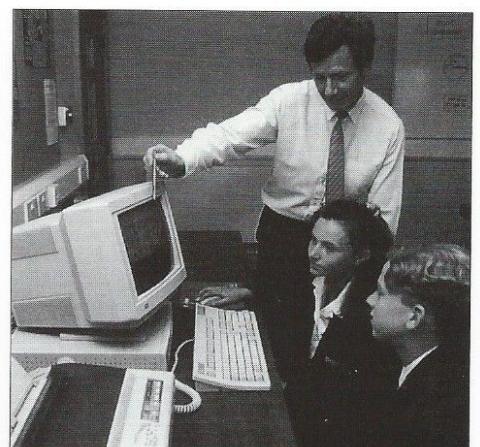


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1994

# THE HULMEIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

“O yonge, fresshe folkes, he or she!”

*Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde.*

“Haec olim meminisse juvabit.”

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

*Virgil, Aeneid, I, 203.*



## CONTENTS

|                              | <i>Page</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| List of Governors            | 7           |
| List of Staff                | 8           |
| Notes and News               | 9           |
| Mr. R. M. N. Smith           | 9           |
| Mr. D. McNally               | 10          |
| Obituaries –                 |             |
| Lieutenant Colonel Barber    | 11          |
| Dr. Leo Jecny                | 11          |
| Professor Douglas Beavis     | 11          |
| Speech Day 1993              | 12          |
| Leavers 1993                 | 13          |
| Prize List 1994              | 15          |
| Bursar's Corner              | 17          |
| Harris House, Hardraw        | 18          |
| Donner Library               | 18          |
| Teachers in Training 1993/94 | 18          |

\* \* \* \*

### **TRIPS ABROAD**

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Germany Exchange       | 19 |
| Salamanca              | 19 |
| Work Experience Abroad | 21 |
| Italy Trip             | 22 |
| Ski Trip               | 23 |
| Account of an Argonaut | 25 |

\* \* \* \*

### **TRIPS WITHIN THE UK**

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Art Trip to London                | 27 |
| Cycle Camp in the Hebrides        | 27 |
| Hardraw Art Trip                  | 28 |
| L6 Ecology Field Trip             | 29 |
| L6 Geography Field Trip           | 29 |
| IV Form GCSE Geography Field Trip | 30 |
| Mind/Outward Bound Challenge Day  | 30 |
| “A” Level Geology Field Trip      | 30 |
| Political Activities              | 31 |

\* \* \* \*

### **TRIPS WITHIN GREATER MANCHESTER**

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| German Trip to Contact Theatre     | 33 |
| German Trip to Salford University  | 33 |
| Spanish Trip to Salford University | 33 |
| Cordoba Open Day at Town Hall      | 34 |
| Le Bourgeois Gonville              | 34 |
| Shakespeare at the Library Theatre | 34 |
| Lower Sixth Play Trips             | 35 |
| Work Experience 1994               | 35 |

\* \* \* \*

### **CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND SCHOOL EVENTS**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Biology and Natural History Club                 | 37 |
| Chess  | 37 |
| Observer Mace Debating Competition               | 37 |
| Didsbury Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition | 37 |
| Annual Debating Contest                          | 38 |
| Debating Society                                 | 38 |
| Charities Week                                   | 38 |
| Junior School Disco                              | 39 |
| Hopwood Reading Competition                      | 39 |

## COMBINED CADET FORCE

### Army Section

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Open Evenings                 | 41 |
| Recruit/Junior Platoon        | 41 |
| Senior Platoon                | 42 |
| King's Cup 1993               | 42 |
| Adventurous Training Camp     | 43 |
| Cadet Skill-at-Arms Meeting   | 44 |
| 5/8 Kings Open Day            | 44 |
| "In Suspicious Circumstances" | 44 |
| Central Camp, Penhale         | 45 |

### R.A.F. Section

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Field Days                                | 48 |
| Gliding                                   | 48 |
| Easter Camp                               | 50 |
| Summer Camp                               | 51 |
| Halton Leadership Course – Student's View | 52 |

\* \* \* \*

## AN ASSISTANTE'S EYE VIEW

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Mlle Sandrine Mioux (1992/3)  | 53 |
| 2. Mlle Fabienne Dreyer (1993/4) | 54 |

\* \* \* \*

## DRAMA

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Grease                                    | 56 |
| House Play Festival 1994                  | 58 |
| Mr. Hofton – Stage Manager Extraordinaire | 62 |
| Anthony Hart with the OTW                 | 63 |

\* \* \* \*

## MUSIC

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Overview                     | 63 |
| Christmas 1993               | 64 |
| Spring Concerts              | 64 |
| House Music Competition      | 65 |
| Junior School Music Festival | 65 |
| Informal Recitals            | 65 |
| Summer Concert               | 65 |
| Martin Roscoe                | 66 |
| Quintessential Brass         | 67 |

\* \* \* \*

## HOUSE NOTES

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Byrom     | 67 |
| Dalton    | 71 |
| Fraser    | 73 |
| Gaskell   | 80 |
| Heywood   | 83 |
| Whitworth | 87 |

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Excalibur                          | 90  |
| I Celebrate                        | 90  |
| Echt                               | 90  |
| Glimpses                           | 90  |
| Uncle Johnny                       | 90  |
| The Wind                           | 91  |
| Wind                               | 91  |
| The Workings of the Wind           | 91  |
| The Wind                           | 91  |
| Diamond                            | 91  |
| When is a Mum, Really a Mum?       | 92  |
| The Joys of Life                   | 92  |
| The Loveline                       | 92  |
| Who's That Walking in My Future    | 92  |
| Hunger                             | 92  |
| One Day in May                     | 93  |
| Robert Nesta Marley (Bob) – Legend | 93  |
| Alone on the Beach                 | 93  |
| A World of Your Own                | 94  |
| A World of Your Own                | 94  |
| Time                               | 95  |
| The Hills                          | 96  |
| The City                           | 96  |
| The Bypass                         | 97  |
| Under The Sea                      | 97  |
| The Wind                           | 98  |
| The Sea                            | 98  |
| The Sea                            | 99  |
| It Started With Drugs              | 99  |
| That Special Place                 | 102 |
| Drugs in School                    | 103 |
| Nature Strikes Back                | 105 |
| The Abandoned Station              | 106 |

\* \* \* \*

## GAMES

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Rugby                          | 108 |
| Lacrosse                       | 112 |
| Hockey                         | 116 |
| Netball                        | 118 |
| Cricket                        | 121 |
| Tennis                         | 125 |
| Cross-Country                  | 126 |
| Athletics                      | 127 |
| Inter-House Sports Competition | 129 |

\* \* \* \*

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Parents' Association        | 130 |
| "The Hulmeian" - Postscript | 131 |



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Mlle S. Gervais, L. ès Lettres, Toulouse (*French Assistante*)

*Male colleagues are listed without their titles (Mr., Dr., etc.). Lady colleagues are given their title.*

## SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

This year saw several farewells. Mr Gregson has been Kitchen Manager here for eighteen years; he and Mrs Gregson's names are synonymous with WHGS catering. Several Cleaning Ladies retired this summer after decades of loyal service; we have now changed to a firm of cleaners, Trendleways of Wythenshawe. On the Teaching Staff, Mr McNally retires after nine years of teaching Economics here, four of them as Master in Charge of the subject; and at Christmas, Mr R M N Smith left us after over nine years for a more senior post in Oxfordshire. Mr Smith pioneered the new A4 size "Hulmeian" during his four year editorship, which included the impressive and distinctive School Centenary Edition of 1987. Full tributes to these departing colleagues appear elsewhere in this magazine.

We also say goodbye in the Summer of 1994 to Messrs Parsons and Taylor, to Ms Barratt, Mlle Fabrienne Dreyer and Mr Thomas. Mr David Parsons taught Biology here for two years, and also helped in our RAF Section; he leaves to do a post-graduate engineering degree. Mr Roger Taylor has helped this year in the Classics and Religious Education Departments; he covered many lessons during Mr Blight's absence. Ms Jenepher Barratt took over in January for two terms from Mr R M N Smith in English, where her long experience and devotion to her work made her contribution really valuable. Mr Peter Thomas served efficiently in the Maths Department through the Summer Term, and Mlle Fabienne Dreyer leaves us after her year as our very enthusiastic and versatile French assistante.

In September 1994 we welcome to the teaching staff Mr M C Gorman (English), Miss E L Matthews (Biology), Mr P G J Welch (Biology), The Rev Dr M E Weymont (Economics and Business Studies) and Mlle S Gervais (French Assistante).

This year (1994) Mr Mallinder takes over as Assistant House Master of Gaskell.

Speech Day 1993 was held in the Free Trade Hall on the evening of Thursday, 23 September. The Principal Guest was Colonel John B Timmins, OBE TD DSc, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester. A report appears elsewhere in this edition. The Founder's Day Service was held on 8 March in Manchester Cathedral. The address was given by the Right Reverend Michael Henshall, Bishop of Warrington, and the two anthems were an anonymous setting in canon of the "Dona nobis pacem", the last words of the Ordinary of the Mass, and John Harper's vigorous setting of Psalm 150.

For the School year 1993/94 T P Allen was Head of School and M Das Deputy Head. School Prefects were H A S Ash, M J Butterworth, R Das, P J Ghazi, D A Gilbert, N Goddard, N D Goodwin, J L Grant, J M Hall, R T S Hargreaves, P I Harrison, R Haroutunian, C G Heys, J P Howarth, M A McLean, M D Newns, R K G Pimblott, G A Roberts, A T Rodgers, D N Segal, M D Sellers, M A Shelmerdine, I M Sherwin, C Simkin and S Waite.

We congratulate the following students on their Oxford and Cambridge places: at Oxford Anna Hope to read English at Wadham, Nicholas Goodwin to read Physics at Keble and Craig Simkin to read Physics at St Edmund Hall; and at Cambridge Alex Rodgers to read Natural Sciences at Magdalene.

We congratulate Alex Rodgers on obtaining the highest mark in "A" Level Geology of any student in the country.

We congratulate our swimmer, James Hickman, who is now rated tenth in the world at 200m butterfly and the British Record Holder. (See also page 89).

Our congratulations to Stephen Green, who left us for Iowa State University three years ago, on coming 7th in the 1500 m for Jamaica in the Commonwealth Games.

We congratulate Daniel Peters on his attaining international status in wrestling.

Charities Week this year raised £5,100 for the Lil Stockdale Centre (see article).

The Junior School Christmas Disco, organised as ever by Mr Sharp, raised £150 for the Trafford General Hospital Intensive Care Unit (see article).

\* \* \*

### Mr Roger Noel Smith

Roger Smith, who left William Hulme's Grammar School to become Head of English at a School in Oxfordshire in January of this year, had taught at William Hulme's Grammar School for nearly ten years - since September 1994.

He showed himself first and foremost as a man who cared passionately for literature, and as a teacher who communicated his love of his subject to his pupils. Many responded with enthusiasm, and have taken away with them an appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare, Dickens and poetry which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Some were inspired by him to continue their studies in English at University. Robert Ketteridge who went to Roger's old college, St Catherine's College, Oxford, has always acknowledged his debt to the teacher who gave him the foundations on which he was able to build his success; he obtained a first class degree in English.

Roger Smith was always concerned for the welfare of his pupils, many of whom had a great affection for him, as did his colleagues, who appreciated his culture and his mild wit.

Men of his intellectual standing, dedication to the teaching of his subject and interest in his pupils, are not easy to find. He is much missed.

His four year editorship of the "Hulmeian" Magazine is acknowledged in the Editor's "Notes and News" in this edition (above).

P A Treweek  
*Head of English Dept*

## Dennis McNally

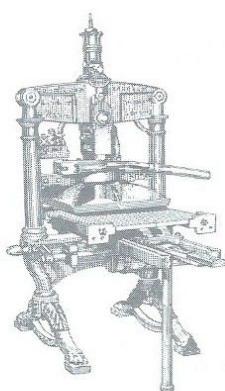
Dennis McNally came to William Hulme's in 1985 when the expanding Economics Department necessitated an increase in the teaching staff. Since then, his contribution to the work of the department, initially as an assistant master, and latterly as the Head of Department has been much appreciated. However, Dennis has contributed much more than classroom teaching to the life of the School.

When he came he brought experience from the Civil Service, from several teaching posts in Manchester Schools, and latterly from posts in Further Education Colleges in Stretford and Macclesfield. His direct approach both to the teaching of the subject and to pupils, and his sense of humour, will be well-remembered by the many "A" level Economists who benefited from his teaching. In 1990, he took over the management of Economics in the school, and since then has introduced and developed the Business Studies "A" level course. His enthusiasm for his subject, and his wish to stimulate interest in it beyond the confines of the classroom, took many pupils into Economics and Business Studies competitions, both locally and nationally – and with some notable successes!

However, Dennis McNally's contribution to the School did not stop with Economics and Business Studies. His prowess as a water polo player and swimmer was well known in Manchester teaching circles, so it was no surprise that he became deeply involved in swimming at the School. He has coached individuals and teams, taken parties to Swimming Galas around Manchester and the North West of England, and devoted countless lunchtimes to providing coaching and encouragement for those pupils in the School who wished to take their swimming seriously.

He was a conscientious and caring Schoolmaster from whose experience the School was fortunate to benefit in his final years of teaching. We wish him a long and happy retirement in the Derbyshire Hills.

Mr I J Shaw

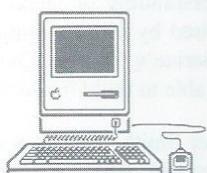


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## OBITUARIES

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL N A BARBER MBE TD

With the passing, on March 21st at the age of 87, of Norman Barber, the School lost not only a staunch friend and supporter, but also its greatest living link with the beginnings and development of Lacrosse. His father, of course, the great J A Barber, School Secretary from 1902 to 1953, is synonymous with the School's rise to pre-eminence in the sport, and Norman himself was a lifelong player and administrator in the game, representing Old Hulmeians, Lancashire and the North and then combining the office of secretary to the North of England Lacrosse Association with that of Chairman of the Old Hulmeians Lacrosse Club, where I had the pleasure of sitting next to him, as secretary for several years.

There are few participants in our sport who have succeeded in keeping the game covered by national newspapers: Norman did do this, and received the accolade of a mention in the Sports Editorial of the Telegraph's Donald Trelford. I quote him (with permission). "I can reveal the name of the man who has appeared as the anonymous 'special correspondent' on Lacrosse in The Daily Telegraph for the past few decades. He was Norman Barber..... A survivor of Dunkirk, the fall of Singapore, Changi prison and the notorious Burma Road, Barber of Cheadle, as he was known to the Telegraph Sports Desk, died at home this week at 87."

That this tribute should appear under the headline "The Lion's share of British" was just so appropriate. Norman was the most perfect example of an English gentleman of military background that one could have hoped to meet. His very appearance, invariably pin-stripe three-piece suited, spoke of his proud background and his great distinction. But he was always as friendly and welcoming with his conversation to anyone of any generation: involvement with Lacrosse in particular was a guarantee of Norman's friendship and kindness. He rarely reminisced and never monopolised the conversation by doing so, but I remember vividly his description of one of his earliest Lacrosse tasks: this involved tying sacking to the railings of the field where Old Hulmeians were playing in 1920's Chorlton so that spectators could not get a free view but had to pay their sixpence to get in! He was last in School on the occasion of the opening of the Zochonis Centre by HRH The Princess Royal, and as we waited by the main gates, Norman rolled back the years and pointed out where he and his friends, as first formers, had had a slide down to the stream which gave its name to Spring Bridge Road. The 75 years just disappeared, so lively and vivid was his story.

