

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 No. 10

December, 1947

Rendcomb College Magazine

VOL. 8. No. 10.

DECEMBER, 1947.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Summer Term, 1947.

Term began on Friday, May 2nd.

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Commemoration Day was on Friday, May 30th. The weather was very hot and many boys visited the Bath and West Agricultural Show in Cheltenham.

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Parents' Day this year was held on Saturday, June 21st. The usual exhibitions were given in the Art Room and the Laboratory, as well as a short Puppet Show.

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There was a school Music Making in the Music Room on Sunday, July 20th.

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During the term expeditions were made to the British Industries Fair in Birmingham, to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford, and to the Cheltenham Music Festival.

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The following obtained the Cambridge Higher School Certificate at the July examination: S. H. Groves, I. S. Menzies, M. Butler, E. A. Jones, T. T. Walters, T. R. Morris, M. J. Morgan, J. C. Waterton, T. P. Denehy.

I. S. Menzies obtained Distinctions in Zoology and Botany.

S. H. Groves and M. Butler obtained a Distinction in Zoology.

Groves has been elected to a Lancashire Major County Scholarship.

Butler has been awarded a Devonshire County Exhibition.

The following obtained the London General School Examination:
D. R. Page, R. K. G. Bick, C. J. Brisley, L. V. Crawford, * G. J. Chagrin,
* K. M. Shephard, M. E. Knight, * P. D. Quick, D. G. Milligan.

* With Matriculation exemption.

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Our good wishes go to Mr. Knowles and Mr. Parry in their future careers. We welcome Mr. Austin and Mr. Graty who have come to fill their places on the Staff.

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We also extend our good wishes to the following boys who left at the end of term: S. H. Groves, I. S. Menzies, M. Butler, M. B. Shephard, R. Margetts, K. M. Shephard, D. J. Harris, C. C. Morton.

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We welcome the following boys who entered College at the beginning of the Autumn Term: D. C. de Peyer, F. R. Herrmann, P. L. Waite, P. J. Cresswell, H. J. G. Hayter, R. M. Sumsion, I. Wallace, R. W. Alder, J. M. Astill, J. Bolton-King, B. Glastonbury, H. J. Greenhalf, M. V. Harley, R. O. G. Hayter, R. N. Horne, G. H. Richards, M. G. Richards.

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The North Cerney race was run on May 27th.

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Term ended on Friday, July 25th.

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We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of a violin from Mrs. Hartley.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Officers, Autumn Term, 1947.

Chairman—D. J. Payne.

Council—G. H. Bye, M. R. F. Butlin, C. M. Carus-Wilson, E. A.

Jones, C. B. Lane, D. J. Payne, P. W. Sumsion.

Selection Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, C. M. Carus-Wilson, E. A. Jones,
D. J. Payne, G. H. Bye.

Secretary—M. J. Morgan.
Games Captain—E. A. Jones.
Field Secretary—P. W. Sumsion.
Games Committee—C. B. Lane, P. Harris.
P. W. Man—T. T. Walters.
Banker—P. J. Ryman.
Apprentice Banker—P. G. Cockell.
House Co. Treasurer—R. K. G. Bick.
Senior Shop Man—T. R. Morris.
Shopmen; —J. H. Shield, J. Gilchrist.
Games Co. Treasurer—R. J. Kendal.
Breakages Man—P. D. Quick.
Auditors—P. D. de Iongh, J. C. Waterton.
Apprentice Auditors—P. W. Dutton, J. Reed.
Finance Co. Treasurer—M. E. Knight.
Finance Co. —P. M. Gerrard, N. H. Walter.
Football Groundsmant—R. Gready.
Junior Groundsman—A. J. Paish.
Tennis Groundsman—J. H. Shield.
Cricket Groundsman—F. D. Humphris.
Furniture Men—K. A. Statham, J. Reed, A. J. Paish.
Entertainments Co. —C. J. Brisley, B. Plenderleith, D. Henshaw,
 J. R. Smith, J. Gilchrist.
Record Co. —C. M. Carus-Wilson, G. H. Bye, M. J. Morgan, R. W.
 Smith, G. J. Chagrin.
Amplifier Technicians—P. G. Cockell, P. J. Ryman.
Poundman—P. M. Gerrard.
Cycle Committee—J. C. Waterton, P. Harris, P. D. Quick.
Meeting Almoner—R. Bick.
Inspector of Nuisances—J. R. Powell.
Assistant Inspector of Nuisances—M. J. Miles.
Football Games Wardens—L. V. Crawford, C. J. Brisley.
Cricket Games Warden—K. A. Statham.
Tennis Games Warden—R. Jones.
Hockey Games Warden—J. R. Powell.
Indoor Games Wardens—S. Richards, M. D. Richards.
Paper Man—E. F. P. Topps.

