

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



MAY 2002

28th ISSUE

Editor
W.J.D. WHITE

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Society Officers

At the annual general meeting in July 2001, the following officers were elected: -

President:	Julian Comrie (1946 - 54)
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968 - 73)
Vice-chairman:	Mrs. Sally Morris (1978 - 80)
Secretary:	Mrs. Jane Gunner (1975 - 77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: (01285) 658627 Fax: (01285) 658717 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer/school rep:	Chris Wood (1965 - 71; staff 1976 -) 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos, GL54 3JF Tel: (01451) 860871 e-mail: c.j.wood@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
Committee members:	Michael Miles (1943 - 50) Richard Tudor (1973 - 80) Alex Brealy (1980 - 87; staff 1994 -)
Hon. auditor:	David Williams (1966 - 71)
Newsletter editor:	Bill White (staff 1961 - 97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos, GL54 3JG Tel: (01451) 860943

Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 1st July 2001 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College.

Present:

Jane Gunner (1975 - 77), Neil Lumby (1968 - 73), Roger Kendal (1942 - 50), Frank Dutton (1936 - 44), Michael Miles (1943 - 50), Bill White (staff 1961 - 97), Jennifer Lane Birkenstock (1980 - 81), David Williams (1966 - 71), Richard Tudor (1973 - 80), Gerry Holden (headmaster 1999 -), Sally Morris (1978 - 80), Philip Quick (1945 - 50), Nigel Green (1961 - 69), Chris Wood (1965 - 71, staff 1976 -)

1. Apologies: Rev. Hussey, Gerard Benson, Ted Jones

2. Matters arising from the minutes

The secretary was delighted to report that the college had received a copy of *Badger Man* by Ernest Neale from an O.R., Anthony Ashmore (1970 - 77) which had now been placed in the biology department library. Bill White was pleased to report that Major Tom Wills, chairman of the trustees had confirmed the trustees' support for a reprint of 500 copies of *History of Rendcomb I* and would cover the cost of £2,900. It had not yet been decided where the proceeds from sales would go but it was hoped that they would be donated to The Friends of Rendcomb as were those from *History II*.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented his report. He explained that as the a.g.m. had been held in March in the year 2000 and the society's year end was 31st May he had two sets to present. Year end 2000 included two years' worth of income and two newsletters and travel bursaries. Sales had been good. One travel bursary total was in excess of £500 because of a late application voted in the a.g.m. and using monies from the president's appeal. He reported that there had been a reduction in subscriptions because of the reduced size of the sixth form. However he was pleased to report that the fifth form leavers had joined although this was after year end, therefore it was not reflected in the figures. The accounts had been audited by the hon. auditor. It was proposed by Sally Morris and seconded by Richard Tudor and passed unanimously that they should be accepted. The treasurer went on to report that the value of stock stood at £740 and that the print had now paid for itself. The society had sold 120/500. He then explained that the cost of the newsletter and the travel bursary, two key features of the society, now outweighed income from subscriptions. This meant that money realised from the president's appeal was being used up. The committee had therefore made representation to the headmaster and the bursar that it should be collected from the fees on a £5/term basis, to be topped up as people left if they had not paid the full subscription. There would have to be an opt-out clause. He therefore proposed this package and was seconded by Michael Miles. It was passed unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

President:	Julian Comrie	Proposed by Michael Miles Seconded by Richard Tudor Unanimous
Hon. Treasurer:	Chris Wood	Proposed by David Williams Seconded by Julian Comrie Unanimous
Hon. Auditor:	David Williams	Proposed by Neil Lumby Seconded by Richard Tudor Unanimous

The retiring president, Michael Miles, then presented the badge of office to Julian Comrie. The new president's acceptance speech can be found at the end of these minutes.

6. Nomination of 1 Committee Member

Due to the retirement of Douglas Payne there was a vacancy for one committee member. The secretary had received no nominations and there were no volunteers from the floor. The chairman thanked Douglas for his service to and all his hard work on the committee's behalf. The chairman expressed his appreciation for Douglas's unique perspective and valuable perception on matters appertaining to the college and its principles.

7. Travel Bursary

It was proposed by Michael Miles and seconded by Roger Kendal that it should remain at £500 for a further year. The secretary reported that this year's money had gone to support trips to Peru, Kenya and Egypt and cover about 10% of the cost of each trip.

8. Any other business

The chairman thanked the retiring president, Michael Miles, for his contribution to the work of the society and the committee over the 5 years of his term and was most grateful for his enduring support and efforts on the very successful president's appeal. Michael had agreed to continue on the committee for the time being.

9. The chairman thanked the headmaster and through him the college for once again allowing the reunion to be held there. The headmaster thanked everyone for coming and wished them all an enjoyable day.

The meeting closed at 11.41 a.m.

The New President

On being elected president of the O.R. society on 1st July 2001, Julian Comrie gave the following response: "Headmaster, Mr. Retiring President, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this honour. It is something which I appreciate greatly, and I will endeavour to uphold the office to the best of my ability. Rendcomb means many things to many people, and as time goes by, there are more and more of us who come under its influence. I felt at one time that we in the O.R. society were a small band of select people, but this is no longer so: we are now a very large group of fortunate people who have had the advantage of a Rendcomb education, and as a society, we must take note, and advantage, of this size.

Within the society, the committee aims to support all its members, even those who don't often participate in the organised events; but I also like to hope that outside the formal activities of the society, there are many people taking advantage of the fact that they have friends and contacts made at Rendcomb whose company they can enjoy, and whom they can help if ever the need arises. Anything we, the committee, or I as president, can do to further these activities, we shall. To me, Rendcomb is a wonderful mixture of three things: firstly, it is of course the school, and the times here, the education one received, and the life philosophy which it endows. Secondly, it is the place, in its superb geographical setting; and finally, it is the people, the friends one makes amongst one's contemporaries, and the staff who teach, and those who support the organisation, who together give Rendcomb it's human face. But we mustn't be backward looking. It is too easy to remember, and take undue pleasure from past events, however successful they may have been. One must always look to the future, and aim to make the best of every moment or opportunity. As someone said recently: "You can't change yesterday, but tomorrow is yours: it can be wonderful." Let us, in this society, do all we can to look after our past but more importantly, help to ensure that the tomorrows of all



Michael Miles (left) hands over to Julian Comrie

Rendcombians, 'old' or young, are served to the very best of our ability."

Julian Comrie (1946 - 54)



Committee, Summer 2001 (left to right) Bill White, Michael Miles, David Williams, Chris Wood, Richard Tudor, Jane Gunner, Sally Morris, Neil Lumby, Douglas Payne, Julian Comrie

2002 Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 69th annual general meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on 30th June 2002 in the Reading Room at Rendcomb College.

Agenda:-

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 68th a.g.m. held on 1st July 2001
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report. Update on new subscription arrangements
5. Election of Officers: chairman (3 year post), vice chairman (3 year post)
6. Nominations for 1 committee member. All proposed and seconded nominations to reach the secretary by 14 June 2002.
7. Travel bursary
8. Any other business
9. Vote of thanks to the college

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures

Sunday 30th June 2002	Cricket
Sunday 7th December 2002	Rugby
Sunday 23rd March 2003	Hockey
Sunday 29th June 2003	Cricket

Sports Contacts

Please ring well in advance if you wish to play, referee or umpire in any of the fixtures.

Rugby	Mike Slark	01285 831424
Ladies' Hockey	Chris Wood	01451860871 (H) 01285 832314 (W) c.j.wood@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
Men's Hockey	Alex Brealy	01242 517668 (H) 01285 831383 (W)
Ladies netball	Sarah Bell	01285 832314 (H)
Cricket	David Essenhigh	01285 831295 (H) c.j.wood@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
Tennis	Steven Croft	01285 860753
	Peter Croft	01285 860753

Summer Reunion 2001

Pleasant weather and a fortuitous fly-past by the Red Arrows marked the reunion on July 1 st. Although there were fewer O.R.'s than in the past, those who came enjoyed the usual excellent lunch and some interesting cricket on 'top'. Those who attended the buffet lunch were:-

Mr. & Mrs. N. Green (1961 - 69)	Mr. & Mrs. D. Essenhigh (staff 1969 -)
Rev. K. & Mrs. Taplin (chaplain 1997 - 2001)	Mrs. K. Ewing (staff 1996 - 01)
Mr. & Mrs. G. Holden (headmaster 1999 -)	W. J. D. White (staff 1961 - 97)
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Wood (1965 - 71; staff 1976 -)	Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Williams (1966 - 71)
C. C. Burden (staff 1963 - 97)	P. Quick (1945 - 50)
Mrs. S. Morris (1978 - 80)	R. Kendall (1942 - 50)
Mr. & Mrs. Birkenstock (née Lane, 1980 - 81)	Mrs. J. Gunner (1975 - 77)
N. J. Lumby (1968 - 73)	M. J. Miles (1943 - 50)
R. I. C. Tudor (1973 - 80)	Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Comrie (1946 - 54)

The O.R. Web Site

Congratulations to Colin Hitchcock (1971 - 78) for the excellent photographs of Rendcomb he has produced. The site appears to have attracted considerable interest among O.R.'s.
(www.rendcombian.org.uk)

To those nine people who kindly offered to receive their newsletter by email, I would like to say thank you. We are still hoping to provide this as an option in the near future but because of the new subscription payment structure the society's finances have significantly improved. Therefore it is no longer imperative to find ways of reducing the cost of printing and postage. I had intended to use those volunteers as guinea pigs this year if they were willing but some one-off time constraints have made that impossible. Thanks again to those who responded.

J.R.G.

School Photographs

Frank Dutton (1936 - 44) has written to suggest that an attempt should be made to provide names for people in school photographs. This would certainly be most useful for archive reference. If any O.R.'s would like to spend some time writing out the names for any photos they have of their vintage, their efforts will be much appreciated. Frank has already worked on years 1937, 1939, 1943 and 1944. Identification of early photos (1920 - 36) would be particularly valuable. Please send your findings to Bill White.

The 1963 Photo on the web site shows

John Goodborn, Martin Jones, Tom Bass, Colin Stillwell, John Marshall, Ken Walker, Tom Pettigrew, Keith Stimpson, George Wood, George Chapman

2001 Errata

Apologies to John Webb (1954 - 63) for failing to include his name as the author of the article on the "Rendcomb Butterfly Collection". And to David White (staff 1989 -) who is housemaster of the junior school (not its headmaster)!

R.N.D. Wilson (Staff 1934 - 44)

Following remarks made in the last two newsletters about Robin Wilson, George Davis (1939 - 46) has kindly sent this tribute "to put the record straight".

