

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL THE VICTORIAN



1999





Pipe Band and Australian Tour Party

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 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 includes 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

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Queen Victoria

School Staff

HEADMASTER
D/HEADMASTER
ASST HEADTEACHER

B Raine BA (Hons) PGCE
 C Philson BA(Hons)PGCE
 A Hailey MA PGCE

BURSAR
 Col (Retd) A R Tapp / I
 McGregor

HOUSEMASTERS/HOUSEMISTRESS
Haig J S Laing Dip Tech EdnPT (C&D)
Cunningham H W G Tomkins
Trenchard G D M Carroll BA DCEPGCG
Wavell M McGlashan Cert Edn / A
 MacDougall BEd

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 ACertCM Cert Ed
 D Stewart BSc (Hons)

TEACHING STAFF
 G J Beattie MA MEd PGCE (Asst HoM Haig)(Asst PT)
 E Blackwood BEd
 G Borking BEd
 T A Dale BSc Cert Ed (Asst PT)
 I Dow BEd (Hons) T Cert Dip SEN
 J Johnstone MA (Hons) PGCE (Asst HoM Wavell)
 D P Kelling BSc (Hons) Dip Ed Tech
 T King BEd (Hons)DRSAM Cert Ed ATQ(Prim)PGCC
 J McNally BA (Hons) Dip Ed (Asst HoM Trenchard)
 J Scott BEd (Hons) (Dep HoM Wavell)
 L A Shannon MA (Hons) PGCE
 T Shannon RD Dip Tech Edn HND Eng Mech (Director of
 Outdoor Pursuits)
 Rev J Silcox BD Cert PS CF TD(School Chaplain)
 C A Taylor BSc (Hons) PGCE
 W G Webster BA (Hons) BD Dip Ed

LIBRARIAN
 C Sheerin BA (Hons) Dip Lib ALA

PART-TIME TEACHERS
 S Johns Dip Ed
 L Thornton Dip Art & Design PG CE

VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS
 S Armstrong DipRSAMD *Piano*
 S Blackwood *Guitar/Percussion*
 N Jenkins BA(Hons) M Mus (RSAMD) *Woodwind*
 R M Jones BA(Hons) LTCL ALCM Cert Ed *Brass*
 J Petrie BA (Hons) ALCM *Strings*
 C King BA (Hons) RSAMD *Voice*

SCHOOL SERGEANT MAJOR
 D Duthie (Asst HoM Cunninham)

PIPE MAJOR
 A T Dippie BEM / G R Ross

DRUM MAJOR
 H W G Tomkins

HIGHLAND DANCING INST.
 E M MacDonald

HOUSEMATRONS
Cunningham C R Tomkins
Haig H Kettles
Trenchard H A Devlin
Wavell J B Kean

HOSPITAL STAFF
 C Fitzgerald RGN RSCN
 B McNeill SEN

HOSPITAL AUXILIARIES
 S Graham
 H Heslop

ESTATE MANAGER
 Lt Col (Retd) J Sharp MBE

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
 J Blyth

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
 M Wallace EO
 K Lawrie BA (Hons)

ADMIN STAFF
 D G A Bryan AO HM's Secretary
 B Harrison AO
 A Macfarlane AO DHM's Secretary
 M Reid AO Bursar's Secretary
 M Symon AO
 E MacDonald

SUPPORT GRADE II
 A B Gauld

CS OFFICERS
 S Graham
 R Hamilton
 R Hiddleston
 F Wernicki

LAB TECHNICIAN
 D P Carrington-Porter

EXP WORKER
 R Davies

CARPENTER
 M O'Malley

STOREKEEPERS
 M A Fleming (Clothing)
 M Roy (Accn Stores)
 W Stockman
 P Warner

GENERAL HANDS
 A Laird
 A McDonald
 R MacDougall

HOUSE ASSISTANTS
 H S Blyth
 H R Duthie
 C E Cullen
 C Gallant
 J Kelly
 K McGregor
 K McVey

Queen Victoria
 School Staff

As we move towards the 21st century and closer towards the 100th anniversary of the School it may well have been unsettling for parents, pupils and staff to hear that we were to face another review. This Review of Funding was called for by the Secretary of State for Defence as part of the continuing process involving Agencies, the approaching Quinquennial Review and the fall out from the Strategic Defence Review. This should be seen as a challenge and not a threat, as the Secretary of State has stated that the Schools (ourselves and DYRMS) are not for closure but should be subjected to a radical review of funding. This process will not be completed until the end of 1999 but, as I write, a considerable amount of thought and work has already gone into the process. However, at a time when the disruptive effect on service families' lives is still very noticeable as a result of Bosnia, Kosovo and other major peace-keeping activities, QVS continues to provide a stable, homely and happy environment, as well as an anchor for compassionate and needy children.

The Welfare Report of June 1998 proved that this is indeed the case as they commented favourably on the following:-

- almost all parents agreed that their children felt happy and secure in the School
- the School provided pupils with stimulating and challenging activities and encouraged them to the best of their ability
- children in difficulty would be helped and staff were good at alerting parents to any concerns
- staff knew pupils as individuals and were approachable and helpful
- the atmosphere in the boarding houses was welcoming
- relationships between staff and pupils were generally caring
- staff were always accessible in the

boarding houses and pupils knew how to get advice and support when necessary

- the School took good care of pupils' health and encouraged physical fitness
- the Housemasters and Housemistress and other promoted staff were committed and caring.

Clearly, QVS pupils project themselves well as the Inspectors described one of the key strengths as "polite and well-mannered pupils" who were proud of the traditions of the School. There were, of course, a number of points for action in the Report, some of which have already been addressed but perhaps the most important is connected with the accommodation in the Main Building.

As noted last year the first stage in answering this need is the building of a new boarding house which by the time the *Victorian* is printed will be well on the way. Once this is built (by May 2000) and we have de-canted 60+ boys from the Main Building, we will start major refurbishment there.

Results

The 1998 Standard Grade results compared very favourably with our last 3 years with 82% of passes between Grades 1 and 3 and 48% in the 1 and 2 category. Clearly, we are maintaining a good standard which is well above the national average. The Higher results were down with 57% in the A to C category and 22% in the A and B category.

We must keep in mind that we are academically non-selective, and by the nature of Service life our pupils do move Schools and educational systems much more frequently than the average pupil. However, irrespective of ability and other factors, we must continually encourage all pupils to set higher targets and demand more of themselves.

Staff Changes

Since I reported in last year's *Victorian* there have been a number

of Staff changes. Ms McGlashan was with us only just over a year but contributed substantially, not only to Wavell House, but also to the PE and Games Department and especially to swimming. Mrs Shannon is also leaving us in May 1999. Her work in setting up Geography within the School, as a Tutor in Wavell, with CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been very much appreciated. Pipe Major Allan Dippie retired at the end of March 1999 after 12 years at QVS. Allan was a Queen's Piper and ex-Black Watch and brought with him the experience that was required to maintain the high profile and quality of the Pipe Band at QVS. I would like to thank Allan for the excellent work he has done with the band not only in Scotland but also, memorably, at the Nova Scotia Tattoo in 1995.

The Bursar, Alan Tapp, also retired at the end of March 1999 after 8 years. He has worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the budget and finances of the School have been kept in very good order. In addition, he has helped to maintain the strong ceremonial traditions which make QVS unique and I thank him for his invaluable work on behalf of the School.

Ian McIntyre, who carried out a number of the tasks in the School, latterly as a Lab Technician in the Science and Technology areas as well as helping out with extra-curricular activities such as swimming for the disabled, retired as a result of ill health after 27 years. In addition, Mrs Helen Muirhead retired in March after almost 34 years service to the School. She was the Commandant and Headmaster's Secretary before becoming an Executive Officer on the finance side where she proved to be an omniscient character on the workings of our somewhat curious, Byzantine operation. Nothing was too much trouble for her and she was always determined to see a job done, not just well but exceedingly well. Many thanks Helen and Ian for your long and loyal support of Queen Victoria School.

The new recruits on the teaching side have been Miss Johnstone (English and Assistant Housemistress, Wavell), Mr McNally (English and

Assistant Housemaster, Trenchard), Ms Taylor (Biology) in August 1998, Miss MacDougall (Housemistress of Wavell and teacher of Maths) in January 1999 and Ruth Courtney (Geography) to start in August 1999. On the administrative side, boarding and ceremonial Mr McGregor takes over as Bursar in July 1999, Mr Lawrie took over from Mrs Muirhead, Mr Harrison was appointed to join the finance team and Mrs MacDonald on the administrative side. Mrs Kettles joined us as Matron of Haig, Mrs Gallant and Miss Kelly as Housemaids. Last, but by no means least, Mr Ross took over as our new Pipe Major in April and has been thrown into the deep end with a very busy term, building to a climax with Grand Day and the OZ Tour.

Students

We have continued to benefit from the support of our Language Assistant and GAP Students. I would also like to thank last year's Language Assistant and GAP Students - Michael O'Connor, Craig Anslow, Andrew McKenzie and Michelle Green for their hard work and support of our pupils and staff throughout their year at QVS. Tanja Lang, as the former, was replaced by Herve Kerbrat and our new GAP Students for 1999 are: Matthew Marshall (*Trenchard*) from Marist College, Brisbane; Daniel Cato (*Cunningham*) from Scotch College, Melbourne; Heath Gair (*Haig*) from Lindisfarne College, Hastings; Kate Mulvihill (Wavell) from Mount St Michael's College, Brisbane.

At present, we have Sam Morton at Dilworth College, Richard McConnell at Waitaki Boys High School in New Zealand and Ryan Kerr at St John's College in Zimbabwe.

The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers

The Pipe Band continue to occupy a high-profile stance at Murrayfield and have played prior to the New Zealand Maoris, South African, Wales, Italy and Ireland games this season. As they do every year, the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers will perform on the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle and at Holyrood in May. In addition, the Pipe Band perform prior to every Parade Sunday and this academic session will be unique in that they will have played for Air Commodore J E Haines (AOSNI); Rear-Admiral A M Gregory (FOSNI) and Major General M J Strudwick (GOC Scotland).

A team of Highland Dancers led by Colin Wood won the Alistair McLean Challenge Cup again at the Argyllshire Gathering and Colin won the individual Paltalloch Cup. The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers performed together at Gleneagles, St Ninian's Church and there has been considerable community involvement, including the Dunblane Autumn Fair and Head Injuries Trust for Scotland Family Day, as well as various performances by the QVS Minstrels Group, for example at Ladywell, the Friendship Guild, the Callander Thursday Club, Sauchie Parish Church and the Derby and Joan Club at Grangemouth.

This year the UKA Highland Dancing Exams saw 54 pupils taking part with one Premier Award (Hons) - Chris Harris; 2 Presidents Awards (Hons) - Chris Niven and Ross Stevenson; 3 Laurel Awards (Ashling Kerr, Mhairi Page and Helen Onslow); one Third Gold Bar (Jamie Smith); 8 Second Gold Bars; 4 First Gold Bars; 9 Gold; 8 Silver; 12 Bronze and 5 Pre-Bronze.

Rugby

The 1st XV have picked up again and have had a very successful season losing only to Strathallan 1st XV in the Schools Cup, Merchiston 2nd XV two days later and Robert Gordon's 1st XV. In addition, we recorded excellent victories over Glasgow Academy and Dundee High School for the first time and perhaps our best ever performance against Rannoch, winning 33-0. The final record was:- Played 15, Won 12, Lost 3. Of the other sides the 2nd XV had a very good season as well losing only 3 games and the S1 XV were our most successful side losing only one game.

This year's 10-a-side competition was played in leagues and then went straight to the Main and the Plate finals. Our A side went through to the final of the Plate Competition but, unfortunately, lost in a hard fought contest. Dundee High School won the Main competition.

On the representative front Fraser MacKinnon was selected for the Scottish Schools U16 side to play against Yorkshire and Lancashire and Ryan Bennett, Nick Kerr and Matthew Knowles all represented Midlands U18s.

Hockey

The girls' Hockey 1st XI completed their first full season of fixtures with excellent victories over Dollar Academy and Laurel Park and a draw with St Margaret's. Overall their playing record of Played 14, Won 11, Lost 2 and Drawn 1 for their first full season was an excellent set of results. Considering the age of our team this was a tremendous achievement and augurs well for the future. The 1st XI also won an on-going tournament at Forthbank. It was also pleasing to see the Junior teams doing so well and that the S3 team won their tournament at Forthbank.

In boys' hockey Chris Harris, Ciaran Flynn and Darren Farr played for Stirling Wanderers Men's Hockey team.

Football

Although we have had a number of successes at different levels in football, this has been a disappointing year at all levels in the Perthshire Cup - the first I can remember where we have not had one side going through to the semi-final or final. Conversely, Andrew Kintrea, Gary Cornelius, Aidan Bott, Ross Innes and Neil Seaton were all selected to play for the Perth and Kinross U18 District side.

CCF

In CCF a much younger and more inexperienced Highland Tac team came 9th led by Colin Wood. However, it is the on-going work that is done in CCF which is so important: the Field Days, various weekend exercises, the Easter Ski-camp and various other camps such as the RAF at Cosford and Laarbruch in Germany recently.

Shooting

Stephen Tierney (as Vice Captain) and Stuart Ruthven were selected for the British Schools Shooting Team to tour South Africa this Easter. This was a tremendous achievement for both boys and with 2 out of 12 it says a lot for the high standards maintained at QVS. In addition, Chloe

Johnston now holds the new National Junior Ladies small bore rifle record and has already broken it twice herself. John Halley also won the individual class medal at the Dumfries Grand Prix.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

In the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year we have 116 taking part with 3 on Gold, 28 on Silver and the remainder on Bronze. Sarah Milligan, Kenny Davidson and Iain Watt have already been awarded their Silver medals this year.

Drama

Drama is increasingly popular and accomplished as an activity in the School. At the end of the Christmas term a short play *The Kidnapping of Santa*, written entirely by themselves, was performed by pupils of S3. As so much had been done by the pupils this was a particularly good effort.

The School Play *Turning Blind Eyes*, performed over 3 nights prior to the Exeat weekend in February, was a great success. All those taking part, especially the lead players such as Graham King, Darren Farr, Tammy Allan and Toni Matthews, are to be congratulated on an excellent performance.

Music

Music continues to play an important part in the life of the School and the pupils. Over the past year we have been treated to many fine performances at the Summer and Christmas Concerts as well as the Music Competition itself. The School Windband continues to set a high standard and individual performances such as Chloe Johnston's *Pie Jesu*, Leigh Bissett's *I was a King*, David MacDougall's *Alleluia* on the cornet and the Windband arrangement of *Abide with Me* with solo pipers John Blackhurst and Ryan Kerr illustrate the range and expertise that is now on show.

Recently, a workshop day with the Lowland Band gave our musicians the chance to learn and play with professionals and all who saw the final concert were thrilled by the overall standard of pupils and professionals. Our concerts, carol service and the

involvement of the Windband in Sunday services illustrate that music continues to be a growing strength in the School. If we go along with Yehudi Menuhin's view that music creates the basis for intellectual development and brings out the best in a child or a young adult then Music at QVS certainly contributes well towards this development.

Debating

Debating is another activity which, with the encouragement of Miss Johnstone and Mr McNally, has grown in strength. The School has taken part in a number of debating competitions, including the Courier Junior Debating Competition where Amy Morton, Annabel Porter, Alasdair Spence and Alistair MacLellan performed extremely well, just missing out in the semi-finals. In the ESU Public Speaking Competition Alasdair Spence, Lindsey Farquharson and Chloe Johnston came 3rd.

Cross-country

In Cross-country 17 pupils across the age groups represented the School at the Scottish Schools Cross-country Championships with a lot of very good individual performances and our best individual was Kris Reid (48th). There have been a number of other events with perhaps the best performances at Glenalmond with Kris Reid 4th and Laura Dunnachie, Lisa Milligan and Amy Morton 4th, 6th and 7th respectively. In addition, it was good to see the P7s winning the boys' event in a triangular competition here with Alistair Page (1st), Stewart Mooney (2nd) and Darren Howie (3rd). The girls came 2nd overall in their competition with Jamie Lee Read (2nd) and Sarah Harrower (3rd) as our best competitors.

This has been a very good and positive year and it is clear by running through the events above that there has been considerable success over a wide range of sports and activities both individually and as teams. Individually, QVS pupils should take pride in the considerable success achieved and collectively groups and teams should derive even more pleasure and pride because of the achievements in so many areas for the School. QVS

itches itself against the best in so many areas and emerges very well! However, our real focus must continue to be academic results.

It is an old adage but the more one puts into life the more one gets out of it and for most of QVS pupils this is very true indeed.

It is, however, almost self-evident that all the above sports and activities would not happen without the dedicated support, encouragement, expertise, advice and direction of those teachers involved in the various areas. Things do not just happen and the academic staff not only teach and have to strive to get the best academically out of our pupils but they make other things happen which help to provide added value and, undoubtedly, enrich the lives of the pupils at QVS. I would like to thank all staff both teaching and non-teaching for all their efforts to cope with the continual pressures of boarding school life, to improve standards and the overall quality of life for our pupils.

My thanks are also due to Darren Robertson and the other Monitors and School Prefects for their work on the School's behalf. The Senior Monitor's position is not an easy one and Darren has coped extremely well and I thank him and all the pupils for their support.

As we move through a period of considerable progress but some uncertainty, I would also like to thank the Commissioners, in particular the Chairman Air Vice Marshal Simpson and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Mrs Nan Howe, for their unstinting support and advice. We are indeed lucky to have such people who give generously and freely of their time to support QVS.

PIPE MAJOR GORDON R ROSS

Pipe Major Gordon Ross has been appointed Pipe Major from the beginning of the summer term and has succeeded Pipe Major A T Dippie BEM.

Pipe Major Ross started piping when he was 13 years old with his local TA band. In 1975 he enlisted in the 1st battalion The Gordon Highlanders as a junior piper. 1977 saw him join the 1st battalion as a piper in the Pipes and Drums, starting a career that saw him tour operationally as a soldier, and as a piper in the band to many countries, including the USA, Canada, Kenya, Belize, Northern Ireland and most European countries. After promotion to sergeant and on completion of his Pipe Major's certificate at the Army School of Piping, he was appointed Pipe Major and posted to the Army College at Chepstow. Pipe Major Ross left the Army in 1992 and has pursued his love of piping with local bands around his home city of Newcastle.

Gordon is married to Pauline and has a son Ciaren Liam who is one years old. We wish him and his family a long and enjoyable stay at the School.

PIPE MAJOR A T DIPPIE BEM

Pipe Major Dippie has retired after 12 years at the School. Allan enlisted in the Black Watch in 1965 after serving as a corporal piper with 6/7th Black Watch (TA). He joined 1 BW in BAOR and served with the Pipes and Drums of that Battalion continuously until 1983. During this period he saw service in BAOR, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the UK and has taken part in several band tours of the USA and Canada. Appointed Pipe Major of the Battalion in 1975, he was awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1980. In 1983 he was promoted to WO1 and succeeded that well known Victorian, Pipe Major Angus MacDonald, SG as chief instructor of the Army School of Bagpipe Music at Edinburgh Castle.

In 1987 he succeeded Pipe Major John MacKenzie continuing the fine tradition of producing first class pipers at the School. Allan's devotion to the boys, girls and the band has been second to none over his 12 years as Pipe Major of QVS. Allan leaves us with all possible good wishes for his well earned retirement, and our thanks for a job most exceptionally well done.

BT



The Pipe Band

GRAND DAY 1999

Inspecting Officer

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire KCB DFC AFC ADC FRAeS RAF
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command

PRIZE GIVING

Prize Giving takes place at 11.30 in the Marquee in the presence of Her Majesty's Commissioners, distinguished guests, parents, staff and pupils.

PARADE

On Parade

Parade Commander, Senior Monitor.....	Darren Robertson
Guard Commanders:	
No 1 Guard.....	Andrew Kintrea
No 2 Guard.....	Cheryl McCubbin
No 3 Guard.....	Matthew Knowles
No 4 Guard.....	Gary Cornelius
No 5 Guard.....	Bill Ford
No 6 Guard.....	Barry Prowse
No 7 Guard.....	Douglas Greenhowe
No 8 Guard.....	James MacFarlane
I/C Colour Party.....	Colin Wood
Ensigns.....	Neil Seaton
	Ross Biggart
Escorts.....	James Donald
	Gavin Heselton
Orderlies.....	Katy McIntyre
	Claire McGillivray
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. The Inspecting Officer will be received with a General Salute at 1500; he 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 General Salute the Inspecting Officer will address the Parade and Lady Squire will 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 General Salutes and when the Colours pass during the March Past.

