

# **Old Rendcombian Society**

## **NEWSLETTER**



QUO LUX DUCIT

## **MAY 1988**

**14th ISSUE**

Editor  
W.J.D. WHITE

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## **Society Officers 1987-88**

At the annual general meeting last July the following officers were elected:-

President:	A.E.A. Brain (1929 - 37)
Chairman:	M.C. Jones (1956 - 62)
Vice-chairman:	B.L.M. Smith (1965 - 72)
Secretary:	Mrs. J. Gunner (1975 - 77)
Treasurer:	J.D. Williams (1966 - 71)
Committee member:	C.J. Wood (1965 - 71. staff 1976 -)
Rugby secretary:	A. Payne (1979 - 84)
Hockey secretary:	B. Branston (1982 - 87)
Cricket secretary:	J. Healey (1981 - 86)
Girls' secretary:	F. Wilkins (1983 - 85)
School representative and newsletter editor:	W.J.D. White (staff 1961 -)

## **Notice of the 55th Annual General Meeting**

The 55th A.G.M. of the O.R. society will be held in the library at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday 9th July, 1988. Matter for discussion under item 9 should reach the secretary, in writing, before 2nd July, 1988.

### **AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive minutes of A.G.M. held on 11th July, 1987.
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes..
4. To receive hon. secretary's report.
5. To receive hon. treasurer's report.
6. To set amount of travel bursary fund for 1989.
7. To review level of life subscription.
8. Report from London branch.
9. Any other business.
10. Vote of thanks to the college and adjournment to the buffet.

## **The President's Letter**

There are three important matters concerning old Rendcombian about which I would particularly invite you to consider this coming year.

The first concerns support for the Friends of Rendcomb scheme whereby promising boys at primary schools within Gloucestershire can have a Rendcomb education even if their parents could not afford to pay the normal fees. In my years at Rendcomb at least half of us were there as a result of the generosity of the founder, and later of his family, but since then and despite much, but steadily diminishing, financial support from the county council, the number of boys from primary schools is now very small and as a proportion of the total almost insignificant. As one of those who benefited from my years at Rendcomb and having been able to take advantage of opportunities that arose as a result, I find the present situation rather sad. There was a time in the early 80s when the officers of the society hoped that they would be able to operate their own scheme but clearly a good deal of financial management is involved, and it would be a folly, in my view, to attempt to duplicate the work already being done by the Friends of Rendcomb. The trustees already include O.R.s and some 44 O.R.s have already made or are making contributions. Moreover the second award has been named after Jack Fell, our late president, in conformity with the intention of the trustees to acknowledge contributions from members of our society approximately in proportion to the total. I hope therefore that those O.R.s who have benefited from their years at Rendcomb will feel able to make contributions (preferably by means of a covenant so that tax recovery can enhance the value) which will enable the trustees to make further awards. Failing that perhaps the older members would consider making provision in their wills.

The second matter causing me concern is attendance at the A.G.M. and the buffet supper following it. Last year we had a bare quorum at the meeting and now that the 'old faithfuls' from the earliest years are growing old, attendance at the supper has become disappointingly small. If there is no better support this year we will need to consider alternatives. A reduced quorum invites the risk of its becoming misrepresentative of the total membership: increased participation presents us with time problems if the buffet supper is to start promptly.

Your suggestions would be welcome as to what changes might be made to the programme which, whilst getting the formalities dealt with expeditiously, will make the evening more interesting and attractive to members.

The third and last point concerns the society's increasing reliance on our secretary and the two staff members co-opted on to the committee. Without their involvement and hard work the society would exist in name only and there would certainly be no newsletter as we know it today. With a nominal membership in excess of 1,000 there must be some who would be willing and able to serve on the committee, and later on perhaps allow their names to be put forward as chairman or president. Please don't be hesitant about making your interest known to a member of the present committee.

Arnold Brain

### **O.R. Reunion - 11 July 1987**

The annual reunion of the society was held in the Dulverton Hall where O.R.s and their guests were able to enjoy an excellent buffet supper. During the evening, the president presented Mr & Mrs Medill with a video recorder on behalf of the society. Among those who attended were:-

1920 - 1930

Mr & Mrs N. Perkins      Mr & Mrs R. Butler      Mr & Mrs D. Dakin and guest      J. Maslin

1931 - 1940

Mr & Mrs A. Brain      C. Coles and guests

1960 - 1970

Mr & Mrs C. Wood      J.D. Williams      Mr & Mrs N. Green      Mr & Mrs A. Rose  
Mr & Mrs B. Smith

1971 - 1980

R. Barrett and guest      T. Nicholas      Mr & Mrs T. Mills (née Brain)      K. Winmill  
Mr & Mrs I. Reid      Dr & Mrs P. Smith      D. Beanland and guest      D. Knox  
Mrs J. Gunner      N. Lumby      D. Marshall

1981 -

O. Medill      R. MacDonald      F. Blencowe

Staff and former staff

Mr & Mrs R. Medill and guest      Mr & Mrs J. R. Dennis      D. de G. Sells      Mrs M. Mezo  
Mr & Mrs C. Burden      Mr & Mrs D. Essenhigh      Mrs V. Fell      Mrs K. Collins  
W.J. D. White

### **Dates of Future Reunions**

Cricket: 9th July 1988  
Rugby: 10th December 1988  
Hockey: 18th March 1989  
Cricket: 1st July 1989

Cricket - 9th July 1988

The cricket match will begin at 12 noon. O.R.s are invited to bring a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon watching the cricket. The A.G.M. will take place in the library at approximately 6.30 p.m. The bar will be open from 6.30 p.m. and the buffet will begin at 8.00 p.m.

John Willson will be a guest at the buffet and O.R.s who knew him are particularly encouraged to attend.

### **Memorial to John James**

(Senior history master 1931 - 69)

The O.R. society has presented two wooden seats to the college as a memorial to John James. They can be seen at the cricket pavilion. In addition a photograph of John has been hung with those of Rendcomb's headmasters outside the library to commemorate his year as acting headmaster (1960 - 61).

## **At Rendcomb**

The following members of the society has sons or daughters at Rendcomb:

R. Ellis

M.J. Miles

R. Sumsion

## **O.R. Sport**

Cricket - 11th July 1987

The college won the toss and batted first on a good wicket, but they were soon in trouble, losing J. Fellows for 7 runs, Guy Healey and Richard Healey bowled very well, if slowly at first. M. Astill and I. Whittaker increased the scoring rate, but, after Whittaker was run out for 35, W. Sherwood took control scoring 79 not out. M. Astill was out for 58. The college declared at 198 for 3 wickets, giving the O.R.s ample time to score the required runs.

The O.R.s were always struggling against the bowling of A. Brealy, B. Branston and H. Le Fleming: only three batsmen made double figures. After losing 5 wickets for 57, Mark Webb (43) and David Webb (37) had a stand of 46. After B. Branston bowled Mark Webb, only Guy Healey (22) came to terms with the bowling. The O.R.s were all out for 131.

The college won by 67 runs.

College: 198 for 3 dec.

M. Astill 58; I. Whittaker 35; W. Sherwood 79 n.o.; D. John 11 n.o.

Bowling: R. Newman 1 for 34; J. Healey 1 for 36

O.R.s: 131 all out

D. Webb 43; R. Webb 37; G. Healey 22

Bowling: A. Brealy 4 for 16; B. Branston 3 for 19; H. Le Fleming 2 for 52

O.R. Team:

M. Webb, R. Webb, D. Webb, J. Healey, G. Healey, C. Brealy, T. Brealy, R. Newman, R. Deacon, A. Paton, G. Barthakur

## **O.R. Register**

The committee is grateful to all O.R.s who have promptly returned their forms. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so without delay.

