

*Rendcomb College  
Chronicle*



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# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 14 No. 2

July 1967

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## COLLEGE OFFICERS

### Summer Term, 1967

*Senior Prefect*—R. J. Edy  
*Prefects and Group Leaders*—F. R. Glennie, J. F. Harris, G. F. Smith,  
W. A. Thompson  
*Prefects*—P. R. F. Chanin, M. J. Dawson, J. J. Fonseca, M. W. Harrop,  
J. A. Hiscox, R. J. Wood  
*Public Workman*—D. P. Kyle  
*Choir Librarians*—R. Millard, P. R. Free  
*Picture Man*—R. C. Goodsell  
*Church Ushers*—R. J. Edy, M. J. Dawson  
*Librarians*—W. A. Thompson, R. C. Goodsell, H. M. Peterson,  
N. A. Dakin, C. P. Maberley  
*Manual Foremen*—G. F. Smith, R. J. Wood, A. J. Pain  
*Stagemen*—G. F. Smith, J. A. Hiscox, D. P. Kyle, A. J. Pain, M. R. Dow,  
D. J. Simmons, R. A. Law, A. M. White, A. T. Patrick  
*Bellringers*—F. R. Glennie (*Tower Captain*), W. A. Thompson, J. A. Hiscox,  
N. J. Green, R. J. Wood, S. J. Brisk, A. J. C. Walker, E. W. Yates, A.  
T. Patrick, N. A. Johnson, W. E. Hanks

## MEETING OFFICERS

### Summer Term, 1967

*Committee Members*—  
*Form VIIu*—F. R. Glennie (*Chairman*), R. J. Edy,  
J. F. Harris  
*Form VIa*—P. R. F. Chanin, M. W. Harrop,  
W. T. G. Griffiths  
*Form VIb*—R. J. Wood  
(*Secretary*), A. J. Pain, P. V. Sage  
*Form V*—S. J. Brisk, M. B. Rees  
*Form IV*—N. R. H. Evans, D. A. Tyler  
*Form III*—C. H. Moore, D. M. Toresen  
*Cricket Captain*—R. J. Edy  
*Vice-Captain*—M. W. Harrop  
*Games Committee*—A. E. Hillier, T. V. Liddle  
*Nominations Committee*—R. J. Edy, F. R. Glennie,  
W. A. Thompson, H. M. Peterson, W. T. G. Griffiths  
*Meeting Banker*—R. C. Goodsell  
*Shop Banker*—P. V. Sage  
*Boy's Banker*—J. Kinnear

*Entertainments Committee*—M. J. Dawson, P. N. C. Evans,  
A. Veasey, T. Yuvaboon, A. A. Ross  
*Meeting Advisory Committee*—W. A. Thompson, P. R. F. Chanin  
*Council*—R. J. Edy, F. R. Glennie, J. F. Harris, M. J. Dawson,  
M. W. Harrop, W. A. Thompson  
*Junior Advocate*—R. J. Wood  
*Breakages Man*—D. J. Simmons  
*Rugger Secretary*—J. J. Fonseca  
*Hockey Secretary*—J. J. Fonseca  
*Magazine Committee*—R. J. Edy, M. J. Dawson, T. V. Liddle  
*Senior Shopman*—C. P. Mabblerley

### **MEETING NOTES Summer Term, 1967**

The main subject for discussion this term was on the future of the General Meeting. Some members thought that it should be abolished completely and all the financial business passed over to the College, as in any case it is virtually all College money which is involved. After a number of weeks of lively discussions it was decided that a Committee should be formed consisting of two members from forms three, four and five, and three members from each section of the sixth form plus a member of the M.A.C., making a total of sixteen members. Many new ideas were brought in and various Meeting offices were abolished. So far the new system has worked very well, and Meeting procedure has improved considerably.

Unfortunately it was left to the Meeting to purchase a new spring-board for the swimming pool. The idea was that a more expensive and more durable board should be bought so that it would not have to be replaced after each season; but, due to the incompetence of various firms, the Meeting have been unable to purchase one up till now.

Various magazines have been added to the long list of periodicals that already exists; they are the *Morning Star*, the *New Statesman*, the *Exchange and Mart*, and the *Radio Times*.

### **SCHOOL NOTES Late Spring Term, 1967**

We bid farewell to D. J. Mabblerley and T. H. Bates and wish them well for the future.

A party from VIa and VIu visited the Bristol Old Vic Theatre on March 7th to see *The Way of the World* by William Congreve, and on the 8th a lecture was given at the College by Mr. J. M. L. Peake on "Nature Conservation."

On March nth a short talk was given by Messrs. K. Jenkins and T. Meredith on making films, and two colour films were then shown on salmon fishing on the River Severn and the Vale of Berkeley.

