

# Rendcombian

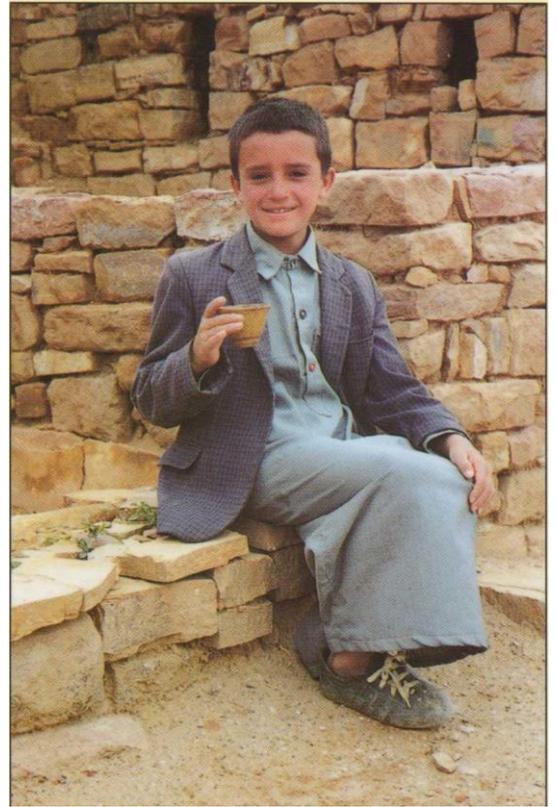
A group of five young people, likely students, are posed for a photograph. They are dressed in various costumes and have face paint. In the back row, from left to right: a girl in a white button-down shirt and a black choker; a girl in a maroon top with a pink and orange patterned shawl; and a boy in a white t-shirt. In the front row, from left to right: a girl with blonde hair wearing a headband with two large, fluffy orange pom-poms; and a boy with tiger face paint (black stripes, a black nose, and whiskers) wearing a tan turtleneck. The background is dark with some blue and yellow elements, possibly a stage or a set.

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, 1999

# SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



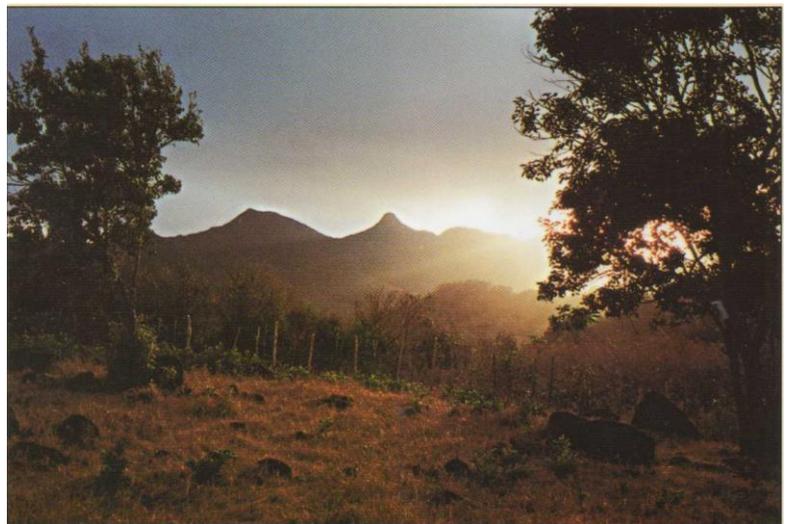
Portrait *David Grice (3)*



*Ali Mrs Walder (Parent)*



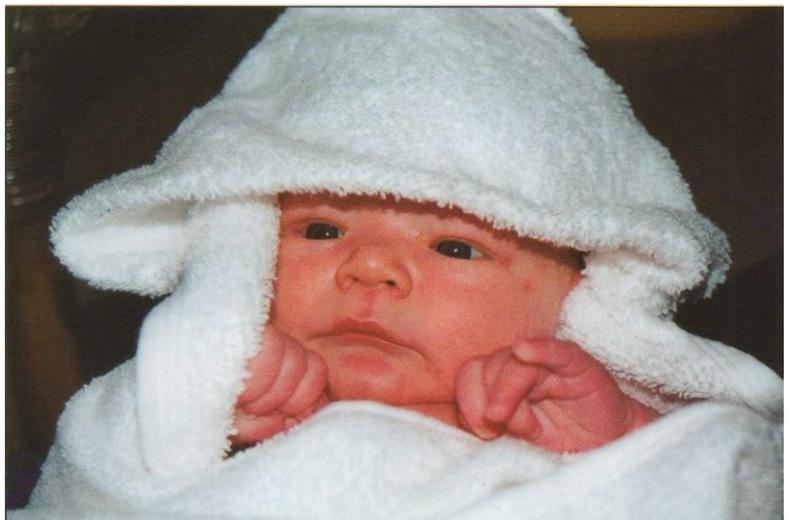
Daffodil *Frances Burden (4)*



Landscape *Barbara Unger (6A)*



The Web *J. Essenhigh (Staff)*



Our Little Pixie *N. Gill (Staff)*

# Rendcombian

No. 17

October 1999



**Rendcombian editor, Richard Murray, with orienteers on Rural Day**

Front Cover: Pupils from Rendcomb College, Querns School, Cirencester and Paragon School. Bath  
"Noyes Fludde", performed at Bath and Cirencester Church  
Rural Day for local schools  
Inside Front: Photographic Society Competition entries  
Inside Back: Scene from Theatre Studies 'A' level examination play  
Back Cover:

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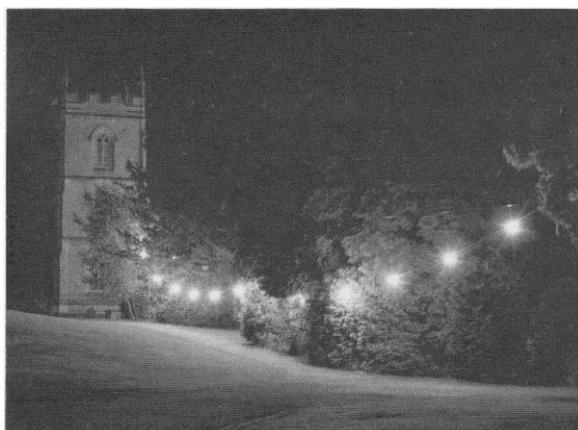
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(Contact details updated July 2016)

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Paths lit up for the Advent Carol Service

# Diary

## Christmas Term 1998

### September

- 6th Term began
- 10th British Pharmacological Society Presentation
- 12th Diocesan sponsored cycle ride  
Sixth Form barbecue
- 18th 6A Biology Field Trip to North Wales
- 25th Students from the Music Department sang at the  
Village Harvest Supper.
- 26th Open Morning
- 27th QP concert - Baroque Flute and Guitar composite  
recital - in the Reading Room.

### October

- 2nd Exeat weekend began
- 4th Rendcomb College Parents' Association AGM.
- 12th Cheltenham Literary Festival Theatre Studies  
Performance.
- 16th Bach Festival Concert
- 17th Open Day  
A Sixth Form quiz night
- 23rd Half-Term commenced

### November

- 7th Bonfire Night followed by a Jazz concert and  
Disco.
- 8th Remembrance Service and Requiem
- 14th Parents' Association Quiz Night.
- 19th 'A' Level Biology Practical Day - Reading  
University
- 26th "The Tempest".
- 29th Advent Carol Service

### December

- 1st 6B 'A' level Biology trip to Oxford Botanic  
Gardens
- 7th Sixth form and GCSE Artists trip to London  
Art Galleries
- 8th Junior Theatre trip to Oxford to see 'Joseph'  
Rugby Club Christmas dinner Hockey Club  
Christmas dinner
- 9th A Christmas reception and entertainment/  
School.
- 10th' Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all in the  
Dining Room.  
End of term was marked with a carol service in  
the Parish Church, Cirencester.

## Lent Term 1999

### January

- 6th Term began.
- 9th A School disco.
- 16th Junior trip to Gloucester RFC
- 22nd Exeat weekend began
- 26th English students went to London to see  
Richard III.
- 29th Poetry Reading in the Reading Room.
- 30th Sixth Form Quiz was held in the Dulverton Hall

### February

- 7th U13 hockey players took part in the  
Gloucestershire mini-hockey tournament at  
Dean Close School.
- 11th A Sixth Form Open Evening 12th Sixth form  
artists departed for Paris for the annual Art  
Department Half term began.
- 25th- The Cafe of Fashion in the Clock Hall.  
27th

### March

- 5th Exeat weekend.
- 5th An Exhibition of work by the Art and Design  
Staff in the Reading Room.

## Summer Term 1999

### April

- 18th Term began.  
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice expedition  
return from Mid-Wales.
- 23rd Noyes Fludde performed in Bath.  
A Dinner and Auction of Promises to raise  
funds for the Cricket
- 24th Noyes Fludde was performed in Cirencester  
Parish Church.  
Wines of the World Appreciation tasting in the  
Reading Room.

### May

- 1st College Exeat
- 8th Concert by the Oriel Singers  
School Disco with Fancy Dress.
- 13th Ascension Day Evensong and Dinner.
- 15th A Summer's evening's entertainment put on by  
the Parents' Association.
- 28th Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition  
departed for the Lake District.  
'A' level Art Students' work was exhibited in  
the Dulverton Hall.
- 29th Founder's Day. Guest Speaker Mr Tony  
Higgins, Chief Executive, UCAS..

## June

- 1st The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition returned from the Peak District.  
6th Half-Term ended  
8th Fourth Year Geology Field Trip.  
8th-10th U14 Cricket Festival. Rendcomb's guests were Victoria College, Jersey.  
11th An informal concert  
12th Fifth and Sixth Form games night and treasure hunt.  
25th College Exeat commenced  
30th Matinee Performance of "Grease"

## July

- 2nd-3rd The School performance of "Grease"  
4th 1st XI Cricket v Old Rendcombians match.  
6th GCSE and 6B Artists Art Trip to London Galleries.  
7th 6B Geography Field Trip returns.  
11th 1st XI Cricket Tour to Jersey commenced.

## Births Marriages and Deaths

- Births: Nicola and Elliot Gill, a son William Elliot on 7th March 1999.  
Alex (OR) and Amanda Brealy, a daughter Eleanor Miriam Florence and sister to Edward, on 1st April, 1999. Debbie and John Botham a daughter Kira May on 21st May 1999.  
Debs and Carlo Vuolo, a daughter Alessandra on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1999
- Marriages: 16th January 1999 Sarah Woodward to Andy Crosby in New Zealand.  
19<sup>th</sup> June 1999 Lynn Gardner to Kim McCroddan at All Saints' Church, Bisley, Glos. Rebekah Taplin (6A) read from "Romeo and Juliet" and Mr David White (staff) played the organ.
- Death: Angus James Cochran (OR) 8th June 1999.



## Staff Leavers

### John Tolputt-Headmaster (1987-1999)

*It is the saddest duty of this editor of "Rendcombian" to have to record the fact that our Headmaster, Mr. Tolputt and his wife Patta are leaving us to move to the Purcell School of Music in Bushey, Hertfordshire, after twelve years here in Rendcomb. The many wonderful comments that we have heard about him bear witness to the deep affection in which he is held in our small community. Below is printed a wonderfully honest account of the man written by his Deputy Bobby Morgan. Following it are some comments collected from some of the younger pupils in the school and some longer comments from various members of the wider school community. A fuller collection of tributes may be found in the O. R. Society Newsletter.*

*We have been extremely fortunate to have had so civilised and good humoured a headmaster. We will miss him very greatly indeed.*

When I first came to Rendcomb on interview nearly ten years ago I was immediately struck by the warmth and the friendliness of the place, as are so many visitors to the school. John Tolputt accorded exactly with the impression that I gained on that first experience, going out of his way to welcome me as he does with any candidate who comes for a post at Rendcomb. He subsequently took the trouble to visit me at my previous school in London and I knew then how easy it would be to work with John. There is none of the pretension, pomposity or dictatorial manner which seem to afflict a few of the incumbents of HMC. To anyone who has met him, John comes across as a decent man, civilised, humane and fair-minded. He is also remarkably resilient, standing up to the pressures of his office with constant good humour and calmness. These qualities have enabled John to handle even the most difficult situations with sympathy and to gain the trust of those involved.

John has relished the small scale of Rendcomb which has made it possible for him to deal with pupils, staff, parents and governors at first hand. He knows his pupils well, always finding time for a chat and succeeding in making any individual feel a part of the community at Rendcomb. To all staff John has been remarkably approachable; his door is genuinely open and he will listen with equal ear to the most serious and trivial grievances. His sense of humour enables him to keep things in their proper perspective and he has always been ready to laugh at his own expense; his modesty and self-effacement can be salutary when one gets too puffed up with one's own importance. To the school's visitors that same sense of humour quickly becomes evident and often Clock Hall and the Main Staircase will ring with the sound of John's laughter as he conducts his guests to and from his study. The school has developed in so many new directions during John's time as Headmaster. The changes have

involved him sitting on countless committees of widely differing composition. Here he has been served well by these attributes of patience and willingness to allow others their opinion while guiding the meeting towards what he actually wants himself. Achieving the successful introduction of co-education throughout the school is the legacy of all that hard work and it is probably that achievement for which John will be remembered most.

My own personal memories of John will include his valiant support for boys' and girls' hockey teams, as for all games teams, even when things weren't going too well on the pitch. He delighted in the success of the pupils and their own elation when Rendcomb overcame opposition from much larger schools. I will remember too the encouragement given to the cultural life of the school which allowed staff to achieve outstanding success with their pupils in art, drama and music. Few who saw them will forget his own superb dramatic productions, of which "Oliver!" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" were my favourites.

Yet perhaps the enduring memory will be John's public speaking, particularly when the occasion really demanded the right response from the Headmaster. I think back to the morning of Founder's Day 1996, when John had to deliver his Headmaster's Report just after receiving the news of Peter Sudbury's untimely death. He gave his usual assured, witty and informative performance in delivering the report and then at the end of the speech was able to handle with great composure the task of telling a stunned audience the sad news and paying brief tribute to Peter. The occasion and the reaction to it said a great deal about both men.

Bobby Morgan

As you know our Headmaster John Tolputt is heading off to a new future as Headmaster at The Purcell School in London. It feels like a compliment that you decided to leave with us, and although I won't be here, I know your presence will be sorely missed. You have set such high standards and it will be a hard task to follow in your footsteps. On behalf of everyone here, I would like to wish you the best of luck in the future and I hope the memories you take from Rendcomb will be for life.

Phillipa Hunt - Head Girl

Mr Tolputt is one of these wonderful things and he will soon be lost to Rendcomb. It is a great shame that he is leaving but I am very happy and proud that I was a member of his last 6A and his last Head Boy. Mr Tolputt is an extremely positive man, so much so that even a disaster like the dining room ceiling falling down can become a publicity benefit for the school. He always has a kind word for everyone and is therefore an excellent confidence booster. I don't know what more to say except that he will be dearly missed, and to thank him for the amazing amount he has done, not just for the school but for so many individuals over the years.

Ian Forster - Head Boy

When John Tolputt was appointed, one of his referees said we should not appoint him if we were looking for an

identikit HMC Headmaster'. We did appoint him, because we weren't. In due time, of course, he became an HMC member, but he was never the conventional model.

I was impressed in 1986 and have gone on being impressed, by John Tolputt's enthusiasm, by his kindness, and by his dedication, despite all the changes that have occurred during his time at the helm, to that belief in developing the talent of the young in the way best suited to the individual (what used to be called the spirit of Rendcomb). In these days when a school's effectiveness is too often judged on the sort of statistics that go to make up the government's league tables, some schools (and some school heads) are prepared to sacrifice some of the more broadening aspects of school life to those ends. John Tolputt did not do that. He, more than anyone, realises that parents considering a school for their child scrutinise the 'scores' in the league tables minutely, yet he strove to throw into the balance, too, Rendcomb's tradition for excellent acting on the stage, excellent work in the art department and excellent music. He fought hard to maintain those three fine traditions.

David Vaisey - Governor and O R.

John and Patta both have a deep affection for Rendcomb and a real love of the countryside round about, evident in Patta's devotion to wild animals and particularly badgers from which developed a close friendship with Ernest Neal. Everyone connected with Rendcomb, in the school and in the village, will remember their kindness, humour and warm friendship which have been the hall-marks of their time here. Personally I am especially grateful for their good-humoured tolerance of a crotchety elder statesman lurking about on the sidelines for so many years!

#### **From some junior pupils:**

"Mr. Tolputt can make Founder's Day almost normal."

"He gives a lot and praises your success."

"He is everybody's friend."

"At first I thought he was the Bursar, but then I knew he was the Headmaster!"

"He is a nice guy who doesn't try to be mean and look powerful."

"I think he needs a medal for being a good sport"

"He is the best Headmaster I have ever had, and I am annoyed he is leaving."

"Mr. Tolputt is Mrs Tolputt's cup of tea."

"When Mr. Tolputt was doing God in "Noyes Fludde", I could imagine God from his voice. It was like the voice was coming from heaven."

"When he is talking, his eyes get big and shiny, and he has a huge smile."

"I especially like the killer hand-shakes."

"Mr Tulpott was a very free person and he never asked the impossible. He is a very nice, polite man who is always in a good mood and who has a good sense of humour. Last week he has been going round with a new camera and when he came into our house we were watching 'Trainspotting' so there will be a few choice words on his film!"

“The first time I remember him being a real person was when I saw him in a red jumper sitting in his study window.”

“In all the assemblies he always said how pleased he was with us.”

“I once got told off for vandalism and when we had to go and see him, he told us off in a very calm way and suggested that we should throw our sharp objects at a dart board.”

“Mr. Tolputt is a man that shows he cares. Everything he has ever done at Rendcomb has been of benefit towards it.”

“Mr. Tolputt was always very enthusiastic about everything.”

“It is not actually possible to dislike Mr. Tolputt as he is an inspiring and jolly man. When we had him for English he brought a smile to my face when he read out stories like “Boy” doing great impressions and wonderful voices for each characters.”

“Mr. Tolputt was a bit of a dude. He has a great sense of humour and always made you feel needed.”

“Thankyou for letting me come to your school.”

“It was really fun when he came over to Godman to read ‘Winnie the Pooh;’ to us.”

“In one of Mr Tolputt’s lessons I was lying on the floor and I watched a really big fly fly up his trouser leg.”

“I find it quite easy to speak to him. I don’t feel nervous about talking to him. He is very natural and always says hello to me when I see him.”

“He talks to you in a way that you would expect an old friend to do.”

“He has some amazing suits and as one pupil said when Mr. Tolputt walked into assembly wearing his cream suit: ‘Look at Mr. Tolputt, it must be summer!’”

“Mr. Tolbert is a friendly man and we are sure that he will have a life in front of him.”

“I like the way he remembers our names; we see him on our way to lessons and he knows our names straight away.”

“He also has a few talents behind his flashy shirts and ties which brighten up the rain and grey skies.”

“He teaches Drama for the second years, tells the Godman girls ‘Winnie the Pooh’ stories and he is also a fantastic headmaster.”

“At the end of my report, he writes about how I’m doing, but he always makes it cheerful.”

“He is kind and polite and gets on with all the pupils. He has a gift of keeping a class silent without any effort.”

“He is willing to help in anything, even Noyes Fludde.”

“He has led this school through thick and thin and we are all very grateful.”

“He looks as though he is ready for anything.”

“His shirts and ties have made a great contribution to Rendcomb.”

“The first time I saw Mr. Tolputt I thought he looked like a really nice guy and it turned out he was.”

“He teaches Drama, English and Maths, so he does not leave everything to the teachers.”

“He is fair and sorts out most arguments without a worry. We will all miss him very much.”

(The following comment was underlined three times)

“Mr Tolputt is a great Headmaster.”

“I want to say something about Mrs Tolputt. When I came to Rendcomb I joined the choir and begun singing lessons for which she took me. I was at first intimidated by her huge voice compared with mine, but she spent a lot of time teaching me to project my voice and read the music. If it had not been for her I might not have got a singing part in ‘Grease’.”

Barney Kellett



Barney Kellett says goodbye to John Tolputt

## The Headmaster’s Report

*We reproduce Mr Tolputt’s final Headmaster’s Report, given at Founder’s Day, in full. It seemed to us that not only is it a fine summary of the year at Rendcomb, but a great tribute to the warmth of the man who delivered it. Perhaps Mr. Tolputt’s own words speak more eloquently than anyone else’s about why we will miss him so much.*

A Headmaster of a local school had a bit of trouble with his Governors and began his last report by saying that he had ended his time as he had begun: Fired with Enthusiasm.

Our Governors are kinder and anyway I don’t want to look back. The paradox of Founder’s Day is that it celebrates an event that happened 79 years ago, but it also celebrates the vision of a man who was not looking back but looking forward.

Remarkably for a comfortably wealthy man, with a life you could say of privilege, Noel Wills wanted to make the world a better place. At the end of a terrible war, he dreamed of a future where the only aristocracy is an aristocracy of brains and character, where you are judged not by who you are but by what you do, and he called his dream Rendcomb College.

And from the beginning his vision was warmed by the fire of imagination. He thought pupils should be surrounded by beautiful things and set up an art gallery. He chose the most beautiful surroundings for a school in the county (and therefore the world). He encouraged music and theatre. He made this place special.

Pupils will have to bear with me now because they heard me say this only last week. But what is a place like this

for if not to celebrate the absolute specialness - the uniqueness - of each individual person here.

That is the real mystery of the universe - not the infinitely expanding space out beyond us, but the simple fact that we are all coded differently. There never was such a person as you and there will never be such a person again. This is the trick - to see beyond the lists and league tables, the Government statistics, (though even these can be fun- in a recent government survey there was the request: "Please supply a list of teachers broken down by age and sex") to see beyond the statistics to the individual person. The magic lies there and it is a gift of the imagination to see it.

And look at the wonderful year at Rendcomb just gone by in the dazzling light of its blaze of imagination. The imagination of our four top musicians Phil Webb, Tom Gilbert, Louise Bongiovanni and Ben Butler in their brilliant recent recital. The imagination of our artists on display today in the Sixth Form Exhibition, the imagination of James Starkey who popped the ball up from the ruck just at the precise moment that Will Witchell was running diagonally across the back to storm over for a breathtaking try, the imagination of Phillipa Hunt's netball team, who seem to have a psychic understanding of where everyone will be in 20 seconds' time (you will never again think that netball is a boring game if you once see this marvellous group in action, soundly beating - as Phillipa said - nearly everyone in sight. )

Or the imagination and anticipation of our clay pigeon shooters in the national championships at Shugborough; three awards and recognition of Rendcomb as one of the leading clay pigeon shooting schools in the country, or Junior Masterchef finalist Robert Knight's gift of describing a dish (I hope you saw him on television last Sunday) or our two coveted red badge archery awards (Barbara Unger is the only under 18 year old in the country to have achieved this the highest of all awards) and Gloria Mead ranked number two in Great Britain, or Hannah Ewing's swimming, or the unforgettable evening of Bach, led by Naomi Phipps, Louise Bongiovanni and Anna Marlowe.

How Rendcomb will miss Naomi Phipps, her violin, her teaching, her tutoring in Godman House, her humour, vitality, warmth and caring. And her emotional honesty; we will never forget her talks in church where she let her violin do the talking - and the praying. We welcome her successor David Whitehead who joins us from Pangbourne and wish her well in her move to King's College Wimbledon.

And the imagination and good sense of our many team captains led and inspired by Ian Forster who has shown us all what true captaincy, true leadership, can be - based on the understanding that really effective leaders do not command and control but have the gift of encouraging others to want willingly to follow - Ian who, as you have seen, makes up half of the finest head boy head girl duo in my time at Rendcomb.

And what about the imagination at work to produce the Fashion Show, gloriously re-invented on the Main Building stairs, and a feast of strange beauty. Or the Junior Charity Ball. Or Red Nose Day. Or the work that went into sending books to Kenya. Or the Godman Bake- a-thon. Or Science Week. Or Jade Finn's Essay Prize. Or, inspired by the imagination of Martin Griffiths and a brilliantly creative 6A, the flourishing of home grown activities on Saturday nights, from Absurd Theatre to Wine Tasting, from Treasure Hunts to Cabaret by Jane and Rose Thrower with Ashleigh Welch.

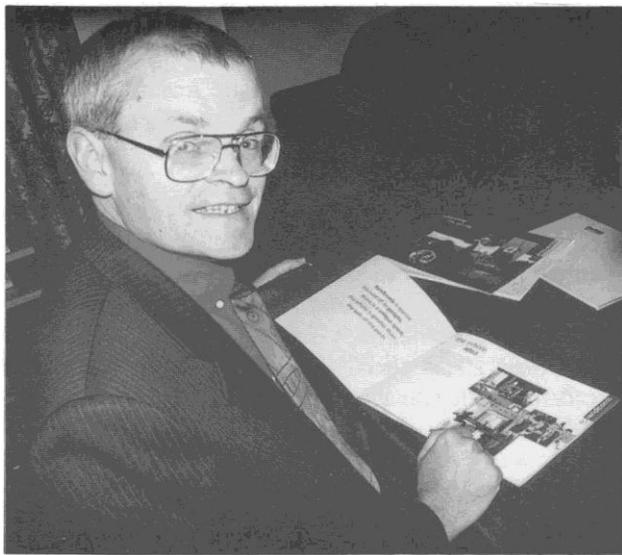
Or Rendcomb's Theatre of Brecht contribution to Cheltenham's Festival of Literature or - later - to the Festival of Dance, the tennis of Jenny Mais and Jo Crisp for the girls and Jo Schinzler and Patrick van Welij for the boys; Jo and Patrick only having dropped 3 sets out of more than 20 in their last 6 matches, or the Cricket Academy with valuable input from our county captain, Mark Alleyne, surely the seedbed for future Gloucestershire and England glory with seven young players already in the County squad, or the re-awakening of Cross Country and Athletics, with six Rendcombians representing the district and two the county, and the newly revamped Climbing Wall, or cycling for Mencap, or the range and vitality of our hockey for boys and girls with Tom Lait in the county squad and so many teams - 14 at the last count - and almost everyone in the school participating, not just playing the game but representing Rendcomb in matches against other schools.

I'm getting breathless, but I've hardly begun. And breathlessness reminds me of Noyes Fludde, put together in the first week of term, bringing together five schools, with an orchestra of Rendcombians, bursting with string players, with recorders, with percussion, with Colin Shiner's wonderful Brass Group and David White pulling it all together with his unique magic; his inspiration, his energy and, yes, his imagination of what might just be possible.

I think that one my moments of greatest happiness this year was in Cirencester Parish Church in the happy and active buzz of 200 children, Richard Murray calmly marshalling the animals without once raising his voice, and a sense of anticipation not unmixed with fear, and joy in creation and a church full of people of all ages, and of working together at full stretch, and every minute counting, and 27 minutes to go before the audience was coming in, and I felt touched by a kind of exhilaration and my greatest hope is that everybody else there felt it too.

Then there's the Millennium project; Paul Cairns and his team seeing the possibility of restoring the lake and starting to do it. How splendid it will be to have boating there again. Or the Exhibition of their own work mounted by Rendcomb's brilliant Art Staff and Tom Denny's stained glass window design now on display at the top of the stairs on the first floor of the Main Building. And John Raby in the county rugby squad, and the 1st XV who completed their winning tour of Holland, crowning Rendcomb Rugby's splendid achievement of a fifth winning season in a row.

And Karen Ewing's stunning production of "The Last Yankee". And more still to come; cricket already flourishing at all ages and at all levels despite this variable weather, and don't forget to book for Diana Dodd's "Grease" which will be unmissable.



And of course we had "The Tempest" with its fine performances by Theo Berry, Rebekah Taplin, Beans Boughton, Kate Nicholas and many others - with Tom Gilbert's magical music. If Rendcomb is an Island of Imagination, of Dreams, as it now seems to me, then what better play to perform at Rendcomb than "The Tempest", Shakespeare's play of a magic Island of the imagination, and, as it happens, his play of farewell? We didn't know at the time that it was Richard Murray's farewell too, though he directed it with such delicate subtlety that perhaps we should have guessed. Like Naomi Phipps he has been with us for all too short a time, but like Naomi too he has won a permanent place in our hearts. We wish him all success and happiness at St Edward's Oxford and thank him for his kindness and wit and generosity with himself and with his time.

But of all our leavers this term, there is only one whose service to Rendcomb spans exactly a quarter of a century. Graham Smith joined us after a period of advanced research, having previously completed his doctorate in the interaction of plasma waves at Oxford. He and his wife Hilary, his son James (a Noel Wills Scholar at Rendcomb and brilliant mathematician) and his daughter Rebekah, became much loved residents of the village, until Hilary died of cancer five years ago. Despite this tragedy, Graham continued his work as Head of the Physics Department, with his own special mix of kindness and efficiency. He has served as Tutor, as Assistant Housemaster, as co-ordinator of Public Work, as committed servant of the Parish Church, but - apart from his teaching - his organisation of exams has been his greatest contribution to our life and work. Examinations Officer - as I don't have to tell our Guest of Honour - is one of those absolutely essential jobs which has to go right or the school comes to its knees, but which nobody notices until it goes wrong. With Graham it always goes right despite the increasing complexity and perpetual

motion of our country's exam system. For this - and for so much else - all at Rendcomb thank him and wish him a long and happy retirement with his family.

And now we are looking forward. To further developments in Information Technology in our expanded and re-equipped department. To a new national approach to Sixth Form work, keeping the strength and depth of 'A' levels, but increasing breadth.

(It was a privilege to hear about this from Tony Higgins, who, as Chief Executive of UCAS will have such influence, standing as he does on the interface between universities and schools. He is a fiercely busy man and we are so pleased to see him here today).

And we are looking forward to a new Headmaster. Patta and I love Rendcomb and the only compensation for leaving is handing over to Gerry and Liese Holden. I have known Gerry for five years at Frensham Heights; I was part of a small panel who appointed him to be Deputy Head there and his skill and intelligence have made him respected throughout the Frensham community. His experience there, and his previous experience at Millfield, will be invaluable here. In his visits to Rendcomb he has already proved his sensitivity and his ready understanding of all the issues thrown at him. I hope he and Liese and Alex their son will be as happy here as we have been.

There are so many people to thank. Bear with me: this is my last chance to do this in public.

Our teachers who light the fire of imagination in our pupils, and who are what this place is all about. Their warmth, support and good humour have kept my fire burning: they have inspired me by their skill and sense of direction, and by their demonstration that good teaching - like good captaincy - is founded on trust and mutual respect.

Our House Staff who can still see the funny side even at 11 at night. Our Governors who have kept out of the way except when I needed an umbrella, but who have spent hours of unpaid and un-regarded work for the school behind the scenes.

Our Trustees, the Wills family, once aptly named the Royal Family of Rendcomb. They have carried the torch for 79 years and have never been daunted by the changes and chances of School Life. Especially Tom Wills their chairman; he is very sorry that he can't be here today, but he always asks me for a copy of my report so he will read what I have said.

Audrey Gibbs, daughter of our Founder, and the Sinclair Trust who have given us such help and encouragement. And her brother Sir David, past chairman of Trustees and still a true friend of the school. And the Dulverton Trust which supports our scholars and which recently generously paid for a new floor for the Dulverton Hall.

Our kitchen staff, who, when the dining hall false ceiling fell in 20 minutes before lunch, ruining the food and

injuring five of their number, found some more food, rearranged tables and fed the whole school only 20 minutes later than usual. I am so glad to say that all five were released from hospital that day and that they immediately returned to work. They do such an excellent job, not only in cheerfully feeding us all day after day, but also in laying on so many extra functions.

Our grounds staff and our work staff who seem never to sleep. Our cleaning staff who so cheerfully clear up after us.

Our parents (when I typed that I accidentally wrote 'out patients'). Thank you for your trust in asking us to look after and guide what is most precious to you in all the world, your children. And my special thanks to successive parents' committees over the years who have given me such wonderful support and good cheer.

Our administrative staff, who keep chaos at bay despite the best efforts of the rest of us: Kay Collins who is a great source of encouragement and cheer, and who has worked on through the illness of her husband Geoff. We wish him a continuing recovery. And Judi Stocks my secretary who is the smile on the face of Rendcomb, who gives me such help, knows exactly when I am going to get things wrong and does her best to keep me out of trouble. And her assistant Sarah Crosby who got married in New Zealand and then kindly got married again at Rendcomb so we could all join in. We wish Sarah and Andy a long and happy life together. And Sue Downie and Anne Vickery who are such staunch supporters. And Sisters Julie Pritchard and Judy Hunt who minister to staff and pupils alike with just the right blend of sympathy, scepticism and good humour.

And my gratitude for the wit and wisdom of Bill White, who more than anyone else stands for Rendcomb. And Penrose Shackel and Nicoletta Tuteri in the marketing department who are teaching us to blow our own trumpet. And Director of Studies Paul Sykes who has done so much to improve our academic support system so that now our systems for encouraging and cajoling our pupils to achieve the very best of which they are capable are second to none. And Senior Master Chris Wood who is an Old Rendcombian himself and embodies the very best of Rendcomb; who quietly leads so many aspects of school life because everyone knows that he will always go the extra mile for his colleagues and for his pupils. And Bursar Jeremy Grey who has vastly improved our accommodation and surroundings. And Kim and Chrissa Taplin who have handled with such grace and warmth the task of following Christine and Peter Sudbury.

And Bobby Morgan who has been such a source of support in our nine years of working together. A man of complete integrity, unselfishly putting the needs of the school before everything else, intelligent and wise, unpretentious and drily humorous, he combines vision with realism. One day I looked out of my study window and said "Look Bobby, some Sixth Formers going for a walk". "No, Headmaster" he responded, "they are going for a smoke". Bobby treats everyone the same and everyone respects him. I thank him for the infinite pains he has taken for me and for Rendcomb.

And all those people I haven't mentioned who daily, quietly, almost secretly, put in extra time for Rendcomb

beyond the call of duty because they want to make a better world for everyone who lives, works and studies here.

And Patta who has brought into my life all that I hold most dear and who is now trying to forgive me for dragging us away from Rendcomb. And the pupils. What laughs they have brought us and what pride we have had in their achievements and in their extraordinary talents.



Perhaps especially the leavers; this has been a superb group, living up to and even exceeding the standard set by the year of '98. I am honoured to be counted as a leaver with them and I thank them for all they have done to make Rendcomb special this year. And now this incomplete and rambling tour of our own magical island is nearly over and I was going to say, like Prospero, that it is time to drown my book deeper than ever did plummet sound, and bid farewell.

But it's too early. Half a term to go - several weeks of GCSEs, 'A' levels, plenty of Art, Music, Theatre and Sport, even some hard work. Far too early to say goodbye. So instead of Prospero I'll speak with the voice of Caliban (not as eloquently as Beans Boughton did in the Autumn): the Monster Caliban, primitive, thick, a bit retarded, who worships the wrong Gods but has deep within him a longing for something better:

Be not afeared; the isle is full of noises,  
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not:  
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments  
Will hum about mine ears: and sometimes voices,  
That if I then had wakes after long sleep,  
Will make me sleep again - and then, in dreaming,  
The clouds methought would open, and show riches  
Ready to drop upon me, that when I waked  
I cried to dream again.

As we enter a new century, may this wonderful school flourish. Truly Rendcomb has dropped riches upon me, Patta and our children, Anna and Edward. When we wake next year, I think - I know - we'll cry to dream of Rendcomb again. Thank You.

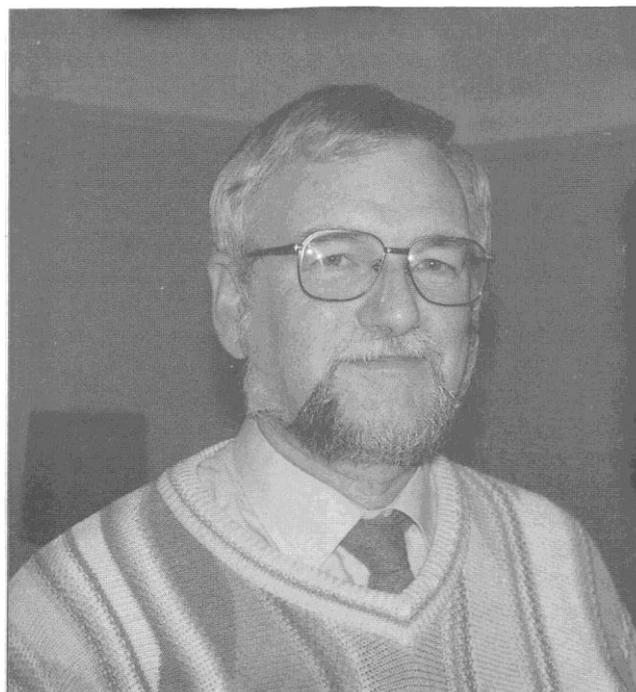
*Mr and Mrs Tolputt left the hall to a standing ovation.*

## **Graham Smith**

Dr. Graham Smith came to Rendcomb in 1974 to assist David Hawkswell in the Physics department when the school was still expanding - in fact it had risen from 214 to 230 in that year. The Sixth Form curriculum was much narrower and Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry was a common combination so numbers doing A level Physics often approached 20.

It must have been an incredible contrast for Graham Smith to come from high powered research posts at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Culham and later Sussex University, where he had investigated plasma waves with relatively sophisticated equipment, to Rendcomb which had survived on apparatus such as light sources made from baked bean cans. In those early days the Physics staff and Joan Essenhigh, who was then the Physics technician, must have spent hours sorting through and throwing out those Heath Robinson pieces of equipment. But despite the modernisation of the Physics department, the Cambridge Board in its infinite wisdom continued to frustrate Graham Smith and many other Physics teachers with its equipment list of plasticine, straws and paper clips for A level practicals.

So this academic and meticulous man got to grips with the teaching of Physics to many Rendcombians and by the time pupils reached the Sixth Form they began to appreciate his methods. An Old Rendcombian wrote the following: "I enjoyed the benefit of Dr Smith's patience and enthusiasm for his subject through both GCSE and A level. His commitment, including extra tutorial sessions if required, was greatly appreciated by all those struggling with a weighty mechanics problem or an apparently interminable nuclear decay. Whilst following increasingly rigid curricula, he consistently added depth to what would otherwise have been a two-dimensional understanding of a multi-dimensional subject." The same student also remembers one occasion when Graham Smith's patience understandably ran short when a misguided pupil tried to connect a 12 volt motor to the mains. So it was appropriate that Graham Smith became Head of Physics when David Hawkswell retired. Over the years he has contributed to many areas of school life: he has been a



tutor, an assistant housemaster of the Junior House and he has run chess club, swimming, stamp club and the now disbanded Public Works in which pupils were required to do some form of service on a Tuesday afternoon. He never regarded himself as a sportsman but did take a 4th XV team during one rugby season! But he will be remembered by more recent Rendcombians for his running of the external examinations which he has always done with great skill and careful detail, always creating an efficient yet sympathetic atmosphere in our exam rooms.

