



THE VICTORIAN



1997

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At QVS we have a mission which lies at the very heart of the school ethos and which guides and underpins everything we do here. That mission is to provide stable, uninterrupted and high quality education for the children of Scottish service personnel, or those service personnel who are serving or have served in Scotland. In doing so we aim to produce well rounded, articulate and confident young people who are better equipped to face the world outside the School. We achieve this by training and developing all our employees to reach their full potential which in turn enhances our aims.



The School provides boarding school education for the children of both Scottish Servicemen and women and those who have served in Scotland. Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, QVS is easily accessible by road, rail or air.

Pupils may be registered for entry from the age of 7 and will normally be admitted to Primary 7. Applications must reach the School by 31 December so that they may be considered by the Admissions Board which convenes in February. However, consideration will also be given, in particular circumstances, to applications made after these dates.

The School offers a wide curriculum following the Scottish educational system and included Standard Grades, Highers, SYS and SCOTVEC modules. The career links with the services are strong, but increasingly pupils move to Higher and Further Education. Pastoral care is afforded a very high priority along with careers guidance and personal and social education. In addition there is a very full programme of sporting, cultural and spiritual development.

Queen Victoria School is a unique boarding school and, as such, looks to achieve the best that is possible academically for all its pupils. The School prides itself also on developing the pupil in the widest possible sense and, as well as academically, aims to achieve success in activities such as sport, music, and other extra-curricular areas. The traditional ceremonial side gives Queen Victoria School a very special and unique dimension.

For further information, write to The Headmaster, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0JY
Tel (01786) 822288
Fax 0131-310-2926
or 0131-310-2901

PATRON

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT OM GBE

**HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL**

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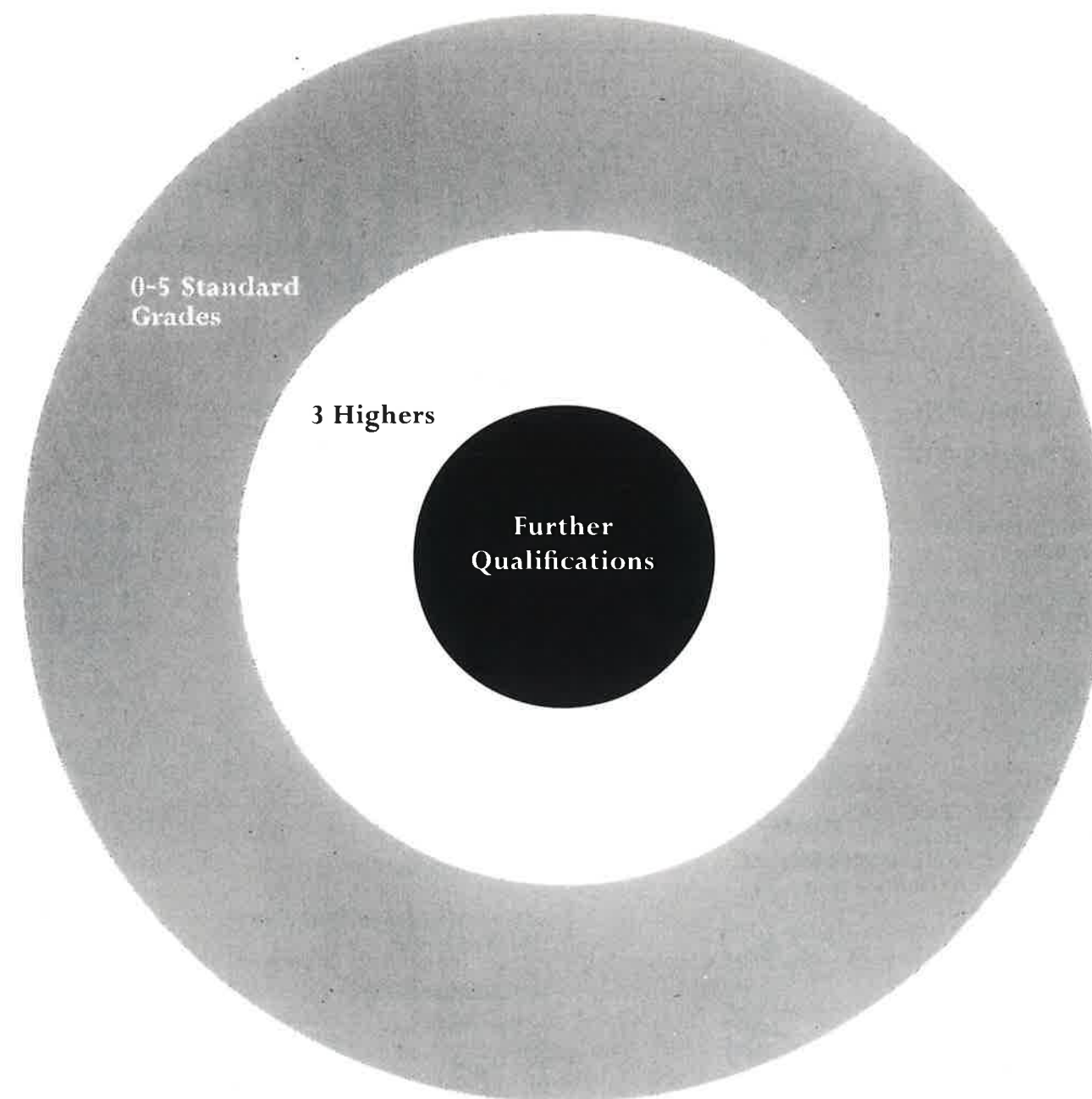
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AIM HIGH

Score:

0-5 Standard Grades. There are dozens of jobs within the RAF. Many of them require no exam passes at all. However, for some trades you'll need up to five standard grades in relevant subjects.

3 or more Highers. This is the minimum qualification for commission as an officer. With these you could also qualify for sponsorship through university while you study for your degree.

Further Qualifications. With further qualifications (HND, degree etc.) you increase your chances of acceptance for commission as an officer, in fact some branches require specific qualifications.

Whatever you score. There is no such thing as a bad job in the RAF. Every single one is stimulating, rewarding and potentially vital to the defence of the nation.

To find out more, ask to see the RAF Careers Liaison Officer who can be reached through your Careers Teacher, or contact the nearest RAF Careers Information Office (address in the telephone book under Royal Air Force).



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Queen Victoria

School Staff

HEADMASTER B Raine BA (Hons) PGCE

D/HEADMASTER L Clark BSc PGCE
/C Philson BA(Hons) PGCE

ASST HEADTEACHER A Hainey MA PGCE
BURSAR Col (Retd) A R Tapp

HOUSEMASTERS/HOUSEPARENTS
Haig J S Laing Dip Tech Edn
PT (C&D)

Cunningham G Borking B Ed
Trenchard G D M Carroll BA DCE
PGCC

Wavell K Murdoch BSc
/Mr & Mrs Duthie

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

C Bruce MA (Hons)
D Garden BSc (Hons) M Phil Dip Ed
D Gilhooly BA (Hons) Dip Ed
J Howie MA (Hons) Dip Ed
A M Kirk MA (Hons) PGCE Dip Ed Tech
J Lawrence BSc (Hons) PGCE
D McLay BEd (Hons)
P Onslow FLCM LRSM A Cert CM Cert Ed
D Stewart BSc (Hons)

TEACHING STAFF

G J Beattie MA MEd PGCE (Asst HoM Haig)
(Asst PT)

E Blackwood BEd
T A Dale BSc Cert Ed (Asst PT)
I Dow BEd (Hons) T Cert Dip SEN (Dep HoM
Trenchard)

D Frize MA BA (Hons) PGCE
D P Kelling BSc (Hons) Dip Ed Tech
T King BEd (Hons)DRSAM Cert Ed ATQ(Prim)
PGCC(Asst HoM Wavell)

C S Milligan BSc (Hons) PGCE
L A Shannon MA (Hons) PGCE
T Shannon Dip Tech Edn HND Eng Mech RD
(Director of Outdoor Pursuits)
Rev J Silcox BD Cert PS CF TD(School Chaplain)
J Scott BEd (Hons)
W G Webster BA (Hons) BD Dip Ed

PART-TIME TEACHERS

S Johns Dip Ed
L Robbins BA
L Thornton Dip Art & PG CE

VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS

A Bell DRSAM ABSM Cert Ed *Woodwind*
S Blackwood *Guitar*
R Donaldson BA *Percussion*
A Ferguson BA (RSAMD) *Piano*
R M Jones BA(Hons) LTCL ALCM Cert Ed *Brass*
J Petrie BA (Hons) ALCM *Strings*
C Shearer BA (Hons) RSAMD *Voice*

LIBRARIAN

C Sheerin BA (Hons) Dip Lib ALA

SCHOOL SERGEANT MAJOR

D Duthie

PIPE MAJOR

A T Dippie BEM

DRUM MAJOR

H W G Tomkins

HIGHLAND DANCING INST.

E M MacDonald

HOUSEMATRONS

Cunningham J B Kean
Haig C R Tomkins
Trenchard M L Chalmers
Wavell L Blake
M Webster

HOSPITAL STAFF

C Fitzgerald RSN
M McNicholl SEN
S Graham
H Heslop

ESTATE MANAGER

Lt Col (Retd) J Sharp MBE

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

J Blyth

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

H H Muirhead EO (A & A)

ADMIN STAFF

D G A Bryan AO HM Secretary
M Wallace AO Personnel
M Watson AO Accounts

ADMIN STAFF (Contd)

M Reid AO Bursar's Secretary
A Macfarlane AO School Secretary
M Symon Typist

SUPPORT GRADE II

A B Gauld

PORTERS

J Alexander
S Graham
R Hamilton
F Wernicki

LAB TECHNICIAN

D P Carrington-Porter

EXP WORKER

I McIntyre

JOINER

M O'Malley

STOREKEEPERS

MA Fleming (Clothing)
M Roy (Accn Stores)
W Stockman
P Warner (Sports)

GENERAL HANDS / HOUSE

AUXILIARIES

A Laird
R Davies
R B Beddoe
A McDonald
H S Blyth
HA McNroy
M Nairn
H R Duthie
C E Cullen
K McVey
L Stockman

Queen Victoria
School Staff

Top of the Pops

Who can remember a single which topped the Hit Parade for 5 weeks in 1972 and had a direct link to the Queen Victoria School?

No prizes for the correct answer regrettably, but it is worth recalling 25 years on! In 1971 The Royal Scots Greys and the 3rd Carabiniers were amalgamated to form The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. At the Amalgamation Parade, as Her Majesty The Queen inspected the Greys for the last time, a solo piper began to play an old Scottish hymn tune which was then taken up by the Pipes and Drums and the Military Band.

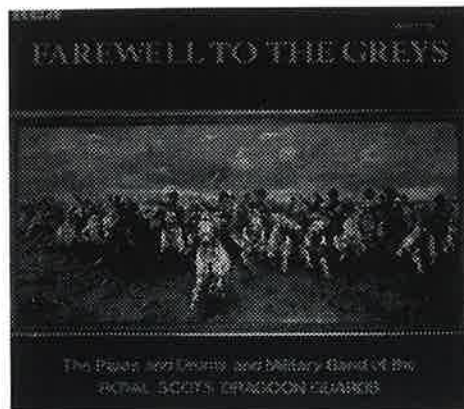
The tune was *Amazing Grace*.

It had been arranged for the combined bands by the Band Master, an Old Victorian, Stuart Fairbairn (2097), later to become Director of Music, RNZAF Military Band. The solo piper was Pipe Sgt Tony Crease, father of two Old Victorians, Malcolm (3802) and Ken (4061). To complete the QVS link, one of the drummers was L/Cpl Bert Tomkins, our current Drum Major.

It was decided to record an LP of military music to commemorate the history of the Greys and RCA produced *Farewell to the Greys*. A DJ featured *Amazing Grace* on a late night radio show and it was so popular that RCA released it as a single. It topped the UK charts for 5 weeks, went to No 1 in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and reached No 7 in the USA.

This record set a standard for the popularity of the combination of pipe and military band music, having caught the public imagination to an astonishing degree and thus bringing The Royal Scots

Dragoon Guards to world-wide notice. The QVS link will be strengthened by a Band Reunion which The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are holding at the School from 25-27 July to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Pipes and Drums of the Greys and the 25th Anniversary of *Amazing Grace* at No 1 in the Hit Parade.



The Lone Piper of Toowoomba

Digging much deeper into the memory banks of older Old Victorians is this photograph of a veteran piper. Who is he? What is he celebrating and what is its significance given future events?

The piper is Charles Duncan (1515). He was at the School from 1931-36 and served in the Royal Air Force and Royal Engineers prior to emigrating to Australia.

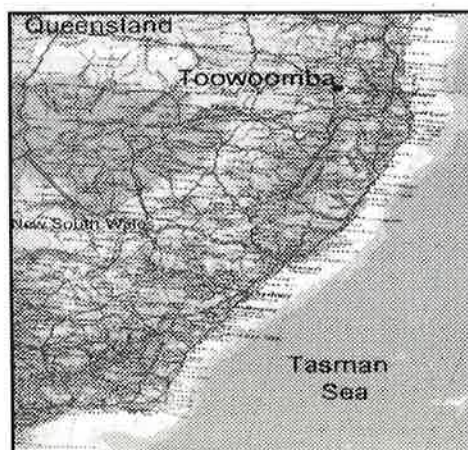
The photo is from the Toowoomba Chronicle and was used to encourage local residents to attend various events on Australia Day 1997.

A quote from the paper reads:-

"A lone piper, Charlie Duncan, will launch the Australia Day celebrations at Picnic Point, starting at 5am on Sunday January 26th."

Perhaps Charlie is practising for OZ 99! The skills, learnt through the tuition of Pipe Major Ross all those years ago, are still much in demand at many local events.

Toowoomba, in Australian terms, is only just down the road from Brisbane and Charlie says he will be there! Obviously a reserve for the Band should someone fall out.



All the dancers who participated in the Festival of Remembrance will recall with fond memory the early morning rehearsal at Otterburn Camp with the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. Pipe Major Lewis Barclay called the rehearsal for 0800hrs outside on the parade square. The autumnal sun had little effect on the icy tarmac but the NAAFI tea warmed the parts others would never reach. The rehearsal was very successful due to the hours of practice back at Q.V. and Paul Kane slotted in as Senior Dancer with his usual professionalism.

From Otterburn we headed South to R.A.F. Uxbridge where we were to be billeted. On Friday the 8th of November we joined the dreary London commuters and snaked our way to the Albert Hall. Once there our spirits were lifted by the presence that the Albert Hall imbues. So many famous stars and orchestras have performed at this famous auditorium and here we were about to do the same.

You could visibly see each dancer take a deep breath as they looked around. However, once you look behind the stage and head down towards the changing rooms the Old Man was looking

decidedly shabby. I am sure Frank Sinatra or Eric Clapton did not share their changing room with 20 Highlanders, 40 Choir Singers from Regiment of Wales and 10 Gurkhas, but that was their loss. The banter and camaraderie were infectious; so was their professionalism.

On the Friday evening the boys enjoyed a performance of Starlight Express a famous west end Musical, courtesy of the H.M.C.

With all life's experiences it is the characters you meet that stay vividly in your mind. At the Albert Hall The R.S.M. London District ruled the proceedings with a rod of iron. Officers, soldiers, sailors, airmen and Q.V. Dancers jumped when he shouted "jump!"

Rehearsals can be tedious but Mrs MacDonald our Highland Dance Instructor encouraged and cajoled at all the right times, while Mrs Tomkins

the afternoon performance and not the evening one was to be recorded for the T.V. The evening performance was to be performed in front of Her Majesty The Queen. We were more than ready.

Behind the red curtains before going on, all the dance routines were being rehearsed either physically or mentally. Those of you who watched the performance on t.v. may have seen the strained faces just before marching down the steps. But each dancer marched on counting his steps with true professionalism well beyond their years. All the dancers showed once again that Highland dancing is exciting, athletic and of the highest standard.

Thanks must go to Mrs MacDonald for all her unstinting and energetic work, without which the event would not have been so successful. Thanks also to Mrs Tomkins who was our Matron for the trip. She made sure all the dancers were kitted out

properly and fussed over everyone with a great deal of warmth.

Lastly, thanks must go to the dancers. It was their enthusiasm, dedication and skill that made the whole event a success. Well done!

Festival of Remembrance November 1996

helped with preparations behind the scenes. On Saturday we would have a dress rehearsal and then an afternoon and evening performance. Interestingly,



Introduction of Girls

The 1996/97 session will go down as a watershed in QVS history. Having been in existence for almost 90 years we took our first 41 girls into the school in August 1996 to break yet another male bastion in society. I am pleased to be able to report that the girls have settled well into the School. In December 1996 we had an HMI visit to check on the change of status and Mr Brown commented that he had been most impressed with the girls themselves and felt, in general, that we had a very good first intake who would do the School proud. He was surprised how well they had fitted in and expressed satisfaction at the way they had quickly become part of the School. I

given a great boost as she was the swimming coach for the British Team at the Paralympics Games in Atlanta in August/September 1996.

At the first morning assembly in August 1996 when welcoming the girls I was in the very fortunate position of being able to comment again very favourably on our examination results which, as I pointed out to the girls, gives them something at which to aim. At Standard Grade 100% achieved the target of at least 3 passes at Credit and General and 79% achieved the target of at least 5 passes at Grades 1 to 3. Although the latter was slightly down on last year's cohort of 82% it was well ahead of the 1994 figure of 74%.



discussed with him the high percentage of siblings and we agreed that this was a most positive factor in helping the girls to settle and be assimilated into the School.

As far as Wavell is concerned we await only the completion of the extension to have our girls' House complete. The next stage will be that from August 1998 P7 boys will be accommodated in the Main Building. Incidentally, Mr Brown thought that the accommodation in Wavell was excellent and felt that a lot of work and planning had obviously gone into this to get it right. Unfortunately, Miss Murdoch, our first Housemistress, resigned at the end of the Spring Term for personal reasons and I am extremely grateful to Mrs Duthie ably supported by the School Sergeant Major, Mr Duthie for stepping into the breach at such short notice as Houseparents for the Summer Term. Ms Morag McGlashan, who is married but prefers to be known by her maiden name, will take over in August. At present, she is Head of PE at Lord Mayor Treloar College. I am sure she will do well and I know that swimming in the School will be

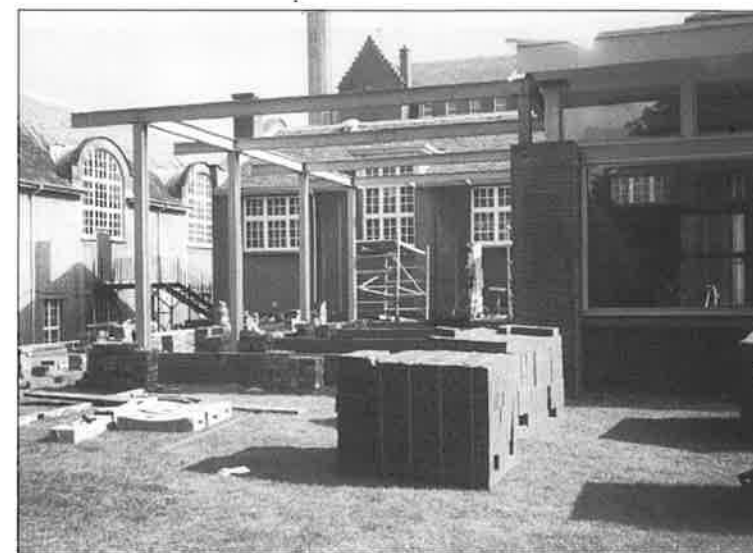
At Higher 79% of our presentations were in the A to C category compared with 69% in 1995 and 47% in 1994. This is a massive leap forward and really quite superb. What is even more pleasing, particularly as it was something the HMI highlighted, is the number of A Grades - 17 or the equivalent of 20%. Out of those sitting 3 or more Highers 62% got 3 or more at A to C compared with 53% last year.

When one considers that QVS is not academically selective and we do have a high level of learning support requirement as pupils enter the School, the above is even more encouraging. Pupils and teachers alike are to be congratulated on their respective effort in helping to bring about this transformation. Clearly, where expectations and targets are high then pupils do respond: it is also true that teachers do not get enough credit, due to adverse media attention, for their dedicated effort to improve standards. I would like to pay tribute to the teaching staff for doing exactly this at QVS.

School Prospectus

A welcome addition to our marketing has been the production of a new School brochure which was printed in October 1996. I enjoyed working on this project with Davis Design and I am very pleased with the finished product, which has been well received. I have continued to visit Bases wherever this was possible and our September Open Day is now a firm and popular fixture. The result of our marketing seems to be that we are getting more and more enquiries and a lot of applications for places between S1 and SVI and for girls overall; however, we are still not getting enough at the P7 boy entrance level. Therefore, I would ask you all to spread the good word as far as the School is concerned.

I do believe that QVS continues to provide excellent opportunities in the widest possible sense and this year has again seen great success in a number of areas. In the Pipe Band and Highland Dancing we achieved a unique double when on 9th November, 1996 the Pipe Band played at Murrayfield prior to the Australian game in front of Princess Anne and the Highland Dancers performed in the Albert Hall at the Festival of Remembrance in front of the Queen and the Royal Family. I do not know of another school in the UK who would have the professionalism and expertise to be able to perform at such prestigious events on the same day.



The New Library

Another important feature of the first term was the completion of the refurbishment and extension of the Library. The work done here has produced a very fine facility - even better than I and many others would have imagined. Thanks to our Librarian, Mrs Sheerin, the Library is a very important focal point in the School and it has been noted how much the Library is used by pupils to take books out to read, for Senior pupils to study during the day and for other groups to make use of the facilities including computers.



Building Projects

Apart from the completion of Wavell extension scheduled for 27th July 1997, our next major venture will be to create an all-weather pitch on the Plateau. This will be started during the summer holidays and we hope to have it finished by September/October 1997. It will give us excellent facilities for playing hockey/football and provide an all-weather training area. This will be a terrific addition to our facilities and allow girls' hockey to be developed properly within the School.

In addition, we have now been allocated additional part-funding to build a new boarding house to be ready for the year 2000. This will allow us to decant about 60+ boys out of the main building and then redevelop and refurbish the accommodation therein, aiming to provide more leisure space and better facilities. As a result we have been discussing House structures for the future and the possible scenario for the boys might well be one P7/SI House and two vertical SII/SVI houses. However, no final decision has been made on this as yet.

The Pipe Band

The Pipe Band, having played at the Cup Final last May have since played at Murrayfield prior to the games against Italy, Wales and Ireland. As they did last year in front of Princess Anne, the Band and Dancers will perform at Holyrood in May in front of The Lord High Commissioner. It should also be noted that the CCF Massed Pipes and Drums would not be same without the presence of our Pipers, Drummers and Dancers as they play each year on the Esplanade in May.

In addition to the above, the Highland Dancers appeared on Songs of Praise last May and took part in a press launch in Edinburgh on 27th September for the Scottish Traditional Dance Trust. There are of course many other engagements and what is perhaps not appreciated is the number of occasions that small and different groups eg the P7 Concert Party or the SI boys and girls Highland Dancing Team go out locally and to Central Region to perform for groups such as the Darby and Jones Clubs, Senior Citizens etc.

I continue to be impressed by our internal Piping, Drumming, Bugling and Dancing competitions which arouse fierce internal competition, involve something in the region of half the school on the day and produce such excellent results overall. What is also worthy of note this year were the results for the UKA Dancing Examinations - suffice to note that there were 45 competitors and at the top end there were 9 Gold Awards 3 First Gold Bars and 3 Second Gold Bars, 2 Laurel Awards, 5 Presidents Awards and 5 Premier Cup Awards. When I arrived at the School four years ago the Laurel Award was at that stage the highest that was achieved. Highland Dancing is undoubtedly one of the great successes in the School as was shown recently by the SI to SIII Dancers who performed in the Albert Hall in Stirling and raised the whole standard of the show.

Another important extra-curricular activity which is in great demand is the Duke of Edinburgh Award. At present 72 pupils are participating at all levels (7 gold, 11 silver, 54 bronze) with a milestone having been achieved with the first 2 pupils Richard

QVS Sports

Givens and Adam Morton having completed their Gold Award while at Queen Victoria School.

