

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



QUO LUX DUCIT

MAY 1994

20th ISSUE

Editor
W.J.D. WHITE

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Society Officers 1993-94

At the annual general meeting in July 1993, the following officers were elected:-

President:	Ted Jones (1940 - 48)
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968 - 73)
Vice-chairman:	Julian Comrie (1946 - 54)
Secretary:	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975 - 77) 9 Shepherds Way, Cirencester, Glos Tel: (0285) 658627 Fax: (0285) 658717
Treasurer:	Robert Barrett (1969 - 76) Packhorse Farm, Old Midford Road, Southstoke, Bath, Avon. Tel: (0225) 832018
School representative:	Chris Wood (1965 - 71, staff 1976 -)
Committee members:	Douglas Payne (1940 - 48) Simon Wormleighton (1968 - 75) Sally Morris (1978 - 80)
Hon auditor:	Keith Winmill (1972 - 79)
Girls' secretary:	Justine Platt (1988 - 90) Cotswold, Amberley, Stroud, Glos, GL5 5AB
Rugby secretary:	Graham Lawton (1985 - 92)
Hockey secretary:	Philip Moore (1980 - 87)
Cricket secretary:	Julian Fellows (1981 - 88)
Newsletter editor:	Bill White (staff 1961 -) 9 Rendcomb, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 7HB

Notice of AGM

You are invited to attend the 61st annual general meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 3rd July 1994, at 12.00 midday, in the reading room at Rendcomb College.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive minutes of the a.g.m. held on 4th July 1993
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive hon. treasurer's report
5. Election of officers: hon. treasurer
6. To set amount of travel bursary fund
7. To review level of life subscription
8. Any other business: 75th anniversary celebrations 1995
9. Vote of thanks to the college

Minutes of the 60th General Meeting

Held at the college on Sunday 4th July 1993

The minutes of the 60th annual general meeting of the old Rendcombian society held in the reading room, Rendcomb College on Sunday 4th July 1993 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Gerald Benson, Graham Bodman, Julian Comrie, Douglas Dakin, Brian Fisher, Nigel Green, E.A. Jones, Douglas Payne, A.E. Shield, Brian Smith, Miles Thompson, Bill White, Hamish Wilson, Roland Wood, Jane Gunner and Sally Morris

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Justine Platt, Major Collett, Rev. Hussey, David Sells, Roland Thompson, Ian Taylor, David Shield and Norman Crowe.

2. Minutes of the 59th a.g.m. held on 28th June 1992

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 1992 were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Under item 5, the committee had been requested to review bar costs at the winter and spring reunions. This they had done, coming to the conclusion that these events catered for younger members of the society who did not so readily come to the more formal events. The committee therefore recommended that the society should continue to fund these activities.

The secretary reported that as a result of discussions with the college and other interested parties, it was being suggested that the publication of the O.R. register would be delayed until 1995 to coincide with the 75th celebrations of the college. There would again be an opt-out/amendment slip in the 1994 newsletter for those who did not wish to be included.

The president, Ted Jones, reported on the outcome of the questionnaire, noting that there had been a better response from the members who were over 30. There had been some interesting suggestions made in the responses including, for example, a compassionate fund for members in financial difficulties.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that there had been a reduction in cost of the previous year's buffet because the menu on the day had not included some of the original requests of the committee. The caterers had therefore made an adjustment. He also reported that the hon. auditor, Keith Winmill, had now audited the accounts. After a clarification on the benefits derived from the subscription to AROPS, the adoption of the accounts, proposed by Miles Thompson and seconded by Sally Morris, was approved.

5. Election of officers

Chairman: The committee nomination was Neil Lumby. The secretary reported that she had received no other nominations. Neil Lumby was voted in unanimously. Taking over the chair Neil thanked Brian Smith for all he had done.

Vice chairman: The committee nomination was Julian Comrie. The secretary reported that she had received no other nominations. Julian Comrie was voted in unanimously.

Hon. treasurer: The committee nomination was Robert Barrett, who was prepared to act as treasurer for a further year to prevent the chairman and treasurer being up for re-election in the same year. The secretary reported that she had had no other nominations. Robert Barrett was voted in unanimously.

6. Travel bursary

The secretary reported that there had been no applications from the college this year. However there had been an application from a recent leaver and the committee had decided to award her £250 which left £250 still unallocated. A proposal by Julian Comrie and seconded by Miles Thompson that the bursary should remain at £500 for the forthcoming year was approved unanimously.

7. Life subscription

Bill White and Chris Wood explained how they take it in turns to 'sell' the O.R. society to leavers at the end of each year. These leavers are distributed through four houses. At the date of the meeting there had been about a 60% take-up of membership but some forms had not been returned. They felt that the current level of subscription based loosely on a percentage of the fees was high enough. A proposal by Julian Comrie and seconded by Fred Batten that this year's subscription should be £42.50 was approved. It was also agreed that the subscription should remain under annual review.

8. 75th Anniversary

The secretary reported that Ted Jones, Bill White and she had met with the headmaster and David Vaisey to discuss possible suggestions for the 75th anniversary. It had been agreed that the summer reunion that year would become a weekend event with a range of functions going on throughout the last weekend of term. In order to facilitate this the college would close early on the preceding Thursday. This would be separate from the service of thanksgiving, which would be held in Gloucester Cathedral. The society's contribution to the weekend would be the publicising of it through the newsletter, which would be including the publication of the society members names and addresses. This would facilitate contemporaries contacting each other to form parties. It was further suggested that the society would commission a painting and photos of the college, which could be sold at that time. It was understood that David Sells had undertaken to update the 'History of Rendcomb College'.

9. Any Other Business

The meeting received a report sent by David Sells that one new friend had joined the F.O.R. since last year from the O.R.'s.

The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the college for hosting the summer reunion once again. The meeting closed at 15.45 p.m.

75th Anniversary 1995

O.R.'s may like to note the dates of provisional arrangements. Fuller details will be sent out later. It is hoped that there will be strong support from O.R.'s at these events.

May 28th: Anniversary service in Gloucester Cathedral at 3.00 p.m. Tea will be available for O.R.'s at Rendcomb after the service.

July 8th: Anniversary ball at the college, in conjunction with the parents' association. O.R.'s will be able to

stay overnight in college. There will be a service in Rendcomb church on the Sunday morning. Any O.R.'s willing to help in the organisation of this event please contact Jane Gunner or Bill White a.s.a.p. Apart from the O.R. sport fixtures, there will be an O.R. orchestral concert on March 18th.

Calling all Old Rendcombian Orchestral Players

An idea from the outpost of Homerton College:-

What about a get together of old Rendcombian orchestral players to celebrate years of musical tradition and excellence? The plan would be to get together during Saturday March 18th, practise some purely orchestral repertoire - depending on whom we can get together - in the morning, then have a second session in the afternoon with the expanded college choral society, and put together a grander than usual choral and orchestral concert to take place in Cirencester church in the evening. Those of more recent vintage will know that this is now a regular feature of the lent term. Those of more venerable years may like to know of past glories, such as **Roger Gorman's** Haydn Trumpet Concerto, **Paul Sumsion's** Stanford Sea Songs, **Dan Morris's** Weber Clarinet Concerto, all belonging to this slot.

More ideas on a postcard, not exceeding 2,000 words, together with names, addresses and contact telephone numbers to **John Talbot**, Homerton College, Cambridge, CB2 2PH or make contact with David White, director of music, on 0285 831302.

The Old Rendcombian Address List

The committee is considering printing the society's address list in the 1995 newsletter.

If you do not wish your name and address to be included, please inform the secretary, Mrs Jane Gunner, on the appropriate insert.

O.R. Reunion - 4th July 1994

Fine weather allowed a large number of O.R.'s and their families to enjoy a day at Rendcomb. The buffet luncheon was well supported, while some families with young children enjoyed having a picnic near the swimming pool. O.R.'s spent the afternoon watching the cricket matches and touring the grounds. The 'memorabilia' stall, display of photographs, and exhibition of art work all attracted interest.

Among those who attended the excellent buffet provided by the catering staff were:-

Staff & former staff

Mr & Mrs J.N. Tolputt (headmaster 1987 -)	Mr & Mrs C.C. Burden (1963 -)	Mr D de G. Sells (1955 - 83)
Mr & Mrs D.A. Hawkswell (1973 - 93)	Rev & Mrs P.J. Sudbury (1986 -)	Mr W.J.D. White (1961 -)
Mr & Mrs J.R. Dennis (1959 - 82)	Mr & Mrs D Essenhigh (1968 -)	

1920's & 1930's

Mr J.C. Maslin (1925 - 31)	Mr & Mrs R.F. Butler (1922 - 27)	Mr & Mrs A.E.A. Brain (1929 - 37)
Mr F.C. Raggatt & guests (1920 - 26)	Mr N. Slade (1929 - 36)	Mr F.J. Batten (1926 - 31)

1940's & 1950's

Mr & Mrs J. Comrie* (1946 - 54)	Mr & Mrs G. Bodman (1936 - 43)	Mr D.J. Payne (committee, 1940 - 48)
Mr M. Thompson (1938 - 43)	Mr R.T. Wood (1939 - 46)	Mr E.A. Jones (president, 1940 - 48)
Mr & Mrs G. Benson (1944 - 50)		

1960's and 1970's

Mr & Mrs N.J. Green (1960 - 70)	Mrs J. Gunner* (née Watson)	Mr & Mrs B. Fisher (1966 - 73)
Mr & Mrs R.B. Barrett* (1969 - 76)	(1975 - 77)	Mr G Jordan & children (1966 - 73)
Mr & Mrs B.L.M. Smith* (1965 - 72)	Mr N Dakin & guest (1962 - 68)	

1980's and 1990's

Mrs S. Morris* (née Horne) (1978 - 80)	Mr M. Archer (1977 - 83)	Mr A.J. Branston (1987 - 92)
Mr & Mrs E.P.L. Roberts (1976 - 83)	Mr E. Blencowe (1976 - 83)	Miss K. Sellers (1989 - 91)
Mrs N. Scott (née Agius) (1981 - 83)	Mr R. Deacon (1976 - 83)	Miss S. McIndoe (1990 - 92)
Mrs L. Brock (née Lake) (1981 - 83)	Mr G. Healey (1978 - 83)	Mr A. Brooke (1989 - 92)

*committee

Richard Deacon and **Nicki Scott** (née Agius) encouraged those who left in 1983 to come to the reunion and **Christopher Horton** contacted those who left in 1973.

Dates of Future Meetings

Sunday 3rd July 1994	Cricket and tennis matches
Saturday 10th December 1994	Rugby match
Sunday 19th March 1995	Hockey matches

The 1993 meetings were well supported. Please come in 1994 and meet your friends again.

At the July meeting there will, as usual, be a buffet lunch, with the opportunity for young families to have a picnic near the swimming pool, a 'memorabilia' stall, cricket and tennis matches and the a.g.m. which still needs more support!

1984 Leavers

Philip Paterson-Fox will be contacting O.R.'s who left in 1984 for a 'ten years on' reunion. If you do not hear from him please contact Bill White

The College Library (An Appeal)

Over the last few years, the librarians have embarked upon a major overhaul of the library in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the collection, installing a cdrom, weeding out old, outdated volumes, adding new ones and re-cataloguing and rearranging the existing book stock. Unfortunately, this has revealed that a number of books listed as belonging to the library are not in fact present on the shelves. Could I therefore appeal to old Rendcombian to return any library books they may still have in their possession. They can be returned either to me at the college, or (if you prefer) to the library direct. This will be a 'general amnesty'. There are many reasons why a book may have wandered, and no questions will be asked!

M.H. Graham (librarian)

Year and Decade Representatives

1976 - 85	Sally Morris
1946 - 55	Julian Comrie
1941 - 45	Douglas Payne

The secretary would be pleased to hear from volunteers for the periods:-
1920 - 31, 1931 - 40, 1956 - 65 and 1966 - 75.

