

Kirkham Grammar School

H e a d m a s t e r ' s L e t t e r t o P a r e n t s

Winter 2003



From the Headmaster

STAFF



The picture below right records our 'class of 2003' and their early days in their new school. It does not seem four months since we welcomed them on that distant day in early September. It is remarkable how quickly these young people have established themselves in school and become integral to it. One now stands on the touchline watching well organised U12 hockey and rugby squads successfully taking on their opponents. Equally we witnessed large numbers take part in the Autumn Concert exhibiting their musical talents. Each lunchtime different groups can be seen eagerly tending the pets in the Animal Ark Club or actively involved in a variety of clubs at lunchtimes or after school. This year group seem very quickly to have become Kirkhamians in its fullest sense and I congratulate them all on their positive impact in the school.

Beyond the first year, the school has remained extremely busy with a number of highlights to record. Our CCF had a most successful inspection day and I very much enjoyed my visit to Waddicar to see the wide ranging activities there. The Brigadier's review makes pleasing reading and reflects the variety of different aspects on display on the day.

Our musicians have had a most active term with a TV appearance and a visit to the Guild Hall to play preceding the Hallé orchestra. The culmination of their work was a splendid Autumn Concert enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. We look forward to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', which promises to be a highly entertaining production.

On the sporting front the 1st XI hockey squad has had a most successful term having been crowned as North West Champions. They enjoyed a memorable weekend while winning the Lancashire Cup and then going on to defeat Millfield on the Sunday. This was an enthralling game and Lorna Sissons and her team represented the school splendidly throughout the weekend. The same level of competition has been mirrored through the age groups. Most encouragingly the U15 Netball team reached the County final, which is a first for the school and bodes well for this relatively new venture.

In the rugby sphere, the 1st XV has had mixed fortunes but nonetheless recorded some excellent results and has shown improvement throughout the term under

This year has seen a number of changes in the Common Room and we welcome five new faces to our permanent complement. We hope they will all be extremely happy here at Kirkham Grammar School and we wish them well in their new posts.

Ms Jane Barrie joins us as Head of Drama from Broughton High School. Ms Barrie has already busied herself in the preparation for A Midsummer Night's Dream and in organising a number of theatre visits.

Mrs Linda Glover joins the Biology Department to teach to A-level in Biology and some junior Physics. She is also involved in girls' netball coaching and with the Science Club.

Miss Lindsay Pumford has joined the P.E. Department and is heavily involved in Hockey coaching already. Her experience at the highest levels of the game should bring additional expertise to this already successful area.

In the world of Business Studies, Mrs Lorraine Hargreaves joins us to replace Mrs Parkinson. Her broad experience within the world of Marketing and Business will assist in developing the pupils' knowledge of the wider implications of the subject.

Miss Sarah Kelly has also joined us from Chesterfield High School to teach Religious Studies replacing Mrs Williams. Miss Kelly will teach to A-level and is also assisting with girls' games.

We are also pleased that a familiar face has remained with us. Mr Steven Shackleton replaced Mr Noble upon his untimely illness and has now joined our permanent staff to teach Physics and Electronics.

We believe our new arrivals will bring many strengths to the school and benefit the pupils with their broad and varied experience.

The changes this term are not, however, limited to our new arrivals, Mrs Sutcliffe has celebrated the arrival of her son, Matthew, and has been on maternity leave this term. Mrs Jennifer Heaton has filled in admirably and even found time to run the Badminton Club. We will welcome Mrs Sutcliffe back next term.

As we await the arrival of our new Head of Technology, Mr Hancock, the pupils have benefited from the tuition of Mr Rimmer who has joined us from St Dunstan's in London. Mr Hancock will arrive in January but Mr Rimmer will remain with us in a new role within the department.

In Modern Languages, Miss Johnson, has joined us as a German specialist and we await Mr McDowell's arrival in January to take over the Department.

We were all heartened to see Mrs Devine back on her feet and looking so well recently but clearly she has some convalescence still to come and Mrs Eccles has undertaken her teaching throughout the term in both French and German and will remain with us next term. We all wish Mrs Devine a speedy recovery.

Out on the sports field, Mr John Davies, has joined our coaching staff for rugby and athletics and has taken over the running of the Under 16 XV. His experience at Campion School and at high levels of the coaching world will bear the boys in good stead.

On a sad note Mrs Jennifer Salt will not be rejoining us after her maternity leave. Understandably she has taken the opportunity to be with her two children and we wish her well in the joys of parenthood.

James Cooper's leadership. Pride of place, however, should perhaps go to the Under 15 XV who have reached the last thirty two nationally of the Daily Mail Cup.

I am so grateful to all our parents for their support at these events. The interest and attendance at all these activities on the playing fields, in the concert arena and on stage is greatly appreciated both by the pupils and the staff concerned. This positive and enthusiastic support does so much to encourage our youngsters in their different activities and can do much to help the staff who give their free time so willingly to maintain such a high level of opportunity.

All that remains is to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



SPEECH DAY



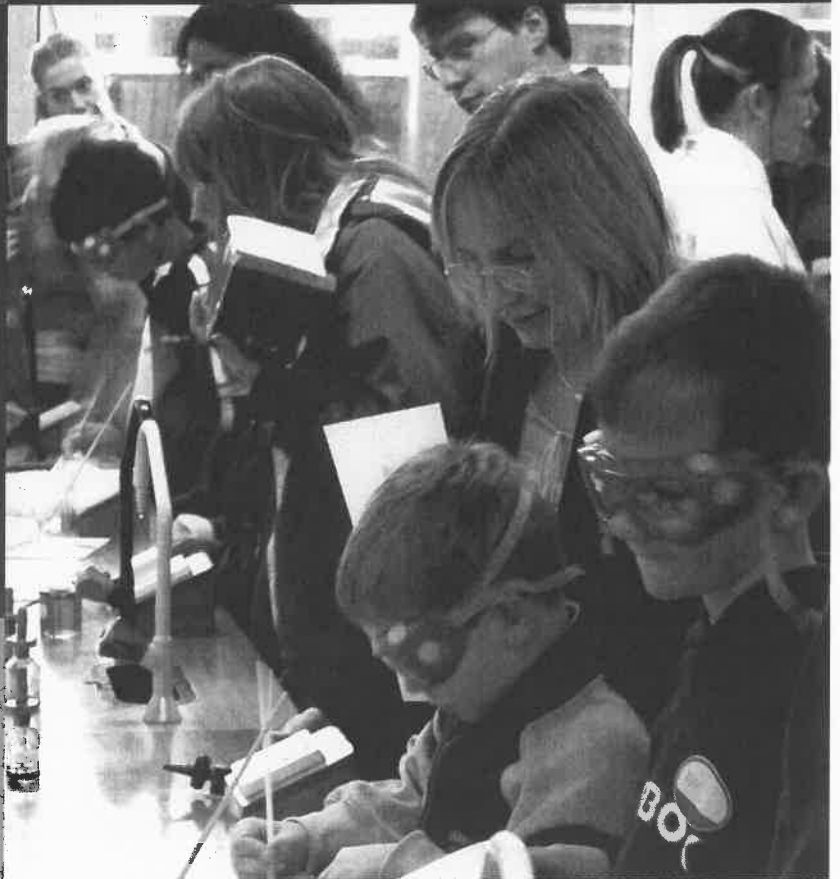
This year we welcomed Admiral Ross from the Drapers' Company to address us at our Annual Speech Day. Although he stepped into the breach after the Master Draper was unable to attend, Admiral Ross proved an excellent speaker. His address was aimed at all those present and paid particular attention to the pupils themselves, which was welcomed by all.

Mr Hosker, The Chair of Governors, ably ran proceedings and Captains of School, Louise Robinson and Christopher Gorman successfully requested the customary day's holiday.

The occasion was well attended and was once again wonderfully co-ordinated by Mrs Seed and arranged smoothly by Messrs Wood and Sayer and Mrs Taylor. So much hard work goes into this occasion and all those involved have my grateful thanks.

The Open Evening and Open Afternoon this term was exceptionally well attended.

Visitors taking part in the experiments in the Chemistry Department on Open Afternoon. (photo right)



THE WEBSITE EXPLAINED

home<page>

When we came back to school in September Mr Gardiner had re-designed the front end of the school website (home page) to reflect the diversity of information available for our internet visitors. This new page features links to all key areas as well as a new sitemap and search facility. We have added a Sports Results section that Mr Gardiner keeps up to date with team scores from games played. In addition we have updated the Sports sections with all active sports having their own section, with team information and links to how to find the opposition's school.

The site is constantly being updated in all areas especially news worthy stories about our pupils. So if we have missed anything or you know of a story please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Fran James or Mr Gardiner.



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Welcome

Kirkham Grammar School is an Independent Co-Educational Day and Boarding School for pupils aged 3-18 (Boarders from age 11). Founded in 1549, the school is undergoing an unparalleled period of growth and development.



Pupils  Information for pupils, as well as highlighting their achievements.	Parents  Parents' events and fund raising undertaken at KGS.	Old Kirkhamians  News, events, forums and general information for OKAs.	Development  The latest information on the school's development.	Contacts  Find e-mails, telephone numbers of relevant staff.	Calendar  Searchable School calendar with relevant information.
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Departments  Information on all departments, including GCSE and Sixth Form. Use the dropdown menu below for quick access. Select a department..... go	Extra - Curricular  The school has a large variety of well supported extra-curricular activities. Areas covered includes CCF, Ski Society and Climbing.	Kirkham Grammar News  England World Champions The England lads have done it - they're on their way home with an extra piece of luggage... ...the Rugby World Cup - hooray! MORE  Opens all hours KGS Open Evening as popular as ever MORE  Remembrance We remember all who died in the service of their country MORE
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How to Find Us  Directions on how to find the school.	Sport  Coverage of all the sports at KGS with news and results.	SPORTS RESULTS 	Kirkham Grammar Sport News  Magnificent 7 plus Lancashire and Cheshire County Honours MORE  Sweet Success A lesson in Hockey MORE  Lancashire Champions 1st XI Hockey Team crowned County Champions MORE
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The Creative Arts  A start point for the Creative Arts at KGS. Select..... go	Login  Login for registered users.	Dates and Events GCSE Options/Careers Evening for 3rd pupils Wednesday, 21 January 2004 MORE Examinations for 11+ Entry in September, 2004 Saturday, 24 January 2004 at 9.00 am MORE Sixth Form Open Evening Wednesday, 25 February, 2004 at 7.30 pm in the MPH MORE
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Empowerment by **AFFINO**



Following in father's, and grandfather's, footsteps...

