

The Kirkhamian

1997

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The Kirkhamian

1996 - 1997

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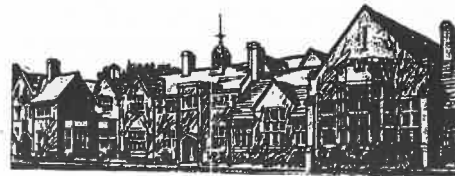
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The School Year



AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER

A record number of pupils on roll and record examination results got KGS off to a flying start to the new school year. The Senior School boasted 570 on roll, including 75 boarders and a Sixth Form of 155 students, whilst the Junior School approached a record total of 210 pupils.

The A-Level results were the best in the school's history. A pass rate of 93%, 47% grades A/B and 65% grades A/B/C are all A-level statistics which have never been bettered at KGS. No less than sixteen subject areas achieved 100% pass rates. At GCSE, 96% of our students achieved five or more grades A-C. Every one of our pupils took Mathematics and English Literature and all passed.



Students receive their A-Level results

Officials and Guests at Speech Day



Such achievements were recorded at Speech Day, when we were delighted to welcome one of the school's most illustrious former pupils, Professor Eric Laithwaite, Emeritus Professor of Engineering at Imperial College, London, and inventor of the linear motor.

Young Enterprise began again in September when the new Lower Sixth established their company, "Twister". Together with their advisers from BNFL, they set about their task and produced a wide range of products, including wind chimes, dried flower arrangements, pot pourri and fridge magnets.

We had our regular visitors from the Anne Frank School in September. The German pupils attended school and experienced the pleasures of life in England. Official outings were arranged. There was a trip to the Lake District and one to the Royal Armouries in Leeds. KGS pupils returned the visit in February.

On the sporting front, Claudine Beaver became the Fylde Junior Girls' Golf Champion, a remarkable achievement.

OCTOBER

In winning the British Schools' team title, Kirkham Grammar School's second year girls' team of Nicola Hendy, Jenna Rees and Katie Threlfall continued a proud tradition of success at the highest level in the demanding sport of biathlon, which combines running and swimming.

We were also delighted to hear of the success of one of our first formers, Shaun Swarbrick, who was the individual winner of his age group in the Blackpool Schools' Cross Country Championships.

International rugby player, Christian Saverimutto, paid a visit to the school to organise a rugby workshop with the Under 15 rugby squad in aid of the SPARKS charity (Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids).

NOVEMBER

For the Annual Inspection of the CCF we were pleased to welcome yet another Old Kirkhamian, Lt. Col. David Stevens, Commanding Officer of Number 3 Training Regiment in London.

The Friends of KGS held their annual ball, this year at the de Vere Hotel in Blackpool. Once again the event was a spectacular success, with over three hundred guests enjoying the evening.

At the end of the month, the Dramatic Society brought to life Brecht's "Caucasian Chalk Circle". This was the first large cast production for some years, involving a cast of seventy and a production team of thirty. Under Mrs. Jones' direction, our actors and actresses played to packed houses.

Sporting success came to members of both the rugby and hockey squads, with



Members of the Under 15 squad with Christian Saverimutto at the Rugby Workshop

an unprecedented eleven players selected for Lancashire Schools Under 18 rugby trials, with an eventual four selected for the team to play in the Northern Championships, whilst sixteen girls were selected to play for Lancashire hockey teams at Under 18, 16 and 15 level. This was a remarkable achievement for our sports players and one of which we are extremely proud.

DECEMBER

The exchange pupils from Wairarapa College arrived. Amanda Schaefer, Karen James, James Bruce and Bevan Parker spent over two months with us and fitted easily into the school's rugby and hockey squads.

International honours came to Michelle Harrison, who was selected to swim for Great Britain in the 100 metres butterfly event against Germany. Michelle Harrison had an outstanding term, qualifying for no less than nine events in the National Age Group finals, where she won a silver medal in the 50 metres freestyle and a bronze in the 100 metres butterfly.

SPRING TERM

The story of the Spring Term was the marvellous success of the school's First XV. Unbeaten in their matches against other schools in the North West, they also progressed through the rounds of the prestigious *Daily Mail* English Schools' Cup, narrowly defeating Wirral GS, then Lancaster RGS and finally Warwick School in a tense quarter-final. These fine achievements earned them *Rugby World* magazine's award of the 'School of the

Lt. Col. David Stevens reviews the Guard of Honour



The School Year

of the month'. But more success was to come. In the semi-final of the competition, held at the National Training Centre in Wolverhampton, the team defeated Champion School to qualify for the final of the event against Colston's School, Bristol.

Eight coach loads of supporters left for Twickenham early on the Saturday morning of the match and numbers were swelled greatly at the ground by Old Kirkhamians and supporters from other local schools and from Lancashire senior rugby clubs. Sadly, the opposition proved too strong, but this was an achievement of which our team can be proud.

JANUARY

The entrance examination was held and competition for places was fierce. One of our Junior School pupils, Lorna Sissons, achieved the top mark overall and the following awards were made:

11+ Scholars / Exhibitioners

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Christopher Gorman | Academic |
| Sarah Harrison | Academic |
| Stuart Harrison | Music |
| Katy Mellor | Music |
| Kingsley Shaw | Music |
| Andrew Shirtliff | Music |
| Lorna Sissons | Academic |
| Adam Tuck | Academic |
| Lindsey Tuck | Academic |
| Jack Ward | Academic |

Bursaries

James Cooper
Sarah Critchley
Joseph Darwen
Chloe Gabbatt

FEBRUARY

The House Music Festival attracted over 200 entries and the standard was as high as ever. The individual winner of the Rosemary Greaves' Music Award was Michelle Carter, who has achieved Grade 8 in both Voice and Trombone in the Associated Board Music Examinations.

The Spring Concert was also a resounding success, with the second half of the programme devoted to a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*.

MARCH

We were delighted to hear that Owain Evans had been selected for the British Schools' Exploring Society expedition to Egypt. Once there, Owain will take part in experiments concerning marine biology and will spend part of the time living with Bedouin tribes.

116 pupils took to the stage in our Junior Drama Festival. The actors were all aged between twelve and fourteen and the plays were produced by both staff and senior Theatre Studies students. The result, as always, was delightful, hilarious and a resounding success.

APRIL

Our hockey teams, spurred on by the success of the rugby squads, gained success also. The Under 15's won the Lancashire Schools' Hockey Tournament, whilst the under 12's were joint winners. The under 13's and under 11's won their regional rounds of the *Le Coq Sportif* national seven-a-side hockey tournament and qualified for the national finals. In the finals, the under 13 team finished as runners-up, whilst the under 11's went one better and became national champions. We are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of talent.

With the ski trip to Italy, the annual French trip to Alsace, the RAF camp at St. Athen in South Wales, and the Ornithology Society's expedition to Mallorca, the Easter break proved to be anything but a holiday for many of our pupils. All in all, over 150 pupils took part in various activities.

Rehearsals for the Junior Drama Festival



SUMMER TERM

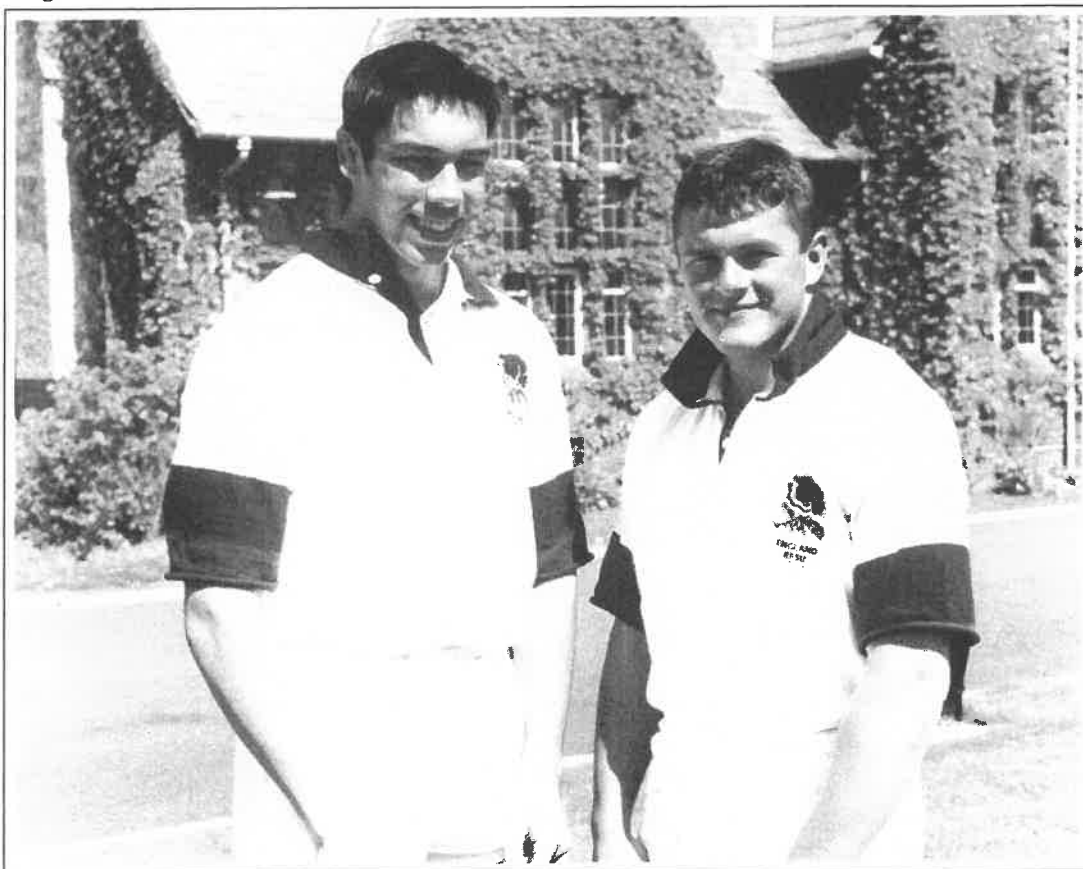
MAY

International honours came to a further three KGS pupils. Alex Sanderson and David Giles were selected for the England Under 18 Rugby Squad to tour Australia in the summer, whilst Katy Parker, at 12 years 144 days, became the youngest athlete ever to take part in a world championships. Katy was selected to represent England in the world table tennis championships and her selection prompted a visit to the school from the production team for the BBC Television programme *Record Breakers*. Kris Akabusi spent the day in school - and few of those present will forget his encouragement at the beginning of Sports Day. We have subsequently heard that Katy has been selected for the England team for the European Youth Championships in the Czech Republic.



*Katy Parker, the youngest competitor ever
in a World Championship*

*Alex Sanderson and David Giles,
England Under18 Internationals*



-The School Year-



As the month drew to its close, the Sixth Form held their annual Leavers' Ball in the school grounds and once again the evening was a fine success. It was followed on the next evening by the Friends' Summer Ball, when good company, good music and good food were enjoyed by all.

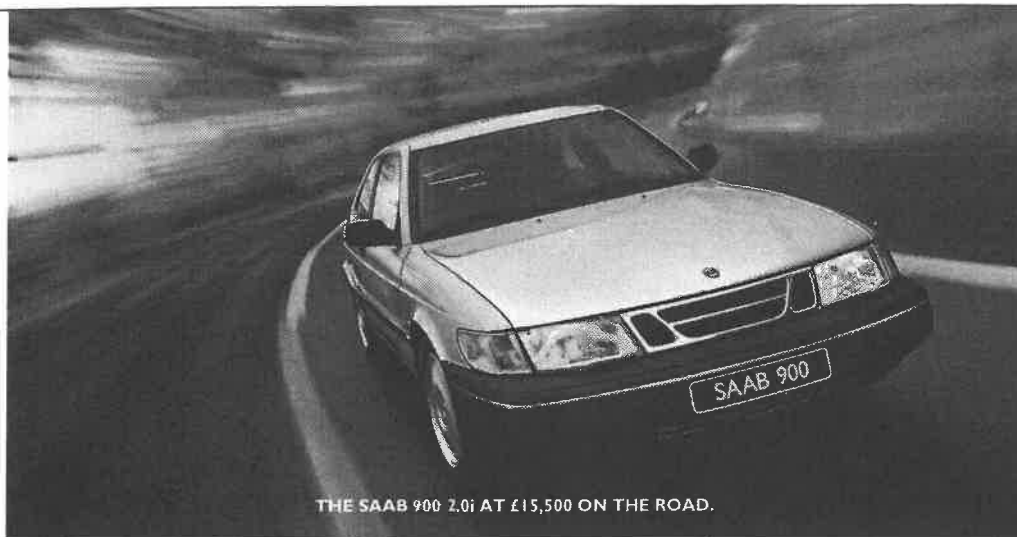
JUNE

With June comes round the public examinations season, although it seems that the start of both GCSE and A-Level examinations creeps earlier each year. We wish all our fifth and upper sixth formers well and hope they acquit themselves to the best of their ability during this important time.

And, as the school year ends, there will be some sad farewells, more this year than in many previous years as we bid goodbye to Mr. Stockdale, Mrs. Jones, Miss Bird, Miss Weekly and Mr. Marshall, having already said goodbye to Ms. Harris, Mr. Porter and Mr. Gornall. It certainly seems that at KGS, the times, they are a-changing.



The Sixth Form enjoy themselves at their Annual Ball



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Headmaster's Report



Reports

It is my privilege as Headmaster to report on another remarkably successful year at Kirkham Grammar School. Recruitment of pupils has again surpassed all previous records to maintain the continuing impressive growth of our school. There are presently some 785 pupils on roll between the ages of 4 and 18, with 570 in the Senior School.

It has been particularly satisfying to see the Junior School continue to expand, the Sixth Form rise to over 150 students, and the Boarding House full. I would like to thank all our parents for showing such confidence in the school and its future.

We can all take great pride in the best public examination results the school has ever achieved. For the first time in 1996, our pupils achieved pass rates of over 90% across GCSE and A-Level, a benchmark target which we have long aspired to attain. Our A-Level results exceeded all expectations, with an overall pass rate of 93%.

Such results enabled the great majority of our pupils to progress to the universities of their choice. At GCSE, two thirds of all the grades awarded were A*, A or B and the average number of passes per pupil (i.e. grades A-C) was again in excess of eight. These excellent results are a tribute to the work of our pupils, the support of their parents and the skill and commitment of our staff. They are remarkable results for a school which is far less academically selective than many.

There have been some significant changes in the senior management of the school over the year. We were delighted to be able to appoint Mrs. Jane Taylor to replace Ms. Harris as Senior Mistress. Mrs. Taylor, formally Head of Girls' PE & Games with outstanding success, has served the school with remarkable skill and commitment and her well deserved



internal promotion is sure to strengthen the school.

The departure of Mr. Paul Stockdale to become Headmaster of Ballard's College, an independent school in Hampshire, leaves us in ambivalent mood. On the one hand, we are delighted that Mr. Stockdale has achieved the headship his drive and talent deserve, whilst on the other hand, he will be sorely missed, especially by his headmaster. We all wish him every success and fulfilment

in his demanding new role and thank him for his tireless efforts on our behalf.

It is a tribute to the growing reputation of the school that the post of Deputy Head proved to be so sought after. Mr. John Wood, Head of Mathematics at Nottingham High, one of the country's top schools, emerged from a long and strong field of candidates as Mr. Stockdale's successor. With a good honours degree in mathematics from Cambridge University, Mr. Wood's academic credentials are absolutely first rate and he is just the sort of committed, all-round school master we were looking to appoint, with a keen and active interest in outdoor pursuits, sport and music. Mr Wood will take up his Deputy Headship in January. To assist us through the coming Autumn Term - and beyond - Mr. Arthur Baines, a former Captain of School at KGS and our longest serving member of staff, has been promoted to the post of Senior Master.

Mrs. Karin Kelly, Headmistress of the Junior School from its inception in 1990, leaves us this summer to take up the headship of Merchant Taylor's Preparatory School. We owe Mrs. Kelly a debt of gratitude for her pioneering work at KGS, which has seen our Junior School grow from scratch to a healthy roll of 215 pupils. During those seven years, Kirkham Grammar Junior School has emerged with a reputation second to none in the area.

We are delighted to have been able to

Headmaster's Report

appoint our own Mrs. Lesley Taylor as the new Headmistress of the Junior School. A member of staff at KGJS almost from its foundation, Mrs. Taylor has been the driving force behind the school's excellent reputation for music of the highest quality. Immensely popular among pupils and parents alike, she will bring us the continuity we seek and her experience in both junior and secondary education will be a great asset to the whole school.

The middle management of the Senior School has also been strengthened this year by the appointment of two Heads of Sector, whose job it will be to promote academic standards and co-ordinate the work of the tutors in terms of their pastoral provision. Mr. Richard Watson has been appointed as Head of Middle School (fourth & fifth forms) and Mrs. Anita Devine as Head of Lower School (first, second & third forms).

The school's ambitious development programme has continued throughout the year. Seven new classrooms, a resources area, cloakrooms and shower blocks have been added to the Junior School, eventually to create a two-form entry school between the ages of four and eleven years. The widening of the senior school drive has enabled all the school's coaches to park within the safety of the school grounds and enhanced the appearance of the Grade II listed frontage. Two new rugby pitches have been prepared for use across the Kirkham by-pass and further land and property purchased adjacent to the school campus to create much needed car-parking and office space.

The centrepiece of the development, an impressive new two-storey Technology Centre, should be completed by the end of the coming academic year. Work on this has already commenced to enable the school to fulfil its designated status as a Centre of Excellence for the teaching of technology.

Money contributed by the Friends of KGS, together with the proceeds of two highly successful fifty kilometre

sponsored walks, has enabled us to construct a climbing wall in the Hall and we are grateful to Mr. Mark Gaddes and Mr. Richard Taylor for all their work and initiative in bringing this enterprise to fruition.

The past year will be remembered by many as an outstanding year for school sport. At a time when sport commands much more media attention than ever before, Kirkham Grammar School's emergence as one of the country's leading sporting schools has greatly enhanced its reputation nation-wide.

The 1st XV entered the *Daily Mail* England Schools' Rugby Championships for the first time, along with 255 other schools, and became the first Lancashire school ever to reach the Under 18 final at Twickenham. It was marvellous to see the name of Kirkham Grammar School displayed on the Twickenham scoreboard. Although our players suffered their only loss of a magnificent season, they gave us a sparkling display of creative and expansive rugby and a day we shall always remember.

Alex Sanderson and David Giles went on to win full international caps, playing in an England Schools' U18 rugby team which achieved the 'Grand Slam'. Both have earned the honour of an England tour to Australia this summer.

Not to be outdone, KGS Under 13 and Under 11 girls' hockey teams contested the National Finals as champions of the North of England. Our Under 11 team emerged as national champions, a truly outstanding achievement, and our Under 13's finished as close runners-up. No other school has had two teams in the finals and the way our girls played and conducted themselves certainly caught the eye.

The boys' athletics team dominated the Fylde Coast Schools' Championships to the extent that they won the overall trophy by a record 88 points. Gareth Rees, who has been running well all season, won the county 400 metres title and his fast time earned selection for

Lancashire to compete in the prestigious English Schools' Athletics Championships.

Earlier in the year, Nicola Hendy, Jenna Rees and Katie Threlfall continued a proud tradition of success at the highest level in the demanding sport of biathlon by winning the British Schools' team title.

It has also been an excellent year for the school's leading swimmer, Michelle Harrison, who qualified in no less than nine events in the National Age Group finals and earned her place in the Great Britain team, a marvellous achievement.

The significant achievement of the year, however, belongs to twelve year old table tennis star, Katy Parker, who broke all records by becoming the youngest full international in any sport when selected for the England Women's team. After appearing on the front page of *The Times*, Katy was the star of a *Record Breakers* television programme filmed on Sports Day in the company of Kris Akabusi.

Kirkham has a long and strong tradition as a sporting school, but there can never have been a year to match this one; a fitting tribute to Mr. Brian Gornall, Head of PE/Games, in his retirement year. Mr. Gornall has been an outstanding servant of the school for the past twenty eight years and we are delighted that he will remain with us in a part-time capacity as a rugby and athletics coach in the year ahead. I would also like to congratulate Mrs. Glover, Head of Girls PE/Games, and all our games staff and coaching staff on their achievements.

Let no-one suggest that Kirkham Grammar School's success is confined to academic results and sport, however. The school seeks to educate the whole person and embraces a breadth of talents and pursuits. I would like to give full recognition to the very high standards the school achieves in music, art and drama. Musicians of real quality have been on display throughout the year in a series of

- Headmaster's Report

concerts organised, rehearsed and produced by our Director of Music, Mr. John Catterall, and his assistant, Mr. Sean Ashmore. The large audiences attending the Carol Concert, Carol Service, Spring Concert and Evening of Summer Music, in particular, have every reason to be grateful for their efforts, for they enjoyed some marvellous individual performances from scholars Michelle Carter and Haidee MacGregor and many others, and some stunning choral music. It is good to see the strengthening of the strings and the flowering of brass, as school music goes from strength to strength. Michelle Carter was awarded an honorary music scholarship in her final year for her outstanding performances in voice (grade 8) and on the trombone (grade 9). She has entertained us splendidly for years and we shall miss her greatly.

The work of the Art department, under the new leadership of a former captain of the Boarding House at KGS, Mr. Simon Gardiner, has continued to impress in terms of range and quality.

