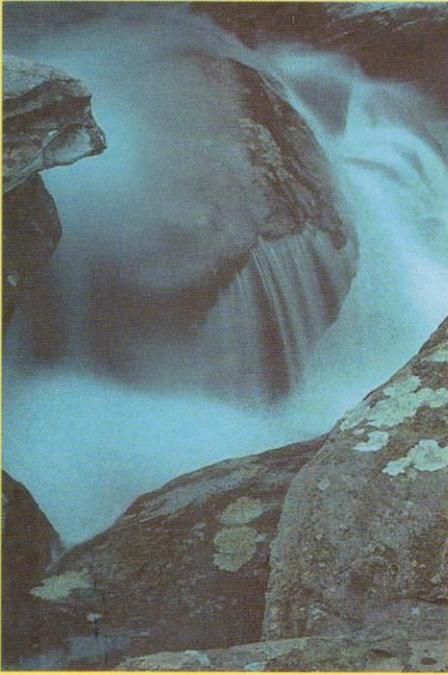


# Rendcombian

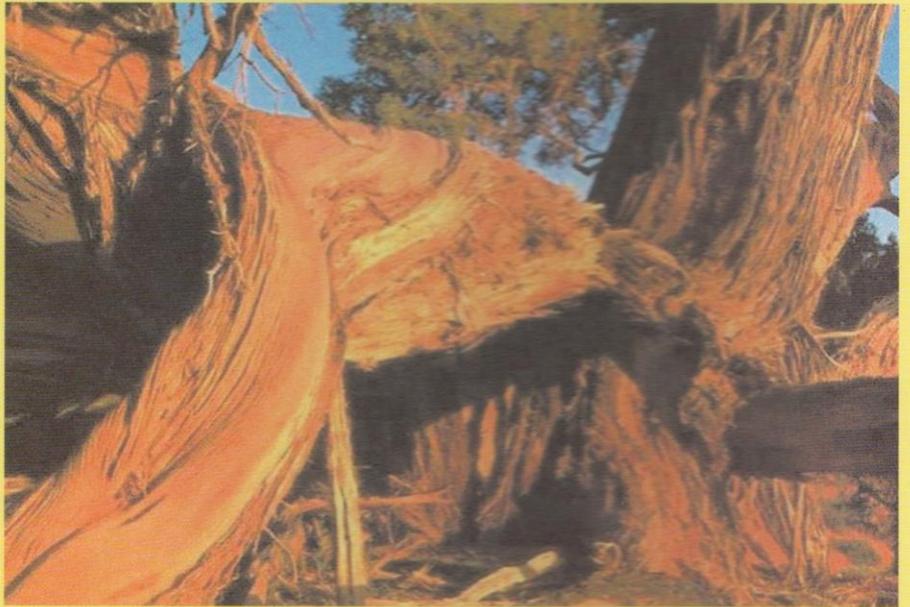


The Magazine of Rendcomb College, 1997

**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
COMPETITION**



**Study of water**     *Douglas Ellison (6A)*



**Twisted**

*Douglas Ellison (6A)*



*Mark Naylor (Staff)*



**Dimitrios**

*Georgina Holmes (1)*



**Shades of Summer**

*Jonathan Davis (6B)*

# Rendcombian

No. 15

September 1997



Front Cover  
Back Cover

Outside:  
Outside:  
Inside:

Pupils and staff at the new Astro turf pitch  
Fashion Show  
Leavers' weekend

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*(Contact details updated August 2016)*

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Reset in Times Roman typeface

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# DIARY

**Births:** On 7th October 1996 to Carlo and Debbie Vuolo a daughter, Francesca.  
On 29th March 1997 to Alex and Amanda Brealy a son, Edward St. John.  
On 6th June 1997 to Sue and Jeremy Mister a son, Samuel Thomas.

**Marriages:** On 29th December 1996, Sue Green to Jeremy Mister at Calcot Manor Hotel.  
On 23rd August 1997, David Sudbury to Klara Pegley at Rendcomb.

## Christmas Term

### September

8th Term began.

14th 5th-Form Geography Field trip departed for the South Coast.

Members of forms 1 and 2 took part in the Diocesan sponsored cycle ride. and received the Christian Brann trophy for raising the most money as a group.

A College Disco was held in the Dulverton Hall.

21st Students from the Music department entertained at the Village Harvest Supper.

24th Sixth Form Biologists and Chemists attended a lecture at St Mary's School, Caine.

26th The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition departed for the Black Mountains.

27th Exeat.

29th The Parents' Association held their AGM followed by a reception for new parents in the Reading Room.

### October

5th Open Day.

13th The HMC School Inspection began.

20th Q. P concert was given by *Cantores* in the Reading Room.

22nd 6A Biology students departed for their Hebridean Field Trip.

25th Half Term.

### November

7th Fashion Show (performance for College students).

8/9th Fashion Show reception and public performances.

10th Remembrance Sunday.

15th Senior Rugby players' Devon tour departed.

21st The choir gave a concert for St. Cecilia's Day at St. Peter's Church.

22nd Exeat.

29/30th The Senior drama production *A Streetcar Named Desire* was performed in the Dulverton Hall.

### December

1st Advent carol services were held at St. Peter's Church.

3rd 6A Biologists visited the Botanical Gardens at Oxford.

6th Recital given by senior Music students in the Reading Room.

7th Senior Rugby trip to Twickenham.

8th The annual St. Barbara's Service was held for The Gloucestershire Gunners at St. Peter's Church.  
Old Rendcombian Society Rugby Tournament.

9th 'A' level Artists visited galleries in London.

Sixth-Form Chemists' Study Day at University of London.

Girls' Hockey dinner joined by the visiting Australian touring teams.

10th Godman and Park Houses theatre trip to London.

Rugby Club Christmas dinner.



11th College Christmas dinners were served followed by the Sixth Form sketches in the Dulverton Hall.  
12th Term ended with the Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church.

## Lent Term 1997

### January

12th Term began.

14th Science lecture: "Electrostatics" given to forms 1 and 2.

London theatre visit to *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Sixth Form students.

16th 'Mock' examinations began for forms 5 and 6A.

18th A College disco was held in the Dulverton Hall.

19th The GCSE Photography group visited the Royal Photographic Society in Bath.

23rd 6B English students theatre trip to *The Tempest*.

24th Members of form 5 attended a careers lecture and 'A' level choices seminar.

Exeat.

### February

1st The Parents' Association held its *Soiree Normande* in the Dulverton Hall.

5th Members of years 5 and 6 visited the Royal Shakespeare Company's touring production of *Comedy of Errors* in Cirencester.

7th An informal concert was held where parents could meet peripatetic music staff for consultation.

8th 6A and 6B English students visited *Comedy of Errors* in Cirencester.

12th The College held a Sixth Form open evening.

13th The choir sang evensong at Bristol Cathedral.

14th Half term began.

19th Half term ended.

### March

7th Members of 6B and their parents attended a talk on Higher Education.

Exeat.

13th 6B Chemists attended a lecture on Spectroscopy at Warwick University.

15th Rendcomb Choral Society's production of *Carmina Burana* in the Dulverton Hall.

19th Junior boys visited RAF Lynham.

20th 'A' level Musicians gave a recital in the Reading Room.

27th Term Ended.

## Summer Term 1997

### April

20th Term began.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition I returned from Mid-Wales.

22nd Rendcomb students took part in the local 'Clean up the Cotswolds' campaign.

24th 6A Chemists visited Bristol Water at Purton.

25th 6A Chemists attended a charity revision lecture at Cheltenham Ladies College.

26th A College disco was held in the Dulverton hall.

30th The Rendcomb Mock Election was held.

### May

2nd 6B Scientists attended a British Pharmacological Lecture by

Dr. Simon J. Taylor.

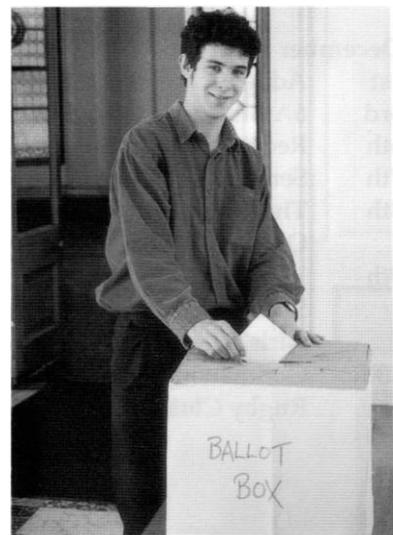
Exeat.

6th Members of 6B visited Warwick University Open Day.

9th GCSE Expressive Arts students performed their final drama and dance examination work in the Dulverton Hall.

11th Duke of Edinburgh Bronze group practice walk set off around the Cotswolds.

Q. P. Concert *Clarinets* was given in the Reading Room.



15th 'A' level Performing Arts students performed *Only a Rehearsal* in the Dulverton Hall.  
 18th The choir sang Eucharist for Whit Sunday followed by a buffet lunch in the Reading Room.  
 20th Biology students from year 3 visited the Natural History Museum in London.  
 22nd An Informal Chamber Concert was given by the Rendcomb String Ensemble with soloists in the Reading Room.  
 23rd The Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition II departed for North Wales.  
     Private View of 'A' level Art in the Dulverton Hall.  
 24th FOUNDERS' DAY - the guest speaker was Prof. Judith Howard CBE from Durham University. Half term began.  
 27th The Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition returned from North Wales.  
 28th Half Term ended.  
 29th Earth Science Field Trip for Fourth Formers took place.



31st **A Charity Fitness Marathon took place in the Sports Hall in aid of The British Heart Foundation "Keep the Beat".**

### **June**

7th The Cotswold Care Hospice Summer Concert by the Oriel Singers took place in the Reading Room.  
 14th The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment Expedition departed for the Forest of Dean.  
 15th The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment group returned.  
 16th Cirencester Civic Society tour of Rendcomb.  
 20th Exeat.  
 24th GCSE and 6B Artists visited London galleries.  
 27th The Biology Monmouth Meeting took place in the Reading Room.  
     Members of the Fourth Form departed for a trip to France to visit the Bayeaux Tapestry and the Normandy beaches.  
 29th Fourth form French trip returned.  
 30th *Our Day Out*, a musical performed by members of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Forms took place in the Dulverton Hall.

### **July**

1st The Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice III departed for the Brecon Beacons.  
     *Our Day Out*.  
 2nd End of Term.  
 5th Duke of Edinburgh Gold group returned.

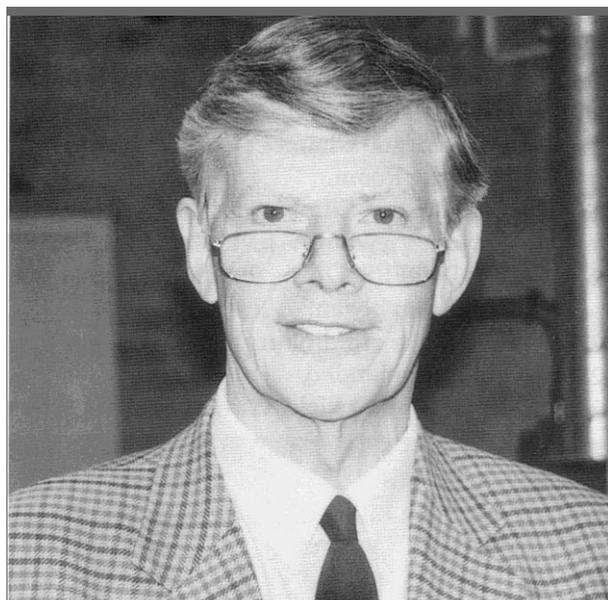
# STAFF CHANGES

## Colin Burden

To mark the College's 75th Anniversary, Colin Burden staged a remarkable exhibition of craftwork to illustrate the important position which woodwork has held at Rendcomb. Single-handedly, he amassed contributions from pupils from the 1920s to the present day; it was an outstanding achievement and one of which he was justifiably proud. In my opinion, nothing could have illustrated better Colin's professional approach to his subject or his hours of painstaking and dedicated teaching, so inspirational to many Rendcombians.

Surprising as it may seem, however, Woodwork has at no time been more than a part of Colin's teaching timetable. When he was appointed in 1963, he was also in charge of Physical Education and had to teach some junior English, a varied and testing commitment for a young schoolmaster. Being an accomplished sportsman, he did not find the PE lessons too daunting, despite the hazardous conditions of the gym (what is today the Dulverton Hall) with its cast iron pillars. Certainly pupils responded to his energetic approach and used to look forward to the PE lessons. He was also in charge of swimming: a new experience for many pupils in the early '60s. Teaching sessions in the recently built pool were often quite daunting particularly with older pupils who were struggling with their fear of water; there was none of the modern rescue equipment then - the instructor simply had to dive in himself to help a learner in difficulties. Colin organised swimming sessions, tests and teaching periods most efficiently, and many pupils also took the Gold or Silver survival tests - often a chilly experience in an unheated pool. In my view, it was the heyday of Rendcomb's swimming.

Tuesday afternoons, until ten years ago, were devoted to Public Works (PW). All pupils were engaged in some form of 'estate' work, except the choir and orchestra. In the workshop, Colin supervised a group who repaired damaged furniture, thereby learning extra skills themselves. This became an easier task when the present spacious facilities replaced those of the primitive 'Manole' with its stove, at the back of the College. Such a responsibility required hours of extra work and the College was most fortunate to have someone of Colin's expertise to cope with this, culminating in the fitting-out of the new boardinghouses. Perhaps one might add that Colin's



personal interest in restoring antique furniture allowed more advanced pupils to acquire special skills, of which quite a number are still appreciative as they restore items themselves.

Pupils also benefited from Colin's prowess as a sportsman; he coached the U15 Rugby and Cricket teams for 25 years with remarkable success, although I am sure he would have preferred to play cricket regularly himself; such is the lot of the staff in small schools! Then, as Master in Charge of Cricket he brought to the game the same dedication and efficient organisation which could be seen in anything he undertook. Judo, too, flourished under his guidance, with many local and national successes.

On a personal level, I was extremely grateful to Colin for his unstintingly loyal and dependable support as my second in command when I was in charge of the Main Building: attempting to control a 'house' of 100 boys was made less daunting when you had someone like Colin to call upon for help and to tolerate my irascibility in moments of crisis. When he was resident, too, he provided kindly and much appreciated guidance for the pupils in his Tutor groups.

The College owes Colin a great debt for his dedication to so many aspects of Rendcomb life over a long period, and I am personally grateful to him, and to Dorothy, for their friendship and kindness.

We all wish Colin and Dorothy a long, happy and active retirement and are glad that through Frances and Richard they will continue their association with Rendcomb.

WJDW

## Bill White

It is a pastime of pupils to work out the age of their teacher and in this respect Bill White has caused much frustration; but, after 36 years of teaching at Rendcomb, Bill has decided to hang up his chalk and board rubber, which now join the hockey boots, and retire to Northleach. However it will be comforting to see him around the grounds tending to the urns and flower beds with the help of Tony Partridge.

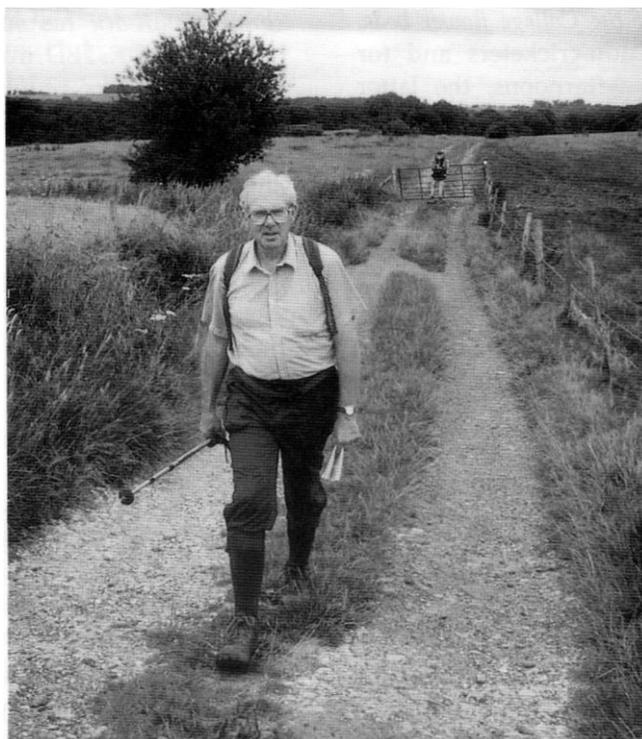
Bill read Classics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and, after National Service in the Gunners, taught at the Lycée Gay Lussac in

Limoges. To quote the first History of Rendcomb College "Latin fell into the capable hands of W. J. D. White in 1961" when he took up his first full time teaching post in this country. This was a time of several staff changes including the new Headmaster, Anthony Quick, now a governor of the school. Despite this, most of the small number of dedicated and highly qualified staff were destined to stay at Rendcomb for some time because of their approval and appreciation of the ideals of the Founder and the resulting naturalness of the pupils. Bill was no exception. Anthony

Quick says *Bill started his teaching in the room later known as the Latin Room (now the Careers Room). At that time it doubled as a Common Room for a senior form; so Bill had to fight hard to secure a foothold for the teaching of Latin and French. The light, clean, orderly and classical appearance which Bill brought to the room was a total transformation. His classroom was a microcosm of the changes that Bill has played a major part in bringing about at Rendcomb in his time on the staff. The very scope of the changes that have taken place right through his time at Rendcomb has made his role all the more vital. He has been through the years a force of stability and continuity, for good order and sound learning, and has given his energy and time unsparingly.*

Bill had been appointed to teach Latin and English but later he also taught French, ably guided by the then Head of Modern Languages, David Sells, and

this reflected his interest in languages (he has recently studied German and Italian to GCSE), his knowledge of France and his affection for the country. Roger Medill, the fourth Headmaster of Rendcomb remembers that *Bill brought to his teaching a deep knowledge and love of the Classics, and in his particular mixture of the serious and the humorous generated a lively response and excellent results. Nobody who heard his booming voice echoing from Room L could doubt that this ancient language, pronounced dead for a millennium, had regained new life and meaning. In addition, Classics and Translation proved to a popular option for Sixth Form girls as well as boys.*



**Bill White walking the Cotswold Way in July 1997**

Hamish Wilson, an Old Rendcombian (1971-78), spoke about Bill at the Old Rendcombian Society's Summer reunion. *Bill is an outstanding teacher. This is something we all knew at the time but perhaps never fully appreciated. As a teacher myself, I can now recognize his rare qualities with a little more clarity and definition. He provided me with a model of excellent practice to which I have aspired in my own career. Right from the word go, when we enthusiastically chanted "amo, amas, amat", before changing the record to "villa, villa, villam", Latin was lovely. I loved the way he read in his musical and*

*resonant voice which made Latin as much a poetic as intellectual experience and I relished his enthusiasm for his subject, whether expressed in his readings from "Winnie Ille Pooh" or from translations of Homer.*

In 1966 Bill took on the great responsibility of running the Senior House in the Main Building and in so doing directly helped the development of many individuals with his sympathetic yet firm approach. Indeed many pupils, including myself, regarded him as a second father and were happy to receive careful guidance during those difficult years of growing up. Another Old Rendcombian wrote in to say *Bill always seemed to know what we had been up to, making us naive schoolboys think that he could see through walls! His comments had the desired effect of keeping us honest - well, most of the time.*

This housemastership overlapped by two years with the post of Second Master (now known as Deputy Headmaster) which he took over from Jack Fell in 1973. This brought further responsibilities including the construction of the timetable which was always done with great care and consideration for staff and pupils alike. In 1985 Bill was relieved of some of this great load but his respected contribution to most school matters warranted the creation of the post of Senior Master which I am proud now to hold.

Bill's contribution to school life was very wide indeed and to quote the Rendcomb Chronicle (magazine): *the time honoured pastime of gardening was given a new impetus as the Rendcomb Borderers under WJDW took charge of the College flower beds.* This was an activity for non-cricketers and for Public Works on Tuesday afternoons, the latter being sorely missed by teachers of Bill's era. He also started the Bridge Club at the request of some Sixth Formers and at one stage it was so successful that pupils were involved in national competitions. In the early days he supervised bellringing and his love of walking was clear to those who took part in Junior House walks and Sponsored walks.

Bill coached rugby for many years, encouraging juniors to get stuck in but, as a hockey player, he preferred the Lent term sport and over the years he has made a terrific contribution to Rendcomb hockey, whether as a 2nd XI coach, junior XI motivator or enthusiastic spectator. It seems rather appropriate that the strength of Rendcomb's hockey should be recognized by the provision of an Astro turf pitch and that Bill should be in its first photograph (see front cover).

In 1973 Bill took over the role of school representative to the Old Rendcombian Society and in 1975 he introduced the first newsletter as an experiment. Thanks to his skills as a correspondent and his interest in the Society and in individual ORs, the publication has gone from strength to strength and it is due to his encouragement, nurturing that uniqueness of the Rendcombian, that they have kept in touch with each other over the years. It is due to this and his skills as an orator that he is always the clear odds on favourite to speak at the Leavers' Service in June (See inside back cover). As proof of all of this there was a tremendous response to the news that he was retiring, as well as general disbelief, both in terms of anecdotes and generous presents.

It would be a serious omission not to mention Bill's enormous contribution to St. Peter's church in Rendcomb. Besides being PCC secretary for 25 years, Deputy Church Warden and now Church

Warden, he has trained many pupil ushers to a high standard and his delivery of morning prayers is memorable. The care taken over public speeches is known to many, especially to those who attended his dear friend, Peter Sudbury's memorial service last year. Also the school has often benefited from his love of singing and his membership of choirs and choral societies.

It has not been easy to write about someone who himself is such a good chronicler of other people's achievements but hopefully you have the impression of a dedicated schoolmaster, in the broadest sense, who has given so much to Rendcomb and its pupils during 36 years and who has maintained the highest standards, his enthusiasm for his subjects and his humour, as October's OFSTED inspection happily confirmed. Staff, governors, pupils and ORs are most grateful to Bill for dedicating the majority of his teaching career to this school and they wish him a long and happy retirement.

Whilst talking with a new member of staff in the Common Room I heard things said about Bill which were so apt. Fortunately this member of staff was persuaded to put pen to paper....

CJW

Bill is one of the few people I have ever known who possesses true greatness, and anyone who meets him is immediately taken by his personal charm, his wit, his modesty and his genuine human warmth.

All communities need their elder statesman and Rendcomb, blessed by Bill's contribution for so many years, can ill afford to lose him. Indeed, he is irreplaceable. I have had a wonderful first year in this beautiful and mildly eccentric school, but of all that has happened, of all the new people I have befriended, I have to say that I treasure most the privilege of knowing Bill White.

I confess that I had been forewarned of his existence by the Head of Classics at Sir Thomas Rich's, who had told me of this remarkable man who not only taught Latin but was also the school gardener. It is indeed in a long and philosophical and moralist tradition that Bill, so educated and sophisticated, should take such pleasure in cultivating his garden.

He has a deep and broad knowledge, enormous cultural awareness and the wisdom to dispense them with fine judgment. All of this is underpinned by his Christian faith and his understanding that none of what we are able to

achieve would be possible without the moral values of Christian humanism. This is the mark of a true scholar and teacher. However to tell Bill these things about himself would merely cause embarrassment, as was evident on Founder's Day, when the Headmaster rightly paid such warm and personal tribute to him, resulting in a standing ovation. His modesty is yet another indication of his greatness.

But one cannot be in his company for long without enjoying his sense of humour and Bill is the finest master of understatement I have ever known. The only clue you get that he is about to deliver a show stopping remark is a sideways twinkle of the eye. Seconds later his audience is delighted and convulsed in laughter whilst Bill smiles harmlessly at the chaos all around him. Only recently I met him in his gardening lair, flat cap, trousers tucked into his socks and brandishing a pot of geraniums. He smiled, thinking for a split second of how he must appear to me, and said "... and supposing him to be the gardener.... "

Twice recently I have heard him preach. Both occasions, each one so different, were deeply moving for their dignity, humility and love of all around him. You could not imagine him ever needing a microphone or even raising his voice, such is the depth, warmth and clarity of his speech.

The most obvious tribute to Bill is that everyone, staff and pupils alike, has total respect for him and love him dearly. In the space of only one year he has had a profound influence upon my life and I am fiercely proud to know him.

BLN

## Stephen Lea

Steve decided it was time for a change and having thought fully about his options has taken a post at Worcester Sixth Form College working within their Performing Arts Department as a Music Specialist. He seems especially pleased about everything, but particularly about not having to work evenings or weekends, and spent several enjoyable weeks at the end of term mentioning this fact to all the Rendcomb staff!

When Steve first arrived at Rendcomb he really was a fresh-faced youngster; it was rumoured he didn't bother to shave every day and as he now sports a natty little beard this is more obviously true (although the rumour that he has been growing the beard since first arriving is firmly denied). When Steve came to Rendcomb as a part-time assistant in the Music Department, he joined

a long and infamous list of staff who have spent some of their formative years living on the top floor of the Main Building. Then over recent years he has become a social figure within the village and proved a valuable friend to many with his willingness to paint kitchens, start cars, feed cats and be around when you needed someone to help. Besides his work within school he will be greatly missed in the community.

In school life, his contribution was broad and yet intense; he was part of three senior boys' boarding houses where he was a particularly approachable assistant Housemaster and tutor, while also being



firm and determined that the students should do their prep and behave in a reasonably civilised manner. But as with all areas, Steve became involved in, it was his generosity and willingness to work with people that made him so especially liked and respected. Of course his major role was in Music and the Performing Arts. In addition to setting up Expressive Arts and Media Studies GCSE courses, he developed a new 'A' level course for Performing Arts and achieved excellent results. He was not only a popular and informative teacher and organiser, but he also performed himself, and it was this combination of talents that helped create so much activity and diversity in his students. Steve not only taught it, but also did it; the range of concerts whether formal, informal or just busking at art exhibitions and theme evenings was not only greatly appreciated but helped make all sorts of other people willing to help and do

their own stuff as well. Steve was even brave enough to play in a duo with me!

Besides all the music and all the plays, and there were lots, Steve could also be found organising stage lighting, recording music, taking 'non' games, Sailing and taking endless trips in minibuses. Although maybe the greatest of his many extra-curricular activities was organising *Rendcombian*. Steve was involved in a huge area of Rendcomb life and in all them he gave fully of himself. He is blessed with a great gift of kindness, warmth and sincerity in everything that he does and he leaves a great gap to be filled at Rendcomb.

MSG

## John Watson

A consummate schoolmaster with all its full implications is how I would describe John Watson; professional, principled, an accomplished sportsman, fanatical about the countryside and excellent value in the classroom. If this were not valediction enough, I would go on to highlight various incidents that might be helpful to get 'inside this man's head' and see the off-the-record John Watson.

One bright frosty morning when driving to Cheltenham, John came across a dead deer on the road. Crestfallen by its demise (John was unfailingly aware of the beauty of nature), he promptly hooked it in the back of his car and chopped it up for his freezer! Ever the pragmatist. It is rare in a person that strong principles such as his manage to co-exist alongside a strong sense of realism - besides an abiding dislike of waste!

Another vignette of John for me, is him creeping upwind along the banks of the Churn in order to maximise his chances of catching the elusive quarry 'the brown trout'. Hours of intensive concentration can be blown if the fish gets a 'whiff' you're about, but should the outing be fruitless, John is not above using his secret weapon - sweetcorn. Not in any fly-fishermans text book by J. R. Hartley but nevertheless it brings lucrative results. John's competitive instinct wins out yet again.

Life has brought John many experiences, yet he appears never deterred, never bored, ever ready for the next challenge. We have benefited enormously from John's experience and 'can-do' mentality and wish him every success and happiness in the future.

JHS

## Sally Mills

We are sad to lose Sally Mills who has been with us for three years teaching Drama to the GCSE and 'A' level Performing Arts groups.



As a practising actress with her own theatre company, Sally has approached her work with a fresh and creative approach and made a big impact on the students she has taught. She has also been a tower of strength behind a number of more recent College drama productions, having co-directed a number in the past few years and directed a very successful venture into Absurd Theatre, *The Bald Prima Donna* in 1995. The development of the Performing Arts department has been, in no small way, a product of Sally's committed approach to her teaching. When working with her, students have no option but to rise to the occasion - she makes them give of their best and so realises every scrap of potential in any situation. We wish her well as she devotes more time to her performance work and thank her for having given so much.

SJL

## Joan Newby

When Chris Wood and I came to Rendcomb in 1976, we were very much the juniors so it was with great relief when Mike and Joan Newby arrived two years later. They then proceeded to follow us around properties in Rendcomb starting in the

Stable flat. Joan has been known to say that she never spring cleaned, only moved houses!

Joan was a founder member of the Mother and Toddler group and she helped run the Sunday School with Hilary Smith, both of which were an important focus for the young children of Rendcomb. Joan has always managed to have a house full of children - her own and many others, and has always given great support to family life in the community.



Joan built up Cookery, or Food and Nutrition as it is now known, successfully managing to get the most unlikely characters to create and produce delicious food. It was always a bonus to be invited to the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award tea parties. More recently Joan started a highly successful City and Guilds course for Sixth Formers. It would be a great omission not to mention Joan's wonderful dinner parties, some of which required us to dress up in costume not knowing whether you were the murderer or somewhere on the Orient Express!

Needless to say, Joan has made an outstanding housemistress for both third form boys in Godman house and later to older boys in Lawn House. Her excellent organisation and housekeeping kept everyone up to the mark including, of course, Mike.

Originally Joan helped with Hockey but now has gone from strength to strength taking all sorts of girls' sports and improving her own tennis, despite Mike's frustration at times. I know that Sandy Westhead would like me to mention that Joan has the quality which earns great respect from the pupils and for that reason alone, Rendcomb will miss her. Joan has also given great service to the Common Room over the years organising presents and flowers and keeping a check on the Chairman. I know Chris is very grateful for her support.

Joan has a wonderful warmth, and has been a great friend to many of us. We will miss her.

Penny Wood.

## **Penny Harrison**

Penny joined the Languages' department at Rendcomb in September 1996, to teach for one academic year. Rendcomb was not new to her, because she had previously taught for one term here. She was educated at Stroud High School for Girls and Birmingham University, where she read French and Turkish.

Rendcomb was indeed fortunate to secure her services yet again and she has enjoyed a highly successful year with us. She has all the qualities required of a teacher; she is conscientious in the extreme and very well organised, and thus, her preparation is faultless and her correcting and assessing of work always prompt, positive and thorough. Her lessons are imaginative, exciting and immensely enjoyable, and her natural warmth and enthusiasm are conveyed to all her pupils. Their sadness at her departure and their tributes to her teaching skills are the surest proof of Penny's contribution to Rendcomb.

She has also been a willing contributor to extracurricular activities. In the first term she even supervised weight-training, and the highlight of many of her Saturday evenings has been doing duty at the Sixth Form Bar!

Penny's warmth, smile and endearing manner have shone brilliantly in her time at Rendcomb and a light goes out as she leaves us; but that light will shine on all around her, wherever she may go. I am sure it is not "Adieu", but merely "Au Revoir".

Très chère Penny, bon voyage, mille fois merci, et que Le Bon Dieu te protège!

BLN

## **Terry Gillard**

Terry Gillard joined the staff at Rendcomb in June 1996 in the newly created role of Marketing Director. However, by September the numbers taking the Business Studies 'A' level had increased to the point where his skills were needed to assist Mike Slark with the teaching timetable where his experience and knowledge were of great use.

Very much a part of the Rendcomb community, Terry did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes from his empire on the Top Floor conducting Market Research, communicating with outside publicity agencies, advertising the College and the events going on, and running the ISIS stall at local meetings. In addition he is a keen photographer and has recorded many of the year's events for us to use both internally and in publicity. In the Summer term he masterminded the new promotional video which will be used in overseas marketing and has had input into the issues of *Rendcombian*, Drama productions, helping with programmes, and producing the termly newsletter for parents and supporters.

Terry has been a great supporter of events at Rendcomb over the year. From behind the scenes help with the Performing Arts Department to organising helpers for the disabled children's air show at the local airfield, he has been committed and supportive of so much in the College. We wish him well as he returns to his previous employment as a Business Consultant and thank him for the many efforts he has made during his time with us.

SJL

## Frank Fry

It is hard to imagine Rendcomb without Mr. Frank Fry, who retired "early" ( in his eighties! ) to live with his son in Scotland this April.

Frank joined Rendcomb as part of Walter

Telling's ground staff in December 1951. Those of us who knew him later on would hear his stories of those early days, including memories of Emily, Frank's wife, who also worked for the College. Together they were familiar figures around Rendcomb, living in the house behind the Post Office.

Sadly, Emily died in 1991 after a long illness, but Frank continued with his work in the churchyard, the grounds and the Headmaster's garden, where he had got to know the families, and eccentricities, of successive headmasters. A remarkable raconteur, a great wit, and a man who enjoyed life to the full, Frank will be sorely missed.

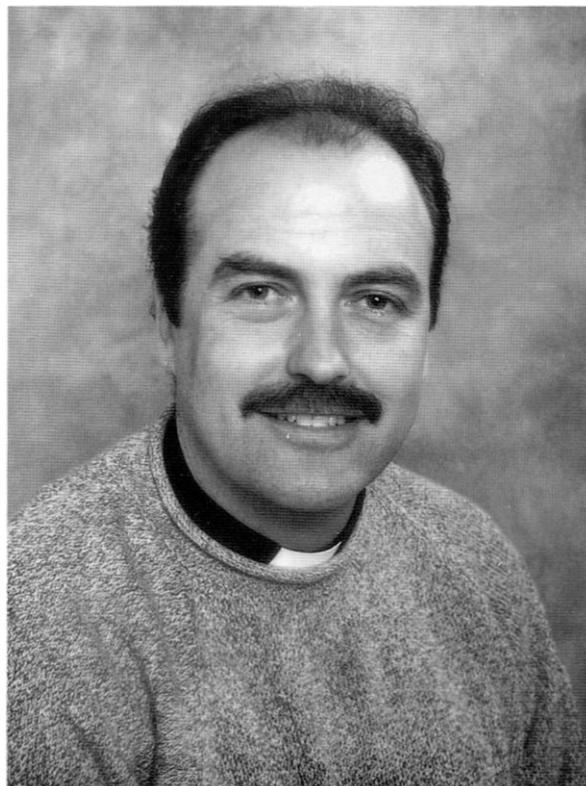


JNT

## New Staff

### Kim Taplin

We are very pleased to welcome the Rev. Kim Taplin with his wife Chryssa and children Rebekah and Christopher to Rendcomb this September as Chaplain to the College and Priest-in-Charge of the Parish.



Kim comes to us from his present post as Stipendiary Curate in the parish of Sholing near Southampton and has held a number of previous posts in education including teacher of Religious Studies at King Edward VI School in Southampton, and has some experience working in industry. He is a graduate of Theology from the London Bible College and studied education at Homerton College, Cambridge. He was ordained to the ministry in 1994.

He is a keen sportsman and is a coach for both soccer and cricket. He has worked with young people in many different situations and brings a wide range of experience to the post. We hope his stay at Rendcomb will be a long and fruitful one and welcome the family to our community.

SJL

## Vicki Hatton



Miss Vicki Hatton will be joining the Modern Languages department as a French Teacher. She comes to us having been recently teaching in schools in Cheltenham and Gloucester and is a graduate of Birmingham University. Her interests include reading, art, horse riding and swimming and we shall be welcoming her into the village to live at No. 9. She is looking forward to becoming part of the Rendcomb community and hopes to become fully involved in the life of the College.

SJL

## Lynn Gardner

We welcome Lynn Gardner who will be joining the Performing Arts team to teach Drama. She will be working on the 'A' level courses and teaching junior drama classes. A graduate of the Welsh College of Music and Drama, Lynn lives near Stroud and has a varied career in the Theatre and in Television. Her more recent performances have included working on a play based around the experiences of people in the London Blitz which was toured throughout London and to Germany and Holland; and work at the Theatre Royal in Bath. TV work has included parts in the "Inspector Alleyn Mysteries" and "The Monocled Mutineer". She is also a keen singer and is looking forward very much to her work within the department.

