



The Sibfordian

Student Life & Activities at Sibford School
& News of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association



2008

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Front Cover: Year 9 team building during Activities Week - making a human chair.



The Editor would like to thank staff and pupils for their contributions and Karen Cooper for her wonderful artwork.

Design/Artwork KC Graphics, Printed by Vale Press.

A summarised set of Accounts for year ended 31st July 2008 will be available upon request from November 2008 following the approval of these figures by the School Auditors.



Sibford's Continuing Service to Others

Sibford School has enjoyed a long tradition of service to others and we have seen a great deal of time and energy spent on our charitable giving this year.

I am grateful to all staff, students and parents who have organised events, taken part in non-uniform days or sponsored walks, played in concerts or Jazz events, slept out in cardboard boxes, brought in Teddy Bears, or simply provided the cash to sponsor or encourage those more directly engaged in fund raising. My particular thanks go to Andy Foakes who has coordinated this work for us.

Quite a number of our parents, I know, are involved in volunteer charity work away from school and one of these approached me at the start of this academic year to ask if we might nominate Banbury Young Homeless Project as our 'school charity of the year'. I had no idea when I said "yes" that I would later find myself volunteering to take part in the Blenheim Triathlon to support this good cause directly. For those of you with a more serious commitment to sporting activity, the prospect of a 500m swim, followed by a 13km bicycle ride and 3km run might not sound very challenging, but this somewhat sedentary fifty year old viewed the challenge with more than a little apprehension!

The good news is that I survived (and did not disgrace myself, finishing in about 1 hour 10 minutes, only a little slower than Ned, my 16 year old son and training partner). I am grateful to parents and friends who helped me raise over £1000 for BHYP.

The experience was very uplifting. There was so much good will and camaraderie around on the day as so many well intentioned people gathered to raise money for their own charities. Behind the scenes at Blenheim, there was a wonderful support machine to make the event work smoothly - timekeepers, photographers, caterers, car park attendants etc. I thought a great deal about the Sibford Community on that day, recognising that Sibford School has many of these same qualities - a strong team of people working quietly in the background, individuals prepared to work hard and practise or train to achieve their goals, and a sense of community that holds it all together, and makes it all worth while. I hope you will catch this spirit in the pages of this year's Sibfordian.

In friendship,
• Michael Goodwin

1842, a year of beginnings...

Chocoholics amongst you may know that the first chocolate 'bar' was created by Cadbury's in 1842 using the recently invented cocoa press. There were, however, more significant events taking place during that year that would prove to have a far greater impact on us all.

In 1842, the year Sibford School was established, Augusta Ada Byron King, Countess of Lovelace, wrote what is now recognised as the first computer program as part of her notes on the workings and possibilities of the Analytical Engine designed in 1837 by Charles Babbage. The Analytical Engine was never actually built, though had it been, Ada Lovelace's program would have been able to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers (a sequence of rational numbers with deep connections in number theory). Lovelace prophetically speculated that the machine might go beyond numbers and actually manipulate symbols. She recognised that numbers could represent letters of the alphabet or notes of music and that computing machines could extend their powers beyond the world of mathematics.

It is extraordinary that the first computer program was written in the same year that Sibford School began. I started working at Sibford in 1991, the year the first web site was built and put online (by Tim Berners-Lee). During the 17 years I have worked at Sibford computer technology has altered my working day almost beyond recognition, although it is still basically a process of passing information from the school to parents and vice versa. I now send information to parents via email using 'ParentMail' and manage our internet notice board, www.sibfordschool.net. It is heartening, however, to note that the printed word, in the form of books and magazines, continues to increase, dispelling the predictions of the 1990s that the internet would crush the book publishing industry.

This is my first experience as Editor of our annual magazine; Tracy Knowles, editor for the past 10 years being on maternity leave. Through 'The Sibfordian' we share with you some memories from the past academic year and it is our way of keeping print alive and relevant in 2008.

• Caroline Cartwright - Editor

Staff, staff & more staff

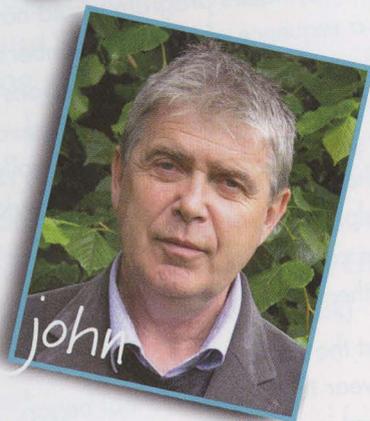
Sibford extends a warm welcome to new staff ...



Ali Bromhall, Community Development Officer

Working in a school has been a totally new experience for me, ... indeed, one of the most scary experiences in my first few days was braving the dining room ... I couldn't believe how noisy it was!

My background is in journalism and public relations and I have to confess that going back to school after far too many years to mention wasn't really on my horizon. However, I was looking to explore new opportunities with a faith/community focus, and so the role of Community Development Office here at Sibford, with its Quaker heritage, was especially appealing. I've really enjoyed my first year and would like to thanks pupils, staff and parents for making me so welcome. •



John Lendis – Assistant Houseparent, Fielding

I was born and grew up in the industrialised urban midlands of England. At age 20 I embarked on a search for the wild places of the world – the wilderness spaces where cultural history had failed to dominate the eternal power of nature. I travelled for many years through the deserts of the Middle East and the jungles of South East Asia.

On a trip to the island of Tasmania in Australia, I was returned to a deep recognition that the wilderness I sought was more than a place of the desert – it was also a place of the forest and of the sea.

I married and lived on the slopes of Mount Wellington in Hobart with my wife and children. I returned to university in Tasmania to consolidate my practise by undertaking a Masters of Fine Art in Painting in 2006. During all this time I have earned my living as a professional artist; I have taught at university, and have exhibited extensively in Australia and New Zealand for more than two decades. •



Celia Lendis - Houseparent, Fielding

I grew up in Tasmania, Australia; a descendent of the earliest European settlers (there are five convicts in my family, mostly Irish and one from the notorious 'Flash Mob'). In 1984, I came to England with my family and studied a year of A-levels in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, before returning to Hobart. I moved to Melbourne at age 18 to undertake tertiary studies in creative writing and then worked as a copywriter and creative director in advertising and design studios for 8 years before returning to the University of Tasmania to study architecture, art and art history.

Since 1998, I have written for numerous Australian art magazines and galleries, curated exhibitions, worked as a freelance educational and arts writer, published a children's book and, since 2004, taught art history and theory and professional practice at university. Before coming to Sibford, our children, Sunday and Emile, were enrolled in The Friends' School in Hobart (the largest Quaker school in the world with 1200 students). •

Dawn Bolton

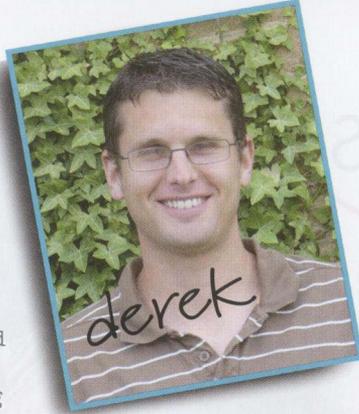
Hello, my name is Dawn and I am housekeeper for Fielding boarding house. I came to work at the school in January and really enjoy it. I have lived in Tadmarton all my life and have a 14 year old son and a 10 year old daughter. I enjoy reading and history. •



Derek Bottomley - Mathematics

Having grown up in a small Cotswold town, I moved to Yorkshire to study Maths with Management at Leeds University. After completing my degree I decided to see the world a bit and spent the next 5 years traveling as much as possible and teaching English as a Foreign Language, firstly in Japan, and then in Mexico (I like contrasts...).

Having enjoyed teaching I finally decided to follow my parents' footsteps into the profession and subsequently studied for my PGCE in Maths at Oxford University.



Lizzie Biggs - Accounts Assistant

I was born in Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire and spent my childhood growing up on a farm and helping my Dad with the family butchering business. He would say I was more of a hindrance than a help!

I left home in my early twenties to start a new life which brought me to Banbury. I long for a move back to village life with Lee, my partner and Joshua, my 21 month old son who is going on 12! I have a keen interest in sport and love to see live events. Wimbledon last year was fantastic - all 1 hour of it due to a rain delay. I began at Sibford School in July 2007 and work in the accounts department. I don't feel that my feet have touched the floor yet!



Martin Checkley - ICT Technician

I am a country boy, and have lived just outside Banbury all my life. I grew up on my parent's farm, though I'm about as far from the stereotypical farmer's son as they come. I started in the wonderful world of work at Thorntons the chocolate shop - quite simply heaven! I moved on to work in ICT as a Technician at Chenderit School, but moved from there to DHL where I spent a year as a Transport Controller shipping pharmaceuticals all around the world. Somehow, over the course of the year, my job became more and more linked with computers and I transferred to the IT department. I have always been drawn to educational environments and now here I find myself in the friendliest of places I have ever had the pleasure to work, Sibford School. Every day is different and every day a rewarding challenge.



Pippa Elliot - School Nurse

I was born in Leigh-on-Sea in Essex but grew up near Edinburgh. As a young girl I studied at the Scottish Royal Ballet School but decided that I wasn't going to make much of a living as a ballet dancer so I trained to be a nurse, a decision I have never regretted. I have worked on the children's ward at Stoke Mandeville and at John Radcliffe Hospital and for the past 8 years, before joining the staff at Sibford, I was a practice nurse in Bicester. I am married and have 3 children. The pupils at Sibford are amazing; they make me smile every day.



Sue Hinde - Mathematics

I graduated from Exeter University with a Physics degree and a desire to research Lasers. However my first job was as a programmer for a government laboratory and from there I moved on to a software house and then to a computer manufacturer. After a few years I moved into management and held various positions, including one as a director of their Portuguese subsidiary. I lived on the coast near Lisbon with my late husband and elder son for three years; our younger son was born there. Portugal is a lovely country and we had a great time. On our return I worked briefly for a large bank and then moved to a telecom equipment manufacturer as a business manager. In 2002 I decided I had had enough of industry and wanted to spend more time with my boys, so I went to Oxford University to study for a PGCE in Mathematics, and began my teaching career at a large comprehensive school.



Shelley Jarvis - Physical Education

I was born and brought up in Banbury. I studied at Staffordshire University for a degree in Sports Science and then at De Monfort University in Bedford for my PGCE in Secondary Physical Education. My first teaching position was at a school in Buckinghamshire. I have a passion for sport and play Hockey and Football to a relatively high standard and I am a big supporter of Liverpool FC and the Leicester Tigers. I live in Banbury with my fiancé Craig. I very much enjoy being a tutor to 10SJ and I am delighted to be part of the Physical Education department.



Gap Students

Louise Smits

Kia ora/hello, I come from Christchurch in the South Island of New Zealand (the cool part). As I didn't know what I wanted to do for the rest of my life I decided to take a GAP year and ended up at Sibford working at Orchard Close. I have loved my time here, everyday holds something new. On returning to Christchurch I plan to study Primary Education at Christchurch University. Cheers guys, it has been a great opportunity!

Alison Reel

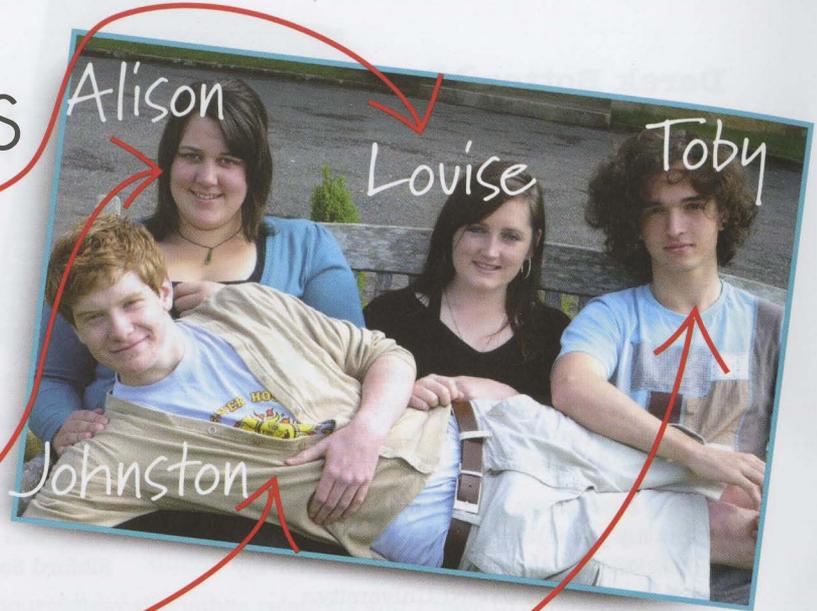
I'm from the beautiful town of Nelspruit in South Africa. After finishing college I set off to see what all the fuss was about in England. I was a little worried about the remoteness of my new home, but I quickly made great friends. I thought the girls were going to give me a hard time when I was on duty in Margaret Fell but I was wrong; they were all so lovely and made working at the House enjoyable and entertaining. This has been a great experience for me.

Johnston Gray

I come from one of the greatest countries of the world, Canada. I have a passion for acting and music though I am not very decent at either so hope to make a career out of writing and directing films. I was blessed to be sent to Sibford, where I instantly found my place in the music department. Between concerts with the Jazz Band and directing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' it has been a fantastic year. I will be majoring in English and Peace and Conflict Studies when I leave Sibford. God Bless and Peace be with you.

Toby Webster

Giddy! I work in the Music and Learning Support Departments. I'm a Kiwi by birth (i.e. I come from New Zealand) but I am a British Citizen. I hope to work and study in England when I finish my placement at Sibford. I play cello, guitar and sing and love the theatre. I would like to do what I can to contribute to these aspects of school life while I'm here.



Goodbye Orchard Close... hello Sibford Junior School!

This year's magazine sees the last ever report from *Orchard Close*!

From September 2008, the 4 to 11 year old section of the school will reopen as *Sibford Junior School*.

This change of name goes alongside a change in emphasis as we seek to find ways to engage our younger children in more outdoor learning.

Shown here: 'Alice in Wonderland' (end of year production)

For more Orchard Close activities see pages 22 - 23.



Student trips

Every year students have the opportunity to go on a variety of educational and team building trips, here are just a few...

Sixth form trip to Barcelona – February 2008

In February over half the sixth form visited Barcelona for 4 days on a trip organised by A2 Business students as part of their course (under the supervision of their teacher, Yvonne Greene).

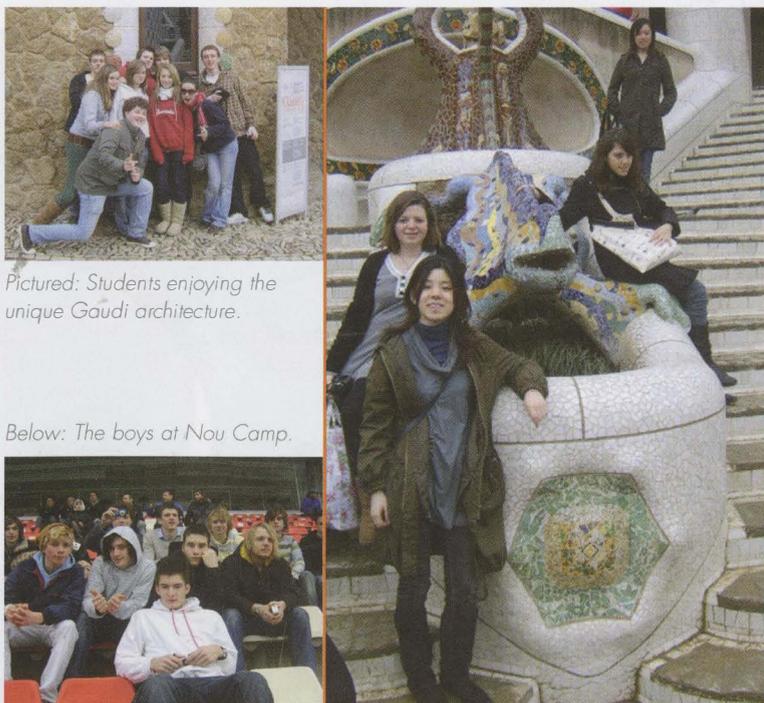
During the trip the students were divided into specialist groups. The Geography and BTEC C&E students were led by Simon Baker into the Garrotxa National Park, which is a fantastic volcanic park.

Art and Textiles, led by Richard Phethean, visited several famous art galleries, including those of Picasso and Dali, as well as studying the stunning architecture of Gaudi. Business Students, led by myself, studied production and human resources at Anis del Mono (which produces an aniseed drink which is very popular in Spain) and production and marketing at Torres vineyard. Design Technology students were able to study the testing of Formula 1 cars at the Barcelona F1 race tracks. BTEC students particularly benefited from the tour of Nou Camp, home of Barcelona's football team, and one of the most impressive stadiums in Europe. Finally, all the students enjoyed a guided tour of Barcelona.

