

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



QUO LUX DUCIT

MAY 1995

21st ISSUE

Editor
W.J.D. WHITE

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From the Chairman of the Old Rendcombian Society

It is not often that I put pen to paper but in this instance the occasion demands it. You are, I'm sure, aware that Rendcomb College is celebrating its 75th year in being with a service in Gloucester Cathedral on the 28th May at 3.00 p.m. with tea to follow at the school. And, that the O.R. society and the parents' association are preparing, rather ambitiously, for a celebratory ball on the evening of the 8th July. I hope you will be able to make it to one or the other of these events. There is much excitement here as plans are fine tuned for what promises to be a splendid evening. The response to the ball has been overwhelming and it is already oversubscribed, but we are maintaining a waiting list as we feel sure that some people who have tickets may not be able to come. If you have not yet applied but would like to attend the ball, please send in your application so your name can join the waiting list. Conversely if you have tickets which you will not be able to use please return them as soon as possible. As promised, a register of names and addresses has been included with this newsletter and it is as complete as possible. As ever we rely on you to provide us with the most recent addresses and telephone numbers available (although the latter have not been published). Please keep the society up to date with this information, it is the basis for our mailing list for the newsletter.

None of this would be possible without commitment and a lot of hard work and this year has been feverish. I would like to express the society's gratitude to the school, the parents' association, the governors, the headmaster, the bursar and the catering staff who are always extremely supportive. Equally, the dedication of everyone on the committee (including respective sports representatives) deserves mention. I am most appreciative of their support. Finally, on your behalf I would especially like to express our thanks to Jane Gunner, our hard working and efficient society secretary, and Bill White, our long time newsletter editor and collator of the register - to both of you, thank you very much indeed for your consistent effort on behalf of the O.R. society.

With very best wishes to Rendcomb College and to you all.

Neil Lumby

P.S. If you are available to help with preparations for the ball, please telephone Jane Gunner on 01285 658627.

Thank you.

Society Officers 1994-95

At the annual general meeting in July 1994, 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) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Tel: (01285) 658627 Fax: (01285) 658717
Treasurer:	Robert Barrett (1969 - 76) Packhorse Farm, Old Midford Road, Southstoke, Bath, Avon. Tel: (01225) 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)
Rugby secretary:	Chris Oliver (1989 - 94)
Hockey secretary:	Philip Moore (1980 - 87)
Cricket secretary:	Julian Fellows (1981 - 88)
Newsletter editor:	Bill White (Staff 1961 -) 9 Rendcomb, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 7HB Tel: 01285 831372

A Note From The Editor

The newsletter has now been running for 21 years. It has come a long way in that time, changing from its early foolscap format to its present booklet. Initially, production was a laborious process, involving typing on Gestetner 'skins' which then had to be duplicated, stapled together and put in hand written envelopes. Its survival was due to the hard work of Sally Dyke, Lynda Troughton and others. For many years now, Jane Gunner and her secretary, with much help from Richard Gunner, have prepared the copy for the printers and seen to its despatch, a Herculean task for which they deserve our warmest thanks. The variety of material received, clearly illustrated in the current issue, is most encouraging and indicates the interest which the newsletter generates among O.R.'s far and wide. I would like to record my thanks to all those who have sent in contributions and have helped in the production of the newsletter over the past twenty-one years. Please keep up the good work!

75th Anniversary 1995

All O.R.'s are most welcome at the events connected with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the college.

Sunday May 28th

In Gloucester Cathedral at 3.00 p.m. The anniversary service, preacher the Rt. Revd. Peter Walker, formerly Bishop of Ely. Refreshments will be available for O.R.'s and their families at Rendcomb after the service.

Saturday July 8th, Afternoon:

Cricket matches at 1.30 p.m. It is hoped that there will be two games. If you have not already been in touch and would like to play, please contact David Essenhigh (01285 831295).

Tea in the Pavilion at 4.00 p.m.

Tour at 4.00 p.m., meet in main hall.

A.G.M. in reading room at 5.00 p.m.

Saturday July 8th, Evening:

The 75th Anniversary Ball

The ball reception is at 7.30 p.m.

Response has been most encouraging from a wide range of O.R.'s, parents, staff, friends and governors. We anticipate that there will be over 400 people attending the evening. The committee would ask O.R.'s to note that the closing date for ticket applications to their waiting list is May 31st.

Those who have applied for overnight accommodation will find their rooms listed on the back of their tickets.

A plan of the accommodation will be available in the entrance hall.

Sunday July 9th

Breakfast between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Church service in St. Peter's, Rendcomb at 10.30 a.m.

Notice of 62nd AGM

You are invited to attend the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the old Rendcombian society on Saturday 8th July 1995 at 5.00 p.m. in the reading room at Rendcomb College.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive minutes of agm held on 3rd July 1994
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive hon. treasurer's report
5. Election of officers: hon. treasurer, hon. auditor, girls' secretary
6. To set amount of travel bursary fund
7. To review level of life subscription
8. Vote of thanks to the college

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting

Held at the college on Sunday 3rd July 1994

Present: Jack Allen, Robert Barrett (treasurer), Fred Batten, Arnold Brain, Raymond Butler, Julian Comrie (vice president), Jane Gunner (secretary), Neil Lumby (chairman), Ted Jones (president), Dick Margetts, Diane Martin, Joe Maslin, Michael Miles, Sally Morris, Doug Page, Douglas Payne, Justine Platt, David de G. Sells, John Tolputt (headmaster), Bill White, Chris Wood, Hamish Wilson.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gerard Benson, Peter Binks, Rev. Hussey, Norman Slade, Miles Thompson, Roland Thompson

2. Minutes of the 60th agm held on 4th July 1993

After a correction of the spelling of a name the minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 1993 were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising out of the minutes that were not already covered by the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the accounts which had been audited by Keith Winmill, the hon auditor. He reported a slight surplus on the year before due in part to an increased number of subscribers for which he thanked Bill White and Chris Wood who 'sell' the society to leavers. Also there was as yet no bill for the magazine. He then reported that the total income from subscriptions still needed minor additions due from the college.

A proposal to adopt the accounts was made by Julian Comrie and seconded by Michael Miles, it was passed unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

Hon. treasurer. The committee nomination was Robert Barrett, who was prepared to act as treasurer for a further 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 one application for a place on Operation Raleigh. As this had been the only application, the committee had awarded the full £500 to the applicant conditional on his raising the balance. Subsequently there had been an applicant who had won a berth in the Tall Ships race. As there had been £50 left over from the previous year and an additional grant made by an O.R., the committee were able to award him £100 conditional on his raising the balance. The secretary was pleased to report that he had done that, and that the applicant for Operation Raleigh was expecting to reach his target by September.

A proposal by Fred Batten and seconded by Chris Wood that the bursary should remain at £500 for the forthcoming year was approved unanimously.

7. Life Subscription

It was reported that the life subscription had now been at £42.50 for two years and it was felt that it should continue to go up gradually rather than in large jumps. Therefore a proposal that the 1995 subscription should be £45.00 was made by Neil Lumby and seconded by Julian Comrie. It was passed unanimously.

8. 75th Anniversary

The secretary reported that a committee had now been set up whose membership was as follows:

David Croft, Geoff Morgan and Mrs Karen Ellison representing the parents' association. Bill White and Russell Riste representing the college. Jane Gunner, Justine Platt and Neil Lumby representing the O.R. society.

Preparations had been started for the ball to be held on 8th July 1995 and the secretary explained that there would be a letter about it sent out in September. The postage of this would be an additional cost to the society over and above the newsletter and register publication.

9. Any Other Business

Separate to the function proposed on 8th July 1995 there would also be a service of thanksgiving in Gloucester Cathedral. Douglas Payne questioned whether the college was the right venue for the tea afterwards. The headmaster agreed to give alternative venues some thought but felt that in fact the college was the most appropriate place.

John Roper reported that he had some difficulty in locating the book by Mr Simpson called 'Sane Schooling' and wondered whether a re-run could be done for the 75th anniversary. The committee undertook to look into it.

The headmaster was asked to clarify the reports which had been seen in the national press about the Rendcomb rescue plan for Oakley Hall. The headmaster explained that Rendcomb had been approached by Oakley Hall to see if they could help and Rendcomb College had in turn approached Querns School with whom Rendcomb had strong links. However when the parents of Oakley Hall were told of the arrangements they themselves

tried to refloat the school. After a week this had failed and another party had become involved. By this stage the original scheme of Rendcomb and Querns was withdrawn in the face of all the uncertainty.
 10. The chairman thanks the college for hosting the summer reunion and the meeting adjourned at 12.50 p.m. to enjoy an excellent luncheon.

O.R. Reunion - 3rd July 1994

A large number of O.R.'s and their families enjoyed a fine summer's day at Rendcomb. The buffet luncheon was well supported and numbers were swelled when those who had been having a picnic in the grounds came into the Dulverton Hall to say farewell to Mr and Mrs Holdaway, Mr and Mrs King and the bursar. O.R.'s spent the afternoon watching the cricket and tennis matches or touring the school. The 'memorabilia' stall, display of photographs and exhibition of art work attracted considerable interest. Among those who attended the excellent buffet provided by the catering staff were:-

Staff & former staff

Mr & Mrs J.N. Tolputt	Mr & Mrs Roy Dennis	Mr & Mrs D. Essenhigh	Mr David Sells
Cdr & Mrs Edward Thring	Mr & Mrs Peter Sudbury	Mr & Mrs Duncan Boyd	Mr W.J.D. White*
Mr & Mrs Charlotte Holdaway	Mr & Mrs Chris King	Mr & Mrs Colin Burden	

1920's & 1930's

Mr J.C. Maslin	Mr & Mrs R.F. Butler	Mr & Mrs A.R. Margetts	Mr & Mrs Arnold Brain
Mr F.C. Raggatt & guests	Mr F.J. Batten	Mr J.F. Roper & guest	Mr G. Constable & guest

1940's and 1950's

Mr Douglas Payne*	Mr & Mrs Philip Griffiths	Mr & Mrs Michael Miles	Mr Ted Jones*
Mr & Mrs Julian Comrie*			

1960's and 1970's

Mr & Mrs John Hiscox	Mr & Mrs Robert Barrett*	Mr & Mrs Nigel Green	Mr N. Dakin & guest
Jane* & Mr Richard Gunner	Mr & Mrs Neil Lumby*	Mr & Mrs Chris Wood*	Mr Hamish Wilson
Mrs Diane Martin (née Crew)			

Dates of Future Reunions

Saturday 8th July 1995	Anniversary ball
Saturday 9th December 1995	Rugby match
Saturday 9th December 1995	Ladies hockey
Sunday 17th March 1996	Hockey matches

Year and Decade Representatives

1941 - 45	Douglas Payne
1946 - 55	Julian Comrie
1976 - 84	Sally Morris
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 Hodgkinson
1993	Patrick Morgan / Ben Mabey
1994	Andrew Martin / Hannah Willcocks

O.R. Travel Bursary

Report from Rufus Blackwell:

First leg of Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race. Weymouth to Oporto. 17th July - 6th August 1994.

