number of years but has now decided to retire. Her gentle humour and wealth of vegetarian dishes and recipes will be missed: we wish her every success with her studies. This year we have welcomed, as an ex officio member of the committee, the school's Development Officer Mike Finch, who has had a long association with FOSS in his various other capacities over the years.

Mary FAUX
FOSS Chair

FOSS ACTIVITIES. '91-92

In November FOSS held its annual Christmas Fair, at which hundreds of Christmas presents were bought and mince



GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL, '91-'92

This year FOSS donated money towards the following:

CDT-airbrush station	£150
C.A.D. software/license	£500
Fielding House furniture	£150
Dishwasher (Home Economics)	£200
Enlarger (Photo Club)	£250
Cassette-player (Drama)	£80
Camera body (Penny Spring, School Press Officer)	£50

FOSS COMMITTEE, 1992-1993

JOHN BASELEY (0608) 84348; MARY BENNETT (0295) 788398; JANE BOULTON (0295) 257939- child in Yr.9, Manor House; STEPHEN BUNNEY (0295) 78436; CHRIS and RACHEL CLARKE (0295) 266219, Yr.8, Penn; JOHN DUNSTON (0295) 78448; NIGEL FAIRWEATHER (0933) 58002, Yr.11, Manor; MARK FAUX (0295) 251592; MARY FAUX (0608) 737173, FOSS Chair; MIKE FINCH (0295) 78408; LYNDA HARBERT (0543) 264416, Yr.8, Orchard Close; ELAINE and TONY JOHNSTON (0865) 58420, Yr.7, Manor; DAVID LEGG (0582) 601669, Yr.11, Lister; KATH MORRIS (0869) 38413, Yr.10, Penn; FIONA RIX (086 736 266), Yr.9, Manor; CAROLYN SPACKMAN (0295) 721253, Yr.5, O.C.; FRANK and LEE SURRY (081 998 6968) Yr.8(Vice-Chair/Membership); VAL TAGGART (0295) 279450; BARBARA TAYLOR (0295) 78206 (Treasurer) Yrs.9&11, Lister; GEOFF. TAYLOR (0295) 737773; CHARMAINE TUTHILL (0608) 737425; RICHARD TUSTAIN (0295) 788175, Yr.9, Manor; JULIE WEBB (0295) 788247, Yr.9, Penn (Secretary); TOM WILLIAMS (0608) 737245, Yr.9



OLD SCHOLARS NEWS

"Ye Menne of Sheep-ford wendath withersoever they wilen"

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

I was born in Kent but the family soon moved to Oxford where my father Kenneth was a doctor in General Practice and my mother Phyllis Southall was on the Sibford Committee. My earliest recollections of Sibford date from that time.

The family come from a long line of Quakers on both sides and I came second in the family with 3 brothers. I enjoyed many games and exploits with them especially anything on wheels which my eldest brother had invented. We all went regularly to Oxford Meeting and sometimes visited the Young Friends Camp.

Throughout the war years I was at Sidcot, the Quaker co-educational boarding school in Somerset, where we all worked together to live a fairly normal school life despite the need to check that everywhere was blacked out at night. I gained a great love of music and natural history and was very keen on sport.

At Bristol University I continued with General Science and then Hugh and I were married in 1949. Many years followed living in school communities where we brought up our three children - David, Richard and Christine who was born at Sibford in Holly House. When Hugh became Headmaster at Sibford in 1956 we were the first Head's family to occupy Holly House and we enjoyed it as a family home, well placed on the school campus.

After leaving Sibford and a spell as Houseparents setting up a new Boys House at Seaford College we returned to the Midlands where I found living in the large village of Hagley a new experience and joined in the local fellowship, tennis club and Quaker meeting activities. Having answered the phone so often as a child in a doctors household I became a Samaritan where the phone is a lifeline for those in despair or just needing someone to listen.

Over the years I have served on many committees particularly working for Quaker Homes for the elderly in Warwickshire and Personal Service Committee of Quaker Peace and Service with an interest in the Middle East, having co-led Woodbrooke study tours there. I am now a Trusts administrator and find many difficult decisions to make for funding from the very large numbers of appeals that are received.

Our family are now all married and we have four grandchildren. I keep up singing with a choral society and local fellowship group, walk, knit, caravan and travel with natural history and conservation interests. I very much look forward to the Old Scholars 90th anniversary year.



Daphne Maw
President 1992-93

SOSA REUNION

REPORT 1992.

Alison Terrington Writes:

Old Scholars has a timeless quality - but as Mike Finch remarked in the Leslie Baily Lecture, we can't really wish life to stand still. Things move on and each year brings its changes, most obvious being the unique personality of each President. Anne Muir completed her term of office with characteristic warmth and enthusiasm, not only in making her own contribution but also in bringing the best out of others.



Jane Gunston



School Committee
Guest - Mell Nash

Sadly, some familiar faces were missing and London Old Scholars particularly regretted the absence, and the reason for it, of their secretary Margaret Fairington. It was good however to welcome newcomers from such exotic locations as New Zealand, Canada and Croydon. Mell Nash, the School Committee guest, was also a novice but may hopefully make repeat appearances, as she confessed to having become 'hooked' on the Motor Treasure Hunt. Of course, in the dynastic way of things, her father Wilfred Littleboy, appeared in an old photograph during the Leslie Baily Lecture!

For the old hands, there was enough continuity to keep them happy. The Ramble was not on the programme but it happened anyway, despite the resistance of some, who shall be nameless, to venturing into fields of cows! The experienced leader was Norman Coxon. The trip to a place



A 'Multiplicity' of Past Presidents - Planting a tree to commemorate the School's 150th anniversary



Anne Muir IS Queen Victoria

of interest was altered to suit the uncertain weather and ended at Snowhill Manor, in the high Cotswolds, a choice excellent for the scenic ride there and back as well as for the bizarre house (from which to move would be a Pickfords nightmare) and intriguing gardens.

It was gratifying during the Weekend to renew acquaintance with the stalwarts at the senior end of the age range, such as Bernard Blunsom, as well as greeting the youngest arrivals. These included Jonathan Glasgow, son of Helen Carlton Smith and the smallest Finch, Alexandra. Care of the children was as usual competently undertaken by the young people both ex-Sibford and others, with Julie Greenhill

as lynch-pin.

It was the coldest Rockets night for years up at the Elm but warm in Fielding, home of scurrilous rumour and nefarious plots. (Note to Mavis Stiles: how about some inside information? We always protect our sources!)



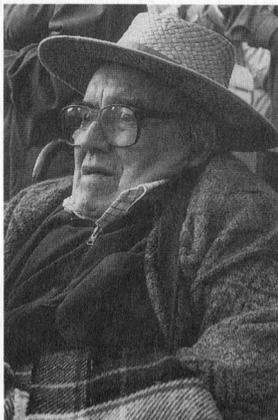
Olive Dalley, Irene Caxon-Smith & Michael Van Blankenstein

The caterers managed to keep up more than adequately with the constant demands for refuelling and the queue to the serving-hatch doubled as an information exchange. Somehow above the Babel, Ian wielded the gavel to good effect.

David Smith continues:

Unusually for the August Reunion, we were warned of a cold, wet and windy weekend but early arrivals for 11.00am on Saturday found many O.S. already as bright and busy as the outside views. Coming in good time gives the extra chance to stroll around and drop in on old friends in the village such as Mike and Josie Canning, both in improved health. By lunchtime most had gathered and details of options followed the formal Presidential greetings.

A multiplicity of Past-Presidents assisted the planting of a tree to commemorate the School's 150th anniversary. The early afternoon being mildly gale-bound enabled plenty of time to gossip and



Frank Rollett



The Victorian Fancy Dress Barbecue

inspect the new visitors room in the Hill, where there was a display of all-sorts from the Archives for the nostalgic. After a 'cuppa' the AGM ran on time with barely a note of contention, though some O.S. queried the chances for more creative strands to add to the curriculum to complement the proposed new Business Studies Centre.

Michael Finch's Leslie Baily Lecture was a telling account of episodes in the School's, the Finch's and the Manor's history, blended as allegories of each other in a powerful and ongoing saga, illustrated by slides (and backed up by the School video material glimpsed at bedtimes later). Party games and more gossip or 'certain' excursions followed, the recession having forestalled a peer-group barbecue for younger O.S.



Sarah Vigeon

Sunday dawned bright and showery and many at breakfast had been for a swim and collected plums in the Paddock already. Choral followed, the President and the Headmaster raising a good sound while impractised voices lasted. Some then walked the fields to Meeting but most rode under a weepy sky, though we were cheered by happy ministry and mingled with Friends for tea and biscuits in a cramped lobby as a deluge penned us in for a while. And that was the end of the bad weather: a brilliant though buffeting afternoon for the Snowhill trip - or a siesta!

The Presidential Choice - usually a sober entertainment, but this was scintillating! The new Concert Grand was justified by Anthony Swift who accompanied a brilliant duo of Caroline Palmer, soprano and Stephen Cooper, baritone, from Opera to Modern works each including a solo piece. How fortunate we were that Anne Muir moves in such accomplished musical



'Presidential Choice' with Anne Muir. Anthony Swift - Pianist, Caroline Palmer - Soprano & Stephen Cooper - Baritone

circles.

The Barbecue was more indoor than out but better to see the awesome fancy dress on show as highly impressive as was the food array. Rockets at the Elm were brief and bracing but scores of us walked or stumbled there and back, to bed or to chat.

Spectacularly beautiful weather and Clem and Margaret Cox's route to match, graced the Motor Treasure Hunt on Monday morning, jointly won by the Presidential car and Loraine and Philip Brown. During the day tennis, wind now permitting and table tennis proceeded, the latter being won by Guy Kingham over Peter Copestake. A new and exceptionally beautiful competition of identifying flowers from Philip Morris's photo's was won by Loraine-again-Brown.

A sunny afternoon saw Pig-drive compete with asylum hockey (in the new Sports Hall) and this scribe managed both - and lived!

Scrumptious buns and tea were devoured on Holly House lawn before the annual photograph and several 'drop-ins' were greeted as they joined us for a while.



Daphne Maw, Nick Bennett & Anne Muir

Presidential Dinner climaxed with the Address which, though it can be read on a nearby page, should have been heard for

its captivating delivery, a real tour-de-force. Plaudits to the hordes of helpers, seen, unseen and many having put huge efforts into this successful Reunion, were followed by "Auld Lang Syne" and some farewells, though some stayed for Tuesday breakfast and greeted the new President, Daphne Maw, it now being September 1st. May her year emulate Anne Muir's!

A Reunion Secretary's Viewpoint

28/8/92

Arrive at Gillett!!! Is everything organised? Do we have enough Badges, Notices, Bed space and more importantly are people going to arrive for our yearly reunion and party? Complete panic realms, while last minute touches are put in order. Meanwhile, our three helpers Diccon, James and Sean arrive to help us on our way.



The Gillett House Party

29/8/92

Fielding House: Everybody arrives for the official beginning of our weekend, with the traditional coffee morning. All hands on deck!!! "Ma'am" (Irene C-Smith - The 5th Musketeer) supervised Diccon, Simon, James, David (Mick) and Sarah.

Midnight Walk: Our midnight walk (car drive) took us to Traitor's Ford, where the younger contingent got to know each other a little better. The 4 Musketeers (Guy, Harriet, Julie and Mike) decided to teach our younger members the ancient ritual of "Rockets". This was an entertaining experience as none of them had ever seen this ritual before and we therefore initiated them into The Old Scholars Association, huddled round a camp fire in the drizzle. We

also taught them another more recent tradition of "Pooh Sticks". This was a fiercely contested game of which the Reunion Secretary claimed the spoils of victory, although there was some doubt due to lack of light.



The Gillett House Party

30/8/92

Sunday Morning: Rather bedraggled we all appeared for breakfast. Questions were asked as most of us did look rather tired. After a little rest, we managed to attend refreshments at the Meeting House, where Guy & Mike decided to have an 'alternative collection' for the meeting house while coffee was being served, thus raising more funds and raising a few smiles.

Party in Gillett: Our party in Gillett started at 11.30 pm after light refreshments !!! Our youngsters attempted to out do the "Oldies" in their dancing ability and know how. Diccon, Nigel, David (Mick) decided to show us their dancing expertise, while resident DJ "Mike" with the help of Guy was attempting and succeeding in making our party a night to remember. Our resident comedian David, continued to amuse us all with his hilarious imitation of Mick Jagger, Hence he is now called "Mick" by all of us.

31/8/92

Breakfast: Once again, we all looked rather tired and bedraggled after another excellent night of entertainment!!! However, we were nearly to the finale of the weekend, the Treasure Hunt. We decided to all travel together in the mini bus, thus having more "Brain Power" in one vehicle and hopefully trying to win (For a change). The serious half of the bus came so close to the winning score, but yet again "The Back Seat Boys" won the boobie prize and even had special commendation by Margret & Clem Cox for making them laugh.

Presidential Dinner: The 'Boys' decided that as servers they would all wear Chef Whites. This was appreciated by all as they all looked extremely smart. Once again, our resident Comedian "Mick" amused us with his hilarious antics and good humour.

1/9/92

Another year over, and organisation begins for the following year with new ideas and new blood in the Association. There are people to thank which include Diccon Burr, Simon Hill, Nigel Gates, Giles Upward, Sarah Vigeon, James Thompson, David ('Mick') Watling, Nicola Grimes, Abigail & Becky Smith, Harriet Jones and "The Back Seat Boys" of Mike Herm and Guy Kingham. Without any of these enthusiastic people the above weekend would not or could not take place.



Julie Greenhill

Julie Greenhill

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION, 31 AUGUST 1992

Madam Chairman, Headmaster, Old Scholars, Friends:

In celebration of Sibford's anniversary, my offering this evening is a glimpse into that world of 150 years ago; or, to borrow a title from radio that some of you will remember, a "Scrapbook for 1842".

Queen Victoria is 23 years old. She has been Queen for five years, married for two, and has two children, Princess Victoria and the infant Prince of Wales. The Prime Minister is Sir Robert Peel. Britain is ambitious to extend her empire in the East, and is at war in Afghanistan; and also in China, where we're defending the dubious interests of British merchants who trade illegally in opium. This comment on the war in China is from *The Times* of 5 July:

... neither necessity nor justice, nor honour can be pleaded for what must seem to all nations but ourselves a crusade against the wholesome and reasonable revenue laws of a distant, peaceable and independent state.

This "inglorious war" came to an end with the Treaty of Nanking on 26 August, and so Hong Kong was given to Britain 'in perpetuity'.

At home, the Parliamentary session of 1842 was largely taken up with questions of the economy. The Corn Laws, you will remember, controlled the import of foreign corn in order to keep the price high and protect the interests of British landowners. The United States and Germany retaliated by raising tariffs against British manufactured goods. From *The Times* on 1 March:

The interminable debate of the Corn Laws goes on as usual. Another gentleman and another noble lord have risen to propose ... amendments which ... serve no useful purpose but delaying the business of the House ... talk they must, if the country die for it - and they impede the progress of Conservative Government, so much the better.

In a letter to Queen Victoria, Lord Melbourne wrote on 17 August:

... There is a great mass of discontented feeling in the country ... It arises from the distress and destruction which will fall at times upon a great manufacturing population, and from the wild and extravagant opinions which are naturally generated ...

There were riots in many manufacturing districts and the penalty for those convicted was prison, or Australia.

In these troubles, Lord Chief Justice Tyndal advised that..

The only effectual method of counteracting the attempts of wicked and designing men to undermine the principles of the lower classes and to render them discontented with the established institutions of their country was the diffusion of a sound religious knowledge ... among those classes, ... and the education of their children in the fear of God, so that all might be taught that obedience to the law of the land and the government of the country is due, not as matter of compulsion, but of principle and conscience.

With economic depression, high unemployment and high food prices, the crime rate for 1842 was the highest for the century. Prison conditions were the subject of a leading article in *The Times* on 28 January:

The State owes a debt even to criminals. It is put in charge with them for the intimidation of others, and for their own chastisement. And what ought to be ... the main tendency of this chastisement? Undoubtedly reformation ... which of these ends is effected by subjecting the convict to the slow, impalpable, undermining, effects of cold, damp, insufficient food, clothing, air and exercise?

