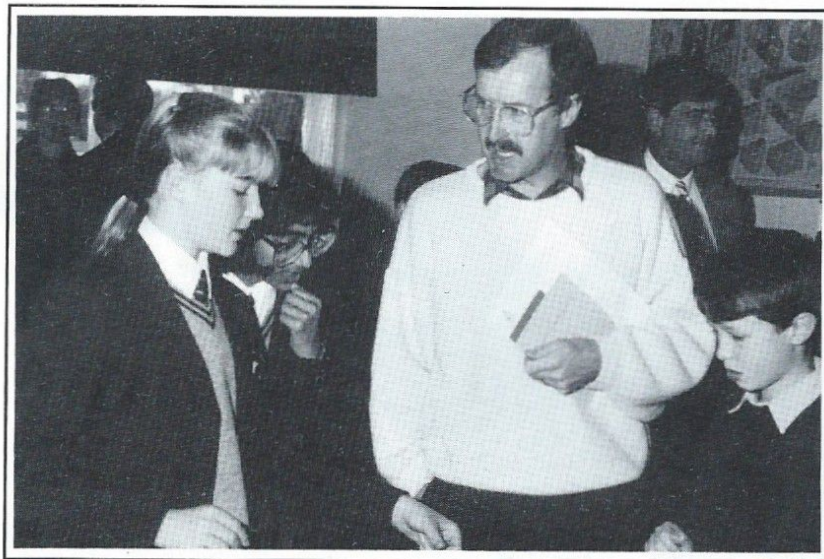


Physics Demonstration - Open Evening



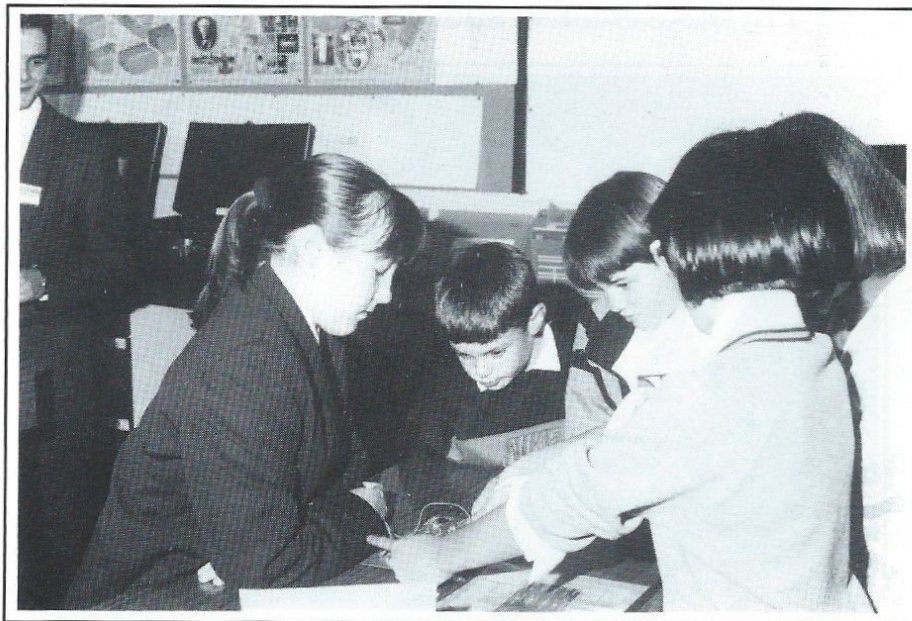
Debbi Mosley. (Photo: D. G. Barnes)



Michael Birtwistle. (Photo: D. G. Barnes)



Christina Barnes. (Photo: D. G. Barnes)



Alice Caine and Caroline Ip. (Photo: D. G. Barnes)

DESIGN

The Saturday morning saw three of the fifth year design groups working hard to make progress on the construction of fish feeders, toys etc - not to earn extra money, but as part of their G.C.S.E. project work.

Visitors kept interrupting the work, but a lot was achieved.

Ten members of 1A were also industriously manufacturing book stands from acrylic plastic; this involved much heat bending - useful when the workshop doors are wide open - and machine shaping and polishing. The library and bookshop seem to be able to use an unending supply of these articles and expressed their appreciation to the manufacturing team who eventually wearied of their philanthropy and began to make plastic articles for themselves. A good time was had by all the visitors who enjoyed themselves by questioning the workers and watching the computerised milling machine cutting plastic 'F's to a program written by Ben Howells (4B) as part of his fourth year coursework.



There's real skill here. Laura Owen gets stuck in. (Photo: G. N. Grant)

The Art groups consisted of fifth formers working in a variety of media for their G.C.S.E. projects. They were able to talk to visitors about the background to their work including the studies which were on display; the visitors were all too often whisked away by tour guides much against their will. No offers of purchase were made at this time! The third year Art groups had commandeered (nothing to do with the equipment supplier) the Archimedes Graphics computers and were busy amazing viewers with the sophistication of the programs and the artwork produced as part of their course.

The Wednesday evening was a determined attempt by the majority of the fifth year Designers to make up for lost time on their G.C.S.E. project work. Much effort was put in despite the visitors' attempts to stop and question the 'workers'. An unbelievable amount of progress was made on most of the pieces of work - some teachers were heard to whisper that it was about time too!

In the Art Studio members of 2A were busy producing pottery of every description, both hand built and thrown, and impressing the visitors - those who could find some room to circulate, that is.

The third year had taken over the 'flashy' new computer facilities and were producing some impressive colour prints, even though, being gazed at through a window by the photographer, they felt a little goldfish-like - but skilfully handled a couple of tricky parents while they were in the room with them.

The Sixth Formers had a lot of explaining to do on their very modern paintings but coped successfully, though not as much work was done as had been expected.

G.N. Grant



2A Potters at work. (Photo: G. N. Grant)

ECONOMICS

Messrs. McNally and Hewston spoke briefly about Economics at W.H.G.S., and its usefulness for the future. Meanwhile, Economic students from both Upper and Lower Sixth forms attempted to run the British Economy (better than at present!) though only on a simplified computer game!

The children who came would not be studying the subject for five years, but this did not deter them from 'having a go' and in fact having more success than some students and teachers.

However, it was an enjoyable experience for Neil Bhattacharyya and David Cleaver of the Upper Sixth and Jamie Mason, Marcus Donn and Nick Holder of the Lower Sixth. Special thanks go to 'computer expert' Andrew Doney of the Upper Sixth for setting up the computers and their programs.

Neil Bhattacharyya (U6S7)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Varied activities took place throughout both sessions, organised by Mrs. Pollard, Miss Barlow and Messrs. Seddon and Mallinder. These included First Year Five-a-side Football, Third Year Girls' Indoor Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Gymnastics, a mini Basketball competition and some senior Badminton.

C.H. Seddon.

COMBINED CADET FORCE (C.C.F.)

Some 30 cadets, boys and girls, and from both R.A.F. and Army Sections, manned the C.C.F.'s indoor range, giving demonstrations of the .22 firing which forms a central part of their training at School. Visiting children and their parents were able to see cadets being coached through a shooting lesson from start to finish, and were invited down to inspect the targets at the end. Many parents were surprised to learn that the Corps was entirely voluntary, was open to girls and boys equally, and that Adventure Training and flying formed such a major part of C.C.F. activities.

D.M. Fisher

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

BIOLOGY CLUB

The Biology Club is for people who take an interest in the plants, birds and animals in the world about them. We have learnt about birds, seashore creatures and odd facts about mammals, mostly small rodents. We go on trips to see many of these animals that we learn about. We also watch videos about birds, especially garden birds, the cuckoo and birds of prey.

One of our trips was to the sealife centre in Blackpool where we saw many British sea creatures. Another was to Rishworth Moor, where we saw peregrine falcons, twite and a fox. A few of us went to Hardraw, in the Yorkshire Dales, for a Wildlife trip. While we were there we set some live animal traps. We also went pond dipping (to catch larvae and small fish) and caught crayfish, minnows and sticklebacks, and walking/bird watching. We saw several birds, including a pheasant and two oyster catchers with a chick. We also saw numerous rabbits.

As well as learning about animals we try to help endangered species. We have sponsored some red-legged tortoises at Chester Zoo and we have fifteen nest-boxes around the grounds. Any details of the birds resting in the boxes are sent in to the Nest Record Scheme.

Sarah Cochrane (1A)



CHESS

Success in terms of matches won has been limited this year. The School lost last year a number of veterans of many years' standing. Their successors in the Senior team, N. Burton (L6A2), R. Smith (5X), C. Hyland (L6A2) and K. Swiderski (5X), led by A. Goodwin (U6A3) and S. Hira (L6A4), did not manage to win any victories. The Juniors, led by P. Gee (3Y), who was regularly supported by J. Myers (3L), Kit Brown (3X), S. Hadfield (2A), N. Kapur (2B) and A. Patel (2A), despite their enthusiasm only won one and lost three of their matches.

From here we can only go up.

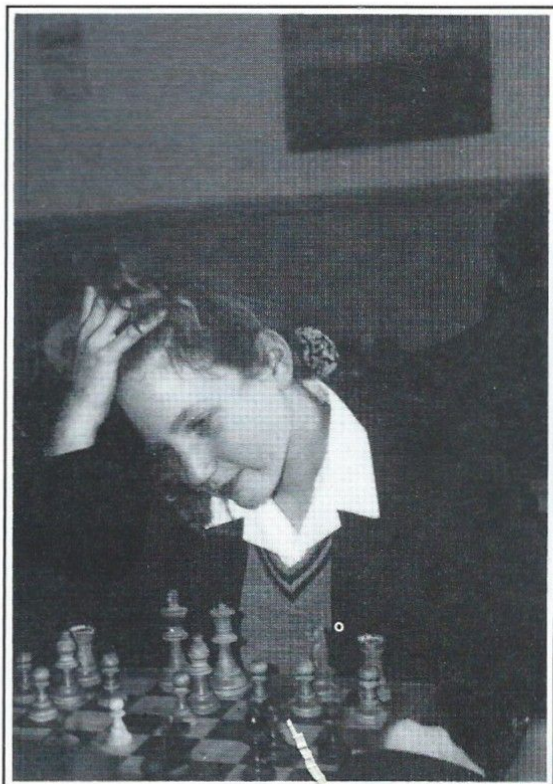
The individual shield for the Junior School Competition was won by A. Patel (2A). The Turabi trophies were won by 2A and 1A. Thanks must go to Mr. Turner for yet again organising this competition.

There is much enthusiasm for chess, particularly in the Junior School. I hope that this will be translated into rather more victories next year.

M.H. Gracey



The Junior Chess Competition in Room 4. (Photo: G. J. Turner)



Geraldine Brook ponders her next move. (Photo: G. J. Turner)



Ankish Patel (2A), winner of the Junior School Chess Shield, with Joshua Bloom (1A), the other finalist. The Turabi Cups were won by 2A and 1A respectively. (Photo: G. J. Turner)

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

The Christian Union meets informally most Wednesday lunchtimes. This year we have discussed many topics, such as predestination, pacifism, the Gulf War, sex before marriage, evangelism, women in the church, different forms of worship and the question of whether it matters which religion one follows if there is only one God. There was also a series of Bible studies on Ephesians. As you can see, we covered a wide variety of issues, some controversial but all relevant to life today.

Unfortunately, numbers have decreased slightly this year, and we hope to see more people from outside the Lower Sixth in the future. We already have a packed programme ready for next year, and there will probably be a few guest speakers.

We would like to thank Mr. Booker for his organisation and leadership throughout the year.

Louise Martin (L6M)



DEBATING SOCIETY: CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As one Stefano Guazzo put it in 1574, 'Nature herself has given man the power of speech. But certainly not in order that he converse with himself.....' Public Speakers at William Hulme's have been convincingly demonstrating another humanist assertion, that 'man is a social and communicative being' in various contexts throughout the year.

Our School Debating Team of Iain Brassell (U6A2) and Andrew Hollingworth (U6C1) continued our run of success in the Observer Mace Debating Competition, being joint winners of the first round held at Xaverian College. They opposed the notion that the future of Britain lies in a federal Europe rather more effectively than a recent Prime Minister. They then went on able to endorse 'the moral liberalism of the last fifty years' at Liverpool College in the next round but failed to progress further in a competition where standards seem to improve annually.

Under the capable secretaryship of Andrew Reid (U6A2), Rebecca Slate (U6A4) and Rachel Roden (U6A3), a variety of speakers ventured into the Room T bearpit over the year and in-School debating flourished. Especially memorable was a passionate and earnestly argued debate on a proposed immediate withdrawal of British troops from the Gulf. In all debates, whatever their level of seriousness, speakers found an 'answerable style' and I was pleased by their efforts in preparation and delivery. All deserve praise.

The Inter-House Debating Competition entered its second year and its significance is reflected in the Judges' report appended to these notes. May I thank this year's judges - Mrs. Treweek and Dr. Barker - for their involvement and to Mrs. Treweek particularly for providing the report.

The School was pleased to host the semi-final of the Rotary Club of Didsbury Public Speaking Competition. Our four competitors, Jonathan Kay (L6C2), Matthew Booth (L6L), Alok Jha (4X) and Matthew Butterworth (4Y), all acquitted themselves well in an enjoyable evening and Matthew Butterworth proceeded to the final at the Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport. My thanks to Miss Priddle for her help with this competition.



Matthew Butterworth in the Rotary Club of Didsbury Public Speaking Competition Final at the Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport.
(Photo: Miss S. J. Priddle)

Hopwood Reading Prizes were won by Matthew Booth (L6L) and Andrew Hickey (ID) at the end of an eventful and entertaining year.

We have had a healthy Public Speaking record over the last few years as a result of the energetic commitment of speakers, secretaries and audiences. Participation is at least a small step towards becoming an articulate and useful citizen - if not quite a Renaissance Person - and I hope it's a move many more will be making in the future.

Alistair E. Watson.

INTER-HOUSE DEBATING CONTEST - JUDGES' REPORT

The Inter-House Debating Competition was held on the afternoon of Thursday, October 18th.

The title of the first debate was "This House has no faith in British Justice". Andrew Reid (Whitworth), proposing the motion, pointed out frequent miscarriages of justice, supporting his argument with carefully selected evidence, such as reference to the GCHQ dispute. He used rhetorical question to good effect and reiterated his main points often enough to imprint them firmly on our minds.

Gil White, seconding, concentrated on the incomprehensible nature of court proceedings (The Law is an Ass) and the unreliability of judges, thus complementing, without echoing too closely, Andrew Reid's speech. He was the only speaker to use notes rather than read his speech in full. At times he spoke too fast for the effect of his wit to be absorbed by the audience before he hurried on to the next point. In his summing up he attempted to answer questions from the floor, though rather sketchily. Overall, the thorough preparation, confident delivery and vitality of both speakers were very pleasing.

James Flannigan (Byrom) opposing the motion, and Phil Cain, seconding the opposition, produced arguments in favour of British Justice which, while effective in themselves, were a little too abstract to make a powerful impact on the audience.

The title of the second debate was "This House would rather be European than British". Iain Brassell (Dalton) proposed the motion. He produced a well-constructed, serious argument, delivered at speed, followed by a more relaxed, humorous speech in which he extolled Italian design, German cars, French food and English ... Chris Hyland, seconding, argued his case well, though his delivery perhaps could have been more varied in emphasis.

Erica McInnis (Heywood), opposing the motion, argued forcefully that the British did not want to be submerged into Europe. She appealed to our patriotism in emphatic tones, pressing the claims of Rolls Royce against Mercedes. Jonathan Kay, seconding, spoke at some length, warming to his topic as he proceeded. He commented on the likelihood of intercontinental squabbling (France argues against Germany; Britain argues against both of them) and on the deplorable burning of British lambs by French lorry-drivers. The audience responded well to his informal, witty delivery, despite occasional inaudibility.

The topic of the final debate was "This House thinks money is more important than love". Richard Mattison (Fraser), proposing the motion, argued forcefully that people need money in order to live and that love is of secondary importance.

His summing up was particularly good, as he responded to questions from the floor and arguments of the opposition. Andrew Hollingworth, seconding the proposition, delivered the most impressive speech of the afternoon. He asserted that, deplorable though it may be, people do, in fact, value money more than love. He obtained the attention of the audience as no other speakers did, commenting on the ambition of the pupils to earn high salaries and ride around in Porsches! He spoke with conviction, even passion, using voice, facial expression and gesture to excellent effect. Our only criticism was that his line of argument diverged too markedly from that of the proposer of the motion.

Opposing the motion, on behalf of Gaskell, Cemil Egeli delivered his views in a humorous, throw-away manner, suggesting that the audience would rather cuddle a human being in bed than a cheque book! Rather more seriously, he widened the scope of "love" to include the affection of parents, brothers, sisters and friends, pointing out how necessary this is to our well-being. He was ably supported by Mark Levy.

