



THE Victorian 2001

Queen Victoria School



The new Millennium



Artwork: Iona Evenden S4 (top) Robert Kent S3 (bottom left & right)
Front Cover: Kathryn Trousdale after Grand Day
Back Cover: Amy Morton at Whitehouse Cadet Camp, Yukon, Canada



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.

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The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund activities report 2000

Parents, Pupils and Old Victorians will be aware of the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, which was established in 1994 by Mr Jack MacNeil of Connecticut USA, in memory of his father, Norman MacLeod MacNeil, who was a pupil at Queen Victoria School from December 1909 to July 1912.

Norman MacLeod MacNeil held the School in very great affection and considered that his subsequent success and prosperity, after emigrating to North America, was to a considerable extent the result of the good start in life he received as a pupil at Queen Victoria School. The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund was established so that subsequent generations of pupils at the School could share in his good fortune.

Each year the Trustees of the Fund allocate grants for the advancement of the general education of pupils and, in particular, to develop pupils' qualities of leadership, self-confidence and self-esteem through participating in physically demanding or cultural activities. Applications for grants are

made by pupils and put to the Trustees by the Headmaster, in consultation with the teaching staff of the School, and the final selection is made by the Trustees.

The range of grants and activities supported by the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is considerable. In 2000, a total of £3,255 was awarded in grants to a total of 17 pupils. Equipment was bought to support the School's team in the 2000 Highland Cadet Tactical Competition, a Cadet Force exercise in which schools from across Scotland enter teams and compete against one another in a tactical scenario. In the event, the QVS team did extremely well, coming 4th among entrants from the whole of Scotland.

Arron Uytendhal, Peter Humphries, Sam Fennell, and Chloe Johnston received grants to assist them in attending RAF Cadet Camp in Germany. David McDougall was given financial support for his participation in the Scottish Schools Orchestra Trust Summer School, which took place at, of all places, Queen Victoria School during the summer break.

Amy Morton was, however, the most widely travelled of this year's grant recipients, achieving the considerable honour of being given a place on a Combined Cadet Force exchange visit to Whitehorse Cadet Training Camp in the Yukon, Canada. Amy's own words in her report on her visit perhaps sum up the value that support from the Trust Fund



Members of the Lovat scout band with Norman MacLeod MacNeil on the left on their way through Vancouver to the Korean War (circa 1950)

can bestow on pupils: "Almost 4 months later, I still can't believe it is me in the photos and that I had such an amazing experience and taste of life at 16". A reaction like that is exactly what would have delighted Norman MacLeod MacNeil.

For 2001, pupils are being given support from the Trust to attend CCF Camp in Cyprus, to undertake GAP years in Australia and Zambia and to join the Great Britain Shooting Team in South Africa. The Fund represents

a great opportunity for pupils to stretch themselves, develop their characters in a positive and challenging way, and learn about life and people in a fashion that will stand them in good stead throughout their lives.

The Trustees are always looking to support pupils and are particularly keen to give assistance to pupils showing individual enterprise and an ambitious spirit of adventure. Participation in cultural activities is also an area of considerable interest to the

Trustees. Any pupil – or parent – interested in finding out more about the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund should contact the Headmaster or Bursar. Application forms for grants are available from the Bursar and the annual deadline for submission of grant requests is the close of the Autumn/Winter term each year, with bids being considered by the Trustees early in February the following year.

Headmaster's notes

Although I referred to it briefly in my last notes the Royal Tribute at Edinburgh for Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 100th birthday proved to be an even more spectacular event than I had imagined. There was a huge array of Pipe Bands and Military Bands mainly from Scotland but also from the Commonwealth.

Queen Victoria School provided the only Highland Dancing with 40 dancers and with an audience that really appreciated their performance it was, indeed, one of the highlights of the evening. Our Highland Dancers were not only a great hit with the audience but also with the Royal Party. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester and His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent both passed on to me their congratulations to the pupils and Mrs MacDonald, our Highland Dancing Instructor. The end of this session and the run in to the next will, of course, see Queen Victoria School Pipes and Drums, Colour Party and the Highland Dancers all perform in this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo. More of this next year!

Refurbishment programme

This year has also seen another major step forward in our boarding accommodation with the refurbishment of the top floor of the Main Building. This was completed in time for Cunningham to move in after the Christmas holidays. I am very pleased with the result and a number of visitors, including the Under Secretary of State Dr Moonie and the Adjutant

General Lt General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, who have seen the end result have been most impressed. It is, indeed, a great improvement and there is, undoubtedly, much more privacy and space for individuals, and a very good relaxed atmosphere with up to date sound proofed doors and a good colour scheme, chosen by the pupils. We have already started to dismantle one of the wings on the second floor and both wings will be refurbished in time for the start of the next session.

Although less spectacular but perhaps even more important for the future of the School is the fact that for our **Admissions Board** for entry in August 2001 we had 123 applications. This compared very favourably with 77 last year and 40 and 42 in 1993 and 1994 respectively. Unfortunately, because of our limited capacity we were only able to take 52 for August 2001.

Amongst our many **important visitors** to the School three stand out as having a significant impact. The visit by Dr Bonnie Dunbar, the astronaut, who spoke so well about her experiences on 5 space flights and captivated the large audience of pupils, firstly with her

presentation and, secondly, with the way she answered so many questions. The second visit was by Dr Moonie, the Under Secretary of State for Defence who said that he was most encouraged to see at first hand the excellent facilities that the School offers as well as the recent improvements; and he continued to say that he "was struck by the noticeably warm atmosphere shared by both pupils and staff". In addition he stated that from his visit he had gleaned "the importance of schools such as QVS to compensate for the instability of Service life".

The third visit was by the Adjutant General who commented that 'clearly developments are beginning to pay off in the new accommodation. . . and that 'QVS is attending to instability in the lives of many of its pupils.'

Unfortunately, as is well known by now, the **SQA examinations/results** process was thrown into disarray for the 2000 Diet of Exams. As I write we have still not had final statistics. However, our Standard Grade results were extremely good with 52.5% gaining at least 5 passes at Grades 1 and 2 and 90% gained 5 passes or more at Grades 1-3. In



Last year's school orderlies, l-r: Andrew Martin, Stuart Mooney.



Headmaster with School Monitors and Prefects, l-r: Back Row: Fiona Gannon, Alan Laws, Liam Dowdeswell, Paul Fleming, Stephen Tierney, Ciaran Flynn, Graham King, Laura Gale. Front Row: Chris Harris, Stuart Ruthven, Gareth Martin, Headmaster, Mhairi Henderson, Gary Houston, Nick Burge.

addition, there was a much bigger figure of Grade 1's - 28% compared with 17% last year. At Higher Grade 68% of our presentations were in the A-C category, a slight increase on last year.

The Pipe Band has had another busy year playing at the following Internationals: Scotland v. USA, Australia, Samoa, Wales and Italy. For those who do not attend Murrayfield, you may like to know that the marketing company has tried to dream up a different and more spectacular presentation each time using, for example, our Pipe Major as the lone piper in the top corner of one of the stands for the USA game and a number of pipers including our Pipe Major on the roof of another of the stands. What next?

In our first outside competition the Pipe Band came 9th out of 31 Pipe Bands in our grade. In addition the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers performed together at the Erskine Hospital Appeal Ball in Glasgow and the Opening Ceremony of the Global Citizenship 2000 Conference at Alva Academy.

Other engagements have included the Lord High Commissioners Dinner at Holyrood, the CCF Beating Retreat on the Esplanade at

Edinburgh Castle, the Faslane Fair and the Tattoo Reception in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle.

The Highland Dancing teams came 1st and 2nd at the Argyllshire Gathering, won the Alasdair McLean Challenge Cup and Chris Niven won the Poltalloch Cup. There were also some very good performances in the Highland Dancing at the Millennium Masters Competition from Andrew Martin, Leanne Bridgeman, Mhairi Toole, Claire Greenwood, Jamie-Lee Read and Sarah-Louise McDougall. At the Aberdeen Festival in April, Andrew Martin was joint winner over all (and overall boys winner) in the National competition for beginners.

There continues to be much **community involvement** through the **P7 Minstrels** performing at Erskine Hospital, the Red Cross Appeal in Stirling, the Family Ceilidh in Dunblane, Sauchie Parish Church and the Ladywell Kirk. The Director of Erskine Hospital commented that, "our residents thoroughly enjoyed their excellent performance and were delighted to see them all".

On the rugby front the 1st XV played 14, won 7, drew 1 and lost 6. In fact, the season

started extremely well with excellent victories against Madras 1st XV, Morrisons Academy 1st XV and Rannoch 1st XV. Thereafter, the continuity and team performance was not maintained but there was an uplifting victory against a Sedburgh 2nd XV and a rousing finish to the season against Kinross High School. Narrow losses against Strathallan 1st XV, Glasgow Ac 1st XV and Linlithgow Ac 1st XV illustrated what might have been.

The 1st XV captain, Chris Harris, represented the new organisation Caledonian Reds U.18; Chris Niven, Kris Reid, Adam Bott, Kris Edwards, Gerald Kerr, Michael Brown, Colin McDonald were all chosen for the Caledonia U.17 development squad and Liam Flynn and Paul Tyson were selected for the Central Crusaders.

The Hockey 1st XI have had an outstanding season playing 11, winning 9, drawing 1 and losing 1. The only game lost was against St Leonard's but there were excellent wins against a wide range of schools as will be seen from the list in the Hockey report. Once again, the side was captained extremely well by Lisa Milligan and there is no reason why this side should not go on to even better things as they will lose only 1 player this year and there are a

lot of good, younger players coming through.

The Highland Tac Team led by Stephen Tierney performed exceptionally well this year in the annual Scottish CCF/ACF competition: collectively, the team was simply the best Scottish School CCF team and 4th overall, an excellent result. Chloe Johnston and John Halley are also to be congratulated on being selected for the British Schools Shooting Team to tour South Africa at Easter. This continues an excellent tradition established at QVS, of representation at the highest level.

Cross-country has again seen a marked improvement this year, so it was disappointing that the Scottish Schools Championship were cancelled this year. However, we were successful in the following: in the relays at Fettes where the U.17 boys and the U.15 girls came 2nd. In the Spring Term QVS hosted a very successful afternoon of competitive races between Strathallan, Hutchesons, Rannoch, Glenalmond, Kilgraston and ourselves, in which Leanne Bridgeman came 2nd in the U.13 girls and David Honeyman and Cameron Gaff came 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the U.13 boys.

Athletics has been particularly successful this year with the following very good results; S1's – 1st against Hutchesons, St. Aloysius and Douglas Ac.; a draw in a senior competition with Strathallan; S3 girls winning at Glenalmond; S3 boys and girls coming 2nd against Dollar, Fettes, Strathallan and Glenalmond; S1 boys and S3 girls winning the Inter-District Championship and the Senior Relay Team coming 3rd in the Scottish Schools Relay Championships.

Charity work and fund-raising have played an increasingly strong role in the School. It was good to see Laurie Cairns' photo in the Stirling Observer to highlight our Shoebox Appeal. We had a number of swimming teams taking part in the Swimathon on behalf of Erskine Hospital and, more recently, the Lookey Likey Day for Multiple Sclerosis.

I have also been extremely pleased to see the **QVS Young Enterprise Company**

develop to be so successful under the Managing Director Laura Dunnachie. It was good to hear the outside advisers talk so positively about what those involved in the Company have done. I am sure that our senior pupils will have benefited positively from this experience.

I was also very pleased that Her Majesty's Commissioners suggested an **Art Competition** to be run between August and December 2000 and were willing to provide the money for the prizes which were presented at the School Christmas Dinner. It was evident that the pupils were very enthusiastic about the competition and it was good to see so much of their artistic work in the corridors of the Main Building. The opportunity was also used to frame some previous work which now decorates the Main Dining Room and other areas.

Drama also continues to develop with a presentation by S1 of "The Highwayman" and plays were performed by S2 and S3 groups. In addition, the School's Drama Group did extremely well creating an original script for a Scottish National Drama Competition for Human Values and, coming second in the finals. Amy Morton was awarded the prize for Best Actress and the School received the award for "Best Script".

The Windband continues to contribute substantially to the corporate life of the School by their involvement in Sunday Services, the Carol Service and the Christmas and Summer Concerts. However, the highlight of the winter term was the concert held in November in which Lynsey McAulay, Ciara Watson, Laura Wylie, Amy Morton and David McDougall took part. Ciara and David also were highly commended in the Bridge of Allan and Dunblane Rotary Club's Music Competition. Laura Wylie (descant recorder), Ciara Watson (flute), David McDougall all did well at the Glasgow Music Festival with David winning the Brass Solo A class.

We have already had a major **change in personnel** this session with the departure of the Bursar Ian McGregor who took up a

similar post at Erskine, Stewarts, Melville Schools on 1st May 2001. Ian McGregor joined QVS in July 1999 but in the short time he was here, he established his credentials well and much was achieved in a short space of time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for the excellent job he has done and wish him all the very best of luck in the real independent sector.

Peter Onslow, who joined us as Principal Teacher of Music in January 1996, unfortunately, leaves us in June 2001 to return to Switzerland, from whence he came. He has been instrumental in taking Music to a new dimension in this School with the Windband, and the varied range of concerts. In addition, he has introduced Studio Management and Computerised Sound Recording at Higher. On the extra curricular side he has been involved in Wavell as a House Tutor and "bravely", stayed on when the House became all girls. As officer-in-charge of the Army Section he has also contributed substantially to CCF as well as encouraging pupils to have a go at one of his other passions, parachuting. As can be seen, he is not just a specialist musician and an excellent organist but has contributed substantially to community life and extra-curricular activities. This is also a double blow in that we will also be losing Jo, his wife, who has been teaching in the Primary Department this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his unique contribution to the School and wish Peter and Jo all the best on the slopes.

Another member of staff leaving at the end of the summer term will be our Geography teacher, **Ruth Courtney**. Again, her stay with us at QVS has been all too short, having joined us in August 1999. Apart from her subject specialism, she has contributed extremely well in a number of areas: to skiing, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, music and the horse-riding hobby. She is leaving us for the very best of reasons; she is to be married in the summer holidays and will live in Aberdeen. We wish Ruth all the best and every happiness in married life.



Gap Students, l-r: Crystal Taylor, Sean Baxter, Richard Wilson, Peter North.



Headmaster with School Orderlies, l-r: Ashleigh Hughes, Headmaster, Sarah-Louise MacDougall.

Mark O'Malley, sadly, had to retire because of medical reasons in December 2000 after 16 years service as our joiner and general handy-man. He will be sorely missed because he did a tremendous amount in the School to keep on top of the innumerable jobs that crop up from day to day. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Our new recruits this year have been Mrs Rose Ainslie in the Estates Office replacing Eleanor Brailsford in January and our new Bursar, John Drysdale who started in May. The new GAP students for 2001 are as follows: Richard Wilson from Scotch College Perth (Cunningham), Sean Baxter from Marist College, Brisbane (Haig), Peter North from Scotch College, Melbourne (Trenchard), Crystal Taylor from PLC Warwick, Queensland (Wavell). It would be impossible and improper of me to

conclude without some words of appreciation. I continue to be impressed by the commitment, care, energy and generosity of all our staff – whether on the teaching or non-teaching side. There are tasks and additional burdens that have been assimilated by many and yet they are accepted as part of the norm. All staff contribute so much to the multitude of activities and events that occur in the School on a regular basis throughout the academic session. It is also the same staff that have to cope with the vicissitudes of life within a boarding school. All deserve my thanks for constantly trying to achieve the very best for the pupils under our care.

My thanks are also due to Gareth Martin, the Senior Monitor, the other Monitors and School Prefects for their work on the School's behalf. At a time when authority in all aspects of life is

under threat, the Monitors and Prefects do a remarkably good job in difficult, modern, politically correct times. Gareth has done an excellent job and I wish him well in his GAP year at Marist College, Brisbane.

I would also like to thank the Commissioners and, in particular, Lt Gen Sir John MacMillan, the Chairman and Mrs Nan Howe, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for their loyal support and the work they do on behalf of the School throughout the year.

Tiger Woods at the Sports Personality of the Year said that he could always get better and that at the end of each tournament he asks himself, "what can I learn from that to improve"? Quite clearly, we cannot all be replicas of Tiger Woods but we can, pupils and staff, learn from what we have done and improve.



Colour Party, l-r: Headmaster, Ashleigh Hughes, Andrew Reith, Colin McDonald, Nick Burge, Adam Bott, Jamie Graham, Sarah-Louise MacDougall, SSM. Mr Duthie.

Bursar's notes

The past year has been another busy and varied one for the support staff of the School. The summer break, hitherto an opportunity to catch up with maintenance and tasks which were performed pushed to one side during the hurly burly of term time, has become as busy as any during the School calendar.

This summer promises to be particularly busy; the School will be hosting a visit from Scots College in Sydney, providing residential accommodation and facilities for 3 summer schools and accommodating 65 pupils returning early to take part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Thus the seven week 'break' will offer only 5 working days in which the School is genuinely 'empty'! The modern day pressures to generate marginal income leaves little room for respite, and the support staff do extremely well to sustain the additional workload this imposes. It sometimes seems that because the School never stands still, its support staff can never stand still either.

Challenges successfully met this year have included preparing for Investors in People re-accreditation, completing the initial phase of the Main Building boarding accommodation refurbishment, coping with a notably severe

winter and handling the complexities of an ever-evolving (and ever more complex) system of financial management within the Ministry of Defence. The Estate Manager and his team have transformed the top floor of the Main Building into accommodation which any school in the country would envy. Indeed by the time the refurbishment programme is complete, there can be little doubt that QVS will have accommodation second to none in Scotland.

