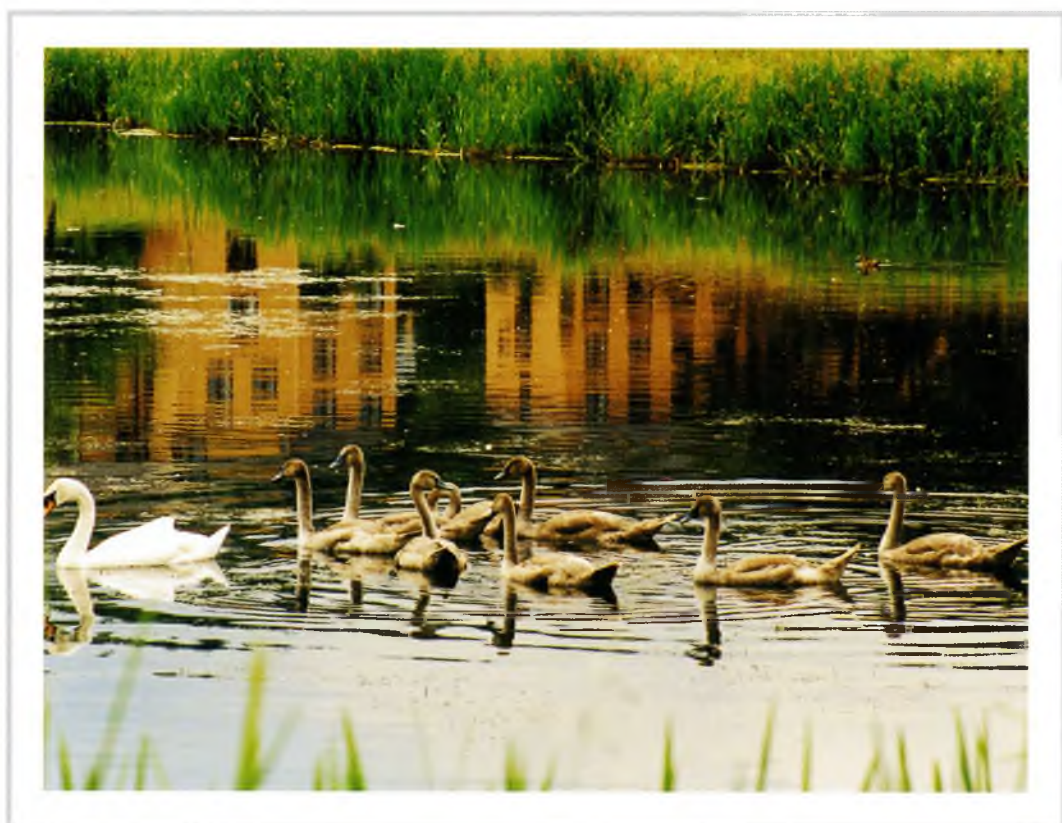


# *The* STRATHALLIAN 1998-1999





# The STRATHALLIAN

1998-1999

Vol XVII, No 3

Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perth, PH2 9EG



## CONTENTS

Editorial	2
Staff Notes	3
Speech Day	4
Prizes	5
House Reports	6
Chaplaincy Report and Salvete	20
Music	21
Freeland Estate	28
Drama	31
Trip to the Alps	36
Girls' Hockey Tour	38
Netball Tour to Barbados	39
Year in Focus	40
Reportage	44
Art	47
New Headmaster	50
Walk for Kosovo	52
Jigs and Reels	53
Bard to Verse	54
Work Experience in Sudan	55
French Trip	56
Design and Technology Trip	58
Millennium Ball	60
Sports and Other Activities	62
Pringle Trophy	84
Project Peru	86
Strathallian Club	89
Obituaries	91
Valete	92

**Editor:** I W Kilpatrick

**Art Director:** A E C McMorrine

**Archivists:** G R M Ross; R H Fitzsimmons

**Photography:** Miss E A England; Miss J R S Hutcheon; Mrs T E Marlow;  
Mrs I I McFarlane; Miss L J Smith; D J Barnes; Robert Mackenzie; P M Vallot

**Editorial Team:** Alex Klein; Georgia Manson; Katie Mitchell; Laura Morley; Charles Wardman

## Aknowledgements

**Copy Typing:** Miss V A Leighton

**Design:** Pointsize Associates Limited



# Editorial

**A**fter two years in the job, I can vouch that there are very few perks afforded to the Editor of *The Strathallian* magazine.

In fact, quite the reverse. One has to endure all manner of disdain, excuse and delay in haranguing colleagues for copy and other material for printing. Sit for endless hours trying to make some intelligible sense of that which is presented and then cower for months in a corner having been ostracised, after going to print, for unfair editing and inaccurate proof-reading.

Not a job for the faint hearted, I am sure you will agree. Nor for one who wishes to make friends and influence people. Thankfully, I fall into neither group and so am able to reveal two of the privileges that the office bestows. Firstly, as Editor, I am able to set my own deadline for copy. I am not prepared to divulge the hour at which this editorial was penned, but can confirm that I have instructed the printers to "hold the front page". Secondly, I have the unique opportunity of being the first person to reflect on the digest of the school year and all the various events, activities and personalities that punctuate an academic session at Strathallan.

The *Strathallian* is, first and foremost, a record of the school year and, necessarily, mirrors the highs and lows, heroes and villains, achievements met and aspirations still remaining, consistent with life in a vibrant, challenging, frustrating, yet ultimately rewarding community. In a year which has seen considerable change and heralds yet more to come, it is touching to read the signing-off reports of two housemasters, follow success and failure in all kinds of different sporting arena, learn of the great ambassadorship of pupils on tour thousands of miles away and trace the development of individuals, who started out as shy, retiring Gnomes in Riley, as they take on positions of responsibility and prominence in Senior School.

As I collate the reports and articles that go to form this year's magazine, I cannot help but hear the voice of Sir William Kerr Fraser. He was the guest speaker at Speech Day in 1997 whose text spoke of there being no excuse for being bored. This seems to be a maxim that subsequent *Strathallians* have taken to heart: either of their own volition or as a result of the unremitting pace of events exhorted of them by the variety of activities, opportunities and demands which constitute a School year. Whether this is for the good of the School, for the good of the individual or to the betterment of society, as *Strathallians* make their collective way in the world outside Forgandenny, are points worth debating. How well these principles sit in a wider educational community, which seems obsessed with measurement of quantity and quality in the educative process also remains contestable. Greater still, however, are the ends to which we are prepared to go to protect our commitment to education in its broadest sense. The diversity of activities reported in this year's magazine, I hope, makes interesting reading. The diversity of opportunity it represents, however, I know will help to shape interesting individuals.

IWK

# School Captain

**T**o give advice to future School Captains is a difficult job as every year is different, but some general advice would be to face problems head on, accept everything thrown at them as a challenge and to enjoy it.

There is no point in dwelling on any low points in the year, but there is a point in learning from them and looking forward to the next good thing. The main point is not to let being Captain of School change you as a person. You are chosen to be Captain of School because of who you are at the beginning of the year and it is important to remember that and keep your feet on the ground.

Overall, I have enjoyed my year as Captain of School and have experienced many situations which will help me in later life. There have been low points during the year, which have proved to be a bit of a challenge at the time, but at no point have I regretted accepting the position. There are small, but time-consuming jobs, which have to be carried out by all Captains of School and at the time these can be arduous but the school prefects have helped me greatly and have enabled me to enjoy my year of office.

During the year, I have had great support from many of the staff, school and house prefects and pupils which has made it much easier and which I have greatly appreciated.

Although I am apprehensive about starting my University career, I am certain that being Captain of School has increased my confidence, my public speaking ability and my leadership skills which will prove extremely valuable in the next chapters of my life, as will the education I have had at Strathallan.

Lucy Sproat



# Staff Notes

July 1999 saw the retirement of Trevor Goody, Klaus Glimm and Doug Ralfs who, together, have taught for 73 years at Strathallan.

Trevor Goody was appointed Head of Maths in 1972 and the range of his involvement in School life has been remarkable. The master in charge of Printing and the Radio Club, an officer in the Naval Section and sometime soloist in choral works he was also Lighting Supervisor for many productions. As Head of Maths he ran a very successful department which responded to the numerous changes in curriculum over the last two decades. We will miss Margaret and Trevor greatly and wish them happiness in what will be, I suspect, a busy retirement.

Klaus Glimm has taught German and French since 1969 and has established a very successful Marines Section of the CCF. He has coached swimming and been an invaluable tutor in Nicol for many years. We wish him and Else every happiness.

Doug Ralfs' departure is a considerable loss. His teaching in the Maths Department has been first class and in Riley his work as a tutor has been to many Gnomes' benefit. Doug has run School Tennis with considerable success and it is super that he and Maeve will remain in touch as they move to Dunning.

In addition to these retirements we also say farewell to Stephen Dutton, who leaves to become Director of Music at Truro High School for Girls and Philip Shore, who leaves teaching for a career in business.

We have benefited from Stephen's broad range of musical talents, his ability to draw powerful performances from the young and old and wish him well in his new challenge. Philip Shore's contribution has gone well beyond the running of P.E. and the Army Section. He re-organised and galvanised Sports Day, took (brave) pupils caving and set an example of fitness and energy that few could match. We wish Phil, Josephine and the boys every happiness.

In addition to the departing staff, 1998-99 also sees Adam and Kate Streatfeild-James and Paul Vallot stepping down from Woodlands and Nicol. Happily they remain on the staff and we are very grateful for the concern, wisdom and patience they have shown to numerous boys and girls during their tenure.

Four new members of staff join the Common Room for 1999-2000. Mark and Lynn Evans take over as Housemaster and Housemistress of Woodlands. They bring considerable experience of boarding at Norwich School, St Bees and St Edmund's, Canterbury and a broad range of sporting and cultural interests.

John McCann arrives as Head of Computing and Information Technology, having taught at Glasgow Academy for the past three years. He is a fine sportsman and will tutor in Simpson.

Catherine Baker, who has been an instrumental and singing teacher at Strathallan for the past six years, becomes Assistant Director of Music. After obtaining a degree from Durham she studied voice and piano and has broad experience as a teacher, performer and producer.

AWM



# Speech Day

## Heroic efforts by the ground staff overnight converted what at midnight resembled a stricken

windjammer, into the now familiar thousand seat white cathedral, in time for the 10.30 start to what was to be the Headmaster's last Speech Day and as the Chairman pointed out, the last Speech Day of this Millennium.

The Head recounted the many successes of the year – the increasing number of academic distinctions, the five conditional Cambridge places, the twelve representatives of the School in various international teams, not only in hockey and rugby but also in minor sports – golf, clay pigeon and curling and also the forthcoming hockey and netball tours to Australia and Barbados. The Marine section brought home the Pringle Trophy, awarded to the best Marine section in the UK for the first time and the Pipe Band recorded its third national victory in four years. Music, drama, public speaking and art continue to attract attention and prizes from outside the School. Young Enterprise continues to flourish as does Strathallan's laudable charitable activities. The Head wished the leavers, young and old, well for the future and handed over to the Chairman who introduced this year's guest speaker Sir Fraser Morrison CBE.

Sir Fraser began by telling us that his name was never called out on occasions such as this when he was at school as he was 'not a prolific prize winner'. This endeared him immediately to the assembly as the majority listening would also never be summoned to approach the platform to receive a reward for their academic efforts.

He continued with his theme that there were qualities prize winners and non-prize winners had in common – persistence and determination. He felt sure that by being at Strathallan everyone was well prepared for the challenges of the future, challenges which would come thick and fast. The education received here provided the tools necessary for life, but tools must be kept sharp and thus education also, must be kept up. Success, he assured us, was down to working harder, with determination and a goal in mind. Furthermore, this success must be measured by our own standards and not compared to others, as this can so often be counter-productive and demoralising. Success is not chance. Successful people plan their goals and persist with them – luck doesn't enter the equation. There will be those who denigrate one's efforts, but unpleasantness should not be allowed to extinguish optimism.

He finished by assuring the audience that the process begun here will benefit the individuals and society both now and in the future.

AJHW



Sir Fraser Morrison

## Exam Results

Pupils have once again achieved outstanding results in the summer examinations. The A-Level pass rate was 96.8% with 65.2% of pupils gaining A-B grades, an increase of over 25% on last year's results.

The pupils sitting Scottish Highers did just as well, achieving a pass rate of 86.8%, an increase on last year of almost 16% with 59.3% of them obtaining A-B grades, another increase of just over 12%.

GCSE and Scottish Standard Grade results were just as encouraging with a pass rate of 91.1%, an increase of just over 3% on the previous year. The percentage of A\* grades stayed at a very respectable 11%, well above the national average.



# Prizes

## UPPER SIXTH

The Smith Cup for Captain of School  
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit  
The Scanlan Cup for Merit  
The Thomson Salver for Achievement

The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution  
Dux  
The William Tattersall Art Prize

The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music  
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings  
The William Pasfield Salver for Music  
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize  
The David Bogie Prize for Economics  
The Lord Kincaig Prize for English  
The Richard Moffat Prize for History  
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics

CCF Prize  
The Elliott Trophy – Design & Technology  
The Gary Rogers' Prize for Creative Writing  
The McMaster Quaich for Piping  
The Choir Prize  
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman  
Best All Round Sportswoman

Lucy Sproat  
Jamie Partridge  
Christina Breaden  
Ruth Sharp/  
Ruairidh Roome

Andrew Thwaites  
Jennie Perry  
Kirsten Cameron/  
Emma McFarlane  
Dave Smith  
Harry Crump  
Ruth Sharp  
Douglas Forbes  
Radovan Boba  
Lyn Gemmell  
Peter Wilkinson  
Keith MacLennan/  
John-Matthew Court  
John-Matthew Court  
Chris Appleby  
Tara Laing  
Robbie Whytock  
Ruth Chalmers  
Ian Stewart  
Miranda Harington

## A-LEVEL

Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
French  
Geography  
German  
Physics  
Politics  
Spanish

Nicola Milne  
Radovan Boba  
James Patterson  
Ruth Sharp  
Philippa Blair Oliphant  
Ruth Sharp  
James Patterson  
Adam Rackley  
Emma Anderson

## HIGHERS

Biology  
Chemistry  
Computing  
Geography  
German  
English  
French  
History  
Mathematics  
MIS  
Physics  
Spanish

Joanna Caird  
Joanna Caird  
Richard Kennedy  
Kerry Martin  
Elaine Johnston  
Ian Stewart  
Katie Dutton  
Ian Stewart  
Mary-Jane Heslop  
Ian Smith  
Ian Gove  
Darren Miranda

## LOWER SIXTH

Art  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Computing

Thomas Gemmill  
Rachael Dobson  
Esereda Musisi  
John Coull  
Grant Baxter

Design & Technology  
Economics  
English  
French  
Geography  
  
German  
History  
Mathematics  
MIS  
Music  
Physics  
Spanish

Grant Davidson  
Sarah Mazur  
Kirsty Senior  
Leila Arakji  
Charis Robertson/  
Euan Matheson  
Alexandra Lamb  
Leila Arakji  
John Coull  
Mike Wilson  
Alex Lamb  
John Coull  
Sarah Mazur

## FIFTH FORM

Art  
  
Biology  
  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Computing  
Design & Technology  
English  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Latin  
Mathematics  
Music  
Physics  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

Helen Thompson/  
Russell Garden  
Laura Morley/  
Oliver Lane  
Sian Greshon  
Oliver Lane  
Mark Stringer  
Max Reynolds  
Colin Williamson  
Mark Stringer  
Mark Stringer  
Sabrina Flatman  
Russell Garden  
Laura Morley  
Mark Stringer  
Laura Morley  
Mark Stringer  
Euan Aitkenhead  
Max Reynolds

## FOURTH FORM

Art  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Computing  
  
Design & Technology  
Latin  
English  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Mathematics  
Music  
  
Physics  
Spanish

Victoria Robertson  
Johnny Stormonth-Darling  
Alasdair Carmichael  
Alexander Nicolson  
Stuart Chapman/  
Andrew Mack  
Jamie Cameron  
Louise Lamb  
Louise Lamb  
Sarah Eddie  
Ksenia Podymakhina  
Katrin Hoffmann  
Louise Lamb  
Andrew Mack  
Victoria Robertson/  
Julia Rogers  
Andrew Mack  
Laura Kotseroglou

## THIRD FORM

Mathieu Gordon  
Catriona Bisset



I still have vivid memories of April 1983 and my arrival as a very young and inexperienced teacher of geography at a school I had first heard about when applying for a position there.

Billeted with me, in a suite of rooms known without affection as 'The Ivory Tower', was a replacement teacher of maths who had just returned from Kenya and was finding his feet in the cold and damp of Forgandenny.

I never suspected then that by the time Doug Ralfs and I would be saying our professional farewells, I would have acquired a wife and a mortgage, three children and a rapidly receding hairline, and that over sixteen years would have elapsed. In the whirlwind days that followed our arrival, during a school routine that defied description and understanding, Doug's sense of purpose and proportion steadied a very apprehensive new recruit who might otherwise have fled elsewhere.

I was delighted therefore, after so much loyalty and support over the years, that Doug's last three terms in Riley were such a success and that there was much to savour in the months before his final departure in June.

The school year was kick-started by our annual pilgrimage to RAF Leuchars to sample hair dyes and face painting, stink bombs and junk food, within range of a wide variety of aircraft that occasionally threatened to distract us. We returned with temporary deafness, tooth decay and indigestion, but it was all good fun and set the pattern for the months to follow.

The first term came and went amidst rugby matches, hockey matches, swimming galas, music concerts and divisional plays, so that by the time the last few notes of another moving carol service were fading into the December air, it was difficult to see where all the lessons had been squeezed in. We had finished the term with a 'relaxing' three hour disco on the final night from which our new tutors staggered, befuddled and bemused by their first experience of Riley in action. We are grateful for all the counselling and moral support that enabled both John Burgess and Liz England to return after the New Year for another taste and another term at the helm.

Dougal Cole fled back to Australia from whence he had come twelve months before and we re-gained Mr Keir (P.K.) on a free transfer. The tales were exotic and the tan quite repulsive but the tartan trousers had stayed the same and startled wildlife for miles around.

As the result of a peculiar freak of nature, the skiing season coincided with several snowfalls and we were able for once to lay waste the cafes and pistes of Glenshee. We also managed to cripple our new GAP student, who celebrated a first session on the Scottish slopes with a broken leg and an





evening in PRI. Nick Behringer recovered in time to see our hockey teams win, and lose, a few matches, and make a lot of friends along the way with their sense of fair play and humility. Our sixes team were bundled out of the Prep Schools' tournament during sudden death penalties but covered themselves in glory with some fine attacking play from Renny, Malcolm, Danny et al.

An excellent cross country competition brought the term to a close and we danced until late to raise more than enough money to keep Lwazi Ncube, the Zimbabwean child we sponsor, at school.

The summer term is still a blur but I do remember the sound of leather upon willow, tennis teas and athletics matches and a multitude of inter-divisional competitions that yielded more winners than losers and some fine performances by team and individuals alike. An inexplicable loss cast a shadow over the house early in the term and it was some time before the mood of sadness and despair turned to hope and optimism, as the boys and girls in Riley ran their hearts out for Rachel House in Rory's memory. To those who took part, and to those who gave money, a belated but grateful thank you.

Fear of defeat kept our clay pigeon opponents away and the Riley team collected the silverware in the Scottish Prep Schools Championship, whilst our pipers piped and drummers drummed at more or less the right time and place, if the cups and shields are anything to go by.

We managed to generate an extraordinary range of campfire 'cuisine' during excursions to Loch Morlich, Laggan and the bottom of Dr Carr's garden (!) but there were no reported cases of salmonella or e-coli and we returned intact. The Aberlour team came back from the highland games empty-handed but philosophical, bloated by my chicken special, and frost bitten after a dunking in Loch Laggan. The photographs tell a story but it is one for the future.

In the final weeks, the divisional competition began to unravel with hard fought contests usually resulting in a Dron win and maximum points. It was no surprise when they eventually emerged as champions by a mile and winners of the shield for the second year in a row. Our choirs and soloists charmed audiences whenever and wherever they played and left a lasting impression as boys and girls who lived and breathed their music. Thank you Mr Dutton. We all wish you well.

The term raced towards a conclusion and there was barely enough time to draw breath as rehearsals and sports' days, examinations and performances, crowded the busy schedule. Another wonderful disco took place to round off the year and much was captured on video in anticipation of future extortion potential (colleagues please note). The final evening was spent amongst the midges and bonfire smoke acquiring indigestion for a final time and watching Mr Fleming doing for sausages what Plato did for scuba diving. Mr Keir demonstrated once again his wisdom in choosing teaching ahead of a singing career, with his annual rendition of 'Allouette', whilst Mr Ralf's presence assumed a poignancy that few will have missed. It might have been the smoke from the bonfire but...

The last afternoon was spent under layers of greasepaint and encased in fabrics especially designed to retain the heat in the cauldron also known as the theatre. Our actors entertained and survived (well done Miss Quan!) and we ended that final day wondering if any other year could be quite so fruitful and rewarding, so absorbing and such good fun. After four years in Riley, we finally released Mr Kilpatrick into the community and trust that Nicol will make him feel at home. Iain's help with Riley performances and his efficiency with the house bank have been much appreciated and we wish him well in the senior school.

We said our final goodbyes to Doug Ralfs secure in the knowledge that in Paul Vallot we had someone to replace the irreplaceable. And so the year drew to a close as one we will remember for some time to come. To all who contributed, a heartfelt thank you.

WAC



# Freeland

*Wherein of outres vast and deserts idle,  
Rough quarters, rocks and hills whose heads touch heaven  
It was my hint to speak – such was my process –  
And of the cannibals that each other eat,  
The Autorpophagi, and men whose heads  
Do grow beneath their shoulders....*

The Lawrence School  
Sandawar – 173202  
(Distt Solan) HP  
India

Freeland House  
Strathallan School  
Forgandenny  
Perth

Dear Varun

Timbuktu, Kathmandu, Alice Springs, El Dorado or Atlantis were, for the schoolboy that was once me, very far away places either in the imagination or on the classroom atlas. Such places were names on countries that weren't always Empire Pink, places where Dr Livingstone might have presumed and where Vasco da Gama or Othello might have gazed in awe upon men with heads beneath their chests. Now that I've met you – your flight left Kathmandu for Edinburgh last April – I know about The Lawrence School, Sandawar where the dormitories and discipline are army-spartan and the teachers austere. Thanks to the presents you brought I know Nepalis make fine pashmina and ties that even the widely-travelled Dr Tod covets. I write this open letter to you as Freeland's Strathallian Report, for The Lawrence School rewards its diligent with a term at a British School and it might be worth looking at our House through your unfamiliar eyes. Such progress has been made in the realms of communication and travel that I know Tara Laing and Miranda Harington are even now in Nepal and the two ex-Freelanders, Jamie Partridge (99) and Jon Butler (98) (he has already been teaching in India for six months or so of his Gap year) will be joining them to get together for New Year.

The fifteen hour flight from Kathmandu to the land of bagpipes, haggis and the Loch Ness Monster must have been undertaken with some anxiety. The prospect of the unknown that lay before you must have seemed very daunting and puts the fear of others more local who are starting boarding school in some kind of perspective. In a mere ten weeks, and from a map with no personal, social or cultural landmarks, you had to chart a course that would take you to the heart of life in a Scottish boarding school. The fact that I didn't manage to say goodbye to you on the last day of term – when the Upper Sixth were setting off for new journeys to universities and the adult world beyond Strathallan – was testimony to the way you had found your bearings and to those members of Freeland who had provided you with the help that travellers need in strange countries: where there are good provisions to be had; where the people are friendly; where you will get value when you barter. All who have undertaken such journeys know that geographical features are merely signs and background to events that are personal to the traveller and which stay locked in the memory. Sometimes I was able to see my only too familiar world with the freshness of your perspective on it. Mrs Court and Geoff Wood picked you up from the Arrivals Lounge and as I opened the door to your study I remember your comment that it was 'like a hotel'. Geoff, with his final examinations before him, was on the verge of completing the journey that was his schooling. What is he now making of his Halls of Residence at university?

When the boys in Freeland heard that you were from northern India there was much talk of Saqlain and Muralitharan and other such wizards of spin. The House Sixes were not won but you scaled the heights of the 3rd XI. You were no demon bowler, nor did you arrive with either a bed of nails or a basket of snakes to charm. You did, however, quickly find your way into the life of the House and ensured your success by charming the pit of vipers that comprises Freeland's female tutors. They delighted in being addressed as 'Ma'am' rather than 'Miss', an anachronism you brought with you from a school founded in 1841 by the British Army in India and from which there are lessons to be learnt or re-learned.

The summer term brings with it its own challenges, events and customs of Freeland's Lower Sixth, middle-distance (bare-footed) runner and produced excellent performances both in House Standards and on Sports Day. Perhaps the ferocity of the competition surprised you – but not nearly as the tug o' war must have done. With alarming swiftness you were drafted into the House Swimming team where, as in the Cricket, Standards, Tennis etc, we came second once again. Hardly had you dried yourself than Adam Wallace approached you to take part in the Senior Inter-House drama competition. Freeland were to perform an extract from *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Jamie Partridge. You made an inscrutable watchman in Dogberry's troupe and James Hay won the award for best Male Actor in a very funny and



thoughtful Partridge Production. You spent a weekend in Edinburgh, having been invited to the Willings and then visited the capital city again to hear the choir singing Fauré's Requiem at St Giles Cathedral. By now you were becoming confident enough to experiment with a variety of roles and it was good both to see an Indian in a kilt on Prize Day and a leaver dressed in his own national costume – which included a loose pair of light linen trousers – for Leavers' Chapel.

On the subject of Leavers, I am sure they all enjoyed your offering of Coconut Rice as part of the Leavers' dinner prepared by Mrs Court. What you made of Gordon Turner as Captain of Senior Tennis and Social Rep for Freeland remains as mysterious as the paths that he and Simon wore towards the top of Scout's Hill. Rugby was certainly a strange and primitive ritual, an impression doubtlessly confirmed by the image made by Colin Eadie, Scotland's Under Eighteen Captain. He, the open-side flanker, recited esoteric mantra that, if I may paraphrase, began with mystic paradoxes such as, 'Saturday's match doesn't begin on Saturday'. Broadfoot now has the No 7 vestment pinned to his study wall and awaits some new kind of out-of-the-body experience. In some ways you were witness to an exceptional year in which, whilst we only won one Inter-House trophy, Freeland produced the captains of all the major boys' sports: C Eadie (Rugby); A Christie (Hockey) and A Moodie (Cricket). Not only that, but in Jon Dalley, Simon Haverson, Duncan Walker and Mark Roger we produced key members of the Marines Section that won the Sir Stewart Pringle Trophy for the best Marines Cadet Unit in Great Britain. It was good that there was such a diversity of interests and social groupings – the sports lot; the Marines bunch; the film club buffers; the Partick Thistle Supporters Club; the Tree-Huggers and Thespians. It meant that a young man from Nepal, who was studying the Scots in their natural habitat, rapidly found his place in a world distinctly Scottish and yet increasingly cosmopolitan.

As for not saying goodbye to you personally, my excuse is that my head was still ringing to the one Abba disc that was the only music for the Leavers all-night barbecue at the barn so kindly provided by those ex-Freelanders, the Logans, on the last night of term. Furthermore the Upper Sixth were about to set out on exotic journeys of their own and I knew you'd find your own way back to Kathmandu whilst they, equally sure of their bearings, had to be made to listen to some utterly superfluous directions provided by their now completely beside-the-point Housemaster. By the way, Jessie is sending you a copy of the new House Photograph, which features, amongst other keen to find a way, several entirely new faces: a Dutchman, a scholar from the Czech Republic, two woolly characters from North of Inverness, two Germans and a Louis Ma look-alike from Hong Kong. I think we need an another Nepali.

Yours aye,

Charles

Charles



# Nicol

**A**s I sit and reflect on my time as Nicol Housemaster, I think firstly of the boys whom I have had the privilege to know and help.

As a Housemaster you get to know the boys better than most school masters or mistresses ever have the chance to do, and you have a chance to help them make the best of all their talents, not just the academic, as well as help them through good times and bad; help them "...to meet Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same."

I decided not to follow my normal format this year as I feel that my last Nicol report needs to be more than just a list of the achievements of the boys in the house, and should include an overall feel of what I think Nicol stands for. When I took Nicol over from JNF five years ago I felt that I was taking over a house which manifested a good balance of individuality and teamwork; a house which had a character of its own and one which had things in a better perspective than some of the others. Generally, boys in Nicol tried hard at all they did. They enjoyed life and each other's company and were proud of their House and the School. As I watched others lose focus and become myopic, I was pleased to watch the Nicol boys keep a balanced vista and look more to the long-term outcome than the short-term gain. My hope is that the boys in Nicol will continue to show the same degree of balance, and continue to care for each other in the way the majority has done during my time as Housemaster. Keeping your focus on what is really important, and not allowing selfish or childish concerns to deflect from the truth of the matter, is a skill all too lacking in modern society. These are the skills that stand the possessor in good stead in their life after Strathallan. They may not be the skills that assist individuals to "get on" by some people's standards, but they are the skills that allow individuals to be thought of as selfless and compassionate human beings who are not prepared to stand on others to climb their way up the greasy pole. I don't think that it is only Nicol boys

who show these characteristics, but I do think that Nicol boys were more able to admit to their own shortcomings and adapt their behaviour accordingly. Any House is only as good as the boys who belong to it, and the boys of Nicol have shown great courage and character during many difficult times. As a community they have supported each other and myself; this is one of the memories that will stay with me.

The year was very successful in many ways, and we won our fair share of silverware on the hockey and cricket pitches and elsewhere, but it was the ability of the individual to triumph against the odds and show their individuality that particularly pleased me. Alasdair Gardner winning a Judo trophy, Tom Booth and William Bowry receiving call ups for hockey and cricket honours, Greg Mouat being asked back to the Old Folks Home, where he did his work experience in Vth form, for their Christmas party, Nils Michael and Carrick Allison playing in the Pipe Band, Ben Kass teaching himself taxidermy, to name but a few. Then there were those less obvious characters who stood up for what they believed, Martin Petzsch and Ben Smith who innately knew what to do when they were faced with one of those difficult situations and had to question their own integrity and that of their peers.

Our continued dominance of the House Academic Challenge was unfortunately not repeated in the Tug-o-War, but our athletics team did perform well above expectation on Sports Day, only just missing out on what would have been a well deserved win by one place in one event. The senior cricket six won the senior competition and the junior team was pipped by Ruthven in the junior event. There were one or two occasions when the boys did not show their best side; when they did not organise themselves for the senior drama competition and pulled out at the last minute and





when the seniors did little to support the victorious juniors in the indoor hockey competition. Overall however it was a good year which, despite not being a classic in some senses, was enjoyed by the vast majority of the boys. I will long remember the end of year BBQ with the tutors taking on the rest at quick cricket and the triumphant return of Mr. Ross's Third Form campers for their weekend at Laggan. I will also remember the Christmas Party with its Video short of a Day in the Life of Nicol and its Staff.