Magazine Committee—J. Gilchrist, M. W. Brain, J. A. Johnson. Cricket Secretary—P. D. Quick.
End of Term Entertainments Committee—G. H. Bye, C. B. Lane, P. W. Sumsion, T. T. Walters, T. P. Denehy.
Golf Groundsman—A. J. Paish.
Apprentice Amplifier Technician—R. Jones.
Trappers—R. Gready, J. C. Waterton.
Drying Room Committee—J. A. Johnson, E. Davis, P. W. Dutton.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1947.

Senior Prefect—M. R. F. Butlin.
Duty Group Leaders—G. H. Bye, D. J. Payne.
Other Prefects—E. A. Jones, C. M. Carus-Wilson.
Work Man—T. P. Denehy.
Music Warden—C. M. Carus-Wilson.
Librarians—G. H. Bye, R. J. Kendal, C. M. Carus-Wilson, P. D. Quick.
Manual Foremen—P. B. Lane, J. H. Shield, E. Davis, R. Gready, E. F. P. Topps.
Picture Man—H. A. G. Hartley.
Stagemeni—T. T. Walters, H. A. G. Hartley, P. H. S. Harris, P. G. Cockell, P. J. Ryman, B. Plenderleith.
Deck Chairs—P. H. S. Harris.
Lamp Men—F. D. Humphris, J. H. Shield.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We regret to announce that J. W. B. Whall, who was at Rendcomb from January, 1932, until July, 1936, has been killed in Egypt where he was stationed with the R. A. F. He became an R. A. F. apprentice on leaving school and had been in the Service for 10½ years. He was fatally wounded when armed natives raided the camp where he was on duty on April 21st, 1947.

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We have heard from F. J. Sime that he is at present serving with the Burma Frontier Constabulary and that he has found the life interesting during the past year, although he has been stationed

on outposts where there are no roads, no transport, and no communications. He may undertake a contract for a second year of this work. His address is Lieut. F. J. Sime, R. W. F., Assistant Commandant, Frontier Constabulary, Bhamo, Upper Burma.

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B. W. Plenderleith and J. F. Alder have both been awarded scholarships at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, on the strength of recent examination results. Plenderleith obtained a first class in his Preliminary examination, and Alder obtained a first class in the Mechanical Science Tripos Part I.

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Marriages:

Captain S. A. Trayhurn to Miss Doreen McMurtry on August 30th, 1947, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Thornbury, Glos.

P. J. Dyke to Miss Ruth Veale on April 12th, 1947, at Queen Charlton Church, near Bristol.

A. E. A. Brain to Miss Patricia Gallop on October 17th, 1947, at St. Mary's Church, Bitton, Bristol.

We offer our congratulations to them.

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The summer meeting was held on Saturday, May 24th, 1947, and the following were present: —J. E. Allen, R. G. Betterton, J. R. Billamy, A. E. A. Brain, R. Brain, W. A. J. Caverhill, F. H. Dutton, P. J. Dyke, J. Eyles, J. M. Faulks, E. R. S. Gillham, P. F. Gurdon, R. E. Hayward, F. T. Luffman, A. C. Magor, J. E. Miller, F. Nevel, N. A. Perkins, W. F. Smallwood, M. C. Thompson.

The cricket match is reported elsewhere in this number. It was a pleasure to see so many people who had not been back for some time.

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The following Old Boys visited the College during the term: V. D. Page, G. S. Davis, A. M. M. Wilson, P. G. Forrest, N. McG. Wood, J. W. Sumsion, P. S. W. Beck, J. E. Carus-Wilson, J. F. Alder, C. C. Richardson, D. H. Hill, D. M. Grant, B. W. Plenderleith, R. M. Lewis, M. A. C. Levett, E. R. Morris, D. G. Knight, R. T. Wood, T. G. Collett.