Staff changes have been few, but one which certainly warrants mention is the retirement of Mark O'Malley as the School's carpenter. Sadly, Mark had to retire on the grounds of ill health, his arthritis having defeated his determined efforts to continue at work. After 16 years of service, he will be sorely missed and everyone at the School wishes him well in his retirement.

On a more encouraging note, the School's Closed Circuit Television system has proved a great asset, enhancing our security provision enormously. No system can be absolutely foolproof, but the installation of the cameras has led to a marked reduction in the level of low grade, nuisance incidents, which have in the past been a source of irritation to staff and pupils alike. The system greatly extends the supervisory reach of our security staff and is a reassurance to pupils and parents that we take security very seriously at the School.

So, another quietly efficient and effective 12 months has been put in by the School's unsung heroes, clerking, storing, repairing, cleaning, cooking, building, healing and guarding – and very much more besides. Doubtless the year to come will be just as hectic.

Ian McGregor



Young Enterprise

Enterprising and Young equals Young Enterprise

In keeping with the Scottish Executives policy of providing Education for Work, Mrs Hainey introduced the first Young Enterprise programme into QVS during this past session 2000-2001. This involved a partnership between the school, Forth Valley Enterprise Business Partnership and Scottish Amicable.

The programme allows some members of the upper school to engage in setting up and running a business. Those involved are required to register as a company and design and produce a product which is then sold, hopefully for a profit. The profit motive, although assuming importance in the company, is not the main objective of the programme. Of more importance in the programme are the processes, which members of the company go through and each individual's part played in the process. From the 'birth' of the company and raising capital through shares, to the design of the product, day to day running of operations, through to the marketing of their idea to final winding up of the company, each member has to play a significant part to ensure success.

At inception the company organised itself into departments with each member having a particular responsibility. A Managing Director was elected along with a Company Secretary. The departments included Human Resources, Marketing, Finance, Sales and Operations and each member was assigned to a post. The team was picked. This done the ensuing months saw arguments, discussions, negotiations, delegation and organising, standpoints being taken and then subsequent repositioning on consideration of other facts/ peoples points of view; in short, everything

that goes on in a business.

The following is the Managing Director's summary of the company's progress over the period:

Our first task was to name the company and after much discussion settled on 7even. Next came the moment of having to decide on a product. Reaching agreement here was much harder. So much 'shooting down' ideas and too many fragmented inputs highlighted just how we, as a team, had not 'gelled together' at this point. We realised this and decided that we must work well as a team, with positive attitudes, if this company was going to succeed. The idea of personalised pint glasses found favour and on the back of this we were to set about making our fortune.

We conducted market research which suggested that we had found a sound product. This gave us an added incentive to put a bit more effort into our idea. On top of this, as a group, we had become more comfortable with each other. By Spring we ran into problems. It would seem the demands of running the company combined with the lack of sales activity, along with the high cost of production had had a demoralising effect. What were we to do now?

At successive meetings it emerged that what was needed was a repositioning of our ideas.

A relaunch!! Yes, that was the answer. Keeping the basis of our product (using pint glasses) we set about turning them into ornaments. Mothers Day was approaching which would provide an ideal market. That very night we produced prototypes: with renewed belief and enthusiasm massive sales were to be realised. In fact, we made more in 1 week selling these than we did in 4 months selling the other product.

We have now some £345.00 to distribute between ourselves and the shareholders of the company. This represents a 57% profit on all activities engaged in.

Over the past few months we have learned how difficult it is to run a company successfully. We have experienced high and low points. We have learned how to work as a team and the value of this.

I hope that Young Enterprise will continue in the future, as it is a great experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Link Teacher (Mr Wright) and the Link Advisors Karen McTaggart Forth Valley EBP and Alan Thomson and Simon White from Scottish Amicable as they gave us guidance throughout the year.

Laura Dunnachie (Managing Director)

Cunningham House

Once again the time has arrived when I have the opportunity to review the past year in the house and reflect on the many aspects that affect both boys and staff.



Cunningham House staff and pupils

Without doubt the move upstairs to the new refurbished accommodation was a highlight for most, except the unlucky sixteen boys who had to stay downstairs in the old south dormitory. The selection for the honour of staying downstairs was a tricky, highly sensitive, diplomatic feat, entailing selection by year and a large portion of bribery on my part ("the boys have been promised the pick of the single rooms in August").

The rest of the house settled into the accommodation and quickly transformed the place from a sterile, freshly painted environment to a homely, quieter house that adds a new dimension to the boys' quality of life. The appearance throughout the corridors of flowers, plants and pictures combined with new curtains did puzzle the boys a bit; do we really need them?' was the question. Boys eh!

This summer sees the refurbishment of the middle two dorms, which will complete the new set-up in Cunningham. I would like to thank Col. Sharp and Mr. Blyth for their constant liaison and support during the build-up to our move in January.

Our social calendar was as busy as usual encompassing discos, cinema/theatre and shopping trips and the highlight of 2000, our visit to Alton Towers Theme Park in June. This was an excellent run out for the boys and my thanks go to Mr. McLay and his wife Sarah for accompanying me and helping staff the visit. As the trip was such a success we intend to travel down to the park again this year in June.

In December Aaron Ross, our gap student from Brisbane, left us and was replaced in January by Richard Wilson from Perth W.A. My thanks go to Aaron for all his contributions and our best wishes for the future. Richard has already settled in well and, hopefully, will have a happy and fulfilling year at Q.V.S.

My thanks are also extended to all of the House Team who have offered me support throughout the year. I appreciate all their efforts and personal input as I hope do the boys. I would especially like to mention Mr. Duthie, my Assistant Housemaster, and Mrs McVey, Matron's assistant for their continuing commitment and encouragement over the year. A special thanks also go to the

many parents who not only support the House Team but also are sympathetic towards our collective aim of creating a happy and safe environment for their children. To achieve this collective aim I am supported daily by Mrs. Tomkins, the House Matron, who is not only responsible for my morale but because of her daily contact with the boys and staff is very perceptive in knowing when we all need a little encouragement and TLC!

To end I thought it might be of interest to readers if I published some of the requests I have received over the year during our House council meetings. These meetings provide a forum for the boys to express their views on any aspect of life in the House:

- Can the girls visit the house?
- Can we have pot noodles in the tuck shop?
- Can we have a jelly bean machine?
- Could prep time be shortened?
- Can we have a trampoline in the T.V. room?

B. Tomkins
Housemaster
Cunningham House

The boys' perspective

Out of the blue, Drummie told us to write an article for "The Victorian". So we knocked our heads together and came up with a little something and here it is.

This has been another year of prosperity in Cunningham House. There have been countless excursions to the theatre, Alton Towers, the cinema and discos to mention but a few.

In December, Wavell accompanied us on a trip to the Edinburgh Playhouse to see 'Saturday Night Fever'. It was greatly enjoyed by almost everyone but became a little tedious after Miss Blackwood bought the soundtrack and played it on the bus all the way back to School!

In June, we hope to go to Alton Towers again. This is a result of last year's success which, unlike the theatre trip, was enjoyed by all except Drummie who was too scared to go on any of the rides!

In March, Drummie took a risk by allowing Gareth and Stewart to organise the sound and light equipment, along with the music, for our Easter disco. It was also their debut performance as 'superstar DJ's'.

The House has been run smoothly this year by the four Senior Prefects: Kris 'Exaggerator' Edwards, who turns up for duty every now and again; Jamie, the 'tuck-shop muncher', Graham, who never seems to be out of the tuck-shop; Steve 'Maverick' Tierney whose determination to prove his point is often a source of irritation to the House Team and Gareth 'Sound and Light' Martin who, although House Captain, does no duties because of 'other responsibilities'.

The highlight of the year was clearly the move upstairs into the new accommodation. The day after we arrived back from the Christmas holidays was chaos. There were traffic jams on the stairs and dodgems in the corridor as everyone was desperately trying to get to their new 'five star' accommodation. Once we had

settled in, Steve's room became known as 'The Travelodge' because of his two beds, fridge and mini-kitchen, which was always a reliable source of food! Gareth's room became known as 'The Monastery of Sound'. Due to copyrighting it couldn't be called 'The Ministry of Sound!' (a famous nightclub in London).

Our most heartfelt thanks go out to the House Team for helping to make our last year in the School a memorable one. We also want to thank, in particular, Mr & Mrs Tomkins, Mr Duthie, Mrs McVey and Mr Wilson for all their hard work in the House. Without them the House wouldn't have run so smoothly. Most importantly, thanks to the boys for always giving us a challenge and keeping us on our toes!

We'll miss you all and we'll be thinking of you when we're lying on the beach in Australia!

All the best,

Steve Tierney and Gareth Martin

Haig House

Haig House Rules OK?

As another year draws to a close and those who have finished their sentences are released, I look forward to welcoming new Haig House members who will be joining us in August. In particular, I am especially pleased to announce the imminent arrival of a new pool table and air hockey game just in time for the holidays and my exclusive use. For those inmates coming up to Haig, a few ground rules to help your transition from one house to another (in no particular order) . . .

1. Thou shalt have no other Haig Housemaster except me - sorry, that's the way it is.

2. Remember the Sabbath day and do not try to skive chapel by any of the following means:

- pretending someone has stolen thy kilt
- waiting till everyone has gone in and then pretending there are no seats left
- saying that thou have great admiration for Richard Gere and have also turned to Buddhism

3. Honour thy Housemaster and Housematron or thou will not get sweeties from the tuckshop or a clean pair of socks in thy pigeon-hole.

4. Thou shall kill thyself laughing when Mr Laing tries to crack a funny in the office.

5. Thou shalt not steal along the corridor to another dorm after lights out or hell-fire and brimstone will rain down upon you from the

Housemaster in his stealth shoes.

6. Thou shalt not give false testimony along the lines of "it wisnae me . . . it wis him."

7. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's boxer shorts/Toploader CD/Championship Manager game or thy Housemaster will sayeth: "Gonnae no dae that."

8. Thou shalt not make a graven image of the Haig Housemaster with specs and a bald head even if it is worth a credit grade in art.

9. Thou shalt not nick thy neighbour's girlfriend or the ten plagues of Egypt will be called down upon you . . . or he might just not speak to you for a couple of days.

10. Thou shalt not call thy Housemaster's name in vain unless it is the utmost importance
e.g. "Sir! Hearts have just scored . . ."

And the one commandment that MUST be obeyed before all others

11. Thou shalt not nutmeg the Haig Housemaster during the staff/pupils football league or thy will knock and the tuckshop door shall not opened onto you.

Matron's Beatitudes

Blessed are those who turn up for shoe inspection with their own shoes and don't try to pass off someone else's clean shoes as their own, for they will inherit a pat on the head

and be congratulated as a 'good lad.'

Blessed are those who get their dirty clothes handed in time for they will inherit a clean set and a metaphorical halo in Matron's eyes.

Blessed are those whose kilts are the correct length for then the wrath of the SSM will not be visited upon Matron on Parade Day and she will be in a good mood for the rest of the week.

Blessed are those who wear their jeans more than once before chucking them in the wash, for this will lighten Matron's burden.

Blessed are those who do not play football in the dorms for they will not have to tap their parents for money for a new window.

Blessed are those who do not pester Matron for garter flashes at 10.55 on a Sunday morning, for they will not be told exactly where those garter flashes should go.

Blessed are those who keep their bunks tidy, empty their bins and clear their desk tops on a Monday morning, for they will not have a thunderbolt visited upon them from Mrs Duthie and Mrs Henderson.

Blessed are those who do not run about going: 'Ooooh Matron!' in a Kenneth Williams voice for Matron does not like a Carry-On in the corridor.

Steve Laing
Haig Housemaster



Haig House staff and pupils

Kettles & Co

As a 'rookie' matron starting off in 1999 with 69 boys in my care, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. With half a year remaining for the sixth year at that time, my wise Housemaster said: "Concentrate on the 4th year - they're the future top boys and monitors of QVS."

Really?? They were squirting toothpaste at each other, swinging on their bunk curtains like Tarzan and coming back from the showers sporting shaving-foam beards and afro hairstyles. That lot! Responsible? Head cases more like. But here we are in 2001 and, yes, they've made it, contributing the best of themselves to QVS.

Magic moments include:

- Chris, Stuart and Darren dancing at HMQE the Queen Mother's 100th birthday celebrations in front of royalty at Edinburgh Castle. They wanted the best and they got it.
- switching on the TV, not to watch the Scottish rugby internationals at Murrayfield, but to catch a glimpse of the Pipe Band in which Paul, Gary, Liam and Wayne were playing.
- the night I was feeling very, very low and Ciaran, straight off the rugby field, couldn't wait to cut his birthday cake. He used a ruler to cut a slice of cake and gave it to me

with mud encrusted hands: "just to cheer you up".

- David Kelly being sick after a 'Papa's pizza' and using a Hoover to clean it up.
- impromptu music gigs in my office with Liam, David and Alex, the guitar-playing, song-writing Irish gothic.
- being proud of hearing Gary, Darren and Ciaran going off to help the disabled swimmers and visiting the old soldiers at Erskine Hospital.
- always knowing when Peter, Wayne and David B were in the house by the noise of their music.
- the violin renderings of Ross.
- the brilliant skits made up by the Christmas quiz including Frazer, Ross, Peter and Alex and their interchangeable personas. And the Laing family impersonators with Ciaran, as Skye the dog and Gary as Mrs Laing, anatomically correct! Gary 'just call me Lily Savage' Houston obviously enjoys dressing up as a woman as he appeared on 'look-a like day' as Mrs Howie.
- Graham the wise-cracking rugby king motivating the youngsters and also blinding them with his white legs and bringing tears

to their eyes with his tight shorts.

- Chris 'Head of the House' Harris being picked for the Caley Reds and the Scottish Schools athletics team. A big step (it was the long jump!).
- Alan G, the baby of his year telling me that although he is the youngest, he's also the cleverest!
- John and Stuart representing the school abroad and winning medals for competitive shooting.
- the pride on Nick's face, being in charge of the Colour Party, and directing Alan L and Paul in their Youth Enterprise Scheme. Alan, incidentally, hasn't stopped smiling since being given his trews and probably sleeps in them.

There will be a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye when I see 'my boys' marching in their last Grand Day parade. No longer will I be worried about the length of their kilts or if their shoes shine which is all part of being well turned out on that special day.

All I'll see is the pride they carry with themselves into the future.

Helen Kettles
Haig Housematron

Trenchard House

Scene: harassed Housemaster in office frantically trying to meet deadline

Right; House notes need to be done. Let me see, what did we get up to this year? Suppose I'd better mention the new House. It really is a spanker of a place to work in.

KNOCK KNOCK

What is it Tommy?

Sir, can we get a chippy run tonight?

Aye, well we'll see Tommy. It'll depend on how the tidy up goes tonight.

Now, where was I? Ah yes, House notes. We'd quite a few trips as usual. (Gets distracted by fracas outside of House office)

Dean, why on earth are you trying to poke William in the eye?

Sir (said with great indignation) William keeps trying to trip me up.

I didn't sir, honestly (said with even greater indignation). He's been calling me names all day!

Now I've told you before (said with affected patience through gritted teeth) two wrongs do not make a right, so try to be more tolerant with each other. If you don't behave you wont get a chippy later on!

Now, let's try again. I'll mention the Christmas

party, Bonfire Night and Hallowe'en. Door suddenly barges open.

Sir! Sir!

Calm down Phil and try not to shout, I can feel a headache coming on!

I booked the Playstation next, but Alistair's not letting me on 'cause I wouldn't let him play with my micro scooter last December!

Phil, it's April for heaven's sake! What are you on about?

But sir!

Okay, okay I'll sort it out.

Returns to office fifteen minutes later with high blood pressure.

Phew! Let's get on. Loads of Murrayfield trips this year and a great night out at Saturday

Night Fever. How will I fit that in? Rumbling of a stampede comes trundling down the stairs, accompanied by shrieks and screams.

Hoi! Cool it you lot! What's going on?

Sir! The S1's are doing a Rookie round up! (said with glee!)

Oh they are, are they? I'll soon see about that!

Twenty minutes later, near a state of total

exhaustion Housemaster returns to the office.

Right, let's see, ah yes, mustn't forget the vote of thanks to everyone.

Another knock on the door.

What is it? (said very grumpily)

Sir?

Hi Lindsey, what can I do for you?

Do you want me and the other girls to organise the chippy run, pick the video for tonight and start getting the wee ones ready for their showers and inspection?

Lindsey, that would be great. Thanks a lot.

Forty minutes later the House is nice and tidy, shoes are all polished, all the young ones are showered and in their PJ's and they're munching into their chippies.

I've not got much further with my notes, but I have noticed that we've got a good set of pupils in the House (by and large), a reliable group of junior prefects and a cracking bunch of senior prefects – thanks Lins, Amy, Lauren, Laura, Chloe and Emma.

Thanks also to the House Team.

Midnight-all's quiet-going to my bed!

G.C.

Trenchard House staff and pupils



Wavell House staff and pupils

Wavell House

Another year has zipped by in Wavell in a blur of interior decoration, trips, events and new hairstyles.

The 'Wavell Entertainment Committee' (or Miss MacDougall as she prefers to be known) organised lots of trips to suit as many tastes and pockets as possible. We've been sailing Loch Katrine on the Maid of the Loch, cheering the (gorgeous) dancers at 'Oh What a Night', wailing in style at the Halloween party, thrilled by Santa Claus, bouncing like maniacs on the bouncy castles at the barbecue and screaming our heads off at M&D's theme park. All that of course had to be fitted in between cinema trips, swimming, discos and last but not least . . . shopping.