• Yvonne Greene, Head of Business Studies

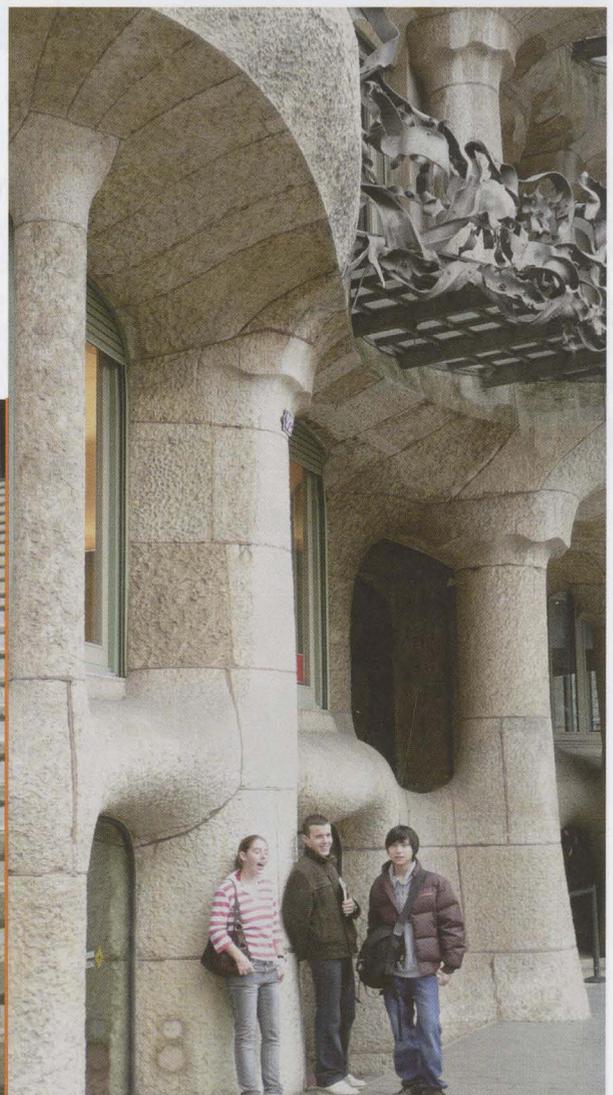


Left to right: Sam Chan, Joeie Poon, Igor Matyushin, Moeko Matsumoto and Louise Attley – Organisers, A2 Business students (team leaders).



Pictured: Students enjoying the unique Gaudi architecture.

Below: The boys at Nou Camp.



Foxtrot 2008

The annual pilgrimage to re-trace the footsteps of George Fox and Margaret Fell, the founders of Quakerism.

Over the weekend of 21st to 23rd September 2007 sixth formers and staff from the southern Quaker Schools, including Sibford, visited Meeting Houses and sites where George Fox preached. The weekend was not only an opportunity for us to enjoy the beautiful

countryside around Lake Windermere, Kendal and Pendle Hill, but also provided us with time for quiet reflection and an historical understanding of the foundations of Quakerism.

- Simon Baker, Head of Geography



Timna Simon Vanessa and Janet on Pendle Hill.

Memories of the Foxtrot 2007 ...
 After meeting the students from the other Friends Schools we began the first part of the trail - Pendle Hill. Everyone felt a little worse for wear after the long bus journey so climbing a fell wasn't what any of us would have chosen to do. Regardless of this we marched onwards and most certainly upwards, at very varied paces (Simon Baker was last up I believe), and I'm terribly glad we did. When everyone was finally grouped at the top the view resembled a scene from Wuthering Heights. We were barely able to see more than a few meters in front of us through the fog and we trekked along the top in very near silence for it was so serenely beautiful. This set the tone for the trip; hard work, but at the same time relaxing, a perfect escape from school life. This doesn't mean by any stretch of the imagination that it wasn't fun. We stayed at Yealand Conyers Youth Hostel. Apparently we were the first ever group to come up with the idea of filling the stairwell with mattresses and sliding upside down on them! Even though it was only Janet and I who went from Sibford School we fitted in perfectly with the other students and made some good fell walking friends. When we weren't fell walking or mattress surfing we visited numerous Quaker Meeting Houses, some of which were architecturally stunning and others you would have thought to be regular houses. I went on the Foxtrot a little begrudgingly, but am glad I did. It is too hard not to allow yourself to be sucked in by the beauty of the lakes or the camaraderie of fellow Quaker students and just to have a brilliant time.

- Timna Freeman, Yr 12



A Village Walk

On Tuesday 13th May some of us Year 7 pupils walked around Sibford and answered questions on printed sheets.

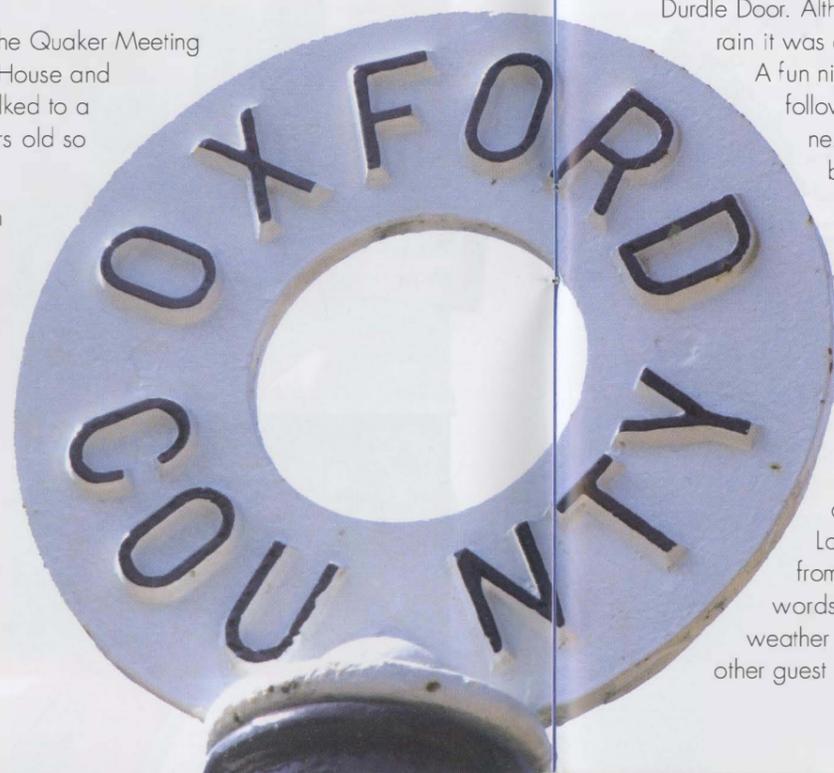
We first went through the kissing gate - the tradition of the kissing gate is that when you go through it you must kiss someone on the other side and getting 52 children at one time through a kissing gate is a challenge I must tell you. We talked about how part of the land is all hilly because it used to be a clay mine. There was also a river that was called the River Sib and it flowed from the elm and into Gloucestershire.

We walked up a hill until we got to the Quaker Meeting House. We went inside the Meeting House and were in silence for 10 minutes. We talked to a man called Norman, he was 99 years old so we all sang happy birthday to him.

After this we went down to the church and met Reverend Tim Wimbush and he told us about the church and we asked questions and then he played a nice piece on the organ and told us that it was a gift from God to play the organ.

We finally got back to school and had a massive lunch with sandwiches and crisps and then we did a traffic survey. We wrote down how many people and cars came by. We all enjoyed the trip.

- Luke Verge, Yr 7



From Barcelona to Banbury

Fieldwork plays an important role in pupil learning in Geography. Here Simon Baker briefly recalls some trips taken this year.

In September 2008 Year 9 travelled to Swanage to undertake fieldwork on the stunning coastal formations at Durdle Door. Although it poured with rain it was quite awe inspiring.

A fun night at a PGL centre followed by activities the next day was enjoyed by all. Sebastian Slade commented that 'it was really good fun and we learnt loads, I can't wait for next year when we visit Barcelona'.

Year 12 had the opportunity to attend a RGS conference at London and benefited from listening to the words of Helen Young, the weather reporter, amongst other guest speakers. In the

spring term they attended a joint Biology/ Geography conference in Oxford on global warming and its impact on us all; it was of immense educational value and set high goals for our university applicants.

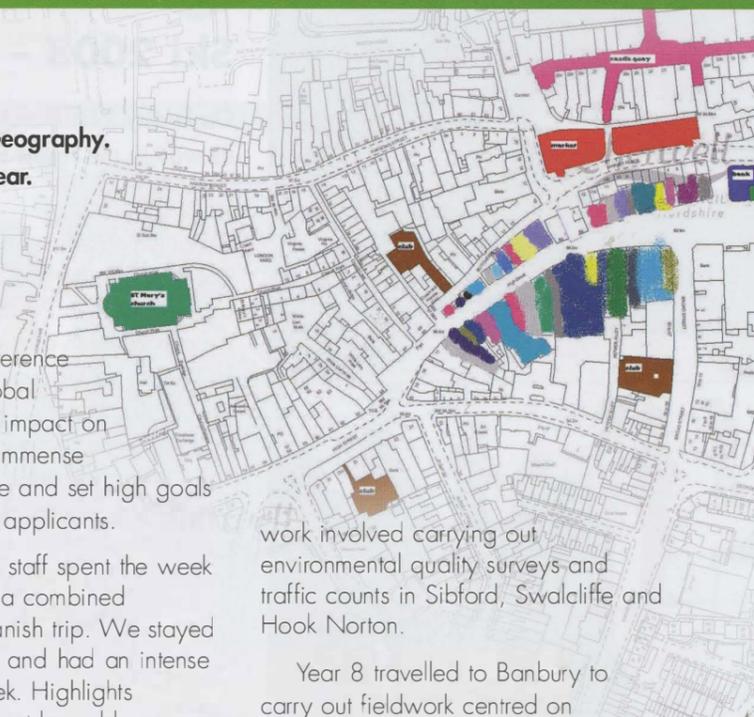
35 pupils and 4 staff spent the week in Barcelona on a combined Geography/Spanish trip. We stayed in Hotel Arcadia and had an intense yet fun filled week. Highlights included Montserrat by cable car, Coves De Colbato where we saw the stalactite and stalagmite formations which were the inspiration for the amazing cathedral by Gaudi and witnessed Year 10 girls balancing handbags on one arm and river velocity equipment on the other whilst knee deep in the River Torderol.

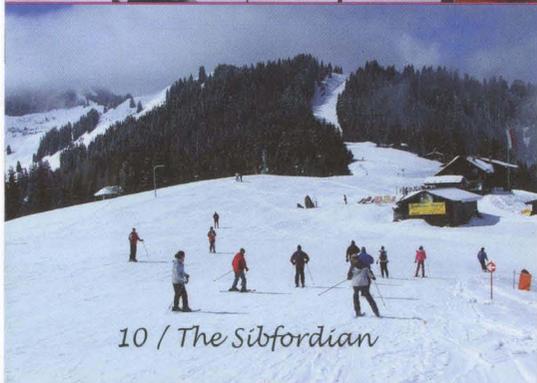
In the summer term Year 7 field-

work involved carrying out environmental quality surveys and traffic counts in Sibford, Swalcliffe and Hook Norton.

Year 8 travelled to Banbury to carry out fieldwork centred on shopping pattern enquiries at the retail park, Castle Quay and the high street. In addition detailed Goad Maps (see above) were produced to mark land use patterns and consideration given to shop distributions and high and low order services.

- Simon Baker, Head of Geography





Ski 2008 – or was it ‘Life on Mars’

On Friday 21st March 2008 a completely full bus attempted to sleep its way to the resort town of Niederau, in Austria.

On arrival it seemed as if the goddess of snow was not with us but luckily within 24 hours the slopes were covered in a fresh coating. This year’s ski trip was a fun and eventful 6 days, with students (and teachers) practising their jumps, falls and everything in between. By Tuesday we had moved along the valley for our lessons to the slightly bigger mountain in Auffach – it seemed we were all making such good progress that a bigger challenge was required. Even the beginners came with us and by the afternoon were attempting their first red run, albeit rather tentatively. By the end of the day there were great stories being told of who had conquered which slope.

However, by Thursday some people’s confidence slightly outweighed their ability resulting in a broken leg for one unfortunate

member of the party. Luckily, however, Steve Ball had already staked out the hospital and got to know the doctors and nurses. Having been AWOL for an hour or so on the Tuesday it was eventually discovered that Mr Ball had gone “base over apex” once to often, and found out that his forehead was perhaps not the best way of seeking out hard rocks among the soft snow – those pesky white elephants up the slope can be a nightmare when they get in the way! For a while the years dropped away for Mr Ball; he thought Miss Worsley was way ahead of her time in the fashion stakes with her snazzy board pants (he did think it was 1972 at the time though). Overall it was a very successful trip, the sun even made an appearance at the end of the week. Bring on Niederau 2009!

• **Derek Bottomley**

Team building at Rockley Watersports!

In October, the Sibford sixth form experienced an exciting new team building event, held at Rockley Watersports over 3 days.

The entire sixth form travelled to Poole after school and on arrival enjoyed bowling and a freshly cooked dinner. The next day, the team building activities really started. Students were separated from their existing friends and put into new teams, with the aim of everyone getting to know each other.

The main activity was raft building; teams had to build their own rafts and try to race them, without their raft sinking! Other activities included sailing dinghies, and Wayfarers, as well as racing dragon boats. In the evening all the students enjoyed a BBQ on the beach, rock climbing and beach rounders.

At the end of the trip all agreed that they had really enjoyed the event and now knew all the members of the

sixth form. There were new friendships and even one romance!

A big thank you to Alex Jerome and Charlie Walter who planned and organised the event as part of their A2 Business course.

• **Yvonne Greene, Head of Business**



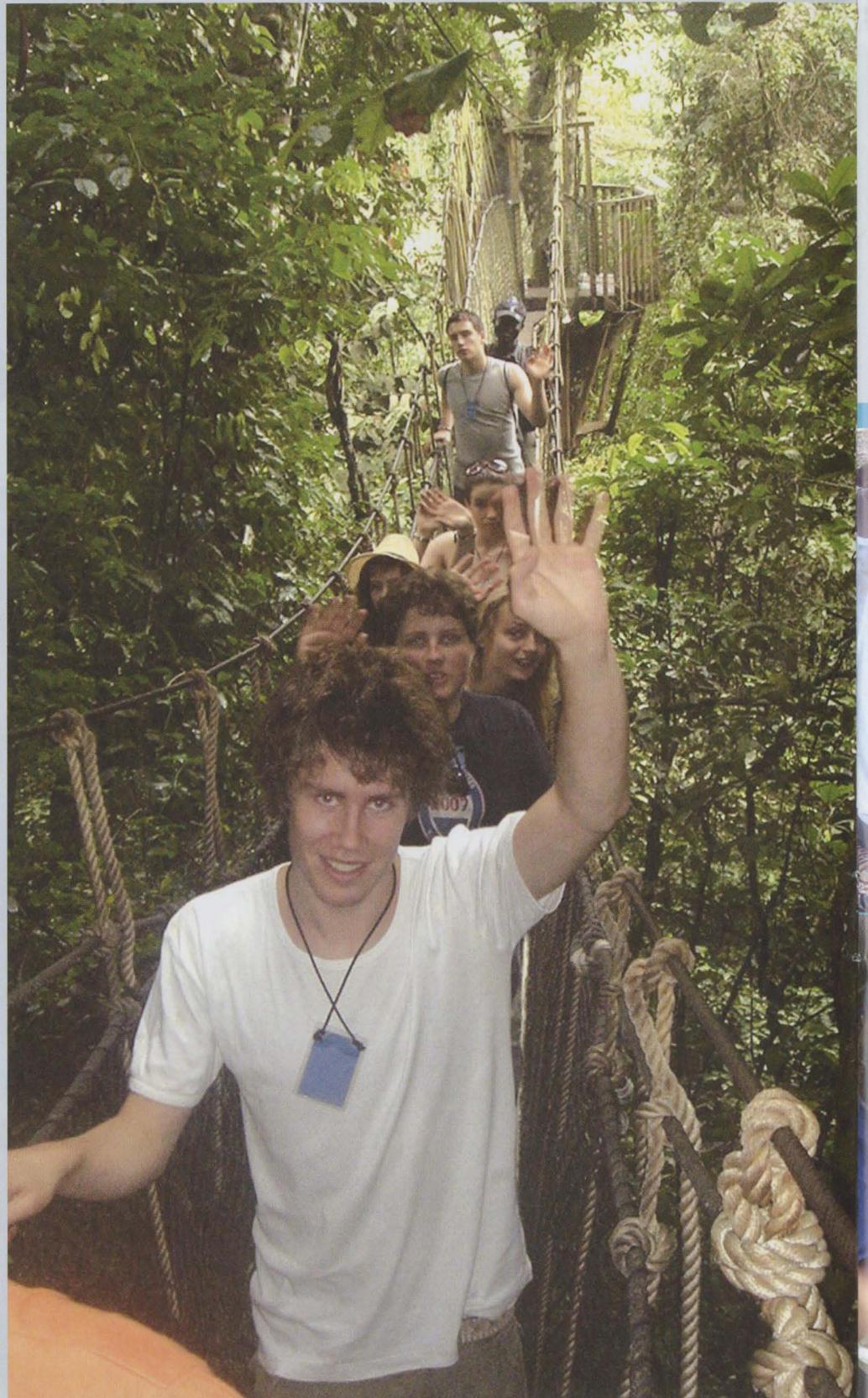
Ghana!