RETREAT

At approximately 1550 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.

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
	Cabar Feidh
March on the Colours.....	Victorians
General Salute.....	Loch Leven Castle
Inspection.....	Morag of Dunvegan
	The Mingulay Boat Song
	My Home
	The Highland Cradle Song
March past in Slow Time.....	The Skye Boat Song
	Westering Home
Break into Quick Time.....	Cock of the North
	Farewell to the Creeks
Advance in Review Order.....	Scotland the Brave
General Salute.....	Loch Leven Castle
March off in Column of Route.....	Highland Laddie

RETREAT MUSIC

March on.....	Barren Rocks of Aden
	Greenwood Side
	Drunken Piper
Retreat Call	
Drummers Call	
Marches.....	The Greenhills of Tyrol
	When the Battle's Over
	Lochanside
Dancers March on.....	Corriechoillies Welcome
	The Northern Meeting
Strathspey.....	The Marquis of Huntly
Reels.....	The High Road to Linton
	The Piper of Drummond
Dancers March off.....	The Victorians
March off Parade.....	Highland Laddie
	Black Bear

Pipe Major.....	Mr G R Ross (late Gordons)
Drum Major.....	Mr H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
Dancing Instructor.....	Mrs E MacDonald AUKA
Boy Pipe Major.....	Russell Fleming
Boy Drum Major.....	Kenneth Davidson
Principal Dancer.....	Darren Robertson

Mare Frigoris

Sea of Cold
My life is in your hands.
Bed of glass.
Like ice, the only thing stopping me from falling
Into your black cold nothingness.
Are you angry with me?
Your biting winds growing
colder and colder.
Trying to blow me off my feet,
Silent droplets fall from my face
Freezing before they hit the ice.
The wind's moaning sounds like souls,
Souls who have been here before
but never made it back.
Sea of Cold
My life is in your hands.

Scott Turner S3

Oceanus Procellarum

Ocean of Storms
Vast emptiness of bruised glass.
A swirling mass of clouds,
Thunder and lightening.
Ill tempered mirror,
Showing the reflection of my hatred.
A stench of rage
Fuels feelings of insecurity
A crafted pit of earth's atmosphere
Ocean of Storms.

Alec Trousdale S3

Mare Nectaris

Looking at you
Mare Nectaris - the Sea of Nectar
A bed of soft glowing gold
An unpredictable bed of syrup.
Ripples roar to the edge of
the orange hole.
Your watery appearance smells sharp,
A lemon cut in half
and emptied into the sea.
You are enduring and attractive.
Your caramel view is sticky,
It clings to my hand
And yet,
I only notice this as I leave you
Mare Nectaris.

Laura Wylie S3

S3's task was to write a series of moon poems inspired by the Latin names that the astronomer Herelius described when he first catalogued the moon's surface, imagining the lakes and seas that Herelius envisaged, rather than the arid and desolate reality.

Lacus Mortis

A tremor of fear ripples through me
As I tenderly tread your
black sanded shores,
Lacus Mortis.
Drawn as others have been
by your deadly attractions.
Your gothic beauty captures my gaze
It tears the breath from my throat.
The mournful sigh of the tide echoes
the unbearable loneliness.
Frightening depths beckon my soul
to come and bathe,
To surrender in everlasting slumber.

A desolate tree floats in your centre,
Signifying the feeling of lost hope
which engulfs my heart.
I close my eyes,
draw in a struggling breath,
and offer my body mind and soul
to the essence of the lake.
Your waters welcome me
with frozen kisses,
soft as fallen snowflakes.
I catch a glimpse of an unearthly gaze,
a dark, malicious smile
As I slip
under your swirling darkness,
Lacus Mortis - Lake of Death.

Emma King S3



P7 MINSTRELS

The P7 Minstrels performed to members of the Friendship Guide of Ladywell Parish Church and other social meetings including the Derby & Joan club of Grangemouth, the Thursday Club of Callander Parish Church and the Thursday Club of Sauchie Parish Church.

They perform a large variety of items including, dancing, singing, music solos and poetry. Mr Onslow helped with the singing and music solos, Mr Carroll with the poetry and Mrs MacDonald with the dancing. After the minstrels had performed they socialised with the club members and were offered juice and cakes.

The members of the various clubs congratulated us on our performance. Col Tapp and his wife also accompanied us to the Derby & Joan Club and they enjoyed it very much as did we all. We would very much like to perform again next year.

Claire Greenwood, Terri Ratcliffe, Elliott Wood.

The QV Piping Drumming and Dancing Competition was held on Friday 12th March 1999. A total of 119 pupils were involved with this competition. We have to say thank you to the expert judges who give freely of their time to encourage Piping Drumming and Highland Dancing at Queen Victoria School.

PIPING COMPETITION

Primary 7 Chanter Competition

* Winner of the Wavell Chanter.

Slow March

March

Overall

1. Jamie Motherwell
1. Callum Henderson
1. Callum Henderson *
2. John McCulloch
2. Scott Graham
2. Jamie Motherwell
3. Callum Henderson
3. Jamie Motherwell
3. Scott Graham

S1 Junior Chanter Competition

* Winner of the Group Captain T Kean

CBE AFC Prize

Slow March

March

Overall

1. David Thorpe
1. David Thorpe
1. David Thorpe *
2. Craig Shimmons
2. Craig Shimmons
2. Craig Shimmons
3. Ciara Watson
3. Ciara Watson
3. Ciara Watson

S1 Junior Bagpipe Competition

* Winner of the PM A Dippie BEM

Prize.

Slow March

March

Overall

1. Colin McNally
1. Colin McNally
1. Colin McNally *
2. Mark McGregor
2. Mark McGregor
2. Mark McGregor
3. Kenneth Loch
3. Jason Wilson
3. Jason Wilson

Intermediate Competition (Class B)

* Winner of the Gordon Stobo Cup.

Slow March

March

Overall

1. Murray McLeod
1. Murray McLeod
1. Murray McLeod *
2. Gerald Kerr
2. Gerald Kerr
2. Gerald Kerr
3. Michael Brown
3. Michael Brown
3. Michael Brown

Senior Competition (Class A)

* Winner of the Queen Victoria School

Piping Shield

Slow March & March

Strathspey & Reel

Overall

1. Stephen Tierney
1. Stephen Tierney
1. Stephen Tierney *
2. James Cox
2. Steven Cairns
2. Steven Cairns
3. Steven Cairns
3. Craig Bissett
3. Craig Bissett

Scots Guards Special Prize 1999

Presented to the Piper who has done the most during the year, to enhance school Piping and Dancing. Winner Stephen Tierney.

DRUMMING & BUGLING COMPETITION

Intermediate Competition

Side Drum

Tenor Drum

Bugle

1. Liam Flynn
1. Jason Patience
1. David McDougall
2. Derrick Anderson
2. Andrew Kirkaldy
2. Andrew Kirkaldy
3. Scott Mackle
3. Thomas Wright
3. Derrick Anderson

Senior Competition

Side Drum

Tenor Drum

Bugle

1. Paul Barlow
1. Stuart Dunsmuir

1. Andrew Kintrea

2. Alan Whiteford

2. Andrew Kintrea

2. Wayne Ratcliffe

3. Kristopher Edwards

3. Mark Lovell

3. Mark McConnell

Champion Drummer 1999 Andrew

Kintrea

HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION

Beginner

* Winner of the Dr McLaren Cup

1. *Jamie-Lee Read 2. Callie

McFarlane 3. Andrew Martin &

Michelle Scobie

Junior

* Winner - Most Promising Dancer

Prize

1. *Fiona Coyle 2. Sarah Moore 3.

Christine Guthrie

Intermediate

* Winner - Royal British Legion Prize

1. *Liam Bridgeman 2. David Walker

3. Laurie Cairns

Senior

* Winner - London Scottish Prize

1. *Douglas Greenhowe 2. Christopher

Harris & Christopher Niven 3. Lauren

Campbell

Seann Truibhas Competitions

Junior

1. Fiona Coyle 2. David Walker 3.

Kristopher Reid & Christine Guthrie

Senior

*Winner - Seann Truibhas Shield

1. *Lauren Campbell 2. Douglas

Greenhowe 3. Christopher Harris &

Ashling Kerr

Victorians Broadwords Competition

Winners - John S Steel Trophy

1. Darren Robertson, Sarah Milligan,

Fiona Coyle, Adam Moore

Interhouse Reel Competition

1. Cunningham House

The Highland Society of London Prize 1999

Presented to the Dancer who has done

the most during the year, for the School

Dancing teams

Winners Colin Wood & Douglas

Greenhowe

Pipe Band Review 1998 - 1999

Over the past year the Pipe Band has continued to perform at a host of major engagements, Murrayfield being perhaps the most prominent, with games against Australia, South Africa, Italy, Ireland and Wales. Although an overall younger band than in past years, the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers continue the best of school traditions appearing at the Gleneagles Hotel and performing in May at the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace for CCF Massed Pipes and Drums and Dancers. The Lead Drum Major this year is Kenny Davidson.

Throughout the summer term, however, the focus is very much on the approaching Australia Tour, and the challenges it holds for the band. Additional practices have taken place in preparation for what should be a memorable experience.

This year has also seen the retirement of Pipe Major Allan Dippie. "Pipie" was very much liked and respected by all members of the Pipe Band, and his influence has without doubt been positive in maintaining the standards of the Band this year and in years previous..

With Pipe Major Ross now leading the Pipe Section, I am confident that these standards will be upheld, and the Pipe Band will continue to exude the unique Queen Victoria School ethos.

R Fleming (S6)

Highland Dancing

The dancing team had a very successful end to the 97-98 session. Several dancers entered the CCF Piping, Drumming and Dancing Competition held at Strathallan School on Sunday 14th June. Christopher Harris won the Premier Cup and a team of S2 dancers won the Scottish Country Dance Competition.

The 98-99 school year also had an encouraging beginning. On August 27th, a team of senior dancers retained the Alisdair MacLean Challenge Cup for the HM and Allied Armed Services Competition at the Argyllshire Gathering held in Oban. Colin Wood was awarded the Potalloch Cup for the best dancer in the Armed Services Competition.

As in past years dancers have performed at various venues for many different people throughout the year with a professionalism which has become expected of them. The team of competition dancers are becoming a familiar sight on the Highland Games circuit and on the winners' rostrum.

I would like to thank the Principal Dancer, Darren Robertson, and the two Assistant Principal Dancers, Douglas Greenhowe and Colin Wood for their unstinting support and hard work during the past school year. All three are due to take the UKA Associate Teachers exam on June 14th and I am sure they will all do very well.

E MacDonald



United Kingdom Alliance Medal Tests February 26th 1999

(Highly Commended 83 to 92% = H/C, Honours 93 to 100% = Hons)
Introductory Award: Grade 4 Robert Kent-Com.
Pre-Bronze Medal Test: Jamie Kerr-H/C, Aaron King-H/C, Michelle Scobie- H/C, Kate Trousdale-H/C, Barbara Davidson-H/C.
Bronze Medal Test: Andrew Martin- H/C, Callie McFarlane-H/C, Jamie-Lee Read-H/C, Alan Batson-H/C, Samantha Jones-Com, Sharlene Mahony-H/C, Jamie Friery- H/C, Patrisha Goodman-H/C, Claire Greenwood-H/C, Alasdair Page-Hons, Sarah MacLean-Com, Michelle Wright-Com.
Silver Medal Test: Claire Greenwood-H/C, Alasdair Page-Hons, Sarah MacLean-H/C, Michelle Wright-H/C, Andrew Shannon-H/C, Amy Morton-H/C, Laura Hadland H/C, Sarah Moore-H/C.
Gold Medal Test: Laura Hadland H/C, Sarah Moore-H/C, Stephen Carter-Hons, Fiona Coyle-Hons, Christine Guthrie-H/C, Darren Muir-H/C, Cameron MacLeod-H/C, Adam Moore-H/C, Laurie Cairns-H/C.
First Gold Bar Medal Test: Laurie Cairns-H/C, Nicola Bonner-H/C, Nicola Moffat-H/C, Alexander Trousdale-H/C.
Second Gold Bar Test: Christopher Boyle-H/C, Liam Bridgeman-Hons, Charles MacDonald-H/C, Dean McMenemy-Hons, Kristopher Reid-Hons, David Walker- Hons, Laura Dunnachie-H/C, Jennifer Jones-H/C.
Third Gold Bar Test: Jamie Smith-H/C.
Laurel Award Medal Test: Ashling Kerr-Hons, Mhairi Page-H/C.
Presidents Award: Christopher Niven-Hons, Ross Stevenson-Hons.
Premier Victory Award: Christopher Harris-Hons.

SWIMMING WITH THE DISABLED

Disabled Swimming is a Thursday night hobby and takes place at the Rainbow Slides swimming pool in Stirling. Less able people come from homes near the area for an hour's swim. The pupils who take part in this hobby are: Barry Prowse (S6), Darren Farr (S4), Ciaran Flynn (S4), Amy Morton, Jennifer Jones, Lynsey McAulay and Lauren Campbell (all S3).

When we first attended the hobby, some of the lifeguards didn't take us seriously, but they were soon proved wrong as we stuck at it and put them in their place!!! The less able people, who attend weekly and can be both physically and mentally handicapped, have eventually learnt to trust us in what we do.

We help the handicapped by getting them ready to swim, assist them into the pool and speak to them whilst swimming with them. Afterwards, we take them out and up to the cafeteria, where we have our 'little grannies meeting' before returning to School to watch *Friends* on Sky One. Helping the less able has matured everyone who has taken part, and as Amy Morton has said to me "Yes that does include you Barry."

A great sense of achievement is felt at the end of the day as we have helped other people to gain more confidence in themselves. Thank you to everyone who has taken part.

Pottery

The pottery hobbies were attended on Mondays and Wednesdays by young enthusiasts from P7 and S1, 2 & 3 respectively. Thumb-pots, slab ware and several coil-pots were successfully completed. Jennifer Jones mastered the technique of coil-making (with some expert assistance from Mr Stewart), enabling some other members of the group to construct a variety of interesting pots.

The P7 work was based on animal forms with the emphasis on variety and fun.

LT

DEUTSCH DURCH DRAMA

A group of enthusiastic Form II pupils met every Tuesday this winter in room 7 to have a first attempt at acting out two of the Grimm brothers' traditional fairy tales. The plays allowed the pupils to use their German language with confidence and show off their acting, singing and comic abilities to the full. So we visited together ROTKAPPCHEN'S grandmother and accompanied ASCHENPUTTEL to the ball. VIEL SPASS was had by all.

J Howie

Hobbies

English Higher Hobby

Thursday evenings just won't be the same without the committed members of the English Higher Hobby group - stimulating discussion and analysis of each part of the course led to some excellent work produced by the group. Initially the numbers were low, and included the founding members of Vicki Harris, Christine Martin and Claire Wyllie. The numbers soon increased to include most of my Higher class. Keep up the hard work!

JM

Mathematics Tutorial Group

The aim of the hobby was to provide a tutorial session where Higher candidates could revise topics and start to tackle examination type questions. Attendance was voluntary and those who came along regularly will, I am sure, have benefited from the experience.

Sunday Badminton

The Sunday afternoon sessions of badminton were run on a "drop-in" basis. The activity proved popular again this year with overall attendance increased. The participation of some older experienced hands helped to improve the quality of play and some hard-contested matches were played.

D Stewart

Twang! Karang! Mwang!

The dulcet tones of the lesser spotted flumph? No. It is in fact the opening chords to the popular Oasis song, 'Don't Look Back in Anger', played by my P7/S1 guitar group - at the *beginning* of their time with me that is.

However, after a lot of perseverance (and sore fingertips) they too can produce the same raw sounds as delivered by Noel Gallagher. After many weeks of hard work the budding rock stars can now consider themselves 'Supernovas'.

James McNally

S1 & S2 Computing Hobbies

This year we have continued our departmental policy of encouraging pupils to use their hobby sessions to develop their classroom and general computer-based interests (other than games!) in order to make better use of resources perhaps unavailable or under pressure at other times - such as those provided by the downstairs computer room during prep, or even the library's computers. Thus the new network-based scanners and printers have acted as the hub of unplanned activities, supplemented by access to the in-room Internet facility which has now become available to S2 on Friday afternoons. Planned sessions have usually revolved around the use of CD-ROM based software such as Powergoo (a sophisticated graphics animator with built-in morphing features) or other CD-ROMS (mainly databases or encyclopaedias like *Encarta*) in limited supply in the library. Whilst it was originally intended that P7 might have access to a Computing hobby, demand from S2 temporarily precluded this possibility. However, it is anticipated that provision will be made for next year's P7 to access the PCs in the senior school with a view to giving them a flying start to their subsequent S1 coursework!

D Kelling

During their computing hobby Iain Watt (S6), Eugene Kuczerepa (S5) and Gareth Hadland (S3) created a web site for the school. This site can be found on the internet at <http://www.qvs.pkc.sch.uk>

CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club continues to play a very active role in the school with every pupil having the opportunity to take pictures and transform them into a final print. The excellent facilities in the school dark room allow pupils to learn the different skills in taking a photograph and processing a film.

Mr Dale's enthusiasm and experience is invaluable especially when prints are less than prize winning. I personally learned a great deal from the lessons in lenses, apertures and filtration with a practical approach which sparked further interest.

This year we managed to produce a variety of black and white photographs with Murrayfield Stadium becoming a favoured project. After many interesting experiments we created display quality prints.

One of the many advances in the darkroom is the ability to produce prints larger than ever before. Mr Dale was very keen to encourage this with no expense spared.

As a beginner, I have gained many skills during the year but I am particularly proud of the ability to open, unreel, rip, slide, reel, drop and lock a film, in that order without being able to see it!

I would like to thank Mr Dale on behalf of everyone for a well-run and enjoyable hobby!

K Davidson (S6)

With the advance in technology the Camera Club this year has moved from the darkroom to the science lab, where we enlarge and enhance pupils photos onto A5 and A4 photographic quality paper. Using a variety of the latest software packages we have scanned the photos in and changed its contrast, focus. We have also been called upon to restore old scratched black and white photographs from various sources.

After we finish working on the photos we print them on to photo paper using a high quality ink jet printer. Some work is still done in the darkroom but we are now starting to move into the new future of photography.

G Hadland (S3)



Murrayfield

COMBINED CADET FORCE CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S REPORT

Anyone
who knows
anything
about

Education will readily appreciate that life at the 'Chalk face' is demanding more and more time each year. No matter how effective one's administration, the time involved in moving paper work across the desk is a far lengthier process now for every teacher than ever before. I say this to pay tribute to the Officers and Senior Cadets of the Corps who, because of their great enthusiasm and dedication to the service, are prepared to spend more and more of their precious but dwindling spare time on Cadet matters. This is evidenced by the very busy year just completed with all sections involved in Field Days, Training Camps, Training Courses and Weekend exercises. I am indeed appreciative of their continual support and would record here the indebtedness of the whole School for all their mighty efforts.

Capt Graham Carroll, Housemaster, Trenchard House

It is with much sadness that I report the resignation of Capt Carroll from the Cadet Corps. This is entirely due to an increasing workload as Teacher and Housemaster. Capt Carroll, a former OC of the Army section, has not been able to train with the Corps on Wednesdays for some time now much to his, and our, great disappointment. He leaves us with a dedicated history and the memory of many Summer Camps both at home and abroad. He, and the Corps, both hope that there will come a time in the not too distant future when an opportunity will present itself for him to rejoin our ranks. This is not therefore good-bye, only Haste ye back!

The School Bursar and Pipe Major

The Corps has also said farewell to the School Bursar, Col Alan Tapp and our Pipe Major, Mr Alan Dippie MBE both supported the Ceremonial side of the School and the CCF Piping and Drumming commitments. Former pupils of the School will know that at Holyrood or the CCF Beating of Retreat each year, the CCF Pipes and Drums together with their dancers, coached so ably by Mrs Eileen MacDonald, form the backbone to the ceremony. To our Highland Dancing Instructress, our Drum Major, the Pipe Major and Col Tapp we express our thanks as a Corps, bidding Col Tapp and Alan Dippie a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

The photograph was taken in the School Chapel just before Easter when the Bursar made a special presentation to



Mr Dippie for the Pipe and Drum Corps. They are

pictured here with the Boy Pipe Major Russell Fleming. To the new Pipe Major, Mr Gordon Ross, his wife and young family, we bid welcome and trust that he will find much satisfaction within the life of Queen Victoria School.

