



Sibford
1993 - 1994

CHRISTMAS '93



EDITORIAL

Time is relative they say. One more year has passed since we dispatched the text of the magazine to the printers. A year older, a year worse? A year older, a year wiser? Who can say, but the seasons have gone full circle and here we are again.

Talking about the silence experienced in Quaker meeting recently with another Catholic (aged 14), I was asked did I not think the nature of meeting rather limited what we could do for God. Yes, I replied, but maybe God is more interested in doing something in us, rather than having us place the emphasis for action on ourselves? The thought was well received.

Which brings me to the nature of education, particularly in a school which claims to wish to impart at least an introduction to a spirituality, if not the living spirituality itself, as Sibford does.

Can a spirituality (i.e. a view on the nature and meaning of life's events) ever be taught? Personally, I think not, but I am certain that exposure to people who possess a meaningful spirituality is one of the most educational experiences in life.

John of the Cross wrote, "Where there is no Love, put Love and you will draw forth Love." Just as love communicates itself, even in a void, so too does spirituality; these are two words that have a close association.

The community of Sibford loves its members, not in a sentimental and weak way, but by actively wishing them well and working on their behalf. As you read these pages, my wish is that you detect something of this love, so that you may perceive the truth which our lives speak.

FOREWORD

FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is once again a great pleasure to write a few words at the start of the Annual Sibford Magazine.

The year has been another eventful one in the life of the school, ending of course with the significant departure of Stephen and Liz Bunney after their eight years at Sibford. In September, a second position of Deputy Head was created, and the two posts are now filled by Simon Horsley, formerly Director of Studies, and Caroline Homan, who has come to us from Kent College in Pembury, where she was both Housemistress and Head of Department. We welcome both of them to their important new positions and wish them many years of happiness.

The teaching profession continues to reel from the breathless sequence of changes and initiatives that have continued during the year. There is, however, hope that a certain measure of stability is in sight with the conclusion of Sir Ron Dearing's wide-ranging review of the National Curriculum. The promise of five years with no further major changes comes as a welcome relief to all of us and gives us the opportunity to hope that now genuine benefits of a National Curriculum may be seen in their true light.

I am sure that you will find in the pages that follow a fascinating glimpse into the life of the school over the past year, not only in the classroom, but in all the other areas of boarding and school activity that make Sibford such a vital and stimulating community in which to live. Many individual successes will be reflected in this magazine, and at the time of writing this, I look forward, as I always do, to reading the selection of original literary contributions from pupils of all ages.

The magazine also includes sections devoted to the Parents, Staff and Friends Association, and to the Old Scholars Association, and I am pleased to have the opportunity of expressing my thanks to those members of both organisations who have done so much during the past year to support the school and develop further the links between us.

I hope you will have great enjoyment in reading the Sibford Magazine 1994. Susie and I, and our children, Matthew and Naomi, wish you all a good Christmas season, and peace and happiness in the New Year.

John Dunston

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

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& Karen Turburfield
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S.O.S.A: Editor Caroline Bond

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Front cover artwork. GCSE entry from Leo White – Year 11
which gained A* in the Summer 1994 exams.

WELCOME

BETH BANNING



I was born in Harrogate, but have lived in Leamington Spa and the Pendle area for many years. I have been a payroll manager for a multi-national company and have also taught 3 and 4 year olds, acting as senior matron in a girls' boarding school in Cheshire in between.

In September I forsook the cloth caps, clogs and chip butties of

Lancashire for the sophistication of Banbury. I leave behind me my daughter and two grandsons, and in Cumbria my son, who is in the RAF.

I enjoy travelling, especially to E. Europe, but the highlight of this year's holiday was Verona and a performance of the opera "Aida". I look forward to exploring the Oxon. countryside and rediscovering places I haven't seen for many a year.

ANDREW BELCHER

I was born in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and unfortunately support Sheffield Wednesday as a result.

Before coming to Sibford this September, I spent seven years at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School as a deputy housemaster there. I am now the third member of their care staff to "transfer" across to Sibford.



I enjoy a wide selection of sports and outdoor activities and look forward to a happy time with you all here in Sibford.

DAVID BLAND



David Bland was born in Hartlepool, Cleveland in 1945. After leaving school in 1963, he worked in the Civil Service and in the SPCK Bookshop in Durham until 1967, before training as a teacher at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham. In 1972, he became a teacher at John Ferneley High School, Melton Mowbray. In 1986, he left teaching in order to undertake publicity and promotion after the publication of his biography of Aled Jones,

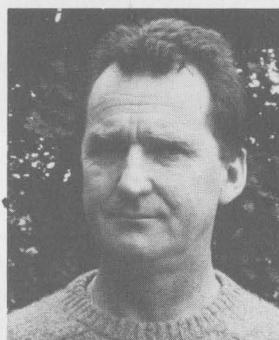
the Welsh boy-soprano. He then did some personal historical research and temporary employment before

resuming a teaching career in Hertfordshire in 1990.

He enjoys a variety of hobbies, including choral singing and listening to all types of music as well as refereeing soccer matches and playing badminton. He is an avid reader and collector of books and also enjoys travelling, visiting Greece, Guernsey and Tunisia and his holiday caravan in Pembrokeshire.

David will be taking over responsibility for Fielding House in the New Year. We welcome him to a long and happy time at Sibford.

ANDREW BUSBY



Andrew joined the school last year as Maintenance Carpenter. He was born in Banbury and has lived there to this day. He is married to Sue and has two sons aged 14 and 16.

After school, he went to Norman Collisson's in Bicester and qualified after a 4 year carpentry apprenticeship, being made immediately redundant, a common enough practice in the 1960s. Andrew has always done

carpentry work except for a 9 year spell with British Leyland in Oxford, but he did not really like working inside and soon left to rejoin the building trade, where his heart is. Now he brings all his experience to work with us at Sibford, where he is very welcome.

SIMON DAKEYNE

I am very happy to be teaching Maths here at Sibford, having taught at 3 other local schools over the last 12 years. These have all been fairly large Comprehensives, so I love the much more 'family' atmosphere of the Sibford corridors, and the peaceful nature of the Meetings.



I've never been quite sure whether I like Maths or Skiing best of all human endeavours. Despite giving up Maths study at Cambridge in favour of the chattier Economics, I can't stop myself working out quick ways to multiply 2.75 by 11.9 in the quiet of the night, and often have to get up at 3 a.m. to draw a new Tessellation on my computer - after it has been going round my head for hours. I'm sure you know how it feels.

On the other hand, nothing in life is quite as much fun as skiing fast, surrounded by huge white peaks, and a little late for a rendezvous with your friends. Those split seconds when you can feel your ski-tips crossing beneath the snow and you know that everything is about to disintegrate seem to encompass the whole of life to me - a beautiful world, bodies that nearly behave themselves, and the vulnerability of our slightly overstepping the mark sometimes.

I hope to be able to ski, play squash or tennis with some of you, and certainly show you how to multiply 2.75 by 11.9 during my time here at Sibford.

BARBARA HAWKRIDGE

Hi, I'm Barbara a new member of the secretarial staff.

My family and I recently moved into the neighbouring village of Tadmarton having spent the previous 18 years in South Wales, prior to my husband Mike's company relocating to Leamington Spa. Having been the school secretary at a primary school in South Glamorgan and having two children of our own, Emma 14 and Richard 12, I am certainly no stranger to the pleasures and pains of school life.



When I am not working or planning the next room for my husband to decorate, I enjoy reading and horse-riding, but my favourite pastime is playing badminton, and I have recently joined the Bloxham Badminton Club, where, with a new coach, I hope to improve my game.

CAROLINE HOMAN



I was delighted to arrive at The Ark in the beginning of August and, as people started to return after their summer holidays, I began to realise what a vibrant and friendly community I had joined.

I was born and brought up in the South East. Apart from five years away training in Durham and Bristol, I have spent most of my adult life in Kent and Sussex. I enjoy the countryside and so I am

looking forward to walking in the Cotswolds after many years of exploring the South Downs. During the holidays I hope to find time to cook, garden, visit art galleries and the theatre. I recently finished my M.A. in Religion and Education and so I want to continue my reading on spirituality and Quakerism.

For the past five years I was head of R.E. and head of House at Kent College a Methodist boarding and day school for girls, just outside Tunbridge Wells. Before that I taught in different comprehensives in Brighton, Seaford, Hailsham and Tunbridge Wells.

I first started attending The Society of Friends in Lewes and am a member of that monthly meeting. It is a great privilege to be working in a school which has at the heart of its philosophy that there is that of God in everyone of us; that all people are special and to be valued as such.

RICHARD HUTCHINSON

I was brought up in both Mid-Wales and North Shropshire countryside, so the idea of teaching in a school such as Sibford immediately appealed to me.

I feel extremely privileged to be pioneering Spanish to more members of the school than ever before. Languages certainly have a great deal to offer all students, especially in terms of self-esteem and social development.

My own schooling had been at Shrewsbury and then on to Wolverhampton University, studying for a B.A. Hons. European Studies with Spanish. During 1992 I was at the University of Zaragoza in northern Spain and then I completed my PGCE at Manchester, before taking up this, my first full-time teaching post.

I am the third of four brothers and my family often introduce me as "Richard the third". I enjoy most traditional sports and also music. Travelling to the continent, especially to France and Spain, is a favourite activity.



GEOFF SLADE

I originate from Cardiff, and studied for my degree in Geography and Economics at University College, London.

After studying for a diploma in Education at Swansea, I took up a teaching post in the Cotswolds, where I remained for thirty years.

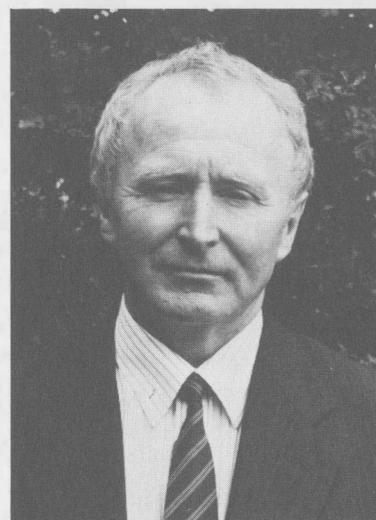
I was Head of Geography at Campden for many years and more recently served on the Senior Management Team

where my main responsibility was Head of Sixth Form. In the last five years I have developed 'A' level Business Studies at Campden, as well as continuing to teach 'A' level Geography.

I am married and live in Chipping Campden with my wife Jill who runs a Bed and Breakfast business. We have two daughters Ceri and Laura, who, since they are 28 and 26 respectively, no longer live with us in Campden.

My interests revolve around sport and outdoor pursuits. Rugby was my main sport and naturally I support Cardiff and Wales. However, I spend an increasing amount of my free time in the mountains of the Lake District and Snowdonia.

I am looking forward to a new challenge at Sibford. My first impression is of a very positive and friendly school. I am sure I shall be the richer for my time here; I hope I can offer something in return.



DIANA THORNE

Diana joined Sibford in October 1993 as Bursar's Secretary and came to us from the Dragon School in Oxford where she held the same position.

Diana was educated at Berkhamsted School for Girls and attended secretarial college in Oxford. She worked in a local veterinary practice for many years and then worked for land agents before joining the Dragon School.



Diana has lived in Shenington for 26 years where she runs a smallholding and her particular interests are beef cattle and horses.

Diana has two daughters: Peta, a teacher, and Vashti, a childrens' librarian. She has two grandchildren. Diana is a keen bridge player and skier. She is interested in all aspects of country life, travel and all equestrian activities.

LYN USHER



I am a recent convert to the joys of country living since I moved here last Christmas with my husband. Prior to my move I lived and worked in Surrey.

Graham and I have known each other since we were eleven as we were at school together. We have been married for fourteen years.

I enjoy keeping fit and healthy and workout regularly in the gym or pool. My golf is improving due to the abundance of local courses and walking is now a pleasurable experience.

At home I relax with my pet chinchillas and rabbits.

TREVOR WALTERS

Born at a very early age. Trevor has never really got over the fact that he is not Myles na Gopaleen, legendary Irish wit and raconteur. To compensate for this, during childhood he was given to eating vast quantities of jelly and holding his mother's hand. Traces of this behaviour can still be seen in his love of end-of-term parties and close affinity to door handles. Lately he has also developed something of a taste for his own words, and can regularly be seen eating them in staff meetings and personal interviews with the Headmaster. His hobbies include staying awake and thinking about nothing in particular. In the latter he is a recognised world leader and might

challenge anybody to think less if he thought more about it. He will soon be taking up a new post in the school, at the end of the rugby pitch. Discussion has been rife as to whether he will be clad with blue, yellow or white padding round the bottom. As ever, his mother has had the last word: "Pink. He was pink when he popped out, and he'll be pink till he pops it - and that's my last word on the matter, sonny."



Urgent tests are being carried out to determine the effects of prolonged exposure at the nursery stage to the Guardian Women's Page instead of "Janet and John." In the meantime, rugby players are advised to wear Chanel. We wish him a happy stay here and hope that he will remember to wash.

FAREWELL

STEPHEN BUNNEY

In his eight years at Sibford, Stephen Bunney swept like a whirlwind through the place.

Stephen came to us from a post as Housemaster at one of the other Quaker Schools, Sidcot. He brought with him clearly many fond memories of his time there, and of his work in the boarding house, and it was this aspect of his new post as Deputy Head at Sibford, taken on at a remarkably young age, that reflected his greatest passion. For Stephen was in his very fibre a supporter of boarding education for the sake of all it can offer young people. Though the demands of his work as Deputy Head were considerable and varied, he nonetheless regularly found the opportunity to spend time in one or other of the boarding houses. In that capacity, he gave particular support to members of the house staff, and got to know the boarders especially well. He regularly lent his weight to moves to improve the accommodation of particularly the Assistant House Staff, and as far as boarding activities were concerned, if no-one was available to take them, well, he simply ran them himself.

But of course, the role of Deputy Head encompasses much more than simply boarding. The day-to-day running of the school is often a Deputy Head's responsibility, and so it was here throughout Stephen's time. He divided his eight years almost equally between the two Headmasters who worked with him. Jim Graham dubbed him 'young Mr. Sibford', following the affectionate nickname given to Stephen's predecessor, Ken Francis, known as 'Mr. Sibford'. The epithet was accurate in that there was hardly an area of school life in which Stephen's influence could not be perceived. He also took upon himself the complex task of constructing a school timetable, initially in company with one or two colleagues, but latterly taking on the challenge almost single-handed. Well, not quite, because one of his many computers was always at hand, either plugged in or on his knees. Indeed the affection with which he was permanently experimenting with these toys was a particularly endearing feature.

But what about the classroom? In his years at the school, Stephen taught Mathematics and Humanities, but often took up other subjects as and when the need arose. He also managed to spend one day a week for one academic year taking the RSA course in Dyslexic Teaching at Evesham. This reflected his growing interest in and sympathy with dyslexic children, and after he qualified, Stephen became an active member of the Dyslexic Department, where his often idiosyncratic spelling endeared him especially. On the sports field, nothing was too much trouble or an impossible challenge for him: cricket, soccer, umpiring, refereeing, not to mention his annual tour de force as inspiring commentator on Sports Day, where he would ensure that those coming in at the end of a race received just as much applause as those who had already arrived.

In many ways, moments such as those were the hallmark of Stephen's Deputy Headship: always a supporter of the underdog, a champion of those to whom life had dealt a raw hand, in Stephen they would find a spokesman of unequalled energy. Countless must be the children who have felt that after meeting Stephen Bunney they were in fact somebody, and this is an achievement that I know they will cherish throughout their lives. I suspect that it lies at the heart of Stephen's Quakerism, and certainly it was a subject on which he often ministered in Meeting at school.

If anyone had tried to write a job description of Stephen's role with hindsight, it would have been of encyclopaedic length. Liz, by her tolerance and understanding, made much of this possible. As well as being extremely active in her own profession as Health Visitor, she gave Stephen considerable support in his work at the school, and their home was often open to staff and pupil visitors alike. In fact family and school seemed almost inseparable for the Bunneys, as Stephen's father George remains School Treasurer and a senior member of the School Committee, having held the post now for several years. It was a great joy for everyone in the community, when in 1993 the Bunney twins William and Rosanna arrived safely. From then on, one of the new sights on campus was that of Liz - or indeed occasionally Stephen too - striding along the paths as they wheeled the babies round for some fresh air, or to watch a cricket match. (Given the family history of involvement in cricket, it is highly likely that both the children will one day make their mark in the sport.)

Finally the time came when he and Liz felt that they should be moving on. The arrival of their family may have led them to think that a new chapter was opening, but once the decision had been made, it did not take Stephen long to obtain his new post as Head of Boarding at De Aston School in Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. Although it may not be quite the Yorkshire setting that they had once had in mind for their next move, I have no doubt that they will bring enormous happiness and fun to that fortunate community. Stephen has made a conscious decision to concentrate for the next stage of his life and career on that aspect of school life which, as we know, held a particular attraction for him. There is much work to be done promoting and developing boarding after the massive upheaval caused by both the recession and rapid changes in the social perception that it has received. Stephen will once again be a fine representative of the virtues of boarding education. We all can imagine how much the Bunneys will enrich the new community of Market Rasen, just as we all already know how much we miss them here.

We wish them both, and William and Rosanna, many happy years in their new environment, much success and satisfaction at work and as they watch their family grow, and may God's blessing go with them.

JOHN DUNSTON

ANDREW CHOWNE 1984 - 1994

After 10 years and 52 classes, it's time to say goodbye. 10 years is not so long - it just seems it to me. After all, my association with the school began in 1974 when my brother started at Sibford.

As I look back through my old mark books I find 3 favourite classes. The 1988 leavers (set 1) were exceptional. They took the last 'O' level in November 87 and then the first GCSE in June 88. Charlotte Bewsher, Imogen Crofts, Neil Dymott, Wendy Imonioro, Nadja Krohnert, Mark Meadows, Wendy and Gillian Perkins, Emma Rivers, Graham Stewart, Ben Taylor, Michelle Wood and the rest. Where are you now? I still have your pen - but the Cointreau is gone!

The leavers 1992 (set 2) I especially enjoyed teaching. Andrew Campbell, Susannah Day, Beena Dean, Sarah Evans, Giles Gale, Andrew Gough, Samantha Payne, Ben Stratton-Woodward, Michael Thomson, Katy Tuthill, Elizabeth Wilson and the rest. Some went sailing with me, some played football and some went camping. Where are you now?

The leavers 1995 (set 1) - Year 11 this year. I know where you are. Greg Austin, Judith Cave, Jennifer Chou, Laurence Colegrave, Ben Colman, Tim Davey, Theresa Jack, Lynne Mather, Ellen Salway, Jonathan Snow, Mollie Tustian, Erlend Webb and the rest. Thankyou for the goodboy sweeties, Mollie and Lynne. Look after the calculator, Jonathan. Thankyou Theresa. And Ben - I forgive you for unspringing my bed. Good luck in June.

I have enjoyed doing many activities other than teaching Maths during the 10 years. Sailing the Lorne Leader (a 100 ft Brixham Trawler) around Mull - even with a broken cheekbone - was a highlight. Equal with going to America with Jonathan Robinson and the football team. Chartering two 40 ft yachts in Poole Harbour was a real experience - especially with the lifeboat being called out! Read back copies of the Sibford Magazine for the full stories to the above.

I have been lucky enough to go on a few activities weeks organised by Andy Newbold. Fairthorne, Fairthorne, Fairthorne, Lake District, Lyme Regis, France and the Lake District. They are excellent weeks, hard work but very worthwhile. Have a good time in the Lake District next year.

The Sailing Club, Football teams and more recently the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme have given me many happy, precious, moments. As did living in Nansen as assistant for two years. Watching a programme on the aftermath of a nuclear war with the 5th form - Paul Johnson, Chris Wood etc is arguably the most educational 2 hours I have spent.

The Staff have already heard my goodbye speech - but I would like to give some special thank-yous. Jim Graham for introducing me to Lisa, Tony and Jeanette Skeath for looking after me in Nansen. The Maths Department: Dave Goodwin, Frank Cookson, Mike and Jenny Wollerton, Gareth Jeremy, Diane Grey, Rolie Clarke and Derek Wyeth. Dave and Tony again for coming sailing with me for so many years - and coping so well with the lifeboat. Andy Newbold (and family - Tim Peter and Gill) for all those special moments on the activities weeks, D of E's and Childrens Camp - and helping with the crossword!

Goodbye Sibford

Andy Chowne

SHIRLEY CHOWNE

Shirley Chowne's twenty one years at Sibford span a wide-ranging and substantial contribution to School life. For example a recent major task of Shirley's was undertaken as Appeal Secretary working for Paul Frampton, who voluntarily devoted much of eighteen months to the appeal. The result is the Sports Hall which opened in January 1991.

Together Paul and Shirley helped and encouraged Friends to raise £750,000, an achievement we all enjoy the benefits of now, and which generations will also do in future.

However, Shirley's Sibford life has not been confined to an 8.30 to 5.15 routine. Her family connections with the School run deep too. David Chowne is an old scholar and Andrew, Shirley's oldest son and David's brother, was until last year Sibford's Head of Maths. Lisa, Shirley's grandson Robert's mother, was until recently Sibford's Senior Mistress. Lisa and her husband Andy met as teachers here.

Lisa's father-in-law Derek has not escaped the Sibford connection! The escapement (or other technical bit) of the Hill clock has been a perplexity for some time now and we have been very grateful for Derek's patient search for the best way to get the clock to keep time without giving up on the marvellously simple and compact mechanism behind the huge dial by installing an electric motor.

Retirement is most unlikely to sever Shirley's links with Sibford - no doubt, instead, their compass will continue to expand; Quo volo vagor!

ROSALEEN CLARK

Sadly, no sooner had we welcomed Rolie to Sibford last year, in the pages of the magazine, than she had to leave us shortly afterwards. She made a full contribution to the school teaching Maths part-time, and we wish her well in her future.

DIANE GREY

Diane Grey is leaving Sibford after four terms with us to return to industry, her first love.

Sibford is fortunate in being the school which benefitted from Diane's cheerful, hardworking and direct presence, both in the classrooms and the staffroom, as well as on school trips out. Our loss really is industry's gain. Good luck, Diane!

JANICE JOHNSON

Janice joined Sibford on a temporary appointment and is now no longer teaching with us. We are grateful for the energy she gave to the school and are pleased to report that we shall remain in touch with her through the Society of Friends in Banbury and through the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, on whose Executive she serves for Oxon.

GIDEON HEDLEY

Gideon, the son of Stuart and Evonne Hedley of Lister House, has left Sibford after serving here for two years as a resident student and then as Care Assistant to begin training as a paramedic with the Ambulance Service. It had long been Gideon's wish to join one of the emergency services, and now that he has been accepted, all the school community wishes him great success and fulfilment in his chosen career. Every time we see a mobile phone, we think of him!

CAROLYN LOVEJOY

After 9½ years in the school, working in the laundry initially and then as House Staff and Care Assistant in Nansen Girls and latterly the Manor, Carolyn has left Sibford to train as an assistant manageress with the new Sainsbury's store in Banbury. Her son, Andrew, completed his GCSEs here in the summer of 1994 and is now studying in the town, where the family will live. The school community will miss Carolyn, who always gave generously of herself, and we wish much happiness and good luck to her and to Ron, her husband, in the future.

GILL MANTHORPE

Gill was with us for six years at Sibford, joining us from Banbury Technical College to take over the running of Fielding House and to organise the Care Course in the Sixth Form. Gill at once made her mark in the House by filling it with plants, flowers, pictures and laughter. This was greatly appreciated by all those in the House.

Recent years have seen considerable changes in post-GCSE education, and during this period Gill's experiences helped the school implement its own changes successfully. Vocational education became the distinctive hall mark of sixth form education at Sibford.

Later, Gill became Head of Sixth Form and under her we introduced the Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education, followed by the Diploma of Vocational Education, in our curriculum. Her background in further education provided an excellent grounding for the implementation of these courses and gave us a link between school and college.

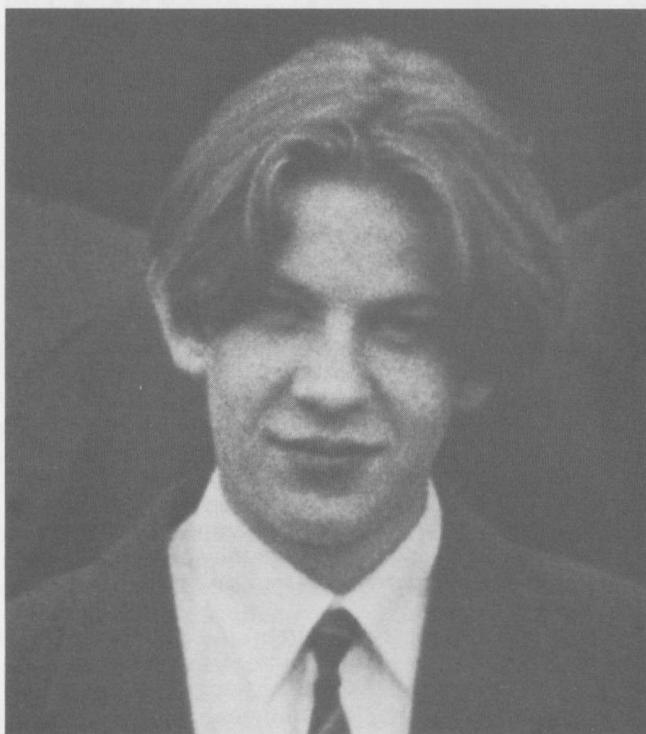
Gill has now become Teacher Training Co-Ordinator at Tile Hill College in Coventry, and we all wish her every success in her new work. We wish the whole family, Gill, Paul, Emma and Tom, much happiness in the future as they settle down in Sibford Ferris, where they have chosen to settle.

Thank you, Gill.

IN MEMORIAM

JODY SHARP 1977 - 1994

"He so loved the country"



HOUSE REPORTS

FIELDING

There have been many memorable experiences shared in Fielding over the last school year. We function on a two-yearly cycle, a new intake of students arriving to replace the leavers. The Upper Sixth have to deal with the changes - the loss of old friends, many of them particularly close, and assume, to a degree, leadership roles. The process of adjustment is both challenging and exciting.

Like any house or home the day-to-day functions and structures can seem monotonous but sharing a home with 30 other young people has so many enjoyable and pleasant moments, such as pool games, cushion fights, shared walks and music and late night chats.

It had to be Gill's idea to engage some of the members of the house in the stage-management of a room change. Imagine coming home to the house after a long day's work experience and walking into your room only to wonder whether you actually existed! Bed, furniture, posters, books, every object that helped define you a person is gone. The shock is enough to send you rushing to the bathroom, only to discover your room is there, accurate in every detail! Naturally, everything was moved back, but all that effort appeared to be worth the laughter.

Karaoke is fun, and with Gill in charge everyone was no shrinking violet! Jackie Penny was excused because of laryngitis. And the house discovered they had some talent; Edmund Yip, Andy Wan and Lucy Cole were all overnight stars.

In spite of the frequent moans of the 6th Form about being cut off from the real world and there being no special provision for young adults in Fielding and Sibford, the list of memorable outings mentioned seemed considerable. Particularly memorable is the Christmas Dinner at Pizzaland in Banbury, a ten-pin-bowling trip with old scholars and a trip to Lazar Quest. All agreed that the final outing to Chipping Norton to play skittles was the social event of the year. It was the last outing for the 1993/4 Fielding House student body and staff. It was good that Stephen Bunney was able to be there so that we could wish him well. The evening proceeded in an extremely cheery manner but ended in a dramatic way with a tremendous thunderstorm and a power cut. The drive home across country in the deluge damped people's spirits a little but was also a final unifying adventure.

Already, this Autumn Term we are having visits and phone calls from last year's students, who, in spite of assuring us that they were anxious, nay desperate to leave, seem to be drawn back! No doubt we will see many of them on Bonfire Night.

Peter Mace
Jackie Penny

GILLETT HOUSE

Andy Glover started last year's report by saying that Gillett was 'back in business', and how true Andy's statement was. The boys and staff soon settled into a routine and the house soon became a second home for the boys and a home for me. 'It feels homely': not my words, but the words of the many visitors we have had to Gillett over the year, and time after time the same words and the same term, 'homely', This is due largely to the boys who have gone out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the House.



Johnny Cowan practising his survival skills outside Gillett - you never know when, on the long walk up to The Hill, you may find yourself stuck for months in the snow!!

Gillett is like a large family and like any family we have our ups and downs; sometimes the plans we made at the beginning of last year came true and others didn't. Plans to build our own darkroom never developed, so we started the garden instead but due to lack of green fingers that too hasn't been finished, but our re-decoration programme has been going well with the help of the boys and press-ganged members of staff. We have finished the common room and entrance hall, the kitchen has had a number of improvements made to it over the past year and we have on-going plans for refurbishing our games room.

Thanks to the generosity of some parents a number of the improvements have been made possible. We have received over the past year a snooker and table-tennis table, rugs and settees for our common room and even a stereo unit. I would like to say a very big thank-you to those parents for their support and I hope that many more parents and friends of Gillett will feel able to help us in the same way in the years to come.

It is at this point I want to mention the staff team we have in the house. Alison Pearce the House Assistant has been a driving force in keeping the house on track throughout the year, and I look forward to working with her for many years to come. Andy Glover was our Housemaster for the first year and under his leadership the House became what it is today, a happy and safe environment to live and play in, so many thanks to him also for making my first year at Sibford such a good one. And a thank-you also to the attached staff for all their support; Andrew Newbold, Karen Turburfield and our newest colleague, Simon Dakeyne. I hope his time at Sibford is a happy one.

During the last year we have held a variety of house events including a trip to Lazar Quest and two BBQs, one



James Tsai playing pool.



Simon Hawkins and Chris Freeman making the most of their spare time.

in Sibford's wet season (flaming June?) with Mark Davis and Jeseda Kiatnawanand holding umbrellas over my head so I could finish cooking, and the other in blazing sunshine with the School's very expensive gas bar-b-Q which came without any instructions. So on the advice of an unnamed boy, I used charcoal to cook with. I understand my mistake now and I hear they are still trying to scrape burnt pieces of sausage off it.

It just remains for me to say good-luck to Gillett's old scholars in all they do, and to wish that all in Gillett have a successful and fun year.

Paul. J. Ludlow

LISTER BOYS' HOUSE

Our Jumble Sale held on Open Day in support of E.C.G. School, Kpassa, Ghana, raised £300, and £200 of this has been sent out along with photographs, letters, magazines as our contribution towards its continuing success and development. We are looking forward to hearing from the pupils and teachers again soon and we thank all who contributed in any way to our fund-raising scheme.

Our House Council which has run since 1982 continues to be a successful vehicle for listening to students needs and ideas and develops a sense of co-operative responsibility and involvement in decisions concerning the welfare of everyone living in Lister. This year the secretary is John Matthews and decisions have already been taken to update our stereo system, make a positive effort to continue to improve our garden areas and maintain lists and requests for maintenance routines.

We are about to enjoy the benefits of a new heating



Jumble Sale for Ghana School

system which has been long overdue. The electric fans have been removed having toiled timelessly but inefficiently since 1962 to be replaced by storage heaters which now give us a pleasant ambient heat all the time instead of short bursts of comfort. All areas of the House will be warm enough for pleasant and creative activities to take place and we have now reached our target of 35 beds allowing an activity space in each dormitory area, an aim which we began last year.

Gideon Hedley has left us after two years, the last one as Care Assistant, to begin his Paramedic training with Oxfordshire Ambulance Service and it is reported that he has thoroughly enjoyed his first few months in his new career. Paul Rae has joined us as our new Care Assistant from Penn and he has already shown that he has much to offer all of us in organising pupils' routines, welfare and activities in a friendly and generous manner. We look forward to a long and happy association together.

Ben Colman is our new House Captain ably supported by three Deputies this year: Tim Davey, Bart Kerswell and Daniel Oates. This promises to be another positive, amiable and constructive year led by an able group of senior boys.