Graham Smith started life on the top floor of the Main Building and his path inevitably crossed that of the Sister (then known as matron). It was not long before they were married and had moved into the village. They were always great supporters of village life, and especially of St Peter's Church, Graham serving at Holy Communion and Hilary running the Sunday school and carrying out her duties as a Church Warden.

Hilary's untimely death from cancer in 1994 devastated the family and Graham then had the difficult task of supporting James and Rebekah through school and on to University. James was educated at Rendcomb and is now at the University of Warwick, reading Maths; Rebekah is reading Biochemistry at Cardiff.

In 1996 Graham took early retirement and switched to part time but he continued to run the external examinations and to set high standards in everything he did. It always saddened him that the popularity of Physics had faded at Rendcomb and nationally but he can take

heart in the fact that Mrs Botham will be running the department ably assisted by her new assistant, Mr Debenham.

We wish Graham a long and happy retirement.

## Naomi Phipps

I have been asked to write a farewell 'piece' on Miss Phipps. However, I feel that the following tributes from some of her pupils speak more eloquently:



Miss Phipps has been a great addition to Rendcomb with a shining personality and a great sense of humour. I found she was someone you could speak to very freely and was someone who actually made me enjoy playing a classical instrument. She pushed me from the dark to the light with bassoon playing and I am now finding it a great blow, shared by everyone I should think, that she is going, leaving another large hole in the fabric of Rendcomb. To me she was like an ever-burning 200 watt light bulb, Ever Shining, Ever Bright, Everlasting.

Simon Whitby-Brown

Miss Phipps is very kind and generous. She has a great sense of humour and is a light bouncy sort of person. She has a great love for her violin, the way she plays it in Church. Miss Phipps is funny when under pressure and tries to keep a clear head. She also goes to great lengths to do a certain job well and will stay up to the early hours of the morning perfecting it (for Grease). She is one of the strangest teachers I have ever known but I like her for that individuality. Miss Phipps is a great music teacher, one who can make you do a lot of work but you think that you are doing nothing. We always take the mickey out of her Skoda which can reach a top speed of 2 mph but she does not take it personally and just laughs with us. I think that we all like her a lot and will be sad to see her go.

Tom Davies

Miss Phipps always helps us  
When you're sad or in a huff  
When my piano seems to go wrong  
She's always there to help me along.

C J W

When we're confused and not caring  
She'll get us back on our bearings  
I go mad on a keyboard  
One key or the wrong chord.

D B W

Always a grin on her face  
Gets me through the day with grace.  
She plays the violin with such power  
I could listen for a few hours.

When she leaves I'll have a tear in my eye,  
So from one and all  
GOODBYE.

Luke Baghdadi

## Richard Murray

Richard Murray, (affectionately known as 'Muzza') makes an untimely and premature departure from the English Department after nearly two years' service. To describe Richard as 'legendary' befits this scholar and zany teacher in so many ways other than the obvious - by definition the term means 'fabulous and strange', and epitomises the heart and soul of this natural-born teacher and gentleman.

Aside from his obvious talents in the classroom coupled with a passion for Classical literature. Shakespeare, philosophy and music, he has contributed inordinately to other areas of Rendcomb life. He set up the Philosophy Society and ran the Junior Drama Club, edited "The Nose" and "Rendcombian" and took an active role in school sports including coaching the U15B hockey and cricket teams. He produced a superb and moving production of "The Tempest"; he formed a successful partnership with the lighting desk, lighting a range of spectacles from "The Marriage of Figaro", annual fashion shows and regular school discos to the recent, highly challenging production of "Grease" performed in the Sports Hall (whilst simultaneously making a guest appearance in the show itself!)

Richard always makes time for everyone; nothing is too much trouble for him and he has been a sympathetic tutor encouraging seniors and juniors alike, regularly dividing his pastoral duties between Lawn House and The Old Rectory (where he has, I am reliably informed, been known to join the boys in their skate-boarding antics!) He entertained us in Church by advocating the advantages of 'being strange' and at a school discos by impersonating John Travolta, combined with his own inimitable dancing style.

We wish him well in his new post at St Edward's, Oxford, consoled by the assurance that soon they will treasure him as much as we do. Thank you, Richard, for all that you have given us - you will be fondly remembered as 'fabulous and strange!'

K M E

## Bob Stott

Bob Stott came to Rendcomb in January 1997, to work as the Domestic Services Manager. His ebullient style and professional approach meant that the contract catering staff were soon aware that a thoroughly competent and effective Master Chef had arrived.



**Bob Stott building sandcastles**

Rendcomb went through three changes of contract caterer in the time that Bob has spent as Manager; Russell and Brand, Marriotts, and Gardner Merchant, and now we are going in house for our catering, he is spreading his wings and has been offered, and accepted a job as the House Manager and Head Chef at Farnham Golf Club.

Bob was adept at walking the fine dividing line between keeping our priority one customers happy, the pupils, and presiding over a range of functions from private dances to the meal at the Guy Fawkes celebration. It was not easy for him keeping the interests of the school at heart and not upsetting his masters, the contract catering companies. It is a great credit to him that he kept the peace.

He often had to cover in the kitchen when there was a staff shortage, and he also had to manage the laundry requirements and the domestic staff during some demanding times.

I know that Farnham Golf Club will be pleased with their choice, and we all wish him and Yvette the best of fortune in the future.

JFAG

## Carol Barber

The greatest testimony to any teacher can really only come from their students - in this respect the bouquet of flowers the fifth formers gave Carol spoke volumes. This gift recognised her great application in the build-up to their GCSE exams with numerous extra revision sessions, whether it was for ten or for individuals, lunch breaks included. To a large extent her willingness to give up time for individuals epitomised the Rendcomb ethos. It is therefore with a mixture of sadness, in seeing her depart, and happiness for her in her appointment to Head of Geography at King's School, Gloucester that we say

farewell. Very many thanks for her time at Rendcomb not only in the department but also in her many other pastoral and activity roles.

A B

## Sue Pears

Sue Pears joined the Physics department for the summer term to teach Middle school and G. C. S. E. classes which Mrs Botham had previously taught, but was no longer able to do because of her maternity leave. She is a widely experienced and travelled teacher having worked in international schools in the Philippines and in Hanoi, Vietnam. Despite attending on only three days each week, she soon settled and quickly got the measure of her classes, and I am sure that the Fifth Year in particular benefited greatly from her experience as a marker of public examinations.

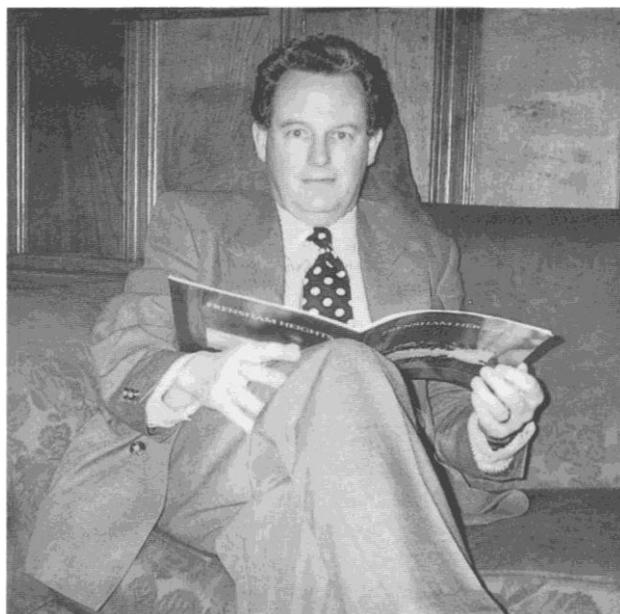
I enjoyed her cheerfulness and thorough professionalism in the department and wish her every success in her new posting in Lusaka, Zambia.

G J S

## New Staff

### Gerry Holden

Gerry Holden succeeds John Tolputt as Headmaster in September 1999.



Mr Holden is currently Deputy Headmaster at Frensham Heights School in Surrey. Formerly Head of History at Forest School and Millfield, he has an MA in Modern History from St. Andrew's and has been a senior examiner for The Oxford and Cambridge Board. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and writes articles for the Modern History Review. He is also a qualified football referee, and enjoys golf, skiing and rugby.

His wife Liese, who is a keen horsewoman, and his son Alex, will join him at Rendcomb.

Mr. Holden addressed the School at a Headmaster's Assembly recently. He talked with enthusiasm of the special spirit of Rendcomb, and of the generous welcome he had received.

Below is printed an interview which Mr. Holden gave with Mr. Murray on one of his recent visits to the school:

RM Why did you apply for the job at Rendcomb College?

GH I'd heard a lot about Rendcomb prior to applying, and visited 7 or 8 years ago. I liked the idea of working in a small school, they have an enormous amount to offer.

RM What advantages?

GH The key is, you begin to know the pupils and staff quickly. I've taught in large schools which gives you a real appreciation for small schools. This is only my third visit and I have already met a number of pupils which is good news, you put faces to names very quickly and you can feel a buzz for what's going on in small schools.

RM When you met these pupils were they approachable?

GH I asked to meet them in their own area - where they were comfortable. They were sitting waiting for me and we introduced ourselves. We talked about what they thought was special about Rendcomb - they were enthusiastic about the place.

RM What changes do you want to make to the school?

GH As an historian and a politician I wouldn't reveal at this stage which changes I would make, especially to a member of staff who is leaving! What you should do is to reflect after your visits on what you are going to do. I will not at this juncture be making any changes. I want to rejoice in what is good at Rendcomb, and continue to talk up what's positive. We deserve national recognition.

RM How are you going to go about creating that?

GH You have had some national recognition - "The Masterchef" which I saw - that generates all sorts of interest, and the national attention we had when the ceiling came down in the dining room though let's hope we don't have to sacrifice too many more ceilings to grab the Headlines! You take something which you think you could be good at for instance Archery and make the most of it.

RM What sort of things do you find amusing?

GH The unpredictable is always amusing. I'm sure there will be plenty of that here at Rendcomb!

RM Are you going to be doing any teaching when you come here?

GH All Headmasters should retain the ability to do that which is the *raison d'être* of a school. I would like to teach 6A in a Headmaster's General Studies - current affairs, public speaking - that sort of thing, and also I would like to teach the First Year. I propose to offer some extra-curricular activities. Some of the changes to the 16-19 curriculum will demand more general studies. Sixth Formers

themselves would like to see a broadening of the curriculum.

RM Would you see yourself as a disciplinarian?

GH We need to cultivate respect between pupils and staff - and I think I could include that as being in the Rendcomb tradition and I think that is what good discipline is.

RM When you're not doing Headmasterly things, what do you like to do?

GH I play golf - official handicap 20 - it's respectable without being arrogant! I enjoy visiting places of historical interest. For example last year we went to Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostella. Sometime soon I'll walk the pilgrimage route which is a long way, but to qualify for the certificate you only need to have done 100 miles which is tolerable. I play and referee soccer and I attend the gym and I'm involved with public speaking.

RM That's a very Scottish thing to do.

GH In one sense - I don't think the Scots have a monopoly on public speaking. I think I'm more interested in debating than public speaking.

RM Have you ever taught abroad?

GH Other than England - no - I've never actually taught in Scotland.

RM You escaped early did you?

GH I applied to do teacher training in Oxford and then was appointed to a school in England.

RM Is there anything we ought to know about you?

GH Do I have any idiosyncrasies?

RM Yes.

GH I have a Land Rover which is 18 years old but there is a great family debate about whether it would make it up the M4 and the A419! It's my pride and joy.

RM I've got a Morris Minor.

GH Yes that type of thing.

RM Wouldn't the Land Rover be more useful here than in Surrey where you're coming from?

GH Actually we live in a very isolated house on campus which becomes very waterlogged in the Winter and so it enabled me to drive round the campus up to school. We have a horse as well. Actually I don't ride but my wife Liese does.

RM You've got one offspring.

GH That's correct. Alex is 10 and is going to school locally at Chedworth. He is interested in singing, drama and sport. I would hope that he will come to Rendcomb - he's been here and he's very enthusiastic about the move. It's not too difficult if you are your own man to be so in your father's school.

RM Well it's a great pleasure to have spoken with you, and I hope you will be happy at this wonderful school. Thank you very much.

## David Whitehead

David comes to Rendcomb College after a period of three years as Assistant Director of Music at Pangbourne College. He is a graduate of the Royal College of Music

having spent his schooling years at Kingswood School in Bath. He is a distinguished organist and pianist having recorded a C. D. of Organ and Trumpet Music which was issued in Luxembourg. He has spent time as assistant organist of Bath Abbey and has held down full organist and Choirmaster positions at St. Anne's Church Tottenham and St. James's Church Muswell Hill.

He comes to Rendcomb with an enthusiasm for jazz as well as all this and will be keen to get the Recording Studio back into the active life of the Music Department. He is also interested in Theatrical Lighting and sound engineering, a bit of sailing, football and cricket.

Although his name may cause some confusion with the present Director of Music, he is actually taller and will therefore be easy to distinguish.

## Michael Debenham

Michael comes to us from The University of Liverpool where he has taken a P. G. C. E. and an MSc in Industrial Materials Engineering. He read for his BSc degree at the University of Leeds where he studied Molecular Biophysics. From 1993 to 1998 he worked as a researcher in two laboratories, one a University Lab. and the other a commercial one. During his time there he produced two important scientific publications.

As well as gaining a first rate physicist, Rendcomb will be gaining a keen musician, whose instruments include saxophone, guitar, clarinet and piano, and an excellent games player. As if this were not enough, he claims that his other interests are going to the cinema and cooking which will recommend him to Rendcombians and reading and doing cross word puzzles which might not!

We very much look forward to his arrival.

## Paul Dodd

Paul Dodd, who will replace Richard Murray on a part time basis as a teacher of English, received his schooling at Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith (where Martin Graham taught.) He went on to gain an MA at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he stayed to do a P. G. C. E. He taught at an independent school in London for six years



Paul and Diana Dodd

before going to teach at King's College in Auckland, New Zealand where he met his wife Diana Dodd, House Mistress of Godman. He taught at King's for six years becoming Head of Social Studies and running a day house of 125 boys.

At the present moment he will continue to run his travel business on a part time basis.

His other interests include The History of World War One (he is a Flanders Battlefield Guide), rugby and cricket.

JRM

## Obituary

### Angus Janies Cochrane

Born on 8th January 1972, son of Julie and John Cochrane of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and brother of Hamish and Polly, died suddenly at Swanmore, Hants on 8th June 1999. He was educated at Rendcomb College (1982-89) and was a graduate of the University of Wales, Swansea with a BSc in Environmental Biology (1993) and of Bangor with MSc in Environmental Forestry (1996).

Many of his friends from Rendcomb College, Swansea and Bangor attended the funeral in Stratton Church, Cirencester on 16th June.

## Reports

### Church Notes

St Peter's Church serves as the Parish Church of Rendcomb as well as the Chapel for the School. This provides the opportunity for Rendcomb students to participate in services of worship and Christian education in ways which make connections with the wider national and international Christian scenes. It has been a full and exciting year in the life of the Church.

There have been eight visiting preachers during the School year. Mr Richard Morgan of the Intercontinental Church Society described the ministry of ICS in sponsoring English language churches around the world. In December, Dr Chris Wise of the NFU encouraged us to consider the severe difficulties being encountered by the farming community. The Archbishop's Advisor to the HMC, the Bishop of Brixworth, made two visits to Rendcomb during the year and on his second visit, in February, the Rt Rev'd Paul Barber preached a fascinating and challenging sermon. The visiting speaker at Pentecost was Mrs Pamela Parker of the Cirencester Decorative and Fine Arts Society which had recently completed its recording of St Peter's Church. It was fitting that the final 'guest preacher' of the year should be the Headmaster, Mr John Tolputt. In a masterful address he brought a smile to the face, a lump to the throat and.

DBW

DRB



for some, a tear to the eye! John and Patta were presented with a superb illustration of St Peter's Church (drawn by Richard Sudbury) by the Parochial Church Council as an expression of love and appreciation.

The commitment, dedication and skill of the choir has been magnificent, not only during the regular pattern of Sunday worship but also for the special services and events. Once again, the Advent Carol and Christmas Carol Services were inspiring occasions, and the choir members were wonderful ambassadors for the School when they sang Choral Evensong in Bristol Cathedral on 19th February. For many, the highlight of the year was the performance of Fauré's "Requiem" on the eve of Remembrance Sunday. It truly was a memorable occasion. I am grateful to all of the members of the choir and of course to the irrepressible Mr David White. If David's enthusiasm, energy and skill could be bottled, the inventor could make a fortune!

Students, staff and parents of the College, and Rendcomb parishioners were joined by the North Cerney and Duntisbourne branch of the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Sunday Service. The powerful symbolism of the Service was further enhanced by the presence of a number of Rendcomb's German and Japanese students.

Equally memorable was the Service of Confirmation on 9th May led by the Rt Rev'd David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester. Thirteen candidates were presented to the Bishop, and each candidate received tremendous support from the families, godparents and friends.

During the course of the year the College has continued to support a wide range of local, national and international charities from collections taken during term-time Sunday services. A special collection was taken to aid Kosovo refugees at the height of the "ethnic displacement" during the latest Balkan conflict. A total of £1,772.47 has generously been given during the 1998/99 academic year. Some of the beneficiaries have been:

- Cirencester Housing for Young People
- Cotswold Care Hospice
- The National Star Centre
- Winston's Wish
- Cotswold Victim Support

- Scripture Union
- Rural Stress Information Service
- The Children's Society
- The Samaritans
- Christian Aid
- Intercontinental Church Society

Members of the School gather for Chapel on two mornings each week. These occasions provide an opportunity to reflect theologically and morally on contemporary issues, and to explore our common human spirituality. The Chaplain, ten members of staff and a growing number of students have been involved in presenting a range of thought-provoking, amusing and challenging addresses. A weekly, voluntary Holy Communion Service has been introduced on Wednesdays at 8.15am. A regular congregation of 8-12 students and staff have found the celebration to be of great value.

Finally, I would like to thank Churchwardens Bill White, Bobby Morgan and Pam Farnsworth for all their help and support throughout the year. Bill White stepped down as Churchwarden in April after many years' service on the PCC. Bill's contribution to the life and ministry of St Peter's Church has been incalculable. We give thanks to God for him! I must also thank the team of ushers led by David Ashby and, from the Summer term, by Ed Hogarth for their faithful and efficient work.

KT

## Bursar's Notes

Once upon a time there was a school, set in beautiful country side, that was full of talented pupils, and had an equally talented teaching staff, who were all supported by an equally talented and dedicated administrative staff.

This, of course, is no fairytale, as Rendcomb is lucky enough to have dedicated and professional administrative staff to provide the necessary support to our pupils and teaching staff. It is a fact that any school worth its salt treats its non-teaching staff with respect, and appreciates the work they do.

I believe that the Whole Approach, the theme of the new prospectus, means that all the departments of the non-

teaching staff, are as important as all the other constituent parts of the Rendcomb scene, so who are they?

#### *Domestic Staff*

Our cleaning ladies are in the vanguard of keeping Rendcomb well kept, and the work that they do all over the School means that we can put our best face forward to all prospective and current parents. It is no small task that confronts them - 10 large buildings have to be cleaned to a high standard, and with a Summer let and other money making functions, there is a job to do throughout the year. Thank you ladies.

#### *Buildings and Grounds Staff*

Paul Cairns, the Works Manager, and his staff not only have to keep all our buildings in good shape, but there are 200 acres of land, with its walls and fencing to look after.



The team of **Paul and Peter Cairns**, Eddie Clarke, Sabrina Cairns, David Mead and not forgetting Baz Grey, have worked tirelessly to produce high standards of maintenance.

Many of our parents and their guests, including Old Rendcombians, have told me that the playing fields are excellent, and how well the wickets have played this cricket season. This is largely due to the hard work and professional skill of our resident Groundsman, David Mead. Well done David.

As well as putting in a hard day's work, Peter Cairns has also been the bus driver for the Cheltenham Bus Route. A noble effort Peter.

A few of the tasks carried out this year were:

Installation of Fire Alarm systems in Lawn and Stable Houses

Burglar Alarm in School, Bursary, and Accounts Offices

Continued improvement of fire precautions throughout the School

New Curtains in the Dulverton Hall

New floor in the Dulverton Hall

Painting of corridors in Park House

The setting up of the ICT and Internet rooms in the Stable Block

Making School House into a co-educational Day House

The Old Rectory Play Area

Chairs for the Dining Room and Dulverton Hall

#### *The Sisters*

The last Rendcombian included an article from our two resident State Registered Nurses Julie Pritchard and Judy Hunt, which described in detail what they both contribute to the School.

Apart from running the Sanatorium (or as some like to call it the Sick Bay), they cover a multitude of tasks with professional skill and a large dollop of humour! Lending a caring shoulder to cry on, making costumes for "Grease" and other productions. First Aid Courses, the Fashion show, the Second Hand Clothing Shop, swimming pool duty, boarding house duties, babysitting, and close liaison with the School Doctors, Dr Drysdale and Dr Whyttles in the Rendcomb Surgery.

We are lucky to have them both, and a big thank you from the School for all that you do.

#### *Laundry*

Where would we be without our Laundry Ladies? In the proverbial dirty laundry basket came the reply. We owe a great debt to the never ending hard work of all our laundry ladies, who carry out their task in a dedicated manner. June Kampe, who is the senior laundry lady, has a never failing "can do" approach, and they are all to be congratulated at the way they keep our pupils' clothes in such good order. Many thanks to you all.

#### *Catering Department*

If an Army marches on its stomach, then a school cannot thrive without good food. Since 1983 Rendcomb has had Contract Caterers to run the kitchens. First it was Fairfield until 1995, then Russell and Brand; they were bought out in turn by Marriotts, and who in turn were consumed by Gardner Merchant. Talking about a mouthful! During all this time the core staff have carried out their job with good humour and a professional attitude.

We have had our fair share of problems, but now the decision has been taken to have our catering department in-house from the 9th July, so now all our non-teaching staff work for Rendcomb. This can only make the food production of a higher quality, and we can reinvest in our dining facilities, and in the quality and quantity of the food we produce for our priority clients - the pupils.

As you will have read elsewhere, Bob Stott is leaving to take up an appointment in Farnham Golf Club, and we all wish him well. His replacement, Mark Naylor, is no stranger to Rendcomb, and he will take over the new

appointment of Commercial Operations Manager on the 1st September.

#### *The Accounts Department*

Mrs Kay Collins and her team (of one - Sue Thomson, and briefly Caroline Royal), keep the show on the road. There has been an explosion of work for the Accounts Department over the last few years, and the new Accounts software has been a challenge. West Country Business Systems, support over 200 schools throughout the UK and although we have had teething problems, the Accounts office have worked tirelessly to master it. Please forgive us if there have been difficulties with fee bills or any other concerns.

We have made further investment in a computer network that links all the accounts and secretarial support offices together, which will produce further improvements in response time for all our clients.

#### *Secretarial Support*

A big thank you should go to Judi Stocks, the Headmaster's Secretary, Sarah Crosby her assistant, Sue Downie, the Bursar's Secretary, and the Hospital Visitor co-ordinator Anne Vickery, who shares an office with Sue Downie. Their tireless support and infectious enthusiasm for their responsibilities mean we can provide the support necessary. It is very much the end of an era, with the departure of John Tolputt, and the arrival of Gerry Holden as the new Headmaster.

Change is always hard to cope with, especially if you have worked for someone for a long time, and I would like to thank Judi Stocks in particular, on behalf of the School, for all the hard work that she has put into front of house and her secretarial duties, since she arrived 6 years ago. She will now take on the duties of the new Head's PA.

Before the other ladies think I have forgotten them, I am of course grateful for their contribution to the smooth running of the school. Thank you for all your work.

#### *Marketing*

Dr Penrose Shackel and Nicoletta Tuteri continue to keep Rendcomb in the public eye, and there is no doubt that we are becoming more widely known to our prospective parents. A huge amount of work has been done by the Marketing Office, which has included some very successful Hands On Days, Open Days for prospective Pupils, the Rendcomb Newsletter, and detailed analysis of all enquiries. The move of the Registrar function to work alongside Marketing will be a further improvement along the path to the registration of more pupils. A big round of applause for our Marketing Department!

#### *Horticultural Consultants*

It is no accident that the urns and flowerbeds are such a credit to the School, because we have Bill White and Tony Partridge as our Horticultural "hands on" consultants. They labour away keeping the environs of

Rendcomb looking beautiful, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their loving labours. It is hard to imagine Rendcomb without lovely flowers, and their care and attention is appreciated by us all.

#### *Laboratory Technicians*

Without our Laboratory Technicians, none of the experiments in the Science classrooms would materialise. Joan Essenhigh, and Derek and Margaret Coombes are the stalwart support to Chris Wood, the Head of Science and his Staff, in the old Stable Block. Derek also devotes some of his time to looking after the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme equipment for Carlo Vuolo, as well as being official clock winder, security watchman, and managing the resources room for all the teaching staff who use the Stable Block. What teamwork!

#### **The Dining Room Ceiling**

The loss of our Dining Room due to the collapse of the false ceiling was a severe blow. Thanks to tremendous efforts by Paul Cairns and Bob Stott, the impact to the smooth running of the School was minimised, and the



**Dulverton Hall became the Dining Room (and everything else).**

The dining Room ceiling collapsed on Monday 17th May at 12.20 PM. Six of the kitchen staff were underneath at the time of the incident. None of them, fortunately have suffered long term effects.

After a structural engineer had surveyed the ceiling, we have made it safe and now plan to restore it, thanks to our Trustees, to its original glory. We hope it will be ready as near to the start of the winter Term as possible. At the same time, to comply with fire regulations, we are opening up the doors between the Reading room and the Dining Room, which will give us more flexibility.

#### **Farewell to John and Patta Tolputt**

These notes would not be complete without a big thank you to John and Patta Tolputt, for all the help and kindness they have shown to Suzie and me over the last five years. We wish them all the best fortune in their new

exciting life at the Purcell School of Music, and a big hug for their friendship and company during some exciting times at Rendcomb.

JFAG

## The Parents' Association

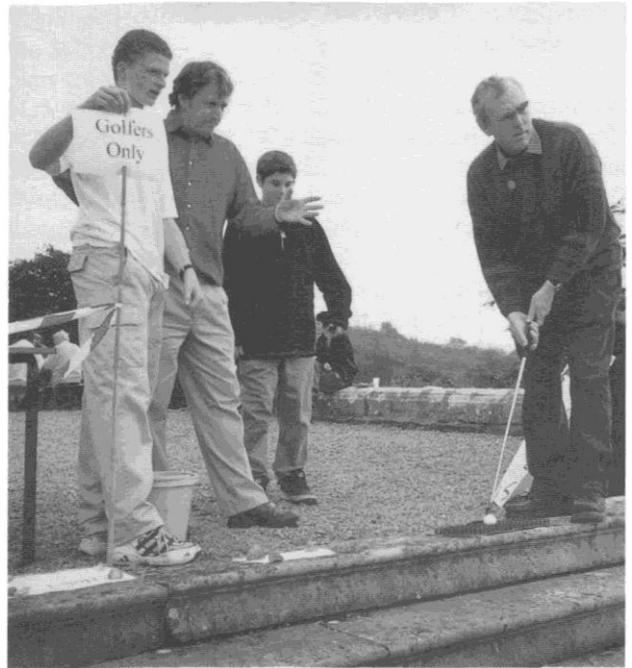
According to the song "You don't know What You've got till it's Gone", we ought to have only now realised the poignancy of Mr and Mrs Tolputt's departure, but that was emphatically not the case. When I wrote to the parents half way through the Summer Term, John was still at Rendcomb's helm and we all knew he was a good 'un - the parents responded magnificently to my invitation to contribute towards a present for John and Patta, and some £1,200 was raised. On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, during the interval of "Grease" I was privileged to present a large banquet of flowers to Patta and a state of the art Panasonic Digital Camcorder to John with love from all and best wishes for happiness in the future.

In the last year, we repeated our successful Bonfire Night Celebrations with excellent fireworks under the direction of Paul Cairns, a huge bonfire and an evening of great music. There was a quiz night in aid of Cheltenham General Hospital Special Babycare Unit. We supported the Art Department's amazing Fashion Show, and held a Cabaret night. All these events were enjoyed by those who attended —sometimes we wished more parents had come! We have been able to send books and a radio, pens and pencils to Irigithathi School in Kenya who have written to tell us how much they appreciate our aid and the link with us. We have also been able to contribute towards the school rugby and cricket tours, to support "Noyes Fludde", and to fund both the skateboard ramp at The Old Rectory, and new lights for school discos.

We look forward to a host of events next year, the first highlight being the Bonfire Night Celebrations on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1999, the previous versions of this event having been so well supported in the past and having been special nights for socialising, meeting old friends and making new ones. The year will culminate in the Millennium Ball on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2000, an event well worth waiting for. I am sure we also look forward to meeting and working with Gerry Holden of whom I hear such good things.



**Patta Tolputt and Robina Sabourin on Gala Day**



**Mr Scarth at the first tee on Gala Day**

As always there have been many people to thank, not least all of the parents for their support throughout last year, but perhaps particularly my recent Vice Chairman, Jayne Nicholas, who has been a great support and has worked hard behind the scenes. I would also like to thank Bob Stott, Rendcomb's catering manager who is sadly leaving, but who worked so diligently to help and support the Parents' Association and its events with his wonderful team.

Finally I count myself fortunate to have known Ian Abbott who died earlier this year. Ian was not a "high Profile" parent who thrust himself into the limelight, but he was always there to help and support with wise words in committee and practical help at events, manning the bar or a stall at Gala day. I am extremely glad that his widow Judy has allowed me to co-opt her onto the committee - she has got so much to offer in terms of enthusiasm and commitment and I know she wishes to carry on Ian's good work.

Paul Stanfield, Chairman.

## The Library

One of the main tasks in any Library is to continue to widen the range and diversity of the books available, and Rendcomb's library is no exception. The main target this year has been to increase the number of novels for lower school readers, and this has proved very popular, with the First and Second Years in particular borrowing books at an unprecedented rate. At the same time, the needs of the Sixth Form have not been overlooked: the demand for books on subjects from Coleridge to Chemistry and Camus to Chartres has remained as strong as ever! The end result of all this is that some 490 new books have been added this year, with more in the pipeline. The Library is now bursting at the seams, and, with shelf-

space at a premium, inevitably some of the older and less-used books have had to be transferred to store. Indeed, even the store is now beginning to show signs of indigestion, and more shelving will be needed in there shortly.

The other main task has been the ongoing process of re-cataloguing. This is a long-term project, and this year it was the turn of Languages and the Classics. Something like half the Library has now been brought into line with a more modern version of the Dewey classification system, but there are still a lot of books to go!

As ever, the Library has benefited from the generosity of many people in donating books this year. I would like to place on record our gratitude to Donald Christie, Julian Comrie, Mrs Audrey Gibbs, Dr. & Mrs Gilbert, Douglas Payne, Rebecca Preston, Nicolas Walter, Sandy Westhead, Mrs Elizabeth Wheeler, David White and John Willson. It is particularly pleasing that these donations come from so many different sources: past and present members of staff, current parents and pupils, Rendcombians, Rendcombian authors, and friends and benefactors of the College. In this way, the Library represents the *whole* Rendcomb community. Without these gifts, the Library would be much the poorer. Especial mention should also be made of the Old Rendcombian Society's *Kathleen James Memorial Fund*, money from which has been offered for the purchase of a particularly significant book or set of books in her memory. We are grateful to them all.

MHG

## House Reports

### Lawn House

It has been a successful year for Lawn House, with Ian Forster being very much in control, apart from the odd Saturday night! Harry Aldrich-Blake had been a good deputy Head of House, commanding respect from his housemates.

Nick Hall has a hard act to live up to, carrying on the long standing tradition of a Lawn House Head Boy (who could have been picked from Stable House?) but if anybody can, it will be him. I'm sure he will have the adoration of the younger years, especially the ones from Park House!

The Housemasters have done a good job in Lawn House, Mr Slark always making callovers an enjoyable experience (unless the Sixth Form kitchen wasn't cleaned after the previous Saturday night). On the days that Mr North was on duty it was always a pleasure, discussing all manner of topics, from his Fourth Year French sets' test results, to his awful dancing in "Grease".

Mr Murray (whose presence will be greatly missed) has been invaluable to the smooth running of the House, humouring those under his command at every step and Mr Sudbury, who takes the strain off Mr Slark on Friday nights, was also very pleasant as the duty teacher.

It is with sadness that James Brittain-Jones and Ed Farnsworth leave us to go onto Junior House to bring the Lawn House influence to the younger years, but our loss is their gain.

The future looks bright for Lawn House.

Oliver Jeffcott

### Park House

With the second year of Mrs Blackwell's running of Park House, hard work was combined with fun for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form girls. With the help of Mrs Gill and later Miss Hatton, Mrs Barber and Mrs Ewing, Park House ran as smoothly as ever.

Of course there were minor incidents, for example the time when Park House was nearly burnt to ashes due to faulty electric filters. The strange thing was I think the girls were more interested in the firemen than the loss of all their rooms and possessions. Furthermore there was another incident when, on Mrs Blackwell's first night she alerted Mr Cairns when she mistook the milkman for a burglar!

The amount of bread and butter consumed by the girls this year was phenomenal with the majority eaten by the Sixth Form after each Saturday bar when gossiping over previous events. Usual complaints were made by other members of staff, like "Will Sarah Padmore please tie her hair back?" and general other complaints concerning too much make-up, too much jewellery and, as always, untucked shirts.

Phillipa Hunt made an excellent Head of House, showing not only leadership but also great friendship with the younger years. The 6A girls will be greatly missed and without the voice of Sophie Worlock it just won't be the same. It is super to have Maggie Schumacher as Head Girl next year and I am sure she will make a great Head of House with her enthusiasm and enjoyment for life which will benefit Park House enormously.

Overall, Park House has had a very successful year and the girls are looking forward to carrying it into the millennium.

Sophie Sprawson

### School House

The idea of School House was not only scary, but sharing a house with the Sixth Form, a dream come true! Mr Griffiths showed us our rooms and we all decided that leaving Godman wouldn't be all that bad.

We were petrified of the first day; it was like starting a new school. It had all been newly painted and posters of gorgeous men and little things here and there like flashing mermaids and beach balls made it all the more welcoming, thanks to Becky Taplin. At last we had our own rooms and some freedom. The first callover was nerve-racking and we mumbled to answer our names as



“the unbustables” stared at us. We sat in total silence trying not to be noticed.

Soon enough we were caught up with the whirl of the excitement of the new term. It was obvious by the smell that it had previously been a boys’ house. Mouldy milk, melted butter and smelly boys’ games socks (and the third year boys) all contributed to the pungent aroma around the house. Only now have we got rid of the smell that Chas Holiday, Johnny Davies, Starkey and others had left in our corridor. This was definitely different to our sheltered days in Godman - we were on our own.

It only took a few weeks before we had settled in and when the third years hitting Ben Hopley with snooker cues got too much we could retreat to our own wing. We have now gained the name “ghetto girls” which will probably stick the whole way through School House. A few times we have taken advantage of staying in School House and have had our ups and downs and on that note we accepted Mr Griffiths’ advice and took to heart his keyword - “Discretion”!

We enjoy being the guinea pigs of School House, being the first girls in school. There were many “urns and ahs” over whether a co-educational house would work but we have proved them wrong.

It has been a wicked year and thanks to everyone who has made it what it is - especially Mr & Mrs Griffiths.

Olivia Evans

## Stable House

With the increasing number of “characters” arriving over the last year or so into Stable House, it is perhaps fitting that Stable has become more prominent particularly on the social side of things, since September.

The Stable House “Rock Concert” was particularly successful, which saw for once, even some Lawn House boys desperate to get in on the action. The main band, plus several highly eccentric guest singers especially Rocky Fung, helped create a relaxed yet energetic atmosphere.

Those with a flair for acting had the chance to shine this year, particularly Josh Coppersmith-Heaven and Barnaby Kellett, the latter having impressed both in “The Tempest” and the more recent production of “Grease”.

Chris Sykes finally saw the fight and moved to Stable to board at the start of the Summer term, although strangers to Stable might be forgiven for thinking he already lived there! This has however made up for the departure of Will Warrington, Donald Godfrey and Julius Hassemmer, who have since moved on to other things. We have also learnt much from the Housestaff during this term. Mr Williams continues to assure the third formers in particular that there is no such thing as “too much prep” as has Mr Vuolo, except of course when it’s “Champions League” night, when it appears to take a back seat - or so I’ve been told!

Keen sportsmen have also featured this year, as part of the make-up of the house including members of the 1st XV, hockey performances for the County from Jon Pratt and the first team tennis stars Tom Mais and Patrick van Welij, to name but a few.

The 6A leavers within the house have been a great group to five with and they will doubtless be greatly missed. Special mention must be made of our Head of House Phil Webb, who has done a great job on both the administrative and the social side of things. However, this achievement will no doubt be matched next year by Richard Walder, as he looks forward to the new challenge next September.

As we look forward to the New Year in September, the final year for many of us, we hope to enjoy the kind of friendly and relaxed atmosphere that Stable exudes, and naturally wish it to continue for many years yet.

Matthew Williams

## Godman House 1998 -1999

by the Laundry Lady

Life in Godman House is always very busy. I don't know how Mrs Dodd copes! The pets' room has been particularly popular this year and it's right next door to my laundry room. I can hear a lot about what is going on from there and I go in most days, particularly as there are now baby rabbits. I used to work in a breeding kennels, you know! Here are some of my recollections of this year:

**10th September:** individual school photos. Everyone expected a new, clean uniform, even though they hadn't put them in the wash. I hope that they are better prepared for the whole school photo next week.

**17th September:** I knew they would forget!

**18th September:** A new logo for Rendcomb! I hope they ask me to sew it onto the girls’ jumpers. It is so much less complicated than the Griffin and would look nice in pink chain stitch.