A concert of choral and organ music was given in St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, on March 12th. A separate notice appears later in this number of the Chronicle.

Members of VIb visited the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, on the 14th to see a dramatised version of *Tom Jones*.

\* \* \*

The wedding took place in Cirencester on March 29th of Angela Swaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Swaine to Vincent Verdier of the City of Rouen. The Headmaster and members of staff resident in the village very kindly acted as hosts to a new, though temporary, Norman invasion.

#### Summer Term, 1967

We welcome J. S. Hindle who joined the College at the beginning of the term.

\* \* \*

We acknowledge receipt of *The Wycliffe Star* and *The Gresham*.

\* \* \*

We are indebted to Mr. Boyd for the gift of three balances and sets of weights for laboratory use.

\* \* \*

F. R. Glennie and M. W. Harrop were selected to play for Gloucestershire at the Western Counties Schoolboys' Hockey Tournament at Taunton last Easter. Glennie captained the Gloucestershire side and was selected to play for the Tournament XI.

\* \* \*

A Dance was held at the College on May 20th and we were glad to welcome a number of ladies for the evening.

\* \* \*

Parents of Form III boys met Mrs. Quick, the Headmaster and the staff for an informal gathering in the Library on May 29th. June 10th was an "open day" and we were pleased to see a considerable number of visitors to the College.

\* \* \*

On April 28th a party of VIth Form scientists attended a lecture in Oxford given by Prof. Hodgkin, Nobel Laureate, on "X-ray analysis and molecular structure."

Form V visited the Oxford Playhouse on May 3rd to see *Richard II*.

At Stratford on the 8th, members of the VIth Form saw a performance of *Coriolanus* and on the same day a lecture was given at the College for the VIth Form by Dr. Bullen, Group Managing Director of Scribbans-Kemp Ltd. The title was "Can you succeed in industry by trying?"

A performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford on May 15th was attended by members of the VIth Form.

On the 30th the Choir visited Gloucester and sang in the Royal School of Church Music School Choirs' Festival.

Members of Form IV and the VIb science students saw a performance of *Macbeth* at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, on June 23rd.

\* \* \*

Mr. D. Headly, C.M.G., B. A., the Midlands Secretary of the Public Schools' Appointments Board, visited the College on June 21st to give advice on careers.

### **EXAMINATION RESULTS Use of English**

The following obtained passes in the Use of English paper, March 1967:

P. R. F. Chanin, N. A. Dakin, M. J. Dawson, J. J. Fonseca,  
R. C. Goodsell, M. P. Grant, N. J. Green, W. T. G. Griffiths,  
J. V. Hemming, J. A. Hiscox, P. Little, H. M. Peterson,  
G. F. Smith, C. P. Stevens.

### **THE REV. J. P. HART**

At the end of last term we reluctantly said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Hart. After eight years as Rector of Rendcomb,

during which time he has acted as our chaplain, Mr. Hart has now returned to Bexhill-on-Sea where he has taken charge of a much busier parish.

Both in the village and the College, we shall remember John Hart for his unassuming sincerity and his deep personal concern for people. He was always ready to extend a helping hand where needed and none of his parishioners was likely to remain long in hospital, even as far afield as Bristol or Oxford, without a visit from the Rector.

One of his new congregation recently visited Rendcomb Church and in explanation of how well the Harts were fitting into their new life added "after all, they are such a nice couple." What more can one say! They have left very many friends in Rendcomb and we hope that they will find time to visit us in the not too distant future.

### **THE NEW RECTOR**

The Rev. David Nigel Griffiths, the Assistant Organising Officer of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, has been appointed Rector of Rendcomb and priest-in-charge of Colesborne.

Mr. Griffiths was at Worcester College, Oxford, and received the Gladstone Memorial Prize. He was also awarded the Arnold History Essay Prize at Oxford in 1959. He attended Lincoln Theological College.

Mr. Griffiths was ordained deacon in 1958, and priest the following year. He was curate at St. Matthew's Church, Northampton, from 1958 to 1961. He has been in his present post since 1961. Mr. Griffiths has been a Royal Naval Reserve chaplain since 1963.

He is at present living in Bromley, Kent.

### **A RECITAL OF CHORAL AND ORGAN MUSIC**

On Sunday evening, the 12th March, a recital of music for choir and organ was given at St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb. The College Choral Society under the direction of Mr. Jenkin took part, and Mr. Cecil Adams, a prominent figure in local music circles, accompanied some of the pieces and performed two organ solos.