During the judging, three teams were short-listed, those of Fraser, Whitworth and Heywood. In the end, however, we felt Andrew Hollingworth's speech was the best, but that the shield should be awarded to Andrew Reid and Gil White of Whitworth for the consistency of the standard of their speeches and the way in which they worked so effectively as a team.

Experience is no doubt a tremendous advantage to a talented debater. It is no surprise that the well-prepared speeches of Andrew Reid, Gil White and Andrew Hollingworth were the result of this, as were the relaxed humour of Cemil Egeli and the confidence of Iain Brassell. All five were members of the Upper Sixth.

Credit must be given to those who had not debated in a large public arena before. Many of them showed the ability to write a convincing speech and deliver it with poise. Thanks are due to all of them, and to the audience of Lower Sixth and Third Years, who warmed to the debates and asked searching questions, after rather a lethargic start.

Mr. Watson must be congratulated on his excellent organisation of such a complex and enjoyable event. We all left the Upper Hall more aware than before of the power of the spoken word to influence and persuade.

P.A. Treweek
(Judges: P.A. Treweek & Dr. M. Barker)

HOVERCLUB REPORT

Our activities this year began comparatively late in the season with our first event on May Bank Holiday, a National Race Meeting at Mere Brow, Southport - virtually our 'home' venue. The course was a new one and the paddock had been moved from the usual sand-swept hilly area to a much larger and more amenable flat, grassy one which afforded ample room for all sixty craft. Shahid Hussain performed well in his Formula Junior (12-16 year olds) race; from a low grid position he overtook many competitors in spectacular fashion to finish fourth in 'Bluebird', our newest craft.

In the Novice class, veterans of the team, Robert Mullen and Richard Avery did well despite the vagaries of 'Bluebird's' temperamental engine; this problem was not solved until it came to Rob in a flash of inspiration late one night after the meeting - 'carburettor assembly error!' - true testimony to his burgeoning designer potential! In the formula 3 class I gained my only points of the season in a, by now, seriously malfunctioning 'Bluebird'.

During May and June we attended nine Junior School Summer Fairs in the Cheadle, Heald Green, Altrincham, Sale and Urmston areas where we gave rides and helped to raise money for the respective schools. These events involve considerable team effort in themselves and have helped foster corporate responsibility as we try to balance the safety and discipline of the queue (which is invariably long), the collection and safe-keeping of monies, issue and retrieval of crash helmets, maintenance and refuelling of the craft and the equal distribution of diving quotas among the members. In all these facets the team was most impressive, and received gratifying written congratulations from the Junior Schools and from individuals.

The programme of displays became very crowded, requests being received for attendance at 21 events, many unfortunately on the same popular Saturdays; indeed, so has our fame grown, that several schools rearranged dates of events to enable us to attend.

The noise hovercraft generate can startle those unfamiliar with them and at one evening event, a disgruntled neighbour summoned the law. In due course, a good-humoured constable investigated; he was impressed with our operation and became engrossed, finally deciding that the only offence he could 'book' us for was damage to the field - unlikely, we pointed out, as we were not even touching it - he smiled and plodded off.

The season climaxed with the National Schools' Competition at Stanford Hall, near Rugby, on July 6th - the day after School finished for the holidays. We negotiated severe rainstorms on the motorway but were blessed - as we have been at every event this year - with fine, sunny weather during the entire race meeting - surely a record in itself in this rain-laden summer.

Unfortunately, the engines of both craft proved fickle yet again, one being almost of scrap value only. We have sold our fully home-designed and built craft 'Horace' to a member of the School and have retained 'Griffon', our original craft, with the 'scrap' engine, and 'Bluebird' which has a new recently-reconditioned one fitted. Each craft is allowed two different drivers in competitions and so, on a toss of the coin, Robert Mullen and Shahid Hussain competed in 'Bluebird' with Richard Avery and Howard Ash driving 'Griffon'. Rob achieved a clear round in the manoeuvrability competition, putting in a time good enough to earn eighth position; Shahid drove well but was thwarted by a jamming throttle at crucial times - it took much experimentation to trace the cause. Rick Avery completed the course in a reduced-performance 'Griffon' but unfortunately, by the time Howard came to compete, the engine was beyond repair and so both boys lost their chance to compete in the speed trials section. Rob actually made the speed trials final and was placed Sixth behind much faster craft. So at least we came away with a trophy for the fourth year running; though, with such poor, over-used engines 'running' at all is now our major problem!

We have once again had a very impressive team of dedicated and skilful drivers and ever-improving mechanics this year - these are: Robert Mullen and Richard Avery (now leaving us for university), Howard Ash, Alex Rogers, Shahid Hussain, Jonathan Lamb, Elisabeth Keable, Richard Lamb and David Byrne. My congratulations to them all.

They and I are well aware of the tireless work, advice and encouragement given by Mr. A. Scott and would like to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the Hover Club.

G.N. Grant.

WAVERLEY RESIDENTIAL HOME

'Waverley' is a residential home about two miles away from School and roughly seven pupils have gone with Mr. Blight each Tuesday lunch hour this year to visit the elderly people there. Unfortunately during Mr. Blight's prolonged absence in the Christmas Term this activity ceased.

Muaaze Ahmad, Kate Mayne, Gail Hepburn, Rachel Roden and Rebecca Slate have visited over the last two years, but of course 'A' Levels made it impossible for them to continue. Louise Martin has been trying to recruit other seniors, but currently it is mostly juniors who go.



Louise Martin, this year's most regular Sixth Former at Waverley, with one of the residents. (Photo: G. J. Turner)

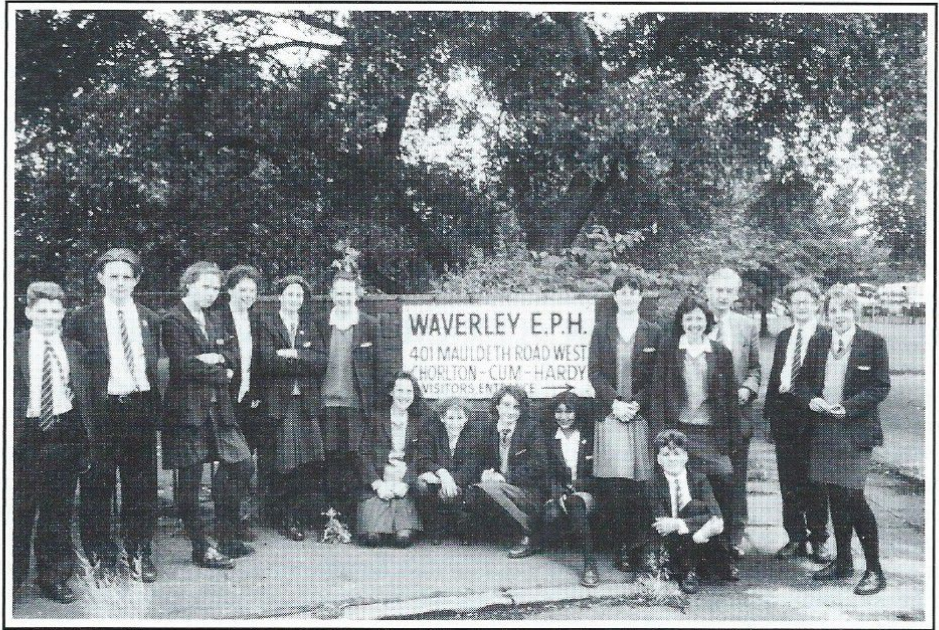


No, not a proposal!. (Photo: G. J. Turner)

It is sometimes thought that visiting old people to amuse and entertain them is a boring and monotonous task. Mr. Blight has been taking pupils there for nine years now. Most residents there are either mentally or physically disabled, but many have an excellent sense of humour. For me, the purpose of travelling there each week is knowing that I have helped to make an elderly person's day a little bit brighter and happier, and I think that goes for most people who go there with me. Oscar, an Austrian, unable to speak for years and confined to a wheelchair, no matter how ill he felt, was always able to smile and be cheerful, and made me want to carry on visiting Waverley.

Two regular visitors from the Junior School have been Victoria Ash and Olivia Dunbar, who has now left us. But latterly others have joined us regularly. I hope more of the senior end will come and support Louise Martin and Rachel Leitch-Devlin next year.

Nicola Ravenscroft (2A)



The "gang" with Mr. Blight. *(Photo: G. J. Turner)*



Louise Shroot and Victoria Ash share a joke with one of the ladies.. *(Photo: G. J. Turner)*

Waverley Visiting Group

HUGH SYMONDS

Last year's "Hulmeian" included a feature by Mr. Booker about Hugh, an Old Boy of the School and a Maths teacher here from 1978-81, now at Sedbergh School. Hugh's mountain marathoneering feats would be notable in themselves, but he has recently undertaken an ambitious programme to raise sponsorship for a well-known third world charity. This year he has kindly contributed the following article about his recent exploits.

Editor.

FROM EARLY STRIDES IN ALEXANDRA PARK TO THE MUNROS

Listening to the radio over breakfast I heard warnings of gales spreading from the west. A tanker was in trouble in high seas off the Hebrides. The sky was black and even the distant snow on today's peaks looked grey. I was offered a lift on the track towards Loch Fannich but I turned it down. In the coming weeks I got used to telling my story in a nutshell. The stalker understood and drove on with just my sack. He advised me of a good line through the rocks to today's first summit - An Coileachan. Twice on the climb I stopped to put more clothes on. The weather was worsening by the minute but I had no idea of the wind's real strength until I was exposed on top. The instant I faced the westerlies I had not braced for the blast, but was thrown backwards and over the stony ground. Bending over double I slowly made the last strides to the cairn. It was hard to think with the noise of the wind battering my hood against my ears. I found some sort of shelter on the east of the cairn. I set the compass and counted the bumps in the contours before my next hill - Meall Gorm. Standing, exposed to the west again, I lent over to the left to try to keep my balance. Walking quickly up the climbs I was in control, but on the descents the wind took me to the right and blew me over several times. In trying to keep a straight course I found that my path meandered tens of yards. Had the ridges been sharp, I would have been picked up and deposited in the lochs a thousand feet below.

On the previous days, I had stopped regularly to eat muesli bars, sandwiches and chocolate, but today it was too much effort to take the sack off the back. It wasn't good to get hungry but it wasn't good to stop either. I learnt to put food in pockets on future bad days. That way I could keep nibbling on the move.

In the thickening and lowering cloud, I couldn't see more than fifty yards ahead. The wind had brought a driving rain which added to the difficulty of looking at the maps. When a bearing was needed I bent double to create some sort of shelter in my belly. I wiped the map case with wringing wet gloves, the fingers now chilled to the bone. I ran on to the huge pile of stones on Sgurr Mor. Three down and six peaks to go for the day, and I was surviving.

The fourth peak, Beinn Liath Mhor Fannaich, is awkwardly placed for a single traverse of these mountains. The plan was to go East to the top and return to Sgurr Mor. The visibility had worsened and I couldn't find the narrow eastern ridge. Descending and not knowing whether I was on the ridge or not would be dangerous as the slopes were steep and full of snow. I ran backwards and forwards searching for a narrow ribbon of rock that didn't drop sharply. The attempt to find a way became far more desperate when a gust whipped my right contact lens from my eye. It would have been pointless to have spent any time looking for it. Not knowing my position precisely, I went back to the summit of Sgurr Mor. With blurred vision I measured the distance to the ridge and took a reading on the altimeter. This time I would count paces; it could only be 200m away. The sense of relief when I found it outweighed the horror of losing a contact lens. My thoughts now turned to aborting the day after the fourth summit. This was no day to be in the hills at all. I was now glad that my loss of vision had put the blinkers on the day. The return to the van was essential to replace the lost contact lens.

From April 19th to 30th, the weather oscillated day by day. From the start on Ben Hope in Sutherland, the twelve remaining days of April saw me run 220 miles and climb 34 Munros in varying states of Spring and Winter.

By seven in the morning on May 1st, the air was warm. It was as if the North of Scotland had been transferred a thousand miles south. The dozen campers at Torridon must all have been thinking the same thing that morning. It was too early for the midges, there were still great streaks of snow on the mountains and yet the climate was continental. This was Scotland at its best.

The day seemed ideal for traversing the three Munros of the Coulin Forest, between the Glens of Torridon and Carron. However, the sudden heat took my body by surprise, and by the end of the day I was wilting and calling for a million cups of tea.

After four days of fierce heat, even on the mountains, I was praying for a return to normal Scottish weather. Forecasts reported that parts of Northern Scotland were hotter than the Sahara. Eventually clouds and heavy rain returned. In the transit of 27 Munros around Glen Affric and Glen Shiel, I had just one view from a summit. However, my energy had returned with the more temperate climate. Perfect weather arrived simultaneously with my row to Skye, and I enjoyed the best mountain day of the journey whilst traversing the 11 Munros of the Cuillin Ridge on May 11th.

By May 19th I had reached Fort William, having run 600 miles and climbed 111 Munros. After a month's running, it seemed appropriate to have a rest day, but it proved to be one of the most uncomfortable days of my journey. My body had become used to daily continuous exercise and had acclimatised to the extremes of heat and hail.

There is simply not enough space to tell the whole story in an article of this size. The above are edited extracts from the full story which will be published in a book entitled 'RUNNING HIGH' which is due out in the Autumn of 1991.

To cut a long story short, I ran the 277 Munros from Ben Hope to Ben Lomond in 67 days, continuing over the English and Welsh peaks to complete the 296 summits of Britain in 83 days. After 97 days on the run, I finally kicked the habit on Brandon Mountain on the West Coast of Ireland, after 2048 miles, 303 mountains and 500,000 feet of climbing. In the process, I wore out six pairs of shoes, accepted one lift by motorised transport (the ferry from Holyhead to Ireland) and raised over £25,000 for the Third World Development Charity, Intermediate Technology.

Hugh Symonds.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

SIXTH FORM LECTURES

During 1990-91 the Politics 'A' level groups attended 11 lectures at Manchester University on:

- "The British Party System" - Prof. Michael Moran
- "Political Leadership in Britain" - Prof. Dennis Kavanagh
- "Parliament Today" - Dr. Andrew Adonis
- "The Reform of Whitehall" - Dr. Geoffrey Fry
- "Mr. Kinnock's New Model Labour Party" - Patrick Seyd
- "Constitutional Change in Britain" - Prof. Fred Ridley and Prof. Philip Norton
- "Different Prime Ministerial Styles" - Prof. Dennis Kavanagh
- "Pressure Groups in the 1990's" - Dr. Rob Baggott
- "Who will win the next election?" - David Denver
- "Europe: The debate over Sovereignty versus Federalism" - Glyn Ford M.P.

The lectures were delivered by leading academics and practising politicians and proved an excellent complement to the J.M.B. Syllabus. In addition to the above lectures, Andrew Bell, Iain Brassell, David Greer and Kate Mayne attended a further fifteen lectures as part of the local Politics Associations Revision Week in April 1991.

M.P. Jones

POLITICS TRIP TO THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

During the February half-term of 1991, the Upper Sixth Politics group were guests of Mr. Bob Dunn M.P., at the Houses of Parliament. As a former minister and now an active backbencher, Mr. Dunn was able to give two very valuable perspectives on Mrs. Thatcher's resignation in November 1990. Mr. Dunn gave us a fascinating insight into the backroom squabbling that went on within the Conservative Party during the leadership contest and he was one of a small group of M.P.'s that personally tried to persuade Mrs. Thatcher not to resign, despite the result of the First Ballot. As always Mr. Dunn was a very amiable host and held a "Question Time" session with the group in one of the standing Committee rooms above the Chamber of the House of Commons. Having spent nearly two years studying the British Political System, members of the group relished the opportunity to quiz an actual M.P. about all they had learnt especially over the prospects for the Conservatives under John Major, the Gulf War and the Poll Tax!

We spent an excellent three hours with Mr. Dunn and, as always, we are very grateful for all his time and assistance in making this trip so worthwhile.

M.P. Jones

GRANADA TV VISIT

On Thursday, 30th May 1991, ten members of the Lower Sixth Politics group made up part of the television audience at Granada Studios. We were invited to watch the making of two programmes for the new series of the Krypton Factor. This proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable experience made even more memorable by the warm-up act of Ted Robbins and our very own Damien Stansfield!

M.P. Jones

YOUTH AND STUDENT DAY WITH PADDY ASHDOWN

On Thursday, 28th February, the Lower Sixth Politics group were guests of Gordon Hennell (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Manchester Withington), at Central Hall, Westminster. We had been invited to take part in the second Youth and Student Day organised by the Liberal Democratic Party. The purpose of the visit was to give young people a chance to tour the Palace of Westminster, to participate in Question Times with M.P.'s from the three major parties and to be involved in various workshops, debates and discussions on current political issues with leading politicians.

