

WEDNESDAY

This morning the flies arrived. The wind had dropped and the flies get everywhere, particularly on my food.

During the day we went to the Crofters' Show and saw Highland Dancing and the Uist Pipe Band. It was so hot and fine and almost everybody on the island must have been there. The cycle back to camp was so easy and then we all jumped into the sea (even Mr Hardy). We had to cook on the crest of the sand dunes to keep the flies away.

In the evening as the red sun set straight into the sea we had our Island Games. My favourite was the bowls we played with the fishing floats washed up on the beach.

Omar Hussain (1R)

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

It is time to go back now. Some of us are sad because the weather is so good and we've had a great time but we are all looking forward to getting back to Manchester.

The cycle back to Lochboisdale was really hard against the wind but we all had fish and chips at the café and dropped off our heavy bags. We cycled to the South of the island and had our tea looking towards Barra and Eriskay. The big ferry arrived on time but we almost left Mr Gorman behind. The crossing to Oban was smooth and we all got a good deal of sleep.

It was an action-packed week. It was hard at times but we all learnt a lot during the holiday. Everyone got on well together, we saw a part of Britain that few people have seen and we think we saw a corncrake!

Mr J H Hardy

GREEK PLAY TRIP

For the Ancient Greek LV1th set, a chance to see a play in its original language arose and was too good to be missed. A party of four, led by Mr Gracey, travelled to Cambridge on the 25th of February, to witness the rare event of a play performed in Greek. Unfortunately the text, 'The Birds', written by the comic playwright Aristophanes, is a complex affair with great lyrical metre and clever punning and other language-based humour. Also we had not read the text in Greek, only in translation.

The day started with an audience assembled in the lecture theatre to hear the director of the play give her views and ideas on the costume, actors and other such points. For the actors she chose mostly good drama students and taught them Greek, rather than teaching the Greek Scholars how to act. A chorus in a Greek play formed an integral part of the plot as well as acting as an interlude, and the director used the chorus as an opportunity lavishly to costume the actors who danced around in beautiful 'bird-like' fashion. She seemed excited about their production and having watched the spectacle I thought her feelings seemed justified.

Although our knowledge of Ancient Greek is still slightly limited, an overall sense of the plot could feasibly be obtained from the good direction and the commendable acting within the play. The heat failed to spoil the entertainment as we four were fortunate enough to observe a fine attempt to recreate the splendid atmosphere and feeling generated by a Greek play masterminded by a comic genius

Carl Hope, James Taylor &
Andrew Haslam (LWJ)

* * *

TRIPS WITHIN GREATER MANCHESTER

6th FORM GERMAN DAY

SALFORD UNIVERSITY

At the end of January, we the Lower 6th German set were fortunate enough to be able to attend the 6th Form German Day at Salford University. The day, organised by the Association of Language Learning in conjunction with Salford University, comprised a total of five separate lectures, with subject ranging from a Max Frisch play, "Andorra", to an overview of the German Press. Perhaps the highlight of the day however was the invaluable insight into the oral component of our forthcoming A Level exam. The lecture, given by Dr Joachim Desch of the University of Wales, gave us all crucial advice and indeed great confidence for this area of our work. We would all like to thank Mr Turner for his organisation and supervision of a very worthwhile day.

Michael Bartlett (LGJT)

SPANISH LECTURES AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Tuesday, 13th December both Sixth Form Spanish sets accompanied by Mr. Bull and Miss McGuinn enjoyed an evening of stimulating political discourse and traditional Hispanic merriment.

The evening commenced at UMIST with two fixtures about contemporary Spain in the 20th century given by two distinguished professors of Spanish History. The first lecture, which was given in Spanish by Professor Juan Pablo Fusi, was entitled 'Regionalismos y nacionalismos en la España del siglo XX' meaning Regionalism and Nationalism in 20th Century Spain. Although at times we did not find the talk easy to follow, its content was on the whole engaging, and for a number of us it was relevant to our chosen coursework areas. Although it was not really related to my area of research, I found the Professor's informed answer to my question about whether or not Catalonia has changed much since Spain's integration into the European Union helpful to my study.

The second lecture, given by Professor Paul Preston, was entitled 'An Assessment of the Age of Franco' and was at times humorous, yet always thought-provoking and provocative. For a number of us the talk held much relevance in its factual content and in this respect its chronological and easy-to-follow delivery was beneficial.

After the lectures we headed for the 'La Tasca' Spanish restaurant where we held our annual Spanish Christmas Dinner. We enjoyed authentic Spanish 'tapas' and not so authentic drinks. On the whole an educational, enjoyable and entertaining evening was had by all. Our thanks to Mr. Bull and Miss McGuinn for making this outing possible.

Afshin Matin-Razm (UCMG)

SPANISH LECTURES AT SALFORD UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday, 23rd November 1994 myself and the other nine Spanish 'A' Level students went to Salford University to attend a series of lectures on Hispanic Studies.

The day started at 10.00am and we arrived just in time to hear the first lecture given by Mrs. Audrey Brassloff on the theme of Juan Carlos and the introduction of a democratic system in Spain. Parts of the lecture were difficult to follow but I think everyone came out surprised by how much they could actually understand.

After the break eight Spaniards, who were studying at the University, acted out four role-plays which we had individually prepared beforehand and this gave us an insight into what the examiners are looking for.

Following these we were given a slide show and talk by Mrs. Marigold Best "Cuba a partir de 1959", Cuba after 1959.

At 1.30pm we all met up again after a hurried lunch, and settled in our seats for the final two lectures.

The first one was given by Dr. Mervyn Lang who spoke to us about the many different kinds of Spanish music. We were all looking forward to a demonstration of the popular Flamenco dancing but unfortunately this did not happen and we had Brian the technician, showing us clips of other traditional dances like 'el paso doble', la jota and el chotis. This year for the first time the day ended differently. In previous years the audience had to choose between two lectures, but this year there was just the one. This lecture was given by Miss Marie Layng on "Los problemas de la juventud de hoy" (The problems of Spanish youth today). It covered all the problems of the youth of Spain today from school and work to drugs and drink.

Surprisingly it was a tiring day but worth it. Our thanks go to Mr. Bull for arranging the visit, to Mr. Corfield for driving us there in the mini-bus and to Miss McGuinn for accompanying us.

Debra K. Mosley (LJS2)

SIXTH FORM LANGUAGES AFTERNOON AT SALFORD

Two excellent articles were submitted, so both are included.—Ed.

LOWER SIXTH LANGUAGES AFTERNOON AT SALFORD

The 28th June 1995, was an almost unbearably hot day, perhaps the hottest of the year up to that point, and also the date of the Lower Sixth Languages afternoon at Salford University. We attended morning school until the end of Period 4, after which we collected a packed lunch from the dining hall, kindly supplied by Mr Axon. It was then time to make our own way to our destination. Some went by car and some by local bus and we all managed to meet up in the entrance to the University.

During the afternoon there were to be 8 lectures in 3 languages, 4 French, 2 German and 2 Spanish. I do French and German "A" Levels, so I attended one lecture in each.

The French lecture was concerning youths in France and told of the worries of French teenagers, for example, the environment and personal finance. It was intriguing to see how these ranked in the eyes of the French, which was not dissimilar to the English point of view, and to discuss these issues in a different language.

The German lecture was regarding television advertising, but was more of a lesson than a lecture. We were given a sheet with exercises on, then we watched a variety of adverts which the questions were based on. The task was relatively easy, but it was an opportunity to compare the structure of the German adverts to our own ways of advertising.

Following the language lectures there was a lecture on the subject of how you can make use of a language degree.

The talk was presented well in English. It connected jobs available to every language graduate to the actual choices of the language graduates at Salford University.

Despite the weather and our sitting in a small room for three hours, it was a very enjoyable afternoon where much was learnt. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who went with us to the lectures, Mr Turner, Miss McGuinn, Miss Millington and Sylvia, and give special thanks to Mr Hofton for arranging the trip.

Hannah Berrisford (LGJT)

SALFORD UNIVERSITY

The Lower Sixth Modern Languages Department travelled to Salford University on Wednesday 28th June 1995. We made our own way there and most like myself travelled by car. It took us about 45 minutes to find our destination, due to Paul Bagnall getting lost on the way (we ended up on the motorway to Eccles!) After our slight mishap we arrived just in time for our first lecture, at 1.30pm. I attended the two Spanish Lectures, the first entitled "Tiempo libre de la juventud en España". The lecturer Esperanza Ramon-Alonso spoke in fluent Spanish about what Spanish teenagers do in their free time.

Surprisingly, unlike in England, Spanish teenagers hardly ever have part-time jobs and they live with their parents until they get married. Spanish families are more protective than English families and Spaniards are not funded by the Government to attend University; the parents have to pay the fees and this leads to only the rich being well educated. Some of the facts were very interesting and towards the end of the lecture we discussed what the English youth do in their free-time. The second lecture, entitled "Viva la musica" (long live music) was given by an English lady, Mary Taylor, who showed us some extracts from Spanish television music shows, their equivalent to our "Top of the Pops". One thing that surprised me was that Bruce Springstein was voted their favourite musician. After the lecture finished we were given the opportunity to attend a careers lecture or to go home early. However, those of us who chose the latter arrived home no sooner because a certain young man ran out of petrol and we spent another hour helping out - so much for missing lectures!

Carrie Litherland (LJS2)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRIP TO CHEADLE CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

One hot sunny day we arrived at Cheadle Hulme Catholic Infant School, eagerly awaiting the morning planned ahead of us.

Miss De Vince split the seven of us up into groups. Three of us went into Reception Class, containing children aged between four and five years of age, two of us went into Middle Infants, containing children aged between five and six years of age, the other two of us went into Top Infants, containing children aged between six and seven years of age.

Having studied in some great depth how children acquire language we sat amongst the children observing and talking to them, generally about the tasks that their teachers had set them. The children were extremely well behaved and responded with great enthusiasm to all our questions. We were able to see what we had been learning about during our English Language 'A' level course as well as being able to mix with and have a great deal of fun with the children. We observed some differences between the Top and Bottom Infants. In the Top Infants their vocabulary had increased and most words were produced correctly. Their reading has also progressed as they were reading much more adventurous stories. In the Bottom Infants their vocabulary has been much more limited to their own environment and what they had encountered. In their reading books they relied on structure, learning the steps and putting them into practice. It also was apparent that the children, to some extent, had learnt by imitation. They did not always understand words that they used as one girl tried to use "mischievous" but it was not clear whether she fully understood its meaning. However, the children could repeat words perfectly without actually having heard them before. We also observed the environment in which the children were learning language, such as the type of reading and writing books that they used and how they progressed. We also listened to the children talking amongst themselves and found it quite amusing when the children began to talk about "Power Rangers" and when they tried to tell jokes to us.

At break time we played outside with the children. This was by far the most amusing part of the trip as we all joined in the games with the children and laughed as the boys chased the girls. We were all sad when it was time to go, but we all felt that we had learnt a lot from the visit and most of all we had had a really great time with the children.

Alice Caine and Louise Shroot (LMRB)

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND SCHOOL EVENTS

CHESS

The School took part this year, as usual, in the Stockport League. The Seniors were captained by Philip Gee (UHWT), who was regularly joined by Junji Inaba (LMRB), Ankish Patel (LSMW), Stephen Hadfield (LRSM), David Gilbert (LPJC) and Ajay Bagga (4J), until his move to Nottingham. The Juniors were ably captained by Shazad Arshad (3K) and usually included Neil Whitehead (2J), Hadi Al-Bayati (1K) and Padman Subramanian (1R). Despite regular victories by Shazad Arshad, Neil Whitehead and David Gilbert, successes by the team as a whole have this year proved elusive.

The Chess Club would like to express its gratitude to Mr Turner, who has organised the Turabi trophy competition for the last ten years but is now giving up his involvement with School Chess. We would like now to welcome Dr Weymont, who has thrown himself with enthusiasm into the club's activities. He has helped with the Tuesday practice session, has organised extra matches for the Juniors and has looked after the Turabi trophy this year. The individual winner of this trophy was Padman Subramanian (1R), who beat Hadi Al-Bayati (1K) in the final. The form which contributed the most competitors was 2K.

M H Gracey

DEBATING SOCIETY

This has been a successful year for the Debating Society which has gone from strength to strength. The major initiative has been the founding of a Junior Debating Society which meets every Wednesday.

Although the structure is less formal, it has proved a popular forum for the Junior School to air its views on a variety of topics from censorship to computer games to whether meat is murder. There have been a number of excellent speeches and the enthusiasm and commitment of the members has been remarkable.

Senior Debating Society has continued to meet regularly and the quality of debate has been high. The motions have varied from whether the lottery is beneficial to whether a women's place is in the home. It has been pleasing to see more Middle School members, which augurs well for the future. Gabrielle Miller and Jonathan Sills qualified for the second round of The Observer Mace Competition and although Gabrielle, this time accompanied by Neville Clemetson, were defeated by Bradford Grammar School, they both spoke well.

The House Debating Competition was of a particularly high standard this year and the quality of all the speeches was praiseworthy. Mark Knowles, Michael Birtwistle and Rahala Noor were especially commended by the judges and Whitworth won the competition this year.

Joe Lewis, Aarti Nayar and Kinnery Patel have proved excellent secretaries this year and have left the Debating Society in fine fettle for next year.

S R Tandon

PUBLIC SPEAKING

In February three members of our Lower Sixth Form entered the Didsbury Rotary Club Speaking Competition. Martin Cheung (LGJT), David Johnson (LJFS2) and Qaisra Khan (LPJC) all progressed well as they prepared for the competition and they put in excellent performances on the night. The standard was exceptionally high this year, however, and although they didn't make it through to the final they gained valuable experience and were a credit to the school.

In March and April all First and Second Formers took part in the Junior School Public Speaking Competition. The competition was run for the first time last year and looks set to become an established part of the Junior School calendar. All First and Second Formers present a talk in their English lessons and each form puts forward a finalist. The final takes place with an audience made up of all members of the Junior School, no easy task for those who make it through! This year's winners were Daniel Scorah of 1J, who tackled the topic of bullying, and Georgina Laird of 2S with her talk on sharks. A tremendous effort was made by many competitors and the finalists are all to be congratulated on their presentations. A very enjoyable afternoon.

The Hopwood Reading competition attracted a pleasing number of entrants this year. It was encouraging to see Third Formers entering the Senior Competition, and the Junior Competition was of a very high standard. Competitors are given a few moments to prepare a reading of a poem and a piece of prose. This year's winners were Geeta Rampal (LSMW) and Sara Wolfson (1R), who both showed flair and sensitivity in their readings.

Miss Priddle

THE WOOD STREET MISSION AND 3R



During the Michaelmas Term, Mrs Ballantyne's form, 3R, organised a sponsored silence in aid of the Wood Street Mission (alias the Manchester and Salford Street Children's Mission), which raised £125. Particular congratulations to Reena Comar, Elizabeth Hickey and Seekal Sagar, who organised and executed this splendid initiative.

