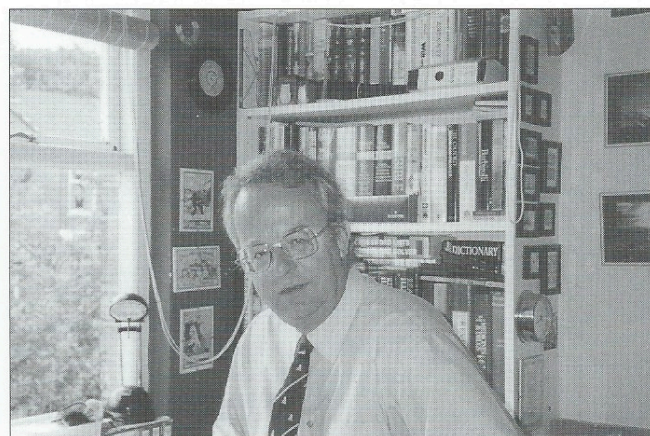


the H U L M E I A N



1997

THE HULMEIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

“O yonge, fresshe folkes, he or she!”

Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde.

“Haec olim meminisse juvabit.”

(“One day we shall be glad to remember these things.”)

Virgil, Aeneid, I, 203.

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Mr B J Purvis, seventh Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School.

Bryan Purvis, BSc, MSc was educated at Tynemouth High School, Bedford College, University of London and Durham University. He began teaching at St. Joseph's Grammar Technical School, Hebburn-upon-Tyne in 1969. He worked at the King's School, Tynemouth as Head of Biology, Director of Studies and finally Deputy Headmaster until 1993. He was Headmaster of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys from 1993 to 1997. He is married with two daughters and one son.

WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

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Vice-Chairman:

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E.B. Jackson, Esq., F.C.A.

Governors:

Canon M. Arundel, M.A.

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A. Sturrock, Esq., LL.B.

Mrs. M.J. Taylor, O.B.E., B.A., Dip.Ed.

Miss M.J. Vale M.S.C., M.R.Pharm.S.

P.F. Veitch, F.C.A.

Support Staff:

Clerk to Governors: J.M. Shelmerdine

Director of Curriculum: H.N. Beggs, M.A., University of Wales

Librarian: Mrs. M. Evans, B.A., A.L.A.

Bursar: Commander M.H. Peters, F.F.A., M.I.P.M., M.Inst.M., R.N.

Medical Officer: A. Wilson, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.

ACADEMIC STAFF

Head Master: B J Purvis, BSc, MSc, Bedford College, University of London and University of Durham

Second Master: M Loveland, BSc, University of Liverpool

Assistant Masters and Mistresses

M R Booker, BSc, University of Manchester, AFIMA, (*Head of Mathematics*)
M D Wood, BSc, University of Manchester, (*House Master, Dalton: Coordinator of Time-table*)
P J Callaghan, MA, New College, Oxford, (*Head of History*)
J A Clark, MA, PhD, Exhibitioner, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, BSc, Open University, Maths, (*Head of Chemistry*)
G L Bennett, BA, CertEd, University of Manchester, (*Art*)
D G Barnes, BSc, PhD, University of Manchester, (*Head of Sciences*)
D M Fisher, BA, University of Manchester, (*OC CCF; House Master, Fraser; Modern Langs.*)
R S Moore, BSc, University of Manchester, (*Head of Biology*)
G J Turner, MA, Scholar, Christ's College, Cambridge, (*Head of German*)
M I Barker, BSc, PhD, University of Durham, (*Head of Physics*)
C MacLachlan, MA, University of Glasgow, BLitt, Balliol College, Oxford, (*Head of Classics, Coordinator of Information Technology*)
R A Ballantyne, MA, University of Aberdeen, (*Director of Academic Studies*)
C H Seddon, BEd, University of Leeds, (*Head of Physical Education*)
L Sharp, BSc, University of Manchester, (*House Master, Heywood; Mathematics*)
A Simkin, MA, Scholar, Jesus College, Oxford, (*Head of Sixth Form*)
Mrs L A Ballantyne, BA, University of Manchester, MIL, (*Head of French*)
M H Gracey, MA, MLitt, Exhibitioner, Brasenose College, Oxford, (*Classics*)
P M Bull, BA, University of Manchester, (*Head of Spanish*)
A Greenall, GRIC, Manchester, FCS, (*Chemistry*)
J G Hofton, BA, University of Leeds, (*Head of Modern Languages*)
J H Thomson, BSc, University of Manchester, (*Physics*)
H N Veevers, BSc, University of Liverpool, (*House Master, Gaskell; Head of Geology*)
M P Jones, BA, University of Lancaster, (*Head of Arts, i/c Government and Politics*)
A E Watson, BA, MA, University of Liverpool, (*English*)
N P Dunn, BEd, De La Salle College, (*Head of Design; House Master, Byrom*)
G H Jones, BA, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (*i/c General Studies; Geography*)
Mrs G M Brown, BSc, University of London, (*Head of Middle School; Mathematics*)
Mrs T Pollard, BEd, IM Marsh College of PE, Liverpool, (*Head of Lower School; Physical Education*)
D A Myers, BSc, University of Wales, Cardiff, MSc, University of Durham, MIBiol, (*House Master, Whitworth; Biology*)
Miss J Barlow, BEd, Chelsea School of Human Movement, Brighton Polytechnic (*Physical Education*)
P R Hewston, BA Manchester Polytechnic (*i/c Economics and Business Studies*)
Miss J F Smith BSc, University of Bradford, (*Deputy Head of Sixth Form; Mathematics*)
Miss S R Tandon, BA, University of Birmingham, (*History*)
Mrs J A Worthington, BA, University of Sheffield (*Oxford and Cambridge Universities Applications; Classics*)
Mrs H Hesp, BSc, UMIST, (*Physics*)
Mrs S M Watson, BSc, UMIST, (*Chemistry*)
P W Goodwin, ARMC, ARNCM, (*Director of Music*)
J H Hardy, BSc, University of Manchester, (*Head of Geography*)
G Addison, BSc, University of Lancaster, (*Mathematics and Theoretical Physics*)
Miss H P Kelly, BSc, University of Liverpool, (*Mathematics*)
M C Gorman, BA, University of Nottingham, (*English*)
Miss E L Matthews, BSc, University of London, (*Biology*)
Mrs J F Swindlehurst, BA, University of Birmingham, (*English*)
P G J Welch, BSc, University of Manchester, (*Biology*)
C Cotton, BA, MA, MPhil, Keble College, Oxford, (*Physics*)
Miss A Boothroyd, BA, University of Staffordshire, (*Art*)
A C Crane, BA, University of Hull, (*Deputy Head of Lower School; Modern Languages*)
Miss L C Derby, BA, University of Leeds, (*English*)
Mrs L Hampson, BA, University of Leeds, (*Modern Languages*)
T P Heavisides, BA, University College, Cardiff, MA, University of Sheffield, (*Head of English*)
Miss R J Minto, MA, New Hall, Cambridge, (*Modern Languages*)
A R Austen, BSc, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, (*Warden, Harris House, Hardraw; Geography*)
S C Parkin, BA, Magdalene College, Cambridge, (*English*)
Miss A J Raw, BSc, Manchester Polytechnic, (*Geography*)
B S Swales, BA, University College of Ripon and York St John (*i/c Religious Education*)
J R Wise, BA, University College of North Wales, (*English*)
A J Mackenzie, BSc, The Roehampton Institute, (*Physical Education*)
C J Wolsey, BA, MA, University of Lancaster, (*History*)
G N Grant, Diploma, Loughborough College, (*Design*)
Mrs I B Wright, Staatsexamen, University of Hamburg, (*Modern Languages*)
Dr J Keable, BSc, PhD, University of Durham, (*Chemistry*)
Mrs C A Williams, BSc, University of Manchester, MPhil, University of London, (*Physics*)
Mrs B M Beardwood, BSc, University of Reading, (*Mathematics*)
Miss F V Collier, BA, Sheffield Hallam University, (*Business Studies & Economics*)
Miss C S Day, B Mus, University of London, (*Music*)
Srta S Reyero-Cascallana, Licenciada en Filosofía y Letras (Filología), Diplomada en EGB en Fil. Ingl. (Alicante), (*Spanish Assistant*)
Mlle C Kuntzel, (*French Assistante*), L-ès-L., University of Nice

Preparatory Department

Mrs C G Wilson, BA, The Open University, *Head of Department*
Mrs A McKay, BEd, University of Manchester, BA, The Open University.
Mrs D Romaniszyn, BEd, Endsleigh College, Hull.
Mrs P Ferguson, CertEd, University of Manchester.
Miss T Alexander, BA, University of Ulster.
A Taylor, BSc, University of Loughborough.
Miss W L Harrison, BEd, Trinity College, University of Wales.
Miss A Adamson, ALCM, LLCM, Dip Band Mus, (*Music*)
Mrs C Iddin, MIDTA, ISTD, RAD, (*Dance*)
Mrs T Chidley, CertEd, University of Southampton (*Science and Swimming*)

Director of Curriculum: H N Beggs, MA, University of Wales

Librarian: Mrs M Evans, BA, ALA

Bursar: Commander M H Peters, FFA, MIPD, MInstM, Royal Navy

Medical Officer: A Wilson, MB, ChB

Note: Male members of staff are listed without their titles (Mr, Dr. etc). Female members are given their titles.

Chairman of the North-West Division of HMC. During the ten years to April 1997, Patrick Briggs' first challenge was to oversee the change of make up of the School from a Boys' Grammar School to a Co-educational Grammar School. The first group of girls joined the Sixth Form in 1987 and girls first came into the First Year in September 1988. Those who joined the Junior School then are well into their university education and William Hulme's Grammar School is truly a co-educational establishment. With co-education came building changes. During Patrick Briggs' Headship an ambitious programme of renovation and building took place. The Changing Room Block and the refurbishment of the Swimming Pool started that programme in the late 80's. Plans to change the curriculum were steered through many discussion meetings. These changes and a desire to reduce numbers of pupils in Middle School classes required an increase in the number of teaching rooms the School needed. The new Modern Languages and Information Technology Block was planned and when built, allowed all academic departments to expand a little to accommodate the larger number of smaller teaching groups. The Language Block, named after the benefactor Sir John Zochonis, was opened on 25th June 1993 by HRH Princess Royal. Patrick Briggs, I believe, felt a sense of pride in his School when this building was opened. Within this, new computer facilities were installed to allow all pupils access to this technology. Pupils from the First Year are introduced to the computer system and to them its use as they move through the School is second nature.

More recently William Hulme's Grammar School has acquired a Preparatory Department in taking Amberleigh under its wing. Plans to move this department on the Main School site were to be Patrick Briggs' next project.

During his Headship Patrick Briggs was able to devote time to his interests in sport and was Coach of Manchester RUFC and Manager of England Students RFU from 1988-95. He toured with them to Canada and Italy.

It came as a considerable surprise when he announced to his teaching colleagues that he had accepted the appointment as Principal of Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar and early in April of this year, he and his wife, Alicia, left to take up that position. We wish him well in this new challenge and look back to his Headship at William Hulme's Grammar School as one which laid the foundations of a new direction for the School as a Co-educational Grammar School.

M. Loveland

COLIN LANGFORD

Colin Langford has spent most of his life at William Hulme's Grammar School. He is one of those rare members of our community who joined as a pupil and then returned to teach. He has built a career serving the School for the whole of his working lifetime. He first came to William Hulme's in 1954 as a member of 1B, progressed through the School and joined the Sixth Form to study French, German and Latin. In 1961 he became a School Prefect and Head of Byrom House. He was



Mr Langford: Steeple, April 1970

involved then, as in his teaching career, in many academic and sporting interests. He gained a Hulme Exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford to read Modern Languages and graduated from Oxford in 1965. Whilst there he played Lacrosse and became Captain of Lacrosse in the year 1964-65.

Following completion of a teaching diploma at Didsbury Training College, he joined William Hulme's in 1966 to teach Modern Languages. He became a First Year Form Master, a role he undertook for many years, and then in 1975 moved to a wider influence as House Master of Dalton, being responsible for the care of about 100 members of the House for five years. This is a task which involves the House Master as a sports team organiser and trainer, as the focus for inspiration and encouragement for the House dramatic and musical activities, but most importantly, as the thread of continuity running through the pupils'

lives at School. Colin influenced and supported many pupils during his Housemastership of Dalton. In 1980 W.L. Bonnick retired as Head of Junior School and Colin was appointed as his successor. He held this post until his retirement in April 1997. As Head of Junior School, he was responsible for the year by year intake of pupils. He received in September 120 pupils from nearly as many primary schools and within a few weeks, with the help of his team of Form Tutors, moulded them into Hulmeians. They grew in stature and confidence very quickly and this is due in no small part to the influence of Colin. He prided himself in knowing all members of the Junior School by name; he knew all their successes and their failures. He encouraged all to become self-reliant and to achieve their very best.

During the 31 years he was a Member of Staff, he taught French and German to all age levels. He was involved in countless walking expeditions to the Lake District, he took School parties to Paris, he camped in Scotland and took pupils to Germany. Other School trips with pupils took him to Norway, Austria and Morocco. Colin gave of his time unstintingly, he

NOTES AND NEWS

We were all deeply grieved and shocked at the death on Tuesday 24th June of Timothy Edwards of our Lower Sixth. A full obituary appears in this edition.

This year has been one of perhaps unprecedented staff changes in the School's history. At Easter Mr Briggs retired as Head Master to take up his new post as Head Master of Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar, Malaysia. Mr Loveland was Acting Head Master in the Midsummer Term. In September 1997, Mr. B.J. Purvis takes over as our new Head Master. At Easter, Mr Langford (O.H. 1954-62) retired after almost 31 years teaching here. Mrs Treharne followed suit in the Summer after 7 years here as the culmination of a lifetime in the profession; so did Mr McIntyre after 14 years here. Mr Dewhurst moves on to the Directorship of Music at Cheadle Hulme School, Mr Mallinder to full time professional Rugby and Mrs Howling to a new post at Loreto Grammar School in Altrincham.

Full tributes to all these colleagues appear in the edition. Five other lady colleagues also deserve thanks for their sterling service this year - Mrs Janet Elliott, who covered Mrs Hampson's two terms' maternity leave in Modern Languages; Mrs Patricia Ash, who covered most of Mr Langford's German and French timetable during the Midsummer Term; Mrs Elizabeth Lowry and Mrs Hazel Bates, who both covered P.E. for Miss Barlow during her illness this year; and Mlle Gaëlle Ginestet, our French Assistante this year. There are also two farewells to long serving senior members of the Support Staff, Mr. A. Telford, Clerk of Works since 1987 and Mr. T. Corfield, who has been our Head Porter for 11½ years. Again, full tributes to these two colleagues appear elsewhere in this edition.

In September 1997 we welcome to the teaching staff Mr. A.J. Mackenzie (Physical Education), Mr. C.J. Wolsey (History), Miss. C.S. Day (Music) and Mlle. C. Kuntzel (French Assistante).