All this could not have taken place without our loyal staff, so this year we thought we'd like to take the opportunity to thank them for all they do for us with our own special award ceremony to celebrate the **'Wonders of Wavell'**.

The first award is the 'Barrs – made from Girders Cup', awarded to Miss MacDougall for keeping the profits of our national drink afloat (almost) single-handedly. And that's not to mention her hard work in the field of Mars Bars consumption.

The next prize is the 'Willie Wonka Award', presented to Ms Taylor for her fireless endeavors to provide us with as much chocolate as possible, in her revamped tuck shop.

Miss Johnston makes us extremely proud to hold on to the 'Lee Evans Trophy' for unparalleled clumsiness, whatever the task. We would like to think she retains the title through dedication to a grueling training schedule, but she assures us she is just a natural!

Miss Scott retains the 'Nike Cup' – a special award for sportsmen and women everywhere who have achieved the ultimate accolade of their career, managing to own a pair of trainers to co-ordinate with every outfit they own.

Miss Blackwood has scooped a new award this year 'The Eminem Stan Medal' for truly devoted fans the world over. Despite the changing tides in music (invention of taste) Miss B has loyally supported Sir Cliff Richard since . . . at least the dawn of time.

Mrs Thornton is this year's proud winner of the 'Rolf Harris Cup', presented to people who have offered wild and wonderful artistic creations to walls everywhere.

Mr Onslow is the current champion of the 'Yves St Laurent Award' for dedicated followers of fashion. Whether in combat gear or silver lame he is a true inspiration for fashionists everywhere. When he leaves us it

will be a sad day for style at QVS . . . and we are sure Switzerland won't know what has hit them.

Mrs MacDonald holds this year's 'Michael McFlatley Trophy' – well known for her dulcet tones. She can often be heard encouraging pupils with, 'arms up! elevation! knees back!'

Finally we'd like to mention Miss Courtney, our most recent member and, sadly, one whose had the shortest stay. In honour of her time here we'd like to present her with 'The Confetti Award' and wish her all the very best for her forthcoming marriage.

As well as the House Staff, there are other people who ensure that Wavell runs smoothly, so we'd like to present Mrs Kean and Mrs Blyth with the 'Persil and Pledge Shield' for making sure that Wavell House and Wavell girls continue to maintain the highest standards at Queen Victoria School.

A final thanks has to go to the prefects and tuck shop girls who work so hard and that's just when they are trying to put P7 to bed! Their help around the house is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Mhairi and her team for all they do.

Have a great summer everyone, see you next year!

Rugby

2000-2001

It was always going to be a difficult season with so many of last year's heavyweights leaving school. It was always going to be hard going up front due to our lack of bulk and height but on the whole I was pleased with the way the players responded to the challenge.

Chris Harris played for Caledonia Reds U18. C Niven, K Reid, A Bott, K Edwards, G Kerr, M Brown and C MacDonald have all been chosen for the Caledonia U17 Development Squad. L Flynn and P Tyson were also selected for the Central Crusaders.

Players who were involved throughout this season were:-

Backs: C Harris (Captain), W Ratcliffe, K Edwards, K Reid, M Roessler, G Houston, M Brown, A Gault, L Dowdeswell, C Small, R O'Donnell, J McIntyre, N Thomson.

Forwards: G King, P Fleming, G Martin, A Bott, S Patience, C MacDonald, C Niven, A Laws, N Burge, L Flynn, C Flynn, P Tyson, G Kerr, P Flaherty, J Patience.

Madras College 1st XV: 26-21 (W)

This was always going to be a difficult encounter so early in the season, and so it was to prove. We matched them up front despite a marked difference in the size of our packs. Our backs played well and were a constant threat, despite an opposition back division that looked more than useful. A tough match, but an excellent start to the season.

Kinross High School 1st XV: 24-10 (W) Scottish Schools Cup.

After the good win against Madras we went to Kinross full of confidence but, on reflection, perhaps too confident. We had suffered some injuries to the side that beat Madras, which disrupted our game plan but we did not play well. Too often we allowed a big, lumbering pack to win possession and our backs stood off their opposite numbers to an alarming degree. After half time we began to play some good attacking rugby and ran out easy winners. Thus began a spell of injuries that was to cause us problems up until the Christmas holidays.

Morrisons Academy 1st XV: 30-29 (W)

This was one of the best matches of the season. Our forwards played really well against a very big Morrisons pack and secured a lot of ball which gave our backs the chance to attack. The game was very finely balanced when a very late try and conversion secured the game for us in the dying seconds.

Rannoch 1st XV: 26-10 (W)

Having suffered more injuries in the very physical match against Morrisons, it was with

some trepidation that we made the journey north to Rannoch. Again we were up against a big heavy pack, but we managed to hold our own and the forwards provided the backs with quality ball to attack. Several more injuries, some of which looked serious, allowed the opposition to come back into the match. However, a great forward effort and our superiority in the backs won through in the end. This was an excellent effort.

Strathallan 1st XV : 7 -12 (L)

We managed to get some of our walking wounded fit for this cup match against Strathallan, a side that are never easy to beat. The pace at which they played took us by surprise at first, but we soon began to get into the match. A very courageous performance by our makeshift pack gave our backs the opportunity to take the game to Strathallan. It quickly became obvious that the only difference between the two sides was the ability to finish moves with a score. Having only been in our half once in the second half, Strathallan scored the vital winner.

Madras College 1st XV: 7-40 (L)

We assumed that because we had beaten this



Rugby 1st XV team 2000-2001

side earlier in the season that they were going to allow us to just turn up and do the same. We were in for a nasty shock! Although we dominated the game for the first 20 minutes, we did not score a point. Then we allowed ourselves to be completely outplayed in every aspect of the game.

Morrisons Academy 1st XV: 22-20 (W)

Neither side dominated this game and some good defensive work in particular kept us in the game. We improved our game in the second half and just when it looked like we were going to lose the match to a well worked Morrisons try, with a minute to go, we won the game with a try of our own! A very satisfying result.

St Columbas 1st XV: 14-14 (D)

Again we were up against a well drilled and

heavier pack. We did well to secure as much ball as we did up front, and the backs were unlucky not to score on several occasions. This was a very scrappy game with both sides failing to dominate. In the end a draw was probably a fair result.

Glasgow Academy 1st XV: 7-12 (L)

This was one of our best performances of the season. We matched an impressive pack and a combination of good defence and bad luck prevented us from scoring on several occasions. Glasgow Academy were a good side but, considering the atrocious conditions, we more than held our own. It was a very disappointing result for what was an excellent effort by the whole side.

Sedburgh 2nd XV: 13-7 (W)

This was, undoubtedly, the high point of the

season. This side hadn't been beaten in five years and thought that they were in for yet another victory. How wrong they were! We dominated from the first whistle and only resolute defending and, at times, poor decision making, prevented us from scoring several tries. It was to be Simon Patience's last game for the school and he was outstanding throughout. Our back row gave Sedburgh a torrid time and we came through with a well deserved victory.

Loretto A XV: 0-25 (L)

Yet again our ability to self destruct when things weren't going well came to the fore in this match. This led in the end to defeat and the least said about this match the better!



Chris Harris, captain of 1st XV who represented Caledonia U.18's

Linlithgow Academy 1st XV: 10-18 (L)

Once again injuries to key players was to cost us dear. Linlithgow were one of the most impressive sides we played this season, especially up front. They used their big pack well and, for the first time this season, we were dominated in the line out. With grit and determination we stuck to our task, but we could not match their power in the forward exchanges. Linlithgow were worthy winners.

Robert Gordons College A XV: 0-31 (L)

Having had to depart for Aberdeen at 0645 hrs it was disappointing that the match degenerated so badly. The match itself was full of handling errors, with little in the way of flowing rugby and skillful play.

Kinross HS 1st XV: 58- 0 (W)

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! A very satisfactory way to end a very difficult season.

Conclusion

Having lost a considerable number of the players that I would have considered to be the mainstays of this year's side, both in experience, but also in height and bulk, the players who stepped into the breach have to be given great credit for the way they remained totally committed. 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 also like to thank all my fellow coaches: Mr Raine, Mr McLay, Mr McNally, Mr Gilhooley, Mr Philson, Mr Carroll and Mr Beattie, (all of whom give up a great deal of their spare time), for their considerable efforts on behalf of all the players this season. Last, but not least, I would like to thank all the Gap Students who have been always willing to assist in any way they can.

2ND XV RUGBY

Review of the Season

It has been a mixed season which has made it quite interesting (spot the euphemism). I don't think I've experienced a more disrupted season than this one with ten matches cancelled. We have suffered: injuries, illness, cancelled matches due to the weather, the opposition being unable to field a team, players moving up to the 1st XV . . . the list is endless. However, there is much to gain from this season in terms of players' development; it looks quite positive for next season.

We had two captains during the season – Gerald Kerr for the first half of the season (he then moved up the 1st XV) and Callum Small for the second half of the season. Both were exceptional in their role.

During the first half of the season we were lucky to have our New Zealand GAP student, Tim Belcher as our assistant coach and in the second we had another GAP student, a fellow Aussie of mine, (and a Queenslander at that), Sean Baxter to work with the backs. Beauty Mate!

What follows is a brief summary of the matches we were able to play in and, although the victories do not outnumber the losses, the real positives come from the development of the players.

Lomond School U.16 (H): 17-19

This match was there for the taking, but we lost concentration in the last quarter and, therefore, lost the match . . . very frustrating! (A lesson to

be learned in concentration).

Madras College (H): 20-17

A tough game with a well-earned victory for us. Although we took the game to them we were down 10-12 at halftime due to some silly errors, lack of concentration and fitness. My 'talk' at half time paid off and we were able to run in another two tries. Tries were scored by Brown, McIntyre, Reid and Flaherty.

We should have won the game in the first half, but we needed the finishing touches and to focus for the full 80 minutes and be positive at all times.

Morrison's Academy (H): 17-10

This proved to be a very physical game. The first half saw two unconverted tries by our opposition and we responded with a converted try. Again, the half time talk motivated the team and focused them on what was needed for victory. Two more tries in the second half meant a well-earned victory for us. Very positive.

Madras College (A): 7-24

Our first game since 9th September and it was difficult to put a side together because of injuries. Jamie Graham jumped in at the deep end at outside centre and did well. Our try was scored 5mins into the 2nd half when Murray McLeod fed David Walker who battled across the line to score. Callum Small converted from a difficult angle.

Very good compliments from the referee who recognised the makings of some good players and a potentially good side.

Morrison's Academy (A): 0-0

A very hard fought game with outstanding tackling from our team. Great handling in the backs and phenomenal rucking and support play. Our team showed excellent discipline in a difficult game and it was a welcome return from injury for Liam Dowdeswell and Ciaran Flynn. A particular mention must go to both Liam and Ciaran who played exceptionally well.

St. Columba's (H): 19-17

A grinding victory which came about because of the total commitment in the rucks and good

a link up with the backs which enabled us to stretch our lead.

We 'lost' Jason Patience and Phil Flaherty to the 1sts because of injury but the team responded and dominated the play in the last quarter of the match. C.Flynn (one try) and L.Dowdeswell (two tries and two conversions). Well played all round.

Loretto 2nd 'A' (A): 0-48

After two months without a game, we were thrust into a physical match and although team play was not on form, the commitment couldn't be questioned.

Certainly there was a lot to build on but we were looking for a vast improvement on our basic skills that had been left at home after the Christmas break!

Linlithgow Academy (A): Lost

A very difficult match; we lost three players to the 1st XV and two through injury which completely destroyed any chances of staying in touch with the opposition and for the final 20 minutes we only had 14 players so the floodgates opened. However, morale remained high and the effort and commitment of the team could never be questioned.

Robert Gordon's 3rd XV (A): Lost

It is always difficult to travel such a distance and play a game of rugby, but that is what the 2nd XV went there to do. Although it was a very disappointing game, I was exceptionally proud of our boys!

Finally, I'd like to offer my thanks to all of those involved in the 2nd XV. I recognise the commitment you make in terms of effort and time and I hope you realise that it is very much appreciated. You all deserve a well-earned rest from rugby and I look forward to working with some of you again in August. I'd like to mention those players from S6 who are leaving and express my thanks and I wish you all good luck.

Cheers

James McNally

FIRST YEAR RUGBY

This has been a great year for us. We have come a long, long way since the start of P7 and

we are still rapidly improving. The whole team has been training hard to get up to this standard but we have a long way to go.

We had a great start to our season with an emphatic 14-0 victory over Linlithgow Academy, but we couldn't have done as well if it wasn't for our coach Mr. Carroll. He has been a great coach and he has led us to eight great victories against Morrison's Academy twice, Linlithgow twice, Howe of Fife, St. Columba's, Perth Academy and Madras. We suffered only two defeats which were against Gala Academy and Merchiston Castle School and both of these sides were well drilled, skilful and tough.

The team this year was led the most times by David Honeyman who was also our main conversion kicker. Our vice-captains this year were Ryan Flaherty and Matthew Marshall.

The last couple of training sessions Mr. Carroll was away so Mr. Baxter took us and he also took us out training on Friday nights and that helped us a lot.

Unfortunately the weather hit our fixtures quite badly and we missed a number of matches as a result.

Hopefully the team will continue to improve next season and we hope to win just as many, if not more, games as we did in S1.

D. Honeyman, R. Flaherty, M. Marshall

Footnote from Mr. C.

This was a very enthusiastic group of players who learned over the season to control their game and create chances rather than hoping for chance to help them.

We'll be holding an end of season presentation night at the beginning of May to honour those who have taken part in this successful season.

Mr Carroll



1st XI Hockey Team

This season's hockey has been the best so far without a doubt. At the start of the season we were again faced with the introduction of new players. These new players were one of the best assets the team could possibly ask for.

The season started off a bit slowly (it usually does after a holiday) but rapidly became an outstanding season in all aspects. The biggest improvement was definitely the defence. Problems occurred, they were analysed, put into training and then applied to a match, which I found was definitely the best way to approach our problems, and it proved to be successful. Lindsey Farquharson and the rest of the defence worked extremely hard on applying the shadowing technique into a game situation and making it successful. All credit to our Coach, Miss Scott, for recognising our problems and teaching us ways to get around them.

In a lot of our matches the only disadvantage we were faced with was the different conditions of pitch used. The hardest to play on was blaze but, again, because of our determination and

enthusiasm we didn't let this minor problem stand in our way. The best pitch to play on was probably the water based one. The ball was passed very quickly and movement off the ball was always supported.

Communication is the only aspect now which I think needs improved and, in the future, good communication allied to our excellent teamwork and motivation could make us invincible. We aren't far of it now.

As a team, the game remembered most this season for motivation, teamwork, support and enthusiasm, was the second-half of the match against Mary Erskine's. In the first-half of this game we were down 3-0. Due to this we weren't getting our hopes up by thinking we still had a chance that was until we got our 5-minute feedback session from Miss Scott at half time. She told us what to do to win, or at least come back, and all we had to do

was put it into a game situation. Due to Miss Scott's much appreciated support and enthusiasm towards us we were able, eventually, to draw 3-3.

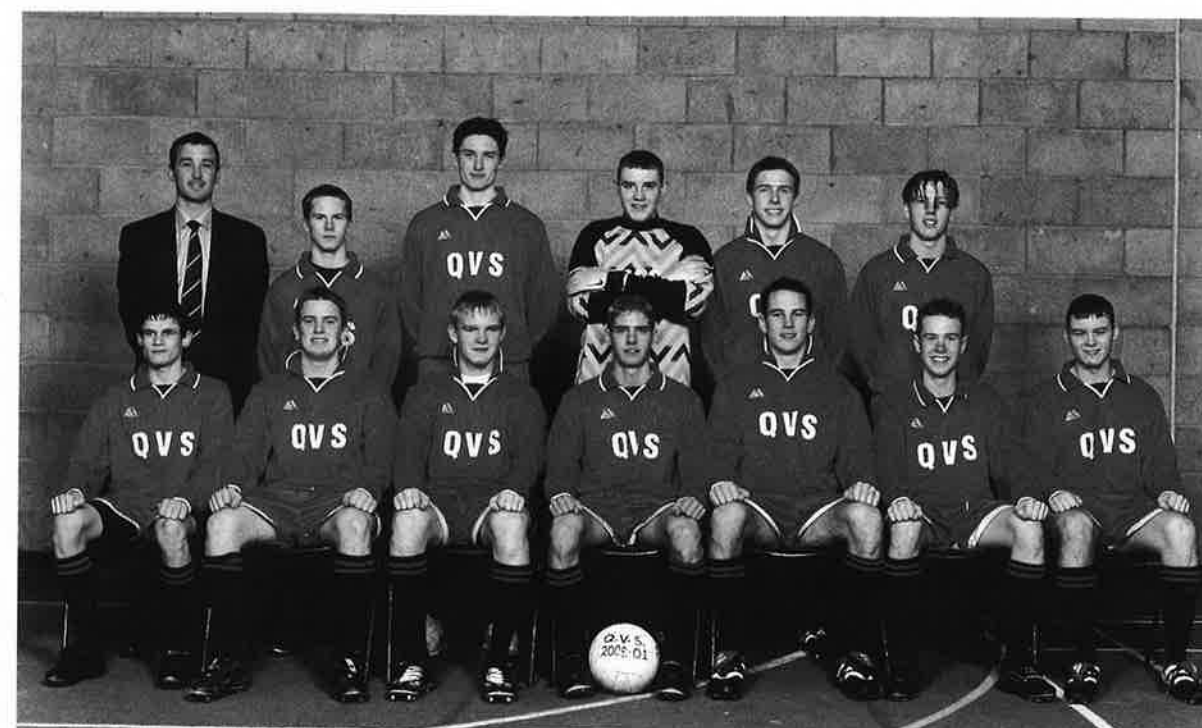
Overall, well done to everybody and, especially, to Miss Scott for her excellent coaching, Lindsey Farquharson and her defence buddies for outstanding improvement and applied shadowing techniques, and last but not least Sarah Moore, for her excellent contribution to the last two games, making our hockey season finish with well remembered goals.