18-year-old Kirkham student Felicity Long, is set to continue a remarkable family tradition, by becoming the third successive generation of her family to go to the same prestigious Oxford college. Felicity's recent A-Level results, from Kirkham Grammar School, have secured her a place at Exeter College, Oxford, where she will read for a degree in Modern Languages (French and Czech).

When she takes up her place there next month, she will be following in the footsteps of both her father and grandfather.

Felicity's grandfather, 83-year old Rev Dr Arthur Long is a Unitarian Minister, and a leading expert in Liberal Theology. He studied at the 700-year-old Oxford college at the start of the Second World War, before working as a Minister at a Unitarian church in Bolton, then taking over as Principal of the Unitarian Theological College in Manchester.

Felicity's father, Adrian Long, is Head of Sixth Form at Kirkham Grammar School, where he also runs the French Department. He studied Languages at the college in the mid 1970's, and since becoming a teacher at Kirkham, he has always encouraged his own most able students to apply to his old College at Oxford.

When Felicity proved to be such a capable linguist, her father encouraged her to apply to Oxford, and she decided to try to continue the tradition by choosing Exeter College.

Felicity's A-Level passes included not only three 'A' grades, but also a Distinction in the Advanced Extension Paper in French, a level, which only a handful of students achieve nationally. She is Secretary of the Kirkham Twinning Association, and has been responsible for the organization of the town's recent visits commemorating thirty years of twinning with Ancenis in France. She hopes to use her experience in this capacity in a future career working in Europe.

Felicity is pictured with her proud father and grandfather, after receiving the Sixth Form prizes for French and German at Kirkham Grammar School's Speech Day at Preston's Guildhall



GCSE RESULTS

This year we were delighted that 99% of our pupils achieved a minimum of five grade C passes or above. This figure included 100% pass rates in English Language and Mathematics, a most laudable level of success. A particular mention must go to Lucy Martin who achieved all A* grades this year. Furthermore, no less than eleven students achieved a minimum of eight A grades in this year's examinations.

Once again overall, the results were pleasing with nearly three quarters of all grades at B or above, a figure that matches last year's record statistics. The challenge is now there for the year group to replicate this success in their A-level studies.

Kate Denham, Lucy Martin and Leanne Bonney pictured above

A-LEVEL RESULTS

Once again the A-level results surpassed previous records with 47% of grades being at A/B level. There were also some outstanding individual performances with no less than eleven candidates gaining at least three grade A's and five candidates with a stunning five grade A's. These individual achievements were well documented at Speech Day as was the further achievement of Felicity Long who gained a Distinction in French at Advanced Extension Award and Terry Ogden and Miranda Hill who gained merits in Biology and German.

These outstanding achievements at the highest grades do not obscure the fact that the pass rate was 95% and the overwhelming majority of students gained entry to their first choice destination in Higher Education. We wish the whole cohort well and thank them for their immense contribution to the school.

Yvette Brindle, Jane Armer and Rachael Horton top picture



DEBATING

Autumn is the competition season, and so the Debating Society has had a busy term, and also gained several new members. On the first outing, Jo Box and Rachel Brown (pictured above) entered the Daniel Nelstrop competition, proposing the Motion, "This House Hates Exams" in the face of stiff opposition at St Augustine's, Clitheroe. Rachel and Jo defended their position against spirited attack, particularly in the question session. Deservedly, they won the stage, overcoming teams from Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and Arnold.

In the quarter finals they were not so fortunate: they proposed the motion "This House does not Trust the Monarchy" at Giggleswick, competing against teams from Giggleswick, St Augustine's and Halifax. The debates were lively but good natured, but

despite a spirited team performance, we were not chosen to progress to the semi-finals. However, the judges were pleased with the standard of debate, taking a staggering 40 minutes to reach their decision, and this young team can look forward to further success in the future.

Stuart Harrison and Caroline Cheadle have also entered the MACE English Speaking Union Debate, the first round of which is to be held at Blackpool later this term. We wish them well.

Debating is an enjoyable activity that inspires confidence and develops the ability to think, literally, on one's feet. We welcome all to our meetings on Monday lunchtime in W6, where we either debate or prepare for forthcoming competitions. Come along and join in!

FUND RAISING

On Friday 26 September, as part of a nationwide MacMillan fund raising event, staff at Kirkham Grammar School participated in a Coffee Morning during the morning break and raised a grand total of £85. Thanks to the catering services of Angela Hodgkinson and all the staff who brought cakes, biscuits etc., an enjoyable time was had by all. Special thanks to Mr Reid (photo below) who provided musical accomplishment throughout the event.



POETRY IN MOTION

Kirkham Grammar School entered this national competition once again under the watchful eye of English teacher, Mrs Jones. The numbers nationwide amounted to over 40,000 youngsters providing a very high level of entry. The culmination of this competition is the publication in January of chosen entries in the Young Writers' Association Poetry Book. We are delighted to record that no less than 56 pupils from KGS received certificates and will have their work published. We look forward to some busy reading in the New Year as our young poets' work goes nationwide.

my favourite hymns



All is safely gathered in



All things bright and beautiful

He gave us eyes to see them

MUSIC DIARY

Sunday 28 September

KGS Choir on Granada TV broadcast of Harvest Festival recorded in St. Walburg's Church, Preston in March 2003. Excellent contribution by the choir plus many very clear shots of individual choir members. (photo above)

Wednesday 22 October

String Group invited to perform at 'An At Home' given by the Mayoress of Ryde, in the Grand Hotel, St. Annas. Music performed by the group plus solo items.

Wednesday 19 November

School invited to perform Pre-Concert Music in the foyer of Preston Guild Hall prior to a Halle Orchestra Concert. String Group plus Solists.

Thursday 27 November

Break with tradition in the presentation of an Autumn Concert in the MPM Orchestra, Concert Band, Choir, new Junior Girls' and Boys' Choirs, String Group, ensembles and soloists plus spoken items.

Saturday 20 December

Members of the KGS Choir have been invited to perform with the Lytham St. Annes Choral Society in the Society's Christmas Concert. Excellent experience for young choral singers to sing in a chorus of over 100.

Hannah Smith, one of the First Year Music Scholars, was awarded three First Prizes in the singing classes at the Blackpool Music Festival.

Coffee Concerts

Three Coffee Concerts have taken place this term: the first by 3rd Year Music Scholars, the second by 1st and 2nd Year Music Scholars and the third by 5th year GCSE students.



OLD KIRKHAMIANs' ASSOCIATION

LONDON REUNION

Thursday 30 October 2003

A rainy evening set the scene for the first London Reunion but this did not dampen the proceedings and everybody who attended seemed pleased with this new event.

Every guest was greeted with a complimentary drink of either fine Chilean wine, bottled beer, orange or water and by 6.45 pm most of the OKA members had arrived.

There were many old faces (top left photo) and some new, several of whom had made the journey from various parts of the country in order to enjoy a few days in the Capital.

Just after 7.30 pm the finger buffet menu arrived and what a lovely selection of food there was for all to enjoy. The Traditional and Oriental cuisine included such mouthwatering items as King Prawns in Filo, Ratatouille Potato Skins, Salmon & Crayfish in Malvern Salt Pastry and Bayonne Ham & Mango.

The raffle prize was a Hewlett Packard Deskjet printer; just over £50 was raised and this money will go to top up the Sidney Crane Travel Fund. The staff of the Commonwealth Club are to be congratulated on serving some excellent food, fine wine & drink and in such a friendly manner.

AGM and NORTHERN DINNER

Saturday 20 September 2003

This year's Northern Dinner moved location, from the Old Hall to the new Dining Hall - it seemed easier for the guests to make the change rather than the catering staff juggling plates, pots and pans in an effort to serve hot food several yards from where it had been prepared - giving a whole new meaning to the expression 'gravy train'! And it worked - celery & stilton soup served piping hot, chicken in white wine sauce, rounded off with citron brulee and apple pie & cream.

The leavers of ten years ago had been specifically targeted and it was good to see a good representation from that era, as well as the regulars who are so keen to support the Association's events.

There was an assortment of raffle prizes, ranging from the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament to tickets for the cinema and £250 was made, again for adding to the Sidney Crane Travel Fund.

The chain of office was passed from outgoing President, Ben Stuttard, to the new President, Simon Gardiner, Old Kirkhamian (1976 - 1980) and present Head of Art at school (photo right).

Joint Captains of School also took part in the proceedings - Louise Robinson started off the meal by saying a little known but most refreshing Grace and Chris Gorman toasted the school, acknowledging the part played by Old

Kirkhamians.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL this year include repairs to the stained glass window in the Old Hall in memory of Thomas Cabbage Walton and the replacing of the Sunburst clock in the Boarding House dedicated to the memory of Michael Holden, who died of tetanus after being scratched by a boot stud whilst playing football. The latter gift was donated by Old Kirkhamian Brian Read, a boarder from 1947-1952.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 21 December 2003
"Young" Old Kirkhamians Christmas Reunion
Preston Grasshoppers RUFC

Saturday 3 April 2004
Southern Reunion Dinner
St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Summer 2004
London Reunion
Date/venue to be confirmed.

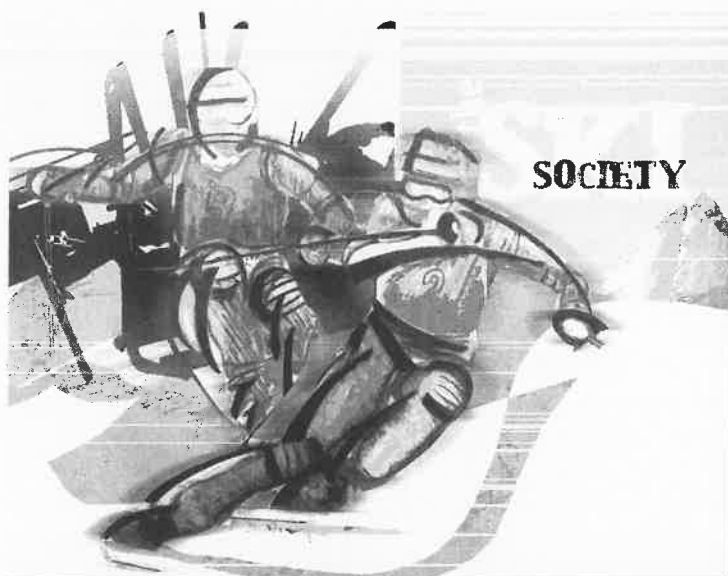
visit the OKA website at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/oka

CLIMBING CLUB

Excellent weather in the first half of term enabled the club to climb outdoors much later in the year than usual. We visited Troy Quarry (near Haslingden), Stanworth Quarry (near Feniscowles) and Denham Quarry (near Brindle). David Spencer and William Horton are two enthusiastic and talented newcomers, who each promise to achieve much as climbers. It is unusual to welcome experienced first form climbers into the club, but Abbey Cooper is just that, having learnt to climb at West View Leisure Centre - she is also a good climber with much potential.