The opening plenary session was concerned with the Gulf War. The M.P.'s who took part were Tony Benn, Jerry Hayes and Charles Kennedy, and needless to say this proved a stormy meeting. Mr. Benn was very eloquent in his argument against fighting a war against Saddam Hussain. The second session dealt with local Government reform and the M.P.'s who took part in this were Ken Livingstone, Emma Nicholson and Matthew Taylor. Ken Livingstone made a very convincing argument for the re-establishment of the G.L.C.

The morning session was brought to a close by the launch of the Liberal Democrats' "Youth and Student Charter" with Paddy Ashdown. This proved to be a fascinating insight in to how a leader of a national political party met the public. Mr. Ashdown quite happily walked amongst the audience, shaking hands and signing autographs, without any obvious fear for his security. Later, during an impromptu Question Time, he was very impressive at handling controversial issues from the floor.



Paddy Ashdown and Mr. M. P. Jones exchange pleasantries. (Photo: Sanjay Hira)

After lunch, the group had a choice of workshops and discussions. The session on Britain's membership of the E.E.C. was well-attended and Teddy Taylor made a strong case against further unification with Europe. Other sessions on "Aids and Young People", "Homelessness" and the "Case for a Written Constitution" were also well-attended. However, the session on "The Poll Tax - who's winning?" was packed out and the organisers sadly could not find anyone to defend the Government! This proved to be quite a loud and exciting meeting, with many young people chanting for the abolition of tax.

We returned to Manchester tired but very satisfied at the day's activities. It was excellent to be with so many M.P.'s in person and to discuss with them the great issues of the day.

M.P. Jones

UNITED NATIONS MOCK ASSEMBLY

This year's Mock U.N. General Assembly took place on Tuesday, 2nd July. Manchester Town Hall was used for the occasion where some 90 smartly-dressed sixth formers had gathered that morning to represent countries as diverse as Uganda, New Zealand and Iran. It was no doubt the first time that most of us were to participate in a venture of this kind and the atmosphere was one of tense anticipation as we waited for the meeting formally to begin. This year our prescribed brief was to represent the interests of the Iraq and UK governments respectively. At last the chairman had finished the welcoming speech and we were called to begin the day's main and most topical debate, concerning the resolution for peace in the Middle East. There followed an uncomfortable silence for nerves were preventing anyone from immediately speaking out. Finally it was a delegate from the U.S.S.R. who kicked the debate off, or rather the expected attack on Iraq, by asking for the expulsion of its delegates from the assembly all together. A strange move considering the apparent lack of hostilities in Soviet - Iraq relations but one that proved futile in any case as the appeal was immediately rejected, thus saving Sanjay Hira and team the embarrassment of being told to go home.

The debate did indeed prove to be an interesting one, despite the initial hesitations, with most diplomats delivering speeches that were eloquent and well researched. Iraq, of course, was showered with heavy criticisms from all sides, not last from W.H.G.S.'s Ian Cope, leader of the delegation from the U.K. Sanjay in turn was quick to defend Iraqi interests with the support of the other Arab nations and pointed out the hypocrisy of the super powers who, while vehement in condemning Saddam Hussain, have themselves instigated atrocities in places such as Granada, Afghanistan and Iran and have effectively escaped U.N. penalties. For all its gravity however the debate did hold an element of humour, thanks mainly to the Libyans who, apart from looking mildly comical in their suits trimmed with 'cool shades', laced their arguments with witty wisecracks.

The discussion ended with votes being taken on various amendments that people had proposed for the resolution. Then, it was time for coffee and a much needed break.

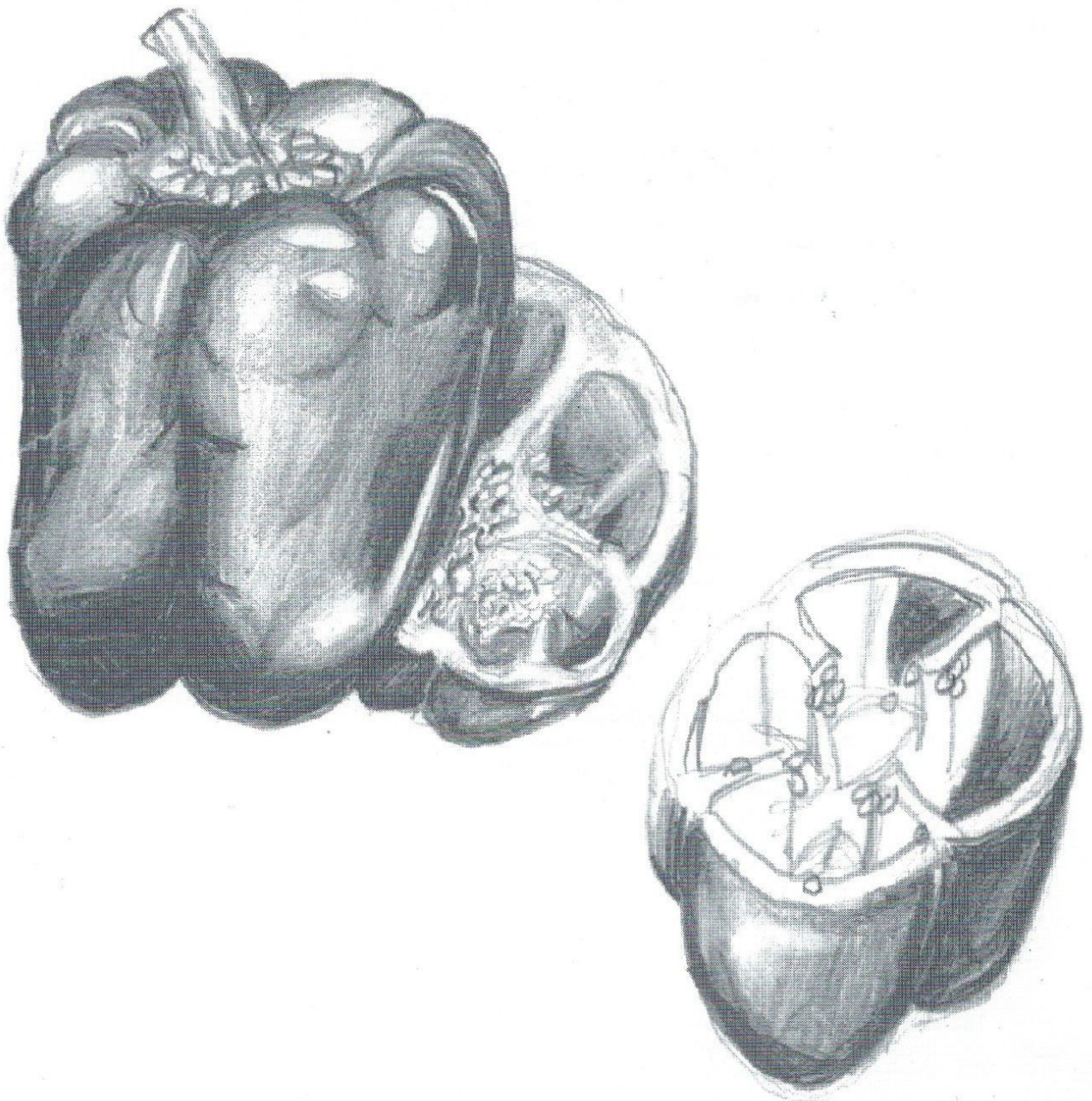
The rest of the morning and afternoon was taken up in committee work for which we were all split into three different groups, each dealing with one of these issues: Antarctica, Trade and Protection or International Terrorism and Hostage Taking. Though the procedures were much the same as those followed by the full assembly, every gathering had its distinct

highlights. The Antarctica Committee, for example, was dominated by a series of quips and “smart Alec” exchanges between a rep from Libya and one from the U.S.S.R., while in Trade and Protection Ian Cope made himself famous by blowing a fuse (and apparently a large one at that) due to his colleagues’ refusal to recognise the flaws of EEC’s Common Agricultural Policy! He received not one but two cautions as a result. Both Iraq and the U.K. meantime were working hard to retain some credibility in the committee dealing with terrorism.

All in all, much was learned that day, not least about the difficult and time-consuming process of formulating policy that satisfies all the diverse and often conflicting interests held by members of a large organisation like the U.N.

Our thanks go to Mr. M.P. Jones and Miss Tandon for organising the event and during the weeks of preparation being our main sources of information and advice. Thanks also to Mr. Hewston for accompanying us with Miss Tandon to the Town Hall on the day.

Anna Ross (L6A3)





C.C.F. 1990-91

The Army and RAF Sections had another good year's training. Recruitment was again very successful and our numbers were up. There was the usual range of military and adventure training on Field Days, Camps and courses. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Corps year was the large number of girls who joined up at both Sixth Form and Third Form levels.

JOINT SERVICES DAY

On Thursday 20th September thirty cadets from the Army and R.A.F. sections attended the Joint Services Day at R.A.F. Cosford in Wolverhampton. The purpose of the visit was to give the cadets an insight into a career in the Armed Services.

The day was well organised, with the usual mix of Regimental Bands, static displays and the opportunity to talk to the professionals about their experiences. Most of the cadets were able to get a flight in a Sea King helicopter over the base and all of us were impressed with the Red Arrows display. By far the highlight of the day was the mock battle which involved a Hercules C-130, helicopters and lightly-armoured jeeps all attacking a heavily-defended enemy position.

ARMY SECTION

FIELD DAYS

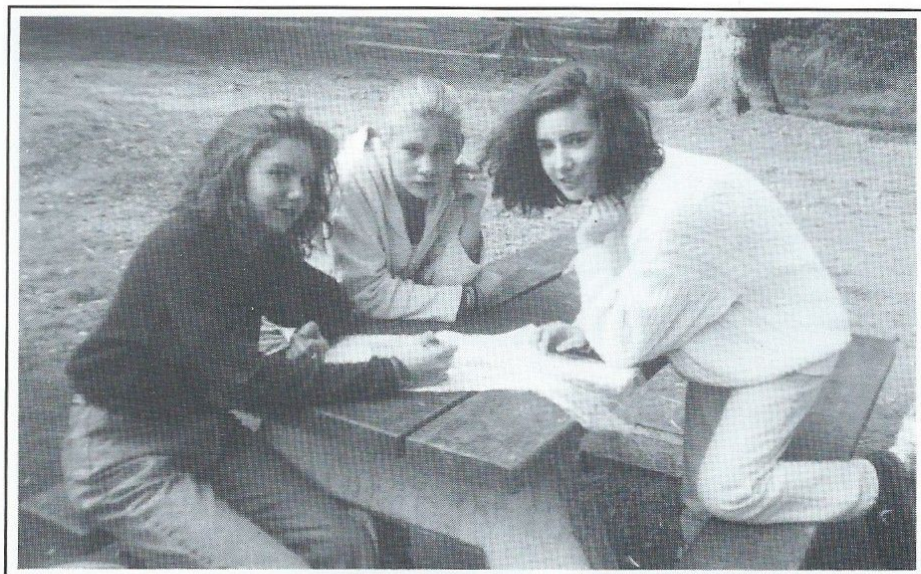
RECRUIT PLATOONS

The first Field Day of the academic year was spent at Lyme Park in Cheshire. The purpose of the Field Day was to introduce the recruits to basic map-work and orienteering skills. After a small confidence-course in the morning the recruits took part in a very demanding, full-scale orienteering course. The results were as follows:

1st	Bratt and Ewen	1:14
2nd	Woolley and Culledge	1:29
3rd	Bond, Clare and Stephenson	1:35
4th	Howells and Jones	1:59
5th	Goodall and Swerdlow	2:10
6th	Sheldon and Brown	2:13
7th	Lamb and Roberts	2:15
8th	Newns and Whittingham	2:33
9th	Crow and Bedford	3:09
10th	Kemp and Bird	3:20

The ten N.C.O.'s who accompanied the recruits split into two teams of five and raced against each other over the same course. It came as no surprise that the 'A' team won - but only just!

The first Field Day for the new recruits, who included seven female cadets, was spent at Holcombe Moor on Friday, 21st June. The purpose of the Field Day was to introduce the recruits to some basic Fieldcraft and Campcraft skills as preparation for their summer camp. The morning session involved setting up bashas, preparing and eating "compo" and taking part in a small camouflage and concealment exercise. The afternoon session involved an excellent "walk-through, talk-through" demonstration of all the obstacles of the Krypton Factor, followed by a fun-run of the whole assault course!



Orienteering in Lyme Park: Cadets Bond, Clare and Stephenson plan their route.
(Photo: M. P. Jones)



Orienteering in Lyme Park: the winning pair, Cadets Ewen and Bratt. (Photo: M. P. Jones)



Cadets tackle every obstacle on the Assault Course. (Photo: M. P. Jones)



Praveen Sethi and Zulfikar Marchant preparing their "compo". (Photo: M. P. Jones)



Claire Reichl, Sally Ward and Louise Borg "all cammed up and nowhere to go!". (Photo: M. P. Jones)

SENIOR PLATOON

In March the Senior Platoon joined forces with the Recruits, but more importantly with the RAF Section, for a full-scale joint Field Day at Holcombe Moor. Despite the inevitable differences in training, both sections threw themselves into the programme with gusto. An inter-section night exercise, Operation Dark Encounter, and a short taste of orienteering occupied the first evening. On Friday, three activities were laid on: the Krypton Factor Assault Course (of course!), a practical Fieldcraft period, and the highlight for most cadets, training flights in an RAF helicopter arranged against all the odds by Flt. Lt. Keable.

The Senior Platoon spent their June Field Day engaged in practical map and compass work in the Macclesfield Forest. The cadets learned a great deal, many of them putting theory into practice for the first time, under the guidance of the OC and three SNCO's.



Macclesfield Forest: Sgt. Wilson takes a break for some static mapwork on Shutlingsloe.
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)



Macclesfield Forest: plenty of help was on hand if cadets got lost . . .
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

THE KINGS CUP 1990

On Saturday, 20th October 1990, the contingent entered the prestigious Kings Cup Competition. The competition is open to all C.C.F./A.C.F. units badged to the Kings Regiment. It was the second time we had entered a team and we were determined to do better than the second place we achieved in 1989. Eight teams, each of eight cadets, took part and they were to be tested on six military skills throughout the weekend at Warcop training area.

The first test was a straight inspection of uniform and military bearing. Each cadet was assessed on his cleanliness, personal bearing and fitting of equipment. The whole team was then marked on its overall presentation. The highest possible score was 50 and we were delighted to gain a mark of 40 and come second.

The second test was a military quiz, which comprised a wide range of questions on topics not taught in the C.C.F. Army Syllabus. Needless to say our score of 26 out of 50 was disappointing. However our rivals from Merchant Taylors' fared similarly.

The third test was a boat-handling exercise. This was an excellent innovation and eagerly anticipated by our team. Each contingent was split into two dinghies, which had to be paddled across a lake. On arrival at the other side a very heavy tractor wheel had to be picked up and returned to the start of the exercise. Both dinghies and all the kit had to be accounted for and the time would stop when the whole team stood to attention. We were under intense pressure at this stage, as most of the teams had already put in very fast times. The best so far had been by Lancashire A.C.F. in 5 minutes 20 seconds. We were determined to beat this. The whole team put in a full-blooded performance, maintaining a furious pace. All the effort paid off and we won with an excellent time of 4 minutes 48 seconds. Fortunately for us, Merchant Taylors' and another rival, Ardwick A.C.F. did badly on this exercise. By the end of Saturday we were lying second overall and well-placed to strike for the trophy.

The Sunday proved just as demanding as the previous day. The fourth test was on Fieldcraft. During this session the team was asked to give specific fire control orders, judge distances, move across various obstacles and administer first aid. We gained a very creditable 72 out of 75 and came third, but we were obviously worried at Ardwick A.C.F. coming first.

The fifth test was map-reading. The team had to identify objects on the ground after being shown symbols on a map, and then vice-versa; they had to demonstrate their knowledge of conventional signs and set various bearings with a map and compass. Again we performed well, but not well enough. Our score of 58 out of 75 was disappointing when compared to Ardwick's 74! It was now all up to the final event, the March and Shoot.

The sixth event was a march of two and a half miles, followed by an extensive assault course, after which there was a shooting competition on the 30 metre range. Four teams had already completed this event and the best time had been 34 minutes 6 seconds by Merchant Taylors'. We not only had to beat that time but also the other unit that we were running against, Ardwick A.C.F. The whole team knew they had to go for broke and set off at a furious pace. They quickly outran Ardwick and literally threw each other over the assault course. It was fantastic to see everyone pull, shout and cajole each other through this event. The four best shots in the team completed the shoot and gained the highest score to date. Our time was by far the fastest, but was it good enough to win overall?

