



**THE STRATHALLIAN** 2000-2001

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# Heads of School

Once again this

is a combined effort. Having completed our roles as Captains of School together this year, we have opted to prolong the theme of mutual support by writing our report in the same style.

**T**aking on new responsibility and expectations along with all the other trials of your final year at School is not the easiest of things to do. Not only do you find yourself coping with a new title but you also find yourself leading a team of prefects. This year's team of prefects however, has been really great. Their time and commitment has meant that our jobs have been easier and we would really like to take this opportunity to thank them for that.

The year has been a successful one from our point of view. The numerous successes on the sports fields illustrate the desire to achieve and the sense of team morale common throughout the School. The standard of the music, drama and art from the year similarly echo the high standards that Strathallan is helping to develop. The pupils are now showing a genuine support for each other and the sense of community that has developed this year is testament to everyone's hard work. We hope that this will continue to be nurtured and further encouraged.

Our advice to future Heads of School is to remember to enjoy the year. It will inevitably have its ups and downs but those are what make the year unique and interesting. The most difficult thing is maintaining the balance between your academic studies and other commitments. If you work together and support each other, you will find a balance is easier to achieve and the year will be enjoyable. Be warned - Upper Sixth goes by very quickly.

**Laura Morley**

**Scott McKinlay**



# Staff notes

It has been a year of comparatively few staff changes although inevitably one or two colleagues have moved on.



At the end of the Autumn Term David Armitage left us to return to Cumbria and a post in charge of Physics. David made a full contribution to the life of the School as a Physics teacher, as a Tutor, and in Hockey and Cricket. His administration and high class umpiring skills contributed significantly to the success of these two sports. Also at Christmas Cameron Hemming, our GAP year student, returned to Australia and his contribution to the lives of the pupils in Riley was much appreciated. Always willing to be involved he was regarded as a friend by the younger pupils.

While David and Cameron returned to their home areas, Bill Duff's departure to Kosovo represented a rather different move. Bill, whose indefatigable efforts as Houseman have been much appreciated by pupils and staff, has returned to Army service and left us at Easter. He will be particularly remembered for establishing the 24-hr sponsored run which remains as a testimony to the extent to which he contributed beyond his normal remit. Sandy Lunan returns closer to his home in Glasgow with a job in Dunfermline. A very good teacher in the Design and Technology Department, Resident House Tutor in Simpson House and Master i/c of Scripture Union and Charities, Sandy is someone whose particular brand of caring, dedicated school mastering will be much missed. He always had time for his pupils, for the boys in the house and was often seen taking a game of extra curricular football or basketball late at night. Steph Dewar, who came from Australia after finishing her teacher training for an experience of British education, also leaves us at the end of the Summer term and we trust that her wholehearted efforts on behalf of the Riley pupils which have been much appreciated will have been useful preparation for her career in teaching.

At Christmas Deirdre Raeside stepped down from the position of Housemistress in Thornbank. The value of her efforts and understanding to several generations of Thornbank girls has been quite clear and Deirdre's support for the girls and the ethos created in Thornbank have been very much appreciated. John and Sandra Fleming have moved from Riley to take over from Deirdre.



At the end of the session Paul Summersgill relinquished the full role of Director of Studies in order to concentrate on his other commitments particularly in the Physics Department but retains responsibility for the timetable and pupil options. Adam Streatfeild-James has taken over the Director of Studies role.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Colin and Amanda Raitt; Colin has joined the Physics Department and has been involved in the CCF and Sailing. Mr Raitt, who taught for eight years at a Technology College in Middlesex before his arrival at Strathallan, is also a Tutor in Riley House. Amanda has filled the breach in Reception with rare style.

Robert Pickles joined us as Chaplain during the course of the Spring term. Robert has extensive experience in the ministry, was Chaplain at Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton, and Principal of the Independent Theological Academy at Wolverhampton. During the Summer term he has combined his ministry in Avoch with his work at Strathallan, but became resident on campus at Strathallan during the Summer holidays. From further afield comes Andrew Gordon, who has just completed two years teaching in Botswana. Andrew, who has a range of experience as an expedition leader, and in a residential horse riding centre prior to his teaching experience in Botswana, joins the Design and Technology Department. And our teaching assistant, who will be based in Riley House, is Katerina Vosmekova, a graduate in English language teaching, from the Czech Republic.

# Speech day

May 2001



**A**ll set-piece school occasions, when the great and good congregate benignly to preside over assemblies of parents, pupils and staff, are necessarily different. This one was very different. There was the usual procession of talented prize-winners, including John Coull who had returned for his academic achievements to be recognised as deserving the award of Dux, some modestly approaching the dais, others striding across it, as if to the manner born; parental support was as strong and fiercely supportive as ever; fewer staff than usual seemed to have slipped off to a day at the races. The difference was Ronnie Corbett.

For he had been invited as our guest of honour, an invitation that he had been delighted to accept after the happy experiences of his nephews and niece at Strathallan. Any fears that he might have been viewed as a veteran from a golden age of television comedy, by the more youthful section of his audience, had been dispelled, when inquiries revealed that he was as much a household name to them as he was to their elders. Unforgettable, and indeed, unforgotten. Particularly as, for once, the weather was benign, and no emergency measures had to be adopted to rectify storm damage the night before.

David Pighills, as Chairman of the Governors, acted as an urbane presiding presence, efficiently shepherding us through each stage of the proceedings, and seemed only marginally offended when, as he took a surreptitious note or two, he was accused by his principal guest of stealing his gags. Not that he had any need of assistance in this part of his role as an honest broker between guest speaker and audience, which was clearly shown by the appreciation of his rendering of what must be the only gag with the punchline "the Massachussetts Institute of Technology".

And so to our guest of honour who, after presenting the principal prizes with gracious ease, began his speech with a few biographical details, including the fact that he had been educated in Edinburgh at George Heriot's, and that he was still awaiting the results of his Highers. That was his topical reference to Scottish education and the rest of his highly amusing and hugely enjoyable address covered a wide range of themes from politics and golfing tales to his long-suffering wife's cooking ("cordon noir"), all seemingly off the cuff, but in fact all part of a carefully crafted and enormously entertaining speech by a genuinely funny and justly celebrated comedian, behind whose humour there lurks a seriousness of purpose.

The Chairman clearly spoke for all generations when he thanked Ronnie Corbett for what was appreciated as a hugely individual, possibly unique, prize-giving speech. Other distinguished guests have earnestly offered well-meant advice or moralised about what they learned from their days at school; some have drawn didactic conclusions from their distinguished careers as captains of industry, or luminaries in the shades of academe, to suggest pleasurable or profitable paths for the future. Few are remembered, unless for the wrong reasons, and none will be recalled who transformed what is usually a day of affection between speaker and audience. Appropriately, a putter was accepted to mark that occasion, and, a final touch as we acknowledged the success of the day, it seemed to fit and somehow appropriate, that our guest was wearing bright vermilion socks. Thank you for a memorable day, Ronnie Corbett, OBE.



# Prizes and examination results

## PRIZES 2000

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	S McKinlay
The Quaich for Head Girl	L R Morley
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	M E Stringer
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	L R Morley
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	J Zitek
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	E R Aitkenhead
Strathallan Travelling Scholarships	R R S Chalmers / K F Percival
Dux	J D Coull
The William Tattersall Art Prize	A J Hickman
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	H E Hunt
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	L D Kotseroglou
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	L R Morley
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	L A Lamb
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	C D Wright
The Lord Kincaid Prize for English	L V Court
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	N D Whiting
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	M E Stringer
CCF Prize	L V Court
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	L A Lamb
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	M E Stringer
The Choir Prize	W R Blakey / B P Dalley / L A Lamb
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	S McKinlay
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	A M Laux

## UPPER SIXTH - A Level

Biology	L R Morley/ F W Chisholm	<b>French</b>	M C J Combe
Business Studies	J Zitek	<b>Spanish</b>	R L M Hunter
Chemistry	O A I Lane	<b>German</b>	J Zitek
D & T	E R Aitkenhead	<b>Geography</b>	R J Garden
Politics	J Zitek	<b>Physics</b>	M E Stringer

## UPPER SIXTH - Highers

Biology	J R Coaton	<b>French</b>	K S MacFadyen
Accounting	A Gardner	<b>Economics</b>	J Christie
German	L McCulloch	<b>Spanish</b>	H F Thompson
Geography	J R Coaton	<b>History</b>	J Christie
Computing	E M Wanless	<b>Mathematics</b>	L I Watson
English	J R Coaton	<b>D &amp; T</b>	H D M Allan/ J McDougall
Physics	K E Mitchell		
Philosophy	G Manson		

## LOWER SIXTH

Young Enterprise	C S Bush	<b>Art</b>	I L Chaussy
Biology	L D Kotseroglou	<b>Economics</b>	W Bowry/ L A Lamb

<b>Business Studies</b>	K Podymakhina	<b>Geography</b>	M A Bush
<b>Business Mgt</b>	L E Chisholm	<b>Music</b>	C E Dickie
<b>Mathematics</b>	A Anton	<b>French</b>	L A Lamb/ H D Whyte
<b>Spanish</b>	L D Kotseroglou/ C E Dickie	<b>German</b>	K S Hoffmann/ N W Common
<b>Chemistry</b>	L D Kotseroglou	<b>History</b>	L A Lamb
<b>C. Civilisation</b>	L A Lamb	<b>Physics</b>	A Anton/ S J Chapman
<b>Computing</b>	P M Brown		
<b>English</b>	K Podymakhina/ L A Lamb		

## FIFTH FORM

<b>Latin</b>	C M Bissett	<b>History</b>	C M Bisset
<b>Law</b>	P I Mackie	<b>Computing</b>	M G Gordon
<b>Art</b>	H W I Gray	<b>Geography</b>	M G Gordon
<b>Physics</b>	M G Gordon	<b>French</b>	C M Kelly
<b>Business Studies</b>	H L Smith	<b>Spanish</b>	S E Bates
<b>Chemistry</b>	K E Fleming	<b>German</b>	H W I Gray
<b>D &amp; T</b>	P I Mackie	<b>Mathematics</b>	S K Wong
<b>English</b>	C M Kelly/ C M Bisset	<b>Biology</b>	A Lane/ C M Bisset
<b>Music</b>	T Y Law		

## FOURTH FORM

<b>Art</b>	G Y Allardyce	<b>Mathematics</b>	K R Mack
<b>German</b>	D Hoffmann	<b>French</b>	G J W Duncan
<b>Spanish</b>	J H Greer	<b>Biology</b>	L P Wallace
<b>Physics</b>	T W F Hine	<b>Computing</b>	O H Perret
<b>English</b>	R F Johnstone	<b>Chemistry</b>	C Carpenter
<b>Music</b>	R F Johnstone	<b>Latin</b>	T W F Hine
<b>Business Studies</b>	R A Anderson/ S Arakji	<b>Geography</b>	C K Jack/ A S MacDonald
<b>D &amp; T</b>	M L Woodrow/ E D Carmichael	<b>History</b>	L P Wallace/ R H Stark

## THIRD FORM

<b>A F Drane</b>	<b>B Rawlinson</b>	<b>M W Jack</b>	<b>D J Skinner</b>
<b>R A Henneberg</b>	<b>D R C Lawson</b>	<b>J D Burgess</b>	

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

Pupils once again achieved excellent results in the summer examinations. The A-level pass rate was 95.5% with 65.5% gaining A-B grades, a significant increase since last year.

At AS-level results were even better, pupils having achieved a pass rate of 97.6% with 71.5% of these being A-B grades. In Scottish Highers there was a pass rate of 71.8%, 14.9% obtaining grade A.

GCSE and Scottish Standard Grade results were pleasing with an A\*-C pass rate of 87.8% for GCSE, 38.5% of which were A\*-A.

# Riley

Just before our older pupils emerge from Strathallan and take those first tentative steps into the 'real world', they often pause to reflect on their Peter Pan years in Riley. The pillow fights and late-night make-up parties, burnt toast and Cocoa Pops.







**I**nto that world last summer floated our own Mary Poppins in the shape of Sandra Cartwright. The analogies begin to merge and blur but amongst the confusion it would be fair to say that she soon worked her magic to extraordinary effect and we wonder now how we ever managed without her.

Departing at Christmas the Flemings took with us their best wishes as they assumed responsibility for Thornbank and left behind a large numbers of gaps to fill. They were very much a part of the highly successful pastoral team that so reassured pupils, parents and even welfare inspectors and we wish them well as our paths diverge albeit within the same school.

Colin and Amanda Raitt fled north from the north London traffic to take their places and Dungeons and Dragons was soon re-born. No-one really understands it and we remain convinced that Colin makes it up as he goes along but it fills a niche and Riley is the richer for it.

We also managed to lose Cameron Hemming our GAP student who returned to Australia in order to escape a life of tuck shop queues, 'C' game and summers colder than antipodean winters. Cameron was replaced by Steph Dewar to continue the tradition of only employing people from countries that we are unable to beat at rugby or cricket, a policy that was radically changed when in September we welcomed on board Katerina Vosmekova from the Czech Republic (but then again, perhaps not).

It would be unfair to judge the year on the performances on the sports field. Too many individuals perhaps and not enough team work undermined much of what was attempted there as far as the boys were concerned and fewer victories were gained than we would normally expect for the talent involved. The girls did us proud on the netball court with their best season ever and were particularly impressive as hostesses, sometimes managing to put tea bags into the tea pot as well as hot water. We miss Emily, Amanda and co. but life does seem a little calmer and more ordered these days.

A variety of hockey matches took place under the dull sardonic skies of early Spring with the U12s emerging victorious on most occasions whilst the U13s embarked upon a transition period of re-building and consolidation. A feisty girls team saw off many local rivals but we didn't quite make it in the Prep School Sixes with either of the two teams this year despite Mr Keir's heroic efforts.

Mr Walmsley would have poured the Chardonnay and arranged the canapés in addition to sorting out the music, the practices, the tables etc on the night of our informal concert, but we left him pacing up and down the corridors like an expectant

father rather than intrude on what materialised as his, and their, exceptional success. Many children performed who might never have raised a treble clef in anger before and the standard of playing defied expectations and renewed our faith in 'music for all'. A tradition has been born and a proud father draws on his cigar.

Summer took place during a ten day spell in May and should anyone doubt that blue skies and sunshine were ever seen in Scotland this year, we have the photos to prove it. We dragged the second form to Loch Morlich where the girls in particular did us proud. The persuasive powers of Ewan, the tall, blond, suntanned windsurfing instructor were such that pupils ordinarily overwhelmed by the prospect of playing hockey in soft drizzle suddenly flung themselves willingly into the icy waters for several hours at a time. Hopes were soon dashed and hearts broken when it was revealed that he was married with two children but by that time all sense of feeling had been lost in many limbs and a drink of hot chocolate was all that was craved.

The summer camps were a great success and I will treasure for always the memory of Maurits awaking early one morning to engage in the frenzied slaughter of tent-trapped midges. Rarely has so much violence befallen a single species, but reinforcements were soon in action and they had their revenge at breakfast.


We managed to fall off or out of a wide range of vessels on Loch Morlich and elsewhere during those camps and Robert developed new techniques in cycle proficiency along the lines of 'manoeuvre, signal, then look behind to see if you have been hit', but somehow managed to survive. Fly fishing returned with several outings to Sandyknowes yielding a good catch of trout and the usual array of knots, fankles and colourful vocabulary. Kim cast like a professional whilst Robert and Dougie did not. The gutting sessions were macabre.

The annual burning of sausages on a barbecue took place at various times throughout the summer and our repertoire diversified with burnt chicken, burnt hamburgers etc as the term and the year drew to a close. A final burst of energy yielded a wonderful performance of 'Barnum' with Ian Aitken's sideburns stealing the show despite Lisa Bibby's choreography and Iain Kilpatrick's professional direction.

On the final night of term we entertained those about to leave our Never-Never Land to a traditional barbecue, bonfire and sing-song by the graveyard. As the old lags left, their seats by the fireside were quietly, but determinedly, occupied by Jessica, Suzanne, Fiona, 'the Lost Boys' et al. A good year to come methinks. **WAC**

# Freeland

Five boys and I took ourselves off to watch the Edgbaston Test during the holidays and thus began a summer that has been filled with Australians.



**O**n the Friday we travelled down, we stopped in Glasgow and saw the final triumphant moments of the three halves that were the Lions'- and the courageous transformation of the wallabies that saw them win the next three halves (it was a series of six clearly defined halves) and complete a masterful victory. To watch the Australians play sport and to demonstrate the kind of guts and determination that wins series has made me think a good deal about courage.

I thought there was much to be learned from the kind of gutsiness that saw Steve Waugh fight through injury into the Fifth Test. I thought there was something to be admired in Steve Larkham's battle with his shoulder injury. Most notable for me, however, was the dignity, the self-effacing graciousness of Pat Rafter's words in defeat after the men's final at Wimbledon. Those words were not heeded by an Australian who sat next to us as we watched the game. The Edgbaston test (we had tickets for Saturday and Sunday) was over on Saturday afternoon, our economy train tickets were non-transferable and we went to the Sports Café in Birmingham to watch the tennis on one of its one hundred and twenty television screens. There were many Australian fans present to support Pat Rafter and as the match warmed to its utterly memorable final, we began to quietly mumble, then cry, then cheer and finally cry again in Ivanisevic's favour. Rafter was - wasn't he? - playing against a lucky has-been invested with the glamour and ephemeral greatness of being the gods' chosen exception to sport's golden rule that the best shall win. The telling moment came as the last shot was played and an Aussie sitting at the table next to us cried "Rafter, you're rubbish." At that moment I understood the mentality that makes Australians fierce and courageous competitors. Winning, it seems, was all. In that frame of mind it seemed to me that they didn't know the difference between the courage of the loser and the courage of the winner, and the defining moments that made those differences clear. Why do we value the courage of Willy Loman rather than Howard? Why do we find greatness in the final defeat of Mark Anthony and see something very powerful but rather mean in the triumph of Octavius Caesar. It might be that life's a game in which we, all of us, face an inevitable defeat and what we bring to that defeat and take from it is as close as we can get to the enduring. Whatever it is, it is all about courage, and not about winning, about the nature of the game we play and not about the trophies in the cabinet.

Cricket and rugby are both very tough sports, and the Aussies - you better believe it. - are hard. There were lots of close-ups of Brett Lee's snarl and some uncomfortable shots of Gillespie's swivelling, staring eyes. Somehow it was not a

surprise when they managed the breaking of Hussain and Thorpe's fingers, and neither was the Australian satisfaction at such fine aggressive bowling. It was interesting that McGrath's face never quite looked like that and when Langer was felled by a bouncer from Caddick, the latter looked somewhat bewildered. Whatever the case, the press continued to worship the winners and even belittled England's win at Headingley as an "aberration". To be "awesome", from their perspective is to be "tough", "merciless", "menacing", and above all, winners. Atherton had a poor and unlucky series, and for me the proudest moment as an English supporter was to see the look of utter delight, of pure empathy and admiration on Atherton's face as Butcher played the last shot of his remarkable innings.

Whatever the sport, courage is important, but the courage of the winner is somehow shallower than that of the loser, and on the day after the Ashes tour was over, Australians were facing another tricky pitch and being asked to play a weighty innings. The Norwegian fishing vessel, the Tampa, was off



Christmas Island with a boatload of refugees from Singapore and Indonesia. Australia is going to be tough and uncompromising vis-à-vis allowing these illegal immigrants in. It is a courageous thing, to stand against so much short-pitched, worldwide political disapproval and pressure. Which for them was the noblest thing to do? Do they block this out and build a total or could there be something nobler in shouldering arms and allowing this one to nick the off stump? The metaphor is rather over-worked, but then if sport is to have any value other than entertainment, it ought to be linked with life in a significant way.

Boys in Freeland, I very much hope, are encouraged to win in the things that they do, and doubtless this has something to do with opportunities to excel. The 'winners' in the House have achieved a good deal - and without much snarling. Jindra Zitek, with 4 As at A-level, 2 As at AS, and 1 A at Higher seems likely to have gained Dux for next year and some compensation for his failure to impress Oxford University. Chris Wright gained 4 As and secured his place at Cambridge University with his usual self-deprecating approach. Allan Hay captained the Hockey 1st XI to an unbeaten season and the Scottish Schools cup. There were various moments of House winning. Ali Harington led us to our second retention of the Rowan Cup for Standards. Mungo Laing directed the juniors to a success in the junior play competition in which Tom Hine and Ross Anders achieved top acting awards. The House retained the Swimming Gala Cup under Peter Constable's leadership, while Ferdi Strasser, Marcus Read and Alan Hay won Inter-House Golf by a country mile. The juniors won their Football and Hockey competitions. Charlie Sproat remained always true to his own lights and captained all of Freeland to the completion of an excellent year.

It seemed to me, however, that men have always learned more in adversity and defeat than in triumph. In many ways there were lessons to be learned from how we conspired in our own defeat in the Junior Cricket - we should have trusted our strengths rather than trying something new. There is no doubt that we should have won the Inter-house Cross-Country. Honest determination and endeavour are not enough, and the times we live in should have ensured that we read the small print of the admin documents and didn't arrive to compete in tracksuit bottoms. Sports Day itself was so closely contested that the result still hung in the balance until the completion of the final relay. We did not win, but sharing such a closely fought and good spirited event was a real pleasure. In the heat of competition Scott McDonald did not even know that he was involved in the Junior Victor Ludorum until he was announced as the winner.

What of the real and tangible failures of the year? Personally I was downcast when our interpretation of the trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice* did not seem the 'winner' in the judge's eye for the Senior House Drama competition. At the time it made me feel that all that Shakespearian rag was somehow inappropriate for the event. But every so often I get a little flashback, a nice surprise, and I hope we have the courage to do something similar in the coming year. If so I will be content, for we will have stretched our imaginations and abilities. What of those who did not match the entry requirements of their first-choice universities? For them (and I went down a similar path some thirty-five years ago) the results will have been a bitter taste of real failure. I do not know quite what I learnt from mine - except a real, pustule-inducing, skin-reddening, allergy-stirring hatred of examinations - but I know I had to start again in all sorts of ways and I know that I wouldn't want it to be any other way and that I wouldn't be a school master.

Simpson, in recent years, has had two Australian housemasters and there was no mistake that they lived just across the courtyard from Freeland. They were palpably 'real', they were tough opponents in any battle, and you knew that "G'day Mate," could be a prelude to a bruising encounter that made the day somehow more vivid. I first met Bill Weigall as a Loretto 2nd XV coach who was most magnanimous when they beat us 5 - 0 in a really good game that they just won. You make your own luck don't you? Bally and I shared many a glass of Bundeberg, many a good laugh after some inter-house battles that would have made your blood run hot. I seem to remember the reasons for the ones we lost rather better than the games we won. **CNC**



# Nicol

Whilst wandering through the house in my last days as a Nicolite, I stumbled across something odd. It was a trophy cabinet, and it was full.

**A** glance at the gleaming silverware revealed success in a vast array of activities, ranging from the finesse of Senior Drama, to the raw power of the Tug 'o War, indicative of the wide-ranging skills within the house.

However, these trophies only scratch the surface in terms of revealing the huge amount of effort that has been displayed by Nicol boys both within the House, and in representing the school.

Many of the boys had been on the rugby tour to Australia, and returned with vigour for the new season. Even Alex Anton made an appearance at pre-season training, despite never having played the game. This was to be a common theme throughout the year, with Alex showing an un-relenting enthusiasm in all he did.

We were represented in the 1st XV by Fraser Chisholm, (vice-captain), Fraser Maxwell and Colin Williamson. Euan Aitkenhead also played and was a member of the Cup squad. Euan O'Donnell played in the U16 As and showed his potential by being selected for the cup squad also. Representative honours went to David Stewart and Fraser Philip at U16 level, and Colin Williamson at U18 in the Caledonia district. The junior house team was





victorious, with a notable win over old rivals Ruthven in the semi-finals, and a fine display of controlled rugby under the leadership of Fraser Philip to see off Freeland in the final.

The spring term and the dusting off of Hockey sticks was to see more sporting success. Our senior hockey team successfully defended their title against strong favourites Ruthven. After a tense, scoreless, game the team held their nerve sufficiently for Nick Common to score the 'Golden Goal'; although it may have been lacking in beauty, it was certainly precious. Underdogs? We thrive in the role. What the team may have lacked in individual brilliance, it more than made up for in spirit. This was an attitude that was again evident in the retention of the cross-country title, a victory to which over half the house contributed. Once may be fluke, but twice in a row is indisputable.

We were well represented in the Hockey 1st XI, with Euan Aitkenhead, Fraser Maxwell, Colin Williamson and Danny Hoffmann, despite only being in fourth form, being regular features. They were joined in the victorious Scottish Schools cup team by Nick Common, Robbie Stewart and Fraser Philip, another promising fourth former. Throughout the various age groups Nicol boys contributed greatly, with Charlie Leadbetter, amongst others, standing out in the U-15s.

The summer term is not a time to be in Nicol if you are not a fan of cricket, the predominant topic of conversation, especially in the presence of Mr Fitzsimmons. We were lucky to have Matthew Ford from Brisbane Boys College in the house. His input to the 1st XI was invaluable. He was joined in the top team by Robbie Stewart, Doc Stewart and William Bowry. With these four providing the core of the Senior Sixes team, along with Euan and Colin, the house competition was secured with a close game against Ruthven and an easier victory over Freeland in the final. The 2nd XI was captained by Nick Common to a good season with only one defeat, greatly helped by a vast haul of wickets from Scott Macfarlane. The juniors showed signs of emerging talent, with Charles Leadbetter providing pace bowling in the junior colts, and Danny Hoffman swinging the bat to great effect when taking time off from his golfing exploits, where he represented the school at every opportunity.

The 'other' major sport in the summer term is Athletics, an option taken by only four members of Nicol. Despite the small numbers, these four were significant members of the team. Euan O'Donnell was the middle Victor Ludorum, taking the sprints by storm, and Euan Aitkenhead came out on top in a tight competition with the captain of school to become the senior Victor Ludorum. Both Alex Anton and Colin Williamson competed in the Scottish Schools championships, finishing fourth and fifth in their respective events.

We came a close second in the House standards competition, with the Upper VI setting the highest score of any year group in any house. This set up a greatly competitive

Sports day, in which Nicol won three of the five trophies on offer. The most coveted of these would be, according to our head of house, the Tug of War Shield. In his house report last year, Mr Court spoke of the special atmosphere that surrounds this most simple of events. It is not merely the eight who are pulling who are involved, but the vast ranks of the house who are screaming encouragement an inch from their ears.

Success for Nicol was not confined to the sports field, and this year saw us surpassing even the achievements of last year on the academic and cultural side.

House Music is always a highlight in the Strathallian calendar, and this year was no different with an impressive standard being displayed. It was no disgrace to miss out on the silverware, and the Nicol performance certainly provided good entertainment and innovation, especially in the case of Charles Wardman's solo performed simultaneously on the piano and keyboard. The ensemble's rendition of 'Sweet Dreams' by the Eurythmics, led by William Bowry and Euan on vocals, also evinced a great deal of preparation. William must also take credit for moulding a hardy crew of twenty into a respectable choir.

The senior house drama competition was another in which standards were very high, with any one of four houses having a realistic chance of victory. In the end, the Nicol performance of a scene from Ben Elton's play 'Gasping' was enough to secure the judges' vote. Under the excellent directorship of William Bowry, the cast of Euan, Angus Speirs, Robbie Stewart and William himself put on a perceptive and humorous performance that was enjoyed by all who saw it. Thanks must also go to Alistair Gardner for his work backstage. The junior dramatists in the house will, I'm sure, carry on our tradition in this competition and they showed their potential whilst performing a novel play based upon a dead dog, written and directed by Fraser Philip.

The problem with having a successful year in 99/2000 was that the house had a lot to live up to. This was again the case when our Senior debaters embarked upon the defence of their title. The team was unchanged from last year with Charles Wardman partnering Oliver Lane, and Angus Speirs pairing up with Colin Williamson. Both teams eased their way to the final where they were on opposing sides. In the end, Angus and Colin were adjudged to be the top team and the trophy remained in its now accustomed home.

An honour which did not remain at home, but instead returned home after a brief absence in the deep recesses of Thornbank, was the one which goes to the victors of the inter house Academic Challenge. On a Sunny Sunday evening, decked out in Hawaiian attire, Fraser, Angus, Euan and Colin took on the finest minds in the school and won back the revered water game trophy.