Anyone who did not receive the register form is asked to contact the O.R. secretary. Jane Gunner (tel: Cirencester 68627) or any member of the committee. In due course we will update the address list!

## **Tribute to Chris Wood**

(Chairman of O.R. Society 1982 - 87)

My memories of Chris stretch back to those heady days of 1965 when our lives were thrown together as we both started at Rendcomb. Although academically very gifted, Chris was able to display that rare talent of excelling in the classroom and yet also remaining extremely popular amongst his contemporaries. This particular quality has remained with him and plays an important part in explaining his success as chairman of the O.R. society.

The debt that the society owes to Chris is enormous. Throughout the period of his chairmanship he has not only worked tirelessly on all matters concerning the society but has always displayed those valuable characteristics of tact and diplomacy when dealing with awkward situations.

Most of us are unaware of the amount of time that is involved in organising the society's affairs. We tend to take it for granted that "someone" will do the necessary work and then quietly forget about it. As a recent recruit to the O.R. committee I have had the privilege of seeing at first hand both the time and the dedication that Chris has devoted to the society. Invariably when events have to be organised or plans put into action Chris has taken it upon himself personally to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made and everything runs smoothly. We are indeed fortunate to have had the services of such a capable chairman.

Finally, I am sure that I write for everyone when I extend our very sincere thanks to Chris for everything that he has contributed to the society and we all hope that he will agree to remain as a committee member for many years to come.

B.L.M. Smith (1965 - 72)

## The Headmaster

John Tolputt was educated at Ardingly College in Sussex and studied double mathematics, physics and English at 'A' level. He went on to read English at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was also much involved in dramatic activities, particularly those of the Footlights and Cambridge A.D.C. One of his most enterprising activities at this period was to take a play on tour in France and Switzerland. His first teaching post was at Bromsgrove where he later became head of English. He then moved to Cranleigh as head of English and drama. At Cranleigh John and his wife Patta were in charge of the sixth form girl's entry. Patta studied piano, clarinet and singing at the Royal College of Music and was director of music at St. James' School, Malvern. They have two children, Anna who is thirteen and Edward who is ten. They are at school in Cheltenham. John Tolputt writes:-

"It seems extraordinary that it is only eighteen months or so since Patta and I first set eyes on Rendcomb, hardly able to believe that we would ever come to live here. We could not have asked for a warmer welcome or for more help in settling in: already we feel part of the place.

We came, of course, from the tense and competitive south east and we have thoroughly enjoyed the contrasting relaxed openness of Rendcomb. It is good to meet people who are unconcerned about image and who don't judge others too harshly.

But I would worry if the unpretentious style of Rendcomb also meant cosily accepting second best. The Oxbridge results and the 1987 'A' level pass rate show this is not so, as does the marvellous spirit in our rugby and hockey teams. Or, to take another example, the brilliant work achieved in the art school, endlessly changing as I know from my almost daily visits there.

Patta and I love meeting old Rendcombians, and we will look out for you on O.R. day in the summer. There are changes ahead, with Park

House filling up with girls and three new boys' boarding houses. While Rendcomb becomes an even better equipped school and an even more attractive place to live, I hope we can keep the special atmosphere of a caring and close-knit family."



## Old Rendcombian Presentation

Roger Medill writes:-

"Mary and I would like to say a very warm thank you to all old Rendcombians who so kindly contributed to our most handsome leaving present. It is a great pleasure to be able to store up television programmes to play at leisure, especially as we are much busier than we anticipated.

We never saw ourselves as business executives (!) but we have each started a business, and these are providing plenty of interest. Who knows, one day they might even show a profit...

We have many happy and affectionate memories of our sixteen years at Rendcomb.

Our new address is: The Mead House, Sherborne, Cheltenham, and if any of you are out our way, do drop in."

## Marriages

Timothy Mills to **Joanna Brain** (1979 - 81), May 1987

Richard Holroyd to **Liz Adams** (1977 - 79), August 1987

**Keith Winmill** (1979 - 79) to Janet Hammond, July 1987

**James Quick** (1975 - 80) to Kimberly Emmitt, July 1987

**Mark Wilcox** (1973 - 80) to Suzanne Hill, June 1987

**Richard Law** (1963 - 70) to Monique Ratcliffe, 1987

## **Births**

To Judy and **Steve Jackson** (staff 1971 - 76) a son, Edward, July 1987, a brother for Richard, Victoria and Oliver.

To Elizabeth and **Christopher King** (staff 1983 -) a son, Andrew, November 1987.

To Benita and **Tom Denny** (1973 - 75) a daughter, Madeline, July 1987.

To **Annabel** (nee **Goodenough**) (1973 - 75) and Paul Molyneaux, a daughter, Harriet, September 1986.

To **Sally** (nee **Blyth**) (1973-75) and Mark Patterson. a daughter, Camilla Lucy, October 1987.

## **Obituary**

We have learnt with sorrow of the deaths of the following:

**William Stanley Morgan** (1921 - 27) died on 16th June, 1986. He was the first Rendcombian to win a scholarship to Cambridge, his name being at the top of the honours board, After a distinguished career in the colonial service, he lived in recent years on the Isle of Man.

**Rupert M. Thackray** (staff 1946 - 51) died in April, 1987. He was at Rendcomb for some five years teaching Latin and English. During this time he studied at the Royal College of Music. From Rendcomb he went to Lyme Regis Grammar School as director of music and subsequently held a similar post at Bedford College of Physical Education, After obtaining a Ph.D at Reading University, he emigrated to Australia, becoming senior lecturer in music at the University of Western Australia where a memorial concert was given in his honour in May, 1987.

**Colin Jones** (1921 - 25) - 1983. (No details available.)

## **Rendcombian 1988**

Although not many O.R.s asked for magazines last year, the editors feel that they should renew the offer, especially as the bursar has kindly agreed to subsidise copies for members of the society. They believe that Rendcombian will continue to give a vigorous and spirited account of the school's activities during the year and that it may be of particular interest to O.R.s with growing children to see what present day Rendcomb is like.

To receive a copy in September, please send a cheque for £3.00, payable to Rendcomb College, to: The Editor. Rendcombian, Rendcomb College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7HB.

## **O.R. Travel Bursary**

£150 has been awarded to Aubrey Powell (6B) for travel and studies in Germany.

## **John Willson**

In his founder's day address last year, the chairman of the governors, in referring to the new boarding arrangements, spoke of John as the last "in a line of formidable bachelors who had run the main college building". Indeed for twenty-one years in one way or another John's "formidable" presence has dominated the Rendcomb scene. To him as director of music, as the tributes below testify, Rendcombians owe a great debt: with vigour and determination he steadily increased the number of pupils learning to play instruments. This in turn led to an increasingly wide and ambitious programme for concerts whether orchestral or choral, and at the same time to an ever larger number of pupils obtaining high grades in their music examinations, or in G.C.E. at 'O' and 'A' levels. A devout churchman, John as always had a special interest in church music and services and he took great pride in training the choir and in steadily increasing its repertoire and expertise. After a brief sortie onto the rugby field, John decided he could channel his energies more usefully into his new hobby of climbing. From then on, virtually every weekend groups of Rendcombians have gone to Chepstow (John's expertise in these climbs being seen in his recent book "Wye Valley Rock Climbs"), or occasionally further afield to Cornwall, the Peak District and Snowdonia. In the summer holidays he has taken more advanced climbers to the Alps and Dolomites, often preceded by a week for the juniors walking in Snowdonia. More recently, he has been heavily involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Despite a serious

climbing accident in the early summer of 1975, John had recovered sufficiently to take over the running of the main building in September of that year. During his long stint in this demanding position, John has run the building firmly and with great patience and determination in times of crises where his understanding of the problems of the teenager have been greatly appreciated.