The first two items on the programme — “Laudate Nomen Domini” by Christopher Tye, and Hilton’s “Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake”— were somewhat similar in that they were characteristic of the short, early Elizabethan Anglican anthem (c.1565). Despite the Latin text of one of the pieces, both were ‘reformed’ settings, pure and simple in style, tending more towards chordal harmony than polyphonic intricacy. The two together made an attractive combination, and the choir was on top form in their performance. It is a pity that the acoustics of Rendcomb Church do not allow extensive choral reverberation for it is then that the texture of such pieces is fully appreciated.

Next came Mozart’s well-loved motet “Ave verum corpus,” performed by the trebles of Form I. This delicate piece in Rococo style obviously dates from the composer’s early days at Salzburg, and the trebles gave it full justice, managing well the difficult vocal line and making some effective crescendos.

Then followed an organ solo, “Giga” by Havingha, a seventeenth century Dutch composer. The piece had the traditional forward moving rhythm of the jig, and a very characteristic theme embellished by daring harmonies. Mr. Cecil Adams performed in a light, rhythmical vein, with most effective use of the organ stops.

After this, the choir took the floor again with a performance of J. S. Bach’s soprano and alto aria “Wir eilen.” The piece is found in Bach’s Church Cantata No. 78, “Jesu der du meine Seele.” The obligato was played on the organ and was in the form of a delicate, whimsical dance melody, while the vocal line consisted of long, lilting decorative runs, which were managed very well by the trebles and altos of the choir. The piece was delightful — enough to set the foot of any German Lutheran sermon-taster tapping!

The whole choir then joined for two traditional carols — the German Passiontide carol “Mary’s Wandering” beautifully arranged by Martin Shaw, and the Derbyshire carol “Down in yon forest” (arr. Vaughan Williams). Both pieces were pure in style, almost in ballad form, and the choir performed effectively.

Mr. Adams then played another organ solo — “Litanies” — by the modern French composer and organist, Jehan Alain. Plainsong melodies were apparent, harmonised very effectively, and the imaginative playing of Mr. Adams, using the different registers of the organ, gave an antiphonal effect.

The 'finale' was Benjamin Britten's Festival Cantata "Rejoice in the Lamb"—(Jubilate Agno). The text is taken from a long poem of that name, written in madness by the 18th century poet, Christopher Smart. Britten's music is almost as strange as the text, but both are extremely colourful and expressive. Britten is obviously reacting against traditionalism in Church Music, and his music certainly presents a strong case. Expressive rhythm and harmony seem to be the key-note of the piece, but there are some wonderful snatches of imitative melody.

All that appears to remain now is to thank Mr. Jenkin for a most entertaining, imaginative and varied programme. It is amazing the amount of work he puts into such concerts in order that we can enjoy an ambitious performance. The choir, who sang so well, should also be congratulated. Finally, it is necessary to record our gratitude to Mr. Cecil Adams, for his excellent performance on the organ, and for driving from Dursley on three occasions to rehearse with the Choral Society. As a token of our gratitude, he was presented with a recording of "Rejoice in the Lamb" sung by the Purcell Singers, and conducted by Britten himself.

The concert was much appreciated by all who attended.

NICHOLAS DAKIN

### **PASSIONTIDE SERVICE**

Instead of the normal shortened Matins on Palm Sunday, 19th March, 1967, the service was in the form of Passiontide readings, carols and hymns, and the service was a pleasant change from the usual form of service. The following pieces were sung by the choir:—

- (1) Mary's wandering (arr. Martin Shaw)
- (2) Down in yon forest (arr. Vaughan Williams)
- (3) Ave verum corpus—Mozart
- (4) Vexilla regis—Plainsong

The choir sang well, particularly in the rendering of the plainsong hymn. The readings told the story of Christ's Passion, and the boys concerned kept up a high standard of reading. The hymns were obviously enjoyed by the congregation, and the service was completely successful.

NICHOLAS DAKIN

## BELLRINGING REPORT

The Summer Term, 1967, brings to a close the Rendcomb Bellringers' most successful year since the activity was restarted. The band is at present eleven strong with four new recruits due to start before the end of term. All but one of the band have now rung at least a plain course of Grandsire Doubles, while with the assistance of Miss E. M. Bliss and Mr. H. L. Cooke from the Cirencester Branch, F. R. Glennie, W. A. Thompson, R. J. Wood and N. J. Green recorded their first quarter peal in the method, at the end of last term. Half the band are also able to ring touches of Bob Doubles.

Much of our success is due to visits to the Parish Church, Cirencester, and Watermoor Church, and also to some of the band extending their activities in the holidays. It is hoped that further visits will encourage success in the forthcoming year.

A special word of thanks is due to F. R. Glennie for the enthusiastic way in which he has carried out his duties as Tower Captain during the last two years. All the bell ringers have greatly benefited from the training and encouragement which he has given them, and the present success of bell ringing is largely the result of his leadership.