Conditions for workers in the mines were discussed in Parliament. This account comes from the *Annual Register*:



Anne Muir

Some pits are dry and comfortable. Many are so wet that the people have to work all day over their shoes in water at the same time that the water is constantly dripping from the roof ... the children especially ... complain bitterly of this ... females have to crawl backwards and for-wards ... the whole of these places ... are in a most deplorable state so to ventilation, and the drainage is quite as bad as the ventilation. The evidence of their sufferings ... is absolutely hideous ... the girls are of all ages, from seven to twenty-one ... any sight more disgustingly

indecent or revolting can scarcely be imagined than these girls at work.

The Bill was to make it illegal to employ women, girls, and boys under the age of ten in underground work in the mines.

The Family Almanack for 1842 reminds heads of households of another piece of legislation:

After 1 July 1842 any person who shall compel or allow any person under the age of 21 years to ascend or descend a chimney or enter a flue for the purpose of sweeping cleaning or coring the same or for extinguishing a fire therein shall be liable to a penalty of not more than £10 or less than £5.

1842 marked one of the peaks of activity in the Chartist movement, which had grown out of protest against social injustice. The Chartists campaigned for Parliamentary reform; the first of their demands was that all adult males should have the vote.

From the *Annual Register*:

May 2nd: The Chartists had a "grand demonstration" today in carrying up their petition to the House of Commons..

the monster petition, borne on the shoulders of sixteen able-bodied men ... was carried on a kind of portable stage ... and was .. decorated. On the front was placed a placard, displaying the number of signatures which it contained ... 3,315,752 ... [There were] flags, in all numbering seventy. These were some of the mottoes: "The sovereignty of the people" "No surrender" "Liberty" "Free Press" and "More pigs and less parsons" with "Universal suffrage" on the same flag.

The petition was taken to the members entrance, but it was found too vast for admittance, it was then carried to the front door, but neither was that large enough; so it was broken up, and carried into the house piecemeal, by a long line of men. That done, the procession filed off, and departed across Westminster Bridge.

In the debate in Parliament, Lord John Russell expressed his view that

... They should be careful as to those in whose hands they placed the power of choosing representatives. As for the "... inalienable right" ... (of every adult person) ... to vote for a member of Parliament, he was at a loss to understand it. It might be safer in the United States where no monarchy exists, where every officer in the State is elected, where there is no established Church, and no great masses of property collected in few hands; but in this country the institutions which hold society together would be held up

as prizes to people in times of distress. The present demand would be best met by a direct negative.

October 17th: A meeting of female Chartists was held .. to form a female Chartist Association to co-operate with the original society. ... Miss Inge asked Mr Cohen, did he not consider women qualified to fill public offices? It did not require much "physical force" to vote! Mr Cohen replied ... He would, with all humility and respect, ask the young lady what sort of office would she aspire to fill? ... He was not going to treat the question with ridicule. But he would ask her to suppose herself in the House of Commons as a Member for a Parliament borough, and that a young gentleman, a lover in that House, were to try to influence her vote through his sway over her affection: how would she act? whether, in other words, she could resist, and might not lose sight of the public interest?

Miss Mary Anne Walker repudiated with indignation the insinuation that if women were in parliament any man, be he husband or be he lover, would dare be so base a scoundrel as to attempt to sway her from the strict line of duty.

Miss Walker was much applauded.

Miss Inge and Miss Mary Anne Walker were clearly well educated young ladies. Living under the same roof with them, no doubt, would be other young women who might read the useful and improving pages of the **Servants Magazine**, with its practical hints on how to clean a grate or how to make candles burn brightly and economically; and other offerings like this one:

Grandfathers Gray's Likes and Dislikes: He likes a servant whose manners are kind and courteous, not cold repulsive and rude, as if she feared that a civil answer would lead undue familiarity. No, it is possible to be very kind in manner without surrendering that modest dignity which is the glory of the female sex. He likes a servant to be dressed in doors in the way which best suits her employment; and out of doors so as not to attract particular attention. He likes her to have very few companions, and those, such as no reasonable employer could find fault with. He likes her to act in her employer's absence, as in her presence, and he is sure that no servant can be respectable or happy who acts otherwise. He likes a servant to use her employer's property with as much care as she would her own, as by so doing she fulfils a divine command, and is gradually training herself to employ her own property in the best manner, if Providence should alter her station in life. He likes employers so to feed their servants as they would wish to be fed if providence were to call on them to serve; and he would like them to remember that servants not only need food, but time to eat it. He dislikes monthly holidays for servants (and yet he would not do away with them) unless they are spent in innocent and healthful recreation; for Grandfather Gray cannot forget that on these occasions too many servants fall into such company as lead them into misery and ruin.

It was in 1842 that Nelson's Column was put up in Trafalgar Square. This is from **Punch**:

The Nelson Monument: The rapidity with which the works of this national column are proceeding, astonishes, it is said, even the subscribers themselves. The two workmen have actually succeeded in raising another stone! A seventh hand is to be taken on immediately!

More seriously, from the **Illustrated London News** of 10 September:

In no quarter of London ... has the progress of adorning art been marked with a nobler impress of grandeur than in Trafalgar Square, of which we present two views to our readers - one exhibiting the improvements upon their march, the other the entire square in the full beauty of its completion. With the single, and but too prominent, exception of the tasteless and ill-devised National Gallery, the eye can scarcely light upon a single object that does not present some form of elegance and grace.

Another street scene, and a glimpse of travel on the outskirts

of London, comes from a descriptive article in **Chambers London Journal**:

....Men and women, horse dogs and donkeys

Omnibii and stage coaches - private carriages - gigs and phaetons - spring carts and cabriolets - huge waggons and donkey carts, were driving hither, thither and everywhere in most admirable confusion.

By 1842 most major thoroughfares were lit by gas and at least 380 lamplighters were employed in London.

As for the railways, 1842 marked the completion of the line linking London and Manchester. This letter about a journey on another line appeared in the **The Times** on 8 January:

....Yesterday I booked and paid for a place by first class train from Cirencester to London, and started from the former place at 45 minutes past five o' clock in the afternoon. According to the printed tables of the company, that train ought to have arrived at Swindon at 35 minutes past 6, and reached London at 20 minutes past 9. Instead of doing so, the train came to a dead stand still between Swindon and Cirencester . . . we only arrived at Paddington at 3 o' clock in the morning, and then had to walk a quarter of a mile ... through the lines of carriages...

The **Illustrated London News** was founded in 1842, and on 14 May carried this advertisement:

Matrimony: A professional gentleman . . . avails himself of the glorious opportunity afforded to advertisers by t h e **Illustrated London News** . . . and submits his picture . . . he has no insurmountable objection to fortune being combined with beauty, taste, lively disposition and cheerful temper; he feels assured that the lovely creature whose eye shall be fortunate enough first to meet this advertisement (and then the advertiser) will secure to herself a perfect amenity, if truth be truth and manners, not money, make the man. Address, with portrait (miniature set in gold, pearls or other precious stones, not refused) to A Donis Slim Esq 320 Strand.

Week ending 21 May:

From among the numerous miniatures sent in reply to the matrimonial advertisements in last week's paper, we have engraved the two following - the originals, in elegant gold frames, were taken possession of by Mr A Donis. He informed us that the majority of the communications, as far as he could see, and he had examined no less than 273 of them up to the time of our going to press, were from ladies who had previously tasted the sweets matrimony, and all exhibited a great anxiety to engage in marital bonds without delay. Surely this speaks volumes in favour of the wedded life. All describe their personal charms as highly fascinating; of those we have engraved, the first styles herself a young widow without encumbrance. The other we suspect to be a lady of *medium* age anxious to settle. Both may be communicated with through the medium of our publisher.

An enormous amount of music is performed both in London and in provincial towns. This review comes from **Blackwoods Lady's Magazine** for April:

Sacred Harmonic Society. In noticing the performance of "Israel in Egypt" on Friday last, we have . . . to commend most heartily this mighty choir for the persevering pains which, only, could have enabled them to render so nearly perfect justice to the great intricacies of this matchless masterpiece.

From **The Musical World** 3 February:

Impromptu for the Piano Forte, Frederic Chopin, Opus 29: One of our correspondents has spoken most enthusiastically of this work, and with some degree of reason. It is the best thing we have hitherto seen from the fantastic pen of Chopin and might (a few more oddities excepted) have been written by a much more eminent composer... [Chopin] has decided ability; and were it not for . . . his Parisian admirers, enough to overturn any composers' equilibrium, we should have some hopes of him.

For ladies, fashion in gowns, bonnets and every other garment

is dictated by Paris. This comes from the **Illustrated London News**:

The cap . . . is made of lace with a cockade and flowing end of ribbon on the left side. I would not advise too many of your fair readers to put their beauty to the peril of wearing this style of cap at present so fashionable [in Paris] ...It gives a bold look to the face...

This is from **Punch**:

Connubial Hooks and Eyes: Mr Punch: I married Simcox eight years ago, at which time my gowns were fastened by eight hooks and eyes. Now Sir you will readily conceive that no woman can completely hook-and-eye herself. Whilst a spinster, she obtains the aid of her sister, cousin, mother or Betty the maid. When she becomes a married woman, the hook-and-eye duty naturally devolves upon the husband. For the first year of my marriage Simcox, like an affectionate husband, hooked-and-eyed the whole eight: the second year, he somewhat peevishly restricted his attentions to seven; the third, to six; the fourth, to five; the fifth, to four; and so on decreasing, until this morning - the anniversary of our eighth wedding day - when you would have supposed him possessed by the dearest and fondest recollections, he dropped another hook-and-eye, intimating to me, that for the term of his natural life he should restrict himself to one - the hook-and-eye at the top! As I know Mr Punch you have a crowd of female readers, I thought it a duty I owed to my sex to warn them, through the medium of your columns, of the craftiness and - I must say it - the selfishness of man. They will, I hope, take warning by my condition and, ere they enter matrimony, stipulate for a due performance of toilette attention on the part of their husbands. Whilst in our pride we women remember that marriage has its bonds, let not men forget that it has also its Hooks-and-Eyes. Yours, Amelia Simcox.

The sporting scene is dominated by horse racing and betting, followed by hunting, shooting, fishing, cricket, yachting and rowing. As we near the end of my Scrapbook, this item from **The Times** of 13 June is offered as a gesture of grateful acknowledgement to the Bodleian Library:

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race: The match had been appointed for half past 3, and long before that time everything which could by the greatest extension of English be termed a boat was on the water. . . every place where the slightest view of any part of [the race] could be obtained [was] tenanted long before the time for starting. . . despite the most powerful efforts on the part of the Cantabs, the Oxonians won by about three lengths ...It was the triumph of weight and superior lasting power. . . The winners and losers were both greeted with loud and deafening cheers.

Friends, we have been looking back into a world in which Paris had no Eiffel Tower, and London, no Big Ben; to a time when David Livingstone had only just begun his exploration of Africa and Florence Nightingale had not yet become a nurse; a time when English literature was without *Jane Eyre* or *David Copperfield*, the musical repertoire without Brahms or Tchaikovsky, and surgery, without anaesthetic. My aim in compiling this Scrapbook has been to invite you to share my sense of wonder and pride that Sibford School has been living and working in this place all these years, while such great changes have taken place in the world around it. Perhaps you also feel, as I now do, that some things have changed very little.

My last page bears just two lines, from Tennyson's poem **Morte d'Arthur**, published - of course - in 1842:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,"

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new" will do well enough to sum up this address; and the line "And God fulfils himself in many ways" I leave with you as an expression of my hope for Sibford in the years to come.

ANNE S MUIR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 1992 HELD IN THE OLIVER STUDIO

President: Anne S. Muir (In the Chair)
79 were in attendance

In our silence we remembered the lives of:
Joyce and Vic Butler
Philip Blunsom
Ernest Dixon
Hilda Jenks
Ian Jones
Kurt Reiser
Margaret Rundle
Florence Rutter
Winifred Savage
Phyllis Southall
Geoffrey Watkins

Greetings were received from the following:
Douglas Carn, Helen Doyle, June Ellis, Jim Hilling and Audrey Sims.

1. MINUTES of the last AGM held on the 24th August 1991 were printed in the Magazine and copies made available to all SOSA members in advance of the meeting were adopted and signed by the President.

2. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

A warm welcome was extended to all, particularly those joining for the first time. In opening, it was confirmed that the Association now have over 600 members.

Anne Muir was given a special thanks for the hard work she has carried out.

There have been a number of important areas discussed by the Committee in this Anniversary Year and the following issues were outlined:

SOSA has increasingly in recent years come to realise the need to recruit new young members, but for too long it has enjoyed it's huge success in one area of it's activity to the neglect of others. It's very strength as a "Nostalgia Shop" for one generation has been in danger of becoming it's great weakness. The result, all the active people, with a few notable exceptions, are either too old and have held the offices already or too young yet to hold them. There is a great dearth of capable young middle-aged members. That we feel is SOSA'S No. 1 issue.

The No. 2 issue which has also been discussed has been SOSA'S failure to 'woo' the school staff, whose cooperation and encouragement is vital to any pupil association. The President and Committee have felt that there should be more effort into trying to improve that situation.

(a) SOSA Membership

325	Ordinary Members
219	Life Members
18	Honourary Life Members
17	Overseas Members
28	Overseas Life Members
607	TOTAL MEMBERS



Ian Weatherhead - General Secretary

This is the highest membership has been for over 15 years. Out of 93 recent Leavers, 53 have joined the Association with 40 declining.

(b) Magazine

Special thanks once again must be officially recorded to Mike Finch who has once again ensured an excellent magazine and the Committee authorised an additional contribution of £500 for the school towards the magazine costs.

During the year John Dunston outlined a proposal to consider two separate magazines, one for Old Scholars and the second solely for the school. After a great deal of discussion covering all aspects of either a joint or separate magazine, it was agreed that John Dunston and Sibford School must decide its future and that another full discussion by the Committee would transpire. Under the present 'Old Scholars' Articles of Association, any change to the Sibford/Sibford Old Scholars magazine must be referred to the AGM. Members were reminded that the magazine reflected the community and has since 1971 been a joint magazine.

We are pleased to report that John Dunston has now reviewed the magazine structure and agreed to keep a joint magazine, with improvement to it's content.

(c) 1992 Anniversary Events

The following events took place during Sibford's 150th Anniversary.

Saturday, 7 March	Concert at Sibford School
Sunday, 29 March	Meeting for worship and celebration at 14.30 hrs Sibford Gower followed by Tea.
Saturday, 4 April	Coventry Cathedral - Joint Schools Concert
Monday, 4 May	May Day at Sibford School
July 6-11	Theatre production at Sibford School - 'Toad of Toad Hall'
Saturday, 11 July	Anniversary Barn Dance.

(d) Garden Of Peace

Designs and plans presented by Nick Bennett. At the last committee meeting Nick Bennett provided the Committee with a very professional plan for the Janet Baily Peace Garden. Work should shortly begin and planting during the winter and spring of 1992/3 should commence.

Cherwell District Council have been approached for a grant towards the garden and present scholars next term will be asked/invited to assist in the digging. It was agreed that benches would be costed and an estimate would be submitted to the Committee for approval.

(e) Old Scholars Sports Events

Cricket Match (won by Old Scholars) Sunday 14 June
 Soccer match was cancelled:

(f) Branch News

The Branch Secretaries were thanked for the work carried out during the year including fund-raising and reported that full details of each would be reported in full in the annual Magazine.

Margaret Fairnington/Allan Kidney	London
Irene Coxon-Smith	Midlands
Jeanne Southam	SW England

The Headmaster and his Staff were thanked for their assistance to Old Scholars throughout the year and for accommodating Old Scholars once again at Sibford. Thanks were also extended to all members of the Committee and to the President for their unfailing time given to Old Scholars activities throughout the year.

Finally as some of you may be aware Old Scholars sometimes make the BBC news!, and the National Press and it was confirmed that the super-saleswoman recently announced in the press for pulling off Property-Coup of the Year worth £20 million, was non-other than AVRIL BUTT, a Sibford O.S. of the 1960's.