**22nd October:** They’ve started making the Guy already. I'm not amused: the pets’ room is knee deep in straw and

their jumpers are covered! I still haven't been asked to embroider the jumpers, either!

**13th November:** They had a skin care workshop last night - it's not hard to tell: their clothes are covered in make-up and they are all wearing far too much today.

**26th November:** More make-up everywhere (especially glitter) for *The Tempest*.

**9th December:** Lots of sheets to wash! All the day girls boarded last night because they'd been to see *Joseph* in Oxford. Today there's food around everywhere. They must be having another party after the Christmas sketches! Almost the end of term. Perhaps I will be able to sew on the logo in the holidays.

**7th January:** a New Zealand gap student called Miss Chisnall has arrived. She seems very nice.

**18th January:** Everywhere is a mess today. The heating has broken down and the First and Second Form all slept in the Common Room. They said their dorms were too cold.

**12th February:** The Valentine's day post box was emptied today, with much excitement. I'm sure I'll find a few love letters in their skirt pockets when they come through to me. I meant to send a card to Mr Morgan but I didn't have time. Pity!

**26th February:** Fashion Show tonight. I'll watch it if I can.

**13th March:** Charity Ball tonight. It sounds lovely. There are flower arrangements all over the Common Room. Luckily Mrs Grey seems to be telling the girls what to do. They shall have to take their ball gowns to the dry cleaners. I don't suppose they would survive the washing machines.

**18th March:** The Second Form have left for Germany. Everywhere seems quieter and cleaner and there is less laundry.

**23rd April:** "Noyes Fludde" tonight and tomorrow, but my laundry is coming in more than two by two!

**21st June:** It's exams and they're obviously too busy to put things in the wash.

**26th June:** Gemma and Becky, our Sixth Form prefects are leaving. What will we do without them? I will even miss Becky's laddered tights!

**30th June:** "Grease". I hope that I don't have to wash any of that out!

**6th July:** A "Grotty Disco" for the Juniors and 3rd Form boys watching videos in the Common Room. Is that allowed?

**7th July:** A surprise party for Miss Phipps in the village hall. I shall have to get the tumble dryers working. I hear that there were floods of tears.

**9th July:** End of Term. A welcome rest for pupils, staff and washing machines!

Alice Hughes

## The Old Rectory

Being Houseparents here has been a wonderful experience. Unfortunately I am no longer able to take an active part in the day-to-day running of the house but I maintain a very active interest. The boys are lovely (most

of the time) and are very interesting and good fun! We are fortunate to have a very good tutor team in Mr Patterson, Mr Murray, Mrs Taplin and Mrs Drew, not forgetting the vital contribution of the two Sisters. It may seem like a lot of people but when the boys are here there is always an adult presence in the house.

Our aim has been to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the boys. They are only little, Prep school age really, and in term time this is their home. The overall reduction in the number of boys has meant a more flexible use of the accommodation. We try to see all prospective parents of eleven and twelve year old boys. They get a chance for an interview and to see round and get a feel for the place. P.R. these days is the name of the game! We also have to keep the Fire Office and HMI happy!! Overnight stays, just like at home, are encouraged. We may get some more boarders that way. Flexible boarding is a real concept here; we would like some more boys, especially boarders.

We are grateful to the College for their financial input in helping us to achieve our aims but there is always room for more improvement! We are especially grateful to the Parents' Association for their financial help. We are delighted with the new skateboard ramp that the Association has provided which has given our boys somewhere safe to play.

Our prefects play a vital role. They apply, give references and are interviewed just like applying for a job. Hopefully this is a good experience. We have been very fortunate in our prefects most notably in our first two, Robert Hart and James Fairbank and in our current two, Theo Berry and Beans Boughton. We are pleased that the prefects' common room has become the focus for lots of visitors. Perhaps Beans and Theo are particularly welcoming, but the boys reap all the benefit at bedtime! Prefects may feel it is a privilege to be here but they work very hard. They are the eyes and ears of the Housemaster. Nobody can be in more than one place at any one time or has eyes at the back of the head!

Discipline here is based on sensible behaviour, good manners and fairness. Unless we have some real villains it is not usually a problem. Like the school, we have as few rules as possible. To outsiders (we are very public) it may sound like St Trinian's at times but we hope it is a happy house. We have learned that exhaustion, dealing with homesickness and cleaning up sick are part of a Houseparent's lot, just as friendships, midnight feasts and sorties onto the parapets are important to the boys.

When boys leave the womb of the Old Rectory, they often do not want to acknowledge us for the first year or two - they are establishing themselves as seniors in the senior houses - but they know, I hope, that they are always welcome here and we continue to care for and be interested in them. It is lovely to see them grow up and come back feeling, like all Rendcombians, comfortable in their own skin.

Judy White

## Godman House Charity Ball

*The speech below was read out at assembly on the Monday after the Ball had occurred.*

We decided to base our speech about the Godman House Charity Ball on the story of Adrian Mole which all the First Year are reading in English. My piece is called "The Secret Diary of Heather Roper, aged 12 and three quarters."

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Charity Ball Day

7.00am Woke up and realised today was the day. Brushed teeth extra hard. Checked the dress - yes, I am all ready.

8.45 - 12.10. Lessons - none worth mentioning apart from seeing who is at the back, and as usual English lesson from Mrs Dodd. Have I got it right?

12.10pm. Made starters with Mrs Ramsay. Stuck my finger in 45 prawn cocktails. Felt sick.

1.30pm. Mrs Grey taught us flower arranging in the Common Room.

1.40pm. Common Room two feet deep in flowers, spilt buckets of water. Mrs Dodd loses temper for the first time and retires to her living room for "a rest"; I think it was a gin.

3.00pm. Napkin folding with Miss Houghton. She never loses her temper.

4.00 pm. Blowing up helium balloons. Much silliness.

5.30pm Nearly time for the Ball! We got dressed, makeup on, hair on, shoes on. Edwina Wickham's dress ripped. Emergency repairs. Mrs Dodd has another rest and seems surprisingly cheerful now.

7.00pm. The Ball. Parents, Staff and all of us assemble in the Reading Room for drinks. Mr Auld appears wearing a dress. Miss Phipps appears almost wearing a dress.



7.30pm. Harriet Stutchbury arrives fashionably late. Third Year disappear outside for a breath of fresh air. Ha Ha!!

Meal served. Everyone is eating the prawn cocktails I stuck my finger in!

8.45pm. Ballroom dancing starts. Some very unlikely couples: -

Mr Tolputt and Mrs Ewing  
Miss Phipps and Rebekah Taplin  
Verity Symcox and the Head Boy

Mrs Dodd threatens to dance with everybody and eventually settles for Mitja Lapis, who surprisingly wins the prize for the best dancer!

9.20pm. We retire to the Dulverton Hall for the disco. More embarrassing dancing from the teachers, especially Mr North.

9.30pm. Fortune Teller is a huge success. I think it was because it was a man wearing earrings.

10.00pm. Romilly and Mark are official. I finally get a dance - thank you Tom.

10.30pm. The Charity Ball ends! Mrs Dodd slumped



under drinks' table. She said she was counting tokens. Miss Houghton exhausted but happy. Mr White insists we do this at Christmas. I retire happy. Now I know what a ball is all about.

Over £1,000 was raised and split between a sponsored child in Africa, Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the NSPCC.

Thank you to the Ball Committee and especially Miss Houghton for all your hard work.

Heather Roper

## Junior Fancy Dress Party

On the night of October 10th, Godman House, Old Rectory boys and a few Third Years all had a night of hectic laughing and running around getting changed, putting on make-up and more! And that was even before the party started.

At 7.30 we all gathered in Rendcomb Village Hall for the party of the year. We had more and more imaginative outfits as the night went on. For starters there were bumble bees, a fairy and also some very tough looking bodyguards. Then there was a standard lamp, a hippie and a few princesses. At one point there was even a sighting of the supermodel Naomi Campbell. The wonderful music provided by our own Ashleigh Welch kept us grooving until they brought the food out. A scrumptious spread created by Miss Houghton and Mrs Dodd reinforced by lots of other contributions, kept the whole lot of us captivated for the evening.

There were also some pictures being taken of the stunning difference in height between the nun (Miss Houghton) and the pixie (Charlotte Phillips). And there was lots of super dancing by everybody. Towards the end there were some prizes given out to the best dressers: - 1st Jessica Weston (Hippie), 2nd Rebecca Preston (Japanese), 3rd Mariko Watanabe (Belle), 4th Heather Roper (Standard Lamp), 5th Matthew Day (Charlie Chaplin), and in joint 6th Tom Lait and Sam Hicks who went as ..... girls!!

And after all that excitement, as was anticipated, everybody slept like logs.

Heather Roper

## Rendcomb in the 1950s

My years at Rendcomb covered the first part of the 1950s. The school was probably very different from today. There were only about 90 boys (the phrase was "pupils") and a limited number of subjects was available, with no choices up to Fifth Year.

Rendcomb's founder believed that an important part of progressive education was that it should be experienced in the countryside, and the Headmaster, Lee-Browne, was known to mention this from time to time!

Progressive education as practised at Rendcomb at that time was serious stuff. Improving mental and physical tasks were designed to fill the time, and trivial entertainments were to be spurned or severely curtailed. Television was just being re-established on the airwaves following its wartime suspension, and certainly played no part in school life. As far as I know, none of my contemporaries had it at home either. Radio, even Lord Reith's uplifting BBC, was considered inappropriate, and the staff were presumably discouraged from encouraging frivolous listening in their rooms, although we did have one jazz aficionado on the staff in my time who could sometimes be influenced to allow a select group to huddle round his radio for the sole jazz programme the BBC stooped to transmit - the 30 minutes of Jazz Club once a week (off-peak of course).

Sports and the woodwork shop had a high profile, but for quite a good minority of Rendcombians learning to know and appreciate the countryside and its plants and animals was an important element of our leisure. Although I did not realise it at the time, this was an important part of my personal heritage from school.

It was in those years that I developed an interest in wild orchids, and my photograph album contains black and white pictures of a dozen different orchids found near Rendcomb - one taken within 20 years of the school buildings.

I had my own favourite spots, mostly kept to myself, for snakes. We did have boys who would take a stick to a snake and display its corpse for general entertainment but I was simply fascinated to observe them - not without unease where adders were concerned. My favourite and most reliable spot was amongst broken masonry and nettles on the further side of the Chum downstream from the Cheltenham lodge. On a hot Summer's day several adders and grass snakes could be found basking if one approached quietly. Large edible snails "Roman snails" were in the woods towards Woodmancote. The general belief was that they had been introduced during the Roman occupation, and survived near settlements and villas ever since.

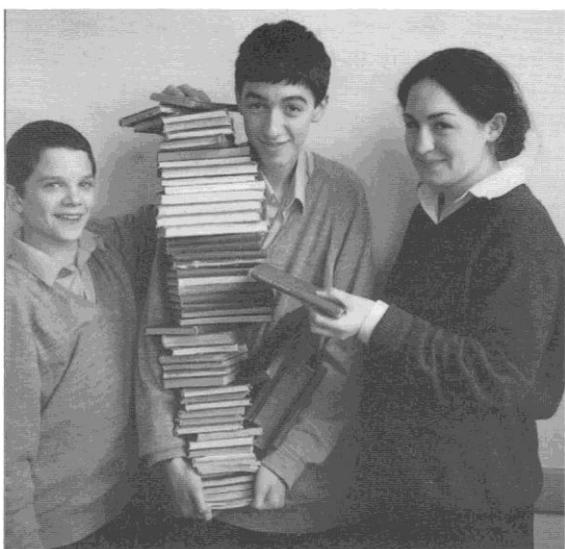
Another favourite was a dipper - or more likely a pair, though I never saw two together - under a waterfall where the lake flowed out under the bridge on the Cheltenham drive.

Perhaps nothing so well illustrates the changes in the countryside and in rural life as the fact that during my years at Rendcomb we were visited by a pack of otter hounds which hunted with great commotion, and to the detriment of one of JC James's history lessons, along the Churn.

I have only been back to Rendcomb a couple of times in the last 40 years, but now I have moved down to Bristol in my retirement I sometimes think of going back to these spots; I resist the urge, and leave it to others to tell me if these old friends are still to be found at Rendcomb.

Michael Edwards, OR (left in 1954)

## Building a Kenyan Library



Charlie Fothergill, Chris Taplin and Louise Bongiovanni hold one of the huge piles of books that have been sent to the Irigithathi Primary School, Kenya during the last twelve months. Over 1,000 books, a wind up radio, a camera and lots of pens have been sent in recent years and various events have helped raise money to send these highly valued essentials to this small African Primary School that was initially visited by Mr Martin Griffiths over twelve years ago. The work goes on and the Leavers' church collection raised another £170 which will help send even more equipment during the Summer holidays.

MSG

## Founder's Day

### Head Girl's Speech

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to add my welcome to that of the Chairman of Governors. My fellow 6A students and I, suffering from the laborious task of 'A' level completion, would also like to give a particular welcome to Mr. Tony Higgins, the Chief Executive of UCAS. We hope you have a marvellous time here and that you remember how nice we all were when it comes to that day in August, when no doubt some of us might require clearing. Incidentally, a list of our candidate numbers will be provided over lunch for your viewing pleasure.

At occasions such as these it is often mentioned how friendly it is here being such a small school. It is hard to speak about Rendcomb and not to mention this as it plays such a vital role in the ethos of the school. The "Rendcomb Spirit" is always referred to and sometimes people will dismiss it as just another cliché. It is true that I was attracted to the school by its uniqueness as it is not often you will find a place where you can put a name to almost every face, and where students are nurtured as true individuals.

Occasionally I am asked if I feel isolated from the outside world here. In some ways I think the answer is yes, but I don't see it as a bad thing. It has been a different life for me where I have made great friends and been given excellent opportunities to study and experience new challenges. In retrospect I am very glad I came to Rendcomb.

I hope they won't mind, but I would like to mention Tara Sleggs and Laura Donovan who joined the First Year in 1992 and are the first girls to come right through the school since it became fully co-educational that year. As Winston Churchill once said: "It is not the end it is not even the beginning of the end but it is perhaps the end of the beginning." When I came here five girls joined with me. Since then there has been a growing intake of girls to a school that was traditionally male dominated. So I hope our influence over you boys, and I include some of the "older boys" in the staff, hasn't been too much of a culture shock.

Like many other things, change is inevitable over time. Here at Rendcomb I have seen a fair amount of it from new schedules and teachers to new friends in the Sixth **Form and not forgetting the infamous logo.**



**Phillipa Hunt and Heather Roper on Gala Day**

There are many things I will miss when I leave, a particular one being the sport. Although Rendcomb is a small school, we manage to put out formidable teams and are a force to be reckoned with on the sports field. I have always enjoyed the camaraderie involved when playing in a team, especially a winning team. For me the most memorable moments were winning 9 out of 11 netball matches last season and beating the 6A boys last year. Surprisingly this year the boys declined the offer of a

rematch. Perhaps they could not face the humiliation of losing again!

I will also miss Saturday evenings. Being a boarder at the weekends, there has always been excellent entertainment from Sixth Form wine tasting competitions to discos and cabaret nights. This has then been followed by the Sixth Form bar - an occasion not to be missed, especially if you are interested in the latest school gossip or watching the teachers strut their stuff shamelessly on the dance floor. Of course, being Head Girl one has to be up to the moment on these issues, so my purpose being down there is purely in the name of research.

As my time at Rendcomb is drawing to a close, I would like to mention a group of people who will always fascinate me - teachers. In most cases I have great respect for them- after all, anyone working with a bunch of rowdy teenagers is either very brave or insane. Generally the latter doesn't apply, or hopefully not! I would like to thank all my teachers for putting up with my bouts of stress and self-doubt, especially over the last two years. But don't give a big sigh of relief too soon. We've still got another three weeks left!

This Summer it is not just my year leaving. As you know our Headmaster John Tolputt is heading off to a new future as Headmaster at The Purcell School in London. It feels like a compliment that you decided to leave with us, and although I won't be here, I know your presence will be sorely missed. You have set such high standards and it will be a hard task to follow in your footsteps. On behalf of everyone here, I would like to wish you the best of luck in the future and I hope the memories you take from Rendcomb will be for life.

So, what happens in life after 6A? Well, 'A' levels permitting, I will be moving to Bristol University to study Veterinary Science. People always remind me of how long and hard the course is, but I think I have been fairly well prepared for it.

It is hard to believe that I have been here for five years and that in a couple of months I will be starting a completely different life for another five years. The only wish I have is to be as happy at University as I have been here, because no matter how hard you work, there has to be some quality of life, which I have certainly experienced at Rendcomb.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce our guest of honour, Mr Tony Higgins, the chief executive of UCAS.

## **The Guest Speaker, Mr Tony Higgins, Chief Executive, UCAS.**

Mr Higgins spoke about what he knew, namely University admissions, a subject of great interest to our pupils particularly those in our Sixth Form, and to our parents. He suggested that Universities have benefits:

They are places to explore ideas, meet people and to widen horizons.

Furthermore university graduates are, on average far better paid than their non - graduate counterparts.

However University application is changing and the likelihood is that people will apply after they have obtained their A' Levels rather than before. But as this does not give them much time between results and the beginning of university term, this is not an easy option. This may be resolved by the new 16-19 curriculum arrangement in which pupils will take 5 A/S Levels in their first year, after which they will have received some results upon which to make a decision.

He was dismissive of the A' Level points system as this did not allow universities to take into account non - academic achievements.. A new points system is being created which will take account of non - academic G. N. V. Q. s, as well as taking account of the new qualifications in key skills which are being devised.

Mr Higgins wished all those taking exams, their parents and their teachers the very best of luck.

Mr Higgins ended with the story of a confrontation over breakfast between a mother and her son:

Son - "I don't want to go to school today."

Mum - "Yes you are."

Son - "No, I'm not"

Mum "Why not?"

Son - "Everyone hates me - all the staff hate me and all the pupils hate me."

Mum - "You are going to school for two perfectly good reasons - one, you are 45 years of age, and two, you are the Headmaster!"

## **Head Boy's Speech**

*Before delivering his speech, Ian emerged from a small modest cupboard carrying an imaginary box - The Gift of Rendcomb - referred to throughout his speech as this.*

*Ian thanked the guest speaker for his interesting and entertaining speech, and stated that having heard all the benefits, he was certainly looking forward to going onto University. He continued:*

I have been in that cupboard for about 5 seconds. In that time, in this big open sports hall you may have been wondering what is so important about that insignificant cupboard and if I really am a nutcase. Well let me assure you I am not. The cupboard represents Rendcomb, which, like the cupboard, doesn't seem much from the outside. You are also probably wondering what I've taken out of it. This is the intangible and unquantifiable gift the Rendcomb has given to me and it is certainly more important than it appears.

In some big schools, because of their size. This gets lost and so the school cannot give it to its pupils. However, because of its size Rendcomb can give it to each and every pupil.

Change is inevitable and necessary for improvement and happens all the time at Rendcomb as well as in the rest of the world. **This** does not seem to change at all, and has been given to the pupils since the school was founded.

Rendcomb, as a school offers many things that larger schools offer. Our sport is of a very high standard, so much so that we can regularly play and often beat teams from some of the largest and supposedly best schools in the County. The sport is played with immense pride and passion, no more so than the 1st XV rugby team. The dedication shown in sport throughout the school is rewarded with outstanding results, especially considering our size.

The qualifications our students receive are extremely good and some of the larger schools can find them difficult to match.

Our theatrical productions are as professional as those performed by larger schools and our fashion shows are completely unique. Another example, which is very dear to me, is the choir here at Rendcomb. Many of you may not realise it, but the choir is one of massive talent and has been praised by many complete strangers to the school, who have some standing in the world of music, on hearing the choir in concerts and recitals, as well as in the usual Sunday services. It is, in my view, one of Rendcomb's greatest assets. All of the things that larger school offer can be matched or bettered by Rendcomb. But what is it that Rendcomb can give its pupils because of its small size? What is **This**?

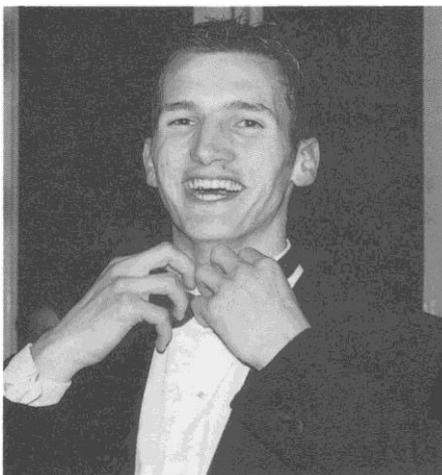
Well, one of the great benefits of a small school is that class sizes are greatly reduced. This means that the teachers can get to know each pupil very well and can cater for their individual needs. This creates a bond between pupils and staff that is reinforced by the fact that the teachers here are not just teachers. The pupils see them in the classrooms of course, but also as their coaches on the games pitches, as their Houseparents in their houses and in many other roles in many different areas of school life. Because of this the staff and pupils do not remain in two separate camps but they see each other as individual people, which creates a bond between them as well as a sense of unity and family which larger schools cannot offer so easily.

As there are comparatively so few pupils, we all get to know each other very well. In a large school it may be possible to avoid a person but here we are constantly around each other. We have to live with each other and therefore we must get on with each other. Thus we all become very tolerant of other people.

In the same way caring is much more of an issue here. No-one likes being in close proximity to someone who is upset and so everyone helps each other through the bad times as much as possible. Also as a result of the small

year sizes, it is not very easy to be a shrinking violet; everyone is in the limelight and especially in the upper years everyone has some responsibility to a greater or lesser extent. These aspects of Rendcomb help to improve the confidence of the pupils. I doubt if I would be standing up here if it were not for the confidence that I have gained while at Rendcomb.

One of the best decisions my parents ever made for me was to send me here. Rendcombians past and present are a very special group of people and you would be unlikely to meet anyone more privileged or fortunate than them.



This, then, is made up of the tolerance, unity, confidence and care that Rendcomb has given to every pupil. Two more parts which exist are the parts of this gift that I value the most: my memories and my friends. My memories of the school, the people and the wonderful times I have had here, make me smile at the moment and no doubt in years to come, the memories will be one of my greatest treasures.

The most important thing to me, however, are my friends. This is a perfect environment for cultivating friendships and my life has been immeasurably changed and improved by the friends that I have made. Friends who have helped me through the bad times and enjoyed the good times with me to the full. Their friendship is more precious to me than anything I own, or anything I am.

*At this point, Ian started to fold up his "Gift" as with a piece of paper and put it in his pocket.*

I don't really know who to thank for my gift and for making Rendcomb the wonderful place it is today. The founder perhaps, or the present staff, or the pupils, or the Governors, or anyone who is part of Rendcomb in any way. But certainly one person who has done an enormous amount to making it what it is, is Mr Tolputt.

The good things at Rendcomb are so often obvious to everyone, and so taken for granted that, as on one previous Founder's Day, people have felt they do not need to be talked about. Well, I feel that every once in a while we should remind ourselves of what we are. Mr Tolputt is one of these wonderful things and he will soon be lost to Rendcomb. It is a great shame that he is leaving but I am very happy and proud that I was a member of his last 6A and his last Head Boy. Mr Tolputt is an extremely positive man, so much so that even a disaster like the dining room ceiling falling down can become a publicity benefit for the school. He always has a kind word for everyone and is therefore an excellent confidence booster. I don't know what more to say except that he will be dearly missed, and to thank him for the amazing amount he has done, not just for the school but for so many individuals over the years.

I would like to draw to a close you will be glad to hear, by asking you to take a moment as you leave today to reflect on the gifts, like mine, that you have been given. I hope that you treasure your gifts as much as I treasure those that Rendcomb has given me.

I did not want to make this a long speech as the most important things can be briefly expressed.

The Lord's Prayer has 56 words; the Ten Commandments has 297; the American Declaration of Independence has 300 but an EU directive on the import of caramel and caramel products requires 26,911 words. The moral is obvious, and so my most important point is brief. Rendcomb is a fantastic, wonderful and very special place and anyone who goes, or has gone here has received a wonderful gift and is, like me, extremely privileged and fortunate to have done so.

*The Headmaster's report which followed is to be found under the tributes to John and Patta Tolputt on page 6.*

## Performing and Creative Arts

### Drama

#### ***"The Tempest"* at Rendcomb**

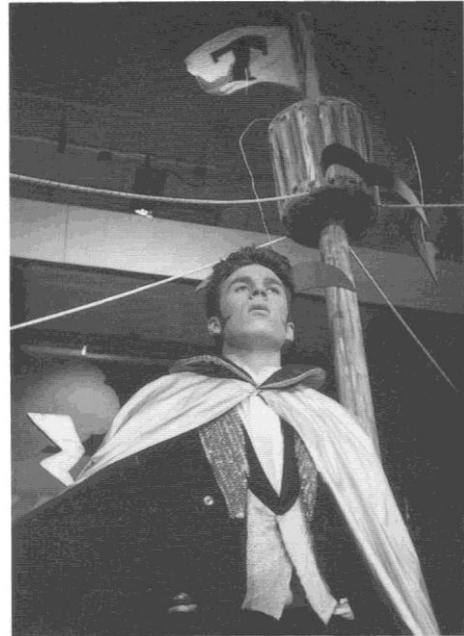
*"The Tempest"* in Rendcomb's Orangery Theatre led a rapt audience on a journey into the magic island of Shakespeare's imagination.

Master of Ceremonies was Theo Berry as Prospero. In Magician's jacket, he did not just conjure up a storm but the whole play. This was a commanding performance, light of touch, beautifully humane and a still centre for the production's marvellous, witty, whirling vitality.



His magic started with a human sea, the first of many startling and brilliant effects. Rebekah Taplin as his daughter, who had never known anything apart from the world of the island, represented the perfection that only

innocence can bring. Her meeting with the stranded prince, finely played by Nick Hall, was extraordinarily delicate and moving.



Kate Nicholas, as Ariel, helped create such moments - and many more - with her haunting singing. Thom Gilbert, who had composed and played the crucial and glorious music, complemented her and gave the whole production poignant depth.

Ariel's hunger for freedom was balanced by Caliban's different hunger - for freedom certainly, but for someone to worship too. Beans Boughton was extraordinary: stupid, cowed, angry, but somehow also sympathetic. His scenes with the splendid double act of Trinculo (Oliver Poole) and Stephano (Barney Vick) were both funny and sad.

In a play about the power of the imagination, Richard Murray, the director, asked the audience to use their imagination too. Nothing was ever quite what it seemed: the masque scene was three assorted characters from modern London, the banquet was bottles of ketchup and bags of crisps, the villains were from an all-star Agatha Christie movie, the ladies in waiting were from Goldeneye. Get on with it, the production seemed to say, use your imagination.

The effect was reinforced by the design, which surrounded the audience with wit and variety. The makeup and costumes were remarkable, the casting was strong in depth.

At the very end of the play, the magician finally released his magic. With Ariel's help, Prospero de-robbed and, after clearing up his mess, he gave his servant her release. Kate Nicholas paused for a moment and then quietly left. It was as though we were waking from a dream; with a few final words, Prospero said farewell and - reluctantly - we gave him his release. This was theatre as it should be and so seldom is - a marvellous, heartening dream.

JNT

## Power and Pain at Rendcomb College

"The Last Yankee" in Rendcomb's Orangery Theatre was an evening of extraordinary power. (See photograph)

Arthur Miller's play, set in a psychiatric hospital, explores lives blasted not by tragedy but by disappointment. Rebekah Taplin, giving one of four superb performances, describes the suicides of the two brothers whom she worshipped; when asked why they did it, she simply looks at her feet and says with all the bleakness in the world, "I knew the reason".

This is a heart-stopping moment, and one among many. Thom Gilbert is the successful man used to secretaries and getting things done. Awkwardly out of his depth in the hospital waiting room, he looks round for something impressive, and finds an enormous car park. Meanwhile, behind every successful man lies an exhausted woman, and in this case his wife, played with a sure and sensitive touch by Kate Nicholas, is a pitiful wreck. Her self-esteem is so low that she can't even go shopping for fear of choosing the wrong shop; all she wants to is tap dance and be praised for it by her husband. Thom Gilbert conveys all the embarrassment of a public man being let down by a wife who behaves unacceptably oddly. His longing for control is expressed in tiny self-important gestures and random bullying.

Theo Berry is quietly effective as the carpenter with seven children; briefly he becomes a target for this bullying. He is perhaps at the centre of the play: Arthur Miller himself loved making things out of wood and he gives the carpenter some of the best lines. His wife struggles to cope with her life with him, terror mixed with much joy and optimism. He makes people round him suffer in less obvious ways than the businessman, perhaps because of his stem principles and refusal to jack up the prices he charges for his work. In the end they face the future together, the woman having been invigorated by a brief period of friendship in the hospital, but it is an uncertain and unsentimental optimism.

The bleak themes are brilliantly reflected in a simple black and white set, with the floor design full of sharp and jagged edges. There is no colour anywhere, brilliantly

conjuring up the greyness of depression. Yet in this fine production by Karen Ewing, four actors playing together in delicate and moving harmony create a total effect that is not depressing at all. A triumph, and as good an evening of theatre as you will ever get.

JNT



## Rendcomb Brecht at the Festival

Rendcomb's contribution to the Brecht Festival within the Cheltenham Literary Festival was a stark and moving series of short plays written about Brecht's experience of the 1930's.

Hideous black and white film images are part of the imagination of all of us: Hitler ranting, Nazi processions, a little hill of shoes at Auschwitz; Rendcomb's production provided a glimpse of the real lives behind those images.

In a sustained piece of powerful characterisation, Rebekah Taplin portrayed a Jewish woman leaving her Aryan husband for

fear of persecution. And a young boy, Barney Vick, is bullied by his Nazi-youth superior, Ian Forster, so that speech itself becomes also impossible. And ordinary parents, played by Kate Nicholas and Richard Murray, shake in blank terror at the thought that their son might be spying on them.

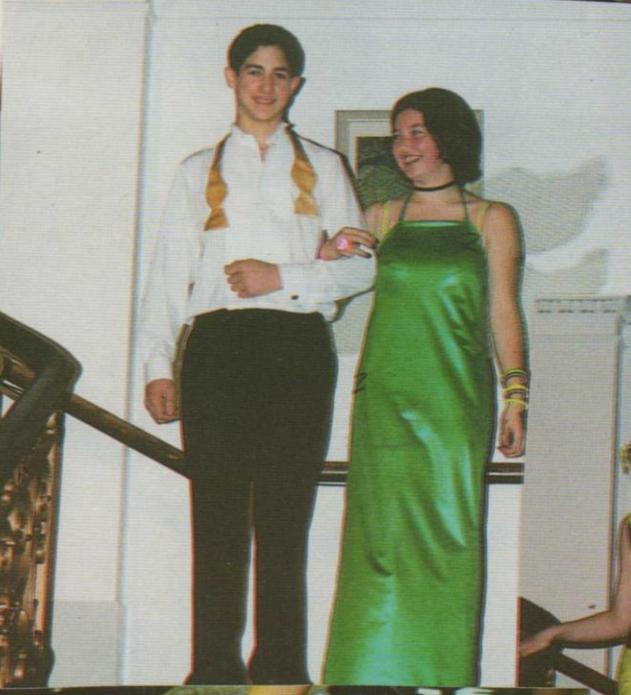
Helping to turn the kaleidoscope into new and ever more frightening patterns were Nellie Abbott, Marguerita Schumacher and of course directors Diana Dodd and Karen Ewing.

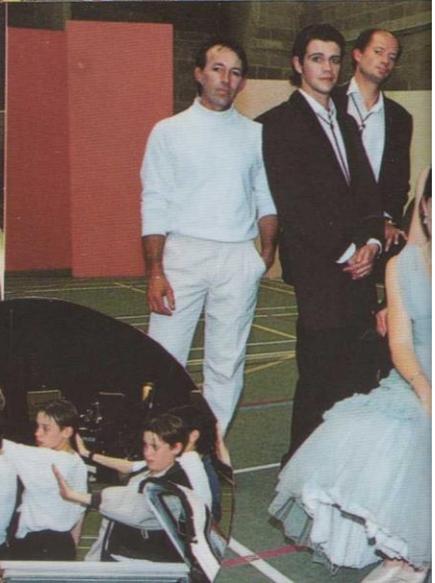
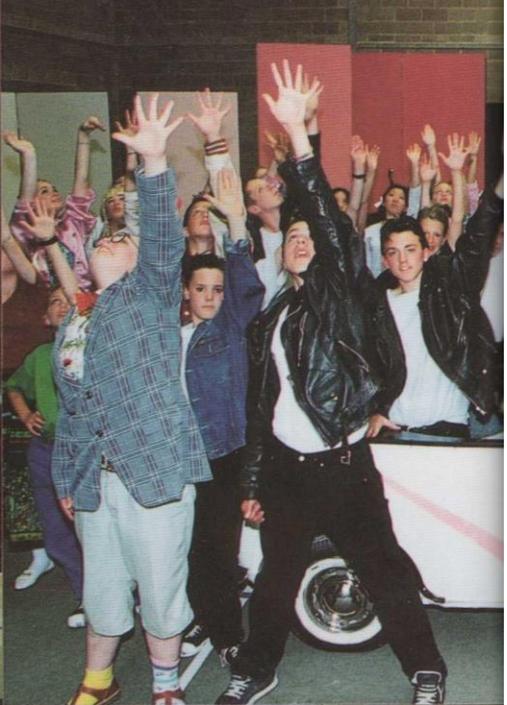
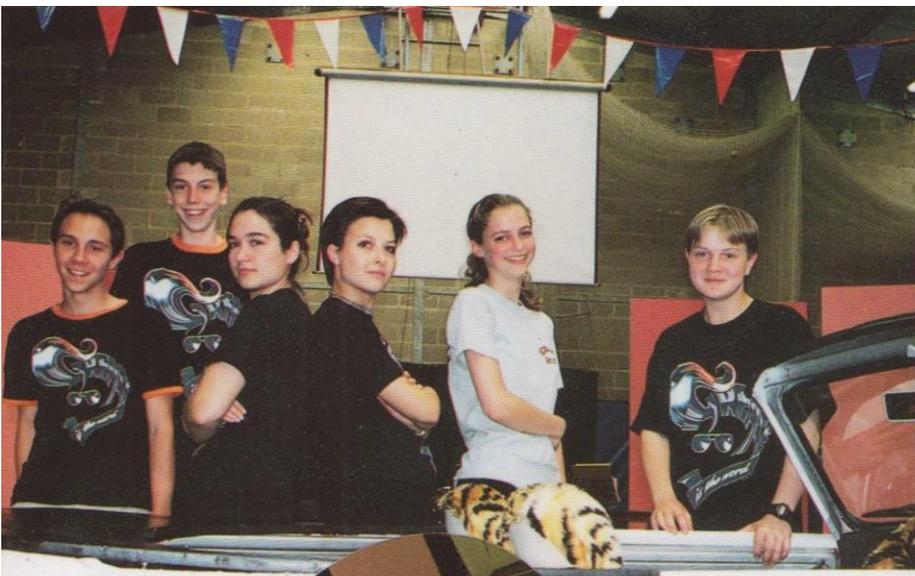
The bleak power of the performances was enhanced by strange make-up leaving a part of the face red and raw. This was a splendidly effective degree of stylisation in realistic settings. Just enough: refreshing not to have alienation thrust down your throat but sufficiently suggested. Similarly the curtain call turned into an ironic parody of the idea that we should be cheerfully clapping after witnessing such pain and blasted lives.

The evening was a triumph of concentration and teamwork. Another splendid success for Rendcomb and its vibrant Theatre Studies department.

JNT

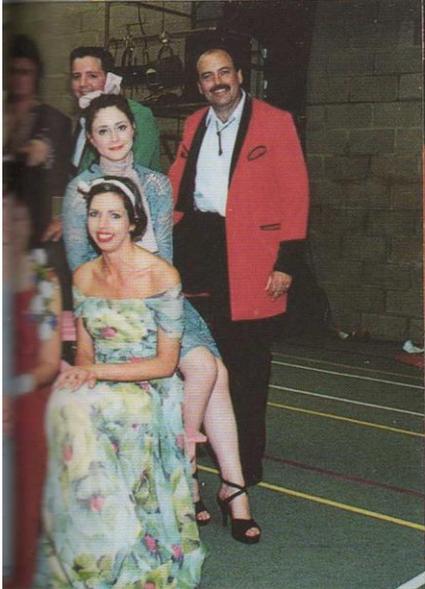
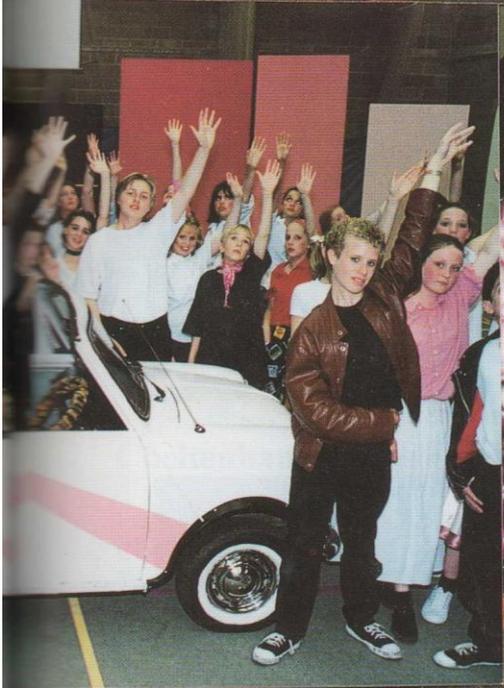
Photos opposite: **The Cafe of Fashion**







RYDELL  
RAIDERS





**Memories of Music 1998/99:**

**Bachfest performers; Naomi Phipps and David White in concert; The Choir singing at The Cafe of Fashion; Phil Dunn playing at Gala Day**

(Clockwise from top)



## Theatre Studies Exam Summer 1999

### All's Fair in Love and War

At the beginning of the Lent Term, the 'A' Level Theatre Studies group came up with the idea of a great exam piece. We were inspired by a play we had seen at Dean Close's Bacon Theatre. The play was based on the Greek myth the Judgement of Paris and was co-written by Kate Nicholas and Rebekah Taplin with the help of Nellie Abbott and Marguerita Schumacher. The set was a nine foot Greek mask made during the Easter holidays with the help of Mr. Auld.