RNDW, born in 1899 (in Coleraine, N Ireland), had by the age of 28 published poems and a collection entitled "The Holy Wells of Orris and Other Poems". He received sufficient plaudits for these poems to be befriended by W. H. Auden and W. B. Yeats. (A handwritten note from the latter offering condolences on the tragic death of his wife was one of RNDW's most treasured possessions.) An authority on painting and the arts generally, he at various times wrote guides for both the National and the Tate galleries and had connections with the National Library of Ireland. In 1937, he published a further collection of poems under the title

"Equinox" which was favourably reviewed in *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Sunday Times* receiving reviews such as - "With this book, a sequence of twenty five poems, Mr Wilson makes a place for himself in that small company of modern poets whose work has a real significance and beauty." Pleased though I'm sure he was with these reviews, I feel sure he would have enjoyed even more the obituary that DWLB wrote in the *Rendcombian* magazine on Mr Wilson's death in 1953, when he referred to him as "the Irish poet and schoolmaster".

So much for his outside reputation, but how was he viewed by us whom he taught? I don't know when he arrived at Rendcomb, but he was there when I joined in 1939, teaching me English during my first year. My school reports show that I had no contact with him until 1942 (during the war there was an enormous turnover of staff). I joined him again when he was teaching both English and Latin, a period lasting until late 1944 when he left to become head of English at Wolverhampton Grammar School. We in the 5th and 6th forms then were fortunate to have a teacher who passed on to us his great love of literature. Being Irish, he was a devotee of James Joyce, possessing a beautifully bound copy of *Ulysses* published by the Bodley Head, which he would let us handle but not read. His advice was not to attempt to read it until we were twenty five. I ignored his advice until I was thirty five and have subsequently read it three times and still dip into it from time to time. He was also fascinated by an up and coming Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas, and read his work copiously. I don't know if AGGR will recall it*, but at the regular social evenings held by the staff where apparently they took it in turns to talk on a relevant subject, RNDW reported back to us with great glee that after he had read to them Thomas's *Ballad of the Long-legged Bat*, Dickens declared that he could do just as well by writing dozens of words each on a separate piece of paper, putting them into a hat, and draw them out one at a time writing them sequentially as he did so!!

Our other great joy was to listen to his enormous fund of stories about the gentry living in rural Ireland when he was young, almost as good as "The Experiences of an Irish RM". In short, he was a man of considerable culture, intellect and charm. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Rev. A. G. G. Richards died in 1999 - Ed.

P.S. I attach one of RNDW's poems copied from *The Oxford Book of Irish Verse*

Woodcut

A Horseman riding
the wide plains of Eltrim
sees three leagues before him
a great demesne-wall
and windows of a house
the woods have laid siege to.

I watch him from a distance
give the head to his hunter
and take at a gallop
a gap in the stonework
till red coat and chestnut
are lost in the coppice.

Three things October
has shown me this evening,
the first shorn ash-tree
the last swallow gone
and a rider and horse
the woods have laid siege to.

P.P.S. Incidentally, after RNDW left, we had another Irish English master, a citizen of the Irish Republic, called Eric Ewens. He was there for one term and on his first day did not turn up for our sixth form lesson at 8.30 a.m. As the only prefect amongst the four humanists, I went up to his room to find him still fast asleep. I woke him, received his profuse apologies and he appeared five minutes before the lesson ended. He asked me to stay behind when he confided to me that he had only taken the job to write his Ph.D thesis on Maria Edgeworth, the 18th Century Irish woman novelist and had been working on it until 3.30 a.m.! He also was excellent on extra curricular subjects. No wonder I've always had a soft spot for the Irish!!! And if anyone ever tries to tell you that wartime Rendcomb didn't have its moments, don't believe them!!!

Rendcomb During the War

Douglas Payne (1940 - 48) has written the following vivid account for us in response to a questionnaire from AROPS (The Association of Representatives of Old Pupils Societies).

“From 1940 onwards troops bivouacked overnight on the school premises and occasionally in Saul’s Hall when the weather was inclement, but invariably they had gone shortly after daybreak. Just before D Day an American division of army engineers camped in the park and would have overwhelmed the school if Lee-Browne had not negotiated with them, particularly regarding access to the playing field. They left a memento of their sojourn for archaeologists when they filled a large trench with discarded personal effects just south of the pavilion. Senior officers of the U.S. army might have requisitioned the premises in 1943 but they rejected them because of unsuitable access for heavy vehicles. As far as I know there were no other military intrusions. In order to survive, the school was expected to make a minor contribution to the war effort by public service as required in harvesting potatoes for local farmers at Syde and Shawswell, and by clearing highways and by-ways of fallen timber, especially that which resulted from the harsh winter of 1939 to 1940. The school had its own fire brigade which manned a mobile pump and it attended the incident at Woodmancote when several HE bombs and many incendiaries were jettisoned following the air raid on Coventry. In 1939 the air raid trenches were dug but rarely utilised. E.G. Neal had a post of responsibility in the ARP service in Cirencester and from time to time he organised demonstrations on the school premises, including lowering stretcher cases from a first floor window. Today’s Health and Safety Inspectorate would have had apopleptic seizures. The nation had periodic War Weeks to raise funds for aeroplanes and warships; the school’s part in these was to organise local fetes which were very productive. Since fuel and food were scarce pupils were organised into parties to make fuel briquettes from cement and coal dust and both volunteers and miscreants sawed logs for the fireplaces. In the first weekend of the autumn term, pupils went out en masse to gather wild fruits for Mrs Bassnett’s most efficient jam making. Since domestic labour was in short supply pupils took on additional household cleaning duties. Some pupils had small allotments to cultivate near the Old Rectory and others looked after the school’s own flock of hens. Except for major mechanised work, pupils maintained all sports facilities such as pitches and courts. For some reason best known to himself the headmaster did not approve of the military cadet services but the late A.G.G. Richards was an ATC instructor in Cirencester, teaching mathematics to potential aircrew, and it was through him that the college formed a flight of ATC cadets rather belatedly. Apart from minor fleeting incidents the school was not bothered by enemy activity. Some boys were transferred to Rendcomb to escape from vulnerable areas and I believe that, before my time, a small number were evacuated to Canada. A schoolmaster and a sixth form pupil were interned briefly as enemy aliens.”



Tom Denny (Staff 1982 - 2000)

Tom was invited to speak to the Cirencester Civic Society last year by Colin Burden (staff 1963 - 97), who is its secretary. Colin thought that O.R.'s might be interested in the following list of stained glass windows which Tom has created:-

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 2000/2001 | Emmanuel Church, Bridlington, Yorkshire | A Chapel Full of Windows |
| 2000 | St Mary's, Tarrant Hinton, Dorset | - one window |
| 2000 | St Peter's, Hinton St Mary, Dorset | - four panels |
| 1999 | All Saints, Bolton Percy, Yorkshire | - one window |
| 1999 | St Peter's, Martley, Worcs | - one window |
| 1997 | St. Osmunds, Tarlton, Glos | - four windows |
| 1996 | St. James', Milton Clevedon, Somerset | - one window |
| 1995 | St Peter's, Upper Slaughter, Glos | - two windows |
| 1994 | St John's, Slimbridge, Glos | - one window |
| 1992 | Gloucester Cathedral | - three windows |
| 1992 | St. Michael, Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos | - two windows in collaboration with Richard Kenton Webb |
| 1985-95 | St. Christopher's, Warden Hill, Cheltenham | - ten windows |

Obituaries

We record with great sadness, the deaths of the following members of the society and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Vernon Douglas Page (1924 - 31), September 2001.

His widow, Molly, kindly sent the following account of Douglas's life.

"Doug was born on 14/12/13 at Oldcroft in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and grew up nearby in Blakeney where he went to the village school at which his father was a teacher. In 1924 he obtained a scholarship to Rendcomb College, Cirencester, where he remained until he matriculated in 1931. Instead of proceeding to university he took a student apprenticeship with the English Electric Co. at Stafford and on completion of his studies, qualified as a transformer designer. By coincidence the sales manager of the company was also from Blakeney in Gloucestershire. He married Molly Hawkes in July 1935 at Stafford and they had their only child, Bill, in 1936 living happily in Stafford until 1939.

After Munich, when it became obvious that war was imminent he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve as a sergeant pilot and had completed his initial training when war broke out. After further training he was posted in 1940 to 610 Squadron. After the end of the Battle of Britain, 610 Squadron was transferred to 11 Group of 19th December 1940 and operated under Group Captain Bader with Tangmere wings. He was commissioned as a pilot officer in June 1941 and posted to 54 Squadron Hornchurch. He was posted overseas to Egypt in August 1942 and joined 127 Squadron in the desert near Alamein. After the battle of Alamein 127 Squadron was transferred to Haifa. In October 1943 he was posted to India and joined 11 Squadron at Madras. In December 1943 the squadron was moved to support the army opposing the Japanese offensive. In March 1944 a further transfer was made to Tuli hall in the Imphal plain where the squadron remained during the Imphal siege when the Japanese controlled all road access to the area. During this period in May 1944 he was awarded the D.F.C. (and a bar to this in April 1945). He had very little to say about his operational war service. Most of his war history was extracted from his flight logbook and other papers, without his knowledge, for a Battle of Britain 50th anniversary publication. He preferred to tell of the amusing incidents that took place away from the action and delighted in recounting the exploits of himself and his comrades in defeating the RAF bureaucracy. After repatriation to England in August 1945 and demobilisation, he returned to his previous employment as a transformer designer in various English Electric factories before being offered a position as chief designer for English Electric in Australia, which he accepted and all three of the Page family arrived in Australia in 1950. Until his retirement in 1978 he was chief designer, then chief engineer and manager of the transformer division of English Electric Co. in Brisbane. He moved from Brisbane to Bega in 1984 where he lived at Tarraganda next to the golf course, which readily allowed him to enjoy his favourite sport. He managed many trips to England, usually every two years or so to attend the Battle of Britain ceremonies in September and renew acquaintance with his brothers, RAF comrades and friends. Although comfortable at Tarraganda he had become a little frail, so he and Molly decided to take up the offer to live with their son and daughter-in-law at Jellat. The move was completed in July 2001 and he was very happy until his recent illness, which sadly took him from us."

(Peter and Brenda Binks visited Doug and Molly several times over the last nine years when they were in Bega, NSW). A notice also appeared in *The Forester*.

Jonathan Burroughs O'Brien (1949 - 55) Born in Liverpool 3 June 1936, died at home in Staines on 11 January 2001.

The life of Jonathan O'Brien as seen through the eyes of his sister. When Jonathan left Rendcomb College he spent three years at Finchden Manor, run by George Lyward, before going to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (his grandfather's college) in 1958. Jonathan was highly intelligent, but transferring from the physical science tripos to moral science tripos left him with a third class degree. A higher degree might have taken him into a more academic career, but he took a certificate in education at the University of Nottingham. After teaching physics for a year (1962 - 63) at Colfe Grammar School in Lewisham and lecturing in physics at Walsall & Staffs Technical College, Jonathan joined English Electric in 1964 as a computer programmer. Programming became his career for the rest of his working life. Jonathan married Elizabeth Plummer in 1967. Their two children Ruth and Richard were born in 1969 and 1972, respectively.