It has been a breathless year in Nicol, and one which I shall always remember as capping five great years in the house. This run down of events may sound a little like we are blowing our own trumpet, but why not? The boys in the house have been tireless in their efforts on all fronts, and I only want that to be recognised. The headmaster has always said that we must aim high in order to achieve our goals, a philosophy which appears to have been taken on board.

Of course, success is not possible without support. The Tutorial team of Mr Ross, Dr Tod, Mr Kitson and especially Mr Fitzsimmons and Mr Giles are to be thanked for their endless contribution of time and effort, which goes for the insatiable Davina, Bess et al as well. One of the lasting memories I will take of my time in Nicol involves the break-time ritual: "DOMINIC. GET THAT ROOM TIDIED." **Colin Williamson**



# Ruthven

## The Housemaster

Wee, with 18 months under my belt I can't believe that I am still in one piece. I think it has been a good year for the House and I trust that the articles written by various year groups are a testimony to this good year. It has been a year in which Ann and I have grown to really enjoy the boys in the House and I feel that we have got to know some of them really well. Of course you can only get to know the boys as well as they will allow, but I trust that they are all now feeling that we are part of the Ruthven family.

On this subject, we congratulate Mr Morc Tod on his marriage to Abi Mason in the summer and we also welcomed Mr Paul Vallot to the tutor team for the forthcoming year and hopefully many to come. Paul also tied the knot in the summer and we wish him and Catherine many years together. May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Nigel Smith for his work in the house and may I wish him well in Thornbank for 2 nights per week (poor chap with all those girls...).

Thank you too, to the Matron and her team of merry cleaners for the time they spend cleaning up after our boys. Although our appreciation is not always evident it is most definitely there. Thank you too to the visiting tutors who spend valuable time with the boys; your assistance is gratefully appreciated. Finally a word of thanks to Ann for her patience and understanding. **AW**

## Introduction

When I was first asked to produce a House report for the school magazine I thought nothing of it; just another task that would be pushed aside and left for a rainy day.

This was, unfortunately, the beginning of May, which was to be



the hottest month of the year with temperatures in Aviemore exceeding those in Barcelona. The distinct lack of "rainy days" meant that the report was all but forgotten about.....until today.

It is now the last week in June, and temperatures are, once again, soaring and I cannot help but feel sorry for myself as I look out of the window. The Earn Valley, as I see it from my room, is looking more like the French Riviera in mid-summer than...well...the French Riviera in mid-summer.

So it is now that I finally get to use the powers of delegation to ensure that we get proper look inside Ruthven House. As I go out and enjoy the Earn valley in its finest hour I will leave you all in the capable hands of the select few, who have been chosen to give a brief account of the year through the eyes of each year group. **Max**

### III Form

The III Form in Ruthven had great fun this year taking part in many activities sporting and academic. Most of these activities we did with our IV Form. In the first term our III Form were taken to Loch Laggan with some of our LVI; we camped outside and generally had a good time.

The main sport in the first team is Rugby and in Junior Inter-House Rugby we were missing most of the IV Form that were supposed to be in our team. We played well even though we finished up last but we did not mind.

In the second term Mr Watt as our year group tutor took us out Go-carting, which was great fun. Afterwards we went to Pizza Hut.

In the first half of the hockey term we ended up coming second to Freeland in the final. We also had Inter-House Football where we came third but in that we had a lot of fun in these games. In the second half we had Inter-House Outdoor Hockey. This was good because we won and also had great fun.

In the third and final term we won our first cricket match against Freeland and progressed to the final against Nicol, which we went on to win convincingly. In our Inter-House Junior plays we put in a funny performance, which managed to amuse the audience, and Max Stewart picked up one of the "Best Actor" awards for Ruthven. Even though we had exams in the last four weeks of term we had a nice break with IV Form we went to gorge walking which was cool even though the water was a bit cold.

To sum up, this year has been good for our III Form who have really enjoyed their first year in Senior School. **M Jack**

### I V Form

IV Form is the year in which teachers tell you to get down to work because it is the first year of the two-year GCSE course. Having completed the first year and over half of the syllabus the IV Form has had to work, but it has been a good year. The main change between III Form and IV Form in Ruthven is that you get your own study, which we were all looking forward to. After a year of having a room we have come to the conclusion that we probably spend more time in someone else's study than we do in our own.

With the help of the III Form we have had an excellent year in sport, a year in which we won the Inter-House Hockey and Cricket, beating Nicol in the final both. Other members of IV Form have also competed in Tennis and Athletics for the house. IV Form have also competed in Inter-School sport in a wide variety of activities including rugby, hockey, cricket and tennis.

After some persuasion and all round nagging on our part we finally convinced Mr Salisbury (our tutor) to take us on a weekend outing. With the help of Mr Watt, Mr Salisbury and a few others, a trip to Aberfeldy was planned. Camping and Canyoning

were on the agenda and we set off on the 14th of June with high expectations. A very enjoyable weekend was to follow and everyone got a good feel of the sub-zero temperatures of the typical Scottish mountain stream. We all came back completely exhausted and dreading the following Monday morning.

Overall this has been an enjoyable but challenging year. I feel we have all coped with this challenge and are ready to take on the next one. **C Jack M Woodrow**

### V Form

In terms of Inter-House achievement Ruthven V Form was not much involved, due to our inherent ineptitude and pressure of external exams. Indeed, it is the pressure of these exams, for which we have worked so hard, that has curtailed this report. However, members of the V Form have made good contributions to Junior House Hockey, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Inter-House Tennis, Inter-House Drama, Inter-House Academic challenges, Golf, Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. Despite not being represented hugely in these activities, the Ruthven V Form boys did well.

We had a good year, hopefully passed our exams and look forward to VI Form eagerly. **Calum Emslie**

### VI Form

After 5 years of Ruthven House we have finally made it to Upper Sixth. We have been one of the few years that has grown in numbers throughout in senior school. Back in the days of III Form, we were divided into the two dorms, one with six of us and the other with seven. Being such a large year it would be impossible for the last five years to pass without there being some degree of friction within the group. When we all came together there was quite an even balance between the boys and those coming from Riley. The Riley Boys' were split as evenly as possible between the dorms so as to eliminate any hostility. As cruel as young boys can be (and believe me, that's cruel), there was hardly ever any serious upset. Even with people coming from such places as Jakarta, Japan, Kenya, Syria and even a few from Scotland, the group bonded instantly. Freddie will never be forgotten, be it for his juggling skills, his strange likeness to a monkey when in the middle of the night you would see him leaping from bed to bed or even for his famous torch show... Then there's Zippy who will always be remembered for being... well ... Zippy, and for those of us from dorm 57 how will we ever forget Koowy's sleep talking - Gilbert and his bl\*\*dy boots.

Than in IV Form we were joined by Greg, who, I think it is safe to say, enjoyed his first day in Strath; and by Brian who had everyone confused when, after a couple of months, the bleach grew out and everyone got to see his natural ginger. The group steadily grew with the next addition being Girv, without whom the musical tastes of the majority of Ruthvenites would be drastically different.

Everyone had their bit to say and had quite an influence on the group as a whole. In our final year all eighteen of us, with the end in sight, started to realise just what we were about to leave behind. The idea of having to pay for taxis and negotiate with a bank manager rather than getting s Bursar's chit is really daunting. Well, it's time to say goodbye to the eighteen UVI from Ruthven House. The year has been a good one to leave on. The highs massively outweigh the lows, I'm sure everyone will agree. Good luck to all in whatever they do and wherever they go. **Max**

*The Earn Valley, as I see it from my room, is looking more like the French Riviera in mid-summer than ... well ... the French Riviera in mid-summer.*

# Simpson

My first and abiding memory of taking over as Housemaster of Simpson came from a new third former whom I was showing around the house during the summer holidays. I took him into the freshly painted, but at this point plain and bare III Form dormitory and asked him if he liked the prospect of living here in September. His reply was totally spontaneous and a little unexpected, "Cool!" he cried. "It's just like the house in Big Brother!"

**P**erhaps the parallels between starting at boarding school and the reality TV phenomenon of last summer are more than just passing: both are micro-communities, relying on the inhabitants' working together and getting along with each other, both highlight the flashpoints that exist when people fail to do so. However, unlike the TV alternative, there are no weekly evictions and no cash prize at the end to the successful individual who stays the course.

This has indeed been a year of change for all the members of Simpson, not only have they had to adapt to the various idiosyncrasies of a new housemaster, but we also said farewell to some long-serving members of staff. It was with great sadness that Simpson said goodbye to Grace Davison, Matron for some eight years and to her right hand woman, Ella. Yet it was with great joy that we welcomed them back to the end of term Christmas party, where they received a presentation on behalf of the House and the boys, past and present, for whom they have done so much, playing such an important role in the lives of countless Simpsonians who have passed through their care. We wish both of them a long and happy retirement. We have also welcomed some new faces around House in the form of Debbie Wood, who took over as Matron, along with Kate and Aileen, who have both joined the team and not forgetting Claudia, who gave sterling service as a cleaner on the top floor for half a term.

And so to the year in more detail. The first main event of the autumn term was House Music where the choir was victorious for their rendition of a barbershop arrangement of 'Walking in the Park'. Although some of the lyrics were of questionable quality,

the overall performance was tuneful and well executed in four-part harmony, showing a great sense of teamwork and purpose. The solo item was carried by Mark Stringer; who mixed ancient and modern by playing the bagpipes over a techno backing track, composed by himself. The ensemble was a rock band under the direction of Chris Balfour and Alastair Hickman. Despite being beset by last minute illness, they gave a good account of the Radiohead song 'Karma Police', with David Chalmers standing in as vocalist at literally minutes' notice.

Staying with things cultural, there closely followed Senior House Drama in which we performed a cut-down version of Bouncers by John Godber. This was a punchy black comedy telling the tale of four bouncers, their triumphs and shortcomings set in eighties' clubland. Ably acted by Fraser Niven, Andrew Mack, Steve Smith and Ken Mackenzie, it was a definite crowd pleaser, which, like all 'drama ahead of its time' narrowly failed to impress the judge to the same degree. However, Fraser received an award for best actor and the whole piece, directed by Neil Whiting and Stuart Oliphant was another object lesson in collaborative working, with back stage support from Mark Stringer, Richard Blakey and Richard Webb. Inspiration for set design was provided by David Parker.

The autumn term also saw junior house rugby sevens. A spirited fight was put up by all the team, with many players who were playing sevens for the first time, under the captaincy of Gregor Duncan and Alastair Mather. Although we failed to take the spoils, ending up third, there were good performances, particularly in the one recorded victory against Ruthven. In Housemaster's Music, many of the House took part, giving





stalwart service to the Chapel Choir and orchestra. With parties and the end of term Carol Services, so drew to an end a hectic, yet worthwhile term. New pupils left for the holidays old hands, and old hands left with a clearer sense of the expectations and responsibilities their new rank demanded.

The spring term, traditionally filled with trial exams and the feverish preparation of coursework, still had its moments of light relief. In the inter-house cross country admirable times were recorded by Scott McKinlay, Fraser Niven, Steve Smith and Gregor Duncan, whilst the team came fourth overall. In the inter-house hockey again, though we failed to make the finals of either the junior or senior competitions, a good account was given by both teams. However, sporting success did come in the form of the Simpson five-a-side team, '6-6-7' (!), who were undefeated in the intra-school league. Further success was to follow for our debating team, narrowly defeated by Nicol in the final of the senior competition, in which Andrew Mack and Fraser Niven displayed confident and stylish oratorical skills. The House was well represented on the ski slopes by Harry Workman and Simon Erdal, both of whom represented Strathallan in a variety of inter-school meets. All this effort and achievement in the shortest term of the academic year, ended with the whole-school performance of Godspell in which a principal part was taken by David Chalmers and supporting roles by Mark Stringer and J-J Chalmers.

The Chalmers brothers were also very much involved in one of the successes of the summer term. They recorded an amazing sixty-five laps between them in the 24-hour Charity Run to help ensure that the Laundry Shop trophy, along with the shield for the most overall laps, stayed another year in the Simpson trophy cabinets. Sporting spoils were almost ours in tennis, when the team comprising Neil Whiting, Richard Webb, Andrew Mack and Alistair Mather were narrowly beaten in the final of the competition by Ruthven. The same goes for the house golf team: Dougie Bennet, David Chalmers, Scott McKinlay and Simon Erdal, who put up a good show in the inter-house competition, whilst again failing to get that elusive win.

Nevertheless, victory was to be ours on Sports Day, when our athletes secured a fine win and kept the crowd on tenterhooks right up until the final moments. At the half way stage, Simpson lay in fourth place. However, with only the relays to be run, any one of three houses were in contention to win. Powerful performances by all our runners meant that the winning cup stayed with Simpson for another year. Special mention should be made of Scott McKinlay who, as captain, led by example and won all his races. Scott also finished off his time at Strathallan with national honours in athletics, competing with success in several national meets over the course of the year. His is clearly a name worth watching out for in the future and we have been grateful for his various contributions over the years. Other sportsmen of promise were Stuart Scroggie, Jaegan Henry, Gregor Duncan and Robert Henneberg who, together with the rest of the squad, played a vital part in a well-earned victory.

The III Form took to the stage, taking part in the Junior House Drama Competition. In a devised script, the object of which was to incorporate the phrase "It's a dead dog!", writers

Andrew Mack and Tim Higgins, did a masterful job. This was ably matched by the quality of acting from all concerned. In this elegantly crafted social satire, inspiration was drawn from Big Issue vendors and a seldom-sighted phenomenon around Simpson - the Cumbria! Notable performances came from Tom Gray, Alastair Mather and Simon Erdal (the Big Man's interpreter), with choreography by the fleet-footed Adam Arakji. Yes, you guessed it we did not win. Partly, I feel, because our antipodean judge struggled with the authentic Glaswegian accents. Nevertheless, this was an encouraging effort and evinced a good sense of collaboration between seniors and juniors.

Speech Day punctuated the beginning of half term and, with it, numerous appearances by Simpsonians. Old boy, John Coull (SOO), was awarded Dux and no fewer than eleven members of the House followed in collecting both academic subject prizes and other distinctions, presented by the comedian and actor, Ronny Corbett. In matters academic, I would like to record other notable successes: Mark Stringer secured a place at Peterhouse, Cambridge to read Engineering, with four As at A level. Mathieu Gordon achieved straight A\* at GCSE and Howard Gray a similarly impressive set of results, earning both boys Academic Half Colours.

To the hard working tutors, Katrina and I would like to extend our thanks for their patience, support and good humour - helping to get the best out of their tutees by fair means or foul. It is also with regret that we say goodbye to Mr Lunan who, after five years as resident tutor, is off to Dunfermline to seek a new set of challenges in a large day school. Sandy has worked tirelessly for Simpson during those five years: running house bank and tuck shop, together with the weekly ritual of 'Astro Football' only scratch the surface of his contribution. His quiet understanding and down to earth approach distinguishes him as part of that all too rare breed - the Schoolmaster - and I know that he will be sorely missed. Both he and Alison take our very best wishes for the future and sincere thanks for all Sandy has done to smooth the passage of Simpsonians past and present.

So how has a year in the Big Brother House been? Exhausting - yes. Challenging - undoubtedly. Rewarding - absolutely. It has been a great pleasure taking over and working with the boys of Simpson; watching the year take shape and shape the individuals who make it up, both at the same time. Inevitably a report such as this means saying good bye to people as they move on to new experiences: to the upper VI Form, thank you for your help and support over the year and good luck in whatever your future brings. Please keep in touch. To Neil, as Head of House and the other House Prefects - thank you for helping out the new boy and keeping the house running smoothly. To the rest of the boys, you may recall my saying at the start of the year that with a new housemaster comes the opportunity to start again and make a renewed effort to fulfil your potential. Congratulations - most of you were successful in achieving just that. However, unlike Big Brother, Simpson is a reality show with the emphasis on real. A synonym for real could be true and if this is so, stay true to yourselves in whatever you do; either next year at Strath or in the challenges which lie ahead. **IWK**

# Thornbank

No sooner were we back from the summer than House Music was looming on the horizon and, after a few false starts (hmm..), the choir began to take shape.



**U**nder the enthusiastic tutelage of Vicky Robertson, who also won best solo for 'Killicrankie' (voice), Thornbank took the overall award, helped by a powerful rendition of 'Blues in B flat' from the ensemble. Being Mrs. Raeside's last term in charge, this was, we all felt particularly appropriate.

On the drama front, Georgia Manson was awarded Best Actress, despite filling in at the last minute in 'The Steamie' during the Senior House Competition. The Autumn term play, 'Abigail's Party,' saw Vicky Roberson and Aimi Gdula in lead roles. Thornbank also made a big contribution to the main school play, 'Godspell,' as Amelia Lane took the main part, to great acclaim. Else where Carin Munro continued her impressive run of trophies for piping.

This year was a notable one for sport in Thornbank, as we won most of the House Competitions against Woodlands. In the Swimming Standards after points had to be recounted, due to the fact that it looked like Thornbank had beaten every house it came to the conclusion that we had. This being the first time ever a girls house had won. Sports day came quickly for Thornbank ( too quickly if you ask some of the girls) but everyone put a huge amount of effort into it and Thornbank even managed to beat Woodlands in the tug o' war which was well deserved after a few years of defeat. Thornbank girls, Anna MacDonald and Karen McArthur respective junior and senior Victrix Lodorum.

For individual achievement on the sports field we had Ann-Louise Breaden, Anna MacDonald, Katie Fleming, Mimi Bush





and Tisi Bush all in the Scotland Rounders teams. Jenny Hay won her place in the Scotland Hockey team and was playing for them over the summer in Ireland and Germany. Melissa Piper represented the British Youth Ski team and skied for them in Turkey and the Czech Republic.

This year everyone did extremely well in their exams, in particular, Amelia Lane and Katie Fleming for their GCSE's. On speech Day many in the house received prizes with Louise Lamb receiving eight.

As the year went on Thornbank was kept entertained with parties, BBQ's and ear-aching Karaoke nights. In particular, the tutors put on an excellent performance at the Christmas party and Holly, Amelia and Kirstie's leaving song for Mrs Raeside will be remember by all.

So with Mrs Raeside leaving and the Flemings arriving Thornbank had an extremely successful and diverse year ably supported by the tutors Morag and her team and the prefects

**Mimi Bush and Louise Lamb**

Once we'd got over the exhaustion of moving house at Christmas it was time to think about Thornbank House. We had some notions of what to expect and we were ready for anything!

The first thing we had to do was learn all about the day-to-day routines. We were soon corrected if we tried to put someone to bed at the wrong time or ask them to sign in for lunch when they were sixth form! Fortunately, Anneke, the head of house, was there keeping us in line. Also it was a great relief to have Miss Morrison, our resident tutor, there to help with our seemingly endless questions.

Then we had our flu epidemic which went on for most of our first term and we found out how important it is to have a good matron. Morag has been in Thornbank for a good few years and has been invaluable in helping us settle in to our first year.

But the thing that has surprised and pleased us so much is the fun that we have had so far. Sitting chatting with house prefects in the foyer at the end of an evening, gossiping and telling jokes and wondering if Linsey would get them! Prefects meetings where the house matters were discussed, were also a great source of fun.

The sixth form ball was great, to see all the girls out of their trackie bottoms and in beautiful dresses was wonderful. The only problem was that I had to find something to wear too!

Our trophy cabinet seems to have acquired a new trophy every month, which shows how much effort the girls have put in to most things (we won't mention the junior house drama!) The excellent examination results also show how hard everyone was working on their studies. Well done! The hard work and effort is matched by the friendliness that we have been greeted with in the house.

We are looking forward to more fun and laughter and would like to thank all our tutors who have guided us through this year, particularly Miss Morrison who now leaves the resident flat for the "quiet" life. Many thanks also to Anneke and all the house prefects, we wish them well in their future careers. **SF**

# Woodlands

"I can't believe we're in the senior school now" along with "Wow, my room's next to ...", seemed to be popular phrases with our new third formers who joined the house at the beginning of the year.

**I'm glad to say they all seemed to make themselves at home quickly and fit into Woodlands life, although perhaps the concept of bringing breadbox back on time never seemed to quite get through to all the juniors.**

Along with the new third formers we welcomed into the house our new resident tutor, Miss Ni Rian. We hope you enjoyed your first year and although now no longer a resident tutor, we hope you enjoy being part of the house. Another new arrival into the house this year was Harry - the Evans' new puppy. We trust he is happy in Woodlands, even if he does enjoy the odd visit into Ruthven House - well there are cats and cat food there so who can blame him. It sure beats the leftovers he picks up from his visits to the 6th Form Common Room. But thanks, Harry - it saved us Hoovering.. Weekends were favoured, perhaps after the Saturday night ritual of ordering Chinese take-aways.

Life in Woodlands is nothing if not hectic for the most part. However, when you realise the number of house competitions and events participated in, the trips arranged and of course the huge amount of study that every girl does, it is not surprising in the least. I couldn't begin to list everything that went on in the house over the last year, partly because there is far too much to

fit into a couple of pages and partly because some of it is unprintable. So I'll leave that part to your imagination. However, I hope I have picked out some of the best and most memorable goings on of the house and must apologise now for anything I forget to mention.

I think there is a house competition for just about every sport offered at Strathallan and of course as sport they are considered of the utmost importance here. Saying that, we don't play rugby so perhaps they are not seen as important after all, even though the Girls Hockey First XI team were more successful than the rugby firsts. A huge thank you must be said particularly to those arranging the events and of course to all those who participated in them. A special thank you to Susie who not only arranged the athletic standards in the summer term but also made sure everyone actually turned up which I think is a bigger job. Some girls just don't want to compete, perhaps because they think they have better things to do than run round a track. (What do you think, Mr. Fleming?). Well done to Anne Kelly who won the junior cross-country too.

House plays always provide much amusement within the house. If there ever comes a day when every cast member goes





into the dress rehearsal knowing all her lines it will be a miracle. This year despite excellent performances from both the juniors and seniors, we didn't win overall but came out with best script for the junior play.

After many years of pleading we were finally allowed to paint our kitchens the way we wanted them. We must thank the bursar who eventually took time out of his busy schedule firstly to look at the kitchens and then actually give it the okay, provided the colours were to his liking of course. It was amazing the amount of secrecy and friendly rivalry that came about with the offer of a prize for the best-designed kitchen. This being at the beginning of the summer term, I think I can safely say not every kitchen is completely finished so you'll have to keep me posted on who wins. In my opinion lower North has it in the bag, not that I'm biased at all. Are upper North still enjoying the bright pink and yellow by the way? Thank you to all the prefects who oversaw everything and at least got you started.

One of the big events in the school this year was the news of Mr. Tod's and Miss Mason's engagement. With Miss Mason, now known as Mrs. Tod, as our senior tutor, this provided much talk for the House. I'm sure Mrs. Tod greatly appreciated the kind offers from all the juniors to be her bridesmaids. Although this never quite materialised, I hear the wedding in the summer was a great success and speaking on behalf of the house and myself, we would like to wish both of them the very best for the future.

Woodlands House has a warm and happy atmosphere and runs successfully day to day not only because of the seventy or so charming girls who inhabit it, (I know you'll all be surprised to hear this but it's true) but thanks to a dedicated team. Personally I cannot thank Janet enough for all her kindness and support as our indispensable Matron. Despite her sometimes, shall we say, assertive notes to tell girls to tidy their rooms or do milk or... I'm sure the rest of the girls would join me in saying a huge thank you. Similarly, the cleaners do an amazing job. Anyone with one teenage daughter can perhaps imagine what a cleaner has to put up with in Woodlands with 75 girls. A special mention to Frances, who was lucky enough to emigrate to Spain. We hope you are getting on well. Thanks to all our tutors too, who come in at night and not only open tuck shop and house shop (that in itself is enough to earn the thanks of most) but chat and perhaps even help sort out any work problems. Special thanks to Mrs. Tod and Mrs. Hunter for the extra sports lessons which I'm sure Miss

Smith would appreciate - hockey in the foyer and demonstrations of fencing with umbrellas is certainly one way to keep the nights from being boring. The prefects also play a huge part in the running of the house so thanks for all their hard work. Having such a good team of prefects behind me made my job a lot easier. Finally a huge thank you must go to Mr. and Mrs. Evans who somehow manage to run the whole house and still stay sane, (well for most of the time anyway but noone's perfect.)

**Rachel Hunter**

What a year. So much happens that it is hard to ever sit still. Lynne and I would like to thank all the tutors, prefects, Rachel as Head of House, the cleaners, Zenka and Janet for their efforts. Perhaps the most significant newcomers to the House apart from Harry, the pup, were the arrival of Ni, Nan and Ni from China. How amazingly quickly they picked up our language. The outstanding question remains unanswered: how is it that we are not currently proud owners of the House Music Competition Shield?



# A journal of the plague year



**Catriona McCleery**, whose ambition is to be a vet, spent time working on a farm during the outbreak of foot and mouth. A full version of the following account of her time spent there originally appeared as a feature article in the TES. The names that appear in the article are not the real names of the people involved.

## Monday, March 26th 12.15 a.m.

It was around quarter past midnight on Sunday evening, Monday morning. We had just finished lambing a set of twins and, while I gave that ewe nuts and water, Catherine went through to the lambing shed extension to check on the others before we went to bed. A shout came through the partition. I went round to find her standing over a lamb sprawled in the corner of a pen. It was dead. The lamb was two days old; it had been last checked at 10.30 and it had shown no sign of illness. For it just to die was very unusual. There was no evidence that it had been rolled on by its mother and, being a good sized lamb, it would probably have struggled free anyway. Catherine took it out of the pen and we went to bed puzzled and concerned.

I have always wanted to be a vet, not just one of those phases all girls go through but a long-held ambition. In order to achieve my goal and enter Glasgow Vet School, I had been undertaking various periods of practical experience. Last Easter I spent at Catherine's smallholding helping her with the lambing of her flock of fifty ewes and I had returned to Cumbria to assist her. There was foot and mouth in the area, and the flock was due to be culled under the 3km ruling, but the process of pregnancy and birth was going on regardless.

The dead lamb provoked suspicions of foot and mouth but there were no visible symptoms on it and no other signs of the disease among the flock. Two of the remaining in-lamb ewes were badly lame. This had been worrying Catherine for some time and she had called MAFF on the previous Thursday. A vet had examined the suspect ewes; he had checked the rest of the flock and the cattle and declared them all clear. Since then the two ewes had deteriorated; they were sitting around the whole time and they were not coming for their food. Earlier on the Sunday evening while it was still light we had turned over the two ewes and checked their feet but had found none of the blisters or lesions which are symptoms of the disease, only large clumps of mud.

## Monday, 8.30

Catherine woke me up early on the Monday morning. She told me that none of the in-lamb ewes had come for their breakfast and all were lying down looking listless. She had then been over to feed the cattle and had found Jack, one of the bullocks, slobbering and unwell. The farm had foot and mouth. In a way we both felt a sense of relief; the waiting was over. It had felt almost inevitable that we would get it; every day it seemed to creep closer and closer. We had taken all the precautions and more (my wellies should have dissolved the number of times they were disinfected) but we knew it would hit us at some point.

For the next three hours Catherine tried to contact the MAFF office at Carlisle. The number was either engaged or no one answered. The fax line was constantly busy. Catherine phoned her daughter who works in the building opposite the MAFF office and she walked across with a note. Still no one contacted us. By this time we were all incredibly frustrated. Having waited for the disease to strike, it seemed unfair now it had that we should have to wait any longer. Jack's condition was worsening. Another lamb

died suddenly. It started writhing and kicking its head before it stopped breathing. Catherine wrote a letter with all the details of the cases and faxed it to her daughter's office for hand-delivery to MAFF. The Ministry finally took notice and phoned to say that a vet would arrive within 45 minutes.

## Monday, 12.30

Matt, a very pleasant vet from a nearby practice, arrived at 12.30 and immediately set out to check the stock. He first examined Jack, checking his temperature, chest and lastly his mouth where he showed us the blisters that were beginning to form on his gums and tongue. He took a quick look at the healthy sheep in the twins' field and the triplets' field and then it was over to the field beside the lambing shed to examine the in-lamb ewes. He showed us the vesicles that were forming on the upper palate and feet of six of them, more advanced in the two obviously ill ewes and less so in the others. He concluded that we had foot and mouth and that we had recognised it very early on. Not that that was any consolation.