Before I boarded I didn't have much idea of what life on the Miller would be like. I had heard and read many different accounts of other people's voyages, for some it seemed like a nightmare, to others more like a holiday. The mixed crew was aged 17 - 24 and I was only just 17 with limited sailing experience, so all in all I wasn't too sure why I was doing this. One of the things I was most worried about was what the other crew members would be like. When I reached the ship and met a few of them I realised that they seemed to be much like me, age and sailing experience made very little difference at all.

During the three days we were moored in Weymouth we were trained during the day. This included safety procedures, i.e. how to use the life rafts etc., learning what each rope is used for, (there are about 200 ropes, so most people didn't learn them straight off), and climbing the rigging, an excellent part of the training. We also had a visit from Prince Philip. When we left Weymouth we motored out of the dock and set sail for the first time out of the bay in front of vast crowds of tourists. We manned the yardarms for the parade and then motor sailed, (very little wind), through the night to the race start point, Eddystone Lighthouse. The race was started by cannon shot and slowly we sailed down the Channel into the distance and land got fainter and fainter. The weather was surprisingly calm for the whole race. I had been told so much about the dreaded Bay of Biscay, but when we went through it it was extremely calm, at one point we were completely stationary. We did get some wind but never what I would call a storm. Although it was extremely enjoyable just lying in the sun on a still day it would have been exciting to have experienced a full blown storm. Most of the way from England to Spain we were sailing in water 4kms deep. Being an animal lover I had a great time watching the dolphins swimming next to us, the whales flipping their tails on the horizon and sharks cruising around in the distance.

At sea we worked on a system of watches, each lasting 4 hours. These were continued through the day and night. There were 13 people in each watch, 2 people would be day workers, (odd jobs, lots of Brassoing - the worst), I would be cook's assistant, 'galley rat'. So, at any time, there would be 10 people in charge of the ship. The jobs for each person changed every hour, half the watch would be on stand-by and half would have specific tasks, look-out port and starboard, helm, messenger, (waker-upper, coffee and sandwich maker), and scribe, (log book, taking bearings etc). When the 4 hours was over you 'stood down' and the next watch took over. There are 3 watches in all. Off watch sleep becomes an obsession.

There are a number of permanent crew, each with their own specific jobs. First of all there's the captain, the first mate, the boatswain and boatswain's mate, engineer and navigator. Supernumery (nurse), cook and cook's mate and 3 watch officers. Also each watch has a watch leader. The permanent crew, like the temporary crew, all change with each voyage.

The race distance was 430 miles from Eddystone Lighthouse to La Coruna, Northern Spain. Approximately 80 ships of varying sizes, types and nationalities took part, with 50% of crews under the age of 24. The Malcolm Miller is a 3 masted topsail schooner.

The race was not won by crossing the line first, it was run on altered time. This meant that time was added on or subtracted according to the size of your sails, hull etc. We came third in our class, but, best of all, we beat our sister ship, The Winston Churchill, by 71 miles, despite their so called secret weapon - Robin Knox Johnston.

It was great to see land again and when we reached La Coruna it was a big relief although land still seemed to be swaying about a day and a half later. The dock was lined with beautiful Spanish senioritas. There were a huge amount of sporting activities on offer, I participated in most of them, but mainly in basketball. In the evening there was also a huge amount on offer and being a crew member meant most things were free. There was an astounding firework display at 2 a.m. We usually ended up at a bar called El Rey del Jamon, meaning the King of Ham. In here you could buy huge ham sandwiches very cheap, washed down with sangria and tequila slammers.

When we left Spain all the ships cruised in company down to Oporto in Portugal. This took 2 days. On the way we anchored beside a deserted island off the border between Spain and Portugal for a few hours. A few other ships did the same and we had a barbecue on the beach. I went for a long walk in a forest full of strange trees. We had our first swim because, despite living on the water for 17 days, we still hadn't touched the sea, (no swimming from ship, sharks, cold, speed, etc.) We had to wait for the tide to be at the right point before we could enter Oporto. Almost as soon as we got there we were taken on a tour of Graham's Port cellars and given tasters of different types of port. Oporto is not a huge town but it is very beautiful in a run down sort of way. We only stayed in Oporto for a day and half and then it was time to fly back. It was great to reach England again but very sad to say goodbye to all the friends I had made on the trip, American Nat, Pete, Paul, Ali, Dutch Eric and his top hat, Ella, Spanish Imanol, Tom, Aden and Andy, my watch officer. I have many memories - here are a few: Galley rats, heads (loo) at 45° angle, 206 heave 2-6 tequila, sunrises and sunsets,

egg throwing competition, songs, Tonya's teddy hanging from the end of the yardarm, Prince Philip asking Nat if he had come of his own accord or if he had been sent, ship parties, night watch sandwiches and coffee, walking the gangway at a steep declining angle, due to drop in tide, having had some too many etc etc.... All in all I would say that this was definitely a trip to remember and hopefully I will be able to do it again, mainly because I want to experience a storm.

Congratulations:-

To **Matthew Faircloth** (1984 - 89) on winning the Syntex Prize for undergraduate medical research at St. Mary's Hospital for research into genetic mutations in pancreatic cancer.

Marriages

Edward Webb (1981 -88) to Francesca Amendolia, April 1994
Elliot Gill to **Nichola Pryse** (staff 1994 -), December 1994

Births

To Kathy and **Ben Almond** (1978 - 85) a son, Edward Charles, 24th October 1994
To Fiona and **Tim Nicholas** (1969 - 76) a daughter, Isobel, 6th June 1994
To Karen and **Nigel Taylor** (1971 - 78) a daughter, Natalie, December 1993
To Alison and **Greg Dorey** (1967 - 73) a daughter. Gabriel, May 1994
To Rachel and **Andrew Payne** (1979 - 84) a daughter. Jessica Rosemary, August 1994
To **Carol** (née Franklin) (1977 - 79) and Steve **Lamble**, a son, Charles John, February 1995
To Valerie and **Joe Watson** (1971 - 78) a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, June 1994
To Sally and **David Oughton** (1970 - 77) twin sons, William & Matthew, January 1995

An O.R. Group Summer 1992



Arnold Brain Norman Slade Fred Batten
Alan Shield Austen Magor Jack Allen

Obituary

We have received news of the deaths of the following and extend the society's sympathy to their families:-

Jack Allen (1925 - 32) died suddenly in December. A number of O.R.'s were able to join the large congregation at his funeral. The following tributes have been received:-

From Fred Batten (1926-31):

I arrived at Rendcomb a year later than Jack and a close friendship started then which lasted until his death in December 1994. During school holidays I cycled over to his house at Upton Cheyney where he lived with his widowed mother who was the District Nurse, his aunt who ran the village shop, and his younger brother Jim. Jack left Rendcomb in 1932, during the depression. Jobs were in short supply - as now, and it is shattering to think that for a time the only work he could find was in Bristol as a clerk at the princely sum of 5/- (25 pence) per week and on top of that he had to travel 8/9 miles daily from his home. He later joined a firm of accountants in Bristol with a view to qualifying in accountancy. Whilst there he met, and later married, Mary. In 1940 he was called for service with the RAF and was on the ground staff until demobilised in 1946. Joining a local coastal shipping and coal firm he became company secretary and remained with them until the business closed down. From then until 1987 he worked in a firm of accountants at Bath, not too far from his home at Keynsham where his wife Mary still lives. They have one son, Richard, a solicitor and deputy coroner in the Midlands. Jack enjoyed sport, particularly cricket, and not many meetings between us passed without reference to incidents which occurred in matches between Rendcomb and various teams, in particular visits to Miserden and Major Dawson's team, or with football the shouts of encouragement from the teachers on the touch line from King's School, Gloucester, 'wing it King's' etc. Jack played both cricket and hockey with his local team until he was 40. He loved music, particularly church music, and was a member of the Keynsham parish church choir until his death. He had also been involved with bell ringing at Bitton. Jack was a man of great sincerity, patience and integrity, with an excellent sense of humour. Local dialects, particularly Bristolese, interested him. He had an appreciation of the countryside in all its various facets. He was fond of literature and poetry, particularly Shakespeare. He had a love of Rendcomb, its location, atmosphere, the joy of friendships made there, and a deep appreciation for the opportunity he had been given to become part of it.

From Arnold Brain (1929-37):

Jack as a boy lived in the ancient hamlet of Upton Cheyney in the extreme south-east corner of old Gloucestershire. His father had died when Jack was eight, leaving his widow to bring up Jack and his younger brother in somewhat straitened circumstances. He attended the local school, long since closed because it was so small, and by some stroke of good fortune he was entered for the Rendcomb College scholarship examination, conducted jointly with Gloucestershire county council education committee in 1925. He did well and was selected for interview at Shire Hall and must have impressed the founder and headmaster at interview as the sort of boy from a village school background who would benefit from a boarding school environment and education. How right they were. Although my home was only a mile from his I only met Jack for the first time when I was about to start at Rendcomb in 1929. A 4 year difference in that age group is immense but he nevertheless gave me every confidence that I would enjoy the experience. At college he was particularly enthusiastic at sporting activities, and as a spectator it was obvious that he was the one encouraging the others to surpass themselves. Of his academic attainments I was too young to be aware but it is clear that he was chosen to study for his higher school certificate (approximately equivalent to today's 'A' levels). Jack was then 18 and the country was in the depths of a recession. Fred Batten describes how he tackled the immense problems that young people faced in the period 1931 - 37. I used to meet Jack from 1934 onwards playing hockey in the holidays for a local side. He was always cheerful, enthusiastic and encouraging to the youngest member of the side. He never failed to ask about the happenings at Rendcomb. The war disrupted contact and, apart from a brief reunion in July 1947 when our respective wives met in a maternity home at Keynsham, distance restricted contact to Christmas greetings and at the occasional visit to Rendcomb. More recently in retirement we met more frequently together with a few other old Rendcombians. Jack never changed. His funeral at Keynsham parish church must have been attended by 400 people, some from Upton Cheyney, some from Rendcomb, some for the RAF in which he served throughout the war, besides the many friends and colleagues from Keynsham where he and Mary had lived for nearly 50 years. J.H. Simpson (The college's first headmaster) once said "in a backs to the wall situation I would always put my trust in a man of Gloucestershire". It was this quality and many others that attracted so many people in all walks of life to Jack. The founder's vision was well rewarded.

We received the following two notices from L.M.H.C. Martin (1926 - 33):-

Mrs **Evelyn Bolton-King** died on 3 December 1994. She was assistant matron at the college (née Coy) and

married Ralph Bolton-King who was mathematics master 1928 - 32. Both were very popular. Christopher Sedgwick and I attended their wedding at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London. She was 88 when she died. Their sons James, Robert and Frank were educated at Rendcomb.

Hubert Wallis Hosken died on 25 January 1995. He was a games enthusiast (hockey and soccer), taught languages and introduced German for a few sixth formers. He left just before the war taking with him Miss Winnie Simmons (matron) whom he married. He was 86 when he died. I believe he became head of a Dr. Barnardo's Home.