Sgt S Stuart, 23 Cadet Training Team

The School also says farewell, after two years of sterling service, to our dedicated member of 23 Cadet Training Team, Sgt Stuart. He has most faithfully attended Training Days adding his own professionalism to the testing and training of our cadets over that period. He represents a group of very able qualified men whom we can call upon to support our training in specialist ways, all of whom are of the highest calibre and work very well with young people. We wish him, his wife and young family, every best wish as he moves to his next appointment.

Cadet Officer Daniel Catto

The Army Section has been boosted by the arrival of Mr Daniel Catto, one of our GAP Students, who comes to the School with a distinguished Cadet career.

Daniel has agreed to act as Signal Officer within the Corps and provide a much needed support to this very important section of the Corps. We have been pleased to see Daniel at Adventure Training Camp at Aviemore and place on record our appreciation for this extra commitment within his busy School duties.

Finally, and most sincerely, may I place on record our special thanks to Mr Duthie our SSM and the Headmaster for all their support and continuing work on behalf of the Cadet Movement.

John R Silcox

Contingent Commander	Major J R Silcox TD
Royal Naval Section OC	Commander T Shannon RNR Lieut G Borking Sub Lt L Shannon
Army Section OC	Capt P Onslow Capt D Garden 2Lt J Scott Cadet Officer: Mr Daniel Catto, (GAP Student)
Royal Air Force OC	Flt Lt D Gilhooly Fly Officer C Sheerin
Commission Pending	Mr D McLay



Back Row: Sub Lt L Shannon, D McLay, D Catto, Lt Borking
Front Row: Capt D Garden, Commander T Shannon, Major J R Silcox, Flt Lt D Gilhooly, Capt P Onslow



ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

This session has seen a few Staff changes and will see a change in recruit training. Next session we intend to start a partial joint-training programme with the cadets spending half their time with their chosen section.

As far as the staff changes are concerned, firstly just after the Windsurfing Summer Course, we paid a fond farewell to our Area Instructor CPO Danny Kay. CPO Kay had been the Area Instructor for the last 5 years and was a great asset. We will miss him and wish him well in his future career. CPO Kay's replacement is CPO Wyle, a Royal Navy PTI.

Secondly, Sub Lt Shannon is leaving the School this term and will be sadly missed in the section. She supported and supervised our female cadets on camps and visits. However, Sub Lt Shannon is remaining on the CCF RN recall list which means she will be able to attend national camps and courses.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Lt Graham Borking on his recent promotion after 8 years as Sub Lt. Graham, as a retired RN Chief Electrical Engineer, has a vast experience and is a great asset to our Section.

Finally, I was proud to receive the Cadet Medal in recognition of 12 years service with the CCF.

Summer 98 Activities

Last Summer holiday found Sub Lt Borking and myself in Rosyth at HMS Caledonia, running a CCF RN Windsurfing Summer Camp. It was the first such camp to be held in chilly Scotland as opposed to the normal venue on the warm south

coast of England. The camp lasted a week and was very successful with all of the cadets attaining RYA Certificates. Once again, Sub Lt Shannon spent a week at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, helping to run the Summer Camp there. It is a general course covering leadership, sailing, navigation and parade training.

Biannual Inspection

It seems no time since the last Biannual and here we are again. Brigadier Highlands is the Inspecting Officer and will arrive at the School on Wednesday 6th October. Time to get the shoes polished and the uniform pressed! I am confident our cadets will maintain the high standards of previous years and impress the Brigadier.

Recruits Weekend

Well, it was back to the lighthouse, nothing had changed. The skill of the Royal Navy was still obviously needed by the Army section to fulfil all of the required tasks throughout the Recruits Self Reliance Weekend. So once again, Sub Lt Shannon and Sub Lt Borking, well done!

Field Day in the Queen Elizabeth Forest

On the 7th October almost all the section with Sub Lt Borking and Sub Lt Shannon set off on an Orienteering adventure in the Forest. They only lost 3 cadets! However, it was a fun day. Meanwhile, 4 cadets accompanied me up to Loch Leven to prepare the Grouse for Winter back at the School.

Field Day at Faslane

On Tuesday 9th February the Naval section set off in the school minibus to Faslane, the Royal Navy's biggest base in Scotland, and home to the Trident Submarine fleet. We went down on the Tuesday evening to allow the cadets to experience a night in the barracks and give us an early start on the Wednesday morning at 0630 hours. The day was spent on a mixture of visits and events including a session on the combat simulation range and culminating in a deck hockey match, refereed by CPO Wyle our new Area Instructor. Field Day at Loch Lomond

Our next Field Day will be a watersports day on Loch Lomond where we will be able to conduct RYA assessments and make our way out to one of the Islands and have a barbecue. I hope the weather is nice.

Easter Courses

The Section Coxswain Edward Porter went down to Plymouth with AB Kris Edwards to take part in a RYA Powerboat course.

AB Jamie Graham and AB Chris Niven went down to Portsmouth to take part in a First Aid course. They both passed the Course and were awarded their junior First Aid Certificate. What is also impressive is that there were 17 cadets on the Course and only 7 passed. LS Louise Kirkaldy joined a general course at HMS Raleigh, the Royal Navy's ratings training establishment.

Steve Tierney went down to Poole to spend a week with the Royal Marines on a Amphibious Warfare course.

All the cadets flew down to Heathrow from various Scottish airports.

Once again, Lt Borking and I helped with the ski camp. Ski conditions were better than they had been for a number of years and all the cadets had a great time. An extra activity we introduced to the cadets was Winter Mountain skills, including a night out on the Cairngorm Plateau in a snow hole. The photograph below shows the route we took up the Fiacail ridge then the buttress, followed by a walk down to the west side of Coire Domhain to the snow hole, then returning down Coire Cas via Cairn Gorm.

New Recruits

This term our new recruits who have undergone a joint training since August are:-

Christopher Boyle, Simon Cox, Annabel Porter, Patrisha Goodman, Andrew Kirkaldy, Barbara Davidson, Ilona Evenden, Paul Tyson, Penny Wood, Nicola Bonner, Gillian Briggs, Laurie Cairns, Liam Flynn, Jason Patience

In summary, it has been a session of changes and achievement and we all look forward to taking the Section into the new millennium.

OC Lt Cdr T Shannon RD RNR



Steve Tierney



L Kirkaldy, C Flynn, Lt Borking, Commander Shannon, Sub Lt Shannon, P Fleming, E Porter



The Cairngorm Plateau

CCF SKIING AVIEMORE 1999 TRI SERVICE ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP

Somewhat unusually for a ski camp, the first Saturday was spent at a rugby international and the cinema. The Scotland - Ireland game proved very exciting and both the game and result were enjoyed by all those who went. The next day, however, was down to business, arriving at the Norwegian Lodge after an uneventful journey and a quick look around Aviemore. That night's entertainment consisted of Mr Borking showing everyone 'how it's done' at the ice skating rink.

On Monday the skiing started, with a good if somewhat patchy cover of snow on the slopes. Skiers of different abilities were separated into groups each with staff to provide instruction for beginners or supervision for more advanced skiers. Everyone's skiing improved dramatically during the week on some very challenging runs, and for once, Scotland's ski slopes provided us with a full week of skiing.

Thanks must go to all Staff who went, but especially to Messrs Silcox and Duthie who take care of all the 'behind the scenes' work that ensured the camp being the success it was.

D Catto



Exercise White Grouse

Tuesday 23 March - The Training

We began walking at nine o'clock in the morning, from the bottom of the Cairngorm ski area and reached our destination around eleven where our leader, Captain Shipley, taught the group about avalanche awareness. This is when you test the snow to see how firm it is before walking across certain "hot spots". We found it was quite firm with only a small layer of soft snow on top.

After our lunch break, we were taught how to use the ice axe, one of the most important pieces of equipment used by mountaineers and which has saved many lives in the past. This, I found, was one of the best parts of the day, as we first had to make the slide in which we were to learn and perfect our techniques. We were taught five different techniques of stopping yourself, and the ones we enjoyed most were when you had to literally throw yourself down the slope and perform a couple of somersaults before carrying out the appropriate manoeuvres for stopping.

The next step was to test our crampons. We fitted them to our hard boots and headed up to the Coire-Cas. It felt as if you were walking like John Wayne as you ascended to the top. It was now 3.45pm when we decided to head back to the lodge after reaching the summit of Cairngorm - the sixth largest mountain in the UK, standing at 4100 feet.

At the summit there is a weather station to show walkers the temperature and how fast the wind is blowing. On this day, the weather station showed that it was -5 with winds of over 55 mph. It was not surprising that the wind was sweeping us all off our feet.

We were all glad to get back to the lodge, hang up our wet clothes and get some hot food down us before we prepared for the next two days.

Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 March

We headed off into the wilderness at 9.00am. The group followed a footpath for about 2 kilometres before leaving the rocky path to start our climb up a knife-edge ridge and a craggy rock face.

We eventually made it to the plateau where we would be staying for the night. The wind was picking up and we had a lot of hard work ahead of us. We brought a shovel with us so it would be easier to make a snow hole - or so we thought.

We had been digging for nearly 3 hours and were realising just how hard it was to dig our snow hole and in the backs of our minds we were considering whether this was a good idea after all.

Inside the snow hole, we were both surprised at how warm it was. The temperature was zero degrees compared to outside, which was five below, a considerable difference between the two. All six of our group were fast asleep by half past five after the tiring day.

The next day we awoke to see that the exits to our snow hole had been blocked by three feet of drifting snow. We had to dig our way out but it did not take too long.

As soon as we were packed up, we began walking back down the mountain where there was, fortunately, a land rover waiting to pick us up and return us safely to the lodge in time for breakfast

Barry Prowse & Douglas Greenhowe (S6).



Army Section

The year has been a busy and fulfilling one in the army section. As always, all S2 recruits were taken under the army wing for basic training which lasted two terms, after which cadets could choose which of the three services they wished to enter. Training included some weekend activity, one in particular being memorable for the covering of snow which, in sub-zero temperatures, did not disappear. Fortunately this was not one of the overnight exercises! Infantry and Signals training continued apace and we are grateful for the help received from one of our gap students, Daniel Catto, who has thrown himself into the CCF with enthusiasm.

There have been some excellent field days. One involved many representatives from Scottish regular and TA and UOTC units who brought a large quantity of kit for a hands on day. The massive vehicles from the Royal Engineers brought a flutter to the heart as boys and girls tried their hand at manipulating bulldozers, diggers etc. The old buildings in the CCF square needed demolishing anyway to make way for the new boarding house! We also had a good day recently at Cultybraggan where various stands were organised including some very enjoyable clay-pigeon shooting organised by Major Silcox. The day culminated in a march and shoot competition.

Summer Camp was hosted by the Black Watch at Fort George. We were fortunate in having superb weather for the week and were able to undertake some really good training with a couple of days of firing the SA80 on the ranges for good measure. The week ended with a barbecue which was preceded by a cloudburst (the only rain for the week) of spectacular proportions leading to some localised flooding. The entrance to the fort was a good metre under water.

Parachuting remains a popular CCF activity and several cadets undertook a day's training to do a first jump on static line from 2300 feet. One or two did subsequent jumps.

Finally, thanks must go to the officers and cadet NCO's who have assisted with army training throughout the year. Without them, the training programme could not be implemented.

P. S. Onslow, Capt. OC Army



Back Row: N Burge, S Downie
Middle Row: S Milligan, A Laws, S Tierney, M Knowles, J MacFarlane, V Harris, J Kidd, C Wyllie
Front Row: A Moore, C Wood, Sgt Maj Duthie, Capt Onslow, Maj Silcox, Capt Garden, D Catto, I Murray, B Prowse.

RAFREPORT

In May 1999 Queen Victoria School's Royal Air Force section has seen its biggest intake of recruits for a long time. Under the watchful eye of Flt Lt Gilhooly and Pilot Officers Sheerin and McLay (the newly recruited officers to the section), the RAF section has had another successful year.

Although not attending the annual national Ground Training competition this year, the section hopes to compete next year under the helpful instruction of Cpl Arron Uytendhal and Cpl Gareth Martin who last year were members of the section's first attempt at the competition.

Ryan Bennett was head of stores this year and did a very good job of clearing out the indescribable posters of planes from 1960 and before. His second in charge this year was -for the first time ever in the section's history - a girl: Hayley Boyle, who helped out with the large influx of female cadets.

Gareth Martin has done a good job of training the cadets and managed to get them to understand why planes fly and not flap their wings like birds!

The section managed to persuade four cadets to go on camp this year. The first camp was across the seas at RAF Laarbruch, home to the Harrier strike attack force. Camp was interesting, sometimes hard work and there were a lot of activities including day trips to the cities of Cologne (amazing cathedral) and Amsterdam (amazing canals). We had a lot of laughs, too, especially when we went to Het Hjeiderbos (hydroboss to the British).

The Easter camp at RAF Cosford was also very successful, with Ross Stevenson excelling at ten-pin bowling and David Aldous excelling at skating. Ross managed to arrive on time (he was only three hours late) due to the large population and housing structure of Cosford (pop.4). The packed programme of events at Cosford included Bulldog flying, leadership exercises, hill-walking, shooting and a night ex with spectacular pyrotechnics and a lot of extremely bad acting by shot-down pilots, hostages and terrorists (the officers).

The field day was extremely

successful this year and our thanks go to Chris Gaff's Dad for making it so good. We managed to do two things in the one day. We limbered up with a gentle walk to the top of Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh then we went to Redford barracks for an afternoon on the climbing wall.

I must highlight the achievements of Jnr Cpl Stuart Ruthven who got picked to shoot for Britain in South Africa during the Easter holidays.

Many thanks to Flt Sgt Iain Watt who will sadly be leaving us this year and we all wish him well in his future career as a beauty consultant for Cam cream (I was forced to write that, Iain: guess who by?)

Finally I'd like to thank all the NCOs who have made this such a good year and I'd like to congratulate all the new and old NCOs who managed to get promoted this year.

Cpl Arron Uytendhal



Laarbruch from the air



A fine body of cadets



Back Row: G Cornelius, A Uytendhal, J Williams, D Aldous, G Martin
Front Row: R Bennett, D McLay, Flt Lt D Gilhooly, I Watt, D Robertson



Pit Off Sheerin - or is it?



"What, no pilot?"



The RAF Cadets visit the Arnhem Museum

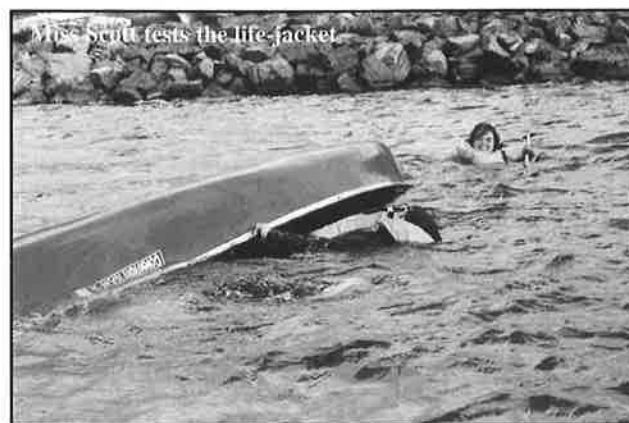


Cpl Uytendhal in control



"Why is the RAF Section Office up here?"

OUTDOOR



WATERSPORTS

Once again, we had a good watersports season at Lochore Meadows Country Park, Fife which is our main sailing and windsurfing venue. At Loch Lomond, we train power-boating and canoeing and carry out BCU assessments on Loch Ard in the Trossachs. Here is the updated list of current pupils RYA and BCU National Certificates.

Edward Porter	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 3 RYA Powerboat Level 1 BCU 2 Star Award
Gareth Hadland	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 3
Iain Watt	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 2 RYA Windsurfing Level 1 BCU 2 Star Award
Louise Kirkaldy	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1
Kris Edwards	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1 RYA Powerboat Level 2 RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1
Jamie Graham	RYA Windsurfing Level 1
Jennifer Jones	RYA Windsurfing Level 1
Laura Dunnachie	BCU 2 Star Award
Douglas Greenhowe	BCU 2 Star Award
James MacFarlane	BCU 2 Star Award
Ryan Bennett	BCU 2 Star Award
Barry Prowse	BCU 2 Star Award
Cameron McLeod	BCU 2 Star Award
Robert Adams	BCU 2 Star Award
Craig Bissett	BCU 2 Star Award
James Donald	BCU 2 Star Award
David Aldous	BCU 2 Star Award

Sailing at Lochore Meadows



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

There were forty pupils who joined the Award scheme at the Bronze level this year.

Thomas Wright	David Walker	Alasdair Spence
David Abolins	Simon Cox	Iona Evenden
Colin Abolins	Colin MacDonald	Nicola Moffat
Adam Bott	Christopher Niven	Kirsty Whiteford
Michael Brown	Andrew Reith	Lauren Campbell
Matthew Roessler	Kris Edwards	Laura Dunnachie
Callum Small	Jamie Graham	Lindsey Farquharson
Gareth Hadland	Andrew McNally	Chloe Johnston
Daryl Haldane	Damian McDade	Jennifer Jones
Gerald Kerr	Philip Flaherty	Ashling Kerr
Adam Tose	Jamie Smith	Lynsey McAulay
Alec Trousdale	John Stevenson	Lisa Milligan
Amy Morton	Amy O'Brien	Laura Wylie
Emma King		

The Bronze instructors were:-

A Kirk, Mrs L Shannon, Mr D Gilhooly and Mr J Lawrence.

Silver in the Trossachs



Which one is impersonating Stan Laurel?



Mmmmm!



PURSUITS

Knitting for Charity

We started knitting for charity at a Hobby Club. First we rolled up balls of wool and then cast on. If people didn't know how to cast on, Miss Blackwood took the time to show them, and also how to knit.

First we started knitting squares of 50 stitches by 50. Then we found out that it took too long so we cut it down to 25 by 25. You could knit in your free time and in the holidays. When people took knitting home in the holidays we got about 5 squares from each person.

If you thought knitting is boring, you're wrong because while you knit you can speak a little bit.

The people who took knitting were Sarah MacLean, Sharlene Mahony, Rhona Love, Penny Wood and Patrisha Goodman. These girls are from S1 and S2.

Every two weeks one of the girls laid out the squares to see how big the blanket was becoming. Miss Blackwood was in charge of knitting and she chose to give our blanket to the Kosovo Aid Centre.

Miss Blackwood is sewing the squares together for us. We finished the blanket at the end of the Hobby term.

Sharlene Mahoney (S1)



Chris Boyle

Time Capsule 30 Years Ago

Editorial July 1949

January saw a big change in the life of the Form VI boys, who are those selected to stay on after the school leaving age. Arrangements have been made for those boys to attend McLaren High School in Callander, daily, and they, five in number, started work there at the beginning of January and are now completing their second term. It is perhaps early to give a final opinion on the success of the scheme, but there is no doubt that the boys like it and the Headmaster of McLaren High School has said that he would like to take many more boys of that kind - so the scheme has made a propitious start.

... We are most grateful to the Royal Scots for again letting us have their band for our Sports Day. It is the making of the Day and their performance was much appreciated by all.

All our three bands have been very busy with engagements and have been making many corners in Scotland gay with their Red and Green Jackets and their music. May the day never come when those jackets are no longer worn. The bands in this, their traditional dress, form a constant reminder to Scotland of this fine War Memorial which she has erected.

Time Capsule 25 Years Ago

Commandant's Notes June 1974

... We have gone back, after much heart-searching and argument, to the "end of term" Grand Day. And so, most regrettably, we shall miss on this year's parade many of the most senior and responsible boys, and, of course, many of those who should be receiving prizes and trophies on that day. Examination dates being as they are, there seems to be no good solution. Only a choice of disadvantages.

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE NOTES

This session began with a fresh start for Cunningham House due to the appointment of Mr Tomkins as Housemaster and Mrs Tomkins as Housematron.

Many improvements have been made throughout the House with some interior decorating, including a large flashing clock, which is the highlight of the North Dorm.

The boys make full use of the house library which was organised by our Literature and Publications Executive - Jamie Smith. Also the new computer and printer is under constant use which shows how the boys appreciate this asset. Information Technology Manager and General Secretary, Gareth Hadland, has worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the system.

Another very much appreciated addition is the house kitchen with its several facilities. Although the technology obviously baffled those who attempted to make cheese toasties in the microwave!

Tuck shop continues to be a lifeline and, for some, a staple diet. It is opened regularly with small profits into house funds.