1985	Andrew Hall	Fiona Wilkins
1986	Tom Branston	Karl Knight
1987	Annalisa Heal	Simon Reichwald
1988	Paul Griffiths	Ann Speakman
1989	Jessica Naish	Matthew Faircloth
1990	Justine Platt	Peter Grimsdale
1991	Dan Maslen	Alex Malkjovic
1992	Jon Powell	Kate Hodkinson
1993	Patrick Morgan	Ben Mabey

O.R. Sport

Cricket - July 4th 1993

O.R.'s v. Rendcomb College, 4th July 1993, 1st XI match:

On a beautiful summer's day, the O.R.'s chose to bat first on a good cricket wicket. The O.R.'s soon lost Fellows, bowled by Kwelagobe. Then Giles Brealy, supported by Guy Healey, settled in to play some superb

cricket, Brealy scoring runs all round the wicket to score a great 106 not out. It was wonderful to watch, a great credit to past cricketers produced at Rendcomb. Healey also played well. At lunch Brealy and Healey let others bat, then the college collected some quick wickets with Morris, Kwelagobe and Lawton getting their rewards for hard work. At 3.20 the O.R.'s declared.

College set about their task with care against some loose bowling from C. Huck and K. Holmes. Ian Thompson and Matthew Giggs scored 50 runs before the first wicket fell. College then lost a wicket to Arwyn Jones who made scoring runs very difficult indeed - in fact he bowled 15 overs for 16 runs and 3 wickets which really put the brake on the college run rate. Only Roberts, with 31, managed to cope but when Giles Brealy bowled him, the college finished up playing out time for a draw. It was a wonderful game played in good spirit.

David Essenhigh

O.R.'s: 187 for 8 wickets decl. G. Brealy 106 not out, G. Healey 37 not out, A. Brealy 20 not out
I. Kwelagobe 3 wickets for 47 runs, D. Morris 2 wickets for 24 runs, C. Lawton 2 wickets for 67 runs
College: 141 runs for 6 wickets. I. Thompson 33, P. Roberts 31, M. Giggs 23
A. Jones 3 wickets for 16 runs, A. Brealy 2 wickets for 19 runs, C. Brealy 2 wickets for 21 runs

O.R.'s Team: J. Fellows (capt), G. Brealy, K. Holmes, J. Leigh, A. Brealy, C. Hutton-Potts, G. Healey, A. Jones, J. Lutwyche, R. Deacon, C. Huck

Aubrey Powell's XI on landage:

A. Powell, J. Gregory, V. Tredwell, J. McMonigal, G. Hughes, M. Rann, M. Hastings, R. Matson, P. Griffiths, B. Maslen, B. Gallagher, G. Davies, A. Branston.

Result: O.R.'s 113 all out, School 115 for 9

Rugby - 11th December 1993

O.R. Team: B. Davies, A. Lame, G. Davies, A. Platt, B. Mabey, P. Morgan, C. Carmichael, G. Lawton, J. Jehan, C. Wheeler, H. Auld, R. Elmes, C. East, W. King.

Result: 13 - 15

Hockey - 13th March 1994

The O.R.'s put out three teams. Good hockey was played on a sunny but blustery day.

1st XI: P. Moore (capt), A. Mackinnon, P. Croft, N. Smith, J. Webb, T. Burns, A. Lame, M. Moody + 2 Cirencester players.

Result: Draw 2 - 2

2nd XI: C. Bannister, A. Brealy, T. Brealy, A. Phelps, A. Payne, P. Paterson-Fox, C. Acocks, D. Appleton, J. Hutton-Potts, A. Paton

Result: Lost 0 - 2

3rd XI: N. Green, G. Moore, J. Sinclair, R. Blackwell, A. Powell, T. Evans, T. Parfit, A. Topalian, A. Beales + 2 school players

Result: Lost 1 - 2

School Sport

Hockey

This sport is concerned with improving personal skills, encouraging co-operation and understanding within a team of eleven or more players, accepting umpires' decisions, whether good or bad, learning from mistakes, enjoying the game, looking the part (more numbered shirts), entertaining the opposition and having a good tea. I believe that we succeeded in these areas most of the time largely due to the dedication of players and coaches alike. In the case of Rendcomb playing fields, there is another factor - the weather - as our hardy band of spectators will confirm, but they say it is worth it for the tea! Old Rendcombians know this only too well. We continued to use the Royal Agricultural College's astroturf pitch on Mondays and Thursdays, and by changing the juniors' games days they have been able to learn and practice their skills on this true surface. Although some of our eight grass pitches on 'top field' still suffer from rugby in the previous term, many visitors commented on their quality and, of course, the vista which we sometimes take for granted. Our thanks must go to the groundsmen, David Essenhigh, David Mead and their pupil helpers, for their hard work throughout a

season in which there were few cancellations. Ten teams were run on a regular basis with girls of forms 1, 2 and 3 involved for the last time. All girls will play hockey in the Christmas term in future. The occasional mixed seniors fixture, a 5th XI match, under 16 and junior girls' matches added variety and were made possible by the flexibility of our visiting games teachers, including Max Chase.

After more than 30 years of service to hockey at Rendcomb, Bill White decided to make this his last year and he coached the under 15 'B' squad with his usual enthusiasm. He will be a great loss but I know that he will continue to contribute from the side line as a spectator of his beloved sport. We were without John Holt this season following his retirement from the game. He has coached hockey at Rendcomb for 25 years and he ran the 1st team successfully for a significant period.

Amongst the pupils the standard of play was high and this was coupled with great determination in most cases. The senior XIs had a most successful season, winning more than half of their matches and scoring nearly eighty goals. Two boys played for the county under 21 level, one of whom captained a successful 'B' side. The interest in hockey at Rendcomb is reflected in the turnout for the old Rendcombian society fixture. This year three mens' matches took place and a fourth was only prevented by the local clubs playing on the same day. Thanks are due to Phil Moore and others for organising the teams.

Overall record: Played 83; cancelled 6; won 34; drew 9; lost 40; Goals for 148; goals against 164

1st XI results:

v. Cheltenham H.C. Wed XI (H)	D 3-3
v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	L 0-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	W 2-0
v. Christ College, Brecon (A)	W 2-0
v. Kingswood School, Bath (A)	L 1-2
v. Dean Close School (A)	L 0-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	D 2-2
v. Old Rendcombian Society (H)	D 2-2
v. Cirencester H.C. 'A' XI (A)	L 2-3



6th Form:

v. Cheltenham Bournside School (A)	W 1-0
v. King's School, Worcester	cancelled
v. Colston's Collegiate, Bristol	cancelled

C.J.Wood

Cricket

'One of the best cricket fields in England' wrote William Dregghorn describing Rendcomb playing fields in 'Geology Explained in the Severn Vale and Cotswolds'. The small band of spectators who watched the 1st XI during cricket week would certainly agree. The weather was good, the wickets hard, the outfield fast and the

cricket of a high standard. The captain, Mark Valentine, used the conditions well and had an outstanding week, with scores of 61 not out; 104, 88 and 66 not out. (475 during the season). The season as a whole has been quite varied. The 1st XI fielded a young side, many of whom will be available next year. Their best moment was an excellent win against a strong Pate's XI. They were well supported during the season by some members of the 2nd XI.

Senior cricket should do well in the next couple of years, as the U15 'A' and 'B' sides had good seasons, the 'B' XI being particularly strong for Rendcomb. Francis Newcombe scored a fine century for the 'A' side against King's, Gloucester, and with Michael Smith played a few games for the 1st XI. The U14s really came into their own when playing in the Lords Taverners competition. They defeated Pate's and Newent Community School before losing in the semi-final to a strong Wycliffe College side.

The U13's, now well established on Landage, were quite weak and suffered some heavy defeats.

With the number of girls increasing in the junior school, there may be too few boys to field 'B' XIs in a couple of years. As some girls have shown a keen interest in the game and a number play in the 1st XIs of some independent schools, perhaps we should encourage their full involvement in 1994, so that they have a chance of playing for the 1st XI in the year 2000!

The pavilion, opened in 1970, was in need of some refurbishment. During the close season doors were replaced, flooring improved, the kitchen re-equipped and the interior painted by our own maintenance team. It was good to see so many O.R.'s back this year, raising two quality sides, and to see so many still playing club cricket.

C.C. Burden

Rugby 1993-94 Season

A full fixture list was again completed with few cancellations. This year saw the addition of a new 'block' against Belmont Abbey, a perfect fixture for the future curtailed by their unfortunate recent demise (the school has closed!). We were again forced to combine the Colts within the senior three teams, while at the junior end we were just able to run 'B' XVs at U14 and U13 levels. This arrangement and the modest overall record reflects the reduced depth within the squads as the change in gender balance within the college gathers pace and highlights the strength of the fixture list that we have developed over the years. This problem will clearly be worse next year and so we have had to review and alter our fixtures for next season, a sobering and even sad exercise, firstly in remembering the heady seasons during the last 14 years and secondly with the knowledge that it will irreparably damage our rugby reputation, both within the county and beyond.

The senior squads played with usual energy and commitment, with all of them managing a 50/50 record - the quality of the XV's play helped by a mixture of the 'old guard' (especially Chris Oliver and the talented Chris Lawton), the strength and reliability of the 6B men and the enthusiasm, courage and skill of the 'rookie' 5th formers. The most influential player was skipper Itseng Kwelagobe. Always leading by example, he developed a high level of team discipline and commitment and impressed one with his individual power, technical capability and understanding of the game. I have no doubt he will go on to play at a very high standard. Itseng's leadership was a major factor in the final exciting match of the season against the old Rendcombians. In a fascinating encounter the old boys failed to take advantage of the strong winds behind them in the first half, going into the break as leaders by 7-5. The lead changed hands three times in a nail-biting second half with the school just holding on to a 13-12 victory. A fine match played as usual in an excellent spirit and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It is refreshing to hear of the many O.R.s that have continued with their rugby football, in many cases to very high senior club level and even beyond. One notable recent addition to the list is Ben Maslen, who has not only appeared several times on television playing in the 'cherry and white' colours of Gloucester (just don't mention the Orrell match!), but was selected for the England student's team. Sadly injury prevented him from actually playing. Other successes include his 'little' brother Dan who also looks set to grace our screens next season in the Varsity match as scrum-half for Cambridge. Gareth Davis, who played for the Anglo-Welsh U21 side, Hugh Costelloe who has proudly worn the shamrock of London Irish colts and was in the Gloucestershire county colts team that were runners-up at Twickenham in the county championships, and Nicholas Priscott who captained the Surrey colts this season. Congratulations to them all and best of luck for next season and beyond.

At this juncture it is most appropriate to mention the unfortunate departure, as of September, of Mr. Christopher King. O.R.s will remember his considerable contribution to Rendcomb rugby as coach to sides of all ages, particularly over the last 5 years with the XV. I am sure recent leavers will agree that he not only helped them to some excellent results by developing in players a real enthusiasm and commitment for the game. His leaving is particularly sad for, in moving to Kimbolton School, he has forsaken the sacred art of ruggar for the dubious 'art' of soccer! Coach to the XV for the next season will be Michael Slark (business studies), while a new addition to the coaching staff will be O.R. Alex Breal, newly-appointed geography and maths teacher.

Highlights of the season (other than the O.R.s match mentioned above)? We again contributed substantially to the district team U16 level, while in the district competition the U15 team reached the final, where in a re-run of last year's final, they narrowly failed to take the Cup by 5-12. The club dinner again proved a popular and splendid occasion.

Finally, with a view to the 75th Anniversary celebrations, we are considering the possibility of holding a president's XV v O.R. XV match followed by a formal dinner, during the Christmas term 1995. If old boys are interested or have any comments or other suggestions to make, please drop me a line.

M.J.N.

Ladies' Hockey Fixture

If you are interested in playing hockey for the O.R. society against the school on Sunday March 19th 1995 please contact Chris Wood on 0285 831263. This year the girls' XI were very disappointed not to play and there must be many ladies out there wanting to take to the pitch again!

For Sale

'Old Rendcombians' rugby style leisure shirts in navy with red band and red collar are on sale at sports fixtures and the summer reunion (price £29.50). If you would like one sent to you please write to Chris Wood, Rendcomb College, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 7HA, stating your size and including a cheque for £31.50.

Many thanks to Justine Platt for modelling the shirt.



Rendcomb College Cricket Tour - Barbados 1994

A tour party of 16 boys and 4 girls are going for a fortnight's cricket tour to Barbados in July 1994. There will be 5 or 6 one-day matches and numerous chances to sample the culture on the island. This summer term, on Friday 13th May, there will be a dinner in aid of the tour with Dennis Silk as the guest speaker. An auction of promises will also be held on the night. If anyone wishes to come to the dinner and auction, or feels they can make a donation for the auction or can help in any way, could they please contact David Essenhigh or myself at the College. (0285 831213).