There have been several internal staff promotions. In April Mrs. Pollard succeeded Mr. Langford as Head of Lower School; Mr Crane is now Deputy Head of Lower School. In September 1997, Mr Dunn became Head of Design, Mr Goodwin Director of Music and Miss Smith Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Miss Minto becomes the second lady House Mistress of Dalton House.

On 1st February 1997, Amberleigh Preparatory School in Chorlton became William Hulme's Grammar School Preparatory Department. We used to have a Prep. Department from 1908 until 1964; now we are pleased to have one again under its Head Mistress, Mrs Caryll Wilson.

Speech Day was held in the new Bridgewater Hall on Wednesday September 18th; the Principal Speaker was Sir John Manduell, C.B.E., Past Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music. The Founder's Day Service was held on 4th March 1997 in Manchester Cathedral; the Preacher was the Right Revd. Christopher Mayfield, Bishop of Manchester, and the Anthem was Mr Goodwin's own setting of "The Church's one Foundation".

For the School year 1996/97 S.J. Cochrane and J.T. O'Keefe were Joint Heads of School.. School Prefects were: P. Badesha, R. Beenstock, G.R. Brocklehurst, G.M. Brook, E.M. Choularton, J.H. De Freitas, M.J. Dodd, L.F. Edwards, V. Fleming, D.S. Gilbert, R.C. Goodwin, J.A. Gordon, A. Greenall, C.J. Hewison, L.E. Ives, S.L.K. Johnson, S.E. Khosneviszadeh, J.A. Lawson, R.T. Porter, R.M. Seddon, C.H. Shaw, A.C. de Silva, J.T.P. Silver, R.H. Westbrook, K.L. Williams and V.L. Williams.

The biennial CCF Inspection took place on Thursday 3rd October 1996. The Inspecting Officer was Lieutenant Colonel David Tasker TD JP, Commanding Officer 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion the King's Regiment. This is the Regiment to which our CCF is affiliated and whose capbadge we wear.

We congratulate the following students on their Oxford and Cambridge places: at Oxford Emma Weeden to read Modern Languages (Spanish and Italian) at St Hugh's, and at Cambridge Sarah Cochrane to read Veterinary Medicine at Trinity.

Charities Week this year raised £8,300 for Petty Pool Outdoor Centre for physically and mentally disabled children. (Details on page 43).

We congratulate Mr & Mrs. M.P. Jones on the birth of their son Dominic Matthew, Mr & Mrs Hampson on the birth of their son Sebastian Anthony, and Mr and Mrs Austen as well as Mr and Mrs Addison on their respective marriages.

Mr Mallinder, who leaves us this year (see above), has been Sports Editor of the "Hulmeian" since 1990, and we thank him for his fine service to the magazine these seven years.

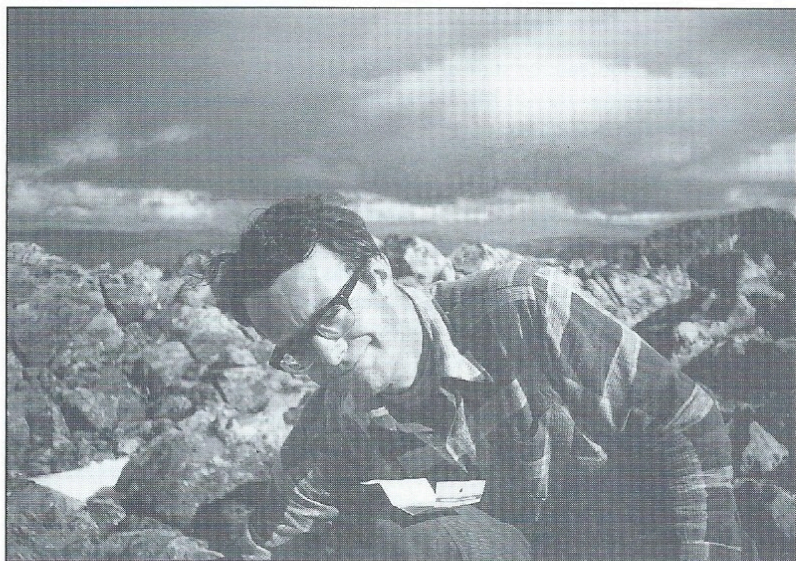
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P.D. BRIGGS

Patrick Briggs was appointed Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School in September 1987. He was educated at Pocklington School in York and read English Literature at Christ's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1963. He then completed his Certificate of Education in 1964.

Patrick Briggs was a sportsman of note and played Rugby for the Barbarians FC, Headingley RUFC and Middlesbrough RUFC. He captained the Midlands Division, gained a Cambridge Blue and was an England Trialist. Cricket was his other sporting love; he played for Cambridge University and was awarded his County Caps by Cheshire CCC and Bedfordshire CCC. At Bedford School he was involved in the life of the Boarding House and became Senior House Master in 1982. He was Officer Commanding of the Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force and was involved with all school sporting activity.

On his appointment to William Hulme's Grammar School he joined a group of Heads of Independent Schools in the North-West and during his time as Head Master he was the North-West Membership Representative of the HMC and

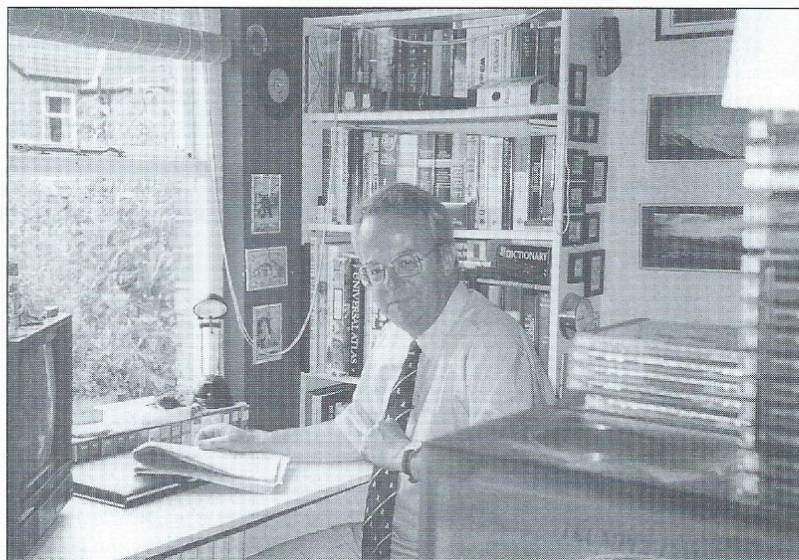


Mr Langford in Norway, August 1974

was responsible week in week out for sports teams during each term - the U12 and U13 rugby, U12-U15 cricket and Lacrosse teams of all ages. In 1994 Colin was honoured by the Old Hulmeians' Association in being invited to be their President. This recognition by the Old Hulmeians speaks highly of the respect in which he is held and was a well deserved accolade. In April of this year Colin decided to retire and to devote himself to his more personal hobbies. He is enjoying his walking, his music, his cricket as an umpire and his stamp collection.

We are grateful to him for all he has done in his many years in teaching and supporting pupils throughout the School. I wish to add my own thanks to him for the unswerving support he has given me for many years. We all wish him and his wife, Mary, a long and happy retirement.

M. Loveland



Mr Langford
(Photo: Mary Humphreys)



Mr Langford with his Under 12's Lacrosse Team 1966-7

IOLA. E.G. TREHARNE

Iola Treharne had a varied career in teaching before she joined the staff of William Hulme's Grammar School. After graduating from the University of Wales (where she was a contemporary of Mr. Beggs) she spent most of her career teaching in Welsh Secondary Schools, including seventeen years as Head of History at Queens Elizabeth Maridunum in Carmarthen. She is a prominent figure in the Welsh examinations system: she is an A level examiner, and worked with others revising and developing new A level syllabuses in the late 1980's. She also examines for the Associated Examining Board, and was for some years a lecturer with the Open University for its Arts foundation course.



Mrs Treharne

After a short period working on a South Manchester newspaper Iola joined the History Department in 1990. She has developed an A level course on her special interest, Tudor England and the Reformation, which has become increasingly popular over the years. She has stretched the most able students while at the same time being sympathetic to the needs of those who were less confident. Her examination results are a tribute to the thoroughness of her teaching. At another level, her First year pupils have shared in her keen interest in the Native Peoples of North America.

Iola has been fully involved in the life of the School. She became Deputy Head of the Sixth Form in 1992, and has organised the School's Oxford and Cambridge entry for some years. The contacts she has made at these universities, and her knowledge of the entry requirements of various colleges, have been invaluable for our students. She also served for five years as Chair of the Common Room, and during that time there has been a significant improvement in the facilities which the staff enjoy. The last event which she

organised, a Mediterranean evening and barbecue at the end of June, was widely judged to be one of the most successful events of its kind.

Iola has been a very committed and supportive member of the History Department. We shall remember her for her charm and her kindness and for her sense of humour. We thank her for her great contribution to the Department, and to the School, and wish her health and happiness for the future.

P.J. Callaghan.

PHILIP DEWHURST

Philip Dewhurst joined William Hulme's Grammar School in September 1991 having been Assistant Director of Music and Director of Music at Birkenhead School and at King Edward VII School at Lytham. He brought with him a zest for music making and a desire to enthuse children to use whatever musical talents they possessed to bring, or to give, pleasure to themselves as players and to others as listeners.

Philip was at school in Bolton and took his degree at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he specialised in performance, and he completed his teaching certificate at Didsbury. Philip's skills as an oboist have offered him many opportunities to give recitals as well as to play with many orchestras.

From the moment he arrived at William Hulme's Grammar School Philip set out to build a team of musicians to bring music to the whole School. He inspired those about him to bring the concert band, the brass group and jazz band, the recorder group and the choir to play with skill and confidence. Informal concerts and evening recitals give a newcomer to public performances the opportunity to play, often for the very first time, to a sympathetic audience. Many of these players develop into outstanding musicians, taking their places in bands as



Mr Dewhurst

soloists or as group players. Philip was involved in the productions of major musicals, blending his talent with those involved with drama and stage, "Smike", "Grease", and finally this year "Little Shop of Horrors". The Speech Day and Founder's Day are set pieces in the School calendar and have been enhanced by the musical contributions of the band and choir. At the end of each term music has traditionally been a major part of the celebrations; Carol Services at St. Ann's and St. Werburgh's, concerts with Simon May and in the Manchester Cathedral to support 'Friends of Rosie' and concerts in School which involved the whole of the First Year singing such epics as "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", "Jonah Man Jazz" and "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo".

Philip was very keen to involve people of all ages in making music together. The Choral Society was just such a vehicle where first years, older pupils, staff and parents joined to sing together and then to perform with the School band, which was often strengthened when needed by professional musicians. To listen to the Choral Society singing with part of the Black Dyke Mills Band this summer was a delight. Another of his aims was to bring professional music making into School, not only for our benefit, but to encourage members of the public to come and join us. We enjoyed Michala Petri playing recorder, Andrew Wilde, Edward Barnwell and Martin Roscoe playing the piano, the Aldephi Saxophone Quartet, Quinessential Brass, the Temperance Seven and the Black Dyke Mills Band. The variety and quality of the music, when we look back over what was a relatively short span of 6 years, was memorable. All of these events are broadly extra-curricular and must not detract from the day by day teaching. Music has now its place well established in the first three years and is gaining as an academic subject at GCSE and GCE. Each year pupils have been taken to concerts locally and during the past three summers Philip has taken the concert band abroad to play in Belgium, Austria and the French Alps. These are experiences those who have taken part in will not forget.

William Hulme's has much to thank Philip for; his teaching, his inspiration of others and his enthusiasm. We will remember him for all of these and thank him for what he has given us. We wish him well in his new post at Cheadle Hulme School and give our best wishes to his wife, Katherine and his family.

M. Loveland

MR. J. MCINTYRE

July 1997 marks the end of one of the longest and most successful temporary appointments in the history of William Hulme's Grammar School. Jim McIntyre joined the Chemistry department for the Summer term in 1983, and to the great benefit and delight of many Hulmeians stayed with us until this year. He brought with him a vast experience as a former head of department and senior teacher but much more importantly a great enthusiasm for his subject and a tremendous sense of humour. The episode of the Lab. Coat, the Red Nose and the Double-Sided Sticky Tape will live on in the memory of all who witnessed it for many years.

Jim McIntyre also brought with him a reassuring air of reliability. It was always something of a shock to realise that he was not a full-time member of staff: many of his colleagues were unaware of this and certainly none of his pupils. He was teaching right to the end of the last period of term in a way which leaves his present pupils regretting that he will not be there for the next chemistry lesson.

A great teacher and a wonderful colleague, we wish Jim and his wife a long, active and very happy retirement.

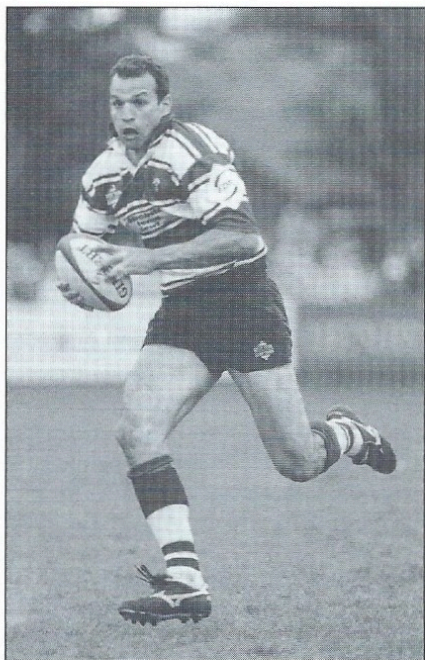
J.A. Clark

D.J. MALLINDER

Jim Mallinder joined the Department of Physical Education teaching P.E. and Mathematics in September 1988 direct from The Carnegie School of Physical Education, Leeds Metropolitan University. From the outset, it was apparent that the School had appointed an honest, energetic teacher who was to prove popular with both pupils and colleagues alike.

Jim's career within the School flourished and diversified. He was a form tutor, successful coach to the 1st XV, teacher of four ski trips to Europe, Sports Editor of The Hulmeian, Master in charge of numerous Sevens squads to the Rosslyn Park Festival and the 1st XV tour to the USA in 1990 and coach to Junior School cricket teams. In 1994 he took over the organisation of Senior games, liaising closely with colleagues running various activities and the House Masters. This is a position requiring tact and diplomacy but sometimes Jim's blunt Yorkshire dialogue proved more effective than diplomacy.

Jim's successful teaching career was being mirrored by an equally successful "career" with Sale R.U.F.C which he joined from Roundhay in 1989. In the days of amateur rugby, Jim gained Yorkshire and North of England selection playing against many touring International teams including South Africa and New Zealand. As a member of the Anti Assassins squad he toured South Africa in 1994. In 1995 he was elected Captain of Sale, a position he still holds, and his rugby career continued to progress into the professional era, as he gained three caps for England 'A' against Queensland, Scotland and France.