Ryvanz-Mia Orphanage 2008

After 2 hours sat in a plane waiting at Gatwick we finally departed. There was an air of nervousness, mixed with excitement, which made it hard for anyone to sleep. Arriving in Accra the air was hot, humid and the night was dark as we were led to our Tro-Tro (bus) for our three-hour ride to Kpandu, our home for the next month.

On our first morning we met our gorgeous host, Mama Esie and her orphaned children, Wisdom, the oldest at 13, the girls – Comfort, Mary and Cecelia, the other boys – Isaac, George, Mawley, Love (Wisdoms' brother and the youngest at 3) and the twins: Achai and Achoo. These young children worked so hard, and I wanted to make sure we helped them stay happy while we were staying at their home. I suppose when you have nothing, everything becomes a joy.

The first week flew by with lots of introductions; all very formal. We visited traditional Kente cloth makers, the Aids orphanage, the Special School (which made me cry, but I am a wimp) and the Volta Lake, and we meet the chief of the village. Our visit to the playgroup was a very special experience. The children greeted us with customary songs and we were all unsure of how to respond. 'Wheels on the bus' and 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' is always going to be a good introduction to us Brits! One of the twins was in hospital when we arrived, as they both have Sickle Cell Anaemia, and our first challenge was to visit him. The hospital was extremely well equipped for the region, but it was very basic by our standards. We started and finished our mural at a local school, as well as clearing and turning over the garden, ready for our raised beds and the sustainable vegetable plot we were building for the children. We began to get our bearings in the village (amongst the goats and lizards, and women carrying things on their heads) and it was incredible how easy it was to fit in, the poverty that surrounded us became ordinary very fast!



Our first weekend was spent at Cape Coast. I hadn't appreciated how intense it would be living in the orphanage and how much physical and emotional energy it would need, so time by the sea was what we all needed. We visited a festival (full of dance), did a very high canopy walk (where Johnny tried goats intestine!), walked through the rain forest, had a tour of a slave castle, and had a glorious beach fire. We had such a great time we returned here for our last weekend.

In week 2 half the team went to teach at Delta school where the children attended. We had been getting up at 6am every morning to help them with their chores (apart from Charlie, Tom and Uly who really struggled to get out of their pits!) and walked them to school. The teaching was hard and most of the team found it shocking that the cane was still used, the teachers slept a lot of the time in lessons and they had classes of around 50 pupils with some pupils being in their twenties.



Left: Making traditional Kente cloth and Basket weaving.



The other half of the team started the mural at Ryvanz-Mia orphanage, plus the planting and seeding in the garden. We also began our drumming lessons; Jen and Johnny were particularly good at this... Johnny loved all the dancing too and breaking things!

On our second weekend we travelled to the Volta region. We rose at 5am; the coolest part of the day, and went to feed monkeys in the forest. The rest of the day was spent at Wli waterfall followed by a restful night and an intense trek the following morning.

At the beginning of our third week the team got a little despondent. It was easy to feel as if we were at home and to not appreciate the beauty around us. Luckily Pat and Nat came out this week to join us, which gave us renewed enthusiasm. We started going out a little in the evenings, meeting other 'Yovos' (white people) and began to do activities with the children. The teams swapped over so that we all had a chance to complete the mural and to



teach. More drumming and eating giant snails, which seemed fine until you thought about what you were eating!... YUCK!

During our last week we were taught how to make traditional baskets, all to be carried home on the plane! We also distributed Sibford School bears to all the schools and playgroups we had



The Team: back row – Timna Freeman, (an American volunteer), Charlie Walter, Jenny Guy, (two more American volunteers), Denise Lonergan (Emma's mother), Pat and Stuart Davies. front row – Johnny Prestidge, Ben Davies, Tom Daley, Uly Wells, Amy-Isla McCombie, (an American volunteer), Emma Worsley – Team Leader and Nat Davies.

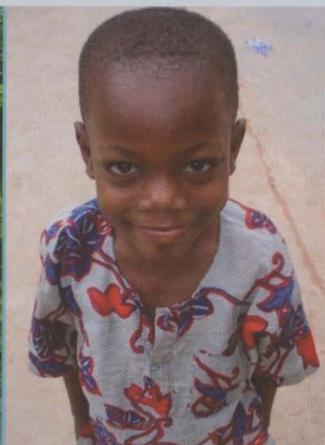
visited, and we had MASSIVE hot monsoon showers. On one of our last evenings the team organized a Talent Show for the children to perform in. We had been to one at Missahoe orphanage down the road and wanted to do better!

The team was brilliant, especially Uly, who had made up some songs for the children to sing. The evening was a massive success.

Finally we had to think about boarding the plane home. We had got to know the villagers and had all fallen in love with the children at Ryvanz-Mia. Mama Esie had made us so happy in her family home. Our emotions were mixed – sadness at leaving – pleasure in our achievements. The trip was amazing and I know I don't just speak for myself when I say Ghana will always have a place in my heart. A big 'APPE' (Ghanaian for thank you)

to everyone that has been involved in this amazing experience, without your support and generosity this wouldn't have been possible. The children, the people, the food, the environment and the whole feeling of being part of the world we live in is a humbling experience, one I am sure the whole team will appreciate and remember forever.

• **Emma Worsley – Team Leader**



One final thing I forgot to add is the hand-shake that we all learnt in Kpandu.... after you shake hands pull your hand away and click fingers with the person as you pull away, maybe we should try it in meeting...

When in Rome...

Anyone who has heard about our tour to Rome knows that the students all had an unforgettable time... but how was it for the staff who accompanied them?

Was there any chance for relaxation, any time to sample the produce of the local vineyards? Were they worked off their feet from dawn 'till dusk and given no time for exploring the bustling streets of Rome away from their charges?

Not at all ... Although each member of staff was assigned a "family" of students, everyone got on so well that to go around for most of the time in these groups was really no hardship at all. I am, of course, writing from a teaching assistant's point of view, but even for the members of staff charged with more responsibility than I, the trip was a huge success, and really enjoyable.

Our days in Rome were filled with stunning architecture, good food (for

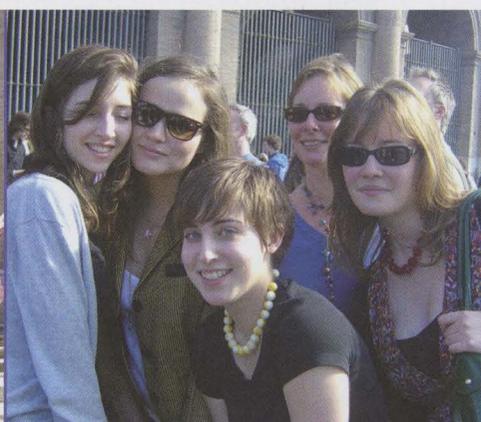
half of the group!), coffee, more architecture, laughter, more coffee, and, most importantly, music. Being the first choir ever to perform Karl Jenkins' "Armed Man" in Rome was certainly an extraordinary privilege, but it was Sibford's solo performance of movements from Haydn's "Nelson Mass" in St. Peter's Basilica that we were all looking forward to. It was a life-changing moment, and one that I will never forget.

With our days so busy it was lovely to go back to the Piazzola in the evenings and relax. The beautiful monastery in which we stayed had everything we needed, and some of my favourite memories of the trip are of relaxing between the book-lined walls of the library, standing on the terrace and watching the sunset over Lake Arno, or sitting around the piano



in the evening, singing. For me, the trip wouldn't have been nearly so enjoyable without the friendship extended to me by the students - especially the sixth formers, so thank you for so many incredible, sometimes hilarious, memories. I will always remember this trip with real affection: for the new friends I made, for Rome, and, of course, for Haydn.

• Amy Spring, Teaching Assistant



Duke of Edinburgh Award: Bronze Expeditions 2008

'There are a few things in here, Sir, Miss;
I'll show you the rat first!'



Why is it that wildlife features so heavily in our expeditions each year? Having had badgers stealing swimming trunks, sun-bathing snakes and gory video evidence of road-kill, we wondered what treat was in store this year.

Mr Spring and Mrs Spring headed for the toilet block. Daisy and Sam opened the door gleefully. 'Behind here, look!'

There was a dead creature behind the door; a mole, not a rat, but as Mr Spring picked it up it fell apart and he was left holding a small, brown leg.

'Eeeeeouw!' Daisy and Sam collapsed giggling and shrieking, as Mr Spring gathered the furry remains and threw them into the next field.

'Can you get the spider out of the sink, Miss?'

Despite, (or perhaps because of) her African upbringing, Mrs Spring is

not too keen on handling spiders, especially the type with muscular legs which look as though they are champion jumpers.

'Er...ummm...I think Sir can help you out with that...I've just noticed a tent that needs some adjustment...', Mrs Spring made her escape, leaving the spider, mole, slugs and other assorted wildlife to entertain the crowd of pupils that had now been attracted by the shrieks and squeals.

29 Year 10s have been involved in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this year and, by the time you read this, 11 Silver participants will have (hopefully!) found their way across parts of Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire to complete their Awards. In the current climate of increased legislation and the attempt to eliminate all risk from our lives, the Award has become a vital and enjoyable means of ensuring that our young people learn certain skills. They can be independent and self-reliant, they can

solve problems for themselves and they learn to get along with people they would not necessarily choose as their close friends. An evening in camp, with nothing more than a football, a Frisbee and sloppy noodles, can be entertaining and fulfilling; the walk itself, though physically and mentally taxing, leaves participants with a real sense of achievement.

In the other 3 areas of the Award, we have seen participants 'Reducing, Re-using and Re-cycling', Reviving, Reassuring and Resuscitating, Reading, Running, Riding, Rehearsing and Rock-climbing to name but a few of the activities necessary to complete their Skills, Physical and Service sections. With around 25 of the present Year 9 already signed up and well on their way to completing some sections, the future for the Award at Sibford looks healthy.

• **Mike and Penny Spring**
Award Leaders

Open Day 2008

As the sunshine flooded over the sports fields and the first chords of the jazz band struck the air, the pupils and parents milled about with occasional smears of chocolate cake from the ever-popular French café.

The art department boasted high quality examples of the pupils' work ranging from graffiti trainers in textiles to the Year 7 funky fish display in pottery. Onlookers were astounded by the efforts of Warren, Chris and others working their wonders on the potter's wheel and the copious produce on show in the horticulture gardens.

In the art gallery there was a treasure trove of seaside sculptures, quirky clockwork fashion and canvases with stunning work from the GCSE and A-level students.

So, despite our original moans when waking up early, the day was enjoyed by all. For some it was made by the cake, for some by Alex Gandy's super-sprint, for some perhaps by the bouncy castle but for me nothing could beat the jazz band.

• **Beth Birkbeck, Yr 10**

Right: New heights were reached by the jazz performers, with Uly's hair bigger than ever

Far right bottom: Romilly and Hugo play for the crowd.



Above: Everyone, including the Head gets involved in the Maypole Dancing

BYHP - supporting young people in housing need across oxfordshire

Each year BYHP supports over 350 vulnerable young people aged 13-25 who have been made homeless through no fault of their own.



BYHP receives funding, although unfortunately this does not cover all the running costs for our essential front line services. As a fundraiser for the BYHP I had no hesitation in attending a meeting with Tim Yeomans, and Michael Goodwin last summer to chat about the project and how Sibford School could help us. Following the meeting BYHP was adopted by Sibford School as its Charity for 2007/2008! Music to my fundraisers ears!

What a year it has been!

The staff, pupils and parents have been wonderful in their unrelenting support and energy. Various fundraising events have included

music concerts, the BYHP Christmas card design competition, won by Emily Gerrard, Yr 12, and an exceptional sixth form project by Ben Keogh who produced an indispensable graphic CD showing the effects of homelessness. The grand finale was the Triathlon at Blenheim Palace on June 7th with Michael Goodwin, his son Ned, two teachers, Jez Ross and Andy Foakes and parent Camilla Shaughnessy amongst 37 people running for and supporting BYHP.

The total raised by Sibford School so far this year has exceeded £2,000. For that we are very grateful but equally important to BYHP is the tremendous awareness raised within

the school fraternity and local area for this essential local project.

BYHP not only helps young people to find suitable accommodation, but also provides a range of services aimed at tackling the issues that lead to homelessness. The Family Mediation Service helps resolve family conflict and our drop in centre runs many varied life-skills classes. All our services help young people to access training, education and employment. The funds Sibford School has raised will all help to maintain our essential front line work. Many, many, many thanks.

• **Laura Yates, BYHP Fundraiser**

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Elton John/The Eagles - 70's Sensation Concert

The sound of the 70's resonated around the auditorium of The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on the 18th March as the Sibford School musicians took on the musical personas of The Eagles and Elton John.



These two highly contrasting musical acts provided the audience with a diverse range of musical performing.

We arrived at the theatre in the morning to set up, though we spent most of the morning indulging in the tea and biscuits that Janet very kindly bought for us. We spent the day in the green room eating and playing music, waiting for the big performance ahead. We had already achieved great success at the practice gig which took place in the ensemble room at school the night before. Most of us were used to these kinds of gigs, having performed at the Pink Floyd and Sgt Pepper concerts in previous years. We all thoroughly enjoyed performing at The Mill Arts Centre, and the audience was great too.

• **Henry Grigg, Yr 13**



I Can't Believe I Said That...

It was months ago, in the cold damp days of late winter, as the sleet lashed the windows of the art school, that I first dreamed of sleeping out on a balmy night, with the vastness of the star-studded night sky above me. As a tutor group we discussed how we could raise funds for BYHP, an utterly worthwhile organisation, and I rashly suggested "What about having a night of 'sleeping rough' in return for as much sponsorship as we can find?"

The enthusiasm for such a venture was pretty overwhelming, and it was all I could do to restrain them from having several practice sleep-outs straight away – in February.

The planning took up many of our tutor periods, with discussions of how we should enlist the support of families and friends – and not only in the financial way. By the summer half term, we had offers of firewood for our brazier, a mountain of cardboard boxes, plastic sheeting and a full English breakfast served 'al fresco' for eighteen on the morning afterwards, as well as lots of generous pledges of cash.

So.....we went ahead and did it.

All the 'happy hobos', as they christened themselves, arrived at our chosen venue, the sculpture yard, at 8pm on the last Monday of term, and quickly set to work constructing a range of shelters ranging wildly in style and solidity. Some were painted; others bore the name of the occupant, while others advertised the cost of renting such a 'sought after property'.

There was still far too much energy in evidence, so a game of rounders was organised, followed by a walk through some nearby woods as the last of the daylight faded. By the time we returned it was cold and dark, so a reviving cup of hot chocolate and a few ginger cookies were the order of the day. While I lit the fire in the yard, the children got ready for bed, which meant putting on several extra layers of clothes –and in some cases pyjamas and the ubiquitous hoodie!

It was not until the wee small hours that I decided that it was not going to be a very long night. The chatting had died away, the fire had burnt down, a pale moon had risen over the trees and I finally settled down in my sleeping bag on the balcony above the sculpture yard. Yes, it really was as I had dreamed back in February...

BANG! CRASH! SCRAPE! I had, in my meticulous planning, completely forgotten that

the cleaning-staff start at 5am sharp! I dozed for a while, and before long (probably at about 6.15am), the slumberers started to stir. Some had slept solidly for 6 hours, despite some sore hips and stiff necks.

By 7.15am Duncan Little was frying eggs and serving up a full cooked breakfast from the tailgate of his pickup – what a star. It didn't take long to pack everything away, and by 8.30am everyone was back in school uniform and ready (?) for the day. At the time of writing we have already topped £300 for BYHP, and I know that is set to rise.

To all who helped to pull this off – a big thank you!

• Mike Spring



Mike Spring pictured with 9MSP.

charities charities charities charities

Other Charity News...

- Once again this year we supported the **National Aids Trust** through sales of red ribbons on World Aids Day.
- We made donations to **Dogs for the Disabled** and the **Katharine House Hospice** in Banbury.
- Following the terrible natural disasters in **Burma in China** we sold white bracelets and raised funds for the **Disasters Emergency Committee**.
- Pat Davies in the library organised a whole school 'readathon' in support of the **Roald Dahl Foundation**.
- June 30th saw us supporting Nick Park's 'Wrong Trousers Day', raising funds for **UK children's hospitals and hospices**
- On 22nd June Zoe Connor and 15 other Sibford teachers ran the Race for Life in Chipping Norton, raising money for **Cancer Research UK**.
- Finally, during the summer break Harry Blackwell, Josh Rayner and Hayden and Josh Clark cycled from John O'Groats to Lands End in aid of the **Air Ambulance**.

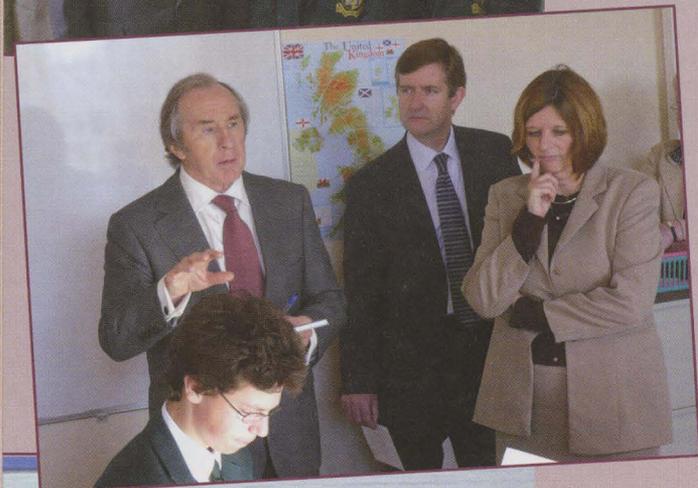


Visitors to Sibford...



