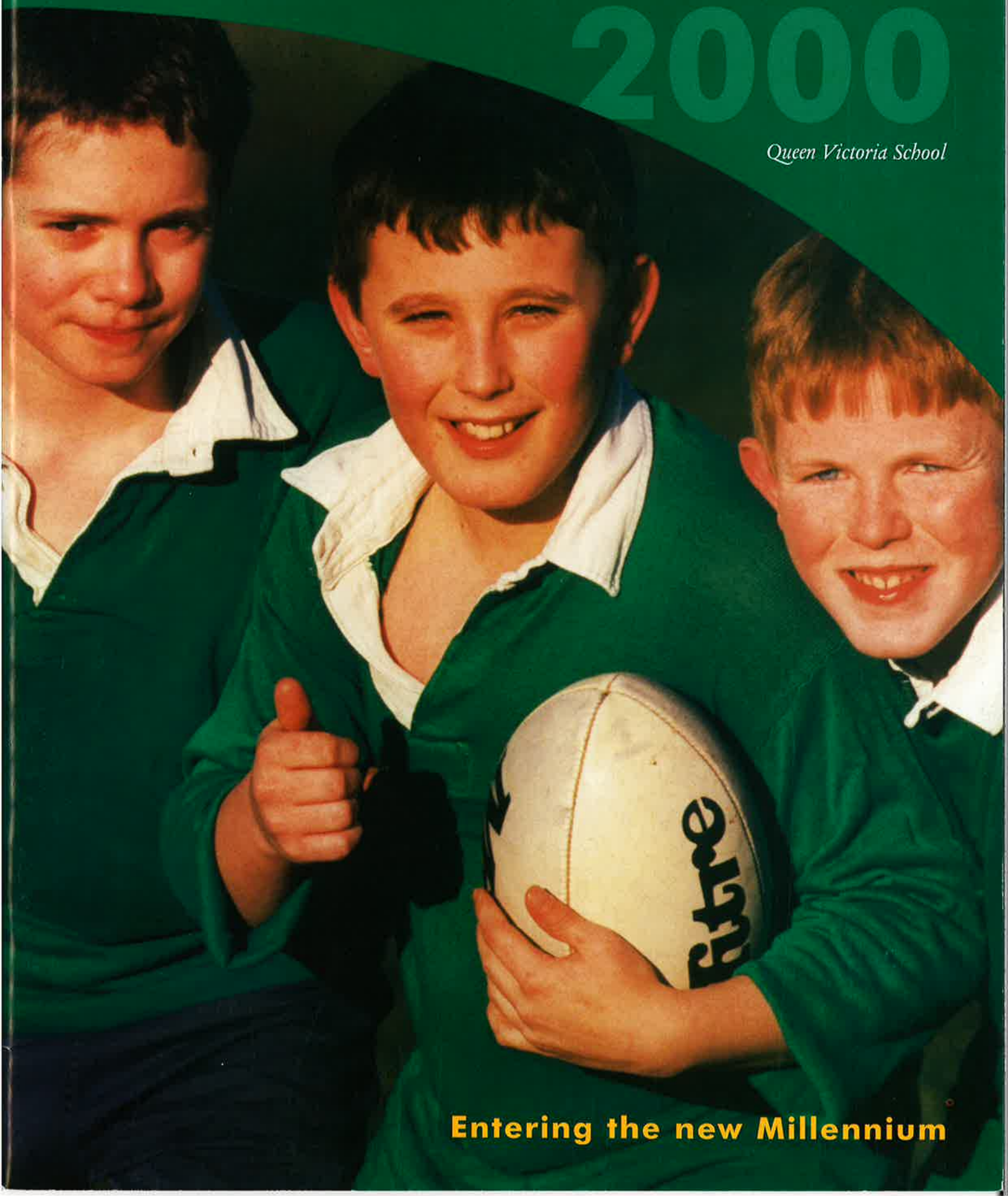




THE **Victorian** 2000

Queen Victoria School



Entering the new Millennium

"ERSKINE PUT THE SMILE BACK ON MY DAD'S FACE"

Daughter of James Blanche



At Erskine we care for over 400 ex-Service men and women who, for one reason or another, are unable to lead their lives in the outside world.

It is only with your help that we can maintain expert medical care and provide the special facilities that our many disabled residents require.

As a registered charity, the Hospital relies on donations and legacies to maintain its care programme.

Please help us to continue our work. Your support is guaranteed to keep all our residents smiling.

Please help rebuild Erskine Hospital

With grateful thanks to
QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL
for their continued support



Scottish Charity No. SC006609.



GRAHAM ROBERTSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

• ISO 9002 QUALITY ASSURED •

ELECTRICAL

- Electrical Contracting
- Security Alarms Division
- TV/FM Aerial Installation
- Satellite System Specialist

SONY CENTRE

- Television and Video
- Hi-Fi Systems
- Camcorders
- In-car Hi-Fi

New Prologic Demo Room

5 Fountain Road Bridge of Allan
Stirling FK9 4ET
Tel: 01786 832246 Fax: 01786 834335
Web: www.graham-robertson.co.uk
Email: info@graham-robertson.co.uk



The Assembly nma provides an integrated marketing communications service, including graphic design, publishing and new media disciplines.

We are delighted to have helped design and produce The Victorian and wish Queen Victoria School every success for the future.



25 Silvermills Court, Henderson Place Lane Edinburgh EH3 5DG
T 0131 558 3547 F 0131 558 3029

Mission statement

"At Queen Victoria School, we have a mission which lies at the very heart of the school ethos, and which 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 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."

Queen Victoria School

Queen Victoria School is a co-educational boarding school which provides stable, uninterrupted and high quality education for the children of Scottish Service personnel or those who are serving or have served in Scotland. Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire country, Queen Victoria School is easily accessible by road, rail or air.

Pupils may be registered for entry from the age of 7 but will normally be admitted to Primary 7 (ie 10.5/11 years). Applications must reach the School by 31st December so that they may be considered for 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 and balanced curriculum following the Scottish educational system leading to Standard, Intermediate 2 and Higher Grades of the Scottish Certification of Education. Pupils also have the opportunity to study in a number of subjects for the Advanced Higher Examination. Increasingly pupils move on to Higher and Further Education but career links with the Services remain strong. Pastoral care is given a very high priority along with careers

guidance and personal and social education. The School aims to provide a happy and stable "home from home" environment in which pupils can participate in a full and energetic boarding life. Within this context Queen Victoria School is able to promote the welfare and happiness of each individual child and develop their self esteem. In addition, there is a very full programme of sporting, cultural and spiritual development. Queen Victoria School is a unique boarding School which seeks to achieve the best that is possible academically for its pupils. The School prides itself also on developing the pupil in the widest possible sense and aims to achieve success academically, in sport, music, drama and many other extra-curricular areas. A very special and unique dimension of Queen Victoria School is the ceremonial side which preserves the very best of the School's traditions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Registered Charity Number 210760

Have YOU got time to make the difference?

Yes, I would like to become a volunteer. Please send me further details.

Name

Address

Postcode

SSAFA Forces Help, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP
Tel: 020 7403 8783 Fax: 020 7403 8815

(RA8/00)

SSAFA Forces Help is a leading National charity, established to relieve hardship and to assist Service and ex-Service personnel and their families. We care for over 86,000 people **every** year. Caseworkers, visitors, team leaders, treasurers and fundraisers are required in many parts of the UK.

Our volunteers are the last line of defence for the 14 million people entitled to call on us for help. They meet the ever increasing needs of the **past** and **present** Service people and their dependents, among them an ageing Wartime Generation.

Enlist Today

We offer training, all out of pocket expenses and job satisfaction.

For more information contact **Ann Needle** by phone on **020 7403 8783**, or by email **branch-support@ssafa-forces-help.org.uk** or fill out the coupon and send it to the address supplied.

THE CAREER LADDER. WHY CLIMB WHEN YOU CAN FLY?



It's not easy getting a job. No matter what grades you end up with, it's still difficult. If you're 15-16, about to take GCSEs or SCEs and intend to go on to sixth form, then the RAF may be able to offer you sponsorship with a view to eventually becoming a Commissioned Officer. You'll spend three days at Cranwell where we'll test your physical and mental ability. If successful, your parents could receive an annual grant to help finance your studies. You'll have the chance to take a two week leadership course in Scotland to give you a taste of what's to come – all this while you're still at school. Interested? Contact us at the address below.

SENIOR CAREERS LIAISON OFFICER (RAF)
29/31 BANK STREET
DUNDEE DD1 1RW
TEL: (01382) 200934

ROYAL AIR FORCE
RISE ABOVE THE REST

WE ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYERS UNDER THE RACE RELATIONS ACT AND
WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ALL ETHNIC GROUPS

www.raf-careers.raf.mod.uk

List of Commissioners

PATRON

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT OM GBE

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

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND - President
AIR VICE MARSHAL C E SIMPSON MB ChB MSc FFOM - Chairman

COMMISSIONERS

THE LORD JUSTICE CLERK
THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING 2 DIVISION
Dr M EWART MA (Cantab) D Phil
DR S E McCLELLAND CBE BSc PhD
LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR JOHN MacMILLAN KCB CBE
G F BELTON Esq OBE MA LLB FIMgt
MRS N H HOWE
D MacLEHOSE Esq
MAJOR GENERAL J D MacDONALD CB CBE
AIR VICE MARSHAL J MORRIS CBE BSc
CAPTAIN R A SMITH RN
SIR MORAY STEWART KCB D.LITT
W McD MOODIE Esq CBE QPM
MRS P McCABE CA FSQA
REAR ADMIRAL N E RANKIN CB CBE

SECRETARY AND TREASURER TO HM COMMISSIONERS

I M McGREGOR MA (Hons) Dip Mgmt, Bursar



60 Years of Victoriana

This edition of the Victorian presents a small, but we hope significant, milestone in the history of the magazine. This year the Victorian is undergoing something of a relaunch. Our new publishers, Silvermills Studio of Edinburgh, have assumed responsibility for the magazine's advertising sales as well as its overall production, leaving the editorial team and contributors much greater freedom to concentrate on its content and appearance. We hope readers will enjoy the end result.

This year's edition shows how many and varied the School's achievements have been over the past 12 months. The usual felicitous mixture of work and play is evident, alongside news of both inevitable change and the maintenance of comfortable and cherished tradition. A look back over the last 60 years of the magazine's publication shows that 'twas ever thus. Some things have however changed in the overall tone and content of the Victorian; it is unlikely that any contributor now would be willing or able to match the candour of a rugby report in a **1930** edition of the Victorian:

Glenalmond 3rd XV, at Glenalmond, on 25 October.

Last season we drew with Glenalmond, but this year's game was disastrous. Outclassed by a heavier and more experienced team, we received a severe licking. Anderson had gone to the Tank Corps and, except for the very few stalwarts left in our team, there was no concerted effort to keep our opponents' score

down. The threes were disappointingly weak and appeared to have lost all heart.

So much for sports psychology. More encouraging news for the school's athletes was however, also reported:

That mild epidemic, known as "Pink-eye", which caused us considerable inconvenience last season, has not troubled us much this year, and the Swimming Bath was in use right up to the end of November.

I wonder whether the pupils really saw this as good news?

The great excitement of the year was a visit by the Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Jellicoe, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet during the Great War. The Admiral is reported to have impressed on the boys the excellent training they were receiving, and also the duties they, as citizens, would give to the State when they left School, no matter what vocation in life they chose. Presumably, he had the November swimming in mind!

In **1940** no magazine was produced, war shortages and other weightier matters having taken precedence over its publication. The Victorian did not reappear until **1943**. The same mixture of good and bad news was nonetheless apparent in **1950**. The magazine reported that no fewer than twenty-seven masters had left the School in the preceding two years, including the last National Service Warrant Officers and Sergeants to teach at QVS. Its editorial looked forward to the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers performing at the Tattoo and reported the near-completion of new houses for married civilian masters (some would argue today that the said houses have yet to be completed!)

One curious notice of **1950** vintage reports on a visit by pupils to the Kings Theatre in Glasgow, to see Donald Wolfit's company perform the Merchant of Venice. It declares that the visit was greatly enjoyed by all, curiously adding that owing to restlessness and a lack of manners on the part of other School



Hayley Boyle, S4

parties in the balcony, a fair part of the play was inaudible. The mind boggles at this unusual way of enjoying Shakespeare.

1960 saw the School magazine again preoccupied once more with health matters. This time it was not pink-eye; instead, shortly after the beginning of the winter term, the dreaded word "mumps" was whispered in the corridors and dormitories . . . Boys began to disappear from the classrooms and appear in the School hospital. The report went on to tell how sports fixtures were cancelled and – horror of horrors – so was the half-term holiday. The School's Minister, Mr Jamieson, was particularly unfortunate, succumbing to both mumps and chicken pox. No wonder Staff turnover was higher in those days.

The Victorian of **1970** struck a rather more prosaic tone overall, with less anecdotal colour than in previous decades. The Commandant's notes did, however, contain a couple of signs of the times. The first was the cunning, but rather suspicious announcement that the price of the magazine was being increased from two Shillings and Sixpence to three Shillings "for convenience in decimal currency". It is hard to



Charlie MacDonald, S3

decide quite what the Commandant meant by this cryptic phrase; perhaps it was a smoke screen, or did he miss his true vocation as a politician?

The second sign of the times saw him determined to maintain standards, warning Old Victorians that "'Hippy' styles of dress and appearance are quite inappropriate for such functions as the Memorial Chapel Service Parade with Colours or Pipe Band Retreat; or indeed, for having tea in the Dining Hall." Quite right, too.

By **1980** the price of the magazine for Old Victorians had soared by almost 600%, to £1.10. A decade of chronic inflation had made its mark. Despite this, the magazine was running at a loss. A working party was examining the future accommodation and organisational requirements of the School and the Ministry of Defence was urging the School to be economic in its expenditure. Plus ça change . . . One E McLay was a member of the winning Under 15 Relay Team at the Central Region Championships. Twenty years later, Major Ewan McLay was to return to the School as the Old Victorian Parade Sunday

Reviewing Officer for 2000.

And so to ten years ago and **1990**. An appeal was launched to raise £600,000 to build a Sports Hall. An Open Day and Fete was organised as part of the Fund Raising effort, with Ronnie Corbett scheduled to open it. The School stood on the brink of becoming a Government Executive Agency and Brigadier Tweedie was about to enter history as the last Commandant of Queen Victoria School. The Pipe Band and dancers were due to perform again at the Edinburgh Tattoo, for the first time since 1954, and preparations were evidently frantic at the time the Victorian went to press, for the Commandant went so far as to question in print whether the participants would come to wonder if they had taken leave of their senses in agreeing to take part.

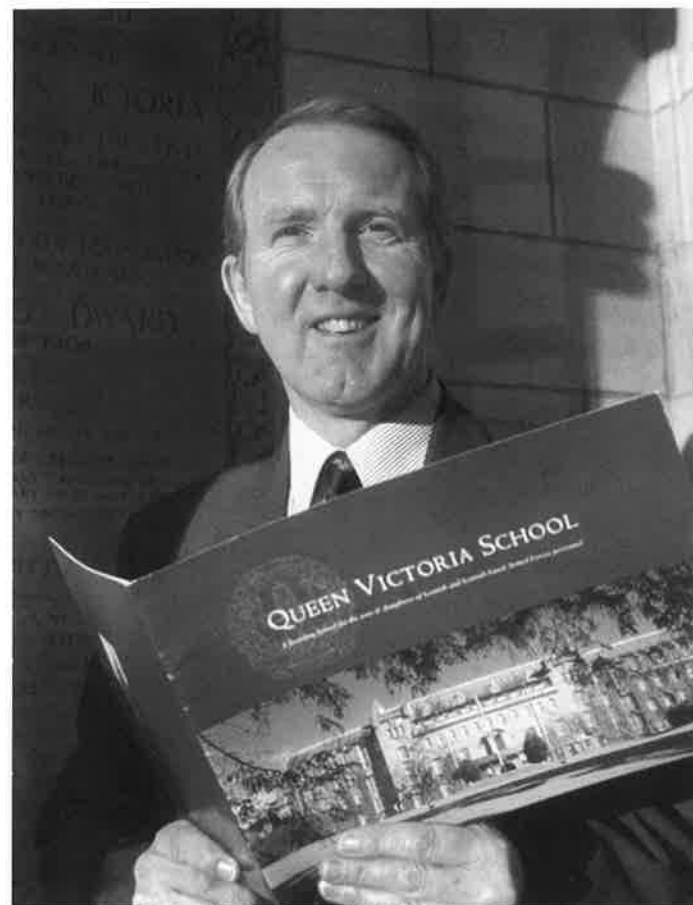
The news in the **2000** edition of the Victorian is to be found on other pages. Looking ahead **2110** and beyond, who knows what the pupils, staff and OVs will have to say? One can but hope that there is as much interest and amusement to be had from reading the next 60 years of the Victorian as the last.

Headmaster's notes

Queen Victoria School has made considerable progress in a number of areas since my last year's notes for the Victorian Magazine.

The three most important achievements are:

- *The progress made on the Welfare Side and the very positive April 2000 Follow-up Welfare Report from HM Inspectors*
- *The School's recognition as an Investors in People organisation in December 1999*
- *The opening of a new boarding house in April 2000.*



HMIs commented very favourably as follows:

"The Headteacher and the School, well supported by the Board of Commissioners, have made good progress towards meeting almost all of the main points for action in the report. The Adjutant General has provided funds for the building of a new boarding house in response to the accommodation issues raised, but accommodation improvements are not yet complete. A significant contribution has been made by the Board of Commissioners to supporting this progress on care and welfare matters at a time when the School was undergoing a major review of its Agency status".

The opening of our new boarding house referred to above is clearly linked to the Welfare of the pupils and the overall improvement of living conditions. This new building provides excellent, spacious and modern accommodation for 68 pupils and has

3 flats for resident staff. Mr Carroll, House-master of Trenchard, moved in with his P7 and S1 boys at the start of the Summer Term. This is a huge step forward for QVS.

As most people will be aware this was the very necessary but only the first part of our overall plan to improve accommodation. I say necessary, because we had to decant, before we could start refurbishment, at least one House out of the Main Building. We aim to start this process in the summer of 2000 and spread the work over the next 3 years. Thus the programme, which started in 1995 in preparation for the introduction of girls into Wavell, should be finished within a 10-year period and will provide the pupils of QVS with a high standard of accommodation throughout.

Amongst the plethora of Government initiatives that are thrown at our doorstep from the education and the MOD Departments,

Investors in People was one which I was very keen to tackle, long before it became mandatory. It has indeed provided the benefits which I expected: improved communications and procedures within the School, a much more focused and programmed training and development programme for staff and a sharper overall business focus. It has also provided a boost for staff morale at a time when the teaching profession has once again found itself under pressure.

The Agency Review referred to by the HMIs came to its conclusion at the end of 1999. The final document which was put forward to Ministers in January 2000 provided a very fair representation of QVS and its contribution to the MOD. I am pleased to state that the recommendations were accepted by the Ministers in June 2000.

The Standard Grade results were our best ever with 48% of our pupils achieving at least



Headmaster with the Senior Monitor and School Monitors, l-r: Robert Adams, Eddie Porter, Vicky Harris, Headmaster, Eugene Kuczerepa, Stuart Dunsmuir.

5 passes at Grades 1 and 2 (the National average was 31%). In addition, 98% of our pupils achieved at least 5 passes at Grades 1-4 (the National average was 75%). At Higher Grade 62.5% of our presentations were in the A-C category and 24% achieved 3 or more Highers at A-C (the National average was 20%). Of the 43 leavers last year 73% went on to Higher Education.

OZ Tour. Although I did not list the Oz Tour of the summer of 1999 as one of our major achievements, it was certainly a huge event for the School. The fund raising carried out by the Committee and staff, parents and pupils and, in particular, the Old Victorians was tremendous. The President of the OVA Ron Smith is to be commended for his Association's efforts and his own not insignificant contribution. However, without the drive and determination of Mr Tomkins, it is unlikely that the tour would have taken place and he deserves a huge pat on the back. In addition, the staff involved:

Mr Tomkins, Mr Laing, Mr Beattie, Mr Ross, Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Tomkins and Miss Scott contributed tremendously to a very ambitious but highly successful tour.

Rugby. I am aware that there will be other articles on the tour and so will restrict my comments to the above and to add that there is no doubt that the Pipe Band and the 1st XV learnt a lot and improved as the tour progressed. Unfortunately, for the latter, a lot of the 1st XV were due to leave the School and so our 1st XV this year was much younger and less experienced. Thus, the year has been one of transition in which there were notable victories against Loretto and Strathallan 2nd XV's, Morrison's Academy and Lomond 1st XV's and concluding with a conclusive victory against Kinross High School 1st and a much less conclusive but very hard fought and well won victory against an Edinburgh Select XV. Kris Edwards represented Midlands U.16 and Niall Thomson represented Midlands U.18.

Hockey. Although not as successful as last year, the girls Hockey 1st X1 won 7, drew 3 and lost 3. Considering the few senior girls in the School this is still a remarkably good record and as more younger and new players are introduced so the strength will improve for the future. Notable victories were achieved against Laurel Park, St Margaret's, Mary Erskine and Hull Grammar School. The side was ably captained by Lisa Milligan who just missed out on representative tours whereas Lindsay McAuley became our first girl to gain Midlands U.16 recognition.

The Pipe Band following on from Australia has had a very busy year. They have played at the following Internationals:
Scotland v Argentina
Scotland v Romania
Scotland v South Africa
Scotland v. Uruguay
Scotland v New Zealand

Scotland v France
Scotland v England

In addition, they played at the Rugby League Cup Final on the first Saturday of the Summer Term. The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers also performed at all sorts of other events ranging from Darby and Joan Clubs to Gleneagles, Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood. One new development this year under Pipe Major, Gordon Ross, is that the Pipe Band is being entered for external Piping Competitions with a view to taking part in the World Championships in 2001.

