

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

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This number of the Chronicle is dedicated to  
the memory of

**Denis William Lee-Browne**

**1903-1960**

Second Headmaster of Rendcomb College  
**1926-1960**

## EDITORIAL NOTE

When the Summer Term 1960 began there did not appear to be any obvious decline in the Headmaster's health. He was still, of course, on an extremely restricted regime of work but he attended the Gloucestershire Foundation Scholarship interviews at Gloucester on May 6th though he did not do any interviewing. But on May 25th, after about a week in bed, he was taken to Cirencester Memorial Hospital and although he returned briefly two weeks later, he took no part in school affairs after May 25th. He spent the remainder of the term in hospital and his critical illness led to the cancellation of Founder's Day, reported elsewhere in this issue. On August 21st, 1960, the sad news of his death reached the College and was announced to parents and Old Boys. The sincere sympathy of all goes out to his widow and family. The opening portion of this Rendcomb Chronicle is devoted to a number of obituaries written by Old Boys or staff, recording impressions of the man who for nearly 30 years was Headmaster of Rendcomb.

During the recent difficult time Mr. James was in charge of the school and since the Headmaster's death he has been the Acting Headmaster. We feel that all members of the College will wish to express their appreciation and thanks to Mr. James, who has shouldered so much responsibility during the Headmaster's protracted illness.

**C. M. Swaine, Editor.**

## OBITUARY.

### MR. D. W. LEE-BROWNE.

The following notice appeared in the "Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard." It was written by J. C. James, Second Master, 1934 onwards.

Mr. Denis William Lee-Browne, M. A., Headmaster of Rendcomb College, died in Cirencester Memorial Hospital on Sunday after a long illness. He was 57.

Denis William Lee-Browne was brought up at Newport, in Essex, where his father was a doctor; he was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1925. After a temporary appointment in Cheshire he came to Rendcomb in 1926 as an Assistant Master and spent the rest of his life there. In 1932 he was appointed to succeed the eminent educationalist, J. H. Simpson, as the second Headmaster of the school that was then only 12 years old. Though no one could have foretold it at the time, Rendcomb was to provide the ideal milieu for his particular gifts. Lee-Browne was not primarily academic or intellectual; his main interest always lay in the sphere of individual psychology, where his gifts of sympathy and his lively imagination had full play. He was perhaps most successful with the younger boys; he was never too busy to listen to the difficulties or disappointments of the small boy who found that life at a boarding school presented problems of adjustment that seemed insuperable. His interest in practical things, ranging from the building of huts and canoes to the production of furniture of fine design and craftsmanship in the school workshop, was a further link with the boys as they passed up the school.

Although not academic himself, Lee-Browne never failed to appreciate academic quality in his staff, and the intellectual work of the school thus prospered under him. During his head-mastership it sent 70 per cent, of its boys to Universities and won a fairly steady stream of Open Scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge. It was an extraordinary but significant fact that he would rarely even announce these awards at a school assembly; he was pleased by the success but what really delighted him was that the university scholar should also be a craftsman in wood or a painter in oils. He valued almost above all else the all round person. There is, of course, nothing new in this ideal; it is at least as old as Plato. But in the strength of his insistence upon it, and seen against the background of English educational development in the last half-century, there was in his ideal something truly original.

The school naturally took up much of his time but he was not without other interests. In his earlier years he did much for the development of Rural Industries in Gloucestershire; he served on the Executive Committee of the Home and School Council of Great Britain; on the Central Council of the W. E. A., and on the Board of Governors of the Cotswold School. For a time he represented Rendcomb on the Rural District Council and he had been for many years Chairman of the Rendcomb Parish Council.

In 1928 he married Freda Austin, daughter of Frederick Austin, the singer and composer. Mr. Lee-Browne is survived by her, his son and daughter and by his 94-year-old father.

It is obvious that after a rule of nearly 30 years his death must leave an immense gap at Rendcomb, where he will be long remembered.

\* \* \* \* \*

I was 14 when Mr. Denis Lee-Browne was elected Headmaster in succession to the first Headmaster, Mr. J. H. Simpson. I had known him for nearly three years as a master teaching junior Science, Woodwork and Physical Training and I recollect very clearly the interest he aroused in our minds in the science subjects and the energetic and hearty manner in which he took physical training; he taught woodwork well too, so that even the less practical of us were able to construct articles of no mean value, while others were so inspired that they became experts and took the subject up as a career. Most of all in those early days, I remembered him for his expeditions into the country with camp-fire cooking and his grand story-telling round the camp fire.

When he became Headmaster most of these duties were passed on to other masters, while he took over the greater responsibilities of directing all aspects of school life. He reorganised the use of the buildings so as to enable the numbers to be increased and at the same time engaged additional first-rate staff. He was a firm believer in everyone living a full life; he introduced athletics into the curriculum all the year round, instead of for a week or two in the spring and he encouraged boys to pursue hobbies outside normal school hours. He even persuaded some of us to embark on a canoe-camping trip during a damp, cold and windy half-term holiday in November.

He endeavoured to carry on the traditions established by our Founder and Mr. Simpson, but no doubt the 1939/45 war and the uncertain years following it made it increasingly difficult to do so. Scholastic achievements, however, indicate that the staff maintained a high standard of academic education throughout the period of his Headmastership and his death leaves a gap which only time can fill.