Hilary Smith (née Jones) died in October 1994 after a long and distressing illness, which she bore with great courage and cheerfulness. O.R.'s will remember her as the college matron (1975 - 77) before her marriage to Dr Graham Smith. The society extends its sincere condolences to Graham Smith, James and Rebekah.

William Young Willetts (1929 - 37) died in Kuala Lumpur on 30th January 1995. The following obituary from *The Independent*, sent in by G.S. Davis, is reproduced with due acknowledgements:-
William Willetts leaves a legacy of scholarship which inspired many of the now established field of South-East Asian art studies. It was typical of his talented and temperamental character that he should have made his most significant mark in a field of study that turned out to be a lifelong detour from his chosen rendezvous with Chinese art. He was born in 1918 near Swindon, and educated at Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire. Although he read biology at Bristol University as the first recipient of the Dulverton open scholarship, he decided that the study of Chinese culture was to be his vocation. At 16 he had seen the great International Exhibition of Chinese Art, held at Burlington House, London, in 1935 - 36, an experience he later described as 'a turning point in my life'. During the Second World War he studied Chinese art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, in London, and took an MA under Professor K. de B. Codrington at London University in 1946. In 1950 he completed an honours degree in classical Chinese at Oxford. Willetts published his influential two-volume 'Chinese Art' in 1958 with Penguin Books and on the strength of the royalties sailed for China. En route his ship called at Madras and Willetts, engaged by the extraordinary strength of south Indian culture, decided to take a closer look. He stayed 6 years. A series of scholarly articles on Indian temple arts and China's maritime links with southern India was the result. 1963's a new chapter open in Willetts' life. He was invited by The Chancellor of the University of Malaya to become the founding curator of the University Art Museum, Singapore. With his combination of connoisseurship and acumen he built an important collection of Chinese and South-East Asian art, appropriate to the aspirations of the newly emerging independent nations of the region. Of equally lasting importance was the creation of the South-East Asian Ceramic Society which Willetts, as founding president, launched in 1971 with an inaugural exhibition at the University Art Museum. This exhibition was the first presentation of the then little-known ceramic traditions of Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam and caused a stir amongst the oriental ceramic cognoscenti. His pioneering catalogue 'Ceramic Art of South-East Asia' inspired a generation of younger scholars and stimulated the interest of government archaeological departments throughout South-East Asia. In the UK, however, his catalogue was reviewed with reluctant praise, and Willetts's contributions patronisingly dismissed by those who failed fully to grasp the significance of these developments for ceramic art history. Willetts's pursuit of a somewhat rakish lifestyle (which he later described as 'reading, thinking and drinking') offended some sensibilities. In 1972 he was invited to be founding curator at the University of Malaya, in Kuala Lumpur. Over the next decade he created the Museum Seni Asia, from which he retired in 1982. He remained in Kuala Lumpur, where he served as chairman of the South-East Asian Ceramic Society West Malaysian Chapter. He organised exhibitions and lectured throughout South-East Asia to the ceramic societies which had subsequently emerged in Jakarta, Manila and Hong Kong, inspired by the example of the Singapore ceramic society. His last important publication, 'Chinese Calligraphy' (1981), signalled a desire to return to his study of Chinese aesthetics. Willetts never got to China, but it has to be said that the unquestionable loss to Chinese art history was a gain for South-East Asian studies. His contribution went beyond his academic publications. He gave direction to collectors through his connoisseurship and led by example in the formation of important public collections in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. The establishment of South East Asian ceramics as a respectable field of inquiry was perhaps his most lasting legacy

John Guy

Clive Probert (1966 - 72). Younger O.R.'s will be shocked to learn of Clive's death in February. After reading chemistry at Oxford, he obtained a Ph.D at London University before going to work in the European Patent Office in Berlin. He enjoyed pursuing the musical interests which he developed at Rendcomb and was delighted to become a member of the Bach Choir in Berlin.

R. Townsend (1924 - 29) died in 1991 (not confirmed).

Fredy Fisher - two reminiscences to add to the obituary in last year's newsletter: George Davis (1939-46) writes:

"I was also sad to hear of the death of Fredy Fisher. This brought back vivid memories of a procession of cars arriving on the asphalt (viewed by form 1 from the history room windows), and the removal, with the minimum of luggage, of both Fredy and an Austrian national called Winter who at that time was school secretary. They had been detained under 18B Regulations for the 'Detention of Foreign Nationals'" and **Chris Beck** adds:

"I can recall in 1942 John James speaking of the arrival of an apologetic police sergeant from North Cerney to take Fredy and the bursar, a Mr Winter, into internment. Fredy's comment in his inimitable teutonic accent was "Little do you realise that you are arresting the future Prime Minister of Great Britain" - commendable ambition though he didn't quite make it. I can recall too in 1943, and just before our own departure for the services, Fredy regaling the upper 6th, and scruffily dressed as an NCO in the Royal Armoured Corps, with a story of how he and his crew had contrived to lose a tank on exercises. But he was a brave man. Capture and subsequent interrogation in Normandy could well have led to summary execution."

Staff Common Room News

Mrs Nicola Gill has joined the staff as head of geography and Miss Rachel Houghton as head of German. Lt Col J F A Grey has taken over from Cmdr E T Thring as bursar. Mr Alex Brealy O.R. (1982 - 1987) has joined the staff to teach geography

Chris and Penny Wood will be giving up the old rectory in July when Chris takes over as head of science.

David and Judy White will run the old rectory from September.

John and Paula Watson take over Godman House from Paul and Jane Sykes in September when it becomes the junior girls' house.

Review - Ernest Neal's 'The Badger Man, Memoirs of a Biologist'

Ernest Neal was Rendcomb's biology master from September 1935 to July 1945. It was his first permanent teaching post. He was a member of the group of dedicated teaching staff who contributed to the development of many aspects of Rendcomb in the later 1930's and who carried the college through the difficult 1939 - 45 wartime years. Strongly supported throughout his career by his wife Betty, also a biology graduate. His wide range of natural science pursuits, his photographic skills and many interests have enabled him to make major contributions to the broader development of science education. His broadcasts on radio and TV. have helped to increase public awareness of natural history and ecology. The Badger Man is an interesting autobiography that covers his very active life, his wide range of interests and his notable achievements during his 84 years. The title reflects his lifelong interest in and study of the badger. The book cover has an entertaining illustration of a badger in an academic gown and mortar board holding a book titled 'Homo Sapiens'. The early chapters cover the strong and warm family relationships of his childhood and school years. The importance of human relationships and of nature's inter-relationships is a recurrent theme. He has always retained a firm Christianity and a broad interest in nature from his early upbringing. The contrasts of childhood life in rural north Hertfordshire and, from 1917, in urban Battersea - with zeppelin raids - are vividly described, a very different world from today's. Although his father's income as a Baptist minister was low, family life was always active and happy. His early school education was enhanced by a later bursary to Taunton school, but the lack of finance frustrated his hopes of studying medicine. His decision to become a biologist and to teach was a very beneficial change for his later pupils and colleagues. He gained his B.Sc. degree at Chelsea Polytechnic in botany, zoology and chemistry and then took an M.Sc. in zoology. Two chapters describe his ten years experience at Rendcomb. They portray a school of 80 boys with an unusual social mix for those times, and its internal organisation of the General meeting and the council that provided a measure of self-government. The Cotswold countryside was an ideal environment in which to develop his practical teaching skills and to begin his studies of the badger. His sports interests enabled him to help with the coaching of cricket and soccer. Natural science expeditions were also organised. Much of his later work was a natural progression from his dedicated early teaching and science work, although equipment in research and in photography later became more sophisticated and reliable. His photographs of Rendcomb's icy conditions in the winter of 1940 and of Rendcomb's badger sets are still striking. He and Betty coped effectively with war time experiences and problems while their family grew. Taunton School had ten times Rendcomb's numbers and posed many new challenges. He continued to develop his science education and curriculum interests and also his work on

badgers. In his scarce spare time he raised two otter cubs that had been orphaned. His contributions to and participation in scientific societies and research increased, despite a heavy workload at school, including being a housemaster with all its pastoral work. He helped in the filming of badgers for the BBC and took part in a variety of BBC radio and t.v. science programmes. He also continued to organise school science trips and expeditions. He gained his doctorate from London University in 1960 on more detailed studies of the badger. His work on science educational films for schools and his increasing reputation in science led to his participation in scientific expeditions in the Indian Ocean, in Spain and in East Africa. He was deputy head, as well as a housemaster, during his final years at Taunton in the volatile and challenging 1960's. He has a balanced view on them and he welcomed Taunton's acceptance of girl pupils at that time. He ably and loyally assisted two new headmasters in those final years. The family continued to live in Somerset after his retirement from Taunton School in 1970. He wrote a biology text book and a comprehensive book on badgers and edited a range of general science books. He was also active in the establishment of The Somerset Trust for Nature Conservancy, as well as in other scientific and natural science activities and societies. The chapters on his expeditions overseas cover many varied topics, including the climbing of Mount Kilimanjaro and the study of the banded mongoose. His later role as a guest lecturer on safaris in East Africa helped him to further his knowledge and appreciation of East African countries and people. The final chapters include his recovery from a severe spinal operation, greatly helped and supported by all his family. It has left him with a painful disability. He is again positively emphatic about the great importance of sound and unselfish inter-relationships in human affairs and in nature. 'The Badger Man' will appeal directly to readers with an interest in ecology and the natural sciences. It will also provide a good read for a wider audience as the life history of a dedicated teacher, scientist and family man with a broad range of pursuits. He has a very well informed and balanced approach to the ecological matters that are of such importance for all of us.

'The Badger Man' includes Ernest Neal's continued contacts with Rendcombians. It can be obtained from the Providence Press, 38b Station Road, Haddenham, Ely Cambridgeshire, CB6 3XD. It costs £13.95, or by post including postage £15 either from the publisher (The Provident Press, 38b Station Road, Haddenham, Ely Cambs, CB6 3XD) or, if you want a signed copy from the author at 42, Park Avenue, Bedford, MK40 2NF.