The Highland Dancers again won the Alasdair McLean Challenge Cup at the Argyllshire Gathering in August and Stuart Ruthven won the individual Poltalloch Cup. The UKA Highland Dancing examinations taken in the Spring saw 65 pupils taking 80 examinations with the following notable results in the Grade 12 Premier Cup:

Christopher Harris - Honours
Helen Onslow - Honours
Stuart Ruthven - Honours
Ross Stevenson - Honours

In addition, the School's Highland Dancers performed at Edinburgh Castle in March for the GOC and all past Governors of the Castle and will be on show in July at the Castle as part of the 100th birthday celebrations for the Queen Mother.

CCF. The younger members of the CCF Highland Tac team who were blooded in 1998 benefited in 1999 and came 4th in the CCF competition and 8th overall including the ACF's. The CCF continues to thrive as shown by the Bi-annual Inspection carried out by Col H C G Willing, Chief of Staff, HQ Scotland, in October 1999, who commented that the CCF "fully reflects the ethos of the school combining opportunity, commitment and enthusiasm with achievement. The range of activities undertaken by the CCF is extensive, well organised, supervised and imaginative, bringing some notable successes and subsequent credit on the School and individuals."

As part of the CCF activities it should be noted that Chloe Johnston has once again broken

her own National Junior Ladies small bore rifle record.

In the **Duke of Edinburgh** scheme this year we have a record 128 pupils taking part with 7 on Gold, 33 on Silver and 88 taking Bronze.

Cross Country has also been a thriving sport this year with good numbers involved in various competitions. It is good to see our various teams doing so well in competition with a mixture of independent and state schools. For example, at St Aloysius Leanne Bridgeman came 1st and in a competition here Leanne came 2nd, Ashling Kerr 3rd, Cameron Gaff 1st and David Thorpe 2nd. At a meeting of Strathallan which included also Merchiston, Rannoch and Glenalmond – our U.13 boys came 1st, U.15 2nd and U.17 came 2nd.

18 pupils took part in the Scottish Schools with David Thorpe running extremely well to be placed 20th and the U.15 boys team 8th overall – very good results.

In **Debating** Ilona Evenden and Kris Reid were commended with merit for their performance at the Dundee Courier Debating Competition semi finals but just missed out on the final. The Senior Public Speaking Team (Amy Morton, Alasdair Spence and Darren Farr) got to the semi-finals of the CADIC Public Speaking Competition.

Community. The School also continues to do a very good job in the community. Mrs Watt from the Callander Thursday Club commented, "What a talented group your P7/S1 pupils are" and Mrs Kemp from Braco said, "How can we begin to thank you and the pupils for the delightful evening you provided for the Braco Guild. The pupils were an absolute credit to the School". This year has also seen 3 major fund-raising exercises for very worthwhile Charities – shoe boxes for Kosovo, Sight-Savers and Crisis. The pupils are to be commended for their considerable efforts to help and entertain others less fortunate than themselves.

The Summer and Christmas Music

Concerts have now become a traditional feature of QVS life. The Windband continues to develop its repertoire with renditions of Elton John's "Can you feel the love tonight" and "Chariots of Fire" and we were treated to a first performance of an original score by Cameron McLeod, a piece he composed for his Higher. The variety of solo, duets and small group performances at these concerts again illustrates the involvement, enjoyment and expertise of the pupils. Another new dimension was added this year with an excellent solo concert given by David McDougall on the cornet, accompanied by Mr Onslow on the organ and piano.

Staff Changes. Since I reported in last year's Victorian there have been a number of staff changes. Clive Bruce left in June 1999 after 27 years at QVS; as Principal Teacher of Social Studies he looked after Economics, Modern Studies, History and latterly Geography. His main teaching subject was Economics but his other main interest was golf. I would like to thank Clive for his work in the department and within the School and wish Clive and his wife Irene a long and happy retirement.

David Kelling also left in December 1999 after 13 years service to the School. He arrived to set up Computing in the School and latterly was taking both Maths and Computing. He decided that a change of direction was required for himself.

Iain Dow who left at the end of the Spring Term 2000 taught Learning Support and contributed substantially to PE and Games. He was also a resident Deputy Housemaster in Wavell. We wish David and Iain all the very best for the future in the new directions they take.

Mr Webster retires at the end of this session after 19 years' service during which he was Housemaster of Trenchard and taught English and Modern Studies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his wife Mary for their significant contribution to the school and wish them long and happy retirement.



Gap Students, l-r: Heath Gair, Matthew Marshall, Kate Mulvihill and Daniel Cato.

Our new recruits this year are Mr Porter who has taken over the Computing position, Mr Wright who started in May with the task of setting up a new Business Studies department and Mrs Bauld who started in June as Principal Teacher of Social Studies. Mr Beattie has also taken over as Head of Learning Support, a position he has occupied since August 1999.

As usual our GAP students have changed with Matthew Marshall (Trenchard), Daniel Cato (Cunningham), Heath Gair (Haig), and Kate Mulvihill (Wavell) heading back to Australia and New Zealand. They have been replaced by: Tim Belcher from Waitaki Boys' High School, Oamaru, New Zealand (Haig); Andrew Rutherford from Otago High School Dunedin, New Zealand (Trenchard); Aaron Ross from Marist College, Brisbane (Cunningham) and Emma Reuvers from PLC, Perth, Western Australia (Wavell).

They continue to be a great benefit to the School, and the Houses and activities in particular. On the Language side Herve Kerbrat returned to France to be replaced by Kirsten Funk from Germany. The regular input of a Foreign Language Assistant has proved to be most beneficial and Kirsten



Colour Party, l-r: Headmaster, Stuart Mooney, Alan Gault, Nick Burge, Robert Adams, Stuart Ruthven, Stewart Downie, Andrew Martin, SSM - Mr Duthie.

has proved to be no exception.

At present, we have Gary Cornelius at Marist College, Brisbane, Ryan Bennett at Dilworth College, Auckland, New Zealand, Ian Murray at Scots College, Auckland, New Zealand and Ian Watt working as a GAP placement in Israel. Paul Barlow was at St John's College in Zimbabwe but had to leave early because of the problems there.

As noted in my introductory paragraph the session 1999/2000 has been a momentous one in a number of ways. Queen Victoria School continues to forge ahead. However, the challenge is still there to improve and we must not rest on our laurels. Boarding Schools are becoming harder to run well because of the increasing legislation, the plethora of Government instructions, and because parental and public expectation of them are rising at the same time as attitudes to authority and the bonds on young people are loosening.

It is not just about examinations results and keeping pupils busy – although both are very important. Our challenge is to meet that pertinent statement made by a pupil who was asked to define leisure: the pupil wrote "It is being forced to do nothing; but doing

something. Better still it is having an environment where you want to do something, when you could do nothing". It is also about how closely, if discreetly, we supervise our pupils; how successfully and routinely we create opportunities for discussion; and, most nebulously of all, how skilled we are at creating an atmosphere in which pupils choose to do what they know to be right, and NOT to do what they know to be wrong.

Once again I would like to pay tribute to, and thank the staff as a whole for the excellent work done throughout this last year. The transition period, and a considerable gap between Bursars, placed added strain on the Administration staff but they coped remarkably well. Welfare Inspections and the IIP process as well as the numerous audits that face us every year continue to demand more and more of staff time and expertise. However, as mentioned above, we have emerged from these this year in good heart and a better school. Therefore, I would like to thank all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for all their efforts to cope with the continued pressures of boarding school life, to improve standards and the overall quality of life for our pupils.

My thanks are also due to Vicky Harris, our first female Senior Monitor and the other Monitors and School Prefects for their work on the School's behalf. As I have stated previously, the Senior Monitor's position is not an easy one and Vicky has had the very difficult job of breaking the mould and trail-blazing as the first female in this position. Whenever it happened, it would always have been difficult, but Vicky has shown great strength of character in holding this position, doing an

extremely good job and providing an excellent role model for the future.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Commissioners and, in particular, Air Vice Marshal Simpson the Chairman, who sadly, will be retiring as a Commissioner later this year. He has been a great supporter of the School and has fought hard on its behalf and, personally, I have valued his support and wise counsel. I would also like to take this

opportunity to thank Major General Strudwick who retired as GOC Scotland and, therefore, a School Commissioner at the end of March for his support which has been very much appreciated. In addition, Mrs Nan Howe, the Chairman, and the rest of the General Purposes Committee deserve a special vote of thanks. We are indeed fortunate in the wealth of experience that is available to support Queen Victoria School and the time and care that is provided by the Commissioners.

provision always boils down to Staff and pupils being vigilant and sensible, and to individuals assuming personal responsibility for their own and others' safety. However, technology is there to help the School and local police ensure that our pupils are safe and secure. We intend to use it to good effect. By the time you read this, the system should be in operation.

The School's administrative Staff have had their fair share of upheaval, with the demands of the Capital Resource Accounting System necessitating a measure of internal re-organisation and a lot of hard work for

Ken Lawrie and his team in the Admin Office. Our Personnel Officer, Maureen Wallace, deserves a particular pat on the back for her part in steering the School towards successfully achieving Investors in People Accreditation. This was just one of the Government initiatives to which the School has responded positively and effectively over the year. Lt Col Sharp and his Estates Staff have also managed an unusually large workload with aplomb.

At the time of writing, I have been in post a mere nine months and I consider myself fortunate to have inherited a sound and well-run ship from my predecessor, Colonel Alan

Tapp. Only a rash man will change a winning formula and I have restricted my reforming instincts to a minor overhaul of our filing systems and making limited inroads into the task of re-locating and overhauling the School's archives. I have had great help from a cheerful and supportive team, who have been tolerant and sensible enough to save me from myself on a number of occasions. The year to come will be busy but, despite the odd grey hair and bout of hypertension, life at QVS is proving enjoyable.

Ian McGregor

Bursar's notes

As a government agency, QVS is under more pressure than most Schools to react swiftly and willingly to changes in social and educational policy emanating from Whitehall and, more recently, from Holyrood also. This invariably means that change is a way of life for us: we have to tread a fine line in keeping up with the times, while retaining our traditional values and aspect. The last 12 months have been no exception to this. It can sometimes be a real challenge being Victorians in the 21st Century!

QVS has a wonderful estate, full of character and interest, but some areas have been in need of attention to ensure we provide the ambience and facilities which parents, and indeed Her Majesty's Inspectors, expect for our pupils. Much of our work to this end has been unspectacular but nonetheless extremely important. We have completely refurbished the School's Theatre, the first port of call for many visitors to the School on Open Days, presentations and the like. It has been somewhat forlorn for some years now and has benefited greatly from its face-lift. Some fallow space in the Teaching Block has been converted into an extra classroom for the Maths and Computing Departments. A comprehensive computer network has been installed throughout the School, augmented by the purchase of a substantial number of new computers.

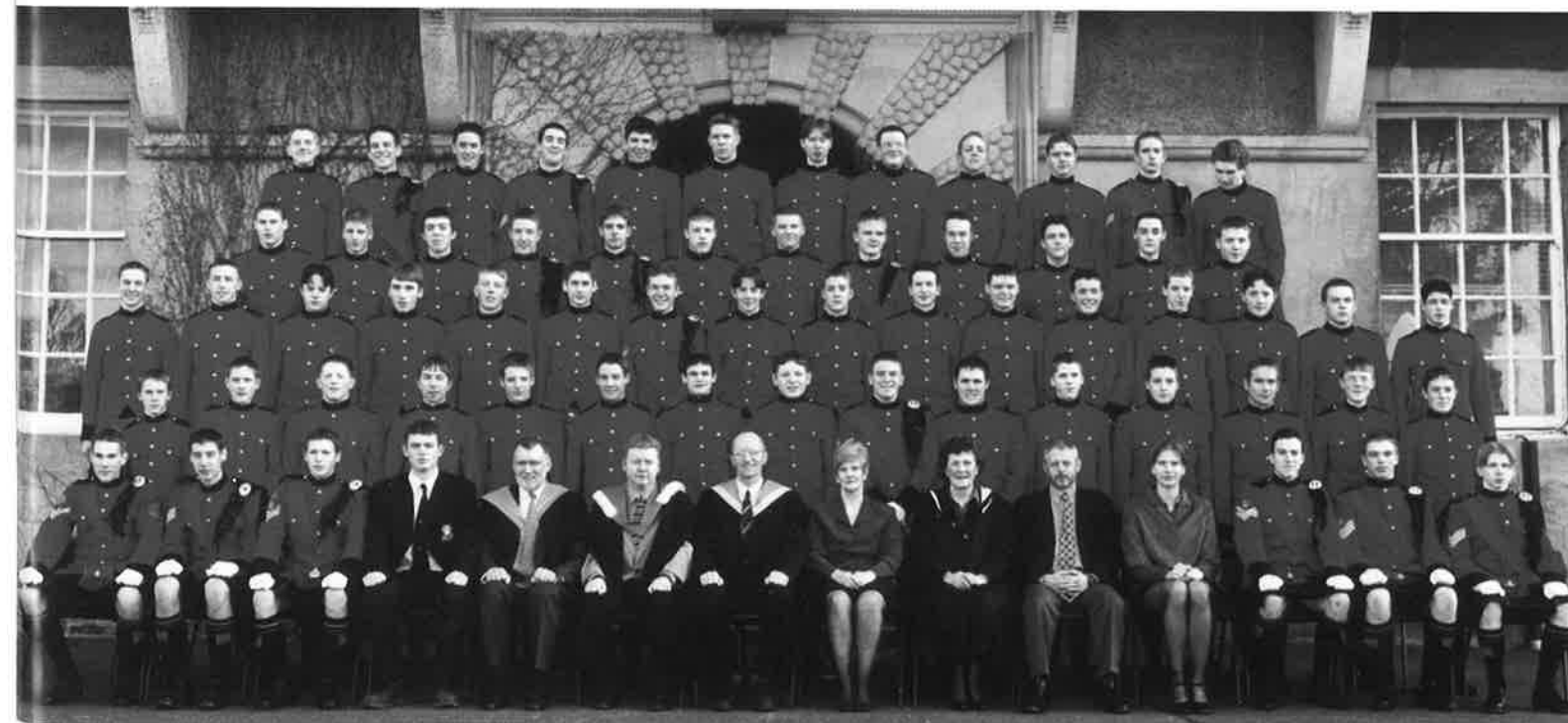
Most significant among our projects this year has been the construction of the new Trenchard House. Gone are the days when spartan, barrack room-like accommodation was deemed acceptable as boarding school

accommodation. One or two Old Victorian die hards might shudder at the thought of a more comfortable regime at QVS failing to prepare pupils for some of the slings and arrows they will face in adult life, but I am glad to say that those who visited the new House, on a wonderfully successful OV weekend in March, were unanimous in their praise for the standard of the new accommodation, and highly envious of the youngsters moving into it! This envy has been shared by the girls in Wavell House, whose hitherto superior accommodation is now decidedly passé by comparison.

The new House is the spearhead of our programme of refurbishment of pupils' accommodation. It is overdue and essential from every viewpoint. At its conclusion, the School should emerge better appointed although not with greater capacity; this will be good for staff and meet with the approval of our inspectors and auditors, but more importantly it will be of clear and substantial benefit to our pupils and their families.

On a slightly more sombre note, security remains an issue to which the School devotes considerable attention. Within our large estate and its extensive perimeter, we have occasionally experienced difficulty in controlling access to the School as tightly as we would ideally wish to. With 24-hour security cover by our guard force, we are better provided for than most, but we have had the odd unwelcome incursion by local youths which, though more of a nuisance than a threat, has led us to review and overhaul our security regime. Changes have, therefore, been made to our personal pass system, to external door opening and locking mechanisms and a number of additional door alarms have been installed. Most significantly, however, HM Commissioners have funded the installation of a closed-circuit television system which will greatly extend the range and extent of our security provision. Readers of these notes will understand if I do not go into detail on what the system can and cannot do; suffice to say that it is extremely versatile. Good security

Haig House



Haig House staff and pupils

Trenchard House

We have taken part in many activities throughout the year. As usual we visited Murrayfield on a number of occasions as well as visits to the cinema, going ice-skating, swimming, going to the theatre and attending a few dances.

Another year has passed and as usual many changes have occurred. After much angst, gnashing of teeth, stress and sleepless nights, we have moved into the new boarding house opposite the swimming pool.

The difference for the children will be obvious to all those who have seen the living and recreational space. It provides the school with a marvellous working environment and as the summer term approaches the house team is looking forward to working there.

Once again we have completed a very active and busy year. The new P7's took a wee while to settle in but, by and large, they have faced up to their little problems quite

well and they are making good progress.

On the other side of the house the S1 boys have shown themselves to be a thoroughly good group of young people. The P7's have a hard act to follow, although I am sure that they will turn the corner by August.

We have taken part in many activities throughout the year. As usual we visited Murrayfield on a number of occasions as well as visits to the cinema, going ice-skating, swimming, going to the theatre and attending a few dances. My thanks to all those who assisted in these events.

As the new summer term beckons at the time of writing, myself and staff alike are going to have to organise new routines and establish certain codes of conduct to suit

our new environment. So I expect there will be more sleepless nights, stress and gnashing of teeth!

Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support the boys and staff. My thanks as usual are offered to our matron Heather Devlin, Mr McNally, and the rest of the house team. Mr Dow left us last term and his place is being filled for the time being by Pipe Major Ross. We wish Mr Dow all the best in his new career and welcome Pipie to the team. Our thanks to all the general hands who have been of tremendous assistance in our move.

Last but not least my thanks go to my wife Maureen for all her continued support and understanding.

G. Carroll

Trenchard House staff and pupils

AFTER HORSE RIDING, SPEND THE AFTERNOON IN THE SADDLE.



Your family will love GLENEAGLES.

But that's no surprise. There's a host of activities for you to enjoy together like archery, off-road driving, tennis and falconry.

Then, while the children are busy at the golf academy or in the games room, you can take it easy in The Club Restaurant. Or browse through shops like Harvey Nichols and Mappin & Webb.

That's the beauty of a break at GLENEAGLES. You can be as active or relaxed as you want.

And, whether you'd prefer a fixed price, structured break or something more flexible, we'll help tailor-make the ideal holiday for you.

So if you're looking for something that little bit special, you'll find it's just a drive away.

At GLENEAGLES we're fully geared up to make your visit the perfect family holiday.

FREEPHONE 0800 704 705

PLEASE QUOTE REF NO. 013.

ONLINE BOOKING AT **www.gleneagles.com**

OR BOOK THROUGH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT. OFFER IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

THE GLENEAGLES HOTEL, AUCHTERARDER, PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND, PH3 1NF.

The Eagle device and the GLENEAGLES name are registered trade and service marks of Gleneagles Hotels Ltd.



Get away to it all at Gleneagles

When you grow out of your bank account, we'll give you a new one.

At Bank of Scotland whatever age or stage in life you're at, we've a bank account to suit.

Each and every account has a range of great features, competitive interest rates and with over 20,000 cash machines throughout the country, you'll never be far from your money.

One thing's for sure, you'll never grow out of Bank of Scotland.

Express Account – for 11-15 year olds.

Select Account – for 16-17 year olds.

Student Account – for all students over 18 years.

For further information, phone 01786 422100 or call into the branch below. You can also contact us at www.bankofscotland.co.uk

Bank of Scotland
63 High Street
Dunblane FK15 0EJ

 **BANK OF SCOTLAND** *a friend for life*

Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and monitored under the Bank's Quality Control procedures. Bank of Scotland subscribes to The Banking Code. Copies are available on request. The logo, Bank of Scotland and a friend for life are registered trademarks of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

Wavell House

Very well done to our hockey team who have worked hard this year and enjoyed continuing success. They have been ably captained by Lisa Milligan and have been well tutored in how to score by our resident expert – Miss J. Scott.

Vicky Harris – Senior Monitor



Wavell House staff and pupils



Wavell housemistress and prefects

We Wavellites have enjoyed another action-packed year. We've been entertained with parties, swimming trips, cinema and theatre visits, ceilidhs, competitions and discos. (No wonder all our staff have dark circles under their eyes!)

A new face this year has been the smiling one of Miss Courtney who joined our team in August. So far she's proved herself to be an intrepid skier (fooling everyone who

thought she was only in it for the sun tan) and has fitted right in to Wavell life (ie she now has matching dark circles like all the other staff!).

Very well done to our hockey team who have worked hard this year and enjoyed continuing success. They have been ably captained by Lisa Milligan and have been well tutored in how to score by our resident expert – Miss J. Scott.

Emma Reuvers is our GAP student this year, all the way from Perth, Western Australia. Emma has been enjoying our "fabulous" Scottish weather, learning to be a life guard and developing a keen sense of what to avoid at tea (who said everything?). A big thanks to Emma for her energy, enthusiasm and her great big grin.

Lots of thanks have to go to our "behind the scenes" team – Mrs Kean and Mrs Blyth who make Wavell the smoothly oiled machine that it is. Without their help we would never have clean skirts, we'd live in squalor and we'd soon be buried under a twenty foot pile of laundry. Thanks ladies, we couldn't do without you!

Lest we forget, another vote of thanks has to go out to our house prefects who help ensure that all runs smoothly in Wavell.

A great big THANK YOU to: Laura Gale, Laura Dunnachie, Amy Morton, Ashling Kerr, Jennifer Jones, Lisa Milligan, Lynsey McAulay and Lindsey Farquharson (I can now go on holiday with the £20 bribe that you've all given me for the mention). Only

kidding girls – keep up the good work!

House staff this year have remained unchanged, apart from having more wrinkles (ladies) and less hair (Mr Onslow). On behalf of the house, we'd like to say a HUGE thanks for all they do for us and their endless patience. We know how difficult it must be to:

- Tune in Sky One to video "Friends"
- Count out change of £20
- Answer the phone to Mr Laing who has spotted several girls "lurking with intent"
- Finding a missing pass slip
- Prevent nine girls running over to sister for various "imaginary" illnesses (they're on duty)
- Dish out supper, diplomatically sharing out the bourbon biscuits, while being able to sort out an argument about who's the best looking member of 5ive. All at the same time.

That's why you're all still here, because, just like L'Oreal – we're worth it!

Our biggest changes this year in Wavell

have been the addition of the two playstations (yes, contrary to popular belief, they don't belong to Penny – even though she's permanently glued to one). As well as our Ikea-like transformation of the upstairs common room. Thanks to our own hard work and Miss McDougall's time and effort we now have somewhere a lot more stylish to "veg out" and watch MTV – who needs "Changing Rooms" – Lawrence Llewellyn Bowen, eat your heart out!

