

The Stopfordian



1997

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

EX CATHEDRA

This is the last Stopfordian in this particular format, and also, I hope, the last Stopfordian to appear in the latter half of the next academic year. The format goes out not so much with a bang as with an explosion, for the year up to August 1997 was exceptional by any standards and in many ways.

It is expected that a Head should emphasise academic successes, and I hope that the opportunity to do so will always be there - but the achievements, especially of the Upper Sixth, in external examinations in June 97 were nothing less than astonishing. Mere statistics do not do justice to that Upper Sixth, the first one of my time at S.G.S. and an outstanding gathering of young men and women. Once the dust had cleared - it takes a while to complete re-marks and deal with the Department for Education's illogical methods of producing its idiosyncratic figures - it was obvious that in terms of A-Levels Stockport Grammar School had emerged as the COUNTRY'S LEADING CO-EDUCATIONAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL; no apologies for the capitals. With 75% of the A-Level grades at A or B and a pass-rate of over 99% the year-group had rewarded itself well for all that it had collectively given to the School. And coming up behind the Upper Sixth was a hugely successful Year 5, again blessed with a pass-rate in excess of 99% and with approximately 90% of their grades at B or better.

No, examination grades are not everything, but they ARE important, and at A-Level even vital, in many cases, if pupils are to proceed to their chosen courses at their chosen venues. The queues at the surgeries of Mesdames Blackburn and Fitton in mid-August were mercifully short, and whilst amid the celebration there is inevitably the occasional disappointment, hindsight teaches that the disappointment on the day can be overcome in a variety of ways, not all of which are linked to inebriation or the departure for a desert island.

It is troubling, though, that the wider educational background is so turbulent. It is traditional nowadays for the Press, not always known for its attention to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, to take an inordinate interest in calculations of results to several decimal places, so that its various organs may within hours come up with League Tables which differ widely and wildly; it is also traditional for the Press to tell the nation what to think of the summer's results, even before the candidates receive them. And the tradition is that if the overall grades improve again, that is irrefutable evidence that standards are falling; and if the grades slip slightly, that is also irrefutable evidence of falling standards. Heads you win, tails you lose Furthermore, it is not realised by everyone that these results are obtained with the help of a teaching force which has been reviled by (successive) Governments as though incompetence, laziness and misdirection of the nation's offspring were the norm. A teaching force, moreover, which is just about emerging from a period in which Key Stage 4 National Curriculum syllabuses changed even more frequently than the Government of Italy.

Then there is the process, which precedes result-reporting, of applying to Higher Education; choose a well-worn path - medicine, law, vet science, English, History, to name but a few of the leading ones - and the would-be student is plunged into a world where competition is cut-throat and the lottery effect readily observable, where the quiet type and the late developer can suffer grossly unfairly; faced with having to select about 100 pupils to whom to make offers, out of a field of 2500, university tutors scan G.C.S.E. results, look primarily at extroverts in interviews (though many are never even interviewed, receiving yes or no answers with no vestige of explanation - the reasons are apparent to those making the offers, but not to the recipient), and devise all manner of strategies for making the faintest possible distinctions between candidates. Who can blame them? They, the tutors, are on a form of piecework: get the right number of students, to within a very tight percentage of error, then get them through their courses and exams, come hell or high water, because everyone's future employment, students' and lecturers' alike, depends thereon.

The process of moving from G.C.S.E.s to A-Levels is, by comparison, a doddle, despite the occasional difficulties in making the "right" choices of subject, or of making the transition from one level to another. But even at A-Level there is restlessness - the Dearing Report on 16+ education is simmering over a medium heat, and it is very likely that the current norm - three or four A-Levels, plus General Studies, examined terminally or modularly - will go. Replacing it, emphasising commitment to continued breadth, will come something like the International Baccalaureat, a collection of six subjects for study, some of which will ultimately be taken to greater heights (or depths) than others. This with an increasing number of modular exams, too. When? Probably in the year 2000, if the rest of the debate can be cleared up, about the need to take, interspersed among the proliferation of subjects, extras bearing the titles of Communication Skills, Numeracy and Literacy. Is this, more than one person has asked me challengingly, a declaration that to have an A* in English Language or in Mathematics is no longer regarded as proof of numeracy or literacy? I do not think so, but I may be wrong. Communication Skills is less arguable, especially if it encompasses Information Technology skills, of which I champion the cause, for the outside world increasingly demands some IT skills in addition to purely academic knowledge and techniques.

And what of Higher Education students? No grants, loans instead, maybe a debt-burden at the end of a course which might ultimately deter many even from taking up the option of Higher Education - this is a risky policy, admittedly not unknown elsewhere in the world, but one whose consequences are not consonant with the general notion of a liberal education. Well, as with the Dearing Report, as with the thousand and one initiatives currently mooted for education, we can do little more than wait and see.

But to come back within our own palisade, 1996-97 was an outstanding year for reasons extending well beyond our academic purposes. Saturday mornings regularly see hundreds of pupils and tens of staff either out on our own fields or heading off for the fields of others, and it is a pleasure to report to various Assemblies the countless successes. They are so numerous that it is invidious to select any for special mention, but I would just say that the record of the three youngest cricket teams in winning the cups at Under-12, Under-13 and Under-14 level was especially

impressive. It was a great shame that the summer should be so unkind, meteorologically, for the winter terms had afforded enormous pleasure to players and spectators alike. The rugby teams had outstanding seasons, particularly at 1st. and 2nd. XV level; the netballers not merely defeated but destroyed much of the local opposition; and the hockey teams often played well to win and very valiantly in defeat. Lacrosse's results may not catch the eye, but there is no lack of enthusiasm, and indeed there are strong signs that the sport is extremely healthy at its youngest levels, which can only be for the good.

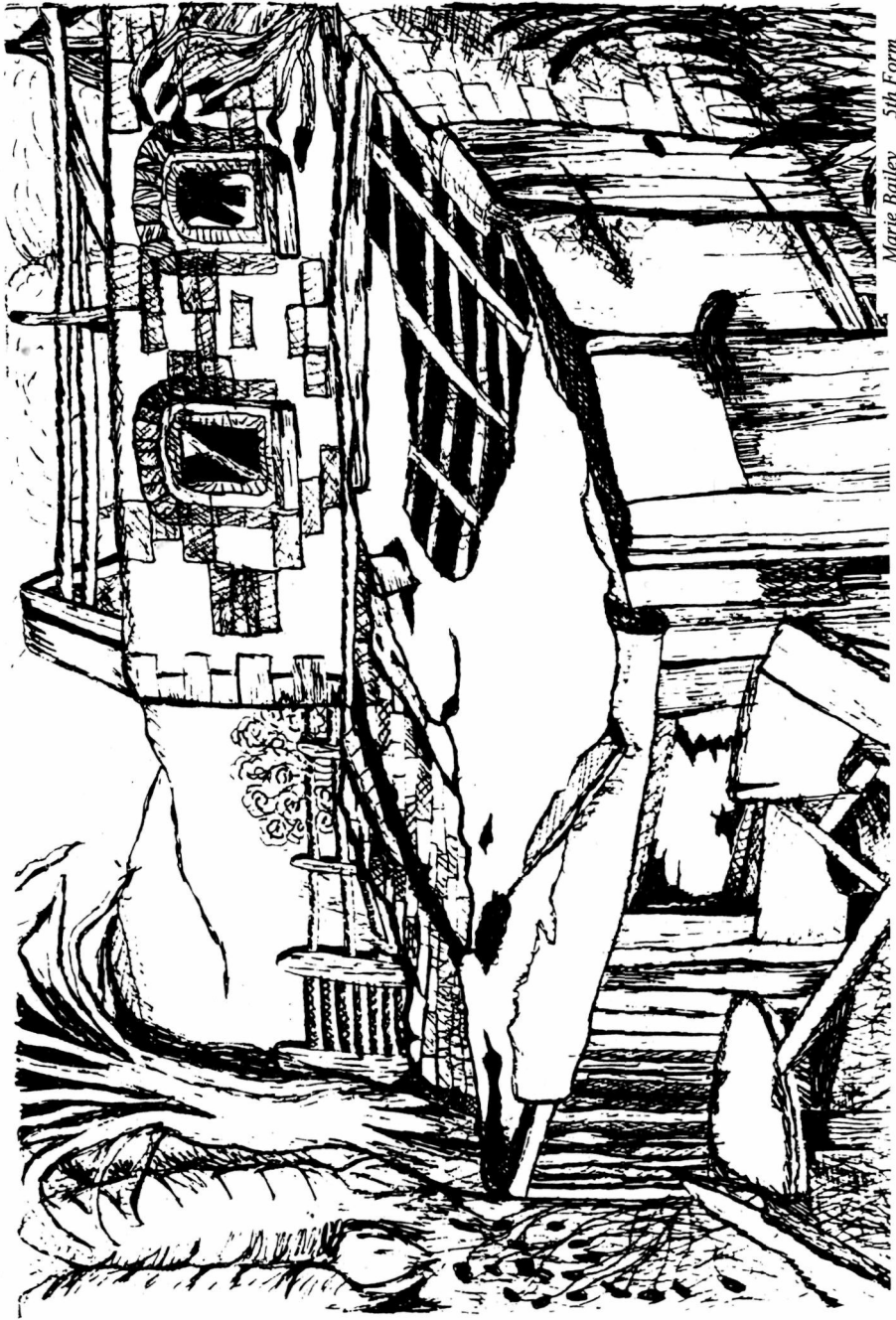
Way beyond the palisade, but still under the S.G.S. aegis, there were countless trips and expeditions. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme remains extremely popular, supplying a large percentage of the total Stockport entry; exchanges transport us and French and German pupils hither and thither, and groups of us to all sorts of destinations, to Prague and to Baltimore, (lacrosse), closer to home to Stratford and to the Open Day at Birmingham University - these are but a few pulled out of the hat, as it were, to give a brief flavour of an active school.

Drama came in the shape of Twelfth Night and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, in the Winter and Spring Terms respectively, and there were regular concerts and recitals, culminating, I think that all would agree, in the highly affecting Prism Concert performed at St George's. The School is fortunate to be crowded with actors and actresses of tremendous potential - just look at the talent which suddenly emerged in the Lower Sixth alfresco production of "Blithe Spirit" in July - and with musicians of marvellous ability and commitment.

But in the end I am particularly indebted to my colleagues, who appear not just for the big public occasions but who put in the toil and the time which make those occasions both possible and of quality. Whether the activities are taking place in the cramped surroundings of one of the music rooms or out on a muddy pitch or on the windy knoll up at Dialstone Lane, colleagues are there to give the action its direction. And it is one of the advantages of being more or less permanently on site that I understand just how much is done in the holidays - when the groundstaff prepare the splendid pitches and grounds which they can do little more than maintain in term-time for the benefit of all; when decoration and maintenance come into their own and the caretaking staff can get down to all those tasks which throngs of people make necessary but impossible at the time.

Further out of the generally perceived picture but just as vital to the success of this enterprise are the Governors, whose constant burden is not so much the responsibility for the present of the School but for its long-term future. Change will undoubtedly come, to the buildings, to academic patterns, to personnel - and most immediately in the shape of the removal of Assisted Places with effect from September 1998 - and it is the Governors' task to take the School forward in that half-light which is the mix of the known and the unknown with a clear vision of where we wish to be as far ahead as can be imagined. If the years pass as successfully as 1996-97 there is nothing to fear.

I MELLOR
Headmaster



Marie Bailey 5th Form
Pen & Ink 'Ruined Buildings'

NEWS AND NOTES

On Speech Day, the Opening Address was given by Mr. C.E. Speight, Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Guest of Honour was Professor R.H. Hollier, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UMIST. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mr. P.H. Locke, President of the Old Stopfordians' Association.

The Founder's Day Service was held on March 21st. at St. George's Church, where the sermon was given by the Rt. Revd. Geoffrey Turner, Bishop of Stockport.

At the end of the Summer term we bade farewell to Mr. I.D. Hollows following his short period of part-time teaching in the school. David Hollows had been a teacher of C.D.T. at Stockport Grammar School for well over twenty years. In recent years, besides running the C.D.T. Department, he became in 1990, under David Bird, Head of Section, responsible for the welfare of all pupils in Lower school. He discharged his duties in this demanding position with distinction, being as painstaking with the needs of any pupil as he was in the creation of those pieces of woodwork around the school which will stand as a fitting tribute to such a dedicated and hard-working colleague. We join in wishing him well for the future.

Leaving to go to other schools by way of promotion were Miss S.J. Price who has assumed responsibility for the English Department at Worksop College, Mrs. N.J. Dunn who has moved to become second in the English Department at King's, Macclesfield. Dr. S.E. Lister has taken up a position at Sir John Deane's College, Northwich. We wish them all every success and happiness in their new posts and future careers. We extend a warm welcome to the following colleagues who joined the teaching staff in September: Miss K.A. Owen (Geography); Miss B.C. O'Neal (Psychology); Mr. P. Walker (C.D.T.); Miss H.R. Lawson (English); Miss F. Rankin (Chemistry) and Miss L.I. Lantz (Home Ec.).

We would like to extend our hearty congratulations and best wishes to four colleagues who married during the Summer: Miss N.M. Dickinson who is now Mrs. Burns; Miss S.L. Ramsay who is now Mrs. Belshaw, and Miss L. Farrow who married Mr. Jonathan Bradshaw in July but is retaining her maiden name for professional purposes. In May Mr. A.S. Hanson married Miss Linda Singh.

Exciting plans are afoot to revamp the Stopfordian from 1998 onwards. After seven years of editing the magazine, I shall be handing the responsibility to Mrs. M. Harris who is looking to produce the magazine in a different format with greater emphasis on visual impact than has been the case hitherto. Aided by her team of eager Lower Sixth pupils, Mrs. Harris will lend the 'Stopfordian' a new impetus and identity which will seek to offer, as ever, a comprehensive chronicle of the school year. I wish her every success with the next edition while taking this opportunity to thank all who have contributed over the past seven years with articles, illustrations, photographs and newspaper cuttings. This time next year I shall probably be experiencing withdrawal symptoms after what has been a fascinating and most enjoyable period of editorship.

J.P. Ashcroft.

Lenten Visit
Rev'd Helen Chantry, Youth Officer, Chester Diocese

“Me and who else?”

It was a pleasure to welcome Helen Chantry into school as this year's Lenten Visitor. Helen, along with her husband Peter who is also ordained, has worked with young people in and on the edges of the church for many years but now spends much more of her time welcoming young people and all they have to offer the church. Very often, it is not that they do not have a Christian faith, but that they have come to expect that the church is simply not for them. Helen aims to bridge the gap – from both sides of the divide.

Experiences Helen had while visiting Ethiopia with Christian Aid clearly made a great impression on her and strongly influenced her to visit us; hence the theme with its overtones of looking beyond ourselves and our own affairs to a wider world and its need. This has the marked emphasis of Helen's lessons with the Geography department where her pictures and stories of Ethiopia gave some the chance to try on another's shoes.

Assemblies and Life Studies lessons formed the backbone of the visit (in some of the latter we were challenged to look beyond ourselves into the minds of parents – quite an order,) while lunchtime meetings, (“What does God think of women?” for example) and numerous casual encounters in common rooms and corridors filled out the timetable. We were thankful for Helen's time and energy for the two and a half days she was with us. I also know that she thoroughly enjoyed it!

Mr. S. White



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – NOVEMBER 9th, 1997

The Address given by Mr. D. Bruce

On this Remembrance Day perhaps I may be forgiven if I indulge in a few personal thoughts and memories of a number of years ago. A date that comes to mind is September 3rd...not that infamous Sunday in 1939. This September 3rd. was a Wednesday, and the year was 1934.

Here at school it was the first day of the Autumn term and school was re-assembling after the Summer holidays. As the boys made their way up the drive that morning, it was not too difficult for the casual observer to recognise which boys had been at the school at the end of the summer term, a few weeks earlier, and which boys were part of the new intake. The former strode along with the confident air of ‘old hands’, laughingly exchanging badinage with all and sundry. The latter could be

recognised for entirely different reasons. They were the ones walking alone, the caps they were wearing were brand new, as were their blazers, and their faces bore mixed expressions of apprehension and bewilderment. Here speaks the voice of experience, because I was one of this particular group. Many of us had started our early learning days at relatively small schools run by various local authorities in and around Stockport. At the end of the previous term, we had left behind all the friends we had known from the age of five and all the things that were familiar. Here we were complete strangers. The world had taken on a decidedly bleak aspect as we approached the unknown that day.

Just as generations of boys had done over the many years the school had been in existence, I made my first contact with the rest of the pupils at assembly. The Hallam Hall seemed to be an enormous place then. I can not imagine how the intervening sixt-three years have reduced its volume to the size it is today.

Whilst awaiting the arrival of the Headmaster, my eyes took in some of the features of this apparently cavernous edifice. There were honours panels bearing the names in gilded letters of the diligent and successful students who had preceded me. Some attractive mullioned windows in the wall separated the hall from the quadrangle. A dais which used to be at this end of the hall provided the Headmaster with a vantage point from which he was able to address the assembled school, and on it a harmonium which I was soon to learn accompanied the hymn singing.

Looking beyond the harmonium to the wall behind it, I saw a wood panel embellished with decorative carving. Here too, the names were inscribed in gilded letters, but these names did not proclaim academic achievement. These names proclaimed sorrow, sadness and futile waste of young lives, as do all rolls of honour.

And so our days here passed in peace. We built up friendships and happy memories, and acquired, almost by osmosis, an education that most of us found to equip us well for life. Our daily assemblies were in this room, where the roll of honour was a reminder that sacrifices had been made for us to grow up in peace.

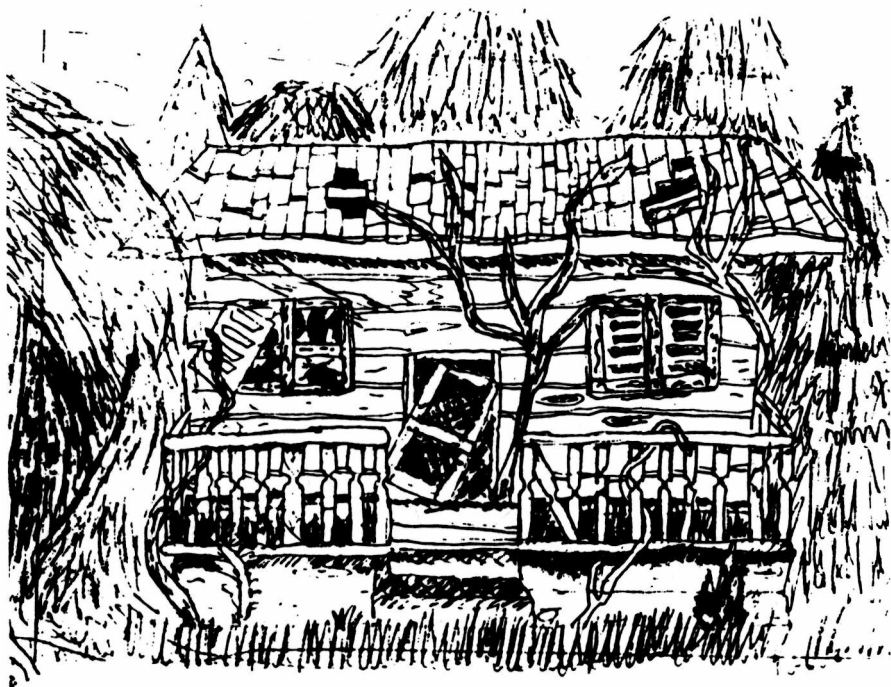
Today, the roll of honour is still were it used to be. Unlike the illusory shrinkage of the hall, this panel appears to have grown larger. Unfortunately, this is not an illusion, but a stark fact. I recognise many of the names inscribed on it, and in my mind's eye, I can even put faces to these names..... faces that have not altered in more than half a century. These are not figments of a vivid imagination, they were living persons, full of youthful vitality and enjoying life. We travelled to and from school each day on the same tram, shared the same form room and jostled each other in the corridors as we made our way to the next lesson..... the two Abrams brothers, Bill and Jim..... Harry Bardsley..... Joe Sagar..... Colin Ethell, to name but a few. I knew Colin particularly well. Some time in 1937, he and I were delegated to construct a storage cupboard during the weekly woodwork period. It was about the size of a single wardrobe, and took about three school terms to make. When finished, it was installed in Ben Varley's form room. It was a fairly respectable piece of work, but Chippendale, it certainly was not. Doubtless, after all this time, and all the many changes that have taken place in the school since then, it no longer exists. But

regardless of its eventual fate, I am sure it had a longer life-span than Colin. It might perhaps have provided tangible evidence for succeeding generations here, that a young man, named Colin Ethell, and so many others like him, were once living people, and not merely gilded letters on a memorial.

Soon we are to hear the words inscribed on the Kohima Memorial, reminding all who see or hear the words, that it is our duty and privilege to see that the great sacrifice of those who did not return, is remembered.

Keeping faith with them today, we wear our poppies and gather at services of remembrance. But, there are other responses to the challenge of Kohima. The philosopher Maimonides wrote, centuries ago, *"I believe in the future, however distant, when no-one will go hungry, there will be no war, no fanaticism, and no conflict..... when each nation shall bless each nation, and will live in peace."*

This we trust may be the prayer for the coming millennium and our response to those whose names we honour today.



Laura Bannister 2nd Form
Pen & Ink 'Summer House'

TRAVEL REPORTS

Albert Johnson Travel Report :

In Search of the “Knights of the Sword”

My interest in this theme began while travelling through Eastern Europe in the summer of 1996 and discovering on a woody hilltop the bizarre juxtaposition of a Cathedral and a pagan sacrificial stone. The Cathedral was in ruins, the sacrificial stone, however, was still in use, a place where students burnt their notes after the exam were over. According to the guide book, this stone had been placed there by ancient Estonians and the Cathedral had been built by crusading German knights in an attempt to convert the Baltic tribes. Reading through the Guidebook during a long train journey through Belarus, I discovered little more about the knights except that they were known as the "Knights of the sword". The romance of this discovery stimulated my interest in this era. I was curious to know more about these knights and how successful their quest had been and the Albert Johnson Travel Award seemed a great way to find out. Planning for the Award started my own quest through history books, guide books and maps, which culminated in my return to the Baltics.

My research started in Hallam Library, then extended to Stockport Libraries and resulted in a day spent in Manchester Reference Library and another exploring the Internet, looking for more clues to the Knight's story. Reading guidebooks to the region gave me an insight to which places I should visit.

The story I discovered starts in the last years of the twelfth century, when the Baltics were populated by Pagan tribes. German pioneers arrived in what is now Latvia, eager to exploit new territories and obtain the valuable amber found there. In 1199, the pagan chieftains attacked those Christians who refused to pay tribute to them, causing the Pope to decree a Holy War against all the Pagans in the Baltics.

In 1200, the Holy War started as Bishop Albrecht of Bremen sailed up the Daugava River, which runs through modern day Latvia, with twenty-three ships and a few hundred German adventurers. The next year he founded Riga, the site of the first German fort in the Baltics and his base for subjugating the Baltic people.

The order of the Knights was established in 1202 by the Cistercian monk, Theoderich. They were named 'Fratres militiae Christi de Livonia', variously translated as the 'Knights of the Sword' or 'Order of the Military Knights of Christ'. They were described as wearing 'white cloaks emblazoned with blood-red swords and crosses' and they followed strict rules, taking four vows when they joined: vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and defence of pilgrims. They could only wear simple clothes, had to sleep in their underwear with one pallet, one sheet and one blanket. They had to get up at dawn everyday and go to Mass. Each knight had three horses and a squire. They were told that a woman's company was perilous and they were only allowed to kiss their mothers, sisters and aunts.

