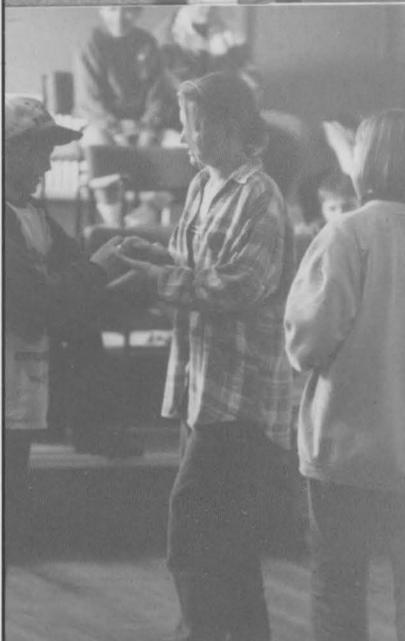
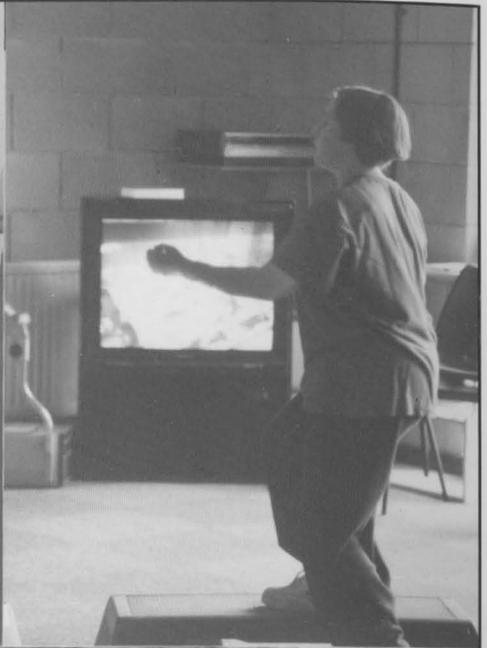




Sibford
1994 - 1995

ACTIVITIES



EDITORIAL

It was suggested to me once that everything one says about God, even after revelation, is more untrue than true. Mere words and human consciousness cannot encapsulate the Divine, even though they convey truth about it. Meanwhile, we journey on towards the beckoning Mystery who alone answers so many of the questions in our life.

Much is the same with our Magazine. It speaks truly of all that is Sibford, without even claiming to tell the whole truth (a difference with Religion, perhaps) about the living set of relationships and evolving patterns which make up

the tapestry which is Sibford. Please note the reference to our cover this year, once again a beautiful piece of pupil tapestry work.

The Magazine is the front of the tapestry, but behind it lie all the threads which went to make it up. My sincere thanks to all our contributors and to you, our readers, a warm welcome to these pages, in which it is our hope that you glimpse something of the reality which is Sibford and detect something of the Quaker ethos which gives it sustenance. For another year of achievement and service, we offer grateful thanks.

Seán Kenny

FOREWORD

FROM THE HEAD

I am very pleased to write a few words in introduction to the 1995 Sibford Magazine.

You will find in the pages that follow a glimpse of the remarkable range of activities and successes that have characterised the past year. It is certainly true that Sibford pupils have responded very well to the expanded range of opportunities available to them and that, at the same time, significantly more GCSEs were taken last summer than ever before, and with great success, too.

On the boarding side, the opening of Margaret Fell House represents a most important development in continuing the improvements of recent years in the quality of boarding life.

The new girls' boarding house inaugurates a major programme of upgrading in our boarding accommodation.

Support for the school from PSFA and SOSA is greatly valued, and the past year has seen a number of examples of fruitful co-operation which we look forward to seeing continue in the future.

I hope that you will find time to read both this Magazine and the Sibford Annual Report, which together give a fairly full picture of a very busy year. Through it all, we remain aware of the increasingly vital role represented by the school's Quaker values in the world today. It is a privilege for us all to be part of a community which is helping to share those values not only with each other, but with that wider world too.

Finally, my family and I would like to wish you all happiness and peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

John Dunston

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

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Front cover artwork. GCSE Textiles Weaving — Shula Granville. Yr 11.

ONE YEAR ON

Within a few days of arriving pupils were saying, 'Well Miss, do you like it here?' It was easy to say, 'yes' but after a very hurried year, perhaps you will allow me to reflect on what it is which makes Sibford so special to me. It certainly isn't the wind whistling round and through every corner of the Hill, nor is it those moments after the end of term when all the lost property has to be tidied away. But fortunately there are so many happy memories to blot those out.

If you go into Gillett at about eight fifteen in the evening you will see boys curled up on the sofas watching a comedy on the television, but never too engrossed to say, 'Hello, Miss' while another two will be playing snooker or perhaps challenging Paul Ludlow to a game of table-tennis; does he only lose while I am watching?

Up the Hill to Penn and there is rejoicing that, yet again, they have won the Rugby. Into Lister where the most unusual cuisine is to be found; the worst I can recall was a toasted sandwich which consisted of two dry slices of bread around a huge quantity of Muesli, 'It's quite nice really, would you like some?' Fortunately some of the other boys had been busy decorating the phone and laundry rooms so I make my excuses and go to watch the painting. And so I hurry on to Fielding where the real cooking goes on. If I judge the time right the aroma will greet me as I round the corner from the science block and a wonderful concoction of noodles, sauce and different meats will be simmering away.

This September my steps altered direction dramatically and it is across the field now to Margaret Fell which already has more posters, photos and ornaments than all the other houses put together. As the year progresses the sewing, art and hobbies will all reappear, I know. The best for me is that although all the houses strike one as being home they are all so very individual and each is justly proud of its distinctive features.

Another aspect of the year which has given me great pleasure has been to see so many trying out new skills for the first time. The first ever caving expeditions took place in the spring and, as I write some are going off to try out a climbing course in Gloucester. The roller skating weekends allowed well over a hundred pairs of feet to wizz round the Hall floor and Sibford pupils have bowled, swum, skated, ridden and driven in five counties during the Saturday evening activity slot.

The children bubble away with ideas and suggestions and we all hope that each year we will see a few more put into practice.

Caroline Homan
Deputy Head

THE SIBFORD SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Having completed my first year as Deputy Head with responsibility for the curriculum it seems appropriate to have been asked to review the past twelve months in the light of what is taught in the school.

The most significant curriculum event of the year (indeed possibly of the decade) was the publication of the details of the new National Curriculum. This "slimmed" version of the original curriculum has been welcomed in the school and will continue to form the basis of our own schemes of work. We will be continuing with our own long-standing policy of "shadowing" the National Curriculum. We are promised, by the powers that be, a five year period of stability in the organisation of teaching for pupils of compulsory school age (5-16). If this undertaking is maintained it will give all of us, pupils and teachers alike, a period of welcome stability after seven years of continuous change.

Closer to home Sibford pupils have continued to enjoy the breadth and innovation which have become a hallmark of our timetable. The PE GCSE course, started two years ago, produced its first set of, excellent, exam results. It is now an established part of the GCSE Options. Introduced a year later, Media Studies GCSE has now completed its first year. Pupils wielding camcorders are a familiar sight around the school. Is the next Quentin Tarrantino currently at Sibford?

Higher up the school the past year has seen equally important developments. Intermediate GNVQ has been established in the area of Business Studies and further strengthens the school's place as a leading centre of school-based vocational studies. Our range of A level subjects has further widened over the past twelve months. Business Studies and Geography have been added to our curriculum. Equally ground breaking for the school is the fact that we have, for the first time, a number of sixth form students studying three A levels.

A busy year and one which shows achievement across the board. With outstanding GCSE results in August we started the Autumn Term in good heart. Perhaps the best summary of our curriculum was given by the headline, at the end of August, in the Banbury Guardian—"Excellence at Sibford."

Simon Horsley
Deputy Head

WELCOME

DEBBY EVANS

Hi, I'm Debby. I am very much looking forward to working alongside many of you providing classroom support to LS pupils.



I am not only new to Sibford but also to Oxfordshire having moved here from Yorkshire, where I worked in a 9-13 Middle School, in May this year. I was born in London, married in Buckinghamshire, lived in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and, controversially perhaps, support Cambridge in the Boat Race.

I am married to Adrian (accountant) and have two children, Aimee (15) and Ryan (13). I enjoy watercolour painting, crafts of all kinds and entertaining. As a family we enjoy going to the outdoor last night of the Proms concerts and Adrian and I particularly like embarrassing our children by joining in the singing and waving the Union Jack!

My claim to fame is appearing on stage at the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford in panto with David Essex in 1991 and Russ Abbot in 1992 (I was NOT one of Cinderella's sisters).

HELEN EVANS

Having begun every day with a period of silent meditation since I taught science in a Welsh speaking school in South Wales, it is most refreshing to be working in a school where such an event is the norm.



I have taught in schools of all types including one in a small Canadian Rockies town, but never have I come across such a warm family atmosphere and to be surrounded by green rolling countryside seems almost too good to be true.

My career as a Science teacher was curtailed by my growing interest in matters metaphysical and philosophical and I became a teacher of relaxation techniques and meditation. I travelled the whole of the South and South West for several years, helping people to gain some peace of mind, but I missed teaching children. So, getting into Learning Support was a natural progression for me and I've been teaching children with learning difficulties for eight years.

Interestingly, there is a picture up in my room, Rm 25, of Gyllyngvase beach, the very scene that I saw from my living room window for the three years that I lived in Falmouth. It seems to be telling me I've come to the right place.

I have one daughter, named Luran, who is now nine years old and goes to Sibford Gower School where she was delighted to find some furry and feathery friends as well as the human variety. She is currently writing a play for her and her friends (mainly the human ones) to perform for charity.

We are delighted to be living in Sibford and look forward to many years of pastoral bliss.

JOHN HOWARD

I was born in Yorkshire and still have a strong affinity with the county, often returning to view the most glamorous football team in the world — Sheffield Wednesday!



After qualifying at Crewe and Alsager as a P.E./ Maths teacher I was continually on the move experiencing Prep. Schools and their established traditions, moving onto the less rarefied atmosphere of Millfield, St. Bedes and Kingham. Upon these travels I met Miss Right - Cathy - who became Mrs Howard and we now have four lovely but noisy children, Robert, Kate, Emily and William. Lately I undertook a Degree Course in Oxford in order to understand such new jargon as National Curriculum, Attainment Targets and Ofsted Inspections. I am confident that our time at Sibford will be enjoyable and that I will resolve the question of how to design a Sibford shirt that will stay in the trousers!

PATRICIA (PATSY) HOWES

I was born and still live in the village of Brinklow which is between Rugby and Coventry. After going to school in Rugby I spent three years at U.C.W. Aberystwyth where I gained a B.Sc in geography. I then spent two years as a laboratory assistant in art and physics at Exhall Grange Special School for partially sighted and physically handicapped children before going to Van Mildert College, University of Durham to do my P.G.C.E.



After teaching in various secondary and primary schools in the Rugby area I went to Ardenhurst School, Henley-in-Arden as Head of Junior Science, where I spent ten enjoyable years.

When not at school I enjoy singing. I am a member of St. Michael's Singers, Coventry, which includes spending Saturdays or evenings in cold churches recording hymns for the television. I also sing in the church choir of St.

Mark's, Bilton - on Sundays for services, on Saturdays in the summer for weddings.

Holiday time gives me a chance to travel. When not in Wales I am travelling north on land and sea to Scotland, Shetland, Nord Kapp [North Cape, Norway] and Iceland. Only very occasionally do I go south.

The winter sees me practising skiing on the dry ski slope in preparation for the snow somewhere.

The remaining free time is spent messing around in my part of the garden growing too many vegetables, banging and repairing holes in my Triumph 2000 Mk 1, playing with our Tibetan Terrier, Jay Jay and riding my motor bike.

BARBARA WALTERS

My own personal history is far too long to go into in any great detail, but let's just say that for the past 25 years I have lived and worked in the Blackheath area of London. My three children grew up and went to school there and when they left, I thought it was about time I did too. It was one of my daughters who works in Oxford who suggested living in Chipping Norton, so here I am living in Chippy and working in Orchard Close. It's certainly a great and welcome change from London, driving along country roads to school, working in a small and friendly community. It's a far cry from the 16 years I have just spent working in a comprehensive school of 2000 pupils.



A long time ago, after I left school, I spent 3 years studying in a Quaker college in the States at a place called Swarthmore. It seems fitting to me now that the wheel has come full circle and that I am once more amongst Friends.

FAREWELL

DAVID BLAND

David has moved on after his temporary appointment as Head of Fielding House to the same work with boarders at St. Michael's College. He was an energetic footballer on Saturday mornings and has left a fitness room in Fielding as testament to his work with the Sixth Form. We wish him well.

MICHAEL BURKE

In his two years at Sibford, Michael showed his humour and humanity to many both in the staff and classroom. He was never too busy to help and pupils were able to benefit from his enthusiasm for computers both within Religious Studies and Learning Support. He was an active member and leader of many school trips and his many interests meant that he was as likely to be found accompanying children to the Ice-Rink at Milton Keynes as taking the Year 7 on a pilgrimage to Jordans Meeting House or climbing Pendle Hill with the Sixth Form. He was always

ready to listen and to point out gently new approaches to pupils and a frequent refrain in September has been 'Well Mr Burke said...'

He came to us with a first class degree from Newcastle and so it came as no great surprise when he told us that he had been accepted to read for a higher degree and we hope one day to see a volume on Liberation Theology written by Michael on our library shelves. Thank you Michael for all you gave us and we wish you every happiness at Durham.

IRENE K. GLAISTER

Chairman, Sibford School Committee, 1990-1995

Tolerance, openness, a firmness of purpose and a capacity to listen are not the only qualities that characterise Irene Glaister, who has decided to bring her term as Chairman of School Committee to a close in December.

Irene's wisdom, tact, strength, compassion and guidance have contributed so much to the development of the school over the past six years. She has shown at all times what was once called "Servant Leadership" - modestly seeing herself as a servant of Committee and the community, yet by her words and actions, her vision and support, able to offer leadership from which all have benefited. When times were good, she was there; when times were hard, she was there too, her love for the school always a source of inspiration. She has been inexhaustible, her energy leaving us gasping.

Irene has exemplified the Quaker way. The school has been incomparably enriched by having had her as Chairman, and we will all miss her. We thank her for all she has brought to the school as a member of Committee and especially as Chairman, and wish her continued good health and happiness in the future.

MARIE HUGHES

Marie left us after some years working in the Modern Languages Dept. She lives not far away in Bloxham, so we hope to meet her from time to time. We thank her for her cheerful and conscientious work.

SIMON DAKEYNE

Simon left us after a hectic one term placement at Sibford. His zest and humour enlivened many a staff briefing and his badminton skills were considerable! We miss him.

JACKIE PENNY

Jackie joined Sibford in September 1993. In her two years at the school she was involved with many aspects of the community. She assisted Gill Manthorpe in Fielding, later becoming acting Head of Fielding for a time, and throughout her stay at Sibford, Jackie maintained a close involvement with the sixth form students. I will remember her "in the pink" after step aerobics with the sixth form girls!

Jackie was a member of the English Department, but it was perhaps as Head of Learning Support that Jackie made her particular mark. During her relatively short time at Sibford the Learning Support Department flourished. Jackie made a base for the Learning Support pupils and one of her innovative ideas was a trip to Bournemouth with the Year 7 and 8 Learning Support groups, which was very much enjoyed by everyone.

Jackie has left us to return to Newbury to be nearer family and friends there. Her narrow boat "Gloriana" has also moved to the Kennet, hopefully without any stowaway wild mink on board! We hope that Jackie will remember her many friends amongst the pupils and staff at Sibford. Good luck for the future, Jackie, and thank you.

ORCHARD CLOSE

In September 1994 we commenced with twelve boarders and Beth Banning as the new Senior Matron. Other staff changes occurring during the year were that Dorothy Griffiths, assistant Matron, had retired after working over 16 years in Sibford School with the last five in Orchard Close and Christine Jones, weekend Matron, had decided to return to college. She is attending Ottley College, Suffolk to study organic horticulture. We wish her well in this new venture.

The year was extremely interesting with the addition of boarders from the Lebanon, the Philippines and various parts of the U.K. The numbers increased as the year progressed. Beds were rarely empty because of the introduction of Flexi-boarding. This has proved very popular with both pupils and parents.

Each year the pattern of life in Orchard Close changes. This last year there were few full boarders. Consequently they joined many of the larger organised weekend trips with senior school.

However, they all still enjoy being outside. A new interest was gardening, and the attractive border display in front of one of the Orchard Close classrooms was a result of the boarders' and Beth's hard work.

Once again the year starts with reduced full boarding numbers, but Flexi-boarding continues to be even more popular than last year. This is because the catchment area for Orchard Close continues to expand. Parents living in Oxford, Burford and even further afield appreciate the break in the driving routine mid week. Thursday Night is always full house in Orchard Close.

The boarding house is indeed the heart of Orchard Close. The school community benefit from the homely caring atmosphere of the boarding house and Senior Matron Beth. We've found the secret to attract boy boarders (we're not letting on). However please send us your daughters. We seem to attract pony lovers here. Over a quarter of Orchard Close children ride and have access to ponies.

Modern dance is also a popular activity, along with trampolining! Our hopes for the year are that we continue to flourish and fill all our beds!!

The weekends this term have been great fun with lots of new and exciting ventures in the offing. We consider weekend activities to be a very important part of the boarding life and endeavour to make them as varied as possible.



Chinese New Year, with Christine Chin from the Commonwealth Centre



OC Y6 on top of Cader Idris, Wales

Youth Hostelling

A wet weekend in February saw Year 4 and 5 off to Wales to St. Briavels Youth Hostel in the Forest of Dean for an overnight visit.

On the journey down to the forest we crossed the River Severn and headed for the shelter of the visitors centre to escape from the torrential rain. The exhibition showed how the local people had exploited the resources of the local area to make use of the natural reserves of slate and woodlands for coppicing. We were able to walk through a reproduction of a mine shaft and follow the history behind the development of the industry and also the subsequent decline.

In the grounds there was a working water mill and a traditional miner's cottage complete with a lit fire much to the delight of the adults. Whilst outside Lorraine Jack was hanging head first into the pig pen trying to persuade them to leave the dryness of their shelter for her to stroke them! Then to our horror the children made their biggest discovery. That of probably the biggest and certainly the wettest adventure playground that I had seen for a while! Having spent time persuading them to get out of the minibus to run to the centre entrance, it was all we could do to keep up with the slowest children as they ran headlong through mud and puddles to the chain bridge and swings that hung dubiously over large and growing pools of rainwater.

It was some time later when we watched the now wet and bedraggled group climbing into the bus and could hear the calls of "I'm Wet" and the obvious replies of "Well, we told you so" and "Oh dear! What a shame". To this chorus we headed for the Youth Hostel. There the children helped make their suppers, creating some wonderful Chocolate dessert that they had tried out in Food Tech and followed this by washing up and getting the coffees!

The hostel, a converted 13th century castle, dominated the small village. The drawbridge and keep gave a great entrance to the building. The original rooms still existed, the sitting and games rooms providing tremendous settings for the numerous spooky tales told through the night. Probably not setting us up for a sound night's sleep and to make things 'better', we slept in what was 'The Chapel' and more enthralling, or perhaps not, 'The Hanging Room'!!

The following morning we were given a very interesting tour around the Hostel. We saw each of the rooms and the Warden shared various tales with us that guaranteed no sleep at all if told late at night! Most intriguing were the visitors that were last seen making a rapid exit from the hostel in the middle of the night one month after seeing several strange figures in the room they were sleeping in! Luckily the only strange sights we met were that of Daniel and Cameron first thing on Sunday morning.

We completed our visit to the Forest with a long walk and climb from East Yat up to Yat Rock and saw spectacular views over the River Wye and the valley. Following the rain from Saturday, we walked and slid our way back along the footpaths to the river bank in glorious sunshine for lunch before heading back to School.

Orchard Close — School

Orchard Close celebrated its fifth birthday in November. Many old scholars and their parents returned for an enjoyable re-union. Mary Bennett, who was the first teacher appointed to Orchard Close with the remit of establishing the Junior School, was given the honour of blowing out the candles on the excellent cake baked and decorated in the school kitchens.

The fifth year also saw pupil numbers exceeding fifty. The trees in the Orchard have produced a bumper crop of apples this year. The school appears to be doing the same: the first children who entered Orchard Close have recently successfully completed their GCSE exams.

September 1994 - July 1995 has not only been a year of rapid growth but one of change. Mary Bennett went on extended sick leave just before Christmas. Wendy Wilkinson, who was teaching part time in Orchard Close, became a temporary full time teacher for the next two terms. Wendy brought with her an enthusiasm for art, drama and information technology. She would often be found talking to the computers long after school hours.

Gill Newbold continued to bring her zest for sport into Orchard Close. She has instilled great confidence in all the swimmers. She has also initiated many into the joys and thrills of the trampoline.

In September we welcomed Patsy Howes to the staff of Orchard Close as Key Stage Two Core Curriculum Co-ordinator. We wish her a successful and enjoyable time at the school.

Changes have also been experienced in the curriculum. All the Year 6 children participated for the first time in the National SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) for end of Key Stage Two.

These tests were externally marked. We were all extremely pleased with the results and greatly relieved when the entire process was completed.



Chris Watts and Laurence Jones, C.A.T. June '95

The Year 6 Transition Programme, now an established part of Orchard Close curriculum, continued to flourish. This year Senior Teachers involved were:

Science	Lyn Usher Chris Cox
Food Technology P.E.	Sarah Spittle Graham Thomas Tracy Knowles
Music	Mark Paine
R. S.	Michael Burke
French	Marie Hughes
Information Tech.	James Bond

Many educational visits were made throughout the year. Highlights were probably the Science Museum, London, the Big Bash, Birmingham, Wiggington Wild Fowl Sanctuary and Chipping Norton Pantomime.

The Big Bash was a memorable experience ending with a group of pupils appearing on 'Blue Peter'.

A day on a canal boat on the Oxford Canal was provided by parents. As it was an idyllic summer day I'm sure that is one memory which will last.

Another former parent paid for the Little Angel Marionette Theatre Company to visit the school.

Sports Day and Open Day benefited from glorious weather. On Open Day as visitors walked from 'The Piece' car park they were welcomed by the singing floating through the windows of Orchard Close. Mark Paine was conducting part of a sample music lesson. Other items were drama sketches, camping displays, creative music making and number trails. The afternoon ended with group co-operative games under the parachute. Lots of fun and giggles from everyone after a busy day.

Just before the end of term, Lynn Mather, an ex Orchard Close pupil in the Senior School, organised some fund raising events for the Orchard Close Charity. Lynn is working towards gaining her Queens Guide award.

Strawberry and cream teas, a mini fete and fun sports held during the lunch hour raised £120. The money has been sent to Ipetu Modu Handicapped School, Nigeria. The year in Orchard Close commenced with a visit from Sister Mary, the Catholic nun in charge of the school. She was on her three yearly holiday to U.K. She came to meet and talk to the children here who help to support her school. Many of the pupils in her school are victims of polio.

The wonderful gift of the Adventure Playground has given so much pleasure to all the children in Orchard Close. Parents, friends, pupils and old scholars have all contributed. The playground has also become part of the transition programme. Many of the Year 7 children return to play and chat with their former school friends in Orchard Close.



Swing — Adventure Playground

Every year we try to convey the atmosphere of Orchard Close, but invariably it sounds as if it's all play and no work. This year it was decided that the usual Activity Week would be replaced by a week at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales. We had the brilliant idea that the children should also travel by an alternative form of transport. We planned months in advance to use British Rail; tickets were booked. On the morning of departure a phone call was made to confirm connection times in Birmingham. Imagine the horror and dismay when we were told this Sunday had been selected as the only one in the year when the train we had booked would not be running because of repairs to the line. After frantic re-organisation a school bus and car took the group to Birmingham where they caught their train to Wales. An exciting activity week was enjoyed. The return trip by train was made with no complications.

Gail Mills, Lynn Usher and Daniel May, our Australian Student, were the accompanying members of staff. Daniel has been a wonderful asset to Orchard Close and his enthusiasm for sport has been conveyed to our pupils.

In the entrance to Orchard Close our large tree is used for display. Any newspaper articles relating to pupils' achievements such as Kitty Cowell's Poetry prize are proudly displayed. Imagine our surprise one morning when we walked in to see a newspaper cutting on the board "May Scores 100". This was how we learnt that Daniel was enjoying English Village Cricket. We always like having an Australian student in Orchard Close and will be sorry to say goodbye at Christmas.



Kitty and her prize

The Autumn term has just commenced and already we are busy preparing for a concert "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo" to be performed in October. I've also heard girls discussing what they are going to wear to the Christmas Ball!! I realise that as I come to the end of this article I've forgotten to mention the activities of last Christmas!

Yes - we did have a party and Christmas event. The children baked two huge Christmas cakes and mountains of mince pies for the party. They provided entertainment the highlight of which was a colour fashion parade. The baking of the Christmas cake will commence in the first week of October under the expert direction of Gail Mills.

Life is always full and varied in Orchard Close. We endeavour to provide a broad based, challenging curriculum in a caring stimulating environment.

Elizabeth Young
Gail Mills
Beth Banning

SAILING CLUB

Every Monday evening Sibford pupils can be seen trailing Toppers and Otters from their storage bases to the concrete beach at Farmoor Reservoir. Since Easter the groups from year 6 to 9 have spent their evenings learning the skills required to rig, launch and confidently sail a dingy single-handed. Sailing continues through to the Autumn half term, hampered only by inclement weather and strong winds.

Sailing a small craft demands balance, coordination and the ability to look ahead and predict what may be ahead of you, steering clear of other boats all whilst remaining upright! For all the children (and Staff) that have been to Farmoor this has not always been a straightforward task. Each person has experienced many emotions ranging from fear of capsizing, confusion in trying to sail away from a lee shore, through to excitement and exhilaration of 'getting it right' and racing across the water in control of their craft.

For many the most worrying moment is when the children are asked to capsize and right their dingys in a routine exercise in the bay area. Surprisingly enough it is usually the most confident that end up taking a dip as the less adventurous listen and succeed on their first attempt and remain completely dry - as we are told all good sailors do!

Camping has once again been supported well in Orchard Close by all the pupils and parents alike. Maybe the enthusiasm of the latter is due to the thought of an evening or two away from their offspring. However if this is the case they are rebuffed when the children return somewhat muddier, tired and grumpier due to excess fresh air, frequent rain and lack of sleep!

Whatever the conditions and location all of the pupils in O.C. have taken part in at least one night's camping this last year. We have used Cranham Woods, in Gloucestershire and closer, Horley Scout Camps. We are always made welcome and have made contact with other groups on the sites, joining up for evening activities and sharing campfires.

The emphasis is placed upon enjoying the experiences of being in the outdoors. Opportunities are given for each child to explore the local area and woodland, making the most of the facilities available. Much of the children's time is spent entertaining themselves and they also have several jobs to do including collecting firewood, washing up and preparing meals. In Gloucestershire we try to go on a longer walk away from the campsite through the woods and up on to the hillside that provides panoramic views over Painswick and Cranham villages.

Our camps last from Friday evening until Sunday late afternoon, which to be honest is long enough if you are a member of staff, but if you happen to be ten or eleven another three days would be nice! As I write this, plans are under way for our October Camp with year 6; one wonders that we will ever get to Christmas! Probably not with everything we left with, but I am sure that the fun we all have is worth every minute of each sleepless night that we have!

Gail Mills

HOUSE REPORTS

FIELDING HOUSE

Howards End or is it just the beginning?

The new term at Fielding, just four weeks and three days or so ago, started with a bit of a bang, or should I say CRASH, as one unfortunate member of the house nearly fell through a window within hours of returning. But, in truth, the feeling in the air was just the same as it had been a year previously.... If you were a Lower Sixth (a mere spring chicken!) you usually felt fairly confident and optimistic about the coming year. After all, no more science lessons, only G.N.V.Qs, D.V.Es, A levels and A/S level courses from now on. No more queuing at lunch times: at last the well deserved privilege of 'pushing in' was now granted! No more school blazers or allocated school uniform. And the extra bonus of a MIXED HOUSE, with the possibility of having your own room!!!! Generally speaking, as a Lower Sixth you would probably be thinking that life couldn't be any better, although, of course, it might have been just perfect if your best mate hadn't left!

