

Sibford

1997 – 1998



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Front Cover *Holy Trinity, Sibford by Laura Williams*
Inside Front Cover *Sports Day 1998 Collage*
Back Cover *Man, woman & child – a world in harmony by Risa Higuchi*

EDITORIAL

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

(Marcel Proust)

At this time of year ~ as the seasons change, as a new year begins, and as a new millennium beckons ~ my mind turns to more reassuring thoughts of renewal and the rediscovery of the old and familiar. For those of us who live, work, teach and learn in this community, Sibford is a touchstone in a world of turbulence and change. We all draw our strength and inspiration from its enduring values, just as it draws its own strengths from its foundation, 156 years ago, as a Friends school.

Friends have always valued learning, both as a means of achieving the wider social vision that they have shared together and as something to be prized for its own sake. Pride is hardly a Quaker virtue, but it is far from inappropriate to say that we are proud to

be a happy community, a thriving community, a caring community, a lively, positive and forward-looking community.

Sibford's story is a story of discovery and rediscovery of each other, leading to the rediscovery of the self; the discovery of that of God in everyone, leading to the rediscovery of community. We are constantly challenging at Sibford to return to the place at which we began and see it anew.

The pages of this magazine tell the story of our process of rediscovery as it has continued over the past twelve months. It is only a small part of a long history, but it is an important part. We share it with you ~ and with all members of our community ~ in the hope that we shall all see Sibford with new eyes.

*Tracy Knowles
School Editor*

FOREWORD

By the time you receive this magazine Christmas will be upon us again and the term will have ended. It seems bizarre to be writing this forward on an evening in late summer just as the Sibford scholars have returned for the beginning of the Autumn Term.

In the pages which follow you will read of just a handful of the events that have taken place during the academic year 1997-98. A publication such as this can only skim the surface, and there is not doubt that many who read it will ask themselves why 'such and such' an event, which seemed important, or at the very least noteworthy, has not been mentioned. The answer is that so much happens at Sibford that we are always moving on to the next event and planning ahead. It is a sad feature of life today that there is little time for reflection on things past, and huge pressure in every facet of life, to be doing. This is nowhere more true than in education where an interminable chain of changes has been imposed by government over the past ten years. Beyond the imposed are those which we elect to make in the interests of our pupils. A constant feature of the teaching staff at Sibford has been, and remains, the unerring desire to give scholars the best opportunities possible to make the most of their talents and abilities.

An opportunity presents itself here, in the shape of this magazine, for reflection on the past year: the changes it has brought; the triumphs, the defeats; the sadness and the joys which are bound to befall any community the size of Sibford in varying degrees. Overall it has been a very successful year during which much has been achieved by many individual members of the school.

We begin the Autumn Term with a new structure, and many long serving members of staff have taken on extra responsibility. Brian Holliday has been appointed Senior Master; Maggie Guy, Senior Mistress; Chris Cox is now Director of Studies; Andy Newbold, Academic Administrator; whilst Lesley Norton and Tony Skeath have taken on the roles of Joint Heads of Boarding. In addition, we no longer have a Bursar, Brian Morphy having left at Easter, but we do have a Facilities Manager, a new appointment in a new position ~ Edmund Hudson.

In some ways then, this magazine represents the final year of the old order. But there are many more constants about Sibford than there are changes. Most important of these is the sense of community and warmth to which few who visit the School are insensible or immune.

*Sue Freestone
Head*



WELCOME

TEACHING STAFF

Heather Belcher
Orchard Close

When I left school after A' Levels, I worked as a laboratory technician in various research establishments including the Medical Research Council and the Institute of Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital. That was where I met my husband, Richard, at a staff party. He was finishing his Ph.D. at the time but became a teacher shortly afterwards. When our daughter was born, a few years later, I had to give up work as one did in those days. Maternity leave was just a twinkle in the Government's eye.



My interest in teaching developed when I went into my son's classroom as a volunteer helper. I enjoyed working with the children so much that I decided to train to teach but first of all had to study for a degree. The long, hard slog for an Open University Degree was closely followed by a PGCE at Westminster College, Oxford. This was a course of action which my children, by then teenagers, referred to as my 'mid-life' crisis!

So I am still enjoying working with children having spent the last eight years at the Primary School in Bloxham and at a Preparatory School in Wokingham in Berkshire. I am delighted to be at Sibford School because I have a high regard for the Quaker ethos and have known about the caring, attentive approach to individual pupils for which Sibford School is well known.

Yvonne Greene
Head of Business Studies/GNVQ
Co-ordinator

I have spent the last 8 years at Mid-Kent College in Maidstone, Kent, teaching Business Studies and Law, most recently as course leader of the GNVQ in Business.



Prior to moving into teaching, I was a personnel and training manager, spending several years in both the private and public sectors.

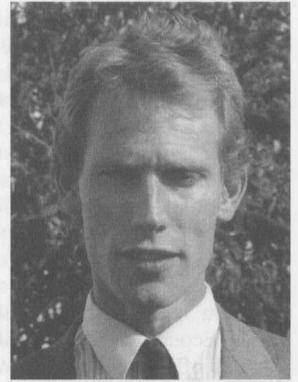
After completing a law degree, I worked within the legal profession and then spent a year studying and travelling in the Middle East, including teaching English to deprived children.

I have two children, the youngest of whom has just started at Orchard Close. In my free time I enjoy most sports, particularly ladies' football, which I played at university and for a local team in London. I am also a member of English Heritage.

Jamie Hewetson
English

Having spent three nomadic weeks touring England from North to South due to homelessness, we were delighted to arrive at Sibford and finally settle down. My wife, Michelle, is now teaching Spanish to Year 10 pupils. Some of you may have seen our children, Martha and Joe, playing on the adventure playground outside Orchard Close. We moved up here from Abingdon where I was teaching French and English in a very traditional boys' prep school.

In previous incarnations I have worked in the film industry in an off-line studio, taught TEFL to students in France, Germany and Spain and for some time ran a business renovating properties for English people on the Continent. In my spare time (what's that!), I enjoy repairing old furniture and messing around in the garden.



The atmosphere at Sibford seems to us to be very warm and constructive and I am certain that we will be very happy here.

Susan Nebesnuick
Head of Enhanced Learning
Programmes

I was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, went to University in London to study History and began my teaching career in Surrey. I have since taught in primary, middle and secondary schools in Buckinghamshire, Leicester and Oxford. Before coming to Sibford in January 1998, I taught at a large, rural comprehensive school in Oxford where I was Head of Learning Support and Head of Year. My involvement in the area of Special Educational Needs has developed over the last fifteen years. The education of able pupils is a particular area of interest and research.

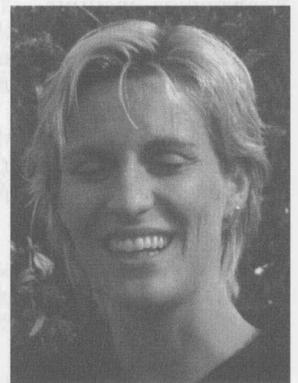


I enjoy travelling whenever possible. In recent years my family has visited North Africa, Eastern Europe and China. However a regular favourite retreat is West Cornwall where we have family links. I also enjoy 'experimenting' in the kitchen and visiting the theatre and opera.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of life at Sibford. The warm welcome extended by both students and staff made me feel instantly 'at home'.

Elisabeth Pronost
French, ESOL and Humanities

I was born in the French town of Laval, half way between Brittany and Normandy ~ my parents native region. Although the north of France is naturally close to Britain, I think the main and strongest reason for my recent move to this country was my Mum! Indeed as far as I can recall, I remember her regularly telling me and my sisters countless stories of a year she had spent as an au pair in Somerset. I never got to know then what caused the sparkle in her eye ~ was it the memories of the restless ghost who would keep the whole manor awake? ~ honest, she swore it was true! Or was it the recurring images of the splendid, unforgettable English countryside? Anyway, one sure thing is that even before I visited it, I already loved this country and it was quite natural that I later chose to study English at the University of Rennes.



My fourth year was spent in Oldham as a French Assistant teacher, after which I came back to Laval where I found a job in a vocational college. There I discovered the world of agriculture (half of my students were future farmers), the real meaning of team work and an unusual closeness between staff and pupils.

I can still remember the first time I visited Sibford School, feeling that 'je ne sais quoi' which had made my work in France so enjoyable, and which will make me enjoy every minute spent here. En un mot comme en cent.. merci Maman!

Yuriko Saishu

Assistant in Japanese Studies ~ Orchard Close

My name is Yuriko Saishua and I am from Japan. At University I was an Economics major. In Japan I was an office worker, before that I was a secretary. I came here to teach Japanese culture, language, life style and so on. It is also my intention to learn more about the English language, your history and culture. I arrived in England in April last term to work in a primary school in Hampshire.



I like skiing, travelling, cinema, music and cooking, especially noodles, pasta and Japanese foods. This Summer holiday I took a trip with my friends to Scotland, Wales and England, having been to Spain, France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and the United States.

One of my particular interests is history. I enjoy visiting historic castles, buildings, churches and other places of interest, and I am looking forward to exploring the Oxfordshire area.

Matthew Smallwood

Director of Music

I started teaching four years ago, having studied at Anglia Polytechnic University. When I left, I had visions of being a famous musician earning lots of money then I realised that there was no such thing as a well paid musician! Eventually after a series of jobs (including a mobile phone salesman) I was steered towards teaching and did my PGCE at Roehampton Institute. Then spending the first few years of my teaching career as a music teacher in a large comprehensive in London with over thirteen hundred pupils!



From then to Cambridge, where I spent time developing my performing career as a singer, teacher and working briefly for a publishing company who specialised in books on music and gardening.

I have been involved in music from an early age starting as a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Perhaps one of my highlights at that time was a live appearance on Blue Peter!

Since that time, I have continued to be involved with singing both solo and as a group. Most of my holidays are spent on tour with other groups across the world.

I have little spare time, but occasionally get the chance to go travelling, hill walking or skiing, recently discovering and falling in love with Italy, especially the food and wine!

I came to see Sibford over a year ago and immediately fell in love with the area and the calming effect the school has on pupils and staff alike, a far cry from London. I'm looking forward to working with staff and students in the school helping you to all find your hidden musical talents in forthcoming performances!

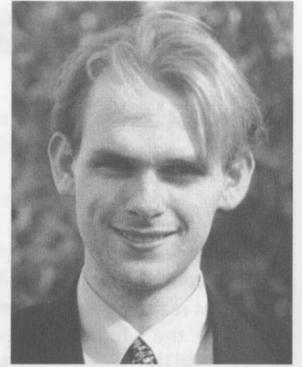
Ben Walklate

Science, Mathematics, Information Technology, Assistant House staff in Lister

I have lived in Tadmarton for the last 14 years and am very happy to be returning to my home area.

My interests include reading (I always have a book on the go), socialising (aka meeting people in pubs), watching television (as long as it's funny or science fiction), drawing, badminton, snooker/pool (obviously part of the reason I like Lister so much) and war games/role-playing games, and I wonder why I don't have any free time!

I find great amusement from the confusion resulting from another member of my family working at Sibford School and would like to state now, for the record, that Reverend Keith is my father, we are not brothers!



Reverend Keith Walklate

Religious Studies

I was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire and started the first job of my banking career at the Hanley Branch of Nat West. Like all banking careers, in those days, mobility was a key factor and I have also worked in Cheshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and The City. During this time, I was a High Street retail banker, a Head Office banker, trainer and lecturer.

My last post with the bank was as Senior Manager in Training Development at the Bank's Management College at Heythrop Park, Chipping Norton where I spent 13 years.

Along the journey I met Barbara, now my wife of 29 years, and we have two children; Helen who is married and lives in Bicester and Ben, who will also be writing in this column as we start our lives at Sibford together, covering very different subjects.

Eventually after several 'nudges' (over a period of time) I was accepted and commenced training to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church in 1992. After 3 years part time training in Biblical and Theological Studies, alongside my banking career, I was ordained in 1995 and currently serve as an Honorary Associate Priest in the Wykeham Benefice, which comprises 6 rural parishes including The Sibfords. Since Ordination I worked for 18 months as Continuing Ministerial Education Advisor to the Oxford Diocese and more recently, have been appointed Vocations Adviser in the Deddington Deanery. The Vocations Officer's role also includes advising young people on Christian assignments they may wish to undertake during a 'Gap' year.



SUPPORT STAFF

Edmund Hudson

Facilities Manager

Born a Yorkshireman (Harrogate 1944), I spent my younger years in France and was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey. I was apprenticed draughtsman to Gascoigne Agricultural Engineering. I have travelled widely in Arctic, Jungle and Desert



regions, constructing bridges and routes whilst studying the environment, also working in the canal boat industry and latterly, with the garden construction and design business.

I am married with one child, I currently reside in the North Oxfordshire village of Fringford. I have a keen interest in sports including rugby, cricket, sailing and hockey.

HOUSE STAFF

Alison Paley

House Assistant in Fielding

My main duties are with Fielding, but I also help out in many lessons as a classroom assistant.

Originally I am from Bolton, near Manchester, and I have spent the last three years studying at Liverpool University reading Sociology, Politics and History. Although I am only here for a year, I am planning to train to be a teacher next year and who knows, I could get the chance to come back to Sibford school! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week here and look forward to meeting anyone I haven't yet met.



GAP STUDENTS

Michael Bennett

Music Department

I arrived at Sibford in January 1998 to discover just how small the place was. Having heard nothing about it before I arrived it came as a bit of a shock! One shop and two pubs! I began the year working with Mark Paine in the Music department and finish off my time at Sibford with Matthew Smallwood, both being shocked at my severe lack of musical knowledge, but adjusting to it very easily (they had little choice).

My tasks ranged from hours on end at the photocopier and computer, to putting up with Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils during their music lessons. At least my mind would be clear on one thing ~ never become a teacher!

Working at Sibford has also given me the opportunity to visit many places.

Living at Sibford ~ an experience hard to forget.

Elizabeth Forde

English to Speakers of Other Languages

The first time I took the road from Banbury to Sibford, I thought we would never arrive. I hadn't realised how remote Sibford was; particularly with only three buses a day into Banbury!

Coming from the city of Melbourne, Australia, and a school



ten times as large as Sibford, has meant that everything I have experienced this year has been an eye-opener.

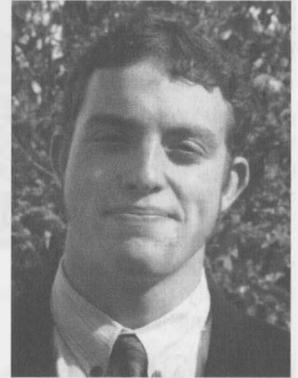
Working in the ESOL department has definitely been a challenge although I have managed with the support of Angie Talbot and Andy Glover. On several afternoons a week, and as many lunchtimes, you could find me in one of the sub-sections of Margaret Fell. The main building in the first term of 1998, then the Manor and lately the Ark. It was a good way to meet other members of the school. On the weekends you may very well have found me in the Sports Hall or on a Saturday morning doing activities.

Adam Nicholson

Orchard Close

When I decided to take up the invitation to join Sibford School I was only doing part time work. Now I have the full time position of helping out in Orchard Close and out on the games field.

During the summer I took a trip to Spain for two weeks of sun and sand. Another highlight of my stay has been my trip to The Lake District.



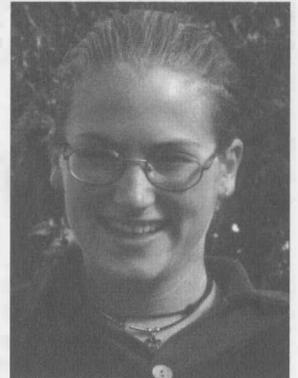
Peta Pippas

Physical Education and Dyslexia department

Working in two departments has provided me with different perspectives on school life. This year I have tried new things such as hockey, rounders and trampolining, an interesting change from basketball and netball, the sports I play back home.

Lunchtimes and afternoons have been spent between Margaret Fell and Lost Property, both interesting (especially the former) and smelly (the latter!).

Working at Sibford has enabled me to travel around Europe and make many friends, for this I will always be grateful.



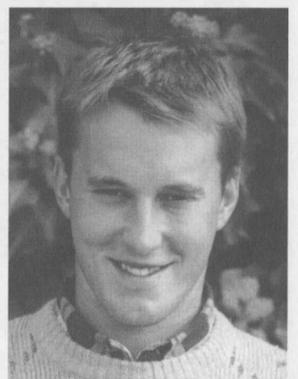
STUDENT IN RESIDENCE

Simon Garne

Student in Residence attached to the Physical Education and Art departments.

As a former pupil of Sibford, to be a member of staff is taking some getting used to, however Sibford's friendly and warm atmosphere is shining through and I have settled in well, enjoying myself immensely.

Since leaving Sibford, I have studied a B'Tec and Higher National Diploma in Sports Management at Loughborough, and also gained valuable experience in socialising!



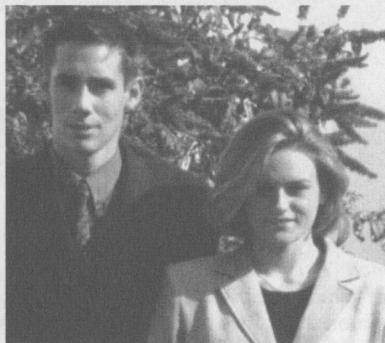
My hobbies are all sports, as diverse as mountain climbing, mountain biking, scuba diving, surfing, water skiing and horse riding.

I hope during my time at Sibford I can give back what it has given me, friendship, individuality and above all, confidence.

HEAD GIRL AND BOY

Caroline Cleland and Andrew Gunnett

Alongside the new staff, we welcome our new Head Boy and Head Girl, Andrew Gunnett and Caroline Cleland.



Andrew boards and is taking two A' Levels in Design Technology and Business Studies and enjoys rugby, football and travelling, he hopes eventually to go on to University to study for a degree in engineering.

Caroline is taking two A Levels in Physical Education and Textiles with an A/S Level in Biology. Her spare time is spent, needless to say, heavily involved in all sports both inside and outside school. She hopes to go on to a career in teaching Physical Education.

May we wish them every success in their new positions.

FAREWELL

Lindy Harris

Lindy Harris was our first Head of Enhanced Learning Provision, a post created to co-ordinate the work of the three very distinctive Educational Needs Departments. Her success can be judged by the fact that, after only four terms, she was able to hand on to her successor a cohesive faculty, offering a greatly extended range of services to its children.

She had, of course, made her mark before that as a teacher in the Dyslexia Department, where her gentle determination, coupled with very deep knowledge earned her both love and respect. Neither shall we forget her enthusiasm for Wednesday hockey!

We lost a fine teacher, friend and colleague when Lindy's family moved to Oundle, but she still keeps in touch and we will follow the new course of her career with pride.

Jenny Austing

Kate McKean

Kate's one year as Care Assistant at Fielding will not be forgotten by any of those involved in the Sixth Form. Her irrepressible personality and quick wit became her trademark. Her commitment to the students and their well-being and happiness were always to the fore. Sadly, the arrival of Stefan or Sven, as the pupils knew him,



Kate can't bear to look (John Howard chose her farewell gift!)

proved too great a pull and both have gone on to pastures new. We wish them both well for the future.

John Howard

Seán Kenny

Seán first came to Sibford as a member of the English Department and as an Assistant House Parent in Fielding House.



From Fielding House, Seán then moved to Nansen Boys as House Assistant to Tony Skeath. After several years working in the boarding side at Sibford Seán moved away from this aspect of school life to eventually take on the leadership of the English Department.

Seán Kenny, never one to miss an opportunity to say a few words!

'Creativity ~ Flair ~ Teamwork' are the three words that summarise Seán's approach to the running of the department. Media Studies has been such a successful part of the department's development, that for the first time ever it is being offered at A' Level.

The diversity of the many areas that Seán involved himself in is impressive: School Editor of the Magazine, organiser of Saturday morning activities, a major role in the musical production 'Brilliant the Dinosaur', frequent contributions to Meeting for Worship, trips to China Town, the list could go on and on.

We are thankful that Seán's spiritual path led him to the door of Sibford and that we have all gained so much from his time here. In the words of Mary Lou Leavitt, Seán has used "the weapons of the spirit: love, truth-saying, non-violence, imagination, vision and laughter", as the tools of education.

The Staff Room will remember Seán as a Purveyor of Fine Mirth with the House Speciality being, of course, Irish jokes, but Seán also reminded us of the more tragic side, the troubles of Irish life and he worked hard to make us all aware of other social issues with his support of Aids charities and Joe Homan's Boys' Town.

Although Seán has found it difficult to leave the community of Sibford, I am sure that as Vice Principal in Charge of Student Affairs at St. Claire's College in Oxford, he will continue to make a difference in many people's lives. The words of Margot Fonteyn sum up, what in my mind, made Seán sparkle as a colleague and as a friend. "The one important thing that I have learned over the years, is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking one's self seriously. The first is imperative and the second disastrous."

Maggie Guy

Tara Overend

I have only been here since January, but I have been made to feel so welcome that it seems like much longer.

I have gained a great deal from my time at Sibford, not only practical skills and friends, but a new outlook on life. I have found this to be a wonderfully friendly and caring environment and one where it is entirely acceptable to just be yourself and to be accepted, no matter what that may be. I have never known anywhere else where this is possible.

I will miss Sibford ~ the staff, the pupils and the way of life, but I am sure I will retreat here when the hectic London lifestyle gets too much for me!

Mark Paine

Mark Paine was Director of Music at Sibford from 1991 until 1998. During that time he established a thriving, modern department, equipping it with new computers and keyboards and thus laying the foundations for the exam work which followed.

Mark's scheme for giving gifted pupils scholarships helped to bring higher musical standards into the school.

Under this guidance the School bought a very fine concert grand piano which has encouraged recitals by international artists to take place at Sibford and, also, for the annual Banbury Young Musician competition to happen here with Mark as an enthusiastic organiser. Choirs, orchestras and a string quartet have all flourished and there have been some remarkable School performances, notably an astonishing production of 'The Mikado' in 1997 (with Trevor Walters directing) and in 1998 the musical 'Guys and Dolls' (also with Trevor). We wish him well in his new post as Head of Music at Headington School for Girls in Oxford.



Mark Paine receiving his farewell gift.

Raymond Head

Ros Smith

We say a regretful farewell to Ros, who has been coming to Sibford for over ten years, giving French conversation, helping in the French lessons and introducing Orchard Close to her beautiful language. Her warm and generous nature made her a valued friend and we wish her and her two children, David and Valerie, health and happiness in her native Bourgogne.



Jean bids Ros 'Au Revoir and Bon Chance'.

Jean Rudge

Claire Stewart

All in Lister have happy and fond memories of Claire Stewart who was our first female Care Assistant and who has completed her year with us and gone on to further studies at Bristol University. Claire was a tonic for us. We appreciated her down to earth Yorkshire humour which she successfully used to build friendships throughout.



Claire decided it was time to leave Sibford before she too had to wear the apron.

Stuart Hedley

Trevor Walters

Trevor was Head of Drama at Sibford for four years. I think one of the immediate impressions one had of his productions was the sense of physical theatre. Trevor's productions were enormously energetic, even in times of stillness this energy could be felt by the audience; the children learned to move creatively both on the stage and during scene changes.

Trevor was an extremely professional director. He expected high standards of all involved and he got them. People were constantly

astonished by the depths and heights to which our students could go during one of his productions. He brought out the best in everybody by expecting us to work hard and then worked twice as hard himself. His productions were wide ranging in their appeal and covered comedy to tragedy, serious to tongue in cheek. Children were swept in by his enthusiasm and surprised themselves by revealing talents which had been under used or even undiscovered.



Trevor in action.

The drama department thrived under Trevor's leadership ~ every child in the school was able to benefit from his teaching and his contact with the music department resulted in several memorable productions. Trevor was involved in many other areas of Sibford life ~ as Fielding Assistant, as a sportsman and singer and as the brains and drive behind some wonderful Christmas dances. He was a talented artist and writer too, inventing stage sets and hand written programmes of his productions.

Penelope Spring

Gail Wilson

Gail joined Orchard Close in 1993. She came from Cumbria with a wide variety of interests and qualifications and is a fantastic organiser. The camp barbecues for one hundred plus parents and pupils appeared effortless. However, I knew that every detail was meticulously planned by Gail.



Gail cutting into her farewell cake.

Gail loves the outdoors and is a keen conservationist. She initiated and established the outdoor life programme in Orchard Close, and introduced the younger children to the joys of camping, sailing and orienteering. In recent years she has incorporated Senior School pupils into water based activities and she also organised and led the annual Junior ski trips abroad.

Gail's wedding to Keith Wilson while teaching here at Sibford School involved the whole school. Typical of her warmth and enthusiasm her class were kept informed of all the arrangements, even seeing the wedding dress before the big day. No wonder so many parents and children wished her well at the church.

We shall all miss Gail. She leaves behind a valuable and important contribution to the life of the school.

Elizabeth Young

James Brash and Kate Deacon

Head Boy and Girl 1997/98

Our heartfelt thanks to Kate and James who were a credit to the school, assuming their roles responsibly with charm and aplomb, whilst still achieving extremely creditable results across the curriculum.



Kate and James flank Sarah Caines after the end of term prizegiving.

Kate obtained 3 A Levels in Textiles, Geography and Business Studies, grades A, B and C respectively and has now gone to Buckingham College to do a foundation year in Art and Textiles leading to a degree course. James has gone to Cardiff to study Music.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

ART AND DESIGN ~ Reaffirming of a Noble Vision

Throughout the year we have maintained a regular programme of in-house exhibitions of students' work as well as mounting a number of displays for public view. Notable among the latter was our contribution to the ISIS Art Exhibition at the N.E.C., a fortnight's show at the Chipping Norton Theatre Gallery and our week long opening of the Painting Studio display as part of Oxfordshire Artweek. Most of the exhibitions were mounted in conjunction with the Textiles Department which continues to produce work of stunning skill and originality. Through the public exposure of their work, several students have been asked to take on commissions.

The organic nature of the department dictates that it is constantly changing, growing and adapting to the needs and talents of the pupils it serves. With students from a wide variety of foreign countries, this year has seen tremendous ethnic diversity in the styles and inspirations behind the work. Artwork directly influenced by experience of a country's lifestyle has led to paintings and sculpture inspired by Mexico, The Gambia, Japan, China, the Middle East, Southern Africa, Scandinavia, Australia and Northern India.

A memorable day was spent by senior art students at Warwick University where they attended a workshop run by Britain's leading stone carver ~ Peter Randall-Page. During conversation he explained how his dyslexia had not inhibited the growth of his work at all, in fact may have encouraged it. Over five hours of drawing, surrounded by Peter's inspirational work, passed quickly and we left long after our allotted time. We are most grateful to the administrators of the Mead Gallery for making such a good day possible.

Other visits during the year included our annual pilgrimage to the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition to view the great and the not so good of contemporary British Art. We also visited the controversial 'Sensations' Exhibition in London which inspired comments which ranged from 'so what?', to 'Wow', 'Cool' and 'Brilliant!'.

Closer to home, the organic growth of departmental facilities has undergone a spurt this Summer as the Textiles room has relocated to the Manor. The discovery of an old staircase has meant that painting and textiles are now linked by a dedicated exhibition space.

In many ways I feel that the rationalisation of the newly formed Faculty of Expressive Arts which encompasses Textiles, Music, Drama, P.E. and Art, has reaffirmed Sibford's commitment to the Arts, and the concentration of three of these disciplines in the Manor, from whence the School sprang, is more than coincidental. Whilst embracing much of what is new in educational thinking, Sibford will always flourish by filling the particular niche identified as long ago as 1906 by the then Headmaster, James Harrod:

"A boy or girl is better trained to think by associating action with thought than by the exclusively bookish forms of instructions"

Harrod's vision of placing practical studies at the heart of the curriculum was hailed by J. T. Baily a few years later: "Successful experimentation such as this is a justification for the existence of private schools".

I am delighted to see Sibford's independence of vision continuing as the Millennium approaches.

Michael Spring ~ Head of Expressive Arts Faculty

BUSINESS STUDIES

A Level and GCSE Business Studies

This year has seen some pleasing results. Congratulations to Kelvin Lau (GCSE grade A) and to the A Level Business Studies students who achieved excellent grades, particularly Francis Surry (grade A) and Kate Deacon (grade B). Francis is now studying for a business degree at Loughborough University. Other A Level Business students who have decided to continue their business studies at University include Sarah Caines, who is now studying marketing and Claire Chou who is taking a business foundation course at Warwick University.

A Level business students produced some interesting and pleasing coursework, including a project by Sarah Caines about setting up their own bed and breakfast business; by Kate Deacon about adding a delivery service to a cash and carry in Ireland and by Francis Surry about setting up a rugby shirts mail order company.

GCSE students looked at a variety of business activities, with the emphasis on commerce. Comments from students included:

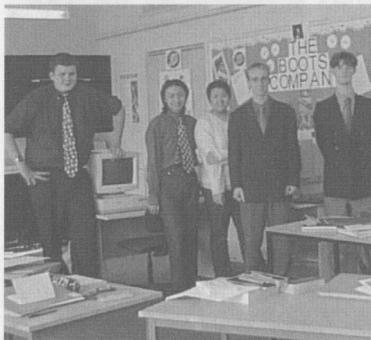
'I'm enjoying the project that I am doing on a product. I'm doing Giorgio Armani and I enjoy writing to the company, getting information and organising surveys for people to answer.'

Cristina Fantechi, Year 11

'I am enjoying the various aspects of the Business Studies course, especially when work entails designing and creative work such as product packaging and creating logos and slogans.'

Laura Melia-Small, Year 11

GNVQ Business students visited a variety of local organisations to research different aspects of business, including organisational structure and marketing. Students found the trips to Boots the Chemist at Nottingham and Cadbury World both educational and enjoyable.



Ed, Jo, Mabel, Rasmus and Giles are studying the Boots company for their GNVQ Intermediate Business.

'When we went to Cadbury World we were given a talk on advertising and marketing which included how Cadbury market their products, and how brands are created, using research which identifies gaps in the market. This was both interesting and very relevant to our GNVQ unit.'

*Nick Dent, Year 13
GNVQ Business
Intermediate*

This year the Business Studies department will be boosted by new computers and internet access. This will enable students to research businesses more efficiently. The GNVQ Intermediate Business course will incorporate a week of work experience to enable students to gain 'hands on'



Nick, Billy and Rob show their work on Cadbury World for their GNVQ Intermediate Business.

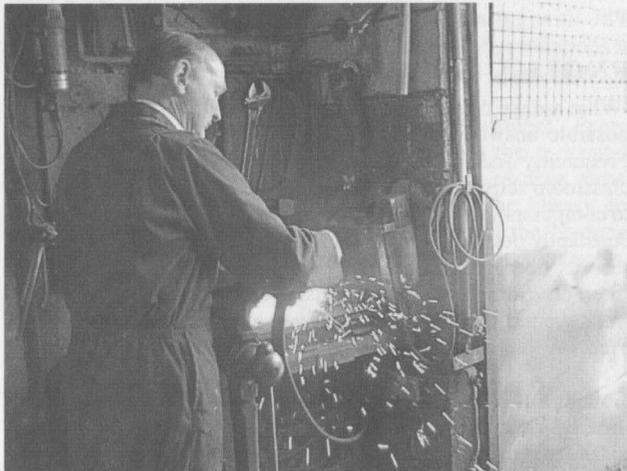
to gain 'hands on' experience in local businesses. GNVQ Foundation Business students will continue to gain valuable work experience in the Sibford School shops.

Yvonne Greene ~ Head of Business Studies/GNVQ Co-ordinator

CRAFT, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT (CDT)

A senior visit to Rutherford Laboratories in November allowed pupils and staff to appreciate the unique problems some designers/inventors experience in their work when we listened to Trevor Bayliss (inventor of the clockwork radio) and Joshua Sylva (inventor of a variable optical lens) speaking about their personal experiences in bringing their ideas to the market place.

Year 10 pupils were fascinated by a visit to Culworth Forge, seeing a mixture of traditional and modern metal fabrication techniques demonstrated for their benefit. Many technological processes have to be experienced in a course and most school workshops cannot begin to satisfy this need. Industrial visits play an important role in satisfying this requirement. We are grateful to Mr Grice for arranging this.



Working at Culworth Forge.

Design and Technology candidates have again succeeded in realising their potential and passing their examinations. Special praise goes to Jonathan Evans who designed and manufactured a rural path gritter for his A Level major project. 'A' grades for GCSE were achieved by Tom Keeling (a drum stool), Kelvin Lau (designing a sub-way interior), David Wong (designing a mini-bus interior) and Keith Chau (designing a city shopping complex). Many of these were helped by the continuing support of John Viggers.