Unfortunately, despite these improvements there are still some things we "Wavellites" have to put up with – well, two to be exact – our resident "Comedy Duo" (or so they think), Scotty and Miss J. They can always be relied upon for their "kind" words and "hilarious" jokes. Although we are grateful for the fact that they do spend most of the time "ripping" each other. On a more serious note, we do appreciate their hard work and effort. We would particularly like to thank Scotty for the biggest "Style Challenge" ever – getting Miss J out of her Reeboks at last.

Serious history has been made this year by Wavell House producing the very first female Senior Monitor – our very own "Queen Vic" – Victoria Harris. Vicki has coped admirably with the stresses and strains of the job – under Mr Duthie's "constructive" criticism and has blazed a trail for the many girls who will follow in her footsteps. Well done Vicki – Millennium Monitor 2000.

Every single one of us in Wavell would like to join together and thank our resident "Supergirl" Miss McDougall – even without the tights and blonde wig! We do appreciate that it can't be easy living with 80-odd teenagers and we'd just like to express our enormous thanks for the redecoration, the trips, the playstations, and last but not least – the Saturday night "chip run". Thanks for putting up with us! Maybe one day you'll think that we're worth our weight in Mars Bars and Irn-Bru . . .

Rugby

1999-2000

It was always going to be a difficult season with so many of last year's side leaving school. Developing this year's squad was going to be the priority and on the whole I have been pleased with the way the players responded to the challenge. Neil Thomson played for Midlands Schools U18, Chris Harris was also selected but couldn't play due to a neck injury. Kris Edwards was selected for the Midlands U16 throughout the District season.

Players who were involved throughout this season were:-

Backs: C Harris (Captain), W Ratcliffe, S Watson, C Murphy, K Edwards, N Seaton, C Armstrong, M Roessler, G Houston, N Thomson, S Patience, M Brown, C Flynn, A Gault.

Forwards: D Abolins, G King, P Fleming, S Downie, A Uytendahl, E Porter, G Martin, A Bott, L Dowdeswell, S Patience, C MacDonald, C Niven, A Laws, N Burge, M McConnell, F McKinnon, G McCulloch.

The QVS ten-a-side squad played very well indeed in our own tournament to reach the final of the Cup Competition, where they lost to a very impressive Dundee HS. Boroughmuir HS won the Plate Competition. Sadly, due to the restructuring of the fixture list which took place this year, we will be unable to hold the tournament again for the foreseeable future.

Balfron HS (Cup): 47-0 Win

This was a comprehensive win against the weakest Balfron HS side we have played in recent seasons. We never allowed them into the game and totally dominated in all aspects of the game.

Loreto 2nd XV: 15-0 Win

This was a much more difficult match against a well organised opposition. Once again the forwards played well and secured quality ball for the backs to exploit. Although we eventually won the match, we did not fully reap the rewards of our efforts.

Strathallan 2nd XV: 17-7 Win

Matches against Strathallan are always keenly contested and this was to be no exception. We settled into the match quickly and began to dominate the forward exchanges, with McConnell and McKinnon particularly prominent amongst the forwards. Strathallan found Thomson's physical presence in the backs hard to deal with and Seaton was having one of his better matches at fly-half. However, we allowed them to come back into the game in the second half, although good defensive work prevented the final score being closer.

Morrisons Academy: 24-12 Win

Despite the fact that we won this match we were really very poor for two thirds of it. We appeared to be less than interested right from the start and allowed them to score twelve points very quickly. This seemed to

wake us up and although the opposition were on top we did not allow them to score again. Some well chosen words seemed to galvanise our side into action after the half time whistle and excellent efforts by McConnell, McKinnon and a superb individual effort by Thomson settled the game in our favour.

Merchiston 2nd XV: 29-12 Win

Having suffered several injuries to key players, it was with some apprehension that we approached what is traditionally one of our hardest matches of the season. As it was, the players who came into the side performed well and did not let the side down. Although we won the match comfortably in the end, it was a tight, hard fought encounter, and we had to play well in order to secure the victory.

Lomond School: 15-0 Win

Lomond are always a stuffy side to play against and although we scored a try in the first couple of minutes of the match they came back at us well. Too often we did not do the simple things, often over complicating things; as a result we allowed them back into the game and only good defensive work by our backs in particular, prevented them from



Rugby 1st XV team 1999-2000

scoring. We also began to lose our discipline for the first time this season. In the second half a good try by Thomson settled us and we began, especially up front, to play the sort of rugby I knew we were capable of.

Edinburgh Academy 2nd XV: 20-8 Win

Edinburgh Academy were always going to be a challenge and so it proved. Our cause was not helped by an injury to McConnell during the warm up, and having already lost three players to injury we were certainly not at full strength. I detected a lack of focus almost as soon as we got off the bus. A very untidy first quarter found us ahead but once again trying to over complicate things, especially up front. When we did get the ball to the backs they obviously had the measure of their opponents. Tries by Murphy and Thomson gave us a 15-3 half time lead. Although they came back strongly at us in the second half, our defence

held out and a good individual try by Harris sealed the victory.

Glasgow Academy (Cup): 3-12 Loss

This was our best performance of the season to date. We totally dominated the game and a combination of good defence and bad luck prevented us from scoring on several occasions. Glasgow Academy were only in our half three times throughout the whole match and managed to score on two of those occasions! It was a very disappointing result and poor rewards for what was an excellent effort by the whole side.

Madras College: 26-35 Loss

We always take too long to get into a match after a long bus journey and this match proved to be no exception. Poor tackling in midfield allowed the Madras centres to score nearly every time they ran at our defence. Our

forwards were consistently beaten to the break-down and we made far too many mistakes when we did have the ball. Our cause wasn't aided by five injuries to key players in the first twenty minutes. It wasn't until the last twenty minutes that we began to put our game together and we scored some really good tries. However it was too little, too late!

St Columba's School: 24-28 Loss

Until this match we had never lost to St Columba's. At the end of the day, a combination of poor tackling, not taking the ample opportunities that we had and a determined and more committed opposition resulted in our defeat. This was one of the low points of the season so far and left everyone, coaches and players, feeling pretty depressed.

George Watson's College 2nd XV: 0-19 Loss



The Australian Tour

If the St Columba's match was one of the low points of the season, this match had to be the lowest! We had not had a match for around three weeks and this may have contributed to a lacklustre performance where we made numerous basic mistakes and in the first half lacked the necessary bottle to get into the match. After a full and frank discussion at half time, we were unlucky not to score on at least three occasions in the second half, where taking the wrong option at key moments robbed us of deserved tries.

Dunfermline HS: 10-15 Loss

Although we lost this match, I have nothing but admiration for the players of both sides. The match was played in atrocious weather and despite the conditions they gave us a highly entertaining match which could have gone either way. Up front we regained the control that had been missing in earlier matches and our defensive covering and tackling was excellent. We perhaps did not get the rub of the green at key moments, but nevertheless this was a turning point in our season.

Dundee HS 2nd XV: 15-0 Win

We got back to winning ways with a workman-like performance against a gutsy if, at times, over-robust opponents. Although we were never in danger of losing the match, the forwards tended to take the ball on too much, when giving the ball to the backs would have led to many more scores. Nevertheless, a much needed morale-boosting win!

Kinross HS: 42-0 Win

We took this game by the scruff of the neck and never let go. We were in command in every aspect of the game and if there was a disappointing area to our performance, it was that we did not score more tries! At last we were beginning to look like the more than capable team I am sure we will be next season!

Edinburgh State Schools Select: 26-19 Win

This was, undoubtedly, our best performance of the season, against the best the State Schools in Edinburgh could offer. Against a physically impressive set of forwards the QVS eight did not give an inch and out-fought and out-thought their opposite numbers. Our backs

always looked like they were capable of taking on and defeating their opponents and they tackled like demons! Despite a spirited comeback by the Edinburgh side, we held out for a well-deserved victory.

Conclusion

As I have already stated, this was always going to be a year of transition. The players have to be given great credit for the way they have remained totally committed in, at times, very trying circumstances. It has certainly been one of the worst years for injuries that I can remember. I would like to thank Sister Fitzgerald and her staff for all their efforts, which is very much appreciated by all the coaches and players.

Once again, I would like to thank all my fellow coaches: Mr McLay, Mr Raine, Mr McNally, Mr Gilhooley, Mr Philson, Mr Carroll and Mr Beattie (all of whom give up a great deal of their spare time) but not least, I would like to thank all the Gap students who have been always willing to assist in any way they can.

T King

S3 Rugby

The third year Rugby team have improved beyond recognition this season. Initially, although their spirit could not be faulted, they were often intimidated by the opposition's size and strength. However with a lot of hard work, determination and perseverance they overcame this by improving both their mobility and game

awareness. Kris Reid, the captain, led by example at all times. Both when attacking and in defence, he showed commitment and was not frightened to take people on physically. Paul Tyson's work rate could not be faulted and he worked tirelessly in both set pieces and loose play. In his role as pack leader he encouraged the forwards to work hard and to keep as a unit. All forwards contributed to the team's success in the latter part of the season and players to lookout for in the future are Flynn, Patience, McIntyre,

Bridgeman, Fleming and of course Tyson. In the backs the ball is now moving out to the wings and it is from here that O'Donnell, Reid, Kirkaldy and Boyle are penetrating defenses and causing problems for the opposition. We are able to do this due to an improved link between Walker and Cameron. All of the backs have shown what they're capable of in both attack and defence and will be a great asset to next year's senior squad.

Won 7 Lost 5 Drawn 2

S1 Rugby

I felt that the squad that made up the S1 group this year was one of the most enthusiastic and hard working squads that I have had the privilege to work with for a number of years. We sustained many injuries to key players, which did not happen whilst playing I have to add, but such was

the strength of character of this squad that it made little difference to our overall performances. We all played for each other and gained excellent experience from our victories and defeats.

It would be difficult to isolate any one outstanding player in the squad, but regular, sustained good performances were given by Alisdair Page, Jamie Evenden, Craig Farquharson (when he wasn't getting over broken bones!), Jamie Motherwell, Craig

Richardson, Mark Braceland, Stuart Mooney, Greg Towns, Callum Henderson, Peter Girvan, Andrew Martin and Kevin Hayes. Actually I think I've named the whole team! We had some good results and I am sure we would have had many more but, unfortunately, the weather seriously disrupted our season. Overall though a good season was had and this group of boys look like a very exciting prospect for the future.



SCOTT-MONCRIEFF
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW

**Specialists in Public Sector and
Charity Accounting**

Tel: 0131 473 3500 Tel: 0141 567 4500
www.scott-moncrieff.co.uk

MODERN AND LUXURIOUS COACH TRAVEL

Mackies Coaches

32 GLASSHOUSE LOAN, ALLOA

Tel (01259) 216180 Fax (01259) 217508



ENQUIRIES WELCOME FOR CONTRACTS,
PRIVATE PARTY OUTINGS, BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL TOURS



1st XI Hockey Team

This season has been another success for the 1st XI although it has been considerably more difficult than last year. We saw the introduction of many new and younger players and, therefore, had to spend time rearranging and developing the team in the early stages. However, as the season progressed we reached a balance that brought us back to victory.

The team has been well led by our Captain Lisa Milligan and along with her 'Three Musketeers', Laura D, Lynsey M and Ashling K,

has ensured that she remained top of the goal scoring list, although her title may soon be under threat from one of our new recruits, Fiona Coyle.

As well as Fiona, all of the younger players have proved to be a valuable asset to the team and I'm sure that in the future they will continue to show that they are a force to be reckoned with.

This year the team also played the touring side Hull Grammar School. Despite being the most exhausting match to date, we still

managed to win with one of our best victories of the season.

Next season we will fortunately only lose two players, Kerri Meleady and Vicki Harris. However, they will both be missed greatly.

Finally, the girls must be congratulated for continuing to give 100% throughout the season. Also a special thanks must go to Miss Scott for her coaching, support and the amazing ability she has to put up with all of us!

Lisa Milligan

RESULTS

QVS 2 : Dunblane 0	QVS 2 : St Margaret's 0	QVS 3 : St Margaret's 0
QVS 3 : Laurel Park 2	QVS 1 : Lomond 2	QVS 2 : Lomond 2
QVS 1 : St Margaret's 2	QVS 5 : Mary Erskine's 0	QVS 5 : Hull G. S. 1
QVS 3 : Keil 0	QVS 0 : Laurel Park 0	
QVS 1 : Laurel Park 3	QVS 1 : Balfron 1	

Won 7 Drawn 3 Lost 3 Goals for 29 Goals against 13 Goal difference +16



Ski Trip

2000 BY EDWARD PORTER

After an eventful and stressful term, how better to relax and reinforce everything we learnt in class, than trek off to France in search of snow and sun, and for some of us to become snow-boarders rather than school boarders. The trip was a huge success.

The 57 pupils were accompanied by seven staff who, surprisingly enough, were keen to spend the first week of their Easter holiday looking after us

The trip out was fairly uneventful and everyone was in high spirits until we reached Grenoble Airport, to find it was tipping down with rain. As the snow began to fall on the way up to the resort of Les Deux Alpes, our excitement began to rise. Hotel Janremon was excellent and right on the slopes. The hotel staff were really competent and friendly, although they did complain about the tidiness of some of the rooms! The food was great too.

On the first day we were up early and ready to hit the fresh powder snow that had fallen the night before. Or in a lot of cases, fall in the fresh powder snow – apparently it doesn't hurt as much. Everyone was allocated a group and instructor depending on experience. The instructors tried their hardest to injure as many

as possible in their search for "bears", shouting: "Allez! Go!" to encourage us to storm down the pistes in white-outs and snow storms, braving conditions only known in Scotland.

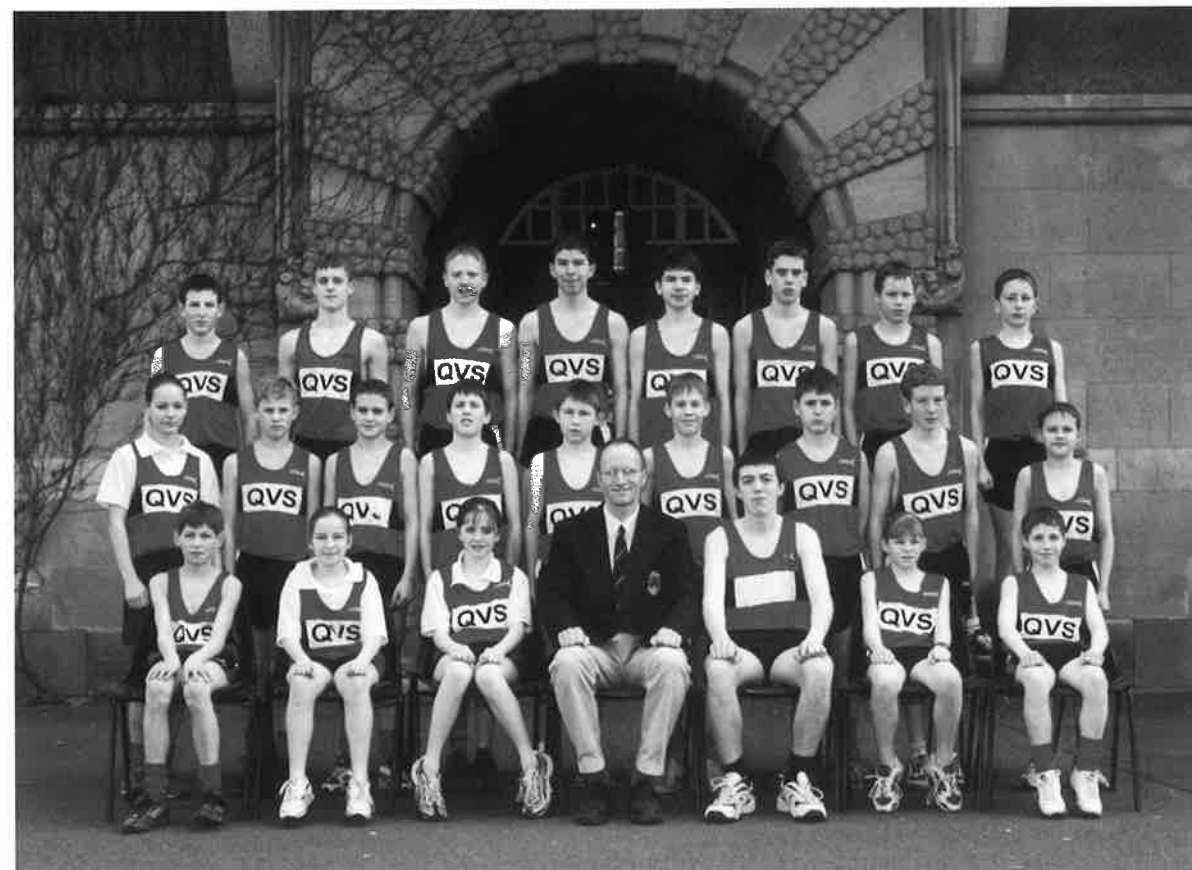
We did, however, have a few hot days and the direct result of this, "goggle-eyes" and blotches became the latest fashion statement around the hotel.

The staff did a great job looking after everyone, always willing to take free-skiing and participating fully in all the night time activities, including ice-skating, bingo, quiz-night, blading and bowling.

The injury list was quite impressive: one case of laryngitis, two staved thumbs, one split lip

(three stitches required), one ski-pole through the jaw (another stitch) and a dislocated shoulder. The only lasting damage, however, was to the ski-fund, forking out for vast medical expenses. The top group didn't break any limbs, but did manage to break three pairs of skis at personal cost!

Despite the large party and mixed age-groups, everyone got on really well, and there was a great atmosphere within the group. We all had a great time and left with fond memories. All that remained was the return trip to Glasgow and two and a half weeks well-earned rest. Preparations are already underway for the next ski trip to Alpe d'Heuz. May it be even more popular next year!



Cross Country Team 1999-2000



1st XI Football Team

Sports Day

1999

	BANNERMAN	LIDDELL	ORMOND
JUNIOR	74	95	108
INTERMEDIATE	79	103	90
SENIOR	100	85	92
OVERALL	253	283	290

The 1999 Sports Day was the first of the new format with the three sporting teams competing against each other. The junior team consisted of Primary 7's and S1, the Intermediate teams consisted of S2 and S3, while the S4,5,6 battled it out in the senior

competition. It was a great success with all athletes competing with great determination and sound spirit. The overall winners were Ormond; however, as you can see from the results each team won at a different level, making the competition tight. Thanks must

be given to all those who helped out on the day, without whom the day could not run. Congratulations as well to the staff team for winning the Relay race against the leavers and the Gap Students. Be warned leavers, we have already started training!



1999 Athletics Team & Individual Winners

Left-right: Andrew Kintrea, Toni Matthews, Fiona Thomson, Stephen Carter, Gary Cornelius, Cheryl McCubbin, Iain Murray, Adam Bolt, Christine Martin, Lynsey McAulay and Fiona Cayle



Senior Boys Athletics Relay Team Winners

Left-right: Iain Murray, Andrew Kintrea, Nick Kerr and Gary Cornelius

Music department

As always, this report begins with the very end of the previous year as the summer concert always occurs too late to include in the Victorian for the current year. The concert given at the end of the summer term 1999 was marked by its wide variety of content.



Wind Band

A period of considerable stability enabled the windband to achieve a high standard of performance, especially in the more spirited pieces. Of particular note were Sousa's rousing march, Liberty Bell, which opened the concert and the ever popular Watermelon Man, both pieces featuring Mr Stuart Blackwood (our guitar/percussion teacher) on drumkit, complete with crutches and recently broken (and plastered) leg! These were followed by various solos given by Tammy Allan (clarinet), Mark Lovell (euphonium), Gareth Hadland (voice), Ciara Watson (flute), Lynsey McAulay (trumpet), Chloe Johnston (voice), Laura Wylie (saxophone), Amy Morton (flute) and David McDougall (cornet). The Black Snakes performed some excellent pieces which included one golden oldie (Johnny Be Good). It was also very pleasing to perform

pieces written by a higher pupil (Cameron McLeod) – a gentle Piano Piece with the enigmatic title of Sole di Mezzanotte (loosely translated as 'Midnight Sun!'), and the rousing March of the Clouds played by the Windband to conclude the concert.

Earlier in the summer term (but a little later than usual) the ever-popular music competition took place. This was judged by one of our Old Victorians, Bob Anderson, who has had a wealth of experience as a band musician. First in the P7/S1 solo category was David McDougall (cornet) closely followed by Ciara Watson on flute. In the S2/3 solo category, Laura Wylie (saxophone) came first followed by Lynsey McAulay (trumpet). The S4/5/6 solo category unfortunately drew only three competitors. First was Mark Lovell (euphonium) followed by Tammy Allan

(clarinet). In the groups and ensembles category the Black Snakes came first.

The first concert of the 1999-2000 academic year was a new departure in that it featured music performed by just one pupil – David McDougall. This was given on a Wednesday evening in November and comprised fifty minutes of music in many styles and from different periods interspersed with one or two organ solos by the Director of Music. The concert finished in good time for a very important football match – Scotland v England!

The Christmas concert arrived all too soon as the term finished quite early. Many pupils mentioned above played solos in this and Ross Stevenson also played a violin solo. Sarah Harrower played two carols in a guitar trio and there was a delightful performance of a carol by three P7 recorder players (Leanne

Bridgeman, Rebecca Copland, Vivian Moonan). True to a recently-established tradition, the Minstrels (P7/S1) sang one of their carols partly in its original Italian (Caro Gesù, Bambino). Incidentally, the Minstrels have also performed for various local organisations throughout the year through the concert programme series which combines dancing, singing and solos. The windband played some very well known pieces including The Pink Panther (euphonium solo – Mark Lovell) and there was the amusing debut of the Wavell Ocarina Quintet with Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. One solo performance which must be singled out was that given by one of our Gap students, Daniel Cato. He played the very appropriate 'Going Home' on the piano as his swan-song and we wish him every success back in Australia as he enters

university. The concert was well received by both audiences who, it is hoped, appreciated the range of music from seven centuries! In March 2000, the Dunblane Cathedral Arts Guild presented a workshop and concert by the professional group 'Percussion Bash'. P7 and S1 pupils took part in the workshop and were able to get to grips with some tricky rhythms on a number of percussion instruments. Members of the windband went to the evening concert which was excellent.