On the rugby front I think this has been the best season overall since I arrived at the School. A more complete picture will be available in the rugby report but it is worthy of mention here that the 1st XV lost only three games, the 2nd XV two, the SIII and SI's were unbeaten and the SII's lost only two games. The P7's also started to win some games. The 1st XV having lost to Kelvinside Academy in the Scottish Schools Cup reached the semi-final of the Plate competition and lost to Earlston. However, another pleasing feature this year was the continued presence at representative level - with Alistair MacKinnon and Andrew Denholm in the Midlands U.18 Squad; Stephen Page, Bill Ford, J R McCulloch and Darren Robertson in the U.16's; and Fraser MacKinnon in the U.15's. Fraser is to be especially congratulated for making the National Squad to play against Yorkshire and Lancashire.

One sport that seemed to have blossomed this year and certainly has benefited by the presence of girls is cross-country. It was terrific to see the U.14 Girls' Team winning at Rannoch and, in a combined meeting, against St Aloysius, Glenalmond, Hutchison and Loretto. In the cross-country relays at Fettes, the U.13 girls came first, the U.13 boys second and the Over 17 boys third. At the Scottish Schools the girls U.14 team finished 7th, the U.15 boys 19th, the U.17 boys 15th - a very creditable performance. There have been some notable individual performances from Gary Cornelius, Michael Brown, Lauren Campbell, Ashling Kerr and Laura Dunnachie. Also worthy of note was that the P7 boys came third in the Longridge Towers inter-schools cross-country competition with Kris Reid coming fifth out of 80 competitors.

In football the seniors won the Independent Schools Competition against Strathallan, Edinburgh Academy and Stewarts Melville and the 1st XI having beaten Blairgowrie 7 - 3 and St Columba's 7 - 5 reached the final of the Perthshire Cup but lost to Perth High School.

Music

There was a considerable array of talent on show at Mr Onslow's Christmas Concert for the School, Parents and guests in December 1996. It was good to see the Wind Band and a strong group performing for the first time, as well as the Ensemble whose playing of Eric Clapton's Wonderful Night was for many the real icing on the cake. In addition, there were a number of very good solo performances including 2 excellent vocal performances and a duet by Claire Harris and Leigh Bissett. It was also good to see Leigh Bissett pick up three certificates (2nd in the Under 18 Male Singer Class; 1st in the Gilbert and Sullivan Aria Class and 1st in the Songs from Shows Class); Colin Wood also came 2nd in the Woodwind Solo Class and Andrew Paisley gained a Merit award in the Trombone A Class - this was all at the Glasgow Music Festival.

Also worthy of note is the fact that Leigh Bissett, Callum Kennedy and Andrew Paisley were amongst only 5 musicians to play or sing through to the final round of the Young Musician of the Year competition held by the Dunblane and Bridge of Allan Rotary Club in April.



Highland Tac Team 4th Overall

Other points which are worthy of note are: the CCF Highland Tac Team recorded its best ever result in the competition when they came 2nd in the Schools Section and 4th overall; Leigh Bissett and Jamie Crouch have been selected to join s.v. Kruzenshtern as extra crew for the Aberdeen/Trondheim leg of the Tall Ships Race in July; four QVS boys have been selected to take up places abroad for next year - Paul Kane, Adam Moore, Jamie Crouch and Craig Simpson.

Drama is another increasingly popular activity within the School. Mr Kirk's production of "Cinderella" in June 1996 was well-received. Congratulations to all the main characters who took part, and we are already looking forward to this year's production in June of "Wyrd Sisters".

One of the major changes in staffing which has occurred since I wrote last year's notes is the retirement of Mr Boast as Principal Teacher of PE in August 1996 after 17 years. His place has been taken by Mr McLay who is an Old Victorian and joined us from Wyndham College in January 1997. Mr Lawrence also joined us in August 1996 as Principal Teacher of Computing - a new post which includes a remit to look after the computing in the School overall.

Mr Martindale who joined us temporarily in August 1995 as a Geography Teacher to cover Mrs Shannon's maternity leave stayed with us until December 1996, helping out on the PE and Games side. He helped Miss Scott who joined us temporarily on the PE side in January 1996 but we hope she will be a more permanent fixture in the PE Department and Wavell. Mrs Robbins who is a specialist in the Learning Support side, also joined us in August 1996.

Mrs Blake took up her appointment as Matron of Wavell in August 1996 as did Monsieur Jean-Philippe Cuneo who joined us as a Language Assistant. He is now complemented

by 2 GAP students from Australia James McGeogh and Ryan Webster.

One major change in staffing will be the departure of our Deputy Headmaster, Mr Clark who leaves us in May to take up his appointment as Headmaster of Shebbear College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for QVS, the support he has given me and wish him all the very best of luck. His replacement is Mr Philson, at present Assistant Rector of Invergordon Academy who will be joining us in May 1997.

We have a large staff at QVS and, in many respects, it operates as a small village community with most living on site and many on the non-teaching side working throughout the year and I am constantly aware of the amount of effort that is put in by different groups, too many to mention, one example being the Housemaids helping to cope with letting of the School facilities during holidays. However, as with the teaching staff we must not forget that we are here to educate pupils and that this is our "core business". At the beginning of our new brochure there is the following mission statement:

"At QVS we have a mission which lies at the very heart of the School ethos and which guides and underpins everything we do here. That mission is to provide stable, uninterrupted and high quality education for the children of Scottish Service personnel who are serving or who have served in Scotland. In so doing we aim to produce well rounded, articulate, and confident young people who are better equipped to face the world outside the School".

I would like to thank all QVS staff for keeping this mission statement in focus and for all their efforts to demand more of themselves, thereby setting higher targets for pupils, and constantly striving to raise pupils' self-esteem.

GRAND DAY 1997

PRIZE GIVING

The Right Honourable Lord Cullen

Prize Giving takes place in the Marquee in the presence of Her Majesty's Commissioners, distinguished guests, parents, staff, and pupils.

PARADE

Inspecting Officer
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

On Parade

Parade Commander, Senior Monitor.....	Mark Harris
Guard Commanders:	
No 1 Guard.....	Paul Kane
No 2 Guard.....	Thomas MacDonald
No 3 Guard.....	Andrew Denholm
No 4 Guard.....	Alistair Thomson
No 5 Guard.....	Craig Simpson
No 6 Guard.....	Peter Clark
No 7 Guard.....	Alistair MacKinnon
No 8 Guard.....	Craig Donnelly
i/c Colour Party.....	Richard Givens
Ensigns.....	Richard McConnell
	Shaun McGinty
Escorts.....	Jamie MacDonald
	Craig Kintrea
Orderlies.....	Michael Brown
	Kristofer Edwards
School Sergeant Major.....	Mr D Duthie (late SG)

The Parade

The School will march on and the Colours are marched on with the Parade at the Salute.

HRH will be received with a Royal Salute at 1415; HRH will then inspect the Parade.

The Parade will then March Past in Slow Time, break into Quick Time, Reform Line and Advance in Review Order. After the Royal Salute HRH will address the Parade and present prizes culminating with the Prince Philip Medal. The School will then give 3 cheers. Having sought permission to march-off the Senior Monitor will lead the Parade off the field in Column of Route.

All spectators are asked to stand when the Colours are marched on to Parade, during Royal Salutes and when the Colours pass during the March Past.

RETREAT

At approximately 1505 the Buglers will sound the 5 minute call. 5 minutes later the Pipes and Drums will march on to Beat Retreat which will include a display of Dancing. Spectators are asked to stand during the sounding of the Retreat Call and lowering of the Union Flag.

GRAND DAY 1997

TEA

After the Retreat, Tea will be served for HM Commissioners' Guests in the Marquee behind Enclosure A.

Refreshments will be available on repayment in the Playhall for all other spectators.

PARADE MUSIC

March On to Parade.....	Within A Mile O'Edinburgh Toon
	Caber Feidh
March on the Colours.....	Victorians
Royal Salute.. ..	St Andrews Cross
Inspection.....	My Home
	The Highland Cradle Song
March Past in Slow Time.....	Skye Boat Song
	Westering Home
Break into Quick Time.....	Wi' A Hundred Pipers
Advance in Review Order.....	Scotland the Brave
Royal Salute.....	St Andrews Cross
March Off in Column of Route.....	Scotland the Brave
	Highland Laddie

RETREAT MUSIC

March On.....	I am a Young Man That Lived Wi' My Mother
	Kenmures Up and Awa' Willy
	The Steam Boat
Retreat Call	
Drummers Call	
Pipe Band Medley.....	Cock of the North
	Farewell to the Creeks
	Shenandoah
	The Glasgow City Police Pipers
	Ode to Joy/Memory
	Cockney Jocks
	Bonnie Lass O' Fyvie
Dancers March On.....	Bonnie Dundee
Strathspey.....	Loudon's Bonnie Woods and Braes
	Orange and Blue
	Braes of Mar
Reels.....	The High Road to Linton
	The Kilt is my Delight
Dancers March Off.....	The Victorians
March Off	Scotland the Brave
	Black Bear

Pipe Major.....	Mr A T Dippie BEM (late BW)
Drum Major.....	Mr H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
Dancing Instructor.....	Mrs E MacDonald AUKA
Boy Pipe Major.....	Callum Kennedy
Boy Drum Major.....	Shaun Fenwick
Senior Dancer.....	Paul Kane

The Royal Family Queen Victoria School

Lt Col Ron Smith

Even while writing an historical article for the 1996 VICTORIAN, my mind wandered ahead as to what to feature historically in 1997.

Coincidentally, as it has turned out, I thought of the link between the School and the Royal Family. The following record reflects such events as published in the school magazine through the years plus photographs contained in school albums. Information on events known to readers but not recorded here would be very welcome.

The Early Years

Inherent in the concept of the School as a memorial is a thought that Queen Victoria knew nothing of the proposed school. However, the initial concept in 1901 was for a memorial to the Scottish soldiers and sailors who fell in South Africa and it is on record that The Queen warmly supported this aim. It was not until late 1902, when the Nation was in mourning for Queen Victoria, that the concept of a dual memorial for the fallen and The Queen was adopted. Almost immediately The Royal Family was involved. HRH Princess Louise, (a daughter of The Queen) presided over the first General Council Meeting at the North British Hotel in Edinburgh on 10 June 1903 and she, together with her brothers HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH The Duke of Connaught, became the first Patrons of the School.

The initial Royal Visit was by HM King Edward VII when, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, he opened the School on 28 September 1908. This was the first visit by the King to Dunblane and hence the local involvement was enormous, with large crowds excitedly cheering his progress through the city on roads lined by detachments from the Scottish Regiments and the Royal Navy. The King received and replied to a Loyal Address, opened the front door with a ceremonial key and, after touring the School, laid the foundation stone of the Chapel.

The Colours

The School was honoured by King Edward VII with the right to carry the King's and the School Colours on parade. Although the first boys did not arrive at the School until June 1909, they were obviously trained well, as a detachment of 12 boys

paraded before The King at a private ceremony at Balmoral on 4 October 1909 to receive the Colours from the hand of The Sovereign.

Inevitably the Colours are subject to wear and tear, in the early 30s, the School Colour had to be replaced. The new School Colour was presented by HM King George V at Holyrood Palace on 16 July 1934.

Although both the above presentations were by The Sovereign, they had not been made at the School nor before many spectators who would wish to see such an event. A new King's Colour had been presented at the School on 31 July 1946 by Lt Gen Sir Neil Ritchie, GOC Scottish Command but it was felt that the next such event should be by The Sovereign. Hence, on 12 October 1967, at a special parade at the School before 2,500 spectators, new Queen's and School Colours were presented by HM Queen Elizabeth II, the first time Colours had been presented at the School by a reigning Monarch. After the parade The Queen, despite a very tight programme, insisted on a full tour of the School. This included the Hospital where the single patient, a piper, very upset at missing the parade, thoroughly enjoyed his own private audience with The Queen!

The most recent Presentation of new Colours was by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on Grand Day, 27 June 1987.

Royal Visits

HM King George V, accompanied by HM Queen Mary and HRH The Princess Mary (soon to become The Princess Royal), visited the School on 11 July 1914, shortly before the outbreak of the First World War. The King inspected the boys on parade and toured the School and Chapel. The local newspaper reported that the boys then lined the drive and cheered lustily during the Royal departure.

The events of the day must have created an excellent impression as an extra 7 days holiday were granted!

HRH The Princess Royal visited the School in her own right on 27 October 1951. On this occasion the boys paraded on the Square (a much greater space in those days), were inspected and then marched past. Once again they lined the drive as The Princess drove off to Dunblane to

open Ault Wharrie, the Scottish Masonic Home for the Aged.

In 1954 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh honoured the School with his Patronage, the

pal individual award in the School, the Primus Medal, should be renamed the Prince Philip Medal. Its first award was made in 1959.

Grand Day, 19

June 1991, saw another first when HRH The Duke of York was the Inspecting Officer. Prince Andrew's Address ended with a family reference:-

"I am sure Queen Victoria would be very proud of her School today".

Other Events

As a forerunner of more recent Royal contact, the Pipes and Drums commenced their links with Scottish Rugby at Inverleith in 1923.

HRH The Duke of York (latterly King George VI) was guest of honour at the Scotland v England game and inspected the Band. Our guest of honour today must have seen the Band on more occasions than any other member of the Royal Family through her patronage and unequivocal support of the Scottish Rugby Team.

Regrettably, HM King George VI did not visit the School but I, and no doubt all my other friends in the Military Band that day, can remember the 27 June 1946 when we were privileged to perform outside the Municipal Buildings in Stirling for the visit of The King, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.



first patron since the death of The Duke of Connaught in 1942.

Prince Philip made his first visit to the School for a very special Grand Day, 2 July 1958, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the School. A special effort had been made to bring together as many as possible of "The First Hundred" boys at the School for this great occasion. Thirty of them were able to attend together with many other Old Victorians who had come from all over the world to celebrate the Anniversary. Prince Philip was introduced to each of "The First Hundred" present and spent many minutes talking to them. To commemorate his Patronage and this visit, The Prince requested that the princi-

Coronations

The School has sent representative detachments to three Coronations.

July 1911 for King George V - 25 boys to London, joining up with similar contingents from the Duke of York and Royal Hibernian Military Schools, marching to their viewing stand led by a small pipe band.

May 1937, King George VI - 23 boys to London.

July 1953, Queen Elizabeth II - 40 boys to London.

In both 1911 and 1953 State Visits were made to Edinburgh to follow up the Coronation events in London. In 1911 a Review was held in the King's Park and the complete School was on parade. As King George and The Prince of Wales passed by, The Prince was heard to remark, "Aren't they smart!"

For the 1953 visit, the School was on parade again, but this time lining the route inside Edinburgh Castle for the formal visit by The Queen and Prince Philip.

In October 1965 Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother attended a Reunion of the 51st Highland Division in Aberdeen. The School Highland Dancing Team was privileged to perform for Her Majesty, including in their repertoire the Reel of the 51st Highland Division. More recently, in May 1996, the Dancing Team performed for HRH The Princess Royal at Holyrood Palace during her residence as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

Thus, it is appropriate to end this summary of Royal links with the School by echoing the very warm welcome of all Victorians today to Her Royal Highness on this her first visit. Queen Victoria School and the Royal Family.

RUGBY 1996 - 97

INTRODUCTION

As I stated to the Old Victorian Association at their AGM in March, this has been the best season for QVS rugby overall since I arrived. One glance at the results will illustrate this perfectly:

1st XV	played 14	won 11	lost 3
2nd XV			lost 2
S3	unbeaten		
S2	played 11		lost 2
S1	unbeaten		

and the P7s have started winning some games!

In addition we continue to have players at various representative levels:

Alastair MacKinnon and Andrew Denholm - Midlands U18 Squad
Stephen Page, Bill Ford, J-R McCulloch and Darren Robertson - Midlands U16s
Fraser MacKinnon - Midlands U15s



Fraser is to be particularly congratulated as he was selected for the National Squad to play against Yorkshire and Lancashire in the Easter holidays.

Overall, this represents a major achievement and a huge improvement particularly in those teams below the 1st XV where we have not had such success in the last few years. Players and coaches at all levels are to be congratulated on this success.

1st XV

The personnel involved throughout the season has not changed much. Backs included: Andrew Denholm, Michael Logue, Richard Givens, Mark Harris, Michael Crease, Darren Robertson, Craig Simpson, Scott Murray, Craig Kintrea and Ryan Kerr.

Forwards included: Alistair MacKinnon, Mark McLeod, Stephen Page, Bill Ford, Andrew Paisley, Craig Cunningham, Kyle MacFarlane, Ross Seaton, Paul Kane and Adam Morton.

The season started with our inaugural 10-a-side competitions sponsored by Albion Drilling Company. This was a great success and we did extremely well to get to the final, where we lost to the eventual Scottish Schools Cup finalists Dundee High School. Mr King, in particular is to be congratulated for his organisation for this event, but I would also like to thank all adults who helped in whatever capacity. It was an excellent day!

Selkirk High

Our first game was a new fixture against Selkirk High School who proved not to be as strong as some of the other border teams and we won comfortably 48 - 7. However, it was good to have so much running and score 8 tries. Another new fixture was created by a hastily arranged game against Boroughmuir High School, Perth Academy having cried off. This was a much tougher encounter and at half-time the score was 0 - 0. The first try came from considerable pressure just after half-time in their 22 and from their scrum ball we took one against the head, Paul Kane (Capt and No 8) picked up and Craig Kintrea (wing) was put over in the corner. The second try, scored by Craig Simpson (centre), came from a ruck in our half and a good break and perfectly timed pass by Andrew Denholm (scrum-half). One conversion by Michael Logue (fly half) left the score at 12 - 0.

Strathallan

Strathallan away is never an easy game but within 5 minutes we had scored: a try came from a set penalty move by Ross Seaton (blind side), converted by Richard Givens (full back). Richard added to the score with a try wide out on the right, following good interplay between forwards and backs. However, some weak tackling allowed them back into the game at 12 - 7 and again after we had pulled ahead 19 - 7 with a try by Darren Robertson, to bring the score to 19 - 14. Fortunately, we were able to finish off the game strongly with tries from Andrew Paisley and Scott Murray.

On a beautiful afternoon perfectly created for running rugby, we hit a purple patch against Fettes to win convincingly 48 - 0. An outstanding feature of this game was the driving and rucking of the forwards - none more so than Alistair MacKinnon who scored a hat-trick of tries, not bad for a tight head prop. In addition, the second try was very well created from a pick-up by Paul Kane from a ball against the head, some good work by Andrew Denholm, excellent rucking, the ball moved open, a half break by Michael Logue, another ruck and pick up by Paul to score. Further tries were scored by Andrew Paisley, Michael Crease (2) and Andrew Denholm.

Merchiston

Unfortunately, the bubble burst against Merchiston just before half-term. We started well and, in fact, should have been ahead but seemed to lose confidence as a result of not scoring and after 26 minutes they scored twice just before half-time. Again, we started well, immediately from the kick-off and following some excellent work by Ross Seaton and Mark Harris, Richard Givens scored and Michael Logue converted (7 - 12). We continued to put Merchiston under pressure but a slack pass on a simple move gave them a gift try and instead of being level we were suddenly 19 - 7 adrift. Thereafter, we struggled, although we did come back to close the score to 17 - 26, with tries by Ross Seaton and Darren Robertson.

St Columba's

St Columba's turned out to be a tougher game than previous results indicated or the score (44 - 17) suggests. Although we were always ahead, St Columba's never gave up and constantly threatened. Richard Givens (wing) scored 4 tries; the others came from Ross Seaton, Andrew Denholm, Mark Harris (2) and Andrew Paisley. Richard's pace and strength on the run was clearly evident in this game. Again, what made life easier for the back here was good committed driving and rucking by the forwards.

Dundee High

Apart from cup games, due to bad weather, we had to wait until February for our next game against Dundee High School. This was a tough game and we were down 5 - 12 at half time. Fortunately, we were able to come back after half-time with a try by Ross Seaton and two penalties by Richard Givens: at this stage, the score was 18 - 17. Two further tries by Richard Givens and Andrew Denholm sealed the match at 28 - 17.

Worth School

A touring team from the south of England - Worth School, provided us with another very tough and close game. After dominating the first half and being ahead, the visitors came back strongly and we were glad to hold on to a 12 - 9 victory at the end of a tiring game.

Glenalmond

Our final non-cup game was an even tougher game and cost us our fly-half and other knocks and bruises for the semi-final. This was against a Glenalmond A XV. Although we ran out victors at 22 - 7 with tries by Scott Murray (2) and Darren Robertson and a penalty and 2 conversions by Richard Givens, this was by no means a easy victory and it was one for which grit and determination were undoubtedly required.

Scottish Schools Cup

As mentioned above, our normal season's fixtures were curtailed by snow and frost in November, December and January and so we were fortunate to have a number of Scottish Schools Cup

games to provide extra fixtures. Our first was against Kinross High School who were on a high after a very successful tour to Canada and after trailing 0 - 10 we did wake up and came back to lead 20 - 10 at half time. Unfortunately, we never took a firm grip of this game and the final result 37 - 20 was not a one from which we took a great deal of satisfaction. Our final game within the Midlands section was against Dunfermline High School, which we won narrowly. This was a particularly tough game up front where Dunfermline had a lot of strength. Eventually, we were able to break them down with a try by Adam Morton (wing forward) which resulted from good rucking and support play by Paul Kane and Ross Seaton off the line out. A conversion by Michael Logue and a late penalty by Michael brought the score to 10 - 0.

Thus we moved through to the national rounds and played Kelvinside Academy for the first time. This was a game which we took by the scruff of the neck within the first 15/20 minutes and scored a good try within 5 minutes which came from a ball against the head, pick-up by Paul Kane who drove on the open, fed Richard Givens who put Mark Harris away and Mark cut through to score. The second try was scored by Paul Kane after considerable pressure in their 22. Sadly, Paul came off with concussion and took no further part in the game. Although we had further opportunities we were unable to capitalise on our earlier ascendancy and Kelvinside ran out clear victors at 12 - 26.

Plate Competition

With the inclusion of HMC schools in the tournament this year there was a Plate Competition for those, like ourselves, who lost in the first National round. Therefore, our next opponents were St Aloysius and although this was not a match of great quality, there was some

good play from both forwards and backs. Up front the rucking and driving was providing a good platform with Kyle MacFarlane having an excellent game. Paul Kane and the back row were on fine form and the backs ensured that St Aloysius did not cross the gain line often. Where necessary, as he had done so often, Craig Simpson now at full back stopped most opposition dead in their tracks. Although we were close on a number of occasions our only reward was a penalty by Mike Logue and a try by Paul Kane: the final score 8 - 0 was satisfying in that it was our first victory against St Aloysius.

Final Game

Our final game of the season was also our semi-final of the Cup against Earlston High School (coached by Rob Moffat - the Melrose coach). Following the Glenalmond game we had one or two injuries but, most crucially, lost our fly half. Thus the backs had to be reorganised and it was here that Earlston found a chink in our armour. Although we lost 12 - 31 we competed on equal



terms up front and when we combined forwards and backs we caused major problems and showed what was possible.

Overall, the side grew in stature as the season progressed and what was most pleasing was to see, at times, some great forward play - driving, rucking and continuity. The back row (Andrew Paisley, Paul Kane and Ross Seaton) were outstanding in attack and defence. The second row - Craig Cunningham and Kyle MacFarlane - not only provided a good line out ball but became increasingly confident in the loose. Kyle, in

F i r s t e n

RUGBY 1996 - 97

particular, developed a great confidence in this phase of play. The front row changed quite a bit over the season with Stephen Page, Bill Ford, Scott Murray, Mark McLeod all playing - but the constant, stabilising factor was Alistair MacKinnon who, in his first season at tight head prop, did extremely well and became a force to be reckoned with in the loose.

Although there was very little change in personnel in the backs it took a while to establish the right playing balance in

1ST XV RESULTS

10-a-side Tournament lost to Dundee High School in the final

v. Serlkirk High School	1 st XV	48 - 7	(W)
v. Boroughmuir High School	1 st XV	12 - 0	(W)
v. Strathallan	2 nd XV	29 - 14	(W)
v. Fettes College	2 nd XV	48 - 0	(W)
v. Merchiston	2 nd XV	17 - 26	(L)
v. St Columba's	1 st XV	44 - 17	(W)
v. Dundee High School	A XV	28 - 17	(W)
v. Worth School	1 st XV	12 - 9	(W)
v. Glenalmond	A XV	22 - 7	(W)

Scottish School Cup

v. Kinross High School	1 st XV	37 - 20	(W)
v. Dunfermline High School	1 st XV	10 - 0	(W)
v. Kelvinside Academy	1 st XV	12 - 26	(L)
v. St Aloysius	1 st XV	8 - 0	(W)
v. Earlstoun High School	1 st XV	12 - 31	(L)

1st XV played 14 Won 11 Lost 3

terms of positions. However, a constant feature was the half-backs, Andrew Denholm and Michael Logue - the former helping to involve forwards as well as linking well with backs. The best centre pairing proved to be Richard Givens and Mark Harris which, latterly, was working very effectively. Craig Simpson was a stalwart at full back and wing berths were occupied by Michael Crease, Darren Robertson, Scott Murray, Craig Kintrea and Ryan Kerr. Scott Murray deserves special mention as he played both hooker in the early part of the season and then on the wing - a rare combination!