Stuart Hedley



Jonathan Evans with his path gritter.

DRAMA AND PERFORMING ARTS

Sibford School has a deep rooted foundation in ensuring that performing arts has a major part to play in the development of individuals within their overall education.

Trevor Walters' dedicated work has established the drama department as a central feature of the school and we are keen to continue this. We are determined to ensure that Drama will encompass all parts of the community and that all participants will be valued for their contribution in whatever capacity, whether it be on stage, behind the scenes or front of house. As part of our overall future plans we hope to encourage involvement from all the creative arts subjects in future productions.

Simon and Angie Talbot ~ Joint Heads of Drama

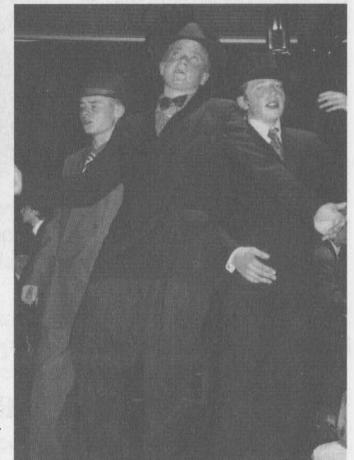
Guys and Dolls

Both Trevor Walters and Mark Paine have given massive amounts of time and energy to Sibford School and we were all sad to see them leave us at the end of the term. It was only fitting that the last event that they directed should be such a blazing success.



Dolls; Eliza Gilmore, Laura Williams, Debbi Stripe with Alice Pernevi.

In July of this year, Guys and Dolls hit Sibford! From read through to first night in the astonishing time of nine days, the production was superb and anyone who either took part in it or saw it will never forget it.



Simon Raby, Freddie Huntington and Matthew Stafford are swell guys.

The core of the Mikado cast came together with other members of Year 11 and the Sixth Form, who worked solidly to come up with a first class show. The singing, acting and superb dancing, ably choreographed by Sam Ingram, sent everyone off on their summer holidays on a high note!

Matthew Stafford and Freddie Huntington

'The Three Sisters.'

Chekhov's tragedy of autumnal shades and futile longings is a challenging choice for a school cast, but one that the seniors of Sibford School embraced magnificently in this performance.

The studio setting in the round, established the atmosphere of claustrophobic intimacy in the lives of the three sisters in deepest Russia. They long for the energy of Moscow and hang on to the words of Colonel Vershinin, played with great style and maturity by John MacDonald, when he says, 'We have to work to make a better world.'

But they are doomed. Olga, sensitively played by Sian Mather, overworks for her school and family. Masha, portrayed with great restraint by Catherine Gornall, has slipped into a one-sided marriage with the eternally happy comic schoolmaster (Tom Keeling). Her love for the Colonel is barely acknowledged until



The Three Sisters.

the poignant moment of parting. Helen Beresford captured the changing emotions of Irina, the youngest, with great conviction. She longs for life and action, settles for second-best in Baron Tusenbach (James Wringe), and loses him in a duel with his rival for her, the cynical introvert Solyony (Matthew Stafford).

The lives of the sisters are counterpointed by the charm and gaiety of the soldiers, the devotion of their retainers, with a wonderful portrayal of the shambling Ferapont (Philip Tew), and the disastrous marriage of their intellectual brother (Simon Raby) to the selfish and frivolous Natasha (Michelle Payne).

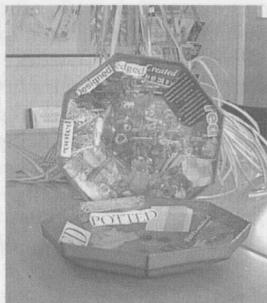
Through all the pain and suppressed emotion, the elderly Doctor Chebutykin, played with fine control by Freddie Huntington, repeats his bleak chorus, 'What difference does it make anyway?'

Here were young actors playing parts beyond their years with discipline and grace, backed by equally thoughtful staging and the inspired direction of Trevor Walters.

Jenny Austing

DYSLEXIA DEPARTMENT

I write emerging from an avalanche of colourful and creative phonic collages; this year's summer project. They make a stunning display and will provide a fascinating teaching resource all year.

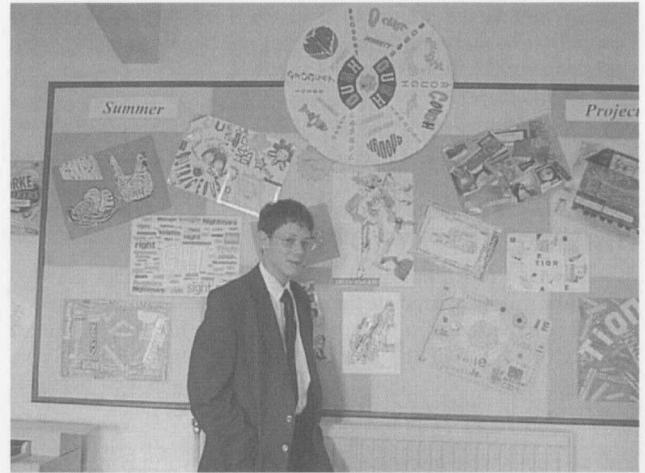


Erica John's handmade Korean phonic box.

We have been delighted to see a number of former students who have passed by this year and brought us up to date with their careers. It was also particularly good to hear that Andrew Yale, whose family gave our Dyslexia Cup, is now a barrister. Robbie McBreen was brave enough not only to visit, but also to spend an evening talking to the sixth form about university life. His motto: 'Get Organised!'

Looking beyond our own lives, we were all moved by the needs of the children in Albanian schools, shown to us by the remarkable work of Children's Aid. As a result, we collected 90 fully equipped pencil cases, a large quantity of additional stationery and enough money to transport it.

Back at Sibford, we at last have a specialist Maths room in the department converted by the maintenance team over Christmas, and also two new multi-media PCs. That was all in place just in time to greet Susan Nebesnick when she succeeded Lindy Harris in the New Year.



Stuart Greenfield with some of the projects.

So we return to our students who, yet again, have excelled themselves. This year over 60% achieved 5 or more higher grade GCSEs.

Jennifer Austing ~ Head of Dyslexia

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

'What are we doing in English today?' There is a huge range of possible answers to this FAQ ~ (computer-world jargon for Frequently Asked Question). During the past year our daily classroom activities have been extended through improved access to computers via our new School network. Students and Staff are constantly developing such skills as desktop publishing, keeping records on databases and how to make really good use of the Internet. Some have already discovered how easy it can be to 'read around' an author or a topic by referring to the World Wide Web.

Going on trips and outings continues to be an important part of the English Studies experience. Year 9 pupils went to Birmingham to take part in a day of workshop activities on 'Romeo and Juliet'; there were two trips to London to see the National Theatre's superb production of J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls.'

Overheard in the Ladies during the interval:

"What do you think of it then, Mavis?"

"Well, I'm not sure, I suppose it's all symbolic, but it's a bit over my head."

A comment in marked contrast to a later conversation heard on the coach back to Sibford.

"I really liked the way the house collapsed at the end. It's to show how the Birling's wealthy world collapsed when the First World War happened."



Year 12 Advanced level English Literature work under the guidance of Ray White.

The A Level Literature group began their study of 'Romeo and Juliet' by seeing the current RSC production at Stratford-upon-Avon and, in the summer term, this group and their teachers all felt very privileged to hear Toni Morrison speak at the Oxford Union during one of her rare visits to this country. It certainly gave new inspiration to our study of her powerful novel 'Beloved.' It also gave the Sixth Form students that exciting sense of being part of the community of literary enthusiasts as they proved by joining the long queue for signed copies of Morrison's new novel.

In October, the Friends' School English Conference was held at The Mount in York and Maggie Guy and I found it supportive, stimulating and inspiring. We were also introduced to new and entertaining ways to teach grammar by the authors of NATE's acclaimed new 'Grammar Book' which Sibford now uses as the framework for that skill.

This year again brought some good results; 50% A-C grades in English. The Literature results were remarkable; 92% achieved grades A-C, thanks to a combination of very hard work, native talent and the constant cajoling, cherishing and cramming of Tracy Knowles. In Media Studies 60% of students achieved B-C grades and their enthusiasm has led to the introduction of A Level Media Studies in the Sixth Form. Some students in Years 11 and 10 have also been very successful in the new Certificate of Achievement in Literacy; the results were pleasing with 78% reaching Distinction level and the rest Merit. Congratulations to everyone on their personal achievements in English in 1998.

This is a time of change within the English department. Penny Spring is now school Librarian, working from the re-located library to encourage and support enthusiasm for reading across the age range of our school. The changes in the library are particularly appropriate to mark the beginning of the National Year of Reading which we shall be celebrating in various ways.

Elisabeth Escher ~ Head of English

ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

The ESOL department started the academic year of 1997 with its new three term Intensive English course in place. Under the guidance of Angie Talbot the group grew from three pupils to nine by the end of the summer of 1998, and, as I write, we have another nine pupils embarking on their courses at Sibford.

Back in November 1997 senior pupils went on a combined Geography/ESOL trip to Didcot Power Station. As well as learning something of the difficulties of generating electricity in an environmentally friendly way, they discovered it is not easy to look 'cool' while wearing a yellow safety helmet, protective goggles and school uniform!

After Years 11 and 13's mock exams in December, Christine Chin made her third visit to Sibford in five years to help us celebrate



Orchard Close learn the lion dance.



Christine Chin assisted by Daniel, Joseph and Keith.

the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. This time she showed Year 7 some of her considerable culinary skills and did drama, dance and origami with Orchard Close.

The Summer Term flashed by as usual, with the final event of the academic year being the publication of the external exam results in August. Once again, our overseas students produced some remarkable results with Kelvin Lau, Keith Chau and James Chen in Year 11 all gaining seven or more GCSEs at grade A-C.



Many ESOL pupils have returned to Sibford in Year 12

Keiko and Kaisak puzzle it out for Orchard Close.

while others start at new schools and colleges. Good luck to all of them. I hope they will keep in contact with the department and we wish them all every success for the future.

Andy Glover ~ Head of ESOL

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Last year the pupils worked very hard in both Food Technology and GCSE Food and Nutrition. The pupils, once they realised that they could achieve a creditable level, went from strength to strength and achieved their potential with some very good grades being awarded and most pleasing comments from the Examining



Food Technology pupils admire their work.



Laurence Mays and Jonathan Titcombe urge the photographer to hurry before the food gets cold.

Moderator with regard to their coursework. All passed; 33% obtaining A and B grades.

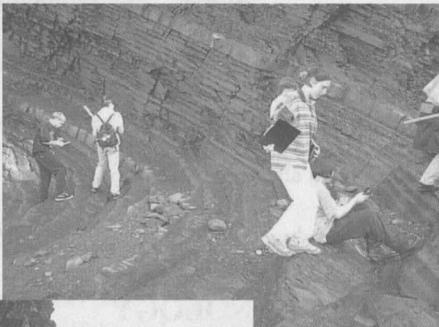
Year 6 pupils designed their own sizzling sausages; Year 7 had the opportunity to take the St. Ivel Awards, 8 achieving Bronze. Year 8 designed their own savoury bread product and Year 9 undertook the Silver St. Ivel Award with 7 being accredited with badges and certificates.

Angela Way

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Two highlights of the year were the field trip to Borth on Cardigan Bay and the completion of the first A Level course for our nine students who all passed ~ just reward for two years' hard work on everyone's part.

Geoff Slade and I took nine students from Year 11 to Borth for a weekend field trip. We had good weather and stayed at the Youth Hostel.



Alicia Hamel and friends measure land forms on the wave cut platform.



Wave cut notch at the bottom of Clarach Bay near Borth.

The main purpose of the visit was to study coastal erosion and depositional features and to see how coastlines can be protected from both the sea (Aberystwyth sea wall) and the erosion by people (Ynyslas sand dunes). The resulting GCSE fieldwork was very good and several students gained grade A for it.

As ever, our present Year 11 are embarking on some fascinating projects, several on the impact of tourism on places including Ascension in the South Atlantic, Marbella in Spain and La Garde Freinet in France.

Last year we attended most of the Geography Association lectures in Banbury and hosted one by Brian Turton of Keele University

on Transport Issues in the Third World. Other topics were Flood Management and Coastal Protection.

Brian Holliday ~ Head of Geography

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy year in the History department. In addition to work in the classroom, each year group has had the opportunity to take part in a variety of trips and events to enhance their learning.

Year 7 visited Broughton Castle and had a guided tour by Lady Saye and Sele herself. Of particular interest to them was the Civil War armour that they could try on, a number of Civil War cannon balls and the 'room that hath no ears' where Parliamentarians including Cromwell, plotted to defeat the Royalist army. Year 7 were also fortunate to be visited by the Sealed Knot which really brought the Civil War to life for them. Pupils had the opportunity to carry pike, to load muskets, and to talk to all the members of the group in person.

Years 8 and 9 had the chance to join weekend trips to the Science Museum and the Imperial War Museum in London to support their study of the Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions and the Second World War.

Years 9, 10 and 11 have recently returned from a 5 day trip to visit the sites of World War One around Ypres and the Somme. We were fortunate to be guided by Mr Robert Joynson (father of Hayley, Daniel and Craig) who works for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and works in the Arras area. It was a moving and learning experience for all involved.

Year 12 students travelled to Greece in February 1998 to visit various sites for their A Level Classical Civilisation Studies. They have also visited Fishbourne, Chedworth, Lullingstone Roman Villas and attended a performance of Antigone at Chipping Norton Theatre ~ Read our reports in the Out & About section.

Anna Jo Righton

HORTICULTURE/ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

We have had a very challenging time weather-wise this year, with what has seemed like constant rain and wind to deal with throughout our topsy turvy seasons.

Despite this we have managed to grow our usual bumper crops of vegetables, fruit and flowers, and the students have gained enormous pleasure and experience through tending them from seed to harvest.



David Whetstone shows his bumper crop to a disgruntled looking Ross Prior.



Green-fingered Garne (Robert) tends his veggie plot.

A new polythene tunnel was erected during the Easter holidays, to provide more space for the ever increasing number of plants being produced by the pupils. All monies for this project were raised by the pupils, selling their produce when we opened the Walled Garden on Open Day and at Sibford's National Garden Scheme's Open Gardens in 1997.

The department saw the completion of a two year pilot of the Land and Environment GNVQ, culminating in some very good results including Georgina Farmar (distinction), Wendy Williams (Merit) and Jeffrey De Bellefeuille (Pass), all at Intermediate Level. Wendy has gone on to study an HND in Organic Agriculture at Highcliffe College, Derby. Jeffrey is studying for a National Diploma in Conservation Studies at Hartpury College and Georgina is taking a year out and spending some time in India to work with disadvantaged children.



Jeffrey De Bellefeuille setting up a batch of natural predators in a cucumber house at Newbold Nurseries.



The Gold Award winners for the Best Kept Gardens 1998.

Deans Farm to study both free range and battery chicken farming.

We called upon parents of pupils through Mike Taylor at Swalcliffe, to study both arable and beef production and to Steve Smith at Fenny Compton to look into grassland production; Colegrave Seeds to study glasshouse production; Horticulture Research International to look at genetic engineering; the RSPCA rescue centre for animal care; Horley and Hook Norton Nature reserves to study conservation and the work of BBONT and Compassion in World Farming visited the department and delivered a talk to the GNVQ group on many topical issues.

The gardens were open for the weekend June 6th and 7th for parents and friends (on Open Day on the 6th and for the general public through the National Gardens Scheme on the 7th). It gave parents and visitors a chance to view the working gardens and a chance for the students to show off their good work. The academic year drew to an end with our annual visit to the Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had the chance to learn how broad the Land and Environment industry is.



David Clark, Jo Russell and Hayley Joynson hedge planting.

Angy Bovill

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

This year has seen the most dramatic change in the way students can access Information Technology through the curriculum, with phase one of the development being completed in the Autumn term 1997 and phase two completed by Christmas 1998.

Students across the whole School, from our youngest 4 year old, through to Advanced level and GNVQ students are benefiting from the comprehensive range of new facilities on offer, helping to ensure every possible success in their studies at Sibford.

We have a new School web site, <http://www.sibford.oxon.sch.uk>, which has been sponsored by David Ford of Ford Public Relations, <http://www.fordpr.co.uk>, and access to individual e-mail addresses for all our School community: any.address@sibford.oxon.sch.uk. Our grateful thanks for his and all other contributions from our friends in the business community.

Phase two of the development has included provision of computers, software and peripheries in the following areas of the school; Orchard Close, Business Studies; Humanities; Technology; the new Library; Careers; SpLD; Horticulture and the Boarding Houses which will have access to dial-up networking technology.



Felix enjoys part of the Year 6 Transition Programme.

Some exciting new elements introduced this year are; test bench robotics; ISDN Internet link; dedicated Mathematics learning programmes; video conferencing cameras and video editing equipment. These will help the teaching of Media, ICT, Drama, English, Design, Science, and Careers to name but a few.

1997 saw the launch of two special initiatives; early morning touch typing for all students, run and managed by Debby Evans; and Certificates of Competence in Information Technology, available for year 8 students and above. Our first batch of 19 students were entered in June 1998, and all passed their modules. A special mention to Billy Yiu who gained a distinction and James Bloom (year 8 in June 1998) who was credited with a pass certificate, and was our youngest entry. We look forward to many more students entering in the months ahead.

We are very grateful for the support that H.M. Customs and Excise (London) have given Sibford School over the past three years. We are fortunate to have received three desktop computers and a LaserJet printer in a recent donation to us, as one of a number of organisations across the country to benefit this year. This will provide extra resources for our students and help develop I.T. in areas like Boarding, English and the Library.

In 1997, Information and Communication Technology at Sibford greatly expanded to allow our students the benefit of new, modern equipment. This expansion will continue next year, to provide the widest support for the whole curriculum. I would like to thank all those who have supported this initiative, either directly or indirectly, without which, the development would not have happened.

Years 10 and 12 are studying for I.T. at GCSE and Advanced level qualifications for the first time in Sibford's history, with the first examination in the year 2000; hopefully an opportunity for a double celebration.

With the demand, last year, for access to computers at prep time, the ICT center is being opened every weekday evening and for study on Saturday mornings, whilst continuing to offer lunchtime/after school clubs for students unable to stay for evening prep.

We are all delighted with how well our students have responded to the new facilities, and are pleasantly surprised by their depth of understanding and unceasing thirst for knowledge. Long may it continue.

James Bond, Director of ICT.

LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

The last academic year has seen the Learning Support Department expanding, not only in the range and extent of support offered, but also in size. We have been housed in Room 27, thus enabling us to enjoy a more spacious environment with several different work areas within one classroom. The department is very fortunate as 27 is my lucky number!

Several of the department's pupils have benefited from the poetry writing sessions which form an integral part of the five withdrawal Learning Support lessons. Our theme for this year's work is WORDS. Not only do we employ various strategies for reading and spelling words, but we are also looking at how words are used in various literary genres and how they convey different meanings in different contexts.

Using Cuisenaire rods as a basis for developing an understanding of number concepts is also a very important aspect of the work in our department. This year, the focus for the Upper School is the multiplication tables and already pupils are beginning to consolidate their understanding of what the tables mean. We must be doing something right because our GCSE results this year were the best so far. Well done to all those pupils and we look forward to even greater success next year.

Helen Evans

Poetry written by Learning Support pupils

PEACE

Peace is a funny thing,
Just like you or me,
It is just like a magic trick,
Now you see it now you don't.

I often wonder in my bed,
If it takes a break somewhere,
And then just in time appears,
But then I think it must miss its plane,
Because it's not always where it should be.

I look around me and watch the news,
There's always a war or a conflict,
Where you would suspect it,
I think that peace must be blind,
It's not always where it's needed.

I would like to interview peace,
And ask it some questions,
If it's not too busy,
And ask 'Have you not seen the world?'
And 'Why aren't you always there?'

But then I ask myself
Is it because nobody cares?

by Frances Booth

FOREST FIRE

Red hot cigarette
dropped
Into dry grass,
Smouldering,
unnoticed.

Smoke gets thicker and thicker,
flashing red flames
dancing out of blackness
into red dragons lashing
all over the place.

Growing
Bigger and Bigger,

Dancing
Around pines and firs,

Scalding needles,
black darts,
spearing
down to the ground.

Sweet smelling sap
of bleeding trees,
as they lie in a pile,
of smouldering
embers.

by Peter Napoleoni

SKIING

On the ski lift,
Adrenaline pumping.
Up! up! up!
Here we go.
Getting close to the top,
And we drop
On the snow,
Wow!
Off I go
Doing pizzas on the way,
Twisting,
Turning,
One, two, three.
Oh no
The bottom's here
So off I go again.

by Alex Martin

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

'The Wheel Has Turned Full Circle'

For years Maths teachers have been concerned about the over reliance on calculators by pupils. Finally the powers that be have woken to the fact that many pupils' knowledge of basic numeracy has become centred around the calculator. Tables, simple addition and subtraction sums are immediately resolved by the pupils on the calculator. Thankfully the new SAT's test at level 2 and 3 include non-calculator examinations whilst at Key Stage 3 there are specific non-calculator questions on the GCSE exams.

Maths at Sibford continues to prosper with a pleasing A-C pass rate and the attainment of a grade by all pupils. The A Level is flourishing with all Lower Sixth pupils achieving a pass grade in their modules.

Workshops during the lunch hour remain popular, with Lyn Usher's Maths Games workshop on a Friday going particularly well.

John Howard ~ Head of Mathematics

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

As always, it has been a busy year in the Music Department. The year started off with a flute concert by David Oliver who was joined by Clare Cordiner accompanying on the piano and playing to a packed and appreciative audience. The programme included pieces by Schubert, Rachmaninov, Bach and a selection of twentieth century composers including a premiere performance of Sky Dance by Raymond Head who teaches singing at school.

A Selection of Events from the Music Calendar

Christmas Carol Service

As is the tradition, the Autumn term ended with the School Carol Service, a selection of Christmas music and reading. A packed Hall was treated to a selection of Christmas music old and new. The Choral Society sang a selection of Christmas carols arranged by John Rutter including a beautiful arrangement of Candlelight Carol.

The Orchestra helped to boost the energetic audience participation of the well known favourites such as 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'O Come all ye Faithful'. At the end of the service, we were treated to a performance of an arrangement of 'We Three Kings' by the Barbershop group.

Young Musician Finals

The following students gained a place in the Finals:

Intermediate Category

Stuart Greenfield	Euphonium
Naomi Chant	Violin
Kukiko Koibuchi	Piano

Junior Category

Lucy Smith	Flute
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Senior Category

Claire Chou	Piano, Flute
Julian Li	Cello

85th Chipping Norton Festival

The town of Chipping Norton once again opened its doors to musicians far and wide to take part in the 85th Chipping Norton Music Festival. This year we entered a selection of classes.

The Barbershop group also took part in the Festival and won its class with a varied and expressive programme. The adjudicator was most complimentary about the tuning and the balance of young voices within the group.



Carol Service 1997.

Joint Choirs Festival ~ Verdi Requiem

The main highlight for the Choral Society this year was the Quaker Schools Joint Choirs Festival at the end of the Easter term. The festival takes place every three years and Quaker Schools across the country join in one big performance of a major work. This year it was the Verdi Requiem.

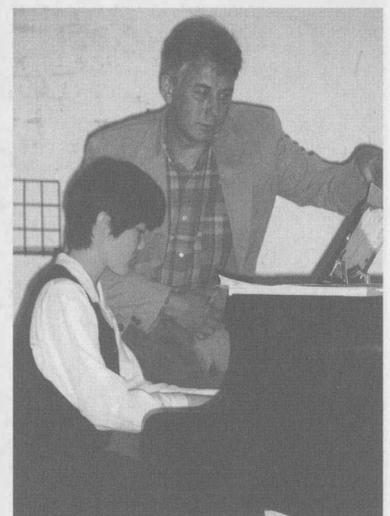


Two of the pupils awarded music scholarships in 1998, Simon Raby and Naomi Chant.

A packed church experienced a memorable performance at Thackstead Church, Saffron Walden, in which the massed choir and orchestra performed the piece to perfection and received rapturous applause from the sell-out audience. The concert was captured on a live CD recording which sold out within minutes of being released. A recording contract for Sibford Choral Society in the pipeline?

Bernard d'Ascoli Piano Recital

On 4th July Bernard d'Ascoli paid a return visit to Sibford and performed a scintillating programme of piano music which included works by Chopin, Rachmaninov and Gershwin. We were extremely lucky to have the opportunity to welcome him to Sibford because he has played at distinguished venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Tokyo and in the U.S.A. and made regular appearances on London concert platforms.



Matthew Stafford and Freddie Huntington

Raymond Head and Kukiko Koibuchi at the piano.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Boys' Results

A total of 47 rugby matches were played during the season, 16 were won and 3 drawn. It has been especially pleasing to see both the Yearlings and Junior Colts develop into teams which are prepared to work for each other and give any school a good game, even though they didn't win as many games as they might have liked.

The same could not be said of the Junior team, who, although potentially a very good team, were not prepared to support each other. We expect to see much better from them next year. The First XV have had another good season and it is only a pity that, due to injuries and illness, the Second XV only played one match which they won against Shiplake College.

During the summer term Lyn Evans, RFU Youth Development Officer for Oxfordshire, came into Orchard Close with a team of coaches to introduce the new game of Tag Rugby for girls and boys. The morning was a great success and showed the value of the game in introducing and developing a running and passing game.

At the end of the Autumn Term I mentioned how disappointed we were with the attitude of some members of the U13 rugby team. Well, I am glad to report that there has been a much improved attitude from those boys, resulting in the U13 soccer team winning 3, losing 3 and drawing one, making them our most successful team.

Girls' Results

A total of 24 hockey matches were played by the girls. 18 were won and 2 drawn, an exceptional success rate.

The girls had a very successful year, finding the goal 48 times and conceding only 9! The improvement in results and enjoyment of the girls suggests that the decision to play three team hockey has been the correct one for Sibford.

Congratulations to Caroline Cleland who was selected for the County U18 squad.

Athletics

As has been a tradition at Sibford, a good number of boys and girls were selected to represent the North of the County in the County Championships. They were:

Abby Thomson, Caroline Cleland, Elliott Jennings, Duncan Forrester, James Hartley, Adam Palladino and David Whetstone.



The Advanced level Physical Education group hard at work.

Sports Day took on a new shape with Orchard Close and the main School having their own events, on adjoining tracks, on the morning of Open Day. Instead of the heats of previous years, the main school had A, B and C finals for many events, producing some excellent performances. The day was a great success, made more so by the large number of parents who came to support.

Cricket

Cricket has become rather a minority sport over recent years at the School. The game was given a bit of a kick start with all pupils in the lower end of the school being given the opportunity to play Quik Cricket.

The highlight of the team cricket was Anthony Slater's 59 runs against Swanbourne House.

Playground Games Return!

Thanks to the support of the PSFA and the work of some Sixth Formers, Stuart Hedley, Percy Turner and his men, and particularly John Viggers, the old Tennis courts were resurrected as the Recreation area. This purpose built area is used in the pupils' free time for basketball, soccer, skateboarding, rollerblading and even just old fashioned running around. It is a great success and, hopefully, will encourage others to join in the fun. As the co-ordinator of the project I would like to thank all who contributed in whatever way they could.

Graham Thomas ~ Head of Physical Education



Girls hockey squads 1997-98.



Hmm, no wonder the Staff struggled ~ on your feet, John!

Annual Staff v Pupils Hockey Match

Our annual event took a slightly unusual turn this year ~ the staff lost! Nevertheless it was a hard fought fixture with both teams playing exceptionally well and the pupils earning a 2-1 victory (which the staff are adamant they could have won if given an extra 10 minutes, ref!).

Tracy Knowles



A motley looking crew.



The victors.

Annual Hockey Dinner

On a rainy night in July we all piled into the minibus for our annual hockey dinner. We arrived safely at the Jaypur restaurant in Banbury and proceeded to order our masses of drinks, swapping our hockey stories and others!

We shared many starters, main courses, desserts, coffees, mints and oranges (presumably they felt we needed them at half time, being a hockey team).

Later Miss Knowles gave us our prestigious awards ... Kate Hobby was the recipient of the 'mighty midget' award, Rachel Dales received the 'where's my horse' award, Laura Williams got the 'don't worry, I'll just watch' award and lastly, Captain Cathy Gornall was awarded the 'leather lycra' award (no questions asked!!).



Rachel Dales, Kate Deacon and Sarah Caines show their team spirit at the hockey dinner.

The evening continued in much the same style and we look forward to this year's event. Thanks to Miss Knowles and Mrs Guy for an extremely enjoyable evening.

Alicia Hamel

Sibford '98 ~ Mini World Cup

'Gareth Southgate, the whole of England is with you it's saved' England lose on Penalties.

The England team.



Billy Yiu, the captain of Hong Kong China, collects the trophy from Sue Freestone.



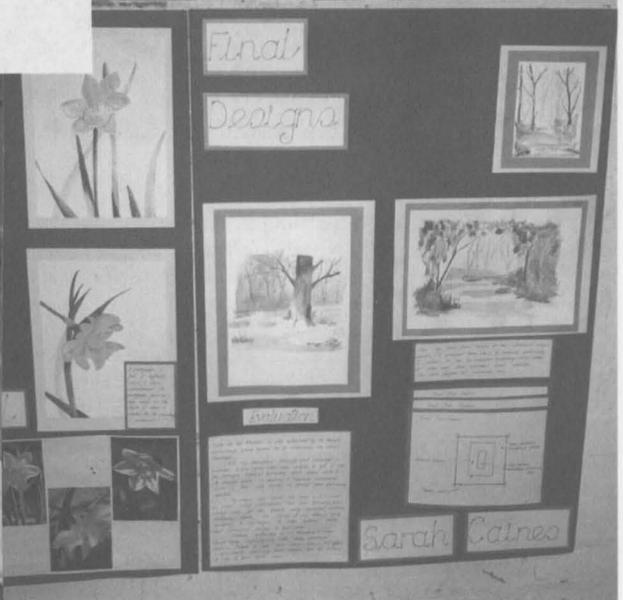
The Hong Kong China squad.

A familiar story in a different environment, Sibford's mini 5-a-side World Cup tournament including teams of varying ages and sexes (handicapped according to ability) ran parallel to the World Cup in France. This time with England (mostly veterans) lasting until the final, where, finally, age took its toll when they were beaten by the younger, fleet of foot, Hong Kong China team on penalties.

Tracy Knowles



A level Art + Design Textiles



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Just over 64% of our GCSE double and single science students gained a grade in the range A-D which is extremely satisfying and probably means that the Year of '98 will be remembered as one of the golden years.

The year started with the installation of new computers; one of them equipped with a 20 inch screen which is rather intimidating to sit close to, but which is excellent for a whole class to view together. I have also noticed that it is the screen of choice when a little after School game play is needed to pass the time until tea. We are gradually adding more software and CD ROMs to integrate into lessons and for the purposes of research. Soon to be added is some data logging equipment which will allow students to learn all aspects of science I.T.

Two students in teacher training from Warwick University have worked in the department this year. Sylvia Armstrong has a background in microbiology which meant that those in Year 10 who were taught by her also had the advantage of learning from someone with wide practical experience. Later in the year we were joined by Jo Larkin who has a background in Psychology and Research and thus brought valuable practical experience to her work with some double science Year 10 students and those in Year 12 who are studying Biology.

Chris Cox ~ Head of Science

TEXTILES

Surprise, surprise ~ the Textile department has moved yet again. When I arrived at Sibford in January 1981 the Needlework room, as it was then called, was situated in the Business Centre. Consecutive moves thereafter took me to the Staff room, as it is now (then Music School), room 5 (which used to be the Staff room), one half of the upstairs art room, all of the upstairs art room (which is now the Library) and to date I have just moved down to the Manor (old Nansen Girls).

It is wonderful to breathe life back into the Manor and it has been adapted to make a spacious and stimulating environment in which to work.

We enjoyed excellent exam results in both GCSE and A Level textiles this year. We had ten students studying GCSE, and each produced very original work in their chosen field which included Indian rug design, patchwork, creative 3D work and superb fashion drawings. Their excellent exhibitions gained them six grade As, three grade Bs and one grade C.

Our A Level group was the largest ever for the subject and each of them did us proud. Their work was technically and artistically excellent. The external examination moderator was very impressed with the originality and the high level of skills that the candidates had shown. Never had he seen so many Textile students for A Level in one centre.