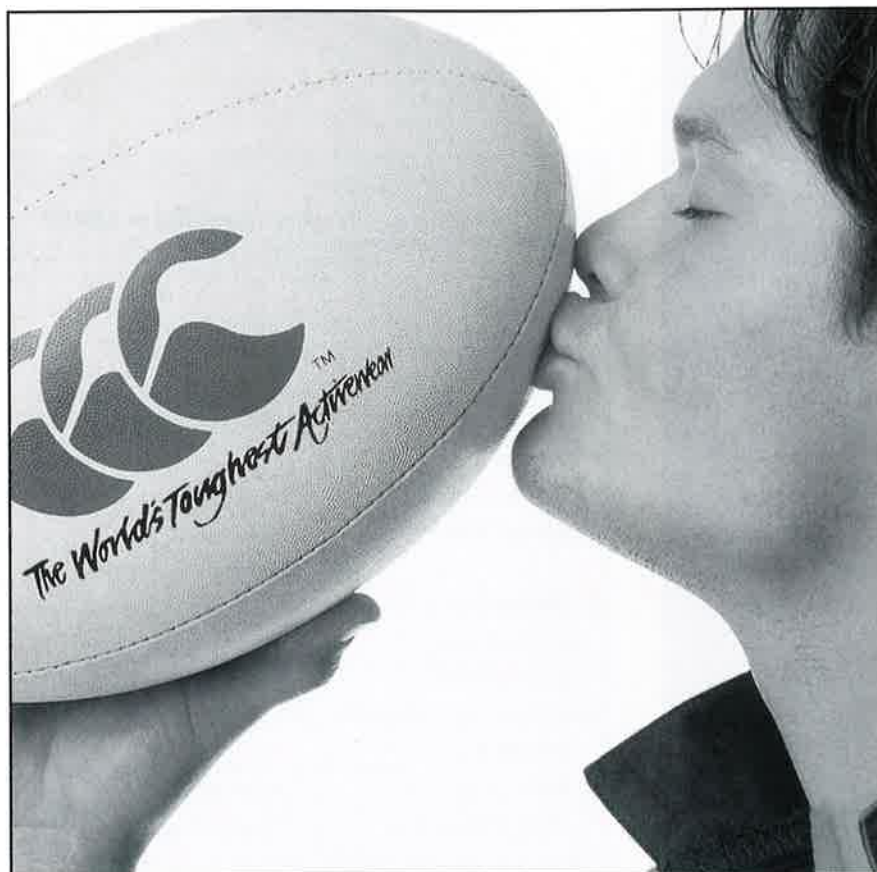
Classroom news is dominated by changes brought about by the new Higher Still examinations. A completely new course was presented: Sound Engineering and Production. This is an important aspect of music these days, especially as more than half of pupils leaving UK schools to follow music as a career, do so in this field rather than as

players/teachers. The course began well, despite being dogged by the late arrival of an essential new computer and software, and the participants got to grips with the many aspects of recording and mastering their work. The new software has also made an impact on composition in both Standard Grade and Higher, especially as the new programmes are much more user friendly than those being previously employed.

Lastly, on the instrumental teaching front, it's good to report that the number of pupils taking individual lessons has been more than fifty throughout the year. This represents quite a high percentage of the school population. In this respect, credit must be given to the peripatetic teachers who come in the evenings to teach and without whom there would be no windbands etc.

The following pupils were successful in ABRSM grade examinations:

Grade 1	
Andrew Kirkaldy	trumpet
Terri Davidson	trumpet
Grade 2	
Ross Stevenson	violin
Katrina Watson	clarinet
Grade 3	
Ciara Watson	flute (with distinction)
Ciara Watson	trombone
Grade 4	
Mark Lovell	euphonium
Ciara Watson	flute (with merit)
Grade 5	
David McDougall	theory of music



FREE

Full colour Rugby
catalogue now
available from:

AITKEN & NIVEN
The Rugby Experts

www.aitken-niven.co.uk

77-79 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 3ET
Tel: 0131 225 1461

Store Open:
Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm

P-E-C
**Barr
Printers LTD**

Commercial and Colour Printers • Typesetting • Graphic Design • Bureau

For all your printing requirements!

**Barr Building, Carron Place
Edinburgh EH6 7RE**

0131-554 1736

email: sales.barrprinters@virgin.net

also at:

Poplar Road,
Woodside Estate, Glenrothes

01592 753763



Oz '99 Tour

A diary record by the tour treasurer/
president OVA . . .



20 June/21 June

Remarkably, everyone ready to go at 4.15am. Arrived safely in Perth, Western Australia 2.30pm, met by three OVs, Tom Hunter, Peter Richmond and Stuart Fairbairn. Great welcome. Off then to our billets, staff to Scotch College, boys to Scotch parents and myself to stay with Tom (our man in WA!)

22 June

9.00am. Briefing at Scotch College. First training session for team and band. Boys on coach tour Fremantle pm. First band job in evening. A Ceilidh at the Presbyterian Ladies College. The Schools are very large. PLC over 1,000 pupils and Scotch 1,200. PLC has the only Ladies Pipe Band in WA and both bands and dancing teams performed both separately and together. I think our boys were surprised with the quality of their opposite numbers but, after some initial shyness, everyone enjoyed themselves. Incidentally, Stuart Fairbairn (an OV) had only recently retired from the post of Professor of Music at PLC.

23 June

Pipe Band impromptu performance at Scotch Junior School Assembly. Rugby and Band practice am. Boys off to Moray for Adventure

Training pm. OVA party in evening. Non adventure staff entertained by Tom, Peter, Stuart, Robert Grey, Derek Burns and their spouses. Also there was Isabella Steele (Burnett) whose father worked on the school grounds for many years. Isabella was born in the MQs, married in the Chapel and thus is as much, if not more, an OV as any of us! A mini Reunion, enjoyed by all.

24 June

Boys still out at Moray, returned pm. Rugby and Band practices and then boys free.

25 June

Combined bands of Scotch and QVS led the School parade to the College Friday Assembly. Scotch Headmaster during his welcome paid tribute to the Rev Jim Muir, a previous chaplain at both Scotch and QVS. Our band and dancers received a very warm welcome. Two more local OVs turned up – the Miller brothers Hugh and Tom. The third, Jim, was promised for the next day.

26 June

am. First Match. Scotch College 7 QVS 34! A great start, particularly given the lack of match practice. First BBQ afterwards.

pm. Band and dancers to Leeuwen Barracks to entertain Kosovo refugees and members of British ex-Service organisations. Much appreciated by our audience although it was evident that some of the boys were tired, having already performed on the rugby field. A small band and the dancers then had an evening charity performance for the Lupus Club at the Novotel downtown. Great reception for them.

27 June

Band performed in front of its largest audience of the Tour. Australian Rules football match, Fremantle Dockers v Richmond – our first view of a mixture of rugby and handball on an enormous pitch at the Subiaco Oval. Shown on live TV and an exciting finish – Dockers 126, Richmond 127 – a last minute score. Another good reception for our boys from the audience.

29 June

Boys off to Rottnest Island. Very rough sea, 3 seasick but all enjoyed their outing and some swam in the Pacific. Visited our oldest OV in WA, David McLean (1395) at his house. Our 2 hour visit was very entertaining, emotional and very much appreciated.

Evening reception hosted by QVS to thank Scotch College and billet parents.

29 June

Hale School Assembly for Pipe Band and Dancers. Another good reception. Met Mrs Joll, daughter of OV Thomas Kenny (491), see 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'. Rugby v Hale pm. Sadly, lost 27-10 to a very physical side. Our boys met a female referee for the first time. I strongly suspect they do not want to repeat the experience.

30 June

On to Brisbane. Farewell party of OVs (Tom, Peter, Stuart and Derek) showed how much they appreciated our visit. Good flight to Sydney and arrived there at 11.30pm. Hosts here are parents of Marist College boys.

1 July

Opening of the Scottish Parliament – while we are finding our way around at Marist College, another very large School. Training sessions for team and band. Remainder of day free.

2 July

Heavy rain, not quite expected but training continued in morning. Trip pm to Gold Coast Rugby Tournament, an international 3 day Schools' event. Pipe Band engaged to play for the prize giving ceremony, negotiating the thick mud which inevitably covered the playing surface. Pipe Band was much better than Merchiston's rendering of Flower of Scotland.

3 July

Boys day out with billet families. Evening band job, a Ceilidh at the Balmoral Bowling Club. The Pipe Band and dancers were clearly top of the Bill and were given a standing ovation. Interesting items at the Buffet. All this way for cloutie dumpling and haggis!! Met Charlie Duncan (1515), the Lone Piper of Toowoomba featured in the 1997 VICTORIAN. We spent much of the evening chatting about the School and he was unashamedly emotional as his Band performed. Six members of Tour Staff set the tone for the evening by appearing in kilts, all different tartans.

4 July

Rugby v Marist College pm. Another victory 18-5. Good to see 3 OVs supporting the School – Neil Collie (taking time off from an RAAF Exercise), Bert Hone (local, but just arrived from UK) and 'Bonzo' Currie over from New Zealand. Another BBQ followed with a band performance. After conclusion of a pre BBQ practice, the trees reverberated with a cacophony of applause. The local Kookaburra family had gathered to give vent to their feelings!

5 July

In the morning Pipe Band and Dancers



performed at the Marist Assembly. Yet more generous applause from very friendly hosts. Headmaster, Brother Robert was delighted with the performance. Thereafter we transferred to St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. Boys and staff billeted with Gregory parents.

6 July

By now we had been adopted by the Queensland Police, having developed a close relationship because of their piping status as a Grade One Championship Band. Thus taken in Police bus to the Gold Coast, stopping en route for a visit to the beach so our brave boys had a rugby practice on the sands and a dip in the raging surf. The real object of the trip was a band job for the annual outing of the Queensland Probus Clubs. Hundreds of senior citizens gathered together at the Racecourse for fun and food. Yes, another BBQ! Evening band concert at Gregory Terrace.

7 July

Visit Police Museum (nobody arrested). Band performance with Queensland Police Pipe Band at King George Square. Lord Mayor attended and voiced his appreciation of an excellent performance. Evening out with billets.

8 July

Tour Party outing to Dream World Amusement Park am. Evening, Rugby v Gregory Terrace by

floodlight. Lost 5-21 but not in anyway disgraced. Finish up with another BBQ!

9 July

Last leg of Tour. Arrive Sydney 12.30pm, met by OVs Alex Hamilton and Bill Armstrong. Ross Smith (649) aged 91 (our oldest OV in Australia) was at the School from 1918 to 1922 flew in from Tasmania and is billeted with the Tour Party at the Scots College, yet another School with well over 1,000 boys. Settled in quickly as everyone attending a band job at Mortdale RSL Club, (Returned Servicemen's League). OV representation from Bonzo, Ross, Alex, Sandy Milne, Eddie Cameron and his wife, Betty (Mackie) another young lady who lived in the School MQs for many years. Very encouraging to receive such a welcome and particularly Bill Armstrong's gift which boosted the Boys' pocket money. Band and dancers given a great ovation by a very patriotic audience.

10 July

Main event of the day Band job at Concord RSL Club. Very large audience and well received once more. Even more OVs in evidence: Ian Scott, Ken Davies, Bob Cameron, Neil and Phil Collie, Ralph Masterson, Jock Stewart, Don MacKay (from Seattle). Special treat for me was that after 26 years Derek Peachey, my best friend at QVS,

and I met and talked non-stop! Others already mentioned were there too and the star of the show, saved to the last, was the appearance of FM Montgomery (Bonzo Currie) to take the salute as the Band marched off parade.

11 July

Scots College entertained the Party to lunch – BBQ! More OVs turned up; John Ross, Robert Freeman and nephew Richard McConnell (over from a GAP year in New Zealand). The final RSL job took place in the evening at Marooba RSL Club. First event was 'Beating Retreat' at the War Memorial. Not too easy as it is placed in the centre of the main street and traffic not too keen to stop. Second performance in the Club. Not too well attended but the boys, tired as they were, pulled out all the stops to perform excellently.

Another OV appeared for the first time, Dudley Vossler, also over from New Zealand. His presence meant that there were 3 Dukie/Victorians together – Dudley, Derek Peachey and myself, a fairly unique happening.

12 July

Very wet and windy. Plan to play out HMS Glasgow cancelled. Evening, last game against a club side – Eastern Suburbs Colts XV. Another floodlit match on a wet and muddy

pitch. Asked locals about age of our opponents. Reply 'Under 21', hard look suggest under 25 more likely! Despite the physical difference this extremely tough match reflected how our team had matured during the tour. They fought tenaciously, defended very bravely and scored two great tries, winning 13-7. Tremendous support from our spectators and much celebration afterwards.

13 July

Pouring rain early on. Band job late am in the Queen Victoria Building, large up market shopping centre in City Centre. Band marched around the several shopping levels and dancers performed at ground level. Shoppers very impressed at this unusual spectacle. Another OV turned up, Derek Leel. Lunch (a freebie donated by the President of the Eastern Suburbs Club) for all the Tour party members in a Harbour steak house. Enormous T bone steaks seemed to be the favourite choice. Tour Group photo, taken yesterday with a background of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House arrived. Very good.

14 July

Last full day. Tour Party Excursion. Cross harbour trip to Manly. Sea very rough as we passed the gap between North and South Heads. (Up, down and sideways too!) Enormous surf on Manly Beach. Back, by

coach, over the Harbour Bridge and on to the Olympic Stadium for a conducted tour. Very impressed with all the preparations for the Games. Tour Party probably the first to sing 'Flower of Scotland' standing on the edge of the playing surface in the Olympic arena. Back to the city and a trip to the top of the AMP Centrepoint Tower. Much enjoyed.

Finally, the end of tour supper for hosts, OVs and the tour party. Irn Bru and QVS Cake by courtesy of OVs Eddie Cameron and Jock Stewart respectively.

15 July/16 July

Final departure. Arrived LHR 5.30am, Edinburgh 10.15am. Bus to QVS, very tired passengers, arrive Noon.

And so the most exciting event of the School year ended. Please forgive me for not mentioning the names of any boys in this diary excerpt. This is deliberate as the Tour was a team event and, as it developed, so too did our team spirit and to identify individuals would be counter productive.

As President of the OVA I must express the feeling of pride in the School voiced by all the Old Victorians we met in Australia. We took QVS to them and they really appreciated being part of the School once more.

Grand Day 1999

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



Parade Sunday

Inspecting Officer Major General M J Strudwick CBE,
General Officer Commanding Scotland



Front & back cover and this centre spread – pictures courtesy of
Mark Owens HQ2 Division

Pipe band

Is it really a year since I took over as Pipe Major. It seems like a few weeks ago that I was in the stores getting my uniform and yes, I am still waiting for my ceremonial jacket, which Mary Anne puts down to the Pipe Major's ever increasing waist line. Needless to say this not true, a dodgy tape measure yes, too much good living? Never!



Pipe Band 1999-2000



Picture courtesy of Mark Owens HQ2 Division

My first term as Pipe Major was, if nothing else, hectic and a massive learning curve, not only for myself but for the band. Trying to teach the band, and getting to grips with the QVS system, which is not an easy task, even on a full tank of gas, was not easy. With

Grand day getting closer and parade rehearsals diminishing, the burning question on every body's mind was, will Pipey have a jacket to wear? The simple answer was yes, well maybe, but not until Grand Day 2000 (fingers crossed). No sooner had Grand Day

passed, when the bags were packed, and we were ready to go. The bus was waiting, and blowing its horn, but we certainly could not wake any body up, as it was the middle of the night. Finally we left, for what turned out to be a very successful tour of Australia.

During the tour the band visited Perth, Brisbane and Sydney. We played at many functions and engagements whilst on tour, including a most memorable engagement at an Aussie rules football match. Can men really jump that high, without a trampoline? We finished the tour by playing at the Queen Victoria building, a modern shopping centre (in a wonderful old building) in Sydney, wonderful but very expensive, as the Headmaster can testify, as he has the brolly to prove it. We left a wet and windy Sydney, and returned to a wet and windy Dunblane, to enjoy a four week break, before the start of the new term.

With the start of a new term and Australia, a distant memory, the thoughts of "did we really go to Australia?" being asked by both staff

and pupils alike, with not even a resemblance of a sun tan to prove it. The new term also coincided with the start of Rugby World Cup, which saw the band play at Murrayfield four times. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who allowed their sons and daughters to stay behind at the end of term, and return early, which meant that we could uphold our commitment to the S.R.U, and play at virtually all the Scottish home games.

No sooner had we finished with Murrayfield, when Christmas and the usual festive season activities were upon us. The band did a magnificent job during this time, coping with every engagement with professional ease. The dancing team, in particular, showed great enthusiasm and a willingness to help out

whenever the need arose.

After the Christmas break, we decided that we would cut back on band engagements, which allowed us to concentrate on improving the overall standard of the band, ready for yet another busy summer term, which will see the band competing in piping competitions, for the first time in many years.

On a more direct note, I would like to thank Col. Ron Smith and the members of the O.V.A, for their kind and generous donation of £650, which will go along way towards equipping the band with a more suitable form of walking out dress, which we will use as an alternative to wearing the current ceremonial uniform.

Highland dancing

Once again the dancing team have success to report. Starting with the June 99 CCF competitions in which both Highland and Scottish Country dancers won their events.



Highland Dancing Group 1999-2000

At the Argyllshire Gathering on 26 August, we retained the Alisdair MacLean Challenge Cup for the HM and Allied Armed Services competition with Stuart Ruthven winning the individual competition for the Poltalloch Cup. The team of competition dancers continue to

be a familiar sight on the Highland Games circuit and enjoys a high level of success. At a number of engagements over the year, the dancers have performed to the high standard that has become expected of them. On 30 March, a team of 8 dancers

entertained the GOC Scotland and his guests in the Laich hall at Edinburgh Castle to much acclaim.

During the summer term a team of 40 dancers have been preparing to take part in the Royal Tribute on 27 July at Edinburgh



Picture courtesy of Mark Owens HQ2 Division



Highland dancers relaxing prior to a performance for the GOC Scotland and previous Governors of Edinburgh Castle

Castle. This is a very high profile event for which the dancers have worked extremely hard to perfect a highly polished performance.

I was ably assisted this year by Christopher Harris, the Principal Dancer, and Stuart Ruthven and Darren Farr, as Assistant Principal Dancers.

JUNIOR MINSTRELS

This year pupils of P7 and S1 made up the Junior Minstrels. The first performance the Junior Minstrels gave in January was to members of the Friendship Guild of Ladywell Parish Church. Members of the Thursday Club of Callander Parish Church enjoyed a performance of the minstrels in February. The minstrels gave their final show of the term in March to the ladies and gentlemen of the Derby & Joan Club of Grangemouth.

The programme given by the minstrels included a variety of items – dancing, singing, music and poetry. Both singing and music solos did credit to Mr Onslow's musical direction. Mr Carroll's poetry group delivered their lines with confidence and the P7 dancers gave wholehearted displays.

After all the performances, the pupils socialised with the members of the various groups, consuming a large quantity of juice and cakes, which were doubtless forced upon them.

Eileen MacDonald
Highland Dancing Instructor

UK Alliance Medal Tests

07 February 2000

Highly Commended 83 to 92% = H/C

Honours 93 to 100% = Hons

Pre Bronze Medal Test: Natasha Bruce-H/C, Carrie-Ann Campbell-H/C, Mark Docherty-H/C, Daniel Gibb-H/C, Andrew Hodgson-H/C, Adam Rainey-H/C, Matthew Sheppard-H/C, James Wootton-H/C.

Solo Highland Fling Medal Test: Robert Kent-H/C.

Bronze Medal Test: Leanne Bridgeman-H/C, Sarah-Louise McDougall-H/C, Terry Moles-H/C, Carrie-Anne Harris-C, Laura Morrison-C, Mark Braceland-H/C, Jamie Kerr-H/C, Aaron King-H/C, Christopher Soper-H/C, Kathryn Trousdale-H/C, Sarah Fennell-H/C, Robert McDougall-H/C, Michelle Scobie-C, Alana Donnelly-H/C, Ilona Evendon-H/C, Evelyn Henney-H/C.

Silver Medal Test: Andrew Martin- H/C, Callie McFarlane-H/C, Jamie-Lee Read-H/C, Rebecca Copland-H/C, Mhairi Toole-H/C, Leanne Bridgeman-H/C, Sarah-Louise McDougall-H/C, Terry Moles-H/C, Nicholas Burge-H/C, Barbara Davidson-H/C, Mark Braceland-H/C, Jamie Kerr-H/C, Aaron Kerr-H/C, Christopher Soper-H/C, Kathryn Trousdale-H/C.

Gold Medal Test: Claire Greenwood-H/C, Alasdair Page-Hons,

Andrew Martin- H/C, Callie McFarlane-H/C, Jamie-Lee Read-H/C, Sarah MacLean-H/C, Michelle Wright-H/C, Samantha Jones-H/C, Sharlene Mahony-H/C, Jamie Friery- H/C, Patrisha Goodman-H/C.

First Gold Medal Test: Samantha Jones-H/C, Sharlene Mahony-H/C, Jamie Friery- H/C, Sarah MacLean-H/C.

Second Gold Bar Medal Test: Christine Guthrie-H/C, Sarah Moore-H/C, Fiona Coyle-H/C.

Laurel Award: Nicola Bonner-H/C, Christopher Boyle-Hons, Liam Bridgeman-Hons, Laurie Cairns-H/C, Charles MacDonald-H/C, Dean McMenemy-Hons, Nicola Moffat-H/C, Kristopher Reid-Hons, David Walker- Hons, Darren Farr-H/C, Jamie Graham-H/C, Jamie Smith-H/C.

Presidents Award: Laura Dunnachie-H/C, Ashling Kerr-H/C, Damian McDade-Hons, Adam Tose-H/C, Lauren Campbell-Hons.

Premier Victory Award: Christopher Niven-Hons.

Premier Cup Award: Christopher Harris-Hons, Helen Onslow-Hons, Stuart Ruthven-Hons, Ross Stevenson-Hons.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

At the beginning of this session we had two Silver practice expeditions. The first was the boys' practice which took them for a three day expedition to the Trossachs where most of the time the weather was good. The boys proved themselves well and it was a successful practice. The girls group went to Glencoe where with even better weather than the boys, they had an equally successful expedition. This year's expeditions will see us in the Ochil Hills, Trossachs, Glencoe, Forest of Atholl and The Grampian Mountains. With six Bronze groups, three Silver and one Gold group, a busy Summer term.