In 1971, Jonathan's firm completed its contract computerising flight management at Heathrow airport, and he was transferred to Munich for three months, at ten days' notice, to work on a similar project. Early in 1972 they wanted to transfer him to Paris, for flight management computerising, but Elizabeth was pregnant and the doctor recommended their not moving until after the birth. Jonathan worked for a few months in Bonn, but the project was terminated prematurely, so he was home to be with Elizabeth when Richard was born in August 1972.

By then there was no vacancy in Paris, so they moved to the Netherlands when Richard was 8 weeks old. Nine months later a vacancy on the Paris project came up. Purely from a career point of view it was the right thing for Jonathan, and theoretically with Elizabeth's knowledge of French, would have afforded them the travel and foreign contact they enjoyed. But, to be subjected to new homes, new cultures, etc., when the children were so young, cut off from the help of two able and willing sets of grandparents when it was most needed, prevented them from making the most of the new environment. And three international house moves in two years were deeply traumatic. It was then that Ruth was diagnosed autistic and they were advised to return to England for the special education she required. They were patient and devoted parents, working tirelessly for Ruth and the local Mencap society.

They settled back into their house in Staines and Jonathan joined ICL, where he remained until required to take early retirement on 15 December 1991. Jonathan had a life long interest in art and music, playing the recorder and singing with a Unitarian choir as far afield as Canada and Hungary. The earliest framed oil painting we have is of Rendcomb Church. There was a long period when he had little opportunity for oil painting, but he was able to take pottery evening classes for about four years, and many beautiful pots grace the house in Staines. In retirement, Jonathan joined the University of the Third Age, active in six groups, one of which was the painting group. He painted mainly from photographs, frequently of holidays including Scotland, Paris, the Czech Republic and some lovely seascapes of St. Ives. His last painting, a vase of flowers, remains unfinished on his easel.

As a Quaker and a Unitarian (the denomination of both Elizabeth and his mother) he served both communities unstintingly, and made many overseas friends through the International Religious Fellowship (IRF). Jonathan's facility with languages enabled him to learn enough to converse and write in many different languages, from Flemish, Dutch, French and German to Hungarian, Czech, Russian and Ukrainian. He died from his second major heart attack at the age of 64 years on 11-01-01, (appropriate for a computer programmer).

Among the memories that his son Richard and I hold dear, are of building elaborate sandcastles and intricate waterworks on the beach at Hastings and on seaside holidays. He might have made a good engineer too. There are many who have fond memories of Jonathan, but I am sure you will join me in wishing his widow Elizabeth good health and contentment, in a rather different life.

Alison Le Brun (Jersey) 01.01.02

Roger Brain (1937 - 45) died in France last December.

He was born in Clifton and, after Rendcomb, read economics at Bristol University. He followed this with postgraduate studies in agriculture at Bangor before taking a job working on a farm on Salisbury Plain. In 1951 he joined the staff of Lackham College as a lecturer, here he met his future wife, Audrey. The couple went to the Sudan where Roger was a lecturer at the University of Khartoum. Later he worked in Nigeria, and then as an agricultural advisor in finance of rural education. This post meant that he travelled widely and the family was based in Paris for 21 years. He retired in 1988, spending time in Studley and at their home in France. His daughters, Charlotte and Lucy, were at Rendcomb in the '70's.

K. A. C. Gross (staff 1934 - 39) died in February 2002 aged 96.

He taught Latin at Rendcomb and left in 1939 to join his T.A. regiment. He was subsequently on the staff of the King's School, Canterbury for many years. He always kept in touch with Rendcomb, particularly with the late John and Kathleen James.

In the Himalayas

An account of an expedition to the Chulu region in 2001 by **Lawrence Wragg** (1956 - 63)

Last April I took part in a 'personal first' - an expedition to the Chulu region in the Himalayas by a group of eleven from the London Mountaineering Club. All of us were fairly experienced alpinists, but had never been further afield. Our route took us along the start of the Annapurna Sanctuary circuit, until at about the half-way point (near Manang, for those who know the area), where we started climbing up the valley which led to our intended mountain. At this point, some of us who went up from one camp to another without rest days suffered the acclimatisation consequences. The leader and I made the first attempt on Chulu Far East (6060m), but were driven back by ferocious winds when we reached the summit ridge, just as it got light. Even the Sirdar (head climbing Sherpa) said "impossible continue". The following day, the second party got to the ridge and found the weather reasonable, but one member was suffering from altitude, and turned back. The other continued briefly, before returning when the ridge became rather steep. A few days later a mass assault party of six (the second attempt for the leader and me) set out. Weather conditions on the ridge were fine, and we started up the first of what looked like three icy domes (the final one looking every bit as steep as St Paul's dome, but rather

larger). The second dome proved to be trickier than expected, with a long steep field of hard water ice. Even with a fixed rope for assistance, this was hard work, and led to much gasping for air. Unfortunately, that was not the end of the problems. At the top of the second dome, and less than 100m (vertical distance) from the summit, there was an enormous crevasse crossing our intended route at right angles. Sadly, we had neither the quantity of rope nor the time needed to find a way round (across not being possible) this obstacle, so the sensible decision was made to retreat (in the jargon, this was a Prudent Mountaineering Decision, something more read about than seen in practice). Descending was not as straight forward as it might have been with a team of six, and it took many hours to get back to the col where we left the ridge. By this time the snow was very soft, thanks to the sun, and footing very unreliable. As one of the members of the party abseiled from the col onto safer territory, she lost her footing and fell on to her back (still securely attached to the rope). There were a couple of distant, muted cries for help, and then she managed to right herself, with no damage except to her dignity. My principal memory of the last stages of the descent, when we were trying to walk down through very deep, very soft snow, is of the Nepalese cook appearing with a large aluminium kettle of hot lemon drink, and a tray with steel mugs on it. What made his appearance remarkable was that he was based, at that stage, in the camp *below*. It took a European (admittedly with a full pack) about four hours to walk from one camp up to the other, he had done it in less than two. And unasked.

We took the quick way back to Kathmandu - air. At a tiny village called Ongre (but, such is the power of transliteration, on a map Hongde) there is a rather small one-way airstrip (i.e. you land in one direction and take off in the other, there is no room to overshoot because of the surrounding mountains). Our flight was due 'some time' early the next morning. One look out of the window suggested that the low cloud would prevent anyone flying in. However, without electricity, telephone or radio, there was no way of being sure. So bags were carried to the 'terminal' at 6.30 a.m. And nothing happened. So bags were carried back, and we walked for 2 hours to Manang for the day. The Sirdar banged on the bedroom door the following morning at 5.50 a.m. saying 'aeroplane come'. We do not know how he knew. Complete panic to repeat the previous day's bag carry, accompanied by one or two plaintive shouts of "What about breakfast?" There was activity at the terminal, including two men with maroon berets and malacca swagger sticks. Apparently the planes were not due until after 8 a.m. so there was breakfast after all. The planes arrived within seconds of one another, one being a scheduled service, and the other our chartered plane. All our luggage was opened for security checks, which led to interesting questions about what sort of mentality the authorities assumed we might have. The scheduled plane went first, and only just got off before the end of the strip, which led me to do rapid weight and balance calculations in my head to estimate our own chances. It turned out we were well under maximum weight, and so got off without difficulty. The plane was a Twin Otter, and looking through the open door of the cockpit, I was reminded of the time, many years ago, when I had flown the self-same aircraft from the Channel Islands to Stansted and the autopilot failed on a scheduled service. But that's another story.

The Man from Latvia

A talk given by Paul Kampe at Rendcomb village hall in March.

The Russians invaded Latvia in June 1939 and treated the Latvians roughly. 100,000 Latvians were deported by Stalin to Siberia over two nights. They were mostly farmers. Paul was nine at the time and he remembered the cattle trucks passing his father's farm. In 1941 the Germans arrived - regarded as 'liberators'. The Kampe family had been on the list for deporting by the Russians. They tried to get to Sweden but went instead to



Danzig in Germany. A Kapitain of German sappers offered help from his family near Berlin. Unfortunately his wife was a Nazi, so they had to go for help elsewhere and went to live with a German farmer. Their family consisted of Paul's mother and father, his sister Ida, Paul and a nephew. The Russians overran the area, but fortunately the family spoke Russian. They pretended that they were returning to Latvia but stopped after going 10 miles. Sadly the nephew died at this point from diphtheria. When the war ended, they went back to the German farm but this was now in the Russian zone, so they had to escape to the British zone. This took them about a week, but they succeeded by bribing a border guard with a silver pocket watch. They found their brother-in-law and his family. In 1947, Paul had a chance to come to England as a voluntary worker on the land. He came to Gloucestershire and worked on a farm. June was then looking after a few boarders at a prep school at

Daglingworth. They kept in touch with the rest of the family until 1952, when they went to America and wanted Paul to go with them. His sister went to Chicago to work in a hospital. They then lost touch with each other and Paul resolved to remember them as they were.

In May 2001 Paul had a telephone call. The caller asked, "Are you Paul Kampe?" It was from his niece who had traced him through the internet - first by a page from the Old Rendcombian newsletter of 1988 where it mentioned that Paul was taking over as clerk of works from Tony Partridge. She then contacted the international directory and found a telephone number which she hoped was the right one. She told Paul that his sister and brother-in-law were still alive and also a younger niece and nephew. They were living on a farm in middle Wisconsin. Paul writes: "After several 'phone calls we agreed to fly over to see them. We flew to Chicago - 300 miles from their farm. My brother-in-law, who is 84, drove to the airport to pick us up and then drove straight back! I was able to meet most of the family, including my niece and her husband who drove from Toronto. A nephew flew in from Las Vegas and I found I had two cousins living in Toronto, one of whom flew down to see me." It was an amazing and very emotional reunion.

Travel Bursary

My Gap Challenge in Peru

Fishing for dinner at a lagoon with my colleague, Mario, and our host, Raimundo, is just one of the many occasions where I could suddenly be astonished at my luck to end up here - but this time I realised 'Hold on, I'm fishing for *piranhas*!' For another example, in Britain I can't imagine even considering spending 4 days on top of a lorry in cramped conditions and exposed to the elements and dust from the road in order to travel 400km. But so I did to reach my new workplace, the jungle town of Puerto Maldonado, along what is widely regarded as the worst road in Peru, but worth it just for the awesome scenery. Descending from the old Inca capital of Cuzco, high in the Andes, winding down through the mountain passes, and then suddenly seeing the jungle spread beneath us as far as the eye could see. An unforgettable sight, but a routine journey for the locals. The overwhelming majority of Peruvians would never be able to afford to take the half-hour aeroplane route instead. South America is a marvellously varied and fascinating continent and Peru, its third largest nation, is a perfect microcosm of this. It starts just south of the equator with mangrove swamps then pursues serene desert along most of its Pacific coast while just inland it showcases the truly breathtaking Andes, not to mention that more than half the country makes up part of the unfathomably vast Amazon basin.