SJL

## Richard Murray

Richard Murray will be arriving at Rendcomb in January 1998 to teach English. He will be joining us from the King's School in Gloucester where he has been working with great success with Michael Craddock, a former member of the English staff at Rendcomb. Richard was educated at St. Chad's College, Durham and Magdalen College, Cambridge and has been at the King's School since

1990. He has a wide experience of boarding school life and has a lot to offer at Rendcomb including taking on the Editorship of *Rendcombian*. He has worked with Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award groups and is a keen rowing coach. There are no plans to dredge the lake at Rendcomb to resume rowing but who knows what the future may hold...!



We welcome Richard and look forward to the contribution he will make to Rendcomb life.

SJL

## Stephen Hill

Stephen Hill will be joining the Rendcomb Staff in September to teach CDT on a part-time basis. Stephen is a skilled antiques restorer and cabinet maker who runs his workshop in Cirencester. He comes to us having been teaching at Ryecotewood College; he is a regular contributor to woodworking journals and demonstrates at woodworking shows.



He is also a keen sportsman, playing Tennis and Squash, and coaches junior teams in his spare time.

SJL

## Russell Kennerley

We welcome Russell Kennerley who will be joining us to teach Latin. He is a graduate of Downing College, Oxford and has Headed the Latin Department at a leading Independent School. He is looking forward to filling part of the huge gap left by the retirement of Mr. Bill White.



JNT

## Elizabeth Ramsay

Elizabeth Ramsay will be joining us in September to teach Food and Nutrition. She lives in Cheltenham and is married with three children. Her education was at Liverpool University and Bath University and she has taught at a number of local schools, including the Severn Vale School in Gloucester and Cheltenham Ladies' College. As well as being a Home Economics teacher, she has experience of teaching textiles and is keen on the use of Information Technology in the classroom. Her hobbies include creative work with textiles and dressmaking and she also enjoys the active pursuits of walking, sailing and skiing.

## Naomi Phipps

Naomi Phipps will be joining the Music Department in September to replace Stephen Lea as David White's assistant. Naomi has been working in Manchester recently, although her family home is much nearer in Bath. She is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and has been educated at the Purcell School in Manchester and the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music, London. Her main instrument is the violin: she is a talented performer, having given recitals in Bath Abbey and played in numerous orchestras. She has a keen interest in Music Therapy and is also a pianist and bassoonist.



We look forward to hearing her musical talents and bringing her experience to Rendcomb. She will be living in the flat on the Top Floor of the Main Building and hopes

to get fully involved in the life of the College.

SJL

## Sarah Woodward

When Sue Mister left to have her baby, Sarah Woodward joined Judi Stocks in the school office. Born and educated in New Zealand, Sarah spent eighteen months teaching English as a Foreign Language in Japan before coming to Britain in 1994. She now lives in Ashton Keynes and has quickly settled in at Rendcomb. Because Sue Mister is returning in September on a part-time basis as assistant to Kay Collins, we are pleased that Sarah will be staying with us.



CJW

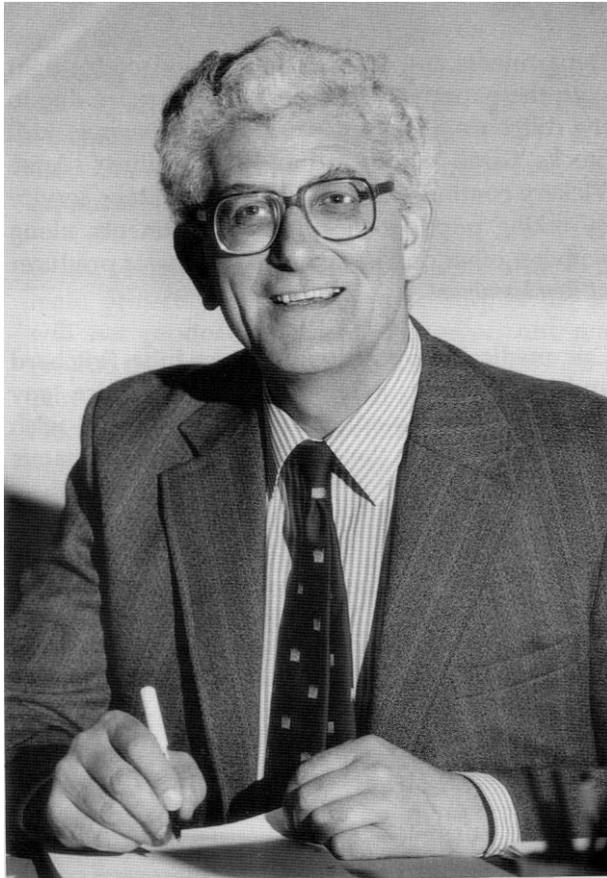
**David Vaisey, Governor and Old Rendcombian, retires from his post as Bodleian Librarian this year.**

### *The Headmaster writes:*

Rendcomb is unusual in having only one Old Rendcombian Governor, and David Vaisey is the exact opposite of the image that the phrase Old Boy conjures up. He does not hanker after the old days, or bemoan the many changes that have taken place since his time.

But the tributes paid to him on his retirement from possibly the most important Library in the world, all mention the influence Rendcomb had on him in his formative years.

When I knew I was coming to Rendcomb, I went to see David Vaisey at the Bodleian to pick his brains: he gave me his typically friendly and unpretentious welcome and the impression that he had all the time in the world (only an impression: the job of Bodleian Librarian carries with it a punishing schedule of travel, fund raising, committee work, people management, and the ultimate responsibility for finding space for the torrent of books published each year). He stretched his long body in an armchair and started to talk about how his family were agricultural labourers, his father a gardener, and how his



**David Vaisey**

County scholarship to Rendcomb pitched him into a different world: "the books and games and fellowship were all new to me, and magical", he said, his eyes glistening.

Up to that moment I had thought of Rendcomb as just another school, a job you applied for. From then on I was hooked - and still am.

Last term he visited the College to talk in Church, and he spoke about what Rendcomb meant to him. He spoke about the privilege he felt in having been here, and the responsibility that rests on those of us who have shared that privilege. It was a moving talk in the gentle Gloucestershire burr which has stayed with him throughout his working life in Oxford and elsewhere. Everyone here wishes him great happiness on his retirement.

## Reports

### Church Notes

As we have had no Chaplain this year, we have depended on the goodwill and loyal support of many people in our efforts to keep the Sunday Services and Morning Assemblies going. In particular, I should like to pay tribute to the Headmaster for presiding on Sundays and to those members of staff who volunteered (or were

encouraged) to speak at Morning Assemblies. Thanks for their efforts, and to help from visiting preachers, we have survived - just! It will be a great relief when Rev. Kim Taplin takes over as Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of the village in September.

The year began with the service for new pupils and their parents on the first day of term, at which the Headmaster gave an amusing and apposite address. The Diocesan Cycle Ride was held on 14th September; pupils from Forms 1 and 2 helped to raise money for St. Peter's. Rev. Tom Merry, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Stroud, took the service on the first Sunday of term.

The Harvest Supper was held early in September in the village hall; the College Ushers helped with serving and clearing up, as well as selling raffle tickets and distributing the drinks. This was followed by the Harvest Festival two days later; as usual the Church was attractively decorated. On October 6th Rev. David Barlowe, Chaplain of Cheltenham Ladies College, took the service and on October 20th Mr. Robin Peverett, an IAPS Counsellor, preached. On Remembrance Sunday we were glad to welcome Rev. John Thornton as our preacher. On November 17th Rev. Tom Merry again came to lead our worship. The splendid Advent Carol Services were taken by Rev. Howard Cocks, Rector of Stratton. The Headmaster preached at the St. Barbara's Day Service on December 8th when we welcomed Gloucestershire Gunners at the College afterwards. The annual Carol Service was held for the first time in the evening at Cirencester Church; the large congregation enjoyed some fine singing by the Choir.

In the Spring Term we welcomed as visiting preachers the Rev. Howard Cocks, Lucy Kenyon from the Stuart Trust, Mr. David Thunder, Mrs. Gillian Hylson-Smith, Headmistress of Westonbirt, Professor Ian Markham from Liverpool Hope University, Mr. David Shepherd, Director of ISIS Central, and Mr. David Vaisey, OR, the Bodleian Librarian. In the Summer Term the preachers were: The Headmaster, Rev. Robert Edy, OR, Miss Enid Castle, Mr. Edward Grills from SAFE and the "Acting Chaplain" who also gave the address at the Leavers' Service on June 21st.

Special mention must be made of the tremendous contribution of the Choir to our Sunday Services; not only was the singing at the Advent Services and Carol Service magnificent but at the Sung Eucharist in May they really excelled themselves to provide a service which I hope will be memorable to the large congregation - due of

course to Mr. David White's expert training, assisted by Mr. Lea on the organ.

I am grateful to Mr. Morgan for his "front of house" management and to the Ushers for their hard work, reliability, courtesy and smart appearance. They had to take on a lot of extra duties and I most appreciated their willing cooperation - and humour - when things went slightly adrift. This year's Ushers, led by Adam King, were: Robert Arnold, Matthew Hall, David Wragg, William Hunt, Georgina Hunter-Smart, Charles Barton, James Emerson, Vicky Dühmke, James Smith and Robin Witchell.

We have been fortunate too in having the assistance of the College cleaning staff to remove the amazing collection of sweet papers, used biros and dust which school services produce; the flower arrangers, organised by Mrs. Farnsworth, have added to the beauty of the church and Mr. Kampe works hard to keep the churchyard tidy.

My thanks to all who have helped to keep the show on the road.

WJDW

## Bursar's Notes

AND SUCK'D FROM OUT THE DISTANT  
GLOOM

A BREEZE BEGAN TO TREMBLE O'ER  
THE LARGE LEAVES OF THE SYCAMORE,  
AND FLUCTUATE ALL THE STILL PERFUME.

AND GATHERING FRESHLIER OVERHEAD,  
ROCK'D THE FULL-FOLIAGED ELMS, AND  
SWUNG

THE HEAVY - FOLDED ROSE, AND FLUNG  
THE LILIES TOO AND FRO, AND SAID:

"THE DAWN, THE DAWN", AND DIED AWAY;  
AND EAST AND WEST, WITHOUT A BREATH,  
MIXT THEIR DIM LIGHTS, LIKE LIFE AND  
DEATH,  
TO BROADEN INTO BOUNDLESS DAY.

A cheerful good prelude to an interesting and active packed year on the non-teaching side of life at Rendcomb.

There are several new faces in the various departments and it is appropriate to start with the H. M.'s secretarial support. Sue Mister (nee Green) left the Headmaster's Office to have a baby boy. We are very fortunate to have a wealth of talent in the Administrative / Secretarial / Accounts

Departments and the success of Rendcomb's fight with the paper war is in no small measure due to the diligence and hard work of Sue Downie, Judi Stocks, Sarah Woodward and Kay Collins. Anne Vickery continues to provide a tremendous service by taking pupils to hospital appointments, along with her other duties, and is now a major producer of *Rendcombian*!

Our medical support, with Sisters Julie Pritchard and Judy Hunt, offers the finest service any Day/Boarding Co-educational School could wish for. Backed up as they are by a modern, dynamic Doctors Surgery (Doctors Drysdale and Whittles), we can offer quality care to all our pupils and staff.

Our Laboratory Technicians, Margaret and Derek Coombes and Joan Essenhigh work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to ensure the experiments are set up correctly and the labs prepared for the pupils to get straight on with their work. A special "thank you" goes to Derek Coombes for the work he puts into the Schoolkit/Book Shop and the Duke of Edinburgh equipment store.



Bob Stott, the New Operations Manager, is now running our Catering, Cleaning and Laundry Department. He and the Catering Staff are employed directly by Marriott Food Services, part of the American Marriott Hotel Chain. My intention is to keep the cleaning and laundry staff as school employees, but Bob Stott will be in overall charge. We owe a great deal to our cleaners, caterers and laundry ladies, and their support and hard work do not go unnoticed.

Roger Attwood and Barrie Hardy have left the Works Department, and in order to cut costs, Barrie Hardy has not been replaced. Our team now consists of Peter Cairns, Eddie Clarke, David Mead and Glyn James, with Paul Cairns in overall charge. Frank Fry has retired and was given a splendid send off with a part, of friends and admirers in the Reading Room Bill White, (who

formally retires at the end of this term, but who has kindly agreed to stay on as Flowers Consultant) and Tony Partridge continue to make the immediate environment attractive and colourful.

In last year's Rendcombian, I published a list of the main projects that have been accomplished, so I will not produce another. However, our main project, the All Weather Pitch has been finished on time and on budget, and will provide a very fine Hockey pitch and 9 Tennis courts in the Summer.



### Work begins on the Astroturf

We are making a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) centre on the top floor of the Main Building, and enlarging the Accounts Office and Bursar's Secretary Office. The New Public Relations Officer will work in Sue Downie's office once recruited. This will mean some hard work to get the offices furnished for the start of the Winter Term.

David Essenhigh now has a new job title as Sports' Coach, and will operate under the direction of Mrs. Sandy Westhead as Head of Sport. Mrs. Tansy Tugwell has been recruited to help teach P. E. and to be the Letting Administrator of all our Sporting Facilities. We are always on the look-out to make money to support the School, and once our new Company is set up, we will be able to maximise the income from our lettings.

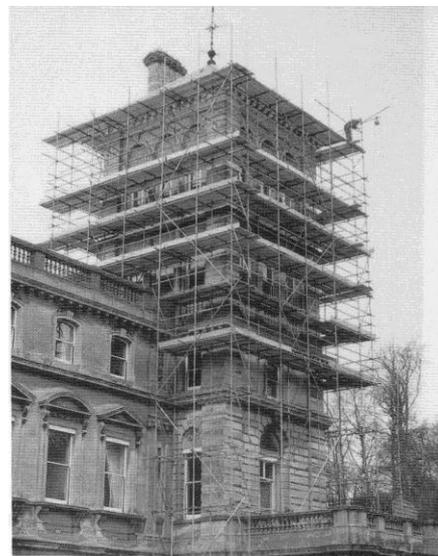
Manor Courses, who run the Summer Let, are back this year, and although numbers are not as high as we would like them to be, we look forward to another successful season with them.

Well, it has been a very full year. There has been a lot to be thankful for, and despite the appalling weather, a huge amount has been achieved by everyone in the non-teaching departments.

My thanks go to all who have contributed in such a positive manner to the successful support of the teaching staff and to Rendcomb.

JFAG

### Refurbishment of tower



### The Parents' Association

"Public Schools are the nurseries of all vice and immoralities", wrote Henry Fielding in *Joseph Andrews*. It is sensational over-statement, written in the 18th Century, but it is true that in any academic year a number of problems and concerns arise, and The Parents' Association is fortunate to find a Headmaster and Staff with a belief in and commitment to a strong Parents' Association. We have open discussions and healthy dialogues on a range of issues which, in the last year, have covered (inter-alia) the school's attitude to drugs and bullying; the availability of milk for boarders, and the timing for end of term which has been agreed for the future to be an evening finish rather than a 10.00 am one. The Parents' Association has an important role to play in the life of College and needs.

The 1996 Gala Day organised by the Parents' Association in a new venue close by the Main College was a great success and raised some £700 for Parents' Association funds. Particular thanks should go to our caterers whose efforts with the pig roast were much appreciated.

The 1996 Fashion Show, organised by the Art and Music Departments and supported by the Parents' Association was a most enjoyable event. Funds raised enabled a student to take part in the Art Department's trip to Paris, a camera was purchased for our friends at the Irigathi School in Kenya and the proceeds of programme sales; (some £120), was sent to CLIC in memory of Rev. Peter Sudbury.

Normandy Night at the beginning of February was a great evening. The moules and pore en cidre produced by the Catering Staff were excellent, and the contributions of Rachel Houghton, Ian



**Soiree Normande**

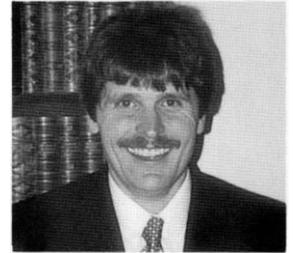
Patterson, Martin Griffiths, David White, Steve Lea and Gill Day were outstanding.

The Committee decided that all parents would wish to contribute to a fitting memorial for our late, much loved chaplain, Peter Sudbury. A solid oak bench, craft hand-made has been purchased and set in stone with an appropriate inscription in the churchyard of St. Peter's Church. Peter's widow, Christine, has been moved to say that she knows Peter would have loved to "chew the fat" there.

A Fashion Show, a theme evening and a Gala Day lie ahead next year, but the next big event will be a Bonfire Night Extravaganza on Saturday 8th November 1997, so make a note of it now in your diaries. Food will be available at 6pm; fireworks between 6.30 and 7.30pm; then a disco in the Dulverton Hall and an adult evening of jazz in the Reading Room, all until 10pm. There will, of

College's Clerk of Works, hopes to agree a final plan with costings in the near future. It is anticipated that some £4-5,000 will be raised. Funds will, of course, be raised by our forthcoming events, but also Ian Patterson has agreed to run a marathon for us in Dublin in late October, so he will be looking for generous sponsorship. We also aim to produce and sell the "Rendcomb Cookbook". Contributions for this, favourite recipes etc., will be gladly received by the joint editors, Paul Stanfield and Jayne Nicholas. Please write to us c/o the College in good time for publication just before Christmas.

May I thank the Headmaster for his whole-hearted support and time, the Bursar for his advice and endeavours on our behalf, our wonderful catering staff headed by Bob Stott, not forgetting his predecessor, Russell Riste, also Rachel Houghton and Ian Patterson who have, I am glad to say, agreed to serve a further term as College Committee Members.



Thank you for your magnificent support in the past year and in advance by anticipating your continuing support in the coming year.

Paul Stanfield



**The bench in memory of Peter Sudbury**

course, be a bar. Tickets will cost £5 for adults, children no charge. Please bring friends and relations - the more, the merrier.

As to future spending, we aim to help improve the area outside The Green Room: the Sixth Form Social Centre. The students have produced some proposals, and now a sub-committee including the

## **The Library**

The work of the library has continued this year, concentrating particularly on tasks which are an essential prelude to the new development plan. Over 700 books have been added to the stock: the

Reference and Fiction sections have been reorganised; the Art, Music, Sport, Theatre Studies and Modern History sections have been recatalogued; and the defects of the card index and gradually being made good. In addition, a Library Reserve Store has been created on the Top Floor of the Main Building, which will provide a suitable retirement home for the older, less used books, whilst at the same time providing much needed space in the main Library itself.

Mention of retirement brings me to Colin Morey, the Head Librarian, who leaves this term. He has been the key figure in looking after the library computers and CD-ROMs, and has also played a significant role in the major task of cataloguing the books in store. His expertise will be much missed, and this writer will probably have to go on a computer training course...!

One of the great delights of the Library in recent years has been the willingness of governors, staff, pupils and Rendcombians to support its work through gifts and donations of books, and this year has been no exception. I would like to record my gratitude to the following for their generosity: Karen Ewing, Rachel Houghton, Judy Hunt, Sir Louis Le Bailley Christine Sudbury, Nicholas Walter, Bill White, David White, John Willson, Allan Wyatt, Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul, and Thorsten Schulte. In addition a number of teaching departments have transferred books to the library, and many members of staff have provided valuable expert help over purchasing, recataloguing and weeding of books within their subject specialisms. It is certainly heartening to see such support for the Library, and it all helps towards the ultimate goal of making it, in the current parlance, into the reading and information centre for the entire school.

MHG

## **The Friends of Rendcomb College Trust**

As I shall be resigning as Executive Trustee in September, it has occurred to me that a brief

account of the Trust's activity since its foundation by Sir Louis Le Bailly in 1984 might be apposite. The Trust Fund was started with £10,000, raised by Sir Louis from various charities and commercial enterprises; in March this year its investments were valued by Messrs Cazenove at £168,044, with a further £6,267 on deposit with Lloyds Bank. So far the Trust has supported four scholars throughout their time at Rendcomb, and a fifth is due to join the College this September. During this time we have provided £113,357 in school fees and grants for special activities.

Expenses have been limited to an average of under £200 per annum, of which the largest item has been postage. We have, of course, been able to make this contribution principally owing to the generosity of the Friends, who now total 177, composed of 98 Old Rendcombians, 72 parents, governors and staff and seven other friends of the College.

**The value of the Trust's work is described in the concluding words of last year's housemaster's report on one of our scholars:...** *this demonstrates vividly that, through its generosity, the value of the Friends of Rendcomb is immeasurable, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support..*

The need for our work, increased by the demise of the Gloucestershire Foundation Scholars Scheme, is further emphasised by the promised abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme. We should like to be able to do more, in particular to foster the entry from local primary schools, thus to preserve the Founder's vision of Rendcomb and, maintaining the variety of social areas from which Rendcomb draws its pupils, to keep the vitality characteristic of its social atmosphere. I appeal, therefore, to all who have not yet become Friends to consider doing so, should you share our belief that one can offer a young person no finer gift than a sound and stimulating education. Finally, I should like to thank my successor, John Webb, OR (1954-63), for taking on the routine work of the Trust, and to wish him the same generous support in his work that I have received.

David Sells



# FOUNDERS' DAY

May 24th 1997 Head

## Girl's Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen: Welcome to Rendcomb College Founder's Day, and a special welcome to our Guest Speaker, Professor Judith Howard and all of you who are here for the first time.

I first attended a Rendcomb Founder's Day 10 years ago when I was 8 as my brother was here. My memories of it are few but I do remember the speeches being incredibly long and boring. I can assure you mine won't be - in fact I've nearly finished.

If anyone had told me then that I would be standing here now I would have thought they were nuts - so if there are any 8 year olds listening I sympathise but maybe you should take a few notes as one day it could be you.

My next encounter with Rendcomb came two years ago when I came for the Sixth Form. I spent the first week being incredibly homesick as the shock of moving away from home hit me. However, after experiencing my first weekend here, which included a Rendcomb disco, courtesy of Mr. Morgan, things started to look up and I soon got over this.

During my time here I have been struck by the advantages of coming to such a small school. The contrast with my previous one is huge: I had come from a day school of nearly 1,200 pupils; the ability to fit a name to a face makes a real difference. The friendly familiar atmosphere made the change comparatively easy and in hindsight settling in was straight forward, even though it did seem agony at the time. Rendcomb, due to its size, offers many opportunities, whether it be on the stage, sports field or involvement in school activities. It encourages people to excel in many directions. I have been lucky enough to play in both hockey and tennis teams. Representing the school in this way is good for morale, especially when we win!

On a final note, I will be sad to leave Rendcomb as I have made lots of good friends here, many of whom I am sure will be friends for life. I have been very happy here but I won't lie to you - I am dying to get onto the next stage.

In September I am going to do missionary work in Argentina and then - 'A' levels permitting - a



**Georgina Hunter-Smart and Charles Webb**

nursing degree at Nottingham. I am really grateful to Rendcomb for many things. Most of all the independence it has encouraged me to grapple with; I feel far better equipped for the next step.

So thank you very much..... and now I really am finished!

## The Headmaster's Report

As Georgina Hunter-Smart said, I hope you have had time to see the exhibitions on display today. We have enjoyed enlarging Founder's Day a little, as we used to do, and I hope you took a trip through the newly refurbished Science Labs with computers by Nuclear Electric and through the Geography and Infotech Departments.

I hope your route took you past the superb new all-weather playing surface on the Sinclair Field at Landage, named for Martin Wills, whose generous bequest made it possible, and which will give new life and encouragement to our hockey and our tennis.

In some ways, this magnificent new facility is a celebration of what has gone before: over the years Rendcomb's hockey has supplied countless county players and this year Chris Baker, Rupert Webb, Harvey Davies, Anna De Lisle Wells, Dominic Sharman, have all represented Gloucestershire.

We are lucky in our coaching - from Bobby Morgan who has played hockey for England - through Chris Wood, David Essenhigh and to the dedicated encouragers and teachers of Junior Teams.

And I hope you caught sight of the 1st XI in the nets outside Dulverton Hall, with Roger Knight, ex-Gloucestershire and Captain of Surrey, sometime Headmaster of Worksop College, now Chief Executive of the MCC, in charge of Lords, and a Governor of Rendcomb.

And, inside Dulverton Hall, either this morning or at the Private View last night, I hope you did not miss a magnificent Sixth Form Art Exhibition. The staff reckon it is as good as the vintage year 1992, which is high praise indeed for our talented and committed artists and their teachers, Martin Griffiths, Tom Denny and Sophie Blackwell.

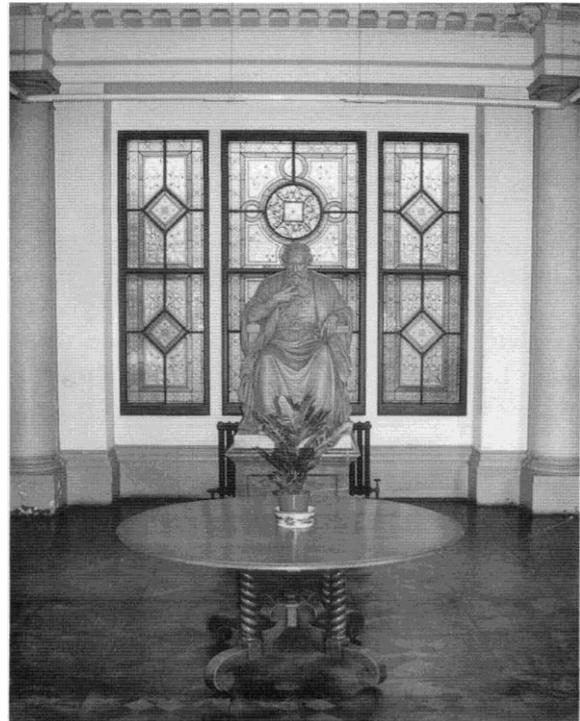
It is a real pleasure too that their own work is on display in the Main Building, and if you have not seen it yet, do next time you are in Gloucester look in at the Cathedral to see Tom Denny's specially commissioned window - the only modern stained glass in that building - more than a window, but a whole side Chapel vividly drenched in bright colour.

But the exhibitions (with GCSE work in the Art Block) are only one manifestation of our Art Department at Rendcomb:

We remember another fashion show, full of light and colour, of hats and textures and textiles and dance and movement, of wit and solemnity, and of sheer vital celebration. And the contribution to the Parents' Association's Soiree Normande, to Red Nose Day, to cartoons that wickedly depict our rugby players at the end of the Christmas Term, the posters that create buzz in the place - almost nothing happens at Rendcomb without a touch of Art.

Also in the Main Building you will have found the photographs by Old Rendcombian, Dan Houseman. I like to think that this partly reflects the quiet dedication of our own Photographic Society, under the gentle eye of Chris Wood, working away in the dark room, producing a fine exhibition each Founder's Day, and supplying much of the visual excitement of *Rendcombian*.

But possibly the first display that will have caught your eye as you entered the building will have been the Craft Exhibition. I will have more to say later about Colin Burden's dedicated teaching over the years - for the moment I will content myself with congratulating this year's craftsmen on another fine yield.



I have a nasty feeling that this year will go down as the year we moved the Snooker Table. Under the guidance of Martin Griffiths, in consultation with several pupils, funded with great generosity by our Trustees, Paul Cairns and his team have given the building a new lightness and elegance. The dingy back corridor, leading to two dynamic academic departments English and Modern Languages, has become an avenue of bright colour. This links the work done last Summer to enliven School House and the whole building, here quietly dignified, there vividly colourful, has both unity of design and variety of impact.

The Tower, having survived untroubled since 1865 has at last needed serious work done on it, but thanks again to the generosity of our Trustees, the work is now complete, the scaffolding is about to be packed away and we prepare to face the next 132 years of erosion and pollution, of wind, rain and sunshine - and possibly Labour Government - with calm confidence.

And today you may have seen tennis, some cookery, the English and Modern Languages department, the Library, the Careers Room, and the Sixth Form Centre, the GCSE Photography display, all just a sample of what goes on here. You will have heard a snatch of music as you came into the hall today, and what a musical year it has



**Rendcomb's county players**

been. With players of the quality of Naomi Gibbons, Tim Shaw, Colin Morey, Marcus Haynes, James Smith at the top. *Carmina Burana* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Naomi's magical oboe playing, Alastair Nye on the Viola, Becky Doyle's and Georgina Farr's singing, a world premier cantata by Stephen Lea at Minchinhampton, Naomi Gibbons playing an Oboe Concerto in Cirencester Church and a Choir you could take anywhere. I should like to thank and congratulate all those gifted people who have made this such an inspiring musical year for us. And they would be the first to pay tribute to the visiting musicians, talented performers in their own right, who do the hours of background teaching. We lose one this term - Helen Dearnley: thanks to her for all the wonderful support and inspiration she has given Rendcomb's music over the past 10 years.

And the theatre. A romping *Comedy of Errors* last Summer, and a complete change of style with the arrival of Karen Ewing. Her production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Sally Mills took Rendcomb drama into a new era with its superb central performance by Becky Doyle (incidentally Becky was also 2nd Junior Lady at the Gloucestershire Archery Championships - I don't know if the two activities theatre and archery in some mysterious way feed off one another) and in *Streetcar* fine support from Naomi Gibbons, David Wragg, Gus Picket and a very strong cast in depth.

We are looking forward to *Our Day Out* later this term.

And apart from the cricket nets you will have seen very little sign today of all the Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Rounders, Squash (Sam Maylott - Gloucestershire U19 ranked 4th in the County) all those matches won and games played in such sparkling spirit, all those hours of encouragement, and administration by so many of our staff.

And in the distance the sports that take place entirely off site. The far away boom of our Clay Pigeon Shooters is now a force to be reckoned with in the National Championships.

Distant success too for Harry Aldrich-Blake and Anna de Lisle Wells in the British Schools One Day Event Equestrian Championships. Our senior team and two intermediates are hoping to enter the British Championships again this September.

Meanwhile, our new Polo team has been in training for two terms and started making an impact at the National Schools Polo Championship.

But each year when I take a few moments to think of all that happens during twelve months at Rendcomb I also think that what really matters here does not happen in public but in the private moments of the daily life of the place - the special

interaction between teacher and taught - the moments of inspiration, understanding, the simple realisation - which lies at the heart of all learning - the simple realisation: "Yes, I can do this."

Which brings me somehow to Peter Sudbury. It is impossible to stand here and not think back to the last time many of us were here together sharing our grief. It is especially delightful that Peter's successor Kim Taplin is here today with Chryssa on their first Rendcomb occasion. We are so looking forward to their arrival and to seeing Rendcomb come alive again. Our Church Wardens, with the splendid help of Adam King and his team of ushers have provided more continuity in the interregnum than we could have dared hope. I do want to pay tribute to the very special work they have all done.

Inspectors. This was the year of the inspectors.

There were eight of them, with a ninth, whose task was to inspect the inspectors on behalf of the Government Inspection Agency, OFSTED. Their brief was to look at every aspect of the schools operation and make recommendations about what we could do to improve the education of each pupil in the school.

We tried to carry on business as usual, but there was inevitably a sense of special occasion about the whole process. The most heartening aspect of it all was the response of our pupils, your sons and daughters. They did us all proud. It was a very happy moment for me to meet the whole school the next day and congratulate them on the high praise they had earned from our visitors. The first of the main findings reads like this: -

"The school's ethos, behaviour and relationships are outstanding. Commitment, courtesy and consideration characterise both staff and pupils".

I am proud of that and will do all I can to see we all measure up to the standard we reached on those four days.

But the object of the inspection was not to pat us on the back and create a warm glow of complacency, but to suggest ways we could do better. The advice was rigorous but constructive, and we have examined it in detail, both department by department and across the school. Resulting action of course is already under way, and in some cases already complete: perhaps I can best illustrate this by two examples.

Firstly, academic standards. Excellent examination results are achieved, of course, not by the school as

a whole, but individual by individual within academic departments, spurred by an atmosphere in which high expectations are taken as read.

Over the years we have seen how this works in departments across the whole range of the arts and sciences. As a spur towards good results, nothing beats inspired teaching, not even small class sizes. As one inspector said to me, this is a good school because we have got good teachers; it is as simple as that.

But, if teaching is paramount, we still want to make the atmosphere of the school, and its practical arrangements, as effective as we can in supporting the best possible habits of learning. We are working to make prep sacrosanct - for senior boarders a clear two hours to focus on the detail and on the thinking through which makes subjects live at 'A' level - but also to establish that work does not only go on in prep and lessons, but is part of the whole fabric of life here.

Paul Sykes, our Director of Studies, has led a review of the whole shape of our school day. For longer than anyone can remember, we have held our afternoon lessons in the early evening. There were practical reasons for this - winter sport of course can take advantage of the light. But at the same time there is no doubt that those early evening lessons are famously soporific. Also we want a more flexible arrangement so that sport does not necessarily take place at the same time for all - occasional morning lessons will ensure for example that we make the best possible use of our new all-weather playing surface and that as many pupils as possible get onto it as often as possible.

So afternoon lessons will now take place soon after lunch. In addition, we are adding an extra lesson to enable us further to strengthen our curriculum and help us to put work first. When three afternoon lessons are complete, after a short break, there will be an hour's activity session leading up to 5.30pm, which will still be the end of the school day for day pupils.

The inspectors also told us to lift our eyes to the horizon. Enfolded as we are, womb like, in this beautiful valley, in the middle of the most glorious countryside in England, it is easy for us to become closed off and inward looking.

We want to give Community Service new life, and follow the lead of David Wragg, Stewart Taylor and Manolito Garcia who made splendid election candidates in our recent Mock Election; we want to re-establish political and social debate here. We are planning too, to restore the Michael Wills

Memorial Lecture which for several years brought to Rendcomb distinguished speakers on the subjects of science and technology.

And now it is time for thanks. Thanks to David Sells who retired from the teaching staff in the early 80's and who has ever since administered the thriving Friends of Rendcomb organisation and edited *Rendcombian*. The first he now leaves in the hands of John Webb, an Old Rendcombian, whose continuing interest and support of the college has made him a friend indeed, and the magazine will continue to thrive under the care of Chris Wood and for his last issue, Stephen Lea.

Thanks too, to the Parents' Association which has given me such support and encouragement, together with sometimes trenchant advice, for another year. When I speak to other Heads I realise how lucky I am in my parents who seem to have an uncanny sense of what to tell me and what I do not need to know. And the staff whose personal and professional support makes this job worth doing, and our new Chairman of Governors, Howard Phelps, who took over the Chair this year from his remarkable, caring and hard working predecessor, Allan Wyatt, and who has brought his breadth of experience and unerring eye for what matters to the chairmanship of Rendcomb Governors.

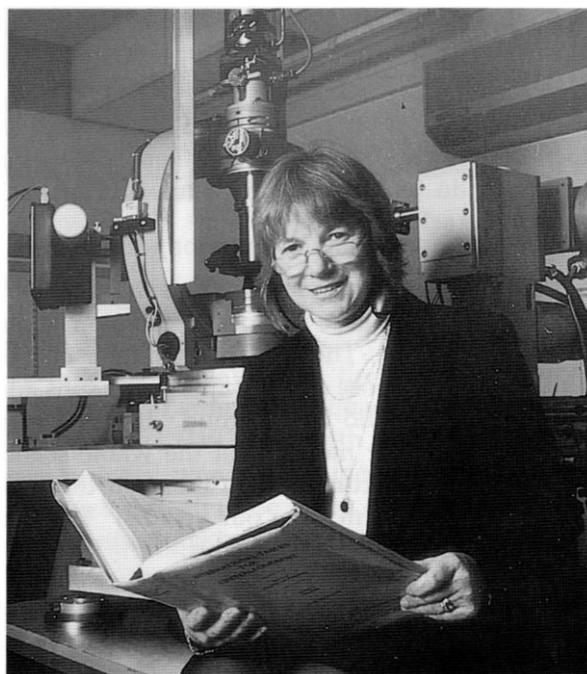
And the Chairman of the two main committees, Henry Robinson and Adam Smail, who are always willing to go the extra mile for the College, and all their colleague Governors. And Ian Mitchell, who has retired this year as Clerk to the Trustees, after his many years' service to Rendcomb, and his fellow Trustees, and their Chairman, Tom Wills, whose generosity ensures the continued stability of the College despite changing political climates.

