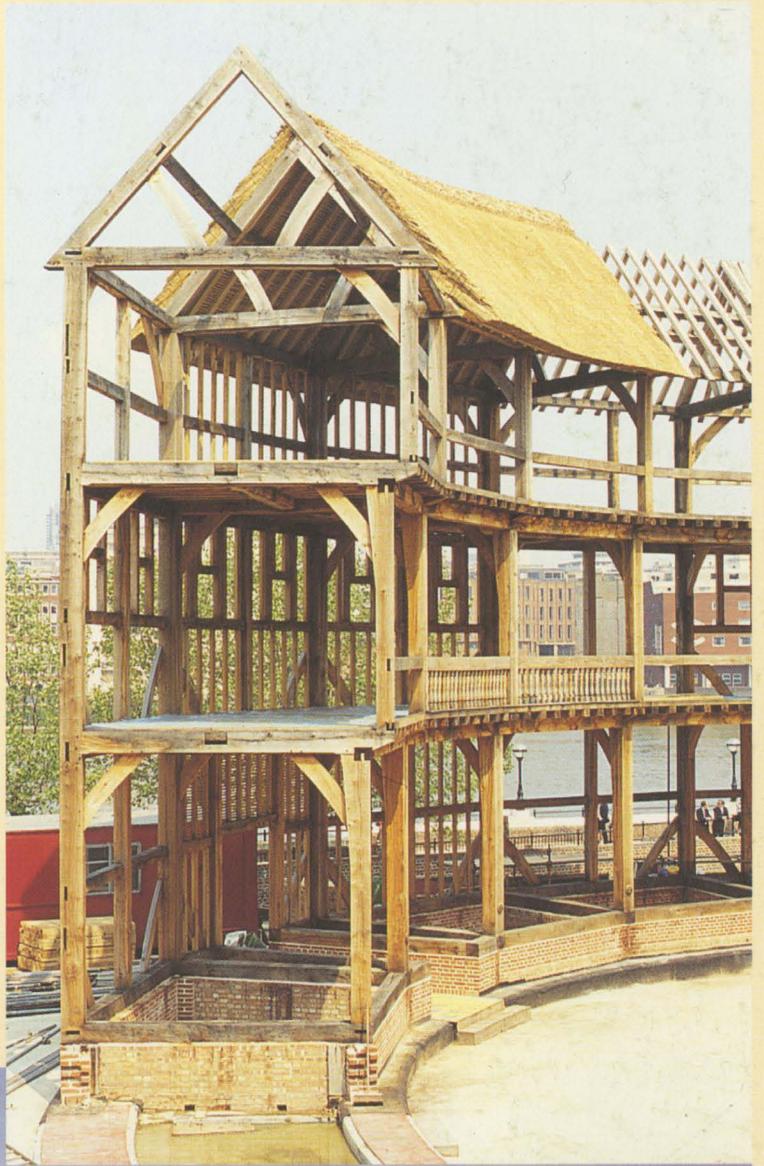
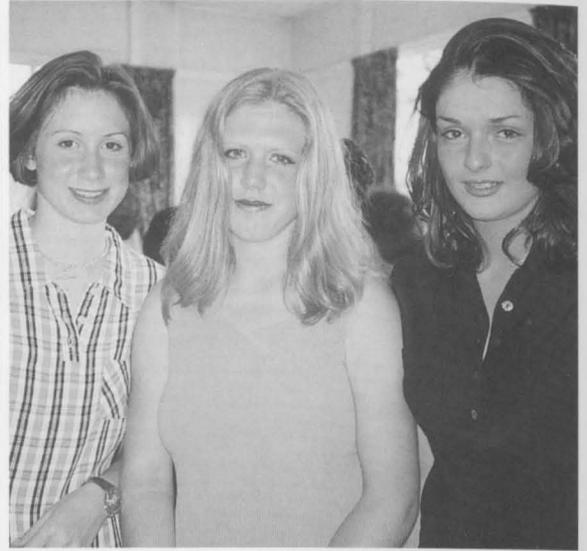


Sibford

1995 - 1996



1996 YEAR 11 DINNER



EDITORIAL

By nature I am a reactive sort of person and the three quotations which have set me going this time around are from a music critic, a French mystic and a Friend, respectively.

In the introduction to a tape of Buddhist chants, Damien Ffrench makes the questionable allegation that "music and religion have always been two of humanity's great bolt-holes from reality and, at best, towards ecstasy." To make his point he then adds, "And didn't Marx call religion the opium of the masses?"

He fails to note that true religion is indeed no spiritual E tablet, but in fact humankind's encounter with Ultimate Reality and the truth of the Self. I am quite sure that Buddhists would be dismayed to think of their chants as a means of escape: instead they see them as a means of meditative encounter, just as Friends see silence.

Contrast his words with those of Harold Loukes in his book "Friends and their Children", published in 1958:

"The prime object of a Quaker religious education is this: that children should use it to arrive at the religion of their

judgement and not stay content with what they have received second-hand. It is offered in the belief that there is Truth to be found, indescribable and incommunicable, but waiting to be discovered in the mystery of personal encounter."

Simone Weil wrote rather a gnomic statement with the following words:

"Obedience to the force of gravity: the original sin."

I think Weil is challenging us to engage with the forces which seek to limit our life and never to fall prey to the other great human original sin - lassitude - while also learning the wisdom to live within the necessary perimeters which make us the human beings we are.

It is this spirit which we hope you will find in these pages which follow and through which you will be enabled to share something of the life of the whole Sibford community: school, parents and old scholars. Enjoy them and spread the good news.

Seán Kenny

FOREWORD

FROM THE ACTING HEADS

It is a great delight to be writing a short foreword to a magazine that reflects such a busy and exciting year in the life of Sibford. It was a year which started with the opening of a new annexe, to house the increased number of girl boarders, in a wing of the old Manor and it will end with the arrival of Sue Freestone to Holly House and to Sibford. In between much has happened both academically and socially.

At the heart of Sibford is our belief that each individual should be valued for their own strengths, enthusiasms and potential. This year the GCSE results brought so much happiness to so many because they knew that they had achieved so much more than at one time they, or others, would have thought possible. The same is true of the smiles of satisfaction at the completion of a Duke of Edinburgh expedition or the happy conclusion of Children's Camp. We know that as you browse the pages you will find so many more examples of personal bests: whether on the rugby and hockey pitch, in drama, in music, in art, in technology, in maths, English and other classrooms, in science lab and walled garden or in accomplishments on a huge range of visits and activities.

These individual successes are the lifeblood but they need to be supported by the fabric, facilities and advances in the curriculum. This year it has been the turn of the

youngest and the oldest to be the focus of our building programme. At Easter the diggers and drills arrived to turn the Orchard Close car park into an airy and spacious extension to house our infants and the growing numbers of juniors in time for the opening in September. When we gather as a whole school for meeting on Tuesdays there are a growing number of legs which swing wildly on adult chairs to remind us that the Rising Fives have arrived. The Sixth Form too has expanded with a wider number of A Levels being studied and the new Land Based Industries GNVQ underway. Fielding House has had a face lift and its members are taking on increasing responsibilities in the school as a whole.

The magazine also details much of the work carried out by SOSA and PSFA and we greatly appreciate the support given to us by these two organisations. August saw the departure, after six full and exciting years, of John and Susie Dunston and January will see Sue Freestone arriving from Bristol and both happy and eager to start working at Sibford. We welcome Sue and Rupert and wish them many years of happiness with us. We have greatly enjoyed our term holding the reins and appreciate very much the support we have received from staff, parents and pupils alike.

Simon Horsley & Caroline Homan

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

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Photography Ann Stevenson and Karen Turburfield

P.S.F.A: Editor Jane Cleland

CO-ORDINATORS: Seán Kenny and Mike Finch

S.O.S.A: Editor Michael D. T.Farr
Photography Philip Morris, Russell Steed and Ian Weatherhead.

PRINTERS: H.E. Boddy and Co. Ltd., Banbury

Front cover artwork. The new Globe Theatre under construction at Southwark, London. The design and fabrication was undertaken by Old Sibfordian - Peter McCurdy (1962-67). (Full details are shown elsewhere in the magazine.)

BOARDING OVERVIEW 1996

The year started with another opening: this time an annexe for Margaret Fell House. The increase in girls boarding numbers was delightful to see and so, while all Year 7 - 11 girls are members of Margaret Fell with Lesley Norton as their House Mistress, some of the seniors have, as home for a term or more, the wing of the Manor which overlooks the Walled Garden. It is also good to see the girls so well represented on school council; this has seen hot debates this year on end of term discos, boys' earrings and is beginning to consider a code of conduct for all pupils.

The Maintenance Team then turned their attention to Fielding and, by September, the interior face lift was complete, in time to see the largest Sixth Form for some time. Cooking seems to remain one of the favourite pastimes in house but it is being closely rivalled by the new pool table and whenever I pop in to say hello in the evening, one group or another is anxious for basketball, despite John Howard's broken elbow in one of the first games of term. In next year's review I hope to be able to report the increased leadership by the Sixth Form in many activities for younger pupils.

Boarding at Sibford however is about so much more than buildings: this year has brought to our number new pupils from Bullawao, Equador, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Germany, Belgium, Spain and yet all settle with astonishing speed into the heart of Oxfordshire and are soon happily discussing the merits of Oxford or Stratford for a Saturday trip. This is due in no small part to the dedication and commitment of the House Staff and we have been delighted to welcome this year Jackie Bartlett and Cathering Marklew to Margaret Fell, and Tony Skeath and Sarah Spittle in new guises into Penn and Fielding.

This September saw new departures in our weekend provision, with Paul Ludlow co-ordinating On-Campus activities throughout the weekend as well as the long list of trips out. Away from Sibford, climbing, canoeing and shopping remain as popular as ever, while in school donut making, basketball and computer games probably top the list. The provision of up to five activity slots during the weekend means that all Year 7 & 8 boarders participate in at least two organised hobby sessions or trips out each week, in addition to their two activity sessions every Saturday morning. The summer evenings saw marathon football games organised by Scott and Justin, two of our Australian GAP students. Summer and Louise have also given us so much fun and enthusiasm that we will all miss all four on their return home at the end of December, but hope that they will return someday to visit us all.

Next year looks ready to be busier still, with plans taking shape for the refurbishment of Penn House, a drama weekend in January, trips, tournaments and much more.

Caroline Homan

THE SIBFORD CURRICULUM 1995-1996

The past year has been marked in curricular terms by exciting developments at the top and the bottom of the school, in Years 1 and 2 and in Years 12 and 13. The extension which has been built on to Orchard Close and the arrival of infants at Sibford School will be written about at greater length elsewhere, but there is an appropriate symmetry with the exciting developments in the Sixth Form.

After two years of planning this September sees not only the arrival of the largest Year 12 which the school has seen but also the radical overhaul of the Sixth Form curriculum. The school has long been a leader in the provision of vocational education and it is pleasing to report that from September 1996 all our vocational courses will come under the GNVQ banner. The subjects being studied will be Business at intermediate level, Land Based Industries at intermediate level and a more general foundation level course. Just as exciting is the development of our A' Level courses with the introduction of maths and music for the first time and the expansion of our A' levels in geography, business studies, textiles, design, art and English.

Elsewhere in the curriculum it is pleasing to report that the first cohort of media studies pupils have successfully completed their GCSEs whilst the re-introduction of some Year 9 music brings us closer into line with the National Curriculum.

Overall another pleasing and busy year; we look forward to an equally busy and fulfilling time this year

Simon Horsley

SIBFORD SCHOOL LOOKS FORWARD TO A NEW HEAD

Sibford School will be looking forward to a Happy New Year when the new Head arrives to take up her appointment, following the departure of John Dunston, who is now Head of Leighton Park School in Reading.

Susan Freestone comes to Sibford, with her husband, Rupert, from Bristol, where she is currently Director of Music at Colston's Girls' School. She has also been tutor to part of the post graduate education course at Bristol University and is an active performer, being the Conductor of the Bristol Concert Orchestra.

She has two teenage children, Tara and James.

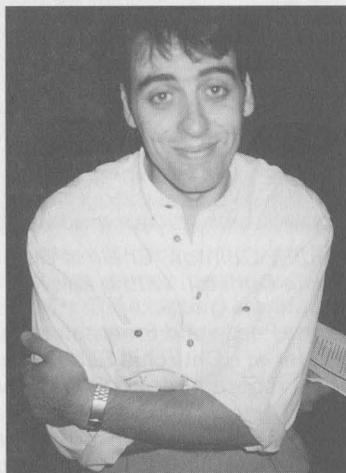


WELCOME

MARK CONNOR

Back Again!

Those of you who missed me in '95 have a chance to meet me now. You'll find me most days in room 14 being Maths or at the Sports Hall playing badminton. For my part, it's good to be back at Sibford torturing, er, tutoring those familiar faces again! !



RACHEL McCULLOCH

I have been an Early Years Teacher for 6 years since qualifying from Bishop Otter College, Chichester, (B.Ed Hons). I moved to this area three years ago and now live in Chipping Norton with Lila my Burmese Cat. I was born in Windsor, Berks and my allegiance is to the Royal House if only because of the happy days I spent in their back garden, Windsor Great Park.



Before deciding on a teaching career I took a Diploma course in Art, Fashion and Design from Berkshire College of Art. Outside of school my interests reflect this training in my use of textiles and machine embroidery. Precedence recently has been house decoration, gardening and car mechanics. Having owned a number of British sports cars I have had more than my fair share of the latter.

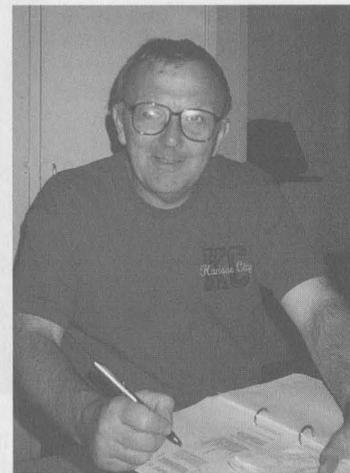
My aunt and uncle work in the Performing Arts and I spent much time backstage in London theatres and at St Maryle-Bow where my grandfather was Rector. This is in total contrast to the time I spent in London following 80's rock bands and fashions. I'm happy to say that Windsor groupies were traditionally a cut above what might be viewed as the typical behaviour of the time.

I enjoy European travel, especially to countries where the average temperature never drops below 20 degrees Centigrade.

I am very much looking forward to the challenge of teaching at Sibford School within the Quaker environment and especially at Orchard Close, where I am now working to establish the Key Stage 1 class.

ROD DYER

Rod joins us from semi-retirement in Southam, making a very valuable addition to our staff here two days a week, chiefly in the PE Dept. but elsewhere when needed. His happy sense of humour and cheerful personality have already endeared him to all of us at Sibford. We are glad you have joined us, Rod.



CATHERINE MARKLEW

I was born in Birmingham, but have spent most of my life living in Wiltshire.

After spending 3 years working in a co-educational boarding school in Colchester, Essex, I decided to take a leap into the unknown and spend a year on my own in Australia!

After recovering from jet-lag, I spent 2 months working as a nanny in Sydney. In November 1995 I decided to move out of the city on to a cotton and cattle property, west of a city called Dubbo. I enjoyed it so much, I spent 6 months nannying there, although an hour's drive to the nearest shops was a bit of a shock !

Before returning home in July 1996, I spent 6 weeks looking around Sydney and travelling up the coast to Brisbane.

Now that I'm back in Britain, I look forward to settling into Sibford and, hopefully, the many happy days ahead.



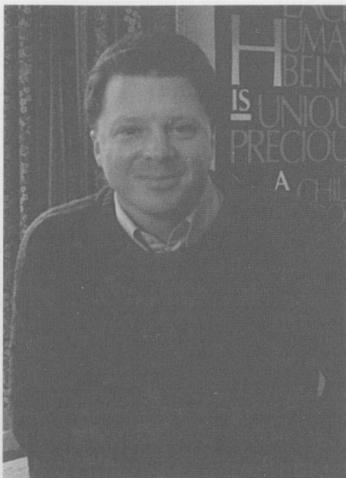
SIMON TALBOT

I was born in Stoke-on-Trent and remain devoted too Stoke City football club. My first major move was to Birmingham, where I studied to become an actor and to experience the nightlife. After three years' dedication both, I moved to London to further my career and to discover the nightlife of an even bigger city !

I have been fortunate to appear on TV many times and occasionally on the stage. (Avid watchers of Sky Gold run the risk of seeing me in such classics as Bergerac and The Bill)

After 10 enjoyable years I decided it was time to get a respectable profession and so I turned to full-time teaching. I trained at Aberystwyth University before returning to London to teach for 4 years.

Then I travelled around the world for a year, a wonderful experience, even with the dangerous moments. Highlights include climbing an active Asian volcano, flying over the Grand Canyon, white water rafting in New Zealand and watching a Stoke City victory on TV in South Africa. All these were surpassed, however, by the experience of swimming with over 300 dolphins in the wild - it's just impossible to describe how amazing that was!



Having moved to Sibford, I had hoped to pursue my interests in fencing and Aikido, but as yet I have not discovered the places to do this. Oh well, there's always the nightlife!

FRANCES (FRAN) BOURNE

Having lived in the neighbouring village of Hook Norton for ten years, I am familiar with Sibford, though not with the school itself. So far I have adapted well to my post of (part-time) in-class Support Assistant with the EFL department. Both staff and pupils have been welcoming and I am sure I shall enjoy my time at Sibford.



I was born in Banbury, but have lived in Bangor (North Wales) for the last three years. It was there that I graduated with a B.A. in English. I have since returned to Hooky in search of something else to occupy my time.

Predictably, perhaps, I am quite "arty". I especially enjoy music. I have played the violin from the age of seven and progressed enough to join a few orchestras, such as the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra and the University Orchestra. I was also a member of Raymond Head's Banbury Symphony Orchestra at one time. Other interests include looking round art exhibitions and going to the theatre.

Inevitably, for me, this year is going to be a preliminary one. It is a new beginning and I certainly do not feel settled, but in many respects it is exciting. I am just relieved that I have one foot on the ladder at last.

FAREWELL

JOHN DUNSTON — HEAD 1990-1996

John Dunston came to Sibford in the spring of 1990 and it was immediately obvious that he was going to be a Head of outstanding calibre. We were aware before his arrival of his impressive record, as a teacher and Head of Department, as a member of the Bach Choir, as a Justice



Hedley Quinton, Chair of Committee, presents John and Susie Dunston with a farewell gift.

of the Peace and Freeman of the City of London and as the holder of a Churchill Scholarship. The potential which this track record hinted at was soon to be fulfilled.

The 1990s has been a turbulent time in education and John steered the school through good times and bad with a steady hand and with determination. One can point to many examples which illustrate his vision and the effect of his management. Sibford School today is very much the product of his management as is shown by such areas as the expansion of music within the school, the development of the Business Centre, the programme of boarding house refurbishment, the expansion of the Sixth Form and the extension of Orchard Close. However all of these only reflect John's central concern which was for the pupils themselves.

John's great love of music and his desire to share this with the School community was one of the important personal elements of his headship. Whether it was sharing an amazingly wide range of personal favourites with the School in Sunday Evening Meeting, playing the piano during the annual Carol Service or singing alongside the pupils in one of the many musical events of which he was a part, we were left in no doubt as to either his commitment to music or his outstanding talent.

Educationally John always has shown his belief in the individual. Sibford has always been a school where the greatest importance is placed upon each pupil as an individual in their own right and this central element of the School has developed and grown over the past six years. Again this is illustrated by the way in which such areas as the Enhanced Learning Programmes and Vocational Education developed under John's leadership.

Any appreciation of John must also include a heartfelt tribute to his wife Susie. The role of Head's partner has always been difficult but again, I suspect that the demands of the 1990s make it even more of a challenge today than in earlier times. Susie's steadfast support of John and the school was exemplary.

John had only one watchword whilst at Sibford and he demanded it of pupils, staff and himself. The watchword was excellence and I think it was achieved by all. I would like to wish John and Susie the very best for their time at Leighton Park. Thankyou to both of you.

Simon Horsley

KAREN TURBURFIELD — MRS T.

We said goodbye in July to Karen Turburfield who, in fifteen years, progressed from Assistant in the Remedial Department to committed Friend and Head of what must be one of the largest Dyslexia Departments in the country. This was no dull progression. It was the impact of a teacher of genius.

Her understanding of the very specific needs of dyslexic young people was gained through a combination of natural empathy and immensely thorough theoretical study, both put to imaginative and practical use. Always enthusiastic for innovation, she had a tireless energy for helping people learn in their own best style, and the ability to motivate them to ever greater effort. Her response was instant. A learning block today would be met by a brilliant new teaching aid tomorrow morning. Only the best would do, which meant that she took frequent liberties with the contents of her own home to provide materials, but equally, she had the imagination to use whatever came to hand. You would never forget your Key Words once you had found them chalked on the stairs as you came up. And you wouldn't dare fall below Mrs T's exacting standards, even if there were no hot chocolate or custard creams to urge you on.

She made it all look so easy, but her friends and family knew all too well the hundreds of hours she spent in sheer hard work to get things right. She saw early on how important computers would be for Dyslexics, and painstakingly taught herself all the knowledge that she then passed on generously to her colleagues and students.

Her style and artistry led to displays of stunning beauty, both in the department and wherever else they were needed. When the rest of us had struggled for the right effect all afternoon, Karen would send us all home, raid the stationery cupboard, and transform our efforts. She even succeeded in the Karenisation of the Staff Room, enriching our lives with plants and flowers and firmly tied down staplers and pens. The greatest mark of our appreciation is that, despite a few casualties, we are trying to maintain standards.

Turning up, always there, always elegant, graciously making light of irksome responsibilities, Karen has been an anchor for us all. She never dropped her standards, whether producing instant certificates for Sports Day, acting as resident calligrapher, wrapping gifts, helping at Children's Camp, SOSA, PSFA, the Christmas Fair, or masterminding the giant Dyslexic Jumble Sale of 1989.

It has not only been Sibford that has benefited from her dedication. She was a distinguished student on the pioneering first RSA SpLD Diploma course, and a founder member of PATOSS, always at the forefront of professional development. Attending a conference with her was like travelling with royalty.

A brilliant teacher, but most of all a person of quality, she supported children and adults alike through times of stress. Children knew she was on their side, often acting as mediator. Parents went away with new hope and the knowledge that their anxieties were understood. Colleagues received not only sympathy, but also generous and practical help.

Modest, gracious, hardworking, Karen's deeply developing faith is expressed in all she does, "letting her life speak". Thank you, Karen, for your inspiration, your friendship and the sheer fun you have given us all, and our best wishes in all your future ventures. A true friend.

MIKE FINCH

Mike Finch left Sibford in December 1995, just after the completion of last year's Sibford Magazine, in which he had a leading - if behind the scenes - role. Mike has been called "Mr. Sibford" in recognition not only of his hard work over the years for the community of the school, but for his membership of the Old Scholars' Association and his undoubted and very real love of Sibford.

Mike is a birthright Quaker and was here as a boy from 1949 to 1954. He joined the staff from his previous employment in industry on April 1st 1982 in the role of Estate Manager, working alongside John Miller, the Bursar. During his time at Sibford, he has been a boarding house parent, in Fielding House from 1986-88, with Wendy his wife whom he married in 1985, having met her here, as well as Development Officer and, latterly, Accounts Administrator, the post from which he was eventually made redundant. Mike was even a Form Tutor 1982-86 and was the organiser of the Kids' Camps from 1982-90.

Mike has been involved with SOSA ever since he ceased to be a pupil of the school and is presently Treasurer, having held every officer's position in the Association. He is, moreover, an ex-member of the School Committee 1974-81, having served as Chair on the Finances and Premises Sub-Committee. Few people can have such a wealth of exposure to the many facets of the life of our community as Mike Finch.

When I first arrived at Sibford, I was warned that the Estate Manager could be a bit difficult, but I was also told that his bark was far worse than his bite. To my pleasant surprise (given what I'd been told) I found from Mike a warm welcome and a willingness to collaborate which has never wavered in the seven years since.

Mike is devoted to the school's archives and carries a wealth of anecdotal knowledge around in his head. He loves a good story and has a wicked sense of humour, inherited, no doubt, from his sea-faring Irish great-great-grandfather, which has made him a very popular figure. There was real sadness when he left the school's employment, as was witnessed by the large number of staff from all the school's departments who attended his leaving party in Gillett.

Mike's association with the school community continues through SOSA and through his invaluable help to me in editing this magazine. He is evidence to me that it is not merely a person's title nor their position in the management scheme of things which ultimately matters. No; rather it is their qualities as a human being which gain them affection and respect, two commodities of which Michael Finch has plenty at Sibford. He drives Wendy to school each morning from Middle Tysoe and keeps in regular contact with his many friends. Long may it continue.

We all wish him a happy and a busy future, wheresoever he wendeth.

Seán Kenny.

MARTIN GULLIFORD.

Not many people that are new to the School may have heard of Martin Gulliford; he was one of the chefs at Sibford, also a house parent in Penn, mainly a friend to every one who met him. Many parents who met Martin may remember meeting him for the first time with his finger up a hole in the ceiling of Penn with water pouring down his arm, trying to stop a leak!

In Penn, Martin will be remembered for a long time as he is one of the kindest people I have met; he gave so much of himself in the house, and was able to talk to you about his childhood and how he overcame many problems that children face today. Whatever you felt like, if you were home-sick or you thought you were in trouble, Martin couldn't fail to make you smile and to cheer you up.

On a Saturday morning while travelling to work Martin

had an accident that would change his life. He was run over by a skip lorry, and after a dramatic rescue (during which Martin remained conscious) he was air lifted, by police helicopter to the John Radcliffe in Oxford.

After having one leg amputated and pulling through, (even though the doctors said he would never make it) and 17 operations, a year later Martin has almost if not completely made a full recovery.

Martin is now living in Australia, with his family, after spending a short while in Oxford. He says he will be back. I am sure that Martin would like me to say, on his behalf, that he wishes every one the best of luck for the future.

Freddie Huntington. Yr 10

ORCHARD CLOSE

TO BOARD OR NOT TO BOARD

In 1991 we, as a family, were faced with this question. We were living in Nigeria at the time and there was no good secondary education available for our eldest daughter. Also as a family we were not committed to the idea of boarding. Consequently, we decided to return to Hook Norton, where our English home was.

Job hunting ensued and I found myself teaching in Orchard Close, the new Junior School Department of Sibford School, an established Day/Boarding School.

Soon, I began to learn all about boarding life and what it can offer children. After the first two years, when I was only involved with the day school, I became part of the boarding life of the school.



Opening of Orchard Close extension. Wendy Williams, Francis Surry, David McMahon and Kieran Ford (inset) – the youngest pupil in the school.

Education for your child can pose many questions. Parents are now faced with greater choice. We had to make a choice between being together as a family unit or separated. We chose the former.

One of the major decision makers was the fact that we were older parents, who had not started our family until later in life. Consequently, we didn't want to miss out on these special years.

However, now that I am part of a boarding establishment, I can appreciate how short the terms are. The children work a long school day, and many schools work Saturday mornings. Children whose parents are abroad, often select a school because of its proximity to grandparents and relatives. I have observed many 'special' relationships blossoming between grandparents and boarders.

Many of the children are now able to fly home for half term or parents fly in to whisk them away for an exciting holiday break.

SUMMER AND AUTUMN UNIONS

We would like to congratulate two members of the Sibford community who married the "men of their dreams" during this summer vacation.

All our best wishes for the future to Pam Gibson, our Head of GNVQ and Business Studies, who married Colin Conroy and to San Sister Pat Croft, who married John Fisher and who leaves us for a new life in Armscote at the end of Autumn Term.

On November 23rd Gail Mills, from Orchard Close, married Keith Wilson. Congratulations!

The weekly boarders are no sooner here than away again. Excellent contact is established between home and school.

The newest trend is for flexi-boarding. Busy parents with business meetings in the evenings or long daily journeys to school often welcome a mid week break. If there are spare beds in the dorms - flexi-boarding is possible.

Boarding life is different from home life. It is more organised and there are far more rules. There is also constant company for the gregarious child. Phone calls and fax machines mean that no one is out of contact. Letters and parcels become an important part of life.

The Matron or Houseparents are the most important people in a boarding child's life. They are the support and link between boarding house and school.

If I had to take my decision again I might find it much more difficult. I now know what boarding can offer and do for a child. Children seem to adapt and accept far easier than parents.

Elizabeth Young

THE YEAR IN FOCUS

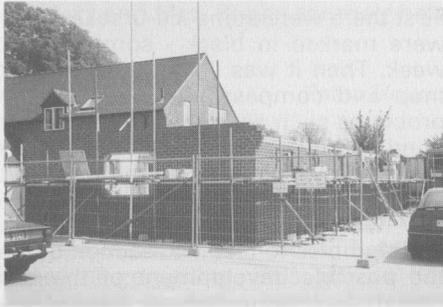
Orchard Close continues to be an exciting, changing environment in which to work. The year commenced with the highest number of pupils ever. The building, which was purpose built in 1989, was bursting at the seams and the younger children were in the Fielding portakabin. However, plans were already being discussed and eventually drawn up and approved for the new extension in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of pupils.

The builders commenced work during the Easter holidays 1996. Surprisingly there was little disruption to classes. Children in Years 4 and 5 kept a weekly diary about the building work, consequently learning about and feeling part of the project. The three new classrooms, cloakroom and large entrance hall were completed a few days before the start of the September 1996 term.

One of the new classrooms is for the recently established Key Stage 1 class and we welcome Rachel McCulloch as the teacher in charge of this age group. She is an experienced



infant teacher and is already sharing her great enthusiasm for Art and English with us. We hope she will enjoy being part of the new developments in Orchard Close. Gail Mills and her pupils are enjoying the luxury of a new classroom, after their year in the portakabin. The Enhanced Learning Room is used for a variety of lessons, such as Dyslexic Studies, Learning Support, Thinking Skills and Accelerated Learning.



Life in Orchard Close is always busy and varied. The Australian Christmas event was organised by Daniel May, our attached Australian GAP Student. Lots of fun and laughter for everyone. The entertainment was followed by the traditional Orchard Close Christmas Cake made by the pupils. After the event pupils and parents helped to raise money for the final fund raising for the purchase of a large Wendy House by buying Walter and Wendy buns, each of which purchased a brick. Daniel May returned to Australia after Christmas in order to commence his University Studies. He had brought his love of cricket to Orchard Close students.

Scott Ralston arrived from Australia on a bitterly cold January day. He smiled when he arrived and continues to smile. He is a great football enthusiast and a tremendous chess player. The winter play times passed quickly with children playing chess all over the school. Parents were soon commenting on the 'close games' their children were challenging them to.



Educational visits were as varied as ever.

Gail Mills took her class to Bath where they stayed in a Youth Hostel. They visited the Roman Baths. The Upper Juniors went to the British Museum and Stratford-upon-Avon as part of their History Studies.

The highlights of the summer term were the boat trips on the Oxford Canal, kindly provided by parents Ann and Bob White. This was much appreciated.

Sports Day was exciting, but unfortunately the day was overcast. One week later Orchard Close had a second Victorian Sports Day in torrential rain.

This was a fund raising event when all the children were sponsored in a 'Hop, Skip, Jump' event in 'Leap for Leprosy'. They raised £368 which will help to cure leprosy. The

children all dressed up as Victorians. During the morning Years 4 and 5 experienced a Victorian school morning. The afternoon sports included sack and hoop races which were the real favourites. During the event Thames Radio interviewed children. Later they were able to listen to themselves on the radio.



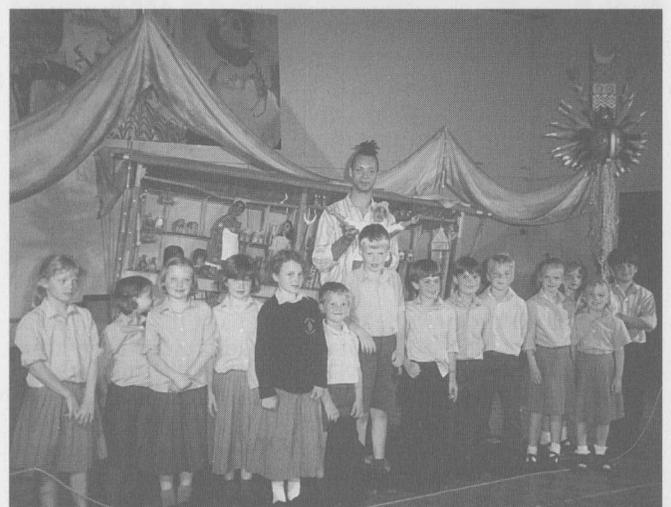
Anna Cobb "Leaps for Leprosy" at the Victorian Sports Day.



Thames Radio 'Live' on Victorian Sports Day.

Year 6 children made side shows for charity. Lorraine Jack brought her pet pigs for a 'guess the weight of the pig' competition. This event gave the children first hand experience of how a Victorian child would have felt participating in Victorian sports. The idea was to encourage children to further research about Victorian sports and clothes.

The Little Angel Puppet Theatre returned with a performance of 'Go Noah Go'. Sceptical Year 6 children were soon entranced by this exciting, colourful production.



The Little Angel Puppet Theatre.

The Orchard Close tree has continued to bring news to Orchard Close parents, visitors and children. Charlie Woods featured in five local newspapers when he wrote to the Prime Minister (and received a reply) complaining about pollution in the sea, after an Orchard Close science lesson.

The Sports activities have been varied and more matches were played. Graham Thomas and Patricia Howes are enthusiastic games teachers. Gill Newbold continues to teach children to swim and gain confidence in the water with truly amazing results. Her trampoline club is also proving to be very popular. Riding continues to be one of the most popular extra curricular activities and Modern Dance is starting to attract more boys. Lunch hours are always busy with children rushing off to Orchard Close Choir rehearsals, Instrumental Group, Art Club, Chess Club, Origami Club and Sports Practices.

Amongst all these activities serious work has progressed. The quiet and peace of morning meeting continues to have a special place in all our hearts. During the quiet times we think of Mary Bennett, the first teacher in charge of Orchard Close. Mary is in the Kathryn House Hospice, Adderbury. Throughout her long illness she has always asked about and shown a keen interest in Orchard Close. Mary was a remarkable teacher. She wrote and produced wonderful plays. She also gave many children a love of Art. We have all learnt a lot from Mary.

As the apples in the orchard ripen and the trees start to change colour we commence another school year. We also start a new chapter in the history of Orchard Close.

Elizabeth Young

MATRON'S NOTES FROM THE BOARDING HOUSE

Busy Time.

Hospitality at Quaker Meeting House - flowers - dusting - coffee making.

Conservation during the autumn, winter and spring - hacking brambles - shrubbery - pulling splinters out of fingers. Culmination in a summer picnic and a walk through the disused railway tunnel. Seeing what a difference our hard work has made to the fauna and flora.