Norman's efficiency with the organisation of fixtures was legendary - many were the complaints as soon as the job was handed over to a computer! - and he remained involved in the present day game until the last. I return to Donald Trelford's words "He went as he would have wished, surrounded by the weekend's Lacrosse results and having met his final deadline for this paper." He might have added that Norman's last afternoon was spent in glorious conditions at Didsbury, surrounded by many friends and watching a magnificent Lancashire Cup Final, in which his old club performed with great credit. As a final tribute to him, on the day of his funeral, the School teams played rather than cancelling a match on the School field: I am sure he would have approved. Norman is one of the men I am most proud to have known.

C P Langford

### LEO JECNY

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Dr Leo Jecny on 7 June 1994, on Oswego, Oregon, USA.

"Doc" Jecny was on the Modern Languages staff 1942-1964. He made a whole hearted contribution to the life of the school, not only in his teaching of French, German and Russian (some years before Russian became a "trendy" sixth form subject), but also as the School Librarian.

As a form master, he was very willing to produce form plays, while he joined forces with Mr Bird in founding the Leonardo Da Vinci Society, a high-powered "by invitation only" society of sixth formers who met alternatively at Dr Jecny's and the Head Master's houses. But for many Old Hulmeians he will be remembered especially for the trips abroad that he organised in the immediate post war years when foreign travel was still a novelty and a very real adventure; himself a skilful skier, he introduced the sport to a whole new generation of Hulmeians.

He was a man of wide interests who enriched the School by his enthusiasms, his kindness and the genuine interest he always showed towards the boys he taught. Our loss became America's gain when he left this country to take up a university appointment in the State of Oregon, where he lived for thirty years up to the time of his death. For those of us who remember him with affection and respect, it comes as no surprise to hear that his funeral service at Lake Oswego included a reading of one of his favourite poems - "I will arise and go now".

C J Lowe

### PROFESSOR DOUGLAS BEVIS

Professor Douglas Bevis, who has died aged 75, was Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Leeds University from 1973 to 1984. He was appointed to his Chair - the University's second in that field - in order to establish a department at St James's University Hospital.

The year after his appointment, Bevis created a furore in the medical world when he announced at the annual conference of the British Medical Association that three 'test-tube babies' - two in Britain and one on the Continent - had

been born in the previous 18 months. Bevis was immediately mobbed both by the press and by other scientists, who wanted more detailed information. He let it be known that he had been involved in implanting all three embryos, but refused to divulge either the names of the whereabouts of the families involved, lest the children suffer. A few days after making the announcement, Bevis said he would no longer be working in the area of test-tube research. It was thought that the mistrust of other workers in the field, and the hounding of the press, drove him to this decision. Four years later Louise Brown, the first 'official' test-tube baby, was born in Manchester. Bevis remained at Leeds until his retirement, and succeeded in creating a strong academic presence in an institution with a predominantly clinical tradition. The solid foundations he laid, both in education and research, have proved invaluable both to medical undergraduates and junior doctors in training.

Douglas Charles Aitcheson Bevis was born at Ealing on May 28, 1919 and educated at William Hulme's Grammar School and Manchester University. After qualifying as a doctor in 1943, he spent the last two years of the Second World War as a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Afterwards, he returned to Manchester to complete his postgraduate education in obstetrics and gynaecology, holding training posts in various local hospitals. During this period as a busy junior doctor he embarked on research into blood incompatibilities between mother and child, typically performing all aspects of the work himself; the outcome was an important article in the *Lancet* in 1950. The next year Bevis was appointed consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist to the Park Hospital at Davyhulme, Manchester. He pursued his interest in materno-foetal rhesus blood incompatibility and contributed substantially to the development of treatment for a condition which then resulted in many stillbirths and neo-natal deaths.

In 1967, Bevis accepted the post of Reader in Obstetrics and Gynaecology under Professor Scott Russell at Sheffield, where he became interested in the early human embryo and techniques for creating test-tube babies. 'Tiger' Bevis – the sobriquet derived from his prowess on the rugby field – was a modest, soft-spoken man, courteous and with a quick sense of humour. He enjoyed greatly the company of his peers, especially in the Fothergill Club, a travelling Gynaecological club. He was married and had two sons.

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\* \* \*

## SPEECH DAY 1993

This year's Principal Guest was Colonel John B Timmins, OBE TD DSc, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester. It was appropriate that Colonel Timmins should have been invited during the same calendar year as the visit to our School of HRH The Princess Royal, since he had been one of its main organisers and, as the Queen's representative in our County, the man ultimately responsible for its smooth running.

During the minutes leading up to 7.30, most of the School's assembled pupils had two pre-occupations; how the evening would proceed, and whether the imminent announcement of the venue for the Olympic Games in 2000 would be in favour of Manchester. The media broadcast the news that it would be Sydney only minutes before the Head Master's procession onto the platform, but by some unaccountable telepathy the entire School seemed already to know this information when, at 7.30 sharp, Mr Boothman began the evening by telling us!

After welcoming Colonel Timmins and thanking him warmly for his excellent management of the Royal Visit, the Head Master spoke about the Zochonis Centre and other expansion e.g. the new Music Department Suite. He reminisced warmly about the Princess Royal's visit. Passing to educational ethos, he expressed support for the National Curriculum review by Sir Ron Dearing and stressed the need for a balance in education between drive for visible results and the inculcation of self-discipline. He highlighted some aspects of our 1993 results - all but eight of our 'A' level candidates achieved a place at University, and in GCSE the results were "the best in our history", with 93% pass rate and only 2 candidates not achieving 5 or more GCSE's.

After the usual review of the School's cultural and sporting activities, the Head Master ended by paying special tribute to his own Secretary, Miss Hillyard ("Hulmeian" tribute by Head Master in the 1993 edition p. 28-29).

Colonel Timmins presented the prizes and gave his address. He had been familiar with the School since 1956; insofar as it is possible to talk of a "Hulmeian type", he always found his fellow OH officers quietly confident, gentle in manner and aware of others' strengths and weaknesses. This ethos shone through when he was the Inspecting Officer of the CCF in 1977. As a parent of a boy here some years ago, he also became very aware of and impressed by our wide range of activities on offer to our pupils.

Turning to the theme of Prize Days, Colonel Timmins unashamedly stressed the positive side of competition, "essential for the success of an enterprise or a nation." He discussed the two headings of 'A' level certificates, testimony to the watershed in a student's life but unable to set out "those intangible qualities which we all develop during School and carry with us for the rest of our lives", and the "prizes for standing out", where he was impressed to see the variety of interests in the books chosen.

But here he issued a caveat. Success must not be a mere show. There must be a quiet confidence in what we have done, and we must know in our hearts that it has been won with integrity. As the Duke of Westminster pointed out in his first address as Chancellor of the new Metropolitan University of Manchester, we go to School and University for more lasting reasons than just normal success. Take a look at the values expressed in Kipling's "If." Colonel Timmins closed by urging our pupils not to forget their school days and all they will have learned here.

G J Turner

# DESTINATION OF LEAVERS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1992/93

## (IN YEAR ORDER)

|      |                           |                                  |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| U6S6 | *AHMED, Siama             |                                  |
| U6C2 | ARMITAGE, Neil            | History                          |
| U6A6 | ARORA, Sonny              | Sociology & Politics             |
| U6SB | ASGHER, Omar              | Medicine                         |
| U6S6 | *AZIZ, Rozeena I          | Pharmacy                         |
| U6A2 | BARON, Anthony C          | Marketing/Market Research        |
| U6L  | *BATTRICK, Alison M       | Linguistics & French             |
| U6A4 | BERD, Richard A           | English Language & Literature    |
| U6S6 | BHOGAL, K Sandeep         | Law                              |
| U6S6 | BLAKELY, Kelvin J         | Genetics/Microbiology            |
| U6S3 | BOOKBINDER, Steven J      | Mech & Product Engineering       |
| U6A3 | BRODY, Adam R             | English & American Studies       |
| U6L  | BROWN, Paul A             | German                           |
| U6S2 | BROWN, Timothy A          | Mathematics                      |
| U6S3 | BUCKLEY, Edward F         | Manufacturing Eng                |
| U6A5 | BULWICH, Allan V          |                                  |
| U6A6 | BURY, Christian           | Business/Management Studies      |
| U6L  | BUTTKEREIT, Martin TE     | German                           |
| U6S5 | CAPLAN, Jonathan          | Accounting & Finance             |
| U6L  | CONNOR, David B           | Modern Language Studies          |
| U6SB | COOPER, Tomos C           | Biological Sciences              |
| U6S1 | COPSEY, Simon H           | Environmental & Physical Science |
| U6A2 | DANIEL, Julian A          | Law                              |
| U6C2 | DEARDEN, Simon J          |                                  |
| U6S4 | DOCHERTY, Neil            | Physics                          |
| U6A2 | DUFFY, John               | Archaeology                      |
| U6A1 | ECKERSLEY, T Benjamin     | Geology & Economics              |
| U6M  | EDWARDS, Paul MT          | Engineering                      |
| U6S3 | FOSTER, Paul D            |                                  |
| U6S2 | FOSTER, Tony              | Civil Engineering                |
| U6A6 | FRANKS, Jeremy            | Politics                         |
| U6L  | GARSIDE, Oliver J         | History & Philosophy             |
| U6A6 | *GILMORE, Helen           | Eng/Tech & Bus Management        |
| U6A3 | *GORDON-NESBITT, Juliet D | Law                              |
| U6A5 | *GRANT, Paul M            | Law & Business Studies           |
| U6S6 | HABER, Anthony R          | Podiatry                         |
| U6S3 | HAGGERTY, Neil T          | HND Cinematics                   |
| U6C2 | HARDING, James E          | Theology                         |
| U6A3 | *HAY, Heather J           | History                          |
| U6A5 | HOLDEN, Richard J         | English                          |
| U6S5 | HOWARD, Thomas P          | Mechanical Engineering           |
| U6L  | HOWARTH, Andrew J         | German                           |
| U6SB | INSKIP, Kristofer G       | Animal Biology                   |
| U6S1 | IRELAND, Peter R          |                                  |
| U6S6 | JAIRATH, Ajay             | Mechanical Engineering           |
| U6S5 | JAIRATH, Vishal           | Electronic Engineering           |
| U6A6 | *JAMESON, Suzanne         | Hair & Beauty Care               |
| U6L  | JONES, Matthew B          | German & Philosophy              |
| U6S5 | KERSHAW, Mark A           | Env/Phys Sci/Eng                 |
| U6A4 | LAZARUS, Jonathan         | Promotions Management            |
| U6SB | LEE, Andrew               | Biochemistry                     |
| U6S1 | MACLEAN, Graham R         | Film Media & Cult St             |
| U6L  | *McPHILLIPS, Jane C       | French/German                    |
| U6A5 | MANZOOR, Nadeem           | Business Law                     |
| U6C1 | MARSH, Daniel P           | Classics & Philosophy            |
| U6C2 | MARTINEAU, Sebastien O    | History & Modern Languages       |
| U6A6 | MASON, Wayne              | PE & History (Educ)              |
| U6A2 | MAUNDER, Matthew CN       | Building                         |
| U6A6 | MORAN, Simon R            | Law                              |
| U6A1 | O'KEEFE, Daniel J         | Geoscience                       |
| U6A1 | PATEL, Bhavesh S          | Geography & Geology              |
| U6SB | PATEL, Pretash R          |                                  |
| U6A3 | *QUYOUN, Sabeen           | Politics                         |
| U6S2 | RADIVEN, Daniel B         | Law                              |

|      |                         |   |                            |
|------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| U6SB | REICHL, Christopher     | Birmingham University                     | Chemistry                  |
| U6S4 | REYNOLDS, Philips H     | Leeds University (1994)                   | Chemistry                  |
| U6A2 | RICH, Darren S          | Liverpool University                      | Accountancy/Finance        |
| U6S4 | RICHARDS, Frederick E   | Manchester University                     | Mathematics                |
| U6S4 | RIMRON, Benjamin J      | Exeter University: C of St Mark & St John | Lingstcs/Media Studies     |
| U6SB | ROCHE, Andrew C         | Sheffield Hallam University               | Computer Studies           |
| U6C2 | SAMPSON, Gareth C       | Lancaster University                      | History                    |
| U6A6 | SCRUTON, Nicholas J     | Full-Time Employment                      | Bass Matrix Scheme         |
| U6A5 | SEYMOUR, Andrew S       | Bournemouth University                    | Computer Vislsn/Anmn       |
| U6A2 | SHROOT, Michael D       | University of Wales - Cardiff             | Politics & Law             |
| U6A3 | SLACK, Henry AF         | Oxford University (St Hugh's)             | English                    |
| U6S3 | SMART, David            | Nottingham University                     | Mec/Eng/Mtrls Tech         |
| U6SB | SMITH, Andrew G         | Sheffield University                      | Microbiology               |
| U6A3 | SMITH, Richard S        | Leicester University                      | Law                        |
| U6SB | SOBHANI, Sarfaraz       | Manchester University                     | Medicine                   |
| U6A5 | STEPHENSON, Benjamin EF | Reading University                        | Design Studies             |
| U6SB | SUFI, Shoaib A          | Cambridge University (St John's)          | Natural Sciences           |
| U6SB | SUM, Peter              | London University (King's)                | Pharmacy                   |
| U6S6 | SUNDERLAND, Andrew      | Monkwearmouth College                     | Pharmacology Endn          |
| U6A3 | SWIDERSKI, Krzysztof    | Sheffield University                      | Economics                  |
| U6S5 | *SYKES, Rachel C        | Liverpool University                      | Maths & Management Science |
| U6A2 | TIWARI, Prashant        | UMIST                                     | Management Sciences        |
| U6M  | TSOI, Marshall          | UMIST                                     | Civil Engineering          |
| U6S2 | VEITCH, Thomas B        | Leeds University                          | Psychology                 |
| U6A2 | VERMA, Manoj            | Leeds University                          | Textiles/Bus Mngmnt        |
| U6S6 | VU, Thai Quoc           | London - St Mary's Hospital Med Sch       | Medicine                   |
| U6L  | WARREN, Perry D         | Sheffield University                      | Spanish & Bus              |
| U6A1 | WEEDEN, Mark AL         | Staffordshire University                  | Applied Geology            |
| U6A2 | WHITHEAD, Edwin J       | Salford University (1994)                 | Business Economics         |
| U6S1 | WHITELEY, Nicholas A    | London University - Imperial College      | Geology                    |
| U6C2 | WOOD, Nathan T          | Lancashire CCC                            | Professional Cricket       |

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# Bowring

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## PRIZE LIST 1994

### SPECIAL PRIZES

Anderson English Essay Prize: R C Lamb  
Caswell Prize: A T Rodgers  
C H Jones Prize: M Das  
Colin Midwood Prize: CSM. M D Newns  
& CSM. G A Roberts  
D M Williams Memorial Prize for Music: P L Kidd  
Eric Barnes Memorial Prize & Trophy: J M Hall  
Geoffrey Cocker Prize: M N A Bartlett  
Graham Johnson Memorial Prize: J P Howarth  
Halpin History Essay Prize: J L Grant & I M Sherwin  
J A Barber Prize: M Das  
E B Jackson Prize: J L Grant  
James Gozzard Prize for Craft: D P Power  
J N Hopwood Reading Prizes: M H Cowan (Senior)  
L M Clemetson (Junior)  
Junior History Prize: J S Porter  
Library Award: D A Gilbert, J P Howarth & J P Ghazi  
Original Verse Prize: D A Riste (Sixth Form)  
E H Barker (Middle & Junior)  
Powell Prize for Reading in Assembly: M J Butterworth  
R A Haynes Prize for Photography: J K White  
Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize: Flt Sgt. R K G Pimblott  
Watkins Prize: T P Allen  
Woollam Scholarship: Y Saddiq  
Wolstenholme Prize for Art & Design: C L Barnes  
Yates Prize: M A McLean