But, if you were an Upper Sixth, your thoughts might have been slightly different and rather controversial in comparison! As an average Upper Sixth, you would probably be thinking that life might start deteriorating soon-ish after all the really groovy people from last year had left! After all, you, like many people in Fielding, had made friends with every one of them. You also took most of your privileges for granted, and you would have been praying that, once school had started, you weren't on duty on a fish and chip day!!

But since those four weeks and three days have passed, most people's interpretations and expectations have changed fairly dramatically. The foundations for strong friendships have been laid, you're not on school duty on Friday, thank God, and, having spoken to a first year who's waited ten minutes to get his fish and chips, maybe you've realised that you're pretty lucky to be able to jump ahead! And you come to the conclusion that maybe Fielding's not too bad after all!

And finally, for those who are slightly bemused by the title of this piece, obviously you have not yet been introduced to Fielding's youngest and (dare we say...) oldest inhabitants: The Howards. Yes, all six of them, ranging in a variety of different sizes from one foot six to six feet five! All of them can be spotted in and around Fielding at some time or another during the day.

Written and edited by a group of tired, but happy people.

MANOR HOUSE

At the end of last year the Manor girls kindly welcomed young girls from Sweden and Germany from two or six weeks to experience the English Boarding School way of life. It was a good chance for them to top up their English and for us to make many new pals!

Sadly we all had to say our goodbyes to the Australian students (Jenny, Jerry, Zac) who helped us all through tricky times. In return we received the new student Catherine Cole.

Right at the end of the year we were all frantic about moving into the new house, Margaret Fell. Some of us were looking forward to it and some of us not! There was Miss Spittle clearing out the kitchen, Mrs Norton with her office and the girls vacuuming under their beds. But it was all happily finished with strawberries and a bit of gossip!

Kathryn Knowles, Kate Hobby, Eleanor Salmon
Year 9

Girls' boarding at the Manor as it is now called will be coming to an end after these two terms. It will be a very strange feeling to leave the old house and set up again in a purpose built dwelling - but the upside is that of course space will be limited so they have to be tidier. The showers will work - they'll be hot - and oh the luxury of ready heat - what will the Year 11's be missing.

The Year 11's have been studying very hard and did achieve very pleasing results with their GCSE. Laura Brown and Emma Lunnon are staying at Sibford to study A Levels. Ellen has joined St. Edward's Oxford to study A Levels. Judith has returned to Ealing and is studying 3 A Levels. Amy has moved on with her family to China to continue her higher education. Shelley is studying Art and Design at home and Shula studying A Levels in Cambridgeshire. Sylvia was accepted at the National Youth Theatre in London and is also studying Art at Bristol - we wish them all well for the future.

Lesley Norton
Senior Housemistress

MARGARET FELL HOUSE

Margaret Fell was often described as the Mother of Quakerism, and had a very strong influence in the early days of Quakerism as the Religious Society Friends struggled for recognition. We do not think that our new house named after Margaret Fell will have to struggle for such recognition.



The scene in the House for Thursday morning Meetings.

Preparation of Margaret Fell House got well under way in the summer holidays. Mrs. Norton was busy before the end of term choosing materials and colours that we all agreed upon. As soon as we returned we were all so pleased with the fresh appearance and homeliness of Margaret Fell House. The atmosphere feels really good.

Apparently we did have a laundry room but this soon disappeared to make way for new arrivals. However, we



Some serious TV viewing in the common room.

do have a new dishwasher which was kindly given to us by Di Howes from proceeds of second-hand uniform. The house really does have a cosy feel to it, and we are gradually getting used to the stiffness of the fire doors which are doing wonders for our biceps.

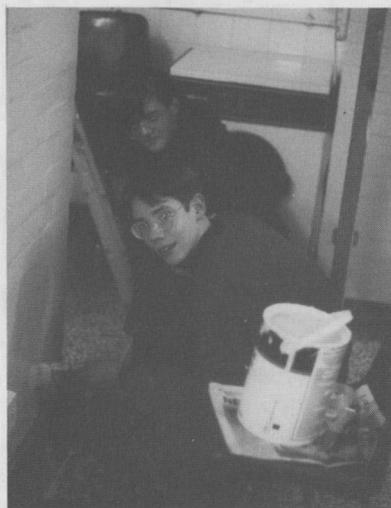
During the year we said goodbye to Caroline Lovejoy, Di Howes and Sarah Spittle and thank them for all their care. We welcome Alison Pearce who is also attached to Gillett House.

Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Gregory are the heart of the house and work so hard for us. From all in Margaret Fell House we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their kindness and generosity. Thanks.

Catherine Gornall. Year 11

LISTER BOYS

Lister Boys have had a very active year. We decided in the summer term that our Common Room, Telephone/Laundry Room and the Landing, Hall and Stairs were in desperate need of a coat of paint so we decided to set about doing this in our leisure time. Many pupils gave a hand and learned much from the experience, not least that this is hard work and needs looking after, but the results are really appreciated by all living in the house. This term we have removed all the old ironmongery dating from 1961 from the boot room and redecorated this too.



Andrew Gunnett & David O'Donahoe helping to paint Lister Boot Room.



Lister Hobbies Area!

few pupils become interested in these activities our participation is justified.

We spent all our house funds this year on a new midi hi-fi system enjoyed by all, not least in our weekly house meetings which have been uplifting, humorous, serious and enjoyable, not necessarily in that order.

This term too we have joined the Young Ornithologists branch of the R.S.P.B. and receive much interesting educational material from this organisation. We built and situated six bird boxes for our surrounding paddock in the spring and two were successfully used by blue tits. We are members also of Sustrans, the organisation promoting new cycle ways in Britain and they too provide much interesting information. If only a

We continue to be actively involved in sponsoring our school in Ghana. Many letters, photos and news have passed to and from this year and we have been gladdened by the news that Enoch Mani has been married to Comfort and that they are expecting their first baby. We were all invited to their wedding but were unable to attend! We did send a wedding gift however and a further £200 for the school. We will have to have a serious "Sale of Goods" this year in order to keep supporting them.

Stuart Hedley

W.E.C. Mission
P.O. Box 5150
Accra North
Ghana

15th August 1995

Dear Stuart and Yvonne,

Enoch passed your letter, photos and all the school information on to us. It brought back many memories. We both wanted to say how much we appreciate the on-going support of Lister House Boys and yourselves. Without it, the Kpassa School may have collapsed by now.

We recently returned to Ghana after three years absence when we were home for the children and while tribal wars went on here. We have been to Kpassa and spent quite a bit of time at the school. It is thriving with 149 pupils, all eager to learn. A teacher's paradise! We are in the process of making an application for O.D.A. funding from the British High Commission for the erecting of a purpose-built school. They had to move from their original site due to 'politics' (jealousy from a local authority school next door). The land registration for the new site is all complete now and plans drawn for a 6 classroom block, with teacher's office, storeroom and library. We have been assured the project will most likely be accepted.

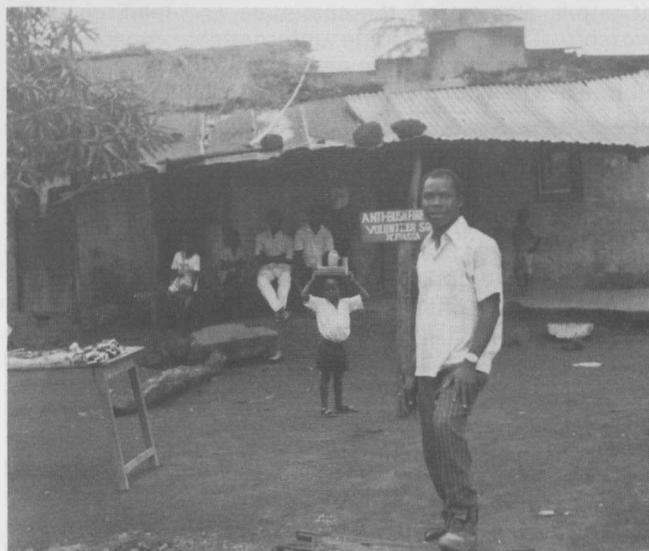
Thank you for all your help over many years. We will personally deliver the magazine, photos etc. to the school and ensure the money gets to them and to Enoch speedily.

With kind regards,

David and Sue

Extract from a letter from David and Sue Frampton, ex parents who introduced us to Kpassa School originally.

For several years now, Lister House has supported this school in Ghana. The following is an extract from a letter dated 26-6-95 from Enoch Mani, the teacher. If any of our readers feel they would like to help support this venture, please contact Stuart Hedley, Housemaster of Lister.



Enoch outside his father's house. This gives an idea of the situation in a typical Ghanaian village.

Dear Stuart, Yvonne and Lister Boys

Thanks to you so much for the wonderful wedding card you sent us. It was really nice.

We had a wonderful day on the 26th February 1995 and we are now four months old in marriage. Comfort and I are experiencing many changes. We thank the Lord for your prayer support.

Comfort has been pregnant since April. She may give birth in October or early November. Please continue to keep us in prayer. The cost of living is high in Ghana.

We appreciate the support you all give to the school- ECG Primary - and to me and my wife. Thanks in advance for the gifts, letters and magazines you are planning to send to us.



The wedding day - signing the certificates.

Enoch and Comfort Mani.

GILLETT HOUSE

'We have a TV, video, new sofas and modern stools' — this is how Oliver Holmes, a Year 8 boarder, described Gillett when asked to write about the House. Oliver's description illustrates our rolling programme of House improvements is still rolling, making Gillett feel more and more like a second home to our pupils, but there is more to Gillett than its nice sofas and stools; there's that 'at home' feeling you get when you come back after school. This is due mainly to the hard work of our pupils in making the House a friendly, relaxed place to 'hang-out'.

1995 was a good year for Gillett with some great sporting achievements. We were the winners in junior cross country, rugby and football, but it wasn't only Gillett teams that did well; some of our pupils had great personal success. Adam Bell was first over the line in the Inter-House cross country; Chris Oram set new School records in discus and shot; Alex Li and Keigo Harada were selected to represent the area in athletics, just to recall a few.

The highlight of each week for me has been our Thursday morning House Meeting for Worship, with not only staff taking it in turn to speak or lead the meeting but a number of pupils also taking the challenge and leading us for worship. This led to some unforgettable meetings this year including Simon Dakeyne's 'Spider in the Bath', Oliver Holmes' 'On Tour in Africa' and Alison Pearce's 'Four Seasons'.

For the first time since Gillett re-opened in 1993 we have appointed a House Captain and two Deputy House Captains who will help staff run a smooth ship. Already Joe Boucher (House Captain), James Wringe and Alex Li (Deputy House Captains) have got off to a good start and have shown themselves to be full of potential.

It just remains for me to say thank you to all the staff and boys for yet another year of their friendship and support, and I look forward to many more years to come.

Thank you Gillett and thank you Oliver for pointing out that we have a nice common room.

Paul Ludlow

PENN HOUSE

Another year has come around and Penn has settled to a comfortable routine under its new management. Assistant Housemaster Tony Skeath has brought a wealth of experience to the job and Richard Hutchinson has played a valuable role as non-resident 'third man'.

Interior furnishings have been further extended by the kind donation of a second sofa by Jane Carroll, who leads the school laundry team. A reserve washing machine has also been given to the house should our venerable original model cease to respond to the engineer's regular attentions.

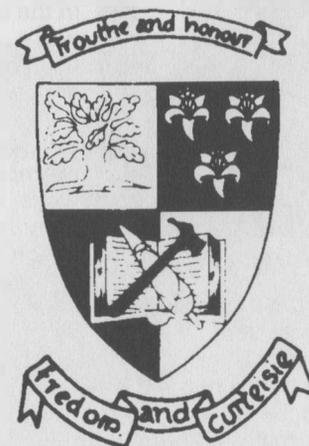


Penn House celebrate!

On the games field Penn has maintained its tradition of strong sporting commitment. The House won both the Rugby Cup and the Athletics Cup with individual achievements at all age levels. Two of our boys, Artur Glover and David McMahon, also went on to represent the County in Athletics. Jon-Paul Hewick and Jonathan Snow made useful contributions as House Captain and Deputy and we welcome James Hicks, Alex Wong and Merlin Davis to their new posts of responsibility for the coming year. Francis Surry is co-ordinating our sporting activities this year.

Socially we have held a number of celebratory bun-fights with food prepared by Penny Spring and the obligatory video to follow. We rounded the year off with a garden party to which we welcomed our attached staff whose support throughout the year has been most welcome. 1996 holds much promise for Penn.

Mike Spring



AROUND THE CAMPUS

ART AND DESIGN

The last year has seen the flowering of much previously hidden talent in the department. Pupils have experimented with a wide variety of materials and techniques to produce interesting and original pieces.

Coursework throughout the school has featured a strong emphasis on researching particular fields, developing personal responses and acquiring the appropriate skills to express them. Junior classes have worked to gain a working understanding of such art terms as shape, tone, colour, line, perspective, texture, pattern, composition, form, abstract and figurative. These notions have been explored through project work which has included the carving of medieval style gargoyles, casting wall tiles, landscape painting, stained glass window making, lino cut book illustrations, designing nursery equipment and modelling mythical creatures.

The GCSE groups have been kept busy producing the three units of coursework necessary for their final displays. The subjects of these personal projects have ranged from studies of the internal structure of a red pepper to the construction of a monumental figure made entirely from scrap motorcycle parts. Particularly memorable pieces from the 1995 Open Day outdoor exhibition were the carefully crafted shell-forms carved by Sylvia Cohen, the powerful stone carving of a tribal head by Leo Buckingham and the massive mythical bird of Theresa Jack which stood almost six feet high at the entrance to the sculpture garden. In-depth studies of well known artists led to much inspired work in both two and three dimensions. Notable were Anna Wheeler's "after Van Gogh" portrait and Jessie Kenna's perceptive study of Barbara Hepworth following a visit to her Cornwall studio and to a major retrospective exhibition of her work at the Liverpool Tate.

Studies at Advanced Level led to a pleasing diversity of approaches to the set themes. Peter Mace, Tom Sutcliffe and Kevin Keung chose to specialise in sculpture, extending the range of their work to include examples of casting, carving and modelling. Visits to the Tate Gallery, the Mead Gallery at Warwick and the Royal Academy in Piccadilly have helped to enrich the students' experience of the world of Fine Art. Edmund Yip and Noel Chau produced work of outstanding quality, particularly with their studies of Modigliani and Picasso.

The summer examination provided the students not only with the opportunity to mount an exhibition of their best work, but also to tackle a final project set by the Board. The topics offered were both stimulating and wide ranging, thus allowing for much free interpretation. 'A' level students achieved a 100% pass rate, while GCSE grades A-C were gained by 91% of the entrants.

Open Day provided an excellent opportunity to site some more sculpture in the walled garden, and by a sympathetic placing of pieces amongst the plants and shrubs so carefully nurtured by the Horticultural Department, many appreciative comments were received from visitors. The scheme to develop the Manor area as a sculpture garden is an on-going one, with new work and new planting schemes constantly evolving. Cross-curricular links of this kind are particularly exciting and provide incentive for creativity in all areas involved.

With the support of parents and friends of the school, the department has benefited from a number of gifts of tools and materials, and it is hoped that links with local practising

artists and craftspeople can be forged in the coming years. I have been delighted to hear of so many Sibford pupils who have gone on to extend their Art education beyond school, some of whom are now successfully making their living from their talents. To all graduates of the department we send our best wishes, and exhort you to keep in touch. It would be fascinating to include an article in a future Sibford Magazine following the artistic careers of Old Scholars. I frequently recall the words of James Harrod who extolled the virtues of the teaching of practical and manual skills to complement what he called "exclusively bookish forms of instruction". Long may Sibford's distinctive blend of education live.

Mike Spring

BUSINESS EDUCATION TODAY

Business Studies is nationally one of the most rapidly expanding academic and vocational subjects. It is obviously relevant to a wide variety of specific careers, but is also useful as a general entry requirement for Higher Education.

Business Studies at Sibford is now well and truly established - the area still proving to be a popular choice for students at KS4 embarking on GCSEs, at Post 16 level for GNVQ Awards and also A Level Studies.

This year saw 28 students entered for the GCSE with the results as follows:-

There were 21 male and 7 female students

11 students were SpLD students - 10 male and 1 female - From this group 1 student was awarded an A, 2 students B and 4 students received C grades. 2 students were EFL students - both male

Analysis of results:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Male	2	3	3	6	4	1	2	-
Female	-	2	3	-	1	1	-	-
Overall	2	5	6	6	5	2	2	-

Whilst not wishing to single out any student specifically, I was very pleased with the results overall, and hope that all students will have benefited from their course which aimed to give them understanding of the relationship between business activity and the environment within which it takes place, and of the structure, organisation and control of the main forms of business.

Indeed, as a result of studying this subject at GCSE level, a number of students have chosen to further their education in the same field — all very encouraging!

'A' Level Business Studies began last year, being delivered by Geoff Slade who came to Sibford as a part-time member of staff in the department, in September 1994.

We currently have 2 students (Lee Bishop and Rosaleen Hiltferty) on this programme and are hopeful for their success in the future. Watch this space.....

I mentioned last year that GNVQ was the new qualification being offered in the Sixth Form as an alternative to the City and Guilds Diploma of Vocational Education. This now is well-established, its popularity being shown again with students keen to embark on this new way of learning.

GNVQ candidates follow a broad vocational programme

of study which keeps their options open for employment, further training or further and higher education. The skills and knowledge developed within the GNVQ, underpin wide-ranging occupations. They are available at 3 levels - Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. The Advanced GNVQ meets a standard comparable with 2 A levels and the Intermediate is broadly equivalent to 4/5 GCSEs at Grade C or above.

There has been a great deal of publicity given to GNVQs and some of it has not been good!

Criticisms have been made with regard to its rigour and equivalence ratings, as to whether or not it is the standard it claims to be and problems relating to time-consuming and cumbersome assessment procedures.

I personally feel that students and staff throughout the country who have been involved with GNVQs, either through delivery or learning programmes, are the "best qualified" to make comments regarding these criticisms, and I enclose a few genuine quotations from students on the programme at Sibford.

"It's more enjoyable working on a vocational course to get the equivalent to G.C.S.E's".
Leo Maggi

"It's a whole new way of learning".
Andrew Waite

"It's very useful and gives you experience for your future".
Nancy Yuen

"It's a great course and gives you a lot of experience for the business environment".
Jon Thresh

"Very enjoyable and great experience".
Bianca Wan

"The vocational course is easy to follow and it's well worth taking. The only problem is the fact that we have to log every piece of work."
Hugo Finley

From my personal point of view, I feel that students are expected to achieve much.

For the award of an Intermediate GNVQ, a **student must complete nine units:**

four mandatory vocational units
three mandatory core skills units, plus
two optional units.

The four mandatory vocational units are assessed by a combination of internal and external assessments, **which include tests**. To complete the mandatory units, students must be successful in meeting the requirements of both internal and external assessment.

Students at Sibford have achieved successes already and are building up their unit credits, passing tests, adding to their portfolios and all at their own pace — the beauty of GNVQ being that whatever the student achieves, be it a full award, or partial units of study, they are credited with nationally recognised qualifications.

Last year Sixth form students on the programme made many valuable Business/Education links as can be seen by the following article from the local Banbury Guardian.

business

IN BRIEF

A taste of real life

STUDENTS from Sibford School have adopted Banbury-based employers for their GNVQ Business Group. Firms such as Kraft Jacobs Suchard, Marks & Spencer and Boots, assisted by the Chamber of Commerce and NORBIS, have provided students with access to the real business world. And so far, the group's 11 students have been 100 per cent successful in their City and Guilds GNVQ Unit 1 tests.

Students value any real world of work contribution to their study and have appreciated greatly the insight given by business organisations.

More recently our present GNVQ business students took part in an Understanding Industry Course for two full days. This gave them up-to-date information relating to such topics as Marketing, Human Resource Management, Tendering for Contracts, along with an insight into what employers look for in application forms and CVs.

At the time of writing a group of 13 Sixth Form students is currently working on an assignment set by Littlewoods Stores in Banbury, where they are planning, designing and producing promotional material relating to Billy Ray Childrenswear and Berketex Ladieswear. The object of the assignment is to investigate the use of brand name goods to influence consumers' perceptions relating to quality.

The group is varied in its make-up and boasts a very international flavour. Students' homes are based in London, Warwickshire, Banbury, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Holland, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, Bahrain and Kenya.

They are very much individuals with much to offer in their interests, knowledge, cultures etc. They are all very pleased at the moment to have a new piece of technology to work with — a Packard Bell Multimedia PC with CD Rom and Laser Printer. This is due to the generosity of the School Tuck Shop (operated by Mike and Jenny Wollerton), and I know that the students would never forgive me if I did not say thankyou to them for their generous gift. The only trouble is they all want one each. (Any offers?)

Finally in summing up, I know that the next 12 months will also see more changes in Business Education.

Sir Ron Dearing has been busy with a review of the National Curriculum and at present has opened up release of curriculum time at Key Stage 4, opened the door to pre-16 vocational education, given a higher profile for Information Technology, along with a review of A level Programmes - their modularisation and Core Skills contents.

No doubt there's another busy year ahead and I feel sure that I'll have much to report this time next year. Maybe Sibford will be involved in some of the above mentioned changes? I look forward to the future with great optimism.

Pam Gibson - Head of Business Studies

Understanding Industry – What's it all about?

The main objective of Understanding Industry is it seeks to increase knowledge, enhance skills and improve attitudes towards industry and commerce, through the delivery of unique and high quality programmes, designed to inform, involve and inspire 16 - 19 year old students.

Industry is brought into the classroom by U.I. through the promotion of partnerships between business and education.

The programmes are led by local business managers and emphasise student participation and practical experience. It is UI's goal that before leaving school or college, every 16 - 19 year old student should have access to one of its courses.

By Victor Lau. GNVQ Business Student/Head Boy

CATERING DEPARTMENT

This year, there have been many school occasions which have allowed the sixth form DVE Catering group chance to show off their culinary expertise. The students have worked hard helping Mark and his Catering team to prepare the tempting afternoon teas at Open Day, along with serving refreshments at Parents' Evening, drama productions, Open Mornings and the much needed supper after the Christmas Ball.

The Catering students are fortunate to have their training facilities within the school kitchen, which gives them the opportunity to experience real 'hands on' work in an operational kitchen. To enhance their learning programme, the students spend 3 weeks on work experience in local catering and hotel outlets, where they have an insight into the roles of different jobs within their chosen vocational area.

DRAMA DEPT.

The director of a school production is uniquely vulnerable. Teaching is in itself a vulnerable activity: not only is there the vulnerability that must come with accepting the reins of power but there is also the fact that, because everybody has been to school, everybody would like to think they know best. If a teacher struggles to do her/his job, children, parents and staff are quick to find out: the 'results' of the classes bear only too adequate a witness. The drama teacher in charge of a school production, therefore, is not alone in constantly having to produce results which "cut the mustard" for all concerned; but she/he has the added problem that these particular results are not only extremely public, but that they are expected to be entertaining at the same time. Just as a ten-second glance can have somebody write off a painting which may have been years in the gestation, an hour in the company of a boring play can make a person completely dismissive of the people who brought it into being.

A bit of perspective is helpful here: *Waterworld*, directed by Kevin Costner, cost \$225 million to make; *Nicholas Nickleby*, the last full-scale production done at the school, cost £900. Yet each is essentially trying to do the same job; to keep people entertained for 2 hours. How can Nick Nick possibly compete? Well, of course thankfully, it can, since the value we put on our entertainment does not necessarily correspond to the value of the money put into it. But if Kevin Costner can be vilified for not doing a very good job on *Waterworld*, you can bet your bottom dollar that the drama teacher comes under the same critical

microscope and runs the same risk of boring people. In this age of virtual reality, of satellite television, and of digital recording, hell hath no critical powers like an audience that is bored or incredulous.

The problem lies in our collective loss of innocence. We have now all seen the best; we've seen it in slow motion, we can play it back endlessly in the comfort of our own homes if we so wish. There is no illusion as to what is good: only the best now is the best. So in a school play when an actor does not come up to scratch, when a sound cue obtrudes, or when a piece of direction makes no sense, we all now have the critical facility to say that it does not. Subtly, insidiously, that little box in the corner of our living rooms has taught us to expect perfection and nothing less. But if we were to achieve perfection all the time, where would there be to go beyond that? One would not expect a school play to be perfectly acted, perfectly directed and perfectly produced: what would its cast and crew go on to do afterwards? So to all those people who say to me, *The sound was too loud*, or *What was he doing stamping around like that?* or *What was all that silly screaming about?*, I can only say we did our best, we did the best we can, we could have done no more. Perfect art comes from a sudden and, I think, probably quite accidental coming together of all the vital components: we are no more nor less likely to see that happen at Sibford than they are at the RSC or in Hollywood. But remember that it is art that we are talking about, and not the stark simplicity of an exam result. One man's perfection is another's bad egg. For myself, I have been much-moved at times this past year by the work and theatrical endeavours of some of our students: I could have asked for no more. Please remember this next time you put Sibford drama on the global rule and find that it does not measure up.

Trevor Walters

Review of "The Crucible".

For three nights in early March the Hall in the Hill Building thrilled to a gripping performance of "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. This was Sibford's first attempt to perform a "classical" drama text in perhaps as many as 15 years. Many excellent collaborative performances produced by past Music and Drama Departments were home-produced affairs, and so there was no interpretative tradition on which to build this production of what has become one of the twentieth century's greatest drama texts. This fact makes the high standard achieved all the more creditable!

The set was intimate and atmospheric, theatre-in-the-round at its best. Costumes and make-up were excellent and the off-stage choir very effective. The opening moments were exceptional; a combination of the macabre voices, lurid lighting, tempestuous music and whirling bodies, with the besieged and upright Puritan community standing stock still at the centre, presenting in miniature the whole plot before our eyes and ears. As my companion said, "it was like the RSC at its best. I felt I was in Stratford."

The cast clearly understood the power of the text. They were almost 100% word perfect and enacted the turning points of the plot with attention and care. Most moving were the scenes between John and Elisabeth Proctor in the prison, minutes before John's execution, and when the misguided Reverend Hale visits them in their home. The performances of Adam Keeling, Ruth James and James Scott deserve especial praise.

Also giving excellent performances were Ben Colman, as Danforth (at moments I actually believed he was genuinely seeking the truth), Sylvia Cohen as the manipulative Abigail Williams and Cathy Gornall as the conscience stricken Mary Warren.

The whole cast worked well together and moved with

confidence around the stage. Sadly, at times, poor voice projection and an unnecessary competition with the accompanying music meant that important segments of text were lost either through mumbling or through incoherent shouting. One might recall that mumbling was enough to get Goody Osburn convicted of witchcraft !

It must be said that the acoustics of the Hall are very difficult and that technical difficulties with the level of sound effects did not help matters. Sadly, however, the audience are not to know these facts.

Nonetheless, the acting achievement of the cast was considerable. I did not need to know the text to understand that Thomas Putnam (Danny Halsey) was a very angry man, or that Sarah Good (Katie Jamison) had been driven over the edge by her imprisonment, or to sense the loss and confusion of Giles Corey (Tom Lane). All the supporting cast played well.

In my mind two people especially deserve credit for this moving and disturbing production of a modern parable in this age of rampant political correctness: Zak Cole for his original music, which added so much to the power of this production to get under our collective skin, which is exactly where Miller aimed it, and Trevor Walters, for having the faith in his young cast and in his own considerable talent to mount such a challenging play in the first place.

Tom Sutcliffe in Year 13 gave a very spirited performance as Rev. Paris. His commitment to the part was commendable, but to the mind of this reviewer it lacked emotional range. However, his energy drove along the performance and obviously added considerably to the confidence the whole cast enjoyed in themselves.

In my mind, drama at Sibford has come of age.

Editor

DYSLEXIC DEPARTMENT

In a world where external exams have come to mean so much, we have been delighted with the performance of our dyslexic pupils at all stages now being assessed.