There have been numerous outings this year including Laser Quest and M & D's theme park where too many free rides made some boys ill. The lads have also enjoyed various cinema trips, swimming trips and a Claymores game at Murrayfield. The discos were also a success with Neil 'Rock the Dance Floor' Greenwood showing us how it's not done.

Intermediate life in Cunningham House consists of Playstations, mobile phones and tuck shop complemented by various loud noises from Gerald Kerr. Peace and harmony is only experienced during important football matches when the TV rooms are full.

I believe the senior members (S6) have enjoyed spending their final year in Cunningham. The House will no longer enjoy the company of Paul Barlow - Head of Electrical Affairs, Colin "Sergeant Major" Wood, Adam Moore - Ambassador for MTV and Iain Murray - Internal Affairs Executive and Vice Captain. We have worked well as a team along with the 5th years and staff to make Cunningham House the success it is today.

On behalf of the boys I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Tomkins, Mr Duthie, Karen and Daniel for their tireless efforts in running the House.

K Davidson



This has been a very different, exciting year for me as Housemaster of Cunningham House. For the first time in the history of the School we had a House of all S2 and S3 boys. "Are you mad?" were the mutterings in the staff room or "Do you really think it can work?" I believe it has been a success, thanks to the boys' own capabilities, their ability to adapt to changes and the hard work and motivation of the House team. The House Captain, Kenny Davidson, and House Vice Captain, Iain Murray, and the senior boys deserve a particular mention for their diligence in completing the House duties and stimulating the younger boys into taking pride in their dorms and House in general. I would like to thank Mr Duthie, Mrs McVey and my wife Mrs Tomkins for their personal support and help especially in the beginning when I was new in the post.

Mr Carroll and Mr Laing have at all times offered me advice, encouragement and a willing ear as have the senior management team. Whether the House will continue in its present form will be determined by the refurbishment of the Main Building, but whatever the future holds for Cunningham House, I am confident it will continue to be a successful part of QVS.

BT

THE BALLAD OF WAVELL HOUSE

We are Wavell House, the "ladies" of QV,
So delicate, dainty - as sweet as can be.
We dwell near the chapel, we're all so demure,
I'm sure if you know us you'll be shouting "Sure!"

We've had a new Housemistress, since Christmas, that's all.
Predicted her coming - in our crystal ball!
But doesn't she look just like someone you know?
We could start our very own lottery show.

Our Deputy "Scotty" is so quiet and shy,
To set an example she doesn't have to try.
She's multi-talented on field, pitch or pool;
Her best sport we'd say, though, is acting the fool.

Miss J lives upstairs, she's so clumsy, you know,
Could trip on a feather or a flake of snow.
In her pinny and "Reeboks" - a guru of style,
If the Fashion Police saw her, they would run a mile.

Our matron, Mrs Kean, and our GAP student, Kate,
Haul us up for breakfast - never yell if we're late;
Make sure that we're eating, they keep us all neat;
If we come in with shoes on they both just shout "Feet."

Mrs Blyth comes to help us, she comes in every day,
She gives you a hug if things don't go your way;
She mothers us all, and she knows all our ways -
Bet you she just can't wait for the holidays!

Our House staff are great, they come in every week,
Put up with our moaning - but never our cheek(!)
Help us run the tuck shop, assist our prep too...
Unless it's fractions - then they just don't have a clue.

Head of House is Cheryl, the blonde(?) with the plaid,
Helped by Leigh-Anne, Sarah and Dyan McDade.

Her arithmetic skills, they are second to none,
When she's on the tuck shop it's always great fun.

The fifth year help us too, by example they lead (?) -
They're always on hand when it's time for a feed.
Vicky, Christine and Claire never moan, whinge or shirk;
They just can't be found when you need them to work.

Fourth year stick together, the "Pink Ladies Crew".
Kerri's always there if you need a new "do";
Found in the extension, they all hide away,
But they're not usually short of something to say.

S3 are the sporties, they're always so loud;
Like to help each other, all in the same crowd,
Dancing, piping, debating - there's no skill they lack;
They're the girls year that finally got in with the TAC.

Second years are upstairs, they love making a din,
Hate hoovering, cleaning and emptying the bin,
Form long queues at supper, spend hours on their hair;
When telling them off, they all wail, "It's not fair!"

S1 just love music, watch MTV all the time.
If you send them to prep, they all scream "It's a crime!"
Never argue or squabble, they hate giving cheek,
Except when there's a "Y" in the day of the week.

P7 love laughing, never have a care;
On Sunday they really love doing your hair
In the "salon" they're crimping and styling as well,
Who has the most talent? It's so hard to tell...

- So there you have Wavell, the "wifies" retreat.
You've now had a chance some on paper to meet.
No longer the "new" House, we're part of QV.
What will we do next? Well, you just wait and see.



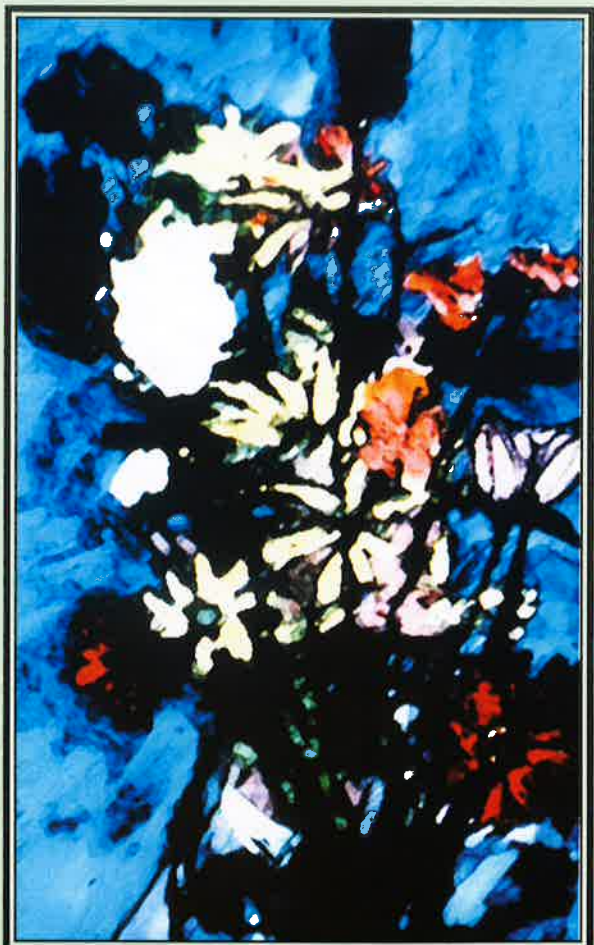
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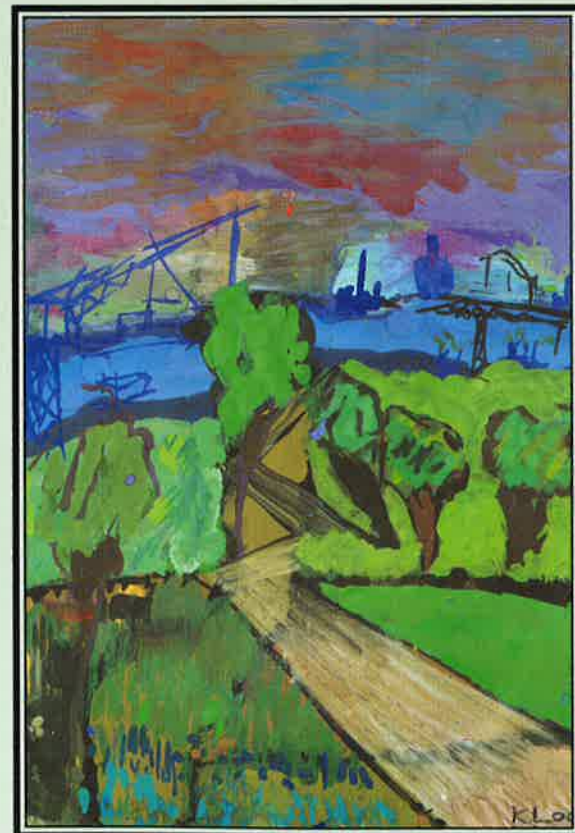
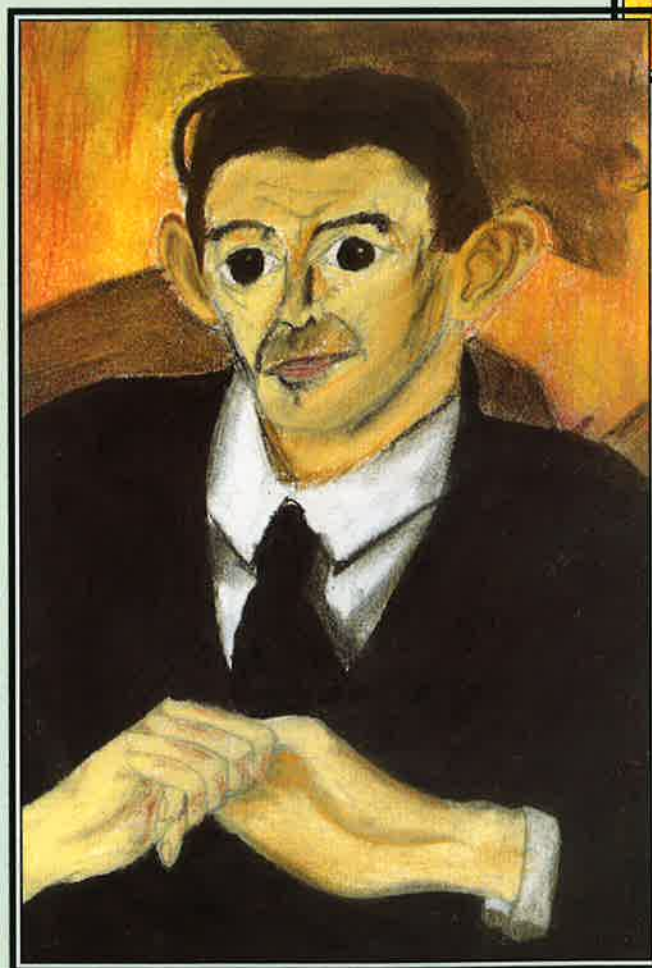


Adam Moore S6



Adam Moore S6





Because I Love You

Mum, I think you are the greatest there could be.
And, even though there are many differences
Between you and me,
I miss you when we're apart.
But I think about you from the bottom of my heart.

When I was young you sang me to sleep,
But sometimes I still ended up counting sheep.
You checked for monsters under my bed,
And said "Good night, sleepy head."

You made my childhood interesting and fun,
You told me all about the moon, stars and sun.
You always gave me a special treat when I was good,
And sometimes, when I was bad, you told me off
And I stormed off in a mood.

The older I get, the closer we become,
Thank you for being there, mum.
When we're apart I feel I'm so lonely,
And my favourite times are when you phone me.

You've been there when I'm sad,
And I'm ever so glad
You and I get on really well.
Our future together no one can tell.
But I hope it's full of good times
Because I love you.

A.M.C.O.



Poor Man Rich

A Short Story by
Amy Morton

A small silver coin slid through the structure of Connor's hands, a blueish tint lit the tips, a jingle echoed down the passage as it finally found its way out of the fragile hands. A wet pink shape "sniffed" at the coin and then two green concerned eyes looked up until they met with Connor's own. In both eyes there was a small spark. It was November and both held the hope that before it came too cold they could find a home.

"Come on gal," Connor's poetic and friendly voice called his only companion. Both friends began to head off for the local cafe.

"A coffee and warm milk please?" Connor asked.

A small stocky man in an exotically patterned overall answered him. "How Con! You wanting the usual piece o' cake with that? Gypsy'll be getting hungry."

"No thank you. Gypsy and I have been saving, gonna try our luck on the Lottery. I can live without the cake for one week. I don't s'pose you got any bacon fat out back? I can pay."

Connor was a tall and lean middle-aged man; his foxy auburn hair fell forward into his eyes and his calm piercing blue eyes flickered underneath.

His muscular arm swept upwards and brushed back the hair. A small scar crossed his forehead and disappeared into his fading hair line.

"Con, if you're struggling, tell me. I could persuade Lucie, somehow."

"No, don't, I won't go causing conflicts in good homes." Despite his unfortunate position Connor remained polite, canny and exceedingly friendly. His voice was quiet and whispered its way towards Klint's ear with the faint brogue of an Irishman's voice. His hands rummaged in his pockets; in one a small hole was wearing and the knees

of the brown cords were almost threadbare. He placed on the counter three silver coins, slid them forward and then gently, slowly, placed a gold coin down with a slip of paper. On the paper, written in pencil, italic writing ruled the page on the side. In childish writing 6 numbers were written. Both men exchanged looks.

A Lottery ticket passed back with two dirty copper coins.

"Good luck," Klint said happily. He didn't want to get Connor's hopes up; the tone of warning had exaggerated itself and made sure Connor knew of the very unlikely odds. Gypsy whined almost as an order; she wasn't a stupid dog. Her eyes followed her owner's every movement as Connor was holding not only the ticket but the bacon as well. Connor's lips parted:

"See you soon. And give Lucie my best... and Klint?"

"Yes?"

"Thanks for the offer you know me, I just couldn't accept."

"Yeah Con, I know you, I know you too well. Keep Gypsy warm - hey?"

It seemed to be more a question than a request; both men acted like they knew what the other was feeling; in reality, however, both were as confused as the other.

Connor passed through the busy London streets. He walked slowly and cautiously like a ghost. His body seemed nothing. The bitter streets had stolen Connor's strong and muscular body. The red light of the sun seemed to highlight this one lone figure above all the others.

He crouched down in his usual corner filled with charity blankets. All night Connor sat there in hope, while cold and shaking hands forcefully held the Lottery ticket in place.

The large, grey industrial clock chimed nine. If Connor had won he would have known by now. He decided he'd still go to the cafe and be certain he had not won.

The bells sounded as another

figure entered the cafe. As Klint looked up he saw it was Connor and Gypsy.

"Have you got the numbers?" Connors voice wishfully asked.

"Yup, Con. Here you go and get a cup of tea - on the house."

Klint as usual, was in high spirits and was wearing yet another of his dreadful market shirts.

Connor placed the ticket beside the newspaper cutting and slowly and carefully compared the numbers. To his amazement, one by one, each one corresponded perfectly to the other. All six numbers were repeated twice between the pieces of paper. The silence had warned Klint of what had happened and his fingers quickly sped towards the telephone and typed in the numbers, like a military soldier being sent on a mission.

Before Connor had even realised his miracle, there were people surrounding him and camera lights flashing in his face. The feelings and thoughts rushing through his head and body were unbelievable, indescribable, yet fascinating.

When asked "What are you going to do with your £10 million?" Connor replied, "I'll give Gypsy a best friend and give all of us the warm and loving home we've wanted for so long. It'll probably be in the Highlands. I'll put some in the bank, of course, and the rest I will put towards starting a support group for people who are in the same position as I used to be in. I will not use this money completely to my advantage. No-one will suffer what I went through."

A crowd of people stood around this slim and fragile body, a small dog obediently lay by him. Every media person, town person, market trader and business person saw it. They saw this significant and amazing contact between the figure and animal. The Lottery had made a poor man rich and Connor's enlightened words had made the rich men of this world wiser.



2

Haig Office
April 1999

My Darling Wife

I know you think I have run off with another woman, and my sources (mostly 6th year narks) inform me that you have been referring to me recently as Lord Lucan. I have, in fact, been up in Haig Office all this time, writing reports and references, handing out tuck, and answering constant questions from the 5th year regarding who'll be boarding in "The Ritz" next year - me if I could afford it, rather than staying at the Skelpit Haddie in Pittenweem for a fortnight. I've also been organising trips to the cinema, discos, and reels parties etc. Yes, I know I should be doing those things with you, rather than with All My (66 adopted) Sons but at least we did manage to snatch a memorable hour and a half alone with 45,000 other people watching Scotland getting gubbed by the Czech Republic at Parkhead in March. The way you supped your bovril by romantic floodlight, and could cram a whole packet of Celtic crisps into your mouth at one time is etched on my memory forever. I thought we could make a date to meet up for a coffee and Tunnock's Caramel Wafer. How are you fixed for July 17th about 10.30 at the breakfast box after I came back from 3 1/2 weeks in Australia? I think I did mention I was going to Australia with the school? Perhaps not.

Love and Cuddles

Your loving (in absentia) Steve... em... your husband, xxx

1

Haig Office
April 1999

Dear Mum & Dad

Sorry I haven't had time to get down to the Borders recently to see you, but work has been tying - just like dad and his fishing flies. I am now 41, and when I last saw you, I remember dad was excited because the Berlin wall was coming down. Unfortunately I cannot see myself coming down, so I'm writing a long letter instead Sorry, I'll have to go, a boy has just appeared to ask if he can get his skateboard back (again). His skateboarding antics round campus resemble Bart Simpson zooming round Springfield knocking down pedestrians, flattening dogs, and leaping over parked cars.

Steve (your son)

P.S. You have three grandchildren and a granddog.

3

Haig Office
April 1999

Hi kiddies!

It's your father here. Yes, I know your mother thought it was kinder to tell you that my clothes were found on Portobello beach and that the last trace of me was my footsteps in the sand leading to the Forth (if the cold doesn't kill you, the sewage will) but in fact I have been up in the Haig Office all this time! Isn't that funny! Daddy has been very busy fixing snooker cues, playing 5-a-side football tournaments (which the teachers would have won if it hadn't been for shocking underhand tactics by the boys), keeping tabs on 66 boys' current accounts, and trying to convince the boys that Friday night wrestling isn't real and that the chances of them ever going out with Sable are about the same as Hearts winning the league this season. It was a bit of a surprise to hear that Calum is old enough to get married, that Ewan can ride a bike (is he really 13?) and that Nicola has been out of Pampers for nine years. I have actually been at home occasionally e.g. to get a hacksaw to open a boy's locker or pick up ingredients for Friday night cheese toasties in the Office, but you might remember that on one occasion you showed me where to read the meter and on another you ushered me in to tune the piano. Perhaps your mother has told you I am going to Australia. Then again perhaps not, because you won't have noticed I've gone.

Love Sir - sorry, Dad - yes you do actually have one.

P.S. I hope you are making your beds and keeping your bunk space tidy - if not, please report to the playing fields at 0700 hrs. Report at 1530 hrs on a Thursday for pocket money and if you want to go out over the weekend, tell your mother to write to me to request a Pass.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA (Haig Housemaster's Notes)

5

Haig Office
April 1999

Dear Billy

RED COAT - BUTLINS HOLIDAY CAMP

Please accept this as my formal application for the above post.

For the last six years I have been responsible for keeping a three score and ten pubescent schoolchildren thoroughly entertained and occupied for ten week blocks at a time at a boarding school. I feel, therefore, that I would be more than capable of keeping children at Butlins happy on a weekly basis while their parents sit in the bar, sleep off the excesses of the night before or want to enjoy a quiet meal together. I have heard that the soup at Butlins does not come in flavours, but rather a variety of colours. I am well used to school dinners. I have been at this boarding school for 15 years, and before that Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh and Moray House College, and I was educated (as far as was humanly possible) at Gala Academy, so the food at Butlins would not put me off.

I know that children at Butlins are on holiday, but I would still expect them to make their beds and tidy their bunk space every morning. If they have stepped out of line the day before, they will, of course, have to report at 7 am for "days" whereby they would be supervised by me running round the holiday camp in any weather, or picking up litter from the areas where the "knobbly knees" and "best dressed vegetable" competitions take place. Any further misdemeanours and they would, of course, be denied "tuck" for three days. There will be specific times allocated when they are allowed off campus for short periods, but if they are caught in Ayr town centre sloppily dressed, and without signing out, sanctions will be brought to bear. May I suggest suitable dress for going into town might be kilt, walking out jacket and ill-fitting brogues? I hope you think I am a suitable candidate. If not, one of my 4th years has suggested that I have all the qualities necessary to make a first class warden at Stalag 17.

Yours etc.