**A. E. A. Brain** (1929-1937).

It came as a shock to realise that I first met Mr. Lee- Browne a quarter of a century ago. I met him infrequently in recent years, and I am glad that I did not see him during the last long illness; I prefer to be able to remember him as an active figure on the hockey pitch—playing regularly when I first went to Rendcomb, and later coaching and umpiring.

His appointment, as a youthful Head of a very young school, could not have been bettered. He dominated the school. I suppose most headmasters of small schools do, but there was more to it than that. He joined the Staff soon after the school was founded, and as Headmaster, Housemaster, counsellor to the General Meeting, teacher of woodwork, hockey coach, P. T. instructor, producer of plays, and moving spirit behind the Griffons, he brought the school safely through the early critical years and the later difficult war years.

He was very willing to experiment, whether it was “Better sight without glasses,” or “With or without lights on in the Manual” (“Better or worse, chaps?”), or “With or without corporal punishment” (“I was unlucky—corporal punishment was ‘in’ when as a first-former I was caught talking after Lights Out!”). Yet although he was always willing to experiment, the results of every experiment seemed a foregone conclusion; the strength of his personality, the warmth of his enthusiasm, and his reliance on his highly developed intuitive sense, together conspired to tempt him to believe that each new idea was a winner until, of course, the next came along.

He always turned up trumps at difficult times. When one was faced with a crucial decision—which subjects to read, what military service to do, what job to seek—his door was always open, his friendly advice always available—and generally given in such a way that one felt the final choice was one’s own.

When I left Rendcomb after eight years, four of them during wartime, I felt very close to him. Now, nearly twenty years later, I can say with certainty that vivid, warm and grateful memories of him will stay with me for the rest of my life"

**C. E. H. Tuck** (1935-1943).

\* \* \* \* \*

Lee-Browne was not a teacher, he was a practical philosopher. He had strong views on what education was for, and during his time at Rendcomb he set about putting them into practice. He was not an intellectual and this made him almost

an anti-intellectual. He taught no academic subject; he taught ideas, and though the most abiding of these ideas was that of tolerance, yet like all people with principles for which they would fight to the last, he was sometimes almost intolerant in his application of them. Thus he angered many boys, yet I doubt if anyone who passed through Rendcomb will forget him or the essential quality of his ideas. Tolerance I have mentioned, courage was another, the idea that neither scholarship nor athletics are ends in themselves, that wisdom is preferable to cleverness, discussion superior to argument, his hatred of excuses, the view that stealing other people's reputations or time is worse than stealing their possessions. This was the solid stuff of his philosophy and through Rendcomb he tried to spread it. Rendcomb was his life, and at times he seemed perhaps out of touch with the rush-hour world outside. He loved acting and there was a touch of bravado in all that he did—no one who ever drove with him into Cirencester in his old Bentley on an icy day could fail to realise that. Thus I think he was more at home with the younger than with the older boys. As one got older and began to form views of one's own, one often found oneself at cross purposes with him. If he had taught more amongst the senior school I think he might have avoided some of the clashes he had with the older boys, clashes which were almost inevitable with a person so strong-willed as himself.

Despite the accent I have put on his ideas, he was a practical man, and believed that the way to wisdom was through a many-sided character hence the value he put on music, acting, working with one's hands, the profitable use of leisure, and his dislike of the one-track mind. Wisdom could come in a variety of ways and in his readings at morning and Sunday evening Prayers he tried to bring this out.

He was of course something of an autocrat, yet he was tireless in working to smooth over the problems of those who found conformity difficult, or who found the difficulties of boarding school life too much for them. He was headmaster, bursar, registrar and at times almost school doctor. I believe that as a young man he had wanted to be a doctor and his attitude to illness was in some ways curious. He almost denied the reality of bodily sickness; and I think he sometimes regarded illness as a failure in the person himself. He enjoyed a joke even at his own expense. He had a fund of stories which he enjoyed telling. He believed in the power of reason and the value of talking, at times perhaps almost to the extent of using

it as a substitute for action. He never to my knowledge knowingly let anyone down.

This is the Lee-Browne I remember. He was like a Victorian father; his views were all-pervading. At times you had to fight him but at the same time you had to like him. He was one of the few people with whose lives I have been in contact whom I can truthfully say I shall never forget. Indeed, I never shall forget him, for his views helped to mould my own.

**D. G. Vaisey (1945-1954).**

\* \* \* \* \*

Denis Lee-Browne left Gresham's as a boy with a profound mistrust of the boarding school institutions and of the general run of schoolmasters of his day. This fact informed the whole of his conduct as Headmaster of Rendcomb, and proved at once his strength and his weakness.

He undertook a formidable number of tasks: Headmaster, Housemaster of a House which grew to 91 boys, with a number of bursarial duties. This plurality suited him, as a man of energy who disliked delegating authority, though it had some disadvantages as far as the school was concerned.

As Headmaster he showed in his later years a marked conservatism in the face of a rapidly changing educational world, and he found it hard to reassess his views of education on a national basis. Within the school, however, he had the quality, admirable from the staff's point of view, of not interfering in academic matters. Within very broad terms of reference he let each man get on with the organisation and teaching of his own subject, so that this became a most valuable feature of the school; under his rule Rendcomb was a good place at which to teach.