John Watson (staff 1993 -)

O.R. Travel Bursary

Some extracts from Anita Duguid's (1990 - 92) compelling account of an expedition to British Columbia with the British Schools Exploring Society - July 1993:

"The weather was very sunny and over 100°F, with mosquitoes everywhere. Our large mammal group left to walk to Still Water Lake in the heat of the day, a very tiring experience taking three hours. Some of the group caught the sickness bug, which seemed to be rapidly spreading around.

Thursday 22 July was a repetition of Wednesday. By the time we had reached base camp for the third time in three days, we had walked 80 miles and climbed the equivalent of Mount Snowdon three times from sea level to summit and my body knew it! I was getting much fitter though and used to carrying both a heavy rucksack and mosquitoes around!

Thursday 5 August - The third day in a row, in temperatures of over 100°F. Today we learned of one of our fellow young expeditioners in another group who has got a disease causing her to gradually go blind. She will be totally blind in five years. As well as this disease she has been totally deaf since birth. We communicate

with her by lip reading. What have we people with all our limbs and senses got to complain about, when others a lot less fortunate don't utter a word of complaint?

Thursday 12 August, a bear tracking day. Three of us walked silently, so as not to disturb any wildlife, stopping occasionally to eat the berries which grew on the side of the trail. The berries, wild raspberries, were the first fresh fruit eaten since leaving the U.K. Again, despite our efforts, no bears were seen. However we saw signs of their existence - bear scat and a hornets nest which had been dug up. Four of us decided that perhaps the best time to see bears would be in the early morning, so on Friday 13 August we awoke at 04.30. It was still dark when we launched the canoe. Two canoed, whilst two of us looked for bears. We canoed up to the top end of Still Water Lake. Everything was so peaceful and we watched the sun rising, it was beautiful. On the journey up to the far end of the lake we saw six otters playing happily on floating logs and a deer running along the lakeside. We saw four golden eagles circling overhead and sat in the canoe watching them for over an hour until they were joined by four bald eagles. It was a memorable sight.

We stayed at Hagensburg school, on the gym floor. We all had at least one hot shower (with soap), our first for 5 and a half weeks! It is surprising how much we take for granted. In the U.K. you would never get excited about a shower with soap, but believe me after 5 and a half weeks you do! We then all walked up to the local shop, ate fruit and a beefburger in the village cafe - civilisation at last!"



Anita (top) in British Columbia

Congratulations

Michael Bews (1983 - 88) on obtaining first class honours in computer science, University College of Swansea.

Sara Payne (1988 - 90) on being awarded the Boulter Exhibition for English, Christ Church, Oxford

Mark Nicholls (1983 - 90) on being awarded first class honours in politics at Durham University

Jessica Naish (1987 - 89) on being awarded first class honours in drama and theatre studies at the University of Kent

Richard Dunwoody (1975 - 81) champion National Hunt jockey 1993, on being awarded an M.B.E.

David Shield (1966 - 73) on being awarded first class honours in music, technology and computing at the Open University

Marriages

Matthew Houseman (1980 - 87) to Nicola England, July 1993

Barney Hatcher (1978 - 85) to Carol Anne Stacey, September 1993

Julian Fellows (1981 - 89) to Hilary Calvert, July 1993

Tom Branston (1981 - 86) to Penelope Gazzard, September 1993

John Webb (1954 - 63) to Jane Blaydon, January 1994

Terence Seager to **Alice Parshall** (1974 - 76) April 1994

Mike Uglow (1977 - 84) to Lyndsey Jefferson, August 1993

Births

To Louise and **John Henniker-Gotley** (1976 - 80) a daughter, Charlotte, August 1992

To Catherine and **Simon Young**, a son, Peter Philip, June 1993



To **Claire** (née Comrie) (1978 - 80) and David **Foster**, a daughter, Hannah Alice, August 1993
 To **Rebecca** (née **Norman**) (1979 - 81) and **Robin Webb** (1974 - 81) a daughter, Lily, January 1994
 To **Sally** (née Horne) (1978 - 80) and Ben **Morris** a daughter, Philippa Wynsome, March 1994
 To **Jocelyn** (née Goldie) (1982-84) and Barry **Calverly** a daughter Harriet Lucinda Jane, December 1993
 To **Jennifer** (née Watson) (1978 - 80) and **Adam Phelps** (1979 - 82) a daughter, Holly Florence, April 1994

O.R. College Lunch

O.R.'s who were at Rendcomb between 1920 and 1930 were invited by the headmaster to lunch on March 16th. The following were able to come:-
 Mr and Mrs R. Butler; Mr and Mrs C. Hartland; Dr and Mrs P. Wyon; C.J. Gough; Mr and Mrs G. Stanley; C. Raggatt and his son; Mr and Mrs D. Haes; Mr and Mrs C. Eyles.
 After the lunch, at which the headmaster gave a short address, O.R. 's toured the school - or went to discover old haunts! Everyone enjoyed the gathering and seeing old friends again after so many years.

O.R. Oxford Reunion

Justine Platt (1988 - 90) and **James Sleeman** (1985 - 92) kindly arranged for an Oxford dinner on February 11th. Kevin Holmes, Michael Moody, Aubrey Powell, Sara Payne, Nicholas S. Smith, Nicholas J. Smith, Chris Wood, Graham Smith and Bill White enjoyed an excellent meal in 'The Crypt'. Congratulations to Justine and James for their initiative and organisation!

Obituary

We have learnt, with great sorrow, of the deaths of the following members of the society and send our condolences to their families:-

Philip Alder (1933 - 38) died in October 1992. He had been a metallurgist responsible for the heat treatment department at Thrisells in Bristol.

Stanley Trayhurn (1935 - 42) sadly died of cancer in 1991. He was a barrister and enjoyed a high reputation as an advocate in Bristol. He subsequently became a registrar in Bristol and later in Plymouth.
 (We are grateful to Alan Shield for the above information.)

Ronald Daubeny (1920 - 26) died in July 1993. He was one of the original 12 pupils. His elder son, Philip writes: "Throughout his life he always referred to his time at Rendcomb with pride and happiness, and his interest in the college and its activities remained right up to the final few days of his life."

We reproduce the following obituary article from 'The Times' with due acknowledgements:-

Ronald Daubeny, The Times - August 1993

Ronald Giles Daubeny, OBE, Comptroller of the last Viceroy's Household in India, died on July 15 aged 85.

He was born on July 19, 1907. Ronald Daubeny was made Comptroller of the Household in New Delhi and Simla to the last Viceroy of India - Earl Mountbatten of Burma - in May 1947. He came to the position having served as an aide-de-camp (ADC) for one of the previous Viceroys, the Earl of Willingdon, in the 1930s. Daubeny divided his time with Mountbatten between Sir Edwin Lutyens's palace in New Delhi and the viceregal Lodge at Simla in the Lower Himalayas. Hedged in by lancers, chuprassies, mace-bearers, aides-de-camp and private secretaries, the viceroy seldom spoke the vernacular and Daubeny's fluent Hindi was invaluable in running the huge households that had to be maintained. (Six Indian boys were employed solely to throw tennis balls at the pigeons which collected on the roof of the New Delhi palace). Daubeny came to the job only two months after Mountbatten had taken over from the previous viceroy, and during the difficult period of transition to independence. Ronald Giles 'Daubs' Daubeny was the son of a rubber planter, much absent during his childhood. Money was scarce, and Daubeny was fortunate to be accepted as the first of the original 12 boys at Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire - founded by the philanthropist Sir Noel Wills in 1920 - whose fees were all paid for by scholarship. Rendcomb was short on amenities in Daubeny's day: the boys had to build their own tennis courts and outdoor theatre, and performed the household chores on a rota system. Having tried and failed for a scholarship to Cambridge, Daubeny sat the Open Competitive Examination for the Indian Police and scored the maximum 400 points during the interview. He was trained at the Police Training College in Bihar from 1926-27, before progressing through the ranks. Daubeny was a keen sportsman, excelling at tennis, golf and polo but he was not the typical Englishman in India (he complained that he could never afford the best polo ponies). Even so he was promoted fast for his even handedness and sympathy in dealing with the Indians. In 1929 he was made ADC to the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, Sir James Sifton, and Commandant of the Governor's bodyguard. Sifton was one of Daubeny's tennis partners, and when the governor visited Viceroy House in New Delhi he took Daubeny with him and introduced him to the Earl of Willingdon, then Viceroy of India. Willingdon found Daubeny an extremely courteous and charming young man and the upshot was that in 1933 Daubeny was made ADC to the Earl, an unprecedented promotion for a member of the Indian Police. In April 1935 Daubeny transferred from the Indian Police to the Indian Political Service - the first from the police service to be transferred in peacetime. In May that year, a three-minute earthquake shook British Baluchistan wrecking the hill station of Quetta and killing 30,000 people, among them more than 90 Britons. Daubeny was placed in charge of the Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund and, with a network of fundraisers through the sub-continent and Britain, he was able to raise the staggering figure of more than £1 million. Daubeny had a facility with languages, speaking fluent French, Hindi and Persian and in 1940, he was seconded to the Persian Gulf and made vice-consul at Khorramshahr in Iran. His district covered the port of Abadan, headquarters of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which played such a vital part in the allied war effort. In February the following year he transferred to the British Legation at Kabul in Afghanistan - a country the allies feared Germany would invade as a gateway to India - and worked alongside MI6. He was appointed OBE in 1945. Daubeny was encouraged to remain in the foreign office after Indian independence, and would doubtless have gone on to some ambassadorial appointment in due course had he done so. But financial constraints forced him to return to England. He settled at Linton, Kent, and in July 1948, joined the Anglo-Iranian Company (later BP) in London. He returned to Iran in 1951 to help oversee the withdrawal of company personnel, after the Iranian government nationalised the oil industry. He was made a BP director in 1957 and retired in 1967 to take up farming - beef, cattle and sheep. In 1955 Ronald Daubeny married Ann Haldin. She died in 1986. He is survived by their two sons.

Fredy Fisher (1936 - 40) died in August 1993. He was taught by John and Kathleen James with whom he regularly corresponded. John Morris (brother of Sam (1937 - 41)) has written as follows:-
 "You will remember that in his memoirs Sam wrote with great affection of his schooldays' friendship with Fredy Fisher. Last Thursday I went to St. John's Church, Smith Square, for a service of celebration of the life of Fredy who died recently. I thought it would be of interest to you to know that special reference was made to his schooldays at Rendcomb and to the fact that he arrived there not knowing a word of English. Mention was made of the tremendous help he received from Sam, the speaker (the U.S. Ambassador) also spoke of the great and abiding influence of the history master (Mr James) at Rendcomb. It all made a great impression on me."

We reproduce the obituary notice from The Times with due acknowledgements:-
 Max Henry (Fredy) Fisher, a director of the merchant bank S.G. Warburg and from 1973 to 1980 editor of The Financial Times, died on August 29 aged 71. He was born in Berlin on May 30, 1922. Fredy Fisher was on the staff of the Financial Times for 23 years, including his eight years as editor. It was the period when the newspaper was transformed from being a small circulation financial journal, whose readership was largely confined to the City of London, to one of the world's most respected daily journals, with a production centre on the continent of Europe and a weekly magazine published in America. Both these latter developments took place during the years of Fisher's editorship as did the strengthening of the paper's industrial coverage, which had previously tended to be overshadowed by its financial reporting. The son of Fritz and Sophia Fischer (the

name was subsequently anglicised to Fisher) he had his early childhood in Berlin where he was educated at the Fichte-Gymnasium. The Fischer household was a musical one - two of his father's closest friends were the pianist Artur Schnabel and the conductor Otto Klemperer. But in 1936 with the Nazi threat breathing down their necks, his parents left Germany for Switzerland and Fisher, who had been brought up bi-lingually in German and French, was sent to school in England at Rendcomb College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. However he never lost his guttural, Teutonic accent. Four year after arriving in England he was shipped to an internment camp in Australia under the wartime 'enemy aliens' regulations. By 1942 Fisher had persuaded the authorities that the internment was unjustified and was allowed to return to Britain where he joined the army. He took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944 as a trooper in the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars. After the war Fisher took a first in history at Lincoln College, Oxford. Then, from 1949 to 1956 he worked on the German war documents project at the foreign office library. After leaving the foreign office he spent a short period as a visiting lecturer at Melbourne University, then in 1957 he was recruited by the Financial Times. The paper he joined was still at a formative stage in the hands of its editor Gordon Newton who during the 1950s had begun to recruit an elite group of untrained graduates (among them Samuel Brittan, Nigel Lawson and William Rees-Mogg) to help him turn the FT from a City sheet into a national newspaper. Fisher joined the paper as the second man in a two-man foreign department, and was responsible for Commonwealth and foreign news. He became foreign editor with responsibilities on the home news side of the paper. He helped Newton to broaden the industrial, economic and political coverage, moving the paper away from pure City news. Fisher was made editor in 1973 after Newton's departure. The paper's authority grew apace under him, though he would have been the first to acknowledge that it did so from an extremely sound basis which owed everything to the prescience of his predecessor. During his editorship the newspaper planned and carried through publication of the so-called Frankfurt edition, which gave continental Europe its own specially prepared version of the paper. Another major venture was the American magazine, World Business Weekly. Fisher could be a hard task master. He was punctilious about style and accuracy and expected his staff to follow his example, but he was respected rather than resented for this. He resigned in 1980 to join Warburgs but remained a director of the Financial Times' parent company, Pearson Longman. There had been a suggestion in the late 1970s, that he would be an appropriate choice as British ambassador to Bonn, but nothing concrete materialised. Fisher married, in 1952, Rosemary Margaret Maxwell. He is survived by her and by their two sons and a daughter.