All O.R.s will want to join in wishing John a long and contented "early" retirement in Chepstow.

The tributes below show the respect in which John is held.

From David Shield:-

Being asked to write a few words about the early years of John Willson's career at Rendcomb really makes one feel one's age! Time, of course, has blurred the details but my experience of Rendcomb was particularly happy, all the more so because of John's excellent musical tuition. My first memory of John's teaching was during one of my first piano lessons with him. I had struggled up until that time trying to perfect performances of the usual "children's classics", to little effect. I was more interested in playing pieces which were technically far too difficult for me. John somehow detected this, and instead of insisting upon perfect renditions of simple pieces, allowed me to attempt these more complex pieces. This policy sustained my interest in the piano to the extent that I still play regularly today. John revolutionised the status of music at Rendcomb during his early years. His first efforts concentrated on the choir. I know that all past members of the choir will agree with me that under his leadership singing became a great joy, and incidentally, church services were no longer the chore I suspect they might have been for the rest of the school! In my time at Rendcomb I think we performed much of the baroque and classical choral repertoire - a grounding which I found useful subsequently. John also took on the leadership of the Cirencester Choral Society for a time, and for a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah" in the parish church asked if I would sing the small part for treble solo. I wonder if perhaps he regretted his choice of soloist when with about two numbers to go, my nerves got the better of me and I left the church to answer a call of nature. Happily I returned just in time to sing the solo, but the damage was done - John had aged visibly! It was not long before John staged his first opera at Rendcomb. Gluck's "Orpheus". Looking back I still think of this as a tremendous achievement for a school so small. Later, with the assistance of David Sells as producer, John staged an even grander performance in the form of "Der Freischutz". As far as I can remember it was John who was instrumental (sic) in the formation of the school orchestra. This project required considerable dedication and skill, especially when coaxing a pupil and his parents to take up an instrument that was (a) available in the school, and (b) for which there was a shortage of players. A certain amount of ingenuity was required to construct a concert programme that reflected the varying skills of the players. Nevertheless, there were quite a number of concerts, performers changing from treble recorder to violin, and then to the piano with ease of a seasoned session musician. In the sixth form my musical interests widened to include playing rock music in the school band, and whilst John could scarcely have been enthusiastic about this, he never saw it as a reason for conflict. Indeed I remember some discussion of the harmony in a chord used by Jimi Hendrix! John was responsible for the introduction of a new and exciting sport to Rendcomb - climbing. Here was an activity that got boys outside the confines of the school and into some of the most beautiful parts of the country, north Wales in particular. John's special brand of leadership was at its foremost whilst out walking or climbing, and everyone who participated will appreciate the trust and regard for safety that he instilled in us. Finally I should like to say a personal thank you to John and his tutoring of my 'A' level music during the sixth form. I was allowed to take it as an extra subject, and John ensured that whilst we covered all the ground of the course, it remained enjoyable, and not too time consuming. Many of us owe a great debt to John for introducing us to music, surely one of life's greatest pleasures. May his retirement be a long and happy one.

(David Shield is a deputy sound supervisor with the BBC.)

From Paul Curtis-Hayward:-

John's contribution to life at Rendcomb has been immense. Many of those whom he introduced to music or climbing are still "stuck with the bug". Despite telling my mother that my first north Wales trip was "fun, but I'm not sure I'd go again", I'm still dragging people up remote hillsides. However, one of the things that stands out most in my memory about John is his ability to poke fun at 'the establishment' - of which he was a pillar. This endearing quality immediately bridged much of the master-pupil divide. The problem then arose as to what to do when he was 'the establishment', i.e. senior master in the main building. I always felt, perhaps wrongly, that this responsibility weighed heavily on his shoulders, at least at first. Suffice it to say that his organisational abilities made for a very smooth running of the senior house, and the anti-establishment streak continued to appear from time to time over the statutory plastic mug of cider on the way back from a Saturday climbing trip to Wintour's leap! There are many stories one could relate of our climbing trips together. Whether stuck in a tent for a week in Glencoe, climbing out of a crevasse in the Alps, or scrambling up a new



route, there was always a laugh to be had. The worst moment of any expedition is getting out of a sleeping bag on a wet morning with the prospect of a difficult climb ahead. One such morning a shout from a nearby tent of "Expedition's off! Harold's lost his socks!" was exactly what was needed to set the tenor for the day. I can well imagine that his retirement will be a very active one, and I wish him well with the many endeavours I'm sure he has planned.

(Paul Curtis-Hayward (1970 - 77) read history at Oxford and now works for James Capel.)

From Anthony Simmins (1974 - 81):-

John Willson featured in two areas of my life at Rendcomb. One was the pursuit that he dedicated most of his spare time to and the other was in his position as senior house master. The first was, of course, climbing which for me, as many others, started with one of the school's annual introductory walking and climbing holidays in north Wales. At the appropriate time he would show his first year music class slides of his previous trips in order to generate interest: fascinated by the scale and ruggedness of the mountains I signed up fairly soon afterwards. Unfortunately, some time before the end of my first summer term he had a rare climbing accident which resulted in a crushed foot and a long stay in hospital and, of course, no trip to north Wales. From his hospital bed he wrote a letter to the school, which was duly pinned up in locker passage, containing the curious remark that nothing stronger than ginger ale had passed his lips since his admission! It was some time later that I was able to appreciate the significance of this, but it was indicative of his often-unseen character that he could joke about himself in such adverse circumstances. After his recuperation he started, against quite sensible medical advice, to climb again: many people in a similar situation would perhaps get back to the level of competence they previously enjoyed, but John went further to climb at consistently high technical standards. I went to north Wales the following year and continued to go every year thereafter and, on later trips, as a leader in charge of a group of junior house pupils. Some idea of the time and effort John expended on our behalf is given by the many places he took groups climbing throughout the UK and Europe. His task required many skills and very long days but at the end of a week in Wales he would not relax until all the equipment was cleared away and he had done the final preparations for his annual holiday of several weeks serious walking and climbing in Europe. Of course, there were the many day trips to the Rendcomb adopted cliffs over the river Wye at Wintours Leap, for which John wrote the guidebook - a task that must have been a labour of love and for which generations of climbers will be indebted. Indeed, reading his book is a pleasure in itself: his subtle humour and calm writing style blends perfectly with the subject material leaving you with the urge to get out there and enjoy again the many facets of the climbing experience. In all of this we learnt more than climbing and mountaineering. On the longer trips we would be living in tents or a minibus and there were communal activities we had to share in. John set high standards of social responsibility, of fairness and of honesty: standards which were echoed in his task as senior house master. His gift was to enable us to learn by the diffusion of his example rather than the classroom force of rote. To those not fortunate enough to know him beyond his duties as a housemaster he may have seemed cold and remote, notably in the enforcement of school rules. He may not have been right in all cases but you knew he didn't make changes lightly, and if you incurred his displeasure it was for good reason. Perhaps only those who were extended the privilege of company in his room for a meal (he is an excellent cook and mixes a mean cocktail) and conversation could appreciate his striving for quality and fairness in everything he did - you may have been up until the small hours but, like everyone else, you had no reason to be late for breakfast! I understand that he plans to travel around the world, climbing as he goes and perhaps write a book about his exploits. I wish him well in what is, perhaps, not so much retirement as a change of emphasis in his life, and I am grateful to him for his example and insight into the standards of living and understanding of others we should aim to achieve.