### UPPER SIXTH

Art Prize: C Bell  
Allman Further Maths Prize: N D Goodwin  
Ancient History Prize: J R Tate  
Dehn History Prize: S L Jones  
Design Prize: H A S Ash  
Dorrington Latin Prize: M A McLean  
Simon Smith Economics: R T S Hargreaves  
Business Studies Prize: I M Sherwin  
Geology Prize: A T Rodgers  
Hewlett Geography Prize: J C Hope  
Knoop English Lang. Prize: S L Jones  
Knoop English Lit. Prize: A Hope  
Lymer Mathematics Prize: C Simkin  
Music Prize: C P Harris  
OHA Biology Prize: C F McElhinney  
Palmer Chemistry Prize: C F McElhinney  
Palmer Physics Prize: C Simkin  
Pankhurst Spanish Prize: R K G Pimblott  
Reid Politics Prize: R T S Hargreaves  
Vlies French Prize: Z Fisher  
Vlies German Prize: S J Seddon

### LOWER SIXTH

Ancient History Prize: M A Knowles  
Art Prize: J K White  
Business Studies Prize: W M Parry  
Chemistry Prize: I Siddique  
Design Prize: G G Barraclough  
Economics Prize: A H Chaudhri  
Forrest English Language Prize: M A Knowles  
Forrest English Literature Prize: S P Neary  
Further Mathematics Prize: I Siddique  
Geography Prize: A H Chaudhri  
Geology Prize: J A Brocklehurst  
German Prize: E H Keable  
Hawley French Prize: E H Keable  
Mathematics Prize: T A Djedhour  
Music Prize: E H Keable  
Physics Prize: I Siddique  
Politics Prize: S P Neary  
Spanish Prize: M H Kaye & A Matin-Razm  
Sydney Prize: N Goodman  
History Prize: S Cope

### FIFTH FORMS

Art: A F J Kelly  
Biology: M T Royds  
Caiger French: M T Royds  
Chemistry: M T Royds  
Design: J H Pearson  
German: D I Taylor  
Greek: C J Hope  
Hewlett Geography: T Rahman  
Geology: M T Royds  
History: N B Ghazi  
Latin: C J Hope  
Mathematics: J Inaba  
Music: D K Mosley  
Parents' English Language: J M E Robinson  
Parents' English Literature: C L Barnes  
Physics: C L Barnes & K N Khan  
Spanish: M T Royds

### FOURTH FORMS

Art: O I Ofoche  
Biology: E Amir  
Chemistry: P A Beales  
Design: V L Williams  
English: L F Edwards  
French: R M Seddon  
Geography: E G Heynes  
Geology: P A Beales  
German: S J Cochrane & L E Ives  
History: R M Seddon  
Latin: E Amir  
Mathematics: E Amir  
Music: A C de Silva  
Physics: E Amir  
Spanish: E L Weeden

### THIRD FORMS

Art: E Hope  
Biology: M R Gale  
Chemistry: M R Gale  
Design: M Prasad  
English: M R Gale  
French: A Bagga  
Geography: A J Power  
German: A K Burki & M R Gale  
Greek: A Meakin  
History: D Y Durrance  
Latin: D Y Durrance  
Mathematics: A Bagga  
Music: N L R Smith  
Physics: M R Gale  
Spanish: S N Purohit

### FIRST FORMS

Biology: D O Choudhury  
Chemistry: A J Race & N R Whitehead  
Design: T L C Chung  
English: N G Barratt  
French: N R Whitehead  
Geography: V M Lane  
History: C N Duckworth  
Latin: N R Whitehead  
Mathematics: N R Whitehead  
Music: G J Laycock  
Religious Education: J P Atherton  
William Taylor Memorial Prize: M J Mkumbwa

### SECOND FORMS

Art: R Fu  
Biology: J M Shaw  
English: J M Shaw  
French: A Al-Amin  
Geography: J M Shaw  
History: L J Simon  
Latin: J M Shaw  
Mathematics: S L Ash & F R Youssef  
Music: S J Johnston & M C-K Tong  
Physics: R Hussain  
Religious Education: J M Shaw

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## BURSAR'S CORNER

Once again I am happy to report a successful year, with several significant changes and one or two more expected soon. By far the most notable of 1994's changes has been the retirement of a number of the Support Staff. Four ladies who have served the School for a total of 102 years retired during the past term. Mrs Lily Turner and Mrs Elsie Walker who both joined in 1964, Mrs Joan White (1972) and Mrs Alma Moorby (1974) all retired from their posts providing cleaning services for in the School. It is always difficult saying good-bye to friends of such long standing, but time marches on, and these four in particular have earned their break from work. We wish them every success and a happy retirement. In their place, the School has started a contract with Messrs Trendleway, a local firm, and the new members of the cleaning team are already welcome around the School.

The Catering department is also in the process of change. For 18 years Mr Brian Gregson has been the Catering Manager, serving 2 Head Masters and 4 Bursars and supervising the preparation of more than 2 million lunches, to say nothing of the receptions, sports refreshments and teas during his years at William Hulme's. With his wife Betty, Brian has been a most popular member of the staff, and a loyal and energetic supporter of School activities. He will be very sorely missed. We wish them both a happy retirement on the Yorkshire/Lancashire border. They go with our sincere thanks.

With the increasing complexity of the regulations surrounding public service catering, the Governors decided that Brian Gregson's retirement was the opportunity to let the Catering service to contractors, and so, from the start of the next term, Gardner Merchant Ltd, one of the best-known school caterers, start work managing the facilities here. The good news is that most of the ladies who are such cheerful members of the catering team will be retained; sadly, however, Mrs Sheelagh Gresty Brown, who started work in the School kitchen in 1970, decided that she too would retire; she also leaves with our very best wishes.

Other staff changes have taken place in the School office. Miss Bernadette McNicholas has now completed her first year as the Head Master's Secretary, and Miss Fenella Newton joined to take Bernadette's place in the School Office. Mrs Margaret McQueen has decided that she will leave us at the end of September after 8 years; her place will be taken by Miss Sylvia McGagh.

The works we have undertaken in the School this year have all been in support of the change to the 40-period week and the revised curriculum. The wider range of options for more pupils meant that more rooms are needed in the Geography, Art and Geology departments and more, but smaller laboratories are needed in the Chemistry department.

As a result, the work planned to take 18 months to move the Music department from the top of the Donner Block to their new space under the New Hall was completed in mid-June, and the move completed before the end of term. This has allowed the space they vacated to be turned into better facilities for Geography, and the main Geology room has been located on the top floor with Geography. The space released is now another room for the Art department. While most of this work will be complete before the start of the new term, there will still be a number of down-stream changes to complete before everyone is in their new places. In the Science Block, we have refurbished a Physics Laboratory - the original 1930's style has adapted well to a more modern functional



Mrs. Lily Turner, Staff Room Cleaning Lady since 1964, flanked by Messrs. Blight and Timm, with her flowers presented on the occasion of her retirement by the Common Room.

(Photo: J. H. Thomson)

layout and better facilities - and moved the Chemistry preparation room across the corridor, in readiness for more extensive work to be completed in the department during the coming year.

The last moves in the works department this year are the removal of two antiquated boilers serving the older parts of the School and the installation of a new suite of four gas-fired equipment. This significant investment will provide the heat which has been missing, especially from the Science Block, for so many years. This major undertaking, together with the installation of additional radiators in the Science Block, is being completed within the summer holiday period by Messrs S R Sealey and Longworth's the engineers.

In the Bursar's Office, we have installed some new computer soft-ware to provide a better, more integrated service, and, we hope, a more detailed record of pupils in the School, their records and achievements, in addition to the accounting and budgeting facilities needed to run a modern business.

Finally, thanks to yet another generous donation from the Parents' Association, we took delivery of a new mini-bus, fitted throughout with forward facing-seats and seat belts. This smart addition to the school "fleet" will provide much more comfort and safety on journeys for pupils and staff.

I would like to end this short piece by reminding all readers that none of what has been achieved this year could have been done without the steadfast support of the team in my department. I am truly grateful, once again, for their support and good will. You are a great team; thank you.

M H Peters

## HARRIS HOUSE, HARDRAW

1993/94 has been a year of continued development at Harris House.

Much work to improve the facilities at the Centre has taken place, specifically with a new cooker, fridge and freezer in the kitchen area, work around the mezzanine room bunk and a new projector screen in the main hall/classroom.

The Centre continues to be used frequently by people from School with an increased variety of trips supplementing the more usual Form and House outings. Outside interest in the Centre and its facilities grows steadily with visitors from a wide diversity of backgrounds such as Leicester Duke of Edinburgh Award Group and the Long Distance Walking Association. This is very welcome and will enable further development for the benefit of William Hulme's pupils and staff.

In October, the Centre will host all first formers for form visits early in their School career. Perhaps this will become established as a valuable new tradition amongst pupils at William Hulme's.

J M Haslam (*Warden*)

## DONNER LIBRARY

The library has been very busy this year with more books than every being borrowed particularly by first formers and sixth formers, in total the first and sixth formers borrowed 2,109 books throughout the school year. It is sad to note that the numbers borrowing books declines rapidly after second year and only picks up again in the sixth form. The library has now some really good fiction books, far more fun than television. Most film and television adaptations are stocked by the library; for example, Jurassic Park, The Pelican Brief, The Witches and many more.

While the book stock has grown considerably this year in all areas of interest, it is only visibly apparent in the Junior School section where the amount of shelf space taken up by stock is now 25% more than previous years.

The Senior School has had many new additions but because of the books that are stolen each year from this area the numbers are static.

Silence in the library seems to work quite well, particularly at lunch time, so that those who want to use the library quietly to work or select books can, and those who want to use it as a common room can't.

Recommendations from pupils for new books or magazines are always welcome and usually bought if possible.

The library prefects for this year are Jenny Colclough, Elizabeth Gilmore, Samantha Hutchinson and James White. They follow Jon Howarth, Daniel Gilbert, Jon Ghazi. The library is dependent upon the help of good library prefects and they were very reliable and helpful. My best wishes to them for the future and sincere thanks for all their help.

The library is open between 8.00am and 3.40pm.

Mrs M Evans

## STUDENT TEACHER TRAINING

For many years William Hulme's Grammar School has provided student teachers from the University of Manchester with teaching experience as part of their professional training. Students used to spend about eight weeks working in a school and then a further period of a similar length of time in another. University study was mixed with these teaching practices to provide the student with a year's training leading to a Post Graduate Certificate of Education.

Training has now changed and during 1992/93 propositions were made by the University to set up partnership schemes between the Education Department at Manchester and schools in the area. Three departments at William Hulme's, Mathematics, English and Modern Languages, agreed to become involved and three Members of Staff, Miss Kelly, Mr Lord and Mr Hofton, took part in a training programme to become mentors for the students who would join the School for a considerable part of their training during the academic year 1993/94. For my part I helped co-ordinate the arrangements between the University and the School and kept a watchful eye on the new scheme and the progress of the students who were with us.

We welcomed Mr Stuart Astbury and Miss Jane McNaught into the Mathematics and Modern Languages departments in October, and they worked with us, spending an increasing amount of time in School and in the classroom as the Michaelmas Term progressed. By the end of that term both seemed to be well established and were spending a lot of time teaching with their mentors and other members of the departments. During the Lent Term these two students went to a second and quite different type of School for further teaching experience and three other students came to us for the Lent Term. Miss Mahmooda Saddique, Miss Victoria Grundy, and Miss Sarah Boote joined the three departments for a ten week period; once again they quickly became part of the School community. During the Midsummer Term all students returned to their original partner schools for a further period of training. We came to know these students very well during their time in School and are grateful for the part they played. Not only did they gain from being with us, but were able to make contributions to the life of William Hulme's Grammar School in many ways, in the classroom, with form groups and in aspects of social life of the School.

All have obtained full-time teaching posts for September and I wish them well in their careers. Initially the scheme seems to have been successful and links between the students and this school are much stronger than in the past. We certainly thought of them as our students and as a part of the School community and I know they also experienced a sense of belonging. I look forward to continuing the partnership scheme with the University and their students next year.

M Loveland (*Second Master*)

## TRIPS ABROAD

### GERMANY EXCHANGE 1993/94

#### THE WERLER IN MANCHESTER OCTOBER 1993

Since the Exchange began in 1981, we have never had as many as 36 partners in any year - until now! Mrs Wright's organisation of this "mega group" was superb, helped too by no fewer than 29 colleagues who kindly gave up free lessons to teach our guests some interesting aspects of their various specialisations. Many thanks to all these colleagues from Mrs Wright and indeed all of us modern linguists.

The outings laid on for the German party were as follows:-

Tuesday 5 October: Northwich/Beeston/Chester with Mrs Ballantyne

Thursday 7 October: Granada Studios/City Centre with Mrs Wright

Monday 11 October: York with Miss McGuinn

Tuesday 12 October: Alton Towers with WHGS partners, Mrs Wright and Mr Turner

There was the usual England v West Germany football fixture, and Robby Künzel gave a moving Assembly Reading about England and Germany as friendly rivals in the Football World Cup. On returning from Alton Towers, the Sixth Formers organised a farewell party for all participants in the Sixth Form Centre.

G J Turner

### GERMANY 1994

On Saturday, February 19th our students from Germany arrived at Manchester Airport. It was the third year that the shorter journey by air had replaced the former 24 hour overland journey. We swept through departures and on to the plane, only to find that our flight was delayed for one and a half hours due to a leak in the cabin! We eventually left in some trepidation but all was well; despite missing our earlier connections we were only an hour late arriving in Werl. Those travelling to Werl for the first time were excited at the prospect of experiencing a different culture and, of course, trying out their German. The local "Galerie" provided a meeting place for the first evening with games of "Flipper", table football, and a chance to sample the local brew.

Sunday provided an opportunity for people to get to know their partners and families. My own family took me to the Sauerland where the panoramic views were enhanced by an ample covering of snow. Other families were there too, the English contingent enjoyed sledging while the German displayed their skills of skiing and snowboarding. Our evening was spent at the cinema watching Robin Williams speaking fluent German in his role as Mrs Doubtfire!

On Monday we went into the Marien-Gymnasium at the anti-social hour of 8 o'clock in the equally anti-social temperature of -7°C. Our welcome though was warm; we spent some time in school before Herr Marx and Mr Gracey took us on a guided tour of Werl.

On Tuesday we had another early start by train to Köln. The train was on time, as always in Germany; one and a half hours later we were in Köln. The magnificent Cathedral was our first stop. There are wonderful views from the tower - the slight drawback being the 599 steps you have to climb to see them! Later we split into two groups, one to the old town (Altstadt), the second to the Roman Museum, a warmer option as the snow was falling and the temperature dropping. Later we had some free time.

MacDonalds was a popular meeting point. The journey home was punctuated by a snowball fight while we changed trains.

There was even more snow overnight leading to some notable absentees from school the next day! Fourth and Fifth Years followed their partners but Lower Sixth sat in on specific lessons for their coursework. The highlight of the afternoon was the international football match - a re-run of 1966 with remarkable skills shown by the English side, well .....!

Thursday was our trip to Bochum, again by train. Our first stop was the Mining Museum. A lift took us to 22 metres underground to an area of reconstructed mine with plenty of equipment on display. In the afternoon we visited a swimming baths with 3 slides, an outdoor area, and underwater beds! A relaxing experience.

Our final trip was on the Monday when we visited Eisenach, part of the former East Germany. We looked round the Wartburg Castle which was quite interesting. The rest of the town, however, seemed very drab, a stark contrast to other places we had seen. This served to emphasise that although Germany is now geographically united, the cultural and social divide remains. The difference in buildings and atmosphere was immense.

The final day came all too soon, time to say good-bye not just to our families but to the many other new friends we had made; it had been an excellent exchange.

Our thanks to all those who helped to make it so good, particularly Mrs Wright for her hard work beforehand with the organisation and during the trip itself. Also to Mr Gracey (and the hat!) for his help and sense of fun.

Iain Cooke (L6A4)

### THE SPANISH EXCHANGE: A PUPILS VIEW

A few days before we were due to leave for Salamanca, we began feeling very nervous and kept thinking what our Spanish partners would be like and what we would say when we first met them. We began having second thoughts about doing the exchange, but we need not have worried.

The day before we left, thoughts were going through our minds, like what happens if we do not understand what they are saying, what should we say. During the journey, we were getting more and more nervous at the thought of meeting our partners.

When we finally arrived at the Spanish school, we were worried that we were not all going to be picked up, but in the end all was well. The Spanish seemed to be spoken very fast, not like the tapes we had listened to during class, and we wondered if we would ever understand it as we drove to our partners' houses. When they asked questions we tried to understand and answer correctly, but at first it was difficult. After the first day we began to settle into the Spanish way of life and the rest of the week went quite well as we experienced the Spanish lifestyle first hand. Even though we were aware of some of the differences between English and Spanish customs we were not totally prepared for their way of life. One of the biggest differences was the meals - not only what they were but also the times at which they were eaten. Breakfast, for example, was at about 10 am consisting of toast, cereal, coffee etc., lunch about 3 pm, usually consisting of about three courses, then finally there was another lighter meal at about 10 pm.

Once we had settled in we were taken around Salamanca and shown the main sites and monuments of the town. Also some families organised separate excursions to some of the larger towns around Salamanca. Most evenings we went to one of the popular discos in Salamanca which was called "FRESAS" (Strawberries) where we were introduced to lots of people.

One thing that struck us above all else was that everywhere we went the Spanish people as a whole were so friendly towards us and gave us lots of attention, making the atmosphere around us really happy one and altogether it made staying in a strange environment all that much more easier to cope with.

As well as going on trips with our partners there were a few occasions where we all met up for trips. We went together round the local newspaper, and on another occasion to an exhibition of modern art at the cathedral in Salamanca.

Another interesting experience was how the Spaniards celebrate Easter. In Spain huge processions line the streets and a lot of effort and money is put into celebrating one of the most important events of their year.

The amount of Spanish learnt during the trip was astonishing. Just from listening to a Spanish conversation you are constantly learning and improving. During the early days it was not necessary to understand every word; just by listening and understanding some of what was said was enough to get the gist of what was happening. After a few days, you feel so much more fluent and confident and by the end of the two weeks we were not afraid to try and talk to people. Feeling confident with the language made the exchange so much more enjoyable and beneficial. When difficulties arose and they did quite often, our Spanish partners would try to rephrase their sentences using different vocabulary which made learning so much easier.

We were all sad to leave Salamanca, because we had enjoyed it so much in different ways. Hasta la Vista Salamanca!

Christopher Hewison (4Y)

Emma Weedon (4X)

Vicky Fleming (4Y)

Edited by Christopher Hewison

## SALAMANCA 1994

### DEAR DIARY

#### Dear Diary

(Day 1 - March 31st)

This morning I was running around the house panicking. So many thoughts crossed my mind. What if my exchange family make me sleep under a cross, take me to church and try to convert me to be a nun? What if there are cockroaches in the shower that try to wash my hair for me. Oh no! What? Where? When? How?

Said good-bye ..... the plane had gone and before we knew it we were standing in Spain. The coach journey was full of people thinking the worst and the best.

Met Isobel, my partner, she was really nice. She LET me do her English homework for her. She had an older sister called Maria who was 20, and an older brother called Juan who was 17.

Salamanca is a happening town. Most of the people are kind, and this makes a nice atmosphere for people from all over the world to be in.

#### Dear Diary

(The next two weeks)

The holiday mainly consisted of meeting new and different people. Isobel and I would meet up with our friends from both Spain and England. We would go to museums, see the frog "la rana", learn new words such as "jolin" (oh no, or really?). In the evenings we went to the disco "Fresas" (Strawberries)

As we were English, people would constantly ask us questions. It was interesting seeing peoples' reactions during our presence.

I suppose one of the reasons I had such a good time was because my family were really kind and their home was near to the centre.

#### Dear Diary

(14 April - Last Day)

Today was the worst part of the exchange. The "adios". We had made friends with each other's partners and their other school friends. I'd really become attached to my foreign family and started to treat them as my own. It is good to go on an exchange. You meet people who don't act like you. It is exciting to visit a different place.

Hasta la vista

Georgina X X X

Georgina Goodman (4A)

## WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD 1994

Despite the grim predictions of "No jobs for inexperienced young people in Europe for this year", we have managed to find short-term employment for six Lower Sixth Formers this summer.

Two boys and two girls have worked in Germany. In Werl Christopher Brown was employed in the workshop of Herr Franz Reinert's Tool Construction Company. Mark Zeegers' duties were in the office of the Walker Bechheim Autohaus Garage. Also in Werl, Leila Jalali helped Fran C Luig with the window dressing of a fashion shop. Ayesha Fulat spent three weeks as an "Au Pair" with the family of Frau Clausen in Bordesholm, Schleswig-Holstein.

In Spain, Afshin Matin-Razm has followed Matthew Butterworth to work in Fisons' Pharmaceutical plant in Zaragoza.

Elisabeth Keable is lucky enough to have relatives living in the Albi region of Southern France. She has been working hard in a local café-restaurant. I expect that her mental arithmetic will have become as good as her French!

Well done, all of you!

Margaret Derham

### ZARAGOZA

For my work experience last summer, I went to Zaragoza in Spain to work for the pharmaceutical division of Fison's (you know, the people who used to sell compost!). Before leaving, I did a little reading up on the city where I was to live and work for three weeks, but nothing could have prepared me for the experience I was to have! Upon arrival in Zaragoza I was met at the station by Señor Tabuenca, the Technical Director of Fison's Iberica, who took me to the students' residence where I would be staying. It was incredible, - the hostel boasted four swimming pools, four tennis courts, two basketball courts, two bars, and every room had "en suite" bathrooms. I remember wondering at the time when the students could possibly find time to study! My suspicions were made stronger when, later that night, I was invited to sample some of the Saturday night life. And what a night I had! We left the residence at eleven o'clock and went to a tapas bar to have some "tortilla" (Spanish omelette) and a drop of sangria before going to several bars to dance the night away. This would happen every weekend, and the evening would end at nine in the morning with a glass of thick hot chocolate and bread similar to croissants.

However, I was in Spain for a more important reason and that was to work. I was to be occupied in the packaging area; this basically meant that for eight hours a day, starting at seven in the morning I would be putting the little bottles of gas into asthma inhalers or sellotaping boxes together and putting them on shelves. The work was hard but the people were friendly and always very helpful, and I got along without too many problems.

Looking back, I could see this as one of the finest experiences of my life because it introduced me to the magic of travelling alone and becoming part of another culture, albeit for a brief time, and throughout my stay there I have made many friendships which I expect to be long-lasting, and have many happy memories.

Matthew Butterworth (U6L2)

### WORK EXPERIENCE IN SPAIN

When I heard about the possibility of working and spending some time in Spain, I relished the idea and the hard work of Mrs Derham soon paid dividends, as she pointed me in the direction of Fisons Pharmaceutical factory in Zaragoza.

I wrote my letter of application and my CV and I soon got the reply, via Mrs Derham, saying that I had got the job and that I could stay for a period of my own choosing. After deciding that two weeks was the most suitable period and the dates for my stay, it was settled and the preparations began.

My knowledge of the city of Zaragoza improved greatly as I read many articles and leaflets describing not only Zaragoza's historicity and artistic heritage, but also its complex, varied night life, which I was determined to experience.

I arrived at Barcelona International Airport at about 4.00pm on 12 July, after a journey which was delayed at Manchester for security reasons. It was my first time in Spain, but with the necessary confidence in my ability in the language, I knew that I would be able to negotiate most situations.

After making my way to Barcelona Station, I caught the train to Zaragoza for a very hot and sticky five hours journey, which passed down through the east coast of Spain with views of beautiful golden beaches, to further inland towards Zaragoza. The area here was drier and more barren, almost a desert-like landscape. The journey was a very interesting and educational one, as my Spanish soon became tested as I spoke at length to a nice Spanish girl who was travelling to see her parents in a small town in Huesca. However, I did get some respite by speaking to one of the few English people I had seen in Spain, who was going to teach at several schools in the region.

When the rusty, old train finally arrived in Zaragoza, I was met by Mr Daniel Tabuenca, the technical manager of the Fisons Factory I was to work in. From the start I enjoyed his friendly informal nature, which is a trait that is very much apparent in the Spanish way of life.

I was lodged at a fairly comfortable place, known as the Ramon Pignatelli student halls of residence. The rooms were practical, if a little on the small side, but there were two television rooms, a library, a computer room, a bar and a lounge, all on the premises. However the major plus was that at the back of the residence there was a large sports complex, containing three outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball court, football pitch and handball court, which were all free to the students, but were also open to the paying public.

One of the very few minuses to my stay was having to start work at 7.00am, which meant having to wake up at 5.30am! This meant two things: one was having to take two strong black coffees each morning at work and secondly, having to take a little nap or siesta, as they called it, each day after work.

The work in the pharmaceutical factory involved working on the production line, doing tasks which included putting together the different parts of a child asthma aerosol from its basic parts to packing boxes with the various medicines. All in all, it was far from interesting, but I was amazed at the kindness and hospitality of the people there and our conversations meant that I was constantly speaking Spanish. Before long, I knew everyone on the production line and our informal, laid-back approach soon took the boredom out of the work.

I finished work at 3.00pm and took the firm's own coach either to the centre or back to the university residence, where I would usually have lunch and then a little siesta in the sun near to the swimming pool.

At the residence there were very few Spanish people, but a mixture of students, mainly from all over Europe, all on similar work courses but nearly all at university and staying for a long period of time. There I met people from Holland, Finland, Germany, Morocco, Brazil and France. What we all had in common was that we were all learning Spanish and could speak it quite competently. It therefore became the main language of communication. I did get the opportunity to speak a little French to a group with whom I went out, but it soon became apparent that for universal understanding, Spanish had to be the lingua franca.

In Zaragoza there is a very regular and reliable bus service, and it was not long before I had travelled through most of the major routes in the city.

In my short stay I had been fortunate enough to visit La Aljaferta Palace which is one of the most important examples of Moorish architecture in Spain, the Goya monument and La Basilica del Pilar, in which some of Goya's paintings are exhibited. To the outsider the Basilica del Pilar is a monument of great artistic and architectural value but to the people of Zaragoza it is as familiar as their own homes and I marvelled at the strange practices of the faithful masses of tourists who poured in and out of its doors. For the sake of brevity, I will mention only a few more of the places of interest that I had the pleasure of visiting, such as La Lonja, built in the 16th century for the purpose of commercial transactions, noted as the most important example of civil architecture of the epoch. I had also managed to fit into my schedule a visit to the fabulous bull ring in Zaragoza and also to the Romareda football stadium, home of Real Zaragoza. Disappointingly, it also looked as if it had been built by the Moors.

After having tasted a little of the night life of Zaragoza with friends from the university residence, I must say that I am extremely impressed. One of their popular places that we had ventured out to know as the Casco Viejo (old part of the city), is an area which is simply crammed with all types of bars, clubs and discos, and hardly anything else! The thing I liked most was that you could enjoy the night life into the early hours of the morning as, unlike Manchester, most bars stay open all night and for a large part of the morning.

My early morning flight to Barcelona meant that I had to leave Zaragoza a day early, giving me some time to spend in Barcelona. I used the time wisely, catching the Barcelona Metro to visit the Nou Camp football stadium, home of the mighty Barcelona FC. There I met football fans from all over Europe who were also visiting the impressive stadium, and they held in awe the tremendous success of Manchester United. I found Barcelona a magnificent city, and I would love to return there in the future.

At this point, I would like to say that my work experience in Spain was thoroughly enjoyable and very beneficial to my Spanish. I also enjoyed the Spanish lifestyle in general, very laid-back, friendly and informal and I would like to return there in the future.

I would like to thank Mrs Derham for her help and for giving me this opportunity and I wish that this invaluable work experience abroad will be available for others to enjoy for years to come.

Afshin Matin-Razm (L6L2)

## THE ITALY TRIP

It was 5.45 in the morning when the eager First and Second Years (and a few Third Years and 5 Sixth Formers) were accompanied by sleep-eyed parents to the School gate. We boarded the coach and fought over seats, whilst laughing at our mums and dads standing out in the pouring rain waiting to see us off.

We eventually departed from School, all screaming good-bye to our parents and waving out of the windows. The holiday that we had all looked forward to was under-way at last!

We were not so pleased however, when we reached Dover some four hours later to face another eleven-hour delay for the ferry! We waited in the ferry-park for about three hours, then we went into the nearby town to McDonalds, and had a look around the shops.

We were all absolutely shattered from hardly any sleep the night before, so none of us really cared about the rather tatty ferry at that time! As soon as we were on the ferry we all grabbed our pillows and those of us who were not too tired ran to the nearest table and slept for the two-hour journey to Calais.

We were actually all relieved to get back on the coach and start the journey to the Lido De Jesolo Hotel where we arrived at about 3.30am!

No-one could be bothered with any unpacking right then, so we just dived under the covers, thinking about how good the rest of the holiday would be!

At 11.30am, we were all downstairs raring to go, refreshed by the most sleep any of us had had since we left school; about six hours! We all rushed downstairs, wanting to explore the hotel. Outside we were greeted by something which vaguely resembled a pool, except it was green and had bits of rubbish floating in it. Even if the pool had been suitable to swim in, I don't think we would have used it that much - we were too busy doing other things!

Anyway, we were still determined to make it an enjoyable holiday. That day was to be a relaxing day, and my friend Emma and I decided just to look around the shops in Lido. We had to report back to the hotel every two hours.

A pointer for anyone who goes there, Lido De Jesolo has the best arcades anywhere! Nothing else went wrong with this day, which was good, and we all went back to the hotel that evening for a pasta dinner.

We were all up until about midnight that night, as we were excited about visiting an amusement park the next day, called Gardaland. It was really good, and had one really fantastic roller-coaster, which had an almost vertical drop!

The next day was the only day on which it rained, and this would have to be the day when we were due to travel on a water-bus to Venice. Even though it was chucking it down, we still ventured out into the cold, wet streets of Venice. We had a look around St Mark's Square and visited the cathedral there, which was amazing, half the place is made out of gold! This day was really good fun, and as we were allowed to walk around on our own, we didn't care about the rain.

The holiday went really fast, the next day was the last one, so we really only spent four days in Italy, if you don't count the travelling. We were supposed to have a disco that evening, but that was cancelled, so we all went down to the arcades for an evening session!

Even though we had some disappointments, it was still really good fun for us as well as the teachers. Due to the delay at the ferry park, we were given a refund of half the cost, which came to £10 per pupil. Whilst on the holiday, we had been given another £5.00 because of the pool at the hotel, and all the sports we ha been promised which hadn't happened.

I think that everyone had a nice time and enjoyed it a lot, and we got on a really nice BRITSH ferry on the way back three hours early.

If there is another trip next year, we will be going to Forence, and I'll definitely go!

To all the teachers who took us there and gave us a really good time, THANKS.

(Mr Callaghan, Mr Greenall, Miss Tandon, Mr Moore, Mr Bennett, Mrs Evans, Mr Haslam, Mr Myers, Miss Priddle, Miss Smith, Mrs Watson, Miss De Vince and Mr Hewston)

Julia Atherton (1B)

## SKI TRIP 1994

*Three excellent articles were submitted, so all are included - Ed*

This year's ski trip was to Montgenevre in France. We were originally due to travel overland by coach but at the last minute had the opportunity to fly which was quickly taken advantage of.

The group assembled at six o'clock in the morning at Manchester Airport and the fun and games commenced with the "who's got the biggest and heaviest suitcase?" competition. The fourth form girls easily brushed aside various feeble challenges and the prize was jointly shared between Lucy Mattison, Katrina MacKay and Geraldine Brook.

Passing through security control Messrs Dunn and Jones were chatted up by a buxom young lady who finished with the classic line of "Why don't you come along and try my selection of malt whiskies?" The offer was only just.....declined!

After a smooth flight and coach journey we then arrived at Montgenevre. The hotel was adequate but its main advantage was its proximity to the ski slopes and lifts, plus there were plenty of shops and cafés.

Next day was fine and sunny, and after being sorted into different ability groups we soon explored the slopes. The flair and individuality of WHGS boys was quickly emphasised when Michael Dodd invented a new way of being towed up a drag-lift. One particular lift finished in a steep uphill section and approaching this Michael over-balanced and fell, but he held onto the button and was dragged up it in a spectacular spread-eagled position. So impressed by this feat was Daniel Ellis that he attempted to repeat it later on in the week, much to the amusement of his group.

The advanced group contained some talented skiers notably Jenny Colclough, Ellen Nicholson and Frances Edwards. Their ski-ing was enlivened by Jolyon Guy who accompanied his ski-ing with a run-in about to fall over..... but never actually did.

Evenings involved a wide range of entertainments. Bum-boarding down the nursery slopes was popular and at times near suicidal, but was great fun. Bingo was greeted somewhat sceptically at first but there were several prizes and all enjoyed it. Vinnie Pohoomull won first prize, a pair of ski-boots of her own choice. The quiz proved to be an exciting contest and everyone was amused by the victory callisthenics of Mr Jones.

There were a large variety of runs on the ski slope and everyone agreed that Montgenevre had been an excellent choice for all grades of skiers. The instructions were very good with unlimited patience, and all pupils improved their standard during the week.

Matthew Naylor, Nicky Arthur and Paul Murphy were kings of the jumps and would make a detour of any length in order to find one. Geraldine Brook was a clear winner of the fashion stakes with her canary yellow ski-suit, goggles, hat, ski boots and even yellow socks! Mr Myers dominated the bobble hats with one of a blue and white design and a fetching blue bobble.

Mr Dunn proved to be an excellent skier and was joint trencherman champion with Mr Mallinder. Daniel Power proved to be a real ladies' man and after receiving a notable letter is now planning a career as a postman. And then there was Daniel Ellis. A man without fear on the slopes, who thought ski poles were aerodynamics aids, and who powered himself with veggie burger. Woebetide anyone who got in his way as he attempted to break the world speed records.

Finally, this account cannot end without reference to Mr Jones whose intrepid exploits last year achieved world-wide acclaim. He mastered the ski-lifts, somehow remained in control of his skis - most of the time - and only broke three bones this year. But his most remarkable talent was his ability to ski head first into any patch of snow and then gradually emerge as a white shrouded figure with his glasses and purple ski hat still firmly in place. Was it superglue, blue-tac or good honest saliva that kept them in place? So far he has resisted all attempts at interrogation and his secret remains intact. Will it finally be revealed next year?

Many thanks to Mr Mallinder who proved to be an excellent organiser and whose ski wear was more akin to that of a member of the SAS. Also to Mrs Mallinder, Miss Barlow, Mr Jones and Mr Dunn for a very enjoyable holiday.

D A Myers

## MONTGENEVRE TRIP

At mid-day we finally arrived at Montgenevre. The journey had been long and tiring and everyone was feeling sick after the ride up to the little town in the Alps. We all dragged our heavy bags up to the second floor of our hotel, where we were shown to our rooms. My room mates were Hannah and Suzanne. We had the best room, its being the biggest and having a large balcony looking out at the Alps. After everyone felt that they had complained enough about bathrooms and beds, we all went in groups to hire our skis. This was very difficult as there was not enough room in the ski-hire shop for ten children and their equipment.

When everyone had their skis we all went to our rooms to unpack and look around the hotel. The afternoon passed quickly and soon it was time to enter the TV room where Mr Mallinder was holding a meeting laying down the ground rules for the holiday. After the meeting we all piled into the dining room for dinner where we met Bruno, the manager of the hotel. He talked to us about when breakfast and dinner were and about room keys (all the usual stuff).

Then the time came to explore the village, we walked around looking at the large outdoor ice-rink and the restaurants. Hannah and I were walking around chatting quietly to each other when we were approached by two French girls, who mumbled something about a party. When questioned about it, they said there was a party going on up the road, so we followed them until we came to a building with a long flight of stairs. We went up the stairs and opened the door. It was a French youth club. Hannah and I saw some very tall French children playing table tennis. We immediately turned around and walked up the road. We decided to stick to playing table football and talking to the handsome bartender from Johannesburg on the hotel lounge from then on.

The alarm clock went off at 7.30am and we dragged ourselves out of bed. We were ready for a good day's ski-ing; after breakfast we all met in the lounge to sort ourselves out into groups for some ski-ing. The first days' ski-ing was beautiful. The sun was out and everyone got sunburnt. The night was much the same. We hung around the hotel but we had company, another school from London was staying on the first floor of the hotel. The next day's ski-ing was just as good until it started snowing. It was extremely cold and we were all shivering. We decided to eat our lunch in the hotel because it was snowing too much. That afternoon we went ski-ing with Pierre, our instructor.

The next day we went out ski-ing in the snow again and it was even colder than before. We went down all kinds of runs and fell down quite a few times. We had our lesson in the afternoon and went back to the hotel. That evening a few people went ice skating. It was great because it had been snowing and this had landed on the surface of the ice rink. We all had a huge snow fight and everyone was covered in snow at the end of it.

Every day it was snowing but we still went ski-ing and had a good time. My love for table football grew stronger and we found out that Pierre, our instructor, could handglide and once had the pleasure of seeing him parachuting to the lesson.

After the past few days of ski-ing we all met in the dining room where our teachers gave us our classes - all of my group got into the top classes. This meant we had passed our examination. Because it was the last night the teachers had organised a party for us in "Stevie Nicks" - the night club next door to the hotel.. First of all we had to meet in the dining hall where Mr Mallinder, Mr Dunn, Mrs Mallinder, Mr Jones, Mr Myers and Miss Barlow had arranged a Court Session as a joke for the end of the holiday.

Mr Dunn, Mr Mallinder and Mr Jones walked into the dining room (when everyone had sat down), with cloths wrapped around their heads in the shape of wigs. They called on Andrew Chance who explained that he had had a sore throat before he came on the trip. Then he sat down and Jenny Colclough was called up. Nobody really knew what it was about until Mr Jones (the prosecution) said that Jenny had caught a sore throat and that it was probably passed on by kissing. They weren't given any punishment. Then Jolyon Guy was called up; they accused him of commentating on every move he made in his life in the style of a sports commentator. Jolyon was extremely embarrassed when Mr Dunn did an impression of him. His punishment was suspended until Mr Dunn could think of something good.

Then to my horror I was called up. They accused me of singing Shirley Bassey songs on the slopes. My punishment was to sing "Hey Big Spender" on the chair in front of everybody. I was very nervous as I got up to sing it in my loudest Shirley Bassey voice.

Next they accused Daniel Power of receiving foul mail because a girl from the school in London had written him a dirty love letter. His punishment was to stand on a chair and sing "My baby she wrote me a letter". So he got out the words and sung it (poor boy). Then came Daniel Ellis or should I say Damien. Everybody had called him this throughout the week as he brought bad luck with him wherever he went. Mr Dunn was about to give him his punishment when suddenly he started barking like a dog, Mr Mallinder started to make hawk noises and Mr Jones walked off making chicken sounds. They came back on and surprised Mr Jones by accusing him of ordering an Orangina when they were out. So he had to sing "Running Bear" with actions. Everyone joined in and cheered really loudly at the end.

After this we went to the nightclub where we danced and talked. It was a "horror" evening so all the people who worked there were dressed up as if it were Hallowe'en. It was all a bit strange.

Typically it was sunny on the last day after snow for most of the week. While we waited for the coach we went bum boarding. I would like to thank all the teachers for taking us and putting up with us. We all had a great time.

Carys Edwards (3L)

## SKI TRIP 1994

February 20th, at the airport with WHGS. The day of the skiing trip finally arrived after many exciting days of waiting. I would like to say the atmosphere was electric; however, because of the time it was anything but, as people were falling asleep in chairs and other such places. From then on we had a good flight with a nice meal from "Air 2000" and as with the plane ride the coach journey was just as good, except in the mountains when I certainly hoped that the coach driver

knew his way since it was a long way down to the bottom of the mountains! We passed through many little ski resorts, but unfortunately our resort was always just around the corner, or at least it was according to Mr Mallinder. Eventually we arrived and luckily got our skies and our bags sorted out quickly, or quickly for a school party of 40. The first way was super as the experienced skiers regained their ski legs and the beginners started their first skiing lessons. There were some absolutely stunning slopes to ski on and every one that I went on was a good as the other.

Those that went the previous year couldn't resist looking out for Mr Jones, with his dramatic and hilarious falls that he had become famous for. Unfortunately though, there were no such incidents as he had improved much to all our disappointments. On the slopes there were also some hair raising jumps, half pipes and even a restaurant in the centre of the slopes. As well as the brilliant on piste there was also a chance on the last day to ski off piste which really was quite unbelievable. Although there was excellent skiing it wasn't the only thing available, as some of us went "bum boarding", ice skating at night on an outdoor rink, and to a night club. We were very fortunate to be there at the time of the annual procession at night, where all the skiing instructors came down the front of the mountain holding variously coloured torches; the sight was spectacular. There was so much to do in so little time with so much fun it was a wonder we got all of it into the week. The ski resort was very picturesque and offered nice shops and some good restaurants. All the instructors were very good and the teachers were all excellent. Overall it was a super trip with no major mishaps; the only thing really wrong was we had to go back home!

Paul Murphy (3X)

## ACCOUNT OF AN ARGONAUT Trireme Sea Trials 1994

In 1992, the Classics Department's very own Mr McLachlan was on the crew of *Olympias*, a 20th Century reconstruction of the Ancient Trireme - a Greek and Roman vessel consisting of 3 banks of oars. During the three weeks that he was in Poros, a Greek island in the Saronic Gulf, *Olympias* was put through a series of scientific tests under oar and under sail, as well as being used for gruelling voyages to such far away destinations a Corinth.

As Mr MacLachlan is not a boastful man, I did not find out about this exploit until a year or so later. I was immediately interested and after watching the 1992 slides with Andrew Lole, another sailing and general outdoor pursuits fanatic, I decided that I would have a go. After an address was given and an application letter put forward there was a long wait which I thought was pretty ominous. Then, to my surprise, an information sheet arrived through the post - the first letter in a subsequent four month span of correspondence.

The 1994 sea trials were to last two weeks rather than three as the Euro version of "It's a knock-out" - *Jeux sans Frontières*" would effectively take up the first week.

Eventually the British crew flight left Gatwick on 16 July and arrived at Athens a few hours later from Piraeus (Athens' ancient port); we took a hydrofoil to the small island of Poros.

The accommodation we were promised was at the Hellenic Navy base of KE Poros. "The cabins here are very basic.....we don't want moaners on the trip", was the opinion of Rosie, the extremely efficient Trials organiser. To someone who has safely weathered all that Hardraw had to offer in a winter before the recent renovations, I thought that I would be laughing. When we first got there, that was the last thing I felt like doing. The curtains were similar to those in School only not quite as good since they didn't actually close; the beds, though clean, were constructed by someone of dubious skill and the bed linen seemed to have been washed in starch - you didn't have to spread it out so much as unfold it.

However, I wasn't moaning and the cabins certainly had character. Of greater importance was to get to know the 140 crew members, of both sexes. This was not difficult. Never before have I met such a tremendous collection of people from all over the world and the atmosphere was genuinely friendly and relaxed. My own cabin, typical of the other 12 or so in the barracks, contained a couple of people from England, one from Australia, India and South Africa and was great fun to be a part of.

The rowing itself started on the second afternoon from 6 - 9pm with the morning session on the next day 7 - 10.30am, and this became the general pattern. A description of *Olympias* would easily fill the Hulmeian and so in its basic form the Trireme is rowed by about 170 people, with half that number of each side (in 1994 we were about 30 short of a full crew as not all of the American contingent could come). In each triad there are, of course, 3 rowers at staggered heights - Thranite (top), Zygian (middle) and Thalamian (bottom). Needless to say, the oars are quite congested in the water and therefore timing of the stroke is crucial and was awry at first but very soon gelled together, helped by teamwork at triad and section level (which is about 15 people in a certain part of the boat).

The rowing is hard work but in all honesty there must have been something seriously wrong with anyone who went to all lengths to get on the boat and not enjoy it. Though I had never rowed before as, though I could be wrong, hadn't Mr MacLachlan, it is fairly easy to get into providing that you have a competent level of fitness and stamina to endure 3 hour sessions in very warm weather (there was no rowing at midday at the peak of the temperature) with 2 minute watering stops at 40 minute intervals. Therefore it wasn't very surprising that in the first couple of sessions the odd girl fainted at the seat. The only other slight danger was that of catching a 'crab' whereby a lapse in concentration causes you to mistime a stroke, not pull your oar out of the water and find the oar handle lunging at your throat. Because the boat weighs 40 tonnes it is nearly impossible to force the oar away from you and so the kind gent above you has to stamp on the counterweight of the oar to free it from the water. Throughout the two weeks there were many a yelp from various rowers being slowly choked to death by "crabs".

The rowing is by no means a continuous slog - perish the thought. There is always something going on in a ship of interest, and, if not, the top two levels can look outboard over the outrigger and gaze at the beautiful scenery or pose for a fascinated crowd of locals on the land or at sea on their yachts with cameras at the ready.

You might wonder what would be going on of interest on the ship, but our rowing master, Andrew Taylor, a kiwi, had a very earthy sense of humour, as did Ladykiller Acoris Andipa - the Greek/English smooth operator. The Greek deck hands were always game for a laugh, none more so than their captain, a Mr Mavrikos, who, when not playing football, playfully whipping slackers or hurling small plastic balls - relics of "Jeux sans Frontières" at passers by, was a very professional skipper (when sober) and all of this made for a buzzing atmosphere on board.

Mr MacLachlan's 1992 crew was slightly larger in number and greater in experience and for this reason, Olympias was kept within sight of Poros and there was a more scientific angle on the trials. On the two occasions when we did set off for a voyage, the gods sent a sudden "Melteme" and the ship bobbed helplessly in the water, the captain eventually showing his mettle and successfully manoeuvring Olympias away from the rocks. Apart from the bread and butter speed trials (our top was 7.1 knots, Ancient Greeks 9 - 11 knots) there were large and short diameter turning circles, sailing tests, backing and backward rowing tests whereby you spin on your seat and take over the oar behind you give the same effect as swapping side from Starboard to Port and vice-versa (top speed here 5.1 knots) rudder turns (equivalent of a handbrake turn) and so on.

The middle part of the day, as after the evening session, was "free" - and this was the holiday aspect of the trials. You could beach it in Poros, hire a car or a bike to access all of the island and the mainland etc. About five of us did in fact hire a mountain bike and cycle around the island, take in some sites and breathtaking scenery and unspoilt beaches, at a low cost to our pockets but at a very expensive one to our bodies, being physically exhausted with that on top of a particularly demanding evening session. During other "free periods" there were many other visits - Troizen, birthplace of Theseus, Gealatas, Methana (inadvertently, since we got on the wrong bus home and hitchhiked individually, I myself getting a lift of Pablos - a nutter of a popcorn vender), the 'Lemon Groves', as well as a night-time performance of Euripides' "Hecuba" at the magnificent amphitheatre of Epidavros where there was an electric atmosphere that the whole crew enjoyed.

A tremendous amount of good came from those two weeks. As I do Latin and Ancient History at A' Level, then there was an obvious appeal, though the crew was by no means made up of just students - I was the second youngest, whilst the eldest man, Mr Dick Christie, was a sprightly 63. Secondly, when all is said and done, I was on holiday and there to enjoy myself, and thirdly, it is excellent for the mind and body - a novel way of getting round Mr Mallinder's fitness schedule.

In 1995 Olympias is in Kiel, Germany for one week, where I believe there are still some vacant seats and, in 1996, she is at the Olympics in Atlanta for the commemoration of the games, where a veteran crew will be selected. Beyond that, nothing is really certain - except that a fabulous time will be had.

Mark Knowles (L6C)



Before an evening outing.

## TRIPS WITHIN THE U.K.

### ART TRIP TO LONDON

#### The Tate Gallery - Picasso Exhibition

On Saturday, 26 March, the Sixth Form Art groups and a selected number of Fifth Year Art students met at the crack of dawn at Manchester Piccadilly. This was not the ideal situation for those of us who had been out the night before and as a result we consumed most of British Rail's coffee supply within the first ten minutes of our journey.

When we arrived at Euston Station we were hurried into the Underground in order to get completely confused in attempting to catch a couple of trains to the Tate Gallery. Unfortunately, even after we had done so there was still a long trek in store.

On arrival, as we were early for the Picasso Exhibition, we decided to visit a different part of the gallery. Here we examined some of Turner's works which were breathtaking. After spending the morning here, and making notes and sketches, the Art teachers decided to take a gamble and leave us to our own devices for the afternoon, arranging to meet again at Euston at 5.30pm. Getting our priorities straight, we headed off to McDonald's straight away, deciding it was the cheapest and most effective way to fill our groaning stomachs, which were considerably worse after the two hours it took to find it. We then travelled on the Underground to the Hayward Gallery to see an exhibition of Salvador Dali, whose unusual and unconventional paintings appealed to some of us.

Eventually we returned to Euston exhausted to find the rest of our group in much the same state. Thankful to find a seat, something which had not been in abundance throughout the day, we collapsed on the train at the end of an enjoyable and educational trip.

Thanks to Mrs Cruttenden and Mr Bennett.

Sophia Crilly (L6A3)

## CYCLE CAMP IN THE HEBRIDES – 19-28 JULY 1994

### A DIARY BY A CYCLE CAMPER, AGE 13½

On Monday we packed all the tents and camping gear onto the bicycles which meant there wasn't much room for my clothes. I had to leave my soap and towel behind! I did manage to squeeze in a two litre bottle of coke. I'm keeping the coke in case the meths runs out. The meths fuels the tragia stoves which we have learnt to use for cooking and making hot drinks. We can even use them outside in the wind.

My bicycle is so heavy that it took two of us to lift it up when I fell off. We packed the food into tent/day units in plastic bags which means we don't need to visit any shops but I don't see why we can't call in at Marks and Spencer for sandwiches every day.

On Tuesday travelling up to Oban was OK. I know it was a bit silly to try to mend my bike in the back of the minibus but we eventually found all the springs, cogs and washers, so I've still eighteen gears.

We avoided Rab C Nesbitt as we drove through Glasgow but caught a glance of Para Handy and the Vital Spark as we passed by Bowling on the Clyde. On the shores of Loch Lomond and at Oban, "The Gateway to the Western Isles," the water fronts were crowded with coach tour trippers and bagpipers so we were pleased to escape to our cabins on the MV Lord of the Isle - Our last luxuries of showers and clean sheets.

On Wednesday the boat steamed up the Sound of Mull and we were them marooned on the pier on Tiree. All the cars disappeared except for the local bobby who seems to know everybody and everything on the Island, so I'm going to keep my head down.

We loaded up and headed to Balephetrish where we found a sheltered site to camp amongst the sanddunes but with a view to the sea. The site has loads of red, purple, white and yellow flowers with the spiky marram grass. Jack Leigh has brought a Swiss army washing line (no wonder his bike is so heavy!) so we dried out our clothes after exploring the rock pools.

On Thursday we cycled around almost every blinking road on the island and climbed up two hills to get a great view across Tiree. All we can see is little cottages spread out across the Machair grassland. We haven't found a single shop yet which is a shame because I finished my bottle of coke before we arrived in Oban. It is really warm and sunny with hardly any wind. Tiree is a surfer's paradise with dozens of beaches but the sea is too calm at the moment.

On Friday morning we found it had rained so the clothes I'd left outside the tent were really soaking. Now they are twice as heavy as before. Jack's bike is now really rusty after he rode it into the sea down at Balephuil. I'm going to try and keep the salt water and sand away from mine. Paul Edmundson found a set of "wickets" washed up on the shore at Hough Bay. Jake Royle reckoned it was a bidet lost overboard from a ship but whatever it was Neil Whitehead wouldn't let us hit it with a castaway tennis ball and he scored thirty-two not out. Actually I could do with a bidet right now - my toilet paper is soaking so when the prunes and apricots ran out I have to scrounge some from Mr Bull who was also down on the beach at 5.30am.

On Saturday we loaded up and cycled quickly back to the ferry which took us to Coll. Mr Bull demolished a serious breakfast. The cabin steward was dead mean - he didn't let Mr Hardy into the cabins for a shower.

Coll is completely different from Tiree. It's really barren and rocky on the East so we headed to the West. Jack found he had a bolt loose but Paul soon cannibalised the bike so that the pannier carrier could be secured properly. At Hugh Bay our camp side is high above the dunes but it is sheltered from the wind. There are loads of rabbits here which is funny because there weren't any on Tiree.

On Sunday on our way out of the dunes we heard several corncrakes "rasping" in the croft lands. There is an RSPB bird reserve and Charlie the warden told us they track some of the eighteen birds with radio transmitters. Charlie told us to help ourselves to water in his kitchen as the door is always open then he went off to join everybody else on the Island at a wedding celebration!

At Crossapol Bay in the south we cycled early along the beach. We then struggled across the dunes to beautiful Feall Bay where the sand was really loose and golden. Everyone was really tired by the time we had pushed our bikes back to the road.

Monday was the day to travel to Mull. Mr Bull scrounged a container of sugar from the Bistro at Arinagour on Coll - in fact we had to drag him away as he looked wistfully at the menu offering the local salmon and prawns with mixed salad. Jake scrounged a glass of milk from the cafeteria and even I had a good wash on the boat because I looked so dirty in the mirror. Mr Hardy says it's because we are weather beaten and it wouldn't come off even with the pan scrub!

At Tobermory in Mull we found a whole row of shops but I've no money left so I was a bit stuck. So is Neil's camera - jammed - it's because he has taken too many shots of buses and coaches. Mr Hardy insists on taking photographs of us just when I'm pushing my bike up a steep hill.

In Dervaig we had a glass of coke and a game of pool in the hotel but when we came out it rained. We were quite wet but when we put the tents up at Calgary Sands we soon warmed up and went to sleep.

On Tuesday, first the midges ate my face and legs, then we had to climb up the longest and steepest hill in the world. I must get fit for next year's camp - my bike's gears are fine but it's my legs and things; they don't seem to work properly. After the hill we spent the rest of the day going down and down along Loch na Keal. The sun came out and the wind blew us along to a proper camp side at Gruline. In the evening Jack used some scrap wood from the saw mill and he lit a beacon. It was really bright and I bet it would have kept away the Spanish Armada.

Wednesday was our last day. There were no hills so it was a lot easier but nowhere near as interesting. We have rationalised the equipment and with less food we packed our panniers efficiently and with the wind behind us we arrived safely at Craignure. We took the ferry across to Oban with a heaving mass of trippers who had been visiting Iona. Neil got to the front of the cafeteria queue and broke into an expansive smile as he ate his double chips. He'd already spilt them on the floor but we decided to use the tables and chairs as they were provided. It was all a bit strange after seven nights camping.

We spent Wednesday night in Edinburgh at Merchiston Castle School in comfortable beds (thanks to Mr Rossiter) and then we sorted out the remaining camping equipment and personal squalor and left behind the bicycle pannier, some with chocolate coating (thanks to Mr Durran for the loan), and headed back down the motorways to a very hot and sticky Manchester.

Manchester hasn't changed but we have. We've learnt a lot in nine days. We learnt about ourselves, about camping, about the customs and traditions of the Hebrides, we've met the people and found that cycling is a great way to explore the Western Isles.

Compiled by Jake Royle, Paul Edmundson, Neil Whitehead, Jack Leigh, Mr P M Bull and Mr J H Hardy.

## HARDRAW ART TRIP

I was hungry. Mrs Cruttenden reassured me it was only another ten minutes to the Fish and Chip shop. We eventually stopped half an hour later and I was fed.

We arrived at Harris House; I was amazed at the refurbishments that had been done and how modern everything was, especially the kitchen. We all unpacked and chose a bed, not like the compulsory choice of sleeping on the floor like the last time! That evening at the pub in Hardraw we played pool and attempted to get the Juke Box to work.

We were woken up at silly o'clock (8am), to get ready for a day of solid painting and drawing. I perched myself on a rock and looked up at the enormous Hardraw waterfall and began my pencil sketch, which was being constantly sprayed by the great thundering water of the waterfall. After getting the feeling back in my behind I started my next challenge of watercolours. Water did affect my colours as it began to pour down so we returned to Harris House. Each of us took pitch at a window around the house and began to paint some of the beautiful landscapes all around us. Mrs Cruttenden couldn't take the pressure any more so she went to sleep. This left me and everyone else to get on with our work in silence.

The sleep brought Mrs Cruttenden to her senses; we could stop work! We set off to challenge the Pennine Way, well three quarters of a mile of it, but it was a nice break from painting, even though my landscape was flashing before my eyes each time I blinked.

That evening we ate at the Station Inn, a pub/restaurant which was very busy, considering there were no houses around it at all. I was in Yorkshire so I tried their pudding. "It were right grand!"

It was early to bed and early to rise on Sunday - this time 7am!

I thought it was an art trip not an Alton Towers trip as we went up and down, round and round and eventually ended up at Grisdale Scar. This was once an enormous cave that had collapsed, making very dramatic drops and an unusual waterfall that came into view through a large stone arch. It was time to perch on another cold wet stone again and sketch away the awkward jaggedness of the rock which proved to be very hard to draw. After two different views of the cove, we ate our sandwiches looking at the view and I thought to myself, well tomorrow the only view I will see is that of the blackboard.

John Sochovsky (5A)

## **L6TH ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP – 23-27 June 1994**

I was very unsure of what to expect on this field trip. I mean I had been on field courses before, but never on one with such hype surrounding it. Everybody had told us how we would be working all night, messing about in sewage, and would be taught by someone very sarcastic.

We were all squashed into the back of two minibuses and eventually reached the Preston Montford centre about 3 o'clock. We were shown to our rooms, which were surprisingly good, yet painted a rather tasteful orange colour that could only be appreciated by someone who had lived through the 70's!

We started work straight after a "cup of tea and a sticky bun", by looking at estimate populations of water boatmen. However, by the time we had finished, I think the population had decreased by half thanks to the over-generous amounts of nail varnish applied which was meant to be used as a marker.

Day 2, the weather was glorious, so good in fact, that a number of people were resembling lobsters at the end of the day. Cory, our tutor, took us up Ashes Hollow, a very scenic valley with a stream full of invertebrates that we had to take samples of and record. I think most of us enjoyed this day the best. When we got back we found out another school called Millfield College had arrived and with the World Cup on, our boys felt confident and challenged them to a game. However, it wasn't until they got slaughtered that someone cared to mention that Millfield was in fact a school dedicated to sport first, and was producing professional young athletes that were among some of the best in the country! Even the help of our talented Miss Ward could not save the school from this defeat.

Day 3, we set out to look at the heather moorlands; they were beautiful in a bleak way but the real find of the day was of two possible stars of the future. This was in fact the Sally Ward and Jenny Ellis duo. How they were inspired I don't quite know, but the outcome was amusing, to say the least, and I know Mr Moore was moved by one, in particular.

Day 4, Adrian our new tutor took us to some of the region's meres and mosses. I found the moss quite unbelievable. The wet part moved under our feet like a small trampoline, I could have stayed there all day just jumping about and taking photographs of rare plants. That night we were visited by strange spirits - not ghosts as ghosts are unable to upturn benches and shine bright lights through girls' windows, nobody can be sure who these "beings" are or whether they are human but we have our suspicions.

Day 5, Halleluja, we are going home. However not before checking out river pollution in the area, but that's all right, I mean most of the rumours have been unfounded. What could be so bad? Raw sewage! That's what could be so bad. Needless to say the teachers didn't show us how it was done! Finally we were going home. We stopped off at Keele and I just have to mention poor Rob Moodie, who never got back on that bus and was in fact not seen for the rest of the day. The girls however, the more sympathetic of the sexes, were just relieved at not having to go back and therefore miss Coronation Street, and chanted for the rest of the way home "We love Mr Myers. We love Mr Myers", and put bets on why Rob missed the bus home.

Finally I would just like to say thank you to Mr Moore, Mr Myers, Miss Mathews and Mr Welch for taking us on what turned out to be a valuable addition to our 'A' level understanding of Ecology and a good trip all round - minus the sewage!

Sara Atkins (L6S7)

## **L6TH GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP – Saturday 21 May to Tuesday 24 May 1994**

On a grim Saturday morning, twelve hearty geographers, one Hardy teacher and a sniffling Welshman set off on their voyage of discovery. The venue for our first fieldwork exercise was Lancaster where we studied pedestrianisation and commercial change in the central business district. Andrew Chance observed that almost half the shops right in the centre had changed name in the last ten years. We then moved on to Kendal to conduct a survey of shoppers using an out of town supermarket. Louise Borg found that a great deal of smiling achieved many responses whilst Dominic Stansfield discovered that his extremely large trousers made him slightly less approachable.

We soon reached Harris House where all those who were staying there for the first time since the first year found the vast improvements very comfortable, with the exception of Guy Maddock who found it necessary to add his own personal touch to the décor. Late, we took a short walk to see the waterfall, Hardraw Force, before dining in the village.

Each night we put our results together and after presenting and analysing the day's work we concluded each topic before retiring to bed with a cup of hot cocoa in time for lights out!

Sunday morning was wet and misty. We measured moraine pebble orientation and size near Hawes while eagerly searching for glacial evidence such as striations, drumlins and truncated spurs to capture the coveted prize of an extra cup of cocoa at bed time promised by Mr Hardy. After lunch we moved on to Cotterdale Beck where we studied Hydrology and Bedload. In almost perfect conditions of hailstones, driving rain and howling winds, only Sarah Sheldon knows how she stayed on two feet in the middle of a stream with a hole in her wellies. We measured velocity, profile and particle size while Mr G H Jones demonstrated the strange initiative from which Rugby was born, in creating a whole new game from five pieces of orange peel. We then began a walk upstream observing the characteristics of the river channel urged on by the enthusiastic spirit of keen ramblers Jenny Ellis and Elizabeth Gilmore. We also investigated the rate at which water infiltrated into the ground and took further bedload measures during which Louise Borg took an early bath. On our descent we measured size and orientation of some shakeholes before returning to Hardraw to dry out.

Monday was by far the busiest and most enjoyable day. We began by attempting the southern face of Ingleborough through the dry valley of Crina Bottom observing Quaking Pot Pothole before the little legs of Matthew Whiteley could climb no more. After rising keen mountaineer James Brocklehurst from the inviting challenge before him, we began our descent across an incredible limestone pavement. After lunch we visited Ingleton Quarry to study resource and conflict where the quarry manager, eager to educate and redress the image of quarrying, gave us a very interesting tour of his quarry relevant to our 'A' Level course.

Finally, we discovered the underground limestone scenery at White Scar Caves where Assad Chaudhri was impressed by the power of the water descending from the limestone plateau above and Steven Greenberg stood back amazed by the strange stalagmite formations.

On Tuesday morning we travelled to Hornby near Lancaster to visit the Intaglio Engraving Company. We were given an informative demonstration of how the products were made and Mr Hardy kindly enlightened the manager as to how his plant could be run more efficiently. We quickly moved on to our next stop at the Claughton Manor Brickworks where we were treated to another excellent tour observing an almost entirely mechanized system. Mr Hardy was very pleased to see such an efficient system but surprised to find they only made bricks!

We were back at School for 4 o'clock to unload the bus and stagger home for a good night's sleep. We did get through a great deal of work in four days for which the students involved were congratulated.

Thanks to Mr Hardy for his organisation and hilarious, yet sometimes accidental humour, Mr G H Jones for withstanding his 759th cold to enlighten us on many varied topics and Mrs Cruttenden, whose short attendance was an equal contribution on an informative, beneficial and above all enjoyable trip.

Ben Myddelton (L6S4)

## 4TH FORM GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

This year's field trip took place at Harris House, Hardraw in Wensleydale. In a change to normal practice the field trip took place in two groups, Mr Beggs' group before Easter and Mr Haslam's after.

We were self-catering in the Centre, with all domestic duties spread evenly between the members of the group. The cooking proved interesting with some budding chefs in the making.

Fieldwork involved a study of glacial features in Haweswater which turned out to be very atmospheric with mist and cloud rolling in off High Street and across Blea Tarn. The ferocious winds at times added an extra dimension to writing on a clipboard. The following days involved fluvial studies - starring Deborah Johns the river, settlement studies in Richmond, Leyburn and Hawes where Jobling and crowd got on very well with the locals, and finally some underground studies in White Scar Caves and with Jorden, Dean Marc and Philip exploring Kingsdale Valley Entrance.

All in all, a successful trip, without major incident, much credit goes to my colleagues Ms Tandon, Mrs Pollard and Mr Austen for their help and of course the current 4th years for their contributions. Well done!

J M Haslam

## REPORT ON THE MIND/OUTWARD BOUND CHALLENGE DAY – 13 November 1993

The day started early, we had to be at School for 7am! We had to be at Ullswater by 9.00am so 2 hours later the team arrived. The team was Andrew Lole, Yvonne Schofield, Elizabeth Keable and Jenny Colclough all in the Lower Sixth and Mr Haslam as driver.

Once we had booked in the activities began in earnest. First of all we went "Team Skiing", a hilarious event where two teams of four were put on two planks of wood and told to "ski" to the other side of the field - team work was definitely called for!

The next event was the "Spider's Web" - a series of ropes tied between two trees which left irregular holes through which each member of the team had to climb or be carried until everyone was on the other side.

The low ropes course came next, a chance for everyone to make a fool of themselves trying to keep their balance as they traversed round the course.

The final event was the aerial runway, a 30 second descent down a 200ft piece of wire - great fun!

We raised about £450 sponsorship for MIND and Outward Bound and had a great day out, so may we take this opportunity to thank everybody who sponsored us!

Andrew Lole (L6S3)  
Elisabeth Keable (L6L1)

## 'A' LEVEL GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP LOCHRANZA FIELD STUDY CENTRE – ARRAN

The thought of a week long Geology field trip to a small island off the west coast of Scotland, known for its high winds, torrential rain, small population and large mountains did not come very high on most people's list as the best things to do during an Easter Holiday but by the end of the trip most people appeared to have enjoyed the trip and gained a lot of practical geological knowledge.

After a very long but comfortable journey we arrived at the Field Centre and gave them their first taste of William Hulme's including our star member, Marvin. The question "who is this Marvin person?" was soon being asked by the people outside our party, but his true identity remained confined to only a few honoured people.

The main aim of the week was of course, to widen our geological knowledge and as a result at 9am the next morning, a group of people, wrapped up in numerous layers of clothing and as much waterproof material as possible, pencil and waterproof note book in hand, could be seen huddled behind the Centre trying to keep out of a force 8 gale which was in turn, carrying torrential rain. It is a little wonder therefore that when Joe and Guy, our tutors for the week, appeared from inside the Centre and set off towards the loch, most people began to wish they had taken a different A' Level.

The rain did stop, mostly just after we got back to the Centre but there was always the risk of being blown away every time you ventured from shelter.

Despite the weather, everyone found the work very interesting and I certainly learnt a lot from the week. Talking about a geological feature is no replacement for actually seeing it in the field, even if you are being on your feet and soaked to the skin in the process.

After a day in the field we would return for a good feed and then it was into the classroom for more discussions and explanations of what we had seen that day.

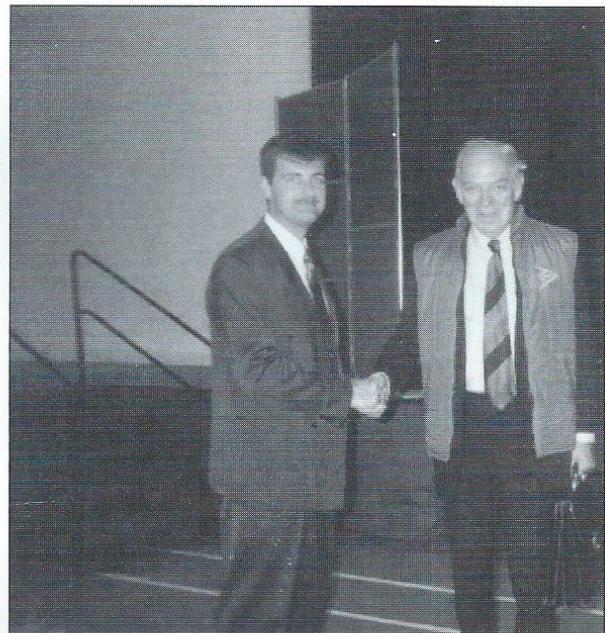
After we finished in the classroom we were all so tired that it was a quick cup of cocoa and off to bed, sparing only a fleeting glance to the pigs as they flew out to sea.

The week was hard work, starting 9am each day or about 11.30am in one person's case who was left behind one morning and decided on the only feasible plan of action which was to go back to bed until someone came to get him. Brings back memories Tyrone.

The trip was a great success with everyone learning a lot including our tutor Joe, who was soon being taught by our own whiz-kid Alex Rodgers.

Thanks very much to Mr Veevers for organising the trip and also the staff at the Centre who were all very helpful and ensured we were all looked after. The only question is where can we go next year. Possibly the Caribbean to study the deposition of calcium carbonate in a warm shallow tropical sea???

James Brocklehurst (L6A1)



Mr. M. P. Jones and John Biffen M.P.  
Photo: Ann Jefcoate

## POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. Lectures
2. Visit to Westminster
3. Out of School Activities
4. G M R
5. Teachers' Conference

## POLITICAL LECTURES

During 1993/4, the Politics 'A' Level groups attended the following lectures at Manchester University:-

|   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| The Nature of British Politics              | - | Prof Mick Moran (Manchester)    |
| Is Ideology Dead?                           | - | Prof David Howell (Manchester)  |
| Who on earth will win the next Election?    | - | David Denver (Lancaster)        |
| The cost-effectiveness of the Welfare State | - | Prof Mick Moran (Manchester)    |
| British Political History since 1945        | - | Andrew Adonis (Financial Times) |
| The Politics of Alienation                  | - | Prof Paul Wilding (Manchester)  |
| The work of the House of Commons            | - | Ann Coffey MP                   |
| Ministerial Responsibility Today            | - | Dr Robert Pyper (Caledonian)    |
| The Power of the Prime Minister             | - | Dr Martin Smith (Sheffield)     |
| Cabinet Government under Thatcher           | - | John Biffen MP                  |
| Does the Labour Party have a Future?        | - | Peter Kellner (Sunday Times)    |

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

## POLITICS TRIP TO THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

During the February half-term of 1994, the Upper Sixth Politics group were guests of Mr Bob Dunn MP (Conservative, Dartford) at the Palace of Westminster. As a former Minister in the Department for Education, Mr Dunn was able to give an "insider's" perspective on the two education bills dealing with the Funding Agency and Teacher Training Agency. As always, Mr Dunn was a very amenable host and, for the first time, allowed us to visit his own private office, where we held our usual "Question Time". Having spent nearly two years studying the British Political System, certain members of the group were very keen to quiz an actual MP about all they had learnt. Mr Dunn gave an honest and frank account of his life on the backbenches, the role of Select Committees and the tactics of the opposition. We spent three hours touring and talking with Mr Dunn and as always, we were very grateful for his time and assistance.



The Upper Sixth Politics Group on the terrace with Mr. Bob Dunn.

*Photo: Mr. M. P. Jones*

## OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In February 1994, members of the Lower Sixth Politics group were guests at Salford Quays Cinema for a world première showing of "In the Name of the Father". This became the controversial film over the treatment of the Guildford Four and starred Daniel Day Lewis and Emma Thompson. All the group enjoyed the film, especially as it was free!

## G M R

Throughout 1993-94, members of the Sixth Form and Politics groups starred on Greater Manchester Radio for the Alan Beswick show. The producers came six times to the School and sought a "Vox Pop" from young people about a wide range of current affairs.

## POLITICS TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

In November 1993, the School was very proud to host the first ever ULEAC regional conference on the teaching of 'A' Level Politics. Over thirty teachers from around the North West attended. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the Chief Examiners and gain an insight into how papers were set, how exams were marked and how the appeals system worked.

Mr M P Jones

## TRIPS WITHIN GREATER MANCHESTER

### “THE VISIT” AT THE CONTACT THEATRE

On 24 March the Upper Sixth Germanists went to see and hear, in German, Dürrenmatt's masterpiece “Der Besuch der alten Dame”, performed at the Contact Theatre by the Manchester University German Society. The girl playing the old lady had all the trance-like, statuesque, implacable air of a Medea (as the script demands), and the troupe overcame well the problem of casting Studentinnen in male roles. A worthwhile excursion. Many thanks, from the Staff's most seasoned non-driver, to Mr Fisher for driving us there!

G J Turner

### GERMAN SIXTH FORM VISIT TO SALFORD UNIVERSITY

In January the German Lower Sixth set attended lectures at Salford University as part of the Sixth Formers' German Day. Students from a large number of schools and colleges attended, despite which we all managed to meet up with Mr Turner!

After an introduction and welcome to Salford University the first lecture began. This lecture lasted one hour (all in German of course!) about the facts and figures about the seriousness of the problem of foreigners in Germany and hatred towards them. The speaker from the Goethe Institut gave a very comprehensive and interesting lecture giving important background and insights into the problem.

Following a short break there was a choice between two lectures but the WHGS students all attended a lecture linked to the previous one about the teaching of language to the immigrants in Germany. This was a little harder to follow.

Lunch was attended at McDonald's followed by an unusual role-play on the theme of environment and to end the day off, a lecture on the city of Berlin. On the whole much was learnt during this interesting and entertaining day.

Many thanks to Mr Turner for arranging this outing.

Sarah Cope (L6 L1)

### SPANISH SIXTH FORM VISIT TO SALFORD UNIVERSITY

On 19 November 1993 the four other members of my Spanish set and I went to Salford University for the day as a Spanish open day was being put on; this was to inform us of interesting background information to assist us in our Spanish 'A' level course.

The University was very large, far bigger than I had expected as I had always thought it to be quite small. Mr Bull had already explained to us that there was to be a number of lectures that we would go to during the day; some of these lectures would clash, in which case we would have to choose which ones to go to.

The opening lecture was given by an English lady whose Spanish was very fast and difficult to understand. She spoke about Spain in the 1990's and recent events that had taken place in Spain: eg the Barcelona Olympics and the EXPO of Seville. This lecture gave us a very refreshing and up to date insight into Spain's extensive economic growth and cultural change since its radical transition to democracy. Some interesting facts which emerged were that unemployment had reached 24% of the population, that 16% of the population of Spain would be aged over 65 by the year 2000 and that Spain had the lowest level of divorce in the developed world.

We had all looked forward to the next lecture on Catalonia (the prosperous region in the northeast of Spain, around Barcelona) and we were far from disappointed. The lecturer chose Spanish rather than Catalan in which to speak, despite being a native Catalan. He was able to convey all his first hand knowledge and experience concerning topics such as the controversy concerning the teaching of Catalan (or Castilian) in schools in Catalonia, the climate, the cuisine and arts and leisure in Catalonia.

After lunch, during which we were given the opportunity to “taste” Portuguese, we went to a lecture given by an Irish lady (in English) who spoke about the “Authentik” newspapers, much used by A' level students of all languages. These are designed to carry a compilation of recently published articles from the European press, in order to assist language students. The point of her lecture was to explain why authentic texts from newspapers and magazines are useful for learning languages and also to help students find them less forbidding. She pointed out that by using certain techniques such as observing the layout of articles and reading photo captions it is possible to obtain at least a brief outline of what the article is about, even if it is in a language which you do not know.

The last lecture of the day was on a South American novel by the Nobel Prize winning write Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It was called *Cronica de una muerte anunciada* and was about a murder committed by a man to avenge the dishonour of his sister; although it was a novel which none of us had yet read, it was useful to hear the lecture because it is going to be a set book next year.

Our thanks go to Mr Bull for arranging the visit and driving us there in the minibus.

Nicola Miller (L6 L2)

## CORDOBA IN MANCHESTER - SCHOOLS OPEN DAY

On Friday, 15th April 1994, a group of sixth formers attended a Cordoba Open Day at Manchester Town Hall. Cordoba and Manchester have been twinned now for several years and the day began with the welcoming speeches of the Mayors of both cities. This was followed by an enlightening Flamenco show given by Paco Serrano, Luisa Serrano and Agustin Navarro, a professional guitarist, dancer and singer from Andalucia. After a short break some watched a sketch on the GCSE Spanish Oral. The day was rounded off after lunch with a performance of Lorca's "La casa de Bernada Alba" by the Spanish Theatre Group of London. Thanks to Miss McGuinn for accompanying us on the day.

Anthony Sheldon (U6L2)

## LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

The first production of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" took place in 1670 at the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley and was Molière's twenty-fifth play. The principal character is Monsieur Jourdain, a wealthy Parisien merchant, whose sole ambition is to be accepted among the ranks of the aristocracy.

Three centuries and countless productions later, "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" took place once more at Manchester University's Fallowfield Campus, and was attended by members of the Sixth Form studying French at William Hulme's. We had been given a copy of the script beforehand, and the play was therefore not too difficult to follow. The costumes were characteristic of seventeenth century clothes, and the acting was of a high standard, with a particularly amusing and commendable interpretation of the exasperated and ever trying Monsieur Jourdain.

The play had been abridged to just over an hour in length which stopped it becoming tedious, and was followed by a discussion, in French, on the merits and characteristics of Molière's work.

Gabrielle Miller (L6A7)

## "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" PLAYDAY - REVIEW

A classical drama turned into a modern play! Could it work?

First we, 3X and 2A, entered the theatre and looked around. It was amazing, like nothing I had ever seen. There were no props on the stage at all apart from an amazing looking ball, which at the time looked totally useless.

The actors came on stage to talk to us about how to act, what to do in different situations or scenes and how to understand Shakespeare. We even edited one of his scenes into modern day English language. The words were wildly different but the meaning was the same.

Then we heard from the musician who told us about the different moods of music for the different scenes; it was really effective and sometimes a bit shocking.

We also saw the lighting supervisor and he showed us all the different lights, at least a hundred different lights each with three different colours and shades.

We finally found out what the massive ball was for. It was supposed to be the sun rising in the morning, and also the moon shining at night, depending on the way it was lit.

Finally we saw the play and it was out of this world. The play was like nothing I'd ever seen. It was packed with a sense of humour and a lot of personality. The stage was put to great use and all the actors were fantastic, showing real ability and great skill. I couldn't do that nearly as well as they did; I probably wouldn't even remember my lines.

This is the best play I will probably ever see.

Alex Malouf (3X)

## LOWER SIXTH ENGLISH LITERATURE TRIPS 1993/94

During the school year 1993/94 the two lower sixth English literature sets made several trips to various productions throughout the country. These trips to plays that were relevant to the texts being studied or having been studied in class.

For example, in mid-October the Miss DeVince/ Mr Watson English set saw Hamlet at the Buxton Opera House. This trip was especially successful as not only were the members of the set studying that work at the time. They also discovered how the play ends, thus sadly but inevitably ruining it for some!

However, it seemed that everyone enjoyed the play and found that seeing it performed live aided both their understanding and appreciation of the play.

Later in the academic year came a production of the Spanish Tragedy by Thomas Kyd at Liverpool University. Both sets saw this play as it was important in relation to the study of Hamlet, as in addition to the two plays being contemporaries, Kyd's play was, in effect, typical of a genre of plays to which Hamlet belongs.

The performance itself was excellent, even when one does not take into consideration the fact that none of the cast were professional actors and that it had to be performed within quite a tight budget.

Despite having seen two such marvellously performed plays already, the climax of the Thespian activities for the year came just nineteen days later. For on the twenty-second of March, many of the lower sixth English students along with many

fifth year students visited Stratford - upon - Avon, where the Shakespeare play Macbeth was being performed. This was the highlight of the three plays as not only was the play staged in Shakespeare's own birthplace, by the Royal Shakespeare Company, but it included a cast headed by Derek Jacobi, who played Lord Macbeth.

Although the majority of W.H.G.S. students were sat in the 'nose - bleed' seats, near the top of the theatre, the theatre is of such wonderful design and the acting was of such a quality that wherever one had sat to view the performance one would have enjoyed as much.

The performance was impressive, humourous at times and at others rather grave, even morose, but really it was brilliant, and it would probably be safe to say that all who went found it so.

The visits to theatrical productions throughout the year were enjoyed and appreciated by all who went and were a culmination of all the hard work and background reading that epitomised the Lower Sixth English literature students.

Jonathan Sills (L6A4)

## WORK EXPERIENCE 1994

After all the hard work of G.C.S.E.s you would think that we would be glad of the opportunity to rest, but 36 members of the fifth form decided to go on work experience. This is a scheme which allows you to go and work in various places for a week or two and watch what people do in the real world. Pupils had placements in many diverse fields, such as medicine, law, office work, and, like myself, engineering. The main benefit of such a scheme is that you get an opportunity to see what is actually involved in a career which you may be interested in and you get to talk to people who are actually doing the job and enjoying it, or not as the case may be.

For my placement I was put in the structural engineering office which works on many projects from nuclear power stations to shopping centres and roller coasters. There were many things that I had to learn. The first thing that you have to work out is where the photocopier is and how to work it. The photocopier was unfortunately four floors down and I got quite fit running up and down the stairs. I also learnt quite a lot about filing, but this is all good experience of office life and you also get to have a good look at the plans for buildings.

After serving my initial apprenticeship as a filing clerk I was actually allowed to do some drawing which was very daunting because I had never done any technical drawing before. I was lucky that I was in the hands of people who were very patient and helpful and appeared to be very impressed with my progress!

By the second week I was working with one of the engineers on a project which involved doing some calculations on a glass roof-light structure to make sure it would stay up if it was covered in snow, or subject to high winds. When you look up at a glass roof in a shopping centre you have no idea of the type of work that is involved. For my part I had to build up a 3D picture of the roof on the computer. This involved calculating the co-ordinates of all the joints in the roof, starting off with just a brief sketch and a few basic dimensions. When you sit in a maths lesson learning about triangles, working out all the angles, all the lengths of the sides, you often wonder if there is any point to it all but I can assure you that there is! At last I got the chance to put all the theory into practice. After I had worked out the co-ordinates of the joints I then had to draw in the members that connected them. A sort of grown up dot to dot! Then when you have produced the picture (which is impressive when you have done it from scratch yourself) you have to work out the loads that might act upon the roof. These calculations are so complex that it took a computer over five hours to work them out. Thank goodness I was not expected to do them! Fortunately the computer decided the roof would stay up after all, which was a relief.

I was very lucky to have such a good placement. I was allowed to actually do some engineering and be so actively involved with what was going on and the engineers seemed to be pleased with the progress that I made, although some complained that they did not get as good training when they were training to be engineers! However, even if you do not get to do anything other than photocopying and filing you can learn a great deal by watching people work, and talking to them about what the job involves and what they are working on. By doing this you get a much better idea about prospective careers than you can do by reading books and promotional material.

I would like to thank Allott & Lomax for allowing me to work with them.

Christina Barnes (5 X)

For my work experience I went for a week to the Neurology Department at M.R.I. I didn't know much about Neurology so I didn't know what to expect. For most of the week I followed, observed, and took notes. The patients were very friendly and helpful and were willing to speak to me at any time.

My last day, Friday, was the most interesting for me. I went into the Neuro-Surgical Theatre. The operation was to remove a piece of a brain tumour to be analysed.

I was so absorbed with what they were doing that I didn't have time to feel sick!

I really enjoyed myself and got a lot out of the week.

Amna Choudry (5A)

The main aim of my work experience was to help me get a better view of insurance in general and to help me choose my future career.

I spent a week at the Royal Insurance Co. in Manchester where I took part in many activities in all the different departments. This mainly involved watching other people at work but I did actually get some things to do. This was a most enjoyable and useful experience for me as it gave me the chance to learn to work with different people as part of a team and also to see how a large company operates.

The highlight of my week was when I was given the opportunity to get out of the office building on routine calls to investigate enquiries. I strongly recommend that next year's pupils take part in the scheme.

Caroline Ip (5L)

We would like to thank each of the following employers who welcomed one or more of our fifth year students this year.

Acorn Mill Ltd.  
Allott and Lomax Consulting Engineers.  
Bower Harris Solicitors.  
Bury and Whitefield Jewish Primary School  
Crumpsall Hospital  
Ehsan, Malik and Co Chartered Accountants  
Fairfield Hospital Speech Therapy Department  
Forest Park School  
Hale Prep School  
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza  
Hope Hospital  
Inland Revenue ( Altrincham and Manchester)  
Krwinkas & Co Solicitors  
Manchester University Department of Biochemistry  
Manchester University Department of Pathology  
Manchester Royal Infirmary Department of Neurology  
Manchester Airport  
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P.P.P.  
Royal Insurance  
S.J. Klonin's Barristers Chambers  
Salford Royal Hospital Renal Services  
Sellers D.R. (Dental Surgeon)  
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Withington Hospital Department of Radiography

G.M.Brown

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## CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND SCHOOL EVENTS

### BIOLOGY - NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

The club functions once a week, usually on Thursdays and anyone interested is invited to come along and join in.

At the end of September, Mr Grant presented us with a new bird table which was put in place near the new pond. A feeding rota was organised and a mixture of seeds and peanuts was put on it every day until April. A wide variety of birds made use of it including blue tits, robin, greenfinch, magpie and wood pigeon.

Plans were made to turn the area at the back of the staff room into a conservation area, including a wood hide from which we could observe and video the birds visiting the table. Unfortunately, these had to be put on hold because all the workmen were busy on the new music rooms.

The nest boxes in the grounds are now firmly established in the summer routine. This year there was a record number of nests, ten - nine blue tits and one great tit. This is the first year that the boxes have been utilised by great tits. A total of fifty young birds fledged this year, another successful season.

After the school exams, Mr Myers, Mr Moore and a party of seven boys visited Hardraw for a natural history weekend. The highlight was a visit to an Open Farm near Sedbergh. The boys fed sheep, lambs, and calves and watched the shearing of a sheep. After that they tried their hand at milking and had a chance to hold very young screaming piglets. Two sets of kittens proved highly desirable and fortunately all had been promised to other people! A visit to the farm is highly recommended to any Hardraw party.

D A Myers

### CHESS

The Chess team took part, as usual, in the Stockport League. The Seniors, led by Philip Gee (L6C) and including Junji Inaba (5L), Ian Sherwin (U6A6), Mark Craig (L6A7) and the veterans Ankish Patel (5C) and Stephen Hadfield (5C), were successful against Hazel Grove and, for a welcome change, against Cheadle Hulme.

The Juniors, ably led by Shazad Arshad (2B), who has lost very few games this season, and including Ajay Bagga (3X), Setu Purohit (3X) and a highly successful newcomer, Neil Whitehead (1C), who even won his MGS game, lost to Manchester Grammar and King's Macclesfield but also defeated Cheadle Hulme.

The most successful forms, and winners of the First and Second Year Turabi trophies, were this year 1C and 2B. The individual winner of the chess shield was the Junior Team Captain, Shazad Arshad.

Many members of the school have enjoyed playing Chess in Room 9 at lunchtimes this year. Particular thanks must go to Junji Inaba (5L) for his tireless efforts in keeping the room in reasonable order.

M H Gracey

### THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The most significant innovation made this year is undoubtedly the creation of a Junior Debating Society. Its friendly atmosphere has allowed juniors the opportunity to participate in lively discussions and debates which have already covered a variety of controversial subjects, ranging from smoking to whether computer games are beneficial or detrimental.

The response from the Junior School has been tremendous and it is the great enthusiasm and interest shown which has fuelled the growth and aided the recognition of the society.

The Senior Debating Society, although it met less frequently this year, has continued to flourish and attract fine talent and speakers, as well as a stalwart group of supporters. It has presented forceful arguments on subjects ranging from Pornography to arguing the case for and against arranged marriages.

Debates are usually well publicised and anyone interested is welcome to attend. We meet on Wednesday (Juniors) and Thursdays (Seniors). Thanks go to Miss Tandon for all her time and efforts in organising the Junior Debating Society and for Chairing the Senior debates.

Manish Das and Nicolas Owen have been most supportive secretaries and also proved to make a competitive team in the inter-scholastic Observer Mace Debating Competition. They will be succeeded next year by Aarti Nayar, Kinnery Patel and Joe Lewis.

Aarti Nayar (L6A7)

### OBSERVER MACE DEBATING COMPETITION

The major external competition was the Observer Mace Debating Competition, the first round of which we hosted in November. There were three motions, ranging from whether Science is studied by people who cannot think, to whether Australia should become a republic. The six teams from the North West took part in a very enjoyable evening. Special thanks to the eminent judges, Judge Blackburn, Ms Malpas (Solicitor) and Ms Pearson (Manchester Evening News). Thanks also to Miss Priddle for her time keeping.

Although St Ambrose actually won, our team of Nicolas Owen and Manish Das came second and qualified for the next round which took place at Denstone College, Uttoxeter. Messrs Das and Owen argued most coherently that the Church of England should not confine itself to spiritual matters but unfortunately did not qualify for the Northern Final.

Miss S R Tandon

## DIDSBURY ROTARY CLUB PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

In February three members of WHGS took part in the annual Didsbury Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition, held this year at Levenshulme High School.

Bernadette McCurrie (5X) entered the Junior Competition with her speech on the topic of eating disorders among adolescents, while Kinnery Patel (L6A7) and Sarah Sheldon (L6S1) entered the Senior Competition, presenting speeches on arranged marriages and attitudes towards accent/dialect respectively.

The competition was exceptionally strong this year with competitors coming from a wide area. Although none of our entrants made it through to the final, all three deserve credit for their thorough preparation and competent, lively delivery. They gained valuable experience and presented themselves extremely well.

Miss S J Priddle

## ANNUAL DEBATING CONTEST

The Annual Debating Contest took place in the Spring Term, with each House fielding strong teams. In supporting the motion that "this House is proud to be living in Britain today", the Fraser team (Mark Knowles and Tom Donnai) made fairly traditional points, though quite effectively, on our national culture, the prestige of the Royal Family, our democratic traditions and the importance of a welfare state. Their opponents, Gaskell (Stephen Neary and Stephen Greenberg), produced an impressive catalogue of woes, ranging from the British National Party, the high rate of crime and the sorry performance of our National teams in most sports (though the notion that the loss of the Empire was a tragedy was carrying things a little far). The motion that "marriage is an outmoded institution" was proposed by Dalton (Faresh Maisuria and Richard Gandy). They tried to deploy an effective case, but were at times reduced to making a set of disconnected assertions on the cost of a wedding, high mortgage rates and the prevalence of divorce. Their opponents, Byrom (Jonathan Sills and Morgan Parry), seemed better prepared: they dealt with marriage and the family within an historical and religious context, making the telling point that it was the ultimate loving commitment between two people. The final debate on "The main purpose of education is to make money" was proposed by Whitworth. Their team of Roger Hargreaves and Nicolas Owen was well chosen, combining a densely argued case on the motion with some persuasive and well researched references. Heywood (Jennifer Grant and Christina Barnes), speaking against the motion, attempted to deploy an argument, but this was supported with evidence which was not fully explained: at times they drifted off the motion into the more discursive field of the value of different academic subjects. The argument made by Whitworth was enough to carry the day, and they were awarded first place.

P J Callaghan

## CHARITIES WEEK: MARCH 3RD - 11TH 1994

After several meetings held in November and December, the Prefects decided that the annual Charities Week would be in aid of the Lil Stockdale Centre - a residential home for children and young adults with cerebral palsy and other severe multiple disabilities. Although not known when the charity was chosen, the Centre had much stronger links with school than was first thought. The Head Master, speaking at an Old Hulmeians dinner, learnt that Lil Stockdale was the mother of an Old Hulmeian. With this in mind, Charities Week began.

Once again, there were a number of fund-raising events which took place throughout the week. Along with the "traditional" activities, for which Charities Week had become so popular, a new event this year was the "Grand Auction".

Through the generosity of parents, an assortment of gifts and services, ranging from bottles of wine to the drawing up of a will, were donated and subsequently auctioned. The evening was a huge success and raised well over £700. Special thanks must go to Nick Goodwin for the time and effort he spent on making the evening such a success.

As always, the Sponsored Walk proved to be the major source of revenue. Fortunately the torrential rain on the morning of the walk did not continue over lunchtime or in the afternoon and so the Walk took place around a somewhat muddy Chorlton Water Park. Thanks should go to Finglands for providing the necessary transport and to Messrs Sharp and Vevers for organising this event.

The Charities Rag Mag was written and produced by Matthew McLean and Alex Rodgers and I would like to thank them for all the hard work they put in to produce the magazine.

Other events included "Soak a Prefect", which was as popular as ever, the use of the Prefects' Tuck Shop and the live appearance of "Henry Herman and the Treefrogs" in the New Hall. In this last event it was particularly memorable to see Alex Rodgers dressed in drag giving a solo rendition of the Classic "Wild Thing".

As has become the tradition, Charities Week ended with the Staff vs. Prefects Football Match. Played in extremely wet conditions, it turned out to be the "proverbial" game of two halves. By half-time the staff, assisted by a quite superb Mark Shelmerdine own goal, had raced into a three goal lead. However, inspired by the words of manager Nic ("Terry Venables") Owen, the prefects stormed back in the second half to level the score 3 - 3 at full time.

Once all the money had been collected and banked by myself and Manish Das, a cheque for £5,100 was handed over to Mr Brian Richardson and Mrs Veronica Hough, from the Lil Stockdale Centre, in Senior Assembly.

Although we did not raise as much as in previous years, I would like to thank everyone in the School who helped to raise this large amount of money for such a deserving cause.

Tim Allen (U6S1)  
Head Prefect