We spent the next three hours sitting round the kitchen table going through the epidemiology report and other paperwork. There were no links with any other infected premises; no sheep or cattle had been moved recently; and Catherine had taken all the advised precautions. The conclusion was reached that it had been carried on the wind from the nearest infected farm 2.2km away. Catherine organised a valuer to come because she felt that the standard MAFF rates would not reflect her organic conversion, that all replacement stock would also have to be organic and therefore more expensive. Matt phoned for a slaughter team. I checked the lambing shed and fed the semi-pet lamb Nicola, whose adoption onto another ewe had not been entirely successful, although she still managed to sneak between the pens and steal milk from every other ewe there.

## Monday, 17.00

The valuer arrived at 5.00pm. He inspected the stock and discussed its value with Catherine. He then helped Catherine, Matt and me to herd the sheep for slaughter over to the far field where the cattle pens were. It was going to be impossible to move the in-lamb ewes so we left them in the micropen. We started with the sheep in the lambing shed, taking all the healthy ewes and lambs out and leaving those unable to walk the distance. The easiest way to move the ewes and lambs was to pick up one lamb from each ewe so that the ewe and extra lambs would follow. This was the worst part of the day, herding all these lambs, some who were so small they could scarcely walk and kept on tripping over, in the knowledge that they were all going to be killed. Nicola, with the spotty face and floppy ear, would not follow the other sheep and kept on running up to us, so that in the end I had to carry her across myself. Once we had gathered them all in the bottom of the far field, we saw that the two slaughtermen had arrived. They came down to help us herd the sheep into the cattle pens.

It was difficult to fit them all in the pens. There was so little space left that some of the lambs were just dropped in on top. Nicola, in a state of great confusion and fear, had jumped out of

the back of the pen through the bars and, being extremely tame, had run round to one of the slaughtermen. He picked her up and Matt injected her. She was the first of a huge pile of motionless bodies. One of the slaughtermen then climbed into the pen and one by one handed out the lambs, some of which had been injured in the crush, to be put down by Matt. As the pile grew larger, Catherine and I left for the farmhouse leaving behind us the sound of anxious ewes as their lambs were taken away from them.

We went back an hour later, as the vet and slaughtermen were dragging the ewes' bodies out of the pen. Matt was checking that they were all dead. A large area beside the pens was now covered with neat, parallel rows of lambs and ewes. Our next task was to somehow get the cattle into the pens. They were not used to being herded so the only way to do it was to tempt them with food. We loaded some bales of hay onto the back of the quad bike and I drove it in front of the cattle. Catherine walked behind them to make sure there were no stragglers. Catherine was unable to watch as her two beautiful longhorns, Ingrid and Isabel, were shut into the pen. She could not face seeing them destroyed. Instead she went back to make tea and to fetch some thin bamboo canes that the slaughtermen had asked for. These, as was explained to me after Catherine had left, were to put through the bullet holes into the nervous tissue to ensure that the animal was dead and to avoid kicking and thrashing.

I stood by the pen as Matt and the slaughtermen climbed over the barrier and got into position in front of the first animal. It was getting dark by now and the slaughtermen were having difficulty aiming despite their head torches. The shots started to echo around me, one by one, and the cattle stood quietly as their companions fell. They were so gentle and trusting that they did not struggle until they were shot. They just collapsed onto the ground. Some twitched and kicked before nervous functions also ended. Matt checked that each was dead. The slaughtermen had worked so well that the bamboo canes were not needed. No animal had suffered a slow death.

As Matt examined Jack, I climbed in to see him. It was surprising how much his condition had advanced since that afternoon: the lesions on his gums were now open and had been bleeding; so too were the ones on the back of his tongue; and he had a large blister forming underneath the surface of the tongue. If the slaughter had been left until the following day he would have suffered a lot more. Matt told me that with some more advanced cases of the disease, you can put your hand in the animal's mouth and the tongue comes out with it.

Catherine arrived back just as the last beast was shot. The slaughtermen climbed out of the pen. They had a quick cup of tea from the thermos that Catherine had brought over. We took the chance to talk to them properly as up to that point we had been in a great rush to finish the killing. The slaughtermen helped us conceal the bodies from anyone passing on the road outside the field. They thoroughly disinfected, then left. Matt disinfected the carcasses of the sheep, lambs and cattle, spraying their feet, mouth and udders. He checked each for a last time. The three of us then clambered onto the quad bike. We were exhausted but we knew that we had still to deal with the sick ewes and lambs as well as the in-lamb ewes.

Monday, 22.00

On our return to the micropen we started to herd the in-lamb ewes down towards the lambing shed. As we tried to shoo them all out of the pen, I noticed a lamb standing beside a ewe that was lying on some hay. This amazingly healthy newborn lamb was now to be killed. I picked it up and carried it down to the lambing shed with its mother following behind. I started the usual lambing routine, getting out the iodine to dip its umbilical cord, before I realised that there was really no point. I laid it in a pen and watched it climb to its feet and start sucking from its mother. When all the lambs and ewes, including the pregnant ones, were in the main lambing shed, Matt opened his case and took out the syringe. He

started with the ewe that had just given birth. I picked up the lamb and he injected it, then Catherine held the ewe while he injected it. I had almost become immune to the process through exhaustion and through the numbers I had seen slaughtered. The shock of seeing the fetuses moving in the uterus of a dead ewe did not hit me until the following day.

We finished the lambs and their mothers, and then started on the in-lamb ewes. Matt had injected two with the prescribed amount of lethal injection but they were still breathing heavily after five minutes. They were so big that Matt had to give them an extra dose to finish them off. He realised that he would not have enough for the remaining ewes if they were going to require as big a dose, so he sent Catherine to phone her vet's surgery to ask for some more to be delivered. By this time it was quarter to eleven and Catherine was doubtful whether this was possible. Matt assured her that in the current crisis vets were working all hours.

I was left to hold the ewes as Matt put them down, which required all the strength I could find, as they had to be held as still as possible while he found the vein and inserted the syringe. Some struggled incredibly while he injected them. He had to take out the syringe and the ewe's blood spurted before he could try again. One syringe was bent out of all recognition. As Matt had predicted, he ran out of poison on the last ewe but injected her with enough to leave her unconscious, snoring heavily. Catherine returned from the phone and we started to drag the ewes out of the wooden pens. Matt checked each one carefully, especially as they were carrying lambs. The cowbell outside the farm gate rang and Catherine went out to collect the bottle of poison. When she got back Matt gave the snoring ewe her final injection; it let out a deep sigh that seemed to go on forever before everything finally fell silent.

We could have left it there but the thought of having to handle the sheep the next morning was not an appealing one, so we lugged the ewes and lambs onto the trailer behind the Landrover. This was hard work as the ewes were very heavy and some of them had started to show the effects of rigor mortis. Matt and Catherine drove them over to the other carcasses in the far field. We finally sat down for our supper after midnight. Matt was obviously both emotionally and physically exhausted; he could barely string a sentence together and was about to fall asleep at any moment; the same was true of Catherine and me. Matt left to go home but promised that he would press MAFF the next morning to speed up the rest of the process.

After Monday

Despite the efforts of our MAFF representative and our army liaison officer, it took the best part of a week to dispose of the animals. At first we were assured that they could be buried in one of the fields. Catherine was very happy about this because she preferred the idea of the animals' being buried on her land to their being burnt on a huge pyre, or bulldozed into the pit at Great Orton. Arrangements were underway for this when MAFF reversed its decision and decided that, because of the risk of BSE getting into the ground and possibly the water supply, the burial of cattle was no longer acceptable, despite the fact that Catherine's herd was certified BSE-free. Three days later, the sheep were eventually taken to Great Orton. That morning I left the farm. The cattle remained until the following Sunday when they were taken to a pyre on a neighbouring farm. The next day MAFF changed its collective mind again and decided that cattle under 30 months could be buried. This left Catherine extremely distressed and angry.

Do I still want to be a vet? More than ever. The practical example set by Matt in carrying out his duties and the concern for animal welfare shown by both Matt and Catherine have reinforced my ambition. My experience in Cumbria was shocking and horrifying; but it also revealed to me how the best qualities in people can be brought out in a crisis.



# Form III gardens



**A**s I watched the III Form Biology pupils prepare their vegetable plots in May, I began to doubt whether we would see much growth in the few short weeks before the end of term. However, the pupils' enthusiasm and attention to their little 'gardens' soon paid off and, sure enough, green tips of potato, lettuce and radish plants soon began to emerge from the soil. Not content with watering (plants and themselves), weeding and feeding, some pupils began to decorate their plots too. Indeed, Kimi Gordon was lucky enough to have big climbing roses behind her area and planted colourful marigolds around her vegetables. It was a pleasure then, for the Biology staff and the judge for the competition, Mr Ross, to see such well-tended plots on a beautiful sunny day in June.



Radishes (some already half eaten) and lettuces were weighed, potatoes were measured, and Mr Ross carefully looked over each plot. The results were as follows;

#### **Best Overall Plot:**

Max Stewart and Duncan Lawson

#### **Biggest Lettuce:**

Tom Sproat and Malcolm Jack (72.6g)

#### **Biggest Radish:**

Charles Leadbetter and Kit Hayward (111.6g)

#### **Best Potato Plant:**

Magnus O'Reilly and Andrew (54cms)

JG

# Music report

**In September we welcomed Mr Walmsley to the department as Assistant Director of Music. He is a skilled exponent of the French horn and organ, and as an ex-cathedral chorister, is also a useful tenor. A graduate of Durham University who would also complete his Masters degree within a few weeks of arriving, he assumed responsibility for Riley music as well as helping in the senior school and, of necessity, had to hit the ground running.**

House Music, at the end of the first half term, always results in house musicians and the music department bursting into activity from the start of the year, and this one was no exception. The requirement that each house organise three items is a real focus at this time and results in a tremendous concert and competition just before half term. A full report is given elsewhere.

Also in September we re-group in the orchestra and choir. This year we had lost many good musicians from the previous Upper Sixth. For example, I had expected there to be only two basses left in the choir, but I was delighted to find ten willing gentlemen with suitably low voices turning up at the first practice of term: the choir has now reached over fifty in number and includes the highest number of boys for a long time. The orchestra, again missing the old hands, had probably never sounded worse at its first rehearsal. By the end of the year however, they were playing to a remarkably high standard and received very good newspaper reviews for their performance at the Perth Festival. This was in no small way due to the splitting of the regular Monday practices into sections for part of the time, thus concentrating everyone's efforts and also allowing wind, string and brass sections to develop and perform as separate groups.

It has always been difficult to secure audiences for professional concerts at Strathallan, and it was therefore a pleasure when one of our visiting music staff Joanah Moore, offered to organise, publicise, sell tickets for and perform in a concert during October. Joanah acted as accompanist to John Marshall (tenor) and Janet Laird (clarinet) who delighted their audience of about 100, in a programme of works ranging from Verdi to Lloyd-Weber.

As always, Headmaster's Music and the Carol Services ensured a busy end to the term. The choir was particularly on form in carols as diverse as 'The Three Kings' by Cornelius (with David Chalmers performing the baritone solo with style), Poston's 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' and Philip Marshall's fine setting of 'I Saw Three Ships'.

Our annual year group concerts, given throughout the year, have gone from strength to strength. Not only do they continue to reveal much talent and each provide a very entertaining evening, but now the audiences have grown significantly. Whereas when they were started, the Old Music Room was more than big enough, this year the room was full to capacity, with many having to stand at the back. Fifth and Third forms performed in the first term, Fourth and Sixth in the Easter term

and Riley during the summer. The emphasis is on encouraging as many as possible to perform, and programmes have ranged from Renaissance dances to Rock and from Schubert Lieder to songs from James Bond movies.

The Easter term saw musicians concentrating on the choir tour and 'Godspell'. This year concerts and services were given in Carlisle Cathedral, Kendal Parish Church Stow Minster, Lincoln Minster (as far south as we have ever ventured) and Malsis Preparatory School in Yorkshire. Yet again the choir surpassed all expectations in their singing and were undoubtedly inspired by the wonderful buildings in which they sang, as well as having a great time. The Head of Choir gives a full report elsewhere.

After the labours of the cast and band in the end of term performances of 'Godspell', the summer term began with a new departure: the performance of most of the show out of school, on this occasion, at St Mary's Church, Broughty Ferry. The challenges raised by taking such a piece out of its theatrical setting and presenting it in a church with minimal props and space were considerable: could they remember all their lines for example? Ultimately it proved very worthwhile by delighting the audience, raising £200.00 for charity and perhaps most importantly revealing a cast capable of coping with the extra demands and improvisation necessary to bring off such a venture.

The term continued with the annual Perth Festival Lunchtime Concert, featuring the school orchestra playing Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Dance of the Tumblers' and Mancini's Pennywhistle Jig. The choir sang pieces by Widor and Redford and solos by Rebecca Chalmers (flute), and Alison Skinner (oboe) followed; then Harriet Hunt, Mandi Cliff and Sarah Oxnard in a Trio by Glinka, and Laura Morley and Emma Gordon in Delibes 'Flower Duet'. This event was shortly followed by the Speech Day Concert, which continues to be a popular event with parents.

Much continues to be done behind the scenes by our seventeen peripatetic music staff who teach over 200 pupils each week. As a result there have been another series of notable successes in the associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams again this year: about 40 have taken examinations at all levels and on a wide variety of instruments, 13 of these have passed with merit or distinction.

As always we say goodbye to many long established, long serving musicians who have done so much for music at Strathallan during their time. Laura Morley, her remarkable record of performances at every Headmaster's Music for the last 7 years says it all (as well as all the other things she has done). Catriona McCleery made important contributions both in the choir as an alto and on the viola in orchestra and ensembles during her time here in the sixth form. Alasdair Gardner has been in the choir since arriving in the school in the third form and has been our timpanist for the last two years. Elsewhere, Christopher Wright guitarist and bass, and basses Mark Stringer, Oliver Lane and Jindra Zitek will all be missed. **D.G.R.**

# Headmaster's music

The Chapel at Strathallan was again the venue on a balmy summer's evening for Headmaster's Music. A healthy audience of several hundred parents, staff and pupils assembled to hear a veritable cornucopia of musical items.

**A** programme designed to display the talent available in the School at all levels, from Riley to the Sixth Form, both choral and instrumental. Indeed, it was the Riley choir which provided us with a rousing start, performing three items from Barnum. Theirs was a jaunty, distinctly lively performance, displaying evident enjoyment in front of a large audience. The highlight of this was Iain Aitken's solo in 'There's a sucker born every minute'. He was very confident in some intricate passages and is clearly a talent to watch for the future.

The second item in the programme was two movements from Telemann's Trio in C Minor for violin, flute and keyboard. Baroque slow movements often provide problems of intonation and balance for school-age players, but Catriona Dickie and Ellen McWhirter carried this off with aplomb. After a slightly uncertain beginning they quickly warmed to their task, imitating each other's phrases and, in the allegro, pulling off some intricate runs admirably. A brave choice of instrumental piece, but one which was made to work for the performers.

Two other instrumental pieces were included in the first part of the programme - Glinka's Trio Pathétique for clarinet, cello and piano, and a soloist in Laura Morley playing New Blues on the Clarsach, an unusual combination to say the least. Laura's playing was both ingenious and entertaining, her Blues were intricate and musical, and she is obviously a talented player and 'proper' musician. In the Glinka, Harriet Hunt and Mandi Cliff were joined by cello teacher Angie Dagpunar to produce one of the highlights of the evening. All three played their parts with musicality and impeccable technique, parts interchanging, overlapping and competing for the ear of the assembled multitudes.

The remaining part of the first moiety was taken up by more choral elements. The Third Form Choir sang Bernstein's Neverland, a musical pastiche on J. M. Barry's story of Peter Pan. At times the girls produced an almost magical quality, realising Bernstein's intention of recreating waterfalls, insects and the flying Pan himself. Next, Emma Gordon and the versatile Laura Morley sang Delibes' Flower Duet. In a piece with some complex dynamics and harmonies, both were very clear in their intonation, diction and tuning, painting a complex palette of musical colours and leaving a lasting imprint on the evening. After such an assured performance, it might have been difficult for the Chapel Choir to follow, but the fact that they produced an equally memorable impression is testament to the versatility of our singers at Strathallan. Their performance included three pieces - the Sanctus from Vierne's Mass in C sharp minor, and the Sanctus from Schubert's German Mass, finishing off with Paul McCartney's 'When I'm Sixty-four'. As with all of the evening's singing, the Choir demonstrated accuracy of tuning and diction, producing rich and sonorous harmonies in both Sanctus movements. In the McCartney the boys more than held their own against the larger number of girls in their entries. Versatility has been mentioned on more than one occasion above, and once more the Choir showed that Strathallan singers can cope with all genres and periods of music. In all, a tour de force.

Pipes do not always quite sound right within enclosed spaces, but when they are played by such experts and prize-winning performers as Mark Stringer, Carin Munro, Neil Robertson and instructor Jennifer Hutcheon, then they can be a delight to listen to. And so it proved tonight. They led us through Willie Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow Police, a Strathspey, and made us tap time with our feet in a reel - the Brown Haired Maid. In the hands of such players the last element - the Loch Tay Boat Song - played to an ingenious synthesizer background, made us all imagine we were floating on a small fishing boat in the middle of that Loch, idling away the hours, enjoying the scenery and summer sunshine. It was a second highlight of the evening.

The remainder of the evening's entertainment was just as appetising as the first half had been. Timothy Law's rendition of Nolck's Hungarian Dance evinced a real feel for the gypsy rhythms behind the printed page. Often a single young violinist can be plagued by nerves and his technique exposed, but Timothy was confident, and coped admirably with the varied tempi and moods. The A Level choir performed Stanford's Beati Quorum Integra Est, one of their examination pieces, we were informed by Director of Music, David Read. The eight singers were sensitive to the moods and dynamics of the music. With a choir so small, parts can quickly become exposed and isolated, but this small ensemble was polished and professional. One hopes the A Level examiners were as appreciative as the audience.

Two final vocal pieces followed. Flanders and Swann's 'A Word on my Ear' which the multi-talented Laura Morley sang with aplomb, evincing a professionalism that few on this evening could outdo. Again, as with so many of her performances, intonation and tuning were immaculate, particularly so in some of the more nimble sections. The next piece was the classic 'Cat duet' of Rossini - Duetto Buffo per due Gatti, sung by Catriona Sutherland and Vicky Robertson. They managed the right tone of operatic 'cattiness', like two Divas to the manner born, introducing a soupçon of levity to the evening's entertainment.

The final musical offering of this enchanting evening was a swingin' saxophone quartet of Loni Chambers, Heather Chambers, Stuart Chapman and their teacher Jim Morrice, well known to generations of Strathallan jazz exponents. We were not disappointed with the choice of pieces either, though what Michael Praetorius might have made of his Courante played by saxophones, is difficult to imagine. The evening was brought to a rousing finish with Connolly's Swinging the Blues, each saxophonist being given the chance to display his or her outstanding improvisation skills.

The overall impression of this evening's music-making is of skilful instrumental playing of an outstanding quality of which many schools would be envious. Tie this in with choral and other vocal singing of a variety of different genres, and one might be hard pushed to come up with a more pleasing or delightful combination in any school. **RHF**

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# House music

We were delighted to welcome Mr Edward Coleman M.Mus. A.R.C.O. , Director of Music at Loretto School, as our adjudicator this year. He made encouraging remarks about all individual and group performances, as well as offering thought provoking advice for future competitions.

**J**ust for once, the Director of Music received no complaints about the result and we may therefore conclude that his adjudication was judged to be fair.

Extracts from Mr Coleman's comments are as follows:

**NICOL** were convincing and amusing in their controversial but evergreen 'Always look on the Bright Side of Life'. This was a well-performed unison song. Charles Wardman's 'Improvisation on the Moonlight Sonata' utilised two keyboards including special effects to produce a varied but well structured solo. Finally, 'Sweet Dreams' had presence right from the start, with a nice balance of the two voices throughout.

**THORNBANK** opened with an impressive 'Shuffletime' for jazz group. This had a real sense of improvisation in all the solos and one could sense the involvement of all the players. Vicky Robertson took us to the other end of the spectrum with an unaccompanied vocal rendition of 'Killiekrankie' wherein she had the audience eating out of the palm of her hand. The House Choir brought things to a rousing conclusion with 'Mama Mia', accomplished part-singing and bags of enthusiasm here.

**RUTHVEN**, looking a little unsure of themselves at the start, nevertheless soon warmed to regale us with a tidy performance of '500 Miles'. What it lacked in subtlety was more than made up for in enthusiasm. We were then treated to the talents of Freddie Stewart in an impressive, virtuoso guitar solo. 'Redwood' turned out to be the best rock band of the day with all performers taking a full part in an excellently balanced ensemble.

**SIMPSON** began with Mark Stringer's deft 'John Mackenzie's Fancy' on the small pipes, with recorded backing track. This was followed with 'Karma Police', another budding rock band.

Simpson was undoubtedly at its most strong in 'Strollin' Through the Park' a very finely balanced unaccompanied four-part barbershop which made frequent references to life at Strathallan.

**WOODLANDS** began with a superbly executed arrangement of 'Bright Eyes' for vocal duet and chamber ensemble. For the solo, Ni Wang played her solo 'Butterfly Lovers' coping with some impressive passagework with great finesse. The choir ended with the difficult arrangement of 'Imagine'. There was much attention to detail and the three parts were excellently balanced and blended throughout.

**FREELAND** also presented unaccompanied three- part harmony in their choir piece 'Deep River'. Their choir was well focused with a good blend of voices. This was followed by a marvellous solo in the form of Peter Hewitt (accompanied by Jindra Zitek) singing 'The Lads in their Hundreds', a moving First World War song. Back to earth with a very tidy and rhythmically tight instrumental ensemble playing 'Brick in the Wall'.

## RESULTS

Best Conductor	Ruthven ( D. Coaton)
Best Accompanist	Freeland (Jindra Zitek - piano)
Best Solo	Thornbank Vicky Robertson- voice)
Best Ensemble	Woodlands
Best Boys Choir	Simpson
Best Girls Choir	Thornbank
Best House Overall	Thornbank





# Choir trip

**T**hinking back on the tour last term, my most vivid memories are of the choir dinner at Pizza Express (where we discovered that we could sing Schubert's Sanctus from memory: this was done as a Grace before the meal, much to the astonishment of all the other diners), I also remember the hectic bus trips on the biggest bus we have ever needed, due to the growing size of the choir, an unbelievably good Chinese meal in Lincoln (eat 'til you drop) and Miss Dewar's unbelievable performance at Lincoln bowling alley. Somewhere along the way of course, we also sang in some beautiful cathedrals, churches and minsters, where the wonderful chords of the Widor Mass and much other music reverberated around their ancient stones: who will forget the sound of the choir singing from the east end of what is surely one of the finest buildings in Europe, Lincoln Minster.

This year we sang our way from Carlisle Cathedral to Stow Minster and from Kendal Parish Church to Lincoln Minster. Our performances were more varied this year; whereas we normally sing choral evensong (this year at Carlisle and Stow), we also sang a lunchtime concert at Lincoln and a Sung Eucharist at Kendal. We also sang an afternoon concert to all the pupils at Malsis Preparatory School. This was undoubtedly our busiest tour to date (five concerts in three days including travelling 800 miles.) Only Mr Read can think up such itineraries. This is done on the grounds that we need to be kept busy.

This was Mr Walmsley's initiation into a Strath choir tour and he and Mr Bolton had some challenging organs to cope with, not helped by the occasional problem of not being able to see the conductor.

That is not all the choir tour is about however; they work very hard all year, learning a large repertoire during the minimum two hours' practice each week. The tour gives them the privilege and huge reward of singing in wonderful acoustics, often to very large audiences. For many years now they have been excellent ambassadors for the school.

All that remains is to thank all the staff who took us, Mr and Mrs Read, Mrs McFarlane, Miss Dewar, Mr Bolton and Mr Walmsley. As well as the musical side, they all help to keep things running smoothly, whether it's coping with a sore throat or cajoling the Formers to be quiet past midnight and stop singing. This alone would be enough to frighten many off, but it didn't and we thank them for that.

It has been a privilege to be Head of Choir this year. The fact that the choir petitioned Mr Read twice for another tour in the summer term perhaps shows how much fun they are and how keen everybody was. There is a lot of talent in the choir and I wish them luck and look forward to hearing a lot more from them in the future. **Laura Morley**



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# Forgandenny rocks

This was the year when the rock bands seemed finally to come into their own. Raised on a decibel-rich diet which included the likes of QOTSA, Deftones and the indescribably camp Monster Magnet, ingested by the gross at venues around Glasgow, the guys got their stuff together and strutted it on any stage that would support the colossus that is rock.

**T**hey are no-one, many; from the dizzy heights of Turpitude- a band with a website fer chrissake [www.geocities.com/turpituderule](http://www.geocities.com/turpituderule)- to the remarkable members of the Allardyce family, responsible for not merely one but two active rock bands during this annus mirabilis, by way of a host of other by no means negligible contributors. Here is an account by one of them. We who are about to rock salute you. EGK

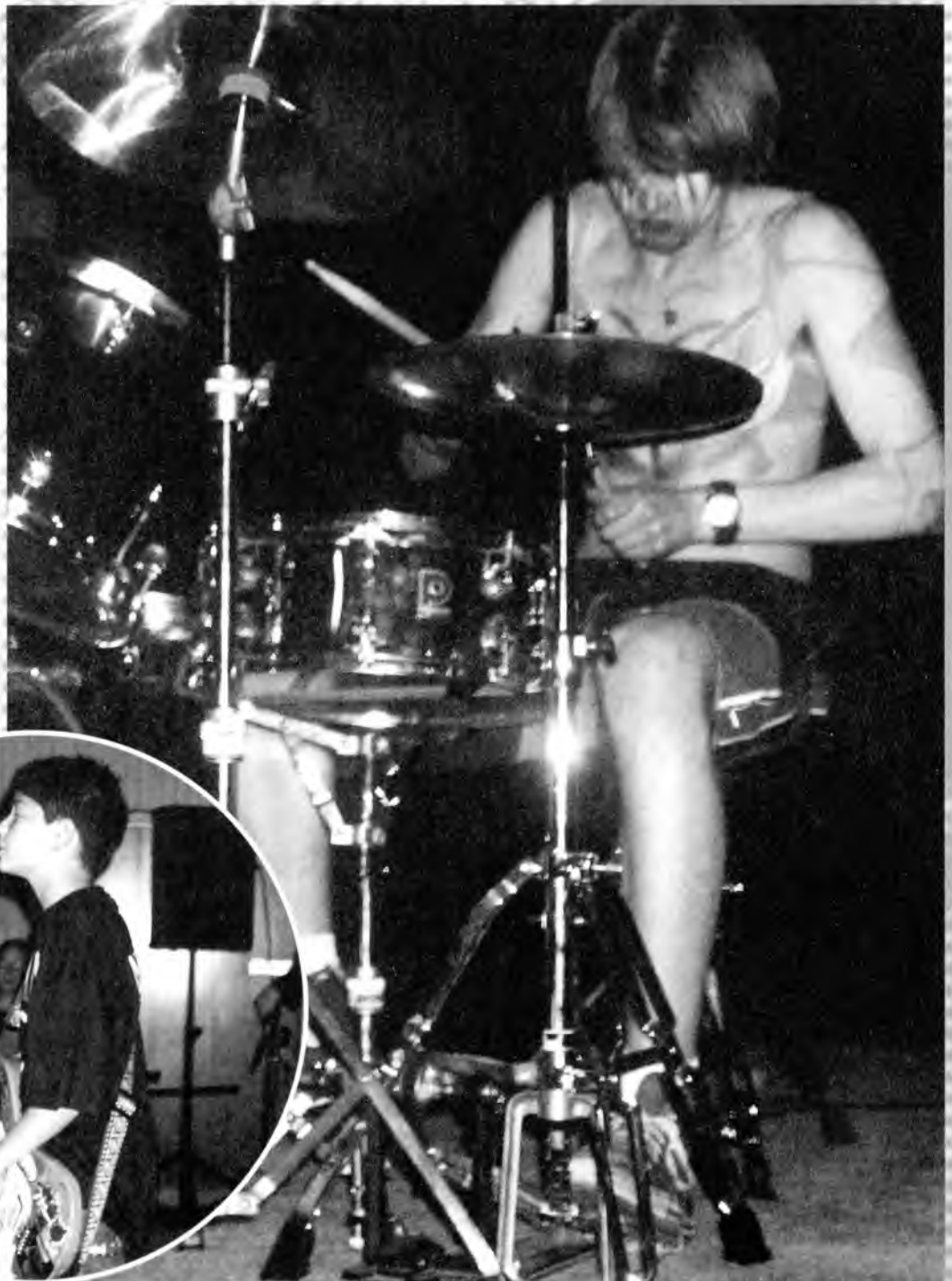
This year was a really good one for the band. It started with the usual lack of equipment and a dank and dreary hexagonal building (This is a bit Kevin the Teenager, isn't it, Johnny? Ed) in which to practise, so things couldn't but improve. Turpitude, Cordial (later Rising Sun?) Guerrilla Regime and Torn Input Output had several gigs in and out of school, including the critically-acclaimed Strathstock in the Summer Term which both raised money for charity and covered the cost of the barbecue.