Brecht's demanding play *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, was a cultural and artistic triumph which tapped the deep well of performance talents we are so fortunate to possess. The third annual Junior Drama Festival presented no less than nine short productions, directed by staff and sixth form students and acted by pupils all of whom were aged between twelve and fourteen years.

To add to the breadth on offer at Kirkham Grammar School, there were no less than 27 inter-house competitions, ranging from debating to shooting and the year has seen a variety of clubs and societies continue to flourish and many trips abroad, both cultural and sporting.

Further still, the school boasts one of the largest and strongest cadet forces in the country. The Combined Cadet Force is an important and integral part of the school curriculum, teaching skills such as first aid, shooting and flying; inculcating team work and discipline; encouraging problem solving and initiative and stretching

pupils beyond the limits many thought they were capable of. Winners of the leadership trophy at Warcop, more recently the cadets have been commended for their all round strength and disciplined conduct at the annual camp held at Cultybraggan, Perthshire.

All in all, the school has had another magnificent year. Much remains to be done, however, as we strive for even higher standards, prepare for inspection in 1998, look forward to celebrating our 450th anniversary in 1999 and continue the rapid and extensive development programme designed to equip the school to enter the next century in a position of real strength. Undergirding all we do is our continued faith in the Christian message, which has sustained our school for centuries and helped to make Kirkham Grammar School a very special community in today's secular society. We have much to be thankful for and, with God's blessing, much to look forward to.

B. Stacey
Headmaster

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Technology Centre Appeal

The following events are planned as part of the Technology Centre Appeal. Further information from the School's Development Office (Tel 01772 672332).

17th October, 7.30 pm

"BEST BUYS FROM THE WORLD OF WINE"

Informal tutored tasting. Speciality Cheeses

Venue: School Old Hall. Special KGS discounts off wine purchases.
Organised in conjunction with Whitesides of Clitheroe.

Tickets: £8.75 (KGS parents and friends only).

15th - 16th November, 10.30am to 5.00pm daily

B. Mex '97 THE BLADES, BOARDS + BIKES SHOW

Activities, competitions, demos and displays of extreme and 'street' sports.

Venue: New Hall and Junior School.

Tickets: £1.50 all ages. Family ticket (2 adults & 3 children) £6

6th February 1998, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

Speaker: Willie John McBride, Comedian: Mike King, MC Murray Birnie.

Venue: Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club.

Tickets: £20 (provisional) 10% group discount (8+)

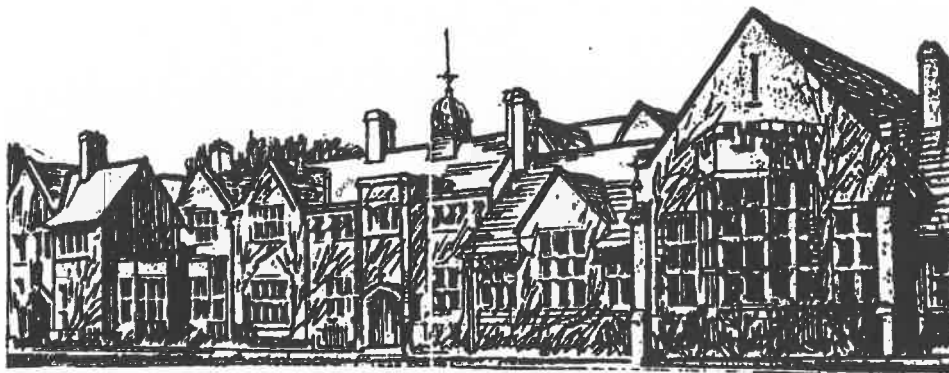
27th June (provisional) from 6.30pm

CLASSICAL FIREWORK CONCERT

Featuring the Camerata Orchestra with an extravagant firework display by Millennium Pyrotechnics, choreographed to a programme of popular classics.

Venue: Lytham Hall. Lytham.

Tickets: Adult £15, Child £6,
Family (2 adults & 3 children) £39, group discounts.





FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am sure most of you would think of us as a group of 'grey old men' reminiscing. Well, I may be going grey, but at 26 I consider myself to be quite a recent school leaver and my younger brother, Lee, has just completed his final term in the Upper Sixth.

What does the OKA have to offer you? Our annual formal dinner (September time) and informal 'get together' - normally just before Christmas at Ribby Leisure Complex - are an ideal way of keeping in touch with everyone and without exception have been thoroughly enjoyable.

May I also stress that the Association welcomes lady members and the numbers, especially at Ribby Hall last December, were quite encouraging.

Having attended quite a number of association dinners at a variety of local independent schools, I felt proud to be wearing the new President's chain of office. It was much admired by others

and perhaps it symbolises the exciting, new developments going on at Kirkham Grammar School.

Finally, may I thank, on behalf of all Old Kirkhamians, the headmaster, staff and pupils for their huge efforts in developing and moving the school forward to the next millennium.

Ingredere ut proficias

P. Gaskin

OKA SOUTHERN DINNER

Held at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford on Saturday, 12th April, the Southern Dinner was one of the most enjoyable reunions the Association has held. The usual number gathered for sherry in the Hearne Room before enjoying splendid food and wine in the College's Old Dining Hall. The headmaster's address made clear what a successful year Kirkham Grammar School had enjoyed, with record numbers on roll, the best A-Level results in the school's history and some outstanding sporting

achievements, notably the 1st XV's appearance in the final of the English Schools' Rugby Championships at Twickenham. Several Old Kirkhamians at the Southern Dinner had taken the trouble to watch the match and thoroughly enjoyed it.

After the port had made several circuits of the table, the party repaired to the Buttery Bar, where reminiscences were exchanged into the early hours. The Southern Dinner is a wonderfully unique occasion in the OKA diary, attended by a core of members who have kept the event going for many years. This year, it was particularly pleasing to see several younger members present and thoroughly enjoying themselves. The majority came as guests of President, Paul Gaskin and we hope to see more recent leavers at Oxford next year when the dinner will be held on Saturday, 4th April.

B. Stacey

News of Old Kirkhamians

Chris Taylor has been awarded a 2.1 Honours degree in Architecture and has passed the Part I examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Jenny Cuthbert has been awarded a 2.1 degree and a Ministry of Agriculture Award to study for an MA in Agriculture Economics at Manchester University.

Andrew Clegg has been awarded a 2.1 Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering, Manufacture & Management.

Nicholas Barton, studying Graphic Design, has been awarded a 2.1 Honours Degree. He has gained a position with Design Motive in London.

Duncan Gascoyne has been awarded a First Class Honours degree in Biology from the University of Durham.

Simon Yeung has been awarded a 2.1 Masters degree in Engineering from the University of Durham.

Charlotte Couper has been awarded a 2.2 degree in English and Drama from Chester College.

Andrew Palin has been awarded a Ph.D. from Cambridge University.

Iain Brown has been selected to represent the British Universities at horse riding. The competition is being held in Austria (Graz) in August. This means he will receive a University Blue. He is currently studying Management Science & Computing at Kent University.

YOUNG OLD KIRKHAMIANs

The Young Old Kirkhamians' popular Christmas Reunion took place on December 23rd at the Village Inn, Ribby Leisure Complex. As usual, the turnout was wonderful, with familiar faces from 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 or more years ago renewing acquaintance with each other and with staff. Fond memories of the not-so-distant past were relived in an atmosphere of genuine delight at meeting up again. The 1997 event is pencilled in for the 21st or 22nd December, at the same venue. Details are to be confirmed in the Autumn OKA newsletter.

Sadly, the Young Old Kirkhamians have lost two well loved friends at a tragically young age; the one depressingly predictable, the other a tragic shock.

In December, Jason Awbery-Taylor finally succumbed to the disease he had so bravely fought for most of his twenty five years, Friedrich's Ataxia. All those who were at KGS with him will remember the cheerful, even mischievous, way in which he defied his crippling condition, and none of us will ever forget the 'menace' of that wheelchair hurtling round the school, pushed by his mates with scant regard for who was round the next corner! The same mates bore Jason's coffin on his final journey at an inspiring final tribute attended by Jay's many friends, including KGS staff and former Headmaster Malcolm Summerlee.

That funeral took place on a bitterly cold January day, under grey skies. Four months later, on a bright, warm Spring afternoon, friends and teachers of Sarah Flack gathered at Lund Church in shocked disbelief that such a brilliant young life had come to such an abrupt end. Sarah died of natural causes at a time when she had just seemed to be coming out of a long period of illness due to an eating disorder. We remembered her talent, her sense of humour and her legendary

scattiness and, amidst all the tears, there were smiles.

Neither young life will be forgotten at KGS. Jason's mother has given the school a copy of the fragmented autobiography, the production of which became a reason to fight on for Jason. In it, he remembers his days at KGS fondly:

Kirkham Grammar School, we had drilled into us by the Headmaster, when we 80-ish first-formers were sitting on the floor in the old school assembly-hall, was founded in 1549. This date, I'm sure, is firmly entrenched in thousands of ex-KGS-er's minds throughout Britain. But, of course, we didn't only learn gems of useless information there, we had a wonderful grounding in every subject, which I still use today - with the possible exception of needlework!

It was there I found out that I had more than just a 'problém'. After countless trips to and from hospitals in London, Newcastle and Manchester to be examined, interviewed and tested by innumerable medics and their students. These would-be doctors do try very hard to be good medics, but sometimes it just doesn't come off.

In the beginning - when I was 11 - the KGS games tutors (Messrs. Smith and Gornall) decided that, although I wasn't able to do sports with my peers, I should do some exercise in the school gymnasium - this involved press-ups and rolls on a padded mat (this was fairly energetic, for me!) On Thursday mornings, Mr. Smith ran a swimming class at Kirkham swimming baths. Mr. Smith had arranged that I should be let in at 8.30, so he could give me a swimming lesson privately for the 25 minutes before the swimmers marauded the pool at 9.10. The lessons taught me how to swim without armbands - and after the Easter break in 1983, I got 3 swimming badges - my favorite is my 500 metres (20 lengths) one, obviously! After my lesson, I used to leave the pool (usually on Richard

O'Neill's arm as he'd been volunteered to walk around the pool edge, supporting me until I reached the changing room) to get dressed. At 9.40, Mr. Smith used to give me a lift back to KGS in his pride and joy, an immaculate Midnight Blue Ford Capri 2.8i.

Anyway, I was finally diagnosed at the end of the first year (by Professor P.K. Thomas from London) as having Friedrich's Ataxia, a progressive, genetic disease. It strips away the protective layer (called the MYELIN) from around the nerves -this is needed to control bodily functions and movements. One may think that having a crippling disease like Friedrich's Ataxia, a career at a 'normal' school would be finished. Thanks to the support of my friends and the teachers, though, even when I went into a wheelchair full-time when I was 12, I stayed. On that day in 1983 I was transformed from the boy who couldn't walk properly into a fully-fledged, wheelchair-using, disabled person. Despite the occasional funny stare at first - generally from pupils who didn't know me I was accompanied by (at first) my friends from St. Michael's, Adam Ralston, Derek Swinn and, of course, Craig (Piggott).

Being totally excused from games meant that I went into the Library fairly regularly - here (because he suffered from Achilles' Tendon trouble, so he, too, was excused games) I met Paul Gaskin. We got on very well from day one, possibly because we had the same sense of humour - very often this was our downfall... On parents' evening in 1983, Mr. and Mrs. Gaskin were talking to Mrs. Piggott (who was saying how good Paul was with me - we were a team that was rarely separated). Paul, in Shirley's words, nearly always was seen pushing me about the school..... They looked perplexed, and it became apparent that he had told his parents about his friend Jason, but not about his wheelchair. Through Paul, I met Mark (until 1985 he called himself 'Andrew', and for

some inexplicable reason started calling himself by his middle name) Heaton and Bill Strettle - both of these hailed from the same primary school in Preston.. Mark, who was always the vertically-challenged group member (in other words, he was short) was once asked how he managed to carry me then. He apparently said he built his muscles using weights "to help lift Jay" - this was another example of how much my friends evidently thought of me. His "Charles Atlas" physique - in later school years - earned him adulation from so many young girls - and therefore secret envy from me.

This 'Gang of Four' stayed as partners in crime until Bill and I left in 1987. At KGS (from 1983 or so) I was rechristened "Jay" by my friends and this handle seems to have stuck. I wasn't bothered about this in the slightest - I could've picked up far worse nicknames! This isn't to say I dislike the name "Jason" -far from it, I think being named after a Greek Hero is quite 'hard'. So I've been Jay to almost all my friends ever since.

Mrs. Awbery has donated a Speech Day prize in Jason's memory, whilst Sarah's parents have agreed to the proposal from Sarah's friends that a tree be planted in the school grounds in her memory, perhaps in the spot where she famously spent break time 'talking to the horses'. It is proposed to plant a tree in the Autumn and to use the occasion to reunite pupils from Sarah's era.

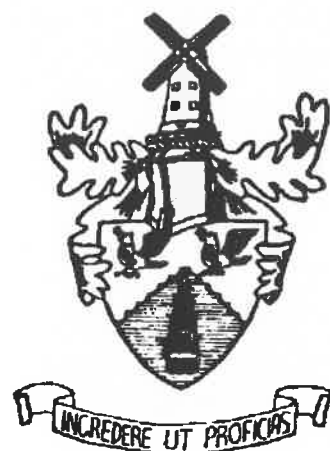
Let us hope that the deaths of these two fine young people help to bring us all closer together, reminding us perhaps what we all share in common. In their short lives both Jason and Sarah embodied all that we love about Kirkham Grammar School.

A. R. Long

CLASS OF '47 REUNION

After some hard detective work, Donald Allison and Martin Mears have managed to contact 45 of the Class of 1947 and a reunion dinner is to be held in School House on the 23rd August. Following a lengthy reception, due to start at 6pm, dinner is to be served at 8pm.

Other year groups who would like to consider this option, should contact the Headmaster at the school (Tel: 01772 684264). The school facilities are readily available.



Old Kirkhamians' Association Forthcoming events

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM

Venue: School library

Date: 20th September at 7.30pm

Northern Dinner

Venue: The School Old Hall

Date: 20th September

Young Old Kirkhamians' Reunion

Venue: Ribby Hall

Date: 21st or 22nd December

Southern Dinner

Venue: St. Edmund Hall

Date: 4th April, 1998

DESTINATION OF SIXTH FORM LEAVERS - JULY 1996

| NAME | INSTITUTION | COURSE |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Joanne L. ALLCOCK | Sheffield University | Zoology |
| Paul R. ALLEN | Loughborough University | Management Science |
| Raymond D. ALLGER | Teeside University | History and Politics |
| K. Thomas G. ASHCROFT | Blackpool & Fylde College | Art Foundation |
| Steven C.C. AU | Bath University | Civil Engineering |
| Lisa C. BACKHOUSE | Myerscough College | Leisure Studies |
| Ben J.W. BANCROFT | Blackpool & Fylde College | Design |
| Gordon J. BARR | Leicester University | History |
| Alex G. BEAUMONT | St. Martin's College | Geography |
| Nicholas M. BENNETT | Reading University | Music and French |
| Ruth BLACKBURN | University of Wales, Swansea | Law |
| Andrew P. CAIRNS | Sheffield University | Chemical Engineering |
| Sarah L. CHANTLER | Sheffield Hallam University | Business & Communication Technology |
| Fiona J. DARROCH | Stirling University | Philosophy & Religious Studies |
| Tupele DORGU | London Studio Centre | Drama & Dance |
| Richard J. ELLIOTT | Manchester University | Pharmacy |
| Christian D. ELLIS | Cheltenham & Gloucester | Geography & Sports Science |
| Catherine L. FLEMING | Exeter College, Oxford | French & Linguistics |
| Rebecca J. FRYER | Blackpool & Fylde College | Art Foundation |
| Thomas J. GARLICK | Harper Adams College | Agriculture |
| Helen M. GREEN | Chester College | Education |
| Nicola F. GREENSMITH | Leicester University | Biology |
| Andrew C. HILLS | Loughborough University | Computer Science |
| Chris D. HOLBROOK | Loughborough University | Computer Science & Management |
| Rebecca C. HORDERN | Lincoln University | Criminology |
| Elizabeth C. HORN | University College, London | Anthropology |
| Dawn M. HOUGH | Manchester University | Pharmacy |
| Bryn M. HUGHES | Sheffield University | Mechanical Systems Engineering |
| Jonathan P. HUTCHINGS | Leeds University | Sport and Exercise Science |
| James A. McGEE | Sheffield Hallam University | Business Information Technology |
| Nicola S. McKAY | Thames Valley University | Sports Studies |
| Deborah L. NAND | Blackpool & Fylde College | Art Foundation |
| Edward E. OLDFIELD | University of Central Lancashire | Marketing |
| David J. PARKINSON | Newcastle University | Agriculture |
| John J. PARKINSON | Leeds University | Electrical & Electronic Engineering |
| Patrick H. SANDERSON | Loughborough University | PE & Physics |
| Jane E. SANNEGADU | St. Mary's College | Sports Science & History |
| Alan A. SHARPLES | Hull University | History & Politics |
| Rajkiran SIDHU | Aston University | Human Psychology |
| Gemma L. STOCKS | Anglia University | Geography |
| Manoj K. VIJAY | Humberside University | Accounting and Finance |
| Jessica WAREING | Blackpool & Fylde College | Art Foundation |
| Oliver R. WELSBY | Leicester University | History |
| Natalie M. WHITTAKER | Coventry University | French and Italian |
| Kathryn A. WILDIG | Loughborough University | European Studies |
| Dylan M. WILSON | University of Wales, Cardiff | Medicine |
| John K. WOODS | Nottingham University | Environmental Engineering |
| Michael H.P. YEUNG | University of Wales, Cardiff | Medicine |
| Simon W.H. YEUNG | Nottingham University | Pharmacy |

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The following students are taking a "Gap" Year prior to University entrance in 1997:-

Chantelle L BAMFORD

Felicia OPOKU

Amy L. PRESTON

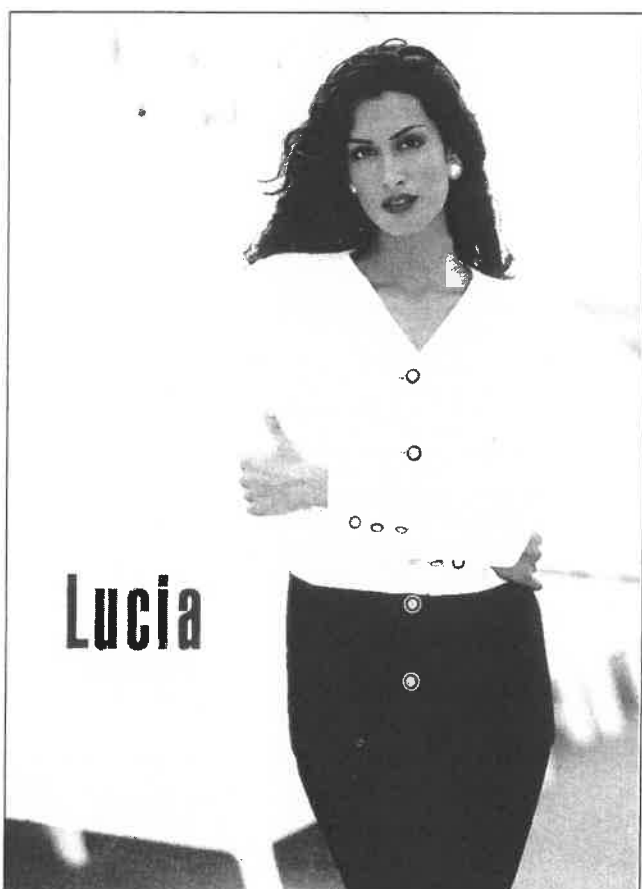
Sandra RENGA

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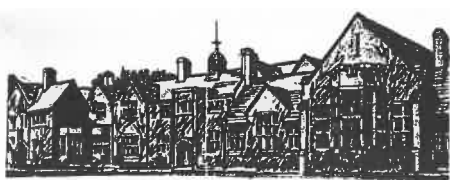
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The Friends' Christmas Ball

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all parents, friends, teachers and committee members who have given their time, help, support and most generous donations which have gone towards making our events a social success and helping raise a little extra money along the way for the benefit of all our children.

The AGM was well attended and we succeeded in recruiting seven new committee members. Other occasions, like the Cheese and Wine Evening, have been most enjoyable events. Of course your support for these and all our events plays such a crucial role in determining whether they are viable and enjoyable. With this in mind, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to our forthcoming events:

AGM

Date: 22nd September, 7.30pm
Venue: Old Hall

New Parents Welcome Evening

Date: 10th October
Venue: Old Hall

Winter Ball

Date: Saturday 15th November
Venue: The De Vere Hotel, Blackpool

Christmas Fair

Date: Friday 5th December, 4-6pm
Venue: New Hall

With your continued help and support, we hope to be able to raise enough money to purchase in the very near future one school mini-bus to replace the two that the Friends bought in 1992. In this last year, over £5,600 has been raised and given to various projects within both the Senior School and Junior School.

Donations have included:

- £2,000 to the Junior School software project.
- £1,500 towards the climbing wall.
- £370 to purchase a lapel microphone.
- £250 to purchase a printer for the School Library.
- £500 each to sponsor rugby and hockey tours.
- £250 to sponsor a pupil on the British Schools' Exploring Society expedition.

If we are to raise enough for a mini-bus, we need to build on this achievement, but we cannot succeed without your help. The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School hope to welcome you to some, if not all, of our forthcoming events. Many thanks.