Ted Jones (1940 - 1948)

Mr R. Kelsey

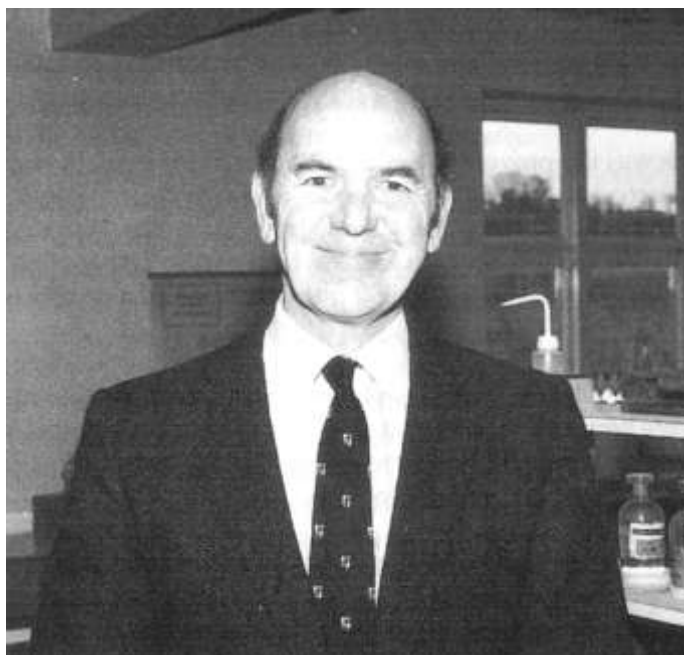
Ron Kelsey joined the staff in 1969 as head of an already flourishing chemistry department. His dedication to the subject is witnessed by the high success rate in public examinations and by the number of his pupils who have won awards at Oxford and Cambridge or read chemistry at other universities. For many years he was a devoted coach of junior rugby teams and also a sympathetic tutor in the main building before the new boarding houses were built. He was appointed as Rendcomb's first careers master in 1969 and thereafter steadily built up a valued advisory service for pupils, supported by careers conventions and industrial conferences. For fifth formers he also instigated the work experience week scheme after the end of their public examinations. Many O.R.'s, especially scientists, owe Ron Kelsey a deep debt of gratitude and will want to wish him every success in his new career as chief examiner with the Welsh Examinations Board.

W.J.D.W.

From Owen Rhys (1964 - 70):

For many of us 'doing science' in 6B, chemistry was something that went with physics and maths, or was a necessary evil for medicine or biological sciences. It was a distraction one suffered in between rugby training and rugby matches. In particular, chemistry books had soporific effects, and were to be used only in small doses. And then, along with 6A status, came Ron Kelsey. Enthusiastic and creative, his approach verged on the heretical. "You don't have to learn this like a parrot" he cajoled, "you can work it out!" The words of a seductive siren? Probably thought I. But he did seem to have a very interesting practical side - the enormous glass vessels in which curious alcoholic brews fermented in his kitchen. And then came the madness - Ron started to demonstrate that his dry old subject could be fun! Organic chemistry became a straight forward process of electron density and arrows, instead of something other people could smell on your clothes. It was even possible to get to grips with some of the physical and inorganic stuff by learning about orbital theories and the like. For me at least, this was the proverbial scales falling from my eyes. A sudden burst of brilliant light on the road to the old stable block. I actually began to look forward to finding out the next chapter in the story. Chemistry became almost fascinating - well, perhaps that's a bit over the top, but you know what I mean! I have often wondered since then how much better we might have done if our year had had a double helping of

'Special K.' And yet, under Ron's guidance, we did well enough on the single helping. His first set of 'A' level results were very satisfactory, and after that they improved still further. With his usual thoroughness and foresight, Ron proceeded to build links for the future with universities that appreciated his style of teaching. There are many measures of a good teacher: are pupils motivated to learn? do they retain and build on what they have discovered? etc., etc. For Rendcomb, at that time at least, a key results measure was the number of Oxbridge students. Ron demonstrated his effectiveness with a continuous, uninterrupted stream of chemistry places - can there be many masters who can claim to have achieved at least one Oxbridge candidate every year? And what of other measures? Completely on top of his subject, Ron kept his energy under control by working with industry and taking on careers counselling. Even the examination process



interested him. However, beneath the head of science there is also a dedicated family man. He and Joyce have nurtured three very talented daughters through the traumas of growing up. That done, renovating cottages in both England and France has become another little pastime. No doubt there will be other extensive projects if 'free time' starts to weigh heavily. So what now? Leaving Rendcomb to become chief examiner will be an interesting move for Ron, but a hard act to follow for future masters. I wish you well in your new role Ron - and thanks for the chemistry!

(Owen Rhys lives in Marlborough and is a management consultant)

From Kevin Holmes (1983 - 90) and James Sleeman (1985 - 92):

After 26 years of drilling the basics of chemistry into Rendcomb pupils, Mr Kelsey has decided to finish teaching and 'bat for the other side' by devoting his time to examination board work. Ron Kelsey came to Rendcomb in 1969 and took over as head of science ten years later. Since then many of his students have taken his enthusiasm for the subject on to university with some establishing careers in the chemical industry. Mr Kelsey's efficient and comprehensive teaching style ensured a constant stream of high A-level and O-level/GCSE grades, indeed there is no greater example of this than his remarkable ability to get Rendcombians into Oxford! Lessons also had a regular injection of humour when Mr Kelsey shared one of his immortal jokes, for example:

Q. What is a policeman paid for the evening shift?

A. copper nitrate.

On top of his commitments to the school he also found time to engage in some consultancy work with BP, of which one product was an educational text on chemical engineering. Mr Kelsey would distribute this book around the class with a knowing smile and wait expectantly for someone to notice the author, accepting any praise modestly. It was not only in the classroom that Mr Kelsey provided inspiration - he was also a very accomplished experimentalist, leading varied and testing practical sessions. Notable laboratory moments include the occasion, shortly before Christmas one year, when he treated his upper sixth form set to sherry and mince pies. The sherry in the absence of other suitable receptacles, being drunk from Pyrex beakers! During our time at Rendcomb, Mr Kelsey also filled the posts of careers master and first year rugby coach. As the former he was very active in bringing prospective employers to the school, organising an excellent careers fair each March, as well as finding work experience placements for the fifth form in the summer. In his capacity as the latter he was the spark which lit many glorious rugby careers, memories of cold and wet afternoons spent running around the estate garden come flooding back. Mr Kelsey was also responsible for many other facets of Rendcomb life, including the provision of informed and interesting speakers for the annual Wills Memorial Lecture. It would be fair to say that Mr Kelsey has had a very profound effect in shaping the academic futures of generations of Rendcomb scientists and his absence from the school will be most noticeable. We wish him the very best of luck in his new position.

(Kevin Holmes and James Sleeman are at Pembroke College, Oxford, reading chemistry)

O.R. London Dinner Photograph (Printed in the '93 and '94 newsletter)

Many O.R.'s have written in with suggestions about the missing names - the general consensus seems to be:

3. S. Curry	19. J. Sumsion	26. J. Russell
14. P.G. Forrest	21. J. Carus	29. A. Caverhill
18. R. Wood	22. N.P. Elson	30. J. Alder

Rendcomb Reminiscences

by Paul Heppleston (1956 - 62)

Thirty-five years ago and D.de G. S.

I'm one who enjoys looking back at my Rendcomb schooldays. And yes, I do get nostalgic about the six years I spent there - from 1956 to 1962. So whilst searching through some old papers the other day I was agreeably surprised to find something written almost exactly 35 years ago. It was written by David Sells and I feel its printing in the O.R. news is not just something that my fellow O.R.'s might like to see again but also gives me the chance to pay a small tribute to the inventiveness and personality of D.de G. S., who was at Rendcomb for all my years, before and since. He enters my memoria nostalgica in a number of guises. Yes, he taught French exceedingly well, but my main memories are of other events. The first took place probably about 1959, when one summer term my dormitory had the idea of a (rare) practical joke one Saturday night. The plan was that all nine of us juniors in dorm 3 (first floor, turn right at end of landing and turn right again) would sneak out in the middle of the night without waking the prefect of the dormitory, we'd then work this crazy scheme to fetch in from the surrounding countryside (actually the grounds within about 100 metres of the school - old building, remember) a variety of bits of garden furniture. These were to be placed at strategic points up the main marble staircase ready for the rest of the school to see next morning, and admire the perpetrators' guts and daring. To tell you the truth, I was rather a plain guy who had no streak of originality or daring at all when it came to straying from the straight and narrow, so my heart was beating pretty fast as I collected my particular item from wherever. Next morning it did look rather good actually - and all of us feigned surprise and hilarity at such a novel (and exceedingly rare) occurrence. There hadn't been anything done like this for as long as anyone could remember, perhaps we'd go down in history and be remembered for ever, even a mention on the honours board maybe? Garden seats were in position, with ornamental flower-pots and such-like, but the centre-piece was the structure on the bottom landing of the stairs. Nowadays you'd call it a portalo, but then it was canvas. And visible under the foot-high gap at the bottom was a pair of shoes with collapsed trousers atop. Ho, ho, ho... Just before post-breakfast grace David Sells "wishes to see those responsible for the constructions - in my room immediately" So I shame-facedly joined the other 8 upstairs - for what? Sells just talked to us! No punishment, no expulsion, nothing. I was amazed. So from then on my respect for him shot up (it was high anyway) and in later years I much relished his literary society where we ate chocolate biscuits and read plays like Jean Cocteau's Orpheé - I still remember curious lines from that play like 'a mirror would do better to reflect backwards' and a 'glass of water could light the whole world'. I didn't understand Cocteau, but the biscuits were great. And in my final years (U6 - and in those days university boys tended to stay on for a third year in the sixth form) I scratched the surface of the German language in that same upstairs room where so much had happened, still remembering today his 'time, manner, place'.

That item I found the other day is also from 1959. It was the custom for each year's (fancy dress) Christmas party to have some musico-dramatic input and this particular year there were a few sketches on the big school stage, including one called 'Nostalgia Rendcombiensis'. It was sung (if I remember tightly) by Hugh Gough to a well-known tune, played in inimitable style by dear old John Tooze (who deserves a few pages of epitaph to himself someday). And the words, parodied by D.de G.S., are those printed below. For the benefit of those too old or too young (or even for those whose age is just right and who'd like to be reminded of the event) I've added a glossary to explain the 'in' words of the time.

Nostalgia Rendcombiensis

Now at last my school days are over,
Did they go by too fast?
Now I reminisce and wonder whether I'm regretting
The past - my regrettable past

Thanks for the memory
of restful NTPs'
Of five o'clock snack teas
Of planning stunts and rooting runs
And draughts around the knees
How jackson it was!

Thanks for the memory
Of rugger in the rough
High voices getting gruff
Of taxi rides, and many sides
And having a peaceful puff
How jackson it was!
Many's the time that I've panicked
Many the highlight and blackspot
And many O many the jackpot
We did have fun
And no harm done

So thanks for the memory
Of toiling in the snow
Pro bono publico
Of tiddley winks, concocted stinks
And serving on a Co.
O thank you so much.

Thanks for the memory
Of stimulating diet
Of dormitories in riot
The lodges race and Latin grace
And cooking on the quiet
How jackson it was!

Thanks for the memory
Of references to fogs
Of sawing many logs
Of cycle tag, a magnus rag
No water in the ***** bath!
How jackson it was!

Many's the time that I've panicked
Many's the highlight and blackspot
But many O many the jackpot
We did have fun, and no harm done....

So thanks for the memory
Of shirts without a tie
Of music room hi-fi
Of second bell and little hell
And most of all - T.(I.)-

I'm awfully glad I've been here
Cheerio and toddle-oo
And thank you - so much.