3. TREASURERS REPORT.

Paul Frampton presented his report and statement for the financial year ending 30th June 1992. He was able to show that it had been a very good year and that again the recent leavers subscription was working well. The President thanked the Treasurer for his excellent presentation which was unanimously adopted by the meeting. The accounts appear in detail below:

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1992.

	<u>30.6.92</u>	<u>30.6.91</u>
ASSETS		
Land at Elm	45	45
ASSETS OF SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Quoted Investments (29.6.92)	9301	4097
Leslie Baily Memorial Fund	138	135
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank: Current A/C	484	5504
Investment A/C	<u>10265</u>	<u>5093</u>
	10749	10597
PREPAYMENT		
1992/93 Reunion	<u>378</u>	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>20611</u>	<u>14874</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Accumulated		
Fund: Balance forward 1.7.91	3104	4217
Revaluation of Investments	<u>203</u>	<u>255</u>
	3307	4472
Less Excess Expenditure	-	1368
Plus Excess Income	<u>2402</u>	-
	5709	3104
Life Membership	6423	6198
Recent Leavers' Membership	8341	5437
Leslie Baily Memorial Fund	<u>138</u>	<u>135</u>
	<u>20611</u>	<u>14874</u>

I have prepared the above Balance Sheet and associated accounts from the books and records of the Association and confirm that these accounts are a true and accurate reflection of the Association's financial position as at 30th June 1992, to the best of my belief.

 Paul Frampton - Treasurer

Income And Expenditure Account As At 30th June 1992

	<u>30.6.92</u>	<u>30.6.91</u>
INCOME		
Investment Income	486	308
Annual Subscriptions	3317	3112
Reunion	2685	343
Donations	305	400
Travel Bursary	100	-
Bank Interest	553	147
Leslie Baily Fund	-	<u>300</u>
	<u>7446</u>	<u>4610</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Magazine	2465	1192
Postage & Stationary	-	948
Bank Charges	82	25

Appeal Fund	-	1000
Gifts to School	-	2595
President's Board	-	203
Geoffrey Long Book Prize	-	15
Reunion	2325	-
Arthur & Jessie Johnstone Memorial	<u>172</u>	-
	<u>5044</u>	<u>5978</u>
Excess income over expenditure	<u>2402</u>	<u>7446</u>

Note:

Gifts to the School:

Funds allocated but not drawn down:

- 150th Anniversary Sponsorship - estimate £2,000.
- Archives - £2,500.

Investment Account

Balance Forward 1.7.91		5092.64
19.11.91 Transfer from C/A	+ 10000.00	15092.64
6.12.91 Invest in Excheq. Stock	- 5030.64	10062.00
10.12.91 Gross Interest	+ 553.07	10615.07
9.3.92 Transfer to C/A	- 350.00	10265.07
Balance Forward 30.6.92		10265.07

Interest payable on this account is:

Over £10,000	-	8.7% gross
Over £5,000	-	7.4% gross
Below £5,000	-	1.0% gross

Interest paid annually in December.

Subscription Income

	<u>30.6.92</u>	<u>30.6.91</u>	<u>30.6.90</u>
Ordinary Subs.	2106	1957	1320
Life Membership (50%)	225	505	255
Recent Leavers 5 Year	35	88	103
Recent Leavers 10 Year	851	462	-
Recent Leavers 15 Year	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>96</u>
	<u>3317</u>	<u>3112</u>	<u>1774</u>

Schedule Of Investments As At 30th June 1992

	<u>£2184</u>	<u>£2127</u>	<u>£4880</u>
	Conv.	Treas.	Excheq.
	Stock	Stick	Stock
	10 ¹ / ₄ %	8 ³ / ₄ %	9 ³ / ₄ %
	1999	1997	1998
Purchase Value	2196.87	1950.61	5000.64
Market Value 30.6.91	2142.29	1955.56	-
Market Value 30.6.92	<u>2270.00</u>	<u>2109.00</u>	<u>4922.00</u>
TOTAL VALUE		9301.00	

Notes:

- A further investment was made on 7th July 1992 as follows:
£4215.00 Exchequer Stock 121¹/₄% 1999
Purchase cost £4999.64
Current yield 9.84%
- Conversion Stock 10¹/₄% Interest Payable 22nd May & 22nd November
Treasury Stock 8³/₄% Interest Payable 2nd March & 2nd September
Exchequer Stock 9³/₄% Interest Payable 23rd Jan & 20th July

Leslie Baily Memorial Fund As At 30th June 1992

Balance Forward 1.7.91	135.41
Bank Interest	2.14
Balance Forward 30.6.92	<u>137.55</u>

13.8.92

I have audited the accounts of the Association, for the year ended 30.6.92, from the records made available to me, and find them to be an accurate statement of the financial affairs of the Association.

Lance Williams
Management Accountant
7 Webbers Way, Puriton
Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8AS

4. HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Madam President, Old Scholars, Friends.

Welcome back. Welcome especially in this 150th year in the life of the school. It is very good to have you back at Sibford, and inspiring for us all to see the enthusiasm and eagerness that you bring with you once again.

The SOSA Reunion is a great event in our annual calendar, and in yours too, obviously. It is a real tribute to the affection in which the school is held that the Old Scholars Weekend continues to be such a vibrant occasion - and such a well-attended one. It's particularly pleasing to know of the ever-increasing numbers of recent leavers who are joining the Association, and in this regard we all owe much to the current initiatives of Paul Frampton and Gill Manthorpe. I suspect that many of you, at least over the weekend, feel like pretty recent leavers yourselves, although the question of whether or not one ever really leaves could form the basis of a fascinating discussion.

Each year I have marvelled at the quality and depth of Old Scholars' memories. Naturally, as you wander around the school, you look for what is remembered and guard reactions to what has changed. Of course, if nothing had changed since you left, you would rightly wonder why on earth not. But it is remarkable to hear during the course of this annual weekend the unguarded comments in the corridors, often reflecting major aspects of boarding life, but often, too, revealing an astonishing clarity of recollection in their detail: only this afternoon, for example, one Old Scholar who must - I hope he'll forgive me - have seen several decades pass since his time here as a pupil, exclaimed with some passion and unnerving conviction; "But surely this clock used to be on that wall?" And so the sea change continues, as it has done now for one and a half centuries.

For two reasons, I hope that you will make time to see the exhibition of extracts from the archives that Mike Finch has prepared in the new Visitors' Room. For one thing, it's a fascinating collection of early records, books and photographs. But I hope you will find the room welcoming too. It is one of a number of improvements and developments that have taken place during the year, all designed to improve the quality of life for this community and those we seek to attract to it.

The Specific Learning Difficulties (more easily known as the Dyslexic) Department has gained a new classroom in that excellent suite situated at the heart of the school. The room which was once known as the Green Room (and having seen the state it had reached, I now understand why), has been transformed into a most attractive new Retailing classroom for that section of the Sixth Form vocational programme. Room 6 has become an Information Technology base, one of two major such sites to which the pupils have regular access. English as a Foreign Language, representing another special need for which Sibford caters so well, has a new room on the first floor. And the Hall has been decorated and now makes a splendid centre for the school, a focal point, and an appropriate venue for both school and outside professional musical and dramatic events.

On the musical side, the school benefitted from a number

of extremely generous grants from Quaker Trusts, enabling us to acquire a magnificent Yamaha concert grand piano - an inspiration not only to pupils here, but also to the internationally known pianist Bernard d'Ascoli, who gave the inaugural recital on it. We have also hosted the Rotary Club's Banbury Young Musician of the Year Competition, and welcomed for the first time the Banbury Symphony Orchestra, whose performance of Holst's Planets Suite and Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto (with Charles Martin) will be long remembered. Other visitors, following last year's tour by the Swiss Children's Choir of Chezard, included the choir of Upper Canada College and their exciting band, who gave a concert here as part of their tour of England.

The major musical event of the year, however, was without doubt the Friends Schools Joint Choirs Festival which this year (perhaps it wasn't quite coincidence after all) was hosted by Sibford. The Setting for Handel's "Israel in Egypt" was the appropriately inspiring Coventry Cathedral, and how fitting it was that the musical forces of the Quaker schools should gather for their performance of that great work in the great Cathedral of reconciliation. Old Scholars will be pleased to note that for this performance, Sibford provided one of the largest of all the Friends School Choirs. It was truly an unforgettable occasion for everyone concerned.

We chose to include Coventry as part of our 150th Anniversary programme. This began in March with a special Meeting for Worship in the Gower Meeting House, and included a Fun Day in May, sponsored so generously by SOSA, as well as the Summer Barn Dance, replacing the originally planned Ball, but no less successful as a result. In fact, it could well be said to be even more of a success, since it was an excellent occasion, which used up considerably less of the generous Anniversary sponsorship promised by SOSA at your last AGM. As a result, only a fraction of the original amount has been spent on the two projects; the Archives/Visitors Room, and the Summer Barn Dance, and it may be that the Association might be in a position to help the school substantially with a major project, to which the General Secretary has earlier referred. I was delighted that this afternoon, so many of you were able to be present at the planting of a tree by the Association Presidents past and present. Thank you for this lasting commemoration.

The curriculum continues to expand and develop at Sibford, and we are pleased to be shadowing the National Curriculum while adding to it where appropriate. Many of you will have seen the extent to which the national press (The Independent, the Financial Times, the Guardian), has during the past year chosen to stress the excellence of Sibford's work in many particular fields: sixth form vocational courses, dyslexic teaching, the laptop initiative to name but three. They could also have written about our outstanding drama productions of the year, about the introduction of Spanish or the piloting of the new City and Guilds Diploma in Vocational Education.

One particular initiative for the new school year will be in the area of Business Studies. It is hoped that early in 1993, we will be opening a Business Studies Centre which will offer great opportunities not only to those Year 10 and 11 pupils who will be able to opt for GCSE in the subject for the first time, but also to younger pupils, who will receive wide-ranging tuition in Information Technology, and to Sixth Formers: some of them will be specialising in the Business area of the Diploma, but all at some time will be able to take advantage of what will be first class facilities. It is indeed a growth area nationally, and could provide yet another aspect of Sibford's work to command widespread admiration and respect. The conversion and equipping of this new room is an ambitious project, but one which will really mark the

Anniversary and enhance what is offered to our pupils for years to come.

In this fleeting look at the past twelve months at Sibford, a few other events seemed worthy of mention to you on this occasion. Last Autumn, I had the privilege of accompanying five of our sixth formers who joined with groups from the other southern Friends Schools on the Quaker Pilgrimage, a long weekend spent in that part of the north-west of England where George Fox and the early Quakers laid down the roots of the Society of Friends. It was a time of reflection, discovery and fellowship. No doubt the simplicity of the accommodation helped concentrate the mind. The scenery certainly helped to expand it, and it was a special pleasure to be able to spend some time with the organisers of this annual venture, Ken and Robin Greaves.

We have had inspections during the year, from the Independent Schools Joint Council, from Her Majesty's Inspectorate, and from the Social Services Independent Inspection Unit as part of the implementation of the Children Act 1989, which has made all boarding schools evaluate and consider the boarding provision they offer, and precisely how they safeguard and promote the children's welfare. At the same time, there has been a national swing against boarding in recent years, emphasised at present by the recession, which is of course having an effect on both schools and parents. At Sibford too, we have had to make some very difficult decisions, closing two boarding houses in order to make the best use for our pupils of the school's resources, and adjusting staff numbers to that they are more appropriate for the size of the school and its needs in the immediate future and beyond.

If there is one event which stood out in the year, for so many reasons, it was the Carol Service held at the end of the Christmas Term. It was an occasion that, despite the obvious thrust of the traditional texts, rose above the divisions of faith, and drew us all together in a most beautiful act of worship. The selection of the readings, the music led by no less than three choirs, the Hall packed to overflowing, for me the additional fact that it was my first Sibford Carol Service, (last year's having been cancelled because of the snow), all of this made it an evening of intimacy and grandeur at once, and a very special one too.

It may also give Old Scholars pause for thought to know that since last October, no less than eight babies have been born to members of staff or their wives. Could it indeed be something in the microclimate that seems to be so often bounded by the village signposts? One wonders, especially as we await eagerly the arrival of triplets to another member of staff in the Autumn. . .

Finally, let me express my thanks on behalf of the school for all the work done for your Association by the energetic Committee, who do so much to promote the health of SOSA; in particular, our gratitude is due to the President, Anne Muir, for taking such an active and personal interest in everything during the year, and to Ian Weatherhead, who has so ably helped the business of the Association to proceed smoothly and constructively. This is an opportunity also to pay tribute to the immense work of the school staff, and also of the school Committee, who make possible in their respective ways everything that you see and hear of the school over this weekend, and much more besides.

I wish you all a marvellous Reunion, and both Susie and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our garden at Holly House for tea on Monday afternoon.

John H Dunston

After John Dunston's report, the General Secretary raised one issue that required the full membership's attention. The subject of a new "Business Studies Centre".

The General Secretary confirmed how important it was for Old Scholars to contribute to something that was going to be of benefit to students in the years to come, and having a "Business Studies Centre" was absolutely essential and now part of the GCSE's syllabus and vitally important for Sibford to progress in this new development.

It was stated that the initial cost for refurbishment and conversion of a room, together with initial computer hardware costs would be in the region of £6,600.

The General Secretary confirmed after advice from the Treasurer, that the Old Scholars could afford such a gift. It was suggested that the unused 150th Anniversary financial gift could be rechannelled into this project.

After a useful discussion amongst SOSA members the General Secretary proposed the motion that the sum of £6,600 be given to the school to set up the "Business Studies Centre". The motion was seconded by Mike Finch and carried by vote of 69 for with 2 abstentions.

The General Secretary also insisted that the school should name the Business Centre after Old Scholars which was duly noted by John Dunston, Headmaster. The meeting unanimously endorsed this suggestion.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President thanked all those on the SOSA committee who were now retiring.

The following persons were duly elected:

President 1992/3	Daphne Maw
Vice President 1992/3	Ian Weatherhead
Membership Secretary 1/9/92-31/8/95	Mike Finch
Committee Member 1/9/92-31/8/95	Michael Farr

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

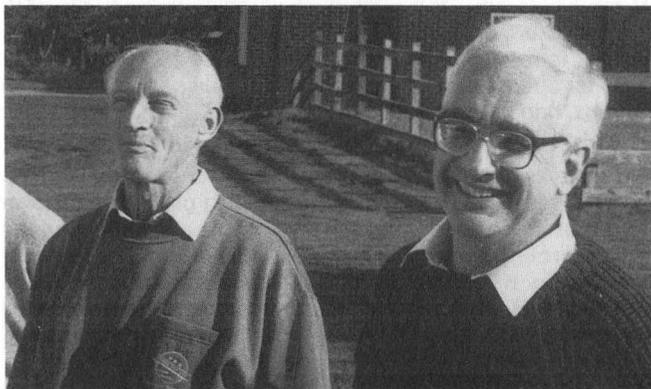
First may I say how pleased and grateful I am to be asked to serve as your representative on the School Committee.

The Committee meetings entail visits to Sibford eight or nine times a year and sometimes other occasions such as the recent end of term Meeting for Worship.

It has been an eventful year and a year of extremes, both high and low. The highs must include the performance of "Israel & Egypt" at Coventry Cathedral in April, Sibford was the host to contingents from the other Friends Schools and the whole occasion was a truly memorable one.

The lows have to include the problems brought about by the recession and a smaller school population nationally. Sibford has not escaped the effects of these problems which has resulted in the closure of two houses and a consequent loss of jobs.

In the Spring term Sibford had the first full inspection for



Arthur Harrison and Nick Bennett

nineteen years. The Independent Schools Joint Council (I.S.J.C.) sent a team of five inspectors who spent two days at the school looking at all aspects of school life. The report was a very important one which will provide the base from which the School can move forward into the future.

An interesting development within the school was the setting up of a School Council. This has been established to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their views on the Council problems within the School. The houses elect members to attend and bring forward items for the agenda. The Council, which includes Staff as well as pupils, meets every three weeks and the minutes make most interesting reading, subjects ranging from lunch queues, fruit at meals and trousers for girls in winter.