It was as Housemaster that he found real opportunity for his talents. He was deeply interested in Psychology, but he avoided the clinical approach which makes amateurs of this infant science so absurd. His humanity, sympathy and understanding towards the boy who found school life difficult were, thanks probably to his own early experience, remarkable.

Particularly with the younger boys, working from the heart, he was in his element. He placed no limit on the amount of time he would expend in unravelling the problems of an individual



boy; no one at Rendcomb was quicker to detect distress or confusion in a boy; deeply sensitive to unkindness himself, he was constantly on the watch for its effect within his House. Working as he did from intuition and convinced that logic alone cannot answer life's problems, he could not always meet the boy whose power of reason was rawly and brashly developing. He was quite out of sympathy with the intellectual arrogance which so often marks a stage in the development of an able boy— it repelled him and prevented him from using his profound humanity to the best effect.

He had no sympathy with the system that cherishes the gladiator. The trappings of school success, the prizes bestowed on the academically competent, the multi-coloured haberdashery (his own phrase) bestowed upon the gamesman, all the unfairness of the tributes so often paid to purely innate virtues—these he dismissed with a stimulating snort of contempt. He held that each boy must be measured solely against the standard of his own potential—and perhaps he under-estimated the extent to which this principle has now found credit throughout the country.

He wanted the Rendcombian to be above all things a balanced person. Nothing pleased him more than an unexpected success at games by a potential university scholar, or the creation of a piece of furniture or a painting by a verbally articulate boy. He strove to give every boy a wide range of interests, and it is ironical that here he was often defeated by his own conservatism, his desire to keep the school small and its control centralised.

He was acutely aware of the tyranny exercised today by society, by the “group” at all levels, upon the individual. He spent many hours helping boys to free themselves from this condition, which tends to flourish in boarding schools, and to establish their identity. Paradoxically, he was inclined to try to force his own views upon the individual.

Looking back on his long rule, we shall remember him principally as a man of intuition. Especially when dealing with the young, he had a feeling for atmosphere and a power of presentiment which made him master of many a situation calculated to give pause to a man more inclined to reason. His gift often led him to reactions surprising to the onlooker, but in the event it very often became clear that “Browne was right.”

**D. de G. Sells** (Master, 1954 onwards).

**COLLEGE OFFICERS**  
**Autumn Term, 1960**

Senior Prefect—S. D. Hicks.  
Prefect—T. L. H. Benbow.  
Group Leaders and Prefects—S. D. Hicks, D. A. Hodges, J. Shaw, M. Whittering.  
College Workman—G. J. Taylor.  
†Public Workman—G. S. Bartlett.  
Music Warden—P. B. Heppleston.  
Senior Music Librarian—D. G. Griffiths.  
Choir Librarians—R. J. Edy, D. J. Maberley,  
Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.  
Pictureman—M. C. Jones.  
Lamp Men—J. A. T. Goodborn, G. S. Bartlett.  
Church Ushers—C. C. Richardson, J. R. Marshall.  
Church Collections and Deck Chairs—R. A. D. Laws.  
†Furniture Committee—J. M. Webb, L. de V. Wragg, G. E. Chapman.  
Stagemen—D. M. Tucker, J. A. T. Goodborn, D. G. Griffiths, J. Mitchison, S. H.  
Shellswell.  
Notices Men—K. H. Stimson, A. J. Cattermole.  
Librarians—I. S. C. Airey, P. B. Heppleston, S. Greenlaw, T. C. Bass, C. B. Stillwell.  
Manual Foremen—J. C. Malpass, N. J. Price, H. E. Gough, J. A. T. Goodborn,  
C. C. Richardson, K. H. Stimson, D. A. N. Hogarth.

† General Meeting Elections.

**GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS**

**Christmas Term, 1960**

Chairman—S. D. Hicks.  
Secretary—P. B. Heppleston.  
Games Captain—I. S. C. Airey.  
Field Secretary—M. Whittering.  
Games Committee—S. D. Hicks, H. E. Gough.  
Boys' Banker—J. Shaw.  
Meeting Banker—H. E. Gough.  
Senior Shopman—K. H. Stimson.  
Shopmen—R. P. Goodchild, P. A. Trier.  
House Committee Treasurer—R. J. Hayes.  
Games Committee Treasurer—D. J. Tovey.  
Record Committee Treasurer—J. J. Schwarzmantel.  
Finance Advisory Committee—R. P. S. Harrison, I. C. S. Airey, J. C. Malpass.  
Finance Committee—A. J. Raddon, D. J. Maberly.  
Finance Committee Treasurer—R. A. Sewell.  
Auditors—G. J. Taylor, R. J. Parnell, J. T. Wood.  
Entertainments Committee—J. M. Webb, G. S. Bartlett, K. A. Walker, M. F. Ashe-Jones,  
P. L. Hughes.  
End of Term Entertainments Committee—T. L. H. Benbow, J. C. Malpass, D. M. Tucker,  
M. C. Jones, T. C. Bass.  
Cycle Committee—J. A. T. Goodborn, L. de V. Wragg, T. Tucker.  
Classical Records Committee—J. Shaw, M. Whittering, M. C. Jones.  
Light Records Committee—M. J. N. Bryant, J. A. T. Goodborn.  
Amplifier Technicians—M. J. N. Bryant, M. H. Ferguson.  
Breakages Man—E. Taylor.  
Paperman—D. J. Thomasson.  
Drying Room Committee—S. Greenlaw, D. Little, S. H. Shellswell.  
Billiards Committee—P. B. Heppleston, T. G. W. Pettigrew, J. T. Wood.