## CRICKET REPORT First Eleven

Played 8, won 4, lost 2, drawn 2.

April 29th:

- v.* **Avonhurst School.** (Home). Won by 63 runs.  
Rendcomb 87—8 declared (Glennie 26, Edy 20)  
Avonhurst 24 (Hillier 6—6, Evans 3—7).

May 6th:

- v.* **Marling School.** (Away). Won by 5 wickets.  
Marling School 101—8 declared.  
Rendcomb 102—5 (Hillier 54 not out).

May 10th:

- v.* **King's School, Gloucester.** (Home). Match drawn  
Rendcomb 109—5 declared (Hillier 65 not out).  
King's School 63—8 (Thompson 5—34).

May 13th:

- v. **Kingham Hill School.** (Away). Won by 2 wickets.  
Kingham Hill 78 (Gray 3—14).  
Rendcomb 82—8 wickets (Hillier 32).

May 20th:

- v. **Prince Henry's Grammar School. (Home).**  
Lost by 10 wickets Rendcomb 49.  
P.H.G.S. 50—0 wicket.

June 3rd:

- v. **Cheltenham College** 2nd XI. (Away). Match drawn.  
Rendcomb 117 (Harrop 57, Edy 19).  
Cheltenham College 101—4 wickets.

June 10th:

- v. **Sir Thomas Rich's School. (Home).** Lost by 9 runs.  
Sir Thomas Rich's School 69 (Black 4—21, Hillier 4—24).  
Rendcomb 60 (Barnes 22).

June 17th:

- v. **Burford Grammar School.** (Away). Won by 43 runs.  
Rendcomb 96 (Green 26, Fonseca 15).  
Burford G.S. 53 (Evans 4—20).

May 4th:

- v. **Dean Close School** 'A' XI. (Home). Cancelled.

May 24th:

- v. **Cirencester School.** (Away). Cancelled.

**To play**—June 29th v. Crypt School (Away)

July 1st v. Old Rendcombians

July 5th v. Cheltenham Grammar School (Home).

The following played for the 1st XI:

M. W. Harrop (*secretary*). This year he has formed a successful opening partnership with Barnes, usually managing to give the team a reasonable start. His reliable batting has been coupled with competent wicket-keeping.

A. E. Hillier (*Games Committee*). He has proved himself this season to be a good all-round cricketer. His three successful forceful innings brought us two of our wins and nearly gave us victory against King's School. His fast bowling has never been easy to play and has always given us an aggressive start in the field.

P. N. C. Evans. Once again he has not taken many wickets, but he has usually provided accuracy and has rarely given away many runs. His attitude to the game, particularly in the field, has been enthusiastic and he has been a good member of the team.

D. F. R. Black. Although hampered by injury at the beginning of the season, he has been successful again this year. The speed with which he bowls the ball makes him very effective when the wicket is helping the ball to turn. His batting has not however realised its potential.

M. R. Barnes. As an opening batsman he has combined concentration and good defensive technique with more aggression in despatching the bad ball. His fielding has been keen and efficient.

W. A. Thompson. He has been a regular member of the team. With favourable conditions he has been able to spin the ball considerably and his bowling has been useful on occasions.

F. R. Glennie. This, his fourth season in the team, has been very disappointing. He does not play himself in before attacking the bowling and consequently his good innings against Avonhurst has been followed by a series of failures. His fielding, although keen, has been subject to lapses.

J. J. Fonseca. Despite a rather apathetic approach to the game, his basically defensive batting and lithe fielding have been of use to the team.

N. J. Green. He has been over-anxious on occasions in the field but, after losing his place in the team, he has fought his way back and as an aggressive middle-order batsman has made useful contributions to the batting, particularly against Burford.

C. J. Gray. His fast bowling and good out-fielding made him a useful member of the team for the first few matches but unfortunately deterioration in all departments has lost him his place.

T. V. Liddle. His batting for the 1st XI was competent but its wholly defensive nature and weak fielding have prevented his holding a regular place in the team. Nevertheless he has been a valuable, hard-working member of the Games Committee.

R. K. H. Hunt. He came into the team after half-term. His batting has not repeated its 2nd XI form, but his spin bowling and slip fielding have earned his place.

K. A. Belcher. He has bowled well for junior and 2nd XIs and in his one match for the 1st XI he performed creditably. His batting has improved, his fielding is good and he shows promise for the future.

W. Longman. Hard-hitting batting for the 2nd XI earned him a place in the last match where he made a useful contribution.

For two years R. J. EDY has been captain of cricket and his enthusiasm, efficient administration and capable leadership on the field will be missed. During the past four seasons he has played many valuable defensive innings and his lively fielding has always been of a high standard.