Bronze & Silver Group at Stirling Fire Station



Silver Group in Glencoe



Silver Group in the Trossachs

This year's new entrants into the Award scheme are:-

John Wishart	Peter Abolins	Paul Tyson	Thomas Bruce	Jason Patience	Laurie Cairns	Jennifer Holmes
Stuart Blackwood	Stephen Cameron	Liam Flynn	Craig Loch	Kristopher Reid	Barbara Davidson	Christine Guthrie
Gaving Fleming	Christopher Boyle	Stephen Gale	Scott Turner	Cameron Chisholm	Annabel Porter	
Neil Greenwood	Paul Ruthven	Aaron Schiavone	Liam Bridgeman	Scott Mackle	Nicola Bonner	
Andrew Kirkaldy	Craig Heselton	Michael Gibb	Graeme Houston	Darren Muir	Alana Donnelly	
Dean McMenemy	Richard O'Donnell	Charles McDonald	Jamie McIntyre	Laura Hadland	Patricha Goodman	
Daniel Stevenson	Alistair Maclellan	Mark McGregor	Murray McLeod	Gillian Briggs	Evelyn Henney	

The successful pupils from last year's Bronze who have started their Silver:

Callum Small	Gerald Kerr	David Walker	Ciaran Flynn	Louise Kirkaldy	Chloe Johnstone	Amy O'Brien
Adam Tose	Colin Armstrong	Stephen Tierney	Alan Laws	Victoria Harris	Jennifer Jones	
Kristofer Edwards	Daryl Haldane	James Donald	David Bulloch	Ilona Evenden	Ashling Kerr	
Adam Bott	Matthew Roessler	Stuart Dunsmuir	Sandy Watson	Laura Dunnachie	Lynsey McAulay	
Michael Brown	Alasdair Spence	John Trousdale	Jamie Graham	Lindsey Farquharson	Amy Morton	

Pupils working on their Gold:

Craig Bissett	Gareth Martin	Nick Burge	Stuart Ruthven	Darren Farr	Paul Fleming	Edward Porter
---------------	---------------	------------	----------------	-------------	--------------	---------------

Gold, Silver and Bronze Fire Service Award holders:

Gavin Fleming	Daniel Stevenson	Paul Ruthven	Mark McGregor	Jason Patience	Gerald Kerr	Stuart Ruthven
Neil Greenwood	Stephen Cameron	Paul Tyson	Graeme Houston	Kristopher Reid	Daryl Haldane	Paul Fleming
Andrew Kirkaldy	Christopher Boyle	Liam Flynn	Murray McLeod	Michael Brown	Nick Burge	

This Service has proved very popular with the pupils giving them the opportunity not just to visit the Fire Stations and learn about the Fire Brigade, but also to become involved with community projects aimed at heightening young people's awareness of

the dangers of fire. Nick Burge, one of our Gold Award pupils demonstrated first aid to a group of primary pupils from the local community at "Crucial Crew" one of the community projects organised by Central Region Fire Brigade.

I would like to thank all the Central Fire Brigade personnel for their help with the Award co-ordinated by Assistant Divisional Officer Man and Station Officer Heslop. We all look forward to next session continuing our links with Central Fire Brigade.



The Chapel



Members of the "God Squad"

Amidst our ever-changing world there is something very permanent about the Chapel that has welcomed and nurtured generations of Victorians ever since the opening of the school. It is structured in one of the most difficult and enduring of man's mediums, stone. It was meant to survive a long time by those who designed and built it. Perhaps this is also the reason why the consecrated memorial to Queen Victoria is vested within its sacred walls, to remain while other school buildings change and are re allocated to newer needs to meet the requirements of a thoroughly modern educational establishment of the twenty first century.

Each weekday morning for School Assembly; each Sunday morning during term time for morning worship; each special Old Victorians Weekend, it opens its doors to welcome the Victorians both present and past. It is there at the most important times of human life: in baptism services, wedding services and funeral services. What theologians call 'the Christian rites of passage'. Day by day, week by week, year by year, through its services and sacramental tradition it seeks to prepare both pupils and staff for life in the ever changing modern world by pointing them back in time to the man, Jesus of Nazareth.

There is a recognition here that some things don't actually change. I believe that young

people are basically just the same in any age. Oh their temptations amidst our modern world may be very different, indeed incomprehensible to older generations but deep down they are not dissimilar in their hopes, aspirations and dreams.

Each year the Chapel appoints a Monitor, Prefect and Stewards to assist those who come to the Chapel. They are affectionately called "the God Squad". They are all very different individuals, different in likes and dislikes, each has her different strengths and weaknesses, no two of them are similar and yet they are the same by nature of their God given humanity.

This year I would like to pay special tribute to

all my Chapel Stewards, Prefect and Monitor, who do so much work in the background to make the life and worship of the School Chapel function. In doing so I would also acknowledge, on behalf of previous Chaplains, many other Victorians who down the ages have done exactly the same work. They make an invaluable, yet oft times unacknowledged, contribution to the ethos and life of the whole school. Just as others have done before. Just as others, God willing, will do in the future. For amidst our ever-changing modern world the Chapel, its message and its young people remain the same.

Combined cadet force



Army Staff and Senior Pupils – 2nd row: David Walker, Alan Laws, Richard O'Donnell, Jamie Smith, 1st row: Steven Tierney, Sgt. Major Duthie, Major Silcox, Capt. Onslow, Nick Burge.



RAF Staff and Senior Pupils – 2nd row: Lindsay Farquharson, John Halley, Plt. Officer C Sheerin, Mhairi Henderson, Hayley Boyle, Chloe Johnston, 1st row: Stuart Ruthven, Aaron Uytendhal, Flt. Lt. D. Gilhooly, David Aldous, Gareth Martin.



Royal Navy Staff and Senior Pupils, l-r: Jennifer Jones, Jamie Graham, Eddie Porter, Lt. Commander Shannon, Lt. Borking, Stuart Dunsmuir, Louise Kirkaldy.

Contingent Commander's Report

CONTINGENT COMMANDER

Major J. R. Silcox TD

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

OC Lt Commander T Shannon RD, RNR
Lt G Borking

ARMY SECTION

OC Capt. P. Onslow
Capt D. Garden
Lt J. Scott

ROYAL AIR FORCE

OC Flt Lt D. Gilhooly
Plt Officer C. Sheerin

QVS CCF BIENNIAL INSPECTION OCTOBER 1999

Inspecting Officer, Colonel H. C. G. Willing, Chief of Staff, Army Headquarters Scotland

There is always something special about a Biennial Inspection. There is really nothing quite like it in sharpening the focus of all of three sections, both Cadets and Officers, and keeping the Contingent Commander running about for months on end! I welcome them at Queen Victoria CCF because it makes us all look critically at what we are doing. What we should be doing. Can we do it any better? In educational jargon it is an audit of Cadets, their training and the performance of all

their Officers.

The Corps were very pleased to receive Col. Hugh Willing as our Inspecting Officer last year. Despite his very busy work schedule he found the time not only to visit the unit but also to speak to every cadet on parade. This was especially noticed and appreciated by the Cadets who really felt that they were the focus of his attention and that he was really interested in them and their family service background.

I enclose some of his remarks to me about the Corps which were written in a letter I received the day after his visit.

"I was most impressed. Not only are you very

healthy in numbers but you appear well balanced across the three services, unusual in most contingents. You have officers of high calibre and commitment which was reflected in the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the Cadets themselves.

You have some obvious achievements of which to be very proud, both collective and individual, and the range of skills on display show that leadership skills, instructional and administrative ability is very well developed.

I noted the pressure of time on being able to achieve all your training requirements, and the difficulty in attending the CCF Central Camps! Over all you are obviously thriving as a



Sub Lt Lorna Shannon with the Port glass and medal presented to her by fellow officers



Gap student, Daniel Catto with the Quaich presented to him by the cadets

contingent and I offer my congratulations on the degree of commitment and ability, particularly of your officers. It was a great honour and pleasure to inspect you."

The CCF has taken leave of two of our very staunch supporters since my last report, Cadet Officer Daniel Catto who finished his Gap Year in December was presented with a Quaich from the Cadets. Sub Lt Lorna Shannon left the Royal Naval Section in May of last year to take up a new teaching post and she received an engraved Port Glass and medal from her

fellow Officers. Both have contributed a very great deal to their respective services and I, on behalf of the cadets and my fellow officers, express my sincerest personal thanks for all their work and wish them well in the future.

I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Cadets themselves, my fellow Officers in the Corps, Mr Duthie the School SSM and the Headmaster and Commissioners of Queen Victoria School for all their continuing personal support.

J.R.S.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The section received a good report from the biennial inspection. Obviously the Inspecting Officer was impressed by our cadets both in their turn out and conduct.

On a visit to HMS Trenchant one of our submarines which carries the newly acquired submarine launched Tomahawk cruise missiles. We were given an indepth tour and presentation on the history of the submarine and her current role.

We had a Winter mountain skills day at Glen Shee to give the senior cadets a practice before the Easter ski camp at Aviemore where once again we hope to go snow holing and training on the Cairngorm plateau for a few days then joining the rest of the cadets on the ski slopes.

Preparation for our Summer sailing, wind-surfing and canoeing have been completed with the cadets training over the winter months in the pool and classroom.

This year the following cadets went off to Easter Courses: Louise Kirkaldy on a naval proficiency course and Jennifer Jones and Laura Dunachie on a leadership course.

HMS Manchester is to become our new affiliated Ship. She is a batch 3 Type 42 Destroyer and we look forward to a beneficial involvement with the Ship.

Combined cadet force

Cadet Marksmanship

Special Focus on the Scottish Air Rifle Championships Competition.

Along with the traditional small-bore cartridge rifle shooting the Cadets have been developing over the past few years the skill of Target Air Rifle shooting. Our two current cadets most proficient in this very demanding sport are Chloe Johnston and John Halley.

The STSF (Scottish Target Sport Federation) annual Championship takes place in March each year at the National Sport Scotland Training Centre, Largs in Ayrshire. Since it is classified by the National Small bore Rifle Association as an event on the National Circuit most of the British Air Rifle Squad members, including the disabled, shoot at the Scottish meeting. Teams therefore represent England, Ireland, Wales as well as Scotland in the Home Countries International, one of the main competitions in the event.

CHLOE JOHNSTONE

Chloe went to Largs last year for the first time and shot so well that she became the Scottish Ladies Junior Record holder. This year she further broke her own record twice at the Largs Championships! She is currently a member of the Scottish Nationals British Competition.

Chloe has benefited this year from the gift of a complete set of leather shooting jacket, trousers and shooting boots from one of the top Scottish Lady Shooters, Mrs Lynda Sinclair, together with a purpose built gas operated Air Rifle kindly purchased by the school especially for her from Germany. It is this equipment, and her developing skill, which makes this level of performance possible. Both Chloe and John benefit from specialised coaching from; Mr Alistair Allan MBE (former Olympic Gold Medallist); Mr Martin and Mrs Lynda Sinclair

(Mr Martin is one of Scotland's leading small bore target shooters and an old Victorian); and the Scottish Small bore Rifle Association Coach Educator, Mr Cyril de Jonckheere. On behalf of Chloe and John I acknowledge most grateful support from them all.

STUART RUTHVEN

National Small Bore Rifle Association Scottish Championships, Forres.

1999 was Stuart Ruthven's year! At the end of a busy week of shooting he beat every other junior at the meeting with the highest junior score of the Championships to receive the Junior Champion Award together with his high scoring award. This is a first for Queen Victoria School Cadet Force and follows a very successful year for Stuart who represented Great Britain last Easter in South Africa with the British Schools International Team.



C/SGT Nick Burge

Combined cadet force

Highland Cadets

Tactics Competition Team 1999

In past years it has been the winning that has been on everyone's mind but this year it was all on the finishing of what we had set out to accomplish.

Preparation was the same as any other year; every night in the classroom or patrolling up and down the school rugby pitches along with the added extra of a four day exercise in the Garelochhead training area, prior to the end of the holidays. All in all I was content with what we had done and really thought that under the command of WO2 Tierney we had a serious chance of winning.

We knew from our previous experience that Garelochhead was good but extremely wet and 'mozy' ridden so we didn't really know what to expect on arrival. This year would be unique to every one in the team as there would be a lot more movement in the training area plus rigid raider landing craft and lynx helicopters.

The first night was spent in billeted accommodation on the base before an early start of a kit check and landing craft ride to, what we came to call, 'little Africa', to start the day. The scenario was that two countries had gone to war and we were to escort a UN observer through the region. We encountered the 'locals' who were acting as rebels. On meeting them we were, on the first day, given tasks of fixing PRC 320 radios and sending BATCO messages, rescuing downed pilots in a casivac and moving into a LUP (lay up point) to

change socks and clean rifles, etc. (PO Fleming was carried by Sgt Downie on the landing craft for the return journey as Paul didn't want to get his feet wet again - poor wee baby!)

We thought that was all for the day but no - to add to the 15km of awful terrain we had already moved across, there was another 6km TAB to the harbour area; not only that but on looking at the map it was clear that the contour lines were nice and close together, so not so nice after all. We eventually got to the harbour area for a well over due 10 winks.

The next day started at 0430hrs with thunder flashes and blank rounds going off to get us out of our basha and to the 'stand to' positions for dawn. We stood down at about 0445 and started to take down the bashas (all except for the IC as he scurried away to get his orders and left us to do his dirty work for him!).

This day would consist of an ammo run, section attack and mine clearance concluding with a flight back to the barracks by Lynx. The whole day went without hassle apart from one little thing on the section attack - where's the map Mark? Never mind! On returning to the base, Steve and myself went to look at the score board. It was clear to both of us that even though we had come 9th out of 21 the

difference in score was minimal between ourselves and the 6 teams above. We scored very highly on the section attack and mine clearance stand which shows practice does make perfect.

All in all it was a hard year of training and even though not evident in our placing it definitely paid off. Thanks to the whole team for putting 100% in THROUGHOUT, and all the best for 2000.

Most memorable moments

- Seeing WO2 Tierney disappear into a pocket of quick sand (I couldn't even see his ginger head)
- Watching Sgt Downie, delta gunner, do a full forward flip down a hill complete with belt kit, bergen and LSW - trust me it's not impossible
- PO Fleming using all three mags in the fire fight in about 10 seconds including changing the magazine (and then burning a hole through his glove after touching the barrel on the Reorg).

C/Sgt Nick Burge
2IC Highland Tactical Team

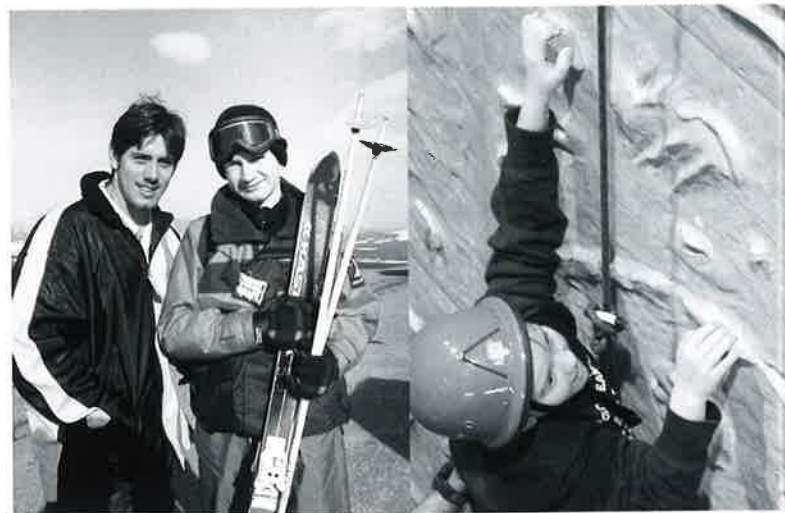
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Class D (Adult)	Competition 2 & 12	Competition 3 & 13	Competition 4 & 14
Chloe Johnston	Score 523 1st	Score 541 1st	Score 1064 1st
John Halley	Score 497 3rd	Score 493 2nd	Score 990 2nd

Combined cadet force

Easter Adventure Training Camp

Kingussie, Cairngorms 2000



The first two days of our skiing camp were handicapped with snow and driving blizzards. This is where the pictures from the climbing wall come in, part of our alternative training programme. Still it was worth it to ski in near perfect sunshine for the rest of the week. There was even a day when at 3000ft there was no

wind! Remarkable for Aviemore!

We are all especially indebted to Miss Johnston, who came along to look after the girls, and Bill our Chef.

Thanks are also due to a great bunch of cadets who had a great time and their instructors;

Sgt R. Painting 23 Cadet Training Team Inverness, Ski Instructor,

Lt Borking RN CCF and Capt Garden Army CCF Ski Leaders.

Our Gap Student Aaron who proved a wizard on the snow board and the School SSM Mr Duthie for logistical support.

Creative Writing

DISAPPOINTMENT

Dean Paterson S2

Disappointment is only a sad dull grey
It sounds hollow – like an unfinished goodbye
It smells like the scent of a dying rose, slowly rotting away.
It tastes like charcoal, blackening your tongue
And feels like a balloon of hope has burst inside you.
Disappointment is knowing what you hoped wasn't true.

JOY

Ciara Watson S2

Joy is the mellow gold of the unique sunrise, splitting the morning sky
It sounds like a chuckle, caught in your throat
It feels like adrenaline pumping through your veins
And smells like fresh popcorn, making your mouth water in anticipation
It tastes like melting chocolate, velvety and warm
Joy is happiness trickling down your spine.

LOVE

Michael Gibb S2

Love is the soft hazy glow of a red sky at sunset
It makes you feel as proud as owning a shiny red convertible.
It sounds like the whisper of the warm evening breeze
It feels comforting, a soft and cosy cushion
Love smells like a sweet red rose but –
It can taste like a bitter lemon.

WAR SONNET

By 3K

Fields green, earth brown, sky blue, sunshine, all calm,
Red coats, men standing tall, ready for war.
They nervously wait, the Infantry corps.
A boy rubs his brow with a musty palm.
Two miles away the order is given –
"Load the cannon!" The huge ball of grey lead is set and primed as the officer said.
"Up two degrees!" The cannon has risen.
"Fire!" the hissing fuse sets off the cannon.
The boy dares not look. The sky is falling.
The ground erupts, the ranks are all calling,
Crawling through the deepened land, a man in Pain. A boy no more, a man he is. Pain.
Fields red, earth shattered, metal killing rain.



Mark McGregor, S2

SADNESS

Fiona Thomson S2

Sadness is the blue of a dark and bottomless ocean.
It sounds like weeping in a deserted room
It brings the sensation of falling without ceasing
It smells of dampness, of tears that never dry
And tastes like swallowing crushed ice, feeling every movement as it sticks in your throat.
Sadness is a water prison – from which there can be no escape.

Creative Writing

A Day in the Life Of

by Callum Small S4

"Ouch" I mumble to myself as I clamber out of my worn and tattered bed. I trundle over to the window and draw the violet curtains. I love to feel the warm rays of light seep into my frail body, it feels as if this weary burden of sadness is being drained from me. I feel as light as a white dove's feather floating in a refreshing breeze, I just stand there, staring contentedly at the cloud scattered amber sky. Then, inevitably, I decide to get on with my business for the day.

Cautiously I descend the spiral staircase into the kitchen. By this time I still have forty minutes until I pick up my money. "Pop" goes the over used stainless steel toaster. It sits rusting in the corner of the coffee stained work-top. As I sit hunched up at the crooked kitchen table, I curse my storm filled life in a rage of recrimination. All aspects of my life are in decline. Soon I'll be merely a spirit, floating just like that white dove's feather in the soft breeze. It's what I long for. But at least all my senses still work, and I'm content to take each day as it comes.

My ears tell me the milkman has arrived; that's a signal for me to descend upon my airless, moth ridden wardrobe. Today I'm going out with sophistication in my dress, tomorrow maybe I'll be more casual. The strong beams of the sun are scattered around the room. As I pull on my plaid shirt, I acknowledge my arthritic bones creaking, like an old door creaks on rusty hinges. I am now almost ready to go for my money.

I open the decaying pine door; it almost sounds as if it's pleading to be replaced. I trundle shakily down the cobbled path, saturated by the sunlight. I hobble on past the old pier, with its eroding ball room sloping slightly to one side, like a crooked man's back. "Those were the days," I think to myself in great nostalgia. But those are times long past, the musky breeze sends me tumbling back to reality. To me the ball room resembles my life, once grand and full of action, but now devoid of all civilisation. I feel I am but a charred smudge on the white page of life.

After a moment I continue my weekly venture to the high street. I take a moment to admire the beautiful, elegant shops. Then a stray dog scampering at my feet distracts me. How full of radiant energy he is, how lucky! I pace my way towards a slope, it is only a gradual one, but as I descend it takes part of the burden off my weakened legs.

I'm almost at the pick up point now, I can tell without looking because my breathlessness tells me so. I can see the queue, positioned in a conscientious fashion, and I shuffle my way to the rear. The queue moves slowly, rather like a tortoise trundling its way across a field, slowly but steadily. It gives me time to stare in wonder, at the sun drenched horizon. How I long to be up there, soaring with the birds. Up there, where there are no burdens of life.

Finally it's my turn to collect my pension money

I try being as quick as possible. My stomach churns at the stagnant smell that lingers on the 'stoory' air. Once I have my financial life support I hobble back out into the open air and take in a deep breath of the cool, fresh breeze. After I stop at Haddows to stock up, I shall return to my solitude. But I am used to it, as much as a dog is used to barking or a sparrow flying.

"Mmmm..." I heave a sigh of relief. My battered frame may rest as I decline in my scraggy and torn armchair. I let the heat seep into my body with warmth, from my grimey electric fire. This is just the extent of my dreary life, day after day, night after night. Why is God putting me through so much suffering, I long to be with her, my darling Anne up there, in the clouds, beyond it all.

One day, at last he will answer my call, the insignificant burdens of life will no longer be upon me. I will be free, given a new lease of life, but not on this earth. No longer will the daintily coloured walls of my house keep me concealed from others. I confide daily in God, and know that one day he will respond with gracious and most generous gratitude.