At GCSE level, Greg Austin, Sylvia Cohen, Tim Davey, Angus Grant, Shula Granville, Danny Halsey, Emma Manthorpe, Georgia Seller, Anna Wheeler and Aleksis Zarins all obtained at least 5 passes at grade C or above, while Ben Colman's results were among the best in the school, including 4 A* grades. There were others too whose results were a personal triumph, gained through immensely hard work, while still making time to hold house responsibilities, play in teams and take major roles in drama productions.

Kitty Cowell in Orchard Close gained national recognition for her poem, Flying, which came second in the Dyslexia Institute "As I see It" competition. And our former colleague, Janette Skeath, has been appointed to run BDA services in Singapore, where we know she will take something of Sibford's tradition with her.

On the home front, we congratulate David Goodwin on gaining his RSA diploma in SpLD. His regular maths input is much appreciated. Karen Turberfield ran a series of intensive typing courses during the year, enabling many of our pupils to become competent users of word processors, as demonstrated by some of the juniors on Open Day. We are also delighted that Laura Brown, who was awarded the Dyslexia Cup in July, has made time in her sixth-form studies to help us with paired reading.

We have often wished that we had facilities for older students to watch again videos that they have used in class, to give them more time to organise their notes. Thanks to a kind donation from the parents of one of last year's leavers, we are now able to buy some second-hand equipment to enable this to happen.

Another acquisition this term has been a pair of Amstrad laptops which are available for our students to use in lessons and borrow for prep. These again were bought with a parent's donation together with the proceeds of a lecture on Neuro-linguistic Programming, "How we Learn", given by Bernadette McLean, to which we invited colleagues from other schools.

This year has seen the launch of a new national Code of Practice governing the education of children with all kinds of learning difficulty, including dyslexia. This involves an immense amount of administration, and we are very glad that Lindy Harris and Tony Skeath are going to co-ordinate this for Sibford.

Jennifer Austing

PRESS RELEASE

8th June 1995

Kitty Cowell aged 8 was the youngest finalist in the Dyslexia Institute "As I see it" competition and came second out of the final eight of 1,500 entries. Kitty was presented with a plaque in Coventry in March and has recently received her prize of an electric typewriter.

Kitty was assessed by Dr. Margaret Pollak (Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics (Developmental) at London University) as gifted at the age of 4. She was able to do IQ tests that were aimed at children twice her age, and she attended a Junior Mensa Summer School at Orchard Close, Sibford School. At 6, Kitty was re-assessed by Dr. Pollak in Harley Street and although still gifted and able to do certain tests at an 18 year level she was below her age in reading, the classic evidence of dyslexia. Since then Kitty has attended Orchard Close, Sibford School, which with its special dyslexic unit, has increased Kitty's confidence and ability in reading and writing enormously. She is now a happy child as opposed to the rather confused and frustrated child she was before. She also attends Saturday and Summer Schools run by the "Support Society for children of High Intelligence" set up by Dr. Pollak amongst a team of other educational experts.

The Dyslexic Institute holds its annual competition to illustrate the creativity of dyslexics and Kitty entered for the first time and is thrilled to have been placed second in the national final.



Kitty Cowell

Head Teacher Elizabeth Young says "We are so proud of her, she was only 7 years old when she wrote the poem".

Ann Stevenson

ENGLISH DEPT. NOTES

Another busy year for the Dept. with trips out and visits in, the highlight of which must be the very successful Conference hosted by Sibford's teachers for the English Departments of the other Friends' schools, here in the UK and in Ireland.

The English Touring Company visited Sibford to run a workshop on "Macbeth" and that same day a large party went to Oxford to see the company perform the text. Another happy visit out was last summer when a group went to see Wilde's "Importance of Being Earnest" at the Warwick Arts Centre. After staging their own performance of "The Crucible" during the year, Sibford pupils went to The Old Rep Theatre in Birmingham to see how the Birmingham Stage Company interpreted it. To round off the preparations for Christmas in the lower end of the school, Year 7 and the older class from Orchard Close went to see the amazing tale of "Hansel and Gretel" at Warwick Arts Centre again.

We really are fortunate to have Warwick and Oxford close to hand for our theatre trips out !

October again saw a well attended Book Fair organised by the Dept. and Elizabeth Sleight from the Book Shop in Chipping Norton. Using funds generated by this event we were able to arrange for a visit to the school of Veronica Stallwood and Christine Green, two local writers, who worked with our Year 10 pupils on crime writing as a genre. A party was also able to go to hear Colin Dexter, the famous creator of Inspector Morse, at Chipping Norton Theatre, an event sponsored by the Bookshop. So all in all our annual Book Week this year had the flavour of the criminal about it !!

There were many individual successes at GCSE for Year 11, and some disappointments too. The press was full of news about the national dip in the grades this year and speculation about the reasons why. The English Dept at Sibford will continue to work hard to excite and stimulate our pupils with the richness of our language and culture and to achieve the maximum potential for each of our students, and be happy with that !!

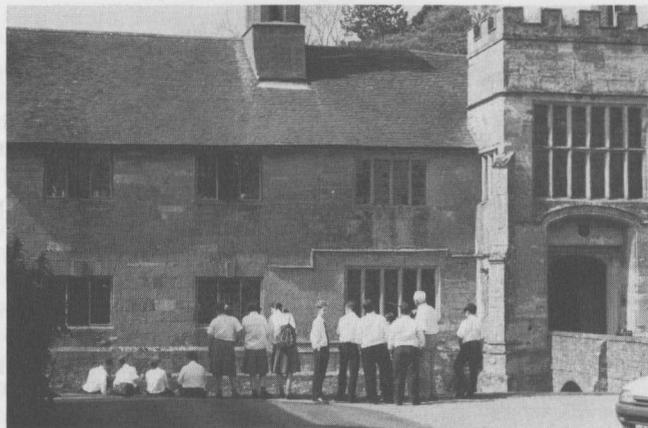
Seán Kenny

EFL

For me, there are a number of high points which stand out in the last academic year as far as the EFL department and its pupils are concerned.

The autumn term saw a visit to Stratford for Years 9-11 and new research work undertaken by Year 10 students in Banbury and Broadway. At the end of the term Geri Chin, our resident student from Australia departed, but not before she had laid on a party for the overseas pupils, with even a karaoke machine for us all to try!

In January we welcomed Catherine Cole from Canberra who has continued the good practices that Geri had established during her year at Sibford. At the beginning of February Christine Chin, from the Commonwealth Institute, returned after an absence of two years to spend a day with us celebrating the Chinese 'Year of the Pig'. About a third of the school's pupils attended sessions of



Baddesley Clinton N.T. Property — site for a visit.

Chinese calligraphy, drama and dance and T'ai Chi, which were enjoyed immensely.

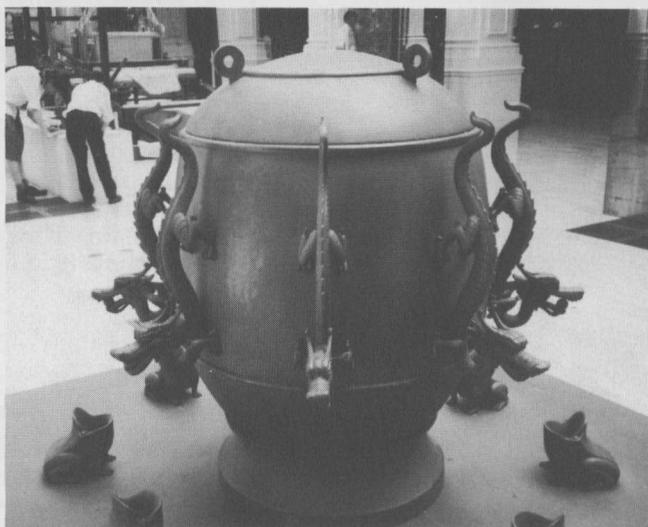
In the summer we ran our one-term Intensive English Course for newly-arrived overseas pupils. This course is now in its fourth year and it was especially pleasing to be able to welcome our first Russian pupils to Sibford - Natasha and Anatoli, both from Moscow. The course was taught by Julia Hammett with a full social programme for those pupils who stayed in school for the half-term break provided by Paul Ludlow and Alison Pearce in Gillett. My thanks to them all.

In May there was a real treat with a visit to the 'China - Cradle of Knowledge' exhibition in Birmingham. This tremendous exhibition, currently on a world tour, charts the contributions made by the Chinese civilisation to Mankind's development. It covered every conceivable area including medicine, agriculture, transport, astronomy, paper-making, gunpowder and warfare, silk production and weaving. There was even an ancient earthquake detector, some two thousand years old. (see photo).

We were indeed fortunate to be able to see the exhibition before it moved on to its next stop in Berlin.

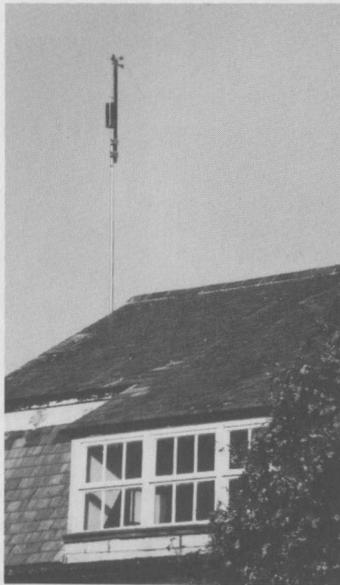
Finally, my thanks to the P.S.F.A. for their generous gift which will go towards a much-needed new cassette-player. No doubt all our EFL students will benefit from this for many years to come.

Andrew Glover



Earthquake detector.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



Part of the Geog. Dept.'s new weather centre.

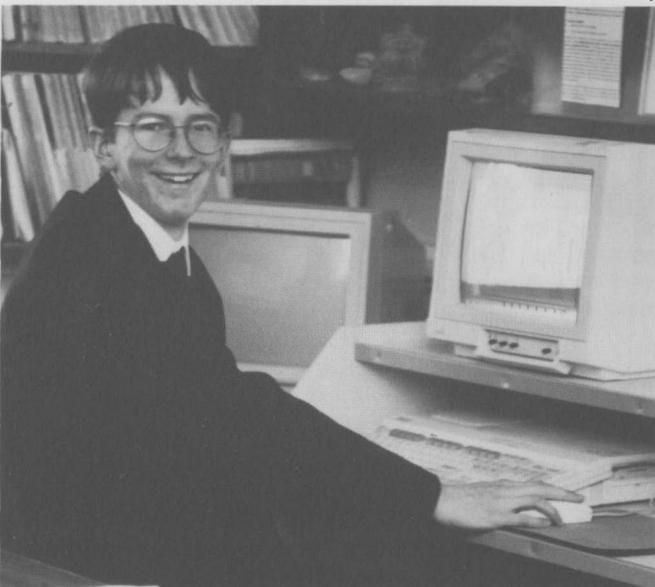
The automatic weather station has proved a growing source of interest, recording temperatures well in excess of 30°C in summer and currently underlining the end of the drought with 130 mm of rain for September 1995 and there are still a few days to come. The data for June was particularly interesting for one parent on Open Day who had been in a hot air balloon when the wind suddenly got up - quite unexpectedly. The record of these gusts showed up on the computer. One of our students this year for his GCSE fieldwork will use the weather station data to test how accurate weather forecasts are.

I was very pleased to receive a large selection of rocks, minerals and fossils from a member of the School Committee which will enhance my cabinet display in the Geography room.

Our coursework in Year 10 has thrown up a rather interesting story. The students 'develop' an imaginary tropical third world country and I tell them that any photographs of real aspects of developing countries will add a touch of reality to their project - small dams, airports, crops growing etc. Off went one parent to Lesotho on business and had little trouble photographing a dam and a small airport but "The picture subject that needed the most delicate handling was the Family Planning Clinic. I know how rumours can start, spread and stick and I was worried that my interest could be misinterpreted". He never did find one. (Name and address supplied.)

Finally at the top end of the School we are teaching A' Level Geography again and hope that numbers will flourish.

Brian Holliday



Jonathan de Turberville, Yr 11 with Geography Dept.'s Weather Centre.

HORTICULTURE DEPT

Sibford's Horticulture Dept. continues to grow with an increasing number of pupils opting to follow the City and Guild Vocational Courses in Years 10-13.

The Walled Garden, which is the hub of the Dept., was open to the public for the first time as part of the National Gardens Scheme and appeared in the official Yellow Book. All students worked extremely hard to ensure that the garden was looking at its best for our visitors.



Working under Angie Bovil's direction.

Sculpture was introduced into the garden by the Art Dept., a move which proved very popular with both pupils and public alike, and the Music Dept. joined forces when their pupils performed pieces on the top lawn.

Despite the extremely high temperatures which we had to contend with throughout the summer, the harvest which awaited the students was good; sadly, however, many parts of the herbaceous borders had been scorched.

The Sixth Form students, following their Diploma in Vocational Education, spent a very successful three weeks in March on work experiences. For the first time we placed a student with the National Trust at Upton House. Here our Head Girl, Ruth James, worked alongside the Head Gardener and his team in this most beautiful setting.



The vegetable plots await inspection.

In May we welcomed Matthew Biggs from the Channel 4 programme "Garden Club" to speak to the students about careers in horticulture and the work of Kew Gardens. It transpired that he was educated at Pershore College before moving on to complete his diploma at Kew. This was of special interest to Lucy Cole, Stephen Harrigan and Tabitha West who had all just been offered places at Pershore to study Landscape Construction and Commercial Horticulture: perhaps we'll see them presenting a garden show on TV in years to come!

In July all of Year 10-13 visited the Royal Show at Stoneleigh to experience the enormous range of exhibits covering all areas of land based industry. It was a very enjoyable day out.

During the last week of the summer term a photographer from the Country Living magazine spent a day and a half photographing the Walled Gardens in preparation for an article in the next summer edition of the magazine. Maybe I'll be able to borrow a photo or two for next year's edition of the Sibford Magazine.



The Head with winners of best kept vegetable plot 1995.

Congratulations to our three Hong Kong students, Alex Li, Joseph Cheung and Jimmy Siu for winning the Gold Award for the best kept vegetable plot and to Ruth James and Felicity Day for being awarded the Alan Jarvis Horticulture Cup for the most promising horticulture students.

Angie Bovil

Meeting Matthew Biggs

On 10th May, Matthew Biggs from Channel 4's Garden Club, came to visit the senior Horticulture students at Sibford school. He gave us a talk in the Oliver Studio, with a slide show, of some spectacular slides of his cruise around the Caribbean Islands. He was very explicit, and knowledgeable when he was showing us the slides of the amazing flora, which he saw and experienced in these tropical islands. He was very persistent about taking every opportunity that life gives you, and trying to gain as much experience as possible. He was very enthusiastic and descriptive in his talk, encouraging horticulture as a chosen career.

Matthew himself started his career working for Leicestershire County Council, in the parks department. He then studied at Pershore, a horticulture college, for



Sixth form horticulture students with Matthew Biggs.

two years. After which he then studied at Kew where he gained a Diploma. Following this he gave guided tours around Kew and tended private gardens before going on to Radio work, when finally through Kew he was offered his job at Channel 4. He is currently writing a book on house plants, which should come out in November.

Matthew Biggs was keen to come to Sibford as his grandfather had previously attended the school. Years 12 and 13 showed him around the walled garden where the Horticulture students work. He was very impressed and was interested to hear that the walled garden is in The National Garden Scheme Open Gardens book. In the evening he then went to Sibford Gower and gave a similar talk to the local Horticulture Society.

As a Horticultural group, we all appreciated his visit. We enjoyed what he said about his experiences and he gave us a lot of encouragement for the future.

Ruth James
Katie Jamison

INTEGRATED HUMANITIES

GCSE RESULTS SUMMER 1995

These results were our best so far: six grade As with over 50% of the group gaining between grades A - C. It's interesting to note that all of the grade As were gained by female pupils.

But as always, statistics tell only one side of the story. What is the human side to Integrated Humanities? As a teacher what pleased me most about this course was the way it demanded that pupils learn to research, investigate, evaluate and analyse their information.

The "research paper", which carries such a heavy weighting in this syllabus, was the cause of some very creative and demanding usages of the primary and secondary methods of investigation. A selection of research papers were written on the following topics: Does Fox Hunting have a place in our Society in the 1990s? What is Child Abuse? How Do we Educate Deaf Children? What is the War in Bosnia Really About? The History and Development of Photography as a Leisure Activity. How does Riding for the Disabled Benefit those with Disability?

Reading these pieces of work was great pleasure for me. When education becomes a true quest for knowledge, then the joy of learning is shared by both teacher and pupil alike.

Maggie Guy

THOUGHTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT

Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to you on my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow villagers from Culworth who are becoming increasingly concerned with the problem of global warming, especially in Bangladesh.

Since most of Bangladesh is only three metres above sea level, if the sea level rises any more in time Bangladesh will disappear! They already suffer from severe floods. In the 60s, 3000 people were killed by flooding, but it is a poor country and they can't afford to make dams or other defences - BUT - we in the First World can!

We in Europe, America and Japan could give help to the people of Bangladesh by building the defences they need. They don't want to be told, "Oh, don't worry, it will be all right in the end!" They need help and that is what we should give them. Not just blankets and food, but safety and the feeling that they know they're not going to be

killed by flooding which is not their fault in the first place.

They have the right to a decent, dignified life. Not one in which they live in fear of being told to leave their farms, their homes and everything that they have worked for, to become refugees of the global warming that we in the First World have caused!

They are people, like us! We are spending millions on aid for the former Yugoslavia, but their cries for help go unnoticed. The first refugees have already had to leave because the sea has lost them their homes and sometimes their dignity. They feel like outcasts, rejected by the people of Europe and the USA. They have to carry on and start anew, to build their lives from scratch with no aid - no help - nothing!!

This should not have to happen to anyone - of any race, colour or creed. So why is it? I would like to meet someone who thinks they could answer this question for me. But I bet they couldn't!

Edward Walker - Year 10.

MATHS DEPARTMENT

Having been appointed the new Head of Department, I felt now was the time to introduce change where change was necessary. After numerous meetings with David, Lyn and Mike before and during the Summer holidays, we agreed upon new strategies. Oxford Maths' new post-Dearing work scheme was introduced to Years 7 and 8. This new colourful format encourages a variety of teaching and learning styles in accordance with good classroom practice. Since its introduction in September both Year 7 and 8 have greeted it with enthusiasm.

In Years 10 and 11 we transferred from MEG to the more 'pupil friendly' London syllabus. This follows a trend that most other Independent Schools in the country have followed. The numbers of preps. have been increased from 1 per week to 2 and the concept of the maths workshop has been revitalised. This allows children with problems resulting from preps. or class work to attend and a register is kept to monitor attendance. Once the pupils appreciated that this measure was a constructive one rather than a subject detention then they became well attended, positive work sessions.

Some sweeping changes and hopefully positive results, enabling children to improve their confidence and increase their enjoyment of the subject. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the department for fully supporting these new initiatives and all the extra work that they have undertaken.

John Howard

MEDIA STUDIES GCSE PROJECT

This is an extract from Adam Searle's magazine which he is producing for his Media Studies GCSE. He has chosen to interview another Year 11 pupil about her ambitions to be a model.

SO SHE WANTS TO BE A MODEL

I wanted to investigate how people start to try to become a model so I set up an interview with Kylie Cobb, an attractive fifteen year old who wants to be a model.

Who suggested you tried a modelling career?

My family suggested it and offered to pay for my portfolio.

What were the first steps you took?

My friend a photographer and I got together and produced a good portfolio in two days then I started phoning agencies up and sending photos off.

Have you any embarrassing moments?

I phoned Aujordut Modelling Agency and told him I'd done my portfolio. The next question he asked was whether I had a suntan. Then he asked me how tall I was. He did give me some names of some other agencies I could contact and I finished the call feeling really embarrassed.

Would you like to do modelling full time?

No, I couldn't cope with everyone bossing me around. I just want to do it in my spare time in between having fun and being at school. When I leave school I want to go into interior design and modelling as a side line.

Do you have any role models in the modelling trade, if so who?

I don't have any role models but I would love a name as famous as Naomi Cambell.

What do your parents think about you becoming a model?

My parents don't mind me modelling as long as it doesn't interfere with my schooling. They've agreed if I do well at school then they will send me on a grooming course at Norwich.

Is it very expensive to start off with? Can you give some idea of how much it will cost?

To get onto someone's books can cost anything up to £300 at the moment. I am trying to find out how much it is going to cost to get onto Models Plus's Books.

Thank you Kylie, I wish you every success.

OK readers, what do you think her chances are of success?

MUSIC REPORT

"I missed three days at school and the food at the Mount was great!" — a pupil's-eye view of the Friends' Schools Joint Choirs Festival of 1995 — leaving out minor details such as Choral Society rehearsals learning two major works, mastering Latin text, keeping awake through more than five hours of rehearsal each day in York and finding your place amongst three hundred performers in the Minster.

This year's Joint Choirs Festival was hosted by the Mount School. Choirs from all eight English Quaker schools joined together for the final three days of spring term to rehearse and then perform Mozart's Requiem Mass and Poulenc's Gloria. All members of Sibford's Choral Society were able to participate. Colleagues at school covered multifarious lessons for the members of staff who were singing their way out of the spring term. Husbands and grandparents made it possible for those who are mothers to take a day or two off work. Our pupils didn't seem to need anyone to cover for their absence!



We began rehearsing at the beginning of the spring term and the Mozart Requiem took shape fairly early on. Most of the adult members had a listening knowledge of the work and this helped. Mozart, however, doesn't make life easy for the Altos and Tenors all the time! For all the pupils the Latin text was totally foreign territory, explored at first with trepidation and disbelief that they were ever going to sing "a whole book full of words which we can't understand!"

Poulenc's Gloria was a far harder work to approach from scratch: many of its melodies contain difficult intervals and there are dissonant harmonies spread throughout the piece.

"I couldn't be bothered with **which** one was harder!" said one pupil. "They were both in Latin and both the same."

We were still learning the last few notes of the Gloria when we set off by coach for York at 6:30 am one Wednesday. Ahead of us that day was a daunting schedule: 2 1/4 hours rehearsing before lunch and another 2 hours in the afternoon. That evening we all assembled in the Minster to be seated on the stage (no small task in itself) and then rehearse with the orchestra for a further 2 hours! Our youngest members coped remarkably well.

Poulenc's Gloria grew on us as we rehearsed and we found it exciting to sing with the orchestra accompanying. For the Friday evening performance the Minster was comfortably filled. The experience of singing these two works with a large orchestra in the magnificent setting of York Minster will live with us all. Thank you to those parents who supported us so well, not only in making it possible for their sons and daughters to take part, but also in travelling up to York to hear us sing.

On Wednesday 24th May musicians from Sibford gave a concert at the Friends' Meeting House in Warwick as part of their 300th anniversary celebrations. There were some fine instrumental solos and small ensembles. The Choral Society sang up-beat numbers such as "Too Hot Down There" together with some of their favourite pieces from the Mozart Requiem. Sibford's Barber Shop group swung into action with a spirited and amusing performance of three traditional songs — showing just what can be achieved by motivated singers on minimal rehearsal!

Throughout the year there were many memorable performances given to the whole school at our weekly music meeting: Amon Al Mahrouq (saxophone), James Chen (piano), Simon Robinson (trumpet), Lynne Mather (clarinet and piano), Jennifer Chou (piano), Naomi Chant (violin), James Brash (violin), Harriet Cooper (clarinet), Jonathan Titcombe (clarinet), George Sidebotham, Bob Pritchard and Mark Paine.

Mark Paine.

WARWICK QUAKER FESTIVAL 17 – 31 MAY 1995

Celebrating 300 years of the Friends' Meeting House.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL
given by
SIBFORD SCHOOL
Wednesday 24 May 1995

Programme:

The Prince of Denmark's March	Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Concerto	Joseph Haydn
first movement - Allegro	
Simon Robinson - Trumpet	

Chanson de Nuit	Edward Elgar Op. 15 No.1
Salut d'Amour	Edward Elgar Op. 12
James Brash - Violin	
Mark Paine - 'cello	
John Dunston - Piano	

Full Fathom Five	Chules Wood
Erie Canal	arr. Marshall Bartholemew
Too Hot Down There!	Joyce Eilen Bacak

Sibford School Choral Society

Sonata in D myor Hob. XVI - 37	Joseph Haydn
Rock from 'Mista D' Music	David Hellewell Op. 67

James Chen - Piano

Concertino in the style of Vivaldi	Ferdinand Kuchler Op. 15
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Naomi Chant - Violin

George Jones	traditional
	arr. Marshall Bartholemew
Humble	Negro Spiritual
	arr. Marshall Bartholemew
De Animals A-Comin'	Negro Spiritual
	arr. Marshall Bartholemew

Sibford Barber Shop Group

INTERVAL

Rhythm of Life	D. Fields and Cy Coleman
	arr. Richard Barnes

Choral Society

Five Dances for Piano Duet	Matyas Seiber
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Foxtrot
Tango Argentino
Blues
Tango Habanera
Charleston

Lynne Mather and Jennifer Chou

Trio in C major	Joseph Haydn
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Allegro di molto
Andante
Menuet and Trio
Allegro Moderato

James Brash and Naomi Chant - Violins
Mark Paine - 'cello

Trumpet Voluntary	Jolin Stanley
Three Moravian Folk Dances	arr. Leos Janacek

Simon Robinson - Trumpet

My Ship	Kurt Weill
Walking in the Air	Howard Blake
from 'The Snowman'	Michael Flanders and
The Slow Train	Donald Swann

Matthew Stafford - Voice
Shauni McGregor - Piano

Sonata for Violin and Piano K. 378 W. A. Mozart
final movement - Rondo

James Brash - Violin

Requiem Mass	W.A. Mozart
"Lacrymosa"	
"Hostias"	
"Sanctus"	

Choral Society

Accompanist - David Ball
Conductor - Mark Paine

Sibford's Choral Society comprises pupils from year groups throughout the school, members of staff, parents and friends.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

GIRLS' RUGBY SUCCESS

While there has been a significant improvement in boys' Rugby over the last four years, the 1994/5 season will be remembered for the successes of the girls' Rugby teams! The season started with the Senior Girls New Image Rugby team winning all four of their qualifying games in the Oxfordshire Championship, scoring a massive 130 points, with only 15 points against. As in the two previous years the final was held as a curtain raiser for the Major Stanley's invitation XV versus Oxford University match at Iffley Road on Wednesday the 16th November 1994. The girls, in their third final in three years and out to avenge the previous years defeat, looked by far the more experienced and well drilled team, but their opponents, Milham Ford, made life very difficult for Sibford. The winning margin of 15 points to 5 points was a true reflection of the game, though the game was not made safe until Theresa Jack dived over for a try in the closing minutes.



Theresa Jack dives for a try, supported by Helen Tredwell. (Jeremy Guscott please note!)

After their New Image success, the girls were determined to be equally successful at full contact rugby. They played two 15-a-side fixtures during the spring term. The first, against arch rivals Lord Williams, Thame, was a thrilling match in which the tackling was of the highest order. The final score was 20-0 to Sibford. In the second fixture at Cholsey Rugby Club, the girls went behind to an early try by Cholsey and took some time to recover their composure. When they did they were unstoppable, running out 41 points to 5 victors.

Many of the girls who played in the team left in summer and it is hoped that the enthusiasm that they generated for the game will encourage others to take part and continue what has become a very successful experiment.



Graham Thomas (coach) with Cathy Gornall, Ellen Salway, Helen Tredwell, Kate Deacon, Theresa Jack, Caroline Cleland, Lynne Mather and Georgia Seller.

The team members were: Theresa Jack (capt), Helen Tredwell, Anna Wheeler, Georgia Seller, Ellen Salway, Mollie Tustian, Emma Lunnon, Lynne Mather, Cathy Gornall, Kate Deacon, Helen Shephard, Ruth Geeson, Caroline Cleland, Sian Mather, Christa Yates, Vicky Lane and Rachel Shephard.

Boys Rugby

U12s	Played 2	Won 1	Lost 1	Drawn 0
Juniors	Played 14	Won 6	Lost 7	Drawn 1
Yearlings	Played 12	Won 7	Lost 5	Drawn 0
Junior Colts	Played 13	Won 5	Lost 7	Drawn 1
Colts	Played 13	Won 5	Lost 8	Drawn 0
OVERALL	Played 54	Won 24	Lost 28	Drawn 2

The standard of rugby played this year was of a far better quality than in previous seasons, though the results showed little change with the season being just under the 50% success rate. However, all looks well for the coming year. Congratulations to Andrew Walker on his selection to the Oxfordshire Under 14 team at scrum half.