A group of 20 of us went out with Gap Challenge to work in Peru in January 2001. Eighteen largely stuck together, living and teaching English near the capital, Lima, on the coast. Anna and I meanwhile worked for a Peruvian conservation NGO called *Pro Naturaleza* and, after nearly a month, went north to the border (with Ecuador) town of Tumbes about half the size of Cheltenham where the average summer temperature is about 40 degrees Celsius. We made friends with some locals and settled in to life as part of a Peruvian institution. The Department of Tumbes, the smallest of Peru's 24 administrative states, includes most of a network of national parks called the Northwest Biosphere Reserve (part of UNESCO's MAB scheme). Here it was that we were to work, as Pro Nat needed research done into the state of degradation of the forests there. This mostly involved the two of us hiking miles in the hot sun, taking notes and measurements, but even after two months the novelty of the beautiful surroundings was far from wearing off, especially with the variations. We would trek around between coast, swamp, 'dry' woods, plush forests, and even sometimes, unfortunately, areas where there was not a tree in sight, despite what the law may hope for.

After 90 days in Peru, the two of us popped into Ecuador to process passports to allow us another 90. A very nice weekend was spent in the charming city of Cuenca. The stint in Tumbes over, I had a few weeks free before my next placement (Anna was meeting up with friends and travelling around South America, deciding 3



months was enough). So, armed with my trusty *Lonely Planet* guidebook, and an ever-increasing knowledge of Spanish and a little Quechua, I set off on my own. My journey took me first to the coastal city of Trujillo, with the vast former home of the Chimu people nearby, then the Andean town of Huaraz, whose spectacular setting provides numerous interesting and breath-taking hikes, whether one is interested in archaeology or not, then the sea-life reserve at Paracas which mixes the penguins and seals of the Antarctic waters with the flamingos and desert of the

local surroundings. Then it was the truck down to Puerto Maldonado for another two months' work. From the office in the town it was about a 6-hour boat journey to the jungle community. Staying with one farmer, travelling round to others, I accompanied an agricultural expert who was advising them on farming methods and I would help with demonstrations. The way of life there may not suit everyone but to see caimans, capybara, and anacondas just lazing around on the riverbanks, with peccaries and agoutis running through the forests, and condors flying overhead, was for me a complete dream lived out to the full.

Another 90 days was almost up, meaning leaving the country again. As I was in the south, it was a weekend in the Bolivian city of La Paz. This time, however, getting back was not so straightforward, as a nationwide dispute between the coca growers' union and the government turned nasty, leading to many important roads needing military presence and the threat putting off most coach companies from running at the time I wanted to return to Peru.

The disputes centre around the USA's insistence on the eradication of coca plantations throughout Bolivia and Peru (the only two countries where it is legal) before aid will be granted. While developed countries and Colombia carry on with the massive cocaine trade, the peoples of these two desperately poor countries are now being stripped of a crop that is more than just their way of life. To compare coca consumption to as common a custom as tea drinking in Britain is not only to underestimate it, but also to ignore its deep religious significance through the centuries to millions of people. US intervention has also led to a general dislike of Americans in this area. Explaining that I am in fact British always led to much more hospitable behaviour and smiles replacing scowls, as tourists are normally assumed to be American.

Eventually I got through of course, and went to Puno, on the shore of the stunning Lake Titicaca. From there, I

took a wonderful, if irritatingly touristy, tour of the islands on the lake, including those mind-boggling, floating ones constructed entirely from reeds, and a night on the splendid island of Taquile. Titicaca may not be as high as other navigable lakes (despite popular perception, even in Peru there is a least one higher), but its sheer size, its cultural and religious significance to the local people and its beauty justify its legendary prominence.

Then, with a major earthquake rendering Arequipa and the south-west near unable to accept visitors there was only one main area left to visit. So back to Cuzco, with all its many remains and ruins from the Inca people and the pre-Inca cultures. Whilst there, I stayed with a friend, Alfredo, an anthropologist whom I met also working for Pro Nat, and, being a true Cuzqueno, he could tell me a lot more about the area than was in the guidebooks. Its crowning glory is of course the majestic site known as Machu Picchu "discovered" only in 1911. The 4-day "Inca Trail" has become justifiably well-known now, and suffice it to say the scenery was at times stunning, and after usually travelling solo it was good to meet up with a group to compare notes, as it were, even if I again didn't like the touristy treatment.

So that was my trip to South America, glimpsing the language and culture of the Peruvian people, and learning a bit about the conservation and flora and fauna of the region. Now past mid-July, I returned back to Lima to finish off my business with Pro Nat and found that the office had been the victim of an arson attack. One of the biggest problems they find in their work is of course the opposition of rich powerful companies - in this case, a logging corporation upset with Pro Nat inspired legislation. Conservation is at times a tough war to fight, but I am glad to feel I did my bit.

Laurence Barton (1993 - 2000)

Four have an adventure in the Amazonia and Arctic Norway

Four girls from Rendcomb College have been selected to take part in two expeditions this summer, Alice Hughes and Sarah Rudderham will be exploring the wonders of the Amazonian tropical rainforest in Brazil, whilst Cindy Cheung and Meg Barne will be experiencing the remote ice caps and mountain areas of arctic Norway. The expeditions are being run by BSES Expeditions (formerly the British Schools Exploring Society). BSES Expeditions is a non-profit making charity founded in 1932 by the late surgeon commander G. Murray Levick, a member of Scott's antarctic expedition of 1910, and as such is the longest running



Dam building to create an artificial beach

organisation of this type. The society's aim is to help in the personal and social development of young people through the challenge of living and working in remote and demanding areas of the world. Each expedition comprises young people and leaders who will carry out a programme of adventure, valuable conservation work and scientific research in small groups in highly environmentally sensitive areas.

The girls were chosen from schools all over the country to join fellow young explorers on their 5-6 week expeditions during the summer holidays. They are each having to raise between £2,400 and £2,900. The Old Rendcombian Society has kindly given them some money from the travel bursary, for which they are most grateful. Three of the four girls have explorer's blood in their genes already - Alice has forefathers who founded Fremantle in Australia as well as arctic and antarctic explorers in her family tree. Sarah's grandfather was a member of the first BSES expedition to Finland in 1936, when he was only 15, and Meg's great uncle accompanied Robert Scott on the first exploration to Antarctica. Cindy, who's family live in Hong Kong, has no such history but is hugely looking forward to experiencing such an alien environment as arctic Norway. She had only ever seen a sprinkling of snow before! Is it any wonder that these girls can't wait to go on these expeditions? For Alice and Sarah, base camp will be on an island in the upper Amazon, near Manaus and the expedition area will include rainforest locations on the mainland. They will live and work in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, exploring the most diverse terrestrial ecosystem on Earth, working alongside local people and learning first-hand the problems and potential of the Amazon.

As for Cindy and Meg, they will be spending their summer some 500km north of the arctic circle. They will be able to experience the wonderful snow and ice vistas with clear air and 24 hour daylight (which will be a challenge in itself). They will be exploring the main icecap on the Loppa peninsular and also venture further west to carry out studies on some of the smaller icecaps and remote mountain areas that bound the Norwegian Sea. Meg and Cindy will have the opportunity to trek across mountains, snow fields, glaciers and fast flowing rivers. They may even end up living in snow holes or igloos for a time.

They have all been working very hard to raise the money. Cindy Cheung gave an amazing piano and violin recital in March. Meg has been making and selling jewellery as well as organizing a Scottish reels evening to take place in April. Sarah has been making and selling fudge, along with other entrepreneurial ideas and Alice has a sponsored walk planned to help her fund-raising. Many of the teacher's cars are sparkling since the girls have been cleaning them. The girls helped entertain at the recent Venetian evening and split the money raised from the raffle between them. They will also jointly benefit from any profits made from a murder mystery evening as well as the Moulin Rouge Ball at the end of the spring term. Next term they are hoping to have a car boot sale. They are certainly all espousing Rendcomb's school motto, *Quo Lux Ducit* (where the light leads) as they are all about to follow their long-held dreams. They are looking forward to coming back to school and recounting all their amazing tales, which I know they will have. I'm sure we will be able to persuade them to write something for the next newsletter! They are about to experience the adventure of a lifetime and I would like to wish them all the best.

Amanda Brealy (BSES Expedition to the Himalayas, 1988)

Two Induction Services

Jane Gunner (1975 - 77) writes: "Until my youngest son Mark joined the Cirencester parish church choir, aside from my confirmation service at Rendcomb when the **Rev. William Hussey** (staff 1974 - 78) was chaplain, I was not aware that there was such a thing as an induction service for the incumbent of a parish. However, having attended the one in Cirencester for the present vicar, I knew enough to realise that to have representatives from one's previous parish was an important aspect of any induction service, so we decided over the summer to find out when **Kim Taplin's** (staff 1997 - 01) service was to be held at Clifton College. In the meantime as parents of pupils at Rendcomb College, we had been invited to attend the induction service of Rev. Charles Jefferson, new chaplain to the college and parish priest for St. Peter's, Rendcomb. Given that Mark would now be singing in the Rendcomb choir, I thought it appropriate that the whole family should attend - even Grandpa!

The church was full, with local churches, the school and the parish all represented. The Bishop of Tewkesbury led the clergy and was attended by the archdeacon of Cheltenham, the vicar and rural dean of Cirencester, the rector of Stratton, the priest in charge of Watermoor Church, Cirencester and the two curates from Cirencester parish church. The service was very much a synergy of the three facets of Rendcomb and was appreciated by all except by the 3 year old two rows in front of us who fell asleep during the second hymn! The evening was rounded off with a very splendid finger buffet in the village hall which I understand was prepared and provided by the ladies from the village. It is hoped that the Jeffersons felt really welcomed into their new home. On that evening we were able to establish when Kim's service was in Bristol, typically the Sunday morning before the Rendcomb term started, thus clashing with a college staff meeting so many who wanted to attend could not.

However, Judy White and Joan Essenhigh were able to go along with perhaps a dozen members of Rendcomb parish as well as my husband Richard, my son Sam, now in the sixth form, and myself. We arrived in Bristol in beautiful sunshine and the Clifton College buildings looked magnificent. The pupils



Kim, Rebekah, Chryssa and Christopher Taplin

were charming and pointed us in the right direction where we discovered Kim Taplin keen to welcome everybody while trying to prepare for the service. It was a strange return for me because I had spent two years of my school life at Clifton High School just up the road. The last time I had sat in the College Chapel had been 30 years ago and I had never expected to see its inside again! Strangely the interior appeared as large as I remembered it. It was packed to the gunwales with pupils and some parents, but no clergy beyond the bishop of Swindon and Kim. I was subsequently told this was because there was no parish along with the chaplaincy. However what he lacked in attendants, the bishop made up for in giving an excellent address. We sat next to the organ, which was unfortunate because it was uncomfortably loud, and opposite Chryssa Taplin's sister (who looked amazingly like Chryssa only blonder) and her young family.