D. De G. Sells, Christmas Party 1959
Glossary

Quite a few of the references are obvious, or can easily be worked out.
1. NTPs - non teaching periods

2. A runt was the (vogue) word for (very) small boys
3. All non-prefects wore short trousers (except on Sundays). This was a link with the Kurt Hahn type of schooling which James Simpson introduced. The senior non-prefect received an honorary and perhaps back-handed consolation prize title of being 'the senior knee'.
4. 'Jackson' was one of those curious words, in this case meaning absolutely brill. I think its origins go to that estate agent with an office in Cirencester called 'Jackson-Stops and Staff'. Sorry about the advertising.
5. For the autumn term 1959, there was an acute water shortage. The junior half of the school were told to stay away until about 2-3 weeks into the term, and watering of playing fields was out. Hence us seniors played rugby on a temporary pitch in a (rough) field behind where the present doctor's surgery stands today.
6. Taxi-rides - piggy backs
7. Sides were (are?) a common form of punishment, writing out n sides of file paper, copying from a book. One teacher insisted on two colours, the letters alternating between red and blue ink throughout.
8. 'For the good of the public' every Tuesday afternoon we boys carried out a variety of chores to benefit the school - apparently
9. 'Co.' - boys organised the running of events and sports etc., which were controlled by committees, for which proper nominations and elections were held each term.
10. The lodges race was an annual event of two and a half miles down to the Cheltenham lodge, along the main road to the Cirencester lodge and back up the Conigre Wood track to school. The record was about 13 minutes. I hated it and was glad it was replaced by the Greenmeadow race. I also hated that, but at least there was no danger of being knocked down on the A435 by speeding vehicles.
11. Latin grace before and after meals. Very civilised.
12. I think David Sells was a bit short on rhyme here?
13. One of the main punishments was 'an hour's work.' This took the form of sawing logs. We never queried the obvious fact that these were for the fireplaces of staff - boys hardly ever saw a flame anywhere (except maybe at the infrequent 'grand dances' to which a small, select group of girls were invited - sisters and genuine girl friends. Boy oh boy such flames. I marvel now that these lasses put up with such crazy dances, either they were desperate, curious or very polite (I guess the latter).
14. Cycle tag was 'touch' on bikes. They were called bikes anyway though none would class as such now. Before being allowed to ride one at school, we had to pass the dreaded cycle test, which examined a variety of skills including the famous finale when we would ride down the (then rough-surfaced) back drive with no hands on the handlebars to stop inches before the stern figure of the tester at the bottom - DWLB himself. Oh such control.
15. In vogue was Latin - and various degrees of fights or melees were not excluded from the labelling system.
16. Another Kurt Hahn idea was open-necked shirts. I still prefer that and hardly ever wear a tie, even now. I'm a teacher!
17. Rather dates one doesn't it to have a music centre (or whatever) called a hi-fi. A huge machine it was.
18. Sleeping darlings were awakened by a hand-rung bell around the corridors at 7.15 a.m. Those who insisted on remaining asleep got a second (final) reminder ten minutes later, which left only minutes before getting down to breakfast.
19. Little hell perhaps exists to this day. Then it was a forbidden part of the planet down a concrete slope around the back of the school near that small round building. It led to the underworld of the school and no one knew what went on there....
20. Every so often a health check was carried out which included a detailed examination of bits of boys' bodies by the school doctor. 'T' stood for inspection - and in the song was continued as the first syllable of the next line.

Of course, my memory might be recycling total rubbish. If so, no doubt somebody will tell me!
Paul Heppleston

Addenda: D.de G.S. himself points out that:

1. 'Fog' was a word commonly in use by staff at that time to divert any conversation which threatened to become embarrassing.
2. 'Little hell' (now the sixth form centre) was much-used smokers' refuge (Plus ça change - ed.)
3. 'T.I.' (Weights and Measures) was carried out by the headmaster.

Performing Arts

The last year has seen a number of interesting developments in the field of the performing arts. Both the 'A' level performing arts and GCSE expressive arts courses are producing some excellent results and give a firm

base for drama work at the college. Last summer saw the production of 'Guys and Dolls', the largest musical we have yet to stage. Lead roles were taken by Steven Croft, Anna Ronowicz, Becky Doyle and Tim Shaw with notable performances given by John Morgan and Itseng Kwelagobe. The whole cast managed to really feel the mood of 1950's America and the overall quality of singing and acting was very high. Playing to packed houses each night, the cast were supported by a band ably led by David White and credit must go to John Tolputt for organising and co-ordinating a polished performance with such a large and varied cast. We have been fortunate in securing the talents of Sally Beard, from Stroud, who has been coming regularly for over a year to teach dance at Rendcomb. She covers a wide and varied range of styles and the junior dance activity has flourished with great success. The first public glimpse we saw of this was at the Black Box Theatre held in November where our now familiar evening of one-act plays was complemented by a number of dance routines performed as part of the evenings' production. There were a number of contributions from various drama groups, again under the direction of the headmaster, ranging from more serious works starring Katherine Bagshawe, Lindsay Duff, Imogen Cox and Robert Bateman to some Fry and Laurie sketches handled with great wit by Jack Jelfs and Sean Ismael, to a successfully improvised play by the 6A performing arts group. We look forward to the junior play this year; 'The Boyfriend' is being performed by members of junior house on March 15th and 16th, and we are in the throes of planning our summer play, Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which we will be performing outdoors as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations in the summer term.
S.J.L.

School Sport

RUGBY REPORT 1994-95 Season

This season saw the college completing the usual full and demanding fixture list, and our willingness and ability to field up to nine teams simultaneously from limited numbers of boys remains almost unique on our circuit and is very much to our credit. As ever, the commitment and spirit of all teams, often in difficult circumstances, was highly commendable. If these elements represent continuity with the past, this season has also witnessed changes of such significance that it might be reasonably argued that Rendcomb rugby is undergoing a period of transition. The most striking of these changes has been Mike Newby's giving up of overall responsibility for the game at Rendcomb. It is difficult for those of us involved in college rugby to think of a time when Mike was not running the sport and his is a substantial legacy in every sense, and one which is based on the virtues mentioned in my opening remarks. It is certainly appropriate here to mention the technical excellence of his coaching, and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the game, and also his ability to communicate these to players and colleagues alike. Fortunately he continues to apply these qualities in his new role - overseeing the development of the U13 squad who represent the future of Rendcomb rugby. At the same time Mike has, in his refereeing capacity, been able to make his uniquely sympathetic contribution to the education of those occupants of the touchline whose vociferousness and knowledge of rugby are present in inverse proportions. This is a phenomenon that is sadly becoming all too common in schoolboy rugby but one which I can honestly and gratefully say I have yet to detect in a Rendcomb spectator. Elsewhere, there was considerable redeployment amongst the coaching staff. Martin Griffiths rejoining the senior game to coach the 2nd XV, James Stutchbury joining John Watson to run the 3rd/4th XVs, John Williams returning to the U15 group to assist Lindsay Haslett, and new (old) boy Alex Breal joining the U13 coaching team. Another significant change was the departure of Chris King, not just from Rendcomb rugby, but worse, to a soccer school! Well deserved tributes to his considerable contribution on the rugby field have already appeared in these pages, and I have certainly benefited from the legacy of Chris' investment in youth in his last season as coach. Last year's captain rightly observed that the '93 XV is best regarded as quality claret, 'too young to be at its best, but full of potential for the future'. Certainly much of that potential was realised this season, and the success of the XV was underpinned by the commendable record of a strong 2nd XV built around a nucleus of old hands but also containing a number of players for the future. Thus the 2nd XV was both able to be successful in its own right and serve its purpose in developing players new to senior rugby. The match against the OR's, played in the usual competitive but friendly spirit, was dominated by a driving wind, as in the previous encounter. Nevertheless, the game saw the college XV at their best. Playing into the wind in the first half, the pack took control with a tight, disciplined performance that served to deny the O.R.'s the opportunity to establish a decisive lead. In the second half, the college half-backs exploited the conditions intelligently and provided the means whereby their back division could dominate the game. Patrick Boydell once again demonstrated the importance of a drop-goal at a crucial moment, and the college's backs supplemented this with tries of genuine quality to run out winners by 21-10. Beyond the senior squad, the playing record of the U 13's is outstanding and offers considerable grounds for optimism in the long term. Elsewhere Rendcomb teams often found themselves struggling against physically larger opponents from schools with far greater strength in

depth. Nowhere was this disparity more starkly illustrated than by the U14's who were often reduced to a squad of little more than fifteen fit men. No real selection problems perhaps, but another clear sign of the ongoing impact on rugby of the changing boy-girl ratio in the college. Seen in this light, the efforts of Paul Sykes and his team are highly commendable.

Another aspect of Mike Newby's legacy is a strong fixture list built around a number of 'blocks' against schools with far greater playing resources than Rendcomb. As it becomes increasingly difficult for us to compete realistically across the board in such blocks, our fixture list will have to evolve accordingly. Indeed, this transition is already underway. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, there was much to encourage beyond the playing records of the 1st, 2nd and U13 XV's. The U15's qualified for the semi-finals of the district cup as winners of their regional group, and lost by the narrowest of margins to the eventual winners. The 3rd and 4th XV's enjoyed their season and represented the college with great pride and commitment, and the 3rd XV were able to go into the club dinner heartened by a resounding and deserved victory in their final match. The dinner, another important part of the Newby legacy again proved to be a memorable and hugely enjoyable occasion. The speeches were uniformly impressive, and Tony Winstone, Miles Brown, Patrick Boydell and John Morgan are to be congratulated for taking on their daunting tasks with such aplomb and maturity. The contribution made by this event to the development of individuals such as these should not be underestimated. As guest speaker we were delighted to welcome back Chris King, who kindly agreed to 'come off the bench' as a late replacement for England player Jonathan Callard who had an international commitment.

1st XV overall: Played 15, Won 9, Lost 6, For 368, Against 255

v. Bristol Cathedral School (A)	L 3-23	v. Cirencester College (H)	W 35-11
v. Rednock School (A)	W 52-0	v. Cokethorpe School (H)	W 41-0
v. Kingswood School (H)	W 23-13	v. Bearwood College (A)	W 55-0
v. Wycliffe College (A)	L 20-25	v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	L 22-24
v. Bredon School (H)	W 24-19	v. Dean Close School (A)	L 13-36
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	W 19-15	v. Kingham Hill School (A)	W 15-13
v. King's School Gloucester (H)	L 13-22	v. O.R.'s (H)	W 21-10
v. Magdalen College School (A)	L 11-44		

Burford 7-a-side tournament: Second, PF: 112 PA: 14

Team from: S. Jones, L. White (vice captain), S. Ismail, F. Newcombe, C. Marcham, F. Barton, R. Duhmke, W. Heaven, N. Carmichael, P. Boydell (captain), J. Morgan, A. Tibbs, S. Croft, F. Ingham, A. Harris, M. Adams, L. Freeman.

M.S.

