

Rendcomb College  
Magazine

Vol. 8 No. 11

February, 1948

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## SCHOOL NOTES.

### Michaelmas Term, 1947.

Term began on Wednesday, September 17th.

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The Harvest Festival was celebrated in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, October 12th.

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The Half-Term week-end was extended by half a day, since it was decided to take part of the Royal Wedding holiday at half-term instead of on November 20th.. This meant that boys were able to leave on the morning of Friday, November 7th, and return the following Monday evening. There was a half-holiday on the day of the Royal Wedding and a dance was held in the Music Room.

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Performances of "The Merchant of Venice" were given on November 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

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On Saturday, December 6th, three plays were given: "The Tale of the Rats," "The Purple Bedroom" and "Padlock Holmes Investigates."

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The Carol Service was held in the Church on Sunday, December 14th, and attracted a large congregation. The choir did full justice to a well-chosen selection of carols, which included some lesser-known works.

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The Christmas Party was held on Tuesday, December 16th.

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Term ended on Thursday, December 18th.

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Regular dancing lessons on Wednesday afternoons have proved a great success. They have been attended by about thirty boys and a further session is to be held.

An enterprising magazine, "Summit," was started at the beginning" of the term, containing original entries from boys of all ages. The editors wish it to be understood that it is in no way a rival to this publication. It is hoped that there will be two issues of "Summit" each term, and so far there has been no shortage of entries.

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At the beginning of December the lake was completely frozen over and skating was enjoyed for several days under excellent conditions. It is the first time in the history of the school that this has been known to happen before Christmas. Even during last winter's cold spell, only part of the lake was suitable for skating. The explanation seems to lie in the fact that the recent cold spell was free from wind, whereas last winter there were strong northeast winds blowing continuously.

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F. D. Humphris passed the London General School Certificate Examination in December.

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Our good wishes go with the following boys who left at the end of the Michaelmas Term: M. R. F. Butlin, D. R. Page, F. D. Humphris.

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We acknowledge with our best thanks the generous gift of a very good quarter-size Billiard Table. This most welcome present from Dr. F. C. Gladstone fulfils a long-desired want in the school and we are very grateful to him.

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We have warmly to thank Mrs. Huntly Sinclair for the second gift of a 'cello for which we are most grateful. So far it has not been possible to arrange lessons, but we hope very much that the difficulties connected with these will soon be overcome.

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Mrs. Skrine has presented a ukulele and Mrs. Sinclair a mono chord. These will be of use when the dance band is revived and we offer our sincere thanks for them.

### HONOURS.

M. R. F. Butlin has been awarded an Exhibition in History at Trinity College, Cambridge.

## MEETING OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1948.

Chairman—G. H. Bye.

Secretary—P. D. Quick.

Games Captain—C. B. Lane.

Field! Secretary—T. R. Morris.

Games Committee—E. A. Jones, T. P. Denehy.

House Committee Treasurer—L. V. Crawford.

Furniture Committee—R. J. van den Driessche, J. R. S. Powell, J. R. Smith.

Banker—P. G. Cockell.

Apprentice Banker—J. D. Painter.

Finance Committee Treasurer—R. J. van den Driessche.

Finance Committee—M. D. Rayner, F. R. Herrmann.

Auditors—M. E. Knight, R. J. Kendal.

Apprentice Auditors—D. C. de Peyer, C. D. Whittle.

Poundman—R. M. Sumsion.

Games Committee Treasurer—D. G. Milligan.

Senior Shopman—J. H. Shield.

Shopmen—J. Gilchrist, E. Davis.

Entertainments Committee—J. Gilchrist, E. F. P. Topps, P. G. Cockell, D. G. Vaisey, P. D. de Iongh.

Record Committee—E. Davis, J. Gilchrist, G. H. Bye, G. J. Chagrin, D. J. Payne.

Cycle Committee—A. J. Paish, S. L. Steed, P. H. S. Harris.

Amplifier Technician—P. G. Cockell, P. J. Ryman.

Apprentice Amplifier Technician—J. A. Johnson.