Stuart Hedley

MANOR HOUSE

The atmosphere in the Manor has changed in many ways since the beginning of the new school year.

Now we have said goodbye to last year's 5th years and warmly welcomed the new 1st years, the house is smaller and slightly quieter, but no less manic.

This year the Manor has agreed to support and raise funds for Cancer Research and we hope it will be as successful as our last charities.

The return of Janet Gregory, with new help from Diane Howes, has brought smiles to the faces of Manor Boarders.

All the girls in the Manor would like to take this opportunity to renew their thanks to Lesley Norton and Carolyn Lovejoy as well as welcoming the new Deputy Heads. We all hope this year will be as successful as the last.

Judith Cave - Year 11

This year we see fewer girls boarding in the Manor, which for the girls is a bonus as it means more space for them. Financially it's not such good news. Our aim this year is to improve the social side of our house, and we have lots of exciting ideas in the pipeline, some of which we hope to fulfil within this coming year. The Manor staff would like to welcome all the new girls who have settled into boarding-school life very quickly; here are some of their views of their first few weeks in the Manor.

"I was really homesick when I came to this school, but now I have made some good friends. I find weekly boarding has helped me settled in."

"The Manor is a place of fun and freedom, even though we have to go to bed the same time as Orchard Close."

"I enjoy the Manor. We do a lot more, but you have to make more of your spare time because you have more responsibilities. I want to stay a long time because I enjoy it."

"I think Sibford is a nice school. The Manor is great. I like my dorm and my new friends. I also like all the sport."

"I like the Manor because I have more free time. The Manor is homely and totally different to Orchard Close and it is not so bad having to go to bed at the same time as Orchard Close."

Well, those are some of the views of the new-comers. All very positive, which makes the staff feel very good. Long may it last!

Carolyn Lovejoy
Lesley Norton

ORCHARD CLOSE BOARDING HOUSE

The year in Orchard Close began with sixteen boarders. The mix of half established and half new children proved beneficial to the community .

As the full boarders attend school within the environs of Orchard close it was thought to be beneficial for a varied weekend programme of off-campus activities to be provided. Even on the coldest weekends, in the middle of winter, an effort was made to get out and about. The cries of "Do we have to?" invariably changed to "Can we come again?" or "That was great!".

In-house "mini discos", with flashing torches, proved fun on Saturday evenings.

Highlights of the weekends were visits to Adventure playgrounds. Bourton-on-the-Water and The Slaughters continued to be popular places for exploring river beds in wellingtons.

This September, four of the boarders remained to welcome eight new residents, plus a new matron, Beth Banning. They have settled quickly with the help of James Bond, Gail Mills, Phil Mendl and Dorothy Griffiths, the attached staff in Orchard Close.

This group of boarders also love the outdoors and sport. As soon as the light evenings came, "The Piece" was used constantly by the children. They have enjoyed rounders, cricket and a variety of games in this lovely open space behind Orchard Close. Since this current term commenced weekend visits have already been made to Burford Wildlife Park, the Oasis, Swindon and Moreton Arboretum.

Finally my fears last year were that I would gain a family as Tamsin acquired more and more "house brothers" and "house sisters". In fact I have lost a daughter to the Boarding House. Recently a new pupil was heard to ask, "Why does Tamsin sometimes go into Mrs. Young's house?"

Elizabeth Young

PENN HOUSE

Creature comforts continue to be a feature of our rolling programme of improvements to the House this year. With more space in a number of the dormitories, it has been possible to create more of a "bed sit" feel to them. The generosity of our parents has also led to the appearance of new furniture, new books for our House library, and a substantial amount of food for consumption at our end of year barbecue.

Bruno Haward made a very good job of House captain, remaining calm and reliable throughout. He is succeeded by Jon-Paul Hewick who has already shown the signs of leadership and responsibility for which he was chosen. We hope for great things from Johnny Snow as his deputy

and from Paul Roberts as he takes charge of the House sporting activities.

On a sporting note, it was gratifying to see that Penn has maintained its tradition of success on the games field, despite, perhaps, the armchair rugby playing nature of its Housemaster! We continued to score decisive victories in a variety of sports and after-match parties became quite a feature on winning days.

We were enormously grateful for the dedication and involvement of Paul Rae and Martin Gulliford as Care Assistant and Third Man, respectively. They have left their mark on the House, and many boys are grateful for their support and friendship.

This year we welcome Andrew Belcher and Tony Skeath to the House staff team. Their experience in boarding care will, I am sure, prove invaluable.

Our Thursday House Meetings for Worship have been a regular source of inspired thought, each providing fascinating insight and illumination on a wide variety of topics. To all the contributors and to everyone who has helped Penn to continue this year as an enjoyable "home-away-from-home" - thank you.

Mike Spring

LEAVING SIBFORD.

It seems impossible to describe what it really means to me. EVERYTHING, would probably be the easiest answer. The truth is, although I drove away from the little crowd gathered outside the Manor on a summer's day almost six months ago; it wasn't then that realisation dawned. Then, I could only imagine the incredible feeling of loneliness and insecurity that would slowly envelop me throughout the following months. As I cried then, it was only for the friends I had so recently left; I was unable to grasp the true implications of what was happening to me.

Change is difficult, I am told. I don't agree. It's not the change that hurts, it's coming to terms with it. For once in my life, I had no choice. I had calmly and rationally decided my future and my sense had made it clear to me what I had to do. The logic of the situation just made it harder. Although, that night, and for weeks after, the tears streamed down my face as I thought of what I had left behind, this was only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what I must overcome. It felt as though I was leaving behind a way of life. It meant so much to me, I wasn't sure I could do it.

As I made my first journey to Sibford on a grey, rainy day in September 1990, I felt alone and afraid. I had little knowledge of what lay ahead of me. I was quiet and shy, with only a long family history at Sibford to recommend me, but still people were friendly and the atmosphere seemed to welcome me and draw me in.

As I was led to the dorm, by the friendly housemistress, I saw Clare, who was also new. We helped each other through the first few days and celebrated our youth together for the next few years. Clare, Lisa and I joined forces against the world. They introduced me to happiness, insanity, excitement and true friendship. I haven't been so close to anyone before or since.

The fifth year was amazing. We had reached the height of maturity and independence, or so they told us! Yes, we were independent but we enjoyed every moment, becoming more immature with exam stress. I just didn't think the exams would happen, but soon everything we

ORCHARD CLOSE HOUSE ACTIVITIES



AROUND THE CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

During the year the department has continued to diversify the menu on offer to our students. With the additional help of Lesley Norton and Penny Spring, the Art experience of the junior years has been both exciting and varied. Projects have ranged from the design of plates for childrens' picnics to the full-scale architectural plans for a luxury home. Some interesting designs emerged from the challenge to design a lino-cut book plate based on studies of Swiss Cheese plants. Other junior projects have included modelling facemasks from plaster bandage, designing the paintwork for a mobile playgroup bus, re-creating Roman mosaics, carving medieval-style gargoyles, making stained glass windows as well as carrier bags for High Street shops.

The G.C.S.E. groups have, once again, produced excellent results in the summer examinations with almost 100% receiving grades A to C, and Leo White being awarded Sibford's only 'A star' grading. Examination submissions varied widely in style and medium - a feature of our work which always attracts the notice of moderators or other visitors to our exhibitions. There was some beautiful work in paint by such students as Sophie Rogers and Tara Kennedy, while Jenny Taylor's weaving was extremely competent and creative. Visitors to the exhibition could not fail to be drawn by Edward Robinson's witty assemblages, nor by Leo's large drawings and 'seashore' mobile. Phillip Tsui produced some fascinating work on the history of the Chinese Dragon, and Katie Jamison's group of witches with attendant goblin was eye-catching. In studying the lives and works of well-known artists, Ruth James and Bruno Haward produced superb projects, celebrating the work of Auguste Macke and Bridget Riley, respectively.

In Year 10 there has been some pleasing work following our explorations of the forms of certain fruit and vegetables. 'Motherhood' has proved to be a popular and stimulating coursework theme, giving rise to some good painting and some sensitive carvings. Particularly memorable was Jessie Kenna's delicately-modelled study of pregnancy.

We achieved a 100% pass rate at 'A' level with sculptural work of very differing styles from George Bayraktar and Simon Ingham. Their personal studies of Shona Stone Sculpture and the work of Henry Moore respectively provided valuable focus to their work.

We have established an excellent link with industry in the form of Durox Building Supplies of Essex who manufacture the expanded cement blocks which we use for teaching carving skills. They have recognised the educational potential of their products and have supplied Sibford at a generous reduction, and deliver the blocks free of charge. We, in return, send the company photographs of our work in their stone.

I have been enormously grateful to Penny and to Lesley Norton for their help and expertise in the teaching of our students. The new textiles syllabus which has brought another dimension to the Art and Design experience has been a welcome development, and I look forward to further collaborations.

Michael Spring

BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Business Centre has certainly been well used by a variety of students and staff, and I feel has achieved the desired effect and atmosphere with which it was designed. Fourteen(14) students had come to the end of their GCSE teaching in Year 11 and had entered for 2 examinations(70%) along with 1 piece of coursework (30%), while 30 other students who had embarked on their first year of study in year 10 were beginning to realise exactly what was involved for studies at this level.

The Sixth form vocational group (10 students in total) had also come through in relation to their vocational interest in Business Administration. All of the above students I hope, have benefited from their time of study within the centre.

Successes were achieved at GCSE and also 100% passes for year 13 students, who were awarded their City and Guilds Diploma of Vocational Education in preparation for their next stage in life. It was a real pleasure to see Lionel Morrison, Ben Perkins, Kristoffer Oiestad, Grace Mo and James Clubb, moving on with success into further programmes of study/work within the Business field. Another pleasure was seeing Amonn Al-Mahrouq achieve his Diploma also, within 1 year only, and then deciding to stay at Sibford for a further 2 years of Business Studies at GNVQ Advanced level.

One of the major highlights for me and the students was the trip to Prague (mentioned last year in the early planning stages), and I have to say thank-you to Seán Kenny, Michael Burke, and Rebecca Farmer along with all the Sixth form students who made the trip so memorable. We certainly had 5 full days - "mixing business with pleasure" and for me personally it will always have a special place in my memory.

The following extracts are from Amonn's log, which he kept as part of his portfolio evidence, and I would like to share them with you, as well as some photographs to commemorate our time in this wonderfully interesting city.

Pam Gibson

BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP TO "PEARL OF EUROPE" — CZECH REPUBLIC

My 17th birthday, brilliant — going to make sure that I have a super day. Hang on, just remembered, Prague Business Trip, ah, that means up at the crack of dawn, 2a.m. tomorrow morning! Maybe not so good after all!

Saturday 12. 2. 94.

The journey to the airport was fantastic, hardly a car on the road. The majority of our group slept all the way. I am far too excited. We arrived at London, Heathrow at 6a.m. still far too early for some of us! Eventually, we all boarded and finally took off at 7.40a.m. WHEW! What a relief.

Breakfast was very welcome. I really must commend the Czech Airline on their food, which was superb! We all moved our watches forward an hour and settled down to catch up on some of our missed sleep. At 10.30a.m. we started our long, slow descent into Prague Airport. A small, I mean small, coach was waiting to whisk us off to the Kosik Hotel. It was built entirely of concrete, eight stories high and sitting right in the middle of nowhere, not a very pretty sight. Once inside, however, my impression soon changed. It was lovely and warm and the staff seemed extremely friendly. I shared a room with David; it was clean, with a washbasin and shower.

Sunday 13.2.94.

Up by 8a.m. and down to breakfast. The restaurant was basic but the food was not too bad. There was a fairly wide choice, fried eggs, (ugh!) bacon, bread, jam, cake, coffee, tea, apple juice, at least I think that is what it was meant to be! Today, we have a guided tour of Prague. First stop, The Castle, Seat of the President. It stands high above the city, on a large hill. The River Vltava winds its way far down below. I could really feel why Smetana was so moved to compose his music as a tribute to his wonderful country. It was all just so beautiful, idyllic! The Castle dates back to the 7th century and is made up of a complex of many ancient churches and buildings. We watched the changing of the guard. My heart went out to the band, it was absolutely freezing. How they managed to play I just don't know! Do they know where their fingers are I asked myself. Onto St. Vitus Cathedral. This was one of my most breathtaking experiences ever! It was absolutely beautiful. The stained glass windows were something I will never forget. We saw treasures from King Charles IV Collection, including his crib. Some of the walls were covered in precious and semi-precious stones. All the Country's historic treasures are housed here. The Cathedral was very well preserved and cared for. Yana, our friendly Czech guide made our tour very interesting and spoke excellent English.

Monday 14.2.94.

2p.m. We have an appointment with the Commercial Secretary, at the British Embassy. I'm really looking forward to it. We were warmly welcomed and ushered into a large Conference room. The Secretary emphasised their main role was to assist British Businesses export their goods to the Czech Republic. He said that Prague was changing rapidly, moving forward all the time. Germany and Austria are investing in the Republic as are British Gas and Bass Brewery. The Environment is at present a very big issue with the people here. The Czech Government is very strong, although it has its problems. The people want to see more privatisation of companies and free markets. Barclay's Bank is evident here. Credit cards are just beginning to be introduced, although cash is still preferred to cheques. Watch out! Pickpockets are rife throughout the city, so take care!

Tuesday 15.2.94.

Yet another early start and busy day. A visit to Kaucuk Chemical Refinery. We were met at the plant by a guide who told us that the Czech Republic is known as "The Pearl Of Europe". Last year 100,000 tons of plastic was produced here. They have their own power plant on site which supplies all the power to Prague. Isotopes and crude oil are produced mainly here. The Refinery is hoping to build a pipeline to Russia from where it imports all its raw fuels. In 1999 they hope to connect with Arab and



Charles Bridge over Vltava River



St. Vitus Cathedral

German pipelines. There is a large research department and the Refinery is very advanced. I enjoyed the visit and found it very interesting. I was impressed with the cleanliness and general running of the plant.

Wednesday 16.2.94.

Today we have a visit to the Staropramen Brewery at 11a.m. Hooray, no need to be up at the crack of dawn and rush our breakfast. This Brewery is one of the largest in Central Europe. At present, they are negotiating with Bass Brewery for a 34% sale of shares to them, will take about 6 months to complete. The Company want to modernise their plant but not change any of the technology in producing the beer. They feel it must still be made by man and not machines. This is the only way to produce good, quality beer. BEER IS THE PRIDE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC. The Company produces a third more beer than the Country can drink. 20% of strong beers are exported throughout the World, and exports to the U.K. have just been increased. We were given plenty of free samples, but advised not to mix the varieties — or they doubted whether we would make our way back to the hotel. I found the dark beer to be very "drinkable", you could really taste the hops. I would certainly enjoy another visit here anyday!

Thursday 17.2.94.

Time to leave! After breakfast we all went for our final look round this beautiful city. The weather was bitterly



Party to Prague - Kozo Aburagi, Amonn Al-Mahrouq, Michael Burke (Staff), James Clubb, Lucy Cole, Rebecca Farmer (Student Teacher), Hugo Finley, Pam Gibson (Party Leader), Headley Hillier, Seán Kenny (Staff), Leonardo Maggi, Lionel Morrison, Grace Mo, Kristoffer Oiestad, Benjamin Perkins, Davis Tyers, Yuk Lam Wan (Andy)

cold and snowing! Maybe home is a good idea after all! I feel absolutely shattered. Problems at the Airport with the weather conditions. Everytime the groundstaff de-ice the plane and the runway, it ices up again before we can take off! Are we ever going to get away I ask myself, with visions of being here until Spring! Eventually we make it, up and away, what a relief. Would you believe we ended up stacked over Heathrow for half an hour Are we ever going to land??? At last my feet are back on the ground again. Collected my baggage and was off home. This trip gave me the opportunity of experiencing how business is conducted in a foreign country. I sincerely hope that similar Business trips organised by school, will be available in the future, to other interesting countries.

Amonn Al-Mahrouq,

OFF WITH THE OLD AND ON WITH THE NEW

GNVQs - General National Vocational Qualifications, or as we at Sibford think - **Great New Venture for Quality**

September 94 saw the introduction into the Business Studies Department of the above new qualifications, and out went the City and Guilds Diploma of Vocational Education.

A growing tide of enthusiasm exists for these qualifications and now the whole concept of GNVQs is receiving enormous support with over 200,000 students in Great Britain registered for these awards. The three major awarding bodies - City & Guilds, RSA and BTEC are heavily involved.

The Government intends that GNVQs together with NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications designed for delivery in the workplace and not schools/colleges) will replace most other vocational qualifications and become the main national provision for education and training.

GNVQs are aimed at both full-time and part-time students of all ages. They are particularly designed for delivery in full-time education for the 16-19 age group and possibly for the 14-16 age group where units can be fitted into programmes at key stage 4 of the National Curriculum.

One of the main objectives of GNVQ is to provide a genuine alternative to A-level qualifications for the increasing number of students staying on in full-time education beyond the age of 16. In particular the GNVQ Advanced level is designed to have the equivalent of 2 A Levels and the GNVQ Intermediate, to be comparable in achievement to 4/5 GCSE's at Grade C or above.

The Assessment of GNVQs is very rigorous and combines assessment of activities/projects together with knowledge tests for mandatory units of study.

Core Skills

GNVQs also provide a broad-based Vocational Education. In addition to acquiring basic skills and a body of knowledge which underpins a vocational area, all students have to achieve a range of core skills in Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology (significantly different to GCSE English, Maths and Computer Studies)

The development of Problem Solving and Personal Skills is encouraged too and is useful for recording in students' National Records of Achievement, now firmly in place and widely recognised by employers etc.

Higher Education

Students in the UK have already achieved awards in the above programmes and have applied to Higher

Educational Establishments. Admissions Tutors there are now seeing the first GNVQ entrants into Higher Education onto HND and Degree Courses - all very encouraging.

Employment

GNVQs cover skills and knowledge underlying a broad occupational area and therefore demonstrate to an employer that the student has a good knowledge of the area, if they wish to enter the World of Work.

Sibford Students — developing industry and education links

In the department at present we have 8 students on the Intermediate programme and 2 on Advanced - all very encouraging. Even as I write, students are getting to grips with the new qualifications and their requirements for evidence to be produced for assessment, as well as preparation for tests.

The Units of study should involve as much insight as possible into real working applications. Students are desperate to be "adopted" by small, medium or large-sized business organisations, who can offer them real up-to-date experience (not necessarily work experience), but more as "mentors" to assist them in acquiring knowledge and seeing how it is practically applied in Business today.

They are also quite rightly keen to listen and learn from employers or employees working in the field, who would be prepared to give them an insight into certain topics. e.g. marketing, production, business administration, customer service, personnel and training etc..

If you feel you could assist with any of the above or have any other suggestions please let us know.

Watch this space for further developments and please support us if you can.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

Saturday 19th March saw the fruition of a good deal of hard work and planning by Caroline Bond. Caroline had contacted a large number of Old Scholars who had left Sibford in recent years and asked if they would come back and talk to present students about their own experiences in training and working in their particular field.

The date chosen for the event coincided with the football match between Old Scholars and School and a number of visitors were able to give time to the Careers Event in the morning and play soccer in the afternoon. About twenty-five 'experts' were seated around the hall and large signs indicated the areas of work and training that they were prepared to discuss. Students from years 10 to 13 were able to chat informally with whom they chose and many took advantage of the opportunity.

Caroline had emphasised to the school students that they would be hearing individual opinions and experiences that are not always the same for everybody. Also, in most cases, the Old Scholars have only just started their careers so are not likely to have worldwide knowledge; they are still climbing the ladder themselves.

The occasion was an undoubted success and while offering thought-provoking information for the school students, it also helped to foster links between them and the many Old Scholars who attended. We were very grateful to those past pupils who gave time to the event and particularly to Caroline Bond whose initiative and hard work brought about the Careers Fair.

M.R. Wollerton

DRAMA DEPT

MIDSUMMER DREAMS

or

We Done Good, Trev

a flighty little number in ten weeks

starring

Sylvia Cohen as a wicked woman with corset

Tom Lane as a rather nice chap with face

George Bayraktar as a pair of jodhpurs with sideboards

Adam Keeling as a large growth of hair without comb

James Clubb as a kung with a bit of fu and puck thrown in

George Byrne as a head in a hole

Cathy Gornall as herself

and introducing

Erlend Webb as General, the dog's body

WEEK ONE

The light comes up to reveal a room empty except for General, the dog's body, who is moving a single stage block to the opposite corner. He has the air of one who has been here before.

Voice off: No, that's not quite right.

Pause

Voice off: What about this corner?

General: This corner?

Voice off: Where it came from. Try that.

Pause

Voice off: Yes. Try that.

With the air of someone who has been there before, General gets up and begins the return journey.

Black out

WEEK TWO

The same room, empty except for the body of a dog, lying exhausted and asleep across a stage block placed, somewhat randomly, nowhere in particular. A notice on the wall says, "AUDITIONS: BEFORE TEA".

Silence

A bell goes in the corridor. It is no longer before tea. It is tea. The bell stops. Outside there is quiet. Inside nothing much happens.

Silence.

A cough. The door opens. Tom Lane appears.

Tom: Er....

Voice off: Brilliant! You can have the part.

Blackout

WEEK THREE

The room, the dog trudging wearily around it as if pushing a stage block. There is, in fact, no stage block. However, there is a very loud noise outside. It is a cross between two horned creatures having a nuptial argument and a shaggy dog eating a duck.

The door bursts open. Enter Sylvia pursued variously by Tom and George. The strange noise is coming from somewhere between George's sideboards.

George: Give her a kiss! I said GIVE HER A KISS!

Sylvia whinnies.

Tom kisses her.

They both collapse. George is left waving his jeroboams at nobody in particular.

Blackout

WEEK FOUR

The room once more, though now it is teeming with native wildlife. A Mapletoft bird hops across from stage right, its megaphonic whooping making the uproar around it sound like a whisper. The shy Cleland cat pops its head round the door and decides to go off hunting elsewhere. Five Bumpkins are making very loud hay round and round the room and Tom Sutcliffe is practising wearing a hat. Underneath a pile of empty cassette boxes in the corner, there is a stage block on which a dog desperately searches for the next sound cue.

Enter Sylvia (stage left)

Sylvia: (Opening her mouth as if to sing) Y.....(the sound you make when you don't make any sound).



George Bayraktar with the three fairies, Ian Scott, Sarah Spittle and Stephen Bunney

Ellen's song comes over the speakers. It is not Sylvia's song.

Sylvia waggles her lips a bit, speechless. She is not Ellen.

The Bates family enter. They stand next to Sylvia for about as long as is humanly possible and smile at the video camera.

Blackout

WEEK FIVE

The sound of drums, a blast of smoke, and a light that nobody can see under the stage.

The drums stop, the darkness continues, the light under the stage continues to enlighten nothing in particular, or, indeed, at all.

There is a sense of waiting.

And waiting.

A weak voice is heard, distantly, underground.

James: Do we come out now?

A hole appears and two people crawl out, followed by a red fog. Neither person seems actually still to be breathing.

Voice off: You missed your cue, guys.

Blackout

WEEK SIX

Another room, one with a door, through which we can hear the sound of the Bumpkins beating each other with blades of grass. Occasionally Joe Bumpkin can be heard bunjee jumping out of the lighting box, and there is a long pause whilst Freddie adjusts his bra. In the room, an anonymous member of the Science Department is having her ear severely bent. Louby Lou, a small bird with a big twitter, is perched on it, cheerfully warbling for all she is worth.

Anon: (finally) Hurrumpht

Leaves in a proper hurrumpht.

Louby Lou: Hurrumpht, hurrumpht.... (to nobody in particular).

In the corner a Flippy is doing what a Flippy does, and on the sofa there is a dog taking a well-earned rest under a pile of discarded set plans.

Blackout

WEEK SEVEN

A red fog. A head in a hole in the red fog.

Voice off: Yes, that's it!!

Blackout

WEEK EIGHT

The same hole. A different head in the hole and the head in a fog.

Voice off: Clara, what ARE you doing in the hole?

Clara: Just seeing if it works, Sir.

Pause

Blackout



The whole cast, or most of it anyhow

WEEK NINE

A theatre auditorium, with all the decorum and sense of occasion that it implies. There is a full house. A girl with particularly horrendous dress sense stands amongst them.

Cathy: I could see his YOOVOLIAR!!

Crash

Beneath her on the floor is another girl, on her back, smiling manically and waving her legs in the air. What she is doing and why she is there, nobody seems to know. She doesn't seem to know either, so she alternates between eating popcorn out of a bag in her right hand and throwing it in the air, randomly.

Cathy continues, bravely.

In the lighting box, a dog, not entirely sure what it is doing there, plays sound cues to the audience over the main speakers. Randomly.

Mrs. Bates and family have said goodbye to the video camera and have finally found some seats.

Ellen's song appears.

Ellen doesn't..

Blackout, hurriedly, to the sound of "Steve Wright in the morning!"

WEEK TEN

And so it is the morning. After the night before. We are in the room again, now as empty as it was at first. All that remains is the dog, curled up and sleeping with exhaustion, centre stage. Strange dreams flit across his cue sheet, of large growths of hair making asses of themselves and being accosted by panda-footed fairies, and of large overgrown teachers making fairies of themselves and being accosted by asses.

The director appears, stage left. He has the air of one who has been here before.

He stands by the dog and looks at the far corner of the room.

Slowly, he begins to move the dog away from centre stage.

Ghostly Voices Off: No, that's not quite right.

Pause

Silence

Blackout

Trevor Walters and Erlend Webb

E.F.L. DEPT .

The autumn term got off to an excellent start with a combined E.F.L. and 6th form trip to the Houses of Parliament. This was a repeat of a visit made two years before and was greeted with equal enthusiasm this time. The chance to tour the parliament buildings, meet a real M.P. and find out how decisions are made was of special interest to our overseas students, allowing them to compare our system of government with their own.

In February 1994 the younger E.F.L. students teamed up with Year 7 on a trip to Oxford. They visited the Ashmolean

Museum, a Synagogue and the Friends Meeting House, returning via the Rollright Stones.

This September we started our programme of visits with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the 'Shakespeare Sights'.

For the first time in recent years a native-speaker of English was assigned full-time to the department to assist with its work. Geraldine (Geri) Chin arrived in January '94 from an Australian summer and quickly settled in. Since then she has been a great help to both myself and the students, assisting them with their prep and coursework; offering a sympathetic ear to pupils far from home; helping me plan work and excursions and generally making an invaluable contribution to the work of the department. She even took over my teaching commitments for a week while I recovered from a spell in hospital!

By the time you read this, Geri will already have finished her third term and will be contemplating her return home. Our sincere thanks to her and good luck with her university courses.

For the third consecutive summer we ran our one-term Intensive English Course for overseas students. The idea for the course came when we had a succession of pupils arriving at the beginning of a new academic year, eager to start G.C.S.E. courses. Unfortunately, in some cases, their English was not of the required standard. By bringing them to Britain one term earlier we hope to dramatically improve their general fluency and understanding of English.

Over the half-term break the students were accommodated within the school and treated to a full social and leisure programme organised by Paul Ludlow and assisted by Geri.

Finally, I think it is worthwhile mentioning the academic achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, in their public exams. It is easy to forget just how difficult it is to study in a foreign language and get G.C.S.E. grades in a range of subjects, sometimes with just two years' study; it can be very demanding. This year, grades of 'C' and above have been awarded to E.F.L. students in Business Studies, C.D.T., Integrated Humanities, Maths, Art and Design, Drama and Chinese. Congratulations and good luck to all our students who are going on to further levels of study.

Andy Glover - Head of EFL Dept.

A Trip to Cosford Aerospace Museum

A View from one E.F.L. Student:

All the third and fourth year E.F.L. students and some of the students who are doing History G.C.S.E. went to the Aerospace Museum at R.A.F. Cosford, which is one of the largest aviation collections in the U.K. There are over seventy aircraft on display. We left school at 9.00am and we came back at 5.00pm.

When we arrived there was a guide to show us around and he told us the story of flight, of the aeroplanes and the people who made it possible. I saw the Spitfire, Mosquito and Liberator. All those were from World War II. I also saw the Vulcan and Victor which are just two of a large aircraft collection after the war.

Next, we went to a small room which was new. In there were some rockets and missiles, like the V1 and V2. It also had some models showing how they set up rockets and missiles which was very interesting. The best thing was we could walk under the wings of the mighty Vulcan Bomber and see the famous Spitfire.

After lunch we had some free time so I went to the



Joseph, Billy, Maggie and Nancy - four of our students from Hong Kong.

museum shop and looked around. Then I had a snack in the Wings Restaurant and then saw the collection of military and civil transport aircraft. This included the oldest surviving Comet jet liner, the Trident, Junkers JU52 and the huge Belfast Freighter.

I think it was a great day out and I saw many new things. That was the only aerospace museum I have ever been to. I hope I can go to another in the future.

Johnson Wong - Year 11

ENGLISH DEPT.

The Department's main concern this year was to see through the first group of our Year 11 pupils who would be sitting the new syllabus with its emphasis on a terminal examination rather than on coursework. We feel our students acquitted themselves well.

In the Sixth Form we experimented for a year with a City and Guilds course in Communication Skills, which went well, but has now been overtaken by the GNVQ. English at both GCSE and A level standards is still offered in Fielding.

In Year 10 we have launched a new Media Studies GCSE course, and hope to be doing several interesting things during the next two years as we explore the world of the mass media. Tim Blott, the editor of the Oxford Mail, has already been very helpful, supplying us with 200 redundant agency photographs, and we shall be visiting the newspaper itself in the New Year. Tim himself, or one of his colleagues, will be visiting the school to meet the pupils as part of their course.

October 6th saw national Poetry Day and Sibford hosted poet John Foster on the 7th while a party of fifty went to see and hear poet Brian Patten's performance at Chipping Norton Theatre a week later.

The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham were very helpful when Year 9 spent a day with the actors performing a Belfast setting of "Romeo and Juliet" earlier in the year. The impression made on some was so powerful that, when they returned to Sibford to class readings of the text, they spoke with Belfast accents !!

Many of us were also able to see Derek Jacobi as Macbeth in the RSC interpretation of the play at Stratford. All in all, a good year.

Seán Kenny - Head of English

GEOGRAPHY DEPT.

A generous gift from the PSFA has enabled us to buy a fully automatic weather station. This will constantly record wind speed, wind direction, temperature, hours of sunshine, rainfall, atmospheric pressure and humidity for Sibford. It gives accurate readings comparable to Meteorological Office data. The current weather can be displayed on its Computer screen, and so too can graphs of the weather. Daily summaries of the weather are stored for a total of 58 days.

For the price of a phone call, the Met. Office will fax the weather maps and satellite photographs currently being used, so the combination of our own data together with Met. Office information will lead to some interesting investigations. The Science and IT classes will also benefit from this addition to our resources.

On the fieldwork front, we had a very successful field weekend near Aberystwyth and are preparing to go again in October.

Brian Holliday - Head of Geography.



Measuring and recording the beach profile at Borth. Dan and Paul are measuring the difference in the depth of shingle on either side of the groyne. Tom and Fabian are measuring the angle of slope of the beach with the clinometer. Jon-Paul, Danny and Jonathan are measuring the width of the beach.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

Once again, Sibford's Horticulture Dept. has had a very productive year with an abundance of flowers, fruit and vegetables being harvested this autumn. The students were once again involved in a Tree Planting Scheme, headed by the DVE horticulture students from the Sixth Form, planting up a corner of The Piece beyond the rugby field.



John Dunston presenting the Gold Award to (l to r) Richard Taylor, Jo Fox and Adam Keeling, for the best kept vegetable garden.