Wood Street Mission receive cheque for £125.

CHARITIES WEEK 1995

After many fruitless meetings before December, the Prefects were almost at a loss for a charity that would suit all the School rather than a few select members. Finally the Prefects decided that the fairest method would be to gain ideas from the entire School and, sure enough, a meaningful charity presented itself to us:- Wythenshawe Hospital's Special Baby Care Unit.

Traditional activities took second place this year to new ideas. Only a few remained, like soak-a-prefect, the Prefect-Staff football match and the sponsored walk. Successful new projects took the form of an exquisitely organised fashion show for which much credit is due to Louise Borg, Sara Atkins and James Brocklehurst, as well as the participants. It reached a climax with the models peeling back their flightsuits revealing Calvin Klein underwear which covered only the bare necessities.

The Rag Mag this year was hailed as possibly the best ever, with puns, jokes and witticisms ranking high thanks to Ian Graham (B.B), Mark Knowles and Ben Myddelton; also special thanks to the cartooning abilities of Richard Serrant and Terence Sales.

The sponsored walk was again successful in gaining a large proportion of the money raised, but bad weather presided. Thanks should go to Finglands for providing necessary transport and to Mr Veevers and James Vickers for organising this event.

In contrast to previous years, fund raising did not end with Charities Week. The Charities Ball organised by Vinnie Pohoomull raised large sums of money and thanks must go to her and her associates.

A total of £6,000 was raised throughout the week. Members of the School outside the Prefects' body who took it upon themselves to organise concert and dancing displays to help in anyway possible must be congratulated.

All in all, despite the sum of money not being the greatest ever, this year's charity week was the most fun and original in many ways and we hope that it will inspire future years to be even more successful.

James White (UJAC)
(Joint Head of School)

FIRST YEAR SWIM FOR CHARITY

Last November the P.E. Department inspired the First Year to go in for some sponsored swimming sessions in aid of the National Asthma Campaign. Congratulations to all who took part!

From left to right: Andrew McLeod, Daniel Mather, Andrea Reah, Katy Samuels, Robert Booker and Helen Fisher.

(photo: courtesy of the South Manchester Reporter).





JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CHARITY DISCO 1994

During Mr. Langford's Assembly, Mark Brown and Peju Pearce present a cheque for £160 for Hope Hospital's Magnetic Resonance Scanner to Dr. St. Clair Forbes and Mrs. Roberts.

* * *

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. LECTURES

During 1994/95, the Politics 'A' Level groups attended the following lectures at Manchester University:-

The Impact of Departmental Select Committees - Prof. Philip Norton (Hull)

Can Labour win the next Election? - David Denver (Lancaster)

Central and Local Government Relations - John Kingdom (Sheffield)

Continuity and Change in the Civil Service - Prof. Mick Moran (Manchester)

The Office of Prime Minister in the context of Postwar British History - Dr. Martin Smith (Sheffield)

The Nature of British Politics - Prof. Mick Moran (Manchester)

Politics - A Career? - Peter Riddell (The Times)

Voting Preferences and the Economy - Prof. David Sanders (Essex)

The Nolan Commission and Quangos - Prof. John Stewart (Birmingham)

Women and Politics - Angela Eagle M.P.

The Media and Politics - David Denver (Lancaster)

The lectures were delivered by leading academics, journalists and politicians. They proved an excellent complement to the ULEAC syllabus.

M P Jones

2. TRIP TO THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

During the February half-term of 1995, the Politics Groups were guests of Mr Bob Dunn M.P. (Conservative, Dartford) at the Palace of Westminster. As an ex-minister and current member of the 1922 Committee, Mr Dunn was able to

give us an "insider's" perspective on the Leadership crisis and the Nolan Inquiry. As always, Mr Dunn was a very amenable host and besides showing us the usual parts of Westminster he was able to gain access to various committee rooms and private offices. We had a fascinating insight into the "corridors of power". Having spent nearly two years studying politics, members of the group were very keen to quiz an actual MP. In his honest and frank replies Mr Dunn made the textbook version of events sound very tame. We spent a good three hours touring and talking with Mr Dunn and we are very grateful for all his assistance.



M P Jones

3. GREATER MANCHESTER RADIO ACTIVITIES

Throughout 1994-95 members of staff, and the Sixth Form including many from the Lower Sixth Politics Group, starred on G.M.R.

In September 1994, a 'vox pop' session was held in Room 19, concerning the comments by Roy Chapman, Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. Mr Chapman had made a blistering attack on society's failure to provide role models for today's young people. The Lower Sixth Politics groups generally agreed with these views, and noted that there was a lack of moral values in Britain's job culture, but School, parents and religion were still strong influences on their behaviour. In late September, Reuben Singh, Amna Choudry and David Johnson took part in a 'Talk Back' session about the climate of fear in schools today. Whereas most of the adult commentators thought there was a problem, our pupils did not agree and placed a lot of blame on media exaggerations.

In October 1994, a vox pop session was held concerning the Queen's comments while on a state visit to Russia about Manchester being a 'dirty' city. Our punters agreed that this could be the case for only certain parts of the city and that the Queen was 'out of order' over this indiscretion.

In November 1994 we were very proud to host the first ever School's Debate with G.M.R. This was held in the Sixth Form Common Room, chaired by Allan Beswick and was extremely well attended. The topic under discussion was the intrusion by the press into people's private lives. Laura Owen and Rebecca Baron argued a very strong case that the press had got out of hand and needed its powers curbing. Samantha Hutchinson and Christina Barnes argued an equally strong case that civil liberties could be threatened and the value of investigative journalism was necessary in a democracy. The audience only narrowly voted in favour of curbing the press.

In November 1994 a vox pop session was held at School about the Queen's Speech and the Chancellor's recent budget proposals. Howard Goldman and Daniel Harris were very astute at seeing through the rhetoric and looking at the deeper political implications.

In February 1995 Anthony Pierce, Kathryn Arran and Guy Maddock visited the BBC Studios on Oxford Road and were interviewed about the proposed Pass Plus initiative for newly-qualified drivers. All agreed it was a good idea, but was not for them!

In March 1995, a vox pop session was held at School regarding the impact 'Europe' was having on our everyday lives. Sadia Rahman, Michael Scoles and Harry Ahuja led the discussion. Most of our punters thought Europe's impact was overrated, especially regarding sovereignty. Later in March, a second vox pop was held regarding the resignation of public figures for misdemeanours in their private lives. Robert Eckersall was very insistent that, provided a person's private performance did not distract from his or her public duties, resignations were not necessary.

Our last vox pop of the year was in May 1995 and concerned the legislation of drugs. Also in May, Mrs Brown and Mr Simkin were invited into the studios of G.M.R. to give an interview concerning the stress parents felt at exam times. Jenny Colcough also attended an interview in July 1995 about her proposed "year off" before going to University in September 1996. Lastly, throughout the year Mr M P Jones was regularly interviewed about recent political events.

Mr Jones' L. Sixth Form Politics Set

WORK EXPERIENCE '95

Following their GCSE examinations in June, thirty-five members of the Fifth Form took advantage of the Work Experience scheme. They each spent one or two weeks in various unpaid placements observing and sometimes helping their employers. The reports which were returned to us indicated that every student had been a credit to the School. We would like to express our appreciation to the following employers who accepted one or more of our students this year:-

Airtours

Allott & Lomax

Altrincham Priory Hospital

Barclays Bank Computer Centre

Bower Harris Solicitors

O. Ofoche

J. Whittaker

J. de Freitas

C. Leasor

S. Dixon

Dr. I. M. Birtwhistle
Forest Park School

C. Gaunt (Vetinary Surgeon)
Inland Revenue Altrincham
Kings Road Primary School

I. Khurana (Pharmacy)
S. J. Klonin (Barrister's Chambers)

Longview Hotel
Manchester Airport
Manchester University
Dept of Biological Sciences

Manchester University
Dept of Pathology
Manchester Royal Infirmary
Dept of Neurology

Oldham M.B.C. (legal dept)
Oldham Royal Hospital
Piccadilly Radio News

Queens Chambers

Sabre Repetition

Salford Royal Hospital

E. Shipway & Partners (Surveyors)

T.S.B. Chorlton Branch

Commercial Banking

D Sellers (Dental Surgeon)

P. Edmundson

E. Weeden

M. Rosenfield

C. Zoeffig

E. Choularton

S. Khan

S. Sobhani

V. Fleming

J. O'Keefe

K. Mackay

A. Matson

A. Greenall

F. Matthews

P. Beales

A. Shah

S. Ahamed

A. Matson

P. Vara

S. Khoshneviszadeh

J. Leinhardt

C. Shaw

J. Gordon

P. Badesha

M. Dodd

D. Johnston

C. Hewison

R. Ahmed

G.M. Brown

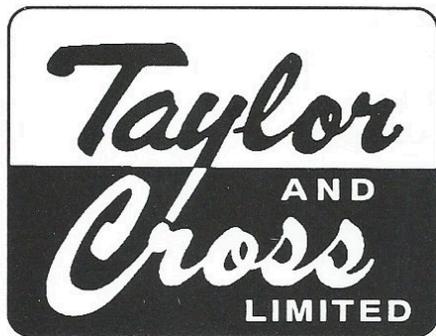
WORK EXPERIENCE

Over the last three weeks I have had the opportunity to obtain Work Experience in two different areas. During my first week I attended a Primary School as a Nursery Assistant working with three to five year olds. I have always had a keen interest in teaching and the week only served to convince me that working with children can be very rewarding, if extremely tiring. They seem to have a boundless energy and enthusiasm for a wide range of activities and challenges. You need to be alert at all times in the classroom, particularly with an eye to safety, and this adds an extra dimension to the mental and physical demands of the job.

The following two weeks I was fortunate in being able to work with the secretaries at Altrincham General Hospital. This was something I had vowed I would never do, as sitting in an office all day typing had never appealed to me. After two weeks I am still not sure I would want to become a full time secretary but the job is a lot more interesting than I had envisaged and I was amazed at how hard they work. I made a lot of friends in the process.

I think Work Experience is essential because the opportunity to participate for a while in a particular occupation or career is not often available and you should take up this advantage while you can. These varied opportunities broaden your horizons and give you valuable insight into the different career prospects you may wish to consider in the future.

Jaquie De Freitas (5Y)



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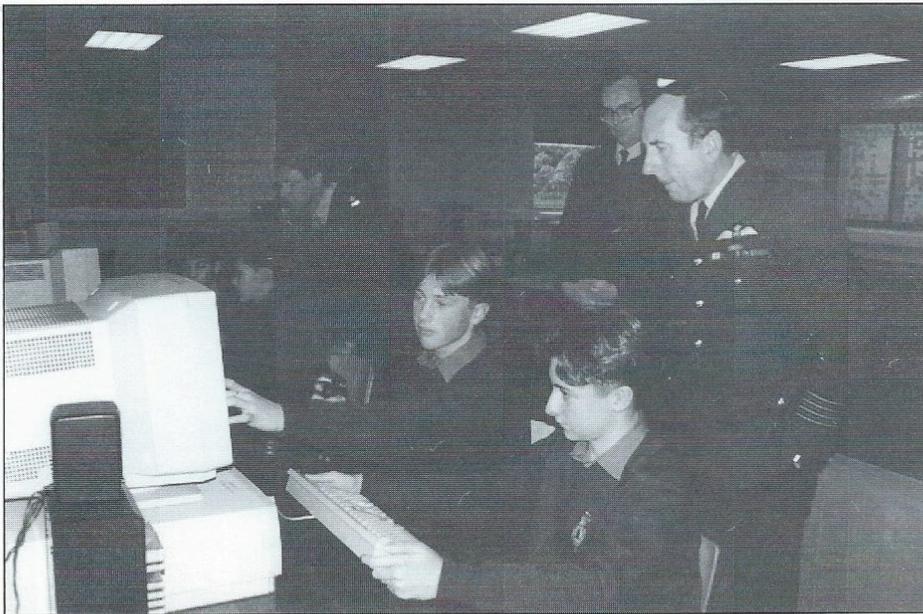
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BIENNIAL INSPECTION



Chris Hewison demonstrates the Flight Simulator to Group Captain Hopper.
(photo: J.H.Thomson)

Our Inspection this year was to follow the pattern established in 1991, doing away (to the regret of many) with the full-scale Inspection, General Salute and March Past, and replacing it with a circuit of stands, some static, some more active, designed to reflect the types of training enjoyed by cadets from the two Sections in an average year (and involving every cadet and recruit in the Contingent). The Reviewing Officer was Group Captain A G Hopper, Station Commander of RAF Shawbury, who piloted himself to School in a Wessex helicopter. After meeting the Head Master and Mrs Briggs, the OC and other officers, senior cadets and several guests over coffee, he inspected the Honour Guard commanded by W/O Richard Pimlott. He was then escorted round the many stands and demonstrations, several of which had been conceived, organised and run exclusively by cadets. While this was in progress CSM Sally Ward and Sgt Sarah Porter were invited for a flight over Greater Manchester in the Wessex and just about returned in time for the Group Captain to fly out after lunch! The programme was as follows:

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1030hrs	Reviewing Officer arrives: met by Contingent Commander, Head Master, Mr PD Briggs, and Flt Lt J Keable. Accompanied to Head Master's house for refreshments and introduction to Contingent Officers, Cadet SNCO's, and guests.	Playing Fields
1115hrs	Group Captain Hopper inspects Guard of Honour.	Head Master's House

Review circuit:

- River crossing instruction (26CTT)
- Expedition preparation
- Command Tasks
- Duties of a Sentry demonstration
- Signals lesson/exercise
- Weapon Training lesson
- Flight Simulator (IT Laboratory)
- Abseiling Instruction (26CTT)
- Assault Course competition
- Drill instruction
- First Aid instruction/demo
- RAF Police Vehicle Checkpoint

Swimming Pool

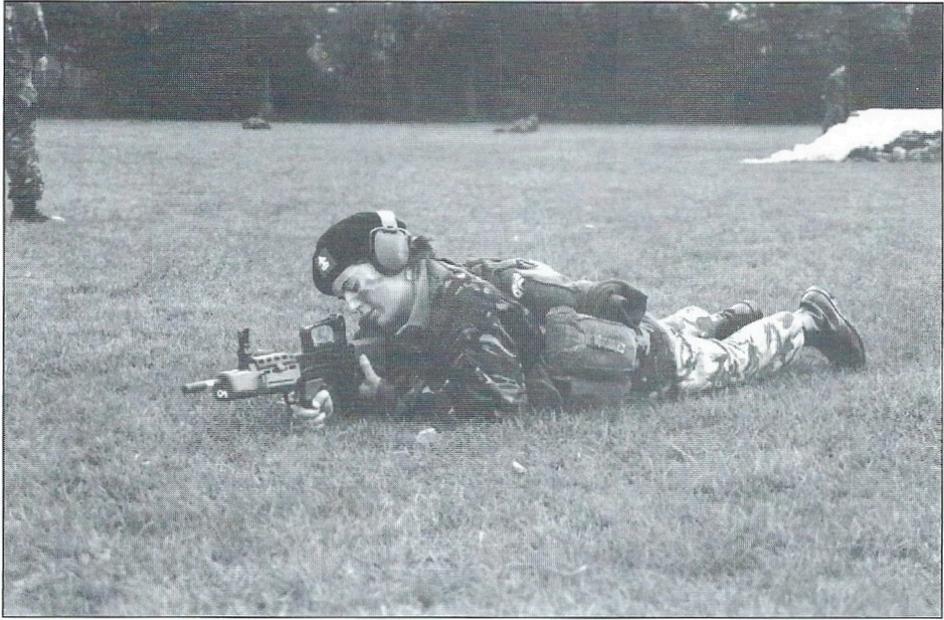
School Campus



Sgt Alex Warhurst briefs the Signals Section
(photo: J.H.Thomson)



RAF Command Task Team
(photo: J.H.Thomson)



Cpl Sarah Cochrane clears her weapon after the Platoon Attack.
(photo: J.H.Thomson)



L/Cpl Katrina McKay abseils off the Biology Lab. roof with encouragement from Lt Matthew Titchener and Sgt David Nettleton 26CTT.