After half-term we visited the Lancaster University Climbing Wall and West View but on Speech Day holiday we travelled further afield, to climb at the large indoor climbing complex in Warrington. Thirteen climbers were each sponsored to complete twenty routes in three hours. All were successful and if they also collect all the money which they have been promised, then we shall have raised enough money to extend the school's climbing wall once again. This is planned to take place in the Spring Term, and will widen the wall, so increasing the number of climbing stations from four to five. We are looking forward to it!





SOCIETY

The Ski Society is only dormant. As you read this article final preparations are well under way for our annual trek to the Alps. A party of 63 pupils and staff will depart from school on the afternoon of the last day of this term to head for Valloire, again, in the French Haut Savoie.

This location was decided upon as last year's trip to the same village was so successful and enjoyed by all. Not only were the streets festively decorated but the pre-Christmas rush had not yet begun and the slopes were virtually ours alone. The snow was excellent, the hotel very comfortable and the staff most helpful and obliging. However, as regular clients of Ski Partners, the travel company (part of First Choice Leisure) we have been upgraded to an even better hotel this year at no extra charge. The Plein Sud is located a similar walking distance away from the ski lifts to the slopes. All the photos of last year's trip are available on the school computer network and the village has its own web site so the snow conditions can be monitored. There is a link from the school web site as well as access to all the important information given out regarding specialist kit and ski safety in downloadable format. Read about last year's trip in the Kirkhamian Magazine or on the web site.



At the beginning of term the lunchtime club fair generated much interest and the hamsters on show behaved impeccably (not biting anyone)! We have had a great variety of talks at club meetings with 'guest appearances' from an Italian Spinoni, two pythons, two kittens, African Sabah stick insects and a bald Sphinx cat.

John Vale who runs the Creepy Crawly Road Show displayed some of the animals that he has rescued, including a cobra, a malnourished hedgehog and an abandoned kestrel.

All our club animals are thriving, including the new addition – an albino leopard gecko called Fred. He is already very tame and loves to be fed wax-worms by hand.



LONDONTRIP



Our pictures shows members of the party in their capsule on the London Eye and outside No 10 Downing Street.

Mr Long's end-of-term day trip to London for Second Year pupils, to visit our friends in the City of London, the Worshipful Company of Drapers, took place this year on July 1st. Every year, a group of KGS pupils is privileged to tour one of London's best kept secrets, Drapers' Hall, in the Shadow of the Stock Exchange, and to take a very special lunch in unforgettable surroundings. This year, they were accompanied by Mr Watson, Dr Hall, Mrs Lang, and from our support staff, Headmaster's Secretary and Registrar Mrs Seed. The party enjoyed the tour of the Hall, led by Drapers' Archivist Miss Penelope Fussell, and as always, learned more about the Company and the Hall, which had

recently been used as a film set for the BBC television drama "The Lost Prince".

In the afternoon, they were taken on Mr Long's exhausting whistle stop tour of the sights, including a ride on the London Eye. We were delighted that the police let us down to Number 10 Downing Street, enabling us to take photos at the front door, but Covent Garden shops were again a highlight for the shopaholics.

We are immensely grateful to the Drapers' Company for their hospitality, and for their continued support for and interest in our School.

After the great success and enjoyment of last year's overnight, it was decided to repeat a similar exercise this year. Several junior cadets, mainly 4th year, along with some NCOs and staff, set off to Waddecarr, after school on Wed 22nd Oct. After squeezing quarts into pint pots, it was decided that a double shuffle was necessary to move the amount of kit junior cadets seem to think is needed for less than 24 hours on ex. Hair straighteners did seem a little excessive!

A lesson in how to assemble Rubic's webbing was needed along with some instruction on field cooking and composite rations. Operational Ration Packs (ORP's) are meant to last for a full 24 hours and the sweets and chocolate bars are the emergency sugar supply! The cadets' evening meal was interesting to say the least! Porridge, which was meant for breakfast, seemed to mix well with hot chocolate drink, and some cadets managed to weld the residue to their mess tins. Carbonara and choc chip pudding must have been good at 06.00hr next morning! It was a good job it didn't rain, as construction of a basic shelter should have been the first priority, but it appeared that everyone wanted to cook rather than prepare his or her bed space.

The evening's activities continued to be as interesting and enjoyable with all sorts of hide and seek, camouflage and concealment exercises going on. Lt Col Scott's hot soup and baked potatoes were most welcome at half past one in the morning. Everyone survived so the exercise was successful.

The next day the remainder of the contingent arrived to prepare for our Field Day cum Biennial Inspection by our Brigade Commander, M J Wharmby OBE. At the time of writing, we are as yet awaiting his final report but he was very impressed with what he saw of the whole of our contingent, RAF and Army, both fourth and fifth year as well as about 60 sixth form NCOs. Over 300 cadets, (nearly half of the school), officers and civilian staff were involved in the day's activities.

Our CSM and Flt Sgt treated the Brigadier to a Power Point presentation and he was suitably impressed by our successes, commitment and the variety of activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the new BTEC in Public Services, recently introduced to our NCOs. We also informed him that KGS CCF won two out of the three possible inter contingent trophies at Central Camp at Warcop, this summer, which was a most fitting valedictory performance for our retiring CO, Lt Colonel F W Sayer.

The weather was exceptionally kind to us and the sun shone all day. Numerous military and general fun activities were enjoyed by both cadets, instructors and the inspecting team: UXBs in potato mine fields, drain pipes with holes and water carrying activities were well mixed with more military drills, such as assault courses, march and shoot and concealment exercises. Surely the most realistic scenario was the casevac simulation where the acting abilities of some of our senior girl NCOs came into good use. The hysterical performance of Alex Yates being armless from a terrorist attack deserved an Oscar. The cadets had to react to the numerous casualties in this first aid incident, which really did catch the Brigadier's interest as the blood and gore was so authentic. I am sure that we will pass muster and so we will be eligible for our annual grant next year.

I would like to thank all who participated in the day and contributed to its success. The Brigadier asked me, personally to thank, not just the officers and staff, but the NCOs and especially the cadets, many of whom he talked to individually. On a day such as that one realises what good fun is had; skills developed and leadership qualities honed through participating in the cadet movement. Possibly this is one of the reasons why KGS CCF is the largest it has ever been, with over 290 cadets in total and over 60 NCOs who are all volunteers.

Lt Col (retired) F W Sayer left the contingent in a very sound state and long may it prosper. We now look forward to a similar overnight, military activity, possibly at Weeton Camp, in the spring term along with our annual Adventure Training Camp in the Lake District at Easter. Places are being reserved already! (1st - 6th April 2004.) Book early to avoid disappointment. Places will be limited to about 30 cadets and demand will be high for the camp, so it will be first come - first served.

Lt Col I M Scott
Contingent Commander

COMBINED CADET





RAFsection

We had an interesting Summer Camp at RAF Cottesmore, with the Harrier Force Squadrons. Several of our cadets were fortunate to be allowed to service and marshal aircraft and Cpl Isobel Morley loved every minute of it! We have now settled back into the routine of CCF training each Thursday. While the senior cadets attempt climbing and preparation for the RAF Part 2 examination the junior cadets have started "recruits" training involving drill, RAF History, uniform and survival skills. Flt Sgt Richard Walker and his team of NCOs have been busy in recent weeks ensuring the program has worked and plans are already underway for flying early in the new year and the next summer camp!



CCF INSPECTION

On Thursday, 23 October 2003, Commander M J Wharmby reviewed Kirkham Grammar School Combined Cadet Force whilst they were undertaking a Contingent Field Day at Waddecarr Scout Camp. On arrival he was met by Lieutenant Colonel Ian Scott, the new Contingent Commander, and then fully briefed on the Contingent generally and the day's programme in detail by the Contingent Cadet Sergeant Major Graham Hacking and Cadet Flight Sergeant Richard Walker from the RAF Section. This briefing was comprehensive and directed with great confidence and clarity.

During the course of the next four hours he was conducted round a series of seven stands by the Cadet Sergeant Major which gave him an opportunity to meet most of the Contingent's Officers, NCOs and cadets as well as a number of non CCF school staff who routinely assist the CCF with activities. For part of the tour and at lunch he was joined by the Headmaster, Mr D R Walker.

Commander Wharmby stated that, "It was absolutely clear to me that Kirkham Grammar School possesses a top flight Combined Cadet Force Contingent that enjoys the fullest possible support of the Headmaster and many of his teaching and support staff. The cadets at all levels were highly motivated, brimming with confidence and evidently enjoyed the wide range of activities organised for them. Cadet NCOs under the Cadet Sergeant Major were actively involved with the conduct of the day and the programme appeared to run like clockwork".