The same Sixth Form students had a successful three-week period of work experience, involving them in forestry, floristry, and work in both a garden centre and a tree nursery. I would like to congratulate Tom Eadie, our Head Boy for 1993-94, on gaining a place at Cumbria College to study Forestry, and James Tipper, who has gone on to Merrist Wood College to study Woodland Management and Arboriculture.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my brother, Roger Price, for taking over the Dept. and the running of the walled garden during my absence between November and April. I arrived back at the school in good health and in time to enjoy the garden at its best in the summer term.

Angy Bovill - Head of Horticulture.

HISTORY DEPT.

THE BATTLE OF CROPREDY BRIDGE

On Wednesday 22nd June, Year 8 went to Cropredy to have a Civil War experience day. We saw the old church, the blacksmith and shoemaker and lots of other things. We watched a mock battle and saw what the cannon and shot guns were like. Our leader, who took us around, was called Julian and he explained details about helmets and swords, for example with the handle of the sword you could hit your opponent on the head and knock him out! And with the spike on the front of the helmet you could hit the other person between the eyes which would easily break his nose.

When somebody was badly hurt on the battlefield, say a shot had gone into their leg and smashed it, it would have



Civil War Experience, Cropredy

to be amputated on the field without anaesthetic, because they didn't have it then. The surgeon would use a saw to saw it off.



Rachel Shepherd Year 8

Footsoldier
Rupert Bruce-Chwatt Year 8

HUMANITIES

During the Spring Term, the Religious Studies and History departments jointly organised a 'Humanities Day' in Oxford for pupils in Year Seven. The programme was designed to support RS work on Judaism and History work on Roman Britain. Here is one pupil's account:

On 4th February 1994, Year Seven went on a school trip to Oxford. We went to a synagogue because we were studying Judaism in RS, and later we went to the Ashmolean Museum because we were studying the Romans in History.

We had the first lesson on Friday, then we all got on the bus and it took us about an hour to get to Oxford. We arrived at Oxford at 11 o'clock, and after unloading our lunch at the Quaker Meeting House we made our way to the Oxford Synagogue.

We were at the synagogue for an hour. While we were there we had a talk on the Jewish religion, we saw the Ark and the Torah scrolls and, because it was nearly the Jewish festival of Purim, we heard the story of Queen Esther.

After leaving the synagogue, we made our way back to the Quaker Meeting House where we ate a picnic lunch in the garden before walking a few yards down the road to the Ashmolean Museum.

At the museum we were given a guided tour and we were able to see all the exhibits on Roman Britain. We stayed at the museum another hour to do project work for Mrs



Enjoying a relaxing lunch break in the garden of the Quaker Meeting House, Oxford.

Gregory, and I bought a Roman bracelet at the museum shop.

Finally, we returned to our coach and made our way back towards Sibford. On the way we stopped at the Rollright Stones, an ancient stone circle near to Sibford. We arrived back at School just before 4.30.

Abigail Bodey – Year 7



Counting the Rollright Stones at a steady pace!

A TYPICAL ROMAN RECIPE

Barley soup with dried vegetables

- Soak dried peas and lentils overnight.
- Boil some crushed barley in a saucepan, and when it is tender add olive oil.
- Meanwhile chop some leeks, beetroot, fennel and cabbage and boil these with some herbs.
- When they are done add some broth and pour over the peas and barley, putting some chopped cabbage on top.

This would be an everyday meal for working people. Sometimes they would add meat, especially things like brains or liver.

Patrick Jessel – Year 7

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology has continued to thrive at Sibford School during the last academic year. The two key themes of the year have been upgrading and expansion.

The school network has benefited most from the upgrading which has taken place and it is a salutary reminder of the speed of change within the world of IT that only two years after the establishment of the network with what, at the time, was state of the art equipment, we have felt it necessary to upgrade. All network computers have now been fitted with a RISC-OS 3 conversion and the central hard drive on the file-server which had 40 megabytes of memory has been replaced with one which has 500 megabytes of memory. From the pupil's point of view the most important change is the installation of a laser printer on the network which allows for very fast printing which is essential when all ten computers need to be printing out at the end of a lesson. It also provides very high quality output.

Expansion of provision has occurred in a number of key areas. Educational Needs has acquired three RISC-OS 3 hard drive computers. These have been so heavily used that we cannot imagine how we survived without them!

Orchard Close which has been using the network for two years has now acquired its own machines for use in the Orchard Close classrooms. The coming year will see yet more use of computers throughout the school.

Simon Horsley

GCSE INTEGRATED HUMANITIES

As part of our module work on "Health and Welfare", we looked at what life is like for people who are disabled or differently abled. Part of this discussion involved looking inward at our own assumptions and, perhaps, even prejudices.

The task that was set was to survey the High Street in Banbury to look at access for a person who is wheelchair bound. Some in the group also wanted to look at public attitudes towards such people. Responsibility for planning, carrying out and assessing this task was completely in the



Measuring a counter

hands of the pupils (except for minibus driving!) The most difficult aspect of the task was to divide up the High Street into areas so that each group would assemble enough information. One group actually made use of a wheelchair while the others made use of measurements taken prior to the trip.



Door width

Our findings were fascinating, and in some cases, very disturbing. Ordinary tasks like using a public telephone, posting a letter, paying an electricity bill, getting cash from "a hole in the wall", pushing a "walk button" on a pedestrian crossing, were all virtually impossible. Inside the shops, things weren't much better - doors were too small, steps prevented entry, aisles were narrow with little turning space, shelves and counters awkward to reach.

Some shops were acceptable in terms of mobility, but the attitude of their staff was strained or less than helpful. Some of the smaller shops were more amiable, but felt that the cost to them to provide access to someone wheelchair bound was, sadly, prohibitive.

The group who had the wheelchair with them looked carefully at the public view of a person in a wheelchair. They met a woman on her own in a wheelchair and asked her about her life. She told them about the physical difficulties of her life, but what often distressed her more, she said, was people "not



Cash dispenser

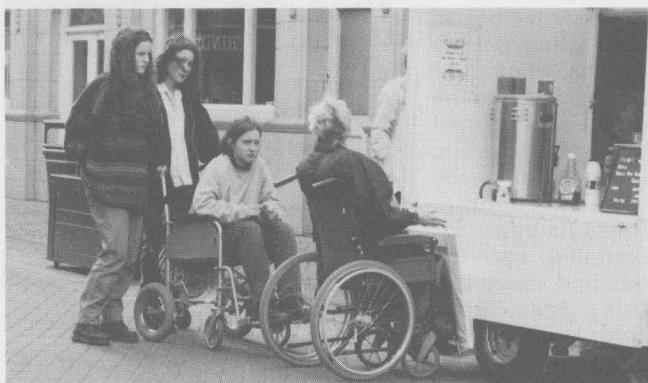


Telephone calls

talking to me as a woman, but as a little girl."

Not only was the visit to Banbury a successful and interesting part of the GCSE assessment, I believe it actually made our pupils question their own values.

"Ever since I was little I have been quite scared of any kind of disabled person. I thought they were different from me...I didn't change until I went into Banbury and found out all about the hassles there are and what a hard time some people give them."



Talking to someone who uses a wheelchair

"I didn't know how badly made some wheelchair facilities are.... I never realised how much they need swing doors and how few there are...!"

"When I was in the wheelchair I said to my friend, 'It feels very inconvenient sitting here.'" A lady said, 'Don't worry, you're very pretty.'"

Maggie Guy - Integrated Humanities.

LANGUAGE MATTERS.

Although we did not manage to cross the Channel last year, the Department enjoyed several trips out. In the Autumn Term, Year Seven were invited by the Warriner School to join them at a performance of a travelling French theatre. The show was entirely in French and most entertaining, involving much audience participation at which, I am pleased to say, Sibford excelled (we were sitting in the front row!) We hope the troupe will pay a return visit to the area.

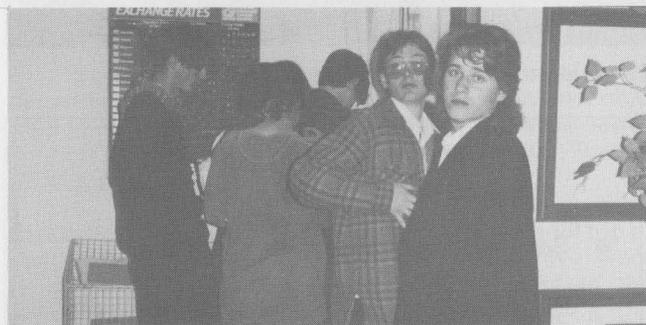


Amon Al Mahrouq tries his French on the telephone.

In the Summer Term it was the turn of the Seniors to experience the talents of a travelling theatre of a more cultural nature when we went to see a production of Moliere's play 'Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme' at the Oxford Brookes University. Although it had been specially adapted for schools, none of the play's original satire was lost, and the final scene was pure farce - hilariously funny, even if you hadn't followed all the intricacies of the plot! Again, we hope for a return visit this year.

Another annual fixture I hope will be an excursion to the Europa Centre near London for Year Eleven students. The centre is transformed into a French town (Haricotville!) for the duration of our visit and pupils are able to try out their GCSE French on the native speakers who are manning such institutions as the customs, the bank, the shops and the restaurant. It was all very authentic and we almost forgot we were still in Angleterre, even on the coach on the way back! D'accord, Edward?

Jean Rudge - Head of Modern Languages.



A group of Year 11 pupils, including Leo White, Patrick Kennedy and Matthew Franklin, getting to grips with exchange rates.

LEARNING SUPPORT

It was good when, in the Autumn of 1993, Learning Support moved from downstairs and up into Room 26, previously the Business Studies room. The room is still being developed and we have some excellent resources including a brand new computer and printer, which we should be sharing with EFL next door. However, as we have not yet acquired a trolley for this wonderful machine we appear to be the sole beneficiaries.

This meant that at the end of the Summer Term we were able to provide a fairly intensive Touch Typing Course for all those who felt that handwriting was a real problem for them and who wanted to develop the skills which would allow them to produce word-processed coursework in Years 10 and 11. One computer, it turned out, was not enough and we took over the IT Room whenever it was free towards the end of the Summer Term.

Apart from the touch-typing I will not forget the time in class when a student, who heard his work read back to him by the computer, laughed so much that he had to disappear to the toilets rather urgently!

This Autumn will mark a new venture which, I hope, will become an annual event: Year 11 are helping me to organise a trip for Years 8 and 9. We are going to Bournemouth to a small family-run hotel and from there will be visiting local places of interest, and exploring some of the beautiful countryside nearby. Reports on this new venture will be found in the next issue.

Clearly, we don't intend to deprive students from other years of opportunities and I am hoping to plan other trips during the course of the next year.

It is good to see so many of our LS students participating fully in the wider life of the school, in games teams, and in musical and drama activities. I was particularly proud of the performances of Joe Hare and Eddie Bates in the Summer Term Production.

This Autumn we have had our first intake of LS students who are working on GNVQ courses. Fiona Pigeon will be supporting them in their vocational areas and at other times in the Library and 6th Form Resource area. We wish them well!

Jackie Penny

MATHS DEPT.

This has been a year of considerable activity and change for the Mathematics Department. Last September, we were joined by Diane Grey as a very welcome, youthful addition, sharing her time with Science teaching. Her previous career, which included selling lighthouses and buoys to tough-minded engineers, proved to be a very useful background to teaching at secondary level.

This September we are joined by Simon Dakeyne and Lyn Usher, both of whom are most welcome to Sibford and to the Dept.

In the early part of the year, we saw a good variety of coursework from Years 10 and 11, which ranged from an investigation into packaging tennis balls, to planning firebreaks to optimise profits in a tree plantation. Later in the year, Year 9 were exposed to the demands of the controversial Key Stage 3 SAT s. This year's batch of tests proved to be a more sensible slimmed-down version, which provided us with very useful all-round information on progress, and occasionally an indication of potential in some unexpected quarters.

During the year we have worked as a Dept. towards a greater awareness of the needs of pupils with learning difficulties and the steps that we can take as classroom teachers to ensure that our work is more clearly understood.

Sadly, in July we said goodbye to Andy Chowne after his long spell as Head of Dept. One can only have great admiration for a man who can succeed so well in his job whilst also singlemindedly pursuing and completing an Open University Maths degree. We wish him every success at his new post at Bablake School in Coventry.

Dave Goodwin.

A DIARY OF MUSIC

Autumn Term 1993

Thursday 21st October

Choral Society recital at St. Olave's Church, City of London - a delightful setting for this recital, but the Choral Society comfortably outnumbered the audience of businessmen and women.

Thursday 11th November

Lunch hour Recital, given by the String Ensemble with instrumental solos by Lynne Mather, Simon Robinson, Jennifer and Sophia Chou and Alex Idnurm.

Tuesday 7th December

Carol singing around Sibford Village - ending up at the Headmaster's House for mulled wine and mince pies!

Thursday 9th December

School Carol Service.

Spring Term 1994

Saturday 5th February

Heats of the Young Musician of the Year Competition - competitors from all over North Oxfordshire perform in instrumental classes throughout the day, each seeking a place in the final.

Thursday 10th February

Lunch time Recital given by Alex Idnurm (flute) and Mark Paine (piano).

Saturday 5th March

Final of the Young Musician of the Year Competition - streamlined this year to four and a half hours (it was five and a half, two years previously) and won by a violinist.

Wednesday 23rd March

Spring Term Concert - programme printed below.

Summer term 1994

Saturday 21st May

Return visit of Bernard d'Ascoli to give a solo piano recital - playing works by Beethoven, Fauré, Debussy and Chopin, Bernard d'Ascoli gave us an evening of exquisite music making, equally memorable to that of his inaugural recital on our concert grand piano.

Thursday 9th June

Choral Society Concert in the chapel at All Saint's Convent, Oxford.

Saturday 25th June

Banbury Symphony Orchestra Summer Concert.

Thursday 30th June

Choral Society BBQ at Shrubbery Cottage.

Saturday 2nd July - Open Day

The Wind Ensemble provide light music to accompany cream teas taken on the lawn.

Open Day Concert given by Catherine Wyn-Rogers (Mezzo Soprano) and Martin Pickard (Piano). Music for a Summer's Evening lived up to all expectations, truly delightful singing and a warm summer evening!

SPRING TERM CONCERT

Wednesday 23rd March 1994

Programme:

Four Songs by Graham Westcott

James and the Giant Peach
The Just So Stories
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Professor Branestawm

sung by all Orchard Close and Year 7 pupils
conducted by Zak Cole and Mark Paine

Canzon a 4 by Giovanni Gabrielli

Two Latin American Dances by Bruce Fraser
Rumba
Tango

The Wind Ensemble

Nicola Sale, Alison Prestidge
Lynne Mather, Caroline Richardson,
Matthew Herbert
Ammon Al-Mahrouq, Alice Retif
Ellen Salway, Simon Robinson
William Brooker-Carey
Jonathan de Turberville
Tom Eadie
Paul Gatt, Zak Cole

- flutes
- clarinets
- saxophones
- trumpets
- tenor horn
- euphonium
- trombone
- percussion

Salut d'amour op 12 by Edward Elgar

James Brash - violin
Mark Paine - piano

Hooligan Strain by Keith Ramon Cole

Ammon Al-Mahrouq - saxophone
Mark Paine - piano

Miniatures by Frank Bridge

Minuet
Gavotte
Allegretto

The Piano Trio

James Brash - violin
Paul Gatt - violoncello

Mark Paine - piano

Just as the Tide was Flowing by R. Vaughan Williams

Linden Lea by R. Vaughan Williams

Five Eyes by C. Armstrong Gibbs

The Choral Society directed by Mark Paine

John Dunston - piano

Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin

Ellen Salway - trumpet

Mark Paine - piano

Air by G.F. Handel

The String Ensemble

James Brash, Sarah Sealey, Kate Hobby - violins

Paul Gatt, Tom Lane - Violoncellos

Dolphin Summer and Wind Addiction by Leo White

composed using EMAGIC NOTATOR software on the Atari 1040

STE computer with Korg 05R/W sound module

Prelude op 28 No. 15 ("Raindrop") by Chopin

Paul Gatt - piano

Sonata for Trumpet by Henry Purcell

First and Final Movements

Simon Robinson - trumpet

Mark Paine - piano

The following pupils passed music exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Nicola Sale	Flute	Grade 2 with Merit
Alison Prestidge	Flute	Grade 3
Jonathan De Turberville	Euphonium	Grade 1
Oliver Fairweather	Cornet	Grade 3 with Merit
Matthew Herbert	Clarinet	Grade 1
Lynne Mather	Clarinet	Grade 4 with Distinction
Lynne Mather	Piano	Grade 5 with Distinction
Caroline Richardson	Recorder	Grade 3
James Brash	Violin	Grade 6
Amonn Al-Mahrouq	Saxophone	Grade 5

M.W.P.

ORCHARD CLOSE 1993-4

Our fifth year started with major changes in the hierarchy. It was with great regret that we bade farewell to Mike, Penny, Amy and Isaac Spring, who moved to Penn House. Taking over, Elizabeth Young has worn her two hats, as head of house and as teacher, with style. The year has produced a bumper crop of children, up to 43 for the summer term, 15 of whom graduated into the secondary department in September 94. To help us deal with the hordes, Gail Mills was recruited to work mainly with the intake of 7 and 8 year olds. Over the year Gail has proved to be not only a splendid teacher, but with her Outdoor Life skills and experience has opened up a host of new opportunities for the children - about which more later.



The main theme for the Autumn term was animals, starting with the human ones, and the engrossing topic of what

they eat, like to eat and should be eating. Progressing to other creatures, studies were enhanced by outings to Cogges Farm Museum and the Cotswold Wildlife Park for the younger children while the older ones visited the Science Museum in London. Both the exhibits and the building itself are breathtaking. Our enthusiastic coach driver also took us on a tour round the famous London landmarks on the way home.

More frivolously, the whole of O.C. went to see Beauty and the Beast on ice, at Birmingham's N.E.C. The whole Disney works! We also held our own Christmas Event,

where parents were invited to come and see an informal show about the work that had been covered during the term. This included a spirited re-enactment of Aladdin (not on ice....) and a Maths scene starring the humble Unit, the middle class Ten, and the lordly Hundred, all in their own places until a nought and, even worse, a Decimal Point, started to change their sense of values.

In January, the incoming Australian students must have wondered, coming straight from hot, sunny beaches, why this was called the Spring term. Phil Mendl was allocated to Orchard Close and for his three terms here has helped us in many ways in and out of the classrooms. All those in O.C. will be sorry to see him return home at Christmas time.

During the Spring term, the theme was Transport, a subject close to all of our hearts, especially living in a village where public transport is a rare commodity. We had a visit from Hugh, who was at the school in the twenties. He told about journeys on the school coach of his day, and was thrilled to see himself on the ancient school "movie", in charge of the school donkey! An approaching roar one dark March evening heralded the arrival of a selection of motorbikes from the Banbury Motorcyclists club who gave us a guided tour round their bikes.

We also went to the Motor Heritage Museum at Gaydon; to Cowley, where the year 6 watched Rover cars move from design sheet, through the precision of the assembly line robots and humans (who had more of a sense of humour...), to driving off the end of the production line; froze at Didcot Railway Museum before returning to Banbury in the luxury of a 1994 train (on time, no strikes), and the younger children went to see how life on a canal boat would suit them.

The summer term was as always the busiest. The first three weeks were spent largely in producing the world premiere of the play, "My Holiday" another Bennett original, with many additions from the cast. All the children took part and thoroughly enjoyed the experience which not only included acting, but designing the scenery, the programmes, lighting and sounds (masterminded by Phil Mendl) and arranging for refreshments afterwards. For the first time, we used the Oliver Studio, thanks to Trevor Walters' generosity in letting us encroach on his territory. The play was set in Doradito, a busy spot on the Costa del Sol, where the archetypical English family found themselves mixed up in dastardly kidnapping and diamond smuggling plots, with attendant film stars, detectives, paparazzi and many more diverse characters.

The theme this term was "Changes", looking at the idea from many different angles. One part of the project was contrasting our lives with those in the time of the Civil War. We visited the Sealed Knot encampment at Cropredy where the children had a chance to polish up their battle skills with pikes and cannons, see inside the tents, work the blacksmith's bellows, and see a great many more aspects of life as portrayed by the admirably dedicated Sealed Knotters, men, women and children. We arrived as a motley crew sporting costumes that attempted to project us back in time, waving banners and singing tunes which would have been more recognisable by the U.S.A. army than the Civil War one.

Year 6 plus a few 5s spent a week at Dinmore activity centre, where they all abseiled, canoed, etc, with their customary enthusiasm and still had the energy to participate in evening events. Gail Mills set the example by proving her skill in all areas and even Mary Bennett managed to fire a few arrows! All ended in total exhaustion but felt that they had learnt a lot and made new friends among the children from the other school sharing our week.

This article makes Orchard Close sound like a holiday camp, but of course there are many days when the children battle with the set curriculum and a lot of solid learning is achieved. We



are lucky being part of a secondary school because the children have the chance to be taught by specialist teachers in some subject areas - this year Year 5 and 6 have learnt I.T., F.T., Science, Music, R.S. and P.E. with secondary staff and using their facilities in the Hill.

Everyone was saddened by Christine Jones leaving for family reasons in July, but the boarders are lucky enough to see her at the weekends, when she is still with us. Her successor, Beth Banning, has already made herself very much part of the O.C. scene.

We are shortly to celebrate our first full five years, and as we do we look forward to many more productive and interesting years to come.

Mary Bennett.

ORCHARD CLOSE CURRICULUM

Orchard Close Transition Programme

Friday, 30th September the Senior School was the venue for the second successive year for the Transition evening.

The programme commenced at 5.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. Children participated in warm-up activities, circuit training and a badminton demonstration. A buffet and welcome in the Foyer was followed by parents watching groups of children working in the Science Laboratories, Food Technology Centre and Information Technology Base. The programme was completed by a musical presentation.

The evening provides parents with an opportunity to watch their children and Senior School teachers in action. The programme has been initiated to make the transfer from Orchard Close to Senior School as smooth a process as possible. It also provides an enriched curriculum experience for the older children as they reach the higher levels of educational requirements. Finally they are able to benefit from the excellent Senior School facilities and Specialist Staff.

Teachers involved in the programme for 1994-1995 are:-

James Bond	Head of Craft, Design and Technology
Chris Cox	Head of Science
Tracy Knowles	Girls' Physical Education
Mark Paine	Director of Music
Sarah Spittle	Food Technology
Graham Thomas	Head of Physical Education

Records of achievement

Orchard Close is now closely shadowing the National Curriculum. In July 1994 the First Records of Achievement were initiated.

Key Stage 1

The Age range has been extended to include six year olds.

Elizabeth Young

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Junior Rugby Team Unbeaten

The Standard of Rugby at Sibford has shown a steady improvement over the last four years. All the 1993 teams finished the season playing disciplined and entertaining Rugby.

The highlight of the season was the unbeaten Junior XV. The team comprised seven year 7 and eight year 8 boys who gave determined performances against some strong opposition. The success of the team was due to the overall team commitment to giving the opposition little or no time and space in which to play and allowing the explosive and speedy duo of David McMahon and Andrew Walker to spearhead the attack. This was truly a team effort, and with many other players on the verge of a team place the future of Sibford Rugby looks bright.

Team members: P. Colegrave, J. McLaren, A. McLaren, F. Huntington, D. McMahon, A. Walker, H. Birks, D. Wong, C. Harper, D. McLagan, L. White, G. Byrne, G. Seller, J. Viney, O. Fairweather, J. McDonald.

Junior XV	Kingham Hill	won	10-5
	Cotswold	won	25-15
	Banbury	won	33-0
	Warriner	won	12-7
	Drayton	won	27-17
	Kingham	won	12-10
	B.G.N.	won	19-0
	Cokethorpe	won	52-0
	Played 8	Won	8

Athletics — We are the Champions!

The school has enjoyed much success on the athletics track over the past few years. This year brought a new challenge with the Quaker Sports being hosted by Saffron Walden. Seventy-seven athletes from Sibford on two coaches made the journey and the now familiar bumble bee T-shirts produced a very creditable team performance. Sibford won the overall competition with 488pts to Saffron Walden's 444pts and Sidcot's 434pts. Rachel Shephard was presented with a special award for her outstanding performances in the 100m and High Jump.

Sibford Athletes are now respected throughout the area having completed another season of matches against local schools which left the boys unbeaten for the third season and the girls with one narrow loss against Blessed George Napier and good wins against Kingham Hill and Banbury School.

Each year more and more athletes from the school have won selection to the area team for the County Championships. This year was outstanding with the following representing the area:

Kate Deacon (1500m), Elliott Jennings (Triple Jump), Caroline Cleland (800m and Long Jump), Theresa Jack (Hurdles and Long Jump), Gemma Smith (Hurdles), Richard Taylor (800m), Helen Tredwell (High Jump), Tara Kennedy (High Jump), Jonathan Williams (400m), Tom Rought (High Jump), Artur Glover (200m), Graeme Killick (100m, Shot and Long Jump), J. Cox (Reserve for Discus).

Graeme Killick makes final of All England Schools Athletics Championships

Graeme Killick came to Sibford in 1992 with an already proven talent in athletics. In his two years at the school he participated in all areas of sport at the school, setting a fine example to all. How many 100m runners in the country would be willing to turn out on a cold and damp day to run in a district Cross Country match or risk damaging the legs that have produced their athletic success by stepping onto a rugby or soccer pitch every week?



Well done, Graeme!

Having given so much to the school it was just reward when he won selection to represent Oxfordshire in the long jump at the All England Schools Championship at Telford, in July. To be eligible he had to jump around 6.40m which is longer than most schools pits! Graeme could have qualified for selection in the 100m but for a nagging hamstring injury which he was to be plagued by for most of the season. In the long jump competition Graeme gave a very good account of himself by coming in the top eight in the country.

It is worth noting that Graeme is not obsessive about his athletics, as he still has time for a social life, a point that some teenagers should remember when giving up sports and activities they enjoy in order to "really" enjoy themselves.

Graham Thomas (Old Codger)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1994 has been a year of transformation for Religious Studies, both nationally and at Sibford. Nationally, we have seen the publication of new guidelines for the subject in the form of the publication by SCM of Model Syllabuses. At Sibford this has challenged us to review the RS provision we are making for our pupils, leading to the revision of the School's Religious Studies syllabus, Living With Questions.

The revised syllabus seeks to integrate the national requirements of the subject with the need at Sibford to provide a syllabus which offers an insight into the Society of Friends and which feeds into the wider objectives of education at the School - in particular supporting the Quaker ethos at Sibford and the moral and spiritual development of our pupils.

In the Main School the new syllabus is being introduced on a rolling programme, beginning with this year's Year Seven. Already, pupils have had the opportunity to undertake an innovative study of the spiritual dimension of the individual, exploring the experiential context of religious beliefs and attitudes. If the success of this introductory module is anything to judge by, pupils at Sibford have much to look forward to as the new syllabus unfolds over the coming years.

Michael Burke

SCIENCE

Changes. The start of each school year means changes. Change to the timetable, Year groups, teaching sets and daily organisation. Five, maybe six classes milling about me in the Science foyer, it's morning break and I am rediscovering one of the mixed pleasures of working in any school, playground duty. Cup of tea, vulnerable to upset is balanced in the palm of one hand while with the other I search in my jacket pocket for that familiar object beloved of teachers on playground duty. I find it, tangled with some keys, a paper clip and a piece of chalk, the Acme Thunderer.

Tutor Groups are to be registered and will do their Prep in the rooms where the respective staff do most of their teaching; it's not ideal but as always these changes have pros as well as cons. This year (1993/94) will see some of Year 11 sitting the first GCSE in Salters Single Science and we are hesitantly optimistic for their results in the summer. Now in September '94 we know that most have done as predicted with the usual few who have done better than expected or not so well. Changes again. We have a new teacher, Diane Grey for Year 10 Salters Double Science and three groups of students rather than two as in previous years following this course, with Andrew Newbold and Anthony Skeath completing the Double Science teaching team. The introduction of Key Stage 3 Salters Science also continues, the most noticeable part being the piles of new textbooks for Year 8; and now today joined by those for Year 9. Because the SAT's for Year 9 have been set for mid May we decide to leave the assessment of AT1 until after the written tests thus putting off the steep learning curve and heavy burden of "Investigations" until later. In retrospect this worked well as it fitted nicely into the last few weeks of the year and gave Year 9 students a good focus around which to maintain their enthusiasm for work. We will follow the same pattern this year.



A titration to find the best bleach Yr 10



Complex chemistry Yr 10

I glance at my watch. I warn those standing close and chatting with me, (another rediscovered pleasure of playground duty,) to move back a pace or two. The expected shrill blast from the Acme Thunderer does not emerge as I blow hard into it. Instead a weak whistling sound escapes. I blow again. A cloud of chalk dust and some fluff flies past my eyes and

the full shriek of a pea-whistle on song brings order out of playtime chaos. I find I am deafened and surrounded by momentarily frozen bodies. Ears still ringing, I read out lists of classes and direct them to laboratories. More changes. A new school year has started.

Chris Cox

SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

When members of the department were asked to recall last year's highlights for this report, every event seemed to involve a party. There was the Year 7 Christmas "tea" of savouries, cake and pop at 9.10 one morning to say goodbye to Petrina when she returned to Australia. Then, of course, at the end of the year, we sent off in style Stephen Bunney, our first dyslexic Maths specialist, while, in April, eager and curious colleagues joined us for a Weekender clothes party which raised £50 towards computer equipment for the department.



Freddie Huntingdon, David Anker, Kate Hobby and Nicola Barker of Year 7.

The arrival of two new A4000 computers at the beginning of the year did much to encourage excellent presentation, and great perseverance particularly among Year 11 students

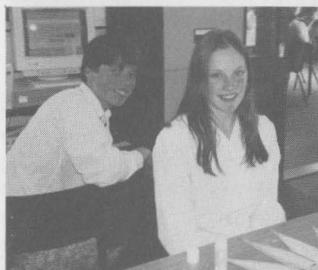
preparing for their GCSE examinations. There were some splendid results among our dyslexic candidates and we particularly congratulate Hanna Ford, Ruth James, Katie Jamison, Sophie Rogers and Leo White. During the Summer we heard that two of our former students, Richard Aylmer and Robert McBreen, had achieved superb 'A' level results and have both gained places at Durham University.

Meanwhile, some younger members of the department have been spending their lunch hours behind masks at Karen Turburfield's intensive touch-typing sessions. Those whose own commitment has matched that of their teacher



Chris Freeman, Vicky Lane, Deborah Peers and Simon Hawkins of Year 8 on a non-uniform day practising their thinking skills.

have become very proficient indeed, with Christa Yates so far leading the field. As we have so many typists and laptop users, we were asked to take part in a research project to discover whether typing improves the spelling test scores of dyslexics. We await the results with interest.



James Scott and Sylvia Cohen of Year 10.

Elisabeth Escher has been awarded her RSA Sp.L.D Diploma, and has particularly enriched our work with seniors through her close links with the English Department. David Goodwin is just reaching the end of his RSA course, enabling him to offer specialist Maths help within the department, and Rachel Dumbleton attended a



Daniel Oates, Jessie Kenna, Anna Wheeler and Angus Grant of Year 10.

week's Maths course run by Professor Sharma in August, which will enhance her work with the Orchard Close dyslexics.

And finally ... Erlend Webb had an essay printed in the British Dyslexia Association magazine on the sheer impossibility of English spelling.

Karen Turburfield - Head of Sp.L.D. Dept.

ERLEND TAKES TO THE LETTER PAGE

Erlend Webb had this letter printed by the British Dyslexia Association in their journal last year.

Needless to say, it represents not one's views except his own, and we are pleased to see him being offered a public forum for his views. Well done, Erlend.

Is Spelling Important?

I think spelling is a waste of time because in the modern world we have the technology to make a system that would enable us to communicate without any great difficulty. The other reason is that before 1476 they had never used the correct spelling of any words and some people may have used three or four different spellings of the same word. Even after that date, Shakespeare spelled his name in different ways.