Ros Ince
Chairman

- Retirements

Mr. ROBERT PORTER

Robert Porter was appointed as Head of Art at Kirkham Grammar School in 1976. At the time, Art was a minority subject but within two years, there were radical changes and an exhibition of art from KGS was displayed at Lancaster Art Gallery with work from more than 80 boys.

Mr. Porter started his teaching in 1957 in the North East, working in two secondary modern schools in Darlington before moving to Central London. After four years he became Head of Art at Salesian College, a grammar school in Chertsey, Surrey, where he taught for six years. He was then appointed senior lecturer in Art Education at Hereford College of Education, where he trained teachers for seven years. Whilst there, he was a member of the College Academic Board and also chairman of the committee at Birmingham University for organising in-service courses and conferences for teachers. In September

1976, he came to Kirkham Grammar School and under his tuition, Art has developed significantly, not only with excellent results at GCSE and A-Level, with many students going on to careers in Art, Design and Architecture, but also in the displays around the school.

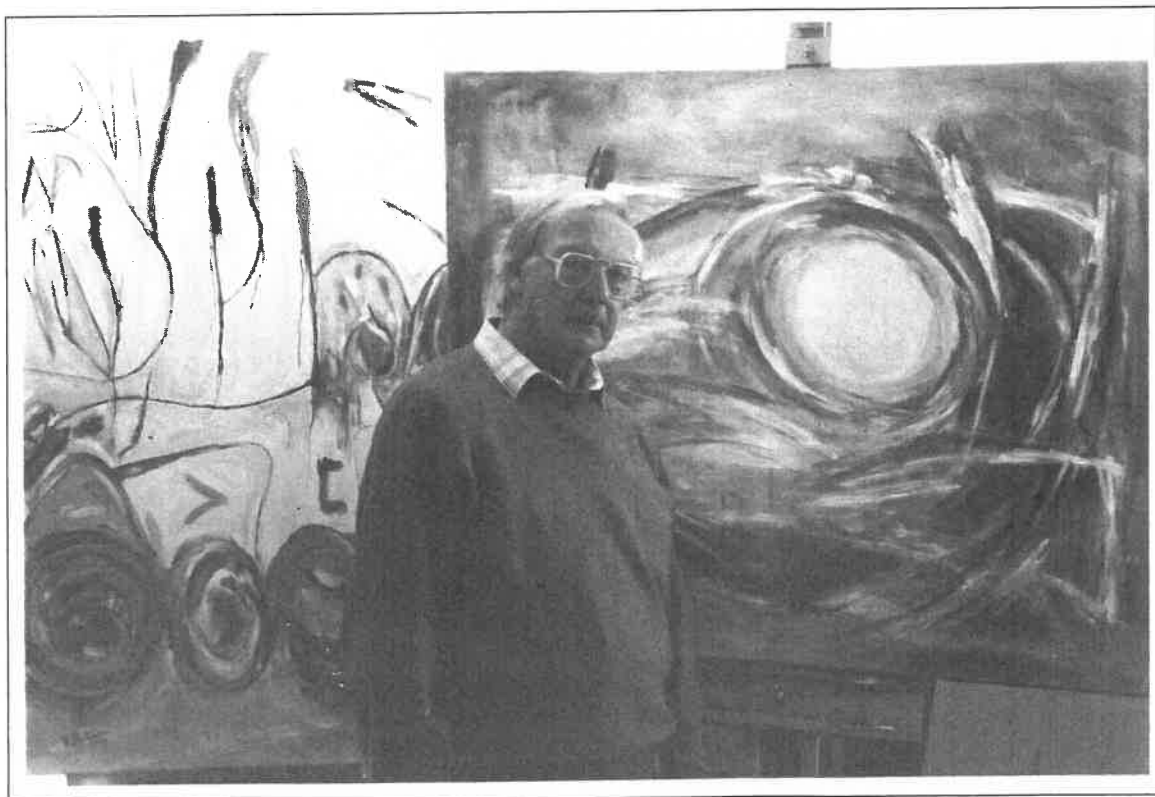
In addition to the more formal aspects of the subject, there has been much extra curricular involvement with the school magazine, concert programmes and set designs for the school plays.

He has also managed, within this hectic schedule, to pursue his own painting, exhibiting regularly in London and the provinces. His other great passion is music and is the subject of much of his painting. On the sporting front, his main interest has been cricket, which he has played to a high standard in many parts of the country. His left arm spin bowling and his infamous googlies were a feature of the staff team until only five years ago when he finally called an end to his innings.

His successor as Head of Art is Simon Gardiner, who was pupil and assistant to Bob (as he was known), so the department is in good experienced hands.

We wish both Bob and his wife Irene a long and happy retirement.

Mr. R. Porter with two of his paintings from "The Delius Suite"

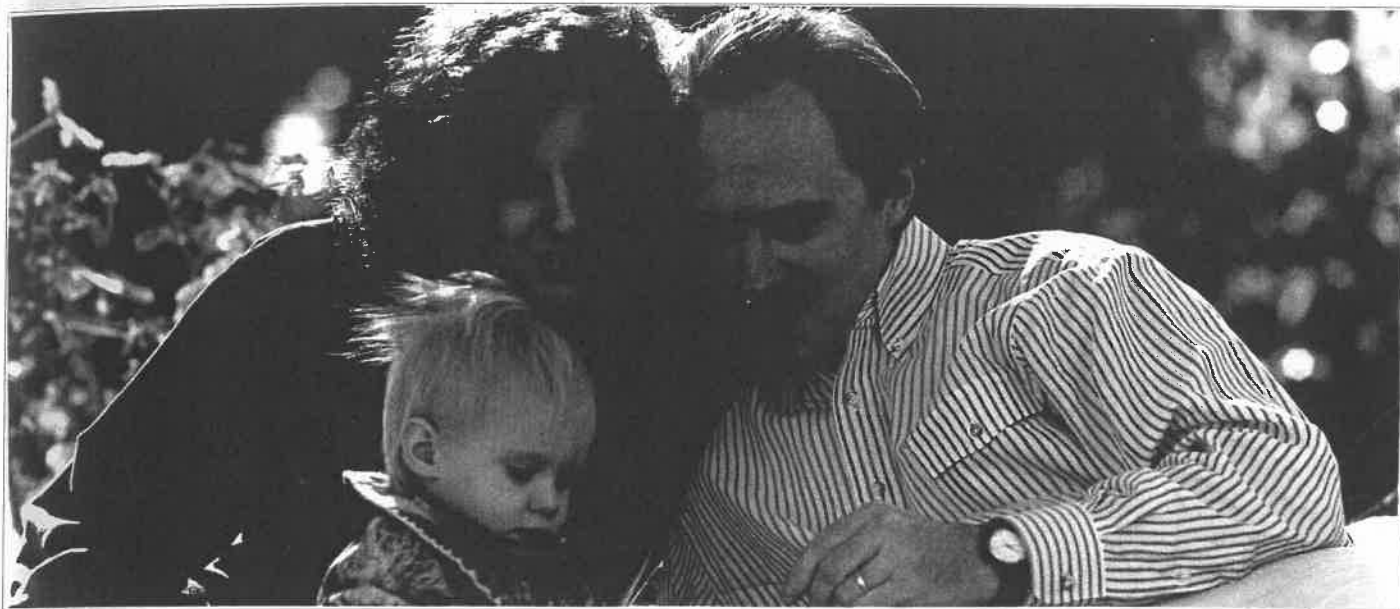


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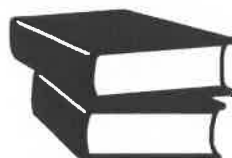
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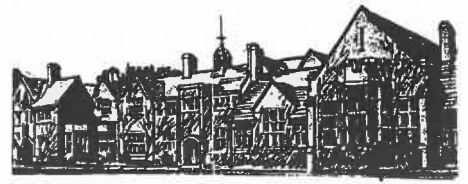


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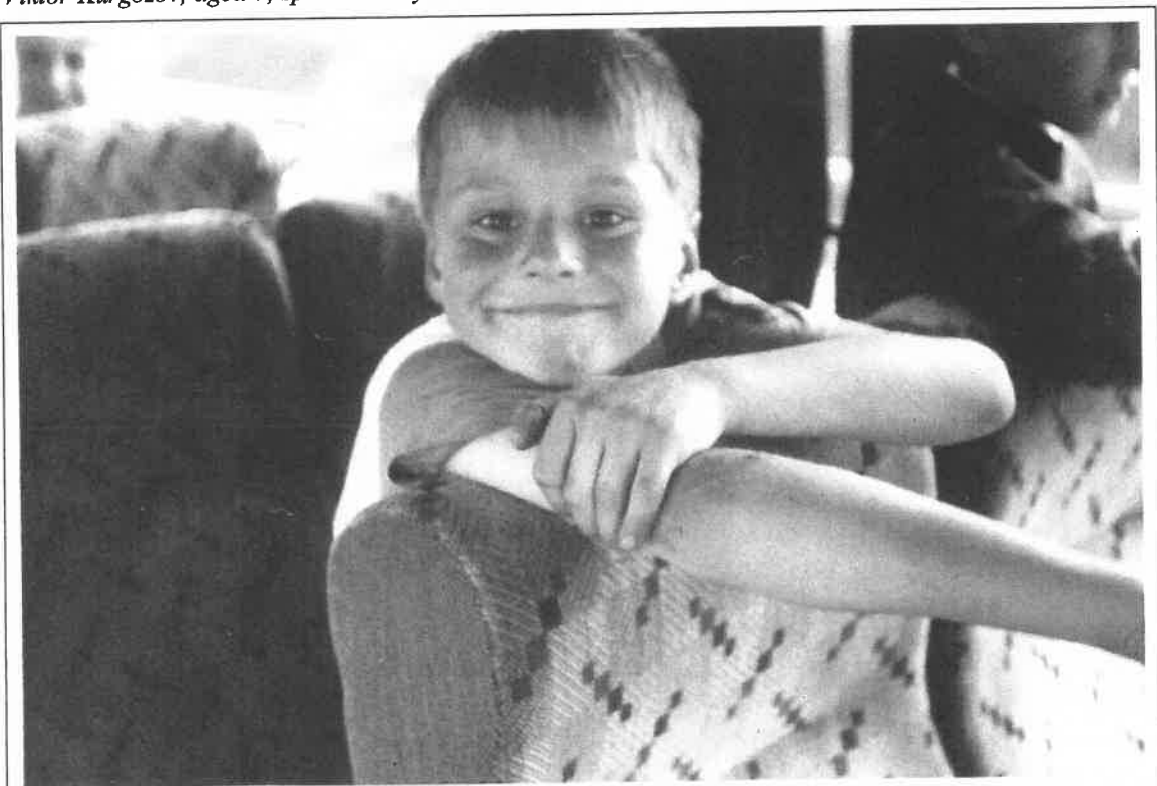


Charity



The group of Russian children at Camelot Theme Pa

Viktor Kurgozov, aged 7, sponsored by KGS in 1997



Donations for the year include:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Action Aid | £360 |
| SPARKS | £400 |
| NSPCC | £150 |
| British Legion Poppy Appeal | £100 |
| Barnardos | £500 |
| Emergency Appeal - Zaire | £250 |
| Crisis | £250 |
| Save the Children | £150 |
| RNIB | £150 |
| Comic Relief | £800 |
| British Heart Foundation | £100 |
| Christian Aid | £150 |
| Children of Chernobyl | £450 |
| Total: | £3810 |

A busy year has resulted in a range of charities being supported by the school. We began in September with our annual collection for Action Aid, to support three children in different parts of the world - a boy in India, a girl in Gambia and a girl in Peru. The sponsorship helps, among other things, to provide an education for these children.

In October, we supported SPARKS (Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids) and took part in a rugby workshop. The fourth year boys worked hard to raise money which was added to the weekly collections. For the workshop we were pleased to welcome Christian Saverimutto, an Irish international player, into the school for the training session.

It was also pleasing to see during October so many Sixth Formers (and a few staff) willing to help raise money for Barnardos on their flag day by taking to the streets for the Saturday collection. Unfortunately, the weather was not good, but a fine total was raised. In November, we collected, as usual, for the British Legion Poppy Appeal and provided volunteers for town centre collections. Later that month we were invited to attend a meeting of the Blackpool and Fylde branch of the NSPCC and were well represented by fourth year pupils.

The terrible pictures on our television screens in October and November showing the horrendous plight of the refugees in Africa stirred our consciences and resulted in a significant amount being raised for the Emergency Appeal for Zaire.

Towards the end of November, a visiting speaker from Crisis came to speak of the work of the organisation among the homeless and told us of the many projects, both national and local, which our money would help support.

In December, the school was represented at an Open Day at the newly opened children's wing of the Trinity Hospice, having raised money towards that building regularly over the past couple of years.

The visiting charity speaker in February was Mrs. Gardner from the Blackpool Branch of RNIB. Her talk in assembly was quite a departure from the norm for us as she 'persuaded' volunteers to undertake what were, we all assume, simple everyday tasks - but these proved difficult for someone who was blind.

Later in the term a non-uniform day was held for Comic Relief and, as always, was most popular and lucrative. Our final total was swelled by Mr. Clark who arranged impromptu collections on the nights of the Junior Drama Festival.

At the start of the summer term, collections were taken to coincide with Christian Aid Week and it was good to know that several of our pupils and staff took part in the door-to-door collection also.

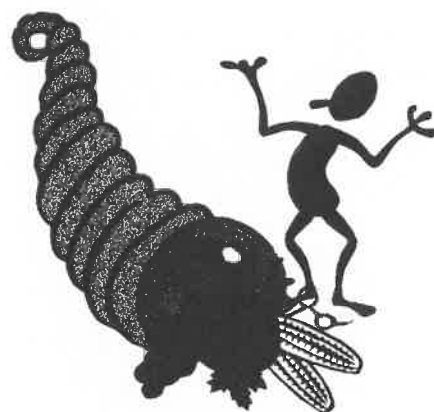
After half-term, our fund raising concentrated on the visit of the children from Chernobyl and our guest speaker in assembly gave us a clear account of the background to the disaster and of the appalling consequences of the tragedy. A non-uniform day was held to sponsor one of the children and the whole group of twenty Russian children was

taken to Camelot Theme Park for the day, accompanied by a group of helpful and reliable fourth formers.

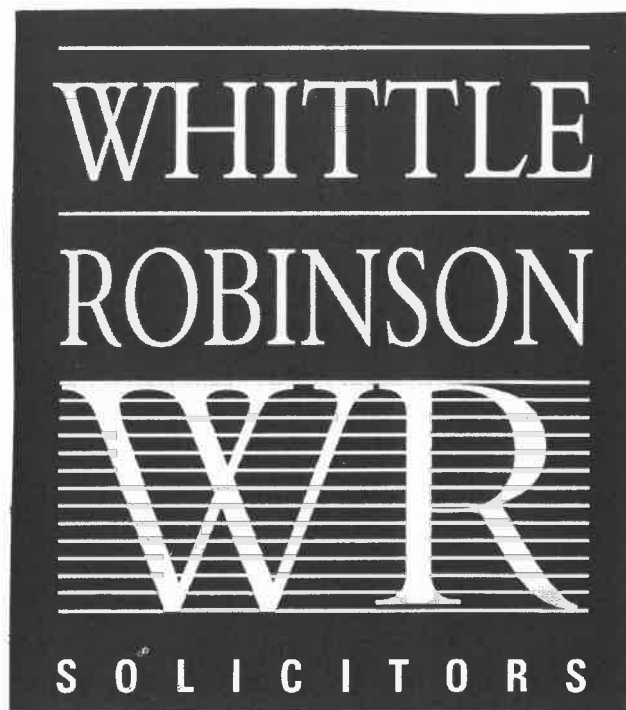
It has been encouraging to see so many members of the school taking part in so many events over the past year, and also to see more volunteers, particularly from the junior forms, to help the Charity Committee organise collections and events.

It has been my custom not to mention by name any individuals in the Charity report, but it would be remiss not to thank Nicholas Hopton for his efforts over the past few years. He has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the work of the Charity Committee and has been a most reliable and dedicated worker. We are indebted to him.

However, the work of the Charity Committee will continue and, whilst thanking you for your generosity over the past year, I would ask you to continue to support the work of the various agencies as generously as you can in the future. The questions and the problems posed by these agencies are difficult for us to cope with, but our response is a measure of our humanity.



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THE SCHOOL PLAY

"You should show what is; but also in showing what is, you should suggest what could be and is not and might be helpful. For from your portrayal the audience must learn to deal with what is portrayed. Let this learning be pleasurable."

(*'On judging'* by Bertolt Brecht)

Bertolt Brecht had these aims in mind when he wrote his epic play *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Early in September, when rehearsals began for the Kirkham Grammar School Dramatic Society's production, I believe we had similar objectives. On the evening of Thursday, 28th November, the play fulfilled everyone's expectations and this was a reflection of the commitment of everybody who was involved in the play. Embarking on the production of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" was an act of bravery on the part of Mrs. Jones, but proved to be a gamble which worked.

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to watch the play (and for those of you who did, but were left bemused by the whole experience), a brief plot synopsis should help you understand a key reason why the task of producing "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" was such a huge undertaking.

Brecht borrowed from an ancient Chinese story in which two women both claim the same child. Thanks to the rascally judge, Azdak, justice is done and the peasant Grusha keeps the child she loves, but is not mother to.

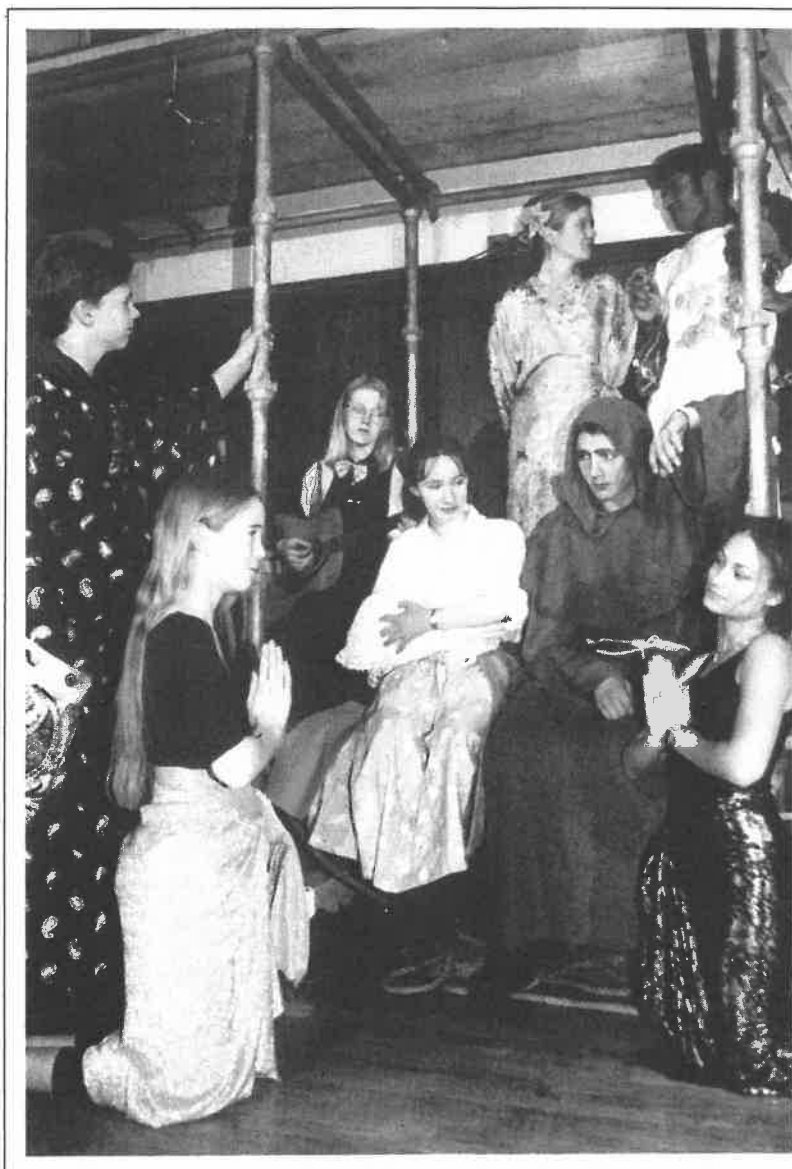
The play begins with a Prologue, which was imaginatively presented by the Fourth Year GCSE group. This led to the "Noble Child" scene which began after an exotic dance performed by Lisa Helin, Victoria Richardson and Victoria Green. As this ended, 'The Singer', a part taken by Michelle Carter, appeared on stage. Michelle must receive special mention for her

work both on and off stage. She acted as a binding agent throughout the play and was rarely off stage. Her performance added vital energy, and without her it would have been impossible to even consider putting the play on. Michelle composed the music along with her team of Haidee MacGregor, Phillip Fairhurst and Louise Sanderson. Full colours were a justified award, reflecting both her effort and talent.

The 'Royal Party' was full of shifty and obnoxious characters. Rajesh Kanda

acted with a smug arrogance which prompted the audience to feel no sympathy as he later came to a grisly end. Tristan Thorpe played Prince Kazbeki and the Governor's Wife was played by Sarah Whewell.

Esther Parkinson also deserves to be praised. She bravely took on the demanding role of Grusha, the pivotal character in the piece and so had the job of building up the pace of the play. Esther also showed that she had talents beyond acting as she sang also. Full colours, again, were a justified reward.