Mr Mallinder
(Photo: Peter Barton, Freelance Photographer
(N.U.J.), Sale)

Jim was selected on to the provisional squad for the 1997 British Lions tour to South Africa, and although he missed out on final selection the whole School was delighted when he gained a place on the England tour to Argentina. During this tour Jim was rewarded with two full international caps.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Rugby, Jim was selected as the Manchester Evening News North West Celebrity of the Month (March) and was presented with The Old Hulmeians Sports Person of the year award at the annual dinner.

It was inevitable that Jim would have to make a difficult decision and choose between teaching and Rugby in the ever more demanding era of professionalism. Sales gain is William Hulme's loss.

To Jim, his wife Karen and son Harry go our sincere good wishes for the future and our thanks for the varied and valued contribution made to so many aspects of School life.

C.H. Seddon

G.H. Jones

MRS JOANNA HOWLING

Jo came to the School as Miss Knowles and left as Mrs Howling. The changes in her private life were no greater than the ones she brought about in the Classics Department. Jo came to WHGS from Kings School, Macclesfield, where she started her teaching career. She wanted the opportunity of teaching more Greek which the School offered. Not only did she teach Greek, she taught with great enthusiasm and success the full range of Classics subjects and introduced some new topics to the Classical Studies course: Greek Art and Women in Antiquity. Her fresh approach and innovations had a significant effect on the Department. She introduced and organised the Latin Drama Festival for First Formers and arranged trips to the British Museum for her Classical Studies pupils. Her teaching was not confined to the Classics Department, she also made valuable contributions to the teaching of First Year English and Games.

Whatever Jo did, she did willingly and with a commitment which made her popular with pupils and colleagues alike. Despite the brevity of her stay at WHGS, she made many friends and when she left she could say with full justification: veni, vidi, vici.

C. MacLachlan

* * * *

OBITUARY

TIMOTHY C. EDWARDS

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Tim's death in School on June 24th 1997. Tim was a member of LMRB and the Whitworth House and had contributed to many aspects of the life of our Sixth Form.

His academic prowess was well known and he was just beginning to think his way ahead to what promised to be a successful University career reading Physics. Tim was involved in many extra-curricular activities; he was a sergeant in the RAF Section of the CCF, House Prefect, he played the clarinet and saxophone in the School Bands and Rugby for the 1st XV.

His funeral service at Lymm Parish Church on July 2nd was a celebration of his life and many members of the School Community joined his family and friends to remember him.

M Loveland

WHGS PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

On February 1st this year, Amberleigh Preparatory School in Chorlton became the Preparatory Department of William Hulme's Grammar School. Nardene Scott of Junior 4 gives us a "pupil's eye view" of the merger:

The changing over from Amberleigh to William Hulme's has been quite exciting. The increase in facilities since the changeover is excellent. Since the changeover Junior Threes and Fours have been down to the Main School for two lessons and lunch. After we went swimming, we walked over to the Dining Hall where we had lunch. Then we had IT. We had to erase the wrong spellings and the wrong punctuation out of a passage about a holiday. In Science, Dr Barnes told us how light reflects, and he used a laser against the wall to experiment. We also made a pinhole camera which was fun.

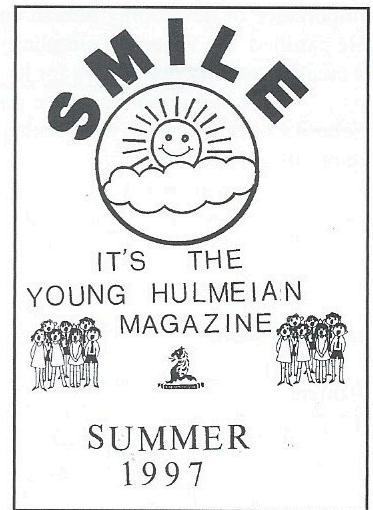
In Games on Fridays there are many more things the classes can do with all the facilities. Also Rounders on Thursdays is good because the field is much bigger than where we used to play.

The Tuck Shop has much more variety now and the dinners have begun to get a bit more exotic. Altogether the changeover was a brilliant idea and I'm proud to belong to William Hulme's.

Nardene Scott (Junior 4)
Preparatory Department.

Dates to Remember:

- 1908 Our former Preparatory Department first opened in present Staff Quiet Room (formerly Room 7).
- 1914 Preparatory Department moved to Peveril Mount, on the corner of Wilbraham Road and Alexandra Road South.
- 1925 Amberleigh Preparatory School opened. As yet, no connection with our School.
- 1964 Closure of William Hulme's Grammar School Preparatory Department at Peveril Mount.
- 1997 Amberleigh becomes new William Hulme's Grammar School Preparatory Department, at present still at 398, Wilbraham Road, Chorlton. Head Mistress: Mrs Caryll Wilson, who has already been at Amberleigh for 17 years.



Mrs Wilson and Mr Briggs flank six "Young Hulmeians"

SPEECH DAY 1996

This was an epoch-making Speech Day on Wednesday 18th September, since it was our first to be held in the brand new Bridgewater Hall, only a week after its inaugural concert and eleven weeks before its official opening by Her Majesty the Queen. (But we're used to this; our Zochonis Centre was in use for almost two terms in 1993 before it was opened by HRH the Princess Royal!). The guest Speaker was Sir John Manduell, CBE, Past Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music.

Opening the proceedings, Mr Boothman, Chairman of Governors, paid tribute to Mr Briggs' time as Head Master. He had presided over the transition to co-education, a visible improvement in academic results, school buildings in better physical condition and a more user-friendly relationship with pupils and parents.

The Head Master's main theme in his speech was music, and the arts in general, as one of the great expressions of the human spirit, reminding us that there is more to education than the acquisition of vocational qualifications, important though that is. Artistic expression, like other forms of self-expression such as sport or outdoor pursuits, depends on co-operation of head and hands; he elaborated at length on the creative use of our hands. He then proceeded to the usual review of the School year and tributes to departing colleagues, with particular emphasis on Mr Alan Blight's lifetime of dedicated service to the School. The Head Master concluded with reference to his own imminent departure the following Easter "after nearly 10 years of fulfilment and happiness."

Sir John Manduell presented the prizes and then addressed the School. He first echoed and elaborated on the importance of developing human emotions and sensibilities as technology assumes an ever more dominant role in our lives. He extolled the virtues of simplicity, and stressed the positive element in the meaning of the word amateur, one who pursues a creative activity out of love for it. He quoted the Latin tag "Musica fovet omnes" - "Music cherishes everyone".

This last aphorism were particularly appropriate in view of the splendid and extensive contribution made by the School Concert Band to the evening. Mr Goodwin's players could have been forgiven for being overawed by the venue. To quote from Philip Thomas' official guide to the Bridgewater Hall - "The design of the building was informed at every stage by acoustic considerations." But the revealing acoustic only served to highlight the band's excellent standard. Its programme deserves to be printed in full.

Opening Music

Fanfare	Goodwin
Te Deum	Charpentier, arr Goodwin

First Sequence

John Williams Trilogy (Jurassic Park; Schindler's List; Raiders' March)	Williams, arr. Moss
Going Home (from Local Hero)	Knopler, arr. Goodwin

Second Sequence

Amazing Grace	Trad. arr. Goodwin
Toccata	J.S. Bach, arr. Goodwin.

Sortie

Excerpts from "Les Misérables" and "Rock around the Clock".

(A propos the Bridgewater Hall, readers may not all be aware that the walls of this building do not at any point touch the ground; at the base of the walls there is a tiny gap running round its entire circumference. The whole building is like a mushroom, supported entirely by stout springs corresponding to the stalk, and the roof and walls to the fleshy "umbrella". This serves two purposes. It insulates the sound in the auditorium, and as with buildings in San Francisco it makes the Hall shock proof. These functions were put to the test under horrible circumstances on June 15th 1996, when the IRA bomb explosion was neither heard nor felt by those refurbishing the auditorium at the time.)

G.J. Turner.



The Band rehearsing for Speech Day at the Bridgewater Hall

* * * *

DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1995-96

AHERN, Lee A P
 AHUJA, Harpfeet
 AKBAR, Mohammed
 ASH, Victoria L
 BABINGTON, Claire S
 BAGNALL, Paul
 BARNES, Christina L
 BARTLETT, Michael N A
 BERRISFORD, Hannah L
 BIRTWISTLE, Michael J
 BURNEY, Sam B
 BUTTERWORTH, Ian J
 CAINE, Alice
 CARULLI, Marcus J
 CHEUNG, Martin M-W
 CHOUDARY, Zia
 CHOUDRY, Amna
 CLYNE, Robert A
 CUNNINGHAM, John Alexander
 DÉ, Shivaji
 ECKERSALL, Robert J
 ENGLAND, Richard
 FARRELL, Andrew J
 FLATMAN, Jonathan P
 GARNER, Richard J B
 GENT, Daniel J

University of Northumbria
 London University (King's)
 6th Form College
 Leeds University
 Nottingham Trent University

 Nottingham University
 Durham University
 Lancaster University
 Sheffield University
 Oxford University (Balliol)
 Durham University
 Birmingham University
 Manchester Metropolitan University
 Aston University
 Leeds University
 Abbey Tutorial College
 Leeds University
 Edinburgh University
 UMIST
 Lancaster University
 UMIST
 Nottingham University
 BICC
 Re-applying
 Leeds University

Design/Design History
 Law
 A Levels
 Pharmacology
 Modern Languages & Communications

 Psychology
 Modern Languages
 Primary Education/English
 Geography
 PPE
 Modern Languages
 B.Comm
 Mechanical Engineering (Foundation)
 International Business/German
 Chemical Engineering
 A Levels
 Computer Science/Management Studies
 Geology
 International Management/German
 American Studies
 Mechanical Engineering (Foundation)
 Economics with German
 Year in Industry

 Engineering

GEREZDI, Carl	Manchester University	Geology
GHAZI, Nicholas B	Oxford University (St Catherine's)	Modern History
GOLDMAN, Howard S	Leeds University	Management Studies
GOODWIN, Ian R	West of England University, Bristol	B.Ed (Primary Education)
HADFIELD, Stephen A	Leeds University	Chemistry/Management Studies
HAQQANI, Ehsan M	Abbey Tutorial College	A Levels
HARGREAVE, Geoffrey A B	Sheffield Hallam University	Urban Land Economics
HARRIS, Daniel	Birmingham University	Law
HASLAM, Andrew J	Salford University	Modern Languages/Marketing
HAWCROFT, Karen E	Re-applying	
HOLDEN, Andrew J	Nottingham University	Chemical Engineering
HOLDER, Sarah J	Essex University	Psycholinguistics
HOPE, Carl J	Leeds University	Classics
HUFTON, David A	Oxford University (Merton)	Mech. Engineering
HYAMS, Abby F	Bristol University	Medicine
IKRAM, Osman J	Manchester Metropolitan University	Accounting/Finance
ILLINGWORTH, Louise	Manchester Metropolitan University	Applied Human Communications
INABA, Junji	Cambridge University (Trinity)	Mathematics
IP, Caroline W-Y	Univ. of Central Eng. in Birmingham	Business Admin.
IRSHAD, Ambriene M	Manchester Metropolitan University	Applied Biological Sciences
JAISSWAL, Sujoy	Leeds University	Medicine
JAMAL, Mazhar K	Manchester University	Computer Science
JOHNSON, David A	Aston University	European & Computer Studies
KAN, Chun-Kit A	UMIST	Mechanical Engineering (Foundation)
KAPIYR, Namit	Nottingham University	Electronic Engineering & Japanese
KHAN, Kamron N	Cambridge University (Fitzwilliam)	Medical Science
KHAN, M Imran	Aston University	Mech. Engineering
KHAN, Qaisra M	Cambridge University (Magdalene)	Law
LAMB, Richard C	Cambridge University (Magdalene)	Computer Science
LEWIS, Joel	University of Wales - Cardiff	Business Economics
LITHERLAND, Carrie S	University of Central Lancashire	
LOWRY, Darren	Leeds Univ. (Trinity & All Saints)	History/Management
MCCARTHY, Shaun P	Salford University	Geography
MCCURRIE, Bernadette	St Thomas Aquinas Sixth Form Coll.	A Levels
MACLEAN, Stewart J	University of Derby	Sociology
MASON, Natalie D	Salford University	Building Surveying
MASSEL, Darren H	Leeds Metropolitan University	Computing
MOLAJO, Adeyinka G	University of St Andrews	Medical Science
MOSLEY, Debra K	Birmingham University	Business/Hispanic St
MURPHY, Paul N	Hull University	Computer Science
NICHOLSON, Ellen	London - University College	Geology
NOOR, Rahala K	University of St Andrews	Medicine
NUNNEY, Andrew C	Univ. Coll. of North Wales, Bangor	Chemistry
ONYEMEM, Emma-Lou A	Durham University	Chemistry
OWEN, Laura R	London - Queen Mary & Westfield	English & History
PATEL, Ankish	Aston University	Pharmacy
PATEL, Shinal N	Aston University	Business Administration
PEARSON, Jeffrey H	University of Wales - Cardiff	Engineering (Foundation)
PIERCE, Anthony I	Sheffield Hallam University	Business Studies
POHOOMULL, Vinnie	UMIST	International Management/American Studies
POWER, Darnel P	UMIST	Commercial Management/Quantity Surveying
PRIESTNER, Vivienne J	Leeds University	History
QUYOUM, Sadaf		
RAHMAN, Sadia	Manchester Metropolitan University	Law
RAHMAN, Tanveer	Oxford University (Exeter)	Economics & Management
RAJA, S Naila J	Re-applying	
RALSTON, Helen A	University of Newcastle	Biological Sciences
RAMPAL, Geeta S	Lancaster University	English Literature
ROBINSON, Joshua M E	Edinburgh University	Medicine
ROYDS, Matthew T	Edinburgh University	Medicine
SCHOLES, Michael J H	Leeds Metropolitan University	American Studies
SEHAT, Mehrdad R	Leeds University	Dentistry
SHROOT, Louise K	Leeds University	Mathematical Studies
STEPHENSON, Sophia	Mancat	Secretarial Studies
STRUDWICK, Richard J A	Liverpool University	Geology
TAYLOR, Darnel I	Bristol University	Physics/Astrophysics
TAYLOR, James A	Bristol University	Classics
TAYLOR, Thomas M	Salford University	Building Surveying
VINE, Andrew G S	Nottingham University	Law
WARHURST, Alexander J T	Heriot-Watt University	Computer Science
ZATMAN, Daniel M	Re-applying	