Paul Kane was an excellent Captain and a truly charismatic leader who, as can be seen by his try against Kelvinside and 2 against Earlstoun, very much led from the front. In my view, Paul was very unlucky not to be considered for the Midlands squad. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Paul for all the work he did on behalf of the 1st XV.

CONCLUSION

Last but not least I would like to thank and pay tribute to the coaches who have had an increasing influence on the success at all levels for QVS RFC. I would like to thank, in particular, Mr Clark for his valuable input into the game at the 2nd XV level not just this season but since he arrived. He will be remembered for many things but I am sure most will not forget his training sessions. Undoubtedly, what he produced this year was a very competitive 2nd XV who have won some very tough games including Harris Academy 1st XV Perth Academy 1st XV and Holy Cross 1st XV. We wish him all the best if he continues coaching rugby in his new school.

My thanks also go to Mr Dow (S3), Mr Gilhooly (S2) and Mr Martindale (S1) who did a tremendous job in producing 3 sides which did so well. At the P7 I would like to thank Mr Carroll, Mr Beattie, along with Miss

Milligan, our first female coach, for the invaluable work they have done at this level.

At the 1st XV level one of our GAP Students - Tom Lightholler, from Gordonston, deserves a special mention. He was a great help to me during the Winter Term and I would like to thank him most sincerely. In addition, Mr King's invaluable help and positive influence have continued to pay dividends at the top level.

Finally, my thanks are also due to our new Groundsman who has made such a difference to the preparation of the pitches. His expertise is much appreciated. As always we are indebted to Sister Fitzgerald and Nurse McNicol who turn out for matches and help in so many ways to keep boys fit. On the catering side Mr Henderson and his staff are to be congratulated for remaining calm throughout the hurly burly of the rugby season and always coming up with the goods.

2nd XV

Adam Morton
(2nd XV Captain)

This season produced a very good set of results for the 2nd XV. In what was a tough fixture list we beat a number of 1st XV's. The team was this year a fairly young and inexperienced one consisting of mainly fourth years with a couple of fifth and sixth as well as several third years. We played seven won five, drew one and lost one. Our first game was away to Strathallan which we won 26-17 with a late try by Jamie Williams securing the match for us and also making sure that the whole back row - Tim Whittle, Jamie Williams and Adam Morton, of course, scored in the first game - a good start to the season.

Winter weather

A strong Harris Academy 1st XV then held us to a 15-15 draw at home. The good defending which kept us in the match against Harris was unfortunately lacking when we lost away to Merchiston; although our half backs proved their worth under pressure, if only their passing was as good as their kicking! Several matches were then cancelled due to the winter weather including fixtures against Morrisons Academy and George Watsons. The weather also meant that we had to train in the sports hall which was a new experience to most of us. We did however beat Perth Academy 1st XV and St. Columba's 1st/2nd XV before the Christmas holidays. There was good support play from the backs in both games, the 'size and power' of Gary Cornelius and Craig (skinny) Kintrea in the centre helped to give us two fine wins and meant that for once the wonderful play of the forwards was not wasted by the backs.

Dundee High School

Dundee High School were our next opposition, a match which we lost last year. This time it was much tighter, but we finished up 10-8 winners. A much improved line out with our 'huge' hooker James Matthews managing not to throw the ball to the opposition scrum-half and the second row of Craig Donnelly and J.R McCulloch jumping well were all features. As well as this the forwards rucked very well and there was also some excellent running in the backs most noticeably by Nick Kerr and Ian Murray.

Canadian touring side

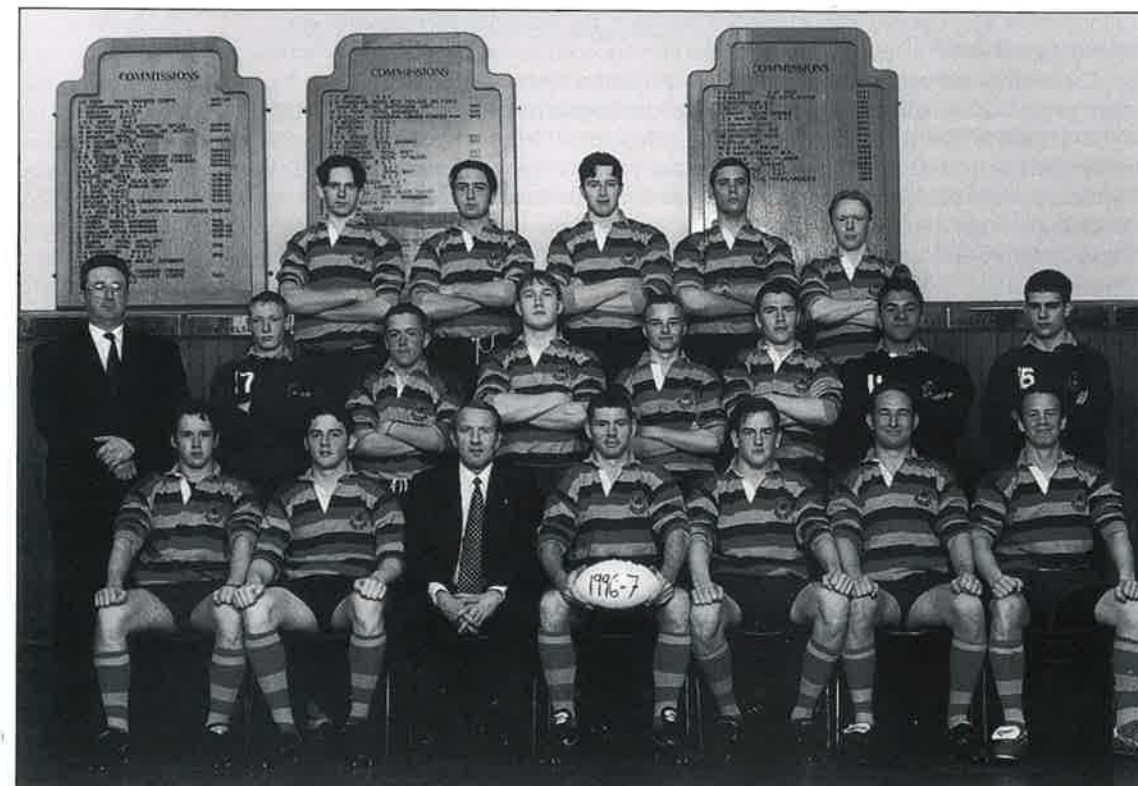
Our final game of the season was against the Canadian touring side Holycross 1st XV. It was a good team performance in which the third years in the side; Fraser MacKinnon, Stuart Noy and Neil Seaton were very impressive. With the ever present back row scoring nearly half of the points we finished the season with a 34-5 victory.

Unfortunately we had a number of injuries this season including Ian Murray's collar bone, Craig Kintrea's hip, Craig

Donnelly's nose, Daniel O'Connell's nose and Ryan Kerr's mysterious headache which suddenly appeared when we he saw the Merchiston team.

The 1st XV had a big influence on the 2nds this year, the fact that a number of us played for and were part of the 1st XV squad certainly raised the standards of the 2nds and helped us to achieve good results against some strong sides.

After a great season of enjoyable rugby credit must go to those who helped us: Mr Raine, Mr King, the GAP students and to Mr Clark for whom this was his last season coaching a Q.V.S. 2nd XV side. Thanks must go to the team and also the subs who worked hard - watching. *By Mr Clark's own admission this was his best 2nd XV.*



S2 Rugby News

I was sorry to see my second year team move on last year as we had such a good season, however I was soon to realise that the new second year also had great potential. As the season went on we started to record some very good victories over traditionally strong teams such as a 35, 0 win over George Watson's, a 27, 8 win over St Columba's and a hard fought 19, 11 win over Merchiston.

Graham King did a first class job as team captain and led by example ably assisted by the new Vice Captain Aaron Utyndhal playing rugby in his first ever season and showing a great desire to hit the opposition hard at every opportunity (fairly, of course). Chris Harris was one of our most consistent players and, when things were tight, often as not Chris would turn on a piece of magic that would keep us in the game. Wayne Ratcliff was without a doubt one of the most consistent tacklers in the team and continually felled six foot plus opposition to prevent a try or break up a dangerous move. All of the backs played and supported well with Simon Patience showing great flair. Kenneth Finnegan displayed quick hands at the base of a formidable scrum and the wingers Stuart Downie and Graham Ferguson proved to have real pace on both flanks running in a good number of tries between them.

Results season 1996/97

Perth Academy	4-11	(L)	Selkirk High	21-18	(L)
Hutcheson's Grammar	11-8	(W)	Harris Academy	27-8	(W)
Strathallan	19-3	(W)	McLaren High	27-11	(W)
Glenalmond B	69-3	(W)	Merchiston	19-11	(W)
St Columba's	27-8	(W)	George Watson's	35-0	(W)
Morrison's Academy	???	(W)	Lomond School	14-3	(W)

The 2nd Year Squad

T/H Prop	A Uytendhal
Hooker	G King
L/H Prop	D Kelly
Flanker	N Burge
Lock	S Donnelly
Lock	G Martin
Flanker	K Flynn
No 8	G Houston
Scrum Half	K Finnegan
Fly Half	S Patience
Left Wing	S Downie
Centre	A Gault
Centre	W Ratcliff
Right Wing	G Ferguson
Full Back	C Harris

Subs... C Noble, M Lovell, A Porter, L Dowdswell, C Murphy, P Fleming, M Terry.

S3 RUGBY - SESSION 1996/97

I Dow

The S3 Rugby Team must be congratulated on their overwhelming success this season. They were completely undefeated and indeed proved to be far too powerful for several of their opponents. This is certainly one of the strongest teams I've trained in a long time.

The season was particularly successful due to one or two notably outstanding players such as Fraser MacKinnon, Stuart Noy and Richard McAulay. Aidan Bott made excellent progress as the season progressed and could be a player to watch out for in the future.

Really though, all players must be congratulated for their individual skills and team play.

S3 traditionally never like training sessions - but pre-match when it counted, they put it all together!

The hardest part for me was deciding who wouldn't play - as I was spoiled for choice in many positions. My thanks to all the subs.

Particular congratulations must go to Fraser MacKinnon for being selected, first of all for North and Midlands, then for the Scottish U.15 squad. Well done Fraser!

I wish all the players every success for their future careers - perhaps even their professional future careers.

Thank you S3.

Played 8 Won 8 Lost 0 Drew 0
Points for 342 Points against 70

S1 RUGBY - RESULTS SEP-DEC 1996

Edinburgh Academy (H)	34-3	W
Beaconhurst (H)	34-0	W
Robert Gordons (H)	10-10	D
Hutchesons G.S. (A)	17-16	W
Merchiston Academy (H)	22-16	W
Perth (H)	27-0	W
St Columba's (H)	16-0	W
George Watson's (A)	18-7	W

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S3 RUGBY RESULTS

v. Perth Academy	42 - 7	(W)
v. Selkirk High School	46 - 34	(W)
v. Beaconhurst	70 - 0	(W)
v. Harris Academy	14 - 7	(W)
v. Glenalmond BXV	17 - 12	(W)
v. Merchiston BXV	52 - 10	(W)
v. St Columba's School	52 - 0	(W)
v. George Watson's	37 - 0	(W)



2nd year xv



3rd year xv

Brave New World Revisited

Paul Sowton

There have been different sounds this year. First there was the shouted opinions of the workmen building the extension. Thanks to them I now know the pros

and cons of all the teams in the Scottish Premiership. A few additions were also made to my descriptive vocabulary. But best of all were the renditions of classic sixties tunes gloriously mutilated. Then came the blissful silence of a completed extension interrupted only by the occasional beep of the Librarian's new toy. Following closely was the bustle of people rediscovering the joys of the library. Finally the click and clatter of the new computers but that's another story.

Classes took up residence in the new and improved library each giving something to it. The P7's giving the Librarian a headache. The SYS English class an air of sophistication...and cakes and tea on a Friday afternoon!

The computers! First to explore the uncharted depths of the library was the World Controller. Alone in a hostile land it was sought after by one and all for their own personal use. Among them the Librarian who had her new beeper/bar-code reader/toy/thingy attached which was abused when she wasn't around by people trying to read the bar-code on a pack of Polos, then being sent into a flurry of panic when the computer went loopy. After the World Controller came Alpha, Alpha Plus, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon to swell the ranks: all named after social groups in the book "Brave New World" they gave Mrs Sheerin the excuse to commandeer the World Controller for herself. Then the screen-savers were

discovered. Messages flowed from the screens and were quickly removed by Mr Lawrence only to be replaced a little later.

Then the games were discovered.

Solitaire quickly peaked as being the most popular. Minesweeper had a brief vogue. Freecell was popular when the rules were eventually discovered and Hearts keeps most amused if only in changing the names of their competitors. Alistair MacKinnon thought it would be funny to delete all the games, he has since discovered the virtues of Hearts and would never dream of doing such a vile, despicable act again. Suffice to say sixth year grades will probably never recover, a minor consolation being that only sixth year grades will be affected for there is rarely a free computer for the other years!

Bursar's Notes

The extension and upgrading of the Library has been a great success. It is encouraging to see the pupils making use of the facility and enjoying being in the place. A more mundane success this year has been the upgrading of the servery in the Dining Hall. This has made serving food much easier and I believe that the standards of presentation and of the menus themselves are at least equal to and, in many cases, surpass most other boarding schools.

The extension to Wavell is proceeding well and will be available for occupation at the beginning of the next session. This will complete the accommodation for the girls' House and we will now turn to the boys' accommodation in order to bring it up to the same standards. The realities of funding however mean that this will take some time but I am expecting that a new boarding house will be ready for occupation at the beginning of the year 2000 session. The other main project this year is the construction of the all-weather sports pitch and this will be

available for use by October.

I would like to pay special tribute to the ladies in the Clothing Store. All the hustle and bustle of last year in preparing for the arrival of girls proved to be well worthwhile. The introduction went without a hitch - well almost! The new faces on the first day were hardly recognisable on the second. The fact that they settled in so quickly and easily is surely a sign of solid and carefully planned administration. Well done to all concerned.

Another group that I would like to mention are the General Hands whose work touch the lives of all of us at the School yet they remain in the background when praise is forthcoming. They are a bunch of stalwarts who will attempt any given task at the drop of a hat. Big "Eck" Laird has arrived to replace Johnny Miller and we wish him a long and happy stay. The "Gaffer" Bob Bedoe has now taken on the day to day fire maintenance from Mark O'Malley who is currently off sick. We wish the latter a speedy recovery. Andy MacDonald and Dickie Davis seem to have finally accepted that the Gaffer is obviously the person with the technical expertise and must be obeyed.

Whereas in the past the School holiday periods were times when the support staff could consolidate and take their well earned leave this is no longer the case. The letting of accommodation during School holidays means that work continues at the same pace. On the other hand, the income that this generates has a significant impact and enables us to fund equipment and activities which previously were beyond our means. For example, the profit we made during the Easter break when we hosted 211 rugby players was sufficient to finance the networked computers in the Library.

My thanks again to the Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers. They continue to perform at the highest level and are in great demand throughout the year. This is obviously good public relations for the School but even more important, in my opinion, is the confidence that it gives the young people when they appear before 67,000 spectators at a Murrayfield International or millions of people watching the televised Festival of Remembrance from the Albert Hall. These benefits cannot be taught, they have to be acquired and the Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancing is a wonderful vehicle for this.

Trees of the Outdoors

Oaks
Hemlocks
Magnolias Cedar
Maple Poplars Elms
Olive Redwood Caledonia
Wonderboom Banyan Coconut
Holly Ombu Traveller Talipot Palm
Spruces Ferns Larch Cork Gum Punk Ilex
Sycamore Hickory Lacebark Banana
Bonsai Screw Cypress Ginkgo Sequoia
Bristlecone Pine Mangrove Silver Birch
Eucalyptus Baobab Willow
Washington Joshua
White Birch Fig
Strangler
Screw
Pine
Fern
Palm
Larch
Asoka

This poem is based on some of Edwin Morgan's concrete poetry. It is the shape and layout of the poem on the page that is designed to carry the meaning and expression of the poem.
Craig Donnelly



Anne Frank's Diary

Craig Loch

Anne's friend Kitty the diary was her best friend
Nothing was kept from her
Now thirteen Anne enjoyed life
Even though she was happy with herself
She did not know the dangers to come

The Frank family went into hiding for fear of the terror of the Nazis
Restlessness in the attic room led to discord
In time the Franks forfeited everything to survive
Even their freedom and religion were compromised
Not knowing about the burglar below
Death was awaiting the family...

Knowing the reward for the capture of Jews
Immediately the felon reported his finding of the Franks
This was the end of the Franks and brought an end to Kitty.

Today Kitty is read all over the world.

Wait, Stay



t it
t a t
Sweet
Swe a t
w a it
S t a
Sweet die one
for
it is
fitting
S ee d s
S ee c u t
w a s one
w a it s
n o c ry
n o
w a it
S t a y
one's country
is
w a it ing
on
on
to die
it is
for
one's country
Sweet and fitting it is to die for one's country

Craig Donnelly



NATURE

All the leaves on the trees,
All move from side to side
With the winds soft gentle breeze
And the sun will never hide.
The white fluffy clouds in the sky
make different strange shapes.
All the birds flying ever so high.
We see them in clear lakes.

Amy O'Brien (S1)

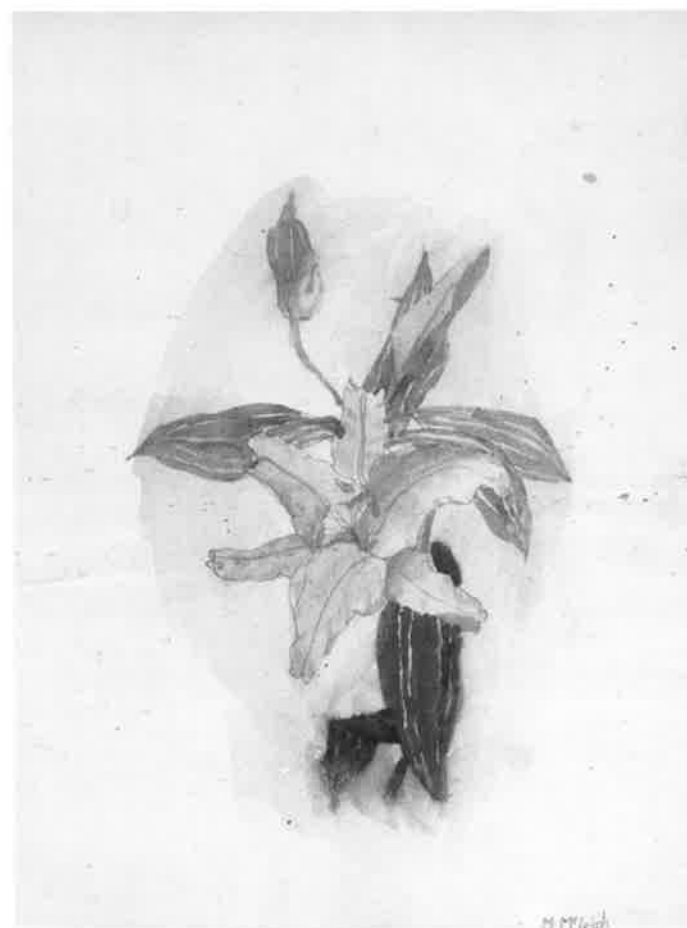
SPRING

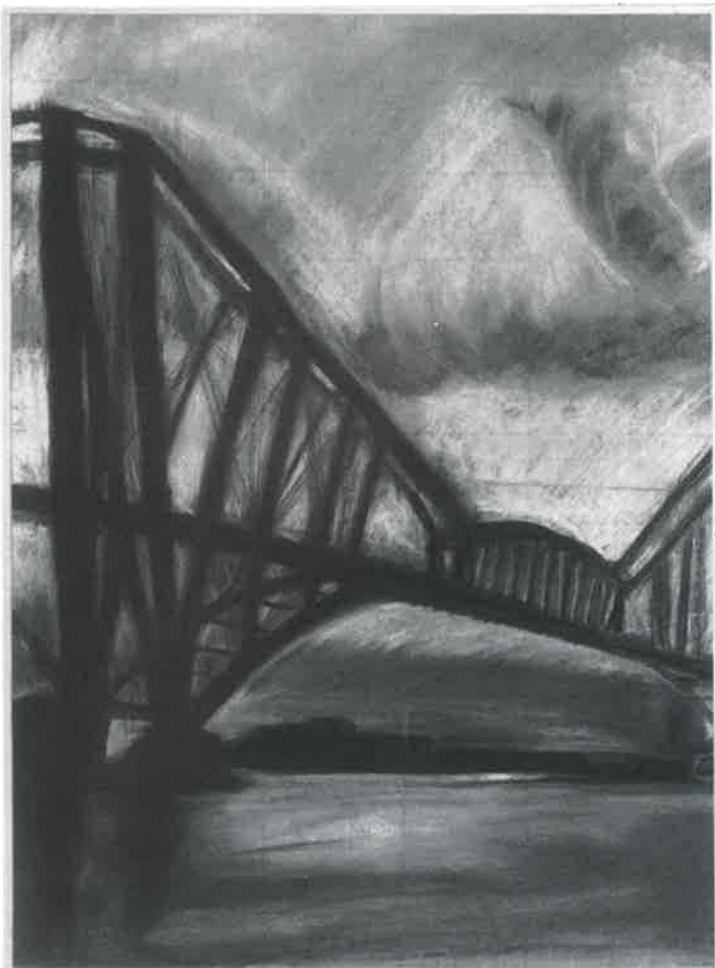
Spring can be happy,
It calls out all the new buds;
The birds love the trees,
That spring has provided them;
Children love the spring,
With all the trees a nice green;
It's a happy time,
for every man and women.

Spring can be rainy,
It can drown all the new buds;
The birds hide away,
The trees are dark and looming;
Children stay inside,
The trees are frightful and sad;
It's a lonely time,
for many men and women

Louise Telford (S1)







Peter Clark
accepted at
Dundee College
of Art
1997



CHAPEL NOTES, QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Diary, Special Services

15th September Battle of Britain Sunday
 29th September Harvest Thanksgiving Service
 6th October Trafalgar Sunday
 10th November Remembrance Sunday
 8th December School Carol Concert
 10th March Old Victorians Parade Service
 5th May Confirmation Service
 2nd June Holy Communion

(Photograph - Chaplain's helpers at Harvest)

Admission of Communicants to the Church of Scotland - Sunday 5th May 1996.

Communion Roll

Robert Adams
 Ross Biggart
 Craig Bissett
 Fraser Dewar
 Stuart Gregory
 Eugene Kuczerepa
 Fraser MacKinnon
 Ross McKenzie

Jason Morrison
 Stuart Noy
 Helen Onslow
 Edward Porter
 Scott Taylor
 Sandy Watson
 Alan Whiteford

My continuing thanks to our Organist Mr Peter Onslow for all his musical contribution to the daily and Sunday services. To Mrs Raine and all the staff who support the Chapel by the weekly provision of flowers. Finally, to my hard working band of Chapel Stewards who together with the Chapel Prefect are relied upon every day to ensure the smooth running of the Chapel.

Rev J Silcox



DRUMMING AND BUGLING RESULTS 1997



Wavell Comp	SIDE	TENOR	BUGLE
1 st	G Fleming	T Wright	G Fleming
2 nd	S Mackle	A Kirkaldy	S Mackle
3 rd	S Cox	J Patience	D Anderson
Intermediate Comp			
1 st	G Ferguson	A Spence	L McGinty
2 nd	D Haldane	W Ratcliffe	D Haldane
3 rd	K Edwards	S Donnelly	W Ratcliffe
Senior Comp			
1 st	K Davidson	R Tervit	S Fenwick
2 nd	T Whittle	N Kerr	J McQuade
3 rd	P Barlow	J McQuade	P Barlow

COMPETITION PIPING PRIZES 1997

Wavell House - Chanter Competition (Presented by Piob Mhor)

Slow March: 1st Graeme Houston 2nd D Stevenson 3rd L McAuley

March: 1st G Houston 2nd D Stevenson 3rd L Milligan

Prize Chanter - Highest Agg. Score: Winner: G Houston

Junior Piping Competition - C Class - Pipes

Slow March: 1st M McLeod 2nd G Kerr 3rd M Brown

March: 1st G Kerr 2nd M Brown 3rd M McLeod

Group Captain T Kean CBE AFC Prize: Highest Agg: G Kerr

Intermediate Competition - B Class - Pipes (II + III Yrs)

Slow March: 1st S Tierney 2nd S Cairns 3rd S Watson

March: 1st S Tierney 2nd S Cairns 3rd S Watson

The Gordon Stobo Cup: Highest Agg: S Tierney

Senior Competition - A Class (IV v VI Yrs)

S.M. and March: 1st R J Kerr 2nd C Kennedy 3rd R Seaton

Str. and Reel: 1st R J Kerr 2nd C Kennedy 3rd R Seaton

The Piping Shield: "School Champion" Highest Agg: R J Kerr

The Scots Guards Special Prize

Presented to the piper, who has done the most during the past year, to enhance School Piping and Dancing.