The acquisition of a larger practice-room was probably the first sign that rock bands were now being accepted as a genuine part of the musical activity of what is, after all, a very musical school. The Music Department came up with some better quality equipment for us, and we'd like to thank Mr Read for digging it out of the cupboard- thanks also, by the way, to Mr Vallot and Mr Kennedy for general support and help with gigs over the year.

We thought acceptance couldn't go any further. We were wrong. Two of our fellow "angry teenagers with nothing better to do than play loud music with swearwords in" (not, incidentally members of Turpitude) were awarded half-colours for music.

Turpitude now look forward to the year ahead as a period of solid practice, loads of gigs and far less stress. We will also be busy being responsible prefects and valuable members of the school community, and working really hard so that we can get good exam results and boring jobs. Yeah. **Johnny S-D**





# Pipe band

The Pipe Band has had another successful year.

This has been mixed with sadness and change. David Clark, after nearly twenty years teaching snare drumming at Strathallan, left for family reasons.

**H**is contribution over the years has been much appreciated. Gordon Brown, leading drummer of the Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band has now filled his position. His drum corps won the Grade 1 Drumming at the 2001 World Pipe Band Championships. We are very fortunate to have him teach at Strathallan and look forward to the development of the drum corps because of his talent for teaching young players. The sadness came during the summer term with the sudden death of George Braid who taught the bass section drummers. His helpful, quiet style of teaching will be greatly missed by his colleagues and pupils alike. He was always willing to lend a hand and take on extra duties such as painting the band room and even renovating the old bass drum. A group of pupils and staff attended his funeral in Bridge of Earn where Pipe Major Jennifer Hutcheon played at the church and then played Macintosh's Lament at the graveside. Our thoughts and condolences are with his widow Sally at this sad time.

On CCF field day, the band took off en masse to visit the workshops of Inveran Bagpipe Makers in Loanhead. Here they were given a very informative talk and demonstration on the art of making bagpipes, from seeing a sample of the original African Black Wood through all the stages to the finished article. Many thanks to Craig Scott who gave up the morning to accommodate us.

The successes of the band started at the Scottish Schools' Quartet and Trio Piping Championships where Strathallan won The Forrest McLelland Trophy as first prize in the Quartet Championship. Mark Stringer led his team of Niall Robertson, Carin Munro and Rory Whytock in a very professional performance in the opinion of the judge. The trio of Cameron Jack, Calum Emslie and Benno Rawlinson finished in fifth place in the Junior Trio Piping section.

At the Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch Solo Piping Championships, Mark Stringer finished second in the 18 years section March, Strathspey and Reel. Other prizes won at the championships were: Carin Munro, third in the 16 years and under March Strathspey and Reel; Niall Robertson, fifth in the 16 years and under Jig; Cameron Jack, fourth in the 18 years and under Novice Piping and Benno Rawlinson, sixth in the under 15 years Chanter event.

At the Craigmount High School Solo Piping Championships, Mark Stringer won The Craigmount Rose Bowl as second prize in the 18 years and under Piobaireachd with a very good performance. Duncan Lawson won The Halliday Cup as third prize in the Chanter competition in which Benno Rawlinson won the sixth prize.

Mark Stringer made an excellent job of playing the lament on Remembrance Day.

Our next outing came in January when we attended the Vale of Atholl Solo Piping Championships. Strathallan walked off with fifteen prizes including the Senior Championship. Niall Robertson won the Senior Championship and The Bank of Scotland Trophy by winning the following prizes in the senior section: second in the March, Strathspey and Reel, second in the Jig and third in Piobaireachd. Mark Stringer was second in the Piobaireachd and fourth in the Jig, both in the senior section. Carin Munro was second in the senior Dress and Deportment section and sixth in the senior March, Strathspey and Reel. Cameron Jack won The McDonald Brothers Trophy as first prize in the 13 to 15 years Chanter section and fourth in the 13 to 18 years Novice Piping section. In the same age group, Calum Emslie took sixth prize in the Chanter and third in the Novice Piping, Benno Rawlinson was fifth in the Chanter and sixth in the Novice Piping while Duncan Lawson took fifth prize in the Novice Piping. An exceptional day.

Various Pipers played at Burns Nights and St Andrews Night celebrations, with Mark Stringer playing at the school event.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Championships, Carin Munro having won the Junior Piping Championship last years walked off with the Senior Championship and The MacPherson Trophy this year. Niall Robertson won fourth prize while Mark Stringer finished seventh also in the senior event. Cameron Jack played very well to reach the final of the Intermediate Solo Piping Event.

A group of pipers again took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle where they enjoyed the experience. This year all the pipers played for the highland dancing and coped with this very well.

A stirring display (in sunshine for a change) on Speech Day pleased a large audience of parents and pupils. Some of our young hopefuls had a chance to show off their new piping and drumming skills. They were given a rousing cheer for their efforts. We look forward to them developing further over the next few years. Jindra Zitek our piper from the Czech Republic did extremely well to play the whole performance considering that he has been playing for less than two years, having started to learn when he arrived at Strathallan, to complete his sixth form.

Our outdoor competition season this year was curtailed by the sad loss of Mr Braid and the cancellation of the Bearsden competition which we usually attend.

At The Scottish Schools' Championships this year, Strathallan retained The Loch Nan Eun Quaich (in memory of Bert Barron) for finishing as the top school in the Solo Piping Events. As well as this Niall Robertson won the East of Scotland Challenge Cup as winner of the Senior Solo Piping Championship, Carin Munro won





The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Cup as winner of the Intermediate Solo Piping Championship and Rory Whytock took third prize in the Intermediate Solo Drumming event (not bad for a piper). The band were placed third in the Pipe Band Championship.

At the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association European Pipe Band Championships, Strathallan won the piping and finished in eighth place in the Novice Juvenile Grade after a very creditable performance. The experience of taking part in the massed bands at the end of the day along with some of the best bands in the world is something that the players will remember for a long time to come. Over 180 bands took part in the championships; it took more than two hours to get them all onto the competition field to march past the chieftain of the event.

The next event of the term was the Strathallan Solo Piping and Drumming Competition where a good number of pupils took part. The main prize winners were:

Novice Drumming	Heather Chambers
Bass and Tenor Drumming	Laura Mackie
Junior Drumming	Steven Peaston
Senior Drumming	Howard Gray
Most Improved Drummer	Steven Peaston
Most Improved Piper	Kit Hayward
Chanter	Kit Hayward
Novice Piping	Kit Hayward
Junior Piping	Carin Munro
Piobaireachd	Niall Robertson
Senior Piping	Niall Robertson
Hornpipe and Jig	Mark Stringer
Best Contribution to the Band	Mark Stringer.



Our final event of the year was a performance at Headmaster's Music by the quartet of JSRH, Mark Stringer, Niall Robertson and Carin Munro on the Scottish Small Pipes. They played a March, Strathspey and Reel and then a Slow Air accompanied by a backing track, which was well received.

We look forward to the challenges of next year and certainly hope for happier times ahead. JSRH



# Scripture union



**O**ver the course of the last year S.U. has met every Tuesday for half an hour of Bible study, prayer, and catching up on each other's weekly experiences. For the last term we were glad to welcome Mr Pickles into S.U. He has contributed greatly to the group, securing the library saloon as an improved venue for our meetings.

A memorable trip to Pizza Hut ended another highly successful year. We are very thankful to Mr Lunan who, over the years, has put time and effort into S.U. We wish him well in his new job and will miss his contribution next year.

## Chapel report

**D**ue to the long process involved in appointing the new chaplain several contingencies were adopted in chapel throughout the year. This situation existed until the end of March when the Reverend Robert Pickles was appointed to this part-time post.

We want to thank, Revs Alistair McCormick, William Neill, Donald Campbell, Dr Finlay MacDonald, John Chalmers, Douglas Nicol, Jane Denniston, Colin Williamson and anyone else who may have been overlooked for all their hard work and generosity in stepping into the breach.

Scripture Union has continued this year and those who attended were very grateful to Mr Sandy Lunan who moved on to another post at the end of 2001 and we are grateful for all the time that he gave to the meeting.

The new Chaplain is married to Hazel and has three children John, David and Hannah all at Strathallan. He is a minister of the Congregational Federation. He was ordained in 1980 and holds degrees from London University and the University of Wales. After ministering to two churches in the 1980s, Mr Pickles taught theology in Birmingham for 12 years. He comes to the post after ministering for two and a half years in Avoch on the Black Isle by Inverness. He and his family moved into School in July and are now settled(ish).

There are to be several changes in the next year within the Chaplaincy. The apron stage has been retained from Headmaster's music for an experimental period of time. This has become the main area for reading and preaching. The choir, about 70 strong, will be seated behind it in the chancel. The choir will be taking a greater part in worship in the coming year than in recent times.

A weekly Short Communion Service has been introduced on Tuesdays at lunch time.

The Sunday evening Service will be moved permanently to 9.15 pm in order to allow as many pupils and staff as possible to be back for chapel. It is hoped to make the Sunday evening Services quite varied. It is further hoped that there will be participation by Houses in the construction and performance of services.

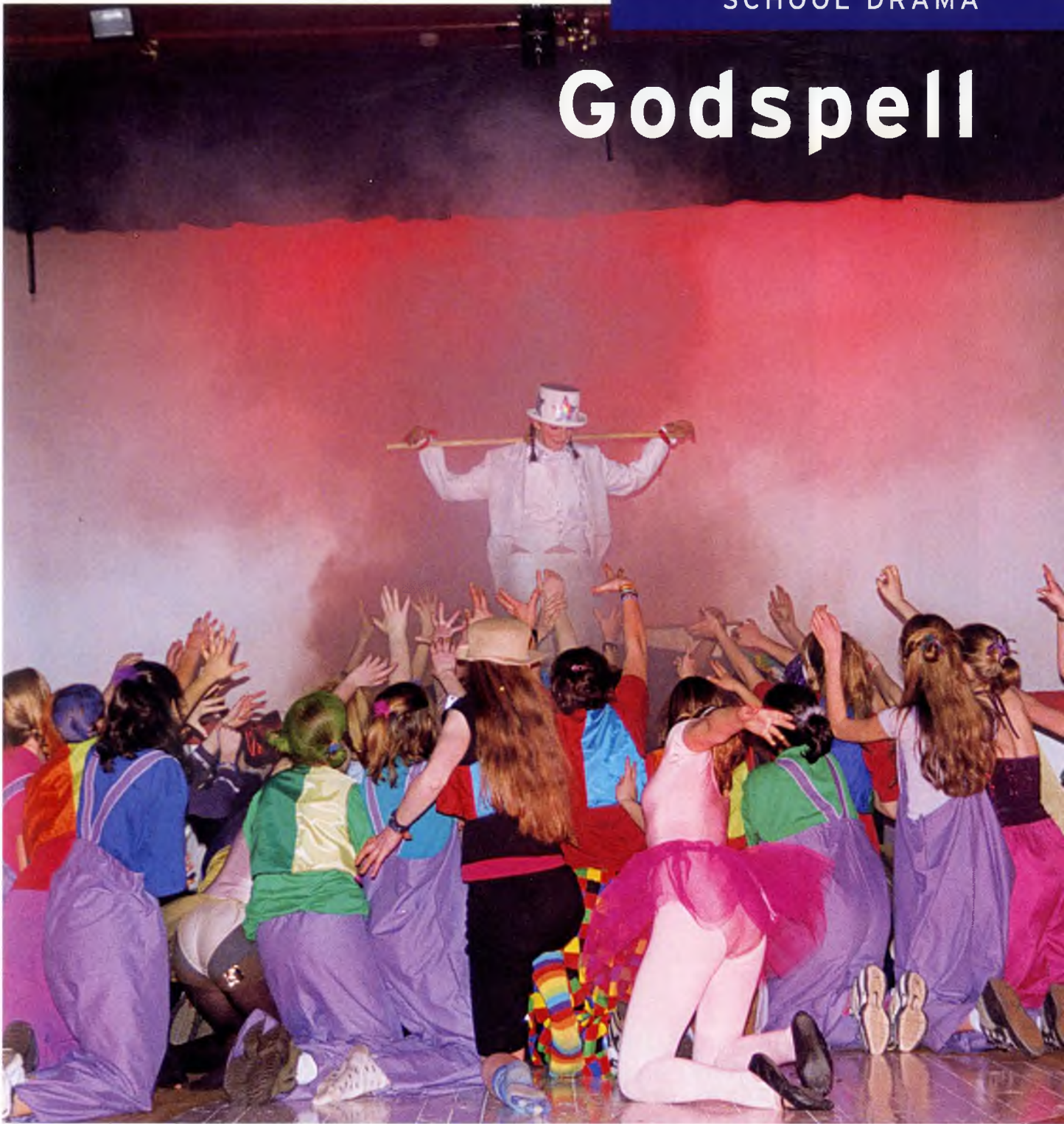
During the week it is planned that on Wednesday there will be a half hour Chapel Service for the entire school including Riley. A School Assembly will occur on Friday and will include Riley.

There is to be a Charities Committee comprising two representatives from each house, the Second Master and the Chaplain. This committee will co-ordinate the raising of monies and the chapel offerings and new events to help those in need.

It is hoped that these measures will make the Chapel both meaningful and helpful to the pupils and staff. To old Strathallians I wish to add that chapel and the chaplain will always be at your disposal should you need either of them at any time.

I would like to thank the Headmaster and the Housemistresses/masters for their support in the work of the Chaplaincy. We continue to rejoice in fine music in Chapel and I would like to express thanks to Mr David Read, Director of Music and Mr Richard Walmsley for their continued efforts. Laura Morley as Head of Choir did a splendid job too. Mrs Thompson has continued to manage the provision of chapel flowers and to all those who provide flower arrangements week by week, thank you. I would like also to thank the Chapel prefects, Nick Sinclair and Charles Sproat who did an admirable job during the time between chaplains. **RP**

# Godspell



This was the fourth musical to be performed in five years and it generated the usual excitement in the participants, as well as the expectation in the audience that another evening of entertaining music, drama and dance lay ahead. A positive gesamtkunstwerk that would have something for everybody.





Godspell as a work is not, perhaps, as well known as *Guys and Dolls* and the other successes of recent years, and it might have fewer artistic challenges, but there was more than enough for an energetic and talented cast to create an enjoyable and rewarding evening.

It is, of course, the Gospel story, and the actions took place in a circus ring, which neatly provided good opportunities for Ringmaster Amelia Lane to take Christ through some of the Evangelists' stories to the final moments of the crucifixion. The opening Act provided three opportunities for her and William Bowry to lead the company in the spirited numbers that set the tone for the rest of the evening - energetic company singing, thoughtfully contrived and effectively executed choreography, stylish acting and singing. The first act continued with scenes based on the stories of the Good Samaritan, the Sower and the Prodigal Son, which introduced us to some of the rest of the principals. Vicky Robertson and Euan Aitkenhead had been two

of the stars of last year's *Little Shop of Horrors*, and they combined well in their musical relationship with the rest of the company in their imaginative and sharply focused songs. Ben Dalley and Laura Morley were two other old hands whose experience showed in their slick stage presence, thoughtful acting and effective singing. Rebecca Johnstone's "All good gifts", based on the familiar hymn tune "We plough the seeds and scatter", was a self-assured and musically contribution to what was already a versatile first act. It was plain that a lot of thought had gone into the often quite intricate dance movements that helped to illustrate the actions in the circus ring; and by now it was evident how much time and trouble had been taken over the makeup not only of the principals, like the diabolic Judas, but the whole cast as well.

These qualities were equally present in the second half, where we were introduced to the rest of a talented cast. Catriona Sutherland ("Turn Back O Man") and Peter Hewitt ("We Beseech



Thee") took the opportunities presented by their solos to display their musical talents, and Holly Harvey and Kirstie Aitken's duet ("By My Side") was clearly enjoyed as much by the performers as by the audience. The admirable band had their well-deserved solo and then it was the turn of Amelia to lead the cast in a thrilling finale that rounded off what had clearly been a highly enjoyable evening's entertainment for an appreciative audience.

It has been said that without an audience's enthusiasm musicals collapse, their being a genre that responds warmly to

evident appreciation and finds it difficult to evince awe, contemplation or silence. This production, by the usual team of Messrs Kilpatrick and Salisbury, gave us a *Godspell* that contained buckets of chutzpah, hippie chic and sheer verve, but there were also quieter, more reflective moments when the audience were reminded that this evening's entertainment of music, song and dance was not just noisy, enjoyable participation, but also attempted to remind us there was a serious point to be made. Never forget, however, gentle reader, "The play's the thing."



# Quick, down..down.. now..GO, GO, GO.

Eight soldiers in army fatigues and clutching machine guns dropped down behind the parked Honda before darting across the road to take shelter behind a red Fiat. "Right..quick..move..NOW." They ran, crouched down, another ten metres and took cover behind a Range Rover, from where, weapons at the ready, they could watch any suspicious movement on the street.



No, dear reader, relax, this was not an army manoeuvre in a battle zone, nor was it even a CCF exercise, it was seven 3rd Form boys and one girl with plastic guns, getting into character for their acting scene from "The Long and The Short and The Tall" at the Edinburgh Competition Festival speech and drama classes, at St. Margaret's School. I only hope the inhabitants of East Suffolk Road were not too alarmed.

For these 3rd Formers, the impromptu rehearsal obviously paid off, because they achieved distinction for their performance. Then, a month, later they gained honours for the same piece in the LAMDA exam where the examiner remarked that they had worked very well together and enjoyed themselves immensely.

Verse speaking activities began as always with the Perth Burns Club Annual Festival. Malcolm Fraser won the Ruth Lumsden Quaich for his performance of "The Pudduck" by J.M. Caie and Ishbel McFarlane won, for the second time, the Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich for "Tae a Mouse" by Burns. In the unaccompanied Scots song section Rachel Fergie, Rebecca Johnstone and Victoria Robertson were runners-up in their respective age group classes.

As winner of the senior verse-speaking prize, Ishbel was again invited to perform at the Perth Burns Club annual dinner in January.

At the Perthshire Competition Festival in March our pupils won nine classes, including three honours. For Bible reading Ishbel McFarlane and Louise Lamb both obtained 90% in their respective classes, and Ishbel 91% for a poem by William Soutar. Other firsts went to Ishbel for English poems and Shakespeare, to Roddy Walker and Ann-Louise Breen for Bible reading, to Rebecca Johnstone for Burns, Aimi Gdula for Shakespeare and Charlotte Carpenter for English poems.

The Edinburgh Competition Festival in May brought more successes. Ishbel won her Scots verse class with honours, and in the Burns took the Edinburgh Burns Club's prize. Along with Charlotte Carpenter she won the group acting for a scene from "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde. Louise Lamb won both the

light verse class and the W.L Dalglish Prize for Bible reading. Form 1 (M to Z) won the choral verse speaking class and narrowly defeated 1J in the group acting of a poem class. Finally, Malcolm Fraser came first in the solo verse speaking for boys aged 12 to 14.

This year, once again we had a LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examiner with us for four days, one in December and three in June. The Headmaster had the happy task of handing out 122 certificates- not all on the one day- for acting, improvisation, spoken English, choral verse speaking, the speaking of verse and prose, reading for performance, and this year for the first time, English as an additional language, and mime.

In the acting classes honours marks went to Charlotte Carpenter, Tom Hine, Peter Hewitt, Jo Greer, Mhairi Gillanders, Nicola Boyd, Catriona Martin, Olivia Gerrie, Melanie Kotseroglou, Victoria Drummond-Hay, and the "soldiers", James Lawson, Hui Chen, Stewart Moulds, Alex Smith, Charles Lam, Rory Philip, Digby Legge and J-J Chalmers. Rebecca Johnstone made it a double with acting and mime, and other honours went to Vincent Grosskreutz for English as an additional language and Selena Gillespie for spoken English. In the speaking of verse and prose Sam Smith gained honours at grade five and Louise Lamb at bronze medal level.

For the first time LAMDA now offers the chance of gaining group awards for candidates achieving specified grades in performance and communication exams. Ishbel McFarlane is our first pupil to achieve this, gaining the intermediate communication award with triple honours in grade five reading for performance, spoken English certificate of merit, and the speaking of verse and prose bronze medal.

Other acting medals went to Chris Wright (silver) and Isla Barnard, William Bowry, Aimi Gdula, Catriona Sutherland and Ben Dalley (bronze).

Special awards for the highest marks in LAMDA exams went to Sam Smith (Riley), Tom Hine (Senior School grades) and Ishbel McFarlane (Senior School medals and certificates). IIMcF



# Senior house drama

The year kicked off with the senior competition in the Autumn term, which followed rapidly on the back of House Music, ensuring that all the senior pupils had a good culture fix prior to the Christmas break. The competition allowed for a free choice of pieces, which resulted in a varied programme for the audience and adjudicator to enjoy.

Freeland treated the audience to an excerpt from *The Merchant of Venice*, ably acted by all. There was a particularly powerful performance from Chris Wright as Malvollio, which won him a well-deserved award as one of the best actors. By way of contrast, Nicol chose a highly contemporary piece, *Gasping* by Ben Elton, which was an elegant satire on the theme of pollution and globalisation. This was a very strong ensemble piece, with excellent performances from all the actors, headed by William Bowry and Euan Aitkenhead. With an impressive piece of theatre, their efforts earned Nicol the coveted Best Production shield for the second consecutive year.

Ruthven were the only house this year to use a screenplay as their source material, with a scene from *Rounders*. In a dark and intense three-hander, Liam Ferry, ably supported by Iain Robb and Ruaridh Emslie, took another of the best actor prizes. Simpson opted for an abridged version of John Godber's eighties black comedy, *Bouncers*. This was a challenging piece that relied on acting skill to develop multi-faceted characters in a non-stop carnivalesque style. Again a strong sense of ensemble playing was in evidence from Fraser Niven, Steve Smith, Andrew Mack and Ken Mackenzie, with Fraser earning the third of the best actor awards.

The girls' houses were notably weaker this year, partly due to last minute cast changes. However, they contributed variety to the competition with pieces taken from *The Steamie* by Thornbank and *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole (Aged 13 and ?)* by Woodlands. Thornbank put on a very commanding interpretation of this piece, with excellent Scottish accents and good individual characterisations, particularly from Georgia Manson, Amelia Lane and Katy Fleming. Unfortunately, Woodlands were rather let down by last minute substitutions which, unlike in sport, rarely contribute to a stronger team. However, it is greatly to their credit that they were able to perform at all and gave an enjoyable interpretation of the trials and traumas of growing up, in the play adapted from Sue Townsend's keenly observed novel.

My congratulations go to all teams for providing a high quality evening of theatre which, at its height, featured some of the strongest performances I can recall in recent years of house drama. I would also like to thank this year's adjudicator, Mrs Lovina Roe, for judging the competition.

# Junior House Drama

This year's competition, held in the Summer term, took a slightly different format. Instead of asking houses to devise a script based on a pre-determined topic, they were charged with the task of incorporating and interpreting the phrase "It's a dead dog!". As a result, there was a great variety in the approach taken, which made for a highly entertaining evening.

With notable performances from Tom Hine, Ross Anders, Andrew O'Donnell and Max Stewart, it at first appeared that the boys had taken all the spoils. However, the prize for best original script went to Woodlands for their innovative and entertaining pastiche, drawing on a children's nursery rhyme, narrated by Ishbel McFarlane and featuring a live (well almost) dog in the form of Mel Kotseroglou.

However, the top accolade stayed with the boys and Freeland, whose masterful piece influenced by the film *Snatch*, was beautifully crafted and expertly acted by a talented ensemble cast. This was led by Tom Hine and Ross Anders and featured a well-observed cameo performance from James Lawson.

Again, my thanks go to all the teams and to Ms Steph Dewar, our Australian assistant teacher, who accepted the poisoned chalice and adjudicated the competition. IWK



# The digital year

Strathallan's year in pictures

Reels night again



Fire, Starter



Yes Louise it's  
a backless kilt



That'll teach you to  
mess with me, sonny



Ru gets the biggest Harley  
Davidson he could afford



I've never met her before in my life



On giant's shoulders



Que! beau!



Ann-Louise leaves them all standing



A policy of sidelining women? Don't be absurd

Put it away, Iain



Blonde bombshell



Honest. This is how they do it in Luton



Four little maids  
from school are we



SCHOOL YEAR



Waving  
his fee



Who shot J.H.



Riley economises on dorm facilities



Hands-on  
approach



And for my  
next trick



Have you ever seen 'The deerhunter', John



Sunshine  
and roses



And don't steal  
my jokes again



This hat,  
like, rocks





We really enjoy clearing up after Thornbank Tutors' meetings



And if you ever mention the diet of worms to me again...