It was quite nerve-wracking to wait for all the final results to come in. We had won the boathandling and march and shoot exercises; we had come second on the inspection; third in the quiz and fieldcraft and a disappointing seventh in the map-reading exercise. Needless to say we were absolutely delighted when it was announced that we had come first overall. We had actually won the cup in only our second year of entry! The presentation of the Kings Cup was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Amlôt of the King's Regiment. The winning team was Sergeant Wilks (Captain), Corporal Stansfield (2.I.C), Lance-Corporals Buckley, Copsey, Ireland, Mason, Smart and Weeden. (Substitute Lance-Corporal Retter).



Lt. Col. M.G.C. Amlôt with the winners of the 1990 King's Cup, William Hulme's Grammar School C.C.F.
(Photo: M. P. Jones)

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

On Sunday, 11th November, ten members of the Army section represented the School's C.C.F. in the annual Remembrance Service. The group assembled in St. Peter's Square, Manchester and then marched to the Cenotaph. The procession was led by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the service was conducted by the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Reverend Stanley Booth-Clibborn. It was a very moving experience to be marching with veterans and representatives of all the Armed Services. After the traditional two-minute silence, "the Last Post" was played by the trumpeters from the Greater Manchester Police Band. The procession then became a parade and the cadets proudly marched round to Albert Square where they were thanked and finally dismissed.

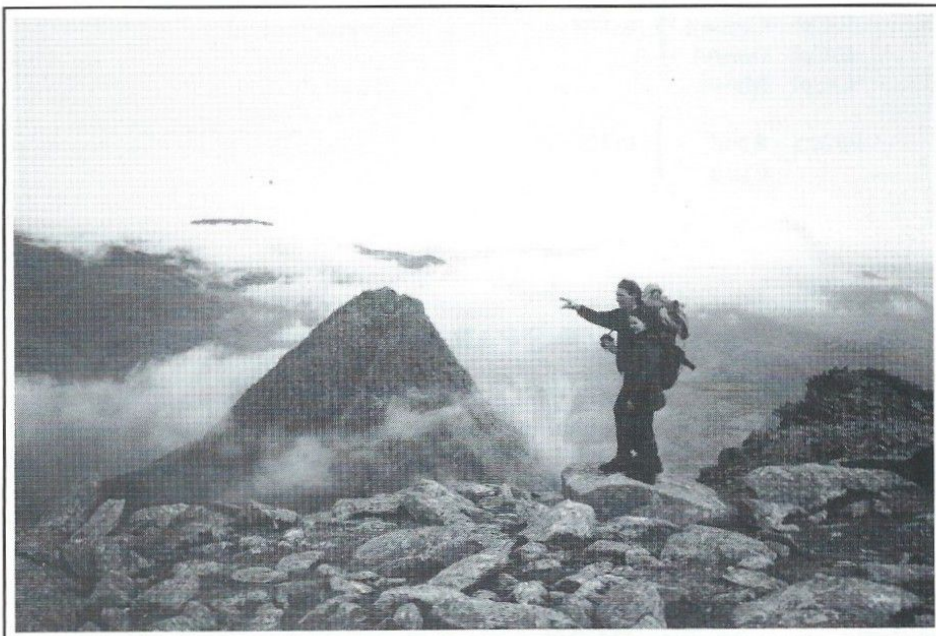
M.P. Jones

ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP

Although similar in format and venue to last year's camp, Adventure Training was innovative in several respects. Firstly the RAF joined us this year in the guise of Pilot Officer Gracey, our newly-qualified Unit Expedition Leader, and cadets James Harding and John Duffy. We also took female cadets Melanie Clare and Jayne Bond, together with Miss Sue Roberts who had volunteered to come and keep a watchful eye on them - as if they needed it! The 3-day Expedition was completely revised so as to encompass both the Carneddau and the Glyders, mountain ranges we had not attempted on expedition before. Finally, for the first time in many years we were unable to climb. The weather broke pretty comprehensively for the last two days, and although a wet and windy orienteering competition took place, rock-climbing was simply unsafe. Mr Haslam, who had kindly spared us two days to provide climbing instruction, stayed on in spite of the weather to help ferry cadets down to Caernarfon Castle and the fascinating slate mines at Blaenau Ffestiniog. We are extremely grateful to him, to Miss Roberts, and to Dr Wilson for their invaluable assistance and excellent company!



Pause for refreshment on Glyder Fawr. (L-R Army Cadets Ireland, Greenhowe, Clare, Lamb and R.A.F. Cadet Harding). (Photo: D. M. Fisher)



The OC with honorary Cadet Fisher above Bwlch Tryfan. (Photo: A. Simkin)



The Glyders on the first night of the Expedition. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

The cadets found the week hard going to some extent, but then that is really the point. The group was quite a mixture of novices and experienced walkers and they all achieved a great deal: they negotiated two of the main ridges of North Wales successfully, finding their way in difficult and changing conditions, and moving safely and cooperatively in small groups. These were serious routes, long, high and challenging, and the cadets should look back on what they have achieved with some satisfaction.

Following the Camp, several promotions were made:

Sgt	Bratt	to C/Sgt
Cpl	Fisher	} to Sgt
Cpl	Wilson	
L/Cpl	Buckley	} to Cpl
L/Cpl	Copsey	
L/Cpl	Ireland	
L/Cpl	Mason	
F/Cdts	Bond	} to L/Cpl
	Clare	

PROMOTIONS PARADE, 26th APRIL

In lieu of the customary M.O.D. Inspection, now biennial, the Contingent held a Promotions Parade at which the Head Master reviewed the cadets and made several promotions. During his wide-ranging address he referred to the intriguing prospect of Third Form girls joining the Corps for the first time in the Summer. He also congratulated RQMS Danny Wilks for his commendable performance on the UKLF Leadership Course and Sgt Giles Fisher and RQMS Jonathan Greenhowe for each being awarded a coveted two year scholarship, RN (Pilot) and RAF (Navigator) respectively.

The following promotions were made (or confirmed) within the Army Section:

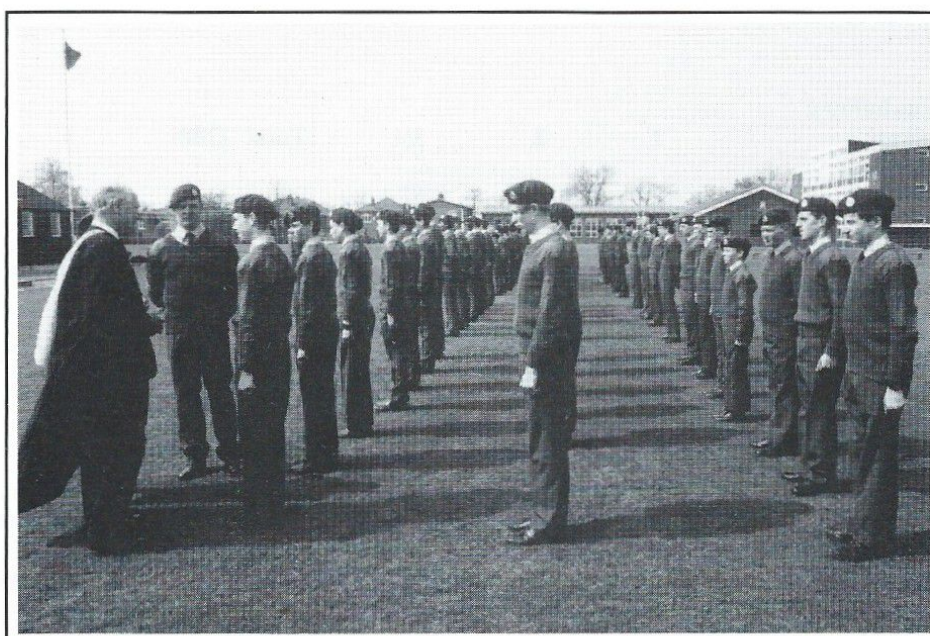
C/Sgt Greenhowe	to RQMS
C/Sgt Wilks	to RQMS
Sgt Bratt	to C/Sgt
Cpl Fisher	to Sgt
Cpl Wilson	to Sgt

L/Cpls Babicki	}	to Cpl
Buckley (Dist)		
Copsey (Dist)		
Dynes (Merit)		
Ireland (Dist)		
Mason (Dist)		
Retter (Merit)		
Smart (Dist)		
Weedon (Dist)	}	to L/Cpl
Cdts Bury (Pass)		
Connor (Pass)		
Eckersley (Pass)		
Howard (Pass)		
F/Cdts Bond		
Clare		

(APC Pass level in brackets)



The Head Master talking to the three scholars (L-R Giles Fisher, Jonathan Greenhowe, Jason Lee).
(Photo: J. H. Thomson)



The Review. (Photo: J. H. Thomson)



Major Fisher, Lieutenant Jones and the two CSAAM teams. (Photo: M. P. Jones)

SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

Eight senior N.C.O's represented the Army section at the annual Cadet Skill-At-Arms Meeting held at Altcar Ranges on Saturday and Sunday, 11th & 12th May, 1991.

The first shoot involved three separate practices on the Electronic Target Range (ETR) for the Ensign Rifle Match. The first practice was of ten rounds at ten exposures of 10 seconds each over distances of 100 metres to 300 metres. The second practice was of ten rounds at two exposures, one at 200 metres, the other at 300 metres. The final practice was five rounds at five exposures at 100 metres. The highest possible score was 100 and the 'A' team gained 32 points and came 20th and the 'B' team gained 37 points and came 19th. These were very disappointing results, but were hardly surprising since we had not been able to zero our weapons.

The second shoot involved three separate practices for the Montgomery of Alamein trophy. The first practice was seven rounds at 200 metres over ten minutes. The second practice was five rounds at 200 metres in 30 seconds and the third practice was five rounds at 200 metres as and when the targets appeared. Although quite a complicated shoot, both teams performed quite well. The 'A' team gained 130 points out of a maximum 340 and came 20th out of 22 teams. However, the 'B' team once again did better by gaining 157 points and came 15th.

The third shoot was for the Earl Roberts trophy. The first practice was ten rounds at 300 metres over 15 minutes. The second practice was ten rounds over a mixture of 100 metres and 300 metres for 10 seconds each. The third and fourth practices involved twenty rounds, rapid or snap, over 200 metres.

The results were as follows:

The 'A' Team	1	2	3/4	Total (200)
HULSE				
GREENHOWE	25	12	57	94
STANSFIELD	21	9	12	42
WILSON	13	23	46	82
The 'B' Team				
FISHER	16	12	31	59
BAMFORD	31	42	4	77
BRATT	25	27	53	105
NOBLE	27	26	31	84

The last shoot was the falling plate competition, which was run on a knock-out basis. Each team had forty rounds to knock down 10 lead plates as quickly as possible. Unfortunately we were drawn against the eventual winners of this competition, Stonyhurst College, who were extremely efficient in downing all their plates.

Overall the weekend proved very valuable in learning about marksmanship principles, safety drills on the Cadet weapon and the need for constant practice. We will do better next year!

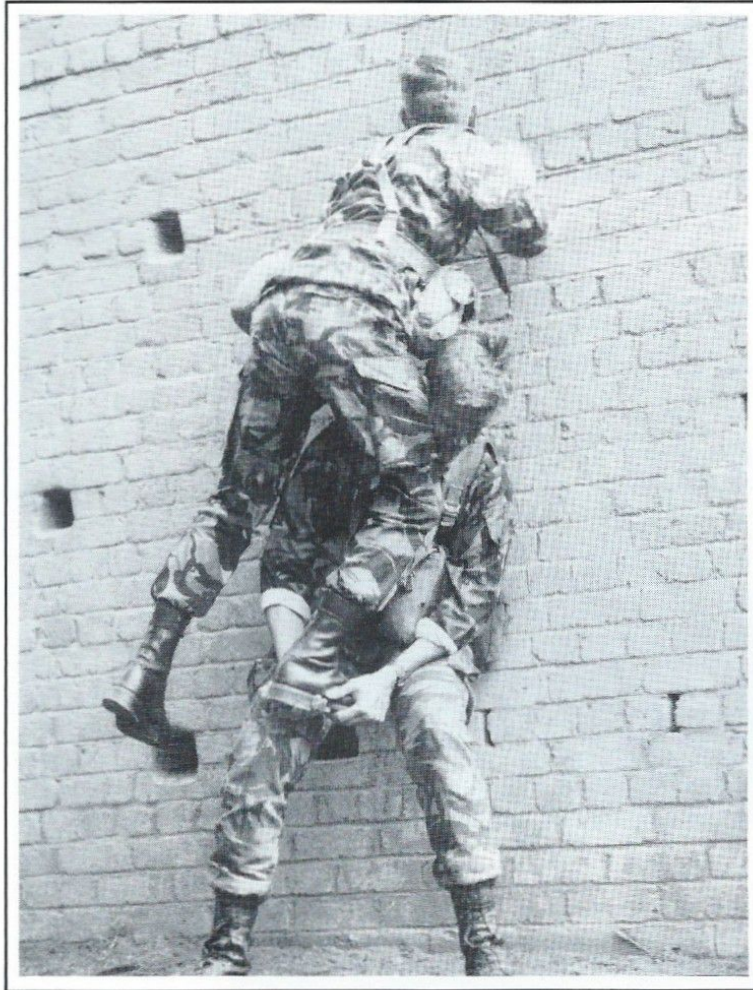
M.P. Jones

THE KINGS CUP 1991

Due to operational commitments, 5/8 Kings were unable to run the competition in the autumn of 1991, and so ran the competition over the weekend of the 29-30 June 1991. The competition was once again held at Warcop. All the cadets were to be tested on seven basic military skills. As we had won the cup in October 1990, every unit was keen to beat us.

The format of the competition was very similar to last year. We did well on the Inspection, coming second and gaining a valuable 80 points. However Kirkby A.C.F. did exceptionally well, compared to last year, and they were joint winners along with Merchant Taylors' C.C.F. Again we repeated this performance on the map-reading section. Merchant Taylors' came first, with Kirkby A.C.F. a close second and ourselves third again with another 80 points. However, we fared much better on the Fieldcraft exercise by coming second with 90 points, ahead of Merchant Taylor's but once more behind Kirkby A.C.F. It was clearly emerging a three-horse race.

The watermanship event involved paddling a rigid-raider across the lake, picking up two jerry cans filled with water and returning as quickly as possible to the start line. Our time was very respectable but was once again beaten by our two closest rivals.



The twelve-foot wall was surmountable with the right technique.
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

We did not perform well on the shooting exercise. The whole team shot very badly and weapon drills were sadly lacking in competence. Kirkby A.C.F. were easy winners followed by Ormskirk A.C.F. We came a disappointing fourth, but picked up 70 points.

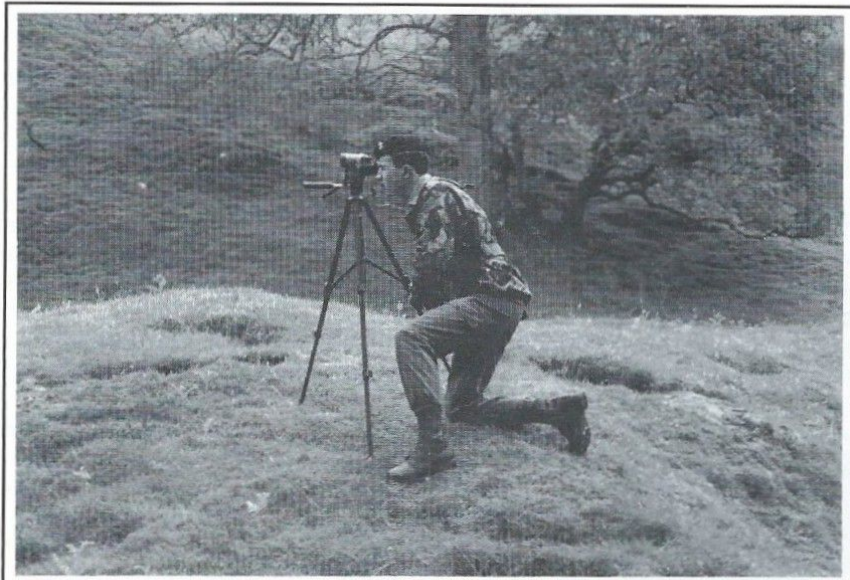
The final event of the Saturday was orienteering. The whole team was determined to put maximum effort into this event and at one stage during the competition we had recorded the fastest time and the highest numbers of checkpoints found. However, by the time all the results were in Merchant Taylors' had won, with Ormskirk second and ourselves once again third, with 80 points. By the end of the evening Kirkby were on 560 points with Merchant Taylors' only 10 points behind them. We were third with 480 points but still within striking distance. We needed to do extremely well in the next day's events and to do even better than our rivals if we were to retain the Cup.