(Anthony Simmins is currently studying for an MSc. at Wolfson College, Oxford, after reading computer science at Queen Mary College, London.)

From Doré Green (1977 - 84):-

Whilst descending from a peak in the Austrian Alps John Willson and I were forced, due to deteriorating weather and visibility, to bivouac on a small ice step cut from the back of the couloir down which we were descending. There we passed an appalling night. Powder avalanches swept over our bivouac and snow built up behind us, forcing us from our tiny ledge. In the early hours of the morning we were spared: the weather cleared and we were able to descend to the haven of the glacier below. Perhaps at such times John Willson has rued pursuing his passion for mountains. As those who have passed through Rendcomb during J.W.'s time have been aware, it is this love for climbing which draws him annually to the snow peaks of the Austrian and Swiss Alps or the precipitous limestone faces of the Italian Dolomites. I owe a personal debt to him for having introduced me to the sport. Others, whilst perhaps not pursuing the sport beyond their days at Rendcomb, were fortunate enough to be able to avail themselves of opportunities to climb with J.W. both in Britain and abroad.



John Willson and Doré Green in the Dolomites, 1984

Climbing with J.W. afforded an opportunity to encounter him in what was perhaps a more natural environment to him than the classroom. For many at Rendcomb J.W. appeared a somewhat enigmatic character but I think perhaps that those who climbed with him came closer to understanding him. To most, J.W. will best be remembered in his role as senior housemaster. Although renowned for a volatile temper when a pupil flouted the rules, he would show great sensitivity if he felt a boy to be going through a difficult period or would champion the cause of a boy whom he felt had been unjustly treated. It is, perhaps, true to say that J.W. took 'under his wing' those he felt were isolated from or to some extent unpopular with their own year. The character and atmosphere of the senior house derived much from the personality of J.W. At times he might have appeared perhaps a little inflexible over a certain senior house matter. However, whilst he held vehemently to his view on the running of the senior house, he would always justify his position with a reasoned argument which would invariably prove difficult to counter. On J.W.'s retirement Rendcomb will have lost a man who was, I know, for my generation one of the school's great personalities. Besides my own personal memories of climbing with J.W., perhaps one lasting memory, which I share with others, will be of him, hair swept back, striding down the corridors of the main building.

(Doré Green is reading chemistry at Pembroke College, Oxford.)

From Andrew Rontree:-

No doubt those who were at Rendcomb when I was in the late 70s and early 80s will have a wide range of memories of the seemingly ubiquitous John Willson, but most will have some recollection of his directing the college choir and orchestra. For any school, let alone one the size of Rendcomb, to attempt works of the size and complexity of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, or 'Fidelio' is an ambitious undertaking, but John's mixture of enthusiasm, encouragement and painstaking attention to detail in rehearsal made possible some memorable performances, whilst giving Rendcombians a chance to take on a major work rarely available in later life to any but the most highly talented. The weekly church services were subject to the same conscientious yet lively treatment: I particularly remember two or three Vaughan Williams anthems that we regularly sang in robust but by no means unmusical fashion, John was always modest about his own ability as a performer, but he did once give a convincing account of Beethoven's 1st Piano concerto, for which he directed the orchestra from the piano stool. There is no better way to foster a passion for music amongst others than to put one's own enthusiasm on display, and this was something John invariably did, both playing and conducting. (In the latter capacity, I seem to remember, his gestures were once so intense that his baton parted company with his right hand and came to rest at the feet of the first violins!). Those of us who accompanied him to the Wye Valley on Saturday afternoons were also able to take advantage of his obsession with rock-climbing, some developing a life-long addiction of their own to the sport. John has been known to roam as far as the Dolomites (and on to local TV!) with these kindred spirits, but the rest equally found the opportunity to try something thoroughly worthwhile outside the mainstream of school games in a relaxed but very dedicated

atmosphere. But I can't stop here without mentioning the all-pervading Willsonian senior housemastership, and the gruff 'I should like to see the bellman after grace, please!', normally regarded by the offending fourth-year as an altogether inauspicious start to the day. We former bellmen can forgive him that, I am sure. But without it, and without John Willson, Rendcomb is likely to be a very different place.

(Andrew Rontree (1977 - 84) is reading history and German at Leeds University.)

From Roderick Hill:-

My first encounter with John Willson was as an eleven year old incorrectly conjugating Latin verbs and hearing the cry of "No, sir!" at my mistake. From the outset, Mr Willson's strong presence was apparent. It is his drive for perfection and commitment to the school that has kept him at the forefront of Rendcomb life which without him would, I am sure, be completely different. He has spread his talents and time throughout many diverse activities, the majority of which I have, at one time or another, participated in, but it was in my final year as senior prefect that I was most associated with John Willson. It was at this time that I realised how much he did for the school. He ran the main building in an extremely organised fashion maintaining an air of discipline which was generally fair to its occupants. Parallel to this he managed to give the attention necessary to his other pursuits for them to maintain an equally high level of success. John Willson's departure will certainly cause numerous activities to suffer and the college will miss his charisma.

(Roderick Hill (1980 - 87) is reading banking and international finance at Birmingham University.)

### **R.C. Hannaford**

It seems strange that Charlie Hannaford has been at Rendcomb for only five years. His large burly figure, bristling moustache and overflowing briefcase seem to have belonged to Rendcomb for much longer. Perhaps this is indicative of the way in which Charlie quickly and easily adopted to our society and began to make his own special contributions to it. Under his direction biology, for so long a popular and highly successful subject, has continued to thrive and a considerable number of 'A' level students have gone on to read biological sciences or related subjects at universities and polytechnics during the past five years. Charlie's interest in the countryside and ecology has found plenty of fulfilment at Rendcomb, complemented by his highly successful field trips. This is the first time that Rendcomb has had a rugby international on the staff, and teams at all levels have been able to benefit from Charlie's expertise and advice in his capacity as a 'roving' coach. He has also been a coach with Cirencester Rugby Club and with the Gloucestershire XV. Four years ago Charlie and Jane took over the running of Park House, after lengthy experience of running a boarding house at Millfield. All Rendcombians who have lived in Park House during the last four years have appreciated not only the hard work which Charlie and Jane have put in but also the firm but sympathetic way in which they have carried out this very demanding job. More recent O.R.s will want to send Charlie and Jane their best wishes for their future at Seaford College, Petworth, where Charlie has been appointed deputy head.