Meeting a Racing Legend

Sir Jackie Stewart, a highly regarded name in global sport, visited Sibford in response to a letter from Michael Goodwin. Michael learnt that Sir Jackie Stewart was dyslexic and wrote to offer him the chance to view our dyslexic department and to witness the work we do here to aid the learning of dyslexic pupils.



On the 17th October 2007 Sir Jackie Stewart came to tell us about his life with dyslexia. At school he was known as "dumb, thick and stupid". He left school uneducated at fifteen, and worked at a petrol station. Then he started shooting (only just missing the team for the 1960 Summer

Sir Jackie Stewart first found out that he was dyslexic when he was 41 years old after his sons were found to be dyslexic. He came to say don't worry about dyslexia, it will make you feel down and you think other people can do things and you can't, but you are better than them at something.

• **George Cowper, Yr 9**

Sir Jackie Stewart visited Sibford School because it is very good at helping dyslexia pupils to pass their GCSEs. His teachers said he was stupid and would never do well in life. He proved just because you are dyslexic doesn't mean that you won't do well in life, because Sir Jackie Stewart is doing very well indeed.

• **Jordan Sadler – Yr 9**



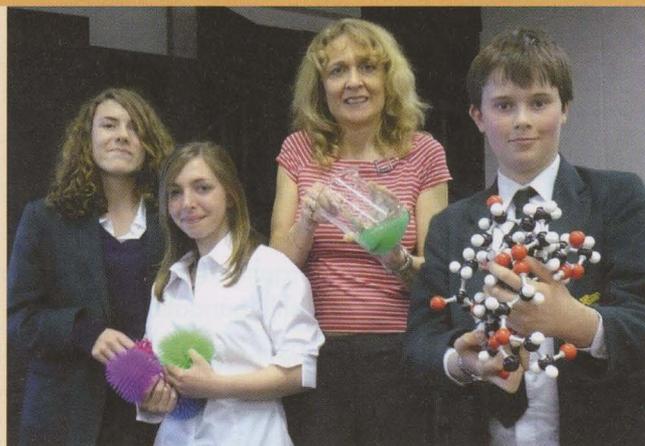
Olympics). After that he got married, gave up shooting and started car racing. He became a top Grand Prix driver. He told us that dyslexic people have a mind of their own. They will never be able to get rid of dyslexia but they can work around it. Dyslexic people think outside the box.

• **Anjelica Catton – Yr 9**

Fantastic Plastic

On Wednesday 14th May 2008 Professor Averil MacDonald from Reading University came to talk to Year 9 and 10 on 'Fantastic Plastic' (or how to become a millionaire). She gave a superb talk with lots of demonstrations showing all the various uses of plastic; both those that are currently in use and those that will come onto the market over the next 2 years. Here are just some of the comments made by the pupils after the talk...

To be honest, I thought a talk about plastic was going to be really boring, but in fact it was really interesting.

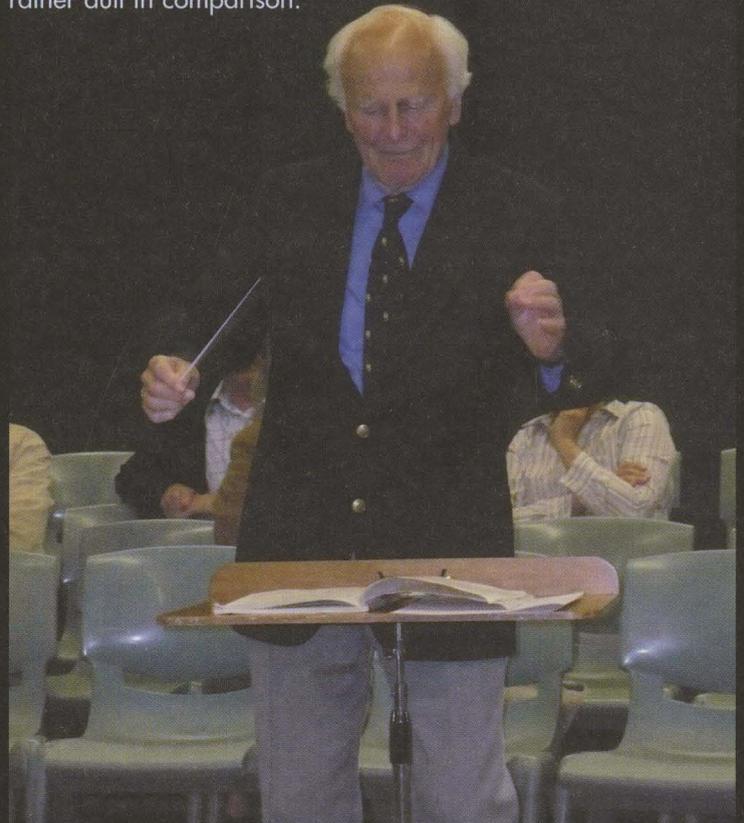


'Brilliant! She was so enthusiastic, informative and worked out perfect ways to catch our interest. It was inspiring.'

A night with the Knight...

When I first arrived at Sibford, the idea of joining the choir seemed like something to do to kill time between the end of school and tea. I quickly learned differently.

Under the direction of the genius, and somewhat mad Julian Harris, we were soon performing movements that very few choirs with our age range had been able to accomplish. After performing in one of the most historical and architecturally astounding buildings in the world, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, we returned to find Sibford rather dull in comparison.



'It showed me how important plastic is and new technologies being developed.'

'It wasn't just about plastic, but about a possible millionaire future! A fun blooming tastic experience.'

'I thought that fantastic plastic was a brilliant talk and had lots of exciting demonstrations and lots of things I never knew existed.'

'I thought that the fantastic plastic talk was very interesting because it told me of new things that could be for sale in the future.'

'I thought plastics were interesting to begin with, now they rock!'

'It was brilliant. I learnt a lot about plastic. I was amazed at the washing bag. I thought this was a good experience for me.'

However, that was until the visit from Sir David Willcocks (pictured above). As someone who had little knowledge of choral music I had no idea of the honour that had been bestowed upon us. I looked him up on 'Google' and was flooded with information on his incredible life and career. By the time Friday had arrived we were on the edge of our seats waiting for his arrival. Julian, who makes a point of keeping a calm and majestic composure, was like a little boy waking up early on Christmas morning as he gathered us together for the workshop. I expected to meet a strict and serious conductor, but in walked one of the kindest and funniest men I have ever met. He immediately took control of the choir and took us musically to places we had never gone before. He had the energy and playfulness of a 20 year old but the elegance and professionalism reserved only for the best and most talented choral conductors.

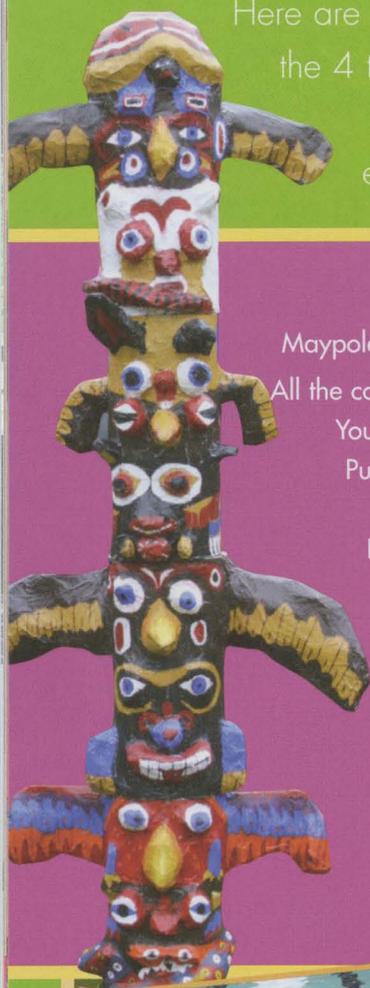
Sir David Willcocks managed to show me the beauty and passion that is choral music and I will never forget the night he took us under his wing and transformed the Sibford choir forever.

• Johnson Gray – Gap Student

Orchard Close Activities...

Here are the last ever images from Orchard Close! From September 2008, the 4 to 11 year old Section of the school will reopen as Sibford Junior School.

This name change will also herald a new emphasis on finding ways to engage our younger children in more outdoor learning.



Maypole Dancing

Maypole dancing is tiring going round and round,
All the coloured ribbons twisting and turning about,
Your heart races at the same time as the beat,
Purple and gold twisted with green and blue,
Over and under dancers go,
Leaping and skipping around the maypole,
Ending with a beautiful pattern.
Dancing again to unwind the pattern,
All the dancers huffing and puffing,
Nearly colliding with each other,
Circling the maypole once more,
In and out the dancers weave,
Neatly unfurling in the breeze,
Great, we're finished, let's dance another!

• Sydonie Brewis, Yr 6



Viking Boats

Year 4 made Viking Boats as one of their projects for our Viking topic work in History. The children then took them with them to their swimming lesson, where they tested out their boats on their maiden voyage across the storming Sibford waters. All the boats looked superb and not too many sank!

Africa

Year 1 and 2 have worked hard finding out about Africa and created some beautiful art work on this topic.



Tigers...

Years 1 and 2 read the story of 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and wrote it in sandwich form, decorating tiger plates!



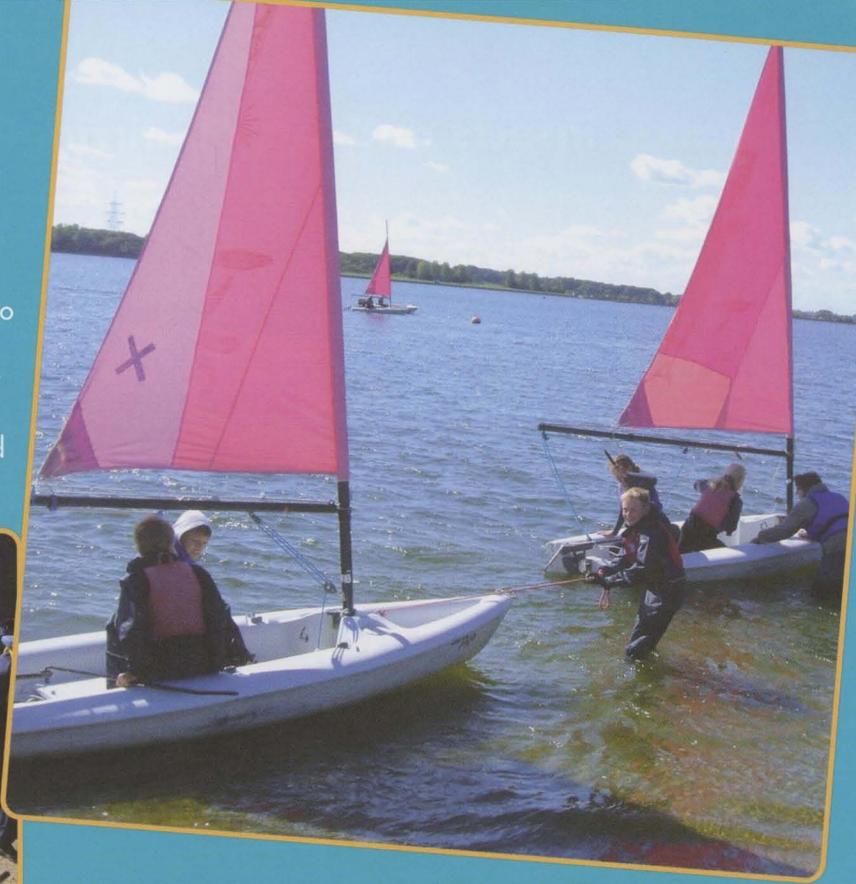
Handy Artwork!

Year 1 and 2 created some interesting art work with their hands!



Sailing Away...

As part of their Outdoor Education curriculum Year 6 have been sailing. They went to Farmoor reservoir near Oxford for five sessions in the autumn term. The weather conditions varied from very windy to almost no wind at all. However they mastered the art of sailing including capsizing and achieved their Bronze certificates. In the summer term they returned to Farmoor and proved that they had not forgotten how to sail.



Roman Ways

Year 4 have enjoyed learning about the Romans and visited Chedworth Roman Villa near Cirencester to support their history topic.

They learnt to use natural ingredients to make medicine, especially good for curing colds! The children experienced handling primary artefacts and were shown around the grounds of the villa to see mosaic floors, toilets, sauna rooms and a pool with water that still flows into it today!



Multi-Coloured Coats...



Year 4 have been studying the life of Joseph from the bible stories; they then designed a coat for Joseph which their lucky teddy bears are now donning with pride. We can all sew now!

Football

The boys from Years 5 and 6 have had a difficult football season, however, they have shown wonderful progression over the term.

After losses against St John's Priory, Cokethorpe and The Croft, the teams showed remarkable resilience to work hard in training. The result was a brilliant 3 all draw in the return fixture against St John's followed by a narrow 3-1 loss to Windrush Valley.

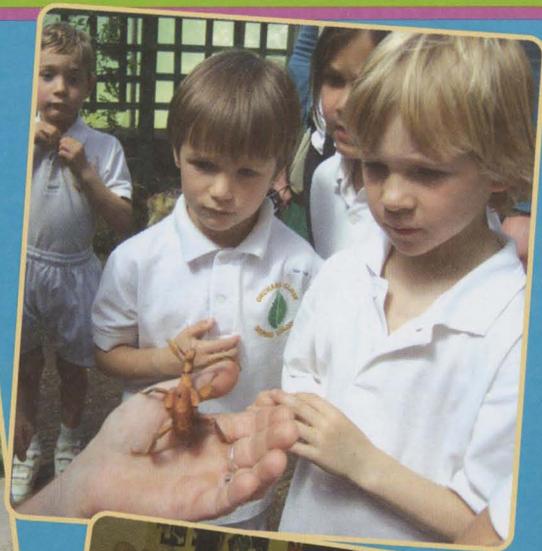
Throughout the season Joseph Attley has led the team well with excellent performances from Harry Little, William Bradbury, Jake Dew and Jacob Roberts to name, but a few.



Year 2, 3 and 4 children travelled to the Oxford Apollo theatre to see the musical of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat. We were lucky enough to see the production whose leading actor was Craig Chalmers himself, and who took part in the T.V. show 'JOSEPH'. All the children have or will be learning about the life of Joseph from the children's bible stories and Year 3 children have been learning about Ancient Egypt.

Walks, insects and lots of stirring!

Orchard Close pupils enjoyed various activities throughout the year such as walking in the countryside, learning more about insects. At christmas everyone helped to make the christmas cake and took part in the christmas play.



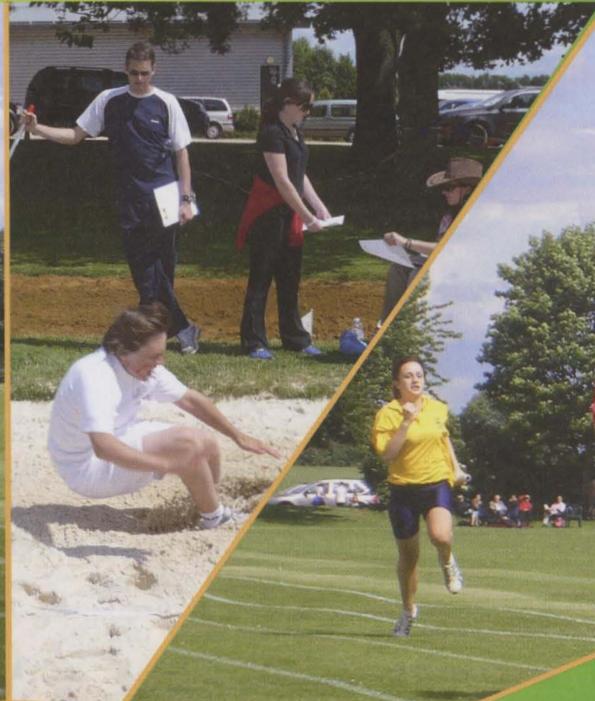
Cog Boxes

Year 6 made some cog boxes in their Design & Technology classes. Each was as individual as the maker!



House Sports Day ...

We were blessed with perfect weather conditions and an exciting finish for our major inter- House event held on the afternoon of 14th June. Clark and Gillett gained joint first place, with Fry in 3rd and Nansen in 4th position.



Clark House

Clark House members were up for the challenge on House Sports Day this year. On the track we were off to a slow start with Gillett leading early on. However, after much encouragement from their House Captain, Chloe Ferguson, and Lesley Norton, who was looking after the House tent, Clark slowly began to creep back up the points table and the challenge was on once again.