SCHOOL HOCKEY 1995

Rendcomb hockey in 1995 will be remembered for two aspects in particular. The quality and determination of the senior players, including the 4th XI, and the excellent results achieved by teams which were not expected to have such a good season. Good examples of the latter were the 1st XI drawing with Dean Close School's best XI ever and the under 15A XI beating a Kingswood side which had been undefeated for a season and a half. Old Rendcombians figured strongly this season because Andy Branston (Cheltenham and Gloucestershire under 21 goalkeeper) coached the girls in the Christmas term and the boys in the Lent term whilst Phil Moore (Cirencester 1st XI) helped out with umpiring. The 1st XI encountered O.R.'s in several matches. Cheltenham Wednesday (Andy Branston and John Webb), New College, Swindon (Mike Smith) and Cirencester (Phil Moore, Charles Paine). In addition, the O.R.'s produced three good sides to play the school in the annual fixture which was enjoyed by many spectators. The school has been represented in Gloucestershire teams at under 15, under 14, and under 13 levels and under 13 boy and girl teams played in the Gloucestershire mini tournament this year. Rugby is no longer played on the pitch beside the wilderness (WI) so it has become the second best pitch and landage has improved significantly. All girls played hockey in the Christmas term which allowed Bobby Morgan, Chris Wood and David Essenhigh to assist Sandy Westhead (the new head of girls' sport), Joan Newby and Nicola Gill. The following teams were fielded although, due to small numbers in certain year groups, not always simultaneously: 1st, 2nd, U16, U15, U14, U13

Girls' hockey: Played 31 won 13 Drew 6 Lost 12
Boys' hockey: Played 70 won 33 Drew 19 Lost 18

Boys' 1st XI results:-

v. Cheltenham College	W 2-1
v. Colston's	L 0-1
v. King's, Gloucester	W 3-2
v. Christ College	W 1-0
v. Cheltenham Wed	W 3-2
v. Kingswood	D 2-2
v. Dean Close	D 2-2
v. King's Gloucester	W 3-1
v. New College, Swindon	D 2-2
v. Bownside	W 4-0
v. O.R. Society	L 0-2
v. Cirencester	D 3-3
v. Crypt	W 5-0
v. Sedbergh, Cumbria	to play

Girls' 1st XI results:-

v. Cheltenham College	L 0-5
v. St. Clothilde's	W 2-0
v. Wycliffe College	L 0-5
v. King's Gloucester	D 1-1
v. Chosen Hill	W 3-1
v. Westonbirt	W 4-2
v. Cotswold School	W 2-0
v. King's, Bruton	D 0-0
v. King's Gloucester	L 1-2
v. Westonbirt	W 2-1

O.R. Sport

RUGBY - 10th December 1994

O.R. Team: J. Mills, G. Head, H. Auld, N. Barton, C. Oliver (captain), P. Morgan, A. Graham, M. Head, C. Lawton, B. Davies, A. Costelloe & school players
Result: O.R.'s lost 10-21

MENS HOCKEY 19 March

1st XI: A. Branston (GK), C. Paine, A. Mackinnon, I. Webb, P. Moore (capt), T. Burns, G. Veale, M. Binder, M. Moody, N. Lumby, P. Morgan.
O.R.'s won 2-0

2nd XI: J. Hutton-Potts, P. Paterson-Fox (capt), N. Paterson-Fox, A. Paton, D. Appleton, A. Phelps, A. Payne, M. Cordeux, A. Breal, T. Breal, A. Hawkins (school GK)
O.R.'s won 3-0

3rd XI: G. Hughes, J. Fellows, M. Faircloth, J. Wheeler, J. Gregory, N. Barton, V. Tredwell, A. Powell, B. Gallagher, R. Matson + 1 guest player (GK)
OR's lost 0-4

2nd XI Hockey Match Report

Three cheers for the Unforgettables XI, the dilettante gentlemen's XI from the vintage years of 1984 & 86 who returned this year for their 6th encounter against the school. Relying as much upon good humour, team spirit and grim determination as fitness and technical prowess, the Unforgettables displayed an impressive array of fighting spirit and gusto to silence the critics with an emphatic 3-0 victory. The first half proved fruitless despite constant attacks on the school goal helped by an outstanding contribution from the Unforgettables goalie - Adam Hawkins, on loan from the school. The continued pressure was temporarily alleviated whilst J Hutton Potts, the stalwart right back, was stretchered off to hospital with an horrific head injury. Undeterred, and with only 10 men, the Unforgettables redoubled their efforts, wave upon wave of attacks were repaid 10 minutes into the second half when P Paterson Fox capitalised on confusion in the opposition goalmouth with a well taken goal. Second and third goals followed quickly, another by P Paterson Fox followed by one from M Cordeux. There the scoreline remained to bring the Unforgettables to 3-3 from six games played so far. A spokesman thanked the valiant support and confirmed that training was already underway to deliver another victory in 1996 and beyond!

Ladies Netball

P. Parsons, R. Knightly-Brown, M. Preen, L. Payne (capt), A. Duguid, S. Fox, T. Keegan
O.R.'s won 17-11

CRICKET REPORT - 3rd July 1994

O.R.'s won the toss and batted first on a good flat wicket. Mark Webb and John Lutwyche opened the innings, but with the score on 7 Morris bowled Lutwyche. Richard Deacon came in No. 3 and played as well as I have seen him, taking the game to the college he scored runs all round the wicket. Although college took the wickets of Wells (17), Fellows (0), and Leigh (6), nothing could stop Deacon who finished the day on 100 not out. John Carroll ably supported him on 48 not out. The O.R.'s declared on 214. The college set about their task well, although Francis Newcombe was bowled in the first over. Ian Thompson and Francis Barton took the score to 70 in good time, before both fell, Thompson at 36 and Barton 29. After that the college batting was very disappointing and they were all out for 126 with John Roney, Ashley Clark, John Carroll and Julian Leigh taking the wickets.

Everyone enjoyed themselves on a good dry day.

Scores: O.R.'s 214 for 4 wickets declared, college 126 all out

D.E.



TENNIS - 3rd July 1994

A revival after several years' lapse

Men's singles / Mens' doubles / 2 mixed doubles

O.R. players: M. Faircloth, L. Payne, M. Preene, A. Bell, A. Mackinnon, P. Croft, P. Morgan

Result: O.R.'s lost 1-7

In future the match will be played in mixed pairs.

MARCH O.R. SPORTS FIXTURE (Sunday March 17th)

Please note that this will be netball for the ladies and hockey for the men. Ladies should get in touch with Lucy Payne on 01285 389624, men should get in touch with Phil Moore on 01374 766209

The society should have enough 'retired' players who could umpire netball or hockey matches, so if you feel up to it please contact Chris Wood on: 01285 831264 or 01451 860871 after July

Ladies matches take place at lunchtime to allow the men to watch and vice versa

LADIES HOCKEY

If enough of you ladies are interested in playing, this will take place on Saturday 9th December, and you should get in touch with Anita Duguid on: 01793 770977 or Chris Wood on: 01285 831263 or 01451 860871 after July

Old Rendcombian News

We have been delighted to hear from a large number of O.R.'s during the past year. This is a selection of their news.

Chris Morshead (1974 - 77) is working in the Aircraft Support Executive at R.N.A.S. Yeovilton providing the interface between the R.N. and both the RAF, who provide the R.N. with aircraft spares, and the many companies who supply equipment.

Mark Raven (1974 - 79) has given up his job with Freeth's recycling unit and has returned to working for the film industry as a film extra more or less full-time. He has appeared in 'Casualty', 'Grange Hill', 'Persuasion' and 'Pride and Prejudice' in minor roles. He has also set up his own agency of period vehicles for film-hire.

Ben Almond (1978 - 85) is still with the US Investment Bank where he manages a team of four providing trade analysis for the equity desks. His wife, Kathy is returning to work for the commercial property market after the birth of their son.

Nicholas Badcott (1979 - 86) teaches history at a secondary school in Walthamstow.

Chris Moody (1980 - 87) is working with Kraft Products in Cheltenham. His brother **Michael** (1984 - 91) graduated in July at Oxford with a 2:1 in medieval studies and is continuing to work on the Restoration Church.

Richard Stibbard (1975 - 82) is a language instructor at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Simon Redman (1977 - 82) is affiliated to the 8th Canadian Hussars in New Brunswick in eastern Canada. He has attended the junior division of the staff college and is a captain in the newly formed Queen's Royal Hussars.

Ian Spencer (1984 - 91) graduated with a 2:1 in economics at the University of Central England. He has started a graduate training programme with W H Smith in Swindon.

Clair Watson (1990 - 92) is a grade 1 primary teacher in an English school in Abu Dhabi. She is also a professional scuba diving instructor for marine divers.

Peter Hayes (1949 - 57) writes from Malawi where he is managing director of Antipest Prt Ltd. He says: "Thank goodness Chris Swaine managed to sustain my interest in entomology!" He represented Nyasaland at both rugby and hockey. He is still involved in amateur dramatics, a passion developed at Rendcomb. He recalls being in a Moliere play on the outdoor stage on founder's day - as a female, which he hated. However, perhaps he learnt something, as he has been the pantomime dame for more years than he cares to remember! He had hoped that his son, now 21, would come to Rendcomb but it was not practical. He would be delighted to see any O.R. visiting Malawi.

Paul Osborne (1963 - 65) writes from Pietermaritzburg in South Africa where he is a partner in a firm of quantity surveyors, after studying at the College of Estate Management in London and then returning to Malawi to become a partner in the practice of R F Fitzsimmons in 1973. He has two daughters from his two marriages. He is still an avid car enthusiast, having owned over 50 interesting cars since 1970. He inaugurated the local Porsche club, being its chairman from 1988-91.

Julian Leigh (1984 - 88) studied dentistry at the London Hospital Medical College in Whitechapel where he captained the 2nd XV in 91/92 and played for United Hospitals 92/93 and 93/94, and also had a game for Surrey. He now works for a busy NHS practice in Camberwell: he intends to specialise soon and may go to the U.S.A. with his wife, a freelance illustrator, and young son.

Peter Grimsdale (1985 - 90) has graduated from the University of Portsmouth with a 2:1 in mechanical engineering. While at Portsmouth, he was able to return to playing rugby - with the United Services - as a wing three-quarter or centre, after his days in a no. 10 shirt at Rendcomb! he has finally managed to land a job with EDS Ltd in Basingstoke as a systems engineer working on a large government contract.

Dominic Scarlett (1979 - 86) joined Barclay's Bank in 1988 and then went to the training department in Wimbledon before moving to the City to work in personnel departments. He is now on a day-release scheme studying at the Institute of Personnel and Development and specialising in human resource management. He was married in 1991 and also has a commission in the Royal Wessex Yeomanry in Gloucester. He says he keeps in touch with **Nick Webb** (1981 - 86) and **Nick Badcott** (1979 - 86).

Adrian Patrick (1963 - 70) wrote in October to say that he was on an assignment in the desert 150km south west of Abu Dhabi. He was working 6 weeks in Abu Dhabi, then 4 weeks leave in the U.K. - hard going at 42! Rendcomb must have trained him for something.