The last round formed a Battle Handling Exercise, whereby all the four events were marked separately but each team went through them all at once. The team put in a tremendous performance over the Assault Course, with an excellent time of 5 minutes 24 seconds, but once more we were beaten by both Kirkby and then Merchant Taylors'. On the River Crossing we just got under the five minute mark and were confident this time would not be beaten easily. Again Kirkby and Merchant Taylors' vied with each other to beat us and were successful in doing so. We marched quickly from the lake to the Range, over a distance of 2 miles in only 17 minutes. Kirkby put in a very creditable 14

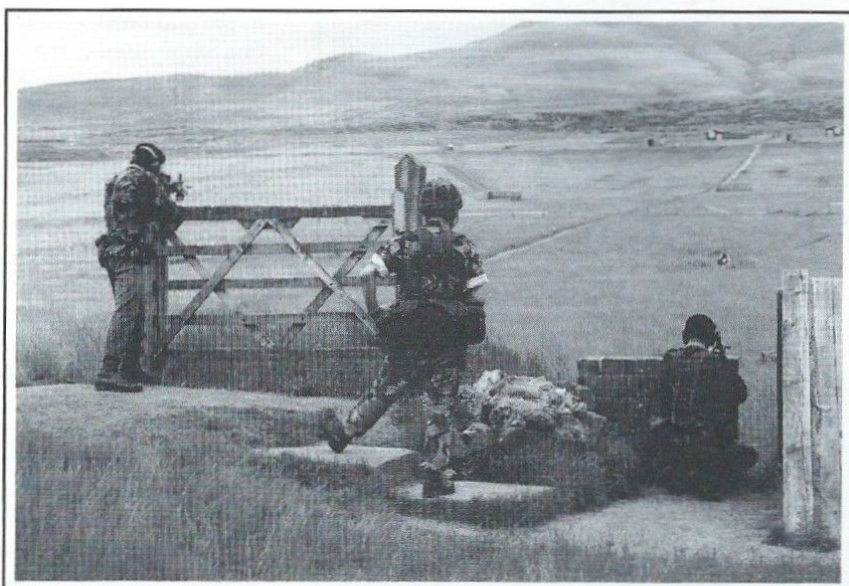
minutes but the Merchant Taylors' team ran in an excellent time of 9 minutes. Even the S.A.S. would have struggled to make that! However, there was still the Falling Plate Shooting Competition left. Although we knew the Cup was unlikely to be retained, we were determined to still remain a force to be reckoned with. There were 16 plates and each cadet had 10 rounds, and the team captains had to control the firing and try and get all the plates down, as quickly as possible and with the least number of rounds. By time we arrived at the range Ormskirk had shot down 14 plates in 5 minutes 40 seconds, and used up all their rounds. None of the other teams had beaten this, until we turned up. We shot down all 16 plates in 2:16 with 2 rounds left and even beat Merchant Taylors'. However Kirkby were the last team to shoot. If they shot badly any of the top three teams could win. Kirkby shot brilliantly. They got all 16 plates down in an excellent time of 1:15 with 6 rounds left. They were worthy winners overall.

The cup was once again presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Amlôt of the King's Regiment. We had put in a very pleasing performance overall: second in the Fieldcraft and Falling Plate, third in the Inspection, Map-Reading, Watermanship, Orienteering, Assault Course, River Crossing and March, and fourth in the Shooting. All the Officers were delighted with the effort and teamwork within the group: in the last three competitions of the King's Cup, we have finished in the top three.

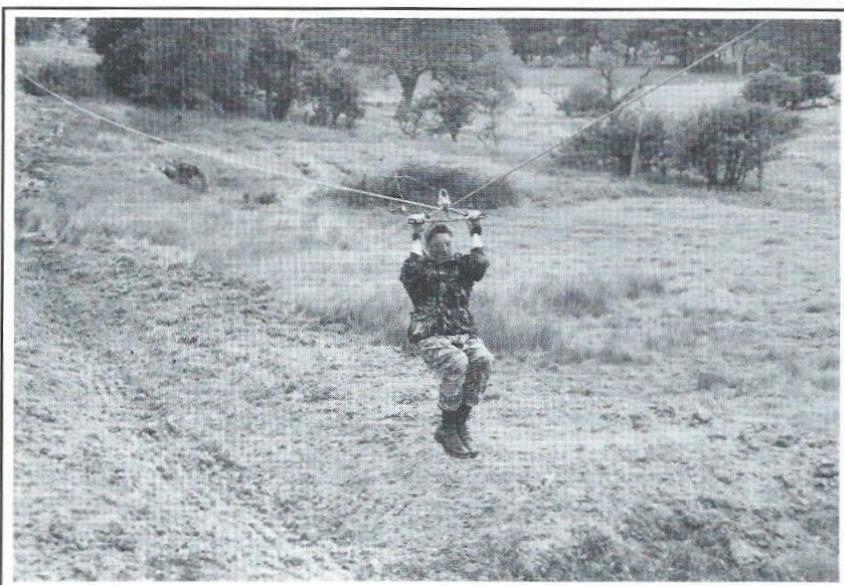
The contingent was represented by R.Q.M.S. Wilks (Captain), Sergeant Stansfield (2i/c), Corporals Buckley, Ireland, Mason and Cadets Bratt, Ewen, Newns and Roberts.



Sgt. Stansfield concentrating on the observation exercise. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)



Firing was closely supervised. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)



Cadet Newns adopting the correct position on Warcop's new aerial slide. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)



The team remained smartly turned out. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

SUMMER CAMP 1991 - WATHGILL

This year the Army Section camped at Wathgill in North Yorkshire, which forms part of the Catterick training area. The weather was mixed, but this did not prevent any of the forty cadets from having a thoroughly enjoyable camp.

DAY ONE - ADVENTURE TRAINING

All the adventure training took place on and around Derwent Water in the Lake District. Despite the long coach ride, the cadets were eager to take part in the activities. We had one of the best packages available on any camp: besides the usual canoeing instruction, cadets also had the choice of rockclimbing, abseiling, mountain-biking and hillwalking. Needless to say everyone was able to find something that suited their interest.



A popular alternative on Adventure Training Day at Derwent Water. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

DAY TWO - WEAPONS AND WARFARE

The contingent was split into two groups for the morning session. The more experienced cadets and senior N.C.O.'S went to shoot on the Electronic Target Range, expertly run by Captain Simkin, and the recruits were taught the safety drills on the Cadet Weapon by a regular Instructor. Both groups learnt a lot during their respective periods and we received very favourable reports from the adult instructors.

The afternoon and evening were spent preparing and running a Patrolling exercise around Catterick. The Friendly Platoon, led by CSM Noble, had to establish a safe harbour area, send out three reconnaissance patrols, locate an enemy position, prepare a plan of attack and then finally assault the position. The Enemy forces, led by Corporal Buckley, had constantly to harass the Friendly Forces and avoid being detected. The exercise went extremely well and ended with a confused, but realistic firefight. However, rather than return to the warm, purpose-built accommodation blocks back at

camp, the whole contingent spent a very peaceful night under canvas ! Judging by the lively chatter and the jokes throughout the night, everyone seemed to be having a great time.

DAY THREE - MILITARY SKILLS I

The morning session was taken up with a small map-reading/orienteering course. The contingent was divided into small groups of four and had to find ten reference points in two hours. This was keenly contested by the cadets, the best time and score was achieved by Sgt Wilson's team. However, marginally the quickest time was achieved by the O.C. - as always leading from the front!

The afternoon was filled by an excellent Signals training session. The cadets were instructed in the use of 349's and 351's and voice procedure. They were again divided into small groups, given a radio each and had to find twelve reference points around the large training area. Everyone had a chance to use the radios and plot the route.

The evening session was spent going over the Assault Course at Catterick Camp, watched by our visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Loveland. This was physically very demanding as we were allowed to use the regular Army obstacles and not the smaller (and easier!) recruit course. We had an excellent "walk-through, talk-through" session, where everyone was allowed to tackle the obstacles they felt confident with. After this, two teams were selected for a competition. The 'A' team consisted of seven senior N.C.O.'s and recruit David Grove and they put in a fantastic time of 3 minutes 49 seconds. The 'B' team consisted of eight recruits and senior cadets whose time was 4:59. It was gratifying to see the rest of the contingent running alongside the course encouraging their teams. Recruit Sally Ward deserves a special mention for being the first female cadet to represent the contingent in a competition.



Miss Roberts getting involved. (Photo: M. Loveland)



The Assault Course at Catterick Garrison. (Photo: M. Loveland)

DAY FOUR - MILITARY SKILLS II

The morning session was filled with a whole series of very exhausting Section Battle Drills. After a demonstration of the drills the contingent was divided into three sections. Each section had a new commander after each scenario. By rotating the command, everyone had to concentrate as they did not know whether or not they would be chosen next! After practising four different section attacks against a live enemy, the contingent was reformed into a large fighting platoon and simply told "Advance to Contact".



Recruit Michelle Cowan enjoying the Section Battle Drills. (Photo: M. P. Jones)

C.S.M. Noble was once more in charge and soon realised the value of shouting. The platoon was constantly ambushed and had to attack numerous positions, often when they least expected it. After three hours of constant running, shouting, crawling, shooting and some degree of confusion, it was reassuring to be told by the Cadet Training Team that we had performed exceptionally well.

Having spent the previous three-and-a-half days in intense physical activity, the tour of Catterick garrison was cancelled and replaced with an hour and a half of rest and recreation in Richmond. This was warmly appreciated by everyone. Thanks O.C.!

The evening session was spent practising Ambush techniques. This was quite an innovative part of the programme which we had rarely encountered at previous camps. The Adult Instructor, Sergeant Wilson soon established an excellent rapport with the group, especially when he appointed recruit Claire Reichl as Ambush Commander! We were all taught how to take up a linear all-round defence, set up cut-off groups and recognise signals to attack and cease fire. At the end of the training, the contingent was allowed to set up and execute an ambush on their own officers. Needless to say this was very popular and undertaken very professionally.

DAYS FIVE & SIX - TWENTY-FOUR HOUR EXERCISE

"Operation: Surprise, Surprise!"

Whilst most of the contingent were preparing for their second night out, an elite group of cadets took part in the Camp's March and Shoot competition. Despite a few early hiccups, the team ran the five miles in the fastest time so far. Sadly we lost our lead in the competition by some poor shooting after the March, but we still managed to finish third overall.



The March and Shoot Team. (Photo: M. P. Jones)

The rest of the day, evening and Saturday morning involved everyone in Operation "Surprise! Surprise!". An extremely aggressive fighting patrol of eight senior N.C.O.'s and two officers, had been given orders to search and destroy all the senior cadets' and recruits' defensive positions. The fighting patrol was to teach the recruits a lesson in border security! The patrol did not know where the recruits were hiding though and the recruits did not know when the patrol was coming. Hence it would be a surprise for both sides when they stumbled into each other!

A small observation post, commanded by Cadet Ewen and five others, was forced to compromise its position when the fighting patrol came into view. However, the patrol reacted swiftly and very positively, by putting in a determined section attack. Clearly the lessons of the week had been learnt. Two of the enemy escaped and the fighting patrol received new orders, to bring back a prisoner. The patrol set off in hot pursuit unaware that the escapees were luring them into a prepared ambush. C.S.M. Noble quietly and skilfully led the patrol into a gully hoping to avoid any other enemy positions. Unfortunately the patrol had walked straight into a trap. The ambush section had been well prepared by R.Q.M.S. Greenhowe, as he had all the recruits so well camouflaged the patrol had walked right through their position ! On Greenhowe's signal, the ambush opened up, the concentrated fire power meant it was one-sided fight and any members of the patrol who escaped fell prey to the two cut-off groups.

As ever the exercise went well due to the commitment and enthusiasm of the cadets, but Captain Simkin's planning and organisation was largely responsible for the smooth running of this complex exercise.

Despite an exhausting week, the final day of the Camp was spent on a massive Patrolling Exercise. The contingent was organised into a full fighting platoon, commanded by R.Q.M.S. Greenhowe. The Head of School elect made some excellent decisions in his appointment of Section Commanders and Second-in-command. Again, the instruction was simply 'Advance to Contact', however by now everyone was switched on to field signals, section formations and battle drills. So much so, that when the first of the Enemy Forces began to fire on the platoon, it was quickly dealt with. The next two contacts with the Enemy proved quite exciting. Our platoon was ambushed in a dense forest whilst setting up its harbour area, but we were able to launch a counter-ambush later on.

The last event of the day and indeed the camp involved a full platoon attack on a strongly-held enemy position. Recce patrols had eventually found the enemy, a plan of attack was agreed and then put into practice. Under covering fire from the Fire support group, R.Q.M.S. Greenhowe led a red-blooded assault on the enemy. Smoke grenades, flares and other pyrotechnics, combined with the fire power of forty weapons and the screams of their owners provided quite a spectacle.

After 6 days of intensive training many of the cadets simply wanted to flop down into cover during the re-organisation phase of the battle. However, a second and previously unknown enemy position opened fire on the platoon! Despite the exhaustion, everyone quickly reacted to the shouted orders, reformed themselves into various assault groups and once more launched themselves at the enemy. It was the final act of the day and brought the camp to a thrilling conclusion. The adult instructors were extremely complimentary about the whole contingent's performance and rightly so.

M. P. Jones

This was an excellent Camp for our cadets. They were kept extremely busy, usually with three full training periods per day, and they did themselves and the School a good deal of credit. During the week we were delighted to be visited by a General, a Brigadier, Lt Col Martin Amlôt, CO of 5/8 Kings, our affiliated Regiment, Major Glover from NW District, Mr and Mrs Loveland, and the Head Master and his son! And once again we have Miss Sue Roberts to thank, not only for attending Camp and thus enabling our female cadets to come too, but for taking a full part in the proceedings, throwing herself into every aspect of training, and gaining much respect by so doing.

The following promotions were made at the end of Summer Camp:

CSM	Gary Noble	to RSM
Sgt	Damian Stansfield	to C/Sgt
Cpls	Edward Buckley	} to Sgt
	Peter Ireland	
	Wayne Mason	
L/Cpl	Jayne Bond	to Cpl
Cdts	Jonathan Bratt	} to L/Cpl
	Jonathan Lamb	
	Matthew Newns	
	Gareth Roberts	

In addition to attending Interview Boards for Scholarships and going to various Service units on familiarisation visits and the like, Cadets also began to apply for courses again, after a lapse of some years. RQMS Danny Wilks was accepted for the UKLF Leadership Course and returned with an excellent Report. C/Sgt Martyn Bratt and Cpl Edward Buckley attended similar leadership courses at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park in Surrey. Both received good Reports, Bratt's stronger showing probably reflecting his greater confidence and experience in the Corps. Cpl Wayne Mason attended a Cadet PT Course at the Army School of P and RT, but had not returned at the time of going to press.

Finally, I would like to thank publicly those who have made this hectic, sometimes bewildering first year of running the Corps freer of disasters than it might otherwise have been. I include all our SNCO's in this, of course, but in particular I am indebted to Mr Loveland, Mr Jenkins, and all the Officers of the Corps for their unswerving support and cooperation.

Maj DM Fisher

RAF SECTION

In July 1990 Summer Camp was held at RAF Swanton Morley, near Norwich. It is not an active station and for their flying, cadets travelled to nearby RAF Coltishall. The weather, however, was very good and the cadets enjoyed plenty of orienteering and navigation exercises.

In late July two senior cadets, Sgts Jones and Goodwin, attended the RAF Leadership Course at RAF Hereford and had a very useful and enjoyable week. Their course was filmed and they are now seen by many RAF Sections throughout the country.

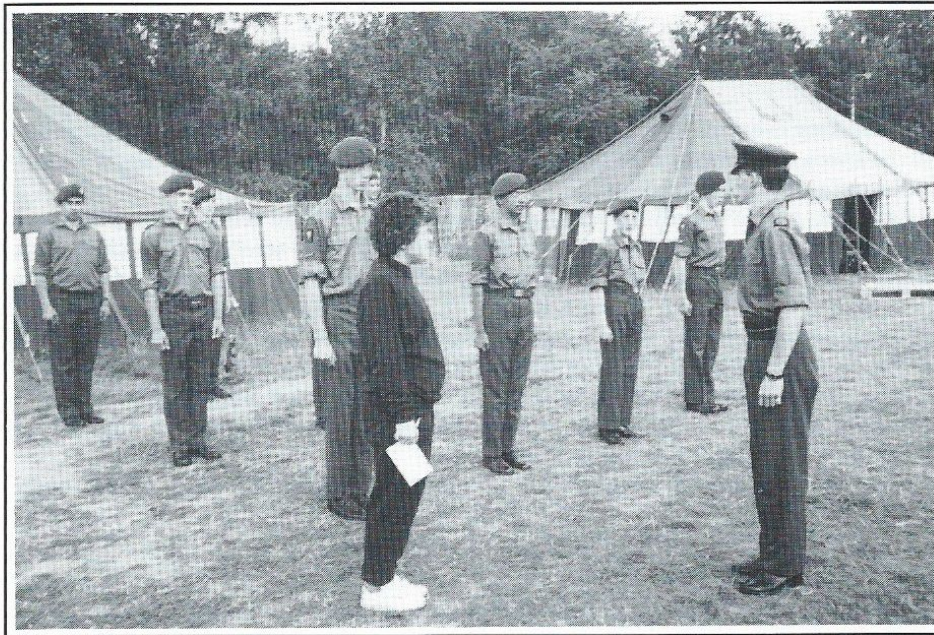
As a result of a booking muddle, we lost our flying slot at RAF Woodvale in September. Our Field Day was therefore spent visiting RAF Valley in Anglesey. This is our affiliated station and they are always pleased to show us round. This year we visited the Search and Rescue Unit and the Hawk Trainers.