PRIZE LIST 1997

SPECIAL PRIZES

Anderson English Essay Prize: J.E. Gregory
 Aspinall Religious Knowledge: C.N.D. Narnor
 C.H. Jones Prize: S.E. Khoshneviszadeh
 Colin Midwood Prize: E.M. Choularton & S.J. Cochrane
 Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize: S.E. Khoshneviszadeh
 Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize: K.L. Williams
 D.L.L. Griffiths Medical Subjects: E. Amir
 D.M. Williams Memorial Music: D.J. Johnston
 Eric Barnes Memorial Prize and Trophy: S.R. Johnson
 Geoffrey Cocker Memorial Prize: J.M. Shaw
 Graham Johnson Memorial Prize: L.F. Edwards
 Hillyard Cup and Prize: G.M. Brook
 J.A. Barber Prize: G.R. Brocklehurst
 E.B. Jackson Prize: S.L.K. Johnson
 Gozzard Prize for Craft: E. Chui
 J.N. Hopwood Reading (Senior): L-M. Edwards
 J.N. Hopwood Reading (Junior): S.G. Turnberg
 Junior History Prize: N.Ahmed
 The Library Award: C.J. Ashley & C.A.E. Zoeftig
 Prize for Original Verse (Sixth Form): J.S. Leinhardt
 Prize for Original Verse (Middle & Junior): M. Ahmed
 Powell Prize for Reading in Assembly: V. Fleming
 The Watkins Prize: S.J. Cochrane & J.T. O'Keefe
 The Yates Prize: K.S. Bagley
 The Caswell Prize: P.A. Beales
 The Woollam Scholarship: F.H. Chaudhri

UPPER SIXTH

Allman Further Mathematics: P.A. Beales
 Classical Studies: D.S. Gilbert
 Dehn History: R.M. Loudon
 Design: J.A. Gordon
 Design: A.S.M. Xidacis
 Dorrington Latin: C.E. Alderson
 The Rodgers Prize, Business Studies: A.H. Marks
 Eastwood Geology: F.M.I.C. Matthews
 Hewlett Geography: P. Holt
 Kuoop English Language: E.G. Heynes
 Kuoop English Literature: E.L.C. Weeden
 Lymer Mathematics: L.E. Ives
 O.H.A. Biology: S.J. Cochrane
 Palmer Chemistry: E. Amir
 Palmer Physics: P.A. Beales
 Pankhurst Spanish: E.L.C. Weeden
 Reid Politics: K.S. Bagley
 Simon Smith Economics: I. Ahmed
 Vlies French: E.L.C. Weeden
 Vlies German: E.G. Heynes

LOWER SIXTH

Art: M.J. Whyatt
 Business Studies: A.J. Power
 Chemistry: A. Lee
 Classical Studies: R.J.E. Johnston
 Design: D.A.C. Melmoth
 Economics: R.N. Jerath
 Forrest English Language: C.J. Edwards
 Forrest English Literature: A.E. Cooke
 Further Mathematics: B.H. Veitch
 Geography: T.R. Barracrough
 Geology: R.D. Williams
 German: N. Agarwal
 Hawley French: N.J. Whiterod
 K. Arran Mathematics: F. Ahmed
 Latin: A.G. Mal'ouf
 Music: C.L. Keable
 Physics: G.A. Rowlands
 Politics: S.L. Moore
 Pontiero Spanish: A. C-LPreston
 S.K. Appleton Biology: C.E. Lelonek
 Sydney Goodman History: J.T. Higgins

FIFTH FORMS

Art: R.D. Fisher
 Biology: F.R. Youssef
 Caiger French: J.M. Shaw
 Chemistry: M.C-K. Tong
 Design: O. Ajaz
 German: E.H. Barker
 Geology: R.D. Fisher
 Hewlett Geography: A.C. Hawcroft
 History: B.M. Green
 Latin: J.M. Shaw
 Mathematics: M.C-K. Tong
 Music: D.J. Coghill
 Parents' English: J.M. Shaw
 Physics: M.C-K. Tong
 Religious Studies: M.C. Fearnley
 Spanish: J.M. Shaw

FOURTH FORMS

Art: C.N. Duckworth
 Biology: G.J. Duckworth
 Chemistry: A.J. Race
 Design: A.J. Race
 English: L-M. Edwards
 French: M.J. Mkumbwa
 Geography: N.R. Whitehead
 Geology: M.S. Hamid
 German: J. Wu
 Greek: N.R. Whitehead
 History: J.P. Byrom
 Latin: M.J. Mkumbwa
 Mathematics: L.A. Goodwin
 Music: K. Greenall
 Physics: A.J. Race
 Religious Studies: E. Cruickshank
 Spanish: M.J. Mkumbwa

THIRD FORMS

Art: D.T. Wood
Biology: P.M. Stonehouse
Chemistry: A.P. Green
Design: R.J. Thompson
English: S.L. John
French: F.C. Ridley
Geography: S. Bowe
Geography: A.G. McLeod
German: A.P. Green
Greek: M. Ahmed
History: C.J. Howarth
Latin: F.C. Ridley
Mathematics: D.S. Endlar
Music: M.A. Whibley
Physics: P.D. Irving
Religious Studies: F.C. Ridley
Spanish: F.C. Ridley

SECOND FORMS

Art: D. Goodkin
Biology: D. Goodkin
Chemistry: G. Singh
Design: J.C. Case
English: G. Singh
French: J.M. McConville
Geography: Y. Eldin

Geography: J.M. Wood
German: M.H. Kotecha
Greek: J.M. McConville
History: G. Singh
Latin: J.M. McConville
Mathematics: C. T-O. Leung
Music: R.M. Goodwin
Physics: J.M. McConville
Religious Studies: J.M. Wood
Spanish: M. Al Himdani
Spanish: T.S. Jimenez
Spanish: S.P. Onyemem

FIRST FORMS

Art: S.M. Campbell
Biology: M. Jameel
Chemistry: M. Jameel
Design: A.S. Butt
English: C.J. Morrison
French: C.E. Booker
Geography: N. Travis
History: A. Aslam
Latin: C.E. Booker
Mathematics: C.E. Booker
Music: P.L. Cochrane
Religious Studies: D.I. Njegovan
William Taylor Memorial Prize: C.H.R. Bremer



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BURSAR'S CORNER

The past year has been more notable for changes to the staff than for any other aspect of the Bursar's department. With the departure to retirement of Alan Telford and Terry Corfield, about whom more is written elsewhere, the opportunity has been taken to make some changes to the management of the department.

Alan Telford's successor is Vic Buckley, who comes to the School after work in the building trades and latterly in facilities management. He has settled well and we look forward to years of happy working together. Vic also takes over some of the roles of Head Porter, from Terry Corfield, to provide more co-ordination at that level of management in the School. A third porter - who has yet to join the staff - will continue to provide the labour force so essential to the smooth running of the School.

From the office staff Fenella Newton left to move to Plymouth and was succeeded by Jackie Adey. Mrs June Hill retired from the kitchen staff; one of the longer-serving members of the team, she joined in the year that England last won the soccer World Cup.

Sadly, Peter Fox, the School's electrician for the past nine-and-a-half years, suffered a serious heart-attack in June. The good news is that he is recovering well and we look forward to his return to work in good time for us to mark his retirement later in the year.

The acquisition of the Preparatory Department in February has added to the responsibilities of the Bursary, particularly in Maintenance and Accounts. After some initial work to rectify defects, the Prep benefited from a coat of paint and some general improvements to equipment and will be a significant asset to the School.

A visit by an inspector from the Health and Safety Executive took place in early July, and, happily, resulted in a very satisfactory report of the state of the School.

Within the Main School, maintenance and refurbishment have proceeded steadily. The work in the Chemistry Department has now been completed and new parquet floors in some mathematics rooms have improved the general appearance considerably. The air-handling unit serving the pool had to be replaced; it was very impressive to watch the crane-driver lower the new unit into place to within a millimetre, from the "wrong" side of the fence. The painting programme has been maintained, including, the first time for a number of years, the outside of the roof-lights over the Old Hall. Refurbishing the School Office has resulted in a much more modern atmosphere, with tasteful colour scheme and some new furniture. When dismantling the old counter, we found the names of those who made it, together with the date - 1910. Definitely time for modernisation! Finally, in the kitchen, an extraction hood has been installed over the ranges to the thanks of the kitchen staff, now that the working temperatures have been reduced.

Altogether the Department has had a successful year and we look forward to starting the next under new management.

M.H. Peters

ALAN TELFORD

Since Alan Telford joined in 1987, there have been a number of important changes to the geography of the School. There was no Changing Room Block, no Zochonis Centre and the boilers were still oil-fired. It is thanks in no small measure to his expertise and good sense that these changes - and many others - have been implemented so smoothly.

After what many would consider to have been a full career in the building trade, starting as a joiner and ending as Clerk of Works to some prestigious buildings in the city of Manchester, Alan Telford joined the staff of William Hulme's as Clerk of Works, when Peter Hollinrake left for Saudi Arabia in 1987. He joined at a particularly important phase in the history of the School - at the start of a period when a lot of building and refurbishment work was to take place.

Early on, he was responsible for the recommissioning of the pool, after a major refurbishment to remove the fibre-glass tunnel which sheltered it from the elements in the early days, and to provide the greatly improved facilities which we have to-day. He says his most important contribution to this was to dive to the bottom of the cold, static water which had been unused for some 12 months, to unplug the drains and allow the pumps to be re-started.

The decision to admit girls to the School was the reason for the next most significant building task - the New Changing Room block - and finding space for toilet facilities, much of this within the listed building. The removal of the old changing rooms from the dining hall area made space for the final major project of Alan's time, the completion of the Zochonis Centre. In its turn this gave the opportunity for more work to rationalise the departmental lay-out within the School and the large number of smaller, but nonetheless important works which that entailed. The most significant of these was the creation of the Music Department under the Old Hall, in the old cages area and the new Common Room area for teaching staff. A new suite of boilers to serve the older parts of the School, complete with computer-based controls and some new pipework, was a welcome improvement for staff working in these blocks. A programme of refurbishing the Science laboratories, to a plan of his own, was Alan's last significant project.

Quite obviously, Alan could not have completed these projects on his own. He led his small team of maintainers with care and skill and his dealings with contractors were always of a high standard, ensuring that the School benefited to the maximum. He left the School in April this year for a well-earned retirement. We wish him much happiness and success.

M.H. Peters,
Bursar.

TERRY CORFIELD

Terry Corfield came to William Hulme's Grammar School as the Head Porter during the Easter Holidays of 1986 and, on reaching retirement age in September, said good-bye to the School after 11½ very happy and interesting years - he says.

Having left school at the age of 14, he started his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner, earning 1/6d (7½p) per week. In 1948 he joined the Army as an apprentice Tradesman, where the pay was 7½p per day and the prospects far better. Terry's military service took him to many countries including Egypt, Sudan, Malta, Libya, (where one of his students was a Capt (later Colonel) Gaddafi), Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong, Canada, Germany and Northern Ireland. A varied mixture of active and peacetime service during his career of 24 years with the Royal Engineers.

After being made redundant from his job as an Operations Manager with John Myers, when the mail-order company



ceased trading, he took up the post of Head Porter. His military background suited him well for his new duties and he very soon gained the respect of both pupils and staff as a friendly and helpful colleague. Highlights of the year for Terry were the Old Hulmeians functions when former pupils would appear a little worried that, after many years since leaving the School, he was able to put a name to a face. He seemed to specialise in the very good pupils and the detention wallahs.

An active supporter of the Old Hulmeians' Golf Society, after ten years' trying he finally managed to get his name in gold leaf on the Society's honours board, having won the Merchant, the Bradbury and the Captain's

Cups.

Ingrid and Terry intend to start retirement touring old haunts and fresh pastures. Their first "demob" holiday will be in the Far East where they plan to visit Mr and Mrs Briggs at their new home. Terry intends maintaining his interest in William Hulme's by continued membership of the Golf Society. The rest of his time will be spent with Ingrid on lots of holidays, lots of golf, lots of entertainment (beer) and, in wet weather - working on his stamp collection,

He will be missed by all who have known him in the School, and leaves with our very best wishes and sincere thanks for a job well done.

M.H. Peters,
Bursar.

HARRIS HOUSE - HARDRAW : 1996-97

Since I took on the role of Warden last Easter, my appreciation of the amount of work that my predecessor John Haslam did for Harris House has grown enormously, and the School owes him a great debt of gratitude. For my own part, I am very grateful to him for the time he spent explaining the intricacies of the job, and helping me through the first few months prior to his departure.

This year I am very pleased to say that the centre has continued to thrive. The number of external bookings has increased again, bringing in a modest but very welcome income which helps to maintain the House. Work carried out has included the addition of a drying room and rebuilding of the ceiling in the snooker room, as well as new pair of gates to improve the security of the site. This is in addition to the regular programme of maintenance which a building of this size and age demands.

Perhaps the one disappointing aspect is that use of Harris House by School groups has continued to decline this year, although I was very pleased to see the CCF (Army section) making use of the facilities for one of their field days. In addition to the now well established first year trips, it is our intention next year to introduce a similar series of visits for the second year forms. These will include the opportunity to experience the challenges of outdoor pursuits such as abseiling and caving, while allowing the pupils to get to know one another and their new form tutor in a less formal environment.

Hopefully these trips will encourage visits to the centre by both form and house groups higher up in the School. Given the current climate of change, I feel it is vital that Harris House is seen to be a viable and valued resource, which is used to its full potential. We are extremely lucky to have the sole use of such a building, and it would be a great shame to let it fall by the wayside.

A.R. Austen
(Warden)

DONNER LIBRARY

Last year, an amazing 3,000 books were borrowed from the library, indicating a very large increase in books borrowed in previous years.

This year, there will be a complete stocktake of the library, which should show exactly how many books have gone missing over the last six years.

On a more positive note, the Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth have started to use the library in a very mature fashion, preferring to work in silence and enjoy the fact that they can study here. They have also returned or renewed books more regularly than previous Sixth Forms.

The PC continues to be as popular as ever, with queues of First and Second Formers waiting to use it at lunchtimes.

I would like to thank last year's Library Prefects, Catherine Zoeftig and Caroline Ashley. They were so hard working and reliable I couldn't have managed without them. I wish them well for the future.

This year, the Library Prefects are Ben Stafford, Will Stoddart, Dave Melmoth, Paul Murphy and John Daniels - five in total. Hopefully, by our working in a rota, the workload will be split fairly without losing out on reliability and efficiency.

The Library is open between 8.00 am and 3.45 pm.

M Evans

ISMLA FRENCH VIDEO COMPETITION (LENT TERM)

In the Lent Term, one of our Lower Sixth Linguists, Matthew Whyatt, entered the ISMLA French Video Competition, which was run in conjunction with 'High Achievers'. The adjudicator was Peter Dyson, former Director of the Language Centre, Oxford University, who deemed Matthew's entry worthy of a prize. Matthew's delivery was straight to camera and he introduced some sophisticated techniques, such as panning, use of title-credits and stills spliced into the footage. (Our thanks to Mr J Thomson for his coaching!)

Matthew spoke to camera for ten minutes in French on: 'Le Hockey sur Glace'; he described his favourite ice hockey team, Manchester Storm.