Soccer

U12s	Played 3	Won 1	Lost 2	Drawn 0
Juniors	Played 7	Won 4	Lost 2	Drawn 1
Yearlings	Played 6	Won 2	Lost 2	Drawn 2
Seniors	Played 8	Won 4	Lost 4	Drawn 0
OVERALL	Played 24	Won 11	Lost 10	Drawn 3

This represents a 52% success rate which is the most successful Soccer term we have had for many years.

Of particular note is the junior team who remained unbeaten until the last couple of games when we lost to two schools with at least 3 times as many pupils to choose from. Even so we are looking to improve on this next year.

A very creditable performance by all those who represented the school.

Athletics

This was another successful year for Sibford Athletics with overall wins against Blessed George Napier, Kingham Hill and in the Southern Quaker Athletics Championships held at Sibford with visiting teams from Sidcot and Saffron Walden.

The only disappointment came with the boys U14 and U15 teams losing their 3 year unbeaten run at Kingham Hill by narrow margins. The athletes who competed that day performed to the best of their ability. The disappointment came from the two or three boys who failed to take part in their event due to a lack of commitment to their team. All winning runs must come to an end, and we all must accept losing when it happens. However we



The Under 14s Netball Team

should always be able to say "we did the best we could". I suspect that a minority of pupils on that day could not say that.

The following pupils were selected to represent the Area at the County Championships:

Caroline Cleland	Rachel Shephard	Theresa Jack
Leo Maggi	Artur Glover	Alex Li
Paul Colegrave	Keigo Harada	David McMahon
Helen Shephard	Ben Colman	

During the season there were six school records broken;

U17 Girls 400m	Lynne Mather	82.46 secs
U16 Girls 1500m	Kate Deacon	5 mins 53 seconds (20 secs off the previous best)
U17 Girls High Jump	Helen Tredwell	1.35 metres
U14 Boys Long Jump	Duncan Forrester	4.71 metres
U14 Boys Shot	Christopher Oram	10.18 metres
U14 Boys Discus	Christopher Oram	27.59 metres

Sports Day

With very few exceptions the whole school participated either as competitors or officials on Sports Day.

Overall Girls Champions BUNNEY

Overall Boys champions PENN

Cricket Results

Due to the short term, the odd rain storm and other schools mini buses failing them, the school played only 11 matches this season.

Played 11 Won 3 Drawn 1 Lost 7

Of particular note was the encouraging performances of the junior teams who played with good technique and sensible heads to win 3 out of their 5 matches. A special word of praise for Leo Buckingham who scored an amazing century against Cokethorpe, a feat which has not been accomplished for many years in a school match at Sibford.

Graham Thomas

Girls Hockey

Generally a good year for the girls and in particular the U16 team of 1994/5 who lost only once during a full fixture calendar with draws against BGN and Drayton, noteworthy victories against Kineton and Bicester, and a very noble 1-0 defeat to Warriner, a much larger local school.

Captain Catherine Gornall efficiently ensured that the team was well turned out and fully equipped for each fixture and led the team by example.

This coming season we have great hopes for success with the majority of that team still in the current Year 11.



The Under 15s Hockey Team



The Under 16s Hockey Team

Several members of this team, Helen Shephard, Caroline Cleland, Kate Deacon, Catherine Gornall, Katie Jamison, are now also members of Banbury Ladies Hockey Club and form the hub of the Junior team, which is a remarkable achievement.

Lacrosse Workshop

In the midst of the Autumn term we were honoured to be visited by the former England Lacrosse Captain, Jan Guildbride and Amanda Glanville, a playing member at Banbury Bandits. Between them, with the help of Maggie Guy, also a Banbury Bandit, they gave Sibford Girls an insight into Lacrosse, instructing 30+ girls in the basics.

The day was most enjoyable and productive and is an exercise we hope to repeat at some point during the coming year.

Tracy Knowles

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Highlights: A new coat of paint.
Extra display boards.
Arguably the best GCSE results yet.

A new coat of paint in restful shades has done much to improve the entrance and foyer area of the Science Block. So far this area has been well looked after and is still looking fresh and inviting.

With the walls in the science foyer being repainted the opportunity was taken to improve the pin boards already in place and to add to the available area. This has allowed us to put up bigger displays on specific topics, such as motor sport and to display information about the



Kieran Laybourn (Year 10) tests designer crumple zones as a science investigation.

department or science as a subject that visitors and prospective parents might find useful or of interest.

Our thanks and congratulations go to all Y11 students for their efforts in the GCSE exams. Between them they obtained for us (and themselves!) perhaps the best results ever. Hard work, though difficult to sustain at times, does generally pay off in the end. You also have the satisfaction of knowing that you did your best and that is what really matters.

Chris Cox

TECHNOLOGY DEPT.

It has been another busy year, especially in the senior school with over 50 individual examination entries and our first batch of A* results in Design and Realisation, Design and Communication and Textiles, which indicates the high level of work achieved by our pupils.

Technology was taught over a wide age range (10-18) and continues to develop its role within the school curriculum, whilst retaining the quality practical skills, for which Sibford is well renowned.

Clubs and extra-curricular workshops have proven very popular and it is pleasant to see these being so well attended and supported by all ages of pupils.

Finally, I would like to wish our Year 11 leavers every success for the future and to congratulate them on their outstanding hard work in all areas of Technology.

James Bond.



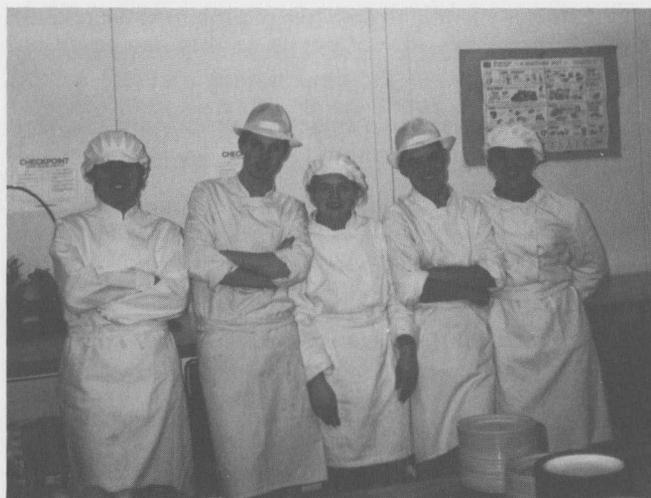
Ben Gibson, Oliver Fairweather and Chris Oram (Year 8) measure speed with cans and the ever useful elastic band!!

HOME ECONOMICS/FOOD TECHNOLOGY

At a time when most schools are dropping Home Economics as a subject, here at Sibford Home Economics is growing and becoming increasingly more popular, especially with the boys at G.C.S.E. level.

Home Economics is now taught to all pupils from Year 6 to G.C.S.E. level. During the transition evening, Year 6 pupils were proudly showing off their newly found cookery skills in the making of pizza with some weird and wonderful topping combinations.

Year 8 pupils studied a technology based food project where they created some healthy (and not so healthy!) appetising foods which would be suitable for sale in the school tuckshop.



Year 13 DVE Catering Group. Lucy Scarlett, Lee Sayers, Lorien Roberts, Mike Donkersley, and Lorna McCarthy.

This year saw the introduction of a new G.C.S.E. exam syllabus which allows the pupils to carry out a practical cookery exam. This year's practical work was based on feeding the elderly. The group worked hard producing some nutritious and exciting meals.

Once again the department enjoyed its yearly visit to the Good Food Show at the N.E.C. in Birmingham, where we had the chance to sample many new and mouthwatering foods from over 500 companies exhibiting their latest ranges, as well as enjoying cookery demonstrations from favourite celebrity chefs and T.V. cooks.

Sarah Spittle

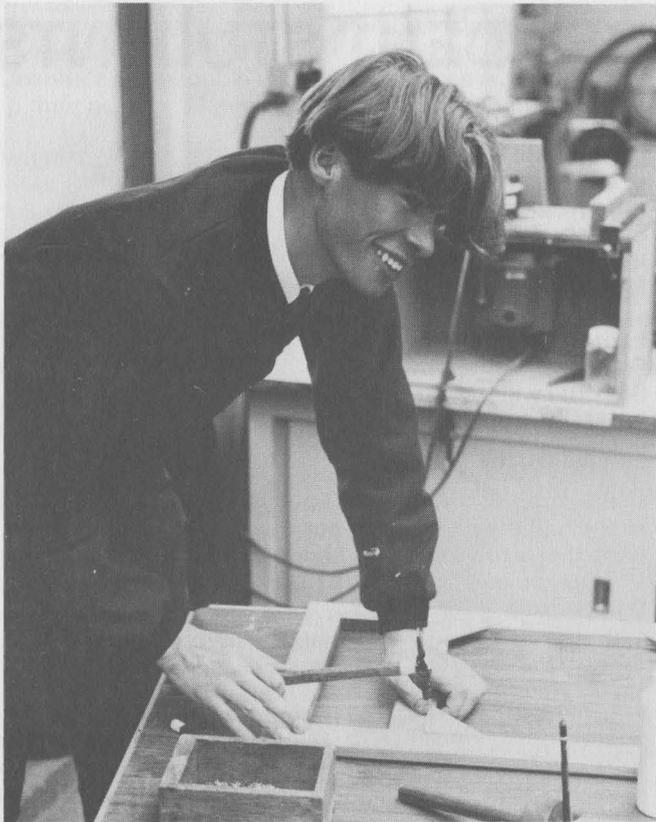
C.D.T.

Once again we have enjoyed seeing some very high grade coursework being produced by senior pupils. The Chess table made by Ben Colman in cherry and ash was particularly fine but so too was Bart Kerswell's Kite Buggy, Emma Manthorpe's Wot Not, Alexis Zarins' Medium Cabinet, Richard Taylor's forge work, Greg Austin's Aero Club design and Mollie Tustian's folder work for her Cross Country Event Course.

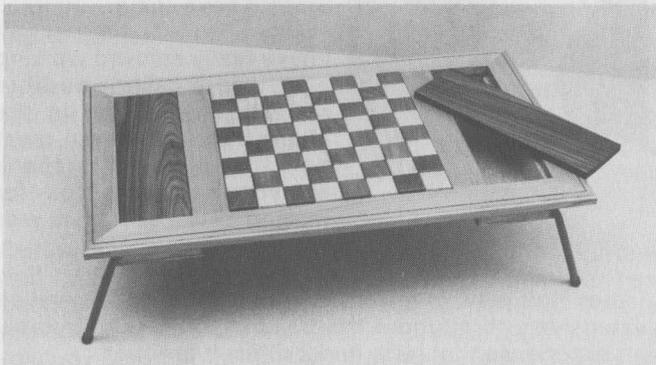
Our new centre design area has now been completed and this has become an exciting visual display as well as an important teaching resource. Most of our major alterations have been completed for the time being and our technician is able to spend his time making jigs and fixtures which help pupils with their coursework preparing materials ready for them to use. This makes our teaching much more effective and enables us to attempt more interesting junior and senior projects.



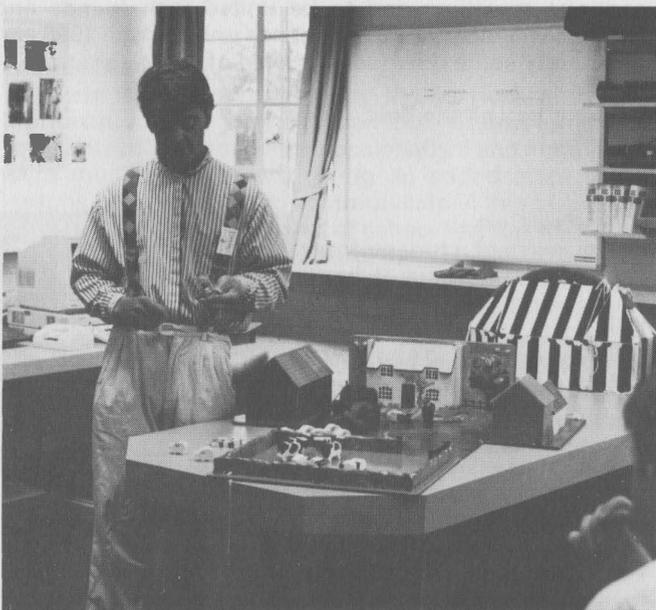
Our Swedish visitors enjoying jewellery making.



Ben Colman constructing his games table.



Ben's finished games table.



Visiting toy maker Martin Beckett talking to senior design students.

A party of senior pupils paid a visit to the Rycotewood Summer exhibition which can inspire their own projects and also a party went to the Science Museum to research exhibition display techniques.

Stuart Hedley

TEXTILES

What does this word conjure up in most people's minds? Because we are touched by its products everyday without realising it let me explain a few points.



Display of GCSE work, several pupils' work.

So many parents and prospective parents who visit the school remark on how the teaching of the subject has changed so dramatically over the years. For they remember it as it was when it was called Home Economics or Needlework, sewing endless bits of cloth to try and make something that resembled an item you could use or better still want to take home at the end of the day.



Hand painted on Calico – Lynne Mather's GCSE work.

As a teacher of this subject I find it tremendously exciting that there are now syllabuses that offer the freedom to bring out the skill and creativity of our pupils. It is challenging but so rewarding when a girl or boy can take threads, wool, silks, beads, paint, fabric and work with them to produce a piece of work not just for exam purposes but one in which they have pride and want to show it off. What I have also found is that there has been a change of attitude towards the subject as regards boys and it is good to see more boys doing the course for exam level, some up to A' Level standard. But not only does this again produce examination pieces it also gives skills for life.

The GCSE group have once again produced excellent results, both Lynne Mather and Jennifer Chou being awarded A*(star) grading. Examination entries varied widely in style, approach and presentation.

There were some beautiful examples of silk painting in fine detail, exquisite embroidery, particularly that of Phillip Hayton who designed and worked a Lion's Head in black and white half cross stitch and Laura Brown's 'A' grade work that excelled both in the fine embroidery but also a stunning project on American Quilting/Patchwork supported by a lovely example of 'Cathedral Window' patchwork.

Ellen Salway achieved her 'A' grade with an interesting study on William Morris and some very interesting and original work done with silk paint and machine embroidery on the work of Monet.

Seven candidates achieved 'B' grades underlining the excellent work submitted for this exam – many of the critical studies were based on personal experience of countries or artists/designers; areas covered were the textile crafts of Japan, Mexico, India, Thailand, South Africa and America.

I have been particularly grateful to Michael Spring this year not only with the moving into his department but also the invaluable help and advice he has given me in the setting up of the new GCSE syllabus we now follow. I look forward to future collaborations through the teaching of Art and Textiles at Sibford.

Lesley L Norton

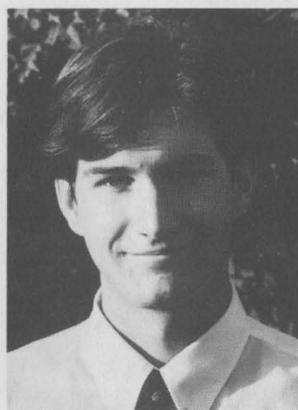
RESIDENT STUDENTS

Nathalie Becker

My hometown is Montpellier in the south of France where I study French and some English. This is my first time in England and I hope my English will improve rapidly.

I intend to be a teacher in France and after my stay in Sibford I will have to spend at least three years at the university in Montpellier.

I like reading, listening to music and the cinema. I'm not particularly fond of sport. I hope that I will enjoy my year among you and that I'll be helpful to the pupils who study French here.



Cameron Billingsley

My name is Cameron, the resident music student from Australia. I was educated at Knox Grammar School in Sydney, a school from which previous GAP students at Sibford have come.

I have really enjoyed working at Sibford. The audible rewards of working in the Music Dept. have been great and I would like to thank everyone involved in Music for making it such a pleasant year for me.

I took full advantage of my vacations and travelled extensively throughout the UK and continental Europe, an experience that I will find it difficult to rival.

I will be leaving this unique British climate in December to continue travelling and to be united with friends and family. I will most likely commence university in 1996 and reluctantly settle down for a couple of years.

Wishing you all the best.

Catherine Cole

I'm a resident student from Canberra, Australia. I have completed my Year 12 Certificate at Radford College in November 1994. My hobbies are reading, netball, TV and animals.

I decided to take a year away before starting university to fully decide what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Even though I have definitely loved working with the EFL students, I have ruled out teaching as a career!



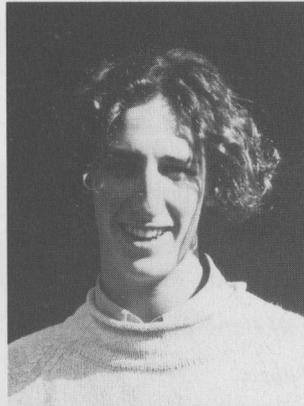
I've spent my time with the EFL Dept. and have consequently learned a great deal about Asian cultures. Despite a little trouble in the first few weeks, getting used to their accents, I have had a great time with these pupils.

When I return to Australia, I'm looking forward to blue skies, brown grass AND hot dry WEATHER!! I plan on following a science degree at Macquarie University in Sydney, hopefully leading into veterinary science.

I have enjoyed my year immensely and will never forget the people who have made my year so wonderful. Thank you to all those who have made the year unforgettable.

Daniel May

I came to Sibford at the start of January from the warmth of an Australian summer, right into the cold of an English winter. I was assigned to Orchard Close where I have had a most enjoyable year. Orchard Close is a fantastic part of Sibford School and has given me opportunities to go sailing, camping and to see a small amount of England through the outings and trips they do. Every Monday night I spent a few hours in Lister house which gave me the chance to become more involved with the main school, and in April I went on the school ski trip to France.



In my last two terms I became involved with the school Cricket and Rugby teams. I was also lucky enough to play with a very successful Sibford Cricket Club which brought a group of friends within the village whom I will remember for a long time.

During the summer holidays I travelled throughout Europe and relaxed in the Canary Islands. Overall this year has been a wonderful experience for me and one I shall always remember fondly. I will be returning to Australia in January to study Myotherapy at R.M.I.T in Melbourne. Thank you Sibford for a fantastic year.

Pascale Montessuy

We were fortunate in obtaining the services of Pascale Montessuy from Grenoble as our first-ever French assistante at Sibford. Her professionalism and enthusiasm were much appreciated, giving an added spice to the lessons (people really do communicate in this language!) and she quickly became part of school life, not only in the classroom, but also in Choral Society and Saturday morning activities. She set a high standard for her successors to follow. Her scarf will also not be forgotten!

It was a pity that Pascale could not stay with us for the Summer Term, when she would not have needed her scarf, but Etienne Baudriller from Vichy was fortunately able to take her place - not an easy task in the middle of a school year. We thank them both for their help and wish them much success in their chosen careers - Pascale in the world of tourism, and Etienne in the theatre. Who knows, the francophiles among us may not have seen the last of them yet!

Jean Rudge

OUT AND ABOUT

KIDS CAMP 1995 "THE RETURN"

Day 0 (or What You Will)

It all began unexpectedly for Trevor and Andy, in the twilight of the quiet Sunday evening calm before the storm.

Out of the fog appeared a body. It was that of Philip. He knocked on the door and the door was opened with great menace.

There was a stunned silence as Philip very slowly realised that he shouldn't have been there.

Day 1 (A Comedie of Errors)

The brawling kids piled out of the van, to the horror of all onlookers. They were the nicest little children you could ever wish for. They swore, wet the bed and the funniest word they knew was "poo".

The first thing which was arranged was lunch: it had been set for around 1.30, but ended up being at 6.30 in the evening, thanks to the lateness of several nameless people who shall remain nameless (there's a moral for you!).

Most of the rest of the day was spent being torn to pieces by the kids. We did have the chance to go on a tractor ride, but I didn't go on it, because Arthur, my child, refused. He was so extreeeeemly scared of heights, a step seemed like a mountain.

So as I walked 100 miles down the farm track with Arthur, the others all enjoyed themselves, riding on the tractor and looking at the animals, the combines and other farm curios.



Day 2 (As You (don't) Like It)

It was the fateful day of Tuesday and it was on this day that the children did go to the Cotswold Wildlife park.

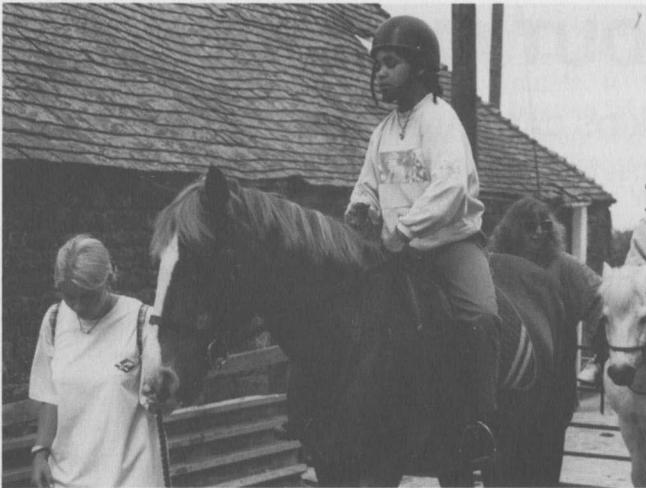
The sky was full of foreboding as we set out, with threats of thunder and lightning. The children all cowered under the seats as the tempest rose before us, roaring "I am here and thou wilt take notice of me, for if thou dost not then I shalt kill thee."

Unfortunately, for old Mr Tempest, the sun came out and it was quite a nice day. We went on a train and there was nearly disaster when a car drove onto the tracks: sadly, however, it noticed at the last second and we survived.

There were plenty of animals to see, all on "carefully balanced diets", but we quickly put a stop to that when two of our load threw half their picnic lunch to them.

Day 3 (An 'orse, an 'orse, My Kingdom for an 'orse...)

The sun greeted most of us in the morning, yelling out that it would be an extremely hot day. In my dormitory I hadn't noticed, however, as I was still recovering from all the stresses from the day before. Andy burst through the door with a great big cheery grin on his face. He always wore this big cheesy grin to get us out of bed with. The



day planned ahead was to go horse riding and then to fly kites on the Dasset Hills. Arthur was extremely reluctant to go on anything above 1cm high: getting on a horse was no exception. "Not goin", he said over and over again, "Don't wanna go on an 'orse." With a lot of encouragement, though, we managed to persuade him that the horse wouldn't eat him or kick him off, and to double his confidence we got the extremely talented Di and Gill to make sure he didn't slip out of the saddle. After about half a minute he was thoroughly enjoying himself, and afterwards and for the rest of the week kept boasting that he had got on "an 'orse".

On the Dasset Hills, the first thing we had to do was make the kites. The problem was that they were cheap and nasty and the instructions were specially written so that you couldn't make head nor tail of them. (Not that I'm complaining).

After I'd crashed our kite for the eight hundredth time and had finally destroyed it, I was allowed access to one of the good kites. It went much better and because everyone else's kites had broken I used the lines of theirs to make mine go higher. I ended up with about 7 reels of line and thus (I am proud to announce) we had the highest kite there. After about three hours I managed to get it down again.

Day 5 (No, No, my Heart will Burst....)

Shakespeare would have turned in his grave if he had known that we were all going to Stratford on this day (and you can figure out why..).

Everyone climbed out of the buses and we went to the Avon for a boat trip. To my surprise Arthur had no qualms against going on the boat at all. The rest of us all went off to do more important things, like eating burgers at Macdonalds.

After lunch in Stratford we went to Hatton Country World, which was a farm which had been opened to the public and specialised in rare breeds. I was going to go on a carriage ride, but Arthur refused and so I couldn't. Instead we fed all the animals. Arthur kept telling the goats that they were too greedy so they couldn't have any more. His own response to this was to give them some more.

After about 5 hours doing nothing in particular, it was time to head off home for the night.

Day 6 (All's well that ends well?)

It was the final day: Andy burst in, cheerful as usual. Why was he always so happy at 7.30 in the morning?! "Wake up, final day!" he chirruped. For once we weren't going anywhere, except to play mad sports in the hall. Unfortunately, Mr Thomas wasn't there so he couldn't get any ideas for new things to do in PE. Arthur had a tantrum because in one of the sports you had to put a wellington on. This was just too much for him. "Don't wanna put

Sibford School Magazine

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Dear Editor,

We are writing to you to say we have had an excellent week at Sibford. We had nice, kind helpers. They looked after us really carefully and we had a great time. Laura, Jackie, Jane, Ian and Mohibur specially liked the horse riding. Khayum, Daniel and Arthur enjoyed the visit to the wild life park. John thought the trampolining was fantastic and Dipu loved kite flying. We are sad about leaving our helpers behind. It was the helpers who made it good and enjoyable. We want to say thank you to Andy and Gill, Paul, Di and Jackie and the dinner ladies. Love from,
Laura Jane John Ianxx Khayumxx Jackiexx
Dipu Mohibur Arthurxx Danielxx

welly on," he moaned, in an Arthur type of way. Otherwise, this was the shortest day of the lot. We had lunch at 11.00 and they left at 12.00. It was a very emotional moment. The boxes of Kleenex were handed around and after they had driven down the road, noses were blown.

Epilogue (or Murder will Out....)

The week was highly enjoyable. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys being around and helping children and who likes a challenge: BOY is it a challenge!!!

Tom Lane Yr 11

OUR HISTORY TRIP

We started off at school at 9.00 am on Thursday the 25th of May for our history trip, first to Stokesay Castle where we could for 50 pence get a tape to take us round the castle with step by step instructions.

I took the tape which explained things like why there were cracks in the wall and holes in the floor. The woman's voice on the tape took us back in time especially when we reached the tower. She told us about the holes in the wall for soldiers to put their guns through to shoot the people. There was a room with a little fireplace and over and around it was beautiful wooden carving of faces and flowers mixed together.



Left to right: Kate Hobby, Tom Gill, Kathryn Knowles, Alicia Hamel and Mathew Stafford.

On the other side of the road was a lake which was used to fill the moat, the remains of which you can still see today.

We then made our way to the church which had some interesting box pews before having our picnic lunch.

Alicia Hamel Yr 8

Then we spent an hour at Boscobel House where we went to see the oak tree down a field where King Charles hid from Oliver Cromwell's soldiers. He hid with his servant up the tree for a whole day.

After looking at the tree we went into a room and read some posters before a guide told us about Charles, the tree and Oliver Cromwell's men. She showed us two priest holes and we went into them; one of them was also where Charles hid for several hours.

We looked around some more rooms and saw lots of old fashioned farming machines, and looked around some shops. I enjoyed squeezing myself to hide down the priest hole best of all.

It took us 2 hours from Boscobel House back to school.

Adam Bell Yr 8

THE QUAKER PILGRIMAGE/"FOX TROT"

It started one misty Friday morning in late September. The idea of following the footsteps of George Fox up hills, down hills and through fields in miserable weather didn't really appeal to us. The words "What have we got ourselves into?" sprung to mind. However, we couldn't have been more wrong.

As we converged at Richmond Claymore service station where we were to meet up with the Safron Walden Friends School students, we realised that the strangers from Sidcot, Leighton Park and Safron Walden School were wondering similar thoughts to ours. "Are they going to be friendly? Will we all get on with each other?"

However, upon climbing Pendle Hill, (George Fox's supposed place of Godly vision), we soon realised that we were all here for the same reason, to learn about the religious basis that our Schools are all about.

The small village of Yealand Conyers in which we were staying was obviously deathly quiet 361 days of the year

with only one shop there, selling lamp shades! But for four days it was turned into a home for the Southern Friends Schools representatives.

The youth hostel that was our accommodation was very basic but did prove an old saying, "It's the people that make the place."

By the end of the first night, bags and belongings were unpacked, friends were made and barriers were broken. Once the social difficulties were solved, it was down to the business of learning and our guides were happy to teach us the ways and the past of Quakerism (and a bit about the Quaker connection with breweries).