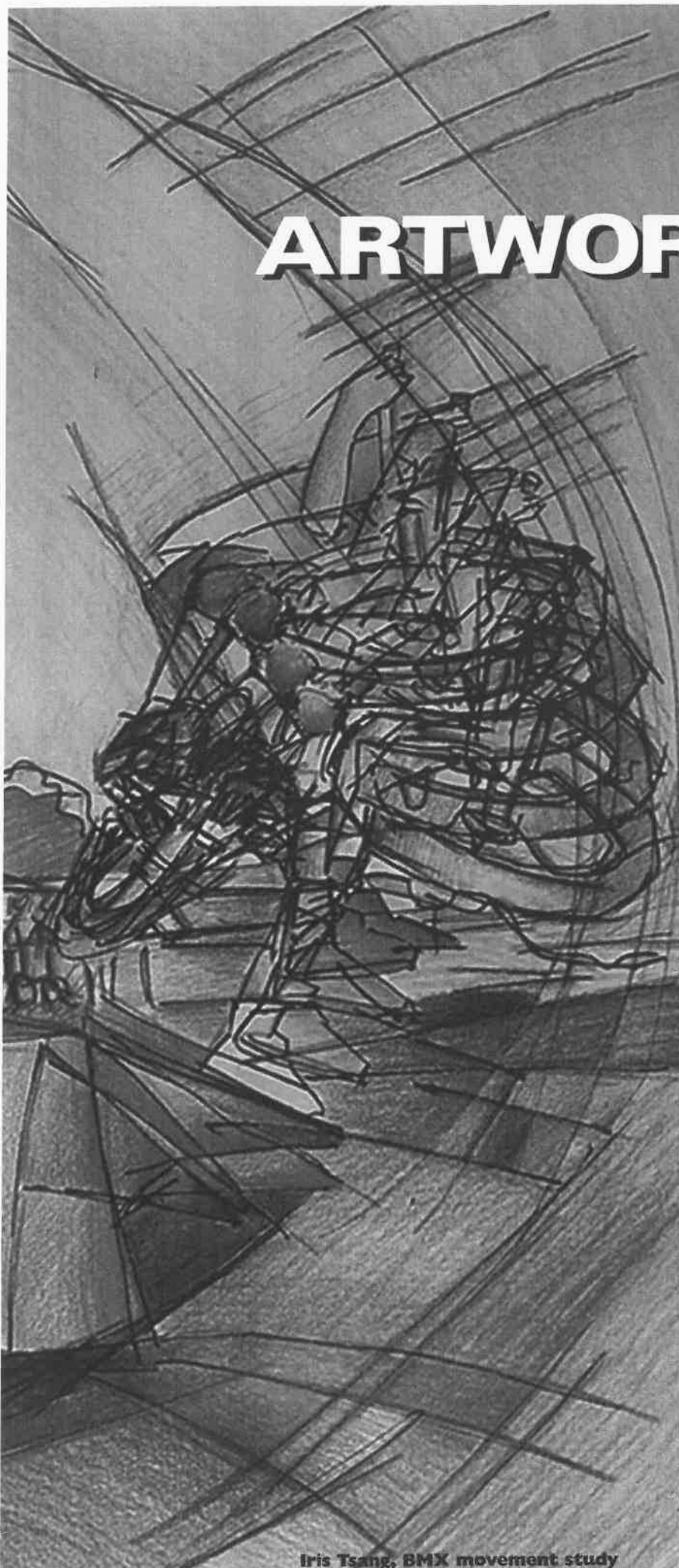


With a certain amount of trepidation a large group of staff and students set out during October half term for the wilds of the Lake District to complete a number of Bronze and Silver expeditions. As in previous years the threat of heavy rain was all around yet we were spared, till the third day, the now annual soaking of every member of the team. Instead we had to contend with some rather interesting navigation by a number of the groups who found parts of the Lake District never discovered before!

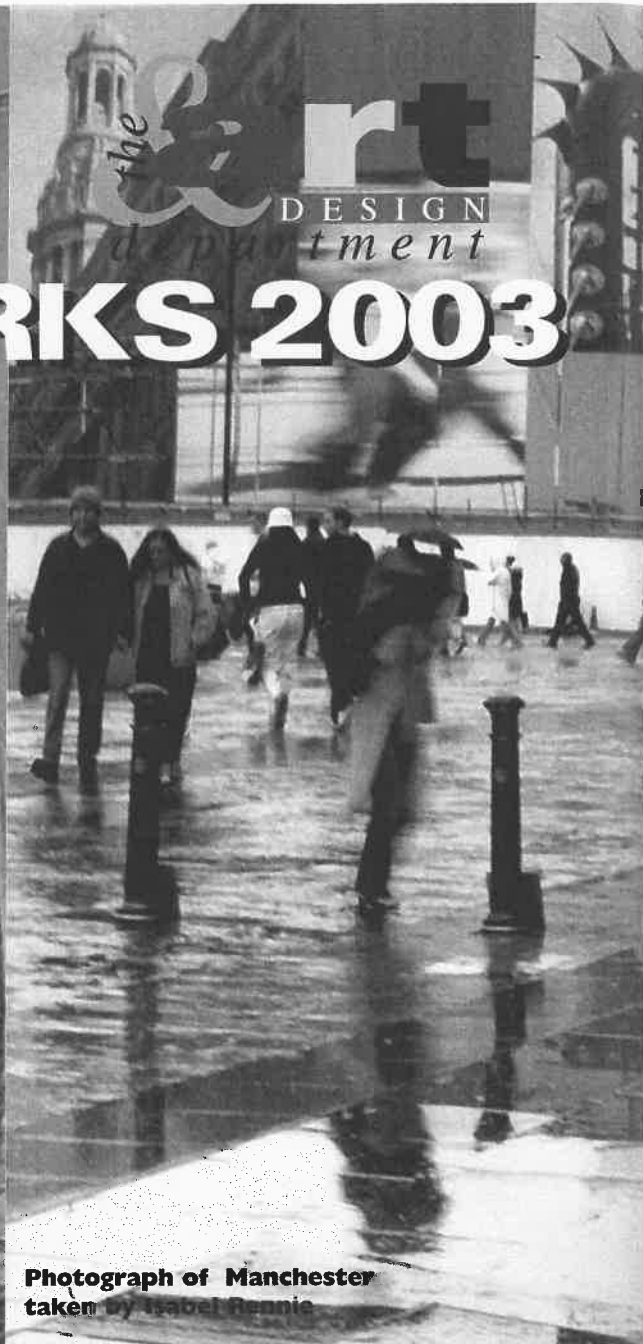
As ever Louise Robinson and Graham Hacking were superb in their role of safety supervisors and without them we would still be looking for some of the groups!

All's well that ends well however and all groups went on to complete their routes, and of course, get a little wet! The next expedition will take place during the Easter Holidays with hopefully better weather!