Sledge Committee—R. P. Goodchild, R. Verge, N. S. Whatmough.  
 Magazine Committee, 1960-61—S. D. Hicks, T. C. Bass, K. A. Walker.  
 Chairman of Groundsmen—R. P. S. Harrison.  
 Senior Groundsmen—D. A. N. Hogarth, D. G. Griffiths, C. C. Richardson.  
 Junior Groundsmen—J. Mitchison, R. S. Lowe.  
 Cricket Groundsman, 1961—R. P. S. Harrison.  
 Tennis Groundsman, 1961—M. F. Ashe-Jones.  
 Rugby Games Wardens—R. A. D. B. Laws, M. J. Bartlett.  
 Hockey Games Warden—J. R. A. Rawlings.  
 Tennis Games Warden—D. J. Henderson.  
 Cricket Games Warden—L. A. Webb.  
 Rugby Secretary—J. M. Webb.  
 Cricket Secretary, 1961—C. B. Stillwell.  
 Hockey Secretary, 1961—J. R. Marshall.  
 The Council—T. L. H. Benbow, J. Shaw, G. J. Taylor, D. A. Hodges, I. S. C. Airey, M. Whittering, H. E. Gough.  
 Selection Committee—J. Shaw, S. D. Hicks, D. A. Hodges, G. J. Taylor, I. S. C. Airey.  
 Rule Committee—G. J. Taylor, C. B. Stillwell, C. C. Richardson. Nominations Committee—S. D. Hicks, D. A. Hodges, R. P. S. Harrison, H. E. Gough, M. C. Jones.

## GENERAL MEETING NOTES

### Summer Term, 1960

The meetings of this term were predominantly concerned with finance, although there were also several lively debates.

We learnt at the beginning of term that the remainder of the Meeting's 4½% Defence Bonds had been changed to 5% during the Easter Holidays.

The first important business of term was to elect a committee to inquire into the purchasing of new equipment for the amplifier, as much of the existing equipment did not do full justice to it.

The Meeting also agreed to the suggestion that the records bought by the Light Record Committee should be reported in the Rendcomb Chronicle as well as the classical records bought during the term. The Light Record Committee went into Cheltenham in the third week of the term and purchased the following: An L. P. of Richard M. Jones' Jazz Wizards and Punch Miller's Stompers; an E. P. of Earl "Fatha" Hines and his Orchestra; an E. P. of Coleman Hawkins' All Stars, featuring Django Rheinhardt. These two E.P.s were acquired in order to augment the Meeting's mainstream jazz collection.

Classical records purchased this term were: Grieg's "Norwegian Dances" and "Peer Gynt" Suite No. 1; Chopin's "Scherzo" in C sharp major, "Berceuse" in D flat major; "Impromptu" in A flat major, "Barcarolle" in F sharp major and "Nocturne" in B major; Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E flat major;

Mozart's Flute Concerto in D major; Debussy's "Suite Bergamasque"; Holst's "Perfect Fool" ballet music; and Butterworth's Rhapsody, "A Shropshire Lad."

At the end of June the Meeting learnt that the Governors had kindly granted us a rise in allowances of 9d. per boy per week back-dated to the beginning of term. This, of course, helped us considerably in view of the financial difficulties which had arisen in the previous term, and we are much indebted to the Governors.

## GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1960

### "O" Level:

T. C. Bass—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
M. J. N. Bryant—English Literature.  
G. E. Chapman—English Language, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
P. K. Dale—English Literature, Biology.  
R. B. Denny—Latin, Mathematics.  
F. A. G. Ferguson—Mathematics.  
M. H. Ferguson—History.  
J. A. T. Goodborn—English Literature, Mathematics, Physics.  
R. J. Hayes—French.  
A. N. Hill—English Literature, Mathematics, Physics.  
M. C. Jones—Latin, Physics, Biology.  
J. R. Marshall—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
T. G. W. Pettigrew—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics.  
C. C. Richardson—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
K. H. Stimson—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
K. A. Walker—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
J. M. Webb—Latin.  
J. T. Wood—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.  
L. de V. Wragg—English Language, English Literature, History, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Music.  
S. D. Hicks—French Literature.

### "A" Level:

I. S. C. Airey—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.  
\*P. G. S. Airey—Mathematics, Further Mathematics.  
T. L. H. Benbow—Mathematics, Physics.  
R. A. Cockrell—Economics and Public Affairs.  
\*R. A. Dauncey—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.  
J. B. Gooch—Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.  
S. D. Hicks—History.

D. A. Hodges—English, History (Dist.), French.  
M. D. Naish—History, Economics and Public Affairs.  
D. R. Poole—English, History.  
R. F. Stebbing—Botany.  
M. Whittering—History, French.  
J. R. Windsor—Mathematics, Physics.

\* County University Awards.

## SCHOOL NOTES

We bid farewell and offer our good wishes to the following boys who left the College at the end of the Summer Term: P. G. S. Airey, R. A. Cockrell, P. K. Dale, R. A. Dauncey, M. van den Driessche, F. A. G. Ferguson, J. B. Gooch, G. Harrison, A. N. Hill, M. D. Naish, D. R. Poole, R. F. Stebbing, J. R. Windsor.

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We are grateful to Miss B. J. Babington for the gift to the library of several books on Natural History.