There was much tension in the air when we reached the relay races. A debate took place as to whether the seniors could run as a mixed team, due to some pupils having left school after exams. The decision was made by Dan Pigott, Director of Houses that Gillett and Clark had to field 2 girls and 2 boys as they were the two houses remaining in the running for the cup. They eagerly lined up for the race; the gun went off and the finish line became electric with students and teachers alike willing on their Houses. In the end it was a draw – but we'll be back next year for a clear win!

• Iona Smith, Clark Head of House



Gillett House

Eagerly watching the electronic scoreboard and listening to the announcements Thumper, the Gillett house mascot, rushed to the front of the crowds to be jointly awarded first place and handed the house trophy by Michael Goodwin along with the human mascot for Clark.

In the end, an impromptu "peace pull" was declared to find the champion winner. After much to and fro ing and with Mr. Baker hoarse with yelling "PULL" Gillett assumed that vital extra few centimetres over the line and then watched in great delight as Clark fell backwards whilst being pulled forward! A jolly good day and well done to all houses!

• Simon Baker, Gillett Head of House



2008 Examinations

GCSE

Staff and students were delighted with this year's GCSE results, the best ever set of GCSE results in our history. 69 pupils were entered for GCSEs this year, making a record number of entries (701 subject entries in total!)

Year	Pupils entered	GCSE entries	% PASS A* - C	% PASS 5 Grades A* - C	% PASS Grades A*-G
2008	69	701	83.7	87	100
2007	58	504	73.8	65.5	100
2006	55	467	81.2	78.2	100

The table shows the huge increase in the percentage of students achieving at least 5 GCSEs with grades between A* - C. This is the all important benchmark looked at by Further and Higher Education institutions and also by employers - to achieve nearly a full 10% increase on our previous best ever results is a fantastic achievement. **Congratulations to everyone!**



Among the strongest individual results were:

- Alexandra Jardine (8 A*, 3 at A)
- Imogen Gartside (5 A*s, 6 As)
- Harriet Fletcher (7 A*s, 3 As)
- Katie Boyd (5 A*s, 4 As)
- Harriet Smith (3 A*s, 6As)
- Jack Keogan (7A*s, 3 As)
- Tom Roger (7A*s, 2 As)

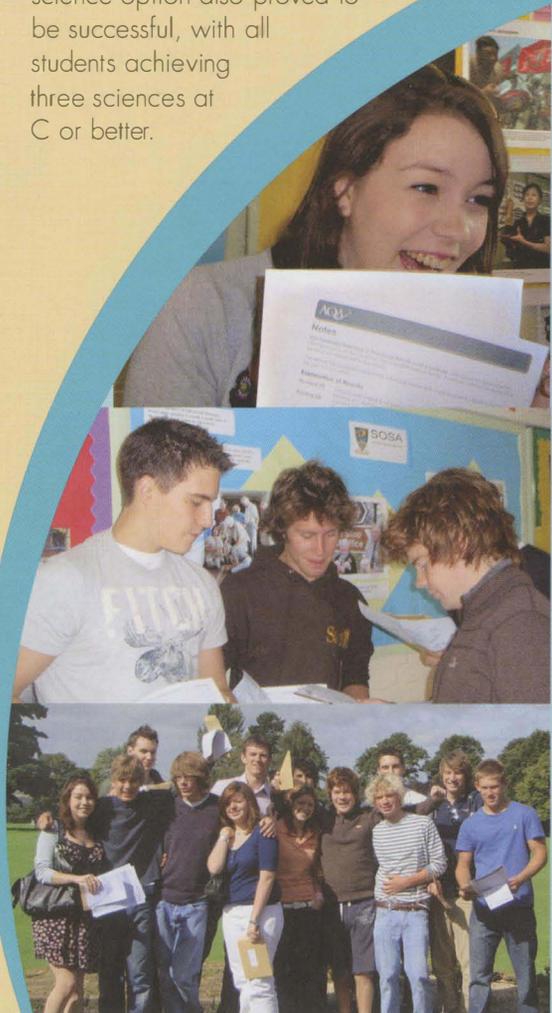
In fact, over half of the year group achieved 10 or more GCSEs at grade C or above and over 30% of all grades were at A or A*.

Thanks to all the staff involved in teaching this hard working group of students. Although obviously delighted by the outstanding achievements of these high flying young people, I was most pleased to see that Rory Fear, who had been on a support programme, had achieved C grades in both Maths and English, and that he had secured that all important 5 grades at C or above. Phil Nichols, on a full dyslexia programme, also achieved English and Maths, and all his other eight grades at C or better. Brilliant!

In fact, 65% of our students achieved 5 grades including Maths and English at C grade or above (this comprised 26 boys and 19 girls - so well done boys!)

Only 9 of our 69 pupils did not get 5 GCSEs at C or above and three of these achieved 4 Cs or better; although it is right to celebrate our "best grades", it is right to pay tribute to those students who worked so hard to get the best grades they could. Our Mathematics results were quite outstanding. 89% of all grades were at C or above; there were only 7 D grades, and no-one got an E, F, G or U grade. In History, students achieved 9 A*

grades, 9 As and 4 Bs, and everyone passed GCSE French - 3 A*s, 6 Bs and 2 Cs. Music results had no grades below C, in a set made up of 4 A*s, 6 As, 4Bs and 1 C. There were 16 A*s in Religious Studies and 8 A*s in Statistics, a newly offered GCSE this year, which enjoyed a 91% pass rate. Our new triple science option also proved to be successful, with all students achieving three sciences at C or better.



Media Success

Sibford pupils have gained outstanding results in Media, with three students scoring some of the highest overall marks in the country.

Jack Neighbour and Henry Grigg both received an A grade in their Media: Communication and Production A Level ... with results that place them in the elite top 10 of the 602 students who sat the exam nationwide. Meanwhile, Lianna Pim gained a top 10 listing at AS level. Out of 1002 candidates she achieved one of the highest results overall.

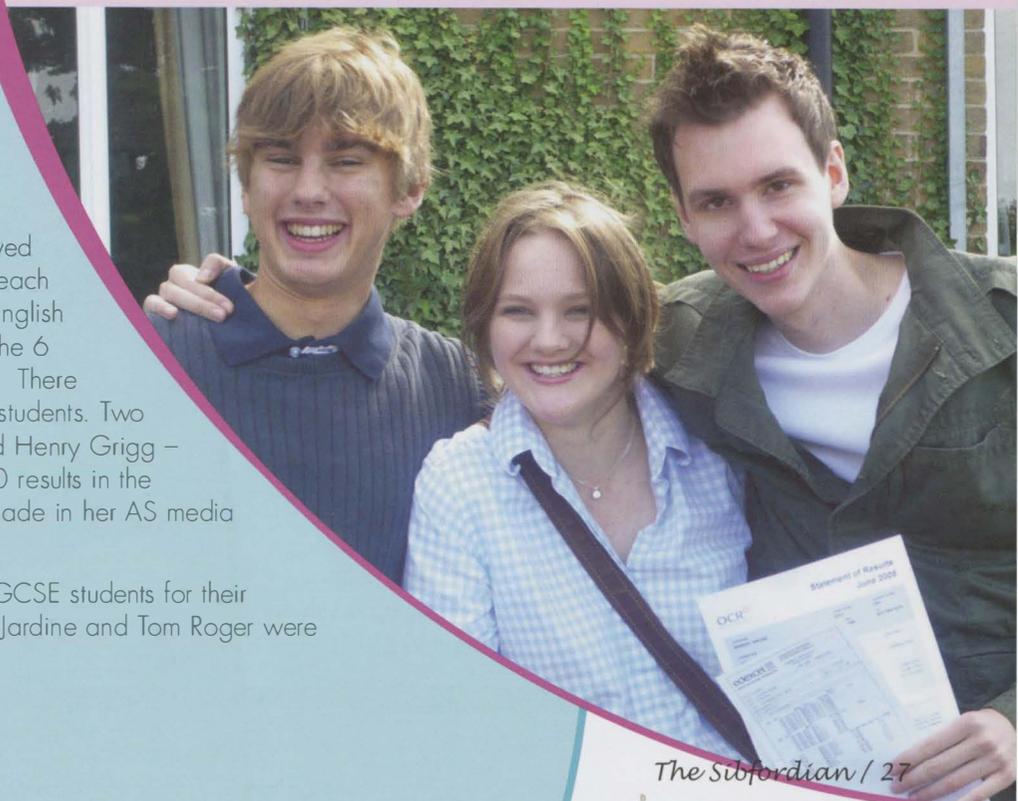
The media course allows you to expand your skills in a wide range of areas, including organization and of course...imagination. I don't think that any other subject allows you to be so flexible; it really does help you to play to your strengths. I think the best part is at the end of each year and thinking, 'wow...I did that... and it's not half bad.'

• Jack Neighbour, Yr 13

A word of caution – making a programme is fun, but do not be fooled, there is a lot of work involved!

• Henry Grigg, Yr 13

Below: Henry Griggs, Lianna Pim and Jack Neighbour.



Results

A Level

Our A level results saw 45% of all grades at A or B, very much in line with our rolling average over the last five years – itself an impressive achievement.

31 students took 84 examinations and achieved a 97.6% rate. Jenny Guy and Henry Grigg each had 3 A grades, Tom Podd 2 As and a B. English results were particularly impressive with 5 of the 6 students achieving an A grade, and one a B. There was also a strong success for Media Studies students. Two of the eight candidates – Jack Neighbour and Henry Grigg – had A grades which place them in the top 10 results in the country. Lianna Pim achieved the same accolade in her AS media examination.

This year, the school entered three Yr 11 GCSE students for their Business Studies AS examination. Alexandra Jardine and Tom Roger were awarded A grades; Elinor Hirst a B grade.

• Michael Goodwin - Head

Leaver's Destinations:

Miki Arai – Canterbury University, Music
 Louise Attley – Gap Year
 Mark Callin – Bristol UWE, Business and Management Foundation
 Sam Chan – University Hong Kong, Accountancy
 Chris Corless – University of Central England, Sound Engineering and Music Production
 Ed Coyte – Bristol University, Business Management
 Tom Daley – University of Sussex, History and Anthropology
 Jack Davies – Bangor University, English and Creative Writing
 Janet Dickinson – Gap Year
 Richard Gray – Sheffield University, Hospitality & Business Management
 Henry Grigg – Gap Year
 Jenny Guy – Gap Year
 Josh Hall – Foundation Performing Arts
 Amy Jelf – Leeds University, History of Art

Eleanor Jennings – University of Central England, Art and Design Foundation Year
 Alex Jerome – Oxford Brookes, Law
 Ben Keogh – Leeds University, Music and New Media Technology
 Georgina Pratt – De Montfort University, Creative Writing and English
 Thomas Smith – Gap Year
 Maxine Lincoln – Guildhall Conservatoire, Composition
 Moeko Matsumoto – Reading University, Mathematics
 Amy Isla McCombie – University of Falmouth, Foundation Art
 Igor Matyushin – Further Education, Business
 Jack Neighbour – Westminster University, Contemporary Media Practice
 Joeie Poon – Oxford Brookes, Business Information Systems
 Charlie Walter – Loughborough University, Information and Business
 Ulysses Wells – Gap Year
 Jonathan Williams – University of Gloucester, Sport Coaching
 Martin Wong – Canterbury University

Every school needs a Tony...



In July this year Tony Skeath finally laid down his chalk/white board marker/data projector.

Tony began teaching in the Science Department at Sibford in 1974 and during his 34 years of service also became a member of House Staff in Nansen, Penn and Fielding. His quiet reliability and steadfastness will be greatly missed. Thank you Tony for your help, dedication and support over the years – here are a few memories from those who know you best.



Some of Tony's instructions to the Science Technicians:

- NEVER throw anything away without checking with me first that it is OK to do so.
- That piece of equipment you threw out 10 years ago (with the 3 inch layer of dust/mould/biological growth on it/in it) is undoubtedly the most important piece of scientific equipment ever bought for the faculty and I use it at least once every term.
- Always call equipment by the correct scientific term... Where is the oojit or the whatchamacallit thingy with the holes in. Where is the clickety wheelie thing!!!!!!
- Di Howes/Alison Jarvis – Science Technicians

There was a time when Tony played squash on a Friday afternoon as a means of winding down. He would turn up in safety goggles, headband, sweatbands and various elastic supports. Mobile is not a word to describe Tony but if you ever found yourself between the ball and Tony you either shouted 'let' or risked being steamrollered. Somehow we both survived.

Brian Holliday - (Teacher at Sibford 1974-2006 and still working here part time)

We decided upon leaving the pub that a walk via 'Oddies' in the crisp moonlight would be exhilarating. The temperature had fallen to below zero and what had been snow had turned to sheet ice - helped by Sibford pupils sledging during the day. We negotiated the hill on all fours, crawling and sliding all the way in fits of laughter.

Stuart Hedley - (Teacher and Housemaster 1971-2003)

Tony and I interviewed pupils following a theft at the tuck shop. The pupils were being evasive; Tony stopped them in their tracks saying that he had finger printed the area and was about to phone the police - confessions flew at this point. Tony is a master at keeping a straight face when interrogating Pupils!

Maggie Guy - Deputy Head

Some fruit had been removed from the bowl of fruit set up in the art room for a still life exam. Tony gave a grave warning during Morning Meeting that anyone who had eaten this fruit should report to Sister in the San immediately as the fruit had been injected with a poisonous preservative. The culprits were quickly found!

Mike Wollerton - (Teacher and Housemaster 1964-2001)

Tony came into Reception obviously very frustrated by something/someone and proceeded to lie on the floor and wave his arms and legs in the air imitating a dying fly. Unfortunately, just at this moment a prospective family walked in!
 (The pupil still joined the school!)

Wendy Finch - Academic Administrator

During one of Tony's memorable lessons he announced 'OK all of you; I don't want any messing about today because its chicken pie for dinner and I DON'T want to be late'.
 We all knew he was totally serious.

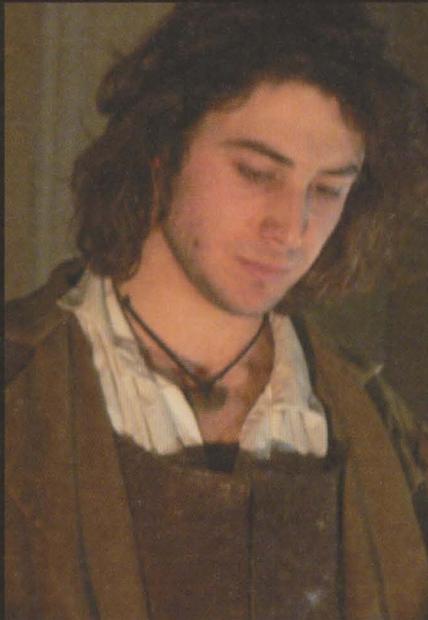
Robert Rivett - (EX-pupil)

Everyone has benefited from Tony's devotion to the Sibford School community. Every school needs a Tony, and there are generations of Sibfordians who will remember him with fondness and gratitude.

Mike and Penny Spring - Head of Art and Head of English

'THE CRUCIBLE'

In September 2007, after only two weeks at the school, I was cast to play Elizabeth Proctor, wife of John Proctor, in Sibford School's production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. The play is based around the historical events of the Salem Witchcraft Trials in 1692.



Over the next four months, the cast rehearsed at lunchtimes and after school (which must have been annoying for the catering and office staff as we often forgot to book our dinner!). Although this sounds like a lot of work, it became part of the school day, so that nothing was more normal than rehearsing in the Oliver Studio as the nights grew darker.

Our four performances were set in the Quaker Meeting House in Sibford Gower. The audience sat on wooden benches and candlelight cast enlarged shadows, heightening the atmosphere. The casts' trust in each other was unflinching, catching each other if we

fell. However this was rarely needed. Each player had their chance to shine and played their part stunningly. These individual parts built up the whole "Crucible", leaving the audience astounded every single night.

"The Crucible" has opened up pathways for me to take in my life that I hadn't even considered previously. Thank you to all the cast and back-stage team, teaching and office staff, audiences, Michael Wells (my on-stage husband's father) and the directors Johnston Gray and Trevor Walters (Head of Drama).

• Lianna Pim, Yr 12



Top row: Ulysses Wells, Josh Hall, Romilly Wells and Lianna Pim. Bottom row: Laura Hayward, Sophie Howson, Maxine Lincoln.

Not Everyone Speaks English!

In term time Sibford is home to our overseas pupils whilst they study English in the ESOL department (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and also follow mainstream curriculum lessons. Here they write about their experiences of living in a different country and culture.



Russia

England is very different to Russia. England relies on its traditions while Russia is less strict about them. When you come to England you notice straightaway how different it is. When I first came to England I had massive problems charging my mobile phone because English plugs are absolutely different to ours!

If you want to visit Russia one day, especially in winter, don't forget to take a warm coat because sometimes the temperature gets lower than -35C! Russia is very famous for its art and design, food and many different things! We also have very good theatres, where you can see many famous plays and operas. St. Petersburg is famous for its galleries and architecture. I come from Moscow, the capital of Russia. I like that it is a big city and you can find everything in it. I've been to London four times already and found a lot of similarities between London and Moscow. The buildings are pretty similar but most Russian houses are much higher than in London. If you go to Russia don't forget to visit Moscow because there are a lot of interesting places there and I promise you, you won't get bored!