### **Second XI**

Played 2, Won 2.

May 4th:

v. **Dean Close School** 3rd XI, Cancelled.

May 20th:

v. **Prince Henry's Grammar School** 2nd XI.

Won by 6 wickets.

P.H.G.S. 55 (Belcher 7—22).

Rendcomb 59—4 wickets (Longman 23, Hunt 18 not out)

June 10th:

v. **Sir Thomas Rich's School** 2nd XI. Won by 6 wickets.

Sir Thomas Rich's School 37

(Belcher 5—18, Yuvaboon 3—2).

Rendcomb 38—4 (Collins 15 not out).

**To play**—July 5th v. **Cheltenham Grammar School** 2nd XI.

The following played: C. P. Stevens (*captain*), N. A. Dakin, P. Little, T. Willford, K. A. Belcher, J. C. Reason, W. Longman, T. Yuvaboon, T. V. Liddle, C. J. Gray, N. M. Collins, R. K. H. Hunt, D. A. Tyler, N. A. Johnson.

### Junior Teams

D. A. Tyler has shown sound tactical knowledge and enthusiasm as captain while his efficient wicket-keeping has held the side together in the field. K. D. Warren and J. M. Gray have both played a number of valuable innings, while N. A. Johnson and R. A. Law have shown considerable all-round ability.

Of the new boys, O. N. Brown, M. J. Brown, D. J. Barling, N. E. Hance and D. M. Wiggall in particular have shown ability to do well in the future.

### Under 15 XI

Played 4, Won 1, Lost 3.

April 29th:

v. **Avonhurst School** Under 15 XI. Lost by 8 wickets.

Rendcomb 28.

Avonhurst 30—3 wickets.

May 10th:

v. **King's School, Gloucester** Under 15 XI. Lost by 34 runs.

King's School 96 (Treasure 5—21, Johnson 4—23).

Rendcomb 62.

June 3rd:

v. **Cheltenham College** Under 15 XI. Lost by 73 runs.

Cheltenham College 133—6 declared.

Rendcomb 60 (Law 27).

June 17th:

v. **Burford Grammar School** Under 15 XI. Won by 6 wickets.

Burford G.S. 59 (Yuvaboon 5—30).

Rendcomb 60—4 wickets (Johnson 24 not out).

The following played: T. V. Liddle, D. A. Tyler (*both captained the side*), N. A. Johnson, K. D. Warren, K. A. Belcher, R. A. Law, J. M. Gray, R. Mace, A. T. W. Patrick, M. J. Treasure, N. M. Collins, T. Yuvaboon, C. S. Hunt, A. J. C. Walker, H. Thompson.

### Under 14 XI

Played 4, Won 1, Lost 2, Drawn 1.

May 6th:

v. **Marling** Under 14 XI. Lost by 4 wickets.

Rendcomb 70 (J. M. Gray 26 not out, Warren 18).

Marling 73 for 6 wickets.

May 13th:

- v. **Kingham Hill School Under 14 XI.** Won by 8 wickets.  
Kingham Hill 28 (Law 9—11).  
Rendcomb 29—2 wickets.

May 24th:

- v. **Oakley Hall School 1st XI. Home. Drawn.**  
Oakley Hall 51 (Law 5—14, Johnson 5—21).  
Rendcomb 30—7 wickets (O. N. Brown 10 not out).

June 10th:

- v. **Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 14 XI.** Lost by 5 wkts.  
Rendcomb 23 (J. M. Gray 19).  
Sir Thomas Rich's School 24—5 wickets (Law 2—2).

June 21st:

- v. **Hill Place School 1st XI.** Away. Lost by 1 wicket.  
Rendcomb 46.  
Hill Place 50—9 wickets (J. M. Gray 6—6).

The following played: D. A. Tyler (*Captain*), N. A. Johnson, R. A. Law, K. D. Warren, J. M. Gray, R. Mace, O. N. Brown, N. L. Hillier, O. G. Rhys, I. R. Niel, N. Willford, E. M. Parsons, T. J. Patrick, J. R. Harris, A. Thompson, D. J. A. Rose, P. E. Topp.

### **Under 13A 2nd XI**

May 24th:

- v. **Oakley Hall School 2nd XI.** Rain stopped play.  
Oakley Hall 77—7 declared.  
Rendcomb 11—4 wickets.

June 21st:

- v. **Hill Place 2nd XI.** Won by 2 wickets.  
Hill Place 2nd XI 45 (M. Brown 4—8; Wiggall 3—10).  
Rendcomb 48—8 wickets (Hance 19 not out).