4

Dear House Staff

Toowoomba, Australia
July 1999

Graeme was probably surprised when the plane took off without me. Not as surprised as I was, however. One minute I was standing in the queue to get my luggage weighed, the next minute I had dropped the carrier bag with the three Kuddly Koalas, Skippy the Bush Kangaroo and an Abarigine Rain Stick, and was legging it out of the airport. I have applied to be a GAP student at Wagga Wagga College - all the fun of the boarding school with none of the responsibility - all-night parties and occasionally turning up on the Astroturf to blow a whistle at a crowd of 11-year olds. In my absence, you all know the routine - get the boys up at 7 am - try again at five minute intervals - send them off to Chapel and check the usual hiding places - Wavell Wood, behind the old multi-gym, Green Pavilion, T.V rooms, Hospital with imaginary diseases etc. You won't have time for breakfast, but you might get a cup of tea in the staff room at 10.15 providing a boy doesn't turn up with the usual complaints: "I've got a college interview at 11.15 - I need money!" "Sir, can you tape W.W.F. RAW at 2 am?" etc. Don't bother with lunch, that will be when the Tuck Shop man will arrive or when a girls' school phones to arrange a date for a function because all their other first choice boys' schools have let them down. This is usually when boys will require endless ten pences for the phone. After teaching all afternoon you can give out pocket money and deal with grievances: "My favourite boxers have disappeared" / "This leaflet tells me I should be stressed out because I'm studying for my Standard Grades, but I'm not" etc. Supervise tea, but not your own as you'll have to open the Office because you can no longer ignore the constant clamours for attention in Haig corridor from a string of kids presenting with a variety of problems and requests that are all of paramount importance (to them) like: "Can we get Dream Team on?" Just point to the notice on my door - "Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." It has no effect whatsoever, but is worth trying and will buy you some time. Supervise prep; now you can have all your meals at once; administer counselling and enter into bizarre and wonderful world of conversations with the host of 15-18 year olds that troop in and out of the office all night. Supervise bed-time - not your own - you've still got plenty of work to do.

G'day possums and good luck wrestling with the rotas!!
Steve (Vince McMann) Laing

6

Haig Office
April 1999The Manager
Heart of Midlothian Football Club

Dear Jim

As a season ticket holder for a team whose football boots I am not worthy to kneel down and kiss, I am writing to see if it is possible to rearrange next year's football fixtures. As a Housemaster in a Boarding School, I only have five minutes free on a Tuesday and am finding it impossible to get to as many matches as I would like to. I have to rely on bribery as it is to get the House covered if I go out. Please could you bring your considerable influence to bear on the S.P.L. so that next year all matches are played during the school holidays?

Yours etc

P.S. I wore the Hearts tartan when I was Best Man at my Assistant Housemaster's wedding in March - yes, surprisingly people do volunteer for this job, and even more surprising for a balding, skinny, bespectacled Jambo I was pursued by young females all night and highly complimented by the female teaching staff at this school which has never happened before - usually quite the opposite. It was just to warn fellow supporters that wearing the Hearts tartan can seriously damage your marriage.

OZ 99

For those purchasing their VICTORIANS on Grand Day, OZ99 is on us even as you read! Last minute packing is in progress, fond farewells ongoing and excitement suppressed as on Sunday at 04.30 a.m. we set off for Australia.

Just in case you have no knowledge of OZ99, it is a Tour of Australia by the Pipe Band and the Rugby Team. This great adventure lasts four weeks and takes us to Perth, Brisbane and Sydney. A very full programme has been planned with games against local Schools and engagements for the Pipe Band and our integrated Dancing Team and there will be many opportunities to visit local areas of interest.

Outline Programme

The full programme is contained in a very attractive brochure available from the School. The outline is:-

21st - 30th June

Perth - hosted by Scotch College

30th June - 9th July

Brisbane - hosted by Marist College and Gregory Terrace

9th - 15th July

Sydney - hosted by The Scots College

16th July

Return to Dunblane

Preparation

As would be expected, considerable planning has been needed in order to arrive at the departure date successfully. A staff committee was formed in April 1997 to prepare for the Tour. Drum Major Tomkins, as Chairman, using the expertise gained through many such tours during his Army service, has driven us towards this point in a most exemplary manner.

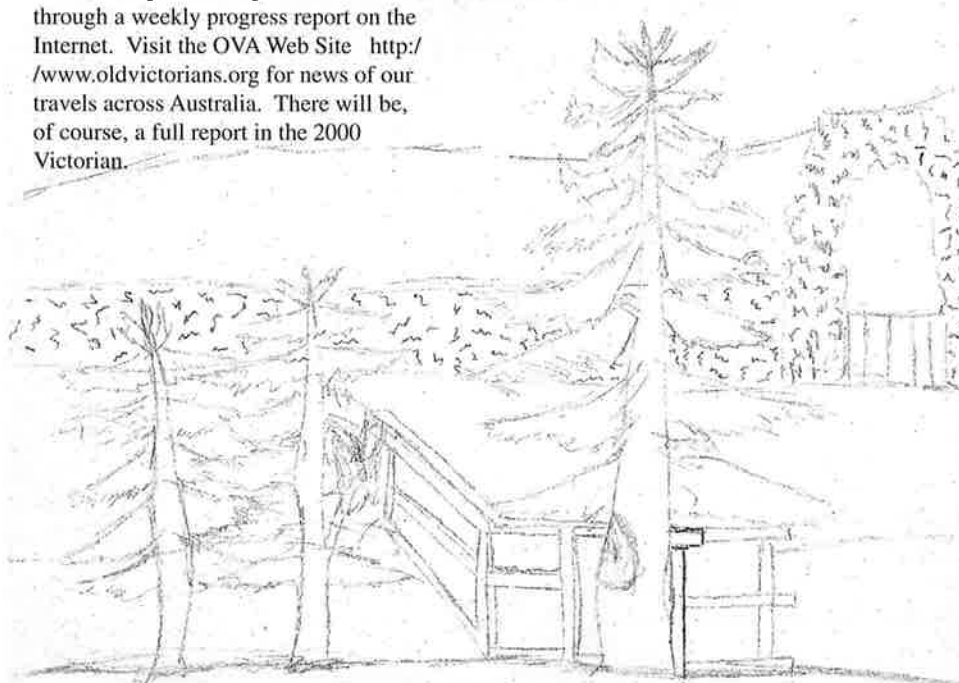
The main details were confirmed in the recce undertaken by the Headmaster and Drum Major last Summer. They received a warm welcome from the host Schools and were able to meet representatives from the OVA who are very excited about the Tour. In particular, Tom Hunter (2384) and Alex Hamilton (2522) have been very busy in contacting OV's in both New Zealand and Australia and we are looking forward to meeting many of them during our visit. Arguably the oldest OV in Australia is Ross Smith (649) and he, at the age of 90, intends to travel from Tasmania to Sydney to see his School!

Fund Raising

Funds have continued to flow in throughout the year and, even as I write, a party of boys are walking the West Highland Way to attract further sponsorship. Regrettably the Fund Raising Dinner scheduled for last October had to be postponed but it is to take place on 29th May to be followed on the 30th by a Fun Run! Once again, I must thank all those who have contributed so generously to our appeal for financial support. Without your help we would not have been able to mount this very exciting adventure.

OVA Web Site

We plan to keep in touch through a weekly progress report on the Internet. Visit the OVA Web Site <http://www.oldvictorians.org> for news of our travels across Australia. There will be, of course, a full report in the 2000 Victorian.



WEST HIGHLAND WAY

West Highland Way Sponsored Walk

To raise money for Oz '99, Gerald Kerr and Michael Brown and myself decided to plan a sponsored walk of the 98 mile West Highland Way. With the help of Mr Lawrence and Mr Cato we planned a 5 day journey which we completed in early May. Here is a short diary of our walk.

Day 1 26 miles: Milngavie to Rowardennan

We headed from school with high hopes at approximately 8.30 but while we were on the bus it started to rain. However, by the time we arrived at Milngavie at 9.30 the weather was fine. We then started off and made good time before stopping for lunch at 1300. It was about 2030 when we eventually arrived at Rowardennan Youth Hostel. Our feet weighed a ton and to round it off there was a class of young school kids staying who kept on running about screaming!

Day 2 20 miles: Rowardennan to Crianlarich

We had a good night's sleep and no one had any blisters but everyone was a bit stiff. We set off to climb up a hill that seemed never-ending and we started to slow down. It was quite slow going on the edge of Loch Lomond as the path was quite bumpy. We stopped for lunch near Rob Roy's Cave and had a quick look inside it. Mr Lawrence told us that we needed to pick up the pace after this and we did, arriving at Crianlarich Youth Hostel 45 minutes before schedule. Most of us got into our beds and lay still for a while, recovering! Eventually we got up had a shower, a large pasta meal and went to bed.

Day 3 13 miles: Crianlarich to Bridge of Orchy

Day 3 was quite an easy day so we weren't in any hurry. We had a good night's sleep and we didn't leave Crianlarich till 9.30. It was also a little hilly so it was quite tiring. We stopped for lunch at Tyndrum and we had a large meal in the Little Chef restaurant there. After our meal we

carried on walking and eventually got to Bridge of Orchy at 4.00. We were staying in a bunkhouse which was like a 2 storey flat which had lots of tiny rooms. We had a showers, put on some clean clothes and went for a meal in the adjoining hotel.

Day 4 20 miles: Bridge of Orchy to Kinlochleven

We left Bridge of Orchy early and headed off towards Kingshouse which was 13 miles away. We walked through Rannoch Moor which was very open and we saw a lot of West Highland Wayers. We got to Kingshouse Hotel at 12.00am because we did 6.5 miles in an hour and 13 miles in two and a half hours which was quite tiring. We actually ran the last part to make sure we got in for midday, which was our target. We had some curried cauliflower soup at Kingshouse and then headed off to tackle the Devil's Staircase which was very steep but we made it okay. We got into Kinlochleven at 6.00pm and had to find where we were staying. We actually stayed in a "Wigwam" which was like a big wooden wendy house! There was also a brood of chickens roaming about.

Day 5 14 miles: Kinlochleven to Fort William

I woke up and went for a shower only to find one of the chickens had laid an egg in the shower! We set off at 10.30 to find we had to climb a really steep hill at the beginning. At the top my legs felt like exploding but after a rest I was fine. We had good weather until today when it started to rain at times. We were so happy to see Ben Nevis in the distance because we knew we were getting close. We got into Fort William at 1530 and got some photos at the Way sign. We were all very pleased at our achievement. All in all, it was a great experience and well worth doing. It just goes to show if you put your mind to it you can accomplish anything.

A Bott (S3)

OLD VICTORIANS' ASSOCIATION

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

It is very gratifying to report on another good year for the OVA, notable for increased activity both here and overseas and particularly for renewed contact and increasing membership. Our membership has increased by 82 and will pass the 1100 mark with the influx of pupils leaving School after Grand Day. Ghana, Egypt, Denmark and, most recently, Macedonia have been added to our mailing list and increased representation in countries around the world reflects the mobility of OV's in pursuance of their careers. I am pleased to report that, in honour of her service to the School for many years, Mrs Helen Muirhead was voted in as an Honorary Life Member at our March AGM.

The 1999 OVA Reunion was very successful and particularly so in a new venture - OV's with current musical experience to renew their acquaintance with the band rooms. Pipers and Drummers rallied round and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Indeed the Bursar was heard to comment on the high standard of musicianship and thoughts of an OVA Pipe Band were voiced. (Hardly a permanent organisation but perhaps for a special occasion?) Regrettably it was not possible to mix instrumental OV's in with the School Wind Band this year but we will do so in 2000. Moreover OV dancers are determined to show off their steps next year - increased participation all round!

The salute at the Reunion Church Parade was taken by Callum Lane (3813) and he thoroughly enjoyed meeting with pupils from the Highlanders after the Parade. This was Colonel Alan Tapp's last ceremonial event before retirement and I must record our sincere thanks to him for all his support for the Association throughout his service at QVS.

As forecast last year, the OVA has entered the computer age and now has its own Web Site on <http://www.oldvictorians.org> - Stephen Hill (3578) has organised this great step forward and is reporting considerable interest with many visitors during the first three months - why not visit it yourself?

Not a new idea, but a development of previous OV contact with the School, is the programme of OV speakers visiting the School to talk to pupils and staff on topics of their

expertise or interest. Professor Steve Bruce (3042) - "The Northern Ireland Situation", Stephen Hill (3578) - "The World of Computers", Paul Kane (4154) and Adam Morton (4261) - a joint representation on their respective GAP year in Australia and New Zealand, have contributed most effectively to this programme and I was even persuaded to speak to Primary 7 on "Life at QVS in the 1940s". I think they had some difficulty believing everything I said, but it was a pleasure to respond to a very enthusiastic and enquiring audience.

Congratulations to Corporal Alex Girvan (3594), honoured by Her Majesty The Queen in June 1998 with an MBE for his work in Medicine Hat, Canada both in Engineering Services and with underprivileged children. Success also for Douglas Hunter (4031) and Iain MacNeil commissioned from Sandhurst into RE and RA respectively in December 1998.

Already this year nine University degrees have been awarded to OV's adding to the seven notified in our 1998 Newsletter. An example of the far flung nature of OV academic success is the 1998 graduation of mature student Eric McKay (3110) with a BA History from the University of Southern California, Berkeley.

Overseas success leads to news of increased contact with OV's in many countries, particularly Australia and, quite significantly, USA and Canada. This has resulted in a suggestion that there is scope for the expansion of the current Canadian Branch into a North American "Chapter". Don Mackay (1717) and Bill Geddes (2314) have asked to investigate this idea.

Reference has been made above (The Highlanders) to a Regimental link. Such links used to be common between the School and units. Where there are clusters of OV's and parents in particular units/stations it could be advantageous to promote the link. A recent example notified is 21 Signal Regiment with Dave Graham (4107), Andy Moore (3616), Graeme Antrobus (4098) and RQMS Wylie (parent). Is this a good basis for recruiting new pupils?

A reminder to our readers that 2000 is the 60th Anniversary of the Dukie evacuation to QVS. During the 40s, the Dukies played a significant part in School life, and

it would be fitting if as many Dukies and Victorians of that era as possible attend Grand Day 2000 to celebrate that special part of School history. Please contact the OVA for information.

Once more I must close with the very sincere thanks of all Old Victorians to the School - Headmaster, staff, boys and girls - for making us feel an integral and important part of the School. The welcome accorded to so many visiting OV's creates a true sense of belonging. Thank you!



Callum Lane (3813) meeting with pupils from The Highlanders during the OVA Reunion and inevitably with the irrepressible duo, Alex Hume (1827) and Douglas Hume (1697) both late Seaforths plus, of course, D/M Bert Tomkins, late Gordons.

Historical Research

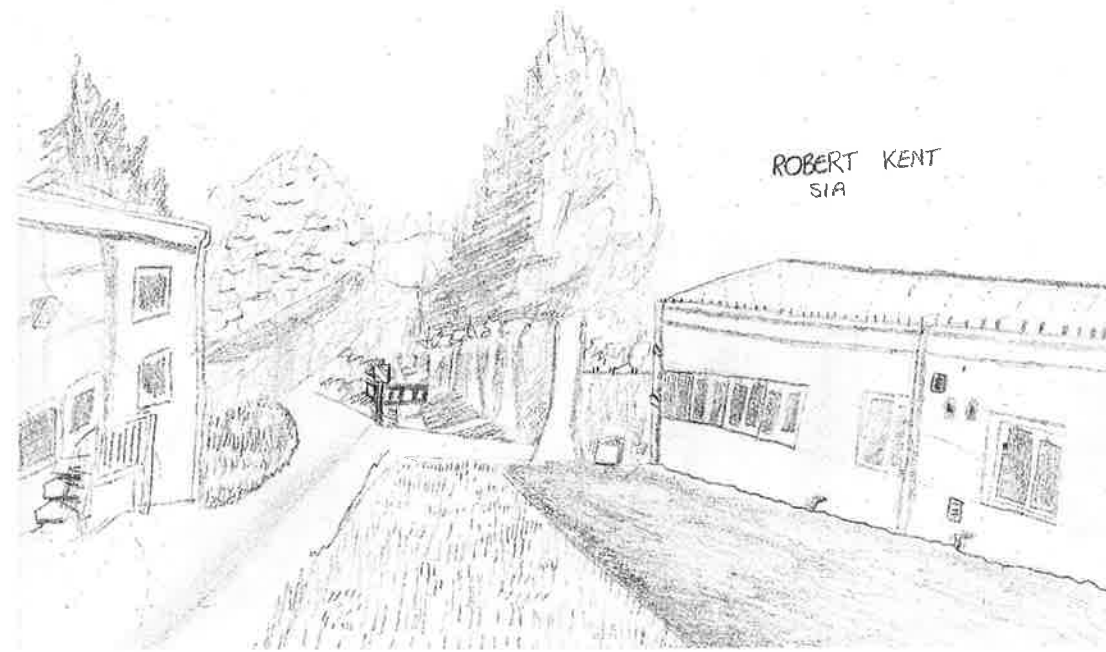
Pipers 1943

Pipe Major Ross has been examining photos held in the Band Room and has produced this photo of five pipers together with the following notation:

L-R Cpl CLark, Royal Highlanders; P/M A MacKenzie, 4th Seaforths; P/M D MacDonald, 4th Camerons; P/M W MacLeod, 6th Gordons; P/M R Hill, 91st. Stalag 383. Hoenfels. Bavaria 1943

It is thought that Cpl Clark and P/M MacLeod are Old Victorians. Despite the Stalag 383 note, the photo appears to have been taken in Inverness and is mounted on a card with a Queen Victoria School heading. Can any reader provide further information on the story behind the photo? The OVA Secretary will be interested to hear from you.





LONDON & SOUTH EAST

Once again, we held our annual "Bash" on the 2nd weekend in September, and every year we seem to be growing in numbers, not only with those attending, but also with the general interest in the London Branch. However, there are a few that proclaim their interest and then we never hear from them again! That is their misfortune, because this year we had a rather successful garden party.

You will recall that the weather last year had been very uncertain, so it was deemed appropriate to organise a marquee for the first time. Which was just as well, because we had all the seasons of the year in that afternoon.

There was only one member that had an unscheduled shower, the rest of us kept remarkably dry, so we were still able to enjoy the food and drink which were in abundance, and also the piping displays of Bob Bruce, Ewen McLay and John Young. Maybe next year we will have our own London Branch Pipe Band!

In appreciation for all her efforts in the preparation and cooking of the buffet, Melissa Gill was presented with a large bouquet of flowers.

It was very pleasing to see that we are getting more of a cross-section of ages coming to the "do's". Of the 25 in attendance, 5 were D of Y's, 8 from the 60s (4 from the same year) and the rest covering all the other years.

Those who attended are: Peter Caine (Newbury), David

Cross (Hythe), Alan Marden (Chatham), Jim MacDonald (Gloucester), Ron Smith and Ted Blake (Dunblane), George Cameron (Newbury), Frank Blake and Bill Kerr (Reading), John Young (Fareham), Phil Moore-Hemsley (Helston), Graham Scott, (Silverstone), Jim Fraser (Rainham), Malcolm Cooper (Cambridge), Ian Lorimer (Croydon), Stuart Leitch (Chalfont St. Peter), David Isitt (Aylesbury), Iain Roe (Chelmsford), Steve Hill (Harrow), Stuart Hill (Spain), Joe Laydon (Swindon), Paul Kerr (Beaconsfield), Bob Bruce and Ewen MacLay (Camberley).

Although the Branch is known as London & South East Branch, there are more OVs from outside the M25 than within, so if you are contemplating joining, don't be afraid that if you live outside the boundaries and you will not be accepted. We tend to keep the invitations to those within a 2-3 hour drive away, but you will be more than welcome if you live further afield.

On the subject of invitations, when you do receive one, could you let me or Ian Lorimer know as soon as possible as to your intentions, as it makes our life a lot easier for ordering food and drink and also whether we have enough space!

I would like to thank Ian and Kate for all their work and to Melissa for her endeavours.

See you on September 11th.



Old Victorians at Bob's Bash - September 1998.

963 C J A Vass MBE

Charles enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders on leaving School in 1928, serving in it and its successor the Queen's Own Highlanders for 39 years, rising through the ranks to Major (QM). Regrettably, he was a POW in World War 2, not being repatriated until 1967. His long and devoted service to the Regiment was recognised by the award of the MBE in 1967. After retirement, he was Office Manager for the Highlands and Development Board from 1971-78. Subsequently he became a regular visitor to the School, particularly on Grand Day, and was a very supportive member of the OVA. He died on 2nd February 1999 after a short illness.

1089 D Menzies

Sandy joined the 1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders in 1929, serving with them until 1946. He too was taken prisoner in 1940 but managed to escape eastwards in January 1945, successfully meeting up with the Russian Army in March. After leaving the Army, he was initially employed with the RE Branch at the War Office and latterly with Securicor. Sadly, he did not enjoy good health during the later stages of retirement and he died on 25th September 1998.