Of particular interest to Old Scholars will be the move of Mike Finch from Estate Manager to Development Officer. Mike gave the Committee a most interesting presentation on his work as Development Officer. The School has considerable potential out of term time as a conference centre for a wide range of groups. The high quality of our facilities, particularly the Oliver Studio and the Sports Hall have already enabled Mike to attract some very valuable lettings. The importance of this income to the School in the future cannot be stressed too highly in these difficult times.

Arthur Harrison

7. DEVELOPMENT AT SIBFORD

Mike Finch outlined the work that he was now carrying out in the development of business for the school during the empty 19 weeks of the year and explained how important "School Lets" were in the additional income that this was attracting.

The area of sponsorship was also mentioned as a way to attract much needed income to the school.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the AGM closed at 18.10hrs.

OBITUARIES.

It is with deep regret that we list below the names of several Old Scholars and friends of the school who have passed on since the last reunion.

JOYCE BUTLER (Nee Wells) died on the 2nd January 1992 aged 81 after a lifetime of public service. She was for many years the Member of Parliament for Wood Green. Although she never attended Sibford she was a great supporter and of course was connected through her brothers who were all Old Scholars.

Within six weeks of her passing we were informed that her husband VIC BUTLER had also died.

PHILIP BLUNSOM Died on 5th February 1992. The Blunsom's are related to the Lamb family so the Sibford ties go back a long way. Philip was father to Eleanor Smith who was at Sibford in the fifties. Bernard Blunsom is his cousin.

ERNEST DIXON Died 26th December 1991 and had lived in Canada for many years. He was one of SOSA's oldest members having been at the school between 1910-13.

HILDA JENKS Died 17th January 1992 aged 82. She was at Sibford between 1921-25 and was a life member of SOSA. Hilda was unable to attend many Reunions of late due to her long term illness but was a loyal supporter of the Midland Branch.

IAN JONES Who was at Sibford 1969-74 died recently at the age of 32.

KURT REISER Died suddenly after a short illness on 1st August 1992. He was Margaret Fairnington's partner for many years and he will be sadly missed at SOSA Reunions.

MARGARET RUNDLE Who was at Sibford 1935-39 and a Life member of SOSA, died from cancer 2nd January 1992. Our sympathies go out to her sister Anne Parsons and all the family.

FLORENCE RUTTER Was a Life Member of SOSA and was at Sibford between 1909-12.

WINIFRED SAVAGE Died last year. She lived in the Cheltenham area for many years and was at Sibford between 1933-35. Her niece is Janet Winn (Nee Savage) who was also at Sibford in the early fifties.

ANDREW CARLTON SMITH Died suddenly on 15th October 1992, He was at Sibford between 1955-60 and was a life member of SOSA. His father is John Carlton Smith and his brother is David Carlton Smith. We extend our deepest sympathy to them and all the family.

PHYLLIS SOUTHALL Died 14th April 1992 aged 90. Her family have long connections with the School and she was a member of the School Committee for many years. She was the mother of Daphne Maw - our new President - to whom we extend our sympathy.

RICHARD STEELE Sadly, we have to report the death, earlier this year, of Richard Steele, who was at Sibford between 1975-80. In his days at Sibford, he had been a popular member of Penn House. He had often expressed his enjoyment of the time he spent at Sibford. Since leaving, he had attended the Old Scholars August Reunion on a number of occasions and he had maintained close contact with a number of his school colleagues, many of whom were present at his funeral in Oxford. In memory of Richard, his parents, Barbara and Basil Slatford, have made a generous gift from his estate to the school.

M.R.W.

DAVID STILES Died on September 23rd 1992 after many years of pain and suffering courageously borne. He was a man of great intellectual ability and wide interests. A colleague described him as genuine boffin in his field of electronics and a true gentleman. As Old Scholars, we knew him best for his passion for historical research and tenacity in finding and preserving material for archives. He shared with Mavis a burning desire to preserve our heritage in all its forms, from historic buildings to wildlife and the environment, and to Old Scholars itself. His quiet courage and determination to overcome all obstacles are an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed.

Pat Grimes



The late David Stiles (right) talking to a group of Old Scholars

THE 16TH LESLIE BAILY LECTURE

Given by Michael Finch on Saturday 29th August 1992 in the Oliver Studio at Sibford School.

"A SIBFORD ODYSSEY"

Madam President, Old Scholars and friends, I am delighted to have been invited to deliver this, the 16th Leslie Baily Lecture. It is particularly poignant to me as it comes during the 150th Anniversary of Sibford School and it gives me the opportunity to deliver a personal review on the origins of our school. I will conclude by showing a few slides from the archives.

When one looks back at some of the distinguished speakers who have graced this event I begin to wonder whether I was right to accept Anne's invitation, but thirty years in amateur dramatics, ducking and diving through the minefield of industrial management and recently through the 'intricacies' of working in a Quaker boarding school, it has given me the confidence to step boldly in front of the footlights, even if I didn't always learn my lines!

Leslie Baily was one of my heroes - not only because of his enormous talent, his principles, his Quaker beliefs and his humanity but also because he was a good friend who would always have a kind word when needed and who used to write splendid letters full of news and encouragement.

The other Leslie, Leslie Thomas, who was Baily's great friend and a man in many ways of similar talent, wrote this of Leslie Baily.

"Sibford, I believe, was the catalyst in Leslie's life. He was there in the aftermath of the first world war, when the school was a large family, the family of James and Mabel Harrod, Frank Parkin and Roland Herbert, whose personal qualities influenced so much his future life and the lives of so many more. Sibford drew into a single life-line his Quaker background, his idealism and the influence of his father, James Baily, whose philosophy and teaching of craftsmanship contributed so much to the wholeness of education at Ackworth and Sibford and indeed to the role of arts and crafts in English education. Leslie believed this sense of wholeness was the real meaning of Quaker education."

Leslie Baily's fascination with history went some way towards wetting my own appetite. I was also privileged to have been taught by that splendid teacher Dorothy Brigham.

It has always intrigued me as to why things were done in such a way or why the options were never taken up that could have changed the course and given us a different answer. Why, for instance, did our Quaker forebears choose the Big House at Sibford Ferris instead of the coaching inn at Chapel House or Swalcliffe Park which as irony has it also became a school but for maladjusted boys.

History in my view is alive, it is part of now and it helps us to define the present and enables us to plan and look forward to the future. Having said that we cannot hang on to the past. A certain amount of tradition is good but I believe that a school is for today, keeping what is wise from the past to help us build a better future. I would truly hate to think that Sibford had stood still as I remembered it from my first visit in November 1948.

Odyssey is defined in the Oxford dictionary as 'an adventurous journey' and as I started to piece this missive together it occurred to me that all of us have had an adventurous journey that has eventually brought us together in a common bond to Sibford. Its intriguing to contemplate how many different stories we could interact on how we all came to be inveigled with this place. I am sure that some of what you are about to hear you may well have heard of before but like all good scripts you can always find and learn something new - so don't leave the room yet!



Mike Finch - About to deliver the 1992 Leslie Baily Lecture

I want to take you on two journey's that ran parallel but as fate decreed would eventually merge. One is how my family became involved in Quakerism and Sibford and the other is to explore how and why the school came in to being and how the "Great Experiment" has continued for 150 years.

So my journey begins as all good journey's do - on the high seas!

The year is 1869 and a ship is floundering, somewhere in the Indian Ocean. The Captain is Patrick Culliton, an Irishman, born in Wexford, in 1816. He was registered as a ships Master, at Plymouth, in 1849. He was married to Ann Williamson from Nantwich in Cheshire. They had a daughter Sarah Ann who was born on 25th September 1856.

The ship was lost with all hands and that was to have a devastating effect on the family who, almost overnight, dropped from reasonable circumstances to one of extreme hardship

Patrick Culliton was my great great grandfather.

Sarah Culliton, Patrick's daughter, moved to Birmingham to look for work and there she met John Finch, also out of work and whose family had been in husbandry for generations at their home in Broadway.

Times were hard in farming and it had only been in the 1830's in the period immediately before Sibford became a reality that the voice of the stormy champion of the rural poor, William Cobbett, had not long been stilled. The final Enclosures had ushered in the golden age of farming, robbed the Labourer of his common and turned him into a landless serf. Bitterly he said:

*The Law locks up the man or woman
Who steals a goose from off the Common
Buts lets the greater villain loose.
Who steals the Common from the goose.*

John and Sarah were married at All Saints parish church in Birmingham on 30th September 1876.

They produced four children - George (1877), John (1879), Ann (1881) and William (1882). It must have been a topsyturvy period for the family because John was born in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter before being whisked back to Wykhamford, near Broadway where the family lived for a couple of years before they moved down the road to

Bretforton where Ann was born, and then back to 'Brum' for the birth of George and William!

On a fairly recent visit to the National Trust Inn - 'The Fleece' - at Bretforton, which is splendidly preserved and furnished very much as it must have looked in the mid Nineteenth Century, I couldn't help but wonder if this had been my great grandfather's local where he'd 'wetted the babies head'. I refer to this little piece of trivia because pubs certainly featured high on my great grandparents list of priorities!

Undoubtedly their poverty and helplessness in the social and industrial upheaval of nineteenth century England moved them to the Gin bottle and a pint of M and B as their only solace. It had a profound effect on their second son John. For one thing he probably didn't take kindly to having his mother pawn his best suit on a Monday so that she could get enough money to pay for her gin for the rest of the week! John always managed to find the money to retrieve his suit so that he could go to church on Sunday! John was my grandfather who eventually joined the Society of Friends and was probably the catalyst for my coming to Sibford. He was a kind, gentle, lovely man who never spoke ill of anybody including his parents who for all their shortcomings loved their family and remained very close to them.

Grandad had moved to Southampton by the turn of the century where he married Florence Hayward in 1905 and where my father Frederick Finch was born in 1906.

Grandad then worked for many years at the 'Forest Laundry' in charge of the wash house. The laundry was owned by the Sturge family who attended Southampton Meeting and that's where Grandad and my Father were introduced to Quakerism. My Father's boyhood friend was Owen Sturge who later married Ida Chinn of Cotteridge Meeting. (It is somewhat ironic that Owen Sturge was a Sibford old scholar.)

Having overcome the difficulties of his early life my Grandfather had to leave the security of his laundry job in 1914 with the onset of the first world war and do what ever work he could find because of his pacifism. The family moved back to Birmingham in 1920 when Dad was fourteen. Dad was severely affected by this because he had won a place at Southampton Art school but wasn't able to take it up because his parents couldn't afford to send him. What a tragedy that talent couldn't be pursued because of lack of funds and social standing. Who knows, may be there was help available that my Grandad was unaware of. Perhaps it was because many of his and my Fathers generation thought that 'charity' was an abhorrence.



Mike Finch's boyhood home



Hilda and Fred Finch (Mike's parents) at Sibford in 1950

As my Father was growing up in the twenties, the great depression was looming ominously on the horizon. For the vast majority of the population the name of the game was to obtain employment and keep it. My Father did get regular employment with a shoemaker and repairer in Moseley, Birmingham, where he learnt a skill and eventually took over the business but don't get me wrong - this was no great take over! Dad worked long hours and earned a pittance for most of his working life.

My parents were married on Christmas day 1932 because that was the only day my Dad could get off from work! - so much for the welfare state.

My Mother was Hilda Rogers from a true blue 'Brummagem' family with Welsh connections!

She was a kind, generous of heart, loving soul who thought the sun shone on me and for whom I could do no wrong even perhaps when I did. She had the trauma from which I don't think she ever really recovered of losing two children at birth. They would probably have survived had they been born twenty years later with the advancement of medical science. She trained as a Chiropodist and ran a small practice at the back of Dad's shop. I sometimes got ribbed about "me Dad crippled 'em so that me Mom could cure 'em"! She was also a very fine pianist who in other circumstances could well have made a career in that direction. I can well remember those lovely musical evenings, which used to be so popular, with my parents friends from the local choir crowding into the living room to practice pieces for their next concert.

After the death of the second child my parents adopted my brother John, in 1935. He too went to Sibford and is probably the reason why we came at all because he attended the Warwickshire Summer Gathering here in 1947 and was so taken with the place he persuaded my parents that it would be a good idea to be educated here. I guess that Dora Willetts had something to do with it and Birmingham Friends will remember her with affection.

I owe my dear parents so much for what they gave me in love, care, understanding and opportunity, often at considerable expense to themselves for they struggled desperately to keep my brother and I at Sibford to give us the openings which neither of their families had been able to give them. As I said to you previously, my father insisted that he should pay his way to educate his sons even though as a Friend he could have had full support but he never accepted it. Some may see that as foolish stubbornness but I would see it as good old fashioned Quaker virtue.

My Brother started at Sibford in September 1948 and stayed for three years. I well remember coming to see him on my first visit here, in the November. It was a beautiful sunny autumn day and we'd caught the train to Banbury before catching Tanners bus to Sibford Gower - It was the original one that had the little luggage ladder mounted on the back. We got off near the endowed school in Acreditch and that was my first view of Sibford looking across the valley towards

the Manor. From the backstreets of Birmingham I'd stepped into a different world that was to affect me and will certainly do so for the rest of my life.

I started at Sibford a year after John on 22nd September 1949 and stayed until 22nd July 1954. Little did I think or even consider it that fate would deal me a generous hand to enable me to come and work here in 1982. It has been a wonderful experience and an opportunity to give something back to a place that I cherish so dearly. Sometimes though I do wonder, when the going gets tough, if there is any significance in the fact that I started work here on the 1st April!

As Patrick Culliton was developing his career and sailing all over the world, another gentleman was embarking on an odyssey of infinite significance that was to influence us all.

John Pease, A Quaker industrialist, was visiting Friends' meetings in the Midlands and found among them an unusual number of children who were connected with but were not members of the Society of Friends, their parents having been disowned for marrying outside the Society. Pease felt that these children had a claim on the care of the Society or, in his own words, "that the moral and religious education and training in habits of industry of these children in accordance with principles and practices of Friends, might, under divine blessing, also have an important bearing on the future welfare of the Society".

Friends of the Berks and Oxon Quarterly Meeting's shared this concern and on 16th December 1839 a group of them met at Oxford to consider the establishment of an agricultural school in the Midlands similar to Penketh in the North. The idea was approved and a committee was appointed to discuss it with Buckingham and Northampton Quarterly Meetings.

Joining them that day was Joshua Lamb, the great great grandfather of Arnold and Ina Lamb and Bernard Blunsom. He set off at 8.00am to walk the 25 miles to Oxford and arrived at 4.00pm! Before embarking on one of his walks he always made the point of stressing that the time was by 'our clock.'

During the next two years an appeal for funds produced £1700 and promises of £150 a year subscriptions. After rejecting premises at Swalcliffe Park and Chapel House at Chipping Norton, the Big House, or as we're more familiar with, the Manor at Sibford Ferris along with 25 acres, was bought from Joseph Harris, a local Quaker, on 9th July 1841. It is fairly clear that the long established Quaker settlement at Sibford was the main influence in setting up the school in the Ferris. George Fox had preached in the old meeting house, built in 1664, which was replaced by the present one in 1862. He almost certainly stayed at Holly House which was the ancestral home of the Harris's.

The great Sibford family dynasties are woven like thread through the school's fabric because Joseph Harris was also the great great grandfather of the present day Lambs. Joseph was living at Holly House when he bought the Manor, then empty, in April 1841. After he had sold the Manor he was seen walking up and down Main street in agony of mind as to whether he'd driven a Quaker bargain hard enough. He sold it to John Pease and friends for £1200 in the July having bought it in the previous April for £1400!

The Manor had been the home of the Walford family and records show that Thomas Walford bought the land about 400 years ago. The Walfords were to become the leading Anglican family in Sibford Ferris. Though the master of the "Big House" was sometimes called the "Squire", village folk-memory is that Sibford had no strong 'squirearchy'. The Walfords were never lords of the manor although they certainly acted as the lord's stewards. The great landowners and lords of the manor were the Sheldon family.