At first this crusade was successful. By 1227 they had control of all of Estonia and Latvia, defeating the Danes who had captured Northern Estonia earlier. However, they never managed to penetrate as far east as the current borders of the Baltics and never conquered the Lithuanian tribes, who survived as Pagans. They established the Livonian State in the land they had conquered, reducing the native Latvians and Estonians to a state of serfdom, ignoring the Pope's command that converts to Christianity should not be deprived of their

freedom or property. This was their first mistake and the Order was reproached for its brutality. In 1236, the Order had become sufficiently corrupt that the Pope ordered it to become a branch of the Teutonic Order, renamed the Livonian Order. This did not reverse this misfortune and in 1238, Northern Estonia was recaptured by the Danes. In 1242 they were defeated on the ice of Lake Peipus in Eastern Estonia by the expansionist Russian prince, Alexandr Nasky Novgorod. In 1266, the Lithuanians defeated them in Northern Lithuania, near to the town of Siauliai. From this time onwards, the Knights were continually being threatened by the Lithuanians in the South and the Russians to the East and the Order deteriorated gradually losing their territory. In 1629, the Knights were finally completely crushed by the Russians and the Order was disbanded.

Our trip started at Stockport bus station, waiting for the Coach to London. We had decided to get a coach to Eastern Europe, but after hours of driving across Europe, along miles of half-built East German motorways and through floods that were still threatening Southern and Western Poland, we began to wonder if this was such a good idea. Vilnius, the Capital of Lithuania, was the first stop on our search for the Knights of the Sword. There we were staying with friends and it was a relief to hear a welcoming voice after our long journey! Whilst there, we visited the Vilnius Castle museum, situated in Gedimino tower on Gediminas Hill. It showed scale models of Vilnius in the thirteenth century, when it was protected by a moat, walls and a tower against the Teutonic Order which attacked many times. We also visited the Cathedral, built on the site of pagan worship site. Apparently there is still a pagan altar in the Cathedral cellars.

We also spent a day in Trakai, the old capital of Lithuania. There we visited the sites of three castles which have stood there at some point. The oldest is nearly completely obliterated and stands on a hill in the middle of the village. The second was built between 1362 and 1382 and a few ruins remain, although they were easy to miss. The third castle is on an island and has been restored recently. It now houses a museum. Somehow, we didn't understand the Lithuanian enthusiasm for rebuilding their ruins in bright red bricks – not terribly authentic.

From Vilnius a friend drove us to our next stop, the Hill of Crosses at Siauliai. On the way we experienced the only major problem on our trip – a decrepit Soviet tanker drove into our friend's ancient Lada, crushing the boot. At the time my only worry was whiplash, since the seats in the car had no head rests and I distinctly remember seeing the back window of the car as my neck was jerked backwards. We then had a worrying experience at the local hospital where people would walk in and out of the room whilst x-rays were being taken and a more surreal one in the office of the owner of the tank, where he presented me with a book commemorating Panevezys, the town where we had our crash. It contains pictures of the junction where we crashed and the hospital we visited. In Britain the car would have been written off, but not in Lithuania. No, we just got back in the car and drove to the nearest garage. There, they just got their hammers out and banged the car back into shape. Admittedly it was missing a little paint and it wasn't quite the shape it had been, but it got us where we wanted to go.

The Hill of Crosses is in the countryside outside Siauliai, on the site where the Knights of the Sword were defeated by the Lithuanians. It consists of a couple of sandy mounds covered by crosses. There are large crosses, small ones, beautifully carved ones and crude shapes. Apparently there are about six hundred crosses and rosaries, so many that you can no longer see the shape underneath. The crosses were originally placed there to celebrate the Lithuanian victory. Under Soviet rule, the crosses were removed several times but always re-appeared. Now, the site is a Christian pilgrim site, where the Pope held a Mass last year, and a symbol of Lithuanian nationalism. I think this is the place which made the greatest

impression on me. It is a forest of crosses containing a maze of pathways and all that you can hear while you wander through them is the clinking of rosaries in the wind. While we were there a family arrived with a beautifully carved, nine-foot high cross and vanished to add it to the labyrinth.

We spent that night at a Holiday Camp, run for exceptional Physics students. They had lectures during the day and discos at night. Talking to them, I was struck by their enthusiasm for education, knowing that that was the only way to do well there. They were curious about England, but most amazed by the price of cigarettes – almost six times the price in Lithuania.

We then took the train to Klaipeda, originally a fishing village. My GCSE German came in useful to convince the hotel receptionist that we really did want to stay in her hotel ("Es gibt kein Komfort hier. Es gibt nur zwei Duschen. Es gibt Remont und viel Laut. Und Sie können nur zwei nacht bleiben.") Before Lithuania expanded, the German crusaders captured Klaipeda calling it Memel. A castle was founded in 1252 by the Knights of the Sword and then transferred to the Teutonic Order, which ruled the town until the sixteenth century and the remains of the castle can still be seen.

From Klaipeda we took a minibus and then the hydrofoil to Kaunas, now Lithuania's second city and the capital between the World Wars. It was founded in the eleventh century and was on the border between Lithuania and the territory occupied by the Teutonic Knights between the 13th. and 15th. centuries. It is placed strategically in the centre of Lithuania and has apparently been destroyed 14 times since it was founded so no evidence remains of the time when it was a stronghold against the invading knights. However, we saw the cathedral and the castle.

During my trip, I discovered some things about the elusive Knights of the Sword, but more about how to plan a trip, budget sensibly and how to put up with spending all my time with one person. It also taught me to think about potential problems with language, personal safety and contingency plans in case we lost something vital, though fortunately these were not needed. I would like to thank Mr. Helm and the other judges for enabling me to go on my trip. I had a great time and we met a lot of interesting people so I would advise everyone who has the opportunity to go for the Award.

Eleanor Truscott



Wasdale Summer Camp

An abundance of walking, sunshine and showers was yet again experienced at Wasdale. The first week of the camp was relatively dry and hot, resulting in many walks taking in plunge pools. These would offer a refreshing end to many a hot day out on the fells. Many lighthearted moments will be remembered from this week ... most involving comments and jokes made by Andrew Fuller and Alastair Lydon! An extract from the log book gives a taste of week one:

“Yet another day in Wasdale started with a light mist on the screes subsiding to reveal bright sunshine. Rising with the mist the party settled to a rhythm heading for Grey Friar. A brisk stroll through the forest, then up some craggy crags, gained altitude in spite of the need to survey routes and alter bearings.

Having sat on the top of Grey Friar, the excitement reached fever pitch as we started the ascent of the Old Man of Coniston. Ten minutes later we reached the top, joining everyman and his dog as conquerors of this famous hill. After paddling in a tarn on the way back it was time for Mrs. Hicks to negotiate Hard Knott Pass in the minibus and deliver us back safely for gammon and cricket.”

Paul Stevens U8

High pressure dominated week two, providing blue skies and sweltering conditions. Again visits to tarns and pools were popular options on walks.

“We followed the path along the stream until we reached Tongue Pot. Despite our protests we were allowed seven minutes in which to hurl ourselves into the ice cold, yet inviting water. We then began our ascent up Crinkle Crags where we stopped to devour our lunch. After conquering the remaining four Crinkles we traversed Bowfell until we reached a gully. We negotiated this carefully, constantly being aware of what Mr. Cheslett’s size 13’s were dislodging! From here it was on to Esk Pike and then Sty Head Pass back to Wasdale Head.”

Claire Metivier 5th Year.

As tends to happen in the Lake District the weather altered to provide rain and more rain in week three. Clear days were experienced and spirits were kept high no matter what the weather brought, due to the presence of several fourth year boys (led by Adam Straker and James Allan), who sang their way up and down the fells.

“Wasdale Special Forces” set off in the overcast conditions, with a few new team members recruited from their regular units. Our first ascent was near a vertical cliff which was claimed to be Kirk Fell. The party quickly spread out with Brad taking up the position of logistical support about half a mile behind. The reason for this may have been his tyre choice, whilst the rest of us were on wet weather tyres he had slicks on!

As we continued our ascent we exchanged Mexican waves with one of our other groups who were walking up the other side of the valley. We reached the top of Kirk Fell and went on to Black Sail Pass where we marched onwards to Pillar. A gully was climbed to reach the top of Pillar and from here we descended back down to Wasdale Head.”

Sandy Reeve – Old Stopfordian

Our thanks go to all the staff who helped out on the camp this year. A special mention goes to Mrs. Hicks who, after three years of running Wasdale, has called it a day.

Bad Segeberg

After a somewhat arduous journey to Hamburg via Heathrow, and armed with the knowledge that Anthony Miller and Michael Tomlinson were amongst our number, the 1997 Bad Segeberg exchange had got off to the ideal start. However being in the capable hands of Mrs. Forbes, the experienced German beer glass collector, and the exchange veteran Mr. J.P. Ashcroft and his old pal, Herr Strege, we knew the trip was guaranteed to be a roaring success.

The teachers had planned a demanding schedule encompassing a visit to Hamburg, closely followed by a day trip to Hamburg, before the final sightseeing tour of Hamburg. The Reeperbahn provided amusement for the male contingent of the party. Not wanting to get stuck in a rut however, we interspersed our visits to Hamburg with ventures as far afield as Berlin and Husum on the North Sea coast. In Berlin, the historic, and soon to be federal capital of Germany, the more cultured amongst us headed for Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate despite the torrential rain, whilst the philistines sampled Berlin's shops and rode the U-Bahn all day.

As for the holiday's prerogative of learning the language and experiencing German family life, well, who can say? To be fair, most pupils were well matched with their German counterparts and their spoken German benefited immensely from the time spent immersed in the day-to-day family life. The relaxed atmosphere at the Städtisches Gymnasium surprised some but it rendered our holiday time spent at school far less painful.

Everyone agreed that the visit to Bad Segeberg's town hall, and our subsequent fifteen minutes of fame in the local paper, were highlights of the holiday. Other amusement was provided by the two ongoing competitions throughout the holiday, one being "Who's got the most Bratwurst and Schwarzbrot in their packed lunch today?" and "Who can visit the most McDonalds restaurants in two weeks?" Last years record for the latter competition was shattered by a triumphant Natalie and Sophie who notched up nine restaurants in seven towns.

If any of you are considering taking part in future exchanges, we, as participants who went back for more, can heartily recommend it. Unfortunately the favourite evening hangout, the highly acclaimed Lindenhof, closed down shortly after our departure from Germany. Despite Mr. J.P. Ashcroft's withdrawal from the running of the trip after many successful years, we are sure the liaison with Bad Segeberg will continue to forge strong relationships and benefit the German pupils at Stockport Grammar School linguistically for years to come. Also, we are delighted to welcome Cordelius, a former exchange student, who is studying at our school this year.

Laura Thurlow U3
Sophie Morris U4



Images of Maine

A million diamonds telegraphed from the shingle as the first probing shafts of sunlight punctured the early morning cloud. Edward squinted out into the haze and focused on a narrow strip of shingle which appeared to be stretched like a hammock between two hump-backed outcrops of rock. He wondered how long it would be before the incoming tide swallowed it up. At the higher end of this promontory eight cormorants had commandeered a ledge and stood motionless, wings outstretched, sentinels imperiously guarding their diminishing space. Below, a gull was relentlessly pounding a mussel shell onto the granite. A wooden skiff lay quietly to a mooring buoy, its bow weather-cocked into the light breeze and its elegant reflection dancing a kaleidoscope of pattern on the white hull. The shingle had all but given up the struggle to retain its identity and seemed prepared to accept its other subterranean life once more. Edward stared down at the rivulets of liquid energy which were beginning to infiltrate the seaweed below the shelf on which he was sitting. The yellowy-green fronds seemed pleased at the prospect of more active movement as first one then another began to sway to and fro in the gentle but insistent surges, their colour growing in intensity as the sunlight penetrated the deepening pools. Across the bay the wooded islands which had seemed so indestructible an hour ago were now gradually being swallowed up in the encroaching fog which, Edward had learnt, regularly came in on the flood tide when the south-westerlies blew. Groping fingers of grey consumed the land first at sea level leaving the amputated trees to be sucked in at leisure when all resistance had been overcome. The shingle strip was just an illusion now. Next would go the rounded buttresses that were enjoying a temporary status as the supporting cast to the highest point which was much surer of its permanent role in the landscape, its polished crown of glinting crystal marking the limits of the rising sea.

Another frenzied assault on a mussel shell severed the stillness and Edward took it as a signal to end his contemplation. Rising gingerly to his feet, for he had been sitting rather precariously on a narrow ledge, he began to explore the friction of the huge angled slab which entered the water at a consistent thirty degree slope, its rounded fault lines mirrored by countless others along the shore. He stepped across a deep waterworn crack pausing briefly to examine the stained dank walls with its collection of snails and barnacles and mentally began to plan a climbing traverse that could be sustained for miles in and out of the endless coves and inlets. The sheer scale, some five thousand miles of coastline, was almost impossible to comprehend. He had experienced other landscapes where the massive power and natural sculpture of the glaciated rock left him spellbound but never a scene like this where every few minutes the nature of the composition changed and the various elements competed for brief visual supremacy in the picture.

Edward framed his hands in front of his face and focused on the scene. *"This is an ancient, mystical place."* he shouted to a passing gull repeating it like a mantra. Then, musing to himself, he considered the different moods he had experienced in the short time he had been on the coast of Maine. In crisp bright sun the sharply defined pink rock and the hypnotic coloured waterplants mirrored in the opalescent milky water suggested a tropical lagoon surrounding a desert island with only the maples

and spruce hinting at northern latitudes. When the all-enveloping fog was down, time seemed to stand still, droplets of moisture accentuating more subtle tones and hues which rendered shapes softer and ethereal. Images on the limits of visibility teased in and out of the picture, unsure of their reality.

The flood tide seemed to him to have exhausted itself. Almost as a parting gesture a friendly trickle of warm saltwater caressed his toe. The brooding hump-backed courtiers had melted away now and only the king remained, proud and defiant. Edward looked to see if the cormorants were still there but they had gone. He was suddenly aware of a dampness in the air and a drop in the temperature. Whitecaps were forming on waves rolling in from the bay and a cat's paw of wind threw up a fine spray which smudged the ink on Edward's notebook lying by his feet. Momentarily the ledge was obscured in a sudden squall and several large drops of rain splattered on the rock beside him. Edward shivered involuntarily; it was time to go. The spell was broken. He stood up stiffly, picked up his book and shrugged the strap of his camera bag onto his shoulder.

Stuart Helm



4th. Year Camping Weekend

On Friday, 16th. May, 1997, seven brave people decided to spend two hours in a minibus with Mr. Cheslett so that they could enjoy a weekend of walking, baked beans and appalling jokes. The jolly group consisted of John Seymour, Richard Brackenbury (Brook), Jeff Kettlewell (Cecil), Claire Metivier and Hazel Alcraft. The responsible staff consisted of Mr. Cheslett, Mrs. Hicks and Miss Corderoy.

After putting up tents on the incredibly rocky ground, the boys began complaining about the girls' super sleek, double entrance, cross-ridge lightweight tent, while they were stuck with ten tonne orange things with the same waterproof qualities as a sieve. I suppose being one of the two girl pupils on the trip had its advantages! Having had previous experience of Mr. Cheslett's tea-making skills, I had a delicious hot chocolate while everyone else made the most of a cup of weak tea. Then we all went to sleep.

John Boulding and Jonty Mills joined us the next morning and we began our walking, carrying packs which seemed to get heavier as we progressed. After conquering Pike O'Blisko (2,340 ft.) we walked to Crinkle Crag via Red Tarn. After climbing Two Crinkles, though it seemed like a lot more, we reached Bad Step which "...is the most difficult obstacle met on any of the regular walker's paths in Lakeland." (A. Wainwright – The Southern Fells). We sent Mr. Cheslett up first and passed the packs up. We then proceeded to climb the ten-foot vertical rockface with few hand and foot holds. Having reached the conclusion Wainwright was a wimp; we dropped down to Three Tarn and contoured south of Bowfell. We chose to camp one mile south of Ore Gap at 2,200 feet. We selected the site because of a nearby stream.

It was very clear so the ladies on the trip decided to drink from the crystal clear water whilst the boys opted for swimming pool water as they were paranoid about being ill. Although the stream had its advantages, it made the ground that we were camping on slightly marshy.

We put our tents up again and left our packs inside them. We then walked up to Ore Gap, dropped down to Angle Tarn, went up a gully and found ourselves at the summit of Bowfell, 2,960 ft. - the sixth highest hill in the Lakes. We descended to the campsite and had cold pasta garnished with grass with a choice of cheese for the vegetarians and dehydrated mush for the carnivores! Mrs. Hicks also opted for the vegetarian choice.

Mrs. Hicks and Miss Corderoy had forgotten to pack anything to eat off or with and were constantly borrowing plates and spoons and eating straight from the pans! Being very tired from the day's walking we fell asleep quite early, only to be woken at 5.30 a.m. by the onset of the largest electrical storm any of us had ever witnessed.

As Hazel and I sat in our tent we recalled the last episode of 999 Lifesavers where a tent got struck by lightning. It also created slight panic when we remembered there were metal spikes sticking out of the tops of the poles and of all the tents we had pitched ours the highest.

To reassure ourselves we began to count elephants. There was a flash of lightening, 1,2,3,4.....12 thunder – oh, we were safe, it was miles away. Flash, 1,2,3,4.....6 Thunder; it was getting closer. There was a huge flash and a massive crash of thunder together – we screamed. Scared? Us? Never! An hour later Mr. Cheslett came and said, "You're not scared, are you?" once the storm was over and it was a bit late to ask! Once we had all ventured out of our tents, we discovered the boys' orange tents had been flooded and that one tactful member of the party had said to Mrs. Hicks, who is not fond of storms, "If we are going to die, there is not much we can do about it."

By 9.00 a.m. on Sunday we were on the verge of mutiny and were planning a slow, painful death for Mr. Cheslett! We opted out of walking and got back to the buses as quickly as possible in dense fog via three tarns that we never saw. We reached the minibuses and arrived back at school after a two-hour session of "Eddie spotting".

Despite dicing with death and eating cold pasta, I think we all enjoyed our character-building weekend. Mr. Cheslett's jokes lifted our spirits and it was an exciting end to a year of testing fourth year walks.

I would like to thank Mr. Cheslett for organising the trip and Mrs. Hicks and Miss Corderoy for giving up their weekend.



First Year Trip to Mull

As Sixth Form helpers we had been warned about the coach trip to Mull. It seemed to go on for ever. Do first years ever sleep? Yet arriving at Oban at 6.00 a.m. made up for it all. It was a beautiful, sunny day and the harbour was full of fishing boats. Arriving on Mull after a short ferry trip a first year was heard to say, "Wow! It's like Barbados." Within hours the first years were busy putting up their tents while we tried to get to grips with cooking for seven using only two gas burners.

The first campsite had by far the best facilities - both of them: a portaloos and a tap! The beach was great, though right next to the campsite. If you went at the right time you could see seals basking on the rocks. On the first afternoon we walked down to Finneport and caught the ferry over to Iona. The abbey was lovely and we had a great time sunbathing as the first years ran around madly on the beach desperately trying to throw each others' clothes out to sea; or failing that, each other.

The next day we took a boat trip out to Staffa to see Fingal's Cave and the puffins who incredibly seemed completely unperturbed by the swarms of first years. On the boat trip back the helmsman let the first years steer the boat. Games on the campsite were fun. Mr. Cheslett seemed to take them more seriously than everyone else put together.

Monday was probably the hardest day. We had to walk carrying everything over seven miles of very boggy terrain to the next campsite. Mr. Cheslett was pleased with the record time of five hours and ten minutes which had included some rest stops.

The second campsite was more basic but was beautiful. Washing up in the river was an interesting experience, especially as we watched some of the first year's plates and mugs drifting out to sea. Some of the first years tried swimming but we went for the slightly more relaxing option of sunbathing. On Tuesday afternoon we all walked down to Bunesson and had a great afternoon country dancing in the community centre. We also had a karaoke competition which Mr. Cheslett lost by a considerable margin. His rendition of Flower of Scotland lacked somewhat in tunefulness but he made up for this with enthusiasm.

The next morning we had to get up incredibly early to walk down to the ferry which was to take us to the next campsite. The boat trip was memorable – dolphins, seals and amazing views. When we got there we were faced with a very hard walk up a very steep hill to the next campsite but it was worth it when we got there. We then proceeded to spend two lazy days sunbathing, messing around on the beach, swimming in the sea and hunting for deer antlers and sheep ticks. On the last evening we had a bonfire on the beach. Toasting marshmallows on the forks that had managed to survive the various washing up sessions and had not been swept out to sea was great fun. The six-mile walk back to the coach in the hot sun was extremely tiring. We thought the coach was a mirage when we finally got there. We were sad to leave Mull but felt a strange sense of relief to reach "civilisation" again. The coach journey back was much quieter than the outward journey. Even the first years were subdued. We were all looking forward to baths and real food again. We would just like to say thanks to all the staff who made it such a great holiday. The only down side is that we cannot go back next year!

Sarah Worthington, Rosie Allister, Matthew Simpson, James Lockwood

The French Exchange April 5-17, 1997

After hosting our French partners in February it was our turn to travel in April. We flew from Manchester to Paris and completed the journey to Lorient, in Brittany, by coach. When we arrived at 23.30 we were all quite tired!

The first day was spent "en famille", sampling French food and settling in. It was school on Monday and we went to lessons with our partners and also took part in English lessons when we were needed. The weather was glorious, ideal for all the excursions which had been planned for us.

We visited a salmon farm and then in Concarneau were able to have a look around a trawler and also go out to sea in a fishing boat. There was an audio-guided tour of the ramparts of the walled city and we also had some free time to look around the shops. There was the opportunity to sample Breton culture in the form of music and dancing. We learnt some folk dances and heard traditional instruments played. One day we went to an aquarium in Vannes which has, amongst other things, the "first swordfish specimen presented in Europe". In the afternoon we went to the "Ile-aux-Moines", which was a small island to relax on and with the excellent weather continuing most people just sat around on the beach, had a picnic and chatted.

The weekend was spent with the families and we all did different things. We visited a place called *Port Fouis* and some families joined up to go out together. The final day was also spent with our partners and then we tried to have an early night because we had to leave at 5.30 a.m. (4.30 a.m. English time!) the next morning. After an uneventful coach trip back to Paris, apart from finding out Leicester had beaten Middlesbrough in the Coca-Cola Cup Final, we travelled on the plane to England with the French football team. All who went enjoyed themselves and found the experience positively beneficial in language terms and the glorious sunshine throughout created a very favourable impression of France.

Richard Brackenbury 5W



B.T. Global Challenge

On Wednesday, 16th. July, 1997 my children and I sailed out of Southampton on a small, crowded spectator boat, to greet the returning fourteen boats of the B.T. Global Challenge and in particular "Ocean Rover" aboard which my husband, David, had circumnavigated the world in what is billed as "The World's Toughest Yacht Race."

Incredibly, on arriving in Boston in June, only five minutes separated two boats – "3 Com" lying in eighth place and "Ocean Rover" lying ninth – this after thirty thousand miles of sailing. But now "Rover" had pulled ahead and managed to finish sixteen minutes ahead of "3 Com", who, more amazingly, crossed the line just three seconds ahead of "Cowtaulds International".

These exciting scenes formed a stark contrast to the wild, wet and windy day ten months earlier when we had forlornly waved goodbye as the Race began. Conditions then seemed dreadful – but we did not see the relentless pounding of sixty foot waves in the legendary South Ocean, the bleakness of Cape Horn and the frustration of the Doldrums, all while confined to a sixty-seven foot boat with thirteen other people, keeping four-hour watches, deprived of sleep, proper food and, above all, privacy, often soaked to the skin with no chance of dry clothing or sleeping bags.

Multiply this by the extra problem of "Time and Tide" – the boat crewed entirely by disabled people (blind or deaf and dumb, or amputees) and you get some idea of what "the Challenge" is really about. It is not a glamorous, selfish escape from reality, but the opportunity to test oneself to the limit, both physically and mentally.

I am very grateful for the support I received from the school, which enabled me to travel (the sensible way by air!) to meet Ocean Rover in New Zealand, Cape Town and Boston, thereby feeling very much involved in the Race, and seeing some really spectacular places.

The thousands of people lining the quay to give the returning boats a fantastic reception in Ocean Village emphasised what a terrific achievement this was for "ordinary" people, many of whom had little or no sailing experience before being selected by Sir Chay Blithe three years previously.

If such an opportunity comes your way – take it! I don't think you will regret it.