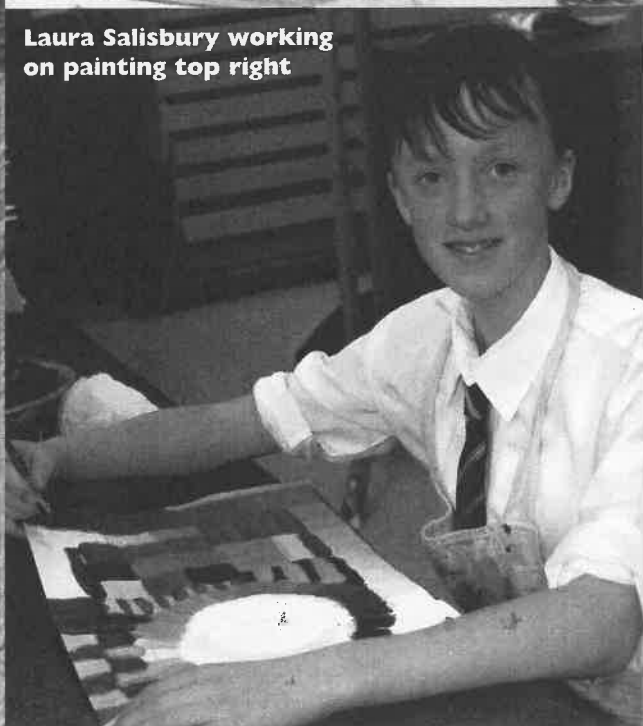




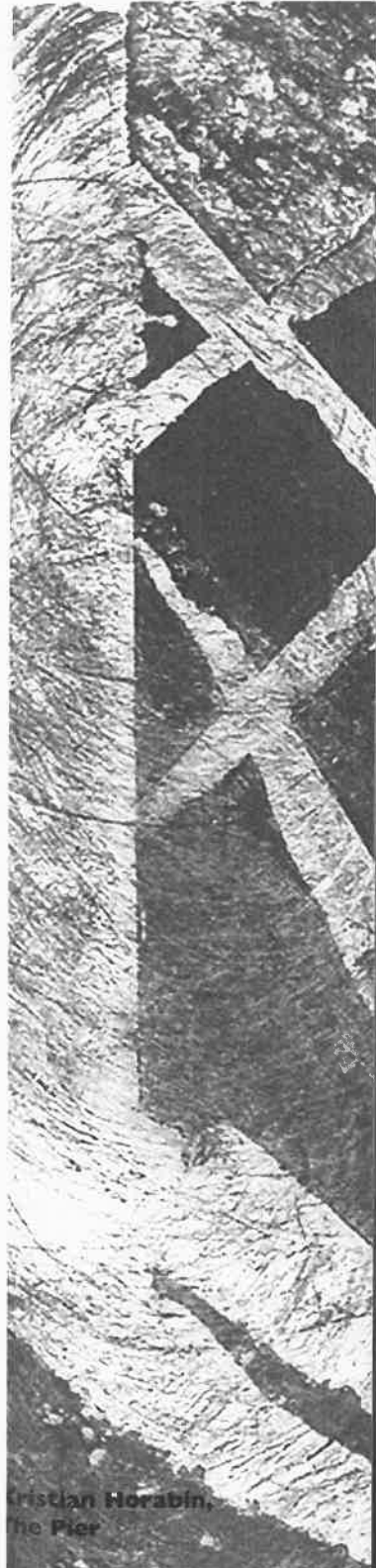
Iris Tsang, BMX movement study



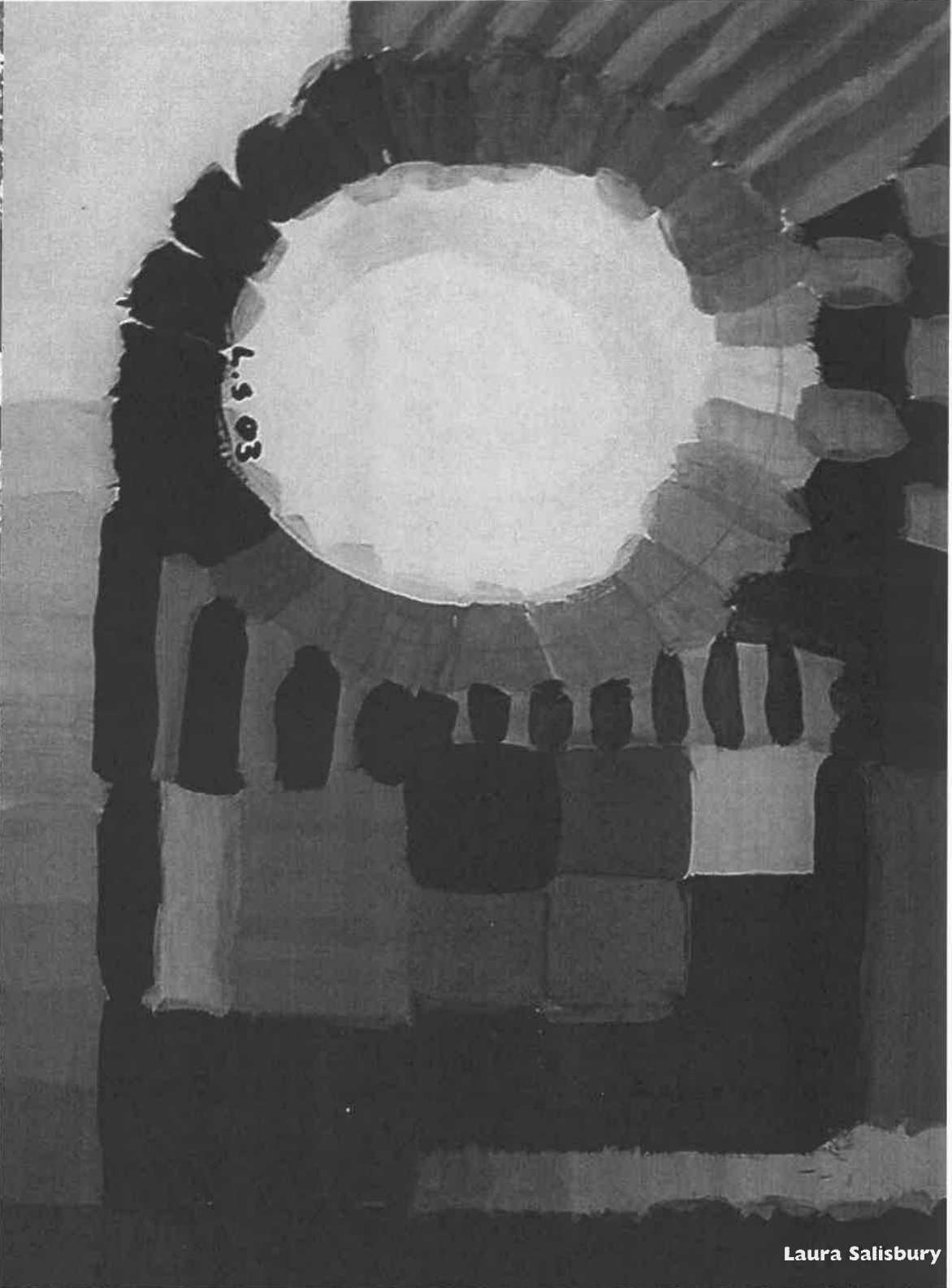
Photograph of Manchester
taken by Isabel Rennie



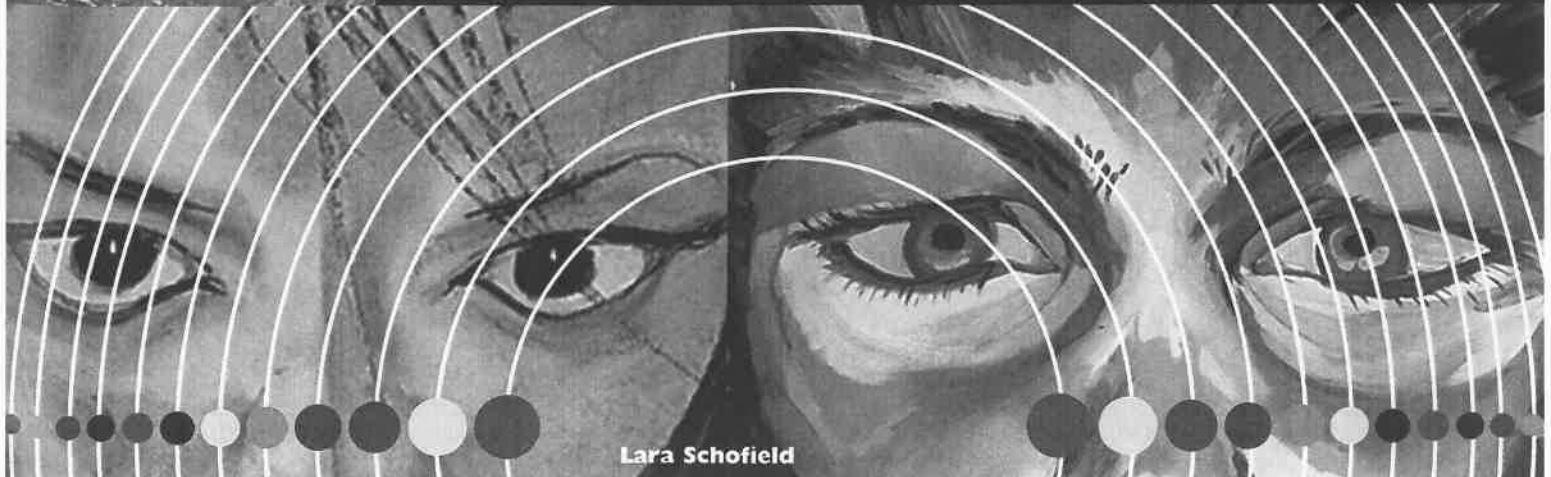
Laura Salisbury working
on painting top right



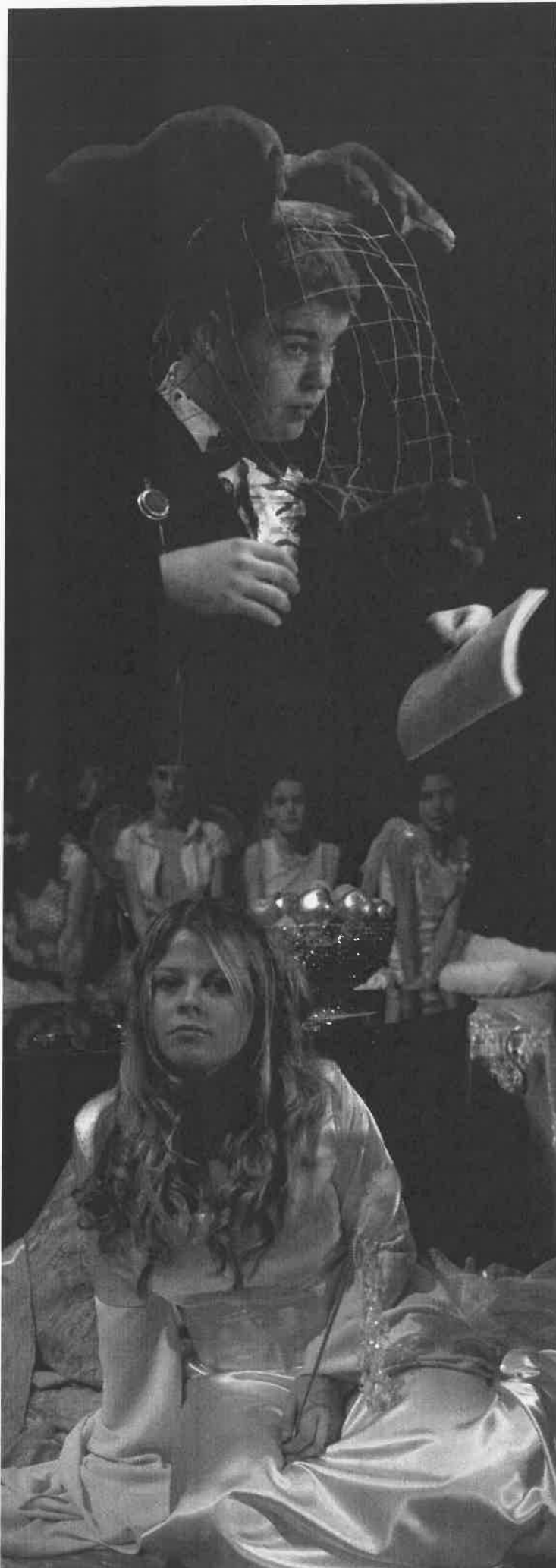
Cristian Horabin,
The Pier



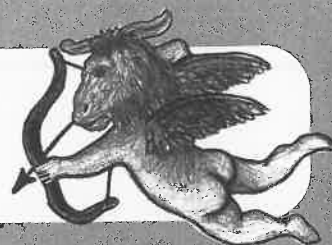
Laura Salisbury



Lara Schofield



THE PRODUCTION



The highlight of this term has to be KGS's first Shakespearean production for many years *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It may seem a little unseasonal, but the play is so funny we thought it would be a fine choice. We used the original text but updated the setting to modern day. There were lots of pupils involved from the first formers upwards, and we included live music, a karaoke version of 'Summer Nights' and plenty of slapstick humour. This production drew on the creative talents of over 100 pupils and staff. Many 5th Year pupils with speaking parts will gain marks for their performance as part of their GCSE Drama. We also had many pupils who had made their own costume and completed make up designs for GCSE marks. Rehearsals were thoroughly enjoyable which set the scene for the three production nights, as can be seen from Mr Alan Thrower's photographs which accompany this report. Watch this space for next term's production - *Cabaret*.

DRAMA

This term has been extremely busy in the Drama Department. We have had several theatre visits as well as auditions and rehearsals for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Our first Sixth Form trip was to the National Theatre, in London to see Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* at the start of October. The production had received excellent reviews and, as a group, we had read the first two acts together but had saved the ending to experience it live. The play certainly lived up to expectations with a superb ensemble performance from the cast and a beautiful set. The play follows the lives of the three sisters over a year with each act representing a different season. The production included snow and rain falling on 'real' trees which added to the realism Chekhov wished to achieve in the theatre.

Our second trip was to Manchester's Royal Exchange to see Lucy Bailey's *Twelfth Night*. This classic Shakespearean comedy was hugely enjoyable for all concerned. We took pupils from all year groups and for the juniors we ran a competition to design a costume and write a review of the performance. Fiona Williams won and received a free ticket to see *Nutcracker*!

In November a group of 5th and 6th Year students also went to the Library Theatre, Manchester, to see Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. This is a superb play commenting on the role of women in society and the egotism of the 1980's. We were not disappointed with the production; it was funny, tragic, hopeful and hopeless and ultimately a thought-provoking piece of theatre.

Finally, pupils from the first, second and third year went on a Christmas trip to The Lowry in Manchester to see Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker*! This was a far from traditional production which included a giant mouse, an enormous wedding cake complete with Bushy Berkeley style dancers, and every type of Liquorice Allsort brought to life in Candyland. Unfortunately the afternoon was disrupted by two false fire alarms; our pupils coped very well with these and behaved superbly as they have on all our trips.