SCHOOL MUSIC MAKING.

Sunday, July 20th, 1947.

PROGRAMME.

Piano Solo.	Study in E Minor. (J. M. Harrison)	... Burgmuller
	"A Carpet of Pine" (C. C. Morton)	... Joan Last
	"Folk Song" (M. D. Richards)	... Norman O'Neill
'Cello Solo.	"March" (from a Sonata)... (J. Kitto)	Handel
Piano Duets.	"Melody" and "Waltz"... (J. K. Comrie and M. D. Richards)	Paul Zilcher
Piano Solo.	"Sonatina" (J. D. Painter)	... Wilton
	"Eccossaise in D major"... (P. D. Quick)	Schubert
	"Greensleeves" (K. M. Shepheard)	... arr. E. Haywood
Songs.	"The Trout" (Form I)	... Schubert
	"There is a garden"... (Forms I and II)	John Ireland
Piano Solo.	"After the Ball" "In the Woodland Glade" "Farewell" (G. J. Chagrin)	... Gretchaninoff
	"Study in E minor" "Study in F major" (C. B. Lane)	... Burgmuller Loeschhorn
	"La Bagatelle" (P. W. Sumsion)	... Sammartini
Choir.	"Lonely Woods" (Tenors and Basses)	... Lully
	"Old Winter's Voice"... (3 part arrgt.)	English Folk Song about 1600.
Piano Solo.	"Adagio" from Sonata in E flat... (K. 282)	Mozart (M. R. F. Butlin)
	"Prelude and Allegro" (C. M. Carus-Wilson)	... Charles Avison (1710-1770)
Choir.	"I love all Beauteous Things" "Had we but Harkened" (Solemn Melody)	C. Le Fleming Walford Davies

BIOLOGICAL NOTES, 1946-47.

Observation of the wild life in the district has been largely individual, but it is hoped that co-ordination in this field is not lost to the future.

Owing to the wet weather of 1946, little chance was afforded for the observation of wild life. However on several, occasions parties of the sixth form went badger-watching with some success. Two families of a few cubs each were seen. During the foxhunting season the holes of all the badger setts in Conigre Wood were so well blocked with large stones and earth, that the animals became virtually non-existent, and it was not until February, 1947, that badger activity was again noticed there. This was also true of the setts in the Old Park and at Monkam Wood, Marsden; however, a sett at Eycot remained in use throughout the autumn and winter.

Interesting insects found in this district were comprised mainly of beetles. Many new to the district were found and five new records for the county were amongst these. A number of beetles found inhabiting the Gulf Scrubs, Colesbourne, are of great interest because they have not been well represented in the west of England, being either unknown or recorded very erratically. Three species in particular are only known from the London district and some adjacent counties. It is probable that this faunistic similarity between our district and the London area may be due to the fact that the Churn Valley is really the western termination of the Thames. The Sapperton-Miserden valley, that lies west of the Churn valley, contains a fauna which differs in a number of details from that of the latter. However, this theory needs further confirmation.

Notable recent additions to the list of moths in the district are the Plumed Prominent, the Great Prominent, the Swallow Prominent and the Chimney Sweeper Moth. A colony of the Five Spotted Burnet moth, which is not to be confused with its common cousin the Narrow-bordered Five-spotted Burnet, has been found at Little Colesbourne, This is one of the first definite colonies to be found in Gloucestershire.

The effect of the cold weather and prolonged snow during the early months of 1947 was to retard the appearance of butterflies and moths on the average by about two weeks. In spite of the comparatively good summer weather, even July species were about two weeks late.

Flowers were also late in appearing, but those of March and April were delayed more than those of May and June, with the result that everything seemed suddenly to come out together, about the second week in May.

Our local colony of the large blue butterfly still survives in spite of its much reduced area, and the presence of a herd of cows. A surprisingly large number of them were seen during June, 1946 and 1947. It may be mentioned that another more extensive local colony has come to light. It may be significant that the geological structure of all the localities known to us is of the inferior oolite and not the great oolite which happens to be that of Cirencester, North Cerney and Rendcomb. It is probable that the inferior oolite tends to favour wild thyme and other plants which influence the distribution of this butterfly, or on the other hand perhaps the inferior oolite is not a popular farming soil, and thus escapes the plough.