A scene from 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'

Jonny Carpenter took on the role of the hero of the play, Simon Chachava. In doing so, he portrayed a complex, likable individual.

Without the thirty five who took on the smaller parts, the production could not have gone on. Surprisingly, everyone was very patient, despite often having to wait for long, tedious hours behind stage. Because of his physique and presence upon stage, William Roberts presented a powerful and dominating character as an Ironshirt leader. Emily Ross provided comedy and relief for the audience as they watched Grusha's dismal plight. Both Annie Wire and Gareth Rees provided similar entertainment. Gillian Fitzgerald and Tracy Thornley were amusing as the two elegant ladies.

Grusha was to end her journey by travelling to see her brother (played by Neil Allen) and her sister-in-law (played by Sonya Thomas). However, they have alternative plans for her and she is forced into marriage in the belief

that her husband-to-be is dying and she will shortly be left widowed.

However, Yussup is anything but this, as was displayed by Nicholas Hopton when he leapt out of the bath, clothed in only Y-fronts. Few of us who watched this shall ever see him in the same light again! Nick acted with great truth, bringing a sense of brutality to his role. His nasty mother-in-law, played by Katherine Sharrocks, added to the violence of the scene. The Wedding Scene was made unforgettable by the raucously drunk Monk played by Ben Davies.

The story of the Judge then began. Philip Reeves played the corrupt judge and created a memorable character. He put tremendous energy into every line and movement. Against him many smaller parts shone, including those played by the two younger actors, Tom Russell and Ross Williams. Martine Martinez must receive a special mention for her walk.

Credit must also be given to those off stage, again too numerous to mention them all. The set was imaginatively and tirelessly built by Rachel Chester and Mr. Hill. Rachel never complained, even as she cut the one thousandth plastic strip. The costumes were also gathered with the same dogged determination needed when you have to clothe a cast of over fifty! Rebecca Eastham again took on the job of Stage Manager and had to attend every rehearsal. She was supported in her work by the Assistant Stage Managers, Ben Hale, Helen Scott and Miss Bird. Finally, thanks go to Mrs. Jones and Mr. Clark and all the many members of staff for their commitment.

This happens to have been Mrs. Jones' last production at Kirkham, a fitting end to a glorious run of plays. I know that everyone involved would like to wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Sarah Whewell
President of the Dramatic Society

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JUNIOR DRAMA FESTIVAL

All records were broken this year as 116 second and third year pupils took to the stage in our third annual Junior Drama Festival. Once again the 'have a go' ideal meant that everyone who had volunteered was able to take part and the result was, arguably, the most professional yet.

2Y opened the bill with one of two reworked fairy tales. With Tarzan bursting in as Prince Charming, *Sleeping Cutey* owed as much to Mel Brooks as 2X's *Emperor's New Clothes* did to Mel Smith as the two weavers wove their fabulous fabric. There was a touch of *The Two Ronnies* about 2Z's *Earwig in the Ear*, whilst the bizarre events surrounding a missing car, a

corpse and a confused copper, which were *Granny's Holiday*, were almost Pythonesque! They followed this with a third sketch, *Lunch Break*, of piquant social comment, culminating in an impertinent worker having his blue collar felt by his white-collared boss for daring to visit the executive canteen.

With four English sets in the third year instead of three forms, we were treated to an extra play. Mrs. Taylor's group gave us a stimulat' study of the famous football lesson from *Kes* (a hint of *Up & Under?*), whilst *The Unlikely Lad* in Mr. Duncan's group solved the post office robbery in what felt like *The Bill* goes to Ambridge. The evening switched from ITV to Channel Four as we were given one of the Bard's best bits: *The Tedious Brief Scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Nearly

everyone from Mrs. Jones' group was involved in this well known pile of pathos and the night was finally brought to an end with the high opera and dudgeon that was *Il Fornicazione*, done acapella, of course, by Mr. Clark's group.

The audience will have enjoyed immensely the two performances, many of the parents knowing the lines at least as well as the performers. However, the real value of the event is to be seen backstage as casts, stage managers and producers move around in a strangled silence of apoplexy, having experienced every extreme of human emotion. There really is no better experience of controlled panic or crisis management!

N. G. Clark

Some of the cast and crew of the Junior Drama Festival



MUSIC

September, 1996 brought some sixteen new pupils into the choirs, orchestra and concert band. The new pupils were welcomed and soon became very much involved in the preparation for the first concert.

Continuing the programme of last year of lunch time concerts, October saw the first of the series and performances were given by musicians in the fifth and sixth forms. This was very much enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

Christmas would not be the same without the Christmas Concert and the Carol Service. At the Christmas Concert, the carols were sung by the special choir and the girls' choir, with accompaniment provided by the concert band. The audience certainly enjoyed joining in their carols and the infamous round which, as always, got a few tongues tied. The preparations for the Carol Service left everyone wondering who would sing the solo in 'Once in Royal David's City'. This year it was the turn of George Brockbank and he gave a wonderful performance.

The house music auditions in January gave everyone, of all ages and talents, a chance to perform. As usual, there were some excellent and, in some cases, unusual performances. Mention must be made of Kirkham House Sixth Form boys singing *YMCA* complete with a dance routine! The competition was won by Michelle Carter, whose trombone solo and vocal duet with Victoria Turner were highly praised by the adjudicator.

The finalists from the house music went on to be the soloists in the Spring Concert in March. This also involved the special choir, girls' choir, orchestra and the concert band. The second half of the concert was a performance of 'Trial by Jury', with fine performances from all the leading principals: Mr. Baines as an energetic, learned Judge, Michelle Carter as the Plaintiff, Philip Fairhurst as the Defendant, Nicholas Hopton as the Counsel for the Plaintiff, Neil Allen as the Usher and Philip Reeves as the Foreman of the Jury.

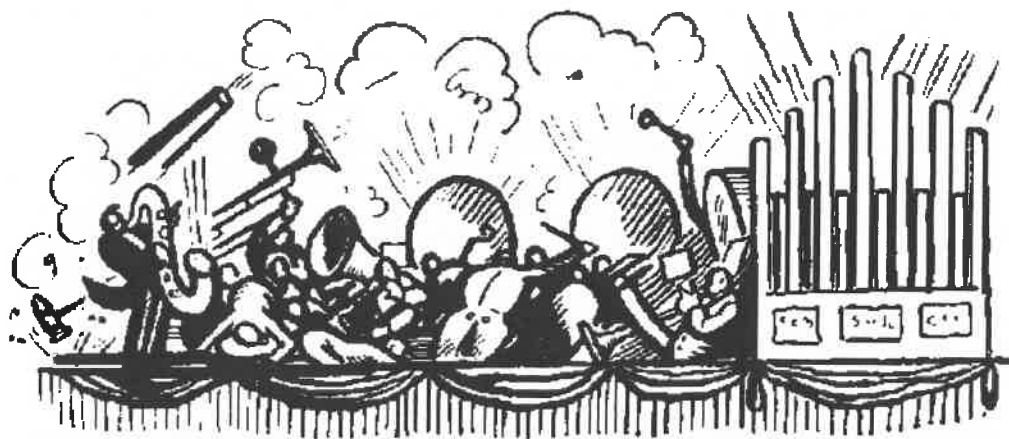
The year ended with 'Music for a Summer's Evening', which, as always, was accompanied by rain! This gave

the younger musicians and music scholars a chance to give some outstanding displays. The choirs, orchestra and the concert band also contributed to what is one of the most enjoyable concerts of the school year. The evening ended with a heart rending performance of 'You'll never walk alone'.

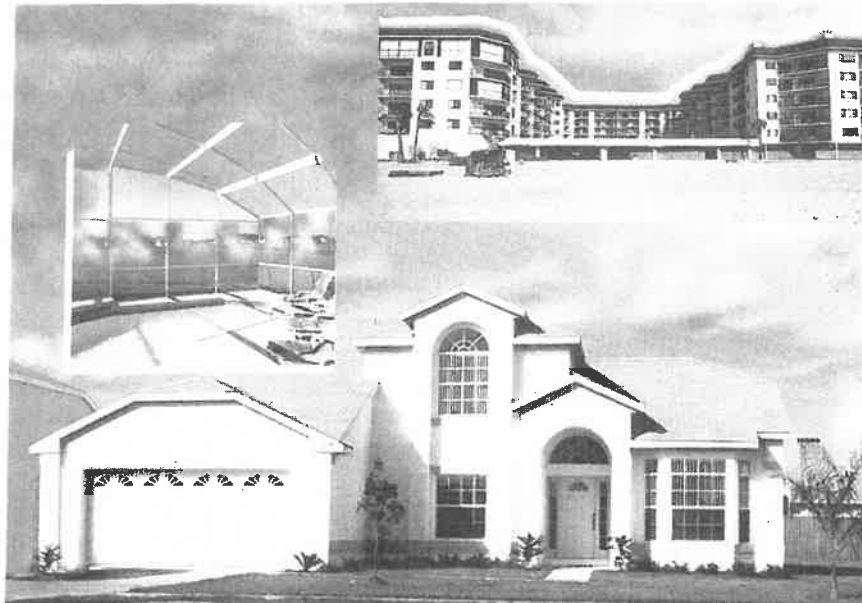
Congratulations to Michelle Carter in the Upper Sixth, who was awarded a special honorary music scholarship. Michelle has been a member of the girls' choir, special choir, orchestra and wind band and has made an outstanding contribution to music at Kirkham Grammar School during the past seven years.

I would like to thank Mr. Catterall and Mr. Ashmore and all the part-time music teachers for their work and dedication over the last year. I am sure with all the success of this year, next year we will continue to create music of the same high standard.

Christie Lambourne



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Poets' Corner



PEOPLE

Tall people,
Short people,
Fat, thin and small people,
Hairy people,
Scary people,
Nosy, cuddly, cary people,
Sad people,
Happy people,
People, people, people, people.

A. Gibb



A DEPRIVED CHILD

A small boy weeps in the corner,
Alone and scared.
He's got nowhere to turn, nowhere to run.

His bruised limbs hang motionless,
A single bead of blood falls from his head,
His shoulders carry a heavy burden.

The boy has no friends,
He wants his life to end,
His childhood glory is no more than a fairy story.

His mother raises her hand,
It's that moment that he wishes he was in a far off land,
With beaches that have pure sand.

An old man turned ninety eight sits in an isolated room,
His leathery skin stained by tears,
Caused by his daunting, childhood years.

V. Wilson, 2X

IDLE THOUGHTS

Isn't it annoying when:
You open a yoghurt pot and the lid rips
Down the middle, leaving two pieces either side;
You accidentally pull out a drawer
And you can't get it back in again;
Someone is being drawn into a trap,
But only you know it
And they don't believe you when you try to tell them;
You stand up too fast
And feel all dizzy and have to sit down again;
You are eating a hamburger and you bite it
And all the ketchup squeezes out.
And, finally, isn't it annoying when someone
Reminds you of all the things you find annoying.

R. Kellett, 3X

HOLIDAYS

Aeroplanes can take you to where you want to be,
When you've got those eight weeks free!
Boats can be used to get to other places,
But don't forget to pack your cases.

There are different places and countries you can go,
Even in winter when it likes to snow,
Fun-packed holidays that are really cool!
Or just relax and sit beside the pool.

Lying on the beach or swimming in the sea,
All I think about on holiday is me, me, me.
To cool me down I eat ice-cream,
When I burn I feel like I could scream.

The sun on the sea makes it look like crystal,
The weather here is much better than in Bristol.
Take loads of photos of your new friends,
I wish this holiday would never end.

This holiday's so good, I want to come next year!
When I'm leaving, I'm sure I'll shed a tear.
Now I've got to go home with my Mum,
Even though sun, sea and sand are lots and lots of fun.
I've always got photos to remind me of the times,
When I was on holiday, looking round the grape vines.

J. Birchall, 3X



HALLOWE'EN

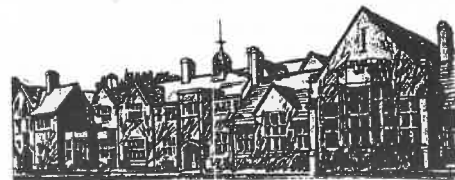
Hallowe'en comes every year,
And so do ghosts and ghouls,
Legends tell of fear and fright,
Lots of things go bump in the night,
On the streets they quietly prowl,
Witches and wizards and maybe an owl,
Evil spirits when darkness falls,
Eleven o'clock when the devil calls,
Never again will you have such a fright,
until next Hallowe'en when things go bump in the night.

G. Wallace



Poets' Corner

- Combined Cadet Force -



ARMY SECTION

CCF

• Last year's annual cadet camp at Warcop in the summer was a triumph for our talented cadets, who emerged as winners of the Leadership Trophy in a competition which involved over forty teams. Congratulations to Colonel Sayer, his staff and cadets!

The cadets had a busy Autumn term, involving field days at Borwick, Darwen Moor, Halton and Woodvale - all good days, enjoyed by most cadets and staff, despite the poor weather. Basic training for the RAF Proficiency Exams went on apace, as did the training and testing for the

weapon safety tests which were conducted by C. Sgt. Tate of the 40 Cadet Training Team.

The high spot of Autumn term was the Annual Inspection Day, carried out by Lt. Col. David Stephens - our first Old Kirkhamian to perform the duty. It was a delight to welcome him and his parents as our guests on that day.

During the Spring half-term a very successful Adventurous Training Camp was held by the CCF in Keswick. Thirty cadets undertook a full, if wet, training schedule. Many of the younger cadets performed extremely well and all cadets enjoyed it hugely. Thanks are due, yet again, for the help and support of the 4 QLR, 40 CTT and the Old Kirkhamians who assist the

Colonel during this week. It is a very valuable part of the CCF training and also a popular one.

On the summer term Field Day, our cadets undertook various activities, including shooting, orienteering and gliding at Tockholes, Weeton Woodvale and Fulwood. It is planned to hold this summer's annual camp at Cultybraggan.

Thanks to Colonel Sayer and all the CCF Staff, uniformed or otherwise who so generously support the training programme of the CCF.

The winners of the Leadership Trophy at camp



Combined Cadet Force

RAF SECTION

Per Ardua.....

Much has happened in the RAF section this year. The majority of our fifth year cadets passed the RAF Advanced Proficiency exam. This was a very difficult examination, covering propulsion, navigation, and mechanics. A typical question is given below:

Question: Is a HERCULES?

- a) A strong Greek bloke.
- b) An RAF Transport plane.
- c) An Italian lobster (I do not mean Daaaaavid Battaglliiiiinooo).

The RAF camp took place over the Easter break at RAF St Athen in South Wales. Apart from numerous sheep, certain members of KGS made a lasting impression on the staff of other schools (they know who we mean!), especially Emily Ross, who had been specially selected for promotion to Sergeant prior to the camp. We will treasure the camp photograph as a memento of a rather unusual week.

We also had a number of interesting field days. The first was at RAF Woodvale, where the fourth year realised that all weather capability did

not apply to Bulldogs in the rain. However, David Rees was such a good navigator during the NAVEX that everybody followed him! We also had a good day's gliding at Salmesbury, again in the rain, and a day with the Army Section at Holcombe Moor.

All in all, a busy year, though at times rather wet!



RAF cadets at camp and on field days

- School Visits



ALSACE TRIP

School Visits

6pm on Sunday evening, and it's over eighteen hours since our two coaches left KGS. As the road twists and turns higher into the Vosges mountains, it gets ever narrower. What on earth are we doing here? Will we ever get there? Why did I put my name down for this trip? I thought Mr. Long said it was a brilliant place...

7.30pm the same evening. The scenery's wonderful but the meal was a bit dodgy. The girls are complaining about insects in their bedroom, but then again, some insects have complained about their room being invaded by girls.

8am Monday morning. Is it morning already? Why is Mr. Rushton hammering on my door? Does he never sleep? Never mind, things are looking better. The sun is shining and the hills look wonderful. A walk into the village of Labaroche to stretch our legs and give the drivers a morning off, and we're getting into this. Even the GCSE French seems to work at the Post Office! Later that day, it's off to nearby Colmar - an under-rated town, with a delightful traffic-free centre and plenty of shops!

Tuesday, and it's Strasbourg. Now that's what we call a real city. Busy streets (but watch out for the gypsy kids!), a cathedral with an animated clock, but above all... shops - loads of them! A chance to buy designer gear at designer prices! More GCSE French practice: 'Un Big Mac avec Fries et Ketchup!' Then on to the Heineken Brewery, to see how they make that Eurofizz. The lads are not very interested in the beer - they're too busy wondering why the girl with supermodel looks could do no better than being a brewery guide as a career! Our route back is blocked by a horrific looking accident involving an

overturned truck pouring out gallons of orange juice - was it a coincidence that we never got orange juice again at breakfast?

Tuesday evening. A pleasant stroll down to the local auberge. A couple of dodgy looking characters lurking in the woods on the way back, but Mrs. Ainsworth and Devine soon saw them off.

Wednesday and it's over the Rhine to Germany, to Freiburg in the Black Forest. By now, we're all totally convinced, this is a brilliant trip. With uncharacteristic inefficiency, the Germans have closed down the cable car for repairs just as the tourist season begins, but who cares? The deserted park makes a super picnic place. And Freiburg - what a place! Yet more shops! More designer gear! And you don't even need GCSE to master this language! 'Ein Big Mac mit Fries und Ketchup!'

Thursday, more hairpin bends, but we love them now! Over the hills the other way, to Gerardmer. Mr. Long and Mr. Rushton have promised pedalo boats? Or is it pedarlos? Who cares - the boatman certainly doesn't, as we hire out his entire fleet on an otherwise dead morning, out of season. An idyllic hour is spent on the lake beneath clear blue skies, the peace and quiet disturbed only by familiar refrains - 'Stop splashing us, sir!' or 'Sir, gimme back my hat'. Fortunately, the pupils behaved impeccably. And did Ben Davies and Mr. Long really see a monster? Back via a château, and a hypermarket for our celebration meal - and now we all love the food, especially tonight's speciality of the region - 'Choucroute Garnie à l'Alsacienne'. Just Mr. Long's ceremony to endure, then that's it. Tomorrow morning bright and early, we're off...

11.30pm on Friday evening, M6 Northbound near Wigan. It's over eighteen hours since we left Labaroche,

and we all wish we were back there... what a trip that was! Many thanks to Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Rushton; organiser and leader Mr. Long, and especially School Captain Ben Davies, who joined us at 12 hours notice to replace an ailing Mr. Watson. Till next year in Ernée, Brittany...



School Visits -



Ein Picknick in Freiburg

Au Café à Colmar



*À la cathédrale à
Strasbourg*

- School Visits



At the Karneval in Mainz



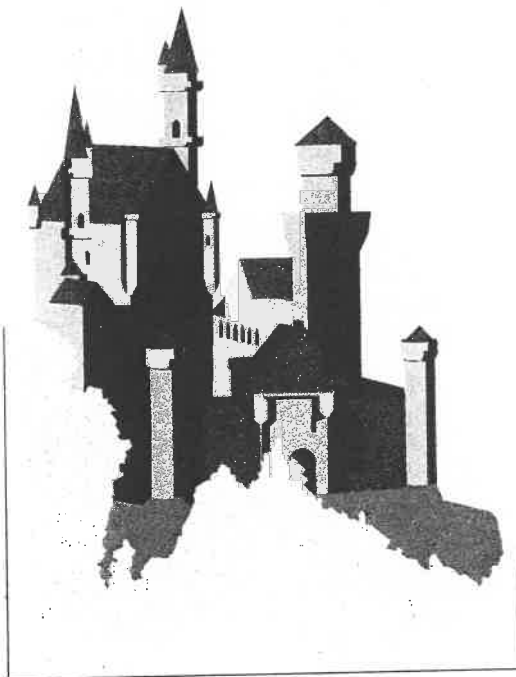
GERMAN EXCHANGE

As usual, the school hosted its party of German students from the newly-named Anne-Frank Schule in September. They enjoyed the local sights, especially visiting Blackpool lights and the Pleasure Beach and the two 'official' trips. These were to the Lake District, when, for the second year in succession, our outing was curtailed by bad weather, although shopping in Lancaster was compensation enough for most people. Our second trip was a new venture - the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, where everyone, German and English alike, was impressed by the displays and the demonstrations by live actors.

The return part of the visit took place in February. After being met at Frankfurt Airport by our partners and taken home for the weekend, it was school as normal on Monday morning, and this was a real shock as the first lesson started at 7.50am. The compensation for this was that the afternoon was free, for there is no afternoon school in Germany. Whilst in Germany we enjoyed a full and varied programme, with many trips and excursions organised by the host families, but in the programme arranged by the school we spent a morning in the beautiful spa town of Bad Nauheim. Walking through the park by the baths, we could see steam rising from the hot springs as they met the cold air. The purpose of the outing was to visit the Eisstadion to go skating - a very pleasurable activity for those who could, a little less so for those who could not, but

everyone had a try and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We also had a trip along the Rhine to the Marksburg (the best preserved medieval castle on the Rhine), Koblenz, the Schloss Ehrenbreitstein and the ancient half-timbered town of Limburg. There the attractions were the shops and pizzerias rather than the quaint, narrow streets and picturesque facades.