TWELFTH NIGHT AT THE MANCHESTER ROYAL EXCHANGE

I thought *Twelfth Night* was fantastic and very amusing. The setting in a hotel was very realistic and fitting for the play. Katrina Lindsay, the designer, is very talented. The costumes were very out of the ordinary. Only Fabian and Malvolio were dressed even slightly ordinary. Maria wore probably the most unusual outfit for a maid. Karina mixed colour and texture to make the costumes appear strange, even out of this world.

I thought the stage was excellent. The set used water so the normal stage floor was raised and pumps and pipes installed. With the play being in-the-round there were lots of balconies and walkways which the actors could use.

All the actors were wonderful and it was hard to say who was the best but my favourite actor was Anthony Barclay who played Feste. Feste is a character with great humour and a member of Olivia's household. He was the only person not to get wet. Anthony Barclay has a superb singing voice and sang funky Rock music which is something Shakespeare did not include when he wrote *Twelfth Night*. Also I think Shakespeare did not have Duke Orsino wearing just his underpants!

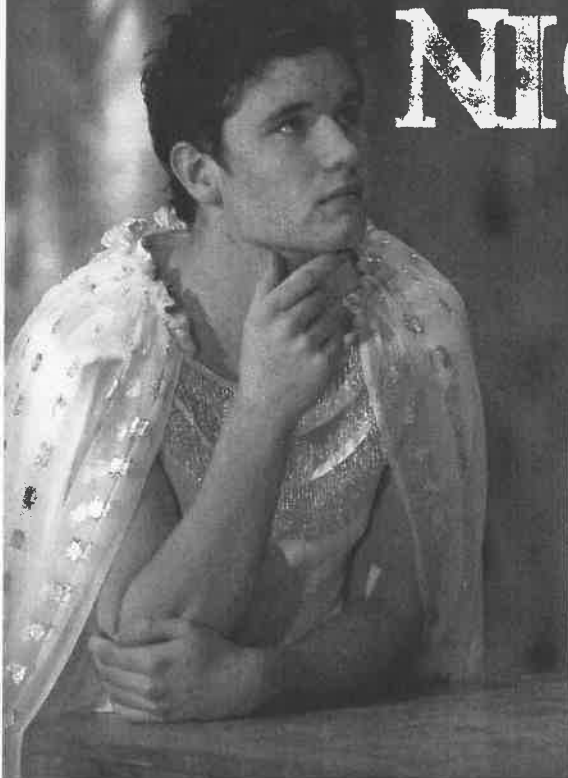
The Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre was great. It was lovely being in-the-round. It did not seem like watching a play but as if I had entered the life and memories of somebody else. It was a very special experience.

I am looking forward to my next trip to the Royal Exchange Theatre.

Fiona Williams (2X)

a midsummer

NIGHT'S DREAM



Young ENTERPRISE



The name for this year's Young Enterprise Company XVII was chosen simply because there are 17 members all age 17, and one of their main objectives is to add extra Value II (two); and despite being budding entrepreneurs for only a few weeks, they have certainly managed to do exactly that.

High levels of enthusiasm and commitment have been evident at the twice weekly meetings, attended by two staff members and external advisors from industry who year on year continue to give of their expertise and time.

One of the first tasks is always to raise much needed capital, and they elected to involve the whole school community to create awareness and involvement. This exercise, together with creative marketing, helped to promote their first and most traditional event, the Hallowe'en Disco for years 1 to 3. This was a well organised enjoyable and successful venture, helping to raise much needed cash to fund their Christmas ideas.

All members of XVII were unanimous from the start they should pursue an ethical objective which could involve raising proceeds for worthy ventures. As a consequence, they agreed to help promote and sell the unique Christmas cards created by the KGJS on the theme of "What Christmas means to me", with all proceeds being split between the Nepal Academy and Pear Tree School.

In the past few weeks the achievers have been busy organising our own version of the successful Pop Idols show, the final of which will be held during the last week of this term. There has been a high standard of contestants applying for the title of KGS Pop Idol, and all proceeds raised from the event will be donated to charity.

Open Evening, concert and drama evenings, and of course the Kirkham Grammar Friends' Christmas Fair provided an opportunity for them to sell seasonal gifts and maintain a traditional presence at these important events. They also staged a competition to win a DVD player for the participant with the highest score thrown from three dice. This was won by Angela Loxham with a winning score of 31.

Next term will be busy for the team as they prepare for the Area Finals and other seasonal sales opportunities. Thanks to everyone once again who bought shares and supported the sixth form in their ventures.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year the school is producing it's own Christmas Cards, designed by the children of the Junior School and sold/marketed by the Business Enterprise Group.

Part of the money raised will go to help the children of: **THE TRINITY ACADEMY, POKHARA, IN NEPAL**

**PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM
TO HELP THEMSELVES**



**SCHOOL FEES ARE ONLY £2 A MONTH
BUT 50% CAN'T AFFORD IT !!**



CHOC FOR CHARITY

Once again my thanks must go to all Sixth Form students who, without too much effort on their part, manage to raise money year on year for Barnardo's.

They very kindly continue to partake of the occasional Cadbury's chocolate bar, and in doing so support this very worthy charity, since all proceeds from the machine in the Sixth Form Centre are given to Barnardo's.

Mr Mehmood Laly, the Area Fundraiser for Barnardo's, also expressed his appreciation to the members of our sixth form during his annual visit to the school earlier this term. He said, "your support will help us make a huge difference and provide a turning point in a child's life. £5 can provide bereavement counselling for a child like Jason, who lost his mother. £30 can provide a day out to the seaside for a child like Rachel, who lives in a disadvantaged area where boarded up windows, graffiti covered walls and burnt out cars are part of her daily

life. Or Sandra, aged 13, who was being abused by her stepfather. Too frightened to tell anyone, Sandra tried to commit suicide. She is currently receiving counselling from a local Barnardo's project."

It is very special to receive help from children who are perhaps more fortunate than those with whom we work, and this money will be used most wisely by our local Children's Services Projects, making a real difference to the lives of children facing disability and disadvantage.

Particular thanks must go to Ian Prescott and Jamie Hill who give of their time generously by keeping the machine well-stocked and finances in good order.

Our gratitude once again extends to the Bursarial staff who provide valuable assistance with banking procedures.

TRINITY ACADEMY NEPAL



The Trinity Academy Nepal is run voluntarily by Pushpa Ghale in the mountain regions of Anapurna, in the town of Pokhara.

Pushpa educates some 45 students with the help of her daughter, delivering lessons in English, Mathematics and General Studies to a diverse range of ages between 5 and 11.

Lee Townsend of the WRT Group in Kirkham has supported Pushpa's venture for over two years, linking the students in Nepal with our own Junior School where regular letter writing provides a fascinating insight for both parties into different lifestyles and cultures.

Lesley Taylor, the Headmistress of the Junior School, offered me the opportunity to produce some Christmas Cards with the much needed and valuable support and assistance of the Junior School staff, and the wonderful and artistic skills of all the Junior School students.

The cards were a wonderful and personal example of "What Christmas means to me" as depicted by each individual member

of years 1 to 4 and were professionally produced to a high standard by Carol Martin and B&D Print in time for Christmas sales.

Lee Townsend carried the initial publishing costs, so the project could be brought to fruition. He also gave of his time most generously, delivering a fascinating presentation to the Lower Sixth Young Enterprise members about his trip to Nepal and the Trinity Academy Nepal so they could inform interested parties during times of card sales.

Through your support we hope to raise in excess of £500, with all proceeds to be donated between two very special schools both locally for Pear Tree and Trinity Academy, 6000 miles away, to help Pushpa continue to provide education opportunities to a further 20 children in her region.

Francine Lang

interHousee



"And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" — Mark 3 v 25.

Competition in inter-house events has reached unprecedented levels: the quest for excellence the renewed creed for all — "Either first or not far from it" the new mantra. To some masters, as we shall see, the world indeed was not enough...

Our battles commenced over the communal Chessboards. "To the cultured streets of St. Petersburg" came one House's cry. In a concerted push for dominance the Grand Masters of the great Tsarist city were consulted. The Queen's Gambit, Rook to Bishop three... the hall clock ticked its way through the studied hours of attack, defence and counter attack. Battle plans were drawn and strategies perfected. No truth I think to a certain master overdoing the Russian Vodka and lying "asleep" under the table!

David Ralph, in his last year for Kirkham, has always dominated proceedings — his three victories a master class of style, finesse and sheer intelligence, a future Grand Master I'm sure. Lest there be any doubting Thomas's regarding Kirkham House's ability, our three junior Thomas's, Messrs Fielding, Anstiss and Reid, restored the faith with bounding victories. We wondered if possible KGB intimidation on Fylde House — their top players not being selected, the House coming last, strange times!

To the Western world, basketball and netball. The Harlem Globe Trotters being the influence on one House, the globetrotting personnel rubbing off on School House, whose class Chinese athletes formed part of an all-star international squad. From "Out of Africa" Oye bamboozled all with his mercurial skills. No surprise then that School won, apprehensive beginnings but confident world-beaters by the close. An extra note concerns Alex Bennett's (Preston House Captain) sending off for

questioning Mr. Taylor's decision — or maybe like Alan Bennett (any relation?!) I'm just "telling tales"!

The razzmatazz of the Harlem Globe Trotters failed to inspire numbers for Fylde — having only five boys in the squad. But "never has so much been owed by so many to so few", the famous five delighting all Fylde pupils by their gallant winning of the trophy, led from the front by an experienced and tenacious Robert Sissons. Proceedings were tightly balanced going into the final game; School house being shocked by Kirkham's winning 10-6 display.

In the junior netball, Kirkham defeated Fylde in the Semi-final, School House beat Preston in a closely contested match: 4-3 and in the final itself Kirkham once again destroyed School — Zoe Kirkham haunting them with some exemplary precision shooting. The seniors' section witnessed the emergence of 4th year star Briege Lavelle, an outstanding performer whose individual efforts proved a major contribution to Preston's comfortable final victory against Kirkham.

Finally, to our Quiz competition. Library packed, heavy, dusty tomes consulted, parchment dust-mite allergy activated — study had begun, and this time it was serious. School House won both junior and senior levels last year, a fact they generously related to others ad nauseum over the twelve months! This year it was very close, Kirkham winning a compelling, tightly contested semi-final. The final itself went down to the last few questions, where Kirkham were under pressure — not having won a quiz competition previously. This is an odd fact; a dent to the prestige of Kirkham, odd when one considers that the House is an ever-present presence on the winners' podium for the Academic Trophy. Still, this fact certainly enabled this year's winning fragrance to smell all the sweeter, "the sweet smell of success" being well and truly blown over to the "Fylde".