March 1991 saw our first joint exercises with the Army Section. This was an overnight camp at the Holcombe Moor Training area. The cadets camped overnight after orienteering and escape and evasion exercises. The following morning a helicopter arrived from RAF Shawbury and all cadets who wanted to had a flight. While RAF cadets can fly in Chipmunks regularly, helicopter flights are a rarer treat.

Easter camp took place at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, which is the home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. During the week there we were lucky to see the only Lancaster owned by the RAF in Great Britain, together with a Spitfire and Hurricane - actually flying, not just on the ground. Although the week started off wet, all cadets had at least one flight in a Chipmunk. One of our cadets spent two hours in the Tornado Simulator, which was quite an experience.

Cadet Davies enjoyed his week at Coningsby. His comments follow below:

"Easter camp was again excellent. We visited all parts of the station and as usual activities were laid on for us. As part of my work experience I even refuelled an A10 tank-buster and F3 Tornado. The accommodation was very good. It used to be part of the married quarters and even contained washing machines.



Reveille at camp.

The best part of the camp was flying the Chipmunk. I even performed my own aerobatics, including the loop and the barrel roll.

Food on camp was plentiful and delicious and the menu was different each day. If you were hungry or bored, you could go to the NAAFI/video viewing centre. Films were shown every night and were usually entertaining. Overall we had a good time and learned a lot and I am still writing to friends I made there!"

During the Easter holiday thirteen cadets spent the day at RAF Woodvale and several had two flights.

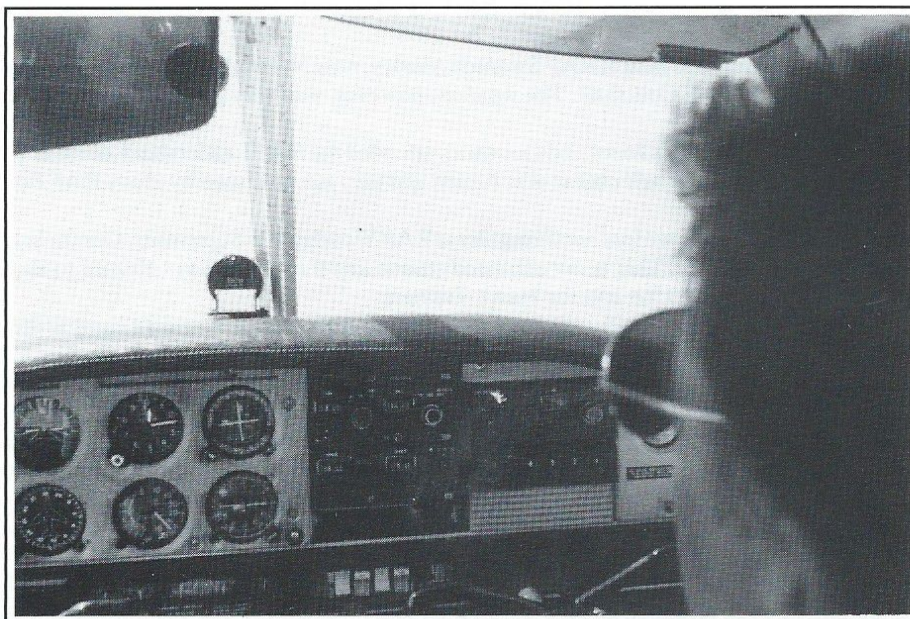
Field Day during the summer term was a visit to RAF Woodvale. This was to be Cadet Jobling's first flight in a Chipmunk. Her comments follow:

"A whirl of confused emotions swept through me. I was full to bursting with excitement. But a shadow of doubt - was it fear? - caused me to turn pale. The bus journey to RAF Woodvale near Southport was peaceful. But I was nervous when we arrived. The bus lurched to a halt before the wide, open expanse of the airfield. We got out and marched to our meeting point for a lecture by one of the staff cadets.

The base itself was rather dull but the aircraft and complex machinery caught everyone's attention.

A strict and authoritarian atmosphere prevailed the base. To the new cadets it at first seemed the beginning of a nightmare, even worse than attending school. The rules and regulations seemed, to start with, rather confusing but we soon picked things up and began to enjoy ourselves.

The staff cadets at first gave the impression of being so superior that we felt scared to talk to them. But we soon discovered that they were very friendly and amusing, if not rather cheeky, at times.



Final approach on a flying scholarship.

The most breathtaking event of the day was the flight. I was surprised to see that the toughest of the boys appeared to become weak at the knees at the mention of flying. Leila and I were the first two to go up. With sick bag in hand and parachute strapped on, we really looked the part.

I entered the cockpit. I wasn't really nervous, just anxious to fly as I had actually flown before. I was lucky as my pilot was very friendly and even let me fly by myself. He also performed some aerobatics, which, if my mother could have seen them, would have caused her to faint from sheer fright. I was surprised how easy flying was and how much it boosted my confidence.

Back on the ground tension among the new cadets seemed to be building up; faces wore worried expressions. One of the aircrew called Fresh tried his best to cheer up the gloomy ones by joking around and reassuring them that once in the air they would enjoy it. But it was not until after they had flown that people were fully reassured.

Flying was not the only activity of the day. We also tried our hand at weapon-training. My instructor was very helpful. We also practised drill, better known as marching.

We aimed to keep a look-out for Warrant Officer Lee, to keep out of trouble and avoid having to do press-ups and sit-ups.



A Chipmunk preparing for take-off.

The journey home was quiet. People passed out with exhaustion, glad to get back to civilisation. The RAF treats children as adults and teaches leadership and teamwork. You feel special in the RAF, part of a service for England, and experience things you would never otherwise do. It costs £5 to join and £25 for the day camp but Field Days are absolutely free. It is an opportunity not to be missed."

RAF Summer Camp was spent at RAF Coltishall. Junior Corporal McInnis has provided the following account:

"We set off on the Saturday, our hopes of summer sunshine dampened by pouring rain. The wet weather however cleared up and the sun shone for most of the week.

Last time at Coltishall (1989) we lived in tents; this year we were in barracks. This had its drawbacks: outside the sun shone; inside the central heating, which could not be turned off, raised the temperature to boiling point.

The week was packed with activities in the form of inter-flight competitions and work experience, which introduced us to the jobs carried out by the RAF personnel. Many of us had the chance to help with the repair of aircraft parts and of seeing the aircraft fly. Everyone had the opportunity to fly in Chipmunks.

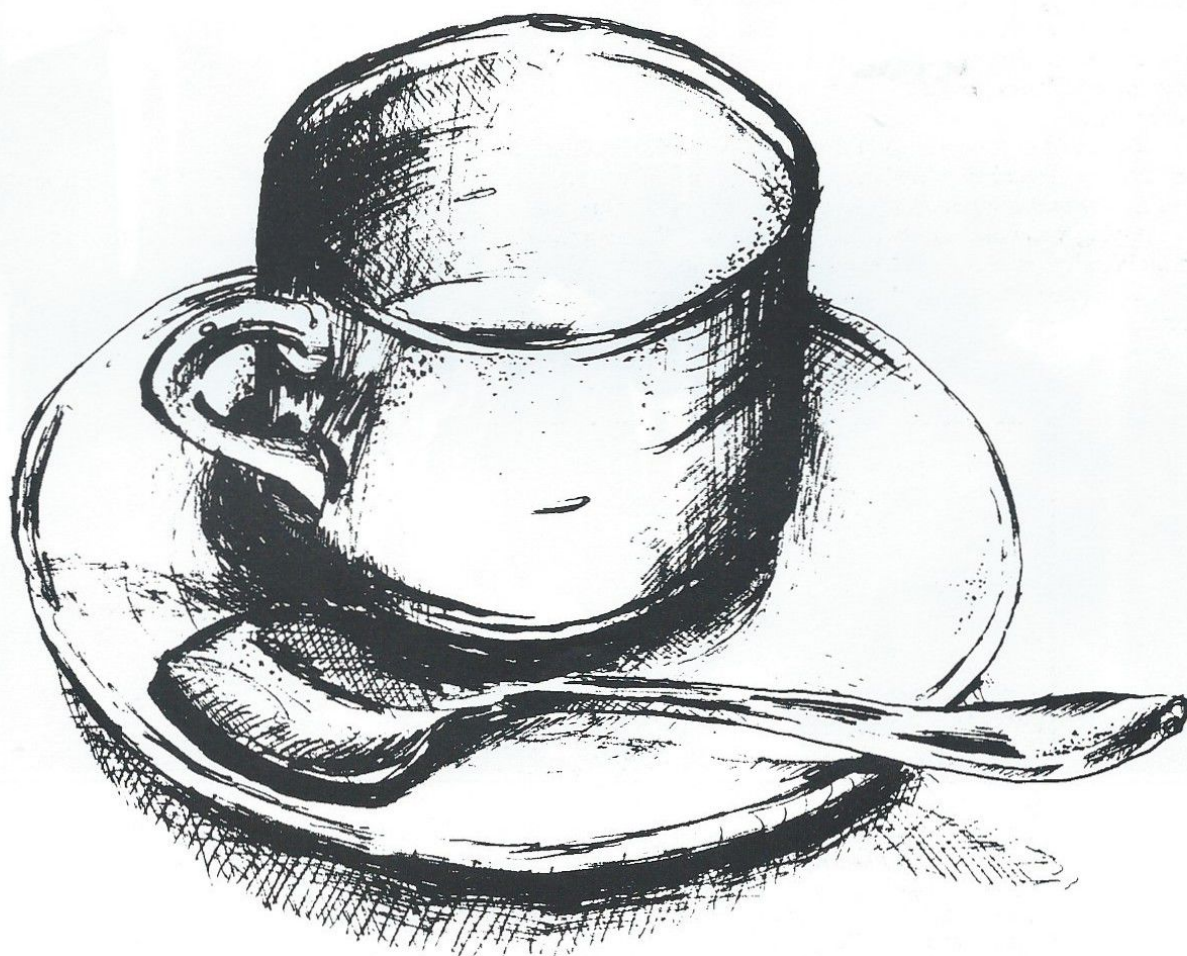
Inter-flight activities ranged from river-crossings - using logs and barrels to construct a raft which would transport the flight across the river and back - to the assault course, which needed both stamina and strength to get through. Other activities included shooting, sports, drill, swimming and orienteering. We all had a most enjoyable week."

The Section has unfortunately yet to get off the ground in gliders. Our last slot coincided with thick mist at RAF Sealand, which made gliding impossible. Two cadets have however gained their Basic Glider Training Certificate. Warrant Officer Lee has been awarded both his BGT Certificate and an RAF Flying Scholarship.

We shall be sorry to lose one of our founder members, Warrant Officer Lee, this summer. He has been a tremendous help in getting the section going. We will also be losing Sergeants Goodwin and Jones and wish the three of them all the best in their future careers.

The Section has however been fortunate this year in gaining a new recruit from the staff, Pilot Officer Hargreaves.

M.H. Gracey



ECONOMICS - FORECAST 1991

Last year Lloyds Bank ran a national competition for Economics students. Each team had to forecast in September 1990 where they thought certain economic indicators would be by March 31st, 1991. These indicators were:

Inflation rate	Economic growth
Interest rates	Bank Base rate
Percentage unemployed	Budget deficit
Exchange rate	

The further the forecast was from what actually happened, the more were the penalty points awarded. Therefore the team with the fewest penalty points was the winner.

We entered three teams, one of which was the overall national winner. The team consisted of Andrew Rose, Rick Hellings, Jonathan Lees, Justin Haber, Nick Williams and Arshad Ahmed.

All of these people were members of the Lower Sixth. Incidentally, a team of "experts" selected by the bank finished 154th!

The prize won by School is a "state of the art" Archimedes Acorn Computer with appropriate software. These can be seen in Room L during Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

The team itself went to London on Friday, July 5th for the official presentation, accompanied by Mr. Hewston. They were flown down by shuttle jet and were given a tour of the City. They also received an inscribed certificate commemorating their success and their visit.

D. McNally



The winning Hulmeian team in the Lloyd's Bank "Forecast '91" competition.
(Photo reproduced by courtesy of the "South Manchester Reporter").

DRAMA



THE SCHOOL PLAY : THE FOSDYKE SAGA

Mr. Callaghan modestly but quite unnecessarily disclaimed the title "School Play" for his production last December of Alan Plater's and Bill Tidy's satirical portrayal of a Lancashire tripe-merchant and his family at the turn of the century. The programme note explains:

"We prefer to think of it more as a pantomime: song, dance, audience participation, a raw humour and an awful lot of tripe."

But the deliberately "down-market" tone of this scintillating farce must not obscure its claim to our attention as thoroughly sparkling and witty entertainment. The offensive crudities in the original script were well expurgated, and the audience was free to enjoy a well-presented evening of rollicking humour.

The undisputed star of the show was Matthew Grey as Josiah Fosdyke, the destitute tripe-maker who rises through his wits to rule a vast commercial empire. Matt's limber gestures, throw-away "wide-boy" lines and mock-cherubic facial expressions throughout the evening had the spectators in paroxysms of laughter. His first song, "Water bright is my delight" - a mock appeal for total abstinence - was especially memorable. Erica McInnis, his strident spouse, arms akimbo and defiantly determined to survive, equally commanded the stage - her parody of Wordsworth's "Westminster Bridge" poem set the tone for the evening and students of history must have been amused by her cliché-ridden announcements about the world events forming the background of the play.

The three grown-up Fosdyke offspring were a motley crew. Tom, "their strange son" played by Nicholas Cherry, can be summed up in the single word "goofy". His duet with Peter Gallagher (the ultimate in crude, ethnic stereotyping of the humourless German), "Nation shall speak tripe unto Nation" (a paraphrase of the ill-fated motto of the BBC) had a poignant ambiguity. As Josiah says of him at one point - "What a performer! Give him a big hand!" Victoria, their daughter whose seduction by the dastardly Ditchley ultimately secures the family fortune, was played with deliberate directness and naïveté by Stephanie Tabner - her rueful song "A Maiden's Lament", delivered without a hint of vibrato, had an appropriately Brechtian harshness.

Matthew Booth as Albert, their "less strange son", acted as an honest "straight man", the perfect foil to his star-crossed consiblings. For me the climax of the work was his long scene, as a British air pilot, with the famous "Red Baron" von Richthoven, where the two combatants exchange jokes and artistic claims about their two countries instead of gunfire. There is a rare moment of deep sadness in Albert's song "Goodbye, Red Baron, Goodbye". As in all good comedy, there is a tear behind the laugh. The "Red Baron" himself was Richard Mattison who assumed a dry, uncomprehending accent. Richard doubled well as Ben Ditchely, the pompous, unfeeling capitalist whose son Roger (Roberto Lavorini) seduces Victoria. Roberto's caricaturesque depiction of the young cad was full-blooded and convincing.

The episodic characters too had scope for expression. Rachel Leitch-Devlin had a "quick change" between her first appearance, as Mrs. Pankhurst, herself a Mancunian - and her second as the "Irish thug" Emily O'Malley; she changed her stage character as convincingly as her clothes. Richard Pimblott had three small parts, all equally aggressive - as the Pitman he attacks Josiah as a "blackleg", as the Prison Warden he bullies Josiah as the latter comes to see his imprisoned suffragette daughter, and as the Salford Ripper he flings himself at Becky. It is a tribute to Richard's acting ability that he rose to the occasion so well since his natural character is anything but bellicose! Chris Dixon announced the "big fight" in true David Coleman style and Gareth Roberts coped well as the Reporter who has by far the corniest jokes in the entire script. Matthew Butterworth has real stage presence and, like the trooper he is, came to life as the officer blenching at the sight of a pair of old-fashioned underpants! "Good God! One gets used to seeing pretty ghastly sights in war-time." Finally, Alex Rodgers was a dignified if youthful (it was pre-1914!) King George V. Michael Clark, the accompanist for the many songs in this production, worked unobtrusively but with dedication at the ivories, and had his moment of dramatic glory when he was lifted bodily by one of the members of the cast in a mock threat!