Paperman—B. Plenderleith.

Breakages Man—B. G. H. Levers.

Almoner—C. J. Brisley.

Inspectors of Nuisances—J. D. Painter, C. D. Whittle.

Indoor Games Wardens—M. D. Richards, R. M. Sumsion.

Tennis Groundsman—J. Kitto.

Football Games Warden—A. J. Paish.  
Football Secretary—R. K. G. Bick.  
Hockey Games Wardens—J. R. S. Powell, M. W. Brain.  
Magazine Committee—P. W. Dutton, P. de Iongh, C. D. Whittle.  
Hockey Groundsman —J. H. Shield.  
Junior Hockey Groundsman—J. W. J. Reed.  
Cricket Groundsman—P. H. S. Harris.  
Drying Room Committee—P. W. Dutton, P. J. Ryman, D. G. Milligan.  
Public Workman—P. H. S. Harris.

#### **COLLEGE OFFICERS.**

**Spring Term, 1948.**

Duty Group Leaders—D. J. Payne, G. H. Bye, C. M. Carus-Wilson.  
Other Prefects—E. A. Jones, T. R. Morris, T. P. Denehy, P. W. Sumsion.  
Work Man—C. Baillie-Lane.  
Music Warden—C. M. Carus-Wilson.  
Librarians—G. H. Bye, C. M. Carus-Wilson, R. J. Kendal, P. D. Quick.  
Manual Foremen—R. Gready, B. Plenderleith, J. R. Smith, P. W.  
Dutton, K. A. Statham, J. R. S. Powell.  
Picture Man—H. A. G. Hartley.  
Stagemen—T. T. Walters, H. A. G. Hartley, P. H. S. Harris, P. G. Cockell,  
P. Ryman, B. Plenderleith.  
Deck Chairs—P. H. S. Harris.  
Lamp Men —R. J. Kendal, J. H. Shield.

## OLD BOYS' NEWS.

The West of England O. R. Dinner was held at Hort's Restaurant, Bristol, at 7. 15 p. m. on Saturday, October nth, 1947. The evening was spent in an informal gathering before the dinner, followed by a business meeting. In order to leave the maximum time for the latter, speeches were reduced to a minimum. The following were present on what was a most enjoyable occasion: — J. E. Allen, F. J. Batten, A. E. A. Brain, R. Brain, B. J. Brooks, D. Dakin, J. R. Davies, J. D. Draper, P. J. Dyke, N. P. Elson, J. Eyles, P. F. Gurdon, C. W. Honeybone, R. A. Hussell, W. F. J. Jones, J. Lambert, P. Lambert, D. W. Lee-Browne, J. E. Miller, N. A. Perkins, H. T. G. Price, J. H. Quick, W. F. Smallwood, N. C. Stone, L. F. Stradling, W. M. Tugwell.

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Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hessing (Staff 1928-31) paid us a welcome visit early in September, 1947, when on leave from India. It was a pleasure to see them looking so well and almost unchanged. Mr. Hessing is Deputy-Director of Public Instruction for Bengal and is not at present proposing to relinquish his post. During the war he was a Major and A. Q. M. G. for Calcutta. His services in this connection were recognised by the award of a C. B. E.

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In consultation with the College, the conclusion has reluctantly been reached that the O. R. v. College Football fixture will have to be temporarily abandoned. The match has always largely depended on the 18-22 age group. Nearly all of these are in the Services. When it is remembered that the bulk of O. R. 's are members of hockey and not football clubs, and the increased railway fares from Oxford, Cambridge and London are considered, it becomes clear that the soccer fixture is simply not a practicable proposition at the present time. We greatly appreciate all the effort that John Eyles put into the 1946 and 1947 attempts. Both O. R. s and the School were keen for the game to be restarted, and it is the Secretary's hard work which has proved that the failure is due to circumstances beyond our control and not to any other cause.

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T. W. Kitchen is now Librarian at the Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Berks. His address is [REDACTED] Swindon, Wilts.

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A. R. Tenty is with the C. W. S. at Cricklade as assistant to the production manager.