Sadly, we will be losing an excellent defence player – Fiona Gannon. I'd like to thank her for her outstanding contribution and teamwork. We will miss her dearly but hope she goes on to do better things in the future! It has been a great season and we look forward to the next one.

Lisa Milligan S5

(H) QVS 2 : St Leonard's 3	(H) QVS 8 : Dollar 0	(A) QVS 3 : Laurel Park 2
(H) QVS 4 : St Margaret's 0	(A) QVS 2 : Laurel Park 1	(A) QVS 3 : St Margaret's 1
(A) QVS 4 : Strathallen 1	(H) QVS 1 : Lomond 0	(H) QVS 2 : Beaconsburst 0
(A) QVS 2 : Beaconsburst 0	(A) QVS 3 : Mary Erskine's 3	

Won 9 Drawn 1 Lost 1 Goals for 34 Goals against 11 Goal difference 23



1st XI Football Team

1st XI Football

This season has been rather short in comparison with previous ones, with only five game since August. Other commitments such as the Pipe Band, Highland Dancing and Rugby have meant that the time for football has become somewhat limited.

The start of the season showed promise with a 2-2 draw against Stewart Melville's. Adverse weather conditions, coupled with the fact that this was a brand new 1st XI playing together for the first time, made it a difficult game from the beginning. (Also, a funny one with its fair share of "You've been framed", possible entrants). However, a sterling performance by the team and, in particular, the back four who helped us claw our way back from 2-0 down to a draw in the game.

The next match was against a North Yorkshire touring side, Giggleswick. We narrowly lost this game; however, I don't think the final result was a true reflection of the game. There were many noteworthy performances in this game but one that sticks out in my mind most

was that of our goalkeeper, who saved our skin on more than one occasion.

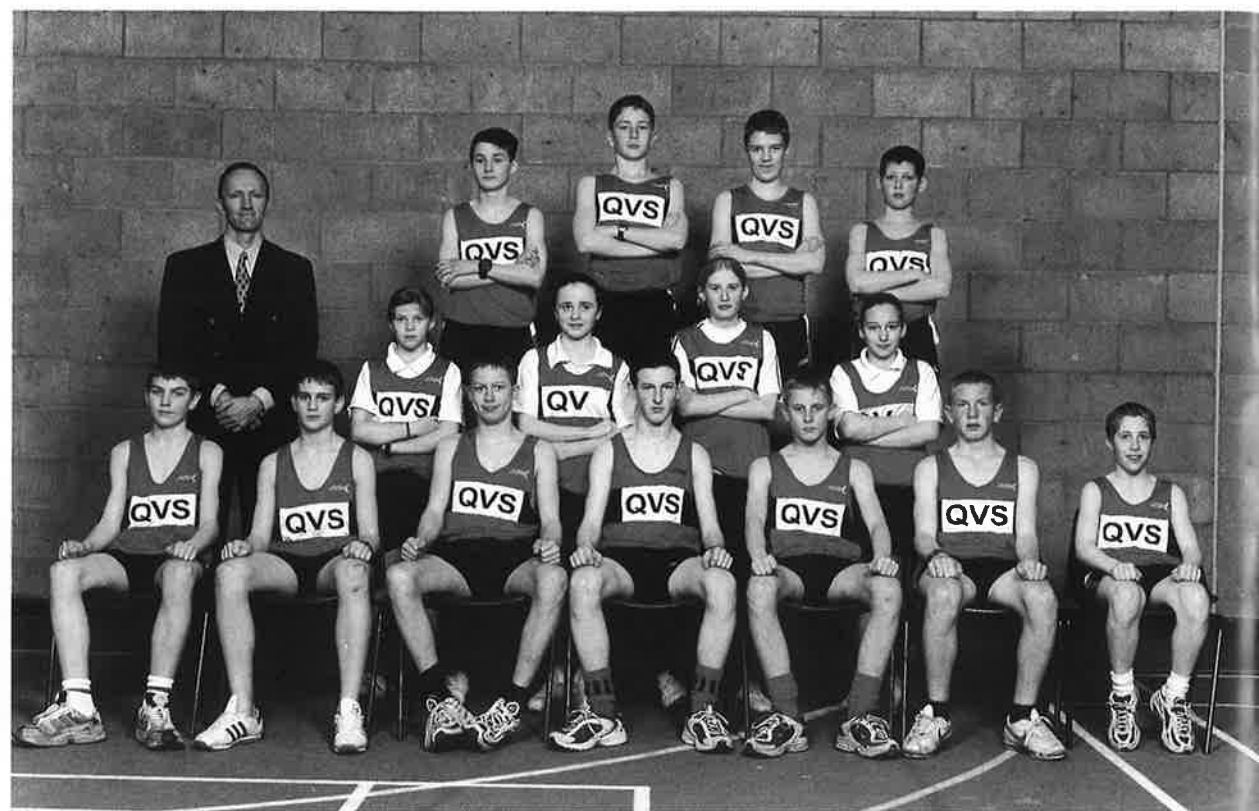
Our third game, against an unusually good Dollar Academy side saw us record our first win, which was much deserved and long awaited! The work ethos and team spirit were exceptional and, without the team pulling together in this manner, we probably would have lost.

Our penultimate fixture was against Dunblane High School, a game of real competition and one for which the lads always seem to raise their game. This gave us our second and most convincing win, 4-1! A very effective midfield 'engine' working with our lightning quick strikers sealed the game for us.

The one question that remains unanswered is "How did we fare in the Perthshire Cup?" Well . . . in summary, this was a game that nobody could wait to play, yet tried so hard to forget. In our defence I would have to say that this was our first game on grass, all season, and the conditions were less than kind. However, at the end of the day we were beaten by a better and more experienced St Columba's side.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the lads in the squad for continuous effort and commitment and to our Coach, Mr McLay, again, for giving up his free time to train us, and for some 'choice' decisions whilst refereeing.

Gary Houston S6



U14 Team

Cross Country

Cross country showed a marked improvement over the past winter, so it was disappointing that our runners were not able to perform on the bigger stage. Due to the spread of Foot and Mouth, the Scottish schools cross country championships were cancelled. In particular we had expected Leanne Bridgeman and David Honeyman to perform well and looked forward to some good team results.

In February we hosted a very successful afternoon of competitive races when six schools and over 200 runners took part. It was good to see so many youngsters reveling in tanking round the playing fields, dashing through Wavell Wood and leaping the burn with gusto. David won the U-14 boys age group and Leanne was second in the U-14 girls race. At St Aloysius these results were reversed with Leanne first and David second in their respective races. David also had the fastest lap for his age-group at the Fettes relays.

In what was to become a strange season for sport, we lost another fixture at Strathallan due to the heavy, drifting snow. It is very rare

for one, let alone two fixtures to be cancelled since cross country runners are renowned for their "when the going gets tough the tough get going" attitude.

Other runners who performed well for their teams were Vivian Moonan, Carly McDonald, Katrina Leith, Jamie Lee Read, Sarah Fennell, Cameron Gaff, Andrew Martin, Ryan Flaherty, Kieran Broadbelt, Jamie Motherwell, Stuart Mooney, Alistair Page, David Thorpe, John Campbell, Michael Brown, Craig Richardson and Kris Reid. Sarah Fennell is to be commended for never missing a training session.

In the present climate of criticising children for

being couch-potatoes, more interested in computer games than their fitness, it is good to see healthy numbers showing an interest in cross country and taking part in training – particularly the P7s.

As well as supporting the U-14 teams, they also competed in the Forth Valley Primary Championships at Stirling University (a new initiative) with great success. Emma Reid had a superb win and won the team prize along with Karen Harrower and Nina Richardson. The boys' team of Chris Martin, Hamish McArthur and Chris Milne finished third.

The Future looks bright.
Steve Laing



Nick, Graeme, Murray & Alan



Mr McLay, Matt and Miss Courtney

On the Slippery Slope

Ski Trip 2001 Alpe D'Heuz

It was a nightmare journey down to Manchester airport. The bus was so crowded even the driver was standing. One of our party with a morbid fear of flying had to be given a fireman's lift past the sign saying TERMINAL. When she's up in the air she suffers from a groundless fear.

Having scaled the side of the mountain, we were deposited outside our hotel. Mr McLay approached the reception. "Do you have reservations?" he was asked. "Well, yes, but now we're here, we may as well stay."

The rooms were so small you couldn't brush your teeth sideways, but there was always a choice for dinner – take it or leave it. They changed the sheets twice a day – from one room to another. On being told that the room with a view overlooking the slopes would cost

50 francs a day extra, Mr Beattie asked: "How much if I promise not to look?"

In actual fact the Beau Soleil turned out to be one of the better hotels we've stayed at. The only criticism was that there was a gaggle of schoolgirls also in situ who screamed at any opportunity. They especially screamed at Graham King and worshipped him daily from the hotel balcony. Alasdair Spence, however, received the ultimate knock-backs: "You've got a really great personality, it's a pity you're so ugly." Alasdair told her she had everything a

man could want – big muscles, moustache and a tattoo. Nick 'the flirt' Burge pretended to be 19 and engaged, whereas we knew he was 18 and pretty vacant. Niall Thomson picked up our end-of-holiday award for the person most likely to be a future ski-rep. Cameron Chisholm has to be surgically removed from his skateboard at school, so it was no surprise to anyone that he and his snowboard were inseparable.

Euan Stewart, our resident joker kicked off our trip by putting ice in someone's bed, but did

make up for it by supplying the staff with a bottle of wine and endless sweets and cakes. Peter Girvan, the most unorganised pupil in Britain managed to lose his skis for two days while Jamie 'hair-gel' Kerr moaned to the staff: "There's too much skiing on this ski trip." Mr Beattie requested the next trip be to Holland after a shopping spree on the steep roads of Alpe d'Heuz. Adam Leith, who, if he was any more laid-back would be horizontal, just about set off an avalanche with his unbounded enthusiasm for snowblading: "It's all right."

Colin McNally, unfortunately, discovered he was allergic to skiing, pizzas, snow, getting up early, and France. But nothing a couple of paracetamol couldn't cure. Elliot 'panda' Wood claimed he had been down the Black run called 'The Tunnel', when he in fact he had been down a muddy Green slope that happened to go under a wee bridge. Jenny Holmes reassured novice Laura Hadland that skiing was easy – "learned it in just ten sittings." Laura, heroically, managed to get over her initial fear of the slopes, and even ventured up to the hotel balcony where we sunbathed and played 20 questions. While everyone did people like Wallace Simpson, Delia Smith and Neil Armstrong, Mr Laing's subject stumped us all. Turned out to be the off-duty waiter at the next table.

No one knew where Craig Heselton had 'bean' until he appeared wide eyed and legless having bladed down the real Tunnel (passed the two gravestones). He had to be treated for 'white knuckle' syndrome. Up on the Black slopes Mr McLay claimed his black eye happened when he dived 60 feet downhill to save a small child. In actual fact he finally admitted to clocking himself a shot with his own ski pole. His desperation to ski was only matched by his desperation to sing on the karaoke night. The rest of us were desperate for him not to sing.

Aaron Schiavone came into his own here, singing a song about sodium chloride and cooking with chocolate while Murray 'just call me Robbie' McLeod belted out 'Rock DJ'.

Murray was told with a voice like that he should have his tonsils out. "I have had them out," he said. "In that case you should get them put back in". Mr Laing looked like Val Doonican as he sat on a stool to sing. The only song he knows right through is 'Paddy McGinty's Goat', but it wasn't on the list. His inimitable style stretched all the way to the pistes where he was the only skier sporting double-glazing – specs under goggles. Didn't make him all that attractive to women, but at least he could see where he was going – not always to his advantage, however.

He checked his wife's insurance policy before taking her for an early morning run over the local airfield. She had been given a coalie-bag up the last vertical half-mile to the hotel due to the lack of oxygen at high altitude. Nicola Laing left the resort not so much a better skier as a better pool player thanks to lessons from Alan 'fearless' Gault who was nominated as the most improved skier. Actually he couldn't get any worse since he hadn't skied before, but only after 20 minutes' tuition on the Greens he pronounced himself ready for the Blacks; he wasn't joking.

The prize for the most disciplined member of the party went to Miss Courtney who had temporarily given up coffee and was relentless

about it. She was caught several times, however, inhaling coffee as it passed by at the dinner table. She looked for an adrenaline kick elsewhere and went parapointing – parachuting off a mountain wearing skis – and has the photos to prove it. It was at the dinner table that the expectant father Mr McLay got a phone call from home. After a pregnant pause he came back and announced: "I'm not allowed to buy a new pair of skis."

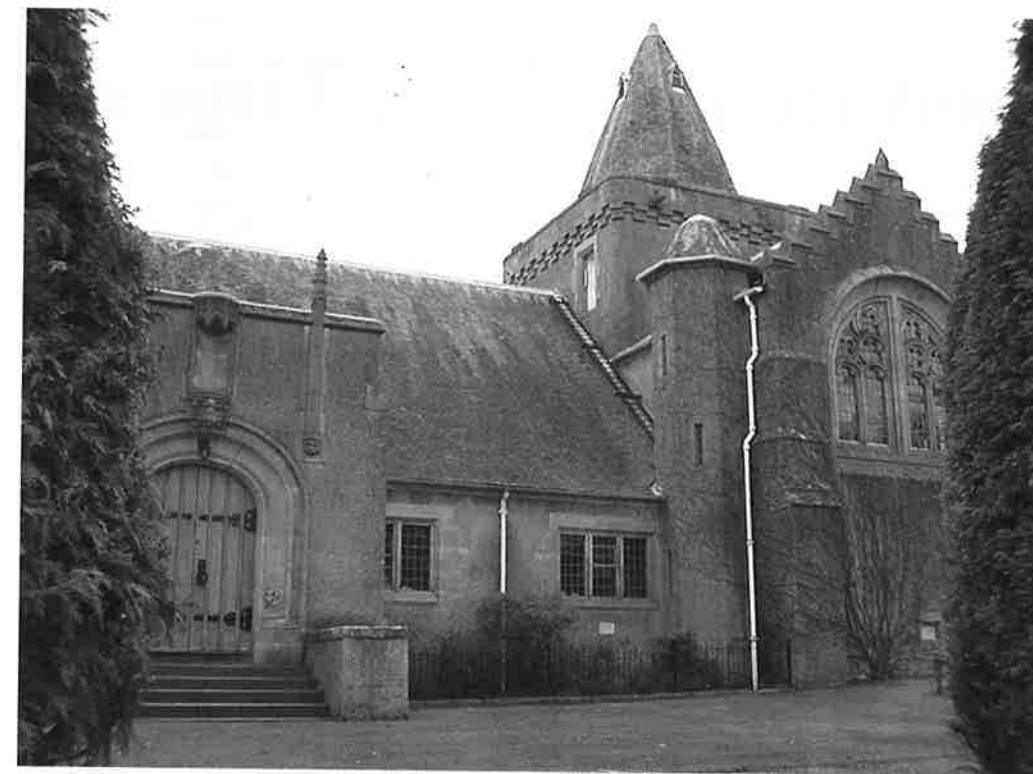
On the last day, with the quiz, snow-blading, ice-skating, and pool competition over, the skiing awards were presented. Annabel Porter demonstrated amazing self-control by being the only girl ever to not go weak at the knees when kissed by a male French ski instructor. Mr and Mrs Beattie were lucky to be at the presentations at all. Having gone to the top of the mountain to admire the view, they missed the last lift down. Eventually some staff at one of the mountain cafes took pity on them and sent them down with the rubbish.

Mark Twain said: "When a teacher calls a boy by his entire name, it means trouble." Great to report we were all still on single name terms at the end of the holiday – even the married couples.

Fiona Laing



Niall, Alasdair and Craig 'The boarders'



The Chapel



The annual 'Old Victorians' Weekend' and the Sunday Morning Service of that very special event is always memorable. However, what made this year's service unique was the Consecration of a 'New Memorial'. When an old boy, Mike Smith (2924) designed and created the New Memorial for dedication it is surely even more poignant and special.

The School is, indeed, indebted to the President of the Old Victorian Association, Lt Col Ron Smith who was the originator of the whole project and it is with much pleasure that I reprint his own most fitting words which he read out so movingly during our Service of Consecration. Words from a Victorian to Fallen Victorians'.

"Annually in November the nation and thus the school family gathers on Remembrance Sunday to honour the memory of those who died on active service during the two World Wars. In particular, they remember those Old Victorians whose names are recorded on the two War Memorial Plaques and in the Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chapel.

Last year, whilst engaged on historical research relevant to the School, I realised that there was

no reference to any Old Victorians who had died on active service outwith the two wars. As there has been only one year since 1945 without a member of the Armed Forces dying on active service, I concluded that there could be Old Victorians amongst those who have fallen since 1945. Back copies of the Victorian confirmed that suspicion and today we have gathered to remember three Old Victorians. In order to do so effectively the OVA proposed that a New Memorial should be placed in the Chapel and Her Majesty's Commissioners readily agreed. The three OV's who gave their lives are;

JOHN EASTON (1530) John joined the Cameron Highlanders on leaving QVS in 1935 and, after completion of his service in the regiment, joined the Palestine Police,

becoming a Detective Sergeant. He was killed by a booby-trap whilst searching a house in Jerusalem in 1946.