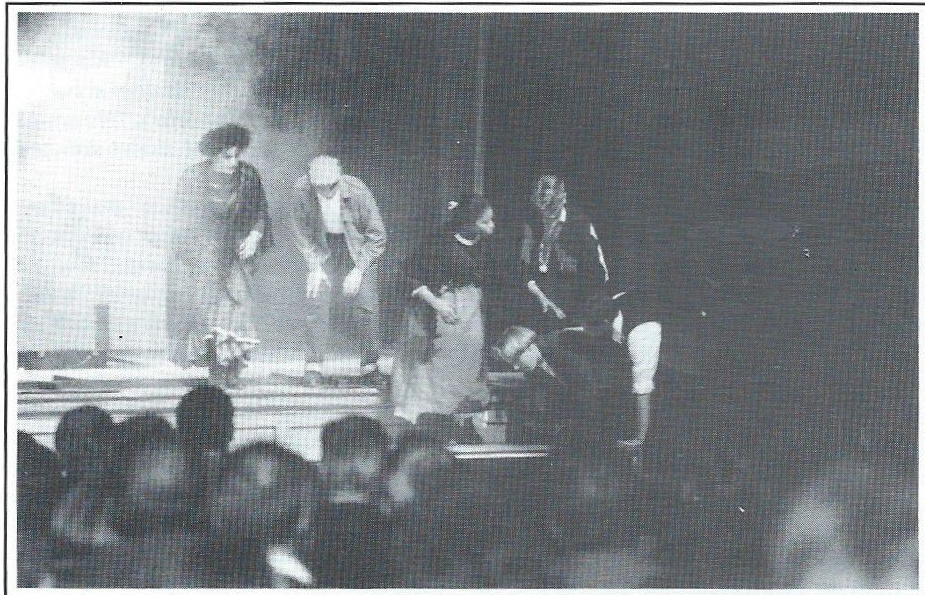
All credit to the whole troupe, as well as to the "backroom boys" led by Mr. Hofton (Stage Manager), Dr. Barker (Lighting), Miss De Vince (Costumes) and Mr. Greenall (Programme, Publicity and Front of House). Mr. Hofton's effects were especially powerful, including steam under a twodimensional steam train and an explosion.

A list of all the students who helped back-stage appears below:

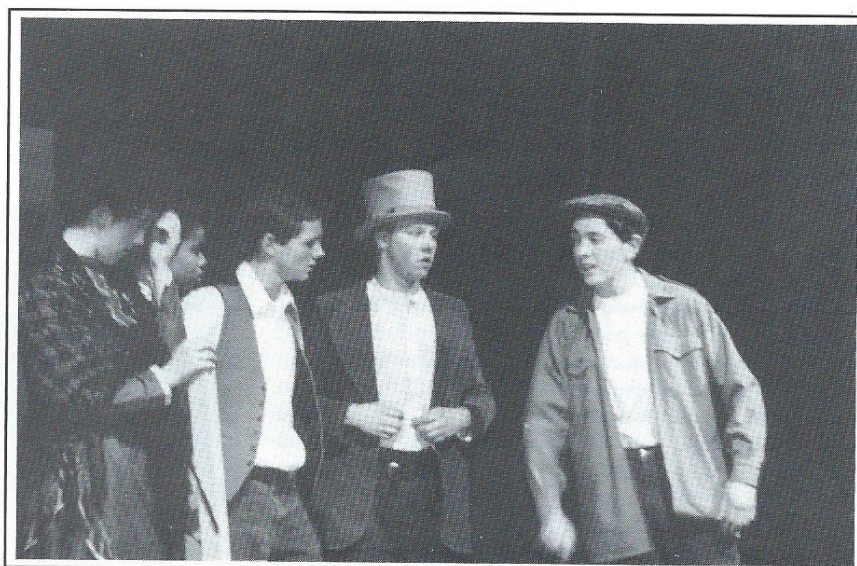
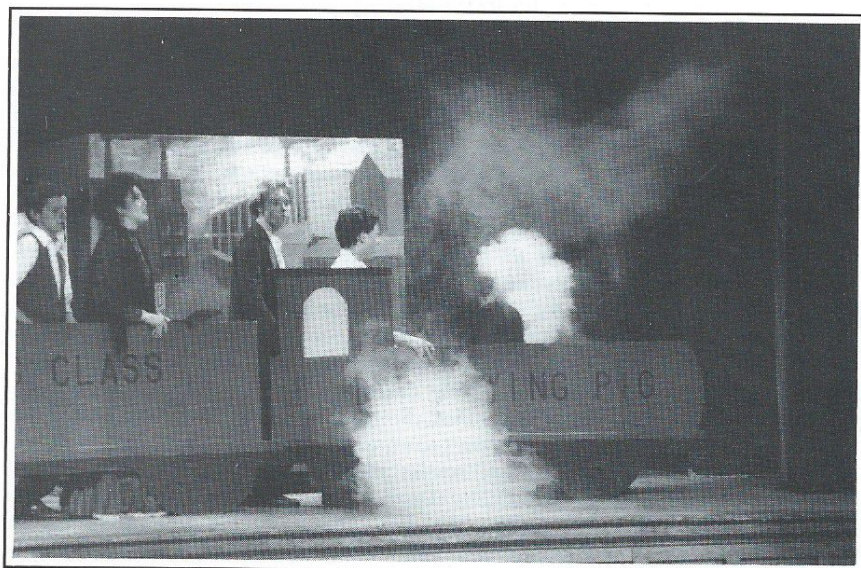
Stage Staff:	M. Wilson, D. Guthrie, J. Greenhowe, C. Hyland, L. Martin, M. Maunder, J. Bond, M. Clare.
Painters:	S. Whittingham, C. Dixon, D. Kemp, D. Nathan, D. Grant.
Light & Sound:	A. Doney, D. Chow, C. Nix, S. Ogier, R. Gee.
Make-up/Props:	D. Guthrie, C. Lewis, M. Clare.
Music:	M. Clark

G.J. Turner

School Play:



"The Fosdyke Saga"

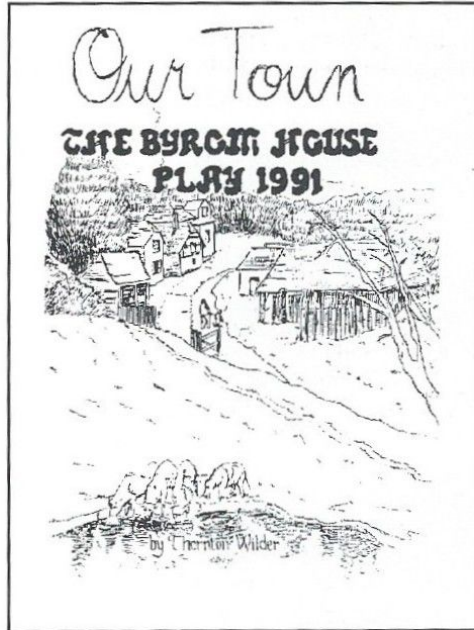


(All Photos: J. G. Hofton)

HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION 1991

BYROM HOUSE

Byrom gave the 1991 season of House Plays an excellent start with their production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town", a play which in its day broke away from the pseudo-realism of stage presentation by putting virtually all the scenery in the mind's eye of the audience through the words of the Stage Manager, and by substituting mime for conventional "props". The production opened promisingly, with subtle lighting and appropriate music, to reveal an almost bare stage



Programme cover: Jamie Flannigan

backed by three sections of green trellis. Jamie Flannigan and Jenny Ellis shared the role of "Stage Manager", painting a word picture of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in the year 1901, and introducing characters as the town came to life. Both remained on stage throughout the play, maintaining a disciplined stillness when other action was taking place; they both kept up a convincing American accent (as indeed did all the cast), but Jenny, who wore her period costume with real style, was occasionally inaudible, while Jamie steadily gained in confidence and authority.

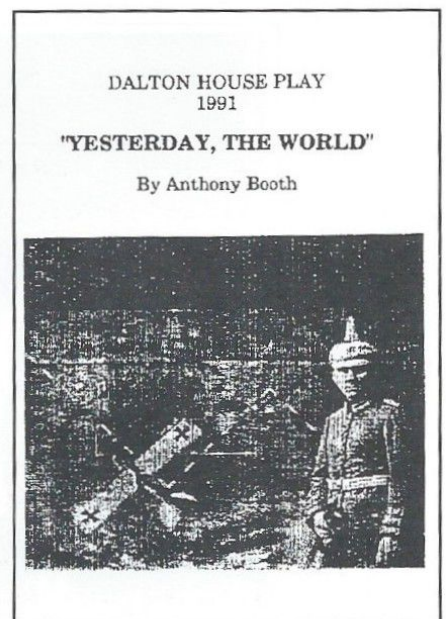
Minor characters such as the milkman, paper-boys, the local policewoman, choir master and neighbours all contributed very effectively to the small town atmosphere, but the main action centred on the two adjacent "houses" of the Gibbs and the Webb families. A youthful-looking Doc Gibbs (Dominic West) steadily grew into his part and there was excellent interplay with his wife (Georgia Laddin) and children (Rebecca Kingston and Alex Rodgers). The neighbouring Webbs were equally well defined and differentiated with Tony Sharples as the Editor of the local paper, Alison Soper as his wife and Michelle Cowan and Chris Hodge as their children. The miming of the two wives as they set about their daily chores was first-rate, as indeed was that of all the characters, not least the "Stage Manager" when he assumed the role of drug-store attendant! But the central theme was the development of the young love of George Gibbs and Emily Webb into marriage and this was portrayed with genuine sensitivity by Alex Rodgers and Michelle Cowan who made good use of both voice and gesture to suggest a wide range of feeling as they grew into

maturity. Rogers was equally competent in his "man-to-man" discussions with his father and future father-in-law.

The team work shown in this production was first-class, not only by the principals, but also by the "walk-on" parts such as the two statistically minded professors (James Vickers and Jon Lamb) who perhaps tended to gabble a little through their unrewarding roles. With so little in the way of "props" to assist them, the cast showed commendable invention and discipline. It was good to see the effective use of lighting for the several acting areas (especially in the moving Epilogue with which the play ended), while the sound effects department played its part too, even if the loco whistle of the 5.45 for Boston was far louder than the Ladies' Choir practice!!! Even the final curtain-call showed the careful thought which was typical of the whole production, an excellent effort by Jamie Flannigan and Ian Cope.

DALTON HOUSE

The Dalton production of "Yesterday the World" by Anthony Booth was a traditional, "safe" House Play with a small cast and a single, uncomplicated set. The production was introduced (in a somewhat low-key style) before the curtains opened to reveal the French family Larroche at their evening meal in July 1944. An effective sound-effect suggested the passage overhead of an aeroplane - and the sudden silence galvanised the family into action, with the son Pierre, (played by Roger Mody), showing an unwillingness to join his father, the crippled Louis (James Goodall), and his sister Michèle (Jenny Colclough) in their head-long dash for the door. After a brief, but dense black-out the action resumed, giving the audience time to take in the details of a simple, but convincing set, and to realise that the mother, Marie (played by Amanda Jones) was not only "the back-bone" of the family, but, by her correct yet severe dress, was also a cut above the peasant farmer class of her husband. It was a pity that more care had not been taken to age her, while the conversation with her daughter, in the course of which the rescue of the injured British airman was revealed, was too stilted. Amanda was always audible, but Jenny failed to bring out the true drama of the night's events by speaking too quickly. When husband Louis returned from tending to the injured airman, his conversation with his wife was marred by undramatic pauses which reduced any sense of impending danger. One could almost feel them searching for the next line in the dialogue; although Goodall was confident in his part he could convey genuine strength and emotion, especially when speaking of his strained relationships with his son.



Dalton Programme cover

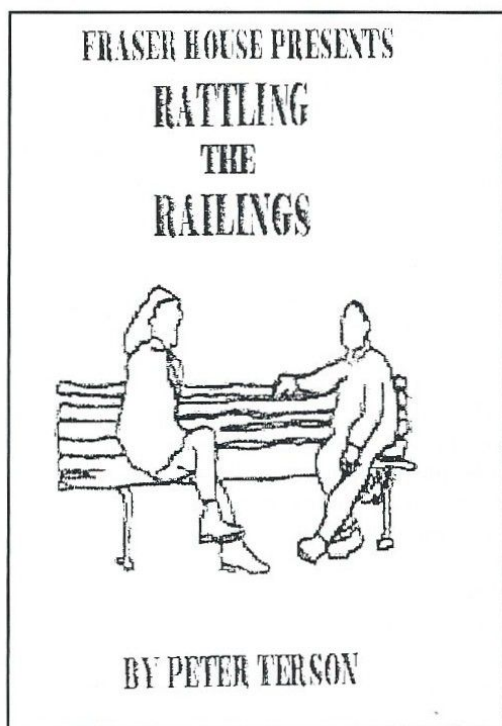
The arrival of a German officer (Jeffrey Greenfield) added a fresh interest to the situation. Greenfield managed to convey the combination of suavity and severity which was an essential part of Captain Veight's character, but his performance was weakened by a tendency to "go walkabout" unnecessary movements round the stage which lessened the sense of menace. His cross-examination of the family, and their responses, were well handled with the various members of the Larroche family showing their veiled contempt for him. The climax of the scene, when Veight deliberately kicks away the father's crutch, leaving him sprawling on the floor, needed much more re-action from the family, especially from Pierre, whose emotional struggles are not fully explained until the final scene. Here, his conversations, first with his sister and then with his mother, were well handled, although once again the occasional aimless movements became distractingly fidgety (a note to all actors - try to keep your movements "significant" - otherwise, keep still!).

The return of Captain Veight added yet another dimension. His humanity was brought out not only in his genuine interest in the French family, especially in Pierre and his mother, but also in his offers of brandy for them and for the injured airman, of whose presence in the barn he was already aware. His "test" on Louis when he gives the Frenchman his own pistol was not sufficiently melodramatic - and the final lines needed greater clarity to leave the audience with the sense of the officer's basic decency.

The whole production was honest and worthwhile - careful thought had been given to props and costumes, and one more week's rehearsal could well have given it the additional pace and confidence that it needed. We congratulate Sanjay Hira and Jeffrey Greenfield on their efforts.

FRASER HOUSE

Fraser's production of "Rattling the Railings" by Peter Terson began well, with the audience being given a chance to examine some of the details on the unlit set. When the lights came up (after a brief and largely inaudible introduction) our attention was immediately caught by a wealth of detail - the smart three-piece suite, the picture and plants, the lamp and the discreet T.V. set - which suggested admirably the smarter end of London suburbia. This impression was heightened by the sight of Pauline (Melanie Clare) dressed informally but in a style suggesting her artistic leanings. The arrival of her brother Alec (Andrew Hollingworth) and his wife Brenda (Heather Stephenson) to deposit Dad (Richard Mattison) on



Programme design by Jayne Bond and Stephen Hartley

Pauline while they went on holiday to Spain was the beginning of a family situation in which comedy, tension and potential sadness all played their part, especially as Brenda made it abundantly clear that she felt that she had already done her whack in looking after the "old 'un" for fifteen years. Brenda's "uptightness" was suggested by her smart "interview suit" attire, while her husband's more laid back attitude was expressed in multicoloured leisure wear (in the latest Cheadle Hulme style?). The opening conversation was taken rather too briskly and occasionally inaudibly by Brenda, while Pauline remained crystal-clear throughout the play.

The entrance of Dad added both humour and pathos - his vagueness as to his whereabouts in unfamiliar surroundings was understandable, his bluntness of speech was refreshing in the suburban surroundings, his delight in his rubber-bands was impishly childish, but he also knew that this visit held some possible threat to him. All this was beautifully conveyed by Mattison, although a little more stiffness in his movements and a little more greying of his hair could well have added to the general effectiveness of his interpretation of the part (would we were all so sprightly at his age!).

There were well-contrasted snatches of dialogue between the various members of the family - the brother-sister relationship was well brought out, with Hollingworth making good use of voice and gesture as he expressed his conflicting emotions about his duty to his wife and to his father. Brenda's insistence that she had had enough of making sacrifices was forcefully conveyed, while Pauline's emotions are equally involved as she sees the possibility of a rosier future after the failure of her earlier marriage. Her friendship with Robert Watson (played by Daniel Guthrie) offers her the chance of "one last fling" before she too starts "rattling the railings with my stick". But when Robert appears, she sees him in a different light, partly because of Dad's contempt for his "taxi-driver's hands" (Watson is actually boss of a car-hire firm and "well lined"!) but mainly because of Watson's own undisguised delight at his impending grand-fatherhood, a state which he clearly expects her to share with equal euphoria! It is an unrewarding part, especially when faced by Dad's, "Got his stopping shoes on, has he?", but he tackled it well; it is not always easy to convey middle-aged stodginess!