Probably the highlight of the visit took place on the last day, Rosenmontag, as the Germans call the day before Shrove Tuesday. This was the carnival procession through the city of Mainz - the climax of the celebrations of Karneval or Fasching as the time leading up to Lent is called. We were aware from television and local events how important the Germans regard this time of celebration, but nothing prepared us for the scale of the event. In Mainz, the whole city centre is blocked off and thousands of people

take part in the procession with bands, floats, dancing girls, horses and so on. We watched it for over two hours and we still did not see the end. What was even more impressive was the attitude of the scores of thousands of spectators. They fully entered into the spirit of the event by wearing fancy dress, faces painted and with whole-hearted participation as they shouted 'Hellau', the Karneval greeting, and claimed the small gifts which were showered on the crowds. No matter how strange it might seem, we English lost our inhibitions and shouted as loudly as the locals and some of us were brave enough to paint our faces.

The last event was a farewell party organised by the parents and it was with a touch of sadness that we left the following morning. The journey to the airport proved quite an adventure as we caught the train to Frankfurt, then the U-Bahn to the airport, and finally the sky train to the correct terminal. It was on this journey that several girls wished they had not brought kitchen sinks with them, as they had to struggle up and down several staircases.

However, there was compensation in the form of a McDonald's before moving to the departure lounge and a smooth flight home after a very interesting and enjoyable time in Germany.

B. F. Taylor

SKI TRIP

Despite booking for Foppolo, we found ourselves returning to our old haunt - Tonale. The hotel was up to its usual standard (interpret as desired!), but unfortunately the rep was slightly freakish, so it was down to our teachers to keep us occupied in the style to which we are accustomed, in the form of quizzes, bumboarding, 'pizza evenings and the torchlight descent. Although you might presume these to be relatively safe events, some turned out to be quite the opposite. On the evening of the bumboarding, a certain second year managed to bounce off her brother's head. This could sound rather ominous for that particular brother, but it was in fact Nicola Hendy who took the brunt - breaking her ankle, although things looked up for Nicola when she and Mrs. Taylor found themselves in the company of a certain, rather dishy, Italian at the hospital! The torchlight descent afforded what seemed like a 48 hour wait at the top of the mountain, but it was well worth it for the majority of skiers, except those confronted by the 'mad bearded bloke' who managed to wipe out several of our party!

Lessons took place in the morning, although a 9am start was rather difficult for some less accustomed to the ins and outs of skiing. However, an early morning wake up call from Mrs. Cooper is enough to startle

anyone into action! The party was split up into groups of differing ability - isn't it funny how some people who are so sure they are expert skiers still find themselves in the bottom group, Mr. Taylor!

The advanced group was quite worried when their instructor appeared and could quite easily have come straight off the set of *The Godfather*. The skiing was, as usual, excellent, though some spectacular falls did occur usually as a result of 'that jump'.

Although it may sound a little hard to believe, by the end of any skiing trip everyone is skiing well, and although not talking from experience, many beginners do take to the more adventurous red and black slopes. This year's party was no exception as the more advanced met their match in little beginner Amy Twambley who was a whiz on skis.

After skiing all day, breaking only to relax in the on-piste café bars, sunning themselves on the hotel's solarium and only ever so occasionally exhausting themselves with the walk into town, it was not surprising to find the staff slumped in the bar each and every evening. One may wonder why the relationship between skiing staff and pupils is a close one: the answer, after seeing the teachers at their most uninhibited, is that you get to know them more than reasonably well.

As usual, the end of the week saw the presentation, although there was a slight mix up with medals (I did get a 3* Gold, honest!). Presents were exchanged and more of the party leaders own awards were made.

After a week of some truly wondrous skiing, slowboarding, sorry, snowboarding, après-ski events, and a drink or two at Heaven (rather ironically titled, as for most of the staff it was closer to hell), it was once again time to say good-bye to our beloved Tonale and make our journey homewards, some of us markedly more comfortable than others (Mrs. Taylor and myself flew club class, the obvious choices from the party to blend into the more prestigious surroundings of executive flying!). Next year, it looks like Les Arc, France, an absolutely spectacular resort, so if you haven't already booked, book now. KGS ski veterans Chloe and I can safely say you are in for a seriously good time!

Kate Sullivan



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

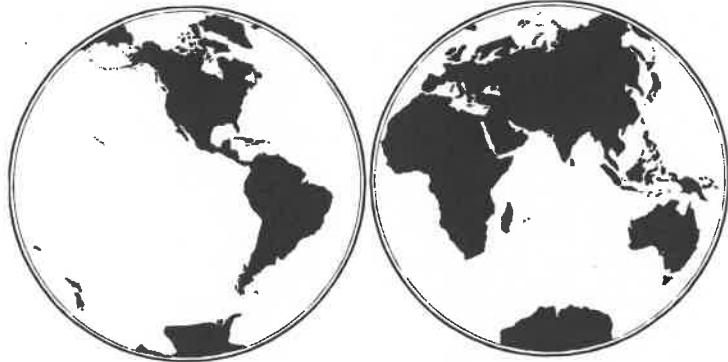
On Tuesday, 22nd April, the intrepid explorers set forth from the relative safety of school to the outer limits of an unknown county, Yorkshire. En route, we stopped at Kirkham, this time Kirkham Abbey in North Yorkshire. We finally arrived at the hotel in the centre of Scarborough and we went on a tour of the castle, which was very interesting.

The next couple of days were spent collecting data from various villages and evenings were spent constructively admiring the architecture of the hotel bar, whilst quenching our thirst after a hard day's work.

The river day turned out to be a wet experience for all, except those who ran and hid (David). All members of the group got thoroughly soaked by unexpected sea waves whilst admiring the rock formations of the cliffs, informatively pointed out by Mr. Harrison.

Thanks must go to Kath, Dot and Doreen and a special mention to Phil's sea life friend. Thanks also to Mr. Scott for his organisation, and Mr. Harrison for his generosity on the money front and also for stopping at every traffic light possible.

L6 Geographers



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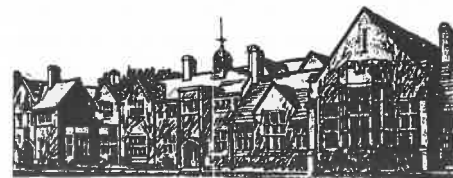
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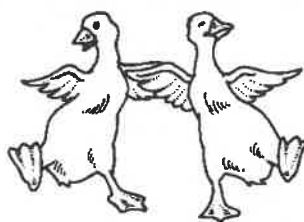
For the Kirkham Grammar Ornithologists 1997 has been a momentous year as we have not only enjoyed a succession of superb fieldtrips, but ventured abroad for the first time since we were founded in January, 1994.

We began, in September, with a first visit to mid-Wales on a glorious day. Despite a round trip of 400 miles, we were rewarded with red kites which circled us over lunch near Devil's Bridge. Our second trip was a calm and cold November visit to WWT Martin Mere with its huge numbers of pinkfeet waiting to disperse south and east. It was a good day for peregrine and merlin, but most of the party were entranced by a red deer hind which almost stuck her nose in the Miller's Bridge Hide as the evening mist rolled over the marshland and swathed the meres. A month later and we were on a wild goose chase at Marshside where a vagrant snow goose had been sighted.



Sadly, the bird had left for Norfolk and we could only find a farmyard impostor on the mosses. Nevertheless, there were hundreds of waders and a very obliging merlin which perched, preened and afforded good views. Back at Martin Mere for sundown we saw the arrival of the night roost of geese which is truly a spectacle as the gloaming becomes dark and deafening with wildfowl.

The New Year began with a pilgrimage to Hest Bank and Leighton Moss. On another balmy (yes, in January!) day we met a raft of scaup off Morecambe Promenade and saw the high tide wader roost strafed by peregrines. But perhaps most exciting of all was the obliging bittern which wandered in front of Lillian's Hide: to watch a bittern for half an hour is the rarest of treats. This was followed, a month later, with our second weekend to the



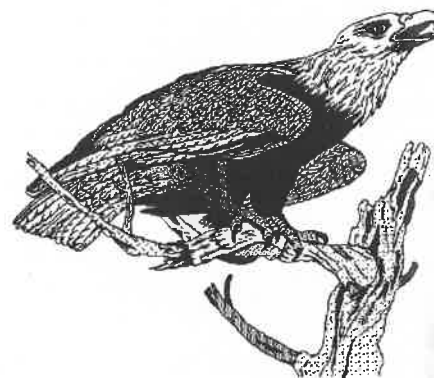
Solway. Although we failed to locate Stacey, our sponsored barnacle goose, it was truly evocative of the Merse to be wandering through woodland by moonlight whilst wave after wave of geese flew in. Good, too, to get such good views of marshland raptors like peregrine, merlin and hen harrier and chat up a few tawny owls! Early in May, we once again caught the early morning eagle display in Riggindale and a lost red kite on our fourth sunshine visit!

The highlight of the year was, of course, the expedition to Mallorca at Easter. KGO trips are usually designed to prepare the uninitiated for the deprivations of the wilderness. How rare to have good hotel food ready on the table the moment we returned from a dawn watch or a mountain reverie. Such is the variety of habitat that it is difficult to define the magic moment. The purple gallinules (bright-blue moorhens the size of chickens) of the Albufera were indeed eccentric; the talkative scops owls around the hotel were captivating; but it was the range of species that was most stunning. There were larks, warblers and terns which were short-toed, moustached, spectacled, fan-tailed or whiskered and even an

unusual swallow which was red-rumped! For many, of course, it was the birds of prey which caught the imagination: the Egyptian vulture which appeared on cue in the Bocquer Valley, the long-awaited Eleanora's falcon or the black vultures, Europe's largest and rarest, which floated menacingly above the Gorg Blau. Perhaps it was the unexpected live choral music in Pollensa which made the visit sublime?

The report would, of course, be incomplete without a personal tribute to our long-serving secretary, Nicholas Hopton, who has been so enterprising over the past four years. Many of you will have enjoyed our news sheet, *In Scope*, which he has edited and the many booklets he has prepared for fieldtrips, but it is his enthusiasm and commitment which have sustained the society and we all wish him great success and some tremendous birding at university!

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CLIMBING CLUB

The Climbing Club is relatively new, having functioned as an official school society for only two years. However, in this time, we have gained a dedicated following of school climbers of all abilities and we have the excellent support and encouragement given by our instructor and founder, Mr. Gaddes.

There have been regular weekly meetings when Mr. Gaddes has taken us to many different outdoor crags and faces and synthetic indoor walls. We have been to many outdoor faces in places that have, well....., interesting weather conditions. There have been some excellent climbs, with newcomers such as Sandy Cropper rapidly increasing their ability with each successive route.

There is now a member base of approximately twenty and we have been able to take everyone who wishes to attend as we have been fortunate enough to have access to a school mini-bus (for which we have been able to pay, thanks to GSC funds). We must also thank Dr. Johnson for his kind help in providing supervision and transport for us.

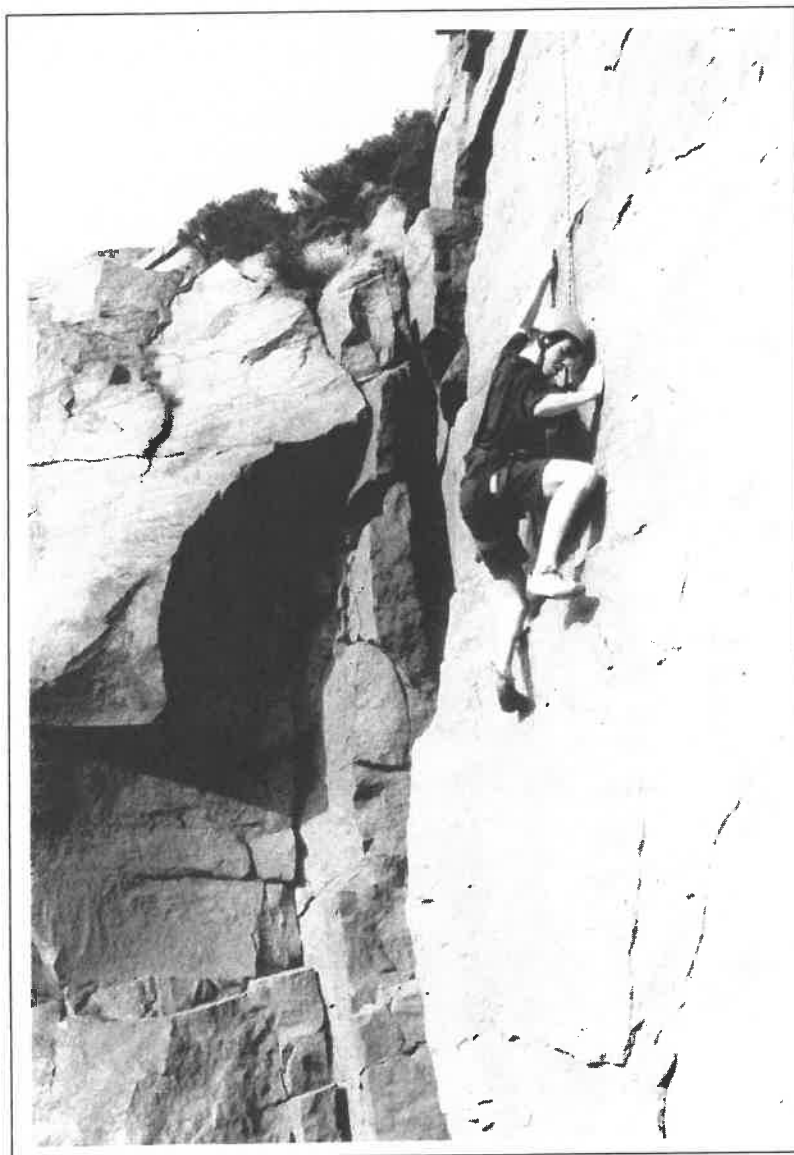
GSC grants have been used to buy new equipment, pay for petrol and to help with the climbing wall. All new climbers are taught by various members of the club how everything works and people like Safety Steve and Dr. Johnson kindly check everything to make sure no one has any unfortunate accidents.

The large project of the club, again the idea of Mr. Gaddes, has been to raise money for a school climbing wall. With the generous support of the CCF (thanks go, yet again, to Mr. Taylor for another well attended sponsored walk) and the Friends, enough money has

finally been raised to allow its construction. Money was also raised by a sponsored climb at Kendal Climbing Centre, where some cool routes were climbed (such as a suspended synthetic stalactite) and a large amount of money was raised. The construction will hopefully take place in the summer holidays, with the new wall placed to the left of the stage. This has been carefully situated so that it seems that people are looking at the Headmaster in assembly.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the rest of the club, Mr. Gaddes for giving up every Wednesday night for the sake of the Climbing Club. His help is very much appreciated. We now look forward to a new year using the school's climbing wall and the increased number of members which we hope it will attract.

Mark Devine
Secretary



Mark Devine climbing a very severe route at Wilton Quarry, near Belmont

MOCK ELECTION

On the same day as the General Election which saw Tony Blair sweep to victory, KGS held its own mock election. A lively campaign had been fought over the previous fortnight. Just like the real thing, there were allegations of sleaze and personal attacks. The slickest party machine was led by O. Evans of the UK Independence Party. Using a mixture of the latest technology and more traditional methods, such as meeting the voters and holding rallies, UKIP raced ahead in the opinion polls. The Liberal Democrats, led by S. Halliwell, were slow to start, but soon began responding effectively to their opponents. Labour (H. Newell) always had an uphill task, but performed well under pressure. The Conservative

campaign (R. Kanda) seemed rather complacent: KGS, after all, was regarded as a safe Conservative seat. A well attended and lively debate produced no obvious winner. Voting on election day was brisk, with a record 72% turnout. The result provided a shock to the Conservatives, who were beaten by the UKIP. Labour came third; Lib. Dems fourth. It seemed that the best organised campaign reaped rewards. Voters were ready for a change and punished the Conservatives for ignoring their grass-roots.

M. P. Melling
Acting Returning Officer

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club "Jourbon" was set up in Autumn, 1996. The society has attracted members of all ages through the enthusiastic support of Mrs. Long. Various computer software programs and a wide selection of games have been bought and are used regularly. The club provides an informal and enjoyable way to practise and reinforce the French learned in class. It is open to all pupils (and staff!), whether or not they are still studying French.

Helen Critchley 4Z
Secretary



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THE DAILY MAIL CUP TWICKENHAM 1997

When John Cholewa, the coach of QEGS Wakefield, who were Twickenham finalists for the last two years, told me at pre-season training that "if you win the semi-final then the final takes over your life for three weeks", I did not understand what he meant - I do now!

With the last sixteen match, the intensity started to increase, because many schools feel it is an achievement to get this far and would like to go further without thinking greatly about Twickenham.

The quarter final match is when it is impossible not to think that the team is only two matches away from Twickenham. The build-up in the media and especially in the school was hard for the players to cope with. On top of this, they had a morning's lessons, after which they had to attempt to collect their thoughts in time to give an optimum performance against a side which had had no lessons that day. The players were unable to cope mentally with the situation and played well below par and progressed through 'will to win', not good play. The large crowd enjoyed the occasion, the players were elated at winning and then was not the time to tell players that they had played badly.

To reach the semi-final of the Daily Mail Cup is an achievement in itself. The match is played at Castlecroft Stadium, Wolverhampton and all players are one step away from Twickenham. By this time, interest in the locality was very high and it was pleasing to note our rivals supporting us. It will not be forgotten.

The interest of the newspapers was constant, with the national press ringing before 8am on a Sunday morning. Robert Porteous and Alex Sanderson both had to leave lessons to

give interviews. This can be a lot for a young player to handle if he has not experienced it before.

It was vital that the players learned how to handle the pressure and the interest of the media, parents and friends if the team were to produce a performance of quality. Much time was spent on this and it helped in being able to travel on the Friday. After a gentle workout, the team relaxed at Castlecroft Hotel as no one else occupied it. Even at training the Sky TV's cameras filmed every moment.

The many coach loads of KGS spectators were wonderful supporters, the team stayed focused on the task in hand and in the second half gave its best performance of the season to win the game and secure a place in the final. The scenes of joy at the end of the game were truly amazing and I hope gave everyone from KGS who was there a day to remember.

While the team were celebrating on the journey home, my thoughts turned to how we could beat Colston's, who had won for the last two years and who had routed Durham in the semi-final. My initial thoughts were confirmed by Mr. Trenhaile and analysis of the semi-final video, and over the next few days a game plan was worked out. It was evident from analysis of the video of our semi-final match that KGS had weaknesses which Colston's would spot and would attack. This proved to be the case but through training the weaknesses had greatly lessened.

The build-up to the final was hectic, being constantly contacted by local and national newspapers; making rooming arrangements for hotels; ordering new playing strips and track suits; arranging supporters' transport; dealing with requests for tickets and so on. Even more letters, cards and faxes were sent offering support than for the semi-final, some to the team, some personal.

It was essential that the preparation was correct, with the hard work being undertaken at the correct time and it was hoped that the lessons learned for the semi-final on how to handle pressure would enable the team to withstand the increased tension of playing at Twickenham.

I was delighted that the Governors allowed the team to travel on the Thursday, so Friday could be spent having a light work-out and a visit to Twickenham. The squad seemed tired after the journey and I was even more thankful that we had been able to travel on the Thursday on seeing this.

On Friday, we trained at nearby Hampton GS, who also provided lunch for us. This was a gesture which was appreciated and I hope will be returned by KGS at some time. In the afternoon, after resting for a couple of hours, the squad visited Twickenham and some were surprised at the vastness of the stadium when empty. I kept reminding them that the pitch was just 100m x 70m and even paced it out to reassure them. Three disappointments were that we had not been told our kicker could practice there, the changing rooms were locked and the French team who were playing the following day and ourselves were not allowed in the shop, although the doors were open, as it was a few minutes past closing time. The rugby museum was most interesting, but the main attractions for KGS players were inter-active videos and a scrummaging machine which even the backs pushed, I noted!

On return to the hotel we found the opposition and the under fifteen finalists had arrived and so 'it was on' from this time on, but the players seemed happy with the situation. Old Kirkhamians in the area came to see us and were elated that KGS was at Twickenham and doing so well.

Our final team meeting was at 10.30am which one member managed

National Sporting Successes —



KGS forwards win the ball from a maul

Scenes from the Daily Mail Under 18 Cup Final



Try scorer, Chris Jones

KGS fight for the ball



- National Sporting Successes



The 1st XV squad at Twickenham



The Under 13 Hockey squad, national finalists in Le Coq Sportif seven-a-side competition

National Sporting Successes —

to miss! On meeting him I asked him "if he wanted to join us for a knockabout we were having that afternoon?" He said "he might"!

On arrival at Twickenham, Mr. Browning dropped off to enquire if the college could be used for a warm up. He telephoned over that it was. The coach was met by photographer Dawn Castle of the Gazette and Post and she even managed to charm her way past security (something Mr. Smith and Mr. Browning could not do) and take photos in the changing rooms.

A thorough warm up took place on the college pitch, again being photographed, and even the walk back was recorded. No player seemed to mind as they were focused and used to this attention by now. It was good to see Miss Weekly and a coach load of supporters passing by.

On walking out for the team photograph, it was immediately evident that the KGS support was marvellous and it intensified when the team went to their end to feel the atmosphere by passing the ball and kicking to gauge the strength of the wind by line kicking. I noticed that paper in the air swirled rather than travelled with the main flow of mainly light wind and

wondered how it would affect kicking. Oh, for that practice yesterday!

I have been to Twickenham many times and seen 'England' on the electronic score board, but to walk out and see 'Kirkham' was very special.

KGS were on top in the first twenty minutes but missed two penalties and knocked on over the line. All season I had been saying 'you must take your chances against the best as you get so few' and missing them was costly. If some of those chances had been taken, then Colston's would have been under great pressure and who knows what could have developed from that?