From Barney Branston:-

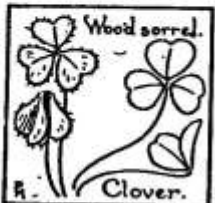
My first meeting with Charlie Hannaford was as a fourth year on the under 15's rugby pitch "up top" as I, along with the rest of the group, had my fear confirmed by the approach of the burly figure of who could only be a serious rugby player. All thoughts of a relaxed apathetic season went to pot as this moustachioed power-horse from Millfield tried to batter us into some apology - however poor - for a rugby team. I forget the season's results, although I think they were quite good, but memories of tackling practices, fitness training, and one particular wet Monday afternoon, spent reverting to primitive ape-like instinct as practice in picking-up a loose ball, are all too vivid! Having opted for German, I never met Charlie and in the biology classroom, although I am assured that his enthusiasm for the subject was often indistinguishable from his antics on the touchline! Clearer memories stick out from my final year at Rendcomb, when as Park House prefect I came to know the Hannafords quite well. The balance which they struck up between concern and respect for individual ambition was perfect, as they were careful to guide rather than force, and to suggest rather than dictate. Thus individuals were left to make their own decisions, having been presented with various options, and encouragement mindful of the decision being very much theirs. This was a distinctive characteristic of the Hannafords and was perhaps their greatest quality in running Park House. This approach taken by the Hannafords was such that they established a special rapport with those in Park House, to which many memories will testify, as they were obviously capable of relaxing with the students as numerous bars and parties showed. For example, I remember the culture-shock I underwent one Saturday evening as the "moustachioed power-horse from Millfield", the "burly figure who could only be a serious rugby player", approached one of the bars in Park House (the theme of which was 'drag') wearing a large floppy straw hat, a

dress, and several carefully positioned pillows, accompanied by his wife Jane, clad in the livery of Charlie's Cambridge rugby days, complete with tassled cap! This was just one example of several in which the Hannafords showed their willingness to 'let their hair down' with the students, an attitude which saw them make a genuine effort to climb down from their posts of disciplinarians for a while, and which was greatly appreciated by the students. Their efforts to 'muck in' showed them to be more human, which contributed greatly to the overall ambience of the house as they made every effort to recognise the maturity of the sixth form without ceding to anarchy. This very brief appraisal of Charlie and Jane may appear somewhat biased in its general tone, which I'm sure bears more witness to the nature of their inviting approachability than to any negligence on my part as a reporter. Indeed, it is perhaps indicative of their characters and of their qualities that only good memories remain, as so much of the fun of my final year at Rendcomb was directly attributable to the blend of mutual respect and friendship which they inspired. Finally, I would like to wish them the best of luck in the future, with congratulations to Charlie on his becoming deputy headmaster at Seaford College, and of course many thanks for such a special final year at Rendcomb, wishes in which I know many O.R.s will join me.

(Barney Branston (1982 - 87) is reading French at Christ Church. Oxford)

### Rendcomb in 1929

Tony Perkins (1924 - 31) recently unearthed a diary which he kept throughout 1929 when he was in the sixth form. He has kindly allowed us to reproduce it in the newsletter. O.R.s will be interested to see how a Rendcombian spent his time nearly 60 years ago! The editor would be pleased to have any similar reminiscences.

JUNE, 1929		JUNE, 1929	
<p>Rec 9736-3 9 Sunday [160-205]  <small>and after Trinity. Mohammedan Era 1348 begins  Moses.—Judges 4, or 5, or Job 3. Mark 2, v. 23 to 3, v. 19, or  Romans 5  Evening.—Judges 6, v. 33 to 7, v. 23, or Ruth 1, or Job 2,  v. 6 to end. Matthew 8, or Acts 9, v. 1 to 31  1781. George Stephenson born</small></p> <p>Attended Hobbs Club meeting and dug  out 30 shillings before closed. Took out  lunch with the field section and cricket  company to Chadworth Woods. Had a picnic  in the sun. Did photography and hired gear case in eve.</p>	<p>Rec 9746-5 13 THURSDAY [154-201]  <small>1217. Air Raid over E. London</small></p> <p>Went down in the afternoon to the dark room  which had been fitted up with new lights.  Then went cycling round Marsden looking  in vain for birds nests. Played tennis with  Dick Field at the rectory in the evening &amp; won  6-2. Then beat him 3-1 with the game short.</p>		
<p>Rec 9736-3 10 MONDAY [161-204]  <small>1854. Crystal Palace opened</small></p> <p>Mr Carré, Uncle John's brother-in-law, came  with Mr Osborne and stayed Sunday night,  leaving in the morning. Played cricket in the  afternoon, captained medium game and made 0.  Finished fitting West &amp; Hobbs Club  Committee meeting which lasted all evening</p>	<p>Rec 9752-8 14 FRIDAY [165-200]  <small>1800. Battle of Marengo  1813. First Quarter, 6.15 a.m.</small></p> <p>It rained most of the day but nevertheless  I cycled in to Cwm, on a fruitless errand and  came back out with 3 medals. Won semi-final  of chess championship against Dick Field in the  evening. Went down to the rectory after bedtime and  talked for a long time with Mr. Simpson.</p>		
<p>Rec 9740-0 11 TUESDAY [162-203]  <small>S. Barnabas  1737. George I died</small></p> <p>Did P.T. on cycles. Went up to the   Pavilion after dinner and packed bag for  cricket team. Then played a double with Mr.  Simpson, he &amp; I all won 6-3, 6-4. Went  over to the rectory in the evening and talked  with Mr Simpson. It was a beautiful fine day</p>	<p>Rec 9759-5 15 SATURDAY [166-199]  <small>1215. Magna Charta signed  A.D. 1215, S.S. 9.18</small></p> <p>We lost our cricket match to the village  which I did not watch but instead played  tennis with Mr. Betman and Frank Jones and  lost all my games. Spent nearly all the  evening playing cricket in the gym.</p> <p>THE SHAMROCK'S SLEEP.</p> <p>Although many plants go to  "sleep" at nightfall, they do not all  go to sleep in the same way. In spite  of the fact that the little wood-sorrel,  or shamrock, is so very much like  the clover in appearance, it is remark-  ably different in its method of falling  asleep. You can see this difference  quite plainly if you watch the two  plants towards evening time. The  clover folds its two side-leaflets  together, and puts the third over  them as a kind of hood. Can you  find out what the shamrock does?</p>		
<p>Rec 9740-0 12 WEDNESDAY [163-202]  <small>1842. Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, died</small></p> <p>Got brought up at the Council for leaving  out a sparrow. Went to umpire the King  School match at Gloucester. We started in  torrents of rain which did not stop until  long after the match had been abandoned.  We have shown round Gloucester Cathedral  by Mr. Gilchrist who afterwards gave us  tea. Played gym cricket in the evening</p>			

## College News

On founder's day last year, the chairman of the governors announced that a decision had been made to restructure the boarding accommodation in the college. The plan is to build two new boarding houses, each for up to 56 boys. One will be sited between the stable block and the bridge and the other between the sports hall and the old rectory. The main building will be an administrative centre, including the dining-room, teaching accommodation and a sixth form common room. The present study bedroom wings will be the main living area for the third "house" of 56 boys. A housemaster's flat will be constructed in the first floor accommodation. Park House will become a girl's boarding house, which Mrs Holdaway will run. The old rectory will remain the junior house for the eleven and twelve year olds. Godman House will continue as the third form house. The boys in forms 4 to 6A will be divided between the three boarding houses, thereby introducing a "vertical" system in place of the present "horizontal" system which allows a year group to remain as one entity throughout their time at Rendcomb. It is hoped that this change will be made in September 1989.

There have been changes, too, in the curriculum to cater for the different requirements of G.C.S.E. In the fourth year, the previous limited option choice between geography and Latin, biology and German (which often caused considerable anxiety) has been expanded so that English language and maths are now the only compulsory subjects, together with either French or German. All other subjects, including design and realisation, art and design and technology are in blocks of three, thereby providing a far wider choice than before.

Last September the Parents' Association, in conjunction with the college, organised a highly successful sponsored walk. The route of 20 miles, familiar to O.R.s, was via Shawswell, Woodlands, Leckhampton Hill, Coberley, Cowley, Cocklesfor, Rapsgate and back to Rendcomb via Eycot. About 500 walkers took part and on their return were able to enjoy a large-scale barbecue on the lawns by the Dulverton Hall. A cheque for £4,500 was presented to the Cheltenham Cobalt Unit at a ceremony in the Dulverton Hall in October and members of 6A have been able to visit the Unit.