I was so proud of the way the boys supported and helped Jean after the loss of her husband, Carrick, even playing the pipes at the funeral. Jean (who has decided to retire and move back to her native Fife) along with Bess, Devina and Wanda continued to keep the House looking spick and span and administer T.L.C. and hassle in equal measures. They have become a team to be envied by others Houses and I thank them sincerely for all their help during my time at the helm. I will miss their chat and banter. The other people who I wish to thank for all their time and effort are the tutors, AJHW, RHE, GRMR, AMT, JNE, AW, DRS, KG, GAB, SR. They have given so much time and effort on behalf of the boys in Nicol that this effort is often taken for granted. I have greatly valued their efforts and their friendship, and I know that those who carry on will continue to support Mr Giles and thus maintain the success and unique atmosphere of Nicol.

I would like to wish Mr Giles and the boys that make up Nicol every success and the best of luck for the future. Finally, I would like to thank the three most important people in my life, Katie, Becky and Catherine, all of whom have put up with my absences over the past few years with little complaint. I look forward to spending more time with them from now on.



PMV

The STRATHALLIAN



# Ruthven

There can be few more irritating sights than that of one's colleagues gallivanting round in Bermuda shorts and sunglasses when one still has House reports and a School magazine article to write!

Add to this a fax from the girls in Australia describing how wonderful their hockey tour is turning out to be, a 2 am trip to Manchester Airport to drop off the Barbados Netball tourists and my children's insistence that "Now Daddy is on holiday, we will be able to eat Happy Meals at McD's everyday" and perhaps you can sense how this author might be feeling! Inevitably, there will be inaccuracies and omissions! Some will be exulted beyond their worth while others are belittled. Apologies in advance!

If life is a journey, the members of Ruthven have travelled far this year. We have not always headed in the right direction but we have achieved a tremendous amount and have, I believe, learned at great deal, emerging stronger and, hopefully, wiser for the experience!

A reflection of the positive spirit, present for so much of the time amongst the members of the House, was the tremendous performance by the Ruthvenites in clinching the Rowan Cup for Standards, followed by the Inter House Athletics and Tug-of-War on Sports Day. The whole was greater than the sum of the parts, the number, breadth and variety of contributions to these wins being the real success. This was by way of complete contrast with the second half of the autumn term, which was, for some, a very difficult time. To a large extent, the most senior members of the House set the tone of the community. If they get things wrong, the effort and commitment involved in turning things back around is difficult to underestimate. Sincere thanks to everyone - pupils, parents and staff - whose dedication saw most of the damaged relationships repaired.

Ruthven won the Junior House Drama for "the first time in living memory", top performances by Messers Robb, Emslie, Woodrow, Lyburn et al., under the watchful eye of director Thomas Gemmill. The Junior Football (organised by Neil Anderson and Liam Ferry) and the Senior Indoor Hockey came our way. The Senior Drama (top marks to Messers Coaton et al.), Academic Challenge (well done Nicol) and House Music (choirmaster Court and Hendrixesque Ferguson) did not - but there was obvious enjoyment in relative failure! Victories came in the Clay Pigeon, Junior Outdoor Hockey, Junior Cricket (OK





Adam, your hat trick was vital!) and Swimming – yes, swimming! There was an excellent crop of academic distinctions this year, with Steven Wong deserving particular mention for his superb and consistent performance. Few people enjoy exam revision. It seems that the summer term is characterised by an endless diet of public exams. Some worked very hard indeed (evidenced by the good showing of winners on Speech Day), the majority worked hard, others left things very much to the last minute! When you read this, the results will be history, but those going through the grinding mill next year would do well to bear in mind the truth in what the famous golfer Gary Player once said. “The more I practice the luckier I get!”

I wish the leavers success, fulfilment and happiness in their journey through life and thank them for all their positive contributions. To those who remain, work hard, work effectively, seek and listen to wise council and be a positive contributor. For their unstinting and unselfish support, my sincere thanks go to Morec Tod and the Ruthven tutors, to Matron and the domestic staff and to my wife and children.

The Barnes’ tenure in Ruthven is almost over – WATT next! To Andrew and Ann and all those in the House, good luck! I promise to try and be quiet and mind my own business! Advice? Expect the unexpected  
Take little for granted  
Everything is subject to change  
(Le Roi est mort! Vive le Roi!)

DJB



# Simpson

Thanks to Ambrose Bierce's 'The Devil's Dictionary' I recently learned to appreciate education as 'Dust shaken out of a book into an empty skull'.

This revelation has given me considerable hope over the past six weeks that the great weight of dust which collected on the many learned volumes that lined my shelves at school may in some way contribute positively to tomorrow's A-Level results. But I fear not. In writing this end of year report it seemed appropriate to wait the afore-mentioned six weeks for some feeling of nostalgia to set in, and for Mr Weigall's last bellow of 'You idle, skiving waster!' to stop reverberating around my head, so that this piece could be written in the idealised style which my research of past school magazines has shown to be the norm. First though, a few of those crassly over-generalised observations that adolescence is so good at.

Most will probably forgive my banter as the ignorance of youth, but looking at old House Reports for inspiration affirmed my opinion that most of those whose teaching had guided me over the last five years were living in a pre-lapsarian dream. The idealism of teachers is something I always respected (yes, the half-truths of nostalgia have set in after only six weeks), but often challenged, and the arguments which Mr Weigall and I often shared stand testament to this. As Arthur Miller wrote: 'A Salesman's got to dream boy'; a teacher perhaps more so, for a strong sense of right and wrong and a belief (or at least the façade of a belief) in an objective moral ruler are surely absolute necessities when it comes to instilling values in angry young adolescents.

Many things stick amiably in mind when I think about my last year in Simpson. There were the mass brawls in the Common Room every day after 'Neighbours' which would begin with some obscene joke at Tucker's expense (Tucker

being the definitive champion of Common Room wrestles) and end with a good shouting down from Mr Weigall; 'What the hell are you doing! ...now get out!' Such exchanges, along with Mr Weigall's unending flow of sarcastic comments and witty repartee, are for most a memorable part of the Housemaster – pupil relationship, which I sometimes found difficult, but always supportive. For me, the greatest feelings of House spirit were always to be had in such brawls, or late night chats in the brew-room, or games of football on summer evenings. At these times, what it meant to be in Simpson, or at Strath, or really just friends (which I guess is what it's actually all about), suddenly become clear. As much as I love to reminisce, I know if this piece is ever to make it into 'The Strathallian', it will be required that I mention Simpson's year from the rather more official perspective of calendar-driven school events, so here goes.

One of the most notable parts of the school year was the Inter-House Music competition. A newly-arrived Dave (Shaver) Smith helped Harry (an old hand at this kind of thing) put together a programme which saw David Chalmers as front-man for the House band singing what must have been a testing version of 'Hey Jude'. Shaver himself carried off the solo prize with a painfully difficult piano piece for which the otherwise highly critical judge had nothing but praise. The Simpson Choir produced a complex rendition of an Eastern European folk song which, while it had none of the emotional intensity or subtle musical undertones of last year's 'Tie me kangaroo down sport', narrowly missed winning the House Choir prize. To add insult to this travesty of justice the choir was then asked to repeat their performance at Headmaster's Music on a subsequent weekend.

On the sporting side, the School's main event, Sports Day, fell at the first hurdle (ha! ha!) when it was postponed thanks to Scotland's traditionally unpredictable weather. However, the hoots of joy I remember hearing at this news turned sour in my mind when a few weeks later, on a lovely summer's afternoon, I



was rudely hailed from the bathroom to be told my immediate presence was required down at the athletics track for the Senior Boys 4 x 100 metres relay. Thanks to some brilliant organisation by a member of the Lower 6th (who will by the time you read this be Head of House – not, I stress, on the basis of his organisational skills) I had been left blissfully unaware of my role in the House Athletics team until some moments before my race. Perhaps it will not surprise the reader to learn that Simpson was subsequently disqualified from the Senior Boys 4 x 100 metre relay thanks to an illegal hand over between the second and third legs (I admit, with embarrassment, to running the second leg). Alongside such anti-heroes, however, Simpson did have on show some true specimens of sporting prowess, most notably Scott McKinley who, while running for Scotland in his spare time, was victorious in every one of the numerous individual track events he participated in on Sports Day.

I'm afraid we did not win Sports Day (I think it was more like a close third), and while that rubbish about 'it's not the winning, but the taking part' may all be very well, Simpson's victory in the Inter-House Tennis was a welcome one. With a team put together by Harry (as with the music, an old hand at this kind of thing), a close final against Freeland resulted ultimately in a win.

As with all Junior Inter-House Drama competitions, it is inevitably necessary to catch some poor, unsuspecting third former and kit them out in drag. In Simpson's case this year however, the true sexual orientation of at least one of our

Third Formers came under serious question when he appeared as a boy, dressed up as a girl, dressed up as a boy. Although we did not win the competition overall, Stuart Scroggie and David Chalmers put on legendary performances, in all the gender roles that were required of them and Simpson was, as a token gesture, allowed to carry away the prize for Best Programme. This was awarded, it seems, in spite of the fact that our programme was rubbish, because the judges felt a need to give at least one prize to every House. Having been hard done by in the junior drama, Simpson swept the board in the Senior Inter-House Drama competition, with notable performances from Ben Bartlett, Skit Galloway, Robert Mackenzie and Ivo Soot, in costumes best described as extrovert.

Finally, I feel compelled to mention something on the academic front, in which two key players come straight to mind. Mark Stringer, who I have no doubt will carry off a hoard of A\*s at GCSE, won 5 prizes on Speech Day, while John Coull, whose pockets were also laden with book vouchers after Speech Day, scored an obscene 100% in a maths module which he took ridiculously early.

Thanks are also due to Mr Lunan, Matron, our cleaners Ella and Margaret, Lorraine and Anne our Sewing Lady and the visiting tutors Mr Du Boulay, Mr Higginbottom and Mr Summersgill. Particular mention should be made of the brief but enthusiastic contribution of Mr Gwynne-Jones; his vibrant presence was missed and he takes our best wishes back down under. It is notable that yet another Simpson Tutor has moved on to greater things and the House wishes Mr Giles well as he sacrifices himself and takes on Nicol next year.

The School will be a very different place next year; a new Sixth Form, two new Housemasters and a new Second Master with, I'm fairly sure, substantially less anarchistic views than Mr Proctor, from whom I had the pleasure of an education in Political Philosophy. All I can say for certain is that I'm glad Strath was the place it was while I was there, and to this end I will keep many fond memories, even when I have lost touch with the friends who fill them. As the day draws to a close, the unveiling of the School's final legacy to the class of '99 comes ominously closer. Exactly how much of that dust our teachers managed to get into our empty skulls will soon be made clear.

Adam Rackley/WDAW



# Thornbank

## Celebrations galore in Thornbank this past year, due to our numerous Inter-House victories.

Our first and biggest win was the House Music competition, winning everything: best solo, ensemble, choir, and, of course, best overall performance. This was no easy feat, but with Ruth's expert guidance, we wiped the board. Ruth's piano solo was "outstanding", the ensemble was "a proper windband", and the choir was considered "professional" - all quotes from the adjudicator. The house choir has certainly improved since the competition started, with the whole house attempting to sing 'Let it Be', and a mere ten people actually singing! We hope the fun and "professional" status we have now may continue.

The senior drama went very well, with Charley and Becky winning best directors, Ruth winning best actor, and us winning the overall best interpretation and best publicity awards.

We also won the hockey, tennis and sports day against Woodlands; and the clay pigeon shooting competition, thanks to Sabrina, Tisi and Steph (the trophy is now in pride of place

in the Common Room). In fact, our trophy collection has increased significantly over the past year! Our defeats were: netball (for a change), badminton (damn shame), standards (just), the school quiz (better luck next year, eh?) and swimming (although I'm informed that the relays were quite entertaining, if nothing else).

Another celebration to remember is the Christmas House party - a talent show, with a very varied repertoire (granny raps, comedy duets, Bewitched, Queen, dancing, and singing). Thanks to Morag, Diane, Liz and Linda for contributing to the singing, and thanks to Miss Morrison and Mrs HB for not! The whole night was highly enjoyable, and could only have been improved by Mr and Mrs Raeside taking up the challenge of a duet!

Now a quick word of thanks (dull perhaps, but essential): Thanks to Morag & Co. for preventing health hazards in the kitchens, thanks to the Tutors for making us do at least some prep (I can't believe I just said that), and a BIG thank you to Dr Carr and Mrs Raeside for keeping us so well fed throughout the year - through either the superb tuckshop, or through the BBQs, ice-cream nights, pizza nights, cookies, donuts, crisps...

**Charis Robertson (Lower Sixth)**





## Post Script

Over the last months Miss Morrison and I have enjoyed seeing the impact of a particularly talented and dedicated team of prefects leading the house. It was clear from the house questionnaires that the pupils were equally appreciative.

It was a year of impressive academic achievements. Apart from many excellent exam results, I saw Form Order sheets that I would have framed had they been mine! It was hard to keep track of the LAMDA, Music Exam and Festival awards, they came in so thick and fast. I only hope we could congratulate and encourage adequately.

Charis has covered the Inter-House competitions in her report which leaves me to puzzle over certain questions which remain:

- Why did the Child Welfare Inspectors not see Dr. Carr's token box of healthy cereal bars nestling amongst the chocolates in the tuck-shop. (It was still full and had not quite reached its sell-by date)?
- Why did I not know about Katrin's pink eyebrows and why did Claire and Mary think I would not notice when they bleached theirs?
- Was it necessary for the entire house to experience the smell of a carpet being left too wet after the West Wing water fight?
- Why were Ruairidh Roome, Gary Hutton and Michael Wilson not on our common room duty rota?
- Will Holly and Kirstie ever skip "double ropes" as well as Mrs Hamilton can?



- Where would we be without Dawson's Creek and did Sarah (Currie) and Alison really have to sing along to the theme tune?
- After six years will Thornbank survive without a "Green" in the house? (Well, Lucy did leave us with a staggeringly pink kitchen...)
- Did Sara's response to having her legs waxed put all observers off for life?
- Who will Christina choose to "manage" at Cambridge? (Our weekly meetings were so obviously her way of ensuring that I was working hard enough for the house.)
- Is the patience and support demonstrated by the tutors, domestic team and parents endless?

Thanks!



# Woodlands

## A quiet study in a house on the edge of the village.

From the window a view over the hills, from the back garden nothing but an acre of green. No phone on the desk, no doorbell. What a place to write my last Woodlands report. Quick, proper working conditions!

...Conjure up: a riot in the foyer, fifty fifth form boys with identical razor-cut waxed blond hair simultaneously trying to infiltrate East Wing through the sink overflow in Lynn Watson's room, Third Formers surfing on a flood of biblical proportions in the wash room, graffiti crisis in the Days Girls' room; a thousand girls wanting... improbable amounts of chocolate from the tuck shop, stationery chits for phone cards in multiples of twenty pounds, taxis to Perth to meet fictitious relations and please would it be possible if I could have weekend leave in Bali, more girls needing... emergency hair colour restoration, instantaneous body piercing reversal, Bursar's Chits for twenty grand for half term as of yesterday, tickets to Inverness via Dorking and Wallsend (with railcard), permission to leave early for the weekend (meaning 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday for the cat's 21st birthday next Wednesday week); a two-hour Housemasters' Meeting to attend every day of the week, parents knocking at the door, Grannies ringing the phone, eligible Canadians urgently seeking to contact Rosie at improbably late times of night, the fax machine spooling out priority messages by the metre, beep! you have mail! - and how! - Dutch Social Security forms dancing out of envelopes, Old Woodlanders with immediate and urgent need of two hundred and twenty page references, Form Orders tomorrow and the forms are not in the Working Common Room, House phones only taking 999 calls,

Coke machine has eaten Ksenia's last 5 rouble coin, Zenka's sewing machine has disappeared, someone has taken the Head of House's underwear from the Drying Room, hold on! - Chapel to go to every hour on the hour, another Prefects' Meeting to follow up on the points raised in the previous Prefects' Meeting yesterday, five, five-minute signing forms to fill in on a five-minute rotation, no House Handbook yet and the Inspectors could be here any day, the fire alarm droning on as the toast burns again in East Wing Upper, East Wing Lower, North Wing Upper, North Wing Lower, microwave on the blink, epidemic of beri-beri among the Fourth Form, remote control for the TV discovered on the top of the TV after being missing for two days, a ten-page record form to fill in in triplicate for each pupil (by tomorrow!), an Inspector calling, an academic report for Hayley, another Inspector calling, an academic report for Emma and another Inspector calling, an academic report for Amy and yes, another Inspector calling. Those were the days. Here goes.

Woodlands sailed through the year with the gilded splendour of the tasteful and modest emblem above the Front Door, and for the seventh time I can record that we Did Well. Most of the Upper Sixth worked Jolly Hard for most of the time (except when the television was on), the Lower Sixth were enlivened by additions from Canada, Kenya and Rannoch as well as by their customary high spirits, the Fifth Form really did work hard, the Fourth Form got their first glimpses of what working hard means, and the Third Form visited Ruthven, an awful lot. In competition we met with triumph and slightly less than triumph, meeting both impostors with completely different attitudes. The Senior Hockey players battled against the majority of the 1st XI for their first ever win while the Juniors didn't quite manage the same; the Netball teams were both successful, the Swimming Team only just, and perhaps best of all, I have to reveal that the



keenly contested Virtual House Cross-Country Race was won by Woodlands against all comers, including the best of the Boys' Houses put together. Any reader who would like to know how this came about and how his (or her) House could benefit from this prestigious trophy should see me, preferably with a considerable amount of money in used banknotes. Back to the serious stuff. Our Junior Debating Team came out On Top in the eponymous contest, with Kate Nesbitt and Isla Barnard doing the honours, and Georgina Philip penned the Best Script in the Junior House Play competition after the Lower Sixth had despaired of success. Not all was so happy in the Thespian world, all the same: the Senior House Drama competition was unfortunately deprived of a performance to rival that of John Cleese and the lady-whose-name-I-forget-but-who-might-have-been-Felicity-Kendal (or was it Geraldine James?) who played opposite him as Kate in the *Taming of the Shrew* for the BBC Shakespeare series. This was rumoured to be because of contractual difficulties with the cast, Alice being double-booked to appear in *Much Ado about Nothing* at the Lyceum on the same night, but more prosaic perhaps was the fact that the undoubted winners had not learned their lines. Most recently we just missed making Sports Day ours for the third year in a row, but it was an exciting competition with some remarkable performances on both sides. Caroline Reed's success as Senior Victrix and the retention of the Tug of War Shield were compensation enough.

And what of the characters of the year, the events which went on unseen by all those unacquainted with the real Woodlands? I'm afraid I can't tell you about those since the Welfare Guidelines strictly forbid such indiscretions. Here, however, are some which I made up for fun and which may both approximate to the truth and be somewhat closer to the bone: Ksenia's English, which was at first a cause of some concern, has improved to the extent that she can ask for 20 Marlboro' in a convincing Glesca' accent. There is no truth in the rumour that Sioned, Kirsty, Katy and Alanna are auditioning for the leading female roles in a re-make of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. There is some truth in the commonly-held belief that everyone in Woodlands will next year be called Laura: this will make life much easier for everyone who goes to support the various House Teams. Laura Dover is not entirely to blame for this move. Kirsty Norris really did go to India as a winner of the Fulcrum Challenge, thereby missing all her School Exams. Reports that



Fiona Hunter, Katie Mitchell and Suzi Harvey were the sensation of the Woodlands Christmas Party are quite true, and if anyone in Simpson is missing a pair of Calvin Klein underpants they should make urgent enquiries. At the same time there is nothing but wild exaggeration in the report that I played the bagpipes at the same event, and anyone suggesting that Messrs. Thomson and Wilson were the judges at a "Talent Contest" could well find themselves the subject of legal action of the nastiest kind.

And so it goes on. Life in a large boarding house is something which is hard to convey in all its complexity, hilarity, tragedy and pathos: for the last seven years my family have been part of a community of between seventy and (including Tutors, Matron and Cleaners) ninety people, and we have all - family and House alike - collectively been through as much as any such community could hope or fear to undergo in such a period of time. I hope that the one hundred and forty or so Woodlanders who are now at large in the wider world have gained at least something from their time in the House, and that those who are still at school will in the fullness of time look back on their schooldays with affection. Personally, I shall have many fond memories of individuals, of disasters which turned out to be less than such, of successes of many different kinds which were earned sometimes by inspiration though for the most part by teamwork and persistence. I shall have sadder memories too of the personal tragedies which have happened over the years, but tempered by the often remarkable courage and mutual support which they have brought out in people. For their hard work, good advice and friendship, many thanks to our Tutors: Miss England, Mrs Ross, Madame Crane, Miss Nixon, Miss Mason, Miss Vass, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Ninham, Mrs Hunter, Miss Quan and Mr Kitson, to the Domestic Staff: Betty, Vicky, Janet (of course!), Zenka, Mary and Aileen, and to the seven Heads of House since 1992: Pauline, Ruth, Suzi, Amelia, Karen, Eleanor and Rebecca. And lastly a big thank-you to the present House and the ex-Woodlanders who generously contributed to our leaving present. I don't think we shall ever forget any of you, nor would we want to.

There cannot be many jobs in which so much happens, and so much is called for and so much is given. Kate and I may well enjoy the quiet, but we shall miss the company. We wish Mr and Mrs Evans and all Woodlanders the very best in the future.

ACWS-J



# Chaplaincy Report

**T**he main focal point of the School's charity raising was as a result of the chillingly disturbing reports coming from Kosovo.

With tens of thousands of women, men and children hiding in the hills or making their way to grossly overcrowded refugee camps, we felt that we ought to do something to help alleviate their distress. The Chapel collections in the Summer Term were the largest I have ever seen, individual Sundays were nearly always three figure sums.

After consultations with Sir Tom Farmer's office and with the UNHCR rep., I spoke at Chapel, which was all that was necessary to fire up Mr Streatfeild-James' imagination. A ten-mile sponsored walk in the hills above Dunkeld was speedily planned with meticulous attention to detail. Sponsorship forms flew all over this country and further afield.

The School provided the coaches for transport and the day itself was neither too warm nor too cold. An intrepid group of pupils ran the course, and there were members of staff who also ran including the Headmaster with Wallace. My own dog, Ensay, was heavily sponsored by folks in the Uists and Benbecula.

We were able to hand over a cheque for over £5,000 to a member of Sir Tom Farmer's staff in Chapel at the final Assembly of the year, learning that our contribution was the single largest outwith corporate firms. Mr Douglas spoke movingly of his recent visit to the camps at Macedonia. At the Valedictory Service, the Offering was over £277.

Compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves, as a Christian ideal, must always be foremost in our minds.

Autumn Term Preachers: Mr Peter Chirnside, National Co-ordinator TEAR Fund (Scotland); The Revd Carleen Robertson, Eassie & Nevay linked with Newtyle; The Revd W Uist Macdonald, Aberdalgie; The Revd David D Ogston, Kirk of St John the Baptist, Perth; The Revd Dr Finlay A J Macdonald, Principal Clerk, The General Assembly.

Summer Term Preachers: The Revd Dr Adrian PJ Varwell, Warden, St Ninian's, Crieff; The Revd John P Chalmers, Board of Ministry, Edinburgh; The Revd David Mill, Finnart St Paul's, Greenock (Valedictory Service).

TGL

## Salvete

### Riley

S E R Barton, A J Bisset, M Bonington, C H Bowry, N D C Boyd, A Campbell, A E Carmichael, J J Chalmers, E C D Davey, K Drane, J W M Fairlie, R Fergie, S E Fleming, M S Fraser, L Giles, E Gordon, S C Greer, M W Hartgerink, J M Laing, E J Lawther, K A Leitch, R Leslie, I A MacFadyen, C M McArthur, R A McBain, L W McDonald, S McRobbie, A M L Melville, A Niven, M C T O'Reilly, K E Potts, A F Robb, M A Shaw Stewart, M S Smith, N Smith, M A T Stewart, O Streatfeild-James, E A Wardman, P R Watson, L E Whitelaw, V A E Woollven.

### Freeland

H Campbell, R L C Campbell, J Christie, D J Hartgerink, T W F Hine, T B Lauterjung, TY-L Law, P W Pillar, M Riley, C D Wright, J Zitek.

### Nicol

D A Bickerton, J Christie, A Klein, R McLaren, C E Wardman, C P T Watson.

### Ruthven

M G Best, C F Emslie, R A W Girvan, E W Templeman.

### Simpson

C N Berglar, G J W Duncan, H T N Hay, A Hickman, R A B Lamont, A J Mather, A McLelland.

### Thornbank

S Arakji, A I Cameron, J A Cargil, S Erdal, K S MacFadyen. S E Robb.

### Woodlands

L Dolan, A Kelly, K Leckie-Palmer, K B Lyburn, C A McCleery, I M McFarlane, A A Skinner, L P Wallace, C Wood-Goulbourn.



# Music

## Another busy year in the music department, due to much hard work by the School's musicians,

has resulted in rising standards of performance and a real diversity of musical styles in the large number of concerts that have taken place.

A recent article in *The Times* entitled "John Donne is a better poet than John Lennon" stressed the importance of studying the literary classics as well as modern literature. Given the choice, the average sixteen year old will go for Nick Hornby's "Fever Pitch" rather than Dickens' "David Copperfield", and it is the School's responsibility to ensure that this happens. This is also very much the case in music. The majority of school pupils' musical diet is a constant supply of popular music, through radio, CD and television, and the aim of the music department must surely be to ensure a wide range of musical experiences, including considerable emphasis on the classics.

The major events: Headmaster's Music in the Autumn and Summer terms and the House Music Competition, are reported elsewhere. These events now generate a great deal of interest amongst pupils with many items and ideas being suggested, and now more often, being rehearsed by them. There is also a greater willingness to perform although we cannot afford to be complacent here, there is still a general reluctance amongst many boys to take to the concert platform, particularly in choirs.

Of the many events that have stayed in the mind this year, the choir's performances at the carol services rank highly. A superb performance from our outstanding young tenor David Chalmers in von Herbeck's delightful "Pueri Cincinite" was supported by controlled and sensitive singing from the choir. Contrasting skills were brought to the fore in Carter's serene "I Sing of a Maiden" through the subtleties of Rutter's "Candlelight Carol" to the Spanish frivolity of "Riu Riu" accompanied by tambourine. The choir were also on form for our third successive trip to York Minister. Again they excelled at the psalm singing and Noble's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor received a suitably dignified performance in the building for which it was written. Although we have sadly not been able to sing regularly in Sunday Chapel due to 'leave outs', the choir has been particularly busy out of school, with performances in the Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh, (where we sang Darke's Service in F for the Sunday morning Eucharist Service), St John's Church, Perth, Glamis Castle (where a small number sang a Grace) and together with the Choral Society for two concerts (one at school and one at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh) performing Fauré's Requiem. After a difficult rehearsal, largely due to the cathedral's acoustics, choir and orchestra responded superbly, particularly in creating the right atmosphere so important in performances of this work. The concert brought many favourable comments from the appreciative audience.

The orchestra has also been busy and we have managed to maintain complete string and woodwind sections, along with more brass instruments. As well as important contributions to Headmaster's Music Concerts, they performed at the annual

Prize-Giving Concert and the Perth Festival Lunchtime Concert, where they were at their most impressive in the colourful 'Three Russian Pieces' arranged by Stephen Dodgson. Here all the sections had a chance to be heard and, on occasions, shine.

Elsewhere a huge diversity of talent and music was on display in the 3rd Form Concert in December and the 4th Form Concert in March, ranging from vocal groups 'A Wimbeweh' from 'Lion King' and Vicky Robertson's 'There's Always Hope' to the 4th Form's String Group and the Jazz Group's 'Water Melon Man' courtesy of our woodwind teacher, Jim Morrice. As well as these larger items, there were numerous solos and duets which altogether demonstrated much talent in the lower school.

In April, a dozen or so senior pupils responded to an invitation from the Perth Chamber Music Society to perform at Perth Art Gallery, the Girl's Choir undertook a short tour to the Lake District and of course many musicians were involved in the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar".

As the year ends, we see the departure of Stephen Dutton, and we welcome Catherine Baker (singing teacher at Strathallan for the last six years) as the new Assistant Director of Music. We also note with gratitude the passing of several musical "stalwarts" from the Upper Sixth, in particular Ruth Sharp, who has given us so many truly stunning performances on piano and clarinet over the years, Harry Crump, leader of the orchestra, key bass, but perhaps best remembered for his Scottish Fiddle performances, Peter Wilkinson, First Trumpet in the orchestra who went out on a high note playing Gange's Trumpet Concerto during the summer term, Dave Smith, only with us for a year but who made a huge contribution both on the piano and as a bass (including his particularly fine baritone solo in the Fauré Requiem) and those loyal choir members Katie Dutton and Jean-Paul Fishback.

DGR



# Headmaster's Music

These two concerts in November and June are now so much part of the musical tradition at Strathallan that there is a temptation simply to take them for granted.

This would be a gross disavowal to the range of talent offered in a wide variety of musical forms, appealing to all sections of what were appreciative audiences, and to the zeal with which these gifted performers had prepared for what must, despite their experience, still be a demanding and very public occasion.

Every reviewer is entitled to emphasise what appealed most to his own musical tastes (or so George Bernard Shaw writing his musical criticism as Cornetto de Basso assured his more suspicious readers) and this one is no exception. Prejudice must be set aside and quality identified. It was easy to be impressed by two very different openings to the concerts. The first consisted of stirring performances by the Senior Orchestra, the Hungarian March by Berlioz being performed with particular relish, once the strings had got over a somewhat hesitant start. In the second we were entertained by a catchy number entitled African Sunday written and performed by Victoria Robertson; this was a very effective piece of music drama, directly aimed at her audience and sung in a musical and convincing manner. Most of the audience's kikuhu was rather rusty so it was a relief to discover that she had made up the extremely convincing words herself.

Each programme maintained the momentum so early established. Riley Choir sang with their customary infectious enthusiasm, gusto and musicality in numbers by Sondheim (Catriona Martin and Rebecca Johnstone were effective soloists whose impeccably clear diction was a feature of their performances) and the ubiquitous Victoria Robertson turned up again to direct and sing another of her own compositions, entitled "I am a Father". This involved the juxtaposition of two choirs addressed each in turn and held together by a soloist whose stage presence and clear voice produced an extremely individual and compelling performance. The summer concert's opening was followed by an equally energetic rendition of extracts from *Oliver* by the Riley Choir who were joined by the Senior Girls Choir for *One Day More* from *Les Misérables*. This involved some carefully worked out choreography which enhanced the impact of this favourite and well sung piece, although the precise significance of the raising of the European Union flag at the end was rather lost on this reviewer.