1245hrs	Finale: demonstration of Platoon Attack	
1315hrs	Group Captain Hopper invited to address the Contingent	Pavilion
1330hrs	Lunch for Reviewing Officer, Head Master, Officers, Cadet SNCO's and guests	Head Master's House
1430hrs	Group Captain Hopper departs	

Before his departure the Group Captain spoke informally to the Contingent and congratulated them on their hard work, as well as their appearance and enthusiasm. He was then presented with a WHGS CCF plaque to remind him of his visit to the School.



Group Captain A.G.Hopper RAF with (l-r) J.D. Marsden Esq., Vice Chairman of Governors, P.D.Briggs Esq., Head Master, Major D.M.Fisher, Contingent Commander, and Flight Lieutenant J.Keable, ic RAF Section.
(photo: J.H.Thomson)

We are very grateful to Group Captain Hopper for the time and trouble he took over our Inspection in the middle of an extremely busy schedule. His manner created an extremely positive impression on the cadets and the report he subsequently wrote on the Contingent, I am happy to say, was most favourable. Inevitably one or two lessons were learned during the course of the review, and these will be taken into account in eighteen months' time when we are planning the next Biennial.

Major DM Fisher

ARMY SECTION

SENIOR PLATOON

The Senior (Fifth Form) Platoon spent their September Field Day with the Recruits at Holcombe Moor Training Camp. The main aim of the day's training was to practise Platoon Attack drills for the forthcoming Biennial Inspection. This proved to be a challenging yet very enjoyable experience. The weather was brilliant, the cadets were full of good humour and the training achieved all it set out to do. A good day was had by all.

In October the Platoons were very busy in the Biennial Inspection. Although a more detailed report appears above, members of the platoon were involved in many of the demonstrations and ended the day with an extremely well-executed Platoon Attack.

The Platoon's second and last Field Day in March was once again spent at Holcombe Moor. The evening training was a straightforward Ambush and Section Battle Drill exercise. The Cadet Training Team was very pleased with the Platoon's fieldcraft and weapon handling skills. The next day's training consisted of live firing on the 100m range. A high standard of marksmanship was achieved by the majority of the cadets.

Throughout the academic year, the Platoon was well represented in all the events which involved the Army Section. I was very pleased with the numbers attending the two Camps and the various service courses, and especially impressed with all those cadets who gave up countless hours of their own time for the three Open Days, the King's Cup and the Skill-at-Arms Meeting. Thanks to the Cadets' regular attendance, enthusiasm and sense of commitment, we had some great fun throughout the year, although some members of the Platoon were hard work at times. Most boys and girls gained promotion to Corporal (see below), and after Central Camp some of these earned their Sergeant's stripes.

Promotions

On the successful completion of their Cadre Course and Advanced Army Proficiency Certificate the following Cadets were promoted to Corporal:

March 1995

Guy Brocklehurst	Jane Lawson
Mark Buckley	Francesca Matthews
Philip Buxton	Miles Newton
Edward Choularton	Colin Ogden
Sarah Cochrane	Caroline Shaw
Michael Dodd	Preyesh Vara
Frances Edwards	Victoria Williams
Louise Ives	Alex Xidacis

June 1995

Paul Amadi	Jonathan O'Keefe
Geraldine Brook	Tariq Rashid
Henry Hutchinson	Simon Waind
Katrina McKay	

Capt MP Jones
Platoon Officer

RECRUIT/JUNIOR PLATOON '94-5

The Junior Platoon began training as recruits in earnest in the Michaelmas Term, most of them having spent a week at Penhale Camp while still third-formers. Top priority was weapon training, culminating in the Shooting and Safety Test. Until cadets have passed this they are very limited in terms of the military aspects of their training, since they are unable to fire the weapon, even with blank ammunition. A joint Field Day with the Senior Platoon gave them valuable experience, as well as preparing them for the imminent Inspection, in which they would be expected to play a full part.

Training during Lent Term concentrated on Map and Compass skills. Classroom theory was reinforced by practical work on their March Field Day at Tegg's Nose and Shutlingsloe in the Macclesfield Forest area. A number of cadets also went on Adventurous Training Camp (report below), where they had ample opportunities to put their knowledge to the test on a much larger scale. They performed with great credit in Snowdonia.



Captain Simkin and Recruits at Tegg's Nose.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The fine weather of the Midsummer Term enabled their NCO's to concentrate on some basic drill. At their Passing-Out Parade, at which Maj Fisher presented the cadets with red patches for their cap-badges, they were able to demonstrate both individual and squad drill movements to good effect. The awarding of red patches signifies the end of basic training and the recruits then become the Junior Platoon. The remainder of the Term was devoted to Fieldcraft, with the emphasis on Section Battle Drills and Ambush Drills. An overnight Field Day at Holcombe Moor was the opportunity to put this all into practice, and the ambush that the Head Master witnessed as he arrived on the training area was extremely effective. The following day the platoon spent live firing on the ranges, with the usual mixed success.

My thanks for their assistance throughout the year go to Sgts Nunney and Patel.

Capt A Simkin
Platoon Officer

RECRUIT PLATOON '95-6



The Recruit (Third Year) Platoon had their first Field Day at Holcombe Moor Training Camp in June 1995. There was a record number of Cadets involved, with more girls than boys for once! One purpose of the day was to give the recruits a crash-course in Fieldcraft so that they would get the most out of Summer Camp. They were shown how to set up a basha and use compositions. A successful escape and evasion exercise called Operation Dark Encounter where the recruits had to develop their camouflage skills was followed by a night under canvas - also a success, judging by all the giggles. We were very pleased to have a visit from the Head Master, who arrived in the late evening, spent a night in the Officers' Mess (-tent), and watched much of the next morning's training. I trust he was as impressed as we were with the early rising and efficient campcraft of the recruits, who were packed up and out on the training area waiting for the Officers when we arrived: a tribute to their hard-working NCO's.

Rct Elise Cohen, Krypton Factor Assault Course.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The next day's training was split between tackling the Krypton Factor Assault Course (confidence course would be a more apt name) and a Fieldcraft stand on Section Formations and Field Signals. It was obvious that the recruits had already learned a lot from the previous evening's activities.

The numbers involved this year are impressive, and provided everyone shows the same sense of commitment and good humour that they have done so far, they will have an excellent two years in the Corps.

Capt MP Jones
Platoon Officer

KING'S CUP 1994/5

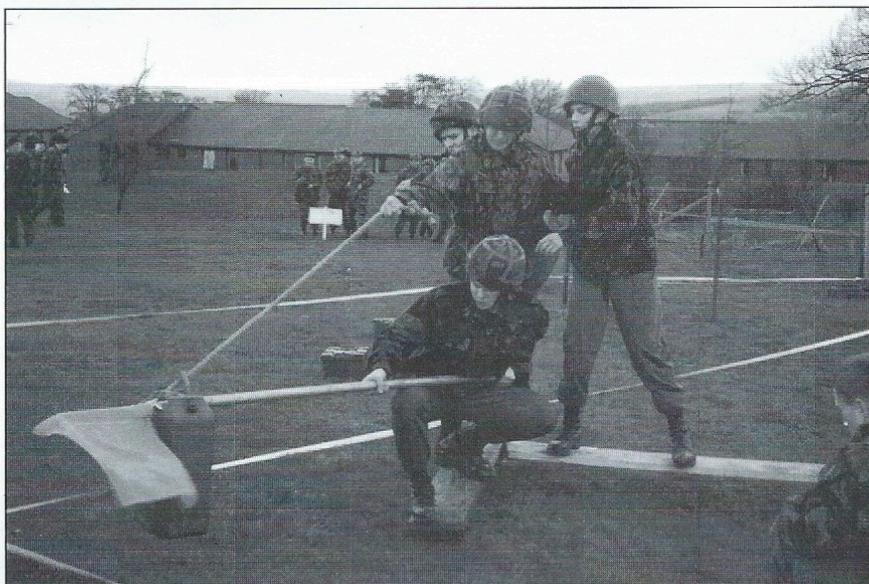


King's Cup Team, February 1995.
(photo: Capt Simkin)

The King's Cup was held at Leek Camp in February, having been postponed from the previous October. This made life a little easier for us initially, since we were able to avoid the awkward clash with preparations for the Inspection. It did, however, lead to other problems, notably with team selection, since our original captain, James Brocklehurst, was not available for the weekend of the competition. With one or two further drop-outs, we were left with a nucleus of experienced senior cadets but with one or two who had had to be drafted in very late and had consequently missed much of the essential training for this strenuous event. Captains Jones and Simkin took charge of the lunchtime training sessions, covering as much ground as possible, although never quite sure of the format or content of the competition in advance.

The seventeen teams from King's-badged ACF's and CCF's all over Greater Manchester and Merseyside were split into syndicates and our aim throughout the first day and a half was to lead our syndicate, which would enable us to go through to the eliminating rounds on Sunday. The Sports Competition (volleyball and indoor soccer) got us off to a promising start on Saturday, with excellent results in the various tests of initiative, strength and skill that followed. Syndicate first and second places were announced at the end of the day's activities, and William Hulme's were leading Syndicate 4, with Liverpool College CCF close behind.

Sunday morning began early after reveille, breakfast and a slow handover of the accommodation. The boys were taking a worryingly long time getting switched on. A written test on Military Skills was followed by the one phase we were dreading: the Drill Competition. Held very publicly and demanding the highest standards of skill from the cadets and of control and experience from the Team Captain, this was something of a nightmare, and our performance was enough to lose us the Competition, we felt sure. We did indeed score very poorly, but were still in with a chance after full marks in the Military Kim's Game and good results in the GP Rifle TOETS.



The Final Command Task.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

When the results were announced to the assembled teams the School had come first in the syndicate, and went forward into the final three-stage eliminator with the other three winners. Soon we were lying second after the Command Task and Assault Course Log-Race, and then the teams had to choose four cadets to shoot in the Falling Plate finale in front of nearly two hundred people. Each cadet had to run forward in turn, load the weapon, fire one shot at the “plates” (actually painted clays) then swap with the next member in line. If we could destroy all four clays first we would win the Competition, though we were not quite sure of this at the time, the marking of these final events having been kept a mystery by the DS! However, our heroes kept their nerve, each fired a perfect shot, shattering the clays while their opponents were still trying, and after a moment’s tantalising delay the crowd was told that WHGS had won the King’s Cup.

The presentation and photographs were to take place in the sports hall at the other end of the Camp and the cadets’ greatest fear as they tried to recover from the frenzy of the previous half hour was that they’d have to march out in front of all the other contingents and officers. Fortunately there was not sufficient space to allow this, so the team was able to shamble out quite normally to collect their trophies and congratulations from Lt Col Amlôt, now back with 1King’s as Regimental Secretary.

The Team consisted of:	Andrew Chance (Captain)	Philip Buxton
	Anthony Mawson	Guy Brocklehurst
	Andrew Nunney	Colin Ogden
	Andrew Holden	Tariq Rashid
	Alex Warhurst	

Congratulations to Andrew and his team for a memorable victory against the odds!

Maj D.M. Fisher

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CAMP



Fig Off Gracey, Mr Gorman and cadets, having just climbed Tryfan (behind)]
(photo: Maj Fisher)

We now have a tried and tested formula for this important Camp. It works well, and gives cadets of all ages the widest possible choice of activities over the week. The variables are the route for the Expedition and of course the weather. Each year we try to get some or all of the party onto Snowdon itself, but we are usually beaten by conditions which demand crampons and axes, and the skill to use them safely. Resources again had to be stretched to the limit to accommodate all those cadets who wanted to come to Wales, but help from a variety of adults, including our local 26CTT, enabled us to take thirty boys and girls to Capel Curig at the end of the Lent Term. A slightly different route this year still afforded the possibility of an ascent of Yr Wyddfa, Snowdon summit, and with reasonable weather as we walked up through the head of Cwm Pennant and into the Beddgelert Forest, the prospects were good. A warm climb up Y Garn and round the beautiful Nantlle Ridge occupied the second day, following a night in Mr Roberts’s field at Rhyd-ddu. A second dry night under canvas (and a rudimentary football match) was quite a treat, and there being no snow to speak of on the final day, all five groups set off up the Rhyd-ddu Path towards the South Ridge. The warm weather meant that views were restricted and that the summit was overcrowded, but when the long descent via the Miners’ Path led us finally to Pen y Pas and the vehicles, morale was high and the sense of achievement all-pervasive. Our cadets performed superbly, sticking together, helping each other out when necessary and complaining only rarely!