1272 J V Carroll

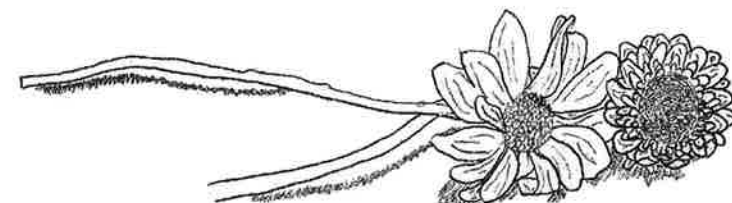
Vic phoned me on Grand Day '98 to apologise for missing the 'most important event of the year'. Two weeks later, Old Victorians and Cameronians met to celebrate his life and particularly his service to his School and Regiment.

Vic left QVS in 1933, joining 2nd Battalion Cameronians as a bandboy. His skill on the clarinet was such that, on mustering to man service in 1937, he was posted to Kneller Hall to undergo advanced training on clarinet, piano and composition. This was interrupted in 1939 when, at his own request, he returned to the Battalion to go to France, only to return via Dunkirk in June 1940. Subsequent active service continued in Madagascar, Iraq, Sicily and Italy. On the Anzio Beachhead he was badly wounded and taken prisoner. Repatriated in 1945, he returned to his Regiment, serving abroad again in Gibraltar, Trieste, Hong Kong, Borneo and Malaya. Back to the UK in 1950 as a PSI in 6/7 Cameronians before promotion to RSM, BAOR in 1952 and finally to Fort George in 1956 before retiring in 1958.

Vic worked for the South of Scotland Electricity from 1958-81, retiring finally as a bulk buyer. However, he joined the TA and added to his already distinguished career as RSM of 51 OFP RAOC.

During retirement, he became deeply involved with both the Cameronian Club and

OBITUARIES



of course with the OVA, serving the latter as President with total commitment. He knew everyone and was a most popular leader. This popularity continued after he gave up the post in 1988, gracing many School events in his own version of the Cameronian uniform!

The current well being of the OVA owes a great debt to Vic Carroll and his passing on 1st July 1998 was received with such sorrow by OVs everywhere.

1568 F Pegg

Fred was commissioned in the Royal Engineers, serving throughout World War 2. He then followed a teaching career, qualifying at Moray House in Edinburgh and then spending many years teaching overseas, initially at the Kuwait Oil Company Anglo/American School and latterly at Schools in India and Pakistan. On returning home he became Headmaster of St Ninian's Primary School, Stirling living in Alloa where he died on 21st August 1998, one week after visiting the School for the last time.

1782 J Kidney

Jimmy Kidney was the Boy Drum Major and Primus Medallist in 1943. He left the School in 1945 for the Royal Engineers, training in the Survey Department and qualifying as a Survey Photo Technician First Class and a Litho Camera Operator. He was a keen sportsman throughout his service and was an Army Hockey Umpire First Class.

As well as service in the UK, he was posted overseas to Germany, Cyprus and Singapore and retired as a Warrant Officer II in 1971. With his family, he settled down in Frome, employed as Warehouse Manager for a carpet factory until final retirement in 1991. During his retirement he suffered from emphysema and although it caused him considerable difficulty, he never complained, remaining outwardly happy and always proud of his School and his training there. Sadly, Jim died on 2nd March 1999, shortly before celebrating his 70th Birthday.

2073 W S Curruthers

Bill joined the School from his home in Dunblane the day after my arrival. He left in 1946 to train as an apprentice plumber, following his father's trade. However, this was not to his liking and he enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1949. He attained the rank of Sergeant, serving in Hong Kong, Malaya, Borneo, BAOR and Northern Ireland. He returned to Dunblane in 1974 taking up employment as a Security Officer, eventually completing his working life as Senior Security Officer at United Closures. Living in Dunblane, Bill soon became involved with the OVA and served for five years as Treasurer. During this time Bill suffered severe ill health, resulting in a leg amputation. Despite his disability, Bill continued with his committee duties and his support for School events. Eventually he developed cancer and he passed away, fighting to the last, on 13th January 1999.

Dukie K Kitney

On 5th May 1943 my brother and I arrived at Dunblane Railway Station en-route to join Queen Victoria School. We were met by a tall young man in khaki uniform with three stripes on his arm. This was my first meeting with Ken Kitney. He walked us up to the School, explaining to my mother, that he was one of the original Dukies evacuated to QVS in 1940. Ken completed his education here but not without suffering from Rheumatic Fever (attributed to the annual potato picking season). Ill health followed him into his National Service with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Germany, resulting in a medical discharge due to TB. On returning home, he continued his working in the insurance business, initially with the Royal Transport and General Insurance Company in Reading and then moved to Zurich, working in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow before taking early retirement in 1988. Ken lived in Dunblane and as the auditor of the OVA accounts, helping to keep a succession of treasurers going with his financial skills. He still suffered from ill health and passed away on 17th February 1999.

OBITUARIES continued

3988 C J MacIntosh

Cameron was the third youngest of four boys who all attended QVS at the same time in the late 80s early 90s. We tragically lost Cameron at the age of 24 to a cardiac myopathy (enlarged heart muscle) on 13th January 1999. He loved life, and always believed that it was there to be lived to the full. Anything Cameron got involved in he gave 110% to and in the end this may not have helped him.

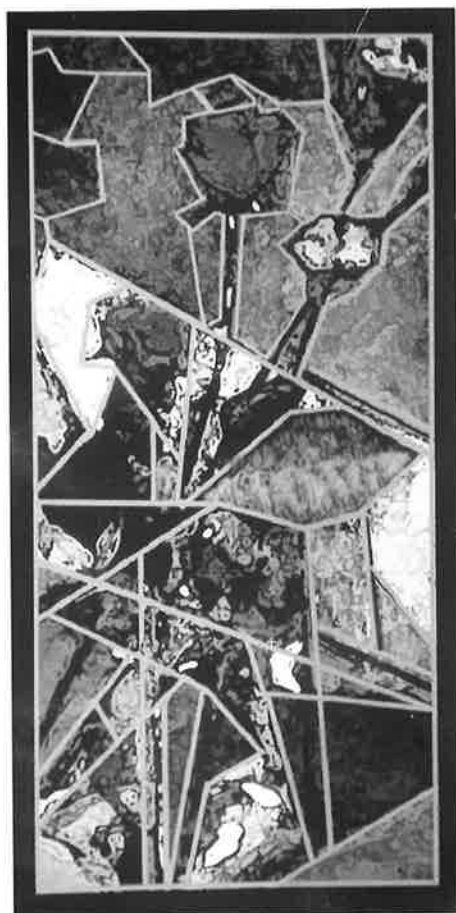
After leaving QVS he took an Architectural Engineering Degree course at the University of London. This was followed by an HND in Design at Maidenhead. He had been working for an Engineering company in Reading and had just decided to make some major career changes when we cruelly lost him.

His great loves in life were Sport, Music, Art, Photography, Travel and living life to its utmost. Cameron was always there to help and guide his friends in any sphere of their life. He had so many dreams and ambitions still to fulfill.

Cameron was a much loved son, brother and true friend and will be greatly missed but always remembered. Moreover the respect and love felt for Cameron was shown by the unexpected size of the turnout at his funeral. A true Gentleman who will always be missed by his parents, brothers and friends alike.

The wee boy with the skinny legs and a kilt that was always too long waiting expectantly at the top of the drive for Ma and Pa to arrive with coke and tuck on PTA evenings has gone to a happier place.

A J M



Reach for the Stars

My main ambition in life is to be somebody and, to be honest, I don't care what area it is in, although I would prefer it to have something to do with the army.

My father and grandfather were, or still are in my father's case, great soldiers. I wish to be able to achieve their high standards or more.

I have always set high goals, even in school. I want to achieve high goals, perhaps being in the Colour Party or even i/c. Tac. As I was staring pensively out of the window last week, as I often do, I noticed a note on my teachers desk. It read, "We are all in the gutter - But some of us are looking at the stars." This was quoted by Oscar Wilde and it made me realise what I was doing wrong - I wasn't going to get anywhere if I didn't go for it. So now I am.

I now intend to go very far but I realise that it will be a struggle. Within the school my goals are: to become at the very least a prefect; to go for i/c. Tac; to be senior principal dancer; and to have left an impression in the school - to be remembered with my name on a lot of plaques.

As an example of this I use Paul Kane. Now Paul Kane was in the first fifteen, the Tac, he was the senior principal dancer for two years and was a well respected Victorian. He often comes back to see how the school is getting on.

Which brings me to future plans. When I leave QVS I have a vague idea of what I wish to achieve. I would like to go on a GAP year for a start to see different cultures in the

seemingly vast yet cruel world and to learn a little from real life before going out on my own to brave the world. I don't yet know whether or not to do a degree; I know it would be useful but I want to get on and live life sooner rather than later. This may be one of my flaws. I have a few plans but I must speak to some people about them first: I wish to join an infantry regiment for almost one reason - it's all I know, which is a little contradictory of me as I am sitting here saying that I want to be special and different. When I am in my regiment I hope to learn to fly and get as many trades as possible as this all counts in the end. I really want to be someone to remember in the army also, as I like to think my dad and grandad are.

This may all seem very far-fetched and snobby of me to think I can be someone to stand out in a crowd of many millions but the way I see it is that if you don't set high goals then you will get nowhere and be nobody. But I suppose it is arguable that if you set high goals you may well meet disappointments too great to handle but who is the kind of person, I ask you, who can't take risks like that? Life is about chances and risk taking, so do it and if it doesn't work out, try again. If your heart is willing then you may find that nothing stands in your way, and as Milan Kundera writes, "When the heart speaks, the mind finds it indecent to object."

D Walker (S2)



CHAPEL NOTES

The God Squad

The Chapel Sunday Services and the Daily Assemblies would not function nearly so well without the aid of a small dedicated band of helpers, affectionately known amongst the pupils as 'The God Squad'. The Chapel Monitor, Prefect and Stewards are amongst the busiest Seniors in the School because nothing happens in the Chapel without their organisation and presence. I take this opportunity to thank them publicly for all their continuing and dedicated hard work, especially the way in which they conduct morning assembly and even a Sunday Service for me when I am absent from the School on a Course. Dedication and talent indeed!

A Kintrea, B Prowse, D Robertson, I Murray, J MacFarlane, V Harris, C Wylie, S Milligan, J Kidd, F MacKinnon, J Irvine.

Charities

The School supports nearly 30 Charities each year by donating its Sunday Offering to their worthwhile work. Many of these are suggested by the pupils themselves out of a personal interest. There are the usual Service Charities of course, but other examples include:-

The International Red Cross; Strathcarron Hospice; Sick Children's Hospital, Glasgow; The Sir Malcolm Sergeant Cancer Fund for Children; Stirling Hospital; Erskine Hospital; Christian Aid and many, many more.

It is good to be able to publicly testify to the unselfishness of many young people who respond to the needs of others in this very practical way every week.

Flowers

May I record my very sincere thanks to Mrs Raine for collating and organising the Flower List and the many Staff families who provide flowers for the Chapel each week.

Finally, may I thank the Headmaster for his continuing support for Daily and Sunday Chapel and also his ready willingness to preach if I am away from School on a course.

Special Services Diary

13th September 1998	- Battle of Britain Service
27th September 1998	- Harvest Thanksgiving Festival
4th October 1998	- Trafalgar Day
1st November 1998	- Holy Communion
8th November 1998	- Remembrance Sunday
14th March 1999	- Old Victorians Weekend
25th April 1999	- Baptismal Sunday
2nd May 1999	- Church of Scotland Admission Service

The usual two major concerts were given during the year. The first, in June 1998, followed the well established formula of solos, duets, windband items and groups. There were many spirited performances including a couple of up-beat windband pieces - *Blue Moon* and *Baby Elephant Walk*. David McDougall also played a fine *Last Post* accompanied by the band and there were numerous other solos. The Black Snakes lifted the pace with some original songs written by members. For the first time (for many years anyway) the windband came together with bagpipes in a grand finale playing *Abide With Me*. This was well-received by all present. The pipers were John Blackhurst and Ryan Kerr. In the Christmas concert in December, there was a considerable variety of music, sometimes of an overtly sentimental character. It's good to see the orchestral whip being taken seriously in these events and its crack rounded off a spirited performance of *Jingle Bells* by Mr Stuart Blackwood's burgeoning guitar group. Following last year's success with a German carol, the P7 Singers performed at least part of one in French this time.

The following term saw a highly successful workshop given by the Band of the Lowland Division under their Director of Music, Captain Calum Gray. This took the form of a whole day's activity with pupils invited from other schools. The band arrived and set up in the chapel and gave a short demonstration concert. Then the pupils (thirty-eight in all) were split into woodwind and brass sections and given workshops on the pieces to be performed in the afternoon. The day concluded with a rousing concert of some superb band music: Disney arrangements; *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* (complete with audience participation of a whistling nature) Movie Themes (including *Titanic*) plus many more. The pupils who took part thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of playing with a very professional band.

The school music competition took place in June and there were some fine performances from the twenty or so

players who took part. First in the P7/S1 class was David McDougall (cornet). In the S1/2 class, Chloe Johnston sang her way to a first place and in the senior class, the two participants, Leigh Bissett (voice) and Colin Wood (sax) were jointly awarded first place! The group/ensemble class was won by Tammy Allan (clarinet) and Amy Morton (flute).

On the classroom front, the keyboard laboratory continued to prove its worth. The standard of note-reading and musicianship is generally rising and group activities are easy and quick to set up saving valuable time. Music technology is also gaining in importance and there are exciting developments on the horizon, especially as the new Higher Still exams enable units in sound recording and music computing to be taken. The only drawback with such subjects is that they are dependent upon the availability of equipment.

Practical and theory exams of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music have been taken throughout the year, these of course, being the benchmark of instrumental prowess. In this respect, thanks must go to the individual instrumental teachers who contribute so much to the school music. We especially give a warm welcome to Mr. Stephen Armstrong who has taken over as piano teacher.

The following pupils were successful in ABRSM grade examinations:

Grade 1

Fiona Coyle	flute	(merit)
Chloe Johnston	cello	(merit)
Ross Stevenson	violin	(merit)

Grade 2

Chloe Johnston	e flat saxophone
Ciara Watson	flute

Grade 3

Mark Lovell	baritone horn
Laura Wylie	e flat saxophone (merit)

Grade 4

Lynsey McAulay	trumpet
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Grade 5

David McDougall	cornet
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The Play's the Thing...

This year's school play was *Turning Blind Eyes*, a play about bullying and its consequences. Totally different from anything we have tried before, this placed great demands on the acting ability of the pupils involved, and there were several moments of sheer intensity as Moz, the bully (Graham King), played his physical and mental power games with his gang (Kerry Meleady, Aaron Uytendhal and Martyn Terry), and specifically his chief target, Jeff (Darren Farr). The bullying culminates in Moz striking his girlfriend, Jayne (Tammy Allan) and finally people see that by standing up against what is wrong, without necessarily winning a fist fight, the bully's abuse of power can be ended.

The lighter notes were provided by the fascist teacher, Kershaw (Nick Burge) who is simply an older and weaker version of a bully.

Gareth Hadland was mature as Jeff's father; Toni Matthews - prone to giggling and blushing - played the mum; and Penny Wood was brought to slow down her words enough to lend dignity as the wise gran. Lee Jones personified the student-type older brother, and Gareth Martin was coolly laid back as the caring teacher, Myers. Bev Hardman, who certainly did not live up to her name, was acted with sympathy by Amy Morton, a striking counterpoint to the ranting Kershaw.

Those in the background lent a special importance to the theme of the play, for their passivity, their "turning blind eyes" allowed the evil to flourish. Fiona Gannon, Ashling Kerr, David Kelly, Jennifer Jones, Laurie Cairns, Alan Laws and Jamie Smith played the pupils, with Fiona convincingly doubling as Monica. Ross Stevenson bravely played the part of Richardson.

John Kidd was unshakeable as the Lighting Man, David Aldous was unflappable as Stage Manager, and David Abolins was the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" as the Sound Man.

The troupe were asked to do a lot and there were so many hiccups on the way to actual performance (changing dates, Field Days, blizzards preventing parents...) that we almost died of whooping cough. But the show went on!

Next one's a pantomime! "Oh no it isn't!" "Is this a cow I see before me?"

AK

As you entered the door the first thing you might have noticed was the hubbub, cut short by a screeching of "Shut up!" and several other words which I daren't even ask if they are printable. Then you would walk in and

see King Duncan (MacLellan) lying dead on the floor of the stage and Macbeth (Walker) standing menacingly over me (Alistair) with a carving knife and, of course, several other unofficial people darting behind the curtains in fear of retribution from the centre-piece of this scene - a dark-haired woman, slightly flustered and wearing black and white (as always). Her name, for the inquisitive, is Miss J - .

King Duncan staggers off the floor, snatches his crown from Macbeth and pronounces: "I'm off to the toilet."

"No you're not!" screams the fourth witch. No prizes for guessing... The unfortunate schoolboy is dragged in again.

Scene 1: The 3 witches start, but are told to get their voices up. They end up in a sulk, kicking their cauldron.



Turning Blind Eyes: The Gang

Scene 2: Duncan is flanked by two guards when a messenger comes in. He is amply smeared in fake blood and pronounces that Macbeth has won the battle. Our lighting director is playing about with the switches. The scene is instantly transformed from a bleak, desolate glen into a Disco, with the messenger (known only as M -) screeching "Night fever, night fever..."

Miss J shouts her well-known word: "CUT!"

Scene 3: Due to lack of fake blood, Macbeth became desperate, picked a scab and was rewarded with quite a steady stream of blood. All went well in the end scene, however. Miss J complains that people at the back are making too much noise. King Duncan (also prompter) sticks his head out and glares: "It's not me."

The rehearsal now breaks up for the night with the boys running late for supper.

The next Sunday evening we found ourselves back in the Theatre with a new arrival - a Miss B- from Canada. With her arrival, Miss J seems to have recovered a bit and we ran through without any hitches (apart from blah, blah, blah). At the end we were given the magnificent award of (not quite Oscar winners yet!) a curly-wurly each. One was missing, but was later found. No, not in a boy's pocket. Ahem. It was in a box under some books.

In the end, though, we were told that we had pulled off a good play. At least Richard and Alistair enjoyed themselves and would like to express thanks to Miss Johnstone - ooops! we've said too much! Our eEnglisH teetcher oo dus a god jobb without whom the class of 2J couldn't of dun such a good play. Thanks to Richard our Sound and Stage Director, and Stephen C. for his long hard work on the lighting. Many thanks again to Miss Johnstone and all those who made everything possible - the list is endless.

A MacLellan and R O'Donnell(OD)

Pride

Sticks and stones may break our bones
and words will always hurt us,
the jeers that fell upon heads
like swordfish stabbing urchins.

United we stand against the foe
until the swords fall.
We fly the Union Jack with pride
even when the fire burns
our pride away.

The ashes of our pride
kicked in our faces
but we will not fight back
there is no point..

Laura Hadland (S1).

Farewell My Lovelies - Until Next Term

(With Apologies to Raymond Chandler)

It was a tough assignment, but McNally was up to the job. A taxi pulled up with a jerk. The jerk got out. McNally observed him keenly. The stranger set off in the direction of the Porters' Desk, and, with his unrelenting search for life's challenges, McNally followed at a distance - beyond him the portals of Queen Victoria School beckoned.

"Name?" asked the porter, fixing McNally with a steely gaze.

"McNally - Ace Assistant Housemaster," he joked, smiling at his own witty riposte. The porter ignored him.

"You want Trenchard; it's that way," and the man motioned in the general direction.

McNally mused, as he turned on his heel, that the tall stranger had mysteriously disappeared. Another assignment to crack. Stone steps worn smooth at their centres rose up before him and each step echoed round the vault-like ceiling. McNally stooped to pick up a suspicious-looking piece of paper.

"Mmm - a Twix wrapper. Interesting," he thought, "there might be more to this than meets the eye."

He stopped on a landing, some halfway up. In his notebook he read again the name of his contact. It was buried in his memory - G. Carroll. Yes, but would he sing like a bird when McNally questioned him? McNally had his doubts. He continued cautiously, glancing right and left - ready for anything.

Suddenly, ahead of him he saw once again the tall stranger. He seemed to be heading in the same direction. There, indeed, was Trenchard. McNally looked out of the window. A tall blonde walked by. He knew she was tall - he was on the third floor.

The clock on the wall said 6.45am.

"Funny," thought McNally, "talking clocks. This place is certainly different."

A dark-haired man

approached him, wearing an oxygen tank and mask with crampons in his steady grasp.