As ever, the standards of the individual performers was very high. Hamish Forbes' sustained cello legato produced a polished Swan that was easy to imagine serenely gliding to Saint Sâns' lovely music, perhaps on Monet's lily pond at Giverny, and Dave Smith tackled the technical problems of *Rhapsody in Blue* in a powerful, very proficient performance that underscored why Gershwin is such a perennial favourite amongst twentieth century composers. Hamish was joined in the winter concert by Julia Rogers' violin and Ruth Sharp on the piano in the allegro from Haydn's *Piano Trio in D*. Ruth was in commanding form and the lyricism and power of a great piece of music was evident in a carefully crafted and well-rehearsed performance, in which she was ably supported by the others in a comparatively rare piece which afforded obvious enjoyment and even cause for reflection.



The same soloists contributed to the success of the summer concert. Julia Rogers' sensitive, assured and moving account of Elgar's early piece, *Salut d'Amour*, one whose copyright incidentally was sold for only a few shillings, caught the nostalgic greatness of this truly Edwardian composer at a point where his talents were burgeoning as he found his own distinctive voice. Dave Smith chose to entertain us this time with Debussy, whose technical demands presented few problems for him and allowed him, particularly in *Général Lavine* from the *Les Preludes*, to demonstrate his assured technique and sympathy for the music of this demanding composer. Emma McFarlane provided a haunting interpretation of Poulenc's Flute sonata and sister Claire combined with Julia Rogers to remind us of the spell-binding qualities of Vivaldi's music for joint violins. Another highlight of this concert was Ruth Sharp's sensitive and moving account of Schubert's *Impromptu in G Flat Major*, a stunning performance that underlined her musicianship, sensitivity for the nuances of this most demanding of pieces and technique to respond to the demands of a deceptively misleading composer.

But beyond the skills of those trained in the traditional arts of classical music there lurk many more whose contributions to the musical life of the school must not be unacknowledged. Laura Morley and Fiona MacFarlane, both skilled musicians, therefore, had the opportunity to display their musical talents accompanied by the Chamber Choir and the final items of the November concert saw the Chapel Choir commencing serenely with Purcell and Samuel Wesley and concluding on a rumbustiously triumphant note with Alexander's *Ragtime Band*. Equally, the June concert contained numbers which, if not taken from the more obvious parts of the classical repertoire, still displayed musicianship of the highest order and, just as important, provided equal enjoyment to the audience. The Three Tenors turned out to be three talented tenor saxophonists, the extrovert Fraser Whitelaw and the existentialist Nils Michael guided by their guru Jim Morrice in a programme which inexplicably ended with a crescendo on the alarming drum-kit mobilised by Johnny Stormonth-Darling. And very enjoyable too. Shuna Readman, backed by some of the singers and instrumentalists already mentioned, sang *Don't Be A Stranger* in a deliciously *café crème* manner that might have taken some of her elder listeners back to the *rive gauche* in earlier years. Thornbank House Choir, who had been a sensation in the House Music Competition, performed *Like a Prayer* in a version arranged and directed by Ruth Sharp, and a quartet mobilised by the Headmaster played McMozart's brilliant *Eine Kleine Bricht*. Moonlight Nicht Musik which, followed by the traditional Leavers' Choir, brought proceedings to a close.

Two hugely enjoyable concerts, therefore, which were, as ever, notable for the diverse variety of musical talent on display, both underlined the commitment of the musicians throughout the school to producing performances of the highest standard, and gave a privileged audience the chance to share talented pupils' delight in making music and to appreciate the quality of what they were hearing.



Pick Up  
Everything You  
Need For  
School at

The Official  
Outfitters to  
Strathallan  
School



- Monthly / Budget Account Facilities •
- Free Delivery Within the UK •

**Fenwicks of Perth**

21-23 High Street, Perth. Tel: 01738 637843  
Fax: 01738 441758



# Musical Memories

**W**hen I came to Riley, my fanatical admiration shifted from Madonna and Michael Jackson to sixth formers Hillary and Raj.

I was proud that my idols referred to me as the girl who could play Moonlight Sonata when she was only ten! It never occurred to me that they may also regard me as a pain in the neck since my runaway destination was unerringly their territory - the tuneful music practice blocks! Raj and Hillary were my inspiration. But I could never be as good as them: after all Hillary attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Surely only exceptional musicians went there? Then, two years later, I discovered that I had overcome this impossible feat by winning a place there to study piano and clarinet. For the rest of my time at Strath between school and the Academy, I was never without music, be it the racket of Radio 1 blasting towards the Streatfield-James in Woodlands, or placid piano practising on the Steinway in the Music Room.

Owing to Mr Read's and Mr Dutton's constant encouragement and dedication, there was always something available on the music scene. Orchestra on a Monday was always an ideal alternative to the dreaded athletic standards, while choir offered the perfect opportunity to skive prep or 'silent reading'. Annual choir trips became a prolific source of gossip as we lived up to our reputations as eccentric musicians. Choral Society was the ultimate pupil/teacher bonding session while Chamber Choir was our weekly girlies night out. Twice yearly the sixth form would jealously guard their glass of wine from the juniors at Headmaster's Music and the new House Music Competition gave the girls a real chance to upstage the boys houses.

Yet despite all these hidden agendas, Strath has produced an extraordinary high level of music throughout my eight years' experience. This is due to the enthusiasm, encouragement and hard work of staff and pupils alike. So thank you for letting me, and all the others, make wonderful music. May it always continue to be an integral part of life at Strathallan.

**Ruth Sharp (Upper Sixth)**

(Ruth is currently on a 'Gap' year in Germany)



## JOHN JOHNSTON & SON

**JOINERS AND CONTRACTORS**

(Established 1919)

**ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR  
ALL CLASSES OF WORK**



**PRIORY PLACE, CRAIGIE  
PERTH PH2 0DT**

**Fax/Telephone (01738) 624673**

V.A.T. Reg. No. 327 3415 70



# House Music

## Occupying the unenviable opening slot, Ruthven House

gave us a very relaxed but rhythmical Blues ensemble, followed by some dazzling guitar pyrotechnics, improvised by Alan Ferguson, for the solo item. We were then very smoothly taken to the Jungle, via an excellent entrance routine, for the choir's expressively sung 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight'.

Simpson then surprised many in the audience by producing a four part unaccompanied choir of the highest order to sing the haunting Romanian piece 'Miluieste-ma'. Then another impressive solo, this time on the piano, Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' played by Dave Smith. Simpson ensemble continued in a slightly more subtle vein than in previous years to give us a pleasant 'Hey Jude', skillfully led by David Chalmers, a vocal soloist.

Woodlands began with Rutter's 'For the Beauty of the Earth', excellently sung with plenty of light and shade and expertly accompanied by Harriet Hunt. 'Dark Island' for the solo item, produced some truly evocative Scottish sounds, with Shuna Readman (voice) accompanied by Laura Morley on the clarsach. The ensemble consisted of an impressive array of instruments for an arrangement of 'Bridge Over Troubled Water'.

Freeland choir began with a moving, unaccompanied performance of 'Steal Away', notable for its wide ranging expression. Hamish Forbes, the intrepid soloist, dared to give us two unaccompanied cello pieces by Bach, both excellently played despite their difficulty. The ensemble item 'Canteloupe Island'

was particularly memorable for its genuine improvisations and tight rhythmic control and Max Markus gave us another spine-chilling performance as compère.

In 'Rawhide' Nicol produced the funniest choir piece – just right at this point in the proceedings. All were turned out in appropriate cowboy gear and whipped into time by the chief ranch-hand/conductor 'Cindy' Crawford. Nils Michael revealed a superb talent in his saxophone solo 'Rachael and the Boys' and he also took a leading role in the very enjoyable ensemble 'Summertime'.

Thornbank began with a highly polished and wittily played wind ensemble arrangement of 'Macavity' from 'Cats', followed by Rachmaninov's C# Minor Prelude – an excellent choice to show Ruth Sharp's superb talent. The final choir item was a totally professional and meticulously rehearsed rendering of 'Like a Prayer': words, notes, dance routines were all spot on.

An impressive morning's entertainment from all the Houses and a great way to end the half term and set off for the holiday.

### RESULTS:

Best Conductor	Nicol (Richard Crawford)
Best Accompanist	Woodlands (Harriet Hunt)
Best Solo	Shared Simpson/Thornbank (Dave Smith & Ruth Sharp)
Best Ensemble	Thornbank
Best Choir	Thornbank
House Music Cup	Thornbank

DGR



# Pipe Band

## The Pipe Band has had another good year, winning forty prizes and awards.

The year began with a bang when Carin Munro won the Scottish Junior Solo Piping Championship (under thirteen years) at Carnoustie. Her prizes were The Conoco (UK) Ltd Award, a splendid piece of Edinburgh Crystal, a made-to-measure kilt, a medal and a certificate. At the same event, Mark Stringer won The Royal British Legion, Carnoustie, Shield and a kilt pin as first prize in the Open Dress and Deportment section. Rory Whytock took fourth prize in the thirteen to sixteen years Chanter event and fifth prize in the thirteen to sixteen years Novice Piping event: winning two medals, a book of Pipe music, a pair of kilt socks and a certificate. A good day out for Strathallan!

Our German Piper, Nils Michael, won his first Scottish Competition by walking off with the Chalice Cup as first prize in the Novice Piping section at the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch Competition at Blairgowrie. He achieved this despite being extremely nervous before the event. Niall Robertson won the under fourteen years March and fourth prize in the under sixteen years Jig. Robbie Whytock took third prize in the under sixteen years March, Strathspey and Reel section while Mark Stringer came fifth in the under sixteen years Jig section. Another good haul for Strathallan!

Mark Stringer played at a St Andrew's Night for the Perthshire Masonic Club where his performance was well received. Our last outing for the autumn term was to the Craigmount High School Solo Piping Competition. Carin Munro won the Marching, Dress and Deportment prize in the thirteen years and under section, winning the Dee and Dee Trophy and a medal. Our most successful day out, in terms of prizes, was the outing to Pitlochry for the Vale of Atholl Solo Piping Championships. Strathallan walked off with eleven prizes. These were won by Niall Robertson who was named Junior Champion, winning the Aberfeldy and District Piping Society Rose Bowl. He achieved this by winning the George Hull Trophy as first prize in the Jig Competition, taking third prize in the Piobaireachd and fifth prize in the March section. As well as his two trophies, he won a cup, two medals, a music book and a voucher for forty pounds to spend at a piping shop.

Rory Whytock won the Bank of Scotland Cup, a small cup and a CD of Pipe Music as first prize in the thirteen to eighteen years Novice Piping. Carin Munro won three prizes in the under fifteen years section third in the March, fourth in the Piobaireachd and fifth in the Jig. Mark Stringer took fifth prize in the Senior Piobaireachd. Robbie Whytock continued Strathallan's winning ways in the Dress and Deportment section by taking third prize from over 120 competitors. Cameron Jack in his second competition won a medal as third prize in the thirteen to fifteen years Chanter section. This concluded a marvellous day for Strathallan.

Pipe Major Robbie Whytock played at a Burns Supper at The Glebe School, Scone where the pupils enjoyed both his playing and the haggis which followed. On Friday 5th February

a trio of pipers, Robbie Whytock, Mark Stringer and Niall Robertson were invited to The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Schools' Evening where they took part in a "massed band" playing a number of tunes with the assembled company. Each school then went on to give a short performance of light music before being served with drinks and snacks.

Robbie and Niall then played at a dinner at Hallyburton House, Coupar Angus. They played selections as the company arrived, then played the guests in to dinner. After the aroma of the meal had done its job on the boys, we adjourned to the local chip shop to satisfy our rumbling stomachs!

We then had the opportunity to attend a recital given by Gordon Duncan, Roderick MacLeod and the legendary Donald Macpherson. Robbie and Rory Whytock accompanied by Mrs Whytock and myself went along and were treated to a feast of music in a wide range of styles. Both Robbie and Rory were amazed by the playing and sound produced by Donald Macpherson, who at the age of 84 did not miss a grace note and gave an incredible display of musicianship on a magnificent sounding instrument.

After such inspiration, it was back to practice for the boys as the next contest was looming. This outing was to the Quartet Piping and Mini Band Championships held by the R.S.P.B.A. Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch. Menzieshill High School was the venue which saw the band win the Novice Juvenile Mini Band Section and third prize in the Open Quartet competition, beaten only by two teams from the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band who are in the top grade.

Our annual visits to the ice rink for the curling championships went well with the band's performance being well received. Robbie also appeared on another occasion where he again gave a good performance. Mark Stringer did the honours at the Strathallan Club Dinner while Carin Munro played at the Rotary Club Dinner while the guests were arriving.

The band finished second at the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Pipe Band Championship, winning the Craigmount Trophy. Niall Robertson won the Junior Piping with Carin Munro taking fourth prize, both for the second year in a row.

At the R.S.P.B.A. Stirlingshire Branch competition at Denny High School, the band played very well to take first and second prizes in the Novice Juvenile Mini Bands. The "B" team was first on this occasion with the more experienced "A" team taking second spot. They then joined forces to take the top prize for Juvenile bands in Grade 3.

Six pipers took part in the beating retreat ceremonies at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House although the highlight seemed to be the visit to MacDonald's on the way home!

The band put on another good performance on Speech Day where some of our fringe players and some of our new members got a chance to show what they could do. They coped with this admirably and gave a stirring rendition of Mhairie's Wedding and Duncan Gray.

At the Shotts Highland Games the band retained the Elizabeth Kinnear Trophy for Dress, Marching and Discipline which they first won last year. They took fifth prize in Novice Juvenile and third prize in the Juvenile competitions. First in Novice Juvenile



and second in Juvenile at the Bearsden Highland Games as well as being chosen as the leading band in the opening ceremony to welcome the Chieftain for the day, Mrs Mack from Scottish Television's "High Road" made this a memorable day for the band.

At the Scottish Schools' Championship held this year at Goldenacre in Edinburgh, hosted by George Heriot's School, we had a very wet and miserable day to contend with. The solo competitions were held first with all our entrants playing well despite the conditions. Niall Robertson retained the Junior Championship which he first won last year, with Carin Munro being placed third, also for the second year in a row. Nils Michael excelled himself to take second prize in the senior piping as well as finishing second in the Dress and Drill section for seniors. In the band event, after a very musical performance, Strathallan were awarded second place.

The last event for the year was the school solo piping and drumming competition. Some very good performances were heard on the day. The major winners were: Drumming events; - Novice Drumming - Iain Aitken; Bass and Tenor Drumming - David Petrie; Junior Drumming - Thomas Gray; Senior Drumming - Fraser McKay; Most Improved Drummer - Thomas Gray; Piping events: Chanter - Cameron Jack; Novice Piping - Cameron Jack; Junior Piping - Carin Munro; Senior Piping - Robbie Whytock; Piobaireachd - Carin Munro; Hornpipe and Jig - Robbie Whytock; Most Improved Piper - Nils Michael; Best Contribution to the Pipe Band - Robbie Whytock.

We look forward to next year's challenges and hope to gain some new members along the way.

JSRH



Carin Munro



Nils Michael



Robbie Whytock



# Freeland Estate

## Harry Riley opened his new premises at Forgandenny for business in September 1920.

He had spent a lot of time and money in order to realise his plans; plans that had been formed some years before. The idea of a move to Forgandenny was prompted by the success of the school over the years at Bridge of Allan. Harry Riley's Strathallan School was housed in rented buildings that were literally miles apart in Bridge of Allan, and his dream of a more centralised situation, under financial control was a natural result of the growing success and size of his enterprise. He spent some time during 1919, visiting many locations, the names of which were kept from the rest of the staff.

One of those locations was Freeland House in Forgandenny, just to the south of Perth. The house was the centre of a 3185 acre estate, which had been built up by Collingwood Lindsay Wood who originally purchased the Ruthven estate in 1873, and had added considerably to its wealth and size. If his only son, born in 1877, had lived, he would have inherited it all on his father's death in 1906. However, Lindsay Wood's wife, Francis, and their daughters stayed in residence for some years after his death, but the eventual decay of the estate and increasing debts forced the trustees to consider a somewhat forced sale.

In 1917, the sale of the whole estate was made to Mr. Edwin Martin Stewart for £80,000. He was chairman of the Carntyne Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., in Glasgow, and lived in Stirling with his family. He never moved to Freeland nor do we know if he ever intended to, as he fell ill and was unable to continue his venture. Still a relatively young man, he unfortunately died at home in 1921, aged 51. In his time, the low part of the estate was changed forever. The beautiful, mature trees of the drives, parks and woodlands of the estate were demolished for their timber. The estate planting had first begun in 1730, and had continued for a hundred years, when large parts of the estate were replanted with a wide variety of trees. The estate had been famous for its drives and walks, and Lindsay Wood had continued the tradition by further planting.

The decay of the estate and the removal of so many old features were sad times for the area, but probably went fairly unnoticed in the sadder times that were being experienced by all. A large part of the future prosperity of the estate would have depended on woodland management as much as on agriculture, and so it was inevitable when the whole estate was put up for sale in Perth at the Salutation Hotel on Tuesday, 28th October, 1919 at 2 pm. There were no offers for the estate as a whole and it was on the Wednesday afternoon that the newspapers reported 'a large and representative gathering' was present to see the estate offered in 41 lots.

Mr. Burroughs, the auctioneer, of Knight, Frank, and Rutley, then had a most traumatic afternoon but we do not know if Harry Riley was present to witness events. We do not even know



*An 1873 photograph of Freeland showing the original William Burn designed mansion house, completed in 1829*



if Harry Riley was contemplating a purchase at this time. What did happen was that, with reportedly slow bidding, lot after lot failed to reach their reserve price and were withdrawn. Only six lots actually sold, 5 cottages in Forgandenny and the house at Kirkton Orchard. It is unlikely that Harry Riley would have considered bidding for Lot 1, the 165 acres of the Freeland House, its policies, 9 cottages, and the parks.

Lot 1 was later bought for £12,500 by Mr. Miller on behalf of Alexander and James Duncan who also bought Gallowmuir, the home farm of the estate. They registered the purchase of the farm, along with Forgan Boat, in May 1920. The May papers



The Picture Gallery - one of a series of photographs taken in 1880 by Magnus Jackson.

carried a notice that Messrs Mitchell and Logan, solicitors, Perth had purchased the mansion house of Freeland and policies on behalf of Mr. H. Riley. This amounted to 60.5 acres of the original lot. The event was reported to have given great satisfaction to the community who were looking for 'a return to the pleasant activities to pre-war times in the village'.

Other lots were sold bit by bit over the next 5 years, in many cases to the occupants themselves. By the time the whole estate had been settled, Harry Riley was well established in the new school premises, and the realisation of his dream of one unified building housing his school, complete.



The new front entrance, on the north of the house, built in 1880 as part of extensive refurbishment.

By Direction of E. M. Stewart, Esq.

**PERTHSHIRE**

*Particulars of the*  
**Residential and Agricultural**  
*Estate*  
OF  
**FREELAND**  
Extending to an area of  
**3,185 ACRES**

To be offered for Sale by Auction  
as a whole or in 41 Lots (unless  
previously sold privately)

BY  
**Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY**  
(Per Messrs. J. G. & Co. Ltd. Perth, Agents. - Alfred A. McEwen. - John Smith & Co.)

at the Station Hotel, Perth, on Tuesday,  
28th October, 1919, at 2 p.m.

<b>Solicitors:</b> Messrs. ARCHIBALD & BROWN 15, Fore Street, Perth. Telephone: 441 and 442.	<b>Auctioneers:</b> Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY 21, Market Street, London, W. 1; 47, Bath Street, Edinburgh; 100, Princes Street, Glasgow; Travellers' - 100, 101 & 102, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.
--	---

**LOT 1**  
(Estimated Value see Plan No. 1)

**FREELAND HOUSE**  
with Policies, Cottages and Grass Parks  
extending to an area of  
**164 a. 3 r. 34 p.**

Approached by two beautiful avenues and standing about five feet above sea level in the  
middle of richly wooded and carefully laid out Parks.

**THE MANSION HOUSE**  
is a splendidly planned and appointed Residence, most of the principal rooms and corridors  
being oak-panelled from floor to ceiling, and all modern conveniences are provided.  
The Accommodation comprises—

**ON THE GROUND FLOOR**—Entrance Hall and Cloakroom, both panelled in oak.  
Hall Room with fine oak floor. Conservatory, Billiard Room, Games Room, Boudoir, To-  
ilet Room, Business Room, Small Library, Gun Room, Two Bathrooms, Bathroom  
and Two W.C.'s and Lavatory Room.

**The ample Domestic Offices**  
On the Ground Floor include—Butler's Pantry, Housekeeper's and Maid's Rooms,  
Servants' Hall, Housemaid's Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Sculleries, Storerooms, Wine and  
Beer Cellars, Three Men-servants' Bedrooms, Larder Room, Swiss House Room, Saloon,  
Breakfast Room, Four Larders and Game Larder.

**ON THE FIRST FLOOR**—Approached by a handsome staircase leading from the  
Entrance Hall to the Saloon from which the Dining Room, Drawing Room and Library are  
entered, and by Three other Secondary Staircases, are a splendid Suite of Reception Rooms:  
Lefty Dining Room; Drawing Room—a particularly fine room, facing South and East, and  
looking out on the Terrace and Flower Garden with Statues from Boudoir below—  
Morning Room, Library, Five Bedrooms, Four Dressing Rooms, Bathroom and W.C.,  
Two other W.C.'s, Housemaid's Pantry, Servant Room with Lift from Kitchen.

**ON THE SECOND FLOOR**—Six Bedrooms, Two Dressing Rooms, Night Nursery,  
Two Bathrooms and W.C.'s, Eight Servants' Bedrooms, Housemaid's Pantry.

There is an ample supply of excellent Water to Mansion House and Offices by gravitation.  
Lit by Electric Light. Telephone Line (though instrument has temporarily been removed).  
Fire Hydrants. Separate Boiler for Hot Water Pipes.

**The Garage and Stabling**  
are situated at a convenient distance from the House, and include—Garage, Coach House,  
Three Stables with a total of 19 stalls, Loose Boxes, etc., with Hay Lofs over. Coachman's  
House containing Kitchen, Scullery and Three Bedrooms, Two Grooms' Rooms with  
Scullery, etc., Cleaning Room, Harness Room, Laundry, Washing House, Drying Room,  
Two Bedrooms, Kitchen and Spare Room.

— 8 —



# Scripture Union

Strathallan Scripture Union (or Opinion 8) is principally about looking at contemporary issues and trying to determine God's opinion about them by reading the Bible.

By looking at different points of view we try to draw some conclusions that influence our lifestyle, the decisions we make and the people we become.

In the past year we have considered relationship issues: friendship, dating dilemmas and self-esteem, we have considered the subjects of fear, compassion and looking at the world through God's eyes; and we have addressed the issues of exam pressure, gossip, grudges and popularity.

It has been a good year for getting involved in events outwith the School. Going to the Delirious concert in Glasgow Barrowlands was certainly one of the highlights of last term. A new Christian youth event with music, video, talky bits and high-energy activities called The Flow began in Perth on Sunday nights. It was also the year of Festival 99 with many events that highlighted what Christians believe and gave people a 'chance to decide'. Some members were involved in stewarding at the main festival events at McDiarmid Park at the end of May.

The group now meets on a Friday in Mr Proctor's office (only occasionally in MacDonald's) at 8.30pm. Anyone with an opinion is always welcome.

AJML

## Louis Flood Photographers

*Award-winning  
Press & P.R.  
Photography*

- WEDDINGS
- PORTRAITURE

41 South Methven St  
PERTH 62 63 69



# Drama

**T**he sudden hush, the watchful eyes, the expectancy, the curiosity and the constant demand for entertainment:

for a drama teacher there are all too many comparisons to be made between performing on the stage, and teaching at a new school. It is exciting to explore the opportunities and to learn the traditions; stimulating to discover the talents and strengths; and exhilarating to discover that the school owns the one piece of technical equipment you always hankered after. It is also daunting to be passed the baton from a departing Director of Studies on his way to his new office as Headmaster.

This was, however, a particularly interesting time to move to Strathallan. The Theatre Studies course had only

been introduced a year before, and Drama was evidently featuring more and more in school life. Luckily Iain Kilpatrick and Irene McFarlane remained to provide continuity and give advice to the new recruit, as John Broadfoot and Andrew Murray, both active on the Drama scene, had made their exits.

From scanning the pages of previous publications before starting to write, I know that such demands on both pupils and staff are not new. Talent abounds, and in many areas. The result is nothing if not exhausting for the flute-trilling, hockey-playing, trampolining, prefect-dutying, weight-lifting, team-training, solo-singing, life-drawing actors that one always seems to cast in productions. It has amazed me that such successful productions have taken place this year, amidst all this chaotic activity. The number of drama events has grown, partly as a result of the A level Theatre Studies course, and those involved have done more than rise to the occasion.

In the Autumn Term, no sooner had the House Music Competition finished,

than the Junior House Drama Competition was upon us. The theme was 'Coincidence', but although the evening was not advertised as such, we were actually treated to tragedy, comedy, history, farcical-classical, tragical-comical, absurd-surreal and farcical black-comical (if I am allowed to misquote). The external adjudicators, Gilbert and Anna Price, found an overall winner hard to decide upon, but eventually presented the 'Best Production' award to Ruthven House for their "co-incidental production" entitled *So, this man walks into a bar...* by Iain Robb.

A Primary School Drama Festival at Strathallan also made the term memorable. Visiting children were face-painted by the newly recruited make-up team; improvised with Irene McFarlane; were whisked efficiently around the school by Iain Kilpatrick; and worked on their miming and acrobatic skills with the help of a visiting Peruvian mime artiste, Eduardo. The festival closed with a performance and a surprise appearance of the Headmaster on the stage as a (willing?) acrobatic assistant.

In a new venture, and a new performance space, the A level Theatre Studies Group assembled their set in the Lecture Theatre in preparation for their practical examination in March. Paper Anniversary, devised, directed, designed and performed collectively, examined the relationships between a group of flatmates on the anniversary of the death of a mutual friend. The audience were able to observe the slowly building tensions and consequences of this tragedy through the eyes of a stranger to the group (Tara Laing), who gradually pieced together the events of a year earlier through a series of encounters with the very different personalities making up the group. Michael Chaussy, Nick Coaton, Tabitha Comb, Harry Crump, Jamie Partridge and Adam Wallace projected a range of conflicting emotions during this tense piece, a demonstration of how guilt and secrecy can ultimately destroy friendships. Each member of the group also presented an individual skill. The variety of work made the evening most entertaining for an examination - acting pieces ranged from Beckett to Wilde, and



mask and costume designs were demonstrated under stage lighting by Adam Wallace and Tabitha Combe.

For some in the group, one performance a term was not enough, and Michael, Nick, Tara and Adam were to be seen some two weeks later on the main Theatre stage in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which was energetically directed by Iain Kilpatrick with musical arrangement and direction from Stephen Dutton. This ambitious and striking production is reviewed more thoroughly elsewhere.

One has only to look at some of the photographs along the theatre corridor to see that those responsible for design are largely responsible for the professional look of each Strathallan production. Mike Wilson, Trevor Goody, Alastair Thomson, Jackie Martin and Morag Vass, have between them built up a design team which is a tremendous asset to the school. Having just managed to interpret Goody-speak at the end of the year, I was particularly sorry to lose our lighting designer of so many years standing. Quite simply, you would ask Trevor if something was possible, he would tell you in no uncertain terms that it was not, and immediately bring the impossible about. Trevor will still act as a consultant when needed, but we have been lucky to secure the help of Adam Streatfeild-James and Sandy Lunan as lighting designers this year. Another important member of the backstage crew, Anna Watson, the school Stage Manager, was awarded School Colours for her role backstage this year.

In many ways the final term was the busiest for the sheer number of dramatic events. Riley Second Form produced a

rather confusing, but entertaining production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on which Jake Streatfeild-James gives his views (although his vision was slightly affected by the impressive ass-head mask created by Adam Wallace).

Almost straight after, the Lower Sixth Theatre Studies group and some willing volunteers from Third, Fourth and Sixth forms managed to squeeze in a production of the text they were studying for A level, *The Visit* by Friedrich Durrenmatt. This was performed in the Lecture Theatre, which became rather cramped when a sedan chair, shop counter, coffin, balcony and cast of nineteen attempted to organise themselves backstage.

The theme for the Senior Drama Competition was Shakespearean Comedies. The four houses to perform on the night offered wildly differing styles of production ranging from Ruthven's minimal setting for the Letter Scene from *Twelfth Night*, to Freeland's elaborate garden design for the conspiracy scene from *Much Ado About Nothing*. Thornbank, with an 'in rehearsal' interpretation of *As You Like It* scooped the Best Director and Most Innovative Production awards as well as an Acting award for Ruth Sharp. However, the Best Production award went to Simpson House for their comic scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in which Bottom is 'translated' into an ass by the mischievous Puck. Robert Mackenzie and James Hay also won Acting awards for Simpson and Freeland respectively. Although rough edges and a few pregnant pauses were in evidence, the evening was most enjoyable, and confirmed that the interpretative possibilities to be explored in Shakespearean plays are endless.

The Riley production was the final dramatic event of the year, taking place as it did on the last Friday of term. *The Jungle Book* involved a lot of furry costumes, a gallon of face paint, a large number of leaves and what seemed to me to be particularly large packs of monkeys and wolf cubs. When the cast squeezed onto the stage in costumes organised by Jackie Martin, the masks designed and made by Kate Streatfeild-James looked wonderful under the stage lighting, and I am firmly convinced that any wriggling and fighting that went on among the younger wolf cubs was serious method acting, and nothing more. The whole cast gave energetic performances, but in particular Joanna Greer, Michael Woodrow, Peter Hewitt and Ross Anders made the most of their roles as Bagheera, Baloo, Mowgli and Tabacqui, whilst some very convincing monkeys, and the six girls playing Kaa the hypnotic snake added some lighter moments.

The *Jungle Book* brought a most eventful year to a close – a year which saw approximately two hundred Strathallians perform on the stage in one guise or another. Whether in house drama competitions, musicals, plays or examinations, the outcome of all the work has been impressive. It has been a team effort in the widest sense – between pupils, staff, departments, parents and year groups. Most importantly, however, each production, in rehearsal and performance, has been an entertaining and rewarding experience for performers and spectators alike.



# A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Midsummer Night's Dream was performed by Riley Second Form just after Easter last year. Everybody acted a part. The play was split into sections for each class (for example 2.1 performed from the scene in which the bewitched Titania declares her love for Bottom, in his ass's head, to the end of the play). My class were in the middle. We had to tell the story from the arguments between Titania and Oberon to the love scene between Bottom and Titania.

There were some very funny moments during rehearsals when people forgot their lines or said something completely different from what was written down on the page. Because the parts of the play were split between the classes, there were three people to each part, and there was only one T-shirt with each character's name on, so there was some pretty frantic changing. A few people forgot their lines, but otherwise the play went well. We managed to drag in a few teachers to watch on the performance nights. I think that the person who brought the house down the most was Tom Gray who had the part of Bottom in the first few scenes.