In the modern world community today there is a great need for communication. The art of writing is one of immense importance to this world. It is a way of expressing emotions, a way of letting others know things you know or simply a way of talking. Yet there are telephones, tapes, C.D.s, computers and spell checking systems. But they can not think for themselves. They are only microchips.

In some other countries like Italy for example they spell phonetically which means "according to speech-sound". This is how I spell. I think it would be a very good idea if everyone spelt like this.

The most annoying thing people can say to me is "Go and look it up in a dictionary" - YOU CAN'T IF YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW IT IS SPELT!! The definition of dictionary is "a book that contains words in alphabetical order so that you can find out the meaning". Yes they are a good thing if you know most of it or have a very knowledgeable idea and they are good for meanings. But if I tried to look up "crystal" I would look it up like this, "cristal". There is only one wrong letter but it is a crucial letter. I would have immense difficulty in finding the correct spelling. There are "spelling dictionaries" but you still have to hear the sound.

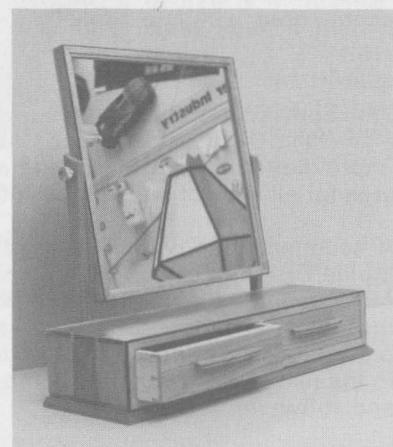
I think we should keep on with a bit of spelling but we should not go over the top and we should make a good vodafone system so we should not have to do much writing in the future.

Erlend Webb
Sibford School

THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

In September 1994 four practical areas of the school; CDT, Textiles, Home Economics and Child Development, joined together to form a new and dynamic Technology Department.

It should provide greater co-ordination and unity of direction. One of the objectives of the new department is to assess the needs of pupils studying technology, and provide the best facilities possible,



Dressing table mirror in cherry inlaid with rosewood.
Gregory Silman. Year 11.
Winner of the Dring Cup for fine craftsmanship 1994.

including extending the C.A.D. and I.T. provision, upgrading graphics, and reviewing the use of specialist textiles and food preparation areas.

The new department will continue to offer the lunchtime clubs, Saturday morning activities, and afterschool sessions which have proved so popular with our students. So whether you are a year 11 studying GCSE's, or a year 7 interested in technology, please do use these facilities.

The students who left in the summer of 1994 achieved many outstanding examination and personal successes in the various technology subjects, and I would like to congratulate all those students on their hard work and dedication. We wish them all well for the future.

James Bond
Head of Technology

CDT

It has been an exciting and busy year in the workshops, with the decision to bring Design and Communication students in to the practical area. This has meant forming a new design and resource base from what was an existing store room and office area. John Viggers, our technician, started the work in the summer term, by integrating the storeroom in room 11 to take wood, metal and plastic materials.



John Viggers amalgamating the old woodstore into a combined materials storeroom for Design & Technology.



Old metalstone walls have been removed to create one larger central area.

Over the summer holidays the maintenance department (together with John Viggers) took out two full gable walls, and the electricians were redirected. (Thanks David). The heating pipes were also moved to give extra room. As I write, a rather large hole, which used to be an outside door, is being bricked up.

The room is currently developing with fixed work surfaces, plan chest, display boards and CAD facilities, and is a real improvement. It should provide a clean and productive area for all ages of student, from foundation to 'A' level.

A scanner/cutter was purchased (as demonstrated by Mollie Tustian on Open Day). It scans a design and cuts it out in coloured vinyl. This is a popular and useful CAD tool, that should make models and folders look more professional. We hope to improve further the CAD facilities in the near future with new computers, graphics tablets, and software.

There was an interesting trip to the N.E.C. to visit the triennial Inter-Plas exhibition, which featured leading manufacturers from the world of plastics technology. Sonic welding, gas injection moulding, and blow moulding were a few of the processes demonstrated. We took Year 11, 12 and 13 students as part of their studies; they all came back with arm loads of samples!

James Bond/Stuart Hedley

Child Development

This year we have been fortunate in having two babies to study on a regular basis:- they were Roseanna and William Bunney. As they lived on campus it was ideal for us to visit them, and with Liz Bunney's expertise as a Health Visitor her special instructions have been unsurpassable. We have seen the twins from the age of 7 days, together in their cot, to the stage of walking round their play pen and bewitching us with their antics. Kevin and Liz Wyles brought their triplets into class on another occasion. My! what a handful, and delightful children Lee, Rachel and Mark are. Lisa Chowne brought in Robert and Penny Spring brought in Isaac, so we have had lots of opportunities to see children of all ages and stages of development.

Our trips included the Horton Maternity Hospital, where we had a lecture and tour of the unit, seeing the new babies in the wards with their mums, and also those tiny ones requiring incubators for a short time. We also went to Jack-in-the-Box nursery at Hook Norton. We've had visits from the Practice Nurse at the Sibford surgery. Gill Soden with a representative from the Family Planning Association, and Rona Thorogood, the Health Visitor, came to tell us about her duties in the community. It has been a busy year in the Child Development Department, and the theory continues in tandem with all these special events.

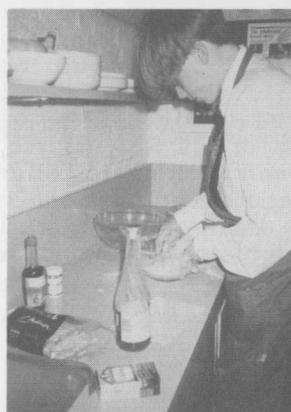
Judy Davies

Food Technology

This year the newly-named Food Technology Department has expanded with the inclusion of Year 6 pupils. These Orchard Close pupils come into the main school to undergo a 'taster' course sampling a variety of tasks which they will be expected to cover in greater detail in later years.



Sampling their wares!



Keith Floyd, eat your heart out!

Last year, during the transition evening, the Year 6 pupils demonstrated one of the skills they had learned and delighted the parents with a mouth watering display of pizza making! Meanwhile, back in senior school, Year 9 were busily carrying on their project 'Foods from Around the World' where many unusual and exotic foods were sampled, aided naturally by our strong contingent of E.F.L. pupils!

Our two departmental visits this year were to the Ideal Home Exhibition and the Good Food Show where a wide range of products were available for sampling. The quality of the visit to the Good Food Show was enhanced by tremendous displays of culinary expertise from some of the most famous chefs in the world.

Sarah Spittle

RESIDENT STUDENTS

Geraldine Chin

I'm Geraldine Chin, but to most people at Sibford I am known as Geri. I come from the Australian capital of Canberra and I am at Sibford as a resident student for the Australian school/calendar year, January to December.



Like most other resident students who come to Sibford, I am taking a year out between college and university to broaden my horizons and to experience life on the other side of the world. As of February 1995 I will be settled back into life at home and will be studying Law at the Australian National University.

The majority of my time at Sibford has been spent with Andy Glover and the overseas students in the EFL Dept. This has been an interesting experience for me and I can honestly say I am really going to miss all of the students I have worked with.

I have really enjoyed everything I have been a part of at Sibford and I would like to thank everyone who has made me so welcome in their country.



Zak Cole

I am the sole New Zealand resident student here at Sibford, though I am sorry to say I know nothing about sheep rearing, and little more about rugby and the All Blacks. My home town is Auckland, where I attended Kristin School, completing the International Baccalaureate in my final two years.

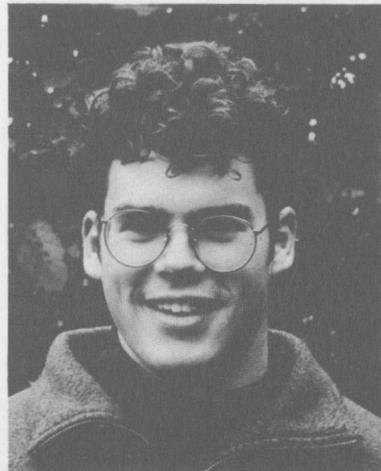
My interests extend to all areas of school life, though it was for my interests in music that I was specifically selected to be the resident music student at Sibford this year. My tastes in music have been described as "alternative" by some, but any myth that my music is nauseous is untrue!!

Despite having survived being known for some time to members of Lister House as "Jesus" due to my beard and sandals, I consider myself very fortunate to have been enabled to work in the Music Dept. alongside Mark Paine, who is a great enthusiast and working companion, in Sibford's warm, friendly environment. Highlights of my year include helping create "A Right Mid-Summer Night's Dream Up" and venturing around the Continent and the UK. In the new year I'll be studying Management and Economics at Otago University in Dunedin, N.Z., though I doubt Sibford will be far from my thoughts.

Thanks everyone for a great year. Haere Ra !

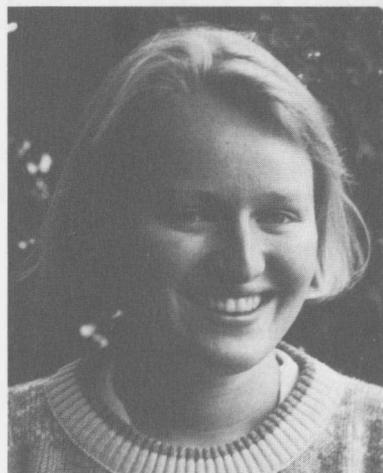
Phillip Mendl

I arrived here in Sibford in early January after completing Year 12 at Radford College, Canberra. Blind to what this year was going to bring, I was assigned to Orchard Close, which at first I thought was something to do with the horticulture department. Then to my amazement I was thrown into the junior school. I have been involved with Orchard Close's production of



"My Holiday", with their sport in school and also in taking soccer, cricket and rugby teams, My duties and extra time spent with both the pupils and the staff have been enjoyable, and I know that back in Oz. I will miss Sibford very much. The experiences that I have had will never be forgotten and I thank all those involved in making this year the most AWESOME year.

When I get back to Australia I will be going to Tafe (similar to Tech) to study business management and business law.



Pascale Montessuy

Bonjour! I am Pascale, the French assistant. I usually live in Grenoble, in the French Alps in the S.E. part of the country. I have studied German at university for three years. For those of you who understand the French system, my degree is a "licence". Next year, I plan to study hotel management, because my dream is to have my own hotel or camp site in the south of

France or somewhere near the sea.

I am here at Sibford till the end of the school year, so if you need help with your French, or you'd just like to talk with me in French, there's no problem! Don't hesitate to tell me.



Ian Scott

I was born in Sydney, Australia, and I have lived my whole life in the same area, except for 15 months when I lived in Papua New Guinea. I completed my Higher School Certificate (equivalent to A levels) in 1993 at Knox Grammar School and came to Sibford to take a year's break from study.

At Sibford I have worked in the PE Dept. covering a wide variety

of sports and activities, all of which I have enjoyed, especially basketball, and, above all, rugby. I have also been involved in Penn Boys Boarding House and it's been great to be part of the friendly and relaxed atmosphere there.

My year at Sibford has been a wonderful experience, both in term time and in the holidays, during which I have managed to travel to much of the UK and Europe. I would like to thank both staff and pupils for making me feel so welcome and a part of the Sibford community. Despite the time I've spent here, I'm looking forward to returning to Australia to start a B. Engineering degree at University and to see family, friends and warm weather and beaches again.

OUT AND ABOUT

ACTIVITIES WEEK - SUMMER 1994

The summer term again lent itself to another excellent activities week for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. This year the adventure took place in the Lake District on the shores of Lake Windermere at the YMCA Lakeside Centre.

After a good journey we settled into the campsite in plenty of time before our guided tour on Saturday afternoon. Activities started Saturday evening and continued until our departure the following weekend.

Split into three groups, we were launched into activities such as archery, abseiling, rock climbing and canoeing of various types. Initiative problems proved challenging but helped team spirit and co-operation. The 'Krypton Factor' assault course, the ropes course and the vertiginous aerial runway proved a challenge for most but were activities within which everyone had success.

One of the many highlights during the week was the canoe bivouac which saw us paddling up Lake Windermere in Canadian canoe catamarans to a field where we erected



Mr. Chowne looks on...love the hat, Andy!

shelters and slept under the stars. Cooking for ourselves and washing in the lake, sitting in the best weather we could have hoped for in the peace and tranquillity of

Jennifer Wright

I decided to have a year out of Australia to travel before attending university in 1995 to begin a B. Teaching degree. Sibford was the perfect answer. I could spend the year gaining experience in teaching and other skills, meeting new people and, above all, seeing the sights of Europe. It's been very useful, because after four months here I realised I am not cut out for teaching, so it was back to square one, really !!



I have spent my time helping in the Learning Support Dept., mainly with Years 7 and 8, and with the Drama Dept. I had much pleasure helping with "A Right Mid-Summer Night's Dream Up" and the Year 7/8/9 Drama Night. I have really enjoyed my year at Sibford and when I now return to Australia I will be beginning a course in Business Retailing instead! Thank you all.

the night was a moment which could not really be recaptured but will go in the memories of all of us for a very long time. It is not without comprehension that so many classics have been created in the area.

The lake provided many hours of swimming for those bravados amongst us despite the temperature of the water, and the occasional dip for those who were not too keen! We lived amongst the wildlife, with many ducks, rabbits and hedgehogs. Andy Chowne hit the jackpot when he awoke to find one of our prickly friends asleep on the back of his legs.

Food was delivered in copious amounts three times a day and sleep was welcomed after hot chocolate every evening. I feel very proud that I was part



Taking to the waves en masse!!

of this experience but know that the week could not have gone so smoothly without the excellent organisation from Andy Newbold again and the tremendous support from all the staff at Lakeside.

We hope to return for another enlightening experience later this year.

Diane Grey

THE DUCK

It was Thursday morning and we had just completed the assault course. We were now going to go group canoeing.

We got our paddles and life jackets. Then we all walked down to the jetty where the group canoe was. We all chose our seats. We had to sit in pairs. Adam, our instructor, sat at the back and steered.

We paddled out to a pair of islands and went between them. As we were going past them Abby pointed out a baby duck that was trying to stand up but having trouble. By now the rest of the girls in the boat were standing up and asking Adam if they could go and help it. Adam said that we couldn't help it. He asked them to sit back down and to help push us off the rocks we were grounded on. As we started to paddle back all the girls wouldn't paddle because they thought that it was wrong to leave the duckling to die. So it was just the boys that paddled us back to the jetty.

Andrew Walker (8)

LAKESIDE

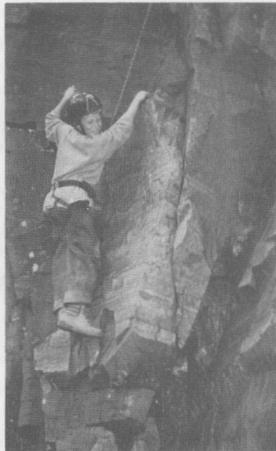
On Saturday morning Yrs 7 and 8 left for a YMCA place in the Lake District. It was by a lake called Windermere. We arrived five hours later and unpacked in our tents.

After we got settled in we were split into groups and our instructor, Adam, showed us around Lakeside.

On Sunday we started our activities; we had three sessions a day. We did things like archery, map reading, rockclimbing, abseiling, rope courses etc.

My favourite activities were abseiling and aerial runway.

Aerial runway is a long metal rope going from the top of a tall tree, across the lake to a smaller tree. What you have to do is climb the larger tree, clip yourself on to a pulley, sit on the edge of the platform and lean forward so you come off the platform. You sail along the rope and stop at the bottom.



Simon Hughes rock climbing. Year 7.

Sarah Sealey (8)

THE COAST TO COAST WALK 1994.

The coast to coast walk from Robin Hood's Bay to St. Bee's Head - 190 miles - organised and led by Gill and Andy Newbold was an unqualified success.

Our group of 16 was a curious mix of age, experience and interests, and it was this very



The group in Robin Hood's Bay at the start of the walk

diversity which turned out to be its greatest asset. The youngest member, 8 year old Peter Newbold, set the pace and standard early on. He and his brother, Tim, were so determined to finish the walk. By the time we had completed the first 60 miles or so, our group had acquired a remarkable cohesion and single-mindedness which overcame the many obstacles, both physical and psychological which beset us on our route.

We traversed countryside beautiful almost everywhere, yet extremely varied in character, including mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, moors and sea-cliffs. Taking the high



Crossing the Water-Shed on Nine Standards Rigg

level route, we strode along the elevated wilderness of the North Yorkshire Moors with its ancient tracks, silent except for the occasional chook of partridge or grouse; we walked the rolling hills of the Dales, where a lone wheatear or curlew called in the morning; and we scaled the spectacular peaks of the Lake District and looked upon hanging gardens of birch and rowan, translucent streams and glistening lakes.

The weather was glorious and we enjoyed downhill tumbles in heather, rolls in bracken, slides on scree, scrambles on rocks, footbaths in streams and mad dips in bogs! We played cards, Trivial Pursuit and football, picked bilberries and ate wonderful food provided by Gill Newbold from her desperate forays into towns as we became hungrier and hungrier, and cooked by Andy Newbold.

For all of us who finished in a torrential downpour on St. Bee's Head, the Coast to Coast was a fine achievement, not merely in terms of distance covered, heights scaled, or levels of fitness attained. For all of us, and in particular for the younger members of the group, it was a journey of personal enrichment, a discovery of the human capacity to extend beyond limits set by oneself or others. Neither Elva, nor I, had believed we could achieve so much.

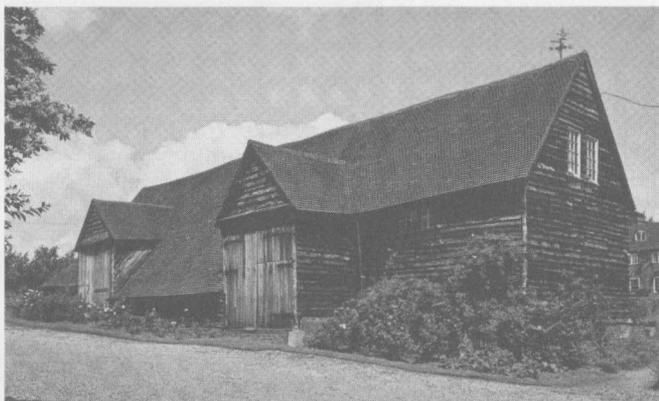
Brenda O'Casey - mother of Elva. Year 10.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIMAGE

During the Summer Term the Religious Studies department organised Sibford School's first ever Junior Pilgrimage, for pupils in Year Seven, to Jordans. The day was designed to support the School's Quaker ethos, providing new pupils with an insight into the history of early Quakerism, and to support Year Seven RS work on The Society of Friends. Here is one pupil's account...

It took us over 90 minutes to get to Jordans on the coach, and when we arrived we went into the Refectory, which is the place where the first Quakers used to have secret meetings. In there we had squash and biscuits, which were very nice. We learnt that the door there was from the Mayflower ship - which I sort of believed - and we heard all about the history of Jordans.

Next we went to the Mayflower Barn, where they were getting ready for a Quaker wedding the next day. The roof of the barn was the hull from the Mayflower, the ship which took the first settlers to America. I live in a barn, so it looked a lot like mine. We learnt a lot about the history of the barn, which was very interesting.



The Mayflower Barn at Jordans, allegedly made from the hull of the Pilgrim Fathers' ship.

Then we walked down a pebbly path to Jordans Green where we had a picnic lunch and heard all about the cricket problem that they had had there. We stayed there for about 90 minutes, eating our lunch in the sun, playing on the swings and running races.

Next we walked down to the Meeting House, where we saw the gravestones of William Penn and his family. Then we went inside to find out more about the Meeting House and about the way in which Quakers worship.

All in all I had a very nice day out, and I would love to go again.

Kathryn Knowles

1994 KIDS CAMP

This year Kids Camp started on Monday 11th July after summer term ended. The helpers arrived early on Monday morning to organise sleeping arrangements and unpack for the week ahead.

The children from the Phoenix School arrived earlier than the children from Stormont. The kids were eager to select partners and start playing, so that when Stormont did arrive Fielding House was filled with what to an onlooker would appear to be organised chaos !



Tara Kennedy, Edward Robinson, Jenny Taylor and others greet the minibuses.



Katie Jamison and Lucy Cole with young friend.

had lessons and we rested. At the end of the hour we were greeted with beaming smiles and full accounts of what they'd been doing.

Later there were organised activities, such as drama, swimming and trampolining, which was very popular. We helpers were encouraged to "help" but whether we helped or hindered is a different matter.

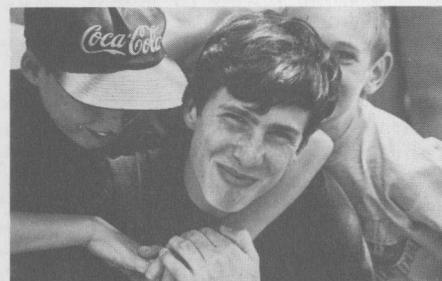


Trampolining in the Sports Hall.

Activities finished around 8:00 p.m. so the kids only had a short time to shower and change and have their biscuit before bed. After the children were asleep, the helpers all collapsed of exhaustion, and this was only the first day! Before we too could retire to our rooms, we had group discussions about the day and any problems we had encountered. Each day thereafter followed this routine.

For me the week's highlights were the outings, like kite flying on the Avon Dasset hills, visiting Lamb's Farm and Hatton rare breeds farm, and my two favourite outings, to Cotswold Wild Life Park and horse riding around Radway. These two hold special memories for me, of smiles and laughter on every child's face.

Inevitably Friday arrived after a week that passed quickly. The morning was filled with fun races and games, but after lunch the minibuses were packed and the tears began to fall.



Many goodbyes were sad ones. Although I did feel tired but rewarded when they left, Fielding did seem lonely without the children's voices. With everybody helping and pulling their weight, it created a sense of community and equality, and this is what Sibford is all about.

Many goodbyes were sad ones. Although I did feel tired but rewarded when they left, Fielding did seem lonely without the children's voices. With everybody helping and pulling their weight, it created a sense of community and equality, and this is what Sibford is all about.

Vicki Howes Year 11.

OUTDOOR LIFE CLUB O.C.

Having suggested the idea of camping quite casually to a few members of the Year 6 pupils and left them to circulate this amongst the rest of their friends, I found myself inundated with many questions: "When?, Where?" and more significantly "Can I come?". The result, in the Spring Term, saw the formation of the O.C. Outdoor Life Club.

We started meeting at lunchtime, once a week, and between Phil Mendl and myself covered topics ranging from 'How to put up a tent' to 'Treating injuries on a campsite'. Occasionally within the vicinity of O.C. the poles of a Vango tent could be seen waving in the air as people pondered on the fact that eventually they would have to sleep in this strange construction and confused children ran around the campus clutching a crumpled map trying to figure out how an outline of a rectangle could possibly represent the Sports Hall and unsuspecting visitors would step cautiously over bodies lying in the Recovery Position.

At the end of six weeks we packed the bus. The children had been responsible for the planning of the menu (with a guiding hand), fetching and carrying tents, water bottles

and all their own personal kit. We set off with the bus full, including the additional Staff, Michael Burke and Geri Chin to our camp site at Cranham, Gloucestershire. On arrival, we were met by my resourceful and organised parents, Mick and Joan who had volunteered their services to watch the fire and coordinate the cooking for the duration of the weekend - Honest!

Supervising the erection of tents and collection of firewood provided much entertainment for all those involved. Games in the dark were organised along the lines of escaping convicts and team games - all designed purposefully and rapidly failing to burn energy. Supper was cooked on and served around a glorious fire, and the evening ending with the inevitable Ghost Stories before bed.

This first camp was plagued with "the O.C. bug" which we thought we had left behind. If you were lucky enough to have avoided it at school don't worry - it was almost guaranteed to get you elsewhere, most inconveniently at camp! and at 2.00 a.m. first to fall, Me! followed closely by Cristina. Later by Luke, Nicola, Katy, Michael Burke, Geri and Phil. Somehow through it all everyone will confess to having a great time.

The time, as ever on such events passed far too quickly and before we knew it we found ourselves packing up the bus to go home.... short of several people that had arrived with us, but all still full of the enthusiasm that had initiated the Camping idea in the first place!

Since March this year we have returned to Cranham Woods site with another group of 13 children in June, again to enjoy the wonderful location and good weather. This time Jenny Wright came along. Thankfully by this time we had shaken off "The Bug". With the warmer weather and the longer days we spent our time walking and exploring the woods and the Nature Reserve.

Enthusiasm seemed to spread through O.C., spurred on by the wilful determination of the Year 3-5 pupils that they should not miss out on such a fun experience! So it was, towards the end of the Summer Term, that the remaining children from O.C. set off to disturb the tranquillity of Blenheim Farm, Shutford.

Now imagine the scene. The sun has risen on a late June morning, the dew fresh on the grass, children happily playing rounders, the birds are either not yet awake or have left for quieter nests, and the teacher stands patiently umpiring the game occasionally scowling at her watch...it is 4.15 a.m. The sum total of sleep - negligible!

We enjoyed a warm fire and a hearty breakfast, thanks to Mrs Taylor, walked off for a gentle stroll around the lake, returning to school late morning. Now the children decide it is time to sleep! By 1.30 p.m. strewn around O.C. are the flopping bodies of several hardy campers, above the sound of readers the odd snore, and thud as someone falls off their chair!

It appeared a success at the time, and a term on these children are planning their own camp in Gloucestershire for late October and with another already in the pipeline for the Spring. It seems the rumours and stories from returning participants are going to fuel the interest in this Club that began as a casual remark one wet lunchtime!

OC Sailing

During the Spring Term a group of Year 6 pupils investigated the properties required in a boat to make it

an efficient means of Water Transport. What better way to demonstrate to them how they work than an afternoon on the water. This first visit to Farmoor Reservoir was made possible by Andy Chowne and Dave Goodwin who helmed Wayfarers on a breezy summer's afternoon.

A term on, we now visit Farmoor weekly to try our own hands at sailing. Our first outing provided a gusting, rough afternoon on the water, strong enough to dampen the hardiest sailors, but we were not to be beaten and have since enjoyed some calmer evenings with breezes sometimes dropping completely!

Half-term will see the end of this particular course of Sailing, but already there is a group waiting for the boats to be launched in the Spring so that they can take their turn at the helm.

Gail Mills

ORCHARD CLOSE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Children in Orchard Close have always expressed a desire for an Adventure Playground. Five years ago pupils and staff were planning and discussing ideas. Mary Bennett raised over £400 with pupils between 1989 - 1993. Friends of Sibford School investigated a number of companies and equipment, including "HAGS" which has been eventually selected to provide Phase 1.

After so much preliminary work plus the generous gift of £3,000 from the Parent, Staff and Friends Association in September 1993, the dream started to take shape.

An Adventure Playground Committee was formed. A range of activities and events was organised throughout 1994. These plus generous donations brought in over £1,500.

The first Phase consisting of a roundabout and group swing was put in place on October 16th.

Phase Two and Three will require further funding. If you would like to help in any way please contact one of the Orchard Close Adventure Playground Committee: Mary Bennett, Ginny Dale-Green, Brian Morphy, Graham Sale, Elizabeth Young.

Elizabeth Young

THE QUAKER PILGRIMAGE/FOX TROT 1994.

If one were to think that the Quaker Pilgrimage was about long and boring talks to do with Mr Fox and his loyal followers and climbing up steep and remote mountains in the middle of nowhere, talking to nothing but sheep all the time, then you couldn't be more wrong!! I think that everyone on the pilgrimage, not only those from our school, but all who have been on such an adventure, would agree that they will never forget it because of the love, admiration and respect we experienced towards old and new Friends and friendships.

One of the first things we were told when we were introduced to our old but lovely hippy-type Quaker guides was that we didn't have much time together, so we had better use it well. Looking back on that first rather timid and very quiet bus journey to the Lake District, we can see that by the end we had made a lot of progress together.

As a group we did a lot of travelling, visiting many important places of Quaker interest, chip shops (!) and other places of beauty. To get there we would either journey in the



Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House, Sedburgh, Cumbria

understand his purpose in life. Upon the summit we were told about Fox's seekings and his vision on the same mountain top, all those years before.

After this introduction, we drove to our accommodation which was a hostel which had previously been a school in Yealand Conyers. Here we played games to get to know each other, games which became ever more intimate and silly. Over the next two days, we visited several Quaker sites and most importantly, Swarthmore Hall. We also saw the Quaker Tapestry in its new home in Kendal.

For me, I find that I have learned a lot about myself spiritually and have been able to answer questions about my beliefs. I feel sure you don't have to be a Quaker to appreciate the background of such an interesting and mysterious group of people. I also made many friends, learnt quite a few corny jokes and a few skills as to how to torture an orange !!

Ruth James Year 12

ROLLER-SKATING CRAZY

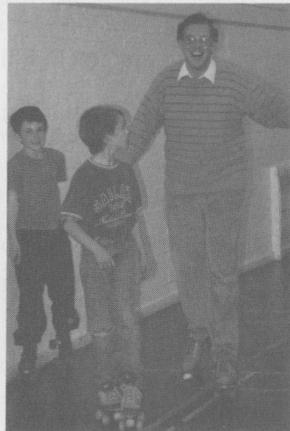


Simon Palmer in the lead on the bend, closely followed by Robbie Catterall and the posse.

had your own skates, one could roll the weekend away.

The event culminated in a roller-skating disco and all agree it was a smashing success. Literally for a few, who had to visit the Horton Hospital for plaster casts, but all injuries were minor, thankfully. We look forward to the next roller-skating weekend soon ! Well done, Caroline.

John Dunston, the first time ever on skates and he didn't fall once!



Over the weekend of September 24 and 25th, Sibford went roller-skating crazy, even the Headmaster !!

Caroline Homan organised the visit of a roller-skating service specialising in schools and youth clubs, and for the small cost of £3, or only £1:50 if you

attempt, the fourth division of the South Northants League. Their old rivals, Wroxtton, were runners-up.

Sibford School hosted not only the club's league matches, but also cup games and many friendlies. Home and visiting teams all enjoyed a good game on an excellent wicket. Many thanks to Sibford School and their groundsmen.

Roger Gilbert.

THEY PLOUGH THE FIELD AND SCATTER THE GOOD SEED ON THE LAND.



Woodwork room in the early 1930s

So runs the line of one of our well-known hymns, and it makes a good title for this special feature on the farming families whose children are at Sibford, and who have been here in the past. Many of these families are local, but some are from further afield. What follows does not claim to be a complete account, but rather a taster.....

Taylor is a common name at Sibford, it being the nomenclature for three local farming families.

Swalcliffe Grange is an arable farm of 360h farmed by Mike and Barbara Taylor, together with their family. James left Sibford with good GCSE results in 1993 and we trust Richard will do the same in the summer of '95. Victoria began Year 7 this September.

The family have long connections with Sibford, both grandfathers attending the school. William Sabin, from Temple Mill, attended 1916-20 along with his two brothers, one of whom, John Sabin from Lea Farm, Hook Norton, then educated his three children, Joseph, Hugh and Angela at the school. John Taylor and his sister, Ruth both attended about 1920 when the family first moved to the Grange. Ruth's daughter, Angela Mortimer was educated at Sibford and later taught pottery at the school.

Barbara tells us that she and Mike chose to educate the present generation at Sibford because of the special attention children receive for their educational needs and the smaller classes. They feel James's exam results bear out their choice, and of course, being local, the children are able to carry on their daily interests around the family home and the farm.

Richard "loves being outdoors and always having something to do". He is sure he wants to continue farming and foresees larger machinery and a bigger role for computers. He rides and plays rugby for the school. Victoria likes to feed the calves in October and also loves to ride her pony on the open spaces. One day, perhaps, she'd like to own a riding school.