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R. Daubeny will be leaving India shortly.

Marriage: G. D. Buck to May Ethel Fox at St. Barnabas' Church, Worcester, on Easter Saturday, April 5th, 1947. We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Buck.

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The following Old Boys visited the College during the term: C. E. H. Tuck, D. C. Vaughan (and Mrs. Vaughan), J. R. C. Baillie, D. Montgomery, M. C. Harries, J. M. Faulks, J. R. Wheeler, P. B. Lane, D. G. Knight, G. B. Stanley, D. A. C. Smith, F. H. Dutton, J. F. Alder, R. M. Lewis, S. J. Curry, M. B. Shephard, J. M. Henshaw, E. R. Morris.

## ACTING.

Michaelmas Term, 1947.

### THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

This was the most ambitious production of the term and three performances were given, on November 20th, 21st and 22nd. It was the first full-length Shakespeare production for many years and the inexperience of many of the cast was unfortunately apparent. The performance throughout lacked vitality and was too slow, lasting nearly three hours in spite of some cuts. There was a general tendency to be too slow in the taking up of cues and there was often too long a break between scenes. Many of the characters were too stiff and lifeless; there was not enough contrast of mood and variety of intonation; and there were cases of wrong emphasis in the words, which betrayed a lack of understanding in some of the parts. The whole production compared unfavourably with that of "The Rivals" last year.

However, despite technical short-comings, the general interpretation was good and a few characters stood out. Mr. Molin-eaux's "Shylock" was a well-judged piece of acting, though we felt he was not pathetic enough in the trial scene. (Most interpretations tend to err on the other side). Brisley did well as Launcelot Gobbo and Painter made a good Jessica, though her Lorenzo was too doleful. Mrs. Lee-Browne as Portia and Miss Anne Gladstone as Nerissa displayed a poise which was generally lacking in the cast as a whole. Some of the smaller parts were played with competence, notably Old Gobbo by Payne, Salanio by Smith, and the Prince of Morocco by Mr. Tidy.

In fairness to the cast, let it be said that "The Merchant" is not one of Shakespeare's best plays: some of the defects in the plots assume an even greater prominence when it is acted, than when it is read.

The Saturday evening production was badly marred by the mismanagement of the musical interludes. Records between the scenes were unmercifully cut short in the middle of a phrase in a way which must have shocked many people present. It is high time that the importance of this factor towards the success of a production of this kind were fully realised, for it is not the first time that this criticism has been made.

The cast was as follows: —

The Duke of Venice...	-	...	D. Henshaw
The Prince of Morocco...		...	Mr. D. P. Tidy
The Prince of Arragon...			P. W. Sumsion
Antonio	...	...	T. P. Denehy
Bassanio	...	...	C. Baillie-Lane
Salanio...		...	R. W. Smith
Salerino...		...	G. J. Chagrin
Gratiano	...	...	E. A. Jones
Salerio	...	...	R. K. G. Bick
Lorenzo...		...	G. H. Bye
Shylock	...	...	Mr. H. V. Molineaux
Tubal	.....		D. R. Page
Launcelot Gobbo...		...	C. J. Brisley
Old Gobbo...		...	D. J. Payne
Leonardo	...	...	T. R. Morris
Stephano	...	...	L. V. Crawford
Portia...		...	Mrs. F. R. Lee-Browne
Nerissa...		...	Miss Anne Gladstone
Jessica	...	...	J. D. Painter
Magnificoes, Officers, Attendants: P. H. S. Harris,			
P. D. Quick, R. W. Muchamore, F. R. Herrmann,			
W. T. Prime, T. M. Astill.			



December 6th.

THREE PLAYS.

“The Tale of the Rats. ”

“The Purple Bedroom. ”

“Padlock Holmes Investigates. ”

This proved a most amusing evening’s entertainment of the lighter sort. The first item, a dramatic version of the “Pied Piper of Hamelin,” served as a good introduction to acting for most of Forms I and II.