Quite frankly, four days just didn't seem enough to do the number of activities that we had managed. The last day included climbing of the strangely named "Red Screw" mountain purely for the experience and the view that only climbing 3000 feet of rocks and shingle can provide.

But that last night was difficult to sleep through as we realised that we would have to say good-bye to our new friends and our new make-shift home. However, we knew that none of us would ever forget that weekend.

Kate Jamison & Lee Bishop

UNDERSTANDING INDUSTRY

Thursday, Friday 7-8th September 1995

The sixth form took part in a course called "Understanding Industry" which was aimed at helping us to learn all about industry and why we have it in today's world. The course took two days as it was done in great depth.

We had various people who came in from the outside to tell us about the companies they worked for and also what role they played in the running of the business.

Outline Of The Two Days

On Thursday morning to start the course we had a visit from Rachel Oliver who worked for Lesme Ltd, a chocolate manufacturing company that sells chocolate to other companies to use in their own products. We were pleased to receive a sample of the chocolate as it was not to be sold in the shops.

Rachel Oliver (a Human Resources Officer) talked to us about the importance of personnel and making sure that employees are treated in the correct manner so that they stay motivated and do not feel overruled by the managerial staff and other personnel. Rachel also talked to us about having to care for the safety of all employees and also the equal opportunities given to all of them. She was also responsible for the recruitment of employees and told us about the importance of recruiting the right people and said that if they were to recruit the wrong people, then the turnover would be high and that would be a waste of time, meaning that the career path would be blocked for other people who have the right qualities for that job.

She also spoke to us about the importance of giving the correct training to new personnel so that they would be skilled enough for being moved around the workplace to provide the top level of production performance. This would also mean that they could step up the speed that the products were being manufactured and so increase the turnover.

The most interesting feature of her talk was on the 'Employment Law' and all the different laws that companies have to abide by to make sure that the company is being run legally. One of the laws that she told us about

was the Factory Act which deals with the safety and steady running of the workplace and how it needed to be a safe environment to work in.

I was very interested when she told us about equal opportunities and the fact that if a company employs more than twenty people they should employ three percent who were disabled.

Assignments

Rachel Oliver gave us the task of writing a job description for a 'Sales Office Manager' and to say what qualifications we expected them to have for the job. We were told, however, that we were expecting slightly too much.

Then on Friday we were visited by Jan Crawford from Overthorpe Printing Company in Banbury. She came and talked to us about Marketing and what it is really about, showing us various products and the way they were packaged and advertised e.g. using Linford Christie on an athletics track and saying how much better he would run after a nice cold drink of Lucozade.

She gave us the task of advertising a new board game and also to tell her how we would market the game and target customers. Finally we were trying to find out if it would be likely to succeed on the market. At the end of all the planning we had to give a presentation to Jan Crawford to tell her how we were going to test the game, etc.

For the last assignment we were given a very fun task to do. We had to imagine being stranded after crashing in arctic conditions and prioritise from a list of 15 items what would be the order of importance. We did this as individuals first and then in small groups and totalled our scores to see how good our problem solving skills were.

Jonathan Thresh Year 13
GNVQ Business Studies Student

SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB

It was yet again another successful season for Sibford, who won promotion from the third division to the second in the South Northants. League.

The usual clash with Wroxton was a nail biting game, with Wroxton emerging as the winners of the League and with Sibford as runners-up. More success was gained, however, in the Long Compton Shield, when after a hard series of games Sibford found victory, beating Tysoe in the final.

The glorious weather and fine cricket has made this a season to remember for the players and the supporters alike. Our many thanks must go for another year to the school and to its groundsmen for the use of the excellent facilities for the past season.

Roger Gilbert

VISIT FROM THE LABENWOLF GYMNASIUM, NÜRNBERG, GERMANY

At the end of September 1995, we were privileged to receive at Sibford a group of eleven students and two teachers from the Labenwolf Gymnasium in Nürnberg, Southern Germany. During their ten-day stay the students were entertained by local families, visited places of interest like Stratford, Oxford and Warwick and spent some time in school, where they in turn entertained us in morning meeting with a wonderful performance of German folk-songs under the direction of their music teacher, Martina

Friedrich. Music is one of the specialities of this Grammar School, together with Maths and Science. Their English teacher, Gerd Witzke, speaks for us all when he talks of learning a foreign language and visiting other countries as being 'mind-openers' and we hope that many of our students will take advantage of the link now established to broaden their horizons and pay a return visit to Nürnberg, which is a beautiful old city in Bavaria, rich in history and tradition.

To close with a few comments from the German students: "I like the beautiful countryside and the weather"; "Sibford School has more sweet and tall boys than we have in our school." (!) "England was a very good experience for me."; "I liked my family very much because they were so lovely."; "Even if the weather was not really English (too much sunshine...) it was quite a new experience to be in a real English school." "This journey was an important experience for me and I definitely won't forget it." "I enjoyed the stay in my guest family because they were so friendly, that it will be difficult to leave them." "After my last trip to England I didn't want to travel to England again, but now I'm glad I was here." "It was a good experience to meet all these nice students and to get to know this school-system." "I had an incredible time here and hope that a group will come next year to Germany."

We hope so too!

Jean Rudge

MORNING MEETING

In the morning 11 students and 2 teachers came to sing in meeting. They sang German folk songs. They were nearly all the same height. All people except the singers were very silent. At the end the applause was the biggest I have ever heard for ages. There was only one boy in the group I felt very sorry for him surrounded by girls. The people from Germany were staying with people from Sibford School. They sang to us about six songs. I could not understand them, but they were all very nice indeed. There was a lady teacher conducting them she also sang. The meeting seemed very short today. However it was the best meeting I have ever been to. We had a little silence before they sang. Our music teacher said he heard them have a warm up, before they sang in meeting. They said that it was only one class. So I wish I could hear their choir.

Ruth White. Year 5

THE SIBFORD-LABENWOLF EXCHANGE HOW WE CAME TO SIBFORD.

In 1994 a friend of John Dunston's in Germany, Godehard Maruschke, gave me Sibford's address and warmly recommended the openmindedness of the Head from his former experience of student exchanges. As we learned of John Dunston's inclination towards music and the Arts, we suspected we might have the basis for a good exchange, as Labenwolf school puts emphasis on these subjects too.

Due to the untiring efforts of Jean Rudge, the Head of the Modern Languages Dept., the links have finally been established and my wife and I arrived for an informative visit in February this year.

We definitely aren't only here for the beer, although we enjoyed several visits to some of the local pubs where we experienced (and tasted) the English way of life.

My reasons for getting involved in an exchange are very personal ones. As a student at University College (London) a long time ago I learnt to appreciate and love this country, a feeling I would like to pass on to my students.

From a pedagogical point of view, it seems very important "to go for the real thing". Learning English without knowing the country and her people is absurd!

Speaking a foreign language is a mind-opener and thus it is worthwhile supporting the creative use of languages both ways, in English and in German.



German party from Nürnberg.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT SIBFORD:

I liked the enticing rural setting; the variety of fine meals; the warm reception by the Head of the school, the Head of Modern Languages and the Staff; the Quaker principles at the school, e.g. the pledge to non-violence and the basically democratic tradition in the Meetings to speak out one's mind.

WHAT I DISLIKE:

I dislike too much traffic in Oxford; too many cowpats on the Sibford circular walk; not to have enough time to look at some places (Gloucester in two hours!!) and the phrase, "I still have to do my paperwork."

WHAT I HOPE:

I hope that we have not disturbed school life at Sibford too much, that there will be a return visit to Nuremberg by Sibford students soon, and that we will be able to repay the kindness and hospitality we have experienced at Sibford School.

Gerd Wilzke

Teacher of English and German at Labenwolf
Gymnasium, Nürnberg.

FRENCH THEATRE VISIT

On the 10th of May my French class went on a trip to see the play 'Cyrano de Bergerac'. It was staged in another school in Oxford and the whole production was in French. The actors spoke very fast, so I used the script we had been given to help me follow the story-line. It is about two men who are both in love with the same girl. One of them, Cyrano, a soldier-poet, has an enormous nose and thinks that the girl will not like him because of it. The other, also a soldier, is very handsome, but not very clever and he enlists Cyrano's help in writing love-letters to his mistress. The girl, Roxane, falls in love with the romantic and sincere poems. Both men go off to fight and the handsome one is killed. Roxane retires to a convent, cherishing 'his' last letter. Only at the end of Cyrano's life, when he dies in her arms, does she discover the true identity of the writer, the man she really loved. It is a very sad story, but I enjoyed it very much.

Louise Whyte.

FRENCH/HISTORY TRIP TO NORMANDY

At the end of the Summer Term 1995, the French and History Departments joined forces to undertake a four-day trip to Rouen in Normandy, Northern France. The area is rich in historical associations, although there was nothing historical about the comfortable, modern hotel in which we stayed. Rouen itself was a delight, with its beautiful cathedral, picturesque medieval streets and the colourful story of Joan of Arc. Its 'Flunch' restaurant is also to be recommended for fast food French style – a definite improvement on Macdonalds! In Caen we visited the impressive 'Musee de la Paix', which celebrates the achievements of D-day in restoring peace to Europe – reminding us how precious that peace is and how dearly-bought. We visited the nearby landing beaches, where the weather became appropriately cold and windy, re-creating the bleak atmosphere of fifty years ago.

In the afternoon we re-lived the story of another invasion in the opposite direction – 1066 and all that. The Bayeux tapestry never fails to impress and fresh little details are revealed every time one sees it. Those who were seeing it for the first time were amazed at its sheer size and the freshness of the colours.

All in all the trip was much enjoyed by all involved and the association of subjects is one we would like to repeat, perhaps to Germany next year?

Jean Rudge & Janet Gregory

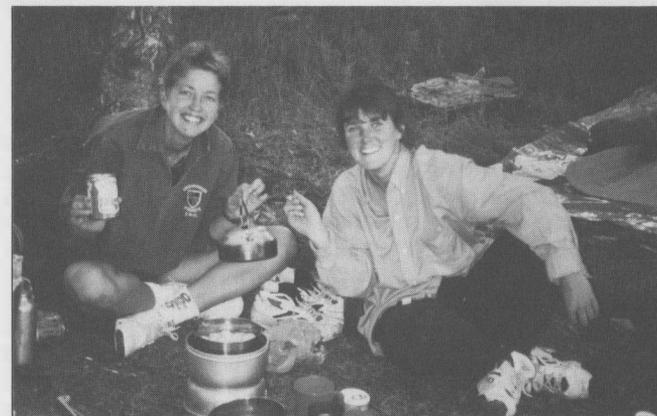


Le groupe.

ACTIVITIES WEEK

We set off on a rain soaked morning heading for Lake Windermere. Our bus driver was greatly relieved once his coach was loaded because at first sight it seemed the luggage would not fit (and that was just the staff's).

Several hours later we arrived and hastened off in search of our luxury tents and were relieved to find them dry,



Tracy Knowles and Sarah Spittle by the camp fire! Miss Spittle is the Food Technology teacher, so we can presume the Ambrosia rice was **not** burned!

sheltered and almost ... well cosy. (Miss Spittle did express some concern at the lack of a power point for her hair dryer.) Dr Newbold was extremely happy to have his all to himself and the children carefully chose their sleeping companions for the week. Everything was neatly stored, sleeping bags neatly arranged etc ... for the first (and last) time. This really was the last moment of peace we had. We were hurled headlong into morning activities, afternoon swim, afternoon activities, tea, and evening activities.



Alison Dale-Green (Year 7) abseils down from on high!

Each day brought a new experience for everyone, and incredible heat. We were away on the hottest week of the year which was all the more delightful. Much of the week was spent on the water using canoes, kayaks, Canadian canoes, sailing, or indeed just swimming. It was a pleasant surprise to be able to get soaking wet and simply dry out on the water instead of getting hypothermia.

We even went 'bush', paddling what felt like several miles to a barren island to set up camp. Most of the children took to this like ducks to water and enjoyed cooking for themselves and setting up camp (until breakfast came



Philip Melzor (Year 8) seems to have upset Miss down by the canoes!

and they realised that they had eaten breakfast and tea in the evening!). Nevertheless we all survived.

We also survived the initiative tests and it was excellent to see all children becoming involved in these exercises.

The week was hot, fun and of course educational with many of the children exhibiting qualities which you would not normally see in everyday school life and qualities that perhaps even they did not know they had. In fact, you could almost say the same for the three intrepid members of staff. There is life after the ironing board.

Tracy Knowles

THE EUROPA CENTRE VISIT

Who would have believed there was a unique French town hidden away just two hours south of Sibford? Year 11 had to experience 'Haricot Ville'.

Before leaving, everyone had made up special European passports and a great deal of dialogue practice had been undertaken. Some had truly entered the spirit of the trip by preparing some extra phrases to specifically test the villagers of 'Haricot Ville'.



Hannah Cossentine, Virginia Boulton with Lynne Mather go French at Europa.

The day began with all five native speakers introducing themselves followed by a tour of the village. Once everyone had successfully got through customs a visit to the Bureau De Change was needed and special credit cards were issued. The whole object of the day was to visit as many shops as possible collecting goods on the way.

There was also the opportunity to visit the station, cinema, hotel and buy that special hat or item of jewellery. In the small cafe there were only nine chairs which kept everybody on the move. Four members of our group had to deal with a very pregnant woman just as lunch was being served. A thief ran off with a plate of chips, which involved a lengthy explanation by another student to the police. He narrowly avoided being arrested! Several people had to deal with lost passports and some even a check-up from the local doctor.

During the time that we were at the centre there was plenty going on all the time. Everybody had the chance to use French directly in an extremely authentic atmosphere. An exceptionally worthwhile trip was enjoyed by all.

Richard Hutchinson

YEAR 7 HISTORY OUTING

On Friday 5th May, Year 7 visited Baddesley Clinton and the 'Cradle of Civilisation' exhibition in Birmingham. Here is a selection of their comments:

Baddesley Clinton is a manor house, a National Trust stately home with a wide moat around it. It was interesting when we saw how people were living in those times.

It has rather a lot of portraits of people who lived there. Our guide enjoyed talking about the haunted room.

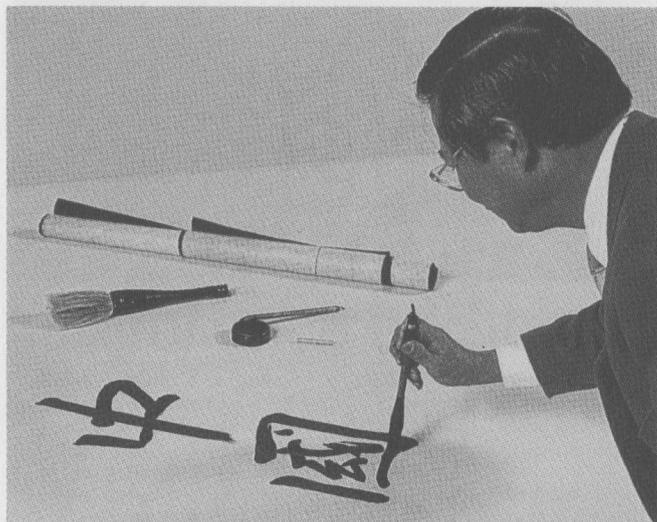
A man was murdered in the library and you could see the blood stain on the floor.

The house has got 3 hiding places for priests.

We learnt about Catholics and how they weren't allowed to believe what they wanted to.



The bedrooms were nice because the beds were very old.
 On the windows there were crowns which symbolised that princes or very important people lived there.
 There was also an animal bone that lived on the sea. I tried lifting it up with one hand, but it was very heavy.
 The gardens were lovely with herbs, flowers and fruit trees.
 They put the fish into the "stew pond" to be eaten later.
 The sewers were very hygienic.
 There was lots of Chinese writing.
 We saw Jade.
 There was also a Chinese medicine cupboard.
 It had a junk display.
 I liked the little model ships.
 There were a lot of clever exhibits like acupuncture.
 When there is an earthquake a heavy bronze ball falls out of the jaws of a dragon with a frog's mouth.
 The earthquake predictor was fascinating.
 They had some really clever ideas then.
 We could find out lots by filling out the worksheets.
 There were lots of figures and wheelbarrows.
 There were model dragons and kites.
 A big loom was working.
 An extra clever exhibit was a large bowl - you rubbed the handles to make a big wave by vibrating.
 The vibration bowl was great when the water went everywhere.
 We're lucky to have seen it.



INTEGRATED HUMANITIES - YEAR 10

Stratford-upon-Avon - June 1995

As part of the 'Leisure and Tourism' unit, Year 10 Integrated Humanities groups were invited to plan a weekend of Leisure and Sport for a fictitious family or group of young

people, who were visiting Stratford over an extended weekend.

The visit had to be sensibly costed in terms of food and accommodation, and a full itinerary of activities planned. No expense was spared by Sibford pupils in arranging accommodation, and the main shopping centre was thoroughly investigated on behalf of the intended visitors. Purchases were made to test the value of products and services! Even MacDonald's was sampled by a healthy minority - all in the cause of research!!



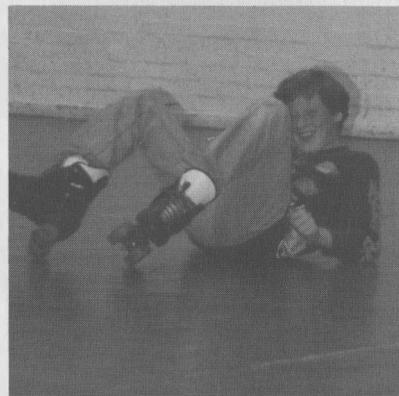
Geoff Slade

The highlight of the visit was the unsolicited gift of a dozen umbrellas to Sibford staff and students from a visiting group of German children. They were fascinated by our uniform clad students and insisted on a photograph session in exchange for the umbrellas. It felt a bit like feeding monkeys in a zoo, but nevertheless we all gratefully accepted our gifts. Needless to say Geoff Slade appropriated the most expensive looking umbrella, and then declared the visit a resounding success.

Geoff Slade

ACTIVITIES

After a long hard week in School all you want to do is sit down in front of the television and vegetate all weekend don't you? Where that may seem like a great weekend to me, you're a different kettle of fish and far from vegetating in front of the TV you want to travel and try new and fun activities.



Nick Mapletoft hits the deck, roller skating.

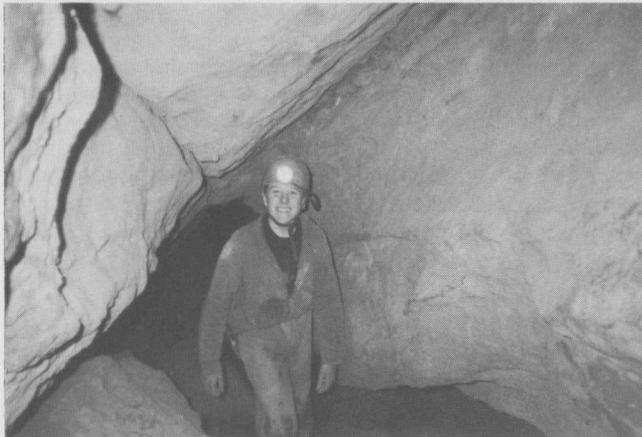
So far this year you have been bowled over with excitement on our bowling trips to Leamington Spa, you have rolled-up with laughter at our roller skating skills both in School and when visiting 'Rollers' in Milton Keynes. Some of us got stuck underground on one of our caving trips or climbed to new heights on the indoor climbing walls in Gloucester. Most of us joined in one of the many trips ice skating, swimming, quad biking, to the cinema or just shopping in Milton Keynes, Gloucester or Oxford.

And how are we going to finish this year's activities programme? Well on the 4th November we will be taking all those in School to Wolford's Grand Bonfire and fireworks night and on the last weekend of term will be the Christmas Ball on Saturday and a visit to the Clothes Show Live at the NEC on Sunday. What next I hear you say, another year of fun packed weekends? Yes!



Helping Fabian along.....

Unusually for me I'm going to leave the last word to a pupil, Patrick Jessel who was a member of the first caving trip this year.



Philip Hayton underground.

"I went with all my friends and we had to put on the right gear. One time Mr Ludlow was trying to climb this rock in a cave and I was behind him; well, he slipped and fell on top of me and I felt like a pancake! Anyway, I had a great time." - Thanks Patrick!

Paul Ludlow



Cavers glad to break surface again ! !

NEW MEETING HOUSE TABLE

Friends worshipping at the Meeting House are delighted to welcome a new presence into their midst. Our eyes have been drawn to a beautiful new table which has replaced the rather worm eaten small table which served us previously. Stuart Hedley, with assistance from John Viggers, has turned some substantial but rather uninteresting rectangular lengths of timber into a splendid table, which shows his fine eye for design and superb craftsmanship. Thank you Stuart and John for giving so much of your time to create this piece of furniture for us. We were delighted to hear the comments of one Old Scholar when visiting recently who said, "That has to be the work of Stuart Hedley." A small plaque has been placed underneath the table, telling future generations who made it.

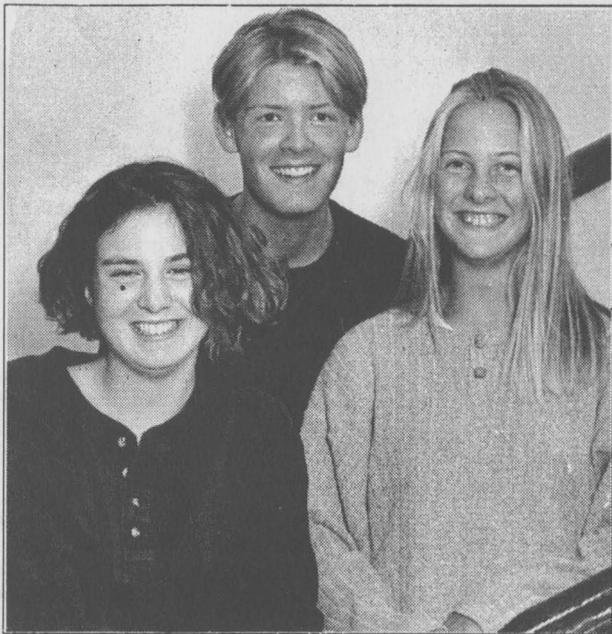
Karen Turburfield.



Stuart Hedley and John Viggers completing the Meeting House table.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS



■ **TRIPLE STARS:** Lynne Mather, Mollie Tustian and Greg Austin can't hide their delight after getting excellent grades in the exams.

Excellence at Sibford

SIBFORD School, in Sibford Ferris, fared better than it did last year in the GCSE exams.

Sixty-three pupils took the exams at the private Quaker school and 40 per cent of them achieved five or more A to C passes, two per cent more than last year.

The cream of the crop included Lynne Mather, of South Newington, who returned from holiday in Australia hours before to learn she had 10 passes in-

cluding three As and two A*s.

Others with top grades included Mollie Tustian from Epwell and Greg Austin from Hook Norton.

Headmaster John Dunston said: "We are extremely pleased at the excellent results achieved by our pupils.

"The trend of recent years has continued, with the proportion of pupils gaining five or more passes up yet again for the fourth time in five years."



BROTHER and sister Russell and Gemma Bennett (above), from Brackley, deserve to blow their own trumpet after winning a young musician of the year competition. Russell, aged 14, was the overall winner of the competition organised by the Banbury Rotary Club, and sister Gemma, aged 11, came tops in the junior section. Pictured below are three pupils from Sibford School who did well in the competition. Pictured from top to bottom are 11-year-old Naomi Chant (junior strings winner), 14-year-old James Chen (intermediate piano winner) and 15-year-old James Brash (intermediate strings winner). For a full competition report see the Banbury section of the *Around Town & Country* pages.

Jennifer creates a stir



■ **DISH OF THE DAY:** Jennifer Brown demonstrates her skills to pupils Lorna McCarthy, Lee Sayers and Mike Donkersley.

SIBFORD School head chef Jennifer Brown celebrated 20 years of school dinners on Friday.

To mark the occasion staff gave her a Masterchef of the Year cookery book, a cake and a card.

Jennifer, who lives in Main Street, Tadmarton, said: "I didn't even realise it had been 20 years." She has many memories of her time at the school including a power cut five years ago.

"It was Christmas time and all the power went off. There had been

heavy snow and with no electricity the freezer was thawing out. We noticed it was colder outside than in the freezer so we built an igloo to keep the food frozen." She now passes her skills on to others for she has started teaching part of a catering course for 16 and 17-year-old pupils leading to a Diploma of Vocational Education. Twice a week the five pupils on the course are allowed into the kitchen to be shown food preparation and cooking techniques.



YE WYMMON OF SHEEP-FORD

When Sibford opened its doors as a school in 1842 it was unusual in that it was a co-educational venture right from the start. Popular images of Victorian education are dominated by the all-male institutions, chief amongst them Arnold at Rugby, but in this quiet corner of Oxfordshire the Society of Friends was aiming at something different.

The boys walked to the miller at Temple Mill and carried home the flour, which the girls then learned to bake into bread. There was a strong element of the rural about the school and physical labouring was part of its vision. Even today something of this founding vision remains in the importance attached to Horticulture and the Walled Garden.

But much else has changed. Today boys and girls together would collect the flour, perhaps even mill it, and certainly the boys would be numbered amongst the bakers along with the girls.

However, the Quaker vision of equality between all peoples, and between both sexes, which caused the school to be established co-educationally, has not changed. Sibford today values and holds dear its co-educational nature and wants to build on it for the future.

Girls at Sibford are less than 50% of the pupil body, few in number but precious. They can hold their own with anyone. In recent years they have played a large part in the establishment of girls' rugby in the locality, Sibford teams winning the Oxford New Image junior championship in 1993 and the senior championship in 1995. The team were runners up in the 1994 final. This sporting achievement symbolises our belief that girls can breach former male bastions and prove their worth in every situation.

Another small event symbolises our system of equality. Over the years the chairs were put out in the Hall each morning, ready for Meeting for Worship, by the "chair boys", and the chair boys alone. Now the girls are part and parcel of this activity, too, because it's only fair that they should be.

Much debate exists in the educational world about the relative advantages and disadvantages of single sex establishments as compared with mixed. At Sibford we are certain that the reflection of the wider world and its composition reproduced in our classrooms is for the best.



Children thrive in a dual-gender school because people thrive in a dual-gender world, it's as simple as that.

Every woman in a relationship with a man will know that he needs from time to time to be "with the lads!" She too will enjoy time in an all female group as proven by the now famous "Chocolate Pudding Club", an all-female grouping of Sibford staff. The girls at Sibford have their house, named after the powerful role-model of Margaret Fell, the "Mother of the Society", a place which is their own. The supportive atmosphere there is not always evident in single sex schools.

Part of the task undertaken by Caroline Homan when she joined us as Deputy in 1994 was to promote the recruitment of girls into Sibford. We are determined not to lose the value which our past has given us.

Reproduced here are some of the comments which girls at Sibford have volunteered for this magazine article. They speak for themselves.

"I think girls here are more outgoing" (Year 9)

"We love to face new challenges." (Year 11)

"We have a very sisterly feeling between most of the boarders.....we would never see anyone go without." (Year 11)

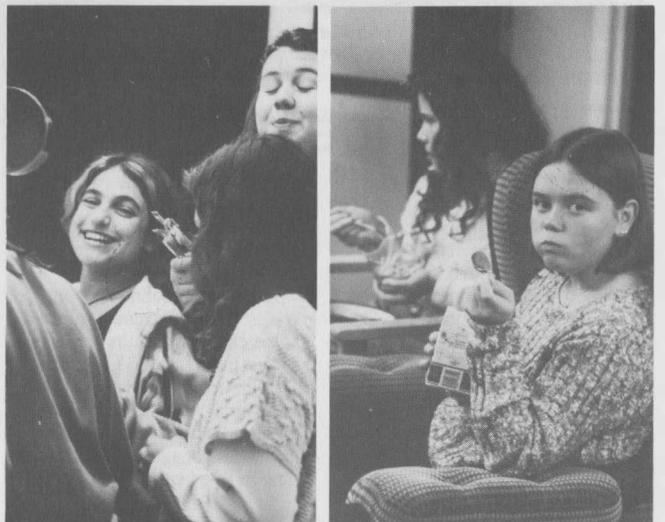
"We are individuals." (Year 11)

"We work very well as a team." (Year 10)

"It can be very daunting when you first arrive, more boys than girls, but it doesn't feel like that when you are part of the community. The girls are very supportive of each other and some of the boys are my best friends." (Year 10)

Sibford provides a place where girls are welcome, can flourish and gain the confidence to take their places in the world of today.