In the seniors, Nick Long's selection proved to be the key to Kirkham's victory. Nick, placing his summer's medical problems to one side, was simply terrific. Mr. Smith, of School, was sent reeling, devastated by his House's narrow loss.

In conclusion: Kirkham lead the way; School (last year's overall winners) are well placed; Fylde, I'm afraid are struggling; and Preston, whilst having a slow start, have strong events (for them) to come next term.

A note of encouragement — great civilizations take time to evolve. If your House is suffering now, remember Rome wasn't built in a day! There are still two terms remaining — time changes everything.





Robert Sissons being presented by Mr Whalley, Director of Sport, a cricket bat for scoring a century at a County Cup Match.

FRENCH CLUB

'Le Club Français' has again proved to be a popular lunchtime activity for our pupils. We have enjoyed various board games, and have grappled with the challenge of 'Qui veut gagner des millions?' on the computer! As end of term approaches, we shall be watching a feature film in French on DVD.

BADMINTON CLUB

A small, but very enthusiastic group of between 10-16 players have met on Friday lunchtimes in the MPH.

Claire Gregg who has not missed a session is one of the strongest players and certainly the strongest hitter of the shuttle. Many opponents have had to move pretty quickly to avoid or return her shots.

All members have improved and have learnt how to play both singles and doubles. Most have even mastered the intricacies of the complicated service and scoring system used in doubles. I am glad to say our only boy Thomas has now been joined by two others which has meant we can play some mixed doubles as well.

SPORTS RESULTS



Kirkham Grammar Sport News



Magnificent 7 plus Lancashire and Cheshire County Honours [more](#)



Sweet Success: A lesson in Hockey [more](#)



Lancashire Champions 1st XI Hockey Team crowned County Champions [more](#)

SPORTS RESULTS and REPORTS

All the latest sports results for all teams can be found on the school's website at: www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/sportsresults

End of season team reports will also be found on the website.

The Great Northern Run

On Saturday, 20 September, 2003, William Norris, Tristan Brooke and Luke Sanders all took part in the Junior Great North Run in Newcastle. (See photo below).

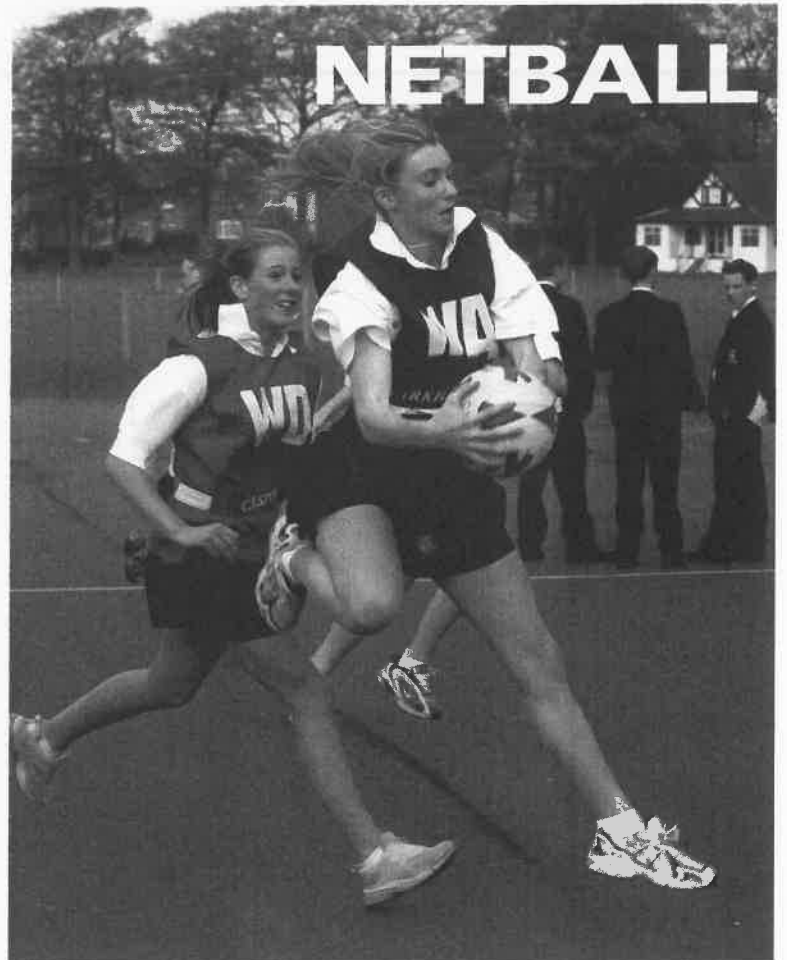
In dull, dreary and rainy conditions, the boys ran the 5km course in a splendid time. They all finished in the top 300 in an event where over 6,000 took part.

The reason for this effort? Well, William has a local friend, Sam Young, who has cerebral palsy. Although Sam is able to talk and has a wicked sense of humour, his movement is significantly limited by his disability. In order to improve his quality of life, Sam really needs to have a specialised powered wheelchair, which will cost in the region of £10,000.

Inspired by William, the three boys decided to participate in the run to raise money for the wheelchair. Having harassed most of the population of Kirkham over the past few months, they have raised a significant amount of money, all of which will be for Sam's benefit.

If you haven't already donated to this most worthwhile cause, then there is still time. You can contact William to make a donation on 01772 671517.

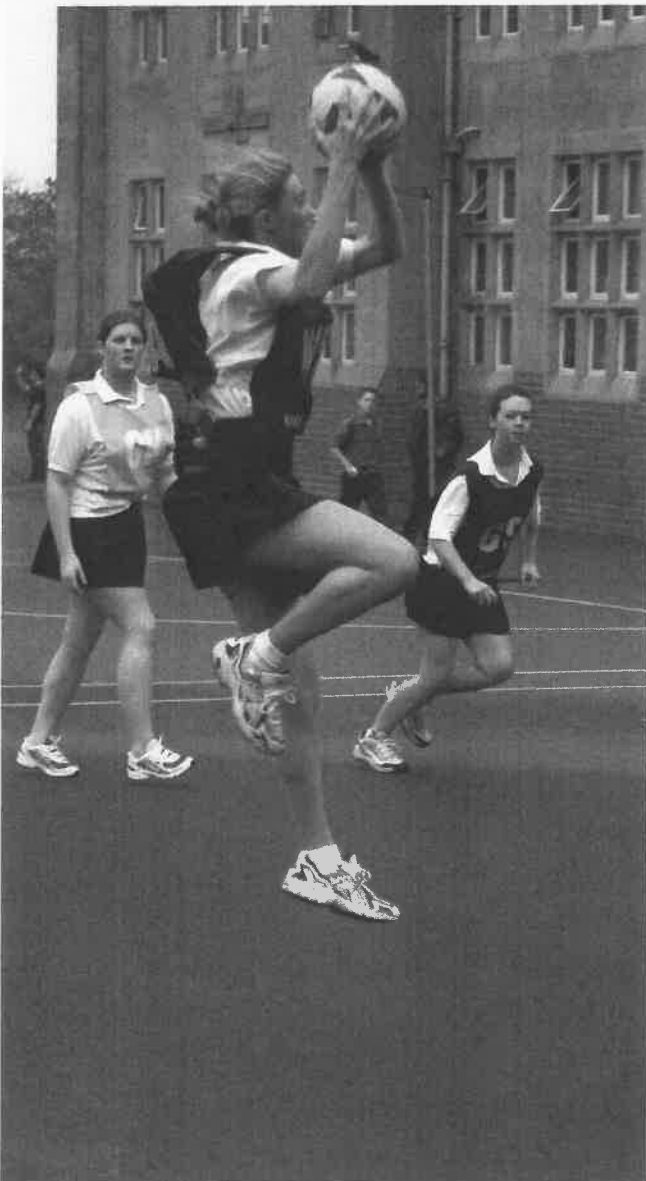




Top Left: U15 Team - Blackpool and Fylde Schools' Runner Ups

Action shots from Senior Girls' House Netball - winning team below

Bottom right, Mrs Lavelle with daughters Briege and Grace



HOCKEY



This page:

1st Team in action in the Regional Round of the U18 Schools' Hockey Competition. We wish them luck on 13 December in the North Round.