It is always interesting to see how other schools function and there was a certain measure of comfort for our music department that the girls in the choir outnumbered the boys. Also the refreshments consisted of only wine or orange juice, only the favoured few being invited to a luncheon behind closed doors. Notwithstanding these points, the Taplin's house was in a lovely sunny position overlooking the games pitches and there is no doubt the warmth and vivacity of the Taplin family will charm their new flock as they did us at Rendcomb. We wish them the very best.



The Manor of Rendcomb - A Survey

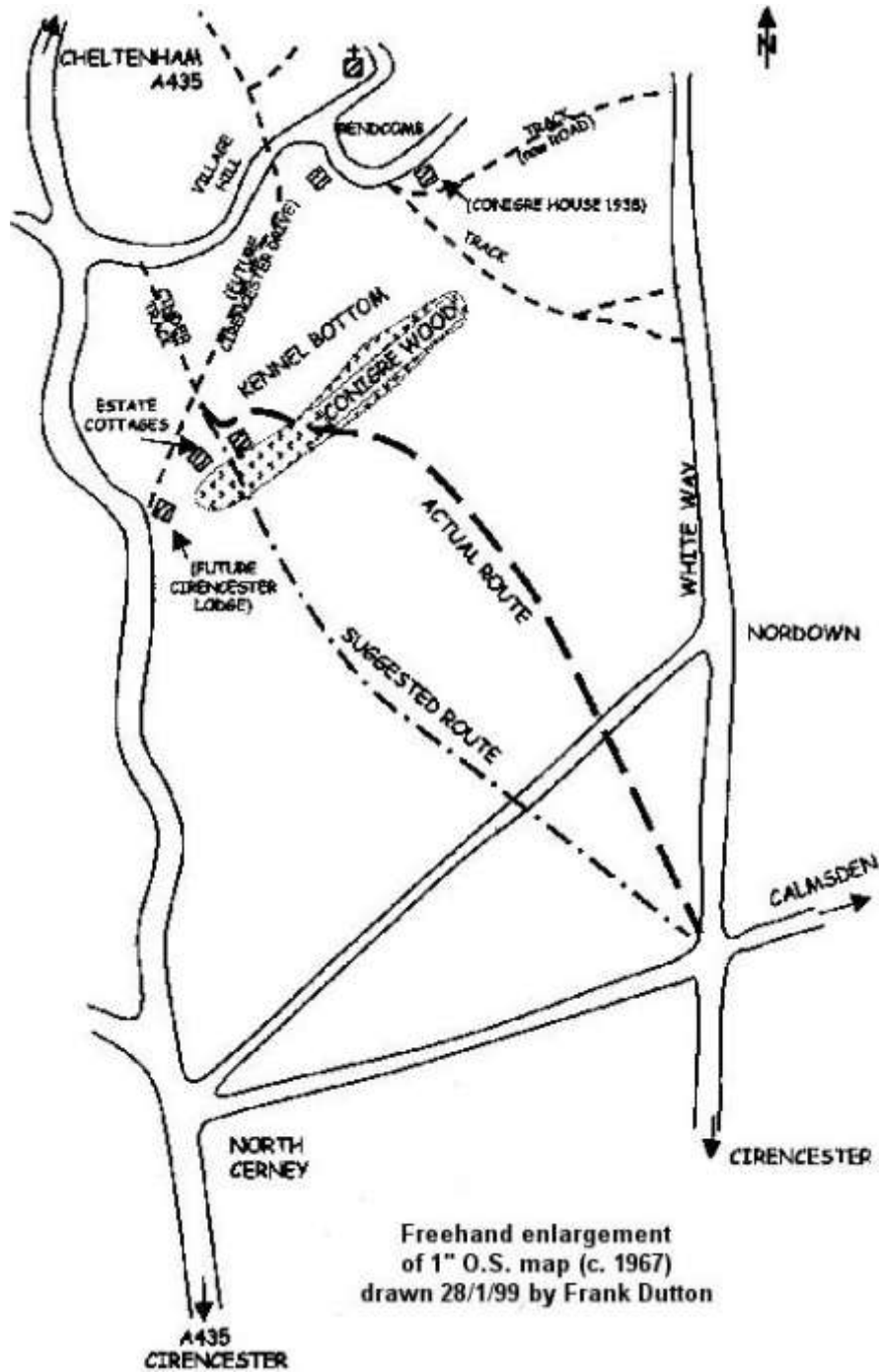
Frank Dutton (1936 - 44) has been researching the history and ownership of the manor(s) of Rendcomb. The result is a fascinating collection of information which I am sure O.R.'s will find interesting. Most O.R.'s will know that the present mansion was built for Sir Francis Goldschmid, a wealthy Jewish barrister and M.P. The family tree, researched by Frank Dutton, widens our knowledge of Sir Francis, as does the obituary notice of 1987, discovered by **David Vaisey** (1945 - 54). We are most grateful to Frank Dutton for providing us with these accounts.

W.J.D.W.

Most of the information below, up to c. 1800, was extracted from the Gloucestershire volume of the "Victoria County History of England" and the remainder from various other sources, including Vol. 1 of "A History of Rendcomb College". It appears that up to c. 1700 there were two manor houses on the estate and the "Victoria History" tends to confuse them. One was on the present site but the other, known as the Earl's Court and still existing in 1566, has long since disappeared and its site is unknown. It may have been the property once held by the Earls of Stafford. It is hoped that the information below refers to the correct manor house, but accuracy is not guaranteed. See also note 8 below.

Pre 1066	Owned by the Saxon chief, Aluric.
Post 1066	Owned by Tuold (granted by William I, 1066 - 1087)
1086	Owned by Gilbert, son of Tuold
(Later)	Owned by Robert FitzHamon (granted by William II, 1087 - 1100)
1100's	Owned by Earls of Gloucester, held by de la Mare family
c. 1166	Held by Robert de la Mare
c. 1190	Held by William de la Mare, through his wife Amfelice
Early 1200's	Held by Thomas de la Mare
1243	Held by William de la Mare
1255	Owned by Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, granted to Simon and Parnel de la Mare
c. 1263	Parnel de la Mare died; succeeded by her son William.
c. 1296	William de la Mare died
1303	Held by John de la Mare
1331	Held by Thomas de la Mare (son of John)
1347	Held by Williarn de la Mare (another son of John). Earldom of Gloucester became extinct at this date.
1387	Held by Thomas and Robert de la Mare
1390	Held by Thomas de la Mare
pre 1414	Held by John de la Mare (son of Thomas, came of age 1419, died pre 1462)
pre 1462	Held by John de la Mare (son of John).
pre 1500	Held by John Westby, a kinsman of above
1503	Estate sold to Edmund Tame (later Sir) of Fairford. A conflicting alternative date gives 1508
1534	Estate held by Sir Edmund Tame (son of above)
1544	Estate held by Catherine (widow of above, son). Park in existence before this date
1547	Estate held by Margaret (younger sister of son), wife of Sir Humphrey Stafford. Estate held
(Later)	by Sir Humphrey Stafford (son of Sir Humphrey above)
1564	Estate sold to Richard Berkeley (later Sir) of Stoke Gifford (just north of Bristol) reversionary rights only
1566	Estate sold to Richard Berkeley by Roger Lygon, Catherine Tame's third husband
1592	Sir Richard Berkeley hosted Queen Elizabeth and her court at Rendcomb for two days
Late 1500's	New manor house built, previous building demolished
1604	Estate held by Dame Eleanor Berkeley (wife of Sir Richard above)
1629	Estate held by Richard Berkeley (Sir Richard's grandson)
1635	Estate sold to Sir William Guise of Elmore by Richard Berkeley's son, Sir Maurice
1661	Estate held by Sir Christopher Guise (grandson of Sir William above)
1670	Estate held by Sir John Guise* (*Father to son)
1676	Estate was 250 acres in extent
c. 1685	New mansion built on present site, previous building demolished
1695	Estate held by Sir John Guise*
1732	Estate held by Sir John Guise*
1769	Estate held by Sir William Guise*

- c. 1773 Access road linking Rendcomb village to White Way, north of North Cerney village, constructed through Conigre Wood (see below)
- 1783 Sir William Guise died
- 1785 Estate inherited by Dr. Shute Barrington, Bishop of Salisbury and later of Durham, whose wife Jane was (second) Sir John Guise's widow
- 1807 Estate inherited by Sir Berkeley William Guise (son of Sir William's cousin/heir)
- 1825 New turnpike road (present A435) constructed from Cirencester to Cheltenham Lodge to Rendcomb Park built soon afterwards
- 1828 "Conigre Wood" access road stopped up, following construction of A435
- 1834 Estate inherited by Sir John Wright Guise (brother of Sir Berkeley above)
- 1837 Estate was 275 acres in extent
- Apr 1841 (census) William Vernon Guise (later Sir, 24), Sir John's eldest son, resident with thirteen servants.



Sir William Guise's new access road, c. 1773, before the A435 was made in 1825. Access road stopped up c. 1828.

- Apr 1851 (census) Owner Sir John Wright Guise absent
Sanford Graham, Bart. (63), widower, resident with son, two daughters and fourteen servants. He presumably was leasing the estate
- Apr 1861 (census) David (41) and Susannah Jane (29) Fullerton resident with eight daughters and two sons. Three eldest daughters born in London, rest of family at Rendcomb, indicating that the Fullertons leased the estate in c. 1851 - 52
- 1863 Sale of estate announced October
- 1864 Estate bought from Guise family by Sir Francis Goldschmid, Bart., a rich barrister/financier, M.P. for Reading and the first Jewish barrister in the country. Guise mansion demolished
- 1864 - 67 Present mansion designed by Philip Charles Hardwick and constructed by Thomas Cubitt
- 1865 General Sir John Wright Guise, Bart., of Elmore Court buried at Rendcomb on April 7, aged 87



- 1867 Stable block constructed. The existing Cheltenham Lodge (demolished in the 1960's, having become derelict) was retained, while the new Cirencester Lodge was also a Hardwick design, matching the main building with a small tower
- Apr 1871 (census) No Goldschmid family members in residence. Building occupied by up to half a dozen servants
- 1878 Sir Francis Goldschmid killed in an accident at Waterloo station, London. His nephew Sir Julian Goldschmid inherited the estate
- Apr 1881 (census) (As for Apr 1871)
- 1883 The mansion and the 4775 acre estate sold to James Taylor, a retired cotton manufacturer from Bradford, Yorkshire. Memorial tablet to Taylor near pulpit on wall of Rendcomb Church. The estate comprised land in North Cerney, Chedworth, Colesbourne and other parishes. Rendcomb parish was only 2600 acres in extent in 1925.
- Apr 1891 (census) James Taylor and his wife, Editha Agnes, resident with ten servants. The census lists their ages as 65 and 50 respectively, but these are certainly wrong, as witness their death dates below, which were extracted from the Rendcomb church burial register. The correct census ages should therefore be 80 and 63.
- 1896 *James Taylor died on the feast of All Saints, according to his memorial tablet, also known as the feast of All Hallows. This was November 1, and he was buried on November 5, aged 85. His wife, Editha Agnes, inherited the estate
- 1911 *Editha Agnes Taylor was buried on March 21, aged 83. James Herbert Taylor, a nephew holding a life interest in James Taylor's will, inherited the estate.
- 1913 Estate sold to William Newbern
- c. 1916 Estate sold to a business syndicate which broke up the property, now comprising upwards of 8000 acres in a number of parishes, into numerous lots for resale
- 1918 Frederick Noel Hamilton Wills of Misarden Park, Glos. bought the mansion and 450 acres of immediately surrounding grounds for the purpose of founding Rendcomb College. He was a member of the well-known Bristol "tobacco" family
- 1920 Rendcomb College opened on June 2 with twelve boys and three teaching staff. The first headmaster was James Herbert Simpson
- 1927 Noel Wills died of appendicitis on October 11, aged 40. He was buried in Miserden churchyard.