Winner: S Tierney



HIGHLAND DANCING

The Autumn Term of the 1996/97 year was a very busy time for the Senior Dancing Team, in particular with preparation and practice for the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance on 9th November 1996. The boys put in a great deal of time and effort to ensure a very professional performance in London.

The Royal British Legion presented the school with a Silver Salver, as a prize for the Intermediate Dancing Competition and in recognition of the hard work of the dancing team during the Festival of Remembrance.

During the year, the S1 and S3 dancers performed at a number of charity engagements. They also gave a well received performance as part of a Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Show in the Albert Hall, Stirling. The P7 dancers continue to give pleasure to the many people who see them perform at various events throughout the school year.

On 20th March 1997, 45 pupils sat 49 UKA exams and 5 Senior dancers attained the Premier Cup (Grade 12), which is the highest amateur grade. The exam results are a good indication that we can all be proud of the standard of dancing at Queen Victoria School. In dancing competitions 6 dancers gave credible performances at the UKA National Competition, held at the beginning of March 1997.

Full credit must go to Paul Kane as Principal Dancer, Andrew Denholm and Mark Harris as Assistant Principal Dancers, Richard Givens and Alistair MacKinnon as Senior Dancers. They have been a tremendous help and support both to the Dancing Team and to me over the past four years.

QV Highland Dancing Competition

Beginners: 1. Jennifer Jones 2. Jamie Graham 3. Nicola Bonner

Junior: 1. *Lauren Campbell 2. Barry Gillies 3. Liam Bridgeman
Gayle Ferguson

* Winner - Most Promising Dancer Prize

Intermediate: 1. * Christopher Niven 2. Ross Stevenson 3. Chris Harris

* Winner - Royal British Legion Prize

Senior: 1. *Alistair MacKinnon 2. Barry Haldane 3. Darren Robertson
Andrew Moffat

* Winner - London Scottish Prize

Seann Truibhas Competitions

Junior: 1. Lauren Campbell 2. Jamie Smith 3. Christopher Niven
Alexander Trousdale

Senior: 1. * Richard Givens 2. Paul Kane 3. Andrew Denholm

* Winner - Seann Truibhas Shield

Victorians Broadwords Competition

1. Richard Givens, Barry Haldane, Ashling Kerr, Christopher Niven

Winners - John S Steel Trophy

Interhouse Reel Competition

1. Cunningham House - Captain Douglas Greenhowe
Christopher Harris, Damian McDade, Christopher Niven, Jamie Smith

United Kingdom Alliance Medal Tests
(Highly Commended 83 to 92% = H/C, Honours 93 to 100% = Hons)

Bronze Medal Tests: Nicola Bonner H/C, Laurie Cairns H/C, Charles MacDonald H/C, Dean McMenemy Hons, Nicola Moffat Hons, Darren Muir H/C, Christopher Noble H/C, Jamie Graham H/C, Jennifer Jones H/C, Sarah Milligan H/C, Dyan McDade H/C.

Silver Medal Tests: Christopher Boyle H/C, Liam Bridgeman Hons, Gayle Ferguson H/C, Dean McMenemy H/C, Kristopher Reid Hons, David Walker Hons, Laura Dunnachie H/C, Laura Wylie H/C.

Gold Medal Tests: Lauren Campbell H/C, Adam Tose H/C, Alexander Trousdale H/C, Ashling Kerr H/C, Barry Gillies H/C, Liam Bridgeman Hons, Dean McMenemy H/C, Kristopher Reid Hons, David Walker Hons.

First Gold Bar Medal Tests: Damian McDade H/C, Jamie Smith H/C, Ross Stevenson H/C.

Second Gold Bar Tests: Christopher Harris H/C, Stuart Ruthven H/C, Christopher Niven Hons.

Laurel Award Medal Tests: Jamie Campbell Com, Andrew Moffat H/C.

Presidents Award: Barry Haldane H/C, Colin Wood H/C, Douglas Greenhowe H/C, Darren Robertson Hons, Craig Cunningham Hons.

Premier Cup: Paul Kane Hons, Andrew Denholm H/C, Mark Harris H/C, Richard Givens Hons, Alistair MacKinnon Hons.

Primary 7 Concert Party

In the spring and summer terms four pupils from P7 entertained Ladywell Church Friendship Guild (27 January), National Health Retirement Fellowship (26 February), Darby and Joan Club of Grangemouth (3 March), and Keirfield Senior Citizens Club (29 April). The programme for these concerts was taken from class project work in Music, English and Highland Dancing. The pupils put a great deal of hard work into learning songs with Mr Onslow, poetry with Mr Carroll and dancing sets with me.

On each occasion the pupils gave a very well received performance and impressed everyone with their enthusiasm and good behaviour. Music for dancing was provided by Piper Stephen Tierney (S2) who played to a very high standard.

EILEEN MACDONALD
Highland Dancing Instructor



WINTER HOBBIES

The Winter Hobbies Programme got underway after the October break with pupils attending a huge variety of hobbies mainly each evening Monday - Friday between 1745 hrs and 1845 hrs. Old favourites competed for pupils alongside some new arrivals such as Indoor Hockey (mixed), Recording Studio, which was mainly for Senior Music pupils, Plastic Modelling and Painting, Film Club, Scripture Union, the list goes on and on. The Community Service Hobbies - visiting Old Folks' Homes and Swimming with the Disabled - were well supported by mainly older boys who were joined this year by a group of S1 girls who were supported and looked after by Adam Morton and Daniel O'Connell respectively. Thanks to Mr Duthie and Mr McIntyre for their support in these hobbies.

New girls and boys found themselves joining in the Piping, Drumming and Dancing Classes for Beginners on Wednesday nights to try and catch up with their peers who started in P6. Reports from Pipe Major, Drum Major and Mrs MacDonald indicate that they are all doing well and trying to be competitive.

Pottery continues to be an attraction with Mrs Thornton offering to P7 on Mondays and Fridays and Mr Stewart to the senior school. Mr Stewart reports that some good work was produced with "inventive use of pinch and coil pot techniques". Several pupils used this hobby towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The multi-talented Mr Stewart also offered a Mathematics Club primarily for those pupils attempting Higher Mathematics. He reports that valuable ground was covered and pupils have benefited from the experience.

SPANISH

A course in conversational Spanish was taken by Mr Frize and seemed to have been appreciated by those who took it. The class managed - linguistically - to get to Spain, out of the aircraft and through Customs and Passport Control, but not, unfortunately, as far as a 'meson' to buy Senor Frize a cerveza!

INDOOR BOWLING

Mrs Howie returned with her Indoor Bowling Hobby - two evenings a week. P7 boys attended on Mondays and Tuesdays attracted a mixed group of P7, S1 and S2 girls and boys. Enthusiastic knock out and team competitions were held each evening. On Tuesdays we were always very ably and willingly assisted by Jamie Williams of Form IV, who became more and more skilled at calling close decisions and giving his advice on line, weight and bias. And latterly on Mondays were were joined by Ryan Webster who gave us the benefit of his considerable expertise on the green mat. We thank them both for their keen participation.

CAMERA CLUB

Mr Dale reports on a very successful year for the Camera Club. The running of the club at lunch-times twice a week proved very popular with the junior pupils. Both the boys' and girls' sections were good with the first year girls being most enthusiastic. Both junior groups can now produce their own photographs from start to finish. During the week the light after school was not good enough to take good photographs, however, some pupils took some good photographs at the weekend. The Senior Club ran after supper on a Tuesday night and this also proved to be a very popular time for the pupils. The 4 pupils - 2 boys and 2 girls - developed their skills to a point where they also can produce good quality prints. All senior pupils have now used the dark-room on their own without teacher supervision.

The hobby has been continued into the Summer Term with the time being devoted to colour work - the light being a bit better for this medium.

SQUASH

Monday Squash hobby attracted a wide range of players, both beginners and the more experienced. Regular games with some training sessions to tire out the pupils

resulted in noticeable improvements in the play of all members of the Club. Most improved players of the season were Jason Morrison and Lee Jones, both of S3 and Cunningham House. For the first time we were joined by enthusiasts from P7 and we were particularly impressed by the skill shown by Andrew Kirkaldy. Thanks to all who turned up regularly and made this such an enjoyable hobby.

Some hobbies proved so popular that staff have agreed to continue them throughout the Summer Term: Side-drumming and Drumming - Drum Major; School Play - Mr A Kirk; Sailing/Windsurfing and Duke of Edinburgh in the Ochil Hills - Mr T Shan-non; Camera Club/Colour Photography - Mr T Dale; Plastic Modelling - Mr Garden; Recorder Group, Singing, Training and Full Wind-band - Mr P Onslow; Horse-riding - Miss M Chalmers and Mrs Blyth; Shooting CCF - Thursday and Sunday afternoons - Mr J Silcox.

LIFESAVING

1996-1997 has been a very successful year for lifesaving. Thirteen pupils from S4 to S6 and seven members of staff gained their Bronze Medallion. I would like to thank Mr Hay and Dr MacKay for running these courses through flu bouts and snow drifts - your help is always appreciated.

Mr Duthie and Mr McLay took a further eight S3 pupils to Redford Barracks for their Bronze Medallion and nine pupils were awarded their Award of Merit.

I hope the Lifesaving Hobby will be as well supported next year.

C. Milligan

PRIMARY POTTERY HOBBY

An enthusiastic group of young potters on Mondays and Fridays managed to produce an interesting variety of pots and figures, ably aided on Mondays by Barry Prowse, Lynsey McAuley and Lisa Milligan, and (on most Friday evenings) by Miss Carolyn Walker who showed a group how to construct models of doves using the slab-technique.

L. Thornton

TABLE TENNIS 97

On Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the year a Table Tennis hobby was taking place in the school theatre. The main attenders were Paul Ruthven, Liam Flynn and ourselves. Throughout the year some seniors came along and challenged us, and usually we severely beat them. We thank the Australian GAP students (Mr Webster and Mr Mageoch) for taking us.

Murray McLeod and Scott Mackle

HIGHLAND DANCING HOBBY

Sweating and panting the teacher (Mrs MacDonald) shouts, "Again, again! Elevation!! Travel!!" - her favourite words. This is the strenuous routine, the Paul Kane (Principal Dancer) Wannabees, went through every Wednesday hobby time. Many of us dropped like flies along the way. But with the help of Paul Kane, Richard Givens and many other senior dancers, to whom we are very grateful, we pulled through. This hour long session each week was enough for people to pass Bronze, Silver and even GOLD exams! A big thank you goes out for all the time and effort put into the class, especially from Mrs MacDonald.

Claire Harris and Sarah Milligan

PHOTOGRAPHY HOBBY

This year has seen the darkroom at its busiest, with many pupils taking advantage of the excellent facilities available. Mr Dale has had to run his hobby five times a week to enable all the wannabe Kevin Carters and David Baileys time to develop and print their photographs!

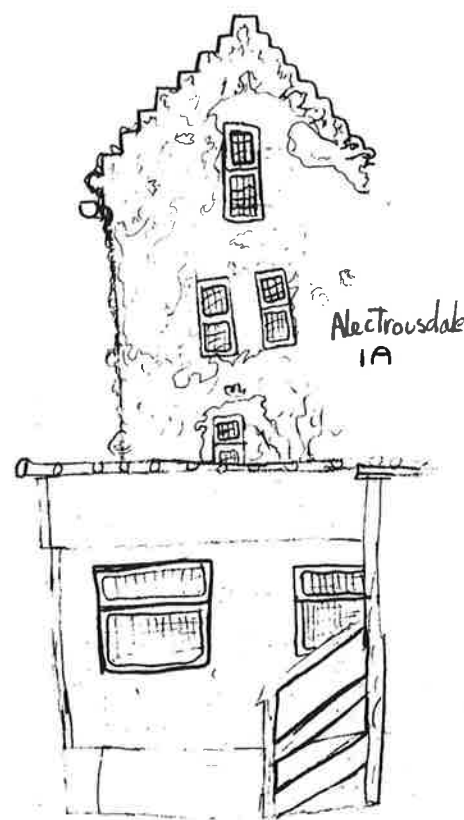
Compared to last years' hobby that ran two nights a week, the difference is quite noticeable.

The junior hobby is run at lunch times with the happy snappers enduring school pack lunches for the sake of their art! The majority of photographs that are taken are in black and white due to it being easier to learn how to process films in this medium. The pupils learn to develop and print all their work and are involved in all the stages of producing the finished photograph, from snapping away, to printing. The standard of pictures that have been produced is high and their originality evident. People deserving a mention for their work are Nicola Benn, Dean Colvin, Samantha Fennell, Chloe Johnston, Mark Lovell, Stephen Tierney and Louise Telford.

The senior hobby, run in the evenings, has also seen photographs of high quality. The group, Craig Donnelly, Felicity MacLellan, Ian Ramsey and Leigh-Anne Sowton, have tried to capture a wide variety of subjects to test theirs, (and Mr Dales!), skills. As skills developed, new techniques were tried, such as the use of dyes. A portfolio of the groups best works would include tree-lined paths, 'instamatic' pictures of discos(!), old town roads and a multitude of others. Now colour is being experimented with, thanks to the generous help of Mrs Hainey and the hobbies' budget.

Our thanks must be extended to Mr Dale for his endless support, advice, and encouragement.

Craig Donnelly



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Passing Through

A Short Story by Alastair Thomson

It was grey and gloomy, not cold, just grim. There was a slight wind, just enough to flap the treetops gently. The boy's trainers, bought with his own cash, were encrusted with the mud that made a reddish-brown lap of the field. The farmer's labours had paid off for green shoot heads cautiously peered up from their earthy beds to provide flashes of verdant colour amidst the glutinous morass. His path followed the course of a stream that ran coexistent with a swath of cheap council housing that mouldered its way snake-like until it was decapitated by the throng of traffic continually parading on the new motorway. The boy could hear the sibilant cackle of the water but its sparkling progress was mostly obscured by the legions of thorns and nettles that protected the stream from wading children and cavorting dogs. The boy wondered how anyone could live in such abject squalor, why didn't they try to get nice houses like his?

But his was not a nice house. Excellently preserved Georgian converted barn, ideal country location, near schools, facilities, etc. But nice? Far from it.

Through the jagged holes in a rotten wooden fence he saw a raucous group of diminutive brown birds pontificating over some stale bread scraps. He walked from cover and the birds evaporated into the air with an angry collective squawk. The estate was mostly quiet at this time of day. The local children were all at school, working hard no doubt.

Just the old people left then.

Pottering pointlessly among bric-a-brac, slurping soup, complaining that things are not as they used to be and watching that adorable Dale Winton innuendo his way through another sterile 'Supermarket Sweep'. Old people, he thought, are the antithesis of change. They should all be shot, or hanged, or electrocuted, or forced to listen constantly to the ceaseless flow of monotonous drivel they themselves mutter.

A vicious bark snapped him from his reverie. The slaving snout that had emitted it strained sedulously against the prison bars of the garden fence that owned it. He felt the pure and unjustified hatred inbred into the beast and knew his choice was the correct one.

His choice.

Not far now until the place his whole life had prepared him for. And it was his choice. He was extremely lucky. He was always being reminded of this fact. Funny it was that this was the only time in all his sheltered, privileged existence that he had come to realise his felicity. Everyone had the choice but, unlike him, not all were educated enough to make such a grand decision.

Thespian wasps performed a winding tragedy as they flittered forbiddingly over the stuffed litter bin. He watched warily as they made yellow and black darts towards his vantage on the opposite bank. There was once a wasps' nest cached in the eaves of the summer house. It was August, hot, and every time they retired for strawberries and cream the family suffered a malevolent, swarming assault. They had smoked them out. The entire nest was consumed by poisonous fumes and the summer was thereafter sting free. Hell hath no fury like a human stung.

That was his father's solution for everything; nip it in the bud: buy it, kill it, punish it, break it and ruin it. His mother was no better; giving passive consent to all of daddy's little whims and fancies.

He was soon taken out of the estate's heavy presence and into the fresh vista of fields and trees. He marked his passage by pausing to spitefully crush a clump of cheerful snowdrops, destroying their latent growth and blooming promise. The rain began to patter down and heavy drips plummeted from the burdened tips of shaking leaves. The rain

could not sustain its fall and soon petered out into isolated droplets that crashed belligerently from the canopy above. The boy tried to drown out the irritating sounds of the drying wood by immersing himself in a cloak of music from his personal stereo. The impenetrable lyrics of Kurt Cobain swiftly matched him pace for pace as he strode resolutely towards the still-distant motorway. The trees parted slightly and through this chink in the arboreal armour he caught sight of a church, well the church.

This was the self-same mouldering carapace that had contained his christening, involuntarily clasped by a religion that he did not want and that could not help him. It had also seen the most hypocritical encounter ever to be legally perpetrated: his parents marriage. Love was an alien principle to his mother and father so the boy failed to see how they could happily embark on a lifetime long commitment, the basis of which was love. The archaic structure had always for him symbolised the confusion that was to reign supreme in his life. He was told that it was only right that he prayed. He did so and, along with the minister, craved an end to famine, war, poverty and anything else he was prompted to beg for.

One week, however, he was thrown into a state of total confusion. The sermon was on the value of humility. Praying contravened the rules of humility, asking for the Almighty to improve your lot on earth was conceited. This being the case, to pray or not to pray, that was the question. This was just one example of the turmoil the whole topic of religion threw him into.

A sopping, insurrectionary clod of earth reared up to trip the walker and sprawl him on the ground. This unfortunate incident drew a wry smile and a mockingly vexed expulsion of "God's Teeth!". This was a blasphemous yet correct assertion for he was near the church and in close proximity to God, hence close in close proximity also to His teeth. Why, he puzzled, do people go unforced to church? It seemed that the creepy old building across from him drew in every person over 45 in the area every Sunday. Perhaps they had all been fitted with a microchip at birth which reacted to the sound of the bells and drew them irrevocably in for each service with the pressure and persistence of a tractor beam. Whatever the reasons, all of the humble parishioners appeared to believe that they were the second incarnation of the Lord on earth, come to meekly bear the sins of the world away. The community had a collective persecution complex that had been around for countless years and brought itself up in a new manifestation for every generation.

He clambered ponderously over the rusting iron gate that presented the penultimate barrier between himself and the motorway. The last obstacle he had to overcome was a farmer's field replete with a chattering flock of sheep. He hailed the sheep graciously but his friendliness was unrequited and the whole flock made a jolting run to a safe distance. He decided to build his fire in this field. It didn't have any particularly outstanding features but it was safe from groping eyes and there was a reasonably clear view all the way round. He laid the bag on the ground and gleefully removed the can of lighter fluid of which he poured a generous amount over the books and sports kit in the bag. He dropped a match in the saturated container and watched as it rapidly became absorbed in the fumes before igniting in a flash. It felt so good as the last vestiges of school, family and restraint were vaporised before his eyes. He drew a cigarette from the packet stowed in his coat and lit it dramatically. Savouring the contraband article's rough miasma rolling down his throat, he smiled with self-satisfaction.

Vaulting the wool-adorned, barbed wire was an easy task and the young man was soon at the foot of the stairs ready to ascend the bridge. He stopped to take a protracted breath before he continued up. This was the moment he had been waiting for. It was a new motorway and was yet to be 'christened'; he would have that honour. Caged in by metal barriers,

he shepherded himself along the concrete walkway until he reached the middle. It was a strange bridge in that it was higher than most, in fact the boy thought he could feel a touch of his old vertigo coming back. It mattered little what he felt now, he had committed himself to a certain course of action and was too far down the line to turn back. It was his decision and he was going to implement it come what may. He wasn't going to leave a note, that was too much of a cliché. As well as this reason, he also liked the thought of being an enigma which his family and friends couldn't comprehend. He raised himself onto the railing and balanced precariously on the barrier. Rocking back and forwards, arms cruciform, he surveyed the world for the final time. His family had wondered why he had been watching so many diving programs recorded from satellite television. His triple somersault would have answered some of their questions. Dying on impact, the doubt that fizzed across his consciousness had only a few seconds, not long enough to change his mind and too late anyway. It was all too late now...

The young man's body was cremated and his family mourned him for longer than he would have expected.

Life went on and this microcosmic tragedy was soon swept under the carpet of time. The how's and why's are unknown but it no longer matters.



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Exercise Venture

C/Sgt P Clark

I arrived at Queens Barracks at seven o'clock in the morning of 25th of September. As my father drove me through the gates he recognised a friend of his who was going on the camp as second in command, Major Hart. My father introduced me to him and asked if he could keep an eye on me and then laughed. Thank you dad!

After my father had gone, all the cadets going to Cyprus were asked to line up at the door of the HQ building where we received our rather dodgy looking ID cards. After we had been given our ID cards we had to wait for the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion who were late on arriving from their overnight stay in Dunkeld.

We started our journey to London Heathrow at 0830 and, after many toilet breaks on the way, arrived at Heathrow at approximately 1930 hours. The Flight CY333 heading to Larnaca Airport (which was our flight) wasn't due to fly until 2200 hours, so we just sat around the lounge area and looked in some of the shops until it was time to board. The flight out to Cyprus was a comfortable one but it came as a relief when the pilot announced that we were due to land in fifteen minutes. On landing we realised that it was going to be hot. Most of us had left wearing jeans, t-shirts and jumpers not anticipating the sudden blast of heat we were going to get.

We arrived at Episkopi Garrison at approximately 0600 hours on Thursday morning. We were then lead into the Mess Hall where we received a much appreciated breakfast. After breakfast we were split up into our Platoons and shown to our rooms. I was in Platoon 1 on the ground floor and I was appointed i/c of 2 section, later to be appointed as Platoon i/c. Once we were all unpacked we were ordered to go to sleep for about four hours. This was known as forced rest. After our 'sleep' we were given a guided tour of the garrison by Sgt MacPherson and Sgt Hussey. We were then issued with our various equipment that we needed, such as desert combats and webbing. Once all the stores had been handed out we were given free time. I used this time to get to know people and make new friends.

Our first day of training consisted of a helicopter brief in order to tell us about safety on board and how to get into the helicopter. After the helicopter brief we were shown around RAF Akrotiri. We then returned to Episkopi Garrison where we received a dog display. We were shown around the kennels and then given a talk about the dog team's role in the British Army. We then went around the back of the kennels where we were shown the dogs in action. The first dog was a sniffer dog who was 'asked' to retrieve a pistol which was hidden by one of the cadets - the dog had no trouble in finding the weapon. The second dog was an attack dog and Sgt Haldane was volunteered by Colonel Simpson to climb into the protective clothing so that the dog could attack him. The same was done with the third dog, a rotweiler that was back in Cyprus for retraining. The victim this time as my Platoon Commander 2nd Lt White of the OTC. After the dog display we were taken to an amphitheatre where we had our camp photograph taken. In the evening my Platoon was taken bowling at RAF Akrotiri. We all had an enjoyable night.

For the second day's training 1 Platoon had in-camp training in preparation for the overnight exercise which was to take place the next day. The camp was held at the Melanda training area where we were given different missions to perform tactically including three platoon battle attacks and night recce patrols. The night was cold and we were woken up at 0400 hours the next morning in order to reach our ambush site where we pulled off an excellent ambush on the enemy, except for the fact that one of our body searchers had decided to fall asleep! After the ambush we headed back to our harbour area to pack away all our kit. We then headed out on yet again on another patrol in which we came

under fire, resulting in a platoon battle attack, probably the best attack of the two days. We then headed for the beach while we waited for the helicopter to arrive and pick us up. While we were swimming one of the cadets noticed a blue and red van in the distance; as it came closer, we realised it was 'Tonibell' the local ice-cream man so we all enjoyed an ice-cream as we stood in the blistering heat. At approximately 1400 hours S/Sgt Connelly gave us another brief on how to board the helicopter safely and tactically. At 1430 hours the helicopter arrived and picked up the first group. They all boarded safely and were taken back to Episkopi Garrison. It was my group's turn next. The helicopter arrived and we waited for it to land, we then headed for the helicopter with our heads down low and boarded the helicopter. We were then taken back to the garrison. On the way back the pilot performed a series of dives enabling the helicopters occupants weightless for approximately five seconds each time. That was my first ride in a helicopter and I really enjoyed it.