• Sacha Bolsunovskiy, Yr 9



Iran

Somebody told me a story of her friend. She said "I had a friend and his father came into an awful lot of money and he told his son he could do whatever he wanted. My friend decided to travel around the world and when he came back to England I asked him which country do you like the most?"

He always said "Iran". I know anyone who reads this article has different ideas about Iran and I'm sure most of them are wrong. For example, I've heard from many people in England that they think we live in the desert or we are the same as Arabs or Iran isn't a safe place. Now I want to write about the real Iran.

The capital city of Iran is Tehran and Tehran is three times bigger than London and there are lots of high buildings with modern architecture and the view of Tehran by night is absolutely fantastic. When I first came to England the weather was snowing and everyone asked me "have you ever seen snow before?" But they didn't know how cold and snowy Iran is in winter. Some parts of Iran, like the north of Iran, is like England with lots of green trees, but the other parts are even better than England with lots of high mountains. Some people think Iran is like Iraq or Saudi Arabia and women wear a veil and cover their faces. However in Iran there are many sorts of people, but this is true - people need to wear scarves or long jackets. Some people think Iranians ride camels but they don't know we drive posh cars. I hope this has changed your view of my country.

• Mohammad Ali Mohebbian, Yr 11



China

There are lots of differences between China and England. Let's talk about the government - there is only the Communist party in China and all of China is controlled by the Communist party of China, including the government, the army and the media. People in China can never talk about the politics of China, even on the internet. They have no freedom of speech. In England, there is more than one party controlling Parliament. I think that can make the decisions much fairer than in China. Everyone has freedom of speech which means everyone can say what they want. In England people can elect the people they want.

Although China is not perfect and there are still thousands and thousands of poor people, it's working really hard and keeps developing. Now China has become the 'world factory', most things are made in China, it's very easy to find goods which are made in China all over the world, but if you want to buy some goods which are made in the U.K., you have to spend quite a lot of time even in England.

• Guiming Zhang, Yr 9

Taiwan

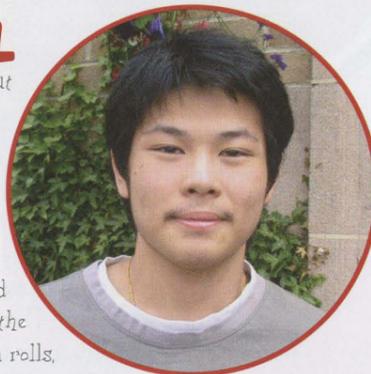
When I arrived in England I found it difficult to talk with English people but after a year I had made many good friends and went to many different places and I found many differences between England and my country.

First of all I want to talk about the food. The food here is a problem for me. I don't like the fact that people eat potatoes every day, 24 hours a day! Also I don't like baked beans, because they look disgusting, and so I have never tried them. The fish and chips are horrible, because they are too greasy and I don't like the smell. In Taiwan there are many delicious foods, like Clay oven rolls, fried bread sticks, fried leek dumplings, rice and vegetable roll, oyster omelet, sweet potato ice...for example, but the most important things is you can buy food 24 hours a day! I always want to eat hot food at midnight and I don't cook, because I'm lazy!

Secondly, nature. In England you can see trees everywhere but in Taiwan you can't, because there are too many people and no more space to plant. Here every house has got a big garden and you can do gardening, but in Taiwan we don't have that much space to have a garden. In Taiwan the weather is too hot and also the air is quite dirty, but here the weather is very comfortable and the air is very clean.

Finally, I think English people are very kind and very friendly and they like to help people. Chinese people are also helpful, but English people never feel annoyed and they always smile. So I feel England is quite a good place!

• Vick Huang, Yr 12



Hong Kong

I've been to England lots of times but I grew up in Hong Kong. I wasn't even born the first time I came to England because I was still inside my mother.

I love England very much but at first I hated the food. I've got used to it now but I still prefer Chinese food. Also, I can't see the sun every day like I can in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong I live in a house with my family but here I live in a boarding house with 30 other boys. I have lots of friends and lots of freedom in the boarding house. I can do lots of things that I like but I don't break the rules.

The teachers are much better here because they pay attention to the students and they are really kind. If I have the chance, I would like to continue studying in England. I would like to go to university here. I think the environment is better for studying in England and I will have much more freedom than in Hong Kong. I think I take after my father because he studied here too for many years. Although my English was not very good when I first arrived, I think it is getting better. This is because I have to speak English every day, all day. I think this is the happiest time I have ever had at school.

• Kevin Yeung, Yr 10

Olympics, Sibford Style!

(AKA Activities Week: 23rd – 27th June 2008)



The Beijing Olympics was chosen this year as the theme for Activities Week.

Pupil groups were named after various countries due to take part in the Olympics:

Japan, China, South Africa, Ghana, and Uganda.

During the week pupils looked at historical Chinese characters, studied the countries taking part in the Olympics, took part in some ancient Olympic sports, cooked a meal for an athlete, learnt some traditional Chinese dance moves, took part in sessions of Tae Kwon-do and Yoga and had a chance to learn some very basic Mandarin taught by our overseas students. The majority of Year 9 spent the week in Normandy extending their knowledge and studies of the 2nd World War for History. The remaining Year 9 and all of Year 8 did some team building exercises whilst Year 7 took part in a science workshop.

One group had a day out at Youlbury Activity Centre near Oxford where they had the opportunity to do some crate stacking, archery, abseiling and zip wire. The pupils had a lot of fun and many considered this the highlight of the week. We hope that this week opened pupils' eyes to new cultures. We know they had great fun and although it was a break from the normal curriculum we are sure that they learnt some valuable extra curricular lessons.

• Iona Smith



Hockey

This season Sibford was represented by two junior teams and a senior team who competed on a regular basis. All the girls showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship and have represented the school to a high standard.

The U13 team showed great determination and played exceptionally well with some fantastic individual performances from Bernadette Wagerfield and Ellie Carr-Smith. The girls have shown a strong commitment towards the sport and have demonstrated a good understanding of the game.

The U15 team secured good wins in some very tight games demonstrating fluent attacking play and very slick defending. Lucy Plant showed great strength and tactical awareness in defence and linked well with Evie Lovell in Midfield who distributed the ball well. Juliet O'Connor has shown continuous improvement in a striking role and managed to grab the team a couple of match winning goals

The Senior Girls had a successful undefeated season. Fantastic captaincy skills from Jenny Guy and Georgie Pratt kept the team motivated and determined to succeed. The girls worked very well as a team and showed strength in both attack and defence with goalkeeper Louise Attley on form to keep the opposition at bay. Some relentless performances from Timna Freeman, Katie Boyd and Pippa Guy put the team in good stead for next season.

• Shelley Jarvis



Football

21 matches were played (8 matches had to be cancelled due to poor weather) resulting in 9 wins and 12 defeats.

Following a competitive start against Kingham by the junior teams (Under 12's won 3-2, Under 14's lost 2-3) all teams suffered defeat against strong opposition from Cokethorpe and Akeley Wood. Results were mixed for most of the teams for the remainder of the season with the exception of the 1st XI who won 4 of their last 5 games. The 2008 1st XI team worked hard to play with a controlled passing style and were successful in this, for the most part, entertaining those watching with a combination of flowing passing and committed effort in defence.

• Dan Pigott

Swimming Gala

The Swimming Gala Cup was contested for the first time during the summer term.

There were three Galas - Junior (Years 7 & 8), Intermediate (Years 9 & 10) and Senior (Year 11 & 6th Form). Pupils of all abilities took part and did their best to score points for their House teams. As always the atmosphere maintained a positive balance between intense competition and relaxed and respectful participation. Clark House won both the Senior and Junior sections; Fry and Gillett shared first place in the Intermediate competition.

• Shelley Jarvis



Rugby

This season included some very good results, especially for the 1st XV, including victories over Bloxham, BGN and Kineton High and a close fought draw with Cokethorpe.

A number of our Year 7 pupils showed a good deal of promise and played for our U13's. The U14's salvaged a slightly disappointing season with an excellent win over Kingham Hill. Our U15's were perhaps our most successful team of the year with victories against Rendcombe College, Kineton High, BGN and Kingham Hill.

A number of Year 13 students have represented the school with distinction over the past seven years; Tom Smith, Matt Weston, Jonathan Williams, Mark Catlin and Tom Podd all made a huge contribution to rugby at Sibford - we wish them well for the future.

• Simon Chard



Rugby 7's

This year Mark Catlin and I were responsible for organising the Sibford Rugby 7's tournament.

We were both keen to take on this responsibility as part of our A2 Business Studies. We managed to get 14 different schools to participate and raised £650 in sponsorship.

Having to possibly postpone or cancel the event due bad weather conditions, we were eventually able to go ahead and it was a lovely day. Sibford entered 2 teams and they both performed extremely well. However, this year the tournament was won by Winchester House School.

• Richard Gray, Yr 13

Netball

Sibford had a successful netball season this year with all teams showing determination and enthusiasm throughout when competing against other schools.

The U13 team comprised mainly of Year 7s and worked hard to develop their understanding of the game, showing great Sibford spirit when playing against more experienced oppositions. Elizabeth Bradbury and Flossie Boyd are to be particularly commended for their efforts and progression demonstrated in the defending circle.

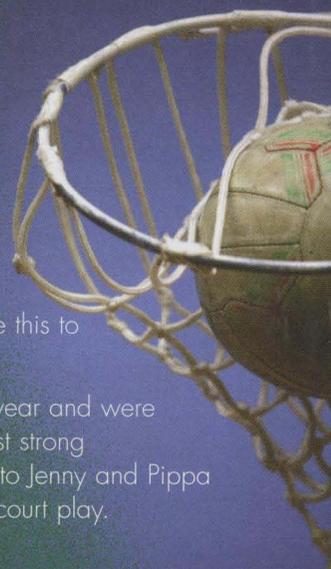
The U14 team were very successful this season winning the majority of their matches. They have improved greatly in relation to their match play and have started to

communicate as a team more effectively.

The U15 team continued to excel and demonstrated some superb tactical play throughout their matches. They are developing their advanced skills and have started to use this to their advantage when competing.

The Senior team also excelled this year and were very successful when competing against strong oppositions. Special mention must go to Jenny and Pippa Guy who demonstrated superb centre court play.

• Iona Smith



What does it take to achieve a Silver Eco Award?

After achieving the Eco Schools Bronze Award in 2007 we focussed our energy on sustainability and reducing our schools environmental footprint and set our sights on the Silver Eco Award which we achieved in August 2008! We are now working towards the coveted Green Flag Award.. but here are just some of the things we did this past year...



Year 12 students walking across acres of rubbish.



Harry Dent and Emily Leonard researching the recycling facilities at Alkerton.

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

Year 12 Countryside and Environment students visited Alkerton Landfill Site in May to look at the ways in which they can reduce, re-use and recycle our household waste. They were horrified to see the volume of waste that was being buried in the landfill site. On returning to school they were determined to improve our systems.

Recycling ink jet cartridges

Tom Marks, Harry Dent, Emily Leonard and Harry Petrie took on the task of recycling the ink jet cartridges, which had been collected from all of the schools computers for a year. They sorted and packaged them and then sent them off to a recycling company who will refurbish and refill them and sell them on, thus reducing the number of cartridges going to landfill. They also managed to raise £209 by doing this. Well done team!

Systems are now in place for all students and staff to recycle waste paper, ink jet cartridges and computer equipment.



Year 11 students – Alessandra Lee Holman and Michael Aris emptying their recycling bin.



Countryside and Environment students ready to post off the cartridges for recycling.



Harry Petrie sorting out the inkjet cartridges.

Recycling Paper

All waste paper in school is recycled!

Every classroom and office now has a recycling bin to collect waste paper and card. It is taken out to the recycling bins on Fridays where it is collected by the council and turned back into more paper....



George Stephenson harvesting onions.

Growing Organically

As part of the City and Guilds Horticulture course, students have been growing and harvesting organic vegetables, fruit and flowers. They have taken these home to share with their family and friends, and are lucky enough to have learned the skills to enable them to 'grow their own' in the future.

Year 11 Horticulture group with some of the delicious organic vegetables that they have harvested.



Harry Petrie, Yr 12 and Year 7 pupils tree planting.

Tree Planting

Year 7 pupils celebrated National Tree planting week in December. Each pupil planted a native tree on the conservation area, which they will nurture during their time at school.



Fair trade

The school celebrated Fair Trade fortnight in February with a series of events led by the Sixth Form People and Planet Group.

We had a Fair Trade lunch with the most amazing banoffee pie, made with, yes, you've got it, Fair Trade bananas.

Fair Trade Fridays - The Fair Trade Café run by sixth form is open in the dining room every Friday at break time.

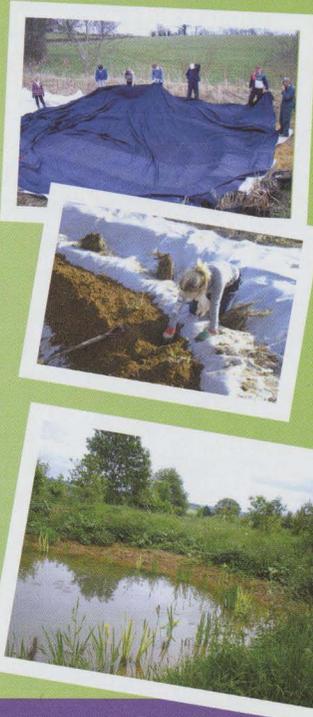


Maintaining Biodiversity in the school grounds - Renovating the Schools wildlife pond.

As part of their BTEC Course Year 12 Countryside and Environment students have spent all year managing and maintaining the conservation area within the school grounds. Along with the school's gardening team they set about the task of renovating and relining the very leaky wildlife pond.

The pond is now completed and is teeming with life. A great success!

Top: Replacing the liner.
Middle: Emily Leonard planting water irises.
Bottom: The renovated pond in May.



Global partnerships

Angy Bovill and Maggie Guy have forged strong links this year with our partner school Mbarara Preparatory school in Uganda. They travelled to Mbarara in October 2007, the project's aim is to promote sustainability in schools and to share good practice. We set up a weather station for their pupils to enable them to monitor the weather and share their data with us. We planted trees in their school grounds and enjoyed seeing their organic vegetable gardens.

Three of their teachers visited us in March, they planted trees with our students and taught them how to make liquid fertilisers.

Left: Making Liquid Manure for the tomatoes.
Top right: Sixth form students Tree planting with our partner school.
Middle right: Cleophas.
Bottom right: Winnie, Headteacher of Mbarara school with Tom Marks and Harry Petrie.



Marvellous Music!

This year Sibford's musical highlights include the choir's performance of Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' in Rome's St Peter's Basilica (page 15), the visit of Sir David Willcocks (page 21), the 70's concert at the Mill Arts Centre (page 18), as well as the summer jazz concert and the end of term production.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Demetrius and Lysander both want Hermia. Hermia only has eyes for Lysander but Hermia's father wants Demetrius for a son-in-law. Meanwhile, Helena's heart burns strongly for Demetrius. Can true love ever find a way? Sibford School's special musical production of this Shakespearian classic took place on 1st, 2nd and 3rd July.

Tom Podd's exasperation fills the Ensemble Room as he stands in his Sibford Rugby Kit, attempting to pull out his trademark ginger locks. Centre Stage, Jack Davies turns a baleful stare on his peer, managing to make his curt "Ninus Tomb" almost rude enough to be unprintable. The lads are halfway through a rehearsal of the final scene of our World Premier Rock Opera Version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', one of Shakespeare's earlier works which he kindly agreed to re-open for what is swiftly becoming an annual collaboration of the musical, dramatic and dance departments at Sibford.

In the corner, by the cherry red drum kit, Josh Hall sits calmly rehearsing his lines in between fending off attacks from several small boys in gold costumes who seem bent on mummifying him in brown masking tape. "What thou see'st when thou dost wake" - he's cut off by another assault by tape-armed juniors, who end up sprawled on the floor giggling despite being unsuccessful. But even their persistent fittering is silenced by one cold glare from the show's producer Julian Harris, Director of Music, before he turns to cue the orchestra and band, hiding an indulgent smile as he does so.

Watching and sighing Lizzie Thomas, the choreographer of the show, gently but firmly corrects yet another miss-stepping fairy while Josh joins his counterpart Maxine on stage for the last musical number in the show. Maxine, having written the majority of the score (which is entirely original and has been the source of many sleepless nights and more than a little metaphorical hair pulling on Julian's

part) is a strange mixture of pride and boredom. After all, this particular song has been knocking around in her head for at least two months now and has seen innumerable drafts and redrafts before finally meeting her exacting standards.

"Hang on" Johnston Gray, director and Gappie extraordinaire, gets more than a few laughs with his drawling Canadian accent. Several of his choicest quotes float from cast members towards the back of the room who, wisely, retain their anonymity.

"Lets take it from the Mechanical's entrance again and this time, answer your cues on time guys" A collective groan from the orchestral pit is ignored and the scene begins again over the shuffle of fairy feet and rustle of crisp packets.