(The headmaster together with the head boy and head girl lay a wreath on the founder's grave before each founder's day - ed.)

*James Taylor's nephew inherited the life interest related to his wife.

Notes

1. In the main aisle of Rendcomb church, just in front of the lectern, lies a large slate burial slab containing details of

Robert Berkeley	Died Feb 2 1690, aged 76
Rebekah (his wife)	Died Aug 16, 1707, aged 88 (possibly 83, unclear)
Jane (his daughter)	Died 1672, aged 19

The estate had been sold by the Berkeleys to the Guise family in 1635, and it is not known if Robert Berkeley and his family had Rendcomb connections during their lifetimes.

2. Also in Rendcomb church is a stained-glass window, donated by David Fullerton and dated November 25 1858.

Sir Francis Goldsmid

Details culled from The Times of 4, 6, 7 and 9 May 1878, by David Vaisey (1945 - 54)

He was on the 7.53 train from Southampton to Waterloo on 2 May. As it drew in to Waterloo Station and while it was still moving at about 3 mph, the door of Goldsmid's first class compartment was opened from the inside. Goldsmid stepped out and fell between the carriage and the platform. He was dragged along and could not be extricated until the train had stopped and the carriages had been decoupled from one another. His right foot and chest were crushed. He was alive when admitted at St. Thomas's Hospital, but died soon after arrival. He had been travelling with his valet, but the latter was in another (non first class) compartment. An inquest was held on 6 May and returned a verdict of accidental death. After a service at the West London Synagogue he was buried in the synagogue's cemetery at Ball's Pond. He was aged 70, and was the second (and only surviving) son of Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, who had married Isabel, the daughter of Abraham Goldsmid of Morden, Surrey. Sir Francis inherited the baronetcy on his father's death in 1859. He too married another Goldsmid - Louisa Sophia, daughter of Moses Ashe Goldsmid. Sir Francis was liberal MP for Reading from 1860 until his death. His brother was MP for Honiton, and the titles (Sir Francis was also by inheritance a baron in Portugal) descended to his nephew - also an MP, for Rochester. He was said to be a munificent contributor to charities and to the endowment of University College, London. He was also vice-president of the Anglo-Jewish Association. His death provoked a flurry of letters to the Times about the dangers of the difference in levels between the floor of the carriages and the platforms at Waterloo. According to the inquest it was 31", although there were steps on the outsides of the carriages.

Rendcomb's Railway That Never Was

The Rendcomb Chronology - an addition (although a "negative" entry, it is not without interest)

1845 - The Manchester & Southampton Railway applied for an act of parliament to construct a railway, a section from Cirencester to Cheltenham being proposed to run up the Churn valley. Beyond North Cerney would be three tunnels at Colesbourne, and another beneath Coberley at the Cotswold escarpment summit. The line would curve northwards east of Cheltenham, to join the Midland Railway between that town and Ashchurch. Robert Stephenson actually surveyed the route, and he and George Bidder would have been the engineers.

The act was passed by the commons but rejected by the lords on a casting vote. The line eventually constructed for the Midland & South Western Junction Railway, via Chedworth and Withington, was not opened until 1891. Rendcomb therefore missed having its own railway by one vote.

Comment: It is intriguing to speculate how the proposed railway would have passed through Rendcomb. The steep valley hillsides in this area would have limited the choice of route considerably. The Churn and the A435 (built in 1825) already took up most of the available valley space, while a route through the water meadows would have been blocked by the houses in Nether Rendcomb, and possibly by the lake, if the latter were already in existence. The water meadows themselves, liable to flooding, would have created their own hazard. The only other alternative in view would have been to excavate a continuous plateau or platform part way up the western hillside, in order to avoid these obstacles. There must also have been similar problems at other places in the Churn valley. Rendcomb might even have boasted its own railway station).

Congratulations

To **Simon Wormleighton** (1968 - 75) on being appointed as headmaster of Grenville College, Bideford, from September. Simon is at present a housemaster at Cheltenham College.

To **James Smith** (1990 - 97) on obtaining first class honours in mathematics at Warwick University.

Marriages

Anna Dühmke (1989 - 91) to Harald Bechteler - December 2000

Roland Martin (1982 - 89) to Kerri Corcoran - July 1999

Vaughan Tredwell (1982 - 89) to Agata - November 2001

Births

To **Roland** (1982 - 89) and Kerri **Martin**, a son Jude Gabriel Corcoran, March 2001

To **Charlotte** (née **Stephens** 1988 - 90) and Simon Jeffery a son, Oliver Joseph Hawkins, born 6 November 2001

Publications

We would like to include in the newsletter a list of works published by O.R.'s. Please would O.R.'s who have had books/articles published recently send a list to Bill White.

Sport

HOCKEY - O.R. Teams Sunday 17th March 2002

1st XI	Unforgettables	Exiles
M. Williams (93 - 00)	T. Brealy (77 - 84)	I. Thompson (88 - 95)*
M. Ewing (95 - 01)	S. Taylor (90 - 97)	B. Maslen (90)
A. Taylor (91 - 98)	J. Emerson (90 - 97) *	J. Gregory (83 - 90)
P. Boydell (95)	A. Paton (77 - 84) *	P. Griffiths (83 - 88)
I. Thompson (88 - 95)*	A. Payne (79 - 84) *	M. Rann (83 - 88)
M. Garcia (90 - 97)*	N. Patterson-Fox (81 - 86)	R. Matson (81 - 88) (GK)
T. Sharman (97)	P. Patterson-Fox (79 - 84) (Capt)	G. Hughes (82 - 89)
S. Jones (88 - 95) (GK)	R. Hayward (78 - 84)	A. Laine (83 - 91)
D. Ashby (94 - 99)	M. Lynton (78 - 84) (GK)	M. Hastings (81 - 88) (Capt)
I. Forster (94 - 99)	C. Hutton-Potts (76 - 83)	T. Gilbert (92 - 99)
J. Morgan (88 - 95) (Capt)	P. Webb (92 - 99)	R. Ogden (84 - 89)
	P. Boydell (95)	M. Ewing (95 - 01)
	M. Williams (93 - 00)	J. Barnett (81 - 88)
	M. Garcia (90 - 97)*	W. Witchell (94 - 00)
	R. Witchell (92 - 97)	

*denotes played in more than one match

Unforgettables 4 (Phil P-F x 2, P. Boydell, A. Payne) - Exiles 5 (R. Ogden x 2, B. Maslen x 2, M. Hastings)

Unforgettables 0 - College 2nd XI 2

Old Rendcombians 1st XI 1 (T. Sharman) - College 1st XI 4

The Unforgettables took on the Exiles who played with a lot of style and were 3-0 up by half time. The second half saw the Unforgettables rallying and they brought it back to almost level it at 5-4. Hope the two sides can come back again next season!

The Unforgettables then featured against the College 2nd XI but it was a 'match too far', losing 0-2.

The OR 1st XI played in a very fast and competitive match and it was lucky to be only 3-0 down at half time, Steve Jones doing his usual athletics in goal. Despite the best efforts of John Morgan, who made some skilful

runs in midfield, they could only get one back in the second half, finishing 1-4.

The college's hockey is going from strength to strength. The 2002 season will have seen ten teams fielded, with at least seven teams usually operating on a Saturday. The total number of fixtures will be over 70. Compare this with the fact that in the 1970/80s there were usually 20-30!

At the time of writing the results were P59 W23 D10 L26. The depth of talent and level of coaching is shown by the two extremes of experience:

1st XI's results: P11 W7 D1 L3

U13 XI's results: P10 W5 D1 L4

The ten-strong team of coaches put in great deal of time and effort in enabling all this to take place and many old Rendcombians also owe a great deal to them. The fact that so many still come back for the hockey reunion is a tribute in

itself!

A.S.B.



Hockey in the gym (Dulverton Hall), 1954

Handel's Messiah (Part 1)

17th March 2002

In true David White style a magnificent production of Handel's Messiah (Part 1) was staged in the Dulverton Hall on the evening of the hockey reunion. A disparate collection of pupils, teachers, O.R.'s, governors and invited guests gathered at 4:00 p.m. on a very wet Sunday afternoon to begin rehearsals. When the performance opened, to a packed auditorium three and a half hours later, David had woven his spell and a consummate performance ensued. Solos were given by pupils and staff of the college and included one by Rupert Uzzell, son of the late **Denis Uzzell** (1926 - 34).

The O.R.'s were represented by **Philip Webb** (92 - 99), **Rebekah Taplin** (97 - 99), **Ian Forster** (94 - 99), **Gemma Leathart** (93 - 99), **Paul Sumsion** (85 - 92), **Marian Preen** (91 - 93), **Thom Gilbert** (92 - 99), **Claire Germaine** (90 - 93), **Louise Bongiovanni** (97 - 99), with **John Kitto** (44 - 51) on the cello.

Guests were treated to a marvellous evening of wonderful music and it is hoped that the performers enjoyed it as much as the audience did.

J. R. G.



John Willson (staff 1967 - 88) rehearsing the orchestra in the (new) Dulverton Hall in the 80's

O.R. News

Philip Graham (1968 - 73) is an ICT co-ordinator at Beaudesert Park Preparatory School. He was previously on the staff at St. Johns-on-the-Hill, Chepstow. He says he plays golf (or tries to!) at Minchinhampton Golf Club and is in fairly regular contact with **Andrew Jenkins** (1968 - 74).