Jack Salter died in September 1993. Jack was art master at Rendcomb from 1958 until 1967. He took part in designing the present art department and founded the Rendcomb pottery. He was also an enthusiastic coach of the 1st XV. He moved to Reus in Catalonia, Spain, early in 1968 and married there. In Reus he ran a well-known pottery studio; his products were widely admired. He was a thoroughly naturalised member of local society and spoke Catalan fluently. An address given at his funeral by a poet living in Reus, Xavier Amoros, gives an idea of how much he was appreciated. He is survived by his wife, Isabel, and his daughter, Mirela.

A Distinct and Compact Memory

The loss of Jack Salter is one of those sad events which mar the harmony in which a group in a society, a fragment of population, had reposed a portion of its hope. When a number of people feel misunderstood and undervalued and, surprisingly, a single individual decides unreservedly to make himself part of them, the group breathes a thankful response. Quietly and gently Jack Salter arrived from a diverse England: born in Australia, studying at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, he came amongst us with his art and, above all, with his great quality as a human being. He was able, supported by his family, open-handedly to join the new community he had chosen. Catalan by desire, he wanted to identify himself completely with the country. He learned our language with an especial love, convinced that language is a gauge of humanity of the highest order, a vital ingredient of the worthiest environment. He absorbed Catalan without fault; he made it his own and spoke it perfectly with the meticulous care of his gentle diction. An artist in form, a potter, a creator, he lived his life constantly observing, with a delicate attention for the all material, revealing objects he saw around him. Out of his art he made things with his hands; they received the creative command from within him, but strove also to gather, through the knowledge conveyed by touch, the whole sensitive art of manipulation which can give life to the most skilful craftwork. Jack Salter has belonged to Reus for a quarter of a century without ever uttering a single note of discord, as if his greatest desire were to live quietly in society a life of refinement and devotion. The passing amongst us of this loved and lovable fellow-citizen has left an imprint as delightful and delicate as his own way of life. And at once there has arisen a memory full of affection and respect, producing as it is evoked a strong and lasting feeling of love and gratitude, a positive and distinct feeling for the person who has made it possible.

Xavier Amoros

Francis Nevel

The following further tributes have been kindly sent:-

Peter Wyon (1926 - 30) writes:

"I was sad to read of the news of the death of 'Franz' Nevel. I joined the school in January 1926, a term after he arrived. My first dormitory was with him, also Bill Jones and David Haes. His nickname was 'checko' as he had been evacuated from Czechoslovakia after the first Great War. I often wondered what happened to his parents. He had been welcomed into the home of G. Leigh-Mallory, who with Irving had almost climbed Everest in 1924 - they did not return. Later I once visited their lovely home in Surrey and met Mrs Mallory and the family. Franz was very strong physically and had a great sense of humour. He was artistic and, when about 16 years old, he wrote and hand printed a small colourful magazine of news and jokes. The four of us in dorm 4 were members of the largest form - 18 in number - up to that time (1926). It was well described by Dick Field in his charming book 'Champagne Days'*. The form undertook various enterprises, such as the construction of the path from the front drive to the church, cleaning the 'dust of ages' from the skylight in the billiard room of the mansion, known then as the geography room. Franz was the energetic leader of these efforts. When he left school, he set up in the furniture business. When I was married in 1939, we ordered a light-oak bedroom suite of unusual design, it is now in use by our third son".

(*Any O.R.'s who would like a copy of 'Champagne Days' should write to Bill White. No charge for the book but contributions for the postage will be appreciated.)

David Haes (1926 - 29) writes:

"Thank you for sending me the O.R. magazine for 1993. I was saddened to learn of the death of Franz Nevel (Knefel) in February. He and I left Rendcomb at the end of the summer term 1929. He had arrived one term earlier than me in 1926 and we were in the same form. He got a job on the front desk at the Waldorf Hotel, which he hated, and I served an apprenticeship with a cabinet makers in Norwich. I came to London in search of a job in 1931. The slump was at its height and jobs scarce. On meeting up with Franz later, we decided - with the help of friends of his - to start up a furniture making business. Franz doing the 'office' part and I the manufacturing side. Our first workshop was in a derelict building in Park Street, near Baker Street, NW1. Our second was in a cellar beneath Swiss Cottage Metropolitan line station, and our third and 'permanent' one was in a mews off Regents Park Road, close to Primrose Hill. The mews had housed the carriages and stabled the horses of the wealthy people who lived in the large Victorian houses facing Primrose Hill. Clara Butt, the famous singer, was one of them. We rented part of the mews at first, but as business improved we finally bought the freehold with some money that my father gave me. The name of the firm was 'Betula Limited', Betula being the botanical name of the birch tree. When war came in 1939 we had the good fortune to be taken over by Woolwich Arsenal, which, because of its vulnerability on its Thameside site below Greenwich, was being dispersed mostly up north. At one stage during the war we were employing about 50 people, about half of them women, and a number of Jewish refugee teenagers from Germany and Austria. We bought a nearby terraced house for Franz and me and some of our staff to live in as travelling was difficult. It also served as a canteen. No. 120 Regents Park Road became a focal point for O.R.'s on their visits to London. I recall Raymond Butler's visit. Others who came on various occasions were Reginald Townsend, P. Hartland, Cecil Price, C.E. Browning, C. Wells... and just before the war we had a special visit from Mr and Mrs Simpson when they were living in Chelsea at that time. Betula came to an end in 1965. There were several reasons for this. Franz then concentrated on the timber business that he had set up at Ayet Green near Barnet, while I returned to making furniture in my own workshop in Guildford. We met up from time to time if either of us was in the other's district. I think the last occasion was in the 1970's and thereafter we had little contact. The 34 years in which Betula existed formed the greater part of our working lives, difficult at times, but for the most part they were happy years. Franz was brought to this country at the age of 7 by the Red Cross, and was cared for by Margery Turner, daughter of the well known architect, Thackeray Turner. It was she who arranged for him to go to Rendcomb. One of the friends who helped us was Gladys Mayer who was a Red Cross nurse during the first world war. It was she who, with other Red Cross personnel, found Franz and many other orphaned children in a camp near Vienna and brought them to this country."

Robert Henry (Bob) Jones TD, FBIM; (1933 - 1994)

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Bob Jones, in hospital in January, whilst recovering from the effects of a traffic accident sustained in December 1993.

Bob Jones was born on 10th April, 1933, in the Forest of Dean, and attended primary school at Lydney. Here he made the first of many achievements which marked his career, an open scholarship to Rendcomb College, Cirencester, which he attended between 1943 and 1952. Rendcomb undoubtedly had a considerable effect on him: he achieved a good degree of success in the academic field, and also put great effort into many other activities, particularly sport, music and public affairs. He was a talented hockey player - he later played for

Southgate 1, West Glos, and also represented the T.A. His love for the trumpet - and his skill at playing it - were a joy to me in our school days when he was a member of 'The Four Aces' jazz band, which played for school dances on Saturday nights. This joy of music was to last him in good stead: his wife once confided to me, many years later, that if he had had a difficult day at the office, when he came home he would disappear into his study and 'blow hell out of a trumpet'. He joined the army in 1952, serving initially with the Royal Armoured Corps, but transferring with a national service commission to the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment for the remainder of the two year period. He saw active service in Kenya with the Devonshires, as a platoon commander on anti Mau-Mau operations. His interest in the army was substantial, and after demobilisation from national service, he joined the territorial army, in the 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. He remained actively involved with this unit until 1967, by which time he had reached the rank of major, and had been awarded the Territorial Decoration. It was after national service that Bob, like so many of his contemporaries, could first get to grips with the start of the rest of his life and business was to be his chosen field. In this, as in all other things to which he applied himself, he excelled. His initial training was with the Bristol and London business schools, and as a management trainee with John Hall and Sons (Brolac Paints). This was followed by management positions with Ashton Containers, and the English Corrugated Paper Company Ltd, and in 1969 he joined Lonsdale Universal Plc. It was here, as part of the senior management team (later as the managing director) that he made a major contribution to boosting profits by a factor of five in as many years. No mean task, and the sort of work which was to become his forte in the coming years. Since 1976, he was, in his own words, 'an independent professional chairman, non executive director and company advisor'. In this capacity his work involved restoring and expanding troubled businesses as a non-executive chairman of the board. His list of clients is both extensive and impressive, and his achievements likewise. Although based in Bristol, his work extended throughout the U.K. and abroad. Throughout all his busy life, he found time for other interests - often music, though particularly for people. He maintained strong ties with Rendcomb and the army, and was a council member and chairman of the West of England Institute of Directors. My own recollections of him are several, but they all bear one stamp - integrity. I had the privilege of knowing him from an early age, and observing him in action. He was the epitome of a 'splendid chap' - the perfect English gentleman. I remember well him explaining to me his philosophy of dealing with people, 'be fair, firm and friendly'. I can think of no better advice to anyone, and no better exponent of this than Bob himself. In 1973 he married Valerie Harris, (née Underwood), and became a stepfather to her son Paul, in whom he took a great and loving interest. He and Valerie had a daughter, Caroline in 1975, who is now studying music at Reading University. Bob and Valerie had a great love of travel, and together visited many countries, especially enjoying a return visit to Kenya and a camel safari, a working visit to Sri Lanka, and recently, a short visit to see friends in St. Petersburg. We send our deepest sympathy to Valerie, Paul and Caroline on their tragic and untimely loss.

Julian Comrie

Rendcomb College - 1946 - 1954

The Gloucestershire Regiment - 1955-56

College News

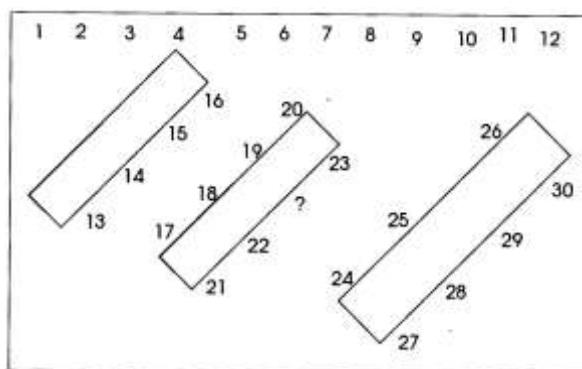
As usual there have been many interesting events in the school calendar during the past twelve months. In May, the choir performed Schubert's Mass in G in St. Peter's Church for Ascension Day. A two day visit by the Antic Theatre Company provided a weekend Drama Workshop for forms 4 and 6B. The guest speaker on founder's day was Lord Charteris of Amisfield. The parents' association have again been active with a 'Forties Night' and the annual family day in June which included a cricket match against the staff. The summer term ended with the annual cricket week. In September a fete was held in the college grounds, organised by Mr Sudbury, with stalls manned by villagers, pupils and parents. The fete was opened by Richard Dunwoody and £1,800 was raised. During the year various speakers have been invited to address the sixth form on Monday evenings as part of the P.S.E. course. Faures Requiem was performed by the choir in November and the carol service was held in Cirencester Church on December 12th. The headmaster and the director of music, David White, staged a most enjoyable production of 'Guys and Dolls' in February. In March, the headmaster invited O.R.'s who were at Rendcomb between 1920 and 1930 to lunch at the college.