And Bob Stott, who has taken over as Operations Manager with such gusto and energy, and his staff. And my Senior Colleagues, Paul Sykes, Chris Wood and Bobby Morgan, who provide balance and sanity just when I need it. And Jeremy Grey for whom nothing is too much trouble, and his staff who stay sane despite the demands we make on them. And Frank Fry, who, at the age of 83 has taken early retirement to Scotland after nearly 46 years' service in Rendcomb's grounds. And Judi Stocks, my secretary, who knows exactly how to deal with my vagueness, and her colleague, Sarah Woodward, who has fitted in so quickly, efficiently and cheerfully in to the space left by Sue Mister when she went off to have her baby. And Patta, who puts up with a husband who disappears off to Japan and then comes back to say how busy he is.

And above all, the pupils of Rendcomb from Georgina Hunter-Smart and Charles Webb, and this year's remarkable group of leavers, right down to the first form who say hello to me as I walk about the school, and tell me that they have got a Flute exam and remind me what the point of it all is. Thank you all.

### **The Guest Speaker, Professor Judith Howard CBE, Professor of Chemistry, University of Durham.**

*We were pleased to welcome Professor Judith Howard to Founder's Day this year. She is a leading academic in the field of crystallography and was appointed Professor of Structural and Material Chemistry in 1991. She lives locally in Cerney Wick and is known internationally for her design of research equipment used to test molecular structures.*



Following an introduction from the Chairman of the Governors, Professor Howard admitted that although she had never visited Rendcomb before and was there unprepared for what she might find, nevertheless she was very impressed with the feel of the school - the wonderful Art and Craft that was on exhibition and also the newly refurbished science labs. It is a shame that Chemistry and science in general cannot be plastered all over the walls in the same way that Art can, as it is not so easy to assimilate; nevertheless there is strong evidence of science all over the school. Obviously students choose science - or any other subject for that matter - because they enjoy it. Personally, Professor Howard has always found science absolutely fascinating as any of those going on into science after leaving school

will find out for themselves. With technology constantly being modernised, there is more to learn and more to discover; consequently there will be more for the next generation to learn. It is evident just by looking around the classrooms and in the Infotech department that we can teach people how to use computers which is after all a process of button pushing; but what is needed more than that is the people who are going to be able to make the next generation of computers and to push frontiers ever forward to find out how they work and what new materials can be made and used for going micro, or even less. She urged the leaving students to go forward and be tomorrow's scientists, inventors and generators of good things.

Professor Howard then described two figures who had greatly influenced her; Dorothy Hodgkin who was the only female scientist to have won the Nobel Prize, and Kathleen Lonsdale, who was the first woman to be elected to the Royal Society. Both of these women had devoted their lives to their work; under arduous and difficult conditions without the luxury of modern technology or even the most basic textbooks. They both got on with their jobs quietly and extremely well, and both had worked extremely hard for Peace. She told the students that their journeys ahead would be interesting, fascinating and even frightening, but the best advice she could give was that when embarking onto the next stage, to be prepared to make mistakes, to learn from them and not to be put off by failure. She quoted a Chinese saying: although the longest journey begins with a single step; it is surprising just how much can be achieved just by taking one step at a time. There is no use in going into any subject unless one has an absolute passion for it, and which should last a very long time. We need people who are trained in science, engineering and technology to go forward onto the next generation - the nation needs people in science, not just women.

Professor Howard ended by echoing Professor Hodgkin's words; that she hoped that some of the students leaving at the end of the Summer Term would live modestly and do serious things.

## Head Boy's Speech

First and foremost I would like to thank our guest speaker, Professor Judith Howard, for her most interesting and enlightening speech. Thank you very much.

When it comes to selecting a Head Boy, you need to pick someone intelligent, sporty, witty, charming, responsible; let's not forget handsome,

popular and fun. This much is obvious. So why on earth did they choose me?

Aside from that, let's move to more serious business. I would like to introduce you to my friend the Rendcomb worm. Tony, as he prefers to be known, has been evicted from his home in Landage field due to the construction of the new Astroturf. Although he could have just relocated to top field, he has decided to leave Rendcomb as, in his own words, "Rendcomb has just changed too much".

And in a way I can see where he is coming from, as even in just my 7 years Rendcomb has altered completely. For instance when I arrived it was a single sex boarding school up to the Sixth Form and now, to quote the side of one of the school minibuses, a girl/boy day/weekly/boarding school. It has therefore drastically changed and I consequently find myself in a position where the majority of my best Rendcomb moments are completely alien to the contemporary junior.

However the essence of the Rendcomb ethos and the basis for which the school exists still remains. The staff are as enthusiastic and dedicated as ever and the pupils are still as fully immersed in the school's activities as they were in my day.



Eiffel Tower

Jack Garland

I am fortunate enough to be able to say that my time at Rendcomb has been superb. And much of this is down to pure luck; for instance Mr. White doesn't seem to have noticed in 7 years that I can't sing at all and Mr. Watson also seems not to have noticed that I can't catch on the cricket pitch. However my real lucky break was to end up in as talented, diverse and friendly a year group as this year's leavers undeniably are.

Overall I have had the pleasure of enjoying many wonderful moments at Rendcomb but also the occasional tragedy. Most vividly I remember this time last year when I was on the Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Scotland. The aching of blisters and heavy rucksacks were forgotten as we were told at camp by Mr. Newby, himself in tears, of the death of Mr. Sudbury. In the ensuing shocked silence we built a cairn in his name, overlooking the beautiful Loch Tay with snow-capped mountains in the distance. This painful yet beautiful memory will live with me forever as part of Rendcomb's indefinable spirit.

I have enjoyed my seven years at Rendcomb immensely - each one filled with fun, laughter and some sadness and there is nowhere I would rather have been. I thank Rendcomb, I thank the staff and most importantly I thank my friends for all the memories they have given me.  
Thank you.

## PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS

### Music

#### Cello Recital

We are very fortunate at Rendcomb to have the opportunity to see and hear highly experienced singers and musicians in the series of concerts throughout the year. One of these concerts took place in the Reading Room on Sunday 23rd February. It was a really enjoyable evening of Cello music by Benjamin Hughes accompanied by Karl Lenten on the piano.

The programme opened with the three movements of the Cello Sonata by Brahms and went on to include *Fantasiestück* by Schumann and part of the wonderful Elgar cello concerto. They ended the evening with the hauntingly beautiful *Swan* by Saint Saëns.

It was an inspiration to all of us struggling to pass various exams to see two such young musicians performing with such technical skill and assurance.

Rebecca Doyle.

### Q P CONCERTS

#### Recital by *Cantores*

We were privileged to hear a performance by the local choir *Cantores* on Sunday 22nd October in the Reading Room. Under the direction of their conductor Tim Ingold, the choir performed a varied programme of part songs, motets and arrangements of more popular classics. The programme started with works by Gabrieli, Palestrina and Gibbons, and I was impressed by the tight feeling of 'ensemble' they had - the mark of a good choir is not being able to hear any single voice in the texture and here we had a group with a really cohesive sound. They used the excellent acoustics of the Reading Room to their best throughout the programme including composers from the Romantic period then moving into a more contemporary feel. A particular highlight was *Faire is the Heaven* by W. Harris where the ensemble divided into eight parts and produced the most magical of range of timbres from subtle pianissimos to broad climaxes.

The programme concluded with some arrangements of modern standards: *We've Only Just Begun*, a medley of Lennon and McCartney favourites and Cy Coleman's *Rhythm of Life* brought the recital to a conclusion: the evening was a real treat for Music lovers - we wish the choir many more successes in the future.

SJL

#### "Clarinets"

What a privilege it was that mid May Sunday evening to have paraded before our very eyes the rarities of the clarinet breed and have them demonstrated with such skill and mastery by two of the leading players in the country. Martin Rochetti and Peter Fielding are two principal clarinet players at present from the Welsh Orchestras with a distinguished pedigree of London Orchestral and Academy experience. There was no doubting the silken quality of clarinet sound which only the very best players can produce. To hear at close quarters and to see a bassett horn and a bass clarinet was a privilege. Mendelssohn opened and closed the evening with



**Stephen Lea with the College string group**

music that was light, effervescent and dazzling. Martinu was the composer of the most substantial and engaging of the other works. The concert was the inspiration of Gill Day our clarinet teacher who accompanied with consummate skill, again showing us exactly what music making of the highest order should be. We all took note!

DBW

## **The Choir**

Once again a vintage year, with boundaries pushed ever further outwards and upwards. On the one hand we sang heady difficult music like Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* and on the other we sang our regular diet of music every single Sunday of the College year, come rain or shine. Our line of basses grew and grew until we invaded sacred alto territory in the choir stalls and almost pushed the altar back against the sanctuary wall. Weddings and away match evensongs came our way and we diversified into Barber Shop singing for the 'men' (it has to be put that way because an honorary 'man' crept in the shape of Naomi Gibbons who beefed out the top tenor line).

One thing at a time - in Church we produced our regular diet of Sunday music and squeezed up several gears for special occasions. The end of the Christmas Term saw a lot of squeezing with Remembrance Sunday, the celebration of St. Cecilia's Day on 22 November, Advent Carol Service, St. Barbara's Day service and the main Carol Service on successive weeks. It was amazing that we survived the end of term at all. The magic

of the Advent Service worked as ever amidst the flickering of candles and the processions. The Director of Music remembers well the exhaustion of the choir on the very last day of term trying to put the main Carol Service together, with the choir barely able to hold up its collective head from tiredness. "It'll be alright - we have this afternoon in the Church" he said soothingly. That was until he realised the church had organised a crib service right smack in the middle of the final rehearsal. "Fine, fine - have half an hour off and be back" he said hysterically. We waited patiently and anxiously as the extra minutes of our precious rehearsal time ticked away as the service went on ... and on... and on. Eventually we got back into the choir stalls. "I've just got a wedding rehearsal .. but you just carry on" said the vicar. Two minutes later; "I'm terribly sorry, we can't cope against your rehearsal after all. Can you give us ten minutes?" What, ten minutes of our last exhausting fifteen? The choir, rehearsal-less, came up trumps of course, and everyone was pleased - somebody said it was the best ever. Certainly it was memorable, if only for the exquisite and highly original (and difficult) carol that Marcus Haynes had written. Remember his name - it may be very big in music one day.

*Rejoice in the Lamb* mystified the choir by being a mad work to mad words but we ended up by singing with our customary gusto. St. Cecilia's Day falls also on the birthday of Benjamin Britten - so a concert of his music and of Purcell, who meant so much to Britten, was in order. We sang in church, and it was a splendid opportunity for soloists in the Choir to step forward. Purcell's verse anthem *O sing unto the Lord* has a stream of solo opportunities, and Becky Doyle, Georgina Farr, Jenny Crook, Naomi Gibbons, Ralph Barnes,

Alastair Nye, Edmund Compton, Tim Shaw, Marcus Haynes all took turns. Becky sang about the poet's cat, Naomi sang about the valorous mouse, Tim Shaw made a brief alphabetical appearance and Mr. Graham sang the sweet mellifluous song about flowers in the Britten cantata.

Barber Shop singing was a welcome diversion to our routine note bashing for tenors and basses on Thursday afternoons. It took a long time to get our act together, but after a splendid recital of Sixth Form talent at the end of the Christmas term, the Gentlemen of Rendcomb draped themselves over the grand staircase in Clock Hall. We sounded a million dollars and raised a laugh as the basses plumbed the very depths down, down, down to bottom E flat in slow motion time. That was fun and we will do more of that. But it worked a treat again when, after a concert in North Cerney and amongst the eats, we sang at the tables in the village hall.

Mention has already been made of a wedding to which we were all invited - that was because we sang so well at Long Newnton Church very early on in the season. Bristol Cathedral welcomed us again, and we prepared a vintage programme of Rose responses, and Wood's glorious and sumptuous double choir anthem *Hail Gladdening Light*.

We say a fond farewell to many a long serving singer - wondering for a moment how we are going to cope without an alto line (Naomi Gibbons virtually was that). How will Mr. White manage without the quips of Douglas Ellison going on non-stop right through rehearsal and sermons? Will there be withdrawal symptoms with no Marcus Haynes arriving without fail half an hour after the beginning of every rehearsal? Of course we will survive, because there will always be new singers: Tom Gilbert continues to have a dry sense of humour, Tristan Day has got a splendid bass voice now and Paul Bongiovanni is more and more a first class tenor.

Mr. Lea says good-bye too. Steve is going to be sorely missed. His quiet and very professional support is something we all take for granted. Take away his life support and we shall be gasping for air next term. But God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform and Choir will GO ON. It always does.

DBW

## Carmina Burana

It was Tim Shaw's idea. *Carmina Burana* is big stuff, and the Director of Music took a deep breath and said "Why not?" It is a major choral work of about an hour's duration. Buoyed up by what in our liveliest imaginings we all thought we were singing about, we held forth in funny mediaeval Latin and corrupt ancient German. Sometimes we fell over ourselves trying to get the words out, at other times we were finding our way around copies that seemed to miss out half the notes and told only half the musical story. At the beginning we all wanted to sing the Old Spice bits and how nice it was to discover that bit came again at the end. We found however there were 50 or so pages in between to learn.

On the day, the Dulverton Hall stage was so full to overflowing with a band of percussion players hired specially for the event. We thought we held our own, but they might have been holding back a bit. Mrs. Gill Day and Mr. Lea gave us all our notes and a lot more besides on two pianos.

We had a team of superlative soloists. The tenor, Mr. Nick Bowditch, must have done himself a real mischief since he had to sing so high and in a strangled sort of way and having sung the part of the roasted swan he sang no more. Mr. Bob Bateman was the personification of the multitalented Abbot, on the one hand pompous, on the other outrageous, one moment plumbing the depths, the next squealing away in falsetto. Meanwhile, true to form, Mrs. Morris sailed serenely above it all floating around the soprano stratosphere. Was it the best ever? Could well have been. Certainly we will all remember the experience. "*Carmina Burana*? Oh yes, that's the piece we sang at College, wasn't it? "

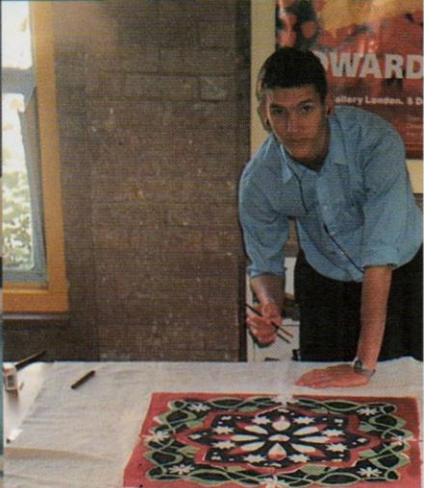
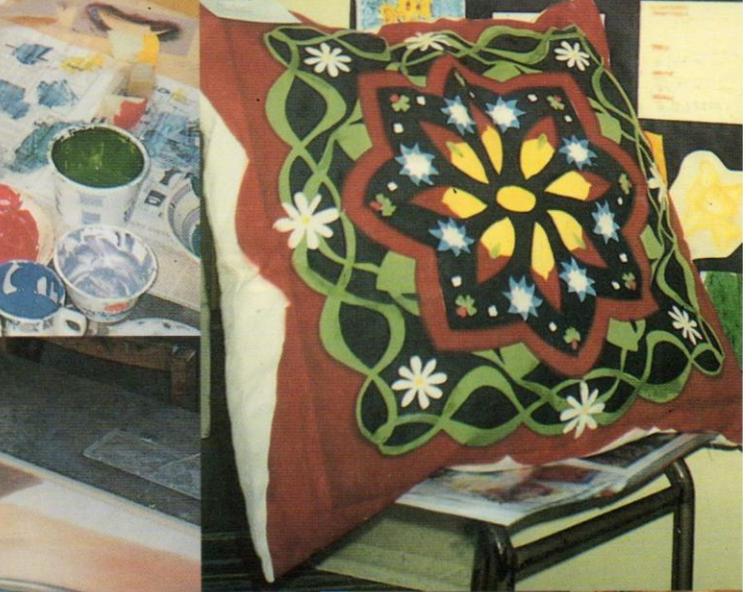
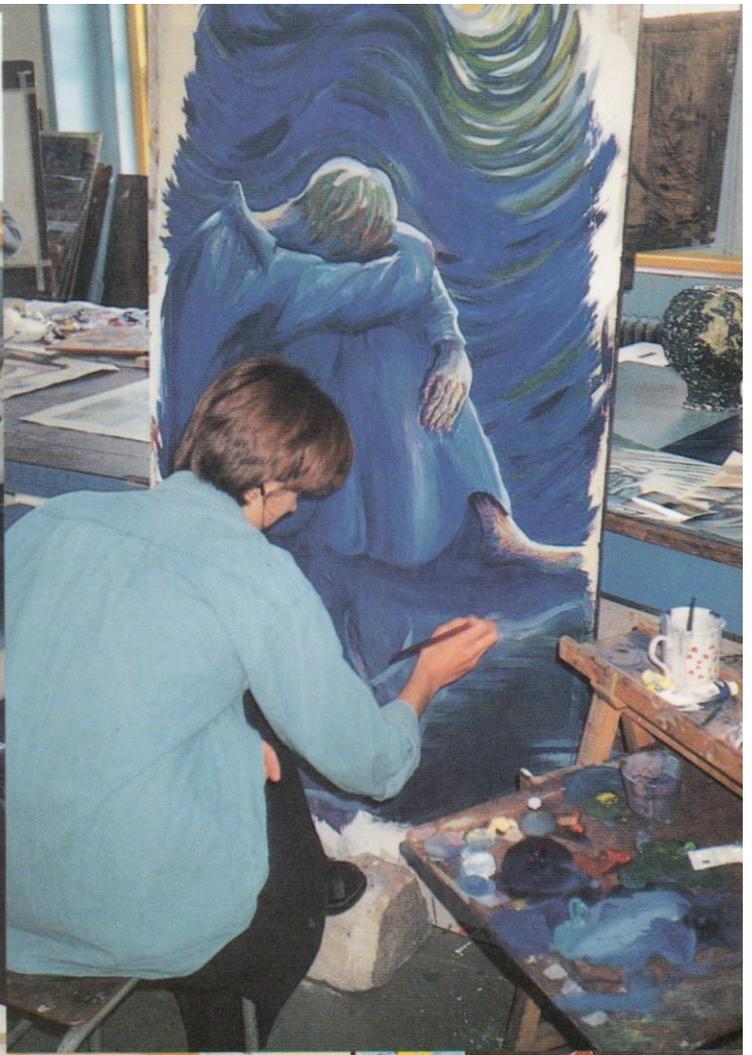
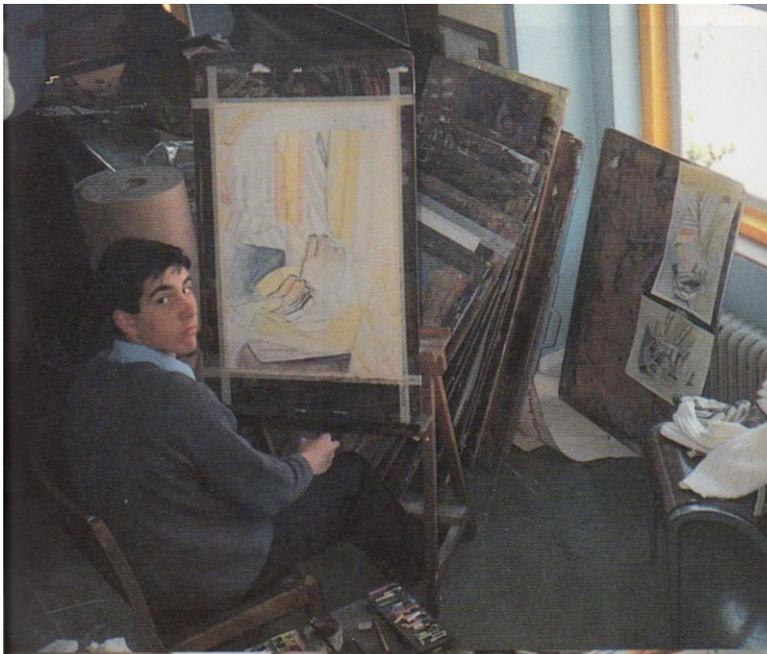
DBW

## Art

### 'A' Level Artists in Paris

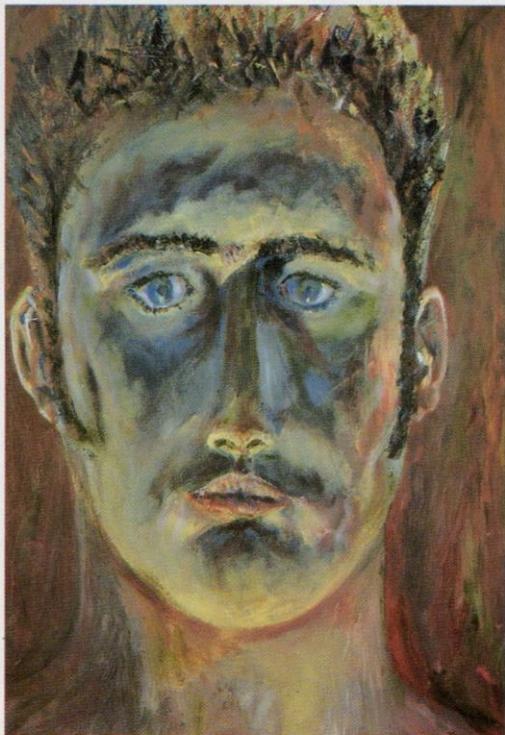
In mid February Mrs. Blackwell lead a large party of students on a half-term visit to the Art galleries and cultural centres of Paris.

The morning started very early and it took the handing-out of Valentine's cards on Swindon station to awake some students, although in Ralph Barnes's case this clearly did not work! The new experience of taking the Eurostar train from London to Paris worked extremely well and

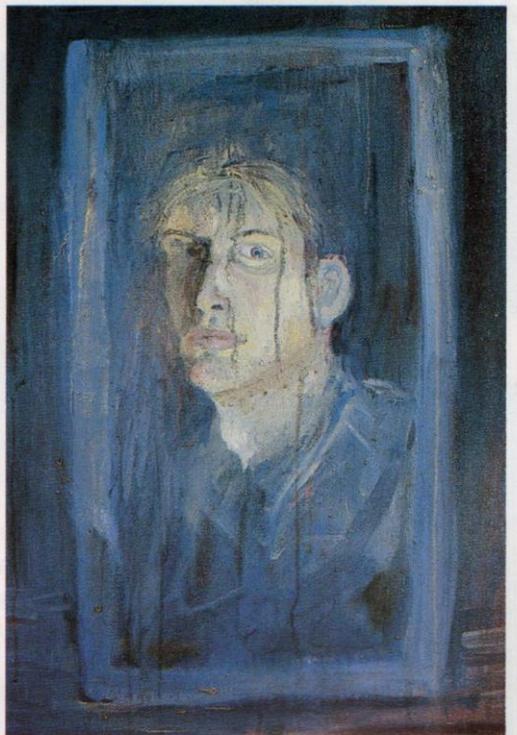




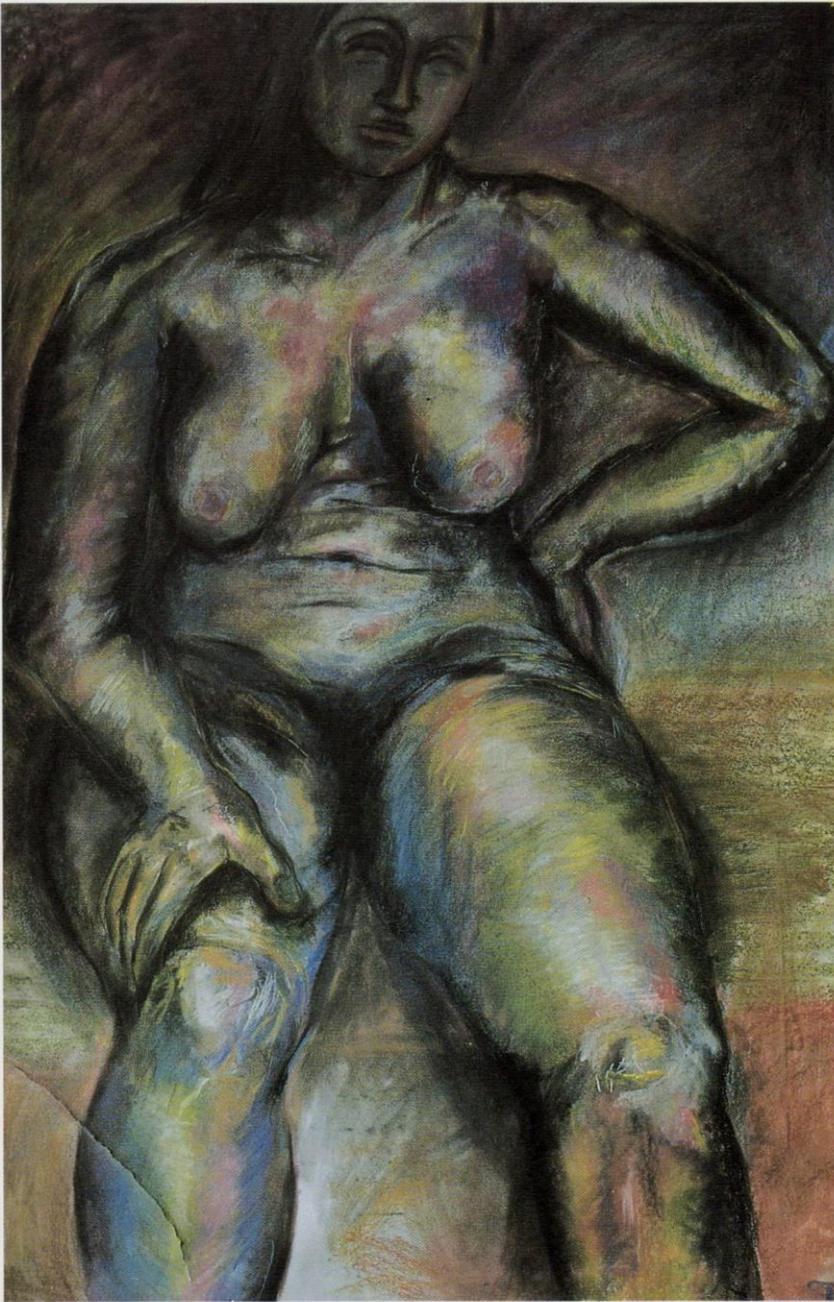
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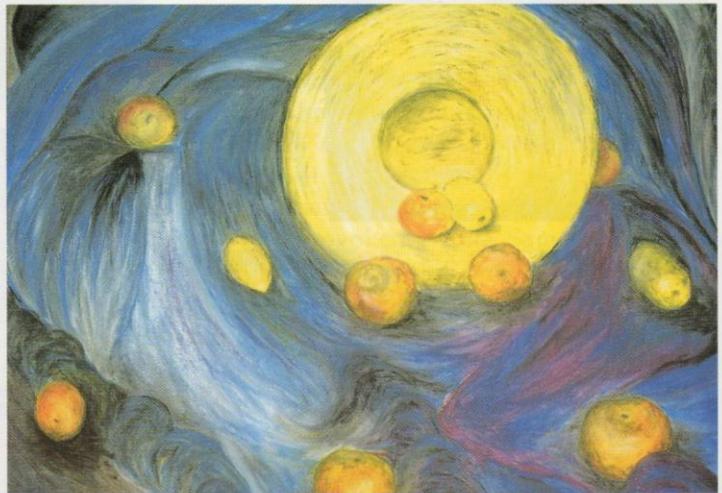
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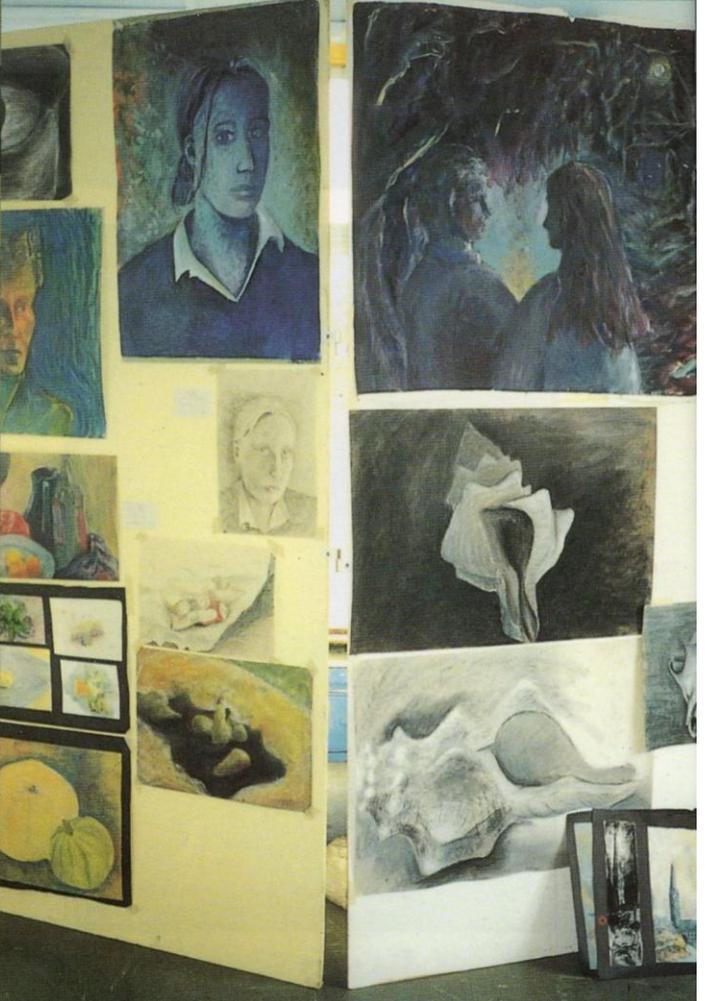
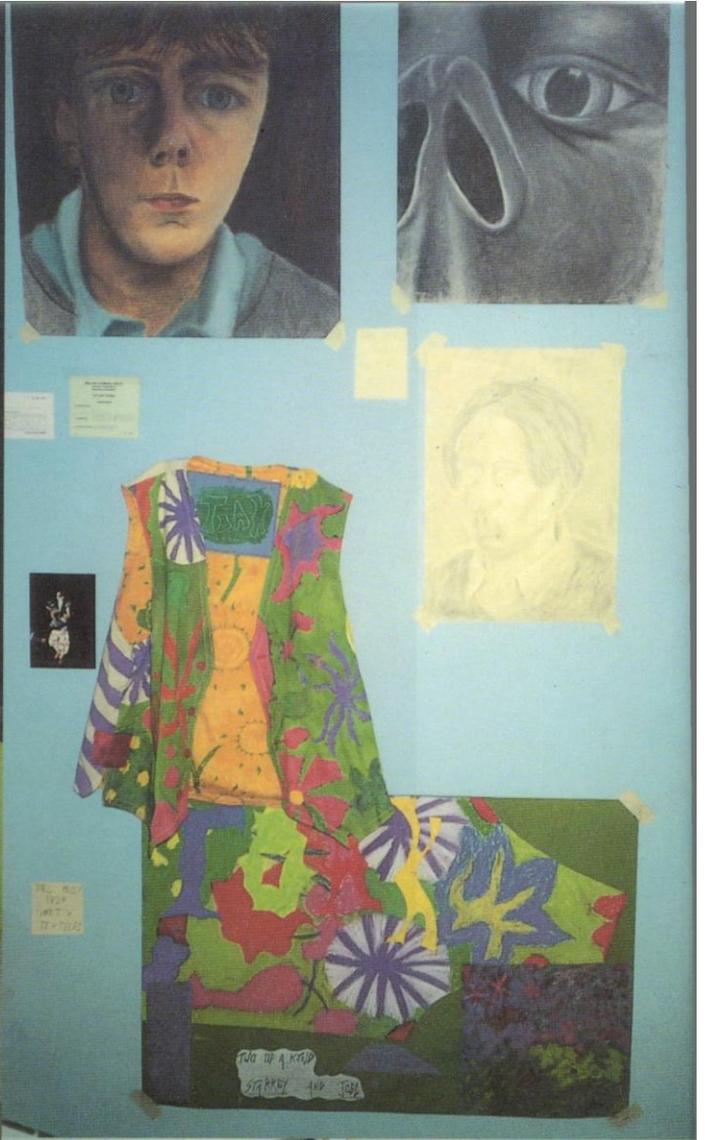
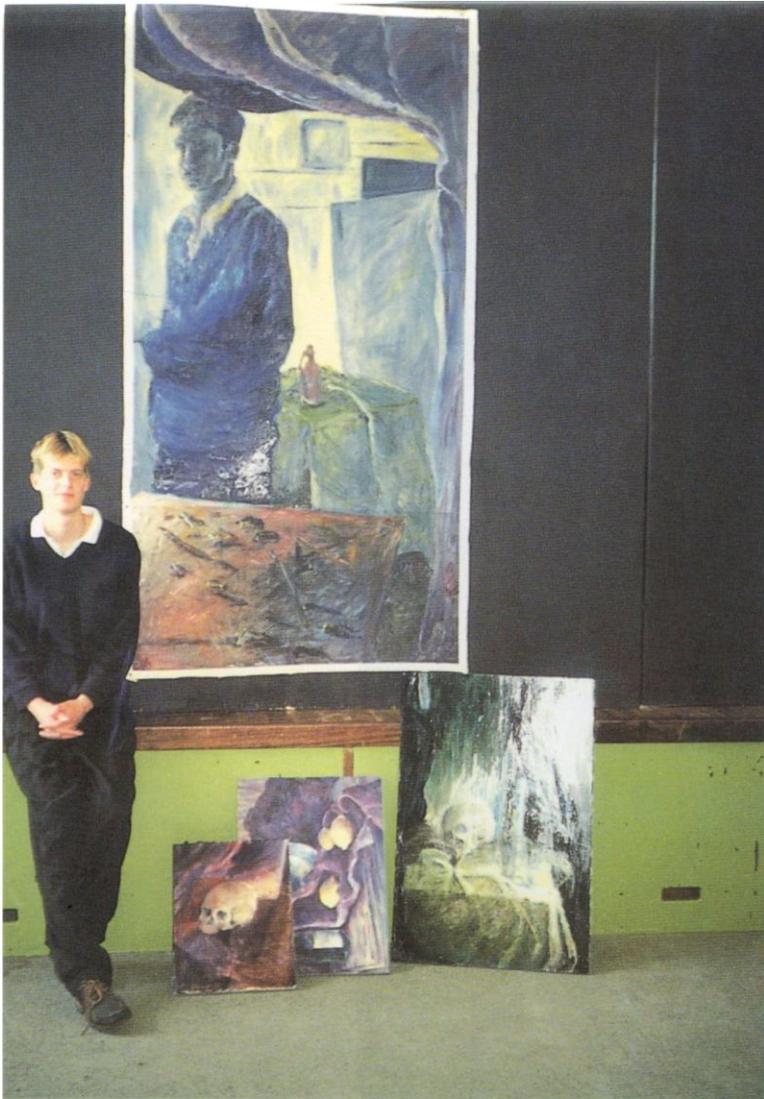
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### Details of work in preceding colour section

page 29: GCSE artists at work

pages 30 & 31: 'A' level work

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| a <i>Ambiance for relaxation</i> -watercolour & pastel | Tim Shaw (6A)       |
| b <i>Self portrait</i> - oil paint                     | Bob Witchell (6A)   |
| c <i>Self portrait</i> - oil paint                     | Sam Gillott (6A)    |
| d <i>Figure</i> -watercolour & pastel                  | Tabby Pelly (6 A)   |
| e <i>Period piece</i> -oil paint                       | Charlie Barton (6A) |
| f <i>Still life</i> -oil pastel                        | Vicky Dühmke (6 A)  |

page 32: 'A' level & GCSE coursework

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>top left and clockwise</i> | Sam Gillott (6A) |
|                               | Joel Pelly (5)   |
|                               | Tara Sleggs (5)  |
|                               | Joel Pelly (5)   |

everyone (except Ralph) arrived in Paris fresh and excited by the prospect of exploration. Our hotel was in the notable and visually surprising area of Pigalle and having checked in we made our way into the city for lunch and an afternoon visit to L'Orangerie. Here the huge water-lilies paintings by Monet were greatly enjoyed by all while all students seemed to find something special in the upstairs galleries and over dinner much of the chat revolved around Cezanne, Soutine and Picasso.