Anne and I will then soar forever like those white dove's feathers, without one solitary worry. I won't have to worry about wearing my casual clothes, will I? All I hope for is that when I go, I'll be wearing my Sunday Best.

The Journey

BY LINDSEY FARQUHARSON S4

The thrum of the engine made the carriage vibrate like the drone of a distant swarm of bees, angry in some way. The glass frosted with each breath exhaled. It crystallised in the ice-like air outside the clear shield which snugly encased the travellers and gave them a blurry outlook on the rugged land. A land which jutted out, obscuring the view, allowing them to observe the wonders found in the majestic land in which they travelled.

It was deepest winter and the high speed train screeched with exhaustion, aching with the strain as if it were human, suffering from the direst cruelty. The metal under freezing tension splitting with agony. The piercing clinks of metal on metal were frozen and sounded as though they would break instantaneously. It was unlike any winter Calgary had ever seen before. The land was defying all powers and rebelling. No human intervention could rid Canada of this arctic winter. They had to merely let it pass, to ignore it as much as was humanly possible.

Jenna was accustomed to the barren wilderness of the north and its sub zero climate but somehow this situation posed a great challenge, even for Jenna an experienced and hardy Canadian.

The train hurtled on, oblivious to the obstacles it would soon meet. Obstacles that lay just ahead, an unannounced encounter. It continued making haste, accelerating momentum with its sheer drive. The

atmosphere within was tense, everyone slowly easing into an environment strange to them all. Outside the land was truly settled, as it always was but it still held a secret. The land was a holder, a holder of the fate of the train and it's doomed passengers. They were the main players in its cruel, sadistic game.

Jenna sat lost in her thoughts. She gazed at the young man opposite her with growing curiosity. This man sat motionless before her. His face was youthful and cheerful. His skin was fresh and glowing, yet his eyes were old and fatigued. He had the most desperate of eyes, eyes that looked as though they had a thousand stories to tell. His hair was as scruffy and dishevelled as his clothes. His chest clung tightly to the T-shirt and he breathed deeply as though he were anxious. Each inhalation seemed to last a lifetime.

She began to feel anxious as to what awaited her on her return. She was returning to a home she had left long ago, to parents who seemed foreign to her, more like strangers than family.

"Are you . . . ?" his voice trailed off as he faltered with the words "Are you all right, it's just you look pale." At this she became self-consciously aware of her ashen pallor. His warm tones penetrated her subconscious anxiety. Her complexion must have appeared ghostly under his searching gaze.

"Thanks, I'm just nervous. I'm meeting . . . let's just say it's someone I haven't seen for awhile." Jenna was reluctant to venture further into the subject, to open up her deepest feelings to someone whom she'd known only moments. Somehow though she felt drawn to him, like a moth towards some iridescent glow.

They began to engage in conversation; it wasn't in any real depth but stayed light hearted. Sam told her he was from America. He was looking for a new life in Canada after his life had been ruined by the death of his younger brother, Mark.

"It was spontaneous, you know me heading up here, but it feels really right." He conveyed his thoughts precisely. He had the softest voice, so

pleasing to the ear it sent her into an almost dreamlike trance.

"Jenna," he tried to wake her by lightly whispering in her ear. "Jenna, wake up." Gradually she shook off her slumber and looked sleepily into Sam's blue gaze. He really did seem to understand her.

It was only minutes from her gentle awakening when the train subsided slightly. The train jolted and careered forward, losing all control. Jenna and the other passengers surrounding her were tossed about like discarded clothes, flung from limp, lifeless bodies. Jenna and Sam clung to each other entwined like the branches of a willow tree. Sam tried his utmost to shield Jenna as debris flew through the air above them both. The metal scraped against the track below and the raw air rushed in like fools to gold. The polar heavens took away their breaths. Jenna gasped and grimaced with the sheer pain.

Without warning, the metal encasing them tore open. Sam heard a piercing shriek as the train heaved forward with the pain. Jenna was unable to prevent herself from falling onto the ground which had opened up beneath them. Sam was being dragged down as they both tried to fight its evil force.

Luckily they were thrown clear, as were many others. Still the train forwarded, gradually losing its momentum and eventually it ceased to move; it just lay still, ripped of all life it had ever possessed. Personal belongings hung out of its frail body, objects that were once owned but now left forsaken, abandoned.

Bodies were strewn along the rail track many of which were badly injured, some fatally. The driver and all of the front end passengers were almost certainly lifeless. There was no hope for them and the numbers left breathing were diminishing fast. The night was drawing on fast and grew colder by the minute. The night ahead would be frozen, too cold to uphold lives.

Sam held Jenna close. She had a deep gouge to her forehead. It gushed with crimson blood which fell upon Sam's grey, ribbed top and

died it. She seemed distant and began to grow warm and lethargic. Her vision was blurred and her sight hindered by the growing darkness.

"Jenna . . . Jenna" he wept the words. "Wake up, open your eyes for Christ's sake." The vapour from his breath clouded his vision. He was shaking incessantly. His voice wavered as he winced with the pain of his own wounds. He shook Jenna. She momentarily awoke and fixed her stare upon his.

"Listen Sam . . . I need you, need you to . . . finish this trip." She was choking with the words. "Please . . . find them for me." She placed her trust in him. He seemed to know her thoughts.

"You know I will . . . but you'll be there." There was a glimmer of hope left but he knew it was false.

"Please Sam . . . you've got to, please . . ." she gulped, drawing in short, sharp breath. Her eyes seemed transfixed on the midnight blue sky above.

They shone in the twilight as a trickle of blood ran from the wound and nestled on the virgin snow beneath her.

Sam clasped her gently in his strong forearms and cradled her drooping head on his hardened chest. He stroked her face and tenderly moved a lock of hair from her motionless face. He placed his soft, moistened lips on hers and sealed them with a last warm, affectionate kiss. He finally placed his forefinger upon her lips which had begun to grow cold and limp.

"Of course Jenna," he whispered softly. "I'll finish this trip for both of us."

And with that Sam laid Jenna down upon the soft snow and wept for the waste of her precious life. A life he had embraced merely hours before. As he held her, he felt that the journey he had begun yesterday had changed direction utterly. His destination had changed and his life would somehow never be the same again.



Darren Robertson, S6

The Journey

BY EMMA KING S4

A soft thud aroused a groggy Leigh from her frequently hindered slumber. She squinted through her usually bright and observant hazel eyes which were at present glazed and clustered with what her mother fondly referred to as "pixie dust". Leigh subconsciously rubbed at the offending mucus and stared through her newly unobstructed vision at the watercolour of the fertile landscape beyond her carriage window.

As she took in this cocktail of rain, soggy pastures and solitary buildings, Leigh was reminded of her pre-school pupils' crayoned monstrosities pinned to her fridge. She, absent-mindedly began to trace the pattern left by the crystal raindrops against the chilled, smeared window. Leigh was unaware that the bleakness of the day corresponded perfectly with her state of mind. She shifted her weight on the brightly coloured, springy chair. Her face was momentarily reflected in the glass as the train rattled and shuddered through a tunnel and she held the vacant expression that her 'twin' returned identically. Leigh let her ice-blue, shaded eyelids lower and surrender to the tranquil rocking. At the same time, her ears became aware of the unconscious 'clickety-click' of metal against metal, grinding the 'land of nod'.

Instead, she bent to retrieve her knapsack from the floor, suddenly realising that it had been its sudden descent from the hand luggage rack

that had been the cause of the awakening thump. She rummaged through the contents, bypassing the other contents such as: tampon holder (just in case), make-up and accessories, purse, and a well-thumbed copy of 'Charlotte Grey', until finally she reached her goal. Fumbling amongst the discarded tissues and sweet wrappers, she withdrew a previously owned letter, a packet of cigarettes and the (completely out of character) neon green lighter. Before re-reading the letter, Leigh lit a cigarette and inhaled deeply, savouring her moment of relief. She then slid the crisp, white stationery from the envelope and unfolded the paper to reveal the handwriting of her unknown sibling. The letter had arrived the previous week, a week which was spent furiously contemplating what decision to make. Who to tell, whether to go, or whether to ignore the proposition put forward. Because, you see, the envelope had contained a photocopy of her birth certificate and the

address and telephone number belonging to a twenty year old man who, with this substantial evidence, appeared to be her blood brother.

The fact that her adoptive parents had withheld this information for twenty one years suggested to her that they had no intention of revealing the fact that they were not her biological parents. This fact had left her wallowing in feeling of self-loathing, resentment, rejection and also numbness due to the vast quantity of alcohol she had consumed. This brought her to the decision not to reveal to them her plan of action. Instead, she wrote to her 'brother', a term to which she was not yet accustomed, informing him that she would be accepting his invitation for them to meet.

Life for Leigh as she had previously known it, had mainly consisted of illusions. She had had it all: 'loving' parents who had doted on their 'only child'; the basic security of having honesty and trust; all the support required in



Lindsey Farquharson, S4

the process of growing up. This fantasy had been brutally wrenched away. She felt as if her whole being had been written down on paper, torn apart, proclaimed invalid, and then for added dramatic exaggeration, shredded. Twice.

Leigh had taken a certain pride in being in control of her life, sure of her decisions. This pride certainly went out the window on receipt of this letter. Her 'mother' had left her a reminder about 'Aunt Sue's 40th'. She had gone to the supermarket and lost any ounce of dignity and self confidence she had possessed. When presented with the simple task of locating her credit card, she had failed miserably. A failure which had resulted in her blubbering pathetically in the arms of Chelsea, the bewildered check out girl. Back to normal, or as normal as could be expected, Leigh had recovered from her trance to discover the ink flowing with numerous tears that had welled up in her eyes and were now splattering the pages of the letter.

Alan stood nervously at Cairdon station's arrival platform. He had bought a paper to pass the time and occupy his thoughts, but soon realised that this was futile. Sitting there on the peeling bench, he let his mind wander

only to find himself conjuring up the reactions he'd experienced on the announcement of his sibling. Memories of disbelief, shock, fury and finally a vague excited curiosity suddenly appeared. In a very strange way, just knowing that Leigh was experiencing the same revelation made him feel close to her.

The letter was sent on impulse and he had only half heartedly expected a reply. When a response arrived in the form of a barely distinguishable scrawl on a postcard, Alan felt as if he were somehow closer to her by them sharing the same experience of revelation. Alan was suddenly confronted with a landslide of doubts. Would she reject him? Were they similar in any way? Would they become close, or would the separating boundary that had distanced them for so long be too strong a break? These apprehensions made him unusually anxious and unsure. Not enough though to delete the determination he felt to meet Leigh. As the dreary day continued so Alan waited patiently, never considering that fate may not be on his side . . .

The moment the train took leave of the tracks Leigh felt bewilderment begin to consume her. The train blundered drunkenly down the bank. Leigh was pitched effortlessly across the

carriage as the train lunged onwards, out of control. Leigh had almost no time to react as her senses were further dulled with a short but effective blow which was delivered by the descending baggage rack. Leigh was sure of a commotion and a strangely distant projection of a human voice but this seemed irrelevant to her now, even the invading pain and warmth of her blood did not register. Leigh's sight was fading like the twilight which, inevitably, dissolves into night. She was vaguely aware of the fact that she was sprawled awkwardly across the cracked window.

Her last remote vision was that of her parents. Not the ones who had given her up but the ones who had accepted her and considered her their own. Finally she yielded to the beckoning darkness of eternal slumber and the embrace of the night.

At Cairdon station a lonely and desolate figure pulled up his collar against the wind and trudged away from the platform. His misgivings were apparent from his gait. He should have known after all this time that the 'sister' that he so longed for would back away, not wishing to meet the stranger who was her brother. His hopes blew down the track, along with a crumpled, discarded postcard.

The Storm

BY ROBERT KENT S2

It was a brisk, sunlit day in August. The sun was shining brightly in the sky. The birds twittered their unpredictable yet melodious tunes. There were only a few white fluffy clouds in the seemingly ever-blue ocean of sky.

In the beautiful, tranquil day, everyone left their homes to soak up the afternoon sun on the southern Florida beaches. Pity no one saw Hurricane Joe obliterate Cuba and head directly toward them.

On the beach there was a slight breeze and, after inspecting sand castles, it seemed to gradually strengthen. Gulls began to land themselves on the white sandy beaches.

The sky grew dark. A shadow crawled inland over the beach. Then Joe hit. The once friendly breeze was as if it were possessed by the devil.

The pelting missiles of rain hit the beached people with incredible force. The blinding lightning and booming thunder added to the confusion.

Civilians ran to shelters as vulnerable trees flew like birds. A bus took off and crushed a car as if it were paper. Homes were torn, ripped and shredded by the pulsing, driving wind. The tidal waves caused floods, drowning may a person.

Trees were scattered, cars crushed, building wrecked and people dead.

Then, as suddenly as it began, it stopped. Joe looked over what he had done. He was satisfied.

Hobbies and Activities



Claire McGillivray, Alan Batson, Katy McIntyre, Nick Farr and Stuart Blackwood

Fund-raising for Charity

Two charities were supported by the work of the fundraisers during the Hobby period. Interested boys and girls from all Houses gathered enthusiastically on a weekly basis to bake cakes and make chocolate crispies and chocolate marshmallows to sell to other pupils in order to raise money for Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child) and Sight Savers. The pupils worked efficiently as a team and became expert at producing the maximum number of cakes in the time scale.

In November Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child) received 58 shoeboxes containing gift items such as toys, stationery items, gloves, toiletries and sweets, for children in Eastern Europe. The boxes from Queen Victoria School were enjoyed by children in Bosnia. Our thanks go to the many families who sent one or more boxes to our fundraisers.

From January we continued to bake and sell cakes, but additionally held a non-uniform day to support Sight Savers. We were delighted to raise the sum of £486.40 to further their work in Third World countries. Part of the sum will be used to set up an eye-screening camp in the name of Queen Victoria School.

Thanks go to the pupils who supported the fundraising charity either through making cakes or by buying and eating them!

Miss Blackwood

Badminton

THE CUNNINGHAM HOUSE BADMINTON HOBBY

This hobby has run on Tuesday evenings throughout the winter months and has proved successful in attracting a good number of players at all levels.

Lee Jones continued to be the man to beat but many of the younger boys are displaying good technique and tactical awareness.

It has been obvious from the standard of play that badminton is going from strength to strength within the school.

Liam Flynn successfully used the badminton hobby as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

It is hoped that this level of interest will continue and that more pupils will incorporate badminton as their Duke of Edinburgh activity in the future.

Camera Club

The Camera Club this year has been a great success being run on Monday and Tuesday nights. The pupils who attended on both nights were complete beginners. By Easter, they could take a film in its cassette, open it, load it into a developing tank and close the tank (all in complete darkness) and eventually after developing it, produce the final print. We could then take the finished black and white print and dye and tint it in various colours.

Most of our pictures were of the School and its

surroundings but towards the end of the hobby we went into Stirling to extend our repertoire.

I learned a lot about photography and I am sure everyone else did as well. This year the facilities of the Club were again upgraded by the purchase of 4 Olympus Compact Cameras. These will be used to good effect during the third term when we turn our attention to colour photography.

I would like to thank Mr Dale for his endless support, advice and encouragement especially when the negatives were not quite up to his high standard.

P Goodman

Cooking for Survival

This new hobby created a real stir. Each Friday evening the S5 girls and I commandeered Wavell kitchen to whip up mysterious culinary delights. Deciding what to make within the budget was never easy particularly with cries of "I don't like spices", "I don't like fish" or "I can't eat chocolate"! Over the course of the year we created soups, starters, main courses and desserts. Some dishes were easy to prepare, some were complex; some were edible, others such as the lemon pudding were not so. However, whatever the food, the hobby provided the girls with basic skills, a change from school meals, and the chance to argue over who was going to wash up!

Miss Taylor

Pottery

The pottery hobbies this year were attended by enthusiastic young potters eager to learn how to use traditional methods to achieve lively and imaginative examples of clay work. These methods included the techniques of pinching the prepared clay into thumb pots, making coils, slab-ware and hand modelling. The successful results reflected the enthusiasm and hard work of the pupils.

Mrs Thornton

German Hobby

Mrs Howies' classroom (Room7), on Tuesday evenings, has been the haunt of a large, lively group of P7 girls and boys intent on learning some German while having fun. Frau Funk (assisted by Mrs Howie) has covered many topics in such an innovative, light hearted way that the children have learned quite effortlessly a surprisingly varied amount of vocabulary and phrases, which they now delight in using. Every evening finished up with games; Blindekuh (Blind Man's Buff) was declared the absolute favourite by all. I know the pupils involved will join me in thanking most sincerely Frau Funk for making this hobby such a success.

KERSTIN FUNK

Once again, the School has been most fortunate to receive the help of a language assistant. Kerstin Funk came to us in September from the University of Munster and with hard work and commitment she has combined most successfully her teaching role in the modern languages department with an equally lively contribution to life in both Haig and Wavell. Her enthusiasm in the classroom, particularly her close involvement with Form 5, and the rigours of the 'new' Higher Still course has been of immense benefit to all studying German. Kerstin says that when she leaves us at the end of June she will take away many pleasant memories of the beautiful Scottish scenery and of her many new friends at QV. We wish her all the very best in her future career.

Mrs Howie

Needle Craft Hobby

A mixture of boys and girls attend this hobby taken by Miss Taylor. Many people came to the hobby each week but others worked on their sewing in their own time. We started the year sewing a Christmas card as a gift. After Christmas we were given a choice of kits including Disney, Warner Brothers and Winnie the Pooh.

Since Christmas I have completed a Bugs Bunny picture, which has been framed, and it looks really great. I am now working on a much larger kit with Sylvester and Tweety Pie. I look forward to continuing with this hobby next year because it is good fun

Craig Richardson (S1)

Drama Activities

In summer term, 1999, Mr McNally's S2 class put on a performance of Romeo and Juliet (adapted), the success of which inspired Miss Johnstone's class to dramatise "The Mystery of the Mary Celeste" in January, 2000. Both productions took place in the chapel, access to the theatre being a little problematic. Mr Kirk's S2 class wrote and produced their own play, "Carol", and performed it just before Christmas 1999.

The last big school production was "Turning Blind Eyes" in February 1999. The group concerned agreed that our next project would involve writing our own QVS version of a pantomime. Several versions ensued, written or suggested by various pupils, but the play written by Tammy Allan and Kerri Meleady will be put on in the summer term, 2000, near the end of June (date still to be confirmed).

Debating and Public Speaking

CADIC Public Speaking Competition

The Junior Team for this now very popular event consisted of Laurie Cairns (S3), Stephen Carter (S2), and Alastair McLellan (S3). They spoke on "peer pressure is an excuse for drug experimentation". Their teamwork won praise from the judges and we look forward to this novice team performing more successfully in the future.

Amy Morton (S4), Alasdair Spence (S4) and Darren Farr (S5) made up the QVS Senior Team. Their topic was "anyone caught using illegal drugs should be expelled". Their lively and polished performance won them through to the semi-final at Beaconsfield. The topic for this event was "people take drugs because they can't cope with life". In spite of a spirited team effort they were pipped at the post by the St Modan's Team.

English Speaking Union/Observer Mace Debating Competition

Seasoned performers Lee Jones and David Aldous (S6) had some interesting things to say about the motion "public figures' lives are of no concern to this House". Competition proved tough, however, and they lost to far more experienced teams.

The Courier/Royal Bank of Scotland Junior Debating Competition

November saw QVS enter the team of Kris Reid and Ilona Evenden (both S3) into this very popular event. The first debate, at Dollar, tackled the motion "this House believes that marriage is an outdated institution". They received praise for their combination of humour and a strong persuasive style, and won a place in the second round. The second round took place in winter's murky depths in Larbert High. Thanks go to Mr McNally for his wonderful directions - perhaps next time Miss Johnstone and Mr Kirk will remember to take them along! The motion this time was "this House believes that football is only a game", but despite a valiant effort the team failed to score.

To round off our debating season the English Dept held a Christmas debate - "this House believes that the fun has gone out of Christmas". Twelve members of S3 (Annabel Porter, Jennie Holmes, Graeme Houston, Alasdair McLellan, Kris Reid, Ilona Evenden, Penny Wood, Jamie McIntyre, Craig Heselt, Andrew Kirkaldy, Barbara Davidson and Alana Donnelly) proved that the fun has not gone out of debating, and we will certainly try to preserve this as an annual event.

Model Making Competition

29 march 2000

This, the second only Queen Victoria School Model Competition, was the highlight

of a year of hard work in the model making hobby.

In all, 17 pupils were entered. The standard was high, exceptional in a few cases, considering the young age of the model

makers.

Several models had been donated as prizes and were won by the following:

PUPIL	WINNING MODEL	PRIZE
Peter Girvan	Figures	Model Soldier Set
Peter Girvan	Praying Mantis	Dodge Command Car
David Love	Fokker Triplane	Spitfire
Elliot Wood	Millennium Falcon	Tescan Aircraft
Jamie Greenwood	F1 Racing Car	Land Rover
David Leishman	HMS Ajax	War Hawk
Michael MacFarlane	Wing Fighter	Harrier

The other entrants won Nintendo Keyrings donated by Beatties, Stirling, as runner up prizes.

The Competition was judged by Mr Jim

McFarlane who also gave a short talk and answered questions from the entrants.

It is proposed to hold another Competition in June 2000. Several members are already

working on models so this should be another show of quality entries.

David Garden

Scripture Union

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Miss Courtney to join Mrs Onslow and Mrs Silcox in leadership of the 1999-2000 Junior SU Hobby, for pupils in P.7.

This session a new group was formed, catering for former SU members now in S1 and S2. They chose to call themselves JAM. (Jesus And Me).

We had quiet times as we explored our Bibles and boisterous times as we held quizzes, played games and sang songs. This year's

favourite was undoubtedly Biblical Basketball.

A Christmas Celebration was held at Dalriada, which focussed on Jesus being the Reason for the Season.

In February we enjoyed a return visit from Kathryn Coad, SU Independent Schools Field Worker, who showed us slides of the exciting activities taking place at SU Camps.

The last meeting took the form of an Easter Celebration including 'eggstraordinary' prizes for 'eggseptional' painting and rolling of

eggs.