Nigel Taylor (1971 - 78) writes to say that he has retired from the R.A.F. after 16 years, having spent the last five years at Shawbury along with **Tim Nicholas** (1969 - 76). He now flies Boeing 757's out of Birmingham for JMC Airlines (Thomas Cook's own airline - JMC=John Mason Cook, son of Thomas for trivia fans). He says it is a complete change of environment and lifestyle, but very enjoyable and hopefully secure until normal retirement age.

Roland Martin (1982 - 89) sent the following information about himself to Chris Wood. "After graduating from York in 1992, I found a job at Newcastle-under-Lyme School, teaching English, producing plays and coaching hockey and cricket (I can imagine the shock to you and David Essenhigh which the last of those statements will cause!). I stayed there until September 1998. On the way, I met my wife-to-be, Kerri Corcoran, (we were married in July 1999), who was working for Lindsay Haslett (staff 1985 - 96) at Wisbech Grammar School from 1996 - 97, a small world! Since 1998, I've been at Eton, teaching English and drama, producing plays and acting as a deputy housemaster. Life's great and has been enhanced recently for us by the safe arrival of Jude Gabriel Corcoran Martin on 28th March 2001. I still keep in touch with **Richard Hardy**, **Will Sherwood**, living and working in Swindon, **Nick Suffolk** and **Suzie Waddington**. I have also seen John Tolputt a couple of times since he moved to the Purcell School."

Lawrence Wragg (1956 - 63) wrote last May. "A point concerning Appendix C in Volume 2 of the College History. I failed to tell anyone about my masters degree (M.B.A., Manchester Business School, 1974). Since it was a higher degree by both examination and dissertation, it should pass the necessary tests. I wonder whether it was the first M.B.A. taken by an O.R. (I see that Ben Knapp must have taken something similar in 1990). Certainly there is no record of an O.R. before me at M.B.S., which had not been going for many years at the time. (Any contestants? - ed.) I've been involved with the Council for the Protection of Rural England (C.P.R.E.) for quite a few years, and have been chairman of the Cambridgeshire county branch. Last year I was elected vice-chairman of the national organisation. Purely coincidentally, we are now in the middle of a strategic review. There are also problems in different counties which seem to come my way. It requires constant self- control to avoid saying "I'm from head office and I'm here to help."!

Ben Almond (1978 - 85), who is with the German investment bank, Dresdner, has been made Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for the day-to-day operation of the trading floor and management of the support functions of their recently merged debt divisions of 600 people.

Stewart McIntyre (1978 - 85) who has been at the Cheltenham control room has become the police officer in Tetbury.

Georgina Hunter-Smart (1995 - 97) who is studying nursing at Nottingham University came back to the college at the invitation of the chaplain, the Rev. Charles Jefferies, to talk about her life and faith after leaving Rendeomb.

John Gough (1948 - 55) writes to say how sad he was to learn of Chris Swaine's death. He spent a lot of time with him as he was the only pupil studying biology in the sixth form in his year. He helped him build the biology laboratory. He also says that he has been able to dedicate an area of woodland to his father's (C. J. Gough 1920 - 24) memory under the Woodland Trust's dedication scheme. It is at Barber Wood, across the road from the Ullenwood turning near the "Air Balloon" on the A436.

Anna Bechteler (née **Dühmke** 1989 - 91) writes: "Thank you for the latest issue of the Old Rendcombian 2001. It has been a pleasure reading about some people from Rendcomb, even though almost all correspondents I used to have, have sort of vanished. But I guess that's "c'est la vie". Harald and I were married in February. We got registered in December 2000 and had the Roman Catholic wedding ceremony in the St. Nikolas church in Immenstadt on 12th of February 2001. We had about 100 guests attending from all over the world. Since also my brother **Rudolf** and my sisters **Elisa** and **Victoria** also went to Rendcomb College, they had quite a few people from England coming over. It has been a great time for us and as far as I can tell for everybody else, too.

Let me tell you some more about recent years. In 1991 I left Rendcomb and started to do law at the University of Goettingen in Germany. In 1992, I changed to another university, the University of Passau, Germany. I achieved my degree in law in January 1998. After that, a language course in Italian language at the "Schiola Leonardo da Vinci" in Florence, Italy, seemed to be the right thing to do and I did a certificate in Italian language. In April 1998, I became a legal trainee, where one gets sent round to all administrative and judicial levels to do some work and gain worthy experience for the future. These studies led me to a small law firm in New York in 2000, where I worked for three months. After I finished my legal training, I decided that law was

not the thing to do after all. So, I started work as a sales assistant for a Japanese company over here in Munich. They are called "Advantest" and are the greatest shareholder in the semiconductor tester industry in the Asian stock exchange. They are increasingly gaining market importance over here in Europe. (We are working on it!) The language spoken at the company is English and Japanese, of which I do not speak the latter!

Rupert Wertheimer (1988 - 95) is now based in Hong Kong and says it is great fun out there. He recently got back in touch with **Paul Smith** through the 'Friends Reunited' web site.

All Change

No sooner had I written an account of the changes in the use of buildings at Rendcomb in 2000 than another radical adjustment began to be made. This is how things are in 2002!

Park House has reverted to being a co-educational sixth form house. Stable House is for boys in the third, fourth and fifth forms, Lawn House is for girls in these forms. Godman House is for girls in the first two years and the Old Rectory for boys. There is no longer a Day House. The Junior School now occupies the wing facing you as you come down the drive and also the former modern language and English departments overlooking the swimming pool. In the Main Building, there is no change on the ground floor, but on the first floor are the history and English departments. In the Stable Block, the science laboratories occupy the ground floor rooms, together with the geography department. The accommodation provided by the old staff flats is now used to house mathematics, I.T. and modern languages.

W.J.D.W.

Park House- A Full Circle

In 1971 Park House opened as a sixth form house catering for both girls and boys. This operated very successfully until 1989 when the completion of two new boarding houses - Lawn House and Stable House - converted Rendcomb from a school based on a horizontal age structure to a vertical one from the third form upwards. Park House became an all girls house which included the sprinkling of girls from forms 1-5 as Rendcomb had just become completely co-educational. As the number of junior girls increased, Godman House became the junior girls' house, taking forms 1-3, and Park House became the senior girls' house, which it has remained with only slight variations when School House briefly became a Day House in 1997. In September 2001 Park House reverted to its original status as the sixth form house, this time including boys and girls from 6A and 6B, day and boarding pupils.

We are grateful to Veronica Parker (née Thresh) for her recollections of how it was in the 1970's and to Sam Gunner, Georgina Webb-Dicken, and Emma Sykes for how it is now.

J.R.G.

1975

Life at Park House started on a warm September afternoon in 1975 with a glass of sherry for the new 6B girls and their parents in the common room. The idea of introducing girls into the sixth form of a boy's school was then a relatively new one, and we were only the fourth intake of girls at Rendcomb - still enough of a novelty to make us feel interesting and slightly radical. As Mr. Price circulated with the bottle and the introductions, and the mothers made polite chit-chat, we - the 'new girls' struggled to hide a combination of first-day nerves and tearing anticipation, as we scrutinised each other and our new surroundings.

There was a lot to take in. For someone like me, coming from the ancient paintwork and drab dormitories of a traditional girls' boarding school, Park House was quite astounding in its modernity. This was the era of orange-painted walls, brown corduroy sofas and cream flock rugs, and Park House was right up there, with hessian-covered walls in the common room (on which some talented ex-student had painted, with a roller and in shades of brown and cream, a scene of cool teens hanging out), low chairs framed in tubular steel, a record player by the window and a bar in the corner. It was young, it was hip, it was created just for us - there was a feeling of taking a step into adulthood and finding it everything that we had expected it to be.

In fact, Park House did an excellent job of fulfilling the purpose for which it had been built - that of providing an environment in which a large group of teenagers could work, rest and play without getting into too much trouble. A nice balance was achieved - one had the impression of being well taken care of without being too much constrained. Much of the credit for this must go to Denis and Mary Price, who, with their family, occupied the staff duplex at the centre of Park house, and carried out the most demanding of roles with kindness, humour and very great finesse. At that time, one wing of Park House was occupied by 6A boys (while the 6B boys lived in the main college), with the girls taking up the other wing. 6B girls had their rooms

on the lower and middle 'decks', with 6A on the middle and upper. There was a widely-held belief that the more mature and better behaved you were held to be (in the eyes of the staff), the higher up and closer to the door of the Price's central apartment you were placed. You were also supposed to get the front rooms with their better view across the valley. I suppose that the fact that I never got any further than the back of the far end of middle deck was proof enough of this. Our rooms were lovely - all identical, of course, but warm and comfortable, with more hessian on the walls - a blank canvas on which we could resolve the age-old teenage dilemma of being totally different from our contemporaries while remaining completely the same. We obliged with Indian bedspreads, posters that ranged from the Wombles to Toulouse Lautrec to Ché Guevara, jars of Nescafé and potted plants on the window sills.

Ingress into the opposite sex's wing was strictly forbidden, we met in the middle in the common room. Here, much of the socialising took place around the record player, and the choice of music was overwhelmingly male dominated: Genesis, Pink Floyd, the Sex Pistols, et al. I don't remember a girl ever bringing in a record. There was also a dartboard, and lots of magazines - we managed to get 'Cosmopolitan' introduced, although - looking at its current content - I have to wonder how. Most of the time, we just talked - there was, after all, no television. Mr. Price used to wander through most evenings, making sure that all was well and keeping an eye out for canoodling couples. Saturday night was bar night, an institution which seems an extraordinarily bold move by a school, even today. Beer, cider and various kinds of vermouth were on offer. There was a limit of two half pints or small measures, but it wasn't very strictly enforced. On special occasions, members of staff were invited in for the bar - I have a photograph somewhere of us hopping around with a few uncomfortable-looking masters in front of the record player. We are all wearing long dresses, which in fact we wore frequently, even for trips to the theatre.

Girls and boys were treated almost, but not completely, equally. We did our own laundry in a washing machine on the top deck of Park House, while dim recollections of spending PW afternoons rolling socks suggest that the boys were not expected to do the same. In 6A, we were allowed to lie in on Sunday mornings and cook our own breakfast with bacon and eggs supplied by the kitchens, though for some - now completely incomprehensible reason, many of us chose to forego our rest for the dubious pleasure of cooking breakfast for our male contemporaries, which we then posted to them - still clad in their dressing gowns - through the common room windows. The girl's wing was locked at 9.30p.m., while the boys were allowed out later. They could also go into Cheltenham on a couple of Saturday evenings every term, while we were limited to the afternoons. At the time, this seemed perfectly fair although I do remember spending evenings trying to saw my way to liberty through Park Houses's slatted windows with the bread knife.