We also acknowledge with thanks receipt of *The Wycliffe Star*, Oundle School's *Natural History Report*, Taunton School's *Natural History Report*, *The Gresham*, and *The Decanian*.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are very glad to record a visit to the College by Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Neal and one of their sons. Mr. Neal, now at

Taunton School, was formerly on the Staff of the College, teaching biological sciences.

\* \* \*

Commemoration Day was held on June 3rd.

\* \* \*

The North Cerney Race was not run this year.

\* \* \*

A party from Forms III and IV visited The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, on May 19th to see a performance of *The Mikado* given by The Cheltenham Amateur Operatic Society. On the same date Forms V and VIb visited The Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, to see a performance of *Twelfth Night*.

On May 24th Forms III and IV and some members of Form VI saw a performance of *She Stoops To Conquer* at The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham.

Forms VI Upper and VIa went to a performance of *The Knight of The Burning Pestle* given by R. A. D. A. students at The Stratford-on-Avon Open-Air Theatre on July 21st.

On June 2nd the College choir sang in Gloucester Cathedral with the combined Public Schools Choirs at The Public Schools' Festival Evensong.

\* \* \*

Following the construction of a new Laboratory Workshop, work started on the conversion of the old workshop into a Biology Laboratory annexe and natural history room. The task was undertaken mainly by two members of the VIth Form and included the making of six glass-fronted display cabinets. The room is now ready for use.

\* \* \*

A Grand Dance was held at the College on July 16th, when we were glad to welcome a number of ladies for the evening.

\* \* \*

An Informal Concert was given in Saul's Hall on Monday, July 25th. The programme was as follows: Piano Duet (1) Yodelling Song, (2) Polka from "Facade" (Walton), Miss G. E. Runge and Mr. Tooze; Slow movement from Sonata No. 9 in E

(Mozart), J. T. Wood; Two Waltzes (Brahms), S. Greenlaw; Allemande (Somervill), N. S. Whatmough; "Tango," Op. 120, No. 2, in D (Albeniz), J. C. Malpass; Two Madrigals, "I go before my darling" and "Love learns by laughin" (Morley), The Madrigal Group; Two Preludes, No. 4 and No. 20 (Chopin), F. E. Chapman; "Two Bagatelles, Carol, and Forlana" (Gerald Finzi), M. J. N. Bryant; (Part of) Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor (Chopin), J. M. Webb.

## **FOUNDER'S DAY, 1960**

Owing to the serious illness of the Headmaster during recent terms, the Founder's Day celebrations were cancelled this year. The exhibitions of Art and Handicrafts and the P. E. Display which had been arranged, however, were presented on a less formal occasion on July 16th. Reports of these appear below.

### **ART EXHIBITION**

Summer, 1960

The exhibition was composed of a large selection of pottery, the first products of the new pottery rooms, and a varied collection of paintings and drawings.

While many pictorial techniques were in evidence, some of the most striking were the oil paintings. A number of these showed the artists' tremendously free approach to their work, although this quality in some cases took precedence in what might have been more interesting and integrated pictures.

The pottery included examples of throwing, pressed dishes and modelled work, including some figurines. On the whole the standard of work was high, and especially commendable were the different glazes and decorative effects.

The first impressions formed and certainly the most lasting, were of the variety of exhibits and of the freedom of individual expression throughout all the work.

### **HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION**

Summer, 1960

Variety always adds interest to an exhibition and this year there were many pieces compelling the visitor to pause and admire. Technical perfection is always a joy to see, but so too is originality in design, indicating a live approach to the work.

A great deal of interest centred on the ambitious production of a double bass, even in its incomplete state. A series of photographs showed clearly the patient industry involved in the construction.

Very often large pieces of work tend to overshadow the smaller items calling for a higher degree of skill. This could be said of a delightful jewel casket in walnut and holly.

Two canoes bore witness to the continuation of a College tradition, and an interesting diversion was the farm joinery.

There were a number of occasional tables, both of the formal nest type and the more "contemporary." A closer inspection of the latter showed a constructional soundness not always evident in commercially mass-produced pieces.

Space does not permit individual comment on the tea trolleys, trays, stools, chairs and the miscellany of items, many of which showed a fine appreciation of line in the use of simple chamfer ornament subtly applied to give a pleasing "wholeness" of use and ornament.

One left with a feeling of regret that more friends of the College were not able to see this fine collection of work.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION DISPLAY Summer, 1960**

In order to give the proper value to this performance, it must be remembered that nothing of the sort has been done for some years. Starting afresh, an enormous amount of work, time and patience was necessary to train the two groups.

Because of these difficulties and the ambitious scale of the project, the performance as a whole lacked finish. A display of rhythmical exercises, such as that of the first group, relies largely for its effect on perfect timing and uniformity in every detail; this was lacking.

The agility group was too large and because there were so many things going on at once, one missed a certain amount. There were some good individual performances, however, and a delightful touch of humour.

We hope that those who worked so hard for the display will not be discouraged from going on to greater things.



## CRICKET REPORT, 1960

1st XI: Played 8, won 3, lost 2, drawn 3.

“A” XI: Played 2, lost 1, drawn 1.

**1st XI.**

### **Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

1st XI v. Dean Close “A” XI. Away. Lost by 20 runs. Dean Close 129 (Stebbing 4 for 41). Rendcomb 109 (G. Taylor 39, Pettigrew 21).