The main musical event of the Christmas Term was "The Pirates of Penzance" produced by Michael Craddock and Tim Lane. The "capacity" audiences clearly enjoyed the performances. There was some fine solo singing: the leads were taken by John Carroll (Frederic): Roland Martin (Pirate King): Jane Kelly (Ruth): Esther McNeile (Edith): Kate Ellis (Mabel): Denis Price (Major-General Stanley) and Michael Bews (Sergeant of Police). The pirates, an awesome band, were mainly sixth formers while press-ganged members of staff provided most of the policemen. In the spring term two informal concerts were given on Sunday after church to allow junior members of the school to play their set pieces. (This was reminiscent of occasional Saul's Hall concerts given in the days of John Tooze - ed.)

Older O.R.s visiting the college will be struck by the redecoration of the three main halls. No longer do we have the 1958 "broken white" emulsion. In the outer hall the decorative coping is picked out in gold, in Saul's Hall the pillars are stippled in harvest gold, whereas the ceilings of Saul's Hall are in carnival red. The effect is certainly striking, and a great improvement on the previous scheme. Another change has been the transformation of the old history room (more recently the junior dining room) into a staff common room. The adjoining room, itself the common room until 1966, is used as an annexe where the ghosts of J.C.J.s "Tudors and Stuarts" still haunt some of the older members of staff!!

## Staff News

Kaye Knapp will be housemaster of the main building from September 1988 and Mrs Holdaway will take over Park House.

Miss W. E. Musto has joined the staff to teach modern languages. She was previously at the Stroud High School for Girls. Mrs H. E. Leigh has been teaching mathematics to some junior forms this year.

Mrs Anne Purdon took over as headmaster's secretary in December 1986 in place of Mrs Sandra Taylor who has been working as an assistant at a school in Mogadishu in Somalia for the last six months.

Mr Tony Partridge is to retire in July from his position as clerk of works at the college, in which he succeeded Mr Walter Telling. When he joined us in 1973, Tony had already been foreman in charge of a number of building projects completed by the family firm, and so he was quite well acquainted with the minutiae of the college's electrical, water and sewage systems before he started. His expertise, his ready advice and cheerful willingness to help have been greatly appreciated over the past years. Next year he will join Mr Fry and Mr Tombs on the part-time ground staff. Mr Paul Kampe will take over as clerk of works.

Mrs Doris Mills retired last July after 25 years as a college cook. From last September Mr I. Gomersall has been the Fairfield caterer in charge at the college in place of Mr Tony Barrett.

## School Sport

### Cricket - 1987

We suffered a great deal from the weather this term but, as usual, the 1st XI produced some excellent results and enjoyed a very successful season overall - of the fourteen matches played, seven were won, six drawn and one abandoned. The team had a good blend of cricketers who worked well as a unit, and valuable contributions were made by all. Iain Whittaker ably led the side, with considerable support from his vice-captain Alex Brealy. Julian Fellows and Mark Astill formed a very useful opening partnership and almost always got us off to a good start, and with William Sherwood, Whittaker, Tom Burns, Brealy and Barnabus Branston to follow we were usually guaranteed a good score. Brealy was the main strike bowler, supported by Christopher Hack and Nicholas Suffolk - the latter two being fifth formers which bodes well for the future. The highlight of the season for the first eleven was the tour to Jersey - the first of its kind by a Rendcomb team. The tour lasted five days, included three fixtures - against Victoria College, Jersey Youth XI, and a Victorian XI - and although the games were all drawn we were unlucky not to win the last two. We were greeted with a hard, fast wicket and abundant sunshine, and were kindly accommodated by Victoria College in St. Helier. There was time to enjoy the beaches, explore the island and all in all the tour was an unqualified success both on and off the field. Lower down the school the U.15 squad was very strong indeed and some of them should be pushing for a first eleven place next year. The U.14 squad relied heavily on some talented individuals but still showed a lot of potential. Congratulations must go to John Carroll and Richard Milner for being selected for the county U.15 and U.14 teams respectively, with Milner also being invited to attend West of England nets this winter.

P.S.

### Hockey - 1988

The small quantity of snow and low number of frosts resulted in more eleven-a-side hockey being played than for several years, nevertheless the high rainfall curbed many practices and highlighted once again the drainage problem on the under-14 pitch directly behind the pavilion. A large number of matches were played and it was particularly encouraging to see so many junior fixtures taking place: the under-14B team played all five of its games with great enthusiasm. One feature of more practice on grass is less ability to adapt to all weather surfaces, however teams at all levels tried extremely hard under such circumstances, including the under-12 XI which played on the new synthetic surface at Cheltenham College. The season's 1st XI retained only three boys from last year's team and it took some time for the new squad to adjust to each other in terms of anticipation, reliability and the playing system. However, by the King Edward's match the team began to gel and the moves were promising although goal scoring still looked a long way off. Mark Hastings and the captain, Giles Carter, were responsible for the breakthrough, using their stickwork to penetrate the circle, and once others saw how to move into the scoring area rapidly the forwards became more dangerous and many more scoring opportunities were created. After the second exeat the team was without the skills of the captain and, although they played well against Dean Close on their redgra, failed to beat Bloxham, thereby continuing a long trend. In the old Rendcombian match the school was up against a skilful forward line fed by reliable defenders and the goalkeeper was placed under a great deal of pressure. Despite losing Julian Fellows through an injury shortly after half time the school counter-attacked several times scoring one goal and missing a penalty stroke. With several fifth year and lower sixth boys in the side there will be a considerable base on which to build in 1989.

### Overall Record:

Played 96; Won 36; Lost 42; Drew 18; Goals for 163; Goals against 186.

### 1st XI Results:

v. Monkton Comb School, Bath (A)	Lost 0-9	v. Cheltenham H.C. Wednesday XI (A)	Lost 2-4
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (H)	Lost 0-1	v. Colston's School, Bristol (A)	Won 4-2
v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	Lost 1-2	v. Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI (H)	Won 8-2
v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Drew 0-0	v. Dean Close School (A)	Drew 1-1
v. Prior Park College (H)	Lost 0-3	v. Bloxham School (H)	Drew 0-0
v. King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 0-1	v. Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost 1-5
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won 2-0	v. Cirencester H.C. 'A' XI (A)	Lost 0-4

### 1st XI Players:

Goalkeeper: R. Matson

Backs: J. Barnett, J. Carter, C. Huck

Halves: J. Fellow, J. Hammond, G. Hughes, P. Grimsdale

Forwards: J. Vernon, M. Hastings, B. Maslen, G. Carter (captain), N. Suffolk, J. Carol, W. Sherwood

Coaching Staff:

Senior Xis: C.J. Wood, T.J. Lane, D. Essenhigh, D. O'Connor, M. Graham

Under 15: J.N. Holt, M. Chase

Under 14: W.J.D. White, D.A. Hawkswell, R.C. Hannaford

Under 13: M.J. Newby

Under 12: P.J. Sudburv

Girls: Mrs J. Manners

C.J.W

### **Old Rendcombian News**

**Andrew Carter** (1972 - 79) is a managing director, finance, with Mitsubishi.

**Philip Evans** (1972 - 79) decided to abandon his post at the University of Pennsylvania and has started a post-doctorate course at Bath University.