Many and varied trips from nearby Broughton Castle to much farther afield. A lovely day at Wroxton Abbey walking for Wildlife Fund, we didn't raise much money but achieved great satisfaction and sore feet.

Once again the boarding catchment area is worldwide from Thailand, France and the U.K.

Beth Banning

ORCHARD CLOSE ACTIVITIES WEEK

On Monday March 4th Year 6 plus Miss Mills, Miss Howes and Scott met at Banbury Station ready to catch the train to Swansea and so to Clyne Farm. Laden with luggage we travelled to Didcot, changed, travelled to Swindon, changed and then to Swansea.

On arrival at Swansea we were taken to Clyne Farm where we had the first of many good meals before finding our accommodation and beginning our activities.

First there were some ice-breaker activities where cheats were marked in black - some marks remained for the week. Then it was "find your way around the farm by map and compass" followed by team work to solve problems such as "removing a dangerous object from a pond without getting wet". A superb evening meal was followed by "climbing up the wall" in the barn.

Day two dawned dry and it was off to Oystermouth and the Mumbles to test the reaction of the local residents to the possible development of the bus station - market researchers in the making. Having found no enthusiasm for developing the bus station we headed round the coast to go looking at rocks, at holes in the rocks and in rock pools. However the highlight of the day was being pulled across a gap with the sea crashing below. Everybody managed the Alpine Traverse.

On day three we went "into town". We saw the development of Swansea Docks, now a very pleasant residential area, and found Dylan Thomas, coal and copper. Public transport took us back to Clyne Farm where we embarked on a manhunt. Christophe thought he was Robin Hood and remained well hidden up a tree whilst Miss Howes had forty winks in a bush as the other group tried to find us.

So far the weather had remained dry but day four proved to be sunny and warm. We were off to do a river study and this began by playing Pooh Sticks. A scramble up to Pennard Castle enabled us to look out over the Gower Peninsular where signs of the Sea Empress oil disaster were nowhere to be seen. Map reading was needed to get us to lunch which was followed by a gentle stroll round the coast to a beach. Soon a sandcastle building competition was in progress. The day concluded with a walk up a limestone valley - we found the river at the top as it disappeared down a swallow hole.

The last day was a complete contrast. It was extremely cold but it did not stop Year 6 doing "the muddiest assault course world." Our visit ended with a hot shower, another super meal and then the rain. We returned to Banbury by train and gave the guardsman heart failure with all the luggage at Didcot. The week ended by arriving back to snow in Banbury, tired but having had a good week.

Patsy Howes

GIRLS' GAMES - ORCHARD CLOSE

Orchard Close has managed to field a netball and a rounders team. These have been listed as Under 11 but they have been a mixture of Under 11s, 10s and 9s.

We began the year by suffering heavy defeats in netball matches and were unable to score any goals. However, as the season progressed and the team became more experienced our losing margin decreased; improvement in the defence skills of Myrriam Bohan and Harriet Cooper was the main reason for this.

Although no netball matches were won in the 1995-96 season, the experience gained by the U10s and U9s has stood them in good stead. The 1996-97 season has begun with our first win.

The summer saw rounders as the main sport. Five matches were to be played but two were lost to the weather. Although no wins were forthcoming, defeats were narrow, only by one or two rounders. Two mixed tournaments involving the whole of Years 4,5 and 6 resulted in one win and one loss. Hopefully next season will see some wins.

My thanks go to the girls for the effort they have put in, to parents for being so patient with late pick-ups and

especially to Mrs. Duckett and Mrs. Bohan for their help with the transport.

Patsy Howes

SAILING

Every Monday during the Easter term and again until October half term groups of pupils head out to Farmoor Reservoir, near Oxford to go sailing. This activity has continued to grow, with more pupils than ever taking part this year with almost thirty pupils attending each week in three different sessions.

Orchard Close pupils are introduced to dingy sailing using a variety of craft including Toppers, Otters and Optimists. They are able to sail in pairs and as their confidence grows take boats out single-handed.

Many of the Years 7 and 8 pupils introduced to sailing in Orchard Close return and make the most of the evening sessions to relax with some recreational sailing mixed with some teaching points, often attracting new sailors with their enthusiastic descriptions of events from the weeks previous.

With the increasing popularity of sailing, any assistance with the sessions is welcome from parents. No previous experience is required just common sense, a willingness to learn oneself and of course a great deal of patience! If you are willing and able to offer any help please contact Gail Mills at Orchard Close.

Gail Mills

ORCHARD CLOSE CAMPING

With the ever increasing demands on our time in events, the camping weekends took on a different form than in previous years. Moving away from the traditional idea of sleeping under canvas and cooking on an open fire, pupils were introduced to an alternative challenge evening base in and around the school grounds at the end of the Summer Term.

After supper, clues were distributed amongst the groups which led to the discovery of more clues, yet more clues and then even more clues! Each of these had to be solved within a restricted time, in order to produce any useful information. Upon solving riddles, deciphering codes, tracing trails and collecting selected items, the children could exchange the correct answers for equipment which could then be put to use.

Tents took a while to be erected and the final clues were struggled over before the hidden treasures of a 'hot dog' supper were unfolded. Nervous tension rose as the children realised the implications of the unsolved clues. However as the 'midnight hour' approached, glimmers of hope or rather sausages appeared in eyes that not long before had been quite glazed by puzzles!

An unexpected thunderstorm added additional atmosphere to our evening, but I am glad to report that neither the torrential rain nor the thunder removed the children from their canvas shelters during the night. Waking to a clear blue sky and happy cheery voices was also a treat, although at 4 o'clock in the morning I don't think I appreciated it as much as I would have at closer to 8 a.m.!

Gail Mills

HOUSE REPORTS

ALL CHANGE AT FIELDING

What a year! It is with great fondness that I look back at my first year at Fielding. We now have a fully refurbished house and a bigger year twelve than ever before, but the memories of last year's sixth form will always stay with me.



Bish, Fabs, Rosie and Katie.



Hazel, Joe and Laura.

It was such an eventful year with many highlights and few low points. One of the first landmarks was the Christmas rap. Mark Paine must take all the credit for what turned out to be a unique contribution to the Christmas carol service.

On another dramatic note, Trevor Walters inspired many within the house and we saw some talented performances throughout the year. Ruth James, James Scott and Leo Maggi were outstanding in "Death and the Maiden". Other notable performances took place on the pistes of Merlette, France, where many of us enjoyed an active and fun packed week together. Similarly, the outdoor pursuits weekend organised by Gail Mills was another chance for staff and pupils to interact and enjoy each others' company. Many will remember Taij's rock climbing escapade and Becky's adroitness.

However, for me the highlight of the year was observing the change in the pupils, seeing them mature and pull together. They all learned during the year to enjoy each other and celebrate each others' success. The house spirit was phenomenal and allowed us to field successful inter-house rugby, football and athletic teams. The girls



*The Head Students Group 1996/7:
Andrew Waite, Rosie Hilferty,
Fabian Collis and Hazel Bell.*

responded particularly well to Sarah Spittle's words of motivation in her impromptu athletics training sessions. The VIth form enjoyed many weekend outings to Drayton Manor, The Snow Dome, bowling in London and the end of term summer barbecue.

Life at Fielding last year had its own sad moments. Lee Sayers' terrible car accident deeply affected everyone in the house. Weekly visits to see him in intensive care, on the ward and in rehabilitation enabled us to witness his remarkable recovery. The Horton became a frequent visiting venue for the VIth form who endured one ailment or fracture after another, leaving Mrs Howard on first name terms with the casualty nurses!

So here we are one year on. I'd like to thank Victor Lau for being an excellent Head of House, Trevor who never tired of making pancakes on a Sunday morning; Angie Bovill and Sarah Spittle who constantly supported events and activities, and Geoff Slade whose contributions to House Meetings always ensured a humorous touch; but most importantly to those members of Fielding who changed the perception of the 6th form within the school, and by their actions encouraged many of last year's elevens to continue this positive trend.



Victor Lau.

John Howard

FIELDING'S FACELIFT.

We did not know what to expect when we arrived at Fielding House. During the summer term of 1996 there was major re-furbishment within the house. Along with the help of staff and pupils we were able to decide on the choice of decor and the re-design of the common room.



Laura Brown in her Fielding Sixth Form study-bedroom.



Fielding TV area.

and new lights. There is a large kitchen with new equipment and a common room with an adjoining TV room. The comfy seats and new carpet look very inviting.

The homely atmosphere has created a welcome surprise to both new and present pupils. In comparison to last year's house the improvement is beyond doubt and the inconvenience caused during the building work is now better appreciated.



Fielding common room.

The interior has been transformed. Bedrooms now have new furniture and more storage space creating a comfortable environment in which to work. We have new beds, new desks

We thank everybody who worked so hard to make Fielding House what it is today.

Hazel Bell and Rosie Hilferty

GILLETT HOUSE

It is said that time flies when you're having fun - we can hardly believe where this last twelve months has gone, or that the house has now been re-opened for three complete years - our new Year 7 intake of September 1993 are now in Year 10!

The appointment of Joe Boucher as House Captain, plus James Wringe and Alex Li as his deputies, proved a great success. Joe has since gone on to Stratford College and sent us these comments:

"During my year as House Captain, I had many different experiences, some more challenging than others. I had quite a lot of responsibilities such as checking that jobs had been done. I could not believe how fast the time passed.

Paul Ludlow, Alison Pearce, and other staff attached to the House helped me to carry out the House Captain role successfully.

One of the times I remember most about school was my house meeting where I was left 'on the spot'. Staff were very understanding and helpful when it came to my exams. The House improved a great deal while I was there such as new furniture and the decorating! I will always remember the three years I spent at Sibford with great hilarity."

The House has participated fully in all sporting aspects of the school - true to the Olympic ideal that it is not the winning, or the losing, but the taking part that matters.

Adam Bell reports that Gillett is the smallest house at Sibford School, and the sports achievements we have made in the past year have shown a degree of success, in spite of this disadvantage compared to Penn and Lister.

In the rugby season our junior team came second, and in the intermediate house matches, Gillett won on points difference. In the football house matches before Easter, Gillett juniors came third, the intermediate team came joint first with Penn, and the seniors came third, but had a close game against Penn.

In the summer there were athletics and basketball matches. We came third overall in the athletics and in the basketball the juniors came third. The intermediate team came first with a close last game against Lister, and a very proud Simon Hughes collected a very fine trophy at final assembly.

All in all it was a very successful sporting year for the house, and we look forward to continued endeavour.

We have continued to support the house charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind, through collections of the traditional tin foil and stamps, augmented this year by postcards and coins. There is a very fine display in the games room to remind the boys of the end result!

This September we had our first Year 7 intake for some time, and they seem to be fitting in well, but we had to say goodbye to our large Year 11 group. Two have stayed on into Fielding House, the others have all departed to various parts of the country, and we wish them every success in the future. On the staff side we have lost the support of Karen Turburfield and Mark Connor has transferred to Penn.

The programme of re-decorating continued apace during the summer - the two largest dorms are now 'Gillett Green'. Not much more left to do, then in the great tradition of the Forth Bridge, it will no doubt have to start all over again!

Our resident German exchange student, Daniel Slocum, enjoyed his one term placement so much that he returned after Easter for a second term, to be joined by Kristoffer from Norway.

Outside school, James Chen won the Young Musician of the Year Competition run by Banbury Rotary Club. He spends hours practising and is often called upon to play in Tuesday Music Meetings in front of the whole school.

What better way to finish this year's House Report than to leave the final words to one of our senior pupils, Adam Towers;

" I have just started house duties, and find this house a warm, friendly environment. With all care staff instead of teachers, it is more like coming home after long dreary lessons."

Gillett Staff and Boys

LISTER HOUSE

Lister House has had a very pleasant and enjoyable year. We have welcomed students on a short term stay from the Ukraine and North Korea. We hope they enjoyed their stay with us as much as we enjoyed having them at Lister.

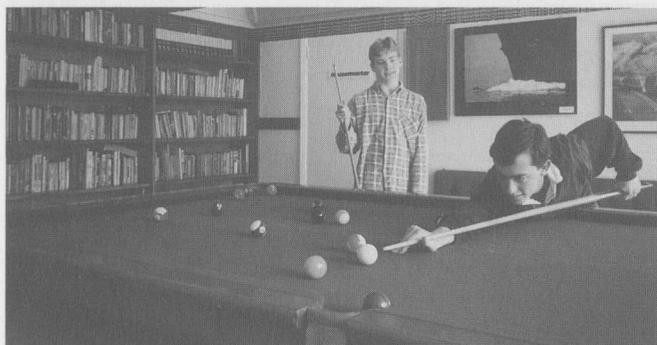
The term began with a smaller number of boarders, allowing one dorm to be converted into a Year 11 study/quiet room, which of course was readily accepted by the present Year 11. It is useful for quite a few hours of work on a Sunday afternoon, or Monday morning for the desperate.

We of Lister bid farewell to Brian Holliday who brightened up our Wednesday evenings with talk of football and practically anything on our minds at the time. Though we must happily mention that Mr Holliday will still take part in the house meetings.

With the donation to the school in Ghana looming, we again hope to raise enough money from our sale on Open Day to keep up our support of the school.

Great news all ye readers, for the boys of Lister have some talent. Julian Li has received rewards for his outstanding musical talent. Andrew Gunnett won a most highly regarded award, none other than the Dorothy Hawley Cup. A more greatly shared award was the Lister/Penn intermediate football trophy; this in itself was a great achievement.

Billy Yiu, Lister's newly appointed Sports Captain, has already started the house competitions off with the much enjoyed game of pool. The House Council developed the competitions further, by introducing a prize for the lucky winner, which for this competition is a £5 book voucher. Our money's on Da..!



Robert Molson Year 11 and James Brooks Year 10, play pool in Lister House.

We are happy to inform you that our new members to the house have settled well into the Lister way of life, within such a short time. We wish every success to the rest of the house in its bird spotting, raising money for the school in Ghana and the redecorating of the house every so often.

Pupils in Lister enjoy leading their own Thursday house meeting and Jason and Daniel have already described life on the Children's Summer Camp. We are going to take part in other meetings during the year.

We would, as the new Head Boys in Lister, like to thank our predecessors for a job well done. New Head Boys are:

Head Boy	Andrew Gunnett	(Gunshot)
Deputy Head Boy	Jason Chadwick	(Chaddles)
Deputy Head Boy	David O'Donohoe	(Mole)
Sports Captain	Billy Yiu	(Rhymes with name)
House Secretary	Daniel Maclagan	(Dan the man that can)

Andrew Gunnett, Jason Chadwick, David O'Donohoe

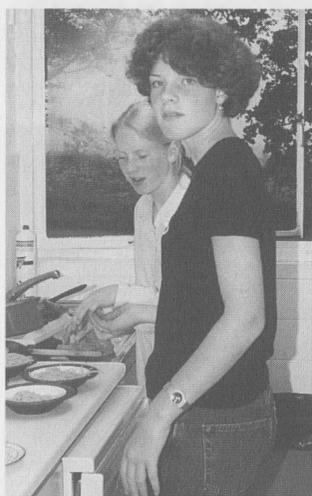
MARGARET FELL HOUSE

Margaret Fell House has had a very full and busy year - since our last magazine report we have gained an Annexe to Margaret Fell House - but unlike most annexes which are usually attached to the building - ours is the opposite end of the campus! Well that's Sibford.



Over the year it has been home to a variety of girls - as we change its occupants each term. The only true fixture at the moment is Janet Gregory who looks after the girls that end. Obviously the success of Margaret Fell House has reaped rewards in the increased demand for girls' boarding, thus we have revamped the far wing of the old Manor to accommodate the extra girls - although we are still very much one community; at present the Annexe is home to eight Year 11 girls.

Hannah Leavett - Year 11 has worked tirelessly on behalf of Margaret Fell House to raise money for " Breakthrough".



Kathryn Knowles and Tiril Solberg-Thomas - Year 9. Food is very important at Sibford - especially the noodles.

The house Christmas party took a distinctly different format in '95. On Tuesday December 6th at 9.15 the boarders of Margaret Fell House left a cold and somewhat snowy Sibford to its usual weekday routine whilst we headed up the motorway to the N.E.C. where we attacked the Clothes Show Live - it was brilliant. The first stop was to the Reebok demonstration to see men prancing around in their shorts which set the tone for the day.

Many of us enjoyed free make-overs and hair advice from the experts - the whole place was a riot of colour and noise - something for everybody - and most people



Kate Deacon - Year 11, Amma Donkoh Year 10. Margaret Fell office always has an open door to chat - even though sometimes it is only to use the staff phone - Kate.

bought, especially Mr and Mrs Norton who seemed to have a carrier bag from every stand.

The live fashion show with top models and promoted by Jeff Banks was very stimulating. We returned to school in time for tea but regrouped again in the house at 6.00 pm to enjoy more food, many silly games and a weepy video. Good job the end of term is Friday.

We continue to be actively involved in charity work; this year we continued with 'Breakthrough' raising money for much needed research.

In addition, last March as a one-off, eight Year 11 girls were sponsored to sleep out in the Nortons' garden using cardboard boxes to raise money for the homeless - a very worthy cause. March was a particularly cold month.

This academic year we will endeavour to help the pupils of a Shoshanguue Junior School who need help with basic items such as books, blankets and food as in this school the parents pay a small amount if able and the teacher has to educate and feed the children. We will send the money with Debbie Peers, Year 11, who lives in Pretoria, when she returns home.

June is usually a very sad time in the house for staff and children as we say goodbye to many of our friends as they go to pastures new - however this year tradition broke - we said goodbye to Ruth Geeson, Louise Whyte and Emma Lynch who went on to study elsewhere but we are pleased to see Cathy Gornall, Kate Deacon, Sarah Caines, Helen Shephard, Vicki Jackson, Annette Perry, Wendy Williams, Georgina Farmer and Hannah Leavett have progressed into Fielding and are all studying A' Levels/G.N.V.Q.s (all of which Mrs Norton still teaches on a daily basis). We wish them every success and hope that they will visit us often - we particularly miss the organisational skills of Miss Gornall - Fielding has gained a wonderful group of girls who are a credit to Margaret Fell House and Sibford.



This year Margaret Fell House has appointed the following pupils to key positions so that the
Kerry Smith - Year 10. A typical early night, or is it a late morning for Kerry - catching up on her art work.

house can continue to go from strength to strength for the academic year 1996/7.

Head of House	Sarah Bain
Deputy	Sarah Anderson
Sports Captain	Rachel Shephard
House Captain - Day Girls	Caroline Cleland

They have a very hard act to follow but I feel very confident that the qualities they hold are the strengths Margaret Fell House strives on — patience, consideration and commitment.

As the children sometimes come and go this year we have seen several different faces in the role of assistant housemistress of Margaret Fell House. Janet Gregory started the sequence; Jackie Bartlett followed but had to retire due to ill health; we then saw Sarah Cull who covered the post for the last half of the summer term.

It is therefore with great relief that I welcome and hopefully will keep the new resident assistant housemistress, Miss Catherine Marklew, for many years - but that is in the future - as for the past we have been particularly pleased this year to have had visits from past pupils; to name a few, Lara French who's now off to India, Tara Kennedy, Ellen Salway, Rachael Davis (studying drama at Aberystwyth) and Naomi Cordiner (reading English at Reading University), all of whom still carry that Sibford spirit.

Lesley Norton

PENN HOUSE

The last year seems to have passed so quickly, and yet much has been achieved by the boys of Penn. The house under the captaincy of James Hicks, ably supported by Merlin Davis and Alex Wong, enjoyed its fair share of success in a wide range of sporting endeavours. Notable among these were overall victories in the athletics and rugby. Duncan Forrester set a new long jump record and Daniel Anderson won both 800 and 1500 metre races. At county level Jon Wayburne and Robert Gissop performed well in high and long jump and in 400 metres respectively.

Meanwhile, indoors, fierce competition raged over the pool table and a knock-out chess tournament revealed some previously hidden talents. House furniture has remained predominantly of the hand-me-down variety, but the addition of some colourful 'throws' has transformed our sofas into something far more respectable, if not quite 'Country Living' standard.

During the summer Graham Thomas joined the strength as our third man on the staff, and we have been most grateful to him for bringing his friendliness and experience to the job. We have similarly been lucky to have the assistance of Scott Ralston and Justin Webb, our Australian



Tom Gill relaxes in Penn.

GAP-year students, with whom many of the boys have become good friends.

As the old year closes and the new one begins, the news which is on everyone's lips is of the next phase of the boarding accommodation's refurbishment - it is Penn's turn next. By the start of September 1997 we expect to have received an up-grading. The planning has begun and we await the arrival of the workmen with bated breath!

Michael Spring, Tony Skeath

THE HEDLEYS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS AT SIBFORD

Time flies when you are having fun. This certainly seems to be true as it does not seem like 25 years since we arrived at Sibford as a newly married couple in a Triumph TR3 to be met by Jonas Fielding and then John Miller, who, when we requested the keys for Lister Boys looked grave and concerned and wished us 'Good Luck!' Within 2 years the sports car had gone to be replaced by the first of our two sons Gideon, followed 2 years later by Jacob. We have enjoyed working with a further three headteachers since Jonas, Kenneth Greaves, Jim Graham and John Dunston along with a total of 12 assistant housestaff.



Stuart and Yvonne Hedley celebrate 25 years at Sibford and their Silver wedding.

We have had our share of incidents and sleepwalkers. A day boy's overnight stay was disturbed by a boy who thought he had reached the toilet but hadn't! A dream about being a pilot on an aeroplane resulted in that pilot 'parachuting' out of the window into our garden, thankfully without too much injury, and more serious was the

occasion when a pupil climbed out of an upstairs window in his sleep believing it to be downstairs. Streakers in the rain knocking on our door to explain themselves, contacting parents during power cuts and snow storms by candlelight when term was terminated early, having the house turned into a sanatorium during a flu epidemic and memorable, exciting Eisteddfod evenings when the houses were larger and pupils more numerous.

We arrived when spartan conditions for pupils were both accepted and expected in boarding accommodation and we have always been grateful for the support given to us over the years by our parents whose enthusiasm made it possible to build the model railway in our hobbies room which is now the assistant house staff living room; and who provided us at various times with a library, carpets, curtains, cookers, garden plants, pictures, lighting, furniture and a snooker table after a mammoth jumble sale.

Our sabbatical term was a time we will not forget, when Michael Spring aided by David Foulds looked after the House for the summer term of 1993 whilst we went to stay for 5 months on Islay, where we enjoyed some building construction work and the boys attended a Scottish island primary school for a term.

There have been unhappy and sad times too of course, the tragic loss of Gareth Oliver being everyone's lowest ebb in Sibford for many years. Gareth touched everyone who knew him or was near him at the time and we will never forget the support we received from everyone, and especially from David and Edna Oliver.

We enjoy now the return of Old Scholars at frequent intervals who visit us not only with their partners but with their children too. We thank all our past pupils for giving us so much pleasure and satisfaction during the last 25 years. Father Christmas doesn't need to put on a grey beard anymore!

The following names may bring back some memories for you, as they do for us:

Housestaff	Housecaptains	
Bruce Bury	Andrew Dettutray	Sean Wood
Dan Petrencik	Philip Sinclair	Robert Templeton
Mike Hollman	Martin Morris	Christopher Webb
Chris Cox	Robin Tickell	James Nelson
Tony Rye	Timothy Senior	Calum Robb
Mike Spring	Simon Everest	Timothy Robertson
Dominic Griffiths	David Simpson	Stuart Leigh
John Robinson	Robin Anderson	John Augar
Andy Glover	Eric Kilpatrick	Max Lin
Trevor Parr	Ralph Clark	James Hudson
Gideon Hedley	Simon Cornish	Ben Colman
Paul Rae	Jonathan Wallis	James Webster
	Roy Kilpatrick	

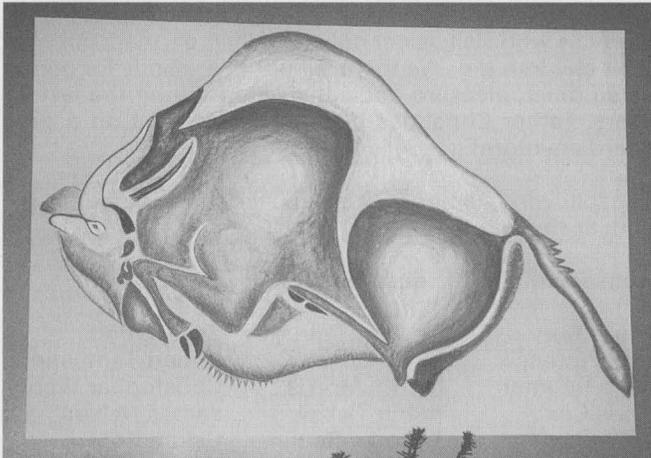
Stuart and Yvonne Hedley

AROUND THE CAMPUS

ART AND DESIGN

Work in the Art Department has continued apace this year. Our reputation for extending the provision of three dimensional art was upheld by Ruth James (B) and Katie Jamison (C). Both girls produced a wide variety of sculptural pieces ranging from a vast stone carving entitled 'leafball' by Ruth to an intricately modelled plaque cast by Katie, featuring symbols of celtic origin. In the lower sixth, Hazel Bell's holiday in Mexico has inspired some exciting work based on her studies of Meso American style, both historical and contemporary.

At GCSE the department once more enjoyed the success of all candidates. All the students achieved a grade of C or above, of which 50% were awarded A grades. It is particularly pleasing to learn of the high number of Sibford students who continue their Art education beyond 16. Examination submissions, which were displayed in the school hall, showed a broad diversity of styles and media. The two areas of Fine Art and Design were brought together to good effect by Jonathan Evans in his boardgame, designed and made following a study of the work of M.C. Escher. Some excellent painting by Andrew Fairweather showed strong leanings towards the work of Francis Bacon while large scale sepia paintings by Toshimi Ogawa owed much to the sculptor's sketches by Henry Moore. Other work in the exhibition included jewellery, weaving, pastel drawing, stone and plaster sculpture, printmaking and a life size goose made from willow stems.



In the junior forms work has continued to reflect the department's ethos of exposing students to a wide range of media and techniques, whilst challenging their creativity through a programme of structured design problems. Some of their projects had a practical outcome such as providing a range of designs for children's picnic ware whilst others had a more decorative purpose: designing and making a textured wall tile for a pedestrian underpass. Throughout the year I have been indebted to Lesley Norton for her support and help in the teaching of the junior art.

Saturday morning activities and lunchtime Art Club have continued to be popular options, and it has been encouraging to see how many students attend these who are not following art examination courses.

By the time the Sibford Magazine goes to print we will have re-located all the stone sculpture in the pottery, where a washable floor will help to combat the problems of dust. Our plans to place sculpture in The Walled Garden, in consultation with the Horticulture Department, has continued. There were many complimentary remarks heard when the gardens were opened under the National

Gardens Scheme, and students managed to sell a number of their home produced greetings cards and wall plaques.

During the year, different groups from the department visited a variety of exhibitions; they included 'The Blacksmith as Artist', 'David Nash's Woodcarvings', and 'Contemporary Furniture Design' at the Mead Gallery, Warwick. We made our, by now, traditional visit to the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, which always gives our senior students a feel for what is happening in the world of contemporary art.

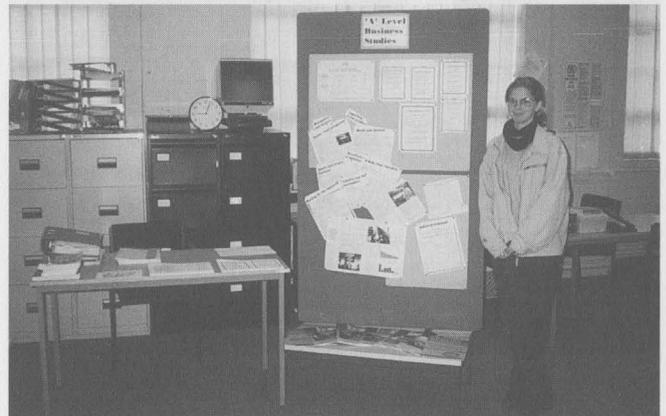
We are enormously grateful to Ray White of the English Department for his generous gift of a large set of art history books. Generations of students will benefit from our enhanced resources.

Plans are afoot to bring more of the work of the department into the public's view, and I look forward to reporting on that in the future.

Michael Spring

BUSINESS STUDIES

Yet again, another busy year in the Department which continues to grow and flourish with much interest being expressed in the courses on offer. GCSE still proves to be a popular option for students in Year 9 considering what to do next at KS4, and then there is now the added attraction of being able to progress onto A' level. This year saw the success of Lee Bishop (Year 13) who achieved a B grade and is currently on a Gap Year. The department congratulates him on this! We're now hopeful that Rosaleen Hilferty will do equally well in the summer of '97 and provide encouragement for 6 students in Year 12 who have recently embarked on their A level studies.



Rosie Hilferty at work.

GNVQ again has proved to be a way of learning that for a number of students seems very attractive. Being able to work at your own pace, achieve success on a unit basis and see success in tests taken at regular intervals, allows students the facility of taking responsibility for their own learning and putting together a portfolio of evidence which shows real knowledge of the working world.

Particular congratulations should go to the first students ever at Sibford School to be awarded the full award in GNVQ Business at Intermediate level (equating to 4/5 GCSEs at Grade C or above):-

Victor Lau (Head Boy) - Awarded a distinction and currently studying GNVQ Advanced at Oxford College of Further Education.

Leo Maggi - Awarded a merit and currently studying GNVQ Advanced Business at West Herts College.

Jonathan Thresh - Awarded a merit and currently studying GNVQ Advanced Hospitality and Catering with NVQ units in Reception and related studies at a college of further education.

They all worked very hard and deserved the success!



Leo, Jon and Victor being congratulated on their success!

I would just like to mention the help that we were given by Understanding Industry Regional Co-ordinator, Alan Keitch, who worked with myself and the students to try and help establish links with appropriate business organisations to assist with the GNVQ programme specifications.

The contacts we made have been very useful and we undertook a number of visits to see the relevance of GNVQ units/elements. Thanks must go to the following:-

Alan Keitch - Understanding Industry - fact finding and interview practice before visits.

Rachel Oliver - Human Resource Manager - S & A Lesme Callebaut, Banbury - investigation into job roles.

Simon Woodruff - Lloyds Bank, Banbury - organising a Business Venture.

Heather Flint & Rachel Pearce - Marks & Spencer, Oxford - providing Customer Service.

Colin Campbell - General Manager - Whately Hall Hotel Banbury - examining structures and working arrangements in organisations.

David Walker (Training) - Oxford Ambulance Service - methods and importance of communications in an organisation.

It is also good to see the expansion of GNVQ - in September students began following an Intermediate GNVQ in Land and Environment, together with others who embarked on a foundation programme combining Land and Environment units with Business units. (If interested see School Prospectus/Booklet Wake Up to GNVQ)!

On a final note and nothing to do with curriculum matters, some of you may be interested to know that I was remarried in the summer (July 6th 1996). Colin Conroy, my partner for the last six years finally persuaded me that it was probably in my best interests to do so. We had a wonderful day, back in the North East with friends and family. Colin and I would like to pass on our thanks to all who sent us their best



wishes and gifts - they were all very much appreciated.

Pam Conroy

DRAMA DEPT.

AS YOU (SORT OF) LIKED IT...

Hero: As I remember, O long of tooth, it was on this very spot that the year began and Daniel MacLagan did bequeath to us the first of his many long pauses for dramatic effect that always preceded him not having the slightest clue what the script did say as to his whereabouts or words thereafter.

Sage: Arrr.

Hero: And yonder it was, was it not, that Young Edward, he who would look down on a lighthouse, so big and broad he stood, sat and was a clock, tick tock, and gently tickled the humours of the gathered crew?

Sage: Arrr. It was.

Hero: And does it not but seem like yesterday when Old Edward, so slight where the younger one is broad, did drink his wee and make his audience grin most merrily?

Sage: It does. Indeed it does.

Hero: And we were most favourably impressed.

Sage: We were?

Hero: For sooth we were, that our audience was so wise of the ways of the world that our director was not hounded from pillar to post for being so gross.

Sage: And a happy man he was for the lack of it!

Hero: O happy man he was indeed, and most when Jacob Smith declined to exercise his right to speak in the dressing room and all about was silent and each actor could make his entrance right on cue.

Sage: Except for Daniel MacLagan.

Hero: And who was Daniel, anyway, but a vital part of the story?

Sage: So no-one knew what was happening....

Hero: Not Daniel, nor his fellows....

Sage: And certainly not the audience!!

Hero: O blissful confusion!!! And yet, we have not even come to the gun not going off, nor the umbrella sliding under the sofa never to be found...

Sage: A real pig's ear, we say....

Hero: And us, a right midsummer's dream-up!

Sage: Except that it were autumn...

Hero: And so we came to winter.

Sage: Arrr!

Hero: And was it not winter that the good Daniel spent sitting on that step just there, frantically writing?

Sage: Arrr!!

Hero: And did he not write, and write, and write?

Sage: He did. He did indeed.

Hero: And did he ever finish his prep?

Sage: Nope.

Hero: Whilst all around him, a Manhattan skyline grew and grew, and we danced to the sounds of Dr Jazz.

Sage: You mean the Christmas Hop?

Hero: I mean when John Macdonald threw caution to the winds and danced under a midnight moon with Fred.

Sage: Arrrr!!!!!!

Hero: A marriage made in heaven: Venus and Adonis, two separate strands together and entwined forever.

Sage: You mean Laura and Taiji?

Hero: I mean Rapture!!!

Sage: Bloomin' eck!!!

Hero: And rapture was tying Leonardo to a chair and force-feeding him Marmite Soup for a week.

Sage: Arrr!!!!

Hero: Whilst Ruth and James did prosper mightily as a married pair with a man tied to a chair in the corner of the living room, and Tom Gill crept around the stage in total darkness, to be revealed occasionally like a rabbit at night by his good friend Andrew, who took to hitting the lights onto full every time he woke up in the Box, just so we knew he was awake.

Sage: But my good friend Daniel?

Hero: Never was a man more haunted by his prep. The nights drew out, Leo had long since left his soup for Tom to finish, but Daniel still did write, and Andrew Gunnett and David Elliman still did rehearse the first scene.

Sage: So when...?

Hero: So when Brian the rubber chicken at last came out of the suitcase, and everybody went on holiday to Barcelona, who should be bent over that top step, but Daniel, saying 'Lo! The end of the second scene is nigh!' and 'Just five more minutes...'

Sage: Five more minutes, my Bottom!

Hero: 'Tis truth you speak indeed, Old Man, for the good Daniel would still be there now, were it not for his sudden promotion to the part of God in Joseph's Dream.

Sage: Is that where he be now, for I do remark that he is gone?

Hero: 'Tis where he is, forsooth, back where he began. There, upon that very stage, still lost and looking for his cue, whilst all around him the battle doth rage between Joseph and his better side. O happy day, should Daniel remember his next line, that the play might finish. What say you?

Sage: Arrrrr!!!

Exeunt Hero and Sage. Enter Daniel.

Exit Daniel.

Enter Daniel again.

Exit Daniel.

Anon

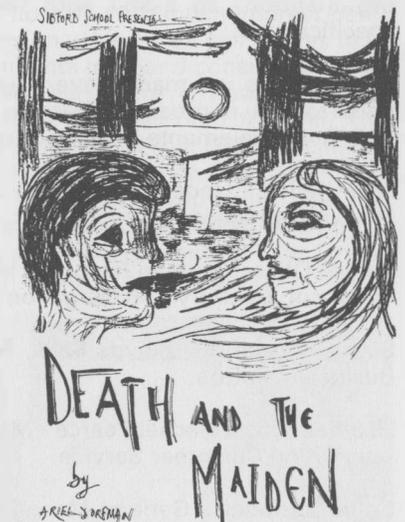
DEATH AND THE MAIDEN by Ariel Dorfman Friday 16th February 1996

Outside the sun was shining. Inside was an intimate and fiercely concentrated set. A meal on a dazzling white cloth and the light of an oil lamp. The sounds: somnolent music, the distant, disturbing sea, and a Schubert quartet. Three actors held the audience totally in the understated intensity of their relationship. There was Paulina (Ruth James) struggling to achieve a normal existence after her experiences as a political prisoner fifteen years before; and her husband, Gerardo (James Scott), the politician appointed by a new government to investigate his country's former abuses. They are joined by Roberto (Leo Maggi), a Good Samaritan when Gerardo is stranded with a flat tyre, a gentle doctor who plays Schubert in his car, the music to whose accompaniment Paulina had been repeatedly raped and tortured.

Her suffering can only be purged by his confession of the truth, and this, in the face of her husband's initial disbelief, she achieves. Finally, with nervous serenity, she is able to attend a Schubert concert with her husband and accept the memory of her torture. But we are left with the eternally unanswered question of how ordinary individuals, by tiny steps, can be drawn into participating in corporate evil.

The acting was superb. Three long and difficult parts were maintained without faltering; a level of concentration that could never have been achieved without the inspiration of Trevor Walters and his sensitive directing. The technical crew, too, ensured that nothing diminished the intensity of the action. One needed to make no allowances, the thought and the drama were all-embracing.

JA



DYSLEXIA

DEPARTMENT REPORT

The big news in the department this year has been the retirement of Karen Turburfield. It was Karen's inspiration that gave the department its standards, its style and its heart and she is greatly missed. Her going gave us the excuse for some wonderful parties in July, helped along by a "Thank You Mrs T" cake baked by Christa Yates.

Having got into the cooking spirit, Christa entered a competition sponsored by Good Housekeeping and won £5,000 for the charity of her choice, the BDA. Many dyslexics will have reason to be grateful for her skill and generosity.

Other members of the department took part in our home-grown holiday competition, "A Letter from. . .", resulting in some splendid entries, from Space, Paris, Kennels, NASA, a Bored Teenager and many more. First prizes in the various groups went to Miles Colgrave, Adrian Prestidge, Oliver Holmes, Michael Greenhill, Nick Adamson, Nicola Barker, Kate Hobby, Neil Livesey and Philip Tew.

As we have come to expect, our dyslexic students did extremely well in the GCSE examinations. 15 out of 28 gained 5 or more Passes at Grade C or above, with Kate Deacon and Sarah Caines gaining A* in Textiles.

We are delighted to welcome back a very strong group of dyslexic A' Level students this year and wish them every success, following in the footsteps of Ruth James and Katie Jamison who both gained the A' Levels and DVE awards needed to take up their Higher Education places, as well as contributing immensely to the school in their time with us.

We were thrilled this year to hear from so many former members of the department, sending their good wishes to Karen Turburfield. The range of their careers is breathtaking, from "fully-fledged farmer", through artists, architects, designers and engineers, to those in business, computing, nursing and social work, reminding us all how far these courageous and determined learners can go.

And finally, we welcome our new colleague, Simon Talbot, fresh from travelling round the world. Simon started as an actor, trained for teaching, worked at Fairley House in London and is the only teacher in the department who still plays football.

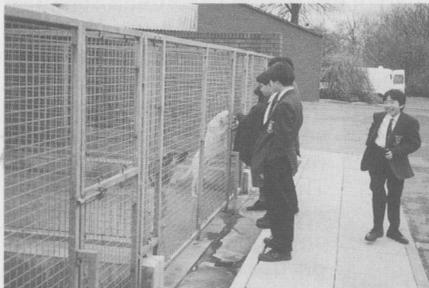
Jenny Austing

EFL DEPARTMENT

Summer arrived early for the EFL students - in January, in fact! Catherine Cole, our residential EFL student, finished her year at Sibford in December 1995 and was replaced by Summer Arathoon from Nelson Bay, Australia.



Summer has thrown herself into all aspects of life at Sibford and, as usual, I marvel at the quality of the Australian GAP students, so mature and willing it is easy to forget they are still teenagers themselves.



Pupils from Years 7 and 9 meet guide dogs in training.

a year for new nationalities as we also accepted two Koreans in the Summer term, to my knowledge the first at Sibford.

In the summer we again ran our Intensive English Course, this year with no less than fourteen students in the group. Julia Hammett was able to return, building on her successes of last year. Our student numbers necessitated a second part-time teacher and Geoff Jones, a highly-



Viewing the dogs' accommodation.

experienced EFL teacher, was able to assist. My thanks to them both for all their hard work. The students were able to get out and about and managed trips to Oxford, Warwick, the Cotswold Wildlife Park, Cosford Aerospace Museum, Kenilworth Castle and the Lunt Roman Fort to name but a few.

As for the future, we are taking up the challenge of teaching a new EFL examination. Having prepared students for the Oxford Preliminary and/or Cambridge First Certificate for the past six years, we will now be looking towards the International GCSE in English as a Second Language - a relatively new qualification which I hope will be more suitable for our senior students. I am also hoping to set up a self-study area within our base, initially for reading and listening materials for senior pupils.

All in all, it promises to be another busy year for all connected with our overseas scholars!

Andy Glover

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT REPORT

The main achievement of the year has been to see the first of our Media Studies groups through the two-year course and to their public examinations. Results were pleasing and it seems to have been a wise choice for many candidates, certainly a stimulating one for Simon Horsley and Seán Kenny, who taught the course for the first time, and for the pupils.

We are also pleased to have generated quite a bit of interest in taking English at A level amongst the Lower Sixth, who began their courses in September. Although the final number following the course is smaller than we originally hoped, the number of teachers involved has doubled, an investment for next year! There are certainly very promising prospects in the current Year 11 and we hope they will come into our A level classes next year.

Bookfair was again held in the autumn term through the good offices of the bookshop in Chipping Norton, with a party of older pupils attending the theatre there on November 15th to hear the children's novelist, Phillip Pullman, winner of the 1995 Carnegie Medal for his book, "Northern Lights". Parties of pupils attended performances of "Animal Farm" and "Macbeth" for GCSE, while Years 6 and 7 journeyed to see "The Adventures of Robin Hood" as their now annual Christmas treat. Back in February, Year 9 went to see a workshop production of "Romeo and Juliet" in preparation for the SATs.

A busy and productive year.

Seán Kenny

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Geography at GCSE had a very successful year with 19 of the 22 pupils gaining A, B or C grades. I was particularly pleased with the 4 grade As and the 7 grade Bs gained by pupils who had worked hard to produce interesting fieldwork and coursework of a high standard.

Eight of the successful candidates have stayed on at Sibford to take A level geography - a very welcome development - a course which is being taught by Geoff Slade and myself.

We will be going again to Slapton Lay in Devon for A level fieldwork and hope to get to a good number of G.A. lectures in Banbury. Last year these included a fascinating lecture on the Aswan Dam in Egypt and one on the work of The National Rivers Authority.

Our weather monitor continues to give us interesting and useful data which benefits pupils throughout the school.

Brian Holliday.

HISTORY

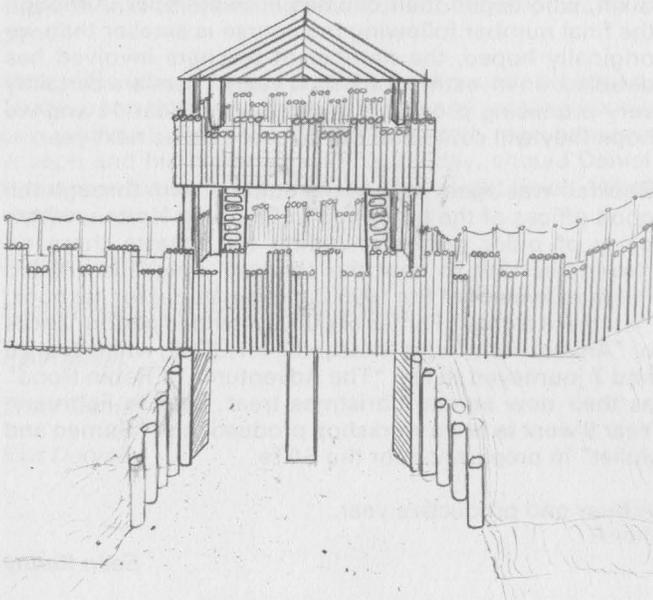
On Thursday 27th May, Year 7 enjoyed a splendid day out consolidating their knowledge of Roman Britain by visiting the Lunt Fort in the morning and experiencing life in a grand castle at Kenilworth in the afternoon. Our guide was excellent and we really felt the march of Roman soldiers and the hazards of daily life on the frontier. The ruined castle offered much for us to explore with its dungeons and gardens.

Janet Gregory

The Roman Fort

At Coventry we went to a Roman Fort. Rebuilt by people in the sixties after being discovered by builders. Some bits had not been rebuilt yet but they are saving up to build more. There was a wooden wall, a Fort, a Dam, and a Granary which were rebuilt and were very good. All the places that were not built back like they were had been marked in the precise place.

Ben Robbins



HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Horticulture department has seen another productive year, with good harvests and a further increase in students opting for courses in Years 10 - 13.



Year 10 Horticulture Group after Best Kept Garden Awards June 1996.

We welcome Andy Newbold back into the Department: he has joined us again to teach the Foundation level of the GNVQ Land and Environment Course, which is being piloted at Sibford this year. We are also running the same course at Intermediate level. GNVQ will bring many changes to the department, and several new initiatives are planned this year: for example setting up a weather station in the Walled Garden to enable students to follow a course unit involving the recording of weather data. We would like to thank the PSFA for their help in funding this project. We will also again be keeping some small livestock in school for the Animal Care modules in the course, and running a Conservation Programme to cover the Environment element of GNVQ.



Flower Harvesting, Year 11 Horticulture students.

The Walled Garden was open to the public on 30th June for the second year as part of the National Gardens Schemes



Rebecca Garside and Claire O'Neill shredding garden refuse for composting.

Open Gardens. All the students worked extremely hard to ensure that the garden looked its best for the several hundred visitors who passed through our gates. The weather was beautiful, and we had many flattering comments passed on the gardens, even though the roses had failed to open in time. They were three weeks behind last year's flowering. That's gardening for you!

During the year the 6th form DVE Horticulture group completed a special exploratory module on Garden Design which was very much enjoyed by us all. It involved many visits to

beautiful gardens in the surrounding area and then the opportunity to design a garden for a client. One of the group, Katie Jamison, has since left us and gone on to Pershore College of Horticulture to study for her BSc Garden Design and Management Course. We wish her well.

Congratulations go to Amy Gunnett, Sara Jane Travers Clark, Jatupon Siripattrachote and Graham Lewis for winning the Gold Award for the Best Kept Vegetable Gardens; also to Rachel Shephard, who was awarded the Alan Jarvis Horticulture Cup for the most promising student.

Angy Bovill

I.H. AND HISTORY GROUP (YEAR 10) TRIP TO LONDON

On the anniversary of the execution of King Charles I (30th January) Year 10 I.H. and History groups visited the Houses of Parliament - a dedicated group who had eaten breakfast at 7.30am to have a very early start to the day. It was a long journey, through lots of road works, long queues and scenes of urban dereliction as we approached London itself.

We were met by our guide, then proceeded through a security check on our tour of both Houses. We learnt all about the age of the building and its traditions, saw many large paintings of historical events, especially those relating to the 17th century, then proceeded through the main lobby to the Commons. Many historical traditions were realised - from the woosack to the sword lines! There was a short delay because the President of Mexico was also visiting and being photographed. Most of us rubbed Winston Churchill's toe and some of us, including Mrs Gregory, rubbed Lloyd George's.

In the afternoon we were fortunate enough to have the experience of listening to and questioning Mr Barry Legg M.P. for nearly an hour. We discussed his parliamentary life and quizzed him on his political views. The whole experience was fascinating.

Next we divided into 3 separate groups to watch Prime Minister's question time in the Commons, the debate in the Lords or Westminster Abbey. Those of us fortunate to be in the public galleries were utterly amazed at the activities of the members below. We recognised many famous characters in a packed house. We were amazed at the noise and frenzied activity which seemed to have more theatrical rather than political value!

Charles Good, Paul Colegrave, Sarah Anderson and Neil Morris

THE LEARNING SUPPORT DEPT.

The Dept. has grown both in number of pupils and of staff. Our classroom assistant, Debbie Evans is a huge success both with staff and pupils alike and Barbara Walters, who started off as an assistant in Orchard Close, is now also doing the learning support teaching in OC and has her own room in the new extension.

The Year 11 pupils achieved better results in their GCSEs, on the whole, than we had foreseen, and are now happily pursuing their chosen courses either in the Sixth Form or at local colleges. This is most encouraging and inspires the present Year 11 to work hard to achieve their own goals. The lunchtime workshops are very useful towards

this end - it is a time to have extra help with Prep or coursework, or to play some of the spelling games we have available, and in the last year we have had a very positive response to the workshops.

There have been two visits in the last six months and we hope to have more this year. The Year 9s had a day out last February to James McLaren's farm and although it snowed overnight and was bitterly cold we all had a great time, despite red noses and wet feet. We narrowly missed the birth of a new lamb, but saw lots of young lambs learning to walk, much to everyone's delight. The star of the show was definitely Duke, the old bull who seemed incredibly friendly, though we all agreed that we would not like to meet him on a dark night!

In July it was Year 8's turn. We spent a day at the Wildlife Park in Burford. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all enjoyed seeing most of the animals in a fairly natural habitat. It was good fun and everyone was perfectly well behaved - a real credit to the school.

On the academic front most of the pupils who attend LS have found that their reading and spelling ages have improved appreciably and they particularly enjoy the fact that they can learn spellings through playing educational games, including computer games. Using the tape-recording method for both reading and spelling is popular too.

This year we have already produced our own Learning Support magazine as part of our Open Day activities and we have plans afoot to raise money for Children In Need. We are also hoping to arrange a weekend away at some point, maybe on the Isle of Wight.

Helen Evans

MATHS DEPARTMENT 96

In what has been a year of Governmental controversy regarding the best ways to teach Mathematics, how to raise standards and the use of calculators, it has come as no surprise that there is now widespread evidence that the didactic method of teaching has gained new support. This revision of thinking by so-called Maths experts is long overdue. For years classroom teachers have been bemused by a succession of trendy thinkers and their new methods. Good Mathematics teaching practices depend upon good communication skills, enthusiasm, creative thinking and when necessary repetition and rote learning, essential in providing a firm foundation of knowledge.

The many sweeping changes introduced last year have been for the most part very successful. Most rewarding was the large percentage increase in the number of pupils in Year 11 attaining A - C grades at GCSE. Indeed this success heralded the arrival of A' level Maths at Sibford with a number of the students from the top set staying on to undertake the two year course. New teaching resources were needed and the department was happy to see the return of Mark Connor to help undertake this new venture. I am confident that he will prove to be a real asset to the department.

John Howard

MUSIC

The year began with a rousing start - "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo" - performed by the pupils of Orchard Close, Year 7 and Year 8. This energetic and humorous cantata written by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz

opened our Autumn Concert. Some elaborate percussion parts were performed by pupils who have percussion lessons under the direction of Mr Cliff Pick. Mr David Ball played the challenging piano part in his own inimitable style. The pupils of Orchard Close had created a back drop for the choir, exploring the theme of Noah and his animals. Throughout rehearsals and in performance everyone participated with wonderful enthusiasm.

There were instrumental solos from James Chen, James Brash and Julian Li, and it was a real treat to hear the beautiful treble voice of Matthew Stafford as he sung "He Shall Feed His Flock" from Messiah, followed by "The Slow Train" by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann.

The School Choral Society presented a most effective collection of four part songs and the concert concluded with five Barbershop songs - great fun to sing and by the audience reaction, great to listen to as well!

Banbury Rotary Club held its Young Musician Competition at Sibford again this year. There were more entrants than ever and Sibford added to the record with ten participants. In the Junior Section: Caroline Chou (piano), Jonathon Titcombe (clarinet), Harriet Cooper (clarinet), and Naomi Chant (flute and violin). In the Intermediate Section: Philip Tew (saxophone), James Brash (violin), Simon Raby (violin) and James Chen (violin and piano). In the Senior Section: Julian Li ('cello) and Rosie Hilferty (recorder).

The Final Round of this competition took place before an audience of around three hundred supporters. Present also was the Town Mayor and a good number of Councillors and Rotarians. Naomi Chant (on flute and violin), James Chen (piano) and Julian Li ('cello) were selected to compete in the Finals. All played very commendably and both James and Julian went on to win their section of the final round. A first for Sibford came when it was announced that James had won the entire competition - being Young Musician of the Year for 1996. Many congratulations!

Sibford participated in this years Chipping Norton Music Festival. Friday 8th March was a dreary day and the rain turned to snow as the Choral Society headed out to Chipping Norton. Access to the Parish Church by coach is not easy, having a walk from any direction. The route we chose was potentially disastrous for an immaculately dressed choir - wet tarmac path, slushy grass verges, heel-deep puddles dotted about the semi-solid track, a style, or was it a gate, and all without the aid of street lights.

As we knocked the snow off clothes and hair, members of the North Cotswold Chamber Choir were warming up with excerpts from Britten's Choral Dances from 'Gloriana'.



James Chen, Adam Towers, David McMahan and Stefan Alesic making music for Gillett House Meeting.

Some of Sibford Choral Society might easily have returned home at this point!

There was anticipation and excitement as the Senior Choirs Competition got underway in the Church. To our relief the North Cotswold Chamber Choir were not singing in our class. Their performance of the Choral Dances was most enjoyable - and gained them first position.

Sibford's programme for the Open Choirs Class comprised three four-part songs: Full Fathom Five by Charles Wood, Bridge Over Troubled Waters by Paul Simon, Eric Canal arr. Marshall Bartholomew and concluded with an evocative arrangement for un-broken voices of the Water of Tyne by Michael Neaum.

The Choir sang jolly well, and won the class - a great encouragement to us all.

The evening concluded with Barbershop. This was Sibford's first proper appearance outside the school and we had a programme that worked well - 'George Jones', 'Humble', 'Uptown Girl', and 'De Animals 'A-Comin'. Not well enough to win though, and we were fairly beaten by 'Pole Position' Barbershop Quartet.

The Barbershop Class was a great way to end the evening, and our first flight for some years into the realm of competition singing had been successful and enjoyable.

James Chen added to his success in the Young Musician Competition by winning the Advanced Class of the Senior Piano competition with his performance of Rumanian Folk Dances by Bartok.

The following pupils achieved passes in instrumental music exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College:

Jonathon Titcombe	Clarinet Grade 1
Matthew Stafford	Singing Grade 5*
Harriet Cooper	Clarinet Grade 1
Matthew Stafford	Percussion Grade 2*
Matthew Stafford	Horn Grade 1
Laura Sanders	Violin Grade 2
Jenny Preston	Violin Grade 2
Benjamin Carty	Piano Initial Grade
Victoria Legg	Piano Grade 2

* denotes a pass with Merit

Mark Paine

**Sibford School
Autumn Concert
Friday 13th October 1995**

Programme

CAPTAIN NOAH AND HIS FLOATING ZOO Michael Flanders and Joseph Horovitz
Sung by the pupils of Orchard Close. Year 7 and Year 8.

Solo group: Nicola Sale, Cristina Fantechi, Johanna Russell, Michael Greenhill, Philip Tsatsas, Matthew Stafford (Year 9)

Percussion players: Clara O'Neill, Alex Levy, Tamsin Young
Patrick Jessel, Tom Keeling
trained by Mr Cliff Pick

Accompanist: Mr David Ball
Conductor: Mr Mark Paine

FIRST ARABESQUE
James Chen - Piano

Claude Debussy

LOURE MEDITATION James Brash - Violin Mr George Sidebottom - Piano	J. S. Bach Charles Gounod
THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN	Catherine Bennett
LI'L DAVID PLAY ON YO' HARP	Spiritual Arr. S.H. Brown
BEYOND THE SPANISH MAIN	Armstrong Gibbs
RHYTHM OF LIFE	Cy Coleman arr. R. Barnes
THE WATER OF TYNE Sibford Choral Society Accompanist: Mr David Ball Percussion Mr Cliff Pick	Folk Song arr. Michael Neaum
CAKEWALK RUMBA James Brash - Violin Julian Li - 'Cello Tom Keeling - Percussion Mark Paine - Piano	Peter Martin
ARIA FROM MESSIAH "He Shall Feed His Flock"	G. F. Handel
THE SLOW TRAIN Matthew Stafford - Voice Shauni McGregor- Piano	Michael Flanders and Donald Swann
ELEGIE Op. 24 Julian Li - Cello	Gabriel Faure
GEORGE JONES	traditional arr. Marshall Bartholomew
HUMBLE	Negro Spiritual arr. Marshall Bartholomew
SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT	American Spiritual arr. Nicholas Hare
YESTERDAY	Lennon and McCartney arr. Nicholas Hare
DE ANIMALS A-COMIN' Sibford Barber Shop Group Matthew Stafford, Simon Raby, Simon Robinson Mr Richard Hutchinson, James Brash, Mr Mark Paine Julian Li, Mr Cameron Billingsley, Mr John Dunston	Negro Spiritual arr. Marshall Bartholomew

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

RUGBY

The 1995 season proved to be the most successful for many years with the success rate being 56 %. This is a testimony to the hard work that the boys and staff have put in throughout the school, not just this year but over the last few years. A total of 49 matches were played by the four main teams, with a small number of U12 and Orchard Close matches and the first ever U10 Rugby match.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Juniors	13	3	1	9
Yearlings	13	8	1	4
Junior Colts	12	7	0	5
1st XV	11	8	1	2

The First XV had an outstanding season after a couple of early losses. The strength and agility of Mitchell Henson was the mainstay of the attack in the first half of the season with his penetrating runs from fly half. Mitchell moved to scrum half for the second half of the season to take on the role of provider to a set of very fast backs. This allowed Leo Maggi and Tristan Haffenden to act as a two pronged attack which they did very effectively. The highlight of the season was a 10 - 5 victory at Cheltenham College against their Sixth form 5th team. Quite an achievement as only 4 of Sibford's team were sixth formers.

The Yearlings and Junior Colts also had very good seasons with an influx of boys who, though never having played the game before, worked hard to learn the game with the support of more established members of the team and their coaches Trevor Walters and John Howard.

Andrew Walker for the third year running represented the county.

There is such an interest and enthusiasm for the game at present that in the 1996 season there will be a Second XV and a full programme of fixtures for Orchard Close.

GIRLS RUGBY

Once again Sibford are Oxfordshire New Image Rugby Champions. The team made a clean sweep at the qualifying competition, winning all their games before going to Iffley Road to play the final against Milham Ford. The final was played as a curtain raiser before the Oxford University versus Major Stanley XV game. In front of a crowd of 5000 Sibford were comfortably the winners 10 - 0 against enthusiastic and determined opponents.

BASKETBALL

Through popular demand Basketball is back on the fixture card after an absence of some five years. Both junior and senior boys' teams played a couple of fixtures against a neighbouring school. All four matches were very closely contested with Sibford being the victor in one. The enthusiasm for the game in the school is immense, and hopefully we will see the sport develop into yet another mass participation activity at both house and school team level for both girls and boys.

SOCCER

After the success of the 1995 Soccer season there was a time early on in the 1996 season when we were beginning to wonder where the wins were going to come from. The problems seemed to stem from very leaky defences. But slowly, with a lot of time spent in the sports hall by all the teams, they all seemed to step up a gear both in skill and determination. The season ended with a 37% success rate, some 15% down on the previous year, but we did take on more challenging teams which hopefully will benefit Soccer at Sibford in the long term.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Orchard Close	5	2	2	1
U12	2	1	0	1
U13	7	2	0	5
Yearlings	8	4	0	4
Junior Colts	8	0	1	7
1st XI	8	3	1	4
Overall	38	12	4	22



Pam Conroy takes hockey practice.

HOCKEY

The girls had few matches this year, spending a lot of time and energy developing their skills ready for the 96/97 season, which at the time of writing, with a full fixture list in front of them, is going very well.

The games played in the autumn of 95 produced 3 draws and one win with no losses, which suggests that the new approach to developing the game at Sibford is paying dividends. The increased staying on rate into the sixth form with very able players such as Kate Deacon, Cathy Gornall, Sarah Caines, Rachel Dales and Helen Shephard in the Lower Sixth means that the First XI should develop into a formidable unit.

ATHLETICS

The season started early with the Southern Quaker Sports held in the first week of May. The overall result was a little disappointing with Sidcot taking the honours by 20 points, this being the first time in five years that Sibford have not come out on top. However, there were good results for the Inter Girls, Inter Boys and Senior Boys, all winning their age groups.



Sports Day 1996.

Twenty-two athletes went to the Area Trials at the end of May, all putting in creditable performances with eight being selected to represent the Area at the County Championships:

Caroline Cleland	Inter Girls 300m and shot
Artur Glover	Inter Boys 400m
Robert Gissop	Inter Boys 400m
Jon Wayburne	Inter Boys High Jump and Long Jump
Duncan Forester	Junior Boys 400m and Long Jump
David Whetstone	Junior Boys Javelin
Alex Li	Senior Boys 400m
Leo Maggi	Senior Boys Long Jump and Relay.

Jon Wayburnes became Area Champion for the High Jump with a height of 170 cm, all the more remarkable when you hear that he attempted the Fosbury flop for the first time only seven days earlier!



John Dunston presents prizes to Simon Raby and Stacey Walsham.

The school Athletics fixtures against Kingham Hill and Beechborough proved to be very worthwhile, with the boys winning all their matches and the girls winning two out of three.

School Records Broken in 1996

Year 8 - 300m for Girls - Adele Molson in a time of 51.96 secs, previously held by Helen Shephard.

Year 10 - 300m for Girls - Caroline Cleland in a time of 49.1secs beating the previous record of 50.77secs set by Jenny Taylor in 1993.

Year 10 - Shot Putt for Girls - Caroline Cleland with a distance of 9.80 metres beating the previous record by over 2 metres.

Year 11 - 1500m for Girls - Kate Deacon in a time of 6mins 42seconds.

Year 12/13 - Triple Jump for Boys - Leo Maggi with a distance of 12.57m beating the previous best by 14 centimetres set by Maano Obeyesekere in 1993.

Year 12/13 - Long Jump for Boys - Leo Maggi with a distance of 6.49m, this beating a record that had stood for over 15 years.



Miss Knowles and Mrs Guy consult, while John MacDonald looks on!

CRICKET

Thirteen Cricket matches were played with the statistics showing:

Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 8

The most successful teams came from year 9 and Orchard Close, both winning two of their four matches.

House matches are played in a variety of sports but it seems that at present the overall house champions seem to be Penn, with their victories at Sports Day, the Rugby, Cross Country, joint winners of the Soccer and Junior

Basketball Champions. It doesn't seem very long ago that Lister were dominating the boys' house matches, but there are signs that Gillett are going to make a bid for the title in the near future after their win in the Intermediate Basketball Competition which was efficiently organised by Louise Hodda, our resident Australian PE student.

What about the future?

Arriving in October 1996 is a Multi Gym to form the centre of a fitness suite upstairs in the Sports Hall. With more students staying on in the sixth form will it be possible that Sibford will be able to take on the might of Bloxham at First XV Rugby and the Girls at First XI Hockey in the not so distant future?!

Graham Thomas

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1996

Religious Education is all about being interested in other people: how they live, what they think, what they eat and what they do, as well as how they worship. So the year progressed with lots of talk and a sprinkling of silence to allow ourselves to reflect. Those coming in briefly to lessons might have thought how nosey we all were but those who stayed, we hope, realised that the lessons were based on curiosity and openness to new ideas. Some may have preferred brief exercises based on ideas from Yoga, or learning the Muslim positions for prayer and we hope we did not annoy neighbours too much when practising the Hindu Aum sound, used by millions as a precursor to meditation.

The theme of the department is that we are much more alike than we are unlike, but nevertheless it can be the differences which offer the most intriguing insights into human behaviour. As a subject which is more important for allowing the spiritual domain to be explored, than for offering formal examinations, it is possible to get drawn into many red herrings with gusto and the approval of the teacher. Yet we hope too, that pupils have become more aware of some of the fundamentals of Islam and Hinduism, of Judaism, Christianity and Quakerism and have become more able to stand alongside those who have a religious faith whether or not they would wish to believe in a God for themselves.

Caroline Homan

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Examination results were fairly satisfying in the majority of cases and very pleasing in the case of individual students who had put in a real and consistent effort in order to gain what may appear to be a less than brilliant grade. An A,B or C does not always tell the full or real story of someone's struggle to gain a science grade. We do not live in a world where A,B or C are the only marks of success.

For some weeks we had the enthusiastic teaching of Stefan Aleksic, a PGCE student in the department and it was good to see how quickly he made his impression on the classes he taught. During his stay, and two days after the Ariane 5 spacecraft blew up, some of Year 7 managed to launch several rockets from the middle of the playing field with the help of Dr. Newbold and a bicycle pump!

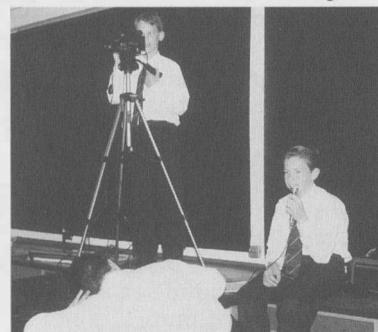


Stefan Aleksic with year 7 and Dr. Newbold.



Later in the summer term some of Year 8 organised or appeared in a fashion parade which was an important and integral part of their science course. Christina Fantechi proved herself to be a wizard organiser of other people and had her classmates toeing the line in no time at all. Robert

Garne and Ryan Bailey were impressive as video cameraman and sound commentator respectively and others not destined to parade down the catwalk willingly helped turn S6 into a fashion venue. It takes courage to face the lights and music, and show off your fashion sense even to a group of your mates but Anya Innes, Michelle Payne, Alice Gummer, David Whetstone, Duncan Forrister and James Hartley all proved to be excellent models. Who said science lessons are never fun?



Chris Cox

SWIMMING POOL

The Swimming pool, which, in its day, was a remarkable facility for Sibford, deserving its very own postcard to be made, had its fabric extensively refurbished during the year and continues to provide hours of fun and valuable lessons to the scholars of today.



TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This year has seen pupils achieve a range of excellent results and the practical coursework which has been produced continues to improve year by year, and has impressed teachers, parents and moderators, judging by comments I have received. On behalf of the department I would like to wish all our Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils the best of luck in their future endeavours.

The department continues to develop and support pupils of all abilities. Below is a brief outline from individual area teachers concerned with teaching practical technology subjects.

J. Bond



Julian Frazer's flip-top table in ash, James Edwards' music stand in laminated ash and Elliot Thompson's walnut and steel jewellery chest.

Information Technology Department

The department has had a busy year, with more pupils having access to computers than ever before. This year's exam students, with computer concessions, used the network to word process their work and on occasions nearly every available computer was in use. Whilst Years 7, 8 and 9 continued to receive I.T. lessons, Years 10 and 11 received more discrete tuition within their PSE lessons, and it was good to see so many of our seniors using the network during prep.

Orchard Close pupils have again benefited from separate I.T. lessons in the main school as part of their transition programme and are shadowing National Curriculum programmes of study. A new hard drive was added to an A3020, which allows storage of data in Mrs Young's Year 5 class, and together with plans for two new computers will enable more pupils to benefit from the I.T. resources.

Design and Technology took delivery of a new Acorn RISC PC computer which delivers 16 million colour high resolution graphics for professional CAD work, and has already been used by all ages of pupils to help understand conceptual design work. I would like to thank the Tuck Shop and PSFA for all their support in enabling Design and Technology to get this excellent addition to the I.T. resources within Technology. Art pupils will benefit from CD Rom technology this year, as Year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to explore famous artists without even leaving the room.

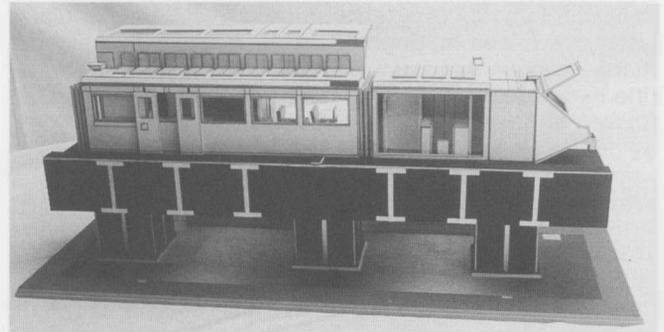
Technology is moving forward at a terrific rate and who knows how long it will be before video conferencing will enable lessons in the home with the teacher right there to answer questions about your prep. - what a frightening thought.

STOP PRESS: - By Royal Appointment!
Sibford School was one of just 30 charities nationwide that has been the beneficiary of surplus computer equipment as H.M. Customs and Excise in Islington, London update their systems. We have just taken delivery of three PC laptops with 3 external colour monitors, and these will be of benefit to our senior students for word processing and other assignments. We are most grateful for their kind gift, which will enable more students to access I.T. equipment.

James Bond

C.D.T. Department

We were very pleased indeed with the purposeful manner in which our Year 10 and 11 groups worked on their



Calvin Li's card model passenger train.

projects during the year. Year 10 pupils produced some very high quality jewellery and veneered containers and are well on the way to excellent grades with their final projects. Year 11 pupils were well rewarded with good grades, A* and A grades being achieved by James Edwards, Elliott Thompson and Julian Frazer for Realisation in hard materials and by Bart Kerswell and Calvin Li in Design Mature.



Bart Kerswell testing his kite buggy.

Most of these projects have been entered into a competition organised by the Oxfordshire Craft Guild to be held in Chipping Norton on October 12th and we look forward to taking part on that day.

In Design and Communication Jonathan Evans and Kylie Cobb achieved A grades.

Without the help of John Viggers preparing materials and helping with senior projects as well as maintaining all our equipment to a high standard it would be much more difficult for us to achieve these high practical standards.

During the summer term Year 10 pupils enjoyed paying a visit to the Rycotewood summer exhibition of work



Year 10 Design and Technology students visiting Robert Welch in his Studio Shop.

produced on their furniture courses which always inspires and hopefully sparks off a determination to be creative and imaginative. This was followed by a visit to the Studio Shop of Robert Welch in Chipping Campden. We had the pleasure of having this eminent silversmith and designer describe and explain some of his work and we were then able to visit the new Craft Guild exhibition in the Old Mill.

Stuart Hedley

Food Technology

The Food Technology Department has continued to thrive during the last academic year.

The essence of good cooking and balanced eating lies in the appreciation of facts about foods and an understanding of basic cookery techniques. With this in mind, pupils in the lower school (Years 7-9) have been shadowing the National Curriculum in Technology, investigating the relationship between healthy eating and the changing role of technology within the food industry. Practical work has involved designing and making healthy alternatives to traditional dishes.

Year 9 pupils have broadened their knowledge to the wider world incorporating dishes from other countries, giving their practical lessons a foreign flavour.

As part of their GCSE course, Year 10 and 11 pupils enjoyed their trip to The Good Food Show at the NEC where they were able to sample many different and exciting foods, chat to the exhibitors and watch top chef and T.V. personality, Gary Rhodes in action.

Child Development

Judging by the sounds of young babies and children which could be heard on several occasions this year, child development students have always had their hands full (excuse the pun), as they continued their studies.

Alison Andrews took over teaching Child Development for two terms, following the illness of Judy Davies, and on behalf of the department and students I would like to wish her "all the best". She brought a breath of fresh air to the department, and was always willing to help our students - even bringing in her daughter, Holly, for 'studying developmental growth'.

Sarah Spittle takes over this term, and will take our Year 11s into the final exams of this subject at Sibford, in June 1997.

James Bond

TEXTILES DEPARTMENT - 1996

My thanks and congratulations go to all Year 11 students for their outstanding efforts in the GCSE examinations.

Between them they obtained the best ever results for the department. The work of these students was excellent not only in design, skill and execution but in the presentation of their work for moderation. Particular mention must be given to Sarah Caines who presented 3 very varied pieces



*Sarah Caines, year 11 GCSE A**



Amelia Salter, year 10 GCSE B.

of work for moderation - Silk Painting worked with Italian Quilting, Free Machine Embroidery and a superb specialist study on Middle Eastern Carpet Design. The second student who deserves special commendation is Kate Deacon who presented work on Irish Lace, Hand Painted Chinese Silk Fans and her specialist study on the work of William Leech for which she produced a beautiful picture hand painted onto calico with both hand and machine embroidery to highlight detail. Both girls were awarded A* grades which headed a list of impressive results, particularly Catherine Gornall, Rachel Dales, Georgina Farmer, Hannah Leavett and Helen Shephard who all achieved A grades.

I am pleased to say that the A' Level Textiles numbers have risen dramatically on the success of their GCSE results. The first year A' Level group is now 12 - which somewhat dwarfs the second year A' Level students who are 3. But we wish them well in their exam in June 1997 when we will experience the works of Ann Macbeth and William Morris alongside a collection of clothes designed and hand painted by Hazel Bell.



Helen Shephard, year 11 GCSE A.

News of Old Scholars is always particularly pleasing, so it was with great pleasure that Lara French (left Sibford 1994) called in to see me last week. Lara has just graduated with distinction from the London School of Fashion where she has been studying for the last two years. She came to say goodbye as she heads out to Japur in India to work closely with the technique of weaving and dying of Indian Fabrics - with a view to setting up her own business. Well done Lara, we wish you well - keep in touch.

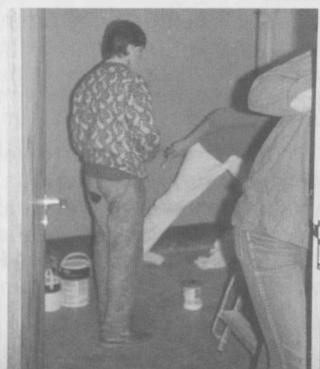
Lesley Norton

TOP 86 — TEN YEARS OLD

As it was opposite the Tuck Shop, The Other Place was the name decided by the students who worked on preparing the room and making it into a shop. It was opened on Saturday 13th December 1986 by Geoff Cox, the manager of Barclays Bank in Banbury.

The shop was to accommodate the first vocational C.P.V.E. course at Sibford. After the opening on the 13th, the 13 students on the course were allocated room 13 as their base.

From the start the students played a large part in the setting up of the shop. There were gasps of horror when they saw the very dirty, cobwebbed store that



Preparation of the shop.



Opening Day.

we were to use. It took most of the first half of the term to clean and decide the colours to be used. The shelving was new, but the counter, cash register and free standing fittings were bought second hand or given to the shop. To set up the shop and buy the stock to begin trading we borrowed £2000 from the school. John Miller, the bursar at the time later admitted that he did not expect to see the money returned! Our first wholesaler was Jones of Northampton, which is a cash and carry, ideal for purchasing small amounts of stationery, toiletries, gifts, etc. We still make regular visits to Northampton.

After six months trading we began to repay the loan at a rate of £50 per month. The final payment was made on 24 September 1990.



Stock control.

During the ten years the shop has been open, each successive group has worked on a marketing project to introduce a major new line into the shop. The first was a school sweat shirt that developed into the school games

track suit. This was followed by the school post card, T-shirts, school mugs and Christmas cards. Top 86 undertook the production of memorabilia for the school's 150th Anniversary in 1992 with key fobs, mugs, book marks, pens, crystal paper weights and umbrellas.

Much of the credit for the success of the shop must go to the very first group of students. Their determination, hard work and enthusiasm, using hours of their free time painting and preparing, ensured the shop had a really good start.

The students have all travelled to Northampton to buy stock. Some were cautious buyers, some adventurous and some came up with really good ideas for new lines. Two students were carried away by the magic of all the Christmas products, but we had a superb window display with snow, glitter, lights and even a revolving musical Christmas tree.

The biggest project was the marketing of the school Christmas cards. A design competition was arranged in



school open to all ages and from the many entries four were selected. The retail students then found a suitable printer, ordered the cards and did their own packaging of the 10,000 cards, a mammoth task as each card had to be folded.

Top 86 acted as a training ground for students before they undertook work experience in retail outlets

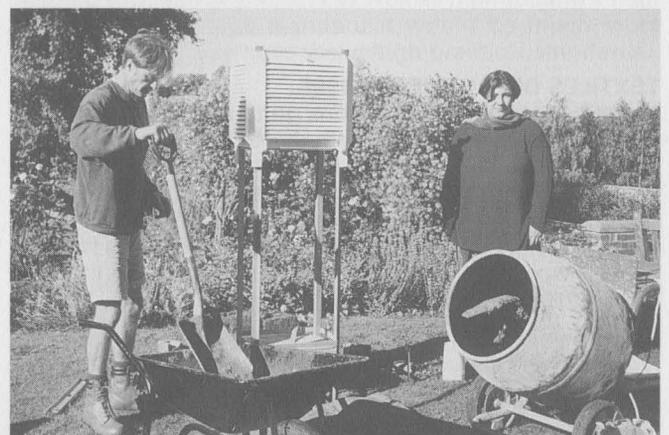
in the Banbury area. One of the modules studied by the students was 'Display'. The window of Top 86 gave them the opportunity to express their ideas on seasonal events, flying witches at Halloween and delicate flowers for Mother's Day. It was always rewarding to hear pupil's comments on a pleasing display when so much effort had been put in.

Sadly 1995 saw the last of the retail students and their flow of ideas. It is now hoped that Top 86 will lend itself to the work of the GNVQ Business students. Over the past ten years the shop has developed and now offers a wide range of stationery, gifts, greeting cards, wrapping paper and stamps. The whole range of school games clothing is also stocked at Top 86; little wonder the shop is now bursting at the seams.

After repaying the initial loan, the shop began to make a profit and this has been used in various ways to benefit the school. The first gift of £2000 was used to help in the setting up of the Business Centre and a computer and printer for the DVE Retail group cost a further £1300. The latest proposed gift will be equipment for the new multi-gym in the sports centre; this will take nearly £6000 from Top 86.

As I write this short history of Top 86, it is Friday 13th September, that number 13 again. It seems to be lucky for the shop and it has certainly been a very happy time for me running the shop over the years. The success of the shop has been due to the hard work and dedication of the students and memories of their successes and failures will remain with me for a long time.

Jenifer Wollerton



The weather station being erected in the Walled Garden. For use by GNVQ Land and Environment students for their weather studies.

Wendy Williams, GNVQ student and David Bovill, builder.

RESIDENT STUDENTS

SUMMER ARATHOON

I am 19 years old. I attended Newcastle Grammar School and completed my Higher School Certificate there in 1995.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, public speaking, playing soft-ball and watersports. Thirty-two hours after I left the sunny coastal metropolis of Nelson Bay, I arrived in the small quiet village of Sibford Ferris. I could not at first comprehend the difference in environments.

Yet, I soon fell in love with the village and its surroundings and also met some warm friendly people. It did not take long to settle into my new life. Australia became as far away in my mind as it is in distance. (Although I still allow one hour each day to keep up to date on Ramsey Street and Summer Bay.)

Working in the EFL Dept. has been a valuable experience, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I do feel that my transfer from student to teacher was a little rapid - a few months ago, I was the one who had not completed my prep, but it is interesting to see what really goes on in a Staffroom !

With the helpful guidance and support of Andy Glover, I have worked with some wonderful students and feel that I have learnt just as much as they have.

I have spent my holidays and weekends taking in as many sights as possible, from the Bishop Blaize to the Greek Islands.

In 1997 it certainly will be difficult to settle down to a communications course at Newcastle University. I will miss Sibford - no more being called "Aussie" or "Sheila" and no more running outside when it snowed as if it were gold ! Most of all, I will miss all the people, but I'm sure that my correspondence with everyone will last a long time..

LOUISE HODDA

My year at Sibford started early in January and up to the present day has provided me with a great foray of opportunities. Although initially shell-shocked by the "wind chill factor" and it becoming dark at 4:00 pm, I was quickly thrown into school life. Officially attached to the PE Dept. I became involved in trampolining, basketball, athletics, badminton, more badminton.

As the year progressed, I found myself straying from a few of these activities and testing my talents painting, helping the Learning Support Dept., with dance and drama and with decorating display boards. Perhaps the tasks I will most remember are continually opening the lost property cupboard and the many hours I spent in front of a computer before Sports Day.

The year has also given me the chance to travel and see a large part of Europe and Britain. I have learnt to appreciate different cultures and in turn have become truly thankful for the lifestyle I lead both here and at home in Australia. Mustn't forget to mention that my skiing ability is much improved after two memorable school ski trips.



As my year draws to a close I begin to realise that there are things about Sibford I will miss. They won't be the weather, the lost property cupboard, the hundreds of rugby balls I've pumped up or weekend Sports Hall duty. I will miss the friendship and support shown to me from fellow staff members.

Finally HUGE thanks must go to Graham Thomas for the challenges he presented me, to Gail Mills for her never-ending friendship and, of course, to Summer, for always just being there.

SCOTT RALSTON

For the past year, I have been the resident student attached to Orchard Close. Working, if it can be termed that, in such a lively environment has provided opportunities to go sailing, camping, swimming and even skiing in France. Orchard Close's many excursions allowed me to inspect museums, towns and historical locations in the company of hordes of 8-11 year olds, something that everybody should experience at least once !

In addition to my activities in Orchard Close, I also had duties in the Sports Hall and in Penn House. Here sport provided the most universal of interlocutors and I enjoyed my involvement with the school football and rugby teams. I was also fortunate enough to play in a successful village football team, which added a local spice to my time at Sibford.

During my holidays I travelled widely in Britain and Europe, providing me with many colourful experiences to look back on following my return to family and friends in Canberra. I begin university next year, intending to study for an Arts/Law degree. Thank you to all involved in a fantastic year in England.

JUSTIN WEBB

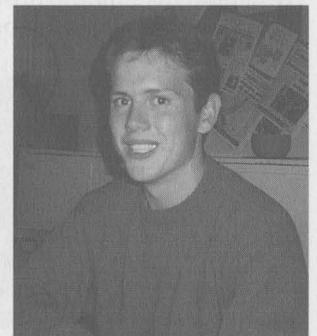
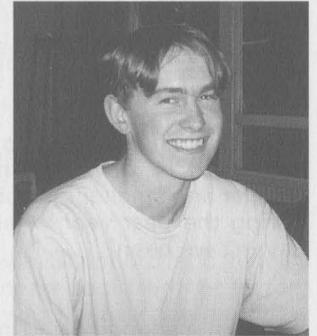
I began my life at Sibford six weeks into the year, as my former appointment was at a small prep school in Northamptonshire. Due to unavoidable difficulties, I left and was very fortunate to receive a position here in the Ferris. Though having limited musical talents, with the invaluable help of Mark Paine I have been able to learn a great deal and thus be of assistance in the Music Dept.

After school hours I was attached to Penn House and thoroughly enjoyed my duties here, socialising with the boys over games of pool and Australian soap operas !

In the area of sports, I played football for the school and with relative success even tried rugby. I was able to extend my footballing prowess, playing with some great locals in the village team, thus allowing me to brag to friends back home in Australia that I've had a stint with a club in Europe !

The sixth form ski trip and the summer holidays in mainland Europe are undoubtedly my fondest memories of the year, only being made possible by my status here at Sibford.

I look forward to returning to my family and friends, though my newly acquired friendships here make it seem more inviting to stay rather than to depart for university in Canberra for several years.



OUT AND ABOUT

ACTIVITIES

It's becoming a bit of a ritual, every Friday morning a peculiar member of staff who will remain nameless will ask me, 'Where is it safe to go this weekend?' and I will tell this peculiar member of staff where it will be safe to go without bumping into pupils on their weekend off.

Unfortunately the list of safe locations is now getting smaller and smaller because during the past year where haven't we been?



You have to be brave to take part in some of our activities.

Gloucester shopping and indoor climbing, Stratford-upon-Avon, Banbury, Oxford ice skating, caving in the Mendips, swimming in Swindon, visiting the Cinema or roller skating in Milton Keynes and against my better judgement shopping also in Milton Keynes. We have been quad biking in Gaydon, bowling in Leamington, mountain biking in the Forest of Dean and have seen fireworks in the small village of Great Wolford, but of course once in a while we do stay in for discussions and the climax of the year 'The Christmas Ball'.

So to that nameless member of staff 'Stay at home' because nowhere is safe!

Paul Ludlow

YEAR 7 CLIMBING TRIP

We caught the bus and drove to Gloucestershire. We were separated into two groups and mine was climbing the wall first.



Year 7 climbing group.



Year 7 climber.

Josh climbed first and I controlled the rope. Next I climbed and it seemed very easy - I was going too fast for the rope controller, so I had to slow down a bit. When I reached the top I waited for the rope to be made ready for me to come down. I sat back and relaxed and then I bumped down the high climbing wall until I reached the bottom.

Next it was Jennifer's turn to climb. She went up a quarter of the wall and then came down. Then it was Mrs. Guy's turn. She didn't go up so far because she said she's afraid of heights.

I next went to the Boulder Room where there is a realistic looking made-up rock.

You had to climb to the top and I was the first one in my group to do it. I didn't find it too hard, but others did and no one else reached the top after many attempts. I really had a great afternoon and so did everyone else.

Maia Keeling, Year 7

CHILDREN'S CAMP 1996

The whole event started with a trip to London in order to meet the little dears we would be caring for. All seemed well as we ate lunch with the half from Stormont House. Then, to everyone's horror, Daniel and friends appeared from Grenfell to add to the already mounting confusion and we all began to worry about what we had let ourselves in for. Bicycles were produced and the afternoon was spent pushing young children around. For the luckier ones colouring indoors was preferred by their kids. Everyone departed with promises of seeing each other in a fortnight.

A fortnight came and went and I stood outside the Manor with a strange feeling in my stomach as my Aunty drove off leaving me to get on with it. Tom Lane appeared, much to everyone's surprise including the Newbolds. Tom's chief aim was to help us relax before the children arrived with, "So you're this year's gullible fools". Secretly I hoped Daniel would have forgotten my name. No such luck! Grenfell arrived first and above everything else, I could hear "Hannah I'm here! Look I'm hanging out of the window" and the constant battle of, "No she's my helper". What had I let myself in for? I thought it best to keep an open mind on the situation at hand or I wouldn't last the week.



Rachel Shephard and friend.

Once Stormont House had arrived, the first trip of the week was to Lamb's farm, where every child went on a tractor and trailer ride and explored with increasing delight. Then it was back to school for the beginning of the evening routine of tea, lessons, activities and bed. Settling six little boys down for the night was not easy, in fact it was impossible. It



James Hicks, Gemma Smith and Georgina Farmar feed the lambs with friends.

was also the beginning of the well known saying of "NAKED" as Daniel and Leo explored the possibilities of a sleeping bag with arms. Also how far they could go before Hannah Gale and I would leave the job of bedtime to Tom and Elliot. By the end of this we all

sank into a heap, and this was only the first day!

During the following week we all went pony riding, kite flying, to Cotswold Wildlife Park and on a walk around Sibford. Each child took great delight in the playgrounds that were visited most days.

On Thursday after a morning on the river Avon for the children and Macdonalds for us we went to Hatton

Farm where disaster struck Daniel and Fluffy the baby rabbit. On a visit to the rabbit cages Daniel noticed a door at just the right height for him and surprisingly enough he opened it. Upon noticing six bundles of fur I told him to close the door and as he did so one fell out with a dramatic flop. As my heart sank a young boy came marching towards us. After telling us how the mother would now kill the baby (not the best thing to tell a small boy) and restoring the baby to the bosom of its family we beat a hasty retreat. Unfortunately, word got back to his teacher and he missed out on the fun had by all in the bouncy barn.

Then it was Friday; once up and dressed each child played fun sports of varying silliness. After lunch minibuses were loaded and after a sad farewell they headed off towards London. A good week was had by all, not to mention the rumours of Jimmy Wringe and Louise's underwear and the constant call of Colin who kept wandering off.

I speak on behalf of everyone in saying thankyou to Mr & Mrs Newbold, Di Howes, Paul Rae and Paul Ludlow.

Hannah Leavett, Year 11

GNVQ BUSINESS STUDIES

UNDERSTANDING INDUSTRY APRIL 1996

S & A Lesme Callebaut

On Wednesday 27th March, the Business Studies group went on an 'Understanding Industry' visit to S & A Lesme Ltd in Banbury.

The main point of our visit was to investigate job roles at different levels and also to find out about decision making, problem solving, setting targets and finally achieving targets.

When we arrived at the factory, we were met by Rachel Oliver who is the Human Resources Officer and taken to a room where she told us the background to the company and told us about their mission statement, in which they aimed to be the leading supplier of chocolate with the highest quality of chocolate with the latest technology. She also told us that the whole chain of factories that they had around the world was owned by Claus Jacobs and also that the main office was in Belgium. Altogether there are 280 people working in the S & A Lesme Ltd factory in Banbury which achieved a turnover last year of 90 million pounds. There are 200 people who work in the factories



A hug for Alison Prestidge.

and 80 people who work in the offices. The factory in Banbury makes brown and white chocolate to sell to other companies so that they can use the chocolate in their products.

After we had listened to the introduction, we were split up into two groups and our group started off interviewing two of the personnel who were Kevin Shepherd, The Production Team Leader and Lynsey Dear who was The Management Accountant.

Kevin Shepherd, The Production Team Leader had been working with the company for about 18 months in that department. His job was to make sure that the chocolate made was of good quality and that it was also made and ready on time. He had quite some level of responsibility which was expected and they were to ensure that there was a good level of health and safety within his team department and also that the team were working well together.

After we had interviewed Kevin Shepherd and Lynsey Dear, and the other group had come back from the factory tour, we swapped over and it was their turn to interview two different employees; Heather Starkie and Kevin Santhouse.

When it was our turn, we were taken next door to the interview room to put on plastic coats and hats which were to be worn to stop the chance of bacteria being released into the air whilst in the factory to avoid contamination of the ingredients etc. We were also given some ear plugs as, in one of the rooms, the noise level was above the recommended level for people to work in without ear protection. There were also signs by every door to a new area saying "Wash hands" as we had been outside and may have picked up bacteria from the air outside.

Throughout the whole trip there was a very strong smell of the chocolate which made me feel a bit "ikky" after a while.

We saw all the rooms where the cocoa beans were roasted, then where they were crushed and then when the beans start to transform into liquid chocolate. We also saw where the chocolate was then moulded into the different shapes for the different products. There were buttons and also little chocolate drops.

Altogether the factory has 13 lines of which 5 are new and made with more up to date technology and there being one line solely used for making white chocolate.

We then saw the room where the chocolate was packaged into boxes to be shipped off to their customers. Next to that room through a small corridor was the lab where the recipes are tested to see if they contain the right ingredients and in the right quantities. There they also test to see if anything else needs to be added to improve the mixture. If it is approved then it is given the go ahead for production; if not then the recipe may be started over, or it may just have extra ingredients added to it and then be given the go ahead. All the time, at every process, the mixtures are being tested to ensure the highest quality possible.

I can definitely say that I enjoyed the trip and that I am very grateful for the time that the employees gave up for us to help us with our studies.

Rachel Oliver

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Basic Health and Safety Certificate Course.

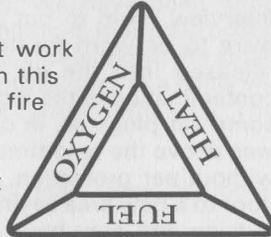
On Thursday 25th January, Years 12 and 13 took part in a basic health and safety certificate course.

James Robinson, an Environmental Health Officer and Wendy Kingsbeer, a Health Promotion Officer, came to the school as part of a combined effort to increase our knowledge of health and safety, in and out of any business environment.



A general introduction to health and safety was made, before a video on health, safety and welfare, risk assessment and accidents in the work place was shown. This explained how important safety signs are around any place of work and also the fact that all companies must follow every single health and safety act / law because if a major accident did occur and it is found (in any way) to be the fault of the employer, the investigating environmental health officer would have full rights to close down the company, until the health and safety faults are amended.

After a break they talked about work equipment, electricity and fire. In this section James told us about the fire triangle:



Fire can cause serious injury. It can also kill.

50% of workplace fires are started deliberately, the other 50% are commonly caused by faults with or misuse of electrical appliances, and by careless smokers.

We were also shown which colour fire extinguishers are used for each type of fire.

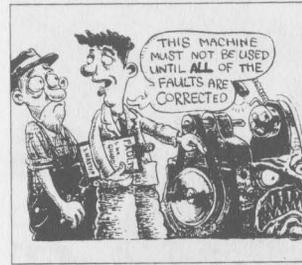
- Yellow: foam smothers liquid fires. e.g. chip pans or petrol fires.
- Blue: powder smothers liquid or electrical fires.
- Red: water cools general fires. e.g. wood, paper, cloth.
- Green: halon smothers electrical or liquid fires.
- Black: carbon dioxide smothers liquid or electrical fires by cooling
- Yellow can also be used on general fires by cooling
- Red: blanket smothers general fires.



Wendy then spoke of occupational health, e.g. display screen equipment, manual handling and ergonomics. This is when a job involves 'handling, carrying, pushing or pulling a range of objects' which could result in manual handling injuries. The most common of these are hernias, wrenched shoulders and back injuries.

After lunch James spoke about substances hazardous to health and Wendy spoke about personal protective equipment. e.g. hard hats, heat proof suits.

James then showed us some photos of health and safety dangers he has seen while visiting factories etc.



Wendy then explained about law enforcement and how she herself and James are able to do whatever they feel is necessary to enforce the laws of health and safety.

The whole group then took part in a short discussion and question time, in order to help us with the test that was to follow.

The test was set by the Institute of Environmental Health and consisted of 30 multiple choice questions and to gain a basic health and safety certificate you needed to answer more than 20 correctly.



Mandatory
Colour and Shape: blue background, white symbol, circular
Use: states that you must do something
Example: Wear Ear Protection

My conclusion is that this day was very interesting and much was learnt by all who were involved.



Warning
Colour and Shape: yellow triangle with a black border
Use: gives a warning of risk of danger
Example: Dangerous Substance

The job of Environmental Health Officer or Health Promotion Officer sounds difficult, but highly interesting and very

rewarding, even though there is a lot of information that they need to know.

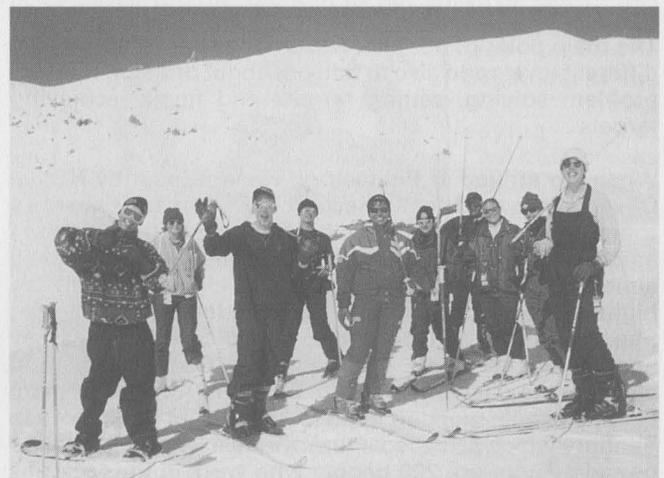
Rebecca England, Year 12/13

LIMONE SKI TRIP

16th - 25th February 1996.

The word skiing often conjures up many different ideas in people's minds according to both personality and previous skiing experience. There is no doubt that this certainly proved to be the case for the eighteen Sibford School pupils and the three members of staff who braved the 24 hour bus trip to spend six wonderful days skiing at Limone, Italy.

On arrival at Limone the weather was seen to be quite pleasant but the snow conditions couldn't be described as anything but close to perfect. Unfortunately by the middle of the week most of us became used to skiing with little visibility and for some of the students this was definitely



considered an advantage. Luckily as the end of the week quickly approached the weather also fined up and a fresh snow coverage allowed for some excellent skiing. Needless to say that some of the students refused the same runs that they had completed only days before, as they suddenly looked more frightening now that they could actually see where they were going.

The group was split up into several smaller classes for lessons according to ability, and while some students skied at great speeds straight towards the black runs, others were more content to relax a little on the nursery slopes for the first few days. As the week progressed there was an obvious improvement in the students' levels of ability and by the third day everyone was heading towards the higher peaks of the resort to test not only the extent of their skiing ability but also the strength of their bones. Fortunately no major injuries were sustained apart from a slightly fractured nose on behalf of Nick Mapletoft, much to the amusement of the rest of the group.

After each busy day of skiing with more pasta and bread to eat for tea, the students still appeared to have plenty of boisterous energy remaining for night-time activities. Such activities included discos, outdoor ice-skating and generally soaking up the evening atmosphere present in Limone. All the students appeared to enjoy the extent of their stay and also took full advantage of the opportunity to sample the local food and beverages.

On the second last day of the trip each student participated in an awards scheme to obtain a certificate and/or badge to mark his or her level of achievement over the week. All of the students performed well and a special mention of Toshimi Ogawa's 3 star gold award must be made. There is no doubt that this was well deserved and an outstanding achievement. Congratulations Toshimi!

Overall the trip left us all very burnt, tired and with many memorable experiences. No doubt we all learnt several valuable lessons including how not to fall over, international exchange rates and how to communicate or find your way home when the instructors don't necessarily speak English or provide you with a map.

On behalf of all the students I would very much like to thank Graham Thomas and Gail Mills for their endless patience and organisation in helping to make the trip both an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. I think that the only question that remains on any of the students' minds is 'Where are we going next year?'

Louise Hodda

Ski Trip Report

When I think back to the sixth form ski trip in Merlette, south-west France, many great memories come to mind.

On the 27th of March, 10 sixth formers, Mr Howard, Miss Spittle, Louise Hodda and myself (a pioneering beginner) set off on our 22 hour trek to the ski fields. We passed the time listening to "Mike and the Mechanics" over and over again for the entire trip, courtesy of an anonymous D.J. The weather was fantastic upon arriving and continued that way for four of the six days we enjoyed on the slopes. The party immediately broke into two groups on the first day, the experienced and us, the enthusiastic beginners. Our humble group of beginners began the first day mastering the "snow plough" position, finishing off with an audacious attempt at a red/blue run which put in perspective for us exactly how much we needed to improve. Day 2 was going fine till a revolutionary new way of turning was put forward to us - the parallel turn! It was then that the snow seemed, particularly for Kate and Bish!, more inviting to fall upon.



Our nights were just as fulfilling as our days, and on the second night it was a chance to show how adroit we were with a night out bowling. However, I seem to remember Mr Howard being triumphant by one point in very suspicious circumstances!

Day 3, at the summit of the peaks. It was a glorious morning and we were joined by our experienced counterparts, thus given the opportunity we had waited for, to show them exactly how much we had improved and in my case how little. With great tenacity we manoeuvred the red runs taking out in most cases whatever got between us and the base of the mountain. I think this contributed to the fact that, soon after, our instructor took us back to the green runs where we had to master the basics. That night we went out clubbing in the resort, Jo and Eddie displayed real disco dancing skills whilst the rest of us tried our hand at "line dancing", and failed miserably! Days 5 and 6 proved to be the most pleasurable as we tried runs that daunted us at the beginning of the week. Rosie's broken thumb and Fabian's gorilla stance made for good memories but the culmination of the trip once again came from housemaster Howard with his dismal performance on the slalom and his crash landing on the ski jump.

We cannot conclude this report without mentioning Miss Spittle who was definitely trying to win the "Miss Merlette" award with her pink ski suit and fur trimmed hood. However she was very disappointed when her skis clashed with her outfit and she just lost the award to the tall blond apparition in white from school.

I would like to thank those who organised such a fantastic trip, the students for some great fun and to 'Mike and the Mechanics' for another 22 hours of bliss on the return journey.

Justin Webb

EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE LABENWOLF-GYMNASIUM, NÜRNBERG, S. GERMANY JUNE 1996

After a pleasant and uneventful flight with Lufthansa, we landed at a rainy Nürnberg airport and it was wonderful how quickly our twelve students disappeared with their host families! Any concerns we may have felt as to their well-being were soon dispelled on the following morning, when we met them at the school prior to the visit to the world-renowned Nürnberg zoo, which they all enjoyed, despite Kate's hand being 'slobbered on' by an over friendly pig! Saturday continued wet and windy for our tour of the old part of the city, almost totally destroyed during the war, but rebuilt as an exact replica, as picturesque as the original. Schwabach and Rothenburg were similarly attractive, especially Rothenburg, which is a complete medieval walled town - marred only by the surplus of tourists! Perhaps the most impressive visit we made, and also the most sombre and disturbing, was



when we went to the Reichstagsparteiigelände - the huge and overwhelming stadium where Hitler held his rallies. An exhibition has been mounted there to demonstrate why it is so vital that such atrocities as those perpetrated by the Nazi party should never be allowed to happen again - we all emerged in a very sober frame of mind. It was reassuring that no such national animosity was displayed that same evening, when the football match between England and Germany took place. A party had been organised for everyone to watch the game, which was 'fun', 'exciting' with no bad will or feelings between the groups. This, in fact, is what makes exchange visits such as this such valuable experiences. It was wonderful to see how well the students got on with each other and to listen to their discussions about language matters. Some of the English students had understandable misgivings before their visit as to whether they would be able to cope with a strange language and strange food. However, to quote one of them on the last day: 'Now I didn't want to come home...but there is always next year, even though I want to go before then (as soon as possible). I think the visit was a success!!

Jean Rudge and Janet Gregory

ALTON TOWERS REPORT

On Monday 19th June, Year 11 rounded off their academic year with a memorable trip to Alton Towers. Thanks to a 'knowledge' P.E. teacher, the trip's departure was somewhat delayed, but we made it to the park in time for packed lunches.

Compensating for the belated start, the bulk of the students were quick to descend into 'forbidden valley' and enjoyed thrilling rides like 'Nemesis' and 'Thunderhoop'. The park's water based attractions such as 'Congo River Rapids' and 'Log Flume' provided the opportunity for everyone to cool down on a hot day.

Mr Spring typified the adventurous spirit of all:

"The Nemesis was the scariest ride."

"You went on the Nemesis?!!"

"No, I mean to look at."

He also recommended the 3D cinema to anyone with a similarly strong will.

Many thanks must go to Mr Holliday who organised the trip and to the accompanying teachers, Mr Hedley, Mr Spring and Miss Knowles, who made such an enjoyable outing possible.

Scott Ralston and Justin Webb

EQUESTRIAN

National School Teams Cross Country

This is the sixth year Sibford School has entered a team; there are two team classes and two individual, junior and senior. We entered one senior team this year, quality not quantity. Sibford's team comprised Rachel Dales, Caroline Cleland and Simon Raby.

We all arrived at Primrose Hill farm at Gawcott where the course is built, on Easter Bank Holiday Monday, the weather surprisingly good considering this fact.

Rachel, on her horse Hack, was our first competitor to go round the 24 fence course (which to the uninitiated is a very long course). Just as Rachel was about to start, the course was closed. There had been an incident at fence 17, which was a large hedge with a larger ditch in front, (a fence which had caused great discussions when walking the course as it was a bonus fence). After 20 minutes of ambulances zooming and vets being called for over the sound system, the rider and horse emerged unhurt, great sighs of relief all round. Rachel could now start, as in Rachel's style she completed a lovely clear round, flying over the infamous bonus fence 17 and taking quite a few of the other bonus fences.

Next was Caroline, on her horse Dillon. After walking the course on Sunday, Caroline tried to convince me that neither she nor Dillon were capable of completing the course. Well, not only did they complete a clear course, plus some bonus fences, but had one of the fastest times through the timed gates (plus of course Caroline's encouraging voice heard most of the way round!).

Last, but by no means least, came Simon. How do these boys do it - slaves everywhere. Amelia plaited his horse for him, while friends were fussing around and reassuring Simon how well he would do. Simon and his horse completed a lovely clear round including bonus fences. Our three competitors all did very well and enjoyed the day, which finished with riders and horses safe and well.

I would like to thank the team's very supportive families and friends who made our day out really enjoyable, and I would like to thank them all, families and team members for giving up part of the holidays to represent our school.

Di Howes

SOUTHERN FRIENDS' SCHOOLS' FOX TROT

After loading up the mini-bus with all our luggage, Sibford and Sidcot finally left Sibford campus in order to follow George Fox's footsteps, a path which took us north to Yealand, a small village where our Quaker centre was situated. But first we were to meet Leighton Park and Saffron Walden at the exposed Pendle Hill. Fox had a vision on the hill, but all we were rewarded with was a boiled sweet!

We then hit the motorway again. Suddenly, tragedy struck with a loud clunk. A bag had fallen off the roof rack. We all, very selfishly, hoped it



Wendy is stoical beside the M6.

wasn't our personal belongings as we looked back to see clothing spread all over the motorway. Wendy responded very calmly. Using the orange motorway telephone we were able to contact the police, who stopped the traffic so that we were able to retrieve some of Wendy's clothing, now smelling of Pantene shampoo.

That night, through a variety of different group based activities, we were able to get to know each other better and to share thoughts and our very different views of Quakerism. We were early the next morning, especially those who had the task of frying the breakfast bacon!

We met up with the Northern Friends' Schools' Pilgrimage at Brigflatts Meeting House and for an hour we learned of Fox's connections with the area. He came to preach and to show people that there was an alternative to paying the hated tithes and that they need not be trapped in church to worship, since God is everywhere.



Being Quakerly?

The Southern Friends then climbed yet another hill! On the top of Firbank Fell we learned of Fox's travels around the country, and then set off for Kendal, to see the Quaker Tapestry in its bright and cheerful exhibition. Most of the pilgrims then went to McDonalds before we returned to Yealand and a sharing session on "Taking the Bible seriously". This was a very valid and interesting sharing.

On Sunday morning we were up at 7:30 even though we could have done with a lie in. Yealand's Meeting for Worship began at 10:30 and in the meanwhile some went in search of puffballs. A lovely meal was then made of wild puffballs, nettles and garlic!

After lunch we went to Swarthmore Meeting and visited the Hall, once the Fell family home and then George Fox's. Among the beautiful furnishings was Fox's travel bed (which, incidentally, was too heavy to actually use) and his Bible - one of the first to be translated into English.

We used our last energies climbing to a stone circle overlooking Morecambe Bay. We jumped into the coarse foliage of bracken and played "Ring-a-ring-a-Roses" around the stones.

The weekend was a very worthwhile one for all of us. We learned more about the Quaker faith and saw that each individual approaches it in his or her own unique way

Hazel Bell, Year 13

THE SIBFORD FACTOR

Every school has something special, something different about it, the something that, while so often being almost impossible to articulate, also goes to the very heart of the life of the institution. Sibford is no exception.

It is often the newest members of the community whose comments are most insightful when approaching this subject. They are aware and alert to the nuances and intimations of the school in a way the old hands cannot be.

I had no doubt that I would find positive feedback when I approached the new staff and pupils with a short request to put pen to paper, anonymously, of course! You might like to read some of what was written:

Sibford is good for dyslexic students, like me. It's a friendly society, everybody friendly with everybody else.

The work is quite hard and we have a long prep time, but there's a nice view of the countryside and the sport is good.

I was very pleased with Sibford. It's so different to my previous school. People genuinely care about one another.. everyone's welcomed me, which is nice. Of course, there are a few bad apples, but there are in every school.

When new pupils come to the school everybody makes them feel welcome and brings them into a friendly Quaker community.

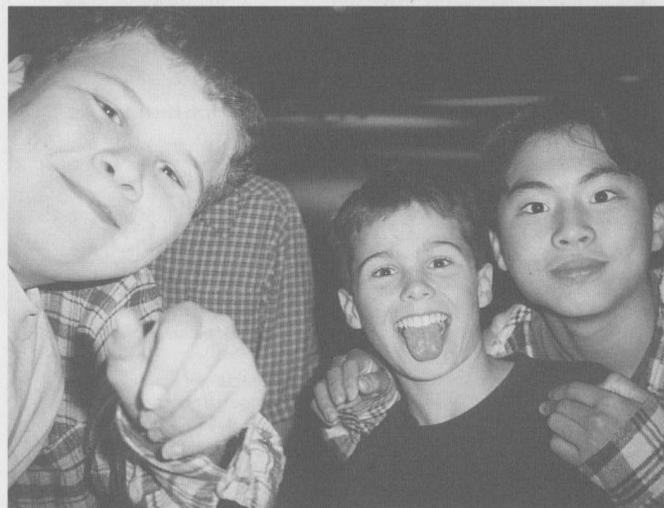
Sibford isn't a large school, so you don't feel lost. It's a school where you can be yourself and know everyone.

It has a good tuck shop that you can buy lots of different things from!

It is cold here, but the teachers are very nice! (Hong Kong pupil).

I want to say "thank you" because at first my English was not too good, but my friends helped me and they taught me something. Thank you for their kindness.

Everyone respects each other.



Ed, Ross and Benny 'Fun at Oxford Ice Rink.'

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

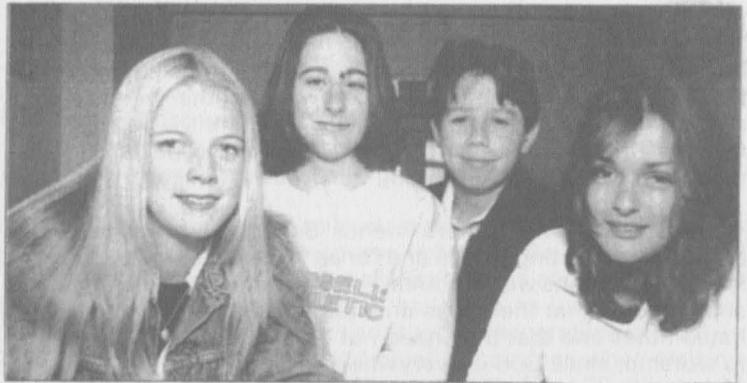
EXTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

Sibford School also had successes with pupils Kylie Cobb, Rachel Dales, Jonathan Evans, Sarah Caines and Hannah Gale.

Jonathan, who gained two As, three Bs and three Cs, was "really happy" with his results and will study A-levels in geography, maths and design at Sibford.

Sarah Caines, who has just moved from Saudi Arabia, was "shocked and extremely pleased" with her A and A* in geography and textiles.

Kylie, who achieved two As, a B and four Cs, will go on to do a BTEC in general art and design, and A-level history of art in Banbury.



■ CLASS ACT: Sibford's Kylie Cobb, Hannah Gale, Jonathan Evans and Sarah Caines.



■ IN TUNE: James and Julian thrilled judges with their music.

Musician of the year title goes to James (15)

A TAIWANESE student from Sibford School has captured the prestigious title of Banbury Musician of the Year.

James Chen, aged 15, who has been at the school for two years, captured the top prize all 41 finalists were vying for in the Rotary Club of Banbury's Musician of the Year Competition.

There were 15 different sections covering wind, strings, piano and guitar during the competition held at Sibford School last week.

James said: "I was very surprised to win. I phoned my parents back home who were thrilled as well."

James also won the intermediate piano section with his performance of the Romanian folk dance by Bella Bartok.

It was double joy for the school in the competition as Julian Li captured the senior string section top prize with a performance on the cello of the Elegie OP 24 by Gabriel Faure Julian.

Mark Paine, director of music at the school, said: "We are very pleased with the both of them."

"After five years, since the competition was started, to get the overall winner is an excellent achievement."



■ CANAL CRUISE: Orchard Close children on board the narrowboat.

Sun shines on a rainy day

POURING rain could not dampen children's spirits as they had a day out on narrowboat.

The pupils from Orchard Close School at Sibford Gower were taken up and down the stretch of canal, between Lower Heyford and Somerton, by Oxfordshire Narrowboats owner Bob White.

"I took around 10 children at a time in six shifts spread over two days," said Mr White, whose daughters Ruth, aged nine, and Beatrix,

seven, also attend the school.

"We did it because children love the canal, and when they are out on the water you can see their sheer enthusiasm."

Each trip on Tuesday and Wednesday last week took two hours, but Wednesday's downpour failed to spoil the children's fun.

Thea Woollatt, aged 10, said: "It has been a pretty fun day. Although we were soaked, we had a really great time."

LITERATURE SECTION

SPACE

SATS

Dreaded the day of SATS,
Sometimes twice a day sometimes not,
Science, maths and English walking all over my brain,
Black eye; secretaries come in handy.

Henry Taylor, Year 6

Up high in the sky,
Cold and dark
With the stars shining
Into your eyes.

You close your eyes
To clear the light,
You turn around and see
The moon in your eyes.

Philip Al-Anazie, Year 6

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS YOUNG

Wrinkles, crinkles, false teeth and hair
makes life at times hard to bear
Visits from grandchildren bringing toys and sweets,
make people of our age young on our feet.
We play cricket, football and games galore
At the end of the day we fall on the floor.

High jump and long jump, we do our best
then hot chocolate and bedtime for a long
earned rest.

Robert Garne, Year 9

LOVE POEMS

*Your hair is like strips of gold. Every piece of
hair is like silver. You are sweet like a pile of
sugar.*

*You look like a mermaid. You swim like a fish.
You are the most sweet person I know.*

*You glide like a glider. You float like a cloud.
No one can care as much as you about me.*

*You make rivers move. You make the clouds
float. You make clocks tick. You make trees
grow. You make hearts, love.*

*Your hair grows like trees. You love animals
and animals love you. You fly planes through
the clouds.*

Charlie Wood, Year 5

SNOW TIGER

Snow tiger, snow tiger
you're but a few.
Snow tiger, snow tiger
and we love you.

Your coat so different
it makes you distinct.
That's why you're hunted
but you'll become extinct.

Snow tiger, glow tiger
heaving a sigh.
Snow tiger, slow tiger
please don't die.

Emily Beerling, Year 8

RUGBY

Pushing,
Shoving,
Drinking,
Running to the line.
Tackling,
Passing,
Winning a try.
Kicking,
Catching,
Over the bars.
Clearing,
Punting,
Pushing into touch.
Wet,
Cold,
Slipping in the mud.

Henry Taylor, Year 6

Yes Miss

"Get in here Smith" boomed the voice of my English teacher.

"Wow, she sounds mad!" said a passer by, probably on their way to the tuck shop, which is where I wished I was at that very moment. I sauntered slowly into the classroom. She was writing the next class's work on the board. I felt sorry for them. I looked around the room. There were a few people in lunchtime detention, and a new teacher marking work in the back of the class.

I waited a few minutes which seemed like hours. Eventually she turned around and looked at me. I tried to stare her down, but I dropped my eyes to my shoes, studying them intently. I could feel her looking at me, and I felt small.

"So where is it?" she asked calmly, referring to some long overdue homework.

"Err, well, I don't have it, but, urm, it's at home."

"Oh"

"Yeah, you see, err, I was doing it last night, and, you know, err, I sort of left it next to my bed."

"Next to your bed?"

"Yes". Maybe she wouldn't get too mad, I thought hopefully.

"Yes what?" she shouted.

"Y-yes miss" OK maybe I was wrong. I really hated it when she got like this.

"And at what time were you doing this work?"

"Erm, about 10.00" Oh dear, here we go.

"And at what time do you go to bed?"

"9.30" I whispered in a squeaky voice.

"What!" she shouted. I flinched. I could feel the eyes of the people in detention looking at my back in pity.

"Erm, 9.30"

"And why did you not do this work earlier?"

"Erm, I, well I sort of went out, well you see, erm, me and Beckie"

"Rebecca and I, you silly child, have I not taught you anything!"

"Oh, erm, "I really wanted to run away, but I was rooted to the ground. Why was she being like this? Was it something to do with the other teacher?"

"I'm sorry, I promise I'll get it to you first thing in the morning, I promise, really."

"And if I don't get it, it will be a month's detention!"

"Yes miss" I said. Could I go now, I wondered.

"Now get out of my sight!" she shouted, and I scurried off as fast as I could.

Thankfully the bell went, and I went straight to my next lesson feeling puzzled,

The rest of the day went slowly, and eventually the last bell of the day went. I trudged home in the rain, thinking about what had happened. When I got home I went to the kitchen to make a snack, and wondered whether I should do my homework or phone Beckie, when Mom walked in.

"Hi honey" she said, kissing me on the cheek. "I'm really sorry about shouting at you at lunch time. I should have warned you"

"Yeah, you should have, I couldn't figure out why, when I'd told you at breakfast about the English!"

"I know. It's just that new teacher wanted to know how to handle kids who don't give their homework in on time. Sorry."

"It's OK Mom ."

Kerry Smith, Year 10

I am the light
that has been turned on.
I am Henry VIII who
at last got a son,
the homework that has been done.

I am the flower
which has just sprung,
the bird that has just sung,
the telephone which has just rung.

I am the student
that is being taught,
the brain with many a thought,
the soldier who had just fought.

Lisa Quiles, Year 8

I was the penny lost down the drain,
I was the boy always in pain,
I was the horse with a neglected mane,
I was the man forced to go to war,
I was the girl who fell through the door,
I was the cat with a damaged paw,
I was a ship sailing home no more.

BUT that was then, for NOW

I am the window all shiny and clean,
I am the boy who will never be mean,
I am the player always picked for the team,
I am the friendly girl living down the street,
I am the farmer with a good field of wheat,
I am the shoe much liked by feet.

Jack Dunwell, Year 8

SPACE

Space, a black dark cellar,
The sun and stars are lights.
Mars, granddad's old generals' suits
As the planet of war.
And the moon, an old football from 1978.
A stuffed dove as Saturn,
The planet of peace.
A hat as a flying saucer in space.
A boy's old toy robot on the floor
As an alien in outer space.
And me, the astronaut,
'Til dad came in today.

Malcolm Smith, Year 6

CRICKET

*I am the captain
I'm going out to toss,
There's a tall muscular boy
He's the other team's boss.*

*We're going to bowl first,
Most probably pace,
We want them all out
Hopefully with haste.*

*I open the bowling,
I bowl a flier.
'L.B.W.,' I shout.
'No,' said the umpire.*

*Next ball I bowl
He steps out his crease,
My good wicket keeper
Takes him with ease.*

*The rest of the team
Are no trouble at all,
One is out
Almost every ball.*

*Our team pad up
And take to the pitch,
Our openers win it
Without a hitch.*

Tom Mahoney, Year 6

*I am the kiss that has never been blown,
I am the kite that will never be flown.
I am a stitch which hasn't been sown,
I am a child who is always alone.*

*I am the person who cannot walk,
I am a baby who can't talk.
I am the pig without the pork,
I am the knife without a fork.*

*I am the clock which has never tocked,
I am the door which nobody's knocked.
I am the padlock which is never locked,
I am the exam which has never been mocked.*

Tamsin Young, Year 8

"FOREST MUST LIVE"

Forest asleep at night.
Forest asleep at night, but
during the day noisy and awake.
Life is exciting as well as fearful.
The forest is special and should be kept
special and important to the world.
No one understands this forest.
We must keep it.
If we don't keep the forest
we will not keep life.

I walk. I see my prey
I creep up, then pounce.
Please keep the forest. so I can live.

I smell people coming so
I jump up into a tree..
I look through the leaves.
We live in this forest.
Let us live in peace.
Do not disturb the forest,
or you will destroy me.

One night I hear banging.
The forest is getting darker and
the clouds are growing fierce.
Suddenly lightning flashes and thunder roars
as I lie in my den watching.
The rain begins to fall.
I go deeper into my den, curl up and sleep.

Sun shines bright and the noisy forest
wakes me up.
I smell no human.
I go out and look for food.
I see a monkey and get down low.
As it gets down off a tree I pounce and
it's no longer alive.

Birds shelter from the rain in the trees
and bring up their young.
Losing a tree is like pulling
a hair out of God's head.

The people move and I follow them.
They climb a mountain.
I watch them every night.
A storm is coming, the rain comes.
He is angry. He is mad.

I wish they would understand.
He is mad they are hurting the earth.
His roar of rage gets worse.

His lightning flashes !
Almost got a tree !
But they are safe.
They go home - we stay.

Anya Innes, Year 8

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Last winter I went down to my Nan's house in Hove, Sussex and at that time there were protesters down at the seafront protesting against live exports. I went down there a few times, they were there early in the morning when nobody was up because they wanted to bring calves through into the port and ship them to foreign countries to make veal.

There were thousands of protesters down at the port and they were all shouting and waving banners at the drivers that were carrying the calves. There were hundreds of police, even more than the protesters guarding the lorries. There were a lot of police at the front of the first lorry and police, running down the sides of them so that no protesters could let the calves free. A lot of people were crying and I saw one of the lorries with lambs in it and one of its legs was sticking out the side of the lorry because there was not enough room for them to stand. There were two levels of animals and the top level were going to the toilet on the ones underneath.

When the calves get to different places in Europe they stick them in little cages so that they can only just stand, which would be for six months or so, and they are just fed milk until they need them for slaughtering. This is how they get veal products and the animals suffer for consumer pleasure.

The protesters did win in the end at Shoreham because it was costing the police so much money to protect the lorries, but it still goes on in Dover where they are carrying on their protest against live animal exports.

The only good thing about the BSE scare was that they stopped exporting live cattle to Europe.

I feel that exporting live animals is unnecessary and that intensive farming is cruel but I still eat meat and dairy products.

Hadleigh Heasman, Year 9

WHALESONG

Whales, whales splashing down in to the sea below scraping the sea floor as they open their mouth. Whales, whales jumping up in to the air making a great big splashing sound.

Gareth Homersley, Year 7

SATS

Does my head hurt
Or have I SATS rot?
I can't think to write much
So I'll keep it short.

Tom Salmon, Year 6

WAR

People think war is fun
Because they like shooting guns.
They all thought it would be over in a month
But then there was sorrows in a few months.
People shouted and cried
When a million men died.
Men charged to battle
As gun fire rattled.
They started digging graves
For the men who were brave.
People were crying
While the bodies are there dying.
They would pray and hope
If their family survived and coped.
Think of the men who died
Who didn't want to waste their lives.
The way these men died
Was a horrible way to die.
These men were so brave
They don't deserve to be in a grave.
What they did for us,
Was such a big fuss.
The saved the king and country
That is why we are still in this country.

Patrick Jessel, Year 9

THE THIRD YEAR

This year started unusually in that we held our AGM in January, 1996, rather than November, 1995, on our traditional date on Bonfire Night.

With the school decision to change the arrangements on Bonfire Night we felt that it would be more appropriate to make an alternative date.

A small group of hardy loyal supporters braved the cold weather in January to meet in the Staff Dining Room. We tried very hard to concentrate on the matter in hand, but with three outside walls, watching the ever increasing snow falling, made it very difficult. The agenda was speedily achieved and a new committee appointed.

The Committee have met twice a term to pursue the objectives of the organisation.

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 (not provided from statutory funds) as the committee in consultation with governing body shall from time to time determine.

The Committee consists of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 staff representatives chosen by the staff, 2 school representatives (Head, Deputy Head), and 5 parents.

Discussions have been robust with healthy debate over a wide range of issues. Fund raising events are a regular feature, and to this end the Christmas Fayre reappeared on the school calendar in December, 1995. This was primarily an Antique Fayre with some craft and activities for pupils; ably organised by Angela Walsham.

Refreshments are a regular "income earner" which we have continued to provide at various school events (school drama productions, summer prom concert).

We have suggested Information Evenings for parents and staff, combined with a social gathering, but we need topics for discussion to be made by you.

The PSFA dispenses its funds by way of grant applications made to the Committee. These are considered by the Head and Bursar in order to ensure suitability and duplication of funding from other sources.

PSFA GRANTS MADE DURING 1996

To: Margaret Fell Girls Boarding House (Toaster - Sandwich Maker - Kettle)	£200.00
To: CDT Department (For CAD System)	£1000.00
To: Horticulture Department (For Weather Station)	£242.17



PARENTS STAFF AND FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

To: Sports Department £467.00
(For Multi Gym Cycle)

To: Textiles Department £300.00
(Silk Frames and Text Books)

Parents, staff and friends continue to meet and sing together in The Choral Society. We meet on Thursday after school to rehearse for the various events. The highlight of the year is undoubtedly The Carol Service at Christmas when the atmosphere in the school hall is magical. The Choral Society took part in the Summer Prom Concert, when we sang with The Banbury Symphony Orchestra. Perhaps some of us are reliving our youth but it is fun and a good opportunity to meet others and exchange news, views involving pupils.

A group of parents from four families have assisted in helping their respective sons/daughters represent Sibford at the school's Equestrian National One Day Events. The evidence is on the display boards beside the school foyer opposite the entrance to the hall.

The pupils took part in events held over Easter at Gawcott, Bucks and in Sussex at Borde Hill.

The co-operation of both pupils and parents, and our Chef d'Equipe, Di Howes, is a good example of the objectives of our Association. The trip to Sussex involved stabling overnight, bed and breakfast for adults, and was utterly exhausting in the relentless wind and driving rain!

However, Rachel, Caroline, Simon and Robbie equitted themselves admirably, their horses behaved impeccably and the experience was invaluable.

I would like to record thanks to the "back-room staff" of the Howes, Raby, Dales, Garne and Cleland families.

The PSFA provided Tea & Sympathy for new parents at the beginning of the new school year in September, 1996. We were unsure of the response at this new venture and were completely overwhelmed by the turn out! This totally vindicates the feeling of the Committee that these occasions provide a social forum for the exchange of views, opinions and information. We provided a shoulder for some and moral support for others, particularly those living abroad.

The organisation is, I feel, at something of a crossroads. Whilst fund raising is one of the original objectives and undoubtedly we need to sharpen up our act in this respect,

we are also vital to the facilitating of exchange between parents, staff and friends in the furtherance of the advancement of the school.

The nomination of a parent, Zara Huntingdon, on to the School Committee, has raised our profile this year and my gratitude for all her efforts and giving of her personal time to attend meetings. Her involvement in the appointment of the new Head of Sibford was a task not envisaged but which clearly demonstrates the co-operation between the PSFA and School Committee. The presence of a current parent at the deliberations of the Committee fulfils the hopes and aspirations of previous PSFA Committees.

We look forward to welcoming Sue Freestone and working with her. The Committee welcome ideas and suggestions from you in order to represent and implement the wishes of the members of our Association.

Jane Cleland — Chairman

PSFA BOOK AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

PRESENTED AT FINAL ASSEMBLY JULY 1996
by JANE CLELAND CHAIR/PSFA

Year 2	Ben Carty	10.00
Year 3	Beatrix White	10.00
Year 4	Claire Prizeman	10.00
Year 5	Jennifer Preston	10.00
Year 6	Lucy Duckett	10.00
Year 7	Tamsin Young	20.00
Year 8	Daniel Anderson	20.00
Year 9	James Chen	20.00
Year 10	Sian Mather	20.00
Year 11	Jonathan Evans and Sarah Caines	20.00 Each
Year 12	Hazel Bell and Rosie Hilferty	20.00 Each
Year 13	Victor Lau	25.00
	Total	£235.00

PSFA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

August 1995 to July 1996

	£	£	£
Opening balances			
Current A/c		22.94	
Deposit A/c		6,363.96	
National Savings		<u>315.27</u>	
Total			6,702.17

Income			
Subscriptions	2,935.50		
Interest	61.42		
Orchard Close fundraising	46.80		
Fair	447.77		
Library Book Appeal	<u>40.00</u>		
Total income			3,531.49

Grants and expenses			
Bola Ball	590.00		
RSPB	60.00		
Radio mike	100.00		
Music folders	385.00		
Wendy House	600.00		
School Magazine	449.63		
Advertising	<u>175.43</u>		
Total expenditure			<u>2,360.06</u>

Excess of income over expenditure 1171.43

Closing balances			
Current A/c		56.31	
Business A/c		7,502.02	
National Savings		<u>315.27</u>	
Total			<u>£7,873.60</u>

Gifts in kind:
Two vouchers each worth £52 from
Gillman and Soames

For the coming year:			
Outstanding grants:-			
Margaret Fell		207.00	
CDT CAD system		1,000.00	
Books for leavers		174.30	
Weather station for RS		242.17	
Multigym cycle		467.00	
Silk frames and books		<u>300.00</u>	
Total			<u>2,390.47</u>
Funds available for grant making:			<u>£5,483.13</u>

Funds expected from closure of
National Savings Accounts

	£	
FOSS Accounts	44.58	No. 138027120 + interest
	71.25	No. 138027121
Sports Club	<u>355.61</u>	No. 138053366 + interest
Total	<u>£471.44</u>	

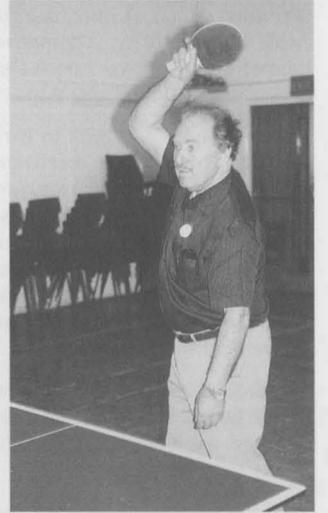
Auditors Report:

The above accounts give an accurate view of the financial position of the Parents, Staff and Friends of Sibford School Association.

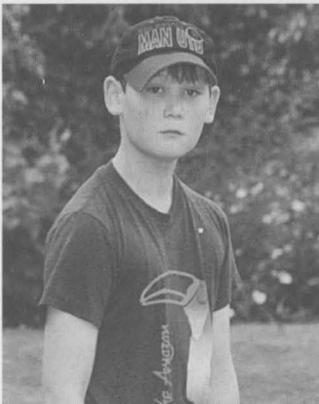
Signed

D John Miller

September 19th 1996



OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS



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



PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

The 1997 reunion will be the fifty-first that I've attended since leaving Sibford in 1944. The simplicity of the war-time regime had its strong points and I yearn for the tiny SOSA mag. and the economy of D.I.Y. reunions, though would probably not enjoy sleeping on the thistle-filled palliasses in the bell tents.

My Sibford years left me reasonably domesticated, tolerant and with an unbiased view of the sexes. I recall a fortnight on the Broads: eight old scholars crammed into a six-berth cruiser without a single cross word being exchanged during 210 miles of cruising.

My first year of higher education was spent at Leeds School of Printing. Much of my spare time I spent at the H.Q. of I.V.S.P. with whom I did my Alternative National Service as a C.O., doing demolition work in London's docklands, and pick and shovel relief work in the Swiss Alps.

Demob. and it was back to Birmingham College of Art to get my A.T.D. Three years' freelance silversmithing was followed by thirty-two years' craft teaching. The most rewarding period was spent developing modular technology courses with an innovative team, in Hertfordshire, involving computer control and robotics with pneumatics, fluidics, electronics and mechanics. Technical drawing had progressed to Graphic Design with Model making. Then came the New Curriculum and definitely time to take early retirement.

Rosamond and I settled in Stratford-upon-Avon. I have a cellar-workshop, where I do wood carving, a computer complex in the loft and, as an extension to our tiny garden, an allotment beside the canal.

The Friends' Meeting House is a few paces up the hill and with a small meeting, I'm actively involved there too.

New hobbies? Having spent the last three years scuba diving I've now replaced this with metal detecting.

Here is a little poem that came to me at last year's reunion whilst lying in bed. I had just noticed the replacement walnut tree in the Paddock and was musing on what the old tree could have told us.

THE PADDOCK WALNUTS

*There grew a walnut where we wooed,
Strange stories told or billed and cooed.
Oh! horror and complete dismay,
For high above us sat Ma J.
"Don't move." she cried,
With threat implied.
"I've watched your tricks.
Continue thus a minute more;
A punishment I have in store.
I'll drop on you like a ton of bricks."*

*Alas it was not us who erred.
The walnut her demise preferred.
It creaked and groaned,
Her weight bemoaned.
In truth there at our very feet
A new tree now is found.*

*J. Philip Morris
President 1996-97*



REUNION ROUND-UP

The Annual Reunion was held over the August Bank Holiday between 24th and 27th August 1996. The weather managed to hold fair despite dire forecasts. Over the weekend more than 190 persons attended and enjoyed an excellent Reunion. One of SOSA's best known supporters is Mavis Stiles (née Mutch), who was at Sibford between 1946-49 and writes this year's report:

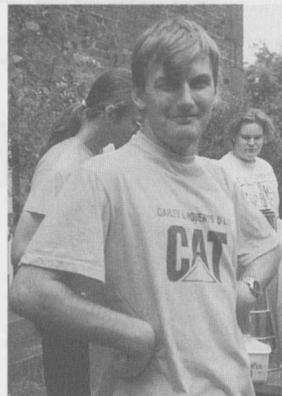
The 1996 Old Scholars' Reunion was imminent and no invitation had been received - had I been missed off the mailing-list or had the correspondence gone walkies? - I settled for the latter.



Ethel Wright, Diana Lloyd and Mavis Stiles

This year I invited Pat Parsons (née Warren) to join us. Pat, despite a visit to the Reunion of two years ago, had not stayed at Sibford since the 1940's. I was at the School with her sister Sheila. (Bunny to her friends!)

The journey to Sibford via Hemel Hempstead was filled with many emotions. My first drive up and visit was in January 1946 as a new pupil - there was no 'beforehand vetting' of the School in those days. We went in Father's Austin Seven, registration number CV0 897 (I cannot remember my own car registration number!) with trunk firmly roped onto the rear of the car. Then I remembered the many times that my late husband David and I had travelled the same route to enjoy Old Scholar Reunions at Sibford. How would I cope this weekend?



James Thompson

A visit into Fielding House to check on the accommodation arrangements showed that ninety including the helpers (they were billeted in Nansen Boys now refurbished as a girls house and renamed Margaret Fell, much to the disgust of former Nansentites!) were booked in. I was sharing a room with my grandson Daniel, and Pat was in the room opposite on the top corridor in Fielding. Oh! things had changed since last year: the inside of the House had been redecorated; new furniture in the bedrooms and new beds - such luxury!

Fire doors had also been fitted everywhere so may I suggest to the powers-that-be that a 'flow trail' might be of help in sorting out the maze of doors - I did walk in on a sleeping bearded gentleman (no names - no pack drill!) in the small hours - unintentionally, honest!

The foam-filled chairs remain in the lounge - no good for those with back problems - and the house kitchen has been enlarged and a fire door fitted there too!

By coffee time many old scholars and friends had arrived. At lunch our President, Margaret Fairington, welcomed everybody including the School Committee guest for the weekend, Pat Dannahy. The dining-room was filled with many familiar and not-so-familiar faces; Ashley Shirlin had worked so hard to encourage many younger old scholars to attend the Reunion - well done Ashley.

The Annual General Meeting was well attended. It is good to see the Committee well supported, they work very hard on our behalf. One of the main issues was the change of date for



Jo Butcher (née Farquhar)



Rebecca Hare, Ashley Shirlin and Nicola Grimes

the 1997 Reunion (it has been held at the August Bank Holiday for many years) to the Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May. Make a note of the new date in your diary now!

The Leslie Baily Address was given by Peter McCurdy, no stranger to those of us who were at Sibford 1962-67. Peter has been responsible for the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre at Southwark and his fascinating talk was supported with very clear slides. (I wonder how many old scholars remember the late George Edwards pointing out the site of the original Globe Theatre during one of his London walks.) Ian Weatherhead hopes to take a party of interested old scholars to the Theatre early next year.

The children, including our President's two grandsons Barnabas and Nathaniel, had great fun during the 'Happy Hour' mainly thanks to Hilary Waterfield, and what would we do without the back-up from Russell Steed and his audio equipment? There was comment from the children "What happened to all the other adults?" - you were missed but no doubt enjoying the President's Party!

Without Choral, Sunday would not be the same, but rumour said that it was cancelled as no pianist could be found - shame on us old scholars! Nevertheless two-dozen-or-so found themselves in the Oliver Studio without music, one copy of Songs of Praise and two sheets of hymns. Diana Lloyd found middle C on the piano and Choral began! Our School Committee guest, Pat Dannahy, sang a song which she had recently learnt whilst in Italy at an international non-violent communication study group:

*Sing us beautiful
Each and every day
Sing us beautiful
In our own sweet way
I see God in you
I know God in me
So sing us beautiful*

We then all joined in.

The Meeting House at the Gower was soon filled - again so many memories of speakers and messages down the years - I wish I could remember them all. It is encouraging to find so many children joining the first part of the Meeting. Afterwards refreshments and time for a chat and an ideal setting for photographs. Having driven our School Committee guest to the Meeting House I returned with her via Temple Mill and the Crabtrees' smallholding where we saw their collection of rare-breed sheep and pigs; stroked the cows and Shafer hens; viewed the gander and his newly-acquired lady friend and the lovely Hafflinger pony. It is good to make time to look and listen.

Sports in the Sports Hall after Sunday roast proved popular for players and spectators alike, under Guy Kingham's professional guidance. It is good to see all age groups mixing. The young old scholars are very supportive towards the young offsprings of old scholars and their friends. Some crept off for a swim in the recently re-roofed, at enormous expense, swimming pool.

The lawn at Holly House makes an ideal setting for afternoon tea - diets are thrown to the wind when faced with a large collection of

home-made cakes - the last one sadly as guests of John and Susie Dunston. They were in the middle of moving to pastures new.

I have a great affection for Holly House which used to be the home of Roland and Eva Herbert. I was invited to Sunday dinner during my first term where I found their daughter Margaret was visiting and who was responsible for my attending Sibford, as I had met her in Yorkshire the previous year. I also slept in Holly House for two terms, which was partly used as girls' accommodation during the forties and fifties.



Guy Kingham

After tea, more chats and croquet and then it was all smiles for the annual group photograph - thank you Russell and Ian.

President's Choice was a collection of poetry for the young and not so young delivered with a difference by Jill and Barry Wilsher. Their performance was most entertaining and gave poetry a new meaning.

Many old scholars supported the theme 'Bad Taste' at the fancy dress barbecue. I never fail to be amazed at the different interpretations at a fancy dress - often a lot of thought and organisation for such a limited time. I do not think the three ladies dressed and heading for the Red Light area of London managed to get any further than the Elm. (Sorry you were embarrassed on the stairs by the fashion parade, Ashley!)

In the 1950s we all walked to the Elm for rockets three nights running - no lifts in cars in that era. Nevertheless it was a lovely moonlit night and we gave a good account of ourselves.

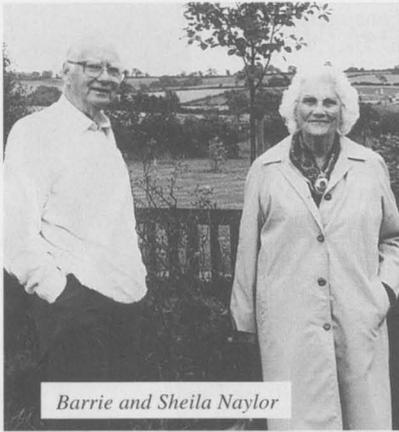
Monday morning was bright but on the chilly side. After breakfast the cars, filled with drivers and passengers, set off on the annual Treasure Hunt organised this year by Raymond and Ann Bond. It was good to see them visibly involved in a Reunion once again. Lisa Waterfield and family were the last to go and were able to take on board a stranded Julian Sandiford. The Treasure Hunt was won by Ruth Aldworth (née Liz Jones), which was some little consolation for having had her car broken into the day before - even Sibford is no longer immune from vandals. All the entrants said how much they had enjoyed the route of the Treasure Hunt.

After lunch the afternoon walk of one-and-three-quarter-hours duration was led and paced by Michael Van Blankenstein, most of us need to take two paces to Michael's one! I understand that all the walkers enjoyed the excursion through the Oxfordshire countryside, many returning with red faces from the exertion.

For the less energetic there was an invitation to visit Arnold and Ina Lamb's garden in Sibford Ferris. I have watched their garden develop, since their retirement from farming, with great interest and admiration. Their bungalow was built on land which had been part of the garden that once belonged to Malvern House, which had been the home of Dr. Richard Routh, the son of Sibford's first Head. Hidden in the undergrowth was his neglected and rare Victorian alpine rockery which is now alive with many exotic and interesting plants and the rock-pool is home to much wildlife. Another section of the garden contains a collection of wild flowers and the vegetable



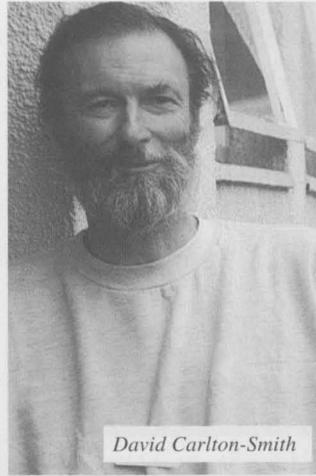
The young brigade



Barrie and Sheila Naylor



Paul Frampton



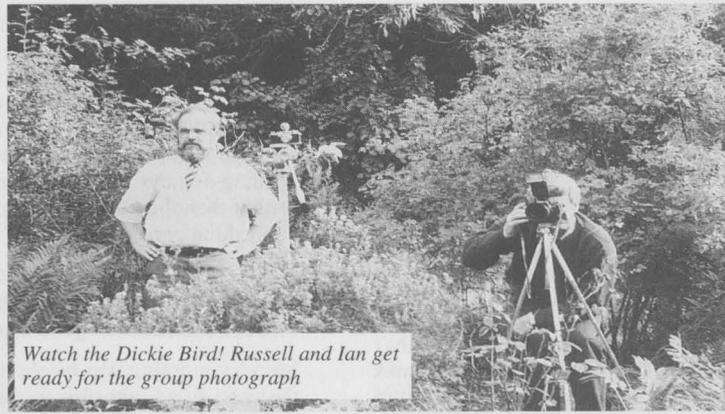
David Carlton-Smith



Eleri Ricci



Ashley Shirlin with young admirer



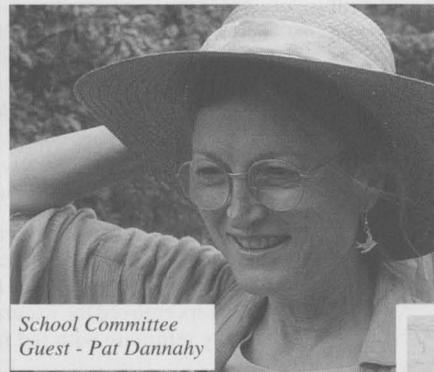
Watch the Dickie Bird! Russell and Ian get ready for the group photograph



Dashing David Haines



Nick Bennett, Hugh and Daphne Maw



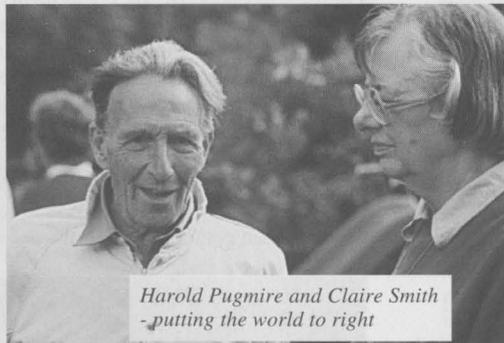
School Committee Guest - Pat Dannahy



Sibford Belles - Jeanne Little, Eleri Ricci, Margaret Fairnington and Claire Smith



Helen Doyle and Grace Beckerlegge



Harold Pugmire and Claire Smith - putting the world to right



Anne Muir and Ian Weatherhead



In Arnold and Ina Lamb's garden - Janet Steed, Jean Osborne, Arnold Lamb, Mavis Stiles and David Haines



Tea on Holly House lawn



Tea Time! Hugo Finley et al

plot was looking very productive. This garden gives a sense of peace and contentment and holds many happy memories for me. The Lamb's garden, which is known as 'Back Acre', along with others in the village, has been open under the National Gardens scheme for the last few years.

Back at Fielding a welcome cup of tea was served and while the younger children enjoyed a special tea, the rest of us dressed ready for drinks with the President, followed by the Presidential Dinner.

Mark Harrison, the Catering Manager, did us proud with the menu - marinated mushrooms and crusty bread, chicken supreme in a grape, cream and rosemary sauce or stuffed aubergines, all served with new potatoes, honey glazed carrots and a Mediterranean vegetable medley, raspberry flan and cream, and finally coffee and mint chocolates. Mark has been promoted, so sadly it's goodbye.

I sat at a table with three Pats - Dannahy, Grimes and Parsons - I did wonder if laughing-gas had been added to our water, as my sides ached by the end of the meal. Apologies for disturbing the peace of the other diners!

Pat Grimes then introduced the President who gave a very touching address - one can know someone for years but really know very little of their life. The School Committee guest responded to the President's address by thanking old scholars for a lovely weekend - she was certainly a live wire and has become a paid-up member of SOSA. The retiring Head also said a few words and read a passage from Paul Eddington's autobiography, describing the conditions and the food when he was at Sibford between 1937-43. (Our President, hailing from the same era, confirmed Paul's writings!) John Dunston continued by presenting Irene Coxon-Smith and Jeanne Southam with a small gift each as a thankyou for their support and for all the cakes that they had baked during his period of Headship.

Margaret introduced us to the incoming Head, Sue Freestone, who had accepted an invitation to attend the Presidential Dinner. We sincerely hope her period at Sibford will be long, successful, healthy and happy.

The President then gave a vote of thanks to Mark Harrison and his staff for feeding the inner man and to the Committee and all those who had helped towards a successful Reunion. The prizes were also handed out to the winner of the Treasure Hunt, Ruth Aldworth, and to the winner of the Table Tennis Tournament, John Farr.

Once the tables had been cleared it was time for Auld Lang Syne and Rockets and not forgetting Mini-Rockets - another successful weekend was drawing to a close.

Tuesday morning is always a little flat - bags to pack, goodbyes to say and the homeward journey. I was able to hide my emotions behind my video camera, or 'Toy' as Mike Finch calls it. I felt rather alone as the rest of my family were visiting my daughter Julia in Australia - Oh! and by the way what happened to the young old scholar who met up with my grand-daughter Charlotte at Singapore Airport - you were on your way to Sibford for the Reunion? ...but which Reunion?

Postscript

Since my early childhood I have had a spelling problem - I would get the cane weekly at my Primary school by the Headteacher simply because of this - and it resulted in my having a "hang up" about it over many years.

I studied horticulture at Aylesbury college for many years but felt unable to take the RHS examinations. For some time Pat Grimes had tried persuading me to be assessed for Dyslexia and so eventually, last November at the age of sixty-two, I visited the Dyslexia Institute at Staines and, after nearly two hours of tests, it was found that I have a typical Dyslexic pattern.

The psychologist complimented me on the way I have unknowingly handled the problem - I even managed to pass the School Certificate in 1949 - and he said he thought it was brave of me to pay him a visit! Sibford staff have been helping children with Dyslexic problems for thirty years-or-so, but unfortunately I was born too early to take advantage of their expertise. The weekend report has been a difficult challenge!

RACHAEL DAVIS gives a recent leaver's perspective of the Reunion:

The 1996 old scholars Reunion was the third I have attended since leaving Sibford in 1993. I first attended the weekend simply because 'all my friends were going', and I knew it would be the last opportunity to see many of them before beginning my A level studies. I was totally unprepared for the young old scholar's experience!



Rachael Davis and Ellen Salway

Every year I arrive with Paul Levy and Chris Legg on the Friday afternoon and meet the committee. Then Julie Greenhill, Mike Herm and Guy Kingham help us settle in by taking us for pre-weekend drinks at the Bishop Blaize! There is quite a strong core of young old scholars from '93 and this year it was great to see more 1995 leavers attending the Reunion.

I have always found that the more I join in with the events of the weekend, the more I enjoy the Reunion. Apart from serving hundreds of cups of tea, and waiting at the Presidential dinner, the events we always participate in are the Golden Doll Trophy Hockey Match, and the Motor Treasure Hunt. (My first year, about twenty Young Old Scholars were squashed into a minibus, adding a few local taverns to the route!) This year Paul, Chris and I excelled ourselves, following the whole route twice and still failing to answer the first question! This year was the first time I have attended the Leslie Baily address. The topic was the restoration of the Globe Theatre, which was of special interest to me, due to the fact that I am studying Drama at Aberystwyth University.

I have always found that there is something so special about the SOSA weekend. The affection amongst friends, often spanning decades, is truly awe-inspiring. I feel very lucky and honoured to be part of a network that extends to almost every corner of the Earth,



Julie Greenhill and Nicola Grimes puzzle it out.

and I often meet people with Sibford connections during my travels.

For all the young old scholars who feel that the weekend could be potentially boring and authoritarian, I recommend that you try it once; party with us, celebrate Sibford's long and proud tradition, and I can promise you'll be hooked for life, like myself and other friends!

EASTER YEAR GROUP REUNION

Ashley Shirlin writes

Once again the old scholars in their late twenties to early forties met for a reunion. To make a change to the previous London venues, on the T.S. Queen Mary and Jamie's Wine Bar we decided to brave a weekend at the School. Considering how few people had been back to Sibford we were extremely pleased that 120+ people came along.

A few of us arrived on the Friday as an advance party. Unfortunately slightly too lengthy a planning session at the Bishop Blaize that evening resulted in our fragile greeting of the first arrivals on Saturday morning. Once again people travelled from far and wide to attend with people coming from Australia, Brunei, the USA and, of course, all four corners of Britain.

Lunch was a quiet affair as most people remember the dining room as being at the Manor, rather than behind Fielding, and a feeling of disorientation was apparent. Still, as familiar faces appeared the atmosphere became more relaxed and the afternoon was devoted to reliving old memories around the school. A non-Sibford friend of mine who came along was particularly interested in someone's stories relating to Lister Boys' bike sheds and the garden at the Manor. Although we always attract people for the first time each year this was the fourth or fifth of these gatherings and so there is far less reminiscing amongst the 80 or so who have attended the majority of the Reunions and more chat about the previous year's events.

Following tea the usual pre-Hop preparations took place much as they had done some 20+ years ago, although the aroma of 'Brut' had now been replaced by that of 'Aramis'! The School had kindly arranged a bar next to the Tuck Shop and so the evening commenced with a leisurely drink and a chat. Simon Austing and his band performed in the old gym (now the Oliver Studio). This was followed by a traditional Hop with Jenny Charlier and Catherine Hunt, amongst others, manning the disco. The music may have changed from Jimi Hendrix, Gary Glitter and The Jam to Garage, House etc. but otherwise things were much as they once were for a few hours.

About 1.00 a.m. it was time to return to the dorms and common rooms around the School. We had arranged to sleep people in Fielding and Penn, Lister and NANSEN boys, although as to whether the sleeping plan was adhered to is anyone's guess. In any event several parties took place although I can only comment on the one in Penn. Twenty or so of us retired to the common room to chat and do silly things. Natalie Carapetian agreed to wear her hot pants in return for donations to charity. My chum Bart then collected a greater amount by wearing the same item of clothing. Stephen Johnson told some outrageous jokes, Edwina Bezan expanded our vocabulary of insults and we concluded with Rockets. By now dawn was approaching and reality had begun to set in, so a search party was raised to discover the whereabouts of a certain Mr. Gebbett who, true to form, was found loitering outside the Manor. He had presumably forgotten that the girls had left twenty years ago.

Breakfast was a quiet affair although the assorted offspring of the Ivan Clark, Rowena Pugmire and Carmel Price families tried their best to liven up the proceedings.

Slowly but surely bodies began to surface, pack and go home although, should the School wonder who the comatose bodies in Lister are, please return them to the Little and Clarke and Collinson families after reminding them to pay for their accommodation.



Jane Ashdown

The final gathering was at the Pear

Tree in Hook Norton where 'Doss' (John Gilchrist) was rumoured to imbibe each Sunday lunch time, but presumably he had been warned and did not appear, much to the disappointment of Alun Evans, Ann Pollock and Kevin and Anna McGeoghegan amongst others. We had a great time, possibly the best so far of these events, and we should like to thank the School for their hospitality (and understanding).

THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Given by Margaret Fairnington on the 26th August 1996.

Before I came to Sibford, aged ten years, I had absorbed an exciting vision of what boarding-school life would be like from books by Angela Brazil - all midnight feasts and madcap japes and opportunities to be a heroine. Also, as all lessons would be on the premises I wouldn't have to get up so early!

In these respects, of course, Sibford was a deep disappointment. However, the introduction was consoling. A number of us were sent here a few days early to escape from the bombing and we were able to feel that this was fun, until term began and everyone else arrived.

Alas, I didn't take to boarding-school life and home life was slipping away. My parents, under cover of war-time needs, had really separated but without ever saying so. They both kept moving around and I found myself spending the longed-for holidays with various relatives, with or without my immediate family, sometimes after last-minute decisions by distant adults.

I became quite unable to concentrate on any work and left school a year early. Whose decision this was I never knew but I certainly felt guilty about everything, the way that children do. It took a long time to recover from all this, bit-by-bit and many years, before I realised that my troubles were not all rooted in school!

So why did I ever come back to SOSA Reunions? Well, one reason, I think, was my happy memories of the Reunions that used to take place at Whitsun, every other year. The School was in session (no home leave in those days!) and the old scholars were billeted in the village but shared many of their activities with us children. I remember getting to know several friendly adults on walks and picnics, and enjoying their entertainments. Besides, the atmosphere was changed for the weekend and the food improved! Then I was prodded by Judith Kelf-Cohen (Kelly), who had been one of the pre-school starters too, and who now lived near to me and she brooked no argument and, of course, the experience was lovely.

Like School itself, everything was pretty spartan and that was, in a way, part of the fun. We slept in various degrees of discomfort, in School or village; did all the chores and catered for ourselves; walked for miles; Rockets at the Elm every night; roared with laughter during all the formal activities - AGM's were hilarious! And, of course, we flirted all the time. (Some things don't change!) Frank Rollett was good at leading walks through a kissing-gate and explaining the custom. Brian Hooper came in a car (a car!) which was an open top, sporty number. Its doors were fastened shut with string, so he and his privileged passenger had to climb over them!

It was a wonderful way for us to re-discover ourselves, and each other, as young adults. I suppose it is the very happy memories of



Sibford Gower Meeting House

those Reunions and their healing friendliness that has attached me so strongly to SOSA. I love coming, every time, and feel a special connection with everyone I've known from those early gatherings, as well as with the people I have known since childhood.

Of course, the School itself had helped and had formed my character, much more than I could see when I was young. Reflecting on my life and the Sibford connections, I suddenly had a vision of some richly embroidered Indian cloth - velvet perhaps, or silk - with lots of colours and patterns, bright and dark and little discs of mirror sewn into it here and there. Coloured threads from teachers and others were woven in and out; beginnings of patterns, re-appearing and developing at different stages, formed a large web. The pieces of mirror were moments of serendipity, of recognition of something that was right for me.

In the dark band that was my childhood I saw gleaming bits: times of listening to classical music, of learning to play the piano, of taking part in plays. My favourite lessons were Art and English. Barrie and Sheila Naylor started all this off! Three other English teachers have all inspired me tremendously, two of them here at Sibford, the third I met at a much later stage.

After Barrie left we had the amazing, flamboyant Spaniard Casto Alonso - instantly christened 'Bonzo'. He was only here for two years but had a profound effect on me and on many others. His energy and enthusiasm, his dark good looks, his eccentric clothes - about twenty years in advance of his time - were stunning. He taught by encouraging creative writing in groups and he also made us aware of political ideas and organised debates and discussions. His daughter, Leonora, born at that time, is now a music adviser for schools in London and is a member of my Meeting, where she greatly encourages all the children.

Then there was Gladys Burgess, who had presence! She would walk into a lively classroom and stand there for a moment and we would all become quiet and attentive. Her lessons were meticulously prepared, we had a thorough grounding in grammar and literature, wrote our own poetry and criticism and acted in classroom Shakespeare and school plays under her direction. She insisted on original thinking and writing and tried to draw out everyone's best - and more.

Last summer, I attended a Shakespeare week at Woodbrooke, the Quaker college in Birmingham, and heard Peter McCurdy give his story of the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre. At the end of it he mentioned casually that he'd been at Sibford. What a wonderful moment that was! On the same course, Jill Wilsher, who with her husband Barry gave us our President's choice this weekend, was one of the tutors, taking us through exciting acting workshops.

Another teacher who looms large in my memory is Frank Parkin. I don't think I actually learned any maths or geography, both of which he officially taught, but when-ever he could be diverted (not difficult) into his real interests which were: large-scale world events; possible outcomes of power struggles between America and Russia; Chinese population expansion, or a slight tilt in the earth's axis - he was riveting and mind-expanding.

I suppose it was subversive. The War was going on but we were kept muffled from its news. Radios were heard only rarely and the one



Don Ryan, Mike Farr and Jim Hilling

newspaper available was The Times, which possibly didn't attract many readers at School - certainly not me!

It is interesting to reflect on subversion. Early Quaker history, which we learned about for a whole year from Dorothy Brigham, is full of resistance to punishing authority. Ordinary, humble people who courageously and stubbornly accepted the consequences of their own refusal to conform. More recent history, that of conscientious objectors in the first world war, had given us, here at Sibford, two such heroes, though neither of them ever mentioned this. Frank Parkin had been a soldier when it came to him that killing was wrong. He could have been shot for that, as indeed many were. He spent some years in prison instead. The Headmaster of my time, Arthur Johnstone, had been in Dartmoor along with Harold Pugmire's father and uncle, as indeed was Claire Smith's father and also Wilfred Littleboy, after whom one of the dormitories is named. Harold tells me that the prison was cleared for them - "one thousand of the best brains in the country".

By the Second World War, official thinking had changed enough so that 'Bonzo' had been excused military service because he had friends in many countries whom he might meet in battle. A Quaker school was, nevertheless, a subversive unit in time of war. For some of the boys who had to face military service when they were eighteen, the dilemmas must have been agonising, every choice of conscience meaning a defiance of one authority or another.

In the state of mind that I was in when I left school, finally, at fifteen and with no certificates, I had few choices. I came to London and started working in a big shop, which I hated. London was unbelievably drab at that time, just after the war, and when the shop I worked in was shut, so was everything else. However, I found a Saturday afternoon drawing class at St. Martin's School of Art and eventually was accepted as a full-time student. In those days, art was something you could take up if you weren't academic and I remember some very fine painters who could hardly explain anything in words.

It is actually very difficult to put into words things that are expressed in colours and shapes and lines; illusions of space and form, light and shade, atmosphere and mood. One absorbs these slowly, by experience and reflection, like understanding Quakerism. It was a marvellous discovery for me - but curtailed by my parents' emigration to South Africa. I would not go.



After Meeting. Hugh Maw, Christine Weatherhead, Philip Manasseh, Guy Kingham, Nick Bennett, Daphne Maw and Paul Frampton



Janet Sewell, Irene Coxon-Smith and Jeanne Southam

There followed several struggling years, doing all sorts of things to earn a living and trying to paint. I was suddenly asked to teach two evening classes, which I accepted before I had time to panic! I found myself to be a natural teacher and particularly aware of the difficulties of people coming to study from all kinds of backgrounds and coping with many kinds of obstacles at home. When I was about nine I wanted to be a missionary. Well, I teach like a missionary, trying to open peoples' eyes.

My dark periods of frustration, despair and struggle have been enriched by many coloured threads of friendship and chance, changing the pattern. Doing A levels at forty healed a lot of my inner conviction that everyone was educated except me. Bright mirrors have reflected my inner self at moments of recognition: finding painting, teaching and religion - coming to Meeting after years of atheism - and love. The deaths and illnesses of loved ones have been compensated for by the births of my grandsons. And I've amazingly found love again, and I feel connected and secure.

THE 20TH LESLIE BAILY ADDRESS

This year's Leslie Baily Address was given by an Old Scholar Peter McCurdy, who was at Sibford between 1962-67. Peter has his own company who specialise in historic timber-framed buildings and has been responsible for the design and construction of the new Globe Theatre at Southwark in London. The address covers his fascinating and inspiring story of the reconstruction and follows in the splendid traditions of Sibford's excellent Arts and Crafts heritage.



Peter McCurdy

On leaving Sibford Peter completed his education at the local Grammar school and then trained in Architecture and Cabinet Making. These disciplines led almost naturally to his work in the analysis, repair and conservation of historic timber-framed buildings. He has been involved in that field since 1977 and set up his own specialist company McCurdy and Co. in 1979.

He has worked on a variety of historic timber buildings for museums, preservation organisations etc. both in this country and the U.S.A.

He was awarded a Churchill travel fellowship in 1983 to continue his research into

historic buildings in Canada and the U.S.A.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GLOBE THEATRE

INTRODUCTION

Leading UK timber-frame specialist Peter McCurdy has now nearly completed the fabrication and on-site erection of the basic framework for the reconstruction of Shakespeare's 'Wooden O'. The Globe Theatre, an open air, polygonal playhouse, where over a thousand people will soon be able to sit in three covered galleries, with a further 500 standing in the yard, will use timber from more than 1000 English oak trees. The 'Wooden O' measures 100ft across and 54ft to the top of the stage and would, if uncoiled, represent a building over 400ft long.

To work on the re-creation of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre represents perhaps the most challenging, exciting and at times probably the most frustrating timber-framed project on site in the UK. Peter McCurdy has worked on the detailed design,

fabrication and erection of the entire timber structure which began back in 1989. However, for US film director Sam Wanamaker, the project's original inspiration and driving force, the Globe was a personal crusade dating back a further 40 years.

Sam Wanamaker's quest began in 1949, when on a visit to London in search of the remains of Shakespeare's great theatre, he found only a plaque on a brewery wall near the banks of the River Thames marking the spot of the original Globe Playhouse. Wanamaker, a lover of Shakespeare, was amazed at the lack of a permanent monument and vowed to build an authentic reconstruction of the Globe as a fitting tribute to England's famous playwright and dramatist. He immediately set about this Herculean task, which would occupy him until his early death in 1993, trying to generate interest, secure a suitable site and to raise funds for the project.

Finally, in 1970, there were signs of progress; the Shakespeare Globe Trust was established to raise funds, with HRH Prince Philip as the Patron and Sir John Gielgud as the Honorary President. The same year the local council in Southwark offered the Trust a 0.8 acre site, at a peppercorn rent, beside the River Thames at Bankside, opposite St Paul's Cathedral. Initially the professional team was Pentagram Design as overall project architects, Buro Happold as Structural & Services Engineers and Boyden & Co as Quantity Surveyors.

The next few years represented a frustrating period, with numerous political, legal and practical problems, which meant that actual construction work didn't start on site until 1987, although during this time shreds of illustrative material and historical documentation were beginning to come to light.

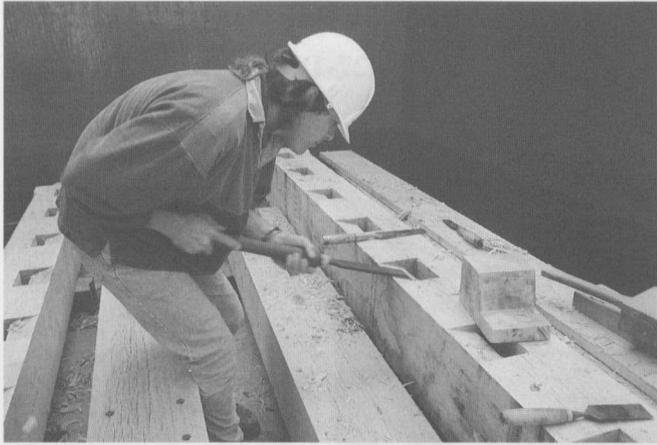
The particular challenge facing all those involved with the reconstruction of the Globe was the lack of real detailed evidence of what the theatre actually looked like or how it had been built. This is always the vital starting point for any reconstruction project and normally involves months of painstaking research in order to build up a picture of what a historic building might have looked like. This conscientious and thorough process marks the difference between a sense of integrity and informed approach to an historic reconstruction, compared with that of mere stage-set fabrication.

A further difficulty was that the original Globe Theatre, built by master carpenter Peter Street in 1599, burned to the ground within 14 years, after a spark from a cannon being used during a performance ignited the thatched roof. However, a similar but slightly more elaborate theatre was immediately rebuilt on the same foundations and this time stood until 1642 when it was closed and pulled down by the Puritans, along with other theatres of the period.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

As soon as McCurdy & Co was brought into the Globe team, to assist with their initial research Peter McCurdy began to draw on five familiar areas of information: contemporary panoramic views and maps; illustrations of other theatres of the period; documentary evidence - such as building contracts and accounts; examination of some of the stock of surviving buildings of a similar date; and the Company's specialist understanding and knowledge of the carpentry methodology which was in use in England for between 600-700 years.

Analysis of an illustration by Hollar, showing London with the second Globe from the top of Southwark Cathedral, enabled scholar John Orrel to propose the theory that the overall diameter of the theatre was 99ft. Consulting with McCurdy's own knowledge of carpenters' setting-out procedures of the day, a final dimension of 100ft was established. Secondly, by looking at illustrations of the similarly dated Swan Theatre and Norden's view showing the first Globe, some idea of the interior arrangement of three levels of galleries, and a stage with a projecting roof, began to emerge. Some of these features such



as courtyards and timber-frame galleries can still be seen in surviving coaching inns, which as a building form were forerunners of the open air playhouse.

On the archaeological front unfortunately little could be discovered, as the actual foundations of the original Globe lie beneath existing buildings. Likewise the remains of the nearby contemporary Rose Theatre are covered over by a large modern office block, the policy of the day being to leave the remains underground until such time as they may be excavated and conserved properly.

Documentary evidence was more helpful, as building contracts exist in full, giving precise instructions to the Master Builders of both the Fortune Theatre, also built by Peter Street, a year after the Globe in 1600, and also the Hope Theatre, built in 1613. These not only detail the depth of auditorium bays as 12ft 6ins from front to back and give the floor to floor heights of 12ft for the ground floor, 11ft for the first and 9ft for the second floor, but also give sizes for some of the key timbers and indicate the quality and type of materials to be used.

Peter McCurdy regarded examination of some of the stock of surviving buildings as a primary source of information, especially in the case of the Globe, bearing in mind the lack of other tangible evidence. By looking at other buildings of the same period in London, one can understand methodology, carpentry techniques and other skills in use by the City of London carpenters around this date. In addition to his extensive knowledge and records of historic timber-framed buildings Peter McCurdy visited more than 50 further buildings, making survey drawings and recording sizes of timbers and jointing arrangements, to build up an overall picture of the sort of timber details being used at the time.

In particular McCurdy's current work on the design of the tiring or stage house and stage canopy has involved trying to find similar examples of how to span the vast distance of more than 40ft, which is similar to that of Hampton Court Great Hall. Secondly, the design and construction of a polygonal building, like the Globe, presents interesting challenges in terms of the setting out of the constructional details at key connections. McCurdy travelled throughout England and even Wales to examine a whole range of polygonal buildings ranging from chapter houses and dovecotes to market crosses and guild halls, whilst a former royal hunting lodge built by Henry VIII in Epping Forest provided an exact model for the Globe Theatre stair towers.

After many months of preliminary research Peter McCurdy was able to agree the basic dimensions, design and layout of the Globe with John Greenfield, the project architect from Pentagram Design. On plan the Theatre would be 100ft in diameter giving a circumference of 300ft made up from 20 sides or bays, each three storeys high, thatched in Norfolk reed with lime plaster. In front of the tiring house the covered stage was to project into the centre of the circle, its canopy roof spanning an awesome 46ft and supported on only two round timber columns.

FABRICATION AND ERECTION OF THE FRAME

In 1992 McCurdy & Co went to select oak timber for the first two bays of the frame, some of which came from the famous Forest of Dean. As the Globe reconstruction is a long-term monument, compared with the original which was built as a speculative building for entrepreneurs, it was agreed that the timber frame should be entirely of English oak, although the possibility of using softwood for some seating and other secondary elements is still being discussed.

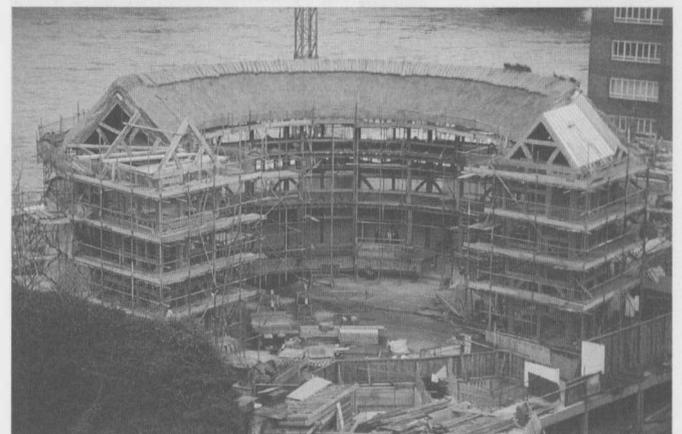
Once felled the wood was converted and delivered to McCurdy's workshops in Stanford Dingley where the first sections of the theatre were set out full size. As the availability of funding has controlled the rate of progress of the project this has meant that normally only two or four bays could be worked on at any one time, a fact which allowed the workshops to accommodate the necessary sections of the structure.

As experienced by Peter Street and his carpenters back in 1599, McCurdy & Co were working with unseasoned, green timber which was not square. Carpenters throughout time have had to evolve systems for setting out their buildings and for marking joints which take account of the fact that they are working with material which is not square, this being one of the principal differences between joinery and cabinet making. Furthermore every scribed joint is unique and identified with a carpenter's numeral as seen on historic timbers.

For practical and cost reasons most operations began by using modern tools, although virtually everything is finished by hand. The Company also has a policy of setting out and dimensioning the structure using 'rods', both in the workshop and on site, which as well as being the traditional method is also least likely to cause errors in reading measurements. This is particularly important in a circular building where any errors could accumulate into a disaster where both ends meet.

Initially, in January 1992, McCurdy & Co was asked to make the first two demonstration bays in the basement of the site. Nearly a year later, after the concrete slab had been laid, at piazza level, the scene was set for the erection of the first four bays on their permanent site. The timber was to be erected onto brick plinths, using replicas of a brick found on the site of the Rose Theatre. Once the bricks had been laid in their lime mortar Peter McCurdy began the crucial task of setting the sills on which the timber structure would be supported. As the structure is all prefabricated off-site it was vital that the sills be set absolutely level as there would be no further opportunity for correction at the erection stage.

The primary timbers of the structure were actually erected and positioned using fairly sophisticated modern technology such as tower cranes and scaffolding. This was to ensure that the building was put up as professionally and safely as possible but it hasn't compromised the final result. Peter McCurdy's historical knowledge was vital in this stage of the work as there is an implied sequence in the way that a complicated structure, such as the Globe, must be both fabricated and erected. This also dictates the way that things go together. However this ideal



sequence was complicated by the fact that the programme of work on site has also been dictated by other factors such as availability of funding and the events to mark Shakespeare's birthday. The first four bays were built in pairs, either side of what would eventually be the stage, which was not the logical sequence and has led to a few practical hiccups in terms of jointing up later bays.

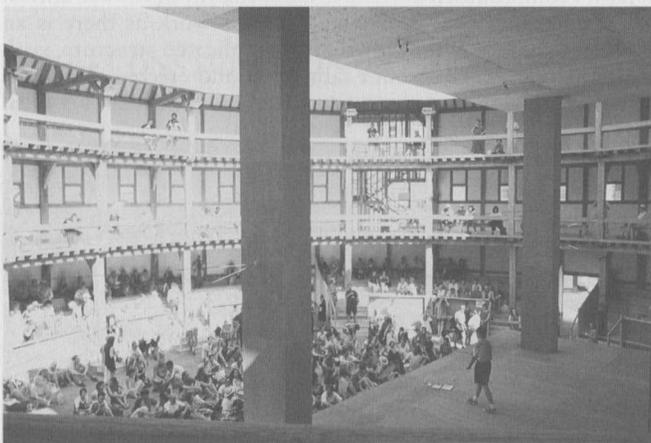
The Globe will be the first major building erected in central London, since the Great Fire of 1666, to have a thatched roof. This has quite naturally caused much debate over the necessary fire engineering and proofing measures which have had to be incorporated in the final design. This has now been resolved between Pentagram and the fire authorities, with some minor design modifications to the roof, and the bays have duly been thatched.

Plastering began in May 1994 and again this involved a significant amount of research into materials and techniques used in contemporary buildings. The final choice has been a mixture of lime, sand aggregate and either cow or goat hair, which is applied to the laths with no cement or setting agent.

Peter McCurdy's company is presently working on the Stair Towers, the Stage and Tying House and secondary items such as the floor structure and staves for the lath and plaster infill. The Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford has provided the model for the design of the raked seating and the balusters are being made on a traditional pole lathe and turned from riven oak.

Sam Wanamaker's original dream of building a faithful and authentic reconstruction of the Globe Theatre has grown into a major project called the International Shakespeare Globe Centre. This complex of inter-related buildings which spread across the one-acre site at Bankside is intended to serve the world's keen interest in the performance of Shakespeare and also to become a new tourist attraction for London. The focus will of course be the Globe Theatre itself but also planned is an Education Centre; an audio-visual Archive & Library; the Inigo Jones - an elegant indoor private theatre, built to the great architect's surviving design, which will be used for concerts, poetry readings, 17th Century plays, lectures and recitals; a small Cinema and Lecture Hall running regular film and television programmes and finally a Grand Piazza surrounded by shops, apartments and restaurants.

Sadly both Sam Wanamaker and Pentagram's architect Theo Crosby have died without seeing the results of their hard work and enthusiasm. At present the hope is that the construction programme will allow the Globe to be used for a short season of performances this year with a view to the whole reconstruction and fitting out being completed by the Summer of 1997.



PAUL CLARK EDDINGTON, CBE

1927-1995

Some Personal Glimpses — Collected by Michael Farr



Paul started as a Sibford scholar in September 1937, a year before my younger brother John and I arrived. However we were then all new as boarders, since Paul had commenced as a day scholar while staying with Joshua Lamb's family in the Ferris.

Because Paul's life and work have been well covered already, both in the media and in his autobiography (published shortly before his untimely death on 4th November 1995), it would be tedious and pointless for me to go over a wealth of detail which has been chronicled elsewhere.

Even his days at Sibford were generously narrated in his book. It is only a few personal memories of his friends and contemporaries which remain for us to gratefully recall, and some of these I have gathered together here.

Paul and I, both aged 11 and classmates, were from the outset the closest of companions ("joined at the hip" in Nineties parlance). We were of course members of a wider circle of school colleagues but we two were generally regarded as a pair - "That pair" as Arthur Johnstone used to say!

The Schoolboy Paul

Paul was noted for his sensitivity and for his artistic leanings and he was nicknamed 'Con' Eddington. This was certainly not because he was a con man, a term unknown to us in those days. He was a 'connoisseur', a person of discernment, an aesthete.

Hopefully the following little poem, composed by Paul in 1939 and miraculously preserved for us by his teacher, Barrie Naylor, demonstrates something of his innate sensitivity -

The Eagle

*The Eagle, king of Birds
Hovers high o'er the seas
Majestic beyond words
He towers above all trees.*

*He lives in lonely mountains
His reign there is supreme
He drinks from hidden fountains
He is the king, I ween.*

The appellation 'Con' was known to be used unkindly by some ill-informed enough to think that Paul was straightforwardly conceited and snobbish - but that was a million miles from the truth.

His qualities were perfectly apparent to me and to all his close associates. For one thing, Paul and I were of one mind in our abhorrence of humbug and injustice. We were quite passionate about it - as only youngsters can be at the time in their lives when they view everything in black-and-white!

Family and Home

Paul was extremely un-snobbish about his distinguished family connections. For example, his relationship to the world-famous Sir Arthur Eddington, a prominent physicist of similar stature to Stephen Hawking or Albert Einstein, was a fact acknowledged with obvious embarrassment.

Likewise his direct lineage connections with the Quaker shoe-making Clarks were played down. His paternal grandfather - born William Clark - was a renowned artist who, for professional reasons, had modified the family name to 'Clark Eddington'.

Paul's real pride of kinship appeared to be in his local family connections, primarily with the Lambs of Sibford, among them the aforementioned Joshua. By that route also (as he was always pleased to remind us) he was a kinsman of Roland Herbert, our popular handicrafts master, by way of Roland's marriage to Eva (née Lamb).

Paul made no secret of his topsy-turvy home life in London. While his father lived alone nearby in straitened circumstances, his mother's home was a luxury apartment which went with her position as manageress at the upmarket Chesil Court in Chelsea. The Farr family had originally hailed from Chelsea, which meant that John and I had a host of relations there. Our home was a short Underground ride away in Harrow and consequently we made a point of exchanging visits during school holidays.

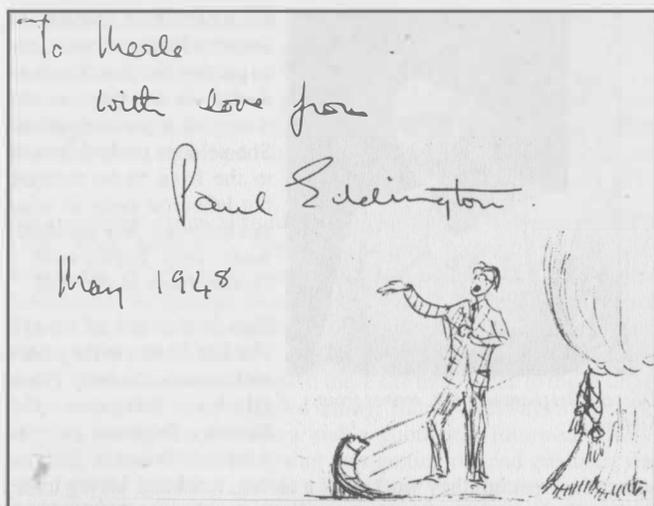
Paul's father, Albert Clark Eddington, was a gracious, gentlemanly person, although clearly one who had seen better times and who was now embarrassed by his reduced condition. He was working as a rather unsuccessful furniture salesman when we met him. Paul told us he was a compulsive gambler who had proved to be completely unable to exist within normal domestic budgeting. This harsh reality had compelled his mother to separate from him.

According to Paul and his sister Shirley, the parents when they occasionally met were still mutually attracted and in love, but their hard-headed and ever realistic mother knew that, for the sake of family stability, there could be no turning back.

Scholarship, Tastes and Talents

As I recall, Paul displayed no particular scholastic talents at Sibford. He and I - although in so many ways dissimilar - were very alike in that one respect: laid-back and under-motivated!

Nevertheless we both took a keen interest in the cartoonists who contributed to "Punch", the sadly defunct humorous weekly (although recently revived) which was placed in the Library and bound annually - forming a fascinating collection spanning the decades. I was an admirer mainly of the illustrators' tastes in humour while Paul was a close student of their artistic styles. He was able with considerable ease to produce cartoons which might have originated from the pens of Pont, Sillince, Langdon, Reynolds, Fougasse or Anton.



Copy of Paul's signature and self-portrait, from Merle Jarrett's (née Beech) autograph book which was one of her first entries in 1948, whilst she was still at Sibford.

Such talents were surely inherited with the Clark Eddington genes, although the source of his equally sharp mimicking ability (shades of the actor to come) was not so apparent. Maybe that was a gift from his Irish mother's side: from 'The Land of Poetry and Song'.

In his autobiography Paul revealed how he was sometimes a target for bullying at School, either physically from older thuggish boys or verbally from a level of authority which ought to have known better. I can testify to incidents of both varieties, which obviously left their mark on the sensitive lad, but there is nothing to be gained from dwelling on them here.

Village Friendships

However, in his book Paul also made kind mention of the family of Joe and Min Canning, whose B&B accommodation at The Old Malt House in the Ferris was patronised between the 1930's and 1960's by generations of parents and old scholars. Joe, a small-scale dairyman, was at the same time a talented tenor singer, the village barber (later being the contract barber for Sibford boys) and the local farrier. With a twinkle in his eye, he demonstrated to us how he **always** disinfected the clippers with lighted meths before applying them to a human neck!

More recent Sibfordians will doubtless remember their children, Mick and Josie Canning, who operated a taxi service for many years.

Joe was an easy-going countryman, free from any guile or class-consciousness, who was ever-helpful to our generation of lads, *inter alia* with aiding and abetting our minor misdemeanours! I believe that Joe and his always generous Min had a greater influence on Paul's maturing process than his book reveals - more perhaps than he himself appreciated. At a time when his family life was becoming increasingly chaotic, and the instances of mental torture within the School were affecting him, he could depend on the Cannings' welcoming home as a haven of sanity.

Joe used to counsel that "rules are there for the guidance of wise men and for the adherence of fools" and when - in our final year - we two were appointed to the Prefect Team, he said it was thanks not to our exemplary conduct but rather to "years of undetected crime". Joe was more than half-right, as instanced below!

Paul himself recalled one incident from our schooldays which he took wicked delight in recounting to my wife Eileen. It was at the time of his last SOSA visit, when he accompanied us on a day trip to the 1984 Reunion. Upon looking in at the swimming pool, he told Eileen how it reminded him of a Saturday in the summer of 1942, when he and I had been helping with the Dyers' haymaking. The Dyers were Min Canning's family and, with wartime labour shortage, a little brawny help was always welcome.

In keeping with tradition the host farmer nourished his helpers with 'doorstep' slices of bread and cheese, plus copious draughts from a barrel of potent 'scrumpy', collected by pony-trap from the Brailes cider press.

We had taken our towels with us because we were due to participate that afternoon in the boys' swimming sports. Naturally we had delayed our departure for the pool until the last moment, so that eventually we had to jog-trot back. I confess to having no clear recollection from that point on, but Paul said he remembered us quickly stripping off (the boys swam "in the buff" in our day) and then a few minutes later catching sight of me, stretched out full-length on the springboard, semi-comatose and distinctly green-around-the-gills. Paul remarked "It was not a pretty sight", quite needlessly - because Eileen had worked that out for herself.

Apparently a diplomatic master directed Paul and other boys to get me dressed and they propelled me back to the dormitory - and there I was left to sleep it off! [Looking back, I suspect said master was aware then, close to term-end, that Arthur Johnstone was about to announce my appointment as next Head Boy, with Paul as a member of my Prefect Team. Hardly the appropriate moment to get us carpeted. As Joe Canning said: "Years of undetected crime".]

Now, after more than half a century, there are few ex-staff surviving to add contributions here. However, Grace Allan was one of two junior teachers at Sibford during our last year. She and her colleague, the late Jean Morley, were for a while Canning guests and they were sometimes privy to our escapades (of the kind recounted here and also in Paul's book). Grace writes with some delicacy: "You and Paul Eddington are quite lively characters in my memories!"

For the remainder of their lives both Paul and I made a point of keeping in touch with the Cannings, sometimes lodging with them but invariably visiting while in the neighbourhood.

The Budding Actor

Hedley Quinton, at Sibford shortly after us, recalls a typical evening

get-together at the Cannings' home - during a Reunion weekend - when Joe sang 'All the Days of the Kerry Dancing' and Paul (the young repertory actor) recited 'The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God'.

David Haines reminds me of something which I had forgotten: I actually appeared on the same stage as Paul Eddington! It was in one of the famous Gladys Burgess productions, "Pride and Prejudice", when Paul skilfully interpreted the role of Mr Bennet while I fumbled with that of the Rev. Collins.

Philip Manasseh, another of Paul's younger contemporaries, remembers him just as so many of us did: "A person with no guile. A great resilient character with dignity and charm." The admiring Pip, who had also seen Paul's early acting in School plays, later followed his stage career in Birmingham. One of his memorable appearances was in "1066 And All That" in 1947.

Brother John recalls Paul's stay at our home during a post-war Christmas. An especially hilarious incident then was remembered by our Harrow circle of friends for years afterwards.

Ever the 'ham', Paul had undertaken the dramatic rendition - at Peter Williams' party - of a piece of doggerel. It was entitled 'Piddling Pete' (the details of which John prefers to forget) and Paul had his audience in stitches! Paul always had the happy knack of blending-in and generating goodwill wherever he moved in this world.

Lapsing and Reviving of Friendship

Although Paul and I remained closely in touch into our early twenties - i.e. for a few years after the War - particularly while we were both working in Birmingham (Paul at the Birmingham Rep and me at Fort Dunlop preparing for my Far Eastern posting), we foolishly allowed things to drift in the 1950's when we became preoccupied with marriage and with raising our families.

I continued to work abroad for most of the two following decades and my next meeting with Paul was when I dropped in backstage at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus. We were then in our mid-forties.

Happily, from that evening (when we promptly went out for a wonderful reunion supper) we remained in fairly regular contact. I was working on and off in London and, when our diaries permitted, we took time out for leisurely lunches.

Health Problems

I recall with a pang now that it was on an occasion in - I think - 1988, when I dropped by for a chat at the Queen's Theatre, while Paul was changing for a Wednesday matinee of "Forty Years On", that he casually showed me some blotches on his torso. He said they were painless and, while they remained out of sight, he didn't propose to worry too much about them. Thus far the doctors had not precisely diagnosed his condition. Little did any of us know that the writing was then on the wall.

He was already enduring physical disabilities with remarkably little complaint (these included diabetes and ankylosing spondylitis - an extremely painful inflammation of the joints) and it was natural enough that Paul should try to ignore a condition which seemed so trivial. My brother John remembers spotting Paul hobbling painfully along the pavement in his home town of Chichester, while he was appearing there in the mid eighties. Paul - ever the pro - straightened up as soon as John accosted him, but he acknowledged the constant misery of his condition, which he was obliged to conceal in his professional life.

One of his favourite conversation pieces was to extol the virtues of Doctor Greasepaint. He meant that surge of adrenalin which enables an actor to rise above his aches and pains when 'the show must go on'.

An Ideal Marriage

Although Paul's book repeatedly refers to the debt which he owed to Tricia, his wonderful wife, it would be remiss of me not to touch upon that aspect also. She was truly one-in-a-million and, without her constant support and encouragement, Paul would never have

risen to the heights of stardom. It required so much dedication and sheer hard slog and - knowing Paul's temperament as well as I did - I am certain he would not have made it without Tricia gently goading him on.

Uncomplicated Relationship

Despite enjoying our rekindled friendship, we were neither of us seriously involved in the other's working life. We occasionally shared our day-to-day concerns, and I suspect that Paul, in his goldfish-bowl world, was sometimes pleased to have the ear and counsel of a genuinely disinterested listener. Certainly on my part I drew great strength from the revival of a relationship which demanded nothing more than mutual affection, candour and loyalty.

Maintaining contact after my retirement was less easy, although we continued to keep in touch via phone calls and correspondence.

Thanks to my nomadic lifestyle, I have usually had problems with cultivating long-term friendships. Looking back now, from the standpoint of my seventieth year, I recognise that my two closest and most valued confidants have been my brother John and Paul Eddington. My experience has been well described by the also much travelled Henry Adams, who said: "One friendship in a lifetime is much; two are many; three are hardly possible."

Paul on the other hand seemed to have won not merely the respect and admiration of his professional colleagues but the genuine friendship of a great number of them. Among the many mourners attending his funeral were famous figures both from the world of entertainment and from public life generally.

I give thanks for Paul Eddington's life and, like so many others, for having been a part of it.

'So Far, So Good', Autobiography by Paul Eddington. Hodder & Stoughton. Hardback £17.99 Paperback £6.99 (Audio version Hodder Headline Plc 338 Euston Rd. London NW1 3BH)

DOROTHY BRIGHAM 1906 – 1995

A tribute by Ann Taylor (née Scaife) 1945-50



Dorothy Brigham in 1958, retires from Sibford

To write about the life of Dorothy Brigham, and to try to portray her true worth to society is not easy, as she was such a private person. She seldom pushed herself to the front to be noticed, but laboured away in what she believed. Her standards were very high, with a Quaker basis to them all.

This is the end of an era. The Big Three, as they were nicknamed, Dorothy Prior, Gladys Burgess and Dorothy Brigham gave to Sibford Friends School

something special; they worked as a caring, teaching, loving team, finding the best of worth in their pupils during the years 1928-1963. Gladys Burgess oversaw the team and worked from 1933-1963. Dorothy Prior with her electric sense of humour, love of music and life, came in 1931 from Lisburn School, Antrim and retired in 1958. Dorothy Brigham came from Westfield College to teach History and Scripture in 1928 and retired with Dorothy Prior in 1958.

Dorothy Brigham was born in Darlington, the third daughter of John Cresswell Brigham and Eleanor his wife, (née Lingford.) The family home was a Georgian house surrounded by warehouses of books, as her father was an antiquarian book seller. Dorothy attended Polam Hall School in Darlington together with her four sisters and brother. Polam Hall at this time was run by Miss Baines and she influenced Dorothy throughout her life. After Polam she went to the Mount School, York, leaving after becoming Head Girl for her final year 1924-25. When she went for an interview to Westfield College, London, with her father, she tells us of the wonderful journey home



The staff, early 1930s.

Back row l to r: Alan Whiteside, Gladys Burgess, Miss Sykes, Jessie Johnstone, Dorothy Prior, Arthur Johnstone, Beth Knight, Barrie Naylor, Reg Westcott and Roland Herbert. Front row l to r: Margaret Jones, Frank Parkin and Dorothy Brigham.

by cargo boat from London to Newcastle via the Tyne. The joy of sailing up the Tyne lived on with her.

At a young age she had the responsibility of winding up her father's vast antiquarian book business as he died at 57 years of age. Railway trucks of books were shipped to Sothebys of London and Kerrs of Kendal, and rarer volumes to museums.

Dorothy was also an early car driver, firstly a little Austin 7 and later a Morris 8. The drive from York to Sibford in the 1930's was no mean task (before the Motorways). I remember winding my way from York, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and on to Banbury and taking a whole day over this mammoth journey.

At Sibford, Dorothy taught history and scripture for 30 years. She made history live as many old scholars confirm when speaking to them. She arranged many external visits to historical places of interest and followed them up with theoretical work in classes; the Rollright Stones, Sulgrave Manor, Broughton and Warwick castles. Dorothy also organised visits to Junior Yearly Meeting for her pupils.

On retirement from Sibford, Dorothy Brigham moved to Kendal Girls High School to continue teaching history and religious education. A few years earlier she had purchased a lovely pink Lakeland stone cottage overlooking the Lyth Valley, named Heron Syke. She was never happier than when she was exploring the many lanes, mountain passes and estuary views, historical buildings and many Quaker haunts of the past; these she introduced to the younger generation of her large extended family. There was always a welcome, the fire lit, chairs drawn up and a good chat followed, always seeking to know how the visitor was getting on, and guidance was often given. Dorothy entered into village life and had many dear friends. They always helped each other in the village, particularly as the steep hill out of Brigsteer to Kendal was always a problem in the winter.

Kendal Meeting was a happy, busy Meeting to attend and Dorothy took an active role.

In 1984 Dorothy gave up her cottage and moved to Gatesfield Quaker Sheltered Housing in Windermere. This lovely home had been given by Stanley and Emily Davies to the General Meeting. Stanley and Emily Davies had left a wonderful mature garden planted in the 1920s with some rare bushes and the house contained many examples of their wood carving as they were craftsmen of repute. Even the garden gate has a little frog on top. During Dorothy's days at Gatesfield, Windermere Meeting for Worship was established in Gatesfield dining room. This is still an active and thriving Meeting today.

When illness caught up with Dorothy she moved to Lamel Beeches full care home in York, another lovely Quaker home, but this did not last as long as she had hoped. She moved to a Nursing Home at Newcastle on Tyne to be near her relatives. Here she felt contented and fairly happy along with many retired teachers who also needed extra care. She supported the Pagets Disease Society and always hoped that with research they would find a cure for this disabling disease.

Many of our readers would only know Dorothy as a teacher. She had a sincere Quaker presence which poured out to those who were privileged to come close to her. Her historical knowledge was always accurate and meaningful. I personally have lost a true friend and aunt.

We list below details of other Old Scholars and friends who have passed on since the last magazine:

WINIFRED FARRANT (née Bowers) was one of SOSA's oldest members. We received news of her death in December 1995. She was a Life-member of the Association and was at Sibford between 1915-1918.

CHRISTINE FLINN, who was at Sibford between 1948-52, died on 3rd July 1996 aged 59. Christine taught in the Bahamas for a while and then ran a bookshop in Key West, Florida. The Flinn family were known to many Sibfordians when they lived for many years at Home Close next to the Ark.

MAUREEN GRAHAM died peacefully on 15th June 1996. Maureen, who was the beloved wife of Sibford's former Head, Jim Graham, faced her long and distressing illness with great courage, clarity and determination. Her attitude transformed her illness into a healing gift, using it to grow in her spirit and in doing so bringing joy and inspiration, amongst all the sadness, to those around her.

We received news in August of the death of RICHARD HARRIS who died in December 1995. Richard was at Sibford between 1930-34 and was a Life-member of SOSA.

MAY HOCKLEY (née Harrod) died on 22nd May 1996 aged 83. She was a Life-member of SOSA and was a part of one of Sibford's great dynasties being one of James and Mabel Harrod's surviving daughters. Her own children Elizabeth Cordiner, Ruth Byrne and David Hockley were all old scholars as is her granddaughter Naomi Cordiner. She was also the aunt of Chris and Pat Grimes.

JEAN MORLEY, who was a much respected teacher at Sibford between 1942-45, died in January 1996. Jean was a Life-member of SOSA.

NICHOLAS PHILLIPS, who was at Sibford between 1953-58, died on 13th July 1996 aged 53. Nick was one of six brothers who all attended Sibford during the fifties and sixties and who came from Buckingham.

ELSIE RANDALL (née Wells) who died on 12th March 1996, and was at Sibford between 1913-17 and was a member of another of Sibford's well known dynasties - the Wells family. Her brothers were Gordon and Billy and her sister was Marjorie. She was the widow of another SOSA legend and former President, Harry Randall CBE.

THE SOSA COMMITTEE — PAST AND PRESENT

A contribution from Michael Finch

With the election of Ashley Shirlin as SOSA's eighteenth General Secretary, on the retirement of Mike Farr, it seems an appropriate time to review and reflect on the make-up of the Committee both past and present and to remember with gratitude those who have served and are serving the Association so admirably.

Whilst delivering his final report as General Secretary at last August's AGM, Mike Farr paid tribute to the Committee for "Their dedication and time generously and freely given." Many more would add to that a considerable "thank-you" to Mike, for his enthusiastic, caring and painstaking time as Secretary during a difficult period for the Association.

At the 1951 Annual General Meeting, Edward P. Kaye, SOSA's first Secretary, suggested that there ought to be an Honours board for General Secretaries for they shouldered the main burden of executive responsibility for the Association and, although his suggestion has never been implemented, a list has appeared in the Magazine from time to time to honour their contribution.

1903-1912	Edward P. Kaye
1912-1918	Nellie Millard
1919-1925	Henry J. Randall
1925-1932	Frederick E. Goudge
1932-1934	Reginald W. Barber
1934-1938	Howard Quinton
1938-1944	James C. Baily
1944-1946	James C. Baily and Irene Coxon - jointly
1946-1948	Irene Coxon & E. Jeanne Cottrell (now Southam) - jointly
1948-1950	E. Jeanne Cottrell
1950-1959	John N. Coxon
1959-1965	Lilian D. Ward
1966-1968	Alfred J. Holland
1969-1977	Michael R. Finch
1978-1981	Philip G. Manasseh
1982-1987	Paul Frampton
1987-1993	T. Ian Weatherhead
1993-1996	Michael D.T. Farr
1996-	Ashley J. Shirlin

The other main executive officer on whom heavy responsibility falls is the Treasurer and we find from the records that fifteen members have served in that capacity and they are; Nellie Millard, Harry Randall, Fred Goudge, Percy Whitlock, Percy Hodgetts, Lionel Geering, John Coxon, Alfred Holland, John Taylor, Martyn Edwards, Arthur Harrison, John Miller, Colin Cox, Paul Frampton and Michael Finch.

Magazine Editors over the years total eighteen and they are; Elizabeth Foster-Brown, Leslie Baily, Leslie Thomas, Leslie Cross, Stephen Wall, Brian Wright, Mavis Stiles and Beryl Wright jointly, Loraine Brown, Michael Van Blankenstein, Lister Mathews, Philip Manasseh, Philip Beckerlegge, Mike Spring, Dominic Griffiths, Michael Finch, Caroline Bond and now Mike Farr.

Louis Wright became the first Membership Secretary in 1945 and he served in that capacity in two spells for a total of twenty-three years! Others who have held this office are, John Coxon, Irene Coxon, Monica Taylor, Gordon Wells, Grace Beckerlegge, Michael Finch, Ashley Shirlin and now Cindy Poulton.

The office of Reunion Secretary was created in 1963. How we ever managed without one before defies description and the members who have held that office are; Malcolm Rudlin, John Canham, Michael Finch, Ian Wright, Kate Long, Nicholas Bennett, Russell Steed, Simon Barfoot, Nick Briggs and Julie Greenhill, now into a record seventh year.

As early as 1912, the Owing Meetings of the School recognised the

growing importance of the Association by appointing a SOSA representative to the School Committee. A second representative was added in 1948. This brought a great new vision to the School Committee, not only from an historical and personal insight of the School but also from fresh new talents who, although in sympathy with the Society of Friends, were not necessarily members of the Society.

Charles E. Brady OBE, one of SOSA's most distinguished members, who chaired the Annual General Meeting for many years, became the first SOSA representative on the School Committee and others who have undertaken this vitally important role have been: Harry Randall CBE, Lionel Geering, Percy Whitlock, Leslie Baily, Henry Lawrence, Miriam Carter, John Coxon, Vera Rollett, Louis Wright, Lilian Ward JP, Michael Finch, Leslie Thomas, Jeanne Southam, Paul Frampton, Arthur Harrison JP, Nicholas Bennett and Russell Steed.

A formidable list of talent to follow, but the new Committee will no doubt serve as diligently and devotedly as their predecessors.

THE PRESENT COMMITTEE

It will be of interest to members, especially those who cannot attend Reunions, to have an insight into the composition of the Committee and to put names to faces with a series of profiles.

J. Philip Morris – President

Philip is SOSA's current President and you can read his profile on page 42.

Julie Greenhill – Vice President/Reunion Secretary

Julie is another of those dedicated SOSA members who has managed to combine two offices at the same time!

It is also worth mentioning that her partnership with Mike Herm (whose profile is given later in this article) began when they were both still at Sibford - another of those famous Sibford dynasties!

On leaving school in 1983, which came as a shock to my system, I did not know what to do as a career or more importantly how to earn any money. For a short time, I worked in a betting shop to keep myself going and to think seriously about what type of career I would like to do. Eventually, I found work in the travel industry at a tour operators selling holidays to London! I stayed at that company for six years, where I was very happy, before I was made redundant with 40 colleagues. That incident actually did me a great favour, as I am now a successful Manager and have worked for a further three companies. I enjoy what I do and have made many friends in the industry.

I have been on the Committee for 10 years, but in reality have been involved with SOSA since I was at school.

Ashley Shirlin – General Secretary

I was born in Stockton-on-Tees in 1958 where I remained for three months. Over the next 7/8 years my family lived in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Uganda, Birmingham..... My mother and I then settled in Banbury where I lived until boarding at Sibford from 1969-74. I took my A levels in Banbury and then went to university in York to read Economics & Econometrics. Upon graduation in 1979 I moved to Essex where I worked in Information Technology. For the last 6 years I have worked in the City, still in IT, for a Japanese - and currently a Swiss - insurance company. I met my wife Carol when I first moved to Essex. We married in 1981 and have two children - James (7) and Maria (5). I am an ardent Leeds United fan and additionally attend as many international Soccer, Rugby and Cricket matches as possible. Unfortunately, my own sporting participation has been somewhat curtailed since shattering my elbow playing football in Belgium in 1990. (You should have seen the other player!)

Michael Finch – Treasurer

[Mike barely needs any introduction, having served SOSA for thirty-seven years, he has uniquely held every office in the Association, as

well as being a senior member of the School staff between 1982-95. His contribution to Sibford must surely be described as awesome, Ed.)

I was a pre-war baby having been born in Birmingham in 1938, and as my so-called friends tell me, I heralded the Munich crisis! I was born into a Quaker family and so became a birthright member of the Society, although thankfully, the Society no longer makes distinction between members.

I went to Sibford as a pupil between 1949-54 and was not a very able scholar, being far more interested in sport and girls! When I left Sibford to go and seek my fortune, I started with a firm of architects in Birmingham to pursue what I thought would be a good career but changed my mind after a short time and took up an apprenticeship as a Draughtsman with GEC.

I stayed in Design Engineering, apart from a brief sojourn as an Education Welfare Officer, for the best part of thirty-years, until I went to work at Sibford in 1982.

My main interests include being Grandad to three lovely grandchildren; sport, especially my lifelong fascination with Aston Villa; Drama, I was heavily involved with a number of drama groups for many years mainly in an acting role; the environment, and of course, looking after the lovely Wendy!

I am now looking forward, hopefully, to an early retirement so that I can pursue many other interests that I haven't had time for up to now.

Cindy Poulton – Membership Secretary

I attended Sibford, as a day pupil, between 1970 & 1977 following in the footsteps of my father, uncles, cousins and sister. This was not my first encounter with Sibford. I was 12 days old when I made an appearance at the SOSA gathering the year my father, Lewis Poulton, was President. During my final year at School I held the position of Deputy Head Girl.

On leaving school I worked as an Assistant Matron of a Boys Preparatory School in Northamptonshire. In 1979 I commenced Nurse Training in Northampton and spent ten years there, becoming a Ward Sister after eighteen months - a fairly rapid progression - hence I was following in my mother's footsteps.

In 1990 I returned to Oxfordshire to work at the Horton General Hospital - like many others today I found myself redundant in 1993 and that led to my move to North Wales to develop a unique post of Senior Nurse Specialist in Urological Cancers.

I have now come full circle in relation to SOSA - I was a Committee member in my first three years as an old scholar. My friends are now spread far and wide and my family have moved to Devon, so most week-ends are spent in my car travelling up and down our motorway network. My summer months are spent with many friends coming to stay in Wales for their holidays and at week-ends I am often at Silverstone Motor-racing Circuit, watching the racing and working.

Michael Farr – Magazine Editor

I was born and raised in Harrow. At Sibford from 1938 to 1943. An indifferent scholar but sometime Nansen House Captain, Soccer Vice-Captain and 'Phantom Head Boy' (a few contemporaries remember that I actually shared the year of 1942/43 with Geoffrey Winter).

My brother John and two nephews, David and Chris Farr, were also Sibford scholars.

My working life has been distinctly varied. Wartime and early post-war: Fleet Air Arm aircrew, followed by brief involvement with family building business. From age 20 to 32: worked overseas in Rubber Factory Management - first with Dunlop in Malaya (now Malaysia) later with the West Nigerian Development Corporation. Also a part-time Police Inspector with the Malayan Specials - during some particularly hair-raising times.

Switched to pharmaceutical marketing in my early thirties. Employed by British, American and German drug houses both at home and overseas.

In 1963 - in my late thirties - I entered the newly emerging computer industry (commencing as a trainee Systems Analyst with IBM). Thereafter engaged in a variety of consultancy assignments; principally financial in the City of London, but also abroad. Retired in 1991, after 12 years as a Micrographics Specialist with NCR Ltd. That was my longest period with a single employer - following the best traditions of "ye menne of Sheep-ford"!

Twice married. Three daughters, a step-daughter, a step-son and an ever growing army of grandchildren (one grand-daughter and seven grandsons at the last count.)

Hobbies and interests include travel, D.I.Y., photography, cryptic crosswords, civic affairs and reading. I was once a better-than-average badminton player (even playing at international level whilst overseas), but I gave that up a few years ago at the insistence of my creaking bones.

I live with my wife Eileen in Hythe, Kent. Our home is nearby to the Channel Tunnel, which we have been privileged to use several times - even before its official opening - thanks mainly to family connections.

After my last position as General Secretary, I am looking forward now to an absorbing - and hopefully a rather less hectic - spell as SOSA's Editor.

Nicholas Bennett – School Committee Representative

When I left Sibford in 1957, not being very academic, I looked at the various options, ruled out anything where I was going to be stuck indoors and eventually settled on horticulture.

After a spell with a local nursery and three years as an apprentice with a local authority I went to college full-time for a year near St. Albans. After that I had two very important years as a student gardener at Cambridge University Botanic Garden and from there I did another full-time year at college before beginning permanent work with London University at Wye College in Kent.

After a while I moved to Nottingham University and so to my present position as Gardens Officer with the Leicestershire Museums Service.

Sibford continued to be an important part of my life however, with a father who had been at both Sibford and Saffron Walden and an elder brother who was at Walden, I was already well into SOSA Reunions. In consequence I was soon persuaded to join the SOSA Committee and I seem to remember a certain Mike Finch was on at about the same time - I wonder what happened to him?(!)

I eventually became Reunion Secretary and later President and in 1989 I became one of SOSA's Representatives on the School Committee.

SOSA has been represented on the School Committee since 1912 and I feel privileged to be able to help in some small way in the management of the School.

Russell Steed – School Committee Representative

When I was asked if I would write a few sentences about myself as a Committee member, I looked up my Presidential profile and decided to make a fresh start.

I had six happy if uneventful years at Sibford. Having two attempts at O levels set me on the path to A levels and an engineering career. I worked for nearly thirty years in power stations before taking economic advantage of the downsizing of the industry. I am now an Engineer Surveyor inspecting electrical installations and equipment, and lifts.

I have kept in touch with Sibford since leaving and have been to most Reunions. I did a spell as Reunion Secretary. I am now on the School Committee at an interesting time of considerable activity. Little did I realise what I was letting myself in for.

Janet and I got married last year and turned both our quiet well ordered single lives into considerable turmoil. We came together through belonging to the same Friends' Meeting and enjoying walking.

Hugo Finley – Assistant Reunion Secretary

Since departing Sibford, where I spent seven years, I have been living in Chichester, a cathedral city in Sussex. I acquired the post of Assistant Reunion Secretary to SOSA in 1996 after being Committee member for a year. Hopefully I will go on to be Reunion Secretary at some later date. I still keep in contact with most of the friends I made at Sibford and meet up at the annual Reunions held at Sibford.

Educationally I have been doing an Advanced GNVQ in Business Studies at Chichester College, and picking up extra qualifications in Information Technology, for example RSA qualifications. I am hoping to go on to do a BA Honours degree in Business and Computing at a University in September 1997.

Margaret Fairninton (née Kissack) – Retiring President

I was one of the war-time generation at Sibford; the one that seems to produce more returnees to SOSA than other groups.

I left Sibford early, at fourteen, and went to the local grammar school for girls only - for one year. This experience produced interesting comparisons with Sibford, which came out best!

I gave up school and came to London. For a few years I did a variety of things including getting myself into art school. I wasn't there very long because my family emigrated to South Africa, but I'd learnt enough to move into film animation and eventually into teaching drawing and painting to adults in evening classes. 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.

One part of Sibford's education that seems to have sunk in is the religious aspect. I was a birthright Friend but drifted away in my teens. When my husband Andrew 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 as is the gentle friendship of SOSA.

Pat Grimes (née Baker) – London Branch Joint Secretary

I was at Sibford from 1946-49 following in the steps of my mother and my father's sister. I completed my schooling at home in King's Lynn and then went on to Teacher Training College in Leicester.

On qualifying I spent 5 years class teaching in a junior school there before going to Lebanon to teach for two years at the National College of Choueifat. Here I taught English as a foreign language to 5-9 year olds. This was such hard work I gave up teaching for a while, took a crash course in shorthand/typing and worked for 4 years as secretary to a farmer on the royal estate at Sandringham.

Chris and I met at the OS Reunion in 1970 and married the following year. I gave up teaching again to raise the family and then returned part time to teach English as a second language to Bangladeshi and other ethnic minority children in St. Albans. I finally retired last summer and am now thoroughly enjoying BEING and not DOING!

....and the other half!.....

Chris Grimes – London Branch Joint Secretary

I was at Sibford from 1951-56 following in the steps of my mother, Gulie, the daughter of James & Mabel Harrod, legendary Heads of the School. Both my parents were teachers and I was determined I was not going to follow them, knowing all the heartache that went into it. I had enjoyed Technical Drawing while at Sibford, so thought this was something that I would like to do for a living. This led to my becoming an engineering draughtsman, which route I followed until redundancy in 1991. I am now involved with our local Oxfam shop, and otherwise enjoy BEING, with Pat.

Hilary Haddleton (née Thornton) – Midlands Branch Secretary

At Sibford 1947-1950. Trained as a nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford 1953-57 and then went to London to train as a midwife in Woolwich and Deptford.

Following this, I worked as a nurse in Bermuda for a year and then Canada for 16 months.

I returned to England and, after a short spell at the maternity department of the Churchill Hospital, I took a post as Nurse/Midwife for Dorchester-on-Thames area.

In 1966 John and I were married. We lived for a short time in Wolverhampton, where our son James was born, moving to Solihull in March 1968 where we have been ever since. Louise and Emma were born here. I started back to work, on occasional night duty when Emma was 10 and then onto the Nurse/Midwifery Bank for some years.

Now I am a Pensioner and we are looking forward to our first wedding next July, when our son marries Claire.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Adrian Douglas

Hello! I'm Adrian Douglas and I left Sibford in 1993, after completing five years there. I am also the grandson of John Miller, who was Bursar for twenty-five years before his retirement in 1990.

After leaving Sibford I completed my A levels at Bootham. This is another Quaker school with similar values and ethos to Sibford, which is something I believe in very strongly.

After achieving good grades I took a year out to work in Sainsbury's Supermarket in Banbury. This has given me many additional skills for life - understanding, patience, and mostly a realisation as to what life is like in the outside world!

This Autumn I started a four-year chemistry degree at University College London, which will hopefully lead me into the field of secondary teaching.

Being elected to the SOSA Committee means a great deal to me and was one of my ambitions when I left Sibford. I feel privileged, at such an early age, to be given this opportunity and I hope to serve to the best of my ability.

My years at Sibford were very happy ones and they gave me so much that has been essential to my life after school. The continuation of SOSA is important to me, for I believe it to be the building blocks of the School.

Tim Gebbett

Having left Sibford in the summer of 1977 and completed my A levels at Itchen college in Southampton, I started a career in electronics at the RAE Farnborough. Seven years later, and having made numerous changes in career direction, I left, and joined Times Newspaper in London. I worked on various titles for four years. Becoming disillusioned with the newspaper industry, I left and joined Plessey in Basingstoke, again as an engineer. Seven years on, I now manage the Internal Voice and Data Communications for Global-One, which is a joint venture between US Sprint (which bought Plessey), France Telecom and Deutsche Telecom. I am married to Lecky, live near Winchester, with Thomas, who is four, and Isabella who is nearly one, oh, and not forgetting Biscuit (the dog) who is seven. With Ashley Shirlin, I have located over 300 old scholars who have been invited to the 'School Ties' Reunions over the last five years, in Brighton, London and most recently Sibford.

Michael Grimes

I left Sibford in 1991 with a strong desire not to work in an office, so two months later I was doing just that. I spent a year working as a volunteer assistant administrator for The Leavers, the Quaker youth arts project, and a further three months as a paid one.

I then enjoyed a brief flirtation with the dole office, followed by a stint trying to persuade people that they needed double glazing, even though they didn't, and besides they could surely do with an electric up-and-over garage door. When this became too much (three times a week for a month) I would sneak into London to be assistant administrator for the Puppet Centre Trust.

Now two years out of school, I left the South and headed to Manchester for a year, where I did a community arts course - no useful recognised qualification but, of course, invaluable experience.

When I finished that I spent the next year pottering about Milton Keynes, co-running shadow-puppet workshops in primary schools and theatres, and helping lug large scale puppet shows around the south of England - this, bizarrely enough, included setting up an enormous firework display on the Swansea rugby pitch.



Philip Morris



Julie Greenhill



Ashley Shirlin



Mike Finch



Cindy Poulton



Mike Farr



*Nick Bennett and Russell Steed —
School Committee Representatives*



Hugo Finley



Margaret Fairmington



Chris Grimes



Pat Grimes



Hilary Haddleton



Adrian Douglas



Tim Gebbett



Michael Grimes



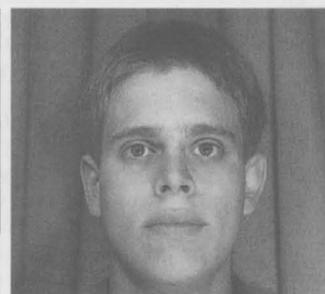
Nicola Grimes



Guy Kingham



Michael Herm



Paul Levy



Ellen Salway



James Thompson



Ian Weatherhead

And now I'm back in an office, assistant administrating. This time it's for The Citizenship Foundation, an independent educational charity devoted to helping young people acquire the skills, knowledge and will it takes to successfully participate in society. This job includes desk-top publishing, ideal for lazy people who hate physical exercise - suits me fine.

Nicola Grimes

I wasn't a pupil at Sibford but feel more a part of it than the school I attended! SOSA has been part of my life since I can remember with both my parents and later my brother being Sibford pupils.

Since leaving school I have gained a Degree in Criminal Justice and spent a year as a volunteer carer first in Reading then in London. I am currently contemplating my next move whilst living in Sheffield.

Michael Herm

After leaving Sibford School in 1983, I had no idea what sort of career to pursue. I initially wanted to work in the travel industry but I was told that I was too young and to return when I was 21. By some strange means I found work in a retail bookshop and actually remained with the same employer for ten years selling educational and recreational books to the public as well as schools, companies, hospitals etc. I now work for a small independent car hire company in south London which I enjoy immensely and have learnt a great deal about cars and their mechanics.

My main interest is sport, football in particular. I am a fan of Charlton Athletic and still play Sunday League Football.

I have been on the SOSA Committee for three years, but have been involved with old scholars for ten years.

Guy Kingham

I left Sibford without any career aspirations. Sport was always at the forefront of my life and jobs in Sports Centres and as a lifeguard came and went. I ended up working briefly at Sibford as a Sports Coach. Next stop was Sidcot, another Quaker School, where I stayed for four years acting as sports coach, housemaster, sweet-shop manager and organiser of numerous school trips.

I eventually took the plunge into further education and obtained a 2:1 honour degree in teaching at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education.

As most people do, I had a wonderful time at college and made many friends. I am presently teaching in a co-educational comprehensive school in Eastbourne. It is slightly larger than Sibford, with a roll of over 1,000, but it is still a very enjoyable challenge.

Paul Jon Levy

My name is Paul Jon Levy. I left Sibford in 1993. After I left Sibford I continued my education at another Quaker school, Bootham in York. There I did A levels in biology, English literature, and General Studies and an AS level in politics. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Bootham, and it was interesting to be at a boarding school in a city, which meant I could escape to the shops and see the real world! After leaving Bootham I had a gap-year; I spent time working as a production runner on a film set. Now I am going to University College Chester to study a BA(Hons) in drama and psychology. In my free time I enjoy cinema and theatre, and am a member of the Quaker Youth Theatre. I am looking forward to serving on the Committee, and expressing the views of my year group and the younger old scholars.

Ellen Salway

My name is Ellen Salway. For all those who were at the 1996 reunion in August you may recall me as the one with purple hair. I'm 17 years old and I am currently in my final year at St. Edwards school in Oxford studying A level English, history and politics, which I hope to pursue as a career. I attended Sibford for six years (1990-1995) including a year in Orchard Close when it first opened. My other interests include Hockey, Rowing, Rugby, playing the trumpet and singing. I'm very pleased to be able to sit on the Committee.

James Thompson

James has been on the Committee for twelve months and is another of the growing band of young old scholars who are taking an active interest in SOSA. James left Sibford in 1994. His grandfather also went to Sibford.

T. Ian Weatherhead

[Ian is another of those long serving old scholars who needs little introduction, having been General Secretary for six years as well as being a former President. Ed.]

Ian has had a long and varied career since leaving Sibford in 1964. He started his working life at the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon and then spent three years 'on the beat'.

Ian was then selected as a management trainee with Thomas Cook Bankers, at that time owned by the Government, and was subsequently posted to Washington, New York, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Delhi, Bombay, Colombo, Johannesburg and finally to Florida and a second stay in New York!

Much of that time was spent in the development and marketing of the local currency issue of travel cheques and the promotion of foreign exchange dealings, together with the marketing of various business programmes worldwide.

In 1974 he married Christine Nelson in Florida and they now have three children - Trenham (19 years), Mary (17 years) and Richard (15 years).

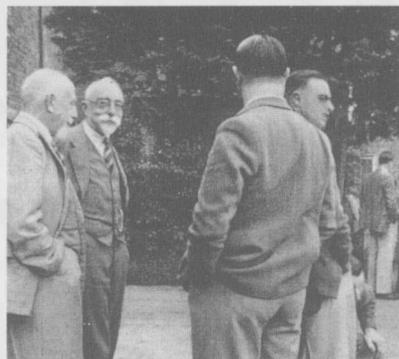
In 1976 he returned to England when he was appointed personal assistant to the Chairman of the Thomas Cook Group. In 1977, Ian joined the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, whose work is primarily directed towards two-way trade, assisting British companies with their various needs and in developing business with North America, the Caribbean, North East Asia and also the Aerospace Industry.

In 1993, Ian was promoted to the management board and is now responsible for all International events and for the Aerospace Industry.

His personal interests include - travel, photography, tennis, snow-skiing and, when he can, water-skiing.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

A short scrapbook of 1946 - half a century ago - including contemporary photos of the Whitsun Reunion and comments by the Head of that time - Arthur Johnstone. Looking at the list of attenders at the Reunion, it's quite revealing to find that many of the people named appeared at this year's Reunion!



l to r. Edward Kaye, James Harrod and part view of Paul Cauldwell



Those recognised include Tony Manasseh, Stan Ewan, Celia Law, Geoffrey Long and Arnold Kaye



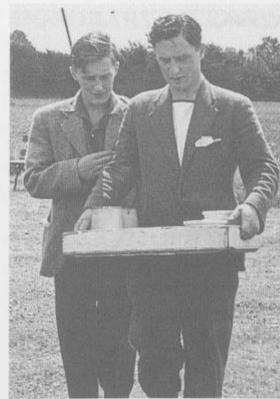
The new Joint-Secretary (Jeanne Southam, right) in pensive mood. Beside her, Betty Friend (née Elliker) talks to Rosemary Dearden.



Standing with her bag in hand is Bessie Dearden, beside her President husband. Going right from there are Henry Lawrence, son Kingsley, and Arnold Kaye. On the left is Hilda Jenks (half turning towards the camera), Birmingham secretary.

Amongst those present at the Whitsun Reunion 1946 were:

Betty and Richard Atkins; Elin, Jim and Roger Baily; Leslie, Margaret and John Baily; John Baseley; Diana Baxter; Erle and Jessie Bissell; Conrad and Sheila Blackie; John and Vivian Bolam; Mr and Mrs George Bond; Ivan and Nancy Bottoms; Kitty Braun; Winifred Brigham; Francis Brookhouse; Mrs Buckley; Grace Bunker; Hans Berg; Bessie and Howard Campion; Allan, Elizabeth and Leslie Carn; Arnold and Marion Castree; Paul Cauldwell; Joan and Geoffrey Collins; Raymond Connell; Jeanne Cottrell (Southam); Elizabeth Cox; John and Irene Coxon; Leslie Cross; Jeanne Darling (Little); John, Bessie and Rosemary Dearden (John was President); Joyce Dodsworth; Eric Dumbleton; Joan Ebrey; Anthony Eddington; Paul Eddington; Marion Ehlers; Stan Ewan; Mike and John Farr; Alix Feist; Peter Fielder; Monica Foss (Simpson); Basil Franey; Betty Friend; Derek Gaffee; Maurice Gardener; Lionel and Edith Geering; Hugh Gibson; Patrick Godwin; Eva Guillery; Peter Gutkind; Dorcas Harris; James Harrod, Patricia Harvey-Lee; Heinrich Hautman; Ian Hedger; John and Margaret Hicks; Rosemary Hill; Elizabeth Holden; Alfred Holland; Roy Hoskins; Harry Iles; Hilda Jenks; Arnold and Edward Kaye; Frank Kaye; Ronald Kennedy; Margaret Kissack (Fairnington); Mr and Mrs Charles La Croix; June Ladell (Dawson); David Laity; Betty Laughton; Barbara Lavender; George Law; Henry, Elsie and Kingsley Lawrence; Hilda Lissaman; Chris Little; Joan Lock; Geoffrey, Alice, Tom and Judith Long; Anthony and Meriel (Hunt) Manasseh; Geoffrey Moore; Jane Morland; Lucy and Philip Morris; Alex, Christine and Edna Norman; Jean and John Osborne; Ian, Janet and Ruth Parsons; Margaret Perry; Robert and Patricia Phillips; Wilfrid, Mabel, Ian and Tony Pollard; John Poplett; Doris, Howard, June, Kenneth, Loraine (Brown), Ronald Quinton; Joy Reynolds; Kathleen and Dudley Rice; Margaret Rundle; Marguerite Rush; John Saunderson; Charles Schnurmman; Barbara Seccombe (Abercrombie); Erwin Seifert; Michael Selby; Jack Simpson; John, Junior and Priscilla Smith; Claire Southwell (Smith); Pam Sutherland; Muriel Stone; Wendy Stone (Seville); Ursula Strong (Pugmire); Ann Sweetman; John Sykes; John A. Taylor; Elsie and John Taylor; Maureen Tennant; Kenneth Tettmar; Betty and John Thelton; Leslie and Valmai Thomas; Barbara, Francis and Victor Thomson; Graham and Sheila Trout; Frances Van Cooten; John Wallis; John and Lilian Ward; Eva and Resi Weinberg; June Wheeler;



John and Mike Farr (Busy as ever - fifty years ago!)



Francis Thomson giving the facts to a line of young old scholars which includes Hugh Gibson and Derek Gaffee.

Beryl and Ishbel Whitaker; Marjorie Winter; Otto Wolf; Margaret Wootton; Edith Worrall; Louis and Doris Wright; Peggy and Peter Yeoman.

Mr. Johnstone's Notebook!

The School continues to be packed. We have entries as far ahead as 1954 and it was a pleasure recently to enter the name of Mr. Harrod's grandson for 1950. (Ed. Of course, Chris Grimes!) Several old scholars have written to enter the names of their children.

We receive many letters and visits. We have had a letter from Rendel Levonian, who was doing part of his medical course in hospital at Nazareth. An old scholar of 1880-84 called to tell of old times.

The village is going ahead with its hall and before many years we expect a good hall near the church. Our School is still of some service meanwhile. Last summer three village brides held their wedding receptions in the Gym, and the village music club, meeting here regularly, provides a good series of classical concerts. It is interesting to record that, for the first time, our school orchestra entertained visitors at General Meeting.

We have renewed our visits to the Stratford theatre and this year boys and girls have been to see "St. Joan", "Twelfth Night", "As You Like It" and "Macbeth". The Junior Yearly Meeting party went to London again - its first visit since 1939. They had an interesting trip up the Thames and went sight-seeing in Westminster before settling down to discussion at Friends House.

We welcome Mr. Darlington and Mr. Prior on their return to the staff after six years in which they have done relief work. Mr. Prior spent a year in Addis Ababa and several months among displaced children in Austria. In September, Mr. Parker (who was a master in 1934 for one term while a student at Woodbrooke) took on responsibility for mathematics. Miss Hardy has left after eight and a half years as secretary and is replaced by Miss Southern.

There has been a revival of correspondence with boys and girls in other lands and more than 130 have correspondents in various countries. Most of the letters are written in English - Dutch, French and Scandinavian youngsters can write English much more readily than we can write their language. One boy wrote in Esperanto.

ANNUAL REUNION 1997

Please note that the Annual Reunion next year will be held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend between the 24th - 27th May 1997

And a message from those born before 1946.....

"We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

"We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

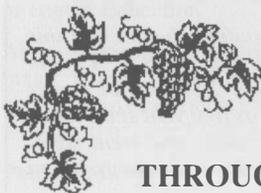
"We were before day care centres, group homes, and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

"Before 1946 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

"We who were born before 1946 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today...BUT

BY THE GRACE OF GOD...WE HAVE SURVIVED!"

ANON



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Or

"They who Wendath withersoever they wilen"

We have news and profiles of Old Scholars from near and far!

Caroline Bond (1982-87)

Caroline, who until recently was the SOSA Editor of the Magazine, couldn't escape from us that easily - so after years of 'persuading' others to submit a profile we managed to extract one from her!

When I left Sibford in 1987, I went to The Mount in York to study A levels in English literature, music, geography and General studies, and then took a 'year out' to study drama at Stratford-upon-Avon and gain another A level in Theatre Studies. Applications to several drama schools gained me a place at RADA to study Stage Management but the prospect of living in London without a grant and without earning did not fill me with relish; I lasted five weeks in the 'big smoke'!

I joined the family publishing business whilst I decided which educational route to take and found that a part-time degree at Oxford Brookes University



Caroline Bond

allowed me to study, work and own a house at the same time, so providing by far the best of both worlds. I am now in my fifth and final year of an Honours degree in English and Music but being a modular course, I have also been able to study Italian, book publishing and marketing and take time out to visit Australia!

I still work in the family business as editor of the four magazines for schools and colleges that we publish and generally like to keep my eye on the hockey ball at weekends, although I now have another project to occupy my time.

Somewhere along the line I sold my house in Swalcliffe and, with Paul, bought 65 acres of land which requires a considerable amount of work, particularly in the neglected and overgrown 2 acre wood (has anyone heard of, and fancy, a working weekend on a farm?) which certainly needs some tender loving care. At present I am trying to set up a free-range egg production business on site which, so far, has involved a lot of research and plenty of paperwork.

AND CONGRATULATIONS.....

The wedding took place on Saturday 12th October 1996, at Whichford church, near Shipston-on-Stour of Caroline, and Paul Mills. We wish them both a long and happy life together.

Nigel Fletcher (1968-73)

Since leaving Sibford in 1973 I went to the local art school in Banbury to embark on the art career it seemed I was to follow. However I was not sure whether it was art or cooking that I enjoyed more. I suppose being able to cook bacon, egg and chips and a Victoria sandwich isn't enough to convince people that I would be the next Keith Floyd!

So it was that I went through the art school system, completed the illustration course at Harrow School of Art and left clutching my Diploma - now to venture forth and find out what it was like in the real world.

I moved to Leeds, where my brother Stephen was following a hotel and catering course, and tried to find work as a freelance illustrator, which meant trudging around advertising agencies trying to convince Art Directors that they should use me for their next art campaign.

It soon became clear to me that I needed a regular wage to support the freelance career and I found a job with a screen printer in Batley, West Yorkshire, in a large old mill in the shadow of Fox's biscuit factory. I churned out endless drawings of 'Smurfs' and 'Mr Men' for use as car stickers - I didn't stay long!

The next four years I spent working for the Yorkshire Post as graphic designer in a modern, open-plan style building, a complete contrast to the old mill. I hated it, but the money was good and I learned a lot.

During the following three years, whilst at a new studio, I realised that I should take the plunge and make a serious effort to work for myself again. The fact that my boss was having all the expensive holidays and new cars, while I was doing all the work, convinced me - so along with my young family I moved back to Sibford Ferris and set up a small studio where the old Post Office used to be at the top of Mannings Hill.

That was twelve years ago and although I now live in Shutford I am still working for myself. I like to paint and exhibit at least once a year but someday I'll give up commercial work and concentrate on painting. I usually paint landscapes but have a fascination for old buildings and sheds, allotment sheds in particular, the more dilapidated the better! Many of my paintings can be seen in the Wykham Arms in Sibford Gower - remember the Wykham Arms?

If anyone wishes to contact me I can be found at: 'The Weavers Shop', Cooks Hill, Shutford, Near Banbury, Oxon OX15 6PH.



Nigel Fletcher

Kageha Marshall (née Gay Watts) (1974-78)

Kageha Marshall came to Sibford School in the second year in 1974. She was in Nansen Girls and spent four years as a boarder. Kageha was adopted by a Quaker family at an early age and originates from Kenya.

It was a great relief for Kageha to come to Sibford as it gave her an opportunity to meet other pupils in similar circumstances as herself, children who were fostered or adopted. She has always found Quakers to be very supportive.

Kageha is married and has two daughters. She lives in Bristol and goes to Redland Meeting. In the summer of 1995, Kageha and her family returned to Kenya with the aid of a Quaker travel bursary. She was able to visit Western Kenya and retrace her steps. This was the area she originated from and she met her natural family for the first time in over thirty years.



Kageha Marshall with her two daughters – Natasha and Gemma – and with her 'extended' family during a visit to Kenya in August 1995.

This experience has led Kageha to write about trans-racial adoption. She has just spent the summer of 1996 making a documentary film. The film is about her life and will be shown on HTV in the Spring or Autumn of 1997. She hopes this film will support other people who have survived difficult circumstances which can occur in fostering or adoption. Visiting Kenya was one of the most important events in her life!

Emma Louise Day (1985-90) would like to be remembered to all the friends she made whilst at Sibford and also her teachers (especially those in the Dyslexia Unit) for giving her the encouragement and confidence to 'go for it'. She is on her way! Having obtained her B. Tech. in Science last year, she has begun her studies at Aberdeen University, taking a degree in zoology and marine biology.

We recently heard from our affable old friend **Derek Gaffee (1938-43)** who sends greetings to all old scholars who might remember him. Despite the trauma of a recent car accident, Derek is now fully recovered and enjoying retirement with his wife Doris and taking an active part in all aspects of village life at Biddenden in Kent. He also tells us that his brother **Peter Gaffee (1942-46)** has now moved from Zimbabwe, where he lived for many years, to South Africa.

Sylvia Williams (née Webster) (1948-55) sends best wishes to all old scholars who might remember her and says that she has been in touch with **John Richards (1947-53)**, an architect who lives and works in Jersey and his sister **Margaret Rhodes (1950-55)** who lives in Bromsgrove. Their uncle, incidentally is **George Hather (1928-33)**, another of those Sibford dynasties!

She has also heard from **Eleanor Smith (née Blunsom) (1949-55)**.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

It is with particular pleasure that we inform members and readers that at the last Annual General Meeting the President bestowed Honorary Life Membership on Mike and Wendy Finch for their outstanding service both to the School and to the Sibford Old Scholars' Association. This news was greeted with delight by the meeting.



Mike and Wendy Finch

GOLDEN WEDDING!

Congratulations to Jack and Monica Simpson (née Foss) who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 27th July 1996. Here's to the next fifty!



Jack and Monica Simpson

THE GEOFFREY LONG BOOK PRIZE

The President was pleased to announce that the Geoffrey Long Book Prize for the best contribution by a present scholar in the 1995 Magazine had been awarded to **Tom Lane** (year 11) for his piece entitled – Kids Camp 1995 "The Return".

BRANCH REPORTS

London Branch

I took over as Secretary of this branch in the Autumn of 1995 and since then have been discovering what it entails!

Thanks to Ashley Shirlin, my predecessor, we now have a comprehensive list of Old Scholars who live in the London area and I am in the process of writing to invite each of them to join in the branch activities.

We have had one event since August 1995. This was held in early December 1995 when Chris and I welcomed old scholars to our home in St. Albans for an Advent lunch followed by home entertainment of poetry reading and recorded music. Twelve old scholars were present and another sixteen replied showing an interest in the branch.

Next year I hope we shall be able to report an increase in both the number of members and the number of events.

Pat Grimes

(Address and telephone number appear in the list of Officers and Committee on page 64).

Midland Branch

The Midland Branch of SOSA has had two meetings since the last report.

Hilary Haddleton, the Branch Secretary, reports:

"Our first meeting was the New Year party on 28th January and it was held as usual at Selly Oak Meeting House in Birmingham. This lunch-time event was enjoyed by some forty-four old scholars and friends including our President, Margaret Fairington, who had kindly travelled up from London.

After a splendid lunch, (*Old scholars do eat well - it must be something to do with alleged inadequate diets at Sibford!*) Philip Morris gave an abridged version of his Leslie Baily Address and told us about his scuba-diving holiday in the Seychelles.

A traditional Rocket rounded off an excellent afternoon at about 4.00pm."

The second event of the year was held at the home of Hilary and John Haddleton, and Wendy Finch reports:

"We were delighted to visit the home of Hilary and John on Saturday 22nd June at Solihull. About twenty of us enjoyed their excellent hospitality and were entranced by their splendid garden where it was hard to believe that we were in the middle of the vast West Midlands conurbation.



Hilary Haddleton makes the presentation to Irene Coxon-Smith (left)

The undoubted highlight of the day was the presentation made by the Branch to Irene Coxon-Smith in recognition of her long service as Branch Secretary. She was presented with a microwave cooker and a sun-lounger and was so taken by surprise that for once she had very little to say!

We were also able to watch Philip Morris's fascinating video of himself scuba-

diving in the Seychelles and to witness the amazing underwater life that abounds there.

The male population then disappeared to watch the final stages of Euro 96 on the television with England beating Spain - just!

Our thanks to Hilary and John for an exhilarating day."

Next event: Hilary asks readers to remember and make a note of

the New Year Party which will be held at Selly Oak Meeting House in Birmingham at 12.30pm on Saturday 25th January 1997. She will also be delighted to hear from other Old Scholars who do not attend and may wish to. Her address and telephone number are printed in the Officers and Committee list shown on page 64.

South-West Branch

There was a meeting of the South-West Branch held at Jeanne Southam's home "Dilkush", in Nailsea on June 22nd.

The group enjoyed a sunny day on the verandah and after lunch paid a visit to the RAC Control Centre next to the Almondsbury interchange on the M4-M5 motorway. The group were taken to the top of this unique building where they had panoramic views of the



A smiling group at a gathering of old scholars at Jeanne Southam's home at Nailsea

countryside around. The guide explained how the RAC deals with its national emergency calls. The group were impressed with the modern technology and the up-to-the-minute equipment that is used.

Afterwards most people returned to Dilkush for tea and voted the day a great success.

Jeanne Southam

OLD SCHOLAR SPORTS EVENTS

At the time of writing, (3/7/96) the temperature is still well below 20 centigrade and it was weather similar to this that unfortunately caused the cancellation of the annual "Ashes" cricket fixture between Old Scholars' and the School which should have been held on May 19th.

The soccer match, however, went ahead as normal on a very cold day (as normal!) on January 21st. Once again the old scholars' team was triumphant, winning by five goals to three.

SOSA put out a very useful side, including many of the previous year's squad (mustn't change a winning team!), and including for the first time Paul Mathews and the ever-fit Nigel Fletcher.

The winners were presented this year with a magnificent new silver cup donated by Mark Bennett (who again bought new boots for the occasion and vowed they would be his last!) and Ashley Shirlin. The sight of the trophy will, I am sure, spur the School to end this winning sequence by SOSA when they meet again. Of course I will not pick a severely weakened side to make this possible. (Sorry Michael Jenkins for leaving you out this time.)

To avoid being overlooked in what are hugely enjoyable events, please contact me two to three weeks in advance of the matches. My address and telephone number appear in the list of Officers and Committee on page 64.

Brian Holliday

SOSA EDITORIAL

This corner of spare space allows me to thank all those members who kindly contributed photographs and articles, which I hope readers will agree have been of a particularly high standard this year.

Modern technology has also enabled our printers to improve the conversion of coloured photographs to monochrome - a constant problem in the past.

Perhaps you will have noticed too our switch to a serif font (i.e. 'curly' print characters). Not only does this seem to be more reader-friendly, but it 'compresses' the words, permitting 10-20% more narrative per page.

I am a newcomer to magazine production and I have to record my special thanks to the technical staff of Messrs. H.E. Boddy, our Banbury printers, for their guidance and constructive suggestions, to Helen Doyle for her painstaking proof reading and - most especially - to Mike Finch, without whose all-round help, our half of the 1996 Sibford Magazine would never have seen the light of day.

Mike Farr

THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE ANNUAL REUNION 1996

Amongst those who attended for all or part of the Reunion weekend or who were seen at sometime were:

Barbara Abercrombie and Tom Evans; Ruth Aldworth; Andy and Lynn Arnold; Nick Bennett; Diana Baker; Grace Beckerlegge; Lorna Bergstrom; Lee Bishop; Kay, Suzie and David Böhm; Ann and Ray Bond; Michael and Priscilla Bond; Felix Bourgein; Vaughan Bradbury; Loraine and Philip Brown; Moreen Budgeon; Jo Butcher; Eric Clements; Elizabeth and Naomi Cordiner; Frank Cookson and Stella Wilson; Sara Cowie; Norman Coxon; Irene Coxon-Smith; Clem and Margaret Cox; Stephen and Neville Cox; Vonne Crook; Margaret Dale; Pat Dannahy; Rachael Davis; June Dawson; Adrian Douglas; Helen Doyle; Heather Downard; John, Susie, Mathew and Naomi Dunston; Jan, Romy, Joost and Bryony Elias; Isobel Evans; Margaret, Barnabas and Nathaniel Fairington and Murray Alexander; Teresa Fairweather; John Farr; Mike Farr; Mike and Wendy Finch; Andy, Clare, Michael and Alexandra Finch; Hugo Finley; Ruth Fletcher; Nigel Fox; Paul Frampton; Sue Freestone; Ken and Elisabeth Francis; Tim Gebbett; Irene Glaister; Julie Greenhill and Mike Herm; Chris, Pat, Michael and Nicola Grimes; Jane Gunston; Rebecca Hare; David Haines; David Hand; Arthur and Pamela Harrison; Pippa Harrison; Phillipa Harman; Ian Hedger; Ben Hedges; Robert Hockley; Jim Hilling; Wendy Holden; Simon and Isobel Horsley; Caroline Homan; John Hughes; Chris Hyde-Piper; Claire Irving; Toby Jameson; Judith Kelly; Ronald Kennedy; Guy Kingham and Jane Ashdown; David Laity; Arnold and Ina Lamb; Tom Lane; Julia Langrishe; Margaret Le Mare; Chris Legg; Paul Levy; Jeanne Little; Diana Lloyd; Philip Manasseh; Ian Martin; Daphne and Hugh Maw; Peter, Anne, Daniel and Lorna McCurdy; Mark Mercer; Philip and Rosamond Morris; Mary Mitchell; Jean Moore; Jean Mills; Anne Muir; Brian and Jean Morphy; Barrie and Shelia Naylor; John and Kay Ogden; Jean and John Osborne; Ian Parsons; Pat Parsons; Harold Pugmire; Nancy Pugmire and her two children; Cindy Poulton; Tim Pye; Eleri Ricci; Daniel Rose; Don Ryan; Ellen Salway; Julian Sandiford; Janet and Joe Sewell; Jim Shields; Margaret Shelley; Ashley, Carol, James and Maria Shirlin; Connie Shirlin; Adrian Shirlin; Jack and Monica Simpson; Claire Smith; David Carlton Smith; Jeanne Southam; Janet and Russell Steed; Stafford Steed; Mavis Stiles; Cherry and Joel Taylor; James Thompson; Francis Thomson; Sheila Trout; Margaret Stuart-Turner; Michael Van Blankenstein; Tim Wardle; Hilary, Hester and Luke Waterfield; Lisa Waterfield and Kevin, Niza and Lucy Schone; Jill, Rebecca and Thomas Wathen; John Watson; Katie Weeks; Yvonne Wrathall; Ian, Christine and Richard Weatherhead; Ethel Wright; Ian and Jenny Wright; Bill and Doris White.

Total known 198 - sorry if we've missed anyone !

NOTICES

ANNUAL REUNION 1997

Please note that the Annual Reunion next year will be held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend between the 24th - 27th May 1997

AGM MINUTES

Please note that, as last year, the SOSA AGM Minutes for 1996 will be provided separately to members of the Association

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1997

SOSA versus School soccer match. Please contact Brian Holliday if you wish to play. Sunday 16th March 1997
kick-off 2.30pm

Midland Branch New Year Party Selly Oak Meeting House All are welcome Please contact Hilary Haddleton Saturday 25th January
Start 12.00 noon

SOSA versus School cricket match. Please contact Brian Holliday if you wish to play. Sunday 18th May 1997

SOSA Annual Reunion Contact Julie Greenbill 24th until 27th May 1997

(N.B. all telephone/addresses for contacts appear in the list of Officers and Committee on page 64.)

**SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1996-1997**

PRESIDENT: J. PHILIP MORRIS.
(Until Aug. 1997) 7 Maidenhead Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire, CV37 6XR.
Tel. 01789 204331

VICE-PRESIDENT: JULIE GREENHILL.
(Until Aug. 1997) 64 Dundee Road,
South Norwood,
London, SE25 4QJ.
Tel. 0181 6565715

GENERAL SECRETARY: ASHLEY J. SHIRLIN.
(Until Aug. 1999) Kamari, High Street,
Canewdon, Essex, SS4 3PU.
Tel. 01702 258609

TREASURER: MICHAEL R. FINCH.
(Until Aug. 1997) Oakapple Cottage,
The Square, Middle Tysoe,
Warwickshire, CV35 OSJ.
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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: LUCINDA POULTON.
(Until Aug. 1998) 1 Aelwyd Isaf Cottage,
Moelfre, Anglesey,
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Tel. 01248 410461

REUNION SECRETARY: JULIE GREENHILL.
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South Norwood,
London, SE25 4QJ.
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**ASSISTANT REUNION
SECRETARY:** HUGO FINLEY.
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MAGAZINE EDITOR: MICHAEL D.T. FARR.
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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE:** A. NICHOLAS R. BENNETT.
(Until Dec. 1997) 36 Leicester Road,
Thurcaston,
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Tel. 0116 2364206

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE:** RUSSELL STEED.
(Until Dec. 1999) 50 St. Francis Road, Olton,
Solihull, West Midlands,
B91 1EB.
Tel. 0121 7074720

RETIRING PRESIDENT: MARGARET FAIRNINGTON.
(Until Aug. 1997) 140 Fellows Road, London,
NW3 3JH.
Tel. 0171 5863623

BRANCH SECRETARIES:
LONDON: CHRISTOPHER and
(No specified retiring date) PATRICIA GRIMES.
53 Chestnut Drive,
St. Albans, Herts., AL4 0ER.
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MIDLAND: HILARY HADDLETON.
(No specified retiring date) 8 Park Avenue, Solihull,
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
TIMOTHY C. GEBBETT Melbourne Villa,
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NICOLA GRIMES* 34 Birkendale Road, Upper
(Until Aug. 1998) Thorpe, Sheffield, S6 3NL.
Tel. 0114 2332982

(* Appointment until Aug. 1998 to be ratified at the next AGM.)

JAMES J. THOMPSON 1 Lodge Close, Lock Road,
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ADRIAN M. DOUGLAS 30 Riley Drive, Banbury,
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CO-OPTED MEMBERS:
MICHAEL GRIMES 33 Hartland Road, London,
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MICHAEL HERM 64 Dundee Road,
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GUY KINGHAM 13C St. Annes Road,
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T. IAN WEATHERHEAD 35 Ossulton Way,
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Tel. 0181 4583455

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:
HEAD SUSAN FREESTONE
Tel. (Office) 01295 780441/2

DEPUTY HEAD SIMON C. HORSLEY
Tel. (Office) 01295 780441/2

BURSAR R. BRIAN MORPHY
Tel. (Office) 01295 780441/2

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:
BRIAN HOLLIDAY Ammescote, Main Street,
(Until Aug. 1998) Sibford Ferris, Banbury,
Oxon., OX15 5RE.
Tel. 01295 780500

PAUL LUDLOW Gillett House, Sibford School,
(Until Aug. 1997) Sibford Ferris, Banbury,
Oxon, OX15 5QL.
Tel. 01295 788137

**HEAD BOY and
HEAD GIRL TEAM:** *HAZEL BELL, FABIAN
COLLIS, ROSIE HILFERTY
and ANDREW WAITE.

(*Any two from the above names may attend)

THE ANNUAL REUNION 1996





Walled Garden viewed from the Manor in full bloom, July 1996.