On the other hand, only the girls were allowed to ride Mrs. Medill's horses on games afternoons. Today, the idea of being provided with a good horse to ride, beautiful countryside in which to ride it, and the time in which to do it seems close to heaven. Back then, it quickly became a chore, something to be got out of on cold days, in favour of an afternoon spent in our rooms in Park House, with Dave Lee Travis on Radio One for company, or engaged in endless 'does my bum look too big in this?' conversations in front of the communal mirror at the end of the corridor. Youth may not be wasted on the young, but its opportunities almost certainly are.

Veronica Parker (née Thresh 1975 - 77). Veronica and her family now live in Southern France.

2002

The Park House common room has new wall to floor glazing, soft sofas and sky digital television and is still described as modern by its users. The 6A and 6B girls are now in the double deck (right hand) end and the 6A and 6B boys have the triple deck (left hand) end. However the boys can use the girls' end door to get in and out as there is a computer room in what used to be the boot room. The old girls' boot room is now the relief staff-room. The room arrangements remain broadly the same as in the seventies. In the boys end 6B day boys and a few 6B boarders are on the bottom deck while the rest of 6B boarders are on middle deck with 6A. 6A have the top deck. Only 6A gets eggs supplied on Sunday mornings! There are still loaves of bread for toasting at long break. The notice boards in the studies have had the hessian replaced by fibre board but the puddle from the showers as you enter bottom deck bathroom is still there. The Park is out of bounds during the winter but girls are now allowed into town on Saturday evenings provided they have got permission from Mr. and Mrs. Slark, the housemaster and housemistress. The bar has moved from the common room cupboard to the Green Room which is situated under the kitchens of Main College. Park House's slatted windows have been replaced by new bottom opening double glazing so they are no longer victims of the bread knife. In the interests of equality the girls are no longer willing to cook breakfast for the boys but will sometimes stretch to making them a cup of tea or a half done piece of toast. Whatever the cosmetic changes Park House once again provides a framework for a very enjoyable and memorable VIth form.

Sam Gunner, Georgina Webb-Dicken and Emma Sykes are currently in 6B studying for their 'A' levels.

A Boy At Rendcomb In The 1920's

Last year a charity ball was held at Rendcomb in aid of the South West Children's Heart Circle. Mrs Judith Cameron, the secretary of this charity, is the daughter of **Henry Thomas George Price**, known as Tom, who was a founder member of the college in 1920. Mrs Cameron and her sister have sent us this 'portrait' of their family, compiled from their researches.

"He was a very good scholar, but, at times, quite a naughty boy. He was a chorister and carved his name under one of the choir stalls in the church. He used to climb through the door high up the wall in his dormitory, (where was this? ed.) go along the passage to the next dormitory and make ghostly noises to frighten the other boys. They also had midnight feasts! When he had to quote Latin verbs, some words sounded so rude he would get a fit of giggles. He would pick twigs from the hedge-rows, in particular old man's beard - and smoke them. He taught us to do this - not to be recommended! He would swim in the river (there was no pool then), and would go into Cirencester and buy cider. For all these reasons and many more, he had the cane on an almost daily basis. He had to wait outside the headmaster's study in the morning. After he had had "six of the best", he would say: "Thank you very much, sir," even if he felt like crying or rubbing his sore behind. He passed his final exams and matriculated in 1928, leaving Rendcomb to join the merchant navy as an apprentice. He obtained his first mate's ticket and was on Fyffes banana boats. In 1932, tired of the West Indies, he left the merchant navy to join the Bristol police force as a constable and worked his way up to chief inspector. During the war he was in the river police. He was later chairman of the Police Federation. When a young constable, he married our mother, now 92 and rather frail, and had three children. Sadly our brother died this year. He was always proud of being an Old Rendcombian and the many lessons he learnt there carried him through life. He died in 1965."



The tuck shop in the 1920/30's

The college ran its own tuck shop until 1977

Can you name these three pupils?

Memories Of Headmaster Lee-Browne - 1933

I have decided to write this as I have noticed many references to this person in the 2001 issue. I very much enjoyed my short stay at the school, I think on a scholarship basis. I remember particularly Mr. Lee-Browne for his kindness to us boys, with the exception of his beatings in the study. But this was our own fault for dormitory fights. The good point of our beatings was that we got a free trip to Cirencester in his Alvis motor racing car - in my opinion, well worth it.

Other memories include the German Hitler Youth Movement leader who was blonde, well built, and late 20's, and the offer of a trip to a Hitler Youth Camp in Germany and sitting in the gymnasium with the sun beating through the windows on a Saturday afternoon doing a thousand lines, watching the high jump going on outside. Prefects, in my days, could beat you and give you lines, mainly in Latin.

Matron was a very bosomy female who gave frequent doses of cod liver oil and malt. Paying taxes was very memorable as well, as this consumed a great deal of our monthly pocket money, but windows continued to be broken and had to be paid for. Punishments were varied, and included blowing the church organ on Sundays to weeding the tennis court, plus the usual schoolboy discipline controls.

I remember the daily run of two and a half miles before breakfast, round the two gate lodge houses*, and past the lake where there were falbots (fold-up kayaks), but as a contra to this, I remember mushroom picking and the kitchen girls cooking them specially for my breakfast.

I remember painfully an experimental try-out for a school shirt, which incorporated a zip around the neck,

ostensibly to save the college money in washing, as you used two collars for each shirt. The reaction of other bigger boys was to try and unzip me, leaving torn flesh around my neck, so the school experiment was dropped.

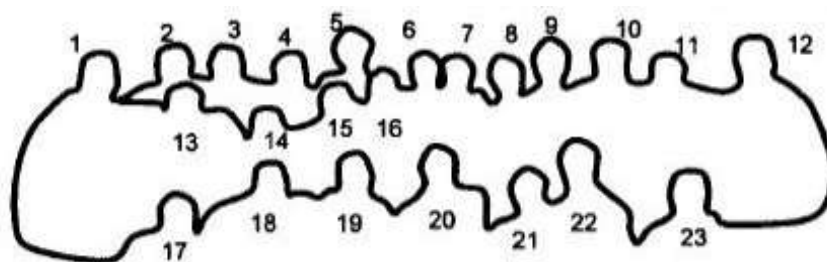
Subsequently I visited Rendcomb in post-war years, having left the Indian army, and found Mr Lee-Browne in residence on the first floor, and full of life. I do wish some students would take the time to write to the magazine in appreciation of their headmaster, who had the kindness, in my time, of declaring holidays for sports on a working academic day (gorgeous summer weather)!

A. C. A. Gilmour (1932 - 35)

(* See earlier picture of Cheltenham Lodge - ed.)

December 2001 Reunion

A relatively small number of O.R.'s turned out to play hockey and rugby on a cold, dry Sunday in December. Both matches were played in an excellent spirit and were thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators. The ladies' hockey match was won 3 - 1 by the school XI, which had enjoyed a very good winning season. The inter-OR rugby match was a fast 12-a-side game with many exciting tries, leading to a close score line (Ladyboys 53 - Intruders 51). The match, dubbed a *Comedy of Errors* by the participants, was made more interesting by the presence of Phillippe Saint-André as a player. Saint-André played for France in the early 1990s and now coaches Gloucester RFC. Thanks must go to **Dan White** for bringing along his touch rugby colleague!



- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Nick Carmichael (89 - 96) | 2. Aubrey Powell (82 - 89) |
| 3. Alex Brealy (82 - 87, staff 1994 -) | 4. Phil Webb (92 - 99) |
| 5. Manny Garcia (90 - 97) | 6. Stu Taylor (90 - 97) |
| 7. Mr Bridges (referee) | 8. Ali Harris (89 - 96) |
| 9. John Morgan (88 - 95) | 10. Francis Barton (88 - 95) |
| 11. Pat Boydell (95) | 12. Matt Faircloth (84 - 89) |
| 13. Philippe Saint-André (guest) | 14. Charles Hutton-Potts (76 - 83) |
| 15. Fred Ingham (90 - 95) | 16. Harry Aldrich-Blake (94 - 99) |
| 17. Steve Jones (88 - 95) | 18. Ian Thompson (88 - 95) |
| 19. Bob Wittchell (82 - 87) | 20. Dan White (89 - 91) |
| 21. James Britten-Jones (95 - 00) | 22. Russell Ogden (84 - 89) |
| 23. Thom Gilbert (92 - 99) | |

Staff Common Room News

The second year of the new junior school saw twice as many (100) little people at Rendcomb and the numbers are set to increase further in September. Mike Debenham moved on to Wisbech Grammar as head of physics and Paul Jennings joined the staff in January to take over head of English from Karen Ewing. Paul came from Berkhamsted School where he met **Chris Pulford** (1970 - 77). Diana Dodd has become the first assistant headteacher, acknowledging the ever increasing amount of administration in the school, particularly with an inspection scheduled for November. Also with the closure of the college's marketing department Dr. Penrose Shackel has moved on to pastures new. Look out for a new web-site at www.rendcombcollege.co.uk later this year.

O. R. Shop

Polo shirt	£14*
Sweat Shirt	£17*
Rugby Shirt	£34*
Tie	£5
Blazer badge	£5
Print of the school	£40* (packed in very strong tube)
Framed print	£65 (not by post)
	*plus £1.50 p&p

Any of the above may be purchased at the school or by post (not the framed print) from:
C J Wood, 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, GL54 3JF email: c.j.wood@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
Cheques should be made payable to: *The Old Rendcombian Society*
Please do not forget to add p&p where appropriate.
Details and photos of the above items may be viewed at:
<http://www.rendcombian.org.uk/stuff.aspx>

News of Recent Leavers

Paul R. S. Bongiovanni	Leisure resource management, Portsmouth University
Matthew S. S. Carrington	American studies, Nottingham University
Thomas Z. B. Drew	Art & business, Chester C H E
Olivia B. du Monceau	Art foundation, Gloucestershire University
Michael A. Elsworth	Zoology, Derby University
Rosalind J. Frazer-Holland	Humanities, Birmingham University
Andrea L. J. Gear	
Martin C. Good	
Christopher J. Henson	Geography, Manchester University
Joanna L. Hindley	
Freddie J. Lait	Mathematics, Oxford University
Candice A. McDonald	Canada
Leila F. Nelson	Art foundation, Stroud School of Art
Alice J. Osborne	Drama & theatre studies, Surrey University, Roehampton
Adam C. Padmore	Geography & sport, Manchester Metropolitan University
Helen C. Pearce	Accounting & management, Cardiff University
Amy L. Roberts	Art foundation, Gloucestershire University
Natsuko Sasaki	Japan
Nicola M. Scarth	Nursing, Birmingham University
Christina J. Schotten	Art Foundation
Benjamin C. Stanfield	Professional culinary arts, Birmingham College of Food
Paul Szybiak	Adventure tourism, Birmingham University
Matthew S. Thatcher	Theology, Durham University
Rebecca J. Whatman	Environmental biology, Swansea University
Kate V. Wilson	Art foundation, Gloucestershire University