As always, the weekly visits to Mrs Onslow's kitchen to bake cakes and cookies for Charity proved to be a very popular activity.

By the time Grand Day has arrived we will have held our Outing and presented the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh with a cheque for the proceeds from our Charity Cake Sale.

We are looking forward to meeting again in October and welcoming old and new members for our 2000-2001 Session.

Swimming with the Disabled

Swimming with the Disabled Team - 1st Row: Lynsey McAulay, Mrs Hainey. 2nd Row: Jennifer Jones, Lauren Campbell, Mr D Davies, Gary Houston, Laura Dunnachie



Scripture Union activities



National Schools Piping Project

The Piping Centre is delighted to be able to present a series of 3 day, intensive Piping Courses for promising young pipers throughout Scotland. Course contents include music writing software, reed manipulation, reed making, setting up a bagpipe, Internet Piping resources, visits to the College of Piping, a bagpipe manufacturer and the Army School of Bagpipe Music and much more.

The Course is open to all young pipers between the ages of 10 and 18



Tel: 0141 353 0220
Fax: 0141 353 1570
Email: gwilson@thepipingcentre.co.uk

For more information and a brochure please contact Greg or Elaine at:

The Piping Centre,
30-34 McPhater Street,
Glasgow G4 0HW

 BANK OF SCOTLAND

 THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND

E=mc²

Problem solving

£1.6 million Design and Build project to construct a residential block for boys, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire.

John Mowlem & Company PLC
37 Stirling Road Kilsyth Glasgow G65 0HW
Tel: 01236 823333 Fax: 01236 825926
E-mail: mowlem.co.uk

MOWLEM 

Everything for the Office

Office & Canteen Furniture, Office Supplies, Rubber Stamps, Stationery, Calculators, Typewriters, Computer Furniture & Supplies, Fax Machines, Copiers,

Repairs To All Office Machines

Tel. Stirling (01786) 475583
Fax: (01786) 451611

STIRLING OFFICE SUPPLIES

Unit 1, 4 Cunningham Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate, Stirling FK7 7TP

Bluebell Collectables

Specialists

in research into medal entitlement as well as obtaining replacement medals, insignia and ribbons.

We buy and sell militaria to Scottish regiments and are specialists in making and obtaining replacement medals. We will source items of specific interests or rarity.



4 Main Street, Doune
Scotland FK16 6BJ
Tel: 01786 842 828
Fax: 0141 571 5694
Email: militaria@stirling.co.uk
Web: www.militaria.stirling.co.uk

Old Victorians Association

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

It hardly seems a year since our last contribution to the VICTORIAN was penned. Perhaps the commitment to OZ99 accelerated OVA doings. It certainly created intense activity! Looking back I can report satisfactorily on increased contact with OV's both through visitation and correspondence/website.

Membership continues to expand, a further 70 joining during the past 12 months. Included in that number are P/M Alan Dippie and Mr Clive Bruce, both now Honorary Life Members in recognition of their many years of service to the School. Increase in membership is not confined to new leavers. Many older OV's join on re-establishing contact with the School and we welcome any information on other OV's outside the fold.

The Annual Reunion weekend enjoyed fine weather and a turnout of over 100 OV's (despite its clash with the Wales/Scotland match). The 1999 experiment of a musical theme was repeated and expanded. OV pipers and drummers practised on Saturday and then paraded with the Pipe Band on Sunday before church. The enjoyment of all those participating was obvious and the performance generated great applause from the audience, particularly from OV's who could have been with them but seemed rather reluctant to do so. I think that the numbers participating will be much greater next year, bringing my concept of an OVA band for special occasions much nearer! However, we went much further than pipers/drummers with Alex Hume (1822) loaning his clarinet experience to the wind band during the church service, inevitably charming the leading clarinetist, Tammy Allan, in doing so and Murray Wilson (4094) competing with Christopher Harris (School

Principal Dancer) in a demonstration of the Seann Truibhas. Result, a draw!

Major Ewen McLay (3610) took the salute at the Church Parade and chatted to REME pupils thereafter. Congratulations are due to Ewen and his great friend, Robert Bruce (3541) in completing their Staff College education. They are now certified commanders and staff officers as is shown by the award of their Master's Degrees in Defence Studies from Cranfield University (a QVS first) and their subsequent postings at company command level back to Regimental Duty in Bosnia (Ewen) and shortly Northern Ireland (Bob). Indeed the commitment of the Armed Forces to operational duties is clearly shown through the correspondence we are receiving from OV's in Kosovo, Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. I suspect that East Timor could be added to the list as both Collie brothers are in the RAAF.

Congratulations are also due to: 2nd Lts Murray MacDonald (4114) Royal Signals and Andrew Robertson (4084) REME commissioned from Sandhurst in July 1999 and to: Master Chef Colin Stewart (2701) selected as Administrator of the Australian Junior Team participating in the Culinary Olympics in Berlin in September 2000.

Ross Coleman (3930) and Fiona married in the school chapel in August . . . and of course,

Duncan McLay (3733) and Sarah married after OZ99!

Fraser MacKinnon (4357) on his selection for the Scotland Under 18 Rugby Team.

Plus numerous graduates who have informed us of their success in defeating the University Examination Boards in a multitude of disciplines. Space prevents publication of all details but another first should be recorded – Ronnie Grant (2999) graduated with a BA (Maths/Computing) from the Open University in 1985. There may be other OV's with an OU Degree but they haven't told us!

The OVA Committee will be checking all the Honours Boards in the Central Hall during the Summer in order to update them relevant to the OV records. Anyone who thinks they have been missed out should let us know.

The OVA website was mentioned in the introduction and quite deliberately as it has generated considerable interest amongst OV's, particularly those overseas. Already 83 OV's have notified the site manager, Stephen Hill (3578) of their e-mail details. Anyone wishing to appear on the e-mail list should e-mail Stephen on OldVics@oldvictorian.org. We are very grateful for the time and effort Stephen has devoted to the establishment and subsequent management of the website. It is available at www.oldvictorians.org. We are examining the feasibility of putting the OV

Newsletter on the net and hope to initiate this action in December 2000. Those not involved with the internet will of course receive their copy of the Newsletter by post.

The London & SE Branch experienced considerable difficulty during 1999 in attracting enough response from members to attend its annual get together, 'Bob's Bash'. The effect of this was to cast doubt on the future of such an event and, indeed, on the viability of the Branch itself. The 1999 Newsletter commented accordingly, requesting support for Bob Gill (2900) in his efforts to maintain the Branch. Thanks to action through the Internet, a group of OV's met in a London pub (of course) and I

am pleased to report that the necessary support has been promised to Bob and the Branch and thus normal service will be resumed soon!

No progress reported as yet on the suggested formation of a North American OVA Chapter. However, the Canadian and USA input to the website is considerable, thus suggesting that co-operation should be possible.

Our Australian members reacted most supportively to the challenge of OZ99. There is no doubt that the Tour was the highlight of their year and all OV's we met there contributed positively to the presence and activities of 'their

School'. Of particular note was the spadework and on the spot co operation of Tom Hunter (2384) in Perth and Alex Hunter (2522) in Sydney. The OVA 'down-under' has been regenerated by OZ99 and I know that they plan to continue in that spirit, albeit on a local basis.

It has been another excellent year for the OVA and in closing I must reiterate my appreciation of the splendid relationship between the Association and the School. We are very much part of the School Family and the members recognise the privilege accorded to them and respect the responsibility accorded thereto. Thank you very much on behalf of all Old Victorians.



Keep the Home Fires Burning

The OZ 99 Tour produced many nostalgic occasions, none more so than our meeting with Mrs Patricia Joll of Churchlands, Perth WA. Patricia was born in Australia and had not been to Scotland. However her father, 491 Thomas Dundas Kenny, was at the school from 1916 to 1920 when, at the age of 14, he emigrated with his family to Australia, settling in Queensland.

We invited Patricia to the Hale School Assembly so that she could see Tom's Pipe Band and Dancers performing. Luckily we were able to secure front row balcony seats for her and she thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Whilst talking afterwards she showed us this photo of Tom in school uniform (it could quite easily be taken for a boy in 2000 not 1916!). A close look at it reveals that he is stoking the fire. This indeed is its theme . . . under the title 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' it was used as a morale

boosting poster to encourage men to enlist!

Inevitably we were treated to reminiscences of life at QVS during World War 1. The younger boys had to knit socks for soldiers while older boys played rugby. Every day for lunch the ration for pudding was 7 prunes. As an adult Tom would not eat prunes! The QVS discipline was maintained throughout his life – shoes always polished, well pressed creases in his trousers. He loved tennis, playing to a high

standard and in retirement was President of the Queensland LTA. Sadly Tom passed away aged 68 in 1974.

Photos of the early years of QVS are relatively scarce and we are very grateful for this gift to the school archives of a happy Victorian in 1916 and the privilege of sharing with Patricia her memories of her father.

Lt.Col R. Smith
President of OVA

Old Victorians Association

Play Up Dukies

Perhaps overlooked by many readers is the 60th Anniversary of the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from France in May/June 1940.



Ron and Jim Smith

Dunkirk is 500 miles plus from Dunblane yet that event was to have a major effect on the School, one that would last for over a decade. Our opposite number in England, the Duke of York's Royal Military School (DYRMS) in Dover was in the firing line and indeed, Roberts House received a direct hit from German guns in Calais. Fortunately the danger had been foreseen (the school had been evacuated to Hutton in Essex during the first world war) and thus plans had been made to move the Dukies to North Devon). The Saunton Sands Hotel, overlooking Bideford Bay was chosen to accommodate them, albeit only 360 could fit into the space available. Thus QVS was warned to expect over 100 boys at 24 hours notice.

Luckily an OV, Major Bill Lenton was the local contact at the RAOC Depot in Stirling. The necessary requisitions were responded to immediately and stores, rations and transport provided to meet this emergency. The School Quartermaster, Bill Masterson, mustered available staff to prepare for their guests (!) who arrived at 0230 hrs after a very long and

exhausting journey. Despite the trials of the journey, including delays due to enemy air activity, Bill Masterson reported that they were extremely cheerful and tucked into a substantial meal before hitting the hay for the remainder of the day. The school admin staff must have worked miracles to address such a demanding task so effectively.

The integration of so many extra boys into the School could not have been easy. Numbers uniforms, language (Scots/English) and rivalry might have caused problems. However Bill commented that his real problem was his denial of their request to be rigged out as Victorians. Wartime clothing restrictions prevented what seemed to be a sensible suggestion and the Dukies, much to their disappointment, continued to wear the khaki tunic, shorts, forage cap and boots for walking out and parades (see the photo of the author and his brother, Jim!). They were dressed in QVS blue jersey and shorts for routine day dress. When playing in the Bands the appropriate ceremonial dress was worn. As the education system at Dover followed the

common Army syllabus, ie 2nd/1st/Special Certificates of education, there were no problems in relating to that here in Dunblane and ranks were continued likewise. Each school had their own School Song . . . a very common practice in those days. So we sang both, possibly in competition with each other. Many OVs of that era will remember the words of 'Neath the Banners our Fathers waved', QVS sung to the tune of 'The green Hills of Tyrol' and 'Be it Peace or be it War, Play up Dukies'. Both rather warlike but totally in keeping with the origins of both schools.

It would be appropriate here to remember that these were not the first Dukies to become part of QVS. In the first intake in 1909 School numbers 1 and 2 were transferred from DYRMS.

JW Gibbon Joined the Gordon Highlanders on leaving school and went to France in 1914 where he was killed in action.

AD Swan MBE left school in 1910. He had a distinguished military career, serving in the Army Ordnance Corps, Black Watch, Indian Army and was commissioned in the RAAF,

eventually retiring as Wing Commander in 1952. He was mentioned in Despatches. 3 times.

The War had another effect on the School. Issue No 30 of the Victorian was published in July 1939 and further publication was suspended until Issue No 31 in December 1943. Sadly the latter issue did not chronicle the events of 1940-43 but, from contacts with Dukie OVS, it can be assumed that they were assimilated into QVS life with satisfactory results. There are tales of mass snowball fights and similar rival clashes on the sports field but such happenings were normal in an inter-Company situation anyway. A quote from an anonymous Dukie confirms that 'In spite of different uniforms, different speech and customs, integration became a necessity. It was realised our stay would be a long one . . . in fact we were to spend over four years in the school'. For some it turned to be much longer than that! Given the normal pattern of school life, the cycle of leavers and new recruits was necessary for both Victorians and Dukies. The 1943 Victorian records (by name, school number and date) that in that year 13 Dukies left and 31 joined compared with 51 and 56 Victorians. The Dukie arrivals included Jim and Ron Smith wondering what was happening to them! We soon found out as we plunged into a recruit's life which we shared with the QVS 'rookies'.

Also in that edition of the Victorian was a record of a visit by General Sir Robert Whigham, Special Commissioner to DYRMS with its main purpose to inspect the Dukie contingent. During his inspection he spoke particularly to Monitor Derek Parkinson, the first Dukie to gain that rank at QVS. General Whigham became a regular visitor to the School, perhaps finding particular Dukie support from the new headmaster, Captain H.R. McDonald, an Old Dukie. Research in later editions shows that Colonel Barnwell, Commandant of DYRMS, visited in 1949 and 'although it was during potato-lifting, we paraded in the Central Hall that night to be inspected by him'. (I expect that OV readers who remember the tattie howking season can imagine how popular such an inspection must have been!).

New Dukies continued to join QVS up to September 1946, the last named being Norman Poulson who had the additional distinction of being the last to leave in 1955. Meanwhile the detachment, given the benefit of longer duration in the School, enjoyed several years of 'stardom'. Four Primus medallists in succession (Ron Smith, Vic McGuirk, Stan Cox and John Harold, 1947-50). Three Senior Monitors (Ron Field, Derek Peachey, and Ron Smith 1948-51) plus significant representation at top level in all the sports teams. Educationally they shared in the upgrading of educational standards within the School and six

of them participated in the daily trek to McLaren H.S. in the pursuit of Highers. Mention should be made of Vic McGuirk who, at the age of 13 years 7 months, was awarded his Army Special Certificate of Education, the then educational qualification for promotion to Warrant Officer in the Army.

Within the School Dukies undertook the same musical training as their fellow Victorians. In 1948 one third of the playing out military band were Dukies, two were pipers (though only one in the Bank) and the drum corps relied very heavily on Dukies for both drummers and buglers. The quality achieved by many of these musicians is exemplified by the subsequent record of Duncan Beat who, after leaving QVS in 1947, progressed through all stages of military band employment to the ultimate position of Director of Music at Kneller Hall.

So the 60th Anniversary of the Dukie invasion of QVS is with us and I trust that the above shows to some extent how they contributed to the life of the School in the 40s and early 50s. All who were here are Old Victorians and some are able to continue their link with the school through the OVA. To this end we are hoping that they will visit on Grand Day to celebrate the Anniversary and also to thank the School for the privilege of being an important part of it.

Lt.Col Ron Smith



Gordon Cook, S1

G. S. Meldrum
BOOKSELLER • STATIONER • NEWSAGENT

Cards for all Occasions
Stockists of Parker and Papermate Pens
Large selection of Maps
and View Postcards

High Street, Dunblane Telephone: (01786) 822175

Old Victorians Association

Reflections

by Allan McKell



The McKell Brothers

Reflections and remarks by old boy 1650 Allan McKell on his years spent in QVS from 1935-1938 and his subsequent visit to the school in 1997.

Ancient History

My father was a regular soldier who served with the Cameron Highlanders. After his contribution to the Great War in France on the Somme, he spent his last 5 years of service in India and Burma. As a family we accompanied him and lived as young children with our mother in married quarters. As a result of this we were quite accustomed to army routine and discipline. It was 1933 and I was 9 years old when my mother told me that they were thinking about applying for my admittance to Queen Victoria School at Dunblane. She explained to me that the school was run completely on army lines but she made it clear that I was free to make my own decision without any consequences. The idea of going to such a school appealed to me and I was admitted to QVS in 1935 when I was 11 years old.

I have only vague recollections of my admittance. I can't remember being issued with clothing etc., but I do remember having to write my school number 1650 in indelible ink on every item of clothing. We had khaki shirts, oversized without a collar, a navy blue jersey and navy blue shorts. Also dark green stocking with a red and yellow stripe, heavy army shoes

each shod with 13 tacks and a steel toe and heel. This completed our daily dress for normal week days. We had no underwear, for in those days working men did not have any underwear. We were also issued with a kilt, a hunting Stewart tartan, a leather sporran and a khaki jacket complete with QVS brass buttons. For ceremonial occasions such as Sunday church services, Grand Day etc. we also had a bright red dress jacket and a glengarry with QVS cap badge. No hair comb was issued because with a 'proper' army haircut they were not needed. We were also given a black kit-bag for going on holiday. But normally we had to pack everything into a black wooden kit-box. One other item of clothing I must mention was the flannel nightshirt, also without a collar and extra large, able to withstand any wear and tear one can imagine. As a result of this when I first wore it I had to fold the sleeves up twice and it was so long I kept tripping over the hem. However, after 3 years of wash and wear and me growing, the sleeves were above my elbows and the hem barely covered my navel. Our dormitory was on the left-hand side top floor, with 24 beds and a separate cubicle for the monitor. I can still see it in my mind's eye: 24 wee boys, 11 years old, jumping out of bed

every morning at 06.45 hrs, drowning in the oversized nightshirts and tripping and falling in the corridor on their way to the toilets and washroom. The other dorm with the older and bigger boys and the shrunken nightshirts was a sight never to be forgotten! Above each bed on the wall was a brass nameplate, mine was 'Lovat Scouts'. Each dorm had its own washroom, toilets and three baths (oversized) with absolutely no privacy. Once a week on a Friday, compulsory, we went three in a bath with steaming hot water, sunlight soap and a monitor keeping check if we washed behind our ears.

The first few weeks were spent adjusting to strict discipline and regular army life. All daily procedures were regulated by various bugle calls: reveille, meals, school, trade practice, lights out etc. Later on as a drummer-bugler I took my turn as orderly buglar. Most activities were preceded by group assembly in the central hall.

Boys had to make a choice of what trade they wanted to learn. The different trades were brassband with its various instruments, pipeband, pipers, drummer-buglers, tenor drummers, big drums and army tailoring.

I wanted to be a piper highlander dancer but unfortunately there were no vacancies at that time. Pipers were the only boys allowed to wear special underpants under their kilts, all the rest had to be content with none. I became a drummer-bugler under the tuition of W.O II Watson. It took me nearly two years to master the fine art of drum rolls, paradiddles, drags, strathspeys and reels before I was proficient enough to be admitted into the pipe-band as side drummer-bugler under pipe-major Ross. I still think there is no finer sound than that of pipes and drums; they give me goose-pimples all over but of course I am prejudiced. I went with the pipe-band on many excursions, rugby at Murrayfield, Edinburgh Zoo, Gleneagles hotel and various Highland Games. Latterly I was leading drummer. My younger brother Joseph Duncan (Joe) McKell (boy 1738) who was admitted to the school two years after me in 1937 became an excellent tenor drummer in the pipe-band. Our younger brother Robert (boy 1951) also attended QVS.

Our teachers in school were Army Education Corps and although we as boys did not think so, I realised later that we received a first class education on a higher level than in a normal civilian school. Of course, in those days it was considered normal to have corporal punishment for any wrong-doings, even in civilian schools.

After the first few months we had all become adapted to our daily routine of rising early, washing and dressing in the appropriate dress, making our beds with blankets, sheets and counterpane all folded up to specific measurements and getting all the beds lined up and the floor polished. Then the bugle sounded and everybody clattered downstairs with their tackety shoes to have breakfast. We had four meals a day, breakfast, dinner, tea and supper, all served with good plain wholesome food. The monitors all sat at a separate table situated at the end of the dining hall. Speaking whilst eating was to say the least, not encouraged.

Once a month we had a kit inspection and everything we possessed was folded up to specific measurements and laid out for inspection by our company sergeant Gutteridge, if I remember his name correctly. Each bed the spitting image of the other and all perfectly in line.

We spent much time in the gym and playing football, cricket and rugby. Rugby and boxing in the gym were my favourite sports. I do agree with boy 2384 Tom Hunter's closing remarks in his article about boxing at QVS 'for some reason spectators were allowed to raise the rafters between rounds and between each bout, but during each bout a deadly hush was

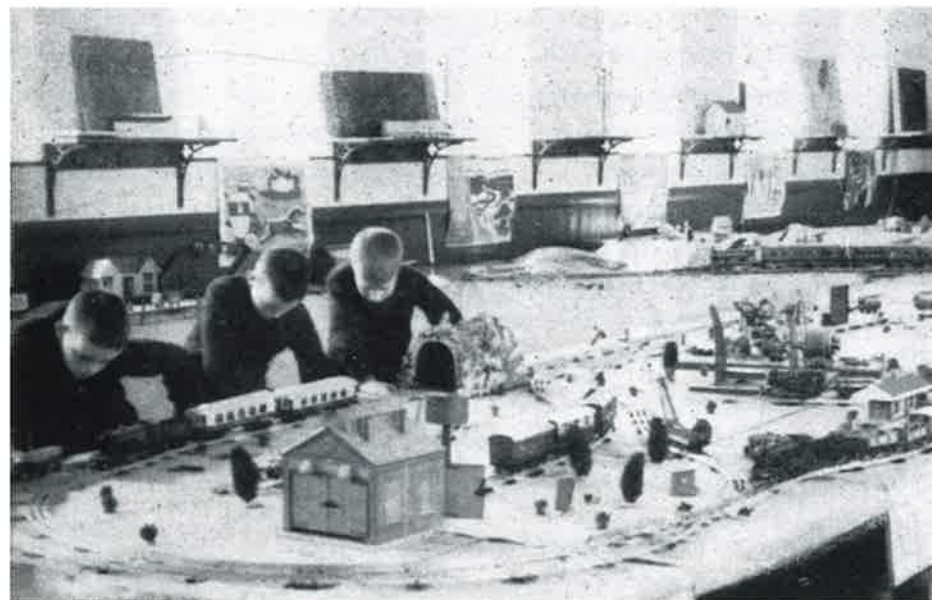
maintained as the combatants belted each other all over the ring'. I might also add that if the boxers tried to use too much technique, the bout was stopped and they were told to 'stop pussyfooting about and get stuck in'. I read in Lt.Col. Ron Smith's annual newsletter of 1997 that boy 1549 Charlie Mitten had joined the Roll of OV's. I knew him at school and also while we were there, his father who lived in the married quarters was our Physical Training Instructor. Even though his father lived on the school-grounds, Charlie had to live and sleep in the school with the rest of us.