The last Walford to live in our Manor house was William, who left Sibford about 1800, when the famous Red Horse of Tysoe, carved out of the escarpment on Sunrising Hill, was being ploughed over forever and a few years after the final enclosure of the open fields in which the great grandfather of Joshua Lamb used to stock his wheat in more than twenty separate strips. At that time the Archway was the main entrance to the farm yard; on the right were the stables and on the other side was the barn, now the Music school, with its great doors opening on to the road.

To focus the picture more clearly, Leslie Baily wrote:

"Sibford Ferris was a Saxon village and it is likely that its manorial centre was on or about the site of the present manor house. The village's history is rich and in some respects unusual. The Knights Templars acquired the whole of the Ferris manorial estate in the twelfth century. They farmed it for two centuries and by a royal charter the Ferris gained certain privileges, for instance, it had the status of a "peculiar manor", exempt from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction more usual in medieval England. This meant that for one thing, the manor court administered wills, providing probate. This continued until the nineteenth century in the manor court, held in the entrance hall of our Manor building."

I was glad to be able to include that quote from some of Leslie's extensive research work because it stresses to me what an historical gem the Manor is and it should never be understated how important it is to the school, the Society of Friends and the local community. It would be a tragedy if it were ever to go out of the school's ownership. An attempt was made some years ago and this was strongly rebuffed both on financial grounds and because of the aesthetic connections with the Society and the school.



The Manor House, Sibford Ferris. A drawing by Charles Gillett in C. 1848

The Manor is an intriguing place because its a building within a building. Expert analysis indicates that the oldest part of the Manor is probably sixteenth century, of the Elizabethan period, much earlier than the popular date of 1666 although it is probable that some major rebuilding work was carried out at that time. The main transformation occurred in the early part of the eighteenth century when the Walfords who had become wealthy farmers and landowners and probably to show-off their affluence, had the building restyled in the Queen Anne fashion which was in vogue with the aristocracy. The front and side were clad in high quality finely cut local stone which you still see to this day. Another example of the refurbishment is the panelling in the groundfloor west room which, is in excellent condition, despite the ravages of death watch beetle which meant the recent replacement of its ancient floor. However it did give us a rare glimpse of the older sixteenth century walls. Incidentally this room is now the Development Office and was the Headmaster's study until 1930. I feel that I am in very exalted company!

In the Summer of 1841, the positions of Master and Mistress were advertized:

"The Master, in addition to a competent share of literary information should possess a knowledge of gardening and agriculture. The Mistress will have to superintend and instruct the girls in needlework, the domestic concerns of the household and the ordinary routine of a plain but useful English education". The school was to accommodate 50 children and *"in order to promote habits of industry and to lessen the costs of maintenance, household work and outdoor employment will be combined with a religious, moral and useful education in accordance with the Christian Doctrines and Testimonies of Friends"*.

The school opened on 1st January 1842, the joint property of the Quarterly Meetings of Berks and Oxon, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire and governed by a committee of 24 Friends living in the same counties. The Master, or Superintendent, at £50 per annum, was Richard Routh, a young bachelor of 27 who had recently been farming with his brother in the Lake District. He had also been Master of a small endowed school by Lake Simmerwater. The Mistress, at £30 per annum, was Rebecca Thompson, a widow of 33 from Liverpool who had given up the prospects of comparative wealth to answer what she believed to be her vocation. A woman with a high sense of discipline and duty. Fees ranged from £6 to £16 a year, according to the means of the parents. The average weekly cost of a child at Sibford was 7/-(35p) which was roughly the weekly wage of the farm workers who had taken part in the labourers' revolt ten years before.

The first pupil of all is officially listed as Lucy Endall, nine years old and entered on 16th January 1842 - or was she the first? There is some evidence to suggest, as yet unproven, that there may have been four girls here in December 1841. Definitely recorded is the fact that there was a Quaker day-school held in the Manor around 1800. Its Master was Joseph Huntley who later became famous as co-founder of Huntley and Palmer. In 1808 a return of schools made to the Bishop of Oxford, listed the Gower endowed school with 50 scholars and an anglican Master, a small day-school for girls at Burdrop and a dissenters' school at Sibford Ferris "kept by a Quaker who has 21 pupils". Lucy sounded a nice little girl so let us content ourselves that she was the first. She arrived by carrier cart from Banbury, bringing with her:

- A straw bonnet
- A cloak
- A stuff gown with loose tippets and sleeves
- A dark gingham gown with loose tippets and sleeves
- A pair of coloured stays
- 2 dark skirts
- 2 flannel petticoats and 3 strong shifts
- 2 nightgowns and 2 night caps
- 2 linen pinafores
- A strong coloured pocket and 2 pocket handkerchiefs
- 2 pairs of strong coloured stockings
- 2 pairs of stout shoes
- 1 buff nankeen tippet and sleeves
- A pair of pattens
- And one ruff for the neck.

Lucy's brother, Alfred, three years her senior, and records show was that he and three others were the first boy pupils, arrived the following month and brought with him:

- 2 caps
- 2 coats or jackets
- 2 waistcoats and 3 pairs of trousers
- 3 shirts
- 2 nightgowns
- 2 handkerchiefs
- 5 nightcaps
- 3 pairs of coloured worsted stockings
- 2 flannel waistcoats
- And 2 pairs of strong shoes.

By the end of the year, the 'family' (which was to become a significant word in the history of the school) consisted of the

Master and Mistress, 26 boys, 22 girls, 2 female servants and an 'outdoor' man. Before the dining room was built in 1848, the one with the sloping floor which many of you will remember, all of the family sat down for meals in the Manor entrance hall which must have been a pretty tight squeeze. Many of the children didn't go home for two years or more.

While "Governess", as Rebecca Thompson was known, taught the girls reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, history, sewing and knitting, supervised their household work, "the making and mending of their own apparel and that of the establishment", the Master, Richard Routh, instructed the boys in some of the same subjects as well as gardening and the cultivation of the land, 25 acres of it as well as keeping the various records as directed by the school Committee.

Once a month, rules and advices were read, counselling the children to rise in the morning when called and to begin the day in the fear of the Lord; to estimate the value of tender conscience and to observe plainness of speech; to speak the truth, never mock the aged, the infirm or the deformed; and to close the day with remembering their gracious Creator, "whose all-seeing eye ever observed them and who kneweth their most secret thoughts".

Life in school began at six in the morning (6.30 in winter) and continued until eight in the evening, beginning and ending with readings from the Bible and handshakes with Richard Routh: a Spartan mixture of the 'three R's', sewing and knitting, digging and squitching and with a solemn silence at meals and bed. Every morning, the monitors whose duty it was to keep order in the bedrooms, reported to Routh "Please master, no boy has talked, half talked, sighed, whispered, hummed or motioned". A little girl heard humming a line of a hymn on her way to bed was sent 60 rounds of stocking knitting as punishment even though a Minute of Yearly Meeting in 1675 had counselled Friends not to discourage "the breathing forth of heavenly sounds of joy and grace".

Squitching was most unpopular with the boys, moving in long rows across the hilly fields at the back of the Manor, a basket between each pair and Routh saying "Now boys, you must pick up every bit you see - so long as it has two ends to it!" Harvesting was popular, the older boys reaping with sickles, refreshed by coffee and bread brought down to the fields in great clothes baskets.

The boys washed in a lead trough that ran down the outside wall of the old Littleboy wing under the apple store that used to have a fives-court at the end of it. The boys were turned out each morning in batches of six, to wash in cold water, whatever the weather. Occasionally, more thorough cleansing was thought desirable so huge tubs, used for scalding pigs, were brought out and the boys were dunked in these and turned out 'as clean as new pins'.

On Saturdays, before bedtime, the boys had foot inspection and if they failed Routh's muster they would be sent back to that trough by the light of a tallow dip.

The girls washed in the privacy of their bedrooms, in china bowls, and I am lead to believe, competitively, because the boys had to pump up the water which often failed, so there was a bit of a 'free for all'!

Holidays, as you can imagine, after two years away from home were tremendous occasions. Jane Shemeld, who came to Sibford from Northampton in 1846, aged eight - 36 hours by gig and carriers cart - recalled in her reminiscences in 1905 how they slammed the lids of their desks singing:

*Happy happy is the day, packing up and going away,
Happy happy is the hour, when we're free from Sibford's
power.*

*When the coachman cracks his whip, up we'll go and away
we'll trip.*

*When the coachman cries 'Gee Wo", off we'll trip and away
we'll go.*

Farewell to meeting house, Where oft we've sat;

Farewell to Richard Routh and his broad brimmed hat.

Farewell Church without a steeple

Farewell all ye Sibford people.

As an aside, Jane Shemeld also mentioned in her reminiscences that she was at school with a boy called Edward Warrulan, an Australian aborigine, who came to Sibford in 1847. My guess is that he was Sibford's first black pupil and was he possibly the first in this country?

Continuing the holiday saga, Routh's son, Dr Richard Laycock Routh, who was the local G.P. at the turn of the century, recalls how his father would go along with a string of boys and girls to Banbury station and bargain with the fat genial stationmaster. "Now, here are seven boys and five girls, all going to Euston. Some of them, thou seest, art quite small; now what canst thou take this lot for?" Then a price would be quoted. "No, that is too much," Routh would say, "thou sees some of these children are none too well off, thou must take five shillings less." A bargain would eventually be struck.

Richard Routh and Rebecca Thompson were married in 1845. The story of their marriage is a pearl of Sibford folklore. In the spring of 1845, Samuel Beesley, a member of the Committee was visiting the school and Routh accompanied him part of the way back to Banbury and during a pause in the conversation Beesley suddenly said to Routh, "Doesn't thou think it a good thing for thee to get married?" Routh answered "Well I really haven't thought much about it. I don't know of anyone at all likely". Beesley said "But why not ask Rebecca Thompson?" Routh said "Oh I'm, sure Rebecca Thompson would not regard me with any favour". Beesley replied "Oh thou doesn't know till thou tries - just think it over." And so he did and they were married in July 1845. They went for their honeymoon trip in a canal boat, drawn by a horse to travel through the delights of Dudley and the Black country! They were married for twenty-three years when Rebecca died, comparatively young, at the age of 59, in 1868 - a year before Patrick Culliton took his last fateful journey.

Routh was a kindly disciplinarian who ran the school for the first 38 years of its life. An old scholar leaves us a last picture of Routh "Of vast bulk, suave manners and fatherly way, he was like a warm stove in a large room". Writing to a little girl about to become a pupil, we find him saying:

"My dear young Friend, I have been writing to thy mother to place before her the expediency of allowing thee to take up thy abode with us for a longer or shorter space of time as I have little doubt that my proposition will be acceded to, and as I wish as far as lies in my power, to make all my young friends as happy and comfortable as may be, I thought I would write thee a few lines in order to remove some of the fear which the young so often feel at the prospect of entering upon their school life. Of course, thou canst not expect school to be quite like home, but if thou art a good little girl and takest pains with thy lessons and art obedient to thy teachers, I think thou wilt find tarrience with us both profitable and pleasing. Then I am sure thou wilt like to learn hemming and sewing and when thou goest home for thy holidays, thou couldst surprise thy dear papa by hemming him a handkerchief, all thyself. Then we should hope to be able to teach thee how to make a nice rice pudding, for thy little brothers and sisters, if thou hast any. In short if thou workest hard I think we shall be able to make quite a scholar of thee. One more thing. Never mind if the other girls do tease thee a little at first. Be brave and do not appear to mind it and thou wilt find that it will not last long. And now my dear child, I must conclude as I am wanted in the school room. Hoping to welcome thee ere long to our circle, believe me, thy sincere Friend and wellwisher, Richard Routh." 10th month. 25th 1871.

(Ed note. The original handwritten letter still exists and is in the school Archive!)

Over 800 children passed through the care of Richard Routh and he knew them all. Two years after his retirement in 1880

he died at the age of 67. (Strangely enough Arthur Johnstone died two years after his retirement - also aged 67.)

My odyssey has lingered purposely over the first great chapter in the school's history. I think it behoves us all to look back and reflect on the courage and determination of those early pioneers who set the sail for the school's future. Routh managed to keep the school running with totally inadequate facilities for nearly forty years and his low key, meagre budgets were probably the reason why Sibford came to be regarded, for many years, as the Cinderella of Quaker schools. It is certain that the school would not have survived if there hadn't been changes to incorporate the growing and continuing awareness of the importance of educating the whole person.

Routh's retirement heralded a new dawn that was to bring greater vision and awareness that there was a wider world beyond the dug fields and tranquillity of Sibfords green and pleasant land.

Robert Oddie, the great revolutionary, threw open the doors to greater opportunities with the introduction of a more academic curriculum; recognition of the rights and privileges of children; mixed classes were introduced - surely making Sibford one of the first to experiment with real co-education; the introduction of sport, despite the opposition of some older Friends to whom organised games were the primrose path to Hell. Oddie upgraded the whole school, many times forgetful of the Minute that forbade him to spend more than £5 without leave from the Committee. And finding himself continually in hot water, after building a staircase or removing a window, he'd say: "Well, it is done now and it is a great improvement. Doesn't thou think so?"

Towards the end of Oddie's reign, the future of Friends schools were the subject of some concern. Half the children in the Quaker schools left before they were 15, a year before completing their courses. At Sibford in 1904, the numbers had fallen to 40. It seemed that the pendulum had swung too far, from culture of the land to culture of the mind, without the resources, human and material to tackle what was in reality a secondary school curriculum.

With the help of Sir Michael Sadler, the outstanding educationalist of the day, a new scheme was evolved and in 1906, James and Mabel Harrod succeeded the Oddie's. The new scheme aimed at a three year course, based on a curriculum concentrating on English, mathematics, geography, science and Bible knowledge, with a wide range of educational handicrafts including drawing and painting, modelling in clay and cardboard, woodwork, metalwork and domestic science for boys as well as girls.

The Jeremiahs in the Society of Friends forecast the doom of Sibford. but within a few years there were a hundred pupils and such was the devotion of the Harrod's, Sibford became the pioneer of a new education.

A government inspector, Henry Holman, said in 1912 that England ought to have hundreds of schools like Sibford; the Board of Education sought permission to inspect it; and Sibford earned the supreme accolade of identification in Everymans Encyclopaedia.

The sands of time are running out and my Odyssey is nearly complete. It has kept me busy for several weeks, it has jangled my senses, it has allowed emotions to run deep and it has reminded me, with grateful thanks, of so many Sibfordians who in one way or another have had an effect on you, me, the school and our interwoven history. So many have contributed to Sibford that it's impossible to remember them all and to chronicle their achievements in this particular lecture. I am looking forward immensely to Ted Milligans's "History of Sibford" where I am sure he will be able, in his own inimitably scholarly way, to present us, at last, with the definitive work. Our 150 year journey has taken us from the innocence of the Routh's; through Oddie's revolution; through the golden period of the Harrods; through Arthur Johnstone's

time and the introduction of public examinations and his infectious love of music. A.J. was the great enigma - was he an autocratic villain or was he a misunderstood genius? The debate will long continue; we enter the next station on our journey with Hugh and Daphne Maw who inherited a near bankrupt school and helped to put it on a firm, business platform for the first time; the Fieldings with their warm and cultured approach and the introduction of a Sixth form; The Greaves, synonymous with the understanding and teaching of Dyslexic students; Jim Graham and the reiteration that there is something of worth in every child and his pioneering work with pre-vocational education in the Sixth form. The names are legend - John Pease, John Gurney, the Lamb family, Margaret Clarke, Nellie Millard, the Braithwaite's, the Littleboy's, the Gillett's, Parkin, Herbert, the big three of Burgess, Brigham and Prior, Darlington, Marjorie Simmons, Kate Long, The Dring's, June Ellis, The Shields's, The Francis's - to name but a few. The dedication of so many people has contributed to this community and make no mistake about that, Sibford is a community where people have lived, worked and played together in mutual harmony and respect to build a better life for our children and our children's children.

'Trouthe and Honour, Freedom and Curtesie' - were those words never more appropriate than today? Doesn't it sum-up all that we feel towards this school. That powerful combination that makes Sibford special - dedication, caring, sharing and love, the potent mixture which with God's help will see us through the difficult times and the good times until our successors meet in August 2042 to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of our beloved school.