O.R. Dinner 1946 or 1947 Ye Olde Cock Tavern

Peter Field and Joe Maslin have identified the following:

1. P.F. Gurdon
2. P.L. Field
- 3.
4. D. Field
5. W.S. Morgan
6. J.H.S.
7. K. Morgan
8. D. Dakin
9. D.W.L.B.
10. T. Perkins
11. J.R. Wheeler
12. P.H. Tuft
13. G. Wilson
- 14.
15. A. Browning
16. C. Wells
17. N. Dalton
- 18.
- 19.
20. J.C. Maslin
- 21.
22. D. Haig?

23. C. Eyles
24. J.H.A. Muirhead
25. D. Vaughan
- 26.
27. W.Y. Willetts
28. P.M. Lambert
- 29.
- 30.



Any one who can fill in the missing names is invited to write to Bill White at the college

Staff Common Room News

Mrs C.A. Holdaway

Mrs Holdaway joined the staff in 1971 to develop German as a mainstream subject and to act as tutor to the new intake of girls in the sixth form. For many years she had sole responsibility for girls' sport and for arranging their outings and expeditions. She was responsible for the girls' welfare and pastoral care, in conjunction with Denis and Mary Price who were in charge of Park House, and subsequently the Hannafords. The success of the integration of girls into the Rendcomb scene is very largely due to Mrs Holdaway's sympathetic understanding of their needs. In 1988, with her husband, John, she took over the running of Park House which was changed from its original co-educational status to that of an all girls house in 1989. From 1983 she was also head of modern languages, during a time of much change in the teaching of French and German. She took early retirement in 1993 but has continued to teach GCSE and 'A' level German during the past year. The following articles from old Rendcombians give an idea of Mrs Holdaway's tremendous dedication and contribution to Rendcomb, and the affection in which she is held by those who know her.

From Sally Paterson (née Blyth, 1973 - 75)

It's hard to think of Mrs Holdaway retiring! First of all, she always had so much energy, one could never think of her calling it a day. Secondly, it has suddenly made me realise that we left Rendcomb almost twenty years ago! I am not sure who the retirement makes feel older - her or us! I refer to 'her' and 'us', but actually the relationship was never like that. Mrs Holdaway was always there to turn to, talk to about problems, moan to, or even just have a good gossip with. (Mrs Holdaway always liked to be kept informed as to who was with who!) She really acted as bridge between the rest of the staff and 'the girls'. At the time, Mrs Holdaway felt as new as we did when we first arrived at Rendcomb. Her appointment coincided with the school's first steps towards going 'co-ed'. We were among the first intake of girls to the school. Park House had just been completed and we were the ones to christen it. There was quite a feeling of camaraderie as we worked to make the experiment a success. That came with a bending of all the new rules as we tested them to see where the boundaries really lay and poor Mrs Holdaway was often the one who had to intervene to mediate! It was under Mrs Holdaway that the first girls' netball and tennis teams were formed and trained by none other than CAH herself, racing up and down the sidelines shouting instructions. But she was always there at every match, giving her loyal support, congratulating or consoling - usually the latter, as we strived to make our mark on the local leagues,

but always cheerful. I think one memory which springs to the minds of all the girls who were at Rendcomb in the early 70s were the occasional Sunday teas chez Holdaway. Both Mr and Mrs Holdaway would come to Park House to collect us all and we would go back to their house for a sumptuous spread. That was when we really gossiped, while Mr Holdaway seemed to revel in having all the girls giggling around him! Unfortunately I haven't been able to return to Rendcomb for a while, but those who have always exclaim: 'She just hasn't changed!'. To my mind Mrs Holdaway will never change and I am sure that all the girls who have passed through the school will have the same fond memories of her as we do. I know that all my friends share the very good wishes I send to you and Mr Holdaway for an extremely happy retirement. Rendcomb won't be the same - it's the end of an era!

(The O.R. news section contains a note about Sally Paterson)

From Barney Branston (1982-87)

Having sadly realised that there is much more to biology than the fun of dissection (!) I took the leap of faith into the linguistic unknown and opted instead for German in the 4th form, my marks in various biology exams suggesting that it might in fact be 'better the devil you don't know' etc! My memories of those formative lessons are not ones of endless lists of vocabulary to be learnt by rote - although I'm sure there must have been dark days and darker preps - but instead, the sense of fun which pervaded the classroom. With all the boyish enthusiasm of learning a new code, there was that unmistakeable new thrill of communicating in a foreign language, which Mrs Holdaway carefully nurtured through her emphasis on role play and the spoken word. Hours spent in the language laboratory deciphering news items for later discussion, and the subsequent open forum back in the classroom, were always set against the backdrop of Mrs Holdaway's seemingly endless enthusiasm, encouragement and joviality. There is a simple truism to teaching which must be accepted without debate: if the lessons are made interesting and fun, and the pupil made to feel that he/she is enjoying the learning process, then half of the teacher's battle is already won, and in this respect Mrs Holdaway was a constant weekly victor. It is undoubtedly for this quality that so many of her pupils speak so fondly of her and make a point of seeking her out on O.R.'s days. With the crystallisation of subjects inevitable in the jump from 'O' levels to 'A' levels, the numbers of the German set dwindled to four, providing a pupil to teacher ratio much envied by other disciplines, due to the manifest advantages of individual attention. Our introduction to German literature was couched in Mrs Holdaway's enthusiastic style, which eventually convinced those of us wary of the unknown to enjoy the works of writers such as Durrenmatt, Mann and Storm. Mrs Holdaway's belief in the importance of learning the language 'in situ' was a constant in her management of her pupil's endeavours, and it was with such personal support that I enjoyed four weeks of a German family's hospitality, to return speaking German with much increased confidence. It was largely due to Mrs Holdaway's contagious enthusiasm and her essential belief in her pupil's ability that I entered the Oxbridge exams, and after hours of Mrs Holdaway's endlessly patient extra tuition sat the paper for German language. Unfortunately I had to drop my pursuit of German once at Christ Church, but I feel forever indebted to Mrs Holdaway for the deep-rooted enthusiasm I still feel for picking up again once the opportunity arises. To have engendered such a sense of fun, interest, and a belief in one's own ability were perhaps Mrs Holdaway's greatest teaching qualities, and I am convinced that this will strike a chord in the memory of all her former charges. Just after I left Rendcomb in 1987, Mrs Holdaway took over the reins of Park House with her charming husband, John, where I gather she continued to show enormous interest in every aspect of the girls' lives, combining affection, understanding and guidance in her own unique way. I am sure that all O.R.'s who know Mrs Holdaway or who were taught by her will join me in wishing her a very happy retirement, and enormous thanks for so many fond memories.

(Barney Branston read modern languages at Oxford University and is now an officer in the Welsh Guards).

From Dr. Alice Parshall (1974-76)

It is 20 years ago this autumn that I arrived at Rendcomb, and that is rather alarming. Not that I mind the passage of 20 years (which is just as well), but because I really don't feel any differently now from then. I do know however, that I find it a great deal harder than I did to learn large amounts of new materials and even more annoyingly I have some inkling of the neuroscientific basis for that. There are also some hoops through which one's body will no longer jump, all night parties for example - and I haven't played a game of netball for years. Many of my memories of Mrs Holdaway remain attached to netball, although it might not be the talent for which she most wishes to be remembered. When applying to come to Rendcomb I didn't give the matter of sport a lot of attention, and I recall feeling apprehensive when I grasped that almost every afternoon had a slot for activity. There was only so much 'PW' that one could do, and I couldn't play hockey and wouldn't consider mixed rugby. I'm not sure how Mrs Holdaway was inveigled into becoming the girls games mistress, even given the premium attached to versatility by the Rendcomb ethos. With hind sight I wonder how tedious, not to mention cold it must have been for her standing for hours outside the main entrance blowing the whistle on

'foot faults', 'holding' and other fouls. But she seemed always to be enthusiastic and yet never hearty nor anything other than coifed and courteous. She also took us over hill and dale in the minibus, to matches arranged with other schools and contributed a feeling that the girls, who were at that time greatly in the numerical minority, had a place and a sort of corporate feminine identity. It was not until I was back at the school at a summer reunion, several years after I had left, that I appreciated how much more aware Mrs Holdaway had been of our ambitions and achievements than I had known. She asked me about some aspects of what I had been up to and the difficulties that it might have posed, with precision and extreme pertinacity, and told me how proud she felt of those things in which I had succeeded. Coming from a large family, with parents who were inclined to forget one's name, let alone one's university course, I was extremely touched and have remembered since how much that meant to me, and have tried to take a more considered interest in other people's paths and careers. I wish her well in her retirement, and thank her for all her kindness and example. (Alice Parshall is senior registrar at Maudsley Hospital, London).

From Jessica (1987 - 89) and Sonya (1990 - 92) Naish:

Looking back there is one woman who always pops up smiling and laughing in my somewhat nostalgic picture of Rendcomb. In an environment where females were definitely in the minority, Charlotte Holdaway became a very important figure to the girls who joined Rendcomb in the sixth form. Between us, as two sisters at

Rendcomb, we lived in Park House for a total of four years. We are both very different, as sisters can be. Jess graduated last year in drama, her lifelong passion which was further nurtured at Rendcomb, and now I, the younger am studying medicine. The one subject however that we had in common was German, and so arriving at Rendcomb, fresh to boarding school life, we met Mrs Holdaway not only as our prospective housemistress but also as our teacher. Feeling I should at least try to understand my mother's family I took on German as an extra subject, and as it clashed with biology for the whole of my two years at Rendcomb Mrs Holdaway gave me two extra catch-up lessons a week, a huge commitment that no teacher is obliged to do. Jess had never excelled academically before, however something changed at Rendcomb, where she finally felt pushed to achieve for herself and stick up for her abilities, not least in her German set where she was the only girl. We learnt from Mrs Holdaway that a little hard work provided great rewards in feelings of satisfaction. Charlotte was always able to gauge exactly how all her pupils were doing, and believed in each pupil individually. Failure did not seem to exist in her vocabulary and she believed that success was measured on a personal level before it was academically assessed. The one thing she put across then and throughout my time at Rendcomb was that no one thing is right for everyone. As a housemistress Mrs Holdaway never tried to standardise her reactions to any girl or situation. She had her rules and knew just where to draw the line, but was always keenly sensitive to each girl's situation and individual reaction to what can be a stressful transition into a boys' school. Her judgements were always fair, and through treating the girls with respect our respect for her grew equally. Because all the girls arrived at the same time a great sense of unity existed, perhaps needed to exist, to ensure we were brave enough to assert ourselves in a school full of boys. Mrs Holdaway, even in Jess's time, when Park House was mixed, was the lynch-pin that held the girls so close. Later, when sixth form boys shared houses with younger years, the sixth form became perhaps more divided, and I know the Holdaways themselves look upon these first few mixed years as their heyday in Park House. Working together both John and Charlotte were able to run the house firmly, which by necessity a mixed house demands, but always with fairness and a sense of fun. In these years Mr Holdaway often had to play detective. I'm sure the unfortunate boy who went outside a girls' window in the snow one year wishes John had not had such presence of mine to measure the tread and size of the betraying footsteps! And then there was the time Mr Holdaway, in his dressing gown, came across the majority of the girls in Jess's year trying to climb out of the downstairs laundry window after their exams had finished. All dressed in black wearing balaclavas they protested their innocence and defended their right to do their washing at two in the morning! The Holdaways always knew everything that was going on, good and bad, especially Mr Holdaway whose great pleasure was knowing all the gossip even before we did! Along with Jack, his trusty



yet ever cursed dog. Mr Holdaway was to be seen patrolling his patch daily, namely the golf course, wildy and park. John was the eyes and ears of Rendcomb, his detailed knowledge of the grounds was always infinitely helpful in finding those piles of illicit rubbish in the bushes and undergrowth on Cotswold cleanup days. In 1992 our parting gift to Mr Holdaway was a pair of (toy) binoculars, so if in future anyone spots a man and a dog peering down from the golf course, it'll just be John checking up on Rendcomb. Later the boys were all too aware that the Holdaways ran the house with a flexibility which perhaps the boys' housemasters could not afford to. On Saturdays the Holdaways transformed themselves into taxi drivers to town (they always stuck up for the girls' inborn need to shop!), and new initiatives and enterprises that pupils wanted to take on were always encouraged whole-heartedly. They accorded us a degree of autonomy which is so essential for sixth formers to grow and begin to become more responsible for themselves. In the intervening year between Jess's departure and my arrival we did not however lose touch with Park House, Friederike Festge, a good friend of ours from Hamburg, on our recommendation, came to spend a year at Rendcomb to learn English. With Anna Duhmke also at Rendcomb that year, the strong German connection which still exists today was set up. The happiness with which parents send their children to such a beautiful yet distant corner of England, is due no doubt in the greatest part to the care and concern that Charlotte and John always willingly gave, when perhaps many might have felt lost so far away from home. Now that the Holdaways have left Park House and Charlotte has seen her last sets through the June exams, it will never be the same for us to return to Rendcomb. Old girls were always assured a cup of tea in their front room, to share our news since Rendcomb, hear of other O.R.'s and of Rendcomb goings on. Still, tea at Badgworth will be much quieter without being disturbed by the flat doorbells, now they just have a very cute and ever-lively Granddaughter vying for their attention. From all Rendcombians you've nurtured, Mr and Mrs Holdaway, we hope you have a wonderful retirement! (Jessica Naish has just graduated at the University of Kent in drama and theatre studies. Sonya is reading medicine at Birmingham University).