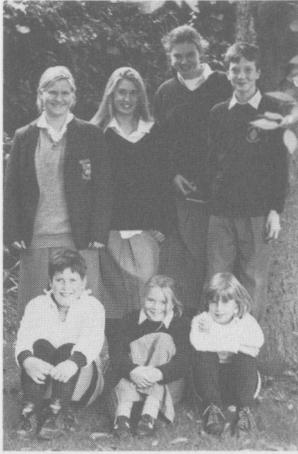
The Taylors of Blenheim Farm are at present represented at Orchard Close by Henry, who tells me he loves getting dirty and having lots of space, along with shooting and motor-bike riding. Perhaps not surprisingly he thinks "townies" see farming folk as "muddy old people"!! He too wants to be a farmer and foresees larger tractors pulling even bigger machinery to get the jobs done more quickly. His sister, Sally, is an old scholar (class of 1992) as is his brother, Ben, who has recently completed his degree from Liverpool.

Yet another farming Taylor was Jenny, who left Sibford this summer with her GCSEs. She comes from Hook Norton.

Gwyn and Ian Mather of Hailcombe Barn Farm, South

SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB

The village cricket club once again ended the season as holders of yet another cup, this time winning, at their first



Newington, have farming connections locally going back a century, but with Sibford only since 1989, when their daughter, Lynne, entered Orchard Close, followed a year later by Sian. They farm livestock, mainly, and both girls would like to work with animals in the future, Lynne possibly as a vet.

Lynne is one of the many girls at Sibford who enjoy playing rugby, though she complains "The boys often don't pass you the ball". However she enjoys the school because "it's very friendly and because of

all the activities on offer." Sian likes art and the fact that we are a small sized school. Their mum tells me she and her husband chose Sibford "having heard of its reputation as a school with a family atmosphere, where the pupils' progress and personal happiness are of equal importance to staff."

Another Year 11 girl who is interested in the possibility of veterinary science, and who also attended Orchard Close, is Mollie Tustian. Her father farms a mixed arable and sheep operation in Epwell, about 180 acres. He also acts as an agricultural consultant.

When Mollie's parents moved to Epwell in 1982 they chose Sibford, despite the fact that one of their boys had a full scholarship to an Oxford school, because the school offered the "wider curriculum we were looking for." All three children attended the school and the boys, Patrick and James, have now moved on to higher education.

Laurence, Paul and Miles Colegrave come from Upper Lea Farm, Swalcliffe, again just a few miles from the school. Paul in particular loves working on the farm and wants to continue the family connection. Paul is another fearless Sibford rugby player, although he enjoys tennis best, as does Laurence. Miles prefers archery. Paul suspects city folk may see country people as "bumpkins" but is tolerant of their wayward views. All three boys are musical. Laurence is a gentle giant in Year 11 and would like to enter the financial world. Miles lurks in Orchard Close, awaiting the big time on The Hill.

Two sisters from another local farming clan, the Jack family, are quite different in that Theresa, in Year 11 (another rugby demon) doesn't think she will continue the farming tradition, while Lorraine in Orchard Close wants to be a pig farmer, no less. When asked how they thought town folk might view farming people, Theresa's reply was "Over the fence" while Lorraine countered with the view that "townies are boring." I think Lorraine and her brother, Duncan, another Old Scholar, are the right ones for the job!! Brakelands Farm will be safe in their hands.

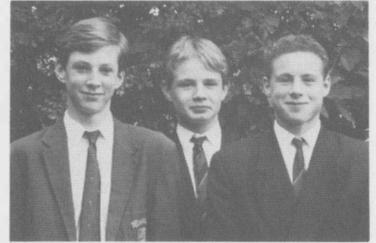


More high fliers are the Cobb sisters in Orchard Close, Emma and Anna, together with their elder sibling, Kylie, in Year 10. Both Emma and Anna enthuse about trampolining, and all the girls love riding and the involvement of the entire family with the farm which is located at Wigginton.

James Edwards is in Year 10 and his sister, Lizzy, is a recent Old Scholar. Their home is New Barn Farm in the Gower, but the family do not farm as such. Andrew Edwards informs

me that he and his wife chose Sibford because of the

school's ethos, "a caring approach which permeates from the teachers down through the students and is there for all to see."



Alistair McLaren in Year 9 and his brother, James, in Year 8 are from Croughton. Their great-grandfather came from Durham originally and bought The Warren from the Cartwright estate in 1947 after years of being a tenant. His great-grandsons love the farming life and want to continue the farm, again with bigger machinery (!) Alistair even claims to love getting up at 7:00 in the morning to get the sheep ready for market. Both boys enjoy their sports, cricket and rugby especially.

Tom Lane (Year 11) and Adam Bell (Year 8) are not local, but they are from farming backgrounds. Tom's family are arable farmers in Upper Snodsbury, Worcestershire, and Adam's mum is the farmer on a small 40 acre farm in the Lake District. Adam's not sure about farming, but certain he wants to remain amongst the lakes, while Tom would quite like to make a career out of the theatre, despite the fact that some members of his family keep leaving him land in the hope of encouraging him to farm it !!



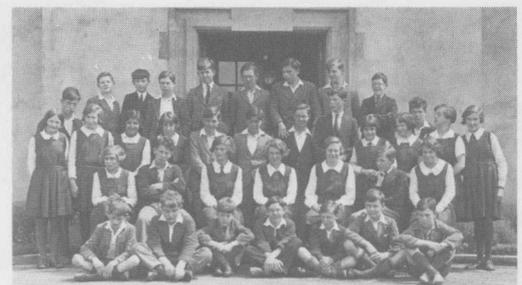
John Fenemore in Year 11 lives on a 375 acre farm at Warkworth and his family have been farmers for well over a century, spanning three generations. He came to Sibford in Year 8 from Bredon School in Gloucestershire and finds

the school friendly and relaxed. He wants to spend a few years on the farm after completing his GCSEs and then to go on to agricultural college. Already John confidently informs me that greater diversification will be essential for the farmer of the future!

Finally we come full circle to Lucy Cole, in the Sixth Form. Lucy is a double cousin (on both sides of the family) to Richard and Victoria Taylor with whom we began this story. Lucy took Horticulture as part of her studies because she loves the open air, just as she enjoys working with animals. Lucy's mother, Jennifer, was at Sibford 1962 - 67 and her grandmother, Monica Taylor, was a scholar from 1930-35. Many thanks to the family for the use of the two photographs from the past. Lucy came to continue her education in Fielding, not wanting to do A levels, and says she enjoys the flexibility of courses Sibford's sixth form offers.

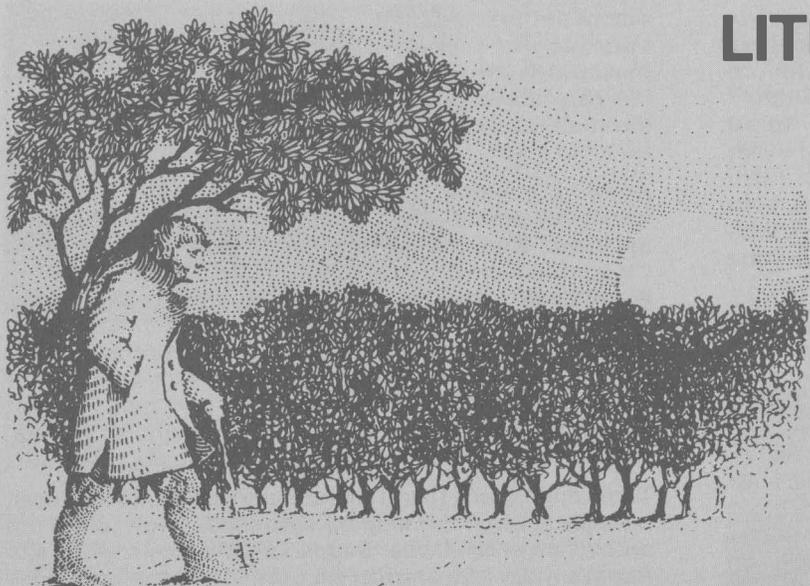
Our school was established in 1842 as a rural school with a strong agricultural bias. The presence of Horticulture and the work of the walled garden within our curriculum are testament to this tradition. But so too is the long association between the school and members of the local farming community. Long may it continue, to the mutual enrichment of both.

Editor.



Monica Taylor, third row up, second from left 1930-35

LITERATURE SECTION



FOG

A low dark grey cloud
Covering the land with
Its power,

Black magic

I think it is
Its thick mist
That covers the horizon
With its smoke
And makes you feel funny.

I HATE FOG.

Jonathon Titcombe Year 6

AUTUMN SADNESS

The days of baking rays have drifted
Into mist.

I miss the days of sun.
I have to put up with
September dew.

I'm used to the heat
Cold to me's new.

I adore the sight of ripe green leaves,
Not purple-dark,
The sight makes me blue.

The chilled winds blow out the sun
As if it were a candle.
The murky grey clouds
Are taking control.
The sun scrounges for survival.

Oh well, however much I weep
I'll have to wait three more
Seasons before I need my
Sun cream to slosh on.

WHAT A PITY.

Andrew Peers Year 5

POEM

Feelings painful,
Feelings sweet,
Bleeding nose,
Aching feet.

Visions of horror,
Visions of war;
Visions of beauty,
Loved much more.

Tastes of sugar,
Tastes of wine;
Tastes of lemon,
Tastes of lime.

Smell of flowers,
Smell of sick;
Smell of food,
You can almost taste it!

Stephen Clarke. Year 9

THE FOREST

The forest was as dark as a bat's wing on
The stroke of midnight.
No light passed through the tall, forbidding ferns,
And no light has since the dawn of time.

Neither time nor age matter in the forest,
Untouched by human impurity.
Day and night are as one in the eternal blackness.

The only sound that echoes out of the black is
A hooting of a distant owl,
And the scampering of night creatures returning
To their burrows.

Stuart Mason Year 9

I WALKED ALONE

I walked alone,
Along the hill top green,
I walked alone,
Alone from home, and hearing the waves
moan.
Along with friends I could have been,
The sight a good one to have seen.
I walked alone.

I saw my love
Across the room, a glance
I saw my love.
Turn away from me, my turtle dove,
For me, your looks, they do enhance,
Looking, staring, SNAP!! in a trance,
I saw my love.

It shone so bright
That the light blinded me.
It shone so bright,
It carried on for all the night.
It really was a beautiful sight,
It shone so hard, with all its might,
It shone so bright.

I touched a star.
It made me feel purposeful, true.
I touched a star,
And as I reached out afar
It felt soft to cuddle up to,
I thought, with my hand, but it went through.

I touched a star.
I walk alone.

Vickie Lane Year 9



THE JOURNEY

The soft haze of summer hangs limply over the meadow where I lie. My mind is clean and clear. I have no worries and no nasty thoughts. My head is propped on my sweatshirt as I rest looking at the sky. A crow flies overhead, making a raucous, harsh noise, but doesn't disturb the peace. My nose is itchy with the pollen from the dusty air. The distant drone of a lazy crawling combine, reaping the rich harvest of the late, sunny summer. My ears hear the sounds that loud people would describe as silence; birds singing in the distance, cattle mooing; my brain builds a 3D picture of sound. I see the layers of clouds moving at different speeds on the varying summer breeze. The long meadow grass is tall and sways gently all around me. The carpet of buttercups covers the meadow as it rolls away down the gentle slope towards the small winding river below.

I become aware of being watched and sit up slowly; raising my tranquil body limply on my arms I look around slowly surveying the scene. My heart jumps, pumping a surge of adrenalin through my body as my eyes see the jet black horse standing in front of me. He stands only a few feet away with his ears pricked ready to receive any sounds I may make, his dark eyes twitching, testing to see my reactions. I do not know how he could have come so close without my noticing; maybe I was not meant to notice. My body calms itself when I see the horse is not going to hurt me. I get to my feet slowly but swiftly; the horse takes a step back cautiously.

I am no longer startled. I feel I know the horse like a friend. I walk to his side and touch his neck slowly with my middle finger. He doesn't seem to object so I move my hand slowly down to his shoulder. I feel safe with him and there is something that makes me feel as if I have known him forever. I slide my hand over his muscle-bound neck and pull myself up on to his back.

Sitting up above the meadow grass, I can feel the summer breeze in my hair; the air is fresh and warm. The horse starts to move forward slowly, walking with elegance, then into a trot as he turns back on his path gracefully. I am confused. I didn't tell him to move, but still I feel safe and I trust him. He breaks into a canter. Adrenalin rushes round my body as I realise that he is going to jump the hedge out of the meadow. His speed increases as we near the hedge. I grip tight with every muscle in my body, contracted to breaking point; then with one smooth faultless move we rush into the air, joined together, formed into one object.

We meet the ground as if it was made of feathers. We glide through the grass with effortless sweeps of his legs propelling us at speed across the large grassy field leading towards a semi-precipitous slope down to the river. Still I trust him, my driving force, I know he will not harm me. We start to slow as we draw near to the edge of the slope, walking.

We begin our descent towards the river that runs at the bottom. He is not hesitant or unsure; he never pauses to think, he just keeps on, sometimes he slides, but it doesn't seem to bother him. He picks his way carefully through the sharp, jagged boulders that lie precariously resting on other rocks. The granite stone produces sharp clicks when his hooves make contact with it, sometimes creating showers of dust that has settled on the hard, dark grey surface.

I don't try to help him or guide him; he doesn't need my help. I just lean back to keep my balance as his body twists and turns under me. We reach the foot of the incline; I look up in awe at the large, steep rocky face he has just carried me down without any trouble. He senses my admiration and takes the opportunity to rest before tackling our next obstacle, the river.

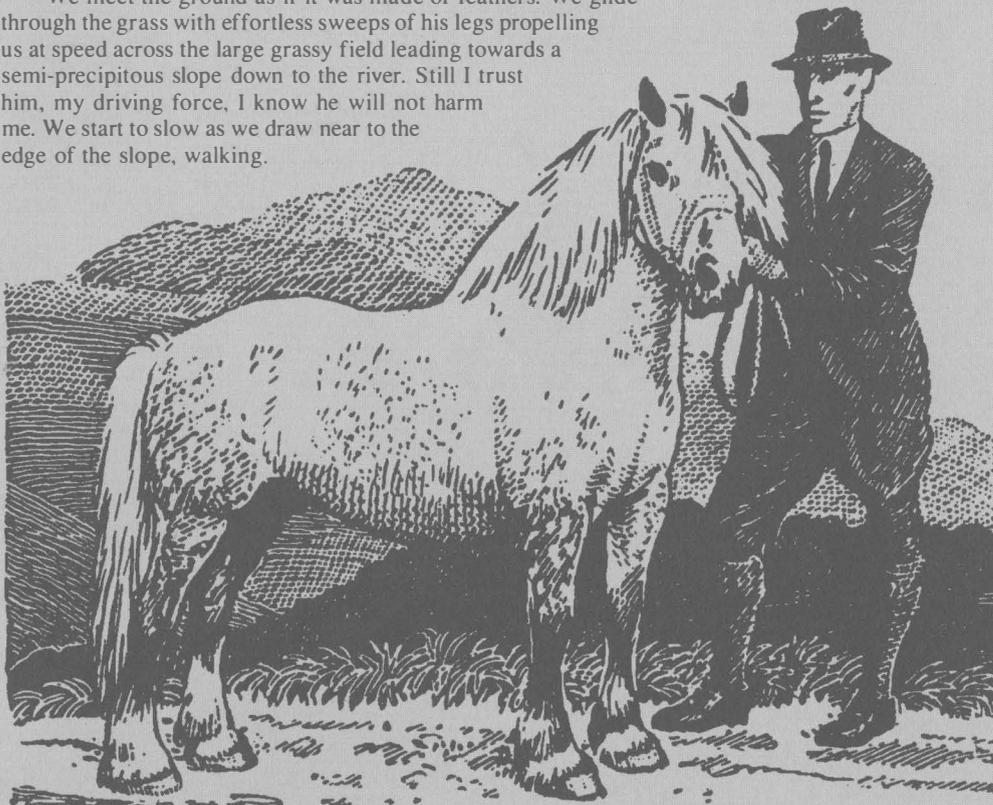
We do not pause for long, moving on towards the sparkling river that runs just a few yards away. He keeps walking, his eyes focused on a point in the distance. He seems mechanical, unstoppable and very determined. He carries me slowly down the bank into the river; the cool water rises higher and higher past his hocks, then slowly seeps into my shoes and wets the bottom of my jeans, climbing up my leg like icy fingers. I can feel the current is pushing against my right leg with considerable force, and still the cold water climbs higher up my leg. The water now incarcerates all of my body from the waist down making me shiver.

Just as I start to doubt my horse's judgement the water begins to recede, and with a few swift steps, we are on the other side of the river. He turns slightly as if to admire his achievement and then he breaks into a slow canter and we begin to travel, with grace, across the flat meadows that run alongside the winding river. I begin to wonder when or if he will ever stop and take me back to the field near my home. This thought scares me slightly and as much as I try to forget it, it keeps coming back into my mind.

Then as if he could read my inner thoughts he starts to turn in a large arc and heads back towards home. My jeans cling to my legs with a damp, cold wetness. He begins to increase his speed as we approach a narrow part of the river then, without any warning, he launches himself into the sky and sails swiftly through the air, landing lightly on the opposite bank. My heart is racing and I feel slightly dizzy.

He doesn't pause on the other side, he just carries on at a flat-out gallop tearing across the meadows. He has chosen a different route back which doesn't involve ascending the steep incline. We begin to climb gentle rolling hills to the top of the escarpment, from where we both started this journey together. We reach the top and turn briefly to look back down on the winding little river and the buttercup-filled meadows that lie beneath us. Then, gathering speed and power we cross the last field and prepare for the final jump over the hedge. We soar through the air back into the field where I lay only one hour before.

He slows down and eventually stops and I pat him on the neck before I dismount. I lower my body to the ground. My legs are shaky and unsteady, but I manage to stand with the support of my new friend. I pat him again and utter the only audible sound I have made all afternoon. We turn and walk away. I know that I will see him again because he will always know where I am and what I'm doing, because he is part of me.



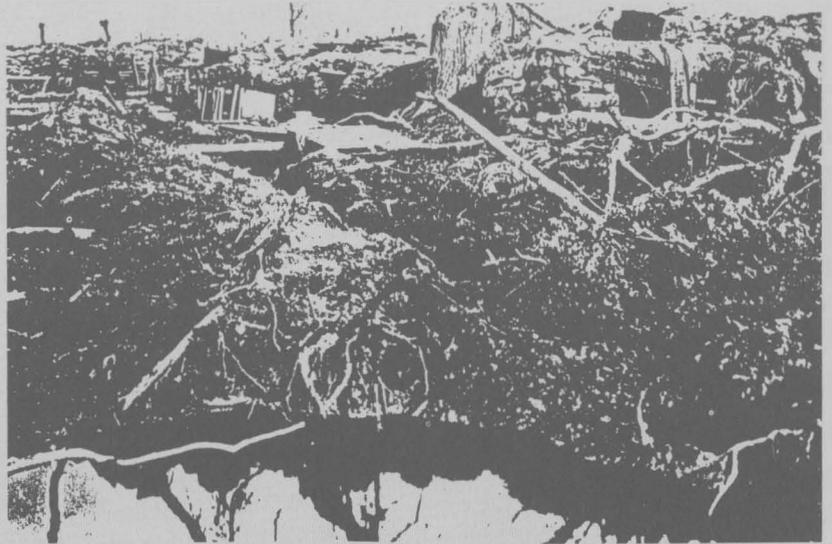
THE PERFECT PLACE

Tall armed soldiers marching by,
'To save our state' their blatant lie,
The barking of machine-gun fire
Seems to call out 'Liar, Liar,'
A little child looks up with awe,
He knows not about this war.

Daydreams of a perfect place,
A land where freedom rules with grace,
Then, evil sounds destroy the light,
The dreams become as dark as night,
Creaking of an opened door,
Horror, terror, dream no more.

The youngsters' eyes look up with fear,
Knowing death is very near.
The body to the floor is hurled,
A five-inch bullet destroyed a world.

Stuart Mason Year 9



EYEBRIGHT

Eyebright,
A sea of black
Tenthousand treats,
A hundred prickles,
Sticking out to
Puncture my precious skin.

A bite,
A chew,
A glorious feeling,
A taste of life.

The sight,
The burning temptation,
I grabbed,
I ate,
I adored,
It was finished.

Tamsin Young Year 6

TO A FRIEND

I shall walk in the sun alone,
whose golden light you loved:
I shall sleep alone
and stirring, touch an empty place:
I shall write uninterrupted;
would that your gentle touch
could stay my moving pen just once again.

I shall see your true love,
but none to match your living grace:
I shall hear music,
but not so sweet as the whisper
which told me you loved me.

I shall fill my days,
but I shall not, cannot forget:
sleep gentle, dear friend,
for while I live you shall not die.

Asha Buxton Year 12

THE CHEAT

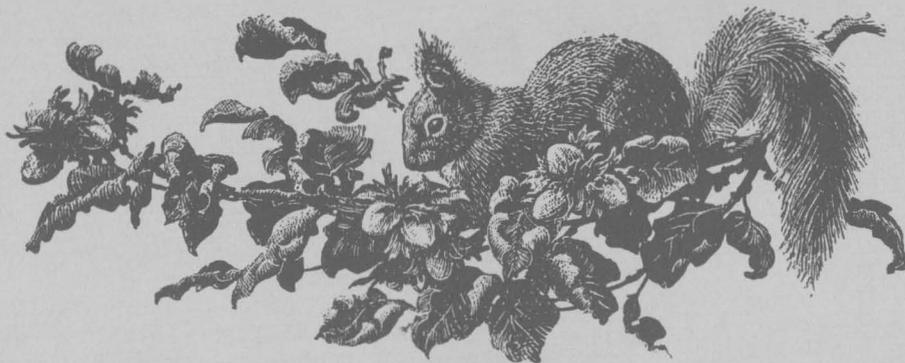
An exam, quiet apart from
The pens along the paper
And the buzz of minds
Thinking in deep thoughts
And strange thoughts.

Admiring this picture of
Hard work is a taste of
Sour evil - a person
Looking, looking like
A hawk on its prey
Some work to copy !

His eyes in his head
Shifting around the buzz
Are strong as ever the
Hand of his waiting claw.
He reaches out and without
A sound it becomes his.

He has a smile on his face,
Like the Devil's imp.

Michal Mintowt-Czyz Year 10



AUTUMN TIME

The leaves have turned from green to red and gold,
Year follows year, its mysteries to unfold.
We look back to the old year, as it slips away
Taking with it the days of work and play.
Some see the falling leaves as throwing off the old,
Others feel sad to part with the trees clothed in the autumnal red and gold.
We look back over the year which has flown
So fast, with its joys and sorrows receding into the past.

Asha Buxton Year 12

A GCSE ENTRY

A video interpretation of Tennyson's poem "The Lady of Shalott"

Characters

- Rose Morris – (Lady of Shalott) Is a young lady who has moved from her home in the country to a house in the city. She begins a new job working in a large company. She is very lonely in Camelot and her family are far away. She is shy and finds it hard to make new acquaintances, so she has isolated herself from the rest of the city.
- Jason Pinkett – (Sir Lancelot) Is a man who has lived in the city for most of his life. He works in the same company as Rose, but is on the board of directors. He is likely to be promoted to Vice-Chairman soon, very popular with the ladies, clever and pushy.
- Lloyd Horseman – (King Arthur) Is a family man. Like Jason he has spent most of his life in the city of Camelot and is Chairman of the company. He is very lonely despite his position.

The Knights of the Round Table are the rest of the Management Team to which Jason belongs.

- Interpretation – using the video, I am going to explore the theme of isolation and the way in which Rose holds herself prisoner in her private world. I am going to use the magic mirror as the means by which Rose lives her life outside home.

THE FILM

SCENE 1. – Rose and her family together with her fiancé in the countryside. It is late summer and the fields are full of crops. Everyone is happy. Just in view, on the horizon, is a small town. Whilst we are looking, the sky darkens and the town seems to be building itself. It increases in size, destroying the fields and homes in its path. It is now a city, the city of Camelot.

SCENE 2. – Winter in the city. Rose is alone in a tall grey building, surrounded by more of the same. She is dressed in deep red.

The line "overlooks a space of flowers" will be interpreted through the mirror. In the mirror in her bedroom, Rose sees images of how her life used to be, before its total destruction. Images of her family and fiancé appear and then are replaced by cold images of a grey building on an island surrounded by a moat of blood. As she continues to live in a world of greyness, she is losing all the life force from inside herself. Her appearance is grey and her red dress has colour seeping from it.

SCENE 3. – Rose at work, shunned by the other workers. They shun her because she is strange and different. She feels and acts like an outsider. "But who hath seen her wave her hand?" This line expresses what her workmates feel about her. They have never seen her wave or be sociable.

SCENE 4. – Lloyd Horseman sitting in a large room. It is white with a huge round black table in the middle. He heads the table and there are eight chairs around it, occupied by the directors. Jason sits to his right. All the others are in discussion except for Lloyd, who gazes out of the window, focused on the bright red sun above the

grey buildings of Camelot. He wears a dark suit, for he is in mourning, having lost his reason for living. He has made the money he wanted, built the company he dreamed of, raised his family and now he feels useless and redundant. "And by the moon the reaper weary/Piling sheaves in uplands airy..." These lines well describe the life of Lloyd Horseman. He is the reaper, piling sheaves of money in an ever uphill struggle to survive. He has a vision of Jason attempting to murder him as he sits trapped at his table, old and senile. Like Rose, he is afraid of change.

THE CAMERA THEN TURNS TO JASON

In contrast to Lloyd and Rose, Jason wears colourful clothes. "All in the blue unclouded weather/Thick jewelled shone the saddle leather" He speaks with his hands during the meeting, seeking attention and praise from Lloyd, emphasising his own ideas.

The meeting ends and Jason returns to his office. His secretary enters and he dictates a letter. He advances around the desk, and as he speaks he makes advances towards the girl, who leaves the room. "A red cross knight for ever kneeled to a lady in his shield". This line reveals how Jason sees himself as a lady's man. Now that he has been rejected, he is angry. As if to complement his anger, a storm breaks outside.

SCENE 5. – Rose is sitting at her window dressed in white. There are bars across the pane, created by Rose's obsession with self-imprisonment. As she looks out, a group of nuns pass by. A look of jealousy crosses Rose's face as a young couple stand in the street below. She does not stay long, but returns to her mirror where she sees images of death. "A funeral with plumes and lights." The body being carried to the heart of the city is Rose's own. She turns away. She says in a soft pathetic voice, "I am half sick of shadows."

SCENE 6. – Rose again at work. Lloyd and the management team are touring the shop floor. This is when Jason and Rose meet. He is overpowered by her and is also looking for someone to nurse his damaged pride. She falls for him immediately since he is the only man she has met since she left home. It is desperation which brings Rose to Jason. She needs a means of escape from her prison, even if it is self-made. Rose returns with Jason that night and they become lovers. In the morning he is gone. Afraid, she returns home. Looking in the mirror, cracks appear. She runs to the window, but cannot escape the hand reaching from the cracked mirror. "The curse is come upon me", cries Rose.

SCENE 7 – It is winter and the storms are fierce. We move to the home of Lloyd Horseman who is standing by the bank of the river which flows through the city. He wants to escape his life but cannot kill himself. As he turns to go, we see the shadow of a small boat drifting along the river. "Heard a carol, mournful, holy." Rose is in the boat still wearing her white dress and singing to herself, words which are lost in the wind.

SCENE 8 – The next morning, Rose's body is found in the boat at the riverside entrance to the firm where she worked. Her peers, the girls with whom she worked, do not even notice her in death, but Lloyd, Jason and all the men see her, and cross themselves in fear. They see her because they are more aware of what her death signifies. They fear her cold dead body just as they fear anything that can touch them. Lloyd looks down at Rose as though he wishes it was he who was lying there.

Jason feels no guilt that he may have caused her death. He only feels that it is a shame that such a beautiful girl has been lost. "She has a lovely face./God in his mercy lend her grace."

Jessica Day Year 11

THE PSFA YEAR

This year has been the first full year of the new Parents and Staff association and to some extent we have been feeling our way, but we sincerely hope that the parents, staff and of course the children will see a tangible benefit from the work that the PSFA put in over the years.



Lynda Herbert was our original Chairperson and I must thank her for the enthusiasm she showed in trying to organise us into a cohesive committee. Unfortunately due to personal reasons she had to retire; we all wish her well.

Each year the committee is elected at an Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the parents' opportunity to review the work of the PSFA in these early times of the organisation, to reflect on the year's activities, and put forward your ideas.

So now FOSS has ended and the new association is up and running but without the FOSS work commitment I'm sure the school would not be where it is today.

The transfer from one organisation to the other was fairly simple. There was a feeling of 'carrying on' what many others had contributed. The change however was more apparent on the finance side. When the decision was made to change the name and the emphasis of the organisation the financial aspects of the 'old' and the 'new' bodies had to be addressed. The monies held within FOSS had to be transferred and with Brian Morphy, the School's Bursar, our Treasurer, Eric Rix, completed the formalities.

Eric Rix - Treasurer of PSFA

When FOSS became the PSFA at the end of October 1993, it transferred its funds to its successor.

The funds handed over were:-

a/ Bank current and Deposit account balances	£6559.77
Investment A/C balance	£ 296.77
Life Membership a/c balance	£ 63.80
	<u>£6920.34</u>
b/ Loan to Sibford School - for Sports Hall	<u>£1000.00</u>
c/ Funding Commitments to for Theatre Lighting	<u>£1873.43</u>
Net funds handed over by FOSS to PSFA	<u>£6046.91</u>

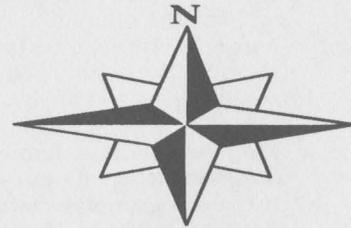
FOSS had operated for seven months of its financial year, which started on 1st April, at the time it dissolved and had an excess of income over expenditure of £1599.71. In that time on the income side the main contribution had been £1583.01 net receipts from the Favours Auction.

In the five months since it began the PSFA has spent £1145, £408.58 more than its income. It is the committee's intention to make further grants to the School out of its inherited funds.

So with the official plans put into operation it is now perhaps opportune to record how the year panned out.

THE YEAR'S EVENTS

The things we organised this year have been varied and the outcome of these endeavours has shown an increased provision to the school in practical ways such as a set of Blinds for the I.T. room, a Weather Reporter for the Geography Department, ten directional Compasses for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, ten sets of headphones for the Modern Languages Department and a collection of Art History Magazines for the Art Department.



None of the activities which produce funds would ever be as successful as they are without the superb efforts of a very hardworking Committee who are always ready to undertake anything necessary to make the very best of any project, even though they may well have many other personal commitments. So to parents; Les Bell, Chris Clarke, Jane Cleland, Sheila Duncan, Nigel Fairweather, Kath Morris, Eric Rix (Treasurer), Richard Tustian, Angela Walsham (Secretary) and our Chair until June 1994 Lynda Herbert, as well as the staff; the Headmaster, John Dunston, the then Deputy head, Stephen Bunney, the Bursar, Brian Morphy, Sarah Spittle and Liz Young - Thank you all for your hard work during the first full year of the organisation.

So the future at Sibford now includes the PSFA; it is up to parents, as an inherent part of the School, to show what can be done, either by committee work or just 'being there'. Either way, just as for the pupils, a commitment is required — we therefore look forward to a full blooded PSFA serving the needs of the parents, the school and the children.

The events that were organised during the year were fairly varied and encompassed both information evenings as well as those of a social nature. Various sub-groups were set up where appropriate, not least the Catering Group.

Jane Cleland - PSFA Catering Group

The Christmas Fayre

With very little past information to go on it was a lot of guessing and estimating. Kath Morris found time from organising the stall holders to head me in the right direction — 200 rolls, a list for the Cash & Carry, Cake & Drink for 300 and so it went on. On the day I found myself alone in the little kitchen — where were all the people I was assured would turn up on the day to help?



A very helpful little band of pupils from Orchard Close gave their time. 300 teas were served — home-made cakes did arrive and washers-up stalwartly stood at the sink. Thank you to all those who helped.

