

THE RENDCOMB MAGAZINE

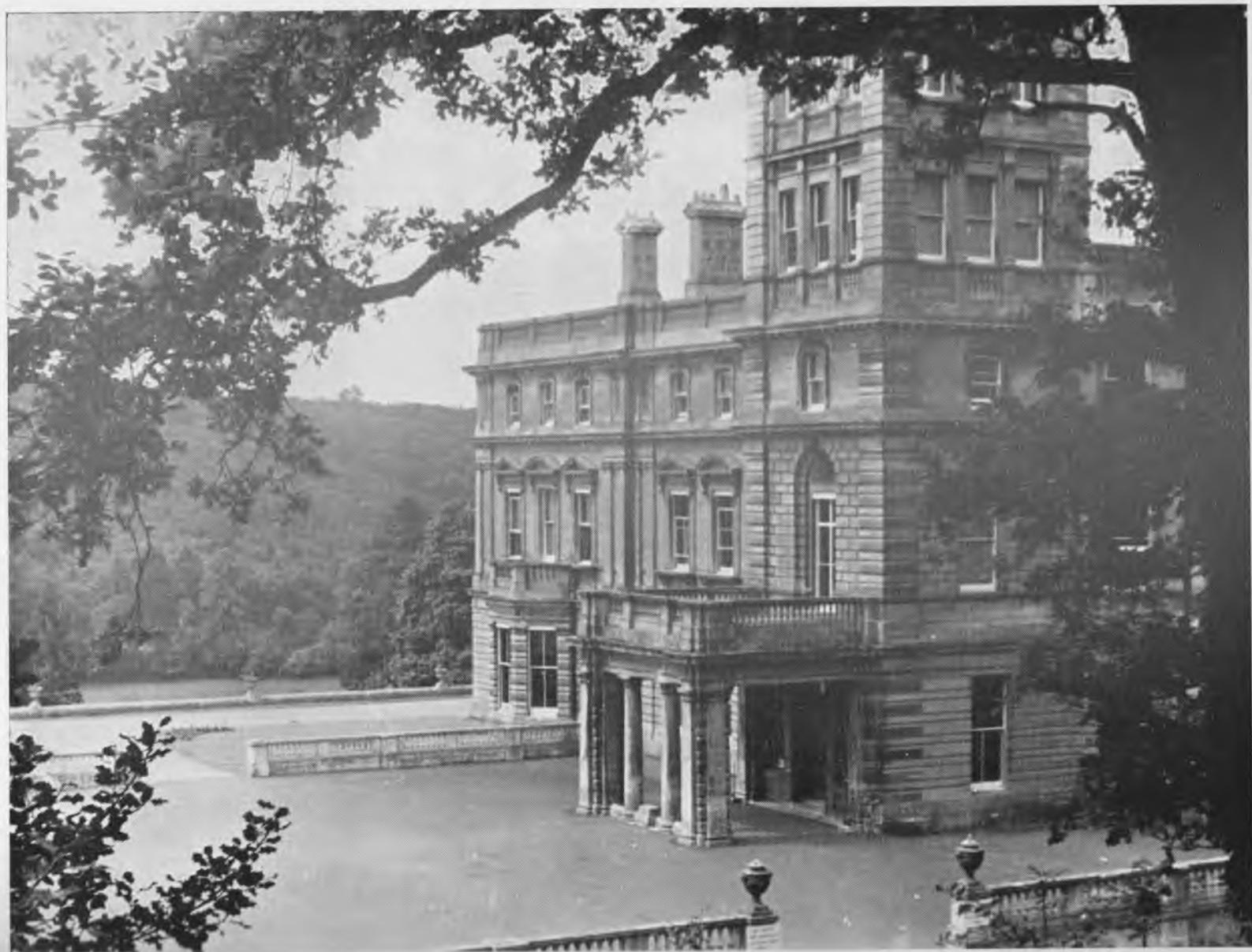


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EDITORIAL

IT was intended to make this number a particularly comprehensive and ambitious one to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the College, but the two great subversive forces, Time and Money, successfully challenged this idea. However, in addition to the customary material, we have included extracts from previous numbers compiled during the period 1925 (when the magazine was printed for the first time) to 1950 (when the title was altered from *Rendcomb College Magazine* to *Rendcomb College Chronicle*). It is hoped that these extracts may give present boys and parents an impression of the College's evolution, notably in its earliest years under the exhilarating and painstaking direction of the Founder and the first Headmaster. We would be delighted to receive comments or reminiscences from any Old Boy whose memory is prodded by any of the enclosed material.

Reading in full these early College magazines, slim, unpretentious and plain, is a somewhat humbling and even disquieting experience. One gains a vivid picture of a very independent-minded, sturdy school, large in every other respect but numbers; a school which wonderfully blended the practical and earthy with the intellectual and creative; an empirical school which discovered its own values and principles and satisfactions and was proud of its distinctive character; a school, too, extremely conscious and relatively knowledgeable of the exceptional beauty and historical interest of its immediate and less immediate surroundings; a strongly patriotic school. The good work continues but few would dispute, surely, that too many of these attitudes and attributes are in danger now of being ignored or taken for granted, sunk in the fatalistic apathy, confusion and vitriol of our age.

The College has decided to issue two magazines per year instead of three, partly on financial grounds and partly to help maintain

artistic standards. Steadily rising printing prices and the recently altered format have increased costs enormously; some other school magazines are economising similarly. Further, only a minority of the College are willing (and possibly able) to contribute to the Magazine, so that the demands on that minority, in a small school, if standards are to be preserved (let alone improved), are considerable. The present plan is therefore to bring out *The Rendcomb Magazine* in August and April each year — a summer and a winter issue in effect. To the summer issue we now cordially invite you.

MISCELLANEA

WE are sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Godfrey Jones, our genial Art Master for nearly three years, and thank him for all his successful work in the Art Room and for his stout-hearted help with Cricket and Hockey. Sadly we also say farewell to Miss Carol Vernon, assistant matron for two years, to whom we also are very grateful. We wish both of them the best of luck in the future.

Members of the Sixth Form went to Stratford to see performances of *Richard III* on 19th May and *Hamlet* on 25th June. A number of Second and Fourth Formers went to the Playhouse, Cheltenham, to see a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* on 28th May. Some members of VIb saw a performance of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* in Bristol on 23rd June.

Rendcomb provided the setting for a Church Fete on 30th May. Between the side-shows, fancy dress parade and a Scottish Pipe Band over £270 was collected and it was estimated that over a thousand people came.

* * *

Rendcomb was also the scene for part of a BBC production in the "Bird's Eye View" series. The completed film is due to be broadcast in the early part of 1971.

* * ❦

Founder's Day was held on loth June, the guest speaker being Lord Fulton of Falmer. More details of Founder's Day and the speeches appear further on.

* * ❦

On 27th June the School welcomed a number of Old Rendcombians as part of the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations. They were entertained by the College, many of them attending an Anniversary lunch, followed by the traditional Old Boys' match and the popular Old Boys' buffet in the evening. Many of the older O.R.'s were amazed at the School's growth and even the younger ones were able to see some expansion manifested in the new pavilion on Top.

* * ❦

The squash courts are (still) rapidly nearing completion and it is hoped that they will be finished for the new school year.

* * ❦

Making the best of this term's good weather, some of Form V and a fair cross-section of the Upper VI went with Mr. Price to study comparisons of medieval churches in the Cotswolds, an area famous for its church architecture. Elkstone, Duntisbourne Rous and North Cerney were all visited on June 26th.

* * ❦

The peripatetic Mr. Price also took another party from Form I to Chedworth Villa on May 12th and on May 14th he took Form II on a tour of the March Castles. They visited the White Castle, Skenfrith and Goodrich, noting and sketching them.

* * ❦

On June 16th and July 2nd, members of the Alcove Christian Contact (from the first

three forms) were taken to Gloucester Cathedral. Mr. Lambert would like to thank Canon Pare of the Cathedral staff for his help.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury came to Rendcomb on May 27th for a confirmation service and confirmed these boys: Robert Sherratt, Timothy Longworth, Jonathan Dixon, Jonathan Fletcher, Clive Mathias, Michael James, Paul Rose, Richard Fry, Douglas Hendry, Andrew Jenkins, Bruce Mann, Andrew Pearce, Nicholas Roberts, Timothy Stroud, Gregory Dorey, Christopher Horton, Christopher Jones, John Millard, Kim Stuckey, Keith Underdown, Dennis Jenner, Nigel Jowsey, Robert Morris, Dicky Roberts, Brian Smith, Martin Stallard, and Paul Topp.

*

John Lucas, of Merton College, Oxford, came to the College on June 23rd and gave an informal talk to VIA and VIU. His theme was the academic side of university life, but discussion wandered and several topics were touched upon.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following contemporaries : *The Gresham Magazine*, *The Wycliffe Star*, *The Decanian* and *The Richian*.