C.P.M. King

Chris King will be leaving Rendcomb in July to take up the post of deputy headmaster at Kimbolton School. He joined the staff in 1983 as head of geography, a department which has expanded and flourished under his direction. He has been much involved in rugby coaching, particularly the 1st XV, and in junior cricket. He took over the running of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme from John Willson, acted as tutor in the main building and in Park House and with his wife, Liz who has also taught Geography, took on the running of Stable House, one of the new boarding houses in 1989. He has also been a member of a number of senior management committees and president of the staff common room. The following tributes give some indication of Chris King's contribution to Rendcomb over the past ten years, and the respect in which he is held.

Ben Maslen (1983 - 90) writes:

I have not been away from Rendcomb long enough for my memories of the school and its teachers to have become distorted by nostalgia. As a student, I live in terror that one day I will be woken up before the midday 'watershed' by some deranged reincarnate bellboy. I still find it impossible to take more than one cup of milk with my breakfast, and I try to keep at least one eye open during my lectures in case there are any stray 'K.J.K.' boardrubbers still in orbit. Old habits and attitudes die hard, and I'm sure I could quite easily reaccustom myself to the routine of being at school, if I so wanted to, and if the school had not changed considerably since I left. The new boarding houses have now become firmly established, for better or for worse, the curriculum is constantly changing and the school is now fully co-educational. Rendcomb also now runs exciting new advertisements on local television to market its new image. However, in my mind, such structural factors are ultimately irrelevant in how you remember a school. Far more important are the friends you make, the lessons you learnt, and the memories of the people who taught you, (especially the instances when they failed to see through your transparent excuses for being in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and smelling of nothing but toothpaste). To get to the point, and conclude exactly the type of irrelevant introduction I was taught to avoid, Mr King will be sorely missed by Rendcomb and its pupils, and the school will have to work hard to replace him and his family. A more formal 'obituary' to Mr King's achievements at Rendcomb would probably celebrate his stylish and successful teaching methods, his dedication to academia, and his influence on the sports field. He was, and remains, a skilful teacher, and made geography a colourful and interesting subject. I will take a deep love of glacial rock formations to my grave as a consequence. He became housemaster of Stable House during a difficult period of adjustment for the school, and was instrumental in persuading those entering the new boarding houses that change was not such a bad thing. I still personally maintain that, for a school that has always claimed to be 'progressive', it was a retrograde step to banish boys from Park House, but was ultimately forced to accept that there were advantages to the new arrangements. Having Mr King as a housemaster was certainly one of these. He and his wife successfully managed to balance the interests of the mature, hardworking, sophisticated sixth formers (I think J. Hammond, H. Gregory, R. Tate and myself

exemplify this category), with those of the younger boys within the house. He was fair, strict when he had to be, interested without being obtrusive, and has left a smooth-running Stable House as his legacy. I was never privileged enough to have been taught rugby at school by Mr King, but my brother, who captained the school 1st '15' under him informs me that his knowledge and tactical acumen were considerable. As I found out, on tour in Portugal and Canada with the school, he was adept at motivating Rendcomb's limited resources, and inspiring them to greater things. He was competitive, but necessarily so, and with Mr. Newby, gave sport at Rendcomb the higher profile it deserves, and indeed, should strive for it is to compete with rivals for potential entrants. I will be eternally grateful to Mr King, and all those who helped me with



my rugby career, for providing my friends and I with hours of fun, heroics and fond memories. My discussion of Mr King's more formal achievements is so brief, because this was intended to be a light-hearted piece, and because most teachers at Rendcomb are, from a professional perspective, dedicated and talented. It is far more interesting to consider the various 'incidents and accidents' which will ultimately prevail in how he is remembered. Mr King was one of a 'new breed' of teachers at Rendcomb. You could liken him to Mr Chips about as much as you could liken school sausages to meat, and it was clear that he cut his trade in the Miami Vice College of teacher training. He drove a sleek Granada with tinted windows, occasionally sported designer stubble, and his haircut was reproduced in black and white to decorate the front of every barber's shop in England. As is so often in these cases, every hero needs his foil. Macbeth had Banquo, Crockett had Tubbs, George Michael had Andrew Ridgely and Mr King had Mr Newby. One of the great tragedies of his departure is that Rendcomb will be deprived of half of the greatest double-act since 'Little and Large'. Significant portions of our GCSE geography and biology lessons were spent pursuing an ongoing 'battle of wits' between the two teachers. We would usually stimulate the exchanges by claiming that Mr Newby had called Mr King something like 'a pensioner', and then wait until biology to tell him that he, in turn, was 'a neanderthal, and that you could tell because his knuckles were grazed where they had been dragging along the ground'. And so on. And so on. Mr Newby's trump card in these escalations was the fact that a printing error in the Rendcombian upon Mr King's arrival had, in fact, introduced him as Mr Wing. 'Wingy' never really liked this, as we found out during one lesson, early in his career, when he was in a rare bad mood, and tired of people deliberately getting his name wrong. In Stable House Mr King was given the highest possible schoolboy accolade, - that of being labelled 'a good bloke'. He drew firm and fair boundaries with regard to the behaviour of the pupils of Stable House, and the fact that he was well liked, respected and not just an authority figure, made us loath to cross them. Our best wishes go with him and his family for the future.
(Ben Maslen is at Bristol University and also plays rugby for Gloucester).

From Alex Brealy (1982 - 87):

'A man for all seasons' was used to describe Sir Thomas More in the sixteenth century, today it can just as well be ascribed to Chris King who, as the 'Class of 87' geography 'A' level teacher, instilled in us a delight in the subject exposing us to new ideas and ways of expressing ourselves. Exposure to learning was not confined solely to the classroom since, as the description above suggests, Chris relished fieldwork whatever the rigours of the weather. He seemed to delight in donning his cagoule and proceeding to lead us into the depths of the cold Welsh winter, inspired no doubt by the weather warnings of severe frost - who can blame him as there can be no better way of experiencing freeze-thaw weathering! Hydrology seemed to be his forte and I remember well the time that we were up to our waists measuring the discharge of a cold, muddy river whilst Chris was astutely pointing out (from the river bank) the dynamics of fluvial helicoidal flow which was threatening to sweep us along with it! Whether it was on a river bank or in the classroom Chris enjoyed talking geography. The advantage of being back in his Stable Block 'domain' was it's 'whiteboard' upon which he would, in near Rolf Harris style, give us a blaze of colourfully annotated diagrams with which he reinforced the concepts he was explaining. Chris is a man 'born to friendship', being very gregarious, supportive and quick to praise, in a genuine way. He was never likely to put a 'nose out of joint' although he did coach us to play rugby hard! On

the rugby pitch he endeavoured to pass on his keen 'sense of space' (which he naturally had from geography!) to the 'backs' so that we could exploit our opposition's weaknesses - he succeeded in doing so much to their chagrin. Yes, come rain or shine, Chris was in his element especially when there were young minds to be guided in their development. Rendcomb is certainly losing a dedicated character who, from my own experiences, tried at all times to create a 'eu-topos' of learning. I wish Chris and his family the very best as they start a new chapter of their lives.

(Alex Brealy read geography at St. Andrew's University and is doing teaching practice in Cornwall).

From Alex Andreis (1983 - 88):

Although I was never actually taught by Chris, his involvement in most aspects of Rendcomb life meant our paths crossed many times. The fact that Chris was my form tutor from the fourth year through to the upper sixth also meant that whenever my path was losing direction, he would be quick to intervene. Chris was an ever present figure - a patient tutor who was forever encouraging us to fulfill our potential, as an optimistic rugby coach (the U14A record in 1983 speaks for itself!), as an enthusiastic cricket coach and, last but not least, as a slave-driving Duke of Edinburgh Award instructor (I shall never visit Aberystwyth again without being armed with an industrial size insect repellent!). Chris came to know us all too well; there was no escaping him. Both Rendcomb and I owe much to Chris. I wish him and his family all the best in their new environment.

(Alex Andreis is a software engineer for Redifon, a radio communications company).

From Peter Croft (1986 - 93):

Mr King was a respected and valued member of the Rendcomb staff. He began his life at Rendcomb teaching geography. It did not take him long before he began to question conventional teaching methods. His lessons soon became sprinkled with the culinary delights of Italy, spaghetti, ravioli, and cornetto (to name but a few), all spiced up by the donning of Mexican head gear. His enthusiasm was not confined to the classroom, however. Mr King regularly retreated to the playing fields where he dedicated many hours braving the elements to train his rugby and cricket teams. His skill and experience combined with his intense training methods gave his teams the perfect recipe for success. Another testament to Mr King's involvement was his work in arranging the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions. It is a great credit to his organisational skills and forethought that these expeditions met with such a high level of success. Prior to arriving at Rendcomb, Mr King had probably never dreamt of living in a fifty-bedroom house with such a large family of students to care for. As housemaster of Stable House, Mr King developed excellent relationships with students, whilst creating a sound infrastructure where good order and a friendly environment went hand in hand. All that remains is for us to wish Mr and Mrs King and their family every success in the future, especially Mr King with his new post. He will always be fondly remembered by all Rendcombians.

(Peter Croft is reading engineering at Warwick University)

Mr. D.E. O'Connor

Dominic O'Connor left in December to take up a teaching post in Zimbabwe. He came to Rendcomb in 1976 to teach history and English. During his time here he made a wide ranging contribution to school activities. His enthusiasm for outdoor pursuits has been greatly appreciated by the many Rendcombians who benefited from his varied skills - leading the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expeditions, windsurfing, sailing and 4th XI hockey. He was also in charge of swimming and assistant housemaster in Godman House. The following tributes give some ideas of Dominic's time at Rendcomb.

From Alastair Graham (1986 - 93):

Mr O'Connor came to Rendcomb in 1986, the year that I arrived. He took the new first years for English and I can remember thinking then that, if all the teachers were like him, then I would enjoy it. He could relate to everyone he taught and very soon had many friends at Rendcomb, not only in the lower years but all the way through the school. I was taught by Dominic O'Connor right the way through for English, then history until the 4th year. Teaching was however only a small part of what Mr. O'Connor did for Rendcomb - he took Gold Duke of Edinburgh, doing most of the organisational work, and there is no doubt that a lot of Rendcomb's Duke of Edinburgh success is due to the genuine involvement of Dominic O'Connor. He was prepared to give up a lot of his free time to prepare the Duke of Edinburgh candidates for their expeditions. Whilst on Duke of Edinburgh, Dominic O'Connor was a great influence, he would walk many times the distance that we were walking in order to check on all the groups, and would camp with us at night, to help us organise the camp, even in conditions where many supervisors would have taken bed and breakfast for the night! Dominic O'Connor was also a keen sailor and, as Mr. Lea will no doubt confirm, he was a great asset to sailing at Rendcomb, and would organise the mini buses and repairs to the boats that we inevitably damaged in the

rough storms at South Cerney. Dominic O'Connor was also assistant housemaster in Godman House for his last few years. Here once again his relationship with the pupils became evident, as he was always prepared to join with them in sport and games, but also always to provide strictness when required! He was always prepared to put time aside for the house when he was needed, and I am sure that Mr Sykes will agree when I say that he will be irreplaceable in Godman, and will be sorely missed! This is only a very small representation of what Dominic O'Connor did for people at Rendcomb, as people in the younger years with bikes that needed mending will know. Mr. O'Connor will be missed by everyone past and present at Rendcomb, and we all wish him all the best in Zimbabwe.