The Charity Walk

Parents organised refreshments after the Charity Walk in May which were very well received. A few parents who had participated in the walk appreciated the hot tea at the end of their efforts.

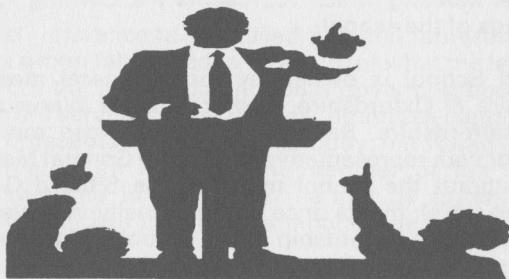
Sports Day

Sports day was clear and rain-free if somewhat windy. The cans of drink disappeared like lightning. Ploughman's lunches were on sale for parents but eventually eaten by the children. It would be nice to see a few more parents at these functions and we hope to have refreshments always available. Our gratitude to Kath Morris, Stephen Bunney, Sarah Spittle and Gwyn Mather for all their help.

Exeat Teas

Exeat teas have been available on Sunday evenings in Orchard Close between 7:00 and 8:00pm for boarders' parents. A small but regular group of parents attend this and I'm sure it is appreciated

The other events were well received although I do feel a much greater interest from parents would have made them just a little more worthwhile.



Dr Nigel Fairweather - Parent and General Practitioner

On February 3rd the PSFA arranged a talk on the "Contemporary Drug Scene" in the Oliver Studio for parents and staff. The speakers were Paul Khyberd of the Thames Valley Police and Ian Morrison of the Chiltern Clinic, Oxford, who kindly deputised for a colleague at short notice.

Mr Morrison told us about his work with young addicts, who are trying drugs ranging from cannabis to cocaine. He described how it is necessary to be tolerant and flexible to gain their confidence and mentioned the "methodone bus" which visits parts of Oxford, dispensing this substitute for "hard" drugs.

Mr Khyberd handed around a sample of cannabis, after putting light to it, so that we could recognise the smell; personally, I did not find the smell very distinctive! Samples, or photographs, of other drugs were also passed around. LSD was on little paper circles with motifs like "Mr Smiley". "Crack" was irregular whitish crystals, looking like shed milk-teeth. We were told that drug pushers were the main target of police attention.

There was a lively question-and-answer session, and the Headmaster, Mr John Dunston, explained the school's

attitude, including its responsibility to the pupils as a community.

Parents were interested to know what warning signs to look for; this could be anything from cigarette papers for rolling "reefers" to foil on which cocaine is heated. Solvent misuse could prove fatal when tried for the very first time, whilst another "sniffer" apparently managed to buy sprays "by the dozen" and get a discount.

Although cannabis is often thought to be innocuous, Mr Khyberd said it could have a harmful effect on various bodily organs. However, the main objection to cannabis is that it tends to lead on to "hard" drugs.

Two useful "Parents' Guides" were handed out: These can be obtained free from: Health Publications Unit, Heywood Stores, No 2 Site, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 2PZ, quoting ref: DAPG (Drugs) or SAPG (Solvents).

The subject of the National Curriculum is always something of a 'grey' area for most parents, so the Committee felt that a school explanation for the parents giving the up-to-date situation would be much appreciated if handled in a friendly atmosphere, so an event organised in the new Business Studies area.

Simon Horsley, the Director of Studies

On Friday the 10th June, Simon Horsley, the Director of Studies, presented a short talk to interested parents on the National Curriculum. This examined its history, the interpretation which Sibford School has made of it and the future of the National Curriculum in the light of the Dearing Review.

The history of the National Curriculum starts in the late 1980's with the 1988 Education Reform Act. A "National Curriculum" was proposed which would ensure common schooling for all pupils attending state-maintained schools. It would cover four "Key Stages" and would define the content of all subject areas. Each subject area was divided into four or five attainment targets and each attainment target was defined at ten criteria-referenced levels. The aim was to produce a defined and coherent body of work which all English and Welsh children would have experience of during their primary and secondary education. A unified system of criteria-referenced testing would give accurate information about pupil performance.

That this system would prove very cumbersome soon became obvious. Sibford School took a very pragmatic approach to the new curriculum. As an Independent School we were not required by law to follow it; equally it would have been foolish to ignore the wealth of good advice and practice contained within it. The school adopted large parts of it, but was wary of applying orders in Modern Languages and Technology where it seemed they would not enhance the education of pupils.

The Dearing Review has vindicated many of our reservations about the more bureaucratic elements of the original National Curriculum. The school has joined in the national consultation about the recommendations of the Dearing Review and we are now awaiting the final publication of the new National Curriculum in January 1995.

We look forward to presenting further information evenings in the future.

During that term the more serious topics were counterbalanced by a more social event.



Lynda Herbert

The Social evening at the Oxford House in Chipping Norton playing Nine-pin bowling on their superb skittle alley is becoming an annual event. On March 19th members of staff and parents joined together for a very convivial evening demonstrating their skills (or otherwise). The evening included a delicious finger buffet. After a tense team effort, a knock-out competition was won by Brian Holliday. The evening raised a creditable £135 and our thanks as usual went to Stephen Bunney for the organisation.

One major item that the PSFA has been instrumental in helping with is the proposed adventure playground adjacent to Orchard Close.

The PSFA Adventure Playground

The playground has been in the minds of the staff of Orchard Close for many years but the expense of the equipment has always been a major hurdle to overcome. When the subject was raised again last year it did seem to the PSFA committee to be something the new organisation could get to grips with. The PSFA kicked off the fund-raising with a donation of £3,000 and over the year were very much involved with the work in bringing the idea to fruition. Other events were held throughout the year and the proceeds of them all went toward the overall costs of the first phase. The skittles evening mentioned earlier was one, together with donations from Mr & Mrs Davey (£100), P H Goodman & Sons (£20), Sainsburys (£50), BBB Architects (£10), Prosperi (£20), Karcher UK (£50), Combined Precision (£100) and the Bunney Reckitt Trust (£200). Mrs Dale-Green organised a sponsored Dinner and the Funds collected by Mary Bennett were all made available.

The first phase of the Playground is ordered and due to be completed in October. This phase will include a round-about for the younger children and a group swing. The whole project is likely to cost between £10,000 and £15,000.

One item Lynda Herbert was very interested in was being able to give awards to pupils who had made great personal efforts throughout the year and so this year the committee instigated a Book Award to various pupils throughout the school.

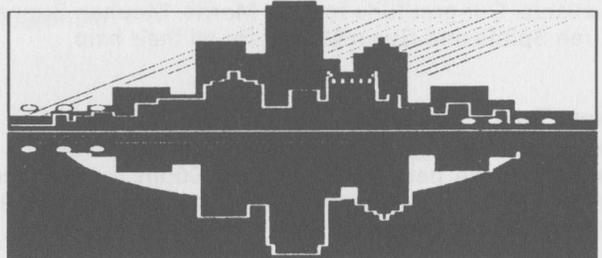
The Annual PSFA Book Awards

The PSFA decided during last year to instigate an annual award to those pupils in each year who had made a very substantial effort in academic achievement throughout the previous three terms. The awards were presented by Angela Walsham the Secretary of the PSFA at the Schools Final Assembly in July 1994.

The awards were presented to:-

Year 3	Scott Pannell
Year 4	Emma Cobb
Year 5	Zoe Langford
Year 6	Sarah Cruikshank
Year 7	George Byrne
Year 8	Deborah Peers
Year 9	Felicity Day
Year 10	Lynne Mather
Year 11	Jessica Day
Year 12	Tom Sutcliffe
Year 13	Lionel Morrison

We wish them all the very best for their future especially those who leave the school and further their Life education.



One further area which the Committee had been working on was the communication between parents and Sibford General Meeting which represents the Owing Friends Meetings of the school.

Sibford School is owned by three general meetings: Berkshire & Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire & Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Representatives of those meetings, together with representatives of 7 other General Meetings who support the school make up the Sibford General Meeting which meets once a year, usually in November, to discuss the stewardship of the school and the work of its governing committee.

Michael Hutchinson former Clerk of Sibford General Meeting

The Sibford General Meeting Communication Group was an ad hoc group set up following Sibford General Meeting in November 1992. Its membership was made up of members of SOSA, the School Committee, the school and PSFA formally FOSS. It was set up to consider communications with parents, their participation in the life of the school, and the options for representation of parents on the School Committee.

The Group, convened by the then Clerk of Sibford General Meeting, Michael Hutchinson, found that there was already much effort in communication with parents and that the school was well aware of the need to continue to develop and maintain such communication. However there was some evidence of feelings of isolation, although significant improvements had been noted since 1992.

The Group examined ways of improving the present situation and made recommendations.



1. The group felt that it is important for the School Committee to be seen to gather views adequately. It has suggested an ad hoc forum of members of the School Committee, meeting informally with members of the PSFA from time to time. It feels that the development of informal opportunities for School Committee members, staff and parents to meet and talk must be central to informing communication and taking up ideas and suggestions. The School Committee should review this process regularly.
2. On an operational level, the School Committee can review day-to-day organisation and response to parents, and identify issues in common. Out of this a policy should arise which the School Committee could communicate to Sibford General Meeting. Such business could appear on the Sibford General Meeting agenda regularly. The Headmaster will also pick up other issues relating to communication with parents, and refer to them in the regular presentations to Sibford General Meeting.
3. With reference to increased parental representation, the group felt a need to be aware of what the law says about the role of parents on a governing body. Any parent serving on the School Committee could not be a representative of any other body, but would have to serve as an independent member of the School Committee in the same manner as others, from whatever source the nomination came.

The group examined options for participation of parents within the School Committee and has recommended that a parent should be nominated to the School Committee through a joint Special Nominations Committee, consisting of members of Sibford General Meeting Nominations Committee and representatives of parents. This process could begin at once through co-option by the School Committee, and at the same time the process of extending the practice to become part of the rules of government could begin through a minute of the Sibford General Meeting and its owning Monthly Meetings.

4. The group also recommends that an invitation be made for representatives of the PSFA to attend Sibford General Meeting.



So what for the next year?

First and foremost the decisions from General Meeting will show us one direction. But, of course, plans are already afoot to put together an informative and enjoyable programme throughout the year, whether it be assisting at school events or organising specific parent-orientated information or social occasions. But what we really need next year is you - all parents, to show some enthusiasm for the new organisation.

Events are organised for the ultimate benefit of all the children that attend the school and for that reason your participation is an integral part of the fabric of the organisation.

To conclude I come full circle and reiterate the message that I first read some time ago from a past chair of FOSS in the year when my then 'little' son Francis first joined Orchard Close: *Anyone interested in Sibford and its activities is welcome at any or all of our events. Parents are automatically updated through termly newsletters; but anyone can obtain information on our events by contacting any of our committee - whose addresses and telephone numbers are always available.*



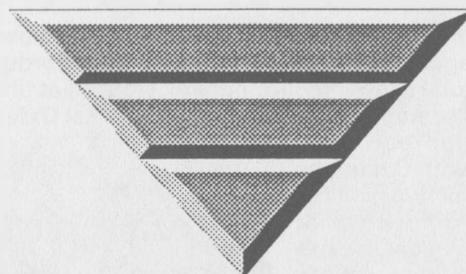
We look forward to:

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- you.

please tick the appropriate boxes and diarise



Frank H Surry
Parent and Acting Chair of PSFA





OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

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

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES

We are both old scholars of Sibford, having been born into Quaker families with long connections with the school. Pat's mother became a scholar in 1919, following a cousin who had started in 1899. Chris' mother was born into the school in 1908 to the then Headmaster and Headmistress, James & Mabel Harrod. These connections have been continued at least until recently and include Chris' sister, Diana, and our son, Michael.

We first met at the August 1970 reunion, and discovered that both our mothers, and Lily Ratheram, had been good friends while at the school. We thought, therefore, that we ought to get married, which we did the following year, so that our mums could re-unite after a 50-year gap.

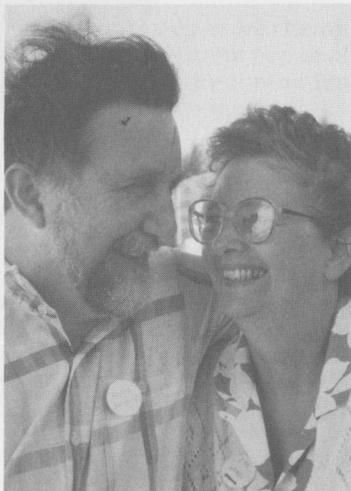
At the time of our marriage, Chris had spent all his working life as an engineering draughtsman. Pat, however, had trained first as a teacher, teaching for a number of years in Leicester and for a couple of years in Lebanon, but changed course for a while and worked as a shorthand typist. She spent a short time in a solicitor's office and 4 years in a farm office on the Sandringham estate, before returning to teaching, which was again interrupted when we got married.

In 1972 Michael was born, to be joined by Nicola 19 months later, and we continued coming to the August reunions as a family. Although Nicola never went to school at Sibford, she often visited Michael with us and still enjoys coming to Old Scholars, having become a Member.

As the children grew up, Chris was able to develop his interest in Folk Dancing, including Barn Dance calling, and Pat was able to start teaching again. She first joined a volunteer Home Tutor scheme helping minority ethnic women learn English, which led in due course to accepting a post as a part-time Section 11 teacher in a small multi-ethnic J.M.I. school, where for 70% of the children English is their second language.

When Chris lost his lifetime job he decided to become a student again, spending 2 terms at Woodbrooke, the Quaker study centre in Birmingham. Difficult at times, but worthwhile, and it led to his joining our local Oxfam shop as a volunteer. Still involved with Oxfam, he now also works for TALC, a charity that sends low-cost health education material to developing countries.

Sibford, though, is still a focal point in our lives, and we like to think that it may continue to be important to future generations of our family.



Pat & Chris Grimes,
Joint Presidents 1994-95

SOSA REUNION REPORT 1994

The weather was perfect as we drove to Sibford through lovely countryside; a good start for what was to be a good weekend. We arrived in time for lunch, although the helpers, including a group of recent leavers, had obviously been busy much earlier, getting rooms organised and providing coffee in Fielding.



Pre-lunch beverages

Our first shock was the sight of an unexpectedly bearded and extremely suntanned Guy Kingham checking us in to the meal. On reflection, I think the beard suited him. Guy seemed to be everywhere during the weekend, ably assisted by Mike Herm, James Thompson and David Watling. Our President, Ian Weatherhead, welcomed us and introduced our Committee guest for the weekend, Christopher Coffin, who was accompanied by his family. We were told that this was the 90th Old Scholars gathering.

Looking around the dining-room, it appeared that there were more Old Scholars resident for the weekend than usual. Julie Greenhill, our indefatigable and efficient Reunion Secretary, confirmed later that she had found it difficult to fit everyone into the available accommodation as there were so many of us. There seemed to be more families with children, and more young people, which was good. I have always thought that it is an ideal venue for a family weekend. Lots of space and lots of active things to do. Anyway, all the children, from toddlers to teenagers, seemed to be enjoying themselves and those who had been before were renewing friendships forged at previous reunions.

Some of us spent the afternoon at the Annual General Meeting. While we were wrestling with matters of importance to the Association, I understand that the children had a great time in the swimming pool, which was reported as being unusually and most comfortably warm this year. Our President's wife, Christine Weatherhead, took on the task of supervising the children in the pool during the weekend. Parents must have been especially grateful to her.

The programme said that at 6.30 we were to have an 'Indian Supper'. This proved to be a most imaginative and enjoyable meal. I kept hearing complementary things being



John Watson and Chris Grimes



Ruth Gardner



Preparing breakfast



Philip Brown



President's Choice



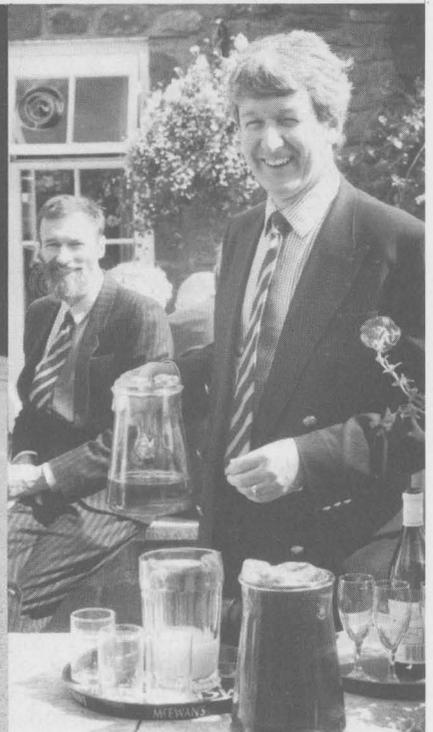
Jeanne Southam



Carol Davis and Janet Williams



The 1994 SOSA Tennis Champions

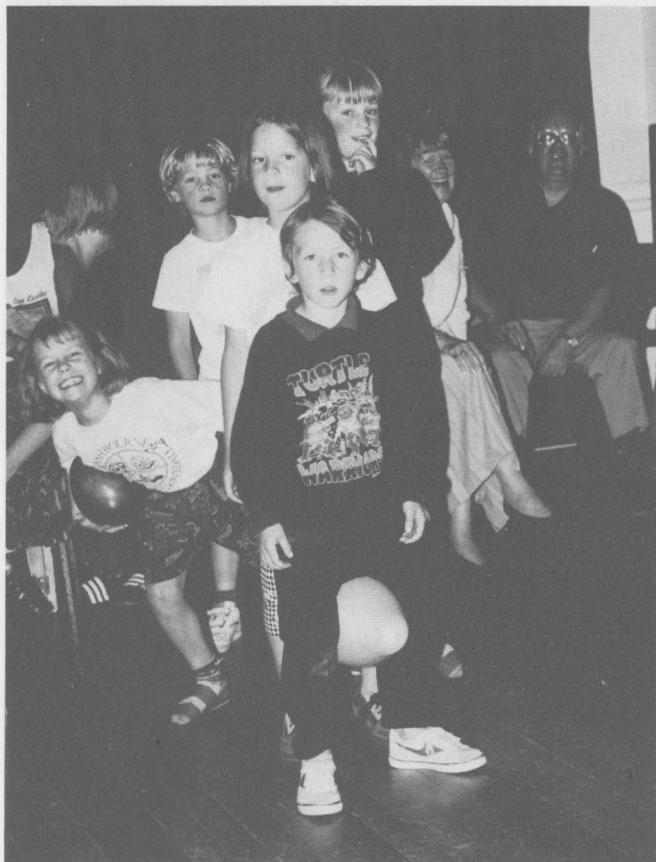


The President serves the drinks

said about this and other meals provided for us, and at the end of the weekend we rightly congratulated the catering Manager and his staff for the efforts they had made. School food was never like this.

The Presidential Choice, held in the Oliver Studio, was a memorable occasion. Our President had invited a choir of six assorted men from St John's Church, Hampstead, to sing for us. They called themselves "The Harmonisers", and sang a wide range of popular music in harmony and unaccompanied. The group included two counter-tenors, who took a bit of getting used to at first. The group were great fun as well as being excellent musicians, and had us all enthralled. They started with songs such as 'Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head' and 'Aint We Got Fun', and went on later to some familiar Glen Miller, Beatles and Elvis pieces. We were given snatches of opera, but only in fun.

'Happy Hour' followed and was aimed specifically at the children. My informants told me that there were grown-ups there as well, but that they didn't always do as well as the children in the games. There seemed to be plenty of hilarity and balloon popping going on at Christine Weatherhead's instigation.



Happy Hour

Some of the adults and older young people seemed inexplicably to have disappeared at this point. I can't tell you exactly where they all went to as after 'Happy Hour' finished I was keeping an eye on some of the younger children who wanted to have a midnight feast (actually a ten o'clock feast, but who's counting?) and whose parents had gone for a walk up Mannings Hill. I did hear rumours the next day that there had been some late night goings-on at Traitors Ford and that some people didn't get to bed until 3.30. Reminds me of when I was a young Old Scholar.

Sunday was sunny again. After breakfast there was a good turn-out for Choral, with John Dunston at the piano. Everyone was in good voice most of the time - until someone (we'd like to know who it was) suggested a hymn that no-one knew and we all went embarrassingly

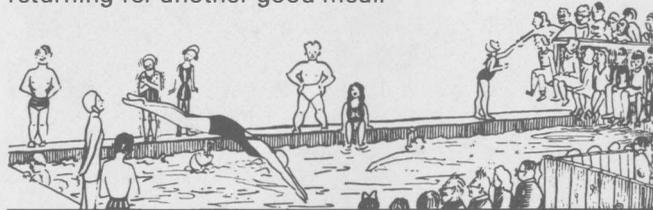


Wendy Finch and Christine Weatherhead

silent. However we recovered enough to finish with a resounding 'Jerusalem'.

Meeting at the Gower was a time for recollection and thankfulness for what Sibford has meant to us. There were more children in Meeting than I have seen in recent years. After fifteen minutes with us they went out for their own programme, rejoining us for the usual coffee and chat outside the Meeting House.

After Meeting there was a new item on the programme - 'Pre-lunch beverages at the Bishop Blaize'. I had forgotten what a magnificent view there is from the garden of this particular hostelry so, together with the sight of the President going round with jugs full of Hook Norton ale and soft drinks, this made a pleasant interlude before returning for another good meal.



Sunday afternoon was a time for everyone to do their own thing. Lots of activities were organised, or one could just do nothing in the sunshine. Some of us even managed a brief nap! Michael van Blankenstein took the most intrepid among us for a ramble. This year he kept it simple and the seventeen people and two dogs who went did manage to get back before we began to get anxious about their fate. Others played football or basketball in the new Sports Hall, went swimming or rode bicycles. The table tennis tables were well used.

At four-thirty we assembled for tea on Holly House lawn. There were the usual mouth-watering cakes, made by Jeanne Southam and Irene Coxon-Smith, which we all appreciate so much. The two small children of the headmaster shared their toys with us, and their slide was a great attraction for the youngsters. The croquet set was also out so that those who were knowledgeable in this sport could instruct the rest of us who were unused to the finer points. With some



Nick Bennett

difficulty we got ourselves organised for the photograph.

After an 'Italian Buffet' supper we listened to the Leslie Baily address, given this year by Ann Wilson who works for Barnados as the Midlands Area Fund-raising Manager. I think it likely that Russell Steed was working behind the scenes, as he does throughout the weekend when his electronic wizardry with microphones, videos or tape-recorders are required. Then up to the Elm for Rockets, including real rockets, one of which made just the right sort of noise. Afterwards some took the by now well-trodden path to the Bishop Blaize to partake of an optional night-cap with the President. I did my child-minding duty again, so I can't report on any further happenings that night, only guess that for some the night was still young.



James Thompson and Pat Grimes

Monday was sunny again - we couldn't believe our luck that the weather was so kind. Breakfast was billed as a 'Texas Barbecue'. It certainly involved lots of smoke rising from just outside the dining-room.

Clem and Margaret Cox presided over the now very traditional Motor Treasure Hunt. A most enjoyable drive took us as far north as Edgehill, and introduced us to villages and vistas which we had not seen before. When we parked at a particularly beautiful panoramic viewpoint we were asked to complete a four-lined rhyming verse starting with "The hills are alive with....." We were rather pleased with our effort

*"The hills are alive with gasps of pleasure
As motorists stop and take their leisure.
The view is great; the weather's fine
And our maniac driver is Blankenstein."*

Modesty almost prevents me from telling you that our car actually won the treasure hunt.



The Birthday Girl
(Mavis Stiles's grandchild)

The afternoon was again spent in a variety of ways. The tennis tournament was played, and for the second year was won by the deadly combination of Ian Weatherhead and Roland Bohm. They'll have to be split up next year. The table tennis continued to the inevitable end (i.e. a win by Guy Kingham) and there was yet more swimming, culminating in a water-polo match later in the afternoon, won by Watling Wanderers. I looked in to the Sports Centre where an eccentric game of hockey was being played, using plastic sticks and a soft ball so that anyone could take

part. Cherry Taylor (a Pugmire grandchild), aged 3 1/2, was playing (or at least standing there with a hockey stick in her hand) together with Old Scholars of various ages, including some who must have been at least half a century older. There was some fierce refereeing by Guy Kingham, who made much use of the sin bin for those who were taking their hockey too seriously. This way there was no specific winner of the Golden Doll trophy, because everybody won.

I went into the library, where Mike Finch had set out an archive display, intending to have a good read. However, I got distracted by a group of my contemporaries having a nostalgia session on what it was like to be at school under the headship of Arthur Johnstone. The stories got wilder and wilder, and the revelations more and more revealing. (Had you ever heard of 'blub Sunday', for example?) We finished up belting out "Willow the King" which as pupils we had been allowed to sing as a great treat at the end of the summer terms. Mike Finch had to turn us out at tea time, or we might be there still. I suppose this is what our reunions are all about.

The Presidential Reception in the Oliver Studio got off to a slow start because the bowls of punch were late arriving, but all was well in the end. The Dinner introduced yet another innovation for the better. This year we sat at tables for eight instead of being in serried ranks. This made for much easier conversation and our table at least thought it a distinct improvement. The room looked good, with floral decorations done (as throughout the weekend) by Wendy Finch. For the first time, we were able to bring bottles of wine to the tables. This had clearly been a controversial decision, although for many it seemed to be a logical step to take and enhanced their enjoyment of a very good meal.

Our President gave us an address which concentrated on the Livery Companies of the City of London, and Christopher Coffin, our School Committee guest, made an appropriate contribution. Thanks were expressed to all those who had helped to make the weekend such a success. All that was left to do was to have a final 'Rockets' session and sing 'Auld Lang Syne'. (Well, all that was left for those of us of more mature years who went off to bed at this point - I can't speak for the younger generations).



The President and Membership Secretary demonstrate
"Rockets"

Final goodbyes were made at breakfast, together with many promises to meet again next year. Chris Grimes, who had been feeling distinctly wobbly after having sustained a head injury the week before, promised us that he will be fit and healthy for next year when he and Pat will be our joint Presidents. We shall look forward to having them welcome us back.

Lorraine Brown (nee Quinton)
at Sibford 1939-44

90 YEARS OF SOSA REUNIONS

90 years have gone by since the first SOSA reunion in 1904, which took place at Whitsuntide. Approximately seventy members attended, and on Whit-Monday there were many additional holiday-making visitors. Songs were sung by present pupils as entertainment for the Old Scholars and an impromptu singing contest between Old and Present Scholars followed.



The first Gathering, 1904. Joseph Spence Hodgson, our first President, is on the driver's right.

Meeting at the Gower was followed by walks to Swalcliffe Common, Temple Mill and Compton Wynyates. On the Sunday evening a special address was given plus an hour's hymn singing.

Monday saw the Old Scholars v School cricket match, the AGM, a series of sports (comprising running, jumping, throwing the cricket ball etc.), and the President's address. In the evening it was the turn of the Old Scholars to entertain the school and school neighbours, presenting an entertainment of songs and recitations, and from 10.30 until midnight Old Scholars played dumb-charades and musical chairs!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 1994

HELD IN THE OLIVER STUDIO

President: T. Ian Weatherhead
74 were in attendance

In our silence we remembered the lives of:
Josie Canning
Sheila Chuter (nee Tinsey)
Constance Cottrell (nee Mold)
Harold Cunliffe
Elsie Green (nee Banford)
Christopher Little
Frank Rollett

NB. Details of the above obituaries appear elsewhere except those for Christopher Little which appeared in the last Magazine.

Greetings were received from: Grace Allen, Stephen and Liz Bunney, Arthur and Margaret Dring, Marjorie Edwards, June Ellis, Ken and Elizabeth Francis, Hugh Gibson, Kenneth and Robin Greaves, Harriet Jones, Philip and Janet Manasseh, Jean Morley, Brian Morphy, Jean and John Osborne, Norman Smith and Otto Wolf.

1. MINUTES of the last AGM held on 28th August 1993 were printed in the 1993 Magazine sent to all Members.

These were approved as a true record and duly signed by the President.

2. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary extended a cordial greeting to all present and in particular those joining an AGM for the first time.

There had been a number of significant matters involving your Committee over the past 12 months and these were highlighted by the General Secretary below:

(a) Committee

Personnel changes had taken place since the list published in the 1993 Magazine. Melissa Sturgeon had retired owing to pressures elsewhere. The long serving and hard working duo of Margaret Fairington and Allan Kidney had finally relinquished their London Branch duties. Fortunately Ashley Shirlin (newly elected as a Committee Member) had stepped into the breach to replace them. We had also lost two highly valued ex officio members - Stephen Bunney, Deputy Head, and Gill Manthorpe, a Staff Representative. They left at the end of the Summer Term and they now have our best wishes in their future careers. We hope that they will both keep in touch with Sibford and of course with Old Scholars. We are now losing the services of: Paul Frampton (Treasurer) and Harriet Jones (Asst. Reunion Secretary). Both have rendered services above and beyond the call of duty and it is to be regretted that neither is available for immediate re-election.

(b) Constitution and Rules

Two further items have come to light, following the 1993 revisions, and these will be dealt with later in the AGM.

(c) Membership

340	UK Ordinary Members
217	UK Life Members
18	Honorary Life Members
44	Ordinary Members living abroad
33	Life Members living abroad
652	As at 31.08.94
10	Anticipated no. of members to be written off in 1994
46	Anticipated recent Leavers joining in 1994
688	Anticipated membership at 31.12.94

The recent leavers scheme was very encouraging with a 62% positive response from parents.

(d) Magazine

The 1993 edition has been widely praised, not least for its attractive cover provided by the talented Melissa Sturgeon. Our special thanks are due to the Editor, Caroline Bond, and to the Magazine Co-ordinator, Mike Finch. As ever, space limitations had obliged Caroline to exclude a number of photographs and interesting contributions. However in this connection the Committee had some good news at last. A suggestion from John Dunston led to a decision being taken that henceforth the longer items, including the Headmaster's Report, the School Committee Representative's Report, the Leslie Baily Address and the Presidential Address, would be reported only in précis form. Verbatim versions would still be available on application to the Editor for anyone interested. Members should therefore see a number of improvements in the 1994 edition.

(e) Sports Events

The annual football match had taken place on 19th March, with O.S. winning 3-1. Unfortunately the cricket and rounders matches booked for 22nd May had to be scratched owing to bad weather.

(f) Careers Fair

On 19th March Caroline Bond, our ubiquitous Editor, had organized a Careers Fair at school, with the kind participation of several Old Scholars. It was universally acclaimed. Ignoring our Editor's modest protests, I now minute a letter dated 15th April which I received from Mike Wollerton, Head of Careers:

"Dear Michael Farr,

I am writing to you, in your capacity as secretary of the Old Scholars Association, to say how successful the first ever S.O.S.A. Careers Fair has been. Caroline Bond has done a wonderful job organising a large number of Old Scholars to come back to school and talk to the present pupils about their experiences, both in training and in the job market.

The success of the event can be judged by the very positive comments that the students made afterwards and I hope this will become an occasion that may be repeated in the future. I hope the Old Scholars who gave up their time to come along to the Careers Fair will feel that it was time well spent and that closer links have been established with some of the older students.

By the nature of the morning it was impossible to thank all the visitors individually for their help and I hope those to whom I may not have spoken will accept the school's grateful thanks for their hard work. Perhaps you would be kind enough to convey our thanks to those who are members of your association.

Yours sincerely (signed) Mike Wollerton"

(g) Sibford Open Day

This was held on 2nd July and again we have to thank Caroline Bond for updating the SOSA Display Board and for manning our Information Desk.

(h) SOSA/Sixth Form Ten-Pin Bowling Trip

Stephen Bunney and Julie Greenhill organized an outing to Leamington Spa on 19th March. This event was much appreciated by the pupils and our thanks are due not only to Stephen and Julie but to the several Old Scholars who had given their time to make it such a success.

(i) Sibford Gower Meeting House

A letter of thanks has been received for Old Scholars' contributions on Sunday 29th August 1993, totalling £183.00 towards the roof repair appeal.