*

Unusually for the summer term several films were shown. They were *Henry V* on April 18th and *Animal Farm* on April 25th, ostensibly to aid the Vth Form with their "O" Level set books, though many members of the School enjoyed them too. *What's So Bad About Feeling Good?* as an end of term relaxer was shown on July 4th.

* ❦ ❦

As always at the end of the summer term our thoughts go with those boys leaving the school. We would like to wish the best of luck to M. Cummings, P. Jones, B. Laan, H. Thompson, A. Walker, N. Wapshott,

R. Bowen, N. Evans, N. Johnson, N. Moot, W. Nesham, A. Patrick, R. Raynes, D. Simmons, K. Warren, J. Bush, J. Coombes, J. Wookey and B. Cooper.

We are sorry to report that our rival magazine *Foot* has not shown the promise that it showed last term and no further editions have been printed. So much for Free Enterprise!

* * *

The photos for this issue were contributed by A. Robertson, R. C. Rolt and J. D. Williams; and the line drawings by D. Toresen, S. Reason, P. Millard, R. Sherratt and J. Dixon.

* * *

Among those leaving are Anthony Walker and William Nesham, both of whom have served the College Magazine well. We thank them for all their efforts.

COLLEGE OFFICERS

Senior Prefect—N. H. Wapshott

Prefects and Group Leaders—P. B. Jones; J. C. Walker; N. A. Johnson; K. D. Warren; D. A. Tyler

Public Workman—A. J. Stafford

Church Ushers—P. B. Jones; O. G. Rhys

Librarians—D. A. Tyler; N. R. H. Evans; A. J. Stafford; C. J. Wood; R. G. L. Roberts

Music Librarians—M. Garland Collins; B. Robertson; C. Probert

Bell-ringers—A. J. C. Walker (Tower Captain); A. T. W. Patrick; N. A. Johnson; A. Thompson; J. D. Williams; M. Brown; M. W. Fisher; J. Smith; D. Pearce; P. Walton

Stage Managers—A. T. W. Patrick; D. J. Simmons

Stagemen—R. A. Law; W. M. F. Nesham; I. R. Niel; C. H. Moore; R. J. H. Laycock; A. Robertson; A. Wookey; N. E. Hance

Editors—A. J. C. Walker; O. G. Rhys; N. O. Thomas

MEETING OFFICERS

Chairman—N. A. Johnson

Secretary—A. Robertson

Games Captain—D. A. Tyler

Games Committee—D. A. Tyler; J. M. Gray; R. A. Law; K. D. Warren; N. A. Johnson

Games Secretary—R. A. Law

Council—H. Thompson; P. Jones; A. Walker; W. Nesham; N. Johnson

Nominations Committee—A. Patrick; N. Johnson; N. O. Thomas

Meeting Advisory Committee—A. Patrick; D. Tyler; R. Millard

Meeting Banker—R. Millard

Shop Banker—C. Moore

Boys' Banker—R. Rolt

Senior Shopman—A. Thompson

Entertainments Committee—N. Moot; R. Laycock; D. Rose; R. Roberts; T. Stroud

Breakages Man—J. Smith

Junior Advocate—I. Niel

Meeting Editor—W. Nesham

Hockey Secretary—N. Johnson

Rugby Secretary—I. Niel

MEETING NOTES

THE General Meeting continued in its light-hearted but competent running of affairs this term. A move to discontinue buying *The Morning Star* early in the term was narrowly defeated. The Meeting also decided to buy *The Sunday Mirror*, *The People* and *The News of the World*, as until now we had only one "popular" Sunday paper. As there is now a wide interest in climbing the Meeting decided to buy the magazine *Rocksport*.

The Meeting failed to think of an alternative system to "changing room fines" for those leaving clothes untidy.

Finally, the Meeting showed its appreciation of the services of Mr. Jones and Miss Vernon in the usual way, and presented Mr. Jones with the most unconventional leaving present to date in the form of an air rifle.

We wish Richard Millard well in his chairmanship next term.

W.N.

BELLRINGING NOTES

THIS term sees the departure of several of our number — Neil Johnson, Adrian Patrick and Anthony Walker — and this will leave the tower at a very basic level of bellringing. Andrew Thompson, however, will be able to consolidate on the great youth of the tower and it will not be long before the fairly high standard of this term is soon re-achieved and perhaps passed.

On May 6th, five of the ringers and Miss Bliss entered a Striking Competition, but due to a combination of faults we did not do as well as we had done the previous year. Nevertheless, it provided experience for some and it kept Rendcomb ringing in the mind of our local association. All of us leaving would like to thank Miss Bliss for her invaluable help with our ringing and wish her and the new Rendcomb band all the best in the future.

A.J.C.W.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

THERE were no visits this term, due to examinations and the exhibitions. However, several films were shown during the term. The best half-hour ones were undoubtedly the Unilever films, the subjects being water, proteins, detergents and soap.

C.J.W.

FOUNDER'S DAY, 1970

The Headmaster's Report

IT is my privilege to present to you this afternoon the first headmaster's report of the 1970's; which completes the first fifty years of Rendcomb's history. The school has come a very long way in those fifty years since it was started with a handful of boys in June, 1920, the brainchild of Noel Wills. Over 800 boys have been or are now members of the College; 49 awards have been won to Oxford and Cambridge colleges, 14 of these in the 1960's — a remarkable feat for so small a school. The school has increased considerably in size — our numbers are now between 150 and 160 — but we still remain the smallest independent school in membership with the Headmasters Conference. It is, moreover, our intention that the school should remain a small school but of high quality.

The year I report on has been one of solid achievement rather than of any marked innovation — but then the task of education is essentially a conservative one — to preserve the knowledge and wisdom of past generations which alone makes civilised existence in the present generation possible. The "A" level results last year, printed on the programme, were good with passes spread over eleven different subjects; we also won this year two awards at Oxford and Cambridge, and it is particularly pleasing that, in the year Lord Fulton has come to speak to us, the first Rendcombian who went to Sussex University,

Stuart Shellswell, should have obtained a first-class honours in his B.Sc. Lord Fulton is well known in another way here, particularly to those boys doing Economics and Public Affairs "A" level, through the Fulton Report. We had Lord Radcliffe Maude a few years ago — so we have been very lucky actually to see in the flesh the eminent authors of these two reports — though a candidate answering an exam question on say "Assess the importance of the Fulton Report" might have to show considerable ingenuity in fitting in details of Lord Fulton's visit and what he says here today as a relevant part of his answer!

We had an excellent rugger season; the 1st XV won 8 matches, drew one and lost one. The team owed much of their success to the enthusiasm of Mr. Price, who took over at the beginning of the season.

The hockey season was largely spoilt by the bad weather, but the cricketers are seeing a revival of their fortunes, partly through the unsuspected skill of Haydn Thompson as a spin bowler.

There have been a considerable number of musical and dramatic productions of which the most ambitious were the Senior Play, *Men in Shadow*, produced by Mr. Sells; the Junior Play, *Shaw's Androcles and the Lion*, produced jointly by my wife and Mr. Holt; and Handel's *Messiah*, directed by Mr. Willson. These all involved much time and effort on the part of staff and boys and were all most creditable and enjoyable performances.

We had one new departure this year — a two-day Challenge of Industry Conference, organised by the Industrial Society. The conference was held at Rendcomb, and was attended by the Rendcomb and Dean Close VIth forms. Rendcomb and other schools with an academic emphasis have tended perhaps to be too closely orientated towards the demands of University and not sufficiently to those of industry where a high proportion of their pupils will spend the majority of their life. This conference, which brought to

the school a number of speakers and group leaders actively engaged in industry, proved, I thought, a valuable corrective in our tendency to ignore industry.

The School, after a period of rapid ascent in numbers and facilities, has reached something of a plateau. We are now considering carefully in what direction our next moves should be; this was the reason why we sent out the questionnaire to all parents. First of all, I want to thank all parents here for the exceptionally large proportion which were filled up and returned to me — over 80 %, and for the many useful ideas which they contained. You will, I expect, be interested to hear some of the points that emerged.

On the questions I asked: Economics was the most popular subject for introduction into the curriculum; there was a strong body of opinion in favour of admitting girls to the VIth form and an even stronger one against admitting day pupils. Easily the winner among the suggestions you made was the heating of the swimming pool, and the possibility of this will be investigated. No decisions have yet been taken or are likely to be taken in the next few months, but the information you supplied will be a great help.

I believe we can view the future of Rendcomb with greater confidence than ever.