Tim Nicholas (1969 - 76), now Lt. Cmdr RN, has been on a 2 1/2 year exchange with the Australian navy at their air station near Sydney. His time in the Royal Navy will finish at the end of his present job, but he does not intend to give up flying (he qualified as a flying instructor in 1987) as he owns a small aeroplane with **Steve Hicks** (1969 - 76), another O.R. flying enthusiast. He is at present on the navy staff at the RAF Central Flying School flying the Gazelle helicopter to train new instructors.

Ed Webb (1981 - 88) spent his first year at the foreign office working on relations between the then European Community and the countries of EFTA (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). Since then he has been on full-time Arabic training in London and then in Cairo. In April he married Francesca Amendolia whom he met at Pembroke. She too is studying Arabic in Cairo.

Steve Hewitt (19781 - 77) is still at Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture. He lectures on arable crop production and is senior warden (director of student services).

Jonathan Lane (1967 - 74) left the forensic science service in 1990 and joined the 'Specialist Administrative Training Scheme' which aims to allow specialists a taste of mainstream civil service and learn new skills to take back to their parent department. After two years working on the reception and resettlement of refugees, he decided to stay on. Now he is in the police performance unit with responsibility for looking after the home secretary's interest in how well the police service perform, plan for the future and report back to the public. He says it is an interesting job which allows him to get out a lot to talk to police forces about the government's policies - not always well received! He has two sons aged 8 and 6 who play rugby with Aylesbury RFC, and this has had repercussions as he has been on an RFU coaching course and is now an assistant coach with the U9 team! (Shades of the junior game at Rendcomb, but he did not then have a coach who had been on an RFU course as was pretty obvious! - Ed.)

Nigel Taylor (1971 - 78) joined British Airways in 1978 on a sponsored helicopter pilot training scheme. On completing this, he was posted to Aberdeen and then the Shetlands to fly Sikorsky S-61 helicopters in support of the offshore oil and gas industry. He was then transferred to Beccles - more hospitable surroundings! In March 1983 he left British Airways Helicopters to join the RAF going to RAF Cranwell for initial officer training in March 1984. After 18 months of purgatory he was sent to RAF Church Fenton for basic flying training on Jet Provosts - the aim being to convert him to fixed-wing flying. In 1985 he transferred to helicopters, flying Gazelle and Wessex helicopters at Shawbury, thence being posted to N. Ireland. Two years later he had a posting to the Naval Air Squadron at Yeovilton flying Sea King Mk4, allowing detachments to the Far East, Australia, America and most of Europe, culminating in three months in the Gulf during the Gulf War - at which rather unsettled time he also found a chance to marry Karen. After the war, he returned to Shawbury to train as a qualified helicopter instructor. In September 1993 he was posted to 28 Squadron in Hong Kong as Squadron Training officer, where their first child was born.

Philip Lyons (1970 - 76) looked round the college last April - the first time he had returned for 15 years - partly prompted by seeing that there was an exhibition by the Fosseway Artists. He says: "Impressive as many of the paintings were, what struck me more was the beauty of the place itself. I felt very lucky to have spent some of my formative years there, a little nostalgic seeing the familiar statue of Saul with his broken toe (still broken!) and the view over the valley unchanged. When I look back, my time at Rendcomb had a powerful influence on the way I've lived since then. I have learnt to distinguish between taking seriously what happens in the world and being able to see my own place in it with a certain levity. One of my earliest memories of the school is the satisfaction I gained from being able to name everyone there. The anonymity of university life was by contrast disconcerting at times. I picked up a copy of the college prospectus on my way out and was impressed by how cheerful everything (and everyone) looked." Philip divides his time between a psychiatric day hospital where he works with a team and runs, among other things, a creative writing group, and the university's department for continuing education for whom he teaches classes in literary studies.

Martin Stitt (1979 - 86) read biology at Christ Church, Oxford, and after six months at RMA Sandhurst was commissioned into 2nd Battalion, The Royal Greenjackets. He spent two years in N. Ireland before being seconded to 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong. This allowed him further opportunities to travel - to Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. His military service ended in mid 1994 and he took 5 months to return home via the trans-Siberian railway, Moscow and Pakistan. He now has a job with the Hong Kong -

Shanghai Bank. He has met various O.R.'s on his travels - **Duncan Brown** in Kashgar, China, **Sarah Hawkswell** in Nairobi, **Chris Moody** in the French Pyrenees and **Adam Pallant** in Vietnam.

Tim Gay (1947 - 54) wrote in November. "A couple of years ago my wife and I had a short holiday in the Cotswolds. We visited the school briefly. We also went to see Mrs K.L. James in Cirencester. I wanted her to know that, although I had not gone on to university from Rendcomb, her inspirational teaching of English did lead me on eventually to take an Open University degree - in my forties! Looking back, I do not know why I stopped visiting the school within a few years of leaving, because I was very, very happy there and the school's philosophy, its teachers and especially Lee-Browne have remained a strong and lasting influence on me throughout my life. I remember Lee-Browne saying that school shouldn't simply be the happiest days of your life, but a happy preparation for an even happier adult life, which in my case it was. After National Service in Kenya and Aden, I eventually did a trainee management course with Fry's, the chocolate makers, and ended up in the paper standards section of their quality control department inspecting all kinds of wrapping paper. After two years there, it became clear to me that I really wanted to be a teacher. I had always enjoyed woodwork at Rendcomb, taught by Gilbert Graty. He had been at Loughborough and that is where I went too. Woodwork was my main subject but I took drama as my second subject. I went straight on to do a third year at Shoreditch College. I then married Katharine Baker and took up my first teaching post at Royal Russell School, Croydon, where I set up a new craft department. Our six years there where our first two sons were born were especially happy ones. I then moved to Friends's School, Saffron Walden, where I also coached the 1st XI hockey. After five years we moved back to Bristol and a job at Sidcot School, where we were subsequently offered the position of house parents in a newly created boarding house - Katharine, an S.R.N. was matron. Pressures from the new national curriculum urged me to retire early to live in our cottage in Cornwall where I can indulge in interests there was never time or energy to take up whilst teaching."

Joanna Hobbs (1978 - 80) After graduating in English, drama and audiology she went on to be a peripatetic consultant and teacher of hearing-impaired children in deaf units in various schools. She spent two years with VSO in Uganda, training local teachers at a school for the deaf where she was responsible for compiling a Lugandan sign language, which has been officially recognised. She is now married with two children, living in Ghana where her husband is setting up a project for the department of overseas development.

Michael Dawson (1960 - 67) is the principal partner in an 8 doctor partnership in Telford, living in an old vicarage close to the Iron Bridge. He married his wife Carlotta while still a medical student. They have three children - Olivia who is reading psychology at Dundee, Katie-Jane who is doing environmental studies at the New University of Hertfordshire and Tom who is at Walford College doing agricultural mechanics. Michael has recently taken postgraduate masters degree in medical science at Birmingham and is also the GP tutor organising local post graduate training for GP's in the area.

Ben Gallagher (1985 - 90) graduated from Pershore College of Horticulture in July with an HND in landscape and amenity management. He is self-employed working with an ex-colleague under the name of 'Waterstone Landscapes'.

Ian Pengelly (1972 - 78) has been working since January 1993 in the social work dept. at Bristol Royal Infirmary, having qualified as a social worker from Exeter University in 1992. He says: "I very much enjoy working in a multi-disciplinary setting for all the problems that this can bring (e.g. communications) as there is a lot of scope to plan one's own work on the wards that I cover - currently orthopaedics and respiratory medicine. One of the highlights of the time since I left Rendcomb was a trip to New Zealand on a round the world ticket 5 years ago, which included travelling across Australia as well as stopping in Canada and Singapore. I am actively involved in the Bristol Christian Fellowship, which is where I keep up with piano and keyboards as part of the music team. I also play a lot of squash. I keep in touch with **Nigel Hall** (1972 - 79), now living near Luton.

Frank Dutton (1936 - 44) visited Rendcomb for the first time for many years last May. He much enjoyed his tour of the school by a sixth former and subsequently sent some fascinating observations on the text of the History Volume One - some of which may later find their way into the newsletter.

Dominic Clark (1980 - 87) gained a first class degree in mathematics & computer science at Birmingham University in 1991 and is now an actuarial assistant with R. Watson & Sons, advising multinationals on their pension arrangements. He says: "Becoming an actuary involves passing nine exams, and so far I have passed five. They are some of the most difficult exams I have ever sat and trying to fit study round busy and interesting work is a challenge in itself." He also spent a year as a system administrator at the Centro

Internacional de Metodos Numericos en Ingeniera in Barcelona.

Neil Blencowe (1974 - 81) has worked at G.C.H.Q. for 10 years. He married his wife Jeanette in 1992 and they have a one year old son and live in Tewkesbury.

Robert Edy (1959 - 67) continues as deputy head of The Henry Box School, Witney and is also curate (non stipendiary) of St. Bartholomew's, Ducklington. His daughter is reading English at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Arnold Brain (1929 - 37) went to Belgium and Holland in September on a trip to re-enact the attempt to reach Arnhem in September 1944 together with other members of his squadron. "I was amongst the first group who crossed the bridge at Nijmegen with orders to try to prevent it being destroyed. We succeeded and later that night removed 2 tons of explosives and took 80 prisoners. But next morning our tanks couldn't make it to Arnhem despite heavy losses. If they had, the war in Europe would have been over in a month."

James Bainbridge (1987 - 92) has completed his B.Tec. engineering at the Royal Forest of Dean College, winning the prize for the best engineering student of his year. He is now at Bath University studying electrical and electronic engineering. His brother, Adam, is at Gloscat doing 'A' levels in art, history and business studies.

Christine Marsack (1972 - 74) wrote recently as follows:-

"The last time I wrote was approximately 10 years ago when I was a flight sister with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Western Australia. The intervening years have brought one major change - I've finally graduated from the medical school of Western Australia at the grand old age of 38! Medicine has always been my greatest interest. Since I only just scraped through 'O' level physics and failed A/O chemistry at Rendcomb in 1973, it wasn't really an option in those days. However, maturity and motivation seem to be able to make up for lack of natural ability and I decided to apply for one of ten places reserved for mature-age students. Thankfully there was no entrance exam and selection was based on criteria other than school performance in physics and chemistry. I started the course in 1989 - one of 120 students. The first year was particularly difficult for all four of us nurses with poor physical science backgrounds. Many a time one or other of us nearly gave up but determination not to be the first to do so kept us going and in the end we all passed. The next 5 years were much more enjoyable although still a hard grind due to the sheer volume of work. The medical course in Australia is based very much on the British system but with 3 instead of 2 pre-clinical years, as school finished here at 17. The clinical years were particularly enjoyable and my nursing and midwifery backgrounds were a great help in many ways, especially when it came to delivering babies! The course finally came to an end in November 1994 culminating in 3 1/2 weeks of pretty nerve-wracking exams - but the hard work paid off. In the Australian Medical Association (W.A. Branch) Christine is mentioned as having obtained a large number of awards among them the following:-

- Australasian Faculty Public Health Medicine Prize.
- Helen Jane Lamard Prize in Surgery.
- Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Gift Trust Prize in Obstetrics

In January 1995 we all take up position as interns (junior house officers) in three major teaching hospitals in Perth. Having been glued to that wonderful but depressing British series called 'Doctors to Be', we are all duly grateful to be working in W.A. where our maximum length of duty (at least as junior doctors) is usually approximately 16 hours and not the day - night-day epics that still seem to exist in Britain. Longer term, I haven't yet decided what to do - but rural general practice or obstetrics and gynaecology are possibilities!"