It's alright. He won't notice we're gone



Stretching a point



Low Jo



Lean cuisine



I didn't know Mr. Shields was that famous in Spain



The Ronnie Corbett appreciation society make a sighting on the lawn



# SCHOOL YEAR



Get in the motor, son  
(we are now officially  
in the moneylending  
business)



Hay while the  
sun shines



Rite of passage



Just looking  
at the pictures



Caught out, catching rays



Big Top  
Circus



Always look on  
the bright side



...and if, in future,  
you could make an  
effort to dress for the  
occasion, Robert



Tasty



# Art



- |   |                   |       |                 |                      |
|---|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Alastair Hickman  | UVith | Snake-Like Form | Painted Construction |
| 2 | Giles Sneddon     | LVith | Self Portrait   | Woodcut              |
| 3 | Lindsay Bickerton | UVith | A Woman's World | Large-Scale-Collage  |
| 4 | Russell Garden    | UVith | Homage to Wren  | Woodcut              |
| 5 | Frederick Stewart | UVith | Bird Forms      | Woodcut              |

1 2  
3



4



5





# Art



1



4



2



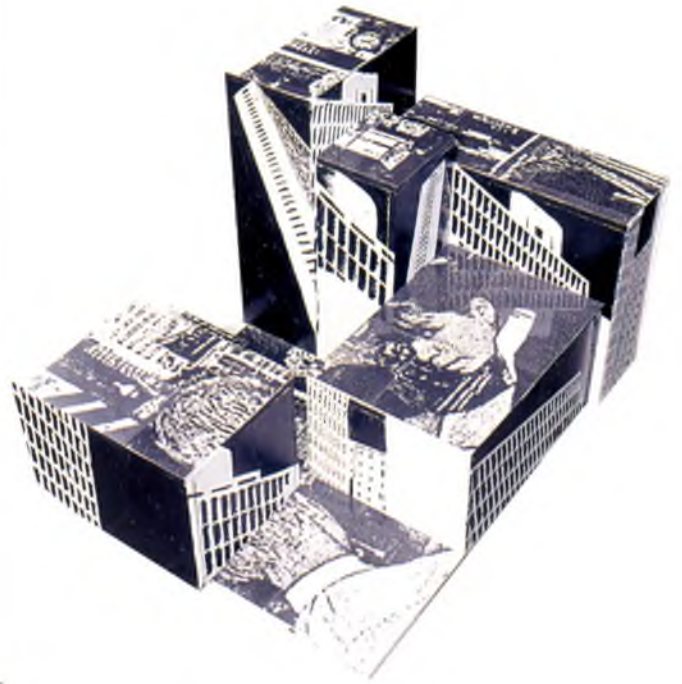
3

5



- |   |                    |       |                      |                      |
|---|--------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Victoria Robertson | LVlth | City Self-Portrait   | Coloured Woodcut     |
| 2 | Holly Harvey       | Vth   | Self Portrait        | Painted Construction |
| 3 | Rowan Marshall     | LVlth | Musical Still Life   | Coloured Woodcut     |
| 4 | Jenny Hay          | Vth   | A Personal Landscape | Paint & Ceramics     |
| 5 | Isabella Chaussy   | LVlth | Tuscany              | Coloured Woodcut     |

- |   |                  |       |                    |                      |
|---|------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Howard Gray      | Vth   | African Masks      | Ceramic              |
| 2 | Alison Daniels   | LVlth | City Self-Portrait | Printed Construct    |
| 3 | Victoria Kennedy | LVlth | Cityscape          | Painted Construction |
| 4 | Lindsay Allan    | Vth   | Natural Forms      | Glazed Ceramic       |



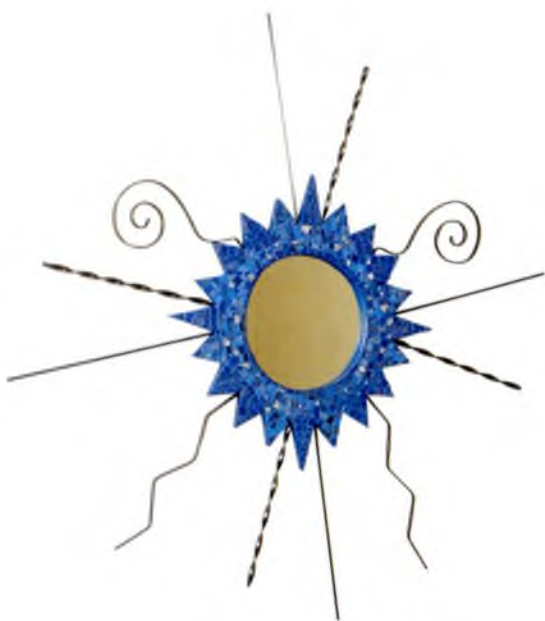


# Design & technology



- |   |                   |               |               |  |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Iain Allardyce    | UVith A-Level | Coffee Table  | Idigbo, Glass - Clear & Frosted          |
| 2 | Laurence Ferguson | UVith A-Level | Lounge Table  | Brushed Aluminium, Ash Sandblasted Glass |
| 3 | Evan Aitkenhead   | UVith A-Level | Lounge Table  | Black Ash, Glass                         |
| 4 | Alastair Hickman  | UVith A-Level | Rocking Chair | Ash, Cherry, Woodcut                     |





- |   |                |              |                     |                                       |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Anneke Laux    | UVith Higher | Mirror/Wall Hanging | MDF, Mosaic, Tile, Mirror, Mild Steel |
| 2 | Lynsey Wallace | UVith Higher | Coffee Table        | Ash, Glass                            |
| 3 | Hamish Allan   | UVith Higher | Kitchen Workstation | Beech                                 |
| 4 | Alan McLelland | Vth GCSE     | Storage Unit        | Cherry, Ash                           |

1  
2



3  
4



# Cricket



## 1st XI

The 2001 season was a mixed affair, with some notable high points, in particular our first win over Glenalmond in 23 years and a 'double' over close neighbours Dollar Academy. Whilst we defeated more schools than in 2000, we fared less well in the club games. The wins over the Old Strathallians and MCC of last season were reversed by both clubs in 2001, both games showing our worrying tendency to come up 30 or 40 runs short of par scores, allied to a general inability to bowl good sides out on decent home tracks. The bowling relied too heavily on Neil McIlwraith and Matthew Ford who took two thirds of the wickets between them; the batting on Ford and Lawrence Court, though others did at times produce decent scores in tight situations. The fielding was good for the most part and, apart from in one match, the catching was excellent, with new wicketkeeper Robbie Stewart improving as the season went on.

The biggest trouncing of the season took place at the hands of Fettes (by 106 runs), though we remained unbeaten against school sides until we suffered two heavy defeats in the end of term Festival by 10 wickets to Dulwich College and Lancaster RGS by 7 wickets. Indeed the performance of the Lancaster fielders and spin bowlers was probably the most disciplined performance by a fielding side we have ever seen. There was much to aspire to here for our players. The losses to both MCC (38 runs) and Clubsport XI (3 wickets) were much closer. Of our victories the largest was by 125 runs in the first Dollar game, though Loretto and Glenalmond were also beaten with varying degrees of comfort. The Dollar game was made notable by the taking of 5 wickets by off-spinner David Stewart in only his second game, captain James Philips leading the way with the bat against Loretto.

The game against Glenalmond always resonates with significance for Strathallan teams, and this year was no different.

A sedate Glenalmond start was rudely brought to a halt by an astonishing bowling spell from Matthew Ford, our resident Aussie. He took 7-13 in a sustained spell of in-swing bowling to which the Glenalmond batsmen had few answers. At 39 for two out we looked to be in good shape to overhaul the Glenalmond total, but an excellent bowling spell from their off-spinner Weld-Forrester (6-22), turned the game to Glenalmond's advantage. A 'gutsy' partnership between wicketkeeper Robbie Stewart (25 no) and Ross Anders (3 no), in only his second game, rescued the result for us. A very tense and emotion-filled atmosphere erupted into joy as Anders stroked the winning run to end a long wait for that triumph over our traditional rivals.

The best individual scores of the season came from Lawrence Court who scored 93 no against a Clubsport XI in a Festival warm-up game and an unbeaten 50 against the XL Club. William Bowry scored 60 against Dollar as did Matthew Ford. With a little more consistency from the batting as a unit this could have been a good season, rather than a fair one, but our inexperience in the limited overs format was also a factor in disappointments of the end of term Festival.

With all but three of the side back next year, and a crop of promising youngsters coming through of whom two, Tom Hine and Ross Anders, made their debuts towards the end of the term, expectations of success will be high and improvement, both individual and collective, will be demanded if we are to remain competitive on our circuit and in next season's Festival.

My thanks, as ever, go to Nick Du Boulay for the continuing high standard of his umpiring and his tireless coaching of our batting, not to mention his sage advice at times when the Master in Charge needed it most. We welcomed back Iain Philip from Australia for the second half of term and thank him for the aid he gave many of our younger batsmen. One hopes we will have the benefit of his coaching next season. To Sodexho go thanks for





the catering throughout the season, but particularly during the Festival period. With the appointment of a new Head Groundsman we can expect the further improvement of our pitches and look forward to batsmen's prospering on safe and run-filled pitches in the future.

### 2nd XI

The main activity of the season was watching Scott MacFarlane bowl almost every team out on his own, with walk-on parts being played by Colin Williamson who was later elevated to the 1st XI at the end of term, and by captain Nick Common whose batting improved in leaps and bounds. Wins were recorded over Loretto, bowled out for 27 (Scott MacFarlane 8-10), and Fettes College by 26 runs. The games against Glenalmond were the most competitive of the season. In the first match we totalled 126-8 declared with Nick Common scoring 57 and Neil Anderson 27. When the overs ran out Glenalmond had scored 125-8, Scott MacFarlane picking up another 5 wickets. In the second match matters were just as close with Glenalmond running out winners in a tight finish. Not surprisingly, Scott was the leading wicket-taker and Nick Common the leading run scorer, both dominating the end of term game against a MCR team on Riley Paddock, despite the best efforts of DRG and PMV.

### 3rd XI

The side this year suffered from a lack of regular fixtures against schools, though a spectacular win was recorded against Glenalmond and very creditable draws attained against Merchiston Castle and Fettes. Star performers here were Alex Nicolson with his own inimitable brand of leg-spin, and all-rounder Mark Buchan who scored runs aplenty and took wickets. In the Glenalmond game, our opposition scored a daunting 164, but Mark Buchan and Fraser Mackie both hit quick-fire 30s, leaving Euan Aitkenhead to deliver the coup de grace with an unbeaten 40. Against Merchiston Buchan had an excellent all-round performance with 40 runs and 2-25. Although a more 'social' side than higher teams, the 3rd XI's indomitable spirit belied no little cricketing skill.



# Junior Cricket & Scores

Junior Cricket

The Senior Colts teams were decimated at a late stage by 1st XI demands on the two major players Tom Hine and Ross Anders, both of whom, at various stages, captained the A side. Chasing a daunting Loretto score they ensured a 10 wicket win with a partnership in excess of 120 after Ross had taken 5 Loretto wickets. Against Fettes the A side again won, this time by 5 wickets, as Hine scored another 50 with David Coaton and Danny Hoffman chipping in with valuable contributions. Whilst the A side lost to Merchiston, the B team won by 2 wickets, Rennie Myles scoring 33 and Ewan Templeman taking 4 wickets. As the term wore on David Coaton continued to score runs and Hian Stark's own brand of seam bowling won him promotion from the B side. Whilst Hine and Anders have already made their 1st XI debuts, there were others here who should aspire to this level in the seasons ahead.

The Junior Colts A side began its season with a crushing victory over Loretto by 6 wickets after bowling their opponents out for 13, though it later came back down to earth with a resounding bump, suffering a 200 run defeat at the hands of a Merchiston team boasting several Scotland players. Notable performers here were Andrew O'Donnell and Malcolm Jack with runs and wickets respectively. The B side put up creditable performances against both Loretto and Merchiston, Tom Reid and Andrew Niven starring with the ball, and Matthew Brebner with the bat. Both sides must realise that with a little more practice the performances may have been improved, particularly against Merchiston, and their resilience alone will not suffice. Winter nets and coaching are available from the senior school staff. There is some talent here, but a lot of hard work is necessary if it is to be realised in the seasons ahead.

RHF



Strathallan 1st XI Averages 2001

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Average	Highest Score
L. V. Court	12	3	322	35.78	93 not out
M. Ford	13	2	278	25.27	63
T. Hine	6	0	105	17.5	30
W. Bowry	12	0	198	16.5	60
N. J. McIlwraith	13	0	213	16.38	45
J. A. Phillips	13	1	179	14.92	48

Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average	Econ	Strike Rate
M. Ford	115.2	37	311	21	14.81	2.69 32.95
N. J. McIlwraith	152.3	40	367	22	16.68	2.41 41.59
I. Robb	71.1	12	217	11	19.7	3.05 38.81
D. Stewart	81	9	400	11	36.4	4.94 44.18

Catches

W. Bowry	7
M. Ford	7
N. J. McIlwraith	7

Wicketkeeping

R. J. Stewart	Caught	8
	Stumped	2

1st XI Results 2001

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Abandoned
14	5	6	1	2

Strathallan	164-8 dec (L. V. Court 37, A. Robertson 28 no, M. Ford 22, N. McIlwraith 20)	
Perth Northern	99 all out (N. McIlwraith 4-14, I. Robb 4-30)	Won
Occasionals	Did not Bat	
Strathallan	185 -4 dec (M. Ford 54 no, N. McIlwraith 45, W. Bowry 29)	Abandoned as Draw
Loretto School	118 all out (M. Ford 4-30, D. Stewart 4-32)	
Strathallan	120-3 (J. A. Phillips 48, M. Ford 26 no)	Won by 7 wickets
Fettes College	236-2 dec (A. Rathie 100 no)	
Strathallan	130 all out (M. Ford 28, L. Court 17, A. Robertson 16)	Lost by 106 runs
Strathallan	175-7 dec (W. Bowry 35, N. J. McIlwraith 25, M. Ford 63)	
Dollar Academy	50 all out (D. Stewart 5-16, M. Ford 2-2, N. McIlwraith 2-10)	Won by 120 runs
XL Club	208-3 dec (D. Bell 90 no)	
Strathallan	156 for 5 (M. Ford 34, L. V. Court 50 no)	Drawn
Old Strathallians	171-7dec (E. Anderson 36 D. Fergusson 27, H. D. Forbes 22 no, I Robb 3-39)	
Strathallan	118 all out (T. Hine 23, N. McIlwraith 23, R. Clarke 18)	Lost by 53 runs
Edinburgh Academy	141-5 (R. Moffat 67 no, N. McIlwraith 4-31)	
Strathallan	Did not Bat	Abandoned as Draw
Strathallan	Cancelled - rain	
Merchiston Castle		
MCC	181 for 1 dec (M. Allingham 111 retired)	
Strathallan	143 all out (W. Bowry 22, L. V. Court 48)	Lost by 38 runs
Glenalmond College	100 all out (N. J. McIlwraith 3-36, M. Ford 7-13)	
Strathallan	101-8 (T. Hine 21, J. A. Philips 18, R. Stewart 25 no)	Won by 2 wickets
Strathallan	193-5 (40 overs) (L. V. Court 93 no, N. McIlwraith 42)	
Clubsport XI	194-7 (39.5 overs) (N. McIlwraith 2-40, M. Ford 2-35)	Lost by 3 wickets
Strathallan	83 all out (J. A. Philips 17 no, N. McIlwraith 14)	
Dulwich College	84-0	Lost by 10 wickets
Strathallan	194-6 dec (W. Bowry 60, J. A. Philips 31, T. Hine 30, A. Robertson 21)	
Dollar Academy	181 all out (A. Davidson 91, N. McIlwraith 2-19, J. Philips 3-35)	Won by 13 runs
Strathallan	94-9 (L. V. Court 32)	
Lancaster RGS	95-3 (I. Robb 2-25, N. McIlwraith 1-21)	Lost by 7 wickets

# Rugby report

1st XV Rugby Report for the Season 2000-2001

Following a pre-season match against our long-standing friends from the Grange School in Santiago, Chile, our first domestic match was in the Scottish Schools' Cup against Balfron High School at Strathendric Rugby Club. Ultimately a one sided match in which an 81-0 victory was secured, the Balfron boys provided a stiffer resistance than the score line would suggest and outstanding performances by Fraser Maxwell and Fraser Mackie helped to overcome some well organised and persistent defensive work.

The traditional fixtures opened away at Loretto, only occasionally a happy hunting ground for the Strathallan teams. The 1st XV got off to a poor start finding themselves 7-0 down and involved in a tightly contested and frequently intense battle. Towards the end of the first half Strathallan managed to put together some consistently good periods of play and tries by Johnathan Stone and Fraser Mackie helped tip the balance in favour of the away team. The match finished with a 29-7 victory, with every point having to be earned in the face of some excellent Loretto tackling.

Five days later the 1st XV found themselves in Glasgow, this time at Kelvinside Academy. Another indifferent start saw the US 5-0 down but some powerful driving play by the pack interspersed with some incisive running from the backs, despite the torrential rain, saw Strathallan level the scores. This pattern of exchanging scores carried on throughout the game, with the 1st XV finding it difficult to establish a rhythm in the face of a stream of penalties against them. A score line of 15-15 with 5 minutes to go saw the team demonstrate a level of resourcefulness and a strength of character which was to serve them well throughout the season. A score in the dying minutes of the game saw Strathallan win

by 22 points to 15, Jonathan McDougall, Ian Allardyce and Allan Hay having particularly strong games.

Queen Victoria School was the venue for the next cup game and as ever the opposition were fit, well organised and difficult to break down. The final score line of 15-7 to Strathallan was a fair reflection of the game, one in which the 1st XV did not manage to raise the level of their performance to that of their own expectations. Ryan Soave and Scott McKinlay played a significant part in this particular victory.

The first Saturday in October saw us make our home debut against a strong Fettes College side. Strathallan got off to a good start with an early try from number eight Fraser Mackie, but a flat period allowed Fettes to gain momentum and they took control of proceedings in the middle part of the game. A disappointing lack of positional discipline by the Strathallan boys saw Fettes score 3 converted tries. A late rally saw Fraser Mackie go over for his second try but Fettes emerged deserving winners by 21 points to 10.

The traditional pre half-term fixture against Glenalmond was the usual tense and close affair. A large home crowd saw the

Glenalmond players take a 13-0 half-time lead. A few carefully chosen words by the coaching staff at half time saw Strathallan playing with much more focus, self-belief and intensity after the break. Some excellent lineout work by the forwards saw James Phillips go over for a try in the corner. Oli Scott stepped up to convert from the touchline. Further excellent work involving many phases of continuous play between forwards and backs saw the Captain go over for a second try and Strathallan take the lead





14-13. Characteristically Glenalmond came back, landing a penalty to lead 16-14 with four minutes to go. An explosive series of mini rucks saw Strathallan in Glenalmond territory and awarded a penalty. Oli Scott duly obliged by converting it for 3 points to see Strathallan emerge 17-16 victors.

Following the mid-term break, the 1st XV took on Glasgow Academy in the third round of the Scottish Schools' Cup. The early exchanges were very evenly matched but the home side emerged with a four tries to one, 24 points to 5 victory, thanks in no small part to outstanding performances by Johnathan Stone and Oli Scott.

Three days later the team were back on Big Acre this time playing Merchiston Castle. The game started with some excellent defensive pressure by Strathallan. The 1st XV managed to maintain a very high level of intensity, with some superbly organised defence and consistent and well co-ordinated attacking moves. Half-time saw Strathallan 12-0 in the lead. A combination of skill and tenacity allowed Merchiston to fight their way back into the game and, as fatigue and a modicum of self-doubt hit the home side, Merchiston emerged 17-12 victors.

A week later and Newfield, the home of Edinburgh Academy, was the venue. Following the intensity and excitement of the Merchiston match, this was a very flat and disappointing performance from the 1st XV. Edinburgh Academy emerged victors 24 points to 0 and there could be no dispute as to who was the better team on the day. The Strathallan boys did manage to mount some late pressure but their failure to score was perhaps as disappointing as the success of the opposition in scoring.

The penultimate match of the season was played against an unbeaten Dollar Academy at Dollar. The Strathallan boys took to the field in pouring rain. Unsurprisingly Dollar dominated the early exchanges but some superbly organised defence and tenacious tackling in particular from Ross Sutherland and Jamie Cameron, saw the Strathallan boys putting some excellent phases of play together. Against the expectations of a vociferous home crowd, Strathallan took the lead through a try by prop Nick Sinclair. Dollar came back and a persistent period of possessional dominance and territorial advantage saw them take a 12-7 lead. The 1st XV constructed an excellent scoring opportunity just prior to half time but unfortunately failed to convert this into points. An early second half penalty saw Strathallan close the gap to 12

points to 10 and, with time running out, there was a palpable sense of nervousness amongst the home team and supporters. The game hinged on one pivotal moment about 15 minutes from the end when a poorly judged kick from Strathallan gave Dollar the opportunity to take a 19 points to 10 lead. With the pressure off the Dollar boys and the prospect of victory no longer within Strathallan's grasp, the home side put together two powerful passages of play and in the final analysis emerged victors 33 points to 10.

The vagaries of the Scottish weather meant that the Fourth Round Scottish Schools' Cup against Merchiston Castle School on Wednesday 6th December was the final outing for the 1st XV. Due to the voluminous early December rainfall, the venue for this home match had to be on the North Inch in Perth, courtesy of the generosity of Perthshire R.F.C. Another keenly contested match against this very strong Merchiston XV saw the visitors in the lead by 12 points to 11 at half time. Strathallan struggled to develop the consistency required in the second period of the game, mainly due to the very well organised Merchiston defence. The visitors crossed Strathallan's line twice in the second half, leaving the final score at 25-11 in Merchiston's favour. It was some small consolation to the Strathallan players that, in the final analysis, Merchiston emerged as winners of the Scottish Schools Cup for the 2000-2001 season.

The 1st XV players are to be congratulated for their attitude and effort throughout the season, one which saw them playing some outstanding rugby and developing their individual and team skills. The level of commitment required to play at 1st XV standard is considerable and the amount of physical and emotional energy expended is difficult to overestimate. Allan Hay's captaincy was a key factor in the positive achievements of the team and he is to be congratulated, along with Jeremy McDougall, Scott McKinlay and Johnathan Stone, on being awarded Full Colours for Rugby. Nick Sinclair, Colin Williamson, Fraser Chisholm, James Philips and Ryan Soave were awarded Half Colours. The coaches would like to thank all the players for their hard work and dedication throughout the season, and their fellow coaches and all the support staff for their considerable input into a most enjoyable term. **DJB, MRAJBT**



### 2nd XV Rugby

With key players having learnt much from the Australia tour in the Summer, the second XV was always in a strong position to enjoy a good season. Players found a sense of responsibility and depth of character that produced good wins in often trying circumstances.

Eventually they only lost twice, against Murchiston, where the shock of nearly winning was too much, and Dollar, on a day on which fish would have stayed inside, and a big kicking fly half negated any forward play.

Otherwise chances were well taken, especially during a hard fought game against Edinburgh Academy and a good win at Glenalmond. Play was based around a forceful pack, who dominated set pieces, and direct running from the backs using the momentum well. Mention must be made of Stuart Oliphant, who captained the side extremely well, and ensured that behaviour on the pitch was impeccable all season.



# Sports Day and Athletics

**T**he boys' inter-house competition on Sports Day was won, as it should be in an event of this calibre, with the last relay, the Captain of athletics coming through on the final leg in true "Boys Own" style and confirming victory to Simpson. The girls match saw Thornbank victorious over Woodlands.

Euan Aitkenhead was the Senior Victor Ludorum, with three very good and tactical performances, and Karen McArthur Senior Victrix. Scott MacDonald and Anna Macdonald won the junior prizes. The tug of war trophies finally went to Nicol and Thornbank.

House Standards were particularly good this year, and it is good to see a pattern of strong competition emerging throughout the year groups. Thornbank should especially be congratulated for winning the third year competition outright. The final result saw the honours go to Freeland, but all

competitors deserve credit for their performance in what is possibly the most democratic of the school competitions.

The now traditional weather of early season did not help either the athletes or the administration: after the drainage of this Summer, next season should not see the extra water jump halfway down the home straight. Nor are our athletes famous for their pre season preparation; it is disappointing that the matches against the Edinburgh boys' schools see us desperately trying to gain match fitness, while we are finally at full speed in the relatively barren second half of term.

The girls competed strongly all term: both juniors and seniors carried all before them, with victories over Kilgraston, Rannoch, Fettes and QVS. Kirsty Hay, Karen MacArthur, Katie Fleming and Sophie Barton performed consistently throughout.

Boys' results were more mixed. The senior boys were always competitive, led by Scott McKinlay and supported by Euan



Aitkenhead, Alex Anton, Colin Williamson and Oliver Scott. Matches were won against Rannoch, QVS, and Fettes. Although the under 17 boys won in the same competitions, they struggled in our other fixtures to put pressure on the opposition. Euan O'Donnell sprinted well, but all this age group will benefit from another year's training in their events.

We enjoyed a very successful Scottish championships, with Scott McKinlay again the outstanding talent, winning gold medals in the sprint and 400 hurdles, as well as a 5th place in the 400m. Oliver Scott continued our growing tradition of success in the 2000m steeplechase with a Bronze medal, beating Alex Anton into 4th place, and Colin Williamson, Melanie Kotseroglou, Gregor Duncan and Kirsty Hay all made their finals.

As ever the variety and number of events catered for during the season demands a plethora of coaches and officials. Those sitting in the sunshine at Edmonton with their technological aids and shiny blazers would struggle, I suspect, with a shot competition in a gale and pouring rain, where the shot disappears into a small marsh, and each round begins with attempting to find and excavate the throw before. Similarly the vicissitudes of winter training in Lanzarote bear no comparison to the icy challenges of summer training in Perthshire, where all too often the term "warm up" is a cruel irony. Thank you very much to all who have helped the athletes this year.

Half colours were awarded to: Oliver Scott, Euan Aitkenhead, Alex Anton, Colin Williamson. **DMH**



# Netball

Writing a report such as this is always a bit of a nightmare. For this reason I normally pass the job on to my captain. Occasionally, she lets me down - thanks, Jo. So instead of her blow by blow account of the season I thought I'd try to write an article which will attempt to put people in the picture about netball at Strathallan.



## A week in the life of...

### Tuesday - Training

1.15pm Reading the Girls' Games notice: Netball - Meet Woodlands Common Room at 2.45pm. Ooh, that sounds good. It's raining - maybe we're doing a Cindy C. video.

2.45pm Ooh, that sounds bad. A fartlek. Out in the rain after all. Rapidly become acquainted with crocodile runs around the Pilgy route. At least we don't have to run up the DT hill. Oh, we're to sprint up the San hill. Seven times. In a pyramid. That sounds much worse. The rugby boys and hockey girls look on in amazement (and with no trace of envy whatsoever) as we turn varying shades (white - Vicky, purple - EAE, green - Clare, blotchy - Lindsey) running as fast as we can. After all that we do a jog to warm down. Help.

### Wednesday - League match.

Pile into a minibus and head for Bell's Sports' Centre. Eleanor sings along to the radio; Jo, Tisi and Mimi put the school to rights; Sara prepares to be yelled at by Lindsey; Sarah eats tuck and EAE and AJM attempt to sort out the game plan in the general cacophony.

For an hour we all run around like crazy getting very sweaty in the tropical heat that is Bell's. We win a few matches and finish round about ninth of the fourteen club sides. If we're lucky (not) we get to umpire, but this does at least have the bonus of a McDonalds trip afterwards. (That's a bonus? Ed) Mimi admits to enjoying umpiring but we're deeply suspicious of this and put it down to the fact that she's never been let loose on a JES v CGNU encounter.

### Thursday - Training.

The warm-up stretch gives Steph the opportunity to quiz Miss Mason on how the wedding plans are going and for a progress report to be given on Tisi's and Kirsty's knees.

The next hour or so sees us through such practices as Peapod, Pepperpot, Figure 8, Frogger, Gladiators and the Mexican Wave. If we're feeling up to it we'll go onto Throw- the- Square- Run- the- Diagonal, Lining, Timing and Offer-Re-offer. Incidentally, it is good to report that after five years Mrs I-F finally thinks she's got that one sussed.

For those who always ask, yes, we do finish with a game. This gives Lindsey and Alanna the chance to knock a few people over (it's a non-contact sport after all) while EAE, AJM and Al-F yell such encouraging comments as "Throw ahead.", "Are you lot playing netball or having a tea party over there?" and "If you carry on playing a tree for much longer someone will name a species after you."

### Saturday - Match Day (Away).

We sing loudly on the bus on the way there and sleep on the way back. In between, the shooters shoot lots of goals, the defence make lots of interceptions and the centre court players link everyone together with a lot of running and passing. The practices pay off and everyone's glad they did the fartlek as it's made them so much fitter. We win most matches. We eat a lot of tea.

### Saturday - Match Day (Home).

As above, but without the bit about the bus.

So, netball at Strathallan is alive and kicking. At the bottom end, Riley, who usually struggle against more experienced opposition, won three matches and Jean Jardine played a match for the Firsts. In the middle, the U14 and U15 teams played well and won a lot of matches while the non-team players had fun, several expressing an interest in senior netball next season. The Seconds suffered their usual disruption as team members were poached elsewhere but, nonetheless, produced some very creditable results. They reached the semi-finals of the Independent trophy only to meet the Firsts who were on a bit of a mission at the time and not keen to be merciful. One day it'll be an all-Strath final... At the top end, Jo Coaton played her last match - her determination and personality have been a feature of Strath netball for the last three years and she will be missed. Under her captaincy we tenaciously hung onto the Independent Schools' Trophy, albeit sharing it with Glenalmond after a 22-22 draw in extra time, and did indeed finish ninth in the Perth Ladies' League. The commitment of the squad, which saw us playing matches right through the Easter holidays and the summer term must be commended. Special mention must go to Eleanor Wanless, the Vice-Captain, who played in every position; Sara Arakji who, aged thirteen, took on the Goal Keeper bib, stepping straight into her sister's shoes; Mimi Bush, who was voted our player of the season by the other League teams, and anyone who umpired.

To AJM (now AJT), Al-F, SF and our convert from fitness, DJC, for their tireless and very capable support; to Alec for cleaning the sports hall; to Carol and her team for all those catering requirements (particularly the last minute ones - oops); and especially the players, my thanks. Here's to another good season for 2001-2002.

**Full Colours:** Jo Coaton  
Eleanor Wanless  
Lindsey Chisholm

**Half Colours:** Mimi Bush  
Kirsty Fitzgerald

**U15 District Players:** Sara Arakji  
Stephanie Erdal  
Claire Leslie

**EAE**

# Boys' hockey

For the First XI, with many senior

members departed from the previous campaign, there were concerns about prospects for the season. These were shown to be unjustified in the most impressive manner.

In January a relatively inexperienced squad recorded indoor victories over Rannoch and Glenalmond as a warm-up for the Glenalmond Indoor Sixes held at Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. The tournament was a tense event which saw us defeated on penalty strokes by Glenalmond in the final after an impressive early round victory over a strong Perthshire team.