Moel Siabod summit: l-r Anthony Holden, Mark Buckley, Oliver Farrell and Jaime Stockberger. Foreground, Abby Hyams and Rachael Lee.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

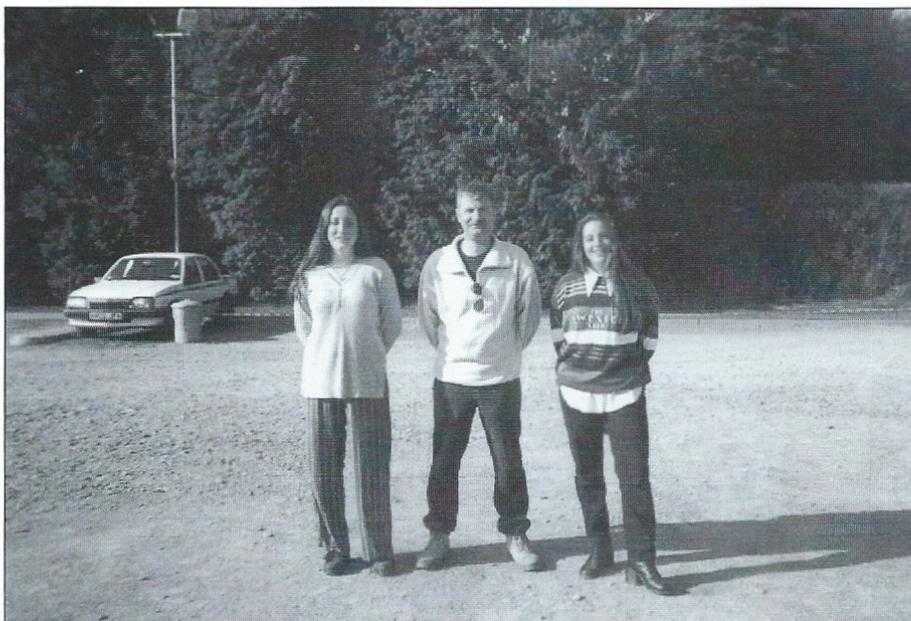
The morning following the expedition was spent in much-needed R&R, then the cadets followed a circuit of activities chosen from climbing and abseiling on Capel Pinnacles, canoeing at Plas y Brenin, mountain-biking or orienteering in the forests around Betws-y-Coed, and hill-walking. For the first time two cadets, Oliver Farrell and Nicky Arthur, had brought their own bikes with them, complete with all the essential fashion accessories, so these two spent almost all the remaining time exploring the forest trails looking for suitable challenges. Most of the adults “cycled” too at some stage, trying climbing and canoeing when the opportunity arose, and Messrs Gracey, Gorman and Fisher took a party of walkers up Tryfan on the last day. It was a very pleasant surprise for them to be met by Major Oak and RSM Williams from 42 Brigade on the summit, who had earlier visited the canoeists and climbers at Capel Curig.



MTBers Nicky Arthur and Oliver Farrell pause for a moment to pose.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

Most evenings back at camp were spent playing a fast and furious, no-holds-barred version of hockey. Undiscovered talents were er....discovered, but neither the most enthusiastic novice nor the most experienced adult could get the better of the senior girls’ cool skills and determination! It was usually too dark to see the far side of the “pitch” when the players reluctantly took themselves back to their billets.

For two of our most senior and faithful cadets, this was the last Camp. Sally Ward and Kathrynne Arran were to be in Cyprus (and not on a regimental visit, unfortunately) when the Army Section went to Culybraggan in July. We have become so used to their cheerful presence and so reliant on their tireless dedication to everything concerning the Corps that no Camp or Field Day will ever be quite the same. I feel sure that we will be able to twist their arms next year and, circumstances permitting, persuade them to come and help us run Adventurous Training in 1996! Also unable to come on Summer Camp was CSM James Brocklehurst. James has been in every way a model cadet whose contribution to the Corps has been extraordinary.



C/Sgt Kathyne Arran and CSM Sally Ward with Capt Jones, Capel Curig, April 1995.
(photo: Capt Simkin)

We were all most grateful for the participation and company of Mr Gorman, Miss McNaught and Heike, Edward Buckley, Mrs Fisher and Giles Fisher, as well as Mr Mel Sherwin whose catering was up to his usual high standards, and who has become an indispensable member of the team. Not only did he have to cater for forty while we were in camp, he had to provide sufficient individual rations for the two and a half days of the Expedition as well since the Army was not able to supply compo rations this year. Several cadets helped him in the kitchens during the camp, and I know how grateful he was for this. Cadets and adults alike owe a debt of gratitude to Captain Simkin for taking on the responsibility for the handover on the morning of our departure. It is a lengthy and exhausting job, but one he does with total efficiency and goodwill.

CSAAM

Preparing cadets for the annual North West Cadet Skill-at-Arms Meeting is one of many perennial problems! However lack of range time this year was mitigated up to a point through the good offices of Mr Williams, our Administration Assistant from 42 Brigade, who ran two pre-SAAM zeroing evenings on the ranges at RAF Sealand. Our firers were thus able to have much-needed practice and to zero their personal weapons in time for the SAAM at Altcar. Results were better than usual, and the following are worth recording:

Montgomery of Alamein Shoot:	6th	} (out of 41 teams)
Ensign Rifle Shoot:	20th	
Falling Plate (knockout) Shoot:	Semi-Finalists	
Individual Scores Overall:	C/Sgt Robert Moodie	} (out of 164 firers)
	Sgt Alex Warhurst	
	C/Sgt Joe Lewis	
Overall Team Position:	20th	

CENTRAL CAMP, CULTYBRAGGAN, JULY 1995

The Scottish Schools' Central CCF Camp at Cultybraggan Camp is a firm favourite of ours. Although the camp itself is very basic (it was built as a prisoner-of-war camp and consists largely of Nissen huts) it is set in a very beautiful part of Scotland and the training is always first-class.

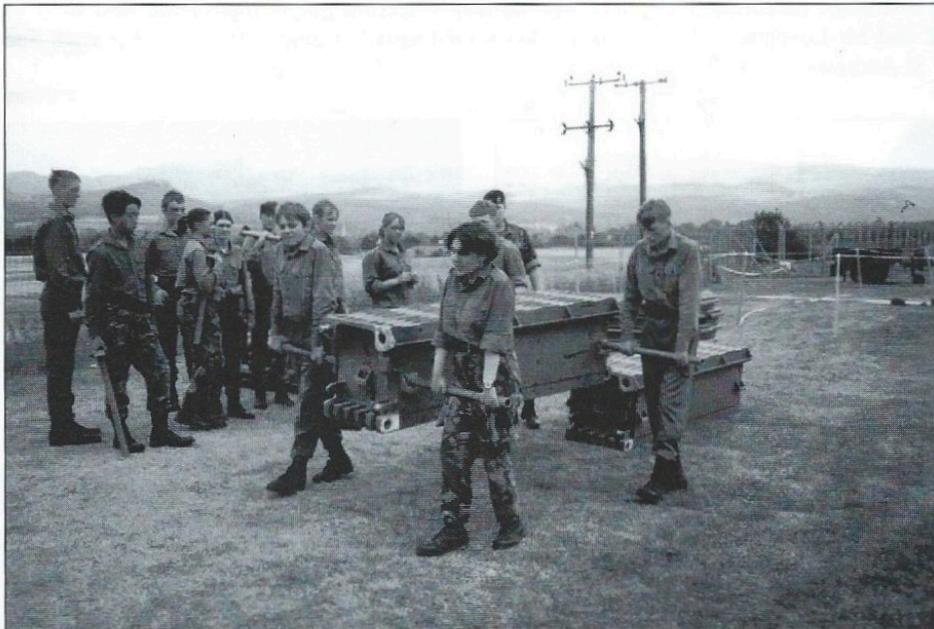
Our contingent of fifty cadets was supplemented throughout by nine Canadians on the annual Cadet Exchange, and this close association enabled both groups to get an insight into each other's training and way of life.

The first day was adventure training, with thirty cadets canoeing on Loch Earn and the rest abseiling from a ninety-foot viaduct and rock-climbing, which involved constructing and operating a Tyrolean traverse. The military training package came the next day: a very full briefing and a demonstration of Section Battle Drills by the KOSB's Demo Platoon was followed by a circuit of six practical "stands": duties of a sentry/cam and concealment, section formations, observation, CQBR (a close quarter battle range, where cadets patrol individually up a gully and engage mock enemy as and when they appear), combat First Aid (including casualty simulation) and finally the opportunity to run a Section Attack under the critical eye of an instructor (according to whom Sgt Nunney's section put in one of the best he'd seen). The circuit completed, the OC and Mr Loveland, who was paying his annual visit to Camp, left to visit the RAF Section, camping at RAF Leuchars, by St Andrews.



Three Recruits try something new: Chloe Pepall (abseiling), Kim Hayden (Tyrolean Traverse) and Stephanie Jackson (CQBR).
(photos: Maj Fisher)

The cadets then moved onto a larger training area to set up two patrol harbours for the night. From these harbours recce patrols were sent out under cover of darkness and sentries were posted, as the cadets had to remain tactical all night. Next morning they were given a rude awakening as they were attacked by regulars in what was the start of an escape and evasion exercise. By way of a contrast, after returning to camp for lunch, the contingent, expecting an afternoon's R&R, was unexpectedly taken through a strenuous training package by the Royal Engineers, including bridge-building - by hand.



Moving bridge sections into place.
(photo: Capt Simkin)

The following morning saw the cadets again split between two activities, changing over at lunchtime. An SAS sergeant, helped by a young female Officer Cadet from Aberdeen University, revealed and demonstrated vividly some of the secrets of survival (fire, water, food, shelter), while down on Loch Earn the watermanship was taking place. This involved the use of "rigid raider" craft, with and without outboards, and introduced cadets (and one or two officers) to the excitement of surf landings. This and much else was captured on video, so that cadets will be able to see themselves in action when we are back at School. In the evening the Contingent entered two teams in the Assault Course log-race Competition, in which our B Team managed to beat our A Team, both recording creditable, if not winning, times. The APTI RSM, Mr Smith, then spent two further hours putting the remaining forty or so cadets over the course after first entertaining them with warm-up games. This was typical of how all the instructors at Cultybraggan were prepared to put themselves out for the benefit and enjoyment of the cadets.



Warming up for the Assault Course.
(photo: Capt Simkin)

The Glenogle Trail day provided a much-needed lighter programme. It consists of a three mile walk along a disused railway line with a number of command tasks (physical initiative tests) to be completed along the way in teams of eight, each with an accompanying instructor. The emphasis is on everyone having fun and getting wet!



Stretcher Race , Glenogle Trail.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

Later that evening the March and Shoot Competition was held. The weather was still warm so the team's march time was modest but the shooting excellent so they achieved a respectable result. The winners were Edinburgh Academy.

On the final day cadets followed a circuit of activities on or near camp, including signals, command tasks, firing (30m range) and clay-pigeon shooting, at which Rct Robert Richardson excelled!

The Camp had provided excellent and varied training. We were visited by Mr Loveland and by Major Oak SO2 G3 Cadets at 42 Brigade. Mr Grange came out of retirement to help, having cycled from Manchester via Bute. We also had the invaluable assistance of Miss Matthews, who is hoping to be commissioned into the Corps this year, and Mr Gorman. Our thanks to all of these and to our cadet SNCO's for keeping a tight rein on things while at camp.

At the end-of-Camp debrief, the following promotions were made:

with effect from 15 July 1995:

to U/Offr	CSM James Brocklehurst
to RSM	CSM Sally Ward
to CSM	C/Sgts Kathyne Arran, Andrew Chance and Anthony Mawson
to C/Sgt	Sgts Andrew Holden, David Hufton, Abby Hyams and Andrew Nunney
to Sgt	Cpls Guy Brocklehurst, Edward Choularton, Sarah Cochrane, Frances Edwards and Caroline Shaw
to L/Cpl	Cdts Oliver Briggs, Oliver Farrell, Chris Johnstone, Ben Kent, Rachael Lee, Eliot Mason, Paul Murphy, Glynn Roberts, Jake Royle and Amir Tabatabaei

with effect from 1 Sep 1995:

to C/Sgt	Sgts Ankish Patel and Natalie Mason
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with effect from 30 Oct 1995:

to C/Sgt	Sgt Alex Warhurst
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Best Recruits on Camp were: Alison Hawcroft, Robert Richardson, Joanna Shaw

Capt A Simkin

CAPTAIN H.V.GRANGE

Captain Harold Grange, who commanded the Corps in the early Seventies, retired from School at Christmas.

As the only officer with military service since Major Chudleigh's retirement five years ago he was invaluable to the Corps and his influence will be sorely missed. Capt Grange was an officer characterised by a dislike for the unnecessary, but a fierce insistence on what he deemed to be important. A good cadet was hard-working but not humourless, smart but not polished, respectful but not obsequious - and I have a suspicion that this would describe a good officer in Capt Grange's eyes too. A presentation to convey the affection and respect of the Contingent and its Officers was made at a Supper given on his retirement and attended by friends of the Corps old and new.



Capt Grange, flanked by the OC and Capt Jack Peat.
(photo: Capt MP Jones)

We are delighted that retirement has not dulled his interest in the Corps and that we were able to persuade him to come up (by bike, of course) to help us out with this year's Summer Camp in Scotland. Thus another generation of WHGS cadets will be able to benefit from his influence. We all wish Harold Grange a long, active "retirement" and thank him for his excellent company and for all he has taught us. His invitation to Snowdonia next Easter is already in the post!

Maj DM Fisher

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RAF SECTION

The Section has had another successful year. An exceptionally large number of cadets are attending courses this summer - four are doing their Basic Glider Training, which culminates in a solo flight in a glider, and three are attending the Hulton Leadership Course. Flight Sergeant Sarah Porter is spending 2½ weeks over the summer in America on the prestigious International Air Cadet Exchange, which is open to Cadet Forces throughout the country and for which there are only two places for female cadets. We hope to publish an account of her experiences in next year's Hulmeian.



Sarah Porter receives her Basic Gliding Certificate.
(photo: courtesy of the South Manchester Reporter).

EASTER CAMP

Easter camp was held this year at St Athan near Cardiff in South Wales. Cadet Matthew Whyatt had a memorable time:

We left school at break and travelled in a minibus to RAF St Athan. I was with all the bags at the back. When we came close to the base, those who had already been to St Athan last year recognised familiar landmarks.

Settling in and being made welcome was great. We had the usual safety, fire and security briefs and one about the base itself. Then came the FAMEX, the familiarisation exercise. Everybody went out around the base, hunting for buildings and answering certain questions about them. Richard, my partner, and I thought we had finished, having answered all the questions, so we returned to the building where we were housed, only to find that we had not put down the building numbers! So we then had to re-run the whole course, writing down a couple of three-digit numbers in the rain - this was the only rain we got during the whole camp.

The next day was work experience. I went off to the armoury. I had never seen so many guns! I helped in the cleaning and checking of the L98 Cadet Rifles. They also showed me other weapons and how to strip them down.

That night we played an organised game of football on the football pitch. We had a free kick on the edge of the area and I took it. I scored but I also managed to break the goalie's arm!

Over the next few days we made many friends from all corners of the British Isles. On all the activities we were joined by cadets from Ireland, Scotland and Walsall. You didn't have to ask where they came from. It was obvious from the way they spoke - especially those from Walsall!

Also on the next few days we took part in a NAVEX and a NITEX, which we won after scrambling around a field at 11 o'clock at night! We also went flying in a Chipmunk - this was my fifth time. I flew the aircraft for about 15 minutes and also did many aerobatics.

The next day we went shooting on the range. We probably used the guns which I helped to check and they all worked o.k.! I got a second class shot, 17 out of 24.