H.F. Kennedy



Hill Walking

This year's 1st. and 2nd. Form walks have seen parties struggling against the elements in the Derbyshire countryside. We had to contend with torrential rain on Goyt's Moss, a raging stream in flooded Chee Dale, bitter cold on Burnage Edge and dense mist on Bleaklow. By the last walk of the year, only a dedicated band of die-hards turned up for what was inevitably going to be yet another challenge. But each outing had its compensations, apart from the sense of achievement from surviving the difficult conditions. On one occasion, we took refuge in the Cat and Fiddle and a good time was had by all until we had to make our way back to the minibus! On Bleaklow, we stumbled on the crash sites of an Avro Lancaster and a Boeing Superfortress. After fifty years, it is remarkable how much debris remains recognisable.

Next year we deserve much more clement conditions and I hope that the number of walkers increases. One wonders whether the younger generation is getting soft!

We had four walks for the third and fourth years. The first appalling weather over the Roaches and then past Three Shire Head to Axe Edge set the tone for the rest of the year. Going over Bleaklow with a small band of enthusiasts we struggled against a foaming peaty torrent coming down Wildboardclough and some awkward navigational work on the cloud enshrouded plateau; anyway the day was enlivened by occasional patches of snow and a constant stream of jokes. After Christmas a large party assembled at Mam Tor car park for a circuit around Castleton; plenty of snow later on diverted attention from the orange peel challenge set by Mrs. Blackburn. The final walk was an excellent day out in the Lake District walking around the Kentmere Horseshoe. The 'breezy' conditions forced the occasional stop whilst we waited for the wind to die down so we could actually stand up and walk without being blown over and the day was rounded off by severe hailstorms that swept over us on Harter Fell.

John Boulding and Tony Cheslett.



*Jane Eastwood 6th Form
Print 'Father'*



■ Words to the wise: Young critic Dante La Bella with Blue Peter star Tim Vincent at London Zoo

Zoo trip for bookworms

YOUNG book critics from Stockport Grammar junior school have won a starring role on Blue Peter and a trip to the zoo.

A film crew arrived to interview Year Four after they were chosen as judges in the Nestle Smartie Book Prize contest — one of the biggest children's book awards in the world.

The children in Joan Mercer's class reviewed three shortlisted

books in their age category and their choice — Michael Morpurgo's *The Butterfly Lion* — was the eventual winner.

School official Chris Henstock said: "The children had a busy time reviewing the books. Everyone was so thrilled with their success and with the TV visit."

The young critics also won a day out at London Zoo, where their award was presented.

By courtesy of
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Maybe it was the image of seven teenagers lying on their backs in the middle of a field, in the pouring rain, looking tired, hungry, cold, wet and slightly out of place. Maybe it was the huge packs attached firmly to our backs, holding everything that we had needed over the past two days. Maybe they could have heard “Don’t speak” by “No Doubt” being sung at the tops of our voices as we wondered down what seemed like a never-ending path, leading to the dot on the map where we were supposed to be meeting Miss Clarke. Maybe, they saw the delight and amazement in our faces as we ran down to the centre of Eyam, where we were meeting our parents, the place that marked “the end” of our expedition.

We still do not know how they knew we were doing our D.of E., but we do know that our expedition was one of the most interesting experiences we have ever had together.

Not everybody, however, was happy to see a group of D.of E. people. On the qualifying expedition, we had to cross a field that had no grass in it. It was growing crops, although we did not know that at the time and so there was discussion about whether we should walk straight through the field, or walk carefully around the outside.

I distinctly remember Alix saying that we should walk around the outside, but as there was no notice warning us not to walk through it, we thought we would go ahead anyway. What a mistake. As soon as we had got half way across this rather large field, we heard the loudest, most terrifying noise one can expect to hear in the country: a bomb. It was a land bomb, created to scare away the birds and the walkers. It certainly did that. We ran as fast as we possible could until we reached the stile and we threw ourselves over..... happy just to be alive. Eventually, we worked out what had happened and felt rather foolish.

The sense of achievement felt at the end cannot be described. This may be because of the team work that goes on in order to have a successful and safe expedition or it may be due to the complete dependence that members of the group have on each other. We are now planning our silver expedition in the hope that it will go as smoothly as the bronze did.

In general, the Duke of Edinburgh Award has been a great experience for all who have taken part and it has given us the chance to develop our skills in many other areas that exclude the school curriculum. We have had the opportunity to get to know each other much better by working together as a team to achieve our Bronze Award and hope, one day, to receive our Gold.

Thanks must go to Miss Clarke, Mrs. Forbes, and the rest of the team and of course, Miss Haskins.

Susannah Thoms, 5C

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is FUN!

There are four sections that must be completed and they are designed to:

- make you try things you have never done before
- build up your knowledge of those you have done before, and
- teach you many new lessons that are nothing like the ones at school

These four sections are *Physical Recreation*, *Skills*, *Service* and *Expedition*.

Everybody must undertake a form of *Physical Recreation*, where they have to complete a certain number of hours of their chosen activity. I enrolled at an aerobics class and dragged Anna along with me. Siobhan completed a successful series of tennis lessons and other sports that Award participants were involved with included scuba diving, rugby and swimming. For our silver choices, we have both chosen climbing and are both looking forward to beginning, although Siobhan's fear of heights may cause problems

For the *Skills* section of the Award, six months of the chosen subject must be completed. Siobhan has learnt about pottery and intends to continue with this for her silver. Susie will start her work with fabric painting soon for the *Skill* section of her Award and she studies jewellery-making for her bronze.

The third section of the Award is the *Service* section. This involves doing something that will benefit yourself and other people in the community. For the *Service* section we both completed courses for which we had to take exams and then use the skills we had learned. These were Life Saving and First Aid, both of which were interesting and helpful. After taking her exam for live saving, Siobhan spent every Thursday lunchtime helping to teach the reception class of the Junior School how to swim.

The *Expedition* section of the Award is probably the part that people look forward to the most, or dread the most. We have learned many valuable lessons from our D of E expedition. After we had been walking for a while we discovered there were two things we needed to look out for: cows and rambles.

Cows ran straight towards us when we stepped into their fields and rambles either made polite conversation about the weather or looked accusingly at us as if we had offended them in some strange way. Siobhan developed an interesting way of diving behind bushes whenever she saw them coming.

The best comment we had was from a cyclist on our second day of walking, shouting: "*Hurry up, the Duke's coming to get you!*". After hearing that, the question in our minds was: *How did the cyclist know we were D-of-E-ers??!!* What was it about us that made him think this?

Model United Nations 1996-1997

Despite the very apprehensive start to the M.U.N. season, Stockport Grammar School has once again proved its name as one of the top debating schools. The first conference of the year was The Royal Russell International M.U.N. in Croydon. Five countries were represented by delegates from S.G.S., ranging from Argentina to Uzbekistan. The topics once again complemented all the important world issues including the "Rights of the Child and the "Question of Cyprus". Although the Croydon Conference is used by S.G.S. to prepare delegates for the much larger Hague Conference, it is treated with great respect. S.G.S. were honoured to have won several distinguished delegate awards and the "Shiny, happy people" of Argentina won a Best Delegation Award.

By the time of the Hague Conference, all our delegates were feeling confident and at ease with the art of public speaking. At this conference we were allowed to represent Uzbekistan. Although the country is not one of the main powers in the United Nations, we made our presence known and we all came home feeling we had achieved a lot.

The Dublin Conference was my personal favourite as it was the conference I felt I made the greatest impact. Again the issues were wide ranging from the "Improvement of the financial situation of the United Nations" to the "Question of Cloning". The atmosphere of the Dublin Conference, despite being competitive is very friendly and constructive. Although none of our delegations won awards, Germany was short-listed for the Best Delegation Award.

Attending a Model United Nations Conference is a brilliant experience. It gives you confidence and improves your public speaking techniques as well as teaching you the art of compromise. I would recommend anyone to get involved in this activity and I wish everyone good luck for the next series of conferences.

Fiona Macdonald U5

Chess

The Chess Club continued to flourish this year. There was a good showing by the senior team in the Batsford Problem Solving Competition in London in the Autumn term. They also reached the Zone semi-final of the Times British Schools' Chess Championship before Christmas but were beaten on average by a very young team from Rivington and Blackrod High School.

The U-14 team has been loyal and achieved some success in the Manchester and District League. In particular it beat St. Bede's, even though St. Bede's was cheered on by Mr. Service wearing his chessboard tie presented to him when he left us in July 1996.

The highlight of the Spring term was the House Chess Competition which was hotly contested with a member of the School's "A" team on board "1" for each House. Vernon, led by Stephen Saxon, won all their matches. Nicholson, led by Nick Tattersall and Peter D'Souza, was second. Arden, led by Tim (Mr. Chess Song Book) Watson and Andrew Giblin, was third and last but not least was Warren, led by Peter Taylor and manfully supported by Mr. Cheslett.

The Senior boys deserve our thanks for all the hard work they put in during the year.

We look forward to Mr. Gareth Affleck joining us to help with the club at lunchtimes next year.

A.M. Fitton



*Nicholas Georgiou 5th Form
Pencil 'Study of Greek Urn'*

Election Sweetener

A refreshing approach to politics!

It was before the date of the General Election had actually been announced, but there was already some interest. "Could we run a Mock General Election in School?" they said. "I bet everyone here votes Conservative - they'll just follow their parents." "OK," we said. But you run it. And some basic principles have to be followed. Prospective party candidates must be proposed and seconded and produce a thoroughly researched manifesto with their nomination forms.

So a timetable was agreed and nominations accepted. Voting would be for 4th., 5th., and 6th. form pupils with coloured ballot papers to indicate differences in political affiliation between the year groups.

A secret ballot was held to select one Conservative Party candidate from the five nominations received and the four unsuccessful candidates changed affiliation with remarkable ease so they could join in anyway. The self-appointed press corps descended with vulture-like interest on each unsuspecting candidate. Campaigning had not yet begun. By Monday 10th. March, the press machinery was well underway and the reality of the situation began to dawn on the candidates. Although the candidates names had been announced at Senior School Assembly, most pupils were unaware of what was going on. By the Wednesday of Campaign Week, posters had covered every permissible surface (and some unauthorised ones). They campaigned on issues. They campaigned on personalities. On Friday, 14th. March, in Deb. & Lit. Society, Mr. Mort chaired a Question Time debate and every party had a certain amount of time to put their policies forward and answer questions. The Election Special Newspaper was distributed. The debate became heated. The Conservative party candidate had to be restrained from hitting the Labour candidate. Could it be that she had argued her case well?

Monday, 17th. March, was the last day of campaigning and issues were turned upside down: sleaze. Polling began on 18th. March and the 4th. year vote was going to be crucial. No problem. 4th. years can be (and were) easily bribed with Refresher sweets for each "High Taxes and Free Public Transport" vote. Or was it just that 6th. Formers are bigger than 4ths? The end result was the same.

The Results were announced on Thursday, 20th. March. The High Taxes & Free Public Transport Party are yet to form a government. But they had their own campaign song.

So it was not a Conservative Party whitewash. This was wholly lead by the pupils, who researched and debated real issues. There is a strong Deb. & Lit. tradition at Stockport Grammar School. Some of the party candidates are seasoned Model United Nations Assembly delegates, used to detailed research and effective presentation for strong debate. But they did not expect to be convinced by their own arguments and in making politics fun and accessible to politically unsophisticated younger pupils, the prime movers succeeded in raising the overall awareness of political and social issues in school.

Chris Henstock & David Mort

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MOCK GENERAL ELECTION

RESULTS

The Results as announced in Assembly were as follows:

Lucy COTTER	LABOUR	48 votes
Peter D'SOUZA	HIGH TAXES FREE PUBLIC	
	TRANSPORT	84 votes
Edward HALLIDAY	COMMUNIST	34 votes
Conor O'MALLEY	SINN FEIN	18 votes
Sophie MORRIS	REFERENDUM	17 votes
Vicky POLLITT	MONSTER RAVING LOONEY	29 votes
Stephen SAXON	CONSERVATIVE	70 votes
Emran SHIRVANI	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	55 votes
Richard WOODWORTH	NATURAL LAW	12 votes

The year group breakdown was as follows:

VOTES	4th. Year	5th. Year	Lower Sixth	Upper Sixth
LABOUR	5	10	22	11
HIGH TAXES FREE PUBLIC	34	21	8	21
TRANSPORT				
COMMUNIST	4	7	18	5
SINN FEIN	9	2	5	1
REFERENDUM	1	4	9	4
MONSTER RAVING LOONEY	15	7	4	3
CONSERVATIVE	41	6	12	11
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	5	12	34	4
NATURAL LAW	3	1	6	2

Many thanks to everyone who took part; either by campaigning or voting

Mrs. C. Henstock and Mr. D. Mort

School Charities

The members of the Charity Committee, who come from all sections of the school, have selected charities this year from those suggested by pupils and the many who have written to us asking for our help. As in previous years, an attempt was made to support a variety of good causes, local, national and international. Details of charities that we might support are welcomed and always receive careful consideration.

In the Autumn term we succeeded in raising a total of £1100 which was divided between three charities. Ward 3 of St. Thomas' Hospital was able to buy audio equipment and a video recorder for the elderly patients, the Dominican Friars received a donation to help pay for the education of boys in Kenya and Shelter was helped in work locally with homeless people.

Four charities benefited from the money raised in the Spring and Summer terms. The Bone Marrow Ward Fund of Pendlebury Children's Hospital, Friends of Rosie which is a children's cancer charity, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and the N.S.P.C.C. shared £2275. This was raised with the help of a well-supported non-uniform day in March.

As usual, many people have worked hard this year within the school to raise money for charity and I would like to thank them for their help.

M.S. Hirst

“TIMEWATCH” Report 1996 - 1997

TIMEWATCH has gone from strength to strength this year thanks to Mrs. Nott and the support from other members of staff. We have again been visiting many sites of historical importance and in INFOWATCH, have researched current topics of interest. The new network is providing great opportunities!

Following last October's trip to London which included a tour of Kensington Palace and a look at the Albert Hall, TIMEWATCH visited the "Royal Armouries", Leeds in November. It was a great success. We saw displays of Oriental warfare and live demonstrations of weaponry, including swords and rapiers. In the tiltyard we watched riders in armour training with lances! The trip had an exciting end; the high winds broke a banner which smashed a large window near the café. The fire alarm was activated and the whole building evacuated shortly before we left!

The New Year began with Explosions! – videos included the history of gunpowder and "The Dam Busters". "Custard and Canaries", an imaginative title, headed Mr. Bruce's exciting and deafening demonstrations!

During the Spring Term TIMEWATCH also found time to do local research. The first trip was to Rylands' Library, Manchester. Its collection is one of the largest

in the country, with artefacts from 3000B.C. and manuscripts and books. Our thanks go to Miss Young and the other staff whose enthusiasm and friendliness made our visit so enjoyable and informative. In February we visited Jodrell Bank to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Lovell Radio Telescope. This "inquisitive giant" used to be the only instrument which could track the space age. The "hands on" activities were popular and the Planetarium instructive about various constellations, but not about the comet Hale-Bopp as we had hoped!

The Founder's Day walk, commemorating our 510th. anniversary, was to the school's first site at St. Mary's church. The new rector, the Reverend Scoones, made us feel very welcome and he was pleased to show us round the Chancel and the Vestry. The spectacular view from the tower could only be seen after a harrowing climb in the dark! This term ended on a high note with the photograph presentation at the Art Gallery in Stockport. Already the Greek Street site plaque had been renovated; now Mr. Scully assisted in the unveiling of the school photo, kindly donated by the Goldsmiths. Mrs. Nott was presented with a wooden brick which originally had been laid outside to deafen the sound of the trams!

The first trip of the summer term was local – to the China Exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester. The demonstrations of silk embroidery and painting were stunning, but conversation with the Chinese demonstrators was difficult. We are still intrigued by some of the magic tricks attempted!

TIMEWATCH then supported the 150th. anniversary of the publication of "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte by visiting the Bronte Parsonage Museum. We found out about her early life and those of Emily and Branwell and what made them begin writing. The Parsonage consisted of several rooms which had been restored to their original 1850's condition and displays of manuscripts, books, pens and even clothing belonging to the family. We also found time to ride on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, locating Oakwood Station which featured in "The Railway Children".

The final trip was to "Bletchley Park" near Milton Keynes. This was a centre of great importance during the 2nd. World War and the tour showed us the various huts where code breaking had been done. Learning about the Enigma machine was very fascinating and also seeing the reconstructed "Colossus". It was the last trip for Stephen Saxon who was leaving. His support has been invaluable and will be greatly missed.

The Autumn Term of 1997 has been a memorable time for the club. Supporters celebrated its tenth birthday on September 17th, with a trip down "memory lane", courtesy of Mrs. Nott and chocolate and lemon cakes, courtesy of Mrs. Armitage! Many thanks! We welcomed back past supporters who cut the cake and blew out the candle. The first trip was to the Science Museum "Eureka". "Hands on" activities again were popular both with adults and pupils! Communications and the Music Box had ardent supporters. It was a stimulating and amusing trip.

On October 23rd., nineteen supporters visited London and both trains were on time! The morning visits included places beginning with the letter "B". We started with London Bridge, Southwark Cathedral and the Bard's memorial. Bankside involved brothels, bear and Beer Gardens and a Boat (a replica of the Golden Hinde). The tour of the Globe Theatre inspired us to plan a return trip for a performance. St. Paul's beckoned us back over the river for lunch, then we ceremoniously walked down Foster Lane to Goldsmith's Hall. This was a special visit for our 510th anniversary. Mr. Beasley (another B), the Librarian welcomed us just as Stephen Saxon arrived from Cambridge to join us. The tour of the building designed by Philip Hardwick (architect of our Greek Street school) was wonderful; the magnificence of the Livery Hall, the tapestries and emblazoned carpet in the Drawing Room. In the Library the ghost of Sir Edmund Shaa encouraged us to look at his will and other archives both there and in the Archive Room downstairs. Vicki Pollitt reported on the "510 and counting" video group – slow progress but fascinating and valuable interviews had been recorded. Anthony Ash reported on the "Still Counting" group who are helping to sort out the school archives in the "broom cupboard" under the guidance of Mrs. Mellor. During tea Mr. Hine, the assistant clerk, welcomed us officially and Richard Woodworth and Kim Street formally thanked Mr. Beasley and presented him with some S.G.S. books, including Year Books. It was a very happy occasion. We left stimulated by our visit to remember with gratitude the Goldsmith who had founded our school.

All TIMEWATCH supporters have enjoyed this year's full programme of events and trips. We would like to thank Mrs. Nott and the other staff for all their work and effort. We look forward to our 11th birthday in 1998!

Katherine McKeon L7
Katherine Smith L5



*James Boulding 2nd Form
Lino Print 'Dragon'*



*German Exchange 1996-1997
Civic Reception for Herr Strege and the German Pupils*



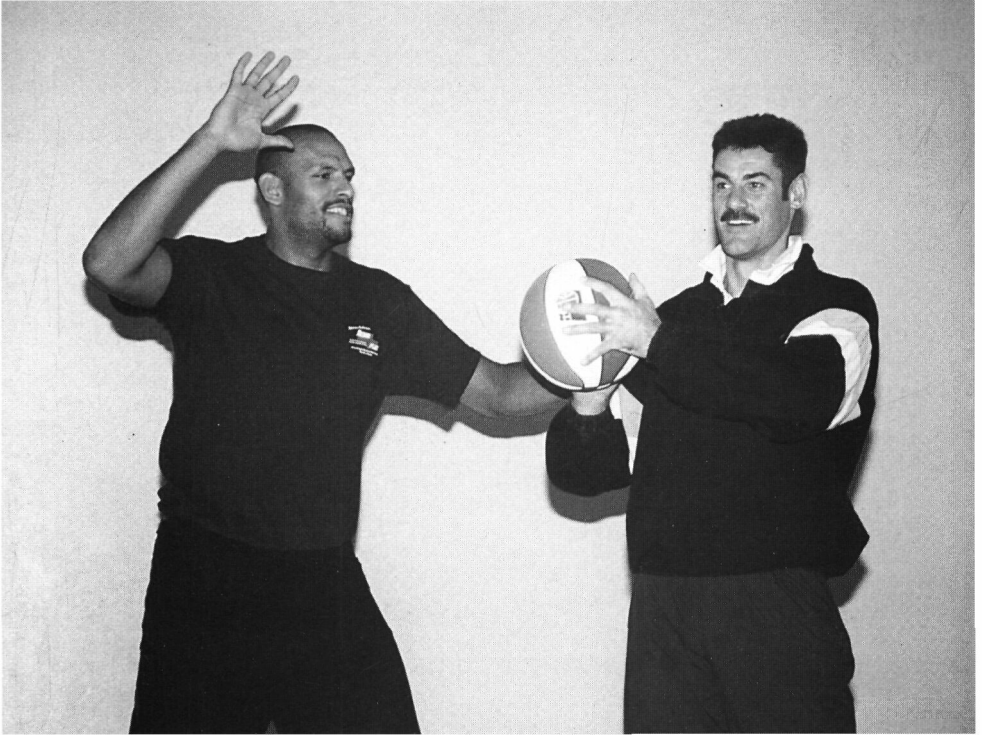
*The Lenten Visitor
Revd. Helen Chantry with Revd. Simon White*



*Stockport Grammar School
Activity Week, 19-22 August 1997*



Wasdale



*NBA Professional & O.S., John Amaechi,
in school, November 1996*



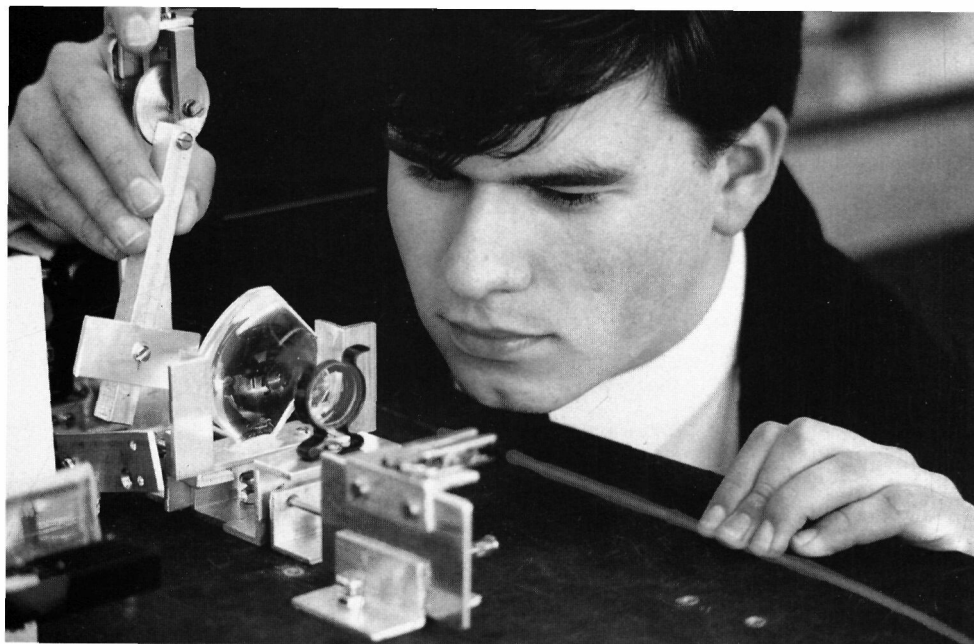
Jon Bell - Head Boy



Janet Reeve - Head Girl



The Cast of Twelfth Night



Laser Club - Stephen Saxon - July 1997



History Trip to Dresden



Open Evening - July 1997



*Victores Ludorum - Sports Day
Alistair Chadwick and James Pearce*



*Victores Ludorum
Dominic Orsini and Leela Axon*



U/12 Lacrosse Team won Tuscarora Cup



*"Blue Peter" visit to
The Junior School*



Chemistry Club Exhibition



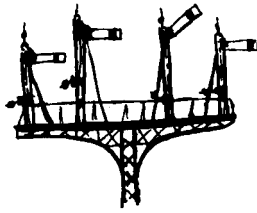
1st. XV - M. C. winners



Girls' Rose Bowl - Emma Wilson



1st. XI v. MCC



GRAMMARAIL

From September, Grammarail is to be based in a permanent home beneath the Woodsmoor stage. Plans are already in hand to clean the area and remove what has been stored there for what may have been decades. The Maintenance Department will be lending their services both in redecorating and fitting power sockets and new lighting. Funds have been made available to allow the model railway group to build a permanent layout which will measure some thirteen feet by sixteen, without the need to dismantle in preparation for drama productions as was the case in the Hallam 'green room'. The most significant development, however, has been the arrival of a new member of the group in the form of our head groundsman, Mr. Chris Twaites, who is already approaching the new challenge with unbridled enthusiasm and who will guarantee that things move forward at a rapid rate.