'WENDATH WITHERSOEVER THEY WILEN'

News and views from Old Scholars living abroad

A SIBFORD OLD SCHOLAR IN THE BARCELONA '92 OLYMPIC GAMES

Now that the Barcelona '92 Olympic Games have come and gone, leaving the best ever aftertaste, with superb organisation and handling by the 60,000 strong organisation of whom 30,000 were the Olympic Volunteers, the time is right to relate the experiences of a Sibford Old Scholar Volunteer.

Born in Barcelona 28 years ago I have lived here all my life becoming Olympic Volunteer in January '85, almost two years before Barcelona was nominated Olympic City. At that time the atmosphere was tremendous as everyone got ready to bring the Games to Barcelona for the first time after two unsuccessful tries. At the peak of enthusiasm coinciding with the explosion of popular joy with October '86 nomination, the number of Volunteers reached 130,000. At the time of the Games only 30,000 remained, as the others had dropped by the wayside during the previous seven years.

Although I have been asked the question many times, the reasons for becoming an Olympic Volunteer only started to become clear to me and many of my companions during the Games themselves - mainly they revolve around three points: the possibility of doing something for the city; being involved in an unrepeatable experience and especially being able to give foreign visitors the very best impression of Barcelona and Catalunya.

Between 1985 and 1989 although we knew that we were Volunteers, nothing much happened. In 1990 we handled Test Competitions, I started as a Press Assistant for the Athletics World Cup and other competitions held that summer. In 1991 I was appointed a Delegation Assistant and decided that this was the post I would like to hold during the Olympic Games.

For many years I had been convinced that South Africa would be participating in Barcelona - the international political climate and the state of affairs inside the country led me to this belief and I determined to be the Delegation Assistant



Peter with the South African Olympic flag in front of the Olympic stadium.

for the South African team. Why? Perhaps being British I have a soft feeling for the underdog and there is no doubting that South Africa has been the outcast of modern times. Since my schooldays I have read everything I can lay my hands on regarding Southern Africa and I have always had a dream: to drive from Barcelona to Cape Town. Maybe one day the dream will come true.

The month prior to and during the Games was one of the best of my life. Although being with the delegation and solving all its many problems, meant that I could not see much of the competitions, just being in the Olympic Village was enough compensation. The day before the opening ceremony Nelson Mandela visited the team and exhorted them to do their best, "not as blacks or whites, but as South Africans".

The South African organisation was virtually non-existent, to the extent that at one point I unwittingly dropped the remark "anyone would think that South Africa had never been to the Olympic Games before!" However, I was with the rest of the team watching Wayne Ferreira and Piet Norval win the first medal for South Africa for over 30 years, silver in the Men's Tennis Doubles. That same evening we gathered to cheer on Elana Myers to win South Africa's second medal, also silver, in the 10,000 metres. Her lap of honour, hand in hand with the Ethiopian winner, made one hope that this was a sign of the things to come in Africa.

So the Olympic Games ended, with an emotional Closing Ceremony, singing "Amics per Sempre" (Friends for Life), an all night party in the Olympic Village and many protestations of friendship. The Games have done their job, for the first time ever, every country on earth was present (including the Balkan states), Barcelona has returned to the map with a renovated city, the Catalans have been made known to the world as a people with their own language and culture and the youth of our nation have rediscovered their vitality and strength.

For myself, the Olympic Games were an experience looked forward to for many years and once here they shot passed. My

Volunteer companions and I did our jobs well and I feel proud of them and the way we handled the Games. I would like to finish without a recommendation; if Manchester gets the 2000 Games, do not miss out on a chance to become an Olympic Volunteer and have the time of your life.

Peter Copestake - Sibford School 1978-81

(Ed note - We were delighted that Peter was able to come to the August Reunion)

DOORWAYS

Jim Grubb, who was at Sibford from 1946 until 1952 and is now living in New Zealand writes:

I have often thought that in going through life we pass through 'doorways'. After we have passed through one, the world is expanded for us with new dimensions allowing us to explore and experience hitherto unknown territory.

Looking back to my years at Sibford I can vividly recall passing through two of these so called doorways.

The first was when I was probably at Third Form Level. Holmby House had recently been purchased by the School as a junior house and part of the grounds were to be made available as an area for a new gardening club. A meeting was called and it was the Geography Master, David Beedham, who painstakingly explained the procedure for breaking in new ground and double digging. I joined a large band of enthusiastic pupils. Many long hours were spent there and a few of us persisted over a period of two or three years.

What a foundation for vegetable gardens was kindled within me! The advice on growing vegetables was forever forthcoming from that enthusiastic teacher - whenever it was requested.

My second 'doorway' was purely coincidental. The Staff were to attend an evening outing to the theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. For some reason there were two spare seats available at the last minute and A.J. decided that they should be offered to a couple of Fifth Formers. I was given the chance and told the name of a show of which I had never heard. "Old hat" said a friend but I was determined not to miss out and furthermore a girl of whom I was somewhat enamoured with, was going too - we were to be together all evening!

I'll always remember that outing to Stratford. I had never heard any of the music before but that evening the magical world of Gilbert and Sullivan was revealed to me as we watched the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company perform the "Mikado".

I had passed through a new 'doorway' to the musical world of "G&S". I have since collected all their opera's on disc or tape but that performance was the forerunner of forty years of musical pleasure.

THE RELEVANCE OF SIBFORD'S MOTTO

Maggie Vella (nee Smith) was at Sibford during the same period as Jim Grubb, but left a year later in 1953. She now lives in Canada and we were delighted to see her at this years Reunion. She left us with the following thought provoking article.

"Trouthe and Honour, Fredom and Curtesie" or in modern spelling:

"Truth and Honour, Freedom and Courtesy".

These are all qualities to which we should aspire, but sometimes they appear to be mutually incompatible. People of my parents' generation well remember Mr. Neville Chamberlain's 1938 mission to Munich, from which he returned proclaiming "Peace with Honour", whereas he had achieved neither.

Soon after that, it is arguable that certain European householders should, in respect of Truth, have told their raincoated inquirers: "Yes, we are harbouring refugees in our



Maggie Vella (née Smith) and Janet Winn (née Savage) on Hay Street Mall, Perth, Western Australia May 1991

attic (or cellar)". But most of us would agree that such an admission would not have served either Honour or Freedom.

"Freedom" is something that we enjoy today to an extent undreamed of by our forebears, and it includes unprecedented liberty to protest against those laws and practices which we perceive as unjust or harmful. It should, however, be remembered that freedom to protest does not imply freedom from prosecution. Protest through civil disobedience resulting in imprisonment has precedents going back to Biblical times (cf. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego).

Certainly, Quaker history is graced by plenty of prisoners of conscience, perhaps as a result of growing up in familiarity with their stories, I was quite shocked recently in Vancouver, to hear protesters who had deliberately defied a court injunction and demanded public trial, express outrage at actually being sentenced to serve prison terms (in one of our nice modern prisons with colour TV, telephones, gymnasium, etc.); terms, moreover, which they were allowed to serve at weekends so as not to disrupt their professional lives!

I think, too, that there is a fine dividing line between "Freedom" and "Licence"; a line which is perhaps provided by "Courtesy". I must again quote recent protest actions in British Columbia, where non-violent actions against the clear-cut logging of old-growth forests (barricading logging roads with bonfires and live bodies, etc.) have been given a black name by other protests involving Luddite sabotage of costly equipment, and the spiking of trees, with potential serious injury to individual loggers or saw-mill workers. Surely, "Courtesy" should enjoin us against forms of protest that could actually endanger other individuals.

All in all, Chaucer's attributes of the "very parfit gentil knight" still make good lode-stars for modern life.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

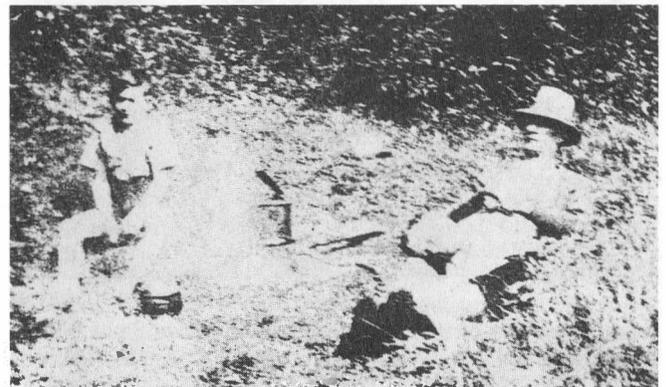
I have recently received from New Zealand the gift of a book "The Life Story of James K. Baxter" by Frank McKay, which won the New Zealand Book Award prize for 1991, and rightly so. It is a fascinating and detailed account of a man who, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the stresses and struggles of his rebellious and restless life, reached great heights of poetic creativity. It is a tale of unexpected proportions and helps to explain the universal posthumous esteem with which James Baxter is held in a country which treated his father abominably



Millicent and James (aged 6) beside the Brighton River, 1932

(Archie Baxter was a pacifist and refused to take part in World War 1) and certainly misunderstood James. His parents, on both sides, were of Highland descent, the paternal grandfather's family being Gaelic speaking and victims of the Cruel evictions which drove crofters from their inheritance. Many settled in South Island, bringing with them the qualities and defects of a narrow Presbyterianism. His maternal grandfather was a distinguished academic, the other one a free spirit with a drink problem.

For me the story begins in a class-room at the Hill during the summer term of 1938 when Form II (English) pupils produced poems of promise, James Baxter taking the lead (at the age of 11) with such competence and sensitivity that I kept his poems. Filed away, they survived many upheavals and after 54 years have been deposited with the Hocken Librarian, University of Otago, Dunedin, to join the other Baxter papers. How this happened is interesting. Two New Zealand Quakers, Eric and Isobel Thompson, visited us in 1990 and conversation led to their poet, James Baxter. They were amazed to hear of his connection with Sibford and my interest in him, and were able to locate the custodian of the Baxter papers, S R Strachan, who received them enthusiastically, and presented me with a copy of the biography.



Terence, Archibald and James, camping.

This is neither the time nor the place to review the book, but my memories of the mischievous schoolboy are vivid, and it has been intriguing to follow the account of his subsequent career spanning adolescence, manhood, parenthood and tragically early death. It was abundantly clear in 1938 that here was a boy of outstanding talent, stimulated, it appears, from an early age, by a remarkable father who was self-educated, independent-minded and resolute. The irresistible urge to express his feelings in poetry, already visible, became dominant, fed by a fierce abhorrence of bourgeois values and the boredom of urban life. A strong-willed, highly educated mother and a devoted, serious-minded father could not obtain the rebellious nature of their brilliant sons.

Drink fuelled the fire and for ten years alcoholism played its part when James deliberately emulated Dylan Thomas. He was in turn a student, teacher, labourer, postman, editor, non-stop social and religious critic and a tireless talker, reflecting the contradictions in his make-up. These were not the ingredients for a stable family life, as Jacqueline, his Maori wife, was to discover. But he must have been a stimulating father to his two children, Hilary and John, who loved him. Alcoholics Anonymous saved him from disaster, and he, in his turn (prompted by a religious experience) felt the urge to save others or rather alleviate their suffering. He left his family (by this time he had joined the Catholic Church) and adopted for three years a simple and poverty-stricken life, shared with junkies and drop-outs in a house in Auckland, and finally in the Maori Catholic Community at Jerusalem. Rough living undermined his health and he died of a heart attack in October 1972, aged 46.

Baxter's precious gift has bequeathed to posterity a thick volume of verse published by Oxford Press. Among the critics are those who class him as one of the major English language poets of the century. History will assess his place. For me, the



Archibald and James

tender memory of the likeable boy who wrote these simple and prophetic lines remains uppermost.

Farewell to Sibford

Farewell to all the beauty
That round old Sibford lies
The daily round of duty
The play neath sun and skies

God give me strength and courage
To shape my destiny
On Christ, the perfect image
Of pure simplicity.

There is strong evidence in the biography, that James, with all his faults, came closer to following this ideal than most of us.

Barrie Naylor



James and Margaret Herbert at Sibford School, 1937

THE JOHNSTONE ERA

Arthur Johnstone - 'Was he an autocratic villain or a misunderstood genius? The debate will long continue'.

This was the question posed during the Leslie Baily lecture at the August Reunion, and it's a question along with other comments over the last two years, that have provoked many interesting responses and as a 'sequel' to the discussions and articles that have ensued we include in this year's Magazine, a profile of Arthur Johnstone and a commentary.

Michael Van Blankenstein is a retired Lecturer in Economics and Business Studies, and is a current member of the School Committee. He was at Sibford between 1940-44 and writes:

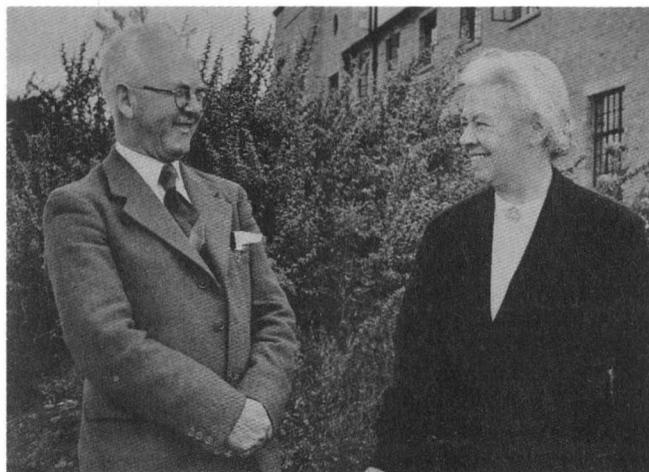
Arthur Johnstone was about forty when he was appointed to the headship of Sibford. He held a general science degree from London University and he taught mathematics to senior classes as well as musical appreciation. To that extent, he was probably in closer contact with his pupils than are many busy head teachers today.

He arrived at Sibford with his wife Jessie in 1930. The retirement of the Harrods coincided with the opening of the Hill with its well-equipped science room, workshops and airy classrooms. Sibford could then, if it had the will, expand in numbers and extend its curriculum, which is exactly what occurred during the thirties under Arthur Johnstone. Crafts remained a strong feature - perhaps too much so for those with little natural aptitude at woodwork or domestic science - but the School Certificate became firmly established in both the academic and practical fields.

Physically, "A.J." - as he was known - was of medium height and slight build, with a rather florid complexion which would deepen in moments of anger - and he was capable of explosions of wrath (simulated or otherwise) which many pupils found quite frightening and which certainly earned their respect, however much they may have laughed at his personal eccentricities. A.J. wore granny spectacles and sported a mop of wispy, greying hair - later white - which waved above his head. (The villagers - real country people in those days - nick-named him "Tufty" and regarded him with mild scorn. There was at that time little contact between "town and gown".)

A.J. wore brown, loose-woven tweed suits, rather short in the legs, his trouser turn-ups riding high above the ankles. He sported airtex shirts and woollen ties. He was rarely if ever seen in a formal dark suit, let alone a hat (and headgear was almost de rigueur fifty years ago). However, he did occasionally relax to the extent of stripping to his shirt sleeves, for instance at the summer picnic to Whichford Woods. This was a fixture which the senior boys would mark by the manufacture and consumption of "cigarettes" made from twigs and woodland detritus; everyone would be on the lookout for A.J. who would be brewing tea over a camp fire but always alert and on the warpath against smoking (— in a sense, a man ahead of his time!)

A.J. was very much the puritan, to a degree which was not unusual then among Friends. Many parents would have strongly approved of his stand on a variety of issues. He was - not surprisingly - also a vegetarian, an abstainer from alcohol and a pacifist (for which he had been imprisoned in Dartmoor during the Great War.) He also appeared to disapprove strongly of the cinema. Despite the sparse wartime traffic in such a rural backwater, pupils were not permitted to bring bicycles back to school until they were in the senior forms. Private radios were forbidden and there was little opportunity to listen to the school wireless. Consequently, there was some recourse to home-made crystal sets. (One rebellious pupil secreted his in the cottage of a friendly villager). There was little or no official approval of the reading of newspapers or of keeping abreast with public affairs; even the dissemination of War news was grudging. It was almost as if the global conflict was someone else's affair. Indeed, it is difficult to decide whether this



Arthur and Jessie Johnstone

arose from a particularly blinkered species of pacifism or whether A.J. was not perhaps less intellectually alive than one might have expected for a man in his position.