Editor.



**SIBFORD
IN THE
SNOW**





LITERATURE SECTION

ANTARCTICA

Antarctica is a lonely place; it is bleak and desolate, with not one blade of grass, not one solitary person to be seen. It is so barren that not even one tree is to be seen. It is just one big white blanket.

It is so forlorn that it does not rain; instead icy winds sweep across it which freeze you to your very bone. Rivers of ice flow relentlessly by, creaking but otherwise silent, inch by inch until they reach the sea. For many miles there is not a bird song.

What a desolate place – a large lump of ice in the ocean, hardly touched by humankind.

Walking across Antarctica would send you mad. There are no villages, just expanses of bleak white snow. If you chose to live there you could not possibly pick a more solitary existence. Yet Antarctica is slowly melting, being destroyed by oil, because Man is greedy for energy, fuel and power.

How long will the lonely place last ?

Eleanor Salmon Year 9

HAPPY I AMS

I am the dog being taken for a walk.
I am the pig who won't become pork.
I am the sun flower with the longest stalk.

I am the fish who hasn't been caught.
I am a bottle with a special cork.
I am a child chasing a ball in the park.

I am a plate filled with tasty chips.
I am the boy licking his lips.
I am the cook smiling, with hands on hips.



James McLaren. Year 8

SAD I AMS

I am homework undone at the bottom of a bag.
I am a house, decrepit and old.
I am a ring, lost and dirty.
I am an old man, crippled and waiting to die.
I am an old machine, rusty and sad.

Tom Gill Year 8

SAD I AMS

I am a brush that is brushing greasy hair.
I am a packet of sweets over which people fight,
and do not share.
In a junk yard I am an abandoned chair.

I am a goose waiting to be cooked.
I am a key that's been broken in a lock,
can you see? Look, look!
I am a crook banged up in jail, it's all my own fault.



I am a steel bar that's been bent.
I am a smashed window that's not been mended.
I am a poem that's now ended.

Giles Seller Year 8.

The following two horoscopes were invented as part of GCSE coursework on "Macbeth". They were designed for the day on which Duncan is murdered by Macbeth, acting with the manipulative support of his wife.

DUNCAN

With Pluto, the planet of unfaithfulness, in Libra today, your closest friends could be your worst enemies and your worst enemies could be your closest friends.

Be careful of staying with friends as you could get the point !

Be careful as power hungry people lurk close to you. Supernatural forces are lurking close to you and to your friends and may try to influence either you or them. Things may not be as they seem, but you **should** be able to rely on close relatives.

MACBETH

With Saturn, the planet of megalomania, moving into Leo you must be careful with your desires and hopes as they could ultimately be your downfall.

Be careful taking advice from close relatives – instead of getting you out of the hole you feel you're in, they will only dig the hole deeper.

Be wary of taking advice from strangers as this will not improve the situation. Be content with recent successes because if you try to move up the ladder too quickly, you may fall off !

Joseph Comfort Year 11

Lady Macbeth

Something in your mind is causing you doubts. A person close to you is needing your help. The year for your bad luck is 1607, so you may have doubts about what to do. You will recognise someone who reminds you of your father, and that will tell you "Don't do it." Listen, because this is a sign to you. Think carefully about your current desires. Are they what you **really** want?

Macbeth

There are some experiences which you can't prepare yourself for. You can't imagine what they are going to feel like nor how they will affect you until they happen. You are jealous of someone in your life, and a lot may happen in the next twenty-four hours. The decision is yours. Try not to let even those closest to you influence what **you** really want. The results may affect your whole life time! There will be **no** second chances!

Georgina Farmer Year 11

ROMEO AND JULIET

I am writing about "Romeo and Juliet", one of Shakespeare's well known tragedies. A tragedy is a play in which bad things happen to good people. In the case of Romeo and Juliet, these events end in their deaths.

I think the play has remained popular because of its message for so many people, young and old, rich and poor. For me the play is meaningful because, although I haven't fallen in love yet, when I do I think it will be the same as in the play, although in a different set of circumstances.

The play also shows how people can be misguided by greed and power. There are many examples of this in the play, one of them being when Lord Capulet tries to marry Juliet to County Paris, the kinsman of the Prince, just so that they will then be related to a rich and powerful family.

For me this is an important part of the play, because it is where things begin to go wrong. Juliet lies to her father and tells him she is going to church to seek forgiveness, when really she is going to marry Romeo. From then on, in my mind, it goes from bad to worse.

For all the reasons listed above, I would thoroughly recommend that you read and come to understand "Romeo and Juliet".

Matthew Grimshaw Year 9.



FACTS ABOUT ME

BY: JENNY PRESTON. Year 5

Brown Hair.
Only Child.
Likes Netball.
Loves Spaghetti Bolognaise.
Likes Snow.
Loves Swimming
Likes Reading.
Loves Gardening.
Loves Scotland.
Born in Surbiton.
Likes Trampolining.
Child.

NO WITCHCRAFT FOR SALE

I think the most important event in the story "No Witchcraft For Sale" is when Teddy gets blinded by a spitting tree snake and Gideon saves his sight by chewing a special root and spitting the mixture into Teddy's eyes. This shows that although the "Western" doctors are supposed to have the latest and most advanced medicines old remedies can be much more suited to separate illnesses, poisons etc. The old witch doctors use natural substances to cure what happens frequently in their villages. Sometimes even now old remedies are the best.

This event helps the writer examine the issue that the African people's medicines and customs should be respected and taken notice of. In the early 1900's until a few years ago the African people were thought of as underlings or just servants. "White" people did not take notice or respect their customs and tried to force the European way onto them. When Teddy has just got spat in the eyes his mother is totally helpless because nothing she has is helping Teddy, so Gideon takes over. "Do not be afraid, misses," said Gideon, "this will cure little yellow head's eyes."

I do think that the writer has put across her views to the reader. I think she feels very strongly that the African people are entitled to keep their beliefs and cures and if they do not want other people to share their knowledge then they are entitled to make up their own minds.

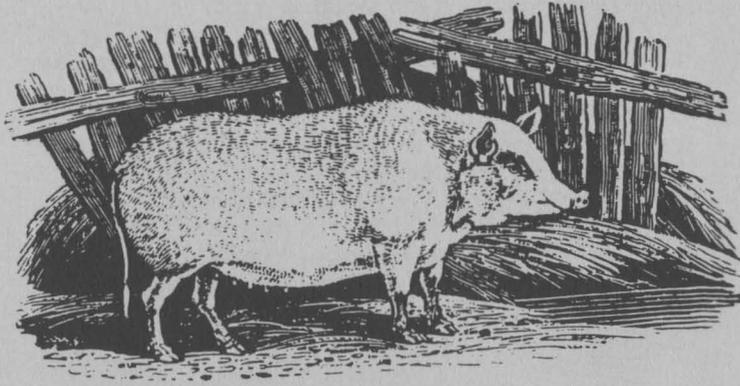
I think she also feels very strongly about racism and she believes that all people are owed the same kind of respect. Doris Lessing wins us over to her point of view through the character of Gideon because we sympathise with him. She feels that the African people have been mistreated and misunderstood over the years and it's about time that they were treated like people and not just objects to be owned.

Although I lived in Nigeria (West Africa) and had a cook (Morris) a nanny (Hannah) a gardener (Edward) a driver (Latife) and one day watchman and two night watchmen and a guard dog, we did not treat them like servants; they were more like our extended family. I used to be invited to Morris's house where I would watch T.V. and play. Hannah used to collect me from school and we would have plantane and sweetcorn on the way home. One of my friends was English (David) and the rest were Egyptian, Polish, Lebanese, Nigerian and lots more. I have never thought myself more important than anybody else just because of the colour of their skin or mine.

I hope that the people who worked for us at our house did not feel the same resentment for us that Gideon did. I hope they felt the same way as us. I would feel very hurt if they did feel the same as Gideon.

In Nigeria there were no big shopping centres or places just for ex-pats. There was one supermarket and we always went to the market to get material and fruit and veg. We had all our clothes made in Nigeria and we used to go to the local celebrations and generally try to fit in with the local people.

Bethan Young Year 10



NO QUESTIONS ASKED

It was Monday morning and I was getting ready to go back to school. When I arrived at school everything was normal until I walked down to the House at lunch time. We were watching the one o'clock news when Michael Buerke, the news reporter, said that there had been sightings of a strange beast in the area near my farm, and that's when it all began.....

That night when I got home, I was watching TV (the news again) and learned that there had been further sightings of the beast. That night Dad had to go down to the farm to tend to some cows, and as he walked down he noticed that there must have been at least ten sheep missing. He went to investigate, to see if they had sneaked out through a hole in the fence he didn't know about, but there wasn't one.

Dad came straight back to the house to tell us about all this. I didn't pay much attention, just carried on watching Match of the Day. Dad returned to the farm and that is when he saw it.

At first he didn't realise what it was, but when it came out of the dark he soon realised. He must have lost about a stone he ran back so fast! He had seen "the beast".

All we heard was "Argh....argh... !" so I ran outside to see what all the fuss was about as he burst in to telephone the police.

That night I tried to get to sleep, but it was very hard. The next morning I was awoken by police sirens. I looked out of my bedroom window and there were police, press, TV reporters and more, all outside. I saw Dad on the field, so I ran out to him and asked what was happening. He told me that the beast was on our farm and that I need not go to school that day.

Then I saw two men, both with guns. They were poised, ready to shoot. I ran to try and stop them, but they wouldn't listen. I decided to go for a walk in the woods. As I walked I noticed something in between the bushes. It was the beast, with its back to me.

At first I was going to run, but something inside of me made me stay. I tapped it on the shoulder and it turned around, looking dazed and frightened. I took its hand and pointed to the hills about a mile away. I think it understood as it walked off.

I didn't tell anyone about this, not even Dad. I just went back to bed!

Matthew Storey Year 7

FLYING

I wish I could fly like a bird
And glide like the wind.
I wish I could zoom like a plane.
I wish, I wish I could sit on a cloud,
A cloud as white as snow.
Oh, oh, look at the world below!

Kitty Cowell Year 3

RESCUE – a story based on Golding's "Lord of the Flies."

Only Tom woke up. He yawned and tried to rub the sleep out of his eyes and smiled at the pilot. "Who are you?" he asked sleepily. "I am Wilf", said the pilot. "What's your name?" "I'm Tom. How did we get here?" "Our plane was shot down", said Wilf, a little embarrassed. "Where are we?" "I'm not sure", said Wilf, frowning. "I'd guess some tropical island. Anyway, our first concern is your little friend there. If he's just knocked out, it'll be all right, but it could be worse. "

It took a few minutes to find out that he was, in fact, all right apart from a few bumps and bruises. "Right, you stay here and I'll look for food", ordered Wilf, and with that he went into the thick jungle.

The change was dramatic from the blasting heat of the beach to the thick aquarium-like atmosphere of the jungle. Everywhere he looked he could hear the chirping and chattering of the animals. It did not take long to find fruit.

He had picked an armful of the stuff when a familiar sound came to his ears; it was the noise of a ship, a large ship. He dropped his fruit and raced towards the beach.

There it was! An English war ship, but it was going the wrong way. Tom was jumping and screaming, but the ship was too far away. Then Wilf remembered the wireless in the plane, so off he dashed to get it.

When he reached the plane he located the door above the left wing, but it was too high off the ground for him to reach. In his eagerness to reach the door he did not see the damage done to the engines. So when he climbed on the wing to reach the doorway the wing dipped and a fractured engine came into contact with the ground. The leaking fuel came into contact with the heated ground.

Wilf dived into the cockpit and grabbed the wireless. He tried to turn it on, but the aerial had broken and all he got was static.

The engine fuel had heated up and now caught fire. It quickly spread through the damaged wreck and the inevitable explosion followed. Wilf lost his life, but the fire did attract the attention of the passing warship.

Ben Gibson Year 8

THE SECOND YEAR

This school year has been our second full year of the new P.S.F.A. and in many ways has been a year of consolidation following several years of intense discussion and the implementation of numerous changes.

The new Committee appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 5th November 1994 consisted of many new names and faces but there were still a few familiar faces who had been involved with some of the changes to guide us when we strayed off the straight and narrow(!) And to remind us, and teach us, how to conduct ourselves according to the philosophy inherited from F.O.S.S. and so much an integral part of the P.S.F.A.

The Committee

Chairman	Jane Cleland
Vice Chairman	Frank Surry
Secretary	Angela Walsham
Treasurer	Eric Rix
School Representatives	John Dunston Caroline Homan Brian Morphy
Staff Representatives	Elizabeth Young Sarah Spittle
Parents	Chris Clark Nigel Fairweather Jackie Martin Ginny Dale-Green

The Committee has met on a regular basis twice termly, courtesy of Orchard Close, where we do our best to get through our Agenda and business in a couple of hours. These are usually evening meetings and the commitment of Committee members is much appreciated. The A.G.M. will this year be held on Saturday 4th November at 4.00 pm in the Oliver Studio. All parents, staff and friends are warmly welcomed to attend this meeting which by nature has certain business matters to attend to. However, it is also the opportunity to put forward names for the new Committee and we would welcome any nominations and your attendance to support the Association. Refreshments will be served and the meeting should fill in the "gap" between the Christmas Fair in the afternoon and the outing to the fireworks display later in the evening.

I make no apology for repeating the aims of the Association as there may well be readers of this magazine who are unaware of the aims or the purpose of the Association.

THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The object of the Association is to advance the education of the pupils in the School. In furtherance of this object the Association may:-

- Develop more extended relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the School.
- Engage in activities which support the School and advance the education of the pupils attending it.
- Provide and assist in the provision of facilities or items for education at the School.



PARENTS STAFF AND FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

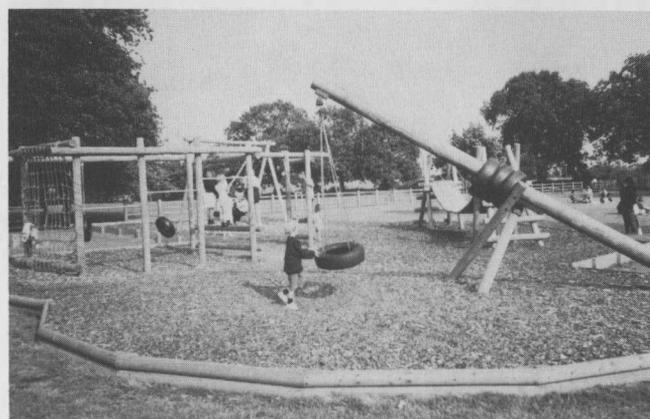
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1st. 1994 - JULY 31st. 1995

At the Annual General Meeting on 5.11.94 the new constitution was adopted which required the Financial Year of the PSFA to run from 1st August to 31st July. In order to transfer from the previous Financial Year used by FOSS which ran to 31st March the present period covers the 16 month period from 1st April 1994 to 31st July 1995. Our main income during this period was subscriptions of just over £3,000. Fund raising for the Adventure Playground raised over £1,800. The Library Book donation by leavers scheme raised £160 and other fundraising and bank interest raised the total income to some £5,600.

Following our decision last year to make Grants in excess of our income so that we could operate with lower reserves while giving additional help to the school, the committee made commitments of some £6,500 to the school. One major gift we were able to make was a payment of £3,765 to the adventure Playground which enabled the first stage to be completed. We understand that the playground is much used and appreciated by Orchard Close children. Other grants included a Camera with zoom lens for the Publicity Department, a Bowla Ball for the P.E. department, Music Folders for the Choral Society and a number of other useful items of equipment.

Finances, while lower as a result of making the extra grants, are still quite adequate for the level of expenses involved and any risks to which we are exposed. While not raising as much as we would have liked from additional fundraising events we have had a year in which we have laid a good foundation for future work.

E.R. Rix, Hon. Treasurer, P.S.F.A.



Adventure Playground at Orchard Close.

PARENTS STAFF AND FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL ACCOUNTS – Draft

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1/04/94 – 31/08/95

INCOME

	£
Subscriptions	3,085.50
Bank Interest	53.32
Fund Raising:	
Adventure Playground	1890.62
Library Books '94	120.00
Library Books '95	40.00
Sports Day	194.57
Sponsored Walk	141.87
Car Boot Sale	65.48
Sundry	11.29

TOTAL £5,602.65

EXPENDITURE

	£
Gifts to School	
Camera	299.99
Sundry	.57
Book Prizes	110.00
Playground	3765.52
Advertising	45.00
Fundraising Costs	
Sports Day	130.62
Sponsored Walk	114.43
Magazine	510.47
Postage	34.89
Sundry Expenses	113.00
Total Expenditure	<u>5,124.49</u>

Income over Expenses* 478.16
 TOTAL £5,602.65

*Expenditure includes £3,000 granted to the playground from the surpluses brought forward from previous years. The excess of income over expenses in the 17 months since 1st April 1994 is £3421.73. This reduces to £914 when grants and creditors outstanding, as set out below, are taken into account.

Balances Brought Forward

	£
01/04/94 Cur. A/C	171.96
01/04/94 Dep. A/C	7522.97

TOTAL £7,694.93

Bank Statement Balances Carried Forward

	£
31/08/95 Cur. A/C	62.94
31/08/95 Dep. A/C	6363.96

Payments In Excess of Receipts 1,268.03

TOTAL £7,694.93

1. DEBTORS

There were no debtors known at 31/08/95

2. CREDITORS

Outstanding Unpaid Grants	£2,430.00
Owed re Advertising	£15.00
Sundry	£62.60
Total	<u>£2,507.60</u>

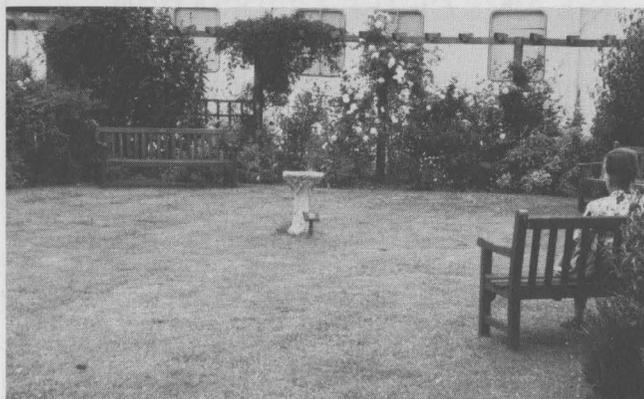
3. NET WORTH

The net worth of the Association's funds at 31/08/95 was:-

Balance per Audited accounts at 31/03/94	£6,297.82
Less :- Grant from reserves	-£3,000.00
Add :- surplus income in current year (see * above)	£3,421.73
Less :- Creditors and Unpaid Grants as above	-£2,507.60
Net Worth at 31/08/95	<u>£4,211.95</u>



Group of parents, staff and pupils perform in the Walled Garden (Open Day).



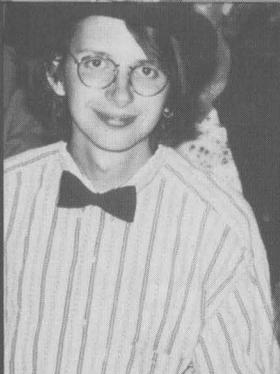
Memorial Garden – in memory of Tony Rye and Joe Colesby whose widow is seen on the right hand side of the photo. The upkeep of the garden is P.S.F.A. responsibility.



OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS



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



PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

I was one of the war-time generation at Sibford; the one that seems to produce more returnees to SOSA than other groups. This is strange, because conditions were hard and not at all comfortable. We were separated from home for a whole term, broken by a visit to the school by those parents who could manage to come during one weekend. Many children were unhappy — I was permanently homesick — and emotional problems were not recognised in those days.

I left at 14 and went to the local grammar school — girls only — for a year. This experience produced interesting comparisons with Sibford (which came out best) but I hadn't done sciences etc to grammar school level and couldn't keep up with the work.

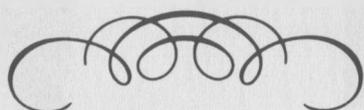
I gave up on school and came to London. For a few years I did a huge variety of things including getting myself into art school. I wasn't there very long because my family emigrated to South Africa (no grants at that time), but learnt enough to move into film animation and eventually into teaching drawing and painting to adults in evening classes, which didn't require qualifications fortunately. I knew at once I was a born teacher, and found ways to improve my skills in this area over the next few years. I was also painting seriously. Both kinds of work are satisfying and demanding in similar ways, and can produce great tussles for one's energies, especially when competing with family life as well. I'm still doing both, but on a smaller scale and only in daylight.

One part of Sibford's education that seems to have sunk in somehow is the religious one. It's had a bumpy ride. I was a birthright Friend but ran away from it all in my teens, when I left home. Knowing no Quakers in London I found myself confused by the certainties of other approaches: Church of England, Catholic, Baptist, Jewish, Moslem, Buddhist. Eventually I decided it was safer to become an atheist. I worked hard at this and remained one determinedly for a long time, my only brief contact with Friends and Meeting being at SOSA reunions.

Then Andrew, my husband, died. I made a timid visit to Hampstead Meeting and had an amazing religious experience. At last I knew that this was where I belonged, and it's still an essential part of my life; It - the spirit, the meeting for worship, my special friends who are part of it. The work involved in being a member is all a tremendous support in troubled times, as is the gentle friendship of Sibford Old Scholars.



*Margaret Fairnington
President 1995-96*



SOSA ANNUAL REUNION 1995

Ashley and I married in 1981 in my home town of Southend, Essex and Ashley had seen much of my past - where I grew up, spent my leisure time and where I went to school (St. Bernard's Convent, Westcliff). I didn't know a great deal of Ashley's schooling apart from the fact that he had been to boarding school and that he had enjoyed it very much. I thought that our school experiences must be so different — a Catholic girls' school and a Quaker mixed boarding school, so I was very interested when Ashley asked if we could go for the full, weekend reunion in August 1994 with our children, James and Maria, aged six and four respectively. We had visited the school before whenever we had been in the Banbury area and we had also attended for odd days during the August reunions.

It was with some trepidation that I arrived at Sibford in 1994 for our first weekend reunion, but we were welcomed and made to feel at ease straight away. I had no hesitation in coming again, in fact we all looked forward to the 1995 event as we were aware of the routine and knew many of the people. The weekend is so relaxing and enjoyable and at least this year I knew exactly what to expect from 'Rockets' (I still can't quite believe it).

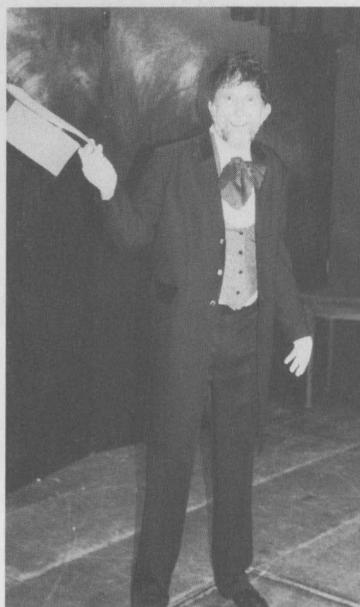
We arrived on Friday evening as Ashley had a meeting. The children and I sorted out our dormitory and James and Maria went roller skating around the beautiful grounds. I was again struck by the tranquillity of the campus and in the evening the sight of the wind blowing through the trees by Lister is enough to calm any stressed out mother's heart!

Most of Saturday afternoon was taken up by the AGM, and those not involved spent our time playing table tennis in the sports hall.

On Sunday afternoon, after we had raided Top 86, we went to the Sports Hall for a game of indoor football. I appreciated the consideration given to the younger children for this event; they were all given a chance to shine and James saved a couple of goals.

The weather had taken a turn for the worse when we went for tea on Holly House Lawn, but we all still enjoyed the refreshments, especially the excellent home baked cakes and biscuits.

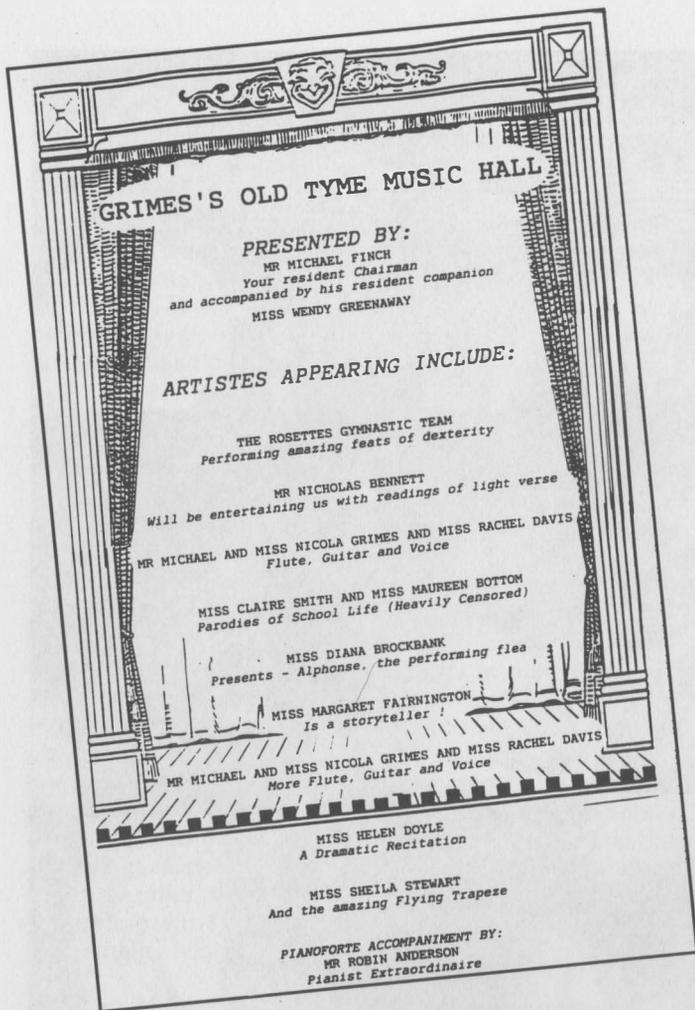
We were all welcomed to 'Presidents' Choice' in the Oliver Studio by the Presidents themselves attired in the costume of old time musical hall. The concert was introduced by Mike and Wendy Finch who were hilarious as the compère



and compères. The evening started with Adele and Charlotte Rose performing a gymnastic display which went down well with the children, they couldn't wait to try out the routines themselves. I particularly enjoyed 'the two ladies' who described their schooldays at Sibford during the war years in verse and illustrations, it sounded much more like the boarding school stories I had grown up with. A dead mouse in the bread and milk!

*Chris Grimes greets
everyone at Presidents'
Choice*





Claire Smith draws risqué pictures

action. We returned in time for lunch and yet another trip to the Top 86. Mavis Stiles got used to seeing us. I think that we must have been her best customers! We bought up a good supply of the Sibford Christmas Cards which were a snip at 20p per pack and have on them different pictures drawn by the children of the school. We were very impressed by the artwork.

The 'Golden Doll Sports and merry making' had been anticipated with delight by James especially. Guy Kingham organised the children and adults into two teams for outside hockey. (Ashley has asked me to point out that the North beat the South 3-1).

We spent a relaxing afternoon on the lawn by Orchard House where the 'face painting' event took place. Some people had not just their faces painted but legs and arms too; Luke Waterfield looked particularly monstrous with spotty arms. It was a most successful afternoon and was followed by the children's tea party in the small dining room.

The Presidential Dinner commenced at 7 pm. I enjoyed Chris and Pat Grimes' speech, with the emphasis on family life, and how a family can be a group of people living under any one roof. I began to understand more about the boarding school ethos and had an insight which I had not considered before and I realised that our school experiences might not be so different as I had first thought. We left the children in Lister under the care of Charlotte Rose where they had a great time practising gymnastics.

After the meal and speeches we went to the manor and had a look around. Although it is no longer in use I was surprised to see it with all of its dormitories intact.

On Tuesday morning, it was all too soon, the time came to pack up and go home. James asked when he could stay again so we look forward to next year!

CAROL SHIRLIN

Unfortunately I had to leave during the concert as James and Maria became fidgety.