First, from a practical point of view, we have never in recent years, and I suspect at any time, had so many applicants for our Commoner Places. The number of applicants for Gloucestershire places has not risen similarly because the parental contribution has risen substantially in recent years owing to inflation, and some parents find it difficult to afford to send boys on the Gloucestershire scheme to Rendcomb. This is no fault of the Gloucestershire Authority, to whom we are deeply indebted for the support they have given to the College, but like everyone else, they have many calls on their funds. The Governors have now decided to do what they can to tackle this problem: in future in commemoration of our 50th anniversary, one

Founder's Scholarship will be offered every year which will give to the holder free education at Rendcomb with no charge either to the authority or the parent. The award will be restricted to boys who qualify under the original foundation — those resident and attending primary schools within the administrative county of Gloucestershire.

Secondly, I am sure that there will be an increasing demand for the smaller school, as many of the nation's schools grow much larger. The same pressures that make for the large factory and mass production now make for the large school — perhaps inevitably because it allows unit costs to be reduced and all that sort of jargon. But in schools with rolls of 1,500 and even 2,000 pupils, it will be difficult to avoid an anonymous and de-personalised atmosphere. In such a situation there is bound to be increased support of the smaller school which can maintain high standards and at the same time a deeper personal relationship between staff and pupils.

Thirdly, the increasing standard of living — through constant technical and economic development — will make it possible for more parents to spend money on their children's education. Recently, politicians have been congratulating themselves on their success in transferring expenditure to education from defence. I look forward to the day when the same politicians congratulate private individuals on transferring some of their expenditure from, say, gambling, cars and drink, to education. The more eccentric among us might even consider it wiser to cut outlay on gambling and smoking rather than on defence.

Fourthly, we have one of the best sites of any school in England, which has been considerably improved by recent development — and what is most important of all, an able and loyal staff, many of whom have devoted a considerable proportion of their lives to Rendcomb.

So I hope that our Founder would be proud if he could see the School today. We still

remain true to his intention of providing a public and boarding school education to a wider range of families than can normally consider it. Despite the confusions and contradictions of the two public school commission reports we shall, I believe, be able to continue to do this. The School owes an enormous debt not only to the Founder, but his family, who have continued to give the School such generous and unremitting support. It is a particular pleasure that Mrs. Sinclair is here today on this anniversary. She has always followed the career of the School and its past and present pupils with the closest attention. Without her support, and that of the rest of the family, it would not have been possible to continue the School after the Founder's early death. Much has been achieved in the first fifty years — it will be fascinating to see what the next fifty years will bring to the College's life, though I suspect that I, and indeed one or two others here, will not be alive to witness the centenary.

Lord Fulton's Speech

RENDCOMB was particularly lucky to receive such a prominent personality as Lord Fulton of Falmer for its half-centenary. Having learnt from the Headmaster that Lord Fulton was intending to present the subject of Civil Service Reform (his own speciality as well as that of the sixth-form Economists) the audience were soon informed that his speech would be primarily directed towards those honoured people leaving Rendcomb at the end of term with the intention of going to University. Lord Fulton took great pains to develop his argument logically and smoothly and having warned the potential freshers what the purpose of a University was, he explained at great length what a student should do and not do at University if he wished to make these three important years a success.

Education, according to Lord Fulton, was the main instrument of change in any society.

In particular, a University, being the main institution for providing further education, offered many "treasures of culture," which were very necessary if University students, the cream of the country, were to find solutions to the many great problems facing the world today. The main purpose of a University education was to prepare young people to face an ever-challenging, ever-competitive world and then to make a worthwhile contribution to it. If a University did not succeed in doing this then the problems of the future would inevitably become worse and the world would not be a satisfactory place in which to live. But then Lord Fulton emphasised that a University was only an institution where young people attended and it was really up to the students themselves to make a success of it.

A University, said Lord Fulton, was a very generous place which gave everything, but if the student was not prepared to use its gifts to his advantage then the place would be a failure. Upon arriving at University the student had to aim to be a master of his chosen subject, a complete professional in his field. If he was not prepared to work it would be a waste of time.

Rendcomb, Lord Fulton said, was very fortunate in having such a favourable staff: pupil ratio which helped to produce an inevitable feeling for work. This was also very true of most Universities and their tutorial system enabled the staff to take a more direct and special interest in their pupils' work and social lives. A University should enhance a person's awareness and enable him to distinguish between good and bad, the shoddy and the genuine, proof and rumour, truth and falseness. It enabled people to organise their own lives and this alone provided a challenge. During this period the student should become more mature and whilst growing up he had ample opportunity to become more rational and tolerant. Lord Fulton believed that the generation struggle today was an urgent problem and only by good

relations between generations could a country genuinely be called united. Education inevitably released the forces of tolerance and understanding and while the generation squabble could not be resolved tomorrow there was every hope that co-operation was the key word of the future.

Lord Fulton concluded his erudite speech by saying that during his period of teaching, which covered a span of some forty years, he had never seen a failure amongst his pupils. Everyone he had taught had achieved something and no matter how small it was they had all contributed to making the world a better place in which to live. If a person was a failure at University it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for him to recover. But Lord Fulton was very optimistic about the future, and the more senior member of the school especially, as well as the rest of the audience, thank Lord Fulton for being able to give us such a well informed speech on our fiftieth anniversary.

Lord Dulverton proposed the vote of thanks.

P.J.

The Art and Woodwork Exhibitions

THE Art Exhibition at this year's Founder's Day was in many ways Mr. Jones' "swansong" with a variety of work done in the last school year and some of the best of previous years not previously shown. Unlike in many previous years Sixth Form work was well exhibited and this reflects a genuine interest in the upper school for Art as well as sustained effort towards Art "O" Level, one of the Sixth Form options.

Roger Laycock and David Toresen deserve special mention for their prolific work, even though it often tended towards the macabre. Nicholas Wapshott's talent was ably displayed in his portrait work, original in style and colourful in content. The lower school, as usual,

provided the vast quantity of the exhibition and of these Jonathan Dixon's inspired "Genesis" and Philip Lamphée's abstracts were some of the best. Sculpture, again, was evidently a popular art medium and here Roger Laycock and Anthony Rose's "Hooded Figure" was as good a guide as any to the year's achievements. Credit is due to William Nesham and Michael Cummings for their adventurous use of materials hitherto alien to the Rendcomb artistic scene. "A 35 Blues" was a unique opportunity to witness at first hand inspiration gleaned from a collection of apparently mundane articles.

All in all, Rendcomb can be proud of its artistic achievements in the past year and, giving credit where credit is due, Mr. Jones must be seen as the guiding force behind this worthwhile and successful exhibition.

Mr. Burden, too, can be justly proud of his Woodwork as shown to the public on Founder's Day. Woodwork appears to be a uniquely lower school activity but this did not seem to hamper either the quality or quantity of the work displayed. Rather basic first form jobs like cheese boards progressed to more adventurous projects further up the school.

Form Four were prolific in their output, the highlights being Graham Jordan's tea trolley and sewing cabinet and Nicholas Hance's writing desk. Keith Underdown, too, showed his "manual" dexterity with his magnificent cocktail cabinet, which is assured of a very good home. Though Form Four provided the backbone for the exhibition, other forms produced work of equally high standard. Colin Lyons, from Form Three, produced a rocking chair, made in teak, which was exceptional. In the Junior House the work was consistently good and Robert Sherratt made a rather original doll's house in the shape of a caravan. Doubtless his sister will be thrilled with this new variation on an old theme.

As well as wood, metal was a popular material and the exhibition provided a profusion

of pokers, toasting forks and candlestick holders. Mr. Burden has done well to maintain his large output of woodwork and metalwork and though the new Arts Block is responsible to a certain extent the real credit is all Mr. Burden's.

A.J.C.W.

The Science Exhibition

THE Science displays provided enjoyment and interest for a large number of both parents and boys.

The Chemistry display showed some aspects of molecular and atomic structure as an introduction to the main exhibits which were directly connected with the work done by "A" level candidates. The preparation of a sample of the commercial dye "Monastral Blue" reflected the effort put into the exhibition. The dye "Indigo" was also prepared.

The Physics display centred round the common phenomenon of random motion, which was clearly shown by a variety of devices. A collection of metal detectors and an electronic rain gauge were on display as examples of 4th form work.

Some aspects of plant and animal communities and the effects of pollution were the two sections of the Biology display. The former included a varied selection of livestock including an adder, caught locally by two members of Form 2. The pollution exhibition centred on artificial fertilizers and insecticides and included a frightening demonstration of the effects of cigarette smoking.

The displays, as a whole, reflected the great amount of effort put into them, both by the boys and the Science staff.

N.A.J., D.J.A.R.

CRICKET REPORT

AFTER two miserable summers cricket was played this term with far greater regularity in beautiful weather. In the past two seasons there has been a marked improvement in the batting, bowling and fielding of almost everyone Mr. Essenhigh has coached, but the record of the 1st XI has not improved so much perhaps because of the lack in depth of cricketers in the Vth and VIth forms.