WALLACE MACGREGOR (1877) Wallace left the school in 1942 to train at the Army Apprentice School, Aborfield. On mustering, he was posted to the R.A.O.C., latterly transferring to REME. He was posted to Palestine and killed by the Stern Gang in Haifa in 1946.

ROBERT MARSHALL (2015) Robert left the School in 1946 for civilian life and then joined his father's regiment, The Kings Own Scottish Borderers. The Regiment was involved in some of the most intense fighting in the Korean War. Robert was only 19 when he was killed in action in 1952".

"My soul hath them still in Remembrance".
Lamentations 3:20 (King James Bible)

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The Royal Tribute 2000

For anyone to take part in any kind of Royal Celebration is both an honour and a rarity. Preparations started very early on in the academic year, which meant a lot of hard graft for the more inexperienced dancers, including myself. Training continued throughout the year, with the first real performance on Grand Day. With the dancers returning to school for the rehearsals in Edinburgh there was quite a buzz and more than there would normally have been at school anyway.

The rehearsals days proved to be very long – no long lie. The hour-long bus drive to and from Edinburgh each day proved to be a time to catch-up on sleep. On arriving at Redford the first thing we were aware of was the massive amount of pipers, drummers and military bandsmen but thanks to our yellow t-shirts we were not overlooked. On the afternoon of the performance, we managed to have a trip out of school to go Ten Pin Bowling in Stirling. There are some very good dancers that took part in the Royal Tribute but to find more than 5 that were any good at bowling was a very hard task. After a few games and a lot of laughs it was time to get serious again – it was time for the real performance.

Tensions rose slowly, as we got closer to Edinburgh Castle. We were allotted a room in Cannonball House, as a waiting area, which we had to share with the regular army recruits, who were there to sell the glossy programme brochure (standing room only). We were aware of the hundreds of people making their way up the Royal Mile to the castle which didn't do much good for my, or anyone else's,

stomachs and, as the time for the performance got closer, visits to the toilet increased tenfold. It was time! We were about to conclude the months of training with the performance of a lifetime on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

We were formed up ready to go on and, as we marched out to take our positions with the pipe band playing in the background, only now could I appreciate how many people were actually there – eight thousand plus! I just wanted to look around and take it all in but, as any disciplined Victorian would, I stood still taking only a short glance out of the corner of my eye. All of a sudden, I felt myself dancing, the lights flashed hypnotically from all sides as the crowd clapped and stamped. What a rush! Eight thousand people all clapping as you and the rest of the team dance their hearts out to what was a riveting athletic routine. At the end we stood at attention, waiting for the Drum major to march us off. The crowd erupted – what a great feeling having eight thousand people cheering at the display you have slaved away at for months.

But we were not finished yet; we still had the Finale to get through. It had become a matter of pride that our drill had to be better than the Honour Guard.

We were all lined up behind the massed bands and at the signal we marched through the band and succeeded in halting at the exact place, although it did seem that we stood at attention for a very long time. We gave first a Royal salute and then three cheers and then at last it was time to march off the Esplanade, down the High Street. It was over!

The Royal Tribute was a fantastic experience for all the dancers who took part. Our performance would not have been possible without a lot of hard graft and support from the School Highland Dancing Instructor Mrs MacDonald. A big thank you to her for all her efforts. Also a thank you is due to Mr and Mrs Tomkins, Sister and Darren Robertson who staffed the school and took good care of us during our week back.

Nick Burge S6

The Royal Tribute 2000



Practising for the big night, on the Castle Esplanade

THE ROYAL TRIBUTE

By Claire Greenwood S2

When I was told that I was going to dance for the Royal Tribute, I was very excited and also very proud. My family bought a lot of tickets but then the dreaded practising began.

We performed the dance at Grand Day Dress Rehearsal and also on Grand Day itself – both times I mucked up. I knew, however, that when I was standing in the middle of the Esplanade of Edinburgh castle with 8,000 people watching my every move, I would-hopefully-get it right.

I felt very out of place at Redford Barracks: there were a lot of people there who looked at us strangely, although I think some people

liked the attention. Many of the younger Army helpers "took the mick out of us" as we were wearing bright yellow T-Shirts, but most of the people were nice and friendly.

We practised every afternoon at Redford Barracks and then went onto Edinburgh Castle at night. It felt like we had spent years there. We played a small, yet still important role in the display, in which many Pipe Bands from around the world were involved. Indeed it was the largest gathering of Pipe Bands ever seen on the Esplanade.

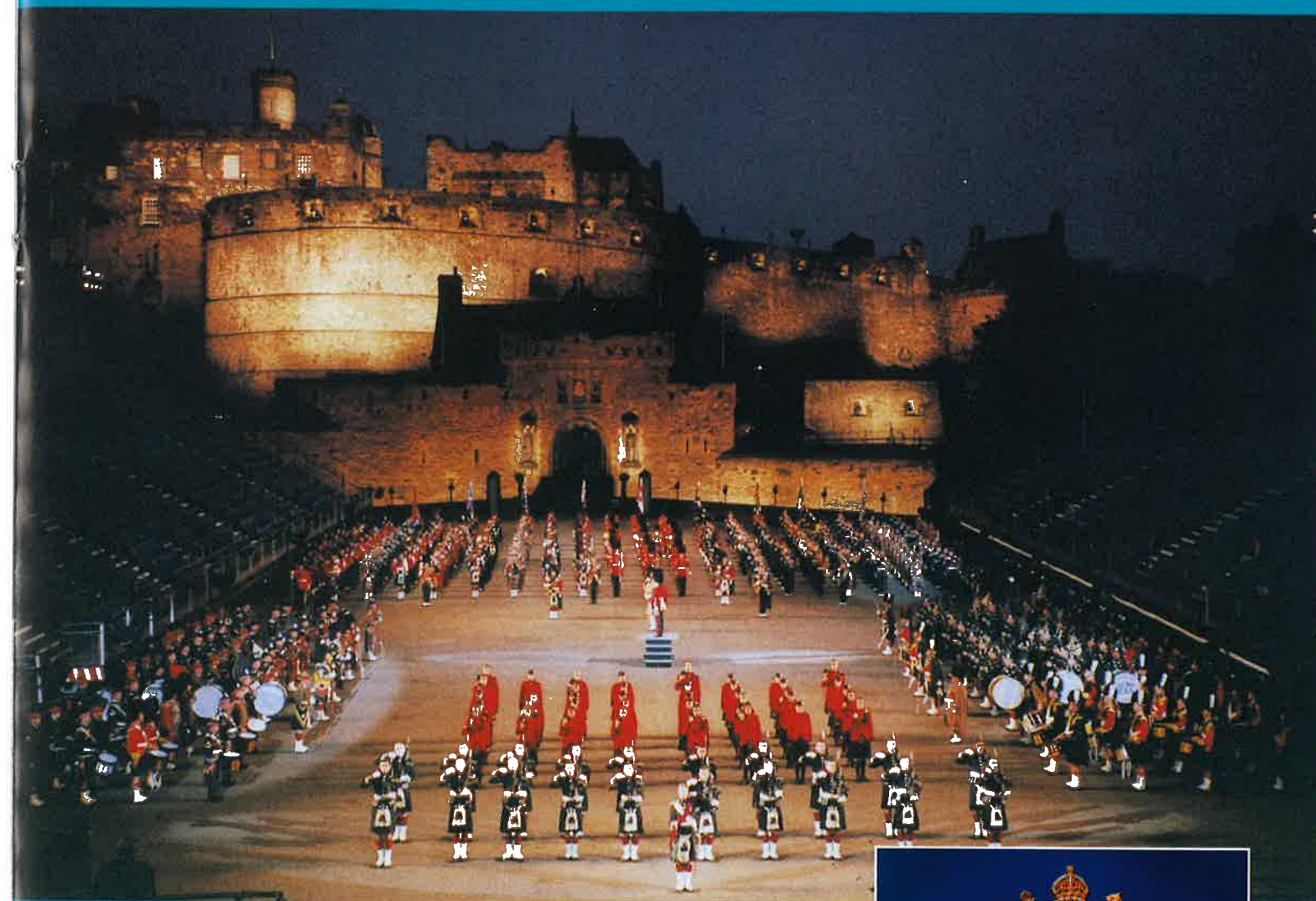
While we were waiting to go on the suspense was killing me – I just wanted to go out there and dance. There was, however, the thought in the back of my mind, "Do you think she would notice if I ran away to the toilets and

didn't do it?" I jumped up and down to try and calm myself but it didn't work very well.

When the time came and we were given the signal to go on, I was proud, held my head high and all the sense of fear went away. I knew that my Uncle was video-taping me, so I had to look good!

I am very proud to have danced at the Royal Tribute and I am now looking forward to the next big event, which will be the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the summer holidays.

I would like to thank Mrs. MacDonald for making us all work so hard, and everyone who helped to make it such a special occasion.



THE ROYAL TRIBUTE

By Kate Trousdale S2

In the summer, I was a reserve dancer for the Royal Tribute but even though I was only a reserve I was still very pleased to be there.

We arrived on Monday and for three days we practised the dances – at Redford Barracks in the afternoons, and at Edinburgh Castle in the evenings.

As I was a reserve, I was asked to be a stick orderly. I had to march slowly up lots of

stairs, to the Royal Box with the Royal Party behind me.

When all the dancing and music was finished, we had to march through the massed bands, and then stand still for quite a long time while everyone sang "For She's A Jolly Good Fellow". Then, everyone marched down the Royal Mile.

Some of the group went home that night, but the rest of the pupils went back to school, and went home the following day.



Scotland's Royal Tribute
to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother
in her centenary year

The Esplanade, Edinburgh Castle
27th July, 2000

Grand Day 2000

The Inspecting Officer
Major General R H G Fulton
Commandant General Royal Marines

Parade Sunday



Front cover and centre spread pictures
courtesy of Mark Owens, HQ 2 division

Pipe Band

This year has been another profitable one for the Pipes and Drums. There has been a healthy calendar of engagements and the band has continued to improve.



I-r: Paul Fleming - Drum Major, Darren Farr - Senior Highland Dancer, Stephen Tierney - Pipe Major

There have been many notable performances this year but the highlight for me was a fund raising ball hosted by Erskine Hospital at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel. We played music combined with the Lowland Band of Scottish Division for the first time and the Director of Music's comment that, "We must do this more often" led to some of us playing with the band on the recording of a CD which is yet to be released. The engagement went very well from our perspective and there were many favourable comments. Everybody seemed to be pleased with the performance except the chef who was terribly annoyed that nobody ate during the performance meaning that he had to readjust his schedule by 15 minutes.

The Pipes and Drums appeared at all the Scotland Internationals as usual this year. What was not usual about these performances was the new marketing team called "Event Mechanics", whose original and inventive

approach to pre-match entertainment led to some slightly surreal rehearsals and "off-the-cuff" shows. The standing joke on the lead up to Murrayfield this year was that Pipe Major Ross had been asked to play the solo part of Highland Cathedral while descending into Murrayfield on a parachute. This year at Murrayfield we had the pleasure of playing with some excellent bands such as the Lothian and Borders Police, Scottish Power and Drambuie. The last two matches saw all of the independent schools in Scotland appearing in the biggest ever massed Pipes and Drums at Murrayfield and there is still one match left to go. God only knows what 'Event Mechanics' will produce next!

The best is yet to come this year. In the summer the Pipes, Drums and Dancers will be appearing for the first time since 1990 at the Edinburgh Tattoo. A lot of work has gone into this engagement and a lot more is to come.

We will also have the opportunity to tackle more competitions (including the world's). Everybody is looking forward to this after getting the bug for competition at Peebles last year.

I think the Pipe Band has continued to flourish and its professionalism has continued to shine through some very difficult times, such as Murrayfields. My heart felt thanks go out to everybody in the band for helping to make my final year in the Pipes and Drums of Queen Victoria School a memorable, eventful and, on the most part, a pleasureable one. I look forward to returning to play with you on Old Victorians weekend.

Thanks again,

Boy Pipe Major, Steve Tierney. 56



Pipe Band 2000-2001

Edinburgh Military Tattoo Party



Edinburgh Military Tattoo Party for August 2001

Highland Dancing

I was very proud of the way the school's young dancers carried out the responsibility of performing so excellently at the Royal tribute last summer. At the Argyllshire Gathering they carried on with the winning ways that have become expected of them.

While writing these notes we are preparing for a busy summer term which will see dancers performing at the Combined CCF Beating Retreat, the Lord High Commissioners Dinner and the Lord Provost's Reception for the Tattoo Corporate supporters. All junior dancers will sit UKA exams in May with senior dancers sitting exams in October.

The dancers continue to improve on their

already high standards and are looking forward to performing at the Edinburgh Tattoo this summer.

The Highland Society of London Prize 2001 winner is Christopher Harris. Christopher has been an outstanding member of the dancing team; the new prize for the Most Improved Junior Dancer is awarded to Aaron King – well-done Aaron.

I must thank the senior dancers who are leaving this year; Darren Farr, as Principal Dancer, has been a willing, cheerful support to all the dancers-including myself; Christopher Harris, Stuart Ruthven and Helen Onslow for all their help and support throughout the time they have been dancing.

Eileen MacDonald HDI

before



after



Andrew Martin, joint winner overall and overall boys winner at Aberdeen Highland Festival (beginners 11 and over class)

Highland Dancing Competition

09 June 2000

Beginner:

Winner of the Dr McLaren Cup

- Carrie-Ann Campbell
- Ilona Evendon
- Evelyn Henney & James Wooton

Junior:

Winner - Most Promising Dancer Prize

- Sarah-Louise McDougall
- Alasdair Page
- Leanne Bridgeman

Intermediate:

Winner - Royal British Legion Prize

- Amy Morton
- Fiona Coyle
- Jamie Friery

Senior:

Winner - London Scottish Prize

- Lauren Campbell
- Kristopher Reid
- Stuart Ruthven

Seann Truibhas Competitions Junior

- Fiona Coyle
- Amy Morton
- Alasdair Page

Senior:

Winner - Seann Truibhas Shield

- Lauren Campbell
- Christopher Niven
- Stuart Ruthven

Victorians Broadwords Competition

Winners - John S Steel Trophy

- Lauren Campbell, Jamie Smith, Christopher Soper, Andrew Martin

Interhouse Reel Competition

Cunningham House

The Highland Society of London Prize 2000

Presented to the Dancer who has done the most during the year, for the School Dancing teams.

Winners Darren Farr & Stuart Ruthven



Highland Dancing

And so we start off the year much as it was last time round. Mrs MacDonald's voice echoes not only within the Play Hall but right up to the gym where the wooden floorboards shudder as they remember the endless nights of highland flings and reels before the Play Hall became the "official" dancing studio.

With the helpful hands of our senior dancers, this year we have seen a great improvement in our already high standards. You only have to watch the younger members of this year's team and it will be evident that much improvement has occurred. Congratulations to Aaron King who has received "The most improved Junior Dancer" prize this year.

After the highland dancers brilliant performance in the Royal Tribute last summer, this year will find the dancers performing at the Edinburgh Tattoo. This has put a vast amount of pressure on the team but has been greatly helped by close team spirit and co-operation.

A special thanks goes out to the flamboyant Mrs MacDonald. We must also thank Helen Onslow for her continuous input, Lauren Campbell for putting up with us all and, of course, the comedy duo Chris n' Daz who have done an excellent job. Lastly, we say a big goodbye and thanks to all the seniors who are leaving this year.

So from us and the rest of the dancing team "Cheers Mrs MacD".

Chris Harris & Darren Farr S6

Junior Minstrels (Primary 7)

The first performance given by the Junior Minstrels of 2001 was to members of the Friendship Guild of Ladywell Parish Church. The minstrels made a visit to the Thursday club of Sauchie Parish church on the 15 March, which was followed a few days later by the postponed visit to Erskine Hospital.

As in previous years, the programme given by the Minstrels included a variety of items – dancing, singing, music and poetry. All of the singing and music solos did credit to Mr Onslow's musical direction. Mr Carroll's solo and group poetry pupils delivered their

lines with confidence and aplomb, and the P7 dancers gave wholehearted displays.

After all the performances, the pupils socialised with the members of the various groups. The minstrels would like to thank the members of the various groups for insisting that they consume a large quantity of juice and cakes.

Thank You QV

I should like to say a big 'Thank You', to Mrs MacDonald and the School for all the involvement I have enjoyed in Highland Dancing.

Shortly after arriving from Switzerland, I joined the beginners dancing class. I felt daunted at first but it wasn't long before the one class a week became two and, later, during the remaining evenings, I found myself helping the beginners.

Because of previous ballet training I quickly moved through the grades from Bronze to the final grade 12, Premier Cup, and have enjoyed the opportunity to give something back to the school over the years in the form of assisting with the teaching of other groups.

All this experience and the expertise of Mrs MacDonald has enabled me to study for the Teacher's Certificate in Highland Dancing in my final year – Mrs MacDonald has encouraged me, along with others who were interested, to enter competitions and this has prepared me for participation in the World

Championships later this year.

The involvement in Grand Days, the G.O.C's Dinner and the Royal Tribute have been particularly memorable. Special thanks to those who undertook the task of teaching me the drill! Many thanks to Mrs MacDonald and members of the dancing team, especially the senior members, for all their support, and in particular, Chris and Darren (though I could have done without the spider incident!).