Colston's then established dominance for the middle part of the game and, despite a fine Chris Jones try, at one point led by 23 - 5. Some teams would have capitulated, but KGS finished the stronger, had a penalty try awarded and another disallowed, showing that the team was still prepared 'to give whatever it takes'. This was the ultimate test of the team's character and I was proud that they passed it.

Neutral observers thought that KGS performed magnificently, the try count being 3:2. These two tries were the first Colston's had conceded in three finals.

The players were upset at losing initially, but by 5pm, during the official meal, I was pleased to see that they were coming to terms with the situation and putting their performance in its true perspective.

The team members paid for themselves to stay on the Saturday night rather than spend an anti-climatic evening on a coach and were able to appreciate that they had an experience to remember all their lives and that they had performed extremely well.

I would like to record my appreciation of the support given to the team by KGS supporters, whether pupils, staff, Old Kirkhamians, pupils from other schools or just interested friends. The support was outstanding. Special thanks must be given to the coaches Mr. Trenhaile and Mr. Browning without whose skills the performance would not have been possible. I would also like to thank Mrs. Glover and Miss Fryer for organising the supporters' coaches; parents, especially Mr. Porteous, for help in obtaining kit; British Aerospace for sponsoring the track suits and the Governors for purchasing kit for the final and paying for the Thursday night accommodation.

B. Gornall

LE COQ SPORTIF HOCKEY COMPETITION

What a terrific season! The U13's have remained unbeaten in the midweek and weekend fixtures. They won the Budge 7-a-side Memorial Tournament. In the *Le Coq Sportif* national 7-a-sides competition, they were convincing winners of both the Lancashire and Northern finals.

The girls competed in the National Finals at Cannock Hockey Club on May 18th. On that day the England selectors were watching our girls closely and nerves got the better of us as we failed to maintain our consistently high standards. We won two games, drew one game and lost one game. In our last match, the girls played against Portishead, the eventual winners, and won comfortably. The weekend was terrific, the girls were an absolute credit to Kirkham Grammar School, and I am very proud of their outstanding achievements this season. We finished as national runners-up - only one goal away from winning the tournament.

Congratulations to the following girls: Jane Meloy (captain), Danielle Hanley, Eleanor Cairns, Vicky Wilson, Vicky Peters, Hannah Spacey, Katie Threlfall, Katie Severns, Rachel Sissons and Amy Twambley. We are all very proud of them.

Thank you very much to all the parents who have supported the girls both on and off the pitch throughout the season. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to Mr. Twambley, Mr. Peters and Mr. Threlfall for sponsoring the hockey kit for Cannock - the girls looked terrific.

Special congratulations must go to Amy Twambley, Rachel Sissons and Hannah Spacey who have been selected to attend the England Under 14's Hockey Development Centre in the summer. This is the very first time that we have had girls of such a young age achieving such excellence!

J. Glover

Poets' Corner



DODO

I have never seen a dodo,
About them I have read.
I don't know much about them,
Apart from they're all dead.

D. Grundy, 1Z

FRED

I had a little centipede,
Its little name was Fred.
I put it in the freezer,
And now it's a little dead.

L. Primmer, 1Z



ZEBRAS

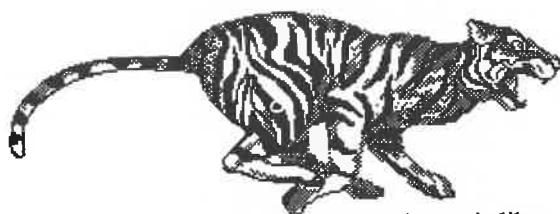
The waterhole is clear,
In wary silence the herd
Drop their heads to drink
In the heat of the day.

Vultures close in on a carcass,
Left to rot in the sun.
Lions lie under trees,
Escaping the heat.

Ears pricked, nostrils flaring,
They sense a predator nearby
Splashing drops against striking coats,
As the lioness stalks her prey.

Out on the plains of Africa,
Where crickets sing their song,
The sun turns red and gold
And night has begun.

S. Pook, 1Z

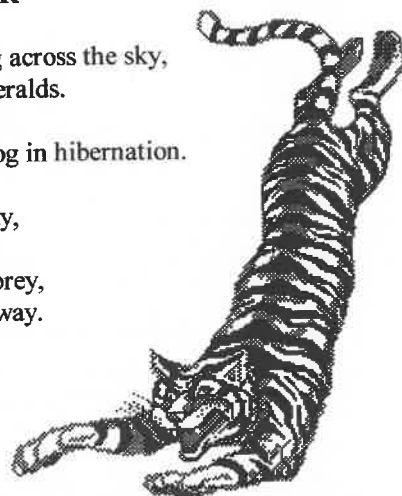


THE TIGER

His run is like a cloud racing across the sky,
His fiery eyes gleam like emeralds.
His leap is like one of a deer
And he sleeps like a hedgehog in hibernation.

His ears are pricked up, ready,
He sees his target and runs.
His sharp teeth dig into his prey,
Then he scowls and walks away.

F. Thompson, 1Z



LEAVES

Without a rush of wind,
A rainbow of colours fall,
Neglecting the bare, lifeless trees.

The fall of a tartan pattern,
Paying attention to the earth,
Ignoring lowly trees.

A rush of flush colours,
Plum, rose, emerald, yellow, orange,
Spread beauty across the earth.

This flower field
Aglow in the sun
Is a silent beauty.

S. Briggs, 1Z



THE SUN

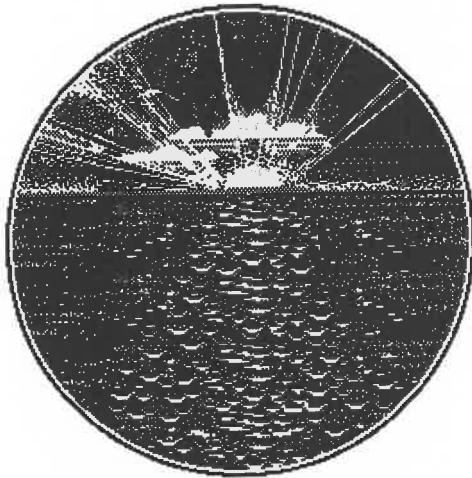
A beacon framed by an innocent sky,
Showering land with scorching heat and light,
Beating down on an arid landscape,
Its blinding light forcing us to squint.

A flaming ball hovering nobly,
Fury burning in its eyes,
Spitting fire from pursed lips.

Sharing glorious warmth, tempting growth,
Or burning, scorching heat making growth scarce.
The sun has power over life and death.

Covered only by cloud or rain
But the sun, a savage creature, will never be slain.

A. Curdling, 1Z



STORM FORCE

The roller coaster waves gyrated like huge cotton reels.
The wild Atlantic raged,
Its serenity destroyed by the storm force winds.
The turbulent seas smashed
Relentlessly into the seemingly frail hull
As the moonless night hung like a heavy black shroud.

Now the break of dawn had arrived,
The turbulence had ceased
The rough swell of the mighty ocean was replaced
By a shimmering mill pond.
The golden ball of fire rose in a mighty arc.
And just above the surface, gulls dipped and soared.

G. Jones, 3Y



Poets' Corner

Rococo

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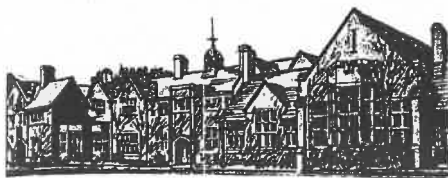
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1996 - 97 INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Junior Academic Trophy | Fylde |
| Music | Kirkham |
| Debating | School |
| Play Reading | Kirkham |
| Chess | Kirkham / School |
| Shooting | Kirkham |
| Swimming | Kirkham |
| Hockey | Junior: Fylde |
| | Senior: School |
| Netball | Junior: Preston |
| | Senior: Preston |
| Rounders | Preston |
| Tennis | Junior: Preston |
| | Intermediate: School |
| | Senior: Preston |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Rugby | Junior: Preston |
| | Intermediate: School |
| | Senior: School |
| Cricket | Junior: Kirkham |
| | Senior: Fylde |
| Cross Country | Junior Boys: Preston |
| | Junior Girls: Kirkham |
| | Intermediate Boys: School |
| | Intermediate Girls: Preston |
| | Senior Boys: Preston |
| | Senior Girls: Preston |
| Athletics | Preston |
| Inter-House Cup | Preston |

House Reports

FYLDE HOUSE

House Master: Mr. I. Scott
House Captains: G. Harrison & J. Cuthbertson

Fylde House had a slow start to the year. In the Autumn term we came fourth in the play reading competition and fourth in the chess. However, there were some good individual performances in the swimming competition, although victory, yet again, was lacking.

After the initial shock of the poor performance in the first half of the term, Fylde improved to gain an excellent first in the junior hockey tournament and a well deserved second in the shooting competition. Appreciation must go to Owain Evans for scoring highly and his organisation in this event.

The spring term was short but very busy and started with the music festival which was fun for all, even non-musicians. Our choir's rendition of "Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to Bangor!" was marvellous and a special thank you must go to Will Roberts who entertained us all with his beautiful, perfectly timed bellows at every practice. However, on a more serious

note, much credit must go to Haidee MacGregor, Fylde's star performer, organiser and highest points scorer.

The next competition was the cross country. We came third in each of the girls' events and fourth in each of the boys'. It would help if there were a greater enthusiasm for this event in the future.

The House Rugby Sevens produced a determined effort from the juniors. A great win over School House saw us eventually take third place after the first two warm-up games were lost. The netball came after this, with convincing efforts from both the junior and senior girls who both came second. This was a creditable performance, thanks, again, to both organisers and players.

The junior cricket team narrowly failed to repeat the performance of the senior squad by losing to a strong Kirkham team in the final.

After a very eventful school rugby season, the House Senior sevens tournament was delayed. Even though we came fourth, our small team was full of passion and our heads were held high, knowing that we had done our best and even fought to the end against the might of School House.

Shortly after, the similar spirit was shown in the senior house cricket. The first match saw revenge against Kirkham and a good victory was gained. This put us through to the final against Preston. Again, an excellent performance and another win. Congratulations must go to the whole of the cricket team, especially Philip Watkinson and Paul Scott for their excellent efforts with bat and ball, but the all round performance came from Peter Whittle with his skill and knowledge of the game and his organisation and leadership.

This year's Sports' Day proved disappointing again for Fylde House. Although there were some good individual performances in every age group, we lacked overall performance in depth.

I would like to finish by thanking Mr. Scott for his help and encouragement; all the members of the House who have competed or helped organise events; all the members of staff in Fylde House and the retiring captains, James and Gillian. A final goodbye to Mrs Jones who leaves us this year to teach in the Lake District.

C. Lindsay

House Reports

KIRKHAM HOUSE

House Master: Mr. A. Baines
House Captains: R. Eastham &
P. Reeves

The new academic year started well for Kirkham House, as last year's disappointing fourth place in the play reading was improved to first. The cast was superb and finished five points clear of their nearest rivals, Preston. Thanks to Michelle Carter, Esther Parkinson, Johnny Reeh, Philip Law, Ben Davies and David Myles for great performances. The next event was the debating competition in which we opposed the motion "This House believes that competition sports have little to recommend them". The debate was of a very high standard, but we lost narrowly. However, the next event, the shooting competition, was won convincingly, with Peter Shuttleworth, Luke Smith, Neil Quinney and Ben Davies all obtaining good scores. The chess team won also. In the junior hockey, we defeated School in the semi-final but lost to Preston in the final. The team played well and a good second place was obtained. Then the

junior girls proved netball is not our forte by going out in the semi-finals. The final event of the term was the swimming. Hard work from the organisers Ben Davies, Lyndsay Hilton and Philip Law paid off, as we once again won the event comfortably. Special mentions must go to Gareth Rees and Emily Rhodes who both set new records.

1997 began well for Kirkham House with the anticipated victory in the Music Festival. Special mention must go to Kirkham House girls with their rendition of "Mr Postman" which scored full marks. The girls will be sadly missed next year. In the cross country we achieved a first place with the junior girls. Thanks to everyone who tried - you know who you are! The next event was the intermediate rugby. The team won two games but unfortunately we came third on points difference. However, the junior rugby squad should be commended for their second place. Senior hockey was played in March and, for the first time, was played as a round-robin tournament. The team played well, but unfortunately we came an overall

fourth. Special mention must go to M. Newell, who played excellently throughout - a reliant robin indeed.

The senior rugby was the first event of the summer term. The team gained a third place in a tough competition. Special mentions must go to Deri Hughes and Phillip Law for their excellent play. The biggest event of the term was our annual Sports' Day. Kirkham achieved a third place. Impressive performances came from G. Rees, D. Rees, R. Wilson and V. Wilson. R. Green should also be thanked for turning out for the rather absent senior girls' team. Tennis was played in the last week of June. The intermediate side played well and reached the final. Unfortunately, Kirkham had to make do with second place, but thanks must go to M. Newell, A. Green, A. Watts and P. Hendy. The final event of the term was the cricket competition. On the last day of term, Mr Baines wore his famous yellow tie to celebrate the junior boys' win at cricket.

H. Newell



At Sports' Day

PRESTON HOUSE

House Master: Mr. A. Trenhaile
House Captains: L. Collinge,
C. Blackburn and R. Tomlinson

At the start of the year we knew we had a hard act to follow as Preston House Captains. The first event of the Autumn term was the Play Reading competition. This was a good performance, but we were narrowly beaten. The debate followed. Louise Collinge and Nicholas Hopton put up a spirited performance and were unlucky to lose the final. A mention must go to the participants for their preparation for such a difficult event. Preston House has never been strong at chess, but thanks to Damian Atkinson's hard work throughout the year, we achieved a respectable third place. The swimming competition was a pleasing result for Preston House, coming a very close second. The whole House competed well against stiff opposition and the result is a credit to the dedication and commitment of the competitors.

After Christmas, the House Music competition fell immediately after the mock examinations. This meant it was difficult for us to provide a large number of entrants. Nicholas Hopton

was a credit to the House with his wide range of musical abilities and his help and co-operation in organising this event. The cross country also fell in the Spring term. This is perhaps the most competitive of inter-house events. Preston House had some outstanding performances, winning four of the six events. The following people deserve a special mention for winning their event: S. Melling, M. Lee, C. Stockdale and G. Leeming. The girls proved unbeatable, with wins in both the junior and senior netball. Thanks for their help in organisation and participation must go to Katie Johnson and Chloe Scott. The last events in the Spring term were the rugby competitions. The excellent win by the junior boys shows promise for the future - A. Parker, P. Marshall and G. Leeming made their presence known on the field. The intermediate and senior boys performed well and both emerged in second place.

The Summer term was as full of activity as ever to complete the remaining activities in the short time available. In the cricket competition, the senior boys performed well in their semi-final to beat School. Special mention must go to Tom Russell for his magnificent batting which helped us win the match. The girls' rounders

competition was won by Preston, thanks to an excellent performance from K. Peters. Preston again showed strength in depth in the tennis competition by winning the junior and senior events. The following deserve a mention for their contribution to the tennis: K. Parker, J. Meloy, A. Tomlinson, R. Melling, D. Burns and K. Johnson. The finale to the Summer term, as always, was the athletics trophy, competed for on Sports' Day. We followed in the footsteps of recent years and won convincingly. G. Leeming, A. Parker, S. Halliwell, A. Baines, R. Burns, C. Stockdale won their respective Victor or Victrix Ludorum.

We would like to show our appreciation for the help and contribution of Nicholas Hopton throughout the years and would like to wish K. Johnson, C. Scott and R. Kanda, next year's house captains, the best of luck for next year.

Finally, thanks to Mr. Trenhaile for his hard work and the support he has given us over the last year.

**L. Collinge, C. Blackburn &
R. Tomlinson**

SCHOOL HOUSE

House Master: Mr. P. B. Smith
House Captains: A. Wire / M. Ledsham

1996 / 1997 has been a very successful and enjoyable year for School House. Once again, the spirit of the House has been apparent in all individual and team competitions.

The Winter Term, as always, was extremely hectic, with the play reading as the opening event. We were disappointed to gain only third place and, unfortunately, went on to gain four further third places in the shooting, the swimming gala, the junior hockey and the senior netball. However, Mark Ledsham, Michelle Harrison, Lester Short and Bradley Hamilton all gained first places in the swimming competition. At the end of this mediocre term, an excellent victory was gained in the chess competition. Well done to Philip Pearce who won all his games.

The Spring term saw a string of successes, with School House gaining four first places in the intermediate and senior rugby, the intermediate cross country and the senior hockey. In three of the cross country events we achieved second places and were second overall in the Music Festival. School House provided a large number of entries in the Festival and well deserved their final position. Travis Peters, Emily Ross, George Brockbank, Kenneth Tsang, Gareth Jones and Sam Smith were outstanding. Mr. Catterall was very complimentary about our performers and very impressed by our commitment and overall organisation.

The House debate is a competition that, over the years, we have tended to make our own. This year was no exception. Kate Sullivan and Lisa Helin were outstanding in both the semi-final and final. They both argued intelligently, logically and factually. A great deal of work and research resulted in convincing performances in both stages of the competition.

- House Reports

The Summer term began, strangely enough, with the senior rugby competition which had been postponed from the Spring term. This event, again, has traditionally been won by School House, and this year was no exception. With a glut of internationals, north of England and county players to choose from, victory was ours once more. Our success continued with Sports' Day. Danielle Hanley, Sonya Thomas, Kim Peake, Amy Twambley, Kenneth Tsang, Sam Smith, Annabel Fowden, Liam White, John Pearson and Richard Wire all gained first places. Thanks must go to Martine Martinez for her excellent organisation of this event which ensured second place behind a powerful Preston team.

The boys were third in both the junior and senior cricket, losing both games very narrowly by a few runs. The matches were approached very professionally and played with an excellent attitude and spirit. In the tennis, the intermediate team was first, with the juniors and seniors both gaining second places. Altogether, School House gained eight second places and seven first places and our overall position in the Whitby Trophy was second, just behind Preston. This was our best result for three years.

I would like to thank all the House members who were involved in the many competitions throughout the year. They were so enthusiastic and committed that it was a pleasure to be a part of it all.

I would like to make a special mention of the following House members for their organisation and captaincy of the various events; Martine Martinez, Lisa Helin, Kate Sullivan, Danielle Hanley, Rosemary Ward, Tom Hookey, Kim Peake, Lester Short, Simon Dixon, Hannah Proffitt and Vicky Bradley. Their help has been most appreciated.

A. Wire

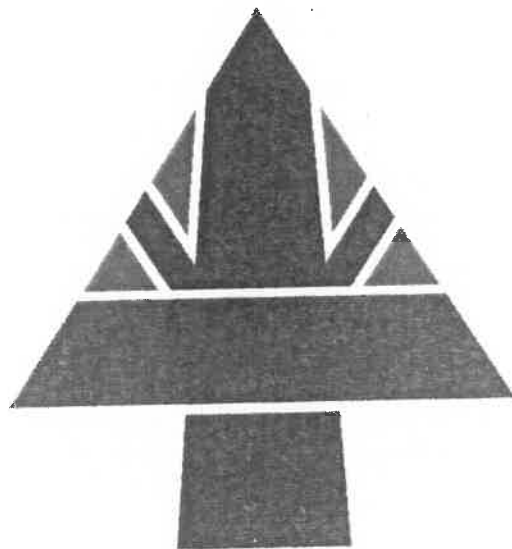
I would just like to say how proud I have been this year of School House. The success we have achieved would not have been possible without the tireless hard work of our two House Captains. I would like to thank them both for their efforts.

Mr. P. Smith
House Master

The Senior Boys' relay at Sports' Day



A MEMBER OF THE



BRITISH AEROSPACE
SCHOOLS NETWORK



1st XV

REGULAR FIXTURES

P:12 W:12 L:0

DAILY MAIL CUP

P:7 W:6 L:1

The squad met for pre-season training at Sedbergh School as it was felt that reinstating training camp would not only enable more training to be undertaken than at school but new players to the squad could be integrated more quickly.

It was hoped for a successful season as nine regulars were returning from last season, while others with considerable 1st XV experience and players from outside KGS entering the sixth form were available for selection. As the squad looked to have more strength in depth, the *Daily Mail* Under 18 Cup was entered for the first time.

The enthusiasm and solid integration of the squad at training camp boded well for the season but a rude shock awaited the players in a pre-season friendly against QEGS, Wakefield. Players new to 1st XV rugby were shocked to find the pace and commitment of top schools' 1st XV rugby and soon realised what would be necessary if we were to be able to compete with the best teams successfully.

The early matches showed promise, with many matches won by a comfortable margin, but an 'A' XV lost to the touring Townsville GS Queensland and the 1st XV struggled to beat a strong Wirral GS side in the second round of the *Daily Mail* Cup. These matches showed that a lot of work still had to be done for the side to realise its potential, but a pleasing feature of the Wirral game was the determination shown by the team when

in trouble. All the best sides have this determination 'to give whatever it takes' when facing defeat.

I felt that the side was starting to develop as expected in November, but at this point three matches were cancelled owing to the bad weather and one school was unable to field a side. I felt frustrated at the gap of four weeks and thought that unless the team had an extended run in the *Daily Mail* Cup, it would not realise its potential.