**Nick Miles** (1975 - 80) is officer in charge of the exports department of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

**David Wilson** (1980 - 85) is working for ICI in Macclesfield.

**David Maberley** (1959 - 66) has recently seen the publication of his latest work "The Plant Book. A portable dictionary of the higher plants" (CUP). His other major millstone, "Jupiter Botanicus, Robert Brown of the British Museum", was published some time ago. He hopes to resume his fieldwork in two or three years in either Madagascar or New Caledonia.

**Guy Healey** (1978 - 83) is beginning to settle in to his career in business. After graduating at Oxford in July, he joined the LEK Partnership and spent his first two months commuting between London and Belfast, being introduced to the world of computers, word processors and fax machines. In January he was on a four-month stint with the firm in Sydney.

**Charles Ekin** (1979 - 83) is in his final year at Reading University. During his practical year-out in France he worked on an organic farm and went to the French Caribbean as well as travelling through the Pyrenees - all instead of attending the University at Aix-en-Provence.

**Antony Simmins** (1974 - 81) spent three years at Queen Mary College, London University, studying computer science. He met **Callum Dick**, **Jeremy French** and **Richard Woof** occasionally. After graduating he stayed on in the department as a demonstrator and programmer with tutorial responsibilities. He is now working for an M.Sc. at Oxford where he met **Mark Burchell** and **Andrew Pitt**, both finishing D.Phils. Among other things, he spent three weeks on holiday in Zambia in 1986.

**Terry Rowley** (1948 - 56) has recently joined the O.R. society. After national service in the RAF he read engineering at Queen Mary College, London, going to AEI Electronics, Leicester, for his final year of apprenticeship. In 1963 he joined the staff of the computer department and, after a varied range of experience became chief engineer in charge of developing an interactive visual system for flight simulators. In 1984 he left Marconi Radar Systems to become an independent consultant on computer graphics and CGI systems.

**Richard Moss** (1981 - 86) completed seven months at Dartmouth Royal Naval College serving on HMS Fife before going to Loughborough University. In the course of his time in the Navy, Richard visited Montreal, the Great Lakes and Chicago.

**Ted Jones** (1940 - 48) has been in touch with Mrs James. He writes that he is now working nearly full-time looking after the Open University's international office, which deals with its relationships with overseas governments and institutions. He says it is both interesting and demanding work.

**Keith Winmill** (1972 - 79) began working at his father's pub, the "Greyhound" in Siddington, when he left Rendcomb. In 1983 he joined the Stroud Building Society as a cashier. He worked through the ranks from senior assistant to assistant manager at the Cirencester office and was appointed manager of the Highworth

office in October 1986. He was married last July.

**Geoffrey Smith** (1960 - 67) has been appointed production director of Dowty Fuel Systems in Cheltenham. He was programme controller with Dowty and works superintendent for Dowty Hydraulic Units before moving to Lucas Bryce in 1975, where he was unit manager.

**Charlotte Kenyon** (1980 - 82) wrote to Mr Medill last summer as follows: "I graduated from Manchester University with a BA. degree in geography - a satisfying 2:1. I was a keen member of the choral society for two years and represented my university in the Ladies 1st and 2nd XI hockey teams. In my last year I threw myself once more into community action. I organised with others the 'Magnet Playscheme' for local schoolchildren from Hulme and Moss-side and taught an Asian woman English on a TEFL course. I enjoyed my course and derived great satisfaction from it. Now I am a management consultant with Arthur Andersen & Co.. learning all about computer systems. This is another total change! My work involves travel to the States and all over the country. I still see my Rendcomb friends - particularly Isobel, Alicja and Carolyn who live and work very close to me and am enjoying life tremendously.."

**Brian Hembry** (staff 1974 - 79) has been appointed head of boarding at the Purcell School, Harrow.

**Ian Pengelly** (1972 - 78) wrote as follows last summer: "I have been in Bristol for a couple of years now and am very happy with city life. Work-wise, I have changed jobs in the last six months and am now working with mentally handicapped young adults - which is emotionally rather than physically demanding. Basically I am involved with helping a fairly capable group to come to terms with living in the community (some have been in hospitals for years) and to give them the confidence to be as independent as possible. I am enjoying this much more than my last job: I worked for the DHSS for a while and, being based at Stroud, met **David Marshall** (1972 - 79) who was a sort of opposite number at the district council. We were both at **Nigel Hall's** wedding in January as was **Mark Webb**." (Ian graduated from St. Andrew's University in German in 1983 with a 2:1.)

**Neil McGregor Wood** (1939 - 45) writes that he retired from the City insurance broking world in December 1986 and now commutes once a week as a consultant to his old firm (Minets). He and his wife live in Chichester in a "delightful, tall, thin house" overlooking Priory Park. His wife continues to practice speech therapy at present but hopes to spend more time writing in the future. He also occupies himself with being a general commissioner of income tax, trustee of a charitable trust and governor of a prep. school. He enjoys doing some gentle hacking on a fourteen-year-old horse and is looking round for opportunities to become active again in local politics, church affairs and the amateur stage. Two of their four children have two children, one of whom is a G.P. in Hampshire and so quite close.

**Tony Perkins** (1924 - 31) has unearthed a diary which he was surprised to find he kept each day throughout 1929, when he was in the sixth form. The entries, he says, taken individually are of a routine character, but they record some matters of interest - activities with air guns, names of contemporaries, some still living, some not. He felt that the material would be of interest to the college historian. (O.R.s please note that the "archives" are always pleased to have similar unwanted Rendcombiana. Ed.)

**Donald Christie** (1922 - 25) informs us of the recent publication of his book "The Quirister", about the adventures of Richard Fortune, a chorister at Eton in Tudor days. Available from the publishers Alden and Blackwell (Eton) Ltd: cost in paperback is £4.95.

**Nick Wharmby** (1982 - 87) went to Sandhurst in January. He has been sponsored by the Army Air Corps and will begin basic flight training after Sandhurst. He expects that his first posting will be to Hong Kong on a four to six month detachment to an infantry regiment: this is designed to give the pilot in the air an insight into what the soldier on the ground is thinking.

**Christopher Hodkinson** (1975 - 82) spent "a hedonistic six months" sailing in the Mediterranean after graduating from Portsmouth Polytechnic. Then he returned for the Admiralty interview board for a commission in the Royal Navy. He was successful but was told that he would have to wait for some time before receiving confirmation of his place at Dartmouth. So he decided to work in London until he heard from the M.O.D., finding a post as a trainee broker with a company within Lloyds of London. Despite a successful launching in the business world, he resigned and joined Britannia Royal Naval College in May 1987, receiving the Rowallan Sword of Honour at the end of his first term for the best officer under training. From September until late November he spent ten weeks with HMS Rothesay training in the Mediterranean. On returning to



Dartmouth, he achieved a first class overall pass in his professional exams. He passed out of Dartmouth in December and joined his first ship HMS Andromeda in January.