(j) Expansion of Membership

This subject has considerably exercised the committee's minds during the year. Clearly such contacts with senior pupils as I have described should raise our profile among these potential future members. In particular the Careers Fair (which we hope will become an annual fixture) and the Ten-Pin Bowling Trip have increased pupils' awareness of SOSA.

We are also thinking about organizing 'year-group' reunions, to the virtual exclusion of older members. The primary objective of these would be to 'further schoolday friendships', as per Object 2(b) in our Constitution and Rules.

Another idea, still in embryo form, is the creation and updating of a computer data-base of all leavers' records, for producing annually updated tabulations in year-of-leaving sequence, showing addresses and the latest known news of each Old Scholar's life, for distributing gratis to each individual listed within it. This tabulation would "drop off names ten years after their year of leaving. Hopefully, after ten years (possibly sooner) enough interest will have been stimulated to persuade many of those listed to join the Association.

Extramural reunions (not simply 'regional gatherings', considering the trans-Global distances covered by some of those attending), such as described by Ashley Shirlin in page 54 of the 1993 magazine, are thought worthy of our encouragement, possibly with modest financial backing.

(k) Professor Peter Gutkind

This Old Scholar has consistently opposed the choice of Douglas Hurd MP as a sponsor for the Sibford Sports Hall appeal. He resumed his protestations in a letter dated 23rd December 1993, addressed to the School Head, John Dunston, and copied to Irene Glaister (Chair, School Committee) and to myself representing SOSA. This was in the wake of a news story involving a plane load of Jamaicans detained by British Immigration Officers. That was to be followed by a sometimes heated exchange of letters up to August 1994. Peter Gutkind was invited to state his case at our AGM, but in his unavoidable absence I undertook to introduce the subject from the platform and to leave the file on display for members' inspection during the weekend.

(l) Branch Activities

Details appear separately in the magazine. A variety of activities were reported by Irene Coxon-Smith (Midlands) and by Jeanne Southam (South-West) and I took the opportunity at this point in the meeting to hand over for a few minutes to Ashley Shirlin, to enable him to describe the new style of 'extramural reunion' which he had pioneered in London. Among the 120+ O.S. and their 30 or so companions, who had joined him on 16th July, aboard the TS "Queen Mary" moored on London's Embankment, were individuals who had travelled from Australia, the Caribbean and the Far East.

The General Secretary concluded his report by thanking the Headmaster and his staff for their assistance throughout the year and for once again accommodating SOSA for their Reunion. Thanks were also extended to the SOSA Committee and to the President for their unfailing efforts and time given to the Association.

On a personal level, the General Secretary, who had assumed his new and unfamiliar duties part-way through the year, expressed his deep gratitude to the omnipresent Mike Finch for steering him through a variety of problems.

3. CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Two additional paragraphs, 6(c) and 6(d), were debated and unanimously agreed for incorporation with immediate effect. Copies of the redrafted Constitution and Rules will be sent out to all Members with the next magazine.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Paul Frampton, presented his financial report to the meeting which demonstrated that the Association remained soundly based. The year again showed a surplus, which was marginally down on

1993. One of the main differences was a reduction in Bank Interest earned. The accounts were unanimously adopted and the meeting minuted its special thanks to Paul Frampton at the conclusion of his elected term of office. The accounts are presented in detail below:

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 1994

	<u>30/06/94</u>	<u>30/06/93</u>
ASSETS		
Land At Elm	45	45
ASSETS OF SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Quoted investments (30/06/94)	14571	15539
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash At Bank: Current A/C	192	420
Investment A/C	<u>6747</u>	<u>4094</u>
	6939	4514
PREPAYMENTS		
1994/1995 Reunion: Paid Out	675	261
1994/1995 Reunion: Paid In	-	-291
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>22230</u>	<u>20068</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Accumulated Fund:		
Balance Forward 01/07/93	2265	5709
Revaln Of Investments	<u>-968</u>	<u>1238</u>
	1297	6947
Plus Excess Income	<u>1380</u>	<u>2064</u>
Total Available For Gifts	2677	9011
Gifts Paid	<u>-</u>	<u>6746</u>
Balance Remaining (see note)	2677	2265
Life Membership	6498	6498
Recent Leavers Membership	<u>13055</u>	<u>11305</u>
	<u>22230</u>	<u>20068</u>

NOTE: Remaining Unpaid Commitment To Archives £2354.00

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AS AT 30TH JUNE 1994

	<u>30/06/94</u>	<u>30/06/93</u>
INCOME		
Investment Income	1052	1052
Annual Subscriptions	3410	3841
Reunions	3269	3258
Donations	134	100
Travel Bursary (Donation)	-	300
Bank Interest	148	999
Peace Garden Project	<u>-</u>	<u>73</u>
	<u>8013</u>	<u>9623</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Magazine	2330	2153
Stationery	-	535
Bank Charges	60	91
Reunion	3666	3208
Repairs To School Minibus	-	241
150th Anniversary	-	1331
Upkeep Of Elm	50	-
6th Form Outing	248	-
Bench For Peace Garden	<u>279</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6633</u>	<u>7559</u>
Excess Income Over Expend.	<u>1380</u>	<u>2064</u>
	<u>8013</u>	<u>9623</u>

SUBSCRIPTION INCOME

	<u>30/06/94</u>	<u>30/06/93</u>	<u>30/06/92</u>
Ordinary Subs	1675	2380	2106
Life Membership	-	75	225
Recent Leavers 5 Year	-	-	35
Recent Leavers 10 Year	1635	1286	851
Recent Leavers 15 Year	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
	<u>3410</u>	<u>3841</u>	<u>3317</u>

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT - 30 DAY SAVINGS

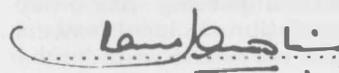
01/07/93 Balance Forward		4093.87
12/07/93 Monthly Interest	+	3.36
19/07/93 Exch 9.75% 1998 Div	+	178.43
10/08/93 Monthly Interest	+	3.59
01/09/93 Trsy 8.75% 1997 Div	+	69.81
10/09/93 Monthly Interest	+	3.65
27/09/93 Exch 12.25% 1999 Div	+	193.62
07/10/93 Transfer To C/A	-	546.33
11/10/93 Monthly Interest	+	3.15
10/11/93 Monthly Interest	+	3.40
12/11/93 Transfer From C/A	+	3500.00
22/11/93 Conv 10.25% 1999 Div	+	83.97
10/12/93 Monthly Interest	+	22.32
10/01/94 Monthly Interest	+	22.30
19/01/94 Exch 9.75% 1998 Div	+	178.43
28/01/94 Transfer To C/A	-	1500.00
10/02/94 Monthly Interest	+	16.65
01/03/94 Trsy 8.75% 1997 Div	+	69.81
10/03/94 Monthly Interest	+	15.94
28/03/94 Exch 12.25% 1999 Div	+	193.62
11/04/94 Monthly Interest	+	17.66
10/05/94 Monthly Interest	+	17.43
23/05/94 Conv 10.25% 1999 Div	+	83.97
10/06/94 Monthly Interest	+	18.19
30/06/94 Balance Forward		6746.84

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 30TH JUNE 1994

	£2184	£2127	£4880	£4215
	Conv.	Treas.	Excheq.	Excheq.
	Stock	Stock	Stock	Stock
	10.25%	8.75%	9.75%	12.25%
	1999	1997	1998	1999
Purchase Value	2196.87	1950.61	5000.64	4999.64
Market Value				
30/06/93	2553.00	2303.00	5465.00	5218.00
Market Value				
30/06/94	2363.00	2189.00	5155.00	4864.00
TOTAL VALUE	£14571.00			

ACCOUNTS FOR 30TH JUNE 1994

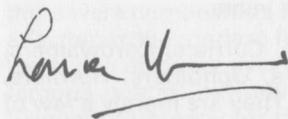
I have prepared the above Balance Sheet and associated accounts from the books and records of the Association and confirm that these accounts are a true and accurate reflection of the Association's financial position as at 30th June 1994, to the best of my belief.

 Paul Frampton - Treasurer

Dated: 2nd August 1994

Sibford Old Scholars Association

I have audited the accounts of the Association, for the year ended 30.06.94, 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
2.8.94

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following Officers having been duly proposed and seconded were unanimously elected:

Joint Presidents 1994/95 - Chris and Pat Grimes

Vice-President 1994/95 - Margaret Fairnington

General Secretary ret. 31/8/96 - Mike Farr*

Treasurer ret. 31/8/97 - Mike Finch*

Asst. Reunion Secretary ret. 31/8/97 - David Watling

*Ratification of General Committee's prior appointment

*Also Membership Secretary until 31/8/95

Committee members having been duly proposed and seconded were elected:

Recent Leavers	- Tom Eadie	ret. 31/8/97
	- Grace Mo	ret. 31/8/97
Ordinary Members	- Chris Farr	ret. 31/8/97
	- Tom Leeman	ret. 31/8/96
	- Mavis Stiles	ret. 31/8/95
	- Lucinda Poulton	ret. 31/8/95

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Perhaps I may start by saying that at the committee meeting in March we were told that John Dunston had just been elected a fellow of The Royal Society of Arts!

Orchard Close started the year with a new Head, Elizabeth Young, and we were interested to hear from her that Susie Dunston was teaching French in Orchard Close.

Since this time last year F.O.S.S.(Friends of Sibford) had a new name P.S.F.A. (Parents, Staff and Friends Association) and it is hoped to improve communication between parents and the School Committee.

Early in the year it was recognised that in order to help in the recruitment of girls the school should appoint a second Deputy Head, and we were told in April that Caroline Homan had been appointed and I am sure that a second woman will be a welcome presence on the Management Team which consists of Headmaster, Chairman of School Committee, Treasurer, Bursar, Clerks of Sub-Committees, Deputy Heads.

A strategic plan has been produced; it is intended that everyone in the school should share in the plan and in this way children and staff should have a sense of the direction in which the school is going.

In March the Finance and Property Sub-Committee received a presentation from a firm of surveyors on the condition of the school properties and an indication of the cost and planning implications of the Fire Officer's recommendations at the Manor. It was suggested that over the next ten years the school would need to spend in the order of one million pounds!

The school is under pressure from the Department for Education, Social Services and parents to seek traffic calming measures between the Old School and the

Paddock. Possible costs seem to range between twelve and fifteen thousand pounds upwards with no finance forthcoming from the local authority. There is still concern over damp penetration in the Sports Hall during really bad weather and further monitoring of the Manor and Gillett in relation to the fault line appear to be necessary. Health and safety requirements not only add to the work load but also place demands on the budget.

For a full copy of the report, please contact the SOSA Editor

7. HEADMASTER'S REPORT

John Dunston began his report with a brief review of curricular changes both nationally and at Sibford. He highlighted the development of GNVQ (General National Vocational Qualifications) in the Sixth Form, and the introduction of new GCSE courses in P.E. last year and Media Studies this year. He commented on the drama and musical activities within the school and on the sports, with many team and individual successes.

The Orchard Close curriculum and extra-curricular activities were mentioned, under the new Headship of Elizabeth Young. Other important events of the year were also mentioned and his report was concluded with a tribute to various academic successes of Old Scholars, to Stephen Bunney for his work at school and in support of the Association and a thankyou to the SOSA Committee and Members for their help and support.

The activities which the Headmaster mentioned in his report can be read in more detail in the school's section of this magazine. However, if any old scholar would like to see a full copy of the report, please contact the SOSA Editor.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The President announced that this year's Geoffrey Long Book Prize would be shared between Catherine Gornall for her poem "Autumn" and Adam Keeling for his piece entitled "Little House on the Hill".
- On behalf of the Association, the President announced that Honorary Life Membership had been bestowed upon Hugh and Daphne Maw for their outstanding contribution to the School and to Old Scholars over many years. The meeting received this news with great acclaim.
- The President introduced a discussion on a possible gift to the School, or other ways in which any surplus might be directed. John Dunston had outlined to the committee particular needs for the School including a new Adventure Playground, an all weather cricket strip and refurbishment of the Home Economics department.

Discussion ensued with a strong feeling from the meeting that the Home Economics project should be something that the School should provide from within its own resources. There was an equally strong recommendation that support for projects within the SOSA organisation should be given consideration such as help for particular Branch projects and also possible assistance for Old Scholar students entering further education for the first time. The General Committee were asked to take on board the main points of this discussion before embarking on any decision.

- In conclusion the President announced that, as a matter of individual discretion in his own year of office, members so choosing may bring personal carafes or bottles of wine to the Presidential dinner.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 5.15pm.

THE 18th LESLIE BAILY ADDRESS

It probably came as a surprise to most visitors at the Leslie Baily Address to learn, during Ian Weatherhead's introduction, that he had been a Barnardo child until the age of two when he was adopted by the Weatherhead family.

He introduced the audience to Ann Wilson who is the Area Field Manager in the Midlands and who gave us a fascinating insight into the work of Barnardo's with the use of video clips interspersed with explanations of the work of the organisation.

It was quite an eye-opener to discover that Barnardo's work has greatly expanded from the nineteenth-century vision of the homeless children that captured the mind of Tom Barnardo.

As it is very difficult to transcribe an illustrated lecture we have attached a standard introduction which we hope will encapsulate for the readers of this magazine the subject of this year's profound address.

"It has been said that a society can be judged by the way in which it treats its children. So how does Britain stand up to this test? Some would say not very well. Every day children are abused by adults, thousands are brought up in poverty while many do not have a place they can call home. The experiences of growing up for many children could not be further from the popular view that childhood is the best time of your life.

Barnardo's projects across the country are redressing the balance - helping to provide a caring and concerned society where children are beginning to trust adults and put happiness back into their lives.

Visitors to Barnardo's projects are always struck by an atmosphere of optimism. Hundreds of children and parents are vivid testimony to the ways in which just the simple act of being listened to has made such a difference. In recent years Barnardo's has expanded its work into the front line issues of AIDS, Child sexual abuse, and Homelessness. However, our family centres remain as busy as ever, still offering people in local communities the support they desperately need when times are hard. Our work with children with disabilities also aims to open up new horizons of opportunity for children and their families.

With an ever growing network of projects, both urban and rural, working with thousands of children, young people and their families in the country, there is such a range of activities and needs that it is impossible to summarise Barnardo's achievement or our work in a few words. But whether it is supporting parents who have a severely disabled child, helping parents who are HIV positive to plan for their children's future, or encouraging fathers to be better parents, the Barnardo's approach is the same. It is not to tell people what is good for them but to work alongside them in finding solutions to their problems".

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO SOSA 29TH AUGUST 1994

THE LIVERY OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The story of the Livery Companies is romantic and fascinating, covering a thousand years.

Who and what are the Girdlers, Curriers, Cordwainers, Fletchers, Scriveners, Broderers, Upholders, Hormers, Loriners and the Pattenmakers? They are merely a few of the names of the existing two Ancient Guilds and nearly a hundred Livery Companies of the City of London, and are the titles of the trades, crafts or professions they carried on over the centuries. Some have fallen by the wayside, such as the Silkthrowsters, Starch Makers, Hatband Makers and Longbowstring-Makers.

They have had an important influence on our national life, our industries, our social patterns, and our language - phrases like "fleecing someone" from the obvious connection with the Woolmen's Company, or "on tenterhooks" from the Merchant Taylors whose property in Moorfields was used for fixing their tenters on frames on which cloth was set. It was thanks to the Livery Companies that the seeds of democracy rooted and grew.

The origin of the ancient Livery Companies is smothered in the mists of antiquity but some can trace descent from the medieval or Trade Guilds. Guild derives from the Saxon word 'Gildan', to pay, since members paid for belonging to the fraternity.

They were craft or trade societies who tended to congregate in a common area for both practical and material convenience. Just along from my own office for example, there's Cheapside, Milk Street, Bread Street and Ironmonger Lane to mention but a few.

The Guilds protected alike customers, employers and employees, by searching out inferior work and goods of bad quality and weight and punishing offenders. By preventing unlimited competition a standard of wages and conditions was preserved.

Trade and domestic disputes were settled by arbitration at their Halls which also served as centres for recreation. Until recently when the London Chamber of Commerce, with whom I work, also housed the Court of Arbitration in the City of London, it has also been a close religious connection, each Guild having a Patron Saint for example St Dunstan (Goldsmiths), St Luke (Painters). The religious element of the Guilds has played an important part in their history down to the present day, on occasions saving them from persecution. It is not surprising, therefore, that the costumes or liveries they adopted were perhaps based on the habits worn by different orders of monks. In feudal times the term "livery", from which the companies get their name, meant the allowance of food and clothing to retainers and officers of great households, whether of a baron, bishop, college, or craft and the wealthier merchant guilds. The term came to be restricted to the wearing of clothing with badges by which the allegiance of the wearer could be recognised, and a symbol of privilege and protection.

As London expanded in size and importance, and communications developed between the small communities in other parts of the country, the trade and influence of the livery companies grew and prospered. Each company was regulated by a Court, composed of a Master usually elected for one year, together with a number of Assistants from whom the Wardens were chosen, together with Past masters as permanent members. The Merchant Taylors first record in 1512, consisted of about 20 members of the Court of Assistants. The members of the company were of three classes:

Liverymen - those who had set up in business on their own, were Freemen of the City, had been admitted as full members of the Company and could eventually be promoted as Assistant of the Court, the governing body.

Besides having to steer a careful course with the Crown, there were demarcation disputes between the Companies, as bitter as the modern form of "Who does what?". There were also disputes over the order of precedence with the famous quarrel between the Merchant Taylors and the Skinners Company for the 6th place, settled by the Lord Mayor in 1484, in a typical arbitrator's judgement that each was to take precedence in alternate years.

The end of the commercial influence of the Livery Companies came with the growth of other industrial centres in the country, and of foreign imports, and with changes in general social conditions. Although Companies endeavoured to keep their hold on an expanding economy, by the end of the 18th century their original functions had largely ceased.

The Modern livery

The ability to learn the lessons of change, while preserving the best from the past, is a natural law of survival for all forms of human society. The social and economic conditions which gave birth to the medieval guilds have long been superseded by the development of industry and commerce.

It says much for the vitality of the Livery Companies that they survived the loss of direct power. There were several reasons for their survival. Some of them still owned halls, schools, almshouses, investments, profitable freeholds and substantial charity funds. They had a proud history, tradition, records, magnificent treasures and above all some courageous Liverymen who were determined that Companies should survive.

Their survival has been achieved today by following a similar pattern to the medieval companies, namely fostering their trade in a wide context, acting as Patrons, involvement of their members, increasing their power by service to the community, introducing modern skills and professions and realistically facing financial obligations.

Journeyman - craftsmen who had served their apprenticeship but still had to obtain the Freedom of the City of London (i.e. certified to be responsible citizens) before they could work at their trade.

Apprentices - those who had to serve seven years apprenticeship.

From the earliest times, fraternities met near a place of worship and within their Ward where their particular trade flourished. Gradually many acquired a permanent meeting place and most of the Halls around the Reformation seem to have been mansions of wealthy citizens, bequeathed to their companies. Many ancient Halls have suffered or disappeared through disasters, such as the Great Fire and World War Two and some were sold when money was short. It is interesting that in 1914 the City Livery Club was founded for the use of Liverymen without a company Hall, and flourishes today in Sion College on Victoria Embankment.

The charm of the remaining 38 Halls lies not in their architecture and treasures, but also in the centuries of history they reflect and the unique livery spirit they portray. Most, if not all of the companies received beautifully illustrated grants of arms, charters, letters patent, deeds and ordinances which may be seen in many of the company Halls and are quite exquisite in much of the calligraphy that has been used.

Success, however, brought its own problems for many of the Livery Companies. They accumulated riches through trading, fines on members, and gifts by rich Liverymen.

These riches attracted the attention of a number of Sovereigns, and if they offended they risked losing their Royal Charter and perhaps having either to pay again to get it back, or lose it forever.

Over the past 100 or so years there has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of Liverymen. In 1884 when the Royal Commission of Enquiry vindicated the Companies and denounced state interference, there were 7000 liverymen. Today there are over three times as many.

This growth has evolved because the trade of London was expanding too rapidly for non-freeman to be excluded from a share of it. The admission of women to the Freedom is not a modern innovation; they were sometimes termed "Free Sisters" - Elizabeth I was a Free Sister of the Mercers and just about a third of the Companies now admit women as members of their livery and notably the Chartered Secretaries and Administrators Company had the first woman Master in 1983/84 and in the succeeding year HRH Princess Anne was Master of the Farriers Company.

In brief, the Companies are vigorous self-contained societies of professional and business people, bound together by traditional customs which have been handed down for generations; all under the direction of their Master, Prime Warden or Upper Bailiff and Wardens, with allegiance to the Sovereign and to the Mayor to maintain the franchises and customs and "to keep this City harmless, in that which in me is".

Caring for the Community

Both old and new companies breathe that spirit of benevolence which has been the keynote of their foundation, with education in particular being an objective.

Many years ago schools were built and endowed by rich liverymen or their widows and some of them are still with us. Aldenham (Brewers), Oundle (Grocers), St Pauls (Mercers), Tonbridge (Skinners), Howells and Bancroft's (Drapers), Aske's (Haberdashers) and Merchant Taylors.

In another field of care for the young, from the 16th century, apprenticeship was at its best in London by training youth in the skilled trades for industries of the nation until the 19th century, when events overtook this concept. The care of the elderly as well as the young has also been a feature of Livery Companies' care for people. Almshouses set up by ancient companies are still under their care and new ones built.

The companies support colleges, universities, hospitals and industry by way of prizes, exhibitions, awards, research fellowships, bursaries and nominations.

The City and Guilds of London Institute, which owed its inception over 100 years ago to the support of several Livery Companies, today reflects the practical encouragement still given to keep pace with modern technology. Millions of pounds are donated annually to various charities, with a considerable and understandable emphasis on those connected with the City or the Lord Mayor.

The general public may imagine Livery Companies as "dining clubs" or they may associate them merely with the delightful ceremony of the Loving Cup at the traditional Livery dinner! Be that as it may, the age-long bond of fellowship and hospitality between and within the Companies is a source of strength in their determination to be useful and enterprising, recognising the need to advance into the 21st century.

It therefore rests with each Liveryman through his company to sustain a vital and dynamic role in the City of London and if this is accomplished the future looks bright.

Ian Weatherhead

Following on from the D-day commemorations earlier this year, several old scholars recount what it was like to be at Sibford fifty years ago and how the Second World War affected them.

THE EFFECTS OF WAR

I remember at that time (the outbreak of war) the children having to help the staff, under the direction of the village bobby, to get the windows all blacked-out. We stuck heavy tarred paper over the sky-light windows and hung thick, drape curtains over many of the others.

Mike Farr

We were kept, as far as possible, at arms length from news of the War itself. It was not just that Sibford was, in those days, extremely rural, but private radios were forbidden and we rarely saw newspapers. Arthur Grant secreted a crystal set with a friendly farm labourer in Burdrop and on Saturday afternoons we would lie in the long grass covertly listening to anything that the BBC cared to supply. It was a bit like the French Resistance! I must have known about the war news as I recall keeping records of each military campaign in my atlas, using markers and flags.

Michael van Blankenstein

The night the Germans bombed Coventry was a very worrying night as it went on so long; we could almost read from the light in the sky that night. What worried us was we could not tell who was being bombed, we just knew it was in the general direction of Birmingham, Coventry, Warwick and Rugby. It was a relief for some to hear that it was only Coventry, and to the others relief came later when parents rang to let them know all was well. We saw several German planes fly over the next day in broad daylight.

Mike Farr

At night the German planes flew over and appeared to use the school as a landmark, possibly for the Coventry raids.

Alfred Holland

I remember one twin-engine Junkers 88 plane flying low over us in early November 1940, in broad daylight towards Wiggington. It had smoke streaming from both engines and we boys could easily make out the individual crew members inside. It jettisoned its bombload over the next hill but we never learned what happened to it.

Mike Farr

One of the boys around that time made a most unusual 'find' in the middle of the playing field; a good quality handkerchief which could only have fallen from a German plane, for it had a neat pattern of black swastikas around its hem!

Mike Farr

In December 1941, on the night that Japan attacked Pearl Harbour, a Wellington Bomber crashed near Tyne Hill killing its crew whose bodies were laid out in Farmer Scruby's barn. Hordes of boys invaded the crash site, returning with lumps of plastic, aluminium, spent cartridge cases and even some live machine gun ammunition. One mad youth was rumoured to have put a round in a workshop vice and to have attempted to set it off with a hammer and punch...fortunately he didn't succeed!

Michael van Blankenstein

Another occasion was the daylight emergency landing of a De Havilland 'Tiger Moth' training biplane on the school playing field. They had no radio or navigational aids and their small tank of fuel had run down to its last couple of gallons. They circled our field a couple of times then touched down right in the middle of the cricket square! They had made two lovely 20ft ruts across the manicured grass before spotting the goal post dead ahead. That caused them to lift off sharply again and they eventually landed on a cornfield up near the elm.

Mike Farr

Another great excitement was in March 1943 when we were invaded by the 7th Field Dressing Station of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. They were part of a mock battle manoeuvre in the run-up to D day and spent a week or two with us camped on

WARTIME

the field and among the orchard trees where Penn now is. It was incongruous to see tanks and other military vehicles in and around the village and it caused quite a stir, not least among the senior girls. However the boys also had some nice times on free afternoons sitting with them in their bell tents chatting and playing games of 'Battleship'! I have the autographs still of these kind men and sometimes wonder what happened to them.

Martin Dodsworth

Naturally, with Sibford being a Quaker school, we were not solely concerned with the military aspects of war. A number of old scholars and staff, past and present, duly registered as conscientious objectors and had to state their positions before tribunals to avoid compulsory military service. We always respected the pacifist position taken by them, though the following anecdote illustrates the prevailing attitude of many less tolerant in the world outside. A member of staff returned from a Banbury trip with his hair grotesquely half-shorn and he reported that the barber had enquired the meaning of the 'PPU' badge on his lapel. Upon being told that it stood for membership of the pacifist 'Peace Pledge Union', the barber instantly stopped and angrily ordered the 'cowardly conchie' off his premises.

Mike Farr

On VE-day we were given the day off. Cerci Jones and I walked most of the way to Shipston with Alan Barlow who lived there and we enjoyed the day decorating the outside of his house with bunting and joining in the celebrations.

Martin Dodsworth

We were witness to one major piece of aviation history too. One of our peer group, James Greaves I believe, had a father working at Gloucester with Professor Gibson Whittle who invented the jet engine. Greaves said one day, 'If you look west towards Wales you will see and hear these new planes'. Suddenly a Gloster Meteor appeared on the horizon travelling at the speed of light, we thought, accompanied by the now familiar jet scream. No propellers, and gone in a flash; of course we were dying to tell our parents about this but it was very 'hush hush' at the time.

Philip Manasseh

DOMESTIC LIFE IN SIBFORD

I remember my first night in a dormitory. Jasper the donkey had just died and Selina brayed all night under the dormitory window as she was grieving for her companion.

Alfred Holland

In the winter of '39 there was a flu epidemic. The small sanatorium was full and the overflow contained in certain dormitories. The matron, Marjorie Simmonds and staff were hard pressed to nurse so many so a few girls from the fifth form had to act as assistants.

Derek Gaffee

The second term (Jan 1940) was terrible with Sibford cut off by deep snow which seemed to carry on for weeks. I had moved to the junior dormitory at the Hill and night after night we had to shake snow from our beds.

Alfred Holland

After we had gone to bed in blackout lighting we had a competition to see who, if anyone, could go around the dorm without touching the floor.

Mike Ladell

It was at this period in the war (1940) when the school's capacity to accommodate the numbers of pupils wishing to attend the school was overwhelmed. In order to provide some extra beds a number of us were billeted out in homes in the village.

John Saunderson

On Sunday afternoons we all had to go out for a walk. Younger pupils went on 'pig drives', led by a member of staff. When we

SIBFORD

were older we could go out without an escort - but never alone. Boys and girls could not go for walks in the same direction.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

In the summer picnics were the big highlight of the term. The whole school would walk to the picnic spot. Whichford Woods was a great favourite - how many children would voluntarily walk that far these days? The school donkey, Selina, would bring the provisions in the donkey cart.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

Parts of the playing fields were dug up for the planting of potatoes. My class one day was waiting for the headmaster to take us for an R.E. lesson. He arrived and said, 'Today we will have some practical Christianity - everybody out on the field to dig up potatoes'.

Kay Baker-Short (nee Braun)

Almost all of us travelled to and from school by train. Even if parents were car owners they would not have been able to spend their petrol coupons on long journeys to take children to school.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

Parents came down for the weekend once a term if they could find transport and sleeping accommodation in the village. Sometimes our parents managed a visit other than parents' weekend and with AJ's (the headmaster) permission we had a few hours with them and maybe a trip to Banbury for tea.

Barbara Abercrombie (nee Seccombe)

H.G., later to become head boy, leads senior dorm raiding party, snatches me from junior dorm, and returns with me to base. I sit there on the floor on a blanket under the bare, live wires left from a vandalised ceiling light. A ring of seniors grab the blanket corners to toss me. 'Curl up and it won't hurt,' they advise. I don't. I sit bolt upright. 'One, Two,' I rise, fall, rise and fall, 'Three'. My skull hits the ceiling and that's the last I know until I come to as I'm dragged back down the dark corridor. Morning light revealed the dent I made in the ceiling. It was there for years.

Philip Morris

The girls' common room was where we did our mending every week. We had to darn our stockings and our knickers, and have them passed by the teacher on duty. We wore suspender belts to hold up our dark brown, woolly stockings, which had long loops of white tape sewn on the tops to keep them together in the wash.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

The water situation was grim. It had to be pumped up from Hill Bottom and shared with those villagers who had no well. Because of this we only had three baths a fortnight and one hair wash in three weeks. The water was never hot and we only had a few inches to bathe in. We used the water from our 'hotties' which at least had the chill off.

Barbara Abercrombie (nee Seccombe)

Rules were hard and tough and detention on Saturday afternoons was a great deterrent. Sometimes you were given lines to write or if caught by Mrs Johnstone, picking off dandelion heads or weeding her garden.

Barbara Abercrombie (nee Seccombe)

SCHOOL FOOD (and outside influences)

The overriding memory of Sibford during the war years was the appalling food. I used to lose half a stone each term and put it on in the holidays.

Alfred Holland

I learned to eat very fast - as we all did - because then you stood a better chance of getting a second helping.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

We were not allowed to be sent any food from home, and if our parents tried to smuggle food in the middle of an otherwise innocuous parcel it would be confiscated. The confiscated food would, in all probability, then appear on the staff table. This

happened to me when an aunt sent me some dried bananas, which would have been a great treat as bananas were one of the things which ceased to be imported during the war. I had to watch the staff eating them.

Loraine Brown (nee Quinton)

Some particularly strong-flavoured, but no doubt nourishing, watercress was provided for tea. The mistress supervising teatime would not let anyone leave the dining room until all the watercress had been consumed! Somehow all the cress disappeared from the dishes but the vases of flowers on each table gained a lot of greenery!

Claire Smith (nee Southwell)

Extra food supplies were hard to come by and tuck boxes were discouraged or even forbidden. These facts did not prevent some of those thrills from illicit actions secretly taxing our ingenuity. It was discovered that if one walked to Hook Norton there were tins of beans to be had from the village store! Lionel Walls, Eric Bibby and myself were quick on the trail, and plans made for the walk for the anticipated purchase of two or three tins of beans. The walk to Hook Norton accomplished, without us being caught, and the beans purchased, we planned a midnight feast in the dorm! Blackout was an established fact, torches were few and far between so the top blankets served as very good blackout covers for the feast under the bed! The witching hour near upon us and sleep evaded; tin opener pocket knife to hand, the hard come by beans safely in place ready for the big event. We draped the top blankets so as to exclude all light, three of us huddled under the bed, the torch switched on, and with difficulty the tins were opened and ready to be tasted... they were beans in brine! But never did beans in brine taste so good.