The pack started the season as the strongest part of the team but as the season progressed the three quarters developed well as Matthew Leyden started to mature, Chris Jones learned the finer points of centre play and Phil Law regained his form on the wing. The captain, Robert Porteous, was injured from mid-October until mid-January, but on his return he showed an aptitude for centre play and allowed the three quarters to develop even further into a formidable unit.

After Christmas, Stonyhurst College, Lancaster RGS (in the last sixteen of the *Daily Mail* Cup) and Hutton GS were all played in eight days. Against Stonyhurst, the team took a while to settle but knitted together as the game progressed, but another outstanding kicking performance from Keith Quigley gave the team a cushion. The Lancaster match brought a large crowd to the school, with the only pitch playable being the new pitch. In the first half, the team gave its best performance of the season so far and, although Lancaster came back strongly in the second half, the result never looked in doubt after halftime. Against Hutton a weakened side could not prepare itself for a match against opponents who had been 'lying in wait' all season and who contained a future 18 Group international. Hutton were inspired and KGS were lucky to escape with a 10 - 7 victory through the determination 'to give whatever it takes' when facing defeat.

The rest of the season was originally meant to consist of the last match against Arnold and then a serious attempt at 7-a-side rugby. All this went out of the window with success in the *Daily Mail* Cup. Arnold generously released us from our fixture so that we could concentrate on the quarter final match against Warwick School at KGS and the sevens season evaporated after the quarter final victory.

A large crowd gathered for the quarter final, but the build-up of excitement in the school was such that it affected the players negatively. Most players did not perform at their best, but the team was prepared to 'give whatever it takes' and excellent performances by captain Robert Porteous and Chris Jones in the centre saw the team through to the semi-finals. As a result, Chris Jones was awarded the *Inside Rugby* April 'Player of the Month' by Puma.

The semi-final at the RFU Centre for Youth Rugby at Castlecroft was a marvellous day for all KGS, both players and 'fanatical supporters', as Sky TV dubbed our wonderful supporters. In the first half, playing into a strong wind, KGS obtained a plentiful supply of possession and were only 5 - 3 behind after 30 minutes, only to concede ten points in 2 minutes. However, in the second half the team gave its best performance of the season to score twenty points without reply to be rewarded with a place in the final at Twickenham. In scenes of joy the most worldly-wise of men were seen to be crying.

The final is reported in detail elsewhere and was a marvellous occasion for all concerned with KGS, both past and present. KGS played in front of approaching twenty thousand spectators, with the KGS supporters being, again, the best. Eight coach loads of parents, pupils, friends and staff left KGS at 7am and many others travelled by train from the Fylde, while many Old Kirkhamians travelled from all over the country to be at the match.

KGS were underdogs against Colston's of Bristol, winners for the past two years. KGS dominated the first twenty minutes and had chances to score in this phase of the game but they were not taken. Colstons dominated for the middle of the match and, despite KGS rallying at the end, won 23-12. The team played with great commitment and were only out-scored by three tries to two.

Despite the defeat, this was a marvellous climax to an excellent season and the occasion should be remembered as such. The team was unbeaten in its normal fixtures, supplied the Under 17's David Giles to the England squad and Alex Sanderson to the England 18 Group XV and a further nine players to the Lancashire 18 Group squad.

The props Deri Hughes, Mark Ledsham and David Giles were outstanding, excellent hooker Jonnie Carpenter missed higher representative honours through injury, but understudy Chris Blackburn showed his talent when playing in big games after Christmas. Andrew Kelso performed excellently at lock and Matthew Roberts developed greatly at lock despite a lengthy absence through injury. Adam Baines developed greatly as an open side flanker, while Ben Davies always gave total commitment and played as if 6' and 14 stone. Alex Sanderson as pack leader and No 8 was an example to all players with his dedication to training and this, allied to his talent, produced many outstanding performances. He captained the North and Lancashire 18 Group teams as an Under 17, which is a testimony to his play and leadership qualities. If all players followed his lead in training, many would reach heights they did not believe possible. It was fitting that he was selected in the 'Rugby World Team of the Month' at Christmas, and gained an international cap a year young.

Scrum half Richard Tomlinson was totally dependable, fly half Matthew Leyden developed considerably as the season progressed and centres Chris

Jones and Rob Porteous developed into excellent centres, both in attack and defence, with Chris Lindsay showing potential also. Robert Porteous had a season to remember, despite missing the representative honours he aimed for through injury. He has been a quiet, yet respected and dependable captain and he deserves to be remembered as a captain of such an outstanding side.

Mark Hill, an under 16, showed great promise on the wing and Phil Law, after he regained his place, showed his usual power and increased pace. Full back Keith Quigley had an excellent season for the school, putting pace on the ball from full back and, as a result of his excellent kicking, scored 220 points.

I wish to thank Captain Rob Porteous and Vice Captain Alex Sanderson for their support, Deri Hughes for being a most dependable secretary, and Guy's Thatched Hamlet for their sponsorship of the 1st XV shirts.

This report would not be complete without expressing my deep gratitude to Mr. Trenhaile and Mr. Browning, without whose various dedicated skills the successes listed above would not have been possible.

I have found it a most enjoyable season, not only because of the successes, but also because of the pleasant and committed approach of the players.

B. Gornall

HONOURS

1. Team

April Rugby World 'Team of the Month'

2. Individual

England 18 Group and North of England 18 Group

D A Giles

A Sanderson

Both of these players have been selected to tour Australia with the England U18 team

Inside Rugby, April Player of the Month:

C M Jones

Lancashire 18 Group

J D Carpenter

D G Hughes (Squad)

C M Jones

A G Kelso

M S Ledsham

M Leyden

R Porteous

K A Quigley

A Sanderson (Captain)

Lancashire 18 Group Final Trial

A Baines

AWARDS

Full Colours

A Sanderson

A Baines

J D Carpenter

B C Davies

D A Giles

D G Hughes

C M Jones

A G Kelso

R Porteous

K A Quigley

Half Colours

M Ledsham

M A Hill

P J Law

M J Roberts

R D Tomlinson

M. Leyden

2nd XV

P:12 W:10 D:1 L:1

As this record suggests, 1996-97 was a memorable season for the second fifteen. We were able to field a side which, injuries apart, showed very little change throughout the season. In fact, the team was generally selected from a squad of only twenty players. The benefits were enormous as the players were able to develop an understanding with each other and, consequently, the standard of play improved rapidly at the beginning of the season.

The season got off to a flying start, with two easy victories and six straight wins in total, with only Wirral managing to score any points. This was followed by the only reverse of the season, against an unbeaten Lancaster side. It was not that the team played badly; they played well enough to have beaten most other teams, but Lancaster proved to be too strong on the day. The team returned to winning ways for the last two games before the Christmas holiday.

The break had affected both sides by the time a scrappy game against Stonyhurst was played. A draw was probably the right result. How Hutton were beaten in the next game is a mystery to most people. Despite taking an early lead, the team played the worst rugby of the season and, without a doubt, the best team on the day lost. Arnold were accounted for comfortably in the last game which showed the backs at their attacking best.

With Robert Wilson and either Jason Leigh or Andrew Redmayne supporting a Blackburn (Chris or Paul), the front row proved a match for anybody. Paul Scott provided a lot of useful balls from the lineout, but lacked a permanent partner in the second row. The two likely candidates opted to quit rugby, so it was left to Adam Dawson, when not suffering from one of a number of injuries, or one of the extra back row to fill the gap. David Myles and Nicholas Kendrick shared the number eight duties, with Chris Fox generally at blind side and Neil Allen at open side.

James Gee's prompting and service to Philip Reeves gave the latter a good supply of the ball and this season, looking fitter and quicker than in the past, he tended to rely less on his trusty left boot and more on his ability to make a break to get the rest of the backs moving. This meant that Mark Harrison, Kevin Turner, Stewart Melling and Ben Hanney were able to make the most of their attacking skills. With Peter Whittle coming into the line from full back and creating more space very effectively, the back division caused most sides a lot of problems.

Of the seventy four tries scored, fifty five of them (nearly 75%) were credited to the backs. This is surely an indication that the forwards were able to win a lot of the ball and that the backs were able to make good use of it. Reeves was comfortably the leading points scorer with 118, including only five penalties, while Whittle and Melling were the leading try scorers with eleven apiece.

R. Browning

More action from the Daily Mail Cup final



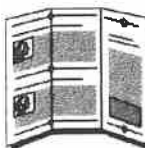
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U16 XV

P:12 W:8 D:0 L:4

The U16 XV have never failed to excite this season. Their commitment to both training and playing has been of a very high standard. This loyalty to the team was highlighted in the turnout to training sessions in all conditions, including total darkness!

The highlight of the season was the well deserved victory over Lancaster Royal Grammar School. After five years of closely fought battles, the win came in front of our own crowd of supporters, who deserve their own medal for the positive support given throughout the season. The final score in the match was 10-5

The team has been well captained by David Rees. His outwardly laid back leadership style had the team responding well to his wishes. In many respects he can be likened to a duck....very calm on the surface, but lots going on under the water. Richard Wilson stepped into the captain's boots for an extended spell when David Rees sustained a bad injury which put him out of effective action for a few months. Richard filled the slot admirably.

The squad was excellent from a coaching point of view. Mr. Taylor never failed to make training sessions interesting and enjoyable, whilst Mr. Crowther, acting as official observer, just began to understand the rules (sorry, laws!!) at the end of the season. The level of commitment shown by this age group can only be good news for the future when this squad will eventually form the backbone of the 1st XV. They have been a pleasure to work with and have done both Kirkham Grammar School and themselves proud.

R. D. Taylor
S. Crowther

U15 XV

P:17 W:12 D:0 L:5

The U15's have had another successful season with a number of fine wins and excellent individual performances. Remaining unbeaten for the first two months of the season was a pleasant surprise.

Adam Watts led the side sensibly and was also inspiring in his excellent attacking qualities. He deserved his selection for Lancashire U15's later on in the season. I was also pleased that nine players from the side represented the Fylde Coast U15's against Gwent. This was a fine reflection on the talent that this squad has. Lester Short has developed into a fine open-side flanker and has led the pack with purpose. His back-row partners, William Roberts and Richard Redmayne, and our hooker, Roger Anderton, always held firm in many difficult encounters, whilst Paul Johnson and John Boyle were always capable scrummagers and Tom Russell made rapid progress at scrum-half. Gareth Rees was a reliable full back who never let the side down. Excellent wins were achieved in the later half of the season against Stockport GS, Arnold and Jersey Schools' U15's.

When one looks at the overall record of this side, one would conclude that they were one of the top sides in the North West. However, with more maturity and self-discipline, this side was capable of being one of the top sides in England. Our exit from the Daily Mail Cup came from lack of the self-discipline and the fitness that a fifteen man game demands. I hope that the team will reflect on what could have been.

Many thanks to all the parents who have supported this season and especially to our sponsors, Stanley Parr and Ms. Short. Special thanks go to Dr. A. Rollins and Emma Rollins for their help on tour.

A. E. Trenhaile

U14 XV

P:14 W:3 D:1 L:10

The U14's started this year very badly, with losses against teams they beat last year. By the time they played St. Anselm's College in October, they were without a win. The fitness of the side was improved by hard work (which should have been done in the summer by the boys themselves) and their motivation was at last coming through, so that Kirkham won by 38 points to 24.

The next few games were against the stronger sides of Lancaster RGS, Cowley HS and Wirral GS, all of which tested the Kirkham side and stretched them to their limits. The boys were at last trying, ably led by Tom Dawson in the forwards and Michael Lau in the backs, but it was not until the magnificent win at home against Stockport GS that their true ability shone through. Losing at half-time (5 points to 28), Kirkham raced ahead to win by one point in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

Just before the Christmas holiday, the boys enjoyed a short tour of South Wales and came home with one win (38-0) against Puffryn HS and an excellent draw against Afon Taf HS (17-17).

With those wins under the belt, I was hopeful of a more successful time during the Spring Term. However, with the loss of a couple of key players, especially Daniel Tolley, the most improved player of the year, the boys did not secure a win. The last game, against Arnold, was exciting and it showed the true form and ability of the Kirkham side.

I would like to thank all the boys in the squad, especially the Captain Warren Marginson, who carried out his duties with dignity and dedication.

A. B. Rollins



The U16 Rugby squad

The U15 Rugby squad



U12 XV

P:9 W:7 D:0 L:2

This season has proved once again that junior rugby at Kirkham is on a par with the finest rugby playing schools in the North of England. For the second year in succession, the U12's have lost only two games on a very tough circuit of fixtures. The style of fifteen man rugby played is exciting and very entertaining for the spectators. It is so gratifying for me as coach to have a squad of boys who can all run, kick, tackle and pass, even when they are often giving away more than a stone a man. (Dear Mums, please keep feeding them steak for breakfast, dinner and tea to ensure growth for the future!) Many fixtures have had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Then again, perhaps it was this fact that actually made them so hungry for the ball?!

This season has seen a narrow win over Arnold and convincing victories over Cowley and St. Mary's Hall. This

is the first time that a KGS U12's rugby team has beaten any one of the above schools at this level. This really does demonstrate the strength of our junior rugby, especially when one remembers that our team is picked from just forty boys.

The team's strength is equally distributed between backs and forwards. The pack have dominated in all set scrums and competed well in lineouts. The back row are particularly mobile, being led by John Townsend, who alone has scored nine tries this year. Terry Ogden is a technical and tough little prop with handling skills to match any back. Our half back pairing had a great season, with Marcus Plowright always playing well above his size and weight. At fly half we have Stuart Blackburn, who has captained the side and set such a fine example both off and on the field. He has developed into an outstanding prospect and it is no surprise that he tops the scoring average with 111 points - 15 tries and 18 conversions. Support has been provided throughout

the season by an excellent three-quarter line, with Shaun Swarbrick and Richard Westerman (9 tries) proving tough work for the opposition to deal with in both attack and defence.

On Sunday 23rd February, we entered a team in the Rossall Rugby Sevens. The first seven won their group, beating Cheadle Hulme, Rossall and Rydal, all by fourteen points. The semi-final was against local rivals, Arnold. Kirkham won 12-7 and should have met Manchester Grammar School in the final. Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from this game as we were left with only five players through injury and illness. Several of the boys had played so well that they were invited to represent the U13 seven in the King Edward VII tournament later in March.

All in all, it has been another enjoyable and successful year. I would like to thank all the parents for their constant support.

P. Smith



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1st XI

P:7 W:4 L:3

The school played positively all season and finished their matches with more victories to their credit than defeats. After a slow start and a narrow defeat at Lancaster RGS, the balance of the side was soon established, allowing the captain, Peter Whittle, a variety of bowling options and a reasonably consistent batting line up. The batting strength was reliant upon M. Leyden, P. Whittle and J. Reeh, with occasional support from C.B. Jones, P. Watkinson and N. Hopton. The highlight of our batting season was a splendid century stand between J. Reeh (54) and M. Leyden (69) against Barrow VI Form College.

The bowling line up had a variety of options and was spearheaded by M. Leyden, who often bowled well without a great deal of success. He did, however, receive his just reward against Batley GS when taking 5-51 off 20 overs. Both P. Whittle and N. Hopton performed with great endeavour, the latter proving difficult to score off with well set field placings.

The outstanding victory of the season was achieved against Arnold. Scores of 53 and 34 by M. Leyden and C.B. Jones respectively gave the side a respectable 146 all out off our allocated 35 overs. In reply, Arnold were restricted to 128-5 and found good bowling and field placing too difficult to penetrate.

During the last week of term, the school hosted a touring side from New South Wales, Australia. Even allowing for a sluggish pitch and damp conditions, the opposition played the game with plenty of verve and enthusiasm. The match was played to a conclusion despite the steady drizzle. Many lessons should have been learned in this match against a talented touring side.

The final fixture of the season was against Habergham HS and ended in

victory. A fine bowling and fielding performance restricted our opponents to 129 all out, with P. Whittle taking 5 wickets for 37 runs. In reply, the team batted well in patches and eventually passed the required total for the loss of six wickets. Perhaps fittingly the winning runs were scored by N. Hopton, whose attitude and enthusiasm have been exemplary all season. In this respect, many of his peers could have learned something from him.

S. Painter**2nd XI**

P:3 D:1 L:2

The opening game against Hutton allowed C.M. Jones to show off his attacking skills with the bat, while D. Meloy impressed with his ability to play straight and keep an end going for twenty five overs. P. Scott and P. Phillips also chipped in with useful runs. Tight bowling, particularly by N. Jones and D. Chapman in his first spell, made Hutton struggle for the runs and it was not until the penultimate over that they finally achieved victory.

At King Edward's, the home side ground out 115 runs off 42 overs. The wickets were shared amongst the bowlers, who were aided by some good catches and an excellent stumping by D. Meloy. This left KGS with just 24 overs to get the runs. After the loss of two early wickets, a stand between P. Scott and M. Anderson ensured no further collapse and the flashing blade of R. Feeley towards the end of proceedings meant a respectable total was reached. A few more overs would have resulted in a more interesting finish, but a draw was the final result.

Arnold, however, were in a different class. KGS did not bowl as well as in the first two matches and with the fielding and catching not being up to the same standard either, Arnold amassed a large total in 30 overs. In the KGS innings, D. Meloy again

batted patiently and correctly. R. Feeley's golf shot was again productive and he was the only other batsman to reach double figures.

Although there were no victories, everybody had the opportunity to show what they could do with the bat. However, as 15 of the 25 wickets to fall were bowled, it would seem that there is a need for our batsmen to play straight, rather than across the line. Eight bowlers were used in each game, so just about everybody bowled and took at least one wicket.

R. Browning**U15 XI**

P:3 W:0 D:1 L:2

The first fixture against Hutton saw KGS score slowly, reaching 75-4 off 20 overs and Hutton winning by 8 wickets.

The second game against Arnold saw defeat snatched from the jaws of victory. Arnold were restricted to 91-8 from 29 overs and KGS replied in excellent fashion. With a heavy thunder storm in the offing, the team reached 81-6 and then, in desperation to score the winning runs as the rain began to fall, the last 4 wickets fell for 7 runs!

The fixture against Ripley saw Ripley score 89 all out and KGS had reached 43 without loss before the rains came and the match ended in a draw.

Although result-wise this was a disappointing season, there were some excellent performances from Adam Watts and Tom Russell with both bat and ball and also from Alastair Kipling, Mark Drury, Charles Batho and Andrew Davies.

The squad was ably led by Tom Russell and special mention must be made of Ben Hale, our scorer.

T. P. Miller

Cricket & Athletics

U14 XI

The U14 team have not had the best of luck as far as the weather is concerned. Three of the first four matches were called off due to the inclement weather. The match which went ahead against King Edward's was a close affair, with Kirkham unfortunately being defeated. We started well, putting the home side into bat, with Richard Wigglesworth

taking a wicket with the first ball, and finishing on 3 wickets off 4 overs for 14 runs. Nicholas Cross also bowled with speed and accuracy. King Edward's achieved a score of 100 for 9 off 20 overs and kept the Kirkham score down to 60 runs to win the game.

In the next match at home, against Clitheroe GS, Kirkham's performance was much improved. They started to

play with a great team spirit, even though the opposition scored 149 for 9 wickets. In return, Kirkham scored a credible 70 runs against a team at the top of their form. I wish the boys the best of luck for next year in all the sporting events.

A. B. Rollins

ATHLETICS

Despite three cancelled fixtures against Arnold School, the athletic squads have developed and competed successfully against both Hutton GS and King Edward's, Lytham. There is obvious talent on the track, but this is now being strongly supported by improving standards in the field events.

Targets were set at the beginning of term, first of all for selection for the school team. A number of team members were then encouraged to target the Lancashire Schools' standards and to date seven boys have successfully done this:

Liam White (Inter. High Jump)
Richard Wire (Inter. 100m)
Philip Hendy (Inter. 800m)
Gareth Rees (Inter. 400m hurdles)
Warren Marginson (Jun. 400m)
George Leeming (Jun. Long Jump)
Adam Parker (Jun. 80m Hurdles)

Of these boys, three became Lancashire Schools' Champions: Gareth Rees, Warren Marginson and George Leeming. Fourteen boys in all were selected for the area team (Blackpool South) in either individual or relay events.

The other target is always English Schools' standard and this requires more than one term's planning. But one boy, Gareth Rees, has been selected to compete at the English Schools' Championships at Sheffield in July and deserves every credit for his performances. Next year I believe two or three more boys could achieve similar success.

It is pleasing to see the first year team growing in stature and their crushing defeat of King Edward's was a great boost to their confidence. With fine performances, Sean Swarbrick (800 metres) and Chris Brannigan (Javelin) have led the way on track and field.

The second year team have won both their matches impressively, with George Leeming unbeaten over 100 and 400 metres and Adam Parker very strong in both hurdles and javelin.

Warren Marginson has been the outstanding athlete in the third year squad and a fine leader, whilst Tom Dawson shows excellent potential as an all round athlete.

The fourth year team has a nucleus of talented athletes whose performances have been restricted because of match cancellations, but five of them were

selected to compete in the Lancashire Schools' Championships. Of those not previously mentioned, Gareth Eves, James Cross and William Roberts illustrate the growing depth of field event talent. This present squad should be a major force next year.

The pressing business of examinations and a truncated term meant limited opportunity for the senior squad to compete, but Richard Wire has shown outstanding form on the track, running 11.9 to take third place in the Lancashire Championships, as well as competing in both long and triple jump for the school.

A great deal of credit is due to Mr. Taylor for his contribution to a successful season, not only for his infallible capacity to ensure that athletes were made available for practice and competition but also for his unflagging enthusiasm when coaching a range of events.