He had great fun preparing for this competition and learned a great deal from it. Later on in the term, he was presented with his prize in Assembly by Eileen Harrington of 'High Achievers', who was the driving force behind the competition.

Matthew's prize was a free place on an intensive French language course in Belgium.

J G Hofton



MATTHEW WHYATT'S FRENCH VIDEO FILMING COMPETITION

One French lesson Mr Hofton came in with the usual handout of sheets. However, one of these stood out among them. It was about a five minute talk about something French in front of a video camera. Well, I was the only one to take this up in my class so I got writing. It had to be about something French. So, mmmmmm, what could I write about? I had recently been to an Ice Hockey match at the Nynex Arena in Manchester. So, Ice Hockey comes from Canada which is French speaking which makes a good topic, which - I did! The script was ready and written, and filming began.

Day 1 of Filming - I got used to the camera being right in my face. I worked out with the help of Mr. Hofton what the background should look like.

Day 3 of Filming - I asked one of my friends, David Melmoth, to give me a hand.

Days 1,2,4,5 of Filming - I managed just to get out the French for "Rubber" as in, "The puck that the Ice Hockey players play with is made out of rubber....." The actual French is caoutchouc so it was written down in many forms such as cow-ooh-cheaw, but said in such ways as coo-ooh-ca-chew or catch-a-woo-ooh!

Days 2,3,4,5,6 of Filming - After creasing about in laughter with the 30 or 40 out-takes, we had "canned" the lot. (All the out-takes were destroyed because they were just too funny to be seen again!)

It was then taken to the Post Production Analysis and Editing Suite, or as we know it "Mr Thomson's Camera Room!" Here the magic really started. All Mr Thomson's knowledge and machines helped to put together a five minute video cassette of Ice Hockey all spoken in French by me.

This was then sent off to the IMSLA competition for judging by Mr Peter Dyson, who used to be the Director of the Language Teaching Centre at the University of Oxford. A few weeks later, we had the results back and, with the School's first attempt at this sort of thing, we had won.

My prize was presented to me by Mrs Eileen Harrington of High Achievers, who travelled all the way up from Somerset to give it to me one morning in Assembly. Photographs for local papers were taken and I was now beginning to realise what I had won; it was a two weeks' French tuition scholarship to Belgium in the summer. The course would involve me speaking constant French whilst I would be learning French in lessons for two weeks. We would also get time for leisure activities such as Tennis or Golf in the afternoon!

I am really looking forward to it. My winning the prize was down to a lot of hard work and effort from a number of people. I wouldn't have been able to win the prize without the help of Mr. Hofton, Mr Thomson and David Melmoth. Thanks very much!

Matthew Whyatt (LGJT)



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TRIPS ABROAD

WERL EXCHANGE - OUR PARTNERS IN MANCHESTER

As ever, we hope we offered our guests a varied and interesting programme. October 1996 included trips to the Royal Armouries at Leeds, York, Granada Studios, Castlefield and the statutory visit to Alton Towers (always entered in the register with the symbol denoting "receiving education off-site!").

There was the usual "England v Germany" football match and special lessons were "laid on" for the Werler by kind colleagues. Warm thanks to Miss Minto, Mrs Ballantyne, Mrs Wright, Mrs Hampson and Messrs. Gracey, Hewston, MacLachlan, Hofton, Fisher and Sharp for their sterling and heterogeneous contributions to making our partners welcome. Herr Hellmann certainly told us that everyone had a happy time.

G.J. Turner



WERL EXCHANGE 1997

It all started very early on a Saturday morning when a group of 13 pupils met Mr Turner and Mrs Ballantyne at Manchester Airport. After checking that we all had our passports, we said goodbye to our families and eventually boarded the plane. We arrived at Düsseldorf airport in no time at all and then we struggled through the airport building with all our baggage towards the train station. We changed trains many times and finally arrived in Werl, where we were greeted by our exchange families. We spent the weekend getting to know them and going to parties. My exchange family took me to see the famous 'Dambusters' lake, the Möhnesee, which was very interesting.



On Monday we had to get up very early as it was our first day at school. We went to lessons with our partners and then Herr Marx gave us a tour of Werl and told us about its history. To make up for the early start, school in Germany finishes at one o'clock, so the afternoon can be spent with friends or relaxing at home. On Tuesday a very interesting guide gave us a tour of Bonn taking us to many places including Beethoven's House and the cathedral. In the afternoon we visited the fascinating 'Haus der Geschichte', a museum which gave us a view of life in Germany since the war. We also had free time which was spent shopping and eating in the first McDonald's we had seen all week! Wednesday saw the traditional

'England v Germany' football match which was won by Germany (again!). On Thursday we caught the train to the beautiful city of Cologne (Köln) where we were shown around the old part of the city and went to the top of the huge cathedral tower. Friday morning was spent having lessons with our exchange partners. In the afternoon we went to Werl's town hall where we met the mayor. He told us all about the small town of Werl. His German was very sophisticated and not easy to understand but luckily we had Mr Turner on hand to translate. When the Mayor had finished his speech we were able to ask some questions and we found out about how long he had been Mayor and what his duties involved.

The weekend was again spent being entertained by our host families, sightseeing, shopping and with friends in the famous Galerie! On Monday we caught the train to the nearby town of Soest where we walked around the town completing Mrs Wright's famous 'Soest Quiz'. This took us around the whole town where we saw the old town walls and the church with the crooked spire. Tuesday was our last full day in Germany and we spent the morning in Unna where we showed the Germans our ice skating skills(?!). Our last night was spent in the Galerie saying goodbye to our new friends. We all had to be awake early the next morning for our return trip to Manchester. We all met at the station and said a tearful goodbye to our families and new-found friends and promised to return. We all took many photographs to remind us of our wonderful German experience.

Thanks to Mr Turner, Mrs Ballantyne and Mrs Wright for making the trip possible and the usual success.

Nicola Whiterod (LGJT)



Köln

Mrs Ballantyne and Herr Hellmann with Hulmeians in Beethoven's birth-place



The giant killers

SPANISH EXCHANGE

On a somewhat cold March morning, Andrew Machin and I were about to embark on an exchange to Salamanca. Undeterred by this, we were to go by ourselves and spend two weeks there.

As I had not got much sleep the night before, my only motivation for getting up early on the day of departure was that we didn't have to go to school and that we were having a longer and hopefully better holiday than anyone else.

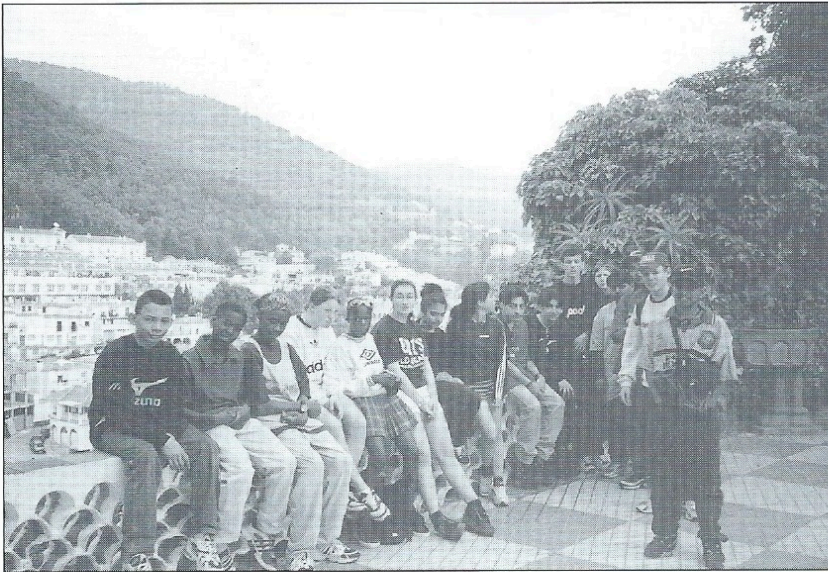
Everything went smoothly during the flight and after a three hour coach journey from Madrid to Salamanca we arrived at the Colegio Montessori. After a brief chat with some of the English and English-speaking teachers, we were whisked away to our separate houses, Andrew, to a house in the suburbs and me to an apartment in the thick of the action in the centre of town. Monday came and I was to learn, to my dismay, that we would be spending the best part of the first week at school. The good thing about the school is that there were lots of friendly people there and it was one of the few times I was able to catch up with Andrew throughout our stay. Their timetable for school is a tad strange to say the least. Start at 9 o'clock and have two lessons, then a break, followed by another break, then two more lessons before lunch. By this time, it's around 2 o'clock and the lunch break is two hours long. Most of the pupils go home for lunch but a few do stay at school. When school starts again, there are a further two lessons and then that's it. We would usually get home around 6 o'clock in the evening.

Once the holidays started we went about the town (Salamanca) shopping and sight-seeing, looking at the ancient churches and cathedrals. During the nights we would go out to the bars and discos and generally have a good time.

In Spain, like over here, they celebrate Easter, but quite differently. Like us, they call it Semana Santa which when translated means Holy Week, but there the resemblance ends. The people of the town dress up in unusual outfits, and walk about the streets carrying statues of Mary, Jesus and Joseph to the churches whilst playing instruments. The time of our departure was drawing close by now and I was feeling excited and yet sad. I was sad because I would soon be leaving but, as I told myself, it would only be a matter of months until our partners would be visiting us in England and seeing the sights of Manchester.

Thanks go to Mr Bull for all his hard work in organising a most enjoyable trip.

William Kent (4W)



Mijas

A well deserved
McDonalds break



AN ALPINE ESCAPE 1997

During the Easter break, Messrs Veevers and Austen, and Miss Raw, Miss Collier and Miss Milligan accompanied pupils from years Four to Upper Sixth on an educational trip to the French Alps.

We arrived at School one bright lunchtime, armed with food, magazines, radios, pillows and feelings ranging from mere apprehension to sheer terror at the 24 hour coach journey which was looming. We boarded our "luxury" - I'll explain that later on - coach and headed to France.

We were released on to the ferry, but to our horror duty free was labelled 18's and Over Only, by our loveable members of staff, who settled themselves at the bar while we braved the freezing temperatures to sit on the deck and attempt to oust the French, with "Sweet Chariot" while they mumbled something about "légionnaires". Then we were settled back on the coach, fitfully attempting to get some rest, a stupid idea as our luxury coach had just about enough space for everybody to breathe.



Lac de Conflins
(Photo: A. Austen)

Mr Austen decided it would be a great idea to watch "Cool Runnings" - cool runnings is only marginally watchable at the best of times and 10.30pm on a coach, somewhere in France is not one of the best of times, much moaning and groaning followed. I am Mr Austen decides we should watch Apollo 13 - this he will agree was a bad decision, as the uproar this caused woke anybody that was fortunate enough to be sleeping. Eventually the video was turned off and we settled down once more.

We arrived at our hotel just in time for lunch, the first of many frightening feasts. Having spent the best part of 24 hours on a coach, Mr Veevers was full of energy and decided to climb the nearest mountain. We changed into shorts and T-shirts as the temperature was about 25°C and we climbed a mountain. The ski season had just about finished but there was still snow around. Any attempt at teaching was abolished as we had some fierce snowball fights - in shorts and T-shirts? - a strange concept which didn't spring to mind until later.

Evening arrived, bars were visited and a much needed good night's sleep prepared us for the next day's work.

We were bundled back onto our luxury coach, which by this time was devoid of any luxury - in 24 hours, a curtain had been "coaxed" into "falling" off its rail, a fuse had blown meaning the overhead speakers didn't work - oh dear, no more of Miss Colliers Celine Dion, and to top it off Apollo 13, the film we all hated, was the only one we could watch as it was jammed in the recorder. We spent the day studying rock samples in a valley which dropped to the "Lac des Conflins". Our aim was to discover the size and shape of broken-up rock throughout the length of the valley. We all worked hard, and had more snowball fights.

The memorable events of the day were however nearly losing Mark Olden, when he jumped to see how deep the snow was (we thought we had lost him for good) and Stephen Kelleth and David Melmoth's idea of canoeing across a semi-frozen lake. Needless to say they capsized; their drowned rat figures trudging through the freezing cold water were definitely a Kodak moment. The results were discussed for a while back at the hotel, then more bars were visited late into the night.

Our second full day was spent at Chamonix, where we shopped, and caught a train up the side of a mountain to get a view of Mount Blanc. We discussed glaciation as we stood looking into the valley at a glacier hundreds of metres long. The theory of glaciation is all good and well, but it is difficult to comprehend that the patches of snow we see are metres deep. We did, however, have the experience of standing inside the "Mer de Glace". The feeling of walking round inside metres of ice is indescribable, being surrounded by it and walking on it. Inside the "Mer de Glace" are various ice sculptures and there is the opportunity to have your picture taken with a Saint Bernard - if you're into animal exploitation that is. It was this day when Mr Veevers came up with a very very clueless idea - instead of getting the nice, lazy, safe train down this snow-covered mountain, let's walk through feet of snow on no obvious path and dodge trains to get down!!! After much umming and aaarghing it was decided if you wanted to get the train you could - so we sensible creatures did just that! The luge was experienced by those who walked down the mountain - Alton Towers eat your heart out, it was a kind of bobsled run with 90° turns and high speeds attainable.

Tonight was the best night of the week, it was Francesca Matthews' 18th birthday so we were allowed to go to the little nightclub situated beneath our hotel, our curfew was 11.30pm, but by 12.00pm the teachers joined in and danced to the "Spice Girls" with us - Miss Raw and Miss Collier's performance was demanded; unfortunately the DJ didn't have "Who do you think you are!!".

Our next day was Human Geography with Miss Raw in charge. We had a questionnaire to fill out about the picturesque town of Annecy. The easiest question to answer was "Are the French polite?", we had the word the "Bof" shouted at us enough times to discover it was not a term of endearment.

There was a large marathon on that day and there were some street entertainers; a few of us stood watching a man moving like a robot who was dressed as Charlie Chaplin when a small boy went up to the man, poked him and in a broad scouse accent shouted "Eh, are you real?" - we had found the only other Brits in Annecy. We played in Peddleos in the afternoon; unfortunately Miss Raw caught a nasty bug which put her out of action for a couple of days.

Our last full day in France was spent in Megeve - it was a Business Studies morning. "What is the price of a Big Mac?" - it took around 2 hours to figure that one out! We filled in our questionnaires and then travelled to Chamonix for an afternoon on the "Luge".

Our last evening was spent ice-skating in Megeve with 30 of us making more noise than 300 French kids; it was good fun chasing the dangerously unstable Miss Collier around the rink. We finished off the evening sitting in the hotel bar with the teachers listening to Andrew Matson's jokes.

Mr Veevers was on a roll and had his 3rd brainwave on the morning of our departure, "I saw a village somewhere miles down the road, let's walk to it" - it was just to kill time, but sleep would have been more appreciated.

We left at lunchtime travelling via Paris for an hour long stop. We arrived at Paris at 11.45, we stood and saw the countdown to the year 2000 on the Eiffel Tower change, we wandered round for 30 minutes then it was back on the coach to head for home.