The outdoor season went from strength to strength. Undefeated in inter-school matches, the highlights were a 3-0 win at Loretto and a 4-1 victory over Glenalmond. Even more impressive was a 4-2 victory over a good Aberdeen Grammar School side, having been 0-2 down.

All of this, however, was outdone by the performance in the Scottish Schools' Cup. In a competition containing the strongest teams in both the private and public sector, we progressed to the final with a mixture of easy victories and very close ones. The Old Strathallian match, which the school lost by a single goal to a very powerful side, proved to be the ideal warm-up for the Cup Final. Played in Dundee, against a very talented and determined Morgan Academy side, this was a superb match. After snatching two early goals we found ourselves under intense pressure which resulted in a Morgan goal just before half-time. 2-1 proved to be the final score after a nail-biting second half in which both sides squandered chances under the pressure. Unfortunately the presentation ceremony was rather overshadowed as Morgan Academy succumbed to flames in the background.

This memorable season was followed by an enormously enjoyable tour to Northern Ireland. The first game, against a brilliant R.B.A. side, was quite an eye-opener. It was humbling to feel relieved at losing only 1-6. It is worth bearing in mind just how strong some sides are in different parts of the British Isles, and pleasing to note that R.B.A. won the all-Ireland Cup. The next game was a good-natured but bruising encounter with an army side mustered by our incredibly generous Lisburn hosts. The 0-0 scoreline was a fair reflection of the game. It was a fitting end to the season that our final game, against Campbell College,

resulted in a convincing 5-1 victory. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our hospitable opponents and, above all, to the people at Lisburn. This was a wonderful way to end the season.

To pick out individuals at the end of a season is always difficult but it will be hard to replace the unlikely but extraordinary goal-scoring skills of Fraser Maxwell, the eternal happy smile of Allan Hay (who was, incidentally, an excellent captain) and the always more-than-generous view of events so sophisticatedly expressed by 'Zippy' in goal.

The Second XI also had a very good season. Suffering from the usual calls from above, they achieved more than satisfactory results against a number of teams, several of them 1st XIs. Quite a few members of this side are likely to be challenging for places in the First XI next season.

It was very difficult to find opposition for the Third XI. This was a great pity. The quality of the side was by no means agricultural but some of the games they had to play were less than commensurate with their skill.

At the junior level some very good hockey was produced. The under 15s benefited from trips north and the tour to Northern Ireland. A talented and quick side, it became increasingly disciplined and effective. The results balance sheet was excellent as was that of the under 15 Bs. The under 14s were just as impressive and at that level some superb work was done on basic skills and games' sense in the Bs and Cs.

It is witness to the enthusiasm of coaches at all levels that we do not struggle for players once the voluntary element 'kicks in'. They have my thanks for all their efforts. So also do our grounds and catering staff. Their flexibility is essential in a season so subject to the weather. In this a special mention must go to Earnside Coaches. Their patience over last-minute alterations and cancellations is remarkable. This has been a highly enjoyable and successful season. Congratulations to all concerned. **RJWP**



# Girls' hockey

After a long summer break returning for pre-season training wasn't initially an appealing prospect. However once we had all found our feet and got over the usual aches and pains we soon got back into the swing of things.

This season has proved to be very successful, with us even managing to obtain some silverware. We had comfortable wins over Fettes, Kilgraston, Gordonstoun, Loretto and Glenalmond. Our most memorable though were our victories over Fettes in the final of the Independent Trophy, our win over Dundee High at home, something that we haven't succeeded in doing in 8 years! Unfortunately our midlands cup run came to an end when in the last minute Dundee High scored a goal to take the game into penalty strokes which we lost 3-2 in a close and exciting final. However this did not deter us as we came back runners-up in the Heriot's Sevens and winners in the High School of Glasgow Seven's tournament. In a nailbiting final we beat Hutchinson's in penalty flicks.

For a second year running it was great to see all years were represented on the team. Five players again were selected to represent midlands at the inter-district tournament. Hazel Whyte and Laura Kotseroglou were selected for the U18 squad with Jenny Hay, Katie Fleming and Ann-Louise Breden playing for the U16 squad. Special congratulations must be given to Jenny

Hay who in the summer term was selected for the U16 Scotland Squad. With them she traveled to Ireland and Germany.

On behalf of everyone in the squad I'd like to thank all those who helped with the girls' 1st XI team all the coaches and umpires with the other squads. In particular Miss Smith and Mr Giles and also Mrs Dorward for all the wine gums before every tournament

**Anneke Laux**  
Captain



# Ski racing

The 2000-01 ski racing season has been a success overall, partly due to the amount of snow we were lucky enough to have from January onwards.

**T**he racing team was able to meet and train, on plastic at Hillend in late autumn and on snow at Glenshee in the new year well into March.

Strathallan School took part in the Scottish Schools Championship at The Lecht in January, where our girls' team finished 11th and our boys' 16th out of just under 30 teams. We were particularly pleased that Alanna Duncan was placed 8th overall.

In the Minors race (pupils aged 14 and under) at The Lecht, the girls finished 13th and the boys 11th. Magnus O'Reilly finished 12th overall, a good achievement when one considers the quality of young skiers who took part in that event.

Our boys and girls were selected for the British Championship at the Nevis Range, mid-march. The girls (Melissa Piper, Alanna Duncan, Sarah Schumann and Vicky-Drummond-Hay) finished 11th team overall. Melissa's 5th position overall was both spectacular and promising. The boys (Magnus O'Reilly, Harry Workman, Alex Klein and Adam Wallace) finished in 9th position.

The name of the school will have been familiar abroad also, thanks to Melissa Piper, whose results include the following:

- 4th in the Slalom and 4th in the Giant Slalom at the British Association of Racing Clubs Championship in Lenk, Switzerland
- 4th in the Giant Slalom and a Bronze medal in the Slalom event at the British Schoolgirls Championship in Flaine.

As a result of her success, she was selected for the British Children's Ski Team which competed in the Czech Republic. After further training in France and Turkey, Melissa came 4th in the Super Giant Slalom, 5th in the Slalom at the British Land Junior and Children's Championship and won a Silver medal in the Inter Schools Challenge Cup in Austria at which she represented Strathallan.

Alanna Duncan did extremely well too, finishing 3rd at the John Clark BMW race and 1st at the Cristal Cup, Courchevel.

We are lucky to have a number of talented and dedicated skiers who are not put off by the sometimes inclement weather conditions on the slopes. Fingers crossed for another white and almost Alpine winter. **Fabienne Thompson**

# Snowboarding

**J**ames Riach gained the first success for Strathallan in the Scottish under 19 Snowboarding Championships taking 5th place and securing qualification for the British Championship in Mayerhofen where he won Silver in the Parallel Giant Slalom. He was also rewarded with two Bronze medals in the Slopestyle and Big Air at the Highland Fling in Aviemore.

# Tennis

**Boys' Tennis** For the first time in Strathallan's history the 1st VI competed in the

Glanvil Cup. This is a competition involving schools from all over the country. It starts out with small, regional tournaments with the winners and runners-up from each qualifying for a larger event.

**I**n the regional competition we were drawn against the Strath nemesis - Glenalmond. The match was to consist of 4 singles games and two doubles, each comprising 3 sets. With a four man team this meant that each member of the team would play a minimum of four sets, which after a four week break for Easter, was quite a daunting prospect. After the first round (of singles) there was nothing between the two sides with each school taking two of the games. The second round (of doubles) was not quite so even as the first, Glenalmond taking both games quite comfortably.

So the Glanvil Cup was over for Strath before we were even a week into term, but putting it down to experience we were ready to start afresh for the school fixtures. Although we lost both of the doubles games against Glenalmond, the team is in general, more suited to doubles play, so it was hoped that the approaching school fixtures were going to produce some better results. The first two of these certainly helped put a smile back on Mr Watt's face; his second season in charge maybe wasn't going to be a complete washout after all.

With a regular team of Rory Carmichael, Richard Webb, David Coaton, Blair Chalmers and Andrew Mack, captained by Max Reynolds, we soundly trounced both Edinburgh Academy and Rannoch, winning both matches 8 sets to 1.

Next came the annual mixed doubles tournament at Glenalmond. With a somewhat depleted team of Blair Chalmers, David Coaton and Daniel Kemp, teamed with Jo Coaton, Laura Morley and Catriona Peattie we managed to get into the medals. Blair Chalmers and Laura Morley deserve a mention for coming third over all and taking home the bronze.

Back to the school fixtures and, guess who was next up? Yup, it was Glenalmond. Our team was, once again, slightly weakened by Glenalmond's request for two teams - a senior and a junior. Rory Carmichael, David Coaton and Blair Chalmers, three key 1st players, were all recruited to play for the juniors, alongside Alistair Mather, Max Stewart and Malcolm Jack. The senior team was the remaining three plus Jonathon Woodrow, Daniel Kamp and (no this isn't a printing error) Angus Speirs. Unfortunately,

the senior team went down with a terrific thud, 9-0, with the only consolation being the Juniors' 6-3 victory.

The rest of the season went pretty smoothly with another couple of wins against Loretto and Dollar and the only defeat coming from Stewart's Melville at the end of the season, in slightly soggy conditions on the Astro.

The inter-house tournament looked rather one sided on paper, with four out of the 1st coming from Ruthven, but in reality the competition was slightly closer than I would have liked (being a Ruthvenite myself). We saw off Nicol comfortably in the first round and Simpson had little trouble disposing of Freeland. The final was slightly closer with Simpson putting up a good fight, 'though Ruthven managed to hold on for a 6-3 victory.

Finally, special mention must be made of Rory Carmichael and David Coaton, both in 4th form and playing in the 1st and 2nd couple respectively. Blair Chalmers must not be forgotten, completing his 3rd season in the 1st VI despite being plagued with injury, and finally of Richard Webb for playing his 2nd year with the team and Captain Max Reynolds for holding his place for the 4th year in a row; the last two both receiving colours for their continued commitment.

Overall a relatively successful season was enjoyed by all. Thanks Mr Watt! **Max Reynolds**

Glanvil Cup	vs	Glenalmond	<b>lost 2-4</b>
School Fixture	vs	Edinburgh Academy	<b>won 8-1</b>
School Fixture	vs	Rannoch	<b>won 8-1</b>
School Fixture	vs	Glenalmond (snr)	<b>lost 0-9</b>
School Fixture	vs	Glenalmond (jnr)	<b>won 6-3</b>
School Fixture	vs	Loretto	<b>won 6-3</b>
School Fixture	vs	Dollar	<b>won 7-2</b>
School Fixture	vs	Stewarts Melville	<b>lost 1-8</b>
School Fixture	vs	MCR	<b>lost 3-6</b>



# Badminton

This year saw some encouraging participation both at junior and senior level. It was mainly the girls keeping the flag flying for the juniors with Rhianna, Alison, Hanna, Mhairi, Nicola and Louise all making good progress and for the boys Renny and Rory not only came regularly but also showed real promise.

**F**or the seniors Mark Stringer and Adrian Duthie led a keen group, ably supported by Smurf, Ding, Jindra, Dominic, Karen, Sarah, Ellen, Mandi et al. All in all, it's been a lively year. Mr Sneddon, Madame Crane and I took a group to Bells Sports Centre to see the Scotland - England international and find out how the game should really be played. I must thank both Mr Sneddon and Madame Crane for their enthusiastic contribution on games afternoons as well as on activities nights.

The boys' house championship went to Simpson this year. Both Mark and Ding and Scott McKinlay and Hugh Hay were undefeated, which as far as I can remember, is a first for the tournament.

Of the players whose one and only visit to the badminton court was for the house championships, Neil Anderson showed real natural ability whilst Colin Williamson surprised everyone with an impressively agile display. For the girls, Thornbank took the honours with Karen, Alexa, Georgia and Lynsey too strong for Sarah, Ellen, Mandi and Vicky. Mr Fleming seemed delighted in his inaugural year as Housemaster of Thornbank.

By the time this goes to print we will be under way with next year's programme, so let us hope that enthusiasm abounds again. **GCK**

# Swimming

The academic year 2000/2001 has seen many changes in swimming as a discipline. The pool facilities received some much needed attention and although more will be required at least some heat has been introduced to the dressing rooms which will, it is to be hoped, persuade not only the bravest to venture in during the winter months.

This year has also seen the formation of the new Swim Team 2001 for both boys and girls. A great number of pupils from Riley through to Sixth Form have joined these teams and all of them have to be applauded for the tremendous effort and commitment they have shown. Individually and collectively they have worked hard and a number of successes were achieved as a result. In particular, a group of around 30 pupils took part in the Scottish Independent Schools Relays Championships, the highlight of which was the senior boys', led by swimming captain Sandy Falconer, reaching both finals. All swimmers on the day gained valuable experience competing at a different level and a firm foundation has been laid. We will do our utmost to build upon this in the coming terms.

In direct contrast to this, swimming as a games activity did not really gain any momentum. This is an area in which we will try to improve; certainly an increase in the number of those selecting it as a games option would help in every respect.

The House Standards competition, originally delayed by the presence of a UFO (unidentified floating object) in the pool, was just won by Thornbank (a first for a girls' house in living memory). This provided a fitting valedictory gesture by the girls to a delighted Mrs Raeside.

The inter-house competition proved to be even tighter and indeed could not have been closer as Freeland and Ruthven finished tied on points in a dead heat for first place. The offer of a swim between the respective Housemasters Mr Court and Mr Watt was politely declined. My thanks go to Sandy Falconer, who proved himself to be a fine selection for swimming captain, for his work in the pool and in administration, and also to Madame Duncan for her continued poolside assistance and her meticulous scoring of events. **DMD**

# Clay pigeon

The year began with great expectations.

Two thirds of the Strathallan Dream Team who had won the Scottish Championship while in Ill Form and who had gone onto win it for the next five years, and who had formed the nucleus of the side who finished second in the British Championship the previous summer were now in their final year. Could we go all the way this year?

## Could we take on the best of the rest and come out on top?

Well I have to report that we will never know. Foot and Mouth was the main culprit, the Nationals were moved at the last moment and we could not justify the time needed to get down there when the core of our team were in the middle of exams. But our modularised and imbalanced educational system has forced pupils to choose between their education and their pastimes. There is no longer any rest after GCSE. Even once at University, students can no longer join extremist groups and fight for lost causes; they all have to have jobs to survive.

Do not misunderstand, education is important and exam success a necessary pillar for future development; it is why the school exists. But all work and no play does make Jack a dull boy and dull boys (or girls) are rarely as sharp and focused as their comrades who spend hours in the nets or running around the athletics track, or for that matter shooting at clays or hitting golf balls. Having a balance in life is important; without it we are in danger of producing two-dimensional pupils with a lot of knowledge, but possibly a selfish attitude and with little common sense or feel for other things outside themselves.

Enough of the soapbox, already. The year was not all about the Nationals. Riley shot regularly and we now have the next batch of hopefuls coming through. Deserving special mention are Mike Common (cpt), Matthew Smith and Robert McCulloch, who won the Scottish Junior Championship. Our aforementioned A team were pipped by a strong Merchiston side in the same competition.

Week in and week out we had a large group of stalwart shooters many of whom showed marked improvement over the year. Last year's captain Grant Davidson is well on the way to extending his national representative honours in the Olympic Skeet discipline. Unfortunately the OS team never materialised and thus the school retain the shield. Laurence Court won the Grant Davidson Skeet Challenge Cup, with a score of 23/25.

Joe Watson also shot well during the Easter holidays and is likely to follow Grant in gaining representative honours in the future.

Despite our loss of supremacy, I feel happy and privileged to have had such a fruitful seven years and I look forward to the young guns taking up the challenge this coming year. Finally, my thanks again to CNC for his continued support and help with the club. **PMV**

# Horse riding

Strathallan Riding Groups have again

attended the Dunvegan Equestrian Centre in Newburgh. We have enjoyed lessons and hacks on a variety of horses supplied by the stables.

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease obviously curtailed our activities, but when we were able to attend, the afternoon sessions were greatly enjoyed by all. The senior group did a good deal of flat work, learning lots of dressage moves, improved their own riding skills and spent a lot of time on jumping. One lesson was spent moving from one horse to another to find out the various ways of handling different horses. We soon found out that, on some horses, it is not as easy as it looks to get them to do what you want them to do.

Once we were cleared to go out in the countryside again, varieties of exciting hacks were undertaken, which were enjoyed by all concerned.

Towards the end of the year, we were trying out complete jumping courses, with a range of success from brilliant to somewhat shaky. Our last outing of the summer term took us up onto the forestry track on the hills above Newburgh where we had some exhilarating long canters. Vicky Reid and Isla Ross won the awards for making most progress over the year.

The Riley Riding Group was kept busy by their instructor, Lisa, while the horses and ponies were confined to the schooling area and their fields. She insisted that everyone should learn to tack and untack their ponies. This required patience on the part of the various ponies and Amanda and Zoey the instructors. One or two pupils discovered that even if you undid all the buckles on a bridle it still wouldn't come off.

As well as the group of confident riders, we had a group of beginners this year that made excellent progress. Rachael Fergie won the prize for making the most progress as a beginner with Kelly Drane not far behind. Lisa discovered that any pony that Malcolm Fraser rode changed with one kick, from a quiet, calm, sedate pony into a racehorse. Emily Beetschen won the prize for making most progress in the advanced group. Everyone enjoyed the games on the last day. Our thanks go to Lisa, Amanda and Zoey for making Friday afternoons great fun. **JSRH**

# Golf

A long and busy season ended in September in the glorious surroundings of Taymouth Castle golf course, with the team narrowly failing to clinch the PKSGA league title against a very strong Perth Academy side.

The team had progressed to the final for the first time in 13 years, taking some notable scalps along the way. The season had begun most promisingly with a hard fought victory against last year's champions, Morrison's Academy, and although there was the odd reverse along the way, Mr.Kitson and I were delighted with the team's performance. All the boys who represented the school this year played with just the right sort of fighting spirit and never knew when to give up. As a result there were some notable performances.

Captain, Allan Hay, was restricted in his appearances this year owing to his higher examinations and understandably was not able to produce his form of the previous year, when he was the County School's champion. When available, though, he led the side well and was a great encouragement to the younger players. Marcus Read did not fare so well in the team games but played particularly well in the internal stroke play events to win both the Saint Columba's trophy and the Inter-house individual competition. He started the season with two successive 69s around Auchterarder but could not quite maintain his excellent early season form. His defeat in the opening match against Morrison's was his first in 11 matches for the school which is an excellent record for someone just completing his 5th year. Gordon Bujaud was the star of the show in terms of points accumulated for the team (4), which included an 8 and 7 victory against a Loretto boy and an 8 and 6 victory against a boy from Crieff High School. It is pleasing to note that both Marcus and Gordon, who have now been regulars in the team for the past two years, have both got another two years ahead of them for the school team. If they can continue to progress then the school's golf team is in good hands.

Thanks to Mr.Proctor's co-operation Danny Hoffmann was able to turn out in all 7 competitive matches and made a very favourable impression with the selectors, especially with his accurate iron play and composure under pressure. He made a significant contribution to the team's success during the year scoring a total of 3 ? points. In addition there were a number of other players who made appearances for the team when the main players were unavailable. We were very lucky this year at having so much strength in depth.

This was demonstrated in the Old Strathallian's match at Panmure where, for the first time in a number of years the school beat the Old Boys -much to their consternation. The three-man team also finished a close third in the Scottish independent Team Championships at Glenalmond.

One of the highlights of the golfing season was when Marcus and Allan accompanied Mr.Kitson for the challenge match between the Scottish Wayfarers and the R and A on the Old Course at St.Andrews. Playing as the lead match Marcus and

Allan recorded a well-earned victory. Without Mr.Kitson's unflagging commitment and willingness to take teams away it would not be possible to organise so many games. The boys and I are extremely grateful for this. **NS**

PLAYING RECORDS

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bujaud	5	4	0	1	4
Hoffmann	7	3	1	3	3 ?
Strasser	2	2	0	0	2
Read	5	1	1	3	1 ?
Hay	3	1	0	2	1
Maclellan	3	1	0	2	1
Watson	3	1	0	2	1
Bennet	2	1	0	1	1
Bickerton	1	0	0	1	0

Match Results

St.Columba's Trophy	Marcus Read
Inter-House Golf Team Competition	Freeland
Inter-House Golf Individual	MarcusRead

League games

V Morrisons Academy	W 2 ? - 1 ?
V Crieff H.S	W 3-1
V Breadalbane Academy	L 1-3
V Glenalmond	W 4-0(walkover)
V Perth Academy	L ? -3 ? (final)

Independent School matches

V Merchiston	D 3-3
V Fettes	W 4-2
V Loretto	L 1-5



# Sailing

This Sailing session started 3 beginners: Jake Streatfeild-James, Mel Forde and Graeme Gardener, who learnt to sail in very mixed weather, becoming the wayfarer beesh and eventually attaining their RYA Level 2 - the Sailing Section fulfils yet more pupils dreams.

This brings me to the other 8 (including Mr Raitt), who started on the Racing course, bringing out rivalries from all circles, as well as an unexpected ruthlessness when it came to team racing. The winds were not to everyone's liking, and we sailed in variable conditions, said to be good experience.

On other days the wind got up and we had a great time out in the Dart 16 Catamarans and single handers (Toppers and

Topper Topazes). Once again, Charlie and Texas still keep the mantle of "Rulers of the Waves" (self-named) but this time in the Dart 18.

The sailing legend, Quibble, managed to earn the Captain Capsize Cup, after claiming "Capsizing is good." - fair enough comment, if the water wasn't about 2°C.

And finally we would like to say a special thank you to Mr Walker for arranging sailing for us, Mr Raitt for driving the minibus, Mark Stringer (Captain of Sailing), Charlie Sproat (Commodore of Sailing) and all the staff at Port Edgar.

**Richard Blakey (Simpson LVI)**

# International rounders

As we entered the New Year panic set in as it was time for me to organise the mobilisation of approximately 250 people from the Isle of Wight to the Welsh valleys for a rounders sporting extravaganza to be held at Strathallan on Sunday, 24th June.

Equipment had to be purchased, teams had to be selected and coached, accommodation had to be found. Pitches had to be marked, food had to be provided, double decker buses had to be booked. There were programmes to be printed, shirts to be ordered and teachers to be cajoled.

Finally with 7 English teams, 3 Welsh teams and 3 Scottish teams we were ready to play our second annual tournament.

The day started very early with all the last minute arrangements to be made.

The tournament was split into three age groups; U18, U16& U13 and the first game began at 9 a.m. as the English teams were travelling by train and need to catch the last train South at 3.30p.m.

As last year it turned out to be a gloriously sunny day enjoyed by both players and spectators alike. The standard of Rounders was very high with the Scottish teams showing improvements every year that we play at this level.

At the end of the day the results were as follows:

- U18 1st ENG A, 2nd ENG C 3rd ENG B 4th SCOTLAND
- U16 1st ENG B 2nd ENG A 3rd SCOTLAND 4th WALES
- U13 1st ENG A 2nd SCOTLAND 3rd ENG B 4th WALES

In the U13 tournament Scotland scored more rounders than any other team and were very close to winning the tournament. Many thanks to Angie Sparshot-Thomson of Craigclowan for coaching that successful team. Congratulations to the following Strathallan girls who represented Scotland

- U13 Lizi Bush
- U16 Ann-Louise Breaden  
Rhianna Terrell  
Anna MacDonald  
Katie Fleming
- U18- Mimi Bush  
Tisi Bush

Many thanks also to Mandy Nesbitt of Glenalmond for coaching the U18 team and to Abi Mason (now Tod) for helping with all the selections and training and particularly for her umpiring during the tournament.



# Sub-aqua

The Sub-Aqua club reached new depths this session, not least by way of its on-going participation in BSAC's 'National try-dive week'.

The diving season started off earlier than usual with 12 pupils and one intrepid member of staff signing up to try breathing underwater for the first time in their life. It was pleasing to see some of the pupils subsequently take up the sport at school, and I'm sure the others will take the opportunity to re-visit it later.

The majority of the 2nd term was taken up with 10 new 4th form pool trainees: Mark Best, Ewan Carmichael, Rory Carmichael, David Coaton, Danny Hoffman, Coralie Morrison, Oliver Perret, Richard Quibell, Hian Stark, and Michael Woodrow. With larger numbers the new trainees were split into two groups and had pool sessions with Dr. Carr and with me, and lectures with Mr. Goddard on alternate Wednesdays.

The diving calendar was busier than ever in the 3rd term with 2 weekend expeditions and the whole of half term diving around the waters of Oban. There was also the traditional 'Strathallan diving week' after the end of the Summer term. For the first time the club visited St. Abb's marine reserve near Eyemouth which boasts some of the richest and most diverse groups of fish and plant life. After two days we then headed to the opposite coast to re-visit Oban and the Sound of Mull, another first for the club.

Once again this year the use of the school hard-boat "FML Strathallan" permitted access to all the popular dive sites in the Oban area including the infamous SS Breda. Notably, Mark Stringer, Angus Spiers and Max Reynolds (all UVI) completed their qualifying dives to become BSAC Club divers and Steve Smith (LVI) achieved the unique status of being the only pupil in the club to attain the BSAC Sports diver qualification. All were awarded the CCF diving insignia, and Steve Smith was promoted to Petty Officer in the Navy section. There follows his brief account of a dive.

I have dived the wreck of the SS Breda four times. The Breda is a large cargo ship, which sank during World War II in Ardmucknish Bay near Oban. The Breda is always the dive that I look forward to most out of the wide variety of dive sites that we pursue around Oban.

The Breda is reached by descending a shot line to a depth of 20 metres, which brings you to the centre of the wreck where you can fin to the shallower end of the ship or the deeper end. If you look closely enough you may even see a plaque attached to the wreck, a tribute to two divers who lost their way and died inside the vast wreck.

The Breda is home to an awesome artificial reef and is covered in a variety of corals and fish life in abundance. Finning along the deck you come across items such as a 4x4 army jeep and protruding funnels that allow you to peer into the dark interior.

The dive normally follows a profile which includes a drop over the side of the ship to fin to the bow of the wreck, stopping to look in various portholes along the way. On reaching the bow we fin up to the deck and if you ask nicely enough then Mr McCann will partake in a very convincing Leonardo Di Caprio on "Titanic" impression.

The dive ends with a 12-metre ascent up a shot line where the School barge the Strathallan awaits you. It is manned by the skilful and reliable crew of Captain Walker, Seaman Wilson and Mr Caves. So ends another enjoyable if slightly cold dive aboard the SS Breda.

**Steve Smith**  
**Captain of Diving**

As well as the pupils who take part, I would like to thank all the staff who make the diving club such an enjoyable activity to run. The revamped store would not have been possible without Mr. Wilson's expert input and drive, and I'm sure Steve doesn't mind continually tidying and re-organising the kit, just as much as he used to. **JJM**



# Coral Cay

Ex Strathallan pupil Helen Stewart took the unusual step of going to Honduras in Central America for her gap year. Here is her own account of some of her remarkable experiences.

Report on Expedition with Coral Cay Conservation, Aug 2000 - Nov 2000

My adventure began at 4am as I said goodbye to my parents at Prestwick airport. I travelled to Heathrow where I called Strathallan for my A-level results, in the brief period between flights.

After an overnight stay at a YMCA in Houston, and anticipation of more fulfilling days ahead my 48 hours of travel finally finished and I arrived in La Ceiba. La Ceiba is a large port town on the shining north coast of Honduras, restrained by the Pico Bonito National Park to the south. The airport is at the foot of the mountains and allows a spectacular first view of Honduras due to its jungle and coverage of cloud forest.

From the airport I took a rickety 16-seater plane to the bay island of Utila. The state of the plane did not bother me until everyone else on the plane started praying before take off, something I later discovered was a common occurrence in Honduras. I landed at Utila Airport (a sandy strip and a wooden shack), to discover that there was no one from Coral Cay Conservation (C.C.C.) to meet me. I walked a couple of miles up the hill to the C.C.C. house. Its lack of distinguishing features made directions difficult "It's the blue one with the pointy roof."

I eventually arrived to discover that I was not meant to be there. The project in Utila was nearly complete and another one had just started on the neighbouring island, Roatan, which the London office had failed to tell me. Oh dear! I was given my directions on a scrap of paper in the bar.