On the second-to-last day we went around the base, looking at Jaguars, Tornados and Hawks. We also visited the Fire Department and the Air Traffic Control Tower.

During the camp we went to a leisure pool and to the cinema. "Star Trek Generations" was on. It took me a while to get used to it as I had never seen Star Trek before!

The end of the camp came and everybody said goodbye. Everybody who went really enjoyed it. It was a camp to remember. Thanks to Dr Keable, Mr Addison and the senior NCO's.

Matthew Whyatt (4J)

SUMMER CAMP

Two camps were organised during the summer. Cadet Rahala Noor attended one of these at RAF Leuchars near Inverness in Scotland. She wrote a diary of her experiences:

SATURDAY - We left school at about 9am. We stopped at a service station where Adam (Dean Caine) Dignan attempted to buy a photo of himself and Beth from Neighbours from one of the machines. However machines are a bit tricky for Adam, who ended up with a photo of himself and Superman. The caption underneath said : "I love you, Adam." Adam valued the photo so highly that he slept with it under his pillow each night.

SUNDAY - Considering that we were not attending school, we woke up at the unearthly hour of 6am. We then did a familiarisation exercise, in which we had to fill in the names and uses of buildings on a map. We were not allowed to cheat and, of course, being honest and capable cadets, we did no such thing. We had no need or wish to ask the guards and other RAF people for help and, of course, we did not do so.

We then went on our first Section visit, which was to the Fire Section. This was a most enjoyable experience for all the cadets. They were able to try on a fireman's uniform, put out a fire and take a ride in a fire-engine. The visit ended with a little exercise in which the two flights had to assemble a water hose and fire it before the other flight. There were a lot of wet cadets at the end of this exercise as they decided to fire the hose at each other.

We then played a game of socket, which is a cross between soccer and cricket. Basically you play cricket using a football. It would have been a perfectly safe game, had it not been for cadet Rahala Noor, who is accident-prone. She accidentally kicked a football into part of one of the male cadets where it caused a lot of pain.

We ended the day by going on a navigation exercise. We were driven out of the base and, to our horror, were given a map and told to return to base, having answered all the questions, in the shortest possible time. We returned after three hours of non-stop walking, complaining about the pain and blisters on our feet.

MONDAY - The day was spent firing on the range and going on Section visits to the Air Traffic Control, Electrical Engineering Services and Tornado Aircraft Service Flight. During the evening we did a night exercise. The aim was to make as much money as possible. It was a game similar to Monopoly. When we reached a box we had the option of either cash or property. If we chose cash and there was no cash in the box, we went away with nothing and had to go to another box where again we had the choice of either cash or property. To open some of the boxes you had to visit other sites and bring back an answer or fulfil a task before you could open the box.

One of the tasks had to be done with the cadet held up in the air by four other cadets, which I found amusing. The person being supported had to sing the National Anthem as loudly as possible. I had to do this myself. It would have been simple if I had known all the words. As I didn't, I had to be told by the other members of the group, who were also unsure of the wording.

The exercise was very physically demanding and there were many very exhausted cadets at the end. Nevertheless everybody enjoyed themselves. It might have been easier had there been an opportunity to cheat. However we had a policeman as our banker and so there was no opportunity to do so. We were very pleased to see Major Fisher and Mr Loveland out on the exercise. They had arrived at tea-time to spend a couple of days with us.

TUESDAY - We started off the day with the padre and discussed the place of religion in the armed forces. This was followed by the Camp photograph, leaving two vacant slots in the flying programme which were eagerly filled by Major Fisher and Mr Loveland. They both said that they had thoroughly enjoyed their first flight in a Bulldog. We then went on Sectional Visits to 43 Squadron and Tornado Propulsion Flight. The various jobs were described, questions were asked and there was a chance to try out the controls of the Tornado.

We then went on an Orienteering exercise, in which the cadets had to pair up and again, to their horror, use a map to plan a route so that they could stamp as many checkpoint cards as possible in fifty minutes. They were penalised if they returned late. Most of the cadets found that it was easy to plan a route by looking at the map but it was more difficult to carry out the plan in reality. They found themselves running round in circles for most of the time.

During the evening we got our first chance to relax over a game of bowling. However most of the cadets were too exhausted after the orienteering exercise to lift up the bowling ball.

WEDNESDAY - The cadets went to individual work experience placements. I went to M.T. in the morning, where I helped to refuel a Tornado.

During the afternoon I went to the Guard Room, from where the security of the whole base is controlled. I had an excellent day, learning new things and finding out that RAF people do actually have a very good sense of humour, even if they do work in the Guard Room.

At 7pm we did two hours of much-needed drill practice in preparation for the drill competition on Friday. We ended the day with an aircraft knowledge test. Most of the cadets were not very good at identifying the aircraft by looking at it for



Summer Camp 1995. R.A.F. Wittering.



R.A.F. Leuchars Summer Camp 1995.



Andrew Matson in a plane.



Maj. Fisher takes his seat in a Bulldog ready for take-off. R.A.F. Leuchars, Summer Camp 1995.



R.A.F. Leuchars Summer Camp 1995. Corporal Haqqani, Cad. Noor and others enjoy the disco.

half a second but had an enjoyable time anyway, making up suitable names where possible. There were, however, some aircraft experts, who in half a second could not only identify the name of the aircraft but were also able to say where it had been made.

THURSDAY - The cadets went on Work Experience. In the morning I went to the police, where I helped with the police dogs and was shown how to identify criminals by fingerprinting and the use of other devices. During the afternoon I went to the Tornado Aircraft Service Flight. I found this the most interesting and enjoyable Work Experience visit as I was able to help service and repair a Tornado. There was an unexpected visit from the Station Commander. At the time I did not know who he was. He had more stripes on his shoulder than a tiger! So I knew he was important. As soon as I saw him I leaped up and saluted him. From then on it was "Yes, Sir! No, Sir! Three bags full, sir!" I felt like a total idiot but it did the trick, scoring the TASF crew some valuable points. I was a bit dazzled, however, when he attempted to compare a boroscope with an endoscope, even though they were the same thing!

The day ended with a disco. Both the cadets and officers alike had a fantastic time. "Do the twist" was especially dedicated to Flt. Lt. Keable for organising the camp and being a great chemistry teacher. Mr J Lee and Flt. Lt Keable were a perfect pair and showed the cadets how to really do it on the dance floor! They proved you do not have to be sixteen to have a good time.

FRIDAY - This was a very busy day. During the morning we went swimming and shopping in Dundee. We finally had the first sight of Scotsmen in kilts and heard bagpipes for the first time. We wondered what they do when the wind blows strongly or when they walk over air-vents in the street.

After we spent an hour polishing our shoes and ironing our uniform, it was time for the drill competition. It was a close battle but Flight A eventually won.

We ended the day with a game of basketball. It was fun but a game of basketball is not complete without injuries. Cadet Richard Porter hurt his arm by playing against the tough lads from the other schools.

In conclusion - throughout the week the cadets had the chance to go flying in Bulldogs. I was the first to be let loose in the sky and had the time of my life doing aerobatics and flying with the canopy open. I was very lucky as it was a beautiful sunny day and the view from above was magnificent.

Rahala Noor (LRSM)

THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL RAF AWARDS WERE MADE:

Cadet Andrew Farrell	-	Best Cadet in Flight A
Cadet Eleanor Heynes	-	Best Cadet in Flight B
Cadet Hannah Berrisford	-	Irish award for initiative and ability to solve the impossible
Cadet Robert Poll, Corporal Sara Khoshneviszadeh and Sergeant Andrew Vine received Marksman badges.		

UNOFFICIAL SILVER SPOON AWARDS WENT TO:

Cadet Andrew Yates	-	for making his presence known
Cadet Craig Smith	-	for being Craig Smith
Corporal Sara Khoshneviszadeh	-	for having amnesia
Cadet Rahala Noor	-	for being the dizziest person on camp

Cadet Andrew Matson attended the other Summer Camp at RAF Wittering. He clearly enjoyed himself:

This was probably the best camp I have been on. Right from the word go, after the initial shock of being posted in tents, it was non-stop action.

After meeting the other cadets on the camp we got busy with sports, and on the Saturday night spent a social evening ten-pin bowling. This unfortunately was not a complete success, as many of us did not get to finish our game. Lights-out was at 2300 hours.

Reveille was at 0600 (groan), for an early breakfast at 0645. Sunday morning was spent at church, followed by an afternoon of more sports. On the Sunday night we had a briefing on the night exercise. This was spent in Vigo Wood, where the "NITEX" would be held. We were taught about communication, using only hand signals, and also "cammo" and concealment, using camouflage cream, which we smeared all over our faces, and then went and hid in the woods to see if it actually worked. It did.

Monday morning was spent watching an interesting video about the history of RAF Wittering. There were also a couple of videos about the Harrier, the main aircraft based at Wittering. It is a truly remarkable design.

I spent the afternoon working on the Harriers at HMF (Harrier Maintenance Flight). This was a very exciting experience but also a very dirty one.

On Tuesday morning our flight visited the Aircraft Museum at Duxford, where the exhibits include the first Concorde. Then we went on to Cambridge for flying in the two-seater Chipmunk. Flying was almost called off in the afternoon due to a local thunderstorm and many cadets did not get the chance to do aerobatics. I was one of the lucky few who did, and had a thrilling time looping the loop and barrel-rolling. That evening I was on the apron to meet eight Harriers coming back in to base after practising firing missiles at sea. I was fortunate to get the opportunity to sit inside the cockpit of one of these amazing aircraft.

Wednesday was another day of sport and we were able to complete the Swimming Proficiency Certificate, which is required by all cadets. This was followed in the evening by weapons training, and on Thursday morning we went firing on the range, using the L98 rifle. This was a great experience and one not to be missed.

Thursday afternoon was spent in the Control Tower, learning about how the aircraft are positioned for landing, taking-off and moving around on the base. This was certainly an interesting experience, especially when I was fortunate enough to watch a Harrier doing vertical landings from only 30 metres away!

Thursday night we spent in Vigo Wood taking part in the "Nitex". We were split up into four flights and sent into the wood to complete various tasks. These included First Aid, Camouflage and Concealment, making a rope bridge and finally a bivouac.

Friday was not a patch on Thursday. I worked in the Wing Bay for the morning, dismantling a wing on one of the older Harriers. This again was a dirty experience but a very interesting one.

Friday afternoon consisted of the "Topdogex" a form of treasure hunt in which we had to search the base, collecting items such as Harrier wheels, an ejector seat (which was really a deckchair!) and a stretcher. By the end of the exercise our flight was running around with several heavy items. It was a very exciting exercise but very tiring.

After this we spent the evening at leisure (thank goodness!), looking back over the events of the week, and saying our goodbyes to the other cadets. However the fun did not end here... There was one person who had been annoying our flight commander, Flight Sergeant Jenny Colclough, all week. Somehow a large amount of shaving foam mysteriously found its way into his bed, much to the delight of everyone apart from himself.

On Saturday we left for home, feeling very tired but sad that we couldn't have stayed longer. I would like to thank Flt Lt Keable and P Off Addison for making this camp possible, and also the Flight Sergeant at RAF Wittering for making the experience so enjoyable.

Andrew Matson (5X)

The Section would like to welcome Mr Addison, who joined this year as a Pilot Officer. As can be seen from the account above, he has already taken an active part in the Section's activities. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mr J Lee, erstwhile senior cadet in the Section, and Mrs L Hampson, who has served in the Navy and is joining the School next year, for generously giving up their time to help on camps. Finally our thanks and very best wishes go to the senior cadets we are losing this year, Warrant Officers Richard Pimblott and James Vickers and Flight Sergeants Sarah Porter and Jenny Colclough. We much appreciate what they have done for the Section and will miss them.

Fg. Off. M H Gracey

* * *

- The Range is at last back in action, and the GP Rifles with Heckler and Koch .22 conversions have already been fired. Next year we can return to a serious programme of shooting in a long overdue attempt to improve our standards;

- Congratulations to C/Sgts Andrew Holden (Land Command Leadership Course), Natalie Mason and David Hufton, and to Sgts Sarah Cochrane, Guy Brocklehurst and Phillip Buxton (Cadet Training Centre Leadership Courses) for their good reports;

- The Corps prizes this year have been awarded to U/Offr James Brocklehurst and RSM Sally Ward (Army), and Flt Sgts Jenny Colclough and Sarah Porter (RAF);

- Miss Matthews is to join the Army Section of the Corps from September;

- Another seventeen Army cadets will have taken courses by the end of the summer, including for the first time three cadets (Sgt Carrie Litherland, and C/Sgts Abby Hyams and Natalie Mason) on the Royal Navy's First Aid Course at the RN Hospital in Portsmouth;

Flt Sgt Sarah Porter has been selected to go to the USA in the Summer on the International Air Cadet Exchange. This is extremely hard to achieve and she deserves our congratulations. I know Sarah will make the best of such an excellent opportunity;

The Army Section Stores and the Armoury will be run from September by Sgts Frances Edwards, Edward Choularton, Caroline Shaw and Guy Brocklehurst;

Army Section cadets are now sporting CCF sweatshirts - green as opposed to the RAF's well-established blue ones, but equally smart!

The Open Day held by 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion the King's Regiment at their barracks in Warrington was appreciated and enjoyed by a small group of cadets, many others being kept at home no doubt by the allure of a Cup Final in which, probably for the first time, an Old Hulmeian (Andy Hinchcliffe) was taking part. On the Highland Games stand, tossing the caber proved predictably difficult, but the OC showed that his Scottish origins enabled him to throw a Wellington boot as far as any cadet;

In November training was suspended so that the contingent could attend a presentation given by Squadron Leader Les Garside-Beattie RAF (Old Hulmeian), Team Manager of the Red Arrows Display Team. His illustrated talk covered not only the training and rôle of the Red Arrows today, but also went back to the earliest days of aerobatics, and gave a fascinating insider's view of the work of this extraordinary group of flyers. The customary question-and-answer session afterwards threw up some novel enquiries, but these were all fielded successfully!

Recruitment once again has reached giddy heights. Twenty-six girls and twenty-two boys have joined the Army Section alone!

Maj DM Fisher

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BARCLAYS

DRAMA



DEVELOPMENTS IN DRAMA

Next year's main school production will be a compilation of extracts from plays by Shakespeare and other authors with the title 'Seasons'. The evening will also include some musical extracts and readings on a similar theme. There will be different costumes and sets for each season which will afford plenty of opportunities for those who would like to be involved in stage, make-up costume and other backstage work. 'Seasons' will include cast members from the Junior and Senior School and will take place on Wednesday, 22nd November and Thursday, 23rd November at 7.30p.m. in the New Hall.

Junior Drama Club continues to run very successfully on a Wednesday from 3.45 to 4.45p.m. in the New Hall. New members are always welcome and anyone interested should come along and see what the club involves. There are opportunities for those who like acting, and also for those who prefer to take smaller roles and direct others. We have seen some splendid performances and improvised plays in the last year, so we would welcome those with a talent for creating plays as well as acting in them.