On the day, both Kate and Rebekah (the two students being examined) put on outstanding performance as the goddesses Athena and Aphrodite. The play proved to be both colourful and powerful, capturing the tension inherent in the myth upon which the play was based. (See back cover)

Both Kate and Rebekah gave monologue performances which captivated the audience, Kate delivering a beautifully paced and moving speech from 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and Rebekah plumbing the emotional depths of the part of Juanita. They also performed together in a really amusing version of a scene between the nurse and Juliet from 'Romeo and Juliet', Kate playing the young lover, Rebekah the cushion-stuffed matron.

After the drama, Mrs. Taplin had prepared a stunning Greek buffet in the Reading Room which all enjoyed tremendously, especially the staff who were encouraged by the vats of Ouzo and Retsina on offer.

Thanks must go to those who helped make the performances so successful.

Nellie Abbott

### Cheltenham Dance Festival

Last November, the Theatre Studies Group entered the Cheltenham Festival of Literature held at Cheltenham Town Hall. After about two months of punishing rehearsals and choreography sessions, the girls, with the help of dance teacher Kate Bates, had finally structured and perfected their dance. The dance was entitled "Kairos", the Greek word for opportunity and involved a series of mirrored and symmetrical movements followed by short burst of staggered gesture.

The Theatre Studies Group would like to thank Kate Bates as well as Mrs Dodd and Mrs Ewing for making our performance possible and for pushing us to the standard of which they knew we were capable.

Kate Nicholas

### "Grease"

"Grease" indeed was the word as well as the sight and sound that filled the Sports' Hall at the end of the Summer term. Never had such a huge production been

mounted in the grounds of Rendcomb, and indeed the move from the Dulverton to the Sports' Hall occasioned massive rearrangement in terms of covering the roof with enormous swathes of black bailer plastic to prevent the light coming in. and setting up lighting in a place where there was no wiring, no electricity and nothing to hang any lights on. However, we were not to be put off and on the day that it was promised "Grease" happened. And did it happen! The audience was immediately struck by the wonderful business and colour created by the arrival of the crowds of people who rushed onto the stage. Throughout this performance one of the most impressive aspects was the vitality and animation displayed by the participants who could very easily have left it to others to have done the acting. The wonderfully varied but involved faces were a delight to watch.

The main characters too acted with assurance and panache. Ashleigh Welch was a convincing Sandy, playing both the shy innocent and the leather clad teenager with ease. Christopher Taplin at last made his debut on stage as Danny, and it was well worth the wait. What a man! He fitted into his leathers like a natural and at all times the character he was playing shone through as did the grease on his hair. These two characters were strongly supported by a host of others. Felicity Levy-Bull, another who has done very little acting, was wonderful as Frenchy; every line she said had one listening, her accent grating just in the right way! Sam Reid made a moving Rizzo, her singing in the second half inspiring the audience to sympathise with her. Alex Pardhy, in her last role at Rendcomb, played an appropriately tarty Marty, a wonderful moment being her display of the photograph album showing her adored Marine. Holly Earl had just the right amount of prissiness to portray Patty Symcox effectively; whenever she came on stage, one wanted to hit her! Leanne Evans, as Jan, sang hauntingly in her duet with Roger.

Their opposite numbers, namely the boys, were also very well played. All female members of the audience fell in love with Tom Lait who played a wonderfully self assured Kenicke, the owner of the fabled "Greased Lightning". Sadly it was Barney Kellett's last stage performance at Rendcomb, and he made the most of it by being a wonderfully funny and lively Roger. He moved with such assurance across the stage. Josh Coppersmith-Heaven was splendid as Sonny. He played his part so naturally I wondered if he acts like that in real life! Charlie Fothergill was very funny as Doody, especially being too embarrassed to ask out Frenchie.

The production was also graced with some colourful cameo roles played by staff. Miss Lynch was well played by Mrs. Stocks who retained the right amount of shocked outrage at all the horrific events which seemed to unfold before her as her school collapsed into disarray. Mr. Vuolo made some wonderfully oily appearances as Johnny Casino and as the Guardian Angel, but it was left to Mr. North to wear the most ridiculous wig and play the part of Vince Fonteyn, a part which I think he should consider playing on a full time basis if he ever decides to cease teaching. Mr. North was Vince Fonteyn!

I am sure that I have missed people out but above all “Grease” was a combined effort, a wonderful celebration of Rendcombian cooperation. From workstaff to sister, from make-up artists to David Grice, the whole kaleidoscope of humanity was involved in this show and indeed it did show. It is difficult to remember a Rendcomb production which involved a real car. Well done to all and especially to Mrs Dodd who directed and coordinated the whole thing, and who gained twenty years in the process, a noble but worthwhile sacrifice!  
(See photos on pages 30 and 31)

JRM

## Music

### Q. P. Concerts

#### Naomi Phipps and David White

On Sunday 21st February, the long awaited concert featuring the best talent from our celebrated music department took place in the Reading Room. A few of us who were taking part in the sponsored 12 hour long rugby sat hot and flustered at the back appreciating the welcome break. As soon as the concert began it was clear that the audience was in for a treat

They opened up with Brahms's Sonata movement in C minor which was written mainly as a joke between friends.

Bartok's Romanian Dances were full of contrasting dynamics and rhythms demanding great technical ability which were passed off with ease.

Massenet's famous “Meditation” was obviously a personal favourite and Miss Phipps seemed to pour everything into this deeply moving performance. The rich impassioned tone will remain with those who were there for a considerable length of time.

The final piece on the programme was the “Danse Espagnole” by de Falla. This was performed with great gusto which kept the audience on the edge of their seats. Both violin and piano demonstrating remarkable virtuosity and further example of the seemingly effortless way in which they played together.

Mr White provided excellent accompaniment throughout the recital, allowing Miss Phipps to dominate and captivate the audience. Overall, the concert was a brilliant success, demonstrating the unique talents which we have been fortunate and privileged enough to witness at first hand, even though the rugby players had grown stiff and seized up at the back, awaiting another two hours of action.

Ian Forster  
Phil Webb

### Fauré Requiem

It was all Thom Gilbert's idea. “We want to sing the Sanctus,” he said, back in June. The Director of Music thought that was a bit feeble. “I think we'll do the whole thing and you can do the baritone solos.” And so it came about, a sombre Requiem for a sombre day in November - Remembrance Sunday, no less, a requiem to remember the fallen. We packed into our tiny choir stall space, squeezed in a sextet of strings in the sanctuary, made Naomi Phipps a peripatetic solo violinist, dragged in her brother to play the harp and allowed Mr Lester, magisterial as ever, to preside at the organ.

The Fauré Requiem never fails to move singers and audience alike. Sure enough, shivers of delight, tingles down the spine, the catching of the breath were all there a plenty. Rupert Uzzell sang the “Pie Jesu” to the manner born, with extraordinary “sang froid” for one so young, unfazed by his first major College performance.

We remembered the Day. We sang hymns, read a Wilfred Owen poem and said our prayers. Thom sang his solos - we trembled as he confronted us with “Morte Aeterna” and fell on our knees with his wistful “Hostias et Preces”. The Choir, as ever, rose to the occasion in spite of being surrounded on all sides by dramatic productions and bonfire night celebrations. Rendcomb musicians proved themselves to be invincible.

DBW

### A Baroque Evening

A very entertaining evening was provided for us by Mr Lester (harpsichordist) and Mr Dunn (guitarist) both members of Rendcomb's outstanding music staff and the guest musician, the flautist William Summers. The concert consisted of extremely beautiful music; some pieces well known and others slightly more unusual. Above all, however, the audience was able to sit back and enjoy the most fantastic playing. It is not often that one has the chance to listen to a professional Baroque flautist, but what an honour it was to also be a witness to an in-depth description of this wonderful instrument - an unforgettable event!

NRP

### Janet Baldwin's Woodwind Quintet

What a rare treat this concert was! We were transported from one period of musical history to another by the glorious sounds of the performers. My favourite work was undoubtedly the Suite which got everyone's toes tapping and brought a smile to the lips of even the most serious of us!

NRP

# The Choir

## Choir Dinner Speech

*Below is reproduced the speech given by two members of 6A at the Annual choir dinner. Mr. White thought it so good that he would like it to stand as the choir report for this year.*

Mr White, we recall very clearly Bristol Cathedral last year, where we specifically and with confidence told you that you would have no worries about choir this year. I think we can say that with your help we have lived up to our expectations of the choir. On some occasions we have even excelled them. One such occasion that I am sure will spring to everyone's mind is Fauré's Requiem. Not only was the performance awe inspiring for those who heard it, but it was equally special for us to be involved in something so spectacular. The Advent Carol Service was as magical as ever and the Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church beautifully demonstrated how Mr White's mad-cap ideas of the Choir's placement always works.

Throughout the year, however, there have been the inevitable "domestics" in the choir. The basses have infuriated the sopranos by swaying and attempting to sing our part (very badly) because in fact their pitch was higher. (But they always impress us with their resonant sound.) The tenors this year have been a mixed bag, gradually pushing the sopranos off the back row and not only have the altos increased in number but have also honoured us with their spectacular input into the body of the choir.

We have no doubt that the choir will continue to blossom after we leave, particularly as we leave it in the capable hands of Sam, Helen, Sophie and Laurie.

There are so many people who have helped us throughout the year. We would like to thank briefly: Mrs White, for sacrificing her husband to the cause, Mrs Day, Mrs Morris, Mrs Tolputt, Mr and Mrs Graham, The Webb family, Mozza and of course Rev Taplin.

The Chaplain has always supported and encouraged us superbly. He has structured the services perfectly and has sung the responses with great professionalism and enthusiasm, even in front of the Cathedral verger.

Mr Lester has always been patient with both the choir and Mr White and has always kept us in suspense of what music we will be processing out to. Thank you for being so loyal - the rock we quite often needed. (Present gift)

Miss Phipps - whatever time, whatever day, Miss Phipps is guaranteed to be the best dressed member of the choir without even trying. She has been a wonderful and glamorous addition to an already amazing alto line.

Not only has your singing helped to boost the morale of the choir, but your violin playing has both inspired and

moved us to tears. Actually, we couldn't find any worthy words to describe your playing, believe us, we had the thesaurus open for a very long time.

You have mastered the art of conducting and playing in an orchestra at the same time. I am sure this will come in handy in the future.

Talking of the future, the inevitable subject - our dear Miss Phipps is heading off to pastures new. We hope they know just how lucky they are and also what they are letting themselves in for. Miss Phipps, you are very special - here is a reminder of us, something to brighten and warm your new place. (Present gift.)

Mr White. Well, where do we start? Choirmaster extraordinaire, we wouldn't be here without you. Your faith and determination in the whole choir has paid off and we have had one of the best years ever. I am sure no-one will forget your need to clamber onto the highest piece of furniture in the room complete with music stand in order to be seen by everyone.

Your heart and soul goes into everything we do. and we have recognised and appreciated this each time, even first thing on a Sunday morning after a heavy bar the night before.

We have managed to keep up the "last minute" tradition of the Rendcomb Choir; that is rehearsing after the performance. These rehearsals have consisted of Mr White whizzing about the Reading Room, turning the trebles' music to the right page, singing along to struggling parts and screaming instructions right, left and centre. If Mr White's energy could be tapped then it could provide the heating and lighting for Rendcomb well into the next millennium.

We will take with us memories of your unique gesticular conducting, the spontaneous lyrics you can fit to any psalm and phrases such as "Molto Belto Outo". Mr White you are truly inspiring and it has been an absolute pleasure singing for you. We shall never forget you.

Thank you, and here is a little token of our appreciation. We hope it might be of use in your busy daily schedule. (Present gift).

Gemma Leathart  
Rebekah Taplin

## Noyes Fludde

The production of Noyes Fludde was probably the most hair - brained scheme hatched in Rendcomb for many years; little wonder then that it was the brain child of both Miss Phipps and Mr White that most eccentric of combinations. Not only did the whole piece have to come together in only six days, but it involved a cast of about two hundred, a number composed of a massive orchestra and numberless primary school children dressed up as animals. The children/animals had their origins in Hatherop school and North Cerney Primary, whilst a vast contingent had been shipped in from The Paragon School

in Bath where Miss Phipps's mother, Mrs Phipps, is the Director of Music.

The major roles were taken by some of our pupils, namely Nick Clements, Rupert Uzzell, Charlie Fothergill and Matthew Day supplemented by two pupils from Querns one of whom was Holly Osborne's brother. We also heard the singing of Gemma Leathart and Sam Reid. Noah was wonderfully played by the impressive moustached figure of Vick Clements, the father of Nick, whilst Mrs Noah was played by Mrs Phipps. She was surrounded by some incessantly talkative gossips, who, being from Godman, seemed to fit naturally into their role. Nellie Abbott danced hauntingly as the dove, and one of the animals from Paragon. Anna Woodruff, was a beautifully convincing and balletic raven. Utterly appropriately, God was perfectly performed by Mr Tolputt himself who had little difficulty in mastering the role.



The orchestra played the complex but heart rending music so well, and no one who heard the performance could have been unmoved. Britten's wonderful score takes his audience through a whole succession of rapidly changing emotions, but as with the best of his music, the singers and the words are never dominated by the score. David White managed to retain this balance beautifully. His pre-performance audience singing practice was wonderful. So many people there must have been reminded of their long-forgotten school days; but it worked, and when the hymnal sections of the work came round, the sound was magnificent.

Although it is an axiom of the stage that one should never work with children or with animals, it was a delight working with creatures that were both. The crowd of primary school children were wonderful, sang beautifully and warbled, squealed and chirped their way around the church. The only disaster we had was when one of the mice lost their ears and had a fight with a chip monk whom he claimed had nicked them!

The production had so very much to offer and it was wonderful to see both St. Matthew's Church, Widcombe (in Bath) and the Great Parish Church at Cirencester full to the gunwales. Great credit must go to all those involved in this wonderfully colourful, wonderfully moving and wonderfully last minute production.

(See front cover)

JRM

## Fashion Show

As Mr Griffiths made one of his final speeches, Godman Girls breathed a sigh of relief and excitement as what they were about to perform would finally show the whole of Rendcomb the time and effort they had each put in to make the show the success it was! Making one final check in the mirror, the second form girls made their way to the top of the staircase where they met their escorts. Romilly Evans met her escort Mark Ward to start the formal chapter of the show, followed by Rachel Posslethwaite in the elegant swirl of blue escorted by Ralph Aspin; Meg Barne in her sophisticated shade of lilac. As time progressed, Mr Griffiths introduced the Third Year's formal ball gowns. James Starkey escorted Leanne Evans in her imaginative silver dress, followed by Hannah Ewing and her partner Oli Anthony who also showed off his imaginative streak with the fabulously funky hair beads he wore! To finish the spectacular Imogen Eaton showed off her rather weird but creative outfit of plastic escorted by Johannes von Rotenhan, followed by Zuki Turner in a green dress with accessories of yellow wings escorted by Paul Bongiovanni. But this was only a small part of the whole show.

To start with Amanda Lomax, Sarah Rudderham, Holly Whitby-Brown and Alice Barefoot showed their acrobatic skills alongside the street performers and circus clowns.

Next came the polite waiters. Verity Symcox, Edwina Wickham, Harriet Stutchbury, who were partnered by some of the Old Rectory boys.

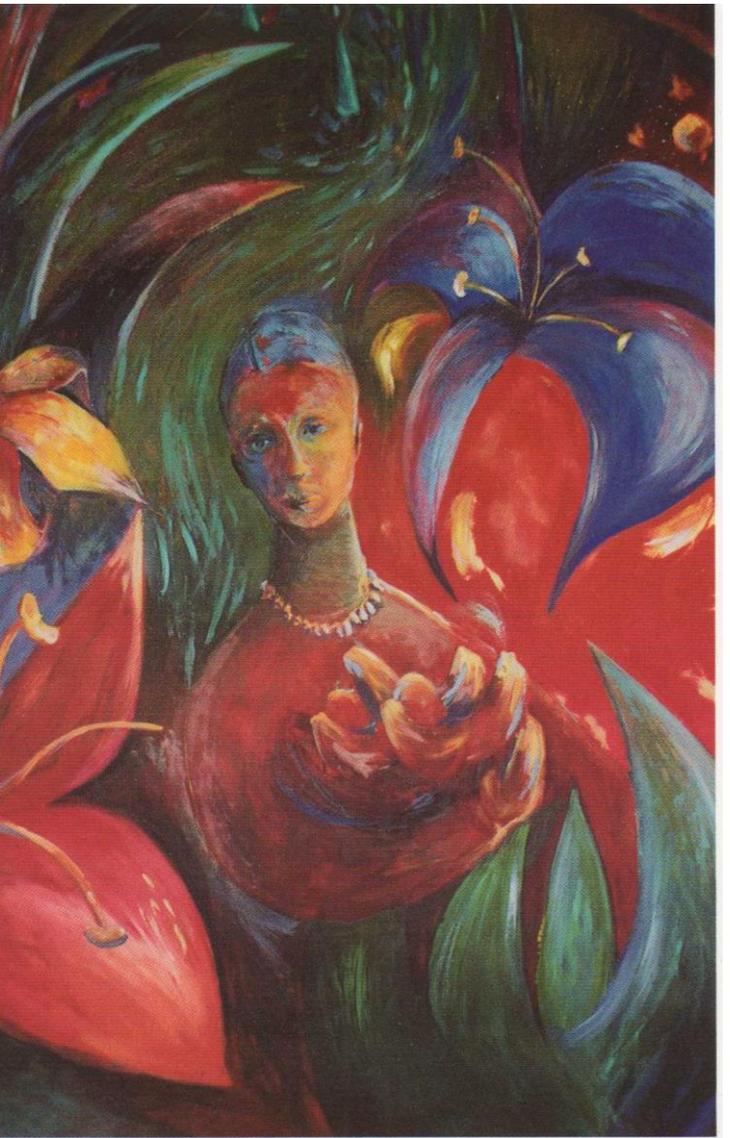
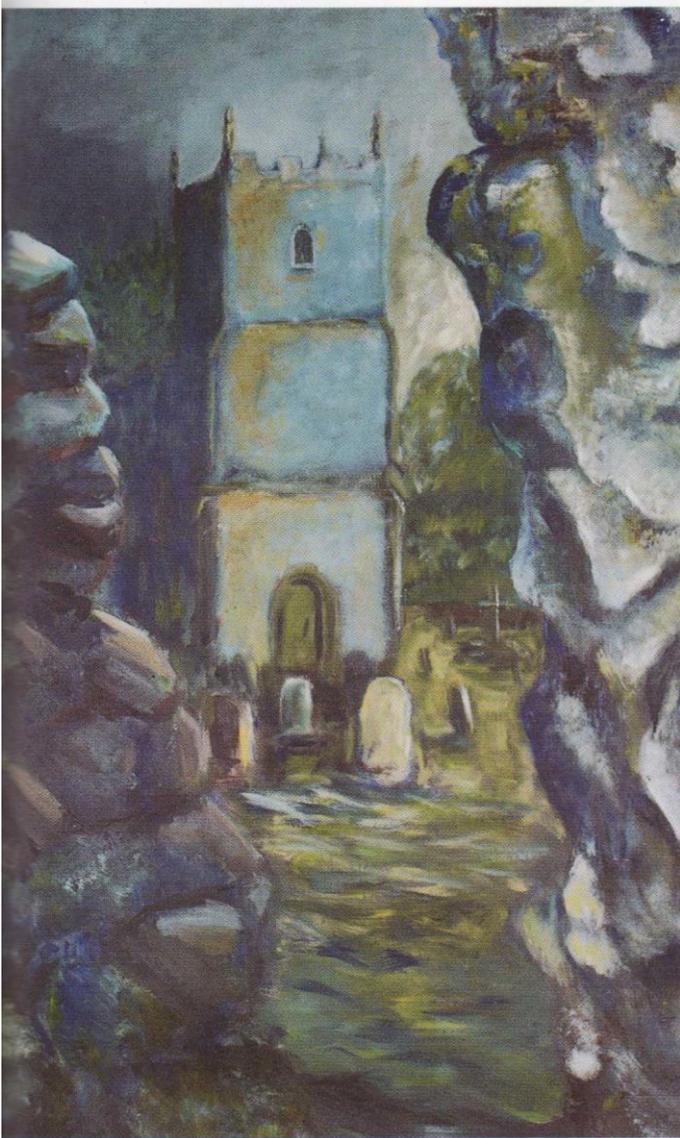
After this wonderful piece of sweet throwing came the Accessories. This section contained many Godman girls, who showed off their skills in the Craft and Design department - such as Safia Malik with her sophisticated designs joined by Aimee Lefevre and Heather Roper.

During the show the intelligent yet hilarious side of the Sixth Formers came to the fore - showing off their imagination with tall, weird and wonderful hats. Also not forgetting the heavy and delightful dress (or costumes) that the 6B girls put on. To finish the Sixth Form section, one full of panache and style, was a delightful collection of astonishing blue waistcoats printed with the help of Mrs Blackwell. These were truly magnificent.

This was shortly followed by four terrific Japanese girls with their fabulous and whacky hat making with the help of Mrs Slark. Well done to Rin Hareyama, Sachiko Nishimura, Yoshie Yahagi and Mariko Watanabe in their different designs; using such material as coffee beans, sweets, Japanese cards and plate designs.

Well done to everyone in the 1999 fashion show - not forgetting Samantha Reid entertaining visitors as they proceeded to the Cafe of Fashion with her mannequin made by Mr Auld.

Thank you to Mr Murray who did the magnificent lighting and Mathew Ewing who brought the show alive.



*a*

*b*



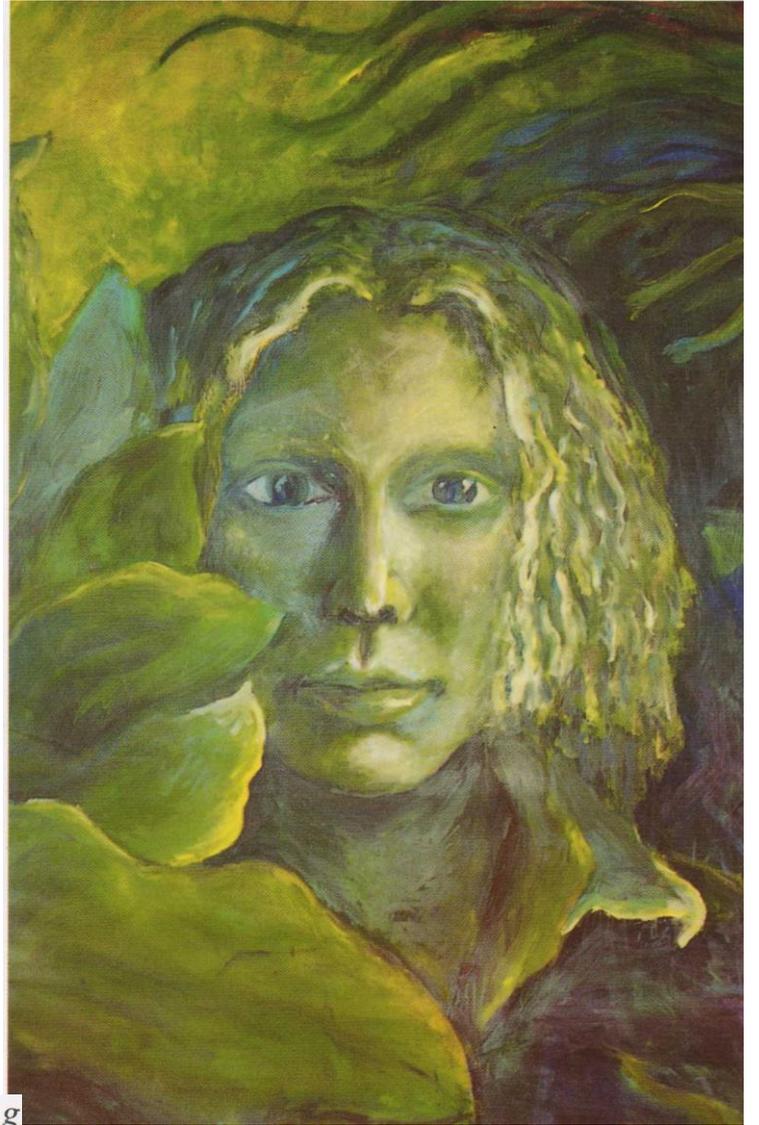
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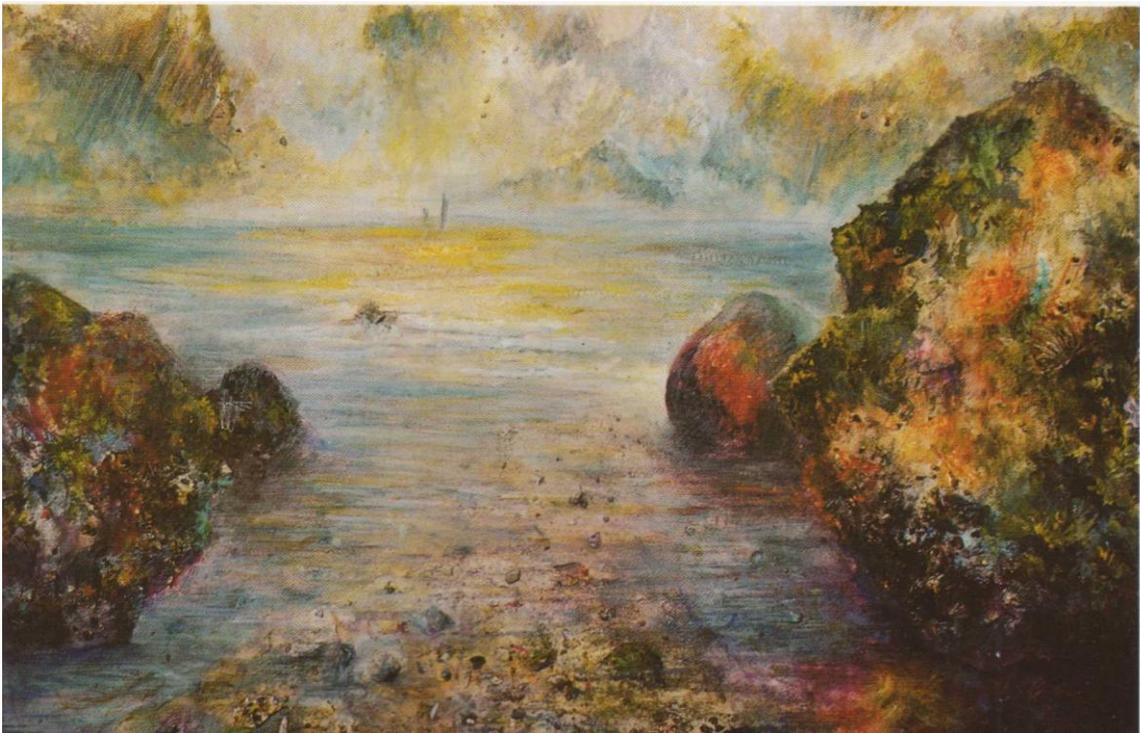
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8



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Thank you to everyone involved - it was a terrific event that will live in Rendcomb's memories forever!  
(See photos on page 29)

Leanne Evans  
Samantha Reid

### **The Fashion Show Clock Hall - 1999**

I sit in my chair.  
And wait with the rest of the overcrowded audience,

To watch and stare  
At the talents and wonders  
Of the pupils here,  
As they come down the elegant stairs.

And as the lights go dim,  
And the audience silences,

Signs of life begin to appear,  
As the street entertainers  
Come down in animated din.  
They juggle and cartwheel,  
And show' off on their stilts  
With a grin on their face,  
Showing just how they feel.

And now to the end of the show,  
Where the girls and the boys walked  
Arm in arm  
Down the stairs which were lit  
With the smile on the girls' faces  
And their long floating dresses;  
And on their arms - the boy of their dreams.

The pupils can't wait till next year,  
And judging by the look on their parents' faces.  
Neither could they!

Hayley Pratt

## **Art and Design**

Owing to the restructuring of the Art and Design team, lots of exciting new ventures have been undertaken in the workshop and the increased emphasis on design process and a multi media approach is beginning to produce lots

### **Details of Art work on preceding four pages**

- a Samantha Cheung 6A "Church study" Oil Paint 6'x3'
- b Lisa Engelstädter 6A "In the Jungle" Oil Paint 8'x4'
- c Phil Webb 6A "Resting Head" (detail) Multimedia 3'x2'
- d James Starkey 6A "Recessions" Watercolour 8'x4'
- e Lisa Engelstädter 6A "The Swimmer" (detail) Multimedia 8'x4'
- f Oli Anthony 6A "Self" (detail) Multimedia 8'x5'
- g Tara Sleggs 6A "Wild Beast" Oil Paint 6'x4'
- h Jenny Mais 6A "Efflorescent" Water Colour and Grit 3'x2'
- i Amy Roberts 5 "Plumage" Multimedia 6'x4'

of spectacular personal work as was so dramatically evident in the jewellery section of the fashion show this year. The introduction of three dimensional studies as part of the GCSE course next year will give further scope for development while it was also good to see some senior Duke of Edinburgh candidates maintaining the department's excellent reputation for craftsmanship in wood.

Certainly the Fashion Show has matured into a central part of the department's year and this year's show provided us with a great opportunity as it was staged on the main school staircase where the architectural details and style proved a real inspiration for many of the pieces on show. Some wonderfully sophisticated outfits were on show in our "Cafe of Fashion" and the liaison with Miss Houghton's Godman activity groups certainly ignited the imaginations of the many and although the elegant setting was richly and deliberately used there was still room for some highly theatrical presentations and wonderfully way-out and whacky creations.

The main core of the department's teaching remains strongly linked to the Fine Art painting and drawing, although the new staff chemistry is definitely having an impact as colour has lightened and brightened in relation to a deliberate policy geared towards variation and breadth. Standards of examination pieces have remained high although the vigour of many pieces at 'A' level reflects the changes introduced several years ago and certainly the personal studies produced by this year's 'A' level students were the most complete and well researched we have seen.

Of course trips away from the studio to see artwork in the flesh is an essential ingredient and fairly regular visits to the major London galleries create excellent opportunities for the senior students while the lower years have enjoyed visiting exhibitions in Cirencester and Northleach. For the department the big trip is the annual one abroad for those students studying 'A' level and this year Paris proved to be an extremely valuable and was a huge success.

The 6A set seem likely to achieve really substantial examination success themselves and the produced a stunning exhibition on Founder's Day. There was masses of technical competence but this was added to by a real sense of individuals pursuing their personal passions and the Art staff were delighted by the width and depth of the work on show. Oli Anthony took over the whole stage for his show; its accent was firmly placed on reacting to contemporary music and dance, while the walls of the Dulverton Hall were dominated by Lisa Engelstadter's cool triptych of underwater swimmers and James Starkey's passionate responses to using the landscape. Jenny Mais had produced a beautifully controlled final examination piece and Phil Webb's virtuoso exploration of paint linked brilliantly in a historical context to what had been produced in the past. Pat Yip and Sam Cheung may have surprised some with the sophistication of their later pieces but their hard work in 6B was richly rewarded in the final examination pieces. Oli Poole proved that he

could be so much more than a one-style man and his drawings since Christmas showed a greater maturity and control while Tara Sleggs' show displayed a wonderful passion for painting and her final piece with its dark undertones and its fearful sense of foreboding had a tremendous feeling of theatre.

However so much more goes on than excellent work at 'A' level and GCSE and the department has often buzzed with excitement and passion. Certainly the new staff have made a great impact and their influence in the chemistry of the studios has been exciting and positive as has the forging of ever closer links between the various strands of Art and Design.

We can look back at a challenging but ultimately highly successful year and I am sure that all involved will be looking forward to more of the same in the future.

MSG

## Art Staff Exhibition

During the Spring term an awesome event took place! The Reading Room was transformed into an Art Gallery, demonstrating the diverse talent of the Rendcomb Art Staff.

The exhibitors were Martin Griffiths (The Boss) displaying numerous intense and tentatively painted landscapes. Also Tom Denny's earthy paintings held a luminous and somewhat ethereal quality, which reflects in his stained glass work. Sophia Blackwell was showing her beautifully vibrant, innovative and tactile textiles, and Hamish Auld's natural, smooth and curvaceous bowls contrasted with his wacky contemporary furniture. Hogging most of the wall-space were Emma Boyd's large, bright paintings and prints.

have been made possible without the help of the Bursar for permitting the desecration of the Reading Room walls, Bob Stott for organising the wine and the washing-up, Naomi Phipps and David White for being glorious musicians and the Headmaster for his positive support and for making the most interesting comment about the apparent ethos that exists within the Department of Art - "What a team!"

Also, a special thank you to my creative colleagues for making the exhibition so unique and wonderful and for making it happen!

EB

Thanks to all the pupils for their constructive criticism. Here are a few of their thoughts:

"I liked this picture (by Mr Denny) because it was strong and mysterious and ghostly. I felt I was there and I wanted to walk into the gap in the middle. It was misty and hazy like in a dream."

Harriet Stutchbury

"I also liked Mr Auld's holey bowl. It was smooth and had lots of holes".

Heather Roper

My favourite picture was the stormy sky by Mr Griffiths. I liked it because of the little brush strokes, the colour and how it blended together to make a great picture.

Tom Soanes

"Suckley Road, early Autumn" was my favourite picture because the colours were wild and sensitive and the same tone.

My favourites were Mrs Blackwell's bolsters and Mrs Boyd's luxury box, it was beautiful.

Jessica Wells

The whole occasion was a huge success and it would not



My favourite was Mr Auld's bowl (A15). Pure wood, natural, smooth. Very curvy, there were no corners or sharp edges. It was original, relaxed and natural. There was no attempt to be modern, it was old-fashioned.

Rebecca Preston

I liked Mrs Boyd's "Deep In" picture. It was turquoise and blue. This combination was excellent and it looked peaceful, calm and tranquil.

Jessica Weston

## 'A' Level Artists in Paris

Extracts from a Teacher's Diary. Twenty four students and four staff spent half term in Paris on the annual Art Trip.

*Thursday 11th February 22.30hrs.*

Final check on tickets, money, passport and packing. Check the list for the tenth time. Have I forgotten anything? Yes! I need to put all the Art History questionnaires for tomorrow's lessons in the staff room. This includes a photograph of Rodin's "The Thinker" and the question "What is The Thinker Thinking?" Sam Gunner in the Third Year answered: "He won't be thinking anything, he's made of stone!"



**Oli Poole, James Starkey and Thom Gilbert** share a glass of wine with **Mr. Auld**.

*Friday 12th February 03.30.*

Have very bad nightmare in which telephone is ringing to wake me and the operator is saying: "Good morning, this is your alarm call." Very alarmed to realise it's not a bad dream but real life.

*04.00.*

Cold and grey, although some of the students are revoltingly jolly. The Cairns brothers drive us to Swindon and we meet Tom (Denny) wearing his famous yellow jacket. Train journeys and sleep can be a great combination.

*07.50.*

All on board Eurostar. So far so good. Hamish looks almost cute when asleep, and Sophia is starting to debate the all important topic of staff lunches.

*12.45.*

Paris! Frustratingly long walk to really nice hotel and meet very fierce manageress. Arrangements fine; this is always a good moment and I energetically throw students onto the streets with their maps and instructions.

*13.30*

Lunch in Paris - excellent.

*15.30.*

Persuade, with Sophia's help, the Musée Rodin to let

most of our students in for free and they respond with notable enthusiasm. We've been doing sculpture in the studio so they realise just how good he was and the staff feel pretty good at their reaction.

*20.00.*

Supper. Excellent atmosphere for group meal; we always use this place and they handle everything with cool charm. Excellent buzz of conversation.

*23.00.*

Wind down in hotel foyer. Everyone in OK and happy. Late night patrol very satisfactory.

*Saturday 13th February. 08. 00*

Some students already up and planning shopping expedition, others need a little encouragement.

*11.00*

Meet at the Louvre and deal successfully with French style bureaucracy. Not at all easy. Meet several lost looking students holding very confusing Louvre plan upside down. However they seem happy and have discovered some good things.

*13.00*

Staff lunch. Tom finds us an excellent place. He has real talent in this area.

*15.30.*

Meet at Eiffel Tower and make way via "that Diana Underpass" to the Musée D'Art Moderne. Some students really excited by the outrageous pieces. Lots of good conversation and debate goes on; this has been a good day and the skate-boarding outside provided some much appreciated "street theatre."

*19.30.*

Long walk to excellent Thai restaurant; food and "revealing" drinks greatly enjoyed.

*23.30.*

Wind down in hotel foyer. All in OK. A little noise at 00.30 hours but a firm glare seems to sort it out. I can't hear anything after that.

*Sunday 14th February.*

After a hectic Saturday the morning is nicely relaxed and the visit to the Musée D'Orsay goes extremely well. Some people very surprised by its contents especially Jenny Mais (whose boyfriend travelled all the way from England to deliver a Valentine's Day rose!) The collection of 19th Century painting is unrivalled and although one can be blitzed by the quantity of paintings on show, the group had a highly successful visit.

*20.00.*

We take students on a walk to see Gurnard's Metro Station canopy, only some impressed but the meal in a restaurant on the slopes below Montmartre was very much appreciated and a late night visit to see Sacre Coeur in a snowstorm was a pretty impressive finale.

24.00.

Wind down in hotel foyer. Some students' map reading had allegedly meant they became lost in the Pigalle region but with a little encouragement the late night patrols revealed nothing unpleasant or untoward.

*Monday 15th February. 08 00*

Packing was impressively efficient and the Hotel manageress thought we were "a charming group, especially being English!" The main visits of the day took in the stained glass windows of Notre Dame and Ste Chapelle. These were startlingly impressive and made a huge impact. Glorious colour and superb designs.

16.00.

Meet back at hotel to collect bags and stagger to station for cakes and biscuits before the long haul home. Rucksacks bulging with French goodies.

19.00.

The coach fiasco begins.

20.00

The coach fiasco ends.

20.30.

Supper on the floor of Paddington station (excellent fish) for those not already departed. The slow stagger back via dark deserted stations induces heavy sleep all round.

22.00.

Swindon station and the Cairns brothers  
MSG "Hello Paul, did you get the message?"  
PC "What message?"

22.45.

The last car leaves the site. Suddenly everything is eerily quiet and peaceful. I know how a popped balloon must feel. Time to try that Calvados!

*Tuesday 16th February.*

12.15.

Wake up.