However, his main concern - or so it seemed to concupiscent adolescents - was to keep the sexes at arms length, waging a one man war against what he termed "clandestine meetings". This only promoted a degree of daring among the boys (and some acquiescence among the girls) which made such relationships much more fashionable than they might otherwise have been, though it is doubtful whether anything remotely scandalous ever happened. In this respect, his pupils verged on what would today be labelled as a "delinquent sub-culture". Formal boy and girl friendships were tolerated, but if couples wished to go for walks in the countryside on weekend afternoons - and such recreation was indeed compulsory for the whole school - they had to sign a "mixed walks book" and stay in foursomes under a strict injunction to keep on the move and not sit down. Every summer, A.J. gave the fifth form boys a valedictory talk on the facts of life, an unfortunate exhibition of his own embarrassment, characterised by imprecision and innuendo. He seemed unaware that - other boys and girls together, had already studied mammalian reproduction in Biology. A.J.'s other crusade was over the use of even the mildest of swear words; to him, swearing ranked next to "jazz music" as a cardinal sin.

He had a light, fast, rather jerky walk, a high-pitched voice and a somewhat hearty manner. He hailed from the North, flattening his "a's", for example pronouncing "dance" like "romance". Characteristic, too, was his staccato cry of "ha-ha!" This usually accompanied an unpopular command or the awarding of a minor punishment. Like many headmasters and others in charge of institutions, he was more effective addressing the laity than in one-to-one contacts. Interviews in his study could be somewhat oppressive, but he did not appear to practise corporal punishment; unlike one or two other Quaker headmasters of his day, he was consistent in his pacifism. Despite his propensity for verbal severity, many who knew him as pupils may now feel that he was a parent "manque", that indeed he really liked children. He was particularly fond of the girls. Perhaps managing young people and interacting with them sublimated and helped channel the affections that he would have bestowed on the family which, unfortunately, he never had.

Teaching standards at Sibford varied greatly throughout A.J.'s years. The war thinned out the ranks of the male teachers a number of younger men came and went, one or two of whom were stimulating and approachable, even charismatic. Several later gained senior posts and had very successful careers. Unfortunately, the mathematics teaching was extremely weak, at least during the war years when A.J. took the School Certificate group; a significant proportion of pupils failed in what was then an essential component of the

grouped School Certificate. While it is axiomatic that a head teacher should maintain contact with scholars, preferably by undertaking some teaching, Arthur Johnstone was at the same time running the school administration virtually single-handed. He interviewed parents, managed the school finances, kept the records, represented Sibford outside the School and performed many other roles. His colleagues are said to have regarded him as autocratic and it is rumoured that women staff in particular found him socially and professionally very difficult. He was, in fact, most fortunate in having a triumvirate of formidable single women teachers who stamped their own mark at Sibford throughout his period of office. There were also two celebrated men of great personality, long stayers who also helped give Sibford stability through the war years. These five were probably an instrumental in sustaining the school as was the headmaster himself. Even so, academic standards were not very high and pupils were not under much pressure to study.

Parents en masse often found A.J. rather irascible and overbearing. They were obliged to close ranks and to operate very assertively at meetings of the Parent-Teachers Association. However, note that there was at least an active PTA in the days when most head teachers did not encourage or even tolerate that sort of thing. Although Jessie Johnstone is not the subject of this profile, it must be recorded that she, too, was a formidable personality: she taught some French and was omnipresent in the administration of the school gardens and the domestic staff; she may also have acted as an eminence grise in the inner politics of the School.

A.J.'s first love was music. He was a competent pianist, but he left instrumental teaching to the specialist staff. However, every Sunday morning, before the school decamped for the Sibford Gower Meeting House, he officiated at "Choral", a lusty singing practice in which the whole school indulged itself in a range of music from the practising of hymns and carols to the strains of the metaphorical cricketing song "Willow, King Willow", as well as a hearty version of "Excelsior".

A.J.'s most important musical activity - perhaps his lasting contribution to Sibford - was that of propagating a love of the classics through the gramophone, this long before the age of hi-fi and music on tap. The school only possessed two tiny portable, wind-up HMVs, but A.J. had built up a large library of symphonies and concertos on 78 r.p.m. discs. Several times a week, in morning or evening Meeting, the assembled school was treated to three or four minutes of something appropriate - usually Mozart, Bach and Schubert. Music appreciation lessons were an inescapable part of the curriculum and the class would be issued with sets of analytical notes, complete with musical extracts, supplied in those days by the record companies. Most pupils learned to follow simple notation and were inducted into musical form and structure in much the same way as children today learn to analyse and appreciate poetry or art. For anyone from a musical-loving home background, A.J.'s classes set the seal on a growing addiction to the classics. He used to give fifth formers more extended programmes on Sunday evenings after Meeting. In the summer, they would relax on the grass under the monkey puzzle tree by the Manor and seep themselves in Brahms or Beethoven. Pop music as such did not exist in the 1940s, but jazz and swing were much in vogue among the older boys, and records had to be smuggled into the school so great was A.J.'s antipathy to anything lowbrow or ethnic.

After the War, he formed a village music society and helped foster live music, mainly choral and instrumental. This probably did not do a great deal to endear him further to the native villagers, but Sibford's growing middle class immigrants, both commuters and the retired, were probably grateful beneficiaries of his enthusiasm.

Adults, from politicians and civil servants to teachers and parents, are the formal arbiters of education. However, the

pupils themselves may - admittedly, often in hindsight - be its final judges. For many of those of Arthur Johnstone's era, Sibford is recalled as a generally happy place. It was a relatively spacious (if slightly scruffy) environment in which children were not, by the standards of the day, unduly pressurised or harrassed. For a budding craftsman or cricketer and for the very average scholar with no high academic pretensions, the school offered a few pleasant years, the dull food and puritan regimen notwithstanding. There were good opportunities for drama - one of A.J.'s old boys has been for many years a celebrated stage and TV actor. In addition, nature studies and bird-watching were encouraged. Curiously, standards of practical music were mediocre. (Ironically, the only successful musician to pass through Sibford in the Johnstone years became a famous jazz trombonist and band leader!) Apart from visiting speakers at Evening Meeting, there were surprisingly few outside visitors. Once again, ex-pupils may recall the sense of isolation from a wider world. A small minority left at around thirteen years old for more ostensibly academic and worldly Friends schools such as Bootham and Sidcot. Certainly, until the 1950's the lack of a sixth form denied the school the tone and maturity of outlook which comes from having slightly older pupils in positions of responsibility. There was also no forum for discussion or criticism such as an elected school council, (to be found in those days in at least one Friends school). It is a fair guess that there was little democratic consultation, either, at staff level. In that respect, A.J. ran a tight ship.

Returning to Sibford in the 1950's as members of the Old Scholars' Association, A.J.'s pupils probably found him smaller, less imperious and mellowed. He probably found it difficult to accept them as adults and it was the exception for anyone to enjoy a relaxed and mature conversation with him. He was still very much the Headmaster; he probably never considered allowing himself to coast greatly towards the retirement which he would soon be obliged to accept. Although he had had a secretary for many years, he was still completely dominant, working long hours and probably delegating little to others. His two senior male colleagues had both died in harness soon after the War, but the three mainstays on the women staff remained with him, and of course there was constant support from his Wife. He stayed in office up to his sixty fifth birthday and was dead within less than eighteen months of retirement. Insurance actuaries would confirm this as par for the course: male teachers who retire as late in life cannot on average expect to survive long. Stress and fatigue followed by sudden inactivity and the loss of office and status is not a good formula for a healthy and extended old age.

In summary, Arthur Johnstone could be labelled a somewhat eccentric autocrat but he did his best within his limitations, consistent with his personal philosophy and according to the students of the day. He held a very full school together - expanded in 1939 by the arrival of a sizeable cohort of Jewish refugee children. He fed his flock (on a monotonous and unpalatable - even inadequate - diet), housing, instructing and protecting them on what seems in hindsight a ludicrously tight budget. The fees were less than £100 per annum for boarders in 1940, in real terms well below today's level.

No one who was at Sibford - pupil or teachers - will ever forget A.J. (Two distinguished old boys made passing reference to him when they were successive "castaways" on the BBC's "Desert Island Discs"). It is possible that no one really knew him intimately or fathomed how his mind worked, what he read or said in his leisure hours. It is uncertain whether he had any close friends. He and Jessie seemed happy together and they certainly exhibited a united front in their proprietary attitude to the School and to its material assets: they indeed WERE Sibford! A.J. did not normally take part in sports or games; he did not even cycle, but he ran a small car in the days when few teachers could afford one. It is impossible to say whether he had any strong social



The staff in 1930 at the opening of the Hill, including: Arthur and Jessie Johnstone, Roland Herbert, Frank Parkin, Gladys Burgess, Dorothy Prior and Dorothy Brigham.

or political views and he seemed at times to lack intellectual acuity. His ex-pupils may recall him with curiosity and not a little fascination. He was certainly the boss, but he was no faceless bureaucrat. He probably did not engender much love or admiration, but it is very clear that deep down he cared about Sibford, its pupils and its fortunes.

... OR! DO OLD SCHOLARS EVER FORGET?

David Haines, who was at Sibford between 1942-47 and is a technical writer who has also written several plays comments:

At a previous Reunion, we heard a letter read out from an Old Scholar who was a 'missing' Life Member that had just been traced and had written back tendering his resignation. Everyone laughed at the stated reason which had motivated his resignation and afterwards, the husband of an Old Scholar, who had not been at the school himself expressed his disgust with us. ("You're a lot of monsters! How could anyone laugh at such cruelty?")

What he did not understand, of course, was that our mirth was the laughter of commiseration. The real pity of that sad but excruciatingly comic letter was not in the sufferings its writer had endured - it was in his failure to appreciate the value of our sympathy. How true is this of other Old Scholars, I wonder, who are still reluctant to turn up? All of us at the school, in my days at least, never really knew how much we needed each other at the time. It is only in returning to the school, much later in life, that some of us have learnt to understand the folly and sometimes the cruelty of those in charge and how it divided us.

Looking at a school-report of mine from fifty years ago (is it too late to sue for libel?), I am astonished by the insensitivity of certain teachers to a mere child. Yet it is ever possible for even the best professionals to maintain a loving concern as a matter of daily routine? How much more impossible, then, when some of the teachers have no understanding whatsoever of younger minds!

I was very unhappy at Sibford. I had arrived with high expectations, well-primed by smiling old ladies at my local Meeting as to how lucky I was to be entering such a paradise. The attraction of going into a safer and less stern place than my own home was, for me, an additionally enchanting prospect. To shake hands with the beaming Arthur Johnstone and his wife, at the door-step of the Manor House, and then to pass on into their hall and beyond was like exploring a magic dimension. Everything about the place, from the friendly condescension of senior girls to the quiet beauty of the Paddock, filled me with ecstatic wonder.

I was disillusioned in less than two days and I soon learnt to adopt some remarkable strategies for avoiding trouble. Yet I

could never forget my private vision of what I thought Sibford would be like. Laid upon me like a sort of spell, it left me in a state of suspended judgement which stopped me from feeling any of the detestation which others felt for Arthur Johnstone. There were times, in fact, when I thought him kindly and amusing. I kept this to myself because I didn't want to go against public opinion, but I wasn't his favourite I hasten to add. I simply had the good fortune to be relatively ignored.

Today, I remember the fascinated scorn of the school for Blub Sunday. This was the annual event Arthur could be relied upon to weep, in Evening Meeting, at the thought of the senior scholars leaving his care. He had within him, I would now say, a deep and abiding love for children which he was frighteningly unable to express in any normal manner. With his scowling red face and angrily-tufted nostrils, he could be an intimidating sight to behold. Many of the people who had known him during his reign (including disgruntled members of staff) genuinely thought him mad.

Although he never made me a direct victim as he did less lucky scholars, I certainly experienced the full effects of his oppressive regime. Every sensible person knows that a staff takes its tone from the strengths and weaknesses of the head teacher. Arthur's weaknesses were inevitably taken advantage of by some of the staff he appointed. The punishments they devised for boys never involved beating, but they were as gleefully sadistic and as damaging. Some of the temporary staff he appointed (this was in war-time) were not only nasty in this way but quite incredibly stupid. On one occasion, one of them (not Eric Clegg or Arnold Darlington) was demonstrating a caustic-soda solution. As a joke to amuse the class, he ordered me to put out my tongue I did so, and he dropped a blob of the solution neatly in the centre. I reported to the surgery, but nothing was done about the man himself. The ruffian lived on.

There were always people on the staff who were kind and I remember them with affection, but they seemed too nonplussed by the strange atmosphere to have any influence. When the School Committee used to meet at the school, some of us would hopefully believe they would save us. ("Someone ought to tell the Committee!" was a frequently-heard cry.) Our hopes were always dashed. The committee would trail around the school like a small herd of ancient and docile buffaloes and then affably depart. Things would then continue as before. (I use the term "ancient" without too much exaggeration. One of the committee-members was one hundred years of age.) For me, the only thing that redeemed my time at Sibford was the presence of the girls. Without their often sisterly and sometimes romantic response (gallantry forbids details), I think I would have run away and joined a circus.

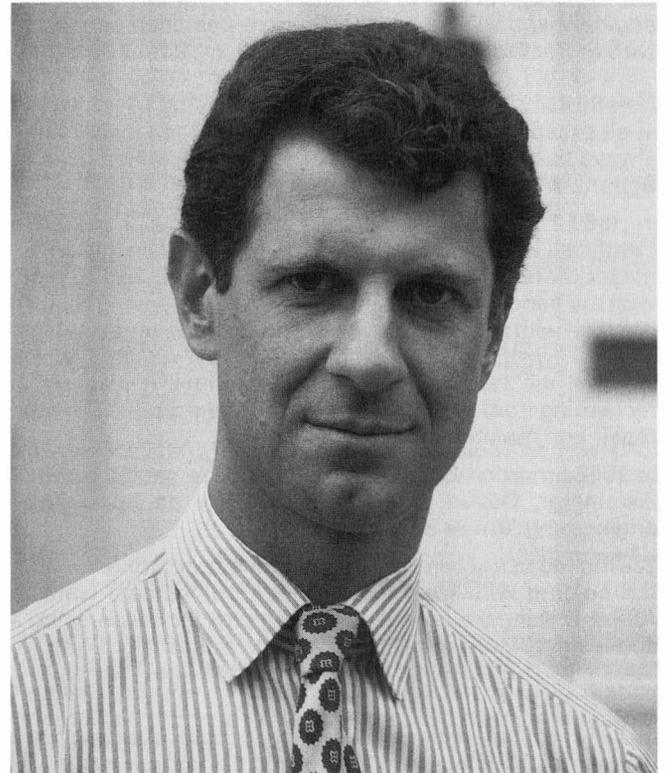
Today, I hold that Arthur would have been a wonderful headmaster if only other people (such as the members of the Committee and the better members of Staff) had properly understood his needs and his problems. Other headmasters did of course have similar problems and strains to bear, particularly in a time of world-war. But Arthur had one overbearing problem which was all his own. Officially designated in my day as Mistress of the Household, her effect upon the school is still traceable. There is even a surviving compost heap (although only a feeble imitation) in much the same place as the compost-heap of which she was so proud. She used to "test" it with a French bayonet from World War One. Her enthusiasm for plunging this fearsome weapon into the belly of the compost-heap must have worried poor old Arthur quite a lot.

Do Old Scholars ever forget the "bad" things that happened to them? Some think it right to do so. I cannot share that opinion. We shall always get much more than a good laugh from exchanging our horror-stories. And it adds charm to that discovery to find that others have had happier days at Sibford and will be having them in the future.

OTHER PEOPLES BUSINESS

This year we have profiles of two Old Scholars who have had success in very different spheres.