**Christopher Moody** (1980 - 87) has won an English-Speaking Union scholarship and is at Princeton Day School. New Jersey. The school has 870 pupils (small by U.S. standards), and is co-educational. He writes as follows:

"Princeton, famous for its university which dominates the town in much the same way as Oxford colleges dominate Oxford, is itself quite small. The town centre has a definite European flavour, and the usual giant American shopping malls are in the suburbs. It is certainly a wealthy area. This is clear by the sheer size and style of the houses, and when you notice that most of the senior students at P.D.S. drive their own cars. I am living with an American family, and their additional expenses are covered by the E-S U. I will attend school until the senior graduation on June 15th, and after that I am free to travel. At the moment I hope to get together with other E-S U students at school in New Jersey, and current travel itineraries include Toronto, Boston, New Orleans, San Francisco and even Vancouver! The atmosphere is far more relaxed than in England. There is no uniform as such, and most classes soon develop into free-for-all discussions between students. I am playing in the band for the school production of 'Hello Dolly' and am also in the school orchestra, which consists of a string orchestra, one flute, a timpanist and me (horn)! Although school tends to restrict my travelling during the week, I have been to New York (60 miles away) to see the sights. Furthermore, the Economics set had a trip in February to Wall Street - we went to the top of the World Trade Center (107 floors!) and onto the floor of the American Exchange. The following week the whole senior class spent half term skiing in Up-State New York. During the Easter vacation, I am going skiing with my host family to Colorado. On Comic Relief day, I became the "dumb English kid" wearing a red nose. I managed to raise over \$200. It is really easy to get involved here. I came second in the school's poetry-reading competition - reading "Dulce et Decorum Est" - I think the English accent helped. I have also joined the very active "Amnesty International" society based at P.D.S. I am having an excellent time out here and would thoroughly recommend this scheme to anyone planning to take a year off."

**Alex Brealy** (1980 - 87) and **Tom Burns** (1980 - 87) have been on the staff of Warminster School in their "year off" before going on to a university.

**Julian Odell** (1982 - 87) has been working for the UK atomic industry.

**Ralph Collins** (1976 - 81) is joint master of the United Foxhounds on the Welsh borders.

**Nicholas Dakin** (1964 - 68) has left Wrekin College where he had been head of English for a number of years, and is now on the staff of St. Paul's Girl's School in London.

**Richard Bendy** (1979 - 84) is now working as a circulation representative with Newsweek International, which involves a fair amount of travelling in Britain and abroad. He says he is in regular contact with **Tony Maton** and **Jackie Greenwood** and meets many other O.R.s in his travels around London.

**Simon Johnson** (1981 - 85) has been appointed head of drama at Trinity School, Croydon.

**William Wilkinson** (1974 - 81) is reading forestry at Aberdeen University.

**Horace Phillips** (1924 - 29) writes: "I have not been back to Rendcomb for several years, but I am still in touch with **Tony Perkins** and Molly **Field** whose husband **Dick** died a little over a year ago. He and I had always kept in touch since Rendcomb days, and we were both in London for a short time in the 1930s, when he could just afford an occasional evening in the gallery at Sadler's Wells! I would be interested to hear of any O.R.s who live near us in Brixworth. I have lived here for so long that I have been taken as a native by some in this fast growing but very ancient village (the church dates from 680 AD.) but I still defend myself by using a Gloucester accent! Our activities are limited by the years and we have just moved to a small bungalow with a small garden, as we no longer drive".

**Nick Thomas** (1966 - 71) is bringing his "small-scale touring company" to put on a show called "Sail or Return" about Cabot's discovery of America at Rendcomb in May.

**Paul Osborn** (1964-65) is a quantity surveyor living in Petermaritzburg, Natal.

**Theresa Fox** (1985 - 87) has won an award to read medicine at Charing Cross Hospital.

**Paul Curtis Hayward** (1970 - 77) writes: "I had always intended to become a stockbroker, and on leaving Oxford I got a job with James Capel as a trainee. After a brief training period I moved into the international bond department which specialises in selling non-sterling fixed interest products to clients throughout the world. In early 1985 I was asked to go to Hong Kong to establish a fixed interest unit in our office there. I spent two years in Hong Kong liaising closely with **Ian Forrest** (1972 - 77) who had joined the department in London. In July 1987 I was asked to do the same thing in New York, where we are at the moment. I probably saw more O.R.s in Hong Kong than at any time since leaving Rendcomb. **Sally Paterson, Rory Thomson, Taryn Nixon, David Oughton, Richard Tudor, Nick Price** to name a few. I have not come across so many in New York so far .... Edwina has managed to get good jobs both in Hong Kong and New York. so I guess we're a typical yuppie couple! **Michael** (1973 - 80) has decided that London and the law were not doing his health any good, so after completing his articles, he went off to Greece to write a book. Finding Greece closed for the winter he took a boat to Israel and is now picking oranges at a kibbutz.

### News of Recent Leavers

Corrin Adshead	HM Forces
Robert Anderson	Manchester Polytechnic, Engineering
Mark Astill	Birmingham University, Chemical engineering
David Aylott	
Daniel Beales	Manchester University, Medical sciences (1988)
Gillian Bell	Exeter College, Oxford, English
Giles Branch	UCCA 1988 Fine arts
Barnabus Branston	Christ Church Oxford, French & Linguistics
Alexander Brealy	St. Andrew's University, Geography (1988)
Thomas Burns	PCAS (1988) Civil engineering
Fiona Carlisle	Retaking 'A' levels
Andrew Cayton	UCCA 1988
Dominic Clark	Birmingham University, Maths & computer science
Pollyanna Cochrane	Southampton University, Psychology and sociology (1988)
Giles Davies	King's College, London, Biological sciences
Robert Draper	Lanchester Polytechnic, Law
Ian Ford	University Polytechnic, Law
Therea Fox	Charing Cross Hospital, Medicine
Juliet Hasler	Exeter University, Environmental science
Annalisa Heal	Exeter University, Biological science
Kevin Hewston	Southampton University, Geography
Roderick Hill	Birmingham University, Banking and international finance
Tanya Holden	Guy's Hospital, Medicine
Matthew Houseman	In employment
Raquel Hughes	Royal Holloway College, History
Darren John	Retaking 'A' levels
Simon Kingscote	Plymouth Polytechnic, Business studies
Kerrv Mallindine	Aston University. Physics
James Mann	Lancaster University, Electrical and mechanical engineering
Susan Maton	Hatfield Polytechnic, Humanities
Christopher Moody	Exeter University, History (1988)
Amanda Moore	Lady Margaret Hall Oxford, P.P.E.
Philip Moore	Police force
Nicola Newell	Secretarial college, Oxford
Polly Nicholls	Kingston Polytechnic, French and art
Justin Noyce	Manchester Polytechnic, Architecture (1988)
Julian Odell	Queen's College, Cambridge, Engineering (1988)
James Penneck	Bristol Polytechnic, HND Computer studies
Christopher Pope	Southampton University, Economics
Timothy Prince	Banking
Simon Reichwald	
Matthew Reid	Brunel University, Industrial design
Angus Rollo	University College, London, Law (1988)
Henrietta Rothman	UCCA 1988 Business studies

Suzanna van Moyland	Retaking 'A' levels
Rachel Waddington	City University, Psychology (1988)
Lisa Wallace	St. Mark's & St. John's College Plymouth, Physical education and history
Mark Walters	Salford University, Information technology
Nicholas Wharmby	HM Forces
Iain Whittaker	Birmingham University, Commerce
Stephen Young	
Adam Binder	'A' levels at Cirencester school
John Marland	Bristol Polytechnic, Building engineering
Richard Reichwald	Hotel training
Geoffrey Broomfield	Technical college
Robert Bugden	
Thomas Eastham	High Wycombe College
Andrew Kinch	Gloucestershire College of Arts & Technology
David Norton	Gloucestershire College of Arts & Technology
Sean Tate	Farming
Paul Wilson	Forestry
Richard Wooster	City of Bath College, Engineering technology
Philip Matson	Nursing training
Simon Scott-White	Worcester Technical College
Andrew Wharmby	
Duncan McDonald	Royal Holloway College, Biology
David Edwin	Swansea Polytechnic, Marine biology
Catherine Faircloth	Cardiff Polytechnic, Law