We had supper at 7pm and, as Rockets was late that night, we had 'family rockets' in the common room at Lister with Ashley's mother and brother. Rockets still felt strange but I'm beginning to get used to them. The sense of tradition is very strong at Sibford and somehow it now seems almost natural, I am reminded each time of a drawing I saw in the 1918 archives of Rockets.

We went out that night to The Bishop Blaize and Ashley carried on carousing with 'the young set' until the early hours. On Monday morning Ashley was on Breakfast duty and he awoke at 8.40 with a growl of, 'Why didn't you wake me?' - he had been at Traitors Ford the night before until 2 am!!

By Monday the weather had improved and many went off in their cars for the Treasure Hunt. We went swimming in Banbury, disappointed that the Sibford pool is now out of



Jack and Monica Simpson study the group photograph after the meeting at The Bishop Blaize.



Luke Waterfield and James Byrne.

THE 1994-95 PRESIDENTS' ADDRESS TO SOSA

28th August 1995

Pat: Did you know that you are a group of allied objects? According to the dictionary, you are. That is one definition of "family". Family is our theme this evening. Another is "a group of persons living under the same roof". Sibford was home and family for all of us during our school years, and we certainly regard Sibford people as family.

One thing about families is that they thrive on stories and Sibford is no exception to this. I think it's high time the folklore of this school was properly chronicled. I grew up on my mother's reminiscences of her time here, which made very good bedtime stories.

One tale I remember her telling concerned a midnight feast. Somehow she and others had acquired some eggs but had no means of cooking them. Some bright spark calculated that if each girl in turn took eggs with them into the bath, it would do the trick. It didn't, and they feasted on raw eggs mashed into blackberries. I don't think they repeated the experience.

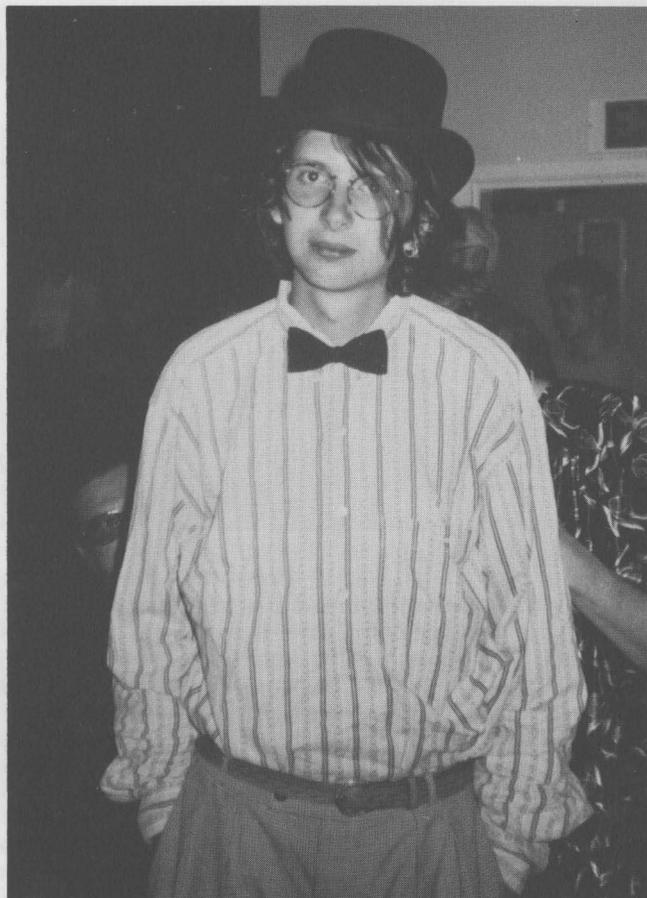
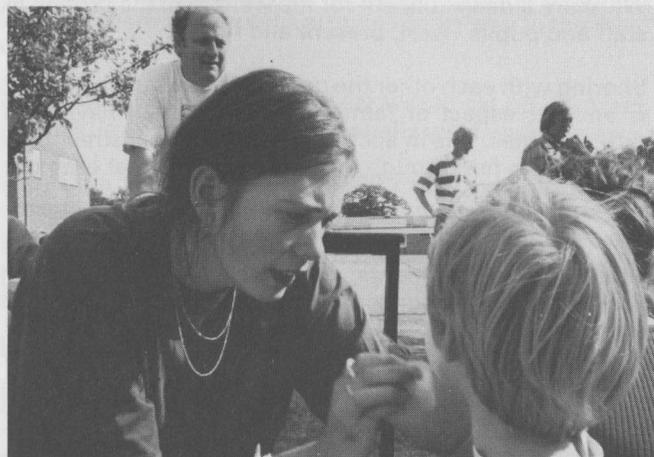
My own outstanding memory is of secreting a jar of marmite in my satchel without properly securing the lid. Ma Bug was decidedly not amused at the resultant smelly, sticky state of all my exercise books, and those of my friends who had shared the convenience of my school bag.

Chris: My birthday is April 1st, so it only once fell in termtime. I was looking forward to it, especially as it had been designated as a Merit Half day. However, things got out of hand. AJ was not amused, and he cancelled the Merit Half, much to my disappointment. Things that happened included dawn raids on dormitories with all beds being turned upside down, junior classroom desks emptied of contents and a pyramid of desks from other classrooms built on the games field. An attempt was even made to bring Selina (the donkey) into AJ's study. Fortunately she refused to set foot in the building.

After I left Sibford, I kept close contact through OS, coming back most years. Pat didn't, she came back to her 1st OS many years later (1970) when we met for the 1st time. A year later we married and didn't waste time before Michael and Nicola were produced, and began our own collection of family stories.

At our wedding, a Friend ministered that, in marriage, one

Nicola puts her crayons to more productive use now that she's older.



Do you really believe this angelic-faced person could deliberately smash eggs?

must keep a sense of humour. Having children can certainly produce funny episodes, along with a lot of heartache.

You know how children love to experiment. Michael once found a box of eggs on the kitchen table and decided to see what happened when he dropped them, one by one, onto the kitchen floor. The trail of broken eggs leading to the dining room was thankfully spotted and stopped before it reached the carpet.

"Nicola, come here". "I'm busy". She was — drawing with a large purple wax crayon up and down the dining room wall. Luckily that room was about to be decorated.

Pat: We, too, have our share of interesting situations.

Chris: Like when Pat, locked out of the house, got a needle file and tried to pick the Yale lock. This, of course, broke in the lock and rendered keys useless until the lock was dismantled. At that time we used to keep a top bedroom window open, so with the help of our neighbour's ladder, we managed to gain entry.

Then there was the apple pie which, not properly cooked, was put back into the oven. 3 hours later, a dish of charcoal was served up.

Pat: Chris is very adept at falling off ladders and over steps, but has never broken any bones. At last year's OS, you may remember, he had just managed to trip over the back doorstep and split open his head on a cupboard door frame.

Chris: Coming back to Old Scholars has been a family event most years since we were married. Pat and I first came to Sibford by two completely different routes, apart from the fact that both our mothers were Old Scholars and Quakers.



The Presidents 1994–95

It was more or less assumed that, as James Harrod's grandson, I would be coming. I was entered for the school while still very young. I remember being very excited at the time, though that excitement wore off while I was here, not being very happy, the target of bullying, though, as my parents pointed out at the time, I should probably have been even less happy at the local Secondary Modern. So I stuck it and am very glad that I did.

Pat: I came because I had been running wild during the war years - or so my father thought. He had been away at the Front and came home to find the garden full of hens, a temperamental dog in dominion over the house, and his children playing in the street. First the dog went, then the hens, then me! He thought Sibford would have a civilising influence on me. I stayed for 3 years, 3 very happy years. I couldn't believe my luck that I was actually here. I remember walking down through the paddock one afternoon and thinking it couldn't be real. I found I was actually pinching myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming. Those 3 years, though, did put a very great strain on the family, both financial and emotional. I left when this strain became too great for my mother to bear. It wasn't until we found ourselves facing similar difficulties that I fully appreciated what emotional stress my mother went through.

We think there should have been a government health warning on the application form — "Boarding School education can seriously affect your life" — not only for pupils, but for their families as well.

Imagine trying to send bright, encouraging, optimistic advice down the telephone in the early morning to a small boy 65 miles away who has woken up to a hostile world filled with difficulty, frustration and injustice, and having to cut the call short because you both have to begin the day's work. Imagine, then, having no further communication for several days, despite sending letters of loving support, then finally, when you manage to get through on the telephone, a happy, bubbly individual has to be reminded of the distress and says "Oh that! — yes I was a bit upset at that moment", and you have been worrying yourself silly all week.

We first seriously considered boarding education for Michael during an OS Reunion. Mike Finch said at the time "Its a difficult decision to make, there is a high emotional cost to pay". How right he was! All I can say is "thank heaven for little girls", because without Nicola's support and words of wisdom like "Oh stop worrying mother, you know he's all right really", I would never have kept things in perspective. Nicola, though not having

been at school here, is very much part of the Sibford family, and has become a member of the Association.

Chris: Sibford is a complex place and OS seem to fall into 3 categories — those who loved it, those who loathed it and those who tolerated it. As in all families, you rarely get a chance to choose the other members. You just get landed with them and have to learn to live with them. In a boarding school, as at home, it means 24 hours a day. No wonder Sibford has its peculiarities.

Pat: I first suspected that Sibford was a strange school when, at 14, I transferred to a day school. To see if I warranted a Grammar School place I had to be assessed by Norfolk Education Officers to gain re-entry into the State system. This meant travelling 45 miles to the County Education office in Norwich, a 45 minute Intelligence Test and an interview with the Deputy Chief Education Officer. His reaction when he learned where I had been for the previous 3 years was "Oh, one of those do-as-you-like places". While my mother almost exploded with indignation, I remained dumbfounded as pictures of Miss Burgess and Miss Prior rose before my eyes!

Of course a family member is a family member for ever and it is exciting to discover members of the family popping up in unexpected places. Sibford connections are always cropping up in our lives. I kept on bumping into Janet Eavis (now Sewell) at home and abroad, and she was my only link with Sibford for many years, keeping my interest in the school alive.

Chris: Another Sibford connection was with John and Monica Taylor and their son, Gordon, who lived close by. John and Monica were very supportive during the early years of raising a family. Gordon being two years older than Michael meant that as well as being able to advise us on child rearing, we inherited many items of babywear and equipment. It is interesting to note that neither Pat nor I nor John were at school together. The ties came through the strength of the OS Family.

Pat: One aspect of family life is caring for each other, and this was a feature of Sibford that I found very much in evidence. I recall being an impossibly untidy new girl with lost property all over the place and a tunic that resembled a bit of old rag until Mavis (Stiles) stepped in. She appointed herself chief tunic presser, spreading all our tunics onto her mattress then sleeping on them to crease the pleats back to their rightful places, and then patiently teaching us how to do this bit of "ironing" for ourselves.

Chris: To those of us who were scholars and staff here, Sibford is more than simply the school where we learnt Maths, Geography, French etc. It is the place that was our home, where we lived together under the same roof, and became a family. This makes Sibford special to all of us. We share a deep concern for the welfare of the school, its staff and pupils - past, present and future.

Sharing with each other the good times and the bad times is another aspect of family life. Families all have their difficult times. It is in such times that the real strength of the family is felt through the degree of love that each one holds for the others.

The Sibford family is no exception to this. During this year, as your Presidents, we have experienced a great wealth of caring concern, help and support from the members of the OS Committee and from OS generally. We are confident that the love we all have for each other unites us in a most extraordinary way and gives us the confidence to go forward together in faith and to live adventurously.

Pat and Chris Grimes

THE 19TH LESLIE BAILY ADDRESS

CROSS CURRENTS IN A VERTICAL ADVENTURE

(An illustrated talk on a Quaker adventure into the creative arts).

My mother came from the Clarks of Darlington. Her mother was Ackworth's very first piano teacher. Two of her uncles were painters, one being a teacher at Liverpool College of Art, the other a Royal Academician with studios in Herstmonceux and Chelsea. Another uncle was a cabinet maker with a mill near Kendal where all the machinery was powered by a waterwheel. Mother's father, Frederick, and brother, Harold, were both architects.

My paternal grandfather was the last of a long line of carpenters going back to 1700 so, all in all, there was a lot of craft and artistic ability in my ancestral background.

I suppose my earliest memories of creating anything were in the kitchen when mother was making pastry. Pegeen, my sister, and I would model bits of dough into animals and paint them when they came, baked, out of the oven. Again, in the garden, there were some big sandstone steps. We used to collect soft, coloured stones from the flower beds and draw pictures on the steps like the pavement artists in the town.

I think my Birmingham primary school, Tindal Street, did a lot to encourage creative activity. For years I kept a strange, fretwork figure that I named Slew. It stood on our mantelpiece, a treasured creation, strangely primitive, a product of a primary education that still had time to teach the three R's, including grammar, but also recognised the value of encouraging manual dexterity with raffia work, fretwork and how to apply the dreaded flat wash in watercolour.

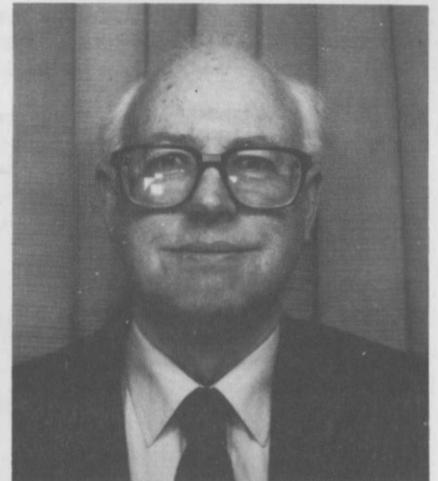
I had a happy childhood in dear dirty Brum. In the thirties the parks were clean and well cared for. There was a little museum in Cannon Hill park near the model yachting pool. Weary of waiting for the dying wind to breathe life into my sailing boat I'd wander in there and gaze at the jet and cut steel jewellery, but the big museum in the town had intricate locks and keys, wonderful crystals, amazing examples of the taxidermist's art from squirrels to tigers. There were even ostrich eggs.

Our garden, in Trafalgar road, backed onto the railway. At night I could lie in bed and watch, through the mirror, as clouds of smoke and sparks belched from the funnels of shunting engines. I could see the mysterious carriage lights of the Pines Express, with its red L.M.S. carriages, as it rushed past on its way to Scotland; or the Devonian with its cream and brown carriages on its way to the West Country.

On Sunday mornings our family would set off, by tram, for Bull Street meeting. Occasionally we'd walk there.

When the war broke out in 1939 I was evacuated, with Moseley Grammar School, to Cheltenham. Father had it all planned out. From Moseley I would have gone on to Dalton Hall to study science, but Hitler put an end to all that. As we gathered in the school hall before catching the Cheltenham train I heard grown-ups saying, "Hitler's in the corridor." I looked, but couldn't see him there.

My scholarship to Moseley was brief. A day or two at Cheltenham and I was whisked away to come to Sibford instead. Here Roland Herbert and Sheila McPhearson



Philip Morris

continued to foster my craft and art skills. Even drawing rabbit bones in biology with Arnold Darlington and Eric Clegg laid the foundations for the anatomy studies I had to do at Birmingham College of Art, where I trained for four years.

From Sibford I had gone to Leeds to study lithography and photographic reproduction, but broke off to do my alternative national service. As a conscientious objector I did that with the International Voluntary Service for Peace doing demolition work in London's docklands and pick and shovel work in the Swiss Alps and the French Jura mountains.

When I left college in 1952, there was 100% purchase tax on silverware and this was killing off apprenticeships and small workshops. Neither George Hart nor Francis Cooper were able to offer me a place in their workshops so I set up my own studio in Bredon near Tewkesbury. Although I free-lanced there for three years and was invited to go into partnership with Robert Welch when he was setting up in Chipping Campden, something was niggling in my mind. Was it John Woolman's remarks on silver or just an uneasiness in making a living selling luxury goods in a world so full of need?

So many run-of-the-mill items, in silver, I didn't want to accept as commissions. Opposed to drink, tobacco, gambling and war I had to exclude cocktail shakers, cigarette boxes, horse racing trophies and war memorial plaques, etc. I concentrated on domestic and some church silver; pots, bowls, spoons, badges of office and jewellery. The obvious answer to this dilemma was to teach. My first full-time post was art master at Lydney secondary modern school. After watching one of the less able girls doing nothing but drawing round coins and shading in the circles day after day and dissolving into tears if spoken to, I was sure more could be done for the educationally subnormal. So I moved to a residential E.S.N. school at Hendre near Monmouth. It was housed in the country seat of Lord Llangattock, the Jacobean home of Lady Shelly Rolls. Its workshops were where the first Rolls Royce car had been built.

Whilst I'd been teaching in Gloucestershire I met Kathryn Nix James of Gloucester and Nailsworth Monthly Meeting. She was a keen weaver and I was privileged to be at her home when she and a group of Quaker artists founded the Quaker Fellowship of the Arts. This has flourished for the past forty years, putting on exhibitions at Yearly Meeting, holding various activities at places like Charney Manor and publishing Reynard and now Foxtrot.

When I opened my first studio at Bredon in the fifties I joined both the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society later to become the

Society of Designer-Craftsmen. I always found exhibiting with them an exciting experience. There was such a variety of crafts displayed and always of such high quality.

I'd survived three years teaching at Hendre when my attention was drawn to an advertisement in the Friend for a craft teacher at Brummana Friends High School in the Lebanon; I applied and was appointed. I spent a term at Woodbrooke to prepare myself and flew out to a relatively peaceful Lebanon in 1958.

I'd been warned that Arab boys didn't like doing manual work, but I managed to generate considerable enthusiasm in the workshop.

I was home on leave in August '59 and attended the Old Scholars' reunion. Long before I knew Sibford, on my parents' twelfth wedding anniversary, someone was born who also attended that reunion with the result that we got married the following year at Sibford meeting house.

Rosamond and I had two sons, Christopher and Stephen who've known the joys of Traitors' Ford and picked up whatever skills we could offer them; logic, art and craft skills and natural history.

It is strange that on two quite different branches of my family tree, albeit only by distant marriages, there were two outstanding astronomers, Ralph Allen Sampson was born in 1886 and died the year I started at Sibford, 1939 and Arthur Stanley Eddington, four years his senior who died the year I left in 1944. In 1910 Sampson was appointed professor of astronomy at Edinburgh University and Astronomer Royal for Scotland while Eddington, at the same time (1907 - 1912), was Chief Assistant to England's Astronomer Royal, Sir William Christie, at Greenwich Observatory. He went on to be Director of Cambridge Observatory.

Apart from the coincidence you might ask, "What's strange?". Well it's this, that my own enthusiasm for astronomy was fired here at Sibford in my first term. Arnold Darlington got us to make conical star maps and impressed upon us the immense size of the universe. I went on to join the British Astronomical Association being handshaken in by none other than Patrick Moore, the then president, at their A.G.M. at London's Burlington House.

My love was for the telescope. Frank Parkin had told us of a man in Hook Norton who had ground his own mirror so I was determined to do the same. Wherever I taught I introduced astronomy and built telescopes. I loved them both as technical instruments and as works of art, particularly the early brass ones.

All this studying of the stars had a profound effect on my thoughts about religion and only early this year at Stratford meeting's study group we were discussing the big bang theory and its implications for the concept of infinity in both space and time. It is this vertical adventure that, all my life, has forced its way through the many cross currents that have occupied my physical energies.

I suppose it was largely Frank Parkin's influence with his passion for Esperanto and Internationalism that got me involved with Young Friends projects visiting Russia and Norway — a time of workcamps and discussions — an activity that I carried on with pupils at Brummana.

Norway was also the chance to see the Viking ships at Oslo museum, for an artist a treat indeed, not only their glorious lines but a cathedral like setting.

Not many schools, other than Bedales, do any serious silversmithing. So how did I keep up with my craft during thirty two years of teaching? Well I always insisted that I

have the use of the school's facilities for my own professional work. This meant my pupils could see the real thing in progress. I continued to work to commission and to exhibit with the Society of Designer Craftsmen alongside teaching craft, electronics, pneumatics, robotics and technical graphics.

There were, at that time, some thirty or so different craft syllabuses to choose from which entirely bewildered industrialists when it came to interviewing school leavers. They never knew what a craft or technology qualification might mean. When the new National Curriculum came along in the eighties my local education authority wanted me to attend retraining courses at vast expense to the rate-payers. I declined and took early retirement adding an extra twenty years to my life — I can recommend it.

My intention on retiring was to have a studio-workshop at home, but working in our cellar, beating silver, proved too noisy for our neighbours. I had to confine myself to wood carving. I put on a last exhibition at our new meeting house in Stratford. Since then most of what I make is sold for charity, but not the Meerkats.

Our younger son, Stephen, trained as a harpsichord maker and, after free-lancing in London for a few years, sold up and went out to Zimbabwe with V.S.O. to teach woodwork. He and other volunteers set up the Masvingo Drought Action Group. He appealed to our Stratford meeting for funds to support a schools feeding scheme. I designed them a poster and set about fund raising. This meant modifying my workshop output to smaller items. It also proved a useful outlet for surplus produce from the allotment.

It wasn't until I retired that I ever owned a decent camera. The acquisition of a Pentax ME Super and some good zoom lenses sparked off a frenzy of field, garden and craft photography. Compared with the work of experts in the Alpine Garden Society and the Crafts Council my photographs have much room for improvement, but the artist in me is fascinated with the myriad textures of plants and the beauty of insects.

I supplemented my title by calling this a Quaker adventure. I suppose my most recent response to the Advices and Queries is to live adventurously.

On his way home from Zimbabwe Stephen learnt to scuba dive in the Red Sea. Then, on television, I watched Leni Riefenstahl, the maker of the 1936 olympics film, at the age of ninety, diving off a boat in full diving gear, into the Caribbean sea to play with a giant sting ray. If she could do that at ninety surely I could start at sixty-six!

So it was that I retired from silversmithing. Through the Society of Designer-Craftsmen I sold all my stakes. As these had originated from George Hart in Chipping Campden they were in great demand. The society noted my retirement by making me an Honorary Fellow and with the proceeds of the sale I purchased my own diving equipment. I had joined the Stratford Sub Aqua Club and did my training with them at Stony Cove, a cold, flooded quarry near Leicester and at Bovisand near Plymouth. In the Autumn I shall be exploring the sea bed in the Seychelles.

For the first time since descending a Rhonda mine shaft on a Young Friends' workcamp in the fifties my vertical adventure is again downward, though this time not so deeply. If I survive I'll be back to tell you about it.

J. Philip Morris

For a full copy of the Address, please contact the S.O.S.A. editor.

SOSA EVENTS

1995 LONDON REUNION

As with the last few years Tim Gebbett and I arranged a reunion in London in July for those old scholars aged roughly in their thirties. As last year's venue was so successful we again booked the T. S. Queen Mary which is moored on the Victoria Embankment.

About 100 Old Scholars plus some families and friends came along between noon and 6 p.m. Each year we are amazed by the distance which people travel to attend. The winner of the furthest to travel was Christine Anderson who came from Brunei while the winner of the nearest was Danny Re'em who only had to walk over Waterloo Bridge. Many thanks to Antoinette Bebbington, whose husband works for a Scottish distillery and who came from the Inner Hebrides themselves, for their gifts of whisky for these two. There were many people who have



Natalie Carapetian, Ivan Clark, Peter Fleming and Mark Bennett.

come along to our previous events but it was marvellous to see others who had not been along before. I personally was delighted to see Neil Davenport for the first time in 20 years especially as he had come over from New York, and Ivan Clark, who I last saw in an Indian Restaurant at midnight about 10 years ago when we were not entirely sober. Mark Reimbold telephoned from New Jersey to chat to a few people much to the happiness of the U. S. telephone company. By early evening a natural lull in the proceedings occurred and people began to drift off in various groups. One individual ended up having dinner with two friends of mine who have nothing to do with Sibford; I wonder if he ever discovered this fact!

The second event of the day was an evening buffet in a friend's wine bar, the Marine Broker in Leaman Street. Lou had kindly opened just for us so the 35 people who went on were well looked after. The homeless were well fed that night as the remainder of the sumptuous spread was boxed up and taken to a local shelter in the East End. The evening became more intimate as the smaller group knew each other better. Offers of accommodation became forthcoming as people with spare beds helped out those without. Paul Cook, for example, took Richard Slater and his girlfriend home to Banbury. Natali Carapetian and Cindy Poulton shared transport as far as their respective train stations and Mandy Cade stayed with Anita Brown.

Finally the remaining few retired to a club in Covent Garden to dance the night away. I ended the day sharing a room with Malcolm Wilson who told me all about his trip working his way around the world. Unfortunately he only managed North America, New Zealand, Australia and the Far East in the previous year so he's off again to complete the rest of the trip at the moment!



Jane Dyer and Simon Barfoot.



Mandy Cade, Sarah Leeland and Tim Francis.

Due to Tim's amazing inability to identify the correct McDonald's on Sunday morning we didn't manage to meet up again before returning home to our long suffering wives but have swapped stories since. We may give London a miss for a get together in 1996 and change the venue to the school itself, perhaps a Saturday night hop may be the answer? It would be fun staying at the School but this depends upon the numbers interested and the costs etc. In any case we hope everyone enjoyed themselves and even if we don't do something in 1996 we will be in touch and would hope some people can come along to the August reunion next year.

Ashley Shirlin



Pippa Lacey, Rosemary Child, Simon Austing, Steve Salmon and Fiancée, .

MOMENTUM

Momentum is defined as the product of mass and velocity. Or in simpler less accurate terms, weight multiplied by speed. Sibford, however, has a momentum of its own which defies definition. The momentum continues even many years after completing scholastic pursuits. As do the efforts of the year organising groups.

The 1960 group have not accomplished a lot this year, mainly because one of the organisers decided to get married and found himself otherwise occupied. Contact has continued amongst the Midland members of the group, some of them meeting for an evening together. Several met at the August reunion: Diana Brockbank (Grimes) supporting her brother, one of the joint Presidents; Carol Davis; Ruth Gardener (Walton); Margaret Shelley (Smart) and the newly married Russell Steed with his wife Janet. An interesting group photograph was taken, one boy with all the girls. There is a strong will to meet as a group sometime next year either spring or autumn. The momentum will be reinforced with a letter to those we have been able to trace.

There are other year groups trying to gather together friends long not seen. The Old Scholars' Committee has recognised this bit of the momentum and a little financial assistance is available for expenses such as post. Mike Finch, our Treasurer, is the Old Scholar with the help. He will also be interested in news of progress.

Russell Steed

MIDLAND BRANCH REPORT

The Midland Branch of SOSA has had two meetings during the year.

Our first, the New Year party on January 28th was held, as usual, at Selly Oak Meeting House, Birmingham, and was at lunchtime again. There were 55 Old Scholars in attendance including our Presidents, Chris and Pat Grimes. Afterwards we had a most interesting illustrated talk by Ann Thomas, entitled "A Taste of Zimbabwe".

Our Summer gathering was on June 28th at the Tysoe home of Mike and Wendy Finch, when about 25 people met. Some went for a pleasant walk through the woods and on up to the top of the Edge Hill escarpment which was led by Mike, whilst the rest chatted with Wendy! Later we all enjoyed a magnificent tea-time spread.

Irene Coxon-Smith has retired as Branch Secretary after many years of keeping the Midland flock together for which we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Hilary Haddleton has taken over from Irene.

Our New Year Party will be at Selly Oak in January 1996. (Details from Hilary Haddleton whose address and telephone number appear in the list of Officers).

Hilary Haddleton

SOUTH WEST BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The South-West SOSA group held a social event on July 15th 1995. They were delighted to be supported by the joint presidents, Pat and Chris Grimes, from St. Albans. The meeting, held at Jeanne Southam's Nailsea home, was blessed by a fine summer day which enabled the bungalow veranda to be used to full effect. The members enjoyed the garden, the sunshine and the fine view of the

distant Mendip hills. After a buffet luncheon on the veranda, the party visited the reconstruction of John Cabot's ship, 'The Matthew', which he sailed from Bristol in 1497 to make the first European discovery of the North American mainland. We were particularly fortunate, at the excellent visitor's centre, to have an outstanding guide, a local volunteer and ex-maritime architect who gave us a fascinating picture of the whole 'Matthew' project. After the visit the party returned to 'Dilkush' for further socialising and reminiscences after tea. All the participants voted the day a great success.