Firstly we hear from Tom Leeman who was at Sibford 1972-77 and now works in the City with a finance company.



Tom Leeman

I left Sibford in 1977 clutching a bagful of modest O level passes, and a couple of A levels. I decided to study estate management, after being thoroughly confused at various career evenings.

In Stoke-On-Trent a town of damp streets, terraced houses and Banks Bitter, I enrolled on a hopeless course, where I later learned that everyone had failed. After a year in the wilderness, I switched to an Estate Management course in Birmingham, more damp streets, terraced houses and Brew Eleven (for the men of the Midlands).

In 1982, after taking four years to complete a three year course, I decided to move to London. I obtained a job at "Savilles" Mayfair office as a Junior Surveyor (a person only just qualified to walk on the office carpet). My fondest memories of this position was driving a client around Knightsbridge helping him choose hats for his wife. After three months I found myself looking around for another job.

After another stint in a slightly less hallowed firm, I moved to the city to work for a large property company. It was here that I qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. The mid eighties was a marvellous time to be working for a company active in Development. I was involved in various site acquisition and company buy outs and commercial developments.

In 1987 I returned to the west end, to work for Richard Ellis in the rent review and lease renewal department.

By this time I was confident enough to consider starting my own practise, and like all good Thatcherites I started my own business. Initially I was involved in residential development, and more recently, due to the stagnation of the Property Market, in Property Management and finance.

Compared to my usual daily routine, Sibford was a period of relative peace and stability. One of Sibford's many attributes for me was the development of one's conscience' and one's

moral responsibilities to others. Through Sibford one has learnt to be sensitive to issues important to other people, which has helped me in many difficult and seemingly intractable situations.

Our second profile is of Alan Keeble who is an agricultural engineer and whose family pedigree has been connected with Sibford for many years. Alan was at Sibford 1949-54.

I left Sibford in 1954, without I suspect having left any mark at all except that of being the nephew of Stan Ewan. I had always been proud that my mother and uncle had been to Sibford in James Harrod's time.

In 1960 I attended Somerset Farm Institute. I gained a Certificate in Agriculture and a prize for workmanship which meant more to me, having always had an interest to work with my hands, thanks to Reg Rowntree. On leaving Sibford I worked with a cabinet maker, intending to become a cabinet maker myself, but was injured in a road accident which stopped me working for eighteen months. It was whilst recovering from that I went to the Institute specialising in the repair and maintenance of machinery.

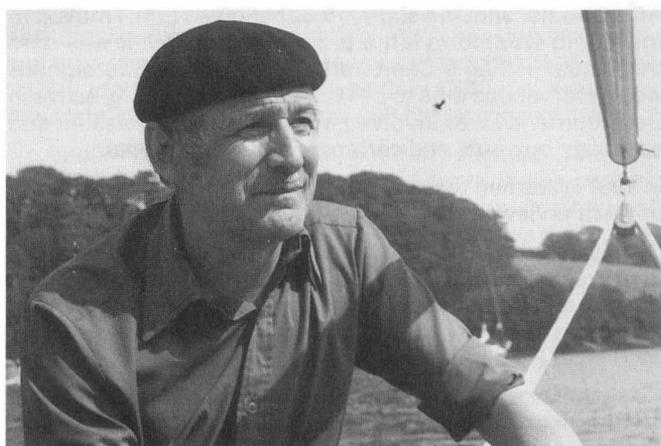
In 1962 I married Elizabeth Wilson and we set up home in Axminster, Devon, where I worked for an agricultural engineering firm as a fitter.

We moved to my parents small-holding to continue running the holding with my brother, when our parents went to Africa. Milking the cows and rearing pigs for bacon being a spare time occupation, I worked for a local Ford Tractor agents in Truro while my brother taught rural studies at a local school.

In 1970 an international company bought out the firm I worked for, staff included. Being sold did not suit me, it was then that I continued to serve the local farmers by running my own firm, this I have continued to do. Work follows closely the farming year, the replacement of tractor clutches being more frequent during dungspreading and silage making. Whilst farm water pumps can stop working any time, but often need attention on Sunday morning, making it necessary to miss meeting.

Since our parents return I have become increasingly involved with the running of the Falmouth Seagoing Training Ship for Boys, a Charity that allows local boys of all backgrounds and financial means to run the day to day maintenance and work necessary to sail a 50 foot ketch.

Our family of two sons and a daughter have left home now. Our eldest son and his wife are wardens of Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds. Our daughter is an occupational therapist in Stoke-on-Trent and the youngest son is selling properties for a local estate agents.



Alan Keeble

BRANCH REPORTS

LONDON

London Branch did not have an Autumn event last year, but made up with two good re-unions later on. The first was a party in Margaret's flat in May, following a visit to the theatre Museum in Covent Garden. This was fun: signed handprints of the famous, including our own Paul Eddington's, decorate the walls; an exhibition of the staging of "The Wind in the Willows" and another demonstrating stage make-up were great.

On July 12th we re-visited Jordans, starting with Meeting in the marvellous 17th century meeting house. The present wardens are stimulating guides. Two O.S. live in Jordans: Geoffrey Wright who was at Sibford in the first world war and his son David who was there in the Second.

A long-legged walk, led by David Smith and Michael Van Blankenstein through the lovely countryside gave us appetites for a smashing tea in the garden of Janet and Joe Sewell.

Margaret Fairnington

MIDLAND

Thanks to our indefatigable Secretary, Irene Coxon-Smith, the Midland Branch prospers and we trust she may long be our Leader!

January: The party at Selly Oak Meeting House was well attended and after a wonderful feast we were entertained with an illustrated talk by the Headmaster, John Dunston about his Churchill Fellowship trip to China which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

March: Sadly very few were able to attend the theatre trip to the Redditch "Palace" to see "The Court of Luxembourg". We hope that more people will try and support Sheila Trout next year.

June: Godfrey Baseley kindly invited us to 'afternoon tea' at his bungalow at Bromsgrove and my goodness, what a spread! Because of bad weather the visit to Hanbury Hall had to be cancelled so we just talked and talked!

We wish Jeanne Southam of the South West Group a speedy recovery.

Barbara Abercrombie.



Midland Branch do their "Rockets" at Godfrey Baseley's bungalow. (Bottoms Up Irene!)

SOUTH WEST

If you go to a baseball game in the USA and it rains you don't sit there getting wet, (after all this is not cricket!) you go to the turnstiles and ask for a special ticket which will give you admission to the replay which is usually scheduled to follow shortly. (Baseball teams learn not to waste time going home from cancelled away games) This is called a RAINCHECK and the South West Branch is in a raincheck situation!

It started at the 1991 August Reunion when I first noticed considerable discomfort in my left hip. This worsened and eventually led to a hip replacement operation in July.

The group's Spring meeting at Philip Manasseh's home was cancelled and a 'raincheck' was issued. It will be re-scheduled but not until I am back on two legs and four wheels again. So please watch your mail bags.

Jeanne Southam

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Ashley Shirlin (1969-74) has been in touch and says 'hello' to anyone that remembers him.

Jim Hilling (1934-39) wrote from France to send his best wishes, regretting his absence from the reunion due to ill health.

Helen Doyle unfortunately couldn't make it to the reunion this year, but sent her best wishes.

Janet Winn (nee Savage) (1949-53) living in Australia met up with **Maggie Vella** (nee Smith) who was touring there, having not seen each other for forty years. Janet asks any other Old Scholars travelling in that part of the world to pay her a visit.

Liz Covey (nee Penn) (1949-56), living in New York, is teaching costume design part-time whilst designing costumes for various theatres around the country. She has also co-authored two books on theatrical costume.

Tina Packer has been helping American students study Shakespeare's plays through a series of workshops in Lenox, USA.

Robert Templeton (1981-87) visited the school earlier in the year, and is now in social work.

Since leaving Sibford, **Jo Rose** (1985-88) has gained three A'levels and is now studying a BSc(Hons) in nursing at university in Perth, Australia.

Chris Phillips (1946-50) hoped to come back for the reunion but was 12,000 miles cruising on the Great Barrier Reef!

Peter Copestake has written that if any Old Scholars (however old or new) are bound for Barcelona and need a bed for the night, they are always welcome.

Rainer W. Josenhans (1938-45) now lives in Florida, and mentions that it was his time at Sibford that helped him achieve success in his business career.

Audrey Sims (nee Rogers) (1934-39) sends her thanks for the card from the SOSA reunion and is looking forward to reading about it in this magazine.

Stuart Hedley has heard from **Hamish Lowe** who is now running his own furniture making and restoration business.

Susan Owen-Schlunke (nee Owen) (1978-85) married in

June 1991 to an Australian in a traumatic Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the time of the rebels takeover. She is currently living in Nairobi where her husband is working.

Christian Notley (1974-81) called at Sibford, but is working in Uganda and currently setting up and running a vocational training centre for the disabled.

Diana Bray (1986-88) is now in her third year at Oxford Polytechnic studying Geography and Tourism. Her younger sister, **Lucy** (1985-90), is starting at college in Melbourne, Australia.

Ruth Sharpe is in her fourth year at Westminster College doing teacher training with a French degree.

June Ellis (1964-77) sent a postcard sending her best wishes to all at the SOSA reunion.

Paul Matthews (1975-77) is living and working in Tahoe City, California amongst the brown bears of the Sierra Nevada mountain range!

Ben Taylor (1983-88) is studying Geography at Liverpool University whilst harvesting throughout the summer, close to Sibford.

Toby Marsden (1986-89) is now living at Surbiton whilst taking a degree course at Kingston University.

We have heard from **Simon Everest** who is now working with Catering Associates in Thailand as the Marketing Manager. He has also surprised us by announcing that he got married in Hong Kong to Sharon Mahoney on the 15th October! Congratulations to you both.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President 1992-93:	DAPHNE MAW 'Mendip', Worcester Road, Clent, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 0HU
Vice President 1992-93 and General Secretary: (Until 31.8.93)	IAN WEATHERHEAD 35 Ossulton Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London N2 0JY
Treasurer: (until 31.8.94)	PAUL FRAMPTON Manor Farm, Horsington, Templecombe, Somerset BA8 0EB
Membership Secretary and Magazine Editor: (until 31.8.95)	MICHAEL FINCH Oakapple Cottage, The Square, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire CV35 0SJ
Reunion Secretary: (until 31.8.93)	JULIE GREENHILL Flat 6, 1 Upper Grove, South Norwood, London SE25 6JX
Assistant Reunion Secretary: (until 31.8.94)	HARRIET JONES 16 Kimberley, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hampshire GU13 0XE

Assistant Magazine Editor: (until 31.8.95) CAROLINE BOND
2 Brick Row, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 5ER

School Committee Representatives: (until 31.12.93) NICHOLAS BENNETT
(until 31.12.95) ARTHUR HARRISON

Retiring President: (until 31.8.93) ANNE MUIR

Local Branch Secretaries: London (Joint) MARGARET FAIRNINGTON
140 Fellows Road, London NW3
Tel. No. 071 586 3623
ALLAN KIDNEY
7 Longcroft Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6EB
Tel. No. 0707 328087

Midland IRENE COXON-SMITH
37 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 4JW
Tel. No. 0527 31857

South West JEANNE SOUTHAM
'Dilkush', 2 Farlers End, Nailsea, Avon BS19 2PG
Tel. No. 0272 852322

General Committee: (until 31.8.93) NATALIE McCORQUODALE
JOANNA TINDALE
DAVID WATLING

(until 31.8.94) SIMON BARFOOT
LUCIE HARMER
GILES UPWARD

(until 31.8.95) WAI MING DOO
MICHAEL FARR
MELISSA STURGEON

School Staff Representative: (31.8.94) GILL MANTHORPE

NOTICES

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 1993

Sunday May 23rd	Annual Cricket Match
Saturday June 26th	Sibford School Open Day
August 28th until 31st	Annual Reunion

ALSO

1993 is SOSA's ninetieth birthday! If you have any interesting stories, anecdotes, photographs from previous Reunion's then send them to Caroline Bond as soon as possible.

ATTENTION PLEASE

THIS IS A REPEAT REQUEST FOR NEWS AND WHEREABOUTS OF ANY PAST PUPIL AND MEMBER OF STAFF WHO HAS LOST TOUCH AND ISN'T A MEMBER OF SOSA.

PLEASE CONTACT JULIE GREENHILL.

TIES AND SCARVES

Are available from John Hughes whose address is:-

131 Farleigh Road,
Backwell,
Nr. Bristol,
Avon. BS19 3PN

SIBFORD 150

Sibford's 150th year is drawing to a close. Why not order your memento from the items available at the School shop.

Crystal paper weight engraved with the School Crest in a presentation Box	£19
Small glass paper weight in a presentation box	£9
Sibford School Umbrella	£16.50
Key Fob	80p
Book Mark	80p
Pen	80p

To secure your souvenir, return your cheque made payable to T.O.P. 86.

Jenifer Wollerton
(Address - Sibford School etc.)

THE AUGUST REUNION



Those who attended (and probably many more!) were:

Barbara Abercrombie, Ruth Aldworth, Mary Armstrong, Grace Beckerlegge, Nick Bennett, Stephen & Liz Bunney, Anna Bunney, George & Margaret Bunney, Eric Bibby, 'Eddie' Bell, Bernard Blunsom, Kay, Roland, David & Suzy Böhm, Caroline Bond, Ann & Ray Bond, Loraine & Philip Brown, Diccon Burr, Doreen Carman, Roy Cheshire, Elizabeth Cordiner, Norman Coxon, Irene Coxon-Smith, Clem & Margaret Cox, Stephen Cox, Peter Copestake, Bridget Compton, Mathew Carter, John, Suzie, Mathew & Naomi Dunston, June Dawson, Arthur & Margaret Dring, Olive Dalley, Fran Downing, Tom Evans, Jan & Romy Elias, John, Michael & Chris Farr, David Farrell, Mark & Mary Faux, Mike & Wendy Finch, Andy, Clare, Michael (Jnr) & Alexandra Finch, Marjorie Fielding, Paul, Ruth, Charles & Harriet Frampton, Ken & Elisabeth Francis, Nigel Gates, Irene Glaister, Ken & Robin Greaves, Julie Greenhill, Pat, Chris & Nicola Grimes, Jane Gunston, Hilary & John Haddleton, David Haines, Arthur & Pam Harrison, Leslie Harrison, Ian Hedger, Mike Herm, Jane & Brian Holliday, John Huges, Simon Hill, Esther Jackson, Edward & Anthea James, Harriet

Jones, Allan Kidney, Guy Kingham, Michael Ladell, Kate Long, Anna Li, Lorna & John Lynch, Janet & Philip Manasseh, Pam & Tony Manasseh, Jenny MacIntosh, James MacIntosh, Hugh & Daphne Maw, John Miller, Rosamund & Philip Morris, Helen Moon, Paul & Gill Manthorpe, Brian Morphy, Anne Muir, Mark Mercer, Mell Nash, Ann North, Barrie & Shelia Naylor, Ian Parsons, Beryl Powell, Nancy Pugmire & Family, Tim Pye, Barbara Quinton, Mario & Eleri Ricci, Frank Rollett, Desmond & Margaret Rose, Harold Rose, Mike Rice, Don Ryan, Fiona Richardson, Julian Sandiford, Jimmy Setna, Joe & Janet Sewell, Jim & Joan Shields, Jack & Monica Simpson, David, Rebecca and Abigail Smith, Claire Smith, Loraine Spencer, Russell Steed, David & Mavis Stiles, Janette Skeath, Margaret Shelley, Norman & Ann Stratton, Jeanne Southam, Caroline Stevenson, Alison Terrington, James Thompson, John & Betty Thelton, Karen Tuburfield, Roy Turner, Claire Turner, Imogen Titley, Sheila Trout, Giles Upward, Michael & Wendy Van Blankenstein, Maggie Vella, Jean Walker, David Watling, John Watson, Hilary, Luke & Hester Waterfield, Chris Walker, Ian, Christine, Trenham, Mary & Richard Weatherhead, Bill & Doris White, Sheila Williams, Chris & Sylvia Williams, Ethel Wright, Michelle Wright.

Sibford