This season's batting has depended heavily on three or four players; only five batsmen scored more than fifty runs in the whole season. N. Johnson was the most convincing batsman and he scored more runs than anyone else. His straight drive was the best of his varied attacking shots. M. Stallard was the sheet-anchor of the side, coming in at number three; he survived where others failed, primarily because of his great application, but often vexed his partner because of his leisurely running between the wickets. D. Tyler, J. Gray and R. Law all scored runs at times, but too often they gave their wickets away instead of forcing the other side to prise them out.

H. Thompson took more wickets (36) than anyone for the last six years. Off a run of only five or six paces, his slow left-arm bowling puzzled most of the batsmen he bowled against. However, much of his success must be ascribed to a lack of experience of many teams in playing an accurate bowler who spun the ball. R. Law opened the bowling all term; he was faster and a great deal more consistent than last year. The number of near misses from his bowling suggest he was unlucky in taking only 20 wickets. Perhaps a higher action might have given him the extra bounce which could have claimed more victims. J. Gray and N. Johnson were the other main bowlers. Gray remodelled his action and overcame his tendency to pitch too short—he should be very useful next season. Johnson's bowling was always very accurate; some of his wickets (and some of those at the other end too)

came through frustration at his excellent length.

The fielding of the side gradually improved during the season. The throwing (with one or two exceptions) was poor, but the stopping and catching reached a higher standard towards the end of term. D. Tyler's wicket-keeping was a valuable asset to the team—only twelve byes were conceded during the season. He took 12 stumpings off Thompson's bowling and held a number of good catches.

Finally, to the credits. Thanks go to Miss Lloyd and Miss Vernon for looking after the kit; to D. Toresen, C. Jones and P. Lamphee for scoring; and, most important, to Mr. Knapp, Mr. Burden, Mr. Dennis and Mr. Essenhigh for all the time they spent coaching and umpiring.

Match Reports

Record: Played to, Won 2, Drawn 5, Lost 3.

y. Dean Close 'A' XI Drawn
Rendcomb: 100-7 declared (Johnson 36,
Stallard 29, Gray 25)
Dean Close: 77-7 (Thompson H. 4–16)

Johnson, Stallard (in his first 1st XI match) and Gray all batted soundly against an underpractised Dean Close team. Thompson puzzled the opposing batsmen but, partly due to rain, no positive result was achieved.

v. Marling Drawn
Marling : 106-7 declared
(Thompson H. 6-46)
Rendcomb: 40-9 (Johnson 21, Law to)

Marling accumulated runs slowly in the face of some accurate bowling by Thompson. Four of his six victims were lured out of their ground to be stumped. Rendcomb batted very poorly—only Johnson and Law stayed in for any time.

- v. Kingham Hill Drawn
 Kingham Hill: 66 (Thompson H. 5 – 34)
 Rendcomb : 42-6 (Johnson 16, Gray 12 n.o.)

This proved a rather unsatisfactory match. Kingham Hill batted for two hours, and showed they had little idea of how to play the spin bowling of Thompson. Rendcomb lost wickets in the chase for quick runs.

- v. Burford G.S. Lost by 4 rickets
 Rendcomb: 46 (Stallard 23 n.o.)
 Burford: 49-6 (Law 3-II, H. Thompson 3 – 4)

Against some very accurate bowling, Rendcomb batted appallingly. In a creditable innings of great concentration, Stallard scored half of the runs. Law bowled with great fire and had Burford reeling at 19 – 5, but the Grammar School ran out easy victors.

- y. Crypt G.S. Lost by 40 runs
 Crypt: 103-9 declared (Johnson 3-15, Law 3-38)
 Rendcomb : 63 (Law 18, Tyler 15, Stallard II)

All of the Rendcomb bowlers did well to restrict Crypt to 74 when the ninth wicket fell. However, a very competent last wicket stand made Crypt's score more respectable. Spin bowling proved the downfall of most of Rendcomb's batsmen.

- v. Avonhurst Won by 7 wickets
 Avonhurst: 70 (H. Thompson 5-18)
 Rendcomb: 71-3 (Tyler 43, Johnson II, Stallard 13 n.o.)

Rendcomb won this match very comfortably after Thompson had again taken a good haul of wickets. Tyler competently knocked off most of the runs.

- v. King's, Gloucester Won by 6 wickets
 King's: 76 (H. Thompson 6-22)
 Rendcomb: 80-4 (Gray 22 n.o., Law 18 n.o. Johnson 20)

Thompson probably bowled better in this match than in any other; runs came very slowly for King's, partly due to an improved fielding display. Rendcomb's runs came at over a run a minute. After a steady start by Johnson and Law, Gray hit twenty-two in the last nineteen minutes.

- y. Cheltenham College II Drawn
 Cheltenham: 120 (Law 4 – 41, H. Thompson 4 – 38)
 Rendcomb: 83-9 (Johnson 56 n.o., Warren II)

A strong Cheltenham side were bowled out for 120 after reaching 53 – 0 and 93 – 3. The best fielding of the season (no chances were missed) and some sensible bowling by Law and Thompson restricted the Cheltenham batsmen. Johnson batted extremely well, scoring heavily on anything over-pitched. However, of the other batsmen, only Warren stayed for any length of time, and Rendcomb just managed to stave off defeat.

- y. Old Rendcombians Drawn
 Old Rendcombians : 139 (Tovey 64, A. Hillier 40, Johnson 4-14)
 Rendcomb: 73-8 (Stallard 39, Tyler 23)

Tovey and Hillier both batted well, punishing Thompson especially hard; but the other Old Boy batsmen were efficiently disposed of. Stallard, who batted for nearly two hours, kept the Rendcomb innings together but Tyler was the only other batsman to reach double figures.

- z. Cheltenham G.S. Lost by 7 wickets
 Rendcomb: 40
 Cheltenham G.S. 43 – 3

Rendcomb were outplayed in the last match of the season after their captain (much to the delight of his players) won the toss after eight successive reverses. No Rendcomb batsman reached double figures and, although Law and Johnson bowled accurately, Cheltenham soon knocked off the runs.

Continued on page 25



The Arts Block



The Woodwork Exhibition



enough, glamorous enough and central enough for his purpose? A brilliant idea flashed through his mind. The G.P.O. Tower. The revolving restaurant. The answer to everything. If he could cling to the outside of the famous revolving restaurant, not only would he be almost at the top of one of the tallest buildings in London, he would be on display. He would become a figure in a revolving display stand; everyone could see him: it was magnificent. True, the restaurant only completed one revolution every half an hour, and the great areas of glass made him rather vulnerable to being grabbed from the inside, but these were only minor problems, easily overcome. He would stay up there for six hours if necessary. He would take a thermos and some sandwiches. Moreover, his sense of humour was tickled by the thought that he would be aptly committing suicide from the General Post Office.

Now the time had come; he was sitting inside the restaurant at one of the window tables. Suddenly he leapt to his feet, smashed the glass and quickly lowered himself onto the narrow ledge. Someone from inside screamed, already down below people were straining to turn their heads and stare.

He suddenly felt a great sense of power, an insane triumph filled him. He spread his arms and screamed with joy. He could not restrain himself. He thought how marvellous it would be to do this again; perhaps he could make a name for himself. He moved forward to get a better view, thrilled at the sea of faces turned towards him as though he was some god. A gust of wind caught him and threw him off balance, off the ledge even as he changed his mind. He screamed again, but not with fright, with frustration and rage.



VOID

Nigel Jowsey (Form V)

Polystyrene tiles, threepence a million,
A millimetre square, five foot thick.
Funny-sounding patterns, or was it
Light blue squeaks jumping about?
A bright black light, shining high above,
Spreading rays on a dark white floor.
Fluorescent, flickering, captured fire.
Reflected scene in a driving mirror,
One hundred and thirteen miles an hour.
Upside down and backwards, of course.
Arriving at nowhere, open and void,
A massive sea of nothingness.
Out of the ground sticks a tube
Branching off into two tapped pipes,
They call it electricity, I think.
Switches and wires, fixtures and bulbs
They call it gas or was it fire?

THE LEAVING SCHOOL POEM

William Nesham

No more the hours of fruitless toil,
No more poring over endless sheets
Of faint ruled io by 8 paper.
No more hours of writing
Page on page notes and essays.
No more awkward interviews
The nagging question "What have I done?"
No more the endless round
Of reading, noting, working.
For I have left all this behind.
My life, the world, lies before uncharted
Waiting breathless for my conquest.
Endless days of freedom lie ahead.
Endless hours of fruitless labour
Toiling over sheets of typed foolscap.
Endless hours of clicking typewriters.
Sheet upon sheet, letter on letter, report on
Memo on memo, report,
The summons to the boss's office.
Some familiar nagging question.
The endless round 9 to 5
Typing, filing, noting, working.

PTO PERIOD THIS WEEK

Richard Law

It always happens to others
(or so we hope)
and we give advice
never knowing what is right.
The mad moment of love
the sudden ecstasy so overwhelming
and then this thing is done
the seed is planted
and so begins
a new child
unwanted
as a jigsaw
given by an ignorant aunt
to her new-voting nephew
who really wanted
an oxy-acetylene cutter
to break into his local bank.
The will-be grandparents
beg the mother and father to marry
but dare they risk
the uncertainty
of their love?





DAY-DREAMING (with no apologies to James Thurber)

Richard Fry (Form III)

JAMES BOND roared down the country lane in a flurry of dust. Lowering the window of his car, he fired several rounds at the nearest bunch of thugs. Turning his attention back to the road, he saw the cliff ahead and in one movement skilfully dived out of his soap-box cart into the pond. Bernard came to his senses, spluttering. "Mum!" he bellowed, "I've fallen into the pond."

His mother came rushing out of the house and took him inside. After being changed into his cowboy suit, he swaggered into the saloon. Twirling his six-gun in his fingers, he ordered a whisky. "Okay, pardner, let's mosey on down to the ole corral," he drawled.

Once out in the street he turned on his companion. "Go for your guns!" he shouted. Diving to one side, he drew the gun from his holster and fired it twice. The `pardner' dropped to the floor. As the Moonboy Kid rose from the ground a loud ripping noise made itself heard. "Goldam it," he said, "pesky rose bush." He trooped into the house. "Mum," he called, "I've ripped my trousers."

Butch Speedaway adjusted his goggles, revved up his tricycle and nosed ahead of the leaders. Accelerating to maximum speed, he skidded round Baker's Bend and into the village policeman. The track from then on was diverted around Rosemary Lane and Post Box Corner. He turned sharply into the winning straight and crashed into a wheelbarrow. "Mum," he shouted, "I've cut my knee."

Bernard bowed before the Queen. "Arise, Sir Bernard, you are now a lord." Lord Bernard took over control of Mars Project Two. After financing it, he demanded to join the expedition.

As the spaceship hurtled towards Mars, Space Commander B. Wildsmilk flicked on the retro-rockets. "Mars Probe Two to Earth Base. Come in, Earth."

Mars Probe Two was, unfortunately, slightly off course and landed in the back garden of Number Six, Amelia Crescent, and, funnily enough, it bore a remarkable resemblance to a blue-daubed cardboard box.

THE WALL

Neil Lumby (Form II)

The Wall of sorrow,
That separates poor people,
Is standing;
Standing in the middle
Long and tall,
Casting grim shadows
On earth.
The rumbling of sentries
That walk along
The opposite side,
Armoured to kill,
Ruthless and unthinking.
Night has fallen,
Light cuts **the** darkness
Looking; looking for death.
A cold, cold night.
A shot thuds in the wall,
Then another;
Suddenly everything is a rush,
And you know that someone has died,
Without emotion.

RAINBOWS

Nicholas Thomas

THE rain was pouring down; it wasn't an impressive or exciting storm, just a constant, deadening deluge.

Mr. I was wandering through the grey woods, his head sunk down into his collar, his glasses misted up, cold and wet. The rain was like a grey curtain all round him when he took his glasses off to try and dry them. The trees were empty black shapes, their spirits had withdrawn inside to brood. His glasses dropped from his shivering hands to the ground. Mr. I bent down and straightened up, holding a handful of soggy grass and leaves, and his glasses. He trudged on as he dried them, tripped on a slippery, black root and fell headlong, hitting his head on a crumbling tree stump.

He woke a few seconds (or days) later, conscious of a large lump on his forehead. He got up; there was no pain, just a faint light-headedness. The rain had almost stopped and as he looked around him he noticed a rainbow. It was exactly like some brightly-painted toy, each colour was so distinct. He could only see stretches of it, between the dripping trees; **it** looked like some party decoration that someone had forgotten to take down the night before. Suddenly a great longing flared up inside him; the beautiful curve of the rainbow seemed to be beckoning him on. He could feel the bump on his head throbbing and pounding. On an impulse he took to his heels and rushed through the trees, towards the rainbow's end.

Mr. M too was caught in the wood by the rain; he hunched himself up inside his mac and kept his eyes on the ground as he and his surroundings became wetter and wetter, the trees looking like the abandoned shells of dancers in a violent game of "statues." Mr. M decided it was pointless to stagger on in these conditions, so he took shelter under a tree and soon, despite his physical discomfort, he was asleep. He was woken up by the tree

pouring a small waterfall of drips down his neck. The rain had cut to a drizzle and there was the rainbow.

He got up from the puddle he had been sitting in and admired the clarity of the rainbow, compared to its grey surroundings. He felt drawn towards it; so, instead of wandering on in any other direction, he wandered in the direction of the rainbow's end.

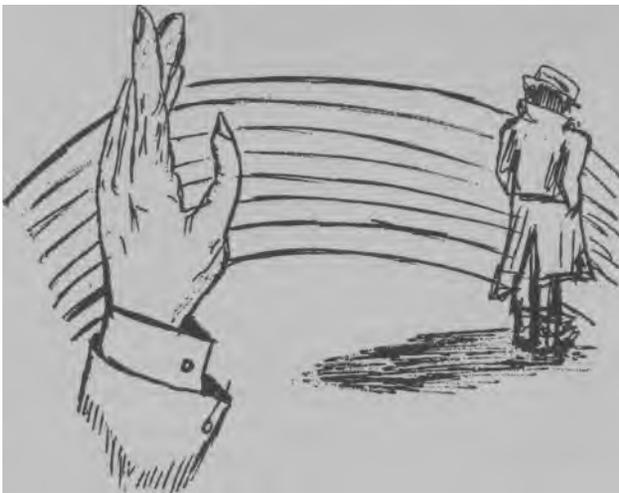
The rainbow ended in the middle of a large gravel pit, sixty feet deep, a very sheer drop. Mr. I and Mr. M reached the edge of the gravel pit at the same time, but they did not see each other. Mr. I was filled with elation and a sense of purpose when he saw it; he didn't stop on the edge, but jumped out over the brink and clutched madly at the rainbow; he reached it and his empty body fell down to the bottom of the pit; he himself, however, got a good hold and followed the path of the rainbow to its beginning.

But Mr. M took one look at the distance from the brink to the end of the rainbow, sighed, turned away and wandered off in the drizzle, looking for the next rainbow.

THE DANCE

Philip Lamphee (Form II)

A dance,
A heart-beat,
A breath of life,
A flutter of pulsing drum-beats.
A motion,
A swaying figure,
A watery reflection of a cool, white figure.
A dance,
A rhythmic motion.
A shuffle of feet,
A flowing of veils,
A wave of translucent hands.
A whine,
A rattle, a scrape.
Twisting into new existence,
Twirling into a fantastic union,
Spinning into newly-animated life.
What emerges?
A dance,
A heartbeat,
A breath of life



THE GILT OFF THE GINGERBREAD

Anthony Walker

Me and you were close.
For that matter we still are.
But it's not the same, is it?
There's nothing like someone else to take the
 gilt off the gingerbread.
I could tell you everything.
You had my closest secrets.
We even laughed over our foulest habits.
Perhaps we were thrown together
But good things like that aren't contrived.
Now there's someone else and
There's nothing like someone else to take the
 gilt off the gingerbread.
You asked me once why I didn't get hang-ups
 on people
And I didn't know the answer.
You had good things going with a lot of people
But I was never jealous.
With a problem you came to me first
And I never resented it.
But then there was just this one person
And you know don't you—
There's nothing like someone else to take the
 gilt off the gingerbread.
It was not a thing I'd ever done before,
But I got a hang-up.
Of all the people it could have been it had to be
 this one,
And I had to get a hang-up.
I should have known
But in the devious mind of someone like me
I convinced myself I could find a way between
 the two of you.
Christ, how low can someone get?
But as I said before
There's nothing like someone else to take the
 gilt off the gingerbread.

But you knew.
That's because you knew me.
Perceptive bastard, aren't you?
Still, I stopped and thought about it which was
 something.
I didn't decide much and we didn't mention it.
But you knew and it was something between us.
I hope it doesn't spoil anything but there again
There's nothing like someone else to take the
 gilt off the gingerbread.

DIARY OF A DEMO

Edward Parsons

THE date was August 23rd, the first day of the annual international between England and South Africa for the Cecil Rhodes Tiddly-winks Trophy. Watched the previous year by three hundred spectators in a small hall, this year it was at Wembley with a hundred thousand. The reason was the cessation of all other sport with South Africa, this match excepted. The crowd was composed equally of demonstrators, police and "demo watchers," the followers of the new national sport, with the same three hundred who watched the previous year, in a small enclosure round the playing area in the middle of the pitch.

The match started, and at once there were chants of "Kill the pigs ! Kill the pigs !" from one section of the crowd, answered by a chorus of whistles from the police, as they charged into action, and stopped five yards from their adversaries, waiting for anything that could be construed as provocation. Two old constables, veterans of the Aldermaston days, carried on, expecting the demonstrators to lie down and be peaceably carried away. Times had changed, though, and they were rapidly absorbed by the demonstrators, never to re-appear. That did it. The police donned gas masks and fired a fusillade of C.S. gas at their opponents, who at once brought out their portable battery fans, blowing the gas back in the faces of the police. Simultaneously they took the initiative by charging the police with a motley assortment of weapons, the least harmful capable of decapitation, while their shouts of "Kill the pigs !" changed from an organised chant to frenzied screams.

By now the terraces were slippery with blood, and the battle spewed out onto the pitch. There the police were cheered on by the demo-watchers with chants of "Po-lice! Po-lice!" and began to gain the upper hand, soon sweeping the demonstrators from the stadium, leaving about a thousand behind them.

The match was seen live on television, but the viewers had grown immune to the emotional effects of violence, and the audience rating was drastically low. Oh yes ! The South Africans were winning 52-45 before the demonstrators caught and killed them. The same fate which befell the English when it was discovered they were all white.

IN THE FACE OF A PURITAN BACKLASH

William Nesham

The dear Lord Chamberlain's had it
Shot to bloody hell.
In the self-same hour he breathed his last,
Pirate radio fell.
But please don't stop the dancing.

"Don't you dare have an abortion,
Go and cut your hair."
The words come over on whisky fumes
From the respected and ageing mayor.
But please don't stop the dancing.

We get 14 years for pushing dope.
"You deserve it, you long-haired lout."
But pot does not rot your gut away
Nor does it give you gout.
But please don't stop the dancing.

"Bring hem-lines down below the knee,
Bring back the knot and stocks."
There, what did I tell you?
The bishop wears purple socks.
But please don't stop the dancing.

WAITING

Stephen Pendell (Form II)

The Deathly Silence
Is in command.
The set, tense faces
fearful, full of dismal hopes.
Traacherously led into a trap
Of no return!
Beads of sweat
On every man's face. A cough.
Everyone starts, but they move slowly
As if in a dream.
The cream-coloured walls are monotonous,
Unfeeling, unsympathetic, soulless.
A clock on the wall ticks
Sonorously, a sadist.
A door opens,
A white-capped angel of mercy
Who will free one of them from his
miserable

Ordeal of Waiting.
"Mr. Hudson?" A man nods.
"It's a boy!" A cheer from the rest,
And the man leaves, relieved.





Part of the Science Exhibition



The new pavilion in action



Climbing above the Lost Valley

The following played regularly for the 1st XI: D. A. Tyler (captain), J. M. Gray (vice-captain), R. A. Law (secretary), N. A. Johnson, K. D. Warren, H. Thompson, M. T. L. Stallard, R. Mace, I. R. Niel and A. T. W. Patrick. A. J. C. Walker, N. L. Hillier, J. S. Hindle, A. Thompson, C. Yuvaboon and D. M. Wiggall also played.

D.A.T.

Junior Cricket

Under-15's

Played 9, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 2

This has been a very successful season with a large number of last year's side being still available. C. Yuvaboon has been the mainstay of both the batting and the bowling — 242 runs and 35 wickets. Against Avonhurst and Marlborough, he played two fine innings of 80 and 94, and in the Cheltenham College game he returned figures of 20 overs, 5 maidens, 8 wickets for 35. Whiteside, with 22 wickets, has given good support with the ball and had a couple of useful innings at the end of the season. Wiggall (the captain), D. Pearce, B. Smith, P. Graham and N. Hance also made runs on occasions. The ground firing and the catching have generally been

The following played for the Under-15's: D. Wiggall, M. Brown, B. Smith, J. Tyler, P. Graham, N. Hance, S. Robbins, J. Smith, L. Stuckey, K. Underdown (wicket-keeper), C. Whiteside, C. Yuvaboon, A. Pearce and D. Pearce.

Marling School

Marling: 51

(Yuvaboon 3-14, Whiteside 3-7)

Ilacomb : 52-3

(Wiggall 24 n.o., Underdown 12 n.o.)

v. Kingham Hill School
Kingham Hill: 69
(Yuvaboon 6-28, Whiteside 3-23)
Rendcomb: 66 (Smith B. 17, Graham 18)

y. Burford G.S.
Burford: 64
(Yuvaboon 6-31, Whiteside 4-21)
Rendcomb: 67-7 (Pearce D. 21,
Whiteside 12 n.o., Smith B. 13)

v. Crypt G.S.
Rendcomb 58
(Yuvaboon 27 n.o., Robbins 17)
Crypt: 59-2

v. Avonhurst
Rendcomb: 172-2 (Wiggall 14,
Yuvaboon 80, Pearce, D. 54 n.o.)
Avonhurst: 29
(Yuvaboon 3-22, Whiteside 6-7)

v. Marlborough
Rendcomb: 182-8 (Yuvaboon 94,
Hance 29, Graham 19)
Marlborough: 146 (Yuvaboon 7-60)

v. King's School, Gloucester
Rendcomb: 88 (Yuvaboon 27, Graham 20)
King's School: 84
(Whiteside 4-13, Wiggall 6-28)

y. Cheltenham G.S. Colts (Game abandoned)
Rendcomb: 73
(Wiggall 12, Stuckey II, Whiteside 22)
Cheltenham G.S.: 3-1

y. Cheltenham College
Cheltenham College 78 (Yuvaboon 8-35)
Rendcomb: 60-9 (Smith, B. 13,
Whiteside 20, Pearce, A. 15 n.o.)

Under-14's

Played 3, won 1, lost 2

y. Marling
Marling: 153-9 (declared)
(Wormleighton 4-42)
Rendcomb: 46 (Robbins 24)

- v. Kingham Hill
 Kingham Hill : 104-7
 Rendcomb: 19
- y. Oakley Hall
 Oakley Hall: 71
 (Jenkins 4-18, Roberts 3-14)
 Rendcomb: 76-5 (Fry r t,
 (Underdown to, Robbins 32 n.o.)

Under-13#'s

Played 2, won 2

- v. Burford G.S.
 Rendcomb: 130-8 (declared) (Stroud to,
 Pearce 67, Jenkins 14 n.o.)
 Burford: 33
 (Wormleighton 3-13, Pitt 3-5)
- v. Oakley Hall
 Oakley Hall: 62 (James 3-0)
 Rendcomb: 63-5
 (Smith, P. 21, Stuckey 29 n.o.)

The following played for the Under-14 and Under-13i teams: S. Robbins, K. Stuckey, C. Higgins, R. Fry, D. Gray, A. Jenkins, F. Leivers, C. Lyons, A. Pearce, N. Roberts, P. Smith, T. Stroud, N. Crowe, M. James, A. Medhurst, P. Rose, I. Taylor, S. Wormleighton, R. Barrett, M. Pitt, T. Longworth and P. Walton.

D.A.T., C.F.J.



TENNIS

TENNIS has again proved a popular recreation, ideal for keeping examination-burdened VI formers (and others) in the right mental and physical shape.

The number of keen and promising young players increases, though their eventual standard will depend primarily on the amount of competitive and club tennis they play in the holidays. As it is, the junior standard has sufficiently improved already to make our entering for the Thomas Bowl at Wimbledon in 1971 a sensible proposition if it can be arranged.

Two matches were played and results were as follows :

Under-14 **VI** y. Burford G.S. (home)

Won 8-2

Under-13 **IV** v. Beaudesert (away)

Drew 2-2

As last year, a small party went to see the Wills Open Tournament at Bristol in June.

Finally, thanks are due to B. Laan for his helpful organisation this year.

J.N.H.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COLLEGE MAGAZINE, 1925-50

MAY 1925 ISSUE:

"Ever since the magazine started we have looked forward to the time when we should have it printed. Expense has been our constant difficulty. Now, however, we are able to take the initial step and we hope that as our circulation increases we shall be able to lower the present price to, at most, one shilling."

"Last term is memorable among other reasons for the decision that we should attend corporately a Morning Service in the Parish Church. We have no School Chapel; but it is hoped that the Service will increasingly make amends for that defect. We already have the vigorous nucleus of a choir."

*

"On the other hand, in one matter that has given rise to a certain amount of dissatisfaction the Meeting merely divested itself of authority. Ever since the Wireless Apparatus had been installed many people had felt that the system of terminal Wireless Committees was not satisfactory, and the Meeting decided to elect a permanent semi-expert committee with autocratic powers. As a result, a far more systematic attempt is being made to make the best use of the Apparatus at the available times."

* * *

Association Football results :— Rendcomb College 5, North Cerney 2nd XI 1; Rendcomb College 2, Swindon Secondary School 3; Rendcomb College o, Mr. Simpson's XI 2; Rendcomb College 2, Evesham G.S. 1; Rendcomb College 2nd XI 5, North Cerney Boys o; Rendcomb College 2nd XI o, Corinth College o.

* * *

"Early in the term, a number of boys performed charades on Saturday evenings.

Good as their efforts had been previously, they surpassed themselves this term by reason of more careful preparation. Costumes were more judiciously chosen, and the acting, although it can be improved upon considerably, was quite good.

Form I delighted us with an evening of French song. Most of the rhymes were familiar, for everyone learns them."

JANUARY 1926 Issue:

"This term has been particularly interesting owing to the introduction of prefects into our system. We must make it quite clear to those who do not already know, that this does not mean that we have introduced what is commonly meant by the 'Prefect System.' The General Meeting, consisting of all those to whom it is decided to allow the right of voting, still carries on as before, prefects merely filling in a gap otherwise left open, and bearing jointly the work and responsibility of former individual officials, such as the Clerk of Duties."

* * *

MAY 1926 Issue:

"During the holidays the rough space in front of the College has been asphalted; we expect fewer casualties as a result! We hope it may be possible to have a third tennis court marked out on it, but we specially welcome the increased opportunities it will afford to physical training exercises and to games in general."

* * *

"Remembering the tremendous joy bathing in the Churn was last summer, we anxiously await any decision that may be made to remove the uncleanness that makes bathing there impossible at present."

*

"It was undoubtedly a wise move of the Meeting to institute the two 'Round the Lodges' runs, one open and the other junior.

These runs have already helped to produce a real enthusiasm for long distance running."

"There has been some tendency for the office of Inspector of Nuisances to become a sinecure. Is everything really so tidy that there is no need for his vigilance?"

* * *

SEPTEMBER 1926 ISSUE:

"Putting will be in future a seasonal re-creation and will not be played in the summer."

"Last term a large pole-cat fell from the dead branch of a tree in the wilderness and broke its neck. It was probably the thief that robbed many nests inside the balustrade."

* * *

"At the beginning of the term the new surface on the playground in front of the house led to a `craze' for rapid and reckless cycling. The Meeting dealt with this problem fairly efficiently, and probably just in time to prevent a serious accident."

* * *

"At every great crisis in England the best educational tradition had been saved by groups of people or individuals who had been pioneers in new experimnt while at the same time loyal believers in what was sound in the old tradition. And that was what that school was and meant to be. It was breaking a new path, but it was faithful to the general trend of the old path." (*Part of Sir Michael Sadler's speech.*)

*

MAY 1927 ISSUE:

"It must be many years before Rugby can ever take the place of Soccer as our chief winter game—this is impossible in view of the paucity of our numbers and the great differences in size and age that exist in that small number. But there can be no doubt that Rugby has come to stay, and, ever increasingly, one

hopes, to assume a large place in our winter games. Twenty-four of the older boys abandoned soccer about half-term and concentrated on rugby. Our difficulties were many, as, at the most, we could only play twelve a side, having only five forwards. Most of the players had never seen a game, and only two or three had had any experience of Rugby before."

* * *

OCTOBER 1927 ISSUE:

"The fact is, I had always promised myself that at the end of our sixth year (we started, remember, with boys of twelve years old) we should have won some Open Scholarships at the older universities, and we had not then done so. Well, I am very glad to be able to tell you that that omission has now been repaired. Last Autumn D. Dakin won a £60 Scholarship for History at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and W. S. Morgan an £80 Scholarship for History at Queen's College, Cambridge. I know that you will join with me in congratulating two remarkable boys upon this achievement. There are two facts that especially please me — first, that our two first Open Scholars are Gloucestershire boys, who started their education in Elementary Schools of the County, and secondly, that they are both of them boys of all-round ability, who are quite likely to meet with athletic as well as intellectual success in their new sphere." (*Part of the Headmaster's speech.*)

JANUARY 1928 ISSUE:

"When our Founder died, after a few days of illness, on the Iith October, the College suffered the most grievous blow that could befall it. To those who know Rendcomb well it almost seemed for a moment that after the death of its Founder the College itself could not live. That is not so. Institutions live on when those who have loved, and served, and founded them, have passed. But from the circumstances of our origin our Founder was related to us by a tie of peculiar intimacy.

In no school in England, probably, was there anything like it; and Rendcomb, whatever successes the future may bring, can never be quite the same again. The College has passed out of its childhood, as it were, with the death of a loved and loving parent. It is for those of us who are left, whose debt to him is so immense, to see that its youth and manhood are such as would have made him proud. Remembering what he wanted us to be, his pride in what has been done well, his indulgence for what has been done less well, we must go forward, humbly but confidently, in the work of making his vision a reality."

* * *

SEPTEMBER 1929 ISSUE:

"In our May issue we mentioned the beautiful oak panelling with which the walls of the dining room have been clothed by Mrs. Noel Wills and Lord Dulverton as a memorial of the Founder of the College ... The panelling itself has an additional personal interest for those connected with the College, in that the greater part of it was originally on the walls of Misarden Park before the fire that took place there in 1919."

* * *

SEPTEMBER 1930 ISSUE:

"Although tennis is only played by most people on non-compulsory days, the need for at least one more court is felt very strongly. The School itself has only two courts, one of which has been overrun by rabbits The Headmaster, however, has kindly lent us his two courts and this to some extent has supplemented the deficiency Our greatest ambition in connection with tennis is the construction of a hard court, which would be of immense value to the School."

* * *

MAY 1933 IssUE:

"The Headmaster and Mrs. Lee-Browne came to live in the College in September, 1932. They are occupying rooms in the north-east

corner of the first floor, previously used by Miss Simmons and as dormitory no. 6. Martin is installed in the old Rest Room."

"A considerable sum of money has been spent on Laboratory apparatus, and for the first time the Laboratory is within sight of being really efficiently equipped for physics and biology. Particularly interesting pieces of apparatus include a microtome, an incubator, a drying over for slides, a sensitive galvanometer and a universal indicator."

"After long negotiations the 'Old Rectory' finally became the property of the Governing Body last December. The Governors have decided that for the future it is to be known as 'Rendcomb House' It is at present being used for additional sleeping accommodation, Mr. and Mrs. Fogden and II boys having been there throughout the year. The ground immediately around the House will be retained as a flower garden, but the rest will be developed for intensive production purposes."

* * *

"On July 1st, 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson left Rendcomb for a holiday, before taking up their new work at the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea, to which Mr. Simpson has been appointed as Principal. We wish them, and Mary and Jennifer, great happiness in their new home, and every success in what will be difficult and important work ... We are proud to have lived and worked with an inspiring leader and a great schoolmaster."

* * *

"Ever since the announcement of Mr. Simpson's resignation it had been generally recognised that some kind of Old Boys' organisation was necessary, especially as their number now reaches about one hundred. An Old Boys' Society meeting was held in the Big School, and the fundamentals of a constitution were decided, details of which are

reported elsewhere, and it is to be hoped that all concerned will endeavour to make the Old Rendcombian Society a success."

JANUARY 1934 ISSUE:

"Acting last term maintained its high standard. There was a welcome revival of serious, well rehearsed plays — as opposed to the often equally enjoyable but perhaps less valuable impromptu performances which have been a particularly prominent feature in the acting of past terms. These too, however, were not lacking, and it would have indeed been a pity had they been, but they played a more subordinate part than usual."

* * *

MARCH 1936 ISSUE:

"During the Easter Holidays a water softener was installed at Rendcomb House. Staff and boys using the House will now be able to wash in comfort, and incidentally, countless pounds of soap, which were hopefully employed in an effort to obtain a lather, will now be saved."

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"The pylon legs of modern science have marched to Rendcomb. For some time the College electric light plant has met inadequately the increasing demands made upon it. With our numbers up to 73, and every nook and cranny of the building in full commission, the burden was deemed to be too heavy for it to support, and after fourteen years of faithful service — during the last four of which it was consistently overworked — it has retired honourably. In the Summer Holiday workmen came with pylons, wires, insulators and transformers, and on Tuesday, 18th September, 1934, quietly and without ceremony, a switch was pulled over and the College became one of the millions of consumers of electricity supplied by the National Grid System. In passing, it may be of interest to some that the Village Post Office, too, has clasped the benefits

of modern science to its ample bosom, and one can now select a bright, new postage stamp by the illumination of a dazzling electric light. Gone for ever are the dark winter evening stumbles down the back drive. Lights on the poles carrying the wires along this drive make easy the avoidance of puddles and dripping laurels."

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"On Wednesday, 6th June, three of His Majesty's Inspectors, including Mr. F. R. G. Duckworth, Chief Inspector for Secondary Schools, arrived and for three days enquired diligently into our ways of life and learning. We gather that they were not altogether ill-pleased with what they saw and heard. And so with the arrival of Earl Jellicoe and Founder's Day ... thence, by gentle way of a repetition of "The Rational Princess" for the North Cerney Women's Institute and the village, we reached the grim business level of the School Certificate Examination."