Helen Onslow

The Primary 7 Ceilidh

During the Winter Term, all the Primary 7s had to go to social dancing classes on Thursday afternoons after school. The first night was very different, as hardly any of us had danced with boys before. We got used to it though and soon, instead of being embarrassing, it became fun. After a lot of practicing we were finally ready for the real thing. A few girls were appalled at the dress rules: we had to wear a smart dress or skirt (no trousers allowed). On the night of the dance everyone was really nervous but we were soon put at ease – it was so easy and fun. We danced all the dances we had been taught and everyone enjoyed it. I want to say a big thanks to Mrs MacDonald for arranging the dance and to everyone that helped. Also, thank you to everyone who took part.

Alix Laidlaw P7



Practicing for the Royal Tribute



Paul Fleming

The end of year concert given on the eve of Grand Day was a very memorable event marked by its variety and the high standard of individual performers.

Space prevents the mention of individuals but there was some excellent group playing this year including a fine performance of Apache by Tom Bruce, David Walker and Gordon Cook. The windband continued to provide a framework for the whole concert and a number of movie themes were played including Raiders of the lost Ark, John Dunbar's theme from Dances with Wolves (complete with authentic 'horses hooves' nobly played by Jennie Holmes) and Jurassic Park. Along the way there was another delightful setting of Sunset in which the soloist was David McDougall, and the concert drew to a rousing conclusion with Kiss the Girl.

The music competition took place as usual and Katrina Watson won the P7/S1 category. The S2/3 category was won by Ciara Watson and the senior category by Lynsey McAulay.

Following the success of David McDougall's solo concert last year, it was decided that a similar event would take place in November, this time for five advanced players: Lynsey McAulay, David McDougall, Amy Morton, Ciara Watson and Laura Wylie. It was a superb concert which lasted about an hour.

The end of the Christmas term saw the usual

carol services and concert. This year, the P7 Minstrels quite stole the show with their deft footwork for a new Kings' carol Oh, what a journey we've been on!

In most of the above, the school's Windband has been a central feature. They have added much to the Parade Sunday services and, in the recent Old Victorians' Parade Service, they gave a moving performance of Evening Hymn and last Post for the dedication of the new memorial in the chapel. My thanks go to all members of the band who have loyally rehearsed throughout the year for the concerts and services.

Just a few days before going to press, three pupils performed in the Glasgow Music Festival. They were: Laura Wylie (descant recorder) who gained 86%, Ciara Watson (flute) with 83% and David McDougall (trumpet) whose mark of 88% enabled him to win the Brass Solos A class.

Lastly, thanks are due to the team of peripatetic instrumental teachers who add so much to the musical life of the school through their dedication.

Mr Onslow

Music department

The following pupils were successful in ABRSM grade examinations:

Grade 1

Claire McGillivray
Eb Saxophone
Christopher Loch
Clarinet (with merit)
Keshia Harris
Trumpet (with merit)
Jamie Kerr
Violin

Grade 2

Patricia Goodman
Flute

Grade 3

Katrina Watson
Clarinet
Ross Stevenson
Violin
Karen Harrower
Trumpet (with distinction)

Grade 4

Ciara Watson
Trombone

Grade 5

Laura Wylie
Eb Saxophone
Ciara Watson
Flute

Grade 6

David McDougall
Cornet (with merit)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Group, Aug 2000
l-r: Eddie Porter, Nick Burge, Stewart Ruthven, Paul Fleming and Gareth Martin

This has been another successful year of Award expeditions. After expedition training throughout the Winter, the ventures started on the first weekend back after the Easter holiday, 29th/30th April. This was a boys' Bronze training weekend in the Trossachs. We found an idyllic camp site by Loch Achray, good flat ground in a protected glade with a stream nearby.

GROUP: Mark McGregor, Peter Abolins, Murray McLeod, Stephen Cameron, Craig Heselton, Kristopher Reid, Graeme Houston, David Walker, Thomas Wright, Simon Cox, Liam Flynn, Daniel Stevenson, Liam Bridgeman, Richard O'Donnell, Alistair MacLellan, Andrew Kirkaldy, Gavin Fleming.

STAFF:- Mr Shannon, Mr Kirk, Mr Gilhooly.

The second expedition in the 6th/7th May was on the other boys' Bronze training weekend in the Trossachs. The weather again was very good. The two mountains we climbed during the weekend were Ben An and Ben Venue, which gave superb panoramic views of the Central belt of Scotland, from Tinto Hill in the south to the Island of Arran in the West, Ben Lui in the North and Arthur's seat in the East.

GROUP: John Wishart, Scott Turner, Aaron Schiavone, Craig Loch, Cameron Chisholm, Paul Tyson, John Stevenson, Jamie McIntyre, Scott Mackle, Stephen Gale, Jamie Smith, Neil Greenwood, Charles McDonald, Dean McMenemy, Paul Ruthven.

STAFF: Mr Shannon, Mr Kirk, Mr Lawrance.

The third weekend on the 13th/14th May was a girls' Bronze training weekend. On this expedition Captain Sean Foley, ex Royal Marine came along to assess Miss Courtney as a potential leader for an expedition to Venezuela.

GROUP: Laura Hadland, Gillian Briggs, Laurie Cairns, Barbara Davidson, Annabel Porter, Nicola Bonner, Alana Donnelly, Patrisha Goodman, Evelyn Henney, Jennifer Holmes, Lisa Milligan.

STAFF: Mr Shannon, Miss Courtney.

Over the next three weekends 27th/28th May, 3rd/4th June and 10th/11th June the Bronze assessments took place in the local Ochils. The weather was not as kind as it was during the training weekends, but this did not deter

the pupils who did very well: all successfully completed their expedition assessment.

Our Silver assessments were all carried out in the Braemar area. Firstly, a girls' Silver Assessment and boys' Gold Practice 14th/18th June. The girls group carried out an exploration up Glen Ey, studying the land use and flora and fauna of the glen. At the same time the boys' gold group made use of the time to train for their expedition in August. Part of their training was a 25km day hike including 7 munros on route.

GROUP: Amy Morton, Lynsey McAway, Ashling Kerr, Jennifer Jones, Lindsey Farquharson, Ilona Evenden, Laura Dunnachie, Stuart Ruthven, Nick Burge, Paul Fleming, Gareth Martin, Darren Farr, Edward Porter.

STAFF: Mr Shannon, Miss Courtney.

Secondly, a boys Silver Assessment and practice 22nd/25th June. The assessment started in Blair Atholl then followed Glen Tilt up to the Chest of Dee and on to finish in Braemar. The practice group walked up the Glenshee area.

GROUP: Kristofer Edwards, Adam Bott, Adam Tose, Michael Brown, Gerald Kerr, David Walker, Matthew Roessler, Colin Armstrong, Alisdair Spence.

STAFF: Mr Shannon, Mr Kirk.

The last expedition of the session was the Gold assessed expedition 23rd/27th August. This venture took the group from Braemar in the southern Cairngorms up through the famous Lairig Ghru to Aviemore in the

northern Cairngorms and then on East to Knochandhu. This was a great expedition with mixed weather but the boys were harassed by the dreaded Scottish midge, (Character building stuff.).

GROUP: Stuart Ruthven, Nick Burge, Paul Fleming, Gareth Martin, Edward Porter.

STAFF: Mr Shannon

As Miss Courtney is leaving the School in the

Summer, I would like to wish her and her fiancée all the best for their future and thank Ruth for all the time and commitment she has devoted to helping with the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The final thanks goes to all the other members of staff who help in all the other aspects of the award scheme, in the service, skill and physical recreation section of the award.

TS



Above and below: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Group in the Trossachs



Combined Cadet Force



Fun and games on CCF Field Day to Loch Katrine



Alan and Gareth

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

This has been a busy year in that the Staff endured a gruelling week in Feb. just before the restrictions on training bit so deeply into our planned Training Programme, when together with Instructors of the Scottish Cadet Training Teams and ACF Officers they completed their Alpine Ski Leaders Course at the Cairngorms near Aviemore. As the Administrator of that Course (ably assisted by Mr Duthie) which itself was the brainchild of our own Lt Graham Borking but organised and funded by G2 Cadets, Major John Patchett of HQ 2 Div., Dougie and I can both testify to

their enduring spirit and skiing ability that led to five from QVS qualifying. Well done!

Even as I write (at Easter 2001) we have members of the RAF section away at Camp in Cyprus with Plt Officer Christine Sheerin and two Cadets in South Africa with the British Schools Shooting Team. Last summer was also a memorable year for foreign visits with Amy Morton going to the White Horse Cadet Camp in Yukon, Canada, and Chloe Johnston going to RAF Bruggen in Germany. It is to be hoped that the current crisis will soon be under

control to allow our Army Section to visit Germany as planned this summer.
J.R.S

Army Section

This year, training was carried out to a high standard with a very sound team of NCOs who undertook the day to day training of their respective sections. The input of the senior NCOs has also been superb. The summer term (2000) had the usual Infantry exercise at Barry Budden and this went extremely well,

helped by good weather. In the autumn, two weekends were set aside for personal survival training and testing (recruit platoon), again at Barry Budden. All cadets passed the weekends and thus were nearly able to complete their APC training, most having just shooting and first aid left to pass.

The Highland Tactical Team performed admirably in the Autumn Competition and came second in the CCF teams, an excellent achievement and a credit to the level of training carried out by the senior NCOs.

Several exercises planned for the Spring Term had to be cancelled as did the tri-service Adventurous Training Camp at Easter. Unfortunately, these cancellations followed a Field Day postponed because of heavy snow.

Finally, many thanks to the officers and cadet NCO's who have helped to implement army training throughout the year.

P. S. Onslow, Capt. OC Army.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

Last Summer the emphasis was on outdoor pursuits with sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, powerboating, hillwalking and rockclimbing and our aim is to repeat such a blend this Summer term.

Our Joint Services Field Day on the 11th October was very enjoyable. The weather was kind to us; although most of the country had rain we had a clear, dry, mild day. It was an interesting walk round Loch Katrine with superb scenery and information points throughout the walk denoting points of interest, history and wildlife.

In the mid term holiday Lt Scott (Army), Cpt Onslow (Army), Lt Borking (RN) and myself went on a seven day Alpine Ski Leader course. This qualification will give us more flexibility in running our annual CCF ski camp. It will also allow use to take more cadets and assess and award them BASA star awards up to four star.

On the 14th of March I attended a meeting in Edinburgh, at which all the commanding

officers of RN CCF sections in Scotland were briefed on proposed changes to the training syllabus. They simplify the existing syllabus and update it to be more in tune with the needs of cadets today, with 50% of the syllabus devoted to outdoor pursuits.

After 4 years as our Area Instructor CPO PT Doug Wylie has moved on. He recently passed his AIB and is taking up a post onboard HMS Invincible, one of the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers. We would all like to wish Doug all the best for the future and thanks for all his help over the years. Doug's relief is also a physical training instructor. We are delighted to welcome CPO PT Derek Nordon as our new AI and I am sure he will be as helpful as Doug.

Looking to the future our next Field Day will be our water sports day on Loch Lomond in June. We also have our bi-annual inspection this year in November. It is especially important for the naval section because it is the turn of the Royal Navy to provide the inspecting officer.

Lt Cdr T Shannon, OC Royal Navy



Royal Navy CCF Field Day to Loch Katrine in October 2000

Easter Camp

RAF Bruggen 2000 Cadet Camp

BY CDT CPL CHLOE JONSTON

Well what can I say? So much accomplished in so little time and so many people to thank for it. Firstly I would like to thank Norman MacLeod, MacNeil Trust Fund for giving me the chance to experience such a wonderful trip and enabling me to encounter such a different way of life in the Royal Airforce. Secondly, I would like to thank all staff who made this trip possible. Last, but not least, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to all those voluntary staff from RAF Bruggen who helped to make our trip so informative, enjoyable and exciting.

Day 1 (13th April)

After nine hours on the bus we arrived at RAF Bruggen and not even Shania Twain can look good at 06:00 but the 54 cadets who stumbled off the coach at camp were a sight for sore eyes.

After the camp photo we had the rest of the day filled by briefings and such like and although they all tried desperately to make their talks interesting to stop us falling asleep they had no such luck.

This was followed by a 'meet and greet' BBQ, which gave us the opportunity to meet fellow cadets and the ACLO and her staff.

Day 2 (14th April)

An early rise at 0600 meant that all the cadets could shower and dress before room inspection. I found the day informative and interesting and learnt about the many professions which are available within the RAF. In particular, I found a trip to the simulator (which only the six best cadets attended inc. Cdt S Fennell and myself) interesting. Although we were unable to get a shot on the £26 Million machine we learnt a lot from mission operators. The short trip to the village of Bruggen meant there was just time for an ice cream (the best in Germany) before tea.

Day 3 (15th April)

This day was scheduled for a visit to Koln which was completely flattened during the second world war. In my group we visited the historical chocolate museum/factory and climbed to the top of the cathedral and, of course, visited Macdonald's. We also did that vital woman thing SHOPPING!!!!

Day 4 (16th April)

We were allowed to dress in smart civilian clothes as we had to attend a short church service before we left to visit the Airborne Museum, Hartenstein, Oosterbeek and the graveyard also in Oosterbeek. The graveyard shows how many men suffered on that tragic day.

We left Oosterbeek with enough time to get tea at the JRM before we left again to visit Laser Quest in Holland. Firstly you go in a simulator and watch a video which tells you the object of the game. Inside this simulator there are ultra violet light which makes looking at the white on people's eyes and teeth really funny. The game inside the Laser Quest lasts about 15-20 minutes, the sound effects are great and the atmosphere inside was amazing.

Day 5 (17th April)

We rose today as usual and dressed in our working blues. For our exercise we were split into 7 groups with two members of staff per group, as leaders. The aim was to get grid points from the leader and walk to that specific point and then carry out the task which had been set for you. Points were awarded for each task and the winning team at the end of the camp got a prize. We completed our exercise in good time. The night exercise later was intended to make you use the skills which you had acquired during the day. We had to get to a point and find the box without getting caught by voluntary ACLO staff. Unfortunately, our team got caught more than once and it always seemed to be me who was picked on by the shots person.

At 3am the exercise ended and we ate soup and bread to warm us up before a short walk back to the barracks and bed.

Day 6 (18th April)

Well we got a lie in today (hurrah!!!!). Apparently we deserved one after all our hard work during the night exercise. Today we had a trip to Phantasialand which is a theme park like Alton towers. It was a great day.

Day 7 (19th April)

Today was a second day of section visits which enabled us to see those sections which the other groups had seen in previous rounds. Sam and I worked in the Officers' Mess typing up menus, sorting enquires, handing out rooms and putting mail into the correct pigeon holes. That evening there was a 'Good-bye' party and during it silly prizes were awarded by staff to staff and cadets and also from senior ranked cadets to cadets and staff. I was awarded the 'Garden Gnome of the Year' award. After that the party really began.

Day 8 (20th April)

As the bus left RAF Bruggen we saw the end of our magnificent trip. The journey seemed to fly past and before we knew it we were on the plane back up to Glasgow, having waved good bye to newly made friends and also old friends from previous camps.

Again I would like to express my most sincere thanks to all those who made this trip possible. I know I am not only speaking for myself when I say that I truly enjoyed a wonderfully fun-filled, informative and educational trip.

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Whitehorse Cadet Camp

Yukon, Canada, Summer 2000

BY AMY MORTON S5

Being picked as one of the two Scottish cadets to go on a six week Canadian cadet exchange programme was something I never thought I would have done this time last year when a very tentative application was sent in. But here I am 12 months after a most unforgettable summer, having passed my course and had the parade position of supernumerary-sergeant - best female and Brit of my platoon.



school bus onto a parade square, out stepped a large group of Canadian Staff cadets, undergoing a thorough kit inspection.

WCCTC was a set of wooden barracks, wooden lecture rooms, a wooden mess, wooden staff barracks, wooden hospital, wooden porters, two sets of red bleachers by a tarmac parade square surrounded by enough flag poles for each province, large (very large) metal stores and all of this surrounded by green!

Being the only cadets except for a few units, the first few days were really lonely and consisted of getting issued with Canadian kit on top of our own British combats. Living out of a kit bag and barrack box for 6 weeks was hard. Being 'Brits' we got a few day trips including four to Whitehorse.

By the third day everybody had arrived and we were placed in our platoons and sections.

'Brit Cad A.Morton. A coy 2pl 1 section WCCTC-CLI'

My adventure leadership course was AMAZING to say the least, consisting of many exercises: abseiling, repelling & zip line (luckily the night we went out, because of the northern lights, we could legally do a midnight-repel). We also managed 3 days rock climbing. The worst part was spending 3 hours learning rope techniques and how to make Swiss seats! Rope bridging - built by the cadets & security staff over Miles Canyon - 1 day.

Watermanship, watership training including a panic test in a glacier fed lake - 3 days. Canoeing - 4 days including some rapids and white caps.

Patrol - 5 days each day a new base including rowing an assaultboat with all of the section's kit in it across a lake (plus an 'underwear' swim due to no shower for 3 days!!)

We also had many lessons on camp. We would be doing course work until 8.10pm after wake up at 6am. PT every morning and parade and barracks inspection every other morning.

During those six weeks I was not out of army dress and was never not marching unless on exercise. I only took my head-dress off for meals and to go to bed. I saluted every officer I passed.

All in all a very realistic training programme which made me anxious to do more courses and join the army.

Our final full day 'graduation' marching out in my kilt and #2 jacket I felt so proud amongst the 122 Canadians on the square. I realised what I had achieved and, despite 5 days in Vancouver and civies awaiting me, I didn't want to leave. The tears the following day as we climbed onto the same bus as we had arrived in, proved that.

Almost 4 months later I still can't believe it is me in the photos and that I had such amazing experience and taste of life at 16.