Saturday morning found us amongst the delights of the Musée D'Orsay and, although much serious project work was done here, it is so full of great works that many students came back after lunch just to enjoy looking. Van Gogh was certainly enjoyed, as were the Degas pastels, but this group discovered some more unusual paintings to admire; Bonnard was found and a piece by Courbet was a surprise to everyone, including the staff. Saturday afternoon centred on the Musée Rodin, while a small group of students slipped off with Mr. Griffiths to the Parc des Princes to see France play Wales in a Rugby International on the excuse that it was a cultural trip!

The evening meal was a great treat with Thai food and rice liqueur being enormously enjoyed, especially appreciated was the way it was served! Students were able to gain some experience of Paris nightlife on the long walk back to the hotel, but after another exhausting day were only too glad to be back in the hotel getting some rest. Sunday morning found us in the Pompidou Centre enjoying the surprises of the 20th Century and, while not everything seen was liked or understood, the huge Matisse cut-out was

distinctly impressive and many started to come to terms with Giacometti. After a lovely picnic lunch in the park, the students took on different challenges, but those who made the long haul out to the Musée Marmottan were rewarded with a stunning collection of Monet's paintings. The evening meal was in the clatter and chatter of Chartier Restaurant where the food and setting were enjoyed by all. The night ended with a walk up to Sacré-Coeur and admiration of the city at night from this high vantage point.

The Louvre was the major visit on Monday and, although its vastness is somewhat overwhelming, everyone was able to enjoy parts of its greatness and make plans to return on another day, time was running out and tiredness was cramping long bouts of concentration.

The journey back always seems so much longer, but eventually all the students were safely delivered and the staff able to start relaxing. Mrs. Blackwell, as this year's tour leader, took great satisfaction in getting everyone safely through and was again impressive with her French accent, while Mr. Denny and Mr. Griffiths were particularly impressed with the students' responses to the galleries; the 'A' level projects were to gain enormous benefit from the trip, but more than this is the wonderful experience to be gained; everyone was more informed, also more knowledgeable.

MSG

## The Art Department

The department enjoyed an extraordinarily fruitful year and harvested a copious crop of excellent work from the students who will also be collecting some much deserved examination success. Certainly this year's 6A group continued to flourish and blossom; the major Art Exhibition in the Dulverton Hall was again a great visual treat and the pieces on show drew huge appreciative audiences. Tim Shaw's examination piece entitled *Ambiance for Relaxation* was admired by many; Bob Witchell could glow with pride and satisfaction at the awe his work provoked, while Sam Gillott showed his extraordinary skill and personal vision. Adam King's work stole the hearts of some; Charlie Barton's painting resonated with subtleties and Matt Hall's gentle monumentality surprised many. Jacquie Shenton's show buzzed with energy; Posy Ingham's glowed with maturity and richness; Vicky Dühmke revealed real space and texture; Adam Hawkins exhibited his breadth of understanding, while Tabby Pelly showed a

deep river of passion in her figure studies. This was a really great year group; talented, skilled and always interested and willing to push forward, to find out more and more and to make their work even more a personal statement.

6B looks to be gaining a similar ambition; while in the 5th year there has been a varied and vigorous group at work with some excellent painting being produced alongside a growing passion for printed textiles and a small renaissance of sculpture. Throughout the studios there has been a great sense of commitment and interest; very few students fail to feel involved and if those in the junior school are able to grow into such an ultimately fine crop as the students of 1996/97, then the fruit growers in the orchards of the art studios would be very content.

## Photographic Exhibition

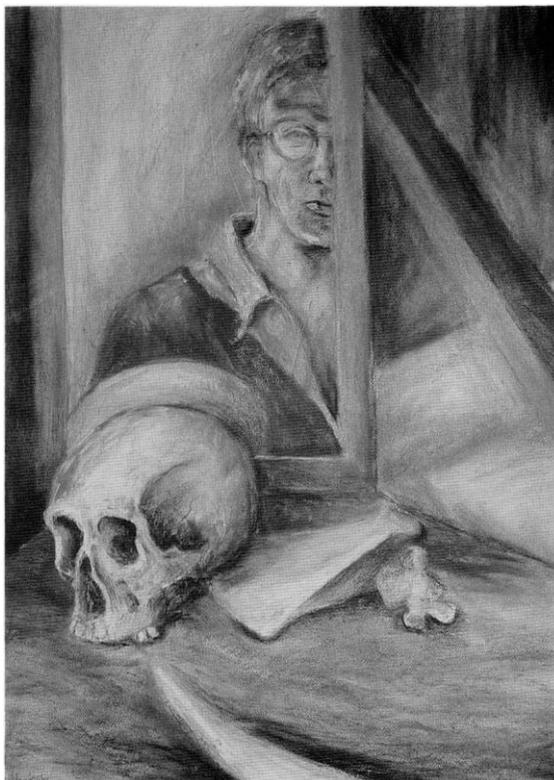
In addition to the Private View Art exhibition on Founders' Day, Dan Houseman OR displayed various pieces of his work. The exhibition was centred around a main theme of the views and surrounding areas of the College. He provided us with some interesting views of familiar sights with comparisons of views and aspects that were different in many ways in terms of viewpoint, angle and subject. A particular feature was his use of contrast, with strong aspects of light and dark. The pictures were of great interest and we wish Dan a successful future in his continuing work.

Jonathan Davis

## Fashion Show

*The Riot of Colour*, Rendcomb's very own fashion show in November 1996, ran for three consecutive nights from Thursday 7th November to Saturday 9th. Each night captured the audience's attention and mesmerised the vast number of people by many different outstanding displays.

Once word got out about how spectacular *The Riot of Colour* was going to be, people flocked from all around to see if Rendcomb College did actually



Still life

Adam Hawkins

Some of the performances which spring to most peoples' minds when looking back on *The Riot of Colour* are a brilliant combination: *Mellow Yellow* was performed by five Fifth Form girls (Gemma Leathart, Phillipa Hunt, Susanna Hoelscher, Laura Donovan and Lisa Engelstädter) and was outstanding. The perfect outfits were designed and made by the models and they certainly knew how to show themselves off!

The lads of Rendcomb College (William Brittain-Jones, James Graham and Charles Webb) showed us their "other" side. It began with BJ and James walking towards each other, psyching one another up and looking very macho in black shades, big boots, overcoats and black trousers. Charles suddenly appeared on stage, looking equally "rough and ready" and then the rock music changed to soft, elegant music and Charles defeated them with some breath-taking moves - ballet moves! Then all three showed us what they are really made of by throwing their overcoats off and modeling some stunning waistcoats made by Hannah Nicholls, and then performing their ballet movements!

Finishing *The Riot of Colour* was Naomi Gibbons. Her slow and talented movements were performed to the song *Rags of Light*. It was very brave of Naomi to end on such a note as the rest of the show was concerned with colour and music. Naomi was dressed in black with a long white shawl on and all that could be seen were the *rags of light* from the shawl as ultra-violet light was used. This was done to change the mood and bring in a different theme, and she succeeded extremely well in doing so.

The costumes were made by the models themselves with the expert help of Rachel Houghton and Sophie Blackwell. The make-up was applied with the help of Penny Harrison and Nicola Gill and the spectacular hairstyles were done by trainees at Bernard Griffiths. The lighting and music, which provided *The Riot of Colour* with many special effects, was set up and operated by Colin Morey, David Hughes, Stephen Lea and Sally Mills.

Mr. Griffiths also put a lot of his time into the production and provided the audiences with fun commentary throughout the performances. Many more people contributed to *The Riot of Colour* and made it the great success that it was; a big "thank you" goes out to everybody who helped in some way.

Watch out Milan, here comes Rendcomb College!

Jonathan Freeman.

(For photograph see back outside cover)

## Drama

### *A Streetcar Named Desire*

*Streetcar* was a bold choice for Karen Ewing's and Sally Mills' first production together: a towering modern play operating on several levels at once, with the stench of despair running through it, and a massive, difficult central role.

Fortunately, they had Rebecca Doyle to play Blanche. This had to be a pivotable performance, and it was. From the moment of her first entrance, searching round squeamishly for somewhere clean to put her handbag in all this filth, this was a remarkably sensitive and effective contribution.

Attention to detail gave the audience a strong sense of her past, and that she had come down in the world, as well as the personality slipping gently into chaos. David Wragg supported her expertly: his Stanley was not a gorilla with a sweaty shirt, but an intelligent man who liked the way he lived because he had chosen it. Together they made moments of real electricity, and sometimes violent danger.

The key relationship was, however, between Blanche and her sister. Naomi Gibbons gave Stella superb warmth and humanity; her decision to betray Blanche was the climactic moment of the play, and her horrified remorse was heart wrenching. Blood is thicker than water. You

felt these two really knew and understood each other, even when Blanche was being impossible.

By contrast with the production we all went to see in London, the set here was suggestive rather than realistic, leaving work for the audiences' imagination to do. But the key elements - the lamp, the bed, the irritating radio and the poker table stood out in sharp relief against the simple background. It worked well, supported by Colin Morey's effective lighting and by a range of excellent minor performances which helped supply the pressure cooker for the main events. Laura Donovan, Kate Nicholas, Sam Maylott, Susanna Hoelscher, Charles Webb, Hannah Nicholls and Manolito Garcia all made powerful contributions.

Gus Pickett played Mitch with intelligent sensitivity, and there was a neat cameo from Edmund Compton. In fact, this was a superb effort and a magnificent and moving evening of theatre.

JNT





The Performing Arts students performing one of their pieces to the College

### ***Our Day Out***

In order to compliment the Senior Drama Presentation in November, we decided to finish the year with a junior production aimed at providing the opportunity for many of the lower school pupils to 'tread the boards'. *Our Day Out* - a play with music by Willy Russell - involved the whole of the first year, some one year foreign students and members of the second and third form Drama Activity Group. For most it was their first appearance on stage.

Rehearsals were an education in themselves! Despite reorganisations and the expected interruptions to the schedule, the show went on and the two performances in the Dulverton Hall raised £130 for the Cotswold Care Hospice charity.

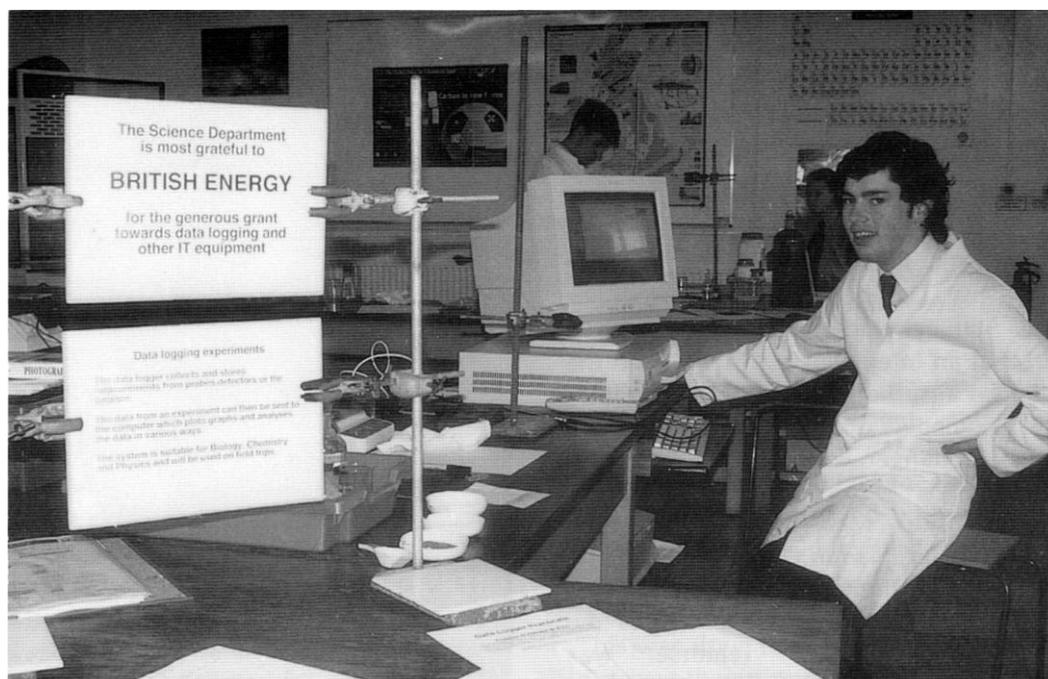
The play takes a sad and humorous look at life for the underprivileged. Mrs. Kay's Progress Class (the slow learners) are begrudgingly allowed out on a day's outing under the auspicious and watchful eye of 'Brigsy' the Deputy Head Teacher played by Nicola Scarth. Mrs. Kay (Rose Thrower) is a kind, gentle and liberated teacher who simply wants the children to have 'a good day out'. Whilst Mrs. Briggs is an authoritarian concerned that there should be a more educational purpose to the trip. Mrs. Kay is ably supported by two junior members of staff Colin (Adam Padmore) and Susan (Emma Cassidy-Gray). The class, plus older hangers on and rebels Reilly (Dominic Sharman), Digga (Ben Stanfield) and Andrews (Francisco Ruiz-Escribano) go on the rampage through a roadside cafe, a zoo, Conway Castle, a beach where Carol (Leila Nelson) tries to jump off a cliff, and a fairground. They cause a trail of havoc and destruction wherever they go.

Our thanks go to the cast, supported by the musicians, Stephen Lea, Marcus Haynes and Tim Shaw; all the technical and backstage crew, and to Julie Pritchard and her team for invaluable help with costumes and props.

KME/SM

### **Science at Rendcomb**

This has been an exciting year for Science, mainly because several laboratories were completely refurbished and this provided the opportunity to re-organise the use of rooms to bring junior and



Doug Ellison demonstrates the data logging equipment in the new Junior Chemistry laboratory on Founder's Day

senior labs together. So the old Junior Chemistry which was well past its "sell by date" has become Junior Biology; Junior Biology has become Junior Physics and Junior Physics has become Junior Chemistry, complete with a mobile fume- cupboard to provide good viewing of demonstrations.

Parents were able to inspect the refurbishment at the Founder's Day displays when the speaker, Judith Howard, Professor of Chemistry at Durham University, gave her approval.

New GCSE courses were started and the new SCI investigations were welcomed, mainly because this now allows certain skills to be assessed on different occasions. Biology and Chemistry 'A' level courses went modular and many pupils already have a good score under their belts.

We welcomed Mr. Vuolo and Mrs. Gibson to teach Biology and Chemistry respectively and, under the leadership of Mrs. Botham, they have devised a new scheme for Junior Science to begin in September 1997.

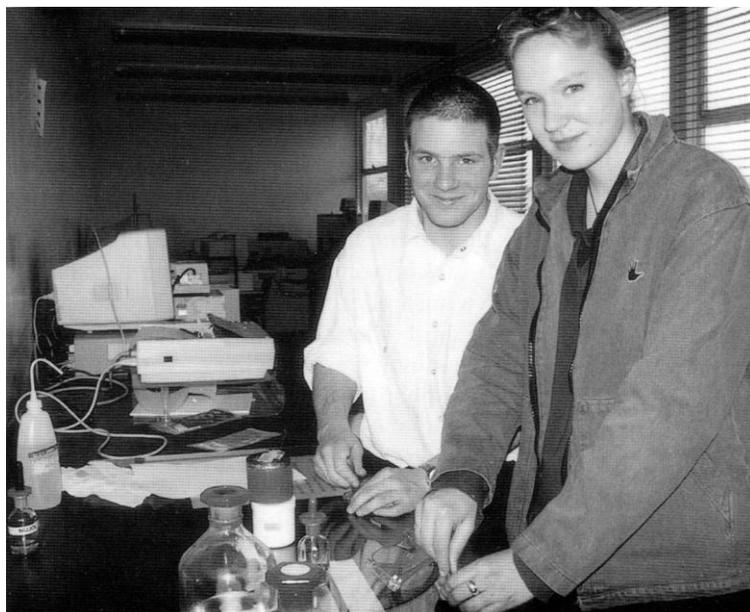
We were extremely fortunate to receive a £3,000 grant from British Energy to launch us into IT. We have purchased a data logger, which automatically takes readings from experiments and can be taken on field trips, various probes and a computer which can analyse and display the data. In addition the computer will be used with CD-ROMs.

CJW

## Science Week - March 1997

This began with 6A chemists visiting the Chemistry department at the University of Warwick. Bill Pritchard kindly arranged for them to experience a wide range of spectroscopic techniques to help them with the 'A' level option. It was particularly useful to be able to prepare samples for infra-red analysis. Because their department is being refurbished this Summer, we were given two aged ultra-violet - visible spectrophotometers which 6A have since managed to set up well enough to produce useful results. The school is grateful to the University for this gift.

6A chemists and biologists attended lectures on the Atmosphere, Biodiversity and Genetics at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. The lectures form part of the course for trainee teachers of primary school science and they gave our students an insight into the interface between science and teaching.



**James Graham and Vicky Dühmke prepare samples for IR analysis in the Chemistry Department at Warwick University**

On the last Sunday of the Lent Term a group taken from all levels of the school visited the "Tomorrow's World Live" exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

There were an enormous number of exhibits relating to Science, Engineering and Information Technology as well as the live show with Tomorrow's World presenters. Many of the stands allowed hands on involvement and some had simulators.

BFs Engineering Experience allowed us to see how BP gets its oil. The simulator took us through air, sea and rock in an exciting journey. The tour of the oil rig is very realistic and at one point you go down a drain to a submarine on the sea bed. You can almost feel the force of the oil flowing.

Adam Card

Thrust SSC (Supersonic Car) is Richard Noble's attempt to not only break his own Land Speed record, but to break the speed of sound, without leaving the ground. His 110, 000bhp car can only be described as two large jet engines, stuck together with a cockpit, pointy at the front, and a tail at the back, painted a glossy black colour. Squadron Leader Andy Green is the man chosen from hundreds of hopefuls to drive it. So far, it has been tested at Farnborough and in the Jordanian desert, reaching comparatively mild speeds of 300mph. The present record, set by Richard Noble in Thrust 2, is 630mph.

Alongside the car itself was the official Thrust SSC development cockpit simulator. Akin to a very complicated arcade game, queues formed to drive it on the hour, every hour, for half an hour. I was

lucky enough to be able to drive it. After two minutes of pressing various dials and switches to start up the engines (a piece of advice - this is not a good getaway car, no matter how fast it goes), it's foot to the floor, and hang on for your life. The steering wheel is connected to the two in line back wheels, and whilst piloting the car at something near the speed of sound (750mph) toward the wrong side of a dusty track, the instructor told me to drive it like a boat (or a cash and carry trolley). Passing between the two sets of trucks that marked the measured mile, which passed within a couple of seconds, I spared a thought for the truck drivers, lest anyone had even less control over the car than I did. After a 6 mile run (lasting about 5 seconds) it was time to bring the thing to a halt. I didn't know how fast I was going, I was too busy holding onto the steering wheel. At some 700mph, you let out the main chute; at 400mph, let the second chute out and at 200, you can use the carbon fibre brakes. Regaining my breath, I was pleasantly surprised to find I had averaged 809.99mph over the measured mile, leaving me the fastest person of that hour.

In conclusion, I can safely say that no matter how lucky you may think Sq. Ldr. Green is to be driving a car at this speed, I must confess, I think he's a raving lunatic.

Douglas Ellison

The success of the visit was a fitting end to Science Week and hopefully it may have inspired some of our students to pursue science further than the classroom.

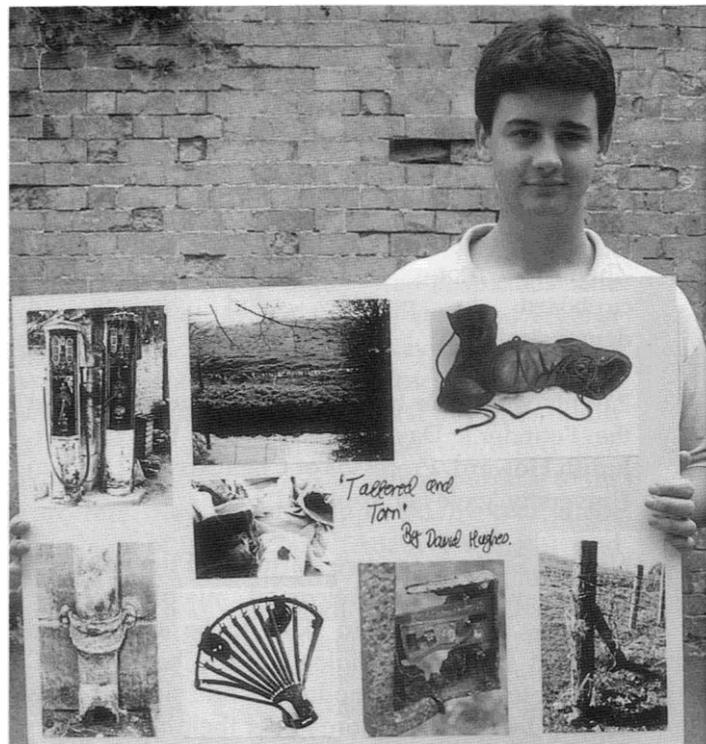
CJW

## Activities

### Photography

The Photographic Society continues to be largely a self-help society with links to the weekly activity. Purchase of three manual SLR cameras has allowed pupils to undertake various projects in Northleach and in the school grounds to supplement darkroom work and slide shows. The Society has been supported by a small number of senior pupils and well run by David Hughes. However there is a genuine worry that the lack of interest among lower forms poses a potential threat to the society's future.

David Hughes, Richard Histed and Jonathan Davis made Rendcomb history by taking GCSE photography in one year. The experience honed their skills of composition, presentation and



David Hughes with one of his GCSE pieces

printing and some of their prints were displayed on Founder's Day. Unfortunately their coursework had already been sent to the examination board. Undoubtedly they were assisted by their visit to the Royal Photographic Society in Bath and their discussion with OR photographer, Dan Houseman.

Recently the Society purchased a CD-ROM entitled *Photographer* which gives the user the controls of a multi-function SLR at a variety of photo opportunities. Photographs can be viewed instantly and the program will provide comments on the images produced. It is a lot of fun and a good aid to learning.

The next step must be the purchase of a digital camera; Doug Ellison demonstrated the quality which can be attained with his entry in the Annual School Competition.

David Hughes organised the competition as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award skill but it was poorly supported and we hope for a bigger entry next year.

The results of the annual school competition were:

- 1st *Study of Water* Doug Ellison, 6A  
(Digital camera) - see inside front cover
- 2nd *Shades of Summer* Jonathan Davis, 6B  
(Transparency) - see inside front cover
- 3rd *Thistle* David Hughes 6B (Black & White)

Highly Commended:

*Cheetah* Mark Naylor, Staff - see inside front cover

*Apple in Winter* David Hughes 6B  
*Twisted Doug* Ellison, 6A - see inside front cover  
*Dimitrios* Georgina Holmes 2 - see inside front cover  
*Light & Dark* Mathew Ewing 2  
*Golden Gate* Vicky Dühmke 6A  
*The Scream* David Hughes 6B  
*Icicles* Jack Garland 6B  
*Rocky* Richard Histed 6B  
*Eiffel Tower* Jack Garland 6B - see p. 25

CJW

## The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to be very popular with Rendcomb students at both Bronze and Gold levels. Over thirty Fourth Formers are currently undertaking the Bronze award and all have successfully completed the expedition section whilst nearing the completion of the three other areas: Service, Physical Recreations and Skills. After a successful practice expedition in the Cotswolds, memorable for some very interesting camping skills, the assessment expedition in the Forest of Dean provided some testing navigation which all groups eventually mastered. All the participants displayed extremely competent campcraft this time and completed their journeys with flying colours.

Inheriting a very successful Award scheme from my predecessor Mike Newby inevitably made me



**Charlotte Webb practising first aid skills for the Bronze award**



**Rafe Smallman at camp in the Forest of Dean (Bronze Award)**

very apprehensive as I faced the Gold Award assessment three weeks into my first term at Rendcomb. I need not have worried, however, as the excellent preparation of the group by John Willson and the invaluable help of Alex and Amanda Breally made the expedition in the Black Mountains a mere formality. All the candidates impressed the assessors with their strength and navigational skills and passed with distinction. Unfortunately, Rob Arnold and Will Brittain-Jones were absent due to injury but they completed their assessment the following April in Mid-Wales on the first 6B expedition, again leaving the assessor in no doubt as to their abilities.

The new intake of Gold candidates have also made good progress, again due to the first class preparation by John Willson. The Mid-Wales expedition introduced them to the fickle nature of mountain weather. On one day Group B's ascent of Plynlimon was in fine weather and they enjoyed wonderful views from the summit. The next day Group C made their ascent in near blizzard conditions and had to rely on their compasses to find the correct route down. The weather for the second practice to the Brecon Beacons was almost too good as sunburn and dehydration became issues. Once again, all three groups performed well and were well prepared for the third expedition to the Peak District with thanks to Alex (this time minus 'Mum' Amanda) and Nicola and Elliot Gill for their help. Chris Wood and Stephen Lea have also been valuable as minibus drivers on the Bronze assessment.

### Gold Award expedition



Several new activities have been introduced to the award scheme this year. Bronze and Gold candidates are participating in Junior and Community Sports Leader Awards respectively, a useful qualification for anyone wishing to progress to sports teaching or coaching. Several Fourth Formers are undertaking Community Service, visiting the older residents of the Rendcomb community to help with gardening, chopping firewood and other tasks. Of course the old favourites still go from strength to strength and I am grateful to Debbie Botham for running the cookery course and to Sisters Julie and Judy for their first aid training.

I am sure that the Bronze Award will continue to thrive in the capable hands of Nicola Gill, and provide a steady stream of committed and enthusiastic candidates for the Gold Award. Finally, special thanks go to Derek Coombes for his organisation of the stores and, once again, to John Willson, without whom the Duke of Edinburgh Award would not be the effective and successful scheme it is.

CV

### Charity Fitness Marathon

On May 31st we participated in a charity fitness marathon in and around the Sports Hall at Rendcomb. The money raised went to the British Heart Foundation and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bristol's Southmead Hospital (where Francesca Vuolo was looked after).

Three sports were chosen and we spent twenty minutes on each. They were aerobics, skipping

and circuit training. I found aerobics the most enjoyable because it was funny watching the boys trying to be coordinated! The worst was circuit training because we had to attempt to do press-ups. Most of the people had picked it up by the end of the twenty minutes and aerobics teachers Anne Gibson and Karen Lutkins helped keep us going with plenty of active encouragement. Overall the day was very successful. Over £700 was raised for very good causes and our thanks go to Mr. Vuolo putting the event together.

See photograph on page 5.

Sophie Sprawson

### Comic Relief

The students from the College organised a hugely successful and enjoyable Red Nose Day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Every pupil paid a small sum in order to be able to wear fancy dress - there were many astonishing costumes and some particularly extraordinary versions of the College uniform!

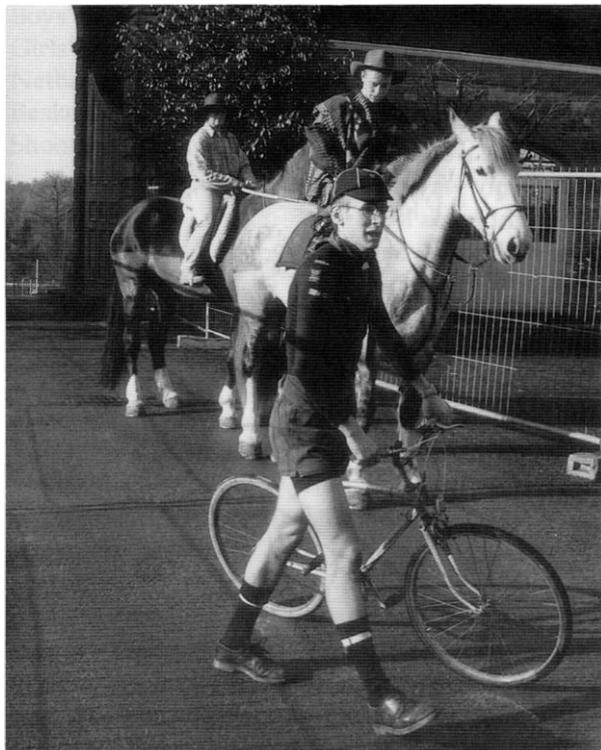
Events included a tug of war with the winners pulling against a staff team and the ever popular 'gunking' of the Head Boy and Girl with willing members of staff. An auction of the prefects was run by Martin Griffiths in the Dulverton Hall and the prefects went off with their





**The Staff win the tug of war**

'owners' to perform various unspeakable tasks whilst Jim Graham was able to enjoy digging Mr. Morgan's garden for an hour. Junior House ran some of their own functions and with the Saturday night bar profits the day raised just over £500. £100 of this was raised by Stu Taylor and Adam Phillips who agreed to have their overgrown mop and huge dangly fringe cut off in front of the whole College by three 'friends'.



**Arriving at lessons on Red Nose day**

David Wragg (6A), chairman of the Comic Relief Committee was pleased with the fund raising events and thanked staff and pupils for their generosity.

TMG

## The Rendcomb Election

With the occasion of a national general election this year, it was felt appropriate for Rendcomb to run its own election with student candidates and a secret ballot for the whole College. Three members of 6A, Manolito Garcia (Labour), Stu Taylor (Liberal Democrat) and David Wragg (Conservative) each presented party election speeches outlining the relevant manifestos. Students were then able to question their candidates on matters of party policy at a debate two days before the election. The questions covered the key election areas of The Economy, Education, Europe and the Single Currency.

The meeting produced some lively debate with heckling from the floor to keep the candidates and Mr. Lea (Chair Person and election organiser) on their toes.

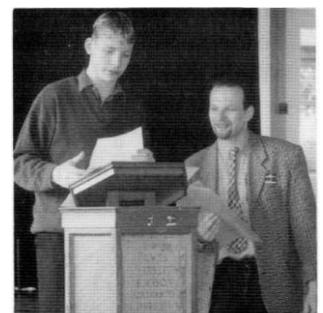
The meeting finished with rallying speeches from the candidates to leave the students to make up their minds before voting took place on the day before the national General Election.

After voting had taken place, the results were announced as follows:

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Garcia Manolito (Labour)          | 24 votes   |
| Taylor Stewart (Liberal Democrat) | 35 votes   |
| Wragg David (Conservative)        | 124 votes. |

David Wragg was therefore elected and (as Mr. Lea remarked in his speech at the Leavers' Dinner) is now aspiring to be the next up-and-coming young leader of the Conservatives. We shall have to wait and see...!

TMG





**The Red Team**

## Paintballing

An unusually sunny February noon greeted the 23 'gung-ho' Sixth Formers who alighted at the Gloucester-based 'Paintball Raiders' hideout for their own showdown to stand alongside the original version of the film "High Noon". Kitted out in overalls, headgear and pump-action paintball guns the two sides took to their own areas of the woods to then try and capture the flag from the opposition's camp. The rules stated that any direct hit to the body (below the head) would result in having to retreat back to one's own base to wait for two minutes before rejoining the fray. As a bystander, Mrs. Brealy was interested to hear people crying out once they were hit: "that didn't count it was only a flesh wound!" After two intense games (each of about 20 minutes) the 'troops' returned to the 'safety zone' very much ready to tuck into their barbecue lunch after all the adrenaline that had been coursing through their bodies.

The 'engines' were sufficiently stoked up for the afternoon's games that entailed firstly attacking/defending a village of huts and finally and most intensely facing each other behind barrels and trees, separated by a ditch with three bridges, at either end of which having a post with a flag on it which each team had to defend whilst at the same time endeavouring to capture the oppo's flags. The bus journey at the end of the day was spent to begin with recounting our daring feats and juiciest hits - most satisfying when you can creep up on an unsuspecting foe whose posterior is undefended and firing on the helpless target from close range as the malteser-size paintballs certainly make an impact from that range that the recipient won't forget for a little while! (will they Kittipong! ) Soon into the journey most were asleep after the full extent of the exertion during the day took its toll, no longer fuelled by the large doses of adrenaline.

All in all, a great trip with important lessons learned such as not leaving yourself exposed to attack from behind as well as the need for efficient

team-work, but above all that crawling around dense vegetation and in and out of muddy ditches with all one's senses heightened for any sign of danger is a useful way of 'getting away from it all' as Will Brittain-Jones (aka Arnold Schwarzenegger) will testify.

ASB

## Journey Home

The air is cold,  
The sky is dark,  
I made my way  
Through the dismal park.

The forest  
Which I stumbled through  
Was wet and cold,  
And scary too.

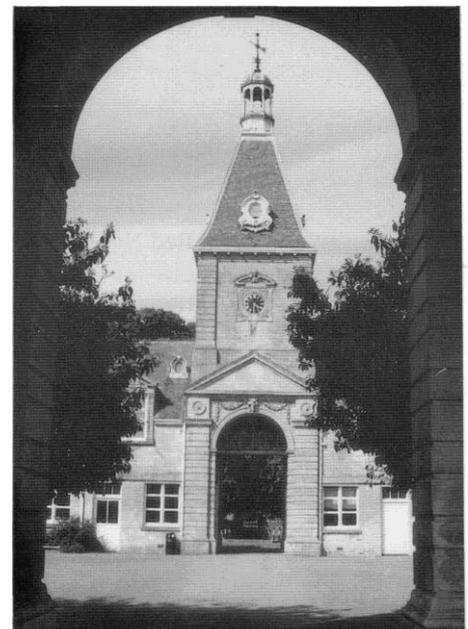
The wind is cold,  
With damp dreary air,  
Which made me think  
I'm not the only one there.

I began to run,  
I was out of breath,  
The graveyard I came across  
Scared me to death.

The lights were off,  
I made my way through,  
I thought I was lost,  
I didn't know what to do.

But then I saw  
My auntie's door,  
I ran inside  
Her house once more.

**Heidi Pitt**



# THE RECORD

## College Officers

Prefects:

Charles Webb - Head Boy/ Head of Stable House.

Georgina Hunter-Smart -Head Girl/Head of Park House

William Brittain-Jones -Head of School House.

Adam King - Head of Lawn House.

James Emerson, Charles Barton, Jacqueline Shenton,

Elisabeth Jakobs - Prefects in Old Rectory. James Graham - Prefect of Dulverton Hall.

Victoria Dühmke, Naomi Gibbons, Tim Shaw, James Smith, Stewart Taylor Robin Witchell, William Hunt, Posy Ingham.

Head Librarian : Colin Morey

Head Usher : Adam King

Sports Captains

Rugby : Charles Webb

Boys' Hockey : Chris Baker

Girls' Hockey: Vicky Dühmke

Cricket : Charles Webb

Boys' Tennis : Chris Baker

Girls' Tennis : Victoria Dühmke

Netball : Naomi Gibbons

Basketball : Chris Baker

Shooting : James Brittain Jones / Robin Witchell

Squash : Sam Maylott

## Valete

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

Robert Arnold, Robert Ashby, Christopher Baker, Jenny Bartholomew, Charles Barton, William Brittain-Jones, Andrew Donovan, Rebecca Doyle, Victoria Dühmke, Douglas Ellison, James Emerson, Manolito Garcia, Naomi Gibbons, Samuel Gillott, James Graham, Matthew Hall, Adam Hawkins, Marcus Haynes, Georgina Hunter-Smart, William Hunt, Posy Ingham, Adam King, Colin Morey, Tabitha Pelly, Anna Peters, Timothy Shaw, Jacqueline Shenton, James Smith, Stewart Taylor, Charles Webb, Polly Wigfield, Robin Witchell, David Wragg.