## Art Trips to London and Oxford

The department has made several trips to the main London Galleries during the year and a great deal of exciting work has been seen and responded to. As ever the National and Tate Galleries were popular with the later paintings of Turner being many of the students' favourites; although we were greatly encouraged by the general response to some of the more modern paintings on show. The Sixth Form had also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the recently re-opened Courtauld Galleries and the chance to see Monet, Manet and Degas "in the flesh" so to speak was really inspiring.

No photograph or print can possibly compare with seeing the actual depth, vibrancy and range of real paint and those students who courageously fought their way into the British Museum Print Room were rewarded by actually

holding the pictures and seeing them at close quarters. Some of the excellent content of this year's personal studies come from these experiences.

Other 'A' level trips included Sunday visits to the stunning Bonnard exhibition and the quietly fascinating Ashmolean Museum in Oxford where a diverse range of work is always on show. The small figure studies by Raphael were definitely admired by students struggling with their own life drawings and the breadth of work on show inspired everyone, including, as ever, myself.

MSG



GCSE Exam piece by Becky Whatman

## Poetry

*On January 29<sup>th</sup> the eve of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, King and Martyr, to coincide with an evening of music, we had a short but moving poetry reading appropriately in the Reading Room. A most appreciative audience heard a group of VIth Formers read a variety of poems, some well known, others written by our own pupils. I found it an utterly undemonstrative but spell binding occasion. The first two poems below were written by two leavers and were amongst those to which we were treated.*

### The Scorpion

The Scorpion on the stained wood floor,  
Inches from the child's exposed sole.

Unseen,  
Small,  
Venomous,  
Threat;  
To bare feet.

Remains.  
To be dealt with.  
Now,  
While still small,  
Not fatal  
If left it will grow;  
To the child become deadly.

Sole prisoner,  
Scutters along the skirting-board;  
Poly-limbed Arachnid.

Insectoid vampires,  
Mosquitoes besiege the netting;  
Ronald's Plasmodium.

Obvious threat,  
Altan, Paludrine and Quinine;  
Parental Protection.

Inside,  
Poly-limbed Arachnid;  
The Scorpion on the stained wood floor,  
The threat that remains,  
To be dealt with,  
Now,  
While still small,  
Not fatal.  
If left it will grow;  
Poison to the child's sole.

Corrupting venom in the home,  
Unseen by her parents.  
It scutters;  
Everywhere,  
Until dad's slipper,  
Sublime censorship.  
Descends.

It may be too late for a vulnerable child,  
In the home,  
Seemingly safely secure.

Morals;  
Powerless.

Religion;  
Useless.

Parents;  
The last line.

(Must be read aloud)

## Views From a Nursery Room Window

When I look at that picture  
I see a man,  
A mad man,  
A beery grinned man waving a stick,

A man who still wears short trousers  
And who applauds at the slightest misconception.  
Cauliflower ears and a bulbous nose  
In a perfectly  
Ill - fitting  
20's waistcoat and Edwardian Trilby.

Ernst Boggschaft is his name

And he sits in a leather armchair  
And a cloud of fine cigars.  
His companions do the same  
Yet their sherry is of a sweeter nature  
For only a few are given the '66  
And today is not one of those.

A hound sits patiently by his master's  
side. Loyal and unknowing, but all seeing,  
He sips his sherry displeased  
But not showing his distaste.

Ernst Boggschaft and Henry Farcastle  
Sit alone together  
Ernst Boggschaft and Henry Farcastle  
Sit together and alone  
But they sit together  
And are born into another life  
Alone but together.

Beans Boughton

## Romeo and Juliet

Love is so sweet  
Especially when two meet,  
For example,  
A lovely couple,  
Juliet and her sweet Romeo.

Why I say,  
Why are they blessed,  
As born enemies,  
These are agonies,  
Which is a tragedy.

Romeo, you stupid fool,  
You killed Tybalt who was cool.  
Your punishment  
Is banishment.  
So don't come back,  
Or you will be chucked out.

Theo Berry O poor, poor Romeo,  
And his Juliet  
Who died  
Just after five,  
Together,  
And they will lie dead forever.

Henry Wilson  
Form 3A

## Publications

### The Nose

Yet again "The Nose" has  
continued to have been produced  
on a termly basis. The undercover  
presses have been rolling and from  
their bowels has come forth three



wonderfully witty and subversive publications, which everyone, including the satirised, have enjoyed.

The quality, which is almost entirely the responsibility of the pupils, has been excellent and has led to some scenes of paralysis in the Common Room. Long may it continue, despite the sad departure from our walls of those names now so well-known: Edith Birdhouse, Adrian K K Hicks, Ozimandias (King of Kings), Sir Anthony Cecil Hogmany Melchitt, Lord Dome and Dick Tator.

Remember: Pick "The Nose"

JRM

## Echo Supplement - Rendcomb News

We were asked by the Gloucestershire Echo to produce a four page supplement to appear in the Echo, a paper which has a distribution area of the Cotswolds and Cheltenham. The intention was that it should be written and produced by the pupils, and so Matthew Williams, Oliver Jeffcott and Rafe Smallman moved into action. As is customary where Mr. Murray is concerned. (The member of staff who had been given the honour of overseeing the supplement's production) the writing was left to the last possible evening and a frenzied and lengthy session saw the completion of what was considered by many to be an accurate and vital representation of Rendcomb life. If you have not seen a copy of the supplement, do please get in touch with the school as the Echo gave us 2,000 copies free of charge!

JRM

## Competitions



In another superb year, Rendcombians have been praised for their creative talents. In April, **Greg Jones (3A), Alice Hughes (3) and Meg Barne (2)** won prizes from Publishers Scholastic, for designing the best front covers for the Goosebumps series.

In May, Jade Finn (2) won this year's

Cheltenham and District Samaritans Essay Competition, writing a moving story about an old lady in a nursing home. She was presented with a certificate and her prize of a portable television by leading Cotswold poet Ursula Fanthorpe. Second and third prizes of a 35mm camera and a Sony walkman went to Richard Burden (2) and Chloe Clarke (2). Helen Pearce (5A) also won a radio for her third place in Category B. Lucian Tamowski (4A), Henry Whale (4) and Meg Barne (2) also won £10 book tokens as runner up prizes. Head of English, Mrs Karen



Jade Finn, Richard Burden and Chloe Clarke

Ewing, said: "The children wrote about complex issue extremely well, showing their maturity and understands of human nature".

Edward McHenry (4A) will be entering the Short Film Competition in September with a 90 second film about Flying Pigs. Although the competition is open to anyone between the ages of 13 & 30 years, Edward remains undaunted. He recently produced a 12 minute film, which he wrote and directed, about a German double-agent in the Second World War.

Anna Marlowe (2A) entered and, as predicted, won the U12 Recorder Class at the Cheltenham Music Festival in May. Clarinet and Recorder Teacher, Gill Day, also entered her into the U15 category, just for the experience and Anna rose to the challenge superbly, winning this category too. Gill Day said: "It is so satisfying to teach a musical girl who appreciates the qualities of the recorder and who treats it seriously as a proper instrument, one which is extremely difficult to play well!"

PS

## Science at Rendcomb

### 6B Chemists to Aston University

In December 6B Chemists attended a series of lectures at Aston University designed to support 'A' level work as well as providing insights into current research. Details of three of the lectures follow.

#### Drugs and Chemical Poisons: An Introduction of Medical Toxicology.

The good and evil aspects of the Science of Poisoning were illustrated by the use of hemlock, yew and mercury throughout history.

Paracetamol, a commonly used analgesic, often cause death due to overdose and Dr Robin Braithwaite explained how the liver breaks down the drug and how it has an in-built protection system to remove the new

chemicals. Unfortunately this system can be swamped by 150 to 250 milligrams per kilogram of body weight (20 or more tablets), leading to nausea, anorexia, abdominal pain, liver and kidney failure and untimely death, all within 2 to 7 days.

He also discussed opiate drugs in some detail and warned of the relatively unknown long-term psychiatric effects of designer drugs related to ecstasy. More information is available on [www.toxlab.co.uk](http://www.toxlab.co.uk)

CJW

### **Molecular Left and Right Handedness in Chemistry and Biology**

After a rather weak lecture on the history of the uses of clay, with very little emphasis on chemistry, the second lecture seemed very relevant. The difference between a chiral molecule and its mirror image was ably demonstrated. Basically both molecules are made of the same atoms linked together but they are arranged slightly differently and this can have a dramatic effect on living organisms. Samples of the chemical Carvone were thrown around the room. Some smelt of caraway and others smelt of spearmint (Wrigley's) because the effect of the two types of molecules is different on our olfactory sensors. A severe example of this is the drug Thalidomide, which is used as a sedative. Unfortunately Thalidomide is chiral and one molecule is the sedative, whereas the other is tetragenic, affecting the growth of the unborn fetus.

Chris Davies.

### **Some Chemistry Fireworks**

This lecture was the most lively, leaving the audience and especially the Chairman of the proceedings, who was on the stage, visibly shaken.

The lecturer first showed us how a bang is only heard from restricted explosions and then how various chemicals bum with different coloured flames. This is the origin of coloured fireworks. The fuels for fireworks were explained as well as the arrangement of chemicals in a firework to achieve a pleasing visual and aural display.



First Year pupils at The Exploratory

He demonstrated, to our surprise, some small fireworks such as sparklers and fountains which reached the top of the stage. He finished by showing how a whistling firework is achieved, using potassium picrate (a detonator) or potassium salicylate (related to aspirin!)

Andrew Sage

## **Science Week**

This year pupils in Years 1 to 4 visited a variety of places to enhance their understanding of Science.

### **First Year to the Exploratory, Bristol**

First Year Pupils were let loose in the soon to be closed Exploratory and given the task of identifying the scientific principles underlying a certain number of the exhibits. They worked with great enthusiasm and achieved much, the results of which were exhibited as posters in the Physics Department.

JG

### **Second Year to Techniquet, Cardiff**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March the Second Year all went to a "hands on" Science Exhibition held in a new building in Cardiff Bay. There were lots of things to do. I thought that the best exhibit was the whisper dishes. There was one each side of the room. You talk into one dish and the person at the other side can hear. By each exhibit was a notice explaining the Science so we were learning as we pressed all the buttons. All in all it was good fun and we enjoyed it.

After a packed lunch we took a trip to the laboratory where we learnt about pollution and the effects it can have on the environment. For example we learnt that one of the main causes of the hole in the ozone layer is due to the release of CFC's into the atmosphere. After the talks we left Techniquet and returned to School.

Richard Lefeuvre, Peter Mason, Barney Vick

### **Third Year Visit to the Natural History Museum, London**

As part of the 1999 Science Week the entire third form spent a "fun packed" day at the Natural History Museum in London. It is a lovely magical place; the day started in the Ecology exhibition including a walk through a tropical rain forest! Then followed the Dinosaurs section complete with robotic raptors having a snack. Just before lunch we ended up in the "Creepie Crawlies" section; this didn't do much for our appetite but we headed up for lunch anyway! After lunch the group experienced an earthquake in Japan, a lava flow in the Pacific Ocean and a nose to nose view of a Blue Whale - not bad for just one day!

At the end of the day we felt it was a jolly good day out - fun and interesting; we really enjoyed it!

Hayley Pratt  
Holly Osborne

## Fourth Year visit to an Exhibition held by the Institute of Chemical Engineers

On 17<sup>th</sup> March two Fourth Year groups went to an exhibition at Sibley Hall, Stonehouse which sadly was poorly attended. In the hall there were various stands each with representatives from different companies. Some of the companies involved were Walls, British Energy, Zeneca, Rhodia, BNFL and Cadburys. At each stand the presenters had just 15 minutes to tell us a bit about their company.

At the "Zeneca" stall the engineer told us that it takes about 15 years from start to finish to make a drug because they have to make sure that the drug won't harm anyone. They have recently made a tablet that you can take if you are asthmatic, instead of using an inhaler.

The favourite stand was definitely Walls Ice-Cream. We learnt about the refrigeration cycle AND we were all lucky enough to receive a free ice cream to eat outside in the lovely spring sunshine.

Joanna Crisp, Philip Gordon-Jones, Catharine Webb

## Food and Nutrition Department



**Ben Stanfield and Rob Knight** with helpers for the end of term meal. (See other photo on this page)

We have had another exciting and eventful year, one that has seen Rendcomb and Robert Knight on the television cooking in the Junior Masterchef competition.

Robert is unfortunately leaving Rendcomb to pursue a chefs career at "Nico's" in Park Lane, London. We wish him great success and hope to see him again on TV in the future with his own show perhaps? I thought "The Blushing Chef" would be a great title!

Robert and Ben Stanfield finished their GCSE course in Food and Nutrition by cooking a superb meal for Mr & Mrs Tolputt, Mr Stutchbury, Miss Houghton, Mr Murray, Mr Essenhig and myself. It was a wonderful way to say thank you to staff who had taught them for five years and the meal was very much enjoyed by all those present.

group of Fourth and Fifth Year pupils and staff squashed themselves into the minibus and sped off to the Birmingham NEC for the Good Food Show. Everyone enjoyed mingling with the celebrity chefs, excellent shopping and of course the free samples.

The second of the two trips was for the Fourth Year only as part of their work on fish to the New Wave Fish Company in Barnsley. We saw a wonderful array of fresh fish and shellfish and demonstrations of skinning and filleting fish for the restaurant trade.

Looking forward to next term, I hope to start a City and Guilds course for the Sixth Form called "The Professional Cooks Certificate" for pupils who are keen on pursuing careers in this area.

### The Menus for the end of term Meal:

#### Bob's meal

Scallops with a Red Pepper coulis  
Grapefruit sorbet  
Tournedos on a bed of red wine glazed onions and spinach with a red wine sauce.  
Tuille Basket with home-made vanilla ice-cream.  
Raspberry Coulis.  
Petit fours.  
Coffee.

#### Ben's Meal

Mozzarella and Tomato stacks  
Bruschetta  
Papardelle with home-made tomato sauce and shreds of parmesan.  
Panna Cotta with a Raspberry Coulis.

ER

On Friday 5th Ben Stanfield, Robert Knight and I got up at 5.30am to go to the New Wave Fish Company to see all the filleting of different sorts of fish. We met Mrs Ramsay then we went on the 25 minute journey to the



outskirts of Barnsley. When we arrived we were very disappointed to find out that they had already done it at 2am, but they very kindly skinned a salmon and filleted it for us along with a plaice. Even though we missed the excitement of all the lorries bringing different kinds of fish, we still enjoyed it. Thank you Mrs Ramsay.

Edward Wadsworth

On a Friday morning we went on an exciting trip to a fish farm. It was freezing cold inside the farm, and it smelt of fresh fish. We saw lots of different types of fish. Lots of them were really huge which I have never seen before. We were then shown how a fish was filleted. Although we just stayed there for a short time we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

Jennifer Feng

## Activities and Events

### Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride - a Tale End View

September arrives, a new school year dawns and Chris Wood gears up for another cycle ride in aid of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. Pupils under thirteen are encouraged to take part on the first Saturday of the Michaelmas term and their parents also can come along if they want to.

In my innocence two years ago as a 'new' parent, I thought that it would be a great opportunity to meet other 'new' parents and get to know some of my son Sam's new class mates. And in fact it was delightful - a beautiful sunny day and lots of fun. The only trouble was that Rendcomb College is surrounded by a very hilly landscape and seventeen miles later my legs were like jelly. Chris Wood had to harry me up the last hill out of Kennel Bottom sometime after everyone else. So, I had a good idea: the next year it could be husband Richard's turn to cycle with Sam! However, I reckoned without our smallest son Mark, then aged seven who demanded to take part. Now nice Mr Wood had dreamed up a flatter route this year which took in Baunton Lane at its extreme point. I sent Richard and Sam off to do the whole seventeen miles and loaded up the car with Luke's, Mark's and my bicycles. We then joined the riders for the return leg. Well of course Luke and Mark kept up but I was last again, even coming in after the support vehicle. Now we come to this year. Sam no longer qualifies for the cycle ride having moved up to Third Year but horror of horrors, Luke is now in the First Year and we had to start all over again! Mark, now



eight, announced his intention to cycle the whole route and nice Mr Wood thought we wouldn't want to do that flatish route to Cirencester two years in a row and decided we should go via Chedworth to Northleach again.

By the time we had walked up the long drag out of Kennel Bottom onto the Whiteway, the Gunner family group was already in last position. This did not bode well for the expedition, especially as the first stop was Winson still some way off. I had visions of the whole party champing at the bit waiting for us to arrive. Much then was our surprise to find on arrival that the front party of a dozen speedy boys led by Thomas Soanes' Dad, Ian, had not yet appeared. Penny Wood and Lynda (Matthew Denham's mum) both driving support cars, were dispatched to search. The minibus driven by Mr Taplin, accompanied by his assistants Ashley Hermitage and Mitja Lapis, also went off to look. All cars returned without a sighting, so we were considerably relieved when they arrived at top speed and in full voice to tell us how lost they had been.

After that we struggled on via the Coins to Northleach. The Gunners, on this leg, were no more than a quarter of an hour behind everyone else. At Northleach we stopped for food and drink, trying to refuel for the return. Chris Wood and James Stutchbury impressed everybody with their speedy running repairs of Jessie Weston's flat tyre, (why wasn't her mother doing the cycle ride? that's what I want to know! )

This year we had to take a detour through Oxpens Farm instead of visiting Stowell Park Church. Having cycled through a deserted farmyard we were beginning to feel we were never going to find the others again when we eventually discovered them in Yanworth (I think they

only waited for us because they knew I was carrying a large packet of biscuits!) After that the pack disappeared into the distance like riding school ponies bolting for home. We struggled on to Chedworth conscious that we were holding up the support

vehicles who were taking it in turn to wait behind for us.

In the valley bottom at Chedworth, Lynda and Sara Arkle (Michael Arkle's mum) did their utmost to persuade us to accept help. Luke was getting quieter and paler but resolutely declined a lift. His mother, much on the principle that if he wasn't going to give up neither was she, refused too. Mark was finally persuaded to accept a lift at the top of the hill. The image of him sitting in the back of Lynda's estate car with his bicycle, working his way through the picnic he had carried for the last fifteen miles, will stay with me forever. Poor Lynda was then stuck on Chedworth Aerodrome until the residual Gunner party made it up the hill. So finally half an hour after

everybody else we made it back to the College. The church was shut, Sam had taken up residence at the Taplins' and everyone else had gone home, but it had been worth it because with his usual skill, Chris had provided us with an exceptional afternoon out. He even managed to arrange a route which circumvented the large ominously grey and malevolent cloud which hung around in the sky offering us its contents.

Will we be allowed to take part again? Well we certainly qualify for another three years of cycle rides. It all comes down to whether the Gunner party are more trouble than they are worth and I believe the jury is still out on that one!!

Jane Gunner

*Postscript.*

Many thanks to all those pupils, parents and staff who took part, including Anne Vickery. Caryl Barefoot and the Whitby-Browns. £770 was raised by the event, half of which went to St Peter's Church, Rendcomb and St Margaret's Church, Bagendon, the other half going to the GHCT.

CJW

## Red Nose Day

Red Nose day was one of those days when it was good to be at Rendcomb. The whole school was given over to a frenzy of bizarre activities. Pupils were expected to come to school in costume, and they most certainly did. I noticed some potential parents being shown round; their impression of the school should have been recorded. They would have noticed **Barney Vick** dressed as a buxom matron perambulating a dummy sucking Mark Ward; they would have noticed **Mr Auld** dressed as Bozo the Clown, complete with curly pink wig. They must have seen Alex Pardhy and Leanne Evans dressed in the clothes of St. Trinian's which was an impressive sight even after they had been made to dress more soberly!

The events too will have impressed them: A highly competitive Volley Ball match between staff and pupils, the staff, include those of a generally male persuasion wearing skirts, and providing a cheer leading chorus on the sidelines. Some staff revealed great prowess on the court, others revealed great legs! They would have seen the prefects, despite their devotion to their school and their jobs, being auctioned off to youngest members of the school in a moment reminiscent of a medieval slave market, and finally, and best of all, they would have seen



the soaking of various important people under an enormous vat of the most disgusting mixture of kitchen slops lovingly prepared by Bob Stott. The victims, who endured their fate with equanimity were: The Head Boy, The Head Girl, Miss Hatton, Mr. Griffiths, Miss Phipps and the Headmaster (who wore a carefully positioned plastic rain hood to prevent damage to his expensive hairstyle.

It was a wonderful day showing off Rendcomb at its most fabulously bizarre; and what's more we raised £800 for charity!

*Some Pupil reactions:*

My worst costume was David Ashley's ghost costume. For a start you could tell it was Ashby; it also looked as though he had just stepped out of a washing machine with a torn ripped sheet over his head. When he first came ghouling past Godman (not looking very ghost like) I asked him what he was meant to be. He answered: Can't you guess? and made a few wooish noises. Trainers ruined it, so did the tears - and the Ashby Voice. (Rebecca Preston.)

Mr. Murray wore a suit with a waist coat underneath it and a top hat. He looked extremely smart which makes a great change from Mr. Murray's holey jumpers and his jacket which has got ink spilled on the inside. I also think Mr. Murray looked really funky in a skirt; he should wear it all the time. (Jessie Weston.)

Weston and Jessie Wells must be very fit as they were hopping round the school all day. It is also really hard to play the flute on roller blades! (Eddie Wickham.)

JRM

## Paintballing

*Battle Report from Sergeant E McHenry (Victoria Splat) 16th May 1999.*

At 10.00 hours battle commenced. Two divisions met under fierce fire. The red squad managed to out-flank the blue team at 10.25 hours, but with brave defence and

severe casualties taken on both sides the attack had to be aborted. The first offensive of round one produced no victory on either side.

The red team moved in on the whistle. All was quiet and all that could be heard was the cracking of branches under our feet. Then suddenly all hell broke loose; a mass of paint hit our division from the right and brought down four of our team, two were injured and succumbed in pain, the paintball ripped past and tore up the ground and trees around us. They tore into our flesh and sent brave young men to their graves; but with cries of "Let them have it" and "Die you piece of maggot" we managed to break their frontal defences and take out their former command posts.

Edward McHenry

## Philosophy Society

The Philosophy Society's aims are to give pupils in the Sixth Form an opportunity to discuss a subject brought up in a speech by one of the pupils in a relaxed environment.

The meetings were held on a weekday evening around 8 o'clock. Everyone arrived and chose their seats in Park House Common Room, where the meetings were held, the refreshments served, and the speeches delivered.

Always first on the agenda were the minutes from the last meeting read by the secretary of the society. When these were finished the speeches were started; these were upon a variety of topics such as David Ashby's "Freud's Model of the Mind." Or they could be about many subjects such as Barbara Unger's "Monotony of Death" which involved everything from abortion to euthanasia.

Although most of the discussions failed to come to a conclusion, every meeting was guaranteed to come up with a few gems whether it was Beans pointing out to David Ashby at the end of his speech that there were many religions making everything he had said in the last few minutes of his speech irrelevant or to the fabulous comment, namely: "If there was more evil in the world would it be a better place?" These, as well as the excellent contributions of Beans, Theo and Kate to the meetings ensured that each meeting could be remembered for what it was - a splendid opportunity to have an argument. Especial thanks must go to the Rev'd Taplin and Mr Murray for making every meeting work and for providing the refreshments. Long may it continue.

Ed Hogarth - Secretary.

## Photography

Photography activity has been supported by a small number of keen individuals but the darkroom has not been used much in free time. The purchase of a digital camera added a new dimension to the activity in terms of teaching the principles of photography and for the manipulation of images on a computer. It is hoped that some of these images will appear in this magazine. Most of the work in

the darkroom has been in black and white although colour printing was tried during one session. There was a successful outing to Chedworth woods to photograph the bluebells which were particularly impressive this year. I would like to comment on David Grice's and Frances Burden's continued enthusiasm and thank Frances for her help with digital and conventional photographs for *Rendcombian*.

The Annual School Photographic Competition was reasonably well supported and the results were as follows:

### Transport

1<sup>st</sup> *Pit Wagons* Mr Grice (parent)

### Nature

1<sup>st</sup> *Spring* Lisa Engelstädter (6A)

2<sup>nd</sup> *The Web* Mrs Essenhigh (staff)

HC *Daffodils* Frances Burden (4)

### People

1<sup>st</sup> *Girl with Horse* David Grice (3)

2<sup>nd</sup> *Ali* Mrs Walder (parent)

HC *Our Little Pixie* Mrs Gill (staff)

### Open Category

1<sup>st</sup> *Landscape* Barbara Unger (6 A)

2<sup>nd</sup> *Minack* Frances Burden (4)

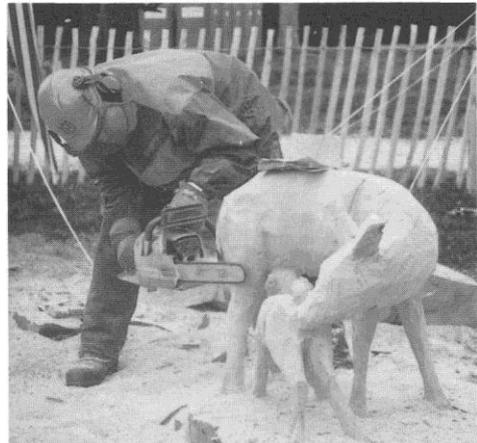
HC *Sennan* Mr Grice (parent)

HC *Woodcarver* Mr Essenhigh (staff) see below

HC = highly commended

*Some of these photographs may be viewed on the inside back cover and page 84*

CJW



## The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Fourteen Rendcomb pupils are currently involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at Gold level and thirty are undertaking the Bronze Award.

In April, twenty-three pupils received their Bronze Awards in subjects as varied as cookery, shooting, debating, art, singing, music and horse care.

And earlier this year, four 1997 leavers, James Smith, Charles Webb, William Hunt and Robert Arnold received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at St James's Palace. This year's group of high achievers have completed the gold practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons, where they walked 50 miles over four days. They have recently returned from the last practice in the Peak District.

CV

*Below is the speech delivered by Helen Pearce at the Bronze Award ceremony at Deer Park School.*

With my community service in the form of sports leadership I thought it would be a walkover. But that was until I discovered I had to take a class of ten year olds for a lesson, a nightmare as far as my sanity was concerned, but nothing compared to how I found the expedition.

Having no previous encounters with either walking or orienteering, it was going to be a totally alien experience for me, but of course that was why we had the practice expedition.

On that walk my group ended up completely lost after a wrong turn near the beginning on the first day but luckily, as we were on familiar territory, we managed to work out where we were and find our way to our campsite even arriving early.

Although the real expedition was carried out by our group with no such problems, the intermittent rain was annoying, my feet ached and I couldn't help longing for the wretched thing to be over. I firmly decided that it was not my thing, and you must be joking if you were to think you would find me in the middle of the countryside in the cold and wet with a heavy rucksack, a map and blisters on my feet ever again!

I was relieved to cross the 'finish line' at the end of the weekend but now it's over I do feel a great sense of achievement in what I have done and I'm pleased I chose to do it in the first place. But of course I write this in the warmth of central heating and a roof!

Helen Pearce

## **Saturday Night Entertainment Committee - The Edited Highlights.**

At Rendcomb on a Saturday night we try desperately to ignore the acute blandness of "Blind Date" etc. and find more interesting and rewarding things to do before the Sixth Form bar kicks into action at 9.30. Highly social Barbecues and school discos form a regular part of the diet but what on earth was in store when something advertised as "A Night of Absurdity" appeared. The answer included the staff band, conducted beautifully by Naomi Phipps, performing Jonathan Cage's piece "4 minutes and 33 seconds." This remarkable opening was followed by a wonderfully bizarre series of sketches written and performed by the students, some elegantly read poetry and a suitably hilarious rendition of Monty Python's "Lumberjack Song."

As ever the gastronomic experiences proved popular and a group of over fifty students enjoyed a delicious meal at the Mayflower Restaurant in Cheltenham while another well supported event was the fancy dress wine tasting competition run by some enthusiastic and all too knowledgeable House staff. An Italian night further broadened culinary experience and set the tone for a major theme next year while the 60's style disco with guest D. J.s Grey 'N' Balding proved great fun and gave us a taster of some of the exciting dancing to be seen in the junior musical "Grease". More musical magic was heard at the informal Rock concert while the competition to find the biggest, longest and best moustache resulted in some spectacular creations and was narrowly won by Big Billy Witchell. More unorthodox creativity could be seen at the fancy dress Christmas games night where unmentionable things were done with balloons and broomsticks while the black cloaked Messrs. Murray and Taplin acted out then-darkest fantasies as jury, judge and executioner! A more cerebral spring quiz night tested everybody's wit and wisdom but the huge food hamper for first prize proved a great incentive again while the annual Rendcomb Treasure Hunt cunningly set by "Muzzers" challenged even the most dastardly of minds and included a performance of "Ring a Ring a Roses" which even saw Mr Tolputt being ominously involved in the "A tissue a tissue we all fall down" piece!

Many thanks go to all those who gave of their time and energies to the varied programme of events, especially those staff who gave up their Saturday nights so unselfishly and also to my two poster production experts, Matt Williams and Andy Sage.

MSG

(See photos on opposite page)

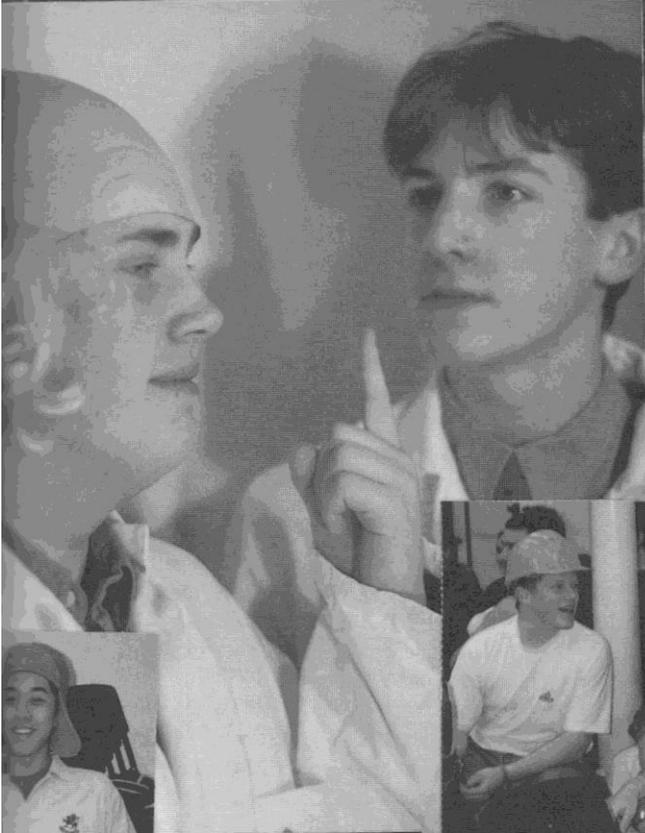
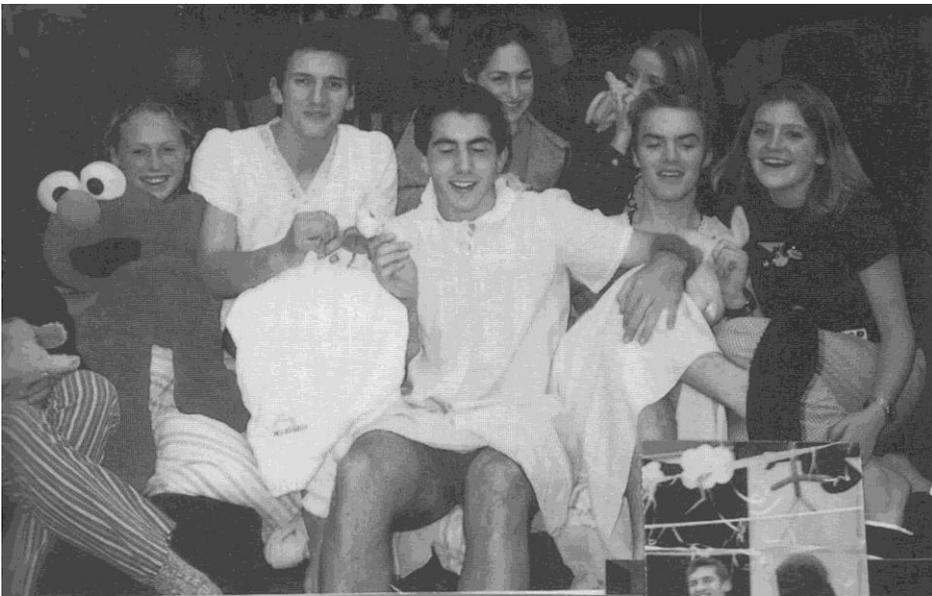
## **Hands On Days**

A number of Hands On days have been run this year to great acclaim. Organised by Penrose Shackel and Nicoletta Tuteri they have brought new people into the school. Archery, Golf, Fishing, Climbing, Shooting, Orienteering, Cooking and Sculpting were all on offer to young Rendcombian hopefuls at our Rural Day on 25th April. Many children subsequently wrote letters, expressing their hope that we would run another Hands On Day soon. Thirty-seven schools, from all over the South and Central England, have so far been involved in our Hands on Days, showing the wide appeal of a Rendcomb education.

Our next Hands on Day is on 17th October and will be an exciting look at Science, both the Biology of the Body and the Physics of Light and Sound. With the use of special effects and, of course, Hands On experiments, this will be Science to remember. Many thanks to all members of staff involved in making the days a success.

PS

(See photos on inside front cover and title page)



# The Record

## College Officers

### Prefects:

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ian Forster         | Head Boy and Head of Lawn House  |
| Phillipa Hunt       | Head Girl and Head of Park House |
| Thomas Gilbert      | Head of School House             |
| Philip Webb         | Head of Stable House             |
| Sophie Worlock      | Prefect in School House          |
| Theo Berry          | Prefect in Old Rectory           |
| Beans Boughton      | Prefect in Old Rectory           |
| Rebecca Hogarth     | Prefect in Godman House          |
| Gemma Leathart      | Prefect in Godman House          |
| Harry Aldrich-Blake |                                  |
| Benjamin Butler     |                                  |
| Lisa Engelstädter   |                                  |
| Jenny Mais          |                                  |
| Dominic Morris      |                                  |
| Kate Nicholas       |                                  |
| John Shenton        |                                  |
| Tara Sleggs         |                                  |
| Rebekah Taplin      |                                  |
| James Starkey       |                                  |

### Church Ushers

David Ashby (Head Usher)  
Phillipa Hunt  
Jenny Mais  
Florian Brenner  
Laura Donovan  
Harry Aldrich-Blake  
Nick Stanfield  
Gemma Leathart  
Louise Bongiovanni  
Sophie Worlock  
Lisa Engelstädter  
Nina Breitfeld

## Valete

We say good-bye to the following and wish them every success and happiness in the future:

Harry Aldrich-Blake, Oliver Anthony, David Ashby, Theo Berry, Louise Bongiovanni, Beans Boughton, Nina Breitfeld, Florian Brenner, Ben Butler, Samantha Cheung, Laura Donovan, Lisa Engelstädter, Ian Forster, Thomas Gilbert, Rebecca Hogarth, Phillipa Hunt, Gemma Leathart, Jenny Mais, Dominic Morris, Kate Nicholas, Oliver Poole, Johannes Schinzler, John Shenton, Tara Sleggs, Nicholas Stanfield, James Starkey, Rebekah Taplin, Barbara Unger, Franziska von Gleichenstein, Philip Webb, Lena Werckmeister, Sophie Worlock, Patricia Yip. (*See photo below by Abbey Studios*).

**Fifth Year:** Matthew Collier, Ellen Drury, Oliver Jones, Robert Knight, Matthew Neale, Ben Starks, Rose Thrower, Robin Uzzell.

**Third Year:** Alexandra Pardhy, William Hodder, Rin Hareyama, Yoshie Yahagi, Sachiko Nishimura, Mariko Watanabi, Shinya Koiso, Barnaby Kellet.

**Second Year:** Mitja Lapis.

**First Year:** Louise Beer.

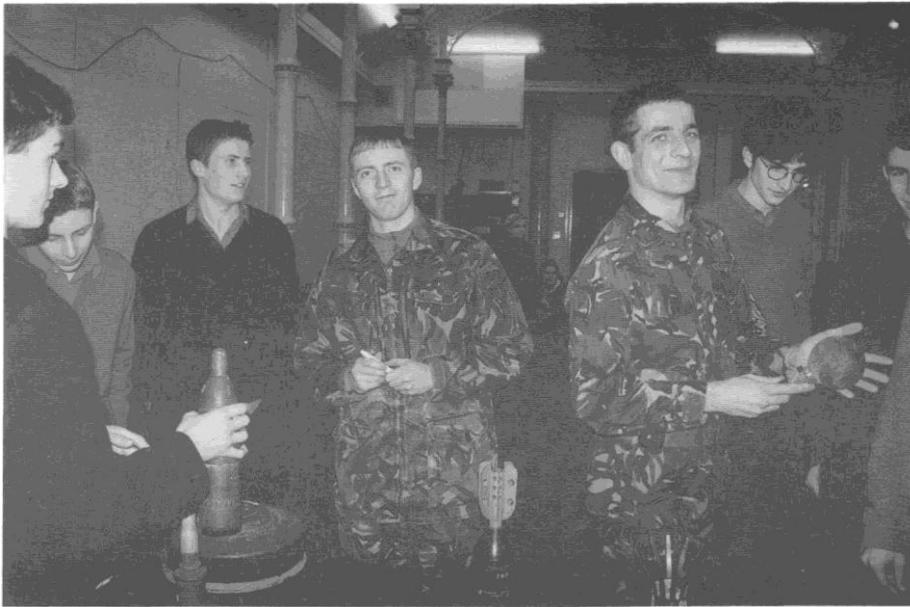
## Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1999:

**Form 6B:** Matthew Carrington, Olivia de Monceau, Ludger Frese, Andrea Gear, Andreas Gebhardt, Christopher Henson, Joanna Hindley, Amilee Saro, Matthew Thatcher, Kate Wilson.

**Fourth Year:** Yu Hon Chan, Lorraine Jack, David Moxham, Juliane Spanier, James Thatcher, Jonathan Thomson, Christian van Welij, Georgina Webb-Dicken.