But undoubtedly the most moving element in the whole production was the warmth of the relationship between Dad and Pauline, sparked off by his use of his old nickname for her, "Snitch". The memories of her childhood, her refusal to kow-tow to instructions about denying him a hammer and nails, her obvious delight in the battle of the "thickies and thinnies" (and episode which could have been cringingly embarrassing, but which in fact was genuinely moving and funny), all this was convincingly conveyed. Mattison steadfastly resisted the obvious temptation to over-act, while giving full value to some splendid lines; Melanie Clare, for her part, showed understanding, strength and sympathy, without ever descending into sentimentality. As they sat on a very well "knocked-up" bench her final words, "Are we coming, or stopping, or what?" not only echoed one of Dad's favourite questions, but also symbolised a new stage in their relationship.

Altogether this was a very successful production, thoroughly deserving the warm applause which it received; both Mattison and Guthrie merit high praise, not only as actors but also as joint producers.

HEYWOOD HOUSE

Heywood's production of "The Crickets Sing" by Beverley Cross was given a preliminary boost by its attractively designed programme, with its invitation to "Enjoy Yourself" (in some quarters, an open invitation to disaster - but not here!). The prologue, by an incredibly doddering Dr. Chillingworth (Richard Avery) suggested that the play to follow might have some slight Shakespearian or other dramatic flavour to it, but the opening scene, set in a London tavern (appropriately named "The Mermaid") made it clear that in 1642 the theatres were closed and that actors and playwrights were threatened

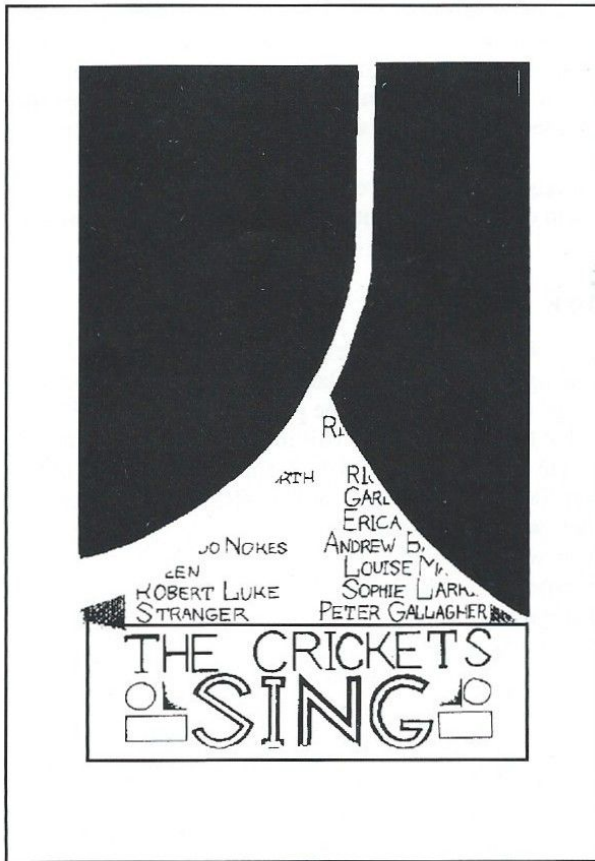
species. This was a lively start to the play - a splendidly forceful landlady (played by Erica McInnis with a nice line in "business") and a gloriously "over-the-top" Orlando Nokes (Andrew Babicki) complete with flowing locks, extravagant costume and an even more extravagant range of gesture. The scene ended with his arrest at the hands of a tough-looking Corporal Jagger (Richard Pimblott) and his removal to the Tower. The ensuing black-out gave the audience an opportunity to enjoy the appropriate 17th century music - a good example of the eye for detail typical of the whole production.

The second scene gave us a genuinely military-looking Colonel Fitch (Jonathan Kay), the C.O. of the City Trained Bands, and one of his henchmen, Robert Luke (played by Sophie Larkin), they were well contrasted in height and voice, as Luke put forward in clear, precise tones the scheme to use Nokes to forward a plot against King Charles at Oxford (with promotion hopes for Fitch!). All that is required of Nokes is to present a play before King Charles in one part of Oxford, while Luke removes the contents of the Royal Mint from another part (in a chest, which forms part of the production!). Orlando readily agrees to this, and after a quick run-down of "chest scenes from Shakespeare" he decides on "Cymbeline". At this point, tension was beginning to slacken, with little opportunity for even Babicki to reveal his talents for "high camp" apart from the odd line from Shakespeare, when rescue came in the (very) unlikely shape of the men of the City Trained Bands, dragged into becoming a company of actors. This motley crew, undisciplined in movement and hair-style (apart from Drummer Potts, perkily played by Louise Borg) were horrendously unmusical as Nokes instructs them

in their first song from "Cymbeline" before marching them off to Oxford with the splendid injunction "Don't slouch. You're not in the Army now. You're an Actor", the last word being delivered with the full orotundity of the genuine old pro!

The comic note reached a new level with the reappearance of the bumbling, fumbling Dr. Chillingworth, too deaf to understand Nokes' attempted warning of the impending skulduggery, but hiding his lack of comprehension under the smirk of academic senility. This was a very skilful vignette from Avery, well maintained as he made his trembling way up the side aisle of the Hall, before his reappearance on stage in the presence of a lavishly garbed King Charles (Gareth Roberts) and Queen Henrietta Maria (Louise Martin) for the performance of "Cymbeline". With Drummer Potts now appearing as Imogen and a masked Orlando Nokes as the villainous Iago, and with the Queen studiously knitting away, the action moved steadily towards a highly dramatic climax, with Babicki reaching outrageous heights of hamming, even unto the losing of his wig. With the appearance of Luke from the depths of the all-important chest, the revelation that "he" is really a girl in disguise, the stabbing to death of Orlando, the threat to the life of the King himself and the appearance of an entirely new character to provide a traditional happy ending (except for poor Orlando himself, whose fall from the apron-stage threatened to shake the New Hall to its foundations!) the play ended with the re-opening of "Cymbeline" on a cue provided by the previously silent Queen!

It is easy to turn one's nose up at farce as a form of drama. In fact to be successful it needs as much skill in terms of pace, timing, acting-ability and team work as any other genre. Although Babicki inevitably dominated the stage, the support he received from every member of the cast right down to the "slouch-on" parts was first-rate. It could not have been the easiest of plays to produce, yet Matthew Booth's touch was very sure.



Heywood Programme cover

WHITWORTH HOUSE

Whitworth were bold and ambitious enough to choose the court scene from Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", a play based on the Salem, Massachusetts, witch-hunts of 1692. It was written as Miller's own searing commentary on MacCarthyism in the America of the 1950's, but it is a sad reflection on our own times and our own country that a play which deals with false accusations, rumours of Satanic practices and mass hysteria among children should have an even more

immediate relevance. It may well have been for this reason that the actors (perfectly legitimately) made no attempt at pseudo-American accents and wore modern dress, but with a cast covering a wide social spectrum (farmers and their wives, lawyers, parsons and court officials) some differentiation of costume could well have been helpful to any members of the audience unfamiliar with the play.

The play began promisingly enough with a disembodied voice setting the situation, and the curtain opened to reveal a conventional court-room set which was quickly peopled with an assortment of characters who gradually revealed their roles in the case to be heard before Deputy-Governor Danforth. But problems soon became apparent as Danforth (played by Daniel Marsh) kept his eyes steadfastly on the legal (?) documents on the table before him, while the other principal

character, John Procter, (played by Perry Warren), embarked on a duologue with the prompter which lasted for almost the entire play. Marsh managed to get away with it for some of the time (except when examining witnesses standing behind his right shoulder!), but Warren had nowhere to hide and consequently the pace and the genuinely dramatic moments flagged or were lost while other characters waited for dropped cues to be picked up. This was a great pity, not only because both actors have stage-experience behind them, but also because Marsh in particular has a splendid voice and presence, which are ideally suited to the part. Inevitably the malaise affected the entire cast, but one noted good performances from the two parsons, the Rev. Samuel Parris (played by Nick Cherry with a nice touch of vindictiveness) and the Rev. John Hale (whose desire for justice and charity was well portrayed by Daniel Riste), while among the farmers Coney (Alok Jha) and Putnam (Tim Wright) brought some welcome clarity and vehemence.

As Mary Warren, (brought unwillingly to the court by John Procter to testify on his wife's behalf), Vicky Clarke was suitably subdued but always audible, and her later "transformation" under the evil influence of Abigail was powerfully effective. Elizabeth Procter (played by Anna Ross) has a small but all important part to play in this particular act, and here again the lack of real support from Danforth in their eye-to-eye confrontation blurred the genuine force of her ill-fated denial of her husband's lechery (just as earlier in the act one almost missed the significance of Procter's ringing line, "That woman will never lie, Mr. Danforth. Never, sir, never".).

Zöe Wallis brought real strength to the part of Abigail, the genuine 'evil influence' among the girls. It was easy to imagine her control over the youngsters, but her defiance of Danforth and the court was very well portrayed, while her breaking down of the spirit of Mary Watson as she orchestrated the menacing chanting of the children was truly powerful.

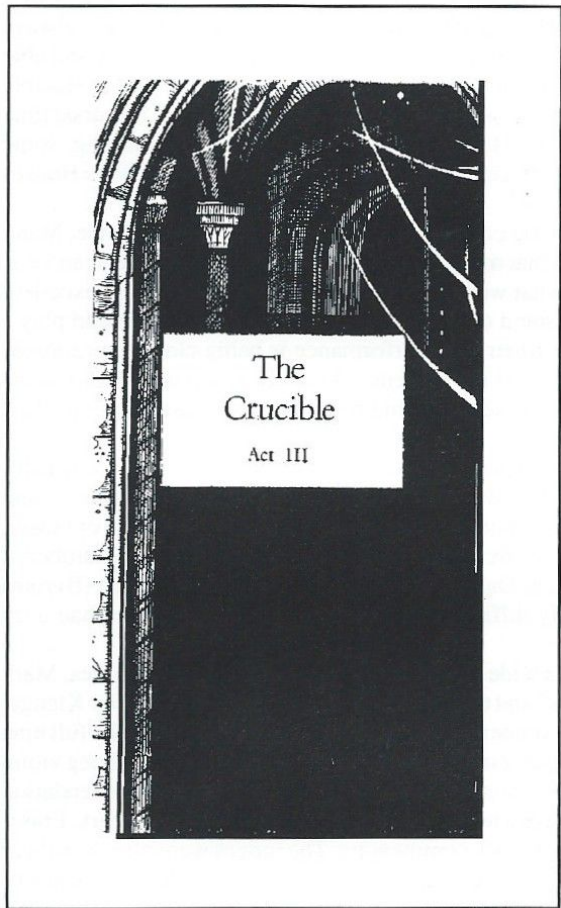
With so many good things to note, it is a pity that the production as a whole foundered on that most elementary of faults, ignorance of one's lines. The well-designed programme was not over informative about the identity of the characters - but the absence of the Prompter's name was indeed ironic! It is to be hoped that in her future productions Cathy Lewis will have the full support from her cast.

If the over-all standard was not as high as that of last year's "vintage" competition, there was very much to admire and praise, especially at the end of a very short and busy term, when producers must often have despaired of getting their casts together for rehearsal. If the strain showed at the lower end, there were few signs at the top, where we felt the quality was better than ever. The impression of disciplined team work was always strong, not only among the casts, but also among the musicmakers, programme designers and (as always) the stage and lighting crews. Set design and costume made an important contribution too, but the strongest impression of all, and one which augurs well for the continued success of House and School Drama, was one of genuine enthusiasm. We are grateful to the School for allowing us to share in yet another successful competition.

Our order of merit was as follows:-

- 1) Heywood
- 2) Fraser
- 3) Byrom
- 4) Dalton
- 5) Whitworth

In our deliberations on the Individual Award, we felt it only fair to give high commendation to both Melanie Clare and Richard Mattison for their performances in the Fraser play, but the outright winner was Andrew Babicki of Heywood. Jean and Chris Lowe.



Whitworth Programme cover

MUSIC

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION - MONDAY, 25TH MARCH 1991

Since Mr. Bamforth began to keep records of the competition results in 1969 Fraser and Whitworth have both won six times, Heywood five times, Byrom, Dalton and Gaskell twice. Whitworth were unbeaten between 1983 and 1987; Dalton has not won since 1970. The adjudicators' comments have not changed a great deal over the years: there are always many good solo items, but very few good groups. This is a great shame because the Music Department is willing and able to advise House Music organisers on how to put together an ensemble, and can often recommend, or even lend, suitable music. Also, it must be recognised that group items need to be prepared months in advance so that sufficient rehearsal time can be arranged to suit all members of the group. The presentation of House entries is also often disappointing: some programmes do not run smoothly, and announcers frequently mispronounce the titles and composers of pieces. Few Houses seem to rehearse their entries from beginning to end.

1991 was a rather controversial change to the organisation of the competition: there was to be no audience. Many musicians, myself included, were upset by this ruling because we felt that music is something to share with others, and that those of us who had put in a lot of practice ought to be able to show what we had achieved. However, there were excellent reasons for making this decision. It takes a great deal of courage to stand on a stage in front of a lot of people and play a musical instrument (or, for that matter, to act in a play), particularly when your performance is being closely scrutinised by expert adjudicators. The ordeal is made all the more nerve-wracking if the audience is unco-operative. In future years small, selected audiences will be admitted until the tradition of considerate and polite behaviour amongst the audience is re-established.

There were many excellent solo performances in this year's competition. Veterans such as Cemil Egeli (Gaskell), Jonathan Greenhowe (Byrom), Simon and Marc Ogier (Byrom) and Andrew Babicki (Heywood) performed to their usual high standards. If there were an award for most promising newcomer it would undoubtedly go to Elisabeth Keable of Fraser, who plays the clarinet, piano and organ very competently. The judges were particularly impressed by the large number of items which had been composed by the competitors themselves, such as Daniel Moss (Whitworth), Andy Pardoe (Byrom) and Simon Beswick (Gaskell). Musical composition is an extremely difficult art to master, but all those who had a try deserve the warmest congratulations.

Byrom had a very good programme indeed, which displayed a wide variety of musical interests and abilities. Mark Kelly's piano performance was described by Mr. Golder as "fabulous" and the Ogiers' rendition of a concertini by Klengel won full marks. Unfortunately, Byrom narrowly missed winning the competition because they could not put on the full nine items after being let down at the last minute. Dalton had a good, solid programme, including a performance of a Grieg violin piece by Khosrow Sehat and a contemporary piano piece performed by Jonathan Lazarus, who won special commendation for his programme design. However, the entry was dominated by keyboard items, and this pulled down the total mark. Fraser suffered from much the same problem, although individual items were highly commended. The judges were pleased to hear the choir, which formed a pleasing contrast with the rest of the items, but felt that "Edelweiss" was not a good choice of song. Gaskell's programme was very varied, and the standard of performance was generally good. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to hear all the items, and this explains the low position. Heywood put on an excellent show, which included a wide variety of music ranging from the works of Mendelssohn to New Order. Their performance of "Mr. Tambourine Man", although not very musical, was good entertainment. "Blue Monday", with its use of synthesisers, provided an opportunity to show off the wonders of modern technology, and the judges were impressed by the good use of the electronic equipment. Sophie Larkin and Richard Avery showed great courage in performing a hugely entertaining version of Joyce Grenfell's "Stately as Two Galleons", which provided the comic relief. Matthew Booth's announcing is also worthy of mention: his Frank Spencer impression, although amusing for all the right reasons, was sadly judged inappropriate. Whitworth's programme was also good, but lacked the crucial ninth item. Cathy Lewis showed great flair and skill in her performance of a Bach Gigue. The protest song "I Hate the White Man", sung by Tim Wright, added variety. All in all, this was quite a successful competition and bodes well for next year.

The final marks and positions were as follows:

Byrom	130	2nd
Dalton	124	4th
Fraser	128	3rd
Gaskell	121	6th
Heywood	134	1st
Whitworth	122	5th

It is extremely difficult to get in touch practice for this event because there is a sheer lack of space in School, and the House Plays, which run at the same time, often take over use of the halls. Furthermore, many people with a cultural bent find themselves rushing backwards and forwards between rehearsals for these two competitions. The Lent Term, which also includes the Spring Concert and Founder's Day, is becoming increasingly hectic, and it might be a good idea to change the timing of the House Music. However, more people could take part in this competition. Most people can sing when they put their minds to it. The use of "graphic scores" means that almost anybody can compose some sort of music, or "musical picture", and this was demonstrated brilliantly at the Spring Concert by a group of First Formers. Also, many skilled musicians who appear each year in the House Music are still not making the effort to perform in School concerts.