"McNally?" he gasped as he pushed aside the mask. "Good God, man, you must be mad. You've climbed Everest without oxygen support! I'm Graham - Graham Carroll, Housemaster."

McNally smiled his quizzical smile and shrugged modestly.

"No problem, Graham," McNally answered, and his gaze fell upon the office beyond.

His eye for detail took in the stale pile of sandwiches on the tray - last night's supper - ham curling its lip derisively at him.

"So," said Graham leaning against a high-backed chair, "it's a tough assignment. Duties here, early mornings, late nights, lots of responsibility - teaching English - you'll meet Alan - a good man - coaching rugby, trips out and about - it's quite a list."

"I know I'm the man for the job," replied McNally remembering what he felt in the first paragraph. But tell me, I've two questions - Why is it so quiet?"

"It's only 6.50am, McNally. That's about to change - you'll find out soon enough. Be prepared - that's all I can say. You had two questions you say?"

"I saw a tall stranger. Short blond hair, black leather jacket. He came in here..."

"Ah," said Graham, "you'll have seen Bill. Was he with anybody?"

"No - he was alone."

McNally leaned forward, waiting.

"Strange," said Graham. Gaz is never far away."

But before he could ask who 'Bill' and 'Gaz' were, a bell rang out piercing the air. Had McNally not been so composed, he'd have leaped in fright.

In the distance there was a rumbling; a clamour of many small voices, gradually growing in volume - a tidal wave of sound echoing down long corridors.

"They're up," said Graham with grim determination, "Let's go to it. This is it McNally."

McNally squared his shoulders. He was ready. This was the assignment he had been waiting for.

James (still smiling) McNally

Debating and Public Speaking

This year saw an increase in popularity and achievement in both of these areas. The season got off to a fine start with the CADIC Competition where senior team Vicky Harris and Eugene Kuczerepa warned of the dangers of smoking and junior team Annabel Porter and Alastair MacLellan impressed us with their knowledge of the misuse of drugs in sport. Both teams were highly commended for both the content and delivery of their speeches.

The next debating event was a "friendly" between Mr Kirk's and Miss Johnstone's S2 classes which, rather hotly, debated the motion that petrol prices should be increased to £10 per litre. This was well delivered by both teams; David Walker and Craig Heselton narrowly beat Neil Greenwood and Andrew Kirkcaldy in opposing the motion and showed real potential for competing outwith the school next year.

The Courier debating competition took place at Strathallan where the junior team, Alastair and Annabel, ably defended the monarchy and were placed second overall. This was an excellent achievement as many teams were older and far more experienced.

S3 also contributed to the overall achievements this year by their contribution to ESU Public Speaking Competition. The team (Chloe Johnston, Alasdair Spence and Lindsey Farquharson) spoke on such diverse subjects as space exploration, the peccadilloes of politicians and the National Lottery, managing to secure a place in the Scottish semi-finals - a real achievement for first-time entrants.

The ESU debating competition was also entered by Alasdair, this time partnered by Amy Morton. Their fluency and confidence were commented on and secured them a place in the quarter-finals, held here at QV.

Overall this has been a lively and successful year for debating and public speaking, showing signs of real talent and potential for the future - next year, though, I'd like to see a greater range of tapes for the bus journeys to and from debates. If that happens, I promise to stop bringing my "dodgy" ones.

J Johnstone

TARGET SPORTS

Best year in School's history! Most successful year ever! Best talented group the School has ever had!

When writing any report about this year's shooting activities, it is difficult to avoid the exclamations and the superlatives in the language. Pushing down my natural Scottish modesty we have a most talented young group of nationally recognised sporting athletes in our Senior Training Squad - John Halley, Chloe Johnston, John Kidd, Stuart Ruthven and Steven Tierney.

While all have won medals at various competitions this year their Scottish and Great Britain rankings are noteworthy and applaudable indeed: two **Scottish Small Bore Colours** - Stuart and Steven; two **Great Britain Shooting Colours** - Stuart and Steven; and three times **Scottish Ladies Junior Record Holder**, 10m Air Rifle - Chloe; three places in the **Scottish Junior Development Squad** - Stuart, Steven & Chloe.

All this has been achieved this year only after much long and patient practice, the support of their parents, and a most generous financial support from the Headmaster and Commissioners of the School. Competition at this level demands very specialist equipment. Clothing equipment that will pass World ISSF equipment controls must be made to measure in Europe, also specially prepared rifles and ammunition. This has allowed all three to enter the Scottish Championships in both Air Rifle and Small Bore Rifle as well as the National Training Grand Prix Circuit Competitions where our youngsters shoot side by side with the Scottish National Team, many of whom shoot also for Great Britain and are Commonwealth Games medal winners. John, Stuart, Chloe and Steven all have medals from these competitions and have Grand Prix ranking points. A tremendous achievement for these young people who should receive all the credit for their heavy labours. They look forward now to a busy summer of Cartridge training and competition before a winter of Air Rifle practice, practice and yet more practice.

In support of them may I thank Capt Onslow, my fellow Coach and Range Officer, Mr James Hammond the Administrator of the National Junior Development Squad and our 'real expert coach' Mr Alister Allan MBE, coach to the National Senior Squad.

On behalf of the supporters and trainers may I again record our indebtedness to the Headmaster and Her Majesty's Commissioners in being courageous enough to fund this small group of sports men and women so heavily. Without it their success would not have been achieved.

J Silcox



Trenchard House

Where does the time go? It only seems like yesterday since I wrote last year's notes. It's probably a reflection of the busy life that is led by the boys and staff.

This year has seen us develop a varied and extensive series of outings and activities. We've had 5-a-side football competitions, pool competitions, EIGHT(!) visits to Murrayfield to witness the developing fortunes of the national rugby team, visits to the cinema, theatre, concerts and Dundee pool. We also had our first visit to see the Scottish Claymores. We had a smashing Christmas party; a super Hallowe'en party; a whizzing Bonfire Night and a couple of invitations to dances and discos. Overall it's been a hectic time and it's easy to see why the time has rushed by.

This year also saw a change in structure for the house with Trenchard becoming responsible for the reception of the new intake of Primary 7 boys and for the well-being of the S1 secondary boys. As a result, one of the commonest difficulties the staff and children had to deal with was homesickness. Some children simply cannot come to terms with living away from home, but the vast majority are able to cope with and overcome their difficulties. This can be achieved on the pupils' part by being positive, being active, talking to staff and acting on the given advice and guidance. On the staffs' and parents' side, being available, patient, tolerant and reassuring helps immensely when children are upset. The support of parents in this aspect is invaluable to staff and children. In Trenchard we appreciate greatly the continual support that we get from all of our pupils' parents.

This session saw a few farewells. In December Miss Mhairi Chalmers, our Housematron, left us to take up a new position at Cheltenham College Junior School along with Misty and Tara, her two golden labradors. I know that the thorough, dependable and professional manner with which she tackles her job will ensure that she will be liked and respected as much in her new school as she was in Trenchard and QVS. Our loss was a great gain for Cheltenham and everyone here wished her the very best of luck and wished her well at a small presentation before she left.

Also leaving us at the same time was our GAP student Michael O'Connor who bade us farewell and returned to Brisbane.

The House team therefore saw a number of changes. Mr James "Smiler" McNally joined the team as Assistant Housemaster in August and slipped into the role like a natural.

Well done, James, for adapting so quickly into a role that demands so much.

Our new GAP student, Matthew Marshall, joined us in January and so far he has proved to be a popular, conscientious and respected member of the house team. Welcome, Matthew and we hope you have acclimatised by now!

We welcomed Mrs Heather Devlin as our new House Matron. The children were delighted when they heard the news that Heather was to be promoted. As our House Maid, she had already established a good rapport and they had a fondness and healthy respect for her. Needless to say she took to being House Matron like a duck takes to water. We hope that she, her husband John and their son David will spend many happy years being associated with Trenchard.

Mrs Kate Cullen became our House Maid in January. She is familiar with our set-up as she had worked part time in Trenchard for a while. On Matron's day off Kate deputises and once again Trenchard has been lucky to gain the services of a very conscientious worker who has the additional quality of a good sense of humour - an absolute necessity in our place!

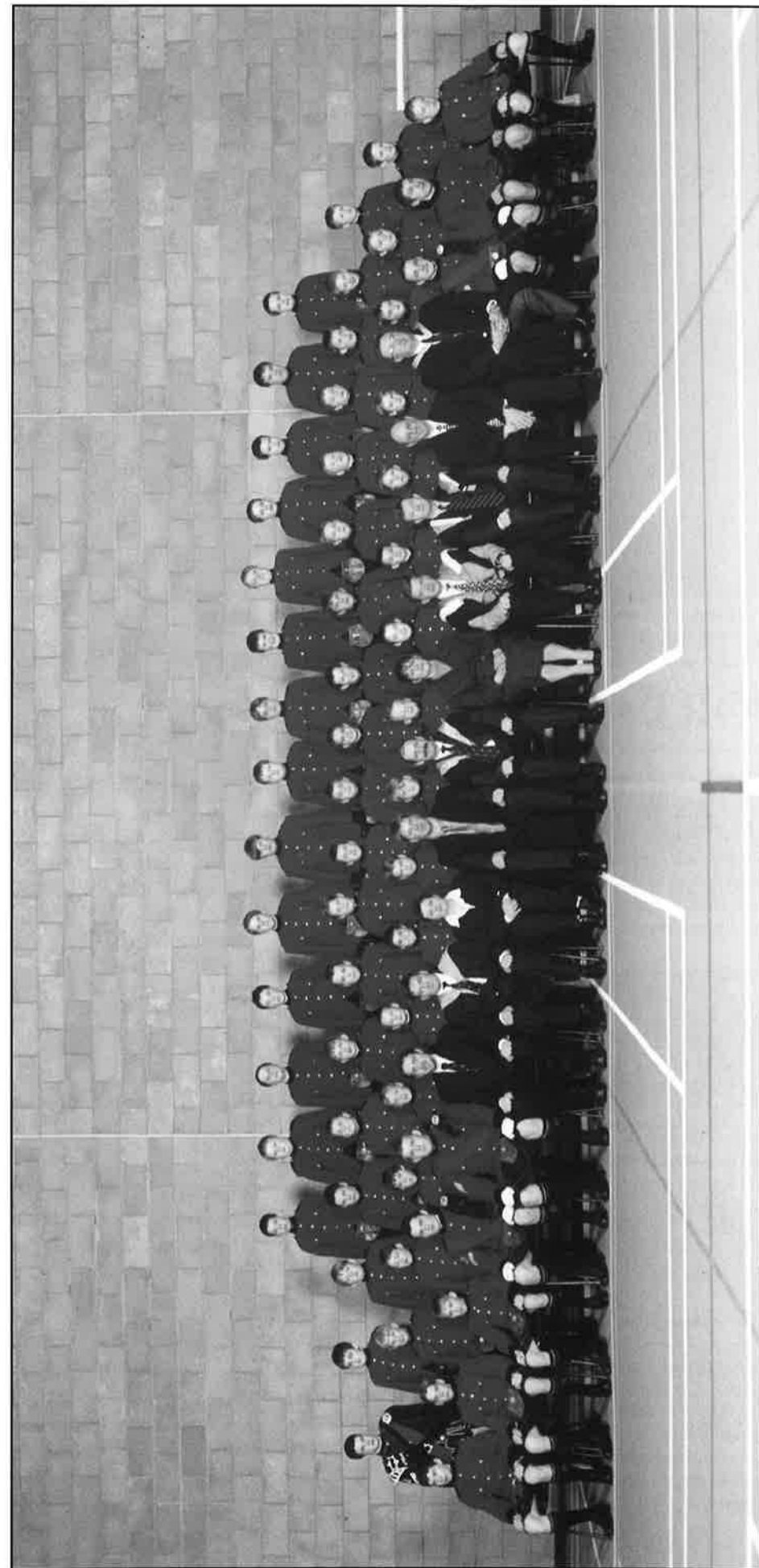
There were a couple of internal transfers and we welcomed Mr Tom King onto the team and we were sorry to lose Mr McLay - to Cunningham of all places! (Only kidding Bert, you're welcome to him!)

The House Captain, Vice-captain and prefects play an important part in the well-being of the house. They are role models for the small boys and an important support for staff - and what a role they played!

Bill Ford, our House Captain, has the ability to relate to the needs of the small boys. Bill has a gift of being able to talk to the children and his excellent sense of humour is quite infectious. As the "Waffle Meister" he is very aptly named. Bill is ably assisted by Gary Cornelius the Vice-captain, and the house prefects Sandy Watson, Gavin Heselton and Alan Whiteford. As a group they're a lively bunch and they've cost me a fortune in pizzas over the year! Bill, Gary and Alan are leaving school at the end of this session and we wish them all a great future in their chosen paths.

So at the end of another year I must say a hearty thanks to all of the members of the House team; to those already mentioned along with Mr Gilhooly, Mr Bruce, Mr Dow, Mr Garden and Mr Philson. Last, but not least, thanks to my ever-patient wife Maureen.

G. Carroll





FIRST XI HOCKEY REPORT

The 1998/1999 season has been a huge success for the 1st XI hockey team. This has been the team's first 'proper' season since their formation in 1997. With a great deal of work and determination from the girls they have excelled themselves in every way.

Cheryl McCubbin proved to be an excellent captain, leading by example, having scored 11 goals. She will be missed next season; however, her absence may lessen the number of male admirers on the sidelines at away matches.

The younger members of the team have played exceptionally well and have been up against players much older than themselves, especially Jenna McAulay who is only in first year. As they move up the school they should prove to be a formidable force.

In addition to the school games the team has also been involved in a district league, run at Forthbank. A junior (S3) and a senior team (S4, 5, 6) were entered and both emerged at the top of their respective leagues, beating Stirling High School, Balfon High School and McLaren High School.

The girls have also been involved in some mixed hockey with the fourth year boys. Two teams were entered into a 7 a-side tournament against other Central schools. Both teams played exceptionally well and eventually met each other in the final, where the match was so even it had to be decided on penalty flicks. After some nailbiting action and some out-standing saves by Simon Patience and Victoria Harris there could only be one winning team. It was OVS. A great way to end the season.

Thanks go to the girls for their hard work through-out the year. Good luck to Cheryl Leigh-Anne and Sarah who are leaving us this year. It has been a great season and I look forward to the next one. Bring on Strathallan!!!

QVS 4 DOLLAR 0
QVS 0 RANNOCH 2
QVS 2 LAUREL PARK 0
QVS 3 St MARGARET'S 0
QVS 5 KEIL 0

QVS 2 LOMOND 1
QVS 6 BEACONHURST 0
QVS 1 GLENALMOND 2
QVS 10 DOLLAR 0
QVS 4 LAUREL PARK 1
QVS 0 St MARGARET'S 0

Won = 8 Drawn = 1 Lost = 2
Goals for = 37 Goals against = 6
Goal difference = +31

RUGBY 1998 - 99

Looking at the senior squad at the start of the season, it would have been difficult to pick out any 'stars' in this season's squad. We had many good players but no-one individual stood out. Despite this fact by the end of the season, Gary Cornelius, Nick Kerr, Matty Knowles, Ryan Bennett, Cameron McLeod and Ross Innes all went on to represent Midlands District Schools at U18 level. Fraser MacKinnon, Chris Harris and Gary McCulloch also represented the Midlands District Schools at U16 level.

Fraser MacKinnon continued his family's tradition by being selected for the national squad at U16 level, and being picked to play against Yorkshire and Lancashire during the Easter break.

1st XV

Players

Backs:- A Kintrea (Captain), G Cornelius, D Robertson, D McDiarmid, I Murray, N Kerr, C Harris, S Patience, K Davidson, N Seaton and C Flynn.

Forwards:- F MacKinnon, R Innes, M Knowles, R Bennett, J MacFarlane, J Williams, G McCulloch, A Bott, M McConnell, T Whittle, G King, H Gair and I Smith

The first weekend of the season always begins with the Q.V.S. 10-a-side Tournament. Yet again this tournament was well supported and the standard of play seems to improve each year. The Q.V.S. team reached the final of the Plate competition, losing narrowly to an aggressive Morgan Academy side. The Main Competition was won in some style by High School of Dundee. Once again I would like to thank all the players, coaches, staff and officials, whose efforts before, during and after the tournament are much appreciated.

Ellon R.F.C.

This was our opening match of the season. We began slowly and were finding it difficult to cope with the opposition's aggressive rucking. Having lost an early try we had our first breakthrough with an excellent solo effort by Gary Cornelius and a superb second try by Andrew Kintrea, which gave us a 14-7 half time lead. We slowly began to take control, both in the tight and the loose play.

A further try by Darren Robertson gave us a 21-7 lead at half time. The back row now began to be much more effective, causing all sorts of problems to the opposition and our dominance in the scrums and line outs gave us complete control of the match. The result: a 38-7 victory.

Loretto School 2nd XV

It took us a long time to get into the game, due mainly to our less than dynamic rucking. We were committing far too many men to the rucks and mauls, this was due in the main to poor communication between the half-backs and the forwards. Our line-out work was poor throughout this game, with very little in the way of cleanly taken ball being delivered to the scrum-half. Ross Innes had an outstanding game in the loose,

always in support and available to take the ball on. The backs tended throughout the game to run across the pitch which resulted in a lot of aimless kicking by our players. In the end tries by Nick Kerr, James MacFarlane, Ian Murray and a great solo effort by Darren Robertson resulted in a deserved 39-0 victory.

Strathallan 1st XV - Scottish Schools Cup

Although we suffered a 0 - 25 defeat the score did not reflect the run of play. Our forwards dominated the line-outs and our front row in particular destroyed their opposite numbers in the scrums. Unfortunately Strathallan's back row tended to be quicker to the break-down in the loose and won balls that should have been taken by Q.V.S. It took us time to settle and it was a pity that early sustained pressure did not result in points on the board. Several penalty opportunities were missed when we needed to score. The Strathallan backs grew in confidence as the game progressed and we were unable to contain them out wide, which resulted in us conceding several good tries. This result flattered Strathallan, as their coach admitted after the game; it also began to get through to the players that we could compete with the leading independent schools, but we would have sharpened up our game to do it.

Merchiston Castle 2nd XV

I was unable to attend this match but I was informed that it was by far our most disappointing performance of the season. Our normal strengths, rucking, scrummaging and line-out play let us down badly and we were out played in almost every department by a very well organised Merchiston side. The result was a 14-41 defeat.

Lomond School

We began well against Lomond and scored an early try. Good inter-play between forwards and backs resulted in a try by Nick Kerr. Unfortunately we lost our way, trying to over-complicate our play when a more basic approach was required. In the end the game was won 20-12 but I left the field feeling that we had not really done ourselves justice.

Madras College

It took us quite a long time to settle into this match. Due to the half-term holiday and pipe band international commitments, we had not played for a month. Poor tackling in the backs and weak rucking by the forwards resulted in an early score to Madras. Gradually we began to take control of the game as we dominated the exchanges in the tight and the back-row began to function in the loose. Good work by Fraser MacKinnon and Darren Robertson resulted in an excellent try by Ian Murray and a very slick back-row move was finished off by Gary McCulloch, who scored under the posts. Result 17 - 5 victory.

Rannoch School

We took control of this game from the kick off and never really gave a disappointing Rannoch side the opportunity to get into the game. We totally dominated the forward exchanges and completely out-classed them in the backs. Our tackling was awesome at times and a great deal of quality ball was produced by excellent offensive and defensive rucking. This was undoubtedly one of the best performances of the season. Tries by Andrew Kintrea, Ian Murray, Nick Kerr and Jamie Williams gave us a 33-0 victory.

Glasgow Academy

This match was one of the highlights of the season. We took the game to them from the start. Our forwards out-gunned their opposition in the line outs and scrums and our back row had their best game so far. The backs used the possession given to them by the forwards intelligently, with Andrew Kintrea and Gary Cornelius a constant threat to the opposition. Although the match itself was quite a dour affair, we finally began to display a maturity which I always felt this side was capable of. Our defence was under a lot of pressure at times, but our tackling never let us down and the team can be justly proud of its efforts, which resulted in a 13-7 victory.

Robert Gordon's College 1st XV

It has almost become a tradition that the 1st XV never play well on the first match after the Christmas Holidays. So it was to prove yet again this year. As you would expect Robert Gordon's were a well organised side; nevertheless I would have expected to beat them if we had played to our full potential. Unfortunately it took until half way through the second half before we began to play the sort of rugby that we were capable of. Unfortunately by that time it was too late to rescue the result of the match. It ended as a 12-31 defeat.