Their coursework covered all aspects of the craft, stump work, rug weaving, free machine embroidery, silk painting, fabric design and printing, crewel embroidery, cross stitch, applique and working with dyes. Personal studies take the form of annotated sketch books and must show a considerable depth of personal response stimulated by first hand experience (visiting workshops, galleries, designers etc); this represents 30% of the final mark.

These studies drew particular praise from the examiner. Some of the areas covered were Charles R. MacIntosh's textile work, cultural importance of oriental rug design, spinning, dying and knitting with natural materials, Hats of Philip Treacy, a study of Patricia Guild (Designer Guild, London).

The results of two years hard work were excellent, between them they achieved 2 grade As, 1 grade B, 3 grade Cs and 4 grade Ds.

I am particularly pleased that the two A grade students have moved on to study the subject further.

In the lower years we have been working on building up skill areas, working from a design base to improve drawings and experimentation. Year 7 produced some particularly pleasing results with their hand painted/embroidered cushions, especially Sarah Philby and Min Rabb.

We have made progress with the background for our Millennium panel and full steam is ahead for this term to complete the school panel. The 'Sibfords' Millennium panel will be on display in School early next year. (See collage on page 18.)

Lesley Norton ~ Head of Textiles

YOUNG ENTERPRISE ~ A TRICKY BUSINESS

As far as I am aware, the discoverer of tapioca was attempting to poison himself rather than face death by starvation. He (his name eludes me for the time being) had become separated from his expedition, was lost and without rations. He knew a little about the native flora and decided to boil and eat the roots of one of the more poisonous local plants to spare himself suffering. He obviously knew less than he thought he did and it is with his spirit of adventure that Sibford School's first Young Enterprise company, 'Waiting for Inspiration', launched itself.

Originally twelve in number, we lost our company secretary (somewhat careless I will admit) after three weeks. We rallied however and started producing some very fine copper jewellery. At our first stand, a parents' evening sometime in mid October 1997, we took about twenty orders for our jewellery and were, as a result, in good spirits. We were in rather less good spirits when our chief jewellery designer and manufacturer left the company two weeks later with none of the orders having been filled; at least we hadn't taken any deposits.

The rest of the Autumn term was dedicated mainly to writing to any customers to inform them of the delay and then to inform them that there was no product for them to buy. A great deal of discussion occurred in which not a great deal was decided. A new service, rather than product, was chosen and preparation began for a trade fair in Cowley taking place near the end of January.



Chris Ball (finance) handing back our hard-earned cash to shareholders!

Spring Term 1998 began and a new Managing Director was elected. Under his leadership, the company made over £100 at the trade fair in Cowley selling framed digital personal photographs. Given that average sales for the day by other Young Enterprise companies were £70 we felt rather pleased with ourselves and proceeded to rest heavily on our laurels. That sort of position can become painful after a while and following a few abortive attempts at the same performance we managed at Cowley, our finances began to look decidedly unhealthy.

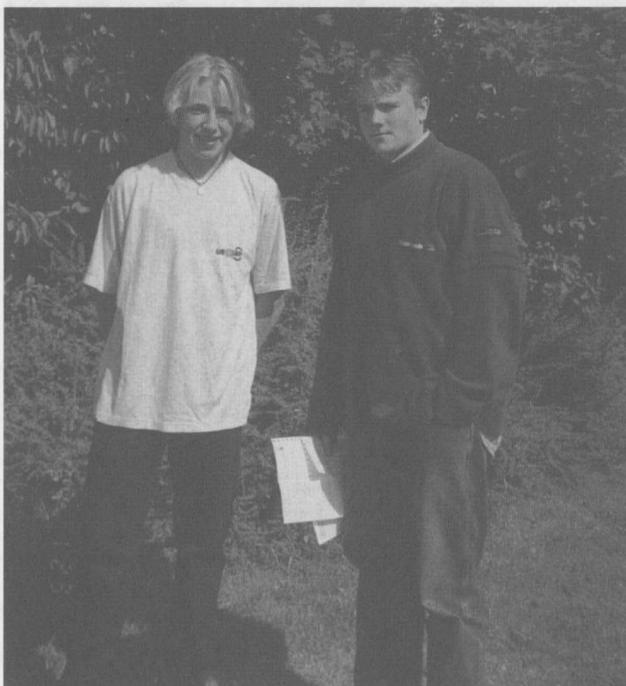
Another trade fair was planned in Stratford and preparations went well until we discovered that we would not have access to a power point. However, with prayers to Saint Heath Robinson (not well known as a saint, but one of my favourites) we produced some good framed digital photographs of popular tourist attractions in Stratford. It was not a great success. We did blame the weather for a while since it was raining, and we blamed the location because it was away from most of the tourists. In the end we got around to blaming ourselves because we hadn't done enough work.

It was only down to a last minute sale of all remaining stocks of raw materials, surviving items of jewellery and the generosity of Mrs Jennifer Wollerton, that we were able to be in a position to pay off the shareholders, but pay them we did, at the company's AGM. It was a grand affair, the end to a spectacular year; a year in which I watched nine teenagers agree, argue, blame each other, blame me, have good times, have bad times, laugh, cry, fail and succeed. No one fails in Young Enterprise ultimately; the experiences gained and the memories of both good and bad times will stand the company members in good stead for life. We also managed to get eight of the team through the Young Enterprise exam which earned them a UODLE certificate equivalent to half an NVQ or two GCSEs.

Mark Connor (Link Teacher)

A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS ~ Some of the Best Ever

This was the main feeling as the full impact of the results sank in towards the end of those fateful mornings in August. Our congratulations go to all of you on your success and for the effort that you put into your preparation for the examinations. If that last remark causes a twinge of guilt in some of you, then learn the lesson!



Congratulations to Matthew Stafford and Freddie Huntington.



Simon Raby, Ann Grice and Hetti Hillman smile proudly on results day.

With 100% of students gaining grades A to C in some subjects and very high percentages of students gaining the same grades in many other subjects there is ample justification for feeling that the Year of 1998 have been well served by the school. This should encourage the present Year 11, who may be beginning to fear the approach of June 1999 and their entry into examinations, to take courage, buck their ideas up and show us all just how well they can do also.



The wait is over for Kate Hobby and Kathryn Knowles.

We should not forget that Year 9 pupils also took part in national tests, the Key Stage 3 SATs as they are called and that Year 6 in Orchard Close took their Key Stage 2 SATs; both events occurring in May. Results in both of these tests were also good, with our average performances being well up to the mark when compared to the national average for the whole of England and Wales. Future success at GCSE and above in the making for sure!

Chris Cox ~ Director of Studies

CAREERS

The School's partnership with Thames Careers Guidance (TCG) has enabled more pupils each year to become involved in guidance in one form or another. The year began with a new advisor from TCG in the form of Penny Telford. Assistance from Penny in presenting various careers related topics to groups from Year 9 to the Sixth Form has raised the profile of careers guidance in the school.

Sixth Formers have been able to make appointments with our advisor to prepare action plans for their future. All of the Year 11 pupils have been interviewed and action plans prepared. These plans may now be used as part of the National Record of Achievement.

We are fortunate in having a well equipped careers room in school that provides guidance for many areas of work and training. Students should make good use of the facilities and always feel able to approach tutors and careers staff when they need assistance.

Michael Wollerton ~ Careers Officer

LITERATURE SECTION

The following are two extracts from a GCSE coursework folder by Laura Williams submitted in 1998 and awarded grade A*.

Comparing and Contrasting War Poetry ~ A Critical Analysis

"Dulce" by Owen highlights the horrific truth of war, and the cruel and torturous deaths that awaited young men on the battlefields. He describes graphically and masterfully a gas attack that causes slow, painful death to one of his comrades. We can feel the cruel reality of the poem throughout, the death, the desperation and plea to the "outside world" to see what they have done.

"Dulce" is an excellent example of Owen's feelings about war. He was very keen to go out and fight when he was young, and to be the hero of which all young boys dream. However, once he had seen the reality of war he knew that there was no real glory in the futile fighting. In a letter home to his mother, this is what he says after describing the horrific struggle of leading his men into the trenches and 'over the top' to relieve some of his comrades:

"I have not been at the front, I have been in front of it ... those 50 hours were the agony of my happy life ... I nearly broke down and let myself drown in the water that was now slowly rising over my knees ... I am afraid, blinded ..."

His chilling description of another torment of war, a gas attack, which he had to endure with his fellow soldiers, also highlights the unimaginable conditions and terrible emotional and psychological torment that the soldiers had to face.

The pungent language and images that Owen uses are at the very heart of the poem; they shock the reader into a new sense of realisation. The soldiers were forced to 'fling' the body of their companion into the wagon full of corpses; even the overpowering emotion that they should be feeling was consumed by the shocking fatigue of the battle. The word 'fling' makes the action very impersonal; as if the body was a sack of coal or potatoes to be loaded into a wagon instead of a dying comrade. These soldiers had seen too much death, too much suffering and had begun to disregard human life; not knowing or realising the massive scale of death with which they were faced. The poem is made so effective and descriptive because it is an actual account of what happened, a 'first person' description of the horrors of war.

His brutal, descriptive imagery is truly breathtaking, the readers can almost feel themselves beside Owen and the other soldiers on the battlefield; they can see the dying soldiers, smell the acrid gas, and almost begin to try and appreciate what it must have been like to witness such gruesome and appalling predicaments as those of the battles in which the soldiers fought.

One of the most powerful images is that of a man 'under a green sea ... drowning.' Owen recapitulates the situation with such chilling originality and frankness, describing every horrific detail. It is as if the man is in water not air; he is gasping for breaths as would a drowning swimmer. He would be groping for the 'surface', trying to find the cool, clean air that would be his saviour.

I feel that Owen saw his comrades for what they actually were, young men whose lives were thrown into turmoil by the war, not super heroes 'ardent for some desperate glory'. He saw that the only thing that they were pleading for was a chance to go home, a chance to survive and go back to the happy and secure lives that they once lead.

'Charge of the Light Brigade' was aimed at the world to make them honour the 'heroes' of the Battle of Balaclava; 'the noble six hundred!'. He shows that although it was apparent that a terrible mistake had been made, the soldiers still obeyed their orders and fought to their death as a 'true and noble' soldier should.

'Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well,
Came through the jaws of death,
Back from the mouth of hell.'

In the 'Charge of the Light Brigade,' the battlefield is compared to the 'Valley of Death,' and the Brigade is said to be riding into the 'jaws of death'. Tennyson uses these to show how futile the battle is, and to show how Death is closing over the soldiers, as if it is an animal slowly stalking its prey; ready to catch them in its 'jaws'.

One aspect of poetry that has a strong link with the rhyme pattern of a poem is its rhythm.

'Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward ...'

This is the opening of 'The Charge of the Light Brigade'. This poem has a wonderful rhythm, especially the beginning. The poem reflects the sound of the horse's hooves galloping into battle: da-da-dum, da-da-da-dum, da-da-da-dum, da-da-da-dum. This acts as another form of imagery, this time it is aural imagery. You can hear the horses gathering speed as they thunder into the valley. This makes the whole poem relate to the battle by the sound that it makes. I also think that this element of speed is effective because it relates back to the fact that the whole battle itself only lasted twenty-five minutes, and that so much life was wasted in so little time.



Sherlock Holmes' Casebook: The Case of the Speckled Band ~ written in first person narrative

April 1883

I was awoken unusually early that crisp, cool morning, by Mrs Hudson, who was in a rather excited and flustered state. I was eventually able to decipher that she had been awoken just minutes earlier by a young lady who was in desperate need of my assistance, as she had a rather chilling and compelling case that needed to be resolved.

I dressed hastily and after rousing a somewhat confused and lethargic Watson from his deep slumber, informed him of the pressing matter at hand as I am well aware of the interest that she shows in the inquiries which I undertake.

At twenty-two minutes past seven, I was accompanied by Watson into the sitting room where a young woman was seated by the window, gazing nervously into the street below.

She was dressed entirely in black, with well made but slightly worn attire. Her boots were mudded around the heels and her crocheted woollen shawl was touched with spots of mud, as was the left sleeve of her tailored jacket. These immediately brought to mind travelling in an open dog-cart along the country road and looking at the pattern of mud spots I reasoned that she would have sat on the left hand side of the driver. I looked more carefully at her and found her body language was also very revealing.

She was sitting very upright, with excellent posture and her hands placed neatly on her lap. She gave the impression of a very well brought up young woman. Our guest looked increasingly tense, as she tugged nervously at a black lace handkerchief on her knee.

She rose hurriedly as she saw us, and I detected a slight shiver as she glided across the room towards us. Was this a shiver of chill or fear? Looking at her tense appearance, I decided hastily upon the latter. I introduced her to Dr Watson, who smiled cheerfully and also myself, whilst beckoning her towards the log fire, offering a hot beverage to ease her chill, or to learn of the cause of her agitation. Consequently, she replied:

"It is not the cold which makes me shiver... it is fear, Mr Holmes.



It is terror." As she murmured and raised her heavy veil I realised that her long, dark hair was dashed with lines of untimely grey and her soft hazel eyes darted anxiously around the room as she bit her lip. Her face was drawn and uneasy; it was unusually furrowed and aged when compared to her youthful, fragile body.

In her left hand with which she had just removed her veil, I could see the buff coloured paper of a train ticket clutched in the palm of her gloves, which were expensive and tailored, but slightly threadbare at the fingertips and cuffs.

She regarded me imploringly, expectantly and I reached out amiably and comforted her, commenting genially on her long journey. She was disconcerted and perplexed by this announcement and looked bewilderedly at me, waiting for me to elaborate upon my point. I smiled warmly at her naivety, and proceeded to explain slowly and methodically how I was able to reach this lucid conclusion....

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

(Wilbur talking to Charlotte's Children)

"Well, Nellie" said Wilbur, "your mother was the kindest spider that ever lived. She spun several webs for me using such praising words like 'humble' and 'some pig'. I felt proud and ever so grateful.

She found me one day sobbing, but when I heard her she would not show her face, she said I had to wait till morning came. When morning came I saw a piece of string with dew on it. It was beautiful.

Suddenly I saw a beautiful spider, she looked just like you. It was Charlotte. I had never seen a spider before. I was beside myself when she told me about eating flies, but it soon became clear to me that it's just a spider's habi..haba.. habnat. Oh I can't remember, it's a word Charlotte taught me. Habit, that's it!"

"Nellie, do you miss having a mum? Please tell me." asked Wilbur curiously

"In a way, cause she sounds like such a hero." said Nellie

"You'll take her footsteps, I know you will Nellie" said Wilbur.

"Tell me more, tell me more!" said Nellie

"Well every single farm animal respected her, she kept them in their place. Her personality was so kind, she had such a heart"

"Do you miss my mum?" asked Nellie, curiosity was creeping over her face.

"Do I miss her! Do I miss her! Why Nellie, if I had not met her I would be porkchops or bacon on a piece of china"

"Oh please don't say that" wept Nellie

"Well we have to face rea... real... reality don't we. I would have done anything to save your mother."

"Why did you not tell Arena and Joy all this?" asked Nellie

"Well, they flew off and so I did not feel as close to them as I do you. I really trust you Nellie. I hope I can care for your needs, like your mother did for me."



Mike Finch leads the Sunday Choral, to the accompaniment of Sue Freestone



Nick and Chloë Bennett



Committee officials Adrian Douglas and Ashley Shirlin checking in O.S. at Sunday lunch



President Julie with her consort, Mike Herm



David Sadzadeh.



Irene Coxon-Smith and Norman Coxon



OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS



Moreen Budgen (née Gibbons)



Mario and Eleri Ricci.



Janet and Russell Steed (our foremost cameraman appears in front of a lens for a change).

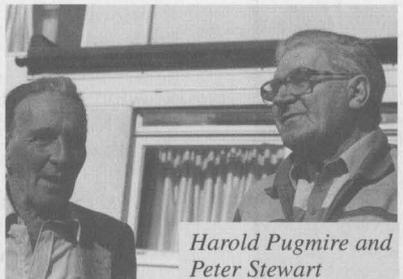


After Sunday Meeting - Ann and Ray Bond.

“Ye Menne of Sheep-ford wendath withersoever they wilen”



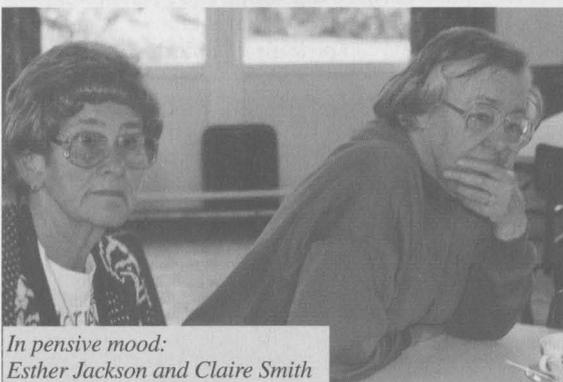
A chat after Sunday Meeting - Philip Manasseh with Jeanne Southam and Irene Coxon-Smith



Harold Pugmire and Peter Stewart



Michael van Blankenstein and Loraine Brown



In pensive mood: Esther Jackson and Claire Smith



Chris Legg



Magazine Editor Mike Farr (right) joins Barbara Crozier and David Laity in “The Blaize”

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SOSA EDITORIAL

This is my third (and last) shot at editing SOSA's section of the Sibford Magazine.

I'll not say that it hasn't been stimulating and educational, but there's a limit to what an elderly gent can take! As they say, you can't teach an old dog new tricks and I suspect that my 'inspiration reserves' are now running out.

I hope that, over the span of three years, my few innovative ideas have had some beneficial effect, but it is now time for me to be passing the torch into younger hands.

Concerning this edition, you will no doubt notice the shortage of (a) recent photographs of Old Scholars at any events other than the Annual Reunion, (b) photographs of younger Old Scholars (of whom there are always plenty around, though seldom in a camera's viewfinder) and (c) articles/contributions from OS below 'middle age'.

These are matters entirely beyond my control. As I said in this column last year (not wholly in jest), "...there will only be blank pages without readers' contributions..." and I fear that we might be moving slightly in that direction.

We owe special thanks to Barrie Naylor. His editing of Isabel Evens' contribution on page ix was a tremendous help. Special thanks are also due to Russell Steed, Geoff Moore and Basil Franey for their photographic contributions.

We thought by the way that last year's proof reading had been near perfect, but I have since noticed that we mis-spelt Paul Ludlow's name on a photo caption. Sorry Paul!

Mistakes or not, we hope you will find the SOSA Editorial Team's efforts both evocative and entertaining.

M.D.T.F.

ANNUAL REUNION 1999

We are pleased to announce that the School have kindly invited us to hold our Reunion during the AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY from the 28th until the 31st

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Hello to all of you. I find it hard to write about myself, but I have been told that as your President I have to produce something for you.

Many of you will have known me since I was a few weeks old but for those of you who have not I was born in Sibford to Lewis and Jean Poulton, a sister for Fiona (although I suspect there have been times over the years when she may have wished that she did not have one). The Poultons, as some will know, have resided in the village of Sibford for many generations and have had various connections with the Friends School.

After starting my education at Sibford Gower Primary School, I moved to the Friends School as the seventh Poulton to attend as a pupil. It is very difficult not to follow totally in the footsteps of previous family members and my final year at Sibford saw me succeeding Fiona as Deputy Head Girl.



*Cindy Poulton
President 1998-99*

One would imagine that after 14 years in school that would be enough for a while, but I moved on to Beachborough Preparatory School, as Assistant Matron to boys between the ages of 7 and 13 years. This was a place I had worked at in the summer holidays of my last two years at Sibford, with Karen McKenzie (née Mulholland) a friend from school, on a children's holiday scheme.

After two years at Beachborough, I decided it was time to study again and in 1979, the year my mother officially retired from Nursing, I commenced my Nurse training at Northampton (The Health Service would not have coped with two Poulton Nurses at one time!). I vowed the day that Mum took me to Northampton that I would complete my training there and leave the town immediately. How wrong I was; it was ten years later that I departed to return to Oxfordshire, where I took up a position at Banbury Horton Hospital. Two years later I experienced something which many individuals today have unfortunately been through, or know somebody close to them who have been through it: redundancy. With a call for more Nurses in the Health Service it was hard to believe they were making some of us redundant. At the time it was difficult to see how I could possibly gain from the imposed position I found myself in, but five years on I recognise the benefits and challenges it has placed me in.

I moved to Anglesey to start work at Bangor Hospital (Ysbyty Gwynedd for those of you who are Welsh). What a challenge lay before me! I was employed to establish a new service for patients with Urological Cancer; a position which did not exist outside of specialist cancer hospitals. Not only that but I discovered on my first day that I was working in a different country with a different language - Gwynedd schools have returned to Welsh as their first language again.

As you will have read in the October Newsletter, I was very proud to be presented this year with the Urology Nurse of the Year Award. Something I would not have been in a position to achieve if I had not been through the experience of redundancy.

Life is now spent driving up and down the country's road network, to visit friends and family. Mum, Fiona and her family, she is married with two boys, now live in North Devon (was there a reason for them moving even further away from me!). People descend on me for their holidays, as there is the combination of the mountains and the sea, although the weather can be a little wet at times! One way and another, there are very few free week-ends.

Old Scholars has been a part of my life on and off since I was born. The first reunion I attended was when I was 12 days old, that was the year that my Father was President. During my last two years at Sibford I sat on the SOSA Committee and for the next three or four years after leaving, I remained on the Committee and took part in Old Scholars activities. I personally feel there is an in-built need for young old scholars (often in their mid 20-30s) to have a break from the Association. This is a time when our lives are taking on major changes and we are establishing ourselves. It then becomes possible to fit into life the areas of the past that may have helped us to achieve what we have but that we may for various reasons have not realised that they had had any impact.

Sadly Lewis died in 1988 and it is very significant to me that I am to be your President exactly 40 years on from the year that he held the same office. I really hope that as many of you as possible will come and join me at this year's reunion, if you have not attended before or for a long time please do not be deterred by the time lapse. You can be sure that like everybody you will be most welcome. I, personally, look forward to welcoming you on what is a special week end for me.

THE ANNUAL REUNION

23rd-25th MAY 1998

by GUY KINGHAM

After a hard day at the office (well School actually), Jane and I set off from Eastbourne in the late afternoon sun. It was a long drive, especially the bumper-to-bumper M25 section. However, when we arrived on the Banbury to Sibford road, we felt that all was forgiven. The natural beauty of the rolling countryside mixed with the flooding memories of the past were so overwhelming that they erased the mind-numbing, boring crawl of the past two hours,

We entered the village at nine o'clock and pulled up outside our accommodation - the talk of the weekend, The Ark. The School employed me for a year when I was 18, and I lived there. This was the first time that I had been inside the building since then.

On Saturday we awoke to the sounds of birds singing. (Julie was finding this very unfunny as she was woken earlier and earlier each day - much to her annoyance!). As we drifted through the paddock, on our way uphill for breakfast, I must confess I felt intoxicated by the beauty of the area, and I hope that, if or when The Ark is sold, the paddock is not drastically changed.

During Saturday, Old Scholars and their families arrived, in garbs reflecting their many tastes and lifestyles, and by a variety of means.

The day moved swiftly on. First the Committee Meeting, where Hugo delegated Reunion tasks for members to complete, followed by joining old friends in Fielding for coffee and a chat.



"...in garbs reflecting their many tastes and lifestyles..."



It being term-time, accommodation was somewhat makeshift. There was frustration when members found their old haunts were no longer available to sleep in, but everyone was comfortable enough in the end.

Lunch followed with fish and chips (delicious) and Julie, as President, welcomed us all. Many of us trekked to Broughton Castle in the afternoon. It is a magnificent castle with beautiful grounds. We were the only group visiting and were personally welcomed and shown round by Lord and Lady Saye and Sele.

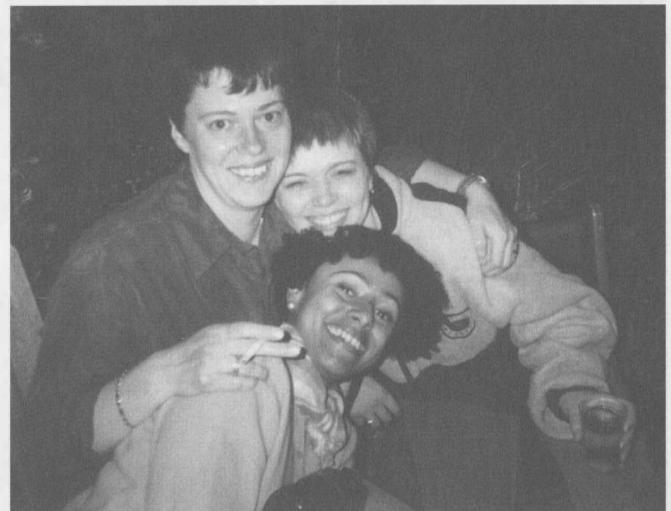
It was an extremely interesting tour. It started with Joel and Cherry (Nancy Pugmire's children) dressing up in some armour, I think from the Civil War period, although I was laughing too much at the sight of them to really hear. The tour eventually finished with a stroll around the moat and gardens, before a welcome stop at the tea rooms.



'Chefs' Paul Levy and Rachael Davis.

The published programme was changed around in the evening, and we enjoyed the barbecue in the Peace Garden at 6pm. This was expertly cooked and served by Hugo, Paul (the Assistant Reunion Secretary), James Thompson and Rachael Davis. The weather started to turn and many of us gathered our morsels and took shelter in the Oliver Studio.

The President's Choice was really a delightful choice!! Julie had asked Jane Ashdown (my editor of this article) to prepare a Flute recital for us. Jane is a professional musician and a teacher of music, and she entertained us exquisitely, ably assisted on the piano by Sue Frestone. They played music from the Baroque period right up to some modern day jazz. It was not only a wonderful repertoire, but also delivered to us in such a way that



Clockwise from front: Liseli Bull, Harriet Langridge and Julie Greenhill.

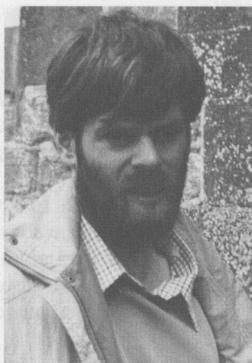
“...and by a variety of means...”



many of us now have a far greater knowledge of the flute and its history.

The Masses then marched up in good humour to the Elm, where thirty-two of us enjoyed “Rockets”!!! The evening was once again finished off with a few swift shandies at the Bishop Blaize Inn.

Sunday arrived with the usual harmonious sounds of the birds singing, and the rather less pleasant sounds of Julie whingeing. However, it wasn't long before she was smiling from ear to ear as the catering staff had created her favourite breakfast nibble “eggybread”. All of us old scholars from the 80's generation were pinning for this delicacy, and I have to say it was exactly as we remembered it.



Julian Sandiford



Rebecca Hare - our newly elected committee member

After breakfast Sue Freestone led the Choral with hymns chosen by Mike Finch. I didn't attend, but understand it was a great success.

Jane and I decided to walk to Meeting across Oddie's Field. It was a beautiful morning and we set off in good cheer. We were perhaps a little surprised that there were not more people walking, but we were unperturbed. Then a possible reason for so few ramblers slapped us across the face; there in front of us stood a randy bull. We were a little shocked and backed our way into a corner of the field. Luckily for us, the cavalry turned up shortly afterwards and they cleared a path through the field for us.



“...accommodation was somewhat makeshift...”



After Sunday Meeting, Guy Kingham and Ken Francis



Spanning the generations ~ Heads and spouses. l-r Marjorie Fielding, Sue Freestone, Hugh Maw, Rupert Freestone, Daphne Maw and Tim Wardle in the background.

Leslie Harrison, Russell and Janet Steed will find us forever in their debt!

After lunch, Jenny Wollerton (who kindly allows us to open the School Tuck Shop) opened up Top 86, where many Old Scholars perused and purchased all sorts of memorabilia. Then we had the choice of the Treasure Hunt or a walk with Brian Holliday.



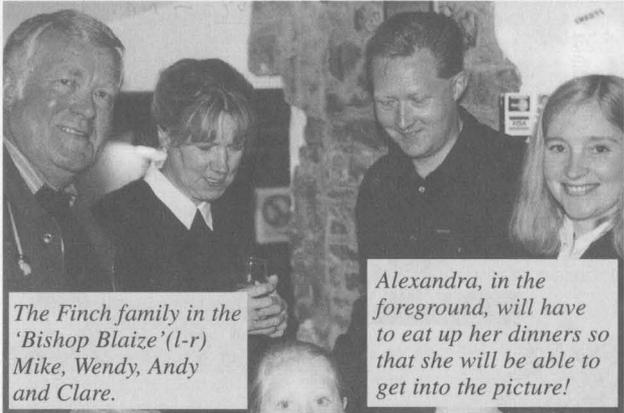
Sunday afternoon walk. l to r: Brian Holliday (leader), Christine Wincott, Alan Carlton Smith, Joan Fratter, David Carlton Smith, Martin Dodson, Liz Cordiner, Freddy Seefeld and Mike Ladell.

The Treasure Hunt was superbly organised by Ann and Raymond Bond. I understand that no-one got lost this year (possibly because I didn't enter) and the competition was won by John Farr's car - congratulations!

Some aspects of the Reunion programme were changed this year. It was a notable success having the Presidential Dinner on the Sunday evening. This started with the traditional drinks with our President in the Oliver Studio, followed by a particularly interesting culinary feast. I was aware that Julie had passed the responsibility of choosing the menu to her partner, Michael Herm, and what a menu he chose: lamb marinated with dried fruit and spices, sauté garlic cabbage with pine nuts... it goes on and on... delicious!



The President (determined to project an informal image) takes tea with her V-P – Julie Greenhill and Cindy Poulton.

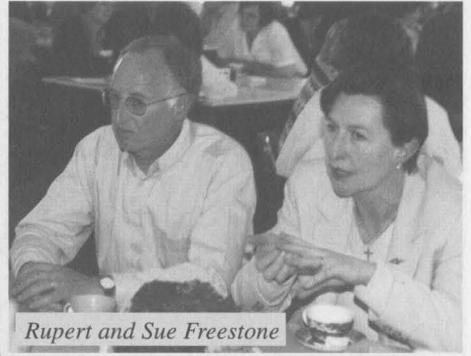


The Finch family in the 'Bishop Blaize' (l-r) Mike, Wendy, Andy and Clare.

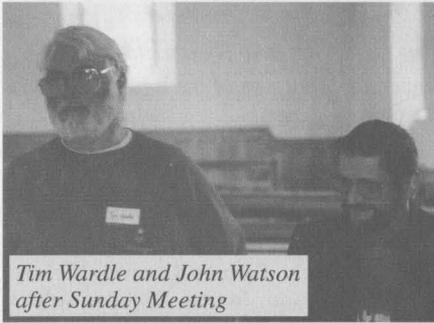
Alexandra, in the foreground, will have to eat up her dinners so that she will be able to get into the picture!



Mike Ladell



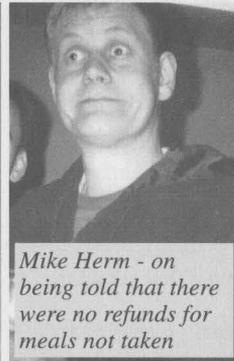
Rupert and Sue Freestone



Tim Wardle and John Watson after Sunday Meeting



Rachael Davis



Mike Herm - on being told that there were no refunds for meals not taken

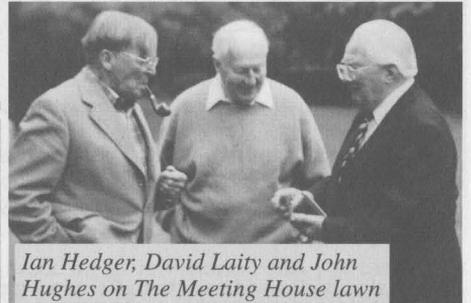


After Sunday Meeting- Anne Muir and Margaret Le Mare



Wendy van Blankenstein and John Farr

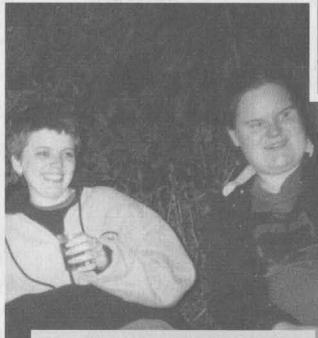
Russell (Sherpa Tenzing) Steed on Fielding roof, about to take the group photograph



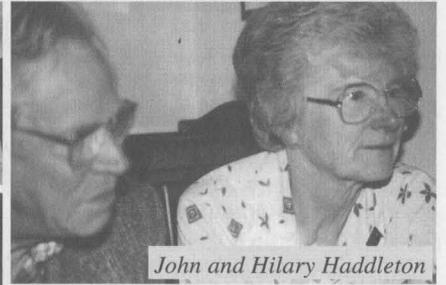
Ian Hedger, David Laity and John Hughes on The Meeting House lawn



Relaxing in the Monday afternoon sunshine. l-r David Haines, Mike Ladell, Joachim Litteck, Christine Wincott, Freddy Seefeld and Moreen Budgen



The President and Reunion Secretary enjoying a well-earned break - Julie Greenhill and Hugo Finley



John and Hilary Haddleton



Our busy Gen. Sec., Ashley Shirlin, pauses for lunch with Hilary Waterfield



Chloë and Nick Bennett with Leslie Harrison at the Saturday barbecue



Philip Morris at the Saturday coffee morning



At the Sunday Choral - a lusty singing of 'Jerusalem'



Our hard working Assistant Reunion Secretary, Paul Levy (right), relaxing with Ian Parsons.

the car park for 'Rockets'.