We spent the last of our francs on Fried English Breakfasts on the ferry- not a good idea at 5am but never mind. Our last stop before home was at Knutsford Services where somebody started selling dodgy watches to the naive pupils, who were gutted as before we reached home straps had fallen off etc.

We arrived back at School, weary and hungry but thoroughly fulfilled.

Thanks to Mr Veevers, Mr Austin, Miss Collier, Miss Raw and Miss Milligan. We can't wait for the next Austria trip.

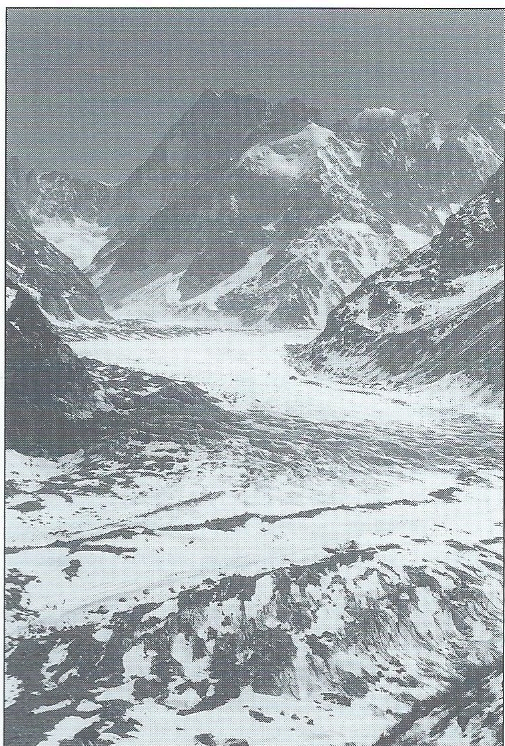
Rachael Lee (LJHH)



Mont Blanc Massif
(Photo: A. Austen)



French Alps Geology Field Course



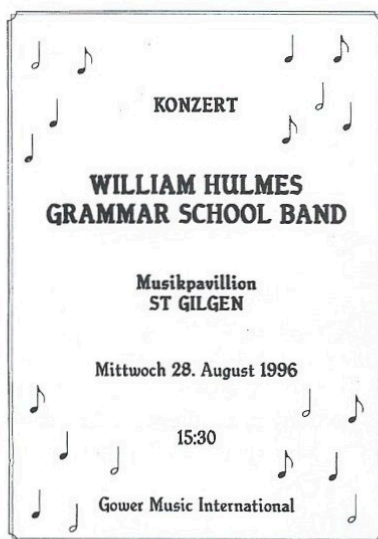
Mer de Glace: Chamonix
(Photo: A. Austen)



French Alps Geology Field Course

SCHOOL BAND TRIP TO AUSTRIA

Like the band trip to Belgium two years ago, the trip to Austria had to begin on a coach, and go onto a ferry. When the coach reached the ferry port of Dover on Monday 25th August, accompanied by Mr Dewhurst, Mr Goodwin, Mr Wilson, Dr Keable, Mr Grant and Dr Clark, a few people had already begun to feel travel sick. This of course was expected, but we still managed to enjoy the trip over despite rolling from side to side every now and again!



A day later we reached the hotel. The first thing on everyone's mind was sleep, but we couldn't resist trying out the hotel pool first. That was the first mistake. I don't think I've ever seen so many people jump as high when touched by water in my life. A few brave ones dared venture as far as the deep end, but all who had retained their sanity put it down to experience and made a hasty exit.

The next day saw the first concert in one of the small villages of Austria in the open air under a bandstand. Luckily the weather was good, and judging by the size of the audience, so was our playing! Over the next few days we had quite a few opportunities to go sight-seeing, and the Austrian shops and cafés were enjoyed by everyone, although there were quite a few relieved faces when we reached the much awaited MacDonalds in Salzburg.

One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Austrian Salt Mines at Hallein, where everyone has to get dressed up as if they were a salt miner, and travel down the mines on a train to find out how salt is made. This was an interesting experience to say the least, and an essential part of a visit to Austria.

The hotel was also quite nice, and although the dinners left a bit to be desired, the staff was friendly, and the bar at night had a cosy atmosphere that all enjoyed in their own way (not mentioning any names). Overall the band holiday to Austria was a huge success, and the band hopes next year to visit France. May that trip be as enjoyable as the Austria one.

Julia Atherton (4B)

MALAGA TRIP 1997

It is hard to know where to start on the trip because all of it was so good. Well, maybe not all of it - the hotel wasn't perfect. It did have a great swimming pool and basketball court but the annoying showers in the rooms did have a tendency completely to flood the bathroom, or at least they did whenever Marsha used them!

The food wasn't too bad but salad and bread every day for lunch was not very exciting. There was lots of different choice of Spanish food at the hotel, such as paella, gazpacho soup and squid rings, but judging by Nicola's reaction when she found out the squid rings were not onion rings, maybe it was a good thing I did not try them. But that doesn't mean to say that other people didn't enjoy them. There was one part of the Spanish cuisine that I did enjoy. This was 'churros' which are like doughnuts which you dip into very thick hot chocolate.

We visited many places in Spain. One place was a castle in Malaga where, in order to get to it, we had to walk for ages along an upward sloping spiral. Although I moaned and moaned all the way, it was worth it in the end. The view up there was brilliant - you could see everything. We also went to see a bullring but my favourite part of Malaga was the "Corte Inglés", a department store like Kendal's. We also visited Córdoba, where we went to see what used to be the largest mosque in the world. It was so large that they were able to build a cathedral inside the mosque! Then we went to Puerto Banus where we walked past many luxury boats and heard a lot of "oohs" and "aahs" and "I wish I had a boat like that!" One place that we'd visit every day was the beach. Almost every day, after dinner, we would walk down to the beach and play rounders or volleyball but my favourite part of the beach were the shops along it. Another daily activity was playing basketball or

swimming. It took a bit of convincing that girls could play basketball but the boys let us play. (!!! - Ed.). And the pool table was addictive - we were always on it.

The funniest member of the party, which consisted of 2nd and 3rd years, was Omer who, in the space of the week, managed to break a glass table, a bed and Bhavini's pen, to trip over a tree guard, to break a lamppost and to get lost in C rdoba. But that is not to say that other members of the party didn't entertain us. The boys' version of the Spice Girls', "Who do you think you are?" made us all laugh. All boys have a feminine side but Ravi really brought his out when (as a dare, he wants me to add) he wore make-up for 10 minutes. But we all know he enjoyed it really!

The whole trip was brilliant and I just wish that it could have been longer. Our thanks go to Miss Minto, who organised the trip and to Mr Bull who came as well.

Sara Sadeghi (2K)

SKI TRIP REPORT

As the young birds twittered in the fresh morning air and the sun began its steady ascent, its rays glinting off Mr Jones' circular spectacles, I surveyed the scene before me, drawing the conclusion that along with 39 other people I was tired. However, even though we were contemplating the fact that one and a half more hours could have been spent in our beds (due to the flight delay), a state of euphoria and excitement under-pinned the sorry state which told my eyes otherwise. Inevitably, we were soon jetting off to the snow-capped peaks of Montgenevre for six days of slipping and sliding down ice-filled slopes on two pieces of fibreglass - fun or what?

Generally speaking, there are two classifications or extremes into which people can be placed as skiers - the proficient, who do not "wipe out", and the terrible, who regularly perform "snow inspections". Mr Dunn is good. Mr Jones is not. (Murphy's theory - age & skiing do not mix [joke?]) Mr Myers is proficient. Miss Smith is not adept at the art. Paul Murphy is unrivalled. John Belushi was somewhat entertaining. However, I feel it is important to stress the fact that, although skills covered a diverse range (to say the least) a good time was enjoyed by all, whether it was attempting 360  jumps a la David Wynter or courageously mastering a black slope by the beginners.

Of course, skiing in the delightful sun was not the week's only dedicated activity. It was essential that nocturnal activities balance the intensity of the day's events as a "wind down"! Incorporated in the hotel's facilities (which incidentally were sufficient to meet a school party's needs) was a table football game, a constant visual reminder of the teachers' era and, as Mr Myers and Miss Smith were to find out, against their better judgement, they could not retain their table football title against the likes of John Daniels (whose bulk was carried with experience around the small table).

As well as the hotel's facilities, the small picturesque village provided a good few activities to keep us out of mischief. Not least the outside ice rink and two watering holes. However, there were activities aplenty to keep a group like ours entertained.

The great trip was concluded with a 'film night theme' presentation of various awards including romance (holiday), action/adventure, comedy, horror whose nominations are too numerous to mention. As usual, a superb but tiring trip was (hopefully) enjoyed by all, made all better by the spoon-sharp wit of the teachers, reminiscent of generations past.

Paul Murphy (LPJC)

NORMANDY TRIP - October 1996

A party of 2nd and 3rd Formers accompanied us to Normandy during the October break when we judged that it would be relatively easy to see all the main sites, this not being the principal season for school trips or holiday makers. There were initially three members of staff ready to go, but hours before the departure one teacher was unable to make the journey. After some deliberation Mr Ballantyne and I decided that we were sufficiently experienced, having visiting this area on several occasions with pupils, to cope by ourselves, apart from which we had seen the excitement and enthusiasm of the pupils and did not dare disappoint them!

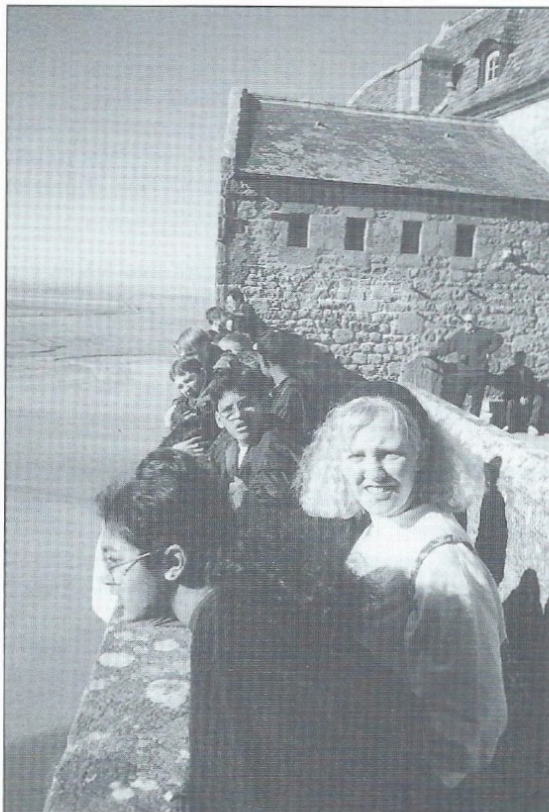
We left in the early hours of the morning to arrive at our destination in the afternoon of a pleasantly warm day. We were staying in a converted chateau in beautiful grounds and many pupils took advantage of the free time to ride the mountain bikes available, explore the grounds or play pool. The food was of a very high standard and some were even brave enough to eat the frogs' legs served to us on the final day! Evening entertainment and competitions were provided by the tour company, and I have heard that the highlight for many was the end of week disco, once they had been persuaded to get up and dance!

During the day we tried to show the group as much of the area as possible and to show them the variety of things available in this part of Normandy. As we were staying in Bayeux we of course visited the famous Bayeux Tapestry, but we were brought more up-to-date by visits to the sites dedicated to World War II. It was on the beaches of Normandy that the Allies landed on D-Day 1944 and we visited the excellent museum of Arromanches, including a newly built montage of contemporary film and newsreel which is really worth a visit. We saw the extremely moving American cemetery at Colleville and some of the beaches where the soldiers landed all those years ago and where relics such as bomb craters and gun turrets still remain.

On a lighter note we also went to the Mont St. Michel which gave ample opportunity for pupils to spend their money in the many souvenir shops. For those who had money left, there were also visits to the town of Bayeux which has interesting shops but is also an excellently preserved medieval town of great charm and character with a beautiful cathedral, and the trip to a French market where pupils could try out their French and see the live chickens and rabbits intended for the pot.

We returned home five days later and everyone seemed to have had a very good time. It makes all the considerable effort required to organise a school trip worthwhile if the pupils enjoy themselves and we were very pleased to have accompanied such a nice group of children. Perhaps we will see some of you in France again!

L.A. Ballantyne.



Looking down at the quicksands at Mont Saint Michel
(Photo: Mr R A Ballantyne)



Market project in Bayeux
(Photo: Mr R A Ballantyne)

TRIPS WITHIN THE U.K.

THE SIXTH FORM TRIP TO SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY

On the 7th of May, the entire Lower Sixth Form visited the University of Sheffield.

Before we arrived, the majority of the students had the usual idea of a university being a place of drink, to enjoy yourself, study occasionally and to drink some more. The purpose of the trip was to broaden our minds on what a university was like and to motivate us into thinking about which courses we would like to study.

After a long and rather tiresome bus journey, we arrived and split up into various groups to explore the university grounds and visit the departments which interested us. Unfortunately, many of the departments did not have any one to answer our questions. However, my group did find one department in which there was. The student took us on a brief tour and gave us an even briefer outline on what courses were available and what they entailed, followed by a more detailed report of local pubs and clubs. After a quick lunch, there was a trip arranged by the University to one of the halls of residence. It was situated about seven minutes by bus from the University itself, and it was good to see for ourselves what a typical room looked like, rather than just the sketchy descriptions given by some undergraduates.

The rooms were fairly small and contained a bed, a desk, a chair, a reading light and a shelf with toilet and washing/showering facilities located at the end of every corridor. The halls also had a library, which was relatively modern and well stocked.

After returning from the tour, we just had enough time to visit another department where, unfortunately for our group, yet again no-one was there to help us. But before we got on the bus destined for home, we did manage to get a prospectus each.

The trip had given us an idea of how a university is laid out and what the dorms looked like if nothing else, and so the trip was a valuable and entertaining day out.

Niki Jerath (LAEW)

LOWER SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO HARDRAW

The visit to Hardraw for the Lower Sixth Form is designed to aid student understanding of geographical landforms and processes. The trip encompasses fieldwork on soils, hydrology, river processes, glaciation, fluvial bed load and morphological mapping from the physical side of the geography syllabus. From the human side, studies into hazard perception in Lancaster, Nuclear Power at Heysham, flooding, pollution and burglary were undertaken.

Late night classes with Mr Hardy on the day's work (including statistical techniques based around standard deviation, cumulative frequency graphs, pie charts and tables) were one of the more enjoyable aspects of the trip, while taking infiltration measurements on barren moorland and studying land use patterns along a valley were, well, slightly less interesting.

The trip really wasn't as bad as it sounds. We did have a chance to experience the local cuisine at the 'restaurant' in the village and have cheese on toast (apparently a local delicacy) every evening which was nice.

The trip would have been even more enjoyable if it hadn't have been for a highly contagious disease brought up to Hardraw by John Daniels. The disease, a crippling "stomach bug", was first seen acting when John was sick in the minibus. This was no ordinary car sickness. John was really ill. We had to return to Harris House for the rest of the day, missing out on the afternoon's valley studies, making use of the time by improving our ping pong skills.