**"Speak to a guy called Hank about a lift to the airport. Speak to a guy called Frank about a flight. Once you are on Roatan take a taxi to Oak Ridge and then a water taxi to Kalabash Bight".**

So off I went. I arrived a day later than the other trainees and so had some catching up to do, not only with dive training but learning everyone's names too. By the end of the first week I had just about learned everybody's name, qualified as a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver and had got into the routine of daily chores.

Week two was science week where we learned hundreds of fish, corals, algae and invertebrates. We would start with a lecture at 6.30am and then go out on our first dive with a "Spotter" who was an old volunteer. They would point out corals and fish (provided they did not swim away) that we had heard about that morning. After our dive we sat with our heads buried in fish books trying to learn our huge syllabus of fish for that day, before our second lecture, which only added to the list.

By the end of the week, provided we passed the fish, coral and algae test, we were ready to learn how to survey. One survey team was made up of four divers, each of whom recorded different data along the transect. After we had done some practice surveys we set about surveying on the south side of the island. Eventually the project will move to the north side, and the small cays at the east end of the island.

After four weeks on the island we were allowed to leave the site for four days. A group of us took the ferry over to La Ceiba where there were celebration parades for Honduran Independence

Day. We watched the bright processions, which started at 6.00am and continued until nearly 11.00pm. We also enjoyed the luxuries of air-conditioning, soft beds and hot water at our hotel.

The next morning we were picked up at 10am Honduran time and taken up to the rainforest. We spent the rest of the weekend at a lodge in the rainforest on the edge of the Pico Bonito Nature Reserve. Our guide, brandishing a very sharp machete, took us hiking through the forest, and after a couple of hours we reached a 100m waterfall. A breathtaking sight. It was very humid and we were all very hot, so on the way down we went swimming in a pool below a smaller waterfall. To get back we had to wade waist-deep across a 50m wide river that marked the edge of the nature reserve.

The weekend was a much-needed rest for all of us, and gave us a chance to get away from the sand flies and expedition politics. Everyone enjoyed the time spent and the lodge and I will remember it fondly.

When we returned to the camp, more volunteers had arrived, and after they had been trained to dive, science week number two commenced. This time round I was a knowledgeable old volunteer and acted as a spotter for the new arrivals.

On my second long weekend I went back to La Ceiba. This time I went with Cinia, a Honduran lady that I had made friends with in Kalabash. We stayed with her friends, who ran a tourist travel company. It was fascinating to see inside a Honduran house and the food we ate was incredible. I also learned a lot about Honduran history, politics and culture from them.

When we returned from La Ceiba I only had three weeks left on site, and it began to sink in that I was actually leaving soon. By the third of November I felt ready to leave. The sadness I felt when leaving was masked by my excitement for my ventures beyond Roatan. I spent the next week seeing some of the not to be missed sites of Honduras. The Mayan ruins in the mountains, and deserted beaches that literally go on for miles.

Having left Roatan I prepared myself for another kind of Island life all together. I had already secured a job at the international water sports company, Red Said Sports, which has a base in the Cayman Islands B.W.I. This meant that after my time at C.C.C. I was able to continue with my dive training and gain the PADI dive master qualification, which means that I can help instructors introduce other people to this fantastic sport. While working I also saved enough money to be able to visit Cuba, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico before returning home in August to start University in September.

C.C.C. was a once in a lifetime experience. I learnt many things, not only about diving and fish, but also about living with twenty other people in such extraordinary circumstances. Having no hot water and being a twenty-minute boat ride from the nearest store is a situation I have certainly never been in before. I definitely benefited from the experience, and hope that when the data is passed on to the Honduran government it will help them to conserve their incredible habitats that I was lucky enough to experience first hand.

# Abigail's party

When Chris Wright approached me at the start of the winter term with an obvious sense of disdain at the lack of a senior play, versions of King Lear, Hamlet and Look Back In Anger, started flitting through my imagination. Never, however did I envisage that this proposed theatrical masterpiece would actually be a virtually plotless production, based upon a petit-bourgeois dinner party, comprising the blundering antics of the nouveau riche. The script seemed insanely tedious, lacked any sense of flowing lyrical metaphor and above all took boredom to new levels. But Chris Wright, against my protesting and wailing ("surely Hamlet would be simpler?"), went with it and thus the senior drama version of Abigail's party was born.

With the decision made, Chris admirably took the position of Director, Producer, Stage Manager and general co-ordinator of the whole production (this is on top of achieving 4As for his Cambridge application). All he needed now was a cast. Firstly, if the production were to be a success, the lead role, Beverley, needed to be the feisty, promiscuous, loud-mouthed individual that Alison Steadman coined so well in the television production of 1978. It seemed a hard task, but then again when you look at Beverley's character reference, there was always only one name that sprang to mind... Georgina Philip. Following on with this quite blatant typecasting, William Bowry was cast as "Tony", who took tediousness to a higher plane of unconsciousness. Victoria Robertson was the divorced mother of Abigail, while Phillip Scales was the social-climbing, workaholic businessman married to Beverley. Aimi Gdula played the unfortunate yet slightly bumptious creature that had mysteriously fallen in love with Tony. It was a bizarre concoction of characters, but then again this production never did conform to the general practices of theatre.

So with an enthusiastic cast and Chris already pottering around in the background Abigail's Party took to the road, or more realistically the Strathallan theatre. Unfortunately, rehearsals, particularly with the lack of an authoritative member of staff, were not always quite as constructive as the director would have liked, and certainly some of the later ones descended into outright anarchy. Georgina would conduct her love-life through text messages, Vicky would quite happily munch on her

**"surely Hamlet  
would be simpler?"**

chocolate and flick through 'Hello' (oblivious to the irate calls of the director), while Scales would randomly loiter about the stage, complaining. (And what about Billy Bowry? Ed) As you can probably gather, the actors did not always give their undivided attention to the text, but then again that is the beauty of an all-pupils' production. Without the authoritarian crack of the whip from some bad-tempered English teacher, Abigail's Party was a play effectively left to our own enjoyment and devices.

Unfortunately the drawback of this leniency is that the production may not always develop as smoothly as the director wishes and as the performance dates came rapidly closer our lack of learning lines took its toll. Eventually forced into a decision about whether to put the production on at all, Chris took the decisive action of cutting the more negative scenes. As the dress rehearsal loomed ever closer (along with Chris's loss of sanity), the words "Love to. Love to, baby", rang out across Strathallan theatre.

However, in our obvious exuberance during performance, the cast did not keep regimentally to the script, and although I'm sure Mike Leigh would have been proud of our spontaneity, it was not entirely what he had intended. Moments of improvisation such as "Oh Shit, I've locked Tiddles in the fridge and she'll probably piss all over my lasagne" may have taken the play to new surreal level, but not in terms of a theatrical masterpiece. Luckily the style of the overall piece (i.e. improvisation) was a blessing in disguise as we eventually clawed our way to the curtain.

It was the wake-up call we needed and the following performance, although never quite oozing professionalism, bore more of a resemblance to the actual play. **William Bowry**



# Punishment

The main form of punishment was lines, handed out in chunks of a hundred and beginning, inevitably: "I must not..", followed by "...be late for class / ...stare vacantly out of the window during the History lesson / ...jump up and down on my bed till the springs break". But before being handed in they had to be signed by your housemaster - and if at the end of the ...the week? ...month? ...you got more than 500, you qualified for the supplementary whacking. You were required, therefore, to enter them in The Punishment Book, stating why you had been given them. \* One boy, a known wag, (his name, alas, lost to me) had been tearing along a corridor and crashed into the Physics master, sending him reeling. In The Book, the boy wrote: "For proceeding at such velocity that on contacting the Physics Master I knocked him off his state of equilibrium." Next day, beside this, in a small tight hand we knew to be our housemaster's, were the ominous words in red ink: "See me."

The Cane was reserved for more serious offences (smoking, swearing, fighting), and administered (I think) by the housemaster, while those reflecting on the school honour - cheating in an exam, say - were dealt with by the Head. The really serious stuff - theft, say - meant expulsion.

There was also The Slipper. This was the preserve of the prefects, to punish such infractions as reading after lights out, etc. So, on Friday (I think) evening we-who-were-about-to-be-tanned lined up outside the Prefects' Room - where there would be an outbreak of good manners: "You first", "No really, after you." On one occasion, when I was due to go next, the door was open a crack, and through it could be seen a certain boy not famous for grace under pressure writhing on the floor, whimpering at the prefects to spare him. Next moment he was hauled up, punishment was heard being administered and he emerged, "blubbing", oblivious to the contempt he inspired in

the rest of us. When I went in, the prefects (about 3 of them), were looking faintly ashen, clearly unused to such exhibitions and, by the wary way they eyed me, fearful of more of the same. "Bend over, Gray," came the order. I did so, and stoically endured by six whacks. When I stood up again, relief was writ large on their faces. "Well done Gray", murmured one of them - the others echoing the sentiment.

For a moment I thought they were going to shake my hand.

\*Some boys, to avert this, would ask me - known to be artistic - to replicate (read "forge") the housemaster's signature. (I hope I charged them).



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# Strathallan resurgent 1920-30

It is tempting for present-day generations of Strathallians to think that the immense investments of the last twenty years, especially six new boarding houses and a sumptuous extension for Riley House, together with a new state of the art medical centre, not to mention a palatial art centre, comprise the biggest period of expansion in the School's history.

**T** rue, numbers in this period almost doubled under the stewardship of David Pighills (1975-1993), necessitating the programme which placed Strathallan in the forefront of independent education. But the first 20 years of Strathallan's existence in Forgandenny saw developments which were just as impressive and which were the envy of many other public schools of the time.

Let us remember that when he came to Forgandenny in 1920, Harry Riley had few capital assets and had had to borrow a very substantial amount to buy Freeland mansion and its immediate policies, comprising sixty acres of gardens and open fields in addition to the mostly wooded areas around the main house. He came to Forgandenny with 120 boys and 6 masters, a risky financial venture in the depressed aftermath of the great War, but quickly set about turning the estate and its building into a school. The mansion house soon became dormitories for the boys and rooms for Headmaster and masters, the main classrooms were fashioned out of the former estate stables in what is now Riley courtyard, whilst the sciences were taught in the old greenhouses adjacent to the vegetable garden in the space now occupied by the Chemistry and Biology departments.

It is difficult to imagine now the sort of sacrifices that the Founder had to make in order to realise his dream of making Strathallan one of the pre-eminent schools in Scotland but David Bogie, later to be a major Old Strathallan Figure in the future success of the School, had this to say, "Harry Riley continued to live simply and without any material luxuries. He ploughed back every penny of profit into the school. It would be true to say that each summer vacation some capital asset would be created and ready for use in September".

Developments continued apace in the 1920s with the appointment of R. N. Bain as estate foreman in 1923. Indeed, Mr. Bain was to be associated with every new building and project until his retirement in 1956. One of his first responsibilities was to complete the construction of the new gymnasium, quickly followed by making the rest of the classrooms respectable and beginning the conversion of the old coachhouse into the sanatorium (now the older part of Riley House). In 1924 the Lawn and Paddock were levelled and cricket squares laid for both practice and match play. During the process of levelling the Paddock a grave was discovered, probably of medieval origin, though it was believed in 1924 to have been that of a Roman soldier. Harry Riley's reaction was to say, "Let the poor fellow lie", so the stones were replaced and the grounds slightly raised.

When the school had transferred to Forgandenny in 1920 there were no sporting facilities other than for tennis, croquet and archery, so a lot had to be done between the purchase and the opening of the School. The main lawn to the south of the House was made into a cricket ground, although it was smaller than it is today - the area now occupied by the music practice rooms was once an ornate rose garden. The first XV pitch in these days was situated on what we now know as Mudflats pitch 2, flanked by a stand on the northern side. The gymnasium was opened at the end of 1923 and those old Strathallians who can still remember the school races and trials in the Earn may also recall the opening of the swimming pool in 1928, one of the first in a Scottish school.

One of the greatest problems at bridge of Allan had been provision of sleeping accommodation. At Forgandenny this was not such a problem in the early years, though by 1927 with school



**Strathallan School - Main Building ca. 1920**

Ground and Mansionhouse Policies of just over 60 acres were bought in 1920 for £10,000 from Edward Martin Stewart. Harry Riley moved here from Bridge of Allan in 1920 with 6 masters and 120 boys.

numbers on the increase, it was decided to build a new boarding house annexe, attached to the main school building. The purpose was to be able to split the school into four boys' houses and, in addition, provide a central dining area for the whole community. Thus was Simpson House, named for Riley's mother's family, conceived and completed by 1929. At the same time a reorganisation of the Chapel took place to fit everyone in and the first formal school library was proof of growing excellence in Strathallan's examination results.

One might expect that, after a period of such expansion and improvement, a few years of retrenchment and planning might have taken place, but Harry Riley was not one to rest on his laurels and both staff and pupils were to be kept in anticipation

for what each new September might bring with respect to building projects. At this point it might be well to note also that each new development seems to have financed out of school surplus income and that borrowing was kept a minimum.

With the end of the 1920s came the Great Depression caused by the collapse of the American stock market, a period when many schools suffered decline and eventual closure. That Strathallan survived and continued to prosper says much about the financial acumen of Harry Riley and his advisers, John Maitland Cowan and David Bogie, together with the Strathallian Club which, in the next decade, was to prove essential to the future well-being of the School.



## The Gymnasium ca. 1924

The Gymnasium was started by R. N. Bain, the clerks of works appointed in February 1923, and completed in December of the same year. Some 80 feet by 30 feet, the gymnasium was the largest hall in the school and was used as the examination hall during the week of the University Preliminary Examinations. It is still in use today.



## Classrooms

The original classrooms were those now in the Riley quadrangle.

# Strathallan resurgent 1920-30



**The Lawn Cricket Ground  
ca. 1930**

Made ready for play in 1921, but a cricket square was first laid in 1924 along with the rose garden where the present music practice blocks now stands. In the late 1920s the southern boundary was extended to where it is today. The pavilion was donated by Mr Melville of the Inchinnan India Rubber Company in 1930 and renovated with an extension in 1996.



**The Sanatorium**

In 1924 a start was made on converting some of the old stables into a sanatorium [now the old part of Riley House]. The first stage was completed in 1925, at the same time as the Paddock being levelled and converted into the 2nd XI cricket ground. The building had six rooms, three being large wards. The building was self-contained with a nurse's room, kitchen maid's room, bathroom and office. The sanatorium had its own hot water supply and was connected to the main building by telephone.



**Simpson House  
ca. 1929**

The fourth of the boys' boarding houses to be founded at Forgandenny with a purpose-built annexe, begun in 1927 and finished in 1929. The annexe was named after Harry Riley's mother Rose Mary Simpson and also housed a new dinning hall on the ground floor. Simpson House's first House Captain was Stuart Ferguson.





**The Library,  
ca. 1930**

This had a chequered existence with no dedicated room or stock until 1930 when it was last officially established in what is now the Old Library, the original library room of the House as it had been under the Collingwood Lindsay Woods.



**The Chapel,  
ca. 1928**

Chapel was central part of every body's life at Strathallan. It was situated in the old chapel of the house and was subject to many changes of plan. It had accommodation for about 250 people, services being held every Sunday - the preacher none other than Harry Riley.



**The Swimming Pool,  
ca. 1928**

This was begun in 1927, finished in 1928, and officially opened on 26th October of that year. The opening ceremony consisted of Harry Riley's cutting the ribbons of House colours and a relay race between masters and pupils, the pupils winning by two lengths. Pupils initially had access to the baths on two nights of the week [one of them Saturday]. The inter-house competition was thenceforth moved from the chilly Earn to the rather warmer baths.



**Laboratories**

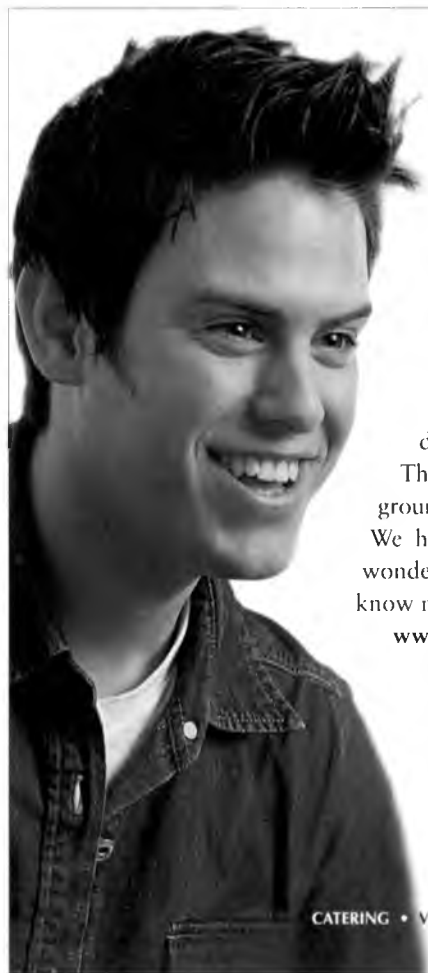
In the first days at Forgandenny the laboratories were no more than the large greenhouses in the garden near to the Gymnasium. In the spring of 1928 foundations for new Chemistry and Physics Laboratories were dug on the site of the old greenhouses. No longer would the pupils be able to claim that the Chemistry lab, was an "oven" in the summer nor the Physics lab an "ice-house" in winter.

# CCF Army Section

The year got off to a good start, with the able assistance of the two sergeants Aitkenhead and Chisholm. The recruits were treated to a baptism of fire - or rather water - as on their first night exercise Barrybuddon was totally rain-sodden.

However, it proved to be a useful preparation for Field Day and Inspection, also at Barrybuddon. The Brigadier seemed to be favourably impressed, and it was gratifying to see so many cadets speaking to him cheerfully and knowledgeably about their training. The senior NCOs entered into their Cadre Course in the Spring term with energy and enthusiasm, and all completed the short but intensive course successfully. We were joined in January by Lt Raitt, who more than makes up in enthusiasm for any lack in military experience, and will be a tremendous asset to the Army Section. The Summer term saw a marked lack of seniors, as A levels and Highers took their toll, as well as the ravages of Foot and Mouth disease preventing any outside

training. Our planned Night Exercise turned into a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia and a trip to Edinburgh Castle (with tea in the Officer's Mess) instead. However it was pleasing to take so many cadets to Annual Camp at Cultybraggan. We did not know what to expect this year, as it was a "closed" camp - again due to Foot and Mouth restrictions, but it turned out to be one of the best camps I have ever attended. All cadets, including some Marines, worked hard, and did well on the final day in the competitions. It was particularly pleasing to award Corporal McLaren with her third stripe at Camp, never has a new Sergeant blushed quite so much. I wish Strathallan Army Cadets all the very best for the future. **KSLR**



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# Marines

The RM Detachment has been through a year or more of uncertainty.

However with the present staffing situation of two officers it seems unlikely that these uncertainties will recur, and this can only be good news. I would like to record the thanks of the Detachment to Mr Martin Wightman for holding the fort last year, and particularly to Mr Klaus Glimm who was the founding father of the RM Cadets at Strathallan and their inspiration for close on twenty years.

The Detachment has had an active and eventful year, of which the following are only the edited highlights:

A team composed almost entirely of RM cadets formed the School's entry to the Highland Cadet Tactical Competition in late September at Garelochhead. Lacking in training and experience - most were Fifth Formers - they did their best, enjoyed themselves but did not record a high score.

The first large RM event in the calendar was the Pringle Trophy competition. This takes place in Lymestone, at the Commando Training Centre, and simply getting there involves a very lengthy coach ride. Our team trained seriously under the leadership of Lawrence Court, and we were lucky to have been offered assistance by Alec Burrell, formerly Head Boy (1992-3) and now a Captain RM, who put many of the facilities of RM Condor at our disposal along with a lot of his time. To a novice observer (myself) the Pringle competition was not as demanding as I had expected - the first task the team undertook was an initiative test involving the transport of a number of large weights over a small puddle, and it was the only time I have seen the D.S tell the participants exactly how to achieve the task before they started. On the whole I was impressed with the level of commitment and competence of our cadets, and the subsequent result of 17th out of 18 was a shock to all. We shall try to do better next year.

Field Day saw us back at RM Condor, again thanks to Captain Burrell. The whole Detachment, even including the reluctant Sergeants Sproat and Mackie, enjoyed their bivvy in torrential rain and high winds, and even more so the next day's package of abseiling, SAT range, live firing and probably the most comprehensive guide to survival haute cuisine that any of us will see, courtesy of Corporal Batt RM.

And so the year returned to the usual round of Wednesday afternoon training: there were some innovations such as the dreaded Training Plan (which allowed those who wished to know in advance what was going to happen each training day being able to read about it in advance, and those who did not to ask "What are we doing today, Sir?"), competence tests for Recruits, and of course, Mr Walmsley, a.k.a Lt Walmsley RM (CCF). I must thank Mr Walmsley for many things, but above all for actually volunteering to join the RM Detachment in the first instance. His input over the year has been of immense value, and has inspired many cadets.

As the weather improved with the onset of Spring, we had planned to undertake an overnight exercise at Barry Buddon - however, the Foot and Mouth epidemic forced me to change this plan, and instead was born Exercise Cold Steel. The name was going to be less warlike (Exercise Mild Soft Tissue Injury), but the general request was to have "a Really Good Name for the exercise, please Sir", and so of course, we did. The exercise, described by Philip Pillar as the best he had ever been on, had to be conducted in the School grounds, but Phil wasn't far off the mark for once. It didn't start in quite the best way, as Gareth led the entire Troop off to the first R.V point and then failed to stop; but we picked up as things went on.

The Summer term often fizzles out as far as training is concerned, with the onset of exams - this year we anticipated that, and Mr Walmsley's genial idea of an RM Detachment Mess Dinner got things off to an excellent start. Guest of Honour was WO1 Jim Martin, well known to at least five years' worth of Strathallan RM cadets and, sadly, likely to be retiring at last. We were provided with excellent food, the conversation sparked, the cadets clearly enjoyed the event, and everyone now has a real incentive to be promoted from Marine - to qualify for port after the meal. The Dinner is to become an annual event, which means that Mr Walmsley will be able to get more use from the splendid Mess uniform he bought for the occasion.

I suppose that the Dinner doesn't really count as training - though that is not entirely true - and the term turned increasingly to adventurous training and outdoor activities in the last six weeks - the impressive abseil down Lednock dam, climbing at Bennybeg and a weekend for the Fourth Form on Kerrera, followed by the ascent of Ben Cruachan. There was to have been a repeat for the Seniors the following week, but the weather intervened. The Marines made a determined effort in supporting the 24 Hour Charity Run - ably organised by Giles Seddon, they ran in relays through the night and as a squad at the end of the run.

We ended the year by sending four cadets (not to mention two officers) on the annual RM Cadets' camp at Garelochhead, this out of a total of 12 cadets and four Officers. Hugh Mackay distinguished himself by winning the Commando Spirit prize at the end of the course, whilst Fraser Niven was the runner up for Best Cadet.

Thanks are due to many cadets, but most notably to Lawrence Court, our outgoing Colour Sergeant, to Giles Seddon who takes over from him, and to Hugh Mackay (who keeps Giles in order).

The RM Detachment will start the new academic year with fifty-three on the roll, and with the range and depth of talent we have, I am sure that we can look forward to great things.

**ACWS-J**



# Harry Potter rules



On a bright Saturday morning in June, 13 pupils, the Librarian and Daphne Forbes (of the Admin. staff, on her first school trip) revved up their broomsticks (top of the range Nimbus 2000s) and flew off to Dundee ...

Well no, as we are all mere muggles we had to

travel by more conventional means, but the atmosphere was magical as we headed to the Caird Hall, Dundee to attend a special charity event starring J K Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books. The event was organized by "Maggie's Place", a cancer support charity, which is fundraising to build a centre at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

On arrival at the Caird Hall, we joined a long, long queue of junior witches and wizards (some dressed as their favourite character from the books), and this queue became longer, and longer, snaking around the city square. The event was a sell-out, with 1300 Potter fans attending. (The event raised £8000).

The entertainment started with a magician (several Riley pupils paid close attention to his technique). Then Joanne

Rowling came on stage to tumultuous applause. She read from her latest book "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and kept the huge audience spellbound. Next, she answered questions from the audience. One young fan wanted to know if Hogwarts (the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry) was based on a real school. She took this opportunity to quash rumours that Hogwarts is based on "a certain boarding school in Edinburgh".

Finally came the book signing. Ms Rowling promised she would stay until every child had its book signed. We queued for an hour! - and we were all impressed that Joanne Rowling smiled at every child as its turn came.

We emerged into the City Square, clutching our signed copies of "Harry Potter", all agreeing that we would treasure these books forever. Truly, a magical day for Strathallan Muggles!

## Ernst and Young Lecture

We were delighted to welcome Chris van der Kuyl, Chief Executive Officer of VIS entertainment plc to Strathallan on Friday 13 October 2000 to deliver the annual Ernst & Young Lecture. In addition to his responsibilities at VIS, Chris is Chairman of Young Enterprise Scotland and his desire to work with the young was evident throughout his speech which was truly inspirational. Taking entrepreneurship as his theme, Chris took the audience through his own experience from his earliest days making money out of cigarettes which he had taken from his mother's purse to help her stop smoking, through his enjoyment of computer games and programming at home, via international basketball honours and ambitions to join the US college circuit, a semi professional period as a member of a pop group, which gained a recording contract lasting precisely one week, to his position as Scottish Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Chris (he does not accept being called 'Mr van der Kuyl') stressed throughout his enjoyment of the different activities which he had undertaken and encouraged pupils to adopt a 'can do' attitude. His suggestion was that if one wants something sufficiently and is determined to go out and get it then it is possible to succeed.

Since he has moved from starting the firm on his own with £15,000 to running an operation with five offices, 120 employees and a potential valuation of between £80m - £120m, he seems eminently qualified to make this assertion.

In an extremely entertaining question and answer session which set new records for such a session after a formal speech, it became clear that many of the pupils had considerably more knowledge of the products of Mr van der Kuyl's company than the staff, Governors and guests in the audience. The enthusiasm expressed as such games were discussed was itself a ringing testament to the success of the firm. Most important, however, was the central message which was one that everyone present could take from the talk: the willingness to celebrate one's success, to aim high, to believe that what you want to do is possible, is something which was worthy of consideration by all and we were indebted to Mr van der Kuyl for taking time out of his incredibly busy schedule to be with us at Strathallan.

BKT.



# Duke of Edinburgh's award

During the past year, 32 pupils gained the Bronze Award, 7 pupils gained the Silver Award and 3 pupils were awarded Gold. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented Laura Morley, Jennie Hayward and Catriona McCleery with their Gold Award at Holyrood House in July. The success of the Award scheme during the past year has only been possible due to the huge support given by staff and this is very much appreciated by Award candidates. Mr. Kitson's Community Service team have once more made a valued contribution to the Service Section and Mr. Bolton, Mr Burgess, Miss England, Mr & Mrs Higginbottom and Miss Ni Rian have devoted a great deal of their spare time to supervising expeditions during the past year. Many thanks are due to all these staff.

As always, the most time consuming part of the Award for pupils has been the Expedition Section. Mountaineering literature shows that the most memorable expeditions are usually those which become epic struggles for survival. D of E staff prefer school expeditions to be memorable in less dramatic ways. The following account, by Gregor Duncan, is of an expedition without any epic qualities, but which seems just as memorable in its own quiet way as the stuff of legend. **DRS**

Five of us set off from Strathallan on the morning of 19th May and headed for the start of our expedition route at Nethybridge. I was responsible for our group's stove and tent poles. We reached Nethybridge at 3 o'clock and after saying farewell to Mr. Bolton, our driver, began the first stage of our route, which took us through Abernethy Forest. Our target for the day was to walk to a place called Bynack Stables, at the foot of the Cairngorm Mountains, and set up camp there for the night. My special interest on the walk was the flora and fauna that we might come across on our travels.

The first part of the route was on a good path through dense pine forest, where it was difficult to see beyond the first few yards into the thickets. One of the first animals that I saw in the forest was a red squirrel, which was sitting on a low branch in a pine tree eating a pinecone. It did not seem at all concerned by our presence when we walked past. As we progressed, the forest became less dense and eventually we emerged into more open country with pastureland for sheep. The countryside became more rough and rocky and we saw a large herd of about fifty red deer on the skyline of the mountains in front of us.