After the exercise 1 Platoon had finished all the military activities on the camp and we spent the rest of the time doing things like: adventurous training, sub aqua diving, water-skiing, swimming, orienteering (ordinarily approximately forty minutes long but unfortunately my team took two hours and seven minutes due to the fact that we got lost and wandered four miles from where we should have been! However, we still beat all the girls' teams!) rock climbing, abseiling, sun bathing and many other activities. We also had three discos whilst on the camp and one when we returned from Egypt.

We headed for Egypt after an extremely enjoyable time in Cyprus. We set off for Larnaca docks where we boarded the cruise liner that was to take us to Egypt. Once aboard we got settled into our cabins and unpacked. After unpacking Phil McGlone and I decided on exploring the ship. We eventually found the night club where the Captain was giving a brief on what to do in an emergency and he was also telling us the various activities that were going to take place on the ship. Most of the cadets including myself found a suitable place to spend the evening at the all night disco in the night club. After a tiring night we were woken up at 0630 hours for the first sitting of breakfast. At approximately 0830 hours we got off the ship and set foot in Egypt. We were then pointed in the direction of our coaches for the tour. We were then taken to Cairo where we visited the pyramids and ventured inside one. Once we had finished at the pyramids we were taken to see the sphinx where we took many photographs. We then visited the museum and went shopping where we bought chains called a 'katush', a symbol of good luck. Once we had finished our shopping it was time to go back to the ship after a long day in Cairo. Once again that night the cadets spent most of the night partying away in the night club. We arrived back in Cyprus at 1300 hours Wednesday afternoon. We then made our way back to Episkopi to hand over the accommodation and to have a pool party. Our last day in Cyprus turned out to be full of accidents and excitement with one of the girls nearly drowning in the pool and Stuart Drummond diving into the pool at the wrong end and splitting his head open and being taken to hospital as a result where he received twenty three stitches but the most exciting thing of that day had to have been the earthquake that sent the Paphos road sliding into the sea and measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale. Thankfully nobody on the island was injured. That night, we had a BBQ and a disco, which were interrupted several times by earth tremors. We headed for Larnaca Airport at 0130 hours on Thursday morning and we all looked forward to a long journey back to Queens Barracks in Perth.

I thoroughly enjoyed the camp, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone who wishes to take part in the exercise, it is a worth while and well organised camp.

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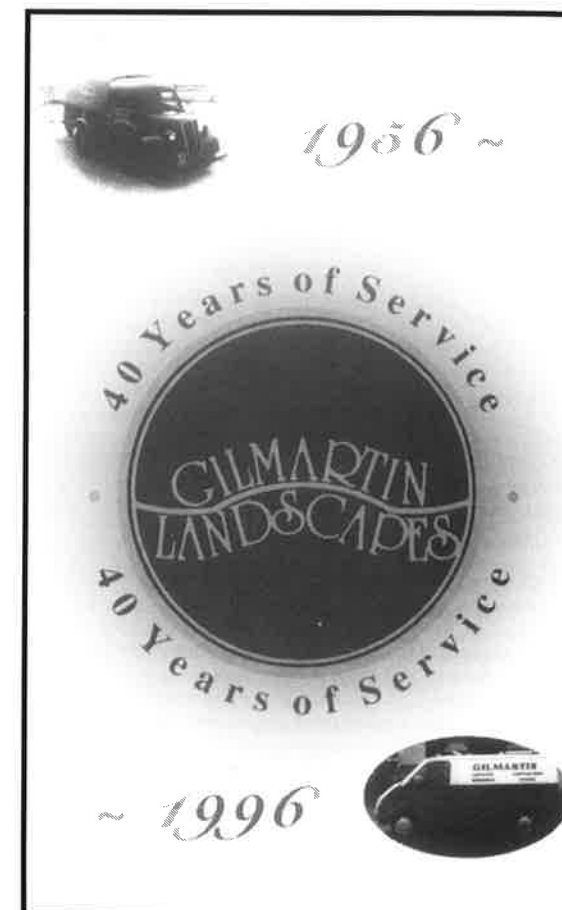
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The Australian humorist and TV personality, Clive James, wrote a book called UNRELIABLE MEMOIRS based on his childhood in Sydney. I found this work to be absolutely hilarious and, in some ways, it reminded me of my school days which, to this day, I wonder how I survived. Hopefully the recollections recalled in this article will prove to be reliable, at least in spirit, if not in detail.

Reflections from Afar

Tom Hunter
Shenton Park
Western Australia

Twenty years

On Thursday 10 October 1996 accompanied by my cousin Isabel and her husband Walter I paid my first visit to QV for at least twenty years. My previous visit would have been sometime in the 1970s before I and my family emigrated to Australia. Back in March of last year I had been deeply moved and appalled by the Dunblane massacre which stimulated me to ring the school to express my condolences and concerns. That was when I discovered that there was a flourishing Old Boys' Association presided over by Ron Smith who was one of the Senior boys when I first enrolled in September 1949 and issued with the School Number of 2384 and the Company Number of C108. Ron had no difficulty in persuading me to join. Isabel and Walter had provided me with a family life during school holidays but had never had the opportunity to visit the School. Moreover, one of Walter's childhood friends, Alec Moutar, was a former QV pupil and had been killed in action during the Second World War. Sufficient to say that the three of us had very good reasons for wanting to visit the School.

Jason Morrison was given the task of showing us around and he proved to be an informative and very pleasant host. The visit got off to a flying start in the old Commandant's office which now caters for memorabilia and photographs. I was quite stunned when the first photograph that I looked at was of the 1954 Military Band which included me complete with knock knees and hen toes! During our tour I regaled one of the Housemothers with my recollection of student life and she felt it would be a good idea for me to put my thoughts on paper. So bear with me readers and I'll do my best.

Much improved

My observations indicated that the quality of life for students together with the standard of education has improved out of sight. Sporting facilities at school were always excellent and the culture of the school inculcated in me and many of my contemporaries an abiding love of sport together with a sense of fair play. The addition of the tennis courts and indoor sports facilities really impressed me. Moreover, student accommodation is certainly much improved compared to the austere barrack room type dormitories which was the dominant form of accommodation from the School's opening to well into the late 50s early 60s.

By the time I enrolled my parents had been separated for about three years and I had spent most of those years moving from school to school and boarding house to boarding house. In the summer of 1948 or 1949 I had visited the school on Grand Day with a friend of my father's who had been a former pupil. It was a beautiful day and I was most impressed with the display of martial music and drill executed in a delightful setting. On my return to Edinburgh I asked my father to enrol me which he did. Given my rather parlous circumstances I took to the regime like a duck to water but for some of the boys from settled homes and loving families the experience was quite traumatic.

Jock Pears

On our arrival we were marched to the store located just below the gymnasium and issued with a full set of clothing and equipment which included a cavernous kit bag. We even had a spare set of clothing for display purposes which had to be neatly folded to exact specifications based on the width of dormitory floorboards! We were allocated to C Company which was the "recruit" company administered by the formidable Jock Pears who had served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders with my father. At the time the school was run on strict military lines. There was a Commandant with the retired rank of Lieutenant Colonel or above from a Scottish regiment, an Adjutant from a similar background, and all of the Companies were run by retired Sergeant Majors from Scottish Regiments and commanded by Officers from the Royal Army Education Corps. Over the Sergeant Majors there was Regimental Sergeant Major who played a big part in training us to a high standard of drill.

Right from the start we were introduced to a regime which, to say the least, was spartan and demanding. Reveille was at 0645 when a boy bugler blasted us from our slumbers. Within fifteen minutes we had to be ready for inspection which involved transforming our beds into a state of compact exactness comprising blanket, sheet, blanket, sheet and blanket wrapped in another blanket with the counterpane neatly tucked under the mattress in the prescribed manner. The dormitory had to be completely swept and all the lockers and bed ends perfectly aligned. On top of that we had to attend to our own personal hygiene and be fully dressed and ready for inspection - usually carried out by a monitor (prefect) or the Sergeant Major. From there we filed down to the Central Hall and then into the Dining Room where we had to be truly thankful for that which we were about to receive. On completion of grace, maids carrying pales of porridge would march into the Dining Room and dole out the gruel with robot-like efficiency. Meals were usually consumed in an atmosphere of formal control and conversation was not encouraged. On reflection, with all of that healthy Dunblane air and the physically demanding regime, I for one, was grateful to receive four meals a day and found it easy to cope with the cacaphonic percussion of clattering plates, serving dishes and cutlery.

Three bands

At the time the school had three bands namely: the Pipes and Drums, the Military Band and the Drums and Bugles. I wanted to be a Piper and Highland Dancer and stated my wishes very clearly to the august middle-aged gentleman who examined the line of my jaw, the configuration of my teeth and the outline of my lips. He, Felix Lax, turned out to be the Bandmaster and had served in the King's Own Scottish Borderers. He took his charges off to the bandroom which overlooked the playing fields where we were confronted with a bewildering array of instruments, none of which vaguely resembled a set of bagpipes. I was selected to learn the arcane complexities of the trombone, but eventually, Bandy came to the sad conclusion that I sounded like a "cow with a bellyache". He then introduced me to the joys of the E flat bass, which I quite liked, until I had to play and march with it on church parades and on numerous gala days in small Scottish towns which left me knackered, but it was good preparation for my commando training in 1957.

Felix Lax

Bandy ruled his charges with very firm discipline. His instrument of enforcement was an ivory topped xylophone stick which he used as a conductor's baton during band practice. Bandy could propel this implement with the accuracy of a cruise missile from one end of the bandroom to the other to restore law and order on those occasions when we were unwise enough to misbehave.

The tuba was my salvation as I was located at the rear of the bandroom which meant that when his instrument of retribution was heading in my direction I was able to cover my anatomy with the tuba which stood up to a regular barrage! Bandy's knowledge of music was encyclopaedic and, in spite of his behavioural management techniques, he inculcated in most of us a love of music and produced a very good Military Band. Furthermore, away from the rigours of the bandroom he was a real gentleman.

We were taught to darn and sew by matronly Dunblane ladies, drill with the precision of the Guards Brigade and participate in sporting activities - especially rugby and boxing - with the ferocity of highland warriors. Our physical well-being was maintained through a sensible, if uninspired diet, physical education and virtually any sport we wanted to play.

Health

Our health was monitored by a doctor and matron who seemed incredibly ancient and reminded me of characters from DOCTOR FINDLAY'S CASEBOOK. On a regular basis we were paraded nude (not quite!) in the Central Hall to have our hair examined for lice and to see if any vital parts of our anatomy were not developing normally. To give credit where credit is due, this formidable twosome spotted that I had a foot problem and spinal defect which were rectified by remedial exercises.

Education was a bit of a joke compared with a good Scottish Senior High School. The majority of our teachers were from the Royal Army Education Corps, most of whom were doing their National Service, which meant that they were qualified to enter University or Teachers' Training College but were not skilled teachers. Furthermore, given that National Service was only for two years there was very little stability and continuity within the school's teaching community, which made it very difficult for high standards of scholarship to be achieved.

Boxing

The School Boxing Competition was a terrifying ordeal as we had no choice but to enter. In particular, waiting for one's own bout to commence was an excruciating experience for, inevitably, when fully gloved up and beyond the point of no return, I suffered from an overwhelming desire to go to the toilet which was physically impossible without causing considerable embarrassment. It was almost a relief to get into the ring and face the moment of truth. The finals were conducted in the school gymnasium in an atmosphere redolent of the Coliseum in ancient Rome. The Commandant and staff would turn up for the occasion splendidly attired in mess dress. The School's PT instructor and boxing coach, Joe Gutteridge, Highland Light Infantry and Army Physical Training Corps, did a splendid job in preparing us for our trial by ordeal. For some strange reason spectators were allowed to raise the rafters between rounds and between each bout, but during each bout a deadly hush was maintained as the combatants belted each other all over the ring.

Sandy McVicar

Joe Gutteridge definitely left his imprimatur on me as I discovered in September 1956 as young Royal Marine recruit at the Corps Depot in Deal. Our squad was having its first session in the gymnasium and I was haring around the gymnasium in typical QV style when I was approached by Sergeant Sandy McVicar (1865) who was one of the Corps' top PTIs and a scrum half of great skill and courage. He looked as though he had been carved out of granite and exuded strength and vitality.

"Did you go to Queen Victoria School, son?" he asked.

"Yes, sergeant," was my astonished reply. "So did I, and it looks as though we had the same instructor - Joe Gutteridge. Don't let me down."

Hopefully I didn't, as at the end of nine months very demanding training which included the commando course, I was runner up for the King's badge for the best all round recruit in the squad. Later

on I became an Officer candidate but withdrew my application as I wanted to go to University.

Whilst at University I played rugby for Manchester. I recall that after one great match against Liverpool, I met Wullie, a friend of one of my team-mates. Wullie was a former pupil of Dollar Academy and was of my vintage. He confided that he and his school mates did not consider it a great honour to be selected for the rugby or boxing teams against QV for, inevitably, they were run off the park or pummelled into oblivion by a disciplined bunch of working class hard cases. I graciously accepted this as a compliment! My own assessment was that even the Hitler Youth Movement would have come off second best in an encounter with Victorians of my era.

Educational reforms

In the mid-fifties significant educational reforms were introduced. The Royal Army Education Corps teachers drafted into the school were all regulars and fully qualified. My favourites were Eric Drew who taught French and Captain Ross who was a good athlete and had served in the Parachute Regiment. Maths was his main subject but he sensibly gave up on me when he asked me how to get rid of unwanted terms in solving simultaneous equations. The best solution that I could think of was to wipe them off the blackboard! Civilian teachers with good qualifications were also recruited including Mr Hughes (History), Mr Sutherland (Science), Hugh Brown (English) and Mr Le Maistre (Art).

The new Maths teacher, who shall remain nameless, was so appalled at our mathematical ignorance, especially mine, that he arranged for us to sit another examination with the threat that for every five marks below 55 per cent we would receive one stroke of the cane. He kept his word and carried out his threat in a bizarre ritual by entering the classroom with the look of a medieval executioner; writing our names on the blackboard in order of merit including our marks and the number of strokes we were due to receive. As you've probably guessed, my name was at the bottom of the list and at least my mental arithmetic was on the ball as I rapidly calculated that I was due for six of the best. I was used to physical discipline but the ritualistic humiliation was devastating.

Culture of education

By 1955 there were only five boys in my class and we were receiving virtually individual tuition. I wanted to stay on but didn't receive much encouragement from my father so I left about October 1955 to join the Metropolitan Police as a Cadet. My contemporaries who stayed on did well in their Lower and Higher and quite a few went on to University. However, some of them couldn't cope with their new found freedom and didn't do as well as expected. Fortunately, judging by the Academic Honours on display in the Central Hall, it would appear that the school has developed a culture of education and instilled into the majority of its students the value of hard work and

belief in one's ability to face life's challenges in a positive way.

Had I stayed on and entered University at 17 or 18 I might well have experienced similar difficulties in coping with the freedom of student and civilian life after the rigours of QV. When I eventually did go to University I was 27 years of age and was psychologically ready for it. The impetus to enter into Higher education can be attributed to my burgeoning rugby skills in the early sixties when I represented 42 Commando Royal Marines, the Royal Navy (Far East Command), Devonport Services and the Corps. During that period as a result of social interaction with my team mates, most of whom were Officers, I came to the conclusion that as well as being a good athlete I was a lot brighter than I thought. I purchased my discharge in 1964, and with the encouragement of my wife Sylvia, held down a job and gained University entrance qualifications in 1966. I Graduated with Honours in 1969, qualified as a Social Worker in 1971, and obtained a Masters Degree in Social Work after turning 50 in 1990.

To conclude, I believe a country's education system should provide a high standard of education which maximises the potential of its students and inculcates a love of learning. Furthermore, it should encourage a strong sense of fair play and social justice. To that end my brief visit left me with the impression that QV is making a good fist in turning out educated and socially responsible citizens. My years at QV (1949-55) certainly inculcated a sense of fair play together with a code of honour and probably sewed the seeds to enter Higher Education when the time was ripe. In terms of personal development I would say that on the whole my years at QV, my service in the Royal Marines (1956-64) combined with my Social Work training has been a positive experience in terms of being able to relate to and assist those less fortunate than myself. Perhaps one drawback is that some bosses see me as being too laid back. They could be right, but having survived the rigours of QV and the demands of active service in an elite military unit, it's hard to get excited about the majority of work situations. I believe in the military axiom of using minimum force to achieve one's objective which means one doesn't make mountains out of molehills or use sledgehammers to crack nuts. However, it's nice to know that when there is a real crisis, particularly in the sensitive area of child protection, my colleagues can rely on my training, experience and interpersonal skills combined with a large physical presence to facilitate sensible outcomes.

Hopefully, QV is a great place for the majority of current students, including the new intake of young ladies which I think is a great idea and should have happened many years ago.

I look forward to my next visit to QV which may well be Grand Day 2000 when I hope to will meet up with old friends. In the meantime, I wish Staff and Students a high standard of academic success, sporting achievements and successful personal development.

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SCHOOL HOSPITAL

It seems only yesterday since I arrived at Queen Victoria School Hospital. During my first day, about six lads from Wavell House arrived for the lunch time surgery. When I enquired as to their problem, their spokesman stated "It's all right Sister, I have told them you are just practising". I'm very glad I made the grade.

I am now in my third year at the School and many changes have taken place in the School Hospital. Nurse McNeil retired after 12 years service and her position was filled by Nurse McNicol. Nurse McNicol has settled well in to the post and I am pleased to say as enthusiastic about Rugby as I am. The game we love, the injuries we hate, especially when it is our lads. Rain, hail or shine you will find us on the line.

Due to the arrival of the girls, a room in the hospital was allocated for them and new showers installed. The waiting room was converted to a bed-sit for the staff member on call overnight.

Mrs Graham, who escorts all our pupils to appointments outwith the School, has been kept very busy along with Mrs Heslop our ward maid. The flu epidemic at the beginning of the year kept us all on our toes; however, I am glad to say all pupils made a good recovery. The health of the pupils at QV is excellent.

The hospital staff look forward to the arrival of our August intake of new pupils and wish all the pupils who are leaving success in their future careers.

Christine Fitzgerald
Hospital Sister



LESLIE CLARK

Mr Leslie Clark joined Queen Victoria School as Deputy Head in August 1994 and left in May 1997 to become Headmaster of Shebbear College in Devon. Originally educated at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University, he was a Squadron Leader in the RAF and an Executive Staff Officer with MOD and NATO. Having left the RAF in 1983 he trained as a teacher at Jordanhill and then taught at Dollar between 1984 and 1994.

Although only with us briefly, Mr Clark has contributed much to Queen Victoria School. His skills as an administrator have been utilised fully, helping the Headmaster and Assistant Headteacher to improve, refine and clarify procedures on the

academic and administrative side of the School.

He has been involved in both Haig and Trenchard as a tutor, where the boys have benefited from his presence. Mr Clark's focus has clearly been on the pupils and their ultimate benefit. In this regard, he helped with Physics classes, was in charge of the Highland Tac Team and the 2nd XV. Under his guidance the Tac Team did extremely well last year as did the 2nd XV.

By the time the magazine comes out, Mr Clark will already be settled into his new job. However, we wish him and his wife Lynda all the very best for their new challenge at Shebbear College.

Parachuting

The opportunity now exists for boys (and soon girls) to undertake parachute training through the auspices of the CCF (adventurous training). Several pupils have taken advantage of this and, assisted by a grant from the Norman Macmillan McNeil Trust Fund, have proceeded to train for a first jump. The training takes some five hours, normally a day, and the jump is made, weather permitting, at the end of the day from a height of 2,500 feet. The first two pupils jumped last May, followed by another four in October. The latter were fortunate in being trained for square parachutes as opposed to round, these giving more control and a much softer landing! Two of these boys then went on to a second jump a few weeks later on - a fairly windy day when it seemed they would stay in the air forever. They were joined by another pupil on his first round parachute jump. The latter managed to land in a ploughed field at the far end of the runway, having been told to turn head to wind rather late by ground control! We'll forgive him that one!

Parachuting is definitely not for the faint-hearted. The nerves build up during the day as the various landing techniques are practised. More to the point, all the various emergency possibilities are presented, giving the impression that something is bound to go wrong.

Then the moment arrives. Parachutes are strapped on, radios checked, and the short walk to the waiting Cessna takes place. The aircraft has no door! The climb to altitude begins and the pulses race as the jump-master peers out of the aeroplane to check the spot.

"In the door!" shouts the jump-master and, with feet dangling over the edge the launch is made. After a short delay, the parachute opens with a tug and all is well. However, there is the landing to make and steering corrections to apply.

Eventually everyone is safe on the ground on the highest adrenaline high ever. Can they ever be made to stop talking about it?

PO

SIGNALS SECTION

I am writing this as a retrospective on what has been achieved in the Signals section over the past two years. There have been many changes, the most significant being the "crossed flags" qualification has been achieved by more cadets and to a higher standard than ever before.

The main aspect of training that has aided this was the implementation of the new syllabus. The old syllabus consisted of the formidable S.A.D sheets, and how 'sad' they were. Now the cadets study from a mixture of practical lessons and a "teach yourself" series of topics in the new booklet. The production of this booklet was very time consuming on my behalf but now I can see the results I can honestly say it was worth every minute. Positive feedback and excellent test results only fortifies this.

The section has been used more by others over the past two years also; providing communications on a variety of events ranging from field days to overnight exercises. The most memorable of these being the senior cadet exercise "Reciprocity" at Barry Buddon. A lot of equipment was acquired from the local TA unit and this was all put together to provide the best communications and realistic scenario ever experienced by signallers at QVS. All involved also discovered that the equipment does live up to its claim of being completely "squaddie proof" - it was exposed to a mixture of harsh conditions ranging from high winds to mud. Much to the amazement of everyone it still worked perfectly.

I must also take the opportunity to congratulate the following for passing their Signals proficiency:-

SIG BLACKWOOD
SIG DUNSMUIR
SIG HESSELTON
SIG MOFFAT
SIG MCCUTCHEON

I can now also rest assured that the section will be in good hands when I leave because Cpl James Sutherland is taking over as NCO i/c Signals after Summer. He is always enthusiastic about the section and has enough knowledge of the subject to stand him in good stead commanding the section. I wish him all the best.

Thanks to all that have helped me over the past few years:- SSM Duthie for endless trips to collect equipment and Major Silcox for his endless support, Sgt Lyle Davidson of 7/8 Argyles (TA) for the loan of equipment and advice, Sgt Gordon Laughlin, my 2i/c, for his enthusiasm and assisting me on many an exercise. Finally all the NCOs in the section for assisting its smooth running.

I will conclude by saying that I will miss the section and wish everyone involved, both cadet and adult, all the success in their remaining years in the section, the school and in their future careers.

WO2 (Yeoman of Signals) Ian Ramsey, S6

TACTICAL COMPETITION TEAM

M McLeish	S/Sgt (IC)
A Morton	Sgt (Zic)
R McConnell	Sgt
M McLeod	Sgt (G)
J Matthews	Cpl (2G)
J Martin	Cpl
(R) S Morton	Cpl
S McGinty	L/Cpl
J Campbell	L/Cpl

We started our daily training 4 weeks prior to the HCTC competition, which took place over the weekend of Friday 13 September to Sunday 15 September 1996. Our overall placing (4th) was the best the School has ever

achieved, and was a remarkable effort.

Our first Stand was, yes, the other side of Barry Buddon! This was the written test which consisted of 50 "questions from the Cadet Manual". These included the:

1. PM of Bangladesh
2. The Capital of Albania.

Although we had never seen these in the Cadet manual the DS reassured us that they were in it! From a scoring point of view this was our worst Stand! Enough said.

We moved swiftly to the Stalking Stand where our team commander S/Sgt McLeish followed by Zic Morton let themselves get caught first, to make us feel better (we know the truth Matty). For the readers information: no other members of the team got caught. The team, despite our great loss, came first in this Stand.

There were nine more Stands which included: Map and Compass, Judging Distances, First Aid, Patrol Ally, Section Attach, Section Formations, Stretcher Carry, Ammo Run and March and Shoot.