George Watson's College 2nd XV

This was one of our poorest performances of the season. Inaccurate throwing at the line out meant that we were severely restricted in attack and what possession we did get was kicked away in a haphazard fashion. Although we were clearly the more skilful side, we had to wait until half way through

the second half before the breakthrough was made by Ross Innes. Overall, this was a sloppy and disappointing performance against a no better than average Watson's side. The result: a 5-0 victory.

Dunfermline High School

An early score by Aidan Bott set the scene for this match. We dominated all aspects of play throughout the match. An excellent platform was set up by the forwards, which allowed the backs the time and space to express themselves fully. Tries by Darren Robertson, Gary McCulloch and Jamie Williams resulted in a superb 41-0 victory.

10 a side Tournament Results

Plate winners: Morgan Academy

Plate runners up: Q.V.S.A.

Cup winners: HS of Dundee

Cup runners up: Boroughmuir

12 teams attended the tournament held on 22 August 1998.

High School of Dundee

When we have played Independent Schools' 1st XVs in the past, a lack of belief in our own ability and a tendency to give the opposition too much respect has usually led to defeat. The victory over Glasgow Academy finally laid to rest this particular ghost and we took to the field with a refreshing air of self-belief. We began brightly and weathered sustained early pressure. Our work in the tight went well, especially in the line-out, where both James MacFarlane and Ryan Bennett were outstanding, winning all of their own ball, plus most of the opposition's. Throughout the match we continually put ourselves under pressure by making careless handling errors. Dundee were a well-drilled side but our defence held out and a match winning penalty by Darren Robertson gave us a 9-8 victory. This was our first ever win against the High School of Dundee.

Boroughmuir High School

Our final game of the season took place at Stirling County's ground at Bridgehaugh. The match was played under the lights and on a big pitch with lots of atmosphere, we had the chance to fully express ourselves against a side

that we would expect to beat. The first half was an intensely frustrating one for both players and coaches alike. What we had practiced, we seem to forget. The ball consistently went through far too many pairs of hands and we kicked away excellent possession time and time again. The second half was an entirely different story. We finally hit top gear and ran in some excellent tries. The game was won 36-0.

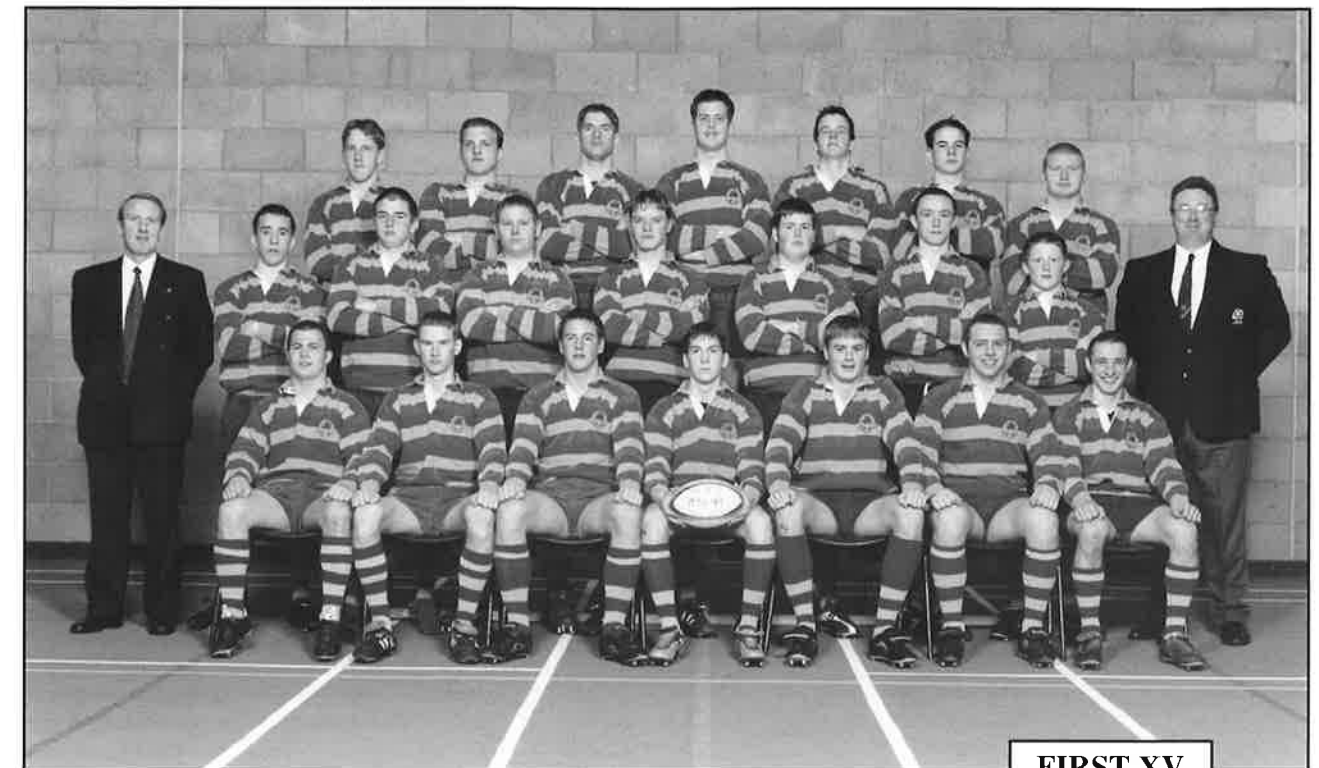
Conclusion

As I said to the players after the final match of the season against Boroughmuir, I think this has been the best Queen Victoria School 1st XV I have had the privilege to coach so far. Their teamwork has been outstanding and their commitment both individually and collectively cannot be faulted. They have had an excellent captain both on and off the field in Andrew Kintrea. He has a quiet authority and has led his side by example, always retaining his own self-discipline and has been a great help to the coaches.

I would also like to thank my fellow coaches: Mr Raine, Mr McLay, Mr McNally, Mr Gilhooly, Mr Carroll, Mr Philson, and last but not least, Mr Beattie. The amount of time and effort put into rugby by the coaches mentioned above throughout the season, isn't often recognised and I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of them for their hard work and patience.

I would also like to thank Sister Fitzgerald and Nurse McNicol who are always there to lend their expertise and support in all weathers. I know that it is much appreciated by all the coaches and players.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr Henderson and his catering staff who cheerfully put up with all the numerous problems we create for them throughout the season. I would also like to mention the sterling work done by our previous groundsman, Henry. The excellent condition of the pitches are a tribute to his hard work and expertise; he will be greatly missed. Finally I would like to thank all the GAP students, Mr McKenzie, Mr O'Connor, Mr Anslow, Mr Gair and Mr Marshall for the hard work they have put in throughout the season.



FIRST XV

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QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL 1ST XV RESULTS

		F	A
1st XV v	Ellon RFC	47	7
1st XV v	Loretto 2nd XV	39	0
1st XV v	Strathallan 1st XV (Cup)	0	25
1st XV v	Merchiston 2nd XV	14	41
1st XV v	Lomond School	20	12
1st XV v	Madras College	17	5
1st XV v	Rannoch School	33	0
1st XV v	Glasgow Academy	14	13
1st XV v	George Watson's	5	0
1st XV v	Robert Gordon's	12	31
1st XV v	Dunfermline	41	0
1st XV v	HS of Dundee	9	8
1st XV v	Boroughmuir	36	0

Highlights of the season were the victories over High School of Dundee and Glasgow Academy.

Player of the season: Jamie Williams – openside flanker

Player to watch: Fraser MacKinnon

Coaches: Tom King & Brian Raine

Primary 7 Rugby

At the first rugby training session we were all unfamiliar with what we were doing. Our first game was against Belmont House. It was our first and best appearance. The result was a draw at 4-4. The QVS try was scored by Kevin Hayes and converted by Chris Gaff. Our second match was against St Columbus and they pulverized us. We had several more unsuccessful games. However, I think we have improved in the last season.

Since the start of our rugby experience at QVS our coach Mr Beattie commented on us being the best team he's coached at QV. Our most improved player is Callum Henderson. Mr McLay said that we will be a very strong side in our next season. We have improved in all our skills and have made more of an effort to take the training into our games. Because of this the team has become a more physical and tactical side.

As the captain, I feel it's my responsibility on behalf of the team to thank all the members of staff who have helped to make our team possible.

Kevin Hayes (Captain) & Alasdair Page (Vice-Cpt)

S1 Rugby

What a season and what an improvement from last year! Last year we did not do well at all; we did not win one match; we did not score many tries either. This season, however, our morale was very high and we played with a hint of revenge!

Morrison's was our first game. We were playing at home with a capacity crowd of six! The first half was a game of pack against pack. We scored the first three tries before we conceded one. These tries were scored by Andy Abolins, Darren Muir and myself. We scored two more tries by Darren and myself. All were converted by Jason Wilson, our newly found kicker – the final score was 25-5 to us.

During training that week we were put through our paces by Mr Carroll and Mr Philson. They tried to improve our fitness levels and tackling skills. We all felt that our fitness was improving.

Our next game was against

Strathallan. In P7 we had been whitewashed by this team. We wanted this victory; we needed it at all costs. It was more than a game – it was a battlefield. We had injuries galore. Tommy Wright had a nose bleed. Stuart Blackwood was crushed and I had to leave the field with a head wound. Even with this we were able to win the game 10-0. The team's morale shot up to 150%.

Despite this we lost our two next games. One against Madras College and the other against Merchiston. Mr Carroll and Mr Philson were not happy with this even though we gave it our all.

So since we did not have another game for some time, we started to work on some forwards and backs tactics. Since our pack was

not very mobile we worked on our fitness. The backs worked on improving their passing skills and the pack worked on improving their rucking and mauling skills.

The time passed quickly and soon we felt that we were at our peak and that losing would not happen. The game was against East Fife at Cupar. What a game! The tackling and the passing were the best I had seen all season. The forwards rucked the ball amazingly and the passing in the backs was one sweet movement. Our fitness was superb. The final score was 55-0!

Before I close this report I would like to thank Mr Carroll and Mr Philson for giving us the best season possible!

Stephen Carter, Captain.

S3 Rugby

Captained by Kris Edwards the S3 rugby team produced some fine results throughout the season and claimed some notable scalps in the process. The season kicked off with a difficult game against Selkirk High School U15. This tough opener proved to be baptism of fire for the team who were duly initiated into the world of the 'under 19 laws'. However, a good team effort kept us within one score and at 'no side' a psychological victory had been won on our part.

This positive opening continued into the following game against Morrison's Academy and we proved to be the stronger team with a 29-5 victory. The pack worked well, with some solid work from Colin MacDonald, Chris Niven and Alasdair Spence up front. Second phase ball was quick, allowing our backs – in particular Matthew Roessler and Daryl Haldane, who both had excellent matches – to capitalise.

However, our games against Strathallan, Glenalmond, Merchiston 'B' and Madras College proved very taxing and we found it difficult to win any tidy ball. Their packs were far larger and this is what swung the games in their favour. Good communication is the key and this was demonstrated to our team by the oppositions' backs.

The S3 rugby team learns quickly and prior to our matches against Harris and Fife RFC, we were well drilled and were able to make the changes to our game which resulted in splendid victories.

The match against Harris proved to be a positive turning point and we ran in a 36-0 score. John Stevenson and Andrew Reith provided some sustained driving forward play and good back moves proved to be too much for the opposition. Adam Tose and Callum Small were both strong in the tackle and Scott Turner enjoyed his time on the wing as too did Phil Flaherty at flanker.

The same story applies when reflecting on the match against Fife RFC. It was a close affair and there were only one or two points in the game until up then end of the third quarter. Our fitness levels had improved and this is where we won the match. We were able to sustain the pressure and eventually found a gap in their defence from a set piece number eight pick-up. David Abolins broke up the blind from our own ten metre line and in the process sent their flanker and scrum-half flying. Stepping on the gas, he out-paced the remaining backs to score a spectacular try. A 50-32 victory resulted and eighteen of those points were scored in the last fifteen minutes.

All of the grid work and development of the basic skills paid off in our final match of the season against Rannoch School. Quite a formidable rugby playing school (boasting Scotland's prop Tom Smith as one of its former pupils) which would require complete concentration when playing them.

A very close and exciting match ensued and a superb team effort kept us in the game. There was very aggressive forward play by both teams and quick ball resulted in some dazzling back moves too. Colin Armstrong seemed to be everywhere putting in some bone-crunching tackles.

With five minutes to go, Rannoch School was leading by 17-15. With a penalty in our own twenty-two, our scrum half (Damian McDade) made a break, linking to our stand-off (Kris Edwards) who fed to our inside-centre (Michael Brown) running from deep. Driving into their centre, he released the ball to our wing-forward (Adam Bott) who made a weaving and elusive run. Excellent support play meant he was able to keep the ball alive. The ball was shipped along the line for the overlap to be exploited and on the end of the final pass was one of our lock forwards, Gerald Kerr, who crossed the line for a memorable 20-17 victory over Rannoch School.

It has been a balanced season and a number of the team are looking forward to playing senior rugby next season. It has also been very enjoyable and if the same commitment can be applied as it has been this year, then I envisage some exciting results!

Well done!

James McNally (S3 coach)



Second XV - Exciting and Entertaining Rugby

Loretto 29-5

The team were fired up for this game and the forwards applied a lot of pressure in the first half. This allowed the backs time and space to penetrate a rather weak defence. Bott and McConnell teamed up well and were the driving force of the forwards.

Strathallan 12-15

Good defence was tested by the strong opposition. A diligent QV pack faced a heavier Strathallan pack, but held their own throughout the match. Midway through the half MacDiarmid placed a superb grubber kick into the corner for Innes to run onto. This levelled the score. In the second half QV were 10 points down when Harris received the ball wide to run in a well deserved try, which Barlow converted. Even after relentless pressure, the match ended at 15-12 to Strathallan.

Harris 39-12

An excellent performance from a weakened side. As Captain, Bott led by example and caused a lot of problems up front as did King with effective hooking and lineout throwing. Both Patience and Moore made decisive runs and took the ball over the gain line. A lapse of concentration for 20 minutes allowed the opposition to take advantage of a few weaknesses in the backs, however with renewed motivation and general waking up the team soon reapplied the pressure and secured the win.

Merchiston 7-64

We went down to Merchiston not really knowing quite what to expect. However, throughout the whole match they gave us a real exhibition of how effective support play and angles of running can exploit the smallest of weaknesses in a side. We learnt a lot from this game and despite the score nobody's head went down.

Lomond 19-15

This match was good overall with scrums and lineouts consistently effective, which was a credit to our forwards. The team had one of the best starts to a game where everything flowed and the forwards recycled the ball for the backs to utilise, which they did with decisive running by Murphy and Watson. Superb defensive work kept out the opposition's big men. Although we missed McConnell when he went off with a suspected broken ankle, the team pulled together and held out to achieve a superb win.

Madras 31-20

Poor first half as forwards were slow to the break down and therefore the backs had little possession. However, in the second half, once again, the team proved that it was capable of playing exciting and entertaining rugby. A superbly worked try with Seaton kicking the ball wide for Davidson to run onto and score was the turning point for the team. The forwards worked together as a unit, which allowed the backs to dominate the last 20 minutes.

Rannoch 10-19

A very hard fought match and the score was a good reflection of the fact that the sides were very even. Patience performed well at fly half, often putting the opposition under a great deal of pressure with accurate kicking. Davidson captained the team well, always leading by example. Moore was taken off with a nasty cut above his eye, such was his level of commitment.

Glasgow Accies 12-0

This was to prove our best match yet. Everything came together for our last match of the term. The forwards hit rucks and mauls at a pace and the backs penetrated the spaces with devastating effectiveness. Davidson once again led by example with great commitment and Seaton proved to be a real handful with quick decision-making and early and well-timed release of the ball to a fast and formidable back division. An excellent game to finish the term off with.

Robert Gordons 0-24

A long drive took a lot out of the team as did the Christmas break. This was quite evident in the first half when the forwards proved to be slow to the break down and therefore the backs were seldom given the opportunity to attack. In the second half we fought back but never really recovered; however, in the last ten minutes the team once again demonstrated just how good they can be. They showed true determination and pressured the opposition but it was all too late.

George Watsons 0-5

A fought game with a great deal of commitment shown by all members of the team. In the first half our forwards competed well at both first phase and second phase ball which provided possession for the backs; however, due to the wet and slippery conditions, we failed to take advantage of such possession. In the second half we were very much the stronger side and although we went over the line several times we were held up by good defensive play by Watsons. A break away try by Watsons in the dying minutes gave them the victory.

Ellon 5-5

Even after a long drive this match proved to be one of the team's best performances ever. It was played in perfect conditions with the sun shining and not a drop of wind. The first was well contested and the team worked very hard at putting the opposition under pressure. With the score at 5-0 to QV, it was heart-breaking to see a break away try for Ellon in the dying seconds of the game. Fortunately they allowed a prop forward to take the conversion in front of the posts. It proved too much for him and the game was tied.

Robert Gordons 32-7

Both teams were evenly matched initially until poor cover from the backs led to Robert Gordons' first and only score. Following this, QV came back very well, taking control of the match with strong running and support in the backs. Overall this was a good end to the season with a very good team performance.

Graham Robertson

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CROSS-COUNTRY

A group of QVs went out one day,
Over the Laighills and far away,
There's a run at Glenalmond – Strathallan too,
And you must beat Fettes whatever you do,
The ones at the front were giving it welly,
Don't care if you die at the end of the race,
Moans from the back:- "I've got a sair belly."
"There's youngsters coming up to take your place!"
Just after leaving the big school gate:
"Sir, that's no fair, you're really cruel,
Sir I'm knacked – slow down and wait!"
Should have signed up for squash and stayed in school
"You've only been running thirty seconds or less!"
And someone's been sick just behind the tree."
"But I stood in a dub – my shoes are a mess!"
"Would you all hurry up – we'll be late for tea."
"Don't stop at the shop like you usually do."
"Sir, I'm going to clype to the Hospital Sister –
For a Toblerone and an Irn Bru!"
You've made me run wi' 'a beelin' blister."
Mr Laing, in front, leading lambs to the slaughter
"At this speed it'll heal before you get back."
Shouts: "OK, big jump – you'll soon clear this water!"
Try sticking together and run as a pack!"
Plaintive voice from the back: "Sir – my leg is broken!"
"You'll get a better place at Irvine that way –"
"And my trainers, my socks and my shorts are soaken!"
"That's if you get up that huge sandy brae.
You've got four miles to go in a northerly breeze
Running to the top is such a task
You'll soon dry off – and you shouldn't freeze."
You have to stop for an oxygen mask.
And just to give them an extra thrill.
Do you really have to look quite so sorry?
They perform repetitions up a hill.
Here's your favourite bit – round the quarry!
"Use your arms and get your knees up high!"
Right – through these nettles and over this wall
As lightning flashes across the sky.
See? Cross country isnae hard at all.
"Careful here, the river's in flood!"
It makes you fit – it keeps you tough.
"Sir, I've lost my trainer in the mud!"
"Quite frankly I can't get enough."
"I told you to tie your laces tight!"
"Sir, I hate you, and I hate this too –"
"But that's not in fashion – it's just a sight,
Next week I think I'll have the flu."
"Tucking them in is the thing to do."
"I probably will 'cause my clothes are wringin'...
Can you wait a minute till I find my shoe?
And whatever I stood in, my shoes are mingin."
"Sir, this weather is really atrocious!"
"Yes, but there's relays next week in St Aloysius,
Stop your moaning and give us a smile
It's all up-hill for the last wee mile.
You want to at least get round the course!
We've only lost three – I'll wait for a while!"
Bawls Mr Laing, his voice going hoarse.
"Then Mr McLay will send out Riley!"

The Other Side of the World

School was out and we were venturing into the world unknown,
Yet unlike other students we were now to call QV our home.
Half-way round the world we travelled,
Through rain, shine darkness and hail all was beginning to be unravelled.

We were picked up by Dickey in a blown-up blue mini minor,
And once we settled, we were over and across to dinner.

Eyes all round, down and upon me,
A faint smile, a tilted nod was all I could give thee.

A new world for us had begun,
We take sport, prep and have a whole lot of fun.
The staff and pupils are generous and kind,
And so we continue in the right frame of mind.

Months on and we have come a long way,
No more New Zealand hackers of Aussie kangaroos,
But rather Scottish weather and "Ach aye the noo's."
We thank those who have shown us the Scottish way,
And always remember we're only a "G'DAY!" away!

Kate Mulvihill 1999 GAP Student from Brisbane, Australia.



Headmaster, Monitors and Prefects



The Colour Party



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