“The Purple Bedroom” had a mixed cast of Ghosts and Humans. Alfred Basset (played by Reed), the heroic butler to the less courageous Reginald Smith (Dutton), confronts three interesting members of the other world (Petter, Walter and F. S. Richards), who are doomed to haunt the Purple Bedroom. Through the coolness and understanding of the butler, the three unfortunate spirits are able to clear up an important misunderstanding and return in peace to their rightful habitation.

“Padlock Holmes Investigates, ” written by P. de Iongh, introduced us to some particularly unpleasant gangsters, who raided a London bank. Fortunately, Padlock Holmes happened to be on the scene and we saw yet another success of the master detective in bringing the criminals to justice.

The casts were as follows: —

“The Purple Bedroom. ”

Humans:

Alfred Basset...	...	... J. W. Reed
Reginald Smith...		... P. W. Dutton

Ghosts:

Don Pedro...	...	... M. G. Petter
Lord Fitzdoodle...	...	... N. H. Walter
Anne...	...	... F. S. G. Richards

“Padlock Holmes Investigates. ”

Lou	...	...	A. J. Paish
Spike	...	...	R. A. Powell
Slick	...	...	S. P. Steed
Mugsy	...	...	C. D. Whittle
Bank Cashier...	...	...	D. G. Vaisey
Padlock Holmes...	...	...	P. D. de Iongh
Dr. Whatnot...	...	R. J. van den Driessche	
Mrs. Smith	...	...	M. J. Miles
Mrs. Green	...	...	P. L. Waite
A Sergeant of Police...	...	...	P. M. Gerrard
Police Constable...	...	...	T. A. Johnson

December 16th.

**“THE BATHROOM DOOR.”**

This familiar farce proved a most suitable choice for the evening of the Christmas Party and the passage on the fourth floor of the Hotel Majestic was a scene of real consternation that night. C. B. Lane, as the Prima Donna, and T. P. Denehy, as the Elderly Lady, showed a new side to their talent, and Quick was impressive as the Young Lady.

Cast: —

The Young Man...	...	...	G. H. Bye
The Young Lady...		...	P. D. Quick
The Old Gentleman	...	...	P. W. Sumsion
The Elderly Lady...		...	T. P. Denehy
The Prima Donna...		...	C. B. Lane
The Boots...	...	...	T. T. Walters

December 1st, 3rd and 4th.

**PUPPET SHOW.**

The old French farce of Monsieur Patelin was the chief item of the evening. This was a most successful adaptation and the standard of performance was high. In the variety show which followed, several new puppets made their appearance.

Parts in the play were taken as follows: —

Master Patelin, the poor lawyer: Actor, C. D. Whittle; Reader, R. W.

Muchamore.

Guillemette, his wife: Actor and Reader, J. R. Smith.

Joceaulme, a draper: Actor, J. K. Comrie; Reader, D. G. Vaisey. Lambkin,

a, shepherd: Actor, J. R. Bird; Reader, R. A. Powell. Judge, a nobleman:

Actor, J. R. Smith; Reader, M. D. Rayner.

Cat, belonging to Patelin: Actor, W. J. Prime.

**THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.**

Everyone agreed that the fancy dress made all the difference; and there really was a fine array of costumes. We have never seen such a varied gathering. All parts of the world were represented; we had a Chinaman (and his little wife), an Eskimo, a Black man, a Dutch couple, an American scientist, and a Welsh lady;

members of all professions from a tramp on the one hand to a schoolmaster (a learner) on the other; famous sportsmen present included W. G. Grace and a racing motorist; other members of this distinguished assembly were Father Time, Little Red Riding Hood, Cicero, a Girl Guide, the Food Office, a pirate, a schoolgirl, a fairy and various imposing Service officers and spivs.

The party opened with a few introductory games. One of these involved the display of an interesting gallery of photographs of members of the Staff when they were under the age of two. Then came the main event of the evening. . . .

About an hour and a half later those who felt capable did a little dancing before the play (which is reported elsewhere). More dancing followed, interrupted by refreshments, a Cabaret Show (or should we say a dancing display? ), a song (for want of a better name) and an invasion of spivs with a cart-load of prizes. The evening ended with a bonfire and "Auld Lang Syne."