**Phil Moore, Old Rendcombian (holding grenade), gave a talk to the Sixth Form on Bomb Disposal**

Third Year: Laura Burley, Cindy Cheung, Rebecca - Claire Demzszak, Holly Harbottle, Caroline Lay, Amy Longman, James Pearce, Louisa Sandover, Yusuke Hiratsuka, Masaki Isoda, Atsushi Nomura, Chie Ogawa, Ami Matsunami, Natsumi Yaegashi.

Second Year: Rebecca Doyle, James Ko, William Read, Adelaide Thistlethwaite, Jonathan Williams.

First Year: Jason Baalham, Louise Bowen, Sophie Boyd, Emma Couch, Jessica Cowper, William Drewett, Laura Evans, Sebastian Goffe, Edward Hutchinson, Hannah Kay, Mikel Lahav-Spitz, Samya Malik, Emma Medus, Rebecca Maxted, Lewis Paine, Jeremy Pidgeon, Steven Rich, Polly Rudderham, Chloe Slater, Tim Snow, Guy Tatham-Losh, Holly Taylor, Andrew Thomas, William Thwaites.

## The Friends of Rendcomb

Our '75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholar', Robert Knight, left this Summer. During his five years at Rendcomb, his academic and sporting skills developed significantly. In addition, his 'Junior Masterchef' achievement is a measure of his aptitudes.

We have awarded our Jack Fell Scholarship to Tim Snow, who starts in First Year this September, having just left a Gloucestershire Primary School. We wish him well.

David Vaisey (O.R. and Governor) has succeeded David Jenks as Chairman of the Friends Trust, the latter remaining a valuable Trustee. In November 1998, Robert Ward (parent) was appointed a Trustee, and we look forward to his ideas and input.

The 'History of Rendcomb IF: the College is storing many unsold copies of this excellent history. Sale proceeds come to this Trust, so if you have not got a copy, or would like to give some as presents, please send £20 to the Headmaster's Secretary. (Cheques payable to 'Friends of Rendcomb Trust')

Our prime objective remains to provide scholarships for distinctive children who might not otherwise have had the opportunity of a Rendcomb education. The demise of

Gloucestershire County Scholarships, where the boarding need criteria became vigorously applied, and the more recent withdrawal of the Government's Assisted Places Scheme, makes our task harder, but even more essential.

Yes, we need more money to fund present scholarships, and additional ones in the future to help fill the void increased by local and central government action. The benefit of giving, in gift or covenant form, not only provides scholarships, but also enables you to put something back into Rendcomb through a living person.

If you would like to become a 'Friend', please either send a one-off gift cheque to me via the school made payable to 'Friends of Rendcomb', or request a Covenant Form (for 4 or 7 years) to spread your generosity.

John Webb, OR (1954-63)  
Executive Trustee

## Old Rendcombian Society

At the Annual General Meeting in June 1998, the following officers were elected: -

President: Michael Miles (1943-50)  
Chairman: Neil Lumby (1968-73)  
Vice-Chairman: Mrs Sally Morris (1978-80)  
Secretary: Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77)  
Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA  
Newsletter Editor: Bill White (Staff 1961-97)  
Treasurer: Chris Wood (1965-71: Staff 1976-)  
Committee Members: Douglas Payne (1940-48)  
Julian Comrie (1946-54)  
Richard Tudor (1973-80)  
Hamish Auld (1985-92; Staff 1998-)  
School rep: Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 94-)  
Hon Auditor: David Williams (1966-71)

## Travel Bursary

£500 was split equally between the following:  
Jenny Mais (Christian Services Overseas) and Becky Hogarth. (GAP Child Caring Project)

## News of Recent Leavers

|                              |   |                                   |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Abbott, Toby                 | London University                                 | Geography 1999 Drama & English    |
| Barnes, Ralph                | Worcester College of H. E.                        | Business Studies Business         |
| Carrington, Andrew           | Aberystwyth University                            | Administration                    |
| Chaiwatanasirikul, Kittipong | Richmond University                               | Law                               |
| Davies, Harvey               | Sheffield University                              | Art Foundation                    |
| Davis, Jonathan              | Loughborough University                           | Geography & Mathematics 1999      |
| De Havilland Hall, Philip    | Reapplying for University                         |                                   |
| Farr, Georgina               | Gap Year - to study Drama at University next year |                                   |
| Forster, Edward              | University of Central England, Birmingham         | Horology                          |
| Freeman, Jonathan            | Reapplying to University                          | Psychology 1999                   |
| Garland, Jack                | Exeter University                                 | History & Italian                 |
| Gibbs, James                 | St Andrew's University                            | Anthropology & Philosophy         |
| Gilyead, Rachel              | University of East Anglia                         | English Literature                |
| Grey, Sebastian              | Gap Year  |                                   |
| Hawkins, Jake                | UMIST   | Physics                           |
| Hill, Timothy                | St Edmund Hall, Oxford University                 | Chemistry                         |
| Histed, Richard              | Leicester University                              | Electronic & Software Engineering |
| Holliday, Chas               | Gap Year  |                                   |
| Howard, Annabel              | Imperial College, London University               | Biological Sciences               |
| Hughes, David                | Swansea University                                | Chemical Engineering              |
| Jakobs, Elizabeth            | Cardiff Institute of HE                           | Hotel Management & Tourism        |
| Keith, Julian                | Newcastle University                              | International Business Studies    |
| King, Joel                   | Bournemouth University                            | Business Information Technology   |
| Maylott, Samuel              |   | Employment in the Media           |
| Nicholls, Hannah             | Bath Spa University College                       | Primary Education                 |
| Nye, Alastair                | GAP year India                                    | 1999                              |
| Perry, Rebecca               | Colchester Institute of Music                     | Art Foundation                    |
| Peters, Sophie               | Loughborough University                           | Business Studies                  |
| Phillips, Adam               | Bournemouth University                            | Mathematics                       |
| Scarth, Christopher          | Warwick University                                | International Business Studies    |
| Sutton, Mark                 | Nottingham Trent University                       | Chemistry & Geology               |
| Taylor, Ashley               | Southampton University                            | Environmental Geoscience          |
| Webb, Rupert                 | Bristol University                                | Greek & Roman Studies             |
| Webb, Simon                  | Exeter University                                 | Economics with Accounting, 1999   |
| Williams, David              | University of Central England Birmingham          | Music Technology, 1999            |
|                              | HND   |                                   |

### 5th Form Leavers

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dean Armstrong-Wilde   | Employment in Hotel/Catering trade |
| Adam Card              | To South Africa                    |
| Benjamin Cox           | Cirencester College                |
| Tristan Day            | Sherborne School                   |
| Andrew Dolleymore      | Marlborough School                 |
| Charlotte Emerson      | Cirencester College                |
| David Newby            | Wrekin College                     |
| Robert Mann            | Hartpury Agricultural College      |
| Jamela Saedaldin       | Cirencester College                |
| Georgina Scot-Simmonds | Boumside School                    |
| Henry Weston           | To South Africa                    |
| David Spenley          | Cirencester College                |

# Academic

## Scholarship Awards for Entry in September 1999

### Sixth Form Entry

|                    |                             |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Matthew Carrington | (Marling School)            | Open Scholarship      |
| Andrea Gear        | (Balcarras School)          | Open Scholarship      |
| Christopher Henson | (King's School, Gloucester) | Minor Art Scholarship |
| Kate Wilson        | (Priestlands School)        | Minor Art Scholarship |

### Third Year Entry

|                 |                          |                   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Holly Harbottle | (Hatherop Castle School) | Music Scholarship |
| Amy Longman     | (The Cotswold School)    | Art Scholarship   |
| James Pearce    | (Prior Park Prep School) | Art Scholarship   |

### First Year Entry

|                   |                           |                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sebastian Goffe   | (Hatherop Castle School)  | Noel Wills Scholarship            |
| Daisy Hill Edward | (Feniton School)          | Open Scholarship                  |
| Hutchinson Chloe  | (Fairford Primary School) | Open Scholarship                  |
| Slater            | (Kemble Primary School)   | Minor Performing Arts Scholarship |

## 'A' Level Examinations

This summer's GCE Advanced Level results were:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Harry Aldrich-Blake         | English Literature, Business Studies, Geography                  |
| Oliver Anthony              | Art and Design   |
| David Ashby                 | Mathematics, Physics, Geography                                  |
| Theo Berry                  | English Literature*. French, History*, Mathematics*              |
| Louise Bongiovanni          | German*, Music, Geography  |
| Beans Boughton              | English Literature, French, History.                             |
| Nina Breitfeld              | French. German*, Mathematics, Geography                          |
| Florian Brenner             | German*  |
| Benjamin Butler             | Chemistry *. Physics*, Music (AS), Biology*                      |
| Samantha Cheung             | Art and Design, Chinese  |
| Laura Donovan               | English Literature, Business Studies, Geography*                 |
| Elisabeth Engelstadter      | Art and Design*, German*, Biology (AS)                           |
| Ian Forster                 | French, Mathematics, Business Studies                            |
| Thomas Gilbert              | English Literature, History, Music                               |
| Rebecca Hogarth             | Chemistry. Business Studies, Biology (AS)                        |
| Phillipa Hunt               | Chemistry*, Mathematics*, Physics, Biology*                      |
| Gemma Leathart              | English Literature, German, Geography                            |
| Jenny Mais                  | Art and Design*, English Literature, French*                     |
| Dominic Morris              | English Literature, Business Studies, Geography                  |
| Kate Nicholas               | English Literature. French*, German, Theatre Studies             |
| Oliver Poole                | Art and Design*. English Literature. Business Studies            |
| Johannes Schinzler          | French. German*  |
| John Shenton                | English Literature, Business Studies, Geography                  |
| Tara Sleggs                 | Art and Design*, Mathematics, Geography, Biology                 |
| Nicholas Stanfield          | French*, German*, Mathematics*, Further Mathematics (AS)         |
| James Starkey               | Art and Design, Geography  |
| Rebekah Taplin              | English Literature, German, Theatre Studies*                     |
| Barbara Unger               | English Literature, German*, History, Mathematics, Geography*    |
| Franziska von Gleichenstein | German*, Mathematics, Geography                                  |
| Phillip Webb                | Art and Design. English Literature, Music (AS), Business Studies |
| Lena Werckmeister           | French, German*, Mathematics                                     |
| Sophie Worlock              | Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology                                  |
| Patricia Yip                | Art and Design, Mathematics, Chinese                             |
| Airasana Busato             | Portuguese*, Spanish*  |

Key: \* = grade A

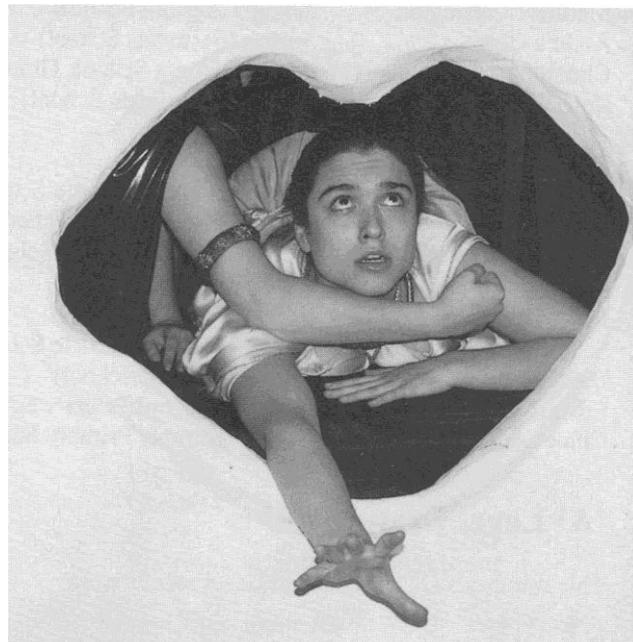
## GCSE Examinations

The GCSE results were:

### Sixth Form Entry:

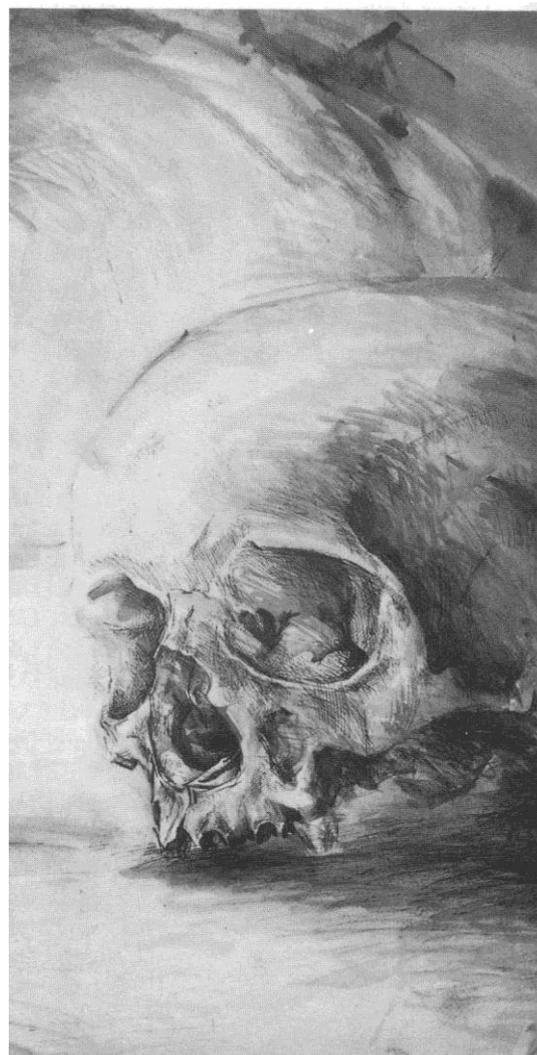
Melanie Abbott - PE\*\*  
 Nina Breitfeld - AD\*, E  
 Florian Brenner - E  
 James Brittain Jones - PE\*\*  
 Samantha Cheung - e  
 Anna de Lisle Wells - PE\*\*  
 Sarah Donovan - PE\*  
 Edward Farnsworth - PE\*  
 Sonia Forster - E  
 Carlos Garcia - PE  
 Franziska von Gleichenstein - E  
 Nicholas Hall - PE\*\*  
 Edward Hogarth - PE  
 Smallman Rate - PE  
 Marguerita Schumacher - m  
 Sophie Sprawson - M, PE\*  
 Yuki Takanashi E  
 Charlotte Webb - PE\*\*  
 Lena Werckmeister - E, S\*  
 William Witchell - PE  
 Patricia Yip - e

Key: Capital letters show grades a-c, lower case letters grades D-F \*\* - grade A\*  
 \* - grade A



### Fifth form Entry:

Paul Bongiovanni - E, EL, M, MU\*, B, C, P, F\*, GN\*, G,  
 Simon Bullock - AD, E, el, m, ss, it, g  
 Matthew Collier - E\*, EL, M\*\*, B\*\*, C\*\*, F\*\*, GN\*\*, IT,  
 G Thomas Drew - AD, E, EL, M, B\*, C, P, F, G, FN  
 Ellen Drurey - AD\*, E\*, EL\*, M, B\*, C\*, P, F\*, GN\*, G  
 Michael Elsworth - E, EL, H\*, M, B, C, P, F, IT, G  
 Rosalind Frazer-Holland - E\*, EL, H\*, M, B\*, C, P, F\*, IT, G\*  
 Antonia Gilbert - A, E\*\*, EL\*, H\*\*, M, B\*, C, P, F\*\*, G  
 Martin Good - E, EL, H\*, M, B, C\*, P, GN\*, IT, G  
 Oliver Jones - A\*, E, EL, MB, C, P, F\*\*, GN, G  
 Frederick Lait - A\*, E\*, EL\*, H\*\*, M\*\*, B\*, P\*, F\*\*, GN\*\*  
 Hau Ling Leung - A, e, m, ss, it, CH  
 Matthew Neale - E, EL, m, DS, F, g, FN  
 Leila Nelson - AD, E, EL, M, DS, F, G, FN,  
 Alice Osborne - AD, E, EL, H, m, DS, F, fn  
 Robert Knight - AD, E, EL, M, B, C, P, F, G, FN\*  
 Adam Padmore - E\*, EL\*, H\*, M, B, C, P, F\*, GN, G  
 Helen Pearce - AD\*, E, EL, M, MU, DS, GN, G  
 Amy Roberts - AD\*, E, EL, M, MU, DS, GN, G  
 Natsuko Sasaki - AD, E, EL, M\*, MU\*\*, DS, g  
 Nicola Scarth - AD, E, EL, M, B, C, p, F, G, FN  
 Christina Schotten - AD\*, E\*, EL, m, MU, DS, GN\*\*, G  
 Benjamin Stanfield - E, EL, H\*, M, B, C, P, F\*\*, GN, FN\*  
 Benjamin Starks - E, EL, H, M, B\*, C\*, P, f, IT, FN  
 Paul Sybiak - E, EL, B, C, C, P, F\*, GN, IT, G  
 Rose Thrower - AD, E, EL, MDS, F\*\*, IT, fn  
 Robin Uzzell - AD\*, E\*, EL, M, B, C, P, F\*, GN, G  
 Rebecca Whatman - AD\*, E\*, EL\*, H\*, M, B\*, C, P, F\*, G\*  
 Rebecca Williams - E, EL, m, SS, F, GN\*, it, g



# EXCURSIONS

## Sixteen Go Mad in Reading

On Thursday 19th November, the Sixth Form Biologists travelled to Reading University to spend the day in the labs at the National Centre for Biotechnology. We arrived late morning to be greeted by our tutor for the day, John Scholar, who directed us into one of the many departmental labs.

There we selected our rather spacious laboratory coats (resembling maternity strait jackets) and paired off into eight groups to begin a long and demanding day of experiments.

The first experiment was a series of yeast fermentations under varying conditions, with the highlight being the magnetic stirrers which gave us constant entertainment. Readings were taken throughout the day to give us a grouped set of results for analysis back at Rendcomb.

Next we began an experiment on different samples of DNA from an artificial family tree. Each group was given three samples to discover the nature of the genotype coding for our imaginary disease "Love for Biology". Luckily for our three family members the gel electrophoresis showed they were fortunate enough to be recessive for this gene.

Our third experiment was of a similar nature but conducted on our own cheek cells removed by swilling with an isotonic drink. Using advanced enzymes and hi-tech machinery our 'cut' DNA was amplified to be used again in the process of gel electrophoresis.

This experiment proved not to be as successful as the previous one, as we appeared to have no DNA, which was slightly worrying.

Finally we finished the long day off with genetic engineering of E. Coli bacteria. The process to insert the desired gene was long and fairly complicated but by the end we all had a batch of genetically altered DNA to take back to Rendcomb for incubation and observation.

Although the day was tiring, we all benefited greatly from being able to use such State of the Art equipment.

Many thanks to John Scholar for his expert tuition and Mr Stutchbury and Mr Vuolo for giving us the opportunity to be one of the first school groups in Britain to partake in such experiments.

Phillipa Hunt

## Biology 'A' Level Field Trip

### Visit to Draper's Field Centre, Betwys-y-Coed

After a little hold-up around Birmingham, we all rolled up at the field centre around five o'clock, thanks to expert directions from the Head Girl. Unfortunately for us we got stuck on a corridor full of noisy Liverpool girls, who began their beauty regime every morning around 6.30am. This consisted of waking up everyone by screaming down the corridor, hogging the showers for hours and non-stop hair drying until breakfast at 8.30am.

The first day began at the rocky sea-shore, with a lighthouse which apparently, according to Pete our tutor, had a little man inside ringing the bell every 30 seconds.

We were joined by seven other girls from a school in Denbigh and carried out our quadratics in mixed groups.

We slowly got to know them more over the next day at Harlech sand dunes. Surprisingly, wet Wales was unusually sunny and collecting our data was a long, hot and prickly process, after which we kicked off our boots and went swimming. This included Mr Stutchbury who, after a bit of persuading, ran in like a kid. Pity no-one had a camera handy. He put up an impressive fight to avoid being ducked but in the end Becky, Tara, Ben and I won. It was a hard decision to select the winner of the wet T-shirt competition, but Tara managed to take the title from Mr Stutchbury!

Betwys-y-Coed wasn't the liveliest of places but the fish and chip shop was well worth the visit(s).

Sophie Worlock

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award group on Kinder Scout in the Peak District



# Geography Fieldwork

## 'A' Level Field Trip Summer 1998

The Geographers followed in the footsteps of the Normans to the majestic beauty of South Pembrokeshire - and the Field Studies Centre at Orielton. During the week the students were involved in collecting primary data and acquiring useful fieldwork techniques in the process as they investigated several elements. The 'fields' covered were both human and physical including: fluvial geomorphology on the Afon Syfynwy, sand dune biogeography at Freshwater West, coastal processes and management around Amroth, rural settlement pattern around Pembroke and the salt marsh ecosystem at Bentlass in Milford Haven estuary.

Some respite was found in excursions to Tenby and the Green Bridge - making the most of the excellent weather experienced.

ASB

## 'A' Level Field Trip Summer 1999

As a 'Dave's Motor Hire' minibus trundled down the motorway booming to a variety of music, the 6B geographers were eagerly excited as they awaited a week of adventure, hard work and innuendoes. As we passed along the narrow, high-hedged roads of Pembrokeshire, Orielton Manor House delicately appeared in a clearing among a distant wood, - 'There she blows,' said Mr. Brealy, as he grew ever more excited. Oreilton Manor House is an old manor house and stables converted to accommodate students and provide classrooms, laboratories and a library. On our arrival we had some time to explore and find the thrilling arcade machines and the focal point of the centre - the Table Tennis table.

All arose in good spirits in the morning and with a delicious and hearty breakfast we went to make sandwiches for lunchtime. However when we saw the state of the sandwich making room, it became obvious that someone had forgotten to close the door of the house, and during the night all the forest animals from the wood had come in and had a feed on the sandwich fillings. But we found enough fillings to make some large and original sandwiches (Marmite and Ham, Ed?; Banana and Peanut Butter, Nellie?).

The mornings consisted of introductory lectures from 09:00 - 10:30/11:00, to give us insight into the day's field study and allow the girls to gaze at Paul our tutor's legs.

Day 1 was a study of the salt marsh at Bentlass. Wellies were a good idea and after we had discovered every plant in Pembrokeshire and dropped a 'million' pins to identify these plants, the welly brigade attempted a crossing of the marsh. The Bible tells us how Jesus walked across water, but I bet he could not have walked across deep, smelly mud like Ed Farnsworth! We returned around 16:30 each

day and then once showered, we spent an hour working before tea. After tea two hours were spent analysing data and making conclusions etc. Then from 21:00 - 23:00 the evenings were free, which gave us time to meet the other 'Geysers' staying with us at the centre.

Day 2 was a study of woodlands and we were given a new tutor for this study, Andy, the proud Welshman, whilst Oily Wallace and Sonja Forster spent a long! Long! Long! Day with Paul in a minibus studying Post Offices, Village Shops and settlement patterns. Meanwhile the woodland nymphs were bombarded with Andy's, enlightening innuendoes for the day, which ended in a mud fight.

Day 3 was the River study and for this we were divided into two groups in order to cover the distance of the river. Group 2 picked the best set of sites as they realised when a very weary and tired Group 1 told us of their enormous treks across moorland to get to their sites.

Day 4 was the study of the sand-dunes at Freshwater West, the beautiful beach, gorgeously warm and clear blue water and even warmer weather the next day to collect more data. The worst thing was, he had to drag 3 assistant data collectors along with him - it was such hard work! (Actually it was because we dropped 2,100 pins for identifying 100's of different plants but the girls' school who came with us kept us working hard and made sure we were not distracted by anything! )

The last two days were left for further data collection and any information we needed from Paul like maps, books, data and a telephone number 'aye! Nellie', could be got. But on the last day Mr. Brealy did treat us to a day out at the local Theme Park, where we all had a great time. Sarah, Anna and Nellie paid to fall from a '100ft' tower! Which earned them some respect from the lads and Mr. Brealy was led astray as he got slightly over excited about riding Britain's largest wooden roller-coaster - (don't worry, Mr. Brealy your secret is safe with us!).

P.S. No one was able to win the 'Spot The Mr. Brealy' competition, so the £650 prize money has been given to the local 'Breals Search and Rescue Institution'.

Nick Hall

## Trip to Weston-super-Mare

The buses left at 11 am, just after Church. Everyone was curious and filled with suspense. We left Rendcomb in the beautiful sunshine with the interesting music Mr Auld seems to like and we were on our way. We made a quick stop at the garage so people could stock up on food as the trip went along.

Within two hours we arrived at Sand Bay. However, there was some disappointment as the sea was about four miles out and just a brown beach was left, along with no shops around at all.

We decided to eat our lunch and stay for 20 minutes and head off. Within half an hour we entered Weston-super-

Mare along with its many tourists. We drove past and could hear the music of the pier attractions already. The sea looked somewhat distant, and was about a mile out, but this did not dishearten anyone. We all met the teachers to decide at what time to come back, and we all went our separate ways.



People made their way up to the piers after crossing horses and carts and many young children on the backs of donkeys. We made our way up to the pier passing candy floss shops and the like, along with many old tourists just admiring the view and made our way up to the attractions.

We went through a maze of arcade games and up to the dungeons where Simon decided to show off his driving skills accompanied by Amber's constant screeches which could be heard all over the pier as she passed through the ghost train.

We made our way up to the shopping centre in town to eat endless MacDonalds. We looked through the many shops and met a clown who looked distinctly like Mr Auld.

We carried on window shopping and soon came out of the shopping centre and met Miss Houghton and co and talked about the day's events as Miss Houghton stood there in a ridiculous hat with pig-tails, everyone who walked past just gazed at her in amazement, and laughed helplessly.

We made our way back to the minibus after one last try on the pier games and headed back. We were greeted by sticks of Weston rock from the staff and started off back to Rendcomb.

A great time was had by all, and special thanks go to Miss Houghton, Miss Chisnall, Mr Auld and Miss Hatton for organising the trip and taking us there.

Richard Demczak

## Old Rectory Trip to Kingsholm

On Saturday 16th January, thanks to the generosity of Mr Ward, a packed-out coach pulled out of the Rendcomb drive. We finally arrived at Gloucester to watch the rugby match between Gloucester and Richmond. Well as you can imagine, the moment everyone was in the grounds it was up to the staff to set a good example. In

other words this meant that the excited staff consisting of Mr Wood, Mr Sykes and Mr Auld rushed immediately to the beer tent which was conveniently placed in full view of everybody.

When the game commenced there was great excitement over events although it wasn't all necessarily over the game as such, (people can do some very strange things in front of a Sky television crew!) Well the game went on and it was very exciting for both sets of supporters, although there was still one thing that always managed to catch my eye, and that was the sight of three members of staff who by this time were starting to walk as if they'd never tried it before.

Finally the game ended and even after a fierce battle by Gloucester, they lost 15-12 to Richmond. We all gathered in a crowd outside the entrance with the only sober member of staff who was at the time Mr White. We waited for a few minutes and finally we saw the other members of staff staggering out and trying to make it look as if they hadn't touched a drop of alcohol. We then listened to the slurred and intoxicated voice of Mr Auld saying "Can you pleeasse geet baack ooon the coaoaoach." Luckily we got back to school and I must say it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. I would like to thank Mr Ward for his hospitality.

Barney Vick

## Third Form Visit to the Imperial War Museum

On Wednesday 9th June the Third Year all went to the Imperial War Museum in London. On the way on the coach we were able to watch the video of the film "Armageddon" and it was really cool! When we finally arrived at the museum we were greeted by some absolutely MASSIVE guns at the entrance; it was hard to believe that they were real and that they had been used in the war.

After refreshments of crisps and coke (Yes - real coke - amazing!) we were split into three groups to look around the museum and complete the worksheets. I was lucky; I was in a group with my friends. As our group had mainly opted for GCSE Art we went first to the Art Gallery upstairs, where we saw some quite disturbing images for the First World War - the casualties and the despair of the soldiers. Then we went back down into the main large exhibits hall. It was really interesting; there were tanks, guns, aircraft, miniature submarines and even a bus used for conveying troops to the front. The most impressive thing there was a very tall mast periscope; we were told to look into it and I was just expecting to see the person behind me or something, but when I looked through I could see the dome of St Paul's Cathedral two miles away. It was great!

Next we descended into the basement where the First World War exhibition is located. It included a "trench experience" where it was really dark and so smelly! There were shouts, sounds of gunfire and general chaos -

really awful! Even though the sheet had told us to walk through quietly Felicity and I still managed to scream at every waxwork of a wounded soldier covered in blood! Then we worked through the rest of the sheets, examining exhibits to see the weapons used, what soldiers did in their spare time and what role women played in the war.

After we had eaten a lovely Rendcomb packed lunch out of our little white bags it was time to go up to the cinema to watch a film called "Standing in for Brother Bob!" which was about a group of women in Liverpool coping with the war and how they took over jobs which had only ever been thought suitable for men. The film was very interesting and quite amusing. There was still time to wander through the rest of the museum and visit the shop or cafe.

At 3.15 pm we all got back onto the coach for the long trip home. We were able to make a pit-stop at a service station for sweets, drinks, burgers and chips. All in all it was a good day and I had learnt a few things about the war which helped me understand it better.

Zuki Turner  
Leanne Evans

## The Rendcomb Bus (The Venga Girls reporting on the trip to Germany)

(Apologies to those not familiar with the tune and apologies to those who are.)

We like to party!

We've got something to tell you.  
We've got news for you.  
Gonna put these wheels in motion  
Get ready 'coz we're coming through!

Hey now! Hey now! Hear what I say now!  
The first youth hostel is just 'round the corner.  
Hey now! Hey now! Hear what I say now!  
You'll be speaking German now!

The Rendcomb bus is coming  
And everyone is jumping  
From Ciren right to Munster  
We didn't get a puncture.

The wheels of steel are turning  
And traffic lights are burning  
So if you like to party  
Our German trip - it's arty!

Hey now! Hey now! Don't get a scare now!  
A great big tram is coming round the corner.



Hey now! Hey now! no place to park now.  
Mr P is speaking French.

The Rendcomb bus is coming and everyone is humming  
From Munster on to Arnsberg  
The hostel is quite absurd.

Alarm now! Alarm now!  
Try to stay calm crowd!  
Don't press the red button on the Bonn underground.

We like to party.

Alarm now Alarm now  
Try to stay calm crowd  
Don't press the button on the U Bahn  
Alarm now Alarm now  
fingers on the button  
Make that man president.

Autobahn Autobahn  
Too much Autobahn  
O look there goes another road to Ausfahrt  
Autobahn Autobahn  
We need more fuel now  
Sounds like a song from Kraftwerk.

For those of you who are confused by the above, this is what we did: 15 of us, including Miss Houghton and Mr Patterson, left Rendcomb for Germany in the minibus. We stayed one night in Kevelar near some "exciting" Roman ruins; 3 nights in a great youth hostel in Munster, where we did lots; one night in Arnsberg in a tasty youth hostel with medieval washrooms; and three nights in Bonn, where we went sightseeing, to the circus, ice skating, shopping, on a day trip to Cologne, etc., etc. Es war toll!!

Alice Barefoot

## "Grease" Trip to London

The fights dimmed. Voices hushed and the "Grease" logo appeared big and illuminating at the back of the stage; the band started the show with a jazzy little number. Then it

got slower and the two main characters appeared at either side of the stage and so began the lively, entertaining story of teenagers being themselves.

The theatre was much smaller than I had expected but rather than make it worse, it actually made it better. The scenery was really cool, very realistic and very American. As the show went on you got to know each individual character from the way they acted, moved, spoke and all the little things they did.

The music and the actors' dancing was funky and even some of our school got up and joined in, well actually everyone did; you just couldn't help but follow the beat.

As well as being entertaining I found it extremely useful, being Frenchie in our school production. I watched the Frenchie there and it has given me a lot of ideas. I know it was like that for all the characters. Every actor went over the top and you could tell they were really putting their whole into it. It was an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Felicity-Levy Bull

## Jersey Cricket Tour

On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> July, thirteen pupils plus Mr Sykes and Mr and Mrs Essenhigh set off for Jersey. Thankfully the sea voyage went smoothly and without incident and we arrived at St Helier in bright warm sunshine. To acclimatise to the hard ground we had a thorough hour long practise on the Victoria College cricket field. The first match took place on the F. B. Sports ground against Reigate Grammar School. We won the toss and batted, making 154. This was made up of contributions from everybody. Chris Sykes did especially well, batting for a considerable length of time in the middle of the innings before falling for 22 runs. Ian Forster gave an added impetus at the end of the innings with a quick fire 23. Although the result went against us, we knew we could build on the positive aspects of our performance.

On the rest day, we went to the sea-side and sharpened up our technique with some beach cricket. Chris Sykes' response to being told to 'Throw the bat at the ball' was however, slightly unorthodox.

On the Wednesday and Thursday we played a two innings game against our hosts, Victoria College. The format meant that we could put right on the second day out performance on the first, and made a committed effort with which to finish our season. Nick Hall showed some considerable resilience in both innings, scoring 27 and 21. In the field, Harry Aldrich-Blake bowled with vigour and was unlucky not to get a hat-trick. However, the match will be remembered longest for Laurie Barton's first legitimate runs of the season. He got off the mark by edging the ball between his legs, then on the second innings he hit a four worthy of any opening batsman.

The accommodation in the Sports Hall of Victoria College was unusual, as we had to make way on various

occasions for a table tennis championship and fitness circuit training. However, our living arrangements did have their compensations as we were able to play *one hand one bounce* cricket till all hours.

A big thank you goes to Mr and Mrs Essenhigh, not only for their excellent company and advice, but also for Mr. Essenhigh's demonstration of how to overtake a police car without a care for our safety! The last night of the tour gave us the opportunity to thank Mr. Sykes for his steadfast presence and coaching throughout the season and also for him to announce William Witchell as captain for the 2000 season. I wish him all the best for the coming year.

Phil Webb

## Sport

### Rugby Football

This season was significant and very pleasing success across the age range and thus represents a departure from the pattern that has been established over the last few years of College rugby, with the senior sides enjoying considerable success and the junior teams often struggling against physically larger opponents. Hopefully, this change will prove to be indicative of the fact that we have finally achieved a fixture list that is both balanced and appropriate to a school that is now fully co-educational.

The coaching staff remained essentially the same as last year, with additional contributions from Paul Dodd and Hamish Auld.

For the fifth successive year, the 1st XV enjoyed a winning season, despite the loss of twelve members of last year's team. Substantial rebuilding was once again required around captain Ian Forster and vice-captain Thom Gilbert. Ian's contribution was truly outstanding both as a player and as captain; the more so as the needs of the team meant that he was rarely able to play in his natural position; indeed there were many occasions on which he seemed to be playing in every position. Thom's contribution was immense and he led by example a pack that never gave an inch even to the most committed of opponents. Outstanding amongst the forwards was James Starkey whose all-round game improved enormously during the course of the season.

However, this was a team effort and their playing record of eleven wins in sixteen games is a tribute to their determination and commitment, and to their willingness to work hard to improve their game. The progress made during the season is emphasised by the results of the two games against Cirencester RFC; a defeat by seven points turned into victory by twenty three. This is one of four victories achieved in the last eight days of the season, a remarkable achievement by any standards.

Once again, the positive and mutually supportive attitude throughout the senior squad is worthy of note, and

although the 2nd XV endured a difficult season, their spirit never faltered and a number of players made important contributions to the 1st XV when the need arose. The efforts of Captain James Brittain-Jones were commendable in both of these respects.

Another pleasing aspect of the season was the complimentary comments that senior rugby players drew from the staff of other schools. On several occasions they were praised as the most civilised and polite of visiting teams.

Amongst the junior teams success proved to be must less elusive than in the recent past, with both the U14 and U13 XV's enjoying winning seasons, and a great deal of potential being shown by the U15 XV. It is very pleasing to see the hard work and patience of the junior coaches being rewarded by the success that they deserve. Paul Sykes and Martin Graham have devoted many years to Rendcomb rugby and it has been heartening to see them getting such a positive return on their efforts this season. Paul Dodd also made a substantial contribution to junior rugby both as a coach and referee, and as this was purely on a voluntary basis, I am particularly grateful for his efforts.

The season was celebrated at the annual club dinner which, once again, proved to be a fitting and most enjoyable climax to the season. The speeches were of the highest quality and we are particularly grateful to our guest speaker Roger Bacon who stepped in at short notice and proved to be as entertaining a speaker as he is a referee.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those involved in rugby this season, to the club officers and to Ian and Thom in particular, and to all the players, to the ground staff and the caterers, the medical staff and the spectators, and, above all, to my coaching colleagues whose dedication and enthusiasm remain at the very heart of Rendcomb rugby.

MS

## Officers of the Club

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Club Captain    | Ian Forster          |
| Vice Captain    | Thom Gilbert         |
| 2nd XV Captain: | James Brittain-Jones |
| Hon. Secretary  | James Starkey        |

## 1st XV

The traditional style of describing a 1st XV as can be found in previous Rendcombians could easily have been used to describe this team. Such phrases as "the prospects for this season looked grim when the credentials of the likely players were examined on paper" and "on paper, the talent this season did not, perhaps, look as strong as in previous seasons and many ORs expected a bleak season to follow." However, I would rather write about the wonderful array of talented games players that were placed under my leadership at the start of the season;

scrum-halves with the pace of international sprinters, wingers with rock-like tackling, the immense bulk of the forwards, the superb hands of the backs and the unusual kicking of the fly-half.

As always in a season we had our good games and our bad. In the bad ones we realised that our tackling was not as secure as it could have been and that we were not always as focused as we might have been.

More numerous than the bad games, however, were the good ones. Matches where the team played out of their skins; forwards beating much larger opposition, backs making good runs and passing intelligently and hard tackles made all over the field.



Three matches that stand out were those against Cokethorpe, Rednock and Bedstone. At Cokethorpe we came away with a much needed win and saw our imported professional Ed "Twinkle Toes" Hogarth make his best run of the season to score a fantastic try.

Versus "The biggest and hardest" Rednock side that Mr Slark or Mr Griffiths had ever seen, we had a difficult game. I believe that not one member of their pack was a day over 25. The team played tremendously well and came away with a well deserved confidence boosting win.

The match against Bedstone was especially pleasing as we beat a team that found it inconceivable that their unbeaten season could go wrong in their last game (I'm sure that Mr Newby, on having lunch with the Slarks, found the same!)

However, the match of the season I'm certain was that against Sir Thomas Rich's School. A side that was meant to beat us fairly easily was rightly amazed when we played some of our best rugby ranging from the forwards' superb dynamic rucking to some inspired backs' play which gave us the lead at one point during the match. It was a very hard game and the loss does not deflect from the outstanding performance that the team produced.