Alice Detjen, Nils Detjen, Christian Lucke, Edward Forster, Sabrina Rosenau, Abdul Saadeddin, Anna-Karina Stuwert.

Sophie Brown, Edmund Compton, Robert Edmundson, Nadia El-Titi, Susanna Hoelscher, Pravim Horrungarung, Charlotte Kerton, Joel Pelly, Tina Rink, Charley Smith,

Rachel Lamont, Ben Newton,

Ignacio Garcia-Valdecasas, Charles Jacobs, Sumika Hamasaki, Aoi Hara, Yuktaka Hasegawa, Mariko Midorikawa, Robert Nicholas, Fransisco Ruiz-Escribano, Lianne Sammons, Dominic Sharman.

## Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1997:

**Form 6B:** Katharina Blaum, Sonja Bullinger, Louise Bongiovanni, Nina Breitfield, Florian Brenner, Samantha Cheung, Franziska von Gleichenstein, Christine Harms, Rebecca Hogarth, Oliver Poole, Bettina Steude, Rebekah Taplin, Dorothea Terhorst, Barbara Unger, Patrick van Welij, Lena Werckmeister, Sophie Worlock, Patricia Yip.

**Form 3:** Alexander Bowers, Joanna Crisp, Lissa Davies, Richard Demczak, Philip Gordon-Jones, Jemma Kirkaldy, Edward McHenry, Korn-Anong Chaiwatanasirikul, Rei Ikeda, Yusuke Osawa, John Raby, Yumi Sano, Miyuki Sone, James Spackman, Natsuko Tajima, Lucian Tarnowski, Edward Wadsworth, Richard Wilkins, Mikako Yamakita.

**Form 2:** Ben Hopley, Barnaby Kellett, Matthew Postlethwaite, Christopher Taplin.

**Form 1:** Michael Arkle, Ralph Aspin, Alice Barefoot, Meg Barne, Christian Bell, Richard Burden, Chloe Clarke, Nicholas Clements, Sarah Colson, Thomas Davies, Matthew Day, Romilly Evans, Jade Finn, Christian Good, Adam Hopley, Richard Lefeuvre, Amanda Lomax, Anna Marlowe, Peter Mason, Roberta Perrin, Sarah Rudderham, Charles Vick, Mark Ward, Edward Warrington, Ashleigh Welch, Holly Whitby-Brown, Simon Whitby-Brown.

## Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1997:

President : Michael Miles (43-50)  
Chairman : Julian Comrie (46-54)  
Vice-Chairman : Mrs. Sally Morris (78-80)  
Secretary : Mrs. Jane Gunner (75-77)  
Whiteway Farmhouse,  
The Whiteway,  
Cirencester, Glos. GL7 7BA

Treasurer/School Rep: Chris Wood

(65-71; Staff 76-)

Girls' Secretary : Hannah Willcocks (92-94)  
Hockey Secretary : Philip Moore (80-87)  
Cricket Secretary : Julian Fellows (81-88)  
Newsletter Editor : Bill White (Staff 61-97)

## Travel Bursary

£500 was split between Philip Price (OR), who is investigating the marine shelf off Mozambique, and Georgina Hunter-Smart, who is doing missionary work in Santa Cruz followed by travel in South America.

## News of Recent Leavers

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Katherine Bagshawe<br>Keith Bendall  | Welsh College of Music & Drama<br>Warwick University  | Performer's Diploma<br>Ancient History & Classical<br>Archaeology<br>Arts Therapy<br>French   |
| Charlotte Böhlken<br>Nicholas Carmichael   | Derby University<br>Exeter University   | Mechanical Engineering<br>English<br>Medicine   |
| Chaiwoot Chotitputslip<br>Lindsay Duff<br>Rudolf Dühmke  | Manchester Metropolitan University<br>University College London<br>United Medical & Dental Schools  | Geology<br>Allied Dunbar<br>Business Studies<br>Chemistry & Management<br>Law & Accountancy<br>English & Philosophy<br>History of Art & Architecture<br>Architecture  |
| James Fairbank<br>Leighton Freeman<br>Rebecca Gee<br>Alister Harris<br>Robert Hart<br>William Heaven<br>Nicholas Holt<br>Seun Ismail   | Royal Holloway University of London<br>Employment<br>Plymouth University<br>Bath University<br>Huddersfield University<br>Bristol University<br>East Anglia University<br>Westminster University<br>Liverpool University  | Philosophy & Literature<br>Retaking 'A' levels  |
| Jack Jelfs<br>Anna Jensen  |   |   |
| George Langlands<br>Christopher MacKinnon<br>Craig Marcham<br>Francis Newcombe<br>Luke Nicholls<br>Karen Pearce<br>Philip Price<br>Ben Renow-Clarke<br>Wannachan Samranvanich<br>Adam Simpkin<br>Tony Winstone<br>Richard Witchell | Otago University, New Zealand<br>Royal Holloway University of London<br>Exeter University<br>Dundee University<br>Luton University<br>Kingston University<br>Cardiff University<br>Derby University<br>Kent University<br>North London University<br>University of the West of England<br>Harper Adams Agricultural College | Biology<br>Politics & Society<br>Hotel & Catering Management<br>New Media Technology<br>Sports Science<br>Marine Geography<br>Computer Systems Engineering<br>Business Studies<br>Engineering Foundation<br>Agriculture |



Craftwork made by Japanese pupils

# Academic

## Scholarships for Entry in September 1997 Sixth Form Entry

|                    |                                  |       |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Louise Bongiovanni | (Pates Grammar School)           | Music |
| Oliver Poole       | (School of the Lion, Gloucester) | Art   |

### Third Form Entry

|                  |                               |                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alexander Bowers | (Hatherop Castle)             | Academic             |
| Lissa Davies     | (Alleyns School)              | Jack Fell (Academic) |
| Richard Demczak  | (The Abbey School, Tewksbury) | Music                |
| Edward McHenry   | (The Cotswold School)         | Art                  |
| James Spackman   | (Farmor's School)             | Sport                |
| William Turvill  | (The Abbey School, Tewksbury) | Art                  |

### First Form Entry

|                   |                                |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Meg Barne         | (All Hallows School, Cranmore) | Academic        |
| Nicholas Clements | (Pinewood School)              | Choral and Art  |
| Sarah Colson      | (Hatherop Castle)              | Art             |
| Matthew Day       | (Leverets)                     | Music and Art   |
| Jade Finn         | (Ingleside)                    | Academic        |
| Peter Mason       | (Hatherop Castle)              | Academic        |
| Sarah Rudderham   | (Querns)                       | Art             |
| Charles Vick      | (Dormer House)                 | Drama           |
| Ashleigh Welch    | (Leverets)                     | Performing Arts |

## Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music Examinations

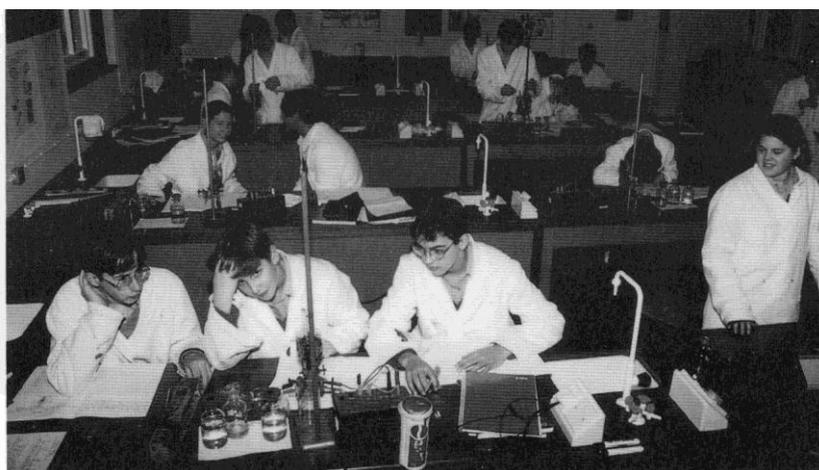
The following were successful in Practical Music Examinations over the year:

Jenny Arnold, Laura Donovan, Rosanna Warrington, Tom Gilbert, Nicholas Marlowe, Rachel Lamont, Ian Forster, Christina Schotten, Olivia Evans, Victoria Mackinnon, Tim Shaw, Rachel Lamont, Alastair Nye, Naomi Gibbons, Marcus Haynes, Jonathan Freeman, David Roper, Antonia Gilbert, Alastair Nye, Holly Osbourne, Joshua Coppersmith-Heaven, Helen Pearce, Zuki Turner, Jonathan Freeman, Holly Earl, Charles Fothergill, Edward Vaughan-Hughes, Samuel Hicks, Nicholas Marlowe, Simon Webb, Henry Wilson, Georgina Holmes, James Smith, Hayley Pratt.

Special mention should be made of Tim Shaw who obtained a distinction at Grade VIII (142 marks) on the violin and Naomi Gibbons who passed her Advanced Certificate on the oboe.

The following were successful in Theory Examinations over the year:

Sophie Sprawson, Alexandra Pardhy, Zuki Turner, Rachel Lamont, Ben Newton, Colin Morey, Paul Bongiovanni, Jonathan Freeman, Yuki Takanshi.



## 'A' Level Examinations

This summer's GCE Advanced Level results were:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Robert Arnold          | Business Studies, Geography  |
| Robert Ashby           | Mathematics, Physics   |
| Christopher Baker      | Art and Design, Business Studies, French                             |
| Jenny Bartholomew      | Biology, Business Studies, Geography                                 |
| Charles Barton         | Art and Design, English Literature*, French*, Mathematics*           |
| William Brittain-Jones | Biology, Business Studies, Geography                                 |
| Andrew Donovan         | Business Studies, Geography  |
| Rebecca Doyle          | English Literature, Music, Performing Arts                           |
| Victoria Dühmke        | Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics                      |
| Douglas Ellison        | Chemistry, Mathematics, Performing Arts, Physics                     |
| James Emerson          | Business Studies, Geography  |
| Manolito Garcia        | French, Geography*, History  |
| Naomi Gibbons          | English Literature, Music, Performing Arts                           |
| Samuel Gillott         | Art and Design*, Biology, Chemistry                                  |
| James Graham           | Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics                                      |
| Matthew Hall           | Art and Design, Geography  |
| Adam Hawkins           | Art and Design, Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics                     |
| Marcus Haynes          | French, German, Music  |
| Georgina Hunter-Smart  | Biology, Business Studies, Geography                                 |
| William Hunt           | French* (M), Geography*, German*                                     |
| Posy Ingham            | Art and Design, English Literature*, French                          |
| Adam King              | Art and Design, French, Geography*, Mathematics*                     |
| Colin Morey            | Mathematics*, Music Technology, Performing Arts, Physics             |
| Tabitha Pelly          | Art and Design, English Literature* (D), French                      |
| Anna Peters            | Biology, Business Studies, Geography                                 |
| Timothy Shaw           | Art and Design*, Chemistry*, French*, Mathematics*                   |
| Jacqueline Shenton     | Art and Design   |
| James Smith            | Chemistry*, Further Mathematics*, Mathematics*, Physics*, Music (AS) |
| Stewart Taylor         | English Literature, French, German                                   |
| Charles Webb           | English Literature*, French, History                                 |
| Polly Wigfield         | Geography  |
| Robin Witchell         | Art and Design*, French, History                                     |
| David Wragg            | French, History, Mathematics*  |

### 6B Entry

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Delia Friesenhausen | German* |
| Sue Gilsbach        | German* |
| Sebastian Heinemann | German* |
| Elisabeth Jakobs    | German* |
| Anna Karina-Stuwert | German* |

### Fifth Form Entry:

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Susannah Hoelscher | German* |
|--------------------|---------|

Key:

\* - Grade A

(D) - Distinction in Special Paper

(M) - Merit in Special Paper

**Golden Gate Bridge**  
*Vicky Dühmke*



# GCSE Examinations

The GCSE results were:

## Sixth Form Entry:

Andrew Carrington - MS  
Chutima Chaiwatanasirikul - E  
Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul - E, PE  
Jonathan Davis - PH\*  
Phillip De Havilland Hall - PE  
Nils Detjen - E  
Rebecca Doyle - MS  
Douglas Ellison - MS  
Georgina Farr - MS  
Jonathan Freeman - MS  
Sebastian Grey - PE  
Jake Hawkins - PE\*  
Richard Histed - PH  
Chas Holliday - PE  
Annabel Howard - PE\*\*  
David Hughes - PH\*  
Julian Keith - PE  
Joel King - ms  
Christian Lucke - E  
Sam Maylott - PE\*  
Rebecca Perry - MS  
Abdelrahman Saadeddin - M, ss, A\*\*  
Christopher Scarth - PE\*\*  
Tristan Sharman - PE  
Anna-Karina Stuwert - M, pe  
Mark Sutton - PE  
Ashley Taylor - PE\*  
Edward Turvill - PE  
Rupert Webb - PE\*

## Fifth Form Entry:

Harry Aldridge-Blake - AD, E, EL, F, G, M, B, C, P  
Oliver Anthony - AD, e, el, f, G, M, B, C, P  
David Ashby - E, EL, F, G, M\*, B, C, P, EA  
Theo Berry - E\*\*, EL\*, F\*, GN, H\*\*, L\*, M\*\*, B\*, C\*,  
P Beans Boughton - E, EL\*, F\*, G\*, H\*, L\*, M, B, C, P  
Sophie Brown - AD, E\*, EL\*, F\*\*, G\*\*, M, B\*, C, P,  
EA  
Ben Butler - E\*, EL\*, G\*, GN, H\*, M, MU\*, B\*, C, P\*  
Edmund Compton - E\*, EL, F\*, G\*, L\*, M\*, MU\*\*, B,  
C\*, P\*  
Laura Donovan - E\*, EL\*, F\*, G\*, H\*, M, B, C, P, EA\*  
Robert Edmondson - ad(dp), e, el, F\*, g, GN, M, SS  
Nadia El-Titi - AD, E, EL, F, gn, m, ds, ea  
Lisa Engelstadter - AD\*\*, E, EL, g, M, DS, EA  
Ian Forster - AD, E\*, EL\*, F\*, GN, H\*, M\*, B, C, P  
Tom Gilbert - E, EL\*, F\*, GN\*, H\*, M, MU\*, B, C, P  
Susanna Hoelscher - E, F\*, g, M, SS, EA  
Prawim Horrunguang - AD(DP), e, el, M, DS  
Phillipa Hunt - E\*\*, EL\*, F\*\*, G\*\*, GN\*\*, L\*\*, M\*,  
B\*, C\*, P\*

Charlotte Kerton - AD, E, EL, g, gn, M, B, C, P  
Gemma Leathart - E\*, EL\*, F\*, G\*, GN\*, M, MU, B,  
C, P  
Jenny Mais - AD\*\*, E\*\*, EL\*, F\*, GN\*, H\*, M, B, C,  
P  
Beshlie McKelvie - AD\*\*, E, EL, F, G, M, DS, EA  
Dominic Morris - E, EL\*, F, G\*, H\*, M, MU, B, C, P  
Kate Nicholas - E\*, EL\*, F\*, G\*, H\*, M, B, C, P, EA\*  
Joel Pelly - AD\*, E, EL, F, H\*, M, B, C, p  
Gus Pickett - AD(DP), E, EL, F, G, M, B, C, P, EA  
Martina Rink - AD, e, f, m  
Robert Sammons - E, EL, F, g, M, MU, DS  
Johannes Schinzler - E, EL, F\*, g, GN\*\*, M, ds  
John Shenton - AD, E, EL\*, F, G, H, M, B, C, P  
Tara Sleggs - AD(DP)\*\*\*, E\*, EL, F\*, G\*\*, GN\*, M\*,  
B\*, C, P  
Charley Smith - E, EL, F, G, H, M, MU, B, C, P  
David Spenley - e, EL, f, g, m, ds, ea  
Nicholas Stanfield - E\*, EL\*, F\*\*, GN\*\*, H\*\*, L\*\*,  
M\*\*, B\*, C, P\*  
James Starkey - AD, E, EL, F, G, M, B, c, p  
Philip Webb - AD\*, E\*, EL\*, F, G\*, H\ M\ B, C, P

## Fourth Form Entry:

Sonja Forster - GN\*\*  
Alexandra Kaub - GN\*\*  
Marguerita Schumacher - GN\*\*

## Second Form Entry

Thomas Moss - F\*

**Key:** Capital letters show grades A-C, lower case letters  
grades D-F

\*\* - grade A\*

\* - grade A

A - Arabic

AD - Art & Design

AD(DP) - Art & Design (Drawing & Painting)

B- Biology

C - Chemistry

DR - Design & Realisation

DS - Double Award Science

E - English Language

EA - Expressive Arts

EL - English Literature

F- French

G - Geography

GN - German

H - History

L - Latin

M - Mathematics

MS - Media Studies

MU - Music

P - Physics

PE - Physical Education

PH - Photography

SS - Single Award Science



# TALKS

## British Pharmacological Society Lecture

Dr. Simon Taylor of Wellcome gave a presentation in May to 6B scientists on behalf of the British Pharmacological Society. He introduced pharmacology as the study of drug action and described simple in vitro experiments inviting the audience to make conclusions from the results. He reminded the students of the importance of research given that only 1:15,000 compounds synthesised by chemists will become a successful drug and the whole process takes from ten to twelve years costing typically £200 million. However the revenue from the sales of a drug might be £100 million per year and the stomach ulcer drug Zantac had certainly been a great success for his company, bringing in £4 million per day at one stage.

After a short video on careers in pharmacology Dr. Taylor described typical salaries in Glaxo Wellcome and reminded the pupils that the drug companies were good at sponsoring students. He generously described his unusual career path from school to present day and this prompted many interesting questions at the end.

CJW

# EXCURSIONS

## Biology 'A' Level Field Trip

Autumn in the Hebrides... or... marooned on a Scottish Isle!

The aim of this field trip is to introduce twelve Rendcomb students to a rare, beautiful and remote isle in the Inner Hebrides and, in the process, to collect the data for the 'A' level project element on rocky seashore ecology.

In simple terms, the six planned days (in fact eight as it turned out!) enabled us to survey five beaches of particular ecological interest and to chart the probable zonation of both flora and fauna. The overall objective was to construct a full key factor project.

The Isle of Colonsay also allowed us to see Atlantic and Grey seal pups at very close 'hissing'

range, to see open untouched beaches, to be part of a very fragile crofting community for a brief while, and in many ways get back to the simple yet important joys of seeing Biology as it should be, in the field.



It must be said, the weather in the last few days in October 1996 was not the kindest. For the first time in my experience the Caledonian-Macbrae ferry was not able to dock at the Colonsay pier. In short, we had to wait two days for the next ferry. As for me, my thirty eighth birthday will be one of note, stranded in the

Hebrides. Also the class of '96-'97 will not forget the experience in a hurry!

### Hebridean Team 1996:

G. Hunter-Smart, A. Peters, V. Dühmke, J. Shenton, J. Bartholemew, P. Wigfield, J. Emerson, S. Gillott, A. Donovan, W. Brittain-Jones, R. Arnold, M. Hall.

And a huge 'thank-you' to Mrs. P. Tolputt for her tremendous and cheerful support.

JHS

## Biology Visit to Oxford

On the morning of 3 December, 6A Biologists visited Oxford Botanical Gardens to study the diversity and adaptations of plants as part of their 'A' level course. Guided by the garden's resident experts we were shown the various glasshouse collections, ranging from aquatic ferns to carnivorous pitcher plants. Emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining plant diversity through conservation and breeding programmes, since there may be many species which could be of medical or economic use which might otherwise be lost forever.

After lunch a short stroll between the dreaming spires took us to the University Museum and a study of the vertebrate evolution. Whilst the intricacies of pentadactyl limb development occupied the attention of a few dedicated few, the fascinating treasure trove that is the Pitt Rivers Museum, complete with dug-out canoes and shrunken heads, proved irresistible to many.

In conclusion, this was a very enjoyable and interesting trip which encompassed many aspects of the Biology syllabus. It is envisaged that it will become a permanent feature of the Biology course.

CV

## Chemistry Study Day in London

During the last week of the Christmas Term, Sixth Form chemists travelled with their counterparts from the Cotswold School to the University of London's Institute of Education, an ugly, undecorated concrete mass which housed a large, comfortable lecture theatre and a students' union, both of which were available for the day. The object was to allow students to experience lectures and demonstrations to emphasise the fun of chemistry and its central role in everyday life. The speakers were acknowledged experts in their fields and had been selected for their enthusiasm and ability to communicate.

*Chemistry, Chocolate and Chocoholics* by Dr. Barbara Brockway of the Body Shop raised some interesting questions about chocolate's link with sex and drugs, although the statement about women preferring chocolate to sex may not have been well researched! This tasty complex cocktail of chemicals contains an amine, similar in structure to amphetamines (street name: speed). A person's apparent addiction to chocolate may depend on their ability to remove this chemical from their system and, if they are lacking in the necessary enzyme, they are likely to get "high" on chocolate and bananas, let alone speed.

Annabel Howard

*Chemistry and Criminal Investigation* by Dr. Robin Keeley of the Metropolitan Forensic Laboratory provided an insight into the scientific identification and use of evidence. A huge range of techniques are required to cope with the vast assortment of items which enter the laboratory. He cited the example of a whole front door which was being brought in as he left the lab that morning. Dr. Keeley discussed the work that went into the assassination in London by a pellet injected from an umbrella. The size of the cavity in the pellet suggested the type of poison because different poisons need to be administered in different amounts. For example, cyanide and arsenic require more than 100 milligrams, whereas snake venom and other biotoxins need only 0.1 milligram. The talk was illustrated with a selection of slides, some of which were quite gruesome. He emphasised that anyone with a science degree could enter this profession as it is

the ability to think and act scientifically which is needed.

Jake Hawkins

*Chemistry in the Atmosphere* by Professor David Phillips of Imperial College concentrated on the stratosphere, which includes the ozone layer, and the troposphere, the lower part in which we live. The chemistry in the stratosphere is driven by the sun's energy and the destruction of the ozone layer by CFCs and other agents was covered.

The importance of the troposphere's temperature inversion was emphasised and demonstrated by carefully pouring hot water into a tank filled with cold water. In reality the temperature of the troposphere falls with height, until a sudden rise is found at the start of the stratosphere. This helps to stabilise our atmosphere. The lecturer showed how local temperature inversions, such as those found in Los Angeles or Athens, lead to severe pollution problems.

Richard Histed

*The Chief Examiner's session* by Dr. Rod Beavon during the lunch break informed students of the mechanics of examining as well as providing a few tips. These included never using red or green ink because red is used by the marker and green is used by the checker. Avoid using pencil as many examiners are too old to be able to see pencil! The main point was always to fight for the best answer and to avoid the situation where the examiner has to make judgments.

Adam Phillips

*The Elusive Magic Bullet* by Professor John Mann was a talk we had previously attended at St. Mary's School, Caine. It provided an insight into the evolution of drugs from the folk medicine origins to their modern clinical counterparts. Examples included the asthma drug Ventolin, the anti-malarial drugs quinine and Qinhaoosu, various antibiotics and drugs for the treatment of AIDS and cancer.

CJW

*Atoms, Electrons and Light* by Dr. Stephen Price and Dr. Andrea Sella was a spectacular demonstration lecture carried out mostly in the dark. It began with everyone being given a polo mint and breaking it in the dark. We were amazed to find that light was emitted when the polo mints cracked. It turns out that the crushing of sugar crystals gives the same effect. The double act was

both informative and amusing, showing how light is emitted by chemical reactions, gas discharge tubes and by household products previously irradiated by UV light. A novel way of demonstrating flame tests was to explode a gas in a balloon containing the salt being tested. The lecture finished with light from the burning of a secret mixture causing a hydrogen-chlorine mixture to explode and fire its bung to the roof of the theatre!

David Hughes

During a good lecture, time passes quickly, a range of visual aids are used and the audience will be entertained. At the end, one should come away with a few snippets of information which will help with one's understanding of the topic. By this definition, the Chemistry Study Day was a great success.

CJW

## Geography Fieldwork

The Geography Department has completed another successful year of field work which started

Form's locational knowledge of Europe. Geography is a dynamic and changing subject and changing our fieldwork destinations keeps the subject exciting and up to date for the staff.

Other, more local field trips were arranged this year. The Sixth Form visited Cheltenham with Mr. Brealy and Mrs. Lowe, and also had the opportunity to visit a local organic farm. At GCSE there was work on farming, rivers and urban structure. Mr. Brealy has done much research on the urban morphology of Cheltenham and students at GCSE now enjoy a fascinating insight into the town's development and future outlook. River work remains fundamental to our success at GCSE. The projects on the river Churn are produced to a higher and higher standard each year. The mysterious behaviour of the Churn and its disappearing flow at Rendcomb lake produced much debate and some excellent theories this time. Others followed a detailed survey of Rendcomb's microclimate and, despite some human error on the data collection, were able to write accurately on the variable weather patterns around the village and could link the changes seen over the measuring period very effectively to weather patterns over the U. K. as a whole. We are pleased



**Cat bells,  
Lake District**

well with a productive week for the Upper Sixth at the Blencathra Centre in the Lake District. This annual trip takes place in early September and we enjoyed some good weather, marvellous accommodation and a number of students completed some successful 'A' level projects on a range of topics, including soil and vegetation changes, tourism management and river dynamics. This was the first time that an internally assessed piece of coursework was required for the examination and the students produced work of a high standard. We will not be returning to Blencathra in September 1997, but are, instead, heading further afield to the Eagle's Nest Centre in the Cevennes National Park of Southern France. We are looking forward to extending the Sixth

that the field work this year has enabled our students to enter the external examinations with some sound work already behind them.

Lower down the school students have enjoyed looking at the local environment for evidence of river pollution, weathering and Settlement. In particular the First Form enjoyed a fascinating joint History/Geography trip to Chepstow Castle. Mr. Graham and I were pleased that we could make this link between our respective subjects and will pursue this collaboration in the future.

Overall this has been a very successful and exciting year of Geographical Fieldwork. I would like to thank the students for their eager

participation and Mr. Brealy for his enthusiasm for this work which is helping us to include more provision for fieldwork throughout the Geography curriculum.

NG

## Cadbury World

It started off as a small visit by a group of CGSE geographers, but quickly grew to a major outing requiring a large coach and both school minibuses. Cadbury World is the ideal place to go on a grey winter's afternoon because the warmth, the smell, the colour and, of course, the taste all contribute to cheering one up. The initial Aztec experience with the sample of spiced chocolate drink makes a good introduction and then one follows the history of chocolate making. It is interesting to see chocolates being hand made and the new ride through "Cocoa Bean Land" provides a contrast more suited to younger children.

The multiple mirror gantry never ceases to impress and this leads into a shop where bargains are available to those who look for them carefully. Everyone enjoyed their afternoon and we are grateful to Mrs. Gill for organising the outing.

CJW

## Earth Science Field Trip

As an introduction to sedimentary rocks, fossils and geological features, the fourth year spent a day in the field. The fair weather allowed them to dwell at each site and contemplate the enormity of geological time, the infinitesimally slow movement of rocks and Man's exploitation of these resources.

The day began at Hock Cliff on the River Severn and, although no-one fell into the awful grey mud, David Newby did manage partially to immerse himself in the river. Some excellent samples of ammonite, crinoid (sea lily) and gryphaea (oyster) fossils were found and everyone saw the obvious anticline (fold) on the cliff face and on the beach.

After a brief pause at Gloucester Docks it was on to Upper Soudley in the Forest of Dean where steeply dipping rocks ranging from sandstone to limestone were investigated.

Sadly Gloucestershire does not provide us with examples of metamorphic and igneous rocks; however there must be schools in the country who lament the absence of fossils in their area!

CJW

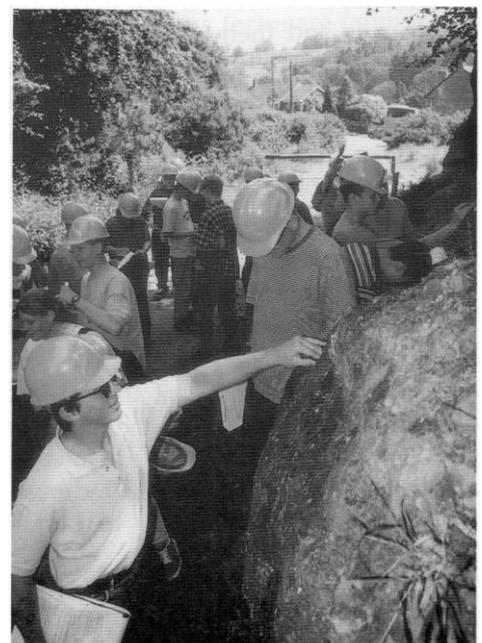
## Purton Water Treatment Works

As part of their 'A' level course, 6A chemists study two option topics and this year one of these has been environmental chemistry. This includes the atmosphere, soils, recycling, sewage and water treatment. Consequently they were fortunate to have a visit to Bristol Water at Purton, near Sharpness Docks organised through our Neighbourhood Engineers scheme.

Mr. Tim Barker, the Area Manager, firstly gave an overview of the 150 year old water company, then proceeded to go into the chemistry of the various processes. Water is extracted from the Gloucester-Sharpness canal and treated with chlorine and ozone, the latter being made on site, to kill pathogenic organisms. Iron sulphate is used to make tiny solid particles flocculate (stick together) and settle whilst impurities are removed by activated carbon covered in organisms which live off the organics. Most of the chemicals used are toxic or hazardous so many precautions are taken to protect the workers and the consumers. It was interesting to learn that Bristol Water had changed to iron sulphate from aluminium sulphate as a direct result of worries expressed by its consumers in and around Bristol after the serious accident at Camelford in Cornwall when a load of aluminium sulphate was accidentally placed in the wrong pool of water, thus poisoning the consumers. This visit ended with a demonstration of the sophisticated computer control and data logging centre run by just two people!

It is always useful to put classroom theory into perspective and this would not be possible without professionals giving up their valuable time to share their knowledge.

CJW



## Visit to Poland

Annabel Howard (6B) writes to describe some of her experiences last Summer holidays on a visit to Poland.

I was slightly apprehensive on the coach to Heathrow as I had never flown alone before. I only knew I was going to Poland-I knew nothing about the country.

I was on my way to spend one week working with my Father's friend, Prof. Limon, the Head of Genetics in the school of medicine in Gdansk. Being two weeks before my Biology genetics module, I thought this would serve as an excellent revision course.

On my first day in the laboratory, the professor showed me around. It was a corridor with separate laboratories branching off it on the top floor of the University. Each lab had a different specific, although genetic, function. There was a Culture Room where cells were cultured so they could undergo cytogenetic analysis; another room was full of high-tech microscopes. In addition to other laboratories, there was a library with access to the internet. I was quickly shown what each laboratory did, and then introduced to a doctor who spoke good English. My time was divided between working with her and the professor. First she brought me a photo of a metaphase (a process of cell division) and told me to arrange the chromosomes in order (to karyotype it). This was hard as I had never studied chromosome G- bonding before; however the more I did it the easier it became and I began to work on details of the latest case. This involved a little girl with suspected Down's Syndrome - through the research it was proved she had an extra chromosome 21 which confirmed the condition.

The following day, I used a computer to locate a good metaphase cycle of cell division through the microscope and then photograph the image as it came up on the screen. The computer was designed for this purpose and was able to straighten the image to make the karyotyping process easier.

Throughout the week I had other work around the lab (even involving checking the English on a letter being sent to an American University! ). I was told of a challenging project on the penultimate day of the stay: some suspected cancer tumours had arrived for dissection, these samples needed to be mixed with several chemicals to undertake tests - work which needed to be done very accurately. The work seemed tedious - it showed the more monotonous side to being a research Biologist.

On the last day I took the opportunity of revising the work on mutation for my 'A' level module. The help they offered me was very useful and gave me practical insight.

Although I saw that at times the work is repetitive, I also enjoyed several aspects and was grateful to experience genetic laboratory work in such an unusual location as Poland. The experience certainly reinforced my ambition to soon be wearing my own white coat!

## Junior Trip to Germany

*We have been allowed to print a few choice extracts from Rosie Warrington's letter to her parents...*

Munster, Tuesday  
April 2nd

Dear Mum and Dad,

We're having a great time. Wish you were here (just joking! ). The weather is great - and so are the boys - Ha, Ha! I suppose you want to know what we're doing, well here goes...

On the first day we went on a boat trip down the Rhein. It was a huge boat and we were practically the only people on it (a few elderly people were around so we practised our German on them). Becky and Heidi hit the dance floor and waltzed the day away. The rest of us played cards, admired the view, took photos and laughed a lot. We got off the boat at Linz am Rhein, had Würist and pommes frites at the Imbiss (with 'Currysosse'). We then had a look round the town and got the boat back. On our return, we went to the Drachenfels where the boys ran up the hill and got lost! (Typical!!! ). They obviously didn't understand the sign saying " Danger! Crumbling Wall! Keep Out! (Who teaches them German? ) and so we spent a good hour looking for them. On the way home we stopped at the Pizzeria. It was SCRUMMY! J. P. left his bag behind. It was quite late by the time we got to the youth hostel.

Day 2

We went to Köln on the train. I felt sick! There we went shopping then to the Cathedral where we all had vertigo and had trouble getting down again. We then walked down the river to the chocolate factory and museum. There was free chocolate! Yum!

We went home, tarted ourselves up, and then went out for a romantic meal at MacDonalds!!

Day 3

Sunday - This was probably the day most of us were looking forward to. We visited PhantasiaLand

(a German Theme Park) where there were many different rides and lots of nice things to eat. We spent a whole day here. It was *phantastic!*

Oh, Yes, It was Easter Sunday and when we got down to breakfast we found the Easter Bunny had been!

#### Day 4

Monday - we set off for Munster - the ride was a couple of hours and most of us slept all the way. The youth hostel was twice as nice as the last one and the people were very friendly. We could take paddle boats out in the lake nearby. J. P., James and Hiro went too far away and we had to wait ages for them to come back. We went out to a corner cafe for a meal. The food was nice and Becky had steak.

#### Day 5

Today we shopped 'til we dropped then went to a supermarket to buy provisions for our picnic by the lake. After that we went to Munster Zoo which was really big and was great.

Two days left now so I suppose I'd better post this soon! Here's what we've got planned for the rest of the week...

#### Day 6

Wednesday - We're going to Bielefeld to look round a factory that makes cake and pudding mixes, spices, cevals, frozen food - everything, really! Hopefully we will have another picnic, and then go to buy some last minute presents. Miss Houghton has promised us another go on the pedal boats (if the boys don't go out too far) and, if we're good (aren't we always?!), we're going to a little exclusive swimming pool complex with lots of interjoining pools, slides and tunnels. We had better behave ourselves!

#### Day 7

The journey home! I hope there will not be as many traffic jams as there were on the way here. We're going to stop off at the Cite Europe at Calais

to look around. Mr. Patterson and Miss Houghton want to do a spot of shopping there too. I think I will have run out of money by then. I wish we could stay longer. Must go. We're off in a minute!

See you soon,  
Missing you (not)!