Nick Hoare (1978 - 85) who has been working for British Oxygen Co. in Hemel Hempsted has decided to try the outdoor life and is a ski instructor at Morgins in Switzerland. His brother, **Christopher** (1981 - 88) is a fund manager with Sun Life of Canada, working in the city

Nicholas Walter (1945 - 52) was the subject of a whole page article in the Independent in December.

Jeffrey Harris (1959 - 67) was recognised by Chris Wood from a photograph in the financial pages of the Daily Telegraph. He has been with Unichem PLC since 1975 and was appointed Chief Executive in 1992.

Iain Whittaker (1980 - 87) paid the college a noisy flying visit in January before going to Italy.

Jerry Butling (1978 - 85) wrote in January from India. He went to UCL on leaving Rendcomb where he did as every other self-respecting student country-wide, spending far more than either the government was

prepared to give or the bank manager felt comfortable with, largely on donations to a brewery, Marlboro and London Underground. The end result was a respectable 'Desmond' (2:2) and yet another over qualified bar man starting to avoid the tax-man.

"After a fruitless year I took up a job as a drug salesman (aka medical rep.) and I had visions of my bank statement no longer reading O.D. (oh dear!). Four years later the novelty of the 'free' car had long worn off and the career was not going according to plan. I started filling in my spare time by working in hospital radio at Great Ormond Street and saving my pennies in order to see the world. So it came to pass that after 4 years as an upright member of society, I headed for the Himalayas. I spent Christmas and the new year in the sea in Goa. Shortly afterwards, late at night on a little know beach in southern India, I found myself hearing a vaguely familiar voice. The ensuing drunken conversation went something like:-

"Scuse me, what's your name?" I ventured.

"Jim!" came an equally intoxicated reply

"Bet I can guess your surname", I boasted.

"O.K."

"Kinch" I pronounced, "and I believe half of your index finger is missing!"

So it came to pass that I invested a life's savings and found James Kinch (1978 - 85). In the following incoherent conversation we reminisced and Jim reminded me that this summer marked 10 years since saying fond farewells to Park House, countless wonderful indelible memories and many more great friends including the staff that shepherded me through my teens. Hence my potted history, as I will be in Australia when I imagine a celebratory pint will be drunk at the summer old boys' day. Cheers to you all! When I return I will be joining the competitive world of commercial radio whilst joining my father who has recently started his own business as an outdoor pursuits consultant."

Jon Tyler (1965 - 72) wrote to the editor about the Tyler brothers:-

Dear Bill,

Sorry, what an opening, it sounds like something out of Private Eye! I was delighted to hear about both the 75th anniversary celebrations and David Sells' sterling efforts to bring out a sequel to JCJ and KLJ's "Rendcomb College". Anyway I thought this was a suitable opportunity to update you on the Tyler clan, especially as since I left, I have never told you (officially) what I have been up to. So there follows a brief view of our lives since Rendcomb, and then the less abridged version of what I have been up to, in case anyone wanted to know. However, please reserve me a copy of the book, as for the summer ball, although I would love to be there, at this stage I really have no idea if I can make it.

David Tyler (1965 - 70) David was the one blessed with brains in the family. He left Rendcomb as head boy and then completed a degree in economics and politics at Trinity Hall Cambridge. Whilst there he was very active in the Union Society and was elected to the vice presidency. David spent 12 years at Unilever, in the process qualifying as an ACMA and becoming the runner-up for best marks in the national exams for his year. After some significant posts at Unilever, including having a large part to play in the merger of Walls and Birdseye, David joined County Nat. West. as an associate director. He spent 86-89 at County Nat. West. and got out at the beginning of the recession and moved on to Christies the auctioneers. David is now group financial directors of Christies, constantly flying around the world, and is currently doubling up on this role with an 18-month stint as President of the North and South American division of the Group. Thus David and his family are spending a year in New York City - so if you have an old master you want to get rid of (other than the old Bill yourself!), then give him a ring. Normally when in the UK, David and his wife Sharon, and children Sarah and Andrew, live in Wimbledon. He says he misses the cricket and football while over in the USA.

Simon Tyler (1970 - 77) Simon decided to leave his business studies degree early because the temptation to earn a living was too much for him - the product of Thatcherism? After 2 years learning about the financial investment marketplace Simon was a founding member of what is now one of the country's foremost mortgage brokers - Chase de Vere. Simon is now the sales and marketing director for Chase de Vere and, for someone so small, has an extraordinarily high profile, appearing regularly in the financial and investment pages of many of the national press and arranging mortgages for many famous and wealthy people, as well as a long line of old Rendcombians - so anyone who needs his services please ring him on 0171 930 7242. He will be delighted to help. Simon lives in Cobham, Surrey with his wife Rosemary and children James and Sophie. Simon is an active member of Kingston Rugby Club and reckons that he has arranged for a total of 15 old boys to play at various times for the club.
and myself:-

Jon(athan) Tyler (1965 - 72) It certainly does not seem like 22 years since I left, and some things such as the smell of linseed oil and the taste of tapioca(!) make it appear like only yesterday. However here's my bit: Graduated with a BA in business studies from Lanchester Polytechnic. Spent most of the time playing rugby, judo (captain of British colleges team and fought in some minor internationals), and TA, eventually spending 15 years in 21 SAS Regiment (Volunteers). After graduation I spent 11 years with Burroughs Machines, one of the largest computer companies, 4 years as a senior manager in a recruitment company - Computer People, and I am now managing director of a £15M turnover computer consultancy - Gatton Consulting Group - in Redhill, Surrey. Any old Rendcombian with suitable IT or sales experience looking for a new role in the industry could do worse than contact me on 01737 774100. The extra curricular activities during my degree were really an extension of some of the experiences at Rendcomb and the behavioural characteristics instilled in me there. I continued my judo, originally begun in the gym at Rendcomb (often in subzero conditions, or so it seemed) and represented the country in a number of minor internationals and as captain of the British Colleges Team. I played rugby at reasonable levels and continue to do so even now as a weekly Kingston veteran, incidentally Simon (who plays for the same team) and I were playing against Cobham earlier this year when I recognised a voice in the scrum, it was **Martin Bircher** who was in the same form as me - I had not seen him since 1972. Rendcomb obviously ingrained rugby into us well, although I noted that Martin still has not troubled himself to learn the rules! - nothing changes. Coincidentally, Martin's sons go to school with Simon's daughter. Martin is a successful orthopaedic surgeon, living in Ashted, Surrey. I found that I so enjoyed the outdoor life at Rendcomb that I decided to continue to involve myself in it but in some form of focused way. Thus I came to join the SAS TA and spent 15 very adventurous, vigorous and happy years learning and practising an extraordinary and sometimes very useful set of skills. Additionally this brought me a whole new and different group of friends with a very special bond formed from the physically and mentally testing experiences we went through. I eventually did find a career for myself, my first job was a vacation role as an elephant trainer, probably the best vocational experience I ever had! I went on to spent 11 years working in the UK for one of the largest US computer manufacturers, Burroughs, which eventually became UNISYS when it bought Sperry. Whilst there, luck stayed with me and I had a very satisfactory career in sales and marketing, at one point being the youngest sales manager in the UK. As the supply of computer hardware became less profitable in the late 80's I joined a computer industry recruitment company Computer People, where I stayed 4 years, until the recession hit it, again I was lucky enough to enjoy good success there. During this time I learnt about something in business that none of my experience had trained me for - managing women. Half my staff were female and I was amazed that some were far cruder and more aggressive (and of course more capable) than any of the men I had worked with! I learned very quickly (in business) to consider women in just the same light as men. (Yes, Rendcomb was still not co-ed when I was there). Since 1992 I have been working for a medium sized private company called Gatton Consulting Group, where I am the managing director. We provide consultants for the IT industry and also provide various software house services. At present our turnover is about £15M across the UK and EU and at this point I admit that I really wish (D. de G.S.) I had expressed some interest in French at school, my Latin is OK for English law but sadly it doesn't impress the Italians! The further I go into business I realise that many of the business guru's strategies and theories that get shoved down our collective mailshotted throats are largely hype and that nothing can make up for hard work, honesty professionalism, and common sense. I like to think that Rendcomb taught me those work ethics, even if I didn't practice the hard work one until I started a career! In the course of this I have also gained a wife (Sara) who terrifies me (she was in the Israeli army attached to the Paras during the Yom Kippur war!) and also two fantastic children, Danielle (9) and Guy (5), but isn't private education expensive! We live in Surbiton!

Russell Ogden (1984 - 89) writes enthusiastically about his life and job in Cape Town SA:-

"The city itself is dominated by Table Mountain, and the centre is small, being constrained by the surrounding mountains. The surrounding countryside is totally amazing with a beautiful coastline and it is possible to be on a fine unpolluted beach within a two minute drive from the city centre. So, when we are not working, we spend our time sunning ourselves and playing beach volleyball!"

News of Recent Leavers

Peter Barry	Reapplying for university 1995
Nick Barton	Foundation agriculture course 1995
Kirsten Bennett	Liverpool University, law & German
Paul Bigg-Wither	Applying for marketing degree courses 1995
Georgina Buck	Retaking 'A' levels
David Chalk	Harper Adams Agricultural College
David Elliott	Southampton University, electronic engineering
Matthew Gee	York University, economic & social history
Daniel Irving	Southampton Institute, media studies
Itseng Kwelagobe	Applied for business studies course, University of Botswana 1995
Christopher Lawton	LSU Southampton, French & German
Andrew Martin	Exeter University, biology
Christian Millard	Harper Adams Agricultural College
Graham Monteith	In Australia
James Moore	Lancaster University, fine arts
Christopher Norman	University of Central England, institutional management
Christopher Oliver	In Australia
Polly Parsons	Art foundation course
Matthew Pentney	University of Teesside, law & accountancy
Nicholas Pollard	Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, biochemistry
Kai Thomas	Southampton University, French & philosophy
Juliette Ward	Oxford Brooke's University, civil engineering
Julian Wilkie	Loughborough University, European languages
Hannah Willcocks	Bristol University, French & German
Hannah Wykeham	Retaking 'A' levels
Robert Sage	Operation Raleigh
Richard Bardsley	'A' levels at Andover College, Hampshire
Andrew Chalk	Agriculture at Sparsholt College
Oliver Baydon	'A' levels at Cranbrook School, Kent
Ean Branston	Farming before agricultural college
David Royle	Farming before agricultural college
Matthew Morris	'A' levels at Peter Symond's College, Winchester
Michael Smith	'A' levels, New College, Swindon