We reached Bynack stables at about 7.30 and we immediately set up camp - two tents pitched near a stream from which we drew fresh water to make some tea. For our evening meal, I had a mug of soup followed by a pasta dish, which I really enjoyed. For dessert I had a Mars bar and tea. We next studied our maps to make certain of the route we would follow the next day. When we felt confident about the route, we spent the rest of the evening before bedtime chatting and relaxing after our long day. Once we were in our sleeping bags, we spent some time trying to frighten each other with ghost stories before we eventually fell asleep.

On Sunday 20th May I awoke at about 7a.m., peered out of the tent to discover that it was a wonderfully clear morning with not a cloud in the sky. I lit the stove and put on some bacon for breakfast. I washed in a stream - bitterly cold but beautifully refreshing - and that woke me to a state of readiness for the day. As I was first on my feet that morning, the others woke to the delicious smell of frying bacon. After breakfast we struck camp, examined our route on the map and set off at 9a.m. After about an hour we passed by the emerald green and aptly named Green Loch. Several hours later we had passed through part of Glenmore Forest to the sandy shore of Loch Morlich, where we stopped for lunch. We saw some mute swans sharing the loch with windsurfers. I had three peanut butter rolls, Ribena and a Mars bar for lunch. We checked our maps and set off again on our route at about 1 p.m. and headed for our next checkpoint with our expedition supervisor. As we headed through Glenmore Forest we caught sight of two rare black grouse. They were feeding on the ground some yards away and took no notice as we passed. We went through the checkpoint in a little while after that and at about 3p.m. we reached the end of our journey at Loch an Eilan where Mr. Bolton was waiting for us with the minibus.

In conclusion, this was an enjoyable expedition. We were extremely fortunate with the weather, which remained dry throughout. We found the route reasonably straightforward and we made no mistakes in following our prepared route cards and maps. Although we did not see much flora of note, we did see a red squirrel, a herd of red deer and black grouse.

**Gregor Duncan - Form IV ( Bronze Award )**

# Prague and Vienna



## Sixth Form Visit to Prague / Vienna

Tributes customarily come at the end of review articles. It would be unfair, however, not to start with the enormous, unstintingly generous contribution made by the whole of the Zitek family to the success of another cultural trip to central Europe and far-away countries of which we now know a great deal more than when we started out early on a bleak October half term. Jindra was the main stay of our efforts to arrange travel for the varying members of what seemed a constantly fluctuating party, he and his delightful friends in Prague, Petra and Mischa, were enchanting company as well as being of enormous value whenever we needed help in the Czech and German languages, and there seemed no limit, as should be clear from this account of our travels, to the kindness of his parents. This was especially appreciated, as we were a large party of thirty, including Mesdames Duncan, Pillar and Hutcheon, chaperoned by Messrs Proctor and Tod.

Travelling arrangements from Edinburgh to Prague via Stanstead all went according to plan, the luggage was dispatched to the hotel and we divided into two groups, one of which was to travel to the centre of the city for a preliminary perambulation to enable everybody to get their bearings, and the other to make a

considerably speedier journey in a minibus driven very kindly, but eccentrically, by Jindra's father, to the first concert at the Rudolfinum. The programme was Glinka and the Pathétique, Tchaikovsky 6, played by the legendary Czech Philharmonic, conducted by a Japanese maestro whose first name surprisingly turned out to be Ken; it was thoroughly enjoyed by us all, particularly as excellent seats cost less than £1.

Both groups met as planned and made our way to what turned out to be the perfectly satisfactory, musically resonant Hotel Vltava.

As with previous trips, the intention was to allow a varied programme to be followed, selected from the enormous number of museums, art galleries, monasteries and buildings from every age, leaving each tourist free to select an opera or a concert or a visit, for example, to the celebrated Prague Puppets, so that all tastes were accommodated. Apart from the set-piece visits, Prague, of course, is one of the gems of European cities and it was a delight to explore the enormous complex of the Hradcany Castle, as well as the highways and byways, the nooks and crannies, of this most historic of cities. We all shed a few years as we experienced the civilized delights of traveling on the tram system, a remarkably agreeable and cheap method of sampling the charms of different quarters of this marvellous city. It did turn out to be rather more expensive than anticipated by two of the more senior members of our party who, alas, when





confronted with authority in the shape of a plainclothes inspector demanding whether tickets had been processed, were, to the unending glee of their colleagues, compelled to admit that there had been an unfortunate lapse of concentration, whereupon fines were exacted on the spot. It did not detract from the general amusement when it was asked whether thirty other similar offences could be taken into consideration...in cities as far away as Nice and Moscow.

The strategic plan was to divide our time between Prague and Vienna, returning to spend our last night in the ancient town of Tabor, where the Zitek family had organized a farewell banquet for our last night. Everything went according to plan in Prague. There were excursions on the funicular railway to get spectacular views of the river and city; attempts to get to ice-hockey matches; moving visits to the ghetto, which had been intended during the War to be the only relic of Jewish civilization allowed to survive in the Europe of the new order. We crossed the wonderful Charles Bridge linking the Old and New Towns several times each day without ceasing to admire its proportions and statues. Those who had been before discovered fresh treasures such as off the beaten track monasteries, the astonishing fort occupied by the invading Swedes at the time of the Thirty Years War, and the national cemetery resembling Paris' Pere Lachaise in that almost everyone from the Czech Republic's history seems to have been buried there. There were enjoyable visits to Carmen and La Traviata both for those who loved their music and those who were making their debut and might never again cross the portals of an opera house.

And of course there were the Churches. These ranged from the austere solemnity of the imposing Gothic of St. Vitus' Cathedral, which, large as it is, by no means dwarfs the complex of buildings around the Hrdeany and the Presidential Palace, to the innumerable Baroque and Rococo chapels which burst forth in all their extravagance in the seventeenth century. Many of these, as well as the Hussite Bethlehem Chapel, were used for the concerts and no-one could have been left in any doubt that the Czechs' have a rich and diverse culture which kept them going during the dark days of their tragic occupations in the twentieth century and of which they are rightly proud.

Our party contained some who were either taking Politics as an academic subject or who were interested in it, so two visits were organized which would cater for them as well as, it was hoped, being of a general interest. The first was to the Czech Republic's National Parliament, where we had a guided tour round a pristine, and surprisingly compact and workable, building, and the other was to the British Embassy. Here we met Giles Broadman, the First Secretary, who very entertainingly explained recent Czech history and the role of the embassy in

fomenting good relations between the two countries. We had been joined by this time by Helen Nesbitt, who left Strathallan four years ago to study Czech and French at Oxford, and who had just begun her foreign year in Brno. She had been on a previous school visit to Prague, when she had distinguished herself by losing all her luggage within two minutes of arriving at the hotel. This time she made her mark by asking the good diplomat if he would comment on the question in her local paper that Slobodan Milosovic had sought political asylum here, a question which earned her a hard, if puzzled, look. Some of the party were to visit the Czech Republic embassy in London next Easter, which rather returned the compliment.

It had been a crowded three days in Prague but spirits were still high as we left for the, in retrospect, too lengthy journey to Vienna. We broke the journey at the Budweiser Brewery, the original of its American namesake, and part of one of the country's major industries. One brewery may to the uninformed seem much like another, but the gargantuan proportions of the Amazons who toiled there were rather special (a good advertisement for their product) and for those with low boredom thresholds, there was always the intellectual exercise of counting how many times our excellent guide used the phrase "I must indeed say". After a very enjoyable lunch, we proceeded on the last stage of our journey, arriving at what turned out to be a well organized Jugendgästehaus. We had a shorter time in this most imperial of capital cities without an empire and it always gives the impression of being forbiddingly large, in contrast to the more compact nature of Prague's magnificent centre. Nevertheless, guided this time by a surprise visit from Raphael Bsteh, Strathallan's eccentric but entertaining Austrian, we all managed to see a fair amount of the monumental remains of the center of the Habsburg Empire, some, like RJWP, managing to combine such historical experiences with the delights of sliced calf's head at lunchtime.

And then it was back to our by now very familiar bus for the last night in the Czech Republic at Tabor, where Viennese gastronomic oddities were to be utterly outshone by the sheer scale and generosity of the final banquet which the Zitek family had organized for us. Groaning platters of traditional charcuterie would have satisfied most appetites but the pièce de la resistance was the most spectacular entrance of an entire pig which, somewhat to the discomfiture of the more fastidious of the vegetarians in the party, was paraded in triumph around the dining room. Afterwards, as we recovered from this culinary challenge, we were entertained by Miss Hutcheon and Mark Stringer to a programme of traditional tunes on their great Highland bagpipes, which by this time they must have lugged several thousand miles to find an appreciative audience.

Comment had somewhat unwisely been made by an earlier visit to Prague, in the hearing of Jindra, that it seemed hard to find goose, a traditional Czech dish, in Prague restaurants. The response of the Zitek family was to take the teachers to the family house to be regaled with precisely that delicacy before they moved extremely slowly back to the hotel for the few hours sleep allowed before the last lap back to the very different world of Strathallan.

This return journey passed smoothly, although two bags were damaged in transit and a passport was left in the aeroplane, we liaised with connecting parents, trains and buses, and soon Prague and Vienna were memories. General consensus was that this had been both an enjoyable and a thoroughly worthwhile trip. Artists and musicians, students of literature, historians, future politicians and diplomats, all had had things to think about and experience in two of the greatest European capitals ... but above all, we returned conscious that little of this would have been possible without the organizing genius of Jindra at this end, and that our excursion would have been infinitely poorer without the extraordinary kindness and generosity of his parents.





# Madrid

Tres meses de invierno  
Y nueve de inferno  
refrán madrileño.

Strait is the gate and narrow the way, as Dr Tod will readily attest. In about the fourth month of hell we arrived, 35 strong, to occupy a good portion of the Hotel Mediodía in Madrid's famous, and famously busy, Plaza de Atocha; a huge, open sided square which is the unassuming host to a daily, and nightly array of the city's noise and beehive industry. From the balconies overlooking the back of the hotel we were able to see one of the great cultural icons of Spain, the Museo de Arte Reina Sofía, nowadays home to Picasso's Guernica. A short stroll took us to its prestigious ancestor, the Museo del Prado in which, Mr McMorine had told us in no uncertain terms, we would be able to admire the brushstrokes of the incomparable Francisco Goya. Our thirty one III and IV formers, a couple of whom had never before left the shores of Blighty, took to these delights with, in some cases, genuine enthusiasm, and in others the sort of polite resignation that comes of plenty of practice at sitting in rows and doing what you're told.

Flossie Carpenter, sketchbook in hand and still fired up with fuel from AEMCM's (brief) introductory lecture on the 18th century precursor of Modernism, became something of a pintura negra herself, swathed in black even in the 38o heat. Max Stewart was so moved at his first sight of Picasso's depiction of the horrors of bombardment that he had to be physically restrained. Scott McDonald, meanwhile, had set his sights on trying to spend as much time as possible in his namesake's ghastly emporium a mere sesame bap's throw from our hotel. Only the noble, if misunderstood, efforts of Señores Shields and Kennedy prevented much of the company from following Scott's example. KFC didn't get much of a look in either. The owners of more traditional tapas bars and sandwich shops have reason to be grateful for their vigilance.

Still more sketchbooks made the rounds of Toledo's splendid cathedral precinct, one of the major venues of our first trip outside the bounds of Felipe el Prudente's favoured city. History, architecture, religion and shops with some seriously chilled water. What more could any cultural tourist want? And, for a good few hours, the III and IV Form were dangerously cultural- just ask Roddy Walker about the genuine Peninsular War scale model of a siege-engine table lighter that he bought. Doña Señora Hunter shepherded the troops expertly through a gargantuan array of Spain's artistic and architectural treasures- and all this in a single afternoon.

The need to speak somebody else's language whilst staying in their country, naturally enough, affects different people in different ways. Kerry Faucett-Reid lost no time in getting to grips with the kind of street bargaining technique required for spending your parents' hard-earned cash on the sort of uniquely Hispanic product which, oddly, looks like the same short strip of

coloured material you could get on Oxford Street for, admittedly, more money. Sellers of dodgy CDs, David Beckham cross-dressing items, and assorted junk who were encamped around the edges of the Plaza betrayed no special enthusiasm when our battalions engaged them armed with Pesetas, but in their hearts glee must have been rampant. Social divisions are no less striking in Madrid than is the case in any large capital around the globe, and perhaps the more so since the street-vendors were, almost to a man, Africans. There were undoubtedly dispatches in Freetown once the Strath III and IV Form had been routed in the field.

España es diferente, as the 1970s tourist-board posters regularly proclaimed, and there is truth, even in these tawdry things. Madrid, in addition to being a city of vibrant industry, resource and invention is still the guardian of its long history of barbarous and bloody conflict, effete yet bloodthirsty monarchs and the customary panoply of overpowering neo-classical architecture. Much of this last got a very healthy outing on our first evening's open-topped bus trip around the floodlit high points of the city. It could have been the warm breeze, or possibly the son et lumière provided by the tour company and the municipalidad in concert, but I like to think that it was the sheer impact of night-time Madrid which made a lot of the kids ask for a repeat performance.

The bus-tour, however, came off a poor loser to the prospect of a final evening's visit to Madrid's fun park. All you needed to turn Katie Lyburn from a helium-filled enthusiast into someone contemplating ending it all was to whisper the words, "Right that's the theme park trip cancelled." Only the determinedly high-browed Jamie Pender was able to resist the satanic temptation and this only by inviting Mrs Summersgill to sample the dubious fare of a Spanish pizza parlour.

Untoward incidents were few. The children, whisked away and dropped into the steaming cauldron of Europe's highest capital, conducted themselves, on the whole, impeccably and, despite ETA's best efforts, we counted them out and we counted them all back in again. If just one person came away with the impression that there's more to Gerald Brenan's, Laurie Lee's and Ian Gibson's adopted country than cheap beer, sunshine and the dreary posturings of Eye-Beef-Ah, then the whole thing was worthwhile.



# Fréjus



## Vive La France. Vive la mer Méditerranée

As we flew over Nice in glorious sunshine with the sea a sparkling blue I realised the full meaning of "La Côte d'Azur". Sixteen third year pupils, Marie-Laure and I were about to spend a week in the South of France, in glorious weather as it turned out, and I couldn't believe my luck. Oh, they said it wouldn't be much of a holiday. It would only be hard work etc. Well, I can only say they were wrong. Probably a combination of Marie-Laure's organisation and a terrific group of pupils made for the best end of summer term I have ever experienced.

Day 1 down to Fréjus and in the afternoon we were on the beach. Casualty No 1. Despite Marie-Laure's putting the fear of God into us all about sunburn Alex knows better and instead of Pommes Frites it was Alex Frit. At least he managed to cause a shortage of chocolate ices on the Fréjus sea front because he went down. In the evening we had the first lesson. Très difficile pour moi. (*I see what you mean, George. Ed.*)

Day 2 Minus Alex, we were at the open-air market in the morning and again at the beach in the afternoon. By this time Catriona was looking like an "écrevisse" (a lobster for the uninitiated) but miraculously betrayed no symptoms of sunstroke. In the evening we descended upon the Karaoke at the centre and both the girls and Marie-Laure made a big impression. The girls gave several renditions unaccompanied including Frères Jacques as a round, while Marie-Laure's performance suggests that if the going gets tough in the Language Department she could always front a pop group.

Day 3 Down to Marineland near Antibes - Killer Whales, Dolphins and Seals. Fantastique. Enough said. Dans la soirée le deuxième lesson. Très difficile.

Day 4 Shopping for presents in the morning - the lesson the previous night pays dividends - and in the afternoon dans la piscine until the thunder and lightning, which fortunately only lasted an hour and then we were in again. Edward and Shima both dived like dolphins while Angus was cool and Sam and Olivia will make the next Great Britain synchronized swimming team. In the evening it was down to the "Lunar Parc". Casualty No. 2 - Kimi along with most of the others decided to be "shaken and stirred" by a ghastly ride called the "Predator". I can only say it's the cheapest way I've seen of frightening the life out of yourself and losing your wallet to boot. Back to the centre and casualty No.3. Shima has lost her group's room key mais pas de problem.

Day 5 Monaco for morning tea with Prince Rainier (unfortunately he wasn't in). Then we say the changing of the Palace Guard and I can confirm that Marie-Laure likes men in uniform. A visit to Monte Carlo Casino in the afternoon proved to be most profitable as we didn't go in but at least we rubbed shoulders with the world's chic. Back to the centre pool by tea-time to let off steam and in the evening we danced the night away in the disco.

Day 6 It was all over - well nearly. There was a bomb scare at the airport and then Kit was caught trying to smuggle his dirty washing through customs in a black bin liner. Obviously Monte Carlo chic had completely by-passed him. My thanks to Marie-Laure and the group for making it such a memorable week and let's hope I behaved myself well enough to be invited back next year. **GCK**

# The Royal College of Surgeons

The Biology dept. took its now annual trip to Edinburgh during the Easter term, to visit the Royal college of Surgeons in Edinburgh. A retired surgeon guided us around the college and described the various facilities available to would be surgeons. The history of "Barber Surgeons" makes one realise that the history of surgery is not all one might expect.

After the historical tour, we entered the first of three museums. Initially we passed through the exam hall which led to the room containing Victorian specimens, many of which are still used for teaching purposes. Shelf upon shelf of jars on two levels, including many acute and, in a modern context, emotive jars containing various specimens of human disorders and abnormalities. This is the section of the visit that many of the pupils look forward to most and which, after the event, provides most of the talking points.

The second museum takes us from Burke and Hare through two wars and on to the modern developments of anaesthetics, culminating in the new technologies and bringing us bang up to date, with laser and joint replacement surgery. The pupils also get a chance to try out keyhole surgery and are encouraged to ask questions and use the interactive equipment.

We finished in the museum of dental surgery, which takes you on an historical journey through the development of dentistry. At this point you remember that you forgot to brush your teeth and start to worry.

We ended the day with a little R&R, either taking in a film, show and/or having a relaxing meal together before returning home to tell the others about what we saw in the jars.

**PMV**

As we recalled the descriptions of pickled babies and mutated organs from previous Vllth form biologists, we were all intrigued (and fairly repulsed) by our upcoming trip to the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. When we arrived we realised the stories were all true as we were greeted with the sight of row upon row of preserved body parts. It was amazing to discover the consequences of incest. There were babies with two heads, bound feet, and skeletons that looked more like those of small rodents. After being shown around the jars, we were guided to a room that had equipment ranging from that of several centuries ago to the most recent technology.

After we left the hall we went to an Italian restaurant that offered good food on the cheap. We enjoyed a relaxing meal before heading off for some "free time" in Edinburgh. I think I am safe in saying everyone had a good time and would recommend it to future Lower VI biologists.

**Susie Hewitt.**



# President



Hamish Steedman (F69-76) believes he is well qualified to take over the reins as President of the Strathallian Club for 2001-2002 having attended the School under the leadership of no fewer than three Headmasters (Mr Hoare, Mr McCallum and Mr Pighills). His brother Campbell (F80) also attended the School, as did his late father-in-law Willie Brown (1927) through whom Hamish learned something of School life under the caring eye of the founder Harry Riley.

After graduating from Stirling University with a BA in Economics and Computer Science Hamish went to Canada for eight years where he was employed in the head office of the Royal Bank of Canada in Montreal. Hamish saw the irony of this, as John Clayton would verify that French was not one of his stronger subjects at School. During that period, however, Hamish attended McGill University and gained his Fellowship to the Institute of Canadian Bankers. He also made the most of the outdoor pursuits in Canada, exploiting the long winters to satisfy his passion for skiing while during the summer he was heavily involved in rugby. He captained and coached one of the fourteen local first division sides and gained representative honours playing full back for Quebec province between 1983 and 1985.

Upon his return to Scotland Hamish joined the Bank of Scotland and settled in Edinburgh. Keen, however, to develop his own business interests, he took the logical progression for bankers and moved to golf in 1996 accepting the Directorship of Heritage Golf of St Andrews Ltd who manufacture playable hickory golf clubs. Unfortunately he has discovered that building a business tends to have a detrimental effect on one's handicap. Hamish also holds directorships of businesses specialising in electronic media and corporate publications. Apart from his continued interests in sport, Hamish is also an elder of the Church. He is married to Judy and they have two children, Andrew (9) and Colin (6) who currently attend the Edinburgh Academy.

During his tenure Hamish is keen to see the Club develop with members networking through more active lines of communication. Members are urged to use e-mail and correspond through the excellent School website [www.strathallian.co.uk](http://www.strathallian.co.uk) where they can leave their contact details and those of fellow Strathallians they are aware of. The development of regional branch activity will be further encouraged.



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# Obituaries

## Alexander (Eric) McKellar Watt

Eric came to Strathallan in 1933. He distinguished himself at Rugby, Cricket and Tennis and was in the 1st XV and 1st XI in his final year. In 1939 he joined the Army Reserves and was commissioned into the RASC. He saw active service in the Eighth Army in North Africa, Palestine and Greece where he suffered severe injuries which restricted him for the rest of his life. He spent 18 months in Killearn Hospital rebuilding his body and learning to walk again. On being demobbed he started his own meat manufacturing business which in 1983 at his retirement was the largest privately owned meat manufacturing business in the UK. His well known business slogan was "McKellar Watt for Meatiness". Awarded the OBE in 1983 for business services, he was a Governor of Strathallan.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

J H Smith

## D P Benzies (N 1970- 1975)

The road accident in May, which cost the life of Douglas Benzies, had nothing of the nobility of a tragedy. It was a happening of such devastatingly senseless banality that it only serves to heighten our anger and sorrow at losing a friend; at the pain and grief so indiscriminately inflicted upon his family.

At Strath we had an early look at the qualities and characteristics which defined the man throughout his 44 years. Retiring to the point of shyness he nevertheless had the strength of will to overcome a potentially debilitating stammer; his confidence growing all the while. Afflicted by the coltish gait so often associated with those growing tall it was a different matter when he put his skis on - a stylish and elegant performer he was also a very effective racer who captained the Ski Club on competitive as well as administrative merit. There never was a better Captain of Skiing. The absolutely dependable loyalty and the caring concern which he showed both for the organization and for those within it are two of the principal qualities, which will be recognised by all those who knew Douglas at any stage of his life.

Skiing, a passion doubtless inherited from his father, Bob, saw Douglas move on the national scene from competitor to competition organizer and thence to the "guru" status of Technical Delegate - a role in which it is only possible to be successful if one can convince those with whom one works

that one knows what one is talking about and that one has everyone's best interests at heart ... it is not difficult to see why Douglas was successful.

There were other pastimes: photography where there was again evidence of inherited ability, and golf where, lacking the raw talent of his brother, Frank, he had not yet mastered either the devious skills of his father.

After leaving Strath, it was perhaps predictable that Douglas would head via printing college in London into the family business, Wm. Culross, in Coupar Angus. In his early days with the firm he was of immeasurable help and support to the Editor of the Strathallian which was printed by Culross but with the Editorial Board for the first time taking on a lot of the practical work: layout design; pasting up repro etc. It was under his influence that the company took a lead in introducing new and advancing technology as witness to his launching and developing the Strathmore Melamine side of the business - check out the table and mouse mats next time you pass through the airports.

A keen, leading, office-bearing Round Tabler in and around Blairgowrie, Douglas was a man full of enthusiasm for life and a sense of humour to go with it.

He was a devoted family man - never did the annual Christmas card fail to feature Robert and Kirsten. That things didn't work out for Douglas and his wife Lillian is a sadness which we all felt. To them and to all the family go our wishes to help them by sharing their grief but also by preserving and relishing the happiest memories of a fine man and the example which he has set.

## Donald R Crerar

Came to Strathallan in 1939 and left in 1941.  
He was a good second row forward and in 1940/41 was in the 1st XV. He followed his father as a dentist.

## Professor Robert Rankin

Professor Rankin, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Glasgow University died in January 2001. He was one of Strathallan's most eminent and long serving Governors. His service to the School went considerably beyond that expected of Glasgow's elected representative. He took a particularly keen and positive interest in the development of the School's Curriculum and Music.

He was a punctilious attender at Governors' Meetings, barely missing any. This was also true of Concerts and Speech Days. After the death of his beloved wife Mary in 1996, his health began to fail but it was typical that he attended the Millennium Speech Day as a farewell to the School which he had loved so much.

A native of Wigtownshire, he was educated at Fettes and Clare College, Cambridge, where he became a Wrangler in 1936. His promising career in Pure Mathematics was interrupted by WWII, when he joined the Ministry of Supply to work on rockets. The British gave less priority to this work than did their German counterparts and his theory on the motion of the rocket during the burning phase was kept under wraps. After the war, his work was declassified and he produced a paper for the Royal Society of London in 1949, whose value

the Russians were quick to recognise; they published a translation two years later. On his return to Cambridge he produced a variety of papers. One based on Dorothy Sayers' "The Nine Tailors", proved using the theory of permutation that certain peals of bells were impossible, subject to the conventional restrictions of change ringing. Another called "The numbering of Fionn and Dulhan's men and the story of Josephus and the forty Jews" was written entirely in Gaelic. The paper was later reviewed by the only Mathematician capable of reading it - R. A. Rankin.

After three years as Mason Professor of Pure Mathematics at Birmingham, he moved to Glasgow to take the Chair of the Department, a position he held with considerable distinction for 26 years. Needless to say, he was the recipient of numerous Mathematics Awards and Honours.

His interests, too, were wide. His love of music brought him the position of the university representative on the Board of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He played the clavichord and assembled a harpsichord. He built a boat in his own basement and had the wherewithal to extract it, once completed. As a hill walker his ability to leave younger colleagues puffing in his wake was the stuff of departmental legend.

Robert Rankin was a man of massive ability of which he gave freely.

## Scott Thomson - Morrison (L89)

Scott died on June 9th in Brussels. His mobile phone was snatched and when he gave chase, one of the muggers turned and stabbed him. He died four days later.

His life had been full of achievement, contribution and promise. After his Sixth form at Strathallan he went to Glasgow University where he graduated in History and Economics.

At University he developed a keen interest in politics. He canvassed on behalf of the Tories in a Labour stronghold in the the 1992 election. However "his involvement in politics was born out of a desire to do something worthwhile and to make a difference rather than any aspiration to become a politician himself." His first full time job was teaching children with serious mental disabilities at Linn Moor Residential School, gaining a Social Care qualification in his spare time.

After 4 years he began a Masters Degree at Stirling in Computing and Analysis, which he completed in a year. Having completed his second degree, he travelled widely in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Australia, New York and Las Vegas. In this last he found a way to outwit the casinos. When gambling, he always put down a single chip so that he could have a free drink. He also gained substantial pleasure from successful investment on the stock market. At the same time he was unfailingly mannerly, chivalrous to the ladies and a true gentleman.

He worked for 6 months with the Aberdeen based oil industry accountancy firm Accenture. He left them in May to go on an I.T. Training Course with Brussels-based computer software firm Base 3.

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# Salvete

## Riley

Bissett J C, Corlett J, Chung C, Drummond-Hay L J, Fleming T R, Fraser E, Garven C A, Gouch F C, Jones H, Leung K W, Louden W F, Lyburn J U D, Marshall A, Matthews R M, Michie, Millar N G, Miller N C, Morrison E, Paledi A L, Pickles H, Raeside A, Smith J A, Smith-Bannister A C A, Stevenson O M, Stewart G P, Summersgill H R, Turnbull A, Zwetsloot M

## Freeland

Brown D A, McFarlane G J, Murray S M, Pickles D A, Pickles J G, Smith M G, Souter L D, Wightman J

## Nicol

Arthur M K, Cachia J D, Dewar R A, Fyfe A J, Huang B, Kim H S, Pugh J J E, Segaud M C C, Wallace C S, Wallace F, Whitelaw R W

## Ruthven

Becks J F, Bei Y, Brown K R W, Crerar A R, Hewitt I

## Simpson

Bacarreza M A, Bliznyuk A, Carroll B R, Cooper F, Duncan R G R, Elder D S, Jones M F, McWilliams B V P, Melloy A J, Melloy G C, Robertson C B

## Thornbank

Browning V K, Cargill J, Douglas C J, Hickey S, McLean K M, Sarney A P, Todd J E, Turnbull N

## Woodlands

Bi Z, Brown K V, Fitzgerald C, Fleming Z E, Garratt P, George M C, Hu X, Hunt R C, Locke S A, McCusker S, McDonald L K, Melloy C S, Murday M J C, Murray S M, Varma S C, Welstead L K, Weng L

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