(Alistair Graham is reading agriculture at Reading).

From Charles Morgan-Harris (1988 - 93)

Mr. O'Connor was at Rendcomb for 7 years, but I only had the pleasure of his acquaintance for five of those years. My best memories of Mr. O'Connor were his history classes at both GCSE and 'A' level, all those crucial videos we managed to see, and especially at 'A' level with those sly tea parties, for that more informal discussion of European history. However, his teaching was relaxed, very effective and his help was continuous, with a policy of 'my door is always open'. His dedication to the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme was fantastic, and at gold level, he virtually made the whole award worth doing, with such highpoints as climbing Ben Nevis, the Kumdi challenge and, of course, his control of the minibus on the windy Welsh roads. Mr. O'Connor was without a doubt the corner stone of the award scheme, and on behalf of all who took part, I'd like to thank him tremendously. His record especially at gold level is impeccable, and a huge credit to Rendcomb. Mr. O'Connor lived on the top floor of the main college building - his top floor parties or 'get togethers' as he used to like to call them, were dreaded by other members of staff, enjoyed hugely by his friends and will be missed greatly in Rendcomb's darker tradition! The top floor party originated solely as a result of Mr O'Connor's legendary 4th XI hockey team. Undefeated for at least three seasons, serious challenges were few and far between, and defeat was a complete impossibility. Mr. O'Connor used to refer to his 4th XI era as 'the good old days' - numerous members of various 4th XI squads still keep in close contact with the 'gaffa' himself, and reunions, although irregular, prove to be earth shattering events. Thus, so to Mr O'Connor's famous umpiring style. Well, if you knew him, where can I start? Enough said. My most recent memories were of Mr. O'Connor as deputy housemaster for Godman House. His close attachment to the boys created a relaxed, happy atmosphere, while still being completely in control and aware of problems. Mr. O'Connor's love of cycling will never die, and I long to see him with the yellow jersey in the Tour de France! His continuous involvement with all the years at Rendcomb, but especially the first three, will be greatly missed, as will he by all the staff and pupils. As a great friend of mine, I wish him all the luck in the world with his new life, and look forward to seeing him for another storming O.R.'s 4th XI performance. From all who knew him so well, enjoy the Guinness, keep in touch and thanks for so many fantastic years at Rendcomb. (Charles Morgan-Harris is at Leeds, Trinity and All Saints, reading geography and business management).

Commander E.T. Thring

The governors appointed Commander Thring, who retires this summer, in 1981 as Rendcomb's first full-time bursar. He took over the work previously carried out by Mr. Ian Mitchell and Mr. John McGill. Probably no bursar has a particularly easy task, as his job requires not only that he has to establish good relations with everyone involved but also be prepared to make firm and at times unpopular decisions. At first, perhaps Commander Thring found the sea a little choppy, but gradually he found calmer waters and apart from a few squalls had a long and largely peaceful voyage. During his time as bursar, there have been major developments in the financial structure of the college, in the expansion of the buildings and grounds and in the increase in personnel involved. All of these have meant that the bursar's net of responsibility has been steadily spread more widely. There have obviously been testing moments in a period of such radical changes, in these Edward Thring has been greatly helped by his own jovial personality. The fact that he so clearly enjoyed taking part in school functions - Christmas Parties, rugby dinners, Church services and staff cricket matches to name but a few - has meant that he has been able to establish himself easily as part of the Rendcomb scene. Commander Thring has by no means been an office bound bursar. He has often been seen (plus dogs) about the grounds and has been involved in various school activities such as P.W., fishing, snow clearing, traffic control and open days. For this reason many O.R.'s from the past 12 years will have come to know Commander Thring and will want to wish him and Mrs Thring a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Anne Boyd

Mrs Boyd (previously Purdon) has been the headmaster's secretary since 1986 and will be leaving us at Easter. The secretary's office is, as everyone knows, the real nerve-centre of a school. Everyone goes in there or

telephones for information on every conceivable subject. In addition, it is the hub of the college's administration. A great deal of work must be done, despite a great deal of interruption. It takes a special sort of person to be able to cope with telephone calls, visitors, requests from staff and pupils, the headmaster's administration and correspondence and at the same time appear constantly good humoured and knowledgeable. We have been extremely fortunate to have had Anne as headmaster's secretary, she possesses these qualities in abundance combining them with charm, firmness and efficiency. Anne's voice on the 'phone may have been the first contact made between Rendcomb and future O.R.'s and Anne may have been one of the last people they saw before they left when handing in a 'results' envelope! Anne and her assistant, Christine Sudbury, have made a formidable team in the office. Everyone is grateful to Anne for her help, cheerfulness and dedication to a demanding job and the O.R. society sends her best wishes for the future.

Mrs Marta Ferro will also be leaving in July. She has been a part-time member of the staff for some years, teaching French and German. We are grateful to her for her loyalty and interest in Rendcomb and send her our best wishes for the future.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Stutchbury are now in charge of Park House. Mr Stutchbury is head of biology and his wife is a T.E.F.L. expert. Mr Stutchbury has started up a flourishing clay pigeon shooting club.

Old Rendcombian News

Richard Dunwoody (1975 - 81), this year's winning jockey of the Martell Grand National, came to Rendcomb in September with his wife to open the fete and spent the afternoon talking to visitors and stall holders.

Christopher Stratton (1977 - 82) qualified as a chartered surveyor and land agent at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and is now manager of a firm of chartered surveyors in Birmingham.

John Marshall (1956 - 63) is managing director of John Mowlem, the construction company.

Stephen Simkin (1979 - 84) lectures on drama and poetry for the B.A./B.Ed. courses at L.S.U. College in Southampton. He was awarded his Ph.D. for research into the works of Gerald Manley Hopkins. Stephen's wife is a G.P. in Ringwood.

George Chapman (1956 - 63) has returned from Australia where he has lived for many years. He is a medical consultant.

Tony Cattermole (1958 - 65) works in business systems for a national retailer. His wife Yve is a teaching assistant for deaf children. They have two daughters. His brother, **Giles** (1958 - 66) is married to Cathy and they have two sons and a daughter. Giles works as a freelance international business strategy consultant.

Christine Marsack (1972 -74) after training in London as a nurse, emigrated to Australia where she worked in several major hospitals and also for a time for the Flying Doctor Service. In 1988 she transferred to a medical course and is due to complete her final year in 1994 to qualify as a doctor. (We are grateful to Chris Swaine for this news).

David Shield (1966 - 73) is technical operations manager at Trans World International dealing mainly with the production of sports television programming. He and his wife recently graduated with degrees from the Open University - David with first class honours in music, technology and computing. He says that, although the course took seven years to complete, he would recommend it to anyone who did do a university course initially.

Penny Green (née Hooley) (1977 - 79) writes to say that she is now deputy chief executive of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service - a Government funded body providing help and advice to members of pension schemes who have a dispute with their scheme authorities. She is finding the work fascinating.

Philip Paterson-Fox (1979 - 84) is working with Lloyds Bank in branch business market planning - analysing the bank's business customer base to ascertain core/non core customers and consequently recommend future recruitment levels.

Neil Johnson (1963 - 70) wrote as follows last June: "I left the army 6 months ago after 21 years. It seems no

time at all and full of laughs. A lieutenant-colonel's pension is an unexpected bonus and has allowed me to buy an august sounding residence. In truth it is very run-down and needs at least ten years' work - but it will be great fun. I am working in Kings Lynn as one of two consultant ophthalmic surgeons. The hospital is extremely friendly. My wife was a doctor in the army but gave up work to have children. We have two boys - Hank 2 1/2 years and Jack 2 months - actually their names are Edmund and Roland, but why be conventional? Wide experience from a surprisingly disparate range of colleagues, occupations and countries have stood me in excellent stead to settle down in Norfolk, bring up a family and run an ophthalmic department."

Simon Young (1971 - 76) runs the chlorination side of a water treatment company and also keeps beef cattle on a small holding and breeds a few horses. He still has a keen interest in horticulture - stemming (he says) from planting up Rendcomb urns.

Julian Norbury (1984 - 89) is with Healey and Baker in Paris.

Rachel Medill (1979 - 81) has appeared in the national press in her capacity as head of corporate communications with M & G.

David Maberley (1959 - 66) has been appointed professor in systematic plant anatomy at Leiden University.

Christopher Morshead (1974 - 77) has finished his time on the staff at the Air Engineering School, HMS Daedalus. After a two month course at Greenwich, he will join the Aircraft Support Executive in Yeovilton. He has also been band officer of the Daedalus Volunteer Band, which won several trophies in a recent festival. His wife, Lynette, teaches music at Bitterne Middle School and is involved in producing a number of concerts each year.

Sally Patterson (1973 - 75) wrote to Mrs Holdaway recently with details of her family life in Hong Kong. She ends her letter: "I finally hung up the mike at the beginning of this year, but not for long. Three months later I started to do some freelance work which now includes hosting my own television current affairs programmes. It goes on the air every Sunday morning and is basically a political chat show! Fortunately it is fairly high profile for really a minimum amount of work, a day and a half a week as we record on a Saturday afternoon. The rest of the work I do I can pick and choose if and when I want to do it, leaving me lots of time to pursue my many other interests and be with the children. We enjoy Hong Kong. Over the years we have been able to do a lot of travelling. In a few weeks' time we will be relaxing on a beach in Malaysia over Chinese New Year, when everything shuts down in Hong Kong. I plan to go to Cambodia in March to visit Angkor Wat. I am fascinated with Indo-China, partly springing from my job and my involvement with Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. I have been to Vietnam twice, the U.N. sponsored me to put together a couple of radio features." She keeps in touch with **Norm** and **Teta Crowe**, **Pete** and **Jacqui Sayers** and **Rory Thomson** but thinks she is the only O.R. living in Hong Kong - is this so?

Barney Branston (1982 - 87) is in the Welsh Guards. He says: "Life over here in Northern Ireland continues at its own peculiar pace, the recent talks bearing no relevance to our operational role, as we continue exactly as before, believing nothing we read or hear, and not daring to hope until concrete results are signed, sealed and approved. The battalion fortunately continues to enjoy a high reputation in the province. After Ireland, a move to Shropshire before finally heading off to London for some long-awaited ceremonial duties and the opportunity for some posing in bearskins and tunics! **Tom** (1981 - 86) is in excellent fettle and continues his job as bar manager in 'Break for the Border' in London. At his marriage in September it was marvellous to see **Neil Paterson-Fox**, **Mark Hammond**, **Myles Faulkner**, **Kevin Elderfield** and **Matt Cordeux**. Mark is working in the same bar.

Richard Stibbard (1972 - 79) is working in Hong Kong. He followed his degree in modern languages at Exeter with an M.A. in T.E.F.L. at Birmingham.

Clair Watson (1990 - 92) is teaching infants and acting as nanny to a family in Abu Dhabi, U.E.I. She is doing a teaching correspondence course.

Richard Bendy (1979 - 84) began his career as a trainee manager with Sainsbury's, then joined a firm producing conferences and videos run by Beverly Foote's mother, and subsequently moved to 'Newsweek' after a spell as a waiter in a Mexican restaurant in Virginia Water! He has been running the sales office of Newsweek since 1990. He has a private pilot's licence and wonders whether he will use Rendcomb aerodrome on his next visit.

William Wilkinson (1974 - 81) has formed his own company of forestry consultants and woodland managers based at Charlton Abbots near Winchcombe.

Robert Edy (1959 - 67) was ordained into the Church of England last year; he is a non-stipendiary priest at Ducklington, Oxon, and continues to be deputy head at the Henry Box School, Witney.

Andrew Mills (1977 - 84) is now living in Hamburg. He is looking after Castrol's industrial business in Eastern Europe, especially in developing new markets, and the operations are based in Hamburg. He has been to Prague and Budapest and will go to Russia, Ukraine, Croatia, Albania etc. He says his written German still leaves a bit to be desired as regards grammar - but no-one seems to worry too much about that! He and his wife have settled in fairly easily to life on the west side of Hamburg.

Claire Ellis (1984 - 86) who is featured in the ICI graduate entry brochure, spent a year with ICI's chemical trading business as an assistant to the accountant before moving to her current job as accounts assistant for the engineers on two major sites making chlorine based products.