Later those of us staying in the Ark were led by our General Secretary on a moonlight walk of the School playing fields, obviously to help us walk off the excess food we had eaten.



Monday started with the AGM. The main discussion was on the purchase of The Ark and after a lively discussion and many relevant contributions from the floor, the meeting decided against proceeding with the purchase.

The Leslie Baily Address that afternoon was given by Harriet Langridge. We were enthralled by a slide show and commentary she gave on her many travels. We saw Zambia, Jerusalem, Turkey, Pakistan, Yugoslavia and much, much more - fascinating stuff!!

Finally, for us the day finished with tea at Holly House. Well, it would have been there, but the skies threatened us with a thunderstorm, so we sheltered in the dining hall and consumed many (far too many for my figure!) wonderful home-made cakes. Russell summoned us shortly afterwards to the grassy patch behind Fielding, and happily the sun peeped out long enough to give us the perfect photographic conditions.



Julie Greenhill, elegantly attired for hosting the Presidential Dinner

Sadly the weekend had now finished for us. Another superb weekend was had by us all. I would like to offer

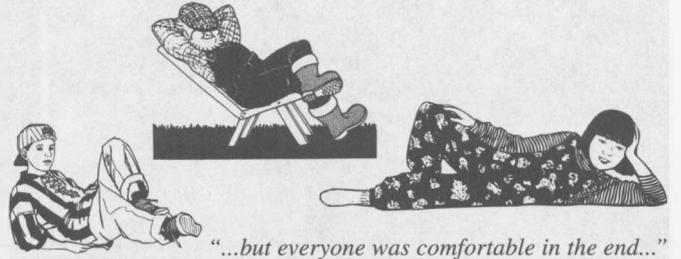


Navid Sadrzadeh performing after-dinner card tricks.

speeches. Julie discussed discrimination and labelling and how Sibford's influence developed her self-esteem. Zara Huntington, the School Committee guest, recited an extremely amusing poem she had written about Russell Steed. We retired to the unusual setting of

my thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend happen - a real team effort.

One final quirk - I heard that Nick Bennett finished his honeymoon with Chloë at the Reunion (bless him, how romantic). "Congratulations" from us all to you both.



Those who attended the Annual Reunion 1998

Amongst those who attended for all or part of the Reunion, or who were seen at some time, were:

Barbara Abercrombie; Mary Armstrong; Jane Ashdown; Mark Bennett; Nick and Chloë Bennett; Lorna Bergstrom; Kay Böhm; Ann and Ray Bond; Loraine Brown; Philip Brown; Moreen Budgen; Liseli Bull; Jo Butcher; Liz Cordiner; Clem and Margaret Cox; Norman Coxon; Irene Coxon-Smith; Barbara Crozier; Melanie Davies; Rachael Davis; June Dawson; Martin Dodson; Adrian Douglas; Margaret Fairnington; John Farr; Mike Farr; Marjorie Fielding; Mike and Wendy Finch; Andy, Clare, Michael (jnr) and Alex Finch; Hugo Finley; Ruth Fletcher; Patrick and Judith Flinn; Ken Francis; Joan Fratter; Sue, Rupert and Tara Freestone; Tim Gebbet; Irene Glaister; Clyde Goodwin; Kenneth and Robin Greaves; Julie Greenhill; Chris, Pat and Nicola Grimes; Jane Gunston; Hilary and John Haddleton; David Haines; Joe Hare; Rebecca Hare; Arthur and Pamela Harrison; Gillian Harrison; Leslie Harrison; Philippa Harrison; Ian Hedger; Mike Herm; James Hindle; Brian and Jane Holliday; Christopher Holman; Gill Holman; James Holman; Jennifer Holman; Mike Holman; Brian and Pauline Hooper; John Hughes; Zara Huntington; Esther Jackson; Ronald Kennedy; Guy Kingham; Mike Ladell; David Laity; Arnold and Ina Lamb; Tom Lane; Harriet and Terry Langridge; Margaret Le Mare; Chris Legg; Paul Levy; Joachim Litteck; Jeanne Little; Diana Lloyd; Paul Ludlow; Philip Manasseh; Hugh and Daphne Maw; Mark Mercer; John Miller; Philip and Rosamond Morris; Anne Muir; Ian Parsons; Cindy Poulton; Harold Pugmire; Nancy, Joel and Cherry Pugmire; Tim Pye; Eleri and Mario Ricci; Don Ryan; Navid Sadrzadeh; Julian Sandiford; Freddy Seefeld; Margaret Shelley; Adrian Shirlin; Connie Shirlin; Ashley, Carol, James and Maria Shirlin; Claire Smith; Alan Carlton Smith; David Carlton Smith; Jeanne Southam; Janet and Russell Steed; Peter Stewart; John and Doreen Taylor; Jim and Sue Thelton; James Thompson; Sheila Trout; Jayne Turner; Percy Turner; Michael and Wendy van Blankenstein; Tim Wardle; Hilary and Luke Waterfield; John Watson; Lewis Williams; Neil Williams; Sheila Williams; Suzie Williams; Christine Wincott; Ethel Wright; Peter Yeoman.

Total known 152 - sorry if we've missed anyone!



After the Reunion photo: chatting on the lawn behind Fielding.

THE 1998 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Given by Julie Greenhill on 24th May 1998

My speech this evening, is essentially to make you think about your verbal and physical attitudes toward other people, and what can be interpreted in some ways as discrimination in its various forms, to both children and adults.

At Sibford, we were, and I believe still are, taught to accept anybody of various races, creeds, backgrounds, and to treat people as we would like to be treated ourselves.

When I came to this school, I was an unruly child of 12 years, under the guidance of the local authority social services department. I had already been labelled or discriminated against as a child, and was seen to have come from a dysfunctional family, who was seen to be unintelligent, although that certainly was not the case. Eventually, my local authority decided to send me to the outbacks of Oxfordshire, at a place called Sibford, where I tried my hardest to get into the Remedial Centre (now called the Special Needs Department), as I truly believed that I was thick.

I was amazed that we were taught to be individuals, and that following the crowd was in fact not necessarily the correct way, as we again would fall into bad habits.

Now this is an extreme case in childhood, which thankfully was corrected by the local authority, who had seen that I had potential.

In life generally, and especially as children, we again learn very quickly how to judge people on first impressions. Is this correct and right? I will leave that open to you, to think seriously about this.

Most of us judge people by their outward appearance, by their clothes, their hair or jewellery etc. Due to peer pressure, age differences, lifestyle, class, religion we again have preconceived ideas on how we see new acquaintances and can make the decision on whether we like that person, without even knowing them or even trying. Is this fair?

Is it correct to assume that if a person has a different dress code to us, that they are bad people, or should we be saying that they are individual and are not following the crowd?

On a more serious tone, should we have the right in general to label or discriminate against anybody for being disabled, for their sexuality, their age, inexperience etc. We all in this room are well aware of all the 'isms' that have crept into our language, Racism, Sexism, Ageism to name but a few, but if we all thought more seriously about decisions both in our business, and our personal lives, we would not be in the current situation where many people feel excluded, for whatever reasons, in our society.

I know that you think this is some kind of ideal; it is, but without people considering and maybe compromising their thoughts these problems will never go away.

It has been a pleasure being your President of which I am very proud. It has proved hopefully, going back to my original point, that a person from a dysfunctional family who is perceived to be a problem, can grow up to become a responsible adult, which is what I think I am.

22nd LESLIE BAILY ADDRESS

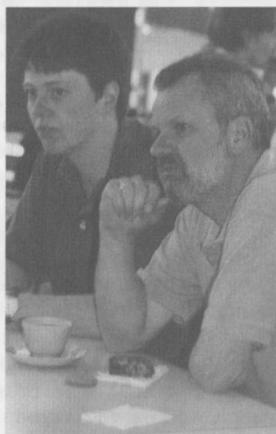
Given by Harriet Langridge (née Jones) - 1975-80

(This address was illustrated with numerous slides. A few are reproduced here, although hardly enough to do proper justice to the event - Ed.)

'If you don't do it when you've got the opportunity — you'll only kick yourself later.'

The title of my talk is a quote from my mother — a great source of inspiration.

To give a bit of my background, I'm the only one in my generation who wasn't born in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) so I was brought up on stories of the bush.



Harriet and Terry Langridge

To my travels.

In 1984 I went off to America and Canada on a touring, camping holiday. I enjoyed the style of travel, and the fact that I could go off and do this on my own. It was fun, everybody mucking in and all responsible for the eventual outcome of the trip.

So it was hardly surprising that 1987 saw me giving up my job and doing a longer trip (5 months) from Harare through the Continent of Africa to London. This time the mode of transport was a Bedford truck.

The start and the end of the day were wonderful — sunsets of the most brilliant colours and patterns.

In the southern part of the trip we saw a lot of game: zebra, giraffe, lion and lots of others.

One of the most fantastic sights is Victoria Falls; you can hear it thundering miles away, as Mum says, you could almost imagine what Livingstone thought as he approached all those years ago.

We travelled through Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Tanzania to Kenya on the first leg of the trip. Whilst in Nairobi I met Kathy Stewart in the cafe at the Thorn Tree. The second leg of this trip saw us going through Zaire to see the Gorillas; which was a day of tracking and then eventually meeting a gorilla family. The male Silverback was called Marcel, 250 Kg and absolutely huge. To say awe-inspiring is an understatement, I was crouching behind the guide when Marcel ran forward, picked up his hand, then dropped it and ran back up the hill again — my heart was beating so hard I think they could hear it in Kigale! Needless to say, I still look back on that day as one of the best I have ever spent.



Above: Baby gorilla.

Left: Marcell and his family.

Travelling through Central Africa when we did was wonderful — although we were warned to stay away from some areas and how to be fairly inconspicuous. In others we had no real problems. Now to look at that part of Africa, with all its problems and wars I realise just how lucky we were. The last leg of this trip was through the desert. We spent time travelling through the Sahara, having to dig

the truck out of the sand frequently. The rock formations in the north were stunning.

We made our way up through Europe — crossing the Channel the morning after the great storm of October 1987.

The next long trip was Asia and the Middle East, starting with a short trek around the foothills of the Himalayas — “a little bit up and a little bit down” — staying in tourist lodges and experiencing some excellent views.

Into India and the temples, all so different, Jain, Hindu etc. The Ganges with its burning ghats: 360 Kg of wood needed for each cremation - but the body is cleansed by the act. There is now a proper crematorium to save the wood.

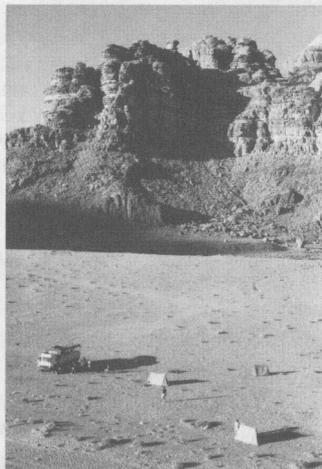
The Taj Mahal was an interesting sight, and the story behind why it was built even more so.

In Old Delhi with its hustle and bustle of commerce, traffic and people I suddenly came across a man who was flying a kite through all the cables, and in him I saw one of the most relaxed and contented Indians I had seen.

Carrying on northwards, we stayed in Shrinagar on a houseboat for a few days - enjoying the relaxed atmosphere before continuing on up the Karakoram Highway. Villages built on the side of the Indus river — precariously. We would find a campsite in the middle of nowhere and first the kids would turn up, then the men. Of course we would have to teach them how to throw a frisbee! One of the villages we went and visited was a hive of manufacturing activity, for the arms to carry on the fight in Afghanistan. Watching the basic engineering skills was fascinating.

We flew over Iran from Karachi to Istanbul making our way down through Turkey to Syria, Jordan, Israel and back up again. The most striking place on this leg was Petra “The rose red city, half as old as time”. Little did I know that the same place had also captivated my father 40 years before. The Hama water wheels with their “wooden engineering” that had lasted 2000 years were fascinating, and noisy too.

This part of the trip was truly a “crumbly” part. The Krak des Chevaliers — 400 years to build — a Crusader castle. Jerash, with its road with columns 1 Km long, and all the other crumbles we visited when we saw them. By this time we had been in Jerusalem as well, visiting the Wailing Wall, and trying, very unsuccessfully, to get to see the Dome of the Rock. Camping outside Palmyra with its splendid ruins we were just about crumbled out. Although I personally could never tire of the desert, the rock formations at sunrise — and sunsets of the Wadi Rum were awe-inspiring — when we’d got to the Ephesus, my companions and I knew we were at our last crumbly — although for anyone who has visited it, it’s quite a splendid one.



↙ Jordan, Wadi Rum.
*Breakfast at the best campsite
in the world.*

Our trip was nearly over; all we had to do was travel up through Europe and cross the Channel.

These two trips are the longest I have done, and although I gave up my job for them, I don’t regret a minute.

Since then I have travelled to Oman, for some scuba diving, Russia for the World Helicopter Championships and America on my

honeymoon. The trips closer to home have been good too: my husband Terry drags me off to Le Mans for the 24 hour race every year, and we try to cross the Channel and explore Northern France, for weekends in the off season. You don’t have to go far to travel, but if you don’t do it when you have the opportunity — you’ll only kick yourself later.

Postscript

Julie, thank you for asking me to do this talk. Its brought back some wonderful memories and given me a nudge to look at my photographs again!

THE LEAVENERS

A report from Paul Jon Levy (at Sibford 1988-93)

This summer, due to the generosity of the S.O.S.A., I and another O.S. joined seven other Quakers and members of the Quaker Community Arts Organisation “The Leaveners” to go to the U.S.A. to run drama workshops with young people. We also took this opportunity to meet with American Quakers and spend some time in their homes.

Five of us, including fellow Old Scholar Hugo Finley, spent the first week in Burlington, New Jersey, while the other five went to Canada. We were sleeping and working in an extremely large old converted Meeting House, where we spent the week exploring issues of Justice and Injustice with 11 to 14 year olds. We looked at issues of racism and greed; and also the injustice they as individuals face every day, whether it is bullying or the homelessness they see on the streets. We discussed what we as individuals can do about this. The second week we were working with an older group of mainly 15 to 18 year olds, but were also joined by members of the administrative staff, exploring sexuality and relationships. We explored relationships, not only romantic ones, but family and parental; how the relationships we encounter in our life change, and what we do to deal with problems we encounter. Here, as we were staying at a traditional American summer camp, our sleeping arrangements were unusual. We were sleeping in a wooden structure with open sides and fitted out with bunks.

Even though we were working with very different age groups, many of the techniques that we used were very similar for both groups, the main difference being the numbers of people needed to facilitate the groups. When working with younger groups all members of the group have to be around all the young people at the same time; it’s amazing how much energy twenty-five 11 to 14 year olds can have. Also the younger people had to be guided much more, with us giving them step by step instructions on what to do. The second week gave us much more freedom to let the participants work on their own, and to let them choose the direction they wanted to head in; also we were joined by the five Leaveners who had spent their first week in Canada, so there were 10 of us. We split up into five groups of 2 people working with a group of 16 people. Each session we ran started with a short period of Quaker worship, then a warm-up to get the young people ready for the session. We did this using various techniques, including discussion work and role-play; getting them to place themselves in the roles of others, and seeing issues from different points of view. We also used visual and written techniques such as getting them to draw body maps of themselves and using this to explore their personal space and their feelings towards their own bodies, and getting them to write guided poems, and express ideas in words, pictures and movements.

After working on the two camps, four others and myself took the opportunity to visit Philadelphia, Washington and New York, staying in Quaker Guests Houses and people’s homes, meeting Quakers there and attending Meeting. It was a very enjoyable trip, and also I learnt and hopefully shared a lot. One of the most interesting aspects was that, even all those miles away, there are people who have the same beliefs as I learnt from Sibford and continue to believe in.

A VISIT TO YURT-LAND

An Old Scholar's Tale

BY ISABEL EVENS

(Last year we received an absorbing and heart-warming 'Time Slot' article from Isabel, which described her time as a Sibford pupil during the Harrod Years. We then asked her if she had anything else to contribute which might be of interest to our readers. As a result this much-travelled lady has kindly followed up with a draft section from a book currently in course of preparation. Her work required shortening for publication here and this has been expertly carried out by my 1940s English teacher, Barrie Naylor. Ed)

Isabel Evens (Sibford 1922-24) decided to revisit China in the spring of 1983, to study Acupuncture, but the agencies had no vacancies. English veterinarians, on a tour which included Inner Mongolia, offered her one place, which she took - because it included sleeping in a Yurt. This is an edited version of her visit to Yurt-land.

B.N.

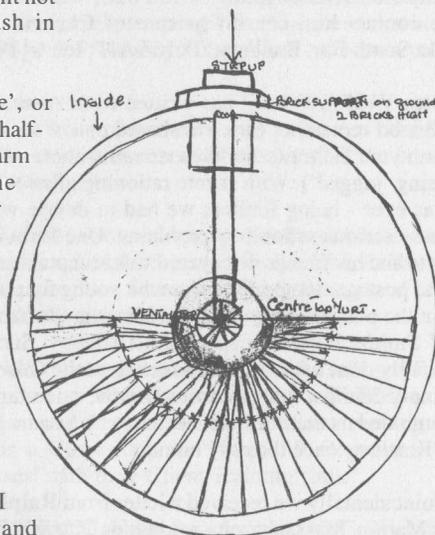
... We flew from Beijing to Hohhot in Inner Mongolia, north of the Great Wall. There was a water shortage in our hotel, and I have never slept on a harder bed. Fortunately we left early the next day by bus for Yurt-land, a commune 6,000ft high up among summer pastures. It was about a 90 mile ride, meeting little traffic, via bridges over rivers that were dry. It was a lovely drive under a blue sky, with a constant song of nightingales. At the top level we were met by a man in a Land Rover who led us to the village of Yurts, six in a semi-circle with a large tent (marquee) beyond, which turned out to be the hub of the village, serving as cook-house, cinema and village hall.

While the men talked about shoeing and animal sicknesses, I wandered among the homely dwellings. Each worker had a strip of land to grow what they could during the warm weather, but the whole village and animals moved to lower ground in winter. I was intrigued to see how they used mud and water, which dried hard, to house their hens, rabbits and geese, even shaping a small roof to shelter sitting hens from the sun. We drank home-made wine in the headman's house - on one floor with the 'Kang', made of brick, in the middle. Heated, this served as a double-bed on which the whole family slept in their bags.

Before dark the men drove the sheep and cows into the paddocks so that their droppings could be collected and dried for fuel. For the night we were spread out, six to a Yurt, with mattresses, bedrolls and pillows. We lay with our feet to the centre, where the fireplace was. We were surrounded by a wonderful silence enveloped by moonlight outside. A crowing cock woke us, and young women brought hot water for us to wash in enamel bowls.

A brick built 'Cesue', or Mongolian Loo, was half-way between the farm buildings and the Yurts, similar to our old earth closets. It had the most awful stink; inside were two brick-edged holes ... and no lighting.

When it was time to say 'Farewell' to our hosts in this beautiful place, I think both visitors and



residents felt really sorry, all waving and clapping hands till we were out of sight.

Back to Hohhot where the vets watched a display of superb horsemanship, then on by a small, uncomfortable plane to Shanghai. There we were shown zoo hospitals for all types of sick animals, which left us feeling sorry for those in captivity. For me the highlight of our tour was the visit to Yurt-land, experiencing natural and simple living, far removed from 'civilisation'.

BRUMMANA HIGH SCHOOL, LEBANON

On the occasion of Brummana High School's 125th Anniversary Sibford Old Scholars' Association greets Brummana Old Scholars' Association

This Middle Eastern school was founded by Friends in 1873. It has been run by a Cultural Society for some years, but in 1998, their 125th Anniversary, it was handed back for running by Friends.

Philip Morris, being both a one-time teacher at Brummana and SOSA's Retiring President, travelled with Philip Manasseh, among other Friends, to convey our greetings to the Brummana Old Scholars.

Philip's thought-provoking address is reported below.

As the Retiring President of Sibford Old Scholars I bring you warm greetings from England. If you read both the Brummana magazine and the Sibford magazine you will find that one important comment keeps recurring in both: the loyalty and love we all hold for our respective schools.

Both schools have inspired generations of citizens with an untiring will to improve the world in which we live and that our children will inherit.

In England many of our rivers are polluted. They have been contaminated by our methods of farming, by industrial waste discharged into them and by acid rain draining into them. The water is an opaque grey and aquatic life is struggling to survive. I have a



Brummana High School - Lebanon

dream: one day all these rivers will flow with crystal clear water and the life in them will be fully restored.

Many of the ideas that flow between the people of this world are like our English rivers. They are unhealthy. They do nothing for civilization. They are contaminated by greed, by ignorance and by bigotry resulting in suspicion, in hatred and in war. As a result whole armfuls of the world's population are distressed, homeless, diseased, starving. These are all children of one and the same god; all members of the one family of man.

If we look at this family of man, homo sapiens, as a developing organism, we must realise that it has a long way to go before achieving a sustainable future.

Julian Huxley has written an introduction to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's book 'The Phenomenon of Man'. In it he uses the word "cephalisation" to describe the way a developing organism must "form a head as the dominant guiding organ of the body, forwardly directed and containing the main sense organs providing information to the outer world and also the main organ of co-ordination or brain."

According to Chardin when a new life form occurs on earth, for it to become first individualised and then personalised it must go through this evolutionary stage. He sees the human race as an organism struggling to develop. It has to develop a single mind to survive.

At present homo sapiens has many heads. Its lack of co-ordination is the result of its many religions, differing cultures, languages, etc. It does not think together.

However, modern technology may be the catalyst for the cephalisation of mankind. Both Sibford and Brummana have pages on the internet. It is possible, via the internet, for one person's thought to be circulated round the globe in seconds. We see, on our television screens, interviewers talking to people on the other side of the globe. Big corporations hold business meetings between groups gathered in distant offices. They can now function as if they were gathered in the same room.

Could there come a time when the nations of the world begin to think together to co-ordinate their actions in, for example, controlling the use we make of the world's forests, or to develop fair trading systems that no longer exploit one country to benefit another?

If Brummana wants to save the world it could not do better than produce a group of Old Scholars dedicated to the work of reconciliation through the internet. Let this be the new dream. Furnished with virtual reality and global togetherness, let the experts of Islam and Christianity, of Buddhism and Hinduism, of Communism and Capitalism be brought together face to face, mind to mind, to seek out the Omega, the vital energy (that great enabler), the one God, through which mankind can learn to live harmoniously together. Only then can we make the most of our world.

J. Philip Morris, July 1998



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

OR

"They who wendath withersoever they wilen"

In time-honoured custom, letters, phone messages and 'gossip' are here drawn together to keep members up to date on their friends' and contemporaries' news.

Mavis Stiles (née Mutch) writes that our '1947 Retrospective' feature, in last year's magazine, reminded her of the 1947 blizzards and the accompanying hardships: "...I remember being rationed to half a slice of bread for breakfast and tea!" She regretted being unable to attend the 1998 Reunion (owing to a trip to Australia) but sent her

best wishes to all for a very enjoyable weekend. Mavis, by the way, in common with other members, has asked your Editor for addresses of several dispersed OS, but unfortunately we of the Editorial Team are no better informed than anyone else. Virtually our only point of reference is the List of Members, available to all on application to the Membership Secretary.

But we ask everyone please to let the IT Co-ordinator (Adrian Douglas) know of the whereabouts of any non-member OS, with their years of attendance, so that he can add them to his database; we should thereby be increasingly better informed as the list grows.

Ronald Kennedy (1928-33) sends greetings to all. Our 1998 Time Slot feature 'A Roller-Coaster Ride' interested Ronald and he wrote recalling events from a period earlier than that experienced by the writer. Ronald, who was Head Boy in 1932/3, remembers that he and some other senior pupils plucked up courage and wrote (on the subject of the then Head's predilection for corporal punishment) to Lionel Geering, an OS who was then - by coincidence - both a School Committee member and the current SOSA President. (Lionel was one of a 'dynasty' of past, present and forthcoming Geerings.) According to Ronald, "the result was that Lionel would turn up at the school late in the evening without prior notice... sleeping on the music room floor at the New School (where most of the boys then slept), and the first 'AJ' knew was when he arrived down with the boys (at the old dining hall in the Manor) for breakfast." Lionel also visited unannounced during the afternoons, on his business travels between Birmingham and Sussex. Ronald believes Lionel's vigilance led to a cessation of such practices.

Christine Wincott (née Bishop) who left Sibford in 1947, writes to relate some news of her contemporary **Freddy Seefeld**, who emigrated to Australia in that year. "Since then he has lived and worked in Papua New Guinea and Australia. He retired last year and visited the UK, Germany and Switzerland, where he caught up with various relatives and friends. His one aim over the years has been to attend a SOSA Reunion." Happily we have seen him at both the 1997 and 1998 Reunions: welcome back Freddy! Any old friends wishing



*l-r Christine Wincott (née Bishop),
Freddy Seefeld and Janet Manasseh
(née Oldham)*

to contact him can do so care of Christine, whose address is: 11a South Bar, Banbury, OX16 9AA (Tel. 01295-262516).

Otto Wolf (1939-45) has written from Australia with greetings to all who remember him. He shared one of his War Years memories with your Editor (who likewise remembers - now with his memory being 'jogged'). With severe rationing of sweets, and pocket money - as ever - being limited, we had to devise ways of getting round these serious schoolboy problems. One form of 'currency', which Otto and his friends discovered was acceptable at the Wykham Arms, was postage stamps. Otto was a bit young for purchasing cheap cider, but the pub willingly supplied him (via the back door) with packets of Smiths Potato Crisps against stamps. Such transactions were usually done after Sunday Meeting at the Gower. Otto even sent an empty Smiths wrapper from Oz, the once-familiar logo of which reminded us that 'Smiths' seems to be a name less seen today in the UK. It was once the only brand.

Coincidentally we received a letter from **Ralph Townley (1935-40)** in Marion, Massachusetts, asking for Otto Wolf's Australian address. Ralph sends greetings to all who remember him.

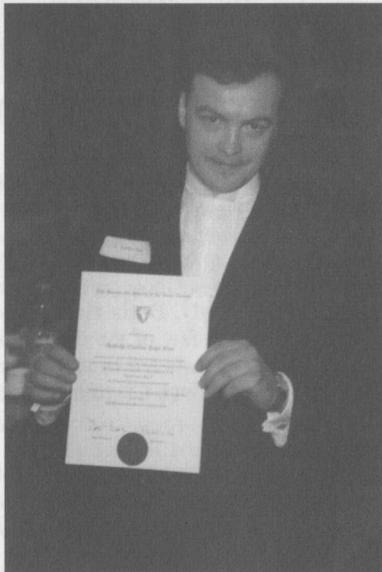
Vera Barber wrote to say she had enjoyed reading last year's Newsletter, "What a marvellous idea to 'fill the gap' between the Summer Reunion and the Magazine distribution. I haven't been to a Reunion since I lost Reg, but love keeping in touch with all that happens through SOSA, and he would have been so much behind me in this... keep the flame burning!"

Ann Brown (née McCallum) 1953-59 - in a lengthy letter - wrote in similar vein, "I would like to congratulate you on the SOSA Newsletter just received and on the sending of the AGM Minutes accompanying it, such a good idea. I have to admit that this is the first time ever, that I have read all of these Minutes and they did make interesting reading! In the past, with the Magazine coming in the busy month of December, I have tended to scan through it quickly (omitting the AGM Minutes) then sometime in the New Year reading quickly what interests me, before passing the Magazine to my father."

[Modesty prevents your Editor from quoting further from Ann's letter, but suffice to say she seems not to be too displeased.]

Derek Gaffee (1938-43) dropped a line to send greetings to his many old friends. Derek now lives in Biddenden, Kent, not far from your Editor in Hythe, but so far our paths haven't crossed, This can be easily rectified, Derek, by your attending the next Reunion; be assured there are many contemporaries waiting to see you.

We have received news of **Andrew Yale** (at Sibford School Remedial Department in the '70s) being Called to the Bar this year at the Inner Temple. Andrew writes to Robin Greaves: "After my first degree BA Hons (2:1) at Kingston I went to Johns Hopkins University Bologna/Washington for my MA that finished in 1989. Recently I have passed the Bar exams and the Inner Temple Called me on 12th March 1998.



Andrew Yale

"Without David Foulds' and your support and belief in me at the start, all those years ago, it would not have been possible and I would not be a Barrister-at-Law. Your work was vital and made all the difference. Thank you again."

Irene Tester (née Yarwood) (1920-22) sent her best wishes to us all and she kindly contributed some interesting Time Slot material, which readers will find on page xiii. Thank you Irene, and we return your good wishes.

Edwina Bell (née Eddie Bezant) wrote recently to pass on her best wishes to all those who might remember her and says that she hopes to get over to visit Sibford soon.

Norman Burton (1937-42) wrote in April to send best wishes and says. - - - "I receive quite a lot of OS news through John A. Taylor and Geoff Moore. We attend the same Meeting at Brentwood. We are often a quarter of the Sunday morning attendance!"

Timothy Phillips (1955-60) sends his best wishes and tells us "I've just changed jobs again - so after a career in HR with B.P., as a Freelance, Rolls Royce and Anglian Water, I am now moving to Price Waterhouse as a Consultant in 'People & Organisation Development Processes' with their Client Training Unit."

We have heard from **Mary Nicholas (née Lewis)** (1947-53), who still lives in Kenya, as do most of her family - she recently enrolled

her sons David and 'JJ' (John) as Life Members of the Association. She goes on to say "The Sibford magazine was, as usual, received with enthusiasm and was read with much pleasure. It seems to get bigger and better every year! With me, at Sibford, was my twin sister Grace Lewis and our photograph appeared in the 1997 Magazine celebrating our 60th birthday. Also, by coincidence, was a photo of a small section of the Honours Board with the name - Frances Brookhouse - who was Head Girl in 1941 and was our Aunt! It seems that some of the next generation will also be at Sibford before too long."

Margaret Masters (née Moore) (1920-22) Writes to send best wishes to all who might remember her.

Scilla Templeton sent news in January 1998 of her son, **Robert Templeton (1981-87)** "who is about to depart to Kenya for two years where he will be working for VSO. I am also making sure of my copy of the Sibford Magazine which we enjoy reading each year. It is good that the School is so obviously thriving. Robert gained a Diploma in Social work and Dip.H.E, from Anglia Polytechnic University in September 1994. He was the youngest member on the course. Since then he has worked in Hackney with mentally ill clients and also at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He will be responsible for identifying the needs of the mentally handicapped children in a rural area of Kenya. We feel we have a lot to thank Sibford for."

(Robert was heavily dyslexic at Sibford and the above letter just demonstrates the wonderful service that Sibford provides in that particular field. Ed.)

Susan Thomas (née Smith) (1951-56) who has lived in Canada for many years says... "The Magazine is great and I look forward to receiving it. So much has changed since my time at the School - I fully intend to visit sometime in the not too distant future. We are in Britain twice a year, usually Spring and Autumn but it's mainly to visit my husband Brian's elderly parents in Wales. Attending to their needs doesn't leave much time for other side trips but Sibford is definitely on my list! I still keep in touch with a few OS via Christmas mail and it's always good to hear their news as it is interesting to see any names I recognise in the magazine and to read about them. The hard work SOSA people put into keeping the Association going is much appreciated."

Cindy Poulton writes...

"In the 1995-96 Sibford School Magazine, **Kageha Marshall (née Gay Watts)** wrote about her visit to Kenya and, on return, the making of a documentary film about her life.