Rosie xx

Rosie (left) & Vicky



### The French Exchange to Annecy

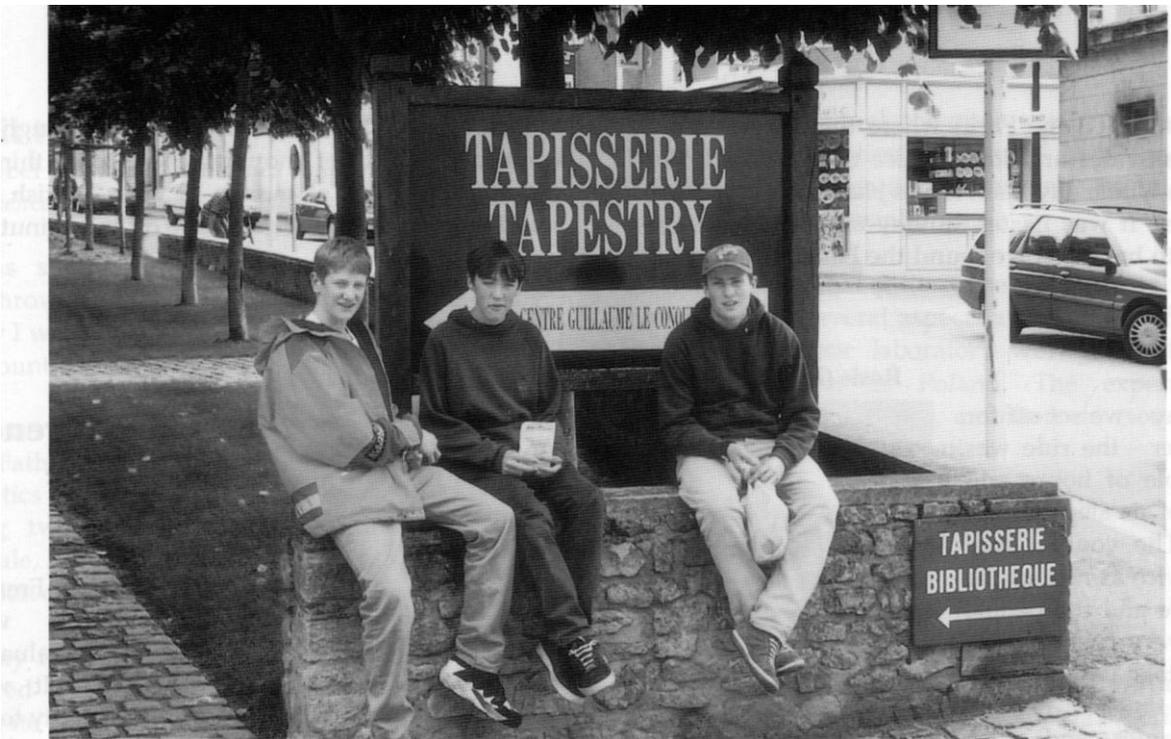
The Annecy French Exchange was definitely a valuable experience. It was an opportunity to be both introduced to French culture and to improve my own French - and a good excuse to go on holiday!

Fortunately Marie (my exchange partner) had already visited me in England so we knew each other well, however I was a little nervous about meeting the family although they made me feel very welcome.

The lake in Annecy was beautiful - I was not surprised to find that it is one of the cleanest lakes in Europe and is surrounded by the Alps which contribute to the wonderful scenery. The views were magnificent and I was fortunate (amongst a busy schedule) to spend some time walking. Some of my English friends were staying in Metz-Tessy (the small village where my family lived) so we could meet up every now and then - we could engage in more relaxed conversation comparing our various experiences.

I am still writing to Marie and want to do the exchange again this Summer. It was definitely a worthwhile experience as we have kept in contact and my brother will be visiting Marie's brother this year. I just hope to have as good a time as, I did last year, if not better!

Jenny Mais



## Fashion & Textiles Trip to Normandy

We left Rendcomb with Mr. Lea at the wheel at 6.30 pm on Friday in high spirits to head for Rendcomb's Fourth Year Normandy landings. The ferry was brilliant (not that Will or BJ knew much about it). After a traditional breakfast, our first point of call was Point du Hoc. Next, to the cemetery at Omaha Beach which was moving and interesting. Then in Bayeux some dodgy purchases were made before we went into the Tapestry museum (boring but impressive!). After the Tapestry, we had a 2 hour journey to our house near Gorrion. The house *La Daumasse* was very nice and peaceful (at least until we arrived). The lads and Miss Houghton went shopping, while Charlotte, Jamela and Sarah checked out the house. For dinner we had a delicious barbie. Chief chef was Nick, who cooked almost too many sausages for even me to eat and some undercooked chicken (except BJ and Will who got large steaks). After a game of Monopoly (which Frau suspiciously won while Mr. Lea was banker) we got some sleep at last!

The next morning, after numerous croissants, we had a nice long journey to Arroranches. There we went to the D-Day museum, which was very exciting. After a photo-shoot on the beach, we went to Gorrion and caught the boat back to Portsmouth and finally arrived at Rendcomb at 12.00 pm. "It was greeat!" (quote Will).

Laurie Barton

## Godman House Christmas Outing

Each year the Junior Girls, both Day and Boarding, are invited on an annual outing at the end of the Christmas Term. The first term of the academic year is long and for many of the first and third years in Godman House, it is their first term at Rendcomb. The time is right, therefore, to look forward to a special trip out at the end of the term. It was with great excitement that we all piled into a luxury coach at 3.00 in the afternoon on the last Tuesday of term to travel to the famous London Palladium Theatre to see the musical *Oliver*.

It had taken weeks to decide what to wear for such a special occasion and everyone looked very fine in their smart theatre clothes. The atmosphere on the coach was electric in anticipation of the evening to come as we got closer and closer to London. Sandwiches, drinks and wonderful flapjacks were consumed on route amid the chatter and music. On arrival in the City, the coach made a detour around Trafalgar Square to see the enormous Christmas tree and all the wonderful Christmas lights shining in the streets and shop windows. With plenty of time allowed, we all sprung off the coach and headed for a McDonald's for yet more to eat and then on to Hamleys. This must be the best time of year to visit the biggest Toy Shop in London with every conceivable toy imaginable on display.

We then moved on to the Palladium where Robert Lindsey was waiting to give us a fine display of brilliant acting as Fagin in Lionel Bart's magical musical. The show was superb containing many memorable songs which everyone knew and such

good performances that we were all captivated for the whole time. Although it took two and a half hours, the show seemed to be over all too quickly and we were back on the coach heading for home.

No trip is complete without a late night snack, a drive down Oxford Street and a look at the lights of Harrods. With so many sights, sounds and memories to take in during the evening, many of us fell asleep fairly soon once out of London. Others sang for a while before they too succumbed to the gentle sway of the coach as we headed for home happy but tired. It was the most splendid outing which will remain in all our memories for many years to come.

PSW

### **Junior Boys at RAF Lynham**

On Wednesday 19th March we went to the RAF base in Lynham. We travelled in a bus around the base and we came to the fire station. They have got massive fire engines. They carried lots of water. Then we went up to the Radar room where they saw where all the phones were. Then we went up to the air traffic control room; we saw a plane flying away. The pilot has to tell the person on the air traffic control and he had to make sure the runway was clear. It was okay.

Sam Hicks

### **Fourth Year Visit to the Cirencester By-pass**

As members of the local Neighbourhood Engineers Group, Mr. Patterson and Mrs. Botham were able to arrange for seven fourth year pupils to visit the construction site of the A417/A419 Swindon to Gloucester road improvement which by-passes Cirencester.

On arrival at the main site, the engineers showed us, using maps and slides, some of the problems they had overcome during the project. We learned that no trees had been cut down in Springtime so that the nesting birds were not disturbed, and that a bat expert had been on call.

We were soon putting on jackets and hard hats and climbing into two site Range Rovers to be driven along the new road. We visited the Churn Valley viaduct and then drove South towards South Cerney to find the "concrete train". When this extremely wide machine was located, we were able to leave the cars and watch the road surface being laid.

Back at the site office drinks and crisps were waiting for us and there was a final opportunity to ask questions such as "when will the by-pass be finished?" "Very soon" was the reply.

JG

### **6B Trip to *The Tempest* at Oxford**

On Thursday 23rd January, The 6B English group with Mr. Tolputt visited the Oxford Playhouse to see a production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Being one of our set texts, we all vaguely knew the outline of the plot, although, admittedly, some people hadn't quite grasped the concept of what a tempest actually was. The picture was soon to be made a lot clearer...

We agreed the production was very impressive and helped to clarify the almost absurdly fantastical storyline of the play. The role of Ariel was successfully played by an actress, as opposed to an actor, as we had previously seen on the video. The lead characters of Prospero, Ariel and Caliban were strong and believable, with the comical Stephano and Trinculo providing much light relief, something which made us see Shakespeare in a different, and perhaps even more sympathetic, light.

Overall the trip was extremely worthwhile, greatly helping our understanding of the play, proving that approaches to Shakespeare can vary (as one would expect) and helping strengthen our appreciation of the writer. Just don't mention the minibus...!

Rachel Gilyeard

### ***A Comedy of Errors***

Last October, Students from Rendcomb, in association with many other schools in the area were fortunate to be invited to a workshop given by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Cotswold Leisure Centre in Cirencester. This had been planned by the Cotswold District Council who had provided the project as a means of allowing young people to get a 'behind the scenes' look at how the company manages, stages, and produces a play.

*Comedy of Errors* was chosen because of its particular appeal to young people, its lively, humorous qualities and its accessible interpretation. The performance was slick, comical

and colourful as promised and it was a shame that we had to restrict the trip to Fifth and Sixth Formers as many of the younger members of the College would have enjoyed the production. As is usual with a lot of RSC tours, the Education Unit put on a workshop for local schools prior to the matinee performance. Entitled *Alive and Kicking in the Cotswolds*, the workshop provided valuable insight into the 'page-to-stage' process covering lighting, sound, music and stage direction. The band provided special interest, seated in front of the stage with a marvellous battery of percussion instruments which they demonstrated, and invited members of the audience to take part in a 'hands-on' demonstration.

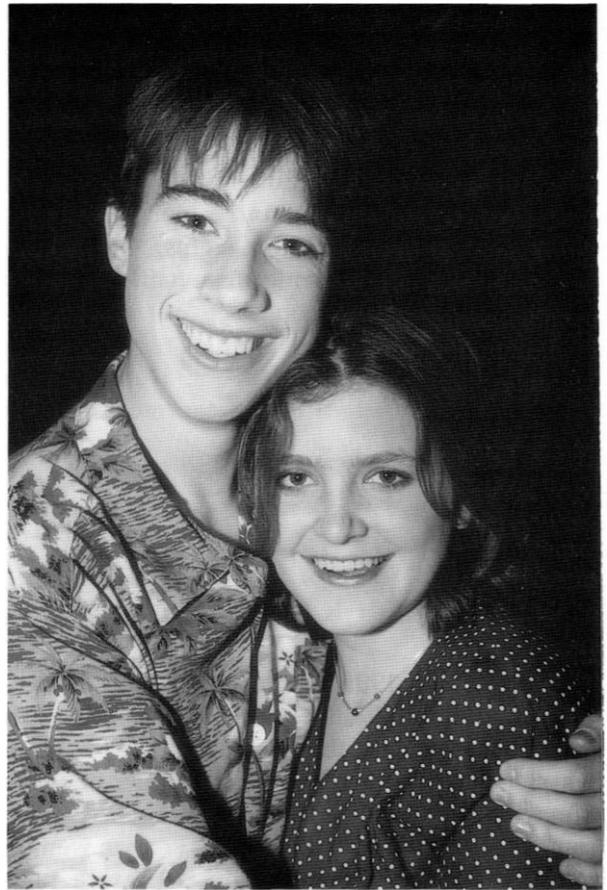
Thanks go to the Cotswold District Council for sponsoring the event and we await the next tour with eager anticipation.

KME/JPW

### *A Streetcar Named Desire*

On a relatively warm January afternoon, the 6A and 6B English classes joined by various Performing Arts 'Luvvies' all jumped aboard a coach destination London and a rather exciting production of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Most of us were studying the play for 'A' level and some of us had just participated in the College's production - Becky Doyle and I were able to pride ourselves in the fact that we knew the parts of Blanche and Stella inside out!

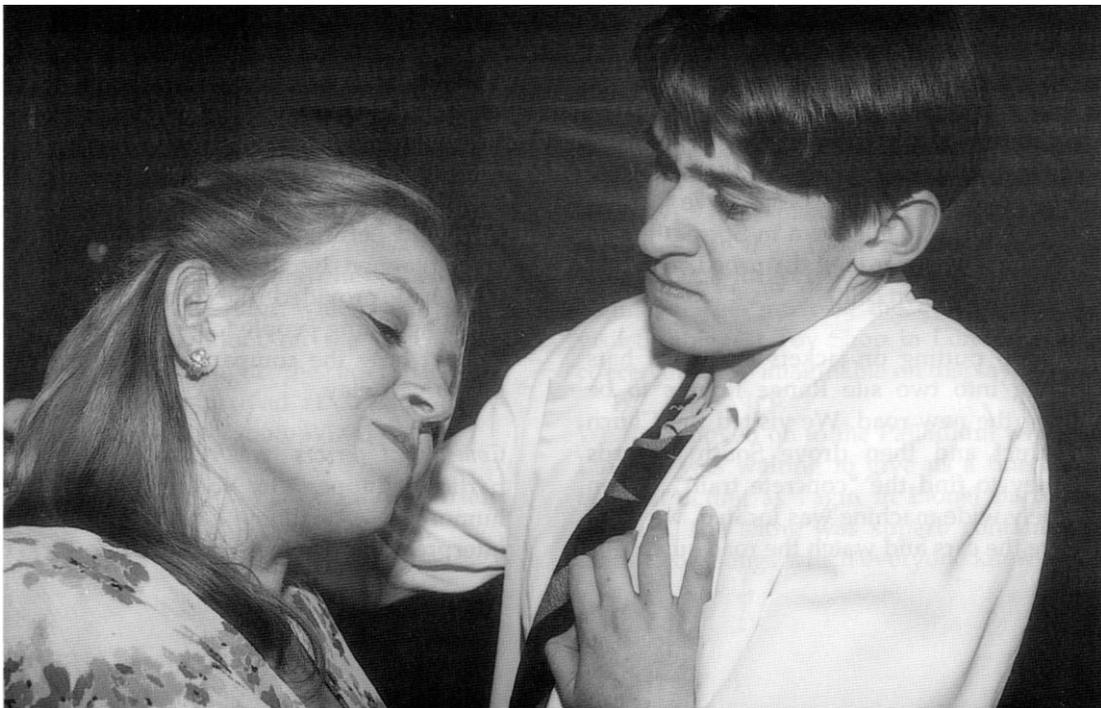
The role of Blanche was taken by Jessica Lang, a demanding part and often compared to the role of Hamlet for this reason. She gave a stunning performance although her really annoying laugh began to irritate by the end of the performance.



We all had a brilliant night and were intrigued by the way the play had been staged and by the simple but very effective use of lighting. General reports from Rendcomb critics were that Stella was too forgiving of Stanley, Blanche was far too hysterical and showed little change in her state of mind as the play developed. Stanley... well I think all the girls agreed Stanley was just perfect!

Naomi Gibbons

### Scenes from Rendcomb's *Streetcar*



# SPORT

## Rugby Football

This season saw the College fielding six teams on a regular basis and completing a fixture list that is now significantly different from those of some three or four years ago. Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the spirit and commitment of all teams remains as impressive as ever.

New fixtures against schools with comparable playing resources to our own such as Douai, Leighton Park and St. Edward's have been introduced in the attempt to secure block fixtures in which we are able to compete realistically across all age groups, rather than just at senior level as has been the case in the recent past. Consequently, we have made substantial progress in our search for a fixture list that sensibly reflects the changed balance between boys and girls at Rendcomb.

A certain amount of redeployment amongst the coaching staff was prompted by the departure of those two stalwarts of Rendcomb Rugby, Mike Newby and Lindsay Haslett. Paul Sykes was 'promoted' to take charge of the U15 squad after many years with the U14s, and Alex Brealy moved up to fill the gap. Martin Graham continued to run the U13 squad with the assistance of Dan White, and 'new boy' Carlo Vuolo took over the 3rd XV under the watchful gaze of Martin Griffiths who, once again, more than maximised the potential of a 2nd XV judged by several pessimists to be completely lacking in such at the start of the season.

For the third successive year, the 1st XV enjoyed a winning season, albeit not as convincing as their immediate predecessors. With the departure of twelve of last year's hugely successful side, substantial rebuilding was required around captain Charles Webb and vice-captain William Brittain-Jones to produce a team that played much entertaining and dynamic rugby, but sometimes lacked the killer instinct required to finish off opposition of lesser calibre. Consequently, their record does not reflect the quality of much of the rugby played. Perversely, the outstanding performances of the season were in narrow defeats against the two most powerful sides on the circuit.

Once again, the exemplary attitude throughout the senior squad is worthy of note, and the mutually supportive ethos that has developed in recent seasons is one of the most pleasing aspects of Rendcomb Rugby.

Beyond the senior squad, much enterprising and enjoyable Rugby was played even though junior sides continued to find themselves struggling at times against physically larger opponents. Nevertheless, the commitment and enthusiasm of players and spectators alike never wavered, and this is very much to their credit.

The season culminated in the annual club dinner, and, although the 'flu epidemic prevented the attendance of several players, it again proved to be an impressive and highly enjoyable occasion illuminated by the return of Mike Newby as guest speaker.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those involved in rugby this season. To the club officers, and to Charles and B-J in particular, and to all the players. To the ground staff and the caterers; and, above all, to my coaching colleagues whose dedication and enthusiasm represent the very essence of Rendcomb rugby.

MS

### Officers of the Club

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Club Captain:   | C. Webb           |
| Vice Captain    | W. Brittain-Jones |
| 2nd XV Captain: | A. King           |
| 3rd XV Captain: | D. Hughes         |
| Hon. Secretary: | R. Witchell       |

### Playing Record 1996;

|               | P  | W | D | L | PF  | PA  |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| <b>1st XV</b> | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 248 | 150 |
| <b>2nd XV</b> | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 157 | 161 |
| <b>3rd XV</b> | 4  | 2 | 0 | 2 | 44  | 96  |

### 1st XV

Overall the 1st XV season was an up and down affair where some outstanding performances mingled with some disappointing efforts. The problem faced by the team was a lack of a ruthless spirit which allowed us to lose several matches which should have been won by 20 points; three matches in particular come to mind against Bredon school, Kelly College and Bristol Cathedral School. However, the first match of the season was a convincing win against a disappointing Rednock side which set us up for the first real test of the season the following week against Kingswood School in Bath. This resulted in a loss which showed the inexperience of the 1st XV players of which only five had represented the College at this level before.



**Senior squad at Kelly College**

In our next four matches we won three and lost one, whilst not really producing our best form. The loss was against Bredon and disappointing as we played most of the constructive Rugby and were unlucky to give away a try and several penalties. Of the three victories during this period, two were against sides that that we had never played previously and these competitive but deserved wins bade well for future fixtures.

Our last two matches before half term were striking in the difference. The match against The King's school, Gloucester was our hardest fixture of the term and although we lost by 12 points, the performance was full of passion and aggressive tackling. They were undoubtedly the outstanding side on our circuit, losing only narrowly to Colston School in the Daily Mail Under 18 cup. In contrast our final fixture before the break was a low- key affair against another new fixture, Leighton Park School in Reading. Missing several key players the win was convincing if not inspiring.

## **2nd XV**

It was always going to be a difficult season; with only two members of the squad having played

senior rugby at this level before, there was a definite lack of experience. However, we started the season confidently, and were beginning to work as a team quite early on, with last season's successful 3rd XV making up the bulk of the team.

Our first match, though, was tough against opponents who looked much bigger than us. We stuck to our task, and some strong back-line running was rewarded with two tries. The coach was left pondering numerous refereeing decisions, and wishing we were elsewhere; on a bowling green perhaps? Our next two matches were very tight, but with an improving pack we picked up two solid victories. The match against Bredon was particularly memorable for a try by the captain (definitely a collector's item), and the awesome sight of Dominic Morris tackling a prop about three times his size; things were looking up.

For the three matches that followed, however, our coach's hair started to turn a distinct grey colour; we lost all three. Admittedly, we faced a far better side in Bromsgrove School, but against King's, Gloucester and Marling we gave away careless possession, which ultimately decided both contests. At this point in the term we all decided to become more consistent.

Needless to say, this rediscovered determination was of great benefit to us in the last part of the season, as we won three of our last four matches, scoring fifteen tries in the process. Some new players were drafted in, and, in addition, our coach experimented with positional changes which were successful and gave the team more balance and pace.

To end the season, a cameo appearance from Harvey Davies against Kingham Hill provided much entertainment for players and spectators alike.

In a season where so many contributed, a few players stood out: top-scorer Tristan Sharman at scrum-half; Dominic Morris in the centre. Jake Hawkins, when he was awake, proved to be versatile and belligerent, belying his size; Fifth Formers John Shenton and Tom Gilbert, dynamically excellent (re "soft" and "hard" bits of the body); Toby Abbott, always aggressive; and of course the captain who marshalled the team well on and off the pitch, despite the occasional tackling difficulty, the most notable of which came at the Rugby Club Dinner, where he felt too ill to be able to tackle the 2nd XV speech. On the other hand, vice-captain Stewart "Mr. Mobile" Taylor stood by throughout the season, always giving of his best, despite the obvious handicap of his hair.

The 2nd XV of vintage 1996 was one based heavily on the set-up of next season's 1st XV; on this evidence senior rugby will continue to thrive at Rendcomb for the foreseeable future. Indeed, the co-operation within the senior squad was excellent; the rapport that develops between Rendcomb rugby players must be a major factor in its success and the enjoyment gained. We would like to thank Mr. Griffiths for his time as coach; he was always honest and direct in commenting on our performances, but if he is also honest about the season he will admit he enjoyed it.

Adam King  
Stewart Taylor

Team from: A. King (Captain), S. Taylor (vice captain), T. Abbott, H. Aldrich-Blake, B. Butler, A. Carrington, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, H. Davies, P. de Havilland Hall, J. Emerson, I. Forster, T. Gilbert, J. Hawkins, C. Holliday, J. Keith, S. Maylott, D. Morris, J. Schinzler, T. Sharman, T. Shaw, J. Shenton, C. Smith, J. Smith, J. Starkey, M. Sutton, R. Webb, D. Wragg.



**1st XV in action**

### **3rd XV**

The Season began rather shakily, but over the first two weeks we managed to pull together a team to face Kingswood at the end of the second week. Unfortunately we lost, which put pressure on us to improve. This was a good thing as we developed talents and aspirations to play better Rugby.

The next four weeks were critical as far as reshaping and improving were concerned. Many of the backs changed positions and the pack followed suit, with very few of us staying where we were. We did improve immensely over the weeks and we were ready to face King's School, Gloucester but sadly we lost quite convincingly. A second match against Kingswood was cancelled by the opposition. This disappointment was, however, reversed when we played Farmors School, who initially tried to cancel, but thanks to the persistence of Mr. Griffiths, we were able to travel there and win.

Later in the term we inherited an under-15's game against Wycliffe College but we failed to come up with the goods and lost. The following Wednesday we had a fixture arranged against Marling but they were unable to raise a team and cancelled. We then played our best match of the season against Cheltenham College Under-16 team, achieving a narrow victory in a brilliant game.

Unfortunately I missed it as I was at Twickenham watching the Barbarians lose to Australia.

The following week we were due to play Kingham Hill School but true to form, or so it was beginning to seem, they cancelled. Although that was another lost opportunity we didn't really mind as that was the night of the Rugby Club dinner. Everyone enjoyed celebrating the triumphs of the season, and it gave us an opportunity to show our thanks to Mr. Vuolo for coaching us. He has done a great job in his first term and I would like to wish him every success in his future coaching at Rendcomb; we hope to work further with him next year.

David Hughes

## U15 XV

It was a promising start to the season with an early win against Rednock School, but injury almost immediately set in when Yuki Takanashi broke his leg playing against Farmors School.

Unfortunately, defeats came all too regularly from then on. We suffered only one heavy loss which was against King's School, Gloucester. Nevertheless the team remained positive right through the season as was shown on the pitch by all the players putting in 100% effort in both practices and matches.

In the forwards, Nick Hall, Tom Mais and Dan Riddle showed strength and speed recovering the ball at every breakdown. Ben Cox and Donald Godfrey kept the lineouts steady and supported everyone. Dean Armstrong-Wilde was the powerhouse at the front of the scrum showing commitment throughout the season. Andrew Dolleymore played an excellent hooker although injury to his neck through a bad tackle took him out of action temporarily during the season.

In the backs, Carlos Garcia, Tristan Day and Theo Berry showed excellent attacking skills and added real pace to the side. Matt Williams and Andy Sage played well in both supporting and covering roles. Ed Farnsworth and James Brittain-Jones scored some excellent match winning tries and tackled superbly. Although new to the game, Yuki Takanashi and Rocky Fung stunned the opposition with their lightning pace and power.

Other noteworthy performances came from the amazing tackling power of Will Warrington and kicking skills of Will Witchell.

Special thanks go to Mr. Sykes who kept us going throughout the season and whose expertise helped us to five good victories.

There is a lot of potential in the squad and the experience they will gain in senior Rugby will enable them to be a stronger team next year.

Well done!

D. Newby

Played 14, won 5, drew 2, lost 7

Team from: D. Newby (capt), N. Hall, D. Armstrong-Wilde, A. Dolleymore, T. Mais, D. Riddle, D. Godfrey, B. Cox, W. Warrington, L. Barton, W. Witchell, M. Williams, C. Garcia, T. Berry, T. Day, Y. Takanashi, R. Fung, J. Brittain-Jones, A. Sage, E. Farnsworth, O. Jeffcott.

## U14 XV

The attitude from the squad throughout the season was impressive, which meant we never gave up. Unfortunately, the scores at the end did not reflect the skill and determination of all the players. The practices were all very well organised and we were all keen to learn, as well as have some fun. After a few weeks we had quite a strong, well drilled team and had at last sorted out the back positions, with Dom Sharman and Paul Szybiak as the centres and Adam Padmore (Paddy) at full back.

Unfortunately for Paddy and the whole team, in a match at St. Edward's, he ran in hard to catch the ball, but slipped awkwardly onto his wrist and broke both his bones in his right arm. The next match (Leighton Park) our confidence in defence was poor but we still managed to pull it together, thanks to the pack. The team played well with Hiroyasu Ino, Martin Good, Michael Elsworth and Robbie Nicholas in the front row working very well at rucking and mauling. The two locks Oli Morris and Tom Drew with Robert Knight and the two flankers, Henry Weston, Richard Collinson. Mathew Collier and Paul Bongiovanni put in some strong, hard tackles. The whole pack was successful at scrummaging and Ben Stanfield fed the ball well to the backs, setting up a lot of opportunities, especially for Oli Jones, Simon Bullock, Dom, Paul and of course Ignacio Garcia- Valdecasas with his amazing speed; unfortunately he never lasted a whole match because of a serious knee problem. All in all I feel that the entire team had pure power and enough commitment to see us through the bad spells; again I say that the ability of the squad was not reflected by the final scores.

Freddie Lait

Played 12, Won 4, Lost 8, points for: 135, points against: 320

Team from: R. Nicholas, M. Good, M. Elsworthy, H. Ino, O. Morris, T. Drew, O. Jeffcott, R. Collinson, H. Weston, R. Knight, F. Lait (capt. ), B. Stanfield, D. Sharman, I. Garcia-Valdecasas, P. Szybiak, S. Bullock, O. Jones, P. Bongiovanni, M. Neale, R. Uzzell, R. Smallman

## U13 XV

Played 11, Won 2, Lost 9, points for: 111, points against 295.

Team from: J. Pratt (capt), T. Bates, R. Birkbeck, D. Bond, T. Butler, C. Cowper, G. Drew, M. Ewing, S. Hicks, C Jacobs, C. Jeffreys, T. Lait, E. MacCurrach, R. McKelvie, N. Maylott, T. Moss, D. Roper, J. Sabourin, S. Ward.

The Statistics tell their own story: here was a team who were plucky but all too often outgunned and outclassed. With only a small squad to pick from - both in terms of numbers and size - it was clear that the season might well be an uphill struggle, and so indeed it proved. We chalked up a substantial victory against Cheltenham College Junior School, won narrowly against Magdalen College, and lost narrowly to Bredon and Kingham Hill, but in all the other matches we suffered heavy defeats. The players were willing, but lacked the basic skills in so many positions, and in so many facets of the game, that a good side would always find us out. In those circumstances, team confidence was often rather fragile, and the internal morale of the side tended to give way at times. The best game of the season was undoubtedly the narrow 34-36 defeat against Bredon. The result was in doubt right up to the very last minute, and the team threw everything they had into that match. Sadly it was not to be their day. But then, that was the story of the season as a whole...

MHG/DW

## Senior Girls' Hockey

The season began with a slight air of frustration at not having our own Astro turf pitch. However we were fortunate to be able to train on the Royal Agricultural College's pitch once again. The girls did not always make the best use of these sessions but much progress was made, especially by some of the younger players and the girls who had played little or no Hockey at their previous schools.

Everyone was heartened by Cotswold District Council eventually approving the building of the astro turf on Sinclair Field (Landage) and by the end of the Christmas term the shape of the pitch was clearly defined by edging stones and aggregate. We look forward to the use of this facility next season.

The girls had to contend with a number of rule changes, the most significant being the experimental removal of the off-side law. This had been done in an attempt to improve the flow of the game, to give more emphasis to attacks and to make the game more attractive by producing more goals. Our experience was that it succeeded in all of these except for the last point since most results did not involve a large number of goals. This lack of extra goals may be due to sides using more players in defence, often employing a sweeper behind three backs as we did.

From 44 girls, 1st, 2nd, U16, U15 and Sixth Form XIs were fielded although not all simultaneously partly due to the limited number of goalkeepers. Kate Nicholas and Nellie Abbott, coached by Andrew Branston, kept goal aggressively and effectively for these terms and there was never any hesitation in standing in for each other.

The Hockey dinner was held in College this year because we were entertaining the Antipodean touring hockey and netball squads. After a pleasant meal in the Dulverton Hall, various speeches and presentations rounded off a season of gritty performances in matches and significant



**1st XI with Australian squad**

individual improvements. The three coaches received ties and still wonder whether the emblems are significant: Mr. Wood (pigs), Mr. Morgan (sunflowers) and Mr. Essenhigh (teddy bears)!

Anna De Lisle Wells (Form 4) must be congratulated on playing so well for the 1st XI and on being selected to play for the County. (See photograph on page 22)

Team from: V. Dühmke (captain), G. Hunter Smart, A. Peters, J. Shenton, P. Wigfield, A. Howard, S. Peters, A. Stuwert, S. Brown, L. Donovan, C. Kerton, G. Leathard, J. Mais, K. Nicholas, T. Sleggs, N. Abbott, A. De Lisle Wells.

### Charlotte Kerton gives chase

## 1st XI

It was difficult to find a playing system which could take advantage of the skills of Polly Wigfield (vice captain) and Annabel Howard but ultimately this proved less of a problem because of the natural goal scoring skills of Charlotte Kerton, the solid defence of Sophie Peters, who unfortunately missed some early matches due to injury, and the midfield play of Jenny Mais (most improved player). Vicky Dühmke (captain) became a fast and effective right midfield player, especially moving forward, working particularly well with Laura Donovan on the right wing. The team was fortunate to have Anna Peters available as a utility player although she was always stronger going forward. The defence, which included Tara Sleggs, Sophie Brown, Anna De Lisle Wells and Gemma Leathart, coped well with the pressure produced by the no off-side law; however their main weakness was not clearing the ball after the keeper's first save, resulting in several goals against.

After their first defeat against St. Edward's when they were decidedly unfit, the team rallied well to beat King's and then put in some outstanding performances, notably against Cheltenham College, Monkton Coombe, Colstons and the Antipodeans.

Played 11, won 4, lost 5, drew 2, goals for 13, goals against 18.

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| v St. Edward's School, Cheltenham (A) | L 0-5 |
| v The King's School, Gloucester (A)   | W2-0  |
| v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)       | D 0-0 |
| v Stroud High School (A)              | L 0-2 |
| v Westonbirt School (A)               | W2-0  |
| v Monkton Combe School (H)            | L 1-2 |
| v Wycliffe College (H)                | L 2-3 |
| v The Cotswold School (A)             | W1-0  |
| v The King's School, Gloucester (H)   | W 2-1 |
| v Colston's Collegiate School (A)     | D 1-1 |
| v Antipodeans (H)                     | L 2-4 |



## 2nd XI

Although this team did not have much goal scoring punch, it did fight hard and defend in a determined manner resulting in six close matches. This XI was captained quietly yet effectively by Jacqui Shenton who deserved her run out with the 1st XI at the end of the season and her partner in the back three, Posy Ingham, improved beyond all recognition, deserving the award of most improved Sixth Former at the dinner.

Played 5, won 1, lost 4, goals for 2, goals against 7

Team from: J. Shenton (captain), G. Hunter-Smart, P. Ingham, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, D. Friesenhausen, E. Jakobs, A. Stuwert, L. Donovan, N. El Titi, P. Hunt, G. Leathart, B. McKelvie, N. Abbott, S. Sprawson, C. Webb, R. Lamont, S. Donovan, K. Dobson.

## Sixth Form XI

One match was played against St. Mary's School, Caine and the sixth form enjoyed playing together for a change (L 0-1)

## U16 XI

There were many talented players in the fifth year, several playing regularly for the 1st XI, so it was no surprise that they ended up with the best record of the season.

The match against St. Clotilde's was probably the most memorable because Annabel Howard stood in for the sick goal keepers, making an excellent, key save, and because it had to be stopped before time due to a bad injury caused by a ball striking a St. Clotilde's girl above the eye. Nadia El-Titi, who was involved in the incident, scored the only goal of the match. A 'B' side had to be fielded against Grittleton due to the cup game against St. Edward's. Several fourth year girls had to play because of illness.

Played 4, won 1, lost 1, drew 2; goals for 3, goals against 5

## U15 XI

All fourth year girls, except Helen Mizon who broke her leg early in the season, represented the school in the five matches. Sophie Sprawson proved to be a competent forward, midfield player and goal scorer, showing much promise for next season. Sarah Donovan was a fast and effective wing, ably supported by Charlotte Webb and Sonja Forster. The defence was slow and weak at times but they rarely gave anything less than their best and, combined with Nellie Abbott's skilful goal-keeping, made most games a real competition. Thanks to Antonia Gilbert for keeping goal when Nellie Abbott was ill.

Played 5, won 1, lost 3, drew 1; goals for 10, goals against 12.

## Junior Hockey

With the introduction of new rules on the first of September, much of the first few weeks of the season were spent learning how to use these new rules in the game: no 'offside' meant a rethink of the defence and its formation, and the introduction of a very attacking Centre Forward spending much of the game in the opponent's half of the pitch. Terms such as 'goalhanging', 'mids' and 'sweeper' soon became common vocabulary during the Hockey sessions. Four girls attended a county run 'Play Evening', and then we were selected to attend a second evening a few weeks later. Once again, Andrew Branston was available to give early season coaching to the goalkeepers.



**Sophie Sprawson (back) in action**

Several first and second years had their first taste of goalkeeping, and all were able to gain match experience during the season. We were joined by Tansy Tugwell in September, and her enthusiasm and hockey expertise has been much appreciated by both staff and pupils.

SMW

## U14 XI

Team selection was straightforward at the beginning of the season, with just twelve girls in the third year who know how to play Hockey. Finding everyone's best position took longer, and unfortunately as the Winter crept upon us, so did the illnesses and injuries. This did mean that four U 13 players were drafted into several of the matches when not needed for own fixtures, and our three new-comers to hockey in the third year, Aoi, Mariko and Sumika were called upon to display their new found skills in the match against the Cotswold School. Last season this team lost all its matches, but I have never doubted the individual ability of each of the players. The team does not have a natural goal hungry striker so we have played well in many of our matches without the reward of goals as an end result. Confidence and team work have developed considerably this year, and the team had some excellent results midseason. They drew 1-1 with Monkton Coombe school, Bath, in what was described by the supporters as a 'thriller' and 'cliff hanger' of a match! The following Saturday, the team lost 1-2 to Wycliffe College, whom they had lost to in the previous season 0-5. In both these matches the team showed skill, determination and great team spirit. It is difficult to single out individuals, but a mention must be made of Ros Frazer-Holland and Nicola Scarth who attended the 'Play Evenings',

and Rebecca Whatman who has remained solid and reliable in defence throughout the season. I think Ellen Drurey has found her true position in mid-field and my thanks to her for so ably captaining the team.