Throughout the Tac Training and Competition, we as a team had a lot of fun. Most of it laughing at James (don't forget your trainers) and James; both continually kept the teams amused - thanks boys.

I suppose we had better say a little about our Side-kicks, Cpl Morton and L/Cpl Campbell. Jamie, being the youngest in the team, gratefully accepted his duty of tidying up after us.

Our thanks to Staff Connelly who over marked us on our Judging Distances Stand.

We must thank our "Coach" Major Clark who painstakingly put up with us for 4 weeks. So thank you very much Mr Clark; although it doesn't always seem like it, we did appreciate your help and new, intensive training methods. Without the latter we would not have achieved the result we did. Also thanks to Mr Silcox and Mr Duthie for a continuous supply of paper, pens and of course Ration Packs.

The TAC this year will be commanded by Sgt McLeod. Hopefully, this year we may also have two teams and the following year a mixed team. Now that will be something!

Matthew McLeish/Mark McLeod



ROYAL NAVAL SECTION CCF

New Royal Naval CCF Officer

I would like to welcome Mrs Shannon to the naval section. She took up her commission at the start of the session and is no stranger to the naval uniform because she was an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve for three years and is a very experienced yacht and dinghy sailor. Already Sub Lt Shannon has dawned combats and cam cream and taken cadets on three self reliance weekends at Culty Braggen and Barry Buddon.

Field Day at Lochore Meadows

Last September we took the naval section plus all the girls who had joined the CCF to Lochore Meadows for a day of sailing, canoeing, windsurfing and powerboating. It was a very successful day and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Day at sea on HMS Smiter

On Wednesday the 12th of March myself and twelve

recruits:-

Dean Aitken	Craig Murphy	Fiona Gannon
David Kelly	Paul Fleming	Katrina Semple
Dean Colvin	Ciaran Flynn	Laura Gale
Andrew Benn	Martin Terry	Kerri Meleady

travelled down to Great Harbour in Greenock to join HMS Smiter for the day. There was a full programme organised by the ship's company. The cadets had a go at driving the ship, riding in the Gemini, navigating, throwing ropes and generally had a good time. The Captain of Smiter, Lt Cdr Dunn, said he had been very impressed by the cadets' manner and enthusiasm and told us we would be welcome back any time.

Field Day at Rosyth

On Wednesday 19th of March most of the naval section went with Sub Lt Borking and Sub Lt Shannon on a ship visit to HMS Renown, a Polaris submarine, and HMS Cardiff, a type 42 Destroyer. Everyone enjoyed the visit especially Sub Lt Borking as he met a number of old shipmates from his bomber days.

The remainder of the section and I took the dory to sea for the day powerboating and sailing.

Easter Courses

After attaining his RYA Level two Dinghy Sailing certificate last Summer Leigh Bissett went on a sailing course to up his certificate level. He writes:

"In March 1997 the RNCCF flew me to Plymouth for a week of sailing instruction. Every morning at 0800 I was taken down to Jupiter Point and given expert tuition. By the end of the week I was awarded RYA level 3. I can't wait to go back in the Summer to gain my level 5."

Three other cadets, Mark McLeod, James Martin and Stephen Page went on an amphibious warfare course with the Royal Marines in Poole.



The Area Chief

I must thank, on behalf of the section, Chief Petty Officer Kay for his help and support over the year. He is an invaluable resource and a very able area chief - he has helped organise visits, helped with training and with stores.

Watersports

Over the term the cadets have been training on the canoes in the school pool and practising rigging windsurfers and dinghies for the Summer term, when we spend each Wednesday late afternoon and evening at Lochore Meadows. The cadets can achieve RYA certificates. The results of these for last Summer are shown in the watersports section of my Outdoor Pursuits article.

The rescue dory which we also use for dinghy instruction and powerboat training went through a major refit and is now fitted with additional equipment allowing us to stay afloat after dark.

Lieutenant Commander T M Shannon RD RNR
OC RN Section



QVS CCF Contingent Commander's Report

I am proud to record the outstanding contribution made by the CCF Officers of all three sections in the Combined Cadet Force. These busy professional teachers, both men and women, with many and varying School commitments who still find time each week and at nominated weekends to supervise the training of the young people in the Cadet Force. This should not go by unrecognised or unappreciated and I have the honour to record my personal thanks here.

Girl Cadets

An historic milestone for the Corps came in early February of this year when the first group of girl recruits qualified as cadets and were presented with their Half Star. This would not have been possible without the contribution of our two new lady Officers: Sub Lt Lorna Shannon and 2 Lt Janette Scott. Mrs Shannon (Geography) was commissioned over and above our establishment because of the need to take in girls. For this the Corps has to thank the sterling efforts of our Headmaster and the cadet chiefs of the Senior Service. We are indebted to them both. Mrs Shannon, a former URNU Officer brings an instant experience to the Team. Miss Scott (PE) is a new member of the officer Corps but her skills and enthusiasm together with her willingness to tackle any task make her a real find. She has already qualified as an Assault Course Supervisor.

Mr Peter Onslow

The School was indeed fortunate last year to welcome as its new PT Music, Mr Peter Onslow who came with a keen interest and experienced commitment to the Cadet Organisation. With very little persuasion indeed he took over the organising and running of the Tri Service Recruit section, adding a very busy workload to an already heavy commitment to his Department. In recognition of his previous service the Cadet Executive immediately promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant.

Capt Garden

The Corps welcomed back Capt David Garden after his extended illness of last year and I would like to express our thanks to him for the way in which he now organises the Military Shooting within the Cadet Corps on Training Days.

RAF

The Corps during this past year took farewell, most reluctantly, of Flt Lt John Martindale who was a temporary but indispensable OC RAF on the retirement from the school of Flt Lt M J Boast. Mr Martindale's work enabled the section to continue without disbandment until the recent appointment of Mr David Gilhooly (PT Art) as the permanent Officer Commanding. Mr Gilhooly is new to the Officer Corps but his family have a long and distinguished history with the RAF and we are all delighted in his willingness to fill this great void. The need now, I am delighted to say, is for a second RAF Officer for this renewed and growing section.

Senior NCO's

Like our parent adult counterparts we rely very heavily upon our senior Cadets who take upon themselves the heavy burden of training others. They are the leaders in each of the three services who must prepare a lesson plan every week and gather the necessary equipment for each Wednesday Session. They are the ones who in our many weekend exercises and recruit Self Reliance weekends provide that vital example and leadership to the younger cadets. All the Officers know how much we value these young men and women. Here I have the much sought opportunity to thank each and every one of them, especially those for whom this will be last session in Cadet Uniform. Thank you.

CCF Pipes Drums and Dancers

Everyone is only too well aware of the very great commitment made to the

Corps by the Pipe Major, Drum Major and Dancing Instructress at the many parades and special CCF engagements above their ordinary school calendar. Other people look to QVS to set the standard in these fields and I know that Mr Dippie, Mr Tomkins and Mrs MacDonald have always responded most willingly in this extra area of commitment. Thank you on behalf of the whole Corps

Major Clark

The Cadet Force said farewell to Major Clark in the spring of this year on his appointment to the position of Headmaster in his own school. Major Clark's contribution to the training of the Senior Infantry Section, the Highland Tactical Competition Squad, has been outstanding. This is reflected in the last competition result when the Team achieved their highest ever placing in the Competition. He and I both look towards the Competition in 1997 with confidence, thanks to his work.

Staff Sgt Steve Coneelly, 23 Cadet Training Team

We say farewell to Staff Sgt Coneelly who returns to his Regiment having completed his tour of duty with the Training Team. Staff Coneelly has a wonderful relationship with the young cadets and this belies the great gulf in the age and experience of this professional soldier, a gunner, and the typical young raw cadet recruit. We extend to his own every best wishes for his future career,

Mr Duthie, School Sergeant Major

Most importantly over all the three sections is laid the experienced eye of our School Sergeant Major Mr Douglas Duthie (SG's). He is that steady backbone to everything that the cadets undertake and as you will know if you have ever met him this is done from the background in his quiet professional way. I, and the whole Corps, owe him a personal continuing debt of gratitude that we shall never be able to repay.

Liaison Staff

I would also like to pay tribute in a very real way to the Liaison Staff of all three services. To C.P.O. Kay of the Royal Navy; Capt Donkin of the 23 CTT and Flt Lt McCann of the Royal Air Force together with the Administrative assistance of Mr Bill Neal at Highland Brigade all of whom have kept the Corps pointing in the right direction and have given support and advice again and again. We are all indeed fortunate to have such men of this high calibre within our midst.

We go forward into the new Session of 1997 - 1998 (which is our Biennial Inspection Year) confident and much better prepared than in previous years, carried forward by the sheer enthusiasm of the Cadets whom we have the honour to serve alongside.

John R Silcox



CROSS

Cross country running, or landscape panting, was well attended this year and for the first time the boys were joined in their pavement plodding by members of the opposite sex despite the fact that according to some, running is an unnatural act except from enemies and to the bathroom. As Jeff Scaff once said: "If you want to know what you'll look like in ten years, look in the mirror after you've run a marathon". Well, not even that far - once round the playing fields was enough for some!

After watching the apparently hideous sight of women running the 800m for the first time in the 1928 Olympics, Avery Brundage suggested the spectacle should never be repeated and that it was not natural for women to run for long distances. Women, however, have gone from strength to strength in distance running and the QV girls, I am sure, will follow suit if their first season's results are anything to go by. Our under-14 girls finished first team at St Aloysius, Rannoch, and the Fettes relays. Lauren Campbell excelled herself along with Ashling Kerr at the above meetings and both had outstanding runs at the Scottish Schools where the team was 7th and also included Laura Dunnachie, Lynsey McAulay, and Lisa Milligan.

COUNTRY

Michael Brown was our top runner in the under-14 boys age-group, leading his team to second place at St Aloysius and his best individual run was a second place at Rannoch. In the St Aloysius 6-stage road relay, James Martin and Gary Cornelius started the team off well, but inexperience showed in the end and we finished further down than normal.

Gary Cornelius again showed his running ability which he coupled with rugby, finishing 3rd at Rannoch and 4th at St Aloysius. The older boys have to be commended for encouraging the youngsters in this hard sport, namely Matthew McLeish, James Martin and Barry Prowse. Other notable runners this year include Lee Jones, Dean Colvin, Jason Kuzcerea and Mark Lovell. All competed at the Scottish Schools Championships and will benefit from the experience.

It was pleasing that training was well attended this year which gives the school something to build on for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry Boast for

RUNNING...

his extensive contribution to cross country over the years. We travelled the length and breadth of Scotland in search of races for our young charges. I will never forget spending a less than stimulating day at a garage near Bothwell waiting for a replacement windscreen after a stone shattered it on the way to Dumfries. Nor will I forget the rather more than mild surprise in getting half-way back to school from Glasgow only to realise one of our cross country runners had decided to scarper home rather than return to school with us.

And those ubiquitous sick bags - that was BEFORE the races

Thanks Terry!

Steve Laing



There's a minibus in there somewhere!

Literary and Debating Society

Last June's performance of the *Cinderella Story* was memorable on several counts. Who can forget Peter Clark's willowy interpretation of the main role, as he moved from rags to riches and metamorphosed into something resembling an early Margaret Thatcher? And as for the ugly sisters - Barry Ramsay and Paul Matuszczyk - a masterpiece of casting inspiration.

The play was a short one and, to the director's dismay, became shorter with every rehearsal and performance until what was supposed to last about an hour was reduced by the nervous troupe to about thirty-five minutes!

But the play was noteworthy for one thing above all - it marked the end of the line for boys having to don women's clothes in QV productions.... or so we thought, for by the time of publication, barring major catastrophes, the Society's performance of the more challenging Terry Pratchett's *Wyrd Sisters* (dramatised by Stephen Briggs) will have taken place. It will have been noticed that one of the witches was not altogether "feminine". As rehearsals went on (since January) it became apparent that it just would not be a QV school production unless there was somewhere a boy dressed as a woman. Enter Stephen Page. It need hardly be pointed out that this is also in keeping with the theatre conventions of Shakespeare's day.

But the girls do make a very welcome addition to the Society, and we look forward to them appearing in Debating and Public Speaking Competitions in the next session. These activities did not figure largely in the 1996-1997 calendar due to my absence in October and November. We had just enough time to enter two Senior Teams for the ESU/Observer Mace Debating Competition in December and January.

Ross Seaton and Alastair Thomson performed creditably in this competition at Kilgraston, and Craig Donnelly and Paul Sowton upheld the school honour at Hutcheson's. Neither team won through but Alastair Thomson was singled out by the judges for particular praise for the quality of his performance. Craig and Alastair's creative writing talents are to be found elsewhere in this magazine, and I would mention the poetry in particular as being some of the finest I have ever seen from S6 pupils.

AK

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

There are now seventy-two pupils currently participating in the Award Scheme at all levels.

BRONZE

B Haldane	D McDiarmid
I Smith	N Kerr
A Gannon	A Moore
J Williams	C Semple
R Stevenson	D Greenhowe
C Simpson	M Crease
J Matthews	R Kerr
M McCubbin	P Barlow
B Telford	D O'Connell
C Wyllie	F MacLellan
S Milligan	V Harris
C McCubbin	C Harris
E Porter	N Dunnachie
C Bissett	S Gregory
G Heselton	G Martin
S Patience	R Adams
A Whiteford	S Watson
R Blackwood	J Donald
C McCutcheon	S Dunsmuir
A Moffat	J Trousdale
J Morrison	J Blackhurst
S Anderson	A Paisley
M Knowles	C Donnelly
J MacFarlane	J Sutherland
J Campbell	C Cunningham
S McGinty	A MacKinnon
S Page	J McDonald



SILVER

J Martin
K Davidson
I Watt
R McConnell
R Fleming
M McLeod
R Seaton
A Denholm
K MacFarlane
P Sowton
I Murray



GOLD

B Wood
S Morton
L Bissett
P Kane
L Donald
SH Murray
M Harris

This term has seen a milestone in the Award with the first two pupils completing their Gold award while still at school:- Richard Givens and Adam Morton. Well done!

With all this increased activity in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme I must thank all the staff who have been helping with a wide variety of hobbies and sports. On the Service side Mrs Hainey arranges and co-ordinates community service with visits to old people's homes, community swimming with the mentally and physically handicapped as well as First Aid and Life Saving courses. On the Expedition side invaluable help has come from Mr Kirk, Mr McLay, Mrs Shannon, Miss Milligan and Mr McIntyre.

Last year the Gold group had a successful canoeing expedition up the Great Glen from Fort William to Inverness. Here are some comments from the group:-

"Canoeing from Fort William to Inverness was an excellent experience and a great way to achieve the Gold Award."
Adam Morton

"Four days canoeing the Caledonian Canal was physically demanding but extremely rewarding, the weather was excellent and the scenery was spectacular."
Richard Givens

"After accomplishing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition I felt exhilarated and proud to have been part of the Scheme."
Scott H Murray

The Silver group also had a successful walking expedition in the Lochaber area. Their assessor had to get the train to Corroir Station, the highest and one of the most remote stations in Britain, then walk 9 miles to visit one of their camp sites. Here are some comments from the group:-

"Sun, sun and more sun and not a drop of rain. In one of the wettest parts of Britain we were prepared for three days of non stop rain. It was just our luck we picked the three hottest days of the year, and we did not have sun tan lotion."
Leigh Bissett

The Bronze groups were also successful in the local Ochils enjoying good weather and beautiful scenery.

WATERSPORTS

SAILING

We had a good sailing season last year with a number of pupils attaining National sailing certificates.

M. Sherwood	RYA Dingh Sailing Level two
J. Blackhurst	RYA Dingh Sailing Level two
L. Bissett	RYA Dingh Sailing Level two
C. Kennedy	RYA Dingh Sailing Level two
I. Watt	RYA Dingh Sailing Level one
E. Porter	RYA Dingh Sailing Level one
S. Dunsmuir	RYA Dingh Sailing Level one

Most of these pupils will be sailing again this year hoping to increase their RYA levels.

Two of our sailors, John Blackhurst and Martin Sherwood spent a week last Summer on board the Ocean Youth Training Yacht Tycoo at the end of their voyage they both received the Yacht Masters Competant Crew Award. Here is what they had to say about their trip:

"As a result of my week on board Tycoo I will be going again this Summer. I was offered the place if I completed 3 challenges and passed a selection board. I am happy to say I was successful and I am really looking forward to this adventure at sea. We will be sailing from Norway back to Scotland as part of the Tall Ships race."
John Blackhurst

Outdoor

Pursuits



WINDSURFING

As with the sailing the wind was good last year and with our new sails the boards were blasting across Lochore. A number of pupils gained National windsurfing certificates.

M. Sherwood	RYA Windsurfing Level one
J. Blackhurst	RYA Windsurfing Level one
L. Bissett	RYA Windsurfing Level one
C. Kennedy	RYA Windsurfing Level one
E. Porter	RYA Windsurfing Level one
M. Harris	RYA Windsurfing Level one

Later this season Mr Borking and myself hope to increase our instructors qualifications to cover higher levels



CANOEING

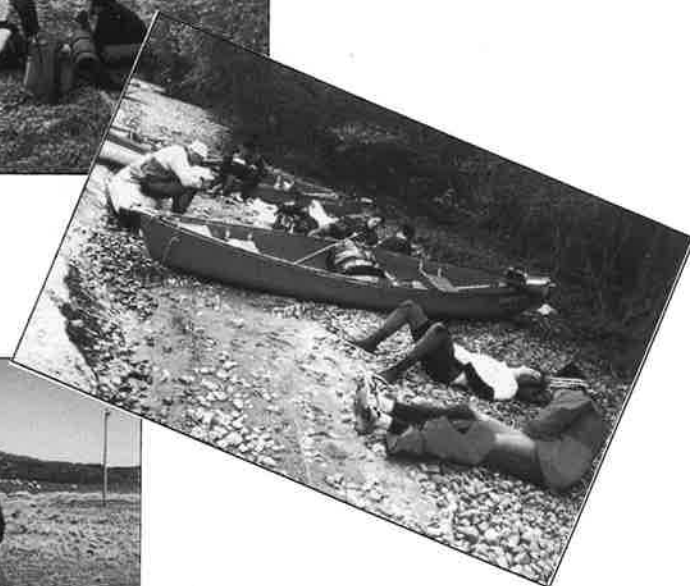
Unfortunately Mr Ron Turner will no longer be able to help with canoeing. I would like to thank him for all his help and wish him all the best in his new job. So if there are any BCU Instructors out there who would be interested in helping, give me a call.

Last years canoeist to attain British Canoe Union Awards was:

Richard McConnell BCU Two Star Certificate



Tom Shannon
Director of Outdoor
Pursuits



Here are the venues for this year's expeditions

WESTER ROSS

ARDNAMURCHAN

ARDGOUR



We have already had one Gold and one Silver and three Bronze practice expeditions this term - all successful.

"Walking in the Ardgour area was fairly demanding, however the scenery in this part of the country is beautiful and took our minds off the hike. In the shadow of Ben Nevis and with rivers and waterfalls we were never short of a pool to swim in."

Paul Kane



Jean-Philippe Cuneo

Jean-Philippe Cuneo came to us in August of this session from Merceau and the University of Orleans as the school's first ever French Language Assistant and very quickly settled not only into the Modern Languages department but also into an area previously unfamiliar to him, namely the well ordered routine of Haig House.

To both quite separate areas he has brought his immense skill and enthusiasm, his sense of humour, his very own "je ne sais quoi". In the classroom he has cajoled even the most reluctant pupil into giving of his/her best in the 'Speaking Tests' and in Haig his "get-up man" reverberating round the 6th Form 'Ritz' will long be remembered.

Jean-Philippe says he will take away so many pleasant memories of his time here - the beautiful Scottish scenery, bagpipe music, our parades, the kilts - above all the friendship of so many colleagues. He claims he will not miss the dreich Scottish winter weather, the 'tidy' habits of his flatmates James and Ryan our chips with ketchup (could this be a serious comment on the culinary delights of the Masters' Diningroom - surely not?). We, in turn, will miss his wonderful fondue parties, his realistic impersonations of selected members of the teaching staff, his 'very own Scottish accent', his amazing collection of Scottish ties - all in all his lively companionship.

On behalf of everyone here we thank Jean-Philippe for the huge contribution he has made to school life this year. We wish him well in his future career and extend to him a sincere invitation to 'Haste ye back'.

BON COURAGE J-P

Jill Howie



"Dudes"?

SENIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP 1997

MERIBEL, FRANCE

The long journey down to France went well with everyone getting picked-up and no-one being left behind.



Real cool dudes

The bus drivers were very good. Their so called 'new' videos were excellent! Police Academy 3 (made in the mid 80's) went down a treat! At 2.30pm on the Saturday we arrived at the Chalet Chardon, our 4 star home for the week. The weather was beautiful and the slopes looked brilliant as we later found out. The food turned out to be superb with baguettes at least 3 times a day. The local wine, which was free, went down well with the Seniors and Staff. We weren't going to complain!

But on the second day of skiing it all went wrong for Mr Laing. He fell while cruising down the hill at top speed - or so he tells us. Strike 3, he was out. He had broken his collar bone.

After a few days of roaming the Alps, we could see he was missing the soft snow. With various minor injuries, the insurance bill gradually increased - to Mr Beattie's horror. The chalet staff organised a BBQ for us with another school party down the road. Unfortunately, seeing as we hadn't been to Prep School and were also at least 4 or 5 years older than them, the company was not good. SH found interesting conversation with one of the School Party Leaders. He denied it all later on. Anyway, with various other evening events the week flew by. The younger boys behaved very well, as did the older ones.

Of course none of this could have happened without our Trip Leader Mr Beattie - "all I want is a T-shirt", and his assistant Mr Laing, the Accountant and Bingo Caller. Thanks very much to the both of you.

A great holiday for all. Last but not least, who could forget to thank the well kept buses of Meribel, Meribus!!

Daniel O'Connell (S4)

Old Victorians Association

President: Lt Col Ron Smith
Secretary: Stewart Wilkie
Treasurer: Gordon Griffiths
Liaison: Duncan McLay

A busy year for the OVA which has seen a continuing increase in membership plus increasing involvement in activity. Both are very pleasing aspects in respect of the aims of the Association with the coming year presenting additional challenge as I shall indicate.

Membership has risen to 953, an increase of 46 in the year. New members include Tom Hunter (2384) from Australia, Jim Fergie (930) and John Gibson (1185) representing the older OVs and Charlie Mitten (1549) our football hero of the 40s. Also recognised for their service rendered to the School are three Honorary Life Members, the Rev Archie Orrock, John Willman and Terry Boast. The increase in membership is, as usual, slightly in favour of those who have left during the past year. It would be gratifying to recruit many more OVs from previous generations. Should any readers know of potential members in that category please show them this article and suggest they contact the OVA. There are great hopes of recruiting more Australian members in the coming months. Members who have emigrated to OZ recently include James McKenzie (2722), his son Callum (3952) and Malcolm Strachan (3666). An unusual residence overseas is that of Rob McDonald (3522) in Kazakstan!

Grand Day 1996 indicated an excellent means by which a particular year group can generate a get-together. The effort of John Sutherland (3228) to promote a reunion for those who joined in 1966 was successful as indeed was a similar effort by Eddie Gibson (3324) for those who left school in 1977 to meet at the 1997 reunion. The OVA Committee is very keen to assist with the promotion of such efforts and welcomes any further activity of a like nature.

Overseas OVs present at Grand Day 1996 included Bill Armstrong (1313) and Peter Richmond (1756) from Australia and Stephen Grant (3036) from Tanzania. The Annual Reunion in March attracted approximately 100 OVs, a very pleasing turnout. The substitution of a spectator rugby event for the previously combative OVA v School game is being supported although our younger members yearn for the opportunity to play themselves. For the 1998 reunion the Committee is planning different sporting activity for the OVs, a task which will be co-ordinated by our new liaison member, Duncan McLay (3733). Duncan is welcome not only to the Committee but also back to School as a member of the teaching staff. He became Principal Teacher of PE in January. Research suggests that he is the first OV member of the teaching staff since Peter Taylor (582) back in the late 40s. Mention of Duncan leads to congratulations to his brother Ewen McLay (3610) and Ewen's great friend Robert

Bruce (3541), both now promoted to Major and selected to attend the Army Staff Course at Shrivenham/Camberley, starting in September.

The reunion provided the opportunity to welcome back our senior serving OV, Brigadier Paul Evans (2974) who took the salute at the Church Parade. Another welcome visitor was Rodney Maxwell (2634) who interrupted his post Bosnia leave to attend, bringing an old friend John McGrory (2630) with him. It is impossible to list everyone attending but special mention must be made of Charles McKenna (847), Bill Carroll (1078) and his younger(!) brother Vic (1272). It is so pleasing to see our old stalwarts back again.