The most noteworthy addition to Rendcomb fauna is that of the large black and reddish Cave spider, *Meta Bourneti*. Previously this spider was known to live in caves in South France and Spain, and had only been found in England at one place in Suffolk. Several of these spiders were found a few years ago in a small inspection pit accessory to the College water supply situated on one of the lawns. The specimens were kept but not identified until February, 1947, when an enthusiastic letter relating to the discovery was received from the British Natural History Museum. The spider has now been found also in the covered air-raid trenches, and the opinion of several celebrated arachnologists who subsequently haunted the district was that it probably occurred in other suitable places; possibly they may be found in the cavities beneath the stone steps and the balustrades and in hollow trees.

Further interesting features of Natural History during the last year, 1947, are as follows: the re-appearance of the Water Rail on the Rendcomb lake marsh. Water Rails were heard on several occasions during the spring. None were actually seen, for the bird is very shy, but the peculiar noise made by the bird is unmistakable. There are signs of otter activity on the lake. A large roach was found on the bank with teeth marks behind its gills. Large numbers of Crucian Carp have been discovered in one of the oblong water reservoirs in the Estate Garden. Previously these fish were known to swim in the round pond at the centre of the garden, but this pond is well lighted, aerated, and has a constant supply of fresh water unlike the reservoir, which smelt of decaying matter when it was drained. A beautifully coloured Fallow deer fawn was found resting amongst some bracken at the Gulf Scrubs, Colesbourne. It soon made off when disturbed, with surprising speed and agility. The Fallow deer, though of parkland origin, occurs in a completely wild state in this area. Footprints are often seen in muddy paths, and on one occasion the shed antlers were found of what must have been a very large stag.

I. S. M.

MUSIC.

Despite the lack of concerts by visiting performers there has been a more general interest in classical music this year than previously. This has been partly brought about by the presence in the Library of several magazines on music and by the purchase of new gramophone records, particularly of modern works such as string quartets by Bartok and Britten, violin concertos by Delius, Walton and Prokofiev, and Stravinsky's "Petrouchka." Interest in modern music was also encouraged by an arrangement whereby parties of boys went to two concerts of the 1947 Cheltenham Festival of British Contemporary Music, the programmes of which included a violin concerto by Britten, written in 1939, Tippett's fantasia for piano and orchestra on a theme of Handel, completed in 1941, and Rawsthorne's new oboe concerto, each of these works being conducted by the composer, as well as standard works such as Schubert's "Great C Major" symphony and Beethoven's 7th symphony. These concerts were greatly enjoyed, but unfortunately only five people were able to go each night because of transport difficulties. Nevertheless, both concerts and records being limited for financial reasons, it is a pity that only a few people can listen to the many important concerts on the wireless, but the impracticability of a public wireless has been shown by the failure of no less than three attempts to institute one.

The increased interest in classical music is shown by the popularity of the "Q. P. Concerts," a weekly series of gramophone concerts lasting an hour each. The programmes, which are chosen by a different person each week, range from Mendelssohn's violin concerto and Tchaikovsky's 1st piano concerto to works by Purcell, K. P. E. Bach, and John Ireland. In the Easter Term, when these concerts were begun, about fifteen people volunteered to choose programmes, and attendance was from twenty to thirty boys out of the total numbers of the school at that time of seventy-four, but in the Summer Term these numbers dropped considerably. It is expected, however, that the reduction of other interests in the winter will restore the former popularity of these concerts. Two concerts given in Cirencester by the Jacques String Orchestra were also popular, a bus load of people going in the evening, when a programme including one of Bach's Brandenburg concertos, a serenade by Mozart, and Elgar's "Introduction and Allegro for Strings" was played, while several people went in the afternoon to hear a programme devoted entirely to the modern British composer, Vaughan Williams.

CRICKET, 1947.

The season was an enjoyable one and more successful than had seemed likely; the weather was nearly perfect, though the North Cerney match had twice to be postponed.