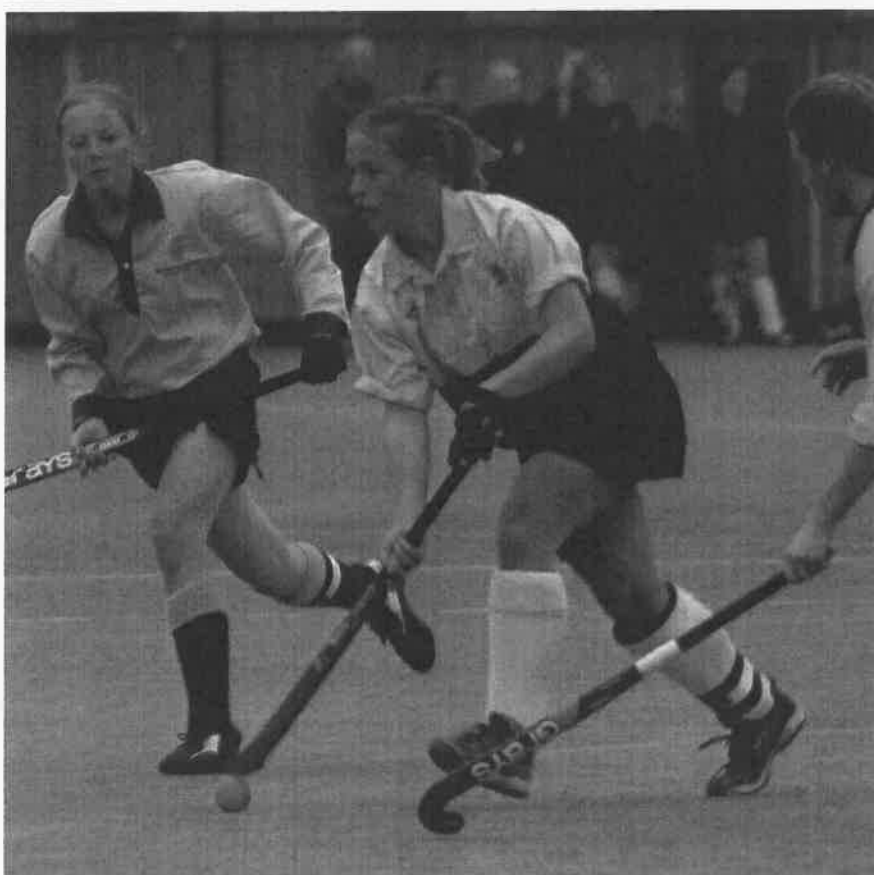
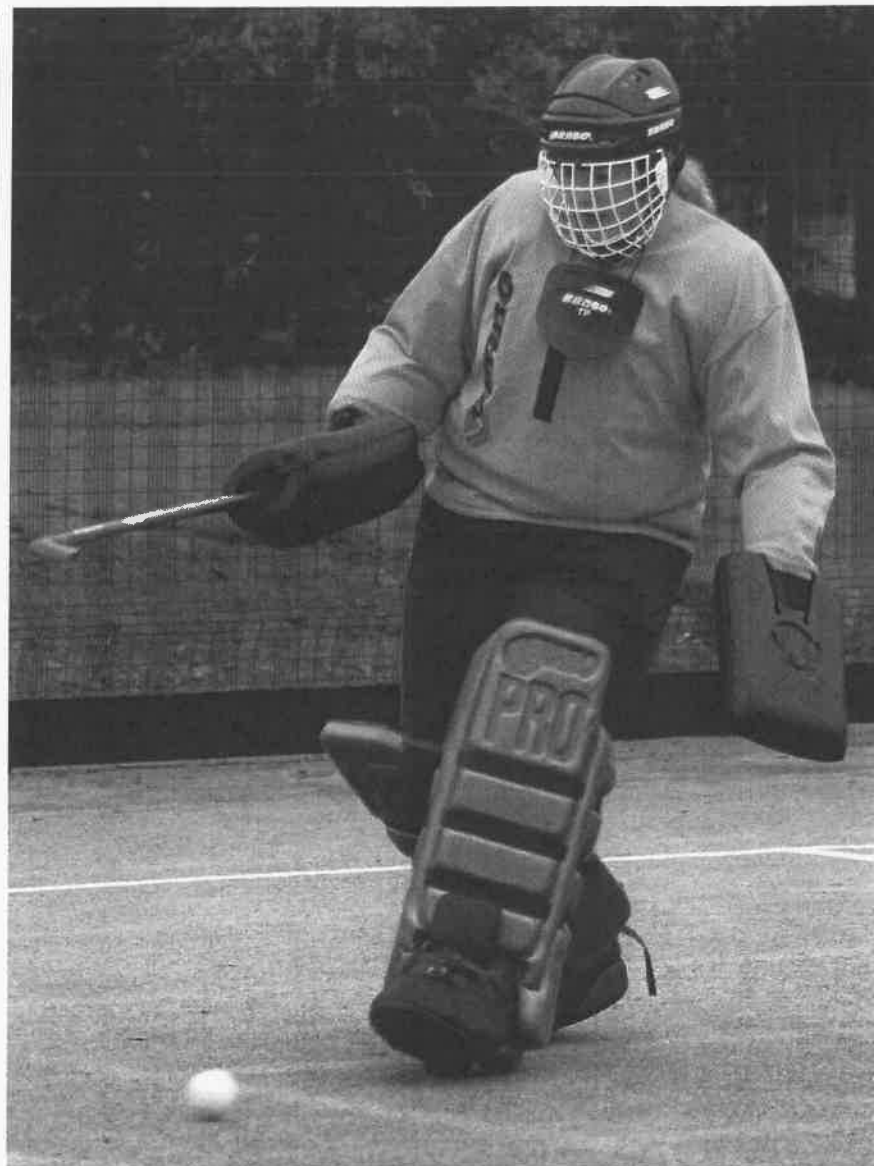
Opposite Page:

1st Team

2nd Team

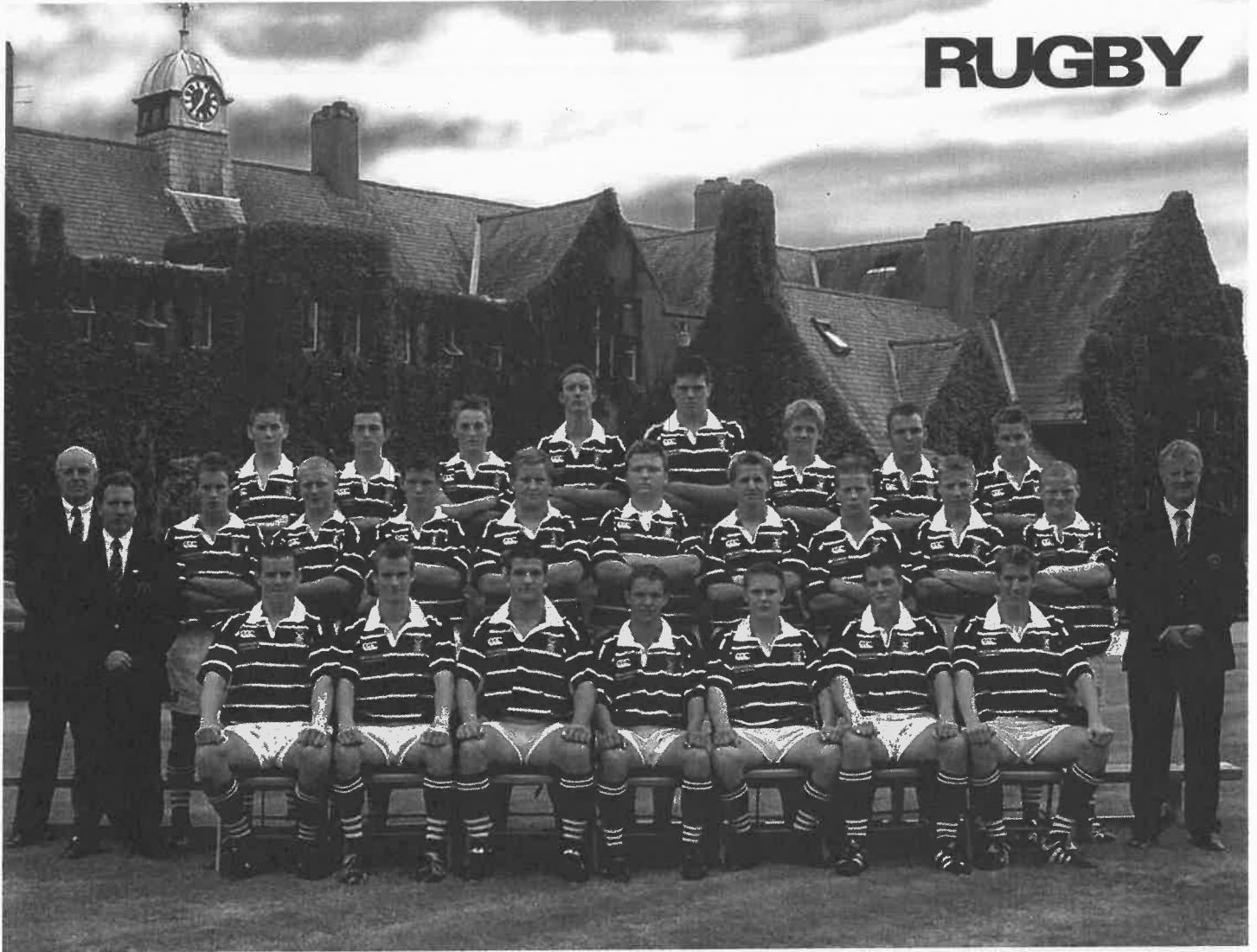
U12's practising

Team reports will be available on the website at the end of season.





RUGBY





Opposite page:

1st XV Squad, 1st XV in action v Birkenhead and Jordan Page

This page:

The Magnificent Seven plus one - seven Lancashire players, one Cheshire player - (Left to right) Back row: Luke Talbot, Michael Marshall, Glen Townson, Matthew Gargett; Front row: Joel Unsworth, James Cooper, Tom Albinson and Andrew Crook

Under 15 Front Row (top right)

U12's in action v Lancaster Royal Grammar School for Boys'

2nd XV v Sedbergh (bottom right)

U12's after a hard match v Birkenhead (above)

Team reports will be available on the website.

Friends of KGS



As our children started another year with enthusiasm, so did the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School, but not before reviewing last year at our A.G.M. Suffice to say, we raised £15,456 during the year, but spent more than that on much needed items for both Junior and Senior schools. We also provided fun for both pupils and parents in our fundraising activities. Regretfully, our Treasurer of five years, Louise Symms stepped down from office. The Friends thank her for all the years of dedicated support she has given the school. Our new Treasurer, Mr Derek Clough has a hard act to follow.

Moving on to this term, the Friends have been very busy. The FKGS 100 Club has increased marginally towards that elusive 200 figure with 190 members this year. We hosted a successful New Parents' Evening to acquaint new parents with each other, members of staff and ourselves and, of course, we have been busy preparing for the Christmas Fair and Winter Ball. At the time of writing, the De Vere Hotel staff are busy clearing away as our guests are clearing their heads, after a tremendously successful Winter Ball. The band 'Clearwater' entertained and kept the dance floor full with live and recorded music. Over 260 guests wined and dined to delicious menus in a beautifully decorated room. My personal thanks to Catherine Bell, Julie Thackray, Sarah Fulford-Brown and their team of helpers for making it a night to remember.

When this article is published, we will have held our Christmas Fair. Knowing all the hard work that is being put in by Barrie Reed, Fran James, Viv Ashworth, Linda Clough and their team, I know that only divine intervention will spoil, what is always a great success for the Friends and a delight for the pupils.

On behalf of the Friends, may I wish all the staff, parents and pupils a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Robert Dunn,
Chairman of the Friends.



Diary Dates

**"Young" Old Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion
at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC
Sunday, 21 December 2003**

**Examinations for 11+ Entry in September, 2004
Saturday, 24 January 2004 at 9.00 am**

**GCSE Options/Careers Evening for 3rd pupils
Wednesday, 21 January 2004**

**Normandy Band Concert
Thursday, 5 February 2004**

**Sixth Form Open Evening in the MPH
Wednesday, 25 February, 2004 at 7.30 pm**

**Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations
Thursday, 11 March and Friday 12 March 2004**

**School Drama Production - "Cabaret"
17, 18 and 19 March 2004**

**Founders' Day Service at St Michael's Church, Kirkham
Tuesday, 30 March, 2004 at 2.30 pm**

**Old Kirkhamians' Association Southern Dinner
St Edmund Hall, Oxford
Saturday, 3 April 2004**



D.R. Walker

D.R. Walker Headmaster



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