The Battle Horse

BY ANNIE PORTER S4

I struggled on through the undergrowth, trying to calm the noise of my sobbing breath tugging at my throat and willing the horse to follow as quickly and silently as possible, although I knew this was hardly fair as he had probably never moved anywhere in such a fashion in his whole life.

Far behind me, at the farm, I could hear my grandfather calling my name. It tore at my heart to be so blatantly disobeying such a wise and kind man, but I could also hear the rattle of enemy's bit-chains and the stamping and snorting of their bad tempered horses; this made me all the more determined to move the horse and myself as far away as possible.

We reached the far side of the spinney and our feet touched the soft spongy grass that used to grow so freely over the whole region. I looked about the country side and saw the miles of desolation that war had brought to the once fertile plains, and I thought about how abundantly the crops used to grow and how since the war had started the fields had gradually turned one by one into an ever increasing dust bath in the summer and quagmire during the winter months. I thought with disgust of how many people had died in those fields which used to be full of corn.

The horse bent his great glossy neck and began to crop at the grass with lips of velvet. His dark coat was gleaming in the late summer sun and his tail, soft and smooth and freed from the mud of war began to swish the flies away lazily.

He really was the only good thing to come out of this war. I can remember the day he was left with us on my grandfather's farm. Starving and filthy he looked half the horse that he did now. The enemy soldiers left him on the same day that we received the telegram from the commanding officer stating the death of my eldest brother. The following week we were told that my other brother was missing in action.

I put my energy into caring for my new horse. Early in the previous year the army had requisitioned our farm horses and left my grandfather unable to tend the farm in any serious way. After weeks of tender love and

attention the horse began to show signs of improvement. His sides started to fill out and his face lost its gaunt hollow look.

With the warming of the summer air, he soon grew a lovely smooth shiny summer coat and started to glisten like the white horses dancing on the waves that grandfather took me to see at the beach when I was a very small child. Before long, grandfather started to use the horse that I had claimed as my own for light work about the farm. He was very willing to learn and picked up new skills, like ploughing and seeding, very easily.

All the spare time though, was kept as our own. I had spent the long summer evenings with him, walking away from the constant sound of gunfire and away from the danger of a stray shell hitting us.

Now though, there was none of that carefree idleness. I tugged at the horse's halter rope desperately trying to encourage him to move

on. He raised his head, his liquid brown eyes, beseeching, questioning. He could not understand what was going on and I could not explain, for I did not really understand myself except that the enemy soldiers had said they might be back for him one day and now they were. The enemy had brought nothing but death and destruction; I couldn't bear for my horse to go back to that sort of life.

Behind me I could hear them coming closer and closer; I struggled on more and more desperately trying to hide the horse and traces of our passing.

Eventually we came to a small copse that I knew well from my childhood games of hide and seek with my brothers and I knew that if I was to have even the remotest chance of staying hidden it would be here.

We crept in and wound ourselves through the trees. It would have been so much easier just to hide myself, but I knew of a drainage ditch that should have been quite dry due to the time of year. Situated in the middle of a particularly dense thicket, it really made the perfect hiding place. Tugging harder at the halter rope, we slipped and slithered down the bank and splashed ankle deep into silt and muck.

I could hear my Grandfather and the soldiers entering the copse now, shouting in their strange voices. Closer and closer they were coming. I could hear their feet snapping and cracking over dried out twigs. I could hear their breath almost as dry and rasping in their throats as mine.

They were coming closer and closer until I could hear their every move and every word, until they were almost on top of me.

I held my breath and threw my arms around my horse's neck, desperately praying for him not to make any noise that might give us away.

Suddenly they were there, right overhead. We both held our breath as we heard them cursing as they marched past. As the noise went into the distance all the immediate danger went with it. I spent the night there warming myself against the horse's side.

As the sun rose early the next morning, I forced my stiff legs into movement and crawled out of the ditch. The horse raised his intelligent head and heaved himself up.

Strolling back to my grandfather's farm, the halter rope held loosely in my hand, I felt absolutely exhilarated because I had won my own little battle against the enemy forces, but then I thought: What of the future?

Primary 7 Writing

Hiding

Secret nervousness
Anticipation tension
Suspense concealed

Seeking

Hunt trail track search stalk
Investigation patrol
Comb explore pursue

By Toni Guthrie

Daydreams

Mr. Carroll thinks I'm listening,
But he's wrong . . .
I'm on the way to an Irn Bru factory.
I see the orange sign.

I start to taste the fizziness like crackles on my tongue.

I have a shower in Irn Bru

Later I'll have a bath.

I'm sliding down a great big straw.

I'm about to hit the pool of juice, but . . .

Stephanie! Class is finished!

By Stephanie Craig

Sir thinks I'm working

But I'm on holiday . . .

Or skateboarding in Marseilles.

I'm swimming in Bermuda . . .

Or floating around in space.

Sir thinks I'm reading, but no . . .

I'm floating through the sky . . .

I'm a cat chasing birds . . .

I'm a lion in the circus . . .

I'm being told off by Mr. C.!

By Cameron Johnston

Mr. Carroll thinks I'm listening but . . .

I'm a gladiator in ancient Rome.

I'm racing in a CLK GTR racer at Silverstone.

I'm scoring tries for Scotland at Murrayfield!

Mr. Carroll thinks I'm working but . . .

I'm fighting in World War II.

I'm running in the Olympics beating

Lyndford Christie!

By Hamish McArthur

Mr. Carroll thinks I'm listening,

But he's wrong . . .

I'm filling my plate up with pizza,

Squeezing tomato sauce on my chips,

Flying with the shower of salt,

Eating greasy sausages,

Swimming in chocolate pudding,

Sleeping in rice pudding,

Dancing with the lollies,

Diving into Irn Bru,

But now I dream no more as Mr. Carroll calls out,

'I'll just give the test papers out!'

By Karen Harrower

The Prep Monster

He swiftly flies round the room and he is very sneaky and sly. He is as silent as if he was a ghost and is a terrible treacherous beast.

He slowly turns the time back on the clocks to make more depressing work time. He takes your prep and doesn't return it. He sits silently like a spy or a bird sitting on a branch.

He prowls around like a lion in a cage in the zoo. He never makes creaks on the floor or chuckles while he works. He waits silently for his next victim.

Every body waits scared and depressed all night because the prep monster could haunt them next!

By Karen Harrower

Haikus

Hiding

Nervousness tension

Anticipate secretly

Worried unsafe cold

Seeking

Trailing rummaging

Investigating one boat

Searching hunting tense

By Cameron Lee



Artwork: Andrew Kirkcaldy (top left), Iona Evenden (bottom left), Annie Porter (right)

English/Drama Report

One of any English Department's most important aims must be to get pupils reading, and this is particularly true for the younger years. So, with the aim of stimulating reading in S1 again this year, we revamped the Accelerated Literacy Project begun last year.

Pupils have to complete a set number of reading activities ranging from book reviews to compiling crosswords to giving class talks, all based on texts of the pupil's own choice. Completing 8 tasks gains the Bronze Certificate, 12 gets the Silver and for 15 activities the rare Gold award is presented.

The Certificates have been presented by the Headmaster in Chapel in the course of the year and the whole scheme seems to have been very successful. It is so popular that we are considering how best to extend ALP into S2 to keep the impetus going.

S1 reading skills were further developed by the Scottish Studies Information Skills work run by Mrs Sheerin in the library. The work involved gleaning information from a variety of sources - CD Rom, video, slides, etc - and completing a booklet to show what had been learned. Pupils evaluated this work themselves and responses reveal it worked very well indeed.

Only one foray onto the stage was made by S1 this year - a dramatic presentation of Alfred Noyes' poem, "The highwayman". Images which recur of that performance include Alastair Frame leering as the crazy ostler, Charlotte Tervit's heart-rendering portrayal of the landlord's daughter with her "long black locks" and the unforgettable sight

of Adam Rainey as the highwayman hero galloping round the stage with gusto on a hobby-horse.

Plays were performed on stage by S2 groups and S3 pupils attempted to put on a couple of Christmas pantomimes at the end of the Christmas term, one of which was notable only because everything that could go wrong did go wrong, culminating in the curtain breaking at the end. Oh well - at least nobody burst into flames. The audience were bemusedly tolerant!

Dramatically QVS's Drama group did very well, creating an original script for the Sri Sathya Sai Service National Drama Competition for Human Values, and coming second in the finals of the Scottish competition in Glasgow in December. We also scooped up first prize for the Best Script and Amy Morton won the award for Best Actress. The sum of four hundred pounds was presented to the school and that is ear-marked to help us with future presentations.

This year's summer panto project is surging ahead - rehearsals have been under way for some time now for "The Gruesome Tale of Bishop Hatto", based on the comical poem by Robert Southey. It promises to raise a laugh or two if all goes according to plan.

This year, however, was a difficult one for the Department on account Miss Johnstone's illness. Her position in the Department was very ably filled by Mrs Lorraine Shaw. It is not easy for a supply teacher at the best of times and Lorraine did extremely well, impressing pupils and colleagues alike with her abilities

and commitment to the job. She enjoyed her time here and we pass on our hopes that she finds her next post as enjoyable.

Miss Johnstone, happily, has now returned to the bridge and the course has to be, as usual, "Ahead, warp speed." (That phrase is what pupils would describe as "Old Cheese" - perhaps with reason!)

Mr. Kirk

Language Student

Caroline Delmar from the University of Versailles has been our language assistant this year in the modern languages department. She has also helped out in both Haig and Wavell Houses.

Hard working and enthusiastic, Caroline has provided very strong support in the classroom by stimulating genuine classroom communication with small groups of junior pupils and by enabling senior pupils to take part in mature individual conversations which are essential for their Higher courses.

Above all, in this year of 'European Languages Awareness', Caroline has brought France and its culture vividly into the classroom. Form 4, in particular, owe her a debt of gratitude for sharing with them her intense love of French poetry.

We thank Caroline for her vigour and commitment and wish her all the best in her future career.

Mrs. Howie

Dr Dunbar's Visit



Dr Dunbar's Presentation

BY **CHRISTOPHER SOPER S2**
CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

On the 22nd March, American astronaut Dr Bonnie Dunbar talked to some of the pupils at Queen Victoria School.

There were lots of different views on her presentation and my view was that it was absolutely amazing! From the start I was enthralled at the depth of the information she was giving to us. Dr Dunbar laid her talk out well and covered every aspect of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

She spoke to us about the physical attributes which an astronaut must have. I felt that here, at Queen Victoria School, we have the equipment and staff to reach the physical standards Dr Dunbar pointed out to us.

Dr Dunbar also discussed the subjects that an astronaut must be exceptionally good at so they can enter a college to complete the educational side of training. I feel, here at Queen Victoria School, we as a community

have the staff, equipment and willpower to do the subjects at the highest standards possible.

Dr Dunbar spoke to us about space and space stations and managed to talk in such depth, that you could not let your imagination drift away and not pay any attention to her. Her presentation made me a lot more interested in space and NASA.

The more that Dr Dunbar spoke, the more interested I became in her work and her life as an astronaut. She managed to bring to life a hard working job, that seemed almost impossible to reach, a lot closer to a lot of the pupils. I was touched, the greatest, by the enthusiasm she showed and the way that she managed to make herself reach out and touch my mind. She inspired me and made me believe that I can do more

interesting things in my life than I thought possible.

The presentation and pictures combined well with Dr Dunbar's speech so that you could understand and translate it into an easier form of knowledge that cannot be forgotten or lost in our minds.

I felt that she managed to make a lot of people realise that we are coming into a more advanced technological era. She explained NASA's future well and tried to encourage the pupils that, in the future, they too could become astronauts over in the United States of America or even here in the United Kingdom.

Given the opportunity to speak to her again, I would certainly thank her for a presentation that stimulated my mind.



DR DUNBAR FROM NASA

Dr Dunbar is an Astronaut from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) who has flown on a space shuttle five times. Although she came from America and lives in Oregon, her grandparents were Scottish.

Dr Dunbar talked to us about what NASA is and what a space shuttle is like. NASA is an organization which specializes in space flight and this is one of the most technological advancing areas nowadays but, unbelievably, more money in America goes towards make-up, cigarettes and alcohol, than space.

Many experiments take place onboard space shuttles. The Discovery shuttle, on which Dr Dunbar has flown, has its own 'lab'. One experiment carried out in space was burning a candle. On Earth a candle always burns upwards, with more heat on the inside of the flame. In space, where there is no gravity, a candle burns in a spherical shape and is blue, because it's not as hot.

The last shuttle Dr Dunbar went on, Discovery, took supplies to the Russian space station, Mir (which is actually coming down today - 23RD March 2001). It also swapped a shuttle crew

member for an American Mir crew member.

On Discovery's journey back to earth, two of the crew members filmed a video about space, for the Schools' where they live. One of the more interesting bits was a ball of strawberry juice floating around at first, then the crew member drinking it!

When Dr Dunbar had finished her talk, we were invited to ask questions. No one did at first because we were nervous and couldn't think of anything to say. Then, Ciara Watson thought of something and stood up to ask Dr Dunbar. Soon, lots of people wanted to ask questions, in fact, we didn't actually have time for everyone to ask their question.

Here are some of the questions we asked Dr Dunbar:-

Q: What do you eat in space?

A: You can't the normal way you do on Earth, all the food and drinks come in pouches and you have to suck it out.

Q: Have you ever met Neil Armstrong?

A: Yes, I have.

Q: How could you become an astronaut?

A: You would have to take all the hard subjects, unfortunately, like Physics and Geometry. Also, you would have to write to your Government to get them signed up for the International Space Station. They would need to send up some astronauts, so maybe you could be one.

Q: Did you ever want to be like another astronaut when you were little?

A: Yes, John Glenn was sort of my hero. He was the first American in space, and recently became the oldest astronaut in space.

There were a lot of other questions as well. At about 3.00pm, Dr Dunbar left the Theatre, and one of the best talks I've ever heard was over.

To find out more information about NASA and space, Dr Dunbar told us we could go to the NASA website at <http://www.nasa.org>.

CATI MONTI - S1

Hobbies and Activities



Cake Sales 2000 - Sales Team



Pass the Parcel at Christmas time



Cake Sale in progress

Scripture Union/JAM Hobby

The Session began with a welcome to our new P7 S.U. Members.

JAM (Jesus And Me) Group expanded to cater for more pupils in S1 and S2.

Our weekly meetings ranged from Lego construction, seed planting and making a table from newspaper (while studying the

Parables of Jesus) to Team Games, Songs, Plays and Discussions.

Twenty-six pupils celebrated 'Jesus is the Reason for the Season' at 'Dalriada' in December.

The Session ended with an 'Easter Eggstravaganza'.

Mrs Onslow's freezer is again stocked with cakes and cookies, enthusiastically made by

the children in weekly baking sessions throughout the winter months, in readiness for the Grand Cake & Cookie Sale – proceeds to the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh.

We look forward to meeting again in October and welcoming old and new Members to Room 14.

L. H. Silcox.

Fund-raising for Charity

The past year has seen great success for this hobby group which has again attracted many enthusiastic pupils of all ages. Non-uniform days and frequent baking sessions have both contributed to the raising of £1,162.70 for various charities since last Easter.

Our non-uniform day in the summer term raised money for Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital, with pupils dressing in shorts, T-shirts and 'shades'. In October, pupils contributed to 'Jeans for Genes' and the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal. This year we were able to send 65 packed shoeboxes, which were gratefully received by needy children in Russia. I would like to thank parents and children who contributed so well to this appeal.

Before Christmas a non-uniform day raised £264 for Children in Need. This was followed in March by a LookeyLikey Day, where pupils dressed as someone they thought they looked loike. The pupils are to be congratulated in their innovative ideas. The £273 raised was

donated to Multiple Sclerosis Scotland.

Since October the bakers have gathered enthusiastically to produce fairy cakes, chocolate crispies and chocolate marshmallows which were rapidly snapped up by ever-hungry pupils. Our profit from cake baking since just before Christmas reached the total of £167.25 and the bakers opted to send this money to Cancer Research.

In our fund-raising of last year we supported the charity, Sightsavers. We had asked the charity to use part of the money donated to set up an eye screening camp and were delighted to hear that a camp in the name of Queen Victoria School was held in the Tamil Nadu district of Southern India. As a result of the camp, 92 people were examined and 11 were referred to hospital for sight-saving operations.

Our pupils have given generously to our appeals, contributed well to non-uniform days and enthusiastically eaten the cakes produced by our slick teams of bakers. Congratulations are due to all.

Miss Blackwood

JMC's MultiGym Hobby

A committed bunch of fanatics who give up their Tuesday lunchtimes to work their bodies.

The mixture of pupils who come along is fantastic. It ranges from the 'MultiGym Beasts' to those who simply want to tone up. What is splendid is that we also have both boys and girls attending!

The hobby is something that continues throughout the whole school year and, as well as keeping me fit, keeps me up to date with what's happening on the music scene. The "sounds" brought along prove to be the inspiration that drives us all on . . . as well as the packed lunches of course!

Thanks for your commitment!

James McNally

Needlecraft

This year's needlecraft hobby had a strong turnout, although sadly lacking the boys we have had in previous years. Quite a few of the girls were beginners, but after some tuition from Miss Taylor they soon picked it up. Also many of the girls who came last year returned.

Every Monday evening we would meet in Wave! Common Room to chat and sew for the hour or so we were there. The sewing kits we worked on were varied as we specified the type we wanted and Miss Taylor would try to get it for us. One time we went to the needlecraft shop in Bridge of Allan to pick out kits ourselves.

All in all a very successful and enjoyable hobby.