The following played: I. R. Niel, C. J. Wood (*both captained the side*), T. A. Aldridge, N. Willford, A. Thompson, D. J. A. Rose, B. M. Smith, J. Tyler, M. J. Brown,  
D. J. Barling, D. M. Wiggall, P. Isaac, J. Bush, N. E. Hance, K. R. Underdown, E. M. Parsons.

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

### Conigre Wood and The Old Park:

The ground to the upper side of the centre ride in Conigre Wood (starting between the cottages) was cleared of undergrowth some twelve years ago. For several years it yielded an increasing richness of woodland flowers, including quantities of Downy St. John's Wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*), Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) and, latterly, Butterfly and Spotted Orchids (*Platanthera chlorantha* and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*). Now, however, dense growth of various shrubs, especially Dogwood (*Comus*) and Bramble (*Rubus*), has eliminated much of the interesting ground-flora.

Below the centre ride, the ground has been heavily overgrown with brambles for some years, and this spring it was again cleared quite thoroughly and we may look forward to interesting development (serai change) in the field layer of vegetation during the next few years. Most of Conigre Wood has now been enclosed in rabbit-proof fencing and when it was pointed out to the workmen on the job that a number of rabbits had been fenced *in*, one of them replied "Oh! The myxy will take care of them."

It is true that rabbits infected with myxomatosis continue to be found in this district, but whether the virus is still lethal enough to exterminate all the animals in the wood remains to be seen. One would expect a degree of resistance to have built up in recent years.

The "Old Park" across the main road from Rendcomb, is now quite a well-developed woodland, mainly of beech and larch with some ash and local areas of spruce and sycamore.

Until the last few years the undergrowth was very dense but the development of a light-excluding canopy by the twenty- year-old beech has now resulted in a great reduction of shrubs and ground flora.

Various aspects of the vegetation are now worthy of ecological study and the first to be undertaken is the plant life round the now well-established badger setts, the badgers from Conigre Wood having moved to the Old Park when the former was severely thinned.

C. M. S.

## THE LITERARY SOCIETY

The society is now 14 strong and continues to flourish. As the last report ended before the original compositions of the Christmas term appeared, this one will cover them.

Of the 13 original compositions read out in December, many were short stories and three were poems. Dawson's short story was about a man and his dog who walk alone at night to escape the humdrum reality of life. Glennie had written a touching piece of amatory verse, "A Sonnet to an Unknown Lady." Harrop's "The Walker" was similar to Dawson's "Escape," only it was spine-chilling and mysterious. Chanin's science fiction "In the second beginning...", Kyle's poem "The Spaniel," and Peterson's "Paper Man" all appeared in last term's Chronicle. Hiscox read a serious short story about a would-be suicide who decides to live, and Dakin his poem, "A Carol for Christmas," combining the images of the cradle and the sea. Fonseca had written a comic anti-climax about an air-conditioning appliance and Grant introduced a taste of the Soviet Union in his "Troubled Times." Edy read his detective story burlesque, Stevens an escape drama about Berlin; and Hemming a tragic prose account of a fox being hunted.

The Secretary, a very busy man at this time, had written nothing so he read a humorous article from "*Punch*."

We met three times in the spring term. On the first occasion we read "A taste of Honey" by Shelagh Delaney. This appealed to the society on account of its earthy dialogue and convincing characterization. The next play was Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People," which seemed comparatively urbane and conservative. Written at the end of the 19th century, Stockmann, the hero, fights against society for freedom of speech. Despite its age the play was appreciated and seemed to have stood the test of time.

Two people read from books in the "Original Composition" meeting — Grant a Wilfred Owen poem, Edy one by R. S. Thomas. Glennie produced a poem entitled "Prayer for an Alcoholic," Stevens a piece of prose nonsense called "Of Mice and Men." Harrop's burlesque of Chichester, world politics and The Critic, called "Almanac for 1967" raised a big laugh, while Kyle read us his surrealistic account of happiness in a cafe. Hemming's serious love poem moved the society, and Dakin had also written two poems, one about lust and the other

a “Prayer for a little child.” Fonseca’s composition was a comic piece of redundancy about a man with a spade, and Peterson read yet another short story about a little mentally- unbalanced man, this time in a lift but yet again obsessed with “Freudian” ideas. Dawson wrote a terse account of death on the road due to a misunderstanding, and Chanin explained in beautiful prose what he did on Saturday evenings! The last contribution was Griffiths’ advice on university interviews, “From UCCA with love.”

This term we have so far met only twice. The plays read were Ionesco’s “Rhinoceros”—a frivolous analogy on freedom of the individual, and Capeck’s “R. U. R.,” a play about robots and how they might have overrun the world in the 1950’s.

Another year of “Lit.” is coming to its close, and the continued enthusiasm at the society is encouraging.