The "bug" proceeded to infect almost everybody on the trip, sparing just five people out of the thirty who were there (I was one of the lucky 'survivors'). The journey back to Manchester was a disaster. People were being sick all over the place. Particularly Matthew Kay, the worst case. Nobody can forget his words: "I'm feeling a bit queasy, Mr Hardy".

Apart from the obvious problems on the trip, I thought that it was quite valuable. It helped our understanding of things we had learnt at school and I would like to thank Mr Hardy, Mr Austen and Miss Raw for arranging the trip for us.

David Melmoth (LJHH)

LOWER SIXTH GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO DELAMERE FOREST

Mr Hardy and Mr Austen bravely led the Lower Sixth Geography sets for a day trip to Delamere Forest.

We arrived in anticipation with various equipment ranging from spades to pH metres. Much to our delight we were informed that the day was to be spent digging holes and playing with soil, well maybe it was slightly more scientific than that.

Separated into groups we each had a pit to dig at differing depths in a valley. Once the pit was dug each different layer of soil visible had to be examined for colour, content and texture. Every group then moved on to collect results from each pit. Most of us managed this, and results were discussed and compared at the minibuses while we waited for the stragglers to arrive. Unfortunately there was a spade missing, it was a case of no-body is leaving until the spade is found. David Hancock sped back into the wilderness to recover the missing spade.

We headed back to school with lots of new knowledge which was used in the end of year exams. Thanks to Messrs Hardy and Austen for taking us even though we don't always concentrate.

Rachael Lee (LJHH)

SIXTH FORM CLASSICAL STUDIES TRIP TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON

MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY

The British Museum played host to both Upper and Lower Sixth Classical Studies groups on a day that was eventful and varied. Accompanied by Mrs Howling and Mr MacLachlan, a group of enthusiastic pupils eagerly boarded a train travelling to London Euston.

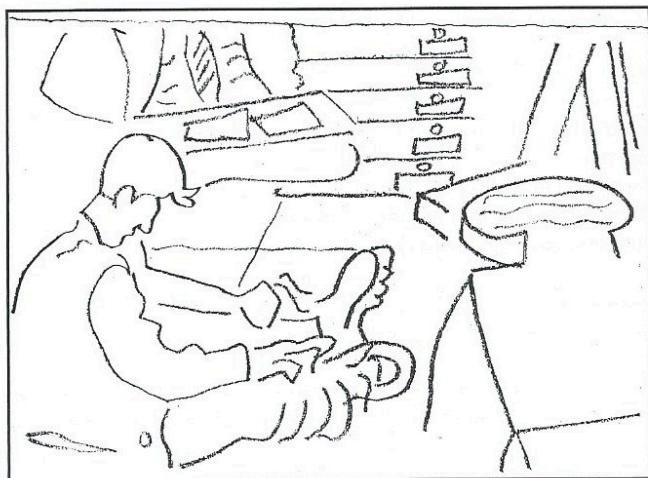
On arrival, the group proceeded to walk from the station to the museum where Greek art and architecture were to be the subjects of study for the day. The first notable find with reference to the subject was of the likeness between the façade of the British Museum and period Greek examples. This discovery led to a heated discussion between pupil and teacher as to the pediment being of an archaic or early classical nature and of the pillars being of the Doric or Ionic order.

With worksheets handed out, the Elgin marbles were the first statues to be studied. After close examination, time was given to look at other Greek art features, including vase paintings and other statues, before it was time for lunch. Taking advantage of the time they had, pupils ventured into the heart of the capital, before returning to look at women's role in Greek society and at specific statues studied from text books. Further time was given to look around the museum until we had to leave in good time to catch the train back to Piccadilly. A productive day was had by all.

Adam Goldsmith (LCML)

ART TRIP TO MANCHESTER

It was back in February when we went to the Atheneum in Manchester, which is connected to the City Art Gallery. There was a David Hockney show, including a collection of his paintings and "photograph collages" entitled, "You Make The Picture".



Matthew Whyatt studying at The David Hockney Workshop.
(Study by G.L. Bennett)

We had all seen pictures of Hockney's work before but never the actual size and so many. As I was the only Sixth Former, I didn't know what it would be like. However, we were all welcomed and got straight down to drawing. We sat round a huge 'still-life' or 'setup' with items ranging from pencil sharpeners to curtains and walls. We had to choose only a small section and draw it how we saw it.

After this and a few 'pencil' warm up exercises such as quick lines, fat lines, slow lines etc, we went downstairs into the Gallery to have a look at Hockney's work. Starting off with the huge 'abstract' pieces (some about swimming pools and so on), with the guide showing us details and techniques and talking about the pieces it was really helpful. We then moved on to his photo collages. These were fantastic and were the highlight for me. There were hundreds and hundreds of photographs (all normal size) all stuck together to make a picture. One example was a sandy, winding American desert road with road signs, background etc. all fitting together.

Back upstairs, we had a go at drawing our objects, then moving, then drawing it connected up. So I chose a beach chair. It was supposed to look as if you could see it from all angles in 3D. This was a whole new experience and very enjoyable.

Thanks to Mr Bennett and Miss Boothroyd for organising the trip and taking us there.

Matthew Whyatt (LGJT)

FOURTH AND FIFTH YEAR ART TRIP

On February 4th we were taken to see an exhibition by David Hockney. It was called 'You Make The Picture'. It was a set of drawings by David Hockney with weird perspective. Some of them were lots of little drawings (or photos) taken at different times or from different angles and put together.

After we had looked at the exhibits, we went upstairs to draw our own pictures. We had to draw lots of pictures from different angles on one object. There were different things to draw in the room such as a chair. Then we stuck them together on one piece of paper to make one weird picture like the ones we had just seen.

David Hockney ignores the old rules of perspective and makes his drawings from different angles at the same time to make original-looking pictures.

Chloë Duckworth (4B)

THE CONTACT THEATRE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE'S "THE TEMPEST"

(As reviewed by the Lower Sixth English Literature group on Tuesday, 24th September 1996 at The Oldham Coliseum)

There seemed to be two distinct groups of Shakespeare adaptations: relatively faithful period pieces and modernised versions aimed at young people. The production we went to see sadly fell into the latter group. I use the word sadly because it ended up little more than farcical slapstick comedy and mumbingly boring, poorly-performed speeches.

The plot is full of potential for a fascinating theatrical performance. It concerns the shipwrecking of an Italian boat on a mysterious island. The main survivors are spread around the island and, as we witness the exploration to this island by the different groups, we find that the storm was engineered by Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan who has a score to settle with his brother.

Visually, the play lacked sparkle as the set hardly changed at all and it was really quite awful and thoroughly illogical. The addition of music to the play was a thoughtful idea but both the pianist and the bizarre music just proved to be annoying.

The performances were generally well handled by experienced actors, but did become silly in places. Dominic McHale as Caliban was just a joke. He managed to hobble about in a convincingly deformed manner, but treated his performance as a bit of a laugh. Both Trinculo and Stephano and their drinking parties proved amusing - for a while. By the end of the play, it seemed as if their pantomime was the best rehearsed part of the play.

Kulvinder Ghir, as the spirit Ariel, showed promise but seemed content to swing from the masts and grin like an idiot. The peroxide blonde hair and turquoise sequined coat made you want him to fall off the stage in the first act.

Gary Raymond's performance of Prospero could have been very good. He looked the part and seemed to be rather imposing and not to be trifled with. However, as soon as he opened his mouth, all the effect was lost with a poorly rehearsed, hastily garbled speech. I cannot comment fully on his delivery as I think that I must have fallen asleep halfway through one of his soliloquies.

Rina Mahoney, as Prospero's daughter, Miranda, was just plain wrong and was best ignored. The supporting cast were generally good and supported the main cast very well.

All the good actors were there, but they chose to use very little talent in the play and in all the wrong places. They would have been better producing a 'relatively faithful period piece', or putting some thought into it rather than bastardising the play and making it one big missed opportunity.

Matthew Kay (LPJC)

VISIT TO THE TEMPEST AT THE CHAPMAN THEATRE, OLDHAM UNIVERSITY - THURSDAY, 13TH MARCH 1997

As the last visit to see William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" turned out to be such an awful production at the Contact Theatre, the English Department wanted us to see a better production, and now we were actually studying the text, a visit was slightly more relevant to our studies.

The production was far more basic than at the last trip, but was very well staged and acted. The fact that the Chapman Theatre is little more than a glorified lecture theatre did not matter and the production, in fact, seemed far more personal and intimate because of it. The staging was very basic and Japanese in style, with few props and nothing to distract from the characters and the bare bones of the play.

The performances were very good, specifically that of Ariel, played by a lady, which we had not seen before. Caliban took the monster aspect of his character too far in places and could have shown more raw emotion. Prospero was excellent, being nowhere near as egotistical as the last one we saw.

Although, in places, the production did seem a little amateurish, "The Tempest" was very well adapted and did not descend into an absolute farce as the Contact production did. The only problem encountered was the location of the Chapman Theatre, situated without proper road signs in the middle of the Salford University campus. Most of the party, including myself, spent about three quarters of an hour trying to find the theatre, missing the start of the play!!

Matthew Kay (LPJC)

LOWER SIXTH HISTORY TRIP

We met at Stockport Station, rather bleary-eyed, at 7 o'clock on a January morning to set off to London for a conference on the use of film as historical evidence at the National Film Theatre. The conference proved to be most worthwhile, with sessions ranging from the use of cartoons to an extensive study of the film, 'Michael Collins' and its value to the historian. We were extremely proud of Mr Callaghan, who, in his role as Chief Examiner for the Associated Examining Board, delivered a superb address on the use of a variety of types of film. Students from throughout the country were present and many considered his session the most useful. Unfortunately, due to the train times, we had little free time but a number of us had an enjoyable lunchtime wandering round the Museum of the Moving Image. The journey went very quickly and we all returned to Stockport, tired but hoping for a question on this topic in next year's paper.

S R Tandon

SALFORD UNIVERSITY GERMAN DAY

Mr Turner flew through the door to take us for our German literature lesson and informed us all about the German Day at Salford University which would help us with our 'A' Level course.

On the day itself, the four of us walked into the Sixth Form Common Room and discovered we were the only people with our own clothes on. If we thought everyone was looking at us there, we were not going to be prepared for walking into a lecture theatre packed with hundreds of German students.

As we hastily made our way to our seats, the lectures began. The first lecture was on the use of words in context and a lively session of guessing what was being said took place, as it was rather too hard for us. After a half an hour break, the lecture on our set book, "Die Verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum" or "The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum", took place. The ink was flowing as we jotted down notes to aid us with our revision. A most helpful lecture. Though it was written in 1974, the theme of press intrusion into privacy is still "aktuell", witness the tragic role of the free-lance photographers in the fatal accident to Diana, Princess of Wales.

The final lecture was a topical one. The German Green Party was the theme and we were interested in how perspectives have changed over the last three decades.

Nishant Agarwal (LGJT)

SALFORD SPANISH DAY

On Wednesday, 12th March our Lower Sixth Spanish group accompanied by Miss Minto spent the day at Salford University attending a Spanish Day. The first lecture we attended proved to be an insight into how useful a Modern Languages Degree can be in terms of future employment prospects. The person in charge of the Careers Service at Salford University talked to us about all the different sorts of careers we could have with the Spanish degree. These ranged from PR work to working for the BBC, Imports/Exports, Law and a whole host of other opportunities. Then, a group of Final Year students studying Spanish talked to us about their experiences during their year abroad. One of them had spent the year working in Ecuador. It seemed a very exciting and worthwhile experience!

The final lecture of the day about the Internet was topical and relevant to our 'A' Level course. We were given general information on surfing the Net and Website addresses which would allow us to access information on Spain and Latin America. The whole day was conducted in Spanish and it was an interesting and informative day out.

Alex Preston (LGJT)

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP, ECOLOGY AT THE PRESTON MONTFORD FIELD CENTRE, SHREWSBURY - 19TH-23RD JUNE 1997

Leading up to the course, we spent lessons and lessons listening to Mr Moore's continuous recollections of previous field courses, what fun they had been and how weather was always wonderful. Kit lists arrived suggesting thermal underwear and woolly hats and gloves. Mr Moore scoffed at them and suggested luggage space would be better used to store necessities such as sunglasses and factor 30 sun cream.

We left on the Thursday in what seemed to be a monsoon and possibly the wettest June this millenium. After travelling for 3 hours, we arrived at the centre and dashed towards the classroom. Here, we were met by our tutor, Tim, who politely asked us to watch our step, as tiny frogs were attempting to leave the pond. We wiped our feet and sat down after a small discussion on what ecologists actually do. We took our luggage to our rooms. Upon entering a room, we discovered a kettle and endless supplies of tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We were just about to make a brew when Mr Myers entered, announced it was his room and moved us to another room without a kettle.

We were then issued, well, actually hired, waterproofs which we donned rapidly before making our way to the pond, nets in hand. After a short demonstration from Tim on how to use a net, each group collected samples which involved 30 seconds of using a net in the pond, followed by hours of counting and identifying small organisms. We then returned to the Centre to have dinner. From what Mr Moore had suggested, the cuisine was better than the standards set by Egon Ronay. The meal was, in actual fact, nothing to write home about.

We then returned to the classroom to discuss our results, which didn't seem to match any anticipated theoretical templates. This is apparently, however, common and we spent until around 8.30 discussing why it was so. When Tim eventually stopped speaking, we left the classroom and returned to our accommodation block. John Daniels had brought a rugby ball and we spent the evening kicking and passing it around. Upon finishing the game and returning to the accommodation block, we discovered the showers would be better described as dribbles and the two temperature settings were ice cold or scorching hot. The girls' showers, we were told, worked perfectly. At 11.15, lights out and straight to sleep; after all, it was a tiring day.

DAY 2 Breakfast was alright, but it appeared there was little break time and we went straight to the classroom after preparing the day's sandwiches. After a classroom session, we left with waterproofs to the River Perry. Yet again the heavens opened and rain fell hard. We walked up along the river sampling at different sites. Here, we discovered that flats and riffles weren't types of crisps but were different sections of the river.

By midday, everyone was cold, wet and miserable and basically couldn't be bothered counting organisms, so we returned to the Centre where we spent extra time interpreting what data had been collected. After a fairly uneventful evening, we went to bed.

DAY 3 We were woken by some person knocking on the doors. This day was spent looking at effects of pollution upon organisms. We trekked up rivers to the pollution source, a sewage plant which had been constructed incorrectly and raw sewage was draining directly into the river. Here, we were issued with gloves and advised to avoid any skin contact with water. The teachers stood well back and mutterings of weils disease and rats were heard. After washing all the equipment in a clean canal, we returned to the Centre for yet another gourmet dinner.