Leslie Harrison

Sweets were severely rationed - perhaps 4 ounces a week. Some used to eat them immediately, while others, like me, used to save them for several weeks for an occasional binge. Once, soon after the war had ended, and the desperate levels of food supplies in continental Europe had become known, we children were told that our sweet ration for one week was being donated to the children of Europe. We were incensed. Charity, we felt, should above all be voluntary. As it happened, I produced the school 'budget' (report) for that term and I remember receiving warm congratulations from some of my schoolmates for mentioning our feelings, which in retrospect seem less than admirable.

Martin Dodson

AFTERTHOUGHTS

When I left school in 1945 the war in Europe was over but continued in the Far East. Looking back on my subsequent life as a student in what is now City University in Islington, I realise that life in war-time Sibford was idyllic compared with post-war London.

John Saunderson

When moving amongst the Old Scholars these days I get the impression that we of the War Years are more closely bonded than those of the generations which preceded and followed us. Consequently, in spite of our many shared minor hardships and deprivations, we have something very special to be thankful for.

Mike Farr

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this article; apologies for not being able to use all the material received. The entire magazine could have been filled with the amount of material sent in!



The Sibford Home Guard

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

We have news of the following Old Scholars and friends of the School:

Dorothy Brigham We were pleased to receive a letter from Christopher Scaife, (Head at Great Ayton) the nephew of that much loved former teacher who was at Sibford for thirty years between 1928-58. Christopher writes..... "I passed on your greetings from the SOSA Reunion. Dorothy is now in full-time care and dementia is in quite an advanced state. However she did flicker into recognition of some of the names I read out to her and was keen to hold firmly to the letter when I left with her murmuring about the Elm! So I am sure she benefited from your thoughts.

My sisters (**Ann Taylor** at Sibford 1945-50 and **Margaret Bunnay** who taught at Sibford in the early fifties) and I try to visit her regularly and usually get some minutes of gathered conversation with her, so please keep the letters flowing.".....

Judith Beattie (nee **Davidson**) At Sibford 1951-56, visited the old place earlier this year with her husband Bob. Judith now lives in Australia and passes on best wishes to all who might remember her.

Hugh Carn talked to Orchard Close pupils earlier this year about his time at Sibford in the early part of the century. He could not get over the changes that had occurred over the years "making it a very different School from the Harrods' time."

Mike Farr, our General Secretary, reports an unusual encounter with an Old Scholar - outside his local (Hythe) polling station on 9th July 1994, Euro Election Day!

Having fallen into a chance conversation with an elderly lady, Mike discovered that she was the youngest of a family who were at Sibford in the Harrod years. Her name then was **Ivy Rose** and her elder brothers, **Alister**, **Stuart** and **Ronald Rose** (two of whom she recalled being one-time SOSA members), are all now sadly dead. Her memories of Sibford, which she last visited in 1939, were very warm and she happily acknowledges the influence of a Quaker education throughout her adult life. Slightly frail but very alert Ivy (now 81 and widowed) is today known as Mrs Miki Hobbs and she lives in sheltered accommodation in Hythe. If any old friends wish to get in touch with her, Mike Farr will be happy to assist.

Mary Filchner (nee **Foster**) who used to live in Sibford Gower before marrying and moving to Germany, visited the School recently to catch up on the changes. Mary was at Sibford between 1957-60.

Ben Leslie at Sibford 1981-86 writes...." I am currently finishing a degree in Business Information Systems and Marketing at the University of Central Lancashire. I have also received an HND in Business Information Technology. I hope to travel around the world next year. Best wishes to all who remember me.".....

John and Jean Osborne (nee **Sinclair**) wrote a postcard from Australia on the 19th August where they were on tour...."Ye menne of Sheepford etc. Greetings to Old Scholars from the Kimberley region in the N.E of Western Australia. We have been on a bush tour for five days. We flew up from Perth but had been to Colin and Sally Nicholl's farm 'Sibford' at Hydern before coming here (Cockburn). Hope you have a good Reunion."

Malcolm and Pat Rudlin (nee **Campbell**) visited the School on Open day after a gap of several years. (Malcolm was SOSA's first Reunion Secretary back in the early sixties.

Jimmy Setna who was at Sibford between 1971-75 and had severe learning difficulties has written of his excellent progress which can best be described by quoting the following article which appeared in the 'Lancashire Evening Post'.....

"An autistic man has returned to work at the Lancashire college which made him student of the year. Mr Jimmy Setna of Lytham St. Annes, overcame a serious learning disability to receive the award from Preston College. Now at the age of 34, he has taken his first full-time job. He passed his City and Guilds examinations in Motor Vehicle Engineering in 1989, the year he was nominated for the prize. Mr Setna has since gone from strength to strength and has gained further City and Guilds qualifications to finally secure a job at the college. He is involved in the maintenance of vehicles, fixed plant and equipment, and the updating of stores and records. Mr Colin Hayes, a lecturer in road transport engineering at the college was keen to see Mr Setna employed as an assistant in the workshops. He said: "I am delighted that we have been able to offer Jimmy this opening and I know that his parents feel the same." (Brilliant news Jimmy!)

BIRTHS

Simon Everest At Sibford 1972-77 is still in Saudi Arabia where he is now Operations Manager at Mars. He says his spare time is fully occupied with the arrival of his first child - Stephen James who was born on 29th October 1993. He concludes by saying"I look forward to introducing Sharon (his wife) and Stephen to Sibford at some stage in the not too distant future." Congratulations to you both.

Susan Owen-Schlunke (nee **Owen**) At Sibford between 1978-85 produced a bonny bouncing boy, Jack, on 13th July 1994. Congratulations to Susan and Paul who are presently residing in Australia.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Jonathan Arkless (at Sibford 1976-83) married Barbara on 27th August 1994 at St. Mary's Church, Charlbury. We wish them best wishes for the future.

Martha Lewthwaite at Sibford between 1983-86 was married on 23rd July 1994 and is now Mrs Martha Desmond.

Helen Trathen who was at Sibford between 1980-85 got married to a Canadian in the summer and is now Mrs Helen Brown. Helen is now living in Vancouver where she is a nurse.

ALSO CONGRATULATIONS TO:

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Arthur and Margaret Dring who were married at All Saints Church in Harewood on 26th July 1944 and **John and Betty Thelton** who were married at Esher Meeting House on 20th May 1944.

RUBY WEDDING

Elisabeth and Ken Francis celebrated forty years of married bliss in April 1994.

SOSA EVENTS

MIDLAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES

For the first time, our New Year Party was held at lunch-time at Selly Oak Meeting House on January 29th. Some fifty people arrived for the delicious buffet lunch of cold turkey, salads, etc., followed by a selection of sweets, all ably organised by Irene Coxon-Smith and her band of helpers. Hugh Maw kindly showed us a video of various Old Scholars' events. Before leaving, 'Rockets' was performed.

In March, thanks to Sheila Trout obtaining tickets, a few of us watched 'Utopia Limited' at the Redditch Theatre, delightfully presented and greatly enjoyed.

In June, twelve Midland members visited the Malvern Theatre to see 'Home' with our dear friend, Paul Eddington, in the leading role. He came to speak with the group after the show.

July saw us gathering at the home of Mike and Wendy Finch in Tysoe. Our sincere thanks for their kind hospitality, especially for a table groaning with home-made cakes, sweets, pies and other mouth-watering goodies! Some visited the local church before Mike led a walk up Windmill Hill and back for tea.

Barbara Abercrombie & Hilary Haddleton

SOUTH WEST BRANCH MEETING



South-West Branch meeting at Paul Frampton's house

The South West Branch spent an enjoyable and sunny day at the home of Paul Frampton at Dillon Marsh near Frome. There were fourteen present including two from as far away as Cornwall and two recent leavers attending their first reunion with us. After a delightful buffet lunch the group paid a visit to 'Heavens Gate', a local beauty spot overlooking the Longleat estate. We returned to Paul's for a cup of tea and said our farewells after another pleasant day in each other's company.

Jeanne Southam

1960 PLUS 30 ODD

The rapidity of time makes this equation somewhat more imprecise than a mathematician would like. However it means that two small reunions were held during the summer by the form that left in 1960. The first was Carol Davis, Ruth and Pam Walton, Margaret Smart, Jenny Blow, Joan Connolly. The second was Carol Davis (again), Sue Kinnish, Sue Williams, Judith Farrant (and husband Tony), Tim Phillips, and Russell Steed (and friend Janet). They were held at easily booked venues of Wroxton Fields and Carol's home in Birmingham.

Over the past two years letters had been received from others and these were eagerly read for news of the between years. It had taken the two years to trace many of our year and to arrange to meet at a particular time and place. As well as exchanging news and tales of old, most were agreed that returning to the larger gatherings after so long was difficult because they were not sure if they would know anyone. In fact sufficient names were mentioned of those that regularly return for this fear not to exist.

Our lives had taken us into social work, personnel management, insolvency, engineering etc. A very large proportion of us had in very recent times experienced redundancy.

At the August Bank Holiday weekend several visited Sibford for at least part of the Reunion.

All were agreed on one thing, another reunion should be arranged. This is under active consideration for some time next year. We will be contacting all whose addresses we know. We do not yet know where all our year are. So, please tell us if you know of any of them. Thanks.

Russell Steed

1955 REUNION

We met at Meeting in the Gower one Sunday in October 1993. There were seven of us, all women, from the leaving year of 1955.

The idea of a reunion was first mooted the previous Christmas when one of us located another having visited the 1992 Old Scholars Reunion. This was Sylvia Williams, who met my second cousin, Bernard Blunsom, and obtained my address from him.

Sylvia and I decided to contact Old Scholars from our year with whom we were still in touch and bring us together. Between us we had contact with eight - one was unable to join due to a holiday commitment. When we finally met, we found that some of us had not met since we left Sibford 38 years ago!

After Meeting we exchanged news and experiences before going for a meal, where we continued to catch up on 38 years. The conversation was punctuated with, "Do you remember...?" and, "What happened to....?" Some had even brought along photographs of the years we spent together at Sibford.



Hilary, Anthea, Eleanor, Maggie, Judy (Heuthwaite) Judy (Williams). Photo taken by Sylvia

Once we had got over the greetings and finding out about each other, it was interesting to note that among us we had one housing officer, one nurse, two teachers and three social workers. We were all married or had been married, we all had children and some had grandchildren.

Soon we noticed the light was going and we decided to go and have a walk around the Old School and the Hill before

going our separate ways. All of us had been back over the years but there were still new developments to see.

On our way back from the Hill, we diverted into Holly House garden and chanced to meet the new Head and his family who gave us more news of the school.

It was a lovely day spent in a beautiful area that held a mixture of memories for all of us.

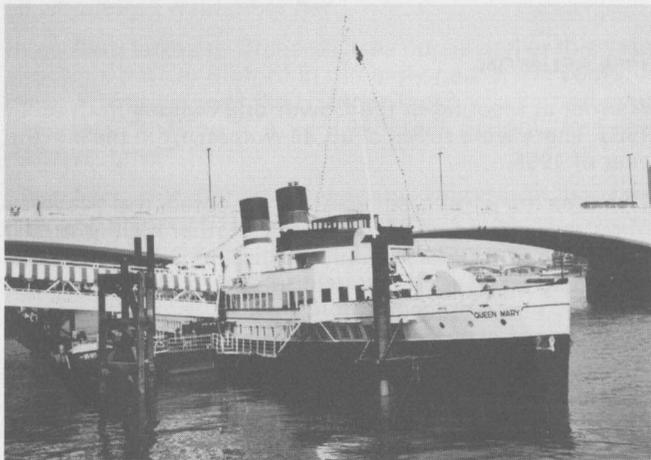
We plan to meet again in the future:

Judy Chester (nee Williams); Anthea James (nee Lunn); Hilary Mills (nee Naylor); Maggie Rhodes (nee Richards); Eleanor Smith (nee Blunsom); Judi Thorpe (nee Heuthwaite); Sylvia Williams (nee Webster).

Eleanor Smith

1994 LONDON REUNION

Once again Tim Gebbett and I arranged a reunion in London in July. This year we held the event on the T.S. Queen Mary which is moored on the Victoria Embankment near Waterloo Bridge. We were fortunate to have hot weather and so the sight of the Houses of Parliament and the South Bank made for a pleasant backdrop.



The T.S. Queen Mary, venue for the 70's reunion

During the previous six months we had continued our quest of tracing people aged, roughly, in their thirties to see if they would like to come along. Our efforts ranged far and wide as we discovered people in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand not to mention the Inner Hebrides and most areas in the U.K.



Tim Gebbett (far right) and friends congregate

The event was scheduled to start at noon and Tim and I awaited the first arrivals with interest. Although many people had confirmed in advance that they were coming along it is always unnerving waiting for things to start. It is particularly disconcerting when you have spent a long time chatting to people on the phone but you have no idea what they will look like now. Fortunately a lot of



Katherine Oxley, Nancy Ross and Paul Ross



Laura Elsmore, Geoff Greaves, Sarah Leeland, Alison Leeland, Louise Mitchell and Paul Schramm

people who came last year came again this time but at least half of the 150 old scholars who attended we had not seen for twenty years!

In any event people soon began to arrive from all points of the compass. We had arranged for a large private room with a bar attached and an open air deck so the noise of animated conversation rapidly grew as people's initial nerves were overcome. As the afternoon wore on old friendships were renewed and old adversaries were found to be quite pleasant after all. With the range of ages there were many people who were not at Sibford at the same time. This however didn't prevent people from mixing generally rather than just chatting amongst their own groups.



The Old Scholars gather on board the T.S. Queen Mary

As numbers began to dwindle some of us decided to move on. Tim and I had booked a table for twelve for dinner in a Chinese restaurant in Soho. To our surprise forty people decided this was a good idea and so in a convoy of taxis we decamped. Fortunately it was a large restaurant and so we were all accommodated, although what the other diners made of this noisy and happy group I'm not sure. From what we've heard everyone got home



Checking the school photo – "Did I really look like that"

safely although one unfortunate soul missed his last train and had to endure the night roaming the Kings Cross area in search of somewhere to wait for the first train on Sunday morning!

All in all it was a great day and Tim and I would like to thank everyone for coming along. We will be arranging a similar event, probably in June 1995. Should there be anyone we didn't manage to contact this year who would like to come, please let us know.

Ashley Shirlin

THE 1994 SOSA v SCHOOL SOCCER MATCH



The 1994 SOSA v School Soccer match, played on March 19th. SOSA won 3-1



The SOSA football team 1994

COMPETITION

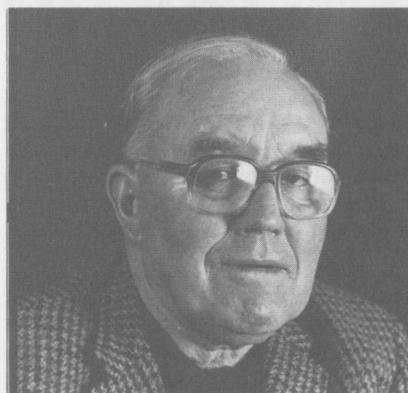
Win a years membership to SOSA. Find all the words in the puzzle below and send the completed wordsearch (or a photocopy) to the Editor, 2 Brick Row, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5ER. The first person to return the answers correctly will win the prize. (Owing to the nature of the rules, this competition unfortunately excludes life members as we cannot guarantee to add an extra year to your life!) Words can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally both forwards and backwards.



ROCKETS SIBFORD REUNION BRANCHES
 AGM MEMBERS PRESIDENT COMMITTEE
 SOSA ELM GOLDEN DOLL

OBITUARIES

FRANK ROLLETT



Frank Rollett died peacefully on the 11th November 1993. He was an Honorary Life Member of the SOSA and a former President.

Frank and his late wife Vera were SOSA legends. Frank's ebullience and zest for life will be sadly missed. Although his death

was announced in last year's Magazine it was not possible to include a suitable article at that time. Two Old Scholars have now written tributes in memory of Frank.

Mike Finch writes:

"Frank was a very special friend to me and I felt a great sense of loss when he died, having known him and Vera and their family for most of my life.

I suppose it is fair to say that as ex 'Brummie' patriots and life long supporters of Aston Villa we had very close connections!! We spent many happy hours attending Villa Park with Frank always suitably attired with camera, binoculars and hip-flask. Its a good job that 'frisking' at the turnstile is a fairly recent innovation!

Frank was born in Birmingham at Lozells near to where his father developed a building and decorating business which he eventually took over until he took early retirement in 1960 and moved to Sibford. He had been apprenticed to Bulpitts, a large Birmingham builder where he learnt all aspects of the building trade. These skills were certainly beneficial to Sibford when he led the SOSA team that built the cricket pavilion in 1960.

Frank's sporting prowess not only evolved around soccer but also at cricket at which he excelled, but a promising career was cut short by a serious injury in 1928. However this enabled him to take up the real sporting passion of his life - golf. He became secretary at the Tadmerton Golf club for a time when he moved to Sibford.

Frank was totally committed to make the most of life with the skills and talents that he'd been blessed with. He was passionately concerned with the environment and especially with trees to which he devoted a great deal of time in carrying out surveys in the locality as to how many different species there were and even plotting their location. He was also a considerable authority on ornithology and often went off on birdwatching expeditions to remote parts of the British Isles! His other talent for photography was of great significance to him in his ornithological role.

Although he was in his own words "an Old Scholar by proxy, having married into it!" he nevertheless became one of SOSA's outstanding sons having served on the Committee on many occasions culminating in the Presidency in 1977. After that he was for many years the SOSA/FOSS representative.

Frank's sheer enjoyment of life, his sense of fun and his companionship are qualities which I will always have the fondest memories of. Well played Frank and God bless."

Philip Manasseh also writes:

" I first got to know Frank in the early fifties. Local Old Scholars used to meet at his house in Heathfield Road in Handsworth where he ran the family business and where we usually met to rehearse the Midland Branch entertainment and where Vera in her own inimitable style would prepare refreshments. Frank had a good voice at that time and many will remember his rendering of the Arthur Askey songs like 'Flight of the Bumble Bee'!

The great surprise was his sudden and unannounced move to Holmby House and his closer involvement with the village and the School where his advice sought and otherwise on matters arboricultural was legendary. He did his best to save the old and nearly old Elm trees but in both was defeated.

He was a very good golfer spending his early days at Sibford as the Secretary at Tadmerton Heath Golf course. In this sport he was a perfectionist and like bird-watching it took over his life for quite a few years. He went to Bardsey to watch the Guillemots, sleeping rough but relishing the experience until he overdid it one year and had to be rescued!

He moved to Grassholm when Miriam Carter felt it was time to move on and it became the focal point for so many when meetings of the SOSA took place.

One of the later and most abiding memories to many, I'm sure, must be those Motor Treasure Hunt clues which defied logic but which made so much fun; that was Frank the tease!

When Frank became unwell he was looked after by Vera until her untimely death and he found difficulty in the inevitable transition that had to be made to a nursing home. In fact he was moved several times by his daughter, Loraine and finally settled in one at Chipping Norton.

Even in his advanced state of dementia his humour came through and he was able to summon up enough energy to give the staff a chorus or two as I recall on one of the visits I made.

We will always look back to his time with us with pleasure and gratitude."

It is with deep sadness that we list below the names of other Old Scholars and friends of the School who have passed on.

BERNARD W. BLUNSON At Sibford between 1925-30 died in Dundee Hospital on 29th September 1994 aged 81. Mavis Stiles writes: "This much loved Old Scholar worked in New Zealand for many years before returning to England to live in Dartmouth with his wife Jean. Bernard's love and connection with Sibford go back many generations being a first cousin of Arnold and Ena Lamb.

This quiet, reserved, smiling gentleman radiating an inner warmth and peace stimulated by the late James and Mabel Harrod, became a familiar face at Reunions in the eighties and early nineties. His letter-writing gave inspiration and pleasure to many and his memoirs of school days make fascinating reading. His late uncle, Roland Herbert encouraged his love of cricket and scoreboard knowledge of yesteryear.

A faithful Friend, it seems entirely appropriate that he now rests at the Gower burial ground in his beloved Sibford."

JOSIE CANNING Josie, who was at Sibford between 1939-44, died from a stroke on 3rd January 1994 aged 64. She had been ill for many years with severe diabetes.

The Canning family were very much a Sibford institution. Both Josie and her brother Michael attended the School. After leaving School they helped with the family milk business. Later and for many years they ran the local taxi service before ill health prevented them from continuing. Older OS will remember Joe Canning their father, who was the School's barber for a number of years.

Norman Coxon reported the death in February 1994 of **SHEILA CHUTER** (nee Tinsey). She was a contemporary of Norman's at Sibford in the twenties.

CONSTANCE COTTRELL (nee Mold) A Life Member who was at Sibford between 1917-21, died suddenly on 11th November 1993. Jeanne Southam (Constance's step-daughter) writes: "Constance was very proud of her family's association with Sibford. A distant relative was in the School when it opened under Richard Routh and her father followed under Robert Oddie and Constance herself came to Sibford in 1917 with James Harrod as Head.

Her first journey to Sibford was dramatic! Her parents took her to see the School - travelling from Bournemouth to Banbury by train with their bicycles in the guards-van but as Constance had no bicycle she travelled the eight miles from Banbury to Sibford on the handle-bar of her father's bicycle!

At Sibford she particularly enjoyed the communal life - the games and the walks in the lovely surroundings. After leaving Sibford she became a student teacher in her aunt's school in Ringwood and then a governess to a family in Bristol. In 1945 Constance married a Bristol widower, Harry Cottrell. She was delighted to find that one of Harry's daughter's had also been at Sibford!

Shortly after her marriage, Constance became involved in adoption work which gave full scope to her deep interest in people and her love of children. It was a great joy to her that the extended Cottrell family welcomed her as a grandmother - a role she played with understanding and distinction.

Constance was active in many fields enjoying particularly trips to France by car where she visited, with Harry, the sites where he had worked for the FAU during the first world war. She supported the South-West Branch of SOSA and attended some of the annual Reunions at Sibford but found that her group of peers was shrinking rapidly.

The extended Cottrell family remember her with fondness and affection. She was certainly a Sibford Old Scholar who made excellent use of her talents."

HAROLD CUNLIFFE died on 15th January 1994 having been at Sibford between 1926-30. Harold and his late wife, Connie, did much work for the mentally handicapped in Monmouth for many years before retirement.

ELSIE M. GREEN (nee Banford) At Sibford 1915-18 and a Life Member of SOSA, died peacefully 10th June 1994 aged 91 years.

DOUGLAS C. HARROD A Life member of SOSA and at Sibford between 1923-24 died on 1st October 1994. He was a nephew of the former Headmaster, James Tyler Harrod.

REGINALD WESTCOTT who was a teacher at Sibford between 1932-38 died on 26th December 1993 aged 84. Barrie Naylor who was a contemporary of Reg's writes: "Reg was a very good friend who will be remembered with affection for his efficient and enthusiastic teaching of French. After leaving Sibford he moved to Godalming Grammar School where he taught French, Latin and German for about 35 years. He was one of the few conscientious objectors who was allowed to continue teaching during the second world war. He and his wife Marion (nee Lee) were active members of Godalming PM."

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

JOINT PRESIDENTS: CHRISTOPHER AND PATRICIA GRIMES
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REP: ARTHUR W. HARRISON
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RETIRING PRESIDENT: T. IAN WEATHERHEAD
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IRENE COXON-SMITH 37 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath,
(No specified Ret. date) Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 4JW.
Tel. No. 01527 31857

SOUTH-WEST:
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GRACE MO c/o 26 Ashley Court,
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DEPUTY HEAD
SIMON C. HORSLEY Tel. No. (Office) 01295 780441

BURSAR
BRIAN MORPHY Tel. No. (Office) 01295 780441

HEAD BOY To be appointed

HEAD GIRL To be appointed

SCHOOL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. BRIAN HOLLIDAY 2 Hillfield, Sibford Ferris,
(Ret. August 1995) Banbury, Oxon.
Tel. No. 01295 780500

2. To be appointed
(Ret. August 1997)

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1994/95

SOSA v School Football Match 19th March 1995
Contact Brian Holliday to play.
Support on the touchline would
be appreciated!

Midland Branch New Year Party 28th January 1995
Selly Oak Meeting House, 12 noon
All are welcome.
Contact Irene Coxon-Smith

SOSA v School Cricket Match 21st May 1995
Contact Brian Holliday to play.

Sibford School Open Day 1st July 1995
Contact School Office
(01295 780441)

SOSA Annual Reunion 26th-29th August
Contact Julie Greenhill

(NB. Telephone numbers in the list of officers)

ATTENTION!

Are there any Old Scholars, of any age, who would be interested in organising a year-group reunion for their particular year? Funds may be possible to help organisers for appropriate projects, though the main requirement is a bit of hard work! Advice can be sought from the committee on organising such events.

SOSA TIES AND SCARVES

These are available from John Hughes
whose address is:

131 Farleigh Road
Backwall
Nr. Bristol
Avon, BS19 3PN

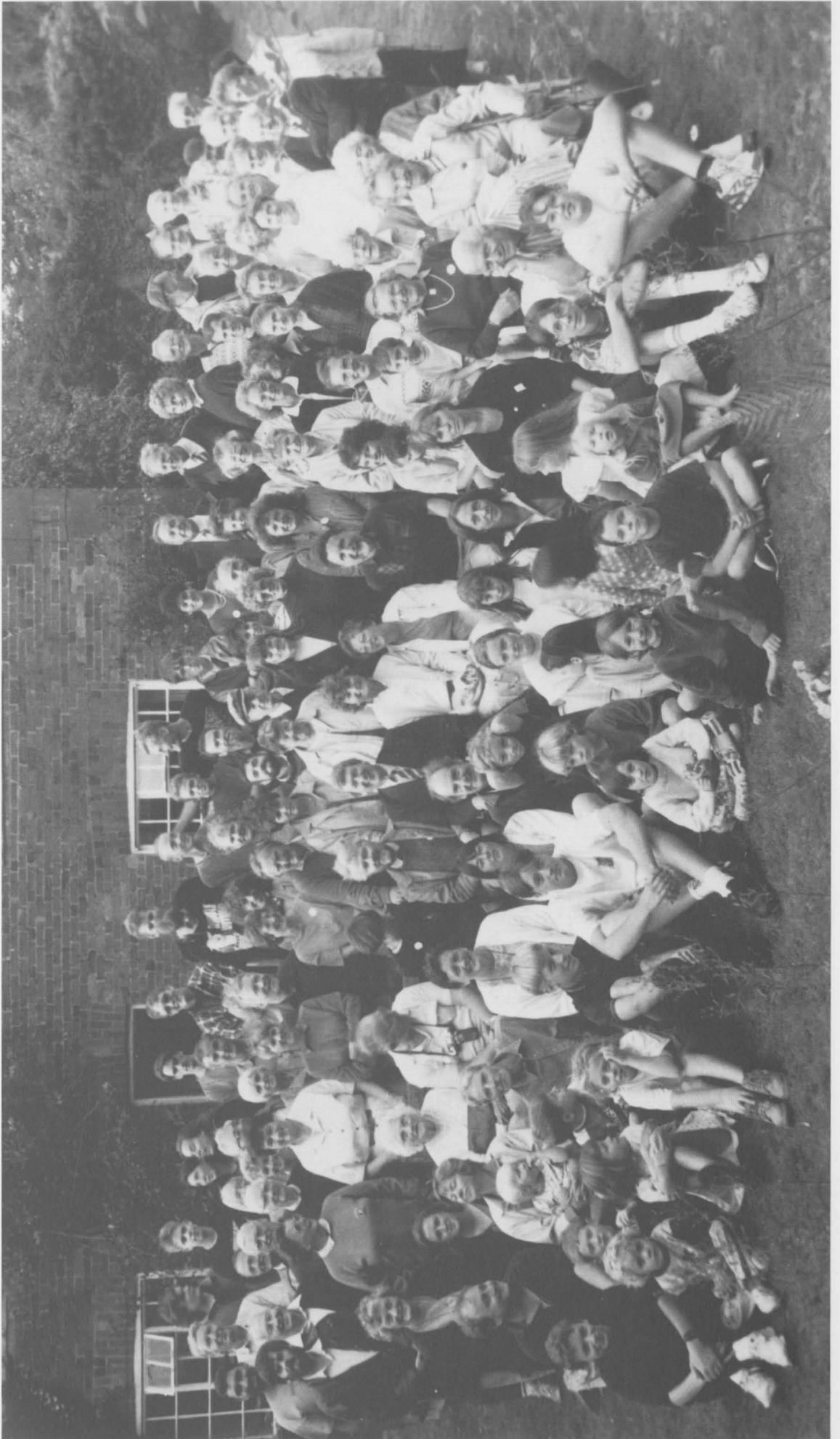
THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE AUGUST REUNION 1994

Amongst those attending the Reunion for all or part of the time were:

Ian, Christine, Richard and Mary Weatherhead, Chris and Pat Grimes, Mike, John and Chris Farr, Mike and Wendy Finch, Nick Bennett, Betty and John Thelton, Jim and Sue Thelton and the children, Beryl Powell, Harold Rose, David Smith, Julian Sandiford, Daphne and Hugh Maw, John Watson, Jan, Romy, Joost and Bryony Elias, Peter Yeoman, Pat Parsons, Claire Smith, Esther Jackson, Michael Van Blankenstein, Mavis Stiles, Anne, Peter, Charlotte, Adele and Daniel Rose, Moreen Budgeon, Margaret Fairnington, Diana Lloyd, Mike Ladell, Kay, Suzy, David and Roland Bohm, Loraine and Philip Brown, Janet and Joe Sewell, Philippa and Mark Harrison, Peter Pearce, Arthur and Pam Harrison, Leslie Harrison, Pam Smettem, Stephen and Mathew Cox, Chris Legg, Paul Levy, James Thompson, Norman Coxon, Tim Pye, Ethel Wright, Janet Williams, Russell Steed, David Laity, Jack and Monica Simpson, Jane Gunston, June Dawson, Ruth Aldworth, Guy Kingham, David Watling, Chris, Karen and Kathryn Coffin, Eleri Ricci, Hilary and John Haddleton, Don Ryan, Malcolm

Brown, Irene Coxon-Smith, Jeanne Southam, Adrian Douglas, Hugo Finley, David Haines, Ruth Gardner, Carol Davis, Margaret Shelley, Emma Bone, David Hand, Paul Frampton, Mark Mercer, Alan and Jeanné Little, Barrie and Sheila Naylor, Nigel Gates, Brian and Pauline Hooper, Barbara Abercrombie, Tom Evans, Hilary Waterfield and family, Nancy Pugmire and family, Mike Herm, Julie Greenhill, Caroline Bond, Ray and Ann Bond, Barbara Quinton, Jenny Macintosh, Andrew Lawrence, Ian Parsons, Philip and Rosamund Morris, Elizabeth and Naomi Cordiner, Robert Hockley, John Hughes, T.W. Wilkin, Clem and Margaret Cox, John, Susie, Mathew and Naomi Dunston, Clare Francis, Betty Friend, Marjorie Fielding, Stephen Burt, Margaret Le Mare, Ruth Fletcher, Irene Glaister, Simon and Isabel Horsley, Kate Long, Anne Muir, Bill and Doris White, Caroline Homan, Toby Jamieson, Tom Leeman, Ben Hedges, Jean Mills, Desmond and Margaret Rose, Jim and Joan Shields, Ashley Shirlin and family, Margaret Dale, Grace Beckerlegge, Richard Woodhall, Tim Gebbett, Cindy Poulton, David C. Smith, Eric Clements, Ian Hedger, Peter Pearson, Vicky Haworth, Afsheen, Richard Bruce.

THE AUGUST REUNION 1994





"YE MENNE OF SHEEPFORD WENDATH WITHERSOEVER THEY WILEN"

*Photo by Philip Morris - 'Climbing up to Tysoe Windmill'
(Midlands Branch Gathering)*