We have purposely said nothing about the supper because we feel no words could do justice to the work of those responsible, but we must add that the table decorations and "crackers" were magnificent.

Once again the End of Term Entertainments Committee organised an excellent evening's programme, and from every point of view the party made a grand climax to the term.

#### FOOTBALL. 1947.

Football this year was enjoyable and on occasions the games reached quite a high standard. Except for one brief period, when the pitches were frozen too hard for games, the weather was favourable, and the pitches kept in good condition.

Mr. Tidy gave much time and help in coaching and refereeing, and his help contributed largely to our successes. Mr. Thackray also put a lot of work into refereeing. We are very grateful to both of them.

The First XI had a successful season. The team varied in composition and skill, the keenest match being at Dursley, where the team recovered from being 5—1 down at one stage to finish equal at 8—8 in an exciting recovery in the final minutes of the match.

P. Sumsion kept goal, and his safe hands and coolness made him very competent, but he would be better if he dived on the ball more often. At left-back, Shield played well, and he should improve with experience. Harris, at right-back, was a sound

defender. Both the backs had good goal-kicks. Morris played competently at left-half, in which position Paish also played promisingly. Gready was the centre-half, with a good tackle and an able use of his head, but he tended to be slow at times. Denehy was fast and energetic on the left-wing, with a good centre and corner-kick, but little ball control. Bye played well at inside-left; he dribbled the ball very skilfully, and scored many goals. Lane, the centre-forward, played keenly throughout the term. Davis played well at inside-right, a skilful dribbler with a good shot when he steadied himself, but both he and Bye should pass the ball sooner. On the right-wing Kendal had a good corner-kick, but he tended to be slow and go towards the corner too much. Topps also played in this position, playing fairly well, but both should go for the ball more.

J. R. Powell played well as a reserve goalkeeper in the early part of the season, and his out-of-goal play shows promise. Gilchrist played right-back in two matches and showed determination and kicked well. Payne, at right-half, and Chagrin, at inside right, also played on one occasion, both being fairly sound players. E. A. Jones proved a really useful right-half who moved the ball well, and whose sure tackling proved invaluable. He was a calm and tactful captain who kept the side well together at a time when the steadying influence was much needed.

The Junior XI, with varied fortunes, enjoyed their matches, and some of the players showed fair promise. The large number of newcomers settled well into the game and the junior school showed great keenness.

The season ended with an "Average 15" XI playing in convincing style at home, showing that there is much promising material in the school for future seasons.

## FOOTBALL MATCHES, 1947.

### First XI.

Sept. 27. —Cirencester Grammar School. Home.	Won 6—2
Oct. 4. —Hanley Castle. Away	Won 3—2
Oct. 11. —Cotswold School Home.	Won 6—1
Oct. 18. —Kingham Hill. Home.	Won 9—2
Oct. 25. —Dursley-Grammar School. Away.	Drawn 8—8
Nov. 15. —Cirencester Grammar School. Away.	Lost 1—5
Nov. 27. —Kingham Hill. Away.	Won 5—1

**“Average 15” XI.**

Dec. 13. —King’s School. Home.		Won 12—4.
<b>Junior XI.</b>		
Sept. 27. —Cirencester Grammar School.	Home.	Won 3—2.
Oct. 4. —Combined Cirencester Schools.	Home.	Lost 1—5.
Oct. 25. —Dursley Grammar School. Away.		Won 3—1.
Oct. 28. —Kingham Hill. Home.		Lost 4—7.
Nov. 15. —Cirencester Grammar School. Away.		Drawn 4—4.
Dec. 6. —Kingham Hill. Away.		Lost 1—9.

**NOTE.**

Reports and critiques of Concerts, Lectures, Acting, Games and the like are normally written by a member of the school or staff. When written by anyone else they carry the author’s initials. Such reports are written by invitation and do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the audience present—nor is it intended that they should. On occasion, the judgment of experts, of persons “in statu pupillari, ” of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.