

# Vinehall Memories



## William Foster-Kemp



### Four Seasons at Vinehall

Wood shavings and varnish in the old carpentry hut, huddled on sofas to watch Saturday night videos, 35p of tuck eked out through the week ahead or scoffed before the opening titles, the evenings start to close in for the Michelmas Term. Eagles staircase, midnight to dawn, desperately trying to finish Mr Whitehead's history essays. Christmas decorations from beam to beam, candlelit carols in Salehurst.

Cross-country runs through snow and ice, red legs, freezing breath, up and down, gully to pitch. Skiing and tobogganing, pitch to gully, snow ball fights and hot chocolate. Mud-soaked rugby matches and any excuse for a day in the sun. Scrubbing the ink off hands before lunch. Birthday suppers, mint chocolate cake and crisps.

Bluebells on the golf course, clubs on shoulders from tee to pin and tee to pin. Days lengthen, illicit explorations down to the gully after the bell. Lazy afternoons, cricket and teas. Buggy Malone and Oliver Twist Mr Chaplin as Fagin. Latin, Greek, ESB ugh! Good copy teas in the melon garden, rattling round the BMX track, the smell of Roquefort cheese melting on the ferry home after a field trip to Boulogne.

Sports Day, Vines Day, French fête. Trunks packed, summer holidays ...



*Will was at Vinehall School from 1983 to 1986, before going on to Charterhouse. He currently lives in Fulham and is an International Tax Director with Fidelity International, the UK's largest mutual fund house. Will is also the honorary treasurer for the Vines Society, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2008.*