As the rehearsal draws to a close on walk our four Pucks (rather disgruntled at being disturbed from their attempts to cocoon Oberon). The final line hangs in the air as Mr Harris turns, wearing a face splitting grin and utters the one word the whole cast has been waiting to hear:

"Marvellous"

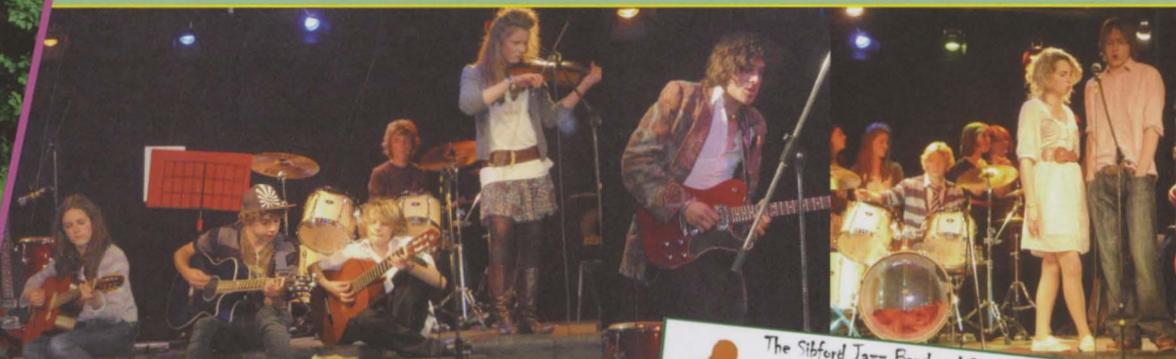
- **Toby Webster,**
Gap Student





Summer Jazz Concert 22nd May

Our Summer Jazz Concert was a complete sell-out days before the actual event (eat your heart out Glastonbury) and as the audience began to fill the Oliver Studio anticipation of an evening of wonderful music mounted: an evening made possible only due to the dedication and energy of Matt Platt. Personal highlights were Jack Davies' 'If You'll Excuse Me', Amy Spring and Poppy Tibbetts singing 'Both Sides Now', Chris Corless' version of Elton John's 'Saturday Night', Tom Smith's 'Sweet Child of Mine' and the fantastic brass section (Hugo Catton, Josh Hall, Romilly Wells and Michael Aris) with their rendition of the Starsky and Hutch Theme tune. The evening came to a close with the last Sibford performance from the renowned House Band: Ulysses Wells, Ed Coyte and Tom Daley completely captivated us with their professional performance.



The Sibford Jazz Band and Special Guests
in concert on
Thursday 22nd May
7.30pm
Oliver Studio
Sibford School

Proceeds will be split between
the Music Department and BHYP

House Band

Ticket: £6.50

ARTY GOINGS ON...

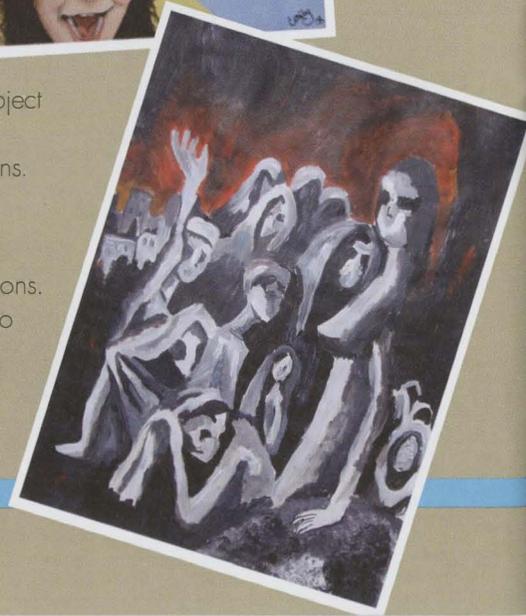
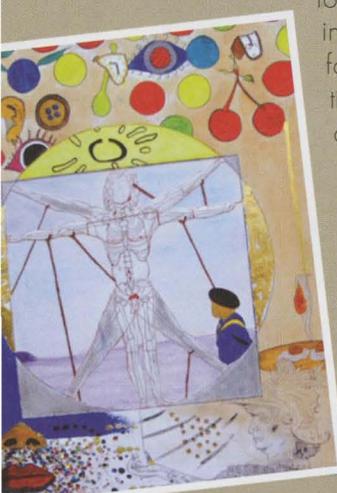
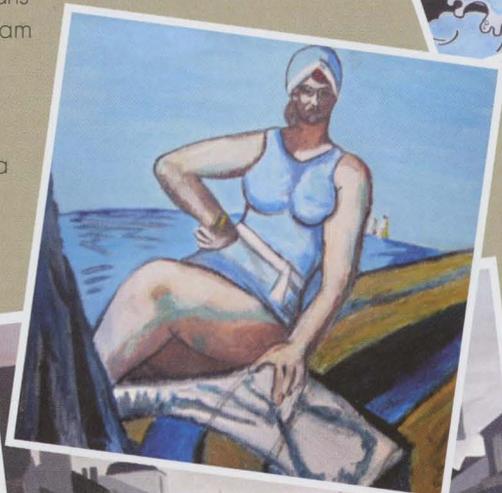
Our new Macintosh computers have really earned their place in the Painting Studio this year.

We have always considered digital art as a means rather than an end in the realms of fine art, but I am increasingly seeing their applications in the production of finished pieces of artwork. Oz Ridsdale (Yr 12) came up with a striking response to the notion of maternity, by applying a series of computer generated and manipulated images to a cast of a pregnant torso - powerful stuff. Even traditional approaches to painting have been aided and inspired by taking original artwork into and out of computer software such as Photoshop and Painter. Emily Gerrard's (Yr 12) study of churches, bells and stained glass was enhanced by the ability to layer a number of images together in order to create a composition.

Those who prefer to work without the aid of modern technology have maintained the Artschool's 'crie de coeur': DRAW-DRAW-DRAW. Jenny Barton's (Yr 12) exploration of the illustrative styles of artists, who have chosen to draw for children, resulted in an exquisite document charting the life and work of such names as EH Shepherd, Beatrix Potter and Roger Hargreaves. In a similar, but very different vein, Matt Hunsley (Yr 12) explored the development of post-war comic strip, while Bobby Tann's examination of the contemporary style of comic-strip art brought us right up to date. There is no better way of engaging with art than by seeing the original works, and better still, by talking to the artist. This coup was pulled off by Sabrina Andrew (Yr 12) when she chose to make a personal investigation into the work of watercolour artist Don Hoskin, who happens to be her grandfather. Pen and ink have been the basic tools of the trade for graphic artists for centuries, and an investigation into the wealth of variety within that genre formed the backbone of Eve Hazlett's (Yr 13) investigation. The subject title "Peal" led Heather Kensett (Yr 12) into the bizarre world of anatomical drawings and the hideous flayed bodies of Von Hagens.

Years 7 to 11 have covered such diverse subjects as Pop Art, The Fauves, Cubism, The Camden Town Group, The Omega Workshops, Panamanian mola designs, Henry Moore and cartoons. We are delighted that John Lendis is now established in his studio in the art school. We are all busy keeping the Sibford creativity banner flying high.

• Mike Spring



Anyone for afternoon tea?

This year 23 GCSE students produced work that demonstrated both originality of design and a love of their work. Anyone who saw the exhibition could not fail to be impressed.

Items on display included a beautiful 'Tea set' based on 'Alice in Wonderland' made completely in fabric by Connie Foster-Hall; the study of 'Art in Fashion' produced an outstanding response from Katie Boyd with her 'skirt', based on the Rocco period; Rachel Greene's, 'The Garden' and Georgia Chalky's wedding dress to mention a few.

15 A' Level students demonstrated excellent technical and manipulative skills which together with the passion they have for the subject helped them produce original work of a high standard. Topics this year included 'Music influencing Textiles' by Miki Arai and 'Sea Sand and Relaxation' by Richard Gray - very original pieces where a mixed media approach had been applied. Year 13 textile students have not only excelled in their own A' Level work but, through their passion and creativity, inspired, advised and helped other members of the school.

On Open Day we displayed Year 10 work, including the excellent graffiti style work of Paddy Mafham, the detailed observational drawing and creative thoughts of Beth Birbeck as well as the creative endeavours of Year 8 and 9 who have worked on fabric and silk painting as embellishment for cushions and T-Shirts.

Sibford students use their talents, enjoy their work and always strive to push the boundaries of creativity with fabrics; working in a highly stimulating and ever changing teaching environment results in some wonderful work from our Textiles Department.

• Lesley Norton



Character Building in Potteravia

by King Ricardo Parthenon I (otherwise known as Richard Phethean, Resident Potter)



Below is a message, to all our young potters from their Pottery Master, Ricardo Parthenon, inspired by the art work (above).

Hello subjects! As we come to the end of another year in our beautiful country of Potteravia, it is, once again, my honoured duty to address you, my loyal people and clay-loving folk. As I relax, I am reliving some of

the memorable moments of Potteravia's National (Open) Day, when our younger citizens had the chance to display the wonderful things they have been making this year.

In 2007/8, our novice apprentices in Year 7 have been exercising their fingers on such themes as Dogs, Deadly Dinosaurs and Funky Fish, then on to more testing projects in slab-building with Robots, Shop Fronts and Decorated Boxes.

Our motto is, "Pottery is Character Building", as our young clay makers are encouraged to put as much expressive individuality into their work as possible. This could not be more apt for our Year 8's, who have been coil-building Heads and Busts. Research involved portrait drawing and finding images of professional people, characters from literature and imaginary characters. I demonstrated the making technique with, if I may say so, a rather good self-portrait in my ceremonial crown and robe (see above). This term, Year 8 finished with several happy lessons on the Potteravia Wheel, the toughest of all our skills, and put on a fine display of craftsmanship for the visitors during our National (Open) Day.

Year 9 studied the classics of Ancient

Greece, tackling a more advanced coil-building Amphora project, with carved decoration.

Year 10, going for Potteravia's GCSE - General Ceramic Skills Exam - have been making Drinking Vessels as an introductory project to their 2 year course - tea cups, coffee cups, wine goblets, tankards, etc, and Year 11 have been setting up their GCSE submissions under the theme of 'Candlelight'. They have produced a broad mix of works using candles and/or referring to celebrations or festivals.

Potteravia's A' Level apprentices travelled to Barcelona in the spring with students from Geography, Spanish and Business. The group were able to see the amazing work of the famous Spanish modernist architect, Gaudi, whose buildings and parks are lavishly decorated in colourful ceramic mosaic. My AS group were encouraged to create their own colourful work using slips. This year also, I have my first Year 12 apprentice Pottery Academician, who has opted for the monastic existence lived by those training as a Master Potter, giving up all other earthly pleasures to follow the true path of clay, now dubbed Columbus Keelingus from Potteravia's famous Whichfordshire Potters dynasty.

• Richard Phethean





SOSA

THE SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Working together

The return of the joint magazine

Dear Old Scholars,

You should all have received the new-style Newsletter which was despatched last April. The response we have received has been very encouraging, and most members appear to want the Newsletter and the Joint Magazine. The Newsletter is designed to keep pace of SOSA news. The great thing about the 'Sibfordian' is that it keeps everybody right up to speed with all that is going on at the School as well as hearing news of old scholars. We have two interesting articles and several profiles of old scholars. We very much hope that you will have enjoyed reading it. Please let us have your feed back – it would be very welcome and it means that we can learn how you are reacting to the new system. You can also have your say at the SOSA AGM which is to be held on Sunday 26th October at the Annual Reunion. We need your input in how the Association should be moving forward. Much work has been done already. We are anxious to improve our lines of communications.

Margaret Shelley, our current President will be delighted to meet up with you then.

Christine & Ian Weatherhead & Mike Finch,
Magazine/Newsletter Editorial Team



Margaret Shelley

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UPCOMING EVENT

SOSA Annual Reunion
Fri 24th to Sun 26th Oct

Please ensure that you contact Nick Bennett beforehand to confirm current dates and times.



Ninety years ago

Ninety years ago at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month 1918, the 'war to end all wars' came to an end. Very little is written about how Sibford fared during that tempestuous time, and how the pupils lived and worked...

However we've found an article written in 1935 by an old scholar who was a child at Sibford between August 11th 1914 and June 19th 1917. Her name was Theodora Shepherd, who came from Birmingham. She describes her time at the School in what was a very different world. It is a fascinating 'eye witness' account of a lost time....

"I first entered Sibford School in August 1914 and left in 1917, my recollections of schooldays spent there are naturally inseparable from memories of the earlier part of the Great War. I arrived at Sibford just after the outbreak of war. It was a hot day, and to hear some of the parents shouting cheerfully "see you at Christmas" as the train steamed out of the station, (Snow Hill, Birmingham) made the holidays seem very far away. From Banbury I travelled to Sibford in a wagonette. I asked what one did first on reaching the School and was told to "bag a bed and a desk!" All parcels were to be held in the left hand on arrival, to enable one to shake hands with James Harrod, the Headmaster."

"I slept in the first form dormitory and three other new girls beside me were put into the Third Form. Dorothy Roberts left after 18 months, but the others Louisa Squire & Margaret McCallum all stayed on and left when I did. The mistresses in the first year were Miss Wilkinson, Miss Child, Miss Ecroyd and Miss Reynolds, and a student teacher Miss Willis. The masters were James Thorpe, Mr Perry and R.T.White. During the difficult times because of the war, other teachers who followed were Miss Moore, Miss Glaister and Miss Millard, Mr Pugmire, Mr Davis, Mr Miller, Mr

Barnet and Frank Parkin. Some of the male staff were Conscientious Objectors like James Thorpe who was away for some of the time working with the Friends Ambulance Unit. Mabel Harrod took some classes which she made intensely interesting, and sometimes came into the classroom with the baby (May Harrod) on her back! My first lesson was singing in the Gym."

"I was very homesick for the first year or so, but even then there were compensations – does anything else in life ever equal the thrill of the last morning of one's first term? The second term was the worst, and I find that old scholars from other schools agree with me. One is still a "new kid" and treated as such, while the novelty of the 'new life' has worn off. Our terms in those days contained more than twenty-one weeks."

"Supplies of fish apparently failed after only one fish dinner (which I enjoyed!). Unfortunately I did not like treacle, and this was a commodity that appeared at every meal – with one exception when there had been a



James and Mabel Harrod, Heads of Sibford 1906 - 1930.

blizzard and it was missing from breakfast. Butter gave way to Margarine toward the end of my first year. Once we were told to take only one potato for dinner, and another time only one piece of bread. Bread eating between games and lessons in winter, and sometimes supper in summer often had to be missed. I real enjoyed 'blanket pudding' (like suet pudding or 'spotted dick') on a Saturday and we enjoyed bread and hot milk at winter teas. We only had tea to drink on three days a week but we always had milk to drink at breakfast except on Sundays. The milk supply stopped for a whole fortnight in the early days of the war. Tuesday's "slosh" for tea was a favourite, and it was always called by that name. It was probably minced apple. Other fruits were sometimes added in the summer months."

"We were allowed to spend one (old) penny a week on sweets at the School and sometimes more on fruit if our parents approved. During my last term we went without stockings, except for Meeting, owing to the difficulty of obtaining mending wool, but the fashion became popular and continued after the war, in the summer at any rate."

"When the School Committee came, the Lower Mth had meals in the Cookery room, as their table was used as an addition to "top-table" - where all the senior staff sat. Those of us in the Upper Mth who had the honour of waiting on the Committee, had the same kind of meal afterwards which we greatly appreciated! I had this pleasure on my fifteenth birthday."

"Windows had to be darkened to prevent light showing, particularly during my last year. Once when I slept in top bedroom – Restholme (The Manor



Life at the front. A British soldier helps an injured comrade at Mons.

"Now and again rumours were afloat that soldiers would commandeer the School and that we would have just twenty-four hours to clear out – I'm afraid that this appeared to be wishful thinking. We were disappointed, probably because the School was too far from a town and with no easy access in those days. The conveyances from Sibford to Banbury were very expensive and increasingly difficult to get at all. I believe some scholars walked part of the way to Banbury, at any rate the last term or two. I remember returning to school after one holiday when I saw a lot of disconsolate conscripts having their names called out on the rail station, and I remember our parents sometimes being upset at seeing a trainload of fine young men departing, perhaps never to return."

House attic), Miss Reynolds rushed into the room in an excited manner exclaiming that our light could be seen all the way to the 'The Gate Hangs High!' Mr Harrod read the news to us between courses at dinner; chiefly war news. In our final year we used to work for war victims. When the senior girls worked for the Bedford Institute, Mrs Bourne who lived in Home Close opposite the School, invited them into her lovely house once a fortnight. She let them listen to the gramophone and I remember a popular song of the time 'Little Grey Home in the West.' "

"We witnessed only a tiny Old Scholars' Reunion in 1916 due to the wartime restrictions, when it was difficult to get to Sibford. We did, however have many distinguished visitors, chiefly lecturers to come and talk to us on various subjects. If the lecturer gave their talk on a Saturday evening they would often stay over and took Sunday Evening Meeting. Occasionally one or two of the scholars themselves (boys) would give a lecture."

"We enjoyed our half-term Social's (party's) which were usually held in the Gym. We also had picnics at half-term to such places as Compton Wynyates, Whichford Woods and Edge Hill.. We never went home at half-term in those days."