"Like many pupils at Sibford, Kageha (at Sibford in the early seventies), was trans-racially adopted by a Quaker family at an early age. The film was about her retracing the steps of her past and going back to Kenya to confirm her African identity and heritage.

"Kageha's film was successfully completed and shown on Harlech Television in April. She had an overwhelming response and she particularly remembers an 8-year old girl approaching her in the street in Bristol. She said 'I'm Nigerian and I'm fostered into a white family. Thank you for making your film, it has helped me.'

"Kageha's film called 'Kageha's Story'. went on to win the BRONZE MEDAL AWARD at the International Television and Film Festival in New York in February 1998. 'Kageha's Story' has also been nominated for the UNESCO Film Award.

"Kageha is absolutely thrilled. Her film has not only reached a wider audience but trans-racial adoption as an issue has finally got the recognition it deserves. She would like to give a special thank you to three Sibford Old Scholars, her cousin Sarah Watts (who spent two years at Sibford in the sixth form), Anne Farr and Helen Highmoor (née Painter). Sarah and Anne both took part in the film. Helen, Anne and Sarah were very supportive during Kageha's time at Sibford and afterwards.

"Kageha would also like to say hello to Miss Eunice Lemon who was Nansen Girls' Housemistress, and Ian (alias 'Weedy') Wilson."

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to our old friends **Reg and Vera Brown** who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in January 1998. They were married at Kensington Registrar's Office on 17th January 1948. A report in the 1947 Old Scholars Magazine says... 'The wedding of Reg Brown (one of the twins) and Vera Norgrove on January 17th, 1948, was the culmination of a whirlwind romance. It resulted from a friendship starting at the November gathering of the London Branch and the wedding coincided with the January gathering of the same group! Both are well-known Old Scholars – and both will have the best wishes and congratulations of their fellow scholars...'

BRANCH NEWS

London Branch

Since the SOSA Annual Reunion in May, London Branch have had one event and planned another.

On July 25th Pam and Arthur Harrison held an 'At Home' for us in Wokingham. Seven OS met up on this occasion and enjoyed a very warm welcome and splendid lunch with Pam and Arthur. In the afternoon we were taken off to explore California Country Park near Wokingham then back to the Harrisons for cups of tea and farewells.

Our next event is to take place on Sunday October 18th 1998 at the home of Mavis Stiles. We plan to meet first at CHESHAM for MEETING FOR WORSHIP, then on to Bellingdon for a BRING & SHARE LUNCH and AUTUMN WALK.

All are welcome to join us. Please ring Pat & Chris Grimes 01727 850521 for details.

In early December we shall be having an Advent Gathering - again all are welcome. Ring the Grimes if you are interested in coming.

Pat & Chris Grimes — Joint Branch Secretaries

Midland Branch

Hilary Haddleton reports:

We held the Annual New Year gathering at Selly Oak Meeting House on Saturday January 31st.

A cold buffet was enjoyed by some 40 O.S., followed by a quiz on place names near Sibford organised by John and Jean Osborne.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday January 30th 1999 and we would be delighted to see some new faces. Please get in touch with me. (Address etc. on page xx)

TIME SLOT — TIME SLOT

Sid Geering (1934-41), who kindly did researching for us in connection with his family's old friend, **Joy Mangan (née Morland)**, a scholar between 1923-25, sends greetings and reports that... "Joy has written from Achill Island, Co Mayo, Ireland, sending greetings to all Old Scholars who remember her. Now in her 87th year and unlikely to visit Sibford again, her memories of Sibford both as a pupil under the Harrods and as a teacher of Domestic Science under Arthur Johnstone, are still sharp and perceptive, even though more recent events are a little confused. Born in Montserrat, her early childhood was idyllic and it must have been a considerable shock to adjust to the Spartan life of Sibford in the early 1920s, with its cold climate and plain food, but she clearly loved it. Though her contemporaries are now few, her vision of the world and current events is still clear. In a recent letter to the Head she was enquiring about the school and, in particular, about facilities for overseas students. The fact that she asked if there were anything she could do to help demonstrates that the spirit of Sibford stays with her, as with most of us, for a very long time. Although she cannot offer an

overnight stay, any Old Scholar holidaying on the West Coast of Ireland would be sure of a warm welcome from Joy and Paddy."

This Sibford group from the 1920s has been contributed by Joy. She has identified many of those pictured, including (l-r back row) Roland Herbert, Elsie Bayly, Doris Horton, Winnie Nicoll, Frank Parkin and Miss Mole. A few of the others she cannot identify, although she personally is included in the next row down, made up of (l-r) Wilfred Timms, Olwyn Clayton, Joy Morland herself and Clifford Mortimore.

Others in the group include Lloyd Williams, Leslie Thomas, Hilda Jenks, Betty Morland, Marjorie Geering, Doris Rowe, Jim Rufus, Peggy Wilson, Marjorie Palmer, Dick Geering and Basil Clayton.

Perhaps some of Joy's contemporaries can fill in the missing names (volunteers please contact the Editor).



A 1920's group – see above.

TIME SLOT

Sundry Anecdotes from Mike Farr (1938-43)

A world-weary 10 year-old

A certain young Sibfordian, experiencing his first winter storms in 1938 (in a since-demolished bleak dormitory), wrote in his mandatory weekly letter home. "...didn't get much sleep last night. We had a loose widow in the dormitory."

Centenary Pageant

As many know, the late Paul Eddington had to conceal a variety of ills during his working life, among them Ankylosing Spondylitis, a crippling form of backache,



1942 Centenary Pageant

This 1942 photograph records the end of a scene in the School's Centenary Pageant on the Manor Lawn - while players were exiting "stage left and stage right". On the extreme right is Dorothy Prior, followed by myself and Rainer Josenhans. To the left is a Village Bobby (name unknown) and an 'ancient yokel', supposedly very arthritic, played by our future star. How cruelly prophetic this proved to be for Paul!

A Chance Encounter

The date: Saturday 10th September 1977, we Farr brothers are aged around 50. The scene: John's seaside shop near Chichester where I'm helping out during his Autumn Sale. A harassed, balding and slightly portly gent enters with his wife and their cluster of children (I think they were a babe in arms, one in a buggy, a toddler and another of junior school age; small wonder he appeared harassed!)

While they were browsing - seeking souvenirs for Granny etc - I briefly bade him good day (as shop staff do) and his response came in a familiar and well loved accent. I apologised for my boldness but enquired whether perhaps he hailed from North Oxfordshire. "Thaz roight" came the answer and he was naturally curious about my local connections. When I told him that I was an Old Sibfordian, he informed me that (although his home was now in Bicester, where he worked as a plumber) he'd been born in Sibford, at the old Tyne Hill Police House, while his dad was the local constable. (I'd remembered the policeman and his proudly showing off a new-born son, when some of us returned early to school after the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939.)

Even as he spoke I did some quick mental arithmetic. His face was a sight to behold when I told him that his age was 38 and that he had quite recently celebrated his birthday. Only then did I tell him of my Sibford memories from September 1939!

TIME SLOT – a contribution from Irene Tester (née Yarwood) (1920-22) Edited by Michael Grimes

At Sibford we were always hungry. There was 'bread-eating' at Break and we queued, a different form at the front each day, for lumps of dry bread, with the occasional lump of pudding or slice of staff toast thrown in. If there was a very small form before us we got second

helpings. We had, and disliked, coconut butter at breakfast on Sundays. We liked 'squashed fly pudding' and also 'blanket pudding', which must have been plain suet plus treacle.

When I was at Old Scholars a year or two ago I watched with surprise as teenagers walked past fallen apples without picking them up. Apples used to fall for us, perhaps after being hit with a tennis racquet, and in our gardens we produced real vegetables. I was winning the competition for the most potatoes, until the boys cheated and put all of theirs together.

We were divided not into Houses, but Guilds: Coastguards, Pilots, Shepherds and Watchmen. Coastguards used to be top, both at Sports and at getting bad conduct marks. My best friend was the cleverest in the school and always came top, so her Guild was the best at school work. I was a Shepherd and the only thing at which we came top was blackberry picking.

As Sibford was very hard up the blackberries were all cooked, and once a week we had a period in which we did such things as cleaning the basins and polishing desks. The first Games lesson in the term was used to mark up the football and hockey pitches, and we did mending once a week. (Actually, one girl - me - read aloud to the class while her best friend did her mending. She was good at mending). We also had a turn at leaving Meeting as soon as it was over to come back and lay the tables.

We were very often cold, as well as hungry, and I used to creep into my friend's bed, to be turned out again when Matron came round.

I know now that we had three teachers of real genius. You'd be lucky to have even one in your school career, and we had three: Mrs Harrod, Mr Thorpe and Mr Parkin. Possibly Roland Herbert as well, but I never did much in Woodwork; I remember my best friend set the end of her pigtails on fire with a Bunsen Burner and Roland put it out with his bare hands.

Over all these teachers was 'Gaff' (James T Harrod), a dimmer figure to us (I once got caught drawing his head on the blackboard showing bumps labelled 'Bible Knowledge'; I believe he was quite pleased) but he must have had a wonderful influence to make the whole school such a happy place. I remember on my very first night straying into the Harrods' private apartments and being so kindly welcomed.

Mr Thorpe did not like you to get too cocky. There were four of us who were better at maths than the rest, and our special work was introduced as "now the Methuselahs will go over to that corner", leaving us envious, if anything, of the rest.

I remember someone trying to teach us clay modelling, and some - the boys, of course, threw lumps up to the low ceiling. We also learnt to swim and I reckoned that jumping off the board at the deep end was the quickest way. It wasn't.

One memorable event was when Mr Thorpe let me drive his 350cc side-valve Triumph motor cycle combination around the boys' playground. He also let one of the boys, Philip Blunsom, do the same. And he once let us drive on the open road, as far as Traitors Ford. I wasn't too pleased when I discovered that I had been kept to bottom gear while Philip had been allowed to change up.

Sibford - dear old 'Zib'. I was there from 1920-1922, and it was one of the very happiest periods of my life.

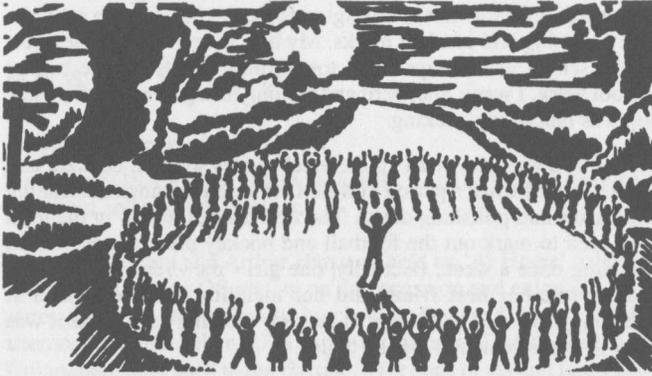
THE LEGEND OF THE ROCKET

As a new generation of Sibfordians joins the ranks of SOSA, the mystique of Rockets continues unabated and many a young person leaving the School is fascinated to know how it all came about. On investigating its origins we were told that our best bet would be to ask the oracle himself - Mike Finch, so we did, and he unearthed this snippet of SOSA folklore.....

Early in 1920 some London Old Scholars went away for a weekend conference at a house near Guildford. On the Saturday evening after an open-air concert, the final item was in the nature of an action event for all present to give an imitation of pyrotechnics.

Shortly after the weekend conference, the London Branch, who had begun rehearsals for the entertainment that they were giving at the next Whitsun Reunion, thought it would be a good idea if an adaptation of the Rocket might prove popular (understatement of 1920!) if introduced at the Elm with the traditional walk and sing-song after the conclusion of the annual entertainment.

So the action of the Rocket was discussed, criticised, amended and perfected and on Whit Monday evening in 1920 the late and long-lamented two Elms looked down in bewilderment as Old Scholars performed the very first Sibford Rocket.



Redrawn from an original sketch by Howard Quinton

At the following Whitsun it was done much better and it was agreed that thereafter it should become an annual event. Its popularity grew like Topsy and it soon became *de facto* at all Old Scholar gatherings and not exclusively at the Elm. The Old Gym walls at the Manor have reverberated to our community effort; the current Dining Room at the Hill has been the venue after the Presidential Dinner, although new ground was broken this year with a twilight ceremony in the Hill car park! It terminated the first Birmingham Branch dance in the 1920s and the walls of Friends House have many times rung with our descriptive clamour.

Rockets have been performed away in Epping Forest and on the Malvern Hills at the conclusion of summer outings. Even at Paddington, Liverpool Street and New Street rail stations the public have marvelled at our unique tryst. Once on an outing to Jordans the Rocket was carried through on the small platform at Seer Green Station to the amazement of other waiting passengers who applauded and demanded an encore!

The 'Silent Rocket' emerged in the 1930s when the then Headmaster, Arthur Johnstone, complained at being kept awake by the late-night revelry at the Elm. In 'quiet' defiance of the admonishment a group of Old Scholars led by such notables as Kathleen Rice, Henry Lawrence and Harry Randall decided to hold a silent Rocket outside the front of the Manor where the Headmaster lived at that time but were so engulfed with laughter that they merely succeeded in waking 'A.J.' yet again.

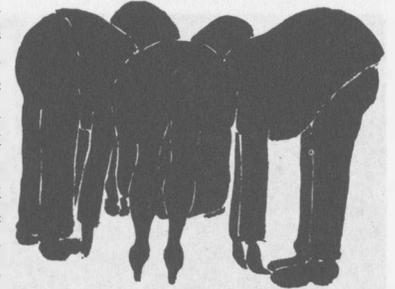


Mike Finch and Nick Bennett demonstrate the intricacies of Mini-Rocketry!

'Mini Rockets' became part of the repertoire in the late 1950s. The Rocket circle had traditionally straddled the Elm crossroads but with the increasing volume of traffic it was felt that in the interests of safety the event should be held in the Elm garden, much to the disgust of the young bucks of that time (Mike Finch, Nick Bennett and Pete Baily) who decided to have a mini circle with a mini Rocket on the side of the road! Now forty years on it is also part of the tradition.

Numbers attending the Rocket at the Elm have varied according to weather conditions. The unofficial attendance record is 120 set-up in the immediate post-war period but it has been pushed very close on numerous occasions.

This magnificent tradition has stood the test of time and despite such ingenious innovations like live fireworks in recent years and even having to perform it at this year's Reunion at the end of May in near daylight (which was very eerie!), the 'real event' after seventy-eight years still stands paramount and long may it continue.



...strange and silent antics (Drawn by Margaret Fairmington, née Kissack, in 1948)

But honestly, did you touch your toes last time ?.....

FIFTY YEARS AGO – 1948

Mike Finch's popular series continues with another nostalgic look back at fifty years ago — to 1948 — which incidentally was the year in which Mike made his very first visit to Sibford!

Here are a few of the newsworthy items of the day ...

JOTTINGS FROM THE HEADMASTER'S NOTEBOOK OF 1948

"The age of carefree bliss": The improving games field: Successes at exams: A pupil of Richard Routh's.

Childhood, they used to say, is the age of carefree bliss. I believe it still is. I was teaching our youngest class and I found that only one of thirty knew who Stalin was. Eleven thought they had heard of Mussolini but I am not sure they did not think I was referring to macaroni. Naturally they did not read the Times; the Manchester Guardian and the New Statesman in the library and though we get visitors from many parts of the world, it is the sane and interesting things they like to hear about. That is why we have so many 'foreign correspondents'. Well over a hundred boys and girls write frequently to those in other lands. One girl admitted to having eleven pen friends whom she had never seen.

Everyone welcomed Raffaella Zamperini, the girl from Rome, brought to us by the Mabel Harrod Fund. From time to time I tell the School of letters received from Old Scholars living abroad - Norman Smith in Australia, Chris Little in Kenya, Doreen Bishop in Alberta, Michael Farr in Malaya, Michael Zugg learning seamanship in the Indian Ocean and many others.

The Archway (The School magazine) is, we think, a good new venture, well written and produced. As usual we have taken three parties to the theatre at Stratford, when we saw "Hamlet", "The Merchant of Venice" and the "Taming of the Shrew". In the summer



John Parsons engages James Harrod in conversation.

Arnold Darlington took a party of five to Skokholm (where on one day they established a new record for bird ringing). Miss Bringham's history expeditions to Broughton Castle and Compton Wynates are as popular as ever. For the first time the upper School has given a concert in the village church, including in its programme Purcell's "Golden Sonata" played by Miss Prior and Miss Corrick.

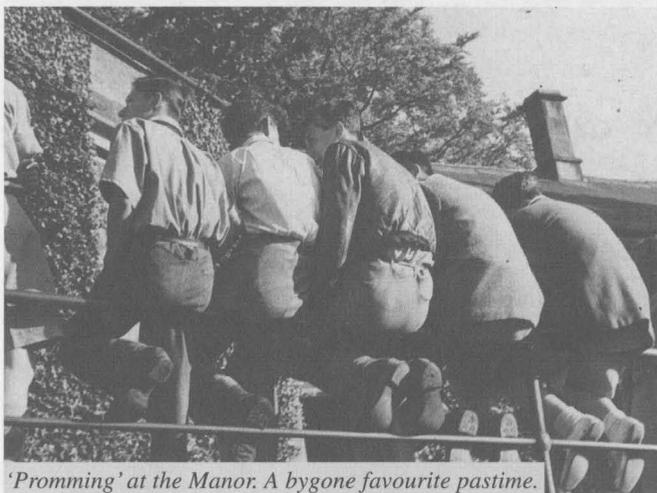
Each year the games field improves. There are few schools of our size with so beautiful a field and the new Head Gardener has worked hard to bring it into good condition so that we can give a good game to our old opponents from Chipping Norton, Chipping Campden, Bicester and Kingham. Wonders are still worked in the old swimming bath and we are now getting almost used to the fifty annual successes in the Royal Life Saving Society's Examination.

That last word reminds me of School Certificate, in which we have had another good year, twenty-eight out of our thirty-one candidates being successful - not a bad testimonial to the good, efficient teaching given by the masters and mistresses.

Here are a number of little items taken from some of the many letters I receive from Old Scholars:

Edward J. Gower, whose age is 79 but who walked as briskly as a 7 year old, called in during the summer. I expect he is almost the only pupil of Richard Routh's day now living. He entered Sibford as a pupil in 1880 and after four years he was made a teacher, a post he held for six years. He is an accountant and told me he was about to retire. It was interesting to talk to him of the old days of the School.

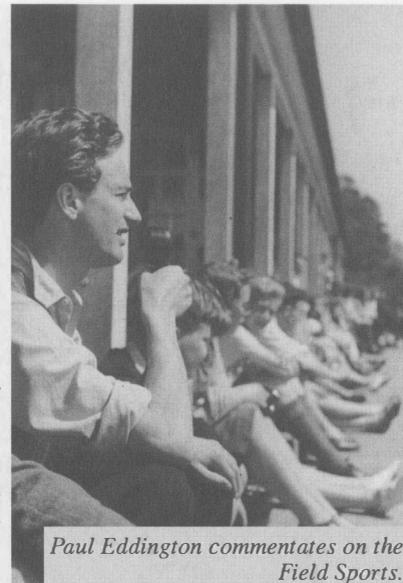
Raymond Machett (1925-27) wrote from the Red House School, Buxton, Norwich, a Home Office approved school. He told me of the good work



'Promming' at the Manor. A bygone favourite pastime.

they are doing for boys and said he hoped to send his little daughter to Sibford in 1955. Alix Mac Swiney (now Blakelock) called during the summer holiday to show me her bonny little boy, then three months old. Patricia Warren (now Parsons) wrote from Bovey Tracey, where her baby was born in April. Colin Goodbody has now given up long distance lorry driving and is driving Smith's Luxury Coaches at Reading. He was invalided out of the Royal Navy and still wishes he were back in it. He says he can drive anywhere in Great Britain and also in London, without a map! -

Michael Farr is in Malaya at one of Dunlop's factories and is having some exciting experiences and has to sleep with a gun near to his pillow and gets up twice every night to see the guard is not asleep! Doreen Bishop (now Hyde) is in Alberta, living on the dividing ridge between the St Mary's River and a tributary of the Missouri. She has now three boys. Mary Rowell is a fully qualified physio therapist and is working near Cambridge. Doris Russell is now in Athens where she has been living for the past twelve months with an English family. Barbara Lavender has completed a course at Westhill and has taken a post in a school in Cheshire, where she teaches chiefly nature study, Art and singing to the 6-7 year-olds. Patricia Cooper is in training in General Nursing at Luton and Dunstable Hospital. She is in charge of a ward of 30 patients. Winifred Bringham is training in midwifery at Sheffield Infirmary. She sees quite a lot of Irene Broadhurst who is on the staff of the YMCA. Philip Morris has been working abroad for many months with IVSP and Pegeen is driving a lorry in Berlin, distributing clothing for IVSP. Mary Hulme is still at Rochdale High School. She spent part of the summer holidays with a family in France. John Saunderson is an assistant in the County Surveyor's office at Lewes. Jeremy Leefe is in charge of a farm on the borders of Wales. Susan Lock is beginning training in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital in London. Derek Gaffee is training in Chiropody and his brother Peter is on a poultry farm. Martin Dodsworth is an Art student at Leeds. John Hughes is in an estate agency in the West Country. Robin Norbury is an Art student in Leicester. Mary Cummins called during the summer and her husband admired her name on the Honours Board!



Paul Eddington commentates on the Field Sports.

Arthur Johnstone - September 1948

Sibford Through Other Eyes



When Raffaella Zamperini (from Rome) was at Sibford last summer, one of her delights was her sketch book, which now contains many drawings of village and countryside. Old Scholars who recall their own outdoor efforts with the pencil (from way back when Howard Quinton first started it) may like to compare their remembered skill with this sketch by Raffaella of Sally Walker's cottage in the Ferris.



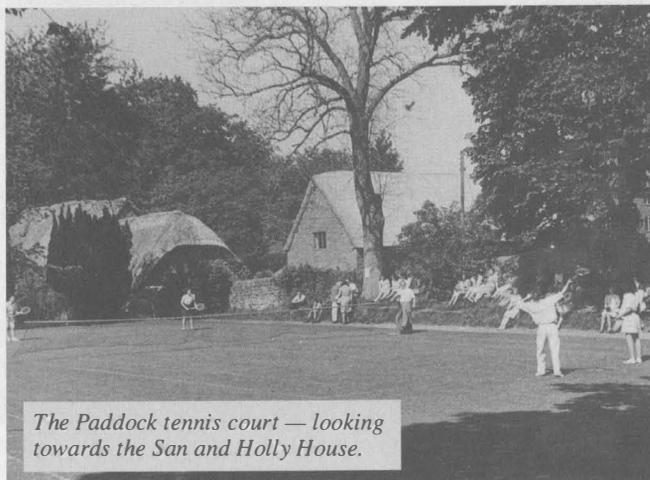


The May Reunion 1948 (see below left for those in attendance.)

Among those present were :

Angerson, Wilfred, Dorothy ; Atkins, Richard, Betty.—Buckley, Margaret ; Bond, George, Edith ; Bizzell, Erle ; Brown, Vera, Reg, Harold, Mrs. H. ; Beckerlegge, Grace ; Baily, Leslie ; Brawn, Gerald ; Bottoms, Nancy, Ivan ; Biggs, T. Gordon ; Button, Norman.—Collins, Joan, Geof ; Carter, Miriam, Naomi ; Cross, Leslie ; Carn, Leslie ; Crabtree, Noel ; Canham, John, Daphne ; Calvert, Helen ; Chatin, Janet ; Cottrell, Jeanne ; Coxon, Irene, John.—Dumpleton, Freda ; Dodson, Martin ; Dancer, Brian ; Dyble, Len ; Darling, Jeanne.—Edwards, June, Jean ; Edridge, Stella, Cecily ; Eddington, Paul.—Farr, John ; Fuller, Michael ; Franey, Basil ; Ffello, Valerie ; Friend, Betty ; Flinn, Patrick.—Guillery, Rainer ; Gaffee, Derek ; Gardner, Maurice ; Geering, Lionel, Edith ; Grier, Fred, Alice, Wilfred.—Hughes, John ; Holland, Alfred ; Harrod, James T. ; Hicks, John, Mary ; Hedger, Ian ; Hooper, Brian.—Kaye, Arnold, Edward ; Kissack, Margaret ; Kelf-Cohen, Judy.—Laughton, Betty ; Lawrance, Henry, Elsie, Kingsley.—Long, Tom, Judy, Alice, Geof.—Litteck, A. J. ; Ladell, June, Michael ; Lynch, John ; Laity, David ; Law, George ; Lamb, Edith.—Martin, Ena, Mr. ; Manassch, Meriel, Phillip, Antony ; Moore, Geof. ; Moon, Jean ; Morris, Philip ; Masscy, Ishbel, Ken.—Norman, Alec, Christine, Humphrey ; Naish, Jess ; Norgrove, William, Olive ; Norberry, Robin ; Neal, Dick.—Oyston, Joan ; Osborne, Ruth.—Poulton, Justin, Henry, Lewis ; Peille, John ; Parsons, John, Ruth, Ian ; Phillips, Roberts ; Parker, Basil ; Powell, E. N. ; Pollard, Wilfrid ; Pugmire, Harold.—Quinton, Ken, Ron.—Rose, Harold ; Rollett, Frank, Vera, Jacqueline, Loraine ; Reynolds, Joy ; Rice, Kathleen, Michael ; Russell, Francis ; Rann, Joy ; Ryan, Gordon.—Strong, Ursula ; Spira, Eric ; Stone, Muriel ; Sweatman, Ann ; Southwell, Claire ; Schnurmann, Charles ; Sanderson, John ; Stafford, Peter.—Taylor, John, Elsie, Nan ; Thomas, Austin ; Tetmar, Ken ; Tennant, Maureen.—Wallis, John ; Ward, John, Lily ; Wright, Doris, Louis ; Wells, Marjorie ; Whitaker, Beryl ; Wolf, Otto ; Ward, Rusel ; Wellman, Alfred ; Wragg, Anthony ; Weinberg, Resi.—Yeoman, Peter ; Young, David.—Greetings were received from : Kingsley and Ethel Rutter ; Robert, Alice and Brian Rose ; Edith and Jack Lewis ; Ethel M. Harrison ; Rose and Owen Reynolds ; Leslie Thomas ; Eric ; Margaret Rundle ; Elsie Harrod ; John and Bessie Deardon ; Marjorie Turner ; Emiline Viccars ; C. E. Brady ; Alexander (Botham and Mount) ; Gulie and Eric Grimes ; Theodora Benton ; Frances van Cooten ; Jim and Elin Baily ; Fred E. Goudge ; Francis Thompson ; Fred Sheldon ; G. Wilfred Wells ; Monica and Jack Simpson ; Lucy Harrod ; Margaret, June and John Baily ; Reg Barber ; Sheila and Graham Trout ; Geoffrey Watkins.

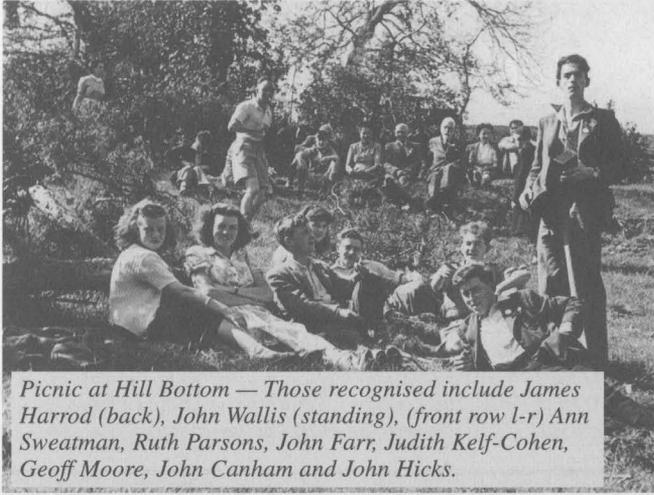
l to r: Geoff Long (President), Jeanne Southam (née Cottrell) (Gen. Secretary) and Alfred Holland (Auditor) enjoy a joke.



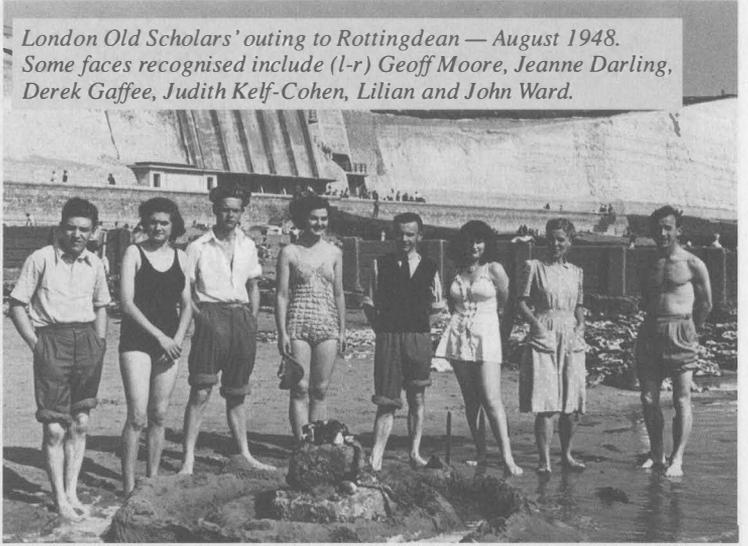
The Paddock tennis court — looking towards the San and Holly House.



The Hill, General Meeting June 1948.



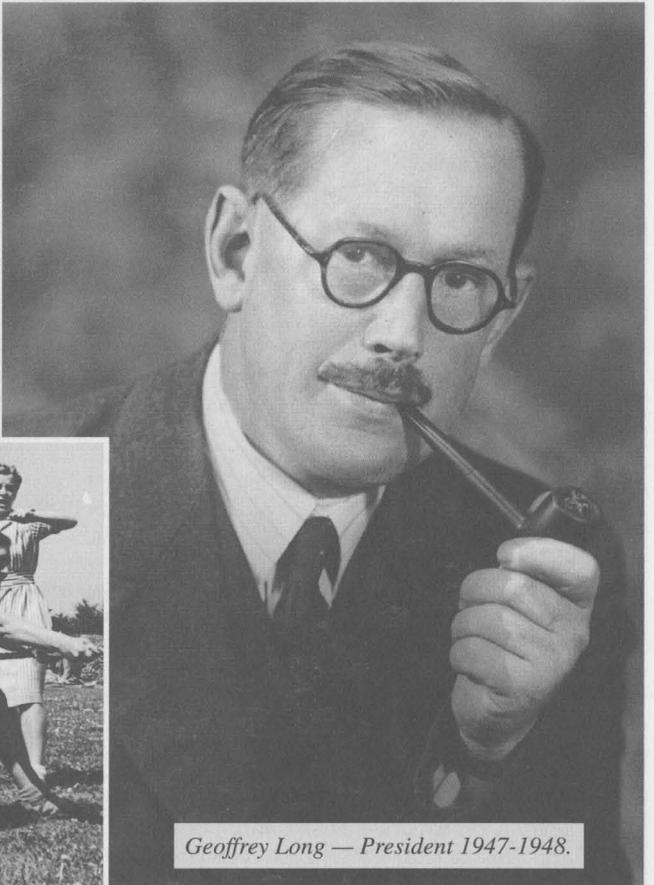
Picnic at Hill Bottom — Those recognised include James Harrod (back), John Wallis (standing), (front row l-r) Ann Sweatman, Ruth Parsons, John Farr, Judith Kelf-Cohen, Geoff Moore, John Canham and John Hicks.



London Old Scholars' outing to Rottingdean — August 1948. Some faces recognised include (l-r) Geoff Moore, Jeanne Darling, Derek Gaffee, Judith Kelf-Cohen, Lilian and John Ward.



The picnic at Hill Bottom (l-r) Jessie Johnstone, Arthur Johnstone and Edward P Kaye (SOSA's first Secretary).



Geoffrey Long — President 1947-1948.



Lilian Ward leads the ladies "Tug o' War", those recognised include June Dawson (Ladell), Beryl Powell (Whitaker), Ann Sweatman.



The picnic at Hill Bottom — Some faces recognised include (l-r) Frank Rollett, Irene Coxon-Smith, Arthur Johnstone, Jeanne Southam, Jessie Johnstone and Alice and Geoff Long.



Sports on the Field — outside the south corridor verandah — May 1948



The London Entertainment Group May 1948. Back row l-r; John Taylor, ?, Tom Long, Otto Wolf, John Canham, ?, ?, ? (three unknown), Alfred Holland. Centre row l-r, Margaret Fairmington (Kissack), Lilian Ward, John Ward, Judy Long, ?, Judith Kelly (Kelf-Cohen), Jeanne Little (Darling), Resi Weinburg and Peter Yeoman. Front row l-r, Don Ryan, Peter Hargreaves, (last two unknown).