W. T. G. G.

### **DEBATING SOCIETY**

A debate was held in the library on May 17th this term and was attended by an encouragingly large fraction of the 5th and 6th forms. The motion was:

“In the opinion of this House, the United States of America should, as soon as possible, withdraw completely from the conflict in Vietnam.”

The Chairman opened the proceedings with a short address on the merits of debating and the particular relevance of the motion. The Society being recently reformed there followed also an outline of debate procedure.

The proposer of the motion, H. M. Peterson, pointed out the presence of the United States was without justification and that the Viet-Cong is not a communist but a nationalist movement. He questioned the opinion that the Chinese threat would escalate if Vietnam became communist.

The opposer placed his emphasis on the fact that the U. S. S. R. was prolonging the war which drained the United States’ resources at no expense. He enlarged on this pointing out the abortive truces and lack of constructive peace moves from the communists.

C. P. Stevens, seconding the proposal, made further points against the justification of U. S. intervention. He also suggested

money spent on the war could more profitably be spent on peaceful forms of aid.

In seconding the opposition, N. A. Dakin admitted his capitalist origins and leanings and made no apology for them. He then made a profound speech on the moral issues of the war which impressed the society.

The motion was then passed to the House and there was no lack of comment. Points raised varied from the fear of eventual British involvement in the conflict in South East Asia and the possible re-introduction of conscription to a feeling for the human element and the Vietnamese peasant who was being directly involved in the war.

J. J. Fonseca summed up for the opposition commenting on many of the points raised by the House. H. M. Peterson summed up for the proposition.

A vote was taken and the motion was rejected by a narrow margin of two votes.

The speakers had obviously undertaken a good deal of research for their arguments and the chairman commended the standard of speaking before closing the debate.

Tellers: M. W. Harrop, M. J. Dawson.

D. KYLE, (*Hon. Sec.*)

#### “FROM UCCA WITH LOVE”

Have you ever received one of those duplicated, official- looking letters opening with:

“Dear Mr. X, We have much pleasure in inviting you to attend for interview on... ” and so on? If not, then stay for a moment. I’m about to tell you all about a university interview. I’ve been for a number in my time, and the recipe seems pretty consistent.

First, a word of advice. Don’t take any notice of the “we are pleased” bit. They’ve got a few places to fill up, and your O-level score and list of “pursuits” have simply fooled them that you’re worth trying. No, go prepared for a pretty tough intellectual onslaught; because you never come out of that interview room quite the same as you went in.

Before going for interview do two things. Learn their prospectus backwards, because you’ve got to pretend that you’re as keen on this particular college as it is indifferent to you.

Secondly, rehearse a few 'buttery' answers to such perennial questions as "why do you want to go to university!" Of course we all know that you don't particularly. It's the degree and a bit of wild life you're aiming at. Nevertheless, if you can bring yourself to say that you "thirst for knowledge" and feel "responsible to a community," you must. These dons love to hear it, even if they don't believe it.

Well, you've mugged up the prospectus, polished your shoes, and arrived for interview. In the waiting room—there usually is one—are many other candidates. Look carefully, and you'll see that they are every bit as nervous as you. This is consoling. Some of them are in jeans and mod-gear, others are in sports jackets and cavalry twills. But YOU are in a suit, aren't you? You talk nervously about academic plans to some of them.

Suddenly the fateful summons comes. With knees like jelly, and a strong sense of amnesia you enter the interviewers' room. Don't be deceived by their weary homely look and the casually smoked cigarettes. With any luck they too are nervous, wondering if they've got the right person, and conscious that you are looking them up and down. If you're lucky there will be two of them. You can then alternate between telling one string of lies and a different string. If Allah is on your side they may even quarrel. This will shift the attention off you—a welcome relief.

There is an enormous variety of questions the examiners are likely to ask you, but never fear, they make them equally impossible to answer, and you should always be able to steer your answer into cliché territory, particularly with English literature. Don't let on too much about what you've read out of school, stick to the set books. A few dogmatic phrases can sum these up. Naturally there is a chance that the bogy men on the other side of the desk can come you on every answer you make. If so, break down in an intimate, adolescent fashion and admit that you want a degree. Say you're misunderstood and repressed, you know it all.

You will retire from the exam room with a persecution complex. This is natural, and a few drinks before the train leaves usually cure it. Some weeks later, you will receive a delightful letter with a window in it. This is from someone called Ucca. He has friends everywhere so you are not alone. In the letter you will find a slip of paper, beginning:

“Dear Candidate, you will be...”—do not read on. See if there is a card covered in figures, holes and instructions. If there is you can claim with some pride to be as good a sham as the next man.