Determined Rendcomb fielding and fine bowling by Stebbing prevented Dean Close from scoring freely, on a perfect wicket. Set 130 to get in 100 minutes, Rendcomb collapsed, scoring 58 for 8, but a sound innings by Pettigrew and a grand aggressive innings by Taylor finally gave us a respectable total.

### **Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

1st XI v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away. Match drawn.

Rendcomb 154 for 5, declared (Cockrell 44, Heppleston 40, P. Harrison 24 not out). Cheltenham 148 for 5 (Stebbing 4 for 48).

An easy-paced wicket enabled the Rendcomb batsmen to score freely and amass a large score. Both Cockrell and Heppleston batted attractively and Harrison attacked the bowling mercilessly. Stebbing once again bowled well, and Cheltenham just failed to win in a thrilling finish.

### **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

1st XI v. Sir Thomas Rich’s 1st XI. Home. Won by 7 wkts.

Sir Thomas Rich’s 51 (Cockrell 6 for 23, Stebbing 3 for 16).

Rendcomb 53 for 3 (Driessche 28).

The Rendcomb bowling was not particularly dangerous but our visitors succumbed with little resistance. Driessche batted resolutely in Rendcomb’s innings and we won without any difficulty.

### **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

1st XI v. King’s School, Gloucester 1st XI. Away. Lost by 1 wkt.

Rendcomb 94 (Stebbing 24). King’s School 98 for 9 (Stebbing 4 for 38).

Rendcomb batsmen were considerably worried by the opening attack, although Stebbing batted very sensibly with support from Gough and Pettigrew. Rendcomb fielded appallingly, dropping eight catches, and King’s School were allowed to win, one of their opening batsmen scoring 75 out of the total of 95 required for victory.

**Wednesday, June 15th**

1st XI v. North Cerney C. C. Home. Won by 7 wkts.  
North Cerney 77 (Stebbing 4 for 15). Rendcomb 78 for 3 (Cockrell 54 not out).

Our visitors collapsed to Stebbing's speed, although a late stand meant that Rendcomb had to score fast before darkness fell. Cockrell punished the bowling vigorously and we won quite easily.

**Saturday, June 28th**

1st XI v. Marling G. S. 1st XL Away. Match drawn. Marling 126 for 7 dec.  
Rendcomb 101 for 6 (Gough 45, Driessche 21).

After capturing five Marling wickets cheaply, Rendcomb relaxed and allowed the initiative to slip away from them. Gough and Driessche, batting solidly, featured in a big stand but the tempo of scoring was too slow to give us a chance of victory.

**Wednesday, July 13th**

1st XI v. Cheltenham G. S. 1st XI. Home. Match drawn.  
Cheltenham G. S. 89 (Stebbing 6 for 37, Harrison 3 for 14).  
Rendcomb 79 for 8 (Gough 21).

A superb marathon bowling spell by Stebbing, well supported by Harrison, put Rendcomb in a strong position against our visitors, who were defending an unbeaten record. Gough batted skilfully but we had to be satisfied with a draw in a tense finish.

**Saturday, July 23rd**

1st XI v. Cirencester G. S. 1st XI. Home. Won by 7 wkts.  
Cirencester G. S. 69 (Stebbing 6 for 16). Rendcomb 70 for 3 (Cockrell 40,  
P. Heppleston 21 not out).

Stebbing's pace proved too much for some tentative batting. Dogged batting by Heppleston and an aggressive innings by Cockrell carried Rendcomb to a convincing victory.

**"A" XI****Saturday, May 14th**

"A" XI v. St. Stephen's C. C. 2nd XI. Home. Lost by 29 runs.

St. Stephen's 82 (Taylor 8 for 26). Rendcomb 53.

Delightful leg-spin bowling by Taylor, who got a hat-trick, was the feature of St. Stephen's innings. Rendcomb were unable to score freely, through lack of sufficient batting practice, and although Pettigrew and Heppleston batted well, we were unable to score the requisite runs.

### **Saturday, June 18th**

"A" XI v. Kingham Hill 1st XI. Home. Match drawn.

Kingham Hill 96 for 7 dec. Rendcomb 63 for 7.

Malpass, bowling consistently on a length, mystified Kingham Hill. Rendcomb, however, batted too slowly, and we failed to gain the initiative. Gough, who captained the side intelligently, batted solidly.

\* \* \* \*

We were pleased to welcome Mr. G. L. Williams to his first season in charge of cricket. The idea of a smaller 1st game was re-introduced and, given more time and co-operation, should prove very beneficial. The weather was quite kind to us, only two matches being cancelled. The groundsmen spent many hours on "first pitch," which is still very patchy and dry, and the experiment of a hand mowing machine to cut the pitches appeared successful. There were still very few cricketers in the senior school, but the standard of cricket was maintained.

M. van den Driessche and P. B. Heppleston opened the batting throughout the season. Driessche contributed some useful scores, although his style limits his scoring strokes mostly to the off-side and he will persist in trying to bat using only one hand. His bowling was unfortunate not to claim more wickets as he often beat the bat and was always doing something with the ball off the wicket with his high arm action. P. B. Heppleston was a much improved batsman. While still mainly defensive in outlook he displayed a welcome aggression on occasions when quick runs were needed. He was by far the most reliable fielder and best thrower in the side.