By the end of the season, the team—a young one—was playing with some degree of cohesion. Thanks to the help of Mr. Parry and Mr. Tidy, the fielding and running between the wickets improved a great deal, while Mr. James was available in the nets more often than in the past few seasons and gave much invaluable help. The team owes a great deal also to Denehy, who proved an excellent captain, attentive to detail, firm but not unkind in his control of the side, and lastly showed what is perhaps the first of virtues in a captain—hard work. His batting too was valuable to the side because he was always willing to attack the bowling; as a bowler he was wild, but able to bowl a very good ball that went away. Sumsion P. was a batsman somewhat lacking in confidence but with a fluency of style which promised well. Jones improved considerably as the term advanced, but his footwork remained weak. Gilchrist was the most polished batsman in the side and played some good innings, but he was a slow starter and his bat was not always as straight as it appeared to be. Davis improved greatly and his offside play was neat and effective, while his wicket-keeping promises well for the future. Topps was prominent as a bowler, but he must conquer a tendency to bowl short of a length—a tendency natural at his age but none the less fatal. One of the surprises of the year was Harris P., who showed once again that in school cricket wickets will fall to sheer excellence of length; but perhaps even more interesting was his batting—in games he did little, but at nets he often reached a very high standard in style and power. Groves and Lane were of real use to the team, providing always a good standard of fielding; the same might be said of Bye and Menzies, while the former's batting improved as the season wore on. Hartley and Brain also appeared in the team on occasion.

The Juniors had a good season and there is much promising material for future years, though there is a great lack of wicketkeepers in the lower part of the school. Reed and Statham were capable batsmen and others to show ability were Bick, Gready, Levers, Miles, Paish, de Jongh, and Harrison. A most encouraging feature was the keenness in junior games; it was astonishing to notice the silence of sheer concentration prevailing in ordinary practice games on the junior pitch. The account of the season should not close without a word of thanks to Payne, who showed himself a very conscientious groundsman.

Results—1st XI.

- v. Cirencester Grammar School. Home. May 10th.
Won 71 for 3—19 (Denehy 47, Gilchrist 12 not out, Harris 6 for 7 runs).
- v. Old Boys XI. Home. May 24th.
Lost 65—76 (Gilchrist 17 and 4 for n runs, Topps 3 for 11 runs).
- v. Sir Thomas Rich's. Home. June 4th.
Lost 71 for 5 dec. —79. (Gilchrist 25, Jones 20, Bye 12 not out, Topps 5 for 20 runs).
- v. Sir Thomas Rich's. Home. June 28th.
Won 104—50 (Gilchrist 25, Sumsion 15, Davis 14, Groves 12 not out, Denehy 4 for 12, Harris 3 for 13 runs).
- v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. July 1st.
Won 50—34 (Davis 12, Denehy 3 for 3 runs, Topps 3 for 7 runs, Harris 3 for 14 runs).
- v. North Cerney C. C. Home. July 19th.
Won 60—20 (Jones 13, Denehy 13, Harris 6 for 7, Topps 3 for 12).

Junior XI.

- v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. May 10th.
Won 82—17 (Reed 20 not out, Statham 19, Paish 17 and 8 for 10 runs).
- v. Sir Thomas Rich's. Home. June 7th.
Won 61—24 (Paish 22 and 6 for 12, Topps 4 for 7).
- v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. June 28th.
Won 76—26. (Bick 23, Reed 22, Miles 4 for 16 runs).
- v. Sir Thomas Rich's. Away. July 17th.
Won 44 for 7 dec. —19. (Brain, 22, Topps 5 for 8, Paish 4 for 7).

RUNNING.

The results of the North Cerney Race, run on Tuesday, May 27th, under very hot conditions, were: —

1. Humphris, 26 min. 45 secs.
2. Chagrin, 27 min. 57 secs.
3. Page, 32 min. 31 secs.

CRICKET BOOTS AND SHOES.

Owing to shortage of both coupons and the articles themselves, these have become rather a problem. If any O. R.'s or others have finished with either their cricket boots or shoes, and would care to give them to the college, we should be most grateful. The footgear would be retained by the school and lent to boys in case of emergency.

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 and 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 judgement of experts, of persons “in statu pupillari,” of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.