SMW

Played 9, won 1, drew 3, lost 5, goals for 6, goals against 17.

Team from: J. Crook, E. Drurey (capt), R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, S. Hamasaki, A. Hara, M. Midorikawa, V. MacKinnon, L. Nelson, A. Osbourne, S. Padmore, H. Pearce, R. Ricketts, L. Sammons, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Thrower, A. Turner, R. Whatman.

## U13 XI

The first half of term lacked success, but as the players' skills improved and teamwork developed, so the match results became more pleasing. During the last few weeks of term there was a real team spirit and a determination to do well, which produced exciting games with good results.

Much credit must go to the exciting goalkeeping of Annabel Forbes, a strong midfield and the exciting finishing of Sarah Padmore, who scored all the goals.

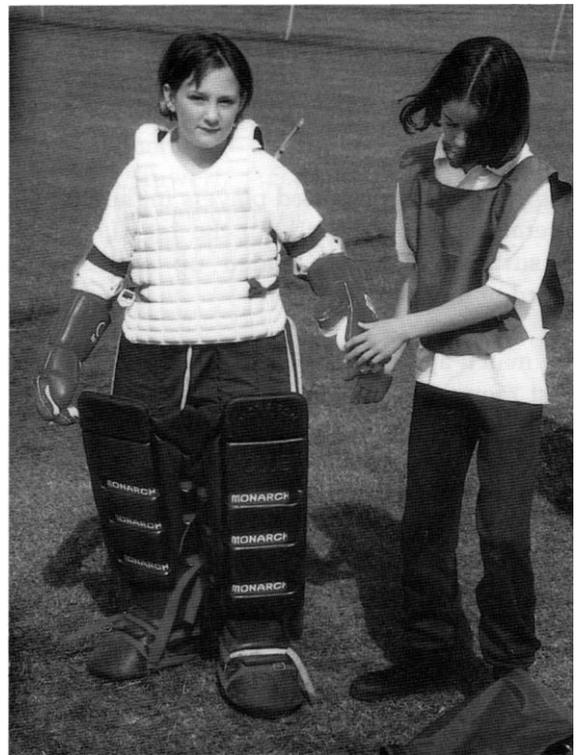
It was particularly encouraging to have Rosie Warrington and Sarah Padmore selected to attend two County Junior Play Days. During the Lent Term, a squad of girls attended the Gloucestershire Mini-Hockey Tournament, which was a valuable experience to build on in the future.

The team shows much promise and we look forward to many good games on our new synthetic Hockey pitch next season.

TT

Played 5; Won 2, Lost 3; Goals for 7; Goals against 20.

Team from: Jenny Arnold, Frances Burden, Jenny Crook, Holly Earl, Imogen Eaton, Olivia Evans, Hannah Ewing, Annabel Forbes, Nellie Gilson, Victoria MacKinnon, Sarah Padmore, Helen Pearce, Caroline Peters, Rebecca Ricketts, Rose Thrower, Rosie Warrington.



A welcome hand

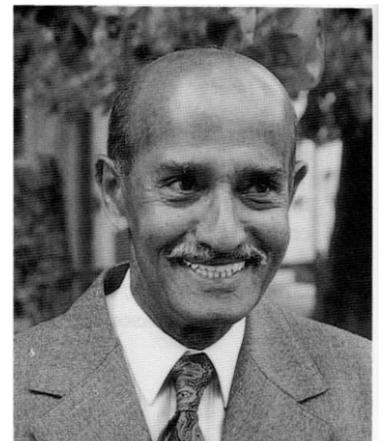
## Boys' Hockey

We welcomed Mr. North and Mr. Vuolo on to the coaching staff and thankfully Dan White (O. R.) and Max Chase, who has brought his enthusiasm and skill to Rendcomb for several years and who has finally decided to hang up his boots, helped to fill any gaps. Numbers and ability allowed us to run four senior XI's with plenty of spare bodies as well as Junior A and B XI's at all levels, except U14. Despite the pressure of selecting two XI teams from less than thirty boys when playing bigger schools, spirited performances made this a worthwhile exercise.

It is always reassuring to have some boys selected for county teams and Harvey Davies (U18), Rupert Webb (U18), Chris Baker (U18) and William Warrington (U15), Dominic Sharman (U14) and Paul Szybiak (U14 goalkeeper) deserve congratulations.

Early frosts reminded us that the Astroturf pitch cannot come soon enough as many games were forced onto tarmac.

One event which summed up this frustration was to see a little dog running off with an 'asphalt' stick in its mouth. During the season, the building of our astroturf has progressed to the



Max Chase

stage of looking like a very expensive car park and we look forward to using it for next seasons. Perhaps the most impressive sight of several matches taking place simultaneously on Top Field, as occurred when the Old Rendcombian society brought four mens' XIs and one ladies' XI, will be a thing of the past, but there is no doubt that the synthetic surfaces are now the norm for at least 1st XI hockey. Once again, we are grateful to the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester for the use of their pitch for training and some matches.

Many teams had successful seasons and the standard of hockey was most encouraging from the first form, playing hockey for the first time, and to the first XI who, under the careful direction of Mr. Morgan, improved their skills and strategies to produce many convincing and exciting wins as well as another impressive Bath Festival Record. As ever, we have been blessed with many dedicated and skilful goal keepers who have kept their sides in the game by making careful saves. They received useful extra coaching from Andrew Branston (O. R.).

Finally thanks are due to David Mead and the ground staff for preparing the seven grass pitches on Top Field and to everyone else who made the season run smoothly.

Overall Record:

Played 75, won 37, Drew 11, Lost 27, Goals for 162, Goals against 153

CJW

talented Cheltenham College youngsters in the second. He concluded that if this season was going to be a disaster then at least the team would be a pleasant crowd of individuals with which to be associated. There were more dire performances to come, particularly in the Kingswood match, but in fact the season did not turn out too badly, either in terms of the favourable analysis of results achieved or in terms of the quality of the play. It helped that the season ended as last year on an exceptionally high note at the Bath Festival.

The demands of new rules required a considerable change in formation and tactics from previous years and this did not suit everyone who might have expected to claim a place in the first eleven. Changes to the composition of the team were frequent, which could have been unsettling but for the excellent spirit between the first and second elevens operating as one squad and a strength of character which enabled individuals to accept disappointments and still try their hardest. The use of tactical substitutions has become an essential ingredient of success at this level but it does make for individual frustration. I am grateful to all those who accepted this produce with such patience and goodwill, especially Sebastian Grey and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul who will have much to contribute next year.

Defensively the team had its ups and downs, prone to occasional errors and slack marking which under the new offside rule were always going to be punished heavily. The game at the top level now makes exceptional demands on speed, fitness and positional discipline; at times we were found wanting in all three departments. We have

### Penalty stroke



### 1st XI

Early indications in January suggested that this year's team might not prosper in quite the same prolific manner as its predecessors. The coach had been forced to watch his side stumble to defeat in the opening match and then capitulate to the

still to work out how the midfield players can fulfil all of their defensive obligations and still be there to support the attack in sufficient numbers. Too often Adam Hawkins in goal was left to perform miracles as the defence evaporated in front of him. Rendcomb tackling, however, has improved immensely over recent seasons, as the professional umpires who have officiated in our

matches will testify, and this has enabled the defence to cope in most situations, while relying heavily on the experience and expertise of Adam King and Charles Webb. There were outstanding performances against Dean Close School and the Old Rendcombians, where some very skilled opponents had their best efforts thwarted, and the defence looked well-organised and efficient throughout the festival matches.

In attack, the team was capable of exceptional play, much of it drawing from the massive all round contribution of Christopher Baker, the captain, assisted by the individual skill of Harvey Davies. All of the strikers, but especially Andrew Donovan, worked hard at pressurising opposition defences and making intelligent runs off the ball. A wealth of chances was created in virtually every game, but too often we struggled to convert those chances into goals. Forwards needed just that much more time and space to make the shot at goal than they will normally get at this level; it is an aspect of the game on which we have to work in the future. They could score goals, however, as King's, Gloucester found out, and, by the end of the season they had even managed to score from short corners, a new experience for Rendcomb.

So the season was rescued and the team remained both good company and impeccable in their conduct on and off the pitch; features which made the King Edward's School tournament all the more enjoyable. Christopher Baker captained the team with quiet authority; his skilful play was respected by all but he was backed up by a number of worthy "senior professionals" from 6A. They are now gone and the future lies with a 6B who believe they will be an outstanding team next year. We shall see.

My thanks, as always, to MSG and CJW for their help and the David Mead for preparing the best grass pitch the First Eleven is likely to use. The Astroturf era is upon us; at least the coach won't have too far to go to get to the pitch.

DHM

Played 16 won 8 drew 2 lost 6 Goals for: 36; goals against: 35

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| v Christ's College, Brecon (A)       | L 2-3 |
| v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)      | L 1-6 |
| v Cheltenham Hockey Club (H)         | W 4-1 |
| v Colston's Collegiate School (H)    | L 1-4 |
| v The King's School, Gloucester (H)  | W 6-3 |
| v Prince Henry's School, Evesham (A) | W 4-2 |
| v Kingswood School (H)               | L1-4  |
| v Dean Close School (H)              | D 2-2 |

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| v The RGS, Worcester (H)            | W 4-2 |
| v The King's School, Gloucester (A) | L 0-3 |
| v Bournside School (H)              | D 0-0 |
| v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)   | W 3-2 |

#### King Edward's School, Bath, Hockey Festival

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| v Forest School                               | L 1-2 |
| v Reigate Grammar School                      | W 1-0 |
| v Portsmouth Grammar School                   | W 3-1 |
| v Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield | W 3-0 |

Team from: C. Baker (Captain), C. Barton, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, H. Davies, A. Donovan, I. Forster, M. Garcia, J. Gibbs, S. Grey, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, T. Hill, A. King, S. Maylott, C. Scarth, T. Sharman, C. Webb, R. Webb.



Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul (left) breaks through in the Old Rendcombian Society match

## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a successful season, especially given that they often had to play against 1st XIs of other schools.

They played a good astroturf game, even on grass, and consequently provided effective support for the 1st squad.

They certainly had the best goal difference in the school thanks to some very goal hungry forwards. Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul scored eighteen goals

in total and built up an outstanding relationship with Ian Forster on the right wing. The overall team work was always impressive and many of the goal scoring chances were actually developed through intelligent midfield play involving Sam Maylott, Dominic Morris and Chas Holliday who were hard working, powerful and creative.

The defence were very solid: no goals were conceded for six consecutive games in the middle of the season. Ed Turvill was firm and resolute, Ashley Taylor consistently monumental and James Gibbs with Chris Scarth added skill and panache.

In goal Toby Abbott was always outstanding, making numerous vital saves, especially against Colston's and Marling, where his heroics won the games for us.

Played 12; Won 8; Drew 2; Lost 2; Goals for 33; Goals against 10.

Team from A. Taylor (captain), T. Abbott, C. Scarth, E. Turvill, J. Gibbs, R. Webb, D. Morris, C. Holliday, S. Maylott, I. Forster, T. Sharman, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Donovan, S. Grey, T. Hill, M. Hall.

### 3rd XI

"Carpe Diem" certainly proved to be the motto of this fine body of hockey players as their results testify - Bob Witchell led by example, rallying them when he knew they were under-performing and praising highly when justified to do so. There was certainly much to praise with the front three of Rob Arnold, James Emerson and Jonny Davis making inroads into the 'D', fed efficiently by the mid-field of David Ashby, Jake Hawkins and Mark Sutton although the nature of their game allowed for good switching of roles between themselves.

Complementing the 'cut and thrust' of the forwards was the obdurate and sturdy 'backline' of Phil de Havilland Hall, skipper Witchell, Will Brittain-Jones and Andrew Carrington combining effective clearing with tenacious tackling as well as making their own solo forays when the opportunities presented themselves. Ben Butler proved a final hurdle too good for most, Jo Schinzler keeping extremely well in Ben's absence in the last couple of games, most spectacularly against the ORs, thwarting them on several occasions against the odds.

Overall, an extremely encouraging season for next year's first and second XIs who will inherit some very accomplished and enthusiastic performers - I have been privileged to have witnessed their high-spirited and effective teamwork, thank you!

Played 10: Won 6, Drew 3, Lost 1, goals for 30, goals against 17

Team from: Bob Witchell (capt.), W. Brittain-Jones, P. de Havilland Hall, A. Carrington, J. Keith, S. Taylor, J. Smith, J. Graham, H. Aldrich-Blake, D. Ashby, J. Hawkins, M. Sutton, R. Arnold, J. Emerson, J. Davis, B. Butler, J. Schinzler, T. Gilbert, C. Smith.

ASB

### 4th XI

As usual, this season was an interesting one for the 4th XI with a new coach, but a familiar concoction of the sublime and the ridiculous. The result was some thrilling matches, and some superb individual performances. Rather than referring to individual members at length, here are some pointers to successful hockey at 4th XI level:

1) Give it some pie: The ability to crack the ball the full length of the pitch is an important facet at this level, if not entirely necessary. The tradition is for a 'meaty' defender to hit it 'Route 1' and this season Tom Gilbert was the shining example.

2) Miss goals inexplicably: A tradition for centre forwards providing excitement and entertainment for spectators. James Starkey ably filled the boots of last season's star James Emerson, also inheriting the red face.

3) Score goals inexplicably: This season Jonny Freeman bamboozled defences by scoring from impassable angles and with an impossible lack of power, proving to be an excellent weapon in our armoury.

4) Not to worry if you do not know the rules: As Mr. North emphasised throughout the season "Hockey is football with a stick" and so the rules of football were always available for covering up grey areas!

As far as the season was actually concerned, we started in spectacular fashion with three heavy defeats. However the stars were beginning to emerge and we chalked up our first and only win at Bournside School on a lush, carpet-like pitch. Against Christ's College, Brecon, we encountered problems. Despite injury and being one man down, we fought hard, edged out by a narrow margin in the second half.

The match against the Old Rendcombian Society brought together players of all ages, mostly on our own side. We established a strong lead, but were helpless to prevent the onslaught from the Old Boys, despite best efforts of our guest keeper Abdel 'The Prince' Saadeddin.

The season appeared indifferent on paper, but in reality was anything but. Talent emerging for the future included Andrew Carrington, Jo Schinzler and Alastair Nye in goal; goal scorer James Starkey, Nick Stanfield and Charlie Smith, who was skilful on the ball. They were supported by veterans James Smith and Stu Taylor, playing their third Season of Hockey at this level.

The 4th XI played with commitment and energy, without forgetting the true essence of the 4th XI tradition. Credit for this goes to Mr. North, a coach with much experience in Football and an increasing amount on the Hockey pitch!

Stewart Taylor

Played 6, won 1, drew 1, lost 4, Goals for 8, Goals against 19.

Team from: S. Taylor (Captain), J. Smith (Vice Captain), A. Carrington, J. Freeman, A. Fritsch, T. Gilbert, A. Jarrett, J. Keith, C. Morey, A. Nye, R. Sammons, J. Schinzler, C. Smith, N. Stanfield, J. Starkey, D. Williams,  
Also played: B. Boughton, J. Brittain-Jones, T. Day, N. Hall, A. Saedalin, D. Sharman, Y. Takanashi.

## **U15 A XI**

The first four matches of the season showed the quality of individuals but the team never really played as a unit. Against Cheltenham College, hard running and staunch defending kept the score down to only a 2-1 defeat. On a bumpy red- grass pitch at Colston's, a sleepy start was made up for by much more disciplined marking in the second half and we did not deserve to lose by the margin of the final score. A post half-term lethargy gripped the side in the next match against Kingswood, but after a forthright team talk, the team exploded into action. Kingswood, although winning comfortably, were rocked back for a considerable period in the second half where a snatched half-chance by James Brittain-Jones and a clinical penalty stroke by William Witchell gave some inkling of the great things which were to come in the last four matches.

In the second half of the season, the team was unbeaten and played in fine style. Twenty six goals were scored with only 3 conceded. Chastened by their experiences in the previous matches, the team listened to the coach with much greater care and understanding and adopted most effectively a more deliberate style of play based around short passing and intelligent running off the ball. James Brittain-Jones lashed in 4 goals in

each of his appearances in the next three games against King's Gloucester, St. Edward's and Christ's, Brecon - surely this achievement is close to a Rendcomb record!

With Yuki Takanashi, turbo-charged on the right wing, James Brittain-Jones was supplied with a regular diet of goal-scoring chances. David Newby intelligently placed in the circle scored several vital goals as well. Tristan Day, the human dynamo, was everywhere and dominated midfield with fine skills and athleticism. Tireless at left midfield, Andrew Sage set up and scored crucial goals. Fueled by intuitive passes from right half by Carlos Garcia, William Warrington with growing discipline began to show his County class at right midfield. Dependable and unflappable at left half, Matt Williams never let his right winger really escape in any match. The captain Nick Hall at centre back was tough and competitive and led the team by example and was skilfully covered by the ever present William Witchell. The latter timed tackles superbly and distributed the ball thoughtfully and crisply. 'Coxy' in goal was a revelation and his saves showed both courage and considerable ability.

To lose four matches and yet remain undefeated in the next four games, scoring eight goals in each of the next three matches, showed the resilience and skill of the side. In fact, having failed to 'nick' the final game against King Edward's 3-2, David Newby was seen to deposit his stick in the waste- bin in disgust! Such was the expectation of victory that had been built up. This was a thoroughly memorable season and I enjoyed the considerable character and skill of all the players. I am sure they will form a fine 1st XI in future.

JPW

Played 8, won 3, drew 1, lost 4; goals for 29; goals against 20.

## **U15 B XI**

The season started very promisingly with a convincing 1-0 win over Colston's School, Bristol. Oliver Jeffcott scored the goal late in the game after a prolonged period of Rendcomb pressure. Three weeks and four cancellations later we visited Kingswood School in Bath for a seven-goal thriller. Clearly the team does not travel well as we soon went 0-3 down; however the Under 15 B team is not one to buckle in adversity and we fought our way back to 3-3. The last few minutes were end to end and we lost to a disputed goal with just seconds to play.

Our final game of the season was also away, to Dean Close. Once again the travelling bug hit us and we were 0-5 at half-time. It took this long to get accustomed to playing on astroturf, so the second half could be regarded as a moral victory as we only conceded one further goal, and actually managed to create several chances ourselves. Next year we are confident that with our own 'astro' our skills will be much improved.

Throughout the season Rafe Smallman and Richard Collinson were fast and effective on the wings, providing good service for top scorer Jeffcott. Laurie Barton, Rocky Fung and Edward Farnsworth all played with flair in midfield, keen to support the front line in attack, but equally willing to drop back to defend. Henry Weston, Tom Mais, Hiroshi Iseki, Robert Mann, Donald Godfrey, Ben Newton and Adam Card all made appearances in defence and provided a reliable and (almost) impregnable rear-guard. Special praise must go to Dean Armstrong Wilde, a newcomer to the goalkeeping position, who generally had an excellent season.

Several 'B' players also made 'A' team appearances and were able to play successfully at this higher standard. There is certainly a great deal of promise and potential for next year in the senior teams.

Edward Farnsworth

Played 3, Won 1, Lost 2, Goals for 3;  
Goals against 7

## U14 XI

Few seasons have been more enjoyable than this one; the record sheet is not spectacular yet it fails to reflect the spirit and fun we all had on the hockey field.

There are a number of memories for me that epitomise the season, namely B Stanfield's goal at Dean Close, the win at King's Gloucester and the narrow defeat at King Edward's School, Bath! Yet without doubt the significant reflections, for me, are the wonderful team efforts in our wins, yet especially the fighting play in the defeats. This is clearly a very promising side, one to watch next season.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the players for my wonderful signed hockey stick, and a fine season, especially the Captain, Dominic Sharman, a driving force in any team.

JHS

This was undoubtedly a mixed season all round, with 90% at U13 age group we had to prove ourselves again. Consequently the squad members worked extremely hard and were all willing to listen and learn. Such an approach was reflected during our first game which we comfortably won on grass (6-0). We played with great individual skill and great controlled teamwork.

We had a few shaky results, and a pretty poor performance against Cheltenham College 1st XI meant we needed to get back on track after half-term. Things did change, and in an aggressive match with many outbursts of violence from King's Gloucester we managed to grit our way to 1-0 with a timely cracked goal from Paul Bongiovanni. Other notable performances were in the last two matches and we won convincingly 5-0 and 6-0 which displayed the undoubted spirit of our team.

All who played for the A XI performed with commendable spirit, commitment and courage throughout the season. The forwards were an effective unit with Adam Padmore scoring 7 goals, great effort. On the wings, Ben Stanfield and Fran Ruiz proved to be very effective, both scoring 1 and 3 goals respectively.

The halves, Billy Head and Paul Bongiovanni, proved 110% workers and they always went into the tackle fiercely. The substitute for this position was Ignacio Garcia who was formidable in his first season; he and Fran Ruiz are a great credit to the side. The backs consisted of Oliver Jones, Freddy Lait, Thomas Drew and Robin Uzzell who were industrious; Freddy Lait deserves a special mention for his hitting from the back. If they did manage to beat the backs, they then had to confront Paul Sybiack who in his first season as goalkeeper showed brilliant performances; his full-length reflex save of a flick showed dedication and was a result of fine commitment in practices.

I think it is now time to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Stutchbury for his ever enthusiastic outlook; I will always remember his aggressive half-time team talk!

Thank you!

Dominic Sharman

Played 9, won 4, lost 5, goals for: 22, goals against: 23

Team from: P Bongiovanni, T Drew, R Uzzell, F Lait, B Stanfield, R Nicholas, I Garcia-Valdecasas, F Ruiz-Escribano, P Sybiack, A Padmore, O Jones, B Head, M Elsworth, D Sharman.



**The Mini-hockey squad**

## **U13 XIs**

The twenty seven boys in forms One and Two worked hard on their skills and quickly learned how to tackle cleanly. Their mobility was less than good so it took longer to develop patterns of support play and effective attack following defence under the no-offside rule.

We were fortunate to have three good goalkeepers in Charles Cowper, Christopher Jeffreys and Mathew Ewing; and Charles excelled himself on many occasions as can be seen by the 'A' team's goals against record.

The 'A' team managed an unbeaten record in their fixtures largely due to a determined and effective defence comprised of three backs, Giles Drew, Stephen Ward, and Richard Birkbeck, and a sweeper, Tom Lait, who was very cool for a First Former. The excellent record was also influenced heavily by Jonathan Pratt, the very skilful if slightly intolerant captain, who could be relied on to score goals if given the ball near the circle. Rupert McKelvie and Matthew Hutchins were also effective forwards but lacked that extra bit of stick skill needed to penetrate good defences. Edward MacCurrach came on superbly in the centre midfield position and he was ably supported on different occasions by Sam Hicks, James Sabourin, Dominic Fastnedge and Nat Maylott.

It was near the end of the season that the team realised the need for close control, quickly passing and keeping possession, so it was a pity when their last match against The King's School, Gloucester was cancelled.

An U13 VII was entered in the Gloucestershire Mini-Tournament which produced surprisingly few goals and left us with wins, draws, losses and a wealth of experience.

The 'B' XI had enough matches to justify all those skills sessions and, given more time and experience, many of these players will be playing hockey to a high standard in the future.

'A' XI Played 7, Won 5, Drew 2, Goals for: 11, goals against: 3.

Team from: R. Birkbeck, C. Cowper, G. Drew, D. Fastnedge, E. MacCurrach, R. McKelvie, N. Maylott, T. Moss, J. Pratt (capt. ), J. Sabourin, S. Ward, S. Hicks, M. Hutchins, C. Jeffreys, T. Lait.

'B' XI Played 3, Lost 3, Goals for 2, Goals against 9.

Team from: M. Ewing, N. Marlowe, N. Maylott (capt.), T. Moss (capt. ), T. Bates, D. Bond, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, C. Fothergill, S. Gunner, S. Hicks, M. Hutchins, C. Jacobs, C. Jeffreys, J. Mociornitza, D. Roper, E. Vaughan-Hughes, H. Wilson.

CJW/DE

## **Netball**

### **1st VII**

This year the season seemed too short, and drew to a close just as the team started to play its best netball. The 1st VII this season was a combination of players from three different year groups, who found an excellent team spirit and worked together well. The first few matches were lost whilst the team was in its experimental stages with Charlotte Kerton having a change of position into a key role of Centre. The understanding between the two shooters Vicky Dühmke and Phillipa Hunt took time to develop, but by the last few matches both had the majority of their shots in first attempt. Rebounding was rarely a problem with

the height both offered in the circle area. Vicky was greatly missed in the second fixture against Cheltenham College which was a closer match than the score line suggested. This has in the past been a hard fixture, and the margin of defeat has always been considerably larger. For the match against Colston's Collegiate the defence arrangement of Georgina Farr at Goal Defence and Naomi Gibbons at Goal Keeper was settled upon, and kept for the rest of the season. As the season progressed a good understanding developed between these two players and Jenny Mais at Wing Defence to make a solid defence. Tara Sleggs was a last minute selection for the first fixture, and played so well she continued as Wing Attack for the rest of the season. The last match against Monkton Combe was played on a warm spring afternoon which brought out the spectators. They were treated to a display of brilliant netball, with the 1st VII having the edge over their very good opponents throughout the match. Monkton Coombe tried several different tactical ploys, in an attempt to break our patterns of play, but each time Rendcomb was able to adapt itself to the new situation, much to the frustration of their opponents.

Congratulations must go to Philippa Hunt, who was selected for the county U16 squad for a second season and to Naomi Gibbons, who has been an excellent captain both on and off the court. Our thanks go to her for all her help and hard work

SMW / JN

Played 6, Won 4, Lost 2, Goals For: 133, Goals Against: 131.

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| v. Westonbirt(A)                     | L15-32  |
| v. Cheltenham College(H)             | L 16-23 |
| v. Colston's Collegiate School(A)    | W33-14  |
| v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) | W19-17  |
| v. Farmor's School, Fairford(A)      | W24-23  |
| v. Monkton Combe School, Bath(H)     | W26-22  |

Team From: V. Dühmke, N. El-Titi, G. Farr,  
N. Gibbons (Captain), A. Howard, P. Hunt,  
C. Kerton, J. Mais, S. Peters, T. Sleggs.

## 2nd VII

A similar situation as the first team occurred in the second team, with players being drawn from all three years. The team did not remain constant in its players, giving many girls the opportunity of playing for the College. Gemma Leathart, as Goal Keeper and Kate Nicholas, as Wing Attack, both made such progress with their game that they claimed a regular place in the team. As did Posy

Ingham at Goal Defence, who led her team by example, giving a hundred percent in every match, and Sophie Peters as Centre, who worked hard in the middle of the court. Jenny Bartholomew and Elisabeth Jakobs were eventually settled upon as the shooters, and this brought about more goals. With both these girls converting from basketball, an occasional lapse in concentration did bring about a display of dribbling skills or jump shots!

SMW / JN

Played: 5, Lost: 5, Goals For 28, Goals Against 123

Team From: J. Bartholomew, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, L. Donovan, R. Gilyead, P. Ingham (Captain),  
E. Jakobs, G. Leathart, K. Nicholls, B. McKelvie, R. Perry, S. Peters, J. Shenton.

## U16 VII

The fifth year girls played their two fixtures at the end of the season. Both matches were easily won, the first against Grittleton House, Chippenham 33- 2, and the second against St. Clotilde's Convent, Lechlade 25-4.

SMW/JN

Played: 2, Won: 2, Goals For: 58, Goals Against: 6

Team From: S. Brown, L. Donovan, N. El-Titi,  
E. Engelstadter, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, G. Leathart, J. Mais,  
B. McKelvie, K. Nicholas, T. Sleggs (Captain).

## U15 VII

The first match of the season hit the U. 15 side with great force when they came up against a fit, very skilled side from Farmor's School which had two of the tallest shooters in this age group. Following their large defeat, the team were able to appreciate the work needed to obtain the skills required to play at a more senior level. Three lessons later and the girls were working as a team and individual talents were beginning to shine through. Their next match was a very close one against King's, Gloucester. 63 goals were scored in this game with Rendcomb eventually winning by just one goal. So started a superb run of five wins during which 147 goals were scored and only 76 conceded.

The next match was against St. Edwards and was played indoors in the Sports Hall at Rendcomb. Sophie Sprawson, who as Captain led by example throughout the season, rewarded the work of the whole team by regularly scoring goals whenever the netball arrived anywhere within the goal circle



**U15 netball squad**

winning by 12 goals. Her accurate shooting and brilliant court play was indispensable to the team.

Cokethorpe School was next on the list and, after a slow first quarter with Rendcomb leading only 6 goals to 4, a serious chivvying and change of tactics talk at quarter-time, resulted in some remarkable defence work from Sarah Donovan and Jamela Saedaldin. They seriously hampered the opposition's goal shooters which enabled the Rendcomb team to increase their goals to 20 and Cokethorpe to only score one more goal before half-time. Sarah and Jamela play intelligently and follow the basics of the game so well that very little can get past them as many school teams found out this term. Lotte Webb, as Goal Shooter, played a solid supportive role being able to feed the ball through the smallest of gaps to supply Sophie with many shooting chances.

On a grey overcast and windy day at Kingham Hill, the U. 15's played sensibly making short passes and getting close to the goalpost for shooting and their hard work paid off with yet another win, this time by 23 goals. Georgina Scot-Simmonds as centre worked tirelessly in every game working the ball from one end of the court to the other whilst Anna de Lisle Wells and Pat Chaiwatanasirikul widened the court by using every inch of space possible in their areas to ably help the attackers and defenders respectively.

The match against Deer Park School saw a remarkable display of shooting from Lotte Webb scoring 19 of the 22 goals needed to win their fifth match in a row. By now, the whole team was playing with such confidence in each other and with skill in their positions on court that they were very much looking forward to the return match against Farmor's. However, luck was not on their side as two of the team became ill that week. The

two reserve players and the rest of the team played well and improved on their score but, unfortunately, lost the game. The full team were out again for the last match of the season which they were unlucky to lose against Monkton Combe in a close fought game with some good netball played. It was a busy season thoroughly enjoyed by the team and the coach which was rewarded deservedly with some fine wins.

PSW

Played: 8; Won 5, Lost 3; Goals For 159; Goals Against 122.

Team from: S. Sprawson (Captain), C. Webb, A. de Lisle Wells, G. Scot-Simmonds, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Donovan, J. Saedaldin.

Also Played: N. Abbott, R. Lamont, H. Mizon.

## U14 VII

The U. 14's began the term with a very hard match which they lost by a considerable margin. However, after hard work in games lessons and a willingness to learn, individual talents in various court positions meant the next match saw new combinations of shooters, centre court and defence players. Some very good shooting from Alice Osborne ably supported by Lianne Sammons gave Rendcomb an exciting game against Cokethorpe eventually losing by only one goal.

Roz Frazer-Holland and Hau Ling Leung formed a good defence and continued to improve in each game whilst Ellen Drurey and Becky Whatman played with enthusiasm and energy all term. The team was unfortunate not to be rewarded with more wins and thoroughly deserved their draw in the last match of the season against Kingshill School.

The basis is formed now for a good U. 15 side next year.

PSW/ DRB

Played: 9, Drew 1, Lost 8, Goals for 49, Goals against 193.

Team from: R. Whatman (Captain), A. Osborne, L. Sammons, E. Drurey, A. Gilbert, R. Frazer-Holland, H. Leung.

Also Played: C. Schotten, H. Pearce, R. Thrower, A. Hara.

## U13 VII

It was a very busy season with many matches being played and very little time for vital coaching and practices, and unfortunately this was reflected in the match results.

However, the under 13s do have a nucleus of potentially good netball players, with plenty of ability to build on. So with application, determination and teamwork, next season should be more successful.

Team from: F. Burden, R. Ricketts, V. Mackinnon, N. Gilson, R. Warrington, S. Padmore, J. Arnold, J. Crook, A. Forbes, O. Evans, H. Pitt.

Played 6, won 1, lost 5, drew 0. Goals for: 42, against 74.

## CRICKET

Much good cricket has been played at all levels this year although cold and wet conditions have prevailed throughout most of the term. Despite the loss of Landage for cricket to the new Astro turf pitch, the U. 13s have settled well 'Up Top' and have revealed some capable talent for the future. It is clear that much enjoyment and satisfaction can be gained from this skill-specific sport, even with declining numbers playing cricket. As with all games at Rendcomb, the choice of fixtures is all important. There is no doubt, though, that the school is very lucky to have such good pitches and the dedication and skill of a fine coaching staff.

### 1st XI

The wet cold weather restricted play and often dictated the shape of matches. This was most disappointing as a keen and talented 1st XI were never able to get into their stride in

the early matches. However, they showed their mettle and their skill eventually, remaining unbeaten for their last six matches, of which three in a row were won convincingly.

The first match was ten days into term and the side were unable to score enough runs against Bloxham in a 40-over match. Sam Maylott's 65 not out, though, showed his competitive temperament and his fine eye for a ball. Almost a week later, we woke to snow at Rendcomb, but drove off through sleet showers to Monmouth to complete the first round of the Chesterton Cup. Rearranging matches in an exam term is complicated and the only day available left the side short of three 6A players including the Captain and Vice-Captain. Despite a watchful 50 from Harvey Davies through the sleet, we again failed to score sufficient runs to put pressure on a capable Monmouth side. Weather intervened in the Prior Park match and a heavy thunderstorm brought proceedings abruptly to a halt.

TT

The sun shone for the first time in the King's Gloucester match, but batting on a drying wicket against some tight medium pace bowling was difficult. A spirited innings by Adam King made the score nearly respectable and showed what maturity can bring to a crisis situation. The 1st XI, though, failed to pitch the ball up enough and some talented opposition players fairly quickly took their side to victory.

Determined to realise their potential, the side bowled and fielded competitively against Bristol Cathedral School. Needless to say, in the season of 1997, a heavy storm ended the match when the Rendcomb side looked set to chase successfully the opposition's total of 128.

To find the driest and most playable wicket, the match against Cokethorpe was played on the U. 15 pitch behind the Pavilion. Accurate and aggressive bowling, headed by James Gibbs with his 4 -43,



restricted Cokethorpe to 156 when they eventually declared. Charles Webb led the reply from the front as Captain setting the chase going with a fine 31. Charles then followed this by the inspirational decision to put James Gibbs up the order to take the attack to the bowlers. James did this in fine style scoring 37 quickly, while Charlie Barton held the innings together with a fluent 54 not out. To win in 30 overs, having bowled 47 overs at the opposition showed the command the 1st XI had in the match.

With developing confidence, New College, Swindon were reduced to 136 with some fine bowling by Sam Maylott with 4 for 29. Disappointingly for him and the side, he broke his toe soon after this match. His vital all-round contribution was much missed for the rest of the season. However, Sam batted well this match and ably supported a dogged innings of 43 not out by Chris Scarth which convincingly won the match by 5 wickets. This self-belief in the side was clearly evident against Sir Thomas Rich's. Adam King with 4 for 23 and Harvey Davies, using his carefully controlled left-arm spin, to take 3 for 13 limited Sir Thomas Rich's to 94. Careful batting by two senior pro's, Charles Webb with 21 and Charles Barton 31 not out, saw the home side to an emphatic victory.

Torrential rain in the penultimate week of term seemed destined to wash out all of the last four games. However, the U. 15 pitch appeared just playable after the heavy rain and allowed the O. R. match to go ahead. Chasing 244, the 1st XI battled most commendably to draw the game with a score of 208 for 5. The highlight of this innings was the mature concentration of Charles Barton with his talented 120 not out. The following day the 1st XI pitch had dried enough to host the Gloucestershire Gypsies match. A strong visiting side batted powerfully, but most encouraging was the three wickets for 19 which a young William Witchell took when the Gypsies were in full flow. Determined batting by Chris Scarth and Ashley Taylor (30) kept the opposition at bay and allowed Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul (27) and William Witchell (41) to strike the ball fluently. For different reasons, the side were four 1st XI members short for this match. It was, therefore, a formidable achievement for this relatively inexperienced side to preserve an unbeaten record since the 14th May and draw the match with 167 for 6.