During and after that match I know what it really felt like to be the captain of a Rendcomb College 1st XV. I was immensely proud and was not only satisfied but amazed by the passion and commitment that was displayed and the great rugby that was played by the team. It also brought home how much the team had progressed throughout the season, not only in terms of skill but also in teamwork and communication.

I am very happy and proud to report that we finished our season with a roughly 70% success rate after playing sixteen matches. Thanks must be given to all those drafted in to play for the firsts - I hope it was as daunting as when I first played for them. The experience will stand you in good stead for the future.

The pack was instrumental in our success. The hard men in the front row (John, Thom and Harry) worked to their limit. Thom deserves much praise as pack leader and a brilliant vice-captain; leading by example and, by his warm-up speech, being ready to die for the team, and was surprised in every way by John and Harry, who took the most severe pummelling only to get back up and play even harder.

Though girls may hate Mr Slark for putting Ben at lock and "ruining his good looks" (his own words) he and Laurie did a superb job and showed great commitment.

The flankers Phil and Freddy played with infinite energy and intelligence and even though on being asked if he would like to play for the 1st XV Freddy replied "Do I have to?" I am certain that he will go on to be an outstanding player for many Rendcomb seasons to come.

Such is the praise that Starkey has gained this term for his improvement and excellent play as ball winner in the line-out and ferocious rucking that I could fill this entire report with it. It is enough to say that Starkey gave his all on the pitch and was a fine example to everyone.

One of the players on the side who covered themselves in glory was our top try scoring prop, sorry, I mean scrum - half, Billy. Although the backs felt a bit miffed and left out when he continuously did his "Billy-flop" down the blind side, his efforts were admirable and he had a very (self?) satisfying season.

Theo would, in my opinion, get the player of the season award, should it exist, for his efforts at inside centre. Theo's incredible tackling and strong running was the basis for our success in many games. I am in awe of and indebted to Theo for his performances and would dearly love to see that tackle of the Bedstone prop just once more.

Jo also had a good season at outside centre and although his body position was occasionally questionable his effort throughout made up for it and more. Both Ed and Florian on the wings made good ground and made good breaks when they got the ball (not often) and were tenacious in defence (often!) Not to be forgotten, however, is the Deutsch "Mark"!

Yuki at full back was never without a smile, even when we were losing. He had a fine season and I'm sure next year he will really flourish.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr Slark for all his time and effort towards the team and Rendcomb rugby in general. I know that your "not for public consumption" half-time talks helped, (very motivating in one way or another.) The whole team appreciates very much your effort and wish you and your teams success in the future.

I would like to finish by saying what a wonderful time I have had as captain; how proud I was, and what a pleasure it was to play with this team. Thank you.

Ian Forster

Played 16, Won 11, Lost 5, for 311, Against 199

|   |                              |         |
|---|------------------------------|---------|
| ∨ | Stroud District (A)          | W 20-15 |
| ∨ | Rednock School (A)           | W 24-0  |
| ∨ | Cirencester RFC (H)          | L 10-17 |
| ∨ | Bredon School (H)            | L 5-29  |
| ∨ | St Edward's School (H)       | W 32-26 |
| ∨ | King's School Gloucester (A) | L 10-32 |
| ∨ | Leighton Park School (H)     | L 3-12  |
| ∨ | Rougemont School (H)         | W 29-0  |
| ∨ | Cokethorpe School (A)        | W 23-5  |
| ∨ | Douai School (A)             | W 30-0  |
| ∨ | St John's College (H)        | W 20-6  |
| ∨ | Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) | L 14-29 |
| ∨ | Bristol Cathedral School (A) | W15-14  |
| ∨ | Cirencester RFC (A)          | W 30-7  |
| ∨ | Bedstone College (H)         | W 27-7  |
| ∨ | Kingham Hill School (A)      | W 19-0  |

Team from: I. Forster (Capt), T. Gilbert (Vice-Capt), H. Aldrich-Blake, J. Shenton, B. Butler, L. Barton, N. Hall, J. Starkey, P. Webb, F. Lait, W. Witchell, T. Berry, E. Hogarth, J. Schinzler, F. Brenner, Y. Takanashi, D. Morris.

## 2nd XV

Right from the start it was going to be a hard season; we were quite small with limited numbers which would affect us should there be any injuries.

However, saying this, our first match against Bredon saw us put together a good win against a very bulky side. We all put in one hundred percent effort and we won 34-19; it was an inspiring victory which gave us confidence for the weeks to come.

Our second match was approached with good spirit and commitment; we played the best rugby of the season but unfortunately we lost 26-0. The standard of rugby was good but we were beaten by an even better side. Unfortunately we lost the next three games before half term, so after half-term we decided to forget about them and start again. We made a few changes. Carlos

Garcia went to fly-half to use his pace and Matt Williams went to full-back for his good kicking. We then played a mixed 1st XV/2nd match against Rougemont, with most of the 2nd XV playing in the second half, the result was 10-10 and was a very good match. We also saw a debut for Chris Sykes playing his first ever match.

Our next match was against Douai; it would be the first real test for this changed team. Everybody put in all they could and we played as a 15 man unit. Everybody played well especially Tom Mais and Carlos Garcia. We won 36-0 and we saw a brilliant try from Dave Ashby.

Unfortunately the season ended with a loss against Bristol Cathedral School and this year we did not play against Kingham Hill, which usually results in a win for us. Even if the results do not show it, every member of the squad played well throughout the season.

The forwards Bob Knight, Martin Good, Oli Jeffcott, Tom Drew, Paul Bongiovanni and Matt Collier were solid up front using their skill to overcome the lack of size. A special "well done" should go to Richard Walder for amazing progress throughout the season and Tom Mais for his skills and support in leading the forwards this season.

The backs, Carlos Garcia, Ed Farnsworth, Adam Padmore, Dave Ashby, Paul Szybiak and Rafe Smallman were quick and decisive and pulled off some quick moves.

I think a lot of experience was gained this season which will be valuable for next year's 1st XV. I would like to thank Mr Slark, Mr Auld and all of the 1st XV for their support and help when they loaned us players.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Griffiths for his unfailing support all season, the skills he taught us will be valuable for many years to come. We can all look forward to next year.

James Brittain-Jones

Played 8, Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 5. PF 92, PA 210

Team from: D. Ashby, J. Brittain-Jones, E. Farnsworth, R. Fung, C. Garcia, O. Jeffcott, T. Mais, R. Smallman, C. Sykes, R. Walder, M. Williams, P. Bongiovanni, P. van Welij, O. Wallis, P. Szybiak, T. Drew.

## U15XV

This was a 'season of two halves'. Four defeats and a draw before half term were followed by four victories and a draw after. Certainly the toughest fixtures were played first, although the team's performances, even in defeat, hinted that success was achievable. Rednock were our first opponents and they beat us quite comprehensively. A poor start was partially negated by a fighting 12-12 draw at Farmors', which on another day might have been a win. Successive 10-29 defeats by St Edward's and King's, Gloucester followed, although the quality of our

defensive play was praised by spectators and there were glimpses of the attacking rugby which we knew we were capable of playing. This improvement continued at Leighton Park where we lost by a converted try. So much for the first half of the season. The half term break worked wonders and we began to build on our confidence and, more importantly, started to play as a team, supporting each other both physically and verbally. Cokethorpe were despatched 19-0, then we got the better of Douai in a 55 point thriller, winning by three points. Bredon could not resist the U15 juggernaut and were beaten by three tries to one. The one blemish in this excellent run of good form was a second 12-12 draw, this time against Bristol Cathedral School. This was soon forgotten however, and the traditional hammering of Kingham Hill took place in the last Sunday of term; the 34-0 victory being rounded off by a superb individual try from centre Richard Wilkins.

So, it was a satisfactory season which at times promised to be a great one. Many players developed and improved considerably and will progress to senior rugby with a sound understanding of Rendcomb's style and the confidence to take on even the mightiest of opponents.

The next seasons should be very interesting for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and even a 3<sup>rd</sup> XV. I wish them well in their future playing careers.

CV

Played 10, Won 4, Drew 2, Lost 4, PF 158, PA 164.

Team from: R. Birkbeck (Capt), P. Bodenham, A Bowers, N. Maylott, R. McKelvie, C. Thomas, S. Ward, R. Wilkins, R. Demczak, G. Drew, P. Gordon-Jones, T. Moss, S. Odintsov, J. Pratt, J. Raby, J. Sabourin, J. Spackman, L. Tamowski, E. Wadsworth.

## U14XV



The U14 has a track record of losing this year which we hoped to change. With an efficient set of forwards and some skilful backs we began our mission. Our first match against Rednock was abandoned due to an injury to one of their players; we were winning! Our second match was against Farmors' - we knew they were a weaker team and we soon broke their confidence winning 17-5. Our next match was against St Edward's - it was a close match with some excellent full-backing from Sam Hicks and we only just lost 12-15. Against Leighton Park we found

their backs too strong for us. With good kicking from Chris Jeffreys and aggressive scrum halting from Matt Hutchins, it was close until the end when they ran in two tries to win 14-31. We knew Cokethorpe would be aggressive but the match tinned out to be an easy win. With a hat-trick from Tom Lait and good support play by Johannes von Rotenhan (who in his first season of rugby was excellent!) we beat them 17-0. Our match against Bredon was stopped at half time because we were too strong for them. Our wingers Barnaby Kellett and Tim Bates were excellent.

Cirencester Rugby Club was going to be the hardest match of the season. Their backs' passing was excellent, allowing them to score 4 tries - unfortunately we were unable to score ourselves. King's Gloucester was the closest match all season but unhappily it was abandoned 10 minutes before the end. Kingham Hill was our last match; with Jon McAllister running three quarters of the pitch, we won 27-0.

Tom Lait

Played 9, Won 5, Lost 4, PF 113, PA 90

Team from: T. Lait (Capt), T. Bates, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, M. Harbottle, S. Hicks, W. Hodder, B. Hopley, M. Hutchins, G. Jones, B. Kellett, T. Lockyer, J. McAllister, D. Roper, J. von Rotenhan

## U13 XV

This year was very successful for the U13 Rugby team, winning more games than we lost. One win which stands out was the one against King's Gloucester, but there were some other good games against Dean Close, Kingham Hill and Rosehill. We played a lot of good rugby and had a good spirit throughout the season.

Special mention should be given to Richard Lefevre, our number eight, Jimmy Yu, Barney Vick, our big man, Mark Ward, Harry Powell and Luke Baghdadi.

Peter Mason

Played 10, Won 6, Drew 0, Lost 4, PF 156, PA 108.

Team from: M. Arkle, R. Aspin, R. Burden, C. Crisp, T. Davies, M. Day, C. Good, A. Hopley, R. Lefevre, P. Mason (capt), H. Powell, B. Vick, M. Ward, E. Warrington, J. Yu, T. Soanes, L. Baghdadi, M. Denham.

It was indeed a very successful season. This was our strongest U13 team for several years, and the level of performance was very high. The tackling was good, the forwards were mobile, and the backs were quick to read situations, both in attack and defence. Peter Mason proved to be a skilful and resourceful captain, marshalling his forces well and leading by example throughout. He was ably assisted by Barney Vick. Peter's report has already mentioned several of the star players, and I would also add Michael Arkle and Ralph Aspin to the list of those who made a particularly important contribution. However, it is just as important to state that this was very

much a team effort, and what really impressed me right through the season was the way in which the team played for each other and worked as a unit. I would also like to thank those parents who supported us so loyally, whatever the weather; this really did help to mould the team and give it a sense of esprit de corps. All in all, an excellent season, and I am sure that many of this team will grace the 1st XV in a few years' time.

MHG

## OR's Rugby Report

After two years of transition, it was agreed by players and spectators that the OR's rugby match had hit upon the



right formula: Slark XV ('95 leavers onwards) v Newby XV ('94 leavers and before.)

The ground was firm to middling as were some of the limbs, the presence of Mike "sling it out" Newby was inspirational to his XV. The participating ORs went back as far as leavers from the early 1980s.

The experience and skill of the Newbys equalled the exuberance of the (almost) youthful Slarks, who eventually achieved a narrow victory. The afternoon was enjoyed by all and this was certainly borne out by the atmosphere in the post match festivities.

Thanks must go to Mr Griffiths (staff) and a couple of current pupils for providing touchline entertainment. We intend to repeat this event next year: if you would like to participate please contact us as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all those who played and to those who supported.

Mike Slark  
Alex Breal  
Hamish Auld

# Senior Girls' Hockey

## 1st XI

There is no doubt that the experience of playing against very good sides in Holland helped the 1<sup>st</sup> XI get into the swing of match play much more quickly than usual. It also allowed them to take on a strong Cheltenham side at the end of the first week. Inspired by this performance, they beat King's, Gloucester comfortably using well developed patterns of play and making good use of space.

A 6A team played against Kingham and quickly dominated. Good finishing by Laura Donovan, Louise Bongiovanni and Gemma Leathart (playing in the forwards) guaranteed a win.

Poor passing and slow covering in the first ten minutes against an initially slick Monkton side resulted in an early goal for the visitors but better linking created a number of chances in the second half but sadly we were unable to equalise. Sophie Worlock deserves a special mention here for her determined tackling throughout the match.

Half term left the XI rather sleepy at the start of the new fixture against St. Peter's and poor marking resulted in a two goal deficit within ten minutes. However the girls showed great determination and responded well to Mr. Morgan's shouting. Marking improved and soon effective attacks were developed. At 2-2 it was anyone's game but we missed two excellent chances and unfortunately they scored with a few minutes remaining. Overall it was regarded as a good match and a successful new fixture.

6A's second match was against an average Westonbirt side depleted by Lacrosse trials. Despite many attacking moves and much penalty corner practice, Rendcomb scored just one goal. It is worth mentioning that Tara Sleggs played in goal for the second half, giving Kate Nicholas the opportunity to play in the field. 6A enjoyed playing matches together and it was a pity that the St. Mary's fixture was cancelled.



Although the XI played with great determination the superior fitness and skill of certain individuals in the Wycliffe side made this game an uphill struggle, highlighting the importance of mobility.

The return game against King's took place at RAF Innsworth and a second win was assured by some very tight play. Sadly the last match of the season against Pate's was cancelled so there was a long lead up to the end of term but it did provide the opportunity for seven-aside games, a 6A versus the rest match and a shopping trip to Cheltenham!

The annual dinner was held at the Thames Head Inn. Thirty nine attended including Mrs Westhead and Mrs Blackwell as guests. After the meal, Kate Nicholas and Nellie Abbott ably took us back through the season, reflecting on the successes of individuals and of the teams. The three coaches were presented with inflatable animal shower caps and designer stopwatches for more effective time-keeping. Mr Morgan replied on behalf of the guests, emphasising what a pleasant group of girls they were and how determined the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had been throughout the season. Finally Mr Wood presented individuals with several sensible and silly prizes. Sarah Donovan was presented with a trophy from the GWhA in honour of their centenary and for being the most improved player in Rendcomb Senior Hockey.

CJW and Kate Nicholas

Played 10. Won 6, Drew 1, Lost 3, GF 15, GA 8

### Results:

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| v. Cheltenham College (A)             | D 0-0 |
| v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)  | W 3-0 |
| v. Cokethorpe School, Witney (H)      | W 4-0 |
| v. Stroud High School (H)             | W 2-1 |
| v. Kingham Hill School (H)            | W 3-0 |
| v. Monkton Combe School (H)           | L 0-1 |
| v. St. Peter's School, Gloucester (H) | L 2-3 |
| v. Westonbirt School (H)              | W 1-0 |
| v. Wycliffe College (H)               | L 0-3 |
| v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)  | W 1-0 |

Team from: K. Nicholas (capt), L. Bongiovanni, L. Donovan, P. Hunt, G. Leathart, J. Mais (vice-captain), T. Sleggs, B. Unger, S. Worlock, A. de Lisle Wells, S. Donovan, S. Sprawson, C. Webb.

N. Breitfeld, F. von Gleichenstein, P. Yip, S. Forster, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, H. Mizon, and R. Whatman also played.

## 2nd XI

Many of those who joined the school last season had improved significantly as individual players but there was still a long way to go in terms of team tactics. This, combined with illness made the first game against King's something of an uphill struggle. The second game against

Stroud highlighted the need for even tighter marking and more controlled collection and distribution of the ball.

Monkton had the edge on us for quick and accurate passing thereby creating more scoring opportunities however there is no doubt that the marking and tackling had improved several hundred percent and it then remained for the eleven to support each other more effectively and to use their skills with greater confidence. The final score of 0-2 was a result of this greater determination.

The 2nd XI had become much more effective at closing down players and more confident going forward so it was a great disappointment when the last game was cancelled.

Nellie Abbott

Played 3, Won 0, Drew 0, Lost 3, GF 0, GA 7

Team from: N. Breitfeld, F. von Gleichenstein, P. Yip, N. Abbott (Capt), P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Forster, H. Mizon, A-K. Rhein, E. Drurey, A. Osborne, H. Pearce, A. Roberts, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Williams. R. Whatman, R. Frazer- Holland, J. Crisp, R. Warrington.

## U16XI

It was only just before the first match that this year group began to communicate and play effectively as a team. Unfortunately the lush grass at Grittleton did not allow our girls to practise their moves however they maintained their determination and won.

It was good to return to Astro for the second match against Cotswold School. The defence was much tighter but slow distribution allowed the opposition to muster counter attacks and excursions into their half were few. The second half was very different when the backs and midfield players moved the ball on quickly. This resulted in some dynamic attacks involving Nicky Scarth, Rose Thrower and Helen Pearce producing several goal scoring opportunities. Chrissie Schotten worked tirelessly on the right and was responsible for many of the build-ups. The goalless draw was a fair result for what was a very pleasant match.

It was very cold and late in the afternoon when the team met Deer Park on the old redgra pitch in Cirencester. Rendcomb were very slow to get into their rhythm and paid the price of two early goals against them. In the second half they played with much more enthusiasm and consequently defended better and created promising attacks. However, there was no score in the second half.

The defeat against Wycliffe emphasised that this group of girls did not make the expected progress during the season and it is hoped that another year's maturity will make the difference needed to bring them up to 1<sup>st</sup> XI standard.

Rebecca Whatman

Played 4, Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 2, GF 2, GA 7

Team from: R. Whatman (capt), A. Gilbert, R. Williams, A. Osborne, A. Roberts, E. Drurey, L. Nelson, R. Frazer-Holland, C. Schotten, H-L. Leung, N. Sasaki, H. Pearce, R. Thrower, N. Scarth.

## Junior Girls' Hockey

This has been a successful season with the Junior teams fulfilling the promise shown last season. We continued the format of last season with U15/U14 and U13/U12 teams being selected for fixtures. This has allowed for a more consistent squad of players being available for matches, and with this, team work has improved greatly.

Fixtures did not start until after first exeat, giving plenty of time for basic stickwork practice. The Astroturf has continued to make a big difference to the teaching of hockey with the greater skill of the girls showing more and more as we play schools without such a facility. We were fortunate to have the help of Alison Morgan for the first month. Alison is a player who has learnt all her hockey on Astroturf, and she was able to pass on many good Astroturf skills to the girls. Her beginners' group in the First and Second Years were very quick to learn the new skills and join in with the rest of their year. My thanks must go to Sandra Spackman who made herself available to help with the umpiring of matches; it was very much appreciated by both the girls and myself.

SMW

## Under 15/14 XI

This season the U15/14 team has shown better teamwork, with good results being achieved because of this, rather than because of individual performances. "Rolling Subs" allows for a squad system to be used and more opportunity for girls to be involved in matches. The season started with an easy 4-0 victory over Kingshill School, but our next two matches proved to be against much stiffer opposition. Despite losing 1-2 to both Monkton Combe and Cheltenham College, the team played well and had matched their opponents for most of the game; both matches being decided in the final quarter of the match.



Having played so well in these two matches it was not surprising that the team was unbeaten for the rest of the season. They notched up 1-0 wins against The Cotswold School and The King's School, Gloucester and a 2-1 win over Colston's Collegiate School. Nicola King (Form 1) had to be drafted in due to illness of our usual goalkeeper Holly Earl for the match with Wycliffe College and she made some excellent saves to keep Rendcomb in the game, the final result being a 0-0 draw.

Leading goal scorer was Sarah Padmore with 5 goals, with contributions from Jo Crisp (2), Hannah Ewing (2) and Olivia Evans (1).

SMW

The U15/14 Girls' Hockey team played successfully and improved greatly throughout the season. After a few defeats at the beginning of term, the team pulled together to produce some excellent and exciting victories.

We couldn't have managed without the help of our enthusiastic and inspiring coaches, Alison Morgan and Mrs Westhead. With great patience they encouraged us through a much enjoyed season. Well done to the team for their commitment and we hope that our success continues next season.

Jo Crisp Sarah  
Padmore

Played 7, Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 2. GF 10, GA 5.

Team from: J. Crisp (Capt), F. Burden, H. Earl, J. Chaiwatanasirikul, I. Eaton, O. Evans, H. Ewing, A. Fridman, N. Gilson, N. King, R. MacDonald, V. MacKinnon, S. Padmore, A. Pardhy, R. Warrington, A. Welch.

## U13/12 XI

This has been a good season with some excellent results. There has been a higher level of skill and a greater determination to win than in the past which has resulted in more matches being won than lost.

The first match of the term was against Prior Park Prep School: this is a fixture we usually lose heavily. At half time, thanks to some excellent goalkeeping by Nicola King, the score line was 0-0. Despite a final score of 0-2, much encouragement was taken from this first match and, with morale high, the team went on two days later to play Wycliffe U12 team and win 1-0, with Verity Symcox scoring the goal. Another first former was on the score sheet the following week against Kingshill School, when Charlotte Phillips scored a hat-trick of goals allowing Rendcomb to run out 3-0 winners.

After half term and a break in matches the team played The King's School on a muddy pitch in Gloucester. The score line should have been in double figures as Rendcomb dominated the game, but unfortunately too many of the shots were off target, the final score being 1-0. However the goals did come in the next match with

Jessica Weston and Jade Finn, both moving forward from midfield to score two goals each to give us a 4-0 victory against Deer Park. The final match of the season was against Wycliffe U13 team, in which the team lost 0-5, only their second defeat in six matches.

The girls who were new to the game of hockey were coached by Alison Morgan and were quick to learn the basic stickwork during the first month. They were then integrated in with the rest of their year and an U12 fixture was arranged against Rosehill School for after half term. Despite losing 1-0, it was a most enjoyable game and all the first year girls had a taste of competitive hockey.

Most of the second years had the opportunity to lead the U13/12 team, as each took their turn to captain a match and experience the duties and responsibilities of such a position. Well done to all the captains who showed good organisation and leadership skills both on and off the pitch.

SMW

Played 6. Won 4, Lost 2, Drew 0. GF 10, GA 7.

Team from: A Barefoot, M. Barne, J. Cadbury, C. Clarke, R. Evans, J. Finn, N. King, A. Lomax, A. Marlowe, A. Pardhy, C. Phillips, S. Rudderham, H. Stutchbury, V. Symcox, A. Welch, J. Weston, E. Wickham.

## Boys' Hockey

With 133 boys in the school, it was a remarkable feat to be able to field nine XIs, sometimes simultaneously. Consequently, over 100 boys were able to represent the school in this sport. A policy of having 'B' teams does mean that these teams are often up against it when playing larger schools; however in true Rendcomb tradition they did not give up under such circumstances and big goal differences were rare.

The 1st XI, rebuilding after losing most of last year's squad, demonstrated what can be achieved if approach and determination are right and it is a great shame that the junior teams were not able to watch more senior matches. The modern game of hockey requires high levels of skill and fitness and it is difficult to compete without these.

Honours for the most successful team go to Mr Stutchbury's Under 15 XI and this should give a boost to senior hockey in 2000.

Once again the Old Rendcombian society fixture was a great success, with two wins each in close and enjoyable encounters. The Ladies' Match will move to December to allow a Netball fixture to take place in March.

Thanks are due to all those who work behind the scenes to make sure that the hockey season runs as smoothly as possible.

CJW

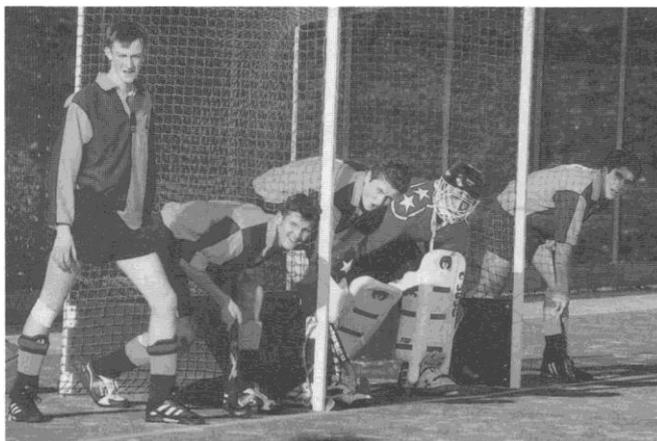
## 1st XI

The departure of ten members of last year's very successful first eleven made it likely that this year would be a struggle. The team would be inexperienced but at least there would be opportunities for anyone who made an early impact to gain selection and some unlikely names did come through and were well worth their places. The team faced a tough fixture list, including some very strong hockey schools, but to its great credit remained competitive throughout. We were only thrashed once and on several occasions were unlucky to lose by the odd goal. There was

nevertheless an alarming tendency to leak soft goals early in the game; we were three goals down in less than ten minutes against King's Gloucester, and twice conceded goals in the first few seconds of the game. This made the task all the harder but there were spirited fight-backs in nearly every game in which the team fell behind, most

notably against King's, Gloucester, Bristol Grammar School and Kingswood. We deserved some luck to beat a skilful Royal Grammar School, Worcester side but ran out of good fortune against the Old Rendcombian, who tired badly in the second half and gave us every opportunity to win.

The defence suffered most from the lack of experience; we conceded early goals, despite the heroics from Johannes Schinzler because of a weakness in the tackle rather than poor positional play. The quality of the marking improved substantially during the season but too often skilful opponents simply went straight past our tackles. John Shenton's experience was vital in covering up much of the danger and he played with a quiet and consistent authority. Andrew Sage, Nicholas Hall and William Witchell all showed potential at the back but they do need to eliminate costly mistakes from their defensive play. Johannes Schinzler was quite outstanding in goal; he made some of the finest saves I have seen at any level of hockey and maintained Rendcomb's traditional excellence in this position. In midfield David Ashby tended to alternate between brilliance and ineffectiveness and the team's fortunes often hinged on which it turned out to be, for he does have the skill and stamina required by the position. Rafe Smallman had to learn quickly at a new level but despite some defensive frailties he more than anyone could expose the opposition with a penetrating pass. An early decision was taken by the captain, Ian Forster, to move himself to centre midfield from last year's position on the right wing and it did prove effective. His immense energy, tackling back at one moment and drawing forward with the ball at the next, posed our most potent threat. Unfortunately, yet



understandably, he lacked the experience required for disciplined marking. Up front Patrick van Welij began to impress more and more on the left, while Yuki Takanashi could be a real handful for the opposition, although perhaps he cut in too often from the right instead of keeping play wide. At centre forward James Brittain-Jones gave everything and contributed some vital goals with his ability to hit the shot cleanly and quickly. Finally Edward Hogarth was our all-purpose substitute and despite a lack of experience began to make an impact.

The overall record of the team's results compare unfavourably with recent years but it does not do justice to the fighting qualities which the team displayed. High scoring was not unexpected; the adjustments to the rules made in recent seasons have produced a glut of goals at all levels of hockey. It was particularly pleasing to score more than our fair share from short-comers through a well-worked routine, not previously Rendcomb's trade-mark. The team was a pleasure

to coach and they worked really hard to improve their skills. They were set an outstanding example by their captain, who displayed real leadership both on and off the pitch, always encouraging his team to play with the determination he exuded. He was a fine ambassador for the school, ever courteous in defeat or victory. Despite the record this was an enjoyable season which was helped by the excellent relationship with the second eleven under Martin Griffith's guidance and by Chris Wood's meticulous organisation. My thanks go to all concerned.

DHM

Played 11, Won 3, Drew 1 Lost 7 GF: 25, GA 31.

|   |                                     |          |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|
| ∨ | Cheltenham H. C. Wednesday (H)      | Lost 2-3 |
| ∨ | Bristol Grammar School (H)          | Lost 3-4 |
| ∨ | The King's School, Gloucester (A)   | Lost 5-6 |
| ∨ | Kingswood School (H)                | Drew 3-3 |
| ∨ | Bournside School (A)                | Won 1-0  |
| ∨ | Dean Close                          | Lost 0-2 |
| ∨ | The King's School, Gloucester (H)   | Lost 2-3 |
| ∨ | Royal Grammar School, Worcester (A) | Won 4-3  |
| ∨ | Pate's Grammar School (H)           | Won 4-0  |
| ∨ | Monkton Combe School (H)            | Lost 0-5 |
| ∨ | The Old Rendcombian Society (H)     | Lost 1-2 |

Team From: I. Forster (Capt) D. Ashby, J. Brittain-Jones, N. Hall, E. Hogarth, A. Sage, J. Schinzler, J. Shenton, R. Smallman, Y. Takanashi, W. Witchell, P. van Welij.

## 2nd XI

At the start of the season it was difficult to find enough players with experience of playing on Astroturf and who

had the relevant skills and approach. However several 6A grass pitch specialists were drafted in and a hardworking and competitive team was eventually moulded together although tactical awareness needed lots of working on. A mixture of results was obtained and the boys remained fiercely combative even when the odds were stacked against them. There were numerous heroic performances and several boys enjoyed taking on the role of captain with real success. However it was in the final match of the season that the team's finest hour arrived when up against a strong and skilled Old Boys' team they played their very best hockey of the season and pulled off a 3-1 win. The ball was moved around with quick accurate passing; lots of width was obtained on the wings and the defensive marking was maintained with one hundred percent concentration for a whole match. (In some previous games small lapses had cost us dearly.) However in this match just about everything clicked, the midfield worked hard, the linking and running off the ball created space and we played a complete, thinking, astro-style game. My congratulations to all those who took part especially the 6A players who proved that you can teach old dogs new tricks.

MSG

Played 9, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 5 GF 18, GA 22

Team from: J. Schinzler, P. Szybiak, T. Mais, P. Webb, E. Farnsworth, T. Lait, T. Gilbert, M Williams. S. Bullock, J. Starkey, A. Padmore, P. Bongiovanni

### 3rd XI

Inevitably the 3rd XI came up against several strong sides and were often under significant pressure. However, they defended valiantly and managed to secure goals against Bristol Grammar, Wycliffe and Dean Close. Both matches against King's Gloucester proved to be pleasing victories and the narrow defeat against the Old Rendcombian Society was a well contested match.

ASB

Played 9, Won 2, Lost 7; GF: 12, GA: 32.

### U15A XI

At the beginning of the season, due to lack of fitness and ball skills, and not converting our chances, we lost our first three games. Then due to a boost of confidence with Jon Pratt's commanding authority in centre of midfield

and Giles Drew not letting the ball past him in defence, we started to put together a string of good results, beating Colston's, Bristol Cathedral School and St Edward's. Then a tough test arose in the form of a strong Dean Close side. We battled hard and consequently James Spackman was able to put us in the lead, but then, soon after, Dean Close came back into the game with two goals. Later a penalty flick was awarded to us which Jon Pratt converted to draw 2-2 making us the only side in the school not to lose to Dean Close! Then in the winning games against King's and Bourneside, Stephen Ward took his chances well, scoring 4 goals in 2 games, the team going into the last game on a high against Monkton Combe. It was tough and they were a high quality, skilled side, but their inability to play as a team allowed us to force a 1-1 draw also due to Charlie Cowper's bravery in goal. This was the conclusion to a very enjoyable season.

J Pratt (Captain)

J Spackman (Vice Captain)

This was a magnificent season by any standards. Although outclassed in the first encounter with Cheltenham College, the season from then swung into top gear.

A clutch of matches illustrated that this is a skilful and determined side; once "on a roll" this team became very difficult to beat.

The defence became most effective held together by some fine personal skill from Charles Cowper, Giles Drew, Tom Moss and Richard Wilkins.

In midfield Jon Pratt was able to demonstrate his remarkable skill clearly helped by Rupert McKelvie, Nathaniel Maylott and Henry Whale. The forwards became a joy to watch; the combination of James Spackman, Stephen Ward, John Raby, Mathew Ewing and Big Blondie Simon King was enough to finish many a defence! Well done U15s - what a team!

JDS

Played 11, Won 6, Drew 2, Lost 3. GF 18, GA 13.

Team from: J. Pratt (Capt), J. Spackman, (V. Capt), C. Cowper, G. Drew, R. Wilkins, H. Whale, S. Ward, M. Ewing, T. Moss, R. McKelvie, N. Maylott, H. Whale, J. Raby. S. King, C. Thomas.

### U15B XI

The U15Bs were a spirited and good-humoured team whom I very much enjoyed coaching and whose skills very much improved throughout the term despite what the results show. Their first match was against Cheltenham College a match which they were expected to lose. After the first half it was still 0-0 and after an inspiring chat from their coach, in which he explained that it was possible for a Rendcomb side to win, they did so after a goal from captain Mat Ewing, making them the only team



that day to win against Cheltenham. In the next match we played an inexperienced but virile side from Marling who turned out to be too talented for us to cope with. Though we executed some splendid moves, the power of the opposition defeated us.

We went up to Kingswood School in Bath for our next match. Our team played an excellent match though they were severely let down by their coach who was unable to tell whether a ball was lifted or not. We "lost" 3-1. Our final match was against Monkton Combe School in Bath. It was an equal contest until half time, but in the second half their ability to play on a pitch resembling a first world war battle field ensured that they were victors, despite an excellent goal on our part and some stunning saves by Ed Wadsworth.

It was such a delight to be reunited with all my old friends from last year, and I was very touched by how much dedication and skill they showed. In our regular clashes with Mr. Auld's "Auld Stars" we had some good close matches; however, despite what Mr Auld may "believe" (see his fictitious report below) we were the easy winners.

JRM

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3.

Team from: P. Gordon-Jones (Capt), P. Bodenham, R. Demczak, W. Turvill, J. Sabourin, L. Tamowski, S. Odintsov, A. Bowers, E. Wadsworth, S. King, H. Whale, C. Thomas.

## U14 A XI

A glance at the results may give the impression that this was a less than average season for the U14 A team. In fact the team played excellent hockey and several games were decided by a single goal. On no occasion were we outplayed by our opposition, rather it was size and fitness that were the deciding factors in our two heaviest defeats.

The season began with the visit of Cheltenham College and in a tight match they scored a late goal to win 2-1. This was followed by two very good draws against Bristol Grammar School (0-0) and Colston's (1-1), Chris Jeffreys performing outstandingly in goal. We then travelled to Kingswood where, after gaining inspiration through watching the Under 15 As hard fought draw, we took to the field and saw what we believed to be a senior side practising in the opposition half. With anxious glances we realised that they were actually our opposition and that Kingswood had assembled the world's largest collection of 14 year olds. Thrown by this we were 4-0 down at half time. However, we were reassured that, despite the fact that we were looking our opponents in the knees, we were technically superior and could compete with them as hockey players. With fresh confidence our second half performance was excellent and we scored two fine goals. Chris Jeffreys had no chance with their two goals they added but we could hold our heads high after drawing the half 2-2. Still lull of confidence we recorded our first

victory of the season by overcoming Bristol Cathedral School 1-0 in yet another close game. A narrow defeat by Cheltenham College Juniors (0-1) was followed by our best fighting performance at Dean Close. For nearly 70 minutes we matched them in every department and with the score at 1-1 the game was finely balanced, thanks to Sam Hicks' excellent individual goal, an angled run across the D and a low shot back into the opposition corner. Sadly we could not maintain this intensity of play and our opponents' greater fitness enabled them to score three late goals to give them a very flattering score line.

Our turn came the following week with an 8-0 demolition of King's Gloucester. The whole team played well and this success was most deserved after a season of near misses and late winners conceded.

In our final match we faced a very strong Monkton Combe side, and again it was a single late goal which gave them victory. We were actually leading 2-1 halfway through the second half and clearly had them rattled. Two somewhat dubious goals spoiled our final flourish and we finished the season frustrated but not downhearted.

This is a very strong squad, inspired by Tommy Lait, which will represent Rendcomb proudly next year and who, with the slice of luck which was so often lacking this season, will be more than a match for anyone.

CV

Played 9, Won 2, Drew 2, Lost 5, GF 16, GA 11.

Team from: T. Lait (Capt) M. Hutchins, C. Jeffreys, S. Hicks, T. Lockyer, J. Daborn, J. von Rotenhan, T. Bates, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, W. Hodder, J. McAllister, D. Roper, H. Wilson.

## U14B XI

It was a season of high spirits and determination. We consistently came second through the season, although the statistics do not reflect the true valour in which the U14Bs played. The strong hitting of Ben Hopley supplied some wonderful ball to the attack led by Matthew Harbottle and Gregory Jones. Benjamin Baghdadi was an excellent asset working hard as the last line of defence, saving many more goals than those which beat him.

There were weekly confrontations with the U15Bs coached by Mr Murray. It was like a re-enactment of "The Clash of the Titans", the Muzza's Killer Bees versus Auld's All Stars, in which I believe the All Stars hold the overall victory.

Played 5: Lost 5. GF: 1, GA: 23

Team from: B. Baghdadi, D. Bond, C. Fothergill, D. Grice, S. Gunner, M. Harbottle, B. Hopley, G. Jones, B. Kellett, S. Koiso, M. Postlethwaite, D. Starr, G. Jones.

HAGA

## U13A XI

The twenty nine Old Rectory boys practised well for the first matches after exeat and although they often frustrated the coaches during practice sessions, they did take in most points and it was very rewarding to see them employ skills and tactics in their matches. The first fixture was a highly successful triangular with King's Gloucester and Rose Hill which we hope to continue in the future.

It was clear from the beginning that Peter Mason, captain of the U13A team, had the skill and determination to control the midfield and, for this reason and the fact that junior teams can lack punch up front, the 3: 4: 3 formation was adopted. With no real sweeper the backs have to be very disciplined and capable of man to man marking and eventually the most reliable players for this role turned out to be Richard Lefeuve, Christian Good and Richard Burden. Without doubt Lefeuve was the most improved player of the season and was very strong in defence. The mobile and effective keeper, Barney Vick, was also a significant part of the defence and his enthusiasm was a tonic at times. Mark Ward and Tom Davies were good at gaining possession in mid-field and at taking the ball forward where Michael Arkle, Matthew Day and Ralph Aspin worked hard to create scoring opportunities in the circle. Various other players supported this line up and Edward Warrington is a promising prospect for the future, as are Daniel Crote, Harry Powell and Adam Hopley who were the mainstay of the U13B team.