As well as increasing the OVA Committee strength to four, we have had to bid farewell to Peter Gilchrist (3104) and thank him for his service to the OVA as Secretary through six years of "Stirling" support. His very welcome successor, also from Stirling, is Stewart Wilkie (3876) the youngest member of our team, a strong local team to which I hope members will continue to give their full support.

I will leave the London Branch to its own reporting except to say how honoured I was to be invited to attend their Garden Party (Bob's Bash) last September. It was a great day and a source of real fellowship and fun. The London Committee work very hard to create this local point for OV activity under the able leadership of Bob Gill (2900) and I do commend their efforts to the many OVs who live in the South of England.

Following on from the thoughts of OVs some 400 plus miles from Dunblane, leads to those thousands away. In particular I would highlight Ova in Australia. QVS - OZ 99 is only two years away and already we are making contacts with as many as possible of the Ova down under. We have names and addresses (some of the latter out of date) of more than 60 Ova in Australia and there may well be more. It would be appreciated if any readers who know of Ova in Australia would write to the OVA with names and addresses. Duplication is welcomed - it provides confirmation! This must be the most exciting and nostalgic event for Australian Ova and we would like to involve as many of them as possible. Hence reunions will be planned for each of the major venues. The OVA launched the fund-raising effort required with a donation of £1000 presented during the reunion weekend. We hope that, both individually and collectively, all ova will recognise the need for such financial support and respond accordingly.

Thinking ahead the OVA is examining the requirement to recognise OV status for girls on becoming members of the Association. Currently we have ties (@£6) and a lapel badge (@£3.50) for male ova. In discussions some of the senior girls suggested that the lapel badge would be suitable for them plus an OV scarf. Accordingly the girls have been tasked to design such a scarf, utilising school colours, and we hope to agree a design and proceed to manufacture before the end of 1997.

Normally our annual Newsletter includes mention of any degrees to ova during the preceding year. This year two special awards should be noted here. Philip O'Connor (2776) became a Doctor of Philosophy (Leices



ter University) and Bruce Dempsey (3413) graduated a Bachelor of Divinity (Glasgow University) in 1996, both achieving somewhat rare awards in our history.

An unusual tribute has been paid to the OVA by Pipe Major Dippie and Mrs MacDonald. Eileen has choreographed a new dance, The Old Victorians Reel, and the Pipe Major has composed a tune to match. The dance was performed for the ova during the reunion by a team of four boys and four girls

from S1. We were most impressed by the standard of dancing and extremely grateful for the honour of having a dance created in our name. I have suggested that we teach an OV eightsome to demonstrate it next year!

There has been little mention of the girls above. I believe that considerable reference will be made elsewhere in this edition. However, I must comment on behalf of many of the ova who have visited during the

year and have commented on how well they are settling in. The general reaction is very positive and how natural it seems to have both girls and boys working and playing around the School. A good note to finish on from an Association who might have been thought to be more conservative in their opinions.

OVA LONDON BRANCH

After a lapse of two years, the London Branch has made a successful restart with a Garden Party held in September at my home in Woodham, Surrey.

We were blessed with good weather which enabled the 15 Old Victorians and their families to eat and drink alfresco. Needless to say, reminiscences were in abundance. Lt Col Ron Smith and Isobel honoured us with their presence along with several new faces, who were Frank Blake (2089), Paul Kent (3520), Pat Paterson (1917) and Phil Spackman (1387). The regulars being Malcolm Arnett (2731), David G Brown (2198), Bob Gill (2900), Bill Kerr (2225), Andrew Kerr (3338), Paul Kerr (3380), Ian Lorimer (2759), Jim MacDonald (DoY), Iain Roe (2973) and John Scott (2039).

I am led to believe that those that came thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were looking forward to the next one, which some of you will know, will be held at 1200 hours, Saturday 6 September at my home, unless numbers become too great that we have to find

an alternative venue.

Hopefully, we have an up to date list of all members in the South East, which has been put onto computer, thanks to Ian Lorimer. If you feel that we haven't got your latest address or that you would like to become a member of the London Branch, then please inform either Ian Lorimer or myself, and we will put the wheels in motion.

If you are able, do come and support us and OZ 99 - distance need not be a problem!

I look forward to seeing you in September.



London Branch Office Bearers

Chairman	Bob Gill Winton Westwood Avenue Woodham ADDLESTONE Surrey KT15 3QF
Secretary	Ian Lorimer 5 Oakwood Court 7 Avenue Road LONDON SE25 4EQ

Old Victorians Association

OBITUARIES

It is with great regret that I have to inform you of the deaths of three Old Victorians which have been notified since the last issue of the Victorian.

666 D S McQueen

Donald passed away on 24 February 1996 at Ayr Hospital. On leaving school he joined the Highland Light Infantry and served through until the end of World War 2, when he was demobilised to pension. He then joined the Corps of Commissionaires. He was a stalwart of both OBA and OVA, providing great support as Chairman of firstly the Glasgow Branch and then the London Branch. In final retirement at Ayr he continued to support the tremendous efforts of his brother, Campbell, through the early years of the OVA.

1727 C S M Hay

Colin joined the Royal Navy as a boy on leaving school in 1942. He immediately put his QVS experience to good use by starting a Pipe Band at HMS St George, a training unit. He trained as a wireless operator and saw active service afloat including a tour in submarines. Torpedoed and rescued in the Mediterranean, he also served in the Indian Ocean and with the Home Fleet. He left the Navy in 1952 but continued to work in communications with Civil Aviation and at sea with the Ocean Weather Service and the Oil Industry. Sadly, Colin died in Glasgow on 6 May 1996.

2031 J A Gracie

John left school in 1947 destined for the traditional Army career via apprentice training to

REME. He was wounded in Korea and thus had to leave the Army. He returned to Scotland and went into industry before moving to Coventry to work with Dunlop Aviation for 27 years, initially as a Fitter and then as a Modification Control Engineer. However, this work lead him into trade union activity as a Senior Negotiator for DATA/TASS/MSF and then to political employment as a Labour election agent in 1983 in the Yardley Constituency. His efforts there were successful with the election of Estelle Morris as MP in the 1992 General Election. In addition, he had been Chair of the Yardley Constituency Labour Party, a School Governor and a member of the Birmingham Scottish Pipe Band. John died at home in Birmingham on 21 December 1996.

THE REVEREND ALEX RITCHIE

The Reverend Alex Ritchie, School Chaplain from 1968-1972, died in January 1997. Two tributes have been received, each from Ministers very closely and differently involved with the School.

The Reverend Archie Orrock (School Chaplain after Alex Ritchie) writes:

I first came in contact with Alex Ritchie, a neighbouring parish minister from Helensburgh, some 25 years ago. He was appointed as Chaplain to the School which he served with great acceptance and faithfulness till he was called to be Chaplain at Glasgow University.

His great strength was in the power of his preaching, the boys, or most of them, listening attentively to his Gospel messages every Sunday. In all his work for the School he was ably assisted by

is wife, Isa, to who we offer our very sincere sympathy. Apart from Chapel duties he took a full part in all departments of the School. He was always understanding and ready to help.

He was a born musician and struck a close musical friendship with Norman Bruce. Together they produced each year a Carol Concert of a very high standard.

His departure left a severe gap and thus I was very grateful to him for all the help he gave me on succeeding him. He set a path I tried to follow. We remember with affection a Man of God, who loved the School, who gave unstintingly of his many gifts to foster the Christian Good of QVS.

The Reverend Bruce Dempsey, an Old Victorian (3413), writes:

My main reason for writing is to report the passing of the Reverend Alex Ritchie. I came across him while training for the ministry and, although not in contact very often, we did speak of the School when we met up. I was privileged to attend his funeral which was very well attended and took it upon myself to represent the OVA when asked my connection with him. It was a very moving service with tributes painting a picture of a very sincere and well loved man; a man filled with a great compassion for people and an interest in them as individuals. This is something I have personal memories of and did not find anything in these tributes to be wild exaggerations. It was a fitting end for a faithful and Godly man. Even after his retirement from his chaplaincy at Glasgow University he continued to work tirelessly as assistant to the minister of St David's Church, Knightswood.



Staff Obituaries

R W E SCOTT BSc

It is with great regret that we report the death in February 1997 of Robin Scott, who taught at the School from 1967 until his retirement in 1985 when he returned to his home in Melrose.

Robin served in the RAF during the second World War and travelled extensively in the Middle East during that time. He had a keen interest in most sports especially badminton and tennis, at which he represented Southern Counties. He was a staunch supporter of the RSPB and found bird watching a very restful hobby when he was less able to dash around the badminton court.

In 1967 Robin came to us as a Chemistry Teacher from Kirkcudbright Academy, where he had taught for 2 years, and in 1972 he took on the responsibility of Housemaster in Haig House which he enjoyed greatly. He assisted with junior rugby, tennis and badminton and gave unstintingly of his time and energy to the welfare of the boys in his care. He had a very good singing voice and sang with the School Choir. His performance as one of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Three Little maids from School" in a School Revue will be long remembered!

Robin Scott was a very conscientious and caring person and was held in very high regard by pupils and staff alike.

PIPE MAJOR JOHN MACKENZIE, BEM FSA (SCOT)

Last year's Victorian carried the sad news of the death of John MacKenzie and it is only now that a suitable tribute can be made.

John was Pipe Major of the 2nd and 8th Battalions of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and joined Queen Victoria School on his retirement in 1964. He was an enthusiastic and diligent teacher, imparting his wide knowledge of pipe music to his pupils.

He entered my life in 1974 when I became Commandant of Queen Victoria School. We worked together for ten years at a crucial time in the history of the school, when it was undergoing the traumas of change and civilisation. The character and example of the small military staff was vital to the success of this operation, and to the retention of the military traditions of the school. John was unequivocal in his support and loyalty in the face of the difficulties which accompanied the transition. I used often to go quietly along to the Band Room for a chat and to seek his opinion and advice. I could not have wished for a stauncher colleague.

Year after year John produced results with the Pipes and Drums which added so much to the reputation of the school. It would have been easy to lose the Murrayfield engagement if our standard had slipped. But there was never the least fear of this when John was in charge. He had a happy knack of getting the best out of the boys. He stood no nonsense but cared for his young charges. He got his results by skill, personality and leadership; humour too played a part.

Many tributes have been paid to John's professional ability and dedication, and to his character and charm; he was a wonderful companion. His Regiment has lost, at a comparatively early age, one of its truly great Pipe Majors. I have lost one of the truest and dearest friends I have ever had. Long may we cherish his memory.

Brigadier H H M Marston MC
Commandant QVS 1974-1984

Music Department

The music department has had a busy year with many varied activities taking place. At the end of last summer term, there was the traditional Summer Concert in the chapel in which members of the school were able to demonstrate their skills. The windband was able to present a number of items - the swinging 60s were represented by *When I'm Sixty-Four* and *He ain't heavy, he's my Brother* (the title of this number belies the quality of the song!). A more up-to-date air was established with an arrangement of *Can you feel the love tonight*. The more traditional members of the audience (and band) were catered for with the *March Slaidburn*, in which the trombones were given full rein, and the lovely *Evening Hymn* and *Cavalry Last Post* in which Steve MacKinnon was the solo trumpet from the balcony. The latter suffered from tuning problems caused by the warm weather but it was nonetheless effective. Many solo items were also presented and it would be difficult to name all performers. However, a large part was played by Paul Matuszyk and John Nelson on piano, Callum Kennedy on saxophone, Gordon Laughlin and Andrew Paisley on trombones. Leigh Bissett also enthralled us with the *Sentry's Song* from *Iolanthe* and *Stars* from *Les Miserables*. A surprise item was presented by a senior team of kazoo players who should probably have stuck to their usual instruments!

The new academic year began and Christmas approached rapidly. The last Sunday of term saw the presentation of the carol service with items by the choir (*Torches*, *When Children rule the World*); P7 choir (*Mary had a Baby*, *Carol of the Huron Indians*, delightfully accompanied by 1A glockenspiel players, (*The Cowboy Carol*); windband (*When Santa got stuck up the Chimney*, *Mary's Boy-Child*). Several of these items were repeated with many individual ones for two performances of the carol concert nearly a week later.

Having girls taking part certainly added a new flavour to things and Claire Harris must be singled out for her solo singing and duet with Leigh Bissett. The concerts were brought to a memorable close with Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh-Ride* arranged as a saxophone/trombone duet (Callum Kennedy and Andrew Paisley), nobly accompanied by Tammy Allan (orchestral whip) and Laura Donald (sleigh bells)!

On the teaching front, we have been most fortunate in having a twenty-four place keyboard laboratory installed. This state-of-the-art equipment enables pupils to work at their own pace on keyboard skills and also permits group playing. As classes go through the school this will make an enormous difference to note-reading skills and will give much enjoyment.

Several pupils took part in the Glasgow Music Festival in March. Andrew Paisley gained a Merit Certificate with 81% for a trombone solo and Colin Wood came second out of fifteen other players with a saxophone solo. His mark was 86% giving him a First-Class Certificate. Leigh Bissett kept the Head of Music running backwards and forwards to Glasgow! His first entry under



the Changed Voices under 18 class gained him a second place with 86%. The following day, he came first in both the Gilbert and Sullivan aria class (89%) and, against very stiff opposition, in the Songs from the Shows class with a performance of *Stars*. The latter gained him a mark of 90% and an Honours Certificate. He was invited back twice more to sing in a winners' competition and a winners' concert and was offered a place in the Glasgow Philharmonic Choir. Well done Leigh!

In April, Leigh, joined by Callum Kennedy and Andrew Paisley performed through to the final round of the Dunblane and Bridge of Allan Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year competition - excellent performances all round.

As we go to press, preparations are under way for the next summer concert. In this, there will be performances of several pupil compositions for the windband, piano and other ensembles. It is very pleasing to see such work being performed rather than remaining as classroom exercises for coursework requirements.

The end of a busy year approaches but tribute must be paid to the team of peripatetic teachers who teach during the evenings throughout the year and without whom much of the above would be impossible. Many thanks to all.

The following passed music examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Guildhall School of Music:

June/Nov 1996:

Grade 5

Richard Kerr	trumpet
Gordon Laughlin	trumpet (with merit)
Andrew Paisley	trombone (with merit)

Grade 4

James McQuade	trumpet
John Blackhurst	theory

Grade 2

Colin Wood	alto saxophone (with honours)
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Grade 1

John Blackhurst	piano
Gareth Martin	piano
Alasdair Spence	clarinet (with merit)

TERRY BOAST

Terry was appointed Principal Teacher of Games and PE in April 1979 having previously been at Rannoch and the Downs School.



He was educated at Wymondham College, Norfolk and St Luke's College, Exeter where he became a formidable rugby player and an outstanding athlete. His ability in the field, coupled with his extensive knowledge of these sports, and others, made him an excellent coach and as a result many boys benefited and a number represented Scotland at schools level - Patrick McGrath, Douglas Sutherland, George Campbell, Stuart Mackay, Andrew Casey, Stephen MacKinnon and Graeme Hancock. Terry's main speciality was Hammer and Pole Vault - the more technical, the more he excelled in his teaching.

His input into schools athletics went further as he was (and still is) a Scottish Schools Committee member and a regular official at athletics meetings. Terry organised the first Scottish Primary Schools Cross Country Championships at Queen Victoria School in 1987 which proved so successful it had to move to larger premises at Kirkcaldy and even today goes from strength to strength.

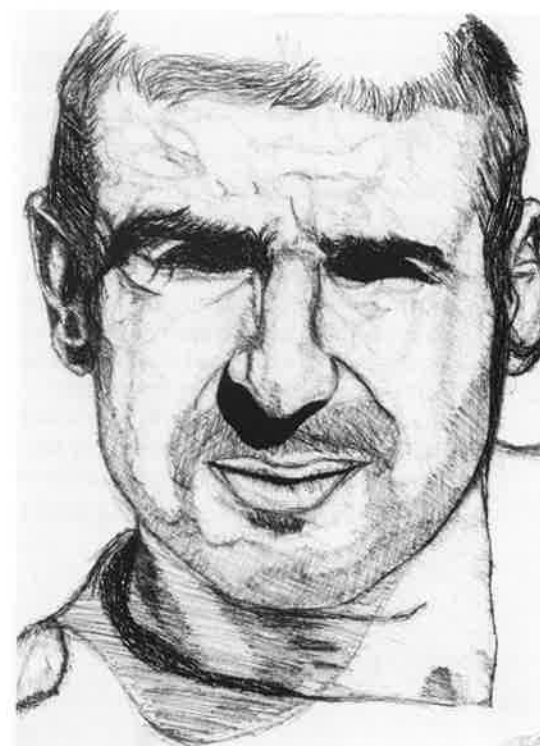
Terry was a committed boarding school teacher with virtually some

part, if not all, of every weekend taken up with rugby, cross country, athletics, skiing etc and quite often a combination of these. He was coach to the 1st XV and organised rugby for many years. He took endless trips to Hillend, Tillicoultry and Glenshee for skiing practice, mainly in preparation for the senior ski trip which he led each Easter to some exotic Alpine resort. If a mini-bus was seen trundling down the school drive packed with boys, it was a fair bet it was Terry heading off to some sporting event.

Many boys will look back with fond memories at the cross country weekends, many which were spent at Corlaw, a run-down farmhouse in the middle of nowhere. This was where Terry put his organisational skills, as well as his culinary abilities into practice. He was always in his element preparing meals for a dozen or so boys on a two-ring gas stove with virtually no light and a temperamental water supply. Who can forget the endless miles travelling over remote forest tracks with the boys hitting their heads off the bus roof as it took flight once again?

Terry contributed to the school in a much wider context. He was heavily involved in the CCF and developed skills as a quick change artiste, usually from tracksuit into RAF uniform. Being head of that section, he took many boys to Air Experience Flying and summer camps.

In addition, he was a loyal Assistant Housemaster to Bill Webster in Trenchard House with the end of session Barbecue a definite highlight. Terry's unique(!) sense of humour will be missed along with the click, but no bang, of his starting pistol on sports day and his general loyalty to the school. His departure leaves us with one of the great unsolved mysteries of our time - he initialled everything M. J. B. - so where did the Terry come from? We wish him a happy and fulfilling (semi) retirement.



Gold Cup

My family home is in Gloucester and, as this is the case, I have had the opportunity to visit Cheltenham for the horse-racing. During the drama and excitement of the race I found myself wondering about the pattern of emotion that a horse experiences during the race. I attempted to catch this emotion in 'Gold Cup' as well as commenting on the morality of using animals in this fashion.

A strip of green I see before me,
Narrowed, darkened at the sides,
A wall of noise it roars around me,
Lurid silk upon me rides.
Faster, faster, always faster, whipped and urged ahead, I run.

Glistening metal cage evaporates,
Sweating human cage remains,
Little beast says, "Were the favourites",
As he tightens on the reins.
Faster, faster, always faster, whipped and urged ahead, I run.

Surging, sweeping, driving onward,
Meadow memories flitter by,
Far removed from charging forward,
Flies and hay and lazy skies.
Faster, faster, always faster, whipped and urged ahead, I run.

Grabbed by grubby fists of lens's,
Of the field I surge ahead,
Hooven thunder dims and cleanses,
By this gentle rhythm sped.
Faster, faster, always faster, whipped and urged ahead, I run.

At the highest hedge I tumble,
Brave and proud I take the fall,
Knees and pride and jockey crumble,
Let the devil take them all.
Slower, slower, ever slower, prone and broken I drift beyond.

Driving

This is a short, reflective poem attempting to address some of the feelings evinced by a separation. It is not quite a sonnet, deliberately so to reflect the unfulfilled aspirations of the subject.

The angled rear-view mirror cushions
muted rays of headlight dazzle.
Dog-eared dice frame a taped, torn
photograph, instamatic time capsule of
warm moments of togetherness. The muzzle
of separation, now in force, slays scents of onions
frying gently, a low heat simmer whose
soft perfume flooded the home they
shared. Wallowing in the 'kindly' cruelty of fate,
drifting, dreaming reflections now too late
to save a time they worshipped at the feet of day.
They lived; loved, and in loving lived to lose.

Alastair Thomson(S6)

Media

Sitting on a train I read the first line of this poem on a brown paper refreshments bag. I began thinking about the ways and means we have devised for getting the message across. 'Media' was the result.

Hot beverages
in thy sight are like an evening gone
with the wind
oh! Cleaner, fresher, tidier Britain
never never ever shall be
all that you can
you spare the time
for tea and t for time
like an ever rolling stream
of consciousness.
I wonder when
Israel was in Egypt's land
of the free and the home of the brave
heart
of gold
bug by Edgar Allen Poe
river in northern Italy where I
have a dream, that one day
lambs will lie down
and out
fought
like tigers
kill, in India, more people
come and people go
west, where the air is clear
and present danger
danger Will Robinson
Crusoe lived alone
restless, breakfast table in an otherwise empty
room
with a view
to a kill
a mockingbird
on the wing and a prayer
of thanks.

Chimera

Mythology is a subject that never fails to capture my interest and the idea of a creature composed of the worst features of three animals is particularly fascinating. In the era of genetic engineering this strange composition is especially pertinent and I have presented this phenomenon in a concrete form. It was influenced by the concrete poetry of Edwin Morgan.

A Level Champion Exists Uniquely

HERO
EVEN
REAL
ONLY

This, despite its rather pretentious title, is just an experiment in acrostic verse that I have included to show some of the interchangeability possible between words.

Goat Snake Lion
Gruff Venom Roar
Horns Scales Mane
Billy Fangs Teeth
Beard Slither Hunt
Butt Hiss Pride
Temper Temper Temper
Goat Snake Lion
Goat Snake Lion
Goat Snake Lion
GoatSnakeLion
GoaStnakLeion
GoSantaLkieon
GSonaaLtkioen
MAN

In Relationships 1997

This concrete poem was influenced by e.e.cummings. I liked the idea of representing emotions or states through the form of words on the page. This form also gave me some scope to comment on the nature of relationships in a decade that is searching for its identity, such as our own.

Bob and Sarah are inc:omp:ati:ble

Frank and Julie are in o p h i l
c e n b e
m r e s

Rick and Flora are

Clive and Lynn are invisible

G a r y
a n d are indivisible
S a l l y

Ian and Shirley are INVINCIBLE

Patrick and Shirley are inconsistent

Keith and Marion are inserted

detrevni era yram dna deT

FEVER PITCH

A new term of office in the Haig constituency saw the Cabinet remaining stable (as far as is possible with responsibility for 72 devoted and fully paid up members of the Hedonism Party) and is made up of:

myself, PM and Secretary of State for Health, until I and my skis had a recent and violent parting of the ways en piste; Graeme Beattie - Deputy PM (Party Man as in tooters, hooters, Irn Bru and Spice Girls) with portfolio (although a horse in a hooped skirt could draw better pictures); Kath and Bert Tomkins (Home Office); Jean-Philippe Cuneo (Foreign Office); Bill Webster (Chancellor of the Exchequer); Alan Kirk (Minister for speaking English like what it should be spoke); John Silcox (Minister for Defence - or just a Minister really); Jill Howie (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland); and Mrs Duthie and Mrs Cullen (Responsibility for the Environment).

There was the usual re-shuffle amongst the back-benchers - out with the old, in with the new, and with quite a few peers going to the Upper House (well, up the stairs anyway). Chief

Whip Mark Harris has been keeping order admirably along with Paul Kane and Ross Seaton. Other Whips ensuring the party line is toed include Andrew Denholm (Junior Minister for Fisheries and Food) who dispenses Papa's chips on a Saturday night, and Callum Kennedy, Minister for Telecommunications - he's never off the phone. Special mention also of Michael Crease who is so gorgeous he should be made a national monument under the protection of the Secretary of State for Scotland; Ian Ramsay, Minister for Aviation (he's always on a high); Peter Clark, Minister for the Arts (always has an eye for a heavenly body); and Andrew Paisley, Minister for Music who wakes us up every Sunday morning playing the Toblerone ably assisted by Nigel sorry, Callum Kennedy doing his Lisa Simpson impersonation.

Commiserations to Ryan Tervit who was Transport Minister up until his snake-board was confiscated. It was re-confiscated with another Ryan (Ryan Kerr) at the helm, and he is our most recent ex-Transport Minister although a prime candidate for the post is Scott Murray, now licenced to thrill and occasionally posing with the wheels, the wrap-round shades, and the attitude (although no sign as yet of the blonde bimbo in the passenger seat).