W. T. G. G.

### **SOMETIMES I'M HAPPY**

I am sitting in a coffee-bar with my girl friend. We are looking out the window and we see some foreign ships come into Valletta harbour. My girl friend is excited because she is partial to foreigners, especially their money. In fact she is so excited she is standing up and walking to the juke box. She is investing sixpence in it so she can listen to a record called “I can't control myself.”

I am happy at the prospect of hearing this—in fact so happy that I am leaving the coffee-bar before the song comes on so I can have my lunch.

I am back at the coffee-bar after my lunch. The foreigners are finished tying up. All of a sudden twenty boats are rushing for the shore; they are filled with little men wearing white haloes, and they all have the initials U. S. embroidered on their sleeves. As they land I think it is strange that twenty boat loads of sailors should have the same initials, later I see other sailors without these initials—perhaps they have no names!

It is night time and I am back at the coffee-bar. I am rather attached to this coffee-bar. I am talking to one of the dollar-waving, lady crazy, gum chewing foreign sailors, many of whom have come from the boats to the shore, mainly because there is no other place to go.

This sailor is very happy, but I am sorry he speaks a foreign language like American, because I am finding it difficult to understand him. I gather he is three years older than I and married with four children; my father who is thirty years older than I is married and has three children, which proves something I suppose.

Just then his friend is arriving in a taxi outside the coffee-bar. He is arguing with the taxi driver who is trying to convince him that five shillings is a worthless tip. The sailor and I wander outside to take sides. The friend is enquiring whether the taxi driver would like to receive a fat lip. I notice the driver has a crimson face and wonder if he has been sunbathing too much.

he hasn't, he is just a trifle irate, and mentions to us that it is none of our business. I am wandering away because I am a coward and don't like fighting.

Later we are back at the coffee-bar. The taxi driver is gone. I am wondering if perhaps he has been run over and is spending the night in hospital. We are all very happy — one of the sailors is getting up and putting a record called "Wild Thing" on the juke box. It is a beautiful corruption of something I feel I should recognise. My girl friend however does not like the record. After the sailor has played the record five or six times my girl friend is irate, so she is christening the happy sailor with a cup of coffee.

The sailor is hopping around the room clutching his head. Perhaps the coffee is hot and is burning him. I know this can be very painful, for once when I was very young I stuck my finger in an electric fire and it is stuck there until the fireman comes to release me. While I am waiting, several people switch on the power and ask me why I am running up and down the walls with an electric fire on the end of my finger. One person is going to ask me to join his circus, but while I am running across the ceiling there is a power cut and I fall off on to my head, so he changes his mind.

Meanwhile the sailor is running across the road and is dipping his head in the harbour. We see that his centre of gravity is directly above the back of his neck. This is an unusual place for his centre of gravity to be. His sixth sense is not daft and realises this, and is putting it right by lifting his feet from the ground and depositing them in the harbour. I wonder if I should buy his sixth sense a cup of coffee.

The next day the ships are gone, so we are all very happy, but then I think perhaps we are always happy. Sometimes I wonder if I won't be less miserable if I'm less happy and sometimes I think I might be less miserable if I'm more happy. I wonder what shape happiness is?

D. P. K.

## OLD BOYS' NOTES

I am grateful to those Old Boys who, hearing that I was ill, last March, wrote to send their good wishes. I think I have replied to all but if I failed to do so in any instance I would like to offer my thanks now. The virus pneumonia which I contracted only kept me out of school for 14 days but it proved difficult to shake off the effects completely.

\* \* \*

Robert Comley is now engaged in compiling the Register of Old Rendcombians. It is to be hoped that all who have received the questionnaire will return it promptly to him at the College. If any Old Boy has not had a questionnaire he should write to Comley at the College for one. The compilation of this register will only be worthwhile if all co-operate.

\* \* \*

We congratulate J. D. Painter on his appointment as Head of the History Department at Boreham Wood Grammar School.

\* \* \*

We also offer congratulations to R. J. Parnell on his forthcoming marriage to Miss Cynthia Marshall.

\* \* \*

Those who remember Louis Webb's ill luck over university entry last year will be glad to hear that he has now secured entry to Edinburgh University to read veterinary science.

\* \* \*

We offer congratulations to Robert Cockrell on passing all subjects of his Law Final at first attempt.

\* \* \*

Douglas Dakin continues quietly and unobtrusively to publish scholarly works; "The Greek Struggle in Macedonia, 1897—1913" has been published for the Institute of Balkan Studies. More recently there has appeared "Documents on British Foreign Policy, Vol. I: The Aftermath of Locarno, 1925-26." Edited by W. N. Medlicott, Douglas Dakin and M. E. Lambert. It is published by H. M. Stationery Office. As it runs to 954 pages and costs only five guineas it is hoped that all patriotic old boys will purchase and read it.

\* \* \*

As usual—do please send me your news.

J. C. JAMES

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