Pottery

The Tuesday night hobby was attended mainly by 3rd year girls. On Wednesdays two different groups took part on a rota basis in order to cater for as many P7 potters as possible.

The products ranged in scale and form – from simple animal thumb pots to more adventures constructions using a variety of modelling and building techniques. Hopefully, when they are finally glazed, the efforts and enthusiasm of the potters will be well rewarded.

Old Victorians Association

Recollections

of Dunblane/QVS in the 1930's

by Mrs Joan Head

When I was four and a half we moved to Dunblane. We lived in the staff quarters in the grounds of the school but, of course, we were not educated in the school, having to walk the mile and half into Dunblane for our schooling.

There were quite a few staff houses at QVS so we were a separate community, almost like a village. There were not only teachers but instructors in such things as music (there were both military and pipe bands) and physical training and others such as school secretary, night watchmen and boiler man, all of whom lived in the staff houses with their wives and families. The Colonel and the Captain, who was in the Education Corps and was Headmaster, lived in a separate corner of the grounds.

I seem to have gone out to play at QVS straight away. Certainly home was not so far away as when it was on the second floor in Stirling. Play was safe too in the grounds of the school. Although we had our special friends, at times all age groups and both sexes would join together for games of rounders or, after dark, games like hide and seek with the one light (which was on the wall of one of the houses) as "home" after dark. The boys would all join in games of football and similar boys' activities.

For our family an important person was Mrs

Kay who came once a week to do the weekly wash and the heavy cleaning. She really earned her money and on the day she came, which was usually Wednesday, we came home from school to a house that smelled of boiled washing. Through all our constant questioning she never lost her patience or stopped working. A very special person, her first husband was killed in the First World War and she had forfeited her War Widow's Pension when she remarried.

My mother was a school teacher before she married and I am sure that had she been born later in time when women can automatically continue in their careers, she would have been a great deal happier.

Now to school and education. As I said we walked the mile and a half to Dunblane for this. When first starting school our legs were too short to get all the way home and back in the hour allotted so we stayed to lunch. There was no such things as school dinners so we took sandwiches and the wherewithal to make a drink (either an oxo cube or a screw of

cocoa and sugar with a medicine bottle of milk if the latter).

Our schooling was strict and discipline was maintained with the aid of the strap or tawse which was used freely. The Scots have always put a high value on education and the teachers were determined we should learn. Something which my grandchildren wouldn't recognise in our desks were the inkwells. We wrote with pens looking rather like thinner pencils with a nib which frequently needed changing. I would emphasise that these were not fountain pens as they were a luxury. Our pens had to be dipped into the inkwells and the inkwells had to be regularly refilled, a job usually given to the teacher's favourite (teacher's pet!). Mind you, we didn't start ink writing till we were about seven, until then we wrote on slates with a special slate "pencil" which sort of scratched the writing onto the slate.

The bane of teachers seem to have been the Inspectors who descended periodically and were liable to pounce on any pupil to answer



Staff at Queen Victoria School with Pipe Major Francis F. Ross far right in front row.

their questions. You could almost feel the teacher's prayers that he would pick on one of the brighter ones who were likely to know the answers. I'm afraid those prayers seldom seem to have been answered.

At home we listened to the wireless, having started off with an extension from next door where the chap was a bit of a wireless buff and had rigged up his own cat's whisker set and first of all we had to listen on headphones.

We went to Stirling for most clothes shopping or for going to "the pictures". If we children were going on our own we always had sixpence which we stretched as follows: we would walk to Dunblane station for whence the return fare for a child was tuppence (2d), this left us 2d for a half in the fourpenny seats in the cinema and 2d to spend! We could get fruit as well as sweets then".

Other seasonal affairs came in the autumn when, living at QVS, we managed to celebrate both Halloween, the traditional Scottish festival, and the Fifth of November, then mainly celebrated in England. When we had done the

rounds we would light a bonfire and eat our apples and nuts etc and count up our money (some people would give us a penny) with which we could then buy fireworks for bonfire night. Mind you, such fireworks were small beer compared with the show QVS had organised for the boys and we were very pleased to enjoy that as well. It was quite impressive from the top of the hill, on which the bonfire was laid, to see the procession led by the smallest boy in the school, who was carrying a huge burning torch (he was assisted in this by one of the instructors slightly behind him) winding its way across the fields with each company carrying a magnificent guy high on their shoulders. The fire was lit and each guy ceremonially cast on to it, then followed a marvellous display of fireworks. Quite an event in our year.

Life in the town was marked by such events as the annual Cattle Show which always included all sorts of side shows and, of course, the QVS bands and dancers were always performing as they did in any town event. They always played their way back to the School and the town

children would follow the bands as they do anywhere – I was always very proud to be able to say to those I knew from School, "That's my Dad!" indicating my father, who certainly did look good in his Highland Dress.

In summer we would go to camp for which it was necessary to have palliasses which could be filled with straw to serve as a bed. Occasionally we went to rallies further afield. We actually went to Perth once where we sat round a huge campfire and enthusiastically joined in "Sure by Tummel and Loch Rannoch and Lochaber I will go" as well as the usual Guide songs.

In the Armistice Remembrances in November again QVS did its bit for the town. On the nearest Sunday to November the 11th there was the usual parade, including not only the British Legion but the Guides and Scouts and QV school boys in their uniforms with both Pipe and Military Bands. However, the QV boy who played the most important part in the proceedings, as far as I was concerned, was the one who disappeared behind the cenotaph to go some way over the golf course. His part



Pipe Major Francis Ross

came after one of his fellows had sounded the "last post" then came the two minutes silence which was followed by "reveille" coming from the distance to signify the dead awaking on the other side in Heaven. This, of course, was our little friend who had vanished over the golf course. I must say it was a very moving ceremony. Of course, in those days the actual day of November the 11th was kept during the working day in that all work stopped for two minutes silence. For those two minutes there really was complete quiet as all traffic was stopped while everyone remembered. It made a great impression on me as a child and I did

try to concentrate on the two people related to me who died in the First War – my Uncle Rod, my father's brother, and Uncle Jack, my aunt's husband.

On Saturday mornings I would go to where my father held a class for children who were private pupils of Highland Dancing. An amusing aspect of my father's teaching children when he had for years been used to teaching soldiers was the way he overcame the language barrier – since he couldn't possibly use the Army French the soldiers knew best. Such things as "Well I'll be blowed!" or, under

extreme duress, "Lumpin, jumpin Jehosephat!!" could be heard.

There were two important events in the School Year at QVS when we were bound to have visitors. These were Sports Day and Grand Day when parents of the boys in the School were invited. As all the boys were children of past or present Service personnel, some of the parents were from The Regiment and would come back to our house for tea. My job was to take any little girls (sisters of the school boys) out to play, out of the way so our Mums could talk.

Grand Day was a very different occasion as it

was a big parade when the Brigadier came to make an Inspection. It was a bit like a minor Trooping of the Colour Parade. They had to stand for long periods and, usually, one would drop in faint. This worried me even then, as I felt that could not possibly be good for them. But this was the Military and I must say the boys were very smart. Those long lines of red-coated boys were as straight as the Guards.

Another kind of visitors came at the time of the Pipe and Drum competitions in the School when we used to have the four judges of this, who were the Pipe Major and Drum Major of the Black Watch Regiment in Perth and the Pipe Major and Drum Major of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Stirling.

One Christmas we had an extraordinary visit south when Bertram Mills, the owner of the largest circus in Britain, which always performed at Olympia in London around Christmas time, booked the Boys' band and dancers to perform in the circus. This trip was really in style because we had sleeping bunks

on the train and had a night in the Waverley Hotel in London, all at Bertram Mills' expense, before going on to Southsea where we spent Christmas.

National events of the period of my childhood included the Silver Jubilee of King George the Fifth and Queen Mary in 1935. This was made much of in school where we seemed to spend a great deal of time learning to sing "Land of Hope and Glory". While there were big London parades, we only saw these in the cinema, there were no television sets then.

All this ended for me as my mother had always been unhappy living in Scotland and now she decided she would keep better health if only were to move south, and as I was, at fourteen, old enough to be allowed to leave school, she made up her mind that this was the time. I can still feel the lump in my throat as that last taxi carried us down the hill and away.



Artwork: Penny Wood (top), Michelle Wright (bottom)

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Old Victorians Association

President: Lt Col Ron Smith.

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A quieter year perhaps but quite significant for the Association in that we fulfilled the intention referred to last year when I wrote about the examination of the feasibility of putting the annual Newsletter on our Website. It is feasible, we tried it and as a result have been able to contact many Old Victorians who, for various reasons, have been out of touch with both School and Association. Again Stephen Hill (3578) is to be congratulated on his management of the site. His next task is to publish back numbers of the Newsletter on the Web, thus allowing OV's to really update themselves on what has been happening in both the School and the Association over the past twenty years.

The renewed interest in the School amongst OV's is reflected in further increases in Life Membership. Over 1200 Old Victorians have joined the Association since it replaced the OBA at the end of the 60's. We welcome enquiries as to membership for all OV non members. The once only subscription of £10 is a very worthwhile investment. We do extend, however, a very warm welcome to Life Membership for the new Bursar, Mr John Drysdale and wish him well. Best wishes and thanks also to his predecessor, Mr Ian McGregor, for his support for the OVA in his comparatively short time at QVS.

We always welcome visits by OV's to the School and a special welcome was extended to the Dukie/Victorians who returned for Grand Day 2000 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the DYRMS evacuation to Dunblane in 1940. In the event only five were able to be here, age and distance possibly taking its toll but not, I'm pleased to report, on Jim Macdonald (an original evacuee) and Ron Field, Peter Wheeler, Tom May and myself (who all joined QVS direct from home and were educated here in the '40s without seeing Dover at all!) We had a great reunion in the Stirling Arms much aided by OV's of our generation at QVS.

The Annual Reunion of the Association took place in March as usual with a good turn out of 100 plus and the weather behaved itself! Our musical theme, practice on the Saturday afternoon and performance on Sunday was much appreciated again but I do hope more will participate next year. I was especially pleased that another Gunner, Major Johnathan Calder-Smith RA (3571) was able to escape from Larkhill and his very busy staff post at HQ DRA in order to take the salute at the Church Parade and, as we have established over recent years, met with Gunner pupils including several whose fathers were in 19 Regt RA (The Highland Gunners), with whom he had served as 2i/c recently in Bosnia and Kosovo. The most significant event of the weekend was the dedication of a new memorial in the Chapel to commemorate the lives and sacrifice of three Old Victorians who had died on active service post 1945. John Easton (1530) and Wallace McGregor (1877) both died in Palestine due to terrorist action and Robert Marshall (2015) was killed in action in Korea. The memorial was designed and crafted in wood by Mike Smith (2924) and is situated in the memorial corner of the Chapel.

Mention of active service emphasises the

continuing deployment of OV's operationally. Neil Collie (3506) Emailed to confirm that he was in East Timor; both he and brother Phil (3631) are Sqn Ldrs in the RAAF. Willie Milne (4122) took a cruise on HMS Ocean to Sierra Leone and John Girvan (3471) flew Phoenix in Kosovo – a representative from each service of the many OV's who are so committed to operational duties currently.

Travel and work abroad tempts many of our Members. Richard Givens (4151) ventured to Belize on a very successful Raleigh International Expedition. Jamie Scott (3911) has taken up a VSO teaching post in a rural Secondary School in Kenya and plans to meet with Stephen Grant (3056) also teaching in a Preparatory School there. Sean Glenn (3764) and Bill Crichton (3100) have moved to the Netherlands and Belgium respectively and Ken Crease (4061) from Moscow to New York. Visitors to the Czech Republic might like to call in at the British Council in Prague and ask to see the Director i.e. Paul Docherty (2943).

Branch activity varies. London & South East have continued with their 'hostelry' get together and have enjoyed several happy evenings. Activity in North America and

Australia is limited in the main to individual contact although the small group in Perth WA is continuing to develop the fellowship generated during the OZ99 Tour. We still hope that OV's in Canada and the USA can cooperate to form a North American Chapter. The OVA is looking long term to the

celebration of the Centenary of the School in 2008 and particularly in respect of information and memorabilia related to QVS and the careers of its pupils through those 100 years. All contributions will be gratefully received. Another good School year draws to a close with the approach of Grand Day 2001 and I

must conclude with my sincere thanks for the welcome and hospitality accorded to Old Victorians both when visiting and through correspondence. The relationship between the School and Old Victorian continues to flourish and is much appreciated by the latter.

Dukie/Victorian Reunion

June 2000

Five Dukie/Victorians were present on Grand Day 2000 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the evacuation to the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane of a contingent from the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover.



l-r: Surprisingly upright after a long and happy evening in the Stirling Arms!! Ron Field, Jim Macdonald, Tom May, Peter Wheeler, Ron Smith.

Obituaries

584 Major D. Watson

David or more popularly known as 'Pundy' Watson was awarded the Primus Medal in 1922. He exemplified one of the early aims of the School i.e. to produce potential Schoolmasters, in that when he left the School in 1926 he completed Army Teacher Training and then followed a career in the Army Education Corps, serving until 1955. He was a fervent supporter of initially the Old Boy's Association and subsequently the OVA. On leaving the Army he continued his work as an educationalist, employed by Essex Further Education Committee. During his retirement he maintained his links with both School and Association, visiting and corresponding even after his 90th birthday. David gave great service to Education throughout his working life and always expressed his pride in the School. He passed away peacefully on 17 November 2000.

1395 D. MacLean

David was at the School from 1928-32 and served in the Cameron Highlanders during World War 2. His family having emigrated to Australia, he was attracted to a complete change of life and went 'down under' as well, settling with the family in Perth, thus gaining another family, the Western Australia detachment of the OVA! Readers of the 2000 VICTORIAN may recall that David was not too fit when we were in Perth for OZ99 so Tom

Hunter (2384) and I took QVS to him in a 2 hour visit at his home, an emotional but much appreciated afternoon. Sadly David passed away on 5th October 2000. Tom, Peter Richmond (1750) Stuart Fairbairn (2097) and his wife Jenny represented The School and OVA at his very Scottish funeral during which the 23rd Psalm was sung to the tune of Amazing Grace; very appropriate given in Stuart's presence.

1798 G. Cameron

George was one of the many boys from QVS who joined the Army as an apprentice at the age of 15. He did so in 1941, joining what was then known as the Army Technical School, Aborfield. He trained as an Armourer and mustered into the RAOC, subsequently to transfer to REME on its formation. He served in Singapore, Malaya, Egypt, BAOR, Malta and Cyprus, retiring in 1966 after almost 26 years service. A very significant amount of that time was spent as Armourer in the Royal Berkshire/Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment from 1953-65. During that period his skill at maintaining the Regiment's weapons was demonstrated as it won the Army Machine Gun competition for 5 consecutive years.

On leaving the Army he was employed by Ferranti as a computer weapons designer, finally retiring in 1991 to enjoy his family plus some golf and recording militaria on his computer. He always expressed his pride in the

School and took active part in the meetings of the London Branch. He died on 9th September 2000.

1816 J. Calderwood

Brigadier Bob Tweedy introduced John Calderwood to the OVA, having met him and another OV, Mike Melloy (1679) in Perth. Both served in the Black Watch, John in the latter years of World War 2, staying on in Germany until discharged in 1948. Needless to say their meeting with Bob resulted in almost instant membership of the OVA! After discharge John worked for British Rail for 42 years, retiring as a Senior Conductor in 1990. John became a regular visitor to the School, especially on Grand Day but sadly not this year as he died aged 74 on 9 April.

2277 Lt Col B. F. Williamson

The three Williamson Brothers contributed significantly to QVS life in the 1940s particularly as sportsmen. Sadly that reputation can only live as a memory as the last brother, Brian (Jock) passed away on 1st December 2000 after a brave fight against Cancer. The Williamsons were a Dunblane family, in fact a QVS family, their Grandfather, Lt Col MacRae, was Admin Officer at the School from 1922-30. At school I remember Brian as an elegant but, when necessary, ferocious boxer, a rugby player of considerable talent and a potential leader even in his early teens. Indeed his

ambition took him away from QVS earlier than might have been expected when, in 1953, he became the first boy from the School to go to Wellbeck College. Whilst at Wellbeck his rugby prowess was demonstrated through selection for the Scottish Schoolboys International team. He qualified to enter Sandhurst and was Commissioned in the RAOC in 1957.

Within the RAOC Brian opted to specialise in the ammunition field and qualified as an

Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO), serving in BAOR and, of course, in Northern Ireland. Indeed the only time our paths crossed during our respective careers was on a July night in North Belfast in 1976. Through the smoke and flames of an enormous explosion appeared the face and voice that seemed familiar. It was Jock the ATO, ready to take over the incident and carry out the necessary procedures at the scene of crime. What a place to have an OV reunion

for two! His was a dangerous life and he lived it with the same bravery I referred to above.

Away from his work rugby took up most of his time, playing and coaching at unit level and representing his Corps, the RAOC. His career was marked by promotions up to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and he was latterly employed as Deputy Commander Recruiting North East Region. A great sportsman and a courageous soldier is sadly missed.

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Local Purchasing Officer

B Harrison

Bursar's Secretary

M Reid

School Secretary

A Macfarlane

Accounts Officer

M Symon

Part-time Typist

R Ainslie

Support Grade II

A B Gauld

Laboratory Technician (2)

D P Carrington-Porter

Civilian Security Officer (5)

S Graham

Experimental Worker

R Hamilton

General Hand

R Hiddleston

F Wernicki

R Davies

C Allan

A McDonald

R MacDougall

MA Fleming

M Roy

W Stockman

P Warner

Storekeeper

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