"The half-term celebrations sometimes took place over the Easter period. At Easter 1917, the Old Scholars held their Reunion. Some had to hurry back home because of their wartime work. Eggs were provided on Easter Sunday although on one occasion it was only possible through the generosity of one of the parents. One Easter, mottoes were written on the eggs in pencil, and we were supposed to learn them before eating the egg! We generally had only two eggs a year. After Easter the second egg came on the last morning of the half year. These were unforgettable times."

Compiled and abridged from an article written for the 1935 Old Scholars' Magazine.

Catching up with old friends...

We have managed to collect a few profiles from some old scholars as to what they have been doing since they left Sibford



Edd Frost and his daughter Daisy

Since leaving Sibford in 1990 I continued in further education and spent several years at Newark Technical College, firstly with a Music Industry Studies course and then a piano tuning and repair course.

At the same time I had started working, playing drums in a folk rock group. In 1997 music became the main feature in my life and a full time role, which between travelling, meant I had a series of local jobs which

gave me the financial support I needed to survive. One year I was a children's TV presenter working for Carlton television. Working with the band enabled me to travel to parts of the world I never thought I would visit; Large parts of Europe, Hong Kong and the east coast of the United States became frequent destinations.

In 2002 I married Sophie who is also from Adderbury, the village where I grew up and where we now live. The music lifestyle stopped and became more of a hobby. In 2006 we had a daughter Daisy – a life changing experience, but very much for the better. We can't remember what our lives were like before!

Currently I have a position at Winchester House Prep School in Brackley where I am training to become a teacher. Again an experience I thought I would never bear witness to. I have once again become used to school life and am enjoying it immensely.

I really enjoyed my time at Sibford

and hold it totally responsible for the love of music and the arts in general that I have always had. It was such a great place to express "one's self", and I feel the life skills I learnt whilst there played a huge part in preparing me for the real world.

At present, I am the Sibford Old Scholars' Association Membership Secretary and with the current committee, I am trying to encourage young old scholars back to the Association whilst also keeping more recent leavers in touch.

SOSA is very much aware of how the School has changed with regard to becoming more of a day school. We are very grateful that the School also feels the importance of a place for SOSA to sit within the School network. In fact, on a recent visit to the School after many years away, it is more welcoming than ever to old scholars. Even the ones that caused mayhem when they were a pupil here eighteen years ago!

• Edd Frost

I left Sibford two years ago (2006) after completing my A levels.

Sibford gave me a healthy batch of A levels which I was very pleased with. I applied and gained a place to do an Art and Design Foundation course at Warwickshire College which I passed with distinction. Whilst there I applied for Graphic Design/Visual Communication degree courses at five universities. All five universities, after interview, offered me a place on their degree course.

After much consideration, I chose to go to UWE (University of the West of England) in Bristol, to study for a BA (Hons) in Graphic Design. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at

University and cannot believe that it has gone so quickly.

Being away from home was strange at first but I am enjoying the independence. We have learnt allsorts throughout the year from traditional bookbinding through to interactive media. I am currently back home for the summer break.

All this would not have been possible without Sibford and my many happy years there. It's a big wide world out there and friends and relationships forged at Sibford have supported me in all my ups and downs.

• Holly Boulter



Holly Boulter

including two ex Orchard Close pupils

Francis Surry & Ellen Salway were amongst the first group of entrants in Orchard Close when it opened in 1989.'



Francis Surry

After my extensive time at Sibford, I resisted the urge to "see the world" and went to University to read Economics and Human Resource Management, and although I no longer had the support network of Sibford's dyslexic department, I finished my course in 2001 with a 2nd class honours degree.

Like so many people nowadays I went to work in an un-associated field, which in my case was interior design and surveying. Sibford and then university had removed me from London and my family since I was 8, therefore joining the family firm at 21 seemed like a fitting way to reverse the trend.

After 2 successful years, I realised that I would in all reality spend the rest of my working life in the business so I took a 12 month sabbatical to finally go and see the world. I spent

12 months travelling in East Asia, Polynesia and Australasia and it was a hugely rewarding experience.

So to the present, I am still with the family firm and as my father slowly retires my hours just seem to go up and up! I now live in my converted house, a work in progress, in Clapham with my partner Kate Deacon, another Sibford graduate and we are both happily enjoying all that London offers.

1988 seems a life time ago when I walked into Orchard Close a timid 8 year old, and 10 years later leaving the 6th form, I can only express my gratitude to those who helped me and the others like me to overcome our dyslexia and help us to realise that there were no ceilings above us.

• **Francis RD Surry**

After arriving early on my first day at the newly opened Orchard Close (following a helpful tip from my older brother that this was essential to ensure the best bed), I remember moving my trunk past a man with a paintbrush still in hand on the stairs. Six years later I left at the end of my GCSEs and headed off onto A levels, degree, masters and the world of work.

Now my home is in Nottingham working at the University in the very exciting field of quality assurance.

In brief, boarding at Sibford gave me the following; the ability to sit still without fidgeting, a level of independence and self reliance which has been reassuring through the years and a confidence to speak

up in front of groups large and small when I have something that I wish to say. If I had to pick the one truly marvellous thing about the School it was knowing that, should I wish to do so, I could stand up during silence and say anything. Now working in education we talk a lot about the pupil or student voice, but Sibford is the only place I know where it was open to anyone, positively encouraged, and didn't have to go through some committee or formal process. I only did it once at Sibford and although I stumbled over my words and was extremely nervous I survived and made myself heard. I very much hope this tradition of allowing space for the pupil voice is still in practice at the School.

• **Ellen Salway**



Ellen Salway

and some more familiar faces...

Soon after leaving Sibford I embarked on a career in Sports coaching and whilst collecting a few coaching certificates I worked both at Sibford and its sister school Sidcot.

These were eye opening experiences and pushed me towards a fulltime career in teaching. I initially trained in Cheltenham at what is now known as Gloucester University and collected a 2:1 Bachelor of Education degree specifically in teaching Physical Education.

I have been working in Eastbourne ever since, enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Beachy Head and the South Downs. Whilst on the South Coast I have obtained a Masters degree in Sport and Leisure Cultures and I am now an Assistant Head teacher with responsibility for supporting all my colleagues with their Continued Professional Development. I managed to swing a sabbatical from my school a few years ago and travelled as a backpacker with my beautiful wife to



Guy and Jane Kingham and their two daughters Saffie and Libby

be, Jane. We had an amazing time visiting all sorts of places from Berlin to Bali, and Manila to Melbourne. We now have two gorgeous girls, Saffie and Libby, who are an

absolute joy and are looking forward to meeting you all at Sibford again sometime soon.

• **Guy Kingham**



Paul Levy

I was at Sibford from 1988 to 1993. After Sibford I moved on to Bootham, a Quaker school in York, took my A-Levels and then spent a year as a runner at Shepperton Studios, working on various films while I decided what I wanted to do next.

Three years in Chester were next, studying for a Theatre with Psychology degree from Liverpool University. In the third year of my degree I had the opportunity to run a drama club for a group of young people, all of whom had been severely bullied and dropped out of school. Seeing the young people grow in confidence, and eventually take a performance to the Chester arts festival was an extremely rewarding experience and I left university wanting to work with young people as a career.

I began working in a London primary school for young people with severe behavioural problems – leaving after a year to study for an MA and gain my professional youth and community work qualification while working with young offenders and youths involved in gangs on the streets of Manchester.

Since then I have spent 6 years predominately working within Quaker organisations. In 2004 I was honoured to be awarded a Joseph Rowntree Fellowship to work with young people and adults within the Society of Friends and share their spiritual journeys.

I am currently the chief executive and manager of The Leavers, the Quaker community arts organisation working with young people through the Quaker ethos.

• **Paul Levy**



Chris Leo

I was at Sibford from 1974 – 1980 and my time there was very enjoyable.

I made many friends who I kept in contact with for many years although I remain in contact with around eight. I have very fond memories of Sibford, and looking back I think it taught me to be independent, respect other people and want to learn as much as possible about people and the world. I think there is a 'unique' bond within Sibford old scholars that you do not

necessarily find in other schools.

On leaving Sibford my first job was in agriculture, in livestock for 3 years and then arable farming for 5 years, whilst also attending Aylesbury college of agriculture.

In 1981 I joined Windsor life guard club and was involved in weekly life boat patrols on the river Thames, as well as along the south coast of the UK. Through friends at the life guard club, who worked within the airline industry, I was prompted to see what job opportunities were available.

Strangely enough it had crossed my mind in the early eighties to possibly venture into this industry. In 1988 I was successful in obtaining employment with a Canadian airline.

I started in the cargo department and then in 1991 transferred over to passenger services in terminal 3. The airline industry is very varied, exciting and has a fast pace to it. I made many friends and gained a huge amount of experience about people, the world, different cultures and many other interesting areas.

I travelled extensively, mainly to Canada, USA and Australia, and made life-long friends in Vancouver and Calgary, Canada where the people are very interesting, friendly and welcoming.

I left the airline industry in 2002 as I wished to start my own business.

I also had a successful garden maintenance business for 4 years. However, it was tough and not always easy to make a living and due to severe back problems I had to cease trading in 2006.

I got married in 2002 to Judy, and we now have a daughter, Sophie who is 5 and a son Guy, who is 3. I now live in the south of England and am now a full time house husband, looking after our children, for the time being, while my wife works full time in the NHS.

Future plans are for me to return to the airline industry within the next 2 years or so.

• **Chris Leo**



Tom Lane

I was a pupil at Sibford School from 1992 through to 1995 and I really believe that without the help and support that I received these things could have been very different for me.

I left with 9 GCSE's (something I didn't think would have been possible!) and after quite a few years in education and trying to figure out what I wanted to do in life, am now working in the television industry, currently for ITV.

I have worked on quite a few well known shows at the BBC such as 'Strictly Come Dancing', 'Any Dream Will do' and 'I'd do anything'. In these I got to do some camera work,

worked in the studios and helped mainly in the post production department logging tapes. Since leaving the BBC, my role has changed to one where I take care of the Post Production library which hosts many shows such as 'Come Dine With Me', 'Marco's Great British Feast' and 'Headcases'. The role also helps me prepare the way to become an edit assistant and I get on the job training in things like digitising footage, producing DVDs and other technical things. I eventually want to use my experience gained to become a television editor.

• **Tom Lane**

Don't Forget...

The SOSA Annual Reunion - Fri 24th to Sun 26th Oct

Please contact Nick Bennett beforehand to confirm current dates and times

We would love to see you all there!

The Other Sibford!

Did you know there is another Sibford in Australia?

We did not know until just before we went to Australia for the first time in 1978 when a member of our Meeting, Winifred Hyde, told us that her brother had started a farm there.



Both Winifred and her brother were Sibford Old Scholars, Winifred being at the school in the early 1920's and her brother Horace Nicholl some years before. We were given Horace's son Colin's address as Horace had sadly died and we have visited the farm the four times we have been to Australia, the latest visit being in April this year, 2008.

During World War I, Horace had worked on minesweepers in the Navy, but then emigrated to Australia and worked on one or two farms, before taking up the Australian Government offer to have just over a 1,000 acres of bushland to clear for farming. His first land was near the small town of Hyden, about 250 miles east of the city of Perth. Here there are extensive masses of granite rock that have been sculpted by the wind and the area is now a tourist attraction of Western Australia. Most spectacular is Wave Rock but another granite cave is called Hippo's Yawn and it was heard that Horace first camped until he had found the stake pegs marking his land.

This area is part of the sheep and wheat belt of Western Australia but the small amount of land originally cleared was not adequate in this low rainfall climate and Colin Nicholl, with his wife Sally, now farm some 13,000 acres with their homestead about 9 miles from Hyden. The farm fields, or as they call them paddocks, are much larger than anything we might expect here and their farm machinery is equally huge. They have cultivated both wheat and sheep but are considering ending their sheep involvement as it can be very labour intensive and now has poor financial returns.

Like all Australians they are prepared to try different approaches so that Sally has grown yabbies, which are like our crayfish, in some of their dams, and these can be sold to Kokerin, a country town south of Hyden from where they may be sold to places in Perth or exported to countries overseas. A dam, like a large square pond, can be dug out in any of the paddocks with contour banks directing water so that the

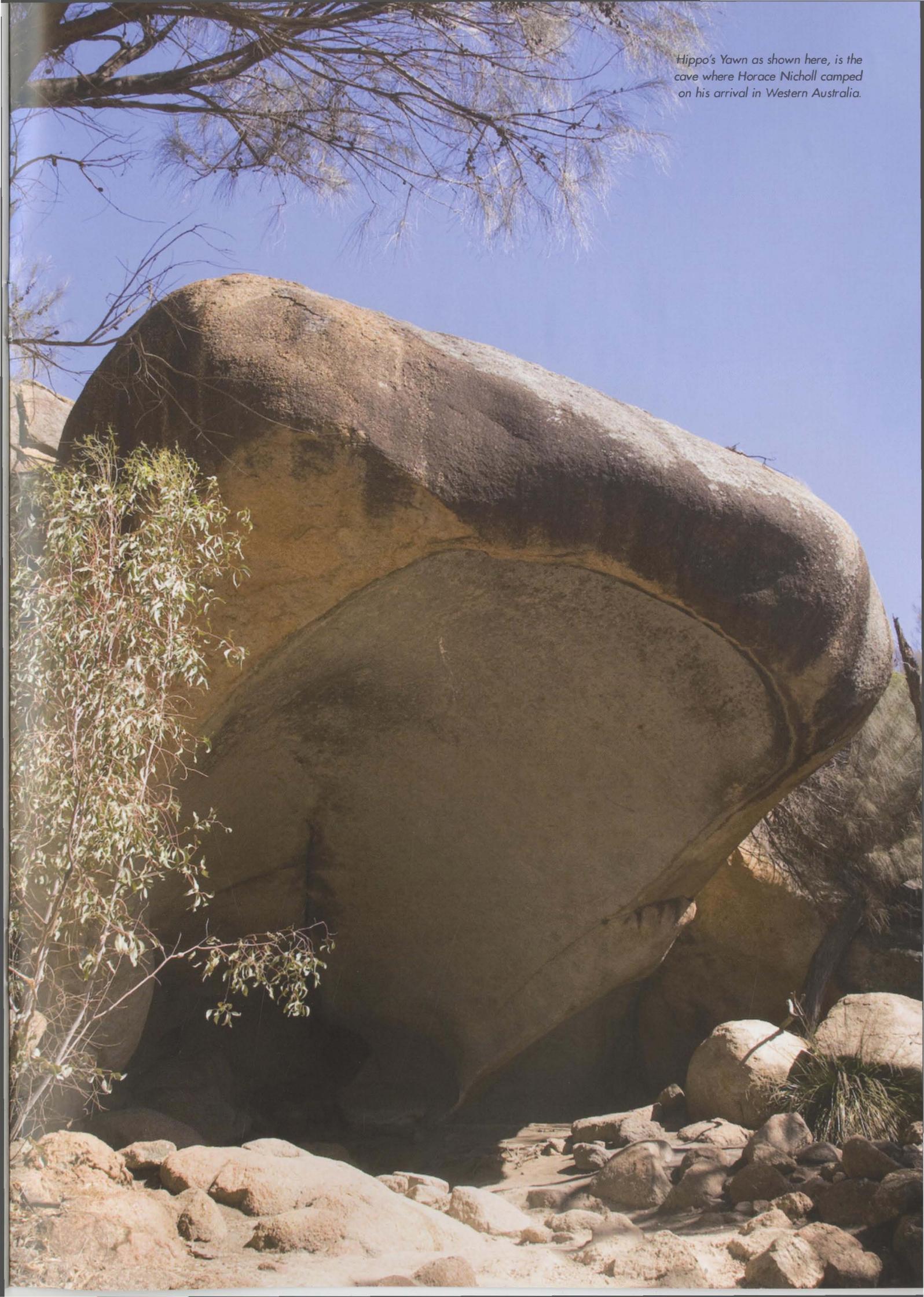
sheep can drink, but as there is a considerable area of granite on their own land they have dams there which supply water for the farm – though there is never as much rainfall as they would wish. Just before we visited one of their dams which they had stocked with fish, that were maturing to a good size, had dried up and the fish had died. Fortunately soon after we left they had a good rainfall and were able to start drilling their wheat. They call their combine harvesters "headers" as, unlike our crops, the wheat only grows to a height of about 40 cm. Now, at the end of May, they tell us they have almost finished seeding 10,000 acres with wheat and some feed barley for the sheep.

Colin, Horace's son, has been influential in the Farming community in Western Australia and was given a presentation in Perth for the good work he has done in the state of W.A. He is now a Director of the Australian Wheat Board which meets in Melbourne. This time while we were at 'Sibford' we were not able to meet him as he had only just flown back to Perth, and though he had wanted to come straight back to the farm Sally and their youngest daughter, Tracey, managed to persuade him to go to this W.A. Annual dinner as the presentation was to be a surprise!

We have been so lucky to see a different side of Australian life with our visits to 'Sibford' and to have been the recipients of their wonderful Australian hospitality.

Written by Jean Osborne (Nee Sinclair)
at Sibford School between 1936 -1939

Hippo's Yawn as shown here, is the cave where Horace Nicholl camped on his arrival in Western Australia.





Sibford School

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