We paid many visits to the swimming pool especially on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Actually when one stops to think about it, a private swimming pool was a real luxury. I knew of no other school in Scotland in 1935 that had one!

In my day there was also a paved path that ran slightly downhill from the 'jam factory' at the back of the school, down towards the playing fields. Near the end of the paved path there was a stone bridge spanning the burn. In the winter it was the favourite place to make a slide, quite long and downhill all the way. Moving onto the playing fields and going to the right hand corner there was a steep grassy hill that belonged to a neighbouring farmer and which was out of bounds in the summer,



The QVS Staff, 1937



The Railway Room

but in winter we were allowed to sledge down the hill. The sledges were supplied by the school. Also in the winter we were often taken out for long walks and we were kept warm in a khaki Sherlock Holmes coat.

During the summer holidays (seven weeks) we could choose between going home or going to a special summer camp in canvas bell-tents in the sand dunes near Carnoustie for four weeks and the remaining weeks at home. I did this twice.

On the ground floor of the school near to what is today the library there used to be a tuck-shop. I received a postal order from home every week worth sixpence, but I didn't make much use of the tuck-shop because I needed the money to buy cigarettes. It goes without saying that smoking was strictly forbidden, not for your health however, but simply because we were considered too young to smoke. I was caught smoking several times and after being severely cautioned in the end I received two strokes with the leather belt. Needless to say it was of no avail, because I remained a heavy smoker up to five years ago when I finally stopped at the age of 70.

I left QVS in the summer of 1938 and went on to Chepstow Army Technical School to learn a trade as bench-fitter and later motor-mechanic, served with the R.A.S.C. and later with the

R.E.M.E. in Northern Ireland. From there I volunteered for the Parachute Regt. Early 1943. I was accepted, went through the initial training at Hardwick Hall and jumping at Ringway, after which I was posted to the 8th Parachute Batt.

I jumped into Normandy on D-Day and served further in France, the Ardennes, the Netherlands and Germany. During the liberation of the Netherlands, I met and married my Dutch wife in 1946. After the war in 1948 we returned to the UK and I was demobbed in April 1950 into reserve service. I was recalled in July 1950 and sent out to Korea as a motor-mechanic attached to the Royal Ulster Rifles. I was taken P.O.W. on January 2nd 1951, released in the autumn of 1953 and was demobbed in April 1954 making a total of 16 years in regular service. In 1956 my wife and I decided to leave Scotland and make a new life for ourselves and our two daughters in the Netherlands, where we have lived happily ever since.

Back to the present.

We went to Scotland for our holidays in 1997 for a late celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary and also paid a visit to QVS. Of course I had no idea what to expect, although I had read about the recent introduction of girls. Walking up the main drive I looked around and nothing seemed to have changed! It seemed as though time had stood still, because it all looked the same as when I left in 1938.

I received a very warm welcome from headmaster Brian Raine and I accepted his generous offer to give me and my family a personal tour. The central hall looked exactly the same with the portrait of boy Archer still hanging where it has always been. Generally speaking the ground floor has not changed much at least to the eye, but the addition amongst other things of the library and computer room were a surprise. We went out through the back way with the big chimney for the central heating and hot water facilities, which in our day we called 'the jam factory'. Further on I noticed that the winter slide path had gone and the burn was underground. We visited the practice rooms for the drums and pipes where I had a go with the drumsticks, actually for the first time since 1938, so naturally I was a bit rusty. One thing I did notice was that the playing fields were taken up mostly by rugby pitches. In 1935 there were only 2 rugby pitches, one cricket pitch and the rest were football pitches. Another eye-opener was the modern sports hall and gym facilities, all very modern. In 1935 there was only one small gym, upstairs at the back of the main building. Headmaster Brian Raine also took us to have a look at the modern bed-study units. I couldn't believe my eyes, thinking back on our living conditions in the dorm with no privacy at all. Under those conditions girl students would have been unthinkable.

We ended our tour in the small room opposite the headmasters office, where we browsed through the old archives and found a group photograph picturing me and also one picturing my brother Joe. Also my achievements in a swimming contest are mentioned in some QVS weekly. At last living proof to my family that my stories are genuine!

All in all my visit to QVS was a very emotional experience never to be forgotten. I was very impressed by the modern methods applied to ensure a happy and secure environment for the boys and girls to ensure a good start in life, instilled with knowledge and confidence.

In closing however, I must say that although my time at QVS and the way I have described it



The School Marching past the Lord Provost of Dunblane at Church Parade in 1935.

may seem hard and even cruel in the minds of present day pupils, I certainly did not experience it as such. When I left in 1938 I had an Army Second Class Certificate and into the bargain I had been hardened mentally and



The Bathing Parade.

physically, preparing me to endure the hardships of the second World War and survive the POW camp in Korea.

To really understand our life at QVS in those

old days, one must place the events against the back ground of the times in which they took place. I have never looked back with anything but happy memories of my years spent there and with absolutely no regrets.

Obituaries

BRIGADIER LAWRENCE FOWLER M C

On 5 January 2000, Brigadier Lawrence Fowler, the Headmaster of Queen Victoria School from 1957 to 1963, died at the age of 81. His appointment as Headmaster was at short notice, prompted by the untimely death of his predecessor, Major L D Cowley, who collapsed and died while submitting his annual report during Grand Day Ceremonies in 1957. Lawrence Fowler was, however, an ideal choice to take over in a crisis and was to prove a most able and dynamic headmaster during his time at Queen Victoria School.

His early years gave no indication that he was to pursue a career of distinction in the Army and in Education. Born in 1918, he was educated at Kingston Grammar School, after which he began his working life as a

clerk in an insurance office. He was however, an able and determined scholar and overcame discouragement from his father to both gain a place at and finance reading English at Christ's College, Cambridge. The success he enjoyed as an undergraduate might have launched him in any number of different careers, but it was the coming of war which was to send him in a direction which was to give him great success and fulfilment. In 1940 he was commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army and after initial Service in India and in the north-west Frontier, he was sent to Burma where he spent the remainder of the war engaged on operations against the Japanese. A courageous and determined soldier, he was awarded the Military Cross for his role in leading his company in the capture of three strongly defended Japanese

bunkers during the battle of Kangaw, an action described in the official listing as one of the bloodiest of the whole Burma campaign. His action secured the final victory in a battle which is still celebrated by the Kumaon Regiment, as is Lawrence Fowler's part in the battle.

After VJ day, he served in Indonesia on anti-terrorist operations, before returning to Britain in 1946 and transferring to the Royal Army Education Corps. He subsequently served in a variety of appointments, including that of Chief Education Officer for the British Forces in Austria.

With the passage of time, it is easy to forget the impact the Second World War had on society's awareness of levels of educational achievement, and the effort which it prompted to improve these. Better-educated

officers and NCOs of what had become, by virtue of mass-mobilization, a de facto citizens' army, were exposed to men with limited education, many of whom were illiterate. It was the RAEC which founded the spearhead of the drive to do better for such men, through adult education. Men like Lawrence Fowler were at the forefront of this process, which continued through the National Service era and beyond. It gave him great vocational satisfaction to see soldiers' horizons and ambitions expand with learning.

It was this zeal and drive to give his charges the best of education and learning which he brought to Queen Victoria School. He was Headmaster for six years, a long period by the standards of a time at which the post was a Service appointment, to which and from which officers were posted as part of a wider career structure; it was not an appointment 'for life'. On his arrival, he saw the School as in need of change and set about a series of necessary reforms to transform it from what had been very much a military school, into more of a modern boarding school with a military tradition. He developed a sound, six-day routine and introduced many hobbies and recreations for pupils' leisure-time. He took a keen personal interest in every boy in the School and could speak with knowledge about any of them. His pastoral interest and devotion was manifest in his personally undertaking the work of careers adviser at the School. The notes in the Victorian of 1963 are more than usually warm in bidding him and his wife Helen, herself a novelist of distinction, farewell. He was evidently loved, as well as respected. His time at the School was also to give him and his family a lasting love of Scotland.

On leaving Queen Victoria School, he commanded the Army School of Education and his final appointment was as the Chief Education Officer for British Land Forces. In retirement he wrote a column in the Times Educational Supplement, was a regular contributor to the Spectator and New

Statesman and undertook a number of literary and historical research projects about, and in association with, Cambridge University.

Lawrence Fowler was tolerant, kind and friendly, devoted to helping pupils achieve their full potential. He had a personal drive and determination which enabled him to see things through in the face, at times, of strong opposition. A man of integrity and imagination, his vision and energy helped Queen Victoria School adapt to a changing world, without losing its traditional strengths and character. He had a rich and active life, from which the School was a principal beneficiary.

MR JOHN WILLMAN

John Willman, who taught at Queen Victoria School from 1964 to 1996 sadly died in July 1999 after a brief illness. John gave long and notable service to the School, primarily as a teacher of Latin, but also as Principal Teacher and as acting Deputy Head for two years. A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, he got the best from his pupils and invariably achieved excellent results. A graduate of St Andrews University, he was a gifted sportsman who coached QVS boys throughout his time at the School, variously in badminton, squash, tennis and rugby. He was also an enthusiastic fisherman and gardener.

A likable man with a dry, but well-directed sense of humour, John had the distinction of never having missed a day's work because of illness during his 32 years at the School. It is therefore, particularly sad that his retirement should have been so brief. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow Rhona and all of his close and devoted family.

1660 E.D. MULLEN

Ted left QVS in 1939, enlisting as a boy in the Royal Corps of Signals. His war service took him to the Middle East and, after qualifying as a parachutist, he took part in Special Forces operations in Force 133

deployed to the Aegean Sea. A letter from the C.O. of HM Schooner Catina commends him for his devotion to duty and his reliability when acting as 1st Lt, an unusual duty for a Royal Signals Sergeant as he was then, particularly as HMS Catina was engaged in gun running to the Greek Resistance. He parachuted into Greece on several occasions, was recommended for an M.M and was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945. He was commissioned in 1946 and left the Army in 1948.

Accountancy and a management post for 4 years in Northern Rhodesia were followed by posts in the motor industry. His last employment was as Divisional S.M. of the Corps of Commissionaires in Edinburgh. Ted retired through ill health in 1986 and sadly died on 4 January 2000. His wife, Agnes, commented on how proud he was of the School and how much he missed visiting it due to this health. His military service certainly showed what a good representative he was of QVS.

1758 R.F. POTTER

Joining the Royal Engineers as an apprentice surveyor in 1942, Ron spent his military service in the Ordnance Survey Department, Postings to Palestine, Egypt and Singapore were followed regrettably by a medical discharge in 1956. He was then employed by Post Office Telecommunications in their Sales Department. His health was never very strong and he passed away after a long illness on 29th April 1999.

2345 J.S. MCKELLAN

Almost immediately before going to print, we were advised by his OV son Ian (3951) that Jack had passed away on 18th April 2000 after several years of ill health. Jack left QVS in 1953 for a career in the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary as a marine engineer. He was of the Old School, very loyal and grateful for the start the School had given him.

2407 PIPE MAJOR A. MACDONALD MBE

Sadly the OZ99 Tour prevented the School from paying full piping honours to one of the Army's great Pipe Majors. Perhaps the respect in which we saw he was held in Australian piping circles is evidence enough of his fame and prowess. Angus was at QVS from 1949-53 and research in the 1950 edition of the Victorian already shows him as a winner of the Class C Chanter and Class C Dancing Competitions! Before he left to join the Scots Guards in 1953 he had advance to be Boy Pipe Major and was Best Piper and Best Dancer of the Year.

This was a pattern he followed through his army service which took him to France, Borneo, Malaya, Sharjah, Kenya, Germany and Northern Ireland over a 27 year period. By 1965 he was promoted to Pipe Major and Household Piper to HM The Queen. His regimental duties provided considerable teaching experience, leading to the Guards Depot Piping School and to the post of Senior Instructor at the Army School of Piping. He was promoted to WO1 in 1980 and appointed MBE in 1983. Retirement followed with further teaching in Oman, the USA and his ultimate appointment as Chief Instructor at the Glasgow Piping Centre. As well as teaching he was a prolific composer and he competed at the highest level, with a long list of piping championships between 1960-82. After his sad death at the age of 60 on 25th June 1999, the piping world,

both military and civilian, filled Glasgow Cathedral for both funeral and memorial services – fitting tribute to a great piper, Victorian and Scots Guardsman.

2433 E.G. CAMERON (GREENHORN)

Several years ago Eddie appeared at Grand Day as the typical Aussie, (bush hat adorned with corks) indicating his particular sense of humour; the middleman of three OV brothers, resident in Dunblane, he was at QVS from 1950-54, albeit surnamed Greenhorn at that time. The brothers emigrated to join the family in Australia/New Zealand in the 60s, changing to Cameron once settled. Eddie was involved in the catering industry but his most important task was to chair the OVA Australian Branch, an almost impossible role, given the problems of communicating, let alone meeting with OVs throughout Australia. Nevertheless he continued as focal point for OVs both living in and visiting down under until 1997 when pressure of business and ill health took over. Despite these problems he participated avidly during the OZ99 week in Sydney, particularly enjoying the final rugby victory. Eddie was intensely proud of the School as epitomised by a phone call made to the president of the OVA Association just before the OZ99 Tour party left Scots College. He apologised that business commitments prevented him from bidding farewell to the boys in person. He dictated a message for the boys, thanking

them on all their efforts during the Tour. That message was relayed to them on the bus as we approached Dunblane. On reflection, in view of Eddie's death on 21st September, he was bidding us a final farewell.

2638 D.J. MCARTHUR

Douglas was at QVS from 1954-59. On leaving school he joined the Royal Navy, serving on HMS Conway. He emigrated to Australia in 1967, initially working as a jackaroo on a sheep station. He then was employed at the Island Lagoon Deep Space Tracking Station at Woomera. Shortly after his marriage in 1971 he suffered a heart attack and despite surgery continued to endure continuing heart problems. He moved to Alice Springs to work at the Joint Defence Space Research Facility until 1999. Sadly his health deteriorated and he died on 31st August 1999. During his 16 years in Alice Springs he was prominent in the local community through membership of the Lions Club, the Scouting organisation and in fundraising for the Junior Ten Pin Bowlers.

**BURGESS
& GIBSON**
A PROGRESSIVE
INDEPENDENT COMPANY

Panasonic | Technics

45 HIGH STREET, DUNBLANE
Tel. [01786] 823176

PanaService for customer care

As an authorised
PanaService Dealer we
provide expert advice and
unparalleled after sales
service on Panasonic and
Technics Products

**Mairi's
Hair Design**

Closed Mondays, open late on Fridays
Wedding parties a speciality

Nine Springfield Terrace, Dunblane
TELEPHONE (01786) 824077

Staff list

HEADMASTER

B Raine BA (Hons) PGCE

D/HEADMASTER

C Philson BA (Hons) PGCE

BURSAR

I M McGregor MA (Hons)
Dip Mgmt

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Mrs A Hainey MA T Cert

HOUSEMASTERS/HOUSEMISTRESS

Cunningham H W G Tomkins
Haig J S Laing Dip Tech Edn
Trenchard G D M Carroll BA DCE PGCE
Wavell A MacDougall BEd

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

B Bauld BA Dip Ed Tech Cert TT
D Garden BSc (Hons) M Phil Dip Ed
D Gilhooly BA (Hons) Dip Ed
Mrs J Howie MA (Hons) Dip Ed
A M Kirk MA (Hons) PGCE Dip Ed Tech
J S Laing Dip Tech Edn
J Lawrence BSc (Hons) PGCE
D McLay BEd (Hons)
P Onslow FLCM LRSM A Cert CM Cert Ed
D Stewart BSc (Hons)

TEACHING STAFF

G Beattie MA MEd PGCE PGC in SPL
E Blackwood BEd
G Borking BEd BSc
G Carroll BA DCE PGCE
R Courtney BSc (Hons) PGCE
T A Dale BSc Cert Ed
J Johnstone MA (Hons) PGCE
T King BEd (Hons) T Cert
A MacDougall BEd
J McNally BA (Hons) Dip Ed
J Porter MA (Hons) PGCE
J Scott BEd (Hons)
T Shannon Dip Tech Edn HND Eng Mech
Rev J Silcox BD Cert PS CF TD (School Chaplain)
C A Taylor BSc (Hons) PGCE
W G Webster BA (Hons) DB Dip Ed
R Wright BA PGCE

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

C Sheerin BA (Hons) Dip Lib ALA

PART-TIME TEACHERS

S Johns Dip Ed (Learning Support)
L Thornton Dip Art & Design Grad CE (Art and Design)

VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS

S Armstrong Dip RSAMD
N Jenkins BA (Hons) M.Mus (RSAMD)
R M Jones BA (Hons) LTCL ALCM Cert Ed
J Petrie BA (Hons) ALCM
S Blackwood
C King BA (Hons) DRSAM

HOUSEMATRONS

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

HOUSE ASSISTANTS

H S Blyth
H R Duthie
K McVey
C E Cullen
D Henderson

HOSPITAL STAFF

Resident Hospital Sister
Hospital Auxiliary
Hospital Auxiliary

C A C Fitzgerald RGN RSCN
S Graham
H Heslop

UNIFORMED STAFF

School Sergeant Major
Pipe Major
Drum Major
Highland Dancing Instructor

D Duthie (late SG)
G R Ross (late Gordons)
H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
E M MacDonald

ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF

Estates Manager

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd)

Maintenance Supervisor

Personnel Officer

Finance Officer

Headmaster's Secretary

Local Purchasing Officer

Bursar's Secretary

School Secretary

Accounts Officer

J Sharp MBE

J Blythe

M Wallace

K Lawrie BA (Hons)

D G A Bryan

B Harrison

M Reid

A Macfarlane

M Symon



Established in Victorian Times



Still Serving in the Millennium

CATHKIN CLEAN

Laundry and Dry Cleaning

Tel: 0141 647 4601

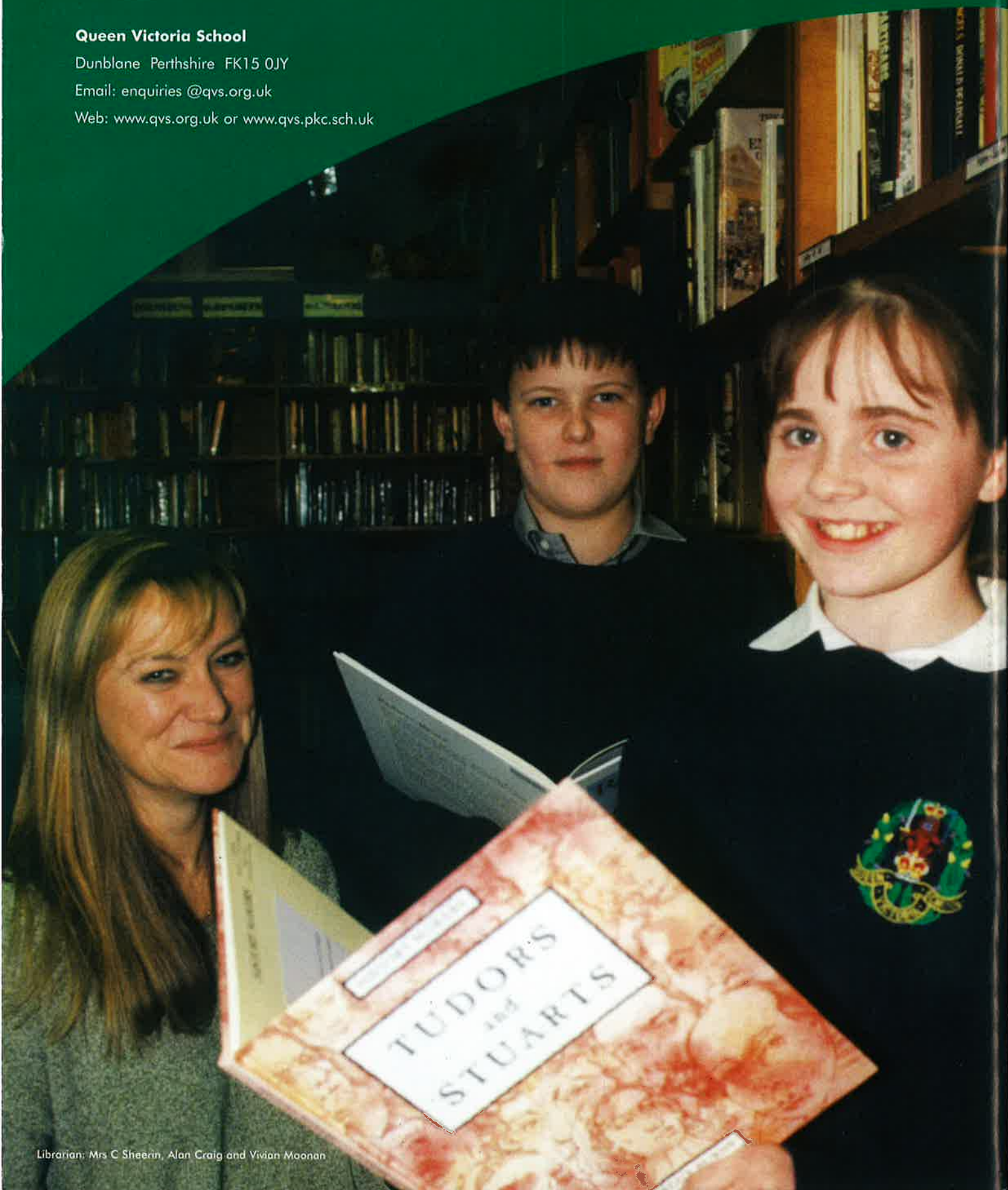


Queen Victoria School

Dunblane Perthshire FK15 0JY

Email: enquiries@qvs.org.uk

Web: www.qvs.org.uk or www.qvs.pkc.sch.uk



Librarian: Mrs C Sheerin, Alan Craig and Vivian Moonan