Jeanne Southam

THE ASHES

(1995 SOSA V SCHOOL CRICKET MATCH) SUNDAY 21 MAY 1995

On a fine cloud-clad May day, the cucumber sandwiches and cups of tea were consumed by many, young and old. The occasion was the ashes, not quite the real thing but just as competitive. Yes, the occasion was the Young Scholars versus the Old Scholars. No longer a David versus Goliath meeting as at great cost the school had imported an Australian, Daniel May, a cricketing scholar if ever there was one.

First blood was drawn by the school, as they won the toss of the coin, and condemned the older fellows to an afternoon under the sweltering, scorching sun. A tactical decision by the school captain, Leo Buckingham, that produced a promising start from his fit, enthusiastic and committed team.

By tea a formidable score of 150 had been accumulated after fine innings by the captain himself (34 n.o.), James Edwards (24), Cameron Billingsley (26), and of course a sparkling innings of 60 by the cool Antipodean import.

The adjournment for tea was a welcome relief for the old scholars, who had eagerly chased every ball, desperately trying not to concede too many runs. The school, anxious to avoid defeat for another year, continued batting after the interval and eventually declared for 170 runs for the loss of five wickets. Young Kingham, the Old Scholars experienced Ashes player, had a fruitful final over with three wickets falling. Poor Julian Frazer being one of his victims, had no sooner asked for his guard, when he was sent packing back to the pavilion having faced only one



The 1995 SOSA Cricket Team

ball. Fortunately a sympathetic crowd did not make quack, quack jokes.

The Old Scholars batted bravely under a barrage of West Indian style bowling, a bombardment of pace and aggression from Dan 'G'day Bruce' May and the inspirational captain Leo.

However for all the young scholars huffing and puffing, ranting and raving they couldn't quite squeeze out a victory. Erland Webb, the School wicket keeper, excellently appealed on numerous occasions but fortunately for the increasingly desperate Old Scholars the umpire's finger (Mr. Thomas) stayed in his pocket. Through gritty performances from the Jenkins (5 & 37) and the Johnsons (4 & 22 n.o.) the Old Scholars held on to the ashes with a well fought draw.

TEAMS: The School; Mark Derbyshire, James Edwards, Dan May, Cameron Billingsley, Leo Buckingham (captain), Fabian Collis, Julian Frazer, Greg Austin, Joe Boucher, Erland Webb, Simon Palmer.

The Old Scholars; Micky Jenkins, David Simms (captain), Ian Ford, Matthew Walsh, Peter Jenkins, Steven Johnson, Colin Johnson, Tim Gebbett, Matthew Simms, Mike Herm, Guy Kingham.

Guy Kingham

OLD SCHOLARS' FOOTBALL MATCH

School 5 Old Scholars 6

What promised, as ever, to be a hard fought close game produced eleven goals — some of them quite spectacular strikes. SOSA owed a lot to Micky Jenkins who scored 5 goals with borrowed boots, then went in goal to recover and made at least one quality save to deny the school an equaliser. The SOSA talent on display covered three decades. Mark Bennett, Julian Gaze, Ashley Shirlin and Tim Gebbett from the 70's made a brave attempt to recapture the stamina to accompany their skills. Several of the SOSA team of course regularly play soccer and this helped to give the team some balance - Chris Wollerton, Michael Herm, Guy Kingham, Robbie Easterbrook, Tom Weedon and Chris Legge. As for Micky Jenkins — he's simply a very talented sportsman. As for the School, they were never out of it and Kieran Laybourne and Greg Hamilton scored two goals each to add to Leo Maggi's goal. They made Old Scholars fight all the way. The match was once again firmly and fairly refereed by Mike Wollerton.

Brian Holliday



1995 SOSA v School football match (SOSA won 6 - 5)

OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

OPERATION GRAPPLE BOSNIA

Written here are the experiences of Mark Spandler, who has recently been in Bosnia with the UN.

I left Sibford in the summer of 1987, to go on to successfully pass A levels. I became a student at Wolverhampton Polytechnic where I graduated with an honours degree and started my officer training in 1992. I successfully passed out in August 1993 to be commissioned into the Gloucestershire Regiment as a Second Lieutenant.

I joined The 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment as a platoon commander in Catterick, North Yorkshire. During my first year with the Battalion I captained the Battalion boxing team and took part in numerous exercises at home and abroad. The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment amalgamated in April 1993 to form The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire Regiment (RGBW).

Having completed a year I was promoted to Lieutenant. I joined my battalion in Bosnia Herzegovina in December 1994 as a part of the British contribution to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). I served in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde for three months.

The 1st Battalion then moved to Episkopi, Cyprus in May 95. I passed my Captains examination in the same month and also lead a charity mountain bike expedition which cycled through Europe to Episkopi, Cyprus.

I was posted to the 5th Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment in June 95, and am currently serving in County Londonderry. I was promoted to Captain in August this year.

In total 570 members of 1 RGBW were deployed into Bosnia - Herzegovina as British Battalion 2 (BRITBAT 2). A total of approximately 320 soldiers were deployed to Gorazde while other sub units of the Battalion were deployed to Sarajevo, Kiseljak, and Bogojno. Located in the town of Split, Croatia the Battalion had a liaison team which, among other tasks, organised the movement of troops into and out of theatre.

The town of Gorazde is located on the River Drina which runs from the north east to the south west dividing the town into two banks, joined by a series of bridges. Gorazde has been totally devastated, every building showed the scars of war, being riddled with small arms fire, tank round strike marks, and ethnic graffiti.

UNHCR plastic replaced what was once windows, while walls and roofs were makeshift as the occupants inhabited only a few rooms of their damaged dwellings. Despite the hardship the community struggled to maintain a sort of normality. It was against this backdrop that the Gorazde Force established a camp beside the River Drina.

The Muslim pocket, or enclave, was in the region of 25 km east to west, and 20 km north to south at the widest points. A 3 km, and 20 km UN Exclusion Zone existed around Gorazde. The 3 km Total Exclusion Zone (TEZ) forbid Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) small arms to be within the 3 km and rounds from small arms to be fired into the 3 km TEZ. The 20 km Exclusion Zone forbid heavy weapons from any warring faction (WF) from being inside the Exclusion Zone or their rounds from landing inside this zone.

My platoon manned two Observations Posts (OPs) which were interpositioned between the BSA and Muslim (BiH) front lines high in the mountains above Gorazde. Through the OPs and patrolling, BSA and BiH activities, strengths, dispositions and hostilities in my platoon area of

responsibility were monitored. With the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement our job was to ensure that all the warring factions were informed of the agreement and monitor its progress. This agreement, from late December, brought a fragile peace to the pocket.

Life in the OPs consisted of OP sangar duty, patrolling, OP maintenance and routine tasks such as vehicle maintenance, water collection, cooking and wood chopping. As you were almost self sufficient life was very busy. Patrols around the local Muslim villages proved to be a welcome break from OP routine. We built up an excellent relationship with a local bakery which ensured fresh bread every time we visited.

One of my tasks was liaising with both WFs. I built up a solid relationship with one of the local BSA commanders. I would visit frequently and we would share a coffee and often play a game called Yam (Poker with Dice). The BSA denied UNPROFOR patrols freedom of movement in Serb held territory, but by "visiting" BSA positions a lot of military information (MILINFO) could be gathered. On occasion the BSA directly targeted my patrols, especially in the extremely active north east of the pocket.

Soldiers became do-it-yourself experts as the OPs had to be "winterised". A tremendous amount of effort and initiative was put into the construction of the OPs, very often without Engineer assistance, as the mountain tracks leading to the OP were too dangerous for plant. OP construction was an ongoing job and part of the OP routine. With a little improvisation my soldiers and I made an outside heated shower. The water was heated in a large oil drum positioned over a small fire which was raised above the ground. This shower provided hot water for the OP, and enabled all OP members to take a hot shower every day, regardless of weather!

The conditions were particularly hard at times due to the extreme weather conditions and lack of fuel during winter. The BSA check points, notably the Rogatica Check Point, on the Main Supply Routes (MSRs) prevented fuel from entering the enclave.

Our relationship with the Muslim civilian population was generally sound. However, I found the BiH soldiers occasionally unfriendly and not willing to develop any sort of relationship with us. This was of course due to BiH local commanders instructing their men not to associate with UNPROFOR to ensure we did not see BiH dispositions. This was initially frustrating considering our task in the enclave was to protect the Muslim population.

It was hard to understand that there was not a guilty party to blame for this ethnic war. Muslims and Serbs, who were once neighbours and friends, were now at war with

War-torn Gorazde viewed from one of the Observation Posts.



Mark Spandler "On patrol!"

each other. They blame each other for starting the war, but both are to blame. At one particular time during an offensive in Behac, the Gorazde BSA area had a high percentage of older and very senior soldiers. They looked like pensioners rather than soldiers! Their only reason for fighting the Muslims was that they used to live in Gorazde. From their front line positions they could see their homes and land the Muslims had either taken from them, or burnt or destroyed. It is a personal war, with fighting motives based on individual vendetta.

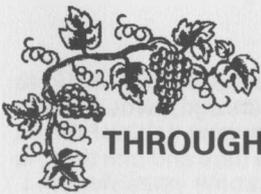
The media attention is back on Bosnia. The Rapid Reaction Force has been deployed in a "green" role, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers have evacuated Gorazde, and NATO air strikes against the BSA have taken place. The United Nations effectiveness as a protection force in Bosnia-Herzegovina has always been questioned. My Company put much time and effort in assisting the local population on both sides of the ethnic divide. Throughout the tour my Company provided frequent escorts to the UNHCR convoys both into and around the town. The convoys not only provided food for the locals, but clothing, materials to repair their homes, wood burning stoves and many more essential items.

Without a doubt the greatest achievements were the social and medical evacuations which occurred several times during my tour and in which my Company played a major part. Two of these operations were carried out after Christmas and involved the movement of sick and displaced Muslims and Serbs from the Gorazde pocket. This was achieved by road and air transport, to their respective safe areas; in the case of the Muslims to Sarajavo, and in the case of the Serbs to Kopachi, where they were then able to be reunited with their families and friends. The reward for the long and difficult days was expressed on the faces of the locals as they were reunited with their loved ones many of whom they had not seen for over two and a half years.

Another significant task was the provision of external security for an Orthodox church. The protection allowed the Royal Engineers to assist local Serbs in re-roofing this historic church which had been badly damaged during one of the earlier offensives (the Muslims had effectively torched it).

As a white force with blue berets I believe we deterred the BSA from their final advance into Gorazde. Gorazde would have been under BSA control months ago if it had not been for UNPROFOR's presence. My lasting memories are of the dramatic and mountainous terrain, of a sad battle scarred town, with a desperate population struggling to maintain a primitive existence. Above all the children that played among the rubbish and debris in the streets with their endless energy to ask for sweets!

Captain Mark J. Spandler



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

We have news of the following Old Scholars and friends who have written or visited the School during the last few months:

Kay Allan (née Walker) (1950-54), and her sister **Felicity Copely** (1958-63), visited the School last November (1994) on a cold and windy day to have a look around the old place and to renew old acquaintances. (NB. That biting wind on the Hill is still there!)

Recently married **Helen Brown** (née Trathen) visited the School in November 1994 on her way back to Canada where she is a nurse.

Douglas and **Eileen Carn** visited the School in June to catch up on all the many changes that have occurred since they last came. Douglas, who was at Sibford between 1934-40, is a member of one of those famous Sibford family dynasties that have graced Sibford since the School opened in 1842.

Irene Coxon-Smith was one of three Bromsgrove WVRS members to receive a long-service medal from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for 15 years' voluntary work.

Marjorie Edwards (née Simmons), who was the School's much loved Matron for many years, sends her best wishes through her sister, Mary Moon, who says that Marjorie is now in a sheltered home at Bromley.

Stephen Fletcher and his young son dropped in for a flying visit last February to "catch up" on matters. Stephen and his older brother **Nigel** were at Sibford in the early seventies. (Nigel is resident in the Sibford area and is a well known local artist.)

Eddie Goudge (1951-56) and his wife **Margaret**, who now live and work in South Africa, called in to Sibford in June on their way to the National Ballroom Championships in Blackpool. Eddie and Margaret run a successful dancing school in Cape Town and Eddie hopes to concentrate on that full time in the not too distant future. Eddie was particularly happy to renew an old school friendship with Mike Finch.

Mathew Harding, who left Sibford in 1994, wrote in April to send best wishes to all who remember him.

Tina Harris (née Nicholas) (1974-79) lives and works in Kenya (Watamu). Tina is married and runs a Deep Sea Game Fishing Business with her husband. She has two daughters.

Bryan Lee, who was the popular Director of Music at Sibford in the late eighties, is now teaching in Malaysia. He held an impromptu reunion in August before his departure which included former colleagues Chris Bateman and his wife, Dominic Griffiths and Peter Agnew (who recently got married to Kathleen on 12th May) as well as a few well known local Old Scholars. It was a very enjoyable (but late!) evening.

Grace Lewis (1947-53) lives and works in Bristol, for Avon Social Services as a Home Care Manager.



Tina Harris (née Nicholas) and Kageha Marshall (née Gay Watts).

Joy Mangan (née Morland), who taught at the school from 1923-5, wrote from her home in Ireland with memories of her time at Sibford, and asked if one can still buy Banbury Cakes. (The answer is yes!).

Kageha Marshall (née Gay Watts) (1974-78) wrote to say that, having successfully qualified as a social worker from Bristol University in 1989, she is now living and working in Bristol with her husband and two children. They have just spent the summer in Kenya, the first time in 11 years that Kageha has returned to the country where she originated from.

JJ Nicholas (1976 - 81) lives and works in Uganda. JJ is married and has just had a baby daughter.

David Nicholas (1978-83) lives and works in Kenya. David is a Game Park Lodge Manager. He also belongs to a Rock Band in Nairobi.

Mary Nicholas (widow - née Lewis) lives and works in Kenya (Vipono). Mary originally owned Ocean Sports Hotel (Watamu). Now she is a professional painter who sells and exhibits her work. She also takes Art Classes.

David Powell (1968-73) visited the old school in August on his way to stay with the Pugmire clan in Lincolnshire. David presently lives in Berlin but is soon emigrating to Australia.

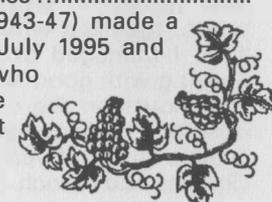
We received a delightful letter from one of our oldest Old Scholars, **Muriel Stevens** (née Bentley), who was at Sibford between 1913-15. She sends greetings to all Old Scholars and has vivid memories of her school days.

Julie Tatton (née Nicholas) (1972-78) lives and works in Kenya (Mombasa). Julie does outside catering specializing in wedding cakes. She is married and has one daughter.

Lola Vanderpuye has renewed her contact with Sibford (1978-83) and is now living and working as a broadcast engineer in Chicago. She sends her best wishes to all who may remember her and hopes that old friends will soon get in touch with her.

Eileen Vicary (née Pucknell), who was at Sibford in the thirties, visited the School in the Summer and wishes to be remembered to anyone who knows her.

Now here is a tongue twister for those Old Scholars who were at Sibford during the early forties !!.....
Iorwerth Parri Ffoncs-Williams (1943-47) made a nostalgic visit to Sibford during July 1995 and wishes to be remembered to all who may know him. (Just to make life easier he was commonly known at School as 'Taffy' Williams!!)



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE EXTRA – 1992 AND 1993 LEAVERS



Susannah Day (1987-92) - I moved to Worcester in the December after leaving Sibford and went to Worcester VIth Form College. There I took three A'levels in Theatre Studies, Art & Design and English Literature. After initially applying for Theatre Design and Technology at various universities, I decided that this wasn't what I wanted to do after

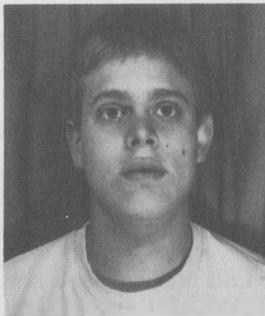
all so went to the local art college and did a BTEC Foundation in Art and Design which I passed. In September (1995) I'm going to Exeter Art College (part of Plymouth University) to study for a BA(Hons) Design Arts and Art History degree. I have returned to study at the place I was born.

Katy Tuthill (1988-92) - After I left Sibford I did a cookery course which I have used lots. I spent one year in the south of France teaching a little girl English which was brilliant and in September I am going back there to work for the same people but in the office; they have a company which organises sporting events (mainly motorsport) all around the world. Whilst I've been in England I've been 'cheffing' in a 4 star hotel and country club. Whilst I am not working I co-drive for my brother and we are doing the Colway Junior Rally Championship. On the last rally we won our class.



Paul Levy (1988-93) - Having left Sibford after five years, which was a daunting concept at the least, I went to do A' levels at another Quaker school, Bootham. I was lucky to be joined by fellow Sibford leavers, Adrian Douglas, Naomi Cordiner and Max Lin. It was much easier leaving having ready-made friends at my new school.

Then followed the Bootham period of my life, new friends, new teachers — in many ways Bootham is much like Sibford with the obvious Quaker influences. It has been interesting to meet people who taught Stephen Bunney and to hear tales of his school days. I have stayed in contact with many Sibford people in holidays and have gone back to Annual Reunions every year. I am going to start work as a production assistant on a feature film in October; this will probably last for four months. I am planning to go to university in either October 96 or 97 to read sociology or film studies.



Cathy Cavill (1987-92) - On leaving Sibford I went to Banbury School Sixth Form Centre where I took 3 A'levels: Business Studies, English Literature and French. This was a somewhat different experience to Sibford, particularly with the Sixth Form Centre alone having as many, if not more, than the whole of Sibford put together! Despite this, I managed to get through my two years there - leaving with good results (A,C,C). After a nerve-wracking few hours on the day of the publication of the A'level results, I managed to secure a place at the University of Hull to study a 4 year BA (Hons) Joint Degree in Business Studies and French. I have now completed my 'fresher's'

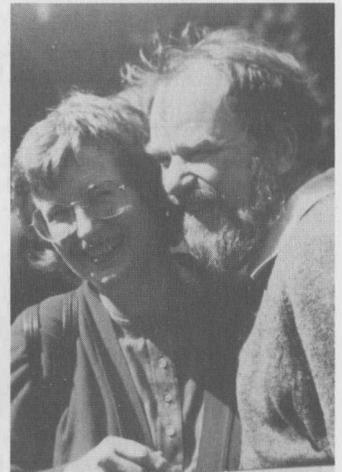
year there, staying in halls of residence, and am dying to go back for my second year. Five years ago, I would never have believed I would be where I am now. I think Sibford has played a large role in getting me here and one thing is for certain - I will definitely not forget my years there!

Adrian Douglas (1988-93) - I left Sibford in 1993 after enjoying five years in the countryside of Oxfordshire. After this, in great contrast, I travelled up to Bootham School, another Quaker school in York and right in the centre of the busy city. I have had a very enjoyable time there and have gained the A'level grades required to continue my education. Having left Bootham, I am now undertaking a year out of education, during which I am going to have a full-time job in order to save money for university. I am now in the process of applying to medical schools in London and Yorkshire in order to study the medical course which I have always wanted to achieve. This will then, hopefully, take up around the next seven or more years of my life, until I become qualified in the field of anaesthetics, where my future interests lie.

Naomi Cordiner (1990-93) - I left Sibford in July 1993 after three brilliant years and went on to Bootham, the Quaker school in York. This summer I passed my A'levels in English, History and Geography and have secured my place to do a BA in psychology at Reading University this October. I still keep in touch with a number of pupils and teachers from Sibford. Max Lin, Adrian Douglas and Paul Levy attended Bootham with me for the last two years. I have been to the Old Scholars' reunion at Sibford each August since I left and I thoroughly recommend it for anyone wanting to have an excellent time and keep in touch with the school.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations are at long last due to our dear old friend **Russell Steed**, who has got married! His bride is Janet Williams of Solihull and they were married at Bull Street Meeting House, in Birmingham on 29th July 1995. Amongst the guests were several Old Scholars to make sure he tied the knot! They included Irene Coxon-Smith, Nick Bennett, Carol Davis, Mike and Wendy Finch, Margaret Shelley (née Smart) and Janet White as well as *Russell and Janet Steed, married in July.*



Celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary this year were **Robert and May Hockley (née Harrod)**, who were married on 31st March 1945 at Godalming Meeting House. A family party of 19 was held to commemorate the event at Alton Meeting House in May. SOSA extends its congratulations to the happy couple.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we have to record below the names of Old Scholars and friends of Sibford who have passed on since the last annual report.

HOWARD CAMPION, who was at Sibford 1912-16, died at the end of October 1994. Howard was a great supporter of SOSA especially in the period between the two World Wars. His wife Elizabeth sends her best wishes to SOSA and has many happy memories of her and Howard's connection with the School.

KATIE GARDNER, who left Sibford in 1993, died at the end of July at the tender age of 18, having spent most of her life struggling against incurable illness.

Lesley Norton, who was Katie's Housemistress, writes the following tribute:

It is with great sadness that I write about the death of Katie Gardner in this Magazine. I should be writing about her going through life as a young woman, perhaps as a mother and even a grandmother, but tragically that was not to be. Towards the end of July I had a phone call from another Old Scholar informing me that Katie's illness had re-occurred and that she was seriously ill. Katie died a few days later.

I look back at her time at Sibford between 1990-1993 and remember with affection the laughter, the pranks, the fun and above all her unbridled joy of life, and although even on good days she suffered discomfort, it never stopped her from joining in and enjoying the fullness of boarding school life which extended into participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme expeditions.

Her inspiration and motivation moved the whole House to support her fund raising activities for leukaemia research.

Although her life was short she was a special person who gave more than she took and it was a privilege for all those who knew her to have been touched by her indomitable spirit.

PIPPA HARGREAVES died in January and will be remembered by many as a much loved teacher who was at Sibford between 1963-74. She was Lister Girls Housemistress during her latter years at Sibford and also taught History. There was a commemorative meeting held on 22nd April at Sibford Gower Meeting.

JOHN STEPHEN HEADLEY, who was a current and active member of the School Committee, died after a long illness on 20th November 1994. John was an Old Scholar of the School and was at Sibford between 1928-30.

MICHAEL HUCKINGS, who was at Sibford between 1949-54, died in March 1995 after a heart attack whilst out rambling. Michael was the brother of Erica Wimbush, whose husband, Timothy is the Vicar of Sibford.

LILY RATHERAM died peacefully on 2nd October 1995 aged 87. She was at Sibford between 1919-22 and was a Life Member of SOSA. This lovely, kind and gentle lady was one of SOSA's great characters who regularly attended the Annual Reunion until quite recently and was also a great supporter of the Midland Branch. We shall miss her calm and thoughtful approach to life and her love and support of Sibford.

HAROLD ROSE, at Sibford between 1917-20, died peacefully on 26th July 1995. Harold, who was 89, was a great SOSA stalwart and attended Reunions at Sibford and at Midland Branch get-togethers regularly until his death.

ODETTE SALTER (née Lamb) who was at Sibford between 1932-35 died at the end of March 1995. She was a Life Member of the Association.

IVY SMART (née Baker) died on 11th March 1995 aged 87. She was a former Head Girl of the School in 1923.

ROY STUART-TURNER died from cancer on 24th September 1995, aged 77. Roy, who was at Sibford between 1926-33, was a Life Member of SOSA and those who were at the August Reunion will have been touched by his impassioned plea on behalf of SOSA at the AGM debate on Reunion costs, despite being gravely ill. He lived at Blockley with his wife Margaret where they had run the village garage until retirement in 1987. He was a

prominent figure in the local community and had been Parish Council Chairman for a time. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

JOHN WARD, the beloved husband of our former Secretary Lilian Ward, died on the 21st April after a short illness. John, although not an old scholar, was a devoted Life member of SOSA and a great supporter of Sibford School. He will be fondly remembered for his good humour and support at Reunions and for his sporting prowess at tennis and table tennis. Our love and condolences go out to Lilian at this sad time.

MARGARET WHISTON (née Lycett) died in January 1995. She was an active supporter of the Midland Branch and was at Sibford 1924-28

Just as the Magazine was going to press we heard of the death of **PAUL EDDINGTON**, one of Sibford's most distinguished Old Scholars, who died on 6th November 1995 after a long fight against a rare skin cancer. Paul was a Life Member of the Association and was at Sibford between 1937-43. A full tribute will appear in the next edition of the Magazine.

NOTICES

AGM MINUTES

Please note that the SOSA AGM Minutes for 1995 will be sent separately to members of the Association.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1996

SOSA v School Football Match 21st January 1996
Contact Brian Kalliday to play. 2.30 pm
Support on the touchline would be appreciated!

Midland Branch New Year Party 28th January 1996
Selly Oak Meeting House, 12 noon
All are welcome.
Contact Hilary Hassleton

SOSA v School Cricket Match 19th May 1996
Contact Brian Kalliday to play.

SOSA Annual Reunion 24th - 27th August 1996
Contact Julie Greenhill

Sibford School Open Day 5th October 1996
Contact School Office (01295 780441)

(NB. Telephone numbers in the list of officers)

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HEAD BOY: VICTOR LAU

HEAD GIRL: RUTH JAMES

THE ANNUAL REUNION 1995



THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE ANNUAL REUNION 1995

Barbara Abercrombie, Naomi Alexander, Brian & Magdalena Baldwin, Grace Beckerlegge, Nick Bennett, Lorna Bergstrom, Kay, David, Roland & Suzie Böhm, Caroline Bond, Emma Bone, Ken & Maureen Bottom, Ivan & Nancy Bottoms, Diana Brockbank, Loraine & Philip Brown, Reg and Vera Brown, Stephen Burt, Doreen Carmen, Normon Coxon, Irene Coxon Smith, Liz Cordiner, Naomi Cordiner, Barbara Crozier, Helen Doyle, Margaret Dale, June Dawson, Rachael Davis, John & Suzie Dunston, Tom Evans, Margaret Fairnington, John Farr, Mike Farr, Mike & Wendy Finch, Hugo Finley, Ruth Fletcher, Tim Gebbett, Irene Glaister, Julie Greenhill, Chris, Pat, Michael & Nicola Grimes, Hilary & John Haddleton, Leslie Harrison, Ben Hedges, Ian Hedger, Mike Herm, Robert Hockley, Caroline Homan, Simon & Isobel Horsley, John Hughes, Esther Jackson, Ronald Kennedy, Guy Kingham, Michael Ladell, David Laity, Robert & Suzanne Levonian, Tom Leeman, Chris Legg, Paul Levy, Diana Lloyd, Daphne & Hugh Maw, Mark Mercer, Geoff & Rene Moore, Philip Morris, Anne Muir, Barrie & Sheila Naylor, Leigh Parr,

Cindy Poulton, Anne Rado, Eleri & Ivano Ricci, Desmond & Margaret Rose, Anne, Peter, Adele, Charlotte & Daniel Rose, Don Ryan, Ellen Salway, Julian Sandiford, Ashley, Carol, James & Maria Shirlin, Jack & Monica Simpson, Pamela Smettem, David Carlton Smith, Claire Smith, Tim, Heather, Richard, Steven & Anna Southall, Jeanne Southam, Janet & Russell Steed, Margaret Shelley, Mavis Stiles, John & Doreen Taylor, Betty & John Thelton, Jim & Sue Thelton, James Thompson, Heinz Tomasich, Michael & Wendy van Blankenstein, Tim Wardle, Jean Walker, Hilary, Hester & Luke Waterfield, John Watson, Christine & Ian Weatherhead, Jean Wilson, Ethel Wright, Marjorie & John Young.

Others who popped in: Ken Francis, Phillip Manasseh, John Miller, Brian Morphy, Ann & Ray Bond, Fred & Erica Sessa, Michael & Scilla Bond, Hedley Quinton, Barbara Quinton, Jennifer Quinton, Bronwen Lilley, David Watling, Andy, Clare, Michael (Jr) and Alex Finch.



The Manor Walled Garden