My thanks to Miss Quan who brought everything together, to the set painters and costume designers and last but not least the actors who did a wonderful job. I think that A Midsummer Night's Dream was an enjoyable experience for all participants.

**Jake Streatfeild-James (Second Form)**



# Stage Crew

Being a member of Strathallan Stage Crew, contrary to popular belief, is not just a good excuse to get out of sports on a games afternoon. As our Stage Manager would say, 'The critics see Strath as a professional theatre.' We all know that this is not at all due to a very high standard of acting in the school; it is all down to our deeply committed and talented stage crew.

Admittedly, some aspects of the set of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' challenged even us, like painting realistic sandstone pavement effect on the whole stage and fitting a 6-foot-high tower for actors to stand on and a fake wall in the same floor space. Thankfully, none of these ideas had to be carried through and our biggest liability became protecting Mr Goody's techno fairy lights as the whole of Herod's cart threatened to collapse. However, it turned out 'all right on the night', as I am sure all who saw the show will agree. However, mention must be made to some contributions backstage which were absolutely crucial to the sparkling success of the show. The lap joints of Mr. Thomson (aka. Squinty Joe), the stow-away cross and the bucketful of diced paper for confetti are but a few of the joys imprinted on our memories. We are also greatly indebted to Plywood the Dog, our lucky star, who observed and approved the show from the midst of the stage set.

I'm sure the crew knew the songs to 'Jesus Christ Superstar' as well as the actors did (in some cases better!), but we should thank the performers as well as the supervising teachers who have helped make the stage crew's shows the professional performances they have become.

Our junior play this year, 'The Jungle Book', was crewed entirely by Riley pupils under the guidance of our stage manager. Pooling their inexperience, they produced a stunning set and ran the show so skilfully that our professional status can only have been enhanced.

The Crew for 1998/99 was: Anna Watson (Stage Manager), Bob Wiseman (Assistant Stage Manager), Ruth Harbit (Lighting), Robbie Whytock (Sound), Sarah Mazur (Assistant Lighting), Esereda Musisi (Properties), John Coull (Safety Manager), Rosie Zollinger, Kirsty Senior, Alisdair Gardner and Rachael Dobson, all under the direction of the good Captain (Mr Wilson), who has never yet encountered a stage set to trouble his ship!

**Kirsty Senior (Lower Sixth Form)**



# Strange Thing, Mystifying...

I can still remember turning to Stephen Dutton, whilst driving back from seeing a professional production of Jesus Christ Superstar, and asking whether or not we could really do it as a school show for the spring term.

His response was typically equivocal, "Yes, but...". The obstacles seemed almost insurmountable: staging a non-stop rock musical, which would last for one and a half hours, portraying the final days leading up to Christ's betrayal and crucifixion. Involving a fusion of music, song and dance in a piece which was at times comical, in places satirical but could at no point shrink from the demands of telling a story of profound significance, known throughout the entire English-speaking world. It is a piece which, by virtue of the material it derives from, offers no hiding place for mediocrity and, if is attempted at all, needs to be done well.

However, if we succeeded in pulling it off, the rewards would be just as worthwhile. We would have developed musical theatre at Strathallan directionally by producing a complex piece of theatre that required total commitment; both to a challenging, contemporary score and collaboration of dance, mime, lighting and staging to carry the drama. There would be no stars, but rather a company who showed equal dedication to the task regardless of how large or small. And guess what? That's exactly what we got!

Such a production calls on the talents of many individuals and asks them to exceed even the bounds of previous shows. In a piece, which calls for endless energy, I was extremely lucky to be able to call on the talents of Jane Quan. Her choreography and expertise helped to shape the look and feel of the show. Stephen Dutton's flair and hard work in preparing the music and rehearsing the company was writ large on the whole production. As was the lighting design of Trevor Goody, in which turned out, for both, to be their last school show, marking a fitting conclusion to many years of dedication to the arts at Strathallan. Mike Wilson and his team of stage crew did a fantastic job in creating a composite set, which worked so well with the staging to produce fast-moving pace from scene to scene. The heroic efforts of the costume team, under the careful leadership of Jackie Martin, worked in harmony with the set design of Morc Tod and Morag Vass and make-up of Dorothy Hunter to produce an overall visual effect of stunning proportions. To all these and countless others, my gratitude in helping to turn a vague concept into a theatrical reality.

I am also deeply indebted to all those who were involved with the production both on stage and behind the scenes. To those who juggled rehearsals for the show with countless other school commitments, as is the Strathallan way; to those who took on huge challenges and triumphed magnificently over their own misgivings; to those colleagues and parents who supported the production either directly or indirectly, my heartfelt thanks. The final performances were, in my view, a triumph of hard work and teamwork, which belied the enormity of the task we had set ourselves.

IWK



# Strathallan Superstar

## Strathallan Stuns with a Seventies' Superstar

Without a single word being spoken the audience was held enthralled as the curtains rose on this year's production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at Strathallan Theatre on 15th March, 1999: alternating bursts of light, sound and movement filled the stage where the story of Christ's final day on earth were about to unfold.

In the programme, over ninety names were credited with contributing to the success of this eclectic Rock Opera and congratulations must be extended to every one of them for a beautifully co-ordinated performance, which left the audience as well-entertained, though perhaps far less shocked, than when it took to the stage thirty years ago.

Most impressive, not least because it was her first foray onto the stage, was Fiona MacFarlane who, as Mary Magdalene, delivered the most familiar numbers from the show with touching sensitivity and ease. Tara Laing, as Pontius Pilate, also revealed an admirable talent in an undoubtedly challenging musical role.

As the cast wore modern dress throughout, King Herod played by Michael Chaussy, and his 'flappers' proved particularly entertaining in their bright glittering costumes, for the more lighthearted, jazzy numbers in the show. Allan Ferguson, as Judas Iscariot, had no difficulty persuading the audience of the pain he endured as the ill-fated betrayer of the tragically destined Jesus, whose part was movingly portrayed by another comparative novice to the stage, William Bowry, culminating in his terribly convincing agony of the Crucifixion scene.

The performances of Robert Mackenzie, Giles Seddon, Liam Ferry, Euan Aitkenhead, Hamish Forbes, Nick Coaton and the 'Soul Sisters', Sarah Currie, Laura Morley and Vicky Robertson must also be particularly admired for their enterprising, enthusiastic and original interpretations of their roles, just as the whole production team must be commended for its innovatory staging of what must be one of the best-known stories in the world, resulting in a fresh, lively, awe-inspiring show of energy and talent.

This is not the first impressive production for Mr Kilpatrick, Mr Dutton, Mr Kennedy, Mr Wilson, Mr Thomson, Mr Goody, Mr Tod, Mrs Martin and Miss Vass as a team but I'm sure they'd agree that the addition of Miss Quan's choreography helped to bring it all together. Well done!

We left the theatre applauding staff and pupils alike for the neatly synthesized execution of an unquestionably challenging musical, indulging maybe just a tiny pang of sadness at the realization of the imminent departure of many of our most dedicated and talented pupils.

LS



# The Alps Trip

## Where did all the water go?

Last minute preparations for the Millennium Ball were underway as a small group departed Strathallan almost unseen. After 2 years on the drawing board it felt good to be on our way at last. First stop Giggleswick School to collect the rest of the team and the minibus. The team comprised 3 pupils from Strathallan: Dougie, Neal and Mark (we had to leave Ben behind as he was clearly capable of injuring himself without the need for a boat), four pupils and two staff from Giggleswick and myself. The idea of a joint trip hinged on the necessity for two instructors on the river, as well as a driver.

We made a prompt start the next morning, which was impressive given the amount of kit we had to first fit into the bus: luckily it was large but was well laden, with bikes on the roof, canoes behind it, and the kitchen sink inside it! The long drive made it seem alarmingly uncomfortable. As sleep eluded most of us there was plenty of opportunity to speculate on how the trip might go.

Paddling in the Alps is very different to anything you are likely to find in the UK: it is bigger, faster and the water is very cold, not that it's ever very warm here! There often aren't many rocks to avoid, but the waves and 'holes' are bigger. Our paddlers were competent but their experience was limited: how would they take to this? Would the canoe trailer fall apart? (They usually do.) Would the rivers be too high after last



winter's massive snowfall? Ironically, it was the river levels that caused us problems, but not for the reason that we expected.

We aimed for a camp-site on the Durance near Briancon in the French Alps. There are a wealth of rivers in this area, but this camp-site also has its own floodlit playwave, the infamous Rabioux, making it a focal point for paddlers coming from all over Europe. In particular the Brits were in evidence when we arrived early the next morning: it looked like a hire-bus convention.

We arrived in time for breakfast, and most people grabbed a few hours kip after travelling for nearly 24 hours. We soon got roasted out of our tents though, and the river beckoned. The inaugural trip was thus a pleasant paddle down the Durance, returning to the camp-site. The river was actually much lower than we had expected, and while it was fast flowing with a few good waves it was not as exciting as we had anticipated. Everyone went through the 'playwave' at the end; some even emerged the right way up. We all stayed to play for a while, but retired before the floodlights appeared. It had been a long day.

Over the next days it became apparent that the high river levels that we had expected just weren't there: some rivers weren't even high enough to paddle. Where had all the water gone? It transpired that despite very large snowfalls in some areas, Briancon had had the least snow for 20 years! This left us with very little to do, and an air of disappointment was becoming increasingly apparent. I had not expected to hear people saying "is that it?" when we got off rivers; this wasn't right at all. The answer to our troubles lay in Austria, and our midnight surfing would have to wait for another year. Douglas Forbes takes up the story...

MJW



# Tour Diary

**D**uring the second week of the holidays, ten people, a mixture of teachers and pupils from Strathallan and Giggleswick school in Yorkshire departed for a two week trip to the French Alps.

However, this was extended to include a trip to the Austrian Alps via Switzerland, and a return journey through Germany. This is a day-to-day account of how the trip progressed.

Saturday 10 July: We all assembled at Giggleswick School for our last night of 'comfortable' sleep, before knowing that all the following nights would be spent either in a mini-bus or under canvas.

Sunday 11 July: Unfortunately, this last night of decent sleep had to be cut short, and with a rise at 8.30am, and a brief breakfast, we departed on what we all knew was going to be a long journey, on a day that was threatening to become very warm - making for a particularly uncomfortable trip. The journey went on and on and on, right through the day and night.

Monday 12 July, 8.00 am: We arrived at Les Rabioux Camp-site on the banks of the River Durance, between Gap and Grenoble. Where was the fantastic warm weather we had been expecting? It was freezing... that was until the sun appeared over the top of the hills, and suddenly, it became far too warm. We slowly put up a tent, and decided that paddling was more inviting (although that matter was debated), and decided the first section to paddle would be relatively easy. We settled for a short bit of the Durance, which flowed past the camp-site. It was... different. Colder, faster, and scarier than stuff we had done in Scotland. We did, however, manage to have a good, albeit tired, first paddle. That done we arrived back at the camp-site, and only had to walk a couple of hundred yards to get to our tents. We were all dramatically tired, and after food, sleep was definitely in order.

Tuesday 13 July & Wednesday 14 July: These two days were spent with a reconnaissance of Alpine water, and served to teach us this, as well as increasing our skill in playing on waves and eddy lines.

Thursday 15 July: We decided to move on, and try some different water, and as a result travelled over France in search of water. There was very little. Like very little! Many rivers which should have been nigh-full were empty. After being unsuccessful in finding a river that we could paddle at our standard, we returned back to the camp-site, and some paddled the waves which were close by to the camp-site, while others sat in the sun and relaxed.

Friday 16 July: Our vain attempt to find water led us to paddle a stretch of water that should have been our climax at the end, now being paddled on the fifth day. This was the Ubaye Racecourse. It was a very technical piece of water, with loads of rocks and quick movements required. It was also on this day, that we had been told of loads and loads of water in Austria, and

we were making attempts to visit it, but the main problem was the insurance.

Saturday 17 July: With eventual clearance from the insurance company we started on the long trek to Austria, through Switzerland. The journey took over sixteen hours - more than had been expected, as we had been planning to arrive in time to paddle an Austrian river in the afternoon. Sadly, it didn't happen!

Sunday 18 July: We arrived in Austria at 3.00am. And put up the tents (an interesting experience). Sleep was the main activity until the early afternoon. Early in that afternoon, we ate, and decided to paddle a stretch of the River Inn from Imst to Haiming. Compared to France there was an ocean of water here. There were bigger waves than most of us, who had never visited the Alps, had ever seen in our lives. It was quite amazing.

Monday 19 July: We paddled two more sections of the same river, one of which brought us down into the same river, the final one bringing us into the town we were staying in, giving us the opportunity to show off on the waves in the town as folk watched from the bridges above.

Tuesday 20 July: This was one of the most 'interesting' days of the whole trip, and we returned to Switzerland for the day, and paddled yet another section on the Inn, the Gairsun Gorge. Some of us not leading the trip, however, had made the fatal mistake of reading the guide book before starting out, and had scared ourselves too much. As a result we spent the whole of the trip waiting for the "Prussian Spinner" which, the guide book said "... was interesting, and had an unpredictable was of spitting people out." A couple of us had interesting swims in the Gorge, and six and a half hours later, we finished the trip - well and truly exhausted.

Wednesday 21 July: We returned to do the previously paddled section from Imst to Haiming, all of us having a massive boost in confidence following the previous day's exploits.

Thursday 22 & Friday 23 July: We left Austria, and started on the journey home, which was even longer than the outward. After a very early morning channel crossing we arrived to glorious sunshine of the south England coast, and started the final leg of the journey north. All of us were shattered, but had had an absolutely superb holiday, and our paddling techniques had improved tremendously. In all the whole trip was "pure dead brilliant".

**Douglas Forbes (Lower Sixth Form)**



# Girls Hockey Tour

It was weeks, if not months after our Hong Kong and China hockey tour before it really dawned on me that I had walked on The Great Wall.

I suspect it will be next September or October, when watching the Olympics from Sydney, that I will realise the extent of our success at Homebush. Miranda's speech of thanks to SCECGS Redlands and all the participating teams at their hockey carnival was a wonderful moment in sport. Being presented with the winner's shield was just reward for the culmination of years of effort on her part and other squad members of long-standing plus recent recruits.

To achieve this the girls played seven twenty-five minutes-each-way matches over three days on the water-based pitches at the Olympic hockey stadium. The penalty stroke competition and subsequent sudden death penalty stroke shoot out against Barker College in the semi-finals was not only a test of nerves, it also drew large crowds from the other semi-final and around the complex. On

the second day of the tournament they also had to play an evening match against a local club as part of the Schweppes tournament and came runners up to Campbelltown. In Brisbane, a fixture against St Margaret's Anglican Girls School produced a victory at the State Hockey Centre but up in Cairns, in the heat, their Composite Club XI – the best from the district – certainly showed us how to play with skill and pace.

Touring is about sport and so much more. The memories the touring party have will last a lifetime and probably won't mean a lot to the reader as I list some of the highlights from both my tour diary and the squad diary – “you had to be there”, as the saying goes! There was my sense of humour failure at the airport as my hand luggage was thoroughly searched and my camera taken to pieces; the sound of Hazel being sick is unforgettable; Katie's travelling finger puppet pet show starred once or twice; Christina has added another string to her bow before going up to Cambridge; she now has a grounding in German having watched a film on the plane in that language as she could not find the English channel; Rachel's love of apples brought her into very close contact with a real sniffer dog in an airport; security safes in wardrobes in hotels don't cook food like microwaves, strangely enough Hazel; even the eldest in the squad had seven hours of excusable immaturity in Australian Wonderland; Alison and Gill were worthy winners of the “Tuckers on Tour” prize; sad moments when the Te



Aute squad did the haka in honour of a team mate's (Thomas) death – “this was one of the most powerful and emotionally charged performances I have ever seen” a girl wrote in the diary; another emotional moment was leaving Miranda and Tara in Cairns for their year out in Nepal. How will they cope when Tara is quite capable of posting her boarding card in a bin? Tiffin in Raffles was an experience, one to be repeated in school shortly – “anyone for tea, do you take milk?” said Katie and Gill.

“It's been brilliant. We've seen lots, won lots and most of all laughed lots which makes the memories of the three weeks all the more exciting” was the final entry in the tour diary. I had written something similar in mine and kept repeating when asked how it went “brilliant, never a cross word nor a raised eyebrow, superb hockey and the best long haul tour I have ever done.” My thanks to all who helped send us to Australia and to all the touring party who made it such fun.

LJS



# Netball Tour To Barbados

After a terrifying six hour drive down to Manchester with Mrs. I-F behind the wheel, dodging the motorway traffic, we arrived at the airport.

Whereupon, we were pleasantly surprised to be joined in the check-in queue by a tour of thirty cricket players.

On our arrival at Sunset Crest Villas, we were greeted by the owner "J.C." (the type to wear flowery shirts with matching grey trousers and greased back grey hair!) who gave us his mandatory security talk. The look of fear and anger on the teachers' faces as they quietly told J.C. that that really was "enough information" was memorable!

Training kicked in on the second evening when Miss Mason and Mrs. I-F eventually came across the only open area of grass visible from the crowded poolside! All of us immediately discovered it was completely impossible to run around for ten minutes without looking as if you had just taken a long hot bath with all your clothes on.

The next day was our first match and to tell you the truth I was terrified, which couldn't really have helped morale in the rest of the team. We arrived at the International Stadium (Oh, yes!) at 5p.m.

to find no one, except a few girls wandering in the stands. It was pleasing to see that our good old British punctuality gave us plenty of time to warm up – so much time in fact that we were all ready for a shower when our opponents arrived! Our first match, however, showed us that we had a lot to learn. The flair and fluency of the Bajan teams was a sight to behold and we frequently found ourselves sprawled on the concrete floor after many a desperate lunge, almost invariably without success, to intercept the ball! Another thing we learnt was that at roughly six thirty every night just before the senior team was due to play, a deluge rained down upon us; it rained and it rained and it poured. We were very thankful for divine intervention!

One of the most noteworthy experiences was the trip to Foul Bay (most inappropriately named, I might add) with its sparkling white sand and brilliant blue water. The day was made even more memorable by the fantastic meal cooked for us by Mrs. I-F's Auntie-in-law who lived just around the corner. A traditional Sunday lunch of flying fish, macaroni pie, stewed beef, rice and peas was enjoyed by all.

The Caribbean sun hit harder than we expected. Even with Mrs. I-F attacking us with sunblock every five minutes, several members of the tour found themselves peeling sheets of skin off their shoulders. The only remedy was to be covered from head to toe in calamine lotion and the ultra healing local balm of *aloe vera*.

Our day on the Jolly Roger was abandoned for a more stylish excursion on a catamaran consisting of swimming



with turtles and snorkeling above a shipwreck. However, the next day saw the greatest highlight of the trip - our one and only victory. The juniors played a spectacular match and really had to try their hardest to overcome stiff opposition. That evening we all returned to the apartments covered in smiles!

Saturday the 17th of July – oh, Miss Mason did try her hardest to keep to herself that it was her birthday but as always these things have a habit of sneaking out and we had plenty of time to plan. Irrespective of that, it was an important day on the Netball field as we were about to play the Barbados U16 National team. Everyone, including the team and coaches, could only watch with utmost admiration when within seconds the ball was down at their end of the court and gracefully placed in the net; we had no hope! After being treated to a masterclass in netball, Miss Mason was exposed to the scheming of eighteen girls. After much whispering, unheeded by the unsuspecting culprit, she was carried through the busy reception and unceremoniously dumped in the pool, where Mrs. I-F decided to join her after being given a push in the right direction. Soon enough we all joined them turning a practical joke into an unsynchronised swimming competition!

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end! The return flight saw eighteen reluctant girls shepherded onto the plane but surprisingly (!) Miss Mason and Mrs. I-F seemed just a little relieved.

Sara Fowler (Lower Sixth Form)



# Year In Focus



*Pilate and Herod*



*In the Glen of Tranquillity*



*Fraser Saves the Day*



*Look Out Bill Gates*



*Forgardenny Fashion Week*



*Painting 'En Plein Air'*



*Boyz and Toyz*





Tour R&R



Ladies' Tug of War



Innette's Dog



Upper Sixth Brain Trust





*Dozing Doc!*



*Storm before the Calm on Speech Day*



*Belles of the Ball*



*Timekeepers in Total Agreement(?)*



*Men in Uniform?!*





Strath Safety Officers!



Mr Kitson - Hole In One!



Doctor Doolittle



The Arumugams



Plywood's Stage Debut



Having a Ball!



Double Bill



# Reportage



Speech Day: Guest speaker Sir Fraser Morrison CBE, with (left to right) Ian Jones, Lucy Sproat, Jamie Partridge, Christina Breden and the Headmaster.



Matthew Boyd and Jeremy McDougall were picked for the Scottish Schools U16 XV to play against Yorkshire and Lancashire. Andrew Wilson (right) was selected as full back for the Scotland U18 squad of 26 for a three-match tour of Spain.



Edward Willing received a certificate of commendation for his Tuscan landscape in this year's Royal Bank of Scotland/Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy (FRSA) Schools Art Competition.



In the Prep School Hockey Sixes, Loretto Nippers defeated Bellhaven 3-0 to collect the trophy. The Plate Final was won by New Park who defeated Craigclowan 1-0.



Kirsty Hay, Gayle Allardyce, Anna MacDonald and Ann-Louise Breden took third place and bronze medals in the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships, U14 Girls section.



Okki Colquhoun and Alexa Diana-Oliaro model changes to the School uniform.



Tom Booth was selected for the Scottish U16 hockey squad for the Four Nations Championship in Cardiff and the European Youth Cup in Belgium.



Two members of administrative staff retired within days of each other. Margaret Band, School Secretary, is pictured receiving her flowers from the Headmaster. The following week, staff said farewell to Helen Clayton, Senior School Matron (right).



Kwik-Fit's John Douglas collected a cheque from Strathallan for £5,500 on behalf of the Scottish Charities Kosovo Appeal - said to be the largest single donation from a non-profit making organisation. The Chaplain's dog, Ensay, raised £254. Also pictured are Varun Rana, John Douglas, Euan Matheson, Helen Thompson, Mr Streatfeild-James, Colin Williamson and Jamie Cameron.



Lord Colyton presented the prizes to winners of the Scottish Schools Shooting Challenge at Gleneagles: Hamish Allen, Grant Davidson and Allan Hay.



The principals in Jesus Christ Superstar: Back row, William Bowry (Jesus) and Allan Ferguson (Judas), with front row, left to right, Robert MacKenzie (Caiaphas), Tara Laing (Pontius Pilate), Fiona MacFarlane (Mary) and Michael Chaussy (Herod).



Mime artist and acrobat, Eduardo, entertained youngsters from Riley and local schools as part of Strathallan's Drama Festival.



Euan Matheson and Colin Eadie, turning out for Caledonian Reds U19 rugby side



Andrew Wilson, playing for Glasgow Caledonian U 19's



Squadron Leader Primrose presented the School's library with the entire RAF Flying Manual in memory of his son, Ian Scott Primrose, a Strathallian who was killed in an aircraft accident in 1969 shortly after qualifying from RAF Cranwell.



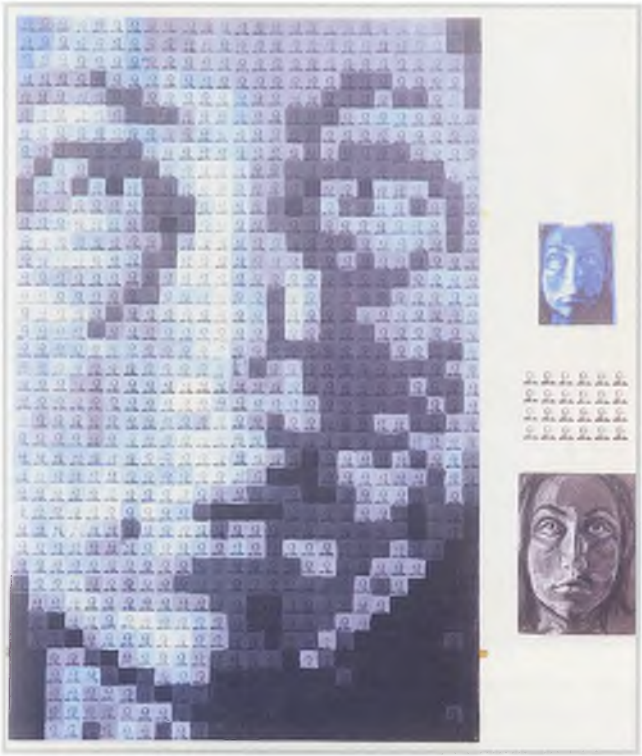
Niall Robertson was named Junior Champion at the Vale of Atholl's Solo Piping Championships and won the Aberfeldy and District Piping Society's Rose Bowl. Rory Whitock won the Bank of Scotland Cup as 1st prize in the 13-18years Novice Piping section.



Riley runners for Rachel House: (left to right) James Lawson, Renny Myles, Rebecca Johnstone, Flossie Carpenter, Samantha Stark, Ann-Louise Breaden and Martin Jones (front)



Louise Lamb and David Chalmers shared the "Year of the Bible 1998 Quaich" as joint winners of the Bible Reading 12-14 Class at Perth Festival Speech Classes. Alexandra Lamb came first in Bible Reading 15-17 and Leila Arakji won the Shakespeare Class 15-17.



Amy Little LVith - Self Portrait (Acrylic)



Rosie Zollinger LVith - Celtic Star (Woodcut)



Tara Laing LVith - Dream Time (Poster Point)



Thomas Gemmill LVith - An Fuaran (Woodcut)



Russell Garden Vth - Man-made and Natural Forms (Woodcut)





Emma McFarlane UVith - Tuscany (Oil)



Simon King LVith - Natural Forms (Water-colour)



Adam Wallace UVith - Masks (Oil)



Russell Garden Vth - Natural Forms (Ceramic)



Laura Langlands Vth - Seedhead (Ceramic)



Alexa Diana-Oliaro Vth - Natural Forms (Ceramic)



Russell Garden Vth - Mask (Ceramic)



The girls and boys of form IV added to the pre-Christmas atmosphere in School by performing a German sketch – in the original language!

They had chosen the short piece "Überraschung vor Weihnachten" ("A surprise before Christmas"), which gave the pupils ample opportunity to surprise the invited parents with their proficiency in German and their relaxed attitude 'on stage'.

We must mention the names of all the actors and actresses: Katrin Hoffmann, as waitress and Scott Macfarlane as the customer under suspicion, Vicky Mackenzie and Karen McArthur opening the sketch were all excellent, as were Louise Johnson, Louise Lamb, William Jardine and Robert Clarke. The role of 'on-the-ball' bomb spotting customer suited Hazel Whyte, while we are certain that Nick Common enjoyed the part of responsible, sensible owner of the Café. We are grateful for the moral support we received from the other IV Form pupils and the teachers of the Department of Modern Languages and are especially indebted to Miss Jane Quan for her expert advice in stage-matters and to the parents and members of staff who came to see our performance. With some luck we may perhaps be able to continue producing small plays in a foreign language, thereby raising cultural awareness and increasing interest and self-confidence in our pupils.

CVP



It is hard for us to imagine the tide of intellectual excitement which surged through Edinburgh

in the eighteenth century after the Act of Union, but Professor Donald McIntyre brought it all to life, such is his enthusiasm for that period.

A geologist by training, Professor McIntyre left Scotland for the University of California in 1949, just as his hero, James Hutton, was being recognised as the founder of British Geological Studies. Later, on retirement, Professor McIntyre returned to Perthshire where he has pursued his interest in Hutton and his many friends during the Scottish Enlightenment: men such as David Hume, Adam Smith, Joseph Black, John and William Hunter and John, Robert and James Adam.

We were extremely fortunate to have such a fascinating and erudite speaker, especially since the projector was determined to flash up so many slides back-to-front – a minor inconvenience for a true professional with an impressive grasp of his subject. Using James Hutton's ageing of the universe as his lynch-pin, Professor McIntyre took us on a sweeping tour of other important eighteenth century advances in the fields of philosophy, economics, physics, engineering, medicine and architecture and left us hopeful that the re-establishing of the Scottish Parliament might provide the stimulus for a new Scottish Enlightenment in the twenty-first century.

A more sombre mood developed during the lecture given in April by our second speaker, Professor Antony Busuttill of the Edinburgh University Department of Pathology and Forensic Medicine, as he talked us through a slide-show account of the aftermath of the Lockerbie bomb in 1989. Summoned from his bed on Christmas Eve to attend at the scene of the plane-crash in south-west Scotland, he proceeded to mastermind the entire salvage operation and to piece together the evidence which has led to the current trial of two bombing suspects.

Through the grim tale, our admiration grew – that this astonishingly equable and self-depreceating human being could have taken control of such an unpleasant and complex task with such calm ingenuity: establishing a mortuary in an ice-rink, making surgeries for forensic examination of everything rescued from the crash site, summoning up and directing the 1500 soldiers and policemen needed to help salvage material, which had been scattered over a huge area of country, handling burial arrangements of all remains and eventually supervising the re-assembly of almost all of the aircraft so that the location of the bomb could be pinpointed.

Clearly inspired, several sixth form pupils stayed behind afterwards to discover that to become a pathologist or forensic scientist would require eleven years of training, beginning with a degree in medicine before becoming a specialist later. Yet Professor Busuttill made it all sound worth it, clearly deriving great satisfaction from his profession – not to mention a certain amount of amusement from his role as police witness in the Edinburgh Law Courts.

EMA



# New Headmaster Channel Choices

**M**r Bruce Thompson has been appointed to succeed Mr Angus McPhail as Headmaster and will take up his new position in April 2000.

Mr McPhail is moving south to Oxfordshire where he will take over as Warden of Radley College in July.

Mr Thompson, who is pictured with his wife Fabienne, is currently Deputy Rector at Dollar Academy. He was appointed to Dollar in 1994 from Cheltenham College where he had been Head of Classics. Mr Thompson read Literae Humaniores at New College, Oxford graduating in 1983. His academic interests are balanced by high level participation in rowing, and coaching of rowing and rugby.

Fabienne is a graduate in Languages and Tourism from the Université de Savoie at Chambéry, and has worked in tourism in England, Scotland and France. She has been a national competition level skier and long distance runner.

Bruce and Fabienne have two daughters, Séverine (4) and Aurélie (2).

**P**ublic service broadcasting and developments in television were the focus of the autumn term's Ernst & Young lecture.

Our speaker was Tim Orchard, Controller of TV News Channels for the BBC, and the first Strathallian to present the annual lecture.

His talk coincided with the launch of Digital TV which, according to Mr Orchard, represents "the key to major changes in television both in terms of quality and vision." He also highlighted the speed of development over the last five years. "Competition for viewers and listeners has become intense, with a large number of channels to choose from," he said. "From the BBC's perspective, the multi-channel age is a real challenge."

Pupils interested in following a career in broadcasting were able to talk to Tim before the lecture and many guests enjoyed the opportunity to chat informally at the buffet supper which followed.

**Tim Orchard (F69).**



# 3 Score Years, and 10 Plus 3

## Doug Ralfs

One windy day, Charles Court hooked Doug Ralfs right through the cheek whilst fishing on Butterstone Loch. He then proceeded to bite through his line at the eye of the offending fly at the same time as steadying Doug against the rocking of the boat by holding his shoulders. To a casual observer – and embarrassingly there were some that day – Doug might have appeared to be all things to all men. In many ways they were right but, you will understand, for very different reasons! I feel sure that this would have been the only compromising position in which Doug ever found himself because compromising his principles was not something he entertained.

In whichever role one was to find him, his unmistakable hallmark was the commitment which accompanied the execution of the task in hand. I defy anyone to beat the enthusiasm which he manufactured during sixteen years of stacking and unstacking Riley trunks and any member of S.M.A.C. will confirm that no fish could rest easy in the depths – even at Butterstone – until Doug had left the water. No pupil of Maths from 1st Form through to A Level would experience anything less than every topic being meticulously unpacked and then repacked. When public exams loomed, the number of pupils who made it their business over the years to find out when Mr Ralfs was on duty in Riley so that they could bring unsolved problems to him and test his seemingly inexhaustible patience to nine or ten o'clock at night, was a lesson in itself.

As the Alex Ferguson of the under 12's, no quarter was asked or given and the undefeated season to round off his career was every bit as important at the time – and do not doubt it – as any F.A. cup. Inch for inch his legs must have moved faster across a gamesfield than any others on show of whatever vintage. The same was apparent on the tennis courts as well and Doug was responsible for the growth and success of boys' tennis at Strathallan. He was inevitably the man to energise the staff into both a tennis and a badminton club.

As one of many, I am grateful to a wise man who cared and who was seldom more than two seconds away from an explosive laugh. With tennis to the left of them, fishing to the right of them and grandchildren all over them, we wish Doug and Mave all the best for their retirement in Stunning Dunning.

AT



## Trevor Goody

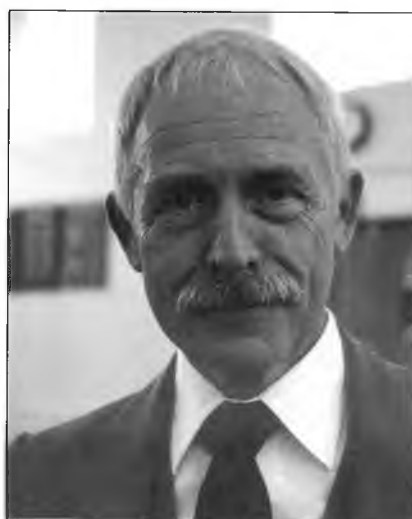
Trevor Goody arrived at Strathallan in 1972 as Head of Mathematics. The Strathallian described him as “having great skill in repairing boats”. True enough but further talents were to be displayed. Many generations have witnessed Trevor emerging from the radio shack or the lighting box, swathed in a cloud of pipesmoke like some latterday Faust rejected from Hell. He has run the sailing, served as an officer in the CCF, produced lighting of all sorts in all places as well as running a highly successful department. Above all, perhaps, he will be remembered for the way in which gloomily he would pronounce something to be impossible to do or someone impossible to teach and then proceed to achieve the impossible. He will be sorely missed and our best wishes go to Trevor and to Maggie for their retirement.

RJWP

## Klaus Glimm

Klaus first came to Strathallan in 1969. As a member of the Modern Languages department he guided countless generation through the minefields of German and French. He was a House Tutor in Nicol. He ran the sailing for a while. He ran the swimming for an age. His outstanding achievement, however, was to produce a Royal Marine section second to none. Its crowning glory, the winning of the prestigious Pringle Trophy, was very much a tribute to Klaus and the way in which he taught members of the unit to think for themselves and work as a team. To his colleagues, Klaus was always the embodiment of old-fashioned decency and courtesy. He and Else are planning retirement in France. To both of them go our (envious) good wishes.

RJWP



# Walk For Kosovo

I was going to give Woodlands a break from sponsored events this year, but the resolution had already faltered with the infamous Shaun the Sheep raffle at Christmas.

Early in the Summer term Mr Longmuir had asked the School to aim to send £500 to the UNHCR Relief Fund for the Kosovo refugees, and since some of the Upper Sixth had already been busy collecting old clothes for the same cause the idea was perhaps idling around in the back of my mind.

It occurred to me - more or less in a flash, you might say - that for an institution the size of ours, and what is more, a Scottish Charity - we ought to be able to raise considerably more than Mr Longmuir was asking for. Time being at this stage rather short, a rapid consultation with the Headmaster resulted in approval for a sponsored walk, a generous offer that the School would pay for coach transport, and enough suggestions from colleagues for a route to be chosen. With the kind permission of the Atholl Estates we were able to make a round trip of just under 10 miles through some stunning countryside at Dunkeld: thanks are also due to the Perthshire Timber sawmill at Dunkeld for allowing us to park seven coaches on their property in the middle of a busy working day, and to Tayside Police for their co-operation with traffic control.

The length of the walk was a deterrent to some, but I think I saw most of the pupils at some stage of the circuit and I can say that even those who had thought it would be an endurance test were really enjoying themselves. I had had visions of the usual Scottish summer weather, and of soaked, chilled and hacked-off teenagers looking accusingly at me as they struggled back onto the buses, all to come down with colds just before their exams - the weather could not have been better, as it turned out.



If you have been involved in a sponsored event you will know that collecting the money afterwards is far harder than getting sponsors or persuading people to participate. Right up to the last moment money continued to be handed in, and in Chapel on the last Thursday of term Mr Longmuir was able to hand over the £5,000 plus which I had optimistically asked the School to set their sights on. It is not perhaps a great deal in terms of the number of people who need the help of the UNHCR, but it is nevertheless a creditable total for the 181 who raised sponsorship and the larger number who showed their support by walking, and there were many very high individual totals. Rosie Zollinger won my £20 prize for the largest single contribution, but there were another five walkers who raised over £100 each, many more with over £50, and so on.

I hope that those who took part in the walk will not forget that it was fun, that it was a break from routine and that it allowed us as a community to do something positive and tangible in response to just one of the horror stories which seem to appear so often in the papers and on television. There are many equally deserving causes out there, some well-publicised and some which are not but which still need action from people like us, people who have most of the things we need, quite a few which we do not, and possessed of the means to make a real difference. Fund-raising is a well established practice in the school, and if it is possible to raise for charitable purposes in one major event such as this, the cash equivalent of no less than three places on a major sports tour, then I am confident that, with the will and the right emphasis, even more can be achieved in the future.

ACWS-J



# Jigs and Reels

## St. Andrew's Night

The girls arrived fashionably late and glamorously dressed. The boys were punctual – mustn't waste good eating, drinking and of course dancing time! Would they remember how to dance? I need not have worried, once the band struck up, the floor filled and the evening got off to a great start.

Members of the sixth form who hadn't danced before soon discovered a skill they didn't know they had – Okki in particular proved to be quite a reeler. Tucker, as always, set the style and the staff are improving as the years go on.

Some new dances were tried along with the old favourites, some of which are now danced "Strathallan Style". The main complaint of the evening was "Why did it finish so early?" to which the answer has to be "Time flies when you're enjoying yourself".

EH

## Reels Night

When people first mentioned 'Reels Night' I wasn't sure what it would be like. I had pictures of everyone in straight lines dancing military style. However, after many recommendations from the upper years, I decided to give it a go and found it was a great laugh.

After the first dance I was raring to go for the next one. Apart from the apology the next day to the person whose tights you had borrowed and ripped in ten places from dancing with no shoes, the night was a success. By the end of the night, with my legs collapsing, I wasn't certain I could ever dance again but despite all this I couldn't wait for the next one!

**Samantha Gillespie (Fourth Form)**

## Sixth Form Ball

The day of the school year that everyone, including John Gillespie and Charlie Taylor, was looking forward to finally arrived. Girls in their dresses, newly styled hair and immaculate make up anxiously waited to see if their tuxedoed escorts would arrive with a rose on time, or, if at all. (Gordy!!)

On arriving at our 'ballroom', which had been superbly decorated by Mme Crane and co., we were greeted by the nervous looking Kilgraston girls, who after a few glasses of punch soon settled into the Strath swing of things and made a 'lucky few' have a good night.

The call for photos soon prompted the whole of sixth form to pour into the dining hall, where the immaculate looking hair didn't stay put for long due to the scramble and frantic shoving to appear in a photo. Some people frequented, however, more than others (Alison), and there were many laughs and cheers when a determined looking Cindy and Gary insisted on posing with the headmaster.

Thanks to the staff, the brief silver service meal was enjoyed by all after which was a raffle, then a small award service presented by Rocky that obviously, not rigged, consisted of Ruthven Upper Six claiming most of the prizes.

Mrs. Hamilton once again managed to get almost everyone dancing and skipping to various tunes of which few can remember. Even those who couldn't "pas de bas" managed to join in with some form of dancing or another.

Although there are many different recollections of the night, the most talked about were the hidden talents of our teachers. Mr Kennedy, Mr Higginbottom, Mr Whiteman, Mr Dutton and Mr. Martin were the professional sounding band that saved us from the ceileidh music and played most of the night, providing us with the old reliable tunes. Mrs MacFarlane's tuneful rendition of The Beatles 'Yesterday' was appreciated by all.

Finally thanks to all the staff who were involved in helping the ball be such a success. All in all an excellent night and we are looking forward to doing it all again, even better next year.

**Fiona MacFarlane (Lower Sixth Form)**



# Bard To Verse

**T**his session saw yet again a substantial increase in the involvement of pupils in speech and drama competitions and exams with almost 25% participating in at least one event. Nearly every pupil in Riley took part.

We got off to a cracking start in the autumn when Douglas Forbes won two trophies within a week. The first was in the competition for public speaking run by the Perth Speakers Club for Perthshire schools. In this competition (in which Adam Rackley was the runner-up) Douglas gave a stirring performance of the speech he would – if given the opportunity! – deliver at the opening ceremony of the new Scottish Parliament. A few days later he won the Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich at the Perth Burns Club's annual festival for a recitation of Burns' "Address to the Unco' Guid".

In fact we achieved a "poetic hat-trick" at the Burns Club because Samantha Stark won the primary 6/7 class and Emma Fairlie the secondary under 15 class. (Also, Victoria Robertson won the singing.)

Douglas Forbes and Nils Michael have greatly benefited from the advice and encouragement given to them by the Fair City Speakers Club in Perth which they joined this year.

The Perth Festival in March saw the adjudicator unable to decide on a winner in the huge Bible reading class for 12 to 14 year olds. So the "Year of the Bible 1988 Quaich" is shared this year by David Chalmers and Louise Lamb. Bible reading talent must run in the Lamb family because another member of the "flock", Alexandra, won the 15 to 17 year class. Leila Arakji won the Shakespeare class (15 to 17).

IJ won the choral verse speaking class at Perth and the group acting of a poem at the Edinburgh Festival in May. The Lambs distinguished themselves again in Edinburgh with Louise winning the Jean Belfrage Elocution Prize of recitation and Alexandra coming second in the Bible reading for over 17 year olds. For the second year in a row Liam Ferry won the W L Dalgleish Prize for Bible reading (14 to 17). Also for the second year Aimi Gdula and Catriona Sutherland came first in group acting class (under 17). Samantha Stark achieved a magnificent honours for "an outstanding performance" in the verse speaking (10 to 12) class.

When we first entered pupils for LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams four years ago, we had barely enough candidates to occupy an examiner for three-quarters of a day. This year we had around 100 entries – 4\_ days of having a LAMDA examiner in school.

Six candidates achieved Gold Medals, five Silver and four Bronze. Particular mention should be made of the performances of Kirsty Roy in acting and Douglas Forbes for public speaking (both at silver medal level). In the grades high honours marks were awarded to Louise Lamb (grade 7: the speaking of verse and prose), Andrew Lawson (grade 4: spoken English), Catherine Rutherford (grade 2: spoken English), Ann-Louise Breden, Victoria Drummond-Hay, Samantha Stark and Catriona Martin (grade 4: acting) and Stuart Macdonald, Andrew Peattie, Euan Allardyce and Rory Philip (grade 1: improvisation).

The highest honours mark of all our candidates went to Liam Ferry in the Junior Medallion (acting).



## A Year in Biology

It has been an extremely busy time in the biology department. In the autumn term, DLR took the upper sixth to Dundee University where they had opportunities to look at living cells through (enormously expensive) microscopes. Two pupils will be returning to attend a two-day physiology workshop in September. PMV took lower sixth pupils to Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh where, among the aged specimens, were severe cases of elephantiasis and bones with gunshot wounds from World War I. Nevertheless, dinner afterwards was still enjoyed by all! 'A' level and Higher pupils have also had opportunities to attend lectures and public meetings (including a lively debate on genetic modification) and to ask Dr's Lane about the future of cancer therapy. They have also benefited from the provision of a resource room within the department where they can access books, periodicals, CD-ROMS and the Internet.

In the spring term, we added to our collection of animals; a number of guppies, a gecko and a garter snake (a 'male' which duly gave birth to twelve miniatures!). Pupils and staff alike have also been fascinated to see a seventeen-foot python, which was kindly 'loaned' to us for the day. No pupils were reported missing!

JG

IMcF

The STRATHALLIAN



# Work Experience In Sudan

**W**hilst the idea of work experience in the UK sounded an attractive proposition when being put forward to 5th form last April, I decided that as I live with my family in Sudan I should be able to kill two birds with one stone by experiencing life in a Sudanese refugee camp and working in the field of humanitarian aid with international aid agencies. Mr Wands took some convincing that all would be well but, once convinced that my safety was assured, agreed that it would indeed be "experience".

Soba is a camp for displaced people. It is situated on the outskirts of Khartoum and is an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp for people who have fled from the South to avoid the long running armed conflict between Christians and Muslims. Their houses are made of mud bricks without electricity and water for which they must go to a hand pump, one of which is at the gate of the aid agency. For some, this may seem a long distance to travel to get clean water, but it is there and is being used. During the rainy season, many of the houses are destroyed, and it is distressing to see these desperately poor people standing in the rain with literally nothing.

Soba is the first refugee camp I visited. I went with the clinic co-ordinator and nurse, Daniella Stein, from GOAL (an Irish aid agency). I expected my reactions to be very different from what they were. You could either be disturbed by the idea that these people have to live in such a way, or you could be assured that they were being helped. Either way the contrast with our Western way of life is huge.

I don't really know how I was expecting to react. I suppose I thought I'd be disturbed; witnessing horrific surroundings full of extremely ill, poor and helpless people, and therefore being upset. I surprised myself. What I saw was an organised, happy establishment that, with the aid from GOAL, was actually doing something to help these displaced people. I was relieved to know that something was being done. Of course, the people are poor, some are ill and they live in easily destroyed mud brick houses, leading simple lives. They are being treated for their health problems, being taught about nutrition, which is a positive step forward, but they are continuing to live in these camps, as they have no where else to go. Some of the children have never experienced life outside the camp, as their parents have been there for so long. Whilst I was there, it was the rainy season, creating a thriving environment for water-borne diseases. Hence the epidemic of severe diarrhoea. The most common diseases all year round are presently cholera, diarrhoea, malaria and chest infections all killers, particularly of children. These are due to contaminated water, mosquitoes and the dry sandy air. To receive treatment for these illnesses they attend the clinics, which are in the camp. There, there are doctors, re-hydration premises, a maternity ward, and an equipped pharmacy. However, many patients need further medical help, and can therefore be admitted to hospital.

The staff at Soba are Sudanese, who all speak a little English, are really kind to their charges and this ensures that the overall atmosphere is welcoming and friendly. In spite of their poor situation, the inhabitants of Soba receive the best possible attention given the limited resources and are very grateful for it.

I had one experience of taking a woman and child to a local hospital. The woman had sickness and diarrhoea, and the child needed to be put on a drip, as she was badly dehydrated and had lost consciousness. Both were attended to at the GOAL clinic, but it was decided that to be safe, they ought to go to the hospital. When I entered the hospital, I was shocked at the disorganisation. The waiting room was outside, and it resembled a clinic, rather than a hospital. Rooms were assigned for certain problems, where there were about 4 doctors per room and over 200 patients all lined up to see them. People wandered around in a daze nobody seemed to know where they were going, or if they did, I didn't notice. I didn't get to visit a ward, as we were only dropping off two patients.

It was an interesting experience to see a Sudanese hospital. The money put into health care by the government is minimal, there being currently other demands on what money there is in the country.

It is very easy to sit, well fed and comfortable in the UK and watch harrowing scenes of poverty, deprivation and the effect of war flashing up on the television. These images rapidly fade and our comfortable western life style returns. To work with some of these people, to see the resourcefulness and cheerfulness they manage to maintain in the face of such adversity, to realise that they know of no other way of living and they do not resent what others may see as patronising intrusion was a privilege and a real experience.

**Georgia Manson (Fifth Form)**



# French Trip

A six am departure from Strathallan – after an evening of Headmaster’s Music – with the prospect of a long coach trip to Portsmouth is not everyone’s idea of an easy life.

The shock of finding that our “coach” was a glorified mini-bus woke us immediately to the reality of a hard day ahead. So little room was there, that our packed lunches lined the central aisle all the way to Killington Lake Services. The overnight crossing to St Malo added insult to injury when the two members of staff had to hand over their passports – as an insurance policy against unruly student behaviour on the ship. Brittany Ferries had obviously had problems in the past, but we were congratulated on the impeccable behaviour of our pupils – who were all so exhausted after the long haul from Scotland that they snored all the way across the Channel!

When we landed in France, our driver admitted that he had never driven in France, did not understand a word of French, and hadn’t a clue how to get out of the port let alone find the motorway to Morlais/Brest. Mme Crane translated the road signs, and I acted as navigator, having made this trip several times on family holidays. We had gone five kilometres when we decided to stop for breakfast – the fact that we were both nervous wrecks contributed to the need for a break, as did the rain which was pouring from the skies in quantities to equal the annual rainfall for this region. “Big Mac” and Stuart blazed a trail to the first open snack-bar (it was seven am on a Sunday morning) and 22 drookit Strathallians followed on.

We arrived late at the school in Brest, and in typical French fashion the families had given up on us and gone off home for Sunday lunch. There was therefore no welcoming party, and we actually worried that we had perhaps arrived at the wrong school



or on the wrong Sunday. Such was the warmth of welcome when the families started to return and to take the children away two by two, that we knew instantly that they were all going to be well looked after.

The Strathallians all had to negotiate the public transport system of Brest in order to meet up on Monday morning, and everyone turned up on time. Liam and Alex B had the bus driver billeted with them and they arrived in great style each morning as the only passengers on our “coach”.

The teaching and facilities in the French school were quite exceptional and the pupils enthused about the experiences they enjoyed, not least the school meals which were a culinary delight with an enormous range of choices.

Our first excursion was a boat trip round the Rade de Brest, which hosts a large part of the French Navy, not that we saw too much of it as the rain was still pouring down in an attempt to equal the rainfall record of the century! The boys created an endurance record for standing on deck in monsoon conditions –





the prize went to Andrew A and Andrew H who looked like garden gnome rejects. Once off the ship, "Big Mac" led the way to the nearest eating place – he has an uncanny ability to locate food outlets in the least likely places!

David C and Greg quickly became the ground traffic controllers, having mastered the entire Brest city transport system. They could tell everyone which bus to take, where to change buses, how long to wait for a connection and where to catch a bus to their part of the city. Only Alex N seemed to go round in circles and never reach his destination. The weather was absolutely appalling, but this did not prevent Sarah and Amelia from frolicking in the rain in the sea every evening.

We enjoyed memorable excursions to the medieval city of Quimper and to the sardine port and walled city of Concarneau. At every corner, one encountered a Strathallian with either a Carte d'Or ice cream or a crepe au chocolat. Back on the bus, there were invariably serious financial negotiations as loans were repaid or re-negotiated at exorbitant rate of interest. Doc has a great career in the City ahead of him – if he isn't locked up in Perth Prison for insider dealing!

The classes in school were highly successful and all the Third Formers were presented with an Elementary Certificate, the Fourth Formers with an Intermediate Certificate for French Language. The Headmaster and the staff of the school were profuse in their praise of the children, their behaviour and their positive attitude to French studies. Every single family said they would willingly welcome the children back to their homes again in the future. Despite the weather, which must have resulted in the heaviest rainfall of the millennium, they really were a delightful, happy group and both Mme Crane and I were proud of each and every one of them.

## *Doig & Smith*

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

**QUANTITY SURVEYING**

**BUILDING SURVEYING**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**CONSTRUCTION LAW**

*Our professional association with Strathallan School has spanned the past 13 years and we wish the school continued success in the future.*

45 York Place  
Edinburgh EH1 3HP  
Tel: 0131 557 4492  
Fax: 0131 557 5702

6 Lynedoch Place  
Glasgow G3 6AQ  
Tel: 0141 332 8907  
Fax: 0141 332 4967

**Contact: Neil Turner**

**Contact: John Skinner**

E-mail:  
edinburgh@doigandsmith.co.uk  
glasgow@doigandsmith.co.uk

Visit our web-site at  
[www.doigandsmith.co.uk](http://www.doigandsmith.co.uk)

**CACD**

*The STRATHALLIAN*



# Design and Technology Trip

## Design and Technology/Art Trip - London 21st - 24th January 1999

This was the main expedition of the year for both DT and Art departments and following its success it is hoped to make this a biennial trip for future years.

**Aims** - DT Dept - to give LVIth design pupils a first hand insight into factors which influence design and the relationship between designer, materials and manufacture. To see the role design plays from the origins of mass production to the present day techniques and processes, including recycling. Explore how products look, how they are used and view some of the most innovative designs currently on the market. Increase aesthetic awareness and observe the impact of design and art in the workplace.

*'The Science Museum, with the hands-on experience, made you look at the way certain materials that are not normally used can make products both different and interesting, such as the full-size glass bridge housed within the Museum.'*

**Patrick Bennet**

Art Dept - to introduce LVIth artists and designers to our National Galleries with particular reference to Renaissance and Italian painting. To experience first hand how a corporate business has used art to provoke response and involvement in every department in a purpose-built City building. Examine the

way in which natural form and different materials can be the influence in the design of many everyday and prototype products.

Members: Arran Davidson, James Hay, Alastair McMillan, Mark Roger, Edward Willing, Patrick Bennet, Charles Beveridge, Gary Hutton, Jhem De Meza-Aslan, Tom Dover, Simon King, Neil Walker, Fraser Whitelaw, Grant Davidson, Susan Bennet, Tasmin Read, Charley Southcott, Laura Dover, Fiona Hunter, Shuna Readman, Rosie Zollinger.

*'The Science Museum was interactive, fun and inspirational, it seemed to have the answer to every question you could ask.'*

**Neil Walker**

The trip was fairly intensive and included visits and guided tours of the Design Museum, National Gallery, Robert Fleming Holdings, Science Museum and the Tate Gallery, we even managed to take in a West End show! Special thanks must go to our guides, particularly Nick Ross and Tom Parsons of Art History Abroad whose knowledge and enthusiasm made it all come alive.

London provided inspiration for both artists and designers alike, with the artists producing paintings, prints and sketches for their A-level coursework. Whilst the designers gained a new stimulus for their limited resource project, resulting in a variety of different solutions to the same brief.

Design Brief: Design and manufacture a seating unit for an adult from a piece of Ash 2000 x 150 x 25mm.

**JLM**





*'The most pleasing aspect of the trip for me was going to the Design Museum. This very much influenced my design for the Limited Resource Project as the chairs and models on show gave me a large insight into possible creations.'*

*Understanding detailed art and having paintings explained in detail was a new experience. Contrasts and different use of colour showed possible ways of using different techniques in my A-level project folio.'*

**Grant Davidson**

*'The pleasure of creating something which without their individuality would never have existed was the greatest pleasure the world afforded.'*

**William Morris 1889**  
*from a talk entitled 'The Arts and Crafts'.*

*'The Art and Design trip to London was very useful and with the combination of subjects a great deal was learned and observed. The Design Museum's permanent display was most informative and just outside the Museum was the famous Tower Bridge and Canary Wharf, we were able to sketch famous landmarks and many notes were taken. The Tate Gallery was truly enlightening and we were able to see and understand works by artists such as Salvador Dali. Visiting Fleming's Merchant Bank was a great privilege and our trip to the theatre to see 'Saturday Night Fever' was brilliant and ended the trip well.'*

**Fiona Hunter**



# Millennium Ball

One of the highlights of the year was the Millennium Ball.

This splendid evening was enjoyed by parents, Strathallians, Governors and friends of the School. It was also very successful, raising almost £20,000 for the Ochil Trust.

Mr David Leggat, Managing Director of United Auctions, based at Perth Auction Mart, is well-known for his sales of livestock. As guest auctioneer at the Ball, he put his skills to good use and ensured that the auction was one of the high points of the evening.

Meanwhile, with donations for the tombola being received right up to the very end, there was no shortage of superb prizes for guests to win.

The evening began with a special performance by the Strathallan Old Boys' Pipe Band, which had been formed for the Ball by Mr Charles Dunbar and Mr Ross Peters, with the aid of Pipe Major Jennifer Hutcheon. Guests were later entertained by The Jauncey Brothers Band, who played a selection of reels and contemporary music.

"We are very grateful to everyone who supported the Ball, whether it be through their generous donations or by their hard work in bringing the initial idea to fulfilment," said Mrs Liz McPhail, Committee Chair. "I would particularly like to thank all those who came to help with the final arrangements and ensured the Ball went so well."



*Mrs Jackie Roger, mother of Mark (Freeland) and responsible for the imaginative floral displays.*



*Mr David Leggat pictured with "A Blackie Tup" donated by artist and Strathallian, Mrs Gillian Wilson (née Niven) which fetched the highest price at auction. Also with him are committee members Mrs Felicity Legge, Mrs Liz McPhail and Mrs Caroline Loing.*





The Old Boys' Pipe Band.



John McKee and Nick Du Boulay check the prizes.



Mrs Gillian Dinsmore staffs the tombola.



## STRATHALLAN SCHOOL FOR SALE



Item	Price £
New Old Strathallian Ties <i>pure silk, broad gold and navy diagonal stripes</i>	15.50
Old Strathallian Scarves	15.50
Old Strathallian Cufflinks <i>double ovals with enamelled stripes</i>	9.00
School Sweatshirts with Embroidered Badge, M L XL	15.00
Box of 6 Melamine Placemats <i>black on white, School from Lawn</i>	18.00
Coasters <i>black on white melamine with School Crest</i>	each 1.50 set of six 8.00
Black Leather Key-Ring with Enamelled Crest	2.00
Tiny Crest on Pin Badge	2.00
Print of School (View from Lawn) by T J Macleod	2.00
<i>All the above prices include postage</i>	
Golf Umbrella <i>gold, navy and royal panels - navy School Crest on one gold panel</i> <i>*only available by personal collection from School Shop.</i>	16.00

All orders to School Shop Manager,  
Mrs Jennifer Wilkie Tel: 01738 815008  
Cheques made payable to *Freeland Services Ltd*



# Rugby

## Following two terms of player development,

the Strathallan development squad arrived back at school for a week's pre-season in an encouraging mood. After last year's disappointing season the coach and players were determined to build a successful team.

The first test, or assessment, came in the form of a pre-season match against Eton College, after only one morning's training. Although losing the match by a considerable margin, there were many benefits and encouraging signs, in particular the realisation of strength and depth, meaning healthy competition for places.

After more preparation and training Strath travelled to Gordonstoun for the final pre-season match. Because Gordonstoun are not on the usual fixture list, it meant there was an extra determination to win. A nervous and indifferent start was followed by a stronger and more assertive period of play which led to scores from Christie and an outrageous side-step from McDougall to seal the match. - **Won 6-12.**

To round off the season's preparation the squad travelled to Giggleswick School in Yorkshire to take part in a triangular tournament. This proved to be extremely useful as Strath beat both Giggleswick and the third school, Woodhouse Grove, perhaps without playing to full potential. Again the trip emphasised the depth and unity within the squad.

Strath, subsequently travelled to the Greenyards, Melrose, for the first official fixture of the season against Melrose Wasps. Having never defeated them in the past, it was an imposing proposition, but Strath did well to dominate the early exchanges and take the game to the Wasps, scoring a particularly good try through Alastair Christie, in the 8th phase of play. Early in the 2nd half, Strath consolidated their position, including a brace from Andy Wilson. However, the final 15 minutes saw Wasps dominating, perhaps due to complacency and fatigue. - **Won 5-29.**

Glasgow Academy were to be the visitors for the first home match of the season, and although Strath opened more strongly with a try by Wilson, they struggled to assert themselves, giving

away needless penalties. Strath although dominant in the second half, lacked the killer instinct, and failed to turn much of the possession into points. Wilson did score another impressive try from a subtle chip by Christie, but that was to be it. - **Won 29-5.**

Strath then travelled to Loretto to a midweek match which they last won back in 1995. Strath started the better, showing better handling and skills, resulting in tries by Christie and Matheson. Yet it was Loretto who dictated the pace of the game, making up for a lack of mobility with an aggression missing from Strath's game. With Loretto scoring soon after half time, following poor defence in the Strath midfield, Strath did well not to crack by

replying with an onslaught of tries from Christie and skipper Eadie. However, Strath had much to work on for the oncoming fixture against QVS, in particular rucking and 'in your face' defence. - **Won 12-32.**

The visit of QVS meant Strath's maiden fixture, and as it turned out, maiden victory in the Scottish Schools' Cup. Though it was never going to be easy, partly due to the wet weather, Strath put together one of the most complete performances of the season, putting right the lessons learnt against Loretto. The victory was characterised by 15 man rugby, which resulted in all four tries coming out wide through Wilson, Christie, and wingers Stewart and Kennedy. - **Won 28-0.**



The visit of Fettes was the sternest of tests so far, and with skipper Eadie missing through injury, Strath needed to find a new level to win. This however did not happen, and Fettes capitalised on constant infringements by Strath to take an 11 point lead. Although Strath showed glimpses of their potential, with a try from a lineout scored through Peattie, as well as Stewart going over after impressive backs handling, they could never sustain pressure. Late in the game the composure of previous matches eluded the Strath team, and more points were conceded through an inability to react to penalty decisions. - **Lost 12-19.**

Fettes had been poor preparation for the most difficult phase of the season, which started with the away fixture against Glenalmond in the first National round of the Cup. Although Strath brought superb support, they started the more lethargic, finding themselves 6-0 down after as many minutes. Strath found it difficult to get into the match, partly due to Glenalmond's tight game plan, and partly due to letting Glenalmond run. Strath went in at the break just 5 points behind after scoring a good try from a lineout through Alastair Peattie. Yet Strath continued to struggle, and Glenalmond's enormous pack began to dominate further. In the end, we were overpowered and well beaten. - **Lost 25-10.**

Confidence was obviously dented for the visit to Forgandenny of Merchiston, yet training during the week had improved and Strath entered the match in a realistic mood. Strath found it difficult to dominate – rucking wasn't as strong as it could have been and therefore Merchiston had the territorial advantage. Though the visitors did score two tries, the Strath defence was good and the second half saw both self belief and attacking ambition improve but the final

pass was often one too many. Merchiston did score a late try but the score line flattered them. Another match slipped through Strath's fingers, resulting in three consecutive defeats. - **Lost 0-15.**

The team then faced a difficult away match against Edinburgh Academy, another traditionally strong fixture. Strath continued the recent trend of giving away needless penalties, and again found themselves chasing the match. Yet we responded by, for the first time in a while, taking the game to the opposition with the back row working particularly hard. Andrew Wilson scored a superb long-range try after good pressure and ball retention. Strath drew level before half time through another try, converted by Wilson. However, Strath suffered from a lack of concentration to concede another score after the break but showed great character to level the match through Ian Stewart. This was a particularly disappointing match as Strath displayed a different level of rugby from the opposition, but for insufficient periods of the game. - **Drew 17-17.**

The visit of Morrison's the following Saturday ended Strath's losing sequence, and although there was a 6-0 try count, this was not a convincing victory. Perhaps due to complacency, individuals played as individuals rather than as a team, isolating themselves and making support difficult. Against a stronger side, this would have been exploited. - **Won 48-0.**

Having been knocked out of the Cup earlier in the season by Glenalmond, Strath drew Marr College in the first round of the Plate. Marr, not on the normal fixture list, were a somewhat unknown quantity. In a hugely disappointing match Strath failed to ever stamp their authority on the match and gifted it to a side who were simply hungrier for victory. - **Lost 11-8.**



Morale was obviously flagging after this defeat which made the trip to Dollar Academy a difficult proposition. As usual, early scores were conceded as Strath struggled to assert themselves. However, with the pack beginning to dominate and the backs running on to the ball at pace, Strath played their most complete rugby of the season. Wilson and Christie both scored before half time, and had this standard been maintained throughout the game, the team would have been assured victory. As it was, Strath lost their composure and allowed Dollar back into the game and to dictate terms, forcing Strath to concede penalties and to panic. - **Lost 18-28.**

The final game of the season, away at Hutcheson's Grammar, again saw the team match the opposition in every area. However, as had often happened during the season, there was a failure to turn dominance into points. Andrew Wilson scored another long-range try and converted a penalty try, but it was during the vital periods of the match that Strath conceded points. A game that should have been won ended in disappointment. - **Lost 18-17.**

Overall, whilst the win : loss ratio was not as impressive as we had hoped this was a strong season for Strathallan. Analysis of the match statistics in the inaugural Schools' Rugby Annual showed clearly how competitive the team was. Even in defeat we performed more impressively than most other teams in Scotland.

From a coach's perspective it was an easy and enjoyable season. Players worked willingly and hard for some months before the start of the season and the presence of outstanding players such as Colin Eadie and Andrew Wilson was obviously a bonus. Colin went on to Captain both the Scottish Schools' team and the combined Scotland U18 tour to New Zealand, while Andy played for Scottish Youth and toured Australia with the Glasgow Thistles.

Mention should also be made of the numerous vocal supporters who attended the home games in particular. Indeed one of the most pleasing aspect of the season was the camaraderie on the sidelines. It would be remiss of me not to mention the contribution of the many loyal family members and the wonderful evening spent at CR Smith's headquarters in Dunfermline. Even the older hands amongst us acknowledge this as the most stylish and successful of rugby dinners.

Finally thanks are due to Nick Du Boulay for his work in honing the back division and to Messrs Tod, Barnes and Higginbottom for their willing and eminently capable assistance. Phil Shore, More Tod and Dave Barnes also took charge of a revamped junior structure that showed considerable promise.

We have much to live up to and look forward to next season!

**WDAW**



# Cricket

## 1<sup>st</sup> XI

The story of this season was one of a disappointing lack of meaningful cricket. After an initial spell of three games, we then went from the first Saturday in May until the second Saturday in June before we managed to complete our fourth game! In between we lost the fixtures against Loretto, XL Club, Headmaster's XI and Gordonstoun to a combination of weather and weekend leaves out (not ours), not to mention the half term weekend also. What was a fairly inexperienced side was therefore denied valuable time at the crease, not only on match days, but also on practice days, with a large number of players involved in the ever increasing diet of public examinations.

All was not doom or gloom, however, despite the rather unexpected loss against Dollar in the first match on an unsatisfactory pitch. The toss was vital here - we lost it - not for the last time this season, and having been asked to bat we mustered the paltry total of 62 all out. The only two batsmen to play with any assurance were Neil McIlwraith and Euan Matheson whose scores may have been worth half-centuries on other days. Dollar managed to knock the runs off comfortably enough on a drier wicket, despite a good spell from Colin Thwaites. The following day, the sun having been conspicuous by its absence behind a heavy haar, saw a shivering side take on Perth Northern. The bowlers did well to restrict Northern to 147-9, though crucial catches were dropped, no doubt due to the arctic temperatures! In reply we got off to a slow start, though the arrival of Andrew Moodie at number three gave the innings a vital impetus, one that old hands Stewart (53) and Colquhoun (46\*) managed to maintain to see us through to a comfortable victory.

May Day brought a much cheerier period of weather that produced a cracking game against Fettes in Edinburgh. Put into bat on a good track, the innings was dominated by the captain Ian Stewart whose 108 drove the Fettes bowlers to frustration, feeding his trademark off-side shots. Good partnerships with Moodie and Colquhoun, followed by some lusty hitting by Matheson saw us notch up 219-6, a daunting total despite the fast outfield and excellent pitch. In reply, Fettes lost their big guns, the Millar brothers, fairly cheaply to some exceptional catching and outfielding. Their innings folded rather meekly with Stewart adding 4-5 to his 108 to win the match. This was probably the highlight of the season as, for one reason or another, Upper Sixth participation in the team was all but finished.

Our games against the Edinburgh Academy and Merchiston were both rained off in different circumstances - with us in a strong position against the Academy and rather less so against Merchiston, whose batsmen gave our bowlers a caning on an excellent Strath wicket. The match against the Old Strathallians was one that should perhaps ordinarily not have been played, if not for the fact that the XI had had so little cricket. Both teams are to be commended for putting up with a sodden square and producing a competitive, if muddy, game. The Old Boys batted first and were contained to 141 all out, courtesy of excellent bowling from Colin Thwaites (3-31) and off-spinner Hamish Forbes (5-23). Niall Gray scored 43 for the Club and was out to the outstanding catch of the day from Neil McIlwraith on the extra-cover boundary. In reply we struggled for any fluency

against a battery of spinners, not surprising given that the first three in the order were under 16 and had seen little spin of any quality. William Bowry on debut made a patient 30 runs and Colin Thwaites thrashed a vital 18 towards the end as we managed to hold out for the draw at 85-9. At least it was a completed game.

Against the MCC the following Sunday we managed to put up a creditable fight right to the end. We restricted the visitors to a declaration at 169-7 on a pitch badly affected by overnight rain (*quelle surprise?*), courtesy of some good bowling from Thwaites and Forbes yet again, and some good captaincy by Andrew Moodie who had been thrown in at the deep end against the Old Boys the previous week. Once again our inexperienced openers did a good job, with Tom Booth batting especially well before he ran himself out for a well-compiled 24. The impetus of the innings subsequently was provided by Moodie who batted responsibly for 44 off 53 balls, hitting the ball with naked power and taking savagely to the Scottish spinner Mitchinson. With a clatter of wickets towards the end, giving us a final total of 120-9, we held out again for the draw. Overall a not unpleasing result given the lack of cricket.

The last four games of the season were all lost - to Glenalmond, Dulwich College, Lancaster RGS and Downside, and all revealed a worrying tendency to come up 30-50 runs short of a good target. In all these games we batted first and were given a decent start by the two Fourth Form openers Booth and Bowry. Booth in particular was impressive, scoring quickly and taking on the opposition fast bowlers with hooks, pulls and savage off-driving. His understanding with Bowry meant some decent opening partnerships, even if Bowry did not reap the same reward of runs. Of the other batsmen only Whitelaw and Moodie scored with any regularity, the others falling away, though tail-enders Forbes and Thwaites tried very hard to compensate for the deficiencies higher up the order. In the Festival we were always short of one bowler with the HMC restrictions on bowling spells coming into effect, although Scott MacFarlane and Gary Hutton made encouraging debuts.

At the end of the day the tally makes sorry reading, but when we lost the best player and captain, Ian Stewart, mid-way through the term and played so many youngsters to compensate for the lack of experienced Upper Sixth players, then the results were only to be expected. Next season should be better, with the youngsters gaining experience this year, but one or two of the more established players will have to stand up and be counted, taking responsibility for the lion's share of the run-scoring. The most encouraging aspect of our play this year was the outstanding commitment in the field, backing up our bowling with some spectacular displays of catching, and looking a class apart from most of our opponents.

My thanks, as ever, go to Nick Du Boulay for his continuous service as batting coach and umpiring guru, and to Iain Philip for his pitch preparation and coaching. To Gardner Merchant who coped cheerfully with my constant cancellations, and also to Earnside Coaches for their excellent service, many thanks. Thanks also to the many colleagues who suffered the slings and arrows of the Master i/c's darkening mood, and cheerfully looked after their charges in a far from ideal season.



## Second XI

At last, a season in which we played a decent number of matches. We started competently against Dollar with 139 though, after good knocks from Mike Wilson and Fraser Whitelaw, the rest of the batting faded. Penetrative bowling from James Philips soon had the opposition in trouble and 16 balls from spinner Richard Bickerton (never to be used again), finished them off.

Slow but authoritative batting against Fettes enabled us to declare after 50 overs on 155-6. They made a spirited reply taking toll of some loose bowling in mid-innings (though James Philips starred with 5-41), and the game went to a nail-biting final few balls with Fettes on 152-9. The return fixture saw poor Strathallan bowling and big Fettes hitting. 179 for 4 was one of the biggest scores we have ever faced, but the wicket was good and the outfield fast. Fraser Whitelaw (71) laid about him to good effect and a draw was contrived by some resolute tail-end defence (120-7).

Only one player held Rannoch together, who were despatched for 75, James Philips again being the leading wicket-taker. After a bad start we got home comfortably by 5 wickets.

In the first Glenalmond game we were well beaten. Some rather spineless batting against a fast attack accumulated only 78 and, although we bowled and fielded with more spirit, we were never in the hunt and went down by 7 wickets. The return match saw us gain a measure of revenge. New recruit Andrew Donald took 6-18 as the opposition crumbled to 86. Mike Wilson (26) held the reply together and Greg McKerracher clinched the fine win with a rapid 26 not out.

It was an enjoyable season with an enthusiastic side, ably led by Mike Wilson who seldom put a foot wrong in the field.

JNF

## Senior Colts

In a season far from perfect for batting, the side won two of the five games played. Of the batsmen only Adam Robertson showed any reliability though runs did come at times from Robert Clark, Phillip Scales (whose 33 not out won us the game at Gordonstoun), Nick Common and Jamie Cameron. The bowling was generally more impressive with Scott Macfarlane (16 wickets) and Nick Common (11 wickets) a capable opening pair, though the others showed glimpses of ability and not enough consistency. The side was captained by William Bowry who missed the early part of the term through injury and then elevation to the 1st XI. John Davey deputised.

RHF

## Junior Colts

This was the season that nearly was. Of the ten scheduled matches only six were actually played and most of those on soft wickets. Against Merchiston, with the season less than one and a half hours old, the prospects looked bright as Marcus Read and

David Stewart took the score past 100 with only two wickets down. However, there followed a steady stream of trudges back to the pavilion and the eventual total of 160 proved to be no problem for the home side. Draws against Fettes and Gordonstoun were followed by a very close and thrilling encounter against Glenalmond. A very fair declaration after thirty-six overs at 144 for 4 let in the visitors and they scrambled the runs in the thirty fourth and final over with one ball to spare.

Fortunes did not improve during the second half of the season and Fettes prevailed by 3 runs in the return match, a game that was there for the taking. At 113 for 3 in the second meeting with Glenalmond, a big score looked on the cards. It was not to be and wickets were thrown away as the JCs crashed to 127 all out and eventual defeat.

In amongst the 'what might have been' were some notable individual performances including four half-centuries from the captain, Marcus Read. Marcus amassed 253 runs at an average of over 84 and his 17 wickets at just under 11 apiece took him also to the top of the bowling averages. David Stewart had a highest score of 48 not out and his best figures with the ball were 5-39 against Gordonstoun.

ALKD



# Cricket Scores

## 1ST XI RESULTS 1999

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
11	2	4	5

Dollar Academy (h)	lost by 7 wickets
Perth Northern (h)	won by 5 wickets
Fettes College (a)	won by 125 runs
Loretto School (a)	cancelled (rain)
Gordonstoun (h)	cancelled
Headmaster's XI (h)	cancelled (rain)
XL Club (h)	cancelled (rain)
The Edinburgh Academy (a)	drawn (abandoned - rain)
Old Strathallians (h)	drawn
Merchiston Castle School (h)	drawn (abandoned - rain)
MCC (h)	drawn
Glenalmond College (h)	lost by 5 wickets
Dulwich College (50 overs)	lost by 3 wickets
Lancaster RGS (40 overs)	lost by 8 wickets
Downside (50 overs)	lost by 7 wickets

## Averages 1999

### BATTING

Name	Played	Innings	Not Out	Total Runs	Average	Highest Score
I. Stewart	5	4	0	181	45.25	108
O. Colquhoun	7	6	1	111	22.2	46*
T. Booth	11	10	0	187	18.7	46
A. Moodie	11	10	0	185	18.5	44

### BOWLING

Name	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wickets	Average	Best Bowling
I. Stewart	29	10	74	7	10.57	4-9
C. A. Thwaites	112.2	23	337	18	18.72	4-71
H. D. Forbes	97.1	21	294	13	22.61	5-23
J. Mackenzie	34	6	115	5	23.00	2-18
J. Philips	40	3	150	5	30.00	3-41
F. L. Mackie	30	2	92	3	30.67	2-19

### CATCHES

T. Booth	8
N. J. McIlwraith	6
E. C. Matheson	4



# Boys' Hockey

## As usual plenty of hockey was packed into the short Spring Term.

Senior highlights included the 1st XI victory against Gordonstoun and the demolition of Loretto, together with Tom Booth's selection for the Home Internationals in Cardiff for the Scottish U16's.

Junior highlights were both the U16 'A' XI and U15 'B' XI who both remained unbeaten against equivalent opposition. Thanks are due to all the coaching staff: Messrs Ford, Watt, Vallot, Shore, Proctor, Court, Wightman, Tod, Ross, Wands and Salisbury who took their sides with much enthusiasm. Also thanks go to the efficiency of the catering and ground staff without whose help any sport would not function.

DA

### INDOOR

The Indoor season got off to a good start with both the 1st and 2nd teams scoring convincing wins over Rannoch. In total, the two teams scored 16 goals with only 1 being conceded. We then travelled to Glenalmond where the 1st's drew 5-5 to what was to be a very strong Glenalmond team. At the Glenalmond Indoor 6's tournament we met some stiff opposition and were knocked out after the first round of games.

### OUTDOOR

Our first two outdoor matches were against Dundee Wanderers and a Scotland U16 squad. The team was slowly coming together and after a very good match against Wanderers and losing 1-4, we went on to draw 3-3 against the Scotland U16's. At this stage Tom Booth was called up to the Scotland U16's squad and was to go on and be selected as a non-travelling reserve for the Home Nations tournament in Cardiff.

A week before the tournament Tom was called upon to represent Scotland at the tournament, playing in all three matches for the team. Well done Tom, our first international player for a number of years.

We then travelled north for a weekend on a mini tour where we played Robert Gordon's School and Gordonstoun. The team played very well against Robert Gordon's and turned out 7-2 winners. All members put in a sterling effort and it was to set the tone for the hard game ahead the next day. On Saturday we travelled through to Gordonstoun to take on a team with German International players. We were the first to draw blood, going 1-0 ahead but by half time they had equalised. After a very tough second half the final score was 1-3 to Gordonstoun, a very hard game and well played by all the team.

Our trip to Loretto was disappointing in a game where we missed a number of scoring opportunities. The final score of 2-2 was not a true reflection of the game.

Our meeting with Dundee High School was very successful, scoring 7 goals and not conceding any at all. But the team was tiring, as it had been a busy hockey term thus far, with both the indoor and outdoor programme.

Our match against Glenalmond, at home proved to be disappointing as well. After the success earlier in the week against Dundee High School we had been looking forward to a good match. We were unable to convert opportunities in the

circle and lost 0-3 to a determined Glenalmond team. However, this seemed to be a turning point for the team.

The Outdoor 6's tournament was extremely wet. In our first game against Glenalmond we drew 0-0 and then went on to draw 1-1 against Rannoch and we beat Loretto and Balerno 2-0 on each occasion. By lunchtime the rain had got so bad that it was decided to call the rest of the tournament off. This was disappointing as our team, a relatively inexperienced development team had played very well having conceded only 1 goal in 4 games.

In the last 4 school matches of the season we scored 18 goals with only 3 against us. In the return match against Gordonstoun, at home, we managed an impressive 3-0 victory against them, being the first time in 2 years that a Scottish school team had beaten them.

Against Fettes College we won 4-2, Aberdeen Grammar School 4-0, and the return match against Loretto made-up for the 2-2 draw earlier in the season; we won 7-1 with Grant Davidson being on top form with his goal scoring.

The Old Strathallians match was very evenly contested and extremely entertaining to watch. The final score of 3-3 was a fair reflection of the game overall.

Alistair Christie captained the team for the season and did his job well. Ian Stewart was always a player who could be relied upon in every game and Chris Appleby played a superb season as a defender. The rest of the squad was made-up of Michael Chaussy in goal, who kept extremely well, Andrew Moodie and Chris Stewart as defenders, Euan Matheson, Allan Hay and Scott Harvey as mid field players and Tom Booth, Grant Davidson, Alastair Peattie and Simon Davidson-Dell making up the front line.

The following awards were made in respect to the hockey season:

<b>Half Colours</b>	Grant Davidson	Chris Stewart
	Alastair Peattie	Andrew Moodie
	Allan Hay	Tom Booth

With only five of this squad returning next year we shall be developing a very young team but are looking forward to yet another successful year. We will also be welcoming back Mr Giles after his stay in Australia and hopefully with new ideas on the game as well.

AW



**WITH ANY OTHER  
SCHOLARSHIP  
YOUR INITIALS COULD  
END UP  
ON A BRIEFCASE.**



If you really want to make your mark, you'd be better off not joining the masses in the city.

Especially now the RAF are offering you the chance to see if you have what it takes to become an officer, through a sixth form scholarship.

To apply, you need to be between fifteen and seventeen and about to take your GCSEs or SCEs, with the intention of going on to sixth form.

Of course, we'll want to know if you have all the right credentials. (It takes more than just good examination grades to make an officer.)

You'll spend three days at Cranwell where,

apart from giving you a medical to see if you are fit in body, we'll put you through a series of tests to see if you are fit in mind.

We'll bend, stretch and strain you and still expect you to make split second decisions. One day other people's lives may depend on it.

If you pass, your parents will receive an annual tax free grant to help with the cost of your studies. You will also go on a two week leadership training course in Scotland to get you familiar with what's to come, and you may be offered a course of flying lessons.

**For more information about  
RAF sponsorships and careers,  
contact your RAF Senior  
Careers Liaison Officer on  
01382 200934 or contact  
your nearest Armed Forces  
Careers Office.**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE ©  
RISE ABOVE THE REST**

<http://www.raf-careers.raf.mod.uk>

# Sports Day and Athletics

**T**he respective house championships were retained by last year's victors on Sports Day this year.

Both contests were still undecided going into the final senior sprint relays and with Woodlands unable to close it down on the last leg, Thornbank took the girls title. Nicol were relegated to 3rd place in the senior boys' relay and with Ruthven winning it, they had the title wrapped up. The unusually unpleasant weather in May had already caused one postponement and with a further deluge on the rescheduled morning things did not look good, however, it cleared up and only the high jump had to be cancelled. Despite the lack of good times on such a day, there were many fine performances by the athletes, in particular by Ewan O'Donnell, Karen McArthur and Andy Wilson in the 100 metres and Katie Fleming and Scott McKinlay in the 400 metres.

The individual championships were also very close affairs and the individual award winners were presented with their trophies by Mrs Lesley Court, mother of this year's captain, J M Court.

Junior Boys V L	E O'Donnell
Junior Girls V L	K McArthur / K Fleming
Middle Boys V L	S McKinlay
Senior Girls V L	C Reed
Senior Boys V L	A Wilson

In the house standards competition for the Rowan Cup, Ruthven were comfortable winners. It is however pleasing to note that 4 separate houses won an age group title and particularly encouraging to see Thornbank recording a first for the girls against the boys houses by winning the 3rd form competition by a good margin.

Despite the rather unseasonal summer weather, this year's fixtures provided some fine performances and team successes.

The over 17 boys team recorded various wins over Merchiston, Rannoch, Fettes, Stewart's Melville and Loretto; they lost in a multi school event to Queen Victoria School and were the only Strath team to lose to Glenalmond.

The over 16 girls team defeated Kilgraston, Rannoch and Glenalmond but were well beaten by a strong Fettes team.

The under 17 boys team lost the opener in Edinburgh against Merchiston and thereafter remained undefeated against Fettes, Rannoch and Glenalmond in head-to-head matches and also against

Queen Victoria School and Stewart's Melville in the multi-school competition.

However, pride of place should go to the under 16 girls who remained unbeaten all season, defeating Kilgraston, Rannoch, Fettes and Glenalmond and coming out on top in the multi school event against Queen Victoria School, Glenalmond and Loretto.

Riley athletics continues to develop and the boys won 2 out of 3 meets against Rannoch and Merchiston, losing to Lathallan and the girls had a similar record, beating Lathallan and Rannoch, losing to Kilgraston.

The top individual performer of note this year was Scott McKinlay who capped a fine season by winning the 400 metres hurdle title at the National schools championships as well as picking up a pentathlon bronze and establishing himself as one of Scotland's top up-and-coming internationalists. Katie Fleming, Ewan McChesney and Chris Johnson also reached National finals, just failing to win medals.

The School has a number of talented athletes and certainly more than a few equally talented and keen staff coaches. My thanks goes to Morc Tod for his personal support and his work with David Gwynn-Jones and Abi Mason on the sprints and Jacqui and Mark Higginbottom for the hours spent with the middle distance groups and the field team of Morag Vass, David Barnes and Paul Shields (Jumps), Paul Summersgill, Phil Shore and Bill Weigall (throws) and not forgetting the work done by Carol Duncan, Audrey Ingram -Forde and Sandra Fleming with the juniors.

Finally, credit should go to J M Court for his help as captain and all the Athletes for their attitude during training and matches. Hopefully these good standards will continue next year.

**Full Athletic Colours were awarded to:**  
J-M Court / K Cameron / A Turner /  
M Chaussy / S McKinlay

**Half Athletic Colours were awarded to:**  
E McChesney / C Reed / A Roger/  
C Johnson / S Harvey / T Combe / I Soot

**JRF**



# Results

## GIRLS' RESULTS

Event	Age	Winner	Time/Des	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	K McARTHUR	13.41	13.00	STREULE, K.	1982
100M	S	C REED	13.53	12.12	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
200M	J	K McARTHUR	29.47	27.79	REID, S.	1988
200M	S	C REED	29.41	25.20	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
400M	J	K FLEMING	68.60	66.00	REID/TAYLOR/FLEMING	87/90/99
400M	S	A LITTLE	75.30	60.00	REID, S.	1990
800M	J	K FLEMING	2.59.03	2.27.00	FLEMING, K.	1999
800M	S	S HARVEY	2.52.06	2.25.06	TAYLOR, R.	1993
1500M	J	C SUTHERLAND	5.58.71	5.14.09	BARLOW, A.	1992
1500M	S	K CAMERON	5.55.02	5.05.10	MEIKLEJOHN, C	1990
LONG JUMP	J	K FLEMING	3.45	4.46	GORDONS, S.	1985
LONG JUMP	S	K CAMERON	3.85	4.58	CARRUTHERS, C.	1989
SHOT	J	A LANE	6.30	10.23	SNAG, T.	1992
SHOT	S	C PEATTIE	7.75	9.49	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
DISCUS	J	K McARTHUR	19.80	25.10	CHAPMAN, R.	1995
DISCUS	S	G GREENWOOD	18.19	26.60	CHAPMAN, R.	1998
JAVELIN	J	K PODYMAKHINA	18.60	23.39	BUCHANAN, K.	1995
JAVELIN	S	K SENIOR	18.22	22.42	BRUCE, M.	1995
4X100M	J	WOODLANDS	63.47	55.65	THORNBANK	1995
4X100M	S	THORNBANK	58.43	54.54	THORNBANK	1990
4X400M	J	THORNBANK	5.20.15	4.39.37	THORNBANK	1992
4X400M	S	WOODLANDS	5.05.31	4.43.83	THORNBANK	1993

## BOYS' RESULTS

Event	Age	Winner	Time/Des	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	E O'DONNELL	12.44	12.00	LING, T.	1971
100M	M	I ALLARDYCE	11.79	10.90	OGILVIE	1978
100M	S	A WILSON	11.27	11.00	LOCHART/LING/ SMELLIE/KIRKLAND	1971/ 1978
200M	J	E O'DONNELL	27.12	24.00	WALLACE, R.	1993
200M	M	I ALLARDYCE	25.41	23.20	LING, T.	1973
200M	S	A WILSON	24.50	22.80	LING, T.	1973
400M	J	B CONSTABLE	71.17	56.50	COOK, C.	1987
400M	M	S McKINLAY	56.80	52.50	MILLAR	1977
400M	S	C JOHNSON	56.22	50.30	ROGER, G.	1982
800M	J	D CHALMERS	2.51.80	2.12.90	LAWRENCE, C.	1984
800M	M	S McKINLAY	2.19.23	2.03.06	LAWRENCE, C.	1985
800M	S	C JOHNSON	2.13.75	1.55.02	ROGER, G.	1982
1500M	J	A ROSS	5.12.99	4.32.07	LAWRENCE, C.	1985
1500M	M	R MARSHALL	5.15.88	4.14.05	BOND, R.	1988
1500M	S	A TURNER	4.46.51	4.09.02	BOND, R.	1989
LONG JUMP	J	E O'DONNELL	4.50	5.55	LEAR, C.	1967
LONG JUMP	M	R WEBB	4.82	6.17	LAWSON	1967
LONG JUMP	S	O COLQUHOUN	5.20	6.52	SMELLIE, D.	1978
SHOT	J	D STEWART	8.90	12.83	WALKER, L.	1992
SHOT	M	F MACKIE	11.00	14.73	McKENZIE, G.	1973
SHOT	S	J M COURT	9.95	12.90	CALLANDER	1979
DISCUS	J	P MACKIE	22.19	36.27	KNOX, S.	1974
DISCUS	M	S McKINLAY	32.10	42.00	KNOX, S.	1976
DISCUS	S	A McMILLAN	29.82	40.26	McKENZIE, G.	1974
JAVELIN	J	S SCROGGIE	28.10	49.81	McBRIDE, J.	1969
JAVELIN	M	J McDOUGALL	35.25	49.81	McBRIDE, J.	1969
JAVELIN	S	C APPLEBY	37.65	57.07	McBRIDE, J.	1971
4X100M	J	RUTHVEN	59.57	50.50	RUTHVEN	1987
4X100M	M	RUTHVEN	51.30	46.60	SIMPSON	1972
4X100M	S	RUTHVEN	48.62	45.50	FREELAND	1981
4X400M	J	FREELAND	4.49.76	4.09.07	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	M	FREELAND	4.17.56	3.53.49	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	S	SIMPSON	4.00.00	3.41.03	FREELAND	1992

## STANDARDS

RUTHVEN	1ST	2104	NICOL	4TH	1660
FREELAND	2ND	1994	THORNBANK	5TH	1198
SIMPSON	3RD	1894	WOODLANDS	6TH	1171



# Girls' Games

This year has seen squads from both major games, hockey and netball, preparing hard for tours abroad.

This is the first time netball have toured. Such opportunities come by every few years and those lucky enough to be part of them have lasting memories of fun, friendship and fixtures. More will be said about tours elsewhere but once again I can state that the dedication of coaches, players, parents and other staff make these ventures and the weekly practices happen with enthusiasm.

LJS



# Hockey

It is hard to write a report which is not wholly slanted towards the top team in the School, and this year is no exception but try I must.

The 2nd XI had a season of several draws but did have notable wins against Gordonstoun, St George's, Glenalmond, Laurel Park and Dundee High. Our junior sides played well and did score goals but appeared to come out on the losing side by one goal. Riley hopped between hockey and netball as usual with an equal amount of success and defeats in both sports. Many of the Riley girls were great supporters of our 1st XI home matches where they saw some of the 67 goals we scored to a reply of 9. Following a Cup run of wins over St Leonard's and Madras, the final was played in St Andrews in weather conditions I can barely describe and through sheer will to keep running rather than freeze up, we defeated Bell Baxter. Undeclared during eleven fixtures in the first term, winners of the Midlands Cup, retaining the Independent trophy, coming 3rd in Scotland in the SHU Youth Girls Outdoor and Indoor Championships amounted to a fairly successful season.

Several players had highlights of their own – Hazel Whyte, Anneke Laux and Christina Breaden were selected for Scottish Talent camps over the summer, Anneke being retained in the squad for training at Largs in early December; Hazel and Anneke were selected for Midlands U16 squad together with Laura Kosteroglou of the fourth form team. Christina was selected at U18 level as well as Alison Roger and Miranda Harington. All our district players gained silver medals at the Inter District Tournament. Hazel, Laura and Jenny Hay featured in the U15 Inter District and Katie Fleming, Anna MacDonald, Ann Louise Breaden, Ami Gdula, Amelia Lane and Lindsay Allan were selected for training at U14 level. Two of those listed above are leavers. With so many continuing in school for several years to come I can only hope that we will continue to see the results of our investment in the game and maintain the high standards we have set for ourselves.

LJS



Crieff Road, Perth PH1 3JT



## Visiting Strathallan?

We are situated 500 yards off the A9 on the Crieff Road (McDiarmid Stadium roundabout).  
Choice of two restaurants with an exciting range of menus.  
Log fires...caring, friendly staff.

**-SPECIAL-**

**DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST RATE** **£49.50** per person per night

**FOR PARENTS OF STRATHALLAN PUPILS**  
Bed and Breakfast rates available

Please call 01738 583771 for colour brochure



Johansens Appointed  
Associate Member of Virgin Hotels  
Member of Best Loved Hotels of the World



# Netball, Tennis and Rounders

## Netball

The 1998-99 season was one of success, innovation and triumph in the face of adversity.

The autumn term began with the restructuring of girls' games which brought all III and IV form girls to netball in the spring term allowing a much fuller fixture programme to be generated for these age groups than before. The U14s had some good results despite Kirsty F's bad shooting days and Alanna's ski commitments while the U15s, having discovered a new shooter when Sarah E was handed a GS bib and told to "have a go", remained unbeaten until their last match, when the absence of several key players saw them come second to Albyn by one goal.

Lower down the school, Riley had more fixtures too and it was good to see the team progress, especially in the autumn term. The 17-13 win over Dundee High School was a definite high point.

The senior section had a restructuring period after the loss of six of the previous season's First VII. Pip and Tabby shot as if by radar, Becca improved out of all recognition, Lindsey progressed from tears in her first match to being the last defender you wanted to play against and Eleanor proved her versatility playing in every position. Most matches saw us convincing winners and we were ninth in the Perth League, ahead of four women's teams. Meanwhile the Seconds produced some good results despite many a late substitution and team change.

In February, two teams took on six other schools and the elements. With the weight of going for six in a row on their shoulders, in a howling gale and between snow showers, the Independent Schools' Netball Trophy was hotly contested. The staff felt the fartleks (a popular innovation – not!) this being a major factor, although the girls thought the bananas and flapjack on the day were of greater significance. The result – silverware, of course.

As for the adversity – well, we never like to emphasise the negative in netball (although the hard courts do spring to mind...). A positive attitude produced the above successes and inspired AJM and AIF to lead the first SSNC tour to Barbados. My thanks to the [players and to the coach – AJM, AIF, SF and AD – for another highly enjoyable year.

### Full colours:

Pip Blair Oliphant  
Tabby Combe  
Becca Perrett

### Half Colours:

Lucy Sproat

### Perth U15 Squad members:

Lindsey Chisholm	Kirsty Fitzgerald
Sam Gillespie	Samara Johnstone
Vicky Read	Clare Kelly
Sioned Bates	Sarah Lyburn
Alanna Duncan	Katy Mckie

## Tennis

This season saw the usual mix of senior teams alternating between couples sitting examinations at Higher level and those taking A levels – no two matches fielding the same group of players. Two captains were appointed for this reason and between them at different times in the term Katie Dutton and Nicola Milne kept everyone informed and organised. This said, the standard of play was very competent and all nine matches were fiercely competed. Victories were few for the 1st VI, only versus Albyn and Morrison's; the 2nd VI faring better versus Kilgraston and Fettes. Our Junior players from the 3rd and 4th Form added successes versus Loretto, Dollar and St George's. The House shield was convincingly won by Thornbank which was hardly surprising as most of the 1st VI and Junior VI are in this House. The Kilgraston tournament is usually the high point of our season but sadly this year it was cancelled due to weather.

LJS

## Rounders

Over the past few years the interest in this sport has been growing mainly due to the fact that a large number of girls have been given the chance to play for Scotland in competitions against the other home nations either here or in England. The interest this year was lessened somewhat due to so many girls being involved in touring sides to Australia or Barbados therefore the number putting themselves forward for trials dropped. However by June two girls – the Bush twins – were selected to play in the under 16 team and duly, with Mrs Fleming, made their way with the squad by bus to the competition in Chester only to be told on arrival it had been cancelled due to weather. Cap that! No, I don't think so; it is only if you take the field.

LJS



EAE



# Boys' Tennis

# Badminton

With only one match cancelled due to bad weather the Summer of '99 was a good one for the last of this millennium.

Some practice days were wet but the boys were keen to get out and play irrespective of the conditions.

The season started with the usual mixed doubles tournament with Gordon's team taking on the team of Katie and Nicola; an enjoyable and close result with Gordon's team winning 5-4. Our first match of the season against Morrison's Academy, at home, proved to be a good warm-up for the season ahead. Our team, captained by Gordon Turner, proved formidable and won the match 9-0. The first couple of Gordon and Harry Crump worked well together and of all their matches played they won 18 of the 25 sets played.

The team had mixed fortunes during the season, as the results show but all players always gave of their best. Regular team members included Gordon, Harry, Philip Kuhn, Alastair Peattie, Max Reynolds and Oliver Scott. Dave Smith and Blair Chalmers were also to represent Strathallan on a couple of occasions. A number of talented younger players are coming through School at the moment and we can look forward to the years ahead with anticipation.

The Inter-house competition proved to be a very closely contested competition. In the semi-finals Ruthven were drawn against Simpson and Freeland against Nicol. Both matches were 3 sets all after the round which meant matches won had to be counted. The final was to be Simpson against Freeland. Again after the round it was 3 sets all resulting in a games count. Simpson emerged the winners beating Freeland 27-25 games.

The six hard courts were always well used each practice afternoon, which was very encouraging and bodes well for the future. The tennis coaching continues to be popular amongst Riley pupils, which is also encouraging. We said farewell to Doug Ralfe who retired in July 1999 and we wish him and his wife well in their retirement and thank him for all the hard work he has put into tennis at Strathallan.

Colours were awarded to Harry Crump.

## BOY'S TENNIS RESULTS 1999

v	Morrison's (home)	won	9-0
v	Edinburgh Academy	cancelled	
v	Merchiston (away)	lost	2-7
v	Rannoch (home)	won	6-3
v	Glenalmond (away)	lost	3-6
v	Fettes (home)	won	7-2
v	Stewart's Melville (home)	lost	2-7
v	Loretto (away)	lost	3-6
v	MCR	won	7-2

AW

Alas, my plea last year for more interest from the 3rd and 4th years fell on deaf ears, apart from those of Sara Eddie.

Sara and I spent many an activities' night as lone figures in the Sports Hall but it paid dividends as her badminton improved beyond all recognition, and she is now good enough to be invited to play with the Sixth Form. The seniors again made it all worthwhile with Richard Kennedy, Neil Taylor, Mark and Ailsa Stringer, Philip Khun, Ed Willing, Ruaridh Thomason and Kirsty Senior being the most regular participants and they all featured well in the Inter-House tournament in February.

Simpson were too strong for the rest but Freeland ran them fairly close, and Woodlands performed admirably to take the girls' contest and finish third overall. Alisa Stringer and Caroline Frew, the Woodlands first pairing, were a good match for anybody as their experience showed through. It was a case of old heads on young shoulders. Maybe next year we'll see more young heads on young shoulders!

GCK

## McEachern MacDuff Architects

We are pleased to be associated with  
**STRATHALLAN SCHOOL**

and wish them continued success

**13 ALLAN PARK • STIRLING • FK8 2QG**  
**TEL: 01786 464111 FAX: 01786 451480**  
**E-MAIL: mm.arch@btinternet.com**



# Sailing

This year the Strath sailing contingent got off to a good start, lovely weather and good breeze got the oldies asking what was going on and the new comers asking why they hadn't sailed long ago.

Everybody was set into groups according to their ability, covering RYA levels two and three while the hard-core oldies, Tucker, Shuna, Helen and Adam, all proclaimed their wish to blast about Queensferry Bay.

It was only a matter of seconds before Tucker had asserted his sole ownership of Port Edgar Sailing School's performance dinghy 'The Buzz'. However Helen and Shuna must have regretted that Tucker was a kind person for they claimed not only the 'Captain Capsize Trophy' for the first capsizing of the season but also merited the introduction of a new prize 'The Admiral Rollover Cup' for repeated capsizing, when Tucker lent them 'The Buzz' in a moment of complete madness. (Actually Tucks had seen what the weather was like and pulled a sickie to avoid the embarrassment of claiming these prizes.) Shuna did exact her revenge however. Crossing the Forth shipping channel she proceeded to knock Tucks clean out of the boat in a terrific show of trapezing prowess.

Some people did actually do some proper sailing. With the expert instruction of Anna and Angie the beginners Richard Blakey, Miss England and Mr Kilpatrick were soon very competent on the water claiming their level two certificates and giving Tucker, the sailing captain, a run for his money on several occasions. It was apparent that Ailsa, Lynne, Mark and Fraser were also looking to higher things:- when Angie or Anna suggested spinnaker, work eyes lit up only to be followed with a roll of the eyes and a stomp of the foot as quietly they said "in a Wayfarer". By the end of the season, with the essential Wayfarer training out of the way Lynne, Ailsa, Mark, Fraser and Texas, had finally broken into the faster dart catamarans and had some great thrills and spills.

Overall the '99 season turned out to be one of the best yet, with the sailing club going from strength to strength and recruiting more and more new members every year. The last thing to do is thank everybody involved in Strath sailing. Mr Kilpatrick, Miss England and Mr Phillips, thanks for driving us and we all hope you enjoyed your sailing. Mr Walker thank you for organising it all. Incidentally, Mr Walker appeared to be a bad omen for Tucker; every time Mr Walker had Strathallan, the CCF's fast motor launch, out on the water something went wrong with Tucker's sailing, usually culminating in a capsizing, often spectacular!! Last, but not least, we would like to thank the staff at Port Edgar, Anna, Angie, Ian, Dave, Richard and Ollie.

**Tucker (aka Andrew Thwaites, Upper Sixth Form)**

# Swimming

Swimming continues to thrive in the refurbished pool, complete

with windows, and what is lacking in quantity is made up in quality. We have had a number of fixtures against Fettes, Rannoch and Glenalmond, and the team put in valiant efforts considering that the majority of the time it consisted solely of girls, whereas our opposition was mixed. We were more successful at a Gala held by Glenalmond when, on a rare occasion, a complete mixed team from Strathallan completed, and came a close second to the hosts, beating Morrison's.

Swimming standards held in the summer term offered the opportunity for those usually occupied with other sports to have a dip in the pool. All houses competed fiercely with Woodlands triumphing.

This year full colours for swimming were awarded to: Emma McFarlane, Fiona Hunter, Suzi Harvey, Serge Basanov, and half colours to Andrew Donald, Caroline Frew and Claire McFarlane.

The departure of Tim, the Gap Student, at Christmas saw the loss of a valuable coach. However, the team was by no means abandoned. My thanks go to Mr Glimm and Dr McDougall for their unfailing attendance at every games' session and all their help in organising fixtures. May I also thank Mrs Read and Mrs Duncan for their work in the physiotherapy session.

**Emma MacFarlane (Upper Sixth Form)**

## HARLEY HADDOW PARTNERSHIP CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**We are pleased to provide  
Structural Engineering Services  
to Strathallan School**

**8 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7BY  
Tel: 0131 226 3331 Fax: 0131 226 2563**

OTHER OFFICES IN GLASGOW, FORT WILLIAM, GALASHIELS AND LONDON

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS MEMBER FIRM



# Cross Country, Judo & Fencing

## Cross Country

Cancelling a cross country match because of adverse weather conditions is like cancelling a ski race because there is too much snow.

Bizarrely, both situations occur, and so in a year when both the house cross country and the Rannoch match were called off, it was the junior girls who set the standard and excelled in the remaining fine weather fixtures.

In the boys races, despite excellent performances from Alistair Carmichael and Andrew Turner, supported ably by Ivo Soot and Neal Adam, we were not able to cram enough runners into the top of races to be really successful, although a third at the Fettes relays was a good result. Among the senior girls Rachel Dobson was our only consistent performer, and we need to have many more girls running on a regular basis if our results at the top end are to improve.

Thus it was, that the under 15 girls led the way. Katie Fleming, Catriona Bisset, Jenny Hay, Holly Harvey and Catriona Sutherland ran hard at every race, won the Glenalmond event, came a close second to a very good St Aloysius team in the Fettes relays, and came a creditable sixth in the Scottish schools. I look forward to others following their example, and of course the weather improving....

DMH

## Judo

The Judo Club only started two years ago and is run by our venerable coach, Suzi Crawford (with the Scotland kit). Since starting, our club has gradually grown (at an exponential rate; please build us a bigger gym) and has experienced multiple success in both junior and senior teams. Some of our judo players have even been graded and elevated to the status of Yellow Belt. Rising stars, now proving dangerous, have joined our elite band and now nothing can stand in their way. Hopefully, they will have the opportunity this year to floor some fighters from other schools and clubs, amicably, of course!

Mention must be made to Suzi's improving transportation methods, from Forgandenny bus, to car and now the Super-Bike ('It's a man's bike' – Gary the TMH Turtle). Seriously, though, we aren't just a bunch of jokers! Effort is made to learn a couple of techniques each week, usually followed by some fighting experience with the aim of using the skills that we have learned. Fun is always had by all.

Mark Stringer and Kirsty Senior

## Fencing

The Fencing club, composed of a small but elite group of fighters, enjoyed relative success last year, gaining 8 top-ten placings over two competitions as well as a silver medal in the national schools championships, won by Queen Kebar herself, Kirsty Senior. We are lucky enough to be blessed with the experience and skill of the previous Scotland coach, Derek Titheridge and hopefully this year our numbers will prove bountiful and our achievements unending.

In the Summer term, a stage-fighting course was held; our fights became almost convincing and painless! This seems to have made an impression, as there are plans for a re-run this year, aimed especially at actors.

Mark Stringer and Kirsty Senior



# Shooting & Land Management

## Clay Pigeon Shooting

This year saw the club again increase in both number of members and the amount of shooting that took place. We continued to develop the type of target offered and despite the constraints of the new timetable we continued to shoot twice a week. Grant Davidson, the club captain, helped coach the new pupils on a regular basis and thus the standard of all increased.

The School continued to dominate the BASC sponsored Scottish Schools Championship at Castlandhills. The A team of Grant Davidson, Hamish Allan and Lawrence Court scored 139/150 to take the team trophy, with Grant scoring 48/50 to win the High Gun prize. Ben Kass again won the side-by-side trophy and the junior team of Peter Mackie, Gregor Leslie and Joe Watson won the junior trophy. After the school vs OS/interhouse match at Cluny Clays at the start of the summer term, in which Ruthven won the house trophy and the school again beat the OS, the next competition was the National Schools Competition held in Stafford.

We took three teams with us, including a girls team of Stephanie Dorwood, Caroline Frew and Sabrina Flatman. The A team of Grant Davidson, Hamish Allan, Lawrence Court, Ben Kass, Allan Hay and Peter Mackie shot extremely well, finishing third in the overall competition out of over thirty entries (two places better than last year). The B team also shot well and gained a lot of experience from the event.

The following weekend the school went to Gleneagles to take part in the inaugural Scottish Schools Challenge organised by Strathallan and sponsored by The Game Conservancy Trust and Gleneagles. Here again the A team of Grant Davidson, Hamish Allan and Ben Kass won the senior trophy with the B team finishing third and a Riley team taking the Prep Schools Trophy.

We all look forward to the new skeet range being constructed over the summer which will hopefully help us improve our national finish by a further two places. Before I finish I would like to congratulate Grant Davidson on his selection for the Scottish Junior Olympic Skeet Team and thank AJHW and CNC for all their help over the year.

PMV



## This year's Lanman group benefited well from the joint leadership of Gordon Turner and myself.

With a record number of thirty-four wanting to join this year, we were faced with another unusually large group of fifteen which included our first ever female members. Expectations were high at the beginning of what turned out to be an excellent year for the team.

The start of the year saw the group in action with the regular tasks of tidying areas of the School which had become overgrown after a typical Scottish summer. A fantastic restoration job was done on the graveyard opposite Riley paddock, as well as some great work done on the flowerbeds around the greenhouse. Enthusiasm was with the group from the start and the jobs were done in plenty of time to allow us to begin on a new project. This consisted of restoring an old pathway leading from the Headmaster's pond up to the sanatorium. The project was a success and the path could be used once more.

After a good rest during half term the group returned, ready with a competitive spirit for the start of the yearly competition. As usual, the competition was between three groups each given their own area down the valley to work on. Everyone performed in the spirit of the competition and in the end it came to a tough decision for this year's judge, Mr Bolton. Each group had come up with some good ideas and implemented them well. First prize went to group two this year who succeeded in reconstructing the old pathway and stairs used by pupils to get to classes before the days of the causeway.

After Christmas the group began putting their efforts into this year's main project, which was a new path going down behind the sanatorium. The new path was designed to take the place of the previous path, which was almost always unusable due to serious water logging. However, the new path was put in place with skillfully designed drainage ditches, and by the summer term the path was dried out and the old pathway, grown over.

All in all, the year has been a very successful one for Land-Management and I look forward to visiting the school next year to see how the group has developed. I, myself, have found it a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and co-operative team of people. All I can hope is that the newly appointed heads of Land-Management, Alistair Macmillan and John Coull will experience the same enthusiasm and team spirit Gordon and myself have this term.

Neil Taylor (Upper Sixth Form)



# Duke of Edinburgh

## One of the fundamental aims

of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is to introduce young people to a "challenging programme of activities".

Well, I think we can safely say that we are fulfilling this aim since pupils have had a go at everything from making Easter Eggs, to plodding through knee deep snow on a "Summer" expedition, to working with Toddlers and Old Folks, to learning how to play Bridge and Pool, and how to referee a football match. Not all at the same time of course - but we're working on it!

A group of Fourth formers have been working towards their Bronze Award over the last year. They took part in walking and camping Training Expeditions in early October in Glen Tilt near Blair Athol where they honed (or at least exercised) their navigational and campcraft skills. One group had the pleasure of waking up to snow on the second day - this was perhaps a forewarning of weather patterns for future Expeditions in this School Year. They coped remarkably well and went on to complete a successful Assessment Expedition in the Glen Artney area north of Callander in May. The weather stayed fair for these Expeditions but ticks and blisters were in abundance, as were some rather unpleasant looking concoctions in saucepans - porridge and chocolate spread being one of them!

For their Service section, the Fourth formers organised a series of activities in order to raise funds for four charities (SHIP, CHAS, PADS and Inyathi School). These activities included running a Christmas Mail Service within the School, a IV Form Football Tournament, an Auction of Talents, sponsored Silences, Fasts and Cycles (again, not all at the same time) and making personalised Chocolate Easter Eggs to sell at the school musical. In excess of £700 has been raised so far.

More than forty Fifth and Sixth Form pupils have been working towards their Silver and Gold Awards and a variety of Training Expeditions took place over the year. All were supposed to be in Summer conditions, but of course

the definition of Summer in Scotland is slightly different from elsewhere so rain, gales and snow played their part. Sun tans were derived from snow glare rather than heat wave conditions but at least the ticks and midges were kept at bay. The pupils all coped magnificently and many kept coming back for more, so a whole range of Assessment Expeditions are planned for next year.

Community Service plays a big part in the Silver and Gold Awards and so pupils headed out into the 'Big Wide World' every Wednesday afternoon to work in Charity shops in Perth and to visit Nurseries, Primary Schools, Old Folks Homes and to work with the physically and mentally handicapped. Such work is far from easy at times, but many of the pupils expressed their enjoyment and sense of fulfilment from their Community Service experiences and

this is when the D of E Scheme becomes more than just something for the C.V., but a chance to develop compassion for others and a sense of place and worth in the community.

On top of all this, pupils have been taking part in various sports and hobbies for the other two sections of the Award, mainly in their own time. So it's been a busy and eventful year, with plenty of logbook pages being filled and Awards gained.

My thanks must go to all the staff who have helped out with expeditions, fundraising activities, community service, sports and hobbies. There are too many to mention them all but special thanks must go to Audrey Ingram-Forde for the huge effort she put into the fundraising events and to John Burgess, Liz England and "the Higginbottoms" for their expedition efforts.

DJC





*some of  
the best  
restaurants  
never open  
to the public.*

The finest selection of food. The most nutritious menus. The very best service. Where can you find this restaurant? Well, you could try the in-house restaurants in some of the UK's leading schools where they trust Gardner Merchant to provide thousands of children with healthy, balanced food day-in day-out. For further information contact Roy Miller on 0131 228 6787.

  
**Gardner  
Merchant**  
*We make a world of difference*

CATERING · VENDING · KITCHEN & RESTAURANT DESIGN · HOUSEKEEPING · MAINTENANCE · RECEPTION  
Member of Sodexo Alliance



# Curling

**T**his year had been one of the best seasons for Strathallan Curling for as long as we can remember.

The whole season has seen Strathallan as the dominating force in school curling as we started off the season with a very strong team, which was Keith MacLennan (Skip); Duncan Edwards (Third); Caroline Reed (Second); Bjorn Tviet (Lead), along with a number of reserves, including Fraser Maxwell.

As usual we entered the Millar Drummond Independent Schools League with high hopes. After being so close to winning the low road in this competition for the previous five years, which was the last time Strathallan had won this part of the competition, we felt that we had to make this year a really triumphant one. The same feeling applied to the Perth and Kinross League as we had lost out in this competition in previous years as well.

As the season passed our morale was high as we had not lost a single match, in either league, and we were looking confident to win the high road, which Strathallan had never won, because we were in pole position going into the final of the Millar Drummond.

For the first of the three match finals we substituted in Alastair Bird who proved to be an excellent reserve and managed to beat Kelvinside 20-0. This put us in a very strong position for the rest of the final. We won our second game against George Watson's by scoring a 5 on the last end. Our last game was yet

again against our old rivals Dollar Academy. We won the competition by half an inch! Literally, our stone was lying in the head an inch ahead of theirs meaning we won the competition by a shot and the high road of the competition was ours.

The other competition, the Perth and Kinross League, was going exceptionally well with Strathallan, without loss, sitting at the top of the table. By the end of the competition we had safely secured a place in the final where we faced Perth Academy. This turned out to be a very tough match as we had to go to an extra end but yet again we managed to win the competition by a shot. Another successful, but close finish!

The Scottish Schools competition was another one in which Strathallan competed. Due to the fact that we were the only team to compete out of Perth, we were automatically through to the final, held in Edinburgh at Murrayfield. The team that represented Strathallan was Keith MacLennan (Skip); Bjorn Tveit (Third); Alister Bird (Second); Katie Dutton (Lead). The Strathallan team did very well but unfortunately got knocked out before the quarter finals. Caroline Reed and Duncan Edwards were unable to compete as they were at the World Junior Championships in Sweden. Duncan was representing the English Junior Curling team of which he had just become a member. He curled beautifully and will be a name to watch in the future.

Congratulations go to Bjorn who played very well all year and received sports colours for his achievements in the team. A special thanks also to Mr Walker for organising ice, matches and all his coaching.

**Duncan Edwards and Caroline Reed**



# Strathski

For the first time in five years, there was enough snow to make the Scottish Season really quite good. Unfortunately the 'roving ski day' idea, developed over several snowless years, didn't operate quite as we would have liked and in order to get the skiing we want this is a problem which must be addressed. Constraints of the timetable held us to only three ski days out of the possible six weeks of the first half of term. However the three days we did get were something to be remembered.

The first, early in the term was a calm, bright, blue afternoon in Glenshee, the tranquillity broken only by the sound of eight Strath buses thundering up from the Spittal. Pandemonium ensued. The ski test for first timers left several broken bones and trails of blood staining the white slopes. The staff rescue service swung into action and at times it looked as if it was actually going to provide more blood and gore as Miss Vass, Mr Colley and Mr Keir careered down Sunnyside to the aid of Big Mac who appeared to be having a romantic interlude with a snow fence.

The second ski day was a different story. The, by now legendary, ski test was over and with the beginners ensconced in lessons one would be forgiven for assuming that the slopes would be a safer place to be. How wrong! The race training squad, thinking they were rather cool assaulting the western snowfence of the Tiger, decided to hang about at the top of the run 800ft directly above the buses until it was time to return. The idea was that they would make a spectacular entry to the soup drinkers below. It worked. Well sort of. Yes it was fast, yes it was spectacular, but it lacked style. The close formation ended up even closer, well it was more of a pile by then, after Duncan

McCredie's psychopathic cut across the front of the group resulting in all five team members with very red faces ten yards from a jeering crowd of Strath onlookers. One might have said that at this point the writing was on the wall for the Strath Boys' team. This turned out to be very much the case. On arrival at the Scottish Schools' Championships at the Lecht one team member asked if we were meant to be at Perth Ice Rink. However the blue ice on the course didn't deter the girls team of Alanna Duncan, Jo Caird and Tara and Alice Laing. In fact they went on to do extremely well, placed 4th overall, with Alanna giving a superb performance coming seventh girl out of a field which was much older. The boys on the other hand, Andrew and Colin Thwaites, Colin Eadie and George Herd weren't as successful. The two Colins pushing hard in the extremely tough conditions and unfortunately falling, meant that the team didn't get a place, therefore not qualifying for the British Championships. George, however, put in a very good performance whipping the team captain, Andrew Thwaites, soundly. Unfortunately, the British Championships at Aonach Mor, which the girls did make, was a complete wash out with driving rain and gale force winds not allowing any racing.

On a lighter note, The Rev, who is as committed as ever to Strathski, has taken to dodgy snowboarding. Well to say "taken to it" may be an exaggeration. Getting up the hill on a tow still poses problems, and actually so does coming back down. So basically the Rev would like to be thought of as a dodgy boarder but if you want to find him on the slopes don't look in the boarding park, the Tiger or even Sunnyside, your best bet is the Perth Ski Club hut, as always!!

Andrew Thwaites (Captain)



A LOCAL THOUGHT FROM A GLOBAL COMPANY.

As world leaders in risk management, insurance broking and professional services, our work has a global perspective. As people with an insight into the day-to-day issues facing our clients, we value the local dimension. We aim to offer the best of both worlds. Global reach with a personal touch.

Marsh UK Ltd  
48 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5TR  
Tel: 0141 304 4300 Fax: 0141 221 5409

**MARSH**  
An **MMC** Company



## There was so much to be pleased about with the golf team this year.

Additional fixtures made more demands on the golfers during the busy examination period and it is to everyone's credit that we had such a successful season.

Whilst trying to avoid any charges of nepotism, it soon became clear to us that the team was extremely well led this year. Ian took his duties as Captain with just the right amount of seriousness and the team responded well to his leadership. Although he was a little disappointed with his own form, he did have the unenviable task of playing the opposition's number one but we felt he stuck to his task well and helped develop the best team spirit that we have had for many a year.

We unearthed a few stars on the golf course this summer. Grant Davidson had an outstanding season and won both stroke play events – the 36 hole St Columba's Trophy and the Individual prize in the Inter-House Golf Competition (retained by Simpson), both of which were played at Auchterarder. Grant's second round 75 proved decisive in the St Columba's Trophy to win by 4 strokes from the 'overnight' leader, Ian. Not content with those victories, he also won the individual title in the Scottish Independent Schools' Competition, played at Glenalmond, with a score of 1 over par in a rain-curtailed event.

Golf can be a humbling experience at the best of times and Grant's came in the match against Merchiston at Bruntisfield Links where he managed to lose his match despite being 4 up with 5 to play. To borrow from soccer parlance, he was "gutted" because, as well as the personal pride in his own performance, a victory in this match would have levelled the score against the usual strong Merchiston outfit. Another side of Grant's character was seen in the qualifying round of the Golf Foundation Team Championship for Schools in early September at Leven Links (a qualifying course when "The Open" is played at St Andrews). He played with borrowed clubs and shoes but after 4 holes the blisters on his feet were so uncomfortable that he removed the shoes and played the remainder of the round in his stocking feet. Despite not playing at the top of his form, he persevered and completed his round for the benefit of the team, which eventually finished a creditable 5th out of 14.

Allan Hay made real progress this year and it was at the same event at Leven that he carded the best round of the day (78), in very windy conditions. Winning the individual trophy was a tremendous achievement in a field of 42 golfers, most of whom had single figure handicaps. Three days later, at the PKSGA Team Championships at Glenalmond, he carded the second best round (of 75) to narrowly miss the individual prize there too. He was also our highest points scorer in the summer term.

Our 4-man team narrowly failed to win our section of the PKSGA league, losing in our last match to the local knowledge of the Perth Academy team at Craigie Hill. Although disappointed at this reversal of fortunes, their overall playing record of played 7, won 3, drawn 2, lost 2 does indicate how well they played throughout the season.

One feature of the season that bodes well for the future was the emergence of two third formers, Gordon Bujaud and Marcus Read, who burst onto the scene this year and made a significant impact on the team's results. Both won 3 matches and Marcus remained unbeaten. If they continue to work hard at their technique, then the School's golf team is in good hands for the next few years.

The season began with us entertaining Gavin, Andrew and Mark from Kooralbyn International School in Queensland and we were delighted to see them, representing Australia, win the International Final of the Golf Foundation Team Championship for Schools at the Old Course, St Andrews. Gavin showed his class by winning the individual title, with a closing 67, by one shot from his team-mate Andrew. Disappointingly, our match with the Australian champions was rained off – a lucky let-off it would seem!

So, a very busy season – my apologies to those whom I have not mentioned. It is not that I have forgotten that little piece of golfing magic, simply lack of space. However, I cannot conclude this summary of the golfing year without thanking Mr Kitson for his unstinting help and the support that he freely gives. Quite simply, we would not be able to offer anything like the range of fixtures that we do without his help.

Colours were awarded to Grant Davidson.

### MATCH RESULTS:

v	Auchterarder High School	Drew	2 – 2
v	Fettes College	Won	5 – 1
v	Kinross High School	Won	3 – 1
v	Loretto	Drew	3 – 3
v	Merchiston	Lost	2 – 4
v	Perth Academy	Lost	0 – 4
v	Rannoch	Won	4 – 0

### INDIVIDUAL SCORES:

	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Points
Ian Smith	7	2	0	5	2
Robin Wallace	3	1	0	2	1
Grant Davidson	7	4	0	3	4
Scott Harvey	4	2	0	2	2
Colin Warschau	1	0	0	1	0
Allan Hay	6	5	0	1	5
Marcus Read	3	3	0	0	3
Gordon Bujaud	4	3	0	1	3



# Horse Riding

## The Strathallan Riding Group

have been enthusiastically attending the Dunvegan Equestrian Centre in Newburgh, Fife this year. The group has had lessons at various levels from beginner to advanced as well as some wonderful hacks around the village and surrounding country. The centre has a wide range of horses from Shetland Ponies to Thoroughbreds.

The group took turns having lessons from Lisa, our instructor, in flat work, doing some dressage movements to jumping and even some cross-country eventing. The others went out into the country for hacks. Our riders of all standards have had great fun each Thursday afternoon, which has helped stave off the effects of exams and other such stressful events. At the end of the year two pupils were awarded shields, Emily Roy was named as the most improved Novice Rider with Tamsin Read the most improved Advanced Rider. Lisa awarded both at the end of the summer term.

On our last outing of the year, the advanced riders were taken to the cross-country course on top of one of the hills above Newburgh, where they "had a go" at some of the obstacles. No one will ever forget Tamsin's very original "dismount" when her horse decided at the last minute not to jump one of the fences, it spun round away from the fence. Tamsin parted company and made a perfect landing on two feet. I don't think even she could believe it! The group looks forward to returning to Dunvegan next term.

JSRH



We offer a made to  
measure service to suit  
your finances



**Clydesdale Bank**

**Tailoring banking to your needs**

Clydesdale Bank Plc.  
3 St. John Street, Perth Tel. 01738 620871



# Royal Marines Pringle Trophy

This is the first time in almost twenty years that I am finding it difficult to write my report about the progress of the Detachment and about the training that has gone on throughout the year.