SIBFORD ON THE SCREEN



The fascinating new film of the School and its countryside can now be booked for public showings.

It is twenty years since we saw the first Sibford film. What a stir it caused back in 1928.

That was when James Thorpe took it on a tour up and down the country and many other members of the Staff and Old Scholars made themselves responsible for showing this history of Sibford School to the wider world.

It was the first amateur film of its kind and was well received in the national, provincial and photographic Press because it told an unusual story and was not "amateur" in the worst sense of the word. It had a professional finish, but was amateur in the good sense that all who made it were enthusiasts working for the love of the job - and of Sibford.

Its production was in the hands of James Thorpe, Morland Braithwaite and Leslie Baily. It told the history of Sibford School, from its foundation in 1842 until 1928. Since then there have been many changes at Sibford; the Hill has been built; we are all twenty years older; film technique is twenty years more advanced.

When Sibford passed its centenary in 1942 it was suggested that the Film should be brought up-to-date. James Thorpe had retired but Braithwaite and Baily got down to the job again and during the past two years visitors to Sibford at Old Scholars gatherings, General Meeting and at other times, have seen these two snooping around with their cameras. They decided on a more ambitious plan than merely adding new shots to the old film.

*They got the backing of the School Committee to spend the necessary money and they have now produced a new film called **The Sibford Story**. It tells the history of Sibford right up to the present day (1948 of course!).*



It incorporates some of the best scenes from the old film but these have been re-edited and assimilated with newly-made scenes. Modern techniques have been used, such as colour. Some of the most attractive scenes in the film are the colour shots of the countryside around Sibford and the out-of-door activities of the School.

The film runs for an hour and is a 16mm silent film, the modern scenes in colour. It

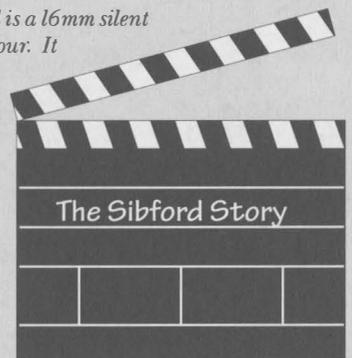
is a fascinating review of Quaker life and history. It shows the remarkable changes in manners, methods and moral standards, the speeding-up of life and its effects at Sibford, the coming and going of personalities over these 100 years at Sibford. The actors are the people of Sibford - the Staff, present and past scholars and the villagers. The modern colour scenes, in particular, show the agricultural setting and activities which are such a feature in the mind of anyone who knows Sibford and its neighbourhood.

The present-day activities of the School are shown in all their variety. There are scenes, too, taken from Old Scholars' gatherings and General Meeting, at picnics, lectures, drama activities and some lovely colour shots of Compton Wynyates, Broughton and other beauty spots. The weather last Whitsun was perfect for colour photography and the blaze of blossom in the hedgerows, the deep blue skies and the buttercup-carpeted fields are a sight for town eyes to feast upon.

One value of the film is that it is a permanent record. The scenes taken twenty years ago are history now. You may see Mrs Harrod cutting the first sod on The Hill site. You may see three successive headmasters - Oddie, Harrod and Johnstone - with their wives. And those who were at School in 1928 - who are now men and women in their thirties - will be amused to see themselves as they were, at lessons, on the pig-drive with Mr Herbert, dancing on the girls' lawn, playing cricket with Mrs Harrod, getting up and going to bed, in those schooldays of not-so-long-ago.

*We hope this film will be widely shown. This depends largely upon the enthusiasm of the Old Scholars. Get up a film show in your district. **The Sibford Story** is of general interest and it will appeal to other people besides Sibfordians and Quakers.*

*In addition to **The Sibford Story**, you can also book, as an equally attractive second feature, a bird film made recently by Mr Darlington and boys from Sibford on Skokholm Island in Pembrokeshire. This is called **The Home of the Shearwater** and is believed to be the only film of the Manx shearwater in existence. It is in colour and shows the Sibford School Science Society doing survey work on the island.*



[This article was extracted from the 1948 SOSA Magazine and was probably written by Leslie Baily. The 16mm film was transposed onto video in 1989 and is still available on request from Mike Finch (address appears elsewhere in the magazine) at a cost of £12 inclusive of p&p.

If anyone has a copy of the Darlington film referred to in the article then please could they contact Mike Finch who, as most of you know, is the SOSA/School Archivist. The film is of great historical importance.]

Old Scholars and friends who have passed on since the publication of the last magazine:

TOMEVANS died suddenly in January 1998. Although a staunch member of SOSA, Tom was not an Old Scholar but he nevertheless shared a great love for the School and SOSA through his long time partner, Barbara Abercrombie. Tom was a lovely man in so many ways — his old world charm, his great sense of fun and his sheer enjoyment of life will be sadly missed.

JOHN CARLTON SMITH died in April 1998 aged 85. He was a Life Member of SOSA and was at the School between 1924-28. John was a member of one of those great Sibford family dynasties that have enhanced and helped to shape the School's history. We extend our love and sympathy to his children David, Helen, Barney and Deborah, and to his brother Alan, all Old Scholars of Sibford.

Jeanne Little (née Darling) has informed us that her brother-in-law, **PHILIP W. LITTLE**, had died peacefully at home on 16th September 1996 aged 75 years. He farmed for many years in Sussex but retired to Tresaith in Wales. He and his brothers Alan and Christopher were at Sibford in the thirties and early forties.

We reported in last year's magazine that Betty Thelton had passed away, so it is with great sadness that this year we have to report that Betty's beloved husband, **JOHN THELTON** died peacefully on 19th September 1998 after a long illness. Many Old Scholars will remember John's quiet, tranquil approach to life and his sharp, subtle wit. Although not an Old Scholar, John was very much a part of the Sibford family. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his son Jim, also an Old Scholar, and all his family.

DORIS WRIGHT, who was a Life Member of SOSA, died on 26th May 1998 aged 92. Doris was the wife of the late Louis Wright, one of the great SOSA stalwarts from the forties and fifties and a past President. We extend our love and sympathy to Beryl and Don Ryan, Doris's daughter and son-in-law and all their family.

Another of the great names from the past has left us, with the news that **MABEL POLLARD** died peacefully on 2nd May 1998. Mabel was a Life Member of the Association and a popular attender at Reunions over many years until the death of her husband Wilfrid Pollard, another giant of the Association and a former President.

BRIAN HOOPER, who died in September, was a devoted Life Member of SOSA and was at the School in the thirties. His wife Pauline writes... "Sadly, I have to tell you that Brian died suddenly on September 24th. We have been much heartened by the loving thoughts of sympathy expressed by his and our many friends since then. He was much respected and liked, especially for his sense of humour which kept him going during the past fifteen years of ill-health. John Hughes and Doreen Carman from his 'class' (1931-37) came to the funeral to support us and many of his contemporaries sent loving messages."

RICHARD (DICK) NEAL, who was a pupil at Sibford between 1936-38 and also a Life Member of the Association, died in September. Dick farmed for many years around the Sibford area, eventually retiring to Tysoe. Many will remember walks and picnics to his lovely farm on the edge of Brailes at SOSA Reunions. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

ISABEL EVENS. Just as this magazine was going to press we heard the sad news of Isabel's death, aged 87, on 3rd November 1998. She was at Sibford between 1922 and 1924. We were grateful last year for her affectionate account of life at Sibford in the 1920s under the Harrods. We appreciated her graphic style and we have been happy to publish a further contribution this year. We can think of no better way to remember Isabel than to repeat her own words describing the ambience of Sibford: "...the amazing feeling of solidarity and general happiness that existed amongst staff and pupils — it was like being members of a large family."

Just at the very moment that this magazine was going to print, we heard the sad news that **MARJORIE EDWARDS (née Simmons)**, who was Sibford's much loved 'Matron' between 1930-56, had died on the 20th November 1998 aged 92. A full tribute will appear in the next edition of the magazine.

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 1998, a Special Reserve Fund was established to provide financial support to any current pupil of Sibford School or to any Recent Leaver who is in need of assistance. If you are aware of any deserving causes, please contact the Treasurer who will raise the matter with the Committee.

GEOFFREY LONG BOOK PRIZE

Our President, having read the many excellent pupils' literary works in the 1997 Magazine, has decided that the most deserving (by a slender margin) of the 1998 Geoffrey Long Book Prize is Laura Williams, Year 11, for her moving and thought-provoking piece 'This is the Real War'.

Congratulations Laura, and our thanks to all contributors for their interesting and very readable works.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1999

Midland Branch *Saturday 30th January 1999*
New Year Party, Selly Oak *Start 12.00 noon*
Meeting House, Birmingham.
All are welcome
Please contact Hilary Haddleton
Tel: 0121 705 0462

SOSA versus School soccer *Sunday 21st March 1999*
match. Please contact Brian *Kick-off 2.30pm*
Holiday early if you wish to play.
Tel: 01295 780500

ANNUAL REUNION 1999

We are pleased to announce that the School have kindly invited us to hold our Reunion during the AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY from the 28th until the 31st.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
01/09/98 until 31/08/99.

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- SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:** PATRICIA GRIMES.
 (Until 31/12/01) 53 Chestnut Drive, St Albans, Herts., AL4 0ER.
 Tel. 01727 850521
- RETIRING PRESIDENT:** JULIE GREENHILL.
 (Until 31/08/99) 64 Dundee Road, South Norwood, London, SE25 4QJ.
 Tel. 0181 656 5715



Others who 'make it happen' — (l-r) Ashley Shirlin, Julie Greenhill, Mike Finch and Cindy Poulton.



Some of the 'back room boys' — Adrian Douglas, James Thompson and Mike Farr.

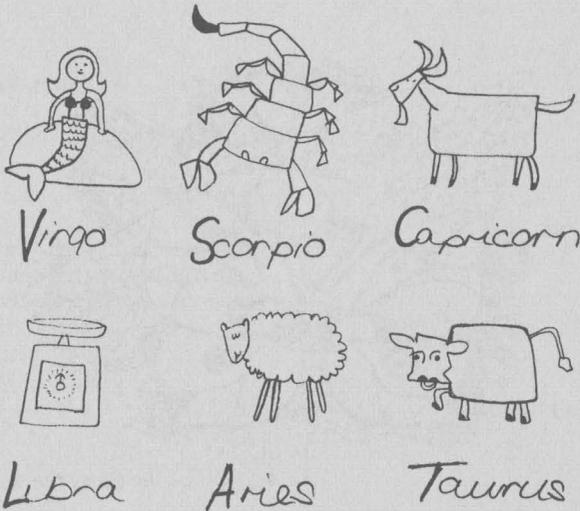
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- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:**
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 Tel. (Office) 01295 781200
- STAFF REPRESENTATIVES**
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 (Until 31/08/01) Banbury, Oxon., OX15 5RE.
 Tel. 01295 780500
- PAUL LUDLOW Gillett House, Sibford Ferris,
 (Until 31/08/00) Near Banbury, Oxon., OX15 5QL.
 Tel. 01295 781240

Year 9 pupils were asked to prepare (with hindsight!) horoscopes for Romeo and Juliet

Horoscopes for Romeo

You have been going through a rather emotional time recently, but with Mars moving into Gemini things will start to improve. Things might seem too good to be true. They are! Slow down a little and think before you act or you may cause an upset with someone in the family. Lucky day 14th.

This month sees you with your head in the clouds. It's time to bring your dreams into reality; face the real world. You meet someone early in the month who seems to be the missing link but watch out, for all is not what it seems! Wait a little before acting too hastily and heed a message from a friend.



Horoscopes for Juliet

The moon is in a tight orbit alongside the moon of Mars. This means that in the forthcoming time you will find new love and all troubles will be forgotten temporarily. Take care or you could lose a friend and your friends will lose you.

The stars are in a strong position this month. If you are planning on going to a party, it should be fun. You will meet the man of your dreams there, but don't step too far and do something silly. Venus is whizzing through your opposite sign of Aries, which suggests that you won't be man free for long. Listen to your parents. They may sound silly, but they know what's best. Lucky day 13th.

Year 9 pupils were asked to write the publisher's blurb for the J.R.R. Tolkien's timeless classic 'The Hobbit.'

An Amazing Fantasy Story and prelude to the Lord of the Rings

'The great jewel shone before his feet of its own inner light, and yet, ... it took all light that fell upon it and changed it into ten thousand sparks of white radiance shot with glints of the rainbow. Suddenly Bilbo's arm went towards it drawn by its enchantment. His small hand would not close about it, for it was a large and heavy gem, but he lifted it, shut his eyes and put it into his deepest pocket.'

Join Mr Bilbo Baggins on an amazing adventure that will take you through enchanted and magical lands to reach the mighty and powerful dragon, Smaug. **WILL SMAUG BE DEFEATED?**

'I was really absorbed by this epic story'
John Murray, THE GUARDIAN

'A wonderful story for adults and children alike'
TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Poppy Haughton

' "Don't pinch!" said his eagle "You need not be frightened like a rabbit, even if you are rather like one. It is a fair morning with little wind. What is finer than flying?" Bilbo would have liked to say: 'A warm bath and late breakfast on the lawn afterwards' but he thought it better to say nothing at all, and let go his clutch just a tiny bit.'

Poor little Bilbo Baggins whisked away from his warm, neat little hobbit hole in order to go on adventure with thirteen dwarfs and a wizard. He encounters many dangerous and exciting adventures, all for a hoard of gold which lies in the clutches of Smaug the Magnificent, one of the most dangerous dragons in Wilderland. Will he survive the final conquest?

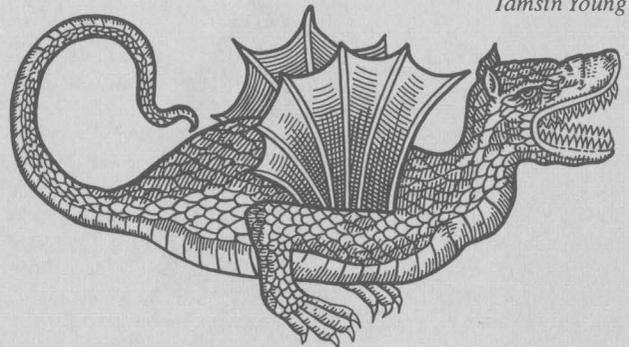
'A brilliant book for all ages'

THE DAILY BLAH

'An exciting, magical book, well worth a read'

THE STAR

Tamsin Young



A GREAT MAGICAL FANTASY BOOK

... and prelude to The Lord of the Rings ...

"Old Smaug is weary and asleep; he thought, he can't see me and he won't hear me. Cheer up Bilbo!' He had forgotten, or had never heard about dragons' sense of smell. It is an awkward fact that they can keep half an eye open, watching whilst they sleep, if they are suspicious."

Bilbo Baggins is taken away from his warm and comfortable hobbit hole by Gandalf and 13 dwarves. Their task is to steal treasure from the almighty dragon, Smaug.
Will they survive ?

'An exciting and thrilling fantasy ... the best loved English fiction'

THE TIMES

Lisa Quiles

Love

*No love in the world,
Without love in the country*

*No love in the country,
Without love in the county,*

*No love in the county,
Without love in the village,*

*No love in the village,
Without love in the home,*

*No love in the home,
Without love in the family,*

*No love in the family,
Without love in the heart,*

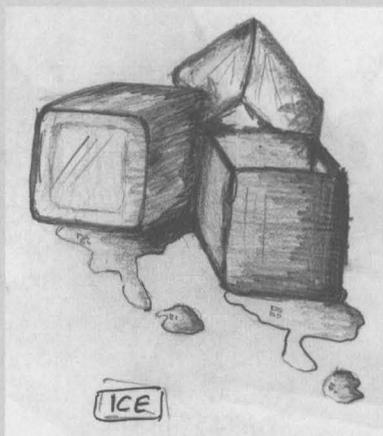
*If no love in the heart,
Then love is lost.*

By Frances Booth ~ Year 12 Learning Support

Extracts from Year 12A Level literature group. Students were asked to produce a piece of informal written work concentrating on the use of repetition as a stylistic feature.

Ice

Ice, shrouding the world in stillness and peace, disguising it under a web of spun glass glistening as the sun rises. Time stops, water ceases to flow as the ice creeps into life. Ice coating lakes and rivers in an elegant yet deadly design, dominating anything in its path, ice, bitterly cold yet burning like fire to the touch. Ice's companion, a thin, clear, bright and frosty atmosphere, biting in your lungs as the ice bites at your fingers and toes. Ice biting the hands of a child skater as he falls onto its glistening, unsafe surface. Ice skaters, gracious and flowing, soon to be banished by the erratic, jagged breaking ice. Its beauty which came from the simplicity of water must fade away.



by Sian Mather

Gloom

Gloom, silence all around; gloom on a cold day, gloom on a wet day. Shadows lurking in the darkness, gloom. Children waiting outside the exam hall, gloom. The unnervy silence of the participants waiting, standing in line or little quiet huddles, gloom. Gloom the exam doors open; the register being called, people answer with fear in their voices, gloom. Taking a step towards the hall, gloom. Trembling with every step made, knowing the fate ahead, gloom. Entering the desolate hall, a cold feeling felt throughout, gloom. The filing in of quiet, cold, nervous children, gloom. The sound of pacing feet passing out papers, knowing the time approaches, gloom. The tick of a clock and rustle of papers, gloom. A bell rings, papers close, people get up to leave, gloom. The close of a door, the gloom locked up inside; the people free, till the next time.

by Sarah Bain



Fear

Fear of the future, fear of the past. Fear striking deep into the heart of the pessimist. Fear of the unknown, the frustrating feeling of not being in control. Fear of the expanse and openness, fear of enclosed spaces sending sane people to madness as the walls close in around them. Fear destroying the confidence in the rookie, the butterflies mercilessly flapping their wings in sickening agony. Fear engulfing the enemy in a wave of regret as memories cast back to the day of enlistment, the feeling of pride and honour now cowardly deserted of them. Fear of the water, glistening in the afternoon sun, so peaceful and calm, transformed in an instant into a bombardment of waves crashing onto the innocent victim, crushing the life away and dragging him down, down, down.



by Chris Freeman

Snow

Snow on the window and lawn; on the clothes line; snow, cold and soft and fine. I walk towards school, snow drifts and settles on my lashes. Snow surrounding, drowning the school gate, lying in blankets of cold softness, waiting to be walked in snow, calling to be played in. Snow scattered in the sky like tiny Angels, in the class room I watch snow from my desk, through the window. Snow free and soft, drifting.



Kerry Smith



Security

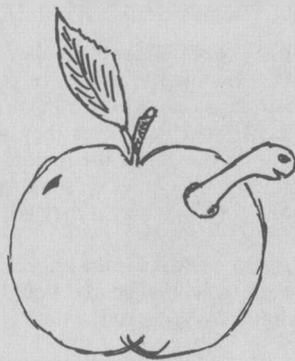
Security can be a security guard to a security blanket
 Everybody has some security
 Children have their parents for security
 Upper class people have bodyguards
 Really rich people have bodyguards and security guards with guns
 I think rich people do not need guards with guns
 Toddlers have security blankets
 You and me have security all around us who are the people who love us

by Max Boden ~ Orchard Close

The Apple Worm

There was a red and green apple on a tree. My mum came along and left me there. When I was left there I quickly bored in to this apple, I began to eat the apple. The apple was so sweet and juicy that I nearly drowned in it. When I became full I stopped and went to sleep for the night. In the morning I moved on up to the light. When I got up there was a light, I got out of it. When I got out the apple from behind fell off and thudded to the ground. I quickly crawled to another apple and that became my home.

by Craig Joynson ~ Orchard Close



Apple Poem

This apple is juicy,
 this apple doesn't moan,
 this apple is red,
 this apple is my home.

Childhood

Childhood,
 Having to go to your friends' house,
 Infant,
 Little person,
 Devil child,
 Hungry,
 Only child,
 Obstinate child,
 Dangerous child

by Mark Jenkins ~ Orchard Close

Getting Home the Hard Way

It was the day before Good Friday. Katy and Scott arrived at Spiceball and booked in. They were staying there all day because their mum and dad were both working. There was thunder and lightning. Apart from that everything was good.

At the end of the day they were told "Your dads are late because of traffic and floods."

"Oh no! not floods!" said Scott and Katy together.

"I hope my dad arrives soon" said Scott "because then I will get some Easter egg sweets. Yes there's my dad's car!"

"Hi dad" screamed Katy "do you want an egg?"

"Yes please, yum yum" said Dad as Katy put a sweet in his mouth. "Everyone get in the car, because there are lots of puddles ... and floods," said Dad.

"We cannot go home to Priors Marston the normal way because the traffic has been stopped with the floods, so we will try another way through Culworth."

When we got to Culworth "Oh no! there's a deep flood!"

"Why don't we try to get to Woodford Halse, kids" said Dad.

"O.K." said Scott and Katy.

"Oh no there's another flood here"

"Three foot deep, mate!" someone shouted out of their car window.

"Let's go back to Banbury and get something to eat at Burger King" pleaded Scott.

"We'll have to go round the long way to get back to Banbury ... but O.K., I'm hungry too" said Dad.

So they all went back to Banbury.

It was now about two and a half hours after they had left Banbury. Scott had two burgers and dad had a burger too. Katy had a children's box with chicken nuggets. They all had strawberry milk shakes as their drinks. Then they left Banbury again to try and get home. They went to Gaydon on the M40, but of course, it had so much traffic that they could only move very slowly. When they eventually got to Bishops Itchington there was a four foot deep flood!

"I suppose we had better go back to Banbury. Where shall we stay?" asked dad. They decided to phone and ask if they could stay at Martin Wyatt's house. Of course they would need to get there first! Right, there they are at the Wyatts, it is now 11.00 o'clock, five hours after they had left Spiceball. Katy slept on a bed, Dad slept on a sofa and Scott slept on the floor in Martin's two year old daughter's bedroom.

In the morning they got up and dressed. They went down and had Nesquik cereal for breakfast (yum yum). Next they went to dad's factory, Dar Lighting, to see what the floods had done to it. They had one problem ~ the factory was FLOODED! The car park was a pond and inside the factory was full of water with soggy boxes everywhere, and I mean everywhere! Dad took some photos for the insurance company. They tried to clear some boxes but it was no good, so they drove home and all the way back they saw lots of broken down cars that had been abandoned.

Sixteen hours after they had left Spiceball they were.... HOME AT LAST!

Macbeth

Task ~ you are Ross at the end of the banquet scene. After all you have witnessed, what do you tell your wife when you return to her immediately after the banquet.

Dear Lady,

You won't believe what I saw at the Macbeths' tonight. It started off as a rather splendid occasion, but the food was cheap and despicable. There was an up side because there was plenty of fine whisky. We had a couple of drinks and soon we were drunk and Macbeth started to hallucinate. He said something about a ghost; even though Lady Macbeth was drunk she could not see the ghost and was not amused.

After this Macbeth seemed to be fine and the ghost was gone. Everyone else at the banquet had their fair share of fine whisky and unspeakable food. I asked Macbeth what was wrong, but he just keeled over into his left-over soup and started to blow bubbles (much to the amusement of the other guests).

I however found it quite disturbing. How could God have chosen a clown as king? There must be something wrong with God's order.

This whole incident embarrassed Lady Macbeth so she clouted him around the head with a chicken leg. This brought back Macbeth's hallucinations and this time he was much worse. He jumped up, staggered too close to the fire, caught his kilt alight and launched himself into the famous dance, 'Reel of The Burnt Backsides'. Everyone else took this as a cue to throw down their goblets and take to the dance floor, knocking the table in their haste. Lady Macbeth looked like she would dash Macbeth's brains out and she told everyone to leave immediately, so we all did... in a hurry.

Do you think that Macbeth could have killed Duncan to become king? I think that it is entirely possible; another strange thing is that Banquo was not there. Could Macbeth have killed him as well? There is a foul plot afoot. The answer is under my nose. I shall sniff it out.

Bye, my love, yours forever,

Ross xxxxxxxxxx

Danny Grey ~ Year 11

24.11.1872 - Voyage of Mary Celeste

2nd Mate Tom Gregson

We are heading for Italy and are over half way through our prolonged voyage. Last night the sea was still, silent and calm and it allowed me to sleep well for 4 hours. I have just eaten a substantial breakfast and feel full after eating a chunk of bread and a sizeable wedge of cheese. I can see the boy repairing the rigging and the sun is beating down onto the shining deck. I can hear the sails gently flapping in the breeze and all is well on the Mary Celeste. It is good to hear the captain in a happy mood after the miserable start to his voyage.

There is a strong breeze whistling through my hair and it is drying the washing. I can see shirts flapping in the distance.

The decks have been scrubbed and they gleam in the sunlight. This is a good working crew.

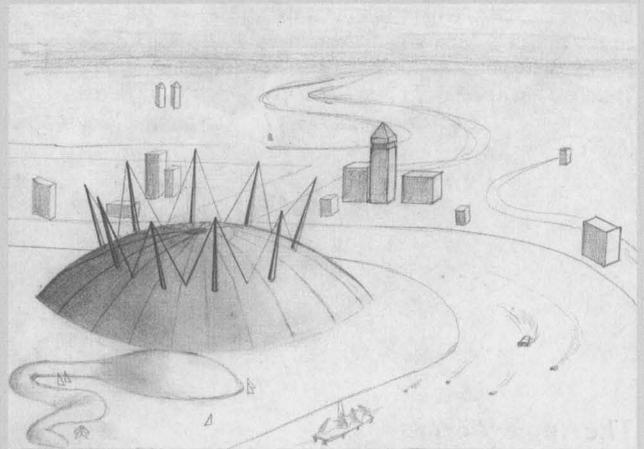
Claire Gregson ~ Year 8

The following two extracts are work by Year 11 English to Speakers of Other Language students. Their first language is Japanese.

The question - 'What do you think of London's Millennium Dome? How would you spend millions of pounds celebrating the Millennium in your country?'

In my opinion, the government shouldn't build that massive dome! The dome has so far cost £758 million. That is wasted money. I think if it is built, many people would go there and have fun, but it doesn't have to be on that big a scale. If I had millions of pounds to spend, I would spend that money to help people. So I would send money to poor countries, build schools, hospitals and so on. I think this idea is much better than the Millennium Dome, because people have fun and we can help less fortunate people. I am quite sure that the most important thing is to celebrate that millennium year not about building the biggest dome in the world.

Extract from a response by Keiko Kurimoto (Year 11)



By Keiko Kurimoto ~ Year 11

To my mind, it's just pointless to have built the Millennium Dome in London.

I think, as many people probably do, that the money could have been spent on things which have much a stronger need of economical support to make people's lives better. For instance, increasing old age pensions, solving the problems of homelessness in the country etc. I don't see any demand for such a dome just to promote the country, using the millennium as a reason.

If I was the one to decide how the money is spent to celebrate the millennium in Japan, I would give out the money to each government of the 47 areas which Japan is usually divided into, and let them use it on whatever they would think needs any repairing or improvement in the region. Sewage works, public buildings and welfare facilities are some areas which I think would make everyone equally happy if they got better.

I would then ask them to name the project which the money would have been spent on, so that people would remember what's been done for good for everyone at the time of millennium.

I feel that the millennium should be the start of a better life for all our citizens whoever they are. I don't think it's necessary to celebrate it with something splendid and gorgeous, but with everyone's happiness so that a true better life comes along to the society with no falsehood.

Kukiko Koibuchi ~ Year 11

ORCHARD CLOSE ~ 'SPACE TO GROW'

We continued to grow throughout the year with 68 pupils on roll in the Summer term. The new extension already feels an integral part of the school. Tiny pupils in Orchard Close uniform no longer cause comment, although they do continue to look delightful!

Many regular events took place throughout the year. The transition evening to show parents of Year 6 pupils how they are preparing for smooth transfer into Senior School continues to be popular.

IN AND AROUND ORCHARD CLOSE



Water babies!!

The Sibford pool is one of the oldest in Oxfordshire, but still our pupils thrive in its waters under the guidance of Gill Newbold, who has not failed to teach a pupil to swim ~ yet!

Educational visits and visitors to Orchard Close are considered an important part of the curriculum. The Key Stage One class visited Woodstock Museum to further their 'hands on' experience of the Romans. Museum staff were extremely helpful and informative, allowing the children to handle many Roman artifacts.

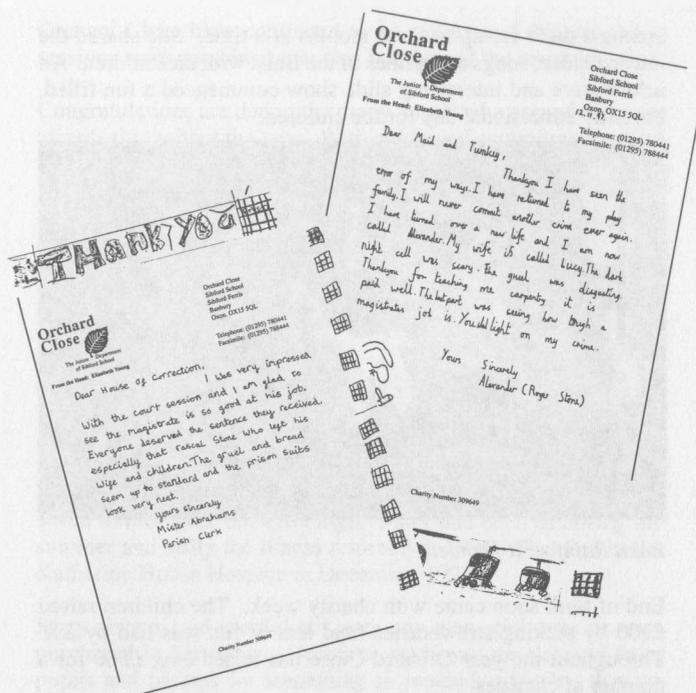
Chris Wood, a former Head Boy at Sibford, visited the school on a regular basis to work alongside Gail Wilson's class. Chris works for 'Ragdoll Productions'. He likes to keep in touch with children's ideas, interests and opinions. This helps him with the work he does when producing television programmes for children. We all enjoyed his bubbly personality and very much look forward to working with him in the forthcoming year.

The short Spring term was extremely busy. Gail Wilson led a Junior ski trip to Switzerland during half term; Rosemary Dilsaver, the Community Liaison Officer, worked with the school, with classes covering a variety of topics. A visit to 'Woof' at the Birmingham Old Rep. Company was followed up with a workshop in school and Year 6 visited Sulgrave Manor for a Tudor Day and learned how to dance Tudor style when Anne Carol visited the school.



Katy Hogg on Tudor day.

Year 5 visited the Cotswold Country Collection and enjoyed a Victorian



Court and Prison experience! We were pleased to see two of our 'thank you' letters in print in the new handbook.

Another successful Scholastic Book Week culminated in the children and staff dressed as animal characters from books.



Brough Girling, author, entertains.

Brough Girling, a local children's author, visited and spoke to the pupils and parents, finishing with a controversial quiz entitled 'How bossy is your mum?'

The 'Jack-in-the-Box' theatre company performed 'The Emperor's New Clothes'. Hushed breaths for the Emperor's appearance in his new clothes ~ a relieved sigh when he entered dressed in a vest and long johns!!

The Summer term commenced but no-one informed the weather man! We were fortunate for the combined Open and Sports Day as the fine drizzle in the morning was followed by a sunny afternoon ~ one of the few fine Saturdays of the term.

The Rainforest Experience with Sue Hart was a memorable visit. Sue regularly visits the Baka tribe in West Africa. She lives



*"The Emperor's New Clothes"
Jack-in-the-Box Theatre
Company. March 11th 1998.*

amongst them for up to three months at a time. She shared the music, dance, songs and games of the Baka with the children. An informative and interesting slide show commenced a fun filled, but truly educational day for the children.



Baka Rainforest Dance.

End of term soon came with charity week. The children raised £100 by picking strawberries (and lots of fun was had by all). Throughout the year Orchard Close has raised over £500 for a number of charities.

End of term parties and the excitement of looking forward to a well deserved summer holiday for pupils and staff alike brought the term to an end.

Throughout the year the staff and I have appreciated all the support, interest and gifts we have received from parents, friends, old scholars and members of the school community.

Elizabeth Young ~ Head of Orchard Close

ORCHARD CLOSE ~ YEARS 3/4

Reflecting on this past year brings back memories of many different events and activities in which we have all been involved. It would be impossible to recall everything we have done from memory, but it's fun to try!



Chinese New Year.

Studying Romans during the Autumn term gave us the opportunity to visit Woodstock Museum and the remains of a villa at North Leigh. The second part of this term seemed to be filled with visions of the Christmas production. Children in a variety of costumes from Roman to Medieval times, and in contrast from the real world of Grandpa's home to that of Santa Claus. Involving every pupil from Orchard Close, most with a speaking part, was quite an achievement, particularly as few if any lines were forgotten at all.

So into Spring we travel, and at a speed that seems like a top gear. There were visits to the theatre and the Discovery Science Park to support the science work that was being done on Space and the Planets. Before we could draw breath the days began to get longer, the weather slightly better and the children taller!

Then it was Easter. After a holiday filled with rain clouds and very bad weather we could only hope that the Summer term

might bring improvements. Thank goodness we didn't hold our breaths! Trips to the reservoir, Sports Day and Open Day and a picnic all shrouded in the doubt of whether it would stay dry long enough for the sun to appear made the term feel very long. It is difficult to be enthusiastic when plans are spoiled just by the weather, but with such enthusiastic children all of our visits and events were enjoyable and very worthwhile.



Budding sculptors hard at work.

Gail Wilson

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

After the success of the 1997/98 season, the new U11 Netball Team had a hard act to follow. Only two experienced players were coming up from the previous year and a number of Year 6 girls joined Orchard Close having played little Netball.

During the year, matches were played against The Croft, Carrdus (in the half light because we got locked out of court), Kitebrook, Cokethorpe, St. John's Priory (in the pouring rain) and Sibford Gower. On occasions we also fielded an U10 team to give the Year 5 girls some match experience.

Netball was not the only team game played. On Monday afternoons in the Autumn and Spring terms Orchard Close began to get to grips with the rudiments of hockey. Everybody, boys and girls, from Year 3 upwards. The season closed with a girls' hockey match against The Croft and a mixed match against Cokethorpe. The mixed match was hampered by the loss of key Year 6 boys to Disneyland and Paris, and marred by the injury of Claire Prizeman, but Craig Joynson was singled out for special mention by the opposition for brilliant play.

The summer term began with the Annual Inter-House Cross-Country Championships. In the Summer Rounders and Athletics were the order of the day and the build up for Sports Day began. Sports Day remained reasonably dry and the morning ran to timetable. After individual events, obstacle team events and the relays it was the Red team which emerged victorious.

More time could then be devoted to rounders but the weather was not kind. All but one match was rained off and that one, despite being in the lead after the first innings, resulted in a loss. The same fate befell the mixed team.

Despite the lack of success in matches the girls have always given of their best and have been a credit to the school.

Orchard Close rugby players, under the guidance of James Bond and Brian Holliday, are developing into a skilful group who should make a big difference to the main school teams when they move up. James Sale was selected for the county squad through his involvement with Chipping Norton Rugby Club Mini Rugby.

Patsy Howes and Graham Thomas

ORCHARD CLOSE ~ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

This year we have completed a week of activities making the most of the local environment and resources.

The camp at Horley was well attended and a barbecue in the evening was supported by many families, making it a very sociable event. During the days the children were able to enjoy the woodlands and open space to play a variety of games. With the help of Lucy Taylor, Health Advisor, and a great deal of make-up the Year 8 pupils made an excellent job of disguising themselves as casualties for our 'trained first aiders' to deal with! In some cases the acting was so good that even Graham Thomas had to check that there really wasn't anything wrong with the bodies! Lunch on the final day at camp was prepared by the children using lightweight Trangia stoves, and a hearty meal was enjoyed by most of the pupils. One of the most satisfying achievements of the week from an organisational point of view was the lack of lost and unclaimed property left on the Friday afternoon, a BIG relief.

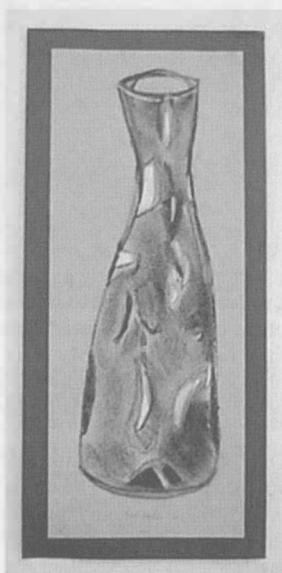
Gail Wilson

BOARDING IN ORCHARD CLOSE

Once again a very busy year for all concerned in Orchard Close Boarding House. We had great fun preparing for the Open Day, turning the common-room into a Victoria tea-room, making scarecrows depicting children climbing trees, gardening and playing around the Orchard. The scarecrows looked very realistic in their red boiler suits and lasted for weeks until the rain came and they collapsed into a soggy heap.

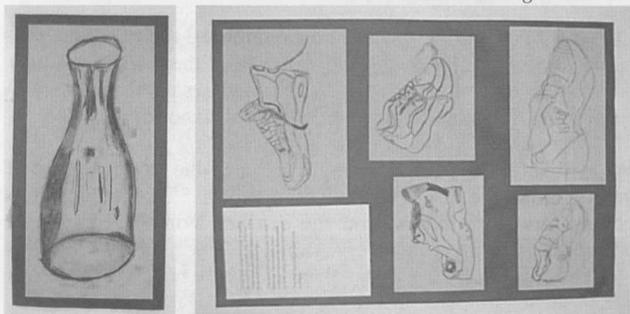
The year wasn't all hard work we had lots of fun days out as well as our usual Wednesday visit (weather permitting) to the Sibford stream, the 'Sib'. The year in Orchard Close started with only seven boarders, but by the end of the year we were full to the rafters!

For the final half-term we once again welcomed back our Russian children, who enjoyed all the activities and outings, but whose highlight of their stay was a visit to Tesco.



Still Life ~ Year 5.

Beth Banning ~ Matron



Charcoal drawings by Year 5.

SAILING

This year has seen the expansion of sailing to encompass board-sailing or, as it is more commonly known, windsurfing. This encouraged more of the middle school pupils on to the water to try out yet another new activity. As usual we were hampered by the good 'ole British weather and several sessions had to be cancelled. However, this did not appear to affect the enthusiasm of those involved and on the days when the conditions were in our favour there was a full turn out of pupils.

Orchard Close have continued to go sailing and this year their sessions were combined into two full days at the reservoir.

Congratulations are due to the many pupils who earned different awards throughout the year. With continued commitment, effort and enthusiasm over the past terms, Adrian Prestidge and Wendy Williams achieved their Gold NSSA Awards. They are the first of Sibford's pupils to do so and will hopefully be the first of many to follow in future years.

Gail Wilson

MARY'S GARDEN

Mary Bennett was the first teacher in charge of Orchard Close. She provided the excellent foundations from which it has grown.

I first met Mary when I was appointed in 1992 to establish the seven to nine year old age range. Mary had been ill during the summer and sadly the illness returned in 1996. She died in the Katherine House Hospice in December 1997.

Mary always said she did not want any memorial trees or seats purchased in her name. However, such was the demand from pupils and parents for something to remember her by, that we decided on a compromise.



Mary's Garden.

The idea for Mary's Garden gradually evolved. The building of the new extension had created a small secluded area outside Mary's old classroom. Mary had left a legacy to Orchard Close. One of the purchases had been a picnic table. Staff noticed how popular this area and table were becoming. It was being used as a meeting point for a quiet chat, a game of chess or drawing and colouring activities. It was starting to evolve as a quiet rest area.

Ideas for a name for the area resulted in 'Mary's Garden'. Mike Spring, who had worked closely with Mary in establishing Orchard Close, designed and made a wonderful commemorative plaque which became the starting point for his wife Penny's garden design.

The Summer term saw the Spring family, Beth Banning and pupils and Staff of Orchard Close starting to create the garden. Beth especially, spent many hours and inadvertently discovered the interesting shade of green for the trellis work.

Parents and grandparents generously donated plants and pots. Various items from around the school campus were recycled with a rejuvenating coat of sage green paint. Money donated for Mary purchased another bench, trellis and climbing plants. (Mary never threw anything away. She had the art of recycling the recycled. She believed in making something from nothing and involving everyone in an activity.)

The garden is now complete. I am sure Mary would be happy to know that she will be remembered in an outdoor working environment reflecting and enhancing many of the values which she brought to Orchard Close.

HOUSE REPORTS

FIELDING HOUSE

The ever increasing numbers in the Sixth Form enforced a re-think as to where everyone could fit. The 'Portakabin', only two strides away from our back door, was soon requisitioned. This now enabled day pupils to store their belongings and ensured that the common-room was always the scene of a shoe mountain! Our first House Meeting, at which we all only just fitted into the common-room, brought home to everyone just how many more students were now joining the Sixth Form at Sibford.

Throughout, the real strength of Fielding has always been its community spirit and this happily continued and even strengthened as the new Lower Sixth formers enjoyed the freedom afforded to them in the house, whilst also taking on the more responsible aspects of Sixth Form life. I would like to thank the Prefects for their excellent work in and around the school, particularly meal time duties and I am sure the duty staff would echo these sentiments.

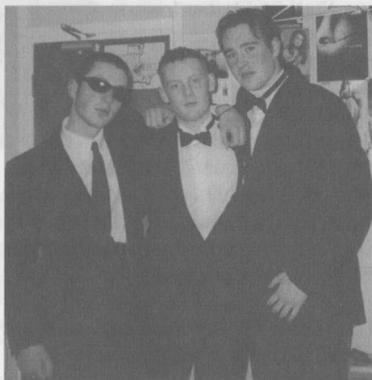
The social life of the House thrived with pupils representing Stow RFC at weekends, several theatre trips, football and rugby matches. Mixed house football and basketball matches were popular at night whilst many of the Sixth form availed themselves of the elaborate Multi-Gym equipment. Full boarders were always busy at weekends and many of them helped at local events ~ even the renowned Quiz evening at Kingham. These activities helped promote the Sixth Form within the school and surrounding area.

The House, once again, contributed to nominated charities with Hannah and Wendy working hard for Breast Cancer and Stephen for Epilepsy. As ever, the Quaker Pilgrimage proved successful with Sian, Moritz, Jimmy and Hannah making new friends and finding the experience very rewarding.



Fielding's female athletes prepare for Sports Day.

On the Sports field we excelled with the girls providing the backbone of an excellent School team whilst the boys were very committed in both School football and rugby. On Sports Day the vast majority of the House volunteered to participate in some way with outstanding performances from Sarah Caines, Kate Deacon and Cathy Gornall for the girls and Elliott Jennings, Francis Surry and Andrew Walker for the boys. Everyone displayed a cheerful resignation for the Cross Country and supported each other vocally!



Men in Black ~ Elliot, Francis and James turn on the style.



All dressed up . . . and off to the VI form leavers' dinner.

For me, the highlight of the year was the formal Leaver's Dinner Dance at Rye Hill Golf Club, at which staff and pupils, all beautifully attired, spent a most pleasurable evening until the early hours.

John Howard

THE BIG MOVE ~ FIELDING ANNEX

I was a little apprehensive about moving into the Manor, with good reason. There is a ratio of four girls to nine boys, the majority of the boys being Lower Sixth, so you can imagine the girls felt a little overpowered. My fears soon vanished. Within days it was obvious we were all going to get on, and although the boys would never admit it, we girls do have the upper hand!

One of the major points made by the House Staff, was that we still stayed as one House rather than two separate groups, and luckily there isn't any division. We still spend the majority of our time in Fielding, (they have the Sky T.V. and a pool table!) but the Manor is an excellent place to work, or just relax.

Kerry Smith, Year 13

GILLETT HOUSE

The old adage that 'time flies when you're having fun' comes to mind when realising that Gillett has now been re-opened for five years.

Our original Year 7 boys have now completed their GCSEs with some wonderful results. Well done to all of them and good luck for the future. Some of them have returned to school and are now residing in the new Fielding Annex at the Manor opposite us.

We will soon need a larger trophy cabinet due to a really good year winning the House football competition. The juniors were champions at rounders, and the seniors won the basketball tournament, ably organised by Alex Lin. Everyone did their bit for the House at Sports Day despite the inclement weather, with some outstanding performances.

Over the past year we have had some interesting House meetings, both from pupils and staff, and at the end of the summer term presented a signed House photo to Andy Glover who, after a long association with Gillett, has transferred his allegiance elsewhere. We will always be grateful to him for all the help and support he has given over the years.

The kind folk from the PSFA bought us a new table football, and the boys in Gillett have put it to good use.

It just remains for me to say a big thank you from Paul to Patrick, Frankie, Matthew and Adam for all their support last year, and to

say how much we are looking forward to working with Jake Smith as House Captain, Oliver Holmes as Deputy House Captain and James Hartley as our new Sports Captain.

Alison Pearce

LISTER HOUSE

Our new House Captains are James Brooks and David Clark who have taken over from Ben Gibson and Philip Tew. Ben and Philip looked after the House very well considering its fabric, especially the leaking washrooms, which tested everyone's patience as the year went on. They formed a good and happy partnership. Everyone accepted these inconveniences knowing that our refurbishment was on the way.

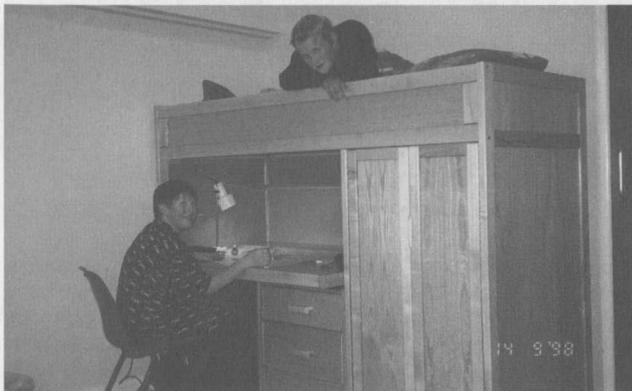


Dormitories stripped out prior to refurbishment.

When we arrived back at the beginning of term everyone was delighted at the transformation. The whole of the washroom and dormitory area has been replaced and we are particularly impressed with the new shower and washroom arrangements as well as our brand new enclosed kitchen. We also have a few study beds and these have proved to be very popular. A new fire alarm system, new lighting and new toilets in the boot room complete the picture.



James Brooks in the newly renovated washroom.



Joshua Bates and Alex Tylor try out their new 'Study Beds'.

When we are fully settled a model railway is to be constructed in the hobby room and we intend to move the common room lockers into the boot room.



Starting the model railway.

So, an exciting year lies ahead. James and David lead an excellent team of Year 11 and the whole House appears to benefit from our new surroundings. Attitudes are friendly and positive and although the House did not win anything outright on the sports field we came second in most areas and everyone was willing and committed.

House Council continues to be an asset and much useful discussion and organising takes place there ~ not only deciding on House fund allocations but deciding and discussing duties, the well being of peers, and continuing our arrangements to help our Ghana school.

Stuart Hedley

LISTER HOUSE ~ PUPILS VIEW

Lister House has changed dramatically over the Summer Holidays of 1998. The old Lister was dark, gloomy and a little depressing. (The toilets were a mess and only two showers worked, the dorms were overcrowded and not too warm and also due to the thin walls upstairs, you could hear conversations from Year 7 to 11.) To our delight we were welcomed back to Sibford to a gleaming, 'all new' House. The first thing we noticed was that the overall interior was a brighter, happier place. Everything from the carpet to the atmosphere had changed for the better. The common-room was more cosy and the kitchen had grown. It was nice to see that our ideas were used in the new design of the kitchen.

When we walked upstairs we found that the toilets and the shower-room had been separated and were much cleaner. The corridors were more spacious and not as dim. The dorms had been rearranged so Year 11 are at the end in dorms of two. The younger years have beds and work stations. All the old walls have been replaced by thicker ones and the built-in cupboards have gone as well. All this has been finished off with a delicious topping of paint. We are looking forward to being the first pupils to live in our new surroundings and we will look after it for all those living here in future years.

Danny Gray and Daniel Ritchie

MARGARET FELL HOUSE

We start the new academic year with more changes to the accommodation for girls boarding. Just like Noah we have now taken over the Ark ... a large house at the bottom of the Paddock opposite the Manor is now home to the overflow from the main Margaret Fell House, which underlines the fact that girls boarding numbers have continued to rise steadily.

We are now fully a 'house of nations' with students representing America, Australia, Barbados, France, Mainland China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Spain and Uganda as well as all parts of the United Kingdom!

Looking back over the last twelve months, we have done many things together such as pancake day for which Mrs Norton and Miss Marklew tossed 120 pancakes for us with fillings as diverse as banana, chocolate, ice cream, maple syrup and jam in the same pancake, to the more refined palate of sugar and lemon! As usual now, we headed off on a 'girls (sorry Mr Norton) only' Christmas shopping trip to the 'Clothes Show Live' at the N.E.C. Birmingham ~ a brilliant day.

As we look forward to a very full and productive year, I have pleasure in announcing House positions for the Year 1998/99.

<i>Head of House</i>	Adele Molson
<i>Deputy Head of House</i>	Hayley Joynson
<i>Social Secretary</i>	Katy Harper
<i>Sports Captains</i>	Deborah Stripe and Johanna Russell
<i>Joint Day Captains</i>	Victoria Taylor and Nicola Sale

We look forward to being socially challenged by Katy Harper in the new role of Social Secretary ~ already she is looking at charities we can support this year as well as planning entertainment evenings.

I feel sure that each and every one of them will fulfil their post of responsibility to the best of their ability and as such, we will have a thriving and successful environment in which everyone can grow and succeed.

Lesley Norton
Senior Housemistress Margaret Fell Girls,
Joint Head of Boarding.

MARGARET FELL HOUSE ~ PUPILS VIEW

Time has flown past and Margaret Fell has seen many changes throughout the past year. Our ever growing additions to the House have meant that original plans to extend the main House have not gone ahead and we have now replaced the Manor, which was home to 15 girls, with the Ark, run by Catherine Marklew and assisted by Anna Jo Righton.

The relaxed and cheerful atmosphere remains and several House parties have taken place celebrating Christmas and the end of term. Pancake day was another huge hit. This year we were joined by Mr and Mrs Freestone, and the Australian students who all seemed very impressed by the chefs, Mrs Norton and Miss Marklew. I am sure there are many more events to follow as Katy Harper is on the case.

House matches were a success, at least for my team! A series of hockey, athletics and rounders matches took place and everyone was involved.

Adele Molson

MARGARET FELL ANNEX

What a culture shock! After 4 years living and working in a boys' Boarding House at Sibford, I moved into the Pool flat at the Manor alongside a group of Year 10 and 11 girls in the Annex.

We all did our best to make the Annex a part of the main group at Margaret Fell House too, they visited us, and we visited them. Comments along the lines of 'it's like coming home' are most heartwarming.

We have our own representatives for school council, and join in with the main House for events such as sports day.

Although mainly weekly boarders, several girls took the opportunity to stay at weekends to join in other activities.

We had German visitors in January, Eva Maria and after Easter Anna, who joined fully in everything on offer. Our numbers grew further in the summer with the arrival of Anna and Alice from Sweden, and Olga from Russia.

Alison Pearce

PENN HOUSE

With our refurbishment 85% complete, we began the year in style. Newly fitted out dormitories, accommodating two or four, gave the House a more intimate and homely feel. The new fire doors have also significantly reduced the movement of sound and draughts. The colour scheme took a bit of getting used to by those more accustomed to 'magnolia' with everything, but the new furniture was instantly hailed by all as a great improvement.

The new fire alarm system has so far proved its sensitivity to burnt toast and over enthusiastic use of deodorant sprays, but has not been called upon for anything more than fire-drill purposes.

From his now extended and improved flat, Tony Skeath has continued to dispense pocket money, wisdom and guidance. Mark Connor leaves Penn as our Third Man this year; we have been most grateful for his help, patience and good humour during his time with us. We also say farewell to Seán Kenny. His thoughtful contributions to our House Meetings for Worship will be much missed. We are looking forward to welcoming Elizabeth Pronost as our new Third Person on the House Staff team.

On the sporting front we finished the year by retaining the Inter-House Athletics trophy as well as holding on to the rugby and football cups despite some nail-bitingly close finals.

Freddie Huntington has done a really good job as House Captain, and Kelvin Lau's mature efficiency as his deputy has made things run very smoothly. For the coming year, Daniel Anderson and David Whetstone will be fronting this year's team of senior boys, upon whom the calm day to day running of the House depends. We wish them all good luck.



'Farewell and Thanks' to the senior members of Penn House.

Our charity efforts this year have focused on our adopted cause ~ the Nchima Trust. This charity aims to relieve the suffering and deprivations of people in Malawi ~ one of the poorest countries in central Southern Africa. Following a treasure hunt and a bob-a-job style exercise we were able to send a cheque for over £100 to one of the trust's U.K. directors, Ann Scarborough. Towards the end of the Summer Term, Ann came to Sibford to explain her

work, at one of our Friday Meetings. Her entertaining and informative talk and slide show helped to highlight the importance of such fund raising. We will be coming up with new ideas for the continuation of our help over the coming year.

Michael and Penelope Spring

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Year after year, I write a couple of lines about weekend activities at Sibford. I usually write about different trips we have enjoyed and those activities that are put on for the pupils in School, and every year I write something about what we like to think of as the social highlight of Sibford life, the Christmas Ball.



Mrs Guy, elegant at the Christmas Ball.

This year, I would like to say that without all the hard work of many people these trips and activities wouldn't take place. Almost every weekend, members of staff happily take a coach load of lively young men and women off campus and subject them to activities such as ice skating, bowling, shopping, looking around a museum or perhaps making a fool of themselves dancing at the Christmas Ball.



Miss Hill (Georgie) half way up the Eiffel Tower, Paris.

Most weekends there are also in-house activities such as doughnut making, K-Nex, country walks and fruit picking, and that's not forgetting our Australian Students who open and supervise the Sports Hall.

Paul Ludlow.



Alton Towers River Rapids. Left to right Mikhail Chefel, Chris Pethers (with bottle), Ben Clayson, Jeremy Wright and Lewis Green.

HEALTH ADVISORY CENTRE ~ a Day in the Life of Lucy

An essential part of boarding life is our health care system. Lucy Taylor, our resident Health Advisor, shares with us part of her daily routine.



Lucy, a picture of health!

"Up at six thirty, thank heaven for alarm clocks! My brain starts to focus. I wonder how they slept in Margaret Fell last night after reassuring them that Doris did not have a dreadful, contagious disease. The spots were merely a reaction to something she had eaten during her shopping trip to Oxford (I hope).

Quick breakfast and downstairs to open the San in readiness for the morning surgery. Place a mixture of Lavender and Lemon into the aromatherapy oil vaporiser to create a soothing and healing atmosphere for the children (if only t'were that easy).

The Autumn term is always the busiest, lots of new children feeling very strange in their new environment, obviously homesick. The only medication for these is a simple dose of TLC and a reassuring, friendly smile. (This seems to work for the School Staff who also, occasionally, pop in with the same symptoms.) It's not all medicine and pills with this job.

'Morning Meeting in School ~ Doris' spots really are disappearing. Phew! It is good to see pupils happy and well in their school setting. The homesick blues will start to fade as new routines develop and friends are made.

Back to the San with two children, one for observation (I suspect a virus) and one with severe stomach upset, wonderful sound effects! The School Doctor is due to visit shortly and will make a diagnosis. Doctor's surgery is busy as usual, prescriptions, check-ups, new pupil medicals, a bad smoker's cough and a possible hangover adds to the colour of the morning (and that's only the staff!).

After surgery I'm off to attend a personal, social health education class with Year 8. I work with teachers in planning and delivering health education to pupils. We spend valuable time promoting positive aspects of health and aim to assist each child and young adult with necessary social skills and understanding about healthy life skills, which are so crucial for their present and future dealings with people in the 'outside' world.

Time for lunch, it's hungry work discussing health.

Lunch-time surgery ~ more 'sniffs and snuffles' followed by the anti-smoking support group. This group gets together to help each other in the struggle to 'kick the habit'.

The afternoon is spent chasing new pupils' information, medical records and immunisation status. Lots of paper work. This is interrupted by the exit from the rugby pitch into the San. Yes, it's that season again, kicked shins, sprained ankles and broken collar bones ~ such fun! (especially on games afternoon). Just in case you miss the School sister there's a First Aid group in the San after school for pupils to learn how to put you back together.

Last surgery of the day at seven-thirty for those pupils taking regular medications, I hope for a full night's sleep undisturbed by frantic House Staff with ill children.

By eight-thirty I'm ready to lock up for the day. I'm still on call but may get time to put my feet up for a while. Can I hear the alarm clock or am I dreaming?" Carry on Matron!!

Lucy Taylor, Health Advisor

ART TRIP TO ST. IVES



OUT AND ABOUT

ACTIVITIES WEEK 1998 (Years 6, 7 and 8)

This year's activities week was again held at the YMCA centre on the shores of Lake Windermere. Great fun was had by all, although the weather was rather variable. The following comments were made by some of the pupils during the week.

"I enjoyed rock climbing because it was easy for me."
Chris Toplisek.

"I enjoyed caving because you did not know what was around the corner."
Andrew Miles.

"I enjoyed the Zip Line most of all because I didn't like heights before, but now I am alright with them. It went very fast."
Ashley Finlayson.

"I enjoyed caving because it had really nice things there that had formed naturally. I really liked crawling in the water and getting a welly full."
Craig Joynson.

"Caving was fun. Mr Ludlow fell in the pool."
Helen Donnelly.



Kayaking on Lake Windermere.

ART STUDY TRIP TO ST. IVES

Seven Art students from Years 10 and 12 took a six hour train journey to Cornwall on June 26th 1998 to begin their Art Study Trip. Mike and I met them at the station in our trusty Landrover, which was to provide transport for the four days in St. Ives and on the Penwith peninsula.

We spent the first day exploring Zennor, where our hostel was situated. We climbed up to Zennor Quoit and sketched the glorious rock formations as well as discovering an abandoned house and artist's studio. The afternoon was given to a wander around St. Ives, enjoying the pretty, narrow streets and everywhere the evidence of arts and crafts, past and present. We visited Men-An-Tol, limboing and writhing through the ancient stone.

Our second day involved a visit to the impressive Tate Gallery, St. Ives. A professional artist, Zoe Cameron, led a tour and workshop which was informative and entertaining. There followed an afternoon with Zoe at the Barbara Hepworth museum. The weather was good and we all appreciated the tranquillity and beauty of the garden and became thoroughly absorbed in building our own paper sculptures.

The final day was spent exploring the Penwith peninsula. We enjoyed an excellent tour around and under the Geevor Tin Mine and were able to sketch the Bottallack chimneys during a break in the weather. The afternoon involved visiting several galleries in St. Just before a misty and atmospheric final sketching trip to Lanyon Quoit.

Throughout our stay, Gabrielle Jackson was a warm and welcoming host. Her treacle pudding and chocolate cakes have earned her a world-wide (really) reputation and she cooked us wonderful, generous evening meals.

On our last evening we went into St. Ives for a meal at Pepper's Pizza. We all returned to Sibford greatly inspired and ready to put our experiences onto paper or into new shapes for sculptures. We are extremely grateful for the generous funding which made such a worthwhile trip possible. Please enjoy our collage of the trip.

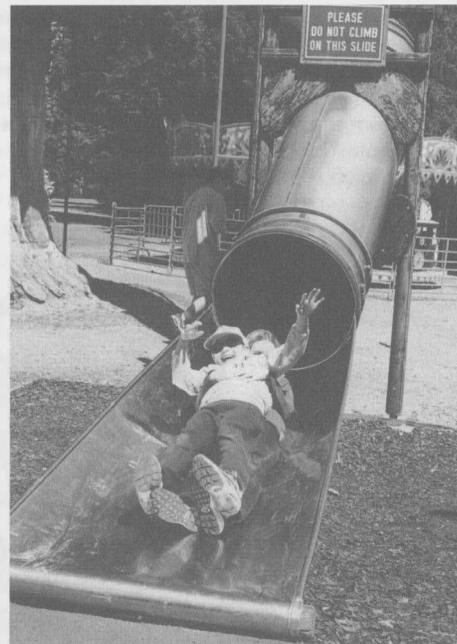
Penelope Spring

CHILDRENS CAMP

Children's Camp, or Kid's Camp, is where volunteers give up 5 days of their summer holiday to provide a week out for children from inner city London. This year all 20 children came from the Phoenix School, which specialises in dealing with children who have specific learning and/or medical problems. The children spend a week at Sibford where the volunteers work on a one-to-one basis with them.

During the week, there are various activities intending to introduce and expose the children to life outside London, as many of them have never been outside the city.

We visited Cotswold Wildlife Park and Hatton Country World where the children were able to see and pet various animals and learn more about them. We also went on a boat trip on the River Avon at Stratford, definitely an experience that will stay with many of the children, as many had not been on a boat before. There were also various activities such as pony riding and kite flying which helped to develop the bond between child and helper.



Adele Molson and Lee enjoy Cotswold Wildlife Park.

I was looking after a little girl called Rushna who was 8 years old. Rushna had severe language delay and as her first language was Hindi, this also made communicating difficult as I was unsure if she understood information. She also had very poor eyesight, and was almost entirely blind in her right eye. She needed considerable help in dressing herself and in general everyday tasks.

I thoroughly enjoyed Kid's Camp and I felt great satisfaction from providing such a rewarding and interesting experience for the children.

Laura Williams (year 11)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S BRONZE AWARD

An extract from Katy Harper's report on the expedition.

After the long journey, we arrived to find the accommodation we were staying in was fairly luxurious (a pleasant surprise). We unpacked and made ourselves at home for the night in our room, called High Top (named after a neighbouring hill), when we were told that we had to go for a practice walk, (I don't understand why we had to go 5 miles!). Eventually it was dinner time ~ phew! That night we were briefed on the morning's plans and at 9.00 pm went to bed.

The next morning we were woken up at the unearthly hour of 7.00 am to hear Mrs Newbold's cheerful voice telling us we had half an hour. Chaos ensued as we packed our rucksacks and tried to make them as light as possible. A big grey cloud hovered on the horizon, but there was no turning back now.

We were off in what we hoped was the right direction! This was when the rain started (and went on and on throughout our weekend until we returned to the Youth Hostel when the sun came out again. Typical!) Thoroughly drenched, and about 5 miles on, we arrived at a small restaurant where everyone dried off under the dryers. Here we met another Duke of Edinburgh group going to the same place as we were, and the boys were determined to beat them to it. So we set off again with Adele now map reading, heading towards the cave where we were having lunch.

On our way we met a couple who were drenched and covered in mud who laughed when we said we were going to the cave. They had just come from there and they said there was no way that we would get up the hill leading to the cave with backpacks on because there was a river running down it. Unfortunately we hadn't got much choice in the matter and our hungry stomachs told us we must get up this hill or no lunch!



Debbie Stripe, Adele Molson and Katy Harper, still smiling, struggle on.

We arrived at the foot of the hill and all thoughts of lunch vanished from my mind. It looked to me like a sheer cliff with a waterfall running down it, but none-the-less we persisted. Michael was the first to get up the hill, then it was James, then me. I think it was the most physically demanding thing I have ever done but it was worth it. I never knew school sandwiches could taste so good before that!!

After that we knew better than to moan about every hill we came across and we struggled on. I was surprisingly not as tired as I thought I would be by this point, but my feet were beginning to ache and so were my shoulders.

Now it was my turn to map read. (I was glad I had paid attention during our map reading lessons.) I just hoped I could get myself and the group safely to our camp site. By now I think everyone (apart from Michael) was feeling the weight on their shoulders and we were all sodden through but we all kept each others' spirits

up. There were a few frightening moments such as when Debbie, who is asthmatic, started feeling a bit wheezy but she stayed calmer than the rest of us and with the help of Adele (also asthmatic) got back on her feet and we were off again.

Eventually we made it to the campsite which turned out to be more the size of a garden. It had a toilet and hot water for washing up with. All I wanted to do was flop on the ground and go to sleep, but I knew we had to put the tent up and start dinner. The thought of being dry motivated me to pitch the tent and light our Trangia.

Katy Harper

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION TRIP TO GREECE

In February 1998 during half term week, for Classical Civilisation, a group of us went to Greece. We arrived in Athens early Monday morning to discover the glory of cheap holiday hotels. After what the hotel called lunch, we ventured out as a group into central Athens. Our first experience of Greek culture was on the buses! We went around on a walking tour and ended up at the Olympic Stadium. Dinner on the first night was in a Greek restaurant, the Plakka. On the way, we gained an extra member to our group, a stray dog who would not leave us alone and it took five attempts and over an hour to lose him.



Year 12 at Epidaurus.

Tuesday, the first of many long bus journeys was to Delphi to look at the sanctuary, the Stadium and the temple of Apollo. It was a hot and tiring trek up the mountain, but the view was spectacular and well worth it. That evening we were all very tired and were pleased to fall into our beds.

Wednesday we travelled to Tolon, our next stop via the Corinth Canal, which was a beautiful blue/green colour and is one of the deepest in the world. The hotel Apollo was a step up from our previous abode.

Thursday was our free day. We ventured down to the beach and a few brave souls tested the icy February waters, just one of those things you do!

On the Friday we discovered Olympia! We walked around the stadium and saw where the first Olympic flame was lit and has been ever since. Also on that site the main temple of Hera and the huge temple of Zeus with huge columns. As a group we tested our running skills down the first Olympic track but, unlike the ancient Greeks, we kept our clothes on!

Saturday we returned to Athens, back to the joys of the original hotel. We went via the Theatre at Mycenae. After trekking over crumbling foundations we took a quick break at the top and perfected our tans.

Sunday, our last day. We visited the Acropolis and saw the Parthenon, viewed the smog over Athens, as well as the Propyleia,

temple of Athena, Nike and the forum of Athens. The Parthenon was undergoing renovation and there was a lot of scaffolding surrounding it. We went out for our last taste of Greek food in the local town and then piled into one hotel room until 3.00 am when we wearily departed from the hotel for our homeward journey.

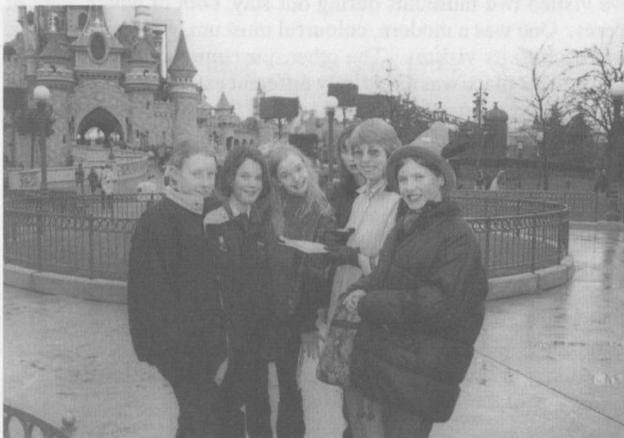
Overall, everybody had a great time and enjoyed the experience.

Sarah Bain ~ Year 13

DISNEYLAND, PARIS Out of this World

There were two things I said I would never do ~ one was to use the Channel Tunnel and the second was to go to Disneyland, Paris. So it was with disbelief that I realised the disembodied voice suggesting just such an excursion was indeed my own! The idea proved very popular and on a windy day in March (there were some compensations in not using the ferry) 36 children from Years 6, 7, 8 and 9, plus 4 members of staff, set off in the coach for France.

After a thankfully uneventful trip under the Channel (how strange to arrive in Calais without even a glimpse of the sea!) we reached the outskirts of Paris in the evening rush hour and checked in at our basic, but adequate hotel, where Seán Kenny was to develop an addiction to the breakfast 'Choky' drink and Helen Evans was to abandon her luggage on the return journey.



Jean Rudge overcomes 'Chunnel Phobia' to visit Cinderella's castle with Claire, Katie, Lucy, Harriet and Mim to guide her.

Friday was spent beneath unrelenting rain in Disneyland where even I overcame my prejudice against a slice of America in France and went on the 'Runaway Train' ~ there's even a photograph to prove it! 'Space Mountain' was the most popular attraction, some of the children went on it eight times!

On Saturday we saw the sights of Paris including the Sacre Coeur, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower.

Our visit culminated in a magical, if rather chilly, trip on the River Seine, just as darkness fell and all the beautiful buildings were romantically lit up.

Jean Rudge

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

Princethorpe College Inter-Schools Dressage Competition was our first dressage event in October 1997. We had two teams; Robert Garne (6th in class), Ann Grice, Caroline Cleland, Victoria Taylor, Claire and Hannah Gregson. Everyone did very well, despite horrendous weather. Hannah, who was the youngest in the whole competition, came 6th in her class.



Robert Garne in the Dressage competition.

Our next event was **The National Schools Cross Country Competition**. It was our 9th year at Gawcott and this event had been postponed for a week due to the floods. We had one junior individual, one senior individual and two senior teams. The weather was a little too hot (even if I shouldn't tempt fate by saying so!)

Claire Gregson was our only junior; she went round three times on two different ponies, once as a junior and twice as a senior! (and is known as the quickest quick-change artist in the team).

Chris was our last to go. As our only senior individual of the day, he achieved another brilliant clear round with all the bonus points. By this time we were all very tired but, as we had done quite well, we stayed to the end leaving at 7.30 pm. We all agreed it had been a great day despite narrowly missing the placings.

Kingsley School Team Show Jumping, at Stoneleigh Abbey took place in June 1998. This was one of those numerous rain sodden summer days, in a beautiful setting alongside the Polo fields in front of the Abbey. 'The Sibford Flyers', Chris, Rachel and Simon had brilliant rounds and came first. 'The Sibford Friends', Caroline, Robert and Victoria were not quite so successful, but were all safe at the end of the day. In the senior individual, Chris came second and Rachel sixth.



Chris Ball, Rachel Dales and Simon Raby with their rosettes for the team prize.

The British Inter-Schools One Day Event at Stonar School. Representing the school this year at Stonar we had Claire in the Intermediate and Caroline and Robert in the seniors.

Claire's dressage was on the Friday, so she had to miss a day at school (which really upset her!). She did quite well and was all set for her show jumping and cross-country on the Saturday. After Claire had completed the show jumping, her mother thought there might be something wrong with her pony, so sadly they were forced to withdraw.

On Sunday morning they were all set for their show jumping and cross country. Robert was first to jump, but had rather a bad fall.



Left to right Caroline Cleland on Dillon, Claire Gregson and Robert Garne at Stonar. Dillon could continue. After all the drama of the weekend, it was wonderful that Caroline came 5th in the senior individuals.

He continued his round, but later decided to retire (he had some fine bruises to nurse afterwards). Caroline's round was much less eventful, with Dillon just knocking a pole to incur five faults, but her cross country was superb. She was halfway round, and the course had to be stopped because of a previous rider having a bad fall. It took 15 minutes before Caroline and

Di Howes



The Sibford School equestrians, from left to right, Chris Ball, Rachel Dales, Simon Raby, Claire Gregson, Alicia Hamel, Victoria Taylor and Ann Grice.

FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS TOUR

Before I went on the trip, everything I had heard about the First World War meant nothing to me, it was all just facts and figures, and terrible stories, but as I stood looking at a cemetery that contained over 11,000 graves, something changed inside me. All of a sudden every headstone turned into a man and beside every man stood a family who he loved and who loved him in return. It came home to me how many families the war affected.

As I got on the bus to go on to our next location, tears which I could not hold back, started rolling down my face and feelings of guilt, anger and sorrow poured out.

Before I went on the trip I had been against war because it never really solved much and partly because it was fashionable. My view on war has now changed dramatically. I am now not just against war but am bitterly against war and the people who have caused those wars.

The thing I especially hate about the First World War was the not knowing. The men being fed propaganda and not knowing what they faced at the front line; the men's families and friends not knowing whether or not they were alive; the men not knowing what awaited them when they went over the top, not knowing what the next day would hold.

Just not knowing.

Robert Walls
Year 11



Dantzig Cemetery, First World War.

As the bus set off on our holiday in Belgium, sorry History trip, our mood, far from being excited about what was to come, was somewhat sleepy.

The History trip was an extremely emotional experience, so much so that I can hardly find the words to describe what was seen. The numbers we had been told in class, sprang into a mortifying reality as we saw cemetery after cemetery of graves, marking only part of the nine million that died in a battle that only brought death and destruction.

We visited two museums during our stay, both of which were in Ypres. One was a modern, colourful museum, giving a hands-on approach to its visitors. The other museum was just outside of Ypres. This place was an entirely different experience, that moved each and every one of us. Placed at Hill 62, trenches remained as they would have been and original, untouched artefacts ranging from a soldier's boot to a machine gun, filled 2 dusty rooms. We were free to wander and take in the atmosphere which, as you can imagine, was solemn and incredibly moving. I don't think anyone left that museum without feeling a tremendous sadness and loss for the unmarked soldiers that lay beneath our feet.

This is just a fraction of what was seen and done during our stay in Belgium and France, but throughout the whole trip a cloud of grief hung in the air, I know I have never felt such tremendous bereavement, but all we can do now is pray that the dead rest in peace.

Adele Molson



Sanctuary Wood, Ypres.

I have never felt so totally powerless and so sad that I couldn't cry. At least not until I entered the Tyne Cot Cemetery which holds the memory of some 11,000 men. On some of the grave stones all it said was 'A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God' this made me feel paralysed with sadness at the thought of this body I was standing on not having its own name. In class we are told that World War One caused the deaths of some 9 million men. To me this was just another tragic statistic until we stood inside the memorial at Ypres where I gazed in astonishment at the row upon row of dead men's names. Everyone was in silent awe of where we were standing and the horrifying effect of the 'Great War'.

At Vimy Ridge, where Canadians forced a victory, we were faced with trees planted for every man that died. We were then told to imagine beside every tree the man's family and friends. This showed us the enormity of the devastation caused by the war.

At Hill 62 the trenches remained as they would have been but two things were different for us: we knew that as we climbed out of the trenches we would still be alive and also that when we saw our friends in the opposite trench we could be sure that they would still be with us tomorrow.

For me the 'Last Post' was when it all hit home. As the three men played the tune the soldiers would have heard after battle, in the vast Ypres memorial I felt an indescribable feeling of loss.

Katy Harper

'To live in hearts of those we love is not to die'

M.C. Christmas was 19 years old when he died. I had read of such things before, but I never really cared, it didn't bother me. But now as I stood upon his grave, I imagined what his life was like and wondered about what he would have looked like, and where he lived.

It had never occurred to me before that these men had family and friends who loved them, who knew what food they liked and what their favourite colour was, things that don't matter to us but did to him. Parts of his personality which made him who he was and what his family remembered him by.

But now he lies as a name to add to the list of innocent victims who died in the Great War. We must remember these men fought for what they believed in, and that their selfless sacrifice brought us our freedom.

*Alicia Hamel
Year 12*

ROYAL SHOW TRIP

On Monday 6th July, Years 7-10 Horticulture students went to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, near Leamington Spa. The day was overcast but warm. Everyone was enthusiastic, and this



Mrs Guy and Mr Kenny guarding the beer tents at the Royal Show.

contributed to the exciting atmosphere among the pupils and the Staff. Everyone was eager to get going and to see what was on offer. There was everything from cows to Kelloggs to the huge Royal Horticultural flower tent, which



Happy painted faces of some year 7 students on their return from the Royal Show.

staged thousands of different plants to buy or look at. The day was enjoyed by all. We all crawled onto the coach with our bags of freebies, feeling totally exhausted.

Hayley Joynson and Anya Innes ~ Year 10

SIXTH FORM SKIING CONTINUES TO SNOWBALL!

17 students and 4 intrepid staff prepared to sample all that Courmayeur, Northern Italy, had to offer. Mrs Howard had never had a holiday without our children so it was with trepidation that she embarked upon the coach. Those of us who had travelled long distances by coach before also had mixed feelings! However, the journey wasn't as long this year and once through the Mont Blanc tunnel, the Aosta valley greeted us in all its glory.

We were quickly segregated into three groups; rank beginners, Rob Molson was leader of this party for the week; Intermediate, into which Kate and Claire surprisingly moved, since in the comforts of home they had mistakenly stated that they were 'advanced' skiers. A mistake they were continually to be reminded of! Lastly, the Snow Boarders, Elliott, Alex, Jon and Andy, who were at times just 'too cool' to move, but they did condescend to talk to us mere mortals occasionally. We saw little of this party, though whenever we did bump into them they always had a glazed look in their eye and kept mumbling "Great! Fantastic", ad nauseam.

The weather was sunny, the views were fantastic and the ski schools good fun. In the second group, the instructor, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Lee Marvin, was cunningly nicknamed Lee! The nights were filled with pizza evenings, discos, (even James Brash enjoyed this), and the notorious Tennis Bar. Here, Sibford won the Inter-Schools pool tournament and the dancing on the tables competition.

Everyone brought back wonderful memories of all their thrills and spills and we immediately reserved places for next year.

John Howard



The Howards with Andrew Gunnett, Chris Ball and their ski instructor.

Each talented, each different, all valued

DAVID AND LIZ FORD

With two bright children who were not living up to their potentials at school, David and Liz Ford felt drawn to consider other possibilities. The result was a decision to move their children to Sibford, a Friends school.

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak (QFP 1.02.27).

Two and a half years ago, we joined with others from our Preparative Meeting in Birmingham to spend a weekend at Charney Manor in Oxfordshire, with Living Adventurously as the theme. For a while before, we had shared a concern about both our children – despite high ability and lots of encouragement, they were bored and progressing wearily at school. We had discussed this with the already over-worked staff and felt awful at asking for anything more than average progress. For the time being, they were behaving well, but we worried that any minute the volcano would explode. Boredom creates an energy of its own.

The weekend at Charney was to be our decision time, when we would take the opportunity to stop, listen and consider carefully. Would we carry on as before, or grasp the nettle and seek a more challenging route?

After the weekend, we felt very strongly that the call to live adventurously required something of us that made demands, took a few risks, and certainly would shake our views into focus. We decided that we would investigate what a Quaker school might offer.

A little over two years ago, Rebecca started at Orchard Close, the Junior department of Sibford School. Her younger brother Kieran joined the Infant

class shortly afterwards. It remains the most important and significant decision we have made in recent years and one about which we have no regrets.

In one sense it was an easy decision; having visited the school and asked endless questions, the overwhelming sense of 'this is the right thing to do' was very hard to ignore. In other ways it wasn't easy. We had to move house from Birmingham to Oxfordshire, taking our work with us. The majority of our business had been in Birmingham, and we took a chance on whether this move would work commercially. It was a real risk to livelihood, let alone school fees.

Since then, the change in the children has been dramatic. Boredom and disinterest has been replaced by an unlimited enthusiasm and commitment to their own learning. Rebecca's initial low self-confidence has disappeared completely. Kieran's high academic talent is well accommodated for; he has jumped a year so that he can work with his academic peers whilst retaining close friendships across the age and ability ranges. Staff with the time to get to know their pupils, their skills and potential, have released a further potential that we never knew existed – an enthusiasm and talent for instrumental music.

Sibford is more than an independent school with Quaker origins: it is a school whose whole life is shaped and driven by the Quaker beliefs that underpin and guide it. The strength and importance of this has grown markedly in recent years and is frequently and warmly welcomed

We seek to affirm in each child at school, each member of the Meeting, each person we meet in our daily lives, the person that he or she may with God's help grow to be.

QFP 23.78

by non-Quaker parents. Sibford is a religious school; the regular act of Meeting for worship (five days out of seven), the weekly attendance at Sibford PM, the weekly Friday afternoon Meetings for worship often attended by parents, are all evidence of the central place of Quaker worship in the weekly cycle of the school's life.

Uneasiness with Friends Schools arises partly with the issue of fees, partly with the issue of the role of religion in education and partly with the notion of selection and the inequality this implies. Rather than arguing one case or another (for in truth any argument can be proposed to confirm and reinforce one's existing or new prejudices) it is more important to listen to the Spirit working through the life experiences of others. As we do this at Sibford we sense the precious value and very high regard that non-Friends have for the school; the very real effect of Quaker values on pupils and parents is noticeable and deep.

The school's original motto – truth and honour, freedom and courtesy – has

recently been joined by another: each talented, each different, all valued. This brings up to date the central priority the school places on the needs of the individual child. The school's traditional identity as a place where special provision and teaching is available for children with dyslexia continues. But with over 50 per cent of the school comprising mainstream children, some of whom are very bright academically, and with the school sixth form now numbering over 50 students, Sibford is a very different school from that which old scholars and Friends will recall from 30 or more years ago.

Our experience these past two years has taught us to listen to the quiet voice within – even when one's fundamental political principles are being questioned and overturned. For us it has been a case of living adventurously, doing what did not come naturally, nor easily – but doing what was and is right.

Sibford is a tremendous, precious asset to the Society and it saddens many when Friends debate the whole issue of Quaker schools out of the context of the life of the Spirit. Sibford demonstrates the potential of an holistic approach to education within a Quaker environment and meets a very genuine and real need for many parents seeking an alternative, whether it be to the maintained or independent sector.

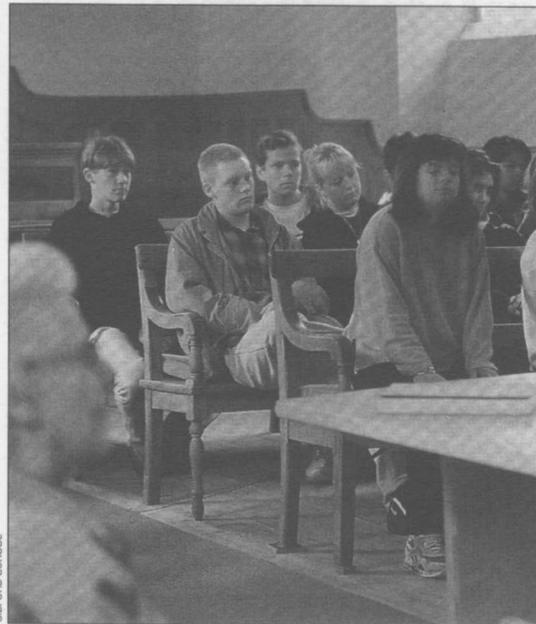
The school celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize with a special week of activity culminating in a commemorative Meeting for worship. Sibford is also an important form of outreach.

We give thanks for Sibford and for those Friends who have ensured the continuation of Friends Schools. It is highly valued and has an important place within our Society.

For those with no personal experience of a Quaker school, whether or not you have children and whatever your preconceived ideas: come and visit. Be open to possibilities.

• David and Liz Ford are members of Banbury and Evesham Monthly Meeting.

Meeting for worship in Sibford Meeting House.



SIBFORD SCHOOL

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

School's pioneering dyslexic scholarship

EINSTEIN and Michaelangelo are just two of history's better known dyslexics and Sibford School sees no reason why their students should not follow in their footsteps.

The independent school, in Sibford Ferris, attracts dyslexic pupils from all over the country because of its attitude towards sufferers.

And now it has taken the almost unheard of step of introducing a scholarship specifically for dyslexics regardless of their IQ.

Oxfordshire County Council's schools do not offer any scholarships for dyslexics while most independent schools only offer them if the applicant has a certain IQ.

Headteacher Sue Freestone, said: "We are all about helping the kids to achieve their goals. We aim to get them believing in themselves and the talents they have got, not the ones they haven't."

Dyslexia can take various forms but the most common symptom is having difficulties expressing yourself through the written word.

The Sibford Dyslexia scholarship makes allowances for these difficulties by offering children



Sue Freestone



Claire Prizeman

about to enter year 7 special help when sitting scholarship exams.

Candidates still have to take the same maths and essay papers as all other candidates but they can have help reading questions and may dictate their answers or use a computer.

The scholarship was awarded for the first time this year to Claire Prizeman, one of the school's junior pupils who will begin year 7 in September.

"We don't want people to think this is a cop-out. It just provides pupils with an achievable goal rather than a barred goal," said Ms Freestone. "If you're dyslexic it doesn't mean you're not intelligent or gifted."

One third of all Sibford's pupils

are dyslexic and according to the head, who took the post 18 months ago after working in Bristol, many of them flourish beyond all expectation once they are offered the right help.

She said: "It never ceases to amaze me what they achieve. They seem to do particularly well in areas such as the arts, humanities, music and drama."

Sibford, a Quaker foundation catering for pupils aged 5 to 18, is recommended by the Dyslexia Associations.

Although still a mainstream school which could not cater for extreme dyslexics, the school makes considerable provision for sufferers.

There is a dyslexia department which runs workshops and small group teaching sessions.

Children can also attend voluntary sessions with teachers at lunch-time for help with subjects they are finding difficult.

Ms Freestone added: "It's all about self-esteem. A lot of children come here feeling really crushed because no-one has recognised their gifts."

Lions and tigers

PUPILS from Sibford School will be celebrating the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Tiger on Tuesday.

The day has been organised by Andy Glover because of the large number of Chinese pupils at the school.

Included in the festivities will be a piano performance by year 11 pupil James Chan and a lion dance by junior school pupils aged five to 10, in the Oliver Studio.

Banbury Guardian



FIGHTING FORCE: Sibford School pupils, left to right, Helen Donnelly, Thea Woollatt and Roblin McFadden with Sealed Knot members Gary Soame and standard bearer John Soame

Pupils on guard

AN ELITE squad of soldiers were signing up 11 and 12-year-old recruits for battle at Sibford School last week.

The King's Guard of the Sealed Knot, a history and battle re-enactment society, visited the school on Thursday to bring to life the pupils' lessons about the 17th century and the English Civil War.

Anna Jo Righton, head of humanities at the school, said: "About 15 members came and

introduced themselves and what they were, such as a pikeman or musketeer.

"The commander was here with his ensign and they recruited the pupils as either musketeers or pikemen and trained and drilled them in that role. After that they were allowed to ask questions about the making of the United Kingdom.

"The pupils seemed to have enjoyed the day and to have got lots out of it."

Banbury Guardian

THE BEST SCHOOLS GUIDE

SIBFORD

Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX15 5QL, Tel (01295) 781200

Independent. Co-educational.

Ages 5-18. 300 pupils (250 in senior school; 65% boys; 55% boarding); 40 in sixth form. **Fees:** £7,635-£10,485 boarding; £2,850-£5,580 day.

Head: Mrs Susan Freestone, 42, appointed January 1997.

Attractive school; wide range of abilities; dyslexia a speciality.

Background Founded 1842 by

Society of Friends as a self-sufficient community growing its own food (horticultural tradition continues — rows of beautifully tended vegetables in tranquil walled garden). Cotswold stone manor house plus slightly battered 1930s addition (institutional appearance relieved by colourful artwork) in delightful 70-acre estate. School was one of the first (in the 1970s) to recognise the needs of dyslexics. Co-educational from the start; junior school (Orchard Close) opened 1989.

Admissions By interview and tests; wide range of abilities and backgrounds; a third are dyslexic. Day pupils come from as far afield as Stratford and Oxford; some boarders from the Far East (English taught as a foreign language). Some children have official statements of special need and are paid for by their local education authority. Pleasant boarding accommodation; sixth-formers housed separately; meals served cafeteria-style in main dining room. Scholarships (academic, music) bursaries available.

Atmosphere Gentle, informal, relaxed. Quaker ethos fundamental (though only 10% are the children of Quakers); individual achievement recognised. Pupils thrive in the supportive atmosphere. Daily meeting based, in Quaker tradition, on silence; individuals encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour instead of having standards enforced by rigid rules; no prefects but sixth-formers expected to lead by example. Parents feel welcome.

The head Recent appointment. Studied at Royal Academy of Music, Masters from Bristol. Married; two teenage children.

The teaching Highly committed staff; variety of styles and approach; emphasis on the needs of each child. Outstanding support for those in need of extra help. Dyslexia unit has five full-time teachers; several other members of staff have attended dyslexia courses. Pupils grouped by ability in maths, English; classes are small. Curriculum embraces usual academic subjects (including French and German) in addition to a wide range of practical courses. For first three years all do textiles, drama, music, design/technology, art, home economics, word-processing (25% use laptops) alongside academic subjects; most take seven or eight GCSEs. Sixth form offers a choice between academic and vocational courses. Thriving drama; nearly a third learn a musical instrument. Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Results (1997) GCSE: 47% gained at least five grades A-C.

Sport Wide range on offer, including rugby, hockey, athletics, cricket, tennis, netball. Well-tended pitches; first-rate sports hall; heated indoor pool.

Remarks Happy school that does wonders for many children who might not thrive elsewhere. Recommended.

ASSEMBLY POINTS

Susan Freestone, headteacher of Sibford School, North Oxfordshire, tells Alan Combes how her Quaker school tackles assembly

THE SCHOOL

We have 300 pupils, aged five to 18, on a 70-acre site. Although open to all denominations, the school is one of seven under the auspices of the Society of Friends (Quakers). It's an independent day/boarding school with 140 day pupils, 60 weekly boarders and 100 full boarders from all parts of the world, representing many faiths.

HOW IS ASSEMBLY ORGANISED?

Three full school meetings (the Quaker term for assembly)

per week plus house meetings on Thursday. On alternate weeks, instead of a music meeting on Tuesdays, there is a three-way split—Years 1-7, 8-10 and 11-13. This creates a less imposing context, so that pupils themselves are free to minister.

WHO TAKES MEETINGS?

The nature of Quaker worship is such that any person present, pupils included, may minister if they feel moved to do so. The meeting is often led by myself, the deputy head, heads of upper

secondary/lower secondary/primary or staff volunteers.

DO YOU USE OUTSIDE SPEAKERS?

The Friday meetings are at the end of the day. Parents and friends of the school are made welcome and there is usually a visiting speaker from any faith or denomination. The school sits in the round and the meeting leader sits with them. Sometimes our speakers are members of the Society of Friends (Quakers).

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL FEATURES?

In all meetings, silence is a key element. Ministry offered, whether in words or music, is reflected upon. Any applause is saved for the very end. It is usual for a silence to last from three to 20 minutes and it ends

when I leave the hall or when the whole meeting shakes hands. The comfortable silence observed by 300 young people for such a time is astonishing to witness and is surely one of the reasons we have so few discipline problems here.

HOW DOES MEETING REFLECT THE SCHOOL'S ETHOS?

The silence brings about a peace and order which is reflected in much of what we do during the school day. Quaker values inform the running of the school and the emphasis is on respect for others and the self.

BEST ASSEMBLY?

The first meeting of the autumn term, last year. Sometimes we have meetings to celebrate the life of someone

who has died and here, as in many schools, the focus was on Diana, the Princess of Wales. The staff had been notified in advance. After my opening, staff rose one by one and said what impact her life had had on them. Then it was remarkable to witness the pupils spontaneously standing up to make their contributions. What followed was a lengthy reflective silence. The meeting was sad, but not in any way mournful.

The meeting was then followed up during ensuing days, and pupils organised a wall display of their personal tributes. This meant that those who had not found the courage to minister during the meeting could still find a medium through which to express their feelings.

The Times Educational Supplement

THE FIFTH YEAR

PARENTS STAFF AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

This past year has been very successful for the PSFA.

The Committee has been extremely active, not only in fund raising but establishing social occasions for parents, staff and pupils.

The Association continues with its objective of:

- Developing relationships between parents, staff and others associated with the School.
- Engaging in activities which support the School and advance the education of the pupils attending it.
- Providing and assisting in the provision of facilities or items for the School (not provided from statutory funds).

The Committee has met six times this past year and consisted of eleven parents and four staff. The posts of Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are parents appointed at the AGM, and the staff includes the School Head ~ Sue Freestone who has been extremely supportive during the year.

PSFA news is reported in the Sibford News published regularly by the School during term-time.

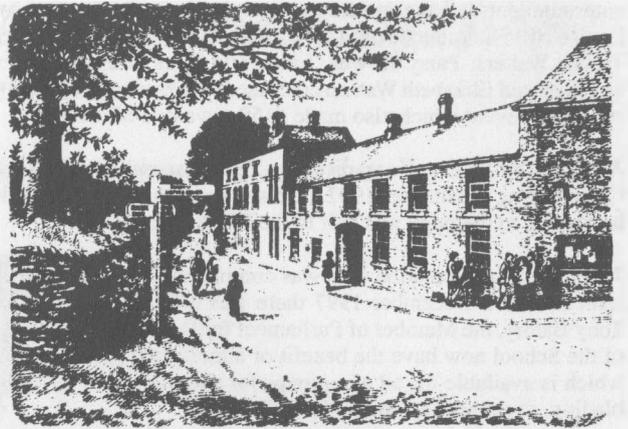
The PSFA has continued the trend of previous years by maintaining a high level of grants to benefit the pupils of the School.

These include:

- More bark for the Orchard Close playground to comply with ROSPA guidelines
- Over 140 mouthguards provided for sports activities
- Slide projector and screen



Orchard Close Playground.



- Blinds for Room 22 "The Humanities Department" to clearly see the white board and television during lessons
- Football game table for Gillett House
- Model railway equipment for Lister House
- Prize vouchers for Charity Day ~ subsequently UNICEF and Sibford's Children's camp
- and Book Awards for Academic achievement

The Book Awards were presented by myself at the Final Assembly in July to:

Years 1 and 2	Timna Freeman
Years 3 and 4	Cressida Liepman
Year 5	Laura Weston
Year 6	Katy Hogg
Year 7	Katie Riley
Year 8	Alice Day
Year 9	Lisa Quilles
Year 10	Sylvia Nott
	Katy Harper
	Kukiko Koibuchi
Year 11	Laura Williams
	Kelvin Lau
Year 12	Julian Li
Year 13	Georgina Farmar

During this past year there have been many events that were excellent social occasions and also enabled the Committee to raise money.

On 21 November 1997 there was an evening of serious and not so serious entertainment including music, songs and poetry. The event was called "Time Passing" and was held in the Music Room in the Manor. The Manor proved the perfect location for the



Time Passing.

entertainment and the mulled wine and mince pies served by Louise Hillman rounded off a wonderful evening. Penny Spring, Trevor Walters, Patsy Howes, Linda and Piers Gregson, Peter Maxwell and Elizabeth Watson combined to present an extremely successful event which also made £150 towards PSFA funds.

A 50/50 Toy Sale was organised by Zeta Luscombe in Orchard Close during November 1997. Unwanted toys were sold with half going to the pupil and half to the PSFA.

The Open Air Recreation area was completed during the winter term and on 5 December 1997 there was a formal opening by Tony Baldry, the Member of Parliament for Banbury. The pupils of the School now have the benefit of a multi-purpose play area which is available for all age groups for activities such as roller blading, street hockey and basketball.



Recreation area.



The opening ceremony with Tony Baldry.

A Quiz Night was held in the School dining room on 20 March 1998. Seventeen teams entered and there was keen competition to answer a whole series of "difficult" questions set by the School Head Sue Freestone. Sue managed to control the teams whilst asking the questions, not an easy task!! The seventeen teams were a mixture of parents, pupils and staff and everybody had great fun, with the winning team and those coming last receiving prizes. A profit of £98 was added to PSFA funds.



Auction of promises.

On 1 May 1998 an Auction of Promises was held in the School Dining Room. Approximately 100 lots were donated by parents, staff and friends including cakes, wine and spirits, plants, dinners, flowers, duck eggs, tickets for a Spice Girls concert and a tour of the Aston Martin factory. A professional auctioneer ensured the auction went along efficiently and correctly and the keen bidding raised over £3000 for PSFA funds. The Committee worked extremely hard in collecting the promises/donations, preparing the wine and cheese refreshments and laying out the promises in an excellent display. With Louise Hillman co-ordinating, it was a highly successful event.

To maintain the objectives of the PSFA, an energetic and innovative Committee must always be looking for new ideas to raise money and build strong relationships between parents and staff. Previous successful events can be repeated with lessons learnt and improvements made. The PSFA needs commitment from parents who cannot make the Committee but can attend and support events.

At the AGM in June, four Committee members stood down with only one new parent willing to serve on the Committee. More volunteers from parents who were unable to attend the AGM but are willing to give a little time and support during the year would be extremely welcome. It can be anything from making telephone calls, making tea, baking, being on the Committee or joining working parties for School or PSFA events. Please contact either the PSFA Secretary, Diane Danton, or the School office.

In summary, we have had a successful year in the PSFA and we all look forward to repeating that in 1998/9.

I would like to thank all my hardworking Committee members for their attendance at meetings and organisational support at events.

Albert Walsham ~ Chairman, 21st September 1998

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

(Established 19th June 1903)

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



Group Photograph taken at the May 1998 SOSA Reunion

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The continuance of the interest of former scholars in the School and its work.



The furthering of schoolday friendships.



The provision of assistance to the School wherever possible.



The encouragement of a spirit of loyalty amongst present scholars.

Membership is open not only to former Sibford pupils but to past and present members of the teaching and ancillary staff, and their spouses, to present and retired members of the School Committee, Old Scholars' spouses or others interested in the School.

Enquiries to

Julie Greenhill (Hon. Membership Secretary)
64 Dundee Road, South Norwood
London SE25 4QJ
Tel. 0181-656 5715