Next year's 1st XI looks very promising with a large number of experienced 6A players being joined by some talented 6B and 5th Formers. I have thoroughly enjoyed this term, despite the wet

and chill, and I would like to thank Bob Stott for covering all our catering demands and David Mead for producing fine wickets again. I am sure that the cricket will flourish in the capable hands of Lindsey North and I wish Rendcomb cricket a healthy future.

JPW

Played 10; Won 3; Drew 4; Lost 3

v. Bloxham School - Lost by 10 wickets  
Rendcomb 133-6 deck (Maylott 65\*)  
Bloxham 136-0

v. Monmouth School - Lost by 7 wickets Rendcomb  
113-7 deck (Davies 50)  
Monmouth 116-3

v. Prior Park College - Match Drawn  
Prior Park 230-4  
Rendcomb 41-2

v. King's School, Gloucester - Lost by 9 wickets  
Rendcomb 80 King's 82 for 1

v. Bristol Cathedral School - Match Drawn Bristol  
Cathedral 126-8 (Maylott 3-11)  
Rendcomb 21-0

v. Cokethorpe School - Won by 6 wickets  
Cokethorpe 156-9 (Gibbs 4-43)  
Rendcomb 157-4 (Barton 54\*, Gibbs 37, Davies 31)

v. New College Swindon - Won by 5 wickets  
New College 136 (Maylott 4-29, Hall 3-13) Rendcomb  
137-5 (Scarth 43\*, Maylott 23)

v. Sir Thomas Rich's School - Won by 6 wickets Sir  
Thomas Rich's 94-9 deck (King 4-23, Davies 3-13)  
Rendcomb 96-4 (Barton 31\*, Webb 21)

v. The Old Rendcombian Society - Match Drawn OR  
Society 244-7 (Garcia 2-24)  
Rendcomb 208-5 (Barton 120\*, Taylor 26)

v. The Gloucestershire Gypsies - Match Drawn Gypsies  
222-8 (W. Witchell 3-19, Hall 2-16) Rendcomb 167-6  
(W. Witchell 41, Chaiwatanasirikul 27, Scarth 22)

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), H. Aldrich-Blake, C. Barton, H. Davies, J. Gibbs, M. Hall, T. Hill, A. King, S. Maylott, C. Scarth, A. Taylor.

Also played: W. Brittain-Jones, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, I. Forster, M. Garcia, N. Hall, A. Hawkins, J. Shenton, N. Stanfield, R. Witchell, W. Witchell.

## 2nd XI

The season started in slightly unfamiliar fashion for many of us, in the practice sessions several catches were taken and the old saying "catches win matches" gave a glimmer of hope to our forthcoming success rate. Indeed, the first match against a predictably strong Bloxham produced a number of the said catches. Despite some resolute batting from the captain and Tom Gilbert we were left with a loss. The next match however gave us a draw against Prior Park where our batsmen held out until conditions became too bad to play in. However, there were some encouraging signs showing. Yet another match had been lost to rain before we played King's Gloucester and the absence of the captain clearly took its toll, the team performing brilliantly to secure a one run victory.

The next match against Bredon 1st XI saw us play reasonably, but in spite of some searing pace from Ralph Barnes, we were unable to prevent a loss to a good side.

All in all, it was a mixed season, and there were mainly encouraging signs. The majority of the team was composed of Fifth Formers, and their talent can only be a good thing for next year's team. A cameo appearance from William Brittain-Jones reiterated the fun with which 2nd XI cricket is played. Whilst earnestly seeking victories, we cricketers are not averse to having fun. I must thank my teammates for bearing with my odd fielding placements and most of all I would like very much to thank Mr. Slark for nurturing "cousin Bob" through his three years of senior cricket. Mr. Slark has brought an enjoyable and important institution of the school that is the 2nd XI academy.

Robin Witchell

Played 5, Won 1, Drew 1 Lost 3

v Bloxham (H) Lost by 5 wickets  
Rendcomb. 113 (Witchell 41)  
Bloxham 114 - 4

v Prior Park College (A) Match Drawn  
Prior Park 209 - 5 dec Rendcomb  
67 - 6 dec (Gilbert 25)

v King's School, Gloucester (H) Won by 10 runs  
Rendcomb 150 - 9 (Forster 34, Baker 30,  
Stanfield 22)  
King's 140 (Butler 4-24)

v Bredon School (A) Lost by 8 wkts  
Rendcomb 117 - 5 (Witchell 21)  
Bredon 119 - 2

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) Lost by 8 wkts  
Rendcomb 127 - 8 (Forster 37)  
STR 128 - 2

Team from: R. Witchell (capt), A. Hawkins (v capt), M. Garcia, J. Emerson, I. Forster, J. Shenton, B. Butler, N. Stanfield, P. Webb, T. Gilbert, E. Compton, R. Barnes, W. Brittain-Jones.

## U15 A XI

Results: Played 9, Won 4, Drew 3, Lost 2

v Bloxham School (A) Lost by 119 runs  
Bloxham 219 - 6 Dec (Day 5-97)  
Rendcomb 100 (Witchell 30)

v Bredon School (A) Won by 17 runs  
Rendcomb 80 - 9 (Takanashi 24 \*)  
Bredon 63 (Day 5 - 18)

v Prior Park College (A) Won by 15 runs  
Rendcomb 95-5 dec  
(Hall 26\*, Armstrong- Wilde 23)  
Prior Park 80 (Hall 4-46)



v Bristol Cathedral School (H) Won by 4 wickets BCS  
92 (Witchell 3-19, Sharman 5-9)  
Rendcomb 64-6 (Hall 30\*)

v Cokethorpe School (A) Won by 149 runs  
Rendcomb 184-7 dec (Hall 62\*, Warrington 25\*)  
Cokethorpe 35 (Day 5-12)

v Magdalen College School (H) Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 149-5 dec. (Witchell 58, Hall 47\*)  
MCS130-6 (Day 4-26)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) Lost by 8 wickets  
Rendcomb 93 (Witchell 22)  
STR 94-2

v Crypt School (H) Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 206-6 (Dolleymore 30, Witchell 51,  
Hall 50\*, Day 30\*)  
Crypt 120-4

v Kingham Hill School Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 110- (Williams 34 N. O, Day 20) Kingham  
Hill 101-7 (Hall 3-10)

"Patience is a virtue" - how true this is with the highly disciplined game of cricket, a truism that the side began to get to grips with during the season in terms of batting and fielding. Nick Hall captained with authority and certainly led by example, contributing well with both bat and ball. Will Witchell had a 'quiet' season really considering his ability - needing to wait for the bad balls rather than trying to score off every delivery. Tristan Day proved invaluable, with the ball especially, and his absence through injury from the bowling line-up at the end of the season was sorely missed. The rest of the team contributed greatly, the whole team gelling well with high spirits; fielding became much sharper as did the running between the wickets. My thanks go to the players for an interesting season with good commitment shown throughout.

ASB

Team from: N. Hall (capt.), A. Dolleymore, D. Armstrong-Wilde, W. Witchell, T. Day, A. Sage, Y. Takanashi, W. Warrington, M. Williams, L. Barton, J. Brittain-Jones, D. Sharman, R. Smallman, C. Garcia, B. Cox.

## U15 B XI

In a season where, of the five scheduled fixtures at this level, one was cancelled and two prevented by a torrentially wet June, the U15B XI were unbeaten, and deserve great credit for remaining keen and cheerful throughout despite a severe shortage of competitive cricket.

We began with a famous victory at Bloxham. Opting to bat first we were heading for a horrendous defeat, but Rafe Smallman batted intelligently to make an unbeaten 52 and helped us to the heady heights of 89 all out. Bloxham were dismissed for 85 in an exciting finale. An excellent day's cricket by anyone's standards. Our second and final visit was to Prior Park College where we made 126 for 7. This was likely to be enough, and taking early wickets, Prior Park were put under pressure. Sadly we dropped catches and the match ended with the opposition on 118 for 8.

Carlos Garcia is to be congratulated on his captaincy, even if the coach did not agree with his decisions. Rafe Smallman is emerging as a very good cricketer, Henry Watson batted and bowled with increasing competence, and James Brittain-Jones has genuine pace and accuracy. I would like to thank members of the squad for a very positive and extremely enjoyable season.

Team From:

C. Garcia (capt), J. Brittain-Jones, R. Smallman, E. Farnsworth, D. Newby, D. Godfrey, R. Walder, R. Mann, O. Jeffcott, R. Collinson, H. Weston, T. Mais, A. Card.

BLN

Played 2, Won 1, Drawn 1

v. Bloxham School (A) Won by 4 runs  
(Smallman 52\*)

v. Prior Park College (A) Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 126  
Prior Park 119-8

## U14 B XI

A most enjoyable season, not vintage cricket, yet clearly the squad developed and fun triumphed over technique. I would like to thank all the team members and hope that they will continue where they left off next season.

JHS

The season started slowly, with several players not having seen a cricket bat before - four foreign sportsmen, of which the two Spanish players, Francisco Ruiz and Ignacio Valdecasas were promoted to the 'A's. Fran had a good start to his cricket life gaining 32 - not a bad start to his first season. We had several players from different years playing in several matches, including Steve Ward, Jonathan Pratt, Rupert McKelvie and, for one match against Prior Park we even had Rocky

Fung, who scored 46 runs, playing for us.

Paul Bongiovanni

Team from: P. Bongiovanni, T. Drew, I. Valdecasas, M. Good, H. Ino, R. Knight, O. Morris, M. Neale, Y. Hasegawa, R. Nicholas, F. Ruiz.

## U13 A XI

The season kicked off with two cancellations due to rain, Sir Thomas Rich's and Marling; phew, what a relief! We formed the team and it was time to get out into the field. Next on the list was Prior Park; the general fielding was promising, Tommy Lait chasing everything that came at him and Chris Jeffreys pulling off some good wickets. Now the batting was our weak spot and it certainly was; all out for 57 which was not too bad for the first match of the season. Three days later it was off to Bristol Cathedral, with Steve Ward getting an impressive 7 wickets which kept us in the game. Our batting let us down but we showed that by improving our weak team we could do it against Cokethorpe, where Jonathan Pratt got 14 runs and Rupert McKelvie; 21, it would always be a tight game but we lost it by 6 runs.

Crypt came and this was a game we were not looking forward to; they reached 123 all out; Mat Hutchins proved that speed and a bit of spin would rip the other team apart. Now it was our turn to bat; Steve Ward got 14 runs and when he was out we started to go downhill. We were onto our last partnership and had to get a lot of runs. Our chances were very low and what we all begged for was rain; it came with Nat and Tommy showing their powers to open the sky - we were all thankful because we got a draw.

Farmors: This surely had to be a match to pick up our confidence - they were all out for 28. Nat and Steve scored quick runs and we won the match; also Mr. Sykes had the hard job of umpiring on his own.

Kingham Hill: the last match of the season because the last two matches were once again called off because of the rain. We decided to bat first; Nat and John scored an impressive 64 runs between them, getting us into the hundreds for only 3 wickets. Everyone knew that we could do it, but we would have to field tightly and bowl accurately. We were counting down from 20 overs; Mat Hutchins

did some brilliant bowling and the only way to win was to get them all out. At the last ball of the match the batsman was so frightened not to lose the match for his team that he stepped out of the way, the ball hit the bails straight off and the batsman went off crying. It was an amazing way to end the season.

I would like to thank all the people who made up the team and Mr. Sykes for all his encouragement and support and coaching us through another season of cricket.

Rupert McKelvie

Played 6, won 2, lost 3, drew 1

v Prior Park (H) lost by 37 runs  
PP 105  
RC 68

v Bristol Cathedral School (A) lost by 38 runs  
BCS 55  
RC 18 (Steve Ward 7 for 19)

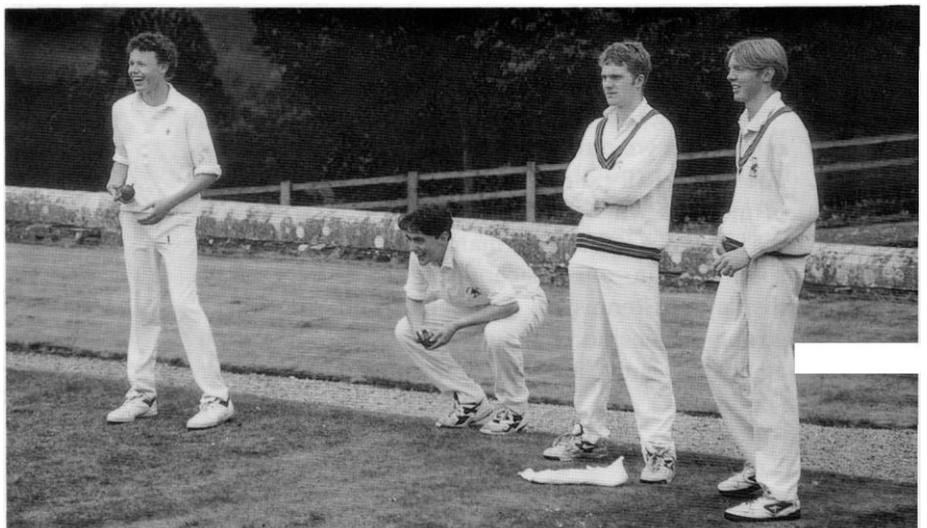
v Cokethorpe (H) lost by 6 runs  
C 75  
RC 69 (McKelvie 21 runs)

v Crypt (H) Drawn Match  
Half way through match called off due to rain

v Farmors (H) won  
F 28 all out  
RC 29 for 1

v Kingham Hill (H) won  
RC 105 for 3 (Nat Maylott 30, John Pratt 34)  
KH 75 all out (Matt Hutchins 6 - 13)

Team from: -  
R. McKelvie (captain), S. Ward, N. Maylott,  
C. Cowper, J. Pratt, D. Fastnedge, E. MacCurrach, T. Lait, M. Hutchins, C. Jeffreys, S. Hicks, D. Roper.



**Bowlers on Founder's Day**

## U13 B XI

Two excellent wins were achieved with some help from the 'A' squad. In the first match smart bowling and fielding won the day and in the second match it was even better. My thanks must go to Giles Drew for his encouraging approach as Captain and to all the squad who have made a contribution this term

JGW

Played 2, won 2

Team from: R. Birkbeck, C. Cowper, G. Drew, M. Ewing, D. Fastnedge, E. Maccurrach, N. Marlowe, N. Maylott, T. Moss, J. Sabourin, T. Bates, D. Bond, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, S. Hicks, C. Jacobs, C. Jeffreys, T. Lait, J. Mociornitza, D. Roper, M. Hutchins, E. Vaughan-Hughes, H. Wilson.

The final match was against a strong Cheltenham College side and on a very tricky surface; once again we were overpowered by a school that is simply bigger. However, despite losing all our matches, the season was an enjoyable one and none of the players lacked enthusiasm, some of whom deserve a special mention.

Joe Schinzler who is still only in the Fifth Form is a truly talented all round player and will be a great asset in the following year. Andy Carrington too showed some great style throughout the season. Partnering him, Rupert Webb played a consistent and safe game. The third pair, Mark Sutton and Rob Arnold, suffered somewhat in matches mainly due to inexperience, but neither of them ever gave up trying.

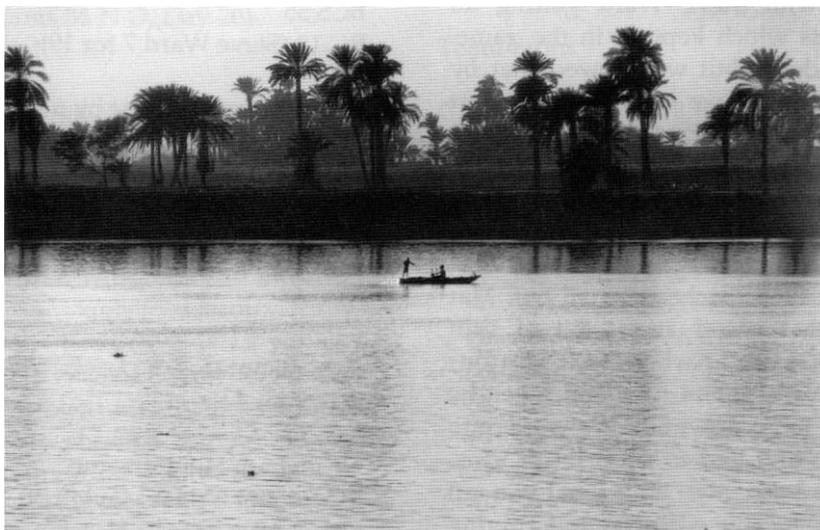
The 2nd VII also had a rather disappointing season, but they too have gained some valuable experience and made some valiant efforts.

## Boys' Tennis

It was clear on the first day of term that this year's tennis teams and set up was a completely new look compared to previous years. With the departure of Mr. Holt and the arrival of Mr. Vuolo and a special tennis

coach on Mondays the team was eager to learn. The teams themselves were also a complete change from the previous year, with the arrival of Joe Schinzler and Andy Carrington, and, although on paper the teams looked promising, things didn't come together when under match pressure.

The first match was against Dauntsey's and considering they are usually very strong opposition we put up a good fight and only lost by one and a half points. Going into our next couple of matches we were fairly confident after a good performance in our first match. However we were soon put in our place after some very poor displays of tennis on our behalf and some very strong opposition against Wycliffe and then against Dean Close in some terrible weather conditions.



**The Nile**

*Jack Garland*

Finally, I would just like to thank Mr. Vuolo for putting up with us throughout the term and I hope that things go better next term.

Chris Baker

## Girls' Tennis

The tennis of '97 will be remembered for four reasons - the very diverse weather, our entry for the first time at the Gloucestershire School's Doubles tournament at U18 and U16 level, competing for the first time in the Midland Bank league at U15 level, and a most enjoyable trip to Wimbledon, with lots of wonderful tennis and no rain!

SW

## 1st and 2nd VI

The season has been fairly pleasing with teams enjoying some good matches and performing

credibly even when up against strong opposition. One of the early matches was at Dauntsey's School. It was cold, wet and windy, and both the 1st and 2nd VI were well beaten. It was agreed things could only get better!

The 1st XI was a very settled team, and the regular pairings of the College captain Vicky Dühmke with Annabel Howard, Jenny Bartholomew with Jenny Mais, and Charlotte Kerton with Sophie Brown proved to be useful combinations. The 2nd had a successful season; the losses were close and the wins decisive. For the past two seasons the 2nd VI has not won a fixture, so this year's teams are to be congratulated on winning half their matches. The team was under the captaincy of Polly Wigfield, who was partnered by Georgina Hunter-Smart and played as first couple; this proved a strong and successful pairing.

TT

#### 1st VI

Played 7, won 3, lost 4.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| v St. Clotilde's Convent School (A)    | won 7-2  |
| v. Dauntsey's School (A)               | lost 0-9 |
| v. Cheltenham College (H)              | lost 0-9 |
| v. St. Edward's School, Cheltenham (H) | lost 3-6 |
| v. Dean Close School (A)               | lost 0-9 |
| v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)   | won 9-0  |
| v. Farmor's School, Fairford (A)       | won 6-3  |

Team from: V. Dühmke (Captain), J. Bartholomew, S. Brown, A. Howard, P. Hunt, G. Hunter-Smart, C. Kerton, J. Mais, S. Peters, P. Wigfield.

#### 2nd VI

Played 4, won 2, lost 2

Team from: P. Wigfield (capt. ), N. El-Titi, P. Hunt, G. Hunter-Smart, E. Jakobs, S. Peters, T. Sleggs.

## U15 VI

Some splendid tennis has been played this term, especially by the Midland Bank team. It is the first time the girls have entered the LTA National Schools Tennis Championship, and this proved a great success with its format of a four person team playing both singles and doubles rubbers. The team of Sophie Sprawson, Anna de Lisle Wells, Helen Mizon and Lottie Webb displayed both quality and entertaining tennis to win their group. Thanks must go to Sophie who cajoled the team's enthusiasm and led them by example through a victorious season.

We must not forget the remainder of the U15 squad who worked hard developing their skills

and tactical awareness, adding strength to the team. We were able to give more girls the opportunity of playing for the College by fielding a 'B' team of four girls to play against Cotswold School and Balcarras School, when the Midland Bank team was involved in league fixtures. Undoubtedly we have some young promise moving up the ranks!

Played 4, won 2, drew 1, lost 1.

Team from: S. Sprawson (capt. ), P. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. de Lisle Wells, S. Donovan, S. Forster, H. Mizon, L. Sammons, C. Schotten, M. Schumacher, C. Webb.

JN

## Rounders

This season's results fail to reflect the enthusiasm and determination the junior girls have put into all their practices and matches during the summer term. The atmosphere during games sessions was always positive and each team travelled to matches with a firm commitment to win. The fact that in all but two matches this did not happen does not take away the enjoyment otherwise experienced by the girls.

The U. 13 team started off the term with a superb win over St. Clotilde's, 13 rounders to 9, and ended the season with a good win against Deer Park School, 11 rounders to 9. Throughout the term, the Captain, Rosie Warrington, led by example by playing well at Backstop and batting doggedly to provide rounders for the team along with Heidi Pitt. Sarah Padmore at 3rd Post took many spectacular catches whilst Vicky Mackinnon fielded effectively at 2nd Deep.

The U. 12's played extremely well all term with reliable bowling from Holly Osborne and Georgina Holmes, as Captain, linking up as Backstop well with Zuki Turner to dismiss many opponents at 1st Post. The long and accurate throwing of Caroline Peters at 2nd Deep also prevented many more rounders being scored against Rendcomb whilst the batting of Alexandra Pardhy, Hannah Ewing and Laura North provided many rounders.

The season saw many personal improvements and we look forward to as enjoyable a season next year but, hopefully, with a few more wins as just reward for their efforts.

U. 13 IX: - Played 7; Won 2; Lost 5

U. 12 IX: - Played 3; Lost 3

PSW

## Basketball

Each Friday afternoon we have run a successful basketball class which has proved very successful with both boys and girls attending. Everyone worked very hard and made the sessions worthwhile. Two matches were arranged against Bedstone College; in the first encounter the seniors won one match but lost the second. The Under 16 age group lost their first match but won the second with a good performance captained by David Newby.



DE

### *Rendcomb v Bedstone College*

After a long drought of Rendcomb Basketball matches, a fixture was organised between us and Bedstone School (better known as Mr. Newby's new school! ). The stage was set, the cobwebs brushed off the old Griffins shirts and we were prepared knowing that if we lost we would never hear the end of it from Mr. Newby.

With this in mind, we went into the match with all guns blazing, and created an early lead, by no means easy considering the strength of the opposition. Into the second half, we were beginning to tire and they clawed back from a

12 point gap to a 4 point gap, but through sheer determination we managed to hold out and win the game 43-39.

To give credit to the whole team, Jo Schinzler played exceptionally well scoring some great baskets and good blocks in defence. Andrew Donovan did his part under the basket getting rebounds at both ends of the court. Chris Scarth defended well and Matt Hall used his height well to our advantage. Thanks go to the rest of the team who didn't get a game, and to Mr. Essenhigh for organising the match and being such a great coach. The match was well supported - a truly enjoyable occasion which I hope can be repeated in the future.

Chris Baker



## Archery

Rendcomb Archers have enjoyed another happy year with a small band of dedicated archers. We shot some good rounds during practice with a good deal of rivalry amongst the students. It is particularly rewarding when so much progress is made in such a short time.

In January, Rebecca Doyle and Doug Ellison entered their first tournament - the Gloucestershire Indoor Championship, no less! Although very nervous, they shot well and Beccy came away with a medal for second place in the Junior Girls' Section. Another

highlight of the year was the Christmas Dinner when Doug became the proud owner of his own bow.

My thanks go to all the archers - but particularly to Beccy and Doug for all their hard work and enthusiasm over the years. We will miss them.

JME

## Equestrian Activities

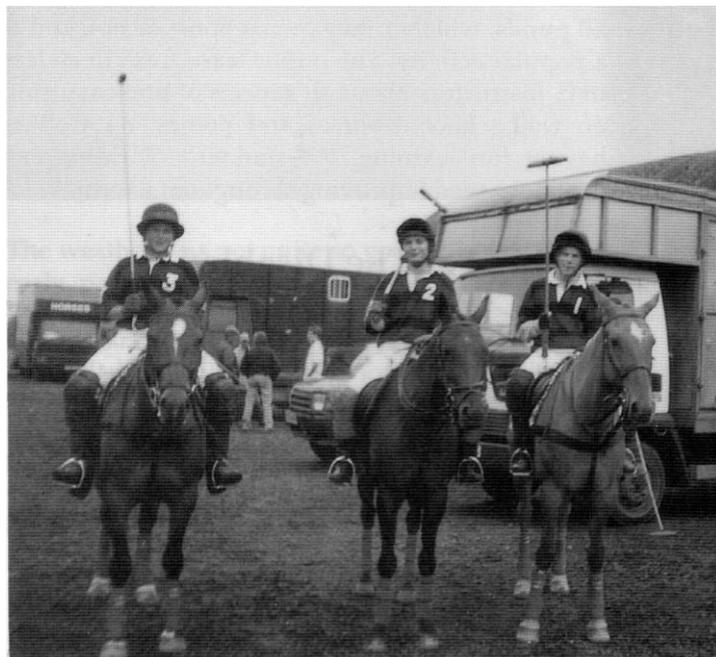
We are extremely fortunate to have a top class Equitation Centre situated less than 10 miles from Rendcomb College where pupils, boys and girls, may go to learn to ride, either as Beginners or as more Advanced Riders. As well as this activity, Rendcomb College also has One Day Event Teams and a Polo Team representing us throughout the Spring and Summer.

### One Day Eventing

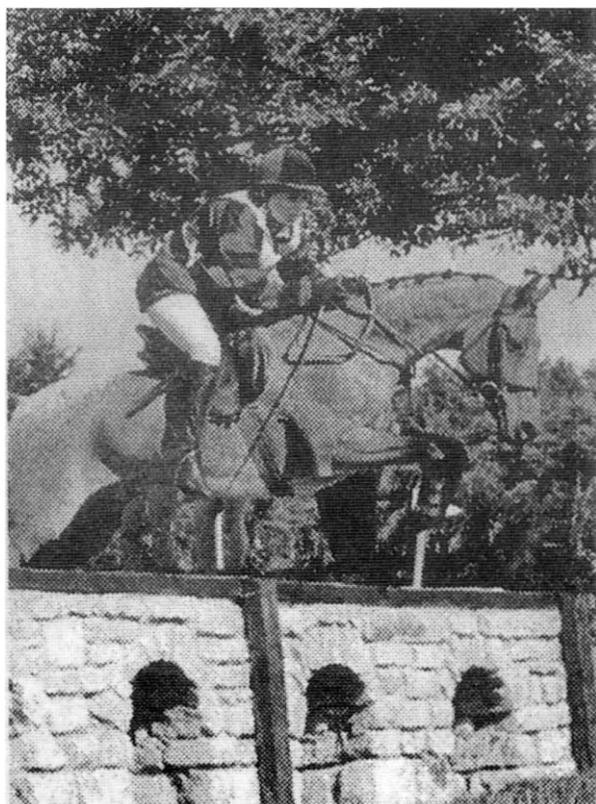
Last September brought great success for two individual competitors riding for Rendcomb College in the British Inter-Schools One Day Event Championships held at Stonar School. Harry Aldrich-Blake competing in the Senior Section had an excellent dressage score of only 29 and finished the cross country phase, in which jumping, speed, courage and fitness of both horse and rider are well tested, in 12th place in a field of 65 starters. Their fine performance also gave Harry 20th place overall from over 260 competitors. Anna de Lisle Wells also rode superbly finishing on her

dressage score of 39 to be only one of seven competitors to incur no penalties in either the Show Jumping or Cross Country sections. Anna was placed 20th in her Intermediate Section of 65 competitors.

Currently we have a Senior Team and two individual Intermediates training with a view to entering the British Championships again September 1997.



**Ben Newton, Anna De Lisle Wells and Oliver Jones**



### Polo

Polo has been an exciting addition to the activities offered at Rendcomb College with pupils training during the Lent and Summer terms under the professional eye of Simon Coddington at the Inglesham Polo Centre near Lechlade. Although younger than the other entrants, Ben Newton, Oliver Jones and Anna de Lisle Wells began competing as a team in the National Schools Arena Polo Championship which was held at Inglesham. Their enthusiasm and determination to do well soon had the spectators screaming encouragement for Rendcomb in this very exciting sport. In June the team travelled to the Beaufort Polo Club at Westonbirt to play in Division 1 of the Tournament gaining invaluable experience against Marlborough 1 and Appleford. The rain at the end of June meant the venue for the Intermediate Schools Polo Tournament which was due to be held at Tidworth Polo Club had to be changed to Inglesham. A practice match in which the team beat Cheltenham Ladies College put the team in

good spirit for the last Tournament of the term. Despite meeting the eventual winners of the Tournament in their first chukka, the team thoroughly enjoyed their sport ending the day on a fine note by winning their third chukka against Rugby A. I would very much like to thank those taking part for their enthusiasm and especially thank their parents for all the time and effort they put into supporting the teams.

## Horse Riding

Horse Riding Lessons each week are available to all pupils, whether they own a horse or not, and is a popular activity. The pupils learn from first class BHS Instructors about all aspects of horsemanship on well schooled horses and ponies. As well as having fun learning, the standard of riding can visibly be seen improving throughout a term.

## Riding For The Disabled

In September 1997, as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Rendcomb College is arranging to provide helpers to the local Riding for the Disabled Club to provide a worthwhile service to the community whilst also enjoying the contact with the horses and children.

PSW

## Clay Shooting



In 1993 an enthusiastic though largely unskilled group of boys and girls assembled under a vast copper beech in the Park to 'have a go' at Clay Pigeon Shooting. That safety was the most important factor was powerfully demonstrated by a gentleman in a flat hat with the aid of two cow-pats!

As the dung was splattered into the long grass with the force of the shot from the gun, the whole crowd realised that this was a sport to be respected. They soon appreciated that it was also a sport to be loved.

Three-quarter length blue coats hung on the beech tree for a few weeks, but soon the increasingly capable band of shooters realised that this attire was entirely inappropriate for shooting. Around this time a hollowed-out aged oak tree was discovered and soon became the 'clubhouse', in which unused clays were stored. As the terms passed, the shooting soon became very skilled, but Thursday afternoons beneath the giant beech tree became more than just a chance to test one's hand-eye skills against the flight of some black pottery discs.

There have been many special moments under the burgundy canopy - two roe deer breaking cover as we arrived one day, warming pigeon-broth consumed on a cold December afternoon, the haphazard scampering of a white and tan spaniel trying to catch falling clays and the different techniques developed for bullock herding.

However, it is towards the Nationals that we focus our practices each year. Wonderful memories abound - "Aylesbury or Mallard eggs?" the barked question emits from the mighty frame of the landlord at breakfast, failing to escape the attention of the video-camera of a quirky lady, watching a Holland & Holland no.1 gun being used with such spectacular effect and, of course, the heart-warming successes of both the boys' and girls' teams in 1997.

Winning the Nationals is a very real possibility in the next few years as there is considerable shooting talent at College. As important as ability is the motivation of the coach and the boys and girls are very fortunate to have the considerable expertise and irrepressible enthusiasm of Mr. James Stutchbury to guide them to success. As I slid through the mud into a bush in a 1960 Army Land Rover on the way to the copper beech, I knew I had been privileged to work with such a man and such a splendid group of pupils.

JPW

Throughout the last four years a number of individuals have been clearly involved with the shooting yet no more than Mr. John Watson. He is after all a true countryman; observant, patient and above all with a true affinity to field sports. I would like to warmly thank him for so many of his contributions - loyalty, effective leadership,

coaching and all round support to the Rendcomb shooting.

The shooting will move on and we are sorry to lose the fine duo of William Brittain-Jones and Bob Witchell, both captains for the 1996/7 season. I thank them for their fine efforts. I am very pleased to appoint James Gibbs as captain and Sebastian Grey as vice-captain for the 1997/8 season.

I feel confident that the sport we all love is very safe in their hands.

JHS

## Cross Country

This year's cross country event was an inter-schools race held at Hatherop Castle School. The teams did very well in both the boys and girls races, the boys coming first and the girls fourth. William Hunt (6A) organised the teams - thanks go to him and to Mrs. Westhead for coordinating our entry. Thanks also to Mr. Patterson who provided valuable assistance as the minibus driver - we all had an excellent time!

Boys' team: M. Collier, O. Morris, R. Knight, M. Ewing.  
Girls' team: C. Schotten, R. Thrower, N. Scarth, A. Gilbert.

Mathew Ewing

## Sailing

Another season of successes for the Sailing and Windsurfing activity, again many of the members of the group gaining an RYA certificate of progress.



The weather was not quite so good this year in the early part of the season, however every session was able to carry on without being cancelled due to rain. We are grateful, as every year, to the staff at the South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre for their expertise and enthusiasm - certainly all the members of the group had a great time and made progress whether at beginner level or more advanced.

Those who took part this year were: -

C. Morey, T. Shaw, J. Hawkins, A. Phillips, S. Grey, D. Hughes, P. De Havilland Hall, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, E. Turville, C. Lucke.

SJL



# Leavers' Weekend

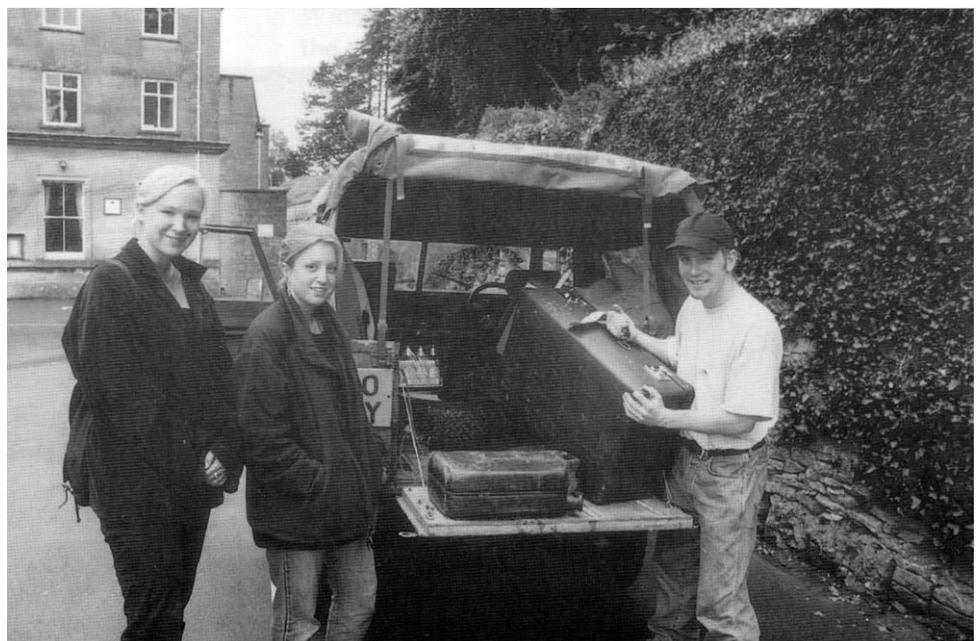
During the last exeat of the Summer term the members of 6A celebrated their achievements during their time at Rendcomb.

There was a dinner dance on the Friday evening at which presentations were made to those members of Common Room who were leaving.

The following day there was a Leavers' Service in the church at which Mr. White gave the address. After the service pupils, parents and staff took lunch together in College.



**Pre-dinner drinks in School House**



**James Graham loads his Land Rover for the last time**



**LEAVERS'  
WEEKEND**