F. E. Gough's wicket-keeping was always of a high standard and his ability was recognised with an invitation to play in a County Schoolboys' Trial. He is extremely agile and took some superb catches. His batting improved considerably towards the end of the season, but he could quicken his run-rate by employing a rather more generous back-lift. At present he is too easily contained in front of the wicket. T. G. W. Pettigrew has a good eye, which, to a large extent, makes up for deficiencies in technique. He is always aggressive, however, and greater

concentration when he has reached double figures would greatly enhance his value to the side.

R. F. Stebbing bowled with consistent accuracy in every match. Despite a rather tortuous run-up and very little body action, he consistently moved the ball away from the batsman and maintained a splendid aggression in lengthy spells. He will be difficult to replace next year. R. P. S. Harrison was a late find as a leg-spinner and will probably have to shoulder most of the burden as chief wicket-taker next year. He spins the ball very little but gets most of his wickets in the air, the quality of a true slow bowler. His batting fell away disappointingly and he offends too many of the basic principles to inspire confidence in a long sojourn at the crease. G. J. Taylor began in great style, claiming eight wickets in his first match, but his subsequent form was very disappointing. He tried far too much spin at the expense of length and direction. Except for one aggressive innings against Dean Close he had little opportunity of showing his batting ability. Perhaps more care and determination at net practice would improve his play considerably. J. Shaw lacked confidence when he was required to bat in matches although he was impressive in ordinary games.

R. A. Cockrell, in his second year as captain, led the side intelligently and his batting was a splendid example of aggression to the others. Very strong on the leg-side and off the back foot on the off, he must try to correct a tendency to lean away from the stroke. If he can improve his hitting in front of the wicket off the front foot, he will be a most difficult batsman to contain. His fielding was sure but his bowling latterly seemed to lack purpose. His grasp of the tactical situation was sound, and under his leadership the side was always trying to play cricket that was purposeful and entertaining.

Five boys were tried in the two remaining places. N. J. Price bowled considerably better than last year, although his batting was still weak; but as he will be the only pace bowler next year, it is important that he should now concentrate entirely on his bowling. J. C. Malpass replaced Price and retained his place for the rest of the season. He bowls off-spinners skilfully, varying his length intelligently. He was difficult to force, and, with Harrison, it seems that a large burden will rest on his shoulders next year. P. K. Dale and J. R. Marshall both played in several matches. Dale is a very stylish and stubborn defender, but scores very slowly and his fielding was poor. Marshall can play aggressively, but he batted carelessly and appeared too confident. His fielding, also, needs more concentration.

D. J. Tovey showed much promise. He batted very sensibly and his bowling indicated future success. His fielding was reliable.

We should like to thank Mr. Knapp and Mr. Dennis for their considerable help in nets and games in conjunction with Mr. Williams, whose considerable experience has been a great help and very welcome. We are also grateful for the services of G. Harrison as our scorer throughout the season. Mr. Telling, and everyone concerned with the games field did a much appreciated job and we are grateful to them also. Only three players will be absent next year, and a season of achievement seems likely.

## **2nd XI**

### **Thursday, May 26th**

2nd XI v. Dean Close 3rd XI. Home. Match drawn. Dean Close 83 for 7 dec. (Malpass 3 for 8). Rendcomb 70 for 7 (Dale 23).

This was the only 2nd XI fixture, another being changed into an "A" XI match. Tovey and Malpass bowled very economically and Dean Close were unable to score quickly. Rendcomb batted steadily, Dale, Callaghan and J. Webb all reaching double figures, but we failed to win this very enjoyable match. The full team was: R. A. Dauncey (capt.), P. G. S. Airey, J. B. Gooch, M. Whittering, J. C. Malpass, J. M. Webb, P. K. Dale, C. B. Stillwell, T. C. Bass, D. J. Tovey, P. J. Callaghan.

## **Junior XI**

### **Saturday, May 28th**

Under 15 XI v. Cheltenham College Junior Colts. Away. Won by 5 wkts. Cheltenham College 125 for 9 dec. (Thomasson 5 for 52, Tovey 3 for 19). Rendcomb 126 for 5 (J. Webb 59, R. A. Sewell 28, Tovey 22 not out).

### **Saturday, June 4th**

"Under 15" XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's Junior Colts. Home. Lost by 41 runs. Sir Thomas Rich's 101 (Thomasson 4 for 25, A. Heppleston 3 for 15). Rendcomb 60 (Tovey 18).

**Saturday, June 18th**

“Under 14” XI v. Kingham Hill “Under 14” XI. Home. Lost by 13 runs.  
Kingham Hill 63 (Stillwell 4 for 17). Rendcomb 50.

**Saturday, June 25th**

“Under 15” XI v. Marling G. S. “Under 15” XI. Away. Lost by 13 runs.  
Marling G. S. 71 (Callaghan 5 for 18, Thomasson 3 for 13). Rendcomb 58.

**Wednesday, July 13th**

“Under 15” XI v. Cheltenham G. S. “Under 15” XI. Home. Lost by 29 runs.  
Cheltenham G. S. 95 (Thomasson 4 for 44). Rendcomb 66 (Creffield 19).

**Saturday, July 23rd**

“Under 15” XI v. Cirencester G. S. “Under 15” XI. Home. Match drawn.  
Cirencester G. S. 99 (Thomasson 6 for 30). Rendcomb 56 for 9.

There was keen competition for places in the “Under 15” XI and a successful season seemed probable. They began well, winning their first match easily, but they failed, surprisingly, to register another victory. The standard of fielding, in general, was not very high, a contributory factor to the poor results.

J. M. Webb captained the side. His batting tended to be careless, although he played an attractive innings in the first match. He kept wicket efficiently, and led his side intelligently. D. J. Thomasson is a most promising bowler. He took 22 wickets in the five matches—an excellent performance. Batsmen are bothered by his well-flighted off-spinners, and he deserved his success. D. J. Tovey bowled well and was required later in the 1st XI. A. D. Heppleston and R. Sewell were potentially the best batsmen. Heppleston has a beautiful style, but he falters in matches. Sewell is a powerful stroke player, but he repeatedly lost his wicket when he seemed set for a big score. Both have prosperous seasons ahead. P. J. Callaghan impressed mostly as a medium-paced left-arm bowler and could be useful if he concentrated more on his action. S. H. M. Creffield, batting at No. 11, often put some much-needed spirit into the innings and contributed several worthwhile scores with his aggressive play.

The single “Under 14” XI match provided several boys with valuable experience, the most promising being D. Little,

L. A. Webb, C. G. Jefferies, S. H. Shellswell, R. S. Lowe, J. Mitchison and R. P. Goodchild, R. J. Edy was the most promising new boy, and the juniors should be very strong next season.

## OLD BOYS' NOTES

We congratulate David de Peyer on his marriage in August 1959 to Miss A. P. Harbord; and John Gilchrist on his marriage to Miss R. Dutt in Calcutta, in April 1960.

\* \* \* \*

The following Old Boys visited the College during the Summer Term: B. R. Paish, R. J. Lawson, R. W. Taylor, G. H. G. Herbert, J. F. W. Beard, T. J. Tudge, G. H. Richards, M. D. Richards, J. Kitto.

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

December 1960

Miscellaneous Notes, May 1st to August 31st, 1960.

### Weather:

True to form, the English weather has been very varied during the period. Sunshine and showers in the first half of April gave place to dry, rather cold weather in the latter part of the month. May was in general a dry, sunny and pleasant month, but June produced a good deal of thundery rain, interrupted by sunny periods, and Rendcomb suffered a near cloudburst on the 22nd-23rd of the month.

July brought more unsettled weather and August, especially during the second half, gave very poor holiday conditions, culminating in a severe rainstorm on the 27th. Rendcomb missed the worst of this deluge, but heavy flooding occurred at North Cerney, and further afield in the County considerable damage was done by rain and wind. Dursley experienced true hurricane conditions, with a dark spiral of cloud at the centre of the storm.

### Insects

The Bee-fly (*Bombylius major*) seems to have been more plentiful than usual this spring. Another insect which was reported on many occasions in April and May is the Holly Blue butterfly, a species whose larvae feed on the flowers and young fruits of holly, and which has been very scarce round here in recent years. Queen wasps (mostly *Vespula vulgaris*) were abundant in May, but subsequent conditions must have reduced their numbers or caused small broods for wasps have not been especially abundant during the late summer.

The leaf-mining beetle (*Orchestes fagi*) again did considerable damage to beech foliage in May and June, although the attack was not quite so severe as last year (*vide* Vol. 11, No. 10, p. 19). Another insect associated with beech trees is the Lobster Moth, whose bizarre larva feeds upon the leaves. It is a species not very often seen, and the capture of a newly emerged moth in Conigre Wood on June 25th is thus worthy of note. About the same time, the dragonflies *Agrion vigo* and *A. splendens* were active along the river below the College. Of the two *A. virgo* is the common one along these reaches of the Churn, but this year *A. splendens*, in which the male has a turquoise band across each wing, was seen more often than is usual.

A Privet Hawk-moth was captured in Lower Rendcomb on June 21st, and a Humming-bird Hawk-moth was watched on flowers in the College gardens on the 27th. Migrant Lepidoptera, however, have not been much in evidence this summer, weather conditions presumably being unfavourable. Red Admiral, Peacock and Comma butterflies, for example, have all been somewhat scarce.

On July 29th Mr. S. D. Lane sent round a curious black and yellow caterpillar with long clubbed hairs on its segments. This was a larva of the Alder Moth (*Apatele alni*), and had been found in a beech-hedge at Northmoor. The species is regarded as rare and although it has been reported from many counties in England, only from the New Forest area have there been many records.

This larva was full-fed when received and at once began to excavate a burrow for pupation in rotten wood, the whole process taking nearly thirty hours. For minutes on end the caterpillar lay with its head-end in the burrow, then emerged backwards to flick away chewed-up wood fragments with lateral jerks of head and thorax, before returning once more to its excavations. The completed burrow was camouflaged with wood-debris.

### Other Observations

Few unusual birds were noted during this period but the presence of a Nightingale for nearly a fortnight near the Cirencester Drive Lodge is certainly unusual; we have very few previous records of this bird near Rendcomb.

Grey Squirrels and Rabbits have both been seen more frequently of late than in recent years, but although Rabbits may now be found in many places, there is still no sign of the formation of warrens of the old type, and the animals are relatively solitary, inhabiting woods.

Many trees were felled over and around Badger setts A and B in Conigre Wood while the animals were in residence. This caused desertion of the setts and the Badgers re-opened sett C lower down the wood and spent most of the summer there.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.