S. Sampey



TENNIS

Another season much the same as all those in the recent past. We continued to compete, but unfortunately did not have either the necessary skills or commitment to defeat many of our closest rivals. The game is a difficult one and until we are prepared to work hard to improve our performances, there will be little progress. I hope that the plan to arrange coaching sessions for the boys with David Shaw next year is successful and will provide our teams with the boost they need. Having said that, it is always heartening to see so many of our pupils on the tennis courts during the summer term and to see the popularity of the game.

The seniors set about their matches with their customary mixture of enthusiasm and determination to have a good time. Mark Whitley and Stuart Melling proved to be a talented first pair who were able to give the best opposition a difficult time, the two Chris Jones at second pair were a formidable partnership, whilst Ross Melling and Philip Brierley gained some good results at third pair. Mention must also be made of Lee Gaskin and Philip Lyons who also regularly put in good performances to confound their opposition. The school has seen in this year group some of its most talented tennis players for some time and, although results have never quite lived up to the promise, it has always been a pleasure to accompany this team to matches throughout their time at KGS. I wish those who are leaving well for the future.

The Under 15's competed in the Lancashire Schools' League and gained fine victories over Lytham St. Annes High and King Edward's. Sadly, however, with the match against Arnold all but won, we contrived to throw away a winning position and so narrowly failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the competition. I hope that some important lessons were learned at that match against Arnold so that in future we can avoid the

disappointments of this season. Simon Dixon and Richard Wigglesworth both have much ability and fight hard in their matches; John Melling shows great promise and either Andrew Langley or Lee Brindle provide sound backup as the fourth member of the team.

The Under 13's likewise competed in the Lancashire Schools' League, although not with the same degree of success as their older counterparts. Adam Parker has undoubted ability and George Leeming, Patrick Lewis, Gary Livesey and James Melling always compete hard and to the best of their ability. These are the pupils who will benefit most from an organised tennis coaching scheme in the future.

So, as far as results are concerned, not one of our most successful seasons, but perhaps we should take into account, when measuring success, the level of enjoyment derived from the sport. If our pupils have enjoyed their tennis this summer, then I am content.

I. Rushton

SWIMMING

The swimming squad competes on a tough circuit which includes Bolton School (former National Water Polo Champions), Stonyhurst, Arnold, Hutton and Lancaster Royal GS. The squad has completed eight fixtures over the year, with notable victories over Arnold, Bolton School, Hutton and Stonyhurst College. The junior teams are a particularly strong unit and have lost very few heats. They are proving to be a formidable side, providing a solid foundation for the future of swimming at KGS. The following first formers have played a key part this year taking into account the size and depth of the overall squad: M Duncan, F Morgan, S Kellett, D Perfetti, M Gregg, R Westerman, S Swarbrick, M Kirkham and S Blackburn.

The intermediate squad (3rd & 4th years) have come up against tough opposition. However, the girls, who regularly compete against boys' schools, deserve much praise, for without the tenacity and determination of N Furber, E Rhodes, K Westerman, A Wareing and F Guest, the intermediate teams would have found the going very tough indeed.

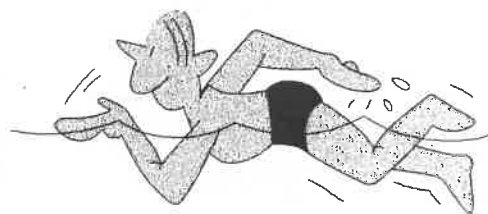
The senior teams (5th & 6th form) are very much the core of the squad. Irrespective of GCSE and A-level commitments, they regularly turn up for the early morning training sessions and never fail to give 100% in competitive matches. The two captains, David Rees and Louise Oades, deserve acknowledgement for this achievement.

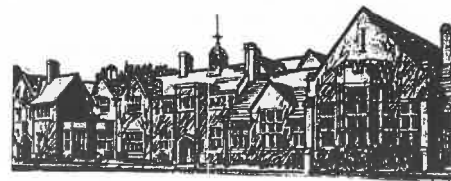
Finally, a word of thanks must go to the following Upper Sixth Formers who leave KGS this summer after supporting the school swimming team throughout their time at Kirkham: Paul Scott, John Smith, Louise Oades, Louise Collinge and Lyndsay Hilton.

Their loyalty and enthusiasm have been a credit to themselves and an excellent example to others.

Best wishes to them all.

R. D. Taylor





This season, the girls at KGS have again taken on the very best in the major winter sport of hockey and have, once again, enjoyed many successes. The teams, from the Under 12's to the First XI, have played with commitment, determination and enthusiasm and I am very proud of their achievements.

The first XI have only lost one game, a defeat which was avenged three weeks later. They have played some of the top hockey schools and have produced some excellent hockey. The second XI have given some excellent performances, including a number of victories against first XI's from other schools. The Under 16's played in the Lancashire President's Cup

Final and were very unfortunate to lose. The Under 15's won the Lancashire Schools' Hockey Tournament. The U13's remain unbeaten and won the Budge-Memorial 7-a-side tournament. Their biggest achievements this season were in winning the County Round and Northern Round of the National Mini-Hockey Competition. The Under 13's represented the North in the national finals and finished runners-up, only one goal away from winning the whole competition. This was a very proud moment for all connected with KGS hockey! The under 12's were joint winners in the Arnold invitational tournament.

Netball has also featured highly on our extensive fixture list. The Under 12's had a very promising start, reaching the semi-finals at the Blackpool Schools' Championship. This group of

girls have real potential! The Under 13's again remained unbeaten against their own age group and also reached the semi-finals at the end of season tournament. Nerves got the better of them on this occasion, but they are a very talented team and I look forward to an even more successful season next year. The Under 15's were an absolute credit. They played some excellent netball and only lost three games all season. The Under 16's reached the Blackpool Schools' Netball final for the third year running and were very unfortunate to lose 1-0 in the final.

To reach such high standards in two winter sports illustrates the complete commitment, enthusiasm and determination of the girls and staff at KGS. This season has been absolutely outstanding.

J. Glover

1st XI

P:13 W:10 D:2 L:1

Once again, the first XI has a magnificent record, with our only loss against Arnold, when we threw away a two goal lead, to lose 3-2 in the last minute when we were down to 10 players. Perhaps a small disappointment was that we were runners-up in three tournaments: BAE, The Lancashire Under 19's and the Cheadle sevens. Our efforts deserved the reward of at least one of these cups. The captain, Gillian Harrison, led by example and she was an outstanding goalscorer, scoring 40 of the 65 goals. She was ably backed up by her vice captain, Annabel Wire, who gave her wholehearted support throughout the season. Our other senior player, Rebecca Rhodes, gave us her usual magic moments down the right wing.

Having lost eight players from the previous year, the season started with some fears and a new offside rule. The team very quickly proved any doubts to

be unfounded and, with a new attacking formation, we were soon into a winning pattern. We adopted a much more attacking formation this season and it was a great performance by our defence that we only conceded seven goals in the thirteen matches. Chloe Scott in goal, Sonya Thomas, Dawn Blackburn and Ayse Ince showed great maturity and tenacity and they are all there again next season. Ayse had an outstanding second half to the season when her work-rate was wonderful. We were fortunate to gain such a natural hockey player as Jodie Billington in the vital pivotal role in the centre of midfield and I am sure she will become an outstanding player next year. Of our younger players, Jane Kirby and Celine Hodge became important members of our team and both had an outstanding season. Jane is a wonderful passer of a hockey ball and Celine a natural goal scorer. All teams need their utility players and we were fortunate that Michelle Lee, Anna Tomlinson, Rebecca Kay, Charlotte Bancroft and Martine Martinez were able to cover any injuries or absences

without anyone noticing. It is a marvellous tribute to their efforts.

Considering that eleven of the fourteen players should be with us next season, there are exciting times ahead.

My thanks to the New Zealanders, Karen and Amanda, for slotting into our squad so comfortably and to Mrs. J. Glover and Mr. T. Miller for their wonderful support. Finally, to our loyal band of supporters, a big thank you - and especially to Melanie - whatever the weather, you kept us all going!!

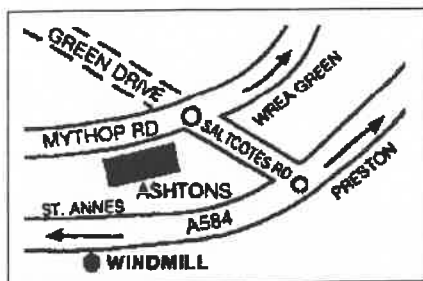
A. Blackburn



Michelle Harrison, who qualified for 9 events in the national age group finals and earned her place in the Great Britain swimming team.

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Players selected for the Lancashire Under 18, Under 16 and Under 15 squads

2nd XI

P:18 W:10 D:4 L:4

The second XI have had yet another successful season, with a number of notable victories over our major rivals from the Fylde, Manchester and Yorkshire. These included victories over Cheadle Hulme, Arnold, Wakefield, Bradford and Rossall.

The team was ably led by captains Rachel Chester and Kirsty Baxter who have worked very well together and ensured an excellent team spirit during matches and practice sessions. Rachel was top scorer for the team, but was ably assisted by Kate Fowden, Hannah Newell, Hannah Proffitt, Sarah Lumsden and Rebecca Kay. The midfield was driven by Hannah Proffitt, Kirsty Baxter and Katie Johnson and there is obviously room in next year's first XI for some of these talented players. In defence, Martine

Martinez, Lucy Russell and Leanne McLoughney worked tirelessly, helped by goalkeeper, Helen Scott. In Hannah Proffitt, Martine Martinez and Rebecca Kay, the team possessed county players who would walk into most other schools' first XI's.

Overall, an excellent season which promises much for the future.

T. P. Miller

U16 XI

The season began promisingly for this group. Out of a total of thirteen girls, five earned places in the Lancashire Hockey squads. Jane Kirby was selected for the Lancashire Under 18's team and Rebecca Kay, Celine Hodge, Anna Tomlinson and Hannah Proffitt were selected for the Lancashire Under 16 team. I would like to congratulate them.

In the President's Cup, the girls defeated Westholme, Ivy Bank and Ripley St. Thomas. In the final, we met Arnold. The girls were an absolute credit to Kirkham Grammar School. We dominated the game for the first fifteen minutes and fought bravely throughout. Unfortunately, we lost 4-1, but this score is by no means a true reflection of the game.

The Under 16's trained very hard and I was very impressed with their commitment, enthusiasm and efforts. Rebecca Kay was a dynamic right wing and captained the team superbly; Jane Kirby and Celine Hodge excelled in every match; Hannah Proffitt and Anna Tomlinson played with real determination in the middle and Lucy Russell was the most improved player.

Congratulations to all the girls for their efforts. I am very proud of them.

J. Glover

U15 XI

The team has had a good, steady season. At the start, the first obstacle to overcome was to get used to changing the system of play. We decided to play a 3:3:3:1:1 system, which involved the defenders getting used to tight man to man marking and finding a player who could play sweeper.

Cara Backhouse proved to be a natural sweeper and has been an asset to the team throughout the season. Hannah Smith also proved to be an excellent centre back after learning the discipline needed to be a close marker. The work rate of our forwards and midfield and the tight marking of our defenders and the goalkeeping of Amy Wareing have improved tremendously from the start of the season. In attack, Claudine Beaver has been an asset through her hard work and her ability to put the ball in the net.

The team has played well throughout the season, showing commitment and determination in all matches. They are to be commended for their enthusiasm and dedication to training and their excellent team spirit. The end of the season has shown a real reward for their efforts in winning the Lancashire Under 15 tournament. They thoroughly deserved this excellent win, beating both Queen Mary and Arnold on their way to victory. I hope the team have finally learned to believe in themselves and will go on to be stronger as a result of this.

I would like to thank Martha Newell for captaining the team superbly and all the team who have given everything to their hockey this season. I am very proud of them and delighted that they achieved the success they thoroughly deserved. You have all been a delight to coach!

L. Baxter

U14 XI

An excellent season for the U14's, both in terms of results and commitment. The girls have been keen and enthusiastic from the outset. Initially, they lacked confidence, but once they began to believe in themselves, there was no stopping them. The morale and teamwork are superb and the determination first rate.

Special mention to the constant battling of Nicky Furber and Vicky Bradley who, along with Ruth Burns, made up a formidable midfield. The defence developed well, as did the forwards, led effectively by Clare Stockdale.

This squad has been a pleasure to coach. The fun and enthusiasm never ended. The battling is obvious during the game - so don't give up, believe in yourselves, you have got a lot of potential.

A. S. Fryer

U13 XI

The Under 13's have had another extremely successful season. They are undefeated and have not conceded a goal, even against such teams as Arnold, Queen Mary's and Stockport Grammar. They also played in the Budge sevens tournament. After a series of six matches, they emerged as the clear winners. The seven-a-side team has also won the Lancashire round of a national tournament and therefore go through to represent Lancashire in the regional round.

The girls in the U13 squad are incredibly skilful for their age. They are very keen to improve and with the continued development of team play and fitness, this team will, we hope, stay unbeaten. I wish the girls success in the future and hope they continue to enjoy playing hockey.

E. Cairns (Captain)
A. S. Fryer (Coach)

U12 XI

All of the girls who have been involved in coaching sessions have worked extremely hard to develop their hockey. Although many girls arrived at the school having done quite a bit of hockey, they still worked hard at improving their skills and I am sure they have benefited from this hard work. A few girls have improved tremendously, notably Kate Sannegadu and Katy Parker.

The A and B teams have had very good seasons, losing only one match each and the A team finished their season with an excellent tournament; they were joint winners at the Arnold invitation tournament.

Many of the players show promise for the future and they have the necessary determination and commitment to do well next year. Katie Gough has captained the A team well and I would like to thank the whole squad for their efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents who have supported the girls throughout the season.

L. Baxter

U12 'A' XI

This year's hockey season got off to a slow start for the U12's A Team, losing their first match 1-0 to Rossall. Since then, the team has lost only one game and is improving all the time. The team has experienced many changes, with Katy Parker coming up from the B team and Hannah Spacey changing position from sweeper to goal-keeper.

The team have played at many different schools, on many different pitches and in different types of weather, but always try their best and usually come out on top. The team still has a long way to go, but each member is still trying her hardest and gradually making good progress with the help of our coach, Miss Baxter.

- Hockey



The Under 13 Hockey Squad

It has to be said that the highlight of the season was the Arnold hockey tournament. The tournament got off to a good start with a 3-0 win against Chase and a 2-0 win against Wakefield. Kirkham then went on to draw with West Kirby and beat both St. Edward's and Bradford. This meant we went through to the semi-finals against Merchant Taylor's, where we won 2-0. Kirkham were through to the finals! At full time the score was 0-0, and so came the 5 minute sudden death extra time. After the five minutes were up, the score remained 0-0 and so Kirkham and Arnold share the trophy.

K. Gough



NETBALL U15

The U15's are a terrific group of girls. Their enthusiasm, determination and efforts this season have been absolutely first class!

This season the girls competed in the Blackpool Schools' Netball League and hold fourth position. The bad weather that we encountered early in the new year made it very difficult for us to complete all our matches. In the tournament, the girls gave their best but, unfortunately, the team was badly depleted through illness and injury and did not do themselves justice.

I am delighted that they have decided to continue playing netball next season. They are an able team and I look forward to another very good season indeed.

J. Glover

U13

With sights set on the Blackpool Schools' Netball Championships, the second year netball team started with a bang with a decisive win over Lytham High School 8-5. We played well although we had many faults that needed to be corrected. We remained undefeated playing Queen Mary, Carr Hill and Arnold. We also took part in an U14's Netball League. The opposition were a year older than us and therefore a year stronger and a year more experienced. We only won one game, but the experience was invaluable and this should stand us in good stead when we enter the same league next year.

At the long awaited tournament, the 'A' team won their group convincingly, defeating Parklands, Collegiate School, Highfield and St. Mary's. This put us through to the quarter finals against Millfield. We had a poor start and at half-time Millfield were ahead by one goal. We kept our cool and came back

to win 2-1. The semi-finals awaited and the tension was rising as we faced our close rivals, Arnold. Unfortunately, nerves got the better of us and we lost 3-2.

The 'B' team played well and came runners-up in their group, winning two of their games and drawing one, which put them through to the quarter-finals, where they performed extremely well but lost to St. Mary's 3-2.

On behalf of all the girls in the netball squad, I would like to thank Mrs. Glover and Miss Fryer for their superb coaching, encouragement and enthusiasm.

J. Meloy (Captain)

U13 'B' Team

Although the 'B' Team has not had many matches this season, the commitment been first class. Their main competition was the Blackpool Schools' Championships. The girls played very well indeed and won their section outright. In the quarter-finals, the team was very unlucky to lose to Lytham High School by one goal.

The B team have been an absolute credit this season. Their enthusiasm and efforts have been excellent. I would like to thank Amy Twambly for captaining the team superbly. I would also like to thank the parents for their support throughout the year.

J. Glover

U12

The U12's had a very slow start indeed. However, their enthusiasm, commitment and determination to improve their standard of play eventually paid off. In the winter term, the girls rarely won a match, but they persevered and, as the season was nearing its end, everything started to come together.

Both the A and B team started to play well the day before the Fylde Schools' Tournament. At the tournament, both teams were outright winners of their sections. The girls then won the quarter-finals, but unfortunately both teams were defeated in the semi-finals. I am absolutely delighted with the progress that they have made and I am looking forward to a more successful season next year.

J. Glover

TENNIS

Tennis, this year, has certainly been filled with great commitment by all players and a high level of success. Once again, the early morning sessions with David Shaw have shown great dividends in the girls' performances. David intends to use Kirkham as a base for his centre of excellence, as well as creating an invitational tournament to be held at the school. Kirkham remains the only school in the area to hold such sessions and the improvement in tennis standards surely reflects this combination of input and commitment by the girls.

All tennis teams have played matches against ten schools this season and have performed extremely well, with the U13's having won all but one match, the U14's winning all but two and the U15's remaining unbeaten. The U12's have had a great start to the season, with all squad members showing great determination and enthusiasm. In their first four matches, they have won three convincingly and lost one by a narrow margin. I feel they have great potential. The senior teams have had a mixed season and have won three and lost three.

A last mention to Jon Ash, a qualified LTA coach, who has been coming in on Friday afternoons. He has proved very popular and provides an added bonus to those girls and boys not yet able to attend David Shaw's sessions.

K. Russell

ATHLETICS

The girls have had a very good athletics season indeed. The U13's have won three matches, defeating Arnold, Queen Mary and Lytham. They also competed in the TSB National Championships. The girls did superbly in the county round and qualified for the Northern Finals at Stretford Athletics Stadium. The girls competed against very strong athletics clubs and found the competition extremely fierce. However, we put everything into the competition and actually beat our county total by sixteen points. Danielle Hanley won the discus with a personal best of 22m 60cm. Jane Meloy was runner up. Vicky Wilson, Amy Twambley and Katie Severns also ran personal bests on the track and Vicky also came second in the javelin competition with a personal best of 21m 73cm.

The Under 14's have come closer to victory this season than ever before. Clare Stockdale and Ruth Burns have performed superbly on the track, yet again. The Under 15's have enjoyed very good victories over Queen Mary's and Lytham, and were very unfortunate to lose by one point to Arnold. Amy Wareing, Kim Peake, Martha Newell, Gemma Swift, Annabel Fowden, Emily Rhodes, Samantha Cheadle, Vanessa Walker, Alice Green, Cara Backhouse and Kate Westerman have led by example, both in training and in matches. The Under 12's have had a super start, defeating Queen Mary's and Lytham.

The girls have worked very hard this term and have been fortunate to experience a breadth of first class coaching. Mr. Sampey has worked superbly with the PE staff and, in addition to his regular top quality training sessions in all events, has also run specialist High Jump, Discus, Javelin and Shot coaching sessions. We have enjoyed the expert coaching of Mr. G. Knight, the Great Britain national hurdles coach. Our team hurdles benefited greatly from his two and a half hour coaching clinic. In addition to this, Mr. Bruce Craven, a Great Britain javelin thrower, has also run a javelin coaching clinic.

This involvement of national coaches in our programme is something we certainly aim to expand next season. We are aiming to have a coaching clinic, run by a national coach, once every two weeks throughout the season.

No less than twenty-two girls have achieved personal bests throughout the season. Eight of our girls represented South Fylde in the Lancashire Schools' Championships:-

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Claire Stockdale | 800m |
| Ruth Burns | 800m |
| Vicky Peters | 100m |
| Jenna Rees | Long Jump |
| Laura Ford | Shot |
| Amy Wareing | Discus |
| Kim Peake | Discus |
| Sheree Halliwell | Long Jump |

We mixed the athletics groups this summer for the first time and what a great success it has been! The girls and boys have worked superbly together, encouraging, assisting, and competing against each other. The coaching staff have certainly been fully utilised this term and both the athletes and non-athletes have thoroughly enjoyed it!

Special thanks must go to Mr. Sampey who has devoted much time and energy to athletics coaching this season. He has worked endlessly to improve our athletes, particularly our field event athletes. We have had more personal bests in the field events than ever before. Both myself and the girls have thoroughly enjoyed working with him and very much appreciate all his efforts. We certainly hope to have his expertise again next season.

I would like also to thank Miss K. Russell for her endless efforts this season. She is an absolute pleasure to have in the department. She will be greatly missed. I really appreciate everything she has done for us.

J. Glover



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