Mike Uglow (1977 - 84) has spent this year in Poole as a qualified surgeon, having trained at St. George's Hospital and Southampton General Hospital, and he is taking up a training post in orthopaedic surgery at Portsmouth. He married Lyndsay at the Priory Church, Christchurch in August 1993 and honeymooned in Mauritius. He has played rugby rather intermittently, representing Sussex at one point, and he now plays for Bournemouth. He reports that **Peter** (1974 - 81) and **Nikki Uglow** now have two children and Peter is currently with Coventry C.I.D.

Julian R.C. Head (1984 - 90) wrote to the headmaster recently: "In September 1990, I moved to Durham to commence a bachelor of science degree in podiatry at New College. The course lasted three fun, but challenging, years. On 25th June 1993, I graduated with the degree, awarded by Sunderland University. I was one of 24 who graduated, having lost 22 along the way. And one of the first group of students to graduate from the newly created Sunderland University, having been upgraded from a polytechnic. On 22nd July 1993, I went for interview at Dacorum and St. Albans Community NHS Trust, and, three hours later, was offered the full time twelve month fixed term post of senior two chiropodist. I start on 1st September 1993 and will work in hospitals, health centres, general practitioners' surgeries, residential and mental homes, as well as doing domiciliary visits. I will be one of 18 community chiropodists/podiatrists serving St. Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamstead, and the enclosed area, which has a population of 300,000. I will also be a member of the nail surgery team, regularly performing nail operations and minor soft tissue procedures. And on the biomechanics team, producing orthotics to enable people's walking to be corrected, and keep them mobile. This is vital work, especially helping the aged, since mobility contributes greatly to their quality of life. The department has agreed to sponsor my continuing education, especially the ambulatory foot surgery course. Hopefully, one day I will be a foot surgeon. Chiropody is a worthwhile and rewarding profession, with attractive remuneration as an added bonus."

Newsletter from **Roger Gorman** (1988 - 93):-

On the 29th October 1993 I, together with two other volunteers with Link Overseas Exchange, left by 'plane from Gatwick Airport bound for Delhi. In Delhi we met the two Link volunteers who had just completed their six months visit to Kathmandu. We stayed with them in a hotel in Delhi for two days and during that time they filled us in with the background situation at the school where we would be teaching. We arrived in Kathmandu by an internal flight on the 2nd November and from there went to Dreamland School in the district of Kathmandu called Bag Bazaar. We met the headmaster Mr Lama and the deputy headmaster Mr Smith who is an Anglo-Indian. During the next two days we met the other members of the teaching staff and a number of the students. At our first assembly we were given flower necklaces and were welcomed to the school. We began our teaching on the 5th November and I handed out a number of pens and pencils which I had taken with me. These were much appreciated and I gave some to the other teachers who are very badly equipped. We are teaching Tibetan refugees aged between 5 and 15. We are taking 5 lessons a day and are also teaching at another school in order to help them out as their English department is almost non-existent. The two aspects of English which we teach are grammar and comprehension. We also have to set all the English exams for the whole school. There are about 150 students in the school, both boarders and day boarders. The strength of the school comes from the headmaster and his family. There is a good attitude in the school and on the whole everyone is very friendly to us. Kathmandu itself is known to be one of the most polluted cities in the world. It has a population of about 350,000 and the vast amount of traffic in the centre of the city, and the fact that Kathmandu is in a valley contributes greatly to this pollution. For a number of reasons, inflation has tripled in recent years. There are power cuts most days and sometimes these last for three hours which would appear to

be unnecessary as I am told that the Nepalese government is selling their electricity to India. The government does not want foreigners to see outside the Kathmandu valley because the situation there is so bad. If you really want to visit those parts you have to buy a very expensive visiting permit. The condition of the country people can easily be seen if only observed from the outside. It seems that these people are forgotten. They have no teaching aids, no medical help and no power generating facilities which could be provided for them. Kathmandu is very rich in its culture and particularly so in the old part which is on the eastern side of the city. Durba Square is full of numerous temples each with breath-taking beauty. Also, the square contains the oldest wooden building in the world. The only problem is that once tourists have entered the building they are pestered by salesmen trying to sell all manner of local goods. During the time here we have come to know where the best bargains are to be found and we are also finding that many of the locals recognise us, particularly those having children at the school. At the time of writing these notes we are about to leave Kathmandu as our visa expires at the end of December and we have to leave the country for one month. We will be taking a three day bus or train journey to Calcutta where we will spend Christmas and the New Year with relatives of the deputy headmaster, Mr Smith. Mr Smith and his wife have been particularly kind to us and will also be coming to Calcutta and have already offered us hospitality there. When we leave Calcutta we will be touring around India until the end of January when we return to Kathmandu and will resume our teaching duties for a further period of two months. We will then leave Nepal and will have a further month trekking in India and are due to return home to England at the end of April.

Graham Jordan (1966 - 73) who lives in Australia visited England (and Rendcomb) last July with his children. For the return journey, he put his children on a plane and set out to cycle home. This is an extract from a fascinating letter:

"Crossing into Iran, I put on my long trousers, glad of their protection from the sun. The Iranians were so genuinely friendly and hospitable, that my involvement was constant. I learnt so much about the Islamic culture and how to share. I had promised myself to enjoy the journey, and avoid too much struggle - so I caught a bus for the day to Esfahan and spent a couple of days recuperating as a tourist, walking, talking and drawing. From here I moved along quicker, cycling the stretches I could and catching buses and trains in the longer desert areas, down to Shiraz then across to Bam, Zanedan, on to Pakistan, Quetta, then Lahore across to Amritsar in India and down to Delhi, a train to Calcutta, flying to Bangkok, then cycling again down to Kuala Lumpur via Penang and finally flying home to Brisbane. There were so many highlights along the way, the Temple at Perspolis, delicious fresh dates, seeing camels in the back of Toyota trucks in Baluchistan, or pulling wagons of bricks in Quetta, dancing through the streets of Lahore spurred on by the brass band at Nadine's wedding, meeting up with fellow overland travellers and spending the day reciting tales and laughing, absorbing the spiritual energy at the Sikh Golden Temple and eating dahl and chapatis with 65 fellow free food pilgrims. Lastly, spending an invigorating special week with my sister, Susan in Kuala Lumpur. Landing in Brisbane, Australia I cycled again towards home, it all seemed so tidy and efficient, people quietly carrying on their lives, happy to talk and help. Home seems like a soft arm chair, welcoming, comforting, a resting place. Statistics are always impressive - I cycled over 6,000 kilometres, through 12 countries, spent A\$10 per day, plus A\$1,000 on ferry and plane fares, and probably ate 120 kilograms of bananas!"

Eric Blencowe (1976 - 83) gave a talk to the sixth form in March: 'Protection of Endangered Species'

Jon Lutwyche (1984 - 89) who works for the ministry of defence, has moved from Blandford in Dorset to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

The Friends of Rendcomb College

Trustees:-

M.D.C. Jenks (chairman and governor of the college)	M.C. Jones (O.R. 1954 - 62)
Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, KBE, CB, DL	D. de G. Sells (former staff)
(former chairman of governors and founder of the Friends)	J.M. Webb (O.R. 1954 - 63)
The headmaster (ex officio)	C.J. Wood (O.R. 1965 - 71)

It has been suggested to me that some members of the old Rendcombian society would welcome more information on the nature and purpose of our charity. Our trust deed allows us to collect funds for almost any purpose which is to the benefit of the college. For the present and for the foreseeable future the trustees have agreed to concentrate on providing scholarships for pupils from Gloucestershire primary schools. The reason for this decision is evident: now that the local education authority no longer provides support for what used to be the Gloucestershire foundation scholars, the traditional character of the college, intended by the founder, is

severely threatened. Thirty years ago, for example, there were 46 Foundation scholars in the school, now there are none. The Friends' scholarships are awarded on the same basis as the GFS were, parents paying what they can afford. I believe that the idea of contributing to the provision of such assistance must appeal to all O.R.'s who appreciated the special quality given to the school by the mixture of entrants from primary and prep schools, and perhaps in particular to those who were themselves foundation scholars. In the ten years since our foundation we have funded two Friends' scholarships, each of seven years duration, one named after Jack Fell, and we have offered another for next year. We should like to be able to offer seven of them, and it is clear that to achieve this we shall have to raise considerably more funds. I estimate that, at the present rate of fees and minimum parental contribution, a seven year scholarship is likely to cost about £65,000. Appeals were made in 1984 to all O.R.'s on the society's list, and there was an immediate and generous response from the older members. A number of parents also have been very generous with their help. Younger O.R.'s have been canvassed originally seven - more recently ten - years after they left the college. We ask people to covenant, because this helps us to plan. If they feel unable to do so, gifts are indeed welcome. I can assure you of two things: any funds received in the foreseeable future will be used for scholarships, and the Friends' overhead expenses will be kept to the barest minimum. May I ask all O.R.'s who wish to help the college to consider becoming Friends? A letter with news of the Friends and of the college is sent out each autumn, and so becoming a Friend is quite a good way of keeping in touch. It would be a most heartening way of marking the college's 75th Anniversary if we were able to offer another scholarship, help-helping to preserve the founder's idea and the remarkable character of the school.

David Sells
17 Rendcomb, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 7HB Tel: 0285 831358

News of Recent Leavers

Martin Smith	University of Hertfordshire - Mechanical Engineering
Adam Halliwell	Estate agency in Cheltenham
Simon Hardie	Hotel management in London
James Thraves	Westfield College, London, - Classics & archaeology
Christopher Brown	University of Newcastle
James Grafton	Westminster University - Media studies
Katherine Hodgkinson	Newcastle University - Fine art
Matthew Smith	Wrexham College - Stained glass
Emily Tabassi	Dartington Hall - Drama and performance art
Hamish Auld	High Wycombe College - Furniture design
Patricia Renny	Leeds Polytechnic - History of art
Sophie Denny	Bristol College of Art - Fashion & textiles
Simon Barrett	Bournemouth University - Business admin & marketing research
Christopher Carmichael	Exeter University - French
Hugh Costelloe	Did not take up his place - re-applied
Peter Croft	Warwick University - Mechanical engineering
James East	Queen Mary & Westfield, London - Mechanical engineering
Roland Elmes	University of Central Lancashire - Hotel & catering management
Samantha Fox	Worcester College of Higher Education - Primary teaching and P.E.
Claire Germaine	King Alfred's College, Winchester - Primary teaching and music
Alastair Graham	Reading University - Agriculture
Ben Greene	Southampton Institute of Higher Education - Cinematics
Tim Haine	University of Plymouth
Stuart Hall	Humberside University - Engineering
Rebecca Hodgkinson	Buckingham University - HND Institutional management
Tom Hughes	Southampton University - Archaeology 1994
William Hunter Smart	Bristol University - Economics & philosophy 1994
Tara Keegan	Cheltenham & Gloucester College - HND Institutional management
Ben Mabey	Heriot Watt University - Biology
James Mackinnon	Birmingham University - Medicine
Julian Madeley	Bristol University - Sociology
Danielle Meyers	Liverpool University - French & German
Patrick Morgan	Leicester University - Medicine
Charles Morgan-Harris	Leeds, Trinity & All Saints - Geography & business management

Daniel Morris	Loughborough - Mechanical engineering
Claire Newman	Birmingham - Law
Antony Palin	Bedford College - Secondary teaching and P.E.
Lucy Payne	Nottingham University - Biology
Andrew Platt	Lancaster University - Physics
Marion Preen	St. Martin's College, Lancaster - Geography with music
Sophie Robinson	St. Andrews University - History
Mark Sansome	Southampton University - Economics & philosophy
Jeremy Sawtell	Reading University - Agriculture
Rachel Seed	Bristol University - Psychology
John Talbot	Homerton College, Cambridge - Primary teaching & history
Tim Underwood	Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education - Business studies
Mark Valentine	Exeter University - Biology & geography
Paul Williams	Southampton University - German
Piers Gorman	De Montfort University, Leicester - Construction technology & mgmnt.
Raymond Hancock	Swindon College
James Ellison	Swindon College
Mark Bartlett	Burford School
Nicholas Channing	Williams Equestrian Training
Rufus Blackwell	Cirencester 6th Form College
Andrew Riley	Newent School
Malcolm Harper	Worcester 6th Form College
Adam Beales	Cirencester 6th Form College
Adam Bainbridge	Royal Forest of Dean College
Armen Topalian	Swindon New College
Adam Higazi	Swindon College
Charles Yardley	
Tim Gaskill	Cirencester 6th Form College
Ben Herbert	Swindon College
Piers Roberts	