We now have a reasonably extensive store of costumes which are available for use both in school and to those outside school who have expressed an interest. This store is made up almost entirely of clothes donated by parents, and we would gratefully receive any further donations.

Last year there were eleven theatre visits involving all years from first year to Upper Sixth. This has meant that every School year has had the opportunity to take part in a theatre visit, and we have attended productions at Stratford, Clywd Theatre and Blackpool Grand Theatre to name a few, as well as all local theatres. We will be continuing to run theatre workshop visits; details of forthcoming events are always available on the 'What's On' notice board on the ground floor of the Donner Block, or from myself.

The House Play Competition will take place in the Lent Term, giving senior pupils the opportunity to direct their own short plays and compete with other Houses. Last year's plays were very professionally tackled and we look forward to a similarly high standard of production this year.

The standard of performance and level of commitment to School Drama in recent productions has been outstanding, and there have been some particularly impressive performances from members of the Junior School on stage and behind the scenes. This bodes well for the standard of School drama in the future.

J De Vince.

"THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE"

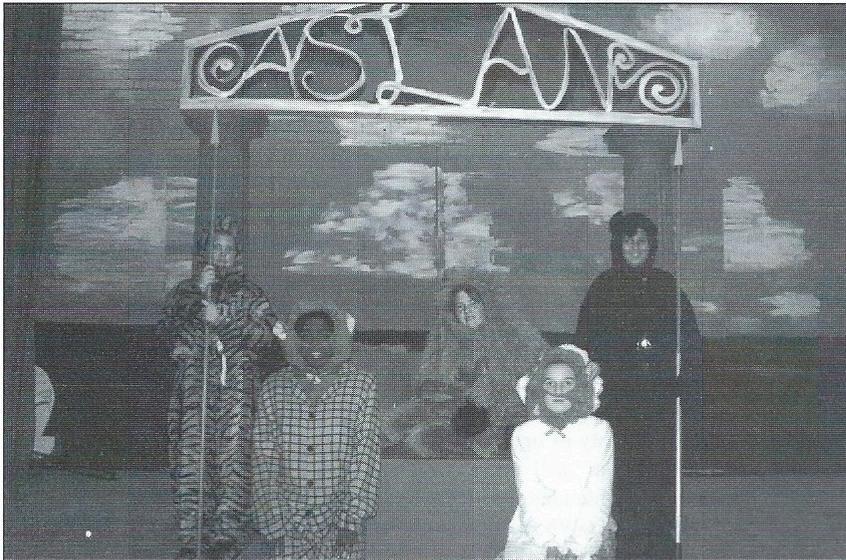
In November the Junior Play, drawing on talent from Years 1 to 3 and produced by Miss De Vince together with Miss Priddle and Mr Gorman, was Glyn Robbins' adapted dramatisation of C.S. Lewis' first, and by far his best, Narnia tale "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe". Though obviously a children's story, it also appeals to adults through its raising of Enid Blyton-type children to the level of real three-dimensional characters, its cosmic themes of suffering, repentance and redemption, its wealth of enchanting visual and sonic effects, and its evocation of the 1940's before the cult of childhood gave way, for better or worse, to the modern cult of the teenager-to-be.

Elli Metcalfe gave an outstanding account of the central figure Lucy, the young child who first goes through the wardrobe into the enchanting land of Narnia. This was a good example of the "art that conceals art". Elli came across as a typically bubbly yet sensitive and compassionate, wide-eyed but not naive, confident yet easily upset little girl, but as she was really 13 she used her extra maturity and awareness to interpret the role with greater authority than a primary school child might have been able to do. She dominated the stage, avoiding a stereotypical "goody-goody" image by some amusing little touches such as nodding knowingly at the audience when Mr Tumnus observes "You must think me stupid" and putting a touch of breezy irony into her reassurance to her three indifferent siblings - "It's all right, I'm safe. I'm back. I'm all right. No need to worry!" But she almost reduced us to tears with her touching, bright suggestion just before Aslan's suffering and death that she can save him with her little phial of fireflower juice. In a word, Elli has radiance. A memorable performance.

Nikhil Nagarkar as Edmund had the challenging task of turning from a nasty, sneaky bully to a redeemed and forgiven champion of justice. He brought this off well, looking and sounding really evasive and shifty before his repentance, and finding a new self-confident clarity of diction with Aslan. He showed well that liars and bullies are not even really happy with their own life-style. Nikhil also gave us some imaginative little details, such as pretending to rub his hands with the cold to avoid having to shake hands with Lucy.

Michelle Fearnley looked and sounded perfect as the burgeoning adolescent Susan, forced by persistent contact with younger brothers and sisters to think and act in their child-like way, yet still obviously loving and caring about them. She and Peter, imaginatively played by Adam Miller, were only too ready to back up Lucy's "fantasies" against the obnoxious

THE LION, THE WITCH



AND THE WARDROBE



Stage Technicians, pictured during "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe".
From left to right: Richard Lamb, Richard Strudwick, Chris Barns, Kit Brown and Mike Bartlett.



Stage Staff 1994/5.
(photo: Michael Bartlett).

Edmund. Adam emphasised well the subtle and typically boyish contradiction in Peter's nature, half brave and manly as when he "wins his spurs", half vulnerable and anxious as when he asks Aslan, "But you will be there, won't you?"

All four children of course acquire a new dignity and stature in the final "coronation scene" where each of them gives a short summary of how s/he hopes to rule Narnia. This was a highlight - Glyn Robbins updates Lewis' original with contemporary stresses on social and religious tolerance ("live and let live") and ecology ("I will save the good trees from being cut down"), which brought us all right down to earth.

The other two characters in the "real" world were James Kerr as the Professor and Emma Cruickshank as the Housekeeper, Mrs Macready. James was obviously young for the part of the children's wise old host and mentor, but he acquitted himself well and his very youth was an asset in establishing himself as an understanding, avuncular friend to Lucy and Co, prepared to believe their story. Glyn Robbins' script establishes common ground between his wisdom and that of Aslan; both ask the ironic question "What do they teach people at school these days?", Aslan when Peter doesn't wipe his sword, the Professor at the end when telling the children when they will find Narnia again. A more direct comparison is made between Mrs Macready and the White Witch. Emma certainly made a splendid child-hating battle-axe, arms folded, her aggressive bossiness ending the play as she had begun it. Edmund, with unconscious dramatic irony, calls her "you old witch" as she has just left the first scene, and at the end even the saintly Lucy is about to tell her she reminds her of the witch, just before the Professor hastily interrupts!

Amongst the Narnians, Katie Chesworth as the White Witch dominated. Deliberately caricaturesque and unremittingly vicious, Katie differentiated her style by extravagant inflexions of the voice and compulsive movements with her wand, including rotating it at speed on its own axis! She brooked no opposition, dismissing any insubordinates with business-like briskness like a fascist dictator - phrases like "special treatment" took on an ominous overtone in this context, as did her refusal to allow certain words such as "thaw" to be spoken. (We speak of a "thaw in the political climate.") But Katie made us see that her power was mere bluster, comic like in Charlie Chaplin's "Great Dictator", totally void of all real authority, condemned in the end to vanish like ice in the sun. Significantly, she had no further lines after she killed Aslan - once he came back to life, she simply didn't matter any more, and her defeat in the brief but decisive Armageddon was a foregone conclusion.

Kati Greenall as Aslan, by contrast, exuded real authority and power, backed up by a magnificent baldacchino round her throne and an impressive lion's costume, but more importantly, (s)he was human, in contrast to the witch's inhumanity. Kati stressed Aslan's warm-hearted, caring nature and came off any regal high horse as surely as she stepped down from her throne to the waiting quartet. Equally, she showed her heavy sorrow and need to feel loved by the children during her final moments with them before the Death Scene. (This interpretation is crucial for those who wish to see a comparison between Aslan and Jesus, whom Christians believe was fully human as well as divine; Lewis was himself a convert to Christianity. But of course the story can be enjoyed equally by non-Christians).

The other Narnians fell into two categories, the friendly Beavers and Mr Tumnus on the one hand, the Witch's followers on the other. Debbie Langer as Mr Tumnus was suitably cosy; she had a long and difficult discursive scene to sustain when she first meets Lucy. Levinia Clemetson as Mr Beaver had a warm, comfortable voice and looked the part; Jane Balderstone as Mrs Beaver was the perfect fireside home-maker who has never even heard of women's lib and who will call everyone she sees "my dear" irrespective of age, sex or degree of acquaintance. This warm-hearted trio was supplemented by Victoria Bramwell and Kessr Ali as the Tiger and Panther supporting Aslan, both very "human" especially in their embarrassment at not having killed the Witch, and by Father Christmas, played in the traditional manner by Faye Todd - except for the instruction to use the presents responsibly, where she became more solemn and serious.

The White Witch's cohorts, Ben Starr as Maugrim and Ian Breen as the Dwarf, were vigorously "in their parts", cruel and sadistic with those to whom they felt superior, obsequious yet scared with the White Witch. Rebekah Lawson as the Wolf, Maugrim's faithful lieutenant, was of course tarred with the same brush. "Great big fleas have lesser fleas..." Ben and Ian led the taunts against the captured Aslan. Yet Maugrim and the Dwarf are cowards at heart; Ian's timid "Majesty, don't leave me..." raised an almost sympathetic laugh from the audience.

Finally, hats off to the assorted "trolls and uglies", played by Caroline Bell, Danielle Baker, Jennie Porter, Gemma Carolan, Julian Gibbs and Waqar Ahmed. This motley crew jeered and taunted the hapless Aslan, and sent up a massive bloodcurdling cheer at his death. C S Lewis refuses to describe them in the original story "because if I did the grown-ups would probably not let you read this book!" Well, we did survive the sight on stage, but it was certainly scary for all but the youngest members of the audience!

Such a surrealistic play as this requires more ingenuity than most. Snow scenes, cosmic battles, actors and actresses dressed as animals, a moving sleigh, Aslan's throne, quick scene changes etc etc. require dedication and skill. Stage management, set design, make-up, costumes, sound, lighting and front of house management were all superlative, and a list of all the "backroom boys and girls" involved in the production follows this review. Aslan and the Professor don't know "what they teach at schools nowadays" - if they had been in the audience, they would have had ample insight into at least one aspect of school life. Well done, Miss De Vince, the other fifty people mentioned in the programme and anyone else connected with an evening of utter enchantment.

G J Turner

Director	J A De Vince, S J Priddle, M C Gorman
Stage	A R Austen
Stage Managers	Jenny Colclough, Sarah Porter
Assistant Stage Manager	Vinnie Pohoomull
Stage Staff	Richard Strudwick, Caroline Ip, Ellen Nicholson, Matthew Whyatt, Andrew Farrell, Abby Hyams, Victoria Ash
Set Design	Jenny Colclough
Make Up	S J Priddle and Dr J Keable

Make Up Team
Costumes
Sound
Lighting
Front of House

Laura Owen, Dawn Sing, Helen Collins, Leanne Connor
J Clarke
Michael Bartlett, Richard Lamb
M I Barker, Kit Brown, Christina Barnes, Richard Strudwick
S R Tandon and Team

HOUSE PLAY FESTIVAL 1995

Adjudicator: Miss M. Green, Head of English at Withington Girls' School.

"Not too difficult this year."

"Very obvious winner, don't you think?"

"Makes your job easier when it's so clear."

These, and many similar remarks, came at the end of the 1994 competition. It is to be hoped my judgements then confirmed what others clearly felt. In 1995 there was a marked absence of such comments. Anyone who saw all six plays must surely have found my position unenviable in that I had to discriminate between them.

Although an adjudicator's life is made easier by the emergence of an outright 'best' performance, it is in fact more pleasing to be able to commend each and every performance for a high standard of achievement - and that is the case this year. The effort, commitment and talent displayed were immensely heartening and most impressive. I would like to congratulate all of the producers and their teams of actors, stage crews and technicians on two evenings of splendid entertainment.

After much deliberation, I reached the following decision:-

1st	Heywood
2nd	Gaskell
3rd	Dalton
	Fraser

Individual awards proved still more problematic. In minor roles there were some excellent performances, notably from: James Jobling, Alan Kan, David Hufton, Alex Warhurst, Sophie Stephenson, Helen Ralston and Andrew Farrell.

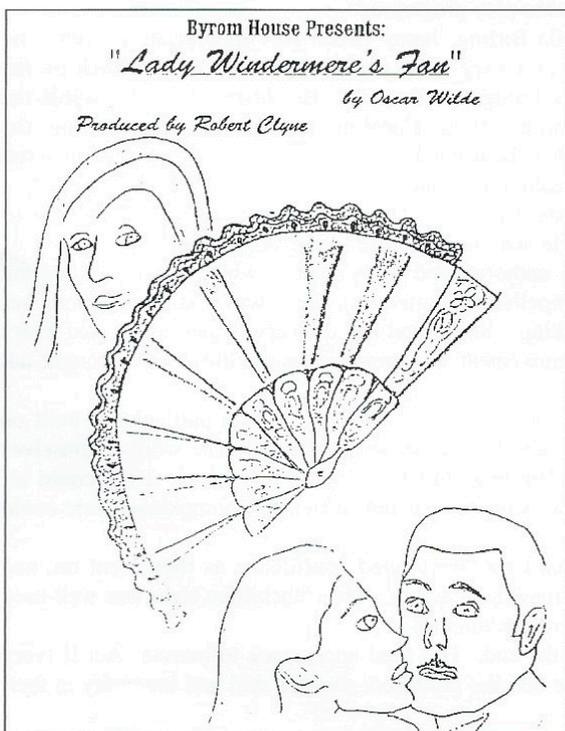
Particular commendations to the following, all whom were seriously considered for Best Actor/Actress award: Richard Pimblott, Michael Bartlett, Guy Brocklehurst and Robert Clyne, Lisa Matthews, Jane Lawson, Laura Owen, Christina Barnes and Karen Vites.

The eventual winners were:

Best Actor	Aaron Greenall
Best Actress	Sam Johnson
	Debra Nussbaum

BYROM HOUSE

"Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes" claims Dumby in "Lady Windermere's Fan". He goes on to add; "Life would be very dull without them". Well, mistakes there certainly were in Byrom's production, but much fun was had by cast and audience alike, and the evening would have been duller without Byrom's contribution.



This was a highly ambitious (perhaps over-ambitious) production. The play was challenging; it had a large cast, elaborate sets, demanding scene changes, costume changes and required an eye for period detail. That much was achieved is creditable, but a more modest undertaking might have secured more consistent success.