This first paragraph was written in June. Since the start of the new school year the venture has progressed with amazing momentum. The track plan is settled and is a close representation of Evercreech Junction on the Somerset and Dorset line. Anyone who saw the Shipley Model Railway Society's 'Evercreech Junction' exhibition layout will recall how impressive their creation was. We are seeking to achieve similar standards and although our membership consists primarily of a very enthusiastic body of first year pupils, with patience and guidance they will rise to the challenge. Mr. Twaites has ensured that the two circuits with goods yards are in situ and properly wired up. In preparation for the next Exhibitions Evening, it has been decided to build a detachable extension representing the Highbridge branch featuring a terminus layout which can be operated and exhibited independently of the main layout. Track and pointwork from 'Shepton Mallett' has recently been lifted to meet the need - the only thing we lack now is the time!

With so much going on 'in house', we have not been able to run our usual excursions to various steam railways but we hope that we shall be able to redress the balance during the Summer of 1998. We would like to express our deep thanks to the Bursar, Mr. Leay, who has done so much by way of provision of material and financial resources to ensure that Grammarail can look forward to an exciting future which would have been beyond the realms of fantasy twelve months ago.



Stockport's Arty Facts Galore!



Stockport Grammar School turned artistic for the week when drama, music and art took front stage in the curriculum as part of an 'Art Week'.

Pictured in dramatic stance is pupil Ben Mottershead who got the week underway as Willy Wonka in the school's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Not to be outdone the music department also took to the stage, at St George's Church on Buxton Road, where two new works were premiered - one composed by Deputy Head boy, Chris Gort on the electric organ, and the other by

Camden de Reves of the Hallé Orchestra. The concert, entitled 'Prism II', involved 160 musicians in 26 different ensembles performing throughout different parts of the gothic church.

And if you thought that was big enough... pupils from the junior school helped local artist, Jeff Teasdale create a two storey high sculpture on an old staircase in the school grounds. Says Jeff, "we wanted to create the idea of a bookworm going through a hole. It's big enough to walk through and goes from one floor to the other!"

By courtesy of
**THE BRAMHALL, CHEADLE & DISTRICT
COURIER**

FEUILLETON

Twelfth Night

Teddy boys, fake moustaches, yellow socks, Christmas trees, handcuffs, juggling balls, an orange wig... just some of the delights Miss Price had in store for the cast as we set about producing "Twelfth Night", 50's style. Early rehearsals were encouraging, but we soon found ourselves presented with a few challenges, the most difficult proving to be making Sarah Worthington, Becci Pickford, Donna Wood and myself into convincing men, choreographing a suitable "jive" to "Rock around the Clock" for four drunks (Will Hunter, Sarah, Rosie McKay and Tessa Hood), getting the two policemen (Tom Griffiths and David Paulden) to co-ordinate their knee bends with their lines without the rest of the cast cracking up around them and making Dan Mort and Fiona Macdonald kiss with passion - an impossible feat, resulting in a fake kiss.

The most horrifying moment was when Mrs. Beckett showed us our costumes, including Donna's bright yellow mac, Will's carrot coloured hairpiece, Sophie Morris' shocking pink dress and Dan's false facial hair, intended to make us look like twins but failing miserably. The most sickening cast member was Rob Higgins who, in a James Bond style suit, actually looked half-decent.

Dress rehearsal night arrived with frightening speed and we were amazed to find everything gelling together, aided by Tessa's brilliant singing and Miss Clarke keeping things running smoothly in her role as stage manager. A slight hitch occurred when the Chaplain arrived, as the other people in his scene found it very difficult not to laugh as he came on stage on a rusty old bike with a squeaky wheel. However the whole thing proved a great success with a packed hall on all three nights. Many thanks go to Miss Price for another excellent production.

Anne Dowland L3

"Much Ado about Nothing"

Review of the theatre trip, September 1997

The premise was inviting - "Shakespeare's most romantic comedy" proclaimed the programme of "Much Ado about Nothing". Having studied the play beforehand, most of us were eager to see it performed at the Royal Exchange Theatre by professionals. Helena Kaut-Howson, the director, had chosen to set it in nineteenth-century Sicily shortly after the Napoleonic War. Through the use of traditional music and bold, bright costumes the production was given a convincing Italian atmosphere. As the powerful sun settled over the players in the opening scene, so a stillness settled over the audience as we were drawn into the turbulent world of Messina, where "a slandered reputation is as bad as death, if not worse".

Josie Lawrence gave an electrifying performance as the fiery rebel, Beatrice, and John McAndrew made a truly creepy Don John, the villain of the piece. Benedick and Leonata were also impressively portrayed. Everyone agreed that Claudio's Scottish accent added to the humour of his character, but the "young" Don Pedro's receding hairline was less easy to accept.

The play was staged using theatre-in-the-round, giving the director the chance to make the most of the frequent entrances and exits in the play without giving the impression of players sprinting on and off stage. Some felt that Niamh Daly gave a rather watered-down performance as Hero, and that Dogberry's and Verges' watch did not achieve the heights of comic excellence Shakespeare intended. Luckily the same could not be said about the eavesdropping scenes, which were the comic highlight of the play.

The players were obviously in their element in these scenes, making full use of the centrality of the stage, they interacted with the audience to optimum effect. The transformation of Beatrice's and Benedick's characters following the change in their relationship was skilfully and sensitively handled. However in the final scene, it is up to the actors to restore the comedy of the earlier scenes after several tragic ones. The sheer comic quality of the eavesdropping scenes in the first half made this impossible to achieve.

The main theme of deception was explored thoroughly in the context of a society where deception is the norm. This was a polished and accurate production which made a text that we had all studied for half-a-term seem fresh as well as entertaining.

Elisabeth Clark 4C
Selina Briggs 4L

Measure for Measure Trip – Buxton Opera House

Our trip to Buxton for this performance of "Measure for Measure" took place on a cold evening in October. A general sense of anticipation and expectation was high as the house lights were dimmed and the stage lights came up. The scenery was sparse and the props almost non-existent, yet the acting was convincing and we soon saw how the scenery had been cleverly designed to suit each scene.

In the first half the play went well, with the plot unfolding and the atmosphere gradually building up. The second half proved to be just as impressive, as the actors and actresses settled into their characters. The ending was effective, yet quite different from the televised "Measure for Measure" which we had watched previously.

Once out of the building and safely in the coach, we hoped to make a quick return journey but we had left behind Chris Benson, who did eventually arrive very

slowly from the building on his crutches. The play was well worth going to see. However, it was a little hard to differentiate between the scenes, which made it difficult to follow at times. The general view was that the play had been well staged and the cast received hearty applause.

Kim Street 5B

Something Dramatic

This year the customary Autumn drama production strayed somewhat from its traditional format. *Something Dramatic* was aptly named as it consisted of a variety of self-contained scenes. The genres ranged from comic monologues and miming to melodrama, although the evening was concluded on a much more serious note with the powerful emotions, poignantly conveyed by Anne Dowland and Lauren Davies, in "Tick Tock".

In addition to the large number of staff from many departments involved, the directing team included three of the Upper Sixth, Rachael Patten, Sophie Morris and Emily Jorêt, who assumed responsibility for two of the scenes. Other senior pupils undertook many of the most demanding dramatic roles, although the more junior contingent of the school were extensively represented and acquitted themselves with great confidence and aplomb.

Ably supported by the rest of the cast, the character of Thisby in "Pyamus and Thisby" was hilariously portrayed by Ben Holbrook, who had the audience in stitches. Oliver Simpson and Seb Wright's continuation of their roles as caretakers, following their performances in "Maniacs", lent the production an added sense of continuity, as well as providing some additional comedy during the necessary periods of scene shifting. However, even during amusing scenes, *Something Dramatic* managed to retain the more substantial messages which lay beneath the partially superficial humour. Despite the hilarity present in "Mother Figure", the cast, Sarah Worthington, Emma Chapman and Rick Waing, did not lose sight of the gravity of Lucy's position, nor did they attempt to obscure or undermine the significance of marital difficulties which exist in both relationships. Indeed, it was this infinite variety of emotions which the production managed to convey through its format that greatly enhanced the audience's enjoyment.

The quality of this production was not at all compromised by the sizeable numbers involved; rather it was increased, as the talents of many of the school were employed to full advantage. With over fifty pupils taking on acting roles, and many more involved in the backstage work, it is phenomenal that casting had only been done, at most, two months earlier. To members of the audience it was certainly an unforgettable experience.

Katherine Halliday, U5

“Blithe Spirit”

After much deliberation over many plays, Sophie, Jess and I decided to direct the play, "Blithe Spirit", by Noel Coward. That was followed by auditions. At first it was not easy telling our friends what to do but eventually our authoritarian streak came through and the cast was chosen.

The rehearsals took place both after school and on Sundays. That was one major drawback, being in school from 10a.m. to 4p.m. every fortnight on a Sunday. Still, copious amounts of Pot Noodles and cups of tea made it all worthwhile and helped to lighten the burden.

The cast started to learn their lines and it became easier to concentrate on the dramatic aspects of the play. This was definitely the most enjoyable part and our running in and out of the rain was punctuated by many cries of "Articulate!" and "Louder!"

Then came the dress rehearsal which, typically in such a poor summer, was performed in raincoats and umbrellas. Some days later the rain stopped and we approached the opening night with extreme trepidation. Having been in plays before we were aware of how nerve-racking acting in public is. However, this was especially frightening as we had done the whole thing ourselves.

Backstage Lucy and Rosie had gone grey, Tanya and Adam became the married couple, Louise turned eccentric and Matt donned the smoking jacket. We were ready. It soon became clear that the play was being enjoyed and it was worth all the hard work when the audience laughed in the right places! The funniest parts, however, seemed to be where things went wrong – especially when Matt started speaking into the listening end of the phone and failed to notice.

The most gratifying comment of the night had to be from a member of the audience who said it was better than a professional production she had seen. Can't argue with that! Thank you to the entire cast who were brilliant in their characters and to all the backstage helpers, musicians and artists. Special thanks go to Mr. Howson and all the caretakers who made it possible for us to do this. The stress and trauma were definitely worth it.

Emily Joret U1

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

It was the opening night of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the tension was rising in the dressing room. Oompa-Loompahs were running around adding finishing touches to their make-up, crash mats were positioned under the trap door and people were practising their lines!

Many of the cast had never been onstage before and were extremely nervous but curious to know how the experience would feel. They were not disappointed. The minutes ticked by and before the show started the children were "let loose" on the audience. It was fun to watch faces as Verruca Salt commented on people's taste in clothing or about her successful daddy!

Finally the show started and the cast began to relax as the performance progressed. People were on and off the stage and everything went to plan. The Oompa-Loompahs were a great success with their eerie chanting and "candy stick" tapping.

The production was highly successful and once the curtain closed for the final time everyone, but mainly Miss Price, breathed a sigh of relief!

Paul Bennett

Stratford

Everyone knew that the annual trip to Stratford was going to be enjoyable, as we were missing two and a half days of school but still arriving back home in time for most of the weekend. Less attention was paid to the cultural aspect of the trip, at least until we got there and realised that the novel experience of shopping, eating out and high quality theatre productions all in quick succession could actually be quite fun.

Stratford was beautiful in the warm Spring sun and remarkably clean. Time and money were limited, so the "eating out" was confined to a rushed "McDonald's" or a slightly more imaginative Chinese Meal *al fresco* as we sat on the pavement. Fear of being late for ticket collection inspired several mad rushes through the town, only to find that the staff had evidently forgotten any dire threats made under the influence of a good meal. Spare moments such as these were filled by communal singing sessions with the local star, Peter Pettifog, whom we adopted. We even bought his C.D.!

When we eventually got around to watching the plays, we were not disappointed. The favourite production had to be "The Merry Wives of Windsor", the story of one enormous man's attempt to seduce the wives of his two neighbours simultaneously. Of course the women manage to outwit both him and their husbands with hugely amusing consequences. Guy Henry's hilarious performance as the quick-tempered French doctor mangling all his words was particularly admired.

Though perhaps not as humorous, the other plays were equally enjoyable. The battle scene in "Cymbeline" was done very well, it was decided, although there was some debate about the suitability of Eastern costume for the actors. Guy Henry was an amusing if implausibly attractive Cloten.

The production of "Henry VIII " was, on the whole, rather less memorable but, none the less, there was praise for Guy Henry's performance.

Last, but not least, "Much Ado About Nothing" caused some differences of opinions. The set was surreal to say the least, with a tree growing up through the middle of a room, and some thought that setting the play indoors robbed it of some of its essence, leaving it somewhat sterile. However the production was still funny, though sadly Guy Henry did not perform, with people enjoying games of "spot the pie-boy", who kept popping up unexpectedly.

In conclusion, a great time was had by all, and we would all go back, especially if Guy Henry was appearing!

Kate Tanner U7

The Merchant of Venice

On Tuesday, May 6th., English sets 3 and 6 went to Buxton Opera House to see Neil Sissans' production of "The Merchant of Venice". Minimal staging and cast allowed for a versatile Shylock, played both as a victim and a villain. Clever lighting and appropriate music were interspersed throughout the play and added to the overall calibre. Interpretation of the effects certainly went down well in bulking up the essays that followed the visit.

This was an interesting and thought-provoking production enjoyed by all. Many thanks go to the English staff, especially Miss Price, who organised the trip.

Andrea Callan 5S

Rachel Carr 5P

Katherine Breslin 5P

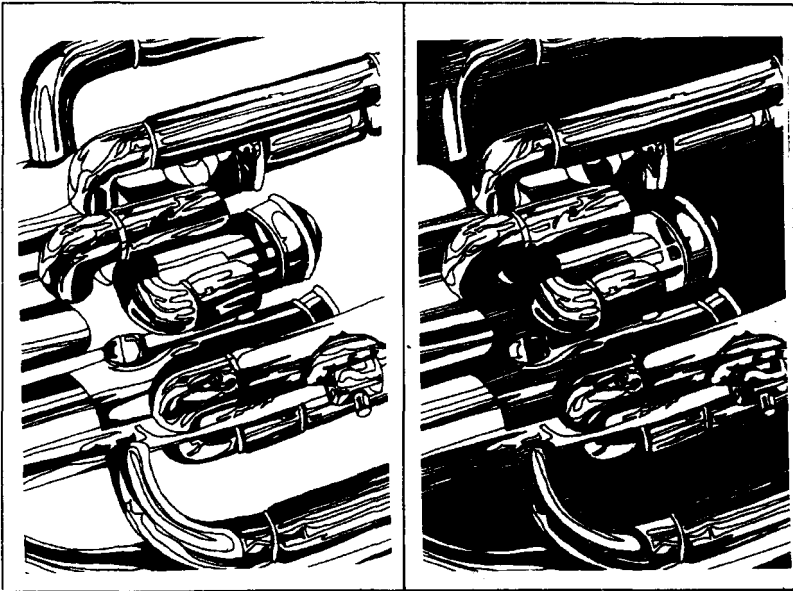


*Daniel Pollock 2nd Form
Lino Print 'Boot'*

MUSIC



Stockport Grammar School



Joanne Desyllas

MUSIC

Every year group at Stockport Grammar School contains youngsters of considerable musical talent and commitment. When both attributes are present in great quantity, a remarkable spirit emerges which in turn provides a richness of opportunity for the Music Staff. The 'year of 97' was undoubtedly one of these groups: highly accomplished, good humoured and unfailingly co-operative. Though it seems invictious to select individuals, I wish to mention our A-level music group: Martin Headon – most professional leader of the Orchestra; Matthew Osgood – the finest pianist certainly in the recent history of the School; Emma Smith – a singer of great presence throughout her school career; and Emma Wilson – whose natural musicianship shone through particularly in her horn playing. In addition, Laura Dixon and Danielle Pleuvry offered wind playing of distinction. It is hardly surprising that the challenges set by the Prism Concert (anticipated and unexpected) were a perfect match for the musicians of the School led by these splendid young men and women. Mrs. Condliffe, the driving force behind the event, writes about one of the finest episodes in Stockport Grammar School music in a separate article.

Another busy Christmas season began with the Christmas Concert, now firmly ensconced in the Dining Hall. It began with a work for Wind Orchestra and "animals" by a local composer, John Golland – "Into the Ark", ably narrated by Mrs. Headon. Christmas music was intermingled with a Marcello Oboe Concerto and music from "Les Miserables" and "West Side Story". The traditional Carol Services were followed by the Music Department's debut at the splendid new Bridgewater Hall. Seventeen hundred people were treated to an evening of orchestral lollipops, choir carols and congregational items, which I was privileged to accompany on the £1.2 million Marcussen Organ.

In early January Stockport Grammar School musicians returned to the Bridgewater Hall in the form of the Big Band to participate in 'A Feast of Fables', sponsored by, and centred on, the Manchester Camerata but also including dances, circus performers, a gamelan orchestra and junior school musicians playing percussion instruments. Most of the remaining part of the Spring Term was spent in preparations for the Prism Concert.

The two Summer Term concerts comprised the usual mixture of items from younger and older ensembles. The highlight inevitably included Matthew Osgood's outstanding performance with the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto and Laura Dixon's excellent playing in the last movement of a Mozart Flute Concert. Two splendid Leavers' Groups – choir and band – gave witness to the sense of team spirit which pervaded the Upper Sixth musicians. This was also the last Stockport Grammar School concert for Mr Rob Buckland whose exceptional qualities have been recognised by his old college, the RNCM, in the form of a permanent, leading appointment. His inspired leadership of the Big Band has been an important part of its success in recent years and we shall miss him, not least for the highly entertaining way in which Big Band items were introduced in each concert.

J. J. Towers

PRISM II

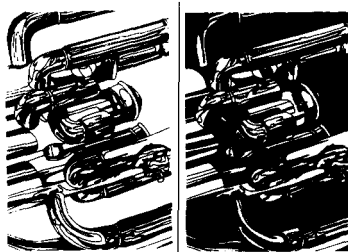
A Prism Concert is a unique experience, each item overlapping so that there is a continuous strand of sound moving from one area of the building to another combining with subtle lighting effects to create an intense and changing atmosphere. After the success of the previous Prism Concert in 1995 it was a particular challenge to repeat the experiment in March 1997.

The list of items was longer this time, creating even more logistical problems; the performers who are in more than one piece need to move from area to area without distracting the audience. Imaginative and subtle lighting is necessary, not only to disguise the movement, but also to reinforce the changes of mood created by contrasting pieces of music, to heighten the tension, to emphasise the climaxes and to illuminate players or an architectural feature so that the audience has something to focus its attention on. This very lighting which had been so carefully thought out was nearly the ruin of the concert. At the first rehearsal in St. George's Church the day before the concert, the electricity supply failed. The supply was not restored until the very last minute.

The programme included items from both String and Wind Orchestras, Chorus, Chamber Choir and Boys' Choir, and the Big Band plus soloists and ensembles from the very best of our musicians – thirty-two items in all. The concert opened with the premiere of a work for solo cornet commissioned for the evening. From the first note, the atmosphere was electric and one could sense the concentration and determination of all one hundred and sixty performers working to surpass all expectations – and they did.

Without exception the performers experienced pride and satisfaction, fully aware that their fine performances had been professional in presentation and execution. It was an occasion that they will long remember. It was certainly one of the most exciting and magical occasions in my career and I feel immensely proud to be associated with such fine musicians and grateful to everyone involved for their support and commitment.

Carol Condliffe.



THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mr Philip Wilby, Senior Lecturer in Music at Leeds University and a composer of increasing renown, was our adjudicator this year. The breadth and depth of his musical experience were put to good use both in his advice to competitors and his involvement of the audience, particularly during the afternoon session.

The winners were:

Instrumental classes

First and Second Year :	Meng Wang, accordion
Third Year :	Alanna Maltby, harp
Middle School :	Fiona Asbury, saxophone Paul Cowling, guitar
Sixth Form :	Matthew Osgood, piano

Vocal Classes

Junior :	Paul Arnold
Senior :	Victoria Wilson

Ensembles

Junior :	Chloe Campbell, Jane Little (vocal)
Senior :	Emma Smith (soprano) Emma Wilson (french horn) Matthew Osgood (piano)

Trophies were awarded to:

Paul Arnold, Fiona Asbury, Laura Dixon, Matthew Osgood, Emma Wilson and Victoria Wilson

ASSOCIATED BOARD MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

The following achieved success in Grade 8:

Martin Headon	violin
Matthew Simpson	cello (merit)
Emma Smith	singing (merit)
Jonathan Willescroft	cello (distinction)
Emma Wilson	french horn (merit)

Other candidates who reached distinction standard were:

Grade 7

Fiona Asbury	flute
Ross Smith	trombone

Grade 6

Fiona Asbury	alto saxophone
Gregory Aspin	tenor saxophone
Hannah Clark	cornet
Nicola Moss	bassoon
Gemma Smith	cornet

Grade 5

Alexander Howson	alto saxophone
Christopher Smith	clarinet

Grade 4

James Boulding	cornet
James Chapman	cornet
Rebecca Drake	oboe
Nicholas Woolley	tuba

Grade 3

Andrew Turner	trumpet
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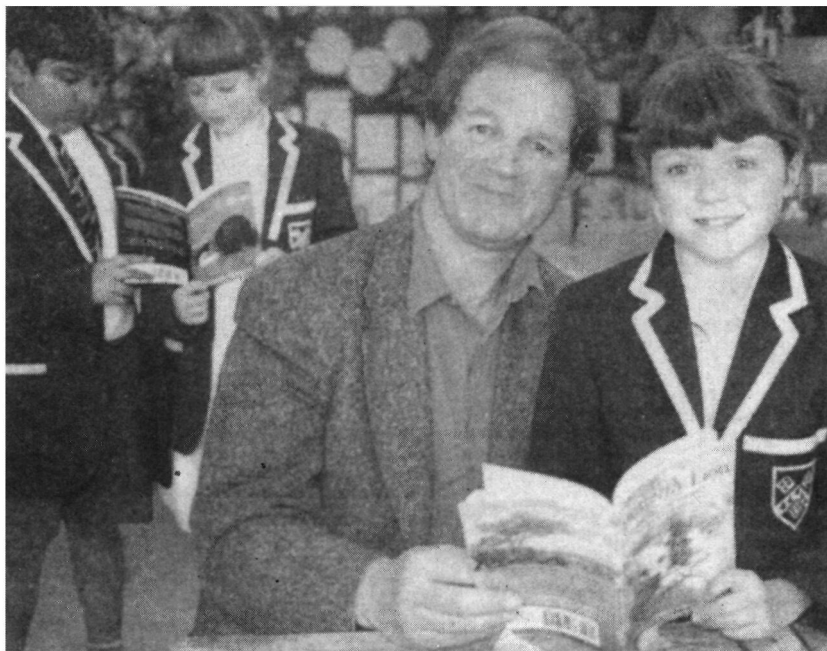
Grade 2

Alan Dearing	cornet
Kirsten Grötte	tenor horn
Catherine Hesford	cornet

Grade 1

Simon Grundy	bassoon
Timothy Jenkins	cornet
Jessica Lowe	piano
Thomas Millns	bassoon
Jonathan Schouten	clarinet
Thomas O'Shea-Brown	clarinet

Pupils learn the write way



■ AUTHOR Michael with pupils Katherine Biglen, Jagpal Palls and Jennifer Cloeman

AWARD-WINNING children's author Michael Morpurgo went back to school to thank his young supporters.

Year-four pupils at Stockport Grammar School were among groups of young reviewers from around the country given the task of judging stories shortlisted for this year's Smartie Book Prize.

The Stockport youngsters chose Michael's book *The Butterfly Lion* as their winner and, when it was eventually picked, they travelled to London Zoo to present him with his prize.

Teacher Chris Henstock said: "As our prize for choosing Michael, we won a day of his time and he travelled to the school to spend time with the pupils."

Michael talked to the children about his work,

By Kevin Delaney

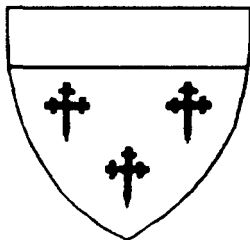
signed dozens of autographs and red extracts from his book to junior pupils.

Chris added: "We had four different sessions and Michael explained how he writes his books and where he gets his inspiration from."

By courtesy of
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

ROUND THE HOUSES

Arden House



After last year's magnificent second place in the Fallow's Shield, the year started with enormous optimism in the house. Two new house captains were installed in the persons of Louisa Wood and Stephen Buckley, and a new House competition, known as the House Cup, was announced.

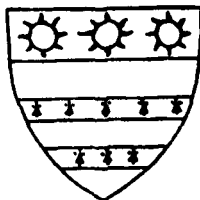
The year started with the senior competitions where we did well in the senior netball and had high hopes in the senior lacrosse and rugby, although these did not come to fruition. Arden House lay badly adrift in the Shield competition at this point. The intermediate and junior age groups looked more promising. The boys' rugby teams gained first places in both competitions and the junior lacrosse players, who are mainly in the first form, came a very creditable second. Perhaps the best performance in the winter sports came from the junior girls who won the netball competition with new record points for and very few against. Well done! The highlight of the Spring term came from a magnificent first place in the swimming gala.

The Summer term saw some of Arden's traditionally weaker sports assume new strengths. The boys won the overall cricket competition and the junior girls did really well in the tennis and rounders competitions. The athletics saw a magnificent effort from all competitors who, when the age group competitions had been added together, found that they had come joint first. The culmination of a year's hard work saw the House closing on their traditional rivals, who had a huge head start, and in the end we came third in the Fallow's Shield.

A sad finale to the year saw the retirement of Mrs. Lockwood as one of Arden's Heads of House. The House made a collection and Louisa Wood came in to present her with a commemorative clock at her last assembly. At this assembly the house was introduced to her successor, Mrs. Hall, and we wish her well in the future.

W. Krywonos

Nicholson House



We finally did it! We won the Fallow's Shield. It took seventeen years from the previous victory to build up to this monumental moment, but it was worth the wait. The diversity of Nicholsonian talent was never in question when Mrs. Hicks and Mr. Palfreyman took on the role as leaders of this great house, but little did they know that we would conquer our competitors with such style.

In the senior events we had mixed fortunes. Few points were picked up from the rugby and netball. However, the hockey and lacrosse were both won by Nicholson. In the intermediate events we displayed consistent tenacity and determination by coming second in the hockey and the rugby, third in the netball and fourth in the lacrosse. Our juniors displayed much promise for future years by winning the lacrosse and the hockey, coming a valiant second in the rugby and finishing fourth in the netball.

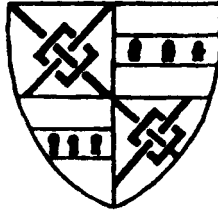
After Christmas we took the lead by winning the overall cross country event. At this stage we were not only having success on dry land, but also in the water with Nicholsonians displaying their skills in the swimming standards (second) and in the swimming gala (second). It was this kind of steady performance throughout the year that put us in a strong position going into the final.

We were overall winners of the athletics standards and put in a magnificent performance on Sports Day to come a creditable second. There were some memorable individual achievements on this day with records being broken by Nicholsonians. Suzie Bailey broke the Junior Girls 400m record in 70.69 seconds and Felicity Munro threw the discus in the Junior Girls event a wonderful 21.86 metres. Adam Straker made us all very proud by leaping into the records when clearing the high jump by a magnificent 1.72 metres. This was an excellent effort as it broke one of the longest standing school records.

However, in spite of this glory and success we did not fare so well in the inaugural House Cup competition. Quizzes did not seem to be a strength this year and we struggled a little in the volleyball. We did grace the dance floor with glitz in the ballroom dancing and made some equally impressive moves on the chess board, but as they say, "You can't win them all!"

Thanks must go to all members of the house who put in a great deal of effort and approached the events with great zeal. Thanks also to the house captains, Adam Mitchell, Lindsey Dickinson, Robert Gandy and Emma Wilson. Nicholson have finally proved that we can be champs – let's hope we are successful in the defence of our richly deserved title of Fallow's Shield Winners!

Vernon House



Ours is the House where they all want to be.
 Its colour's light blue and it starts with a "V".
 With Frau Kuster's lead, we give it our best;
 Mr. Urwin's the other who steers our sure quest.

We've lost Mrs. M, who was keen and devout.
 We'll miss her great power for sorting us out.
 Gone too are Massey, Kath, Hayden and Di;
 They gave it their all and were sad to say "bye".

They inspired our will and we never gave up-
 Our envied reward was the new Sports Day Cup.
 And although we just missed, the Shield by a fraction-
 Vernon was seldom found far from the action.

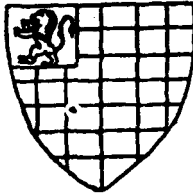
A great year behind us, we're facing the new-
 Our spirit and eagerness fresh as the dew.
 We're ready to give it our Vernon-sized best
 Secure in the warmth of our Vernon-shaped nest.

Our Captains are Alex, Louise, Brad and Fi,
 The Junior School Hall is the new place to be-
 Where we all keep our shoes on avoiding Brad's feet-
 Never in Vernon has life smelt so sweet!

1997 WINNERS SPORTS DAY
 WINNERS SENIOR BOYS RUGBY
 SENIOR GIRLS NETBALL
 INTER GIRLS NETBALL

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS	:	JUNIOR SCHOOL XMAS PANTOMIME
LEADERSHIP QUALITIES	:	HAYDN PARRY KATH WOOF ANDREW BEALES
SWIMMING GALA	:	CHARLIE MERCER
SENIOR HOUSE QUIZ	:	PAUL WOOD
SPORTS DAY VICTRIX LUDORUM	:	LAURA KING

Warren House



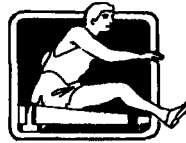
Warren could not have asked for a better start to the year under the inspirational guidance of our house captains. The senior rugby squad made a superb start to the year, as they proved unbeatable and helped us storm to the top of the Fallow's Shield. However, we were once again denied the pleasure of remaining in first place as we gradually began to slide into fourth place. However, Warren demonstrated their true potential as the junior members of the house made an impressive attempt to raise Warren from the bottom of the scoreboard.

The introduction of new sports facilities has proved to be a great success and now there are more willing participants than ever. Perhaps this year, the Fallow's Shield will be returned to its rightful owner!

Undoubtedly, we will continue to give our very best to the House and hopefully all the efforts of the house staff, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Cheslett, and the members, will be rewarded.

House Captains 1997

SPORTS REPORT



1st. XI Cricket Report 1997

This season's 1st. XI was potentially one of the best the school has had for several years. However, due to terrible weather in June, and the pressure of A-level and GCSE exams, it was rarely able to perform to its full potential. Saying this, the team still managed to win five of the seven games which were completed.

Indeed, we got off to a flying start, winning the first three matches with ease, at the only time in the season when we were able to field a full side. Cheadle Hulme were dismissed for a meagre 84 in the first game, with Simon Wilkinson (5-35) and Rob Gandy (4-12) doing the damage. This total was surpassed in only 18 overs as we cruised to victory.

After the matches against Woodhouse Grove and Manchester Grammar were abandoned, our next comfortable win came in an away fixture at St. Bede's. Gandy and Wilkinson were again the principle protagonists, this time with the bat, as they shared a stand of 92, scoring 50 and 43 respectively. This helped us to reach the 200 mark before skittling the home side for a paltry 85. On a typically wet day, at home to King's, Chester, we chased a target of 120 in 24 overs, and won with the loss of 5 wickets, while captain Charlie Pimlott struck 61 in only 10 overs.

Our first "non-victory" of the season was in an away fixture at King's, Macclesfield, where we collapsed to 93-9 before a spirited stand between the tail-enders, Shirvani and Reynolds, brought the total up to 133, leaving the home side 50 overs to reach our score. In the process Reynolds had suffered a dislocated thumb. A good team performance ensued and Wilkinson took 5-48 as King's closed on 108-7.

It was at this point in the season that, due to the loss of a number of Upper Sixth formers, several younger players were given their first taste of senior cricket. A fantastic performance by a team which included four debutants, brought a victory away at Bolton School due largely to an aggressive innings of 77 from Stuart Brown.

It was here that the weather intervened and no more matches were completed until the four nations festival in July. Indeed it was the rain that saved us against King Edward's School, Lytham, as despite a patient 56 from Chris Jones, we collapsed from 92-1 to 142 all out. The away side were cruising on 52-0 before the game was abandoned. The M.C.C. match this season was also called off with our needing 200 for victory after a sloppy bowling and fielding performance.

The first game of our tour of Scotland brought our first and only defeat of the season, where, although Masud and Cogan scored 36 and 34 respectively, the team's inexperience became apparent and a 9-wicket defeat was the result. We were, however, able to pull together for the last match against St. Columba's College, Dublin, and completed the season with a marvellous victory. Here Chris Longden was the hero taking 3 for 14 from his 7 overs. This victory was possibly the most satisfying of the season and is a source of optimism for next year's team, which will include all but two of the players who went to Scotland. Our thanks for such a successful season go mainly to Mr. Brett, Mr. Wright and Mr. Makinson without whom we would not have been able to compete so well all summer.

2nd. XI Cricket

Our season was dogged by bad weather as only four of the nine games survived the rain. The first game of the summer went ahead as planned against local rivals Cheadle Hulme. Stockport won the toss and decided to bat, scoring an impressive 184/5 dec. with Will Hitch top-scoring with 79. S.G.S. bowled well and had the upper hand, limiting the home team to 112-7 by the end of play. The game was drawn, but prospects looked promising for the season. The game against Woodhouse Grove was cancelled and the next week brought an easy victory over St. Bede's College. Stockport scored quickly and finished on 172 for 5 (Guy Street 63 not out/Mark Frost 67 not out). While St. Bede's could only manage 43 all out in a very one-sided game.

Two weeks later we enjoyed a good match against King's, Macclesfield. King's batted very well and Stockport could not get to terms with the big total set. None of the S.G.S. batsmen could build an innings and eventually they were all out only 26 runs short of King's score of 180.

After three more cancelled fixtures the final game was away against King Edward's School, Lytham. As this has always been one of the harder 2nd. XI fixtures, Stockport travelled up to the Flyde coast with a very strong side. This paid dividends with captain, Shahbaz Masud, taking early wickets. Lytham were outplayed and only managed 147 all out on a good batting track. Stockport picked off the runs very comfortably finishing on 150 for 4. Wasif Yousaf scoring 57 not out joined by Jon Oliver on 31 not out.

Although the season was cut short, the team played very well and showed great commitment, whilst many had important exams on their minds. Shahbaz Masud captained the side with great dedication helped by vice-captain Guy Street.

<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Lost</u>
4	2	1	1

Under-15 Cricket Report

We started the season against Cheadle Hulme with an under strength team. A rather low total was scored and we were fortunate the match was rained off. The next match was against St. Bede's with Stuart Brown scoring a valuable 43 in batting out for the draw. In a 35-over game, we triumphed by 5 runs over King's, Chester, Tim Wordsmith scoring a hard-hitting 63. Our big game of the season against King's, Macclesfield went down to the last ball, with King's needing 4 runs to win. However, as Hugh Garvey continually reminds us, he bowled a dot ball.

Against Bolton we were missing certain players to the 1st. XI. However, thanks to half-centuries from David Foreman and Alistair Lydon we narrowly missed out on the win, ending with a victorious draw.

Tim Woodsmith made his second half-century with a big six against King Edward's, Lytham. In the second round of the cup good scores by Richard Garrett (35 not out) and Jonathan Boulding, a valuable 11, rescued the day. The under-15's had to abandon their cup run due to the constraints of term time.

I would like to thank all players for their contribution to the team and Mr. Urwin for coaching along with Mr. Brett and Mr. Makinson.

Richard Garrett
U-15 Captain

Under-14 Cricket Report

The team enjoyed a long and eventually successful season culminating in victory in the final of the Cheshire County Cup Competition.

The initial fixture took place on a cold and blustery April day at Cheadle Hulme. The highlight of a high-scoring draw was a rapid half-century from Robert Smith before hypothermia set in. St. Bede's score was then comfortably overhauled with both Longden and Hope scoring half-centuries alongside a brisk 20 not out from Stone. The season also brought victory over Bolton together with draws against Macclesfield and King Edward's, Lytham.

It was, however, in the cup competition that the team produced its best performances. A first-round win against the previous year's finalists, Wilmslow High School, raised confidence and this was consolidated by a comfortable victory at King's School, Chester. Longden's accurate and varied bowling was a key feature of both these games. The favourites and holders, King's, Macclesfield were dispatched in the quarter-final. A tight bowling and fielding display followed by a gritty innings from Garner laid the foundations for a victory which was sealed by a huge blow from Daber complete with loud, accompanying roar. The semi-final saw a comprehensive victory over Malbank High School with the steady and consistent Ghosh taking 4 wickets and Daber contributing with a half-century. The final was played after the summer break in September with Altrincham Grammar School as the opposition. Daber (72 not out) and Longden (44) ensured a total that was always going to be too great to be bettered and the trophy, along with entry to the national competition was secured.

The team was ably captained by Chris Longden with Robert Hope deputising when 1st. XI duties called.

R. Howarth

Under-13 Cricket Report

The season began on a high note with a comprehensive victory over Cheadle Hulme on the new Dialstone Lane wicket. Jonathan Woodsmith guided us to victory with a fine 79. This was followed by two drawn games against King's, Chester and King's, Macclesfield, where our unbeaten run was saved by an innings of 41 not out by Robert Artingstall.

Crisis point was reached in the next game against Bolton where what looked a very good score with the bat turned out to be a fairly straightforward target for Bolton as our bowlers generally under-performed. This was to be the turning point of the season as we decided that a cup run was a real possibility. After wins against Upton, Wilmslow, Christleton and All Hallows we eventually reached the final of the L.A. Hopkins U-13 Cheshire Cup which was played in mid-September. The match, against Weaverham turned out to be fairly one-sided as we strode to victory and ended another successful season.

We give special thanks to Mr. Wright and Mr. Affleck for their coaching and umpiring and also to Mr. Makinson and Mr. Brett for their hints on batting and bowling techniques.

Paul Lomax (Captain)

Under-12 Cricket Report

Once again the depth of talent available for selection for the First Year team was such that many players of real ability were not able to play as often as they might have done in other years.

Although a few matches were cancelled due to the weather, the season proved to be both enjoyable and memorable. We started in promising style at St. Bede's, when in a 35-over match they scored 134 for 5, with Tom Rice getting a patient 37 and Andrew Clarke a stylish and considerably quicker 34. Bede's were dismissed for 68 mainly due to some impressive off spin bowling from James Boulding who returned figures of 6 wickets for only 5 runs, thus winning by 66 runs.

On F.A. Cup Final day, we played local rivals King's, Macclesfield and lost narrowly by 3 wickets. S.G.S. scoring 117 for 7 with Boulding top scorer on 32. King's replied with 120 for 7 in a match that could have gone either way.

We suffered our heaviest defeat, a thrashing to be more precise, at the hands of Bolton School. Bolton were bowled out for a modest 93 with Charles Mercer taking 4 for 21 including the wicket of the Lancashire Schools' Captain who looked set for a big score. However when your first three batsmen all fall victim to run-outs, it becomes an uphill struggle, and despite some excellent left-arm seam bowling from the aforementioned opponent, the miserable total of 31 all out can only be described as total capitulation and was certainly the low point of the season.

Away at King Edward School, Lytham we bounced back to form. Matthew Fallon opened the batting and scored an impressive 80, punctuated with some splendid straight driving. Well supported by some aggressive hitting by Simon Elliott either side of tea enabled us to declare on 171 for 5 off 38 overs. King Edward's made no attempt to go for the runs and despite bowling 40 overs at them, they finished on 62 for 2.

In the first round of the Cheshire Cup we were drawn against Tytherington High School. Batting first, we posted a massive 156 runs off 20 overs with Fallon getting 71 and Clarke 38. We bowled them out for 34, the wickets shared out among six bowlers.

The next round should have been against Knutsford High School but they pulled out giving us passage to the quarterfinal against King's, Macclesfield. The question was, "Could we avenge our defeat of earlier in the season?" The answer was a resounding "yes!" After a cautious start some unbelievable hitting from Ben Bright and James Davenport put us in a very strong position, which King's were unable to match. This was due in no small measure to the hostile bowling performance of Davenport who at his best is frighteningly quick.

The semi-final was to be against another local rival, Cheadle Hulme School. We batted first and could only manage 72 for 4 of our allotted 20 overs. At the time this did not look to be enough but with some excellent tight bowling the opposition were bowled out for only 26 runs, each of the 6 bowlers used getting some reward, but the fearsome Davenport was the pick of the bunch with 3 for 8.

So to the final at Tattenhall Cricket Club in deepest Cheshire in September where the opponents were to be Sandbach School, an unknown quantity. In a 30 over contest we batted first scoring 153, with James Pearce top scoring with 42 and Clarke

weighing in with 35. In a nail biting finish Sandbach looked to be heading for victory until a devastating spell of 3 for 9 by Liam Bottomley brought us victory in the 28th. over by the narrow margin of 14 runs, and all this despite dropping 7 catches. It was a triumphant end to a successful season.

Apart from the batting and bowling performances mentioned it must be said that we are blessed with not one but two wicket keepers of great potential in Alan Daring and Simon Elliott.



GIRLS GAMES REPORT 1997

Netball & Hockey

This season must go down as the one with the most injured and incapacitated players. As well as the usual broken fingers we have had numerous broken limbs, several operations and short-term injuries, making team selection quite interesting on occasions. However, in the Netball and Hockey Tournaments we still notched-up seven Stockport Schools Trophies, three Manchester and District and one Greater Manchester.

Sally Wrigley, Louise Monk, Laura Dixon, Alex Sharpe and Hayley Grimdsitch, played Netball regularly for Greater Manchester.

In Hockey Francis Edwards represented Greater Manchester at U-18 level. Harriet Mather, Fleur Kennedy, Charlotte Spence and Rosie Reeve represented Greater Manchester at U-16 level. Rosie going on to the North of England Development Squad.

The level of Netball and Hockey in the North-West is one of the highest in the country and our matches are often of an excellent standard. Many of our ex-pupils are selected for their university teams and we are pleased to hear that they are continuing their sports on leaving S.G.S. The Old Girls were delighted to be asked back to play our Senior Netball Team and played an outstanding match, reminding us what an asset it is to have six-foot players in the circle!

At the other end of the scale it is good to see so many enthusiastic and talented young pupils involved in the sports showing versatility and the promise of height. Many of our pupils have gained selection for the Stockport team in the Youth Games.

My thanks goes to all the people who have helped to run the teams, to the staff for their expertise, to parents for their support, especially at the matches and to the pupils who set themselves such high standards. Stockport Grammar Schools teams are certainly of the best in the North West.

V.E. Garrett
I/c Girls P.E.



1st. XI Hockey 1996-97

Looking back over the season I feel quite sad to think that this was my last as yet again it was very enjoyable. One regret is that the results on paper do not reflect the talent that we had within our squad. More than that, our team spirit and determination meant that we achieved some excellent results against top class oppositions.

I must express my thanks to the 5th. form as this year we had unusually few 6th. formers and without them our achievements would not have been as high as they were. The greatest result was winning the Manchester and District Tournament as it is always a proud moment when you bring back silverware for the School trophy cabinet!

Finally, I would like to thank the coaching staff and referees for their support throughout the season and to wish next year's 1st. XI every success.

Janet Reeve (Captain)

Coach's comment

All the senior teams have played well this season. They have dealt with a wide array of opposition and brought home a major share of the trophies that have been on offer. We bid farewell to the Upper Sixth who lasted the season, especially Melanie Taylor and Janet Reeve, the 1st. XI Captain, who showed their commitment throughout.

I look forward to next season where we have a very strong core of seniors who I hope to see achieve even higher standards. Let's keep going from strength to strength.

Miss G. Holden
Mistress i/c Hockey



*Jane Eastwood 6th Form
Pencil 'Swimmer'*

Under-16 Hockey 1996-97

Having only played two matches and two tournaments, there is not much to write about in this season's under-16 report. Our players went to play senior hockey at 1st. and 2nd. XI standard. However, there were occasional re-unions of the team which last year claimed both major trophies.

The first of these re-unions came early in the season when we played Marple Hall at home. The re-union was a good one, an 8-0 win, with the style and prowess of last year's double winning side recaptured. The second match was played against Weaverham. We won 7-2, playing in a manner reminiscent of another, more famous double-winning side, residing not too far from here!

These two matches provided us with a chance to prepare for the major tournament of the season: the Greater Manchester County Tournament at Bowden. The preliminaries were played on pitches fit for mud wrestling rather than hockey pitches, but we reached the semi-final anyway, beating Loreto, William Hulme and drawing with Hulme Grammar, Oldham. We won the semi-final 3-0 against Bury and as we entered the final for the second successive year, this time against Hulme Grammar, a feeling of *déjà-vu* crept into our minds. We drew with Hulme 1-1 in the final and shared the trophy, the exclamations of "if only" and "what if" ringing in the air.

The next tournament was the Stockport Schools Tournament on home territory. It was possibly the last tournament we would play together as a team as next year there will be no year-group team for our year. We were determined to finish the season as we had started, double winners. We beat Kingsway, Priestnall, Bramhall High, St. James and Cheadle Hulme and drew with Marple Hall to claim the trophy, this time as outright winners. The feat had been achieved, we were Double winners once more.

There are many people to thank for making the season a success. We would like to thank Miss Holden, for coaching us, the supporters, who watched with chattering teeth on cold Saturday mornings, the refreshment helpers for providing the hot dogs and the groundsmen for keeping the pitches in such good condition.

Under-15 Hockey 1996-97

This season has been an excellent one for the under-15 hockey team and I feel privileged to have been captain. Everyone on the team has played brilliantly and it is hard to pick out individuals but these are a few who have to be named for the great performances and team commitment they have shown.

Our amazing goalie, Siobhan Lennon, who has saved some vital shots in nail-biting games. Our centre back, Marie Bailey, for making it virtually impossible for opposition forwards even to get inside the 'D'. Helen McConniffe, our centre half, for

running round the most and being everywhere all the time. Our striker, Sophie Cantrell, who is the top goal scorer and has planted the ball in the back of the net many a time in critical games and, of course, our wonderful right wing! (But that could be a biased opinion!).

As I said before, our season has been a great success, playing a total of seventeen games, winning eleven of these, drawing five and only losing one, scoring a total of fifty-three goals! The whole season has been great fun, but two occasions are most memorable. Firstly winning the Stockport Schools Tournament where, in a tense final we rode to victory beating Priestnall 1-0. This was made more special by the fact that it was the last time we would play a tournament together as a team. Secondly, when we played the under-15 rugby team in a charity 'War of the Sexes' where they were determined to prove how superior boys were in any sport to girls. Unfortunately for them, we won 1-0!

Finally I would like to thank all the parents who supported us week in, week out, and Mr. Waters for coaching us and putting up with us for the whole season!

Tamsin Day

Coach's comment

This was a very successful season and one in which much was learned. A change to a three back system proved very effective at stifling opposition attacks and excellent distribution from the centre provided good services for both the wings. Individual skills and fitness will need further work but team play has improved markedly. With continued cheerful dedication they will go far!

N. Waters

Under-14 Hockey 1996-97

We began the year convincingly drawing and winning games against two of our schools biggest rivals, Kirkham and Altrincham. The 'A' team won six and drew three of our twelve games, with our strike force at the front scoring consistently and the defence covering well. Although the 'B' team drew one and lost two they played well throughout the games.

At the end of an excellent season eighteen of us were taken on a Hockey Tour to Holland where we played matches against teams far older than us. We lost all three matches but with the help of our three amazing coaches we improved tremendously. Other than playing hockey we went tobogganing, bike riding through caves and went to a disco, where ten of our group showed their talent in a contest by imitating the Spice Girls and the Sugar Lumps. We had a wonderful time in Holland and we would like to thank Mrs. Lockwood for coaching us through what appears to be a thoroughly successful year.

Rosie Reeve, Captain

Coach's comment

The team have made excellent progress and are developing into very skilful players. They learnt a lot in Holland by seeing more advanced pupils playing the ball in good sequences of passing, using all the players by including 'back' passes.

I have enjoyed coaching them very much and look forward to seeing their further development next year when they will be coached by Mr. Waters.

G.M. Lockwood.

Under-13 Hockey 1997-97

It has been an exciting season with occasional unpredicted defeats and many surprisingly high-scoring wins. Awesomely unexpected was our heaviest loss, the first match of the season, Kirkham Grammar School, historic rivals struck again, leaving the team bruised and battered after a dismal 9-0 defeat. The season onwards went uphill winning eleven of sixteen matches and scoring forty-one goals in total. The Stockport Schools Tournament was a success. Conceding no goals, we triumphantly made the finals, winning 1-0 against Bramhall - the trophies were ours.

Everybody has played their best and committed time and effort turning out to weekly practices, some later than others!

Many thanks to Miss Farrow and to deputy coach Mrs. Fallon who helped with Thursday coaching practices. Now at the end of a vibrant season we cheerfully depart for five exciting days of hockey.

Sara Bradbury, 2R

Coach's comments

1996-97 has been a memorable season for the under-13 team. The season ended with a five day Hockey Tour to the Netherlands where the girls - sporting their team bandannas and a new 'hairstyle' from Sara Bradbury - played very well against three strong Dutch Teams. The matches were tough and tested the girls to the limit. A solid team performance against SIT-TARD and a goal from Stella Moss gave them a well-deserved victory. No complaints and silence on the journey home to England suggested they had all had a good time.

Good Luck for next season!

Lisa Farrow

Under-12 Hockey 1996-97

The under-12 hockey team have had a good season apart from a couple of losses which were due to slight mistakes. Our first match was the highest scoring game for us, where we won 14-1 due to our fabulous attackers and our brilliant backs who all know who they are. Although we lost against Cheadle Hulme 1-0, we were playing against under-13's. Despite that, everybody played very enthusiastically and kept on fighting until the end. We also played against another under-13's side, Bury, where, of course, we won 3-0. We are nearly undefeatable! I have to say that one of the most tiring teams we have played against are Arnold. They were a very enthusiastic and skilful team but despite their good performance, we beat them 7-4.

Finally, the best thing that has happened to the under-12's this season was winning the Stockport under-12 Tournament. We all played really well and we have had a great season. I would like to thank our smashing coach Miss Holden because without her we could not have done as well as we did.

Alison Higgins 1T

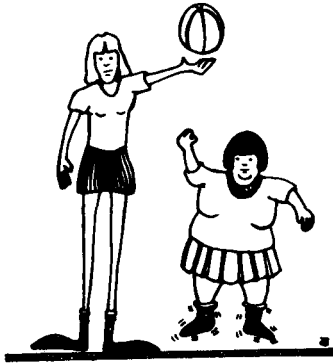
Coach's comment

The under-12 team have had a tremendous first season winning most of their matches. I hope to see them working hard on their skills and team play next season to build on their success this year. Well done everybody!

Miss G. Holden



*James Pearce 2nd Form
Lino Print 'Elephant'*



Senior Netball Report 1996-97

Won 14 Drawn 0 Lost 5

After a slow start to the seasons we got going and had some very rewarding results. The highlights, without a doubt, were beating Cheadle Hulme School after narrowly losing to them in one of the tournaments, and in the Greater Manchester Tournament finishing third in the County, behind Oldham who were National Champions.

Remembering:-

Soph's graceful falls, Stich and Sally's punctuality, Laura's carpet burns, Alison and her retrieving instincts, Emma's immense flabbiness, Kath's diplomacy and discretion, Georgina the carrot and Louise with her broken leg!

Thanks Mrs. Garrett for everything and Good Luck next year Lower Sixth!

Emma Wilson, Captain

Under-16 Netball 1996-97

Won 9 Lost 4 Drawn 1

Winners: Stockport Schools
 Manchester and District

Throughout the season we have thoroughly enjoyed every game we have played. Even in the face of defeat, at one County Tournament, our spirits were kept high by a good dose of The Beatles 'Love, Love me do.' The prize for the most injuries, has to go to Lois who seemed to sprain her ankle in every single match! The

saddest part of this season is actually having to give the yellow shell suit tops back for good.

On behalf of the whole team we would like to say thank you to Miss Dickinson for being a great coach and thank you for the great support from our mums and dads.

Abigail Fuller (Captain)
Kathryn McColl (Vice Captain)

Under-15 Netball 1996-97

Won 7 Lost 9 Drawn 0

The season started shakily with a few defeats but our morale soon improved. Although we did not win that many matches, we feel our performance has definitely improved. Above all our enthusiasm has remained high and our team spirit has improved immensely over the season.

We would like to thank Miss Dickinson and the Fifth Form, with whom we trained.

Sara McColl (Captain)
Laura Clarke (Vice Captain)

Under-14 Netball 1996-97

Won 13 Lost 1

The Under-14 Team have worked very hard throughout the year and have been a very dedicated squad of over twenty players. We won all our matches except one, which was a defeat to Altrincham, but we beat them the second time! However, we have not been so successful in the tournaments and need to work hard to rectify that next year.

On behalf of the squad we would like to give a big thank you to Miss Braidford and Mrs. Garrett for all their help.

Laura King (Captain)

Under-13 Netball 1996-97

Won 10 Lost 8 Drawn 1

The season began in September and our first match was against Newcastle-under-Lyme which we won convincingly. This gave us a good start and boosted our confidence. The team members are:-

Laura Cossar	Venetia Brown (Captain)	Laura Morely
Julia Catterall	Jenny Allerton (Vice Captain)	Stephanie Oliver
Katie West	Mina Chakmagi	

Later on in the season we took part in the S.S.S.S.A. Tournament. After beating Cheadle Hulme in the semi-finals and battling out a victory over Bramhall in the finals, we won the Tournament and each received a trophy.

Overall the season was really good and we won more times than we lost. We had lots of fun playing and hope our success will carry on next year.

Thanks are due to Miss Shaw and Miss Dickinson for devoting their time and effort to our practices. Also thanks to everyone who attends practices. They have helped us to improve as a team.

Venetia Brown (Captain)

Under-12 Netball 1996-97

The Under-12 Netball teams were very successful this season, with the 'A' Team winning the Stockport Schools Tournament. We had a very close match against Hazel Grove in the semi-finals and a close game against Reddish Vale in the final, but we always looked like winning!

During the season we won all our 'A' matches except two which we lost by one goal each time. Although the 'B' Team was not quite so successful they were all very dedicated and worked hard.

On behalf of both teams I would like to thank all the parents for their support and Miss Worth and Mrs. Garrett for their enthusiastic coaching.

Lydia Fuller



Girls' historic win



STOCKPORT Grammar School's First XI girls hockey team swept to victory in the Manchester and District trophy, the first time they have collected the trophy since the tournament began in 1920. They beat Bury Grammar School and St Bede's College teams in a round robin contest at Bowdon Hockey Club, captain Janet Reeve scoring both goals in both games. They drew in their first match

with Turton High School and met them again in the final. The battle produced no score at the final whistle so the game went into extra time. Still no score, so the match went to a tense penalty shoot out for the best of five goals. Vicky Skilton for SGS scored first, followed by Harriet Mather, Rachel Webster and captain Janet Reeve and they triumphed 4-3 to allow Janet to lift the trophy.

By courtesy of
STOCKPORT EXPRESS ADVERTISER



Rugby

The 1996-97 season was extremely encouraging for all our teams. The 2nd. XV lost only one game, and could have won that match but for a kick hitting the post in the last minute. Their captain, Alastair Massey, deserved praise for his leadership. The 1st. XV improved even on the standards set in the 1995-96 season, winning 19 of their 24 matches and once again claiming the Manchester F.C. Cup. Their captain, Adam Mitchell, deserves praise for all his efforts during the season.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of S.G.S. rugby at present is the high participation and enjoyment level being displayed by our junior sides. The level of talent is high and this certainly bodes well for the future.

My thanks, as ever, go to the coaching staff, without whom we would not be reporting another successful season. To Messrs. Urwin, Grant, Brett, Hanson, Krywonos and Palfreyman I am greatly indebted.

I would like to thank all those parents who have helped with Saturday morning refreshments, especially Mrs. Gerry Sparkes who after four years in charge has "retired" to watch Justin's last season.

C. J. Wright,
Head of P.E. and Games.

1st. XV Rugby Report

The season can only be described as outstanding. Pre-season thoughts lay in the beating of last season's win record and the retention of the Manchester Schools Cup. Both have been accomplished with a final record of:

19 wins 6 losses For 780 Against 301.

The season began somewhat slowly with two of the six recorded losses in the first three games. A win against Manchester Grammar School, 29-0, however, sandwiched these losses and thoughts of a formidable season began to dawn. A run of seven wins then ensued with the memorable defeats of Cheadle Hulme School, 47-5; King Edward's, Lytham, 41-17 and St. Ambrose 64-3.

This season also saw another successful tour to Scotland. A 2nd. XV defeated Hamilton Accies 31-0 and on a typically Scottish wet and windy day the 1st. XV beat West of Scotland 57-0.

After the tour confidence was high and the next fixture was against a notoriously strong Woodhouse Grove team. Emotions were high in a match that saw the lead change hands several times. Unfortunately due to injuries during the match and the somewhat debatable decisions of the referee the match was lost 15-14. The next match was in doubt right from the start as when the William Hulme side arrived there were three inches of crisp snow on the pitch. Mr. Wright in typical style, however, insisted the match would be played and rightly so as it saw a superb performance and a win 85-6.

This, we imagined, would set us up well for a tough game against an outstanding Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School side. What little we knew! The game was a whitewash despite a spirited first half performance which saw us only 15-0 down. The second half was a different story and we left the pitch 76-0 down. Here the season could have changed for the worse but on a frosty Saturday morning the next week Bolton were defeated 26-3.

Difficult fixtures awaited but it was our conviction we could finish the rest of the season undefeated. Wins followed against Rydal School, 27-10, St. Bede's, 36-13 and Calday, 35-15. A slight glitch against Lady Manners School meant a final showdown with Hutton Grammar School which we won 26-5.

The season has also seen us in the two main cup competitions, the Cheshire and Manchester Cups. The Manchester Cup was our main objective and we reached the final fairly fresh having soundly beaten Altrincham, Ormskirk and Sandbach. The final at Manchester Rugby Club was reminiscent of the last two seasons and defeat here was not an option. We faced Wirral and a spirited performance by the forwards, excellent finishing by the backs, and the trusty boot of James Bale, saw us retain the cup with a win of 23-17. The final of the Cheshire Cup was staged at Sale Rugby Club and was reached after only one somewhat disappointing win over Sandbach. Again we faced Wirral but this time we were a team suffering from fatigue, injuries and lack of training. Despite a second half comeback Wirral triumphed 21-13.

A special mention must go to the "old men" of the team, namely Paul Slater (Vice Captain), Rob Gandy, Jon Bell, James Bale and Hayden Parry without whose experience and training the team would have suffered.

Special thanks also go to Messrs. Wright, Urwin and Hanson without whose time, knowledge and expertise this season would not have been such a success.

Thoughts can only drift towards onto what would have occurred if we had played King's, Macclesfield, and what would have happened if Rob Gandy had been allowed to kick the season's vital penalties (perish the thought).

2nd. XV Rugby Report

On an early September afternoon in the searing heat with the sun blazing down upon the scorched ground, a gaggle of unfit rugby players' heads were seen to drop as to add the finishing touches to our gruelling pre-season training session, Mr. Wright had announced our next task was to be the infamous pyramid.

Having been made 2nd. XV Captain there would be no possible excuses and I would be forced to succeed where I and others had failed previously, to regain fitness after a social summer.

We had a hard act to follow as the previous season I had captained the 2nd. XV in a season of only three defeats, a formidable record with victories over such 2nd. XV giants as King's Macclesfield and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield.

We began with purpose against Birkenhead and triumphed where we had failed last season by chalking up a valuable victory. One of the few low points of the season ensued with a lack lustre performance against a very ordinary Manchester Grammar School side.

The remainder of the onerous run in to the Christmas break was attacked with vigour, great courage, skill and a quality shown in abundance throughout the side, strength of character, where all revelled in adversity to preserve our record of one defeat. In these victories came the prized scalp – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield, with arguably the finest 1st. XV in the land. The 2nd. XV were definite contenders for the respective honour. A 16-12 victory was recorded with each player showing every quality listed earlier in excess against a fine side.

The Christmas break took its toll on some of the portly characters, myself and Chris Eccles included, and it was time to run off a little too much Christmas cheer. Winning ways continued and after a gritty performance against King's, Macclesfield, resulting in a 26-18 victory, one more performance would reward our efforts with the title of having the best record of any school team ever.

Butterflies had taken flight as we took the field with purpose. The forwards and backs knitted together dangerously as the team turned on the style to produce the type of running rugby that had been evident all season, resulting in a 50-7 victory to complete a record of:

P	W	L	Points for	Points against
17	16	1	621	137

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr. Urwin and Mr. Wright and yes, I am sorry to have to admit, following great resistance, that "fitness does pay lads"!

Alastair Massey

Under-15 Rugby Report

After an indifferent 95-96 season, the U-15's were raring to go and looking for success in their last season together. We got off to a cracking start with a superb win over Birkenhead but, unfortunately, winger Paul Cowling broke his arm.

However, success soon turned to dismay with defeats at the hands of Manchester Grammar School and Newcastle. But winning ways were soon found again with four consecutive wins against the likes of Lytham, Silcoates and Cheadle Hulme. With the team progressing to the next round of the Daily Mail Cup we were drawn away to Calday where we were narrowly beaten in a hard-fought match. Even after the disappointment of the cup, the team picked themselves up with two cracking wins against St. Ambrose 10-7 and Woodhouse Grove 7-5.

Another narrow defeat to Kirkham was followed by a committed performance against a well drilled Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School side, which overwhelmed us 44-0. After Christmas, the team had a good run of four more consecutive wins against Rydal, Weaverham, Sale and St. Bede's, but this good run was stopped by a tough King's, Macclesfield unit 15-0. But in true Stockport fashion, the season was rounded off with a good team performance at Hutton.

The team had one sevens tournament in which they did themselves proud by coming runners-up in the plate. Throughout the season, the team was hit with major injuries, two broken arms, a broken ankle, broken noses and several bouts of concussion.

Congratulations to Dominic Orsini and Hugh Garvey on selection for East Cheshire. Andrew Fuller and Stuart Brown played for the full Cheshire U-15 side.

Final Record	P	W	D	L
	19	13	0	6

Under-14 Rugby

A season of mixed fortunes is how most people would have described our sixteen games. We started the season poorly, losing to Birkenhead 19-20 and local rivals, Manchester Grammar School, 13-40. We then had one of our two winning runs which lasted for four games.

Our first victory of the season came against Newcastle-under-Lyme when we played a closely contested match coming out on top 17-14. We were then involved in another reasonably close match in which we beat Cheadle Hulme School 15-5. At Silcoates, Wakefield we played a weak side and won 60-7. Their only score came from a penalty try. The following week we played King Edward School, Lytham, winning by a resounding 56-0.

The next term's fixtures proved to be very hard and Mr. Brett and Dr. Smith had warned us of this fact. Poor tackling enabled St. Ambrose, Woodhouse Grove, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield and Rydal to beat us soundly. In the last game of this term we played Kirkham Grammar School. We had a commanding lead of 25-5 at half time which we managed to throw away and lose 28-29.

After this string of results the team had learnt a few hard lessons and managed to beat St. Bede's 59-15, Weaverham 29-7 and Sale Grammar School 35-12. The next team we played was King's School, Macclesfield, who like to run with the ball. Again poor tackling allowed King's to dominate the match. Going in to the last game the team knew we had to beat Hutton Grammar School to square things up. Unfortunately we lost to Hutton but put on a good performance.

Special thanks go to the ever patient Mr. Brett and Dr. Smith for coaching and running the team, also to our faithful supporters who watched nearly every game.

Playing Record	P	W	L
	16	7	9

Edward Daber 3R (Captain)

Under-13 Rugby

The pre-season training saw large numbers of would-be players with plenty of potential, so expectations were high for the season ahead. Poor performances against Birkenhead and Manchester Grammar School saw both games lost, but this was rectified when the team won the next three games, the best of these being a convincing 41-0 win over Cheadle Hulme.

After half-term came the start of the "premier" fixtures. Stockport had an impressive win over St. Ambrose followed by a 19-19 draw against Kirkham. This draw was another disappointment after being 19-0 up at half time. Stockport then played very well, but just lost to Woodhouse Grove and were out-played against the might of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield.

After Christmas we benefited from a change in attitude both in training and on match day. The team strung together a run of four victories, the best of which was a great performance against Rydal, winning 56-0. They also beat St. Bede's, Weaverham and Sale Grammar School, before losing the final two games against King's, Macclesfield, and Lady Manners School, Matlock.

The Stockport Grammar School team also competed very well in their three sevens tournaments. They reached the final in the Birkenhead Sevens and the semi-final of the Lytham Sevens.

This was a very mixed season for the team. At times they played very well as a team, but at other times there was a lack of cohesion between fifteen individuals. The players all showed great commitment throughout and praise must go to the captain, Paul Lomax, Robert Artingstall, Charles Lydon, James Bruce, Sean Lloyd and Sachin Passi for consistently solid performances.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
16	8	1	7

Under-12 Rugby

This season many first years were introduced to a game they had never played before. Most of the players, both 'A' and 'B', had to learn the rules, but from good coaching the teams quickly learned the basics and went on to win several matches. We would also like to thank our mums and dads for all their encouragement and support which no doubt helped us in some of our performances.

Some of the matches were very close and the team had to try very hard to keep out the opposition, whilst others, against schools which either had more players to choose from or who had played rugby for longer, often saw us thirty points down. However, team spirit and encouragement from the touchlines saw us claw back some of the points. Our best performance of the season saw us beat King's School, Macclesfield, by over thirty points. The 'B' team has shown promise and they went on to win many matches including those against Manchester Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield.

At the end of the season, some of the players took part in a rugby sevens competition. Mr. Wright took the squad but unfortunately we went out on points difference. Mr. Palfreyman also took a squad to the Bradford Grammar School tens competition, where the squad finished joint third with Arnold Grammar School. The first season has been a good one and both squads have learnt a lot from all the staff and next year we hope the teams will continue playing good rugby. We would like to thank Dr. Krywonos, Mr. Palfreyman and Mr. Wright for all their hard work coaching the squad.

Adam Officer 1U
Kayvon Dehghan 1P

Grammar Secure Rare Double

Stockport Grammar School's 1st. XV Rugby team achieved the rare distinction of winning the Manchester R.F.C. School's trophy for the second year running.

Playing against Merseyside hotshots Wirral Grammar School, the Stockport side won 23-17 in a game that displayed high levels of both skill and commitment. S.G.S. opened the scoring when a clinically worked three-quarter move culminated in Captain and fullback, Adam Mitchell, touching down under the posts. This was converted by James Bale. Wirral Grammar School quickly replied making the score 7-7 and the sizeable crowd looked set for a thriller.

The try of the game saw S.G.S. run the ball out from their 22. After a succession of passes which kept the ball alive it was Mitchell who secured his brace by crashing over wide out. A sweetly struck conversion by Bale gave S.G.S. a 14-7 lead. This was to be extended to 17-7 with a Bale penalty just before half time.

The second half was a much tighter affair, as limbs began to tire and the huge Wirral forwards began to dominate. It was only solid Stockport defence that kept Wirral at bay before the two fly-halves exchanged penalties which made the score 20-10. James Bale then struck a drop goal reminiscent of Rob Andrew's World Cup Semi-final effort to seal the victory. A last minute converted try from Wirral was little consolation as referee, Eric Boardman, called time and Stockport Grammar School were again presented with the trophy.

Match Squad:

William Hitch, James Wimbury, Kobi Omenaka, Jon Bell, Chris Jones, Hayden Parry, Robert Gandy, Bradley Lamb, Justin Sparkes, James Bale, Steven Buckley, Keith Szmierok, Paul Slater, Robert Pitceathly, Adam Mitchell, Dominic Straker, Martin Chadwick, Mohit Khurana, Mark Frost, Chris Woolard and James Lockwood.

Scotland Tour 1996

After a long tiring journey up to Scotland our team put on a show of fast flowing rugby.

The team, not the regular 1st. XV, with gaps being filled by the likes of Alastair Massey, Carl Woodman, Mohit Khurana and others, fused together to produce an outstanding team that put on a real "corker" of a performance against Hamilton 1st. XV, to merit the victory and start the tour in good fashion. Being on a high now, the squad enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Swallow Hotel and the atmosphere was good. The night was good with talks about improvements for the next game and general chat, which showed we were not in our little groups like at

school, but as a unit out to prove a point and not to be underestimated. However, the team was out to prove a point. The final score of our next match was Stockport 37, Hamilton 0.

After a good night's sleep the big West of Scotland game drew closer. We arrived at the ground fresh and ready to play the game as best we could. During a pre-match warm-up, it was noticeable that although a great day for rugby, the pitch was drenched and therefore our handling had to be right. Due to excellent coaching by Mr. Wright and Mr. Urwin, conditions did not really matter too much as we had been trained in both the worst and the best conditions.

The game kicked off a little later than scheduled. The team, now the regular 1st. XV, went out and showed us how to play rugby to win. Powerful tackles from players like Hayden Parry, Robert Gandy and Brad Lamb, kept the defensive record 100% right through the game, helping along our confidence and belief in winning. Adam Mitchell (Captain), Rob Pitceathly, Stephen Buckley and many other players ran in some superb tries to rub in the fact that we were the better team there and nothing was going to change that. The final result was Stockport 57, West of Scotland 0.



*Dan Mort 6th Form
Metal Print 'Mechanical Beast'*



Under 16 — Under 15 Lacrosse 1996-97

This year's Under-16 teams consisted mainly of Under-15's with only a handful of Under-16's playing. The 'A' and 'B' teams both had a hard season playing against older, stronger and faster opponents.

After a successful season last year as the Under-14's, we were brought straight back down to earth in the first games. Both the 'A' and 'B' teams suffered heavy losses against Stockport and Sale respectively. Unfortunately for the 'B' team the season continued in this way, suffering large defeats right through until the last day of the season when they recorded their first and only victory, 8-3, v. Waconians. A special mention must go to Jonathan Boulding who never stopped running for the 'B' team's cause.

The 'A' team, who had the added size and skill of Andrew Ford, Marcus Warhurst and Justin Duprey (all U/16), had slightly more success than the 'B' team. Ten games were lost against teams who were not only more skilful than we were, but were fitter and stronger than us. However, five wins were also clocked up during the season. Emphatic 16-1 and 14-5 wins over Norbury, 16-3 and 5-2 wins over W.H.G.S. and 19-0 win over Waconians helped to lift morale when the going got tough and allowed most players to get their name on the scoresheet.

Despite all the bad points of the season, there were definitely some positive ones, which provide hope for next season. I am sure that next season the ratio of wins to losses will be reversed because we have the skill and by then should have the size to overcome most opponents.

Michael Estill

Under-14 Lacrosse 1996-97

Played 15 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 3

Goals for 141 Goals against 97

Our season started with a close match, with the winning goal being scored in the final minute of the game. Our greatest win was against Wilmslow, 16-1, a scoreline which was very much the product of a terrific team effort.

Despite the fact that our season was filled with injuries, the most serious of those being to our keeper who was out for over half of it, we managed to win most of our matches. Thanks go to Alex Kumar who very nobly volunteered to play in goal and made a superb job of it, as we lost none of the games in which he played keeper.

We reached the semi-finals in the Centurion Cup but were beaten by Heaton Mersey. Our leading scorer was Jay Boey with 40 goals closely followed by Julian Priestley and Alex Brady.

The squad consisted of Alex Ash, Jay Boey, James Booth, Will Bostock, Alex Brady, Chris Buckley, Graham Cossins, Morteza Jalali, Pragun Kapur, Alex Kumar, Malcolm McTaggart, Henry Phillips, Julian Priestley, Chris Smith, Richard Ward, Robert West (Captain) and Peter Wood.

I would like to thank the lacrosse coach, Mr. Richard Sullivan, and our team coach, Mr. Stephen Power, for their excellent coaching and encouragement throughout the season, as well as the parents for their continued support at the matches.

Robert West - Captain

Under-13 Lacrosse 1996-97

The season started with some notable attacking performances with fifty goals being scored in the first two games. Unfortunately they were scored by the opposition. However, things improved with a 14-10 victory over Norbury. The team had some ups and downs after that finishing with five wins and nine defeats.

Despite the final figures the players still enjoyed themselves even though we were playing in an Under-14 league. The attacking duo of Tim and Tom were assisted by Ben's thirty-three goals. The strong running midfield of Robert Dawson, Andrew Gemmell, Alex Chesworth, Matthew Cocksedge and Simon Scott supplied the attack. Adrian Briggs, Meng Wang and Andrew Suggitt formed the defensive wall in front of our heroic goalkeeper, Paul Smith.

Thanks go to Paul from the team for taking on this unwanted role. Finally thanks to Coach Sullivan for sticking with us.

We have got high hopes for next season!!

Ben Morrell, Captain 2R

Under-12 Lacrosse 1996-97

Most of the team had only started playing at Christmas, so this gave us three weeks to practise before the first league game and naturally the team's expectations were very low.

The first game was against Timperley and to add to all Coach Sullivan's troubles was the fact that our goalkeeper had been injured in a previous friendly and could not play. In the first quarter James Griffiths went in goal and the score at the end of this quarter was Timperley 5 – S.G.S. 3.

For the next two quarters I went in goal and at the end of the third quarter the score was S.G.S. 10 – Timperley 6. For the last quarter Edmund Lakin went into net, he was like a brick wall, no one could score past him and the final score stood at S.G.S. 15 – Timperley 6. This was a great score considering it was our first game.

It did not matter that we only won five league matches out of fifteen for it was our first season and it is the taking part that counts.

Later on in the year as the TUSCARORA Junior Six-a-side Competition came nearer and nearer we were all anxious to see what the team would be. The eight-man squad consisted of: Matthew McMahon, Lee Shelton, James Griffiths, James Boulding, James Allan, Steven Lai, Edmund Lakin (goalkeeper) and myself. We had eight qualifying games; we won seven and drew one against Mellor. Then came the semi-finals which were S.G.S. v. Mellor and Heaton Mersey v. William Hulme. S.G.S. went on to win this game and play Heaton Mersey in the final. This was a bit of a crunch match because Matthew McMahon, Lee Shelton, James Griffiths and I had actually been playing for Heaton Mersey before coming to S.G.S. We then went on to win this game and we were the first school team ever to win this Cup.

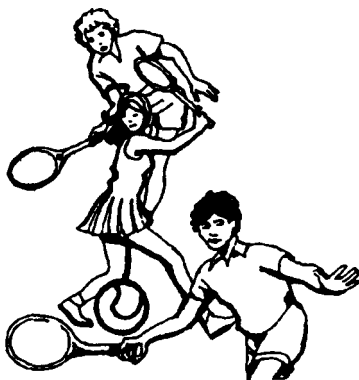
There were no individualists in the team who only liked to run through and score. Everybody played equally well and everybody had a chance, if they wanted to, to play in a designated position.

The whole squad would like to thank Coach Sullivan and Mr. Boulding as well as all the parents who turned out to watch their children play Lacrosse.

Good Luck next season to all the Under-12 Squad.

Alexander Bates (1S) Captain





TENNIS REPORT 1997

A very busy tennis season got under way with the annual school tournament. Over eighty girls took part in singles and doubles matches played in the usual freezing conditions. The winners were as follows:-

Seniors	-	Singles	Melanie Booth
	-	Doubles	Fleur Kennedy and Vicky Buckley
Intermediate	-	Singles	Angela Rylands
Juniors	-	Singles	Stephanie Oliver
First Year	-	Singles	Kate Hesford

The tennis teams had their most successful results ever, winning the Cheshire Cup at junior and intermediate levels. The under-13, under-14 and under-15 teams all won the Stockport Schools Tournaments, with the under-12 team runners-up as their tournament took place after S.G.S. had broken up and some of the team had gone to Wasdale.

On the final Saturday of the term we held a Staff/Pupil tournament followed by refreshments which were rather superior to the usual orange juice and biscuits. Thank you for the champagne Mr. and Mrs. Docherty!

Vicky Skilton
Captain



*Daniel Pollock 2nd Form
Pen 'Melting Head'*

1996-97 AWARD OF WINTER SPORTS COLOURS

The colours are awarded to those who have made an exceptional contribution to their respective sport.

HOCKEY

Frances Edwards represented Greater Manchester at U-18 level.

Harriet Mather, Fleur Kennedy, Charlotte Spence and Rosie Reeve represented Greater Manchester at U-16 level.

Jane Bradbury, Charlotte Pearce and Rosie Reeve represented Greater Manchester at U-14 level.

Rosie Reeve was also selected for the North of England U-14 Development Squad.

Our hockey teams were successful in a number of competitions :-

The First XI won the Manchester and District Shield.

The U-16 team were Manchester and District Champions.

The U-16, U-15, U-13 and U-12 teams all won their Stockport Schools' Competitions.

COLOURS

Junior

Sara Bradbury
Sarah Kay Gray
Olivia Mercer
Rebecca Morris

Intermediate

Tamsin Day

Senior

Janet Reeve
Melanie Taylor

This year's winner of the Clare Cup, awarded to the senior player who has contributed most to hockey at S.G.S., was Harriet Mather.

LACROSSE

Paul Stevens represented Cheshire at U-19 level.

Andrew Ford represented Cheshire at U-16 level.

The U-14 team reached the semi-final of the Centurian Trophy.

The U-12 team were winners of the Tuscarora 6-a-side Tournament.

COLOURS

Junior

Adrian Briggs
Andrew Gemmell
Ben Morrell

Intermediate

Michael Estill
Andrew Slater
Alex Impey

Senior

Matthew Johnston
Paul Stevens
Neil Montaldo

This year's winner of the Paul Moorhouse Trophy, awarded to the player who has contributed most to School Lacrosse, was won by John Ineson.

NETBALL

The following girls represented Greater Manchester at Senior Level :-

Sally Wrigley, Louise Monk, Laura Dixon, Hayley Grimdsitch and Alex Sharpe.

Our teams achieved success in a number of competitions :-

Manchester and District	-	Winners at U-14 and U-16
Stockport Schools	-	Winners at U-12, U-13 and U-16
Greater Manchester	-	The Seniors finished third in the County.

COLOURS

Junior

Jenny Allerton
Venetia Brown
Stephanie Oliver
Laura Cossar

Intermediate

Laura Clarke
Lucy Docherty
Sarah McColl

Senior

Emma Wilson
Kath Woof
Laura Dixon
Sophia Livert
Sarah Styche
Sally Wrigley
Alison Glass
Louise Monk
Georgina Hodgson

The Netball Cup awarded to the player who has contributed most to Netball was won by Fiona Macdonald.

RUGBY

The 1st. XV were finalists in the Cheshire Cup and the winners of the Manchester FC Cup. The 2nd. XV deserve special mention for winning 16 of their 17 matches.

Hayden Parry gained selection for Cheshire at U-18 level.

James Wimbury and Stuart Brown gained selection for Cheshire at U-16 level. Andrew Fuller and Stuart Brown gained selection for Cheshire at U-15 level. Hugh Garvey and Dominic Orsini represented East Cheshire at U-15 level.

COLOURS

Junior

Robert Artingstall
James Bruce
Paul Lomax
Charles Lydon

Intermediate

Stuart Brown
Andrew Fuller
Dominic Orsini
Timothy Woodsmith

Senior

Robert Gandy
Adam Mitchell
Hayden Parry
Paul Slater
Alex Fishwick
Steven Buckley
James Bale
Dominic Straker
Jon Bell
Alistair Massey
Robert Pitceathley

The Blood Cup, awarded to the most promising school rugby player was won for the second year running by Stuart Brown.

1996-97 AWARD OF SUMMER SPORTS COLOURS

ATHLETICS

The following represented Stockport in the Greater Manchester Schools' Championships :

Leela Axon, Graeme Bruce, Sarah-Kate Gray, Felicity Munro and Sadie Yousefian.

Sadie also represented Greater Manchester, Cheshire and the North of England in Athletics and competed in the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships.

COLOURS

Junior

Suzie Bailey
Sarah-Kate Gray

Intermediate

Mhairi Chadwick

CRICKET

Charles Pimlott and Simon Wilkinson represented Cheshire at U-19 Level.

Stuart Brown represented Cheshire at U-15 Level.

Robert Dawson represented Cheshire at U-13 Level.

Jenny Thompson represented the Cheshire and Lancashire Ladies' Team.

COLOURS

Junior

Robert Dawson
Paul Lomax
Charles Lydon
Jonathan Woodsmith
Laurence Woolley

Intermediate

Jonathan Boulding
Paul Cowling
David Foreman
Richard Garrett
Hugh Garvey
Alastair Lydon
Timothy Woodsmith

Senior

Alex Fishwick
Robert Gandy
Shahbaz Masud
Charles Pimlott

The Cricket Cup, awarded to the most promising school cricketer, was won by Robert Dawson.

TENNIS

The winners of the School Tournaments were:

1st Year

Kate Hesford

Junior

Stephanie Oliver

Intermediate

Angela Rylands

Senior

Melanie Booth

The U-12, U-13, U-14 and U-15 teams won the Stockport Schools' Tournament.
 The Junior and Intermediate teams were winners of the Cheshire Cup.
 Stephanie Oliver reached the final of the Wheeler Cup.
 Melanie Booth and Angela Rylands met in the final of the O'Kell Cup.

COLOURS

Junior

Natalie Cossar
 Olivia Mercer
 Stephanie Oliver
 Jenna White

Intermediate

Melanie Booth
 Samantha Franks
 Angela Rylands

Senior

Vicky Brierley
 Vicky Skilton

The Tennis trophy, awarded to the most improved player, was won by Lauren Davies.

SPORTS AWARDS MADE AT SPEECH DAY

This year's winner of the Girls' Sports Rose Bowl was Emma Wilson

The winner of the Boys' Games Trophy was Robert Gandy.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Many of the Fallow's shield competitions were competed for in the Autumn and Spring terms :-

Hockey	was won by	NICHOLSON
Lacrosse	was won by	NICHOLSON
Netball	was won by	VERNON
Rugby	was won by	WARREN
Basketball	was won by	VERNON
Chess	was won by	VERNON
Cross-Country	was won by	NICHOLSON
Swimming Gala	was won by	ARDEN

SPORTSDAY 1997

TROPHIES

THE FOLLOWING TROPHIES WERE PRESENTED BY THE HEADMASTER AFTER THE FINAL EVENT.

SENIOR BOYS VICTOR LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	Chris Jones/Graeme Bruce
SENIOR GIRLS VICTRIX LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	Lois Farrow
INTER BOYS VICTOR LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	Dominic Orsini
INTER GIRLS VICTRIX LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	Laura King
JUNIOR BOYS VICTOR LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	James Pearce/Alistair Chadwick
JUNIOR GIRLS VICTRIX LUDORUM	<i>won by</i>	Leela Axon
SENIOR BOYS 100 METRES	<i>won by</i>	Steven Buckley
SENIOR GIRLS 100 METRES	<i>won by</i>	Louisa Wood
SENIOR GIRLS 400 METRES	<i>won by</i>	Tamsin Ede
SENIOR BOYS JAVELIN	<i>won by</i>	Gary Coglan
SENIOR GIRLS JAVELIN	<i>won by</i>	Claire Altree
SENIOR BOYS SHOT PUTT	<i>won by</i>	Justin Sparkes
SENIOR GIRLS 800 METRES	<i>won by</i>	Tamsin Ede
SENIOR BOYS TRIPLE JUMP	<i>won by</i>	Alex Partakis
SENIOR GIRLS LONG JUMP	<i>won by</i>	Hayley Grimsditch

THE T.J.C. ANDERSON TROPHY for House Standards *won by* **NICHOLSON**

THE ATHLETICS CHALLENGE BOWL for the winning House on Sports Day,
won by **VERNON**

PLACES ON HONOURS DEGREE COURSES

Gained by members of the Upper Sixth Form 1996-97

UNIVERSITIES

Oxford, St Catherine's	James Allan	Human Sciences
Oxford, St Hilda's	Lois Ashcroft	Modern Languages
Leeds	Mahla Axon	French & German
Warwick	Richard Bagshaw	Mechanical Engineering
Newcastle	Mark Baker	Accounting and Financial Analysis
Newcastle	James Bale	French & German
Bristol	Susan Barrell	Dentistry
	Jon Bell	Re-Sitting - Medicine
Oxford, Exeter	Eleanor Bennett	Earth Sciences
Sheffield	Elizabeth Benson	English & French
Edinburgh	Claire Booth	Veterinary Medicine
Sheffield	Iain Bradley	Geography
Leeds Metropolitan	Ben Broadhurst	Retailing
Ripon & York, St John	Stuart Bruce	Film, Literature, TV, Theatre
	Steven Buckley	Re-sitting - Pharmacy
	Edward Buckney	Computer Science
Bristol	Thomas Bull	Design Studies
Nottingham, Trent	Christina Connolly	Re-applying - Biology
	John Crowder	Mechanical Engineering
Leeds	Mark Curran	History
Leeds	Grace Dawson	Communication Studies
Sheffield Hallam	Lindsey Dickinson	Re-Sitting - Medicine
	Laura Dixon	English
Oxford, Somerville	Richard Dodson	Economics & Mathematics
Bristol	Robert Dunbar	Geography
Leeds	Nicola Dynes	Engineering
Durham	Peter D'Souza	Economics
Cambridge, Queens (1998)	Carole Evans	Psychology
Reading	Alexander Fishwick	History
Southampton	Graham Foreman	Chemical & Process Engineering
Newcastle (1998)	Thomas Gamble	Re-Sitting - Medicine
	Robert Gandy	Medicine
Leeds	Melissa Gardner	History
Sheffield	Angela Garlick	American Studies
Nene College, Northampton	Charlotte Garner	Classical Studies with English
London, Kings	Andrew Giblin	Civil Engineering
Bristol	Alison Glass	Psychology
Newcastle	Christopher Gort	Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Oxford	Giles Grover	Chemical Engineering
Leeds	Sam Hall	Mathematics & Statistics
York	Paul Handler	History
Hull	Clare Harrison	Cell Biology
London, University College	Martin Headon	History
Exeter	Alethea Heap	History & Politics
Hull	Robert Hick	Geography
Sheffield		

Durham	Georgina Hodgson	English Literature
Aberystwyth	Jack Hollows	Film & TV Studies
Durham	John Ineson	Physics
Bangor	Matthew Johnston	Geological Oceanography
Keele	Glyn Jones	Astrophysics & Management Science
Cambridge, St John's (1998)	Fiona Learmont	Modern & Medieval Languages
Durham	Esther Leay	Geography
Southampton	Jasmine Lichfield	Medicine
Lancaster	Sophia Livert	French Studies with Marketing
Anglia Polytechnic University	Kasim Malik	Law with Business
Liverpool	Alastair Massey	Geography
Robert Gordon	Shahbaz Masud	Environmental Science & Technology
Leeds	Joanne McAllister	German
Newcastle	Daniel McGrath	Computer Science
Leeds Metropolitan	Adam Mitchell	Physiotherapy
Liverpool	Louise Monk	Medicine
Leeds	Neil Montaldo	Law
Bristol	Jessica Moore	Politics
Leeds	Louise Mullock	French & Management
Oxford, St Catherine's (1998)	Sarah Nolleth	Biological Sciences
York (1998)	Matthew Osgood	Music Technology
Leeds	Jill O'Dwyer	Applied Biology
Oxford, Jesus	Hayden Parry	Engineering & Materials
Lancaster	Helen Pattison	Geography
Cambridge, Downing	Charles Pimlott	Land Economy
St Andrew's	Robert Pitceathly	Medical Sciences
Cambridge, Selwyn	Danielle Pleuvry	Veterinary Science
Leeds Metropolitan	Steven Preston	Business Studies
Glasgow	Jennifer Pyle	English Literature, Film, TV & Theatre
Edinburgh	Janet Reeve	Medicine
Leeds	Elin Reeves	Biology
Glasgow	Victoria Richardson	Physiology
Liverpool	Megan Roberts	Medicine
Northumbria	Beth Robinson	International Business & German
Liverpool, John Moore's	Gino Sassanelli	Technology Management
Cambridge, Trinity	Stephen Saxon	Computer Science
Liverpool	Ruth Service	Geography
	Neeraj Sethi	Re-applying - Medicine
Cambridge, Fitzwilliam	Rebecca Sheldon	English
Bristol	Benjamin Shore	Chemistry
Bristol	Paul Slater	Geography
Newcastle	Clare Smith	English Literature
Hull	Emma Smith	European Studies with French
Durham	Daniel Spurr	Biology
Leeds	Zoe Staton	Environmental Management
Leeds	Nadia Stevens	Geography
Sheffield	Paul Stevens	Biological Sciences
Newcastle	Diana Stewart	German & Spanish
London, Royal Veterinary College	Dominic Straker	Veterinary Science

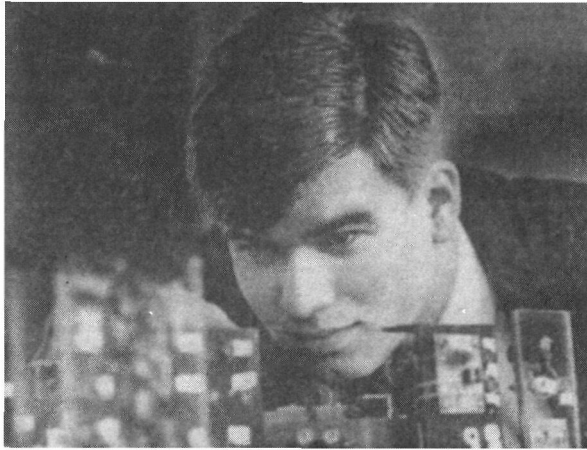
Reading
Newcastle
Sheffield, Hallam
Cambridge, Emmanuel
Leeds Metropolitan
Hull
Oxford, Hertford
Bristol, West of England
Leeds
Cambridge, New Hall
Sheffield
Glasgow
Leeds
Oxford
Sheffield
Nottingham, Trent
Hull
Oxford, Keble
Cambridge, St John's
Bristol
Cambridge, St John's
Nottingham
Liverpool
Leeds
Cardiff

Anna Street
Guy Street
David Stross
Sarah Styche
Keith Szmieriek
Paul Tarne
Nicholas Tattersall
Melanie Taylor
Jennifer Thompson
Eleanor Truscott
Helen Tynan
Neil Walker
Katie Wallace
Anna Walsh
Timothy Watson
Lisa Whitehead
Catherine Williams
Emma Wilson
Louisa Wood
Melanie Wood
Paul Wood
Carl Woodman
Kathryn Woof
Claire Woolard
Sally Wrigley

Rural Resource Management
Software Engineering
Business Property Management
Natural Sciences
Teacher Training (PE)
Law
Physics
Physiotherapy
English & Classics
Medicine
Law
Geography
Medicine
Biological Sciences
Bio Medical Science
International Hospitality Management
American Studies
Law
Natural Sciences
Medicine
Classics
Law
English Literature
Classical Civilisation
Biological Sciences



Natasha Ihnatenko 2nd Form
Lino Print 'Cat'



■ **STEPHEN:** "I don't know if they realise I'm a sixth-former"

Whizkid spins his global net

COMPUTER whizkid Stephen Saxon may have missed out on representing Britain abroad, but he's still going places.

Stockport Grammar School's golden boy reached the last 32 in the 1997 Physics Olympiad.

However, the 18-year-old narrowly failed to get into the last 15 and missed the chance of a place in the British team for the world finals in Canada.

But he has plenty left to occupy him. He recently had his first software package, Mechanics In Mo-

By Kevin Delaney

tion, published in the US.

Stephen, of Hazel Grove, Stockport, said: "I've never met the publishers. I contacted them through letter and E-mail. I don't even know if they realise I'm a sixth-former."

Stephen has also been involved in putting together the school's Internet site.

He said: "We've received inquiries from as far away as New Zealand, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates."

By courtesy of
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr. A.J. Carter B.Ed.

Deputy Headmistress: Mrs. G.R. Taylor B.Ed.

Assistant Masters and Mistresses

Mrs. K. Atkins B.A.
Miss N Bevan N.N.E.B.
Miss L. Booth B.A.
Mrs. H.C. Carroll B.Ed
Mrs. R.J.Cole B.A.
Miss M. Fagan B.Ed.
Mrs.D.L. Frith Cert. Ed.
Mr. D.J. Hall B.Sc.
Mrs. C. Hampson B.A.
Mrs. C.M.Haworth Cert.Ed.

Mrs. A. Johnson B.T.N.N.N.
Miss D. Leonard
Mrs.L. Lomax Cert.Ed. & Cert. Prim. Sc.
Mrs. J.L.Lowe Cert.Ed.
Mr. D.J. Makinson
Mrs. J.Mercer B.A.
Mrs. A. Scholes B.Ed.
Mrs.R.P.S. Scott B.A.
Mrs. L. Shepherd B.T.N.N.N.
Mrs. J. Swales B.A.

Headmaster's Secretary: Mrs. T.M. France

After School Care : Mrs. C. Murray and Mrs. S. Farrell

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year of 1996-97 saw the start of a period of great change for the Junior School. Whilst the Senior School was welcoming a new Headmaster we were welcoming an extra class in both Reception and Year Three. We also welcomed Mrs. Swales, Mrs. Scholes and Mrs. Bevan onto the Junior School Staff.

The academic year also saw the start of the building work as No. 3 Clifton Park Road was incorporated into the school site. It was interesting to watch the buildings grow and as progress was made excitement about the project increased.

At Easter Miss Kahn left the school to take up the post of Head at Cheadle Hulme Junior School but we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Taylor into the role of Deputy Head of the Junior School.

I was delighted that the change was only in the fabric of the school and that the friendly, positive atmosphere has remained. Once again the range of opportunities has been immense and it is heartening to see children enjoying their time at school and making such excellent progress.

Mr. A. Carter

ATHLETICS

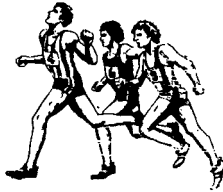
The annual ISAI championships were again held at Stretford Stadium. This is the highlight of the athletic season and the competition for places is very high especially for the Tug of War team!

This year the competition was tough as more and more children are joining Athletics Clubs at a very young age, such is the growing popularity of athletics.

The Girls U-12 team won their age-group. Kate Morris was the outstanding girl athlete, winning the 200m and 800m. She then went on to represent the North West in these events, coming 2nd. in the 800m when competing against the rest of the country.

The Boys won all the trophies available that day, at U-9, U-10, U-11 and U-12 levels.

I was impressed not only with their individual athletic ability but with the support they showed for others and their excellent behaviour at a long and tiring meeting.



HOCKEY

During the 1996/97 season, the teams played to a high standard, winning many of their matches. I was pleased to see the keenness and determination shown by all Year 6 girls on many a cold and wet Saturday morning.

The 'A' team entered the A.J.I.S. tournament losing narrowly to Birkenhead in the quarter-finals. They also played well in the Bridge Memorial at Rossall School, coming up against fierce opposition!

The Blackpool tour was once again successful, and the ten pin bowling was most entertaining, courtesy of Miss Kahn.

I would like to thank all the parents for their support throughout the season, especially those who pitted their strength against the staff in an exciting and close match.

Mrs. H. C. Carroll

NETBALL

The enthusiasm for Netball was as high as usual with most of the girls in Year 6 and Year 5 attending practices. The standard of their play was impressive in both years so there was a great deal of competition for places.

Each girl worked hard to improve her own performance but also had regard for the importance of teamwork in the success achieved. The results were excellent. Year 6 team won the North West Independent Schools Rally. Congratulations to Jenny McColl who was chosen to play for Stockport at the Greater Manchester Youth Games.

ROUNDERS

The Rounders season is undoubtedly the wettest in the year, 1997 being no exception. The ISAI tournament due to be held at S.G.S. was once again cancelled for the third time in three years due to a waterlogged pitch. Matches against Mount Carmel proved very popular with all year 5 and year 6 girls. The U-11 teams all won their matches whilst the U-10 results were a little more mixed.