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JUNE 1936 ISSUE:

"One historic event dwarfs everything else that has occurred this term — the death of King George, and the beginning of a new reign. It is not necessary to add anything to what has been publicly said at that time. But quite spontaneously the boys felt that a telegram of sympathy should be sent to the Queen at Sandringham. This was done quite simply, and was acknowledged by an equally simple and sincere reply."

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FEBRUARY 1939 ISSUE:

"Early in Term the European Crisis loomed like a dark cloud on our horizon. We took no panic measures. People who expected to see the Park break out into an eruption of trenches were disappointed. We were well served in the matter of Air Raid Wardens. The Headmaster, Mr. James, Mr. Richards and Mr. Fell are all fully qualified experts. We had our measure-

ments taken for gas-masks, with a minimum of disturbance, and for the rest we went quietly about our business."

"Among our visitors was Mr. W. H. Auden. Although it was his first visit to Rendcomb he was not entirely a stranger. His name was familiar to us on account of his poems and of his joint authorship with Christopher Isherwood of "The Ascent of F.6." It is interesting to note that he and the Headmaster were contemporaries at Gresham's School, Holt."

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"There has been an appreciable increase in the number of canoes in the College in the last two terms. There are now fourteen canoes actually in commission. This includes the well-known sailing canoe, known as the tub, and two veteran 17-foot double seaters, one of which has recently been repaired. The rest are single seaters of what might be called standard design."

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FEBRUARY 1949 ISSUE:

"We acknowledge with great pleasure the receipt of an advance copy of Mr. E. G. Neal's book on the Badger which has been published in the New Naturalist Series by Messrs. Collins. Mr. Neal is now the acknowledged authority in this field, and it is pleasant to remember that the bulk of his work was done during his years at Rendcomb and with the help of members of the School."

FORTY YEARS BACK

(The following personal impression by Mr. John James may help further to suggest what Rendcomb was like in its earlier days.)

I had no great objection to public schools. I had been to one myself and so had my father. Yet I was not quite happy about the way in which they appeared to reinforce the social stratification of English society. Thus I taught for three years in a big day school which took boys from all social classes; yet something in the life of a day school was frustrating. The ideas behind Rendcomb appeared to offer another possibility. So I applied for the job I saw advertised in *The Times Educational Supplement*. The result was an interview with the Headmaster, J. H. Simpson. He was at this time very well known in the educational world as a reformer, but he did not appear to me very revolutionary in his demands.

In effect he asked me two main things. Firstly, could I get occasional History Scholarships for the school? Secondly, I had played a good deal of cricket—had I not? The school cricket was primitive—could I improve it? My Oxford tutors added support and so I got the job and on September 18th, 1931, I came to Rendcomb.

What are the memories that I retain of Rendcomb at this time? Not the serious educational considerations mainly, but the more trivial instant recollections which remain vivid.

The first thing that struck me on arrival at the front door was the domestic staff. There were seven maids, generally clad in brown frocks and coffee-coloured lace aprons with vast bows of coffee-coloured lace behind their hair. (Please don't laugh, I *was* engaged to be married!) These glamorous maids were a vast change from the brigandly porters of my former school.

Another surprise was the politeness of the boys. Doors were opened for me in every

possible direction. I went through many doors **I** had no intention of entering simply to express my thanks to the openers. Embarrassment arose when one approached the Library and the present Assembly Hall and both doors opened almost automatically. The solution to this was a sudden change of plan — you entered one, then changed your mind and entered the other. A new boy's failure to open a door was neatly reproved by a nearby senior — no master attempted to interfere.

The building was kept spotlessly tidy and burnished. **I** was strongly rebuked by the Second Master for leaving one single text book on the window sill of the masters' washroom. My cold reply, "Perhaps you are not much used to books" was not well received.

On my second day **I** was taken to the playing field, then half its present size, an area of rolling Cotswold upland with fine mountain turf but a fall of eighteen feet to the square leg boundary. It was being mowed at the time by a certain Mr. Telling, with a large "Dennis" mower. Both are still with us !

New boys were admitted in alternate years only; this made transfer from one form to another almost impossible and meant that in alternate years our school teams were unduly weak; in the better years, however, our first teams often defeated schools of 400 — compared with our number of 65-70.

On Sundays all attended Church, the staff wearing gowns. The organ was played by a VIth former who was generally a most competent organist. The organ was blown by a IVth or Vth former: organ-blowing for practising organists during the week was a frequent form of punishment. In this church, on my third Sunday, I heard the Rector, the Rev. H. F. N. Inge, ascribe the longevity of Methuselah (969 years) to the favourable climate of Palestine. What population problems does poor Mrs. Golda Meir face?

Although sometimes regarded as `progressive', there was nothing `slack' about the school. The Headmaster insisted that boys

should go *at once* to their classrooms at first bell. Masters must be *in* their classrooms when second bell rang. Those who failed, except for a very good reason, were interviewed kindly but most persuasively by Mr. Simpson.

One thing struck me very forcibly in my first term. This was the attitude to work! Cribbing or cheating was totally unknown and obsession with marks, so often found, was replaced by an interest in the work itself. This contrast with other schools struck nearly all newcomers to the staff.

Yet interest in more important matters flourished also. The Headmaster lived in the Old Rectory and we young masters were frequently invited in for discussions or to meet some figure in the educational world. While over there **I** was amazed by the frequency with which boys called on the Headmaster. They were clearly devoted to him, he smilingly patient with them. Then the cause became clear. The Headmaster had in his house an eighteen year-old blonde from the plains of Hanover, with positively electrifying vital statistics. The term was not in use then but she was in fact an "au pair girl."

At the end of my first term I got married and my observation of the outside world declined.

J.C.J.

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NOTES

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the College, the Governors, Headmaster and Staff invited former members of the College and their wives to luncheon on June 27th. This invitation brought together a total gathering of 122, including many from the early days, forming a representative cross-section of the College population during the whole of its history. We were especially

pleased to have with us for the occasion Wing Commander and Mrs. Huntley Sinclair, Mrs. F. Lee-Browne, Mr. M. Lee-Browne and Mrs. H. Thornton (Miss H. Lee-Browne during her earlier life in the College). Mrs. M. Drake (Miss M. Simpson to early members) was unable to be present at the luncheon but joined us later in the day.

After the guests had been welcomed by the Headmaster, Colonel Godman proposed the toast of the Old Rendcombian Society. He spoke of his 28 years as a Governor of the College and his increasing appreciation of the great debt we all owe to the wisdom and generosity of our founder and his family. He also reminded us that it had never been part of Noel Wills' intention that we should become a stagnant society and that the Governors were constantly considering the direction of our future development which would contribute most to preserving the ideals of our founder in a changing world. Replying on behalf of the Old Rendcombian Society, Miles Thompson stressed the great contribution which former members continue to make to the life of Rendcomb by their sustained loyalty and interest.

During the afternoon there were exhibitions open in the laboratories, woodwork and art departments. The new squash courts were on view and the O.R. cricket match (reported elsewhere) brought the new pavilion into use. We were also joined by quite a number of O.R.'s who had been unable to come earlier in the day. Many members stayed over until the evening, when an excellent buffet supper was available. Altogether a memorable day.

It would be unfair to conclude this account without some expression of appreciation of the contribution by the ladies of the College, particularly Mrs. Haupt, Miss Lloyd and Mrs. Mezo, who were responsible for the catering and floral decorations for both meals. They set, and achieved, an outstandingly high standard which added much to our enjoyment of the occasion.

News of Old Rendcombians

DR. D. DAKLN has been appointed Vice Rector of Birkbeck College.

Cdr. Lawrence is going to Cambridge as a mature student on retirement from the Royal Navy, with a view to joining the educational world.

Dr. D. Griffiths is now married and has joined the staff of Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

R. Thompson has returned from Kuwait and is on a platoon officers' training course at Warminster.

C. Jefferies is back from his V.S.O. service in Kenya.

R. van den Driessche, married with two children, has been working for the Provincial Government on Vancouver Island and has now taken up a one year's research fellowship in Brisbane. (*News supplied by Mrs. Murchison — Rosemary Fell to most O.R. ^*)

P. Gerrard, still in the I.C.I. organisation, writing during a temporary visit to South Africa, reports a meeting with Douglas Tidy, who spent a short time on the staff during the 1940s and is now with A.E. & C.I. Ltd.

D. Black is due to go to Loughborough College of Education in September.

M. G. Richards is spending six months at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Examination results reported from Cambridge: M. J. Dawson, Natural Sciences Tripos, Part II : Class 2 Div. 2; P. R. F. Chanin, Natural Sciences Tripos, Part IB: Class 2 Div. 2; H. M. Peterson, Architecture and Fine Arts Part I: Class 2, Div. t.

From Oxford: D. J. Maberley, Botany: Class 2. He is now to undertake a research project in Africa for a Cambridge Ph.D. degree.

From York: W. T. G. Griffiths, Music: Class 2.

J.B.F.



Ben Nevis and North Glencoe



Loch Ness Monster