Lady Windermere (Carrie Litherland) looked superb in both of her outfits and she showed considerable promise in this demanding role. Sheer number of lines proved ultimately too much for her on this occasion, but she showed talent and acting potential. Next to appear was David Johnston as Lord Darlington. He had some excellent lines - "I can resist anything except temptation" - but they lacked the crispness and clarity they deserved. The Duchess of Berwick describes Lord Darlington as "far too wicked", but this Lord Darlington was far too subdued to be a convincing roué. Michael Dodd as Parker was always on cue and ever deferential.

Sophie Stephenson and Helen Ralston enlivened the production as the Duchess and her daughter, Agatha. Sophie was a strong stage presence and was ably supported by her dutiful daughter, who had a wonderfully virginal costume and manner.

It is perhaps symptomatic of his ambition that Robert Clyne, the Producer, also took on the key role of Lord Windermere. There was much to applaud in his performance; Robert was confident in his lines, employed gesture and facial

expression to very good effect and brought energy and enjoyment to the role. He, along with most of the male cast, lacked the indispensable mannered elegance which this play requires. The clues are there in the writing of 'damned' as 'demmed' for example - but the upper crust accents were not sustained, sadly.

The set for Act II was a good reflection of the ambitious scale of this production with its pillars, chaise longue, etc, but the time taken to change sets meant a loss of continuity difficult to justify. The soirée in this Act saw the arrival of numerous elegantly clad guests who lived up to their costumes with varying degrees of conviction. David Hufton was impressive as Dumby and Andrew Nunney was a good Lord Augustus. Mr Hopper (T J Rashid), Cecil Graham (Robert Seddon) and Lady Plymdale (Lauren Crane) all showed promise but did not do full justice to their lines.

The whole play builds in suspense to the arrival of Mrs Erlynne (Anna Bower). Here, much more thought was needed about costume, hairstyle and manner if the subsequent revelation of her real role (Lady Windermere's mother) was to have any plausibility. Anna was suitably seductive but a great deal of what she said was unclear or inaudible.

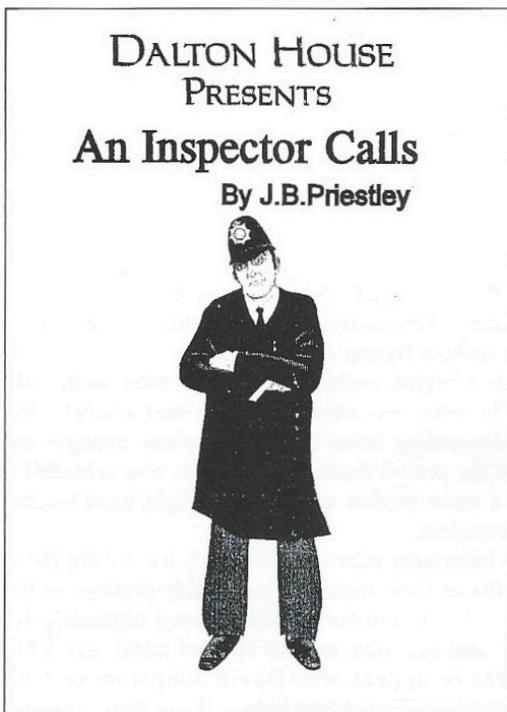
Whether intentionally so or not, the use of a mimed narration of Act III was a comic tour de force. Under-rehearsed and somewhat chaotic, this was none the less extremely funny and in fact skilfully written. Jenny Ellis delivered the narration with good humour, clarity and efficiency.

The final Act, performed on a comically denuded set, just about held together and one felt the cast shared the audience's relief that they had made it to the end!

Byrom asked a great deal of themselves and occasionally fell short - Oscar Wilde would NEVER have allowed a stainless steel tea-pot near the set, for example - but this was a young and exuberant cast with much to offer in the future. I am sure all involved gained, and learned, a great deal from this particular "experience".

DALTON HOUSE

Remembering the days when Hulmeians had to be cajoled, coaxed or bribed into playing female parts in House Play Competitions, I was highly entertained to see the evidence of ever-changing times in Dalton's play which had three girls playing in male roles - and very well they did it, too!



The co-producers chose to present Act One of J B Priestley's "An Inspector Calls", which was introduced very lucidly by the maid, Edna (Sara Khoshneviszadeh). The set was impressive and there was attention to detail here, giving a period feel and a sense of upper middle class elegance. They even used the right glasses for port and sherry! Excellent costumes were worn by everyone, and these helped the girls to effect their male personae.

Karen Vites, as Mr Birling, adopted a male stance and lowered her voice register very successfully. She had an enormous number of lines which, for the most part, she delivered well. Gerald Croft was a stolid, worthy, deferential character, qualities which Merdad Sehat captured well. Michelle Fearnley was not quite so convincingly male as Karen and Sam (of whom more anon), but her portrayal of Eric grew in conviction as the play progressed.

As Sheila Birling, Jenny Green was appropriately frothy and bright. This was a very good performance and I was struck by the assurance Jenny brought to the role. Her histrionic exit towards the end was particularly fine. Caroline Ashley was Sybil Birling, the mother. I felt that she needed ageing in order to suggest some material authority, but again, lines were well delivered.

The sustained excellence of Sam Johnson's performance as Inspector Goole was remarkable. She brought an impression of purposefulness, authority and quiet menace which entirely suited the role. Sam compelled our attention, there was a stillness about her which was striking. She timed her delivery to perfection and every gesture, every movement was measured and telling. She brought out

the menace behind the words as well as the Inspector's wry humour.

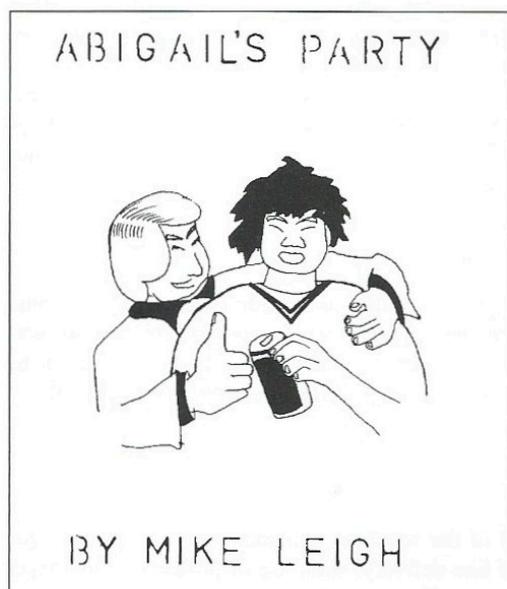
This play relies heavily on words; there is very little action or movement. Birling's part in particular is built on wordiness and Karen Vites coped well with this in the first half but was less secure on cues later. The words themselves offered more scope for comic business in the form of larger-than-life reactions than the cast took up. They could all profitably (Inspector apart) have been more idiosyncratic. Gerald, for example, was not sufficiently bumpkinish, Eric could have been more disingenuous.

A pleasing aspect of the production was the way most characters developed confidence as they went on, and increasingly tried to act when not speaking. There were some highly intelligent ad libs. The Churchillian cigar was well-used by Birling and the moment when Sheila slapped Gerald's face was most convincing!

The suitably demure, clearly spoken Edna was well used at the end. Her final appearance to narrate Act II (very efficiently) meant that the audience were happily not left in suspense and the producers showed skill and ingenuity in their use of a frozen tableau before the real end.

FRASER HOUSE

Fraser's production of 'Abigail's Party' by Mike Leigh was performed on an ingenious set which was filled with well-used props. Flowers, plants, cushions, the all-important cocktail cabinet and even the bowls of 'nibbles' were intelligently placed and effectively used.



The play was, as it ought to be, dominated by Beverley, superbly played by Debra Nussbaum. This strident character with her cross over-familiarity to 'Ang', 'Sue' and 'Jane', her fatuous conversation and small-minded snobbery, made a powerful impression on the audience.

The males in the play, Bev's husband Laurence (Paul Bagnall) and Angela's Tony (Ian Butterworth) were very long-suffering and the latter made his rather wooden delivery seem well-chosen and comically effective. Angela (Katie Chesworth) complemented Bev well and delivered some of her lines with asperity and panache.

Paul Bagnall grew into his part and showed his developing interest in the quiet Susan (Chloe Pepall) very skilfully. As the play reached its climax with Laurence's heart attack, Paul's performance too reached an hilarious peak. Susan's timidity was well conveyed, but was unfortunately achieved at the expense of audibility much of the time.

Fraser's editing and adapting of the script was so creative that their story-line departed radically from the original. It is a tribute to the cast's ability to ad lib that I was not always sure which cuts were unintentional. Sometimes though the editing was so brutal as to produce a loss of continuity which adversely affected the audience's understanding of the plot.

The nature of the dialogue made this play demanding. The "small talk" is repetitious and this makes line-learning difficult. The cast coped well but occasionally had to resort to yet another round of drinks to give themselves time to think.

Beverley's solo dance was a memorable highlight of this production. So too was Laurence's deadpan description of the painting (which the audience were seeing for the third time) as a Van Gogh. The contrasts between the three women were well achieved and clever use of costume was made here.

Overall, small town suburbia was convincingly conveyed and an appropriately farcical conclusion was reached, but I think the more serious issues which the original script explores were cut out to the play's detriment. Nevertheless the audience's enjoyment was obvious and the general standard of performance was high.

GASKELL HOUSE

"Producing a play takes team work and dedication by all involved," acknowledged Gaskell House in their programme and both of these factors were abundantly evident in their performance of "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole (Aged 13¾)." This was a well chosen play which drew on the natural talents of many of its large cast.

A very amusing and well delivered introduction set the scene and prepared us for the entertainment to follow. The curtain opened on a scene of splendidly contrived chaos! Thereafter the use of apron and main-stage for alternate scenes was efficient and effective.

Obviously the eponymous hero had to hold this production with a strong performance and Aaron Greenall rose commendably to the challenge. He delivered his on-stage soliloquies and frequent well-recorded voice-overs with just the right mixture of pretentiousness and naivety. His understated delivery of the lines was engaging and ensured that Sue Townsend's likeable character was just as endearing on stage. Aaron was particularly good at mime, and his use of gesture, facial expression and body language in those scenes where he was an observer were all very telling.

Adrian Mole was well complemented by the performance of Nigel (Guy Brocklehurst) and Pandora (Carys Edwards). The latter was properly pompous and delightfully superior. She had some wonderful lines - "Teachers are all the same. Fascists," of which she made the most. A slightly slower delivery would have made a good performance even better. Nigel made a good foil to Adrian. Guy Brocklehurst played the role with assurance and with excellent timing.

Some of the cameo roles in this play were outstanding. I would like to see more of the hilarious grandma, and the bully, Barry Kent, (Alan Kan), was superb in his brief but violent appearance. Alex Warhurst justified Pandora's verdict of teachers with his menacing rendition of a tyrannical Mr Scruton. Jane

**THE SECRET DIARY
OF
ADRIAN MOLE
(aged 13¾)**

**From the play by:
Sue Townsend**

**Presented by:
Gaskell House
Thursday, March 30th 1995**

**Directed by:
Abby Hyams &
Martin Cheung**

Balderstone, Frances Edwards and John Cunningham were convincing and funny in the school yard scenes.

The two sets of parents have a challenging task in this play. They must over-act to convey effectively Adrian's exaggerated view of them and their eccentricities. Jane Lawson did capture Pauline Mole's brashness and insensitivity; the superficiality of her character and her mood swings was well portrayed. The bathos of many of her lines was highly amusing. As her husband, George, Michael Scholes, gave a competent performance but he perhaps needed to be rendered more dull and staid. The beard and costume did not help to suggest a Jim Reeves fan who regards insurance as an exciting topic of conversation. However, Michael never faltered on the lines, some of which were very well delivered - "I've seen better looking gargoyles" and he fought with Mr Lucas very convincingly.

This last part was undertaken at one week's notice and thus Richard Garner deserves warm congratulation. He knew his lines well; but although dressed appropriately as a poser, with necklace and sideburns to match, Richard did not always deliver the lines with the pretentiousness they deserved. "We're like two sunbeams dancing on the ceiling of life" should not have been underplayed! Natalie Mason, as Mrs Lucas, grew into her role and announced her new lover—

"What's his name?"

Mrs L: "*Her* name's Glenys".

with impeccable intonation and timing.

The script had been intelligently edited but could profitably have been updated and made more topical. Some properties were inspired, notably the toy dog in the opening scene. Most of the costumes were good and the staging was inventive. The muted lighting was sometimes frustrating, especially when we needed to see the characters' reaction to events. All the sound effects were good. Overall this play was delightful and a very funny script was communicated well.

HEYWOOD HOUSE

"Fluff" by John Scholes is a classic bedroom farce and it makes all of the stringent demands on its performers for which the genre is renowned. Impeccable timing of entries and exits and of line delivery, slick use of properties, and exact

cues are all essential if the humour is to be controlled by, and not at the expense of, the cast. Heywood's production was successful in meeting all these demands.

From its atmospheric opening in the dark, this play was confidently directed and well delivered, allowing the audience to relax and enjoy itself. The set was enterprising and the staging efficient. All four actors were secure in their roles and clearly audible throughout. Both Joe (Michael Bartlett) and Sally (Alex Veeder) had strong, convincing local accents, and the contrasts in their personalities were well brought out.

The first entry of Nigel (Rik Pimblott) made an impact which this character sustained throughout the play. His comic timing was excellent and his attempts at seduction were hilarious. He certainly played up to his surname - lustworthy.

The fourth member of the cast, Alice (Christina Barnes) completed a very strong quartet. She too had two distinct "voices" - something required of each of these characters - and her swift changes from one accent to another were strikingly effective.

The script was intelligently adapted to allow the cast to perform to advantage - all was northernized and many topical jokes were inserted which were greatly enjoyed by the audience. Contemporary television personalities and even recent Hulmeian personalities were satirically targeted in some wonderful throwaway lines.

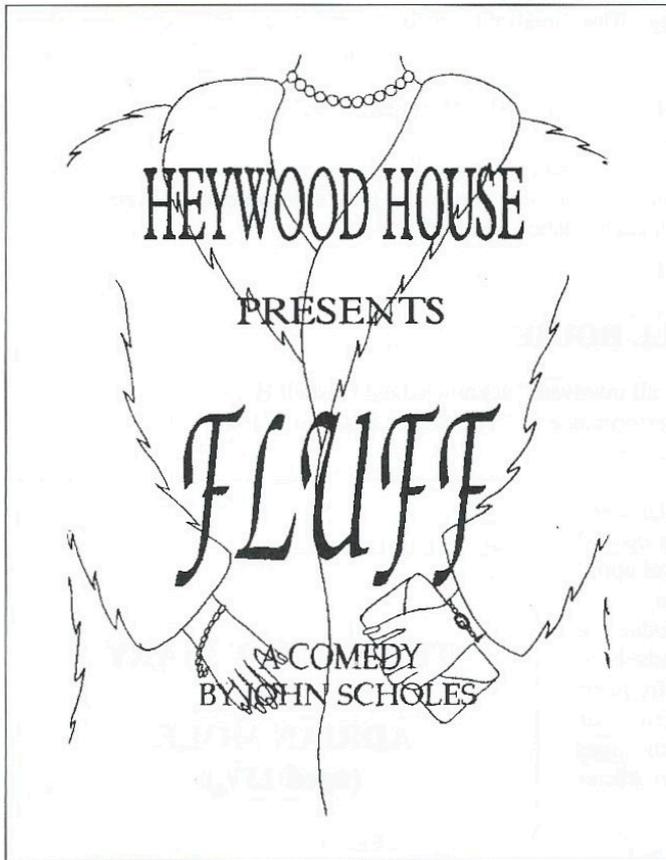
The collection of fur coats (the 'fluff' of the title) was vulgarly elegant and struck exactly the right note for the production. Costumes were well selected to

reflect the contrasts and similarities between characters. Movement, into and out of wardrobes, on and under the bed, out to and in from the balcony, was always well orchestrated.