The "A" and "B" teams travelled to Blackpool for the AJIS tournament, a very enjoyable but long morning. Both teams were beaten in the group rounds. However, on a brighter note, the "A" team squad entered the Stockport Schools Tournament, which they won convincingly. Well done to everyone who represented the school.

SOCCER

During the season six soccer teams were fielded, Under-11 'A', 'B' and 'C', Under-10 'A' and 'B' and an Under-9's team. All the teams had reasonably successful seasons, improving their play as the season progressed and providing excellent entertainment for our loyal spectators.

Early in the season the U-11 'A's were involved in three games, which ended 0-0, very unusual for a team so young, obviously well disciplined, Arsenal beware! They did improve the goal-scoring to reach the final of the A.J.I.S. Cup which saw us defeated by Birkenhead.

Once again we had our soccer tour to Blackpool; this went well, although one of our 'B' team players, whilst watching P.N.E. v Bradford, was repeatedly mistaken for the Preston mascot "the Deepdale Duck".

Many thanks to all the parents for their support, help with transport and the 'brewing up' after matches.

Mr. D.J. Makinson



TENNIS

The girls played tennis matches this year against St. Hilary's, Mount Carmel and Hale. It was good to see so many girls taking part in these matches at such a young age and to see how much their tennis technique and their match play improved.

Ellie Barrow and Fiona Ball represented the school at the A.J.I.S. Tennis Championships in Birkenhead. They both played extremely well, Ellie reaching the semi-finals of the main competition and Fiona reaching the semi-final of the plate competition.



ART WEEK

Last year's Book Week was the best ever and the highlight was, without doubt, David Horner's wonderful poetry workshops. With this in mind, we decided to invite David back to give all the Junior children a chance to develop their ideas under his expert guidance.

David will spend the first four days with different year groups at Styal Wood, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum, where he will endeavour to use their surroundings to enhance and encourage the children's writing. He is looking forward to the week:

"Most of the writing workshops I run for children take place inside a classroom... The chance to work with children outside school in a variety of exciting settings clearly offers very exciting possibilities. I'm hoping each setting will work its particular magic and that I can help young writers to shape their experiences into writing from which they will get real satisfaction."

Throughout the week, artist Jeff Teasdale will be working with the children in creating 3D art, as he describes it "... A sculpture big enough to walk through, and from one floor to another. I have no idea what the children are going to be showing us at the end of the week, except that there will be a strong element of the "wow" factor involved!"

Mrs. Joan Mercer, Y4

And here's one I made earlier...

The day BLUE PETER came to Stockport Grammar School will be one to remember for some time to come. Mrs. Mercer's class, Y4S, won this year's Smarts Children's Literature Book Review Award, beating off competition from schools all over the country. Their prize was a trip to London Zoo to take part in the award ceremony and meet Blue Peter presenter Tim Vincent.

The bonus was that Blue Peter came into School the week beforehand, to film scenes from the winning book they chose, "The Butterfly Lion", by Michael Morpurgo, acted out by the Junior children themselves. Preparations began feverishly to kit out rabbits, centipedes and the Butterfly Lion itself. Then, six from the class were chosen by producer Scott Ross to be interviewed on camera about their reviews. All the children were filmed as jumping rabbits and two centipedes running down the corridor.

Finally, the Butterfly Lion itself was created in white chalk in the quadrangle of the senior school, with the children dressed in blue, "flying" in and out of a shape traced onto the paving stones.

The programme was shown on Monday, 18th. November 1996.

Science Sleepover

The little blue Fiat spluttered its way to the Museum of Science and Industry on a Saturday in March around 5.30 p.m. It held three members of staff full of fear and trepidation as to what they had let themselves in for.

A sleepover with 40 children in the Museum! It was fantastic! The children became Oxen, Monkeys, Dragons, Snakes and Rats and made badges to show which groups they were in. They spent the evening making Chinese Lanterns, having a spectacular display with "Dry Ice" and being told a ghostly Chinese Tale in the darkness of the Power Hall.

After supper we slept (or some people did) in sleeping bags on the floor of X-periment and woke to a breakfast of steaming hot chocolate and croissants.

The children were bubbling with exciting tales to tell when their parents picked them up. Mr. Carter, Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Lomax went home to bed!

Linda Lomax

The Pied Piper

This Year, Year Six performed an amusing musical version of the famous classic poem, "The Pied Piper". There were many worried villagers and children, a wine-loving, extravagant mayor and lots of "dirty rats" and a rapping Pied Piper with a personal Stereo!

I was lucky and extremely happy to be chosen to play the part of the Pied Piper. There were lots of rehearsals, but Mrs. Cole and the other staff made them fun. Before we even realised it, it was the week before the performances. My costume was perfect and the infants' eyes were glued to its bright colours at the dress rehearsal. Thanks to Mrs. Griffiths, who made it. But my hat was also special – Mrs. Cole found it for me when we were on the Paris trip. It did have a long journey back!

I was very nervous, the first performance went by in a flash. Hearing the audience clap and cheer at the end was brilliant and we all danced like crazy.

Sarah Stone, Y6S

WASDALE

A spotless, carefully stocked schoolhouse, regular rows of bright orange tents and a relaxing silence in the air. At least that was the scene until each of the two Wasdale camps descended on the Lake District, bringing with them numerous teachers, Sixth Formers, dogs and twenty or so juniors all fired up with energy from copious amounts of sweets and chocolate consumed during the journey.

Soon everyone was enjoying a sunny stroll to Burnmoor Tarn with the welcome interruptions of equine ghost stories, kamikaze stream jumping and the consumption of cupcakes.

Highlights of the following days included the immensely popular bog running with Sachin breaking the long-standing record, only to be outrun by Kate a few days later. The award for persistence and enthusiasm went unquestionably to C. Lyon, whilst a few others found themselves bathing involuntarily in the peat swamps. The marshmallow game was also a favourite, although it was often unclear how many marshmallows were being held in the mouth, and how many discreetly swallowed by the eager contestants!

When the few days were over, the minibuses were packed up again with the same bubbly and enthusiastic although now somewhat more tired children. The journey home was punctuated by a lunch-stop on the Ravenglass coastline, a destination chosen democratically as against the Seascale carpark Mr. Carter has favoured in previous years. Finally everyone arrived back safely, a little grubby and probably exhausted, but we hope with a view to returning to Wasdale in future years.

Sophie Morris L4

YEAR OF THE OX

Year Two began their project on "China" with a visit to the Library Theatre in Manchester to see Michael Tse's Chinese fable, "The Magic Paintbrush". After being entertained with traditional music and dance, we wandered along the side streets of Chinatown, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the restaurants and supermarkets and gazed in awe at the brightly-coloured Chinese arch. The New Year

was celebrated by making Al See – lucky red envelopes traditionally given on this day – and culminated in a feast. Rice, noodles, beansprouts, prawn crackers and lychees were devoured by the children who were very proficient in the use of chopsticks.

The topic was planned to coincide with the Chinese exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry and we visited the Museum twice. First we looked at Chinese medicine and, having read Roald Dahl's "George's Marvellous Medicine", the children then invented their own concoctions. Later in the term, we took part in a Chinese storytelling workshop, using puppets and masks.

As part of this cross-curricular topic, the children have made dragons, lanterns and kits; they have danced, sung and acted; discussed current affairs – the Chinese leadership and Hong Kong; watched a film about pandas and looked at environmental problems; they can count to ten and write a few words in mandarin Chinese. The children have discovered many fascinating facts. Did you know that the Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure which can be seen from space, and that the Forbidden City is the largest palace in the World?

Mrs. J.J. Lowe, Y2



*Habib Esfahanian 2nd Form
Lino Print 'Panda'*



*Melanie Howard 4th Form
Metal Print 'Shells'*

OLD STOPFORDIANS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'The Happiest Days of Your Life' is the phrase often used to describe the years spent at school. Whilst being cautious of generalisations, I am constantly reminded of many happy years at Stockport Grammar School. Whilst writing this message, our house is littered with rucksacks and outdoor clothing as my youngest daughter, Helen, has just returned from a weekend camp in Wasdale, whilst Rachel is setting off for a week's sailing in Salcombe. School trips tend to leave an indelible impression on the memory, often forming a centrepiece of conversation at Old Stopfordians' reunions.

I feel privileged to be able to enjoy my involvement with the school both through my daughters' activities and with the Old Stopfordians' Association. I was honoured to be elected President at the Annual General Meeting in April and look forward very much to a busy year ahead.

At this meeting, there were some changes in committee members. Mike Brown stepped down after many years of unstinting service including five years as honorary secretary. Two past Presidents, John Davison and Fred Berry, also retired from the committee. I wish them well in the future and, on behalf of you all, wish to thank them very much for all the work that they have done for the Association. I would also like to welcome the three new committee members, John Mott, Richard Carroll and Lisa Booth.

The Annual Ball was held as usual at the Town Hall in February but on a Saturday night, a move that was appreciated by the many Old Stops who reside out of the area. There was an attendance of over 250 and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. Next year's Ball will be held on Saturday, 7th. February.

The Founder's Day Service in St George's was as impressive as ever and I had the pleasure of sitting next to Jim Davie, our oldest surviving past President, now in his nineties, and still very alert. The Annual Dinner held that evening had a surprise in store as the venue was changed at the last minute from the Hallam Hall to the main dining room. This proved necessary due to the increased security measures being forced on the school. The meal, speeches and company were all excellent. The lessons for us all here is that we need not be fearful of change and perhaps the time is appropriate for the committee to look at the format of this important event in our calendar to ensure that we appeal to the younger Old Stopfordians as well as our more longstanding members.

As the Parents' Association are holding a Summer Ball at school on the 14th. June, it has been decided not to hold a Barbecue this year. I look forward to seeing as many Old Stops as possible at the S.P.A. event.

As well as the traditional dinner held in October by the London branch, last year saw an inaugural dinner held in Durham organised by 'our man in the North East', Grenville Holland.

I was made very welcome at the A.G.M. of the Lacrosse Club held in May and was heartened by the enthusiasm of the younger members of the Club. I also enjoyed playing for the Golf Society in their recent match against Gatley. Unfortunately we did not win, but they say that it is the taking part that counts!

The school's Open Days, Musical Concerts, Dramatic Productions and, not least, academic achievements serve to underline the wealth of talent possessed by the pupils of the school. As the school embarks on another period of expansion the role of the Old Stopfordians' Association assumes an even greater significance by helping to foster the links with past pupils and with the school itself.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations to our outgoing President, Richard Griffiths, for the tremendous enthusiasm shown during the last twelve months. He will be a hard act to follow.

Harvey Locke

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In Newsletter 39, I gave details of the extension to the Junior School. I am pleased to report that the work is proceeding satisfactorily and will be completed on schedule in mid August, in time for use at the commencement of the new term in September. There will be an official opening by His Grace, The Duke of Westminster, a few days later.

This improvement is one of many over the last few years and I would welcome Old Stopfordians visiting us to see what has been achieved at any time, although it is preferable to give advance notice to the School Office. A good opportunity, for which no notice is required, occurs on 2nd July which is an Open Day when all sections of the School are open with both pupils and staff available to show you all the departments during the hours of 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Since I last wrote, the lease to the operators of the Davenport Cinema terminated and we gained vacant possession. The contents that were not moved by the lessees have gone to alternative venues, where they can be of use. The whole area of the former theatre and car park is now within the school boundaries and will be re-developed as soon as planning consents have been obtained.

With the recent change in government, we anticipate changes in the education system. One of these is the loss of the Assisted Places scheme, which is available to relevant pupils. Whilst we deplore this loss, we have no doubt that the quality of the school's work is such that these places will be filled by other pupils.

As a school we have to manage our resources with great care to provide the very best of both staff and facilities. We do not have large endowment funds that are available to some comparable schools in the private sector, but over the years we have been happy to receive a number of gifts and legacies to help us build up resources to provide some degree of help in cases of need. Similarly, the Stopfordian Trust, founded by a group of former pupils some 30 years ago, has also built up funds by careful investment and donations. The Trustees may also give help to the school's pupils in cases of need.

The Governors maintain a deep interest in all aspects of school life but it is impossible to put down in a few lines all that happens day by day. I can, however, assure you that everyone is dedicated to the pupils and their successful progress through the school.

C. E. Speight

FROM THE HELM

We, "at base" are continually trying to create a framework where Stopfordians can enjoy the company of their friends and sustain an interest in the school. The success of these ventures depends to a large extent on people getting involved and, as your President has suggested, the Annual Ball is quite simply a terrific occasion that a significant number come to year after year. It continues to grow in popularity. Unfortunately it has proved difficult to sustain interest in the Barbecue to anything like the same extent. A combination of uncertain weather, holidays and a clash of interests has meant that regrettably we have decided not to hold this event this year. However, with renewed enthusiasm, next summer could be quite different.

There were a number of timing problems that surrounded the proposed Reunion Dinner for Old Stopfordians and partners, which had been provisionally scheduled for May this year, but the idea has certainly not been forgotten. After the successful move to Saturday for the Ball, we are going to make a similar change to the Annual Dinner on Founder's weekend, in the hope that more people will be able to come. More details in our next newsletter.

Keep sending your e-mails and letters. We are delighted to hear from you and share in your news. There are still many gaps in our database. Over the years people lose touch and there are, of course, a significant number of older Stopfordians who never joined the Association in the first place. Some of these do make contact and are then eager to find out what has been going on in the intervening years. They can often locate a few more small pieces in the very large jigsaw puzzle that we are trying to put together.

NEWS OF OLD STOPFORDIANS

Matthew Barnes O.S. 1995

Has just been placed eleventh, out of thirty, in an International Pentathlon Meeting in Switzerland, as a member of the British Under-21 team. He was the highest placed member of the British team and won the running section. Pentathlon events are:- Fencing, Horse Riding, Swimming, Shooting and Cross Country. He gained an Oxford Blue in 1996 and was Oxford Pentathlon Captain 1996/7. He is the National Under-21 Biathlon Champion.

LONDON BRANCH O.S.A.

The London Branch continues to go from strength to strength. The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, 17th. October. We look forward to another year of good support from both existing and new members. We are pleased to welcome new members into our area, especially those who are moving down for their studies. Further information can be obtained from:

Lucie Akerman
305 Arlington Building
Fairfield Road
Bow,
London
E3 2UB
(Secretary)

250 CLUB

The 250 club has given £200 to support Sarah Hammond of the Fifth Form. Sarah is a member of Macclesfield Army Cadet Force and has been chosen as one of the 21 cadets selected from the whole of Great Britain to take part in an expedition to South Africa this summer. The expedition includes a Wilderness Leadership training course in the Umfolozi Game Reserve and Lake St. Lucia Wetlands. There is a trail, organised by the cadets themselves, in the Drakensberg Mountains, and a Zulu Cultural Experience, involving a visit to a Zulu village to be taught their culture. She has had to raise £1,500 for expenses and kit.

ARCHIVES

As Old Stopfordians, you are justly proud of your alma mater and will understand how important it is to have as detailed a record as possible of its long and distinguished history. The Archive collection is the only way we have of ensuring that Stockport Grammar School's history is preserved.

Four recent events have put the spot-light on the acquisition, conservation and accession of these archives. Firstly, Mr. N. G. Henshall, their dedicated custodian, left the School last year. Secondly, the celebration of the 80th. year of the School on the Davenport site involved contact with some of our oldest surviving Stopfordians. 'Timewatch', the History club, run by Mrs. Liz Nott, Classics Department, initiated a series of interviews to ensure their memories were not lost. Thirdly, research into the School's history is being undertaken by a Lower Sixth General Studies Group, again led by Mrs Nott, to celebrate our 510th. year! Fascinating interviews have taken place, and there have been visits to Goldsmiths' Hall, London and to Stockport Heritage Library and local newspapers. Fourthly, a presentation to the Art Gallery, Stockport, took place on April 24th. The Goldsmiths kindly provided a copy of a photo of the Greek Street School, which was 'unveiled' by Mr. M. Garner, Vice Chairman of Governors. Also present were Old Stopfordians Mr. Griffiths, Mr. Henshall and Mr. Helm.

Appeals by our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Christine Henstock, to the local newspapers and at the last Old Stopfordians' Annual Dinner have generated great interest and offers of information and support. In addition, Mrs. Margery Mellor, the Headmaster's wife, was working as a librarian until their move to Stockport and is very happy to put her professional experience to use in the reorganisation, cataloguing and classification of the current collection.

Ultimately, the archive collection will be a valuable resource for all present and past Stopfordians and their families to consult and enjoy.

Would you also be able to help?

We would be interested in anything from your school days which could be incorporated in the archives, either by donation or by us simply noting the details in our records. If you do have material which you wish to keep, but may be relevant as part of the historic picture of the School, we would be grateful if the details could be photocopied or otherwise recorded and thus become a permanent record in the Archives. For further information, please contact Mrs. Henstock on the School number of 0161 456 9000 or write if more convenient.

SPORTS SECTION

STOPFORDIANS LACROSSE CLUB

Whilst the 1996/7 season was not one of the club's best, there were some successes and the morale of the players remained high throughout. The first team finished ninth in the second division with 11 points, winning five of its twenty matches, drawing one and losing fourteen. The "A" Team, however, finished in third equal place in the fifth division, having won twelve of its twenty matches, drawn one, lost seven and gained twenty-five points. The "A" Team therefore deserves particular praise, and some very pleasing results were achieved.

Once again the "A" Team mainly comprised of school players with some help from a few older hands and was coached by Tony Cheslett. A school team also played

in the Sunday night Under-19 floodlit tournament on astro turf. This was split into Autumn and Spring Leagues plus a cup competition and the team played a total of eight league games, winning three. Although these players were all from the school they nevertheless played under our name.

The "home" games of the two senior teams were played at the Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, a venue which has proved its worth in the ten years since the Lacrosse Club moved there, and the improvement in pitch conditions has been dramatic since the drainage system was installed a few years ago. The main pitch must surely now be one of the best in the league albeit rather windy on cold winter days. The comfortable changing rooms and bar have also been greatly beneficial.

On the social side, various enjoyable events took place during the season, including an evening out at an Italian restaurant, followed by a knees-up at Andy Hancock's house for those who could stand the pace. There was a Race Night, to raise funds for the Disley Club, a Veterans' game for the over thirty-five's, an annual event against Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club, and a "Rebels" game to publicise ourselves to players at universities and other clubs.

We were pleased to welcome the players from the school, and I would particularly mention the efforts made by Guy Street, James Allen and Mark Curran as being outstanding for the club, although by no means exclusively. We were also glad to have Peter "Drivel" Woodhead back from Nottingham University, and our reliance on a handful of the more senior members, who I will not name, but they know who they are, is undimmed as always. Thanks to everyone.

We always need new members, and you can contact myself on 01663 743074, Andy Hancock on 0161 456 8458 or Rick Griffiths on 0161 440 8348.

John S. Partt

GOLF

Yet another year has arrived for the golfing members to display their prowess in battle on behalf of the Old Stopfordians. A new Captain has been elected in the shape of David Bishop, formerly of North Manchester Golf Club, but now a member at Disley. David has played for many years with us and is already making his presence felt. The first match of the year took place at Bramall Park where, once again, we plunged to defeat but only by the close margin of five games to three. A close run thing, as the Bramall Park team admitted, whilst entertaining us with a very splendid dinner afterwards. Gatley Golf Club were our next opponents where, due to an unfortunate set of circumstances, Ken Heath, a member of Gatley, coerced Bryan Rendell into playing for the home side to set the stage for a seven game match. The result was again in favour of Gatley by the margin of four games to two with one halved.

Our representative side in the Grafton Morrish Public Schools' Championships did not fare as well as usual this year. Played at Fixby Golf Club, the side, captained by Bob Martin, tried valiantly but to no avail. In a year when the scoring was exceptionally high, the combination of the brilliance of our fellow competitors and the difficulties of the course, proved to be too much for our ageing team. However, Bob Martin, Jack Hadfield, Norman Rowlinson, Richard Rimmington together with Graham Inchley and Harry Dooley, who travelled from Leicester and Cardiff respectively, deserve our thanks. The Oppida Cup is to be played at Stockport Golf Club on Thursday, 31st. July and an invitation is extended to ALL golfers whether they are members of the Golfing Society or not. Please make the effort to attend. I know you will enjoy the occasion. The venue for the inter-schools match has been changed this year to Davenport Golf Club, where it is hoped that the gentler terrain will help to attract players. Naturally, we expect to retain our title. Finally, the best wishes of all members of the society go to Hugh Wilcock who, through illness, is unable to join us this year.

Bryan Rendell

OLD STOPFORDIANS AFC

Sadly we have to report that the Football Club has had to call a halt after 69 years. A severe shortage of players meant that it had been unable to fulfil its obligations to the league and the only course of action was to resign. It is particularly unfortunate as Geoff Smith, one of the mainstays of the Football Club for more years than he would care to remember, is currently President of the League. At this time thanks must go to Geoff, Martin Officer and John Brooks for all their hard work in sustaining the club through very difficult times. A fuller report on the activities of the club over the years will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

John Stanley's Art Exhibition

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Peter Firth will come north to open John's next Exhibition at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday, 9th. August, 1997. The Exhibition will remain open until Saturday, 9th. September. John has had a number of exhibitions in recent years at Buxton Museum which have been very successful. It is hoped that a few Old Stops will be able to come not only to see his show but also to meet Bishop Peter Firth.

Obituaries

William Almond Officer

It is with regret that we have to inform you of the death of Bill Officer on 29th. December, 1996. Bill left school in 1937, one of the Hitchcock, Bown, McCracken era. After completing his School Certificate, Bill joined the Merchant Navy, serving for over eleven years, pre and post War, and attaining his Master's Certificate. Later he was involved in the clothing trade, retiring as a Director of a manufacturing firm in

Wythenshawe. Bill was an active member of the O.S.A. for over fifty years and President in 1969. He played soccer until well into his forties and held the distinction, with his son Peter, of being the first father and son to play on the same team, pre-Goalen and Brooks. He was also a keen golfer and ever present at the Society events until ill-health forced him to give up the playing side of the game.

C. Alec Robbins

We also report the recent death of C. Alec Robbins, aged ninety-two, of Woodsmoor Lane, Davenport. Alec was a retired Manager with Barclays Bank and a member of the Old Stopfordians' Lodge

J. Chris Sharpe

The sudden death of J. Chris Sharpe C.B.E, O.S. 1951-1959, has been brought to our attention by A.M. Derry O.S. 1953-1961. Chris Sharpe was School Captain for two years and had been Chief Executive of Northern Rock Building Society. He was Chairman of Tynside Tec and a governor of Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. He leaves a widow Mary and three grown up children.



STOPFORDIAN PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The S.P.A. have a new Committee from September, 1997

Chairman	-	Stuart Allan
Vice-Chair	-	Steve Bell
Treasurer	-	Belinda Geddes
Secretary	-	Elaine Biglen
Social Secretary	-	Heather Bateson

The meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks, alternating the venues in the Senior Upper VI Common Room and the Junior School Parents' Room. Various events have been organised by the Committee:-

- New Parents' Cheese and Wine Evening.
- Barn Dance, by the Lacrosse Club, under the 'umbrella' of the S.P.A..
- The Autumn Fair, which is of course the biggest fund raising event - £7,000!
- Quiz Evening, admirably organised by Mr. Mellor.
- Skin-Care and Make-Up Demonstration, which was in place of the Fashion Show. This was out of our control and we do hope to hold one next year but a big thank you to the ladies who attended this demonstration.

We have purchased a variety of 'goodies' this year, see below, and we can only continue to do so with your support. We would like to hold events that you like to attend but we do not know what everyone wants, so why not join us?

Purchases:	£
Wheeley Bin, to collect items for Bosnia	75
Shoe Boxes, for charity collection	40
Swimming Badges	400
Photographic Equipment	240
Benches	1200

Promised at the Last Meeting:

Springboard	1994
Scrum Machine	1575
Laser Robot	300
Paint Spray Booth and Equipment	1142
Jigsaws	98

Still to be purchased:

Sewing Machine	500
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In Reserve:

Mini-Bus, replacement 3-4 years	5000
Trust	1000



Chris Booth 4th Form
Metal Print 'Seed Pods'