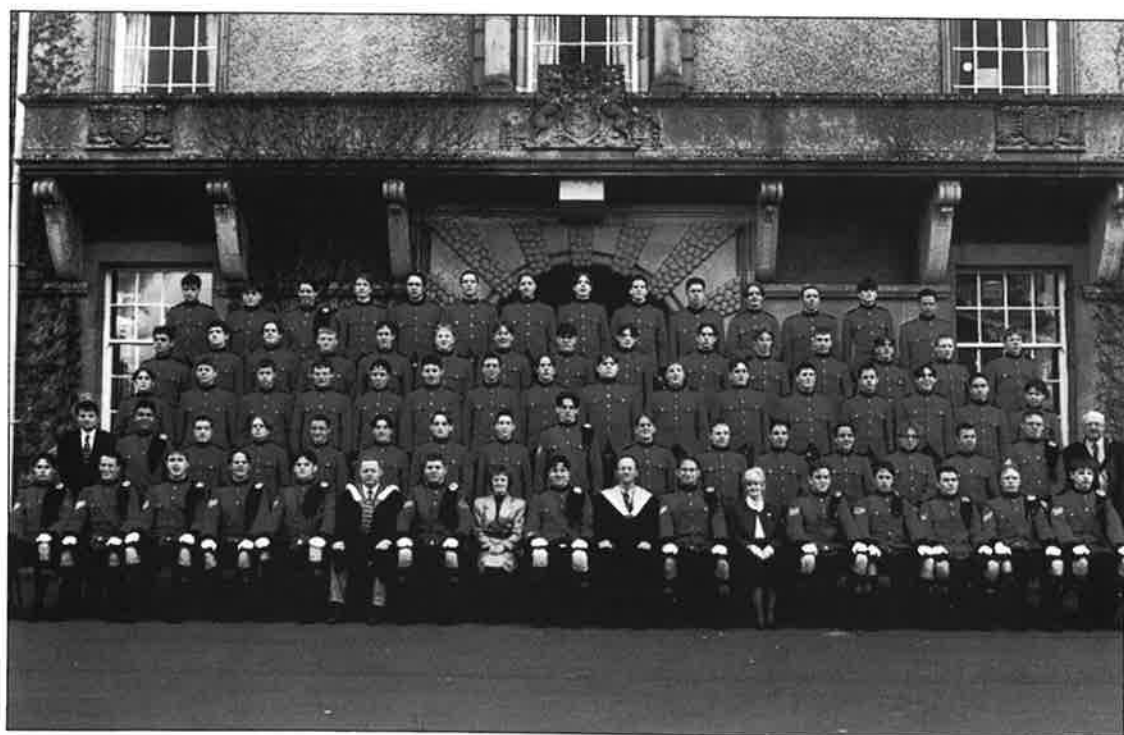
Our dearly departed (well, gone to the army) Minister for Putting Your Big Foot in It, Matthew McLeish is sadly missed and no longer to be seen running miles round Dunblane in his semmit,

cunningly timing his run to coincide with the High School girls appearing at 3.45pm.

The Haig Spokesman for (school) Law, Richard Givens, has certainly been keeping the PM on his toes, quoting Roman Law, Scots Law, Case Law, Natural Law, Gresham's Law, law of averages and where appropriate, law of the jungle, while the PM remains quite insecure in the knowledge of Murphy's Law. Alistair MacKinnon has been lobbying for vehicles to be parked the correct distance from the Main Building and may well be setting a precedent by returning for a seventh year being a very Junior Minister. There will be a GAP, or a couple of GAPS actually, as Craig Simpson and Jamie Crouch head off abroad as students. Shaun Fenwick is the out-going John Major, sorry, Drum Major, while Paul Sowton is just out-going!

The Constitution was slightly amended to cope with the influx of the opposite sex, for example: "Thou shalt not question the length of their hair or sideburns (where appropriate)".

This long heralded influx produced a strong lobby led by Kyle MacFarlane on behalf of the Equal Rights for Toast Eaters Party who felt it unfair that while ALL those in skirts apparently got toast at breakfast, only those young men in the right trousers qualified for toast eating privileges. Those in the wrong trousers didn't even get a cracker, Gromit. No doubt this subject will pop up again.



Three discos were held in the constituency when the boys were not too conservative in their dress, laboured to attract the opposite sex, where quite liberal with their charm (or what passes for), and while some formed alliances, most retained their independence.

The Reel Party headed off to Balls at Kilgraston, St Leonards, St Denis & Cranley and St Margaret's, donning kilts and a Nicky Fairbairn attitude. M Cuneo renewed the auld alliance by taking part in the above skirlings and birlings, but could not be persuaded to attend "sans pantalon". A de-bagging could be imminent!

Media studies (or gaun tae the pichurs) proved very popular, and Mr Beattie (not Warren) led several forages to the

UCI in search of giant tubs of popcorn, cheesy nachos, and three-gallon cartons of Dr Pepper (diet of course). There were also visits to see Fame and Riverdance and the Heritage Department organised a trip to see Scotland beating Sweden at Ibrox where we were surrounded by screaming primary school kids (a bit like home really).

Many thanks to Ron Turner for coaching the canoeing and to all party workers who have been so supportive throughout the year. I look forward to your continued vote of confidence and backing as we head towards another campaign in August.

PARTY ON LAING!!

WAVELL HOUSE NOTES

August 1996 ushered in a new era in Wavell House. Formerly home to eighty small boys in Primary 6 and Primary 7, it has become a house for Primary 7 boys and all girls from Primary 7 to S6. The House operates as a unit, the only difference being that Primary 7 occupies the ground floor with all girls occupying the middle and top floors.

Everyone soon settled in to this new format and quickly operated as a House. A number of trips took place in the Autumn/Winter terms to such venues as Perth swimming pool and Stirling ice rink, culminating in Primary 7's visit to *Peter Pan* at Alloa Town Hall at Christmas. The highlight of the Winter term was Wavell Christmas Party, where much fun was

had, especially during the Wavell Grand Talent Contest. Staff and House were entertained by numerous items including five versions of the Spice Girls. Not to be outdone, Primary 7 boys offered their very credible performance as a pop group. The outright winner was Tammy Allan on her clarinet, and second were Laura Dunnachie and Lynsey McAuley with their disco dancing. Well done to all!

Trips continued in the Summer Term to venues such as the cinema in Clydebank, Families' Day at Murrayfield, Olympia Centre, Dundee, and finally a much-enjoyed visit to *Oliver!* at Alloa Town Hall.

Both boys and girls threw themselves enthusiastically into the Primary and Intermediate Drill

Competitions. Big brothers were to be seen outside Wavell House helping not only little brothers but their friends as well to put that last vital shine on to the brogues. Primary 7A and Primary 7B competed against each other and it ended up honours even; David Walker and his Primary 7B Guard won the Drill, and Murray McLeod, Guard Commander of Primary 7A won the Best Guard Commander Award.

Not to be outdone, the Wavell Girls' Intermediate Guard won the Turnout and Drill Competitions but were pipped by the Cunningham Guard led by Ross Biggart (Best Intermediate Guard Commander), who won the overall competition. Watch out next year, boys!

Mrs Hainey



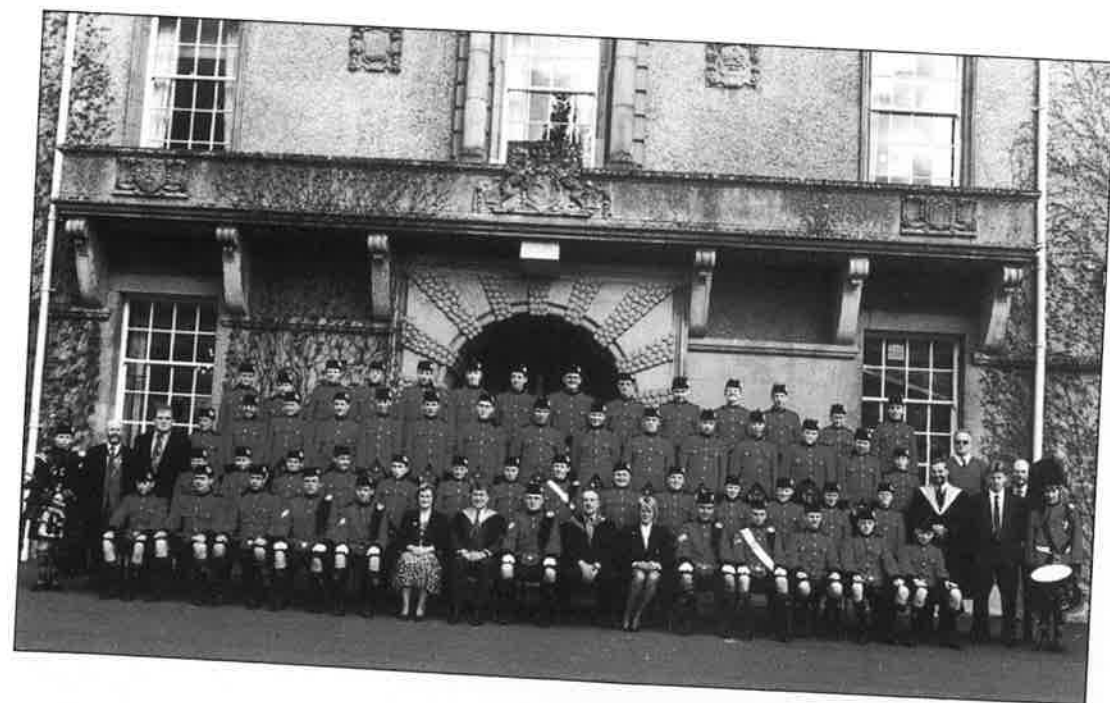
CUNNINGHAM HOUSE NOTES

Another year has passed and for Mrs Kean and myself it is something of an anniversary as we have been in Cunningham for five years. During this period there have been many changes, the most significant being the intake of girls. An advantage is that we no longer have to cancel Discos because of a lack of girls although the boys would have you believe there are never enough. Mr Dale has been Assistant for the year and a very welcome addition. Unfortunately Mrs Nairn has been ill for most of this year and Mrs Karen McVay has been helping out in her absence. Karen's assistance in the Junior dorm has been very welcome especially by some of the newer first year.

The House trips continue to various venues and hopefully this June we can repeat our First year camping weekend. We have not had any real disasters although

Edward Porter managed to swallow a small ring while rigging a boat. He put it in his mouth for safe keeping. Alas, lost forever. Mrs Kean continues to take short walks to the Leigh hills but her flock sometimes find more attractive pursuits. The Panto as ever was a great success although it seems sometimes that I am the only one young enough to enjoy it as the boys are far too mature for Pantos. On the subject of Pantos there is a video in the house office of some events through the years involving the boys, such as the Drill Competition, which is available from the house office.

The boys enjoy continued success in a wide variety of activities outwith their academic studies. It has been a great advantage having a small number of Fifth and Sixth year in the house and I am grateful for all their support and assistance.



TRENCHARD HOUSE NOTES

What a year! After having spent the first twenty years of my career at Q.V.S. working in Wavell, it was something of a culture shock to be thrust into Trenchard and be faced with a totally different outlook. No longer was it homesickness, has the dog been walked or did Gran get to bingo last night, to be considered as the main problems facing a group of young people living away from home, but rather helping someone coming to terms with being jilted for the first time or being terribly self conscious and having to deal with plooks and spots!

I must confess to being quite apprehensive last August- and so I was proved right. Instead of a baptism of fire Trenchard had to endure floods. In the first term we had no fewer than four of them, the first of which succeeded in reaching the Senior Monitor's bunk and soaking the Bursar! (I don't think anyone's done that before or since!) However we managed to weather the storm and have come through the first year with me as the Housemaster and we're still here. I have to say, in all honesty, that my first year in Trenchard has been very challenging and very enjoyable. For it to be so is due to the tremendous support that I received from the boys and the team of staff in the

house, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank every individual in the house especially my House Captain Tom MacDonald and Vice Captain Alistair Thomson, House Prefects James Martin, Gordon Laughlin, Jamie MacDonald, Robert Barclay, Scott DeGernier and Craig Kintrea. Miss Chalmers, Mrs Devlin, Mrs Cullen, Mrs Stockman provided good care and support. The house team comprising Mr Dow, Mr Gilhooly, Mr Clark, Mr Garden, Mr Bruce, Mr McLay, Mr McGeoch and Mr Martindale. To each and everyone I offer my thanks, because without their experience and support this house master would have sunk without trace by October! A house is only as good as the people who live and work there, and I have been fortunate to have had a great team and great boys to work with, and as a result I look forward with confidence to next year which I am sure will be even more successful.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my wife Maureen for her tremendous patience and understanding in having to put up with my highs and lows.



INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

The most interesting thing that has happened this year has not been on the field of play in this school, but on fields in other parts of Scotland.

Two of the School's most successful team to date - the Cup-winning team of 1995 - have gone on to be offered professional forms by full-time clubs. Surpassing all difficulties, John Black has won through magnificently to a place with Airdrie F.C. This in turn has brought him the highest honours he can win in football at his age level - Scottish Cup and Scottish League Winners' medals in the U.16 age group. We hope these will be merely a prelude to the real thing in a few years, John!

Simultaneously, Scott Connelly, the four-goal smash-and-grab man from the '95 Final, has been offered professional terms with Inverness Caledonian, albeit as a midfielder rather than a hit-man. Scott has had several games in the Inverness first team and has been on television. Again, lots of luck with your future, Scott.

On the playing field, this has been an undistinguished year. The U.15 team made a first-round exit in the 'Perthshire' against St Columba's. This was very galling, as we had home advantage and were leading 2 - 0 after only half an hour, only to throw it away 5 - 2.

Personally, I blame the Manager.

Spectator



SENIOR FOOTBALL

PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS CUP

In our opening game of this campaign, we found ourselves 1-0 down to Blairgowrie after the first five minutes. As the final whistle went, however, we had turned the game round, thanks to a hat-trick by Richard Givens. Our 7-3 victory was all the more commendable as a number of our key players were sidelined due to injury.

St Columbus, our semi-final opponents proved a more formidable team and by half-time they were leading 4-0. The turning point came in the second half when captain Craig Simpson rifled home a 25 yard screamer which was the catalyst for a plethora of goals from Andrew Denholm, Ross Seaton, Andrew Paisley, Alistair MacKinnon, Michael Crease, Paul Kane and Scott Murray. Final score, 7-5 to Queen Victoria School.

QV lined up for its third consecutive final in this tournament against Perth High School who played the better football on the day and convincingly beat us. The old QV cliché of "we just didn't produce the goods on the day" was sounded once again at the end of the match.

All in all the 1st XI performed exceptionally well without official training practices, something I hope will be rectified in the future. In the meantime, stroll on next season and thanks to all staff for their help and support.

Craig Simpson

INDOOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Throughout the bleak mid-winter, eight randomly chosen teams were involved in the above league, each playing each other three times with the carrot of Haig Tuck Shop as major sponsor.

For once we had serious challengers for the title which made a change from the usual one-horse race. Despite stalwart work from the teams led by Craig Simpson and Kyle MacFarlane, it was Andrew Denholm and his merry men - Mark McCubbin, Craig Kintrea, Naill Mackay and JR McCulloch and every present substitutes Mark McLeod and Barry Prowse, who were eventual winners. Mark McCubbin was top scorer with 27 goals.

My fourth placing team at least saved face by staying above the staff team, but commiseration's must go to Alistair MacKinnon's squad who won only two games - one a walkover when the staff team failed to appear - thus amassing a huge six points out of a possible 63!

Many thanks to Mr Tomkins for the refereeing, ably assisted by Mr Warner and some of the senior lads.

S H Murray

Schools Invitation

An indoor tournament for Independent Schools was held in our sports hall on 26th January. Two teams from Edinburgh Academy, Stewart's Melville, Strathallan and QV competed in two round robin leagues. The winners of each league played in the final when QV narrowly beat Strathallan.

Many thanks indeed to Geoff Bolton of Strathallan for organising this competition.

**School Teaching Staff**

Back Row: J Howie, J Lawrence, D Kelling, D Gilhooly, J McGeoch, S Laing, T King, G Beattie
Middle: S Johns, G Carroll, C Milligan, I Dow, T Dale, J-P Cuneo, P Onslow, L Shannon, J Scott
Front: D Garden, D Stewart, G Borking, L Clark, B Raine, A Hainey, T Shannon, J Silcox, D McLay

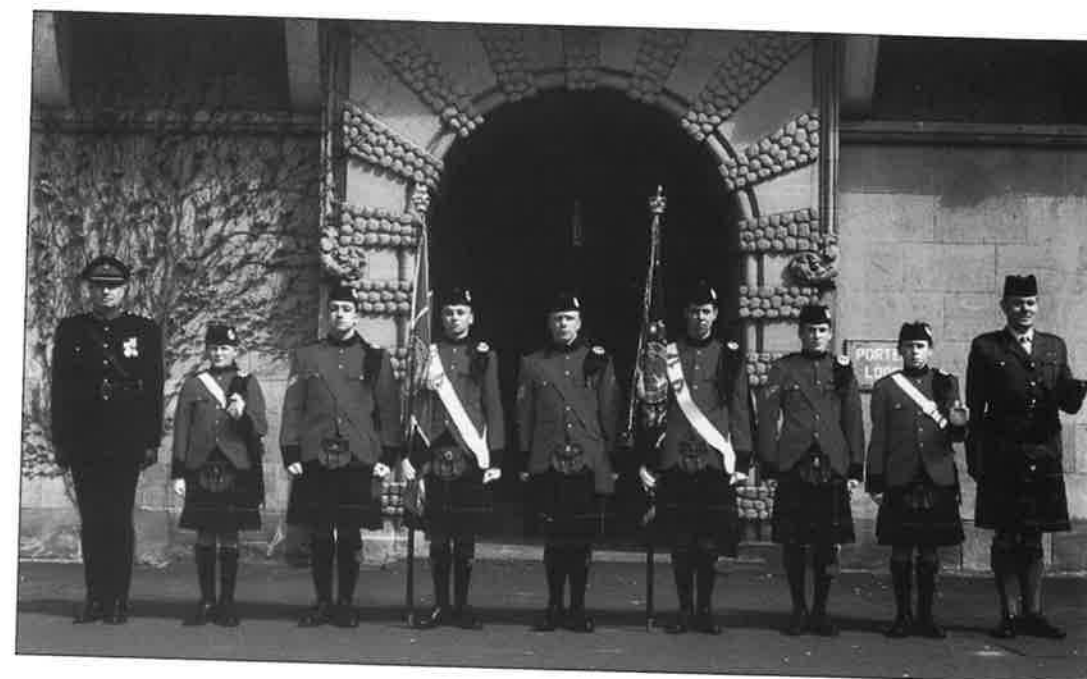
**S1 Rugby Team**



Headmaster, with Monitors and Prefects



Boy Pipe Major, Callum Kennedy
Boy Drum Major, Shaun Fenwick



The Colour Party



The Pipe Band

The First Forty-one

The first forty-one girls were intrepid in their first year. The year has had its moments of difficulty with the boys trying to accept the girls for what they are (especially the three prefects).

For many of the girls the first term was a nightmare but we would like to thank many of the senior boys for helping us through it. We have all had to put up with the sarcastic comments and little jokes from the boys - we think one favourite was 'What do you call a woman who works in an office? A cleaner.' However the jokes soon stopped.

Through all the ups and downs the girls have managed to pull through and have a firm hold in many of the school's traditional activities. Girls from P7 - S4 have joined in with the piping, drumming and dancing and many of the dancers have passed their first exams, which is an excellent start. Girls from S2 - S3 have participated in the school's Combined Cadet Force, and many have passed their tests and gained their half stars.

The first year in Wavell has been reasonably successful although there have been a few mishaps and changes along the way. The biggest change was the departure of Miss Murdoch, Wavell Housemistress, so Mr and Mrs Duthie took over the running of the house.

We don't think any of the girls will forget their first year at QVS which has probably been one of the most eventful years of our lives. Although it has taken some time, the boys are gradually getting used to the girls in their everyday life and they are hopefully getting used to the fact that QVS will never be the same again.

Wavell Girls



Established in Victorian Times



Still Serving in the 90's

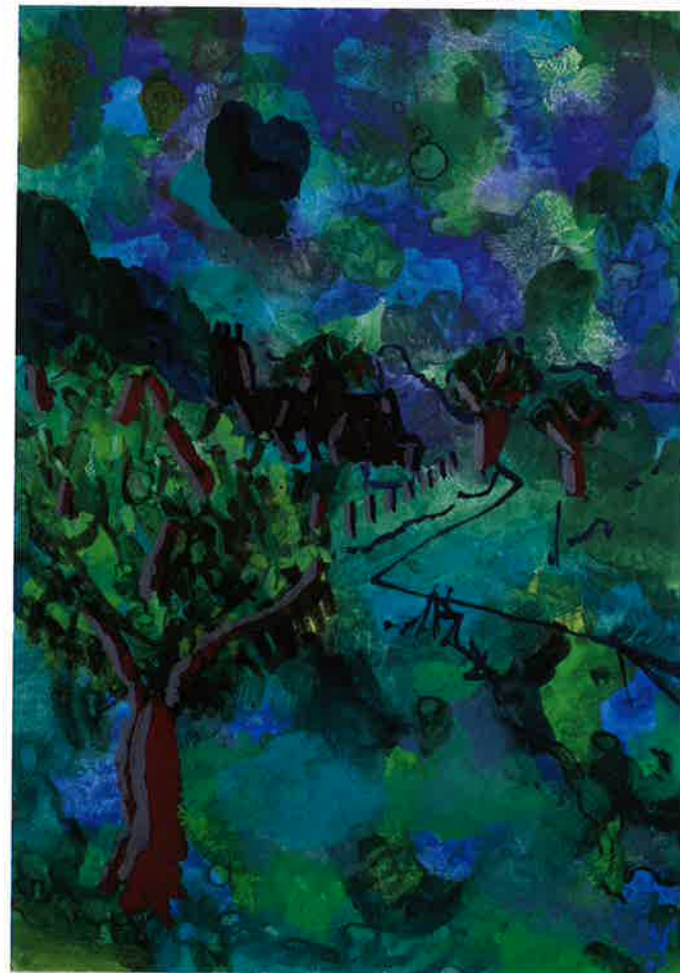
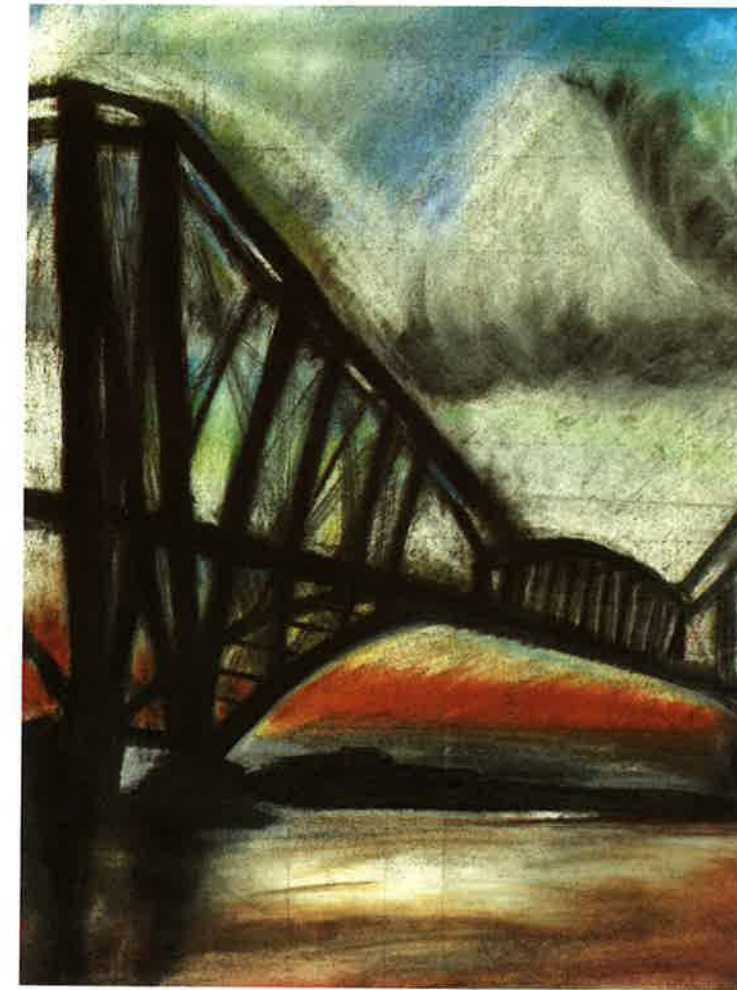


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