Many of the running jokes, such as the synchronized watches, were well exploited but sometimes the script's potential was not wholly realised. In this kind of play it is almost impossible to over-act and the comic business invited by frequent references to "Mum and Dad - God rest their souls" was not developed. Similarly, the climax of the play when Joe has his final confrontation with the balustrade would have worked better with an earlier and more effective build-up. Finally there was a glorious opportunity for Sally to emulate her namesake in the famous scene from "When Harry Met Sally" in the fake love-making scene. More "hamming up" would have brought the house down here.

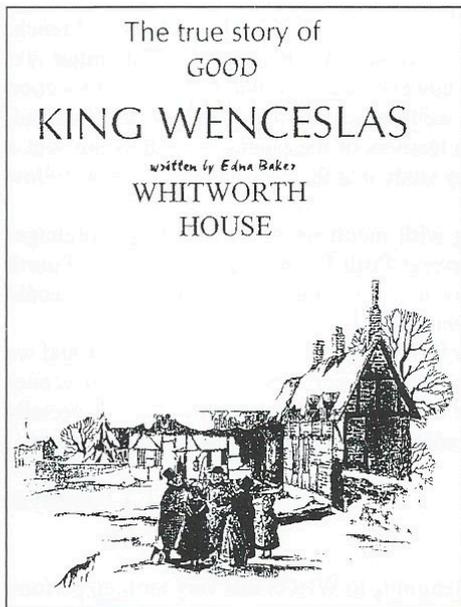
However, many lines were delivered memorably and with that instinctive timing which marks real comic talent. Innuendo was cleverly exploited by all four actors.

This production was apparently two years in the making, but from its effective introduction by Louise Borg to its slick curtain call "Fluff" was superbly entertaining and well worth the hard word which so clearly went into it.



WHITWORTH HOUSE

Whitworth assembled a strong cast who gave some very fine performances, achieved despite a decidedly weak script. "The True Story of Good King Wenceslas" was a somewhat juvenile play and was largely unworthy of its actors in this case.



The page (Jon Gordon), complete with his scroll, gave a promising introduction and the Carol Singer (Alex Preston) really made us believe she was cold. She spoke with hauteur, but lacked volume and clarity. As Yonder Peasant, Andrew Farrel gave a fine comic performance. He made the most of his lines and provoked a strong audience response. Once again the set used was impressive and the staging effective.

King Wenceslas (Mike Birtwistle) was a commanding, loud presence until subdued by his still more commanding Queen (Laura Owen). One felt the carol should be re-named "weak King Wenceslas" as Mike remained likeable, if increasingly absurd, throughout. Laura was in full control of her part. She was fluent, clearly audible and regally pompous at all times. Equally well played was the Thatcherite Prime Minister, performed with a well sustained 'plummy' drawl by Lisa Matthews. The Princess (Eleanor Heynes) was both elegant and glamorous but her lines were rendered rather flat and their humour was not always brought out.

In contrast James Jobling, as the Doctor, exploited his role very fully. He played the part with a magnificent grotesquerie, and was a cross between Boris Karloff and Rowan Atkinson. James introduced some excellent comic business and used gesture to tremendous effect. The Royal Astrologer (Joe Lewis) had some inventive properties but tended to underplay the part.

The play, with its Christmas setting, required a pantomime style, which the cast did not always supply. The updating of the lines ("I don't remember a situation as critical as this since the Royal Prince was caught kissing Camilla Parker-Bowles on the back stairs") brought a strong audience response. There needed to be more of this; more topicality, more playing to the gallery, would have helped to overcome the limitations of the script.

Overall this was good fun and the cast's talent was manifest, but they did deserve a better play.

M Green

Once again, many thanks to Miss Green for a perceptive, detailed, thorough, painstaking and caring adjudication.

GJT

LIFE ON THE GANTRY

The school year started with the Junior School production of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" directed by Miss De Vince. In order to suggest the wintery scene, we obtained a special effects projector, which simulated very effectively the falling snow on the back-cloth.

With the news that the main School play had been postponed until the following Michaelmas Term we mistakenly expected a quiet second half of the year. However, the subsequent music concerts and lettings of the hall to outside companies contributed to certainly the busiest year since I joined the crew in 1992.

First came the European Theatre Company with their production of "Cyrano De Bergerac", requiring each one of our forty-five lanterns to be fitted with straw-coloured filters.

The beginning of March saw possibly the greatest challenge of the year, the Charities Week Fashion Show. Constraints on time meant we had just the day itself to design and set up what was to be a very complicated lighting and sound plot. The team of four started work at 8.30am and managed to finish at around 6.30pm, with about one hour to spare. My thanks go to the team for a splendid effort.

The next major event of the year was the House Play Competition, always a demanding event. As I decided to put my rather limited acting talents to use in the Heywood House Play, the job of co-ordinating all the lighting and sound was passed over to Richard Strudwick, who despite having a rather depleted team and many other commitments, did a wonderful job and deserves great praise. After the completion of exams in June, our next project (indeed four hours after our final German paper) was the Temperance Seven Concert, set "in the round" in the New Hall. Two days later, we held a concert of Asian music from 'Kala Sangam' providing both amplification and a recording of this charity event.

Soon after the end of the Midsummer Term, we entertained two preparatory schools, Amberleigh and Forest Park, for their Annual Speech Days. Other minor events throughout the year include a piano recital, two major band concerts, a charity concert by the Hale Light Orchestra, a visit from the Anne Finnigan School of Dance and various assemblies, all requiring either lighting, sound or indeed both.

I would like personally to thank all the team members who have helped this year, Chris Barnes, Kit Brown, Sarah Cochrane, Rick Carms and Richard Strudwick for all their dedication and hard-work. I would also like to thank Dr Barker for always being around to share his incredible knowledge of drama and Mr Austen for his help and assistance throughout the year.

I only hope next year holds such an interesting and varied programme. As many of the team will be leaving within the next two years, we are on the look-out for any keen, young members of the School interested in joining the crew. Please see either myself or Dr Barker if you would like to join us next year.

Michael Bartlett (LGJT)

VISIT BY EUROPEAN THEATRE COMPANY

In February of this year we had the pleasure of welcoming to the School members of the European Theatre Company. They are a group of professional actors who brought with them their production of "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Edmond Rostand which was performed in French.

'A' level language students are accustomed to their teachers encouraging them to see plays and films in French, German or Spanish and it is sometimes an unhappy experience. To sit through a whole performance of an unfamiliar text which may last over two hours is often quite arduous. We had no hesitation, however, in recommending the production because of the Company's innovative approach. They take a famous play by a well-known dramatist, in this case Rostand, then simplify and shorten the text to make the script more readily accessible to learners of the language. Pupils are sent a copy of the script some weeks before they are due to see the play so that they may study it at their leisure and can thus follow the performance without any great difficulty.

Most of the 'A' level French candidates came to see the play along with members of the Modern Languages Department but pupils lower down the School were also invited to come. Several Fifth Formers and even some Fourth Formers accepted my invitation to come to a reading of the play at lunchtimes and were amazed to find that they could watch a performance of a play in French and actually understand what was happening on stage!

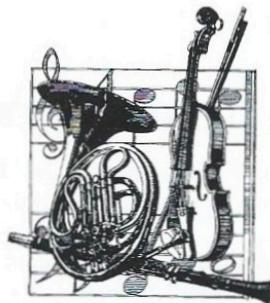
We had been impressed by the Company's production of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" by Molière last year and we were not disappointed, so were delighted when they agreed to use William Hulme's Grammar School as one of their venues in the North of England. It was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to be introduced to French Literature, especially those who do not intend to study the subject in the Sixth Form, and we look forward to further productions in years to come.

LA Ballantyne

Stop Press!

We are happy to announce that the European Theatre Company is indeed returning to WHGS this very term, to perform Goethe's "Faust", the greatest of all German plays, on November 2nd.

A propos "Cyrano de Bergerac", this is not the first time that Hulmeians have seen this play. On October 29, 1909, Dr Hall gave some boys a free afternoon to see it at the Gaiety Theatre in Peter Street (on the opposite side from the Free Trade Hall, near Mount Street). The boys found it "somewhat difficult to follow"! - Ed.



MUSIC

As usual, the musical calendar has been busy if not positively frantic. We have had numerous recitals, concerts, competitions, visits, workshops, services and festivals all with the same aim, that of fostering an enjoyment and appreciation of music as well as acting as an important show case for the School. Concerts have been as diverse in taste and style as is imaginable but have all been enjoyed by performers and audience alike. They have not only reflected the talent of our students but also the dedication of staff. However, success does not mean we can become complacent. Pupils and staff come and go and circumstances change and we need to keep an ever fresh outlook in order to maintain impetus and interest. Already plans are well ahead for this year's series of events.

September '94 saw the opening of our new Music Department. There has been a need for proper facilities for many years and it has been exciting to help design and plan the department from scratch and see it come to fruition. We can now boast a purpose built suite of rooms which would be the envy of most schools in the country. The suite consists of a large rehearsal studio, recording/music technology room, keyboard laboratory, practice rooms, percussion studio, store rooms and offices. Its situation under the New Hall is convenient for concerts and whilst it places us at the centre of the School it is out of ear shot of most other teaching areas - much to the relief of our old neighbours the Geography Department! The recording studio/music technology suite still needs to be fitted out with essential equipment and wiring and this is an on-going process. I look forward to its completion when we should have near-professional eight track recording facilities and we can cut our first C.D.!

1995 has been a year of goodbyes with both staff and students leaving. Four of our U6 deserve special thanks - Elisabeth Keable, Sarah Porter, Geoffrey Barraclough and Mark Kelly who have all been valued members of the Music Department since their entry into School. In addition to involvement in extra-curricular groups, Elisabeth has played the organ for School assemblies. She has accomplished this difficult and often thankless task with great dedication and professionalism and her efforts will be missed. (The 1906 "Hulmeian", recording the introduction of a new School Hymn

Book, expressed the hope "that this change will be attended by a greater effort on the part of all to join heartily in the morning hymn." Plus ça change, et plus c'est la même chose!) We wish all four students every success in the future and hope that they might return to help us out now and again at concerts (hint).

In April we said farewell to our keyboard teacher David Bradford and in July to Felicity Bryson our flute teacher. Felicity has been teaching flute and running the Junior Band for the past four years but has now gone to further her studies in France. Her fine musicianship and ability to relate to students will be much missed by her pupils as will her humour and vivacious personality to colleagues. David Bradford has been teaching for us for three years, however, pressure of time from his main profession of composition for commercials for radio and T.V. means that he is no longer able to devote his time to teaching. David's skills as jazz pianist, composer, accompanist, and arranger have been a great asset to the department. We wish both David and Felicity every success and happiness in the future.

In April we welcomed Edward Barnwell to the staff to replace David Bradford. Edward was a pupil at the Yehudi Menuhin School, one of Britain's leading specialist music schools, after which he studied Physics at the University of Durham. Following successful completion of a BSc. Hons. Degree, Edward completed a two year post-graduate course in performance at the Royal Northern College of Music. As well as being a very accomplished performer on both the piano and keyboards and an experienced teacher, Edward composes and has a keen interest in Jazz.

My thanks to all the Music Department staff and academic colleagues who have worked so hard with pupils to produce music of the highest standard and whose professionalism, dedication, support and companionship have gone such a long way to make working at W.H.G.S. so worthwhile and enjoyable. A very special thanks is due to Dr David Alexander, one of our School lab technicians, who has given many hours of his own time rehearsing and performing in the Concert Band and Jazz Orchestra on the drum kit. Lastly, my thanks to the pupils who give up so much of their time to rehearse. Although rehearsals can sometime be a chore, the final result is well worth it. Always remember:

"Amateurs practise until they get it right, professionals until it won't go wrong. Always practise like professionals".

P Dewhurst

HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year's competition, held on October 14th and adjudicated by Mr Gavin Reid, fielded 13 pianists, 10 flautists, 9 clarinets, 7 saxophones, 4 violins, 3 guitars, two each of cellos, organs, euphoniums and keyboards, and one tuba, trumpet, trombone and drums! This was a tribute both to the versatility of instrumental teaching and learning in the School and to the initiative and enterprise within the six houses. The winners were Fraser, organised by Geoff Barraclough and Elisabeth Keable, and the overall standard was very high, with only 8.4% separating first and sixth place. So we cannot talk of any real losers here. Here are the results.

1.	Fraser	83.7%
2.	Heywood	79.6%
3.	Byrom	78.1%
4.	Dalton	77.9%
5.	Whitworth	77.4%
6.	Gaskell	75.3%

The size of the audience fluctuated wildly according to which teachers responded to the invitation to bring in their classes, but a lesson missed to enjoy such delightful and high quality music-making is surely cheap at the price.

The professionalism of the announcements and presentation was excellent, particularly Abby Hyams and Martin Cheung for Gaskell House with their octosyllabic rhyming couplets introducing the different items in their overall theme "The Seasons". Gaskell also had the festival's only vocal entry, Sally Burton and Carys Edwards with their trendy "Shoop Shoop Song", repeated for an audience of Fourth Year connoisseurs on the last day of term!

Mr Gavin Reid's adjudication was superlative. He gave credit and encouragement wherever it was due, and all his criticisms were positive tips for the future.

G J Turner

THE BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

In the 1993 "Hulmeian" a full description of this magnificent, world-famous brass band appeared when it came to give its first celebrity recital here. We were lucky to persuade them to return to us last November for a second concert under its Principal Conductor, James Watson. Three of the four items in the first half were by Philip Wilby, who was himself present and conducted each of his pieces. The Concert Galop (soloist - Robert Childs) was a first performance, given first in its original form as a euphonium solo, then repeated in a quartet version (Shades of Barber's Adagio?!) All performing, composing and publishing rights have been waived and all monies are being sent to the Anthony Nolan Trust to help bone marrow transplant patients, and in particular a young tenor horn player in a local band. A collection on the evening raised just over £175.