DAY 4 Ben and I awoke around 2 am, as some joker(s) set our alarm off and we spent half the morning trying to find it. Today was spent on moorland counting heather plants, which seemed to take hours, however, it was fairly enjoyable as it didn't involve stream dwelling nymphs and other organisms. My group finished early and we spent the rest of the afternoon annoying other groups. Again, the evening meal was fairly boring.

FINAL DAY We returned to the small pond for a recapture exercise which, again, failed. On the upside, however, we did get several minutes' sunshine. After collecting our kit together, we loaded up the minibuses and made for home.

On reflection, the trip proved most useful and was very enjoyable. We learned organisms never follow texts and are always unpredictable. All we have to look forward to now is writing up our courseworks.

Thank you very much to Mr Myers, Mr Moore and Miss Matthews for taking us and an extra thanks to Miss Matthews for some rugby tips.

William Laird (LRSM)

OUTER HEBRIDES CYCLE CAMP

Extracts from the diary of an Outer Hebridean cycle camper - July 1997

Sunday, 13th July

At last, the day has come when we are leaving for the Outer Hebrides. Last week, I helped to buy the food we are taking and pack it into plastic bags for each tent for each day. It's in four old blue rucksacks which are almost as heavy as me!

I've just managed to fit all my clothes into my cycle panniers and then I forced in the "Trangia" Meths stove and tied my half of the tent on top. Now my front wheel hardly stays on the ground! I managed to squeeze in two issues of "Mountain Biking" magazine and my mum's Branston pickle, so we won't be totally cut off from civilization.

Rasheed lifted all the bikes on to the minibus roof where they were firmly secured. We travelled up to Crianlarich where we were attacked by midges outside the Youth Hostel.

Monday, 14th July

Ben Nevis was hiding in the clouds but I still took several photographs. We went through Glencoe, saw the Five Sisters of Kintrail, went across the new Skye Bridge and unloaded at Uig on Skye. When the ferry, "The Hebridean Isles", came in, our bikes were loaded up again and we went on first so we were able to get on to the games machines. At Lochmaddy, on North Uist, we came off the ferry last and made out way through a deserted village to the Youth Hostel. Mr Hardy said it was the last chance for a shower for over a week but I don't want to take off my cool sunglasses, so I didn't bother.

Tuesday, 15th July

The post bus is taking our first food rucksack across the Island to near our first campsite. That will save our carrying so much more weight. There was a bit of a problem with Rasheed's back wheel! Mr Hofton spent two hours stripping it down and reassembling it but it is totally unserviceable; we hope the cycle hire in Carinish can help us.

We set off and made quite good time against the wind and rain on our way to the west side of the Island, only stopping to wipe the rain off my sunglasses a few times. We ate our lunch, sheltering in a bus shelter, and filled our meths bottles at the Clachan stores.

At the wild campsite, we soon settled in next to the Atlantic Ocean. A lot of my clothes are damp because I didn't wear my waterproofs when I was playing on the beach.

Wednesday, 16th July

Rasheed has a new bike for today from the local bike hire centre, but it hasn't got a Coca-Cola water bottle, so it didn't go as fast as mine! We took a ride through the crofts and flower meadows of the "Machair" grasslands to the beach near Paible but the sand wasn't hard enough to ride on. My gears work very well downhill but they aren't very good uphill and as there's always more uphill, I pushed my bike on some parts. When we headed back to camp, the wind was behind us and we zoomed along, stopping only to use the luxury public toilet.

In the evening, some of us went to phone home to tell them that our cool shades were still comfortable. We found the phone box in somebody's back garden! A friendly old crofter helped us to fill our water containers and a boy of about my own age asked me if I was OK when I stopped to wait for Stephen. It really is different here compared to Manchester.

Thursday, 17th July

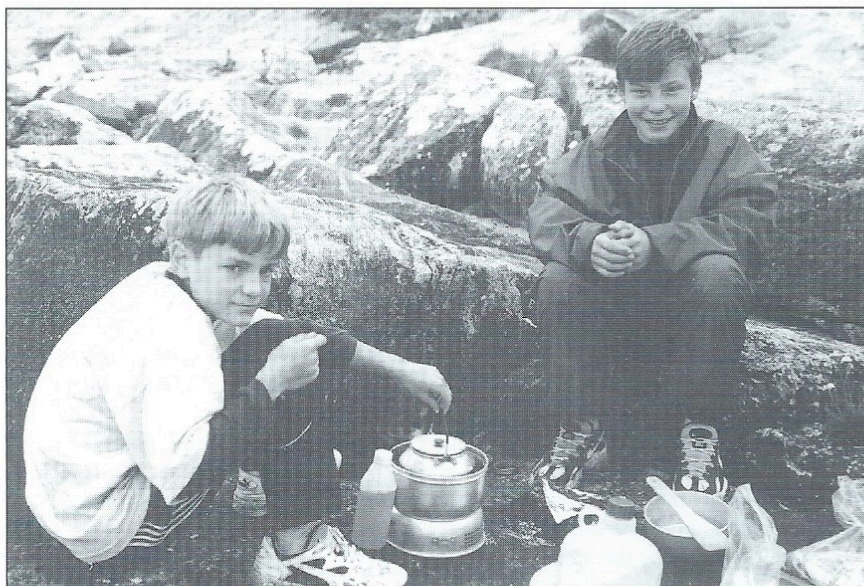
Rasheed's new wheel was delivered last night, so we are off to our new campsite. My clothes and camping gear only fitted into my panniers after Mr Hofton tamed my wild sleeping bag. Our new campsite is really magnificent. It is at the end of a rough grassy track overlooking a wide expanse of silver sand at Machair Robach. The only thing washed up on the beach was a fish box which Mr Hardy found and used as a seat but I pinched it for our cooking shelter because my backside is sore from cycling and needs special treatment. I was so tired tonight that I didn't go to the phone box to tell my dad that my super gel saddle doesn't work properly.

Friday, 18th July

The weather is sunny today, the cooking shelters have been taken down and I found a take-away kiosk hiding from the wind at Otternish as we took the small ferry to Berneray. We could play snooker, table tennis and darts in the village hall which also served chips. Sohail cycled all the way to the end of the Island but I don't want to strain my bike in case the "Easy rider" stickers peel off. Mr Hofton found a really clean, free shower at the fisherman's pier and bought a towel and some soap just so he could use it!

Saturday, 19th July

The little ferry from Otternish to South Harris takes only ten cars and we had to stack our bikes against a car bonnet. Luckily, it didn't scratch my water bottle holder. We had lunch in a café! The shop didn't have "biking" magazines so I bought extra sweets. Our campsite tonight is out on a headland overlooking a light turquoise sea with golden sands and I went to sleep listening to the oyster catchers piping as the sea broke gently on the beach (after the blue tent eventually stopped talking).



Chris Weems and Stephen Lancashire cooking their evening meal
(Photo: J H Hardy)

Sunday, 20th July

Today is the Sabbath here, so we had a later start! Then we had to climb a massive hill next to our campsite. It was hard work so I really enjoyed my biscuits, chocolate spread and cheese at lunchtime with a view across miles of golden sands to the high hills of Harris. Tonight, we had a game of football on the flat Machair grassland but Tom hurt his knee. He walked back to camp using his bike for support. Sohail thinks he saw a corncrake near to the water tap.

Monday, 21st July

Tom's gone to Stornoway in an ambulance! The local doctor was fairly sure that all he needed was rest (Tom's not the only one who needs that!) but Mr Hofton and Tom went 50 miles to the casualty hospital for an X-ray. While they were away, we explored the rocky east coast of Harris which has massive peat diggings, some salmon farms, little sheds for weaving Harris Tweed and the possible site for the biggest quarry in Britain! I thought I was getting fit but in soaring temperatures, I had to push my bike up three hills and that was without panniers. On the way back to the camp, Chris Bowmer earned himself a badge when he scrounged some heavy duty plastic ties which have now mended Gregg's pannier carrier, which fell apart yesterday.

You would not believe it! The specialist in Stornoway says Tom mustn't walk more than a hundred metres and must not ride his bike. He's staying tonight at a bed and breakfast guesthouse with Chris Bowmer. They have to sleep in real beds with a bathroom next door and sit down in real chairs and eat a real breakfast. Mr Hardy says it's exactly the same food but I know that our crunchy nut cornflakes are getting rusty now and anyway, I can't find my chocolate spread.

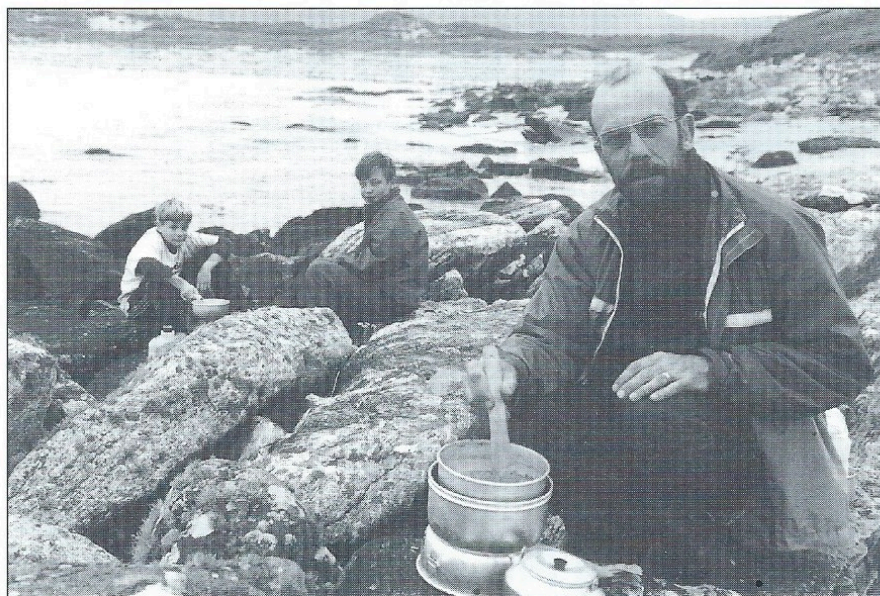
Tuesday, 22nd July

We packed up the tents and panniers this morning, and in record time, but I can't remember where I've hidden the lunch for today. We cycled back carefully through the dunes just in time to see Mr Hofton getting onto a bus with his bicycle! Tom can't cycle, so he's getting a lift to the next campsite so Mr Hofton is going with him.

As we rode along, I stopped at a Post Office to buy some stamps but it was only open for a few hours per week and there was only a postal collection on two days. The telephone was out of order, so I couldn't phone home to tell them that my cool shades have stopped digging into my ears now. We are actually staying on a real campsite with a toilet, wash basins, a litter bin and a small shop. We spent the afternoon in Mediterranean conditions on the beach at Horgabost. John adjusted his gears and brakes and then, after the evening meal, we had a pancake party. It was obviously a ruse to get us to clean up the Trangia stoves with plenty of hot water and soap but I didn't mind as, after my first scrumpled heap, I produced a superb pancake in the sizzling hot oil. There was an amazing sunset across the bay with all the islands glowing red.

Wednesday, 23rd July

Even though it was raining, we soon packed up. Everyone was keen to get to Tarbert. We had a cup of hot chocolate in the First Fruits tea room which was full of tourists. They have all cheated by driving around the islands and so they have missed all the hill and spills, can't smell the peat smoke or hear the rasping of the corncrake. When I sat in the tea room, I was glowing all over and I felt very happy. I found a souvenir shop which sold me two tea pot stands for my mum and dad and then we boarded the big ferry "The Hebridean Isles" and went for a meal of chips and more chips. We landed at Uig, where the minibus had stayed for nine days and sorted out the camping gear. I gave back the panniers I had borrowed. At the Youth Hostel, it was really great to have a real bed to bounce on.



Masterchef 1997
Mr Hofton prepares porage next to the sea at Clachan Sands, North Uist
(Photo: J H Hardy)

Thursday, 24th July

We were prised out of bed at five o'clock in the morning, but we went back to sleep as we travelled to Pitlochry for breakfast and back to William Hulme's Grammar School after a twelve hour drive. Gregg and Sohail say they want to go back next year and that they enjoyed the camping, cycling and walking and I suppose I have to admit that I've done about ten times as much as I would have done at home. I can't remember what I did on the first few days, so it's a good job I've kept this diary.

My sunglasses still work but they got squashed when I fell off to sleep in the minibus on the way back!

Based on contributions from the cycle campers:

Sohail Anjum, Rasheed Ayodola, Chris Bowmer, Gregg Harmston, Stephen Lancashire, John Odlin, Tom Sutton, Chris Weems, Mr J G Hofton and Mr J H Hardy.

DIE PHYSIKER

As we worked our way through our first set book for the German Literature Paper, "The Life of Galileo", Mr Turner spotted a similarity with a book by Dürrenmatt called "Die Physiker". Both deal with the responsibility of the scientist towards political realities.

As soon as we had heard about the play, we were watching it at Manchester High School for Girls. A gathering of approximately two hundred German students was present for the performance.

"Die Physiker" is about a scientist who knows a secret which could destroy the world if anyone knew about it. He decides to hide in a mental hospital posing as a madman. He is joined there by two other people who are spies from Russia and America. (This is the pre-1990 world!) The play shows the way the spies try to unveil the secret.

This was an interesting play with a good plot and a bit of comedy. Both the Upper and Lower Sixth Form German sets went to see the play and everyone had a thoroughly good time.

Apart from the link with our set book, we found another use for this play. It became a main feature article in our German B.T. Newspaper Day entry, with pictures from Mr Langford's production here in 1978. This page is reproduced in facsimile on page 47, an appropriate tribute to our longest-serving German teacher in this, his retirement year.

Nishant Agarwal (LGJT)

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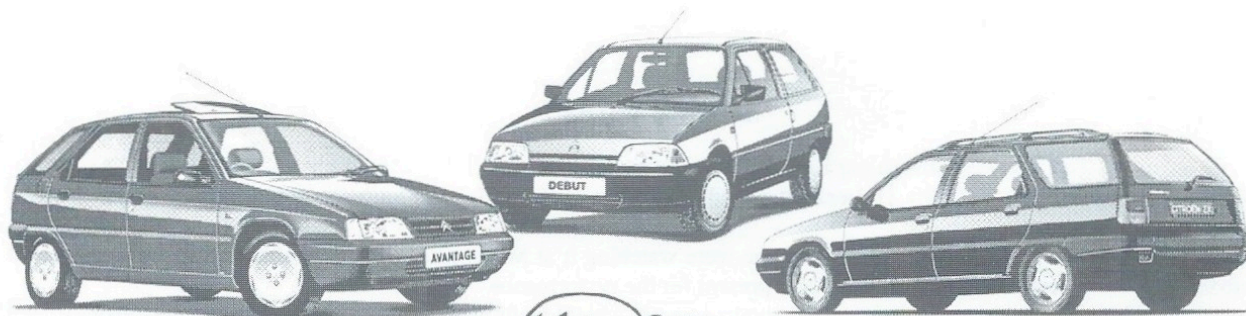
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