Not that there had not been any progress, not that the training had been suspended – on the contrary, things went rather well in this respect. We started the Autumn Term with great enthusiasm and with a good number of keen new members who had gone through a year of Pre-Marines training and could hardly wait to become involved in the more advanced activities.

Among those were a couple of outings to Barry Buddon, the Army training area near Arbroath. As it is getting increasingly difficult to find places where one can use blank ammunition without causing consternation in the neighbourhood, an official site like Barry is absolutely ideal for some vigorous games of the Rambo variety. And despite the odd minor hiccup, we were not disappointed and came back with a sense of achievement and with the firm knowledge that everybody had once again learnt a number of valuable lessons.

All the training tied in with our preparations for the Pringle Trophy Competition at CTCRM in Lympstone. The competition was held a bit earlier this year, which forced us to make a particularly concentrated effort very early in the term, but with the help of Warrant Officer Martin and with the customary dedication and determination we managed to get a team together.

There is a bit more to tell about the team and how the competition went, I think this year's event even justifies a separate entry. So, if you are interested, read all about it under a different headline.

I did mention that I was not finding it easy to write this report – the reason for this is rather personal, in so far as it is my last contribution to The Strathallian on this topic and after twenty years with the CCF (eighteen of which were spent with the Royal Marines Detachment) I am finally hanging up my boots, webbing, poncho, mess-tins etc.

All that remains for me to say is that I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it! I'm sorry, I lied. There were times when I was lying in some ditch, in the middle of some torrential downpour thinking, like everybody else, 'whose idea of fun was this?' But even then I would look around and take great comfort from seeing the lads, the young men, waiting patiently and without a murmur of complaint for whatever event was to test their resolve and determination next.

I shall not even attempt to express what my involvement with the Detachment has meant for me. Let me just finish by saying thank you to all of you who, over the years, have shown me that there is a heck of a lot of hope for your generation! Well done, everybody, and good luck in whatever you are doing now.

KG

When I brought the Team back from Lympstone in October, the Editor of the Strathallian asked me if I would like to write an article on the Pringle Trophy.

Had I written it there and then it would have been a one-liner: We have won the Trophy!, because that was really the only thought on our minds. Years of work, years of hope, and some years of disappointment – they all faded away against the 'we've got it, and it is ours for a year.'

The Team went down to CTCRM in good spirits, although we had to turn back at Forteviot because some clown had forgotten to bring along the Map Reading Prize that we had won the previous year. The eleven hour journey passed quickly enough, giving plenty of time for yet another polishing of the parade boots and for last minute revision of all sorts of theory, from Corps History to First Aid.

Once at Lympstone, everything seemed to happen in double quick time. From the initial briefing to the actual movement from one stance to another, it is all one mad rush that leaves little time for anxious anticipation of the next event or remorseful pondering over the previous exercise, which might not have gone quite as smoothly as one would have hoped.

Busy, long and exhausting would probably sum up the Saturday quite well. The Team managed to put in one creditable performance after another and by lunch time it became clear that we were holding up to the pressure. The opposition was as strong as ever but gradually we were beginning to think that we



might manage to get into the top ten teams. If we could avoid any serious mistakes and if we kept up a steady flow of above average points – if, if, if!

There was a minor administrative hiccup that resulted in a knock-on series of delays. By the time we reached our last stance it was so dark that the scheduled Section Attack turned into a night exercise. What could have been a fatal drawback turned out to be our advantage, because who else would have had so much training of stumbling over rough ground in the middle of the night!

Saturday evening – speculation was running high as to who had gained what position. Some teams were walking around with that infuriating air of quiet confidence, others were sitting in conspiratorial huddles, discussing tactics for the Endurance Run on Sunday morning. Few would have had a good night's sleep, had it not been for the all-embracing exhaustion.

Everything seemed to hinge on the Endurance Run; in the morning the knocks and bruises from the previous day were inspected anxiously, to see if we still had a reasonably fit team to put into the field.

Well, we did, but only just, as the pained grimaces of the walking wounded indicated. Once more effort was required of a Team that had already given so much, and those who could no

longer run positioned themselves along the route to give moral support to anyone who might be flagging. The final time was clearly not the winning time, but again the result was good enough to keep us in contention for a reasonable over-all position.

And then came the waiting – seemingly endless – for a presentation of the individual prizes, and the declaration of the eventual winner – Strathallan School.

How did I feel? I know that I was pleased for the Team, delighted with the Team, and proud of the Team – and I have it on good authority that the broad grin did not leave my face for three days!

Winning the Pringle Trophy has been a team effort in more ways than one. Every member of the Detachment had prepared for it, everyone could have been picked on the day, those who had to stay behind made sure that the team members had everything they needed and the Team – well, they worked their cotton-picking little socks off and came up trumps!

JM Court, Andrew Turner, Jon Dalley, Nick Gdula, Neal Adam, Simon Haverson, Mark Roger, Lawrence Court and Fraser Mackie – you did us proud.

Thank you

KG



# Project Peru

‘La Casa de Carole and Zenaida’ is a children’s refuge situated in the shanty town on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

I was one of a group of students from Edinburgh University fortunate enough to spend the summer working there as a representative of the registered charity Project Peru. Having spent the year fund-raising, it was wonderful to finally get there and meet all the children we had heard so much about.

Groups previous to ours had built two dormitories and although we had the set task of extending the new living complex by building the kitchen and dining room, this didn’t consume all our time. There was so much room for improvement elsewhere. Simple things such as painting a mural, making new fences and painting them in bright colours made such a difference to the dusty desert refuge. The result of one builder’s expertise and a lot of willing hands was amazing. We dug trenches 1.2m deep for the foundations. We saw the buildings grow before our very eyes. Keen, dedicated workers

replaced western luxuries such as mechanical diggers, cement mixers and electric sanders. The Peruvian philosophy of everything happening ‘mañana’ (tomorrow) often hindered construction, but we persevered.

Although the building work was important, we spent many afternoons drawing or cutting the children’s hair, playing football or impromptu games or teaching them English. Evenings were spent making friendship bracelets, learning new songs, playing ‘Mastermind’ and card games. In all this entertainment there was the added challenge of conveying the rules in Spanish! Games and commodities that we take for granted appeared in a different light. Never before had I encountered children so inquisitive, so keen to help and eager to learn and the friendships that developed were the highlight of our time in Zapallel.

We spent days in the jungle of central Peru, as well as Lima’s surrounding shanty town, distributing the boxes of clothes, which are regularly sent out from Britain. We also enjoyed a fun filled, action packed day at a nearby beach with everyone from the refuge. All fifty bodies crammed into the back of the truck, which is the refuge’s sole means of transportation, was effective, if however seriously uncomfortable. Treats such as our day at the beach, an outing



for pizza and the numerous fiestas celebrating children's birthdays with a bit of cake, popcorn and 'Inca Kola' brought huge smiles to the children's faces and gave them plenty to talk about in the days to follow.

These children have certainly given all eight of us something to talk about and be committed to for years to come; a real bond developed between the children and ourselves. The farewells were sad but we've promised to return after University. In the meantime, our fundraising efforts will continue in Edinburgh as 'La Casa de Carole and Zenaida' has endless potential, limited only by the shortage of money available to them. Funds are sent out monthly from Britain to support the refuge on a day-to-day basis, but when the eighty children move into the new living complex we helped to build, more support will be needed.

While our efforts were only part of a significant team effort to improve the conditions and daily living of these Peruvian children, all of the party felt a real sense of having contributed something positive to the lives of children, so much less fortunate than ourselves.

Any contributions please to: Project Peru Scotland, 33/4 Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH2P

**Johanna Matheson (O/S Thornbank 96)**



# Motor Launch

## Strathallan - A Fast Motor Launch

### HISTORY BRIEF

Strathallan was built by Watercraft (Shoreham) Ltd in 1968. She spent most of her working life at Devonport (as far as we know), attached to various HMS ships and shore bases. Finally she was moved to the Portsmouth RNR Unit at HMS King Alfred as a Captain's Barge.

The School on a "Sale Charge agreement" first acquired the FML from the Royal Navy approximately 3 years ago. Basically the RN still owns her, we maintain her. Since then Strathallan has undergone an extensive overall and refit, spending initially 18 months behind the Biology Lab then finally berthed at Port Edgar Marina at South Queensferry. Strathallan School CCF (RN Section) carried out the majority of the work.

She is now certified as seaworthy, training CCF RN pupils seamanship.

### SPECIFICATION

The 5-ton boat is powered by a 6-cylinder diesel engine with a top speed (on a good day) of 12 Knots. Her overall length is 34 feet with an 11 foot beam and a 3 foot 3 inch draught.

A 24 volt generator powers the boat's electrical system including Navigation Lights, Echosounder, Global Position System and the two VHF radios (fixed and portable). She is also equipped with First Aid, spare Buoyancy Aids and an onboard toilet. The two cabins can accommodate 6-8 passengers, but her sea capacity is 12 passengers plus the crew



### THE BOAT'S CREW

I/C and Skipper	Captain Colin Walker (RNR)
Engineer	Mike Wilson (ex RN)
Deck Officers	Adrain Phillips and Richard Caves
Under Training	CCF RN pupils

MW



# Strathallian Club

## President

Peter Hamilton takes the chair as President of the Strathallian Club for 1998-9. He has had close relations with the School being brought up and living in Forgandenny, attending the School from 1951-5. He and his wife, Janette, sent their son, Sandy, to Ruthven (83-7) and they have had numerous relations attending Strathallan, including this year's Captain of School Robert MacKenzie.

Having attended Edinburgh Agricultural College, he farmed Kinnaird until he retired in 1995. The Hamiltons supplied Strathallan with milk from 1938-88.

Peter is a keen sportsman. He played for the 2nd XV and Perthshire Accies. He played cricket for the XI and Crieff as well as being a founder member of the Strathallian Occasionals, going on many tours. He was a regular run scorer combining lusty blows with solid defence; beguiled batsmen with his innocuous spin bowling and took remarkable catches in his ample hands.

His current interests are Golf, Rotary and Curling. He was President of the Rotary Club of Perth in 1988-9, is a former President of International Curling Fellowship of Rotaries and a former winner of the Rotary World Curling Championship. He is reserving Golf Championships for the future.



# Contacts Abroad

## Strathallan Club Contacts Abroad

### Australia:

*Iain S. Gray (1961)*

Unit 5, Sutherland Crescent, Darling Point,  
NSW 2027, Sydney

*John A. McArthur (1970)*

19 Bingalong Street, West Pymble, NSW 2073, Sydney

*Gordon Reynolds (1980)*

18 Letitia Street, Katoomba, Australia 2780

### Botswana:

*David J. Watson (1980)*

PO Box 655, Gabarone

### Canada:

*Ian D. Lewis (1970)*

420 Coach Light Bay, SW Calgary, Alberta, T3H 1Z2

*Rahul Suri (1983)*

942 Logan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 3E4

*Angus Wighton (1974)*

Toronto, captainangus@hotmail.com

### France:

*Andrew Elliot (1986)*

Moulin Rateau, 89260 St Martin sur Oreuse,  
Tel: 33 (0) 3 86 97 69 92

### Italy:

*Mrs Fiona Magoni (nee Mowat) (1991)*

Loc. Le Fonti, 50020 Pansano, Firenze  
Tel: 39+ 055 852 914

### New Zealand:

*Iain S. Cree (1961)*

Omaha Flats Road, RD6, Warkworth

*Robin A. Taylor (1965)*

35 Chamber Street, Havelock North

### Nigeria:

*R. Gary Walker (1978)*

c/o Chevron Nigeria Ltd, PMB 12825, Lagos,  
Tel: 260 0600 ext 8377 (work) or 7649 (home) Fax: 260 0395

### Singapore:

*Thomas A. Kerr (1952)*

82 Grange Road, Les Colonnades, Singapore 1024

### South Africa:

*Michael I.M. Dawson (1964)*

459 Currie Road, Durban 4001

*William B. Melville (1966)*

72 Catherine Road, Fontainebleau, Randburg 2194

*Tommy R. Taylor (1961)*

9 Uve Road, Kloof, Natal

*Richard Williams (1986)*

c/o SPILA Marketing Services, 2 Nautica, The Water Club,  
Granger Bay, Cape Town 8001

### USA:

*Michael J. Dobbie (1983)*

The Coca Cola Company, One coca Cola Plaza,  
USA 1305, Atlanta, GA 3031  
Tel: 1+ 404 676 2446 Fax: 1+ 404 515 1702  
mdobbie@na.ko.com

*Stephen W Geddes (1987)*

315 West Franklin Avenue #219, Minneapolis, MN 5540

*Scott R. Gibb (1990)*

4425 1-2 Laurel Street, New Orleans, LA 70115,  
Tel/Fax: 1+ 504 897 1203

*Richard H. Lester (1978)*

5450 Sterling Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035

*Walter J. McFarlane (1978)*

931 Shattuck Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois 60194  
Tel: (H) 1+ 708 885 3367 (W) 1+ 708 428 7171

*Roderick A.D. Powrie (1974)*

Merrill Lynch, 101 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302,  
Tel: 1+ 201 557 3054 Fax: 1+ 201 557 4285

*David E. Uprichard (1984)*

148 Lafayette Parkway, Rochester,  
New York 14625



# Obituaries

## William Robert Caldwell 1927 –1999

William Robert (Bobbie) Caldwell was born at Bridge of Weir. The family moved to Glasgow where he attended Glasgow Academy before continuing his education at Strathallan. On leaving school in 1944 he spent two years in the Royal Marines, National Service. There followed three years attending the Agricultural College at Ayr, Auchincruive. His qualifications included the Royal Horticultural Society Diploma and the National Diploma in Horticulture.

He served as lecturer in horticulture at the West of Scotland Agriculture College, at the Somerset Farm Institute, at Moray House College of Education, and at Kingsway Technical College, Dundee. From 1966 to 1979 he acted as seed and specimen collector for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Latterly, he was head gardener at the Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset. Over the years, he published many horticultural articles and papers.

In 1956 he met and married Marguerite Coates. They have two offspring: their son Douglas is Head of Human Resources, Shell UK and lives in Manchester; their daughter Fiona, having trained firstly as a nurse, is now working as a Clinical Psychologist in Chelsea. There are five grandchildren.

Bobbie was in Freeland House and made several lasting friendships with fellow Strathallians. Quietly disposed, he is remembered for a sincere caring outlook and for his sound honest advice, given if asked. There was ever a twinkle in his eye. Once, he set the family yacht towards the rocks (as if), just to set his austere father agoing. One recalls Bobbie's round-eyed unblinking expression, eyebrows slightly raised, as he listened intently: although often amused, he respected peoples' feelings, yet left no doubt of his opinions; a much admired, faithful friend.

While resident in Edinburgh, Bobbie served as an elder at Murrayfield Church. His interests included philately, fly-fishing, and, of course, gardening, which prompted visits to Europe, the Far East, and Australia searching out botanic specimens.

When he retired, Bobbie and Marguerite went to live in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, where he joined the Bradford Preservation Society and gave his time freely to the community. He died suddenly while engaged in his beloved gardening. A memorial service was held at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon on 18th March 1999.

## Robert Dunlop Linton 1913 - 1999

Robert Dunlop Linton, MBE, TD, Order of St John, died on 6th October 1999, aged 86. He was a pupil at Strathallan from 1927 to 1931, and maintained a keen interest in the development of the School throughout his life. He was President of the Strathallian Club in 1950-51 and was the Club's representative on the Board of Governors for a number of years.

He was commissioned into the 7th (Blythwood) Battalion HLI (TA) in 1932. Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War it was changed to the 83rd HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery, and he served with the regiment during the early years of the war. At this period the authorities became deeply concerned at the increasing number of allied aircraft being shot down mistakenly by our own gunners, and swift action was taken to set up the Army School of Aircraft Recognition. Dunlop applied for a transfer, and eventually he became the School's commandant, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Much of his business career was spent in the paper industry, and he held senior appointments with the Bowater Corporation and with Alliance Box in England and Scotland. He loved opera and classical music, and was an enthusiastic golfer. He is survived by his wife Pat and their three children David, Michael and Mary. Both sons were educated at Strathallan School.



# Valete

## FREELAND

### UVI

**Appleby C N:** Came 1991;  
*2 Pinecrest Gardens, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9FL.*

**Campbell-Jack H F N:** Came 1991;  
*Greyfriars Manse, 4 Georgetown Crescent, Dumfries DG1 4EQ.*

**Christie A H:** Came 1993  
*2A Station Avenue, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 4EG.*

**Constable A B:** Came 1994;  
*Benarty House, Kelty, Fife KY4 0HT.*

**Dalley J M:** Came 1991;  
*14 Atholl Gardens, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0AY.*

**Eadie C H:** Came 1994  
*Finderlie, Milnathort, Kinross KY13 7RQ.*

**Haverson S:** Came 1994  
*c/o 223 North Anderson Drive, Aberdeen, AB16 5NH.*

**McCredie D J A:** Came 1992  
*22B Clarence Street, Edinburgh EH3 5AF.*

**Partridge J J M:** Came 1995;  
*Tynaberrick Bunloit, Drumnadrochit, Inverness. IV3 6XG.*

**Rana V:** Came 1999;  
*Baber Mahal Villa, PO 294, Kathmandu, Nepal.*

**Roome C R M:** Came 1991;  
*Boturich Castle, Balloch, By Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. G83 8LX.*

**Thomason R:** Came 1997;  
*Gandveien 26C, 4017 Stavanger, Norway.*

**Turner G D:** Came 1995;  
*Saudi Aramco, Hawtah Camp Box 17, Dhabran 31311, Saudi Arabia.*

**Walker D S A:** Came 1994;  
*Asbcliffe, Dunning, Perthshire. PH2 0RW.*

**Wallace A D S:** Came 1997;  
*Fawcett Mill Fields, Gaisgill, Tebay, Penrith CA10 3UB.*

**Wood G G:** Came 1994;  
*1 Regiment Army Air Corps, BFPO 47.*

### V

**Ballantyne G J:** Came 1994  
*'Winbury', 305 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 2LL.*

**Hindle H J:** Came 1996;  
*Drummonds Fold, Duchally Rd, Auchterarder, Perthshire. PH3 1PW.*

### III

**Bruno G W:** Came 1998;  
*12 St Mary's Drive, Perth PH2 7BY.*

**Tod P J M:** Came 1998;  
*Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perth PH2 9EG.*

## NICOL

### UVI

**Beveridge C W J:** Came 1995;  
*West Kilbride Farm, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire. PA13 4SN.*

**Boba R:** Came 1997;  
*Horna 46, 03861 Vrutky, Slovak Republic.*

**Colquhoun O:** Came 1998;  
*16 Riesling Road, Constantia 7806, Cape Town, South Africa.*

**Gittens A J:** Came 1998  
*PO Box 39508, Nairobi, Kenya.*

**MacLennan K:** Came 1997  
*25, Toberargan Rd, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5HG.*

**Menzies G M:** Came 1994;  
*Covenanter Hotel, Falkland, Fife. KY7 7BU.*

**Paterson G B:** Came 1997;  
*87/6 Wester Drylaw Place, Edinburgh EH4 2TH.*

**Patterson J A C:** Came 1992;  
*c/o Trans Global Projects, (AIOC), 1 Wilkes Avenue, Darford, Kent DA1 1NX.*

**Smith B K:** Came 1994;  
*Charlotte de Bourbonlaan 14, 2252 KE, Voorschoten, The Netherlands.*

**Stevenson D:** Came 1992;  
*Vleerwal 10, 9407 AN Assen, The Netherlands.*

**Stewart C I A:** Came 1992;  
*Strathmore, 8 Drummers Dell, Forfar, Angus DD8 1XX.*

**Wilkinson P T E:** Came 1994;  
*Lochbank, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright. DG7 1TH.*

**Wilson A J:** Came 1994;  
*Mayfield, Kelton, Castle Douglas. DG7 1TA.*



**Turner A J:** Came 1994

*Aitkenmoor, Annanwater, Moffat, Dumfries DG10 9LS.*

*LVI*

**Bickerton R:** Came 1997;

*Greenacres, South Woods, Monkton, Prestwick KA9 1UP.*

**Broadfoot R G M:** Came 1995;

*BATLSK BFPO 10.*

**Riach J:** Came 1997;

*5239 Manyell Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99516, USA.*

**Turner A N:** Came 1991;

*(BXA) Pet. Dev. Oman, PO Box 81, Muscat Post Area 113, Sultanate of Oman.*

*V*

**Petzsch M H G:** Came 1995;

*1 Waterloo Terrace, Waterloo Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JH.*

*IV*

**Ross A R M:** Came 1996;

*60 Oxbang Road, Edinburgh EH10 7AY.*

RUTHVEN

*UVI*

**Anderson M P:** Came 1994;

*PO Box 25052, Awali Bahrain.*

**Bazanov S:** Came 1997;

*Chernyakhovskogo St., H.42, FL.25, Novgorod 173007, Russia.*

**Coaton N W:** Came 1994;

*Hollybush Cottage, Mackerye End, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2DS.*

**Court J M:** Came 1994;

*Freeland House, Strathallan School. PH2 9EG.*

## Holmwoods Schools Division

HSBC Insurance Brokers Limited

### Two valuable covers for parents -

#### • Redundancy, Accident and Illness Protection

is an inexpensive means of protecting the payment of future school fees in the event of redundancy, or an inability to continue working as a result of an accident or illness.

#### • Life Assurance

is a special policy which will ensure that, should you die, funds will be made available towards the cost of your children's education.

Holmwoods, the Education Insurance Specialists, have arranged two covers which provide financial protection for fee payers against unexpected losses of income resulting from redundancy, accident, illness or even death.

For further information and a supply of leaflets contact the Fees Protection Department on 01444 458144.

Holmwoods Schools Division  
HSBC Insurance Brokers Limited  
Rockwood House  
9-17 Perrymount Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex RH16 3DU  
Tel: 01444 458144  
Fax: 01444 415088



HSBC

YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES



**Fishback J S:** Came 1994;  
*Hazelbank, Windyknowe Road, Galashiels, Selkirkshire TD1 1RG.*

**Harvey J S P:** Came 1992;  
*Fern Lodge, Barclay Park, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 57F.*

**Miranda D:** Came 1992;  
*Grey Gables, Station Road, Carrbridge, Inverness. PH23 3AN.*

**Mitchell T:** Came 1997;  
*Glenfintaig House, Spean Bridge, Near Fort William, Inverness-shire PH34 4DX.*

**Peattie A G:** Came 1994;  
*Stratbearn, Springhill Road, Peebles EH45 9ER.*

**Smith I M:** Came 1994;  
*Eastbury, Forgandenny, Perthshire. PH2 9EG.*

**Stewart I:** Came 1991;  
*Wassenaarseweg 208, 2596 EC Den Haag, The Netherlands.*

**Warschau C:** Came 1997;  
*Bendarroch House, Strathtay, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH9 0PG.*

### III

**Sinclair G C:** Came 1998;  
*C/o Baker Oil Tools, PO Box 540, Dhahran Airport, Dhahran 31932, Saudi Arabia.*

## SIMPSON

### UVI

**Bell A S:** Came 1994;  
*9 Phillimore Place, London W8 7BY.*

**Chaussy M W F:** Came 1995;  
*Frundsbergstrasse 28, 82064 Strasslach, Germany.*

**Crump H:** Came 1992;  
*Auchenstroan, Moniaive, Thornhill, Dumfries. DG3 4JD.*

**Davidson-Dell S:** Came 1990;  
*Glencroe Farm, The Rest & Be Thankful, Arrochar, Argyll. G83 7AR.*

**Edwards D R:** Came 1993;  
*South Craig, Hollybush, Ayr. KA6 6HB.*

**Gove I J:** Came 1994;  
*22 Park Road, Brechin, Angus. DD9 7AP*

**Kennedy R R:** Came 1993;  
*14 Donibristle Gardens, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 5NQ.*

**MacKenzie J I:** Came 1991;  
*Parks Farm, Inverness. IV1 2AA.*

**Rackley A E:** Came 1994;  
*16 Earls Park Drive, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9AH.*

**Smith D G:** Came 1998;  
*33 Irvine Road, Largs, Ayrshire KA30 8HS.*

**Taylor N:** Came 1996;  
*c/o Alison Henry, Human Resources, Texaco Ltd, 1 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf London E14 4HA.*

**Thwaites A N G:** Came 1992;  
*South Sbian House, Connel, Oban, Argyll. PA37 1SB.*

**Tveit B:** Came 1994;  
*3040 Brittany Place, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 - 3988, USA.*

**Wallace R D:** Came 1994;  
*Enrick, Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire. DG7 2AZ.*

### LVI

**Linberg T K K:** Came 1997;  
*Gaytor, 6 Brimstone Hill, Devonshire DV07, Bermuda.*

### V

**Stewart D C:** Came 1995;  
*61A Cotefield Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8DN.*

## THORNBANK

### UVI

**Booth R M:** Came 1994;  
*57 Beechgrove Terrace, Aberdeen AB15 5DS.*

**Breaden C J:** Came 1992;  
*46 Seafield Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 3AN.*

**Caird J I:** Came 1992;  
*Mhor Cottage, Tulloch, By Nethybridge., Inverness-shire PH25 3EF.*

**Cameron K:** Came 1997;  
*Ballinshaw, Forgandenny, Perthshire PH2 9HR.*

**Campbell S R:** Came 1997;  
*Balblair, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland IV24 3AW*

**Halliday R P:** Came 1994;  
*Bellevue, Keir, Thornhill, Dumfries. DG3 4DH.*

**Harington M J:** Came 1992;  
*Wester Baldoon, Ardross, Atness, Ross-shire. IV17 0YD.*

**Laing T:** Came 1992;  
*Wester Lovat House, Beauly, Inverness-shire IV4 7AZ.*

**Lanni A E:** Came 1994;  
*Southwoods, Heughfield Road, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. PH2 9BH.*



**McFarlane E J:** Came 1997;  
*Hasland, Duncricvie Road, Glenfarg, Perth PH2 9PA.*

**Milne N R:** Came 1996;  
*26 Kirkbrae Drive, Cults, Aberdeen AB15 9RH.*

**Sharp R O J:** Came 1991;  
*Briar Cottage, Borgue, Kirkcudbright. DG6 4SH.*

**Sproat L G I:** Came 1994;  
*Strathmore, Abercromby Road, Castle Douglas,  
Dumfries DG7 1BA.*

LVI

**Anderson K L:** Came 1997;  
*22 Castle Street, Crail, Fife KY10 3SH, 6T.*

**McFarlane C E:** Came 1996;  
*Hasland, Duncricvie Road, Glenfarg, Perth PH2 9PA.*

## WOODLANDS

UVI

**Arumugam S R:** Came 1997;  
*8 Ardrossan Road, Seamill, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9LR.*

**Balfour S:** Came 1994;  
*Clunie Lodge, Isla Road, Perth. PH2 7HG.*

**Blair Oliphant P M K:** Came 1994;  
*Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. PH10 6SA.*

**Combe T E J:** Came 1994;  
*Ardullie Lodge, By Dingwall, Ross-shire. IV15 9TS.*

**Dutton C S:** Came 1991;  
*Jacaranda, Strathallan School, Forgendenny.*

**Gemmell L M B:** Came 1991;  
*FCO (LAGOS), King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.*

**Heslop M:** Came 1994;  
*Boghead Farmhouse, Johnshaven, Montrose, Angus. DD10 0PU.*

**Little A C:** Came 1994;  
*Top Flat Left, 57 Hughenden Lane, Glasgow G12 9XW.*

**McChesney J L:** Came 1997;  
*Juniper Lea, The Ross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU.*

**Martin K E:** Came 1994;  
*Galagate House, Norham, Berwick upon Tweed. TD15 2JZ.*

**Perrett R H:** Came 1994;

**A BETTER SERVICE FROM  
TRADITIONAL QUALIFIED TRADESMEN**

# Miller - Watt

*Painters and Decorators*

**ALL TYPES OF INTERIOR & EXTERIOR  
PAINTING & DECORATING**

INSURANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN

- PAINTING
- WALLPAPER HANGING
- SPECIALIST FINISHES
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- AMES TAPING
- ARTEXING COVING
- TILING
- MULTI COLOUR SPRAYING
- DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL

FOR A CLEAN TIDY JOB  
YOU'LL BE IMPRESSED WITH.  
CALL NOW

## 01738 623487

FAX: 01738 623628

"WE NEVER FORGET IT'S YOUR HOME WE'RE WORKING IN"





## OUR EXPERIENCE IS YOUR GUARANTEE

### Duff & Henderson

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS  
& CONTRACTORS**

## ESTABLISHED 1957

**ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL  
INSTALLATIONS**

COMMERCIAL \* INDUSTRIAL  
DOMESTIC \* AGRICULTURAL

**DIY SUPPLIES**

National Inspection Council for  
Electrical Installation Contracting



**APPROVED CONTRACTOR**

- REWIRING • PROMPT REPAIR SERVICE
- EXTENSIONS • FIRE ALARMS
- TOTAL CONTROL HEATING
- PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING
- 16th EDITION TESTING • FREE ESTIMATES

## PERTH (01738) 626995

## FAX (01738) 625711

**4/1 JEANFIELD ROAD,  
PERTH PH1 1PH**



*Van Voorschotenlaan 5, 2597 PA, The Hague, The Netherlands.*

**Stirling I E:** Came 1997;  
*House 8 Hillock, 95 Chuk Yeung Road, Sha Ha, Sai Kung N.T., Hong Kong.*

**Stringer A E:** Came 1992;  
*(AFPC Damascus), Syria Shell, PO Box 824, Slough SL3 0BA.*

**Sullivan H F:** Came 1997;  
*1 Groomsland Drive, Billingshurst, W Sussex RH14 9HA.*

#### LVI

**Green L J:** Came 1993;  
*326 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3DL.*

**Greshon S M:** Came 1996;  
*Glenbelenbank Res Home, Luncarty, Perthshire. PH1 3EP.*

**MacKay C M:** Came 1996;  
*14 Orchard Road, Aberdeen AB24 3DP.*

#### IV

**de Meza-Aslan E S:** Came 1996;  
*19B James Street, Perth PH2 8LZ.*

**Nesbitt K L:** Came 1997;  
*Gartur Lodge, Cambusbarron, Stirling. FK7 9QQ.*

**Wood E J G:** Came 1997;  
*Mitsubishi Electric, Egypt Office, Leon House, High Street, Croydon CR0 9XT.*

#### III

**MacKay A M:** Came 1998;  
*14 Orchard Road, Aberdeen AB24 3DP.*

**MacKay D C:** Came 1998;  
*14 Orchard Road, Aberdeen AB24 3DP.*

#### RILEY

##### 1

**Simpson R M:** Came 1999;  
*Drimlussa, Kilduskland Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8EQ.*

##### 2

**Gammack-Clark C K:** Came 1998;  
*25 Moses Road, North Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA.*

**Petzsch A F D:** Came 1998;  
*1 Waterloo Terrace, Waterloo Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JH.*

**Earnside  
Coaches**

**U.K. and Continental Travel.  
15 to 53 seaters including executives**

**Tel: 01577 830360**

**Fax: 01577 830599**