The Gloucestershire Mini-Hockey tournament emphasised the need for close marking and for greater mobility in attack and many lessons were learned on that Sunday in February. In fact the squad did well to finish in the middle of their group by beating Newent and St Edward's, drawing with Wootton and Dean Close 'B' and certainly not disgracing themselves against strong sides from Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Hockey Club.

Overall the U13A team had a good season with excellent wins against King's, after losing to them in the early triangular, St Edward's and Rose Hill. Sadly they finished the season with a poor effort against Dean Close but as usual lessons were learned!

Played 15, Won 6, Drew 4, Lost 5, GF 11, GA 12

Team from: P. Mason (Capt), M. Arkle, R. Aspin, R. Burden, C. Crisp, D. Crote, T. Davies, M. Day, C. Good, R. Lefeuve, H. Powell, B. Vick, M. Ward, E. Warrington.

## U13B XI

The U13B team found themselves playing sides with greater experience and skill. This combined with some poor marking in the circle resulted in some disappointing defeats but there is no doubt that the first year players came on rapidly and gained much from their experiences. Justin Reid deserves a mention for playing bravely in goal.

Played 6, Won 1, Drew 0, Lost 5, GF 2, GA 18.

Team from: C. Bell, C. Crisp, D. Crote, A. Hopley, H. Powell, E. Warrington, J. Yu, L. Baghdadi, T. Chester-Master, M. Denham, A. Finn, L. Gunner, A. Hermitage, J. Reid, A. Saeldadin, T. Soanes, R. Uzzell.

CJW

## Netball

### Senior Netball Report

Every season the coaching of the senior netball team is a pleasure due to the girls' commitment to practise, the excellent team spirit and the desire to win matches.

For the last few years the netball report has had the same theme - the gradual improvement in match results, along with the increase in girls' numbers which has allowed us to field an ever improving second team. This year, both the 1st and 2nd teams can boast an excellent season with only one match lost. The 2nd VII lost by just 3 goals in their first match of the season against Westonbirt School, and the 1st VII lost their match against St Peter's RC High School.

As well as a full fixture list for the 1st and 2nd VIIs, we have put out several other teams in matches. For the first time we were able to field a 3rd VII, captained by Rebecca Hogarth and Rebekah Taplin, which played against The King's School, Gloucester. Despite losing 14-12, it gave several girls the opportunity of a match. An 'A' VII, with players from 6A, played and won their two matches against Kingham Hill School, 33-16 and St Edward's School 29-14. The U16 VII easily won their only match against The Cotswold School 23-17.

The success of the season has to be due to the girls' hard work and wonderful team spirit, but two other factors have also helped. Firstly, the senior teams have benefited from having Louise Dalglish and Clare Brotherhood to assist with the coaching and umpiring. The high standard of their umpiring was much appreciated by the girls. Secondly this report would be incomplete without mentioning the hard work of Phillipa Hunt as captain and Sophie Worlock as vice-captain. As well as their other duties, they started the term by introducing team shirts, and finished with the organisation of a Pizza Supper to round off a highly successful and enjoyable season.

Overall analysis for the Senior Netball teams - 1st, 2nd, 3rd 'A' and U16 VIIs; -

Played 18, won 13, Drew 2, lost 3. GF: 485, GA 287.

SMW

### 1st VII

The excellent match analysis shows what a rewarding season this has been. There were only a few changes to



the first team players from last season and so we were able to build on last year's team and its experience.

We started our matches against Westonbirt School which is always a difficult first fixture as they play netball through the Christmas term. A draw was a fair result as both teams were very evenly matched. St Peter's RC High School, despite being too strong for us on the day, proved to be an enjoyable and worthwhile new fixture. With these two difficult fixtures behind us the results of the following matches could only improve, and the 1st VII went on to remain unbeaten for the rest of the term.

The team spirit was excellent with every member of the team playing their part. Phillipa Hunt led by example, frustrating many an opponent with her height and accurate shooting. This season she was partnered by Sophie Sprawson in the shooting circle, making a very mobile pairing with a good understanding. Sophie seemed to always put in her best shooting performances at crucial times in the matches and when the opposition tries to apply any pressure. Tara Sleggs, Jenny Mais and Sophie Worlock were the same centre court trio as last season and combined their play instinctively. All three are players who do not like to lose and are great 'fighters' for the ball. The defence of Sarah Donovan and Gemma Leathart proved to be a good combination, with both being tenacious in their marking and making many fine interceptions.

We have in the past recorded wins against The King's School and Monkton Combe School, but this is the first time in the last five years that there has been a victory over Cheltenham College. This season it was an excellent match but the result was never in doubt with the half-time score of 16-9. There was great excitement when the final whistle blew, with loud celebrations from both players and spectators. It has been a big source of encouragement to the team that they have had such good support from parents and friends at the matches this season.

Played 8, Won 6, Drew 1, Lost 1. GF: 242, GA: 143

|   |                                     |         |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------|
| v | Westonbirt (A)                      | D 14-4  |
| v | St Peter's RC High, Gloucester! (A) | L 25-35 |
| v | Kingham Hill (A)                    | W56-18  |
| v | Cokethorpe (H)                      | W42-1   |
| v | Cheltenham College (H)              | W28-19  |
| v | Pate's GS 2nd VII (A)               | W24-23  |
| v | The King's School Gloucester (H)    | W28-10  |
| v | Monkton Combe Bath (H)              | W25-23  |

Team from: P. Hunt (capt), L. Bongiovanni, S. Donovan. R. Frazer-Holland, G. Leathart, J. Mais, T. Sleggs, S. Sprawson, C. Webb, R. Whatman. S. Worlock

## 2nd VII

An excellent season for the 2nd VII. They started the season with a 15-12 defeat at Westonbirt, but as the team became more settled and patterns of play were established, so the results improved. In their next match at St Peter's RC High a 44-13 victory did much to raise team morale. This was followed by another clear victory of 22-5 against Cokethorpe School. Perhaps the 2nd team's best result was their drawn match against Cheltenham College. This is usually a one-sided match and not in Rendcomb's favour! The King's School made the 2nd VII work hard for a win as a healthy 13-7 lead at half-time was slowly closed. Fortunately the whistle came in time for Rendcomb to run out winners 21-19. The final match was against Monkton Combe who had won the same fixture last season by a large margin. The result was a resounding Rendcomb victory 25-9.

It is difficult to pick out individuals when the good results are due to a team effort. However mention should be made of the captaincy of Louise Bongiovanni, who ably led a team with three different year groups, and Nellie Abbott who was named as the most improved player of the year.

Played 6, won 4, drew 1, lost 0. GF: 146, GA: 83.

Team from: L. Bongiovanni (capt), N. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, K. Nicholas, A. Osborne, H. Pearce, C. Schotten, C. Webb, R. Whatman, R. Williams.

SMW

## U15 VII

This season the Fourth Year girls were coached by Claire Brotherhood. Claire, who is a qualified P. E. teacher and county netballer, was able to inspire the girls with her enthusiasm and knowledge of the game. Looking back over the term the girls feel that they not only improved their skills levels, but in matches they were more determined to win. The encouragement given by their coach had made them more confident and have a greater belief in their ability to win matches.

SMW

Played 8, Won 4, Lost 4

Team from: J. Arnold, F. Burden, J. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Crisp, O. Evans, N. Gilson, R. Macdonald, S. Padmore, R. Warrington, A. Williams.

## U14 VII

The Under 14VII season was a testing time; new teacher, new players and for most, new positions. With only eleven girls in the class it meant that they were the Rendcomb U14s. Although many of the girls had played before, most of the first lessons were spent trying out the girls in different positions and analysing which girls played best where and together. It took the first two matches to establish the best team, and to see how the girls reacted in a match situation. At first they were shy of catching or intercepting the ball, but with encouragement and practice their confidence grew and quite often there would be applause when one actually achieved a result.

Unfortunately the match results were not a reflection of the ability and tenacity of the girls or their and my enjoyment. My most outstanding memory is of the team spirit especially on the journey home from the matches as all but one were away games. Although the U14's only won one match, their elation was evident and as this was "one more match than last year".

Thank you girls for your hard work and for making it a memorable first season of coaching for me!

Played 6, won 1, Lost 5.

Team from: H. Pratt L. Evans. G. Holmes, H. Earl. Z. Turner, I. Eaton, H. Osborne, A. Pardhy, H. Ewing, F. Levy-Bull, A. Hughes.

GLM

## U13 VII

Considering there are only 12 players to choose a team from, the U13s have worked very hard to better their

performances of last year. Nine girls have played for the team and they have come away with three draws, all games which might have been won. The first against Rosehill ended 13-13 after our team had been ahead going in to the final quarter. The second against King's (away) was very close and the team came back from a 3-0 deficit to earn a 4-4 draw, thanks to the half-time substitution of Ashleigh Welch who scored all four goals. The team was in the ascendancy when the final whistle was blown early due to a shower which made the courts a skating rink. We will look forward to next season's encounter! The final game of the season was against Monkton Combe and after an excellent first half in which Ashleigh, Sarah Colson, Romilly Evans and Amanda Lomax played particularly well the score was 5-1 to Rendcomb. Unfortunately due to the excitement of a potential first victory the opposition came back to earn a 6-6 draw. The girls have all improved tremendously this term and I am sure that if they show the same determination and willingness to learn next year, that first victory will not be far away. Romilly Evans, Jade Finn and Sarah Rudderham have formed a good defensive partnership. Alice Barefoot, Sarah Colson and Chloe Clarke (captain) have worked hard to fill the centre of the court and to feed the ball to Meg Barne and Ashleigh Welch in the circle.

LD

Played 5, Drew 3 Lost 2

Team from: C. Clarke (capt), A. Welch, A. Lomax, S. Colson, A. Barefoot, M. Barne, S. Rudderham, J. Finn, R. Evans.

## U12 VII

The U12s have had a successful season winning two matches out of five. They have worked very hard to put into practice the skills they have been taught and have also learnt from their defeats. They started off the season with a fine win over Rosehill. Their second match was against a very talented team from Kitebrook who had played together for a few years and our team was soundly beaten.

However the girls are to be congratulated for learning from this experience and immediately putting into practice the skills they had seen used against them to easily beat the Cotswold School. During the second quarter of this match the team ran 8 goals to 1 and played some of the best netball I have seen a first year team play. Heather Roper and Charlotte Phillips belie their stature and are constantly dodging quickly to create chances for Edwina Wickham and Nicola King in defence. Jessica Weston (captain) has been a tower of strength in defence and Verity Symcox uses her excellent balance to defend the shot. All the girls have worked very hard this term and I look forward to more progress next year.

LD

Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3.

Team from: J. Weston (capt), V. Symcox, Je. Cadbury, S. Malik, H. Roper, C. Phillips, E. Wickham. N. King. E. Wells.

## Cricket

As I sit here in a field in the French Alps, enjoying a magnificent view over Lake Annecy, the whole culture of cricket seems a million miles away, and yet distance provides a perspective and an ability to assess the season of '99.

The first weeks were sadly dominated by rain, but eventually we did get into a full programme of fixtures, with over 40 matches played, with far more success than failure. It is a credit to Rendcomb as a school, that being both small and co-educational, we are still able to compete favourably, often against far bigger schools, with greater number of boys.

The highlight of the season, and a new venture, was our U14 Cricket Festival, when, over a period of three days, we welcomed Victoria College, Jersey, on their Summer tour. The Jersey XI played and won their three matches, defeating King's, Gloucester, the Rendcomb Cricket Academy, and our own U14s. We wish our own 1st XI every success as they depart on their end of term tour to the same Victoria College.

The U13s played with enthusiasm, but did not have the success of their predecessors, largely because there are not as many talented players, but also because a few individuals still need to acquire certain basic disciplines such as listening in order to learn. They will get no better coaching anywhere.

The U14s, last year's unbeaten side, had another excellent season, losing only once, to a very strong Jersey XI.

The U15s, too, made major strides forward, losing only once, and the U15Bs preserved their 100% record since their arrival at Rendcomb: played 4, won 4.

The 2nd XI did not enjoy last season's unbeaten run, but, with limited members, they remained enthusiastic and gave their best.

With the departure of several key players from last year's 1st XI, it was felt that this year would see the first team struggle, but we were wrong, and all members of the squad played with determination and were always supportive of each other. Congratulations are due, in particular, to William Witchell on his magnificent unbeaten century and to Philip Webb in captaining such a successful team.

Again, it must be said that we are fortunate to be able to play cricket on such quality wickets, and our groundsman, David Mead, is to be congratulated for producing them. It is significant that not only every visiting school, but also our appointed umpires, have all praised the excellence of our playing fields and wickets, not to mention the friendliness and courtesy of our pupils.

Bob Stott and his catering team have again worked wonders with early lunches, teas, late suppers and barbecues. We wish Bob happiness and success as he leaves us. He will be greatly missed, and his response to all situations has become a Rendcomb catchphrase: "no probs".

I would like especially to thank my colleagues for their dedication, support and time given to coaching cricket. Without them, nothing would happen, and as ever, it is so pleasing to have so many parents supporting cricket on match days.

There are ideas, too, for the future: more intensive winter coaching is planned at junior level, to instil basic techniques into young players, a mobile net will be purchased for next season and we are investigating how best to obtain covers for the 1st XI square.

Overall, then, this represents a positive tone, with many a good thing happening, and a sense of purpose and way forward. I look forward to these developments over the close season, but now, it's time for a swim in the lake.

BLN



**Lindsey North, Lord Vestey, David Essenhigh and Giles Brealy (OR) at the Auction of Promises Dinner in aid of the Tour to Jersey**

## 1st XI

After a winter in the nets, our relatively inexperienced side was eagerly awaiting the first matches in the early weeks of the term. Unfortunately the awful weather meant the three matches were abandoned, including the match against The Crypt in which Ben Butler top scored with 45 and when we were looking to declare and bowl them out, but rain intervened.

In the next match against Bristol Cathedral School. Ben Butler again played well, the team gaining 160 runs, William Witchell hitting a fine 60. This was the first time that our bowlers could attack the opposition with runs behind us. Harry Aldrich-Blake started brightly and took key wickets. When the match appeared to be going Bristol's way, we upped our game considerably and with tight dynamic fielding and accurate, probing bowling by Harry and Phil Webb, we were the ones unlucky not to win the match.

We played host to the Gloucestershire Gypsies and this was a superb day's cricket with both sides scoring over 200 runs in a close draw. Phil Webb and Mr. Sykes were leading scorers with 47 and 48 respectively.

The match against Sir Thomas Rich's was our first victory of the season. Thom Gilbert came of age as a 1st XI opening bat with a quality half century with his numerous pull shots a real highlight. He shared a partnership worth 64 runs with Phil Webb who scored 32, to enable us to declare on 131. After taking 2 wickets in his first over. Phil Webb went on to take 6 for 23, bowling throughout the innings, getting them out for 67. Nick Stanfield took 3 for 18 with his offspin. He continued to deceive batsmen throughout the season, especially with his cleverly disguised slower ball which drew many false strokes from the opposition.

The win against Rougemont was most memorable for Harry Aldrich-Blake's 5 for 39. He beat batsmen through pace in the air and extravagant cut from the pitch. Phil Webb took 4 for 27 at the other end and took the final wicket, the opposition having been bowled out for 99.

The batting highlight of the season was when Billy Witchell hit a brilliant century against Bredon from only 74 balls. He was merciless on anything pitched up and dismissive of anything short. This set us up for our best score of the season, 183 for 2 declared. Ben Stanfield took most of the wickets, collecting 4 for 17. Whenever Ben was bowling, he always offered control with his left arm seamers, making the batsmen really work to preserve their wickets and get runs. With the confidence that he gained this season, he should be a real force next year as the opening bowler. Bredon were dismissed for only 75, giving us victory by 108 runs.

Although the results of the cricket weekend were not as we would have liked, there were several notable performances which could be built on. In the Marling

match, the partnership between Nick and Ben Stanfield was a big boost for them. It might not have been the biggest in terms of runs, but the application and determination shown was admirable and proved that we could bat against quality, quick bowling.

The match against the Old Rendcombians was very enjoyable, with a good rapport between the sides. This was our best performance over the weekend, remembered mainly for Rafe Smallman's dismissal of a certain S. Maylott. Rafe proved that if you tossed the ball up consistently then no matter if the batsman has been in a while, they will always look uncomfortable and slightly perplexed when faced with a slow, well-flighted delivery. Next season he will no doubt continue to take key wickets with some unique deliveries.

Looking back at the 1999 cricket season, one of the most positive aspects was the enjoyment the team had in playing. The spirit was tremendous and was always one of wanting to improve on our performances whether following a win or a loss. A special thanks has to go to Mr. Sykes for being our coach and making sure that we always looked on cricket as a game to enjoy.

Played 10, Won 3, Drew 2, Lost 4, Abandoned 1.

Team from: P. Webb (capt), H. Aldrich-Blake (vice-capt), B. Butler, T. Gilbert, W. Witchell, N. Stanfield, B. Stanfield, R. Smallman, P. Szybiak, N. Hall, I. Forster, L. Barton, Sykes, A. Sage, R. Walder.

## U15A XI

In a season delayed by rain, the U15s missed their opening two fixtures, but this gave us valuable time to work on playing as a team, on the need to support one another and on general attitude. In a year group with only a handful of talented cricketers, it was vitally important that the squad should be positive in all aspects of the game, and at all times, both on and off the field. By and large this was achieved, and, indeed, had it not been for the final game, a heavy defeat at the hands of a very impressive Crypt team, the U15s would have had an unbeaten season.

John Raby and Stephen Ward sort of assumed the role of joint captaincy and gained in confidence and tactical awareness as the season progressed. Patrick Bodenham emerged as a strike bowler of considerable potential. He is prepared to listen and learn, and I look forward to seeing him progress in senior cricket. Rupert McKelvie got runs and wickets as did James Spackman, Stephen Ward and John Raby. Jonathan Pratt nobly took on the job of wicketkeeper, acquitting himself very well, and at times also made valuable runs. He wields the cricket bat like a hockey stick, but he has a fine eye, and when he middles the ball it goes along the ground and a long way.

One major area of weakness was our fielding. We dropped a lot of catches, which had they been held, would have won us more than three matches.



In conclusion, it must be said that the squad made considerable progress, but also that the statistics, won 3, drawn 3, lost 1, read much better than their reality, and that, had it not been for valiant ninth wicket resistance on two occasions, the drawn/lost balance would have been reversed.

My thanks are due to all boys who gave so much time and effort. There is still much to learn and I hope they will continue to enjoy their cricket, and finally to Mr Paul Dodd who willingly gave so much of his time and expertise as umpire.

Played 7, Won 3, Drew 3, Lost 1

## U15B XI

The U15B XI, The one and ONLY “Killer Bees”, despite Mr Stutchbury’s claims below, remain the team in Rendcomb with the best result, namely a four year unbeaten record. This remarkable achievement was maintained with a match against the only school prepared to take the team on, namely The King’s School, Gloucester, who nobly made the journey up to Top Pitch only to be out bowled and out batted by the “Killers”. Our captain, Phil Gordon-Jones led his troops in a disciplined and courageous manner, and it was a great delight to see the extraordinary skill of the Bees allowing them to sting their way into the record books. All the team must be commended for their enthusiasm, their humour and the new insight that they gave me into the most noble of all our games. As one would guess from the names below this truly was Cricket played on another level!

Team from: P. Gordon-Jones (King Bee) R. Birkbeck, E. Wadsworth, J. Sabourin, S. King, T. Moss, S. Odintsov, E. McHenry, H. Whale, L. Tamowski, C. Cowper, A. Bowers. G. Drew, W. Turvill.

## U14A XI

The third years enjoyed a very successful season. There were some outstanding individual performances with the

bat and the ball, but the most impressive feature was the team spirit and the never-say-die approach in the field.

By half term, Rendcomb had outplayed four schools without really being stretched. Bristol Cathedral School was defeated by 100 runs and the victory over Cokethorpe was by 10 wickets. During this run of results, Tommy Lait and Greg Jones scored 50s and Will Hodder totalled 80 runs from four innings as an opening batsman.

The visit of Victoria College, Jersey was a timely reminder to avoid complacency as we were outplayed by a side which was technically superior in most areas of the game.

Rendcomb then had the better of three drawn matches against Pates, Rougemont and the Crypt Schools. Sam Hicks twice made scores of 31 and Greg Jones powered to an impressive 42. On each occasion an extra one or two overs may well have been enough to convert a draw into a victory. The season ended with a comfortable 5 wicket victory of just 13 runs.

During the course of the season eight bowlers were used and all took wickets: James Daborn (3 wickets), Sam Hicks (18), Will Hodder (10), Matt Hutchins (11), Chris Jeffreys (5), Greg Jones (5), Dave Roper (2), Henry Wilson (2).

Countless runs were saved by a combination of courage, commitment and athleticism in the field. Especially worthy of note are Matthew Harbottle and Dave Roper who each took two fine catches, Barnaby Kellett and Tommy Lait who kept wicket with skill and style.

I am grateful to captain Matt Hutchins and vice-captain Chris Jeffreys who led by example and constantly encouraged in the field. Thanks also to David Starr who lived up to his name with the score-book!

Played 9, Won 5, Drew 3, Lost 1.

Team from: M. Hutchins (capt) J. Daborn, M Harbottle, S. Hicks, W. Hodder, C. Jeffreys (vice-captain), G. Jones,

A. Kellett, T. Lait, D. Roper, D. Starr, J. von Rotenhan, H. Wilson.

## U14B XI

Throughout the season the famous "Killer Bees" only lost one match. The overall skill level of the squad rapidly improved and the final practice session in the tropical heat of early July produced some of the season's best cricket.

I would like to thank the squad members for making the season a wonderful mix of "grass roots" cricket and obvious enjoyment, I'm sure they will star in even greater thing next season - well done.

Team from: J. von Rotenhan, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, J. McAllister, T. Lockyer, C. Taplin, D. Grice, S. Gunner, B. Fothergill, M. Postlethwaite, D. Bond, S. Koiso, D. Starr, T. Bates, B. Hopley, B. Baghdadi.

## U13A XI

U13As had a disappointing season in many ways as the side did not pull together until the end of the season. In fact we did not work together as a team, whilst some of our side did not have a good attitude, and thought they were better than they were. Some did not listen to advice, always knowing better than their coach, who has in fact coached England cricketers.

We also changed captains during the season which did not

help matters, although Mark Ward (Capt) and Matthew Day (vice Capt) did get the side playing effectively.

KT

We started losing badly to King's, Gloucester by 59 runs, showing no determination when batting although Richard Burden (10) and Harry Powell (21) showed some skill at the crease.

We then played Bristol Cathedral School and made 140 for 4 declared with Peter Mason making an excellent 71 not out but our bowling and fielding let us down and we were lucky to hold out for a draw. Although we lost to Sir Thomas Rich's we had a very good game, scoring 123 for 8 declared, but Rich's got 124 in the last over. Pate's Grammar School out-played us, getting us all out for 43, Harry Powell making 13. Against Kingham Hill we made 159 for 9 declared and had them for 43 for 6. Against Crypt we were again all out for 45. Then against Farmor's we played much better under Mark Ward and made 128 for 3 declared and bowled out Farmor's for just 61.

JHS

I would like to thank all the parents who gave the side and me great support throughout the season. A few that spring to mind are Mr Mason, Mr Burden, Mr Day, Mr Aspin, Mr Powell, Mrs Crisp and Mr Davies.

DE

Played 8, Won 1, Drew 3, Lost 4.

Team From: M. Ward (Capt), M. Day (Vice-Capt), R. Burden, P. Mason, L. Baghdadi, C. Crisp, H. Powell, R. Aspin, E. Warrington, T. Davies, R. Lefevre, B. Vick, M. Arkle, C. Good, A. Finn.



David Essenhigh's Cricket Academy v. Victoria College, Jersey, in the U14 Festival at Rendcomb

## U13B XI

I have very much enjoyed the company of the group this term and the highlight was the fixture against Farmors U13B on a hot July day just before the end of term.

Rendcomb batted first and made 107-4 with Richard Lefeuvre making 31 not out. Farmors' struggled at first and lost 6 wickets for less than 50 runs with Adam Saedaldin taking 4 wickets for 10 runs in 3 overs!

They recovered well and at the close of play were 100-6. It was a fine sporting match enjoyed by all. My thanks to Michael Arkle for captaining the side and well done to the rest of the team!

Team: M. Arkle (capt), C. Good, (wicket keeper), T. Chester-Master, A. Hopley, R. Lefeuvre, M. Lapis, J. Reid, T. Soanes, A. Saedaldin, B. Vick, J. Yu. Scorer and Fielder: B. Peter-Bragg.

JGW

## Boys' Tennis

### 1st VI

Although the team did not record any victories this season, with games against strong opposition in Dauntsey's School, Dean Close and Cheltenham College, the tennis played was of a consistently high standard. Captain Jo Schinzler and vice-captain Patrick van Welij were unbeaten in all matches, as they were last year, and there were fine performances from Tom Mais, Dominic Morris, Ian Forster, Matt Williams, Yuki Takanashi and James Brittain-Jones.

### Mixed Tennis

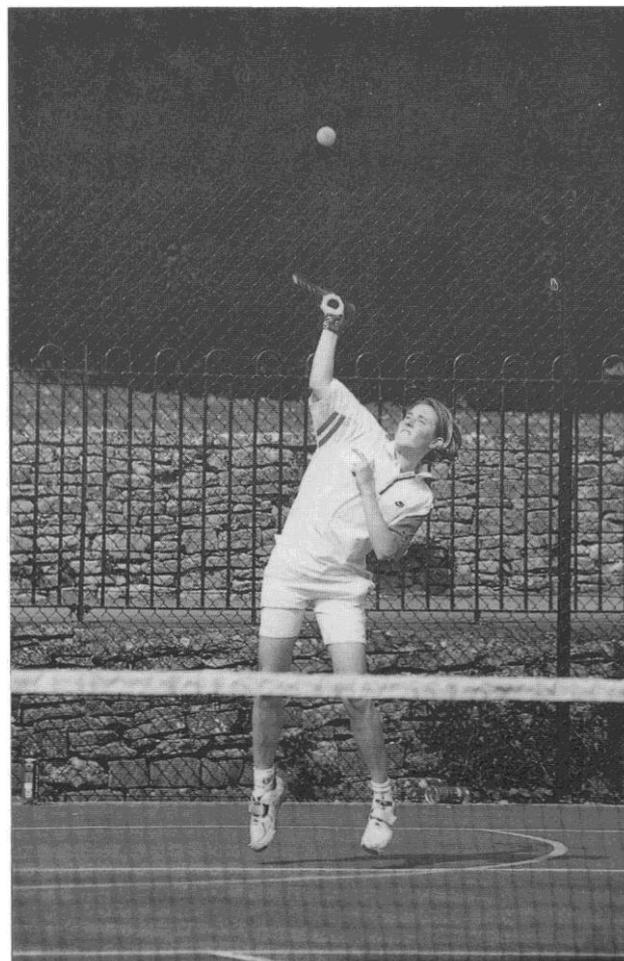
Mixed doubles was very successful this term, with three victories from three matches against St Edward's School, Cheltenham, The King's School, Gloucester and Wycliffe College. Hopefully more fixtures can be arranged for next year.

## Girls' Tennis

### Senior Tennis

It has been unfortunate that the tennis matches this term have been affected by the weather, and the fact that we have not been able to field our strongest teams more than once. This proved crucial against Cheltenham College where we were grateful to Ellen Drurey and Helen Pearce for making up numbers at the eleventh hour. However, all the girls have adapted to different partners very well and have played to a high standard. Jenny Mais and Helen Mizon have been excellent 1st and 2nd captains.

Jenny Mais and Anna de Lisle Wells represented the school at the Gloucestershire Schools Double Tournament in Cheltenham. They won three matches and lost two. The standard was very high and in between the heavy showers they both played some excellent tennis.



### 1st VI

Played 4, Won 3, Lost 1

|    |   |                    |       |
|----|---|--------------------|-------|
| CV | v | The King's School  | W 4-0 |
|    | v | Westonbirt         | W 6-3 |
|    | v | Cokethorpe         | W 7-2 |
|    | v | Cheltenham College | L 4-5 |

Team: J. Mais (Capt), J. Crisp, A. de Lisle Wells, B. Unger, C. Schotten, S. Sprawson.

Also played: H. Mizon, T. Sleggs, C. Webb.

### 2nd VI

Played 3, Won 1, Lost 2

Team: H. Mizon (Capt), P. Chaiwatanasirikul, P. Hunt, T. Sleggs, C. Webb and S. Worlock.

Also played: L. Bongiovanni, E. Drurey, H. Pearce, S. Forster.

## U15 VI

The Fourth Year girls have worked hard at a game which was new to many of them as a competitive sport. As the term progressed many of them began to enjoy the sessions as they became more successful.

The U15 VI played just two fixtures, the other two which had been arranged were cancelled by the opposition. Maybe the word had spread about our inspirational captain Jo Crisp! Certainly Jo's experience and ability was an enormous boost to team morale and a great help to the results of our matches. Jo was partnered by Sarah Padmore, and the pair are to be congratulated for not losing a set in either of the matches. The second couple of Rosie Warrington and Vicky Mackinnon, despite losing 0-3 in their first match against Dean Close, had some very close matches and gained valuable experience. This was evident in their second match against Colston's when they won all three of their matches. Neither Jay Chaiwatanasirikul nor Robyn Macdonald, the third pair, had played tennis competitively before. Like Vicky and Rosie they improved dramatically over the season and from losing 0-3 in the first match, went on to win 2-1 in the second. This has been a disappointing season in the number of matches played, but a most rewarding one in terms of the progress made by the Fourth Year girls, both in terms of lessons and matches.

SMW

Played 2, Won 1, Lost 1, Sets for 11, Sets against 7.

Team: J. Crisp (Capt), J. Chaiwatanasirikul. S. Padmore, R. Warrington, R. MacDonald, V. MacKinnon..

## Rounders

### U14

The season began with a rule change and so new tactics required. It was evident from the first lesson how much enjoyment the girls received from playing rounders. Practice was not always easy, as there were only ten girls. Although some of the girls had decided which position they preferred the most noticeable problem was that catching a rounders ball was a scary situation. I have to say that there were some remarkable achievements from the girls in terms of their skills and this has only come from hard work, enthusiasm and determination.

Unfortunately the girls do not have the same confidence in a match situation as in practice and therefore the match results are not a true reflection of their ability but the team spirit both in practice and matches is commendable.

Played 6, Won 1, Lost 5.

Team from: H. Pratt, L. Evans, G. Holmes, H. Earl, Z. Turner, I. Eaton, H. Osborne, A. Pardhy, H. Ewing. F. Levy-Bull, A. Hughes.

GLM

## U13 and U12 IXs

This season saw a new coach for the rounders teams as Mrs Dodd switched a cricket bat for a rounders stick. Cricket skills are easily converted to the rounders pitch, and both require alert fielding and hard hitting. Miss Chisnall assisted at practices and soon learnt the rules to be able to help with the umpiring of matches. The results fail to reflect the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the First and Second Year girls in practice and in matches. New rules were introduced this season, which has made the scoring of half rounders easier, but has meant the need for an alert and active fielder at second post essential. Heather Roper in the First Year and Alice Barefoot in the Second Year, both made this position their own with some excellent fielding. Heather was also the scorer of many full rounders for the U12 IX, possessing a mighty hit and some quick running round the posts.

The U12 team showed promise in the field, with many of them displaying fine fielding performances. Mention must be made of Jessica Weston, whose fielding was inspirational both in practice and in matches. Catches were taken in either hand or at any height from her position of third post, and many a rounder saved by her diving stops. The cancellation of the final two matches was a big disappointment to the U12 team as it had been hoped that as many First Years as possible would have the opportunity of playing Rounders this term.

The U13 made good progress with their skills, and were a better team than their results suggest. They were unable to produce the form shown in practice in their matches. Two matches were very close, with them losing by just a half rounder to Cotswold School, and by a Rounder to King's School. Amanda Lomax was a responsible and well organised captain who kept her team motivated and hard working throughout the season.

SMW

U13 IX: Played 4, lost 4.

Team from: A. Lomax (Capt) A. Barefoot, M. Barne, C. Clarke, S. Colson, R. Evans, J. Finn A. Marlowe, R. Postlethwaite, S. Rudderham, A. Welch, H. Whitby-Brown.

U12 IX: Played 2, Won 1, Lost 4

Team from: J. Weston (Capt) L. Beer. J. Cadbury, N. King, S. Malik, C. Phillips, H. Roper, H. Stutchbury, V. Symcox, E. Wells, J. Wells, E. Wickham.

## Archery

For the first time in nearly twenty years, very little archery took place this year. This was particularly sad for one young archer, Oliver Poole, who dearly wished to participate in open tournaments during the spring term.

A little archery did occur in the autumn term, with some potentially good archers amongst the group, but we were

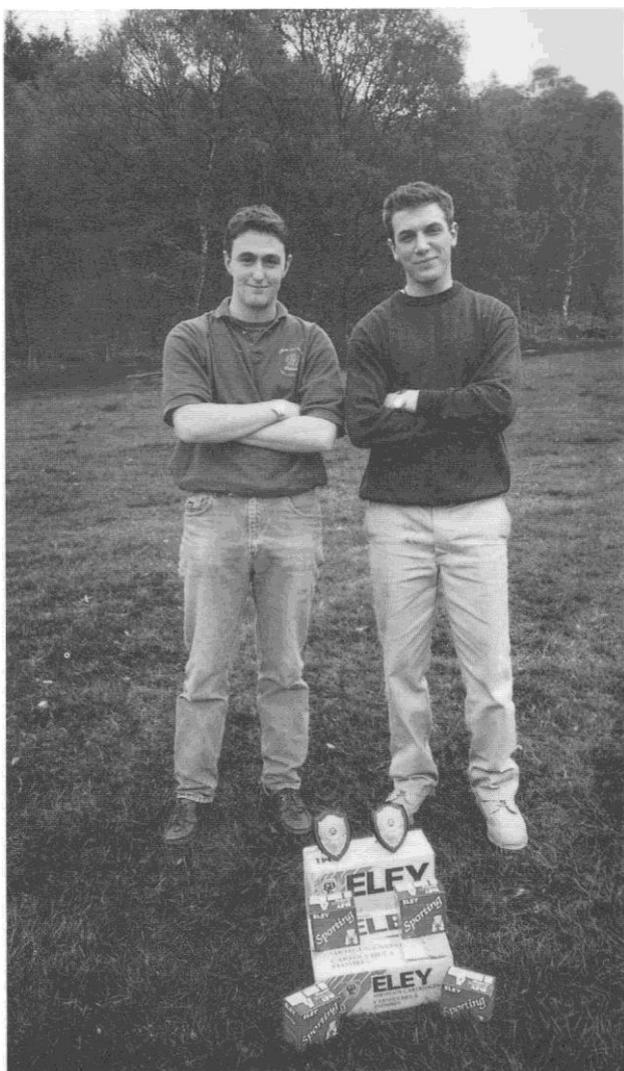
unable to finish shooting the required rounds for their A. A. S. certificates.

Thanks are due to Oliver for all his help and support during the past two years.

JE

## Clay Shooting

As ever, Clay Shooting has been a successful and well attended activity. A number of keen and talented pupils have taken part, many of whom have improved significantly over the year. However the highlight of the season was our performance at the National Clay Shooting Championship at Shugborough.



**Harry Aldrich-Blake and Florian Brenner**

Harry Aldrich-Blake, having been in the College team for six years, secured the runners up trophy. He returned a magnificent score of 45/50, enough in 1998 to win the competition outright, yet not quite enough this year as the winning score was an unbelievable 47. In simple terms, he is the second best shot at U18 in the country, and a first class ambassador for the College. He will be sorely missed in the 1999-2000 season and we hope he will be back in the ORs team to life the winner's trophy! In the



**Nationals team**

'B' course High Gun class the competition was just as exciting, with a shoot-off between Rendcomb College and Bloxham School. Having shot 42 out of 50 clays, Rendcomb's 'B' Team Captain, Florian Brenner (6A), went on to win the shoot-off, winning the trophy. In the team event. Rendcomb's 'A' team came first out of the Gloucestershire teams, but 10th overall. The 'B' team came a very creditable 3rd, being only just beaten by Millfield and Stowe.

JHS

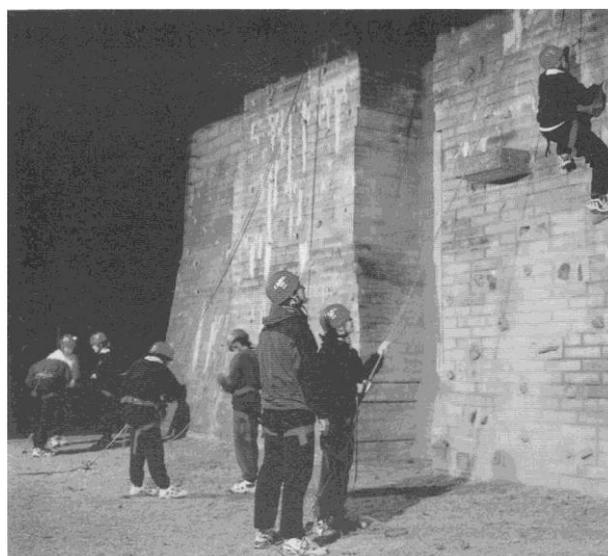
## Sailing

We have had a successful and enjoyable term at the water parks this year, six Sixth Formers pursuing sailing, and another six windsurfing. The staff have been absolutely helpful, and have maintained a strict eye on safety.

Meanwhile, I have been able to relax in the sun watching the keen athletes demonstrate their aquatic skills from the safety of the shore. I have also got to know the creature who runs the water park, an inquisitive but friendly dog who has kept an eye on us all and who has consumed any surplus food lying around! What a way to spend a term!

IGP

## The Climbing Wall in use during Activities in the Winter





**Pit Wagons by Mr Grice' (Winner of Transport Section of Photographic Competition)**

# RURAL DAY FOR LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN



