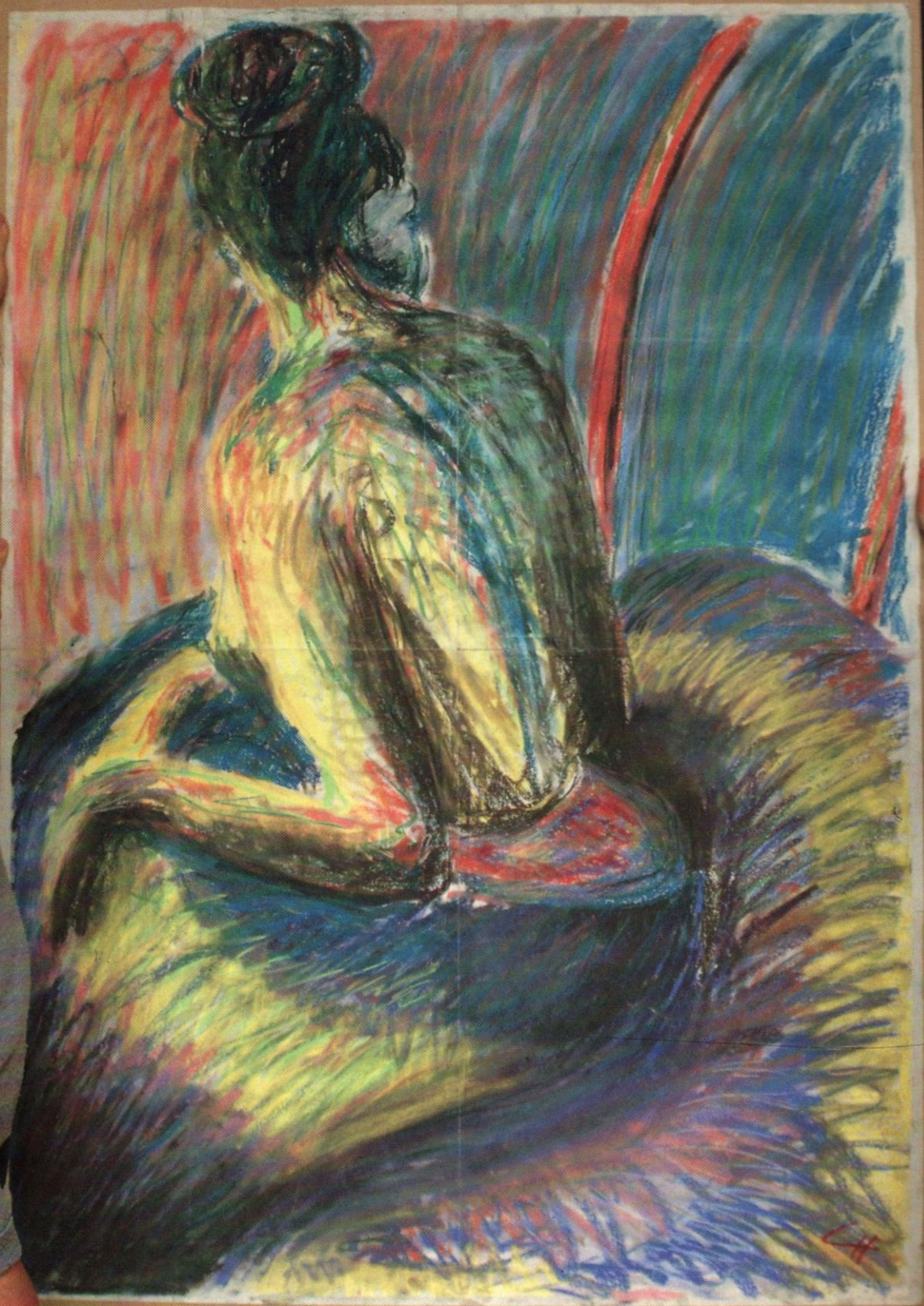




Rendcombian



REBECCA

Rendcombian

No. 7

September 1989



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*Front Cover: Outside - Tennis on the new hard court provided by the Parents' Association
Inside - Art Viewing*

*Back Cover: Outside - Juniors' Canal Trip
Inside - Cricket on Top*

Photos: C. J. Wood

Contents

Note: Page numbers below link to actual page numbers in this document.

RENDCOMBIAN	3
Contents	4
Editorial	5
The Record 1	6
News in Brief	6
Tim Lane	8
Mavis Mezo	9
Jane Manners	9
The New Rendcomb	10
Interviews	12
The New Director of Music	12
A Rendcombian Grandfather	13
Founder's Day	14
The Chairman's Speech	14
The Headmaster's Report	14
Address by Baroness Helen Mary Warnock, DBE	16
Speech of Thanks	16
Reports	17
The Parents' Association	17
Chaplain's Notes	18
Bursar's Notes	19
The Friends of Rendcomb	19
The Junior House	20
The General Meeting	22
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	22
'Thought in Cold Storage'	22
Talks	23
Sandra Taylor in Somalia	23
'The Army as a Peace-Keeper'	23
The Michael Wills Memorial Lecture	23
'Cults'	24
Opera Workshop	25
'Climbing'	25
'Educational Links with the Third World'	25
Lawn and Stable Houses - The Architect's View	26
Academic Results	27
'A' Level	28
Advanced Supplementary and Additional Subjects	28
Activities	30
Art	30
Workshop	35
Music	35
The Music Staff Concert	36
Autumn Concert	37
Informal Concert	37
Rendcomb Rock - <i>Spot That Plane</i>	38
Gardening	38
<i>Much Ado</i>	39
<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>	40
Theatre Workshop	40
<i>Joking Apart</i>	41

ACTIVITIES	30
<i>Genesis</i> and all that!	41
The Photographic Society	42
Debate	43
Arts Society Debate	43
Parents' Association - Activity Day and Barbecue	44
Comic Relief	45
Bridge Club	45
The Arts Society	45
Viewpoints	46
Into Europe	46
Exchange of Views	48
Outings	50
Godman House to London	50
42nd Street	50
Artists' Jazz Trip	51
Art Students to London	51
Form IV to London	51
Diocesan Sponsored Bicycle Ride	52
And a Second-Former's View:	53
Portugal 1988	53
The Black Country Ring	55
Skiing 1989	56
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	57
<i>An Inspector Calls</i>	57
<i>To Kill a Mocking-Bird</i>	57
<i>Juno and The Paycock</i>	57
Biology Field Trip	58
Modern Languages at York University	58
RAF Lyneham	59
<i>Waiting for Godot</i>	60
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	60
<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	60
Careers and Higher Education Fair	61
Scientists to Oxford	61
The Record 2	62
College Officers	62
Meeting Officers	62
Valete	63
Salvete	63
Old Rendcombian Society	63
News of Recent Leavers	64
Boys' Sport	65
Rugby Football	65
Hockey	70
Cricket	74
Boys' Tennis	80
<i>Griffins</i> Basketball	80
Girls' Sport	81
Girls' Hockey	81
Girls' Tennis	81
Girls' Netball	81
Other Sports	81
Archery	81
Badminton	82
Judo	82



Editorial

The publication of the seventh issue of *Rendcombian* coincides with the completion of the structural changes to our environment. Two years of planning and many months of feverish building activity now leave Rendcomb better placed than many comparable schools to accommodate future generations in superb surroundings.

As we look back on one era of the school's history and stand at the outset of another, we have time and occasion to consider what we would preserve and what alter. We hope to see continuity in many aspects of our life here, as well as change and renewal.

Observing the new physical structure of our school offers us an opportunity for reflection and for reshaping

it into a more challenging as well as a more comfortable environment. At the same time, we trust that the tolerance of individuality, the friendliness and co-operative spirit of Rendcomb will continue to prosper, and that encouragement to compete with one's own potential will remain an important characteristic of our education.

We hope too that in the future Rendcomb will look more to the outside world, to communities beyond its confines, and that it will thus maintain and develop the progressive, humane and liberal-minded tradition envisaged by its Founder and enjoyed by generations of its pupils. *Rendcombian* will endeavour to serve and to reflect this tradition.

One of Philip Hardwick's designs for the mansion, 1863



The Record 1

News in Brief

Christmas Term 1988

We began the school year by **welcoming Miss Bridget Goldsmith**, who has taken charge of the Biology Department, **Mr Adrian Bradfield**, who has joined the Physics staff, and **Mr John Williams**, who is teaching Mathematics. We wish them all a successful and happy time at Rendcomb.

The 6B visit to Longleat on 18th September was the first of many outings, including the **music lovers' trips to Cheltenham** to hear the **Don Weller Quartet Jazz Band** and the **Cheltenham Sunday Players**, trips to see *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* at Stratford and *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Niccol Centre in Cirencester. A group of Art students spent a day in London exploring the Tate Gallery and the Royal Academy.

Junior trips included **swimming, ice-skating, a day in London and a visit to Sweeney Todd at the Everyman Theatre**, Cheltenham. Many juniors also took part in the **Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride**, the College raising the excellent total of £960, well ahead of our nearest rivals, and winning the **Christian Brann Challenge Cup**.

Concerts within the school started **on 23rd October with a very well attended and superb performance by the music staff**, which also gave parents a chance to meet some of the peripatetic teachers. This was followed by an **outstanding musical evening on 13th November**, and on the 26th a group of **Rendcomb musicians visited Miserden** to give a concert in aid of the local church funds. The now **well-established informal concerts on Sunday mornings** continued with one on 18th September, a second on 23rd October and a third on 27th November.

A great deal of work went into the production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, resulting in three good performances on the first three days in December.

Several interesting talks were given. **Sandra Taylor**, whom many of us remember as the Headmaster's Secretary, returned to share with us her **missionary experiences in Ethiopia**; **Steven Venables** told us about his **exploration of Katmandu** and **Diana Lamplugh** discussed with us her movement, **'Action Against Aggression'**. The **Michael Wills Memorial Lecture**, given on 1st December by **Professor Edward Hitchcock, FRCS**, was on **'Brain Regeneration'** and was followed by fund-raising for victims of Parkinson's Disease.

Fund-raising for **Rendcomb's first Rugby Tour**, in Portugal, involved a **'Horse Race Night'** and a raffle on 21st October. Guest speaker at the rugby dinner was **John Jeavons-Fellows**, of the Selection Committee of the RFU.

The **Carol Service** was held on 11th December in Cirencester Parish Church, filled to capacity with parents, friends and the public.

We were sorry to say goodbye to **Mr Tim Lane**, Director of Music since 1982. We wish him and his family all the very best for the future.



Adrian Bradfield

Easter Term 1989

We were favoured with exceptionally good weather this term, and very few hockey matches had to be cancelled.

The Careers Convention was held on 3rd March, and during the term we had visits from the **Army and Royal Air Force Liaison Officers**.

On 18th January the Sixth Form debated and rejected the motion that **'Science has contributed more to society than the Arts'**. Two Arts Society videos, *A Room with a View* and *Annie Hall* were well attended, and a **reading of Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock** was held.

Two boys and fourteen girls entered for scholarships on 20th and 21st February. Names of successful candidates are given later in this issue.

Two informal concerts were given, on 5th and 26th February, and **informal Theatre Evenings** were held on 19th and 20th March, including a **presentation by the Third Form of Us and Them** by David Campton and a series of short **Alan Ayckbourn sketches performed by 6B**.

Theatre outings took **the Sixth Form to The Glass Menagerie** and the **Royal Ballet's Romeo and Juliet**. Other visits included *Juno and the Paycock* at the National Theatre, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and a **Fourth Form trip to Twelfth Night** at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham.

Rendcomb entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the second **Comic Relief Day** on 10th March; fancy dress was worn, and various fund-raising events **produced almost £400** during the day.

The Bishop of Gloucester confirmed 28 candidates, in the presence of their families, at the Confirmation Service on 12th March.

We congratulate **Aileen and Martin Graham** on the birth in January of their **daughter, Amanda Claire**.

On 1st March Mrs Mathewson gave a talk to the Sixth Form about 'Cults', which was highly interesting and provoked much thought and discussion. Other talks included 'The Peace-keeping Role of the Army' by Major Christopher Le Hardy.

A Parents' Association Barn Dance was held at the end of the term and thoroughly enjoyed by members of the junior forms and their parents.

During the Easter holidays Sixth Form biologists went on a Field Trip to the Nettlecome Field Studies Centre; there was an excursion on the canals for the juniors and a skiing holiday in France for enthusiasts.

Summer Term 1989

During the term the various building projects moved into their final intensive phase; the operations in the main Building will not be complete until the end of the holidays. Minor inconveniences notwithstanding, school life, 'A' levels, GCSE and other examinations ran smoothly as usual.

On 22nd April a Sponsored Famine was held, organised by Hilary and Paul Sumsion. They are to be congratulated on raising over £558 for Famine Relief. The Third and Fourth Forms went to see *Animal Farm* at the Everyman Theatre on 12th May; the Sixth Form saw the new Stratford production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on 11th May and *Guys and Dolls* at the Everyman on 1st June.

The Guest Speaker on Founder's Day was Baroness Mary Warnock. The occasion gave parents and pupils an opportunity to look round Lawn House, a year after the laying of the foundation stone.

On 7th June our architect, John Timpson, gave a talk to VIB on the new buildings, and on the 8th the whole form went to the Times and Sunday Times Careers and Higher Education Fair at Olympia.

Opening on 16th June, the juniors gave three fine performances of *Nicholas Nickleby*, adapted and directed by the Headmaster. At the end of term VIB produced and performed *Joking Apart* by Alan Ayckbourn.

On 21st June there was a Staff versus Parents' cricket match, followed by a barbecue.

On 11th June, Excursion Sunday, VIB spent a day at Alton Towers, whilst the Fourth Form went to Longleat and Godman House to the London Planetarium and Wembley Stadium.

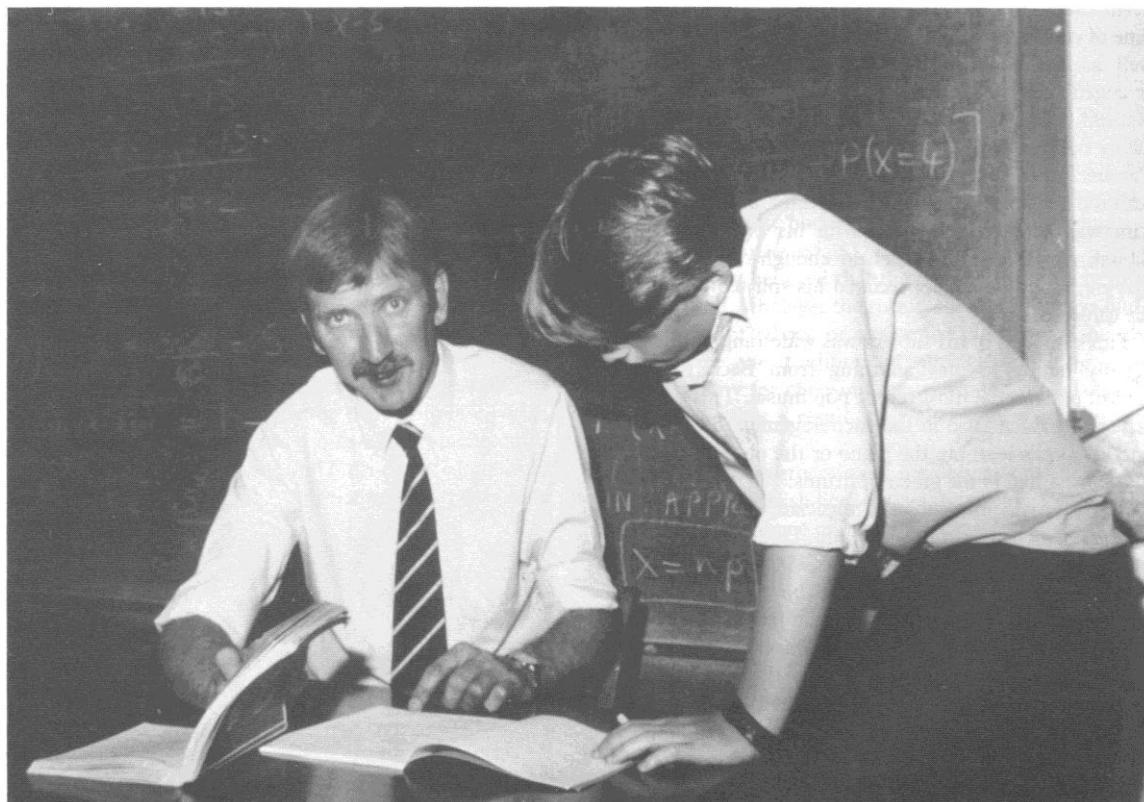
An informal concert was given on 21st May, and on 3rd June the VIB Rock Band, *Spot That Plane*, made their debut.

Leavers' Weekend coincided with the second exeat. On 23rd June VIA had a supper party with the staff. On Saturday there was a service in church for leavers and their parents, followed by a buffet lunch.

At the end of June the cricket touring party left for Jersey; VIB Geographers went to Slapton Ley Field Centre, and candidates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award made their assessment excursion to the Black Mountains.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mavis Mezo, Jane Manners, Shirley Kirton and Maimi Cooper. We wish them every success and happiness in the future.

John Williams





Tim and Hilary Lane

Tim Lane

Tim Lane left Rendcomb at the end of the Christmas Term 1988, after six years as Director of Music. It was a time of considerable activity in the Music department: as well as the concerts, formal and informal, that he arranged and conducted in conjunction with John Willson, many people will remember especially the two Savoy operas, *HMS Pinafore* (1985) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (1987), for which he was Musical Director. In addition to being a competent director and conductor, Tim was a talented performer in his own right and, though perhaps we did not hear enough of his bassoon playing, many pupils appreciated his spirited playing of the Church organ.

Tim's interest in his subject was wide-ranging; he was equally happy to play anything from Bach to Scott Joplin, or even the most recent pop music. This catholic taste was evident also in the encouragement he gave not only to pupils learning the piano or the oboe but also to those interested in the guitar or drums.

But Tim was more than a musician; he took a keen interest in all aspects of College life. Under his influence sailing was introduced to the list of College activities, and hockey, athletics and swimming benefited from his enthusiasm. He was particularly keen that young people should not go out into the world unaware of the problems and dangers that could face them; the 6A Saturday morning sessions which he established, with outside speakers on a wide range of subjects, laid the foundations for what is now a comprehensive Health and Sex education syllabus.

No article about Tim would be complete without due reference to his wife Hilary, who, as well as supporting all Tim's endeavours and being a generous and accomplished hostess, played her own substantial part in College and community life; also, her educational training was of great benefit to the area through the popular play-group she organised in North Cerney.

As a colleague, Tim was invariably willing to help with extra-curricular activities, from manning the ISIS stand, helping to supervise the Sixth Form or Junior House, to taking 6B on their annual outing to London. In the Common Room too, his effervescent personality, whether provocative, humorous or wildly outrageous, was often a tonic to the more mature and a source of wonder to the less flamboyant.

Tim intends to develop a second career, in the fields of commerce and industry; if he can bring to bear the same enthusiasm that coloured his undertakings at Rendcomb, he will surely be a great success. Nevertheless, the commercial world's gain is our loss, and it is not without sadness that we wish Tim, Hilary, Stephanie and Philip all the very best in their future life.

P. J. S.
W. J. D. W.

Mavis Mezo

Mavis Mezo came to Rendcomb almost 20 years ago at the request of the Clerk to the Trustees, whose Secretary she was. She has now decided to leave and set up her own business, and we wish her all success in this venture.

Mavis will be well known to the best part of a generation of Rendcombians, not only in her catering role, but also as the provider of travel money to those in need for exeats and half-terms. She had to run the catering under considerable difficulties and was generous enough to agree to do so in addition to her accounting role.

Many will remember the famous banana pie and chocolate crunch eagerly looked forward to. Old Rendcombians will, I am sure, always be grateful to Mavis for the superb spreads that she laid on for the Old Rendcombians' dinner and also, even to this day, for running the bar during that function.

It may not have been well known that Mavis was also from time to time responsible for supervision of the domestic staff, and it says much for her many talents that the cleaning of all the buildings in the College proceeded so smoothly.

Some of us are lucky, some of us are talented, but Mavis is both talented and lucky, particularly at the races during one never-to-be-forgotten Cheltenham National Hunt meeting, when she went through the card and won the Tote Jackpot, a privilege given to very few!

We shall much miss her calm efficiency and helpfulness.

E. T. T.

Mavis Mezo



Jane Manners (in track suit)

Jane Manners

This summer we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Jane Manners, who came to us four years ago to help with the girls' games. Jane, a professional tennis coach, gave unsparingly of her time and expertise. Through her enthusiasm and encouragement many girls discovered a talent for tennis, hockey and netball that they had not known they possessed.

Jane firmly believed that the matches were there to be enjoyed and, whatever the result, she would always find a kind word of advice or praise for the teams. She also carried on the tradition of the girls' taking some responsibility for choosing the teams and organising the matches and, as a result, they always gave of their best for her.

She will be greatly missed, not only as a coach but as a true friend. We wish her well for the future. Perhaps one day we shall see one of her tennis *protégées* on the centre court at Wimbledon!

C. A. H.

The New Rendcomb

An Interview with the Housemasters

From next September the senior half of the school will be organised differently. As part of what the Headmaster described in his Founder's Day report as 'the happiest combination of horizontal and vertical structures', three new houses of about 50 boys apiece, Lawn and Stable Houses in the new buildings and School House in a self-contained section of the Main Building, will take boys from the end of their third year until they leave Rendcomb.

The success of the new houses depends on many factors, the most important of these being perhaps the new housemasters, Mr Newby, Mr King and Dr Haslett. Four of the editors of Rendcombian, Justine Platt, Fiona Reichwald, James Prince and Ben Maslen, interviewed them to find out about their plans for running their houses and to see what kind of Rendcomb they hoped to create for the future.

First we asked about the purpose of the new system. Mr Newby, Mr King and Dr Haslett all believed that the change would be a great improvement. There were two principal reasons for the change: to relieve the overcrowding in the Main Building where facilities had become inadequate, run down and congested, and to provide closer and more consistent pastoral care. Physically the environment would be more comfortable and more conducive to work and recreation; pastorally the system would allow a more sustained personal relationship to develop between housemaster and pupil. Asked about what happened if there were a clash of personalities, they pointed out that there was to be an assistant housemaster in each house; this should serve to relieve such a situation.

We expressed some of our contemporaries' concern about the changes; there was anxiety that the new system might create divisions within forms or groups of friends, and that the co-educational Sixth Form would in practical terms cease to exist with the removal of VIA boys from Park House.

The housemasters believed that members of forms might have to make a bit more effort to retain friends in other houses, but in any case new friendships would develop. Moreover, they pointed out, groups of firm friends were likely to be together in the same house.

They considered that there would still be plenty of opportunity for girls and boys, who were together a large part of the day in class, to socialise. There was to be a Sixth Form Common Room in the old Reading Room. Although not open in the afternoons, it would be the venue for the bar on Saturday evenings. Guests from other houses would be allowed in house common rooms in the evenings after prep. They firmly believed that the new vertical split would not provoke bullying and tension between forms; on the contrary, it would bring members of different forms together and make mixing between the year-groups much easier and more routine. The Sixth Form's contact with juniors would be a good influence on them, and all members of VIA would benefit from increased responsibilities and privileges.

We asked how pupils were to be allocated to houses. This was to be mainly according to parental request, combined with recommendation from the housemasters of the two junior houses. It was not intended to split up small groups of friends, but it was desirable to achieve a mixture of personalities and interests in each house.

We expressed also our concern that there would be

Stable House

Cloud 9





inter-house rivalry, something we felt went against the Rendcomb tradition that pupils be encouraged to compete with their own potential rather than with each other. The housemasters reserved their position on this point; they would neither encourage nor discourage such things as sports competitions; it was, they considered, up to the boys to avoid creating such rivalries if they felt them undesirable.

We asked about discipline in the new houses. The housemasters agreed that they wished their houses to have an atmosphere at once firm and relaxed, in which work was the priority, but with plenty of opportunity for social activities. Many of the rules needed for the smooth running of the houses would be based on common sense; in some cases, rules needed in the overcrowded Main Building could be relaxed under the new regime. Times formally set aside for work, such as prep, would be sacrosanct. They felt that, if pupils were not made to work during these set times; they would either fail to do the necessary amount of work or fall into the temptation of working late at night.

Questioned further about school and house routine, they told us there would be set times when houses were open to other members of the school. In particular, the Saturday night routine would change, as it was felt that this had been unsatisfactory for VIB, especially the girls.

Forms IV, V and VI would each have their own videos. The bar would be open for VIA, as at present, and members of VIB would be free to visit any house they chose. They suggested that, once in a while and for special reasons, members of VIB might be invited to the bar.

We asked how the housemasters saw their role in the new system. Mr King spoke of his eagerness to get to know the boys better, in order to give them the personal care they needed and to ensure good discipline. Dr Haslett remarked that he was looking forward to filling the 'father-figure role'; he wanted in particular to get rid of the occasional elements of 'loutishness and a bad attitude to work' he found in the school. Mr Newby spoke of the many challenges his new role would create and, like the others, eagerly looked forward to beginning the job in earnest after so much planning and discussion.

We were impressed by the unanimity and thoroughness of the replies we received. Any change is greeted with a certain amount of trepidation, but we recognised just how much thought and planning has gone into this new venture. Perhaps the attitude of the housemasters might be summed up as *nothing ventured, nothing gained*, and we hope that all Rendcombians will share this spirit of enterprise as we begin together to fashion our new future.



Interviews

The New Director of Music

Mr David White will be starting work as Rendcomb's Director of Music in September. He kindly gave an interview to Matthew Ventrella.

Anyone who has seen Mr David White, or indeed his car, will certainly agree that he will bring with him a wealth of vitality and originality of thought which will surely have a good influence on the Music Department.

Mr White was trained at Durham University and Westminster College, Oxford. He comes to us from the John Bentley School in Caine, where he has taught music for 19 years, organising the Caine Festival and the Choral Society, which gives twice-yearly concerts. He knows the area of Rendcomb well, having lived at Hucclecote; he has also had the privilege of singing with the monks of Prinknash Abbey.

While specialising as a pianist, Mr White tried his hand at the violin and the French horn, the latter after hearing Dennis Brain, a famed horn player of his generation, playing in concert in Gloucester Cathedral.

However, he will not be teaching the piano at Rendcomb, though he will be showing his obvious love for music throughout the school in a very practical and creative way, bringing what he sees as a very new and different approach, encouraging students to *enjoy* music and not putting them off by emphasising theory too early.

He feels his role to be that of a guide to the student, rather than someone who dictates from a blackboard. His main interest is in group work of whatever sort, with musicians interacting one to another.

Of course, he recognises that not all of this will happen immediately. As he has been in his present job for 19 years, it will take time for him to adjust - it takes time for anyone, but more perhaps for an older man - and in many ways he will be like a pupil himself at first. He is very keen to work here, being especially impressed by the friendliness and courtesy of both staff and pupils.

Incidentally, the decoration on his car was designed by his two children; his wife now refuses to drive it. He would like to be thought of as 'gently eccentric'. It will be an interesting time, no doubt, for Rendcomb with Mr White.

A Rendcombian Grandfather

Mr Cecil John Gough, one of Rendcomb's earliest pupils, father and grandfather of Rendcombians, kindly gave an interview to Fiona Reichwald.

Mr Gough was brought up in Gloucestershire and came to Rendcomb for interview in 1920. Unfortunately he caught diphtheria, and his entrance was delayed for a year, during which time the original 12 boys had increased to 16; the number was to reach 70 in the next five or six years.

Even at the age of 12, Mr Gough could sense that Rendcomb was 'a breakthrough in education'. Founded for people unable to afford to send their sons to public schools, it encouraged the development of individual character.

Another clear recollection he has is the sense of 'equality'. He recalls the stopping of a game of cricket in order to discuss and pass judgment on a case of bullying. Rendcomb, he says, gave him ideals; there was something about Rendcomb boys, a sense of self-discipline and consideration for others.

He remembers also being taught the value of money. Each boy received a weekly allowance of 1s 8d (about 8p today), which was then taxed by the General Meeting to pay for games equipment.

Summer evenings, even in those days, were a temptation to illicit activity; he was caught 'ledge-walking' one evening, and he recalls going out through the windows to catch glow-worms, or even on occasions to North Cerney to buy sweets; tuck not being allowed in those days, the boys always ate too much on these occasions and felt sick on their return. Another indulgence was picking 'old man's beard' from the hedgerows and smoking it.

Rendcomb sport was in its early days; there were not enough boys to play rugby or cricket, but scouting

and football were popular. Hockey had already started on the forecourt, and Mr Gough remembers putting a ball through a downstairs window. During the summer trips were made to the Founder's house at Miserden to swim and play games. Sledging in Kennel Bottom had already started.

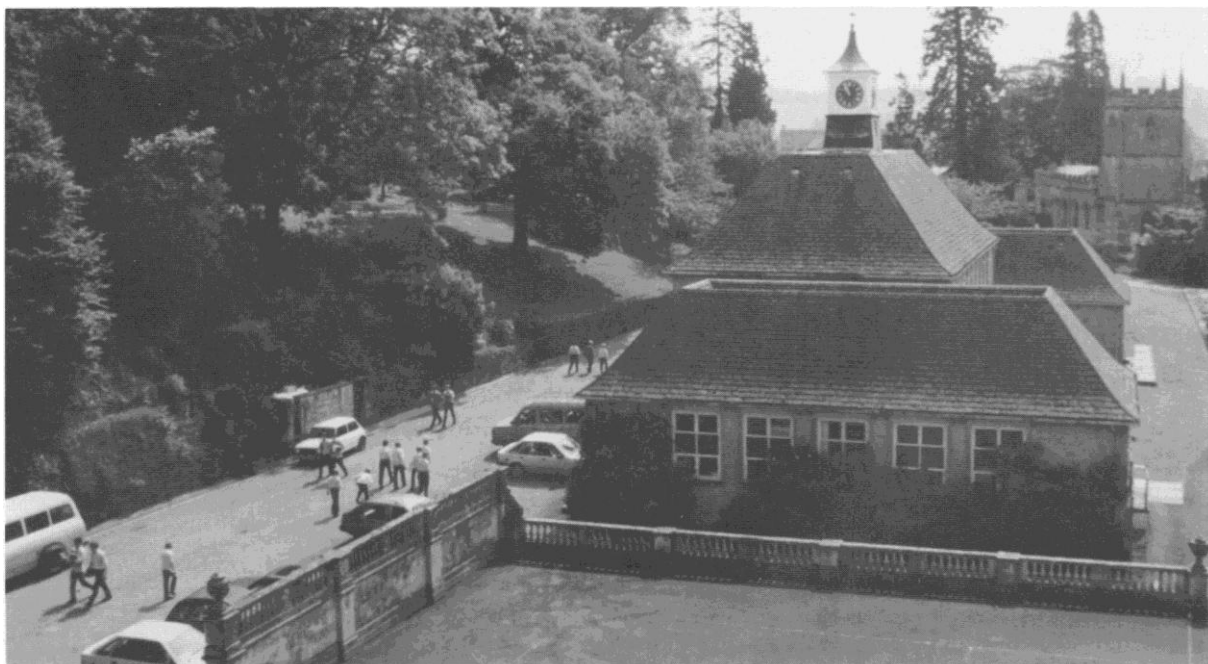
At work he enjoyed particularly Geography and Woodwork. Once he was made to map the park, locating and identifying every tree, and in time trees became a passion for him. He says that everyone, himself included, was surprised when he passed his Advanced Matriculation (the equivalent of 'A' levels).

He had always wanted to get into the workshop at his previous school, but achieved it only at Rendcomb. He recalls helping to build the outdoor stage and the stage in the present Reading Room, on which he played Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*; having always been small, nicknamed 'Babe' at school, he feels he was typecast.

Asked what he thought of Rendcomb's co-educational Sixth Form, his verdict was: "I don't think I would really have been brave enough!"

On leaving Rendcomb, Mr Gough joined the firm of Gordon Russell in Broadway, to pursue his woodwork. During his time there a chest of drawers he had made was exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Leaving Gordon Russell when the firm closed in the slump of 1930, he went to Loughborough, where he taught Woodwork for 40 years, becoming Senior Lecturer there and also Chief Examiner for the Welsh Board 'O' level Woodwork. His son John came to Rendcomb in 1949, leaving in 1955 with a State Scholarship in Science. His daughter Diana became a doctor, and one of her three daughters, Karen Swan, is now at Rendcomb working for her 'A' levels.

He remembers his five years at Rendcomb with great affection and is glad that, with a granddaughter here, he has a good excuse to return and see how the school is developing. We, for our part, look forward to the arrival of the next generation.



C. J. Wood

Founder's Day

The Chairman's Speech

Extending a welcome to Mr Charles Clarke, a newly-appointed Governor, the Chairman of Governors warmly greeted all the guests on Founder's Day 1989, in particular the Guest Speaker, Baroness Warnock.

Mr Torquil Norman spoke of the rapid progress made since last year in the building of the new boarding houses and paid tribute to the great efforts made by all those involved in the project now nearing its successful and punctual completion. He reaffirmed the value the new facilities would afford the pastoral life of the College and thanked especially John Timpson, the architect, the Bursar and Colin Burden for their efforts in ensuring the success of the whole enterprise.

He emphasised that none of the cost of the development, which included major alterations to the main building and minor improvements to Park House, would be met out of school fees. He looked forward to further proposed developments at Rendcomb, including the addition of more teaching staff and a broadening of the curriculum.

In conclusion, the Chairman stressed that standards of excellence were not maintained by purely physical improvements to facilities, and he paid tribute to the work of the Headmaster and Staff, as well as to the increasingly valuable contribution made by the Parents' Association, towards the continuing success of the school.

The Headmaster's Report

Echoing the Chairman's thanks to all concerned in bringing the development plan to completion, the Headmaster said that he had been warned before the development started that there were six stages to any project:

1. Enthusiasm,
2. Disillusion,
3. Panic,
4. Search for the guilty,
5. Punishment of the innocent,
6. Honours and rewards for non-participants.

Considering himself a bystander, he was glad that things had not turned out in this way.

Most of those at Rendcomb had been bystanders, their work centred on the life of the school in the current year, and he paid tribute to the way in which architect, builders, staff and pupils had managed to co-exist.

This year had seen the taking of the first GCSE exams. He did not wholly subscribe to the widespread belief that the results had been massaged to look better than the previous 'O' levels. The national percentage of grades A- C had risen by only 2%, and Rendcomb's 17% improvement, with 85% of subjects passed at that level, reflected the smooth way in which staff and pupils had adapted. The 'A' level pass rate had continued comfortably above 90%, 100% in seven subjects.

Preparation for life beyond Rendcomb had never been simple and certainly was not simple now; this had been brought home to him by the wide range of employers' stands set up at the Careers Convention held in the Dulverton Hall in March.

The present twelve-year-olds had an exceptional range of opportunities open to them: they would enter the employment arena with the advantage of scarcity-value, and employers were already on the lookout for them.

With an eye on careers, Rendcomb had this year reviewed its Sixth Form curriculum. Greater flexibility of choice was now available, and a new subject, Business Studies, had been introduced. This had been done in partnership with the Royal Agricultural College, Mr Gareth Thomas being appointed jointly by both colleges, part of his brief being to establish Business Studies at Rendcomb.

Moving to sport, he said that, highlights apart, he was impressed by the depth of involvement at Rendcomb. 90% of the boys had represented the school in a rugby team, and on Saturdays throughout the year there were usually more than ten matches being played in various sports; he paid tribute to the degree of enthusiastic involvement of the Staff that this represented.

He went on to speak of the general involvement of pupils in a small school: everyone involved in an activity was really needed, and the individual was stretched. He believed that this was of value to people growing up and that further value attached to continuing an activity beyond the novelty stage, to its completion. He hoped that parents would not necessarily feel that any extra-curricular activity should be given up as soon as an exam loomed; the danger of overloading was carefully watched within the school.

Turning to the creative arts and remarking that they shared with team games the discipline of mutual support, he invited parents to visit the two art exhibitions and the Craft, Design and Technology exhibition.

Drama had had a bumper year, from *Much Ado About Nothing* through a series of impromptu pieces by VIB, David Campton's *Us and Them* by Form III to *Nicholas Nickleby* performed by the juniors. VIB's presentation of Alan Ayckbourn's *Joking Apart* was still to come.

Music had continued its flow of activity, despite Tim Lane's decision to move after six years as Director. Looking forward to the arrival of Mr David White, the new Director, he thanked his wife for taking up the reins at short notice, with the help of her remarkable pair of assistants, Mrs Mair Shankster and Mr Stephen Lea.

The Headmaster thanked the Parents' Association for their continued remarkable hard work in support of the school, in particular for a cheque for £6,500 to provide one of the two new hard tennis courts.

He also commended the Friends of Rendcomb, whose present aim was to provide scholarships for boys who would otherwise be unable to come to Rendcomb, a reflection of the Founder's original purpose; parents of pupils leaving this summer would shortly be invited to join the Friends.

We were looking forward, he said, to one of the most interesting years in Rendcomb's history. From September the school would have the happiest

combination of horizontal and vertical structures. The Junior House would house the eleven- and twelve-year-olds, and Godman House would remain a melting-pot, for boys arriving at thirteen to mix with their contemporaries coming up from the Junior House. At the end of this third year they would all move into one of three houses, where they would spend the rest of their time at Rendcomb. The early year of mixing should ensure that the characteristic unity of the school was not broken up; quite deliberately, houses had been allocated across friendship groups, so that there would be plenty of reason for people to mix with friends in other houses.

He had enjoyed weekly planning meetings with the new housemasters; one valuable side-effect was that time-honoured procedures and rules had been re-examined to see whether they were really useful or not. He had also had the wise advice of a small group of representatives from the General Meeting and had been encouraged by the positive approach of members of VIB, who would be at the top of the school next year, in helping to create and establish the style of living in the new houses.

They and their younger colleagues had a unique opportunity. The opening of three new boarding houses at once was indeed a rare occurrence in an independent school. In each of these something fresh could be created; his dealings with both housemasters and pupils had served only to convince him further that the new houses would be humane and harmonious places where involvement and hard work were appreciated and encouraged.

In conclusion, the Headmaster thanked all the Staff, academic, administrative and domestic, for their work during the past year, with a note of especial thanks to Kaye Knapp, who had taken on the running of the Main Building for the last year of its operation in its present form, a task over and above the call of duty for a Second Master and performed with his famous combination of resolution and humour.

First in colour section of photographic competition

J. Smith



Address by Baroness Helen Mary Warnock, DBE

Lady Warnock, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, drew on her wide-ranging experience of education and her interest in ethical issues to develop a number of themes.

Observing that Rendcomb had been one of the first boys' schools in the country to admit girls to its Sixth Form, she warmly welcomed the improvements which had taken place in the education of girls over recent years; at the same time, she noted that change in essential attitudes was slow.

Deploping the stereotyped view of girls still prevalent in many quarters, particularly in magazines for adolescents, and the detrimental effect of such a view upon a serious approach to their education, Lady Warnock believed that there were still parents who cared more about their sons' education than about their daughters'.

Part of the problem with girls' education was that the general social climate still encouraged women to believe that their principal role in life was to look attractive; their education being of secondary importance, they were not likely to be treated equally with boys.

Also, girls matured more quickly than boys and developed earlier a taste for arts subjects, which

unfortunately contributed to inequality in the arts/science divide. It was still very important to persuade more girls to take up science and engineering; this in itself would lead eventually to greater equality in, and respect for, girls' education.

A positive sign for the future, she suggested, was the number of girls attracted to the biological sciences. In a world increasingly sensitive to environmental issues, the involvement of more women in this branch of science pointed the way to greater equality.

She spoke also of her hope for a change in the teaching and experience of 'A' level work; she looked forward to the arrival at universities of pupils who had been taught fewer facts and who were capable of thinking more by and for themselves.

Lastly, Lady Warnock returned to environmental issues and the need for education to reflect the growing concern about them, pointing out that in the old days ethical matters had been domestic; now everyone in the world needed to think in much broader temporal and spatial terms. She believed that concern for the environment would lead to a positive revolution in education for the future.

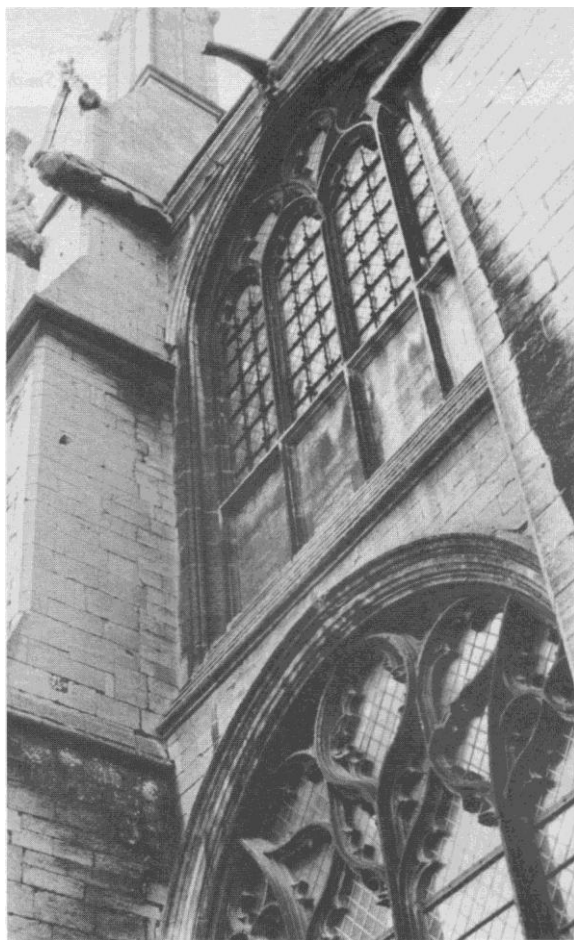
Speech of Thanks

By the Head Prefect, Matthew Faircloth

Thanking Lady Warnock for her address and for the light she had shed on the education of women, Matthew Faircloth maintained that Rendcomb was progressive in its attitude to them.

During his time at Rendcomb, he had appreciated the freedom to mature naturally and develop his own personality; the experience was not a moulding, but a leading, as the motto *Quo Lux Ducit* implied.

Rendcomb had its special feeling of friendship, helpfulness and trust, and he hoped that, physical changes notwithstanding, this atmosphere would be kept in the future.



J. Pratten

Reports

The Parents' Association

Consolidation has been the theme for the Association this year. Last year we all worked hard to raise money for the school. This year our aim was for parents to meet and to know each other better.

We started by giving the fruits of all our efforts in the form of a cheque for £6,500 towards the cost of resurfacing two grass tennis courts at the College. These were completed and used throughout the summer term, and we celebrated with a Parents' and Pupils' Tennis Match on a beautiful Sunday in June.

Earlier in the year we held a Barn Dance, which was very successful. Tom Gomersall did us proud with a super Ploughman's meal. Music was provided by *Odd Piece*, and the caller was so efficient that it didn't matter if you had two left feet or didn't know your left arm from your right! 150 people joined in, and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

In May we tried again with the Cricket Match; this year we were blessed with perfect weather. The side-shows and stalls were well supported, and even the match provided us with a nail-biting finish. Ten runs were needed by the Parents to beat the Staff at the beginning of the final over; three were scored before running out of wickets, and so the Staff won by six runs. The mobile bar, which served the cricket field all afternoon and the barbecue near the Dulverton Hall in the evening, was very popular and nearly ran out of drink! Over 500 took part in the barbecue, which rounded off a very happy day. Our thanks go to the many people who gave their time to make the day such a success.

Looking ahead, the new houses open in September, and the Parents' Association are donating equipment to each of the senior houses, new and old. Pool tables, table football, radios, dart boards etc. have all been identified as desirable acquisitions by those who will be living in

the houses. We will do our best to meet at least some of these needs.

The Biennial Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday, 24th September, in aid of the Macmillan Nurses; a very worthwhile charity, I am sure you will agree. Following the walk there will be a barbecue for all wishing to round off what promises to be an enjoyable day. For those not wishing to walk, please come along and help. A large number of volunteers will be required to ensure that the day goes smoothly.

From time to time we need assistance with functions and events, and it would be extremely helpful if the Association could call on a group of parents from a pool of willing helpers. We need your support in running these events as well as in attending them.

I would like to thank all my Committee:

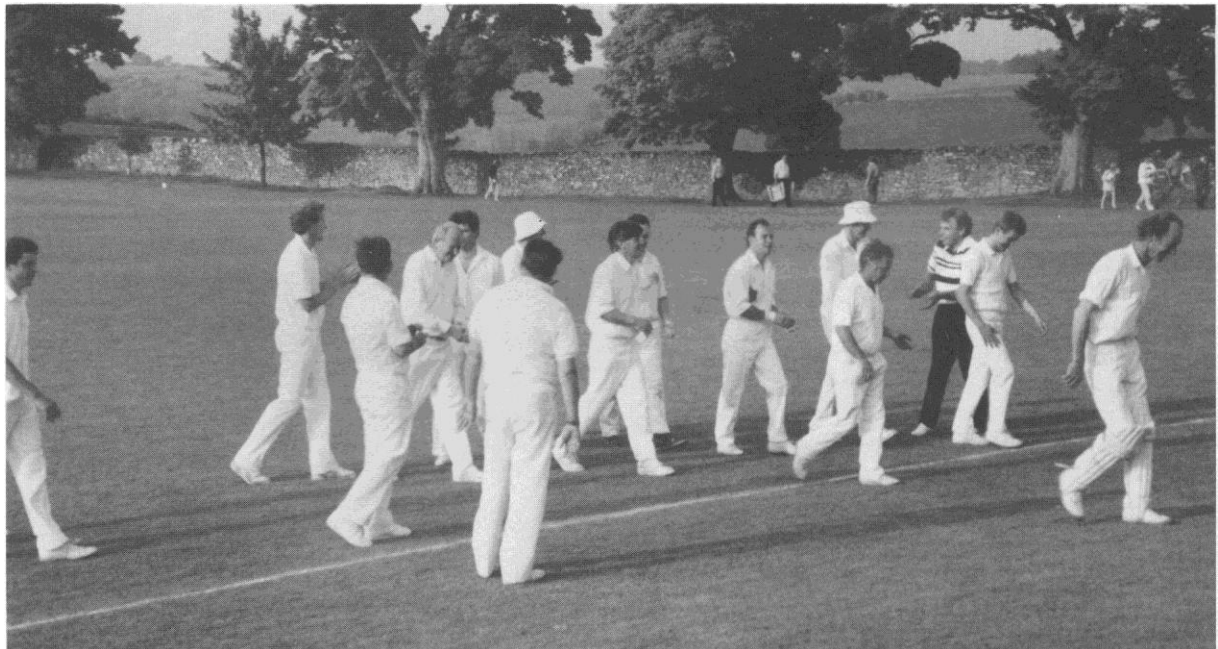
Vice-Chairman	Alan Ramsden-Hare
Secretary	David Grimsdale
Treasurer	Sue Nicholls

Nicky Davies, David Graham, Michael Paine, Val Palin and Staff representative Martin Graham. Their unstinting efforts throughout have made my year as Chairman both enjoyable and very rewarding.

Throughout the year we have maintained good relations with staff and parents, and the progress of the Association is dependent on these relationships. I would like to thank all those parents who have supported us, and also so many members of the College staff, both domestic and teaching, for their help so freely given. Finally I would like to thank John Tolputt for his guidance and his patience. Our meetings can be rather lengthy!

Our Association can be effective only if there is a special relationship between staff, committee and parents. Each has to give; each may take, and together we may add to Rendcomb College as we know it. I commend the Association to you all. Please join in and make next year a memorable one.

PETER GEE



J. Essenhigh

Chaplain's Notes

I ended last year's Chaplain's Notes by promising to give some details of the important developments that were being planned for St Peter's Church. The plans have now been finalised and will be put into effect during the summer holidays, so that, like the rest of the College, we shall be ready for the new academic year in September. Basically the work will involve the removal of the organ, which is going to the church at Upton St Leonards, the cleaning and redecoration of the whole church, the installation of a new organ and the reopening of the Lady Chapel, to provide both a setting for smaller, more intimate services and a greater seating capacity, as required. Seating in the Lady Chapel will be on suitably designed wooden chairs, and these may be purchased to mark an individual's time at Rendcomb.

Whilst considerable time has been spent preparing for the refurbishment of the church, the spiritual side of College life has not been neglected, and it has been very encouraging to see a greater commitment to their faith from an increasing number of pupils. This has been demonstrated both by the numbers attending the Sunday Eucharist, where there is now a much greater involvement of the congregation, and by those seeking Confirmation.

The Confirmation Service was held on 12th March and, in his address to the candidates, the Bishop of Gloucester remarked on the way in which attitudes to Confirmation have changed. He said that not long ago, most children were 'done' when they reached a certain age, but that now it was left very "much more to the individual to decide if and when he or she was to be confirmed and this, he thought, was a much healthier approach. This year twenty-eight pupils from Forms III to VI were confirmed and, amongst the five from the Sixth Form, were both the Head Boy and the Head Girl. Those confirmed were: George Agnew, Peter Croft, Nigel Fischer, Matthew Giggs, Alastair Graham, William Hunter-Smart, Richard Hutson, Jeremy Jenkin, Mathieu Laroche, Nicholas Macartney, James Mackinnon, Charles Morgan-Harris, Nick Priscott, Mark Sansome, Jeremy Sawtell, John Talbot, John Tate, Paul Williams, Julian Madeley, Benjamin Marshall, Antony Palin, Simon Hett, Sara Payne, Justine Platt, Matthew Faircloth, Nicholas Hett and Jessica Naish.

Amongst the many sermons preached in the church during the year, those given by the Rev Andrew Bowden and the Rev John Vernon are perhaps worthy of particular comment. Speaking a week after our Harvest Festival, Andrew Bowden, who, in addition to being Rector of Coates, Rodmarton, Tarlton, Sapperton and Frampton Mansell, is also Chaplain to the Royal Agricultural College, talked about the increasing awareness of our responsibility for the world in which we live. He went on to forecast that, by the middle of the nineteen-nineties, the environment and the problems that face it will have replaced the nuclear debate at the top of the international agenda.

John Vernon, an Army Chaplain from Tidworth and incidentally Chaplain to the last regiment with which I served, illustrated his address with 'plastic'. His AA

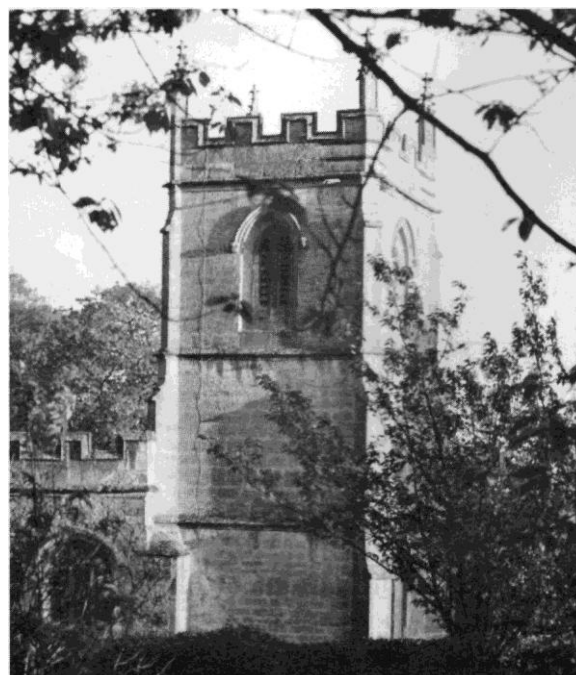
card, his 'Flexible Friend', and his British Telecom phonecard were produced as tokens of the rather selfish way in which we care for ourselves before anyone else; whereas in the Communion bread, the 'token' of Jesus, we are all united in concern for one another.

After an exhilarating Carol Service at the end of the Christmas Term, we were sorry to have to bid farewell to Tim Lane, Director of Music and Church Organist for the previous six years. His enthusiasm and skill on the organ are greatly missed, and we all wish Tim, Hilary and the children every success in their new life. Tim's departure however, has revealed a wealth of hitherto untapped talent, and I am very grateful to Patta Tolputt, Christine Sudbury, Stephen Lea, Michael Craddock and Martin Graham for playing the organ at Sunday Services and at Morning Prayers during the week. The Choir too has done great things, and quality, not quantity, can fairly be said to be the name of the game at present.

As always, I am most grateful for the generous help given by so many people with the day-to-day running and maintenance of the church and churchyard. There are too many to mention each individual by name, but I am particularly grateful to Bill White and his band of ushers who have organised the seating so efficiently, to David Hawkswell and Graham Smith for assisting with the chalice at the Holy Communion, to Frank Fry for his work in the churchyard, to Form I who help me to clean the church on Thursday afternoons, (or as someone put it, help me to redistribute the dust!) and to all who have taken Morning Prayers, preached sermons and read lessons.

To those of you leaving Rendcomb at the end of the Summer Term, may I wish 'God-speed'. I hope that you and Old Rendcombians from previous years will come back in the autumn and have a look at our redecorated church. There should be plenty of seating, (you may even be able to sit on your own chair) and you will be more than welcome at any of our services.

P. J. S.



Bursar's Notes

As I write the noise, dirt and dust outside my office is horrendous. At least this signifies that work is proceeding apace upon the reorganisation and reconstruction of the Main Building, and I am keeping my fingers very firmly crossed that, when the doors open on 10th September, everything will be in place and ready for occupation.

Another mild winter gave Britannia a real chance to get ahead with the new buildings, both of which were complete, give or take a day or two, to time. I hope that all who have seen them will agree with me that they are well designed, well built and most of the fittings are strong and practical. I can only apologise for the astonishing protuberances from the lavatory cisterns; these were forced upon us by the Thames Water Board Inspector, in whose effigy I shall be sticking pins. We are also improving what used to be the boys' side of Park House, which has now had 17 years hard wear, to make it ready for the girls' entry in September by providing new carpets, curtains and furniture; and in the fullness of time we hope to do the present girls' side as well.

Colin Burden has been a tremendous help with all the furniture and with the problems of fitting out the study bedrooms. The results do justice to his planning and organisation.

We have also, I am glad to say, persuaded the Cotswold District Council to bring the main sewerage drain from North Cerney up to Rendcomb, to service the two new boarding houses as well as the remainder of our drainage arrangements, and the Main Building and Park

House will be included. The occasional smells emanating from the present system will then disappear, much to the relief of all.

With the increased number of Sixth Form girls, we aim to improve their sporting facilities by providing additional netball courts; we are also extending the upper playing field area and hope to have another rugby and hockey pitch in due course; thanks to the Parents' Association, we now have two more hard tennis courts.

E. T. T.

The Friends of Rendcomb

We have gained several new Friends during the year, most of them choosing to covenant. We have also received a very generous legacy from the late Mrs Grace Hogarth, mother of David Hogarth (OR 1957-64).

It is with great sadness that we record the death of one of our founder members, Albert Smith (OR 1920-25).

The Committee of the Parents' Association kindly invited me to join them at one of their recent meetings and expressed the view that parents of present pupils would be interested to know more about the Friends. As a result of this request, a letter explaining our *raison d'être* will be sent to all such parents early next term.

As usual, the parents of this year's leavers are being invited to become Friends, and also all members of the OR Society who left the College in 1979.

DAVID SELLS
Trustee

New Freight Rover minibus

C. J. Wood





Form I at Swindon and Cricklade Railway

C. J. Wood

The Junior House

Two girl prefects, Anne-Marie Hobart and Rachel Davis started the New Year with 20 lively first-formers. To accommodate the girls, dormitory four was converted into two study bedrooms and the former assistant matron's room became their sitting-room. There is no doubt that the girls helped many of the boys to settle in more quickly, and they managed to achieve that very delicate balance between discipline and friendliness. Another result of their presence was increased contact between juniors and the Sixth Form, ranging from ice skating and swimming to bedtime chats.

The only other change introduced in September was the replacement of the single 16mm film on Saturday evenings with separate videos for each house. This affords a much more satisfactory choice of viewing material and allows the juniors to watch in a more relaxed atmosphere.

On the first Sunday of the Christmas term the House visited the Swindon and Cricklade railway at Blunsdon. This is a preserved stretch of rail on the former Midland and South West Junction line, which used to run quite close to Rendcomb and is often investigated by pupils during Sunday walks. From Blunsdon, where we lunched on the train, we moved on to the Science Museum at Wroughton to soak up the past in terms of transport and agriculture on one of the museum's rare open days.

The second Sunday saw the boys of the Junior House and Godman House and their parents solving one of three quiz trails which took them around the grounds, the village and the neighbouring countryside; this event

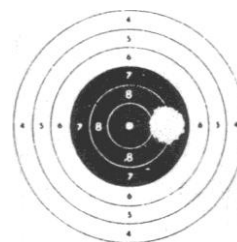
was most successfully concluded with a barbecue on the lawns outside the Dulverton Hall, organised by the Parents' Association.

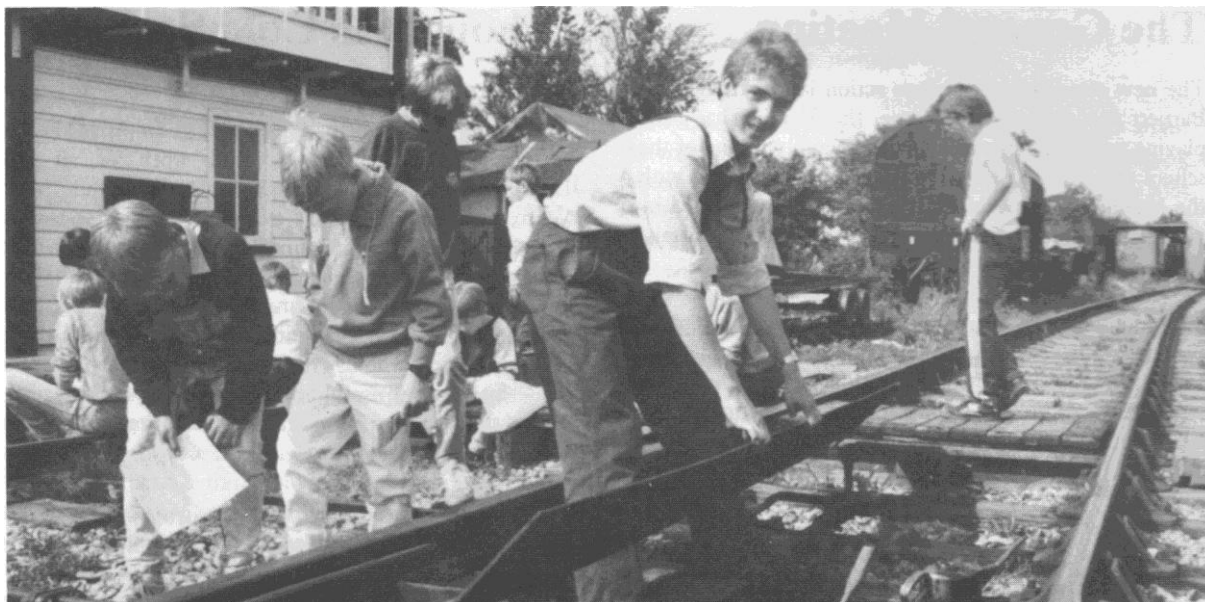
The Christmas term also saw two theatre visits; to the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon to hear about weather forecasting from the BBC's top man, Bill Giles, and the other to the Apollo Theatre in Oxford to see an adaptation of C. S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew*.

After a great deal of rain, boys and parents joined others on the local Wildlife Fund walk around Sapperton and along the old canal linking the Severn with the Thames. The House was presented with a shield for raising £480, the Topalian family's sponsorship contributing more than £100 towards our total.

Swimming in Cirencester and skating in Swindon continued regularly, the slides and wave machine at the Oasis in Swindon adding a new dimension to Sunday afternoons.

Target Club proved as popular as ever; the construction by Mr Kampe of a frame on which to mount three target-holders allowed us to enter a team for the national six-yard air rifle competition. Each competitor had 80 shots at targets of the size illustrated, giving a





American Adventure

C. J. Wood

possible maximum of 800 points, and this proved quite difficult on windy days! The scores were:

B. Davies	254
C. Dudbridge	318
C. Lawton	417
A. McIndoe	441
L. Prosser	422
C. Wood	590

Modelling in the Grotto continued to be a popular pastime and, as in previous years, the standard was very high. The annual competition was won jointly by Daniel Kemp, Ben Herbert and Charles Dudbridge.

The summer walkabout was blessed with good weather, and over a hundred boys and parents tramped back to the House from Daglingworth, Chedworth, Yanworth and other starting-points, to be greeted with a welcoming cup of tea.

A week later the House visited the American Adventure near Nottingham; thanks to a luxury coach with a video, the journey was very enjoyable. Once inside, the boys were free to enjoy the many facilities, shows and rides available; many, including Mrs Wood and Matron, were soaked on the *Log Flume* or distorted by the g forces of *the Missile*.

This year we say thank you and goodbye to Mr Sudbury as evening duty-master; Mr Bradfield will continue next year. Dr Smith will be joining us as Assistant Housemaster in September.

C. J. W.



The General Meeting

The new constitution put into action last year by John Barnett now being in full force, the Meeting has been playing a considerable role in the smooth running of the school this year. Regular meetings have been held with the Headmaster to enable each form to put forward its viewpoint on matters such as the use of Walkmans, meals, the laundry system and the new church organ.

This year the junior forms have lost all shyness and inhibition and have made a large contribution. In particular, the very eloquent and humorous participation by Andrew Branston must be mentioned.

A small sub-group of the Meeting, consisting of the VIB representatives, also held informal meetings with the Headmaster to ask questions about the running of the new houses next year and to make suggestions. A lot of liaison took place between this group and the full Meeting, in order to encompass everyone's best interests. Some of the most discussed points were those in the campaign for increased privileges for the younger boys, a sign of a movement towards a better Rendcomb for all.

Thus the Meeting played a major part in the planning of the new house system, and no doubt it will continue by making its introduction smooth and successful next year. Of course, it will also continue to discuss and resolve school-based problems, though we plan to change its format slightly.

Long may the Meeting live and thrive!

JUSTINE PLATT

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The format established in the past by John Willson was continued this year. A large, entirely volunteer, group embarked on the Bronze Award, undertaking their assessment expedition in the Forest of Dean; the four 'Gold' candidates did their practice expeditions in the Peak District and Snowdonia and their assessment in the Black Mountains.

The boys undertook the usual varied collection of service activities, and the teaching staff continued to foster skills ranging from bridge to cookery, the latter culminating in an excellent afternoon tea for selected guests.

The most notable event was the award ceremony at St James's Palace, which included three of our Gold Award winners. Prince Philip attended, as he has on every occasion for the last 33 years. Michael Attwood, Mark Larroucau and John Shaw, together with proud mothers, were introduced to the Prince and later received their award certificates.

Alex Andreis and Russell Ogden also completed their Gold Award course in the past year. I hope that, with help from Mr O'Connor and Mr Newby, our attempts at the Gold Award will develop from this excellent achievement and that many more, girls included, will accept the challenge of 'D of E'.

C. P. M. K.

'Thought in Cold Storage'

The Library

This year the Library has been greatly improved in its appearance, thanks to the hard work of all the Librarians. Sara Payne, Nicola Malins and Matt Ventrella did sterling work every Tuesday afternoon in registering the multitude of new books. Particular thanks must go to Hugo Stringer, Richard Parsons and their successors, John Wheeler and Christopher Walsh, who did an excellent job maintaining the Library on a daily basis. Mr Price, who has been responsible for buying the many interesting, useful and witty books, must receive special thanks as the *sine qua non* of the Library.

JULIAN NORBURY

Thanks must indeed go to Julian Norbury; during my time as Librarian it has never looked so well cared-for as it has under his supervision.

D. S. J. P.

Head Librarian



Talks

Sandra Taylor in Somalia

When she left Rendcomb, where she had been the Headmaster's Secretary, Mrs Sandra Taylor, instead of facing a relaxed first year of retirement, chose to work in a children's camp in Somalia, in her words "to give something for nothing". On 21st September she gave pupils at Rendcomb a talk about her experiences there, illustrated with pictures and slides.

On arrival in Somalia, she was immediately struck by the natural warmth and joy of the children, who had not what would seem to western eyes a 'normal' childhood, having experienced extreme poverty and been separated from their parents. Many were the times she was woken up at six in the morning, after a long previous day's work, with cries of 'football!'; this, along with talking, was one of the main sources of entertainment in the camp.

Then there was the love and care shown by the children for each other, as with the boy who travelled into town every day to see his brother in hospital and the children helping others suffering from polio. These were examples to us all in our tendency to be blind to the needs of those around us, looking only to ourselves.

At the same time, there were negative aspects to Somalia, such as the primitive conditions of the hospital, without mosquito netting or hygiene, cats running freely in the building, and where it took three days for a set of X-rays to be taken. Yet all this did not detract from the quality of life in the camp.

It is the camp's ultimate aim to return the children to the community, wherever possible by contacting relatives to give them a normal family life. Ironically, the very success of the camp hinders this, as many parents who do find their children again feel unable to give them as good a lifestyle at home.

No one could fail to be struck by the generous spirit of Mrs Taylor who, seeing pictures of poverty and starvation in the Third World on television, chose to act instead of taking the more common approach of switching channels, giving hope that, even in times of materialism and selfishness, humanity still exists as a potent force in the world. We are very grateful to her for speaking to us.

MATTHEW VENTRELLA

'The Army as a Peace-Keeper'

The talk was given in the Dulverton Hall on 1st February by Major Christopher Le Hardy, now serving with the 13/18th Hussars. His aims were to present the audience with 'an alternative view of the profession of arms' and to dispel popular images of soldiers either as a group of 'champagne-swilling, polo-playing lager-louts' or, at the other extreme, as a group of 'Rambo-style maniacs'.

To achieve this, Major Le Hardy went on to talk about the roles he had played in different army peace-keeping forces in Germany, Southern Rhodesia, Cyprus and Beirut; he also mentioned the Falkland Islands, but whether this campaign can be described as an act of peace-keeping is questionable.

He went on to justify Britain's defence expenditure of £18 billion and our contribution to NATO, saying that the fundamental policy of the communists - to spread their ideals throughout the world - will never change, even with *glasnost* and the rest, and so it is important to maintain a deterrent. The talk was well illustrated with slides and, on the whole, was most interesting.

CHRISTOPHER DANIELS

The Michael Wills Memorial Lecture

'Brain Regeneration'

On 1st December Professor Edward Hitchcock came to give the sixth Michael Wills Memorial Lecture; it was on a new area of medical science, 'Brain Regeneration'.

After Mr Kelsey's introduction, Professor Hitchcock began by describing the progressive pain of Parkinson's disease and how a person of 40 can be confined to a wheelchair without any logical reason. Showing slides, he told us about the methods previously used to counteract the disease. These included transplanting part of a patient's adrenal gland into the brain and the use of the drug 'L-Dopa', which allowed a bedridden person to walk around for about an hour.

Professor Hitchcock then went on to describe the way in which he treats sufferers from the disease: taking cells from a dead foetus and transplanting them into the patient's brain through a small hole made in the top of the skull. He explained that the effect is immediate: the patient, hitherto unable to get up from a wheelchair, can clap his hands and move freely. He mentioned that he has now performed 12 of these operations, all of them to some extent successful.

He concluded by showing us two slides: the first showed a sufferer from Parkinson's disease confined to a wheelchair, while the second showed the same person after the operation, looking much healthier.

After the talk we asked questions about certain areas of his research, including the ethics of his work and details of the operation involved.

It was a very interesting and informative lecture, and the speaker always held his audience captive. A collection was taken to help this worth-while cause, and we all hope that the money will help his work in this new field of science, to relieve the pain and suffering caused by this disease. We are all very grateful to Professor Hitchcock for coming to tell us about his curious and beneficial work.

KEVIN HOLMES

‘Cults’

On 1st March the Sixth Form attended this brilliant and gripping talk by Mrs D. J. Mathewson, and all of us enjoyed it. The body of the talk was a description of how her son was involved in a Hare Krishna group, which had, in a single night, driven him into a mental captivity from which he was to have great difficulty in escaping.

She related how her son’s experience started innocuously as an invitation to ‘their place’, and there he was invited to stay the night to pursue his researches into Eastern cultures. (In fact, the Hare Krishnas originated in America after the Second World War, founded by the late Hare Krishna himself).

At three a.m. he was woken up and told that they were going to do some praying and that he might as well come and join in. It was here, in the main prayer-hall, that the conversion took place. Groggy from lack of sleep and drugged by the incense which robed figures were carrying through the hall, he found his mind narrowed by the endless, repetitive chanting, until all he could think of was the Lord Krishna and how he might serve him.

The next day he didn’t return home. He didn’t go back to his university, where he was a first-year student, and he didn’t go to see his parents; he stayed with the Hare Krishnas and committed his life to them.

During the next few months all his waking time was spent earning money for the sect. He was limited to five hours of sleep a night and given just enough tasteless food to keep him alive. He was taught to chant ‘Hare

Krishna’ whenever he got lonely and miserable, and he would do this for hours on end to try to keep away the terrible fears which assailed him if he thought about ever failing in his service to Krishna.

Eventually his parents decided to kidnap and ‘de-programme’ him. They had the help of two de-programmers who had previously been in sects themselves and were well qualified for the work.

By the third day he was definitely back in the real world, but it took him years to shake off all traces of this period and to pick up the pieces of a normal life. It wrecked his university career.

It was a privilege to have Mrs Mathewson share this experience with us, and it acts as a salutary lesson to all of us. Cults and sects such as the Hare Krishnas (and there are quite a few about) are a dead-end. You work for the group continuously, either out in the streets collecting money or back at the temple making cheap goods to sell or even faking expensive ones. Whatever your tasks, you have no life to lead for yourself, and your mind can be so altered that you cannot comprehend anything outside your little group in the temple.

Mrs Mathewson emphasised the break-up of family life that such conversion can lead to; the kidnap, which was illegal, obviously caused her and her husband endless worry. The number and variety of the questions put afterwards reflected the general interest aroused, and several people stayed behind to ask further questions. Once again, we thank Mrs Mathewson for coming to give us such an informative and thought-provoking talk.

ALEXANDER BELL

“The Thinker”

F. Lee



Opera Workshop

On 27th February, Rendcomb was host to an opera workshop presented by the Covent Garden Opera Company. My account may well suffer from a complete ignorance of all things musical, and it is a tribute to the enthusiasm of our visitors that I enjoyed it as much as I did. Unfortunately we had only two guests, John Dobson, a tenor, and David Syms, a *répétiteur*, the other members of the group having been struck down by flu. Nevertheless, their varied experience and opinions complemented each other nicely.

John Dobson modestly described himself as a 'support' singer, someone who backs up the leading tenors in the opera world. He described and sang extracts from a number of parts he had taken. Particularly memorable was his account of the immense physical efforts an opera singer has to make and the sometimes appalling hardships he has to endure. For example, when playing the part of Mime, a dwarf in Wagner's *Ring* cycle, Mr Dobson had to wear several layers of clothing and a tight-fitting skull-cap and stand singing with his legs bent for several minutes, a feat in itself considerably more difficult than it sounds. He went on to sing some of Mime's part in *Das Rheingold*, a role for which he has become famous and which he executed with great intensity and drama.

The talk was punctuated with short scenes acted by sixth-formers, to show how music can take dramatic situations a step further than words alone. Mr Syms dealt with the more philosophic aspects of opera and with the academic questions put by the audience, whilst Mr Dobson told a number of anecdotes with relish.

David Syms also described the role of a *répétiteur*, which in his case included being a prompter. It was interesting to learn that in opera almost every line is automatically prompted, and to hear about the dangers of being in a prompt box when an opera is fully under way.

John Dobson's marvellous singing and David Syms's playing and informative replies made up an afternoon I thoroughly enjoyed. I would like to thank the Headmaster for organising it, and I do hope the company will return in full strength, as they have promised.

MARK NICHOLLS

'Climbing'

On 25th October Mr Steven Venables came to give a talk about his experiences of climbing. It was very well presented, and his vast collection of slides helped to illustrate vividly what he was talking about.

Mr Venables began by giving us a short insight into the thrilling and dangerous sport of climbing, before going on to the main subject of his talk, his ascent of Mount Everest.

He described very clearly the kind of problems the group faced, from frequent avalanches that came thundering down around them to the more technical problems of climbing up vertical sheets of ice. The expedition was hindered when one person had to drop out, and a night spent in the open just 1,000 feet below

the summit cost Mr Venables three of his toes, owing to frostbite.

It was such details that caught the audience's attention and respect, and I think many of us were awe-struck by the devotion needed to complete such an expedition. The popularity of the talk was shown by the interest maintained throughout and by the large number of questions asked at the end.

We thank Mr Venables for giving us an interesting and impressive insight into what must be one of the greatest challenges for man.

CHRISTIAN VALLANCE

'Educational Links with the Third World'

On 26th February, instead of the usual Sunday morning service, Mr Christopher Martin, Headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School, gave a talk to Forms IV to VI on educational links with the Third World. He had spent several months visiting a number of schools in southern Africa, and he described with great enthusiasm the efforts for education made by the people there in the face of enormous poverty.

In schools where there are often not enough funds to provide adequate food, donations of school books and other materials, such as paper, are vital. These are sorted out in England to ensure a good standard of quality.

Despite all the problems these countries face, from hunger to armed conflict, more and more people are being educated. In one school Mr Martin talked about, the pupils and staff have to build a new classroom every year to make room for new arrivals. Education is highly respected there, in contrast to western countries where it seems to be taken very much for granted. Students are prepared to work very hard towards exams - which, owing to a lack of educational materials are extremely difficult to pass - because they are seen as a chance to improve the quality of people's lives by increasing the likelihood of getting a good job.

The educational links scheme brings English and African schools into contact. The English school is responsible for raising the money to finance exchanges of groups between the two schools; this way, each gains an idea of the other's lifestyle and culture. English students teach in the African schools such basic subjects as English and Maths; subjects such as English History are inapplicable to their lives.

At the end of the talk a number of questions were asked by an obviously interested audience which had thought about what Mr Martin had said. It remains to be seen whether anything concrete comes out of this, but it has at least made people think about it.

MATTHEW VENTRELLA

Lawn and Stable Houses - The Architect's View

John Timpson is the architect, trained and based in Cheltenham and Gloucester, who had the task of designing Lawn and Stable Houses. In the talk he gave to VIB on 7th June, as the buildings neared completion, he told us how he saw Rendcomb and how he had tried to make the new buildings fit in with their beautiful surroundings as well as with the Cotswold Council's guidelines.

William Morris, the great architect, wrote that the countryside was more important than the cities. It was essential both to the school and the local planning department that Rendcomb retained all its picturesqueness after the buildings, each equivalent in size to six three-bedroom houses, had been built.

He had to follow the Council's strict guidelines in order to get approval for building on the only two feasible sites, adjacent to the Old Rectory and behind the French Renaissance Stable Block. He also had to work to a budget and contend with the obvious difficulties of arranging the interior of the buildings to satisfy the specifications of the Development Committee.

He said that the three necessities for any building were Commodity, Firmness and Delight: it had to be practical, durable and beautiful. When designing Stable House he had opted for a symmetrical building, not high enough to compete visually with the Stable Block but in

a similar French Renaissance style, the characteristics of which include high-pitched roofs, slate tiles, well-defined blocks and light-coloured stone. He could not afford to use local limestone and had had to opt for reconstructed, strengthened Cotswold blocks.

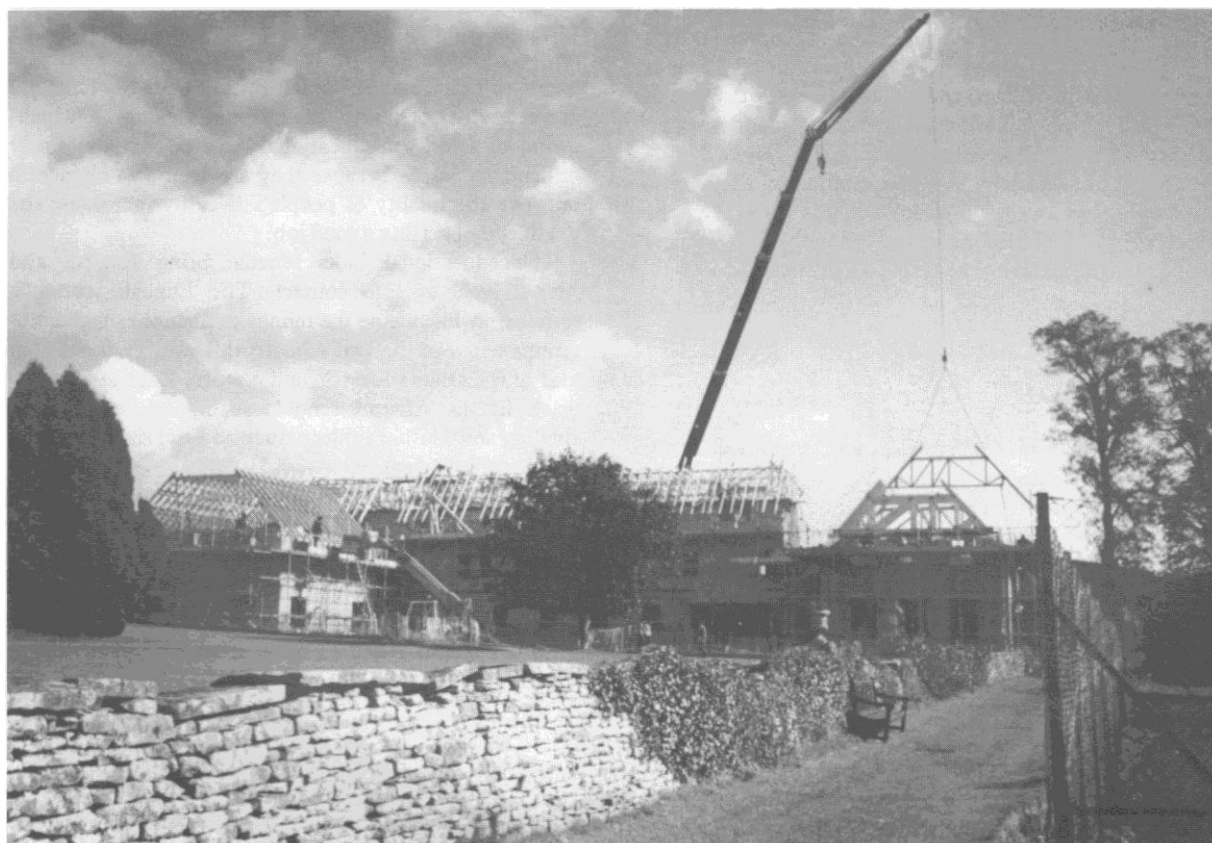
His aerial photographs convinced us that the outstanding feature of the Lawn House site was its sense of space and its potential for creating a manner of courtyard with the Old Rectory and Godman House. His design needed to be similar to the nearby buildings, with their high-pitched tiled roofs, outcropping extensions and smaller windows.

In both houses he had deliberately limited the amount of straight corridor and had tried to ensure that every study bedroom, dormitory or common room received direct sunlight at some stage of the day. A condition imposed on him had been the need for the housemaster's quarters to have direct access to the pupils' on all three floors.

The short question period at the end of his well-presented talk cleared up any general points: his budget had been £1.6 million; the pebbledash chips broke up the building's surface; different window sizes gave the building external character. He hoped that the buildings would remain in vogue longer than the less traditional Park House had, and that we all liked them. Of the two, Stable House was his favourite, because it had been harder to design and was more pleasing aesthetically.

BEN MASLEN

P. Williams



Academic Results

Honours

We congratulate the following:

Claire Richard

Domus Scholarship in Chemistry,
St Hugh's College, Oxford

Anthony Maton

1st Class Honours, Modern History,
Exeter College, Oxford

Jonathan Pedley

1st Class Honours, Chemistry,
Pembroke College, Oxford

Katherine Graham
(Chipping Campden School)

Major Sixth Form Scholarship

Elizabeth Syed
(St Edward's School, Cheltenham)

Minor Sixth Form Scholarship

Kai Thomas
(Brightlands School)

Open Scholarship

William Heaven
(Minchinhampton Parochial School)

Noel Wills Scholarship

Thomas Gittins
(Dormer House School, Moreton-in-Marsh)

Minor Junior Open Scholarship

James Lloyd
(St Lawrence School, Lechlade)

Rendcomb Foundation Place

Craig Marcham
(College Town County Junior School, Camberley)

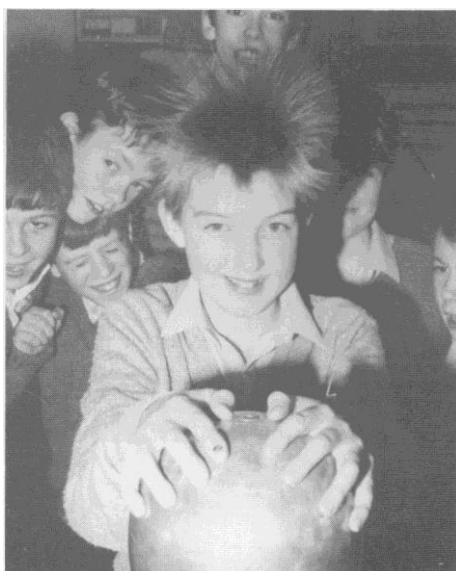
HM Forces' Bursary

Nicholas Carmichael
(Bielefeld School, Germany)

HM Forces' Bursary

Christopher Lawton
(Rendcomb College)

HM Forces' Bursary



Form 1 Physical Science



Form 4 Geography

‘A’ Level

The following results were obtained in the G. C. E. examination at Advanced Level this summer:

Elsbeth Anderson - English, History, Public Affairs
Colin Bannister - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Anthony Bedford - Biology, History
Amanda Carter - English*, French, History
Jason Carter - Art, German
Ann-Marie Chapman - English, History, Public Affairs
Angus Cochrane - Chemistry
Guy Cowie - French, German
Rachel Davis - Biology, Chemistry, French
Sara Deacon - Art
Matthew Faircloth - Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics*
Julian Fellows - Geography
Stephen Gammage - Art, English
Lara Haine - English
Richard Hardy - English
Sandra Hardy - History, Public Affairs
Christopher Hauton - Biology*, Chemistry, Physics
Nicholas Hett - Art
Anne-Marie Hobart - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Daniel Houseman - Art, History
Christopher Huck - Art, Geography
Grant Hughes - History, Public Affairs
Louisa Johnston - Art, English, French
Jonathan Lutwyche - English*, French, History
Clare Mallindine - Art, Biology, English
Roland Martin - English*(M), History, Public Affairs
Lucy Merrett - English, History
Robert Mitchell - English, History
Jessica Naish - English*, German, Public Affairs
Julian Norbury - Biology, History, Public Affairs
Gemma Noyce - English, Geography
Russell Ogden - Geography, History
Aubrey Powell - Chemistry*(M), German*,
Mathematics* (M), Physics*
Paul Sherwood - English, History, Public Affairs(M)
Jonathan Slattery - Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics*
Nicholas Suffolk - French
Hilary Sumsion - French, Mathematics, Music
Vaughan Tredwell - English, History, Public Affairs* (D)
Jason Vernon - English, French, History
Susan Waddington - Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics
Christopher Wood - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics

Advanced Supplementary and Additional Subjects

Latin Literature (AS): Matthew Ventrella

French for Business Studies (Add.): Andrew MacKinnon*, Matthew Ventrella*, Suzanne Denley, Robert Tate, Alexander Bell, Karen Betts*, John Carroll, Ashley Clark, Nicholas Hall, Kevin Holmes*, Alexander Lainé*, Francis Lee*, Henry Le Fleming, Nicola Malins*, Carl Reens.

Key: * - Grade ‘A’

(D) - Distinction in Special Paper

(M) - Merit in Special Paper

G. C. S. E.

The following results were obtained in the G. C. S. E. examinations:

Kojo Annan - E(1), EL*, F*, G, H*, L, M, p
 Paul Bartlett - b, c, E(2), F, g, H, L, m
 Nigel Bayliss - B, C, DR*, e(2), G, M, P
 Daniel Bowerman - B*, C*, DR*, E(2), F, G*, H*, M*, P
 Christopher Brown - C*, DR*, e(2), F*, GN*, H, M*, P*
 David Chapman - AD*, B, C, e(2), F, G, H*, M
 Andrew Digney - b, C, e(2), F, g, GN, H*, m, p
 Patrick Evans - E*(1), EL*, F*, G, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P*
 Piers Gorman - AD, B, C, DR, e(2), F, g, m
 Alexander Hall - B*, C*, E(2), EL, F, L, M*, P*
 Adam Halliwell - B, C, E(2), F, G, GN, H, M
 Simon Hardie - B, c, DR*, E(1), EL, F*, G, M
 Richard Herbert - ad, b, c, e(2), f, g, H, M
 Simon Hett - B, C*, E(2), F, G, L, M, P*
 Richard Hughes - c, DR*, e(2), G, H, m
 William King-B, C, E(1), F*, G, H*, L, M, p
 Daniel Lester - AD, b, c, e(2), el, F, m
 Daniel Maslen - AD*, B, E(2), EL, F*, G*, H*, M, P
 Neil McMurtrie - C, DR, e(2), F, g, h, M, P
 Richard Milner - AD*, B*, C, E(2), F, G*, H*, M*
 Michael Moody - B*, C*, E(2), F*, G*, H*, L*, M*, P*
 Paul Neve - AD, b, c, e(3), F, g, h, m
 Richard Parsons - AD, b, c, E(2), EL, F, g, m
 Matthew Rogers - b, C, E(2), F, G, M, p
 Richard Rowlatt-E(1), EL, F*, GN*, H*, 1, M, p
 Thomas Shillington-Balfour - C, E(1), F*, GN*, H*, L, M*, P

Martin Smith-B, C, DR*, E(2), G, GN, H, M*, P
 Nicholas Smith-C*, E(2), F*, GN*, L*, M*, P*
 Peter Smithson - AD, B, C, DR, e(2), G, gn, H, M
 Ian Spencer - B*, E(2), EL, F*, G, M*, P
 Hugo Stringer - AD, dr, el, h
 Leigh Thompson - AD, b, c, e(2), F, g, m, p
 Jonathan Tomsett -AD*, B, C, e(2), F*, G, H, M
 Nigel Utting - B, C*, E(2), EL, F*, G, M*, P*
 Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge - C*, E(2), F*, G*, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P
 Neil Walmsley - B*, C, E(2), F, G*, H, M, P
 Oliver Ward - B, C, DR*, e(2), G, gn, H, M*, P*
 Simon Williams - AD, b, E(2), EL, F, H*, L, M, p
 Nicholas Wood - E*(1), EL*, F*, G*, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P
 James Thraves - CC*
 Christian Vallence - cc

Key: Capital letters denote Grade A-C; small letters denote Grade D-F; *-Grade A

AD - Art and Design

B - Biology

C - Chemistry

CC - Classical Civilisation

DR - Design and Realisation

E - English

EL - English Literature

F - French

G - Geography

GN - German

H - History

L - Latin

M - Mathematics

P - Physics

The figure after the letter E denotes the grade in English Oral.



J. Pratten

Activities

Art

This has been an exceptional year. Not only have we had a large number of students successfully pursuing the 'A' level art course and art college places, we have also had our first crop of GCSE students coming through the department.

However, more important than numbers, or even results, has been the quality of the work done, the activity, the questions asked and answered and the pace at which many individuals at many different levels have developed and acquired skills, knowledge and understanding.

Painting and ways of drawing have increasingly become major themes this year, a trend largely inspired by VIA, who have developed into one of our strongest-ever groups, with their continued willingness to tackle new subjects with various media in a continuous sense of artistic adventure.

Their epitaph will be their spirit of adventure, their willingness to explore and their sense of colour. As with all explorers, their results have been diverse, but their commitment has remained strong and the ends have justified the means. Their work on show at the pre-Founder's Day private view was striking, often stunning. Tom Denny and I have been delighted with the work; we hope the exam results do them justice and we wish them, particularly those going on to art college, well in the future.

We are fortunate also to have such a vigorous group of students in VIB. More diverse in style and character than VIA, they represent a well from which much has been drawn; we look forward to their building on this term's successes and growing into a group able to cope seriously with the new 'A' level exam and to continue helping to develop art as a thriving and committed subject at Rendcomb.

Adding their weight and talent to this sense of commitment, we have had our first fully-fledged GCSE students. They have been an interesting group to work with, certainly never dull! The standard has been exceptionally high at the top, and at all levels of attainment the students seem to have gained a great deal from the course, surprising themselves and us with some of their achievements.

Equally, there is a growing confidence and feeling for the subject in the fourth year and this, combined with some considerable talent among the juniors, augurs well for a successful and interesting future.

M. S. G.
T. F. C. D.

There follow some examples of art and craft work. To help readers to assess it, each pupil's year is given in brackets:

<i>a 'A' level Still Life</i>	<i>Louisa Johnston (7)</i>
<i>b 'A' level Life Study</i>	<i>Daniel Houseman (7)</i>
<i>c 'A' level Still Life</i>	<i>Chris Huck (7)</i>
<i>d Still Life - water colour</i>	<i>Justine Platt (6)</i>
<i>e Tree Study - oils</i>	<i>Joe Nicholls (6)</i>
<i>f 'Spot the Mistake' - pastels</i>	<i>Louisa Johnston (7)</i>
<i>g 'Looking at Myself'</i>	<i>Nicki Kemp (6)</i>
<i>h 'A' level Art - 'Masks'</i>	<i>Steve Gamage (7)</i>
<i>i 'Landscape' - pastels</i>	<i>Chris Huck (7)</i>
<i>j GCSE Still Life</i>	<i>Jonathan Tomsett (5)</i>
<i>k 'Wishful Thinking'</i>	<i>Martin Adams (1)</i>
<i>l GCSE Landscape</i>	<i>Daniel Maslen (5)</i>
<i>m GCSE Interior</i>	<i>Matthew Smith (4)</i>
<i>n GCSE Fishing Fly Box</i>	<i>Oliver Ward (5)</i>
<i>o Plastic Clocks:</i>	
<i>Beach ball</i>	<i>Charles Dudbridge (2)</i>
<i>Golf</i>	<i>George Agnew (3)</i>
<i>p Wooden Clocks:</i>	
<i>left</i>	<i>Alastair Graham (3)</i>
<i>right</i>	<i>Christopher Lawton (2)</i>
<i>q Cloud Clock</i>	<i>Rebecca Hodgkinson (6)</i>
<i>r GCSE Pottery Slab with Heads</i>	<i>Daniel Lester (5)</i>

Photos: C. J. Wood



Private View

C. J. Wood



a



b



c



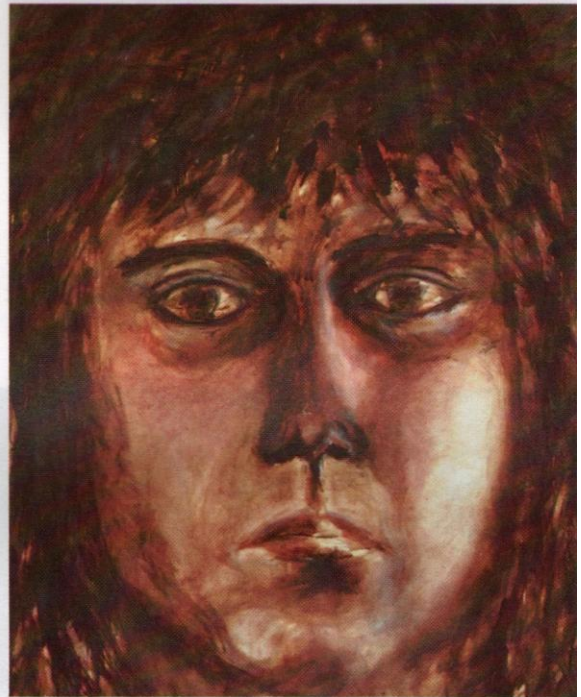
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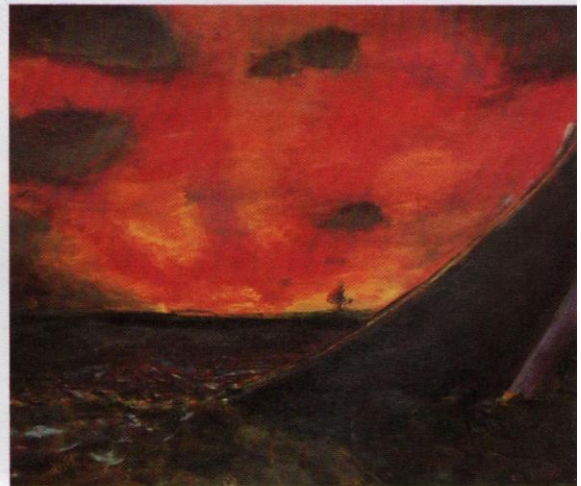
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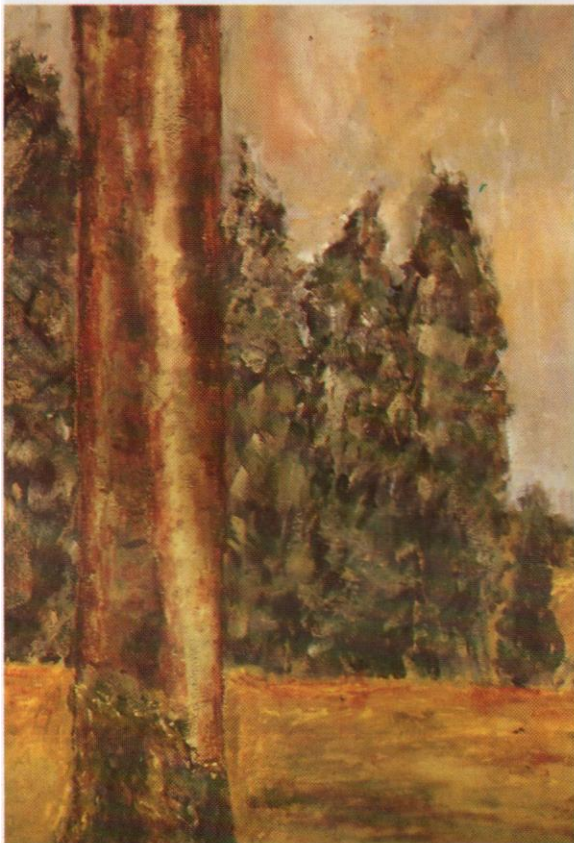
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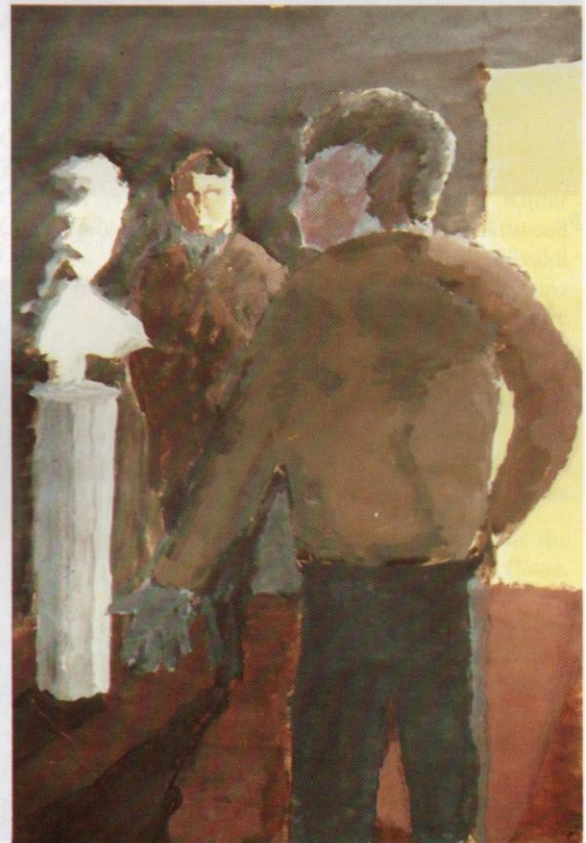
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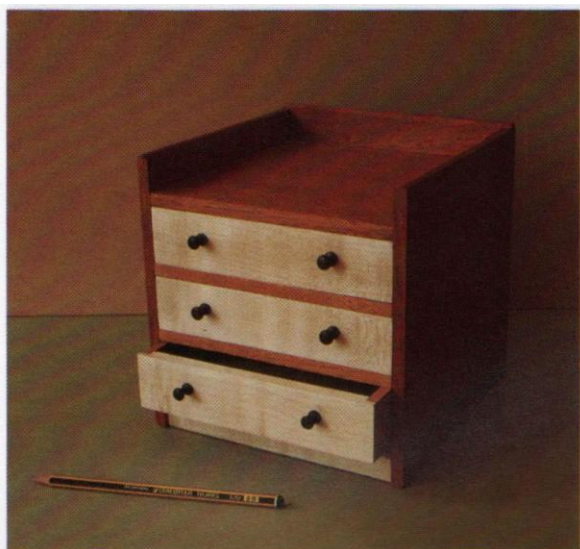
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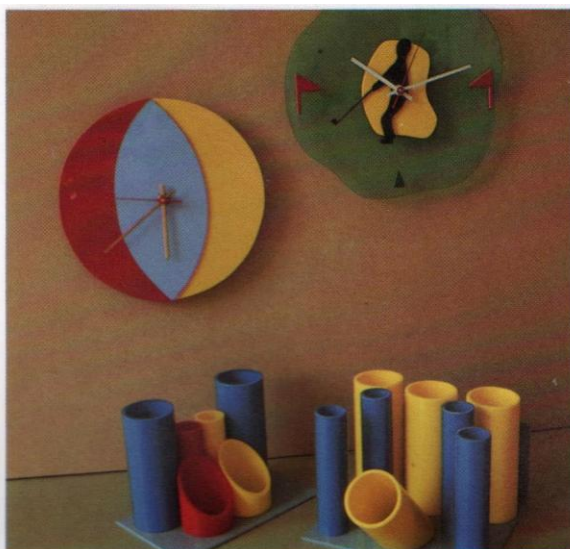
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m



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o



p



q



r

Workshop

This has been a busy year, particularly in the Spring and early part of the Summer Term, as the first GCSE Design and Realisation candidates made frantic efforts to complete their coursework; several students even came back to the workshop in the Easter holidays.

A wide variety of items were designed. They included a fly-fishing cabinet in mahogany, sycamore and rosewood, a mantel clock in walnut and a chess table in cherry. It was not easy to transport these items to the moderation meeting, but it all seemed worthwhile when they were well received, some scoring full marks.

The purchase of a number of quartz clock movements early in the year led to the mass-production of clocks by all year-groups. The designs and materials were wide-ranging. Some pupils were attracted by the variety of colours available in acrylic and polystyrene sheets; this gave them a good introduction to the techniques of working with these materials. Although much of the work was experimental, this being the first time plastics had been used at Rendcomb, some excellent results were obtained.

Others used medium-density fibre-board as a base and, making use of our wide selection of timbers, produced interesting marquetry effects.

The completion of one of the new boarding houses provided a new venue for the Founder's Day exhibition. It was, as usual, well supported and appreciated.

The only machine bought this year has been a router. This will allow a range of mouldings to be worked, and ploughing grooves and rebates will become much easier.

Roger Attwood, the school cabinet-maker, has spent more time with us this year, refurbishing the study bedrooms in the main building and fitting the furniture in the new boarding-houses.

C. C. B.

Music

The year started with a fine concert given by our Music Staff, affording pupils and parents an opportunity to hear their teachers perform music in a variety of styles and instrumental combinations. An extended interval allowed parents to meet and chat with the staff, in particular with the visiting teachers. The evening served also as a wonderful celebration of our staffs talents and gave the opportunity to thank them for their patience, hard work and enthusiasm.

After our major Orchestral and Ensemble Concert - reviewed elsewhere - we were invited to raise money for Miserden Church by giving a concert in their village hall. A lively variety of items, from Hilary Sumsion's performance of Bach's *Prelude from Suite No. 1* for unaccompanied 'cello to *Rock Around the Clock* from Alex Faiers and Co. was enthusiastically received by the

Miserden villagers. The concert included also the second performance from our new Dixieland Jazz Band, which I hope is now well established for the future.

Another innovation was the new Junior Choir, responsible for leading the singing at the Communion Services. This required them to be in good voice at 8.15 on Sunday mornings, and their commitment was rewarded by an outing to *Evita* at the Bristol Hippodrome in March. The anthems they performed were:

<i>A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</i>	L. J. White
<i>Drop down, ye heavens</i>	Heathcote Williams
<i>Vox ultima crucis</i>	W. H. Harris
<i>Pleasure it is</i>	C. Cope
<i>Give ear unto me</i>	Marcello
<i>Non nobis, Domine</i>	Quilter
<i>He is risen</i>	C. Cope
<i>Ave Maria</i>	Franck
<i>Come, ye faithful</i>	Thatcher
<i>O mysterium ineffabile</i>	Lallouette
<i>The Lord is my shepherd</i>	Gelineau
<i>Litany to the Holy Spirit</i>	Hurford
<i>O men from the fields</i>	A. Cooke

The Senior Choir grew visibly in confidence as the year went on and performed a wide variety of Church music:

<i>Subdue us by thy goodness</i>	Bach
<i>The Old Hundredth</i>	V. Williams
<i>Panis angelicus</i>	Franck
<i>Thou visiteth the earth</i>	Greene
<i>For the beauty of the earth</i>	Rutter
<i>Ave verum</i>	Elgar
<i>For the Fallen</i>	D. Guest
<i>All poor men and humble</i>	Caradog Roberts
<i>Matin Responsary</i>	Palestrina
<i>If ye love me</i>	Tallis
<i>O salutaris</i>	Elgar
<i>Jesu dulcis memoria</i>	Vittoria
<i>God be in my head</i>	Rutter
<i>Come, Holy Ghost</i>	Attwood
<i>Gloria</i>	Vivaldi
<i>O bone Jesu</i>	Palestrina
<i>Canticle de Jean Racine</i>	Fauré
<i>Lift up your heads</i>	Thiman
<i>The heavens are telling</i>	Haydn
(soloists: Amanda Vaux, Nicholas Macartney, Daniel Morris, John Carroll)	
<i>I will lay me down in peace</i>	Thiman
<i>Nunc Dimittis from The Short Service</i>	Gibbons

The musical highlight of the Summer Term was the concert by the Rendcomb Rock Band, *Spot That Plane*, which is reviewed elsewhere.

We shall miss Hilary Sumsion's 'cello playing; we congratulate her on gaining a distinction in her grade 8 'cello and on gaining a place in the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra.

In December we said goodbye to Mr Tim Lane, who has been Director of Music at Rendcomb for the last six years. Pupils and staff join to thank him and wish him and his wife Hilary every success and happiness in their new life. There is an appreciation of Tim's work elsewhere in this issue.

We owe warm thanks to Mr Stephen Lea, who joined us at short notice to take over the junior class teaching, play the organ in church, teach bassoon, run the keyboards laboratory and foster the growing number of rock groups. I am delighted that he is staying on at Rendcomb.

We were lucky, too, to have the help of Mrs Mair Shankster, who spent two terms assisting with our 'A' level and GCSE teaching. Our music owes a lot also to colleagues who have helped us out in many ways, our relief organists, Mrs Christine Sudbury, Mr Michael Craddock, Mr Martin Graham and of course to Mr Peter Sudbury for his unstinting encouragement of the two choirs and for his fine *basso profundo*!

My final thanks go to all those who have sung in the choirs or played in the various concerts this year. Their names are given below.

I very much look forward to the arrival of our new Director of Music, Mr David White. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year's involvement in the Music Department and shall take great pleasure in watching the music grow and flourish in the years to come.

P. A. T.



Stephen Lea

The Senior Choir:

Elsbeth Anderson, Amanda Carter, Angus Cochran, Sara Deacon, Matthew Faircloth, Lara Haine, Roland Martin, Lucy Merrett, Jessica Naish, Gemma Noyce, Katie Russell-Duff, Hilary Sumsion, Jason Vernon, Karen Betts, John Carroll, Lydia Fellows, Julian Head, Emma Hull, Nicola Kemp, Sara Payne, Justine Platt, Fiona Reichwald, Charlotte Stephens, Karen Swan, Amanda Vaux, Patrick Evans, Piers Gorman, Simon Hett, Mike Moody, Matthew Rogers, Ian Spencer, Simon Williams, Gareth Davies, Marcus Head, Paul Sumsion, Scott Vernon, Paul Allen, Alex Beales, Christopher Carmichael, Alex Faiers, Nigel Fischer, Roger Gorman, Nicholas Macartney, Daniel Morris, Nicholas Rose, Jeremy Sawtell, John Talbot, Paul Williams.

The Junior Choir:

James Bainbridge, Andrew Branston, Barrie Davies, Charles Dudbridge, Andrew McIndoe, Christian Millard, Christopher Norman, Matthew Pentney, Charles Waters, Francis Barton, Adam Beales, Patrick Boydell, Tom Ramsden-Hare, Ian Thompson, Ian Timbers, Rupert Wertheimer, Charles Yardley.

Those who played in concerts:

Adam Bainbridge, guitar; Francis Barton, piano and violin; Rufus Blackwell, guitar; Tom Ramsden-Hare, piano; Ian Thompson, clarinet; Armen Topalian, violin and piano; Rupert Wertheimer, flute; Charles Yardley, clarinet; James Bainbridge, viola; Barrie Davies, clarinet; Andrew McIndoe, 'cello; Andrew Martin, clarinet; Christian Millard, trumpet; Christopher Norman, violin; Matthew Pentney, violin; Nicholas Pollard, trumpet; Charles Waters, violin; Simon Barrett, clarinet; Alex Beales, 'cello; Peter Croft, clarinet; Dominic Egré, trumpet; Alex Faiers, saxophone; Nigel Fischer, flute; Roger Gorman, trumpet; William Hunter-Smart, piano; Nicholas Macartney, trombone; Patrick Morgan, piano; Daniel Morris, clarinet; Nicholas Nettleton, violin; Theo Ramsden-Hare, guitar and piano; Nicholas Rose, trumpet; Mark Sansome, drums; Jeremy Sawtell, clarinet; William Smalley, guitar; Andrew Sylvester, saxophone; John Talbot, 'cello; Paul Williams, piano and bassoon; Hamish Auld, clarinet; Alasdair Baker, guitar; Gareth Davies, piano; Marcus Head, violin; Andrew Pollard, flute; James Sleeman, flute; Nicholas J. Smith, piano; Paul Sumsion, horn; Scott Vernon, drums; Christopher Walsh, guitar; John Wheeler, piano; Patrick Evans, trombone; Piers Gorman, oboe and piano; Simon Hett, oboe; Mike Moody, saxophone; Matthew Rogers, trumpet; Nicholas S. Smith, own piano compositions; Ian Spencer, trumpet; Lucy Brummitt, flute; John Carroll, baritone; Ashley Clark, guitar; Ben Gallagher, clarinet; Joe Hammond, guitar and vocals; Julian Head, drums; Henry Le Fleming, trumpet; Ben Maslen, vocals; Joe Nicholls, keyboards and vocals; Tom Nicholls, drums; Karen Swan, guitar and horn; Amanda Vaux, soprano; Matt Ventrella, guitar; Rachel Davis, flute; Matthew Faircloth, violin; Richard Hardy, guitar; Jon Lutwyche, trombone and vocals; Roland Martin, violin and guitar; Gemma Noyce, saxophone; Hilary Sumsion, 'cello and double bass; Jason Vernon, drums.

The Music Staff Concert

On 23rd October a large audience was entertained by a most talented group of musicians - the music staff. This unique concert varied widely in style, but was always of superb quality.

To begin, a wind quartet performed an original adaptation of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, the *Bossa Nova*. Other performances particularly well received were Graeme Adams's oboe playing in the *Sarabande el Allegro* by Grovetez, Paul Lewis and Chris Green playing flute in the first movement of Vivaldi's Concerto in C and Helen Dearnley playing Fauré's *Berceuse* on violin.

The first half ended with Tim Lane's performance of *The Doll Dance*, accompanied by Greg Watson on drums and by a foot-tapping audience.

After the interval Phillip Dunn opened the second half by playing Tarrega's *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* on guitar to an amazed audience. Soon the time arrived for Tim Lane to play the long-awaited *Ivor the Engine* on bassoon and, judging by the applause, everyone thought it was well worth waiting for.

Other special mentions must be given to Julia Morris on 'cello in Norton's *Blues for Gerry*, and to Leslie Vernon and Patta Tolputt's playing six of Seiber's piano duets; my own favourite was Chopin's Scherzo in B minor, played brilliantly on piano by John Evans.

The concert closed with a performance by the whole music staff of *Hello* by Lionel Ritchie. This was a fitting end to a most varied and memorable concert, during which we were able to appreciate the performing skill of our hard-working music staff.

KEVIN HOLMES

Autumn Concert

On 13th November the Dulverton Hall was once again the venue for a diverse College concert, styles varying from Haydn to Lloyd Webber through to Blues.

Particularly admirable were the solo contributions by Hilary Sumsion on 'cello, in Fauré's *Elégie for 'Cello and Orchestra*, and Ian Spencer on trumpet, in Haydn's *Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra*. Both played bravely for an engrossed audience against the forces of a finely-tuned accompaniment.

Perhaps best received of all were the three refreshing orchestral pieces: *Spread a Little Happiness* (Ellis), *Memory* (Lloyd Webber) and *The Bare Necessities* (Gilkyson) from Walt Disney's *Jungle Book*.

The concert then moved through a variety of ensembles varying in tone and tempo, beginning with a fine performance by the Oboe Trio of *Largo and Vivace* by Quantz. It was good also to appreciate the talent among the younger members of the College, apparent both in the Junior String Group, playing *Piccadilly Ballad* and *Jazz Waltz* (Wilson/Ranger) and the Woodwind Ensemble, which played *Mein Freund* and *12-Bar Blues* (Susato, arr. Lewis).

We were then entertained by the Clarinet Ensemble with *Quaverin'*, *Tango-rine* and *Three's Company* (Evans), followed by the Brass Group's *Hallelujah Drive* (Hazell) and the Saxophone Group's *Come Summer* (Feldstein), *Lotus Talk* (Evans), *The Big Ballad* (Ramon Cole), *Intrada* (Norton) and *Dixieland Blues* (Menz) all groups giving polished performances with that touch of flair and enthusiasm.

The concert ended with the Dixieland Band, an original idea, playing four blues pieces, *Bill Bailey*, *Basin Street Blues*, *Tin Roof Blues* and *Wolverine Blues*, spiced with an electric guitar and solid drums. This concluded an evening full of the imagination and thought that is so often the stamp of Rendcomb's concerts. The spirit and hard work of the music department did not go unnoticed; they were warmly appreciated.

SHRIDHAR PHALKE

Informal Concert

On Sunday, 26th February, one of the now well-known informal concerts was held in the Reading Room. The original idea was that a few short musical pieces would be performed by pupils before a small, appreciative audience of friends and relatives. However, these events have become increasingly popular, to the extent that a promotion to the Dulverton Hall may be more appropriate in the future, especially after this very large turnout, in which the audience outnumbered both the pieces played and the seats available.

This popularity cannot be attributed solely to the promise of drinks at the Headmaster's house afterwards; Mrs Tolputt's enthusiastic and professional attitude has rubbed off on many pupils, both instrumentalists and choir.

The choice of items was left to the pupils, resulting in an extremely varied and interesting collection of performances, ranging from the 17th century to modern jazz and pieces composed by the pupils themselves only two weeks before the event. The structure of the concert was progressive, beginning with the younger, less experienced pupils and finishing with two groups using the sophisticated electronic equipment now available here.

Yet the original intention, to provide an informal and relaxed atmosphere for parents and pupils to enjoy alike, has not been lost, in spite of the obvious professional management behind the concert. A generous helping of humour displayed by the younger musicians, with their frequent mistakes, only added to the quality of the occasion: an informal, friendly concert, laced with the high quality so characteristic of Rendcomb.

ANTHONY MILES



Drawing: "Rendcomb Lion" by Justine Platt

Rendcomb Rock - *Spot That Plane*

After a two-year wait, Rendcomb is once again lucky enough to have a rock band of its own, a condition long looked forward to by the contemporary-music-starved people of the school!

Although the five members of the band, Ben Maslen, Joe and Tom Nicholls, Matt Ventrella and Joe Hammond, are now in VIB, the band dates back to Form IV; however, in those early days it was not quite ready to take the world by storm and it broke up for the fifth form year.

Arrival in the Sixth Form brought a new interest and enthusiasm, as well as their name *Spot That Plane*. This title was born when two of the members were attempting to compile a list of possible names; a plane flew over, and one of them remarked... Need I say more?

Their music, however, was taken much more seriously; after countless hours of practice and argument they felt ready to face the public.

It was originally planned that they should contribute one or two songs as part of an informal concert, providing some variety in contrast with the other pieces being played; for some reason or other this did not happen, and so it was decided that they should have a concert of their own. This debut gig was tentatively scheduled for 3rd June and, after one or two hiccups, it duly took place.

The preparatory organisation of this event was done more or less entirely by the band itself, with invaluable support from Mr Lea. On the equipment side, a public address system and a special lighting-effects console were hired to improve the quality of the show but, of course, in the final analysis it came down to the music.

I think the band would agree with me if I said that to describe the audience reaction on the night merely as *good* would be something of an understatement. The concert was open to all members of Form III and above, and a very large number attended. The evening began at 7.30 with six songs by a four-piece band, three of them from VIA, and they did a commendable job in warming up the gathered hordes.

However, *Spot That Plane*, with their set of eleven songs ranging from *The Beatles* to *Iron Maiden*, provoked a reaction that verged on the manic, managing to create an atmosphere as good as that at many small venues around the country. It would be unfair to highlight any individual performance, as the five members played very much as a group, avoiding any personal ego-trip, but it must be said that every one of Matt Ventrella's guitar solos caused quite a stir amongst his VIA fans!

The real proof of the band's talent came, paradoxically, from a mishap. During the song *No Woman, No Cry* one of the strings on Joe Hammond's bass broke, and so the song had to be finished without the bass part. Whilst a replacement guitar was being organised, the terrible twins, Tom and Joe Nicholls, broke into an impromptu piece of jamming and were soon joined by Matt, while Ben Maslen stood casually by sipping water, relieved at not having to humour the audience.

Once Joe was ready for action again they moved very coolly and subtly into the next song, having made good what could have been a very awkward and embarrassing pause. All in all, it was a very successful evening; it would have been hard for the band to have had a better start to its career.

As for the future, nothing is certain yet. Mr Lea may try to get *Spot That Plane* a concert in front of a 'real' audience somewhere outside the school, which would be a very worthwhile experience. They also intend to play casually at the end-of-year VIB barbecue, and I think we can safely bet on some more action from them in the next school year. I, for one, can't wait.

JAMES PRINCE

Gardening

The general maintenance of the College grounds has been vastly improved this year because Mr Partridge has been employed for at least one day a week as a full-time gardener, the first since PW gardening began in 1962.

As a result, the terraces have been re-gravelled and thoroughly weed-killed; the soil in the 50 or so urns has been changed, the flower-beds dug and manured and the grounds given a new lease of life. This does not imply that the PW gardeners did not cope with the work over the past 27 years; in fact they achieved much-admired results. But the scope of gardening has increased just when the number of PW gardeners has diminished, hence the need for professional help. We have, however, been very grateful to Neil Walmsley, who has maintained the PW tradition and given valuable and loyal help on Tuesday afternoons throughout the year.

The terrace urns have been planted as usual with geraniums, lobelia and petunias; the library beds have a mixture of nicotiana, African marigolds, petunias, ageratum and verbenas. *Cineraria maritima* and *tagetes* have been added to the new potentillas in the Stable Block courtyard. At the Old Rectory, cosmos, antirrhinums and asters should provide some late colour.

The 'landscaping' of the grounds round the new boarding houses will be carried out by gradual stages in the autumn, but a start was made in May with the planting of eight trees and thirty shrubs at Lawn House; they seem to have survived the hot weather and are growing well.

I am grateful to Mr Partridge for his hard work and for the interest he has taken in the gardens, and to Mrs Tolputt for allowing us to use her greenhouse during the winter.

W. J. D. W.

Much Ado

Shakespeare's comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing* was chosen as Rendcomb's main dramatic venture for 1988 after it was decided not only that Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* was too depressing for the cheerful Rendcomb audience but also that the Irish accents available were not quite up to standard!

I must admit to having always believed that to speak of 'a Shakespearean comedy' is a contradiction in terms; our actors and Mr Craddock's skill have persuaded me that maybe Shakespeare and humour are more compatible than I thought. We were presented not only with a comic production; there were also strong elements of romance and intrigue, which made for a great evening's entertainment.

The plot, although rather complicated, turned out to be quite easy to follow. I feel that, rather than go into great detail about it, this space would be better used giving credit to some of those who performed.

Sadly, this year marks the end of an era as far as Rendcomb's drama is concerned: we see the last of such outstanding actors as Roland Martin (Don Pedro) and Vaughan Tredwell (Leonato), who showed the skill and vitality that we have come to expect from them over the years. Equally good performances were given by Jason Carter and Ann-Marie Chapman as the loving couple Claudio and Hero, and by Aubrey Powell as Conrade. The character which made the most immediate hit with the audience, however, was Jessica Naish's Beatrice. Her tongue-in-cheek remarks and egomania had everybody laughing.

John Carroll's portrayal of Benedick was also very impressive, and he appeared a lot more confident than in last year's *Pirates* production. We can expect great things of him in the future, and it is good to know that we shall have such ability around for a while yet. Ben Maslen showed up-and-coming talent and, despite a very large interval between his first and second entrances, he showed no signs of having seized up during his long, and I should imagine fairly nerve-wracking, wait. James Gregory played his part as a leading member of the watch with great fervour, and the audience could not help but laugh at his antics, as indeed at those of all the other members, whose unashamed stupidity was a highlight of the evening. Mr Price led this mad rabble in his usual individual and highly amusing style, now expected of him by the Rendcomb audience; the character of Dogberry was as suited to him as he was to it. There were only two new female faces in the cast, Sara Payne and Philippa Rome, both in minor parts but showing great confidence and promise.

I would like also to congratulate the make-up girls on an excellent job, which was really brought to my attention when I heard a bewildered parent asking her son "why the boy playing Don John has been allowed to grow a beard?" What more can I say!

I hope that I have not managed to forget someone or something that I should have mentioned, but suffice it to say that *Much Ado About Nothing* was a resounding success, and my heartfelt thanks go to all those involved, both on stage and behind the scenes, and especially to our untiring producer, the Shakespeare of Rendcomb, Mr Craddock.

JAMES PRINCE



C. Hutton



C. Hutton



"Nicholas Nickleby"

P. Sumsion

Nicholas Nickleby

On 16th, 17th and 18th May Rendcomb's young actors put on a very able production of the well-known book by Charles Dickens. Even though the plot does not wholly lend itself to amusement, this in no way detracted from the obvious enjoyment of the large crowd gathered for each of the three performances.

There is no doubt that the many hours spent in rehearsal paid off; of particular note was the way the boys tackled the emotional scenes from the novel; they showed great feeling and sincerity in their roles and I, for one, was impressed by the acting ability of our young rising stars. I think we can look forward to some impressive acting in the future, when these boys move higher up the school.

Whilst it seems unfair to highlight individuals when the overall performance was so good, I think special mention should be made of Alex Beales (Nicholas), Mathieu Laroche (Squeers), Henry Pugh (Ralph) and Julian Madeley (Smike); each showed great aptitude and dedication in playing his part.

The Lower Sixth, particularly the girls, also took an active interest in the production, behind the scenes. Suzanne Denley and Carragh MaCree, co-directors under the Headmaster's eye, must be congratulated on keeping up the enthusiasm and making sure that the end result was of such a high calibre. Finally, special mention must be made of Mr Stephen Lea for the music he composed especially for the occasion, and to Mrs Penny Wood and Mrs Julie Rogers for the excellent costumes.

LYDIA FELLOWS

Theatre Workshop

As I am usually involved in directing plays at Rendcomb, the responsibility of performance often takes away some of the enjoyment of watching our fine dramatic talents at work. It was therefore a special pleasure for me to take a back seat at *Theatre Workshop* on 19th and 20th March, a pleasure enhanced by the undoubted success of the evening.

The first short play was *Us and Them* by David Campton, a dramatic parable about group mentality, social, national and psychological barriers, ably performed by members of the Third Form. It's not easy to create the atmosphere this short play demands, but the actors quickly established the underlying seriousness of the antics of the rival factions of 'People' hiding from themselves and each other behind the walls they so rapidly and tragically built, both verbally and visually. William Hunter-Smart delivered very well the difficult part of the sad and cynical Recorder who has seen it all before, and Chris Carmichael and Hugh Costelloe, as Spokesmen of the groups, demonstrated their acting talents in their ability to be alternately funny and sad. They were well supported by 'The People', who took their cues sharply, varying the pace and mood, and all of them continuing to act coherently and individually when the attention was not on them.

There followed a number of sketches by members of 6B. *Digit* was a very short scene improvised and played out by Ann-Marie Chapman and James Gregory, who showed us superbly how many meanings can be conveyed through the changing tones in which just two

words are delivered. *Small Talk* featured Jessica Naish and Roland Martin in a comical series of disagreements, which they acted with the skill and naturalness that Rendcomb audiences have come to expect of them. The last two sketches, *Mother Figure* and *Drinking Companion* by Alan Ayckbourn, however, made the most impression on me, for there the situations were developed at greater length and in more subtle ways.

Mother Figure starred Susan Payne as an intimidating and curiously sinister matriarch whose manipulation of Karen Betts and Mark Nicholls was both very funny and beautifully poised. *Drinking Companion* was about the futile attempts of salesman Ben Maslen to chat up Charlie Stephens and Philippa Rome, chance acquaintances in a hotel. Ben's at first relatively subtle and subsequently completely blatant, but always transparent, attempt to seduce the girls was cleverly and comically balanced by Charlie's total lack of interest and Philippa's mounting exasperation. As with much of Ayckbourn, the humour in the sketches was tinged with sadness and the plays, though short, revealed the dramatist's unerring sense of the tragi-comic in human relationships.

Congratulations must go to all concerned for a thoroughly enjoyable evening, not least to the Headmaster for his inspiration and skill in producing the event.

M. C. C.

Joking Apart

VIB's Play

Following the success of last year's VIB with *The Real Inspector Hound*, we thought we would try our hand at something dramatic this Summer Term. We chose *Joking Apart* by Alan Ayckbourn, and the project hurtled from the blocks with great enthusiasm.

However, we soon found that the play was a rather subtle mixture of comedy and tragedy, and longer than we had originally thought. With exams and all the building work going on, we found it hard to find anywhere to rehearse. Fortunately Mr Craddock stepped in with a helping hand, and the final result, if a little unpolished here and there, went down very well with our audiences.

Alex Bell's portrayal of the disillusioned Sven and Anthony Miles's diffident vicar, Hugh, were perhaps the most amusing performances. Sara Payne as Anthea and Karen Betts as the neurotic Louise helped give unity to the performance and with Mark Nicholls, playing the failed Casanova, Brian, they directed the play and organised the rehearsals well.

All those involved in the minor parts showed talent and dedication, often waiting hours in rehearsal before they were called on to act. Many thanks must go to Mr Craddock, who managed to pull us through the really dark and murky moments with his successful combination of encouragement and abuse!

JAMES GREGORY

Genesis and all that!

Posters had been popping up all over the school with the title and a time and place - no other information. Many of us thought immediately of the pop group; it occurred to very few that *Genesis* referred to the first book of the Bible.

In fact, on 4th December Miss Mustoe had brought a local Christian youth group to cheer up our Sunday evening; this discovery made us all a little apprehensive as to what we had let ourselves in for.

However, audience participation made the evening a great success. Our first task was to walk up and put a finger through a ring hanging on a piece of string; for completing this seemingly easy feat the reward was to be a *Kit-Kat*. What we were not told was that we had to use binoculars. This gave the audience a lot of fun, but of course there were many willing volunteers, all after the prize.

The ice broken, the group acted a scene, but again volunteers were required for walk-on, walk-off parts. We were then shown many possible uses of a piece of feminine attire, the 'bra', some of them hilarious and enhanced by the fact that one knew the people being used to demonstrate, for example, a dual horse-feeding bag and a dual breathing apparatus.

The import of all this was not revealed at first. Then it was explained; everything can be seen in many different ways, and your vision can be blurred or distorted by your perspective.

After this the group acted out the story of the Creation and of the life of Jesus; the scenes were very dramatic, made vivid by the use of mime and dance to convey temptation by the devil and powerful human emotions.

The scenes conveyed a wide variety of viewpoints upon God and Christianity. When they had finished, we were invited to remain and ask questions. The group was not professional, but composed of students in reality very nervous at the thought of performing in front of others. They must be congratulated, however, on their success in showing us various ways of looking at Christianity, and in particular on their light-hearted and persuasive style and approach.

SUZANNE DENLEY



Drawing:
"Looking at Myself"
by Daniel Houseman



"Bronze" award work (Oporto)

A. Baker

The Photographic Society

The 18 members used a great deal of film during the year, but sadly a limited number of good prints were produced for exhibition. Black and white continued to be the accepted medium. It was decided not to use capital to buy colour-processing aids, as the interest in colour was limited to Christopher Wood (VIA), who mastered the very tricky Cibachrome process - prints from slides - whilst studying photography as his skill for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Fourth-year boys were introduced to this time-consuming hobby for their Bronze Award course, and other members of the society joined them on a visit to the Fox Talbot museum at Lacock, an exhibition tracing the development of photography and the camera since the nineteenth century.

The annual competition attracted some very good entries, particularly in the colour section, which was open to the whole school. The best prints were exhibited in the front hall of the Main Building. The results were:

Colour:

<i>First:</i>	Seascape	J. Smith (IVA)	(page 13)
<i>Second:</i>	Thinker	F. Lee (VIB)	(page 22)
<i>Third:</i>	Portrait	C. Stephens (VIB)	(page 41)

Black and White

<i>First:</i>	Gas Mask	C. M. Wood (VIA)	(page 57)
<i>Second:</i>	Windmill	C. M. Wood (VIA)	(page 48)
<i>Third:</i>	Nightmare	F. Lee (VIB)	

The finances and equipment of the society were handled with care and precision by Christopher Hutton, who handed over to Jonathan Pratten in June.

C. J. W.



"Bronze" award work (Eze)

J. Grafton

Debate

This House believes that Towns and Cities are bad for you.

This was the first debate of the year, held on 22nd November, and it was very topical for many reasons, explained by Mr Sudbury when he opened it. The first of these was that Nicholas Ridley, the local MP here, is at present Secretary of State for the Environment. He also mentioned how the government is now becoming more concerned with the question of pollution and how the Prince of Wales has recently spoken out about architecture and the environment.

Mr Terry Robinson, of the Countryside Commission, proposed the motion. He produced some very convincing arguments, backed up by an impressive array of statistics. Later he was seconded by Matthew Ventrella. Their main points were that cities are centres of crime and pollution, originating in the Industrial Revolution. Those who live in cities are clamouring to escape from them, they reasoned, and those who can afford it are buying property outside towns and commuting to work.

Miss Bridget Goldsmith led the opposition, vigorously attacking Mr Robinson's arguments. She managed to refute many of them by referring to her personal experiences; she has lived in various towns and cities and has connections with many others. Seconded by Sara Payne, the opposition stressed all that is offered by cities: cultural amenities, job opportunities, recreational activities and many more. Also mentioned were the redevelopment programmes currently operating in many inner cities to combat crime and pollution.

Much interest was shown from the floor of the house, and questions were put to both proposer and opposer, although many people did not have strong views on the subject.

After about an hour of keen debating the opposition won by 25 votes to 20, somewhat surprisingly, because the house had attacked Miss Goldsmith and Sara on many of their points. However, it was clear that together they had attracted the greater support during the course of the debate.

We are very grateful to Mr Robinson for coming to Rendcomb to speak in this debate and for the vital part he played in it. Thanks must go also to the other speakers, who provided a stimulating source of entertainment for the evening, and to Mr Sudbury, who organised and skilfully chaired the debate.

KAREN BETTS

Arts Society Debate

Science has contributed more to society than Arts.
The long-awaited Arts Society debate, chaired by Mark Nicholls, was held on 18th January. With the Sixth Form fairly equally divided between arts and science subjects, it was destined to be an interesting occasion.

Peter Grimsdale and Justine Platt, both budding scientists, proposed the motion. They put forward a very strong argument, quoting many examples of scientific

C. Stephens

achievements which had radically improved social conditions and illustrating how science had managed to make life generally more comfortable. They focused particularly on the necessity for science, to provide our basic human needs, such as food, shelter and warmth.

They also put forward the idea that the arts depended on science: the mass-communication media were needed to allow worldwide appreciation of art, literature and music.

The speakers opposing the motion, Ben Maslen and James Gregory, spoke enthusiastically and intelligently for the arts. They were able to tackle particularly well many of the claims put forward by the scientists, as well as adding a very forceful argument of their own supporting the role of the arts in society.

Their main point was that, far from depending on science, which answers only the question 'how?', the arts pose the far more fundamental question 'why?' It was the arts, they said, that gave life a purpose; however much the wonders of science were capable of keeping us alive, that 'well preserved' life would be hollow, and there would be little point to it without the influence of the arts.

There were some very interesting questions from the floor, to which the speakers gave fairly direct and well-informed answers. However, it finally boiled down to a question of which mattered more in society: quality and comfort in life or a reason for living at all?

The house voted for the latter, defeating the motion by 22 to 14, with eight abstentions.

SARA PAYNE

Third in colour section of photographic competition





The Start

C. J. Wood

Parents' Association - Activity Day and Barbecue

On 18th September members of the Junior House and Godman House set out on ambitious walks around Rendcomb and its varied surroundings. Many of us met on the asphalt in front of the main building to collect a map of one of the three routes and a questionnaire.

Feeling quite energetic, I set out on one of the longest walks, although I regretted it slightly by the end. ' Walking down the Cirencester drive at a steady pace, we reached our first destination, the bridge over the River Churn. The first problem to tackle was to time how long it took a twig to pass under the bridge. Typically, the

twig never reappeared, and only at our third attempt did success come our way.

Continuing, we had a relaxed walk along the river bank until we met another challenge, a steep hill through the fields to North Cerney; our pace slowed down tremendously. When we at last reached North Cerney, we had only one more stretch to complete. We walked up many hills, and when Rendcomb College eventually came in sight we were truly thankful, as by now our legs were starting to give way.

When we finally checked in, we were able to relax with an excellent barbecue. I would like to thank the Parents' Association and the members of the staff who helped to give us an outstanding day.

JAMES MACKINNON

The Finish

C. J. Wood



Comic Relief

Inspired by Miss Wendy Musto, Rendcomb played its part on Comic Relief Day this year. Pupils and staff were encouraged to wear fancy dress and to contribute to a collection for various charities. The event was a literally spectacular success, as pupils revealed hitherto unseen depths of inventiveness and resourcefulness in their dress, whilst even some of the staff discarded their uniform for a day, if with slightly less enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the sale by auction of the School Prefects to the highest bidders amongst the pupils. Each Prefect was then made to pay some kind of forfeit, decreed by his owner, to obtain release, whilst the money bid was added to the amount collected for charity. If the Prefects did not always welcome the tasks set for them - such as a dip in the swimming pool on a cold, wet March day - nearly £400 was raised for charities, two-thirds being allocated to overseas aid programmes, including Oxfam and Save the Children. The informality of the day lifted the spirits of all but the most reactionary members of the community.

M. C. C.

Bridget Goldsmith and MCC on Comic Relief Day



W. Musto

Bridge Club

This has been one of the most successful years for some time. Several new pairs from Form IV have joined the club, and Miss Goldsmith has played an active part in the meetings.

The main success was achieved by the two teams of four who entered for the *Daily Mail* Bridge Cup. Both



teams showed their competence, Team 'A' finishing fourth out of eight, Team 'B' finishing fifth. We can hope that the Rendcomb teams will manage to beat Marling next year and qualify for the semi-finals.

Thanks must go to the two VIA members who are leaving - Colin Bannister and Russell Ogden; they have been loyal supporters of the club. In general, though, the success achieved during the year has been due to Mr White, who has always organised meetings when possible, and our grateful thanks must go to him.

KEVIN HOLMES

The Arts Society

This year the Society has maintained its profile in school life, but I still feel that awareness of it among the pupils could be greater; involvement has been exclusively from the Sixth Form, and I think that members of lower forms should be encouraged to participate.

In the Christmas Term Mr Griffiths took a group to a jazz night at the Queen's Hotel, and the Society showed two videos, *A Room with a View* and *Annie Hall*, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed by a mainly lower-sixth audience.

The two high points of the year were the debate in the Easter Term on the motion *Science has contributed more to society than Arts* and the production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Joking Apart* at the end of the Summer Term, both of which are reviewed elsewhere. The debate produced some heated argument and the play, taken through its embryo phase by the Society, had some varying moments but was ultimately a great success.

In conclusion I would like to wish my successor good luck in continuing the Society's valuable contribution to the enrichment of Rendcomb life, and I would like to thank Mr Craddock for making things happen!

MARK NICHOLLS

Viewpoints

Into Europe

Having travelled down to London by train, my first contact with our British teacher was made in a seedy cafe just round the corner from Liverpool Street Station, where we were all due to catch the ferry train later that evening. I caught sight of a man sitting alone in a corner of *The Copper Bowl* (highly recommended for double egg and chips!) reading - what else? - a German magazine.

Peter Brown, from Wolverhampton Polytechnic, turned out to be an extremely gifted and yet easy-going group leader, despite my initial fears that he might be something of a fanatic...

The journey proved long and tiring but, by the time we had reached the ferry, friendships had already been forged between some of the twenty-strong group of students. The pleasures of duty-free shopping and a late night disco certainly helped to make this stage of the journey pass quickly.

It was twenty bleary-eyed English students who arrived at Osnabrück station the next morning, to be greeted by their host families and Herr Schmidt, the headmaster of the school we were to attend. One by one, our names were called, and the group of slightly apprehensive students slowly dwindled. My hostess, Judith Bergstermann-Schweer, led me to a car outside, and I was right in thinking that the driver was a bit too young to be her mother: the thirty-year-old woman was in fact a neighbour doing a favour for Judith's mother, who works as a taxi-driver.

The house was only a short drive from the town centre and, after being shown around, I was given the opportunity to catch up on some desperately needed sleep. Judith had generously given me her bedroom, while she slept downstairs on the sofa rather than share a room with her mother, who often had to drive during the night. Being an English gentleman, I offered to take the sofa, but I was answered with typical German hospitality and brusquely told that *I* was the guest there.

After chatting with Judith's parents for some time that evening, I was treated to my first taste of German custom, a *Polterabend*, roughly equivalent to a British 'stag-night', only in Germany their celebration involves two giant sets of relatives and the entire neighbourhood in addition.

No sooner had we got through the garden gate than a *schnapps* glass was thrust into my hand and filled by one of the ubiquitous 'aunts' of the groom, with the instruction that it must be downed in one; this in itself was no great task, but I was not told until later that the moment the glass is emptied it is considered imperative for an 'aunt' to refill it. I quickly learned that the key to survival was to try and leave your glass full for as long as possible; otherwise walking home became a major problem!

Throughout my three-week stay with the Bergstermann family I was never made to feel less than at home and, after an evening out in the town, I would return to find a cold beer already poured for me and

would chat until late with the parents. This was virtually the only time the family was together during the weekdays, and so it played an important part in family life.

The father, Wilhelm, or 'Willi' as he jokingly insisted on being called, was probably the most congenial undertaker I shall ever have the pleasure of meeting and, although most of the English students and their hosts expressed rather negative feelings about his profession, he showed dedication and kind-heartedness, going to great lengths to console bereaved relatives whenever they called him at his home, disregarding the fact that by talking for so long he would make himself late for an important meeting or have to work late in the evening to catch up.

His wife had a perpetual smile - especially when I rustled up an English breakfast for her - and never seemed tired by anything, despite working at odd times during 24 hours a day. My impression of a German family is obviously restricted to my experience at the Bergstermann home, but other members of the group echoed my sentiments whenever they spoke of their host families. In fact, many of the families who put us up - or put up with us - are something of experts, confessing to having accommodated students from France, Spain, Holland and Denmark within the space of a few years.

As for our group of British students, we were a cosmopolitan mix drawn from all over the country: London, Cardiff, Somerset, Cumbria, Liverpool, Wolverhampton and, last but not least, Rendcomb; ("Where's that?" asked many of the British students, and remained just as uncertain when I told them it was quite near Cheltenham!). I think we could have had an interesting time together on an *English* course, since we often had to translate our dialects - the scousers in particular - or slang phrases into universally understandable English.

As a group we would usually meet in an afternoon in the town centre. I suppose Osnabrück could be classed as a city - it has a medieval cathedral which survived the World War Two bombings - but size-wise it is more of a town. Our favourite meeting-place turned out to be a delightful pub called *Der Grüne Jäger* ('The Green Hunter' and, no, it has nothing to do with a British make of Wellington boot), which had an 'outside garden' with barrels of differing sizes as tables and seats. The glass roof was opened on the appearance of the slightest trace of sun, and the light floated directly in, filtered only by the masses of green vines and other plants which grew draped around the rafters.

We all found it a great relief simply to talk English to one another since, although we were taught together in classes, we were then allowed to talk only in German. However, even by halfway through the course we had begun to think in German, and so our English became more and more *englisch* every day.

The fact that we could so easily meet daily was due mostly to our free transport on the efficient bus services; every school pupil needs only a pass validated by the school, and Osnabrück and its environs become his oyster. This is definitely something we should get introduced over here!

The school we attended was the *Emst-Moritz-Amdt Gymnasium* or EMA - pronounced 'Emma' - for short. The German *Gymnasium* is roughly equivalent to the British grammar school, being the 'highest' type of school in their three-tier system. The EMA is actually just one of the five schools based at the 'Sebastopol School Centre', which is used by 2,000 pupils every day, so you had to be tolerant of crowds as well as keeping your eye open for spanking wheelchairs driven by pupils of the school for the physically disabled. This school uses the same buildings as EMA, but also has its own specialist building containing the most up-to-date equipment to make everything from swimming to reading easier.

Our school day began at 8. 50 a. m., but the Germans had already been there since eight o'clock, or half-past seven on one day a week. Wisely Mr Brown had opted for a later start for the English students!

Our group was divided into two sets, according to age and the number of years spent learning German. Each group then had two 45-minute lessons apart, followed by a 20-minute break and then one lesson with the groups together. One of these lessons was taken by Peter Brown and then the other two by Herr Schmidt or Herr Brammer.

The study topics depended on the teacher; Peter Brown invariably discussed social topics such as the role of women as part of the work-force, the presence of foreign workers in Germany or the growing influx of Russians or East Europeans of German descent, who by law have the right to asylum here. 'Homework' usually meant asking our host families for their opinion on a certain subject, and thus Mr Brown cleverly got us to cover material which would be useful for the 'A' level examination, using topics on which an essay in German might be set.

Herr Schmidt was responsible for giving us a dose of German culture; as well as discussing short stories by the likes of Kafka, Brecht, Boll and Frisch, we scrutinised their national anthem and its origins. Of course, the issues of the Jews and the last World War did not escape observation, nor did they at home with my host family; like all Germans I have ever met, they are keen to point out the differences in Germany between then and now and to express not only their abhorrence of what happened during Hitler's reign, but also a staunch determination that it should never be allowed to repeat itself.

The other teacher, Herr Brammer, was more concerned with the problems facing the younger generation and our views on modern issues such as drugs, music, the arts and yet more music; he was something of a 'rock' fan and did let slip towards the end of the course how disappointed he was not to have been allowed a day off to hear U2 in concert!

On the whole the most important thing to have learnt from this course, besides an appreciation of the usefulness of a foreign language, was the fact that *different races are essentially the same; people are the same wherever they come from, and the problems of England or Germany are those of mankind*. Thus it was a pleasure beyond measure simply to be able to communicate and



C. M. Wood

become friends with people of a different history and creed.

I must also mention the excursions we made, including a day-trip to Cologne, an overnight stay in the Goslar youth hostel in the Harz mountains combined with a visit to the border with East Germany, and a long walk to one of the few working water-powered mills in the country.

The high point of the Cologne trip was quite literally an ascent of the cathedral tower, involving some 509 steps. The view of the city was of course astounding, but it was also easy to see why the stone of the Gothic cathedral was so blackened: the smog which swayed at a low height above the ground veiled many of the taller buildings in a grubby mist. Armed only with a street-plan, I managed to find the second-largest record store in the world (the biggest is in London, of course!) and also to stumble on a tiny back-street shop selling old magazines and newspapers. At the bottom of a pile I found some dating back to the last war and bought two of them: one was from November 1941 and the other from 1947. Between the two dates there is of course a striking change in the articles written. In 1941 a front-page section tells the reader how many RAF planes were lost over Europe, whereas in the 1947 issue, printed under licence from the occupying powers, the whole page is taken up by an article entitled *Hoffnung auf Brot* ('Hope for Bread'). The sheer destruction wreaked by man on his fellow needs hardly to be mentioned and is a fact which cannot be escaped, especially with the presence of innumerable new buildings throughout Germany, a telling reminder of what once stood before the bombing began.

Goslar, by contrast, is a small town resting on the edge of the Harz Mountains, with buildings dating from the eleventh century lining the narrow streets. We visited an old mine museum up in the hills, which had an ancient underground wooden water-wheel to turn a generator providing power for the whole mine. In the evening hunger drove us down to the town again, since the youth hostel food left more than a little to be desired; even our German friends couldn't stomach it!

The next day we were driven to the 'inner' German border as it is called; the majority of Germans see it as a division of one country, not the border between two separate states. After a briefing by the Federal Border Police who accompanied us, we were taken to a quiet spot on the border.

Even here, no matter how well prepared you are for the fortifications, the sight makes an immense impact. From an observation platform you could hear the trickling of a nearby stream and the birds singing, while an East German soldier in his tower took photos to record your visit. It is an eerie feeling to look through a pair of binoculars at the pair of guards who are themselves watching you. The barrier system consists of miles of twin-row mesh fencing, anti-vehicle ditches, dogs on running lines, optical and acoustic sensor equipment, raked sand to show up footprints; the list of equipment used runs to a ridiculous length.

Even the East German settlements are surrounded by tall walls on their western sides, so that they cannot look over to the 'free' world. Sadly, a reunification of Germany seems an infinite distance away, let alone the removal of these inhumane restrictions placed on the citizens of the German 'Democratic' Republic.

During the rest of my stay in Osnabruck I had time to go and visit some dinosaur footprints in rock strata to the north of the town, one of three sites giving physical evidence of their existence; the others are thousands of miles away, in the USA and the Soviet Union.

On another free afternoon I took the train to Hannover to visit a friend I had met in 1987 while on a post-'0' level Inter-Rail tour through Europe. I found two Old Rendcombians there (can you ever get away from them?) on a repeat tour, having already visited Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey. I am sure that Paul Wilson and Andrew Kinch, although neither speaks a word of *Deutsch*, would freely testify to German generosity, having been treated to a meal in honour of Paul's eighteenth birthday the night before!

It remains for me only to repeat how much I enjoyed and benefited from my three-week stay. I am sincerely grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for their generosity and to Charlotte Holdaway for her time and effort in helping me to continue my German studies in addition to my other 'A' levels.

As summer again draws near the *Wanderlust* begins to grow within me once more, and I feel another European tour coming on. But first there are a few exams to take care of...

AUBREY POWELL

Exchange of Views

On 12th June Justine Platt, Matthew Ventrella and Michael Craddock visited the Ralph Allen School in Bath, a comprehensive school about two and a half times the size of Rendcomb. That evening three sixth-formers from Ralph Allen, Kirsty Pugh, Carla Astin and Tom Nesbitt returned with Justine and Matt and spent the night at Rendcomb. The purpose of the visits was for each group to find out more about the other's school, to sample lessons and life-styles and to compare the independent and state sectors of education. What follows is an account of the impressions made on the Rendcomb group by their day at Ralph Allen and of our visitors' reaction to Rendcomb.

On arrival at Ralph Allen our first impressions were obviously of the physical environment. Set just outside the superb city of Bath, the school cannot quite rival Rendcomb's position, but the situation was pleasant and commanded some fine country views. The campus is modern, compact, somewhat functional, but neat and well maintained, with fine playing fields and an all-weather games pitch.

Inside, the school had more of an institutional feel to it than the somewhat eccentric but homely atmosphere of Rendcomb's Main Building. One of the first things we noticed was the trilling of the electric bell, a perhaps symptomatic contrast with the quaint and sometimes erratic tolling of Rendcomb's hand-operated bells.

In a school which functions principally from 8.55 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. with five one-hour lessons, three in the morning and two in the afternoon, the pace of life is brisker than in Rendcomb; the electric bell and the prompt response of scurrying feet seemed to sum up this contrast in tempo.

After a brief look round a comfortable and relaxing Sixth Form Centre where students can chat and drink coffee in a common room or get on with work under the congenial supervision of the affable Head of Sixth Form, Mr Wallis, Justine and Matthew were whisked away to their lessons. Meanwhile, Mr Sommers, the Headmaster, was kind enough to give more than an hour of his time to Mr Craddock, chatting about the school, showing him round and visiting lessons.

Mr Sommers had taught at an independent school, Clifton College, earlier in his career and was therefore in a good position to compare the two systems. He felt that public schools were fortunate in having, in general, more unity of purpose and of values than state comprehensive schools. He noted, for example, that Ralph Allen was a secular foundation including all kinds of denomination and background. He remarked also on how much easier it was for independent schools to get rid of problem pupils. He praised the dedication of his staff, who had sometimes to cope with the difficulty of very wide ability ranges within one group.

In general, he was full of praise for the ideals of comprehensive education, with its aim of overcoming, or at least softening, social divisions at an early age. He claimed that Ralph Allen was in some ways a model comprehensive for, unlike some inner-city schools, it contained a genuine mixture of middle and working class pupils. At the same time he lamented the fact that some

of his pupils came from backgrounds where education was not valued highly enough; as soon as some fifth-formers had taken GCSE, their parents would apply pressure on them to get a job, and promising pupils would often be lured into employment for short-term financial gain, wasting their opportunities to stay on in the Sixth Form.

Some people have the impression that comprehensive schools have low standards of discipline. This was certainly not so at Ralph Allen, where there was an atmosphere of relaxed but purposeful activity and organisation. In some ways boarding schools, with young and energetic people around for 24 hours a day, potentially face more disciplinary problems than a school like Ralph Allen, where the majority leave at 3.30.

Mr Sommers pointed out that his students played a more active role in the running of the school than did Rendcombians. There was a student voice among the governors, and it was generally felt that pupils should have a say in the running of the school where it affected them.

The Headmaster also remarked that he had tightened up the rules on uniform for the lower forms, who wear a more formal outfit than their Rendcomb counterparts. The Sixth Form wear casual clothes, with the inevitable occasional problems as to what is and what is not acceptable; on the whole, Mr Sommers took a liberal attitude to the whole business of school uniform, which he felt was a peculiarly British fixation.

He mentioned also the large number of educational initiatives sweeping through the state sector; there is perhaps some danger that schools in the private sector, through their very independence, could fall out of step with the more progressive aspects of educational reform. At the same time, the degree of bureaucracy in state schools seems to be a phenomenon the independent schools would do well to avoid.

Whilst Mr Craddock was being shown round, Justine and Matthew attended a number of 'A' level lessons, including a General Studies forum in which they were asked about their initial impressions. Both of them got a flavour of the quality and style of the teaching. They were impressed by the relaxed atmosphere in the lessons they attended; students and teachers were very open and made them feel at home, and there was a great deal of student participation in the classes. Matthew in particular felt that the sixth-form groups at Ralph Allen were more prepared to question their teachers and make their own contributions, and that lessons were co-operative ventures rather than lectures. He felt that this was an element at times lacking at Rendcomb, where students took a more passive role.

Both of them noticed that work was more a matter of the individual's responsibility. They felt that there were positive and negative sides to this approach; a more structured class and prep routine forces the average Rendcombian to work harder than their Ralph Allen counterparts, but the responsibility of having to organise their own time possibly makes the students more independent and mature in outlook.

The biggest difference in outlook emerging was the most obvious: Ralph Allen pupils go home at 3.30 and



Justine, Carla, Kirsty, Matt and Tom

M. C. Craddock

leave behind the joys and problems of school; Rendcombians are there all the time, and school becomes a whole way of life.

When we arrived back at our Cotswold mansion, rather self-conscious with our guests Kirsty, Carla and Tom, they were initially a little overwhelmed by their first experience of a boarding school. In a way, their experience was to prove the more interesting and challenging part of the exchange, since the whole idea of boarding at school was a complete novelty to them.

Just as we had been struck by the odd detail of the electric bell, so they fastened first on what was to us a peculiar initial impression: they all remarked on the ubiquitous white cricket flannels of a summer afternoon at Rendcomb! To us a commonplace sight, it caught our guests' attention in a strange way, conjuring up for them images of E. M. Forster and a vanished British Empire! Of course we tried to dispel this illusion of grandeur during their visit, but Rendcomb's setting does have an imposing air, and the game of cricket is certainly part of a quintessentially English mythology. The reactions of Kirsty, Carla and Tom reminded us of some of the benefits of Rendcomb life, the superb sports facilities and opportunities for extra-curricular activities that a boarding school provides.

Nonetheless, we were at pains to persuade our visitors that the imperialistic vista of cricket flannels did not constitute the essence of the whole Rendcomb experience, and they began to relax and appreciate the friendly aspects of a school that prides itself on a degree of informality.

During their stay they visited lessons and were entertained by Mr Craddock and by the Headmaster and his wife; there were plenty of opportunities to compare impressions and exchange views. They were somewhat taken aback by the relative lack of freedom enjoyed by the Sixth Form; they were completely unused to the idea

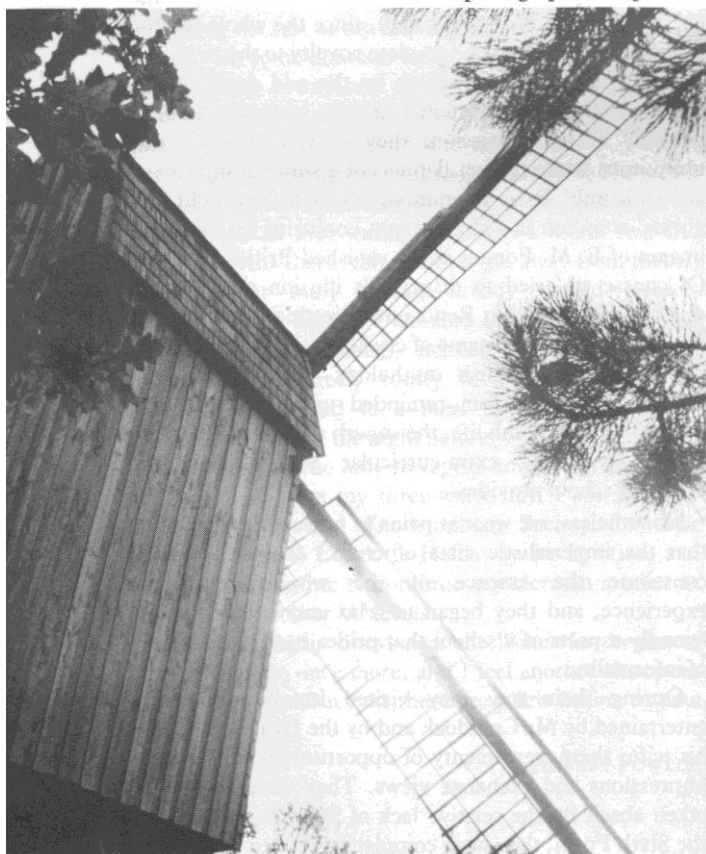
of set prep-times and were surprised at the passive way we took not being able to go out in the evenings and accepted a highly organised routine. They were grateful for the freedom they had, and they kept returning to this point with a mixture of awe and wonder throughout their visit!

On the other hand, they acknowledged how much harder a more rigorous routine made people work and were quick to appreciate all the many activities our pupils were offered; indeed, they came to the conclusion that they could use their free time more constructively than they did at present.

Our guests struck us as friendly, natural and unpretentious, and we thoroughly enjoyed their conversation and company. Tired after two days' hectic activity, Kirsty, Carla and Tom left us on Tuesday and, busy with our thoughts, we all returned to our customary life-styles. We felt, as never before, simultaneously appreciative and critical of Rendcomb, and also that the visit had contributed in its small way to softening the division between pupils in the two sectors of education. There is much less difference than people think, and we believe that exchanges of this kind can only do good in overcoming barriers that need not exist. We would like to thank Ralph Allen School, and in particular Mr Sommers and our guests, for making the exchange such a tremendous experience. We look forward to the schools' repeating this invaluable exercise in years to come.

JUSTINE PLATT
MATT VENTRELLA
MICHAEL CRADDOCK

Second in black and white section of photographic competition



C. M. Wood

Outings

Godman House to London

On 23rd October Godman House went on a trip to London; we got changed after Church and made our way to the luxury coach that awaited us. There was a long trip ahead of us, but time passed swiftly, as we watched films for most of the time.

At length we arrived in London and Mr Newby showed us the sights as we went past. We then stopped and walked to Hyde Park, where we had an enjoyable lunch, a lot of the food going to the pigeons!

After lunch we walked down to the lake for a short time before driving across London to HMS Belfast, moored in the River Thames quite close to Tower Bridge. We eagerly clambered aboard the ship and were met by a naval guide; he told us the *do's* and *don'ts*, and after that we had the ship to ourselves.

The deck was interesting, but nothing like the interior. Inside, the ship went down five or six levels, each of these crammed with equipment and information. The decks and offices were small and some levels seemed like a maze! There was great relief when we came up again, as the air in the lower levels was a bit thin!

Then we assembled near the coach and drove on to our next destination, the Natural History Museum. After being held up in traffic jams, we quickly made our way to the building; from outside it looked breathtaking, but the inside was even better. It was packed full of amazing things; to see everything would probably take a couple of days! At the time there was a special exhibition called 'Chinese Dinosaurs', which was very good indeed, and there were many other things to take your attention.

Anyway, we did eventually get back on to the coach and drive back, with yet another video, to Rendcomb. Sadly we got off the coach and walked into Godman House after a super day out.

Our thanks must go to all the staff who made this trip possible, and a special thank you goes to Mr and Mrs Newby for a splendid day.

MARK VALENTINE

42nd Street

On 9th December the Fifth Form went to the Drury Lane Theatre to see David Merrick's production of *42nd Street*. This musical was written in the USA in the early 1930s and first appeared as a film. Its early showings inspired and gave hope to the millions who were caught up in the midst of the Great Depression.

It is about the progress of a stage musical from rehearsal to performance. The first performance of *My Pretty Lady* ends halfway through, when the leading lady breaks her ankle. A poor chorus girl takes her place and, after her first performance, is hailed by the press as a star born overnight.

The cast included Jill Gascoigne and Kenneth Nelson, better known for their television appearances than for their stage performances. I enjoyed the show very much

because of its high standard of singing, acting and dancing. David Merrick's version, even after half a century since the original production, loses none of the *panache* that the original composers and writers intended it to possess.

I would like to thank Mr Sykes for making the trip possible; it was an enjoyable and interesting production.

SIMON WILLIAMS

Artists' Jazz Trip

On 20th October a group of music-lovers from Mr Griffiths's 'A' level Art team spent an evening at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, being entertained by a popular jazz group, *The Don Weller Quartet*.

Their performance was in the true jazz tradition, spontaneous, relying on improvisation throughout and so making the music lively and fresh. The musicians demonstrated that "you get out only what you put in", their sincere enthusiasm in performing making the evening the great success that it was.

It was the strong character of the hard-blowing saxophonist, Don Weller, which seemed to inspire the "musicians, each of them taking great pleasure in the playing, which was obviously the culmination of much dedicated work; their talented performance appealed to everyone's taste.

Altogether the evening was a great success. All of us who went would like to thank Mr Griffiths for giving us the opportunity to hear such talented players, a rare experience for our age-group during the eighties.

JUSTINE PLATT
FIONA REICHWALD

Art Students to London

On 22nd November the 'A' level Art group visited the Royal Academy and the Tate Gallery in London.

At the Royal Academy we saw the Henry Moore retrospective exhibition and a showing of the graphic work of Henri le Toulouse-Lautrec. The latter worked at the end of the last century, and the exhibition is centred mainly on his lithography, a technique by which large numbers of prints could be produced; it was at this that he excelled. He was influenced by then recently discovered Japanese woodcuts and, in his poster work, by Jules Chéret.

Toulouse-Lautrec manages to convey a depth of feeling and character with a simple use of calligraphic lines and basic blocks of formalised tone. He contrasts with Henry Moore in that he concentrates on individuals, whereas Moore is more interested in general concepts of mankind.

Moore's work displayed here is a selection of his achievements between the twenties and his death a few years ago. He used a variety of media, including concrete and cast bronze for his sculptures, and wax crayons for some of his drawings. I found his sculptures quite memorable, especially his *Three Points*.

From the Royal Academy we were let loose across London, to meet at the Tate a little later on. Here we



J. Pratten

viewed the gallery's fine collection of art and in particular the David Hockney exhibition, featuring an Old Rendcombian on the till! Hockney's work varies between abstract and stark realism, his subject matter ranging from the idyllic lifestyle of California to his parents and Bradford. He has been very successful in the last few years, and the exhibition reflected this.

A chance encounter with Mr Medill, Rendcomb's last Headmaster, added to a very enjoyable day, and we would like to thank Mr Denny and Mr Griffiths for making the trip possible.

MARK NICHOLLS

Form IV to London

Monday, 5th December, was a cold, slightly foggy morning, and normally a great effort of will would have been needed to get up. Today, however, people climbed out of bed first and thought about it later, for this Monday was the day of our trip to London.

We were lucky to have a video in the coach, and watching *The Mission* made the three-hour journey pass quickly. Our first stop was at the Cabinet War Rooms, Winston Churchill's secret underground headquarters from which government was conducted during the blitz and again when the V1 and V2 raids took place in 1944. The most interesting parts of the bunker were the wartime Cabinet Room and Churchill's private accommodation.

After lunch shared with flocks of geese, ducks and seagulls in St James's Park, we set off at a brisk pace under the command of Mr Craddock. He led us on a whirlwind tour of central London ending at the Trocadero Centre, where we discovered that we had lost Mr O'Connor and Miss Rogers.

Fortunately we all met again at the cinema where we had booked to watch *A Fish Called Wanda*, an immensely enjoyable film starring John Cleese. Then we went through the crisp evening air and the London traffic to Covent Garden, where we looked around the shops and bought what we could afford!

Everyone enjoyed the trip, and we would like to thank Mr O'Connor, Mr Craddock and Miss Rogers for organising it, and for putting up with us for a day!

JAMES SLEEMAN



Diocesan Sponsored Bicycle Ride

At about 10 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, 10th September, a team made up of 23 boys from the 2nd and 3rd Forms, three parents and three members of staff, set off to take part in the Annual Diocesan Sponsored Bicycle Ride to raise money for the Historic Churches of Gloucestershire. It was an ideal day for cycling - dry, not too hot and with a light breeze - as the first group set off down Rendcomb hill en route to North Cerney, the first Church on our itinerary. After that it was over the hill to the lovely little Church in Bagendon and then, as we headed for Baunton via Perrot's Brook, our first and only accident occurred. William Smalley, testing the front brakes on his new bike, went sailing over the handle-bars and into the ditch. However, after dusting him down and checking the machine, all seemed well and the ride continued. We went on through Baunton to Stratton where Mrs Muriel Paine had a severe dent made in her supplies of squash and biscuits! Then it was along the Duntisbourne Valley to Daglingworth, Duntisbourne Rouse and Duntisbourne Abbots.

We had arranged to have lunch at Winstone, but shortly before we got there it was noticed that one group appeared to be missing; however, they soon appeared, having taken a rather longer route from Duntisbourne Abbots. Mr Chris Wood was waiting with lunch in the back of the mini-bus and, while some people stretched legs or had a brief lie down, Mr Dominic O'Connor mended one puncture and adjusted gears and brakes on a wide variety of machines.

After lunch it was across the Ermin Way to Elkstone and then downhill to Cowley and across to Coberley. As we were preparing to leave Coberley it became apparent that William Smalley had done some damage to one of his

arms in his fall earlier on. It later transpired that he had broken his wrist, so reluctantly he and his bike were transferred to the mini-bus after a very brave effort. The remainder set off on the last leg - downhill nearly all the way - and arrived back at Rendcomb about 4.30 p.m.

It had been a great day. We had enjoyed being out in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside, we had seen a dozen of our marvellous historic churches and we had raised a substantial amount of money for their conservation.

On the day, I estimated that we would raise about five hundred pounds but, as sponsorship money began to come, it became apparent that we had done much better than that and eventually clocked up an incredible £960 to be divided between St Peter's Church, Rendcomb and the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. This not only won us the Christian Brann Challenge Cup for the Youth Organisation raising the most money but gave us a winning margin of nearly five hundred pounds over our nearest rivals.

The prize-giving took place at Chedworth Village Hall on Tuesday, 17th January when, on behalf of the Rendcomb team, William Smalley, arm fully recovered, received the Christian Brann Cup from the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester, Colonel M. St J. V. Gibbs.

Those who took part were: *Pupils:* J. Bainbridge, C. Lawton, C. Dudbridge, N. Pollard, M. Pentney, A. McIndoe, R. Sage, A. Martin, R. Norman, A. Branston, B. Davies, C. Waters, M. Valentine, A. Graham, S. Barrett, P. Croft, M. Sansome, J. Talbot, P. Williams, W. Smalley, G. Jenkins, J. Jenkin and W. Hunter-Smart. *Parents:* Mr W. Croft, Mr J. McIndoe and Mr H. Pentney. *Staff:* Mr Dominic O'Connor, Mr Tim Lane and the Rev'd Peter Sudbury. I am very grateful to them, to Mr Chris Wood, who provided the mobile back-up, and to all who supported us with such generous sponsorship.

P. J. S.



And a Second-Former's View:

We set off under the guidance of Mr Sudbury and Mr O'Connor. I started well, overtaking everyone in my group, but fell back after my chain came off at the bottom of the first hill! The first church we visited was at North Cerney, and then on to Bagendon. After that our group got lost and made a three mile detour, ending up about a quarter of an hour behind the rest. We were lucky to meet Mr Wood, who directed us to the next church and our eagerly-awaited lunch. During the meal we had a food-fight with some third-formers and, when order was restored, we had our picture taken for the school magazine...

In the afternoon we got lost again - thanks this time to Mr O'Connor's map-reading - but somehow or other we made it back to Rendcomb, although not before Chris Lawton had taken a tumble into the verge.

We enjoyed visiting the churches and reckoned that we had covered about 29 miles - further than had been intended. We felt fit, and proud to have completed the course, especially when we found that we had helped to raise nearly a thousand pounds for charity.

NICHOLAS POLLARD

Portugal 1988

The College undertook its first rugby tour between 12th and 19th December 1988. 23 players and two staff made up the party, and a diary of events follows. First it must be said, however, that this exciting venture would not have been possible without the help of many groups and individuals. The Parents' Association gave considerable practical and financial help. The Chairman of Governors made a generous personal gift. Local companies, including Colt Cars, Alexcars and the Famous made exceptional donations to the tour sponsorship. In total over £1,200 was raised in eight weeks; as tour organiser, I would like to thank on behalf of the boys all those who helped towards the success of the tour, either with financial support or by freely giving of their time. Typical of the goodwill generated was the decision by Brian Telling, a most frequent visitor to the College in his capacity as coach driver for Alexcars, upon learning that the firm would provide a courtesy coach, to drive us without payment to and from Gatwick airport.

The considerable press coverage - we 'made' the local *Echo* and *Standard* as well as *The Times*, *Rugby World* and Great Western Radio - only reflected the interest and excitement felt by the tour party. The memories and stories will live for a long time, exaggerated maybe, but without exception vivid and pleasurable.

C. P. M. K.

Monday, 12th December

The tour started at the unfriendly hour of 4.45 a.m., as a coach load of players and staff left Rendcomb for Gatwick airport. After a comfortable journey baggage was checked in, and before long we were on board a small Dan Air plane to Lisbon. The flight was smooth, lasting about two and three-quarter hours. We were met by a formidable Portuguese man, soon identified as an opposing prop-forward in the first match.

There was some confusion about how we could get the squad and all the luggage into the small bus provided, so our group was split, most going by train to Figueira da Foz, a three-and-a-half-hour journey, and a small group on the bus. Such a long journey through Portugal gave us a good opportunity to take in a taste of the countryside, as well as getting an idea of what town life must be like. After the tiring journey, we booked in at a hotel in Figueira, the Hispania. The town was a fairly small seaside resort, and we found it easy to get to know our way about. After eating together in a nearby restaurant, we split up to look around, most of us opting for an early night.

Tuesday, 13th December

With our first match drawing near, in the morning we walked to the nearby Figueira beach to practise line-outs, rucking and backs' moves, as well as improving our general fitness. It didn't take very long to realise that the Figueira sand was not an ideal training surface. We split up for lunch and gathered at the hotel at 2 p.m. to travel to Coimbra, the venue of our first match. That formidable prop was there again as our guide, and he was soon landed with the name 'Johnny'. We arrived in Coimbra in the late afternoon and were shown the

massive university for which the town is famed. The buildings and size of the university were overwhelming, being about twice as large as Oxford or Cambridge, the English equivalents. We then went to the pitch, changed and spent some time getting used to the floodlights. Before long the match was under way, and it became obvious that, with the size of their pack, our opponents would want a tight, mauling game, despite the speed and enthusiasm of their backs. We went into the game determined to play it the way we were used to, and as a result an entertaining match ensued, with Coimbra putting on most of the pressure in the first half. Changes were made at half-time, so that everyone had a game, and Rendcomb played well to end up with a narrow 14-9 defeat.

After the match we sampled Portuguese hospitality at its best; an after-match reception was held, with Rendcomb determined to prove that, if we couldn't out-play them, we could certainly out-sing them!

Wednesday, 14th December

After a late return to Figueira the night before, Wednesday morning was a time for recovery and relaxation. Most of us took this opportunity to have a long look round the town. In the afternoon we were taken by our Coimbra hosts to some places of local interest. We were shown a nearby castle and then driven to Buçaco to see a monastery where the Duke of Wellington stayed after defeating Napoleon. We went on to see a wine cellar, but unfortunately by this time it was closing, so we were taken to a hotel for an evening meal which included boiled young pig and barbecued chicken, home-produced by the hotel, as was its table wine.

Thursday, 15th December

This was the longest day of the tour. In the morning we made the long journey to Porto, arriving at lunchtime to be shown round the 'Sandeman' port caves. After lunch we were driven to Arcos for a match. In all we had been travelling for over four hours, and this must have shown in our performance. Arcos were only an average side, with little skill and less knowledge of how the game should be played. Frustration began to creep in as infringements went unnoticed but, in the end, with tries

from Ben Maslen and Matthew Faircloth, an 8-3 victory was secured. With one member of the squad suffering from concussion, hospital was needed, the rest of us being taken to an impressive Rugby Social Club and then to an after-match reception. By the end of the evening tiredness was beginning to show, and it was a long journey back to Figueira; stopping at two hospitals to arrange first transfer and then release, we did not arrive at the Hispania until 3.15 a.m.

Friday, 16th December

A fairly early start was needed to get us down to Estoril, the other side of Lisbon, so we struggled into the bus half asleep and wondering what we had forgotten to pack! We reached Estoril in the early afternoon and went to the Hotel Lido, a more luxurious place than the Hispania in a more commercial area of Portugal. By late afternoon we were on the beach for a light training period, our hardest match being the next day, against a 'Lisbon Select XV', that is to say a Portugal under-19 squad! Most of us took an early night in preparation for this.

Saturday, 17th December

In the morning further training was arranged, mainly on set-piece scrummage work. After lunch we were driven to the impressive-sounding 'National Stadium' for the match. In fact, it was just a dried-out pitch in the middle of nowhere, with no resemblance to Twickenham or the Arms Park. As predicted, it was a hard match against strong and large opposition, but our side played well throughout, keeping to the idea of rucking and running at them with every opportunity. Although we failed to score in this match, we did well to keep this side within reach for much of the time, and the 38-0 score-line doesn't really do justice to the efforts of our team. After a short reception everyone was glad to get back to Estoril and enjoy the evening without having to worry about any more training or Portuguese prop-forwards!

Sunday was a day for a much-needed rest, as the team compared battle wounds and prepared for the next day's flight to England.

ROLAND MARTIN

Match against Lisbon Select XV

C. P. M. King





The Black Country Ring

A personal view

I arrived at Alvechurch quite early and chatted for a while with Andrew McIndoe and Charles Waters about the Easter holidays so far. We were then allowed on the boat. It was very narrow, and we had trouble moving around when we were getting the food on board.

After an hour or so we got under way, going through a tunnel so long that it took us half an hour to get through it, and moored at King's Norton. After tea and French cricket it was dark, and I went down to bed; it took ages to get to sleep in the hot and stuffy atmosphere.

The next morning I was up very early, and we visited the very interesting Black Country Museum. On Monday, we had 23 locks to tackle! As we reached each one an 'advance lock party' went ahead to get the next one ready for us while the rest of us dealt with the one we were at. It was hard work, and I was tired when we finished. That night we ate out in a pub at Perkridge.

On Tuesday I fell into the canal; all my clothes were soaked, and the rest of the day passed in rather a blur.

On Wednesday I had a turn at driving the boat; that

day we had a 'pump out', done when the toilet gets full and has to be emptied. We had lunch at *The Swan* and set off again.

On Thursday we went to Drayton Manor Park; I bought a wristband, so that I could go on all the rides. There were two roller-coasters, *The Python* being the better one. We had lunch there and were allowed a few more hours before we had to move on.

Friday started off okay but, when we arrived at the bottom lock of the Aston flight, we had a three-and-a-half-hour hold-up. Somebody had rammed the far lock-gate with a boat, and they had to drain all the water out of the lock before they could repair it. We ascended the rest of the Aston flight and the Farmer's Bridge flight in three hours, moored and went to the Birmingham Science Museum.

Saturday, our last day, started off raining and then brightened to become the hottest day of the whole holiday. There was chaos while we packed all our stuff. Finally we arrived at Alvechurch after a very enjoyable and memorable trip - 94 miles and 79 locks! Our thanks go to Mr Wood for organising it and for putting up with us for an extra week!

NICHOLAS POLLARD



Skiing 1989

On 1st April - many found that an appropriate date – the school skiing party set off for Isola 2000, a modern high-level French resort in the southern Alps, only two hours north of Nice. The experts among us spent the journey discussing the finer points of 180-length skis and the importance of ‘carving jet-turns on bumps’ or some such technical matter, while the beginners - well, we simply hoped that this was the right choice of holiday and that we would return to England in one piece.

Day 1 – 9 a.m.: after a typically French breakfast and a five-minute ride in a crowded ski-bus to the main village, we found ourselves lined up and being addressed by a smooth, bronzed instructor whose confidence that we would all ski “zee very fast parallel” by the end of the week did little to reassure us. Our first glimpse of the nursery slopes did not help matters; this was the worst season on record - as it was for most resorts - and our *piste* for the first day was an icy slope dotted with mud and gravel patches which increased in area as the day went on. The only consolation was the hot sun, but at the time that was the last thing on our minds.

The morning was not successful, but by the end of the afternoon we all felt a little more relaxed and in slightly greater control of the enormous planks on our feet. The evening was spent in a state of extreme fatigue, contemplating the chances of survival over the next few days on the gravel and mud of the lower slopes.

Then the snow-clouds came, and after 38 hours they went, leaving half a metre of snow in the village and a metre on the upper slopes. The atmosphere changed completely: suddenly this really was a ski resort, this was real snow, and we felt almost like real skiers.

The instructor decided that we would use the *télecabine* on the third day and so, in fours, we were jammed into a metal bubble, plunged into space supported only by a cable and whisked vertically upwards at break-neck speed - things always seem worse when one is racked with fear!

On leaving the *car* we were stunned by the views, the

extent of the upper *pistes* and the amazing depth and texture of what the experts were raving about as ‘powder snow’. Suddenly we remembered that we had to get back down the mountain and, when the instructor stated that we were actually to ski down and not use the *télecabine*, the butterflies were back in the stomach.

The run back to the village turned out to be a long, easy ‘green’, though I still managed to spend most of the afternoon floundering around in the snow; I had just been getting used to seeing my skis and being able to control them, and now they were out of sight under the powder - I had no chance! A good bath and several hot chocolates later in our very comfortable and warm apartment, and I was actually able to relax and feel happy with my achievements.

Four days into the holiday and umpteen more tumbles in the white stuff, and all the beginners, including me, were suddenly realising that this whole skiing game is fantastic fun; the feeling of wind in the face as we *schussed* towards the bottom of blue runs now produced great exhilaration rather than terror. Everything felt better: I could enjoy the lunchtime sunbathing, the pizzas and discos in the evening, and I could even appreciate listening to the whizz-kid third-formers enthusing over deep powder, giant moguls and monstrous jumps, though I hoped our instructor would not try’ the same with us!

By the final day we had all had a superb time; although exhausted, we were all brown, many sporting the ‘panda-eyes’ and red nose indicative of Easter skiers, and all felt competent to attempt any black run - well, not quite all of us! Some of the posers even had a go at surf-skiing.

Looking back, the many frustrating moments of the first couple of days, the hurt pride of falling in front of everyone and even the three-hour delay in Nice airport, all became insignificant when compared with the enjoyment of the week. Our thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Newby for organising such a memorable holiday; I can now see why people talk about the ‘skiing bug’ and why so many of the party were discussing ways of saving money for next year’s trip.

GEMMA NOYCE



T. Nicholls

Romeo and Juliet

On 21st February Mrs Holdaway took a Sixth Form trip to the Bristol Hippodrome to see the Royal Ballet perform *Romeo and Juliet*, part of the repertoire of their national tour. Beautifully choreographed by Kenneth Macmillan and set to Prokofiev's music, it made a wonderful evening's entertainment.

The story is based on Shakespeare's play; this performance captured brilliantly the drama of the two feuding families, the romance of the two young lovers and the tragedy which eventually befalls them.

The simplicity and innocence of the scenes between Romeo and Juliet were cleverly contrasted with the grand and vigorous scenes involving their parents. All this was offset with impressive scenery and costumes, reflecting the mood of each scene in a way so important in ballet, which relies on mime and music to convey its emotions and ideas.

The Hippodrome was a fine place in which to watch such a ballet; it gave a certain sense of grandeur as well as a marvellous atmosphere. Prokofiev's music was played by a full orchestra, which added to the splendour of the performance.

It was a lovely outing, immensely enjoyed by everyone who went on it - many thanks to Mrs Holdaway!

KAREN BETTS

An Inspector Calls

I have seen various dramatic productions at the Niccol Centre in Cirencester during the last few years, and I felt that *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley, starring our Headmaster, was one of the better ones.

All the action took place in a well-furnished dining room, where members of a wealthy Victorian family were celebrating the daughter's engagement. The party was interrupted by the arrival of the Inspector (Mr Tolpudd), who proceeded to question the whole family. He eventually proved to them that, through various apparently petty and unrelated incidents, they had driven a poor girl to suicide.

The real point to the play was the way in which the various members of the family reacted to what they found out about the girl, about themselves and about each other, and how they tried to free themselves of any responsibility for her death. I did feel that the plot dragged on a bit, but there was a clever twist at the end, when the family's cowardly theories, seemingly possible, were deservedly proved wrong.

I thoroughly enjoyed the play, perfect for the size of the theatre, and I'm sure everyone else from the school did too. Our thanks go to Mr Griffiths for organising the trip.

BEN MASLEN

To Kill a Mocking-Bird

On 14th March the Fifth Form went to see *To Kill a Mocking-Bird* at the Everyman Theatre. The play is based on Harper Lee's book of the same title, set in the United States in 1935.

It illustrates the injustices which occur in the world. The story is very poignant - the wrongful conviction of a black man - and emphasises the hatred and discord existing between white and black races. The evidence against the black defendant is given by the alleged victim of his attack and her father, who are white. He is convicted, even though it is obvious to everyone that he is innocent; even more tragically, he is shot in doubtful circumstances while trying to escape from the prison camp.

The play is also about the effect the trial has on the white defence lawyer Atticus, played superbly by Alan Dobie, and the harassment he receives because he is defending a black man. Although one may think that attitudes have changed greatly since 1935, racial hatred is still present on a large scale in today's society. The book was given its title to illustrate the pointlessness of killing an innocent person, just as it is wrong and stupid to kill a mocking-bird, which only sings all day and does no harm to anyone.

The production was well acted and fluent, the scene changes going very smoothly. The cast were rarely inaudible and the assumed American accents, while occasionally unconvincing, did not mar their diction and combined well enough with the set to give the atmosphere of the Deep South in the thirties.

I would like to thank Mr Craddock and Mr Holt for an enjoyable and interesting evening.

SIMON WILLIAMS

Juno and The Paycock

On 20th March members of the Fifth and Sixth Forms went to a new National Theatre production of Sean O'Casey's *Juno and The Paycock*. Whilst being primarily of use to the GCSE candidates studying the text, the welcome addition of a video of Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust* - an 'A' level text - ensured that for all involved the night out proved educational as well as enjoyable.

The play was divided into three acts approximately equal in length. Right from the start it was obvious that the production was to be a faithful and competent one, with an elaborately-designed set conveying simultaneously the claustrophobic atmosphere and lack of privacy to be found in the cramped and overcrowded Dublin tenements. The actors played their parts convincingly and with emotion, right down to the minor characters, such as Maisie Madigan and Mrs Tancred. Especially memorable were the interpretations of Captain Boyle and Joxer Delany who, through their drunken antics managed to inject a considerable amount of humour into the play without undermining its overall impact as a tragedy.

Whilst largely remaining a nonentity for the first half, the figure of Johnny with his pathetic pleas for mercy before his execution helped to drive home O'Casey's message on the futility of civil warfare, a message as relevant today as it was then. The climax, with Boyle and Joxer returning drunk to their deserted home, served to highlight the absurdity of the situation in Ireland without detracting in any way from its tragedy. When the curtain went down the audience was so overwhelmed that it was several seconds before the tumultuous applause began.

Many thanks go to Mr Holt and Mr Craddock for organising yet another stimulating trip.

JAMES THRAVES

Biology Field Trip

In typical British style, the journey to school for the 6B Easter field trip was accompanied by snow-flurries. The doubts going through everyone's mind quickly cleared when we all met at the minibus and began chattering about various happenings during the first part of the Easter break. Everyone duly arrived, and we set off at the scheduled time.

Once at Nettlecomb Court, all 'wellies' and waterproofs unpacked, the boys energetically went to play football on the grass outside the impressive building.

After supper there was a general briefing for all new arrivals, and then it was up to the 'lab' to be issued with a supply of papers and a file. We were introduced to the girls of Clifton High School, who were to accompany us on our week's course, and were given a general introduction to ecology, which did not prove too complicated. We all had an early night to prepare for the first serious day's work at Helwell Bay.

Much of the day was spent measuring the abundance of different types of seaweed. It was cold and bleak, and some of our doubts returned. There was little time to do anything but work during the evening, though some of the boys managed to acquaint themselves with their new rivals from Clifton.

The second day was spent on an exposed, rocky shore, again sampling marine organisms, including the sizing of countless dogwhelks, to be plotted later into complicated graphs. By this time the more unfit of us were beginning to lag behind, though spirits were still high, owing mainly to the boys' singing talents.

As an introduction to the freshwater habitat, we looked at its influence on a stony beach, examining the distribution of selected invertebrates in relation to the salinity of the water. This involved group co-operation, individuals recording their 'patch', then moving forward five metres and repeating the exercise. Having marked a nearby rock, we later returned to collect water samples in the vicinity, finding the place proving harder than we had expected.

By this time the friendly rivalry between the two schools had increased: the boys continued to play harmless tricks on the girls, who immediately retaliated. Sunday was taken at a slower pace, marking various wood-lice with *small* spots of paint for re-sampling at a

later date. Some of them looked rather the worse for wear!

The last two days of the course were spent on Exmoor, sampling first the freshwater streams and then the vegetation cover. At this stage we even found time for a quick game of *British Bulldog* in amongst the heather before returning to the centre. Miss Goldsmith entered into the spirit of the occasion, and good fun was had by all.

With only one more evening of work ahead of us, worrying changes took place: some of the males became almost indistinguishable from their female counterparts! Despite such distraction, Sally, our Tutor, neatly drew the remaining threads together by 9.30 p.m. To her surprise, the evening ended with two speeches, made by a member from each school and serving more to embarrass individuals in each group than to thank Sally for her hard work!

The last morning was extremely rushed, but we managed to arrive back at school on time. The course was relished by all of us, with a good atmosphere throughout. We would like especially to thank Sally and Miss Goldsmith for their tolerance and infectious enthusiasm.

EMMA HULL

Modern Languages at York University

On 13th January the 'A' level linguists attended a talk given by Dr John Local, Head of Languages at York University.

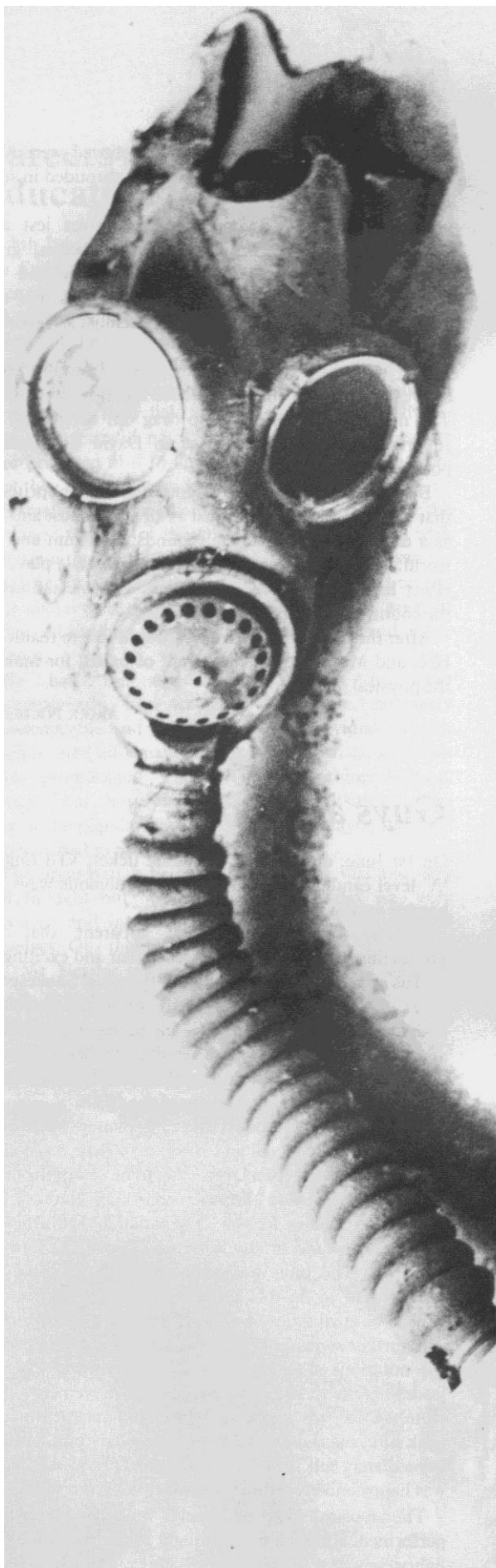
He began by describing the types of course available, with a choice of either French or German - though not the two combined - together with the possibility of a second language such as Chinese, Hindi or Swahili.

Whilst this may sound rather bizarre, he went on to tell us that such languages are essential to any modern linguist's course, as recognising the variance in structure and logic between different languages is an integral part of the learning process. These combinations can be used in a variety of courses, either in the traditional language-only degree or in more modern courses such as French or German with Business Studies or Technology. These, Dr Local assured us, would be very useful, bearing in mind the prospect of the 1992 Single European Market, when employers will be literally crying out for people with knowledge of French and German.

What was different about this chatty and informed lecture was that it was not simply a 'hard sell' aimed at recruiting as many students as possible. Dr Local encouraged us to enquire about various courses, frankly telling us that York was not suited to all language students; for example, it does not offer the traditional French/German literature degree. He advised us to visit universities, talk to admissions officers and establish facts before committing ourselves to any one course.

He ended by very kindly offering to answer personally future enquiries on *any* universities. I feel sure we shall take him up on it.

JAMES THRAVES



RAF Lyneham

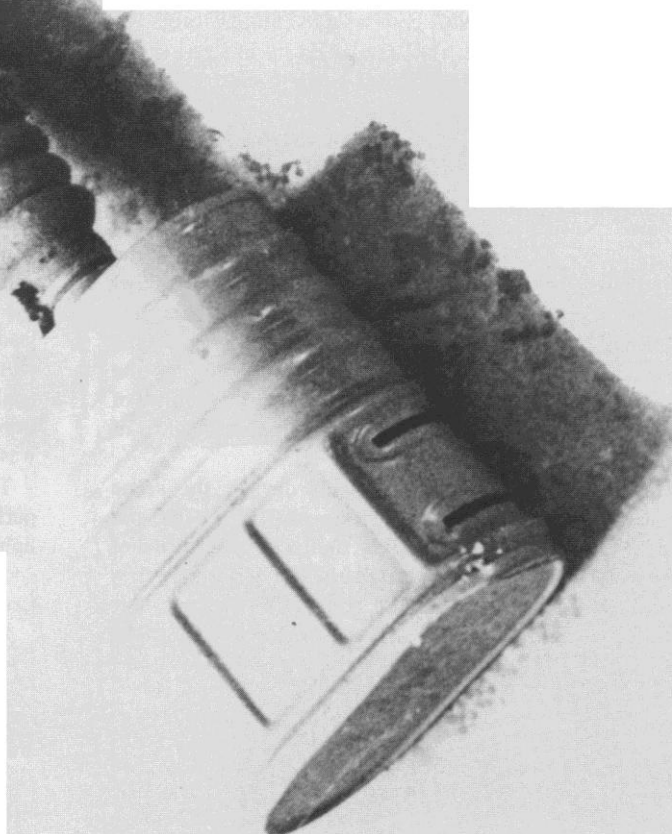
The 6B scientists, accompanied by a slightly apprehensive Mr Kelsey, spent Thursday, 2nd March, at Royal Air Force Station, Lyneham, home of the Hercules aircraft. First our guide, one of the pilots, gave us an introductory talk. He explained the ranks in the Air Force and the methods of training pilots. What we all found most interesting, I think, was the Hercules itself, with its many uses and capabilities. These include carrying troops, for example to the Falkland Islands, and dropping relief supplies in northern African countries, its ability to refuel in flight giving it great endurance. After that we went to a hangar where one of the mechanics and our guide explained how loads are stowed and dropped and how troops are carried - not exactly in first-class accommodation! After an ample lunch we went to the control tower, where we saw the various radar and monitoring machines and watched several planes take off and land. The highlight of the day for many people was the exploration of the fire engines, including blasting sirens in some unsuspecting bystanders' ears! A visit to our German Shepherd and Labrador friends in the canine corps and the handing out of posters as mementos ended a very enjoyable visit. On our way out we passed the only woman we had seen, outside the control tower, opening the gate! Watch out, RAF, it won't be like that forever!

ANJA BEAVER

SUZANNE DENLEY

First in black and white section of
photographic competition

C. M. Wood



Waiting for Godot

On 28th April the two sixth-form French groups went to see an amateur performance of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at the Cheltenham Playhouse. It was not at all amateur, a cast of five characters, limited scenery and a lengthy script, yet excellently produced and an invaluable aid to those studying the play for 'A' level.

The action involves the repetitive existence of two vagabonds who, with splendid acting, portrayed the vicissitudes of banality, yet of supreme comedy, which their lonely and insubstantial struggle for life entails; its only meaning for them lies in the person of Godot, an apparently god-like figure who never appears. Vladimir and Estragon are interrupted by the two visits of the commanding figure of Pozzo, who exploits and terribly maltreats his slave, Lucky. Their second visit appears to be on the following evening, yet the scenery has changed and the pair are now blind and mute respectively, a transformation causing the duo to question the reality of their existence.

Despite the pessimistic subject-matter of the play, there were moments of great amusement, and it proved an enjoyable evening out. Many thanks go to Dr Haslett for making the trip possible.

JAMES DOWSON

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On 11th May the 6B English set went to Stratford to see that magical Shakespearean masterpiece, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

From our seats in the theatre we were taken on a twofold journey, through time and space. As the lights go down, illusion is the means of travel. Our first journey is back over four centuries to Shakespeare's time. Inevitably romanticism creeps into minds eager to receive it. A time of elaborate dress is imagined; the glittering life of the royal court is the backdrop to our first flight of fancy. Fact not once rears its ugly head to disturb our deception. As we accept this charming world, the next phase of our trip is made easy.

The curtain rises on an Athens of many centuries before. Not even contemporary costume can bring my mind back to reality and, for a brief few hours the textbooks and academics are wrong: Athenian dress was made up of dinner suits and Doc Martens. The first few syllables of poetry make the atmosphere whole; the journey is almost complete. Unbeknown to us, the spellbound audience, this performance of the nobility of Athens is marred and incomplete; greater heights of sorcery await us.

As the marquee lifts by quaint device, the scene bewitches at once. An intricate set is to be the background of intricate plotting, and at last the kernel of the play is before us. Through the playwright's pen a world is revealed to us which rests on the edge of our wildest imaginings. Here are the fairies which, in an

innocence born of naiveté, we once believed were real. This fairy kingdom deep in the forest is shrouded in such magic as makes its creatures flesh.

Puck, played by Richard McCabe, gives jest and vitality, whilst John Carlisle, playing Oberon, gives majesty and authority. Despite the comedy and the power of the music, we are always conscious that this kingdom is but a feeling in the subconscious, as vaporous as a midsummer night's dream.

The illusion seems complete as we return to the world of everyday Athens, having reached a happy conclusion. The mortals' play threatens to drag on, saved only by superlative comedy, epitomised in David Troughton's portrayal of Bottom.

By now we seem to have forgotten the other sprites of that hidden fairy kingdom; just as all is to be lost and left as a dream, Puck's epilogue reminds us of him and his world. Despite his revelation that all this was a play, the effect has been achieved; regardless of protestations to the contrary, the fairy world *was* real.

After the magic performance, I would like to thank Mr Holt and Mr Craddock, on behalf of us all, for making the physical journey possible.

MARK NICHOLLS

Guys and Dolls

On 1st June, on a special party-rate ticket, VIB English 'A' level candidates forgot their parsimonious ways and headed for the Everyman Theatre.

It was almost immediately apparent that this production would be visually spectacular and exciting, as well as an appreciated change from the usual Shakespeare plays. The curtain was raised to reveal the extremely imaginative and realistic set - including whole houses and a large staircase - which revolved to change scenes. The play, set in an American city, examines the different types of characters in the society of the 1930s.

The gamblers, crooks and big-money men were portrayed as being cool and ruthless in their methods of winning and eager for a large game to be set up for them. This task was left to the main character, Nathan, who had to find a venue for the 'crap game' he had promised his associates and at the same time avoid the cunning detective. The plot was complicated by the fact that Nathan had to do this secretly, keeping it from his wife-to-be at all times, in spite of her aroused suspicion.

A further romance blossomed between Sky Masterson, the notorious slick big-shot, and the attractive female leader of a religious temperance movement. Sky, winning his bets as usual, when Nathan attempted to trick him, managed to take the young lady out, and they immediately fell in love. As in many plays, the ending was happy and everything seemed to work out well.

The musical was extremely well conducted and performed, although some thought it slightly tedious and lightweight for a sixth-form age group. It made a successful outing, and I would like to thank Mr Craddock and Mr Holt for taking us.

TOM NICHOLLS

Careers and Higher Education Fair

On 8th June VIB set off for Olympia and *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Careers and Higher Education Fair. After an early start we arrived at 11 o'clock.

A series of seminars had been laid on, covering a variety of areas, from 'Career Orientation' to 'The Interview - not an obstacle, but an opportunity'. Each of us was allowed to choose three of these; they were all held by experts in their field, who gave very useful advice, often with printed notes on the subject. The speakers were prepared also to answer any queries arising from what they had said or on any related subject.

A small area of partitioned rooms was set aside for the seminars; the rest of the ground floor was packed with representatives of companies and organisations concerned with the career aspect of the fair, and on the floor above there were representatives from all areas of higher education: universities, polytechnics and other colleges.

We had the opportunity to talk to these representatives, who were, on the whole, extremely knowledgeable and helpful and who provided us with much printed information to take away with us, as well as many promotional 'gifts'. The only thing lacking, perhaps, was the presence of some universities but, in view of the popularity of this year's fair, maybe they will be persuaded to come in succeeding years.

The organisation behind the event was vast and very well thought out. We all felt that the day was very beneficial and interesting, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Our thanks must go to Mr Kelsey, Dr Haslett and Mr Newby for arranging an educational day out which, it is to be hoped, will be repeated in years to come.

KAREN BETTS
SARA PAYNE

Scientists to Oxford

On 27th June a group of those taking science 'A' levels visited Oxford University's science departments.

In each we were able to take part in the displays demonstrating a multitude of scientific topics. Tutors and undergraduates were available to assist us and answer any queries throughout. The departments open to us were physical, organic and inorganic chemistry, pharmacology, agricultural science, computing, nuclear physics, engineering, metallurgy, geology, forestry, psychology, zoology, biochemistry, microbiology... the list goes on!

During the day we attended lectures to give us some insight into what it is like to study a science subject at Oxford, advising on entrance procedures and discussing experimental ideas. What most of us found interesting was Dr H. Cartwright's 'Annual Chemistry Show', in which he proved that chemistry is fun. He demonstrated an amazing array of colourful and spectacular experiments, explaining the ideas behind them in chemical terms.

The day was a great success. We had fun while learning a lot about university life, visiting individual colleges and gaining more scientific understanding. We are grateful to Mr Kelsey for taking us.

JUSTINE PLATT

C. J. Wood



The Record 2

College Officers

Head Prefect: M. E. Faircloth

Head Girl: J. Naish

Deputy Head Prefect: A. R. Powell

Deputy Head Girl: A. Carter

Prefects: C. J. Bannister, R. A. Davis, J. M. Fellows,
C. Hauton, A-M. Hobart, L. Johnston,
J. G. L. Lutwyche, R. J. Martin, R. M. Mitchell,
J. P. Norbury, P. W. Sherwood, J. A. Slattery,
J. L. Vernon

Church Ushers: C. J. Bannister, C. Hauton, L. Johnston,
R. M. Mitchell, J. Naish

Librarians: J. P. Norbury, M. R. P. Ventrella,
S. L. Payne, N. J. Malins, R. S. Parsons,
H. G. C. Stringer

Magazine Editors: A. T. B. Bell, J. R. Pratten,
M. R. P. Ventrella, J. D. Platt, B. Maslen,
F. J. C. Reichwald, J. A. Prince

Captain of Rugby: J. M. Fellows

Secretary: B. Maslen

Captain of Hockey: J. M. Fellows

Vice-Captain: J. P. Carter

Captain of Cricket: K. J. Holmes

Vice-Captain: J. M. Fellows

Captain of Tennis: M. E. Faircloth

Captain of Squash: R. M. Mitchell

The Editors regret that the names of Michael Bews and Richard Kolb were omitted from the list of Prefects in last year's issue.

Meeting Officers

Christmas Term 1988

Chairman: V. Tredwell

Speaker: J. Carter

Meeting Banker:* J. Norbury

Secretary: J. Platt

Boys' Banker: K. Holmes

Council:* A-M. Hobart, N. Hall, D. Maslen

Entertainment Committee:* V. Tredwell, R. Davis,
A. Bell, P. Evans, S. Vernon, C. Carmichael,
C. Dudbridge, M. Adams

Food Committee:* J. Norbury, R. Davis, S. Waddington,
S. Hardie, A. Palin, J. Jenkin, M. Gee, M. Adams,
M. Waddington

Snooker Committee:* S. Whiting, J. Dowson, R. Milner,
M. Rogers

Paper Committee: J. Head, G. Harris, P. Morgan

Broom Warden: M. Rogers

Breakages Man: L. Thompson

Representatives:

VIA: E. Anderson, J. Fellows, A. Carter, J. Naish

VIB: J. Platt, J. Hammond, B. Maslen, L. Brummitt

V: K. Annan, S. Hardie, R. Rowlatt, C. Brown

IV: J. Madeley, J. Sleeman, A. Young

III: P. Morgan, W. Hunter-Smart, A. Beales

II: A. Branston, C. Millard

I: T. Gaskill, F. Barton

Spring Term 1989

Chairman: G. Cowie

Speaker: A. M. Chapman

Secretary: J. Platt

Boys' Banker: C. Daniels

Paper Committee: A. MacKinnon, A. Young, N. Fischer

Broom Warden: N. McMurtrie

Breakages Man: D. Chapman

Representatives:

VIA: J. Naish, A. Powell, M. Faircloth, V. Tredwell

VIB: S. Payne, J. Hammond, B. Maslen, C. Stephens

V: K. Annan, S. Hardie, R. Rowlatt, C. Brown

IV: P. Irving, A. Pollard, J. Dowbiggin

III: C. Carmichael, M. Valentine, J. Tate

II: A. Branston, J. Bainbridge

I: F. Barton

Summer Term 1989

Chairman: J. Gregory

Speaker: B. Maslen

Meeting Banker:* K. Holmes

Secretary: D. Maslen

Boys' Banker: R. Parsons

Council:* C. Daniels, W. King, J. Wheeler

Entertainment:* T. Nicholls

Committee: J. Hammond, R. Milner, C. Silchenstedt,
M. Laroche, L. Prosser, C. Jarrett

Food Committee:* H. Le Fleming, M. Waddington,
S. Hardie, P. Sumsion, N. Macartney, A. Branston,
T. Gaskill, P. Grimsdale

Snooker Committee:* R. Milner, R. Hughes, P. Irving,
A. Baker

Paper Committee: D. Chapman, D. Howard, N. Priscott

Broom Warden: J. Powell

Breakages Man: G. Davies

Representatives:

VIB: J. Platt, J. Nicholls, J. Hammond, R. Tate

V: K. Annan, S. Hardie, R. Rowlatt, A. Bunge

IV: G. Lawton, C. Walsh, A. Pollard

III: G. Jenkins, J. Tate, P. Croft

II: C. Millard, M. Gee

I: F. Barton, A. Beales

*elected annually

Valete

We say goodbye to the following and wish them every success and happiness in the future:

Elsbeth Anderson, Colin Bannister, Anthony Bedford, Amanda Carter, Jason Carter, Ann-Marie Chapman, Angus Cochrane, Guy Cowie, Rachel Davis, Sara Deacon, Matthew Faircloth, Julian Fellows, Stephen Gammage, Lara Haine, Richard Hardy, Sandra Hardy, Christopher Hauton, Nicholas Hett, Anne-Marie Hobart, Daniel Houseman, Christopher Huck, Grant Hughes, Louisa Johnston, Jonathan Lutwyche, Clare Mallindine, Roland Martin, Lucy Merrett, Robert Mitchell, Jessica Naish, Julian Norbury, Gemma Noyce, Russell Ogden, Aubrey Powell, Katryn Russell-Duff, William Sherwood, Jonathan Slattery, Nicholas Suffolk, Hilary Sumsion, Vaughan Tredwell, Jason Vernon, Susan Waddington, Christopher Wood, Kate Woodward.

Steven Whiting, Adam Young, Thomas Shaw, Mark Haworth, Cass Silchenstedt, Thomas Ramsden-Hare, Richard Rowlatt, Paul Neve, Paul Bartlett, Nigel Bayliss, Leigh Thompson, Hugo Stringer, Daniel Lester, Andrew Digney.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1989:

Holly Andrews, Rebecca Bell, Katherine Bonniwell, Claire Boydell, Gail Cawthorne, Sophie Chang, Natasha Clements, Friederike Festge, Katherine Floyd, Katherine Graham, Christine Haynes, Sarah McIndoe, Rachel Seed, Kristie Sellers, Elizabeth Syed, Kathryn Tawse, Zoe Tuffen, Natasha Wedrychowski, Rachel Williams, Bridget Morrall, Julia Lascelles, Belinda Stanley, Aleksandra Maljkovic, Gregory Harris, Richard Walters.

Aidan Barry, Anthony Brooke, David Chalk, James Coleman, Charles East, Guy Fowler, Giles Head, Graham Monteith, James Moore, Christopher Oliver, Kai Thomas, Paul Bigg-Wither, Nicholas Barton, James Mills, Jay Ouellette.

Charles Allen, Colin Branston, Christian Brix,

Nicholas Carmichael, Lindsay Duff, James Fairbank, Leighton Freeman, Dominic-Pascal Gay, Thomas Gittins, Alister Harris, William Heaven, Jack Jelfs, James Lloyd, Christopher MacKinnon, Craig Marcham, Matthew Morris, Francis Newcombe, Benjamin Renow-Clarke, David Shepard, Adam Simpkin, Michael Smith, Christopher Walmsley, Tony Winstone, Richard Witchell.

Old Rendcombian Society

At the Annual General Meeting in July 1988 the following officers were elected:

<i>President:</i>	A. E. A. Brain (1929-37)
<i>Chairman:</i>	M. C. Jones (1956-62)
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	B. L. M. Smith (1965-72)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mrs J. R. Gunner (1975-77)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	R. B. Barrett (1969-76)
<i>Committee Member:</i>	C. J. Wood (1965-71, Staff 1976-)
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	A. Payne (1979-84)
<i>Hockey Secretary:</i>	B. Branston (1982-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary:</i>	J. Healey (1981-86)
<i>Girls' Secretary:</i>	F. Wilkins (1983-85)
<i>School Representative and Newsletter Editor:</i>	W. J. D. White (Staff 1961-)

Obituary

It is with great regret that we record the death, on 7th April 1989, of **Albert Smith** (1920-25), a founder-member of the College and also of The Friends of Rendcomb. Born in 1907, he was one of the first twelve boys to come from a Gloucestershire Primary School to Rendcomb in 1920. He went on to Oriel College, Oxford, and then served for many years as an Agricultural Education Officer in West Africa. We offer our deep sympathy to his widow, Joan.

Marriages

William Scott to **Nicola Agius** (1984-86), July 1988

Simon Young (1971-76) to Katherine Barraclough, September 1988

Christopher Hart (1970-77) to Caroline Goldsmith, October 1988

Mark Webb (1972-79) to Sarah Kew, April 1988

Jonathan Morris (1978-85) to Alison Maycock, April 1987

Peter Uglow (1974-81) to Nikki Spencer, August 1987

Births

To Catherine and **Nigel Powell** (1967-74) a son, William Stephen, May 1988.

To **Tessa** (née Wolferston, 1974-76) and **Stephen Hicks** (1969-76) a daughter, Fiona Xanthe.

To Ann and **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78) a daughter, Nicola Claire, November 1986.

News of Recent Leavers

Alexander Andreis

Southampton University: Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Michael Attwood

Nene College, Staffordshire: European Business Studies (1989)

John Barnett

Christ Church, Oxford. PPE

Michael Bews

RAF Scholarship

Giles Carter

With an insurance company in London

Jonathan Chappelle

Oxford Polytechnic: Civil Engineering

John Delaney

Coventry Polytechnic: Engineering and French

Katherine Ellis

Kingston Polytechnic: Music

Claire Flanagan

With an accountancy firm in Cirencester

Alexandra Fletcher

Retaking 'A' levels

Amanda Fry

Guy's Hospital Medical School (1989)

Stephen Green

Bristol University: English

Paul Griffiths

Reading University: Business Economics

Warren Hammond

University College, London: Philosophy (1989)

Karen Harmon

Christ's College, Cambridge: English and History (1989)

Mark Hastings

Goldsmith's College, London University: Anthropology (1989)

David Hauton

Surrey University: Toxicology

Finale Hicks

Studying 'A' level Law

Christopher Hoare

Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry

Jane Kelly

Edinburgh University: History

David Kenney

Birmingham University: Mathematics

Richard Kolb

Reading University: Land Management

Mark Larroucau

Birmingham Polytechnic: Estate Management

Julian Leigh

King's College, London University: Applied Biology

Robert Matson

Exeter College, Oxford: Chemistry

Sophia Michaelides

St Hilda's College, Oxford: Chemistry

Samantha Perkins

Studying 'A' levels

Marcus Rann

Bristol Polytechnic: Business Studies

Benjamin Rees

Plymouth Polytechnic: Biological Sciences

Colin Sainsbury

King's College, London: Pharmacy

Andrew Satterthwaite

Sheffield Polytechnic: Computing Mathematics

Emma Smith

Working for *Wilts & Glos. Standard*. UCCA 1989

Ann Speakman

Bristol Polytechnic: Land Management (1989)

Lucy Stringer

Edinburgh University: History of Art (1989)

Hari Nathan

Queen Mary's College, London: Electronic Engineering

Anne Waddington

Manchester University: Chemistry

Emma Warren

Edinburgh University: German

Edward Webb

Pembroke College, Cambridge: Oriental Languages

Alexander Hayes

Reading University: Land Management

Andrew Cayton

Plymouth Polytechnic: Geography

Susan Maton

Plymouth Polytechnic: Humanities

James Williamson

Manchester Polytechnic: Accountancy and Finance

David Pearce

Swindon Technical College

Kingsley Raffael

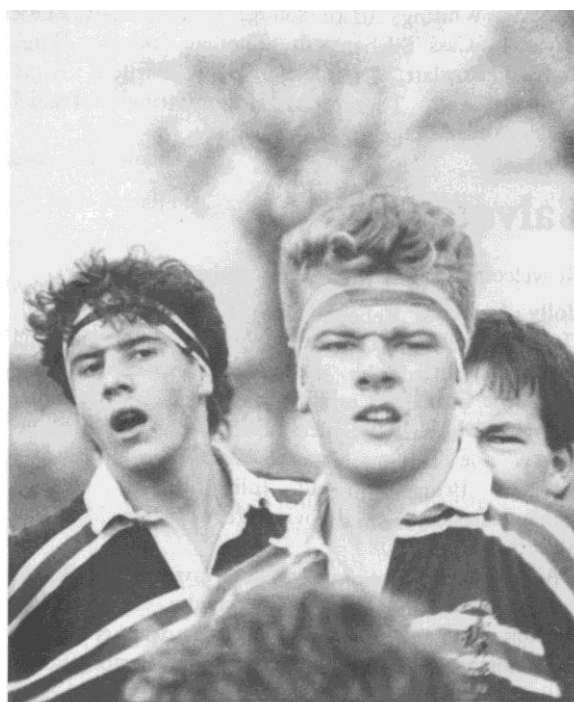
Catering College

David Edwin

Swansea University: Marine Biology

Simon Reichwald

Plymouth Polytechnic: Business Studies



1st XV

1990-1991

C. M. Wood

Boys' Sport

Rugby Football

Thanks to fine weather and pitches that were perfect underfoot for most of the season, we were able to complete a full programme of fixtures at all levels. The senior sides produced very respectable records with the new coaching combinations of Newby-Haslett with the 1st and 2nd XVs and King-O'Connor with the U16 'A' and 'B' XVs. Mr Burden, in his 25th year of coaching rugby at Rendcomb, and a newcomer, Mr Williams, had a good season with the U15 group, though injuries prevented regular 'B' matches at that level. The U14 teams developed well as the season went on, under the experienced Sykes-Griffiths duo, while the addition of Mr Bradfield to Messrs Graham and Kelsey helped with the success of the juniors.

The XV started without the services of Christopher Huck, County number eight, or Vaughan Tredwell, and only in November were we able to field our strongest side; consequently, despite some impressive and courageous performances we came in second in the early season 'big matches' but, commendably, most were lost by a few points only.

The results after half-term were somewhat different, with resounding victories over several teams, scoring 243 points, including 48 tries, in the last eight matches. The most impressive defensive performance of the season was in the match against a very strong Bloxham XV which had an unbeaten record and had swept all opposition before it; superb team cover and ferocious tackling kept the score to 0-0 at half-time and allowed them to take the game by only 10-3. The XV's best attacking performance was against Kingham Hill, where exhilarating running and handling by both backs and forwards led to ten magnificent tries. The Old Boys' match proved first-rate, with some tough rugger but played in the right spirit and style, the visitors just hanging on to a one point lead.

The XV's style of play reflected the ability of the team in all departments and, by not relying on one or two talented individuals to produce the goods, 15-man rugby was the key element. The pack was strong and technically good in set scrummaging and line-outs, and beyond first-phase ball their support play, rucking and handling ability made them formidable. The front five stuck to their jobs admirably and produced a great deal of valuable ball from scrums and line-outs, while several players took the back-row positions during the season, all proving efficient in attacking with the ball and in dealing with opponents in defence. The backs showed considerable ability with the ball in their hands and were never let down by their defensive techniques; as a unit, their tactical awareness improved throughout the term, and their clinical efficiency in carrying out moves, along with a willingness to move the ball from anywhere on the park, made them a vital ingredient in the team's success. The half-back combination of Jason Carter and Grant Hughes was always reliable and effective in initiating attacking play, and outside them the centres and the back

three linked well to provide some exciting handling and running rugby.

Well over 20 boys played for the XV, and all contributed to a successful season, but special mention should be made of the Captain of Rugby, Julian Fellows, whose inspiration both on and off the pitch was derived from considerable experience and total enthusiasm for the game; his attitude in matches and practices was exemplary and helped to develop a high degree of commitment and motivation in the squad, without losing the element of enjoyment. Jason Carter proved invaluable as Vice-Captain, especially when taking over from Julian during a period of injury.

Peter Grimsdale had an outstanding season, achieving a school points record of 113, while County honours were achieved by Christopher Huck as number eight for the U18 team, and by Richard Hughes and Kojo Annan as backs for the U16 side. Kojo was subsequently selected as winger for the South-West Division, a commendable achievement. Other highlights of the season included the Rugby Dinner, when John Jeavons-Fellows, a member of the RFU Executive Committee, honoured us as guest speaker and, of course, the tour of Portugal by a squad of senior players; both events proved very enjoyable and successful.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the rugby this season, especially Vaughan Tredwell as Secretary and as organiser of the Dinner, my 'overworked and underpaid' colleagues on the coaching staff, without whose time and enthusiasm 'the sacred game would perish', and, of course, Julian and the XV, who made the season so enjoyable for me; I wish you well in your future rugby.

M. J. N.

Overall record:

Played 84; Won 43; Drew 2; Lost 39; Points for 1,148; Points against 967.

1st XV

It was obvious from very early in the season that the majority of the players making up the team would be fairly young; in fact, all but five of the XV will be able to play again next year. With this in mind, the experience of the team might have been in doubt; this was soon proved otherwise. The forwards were often opposed by teams of a much greater size but, through sheer determination and willingness to play good rugby, managed very well in the circumstances.

The agile Rendcomb pack made good the advantage of having the upper hand in loose play. Chris Huck proved the superior quality which had gained him a place in the County U19 XV by providing excellent ball in both line-outs and scrums. Aubrey Powell worked well with Chris Daniels in the second row and later showed his skill as a flanker when Chris Horton was injured. Jason Carter served the backs well at scrum-half, showing the ability to spin pass equally far and accurately to both his left and his right. The three-quarters, after much chopping and changing in the early season, defended superbly and

attacked with speed and quality. Matt Faircloth must be noted for his devastating tackling and hard running. Pete Grimsdale maintained his ability to kick, breaking last year's record of 113 points. Ben Maslen and Jo Hammond linked well with Grant Hughes at outside-half, all three putting their speed and deceptive running to good use.

Thanks must go to Mr Newby and Mr Haslett for their time and for the experience they passed on to us throughout the season.

This may not have been one of the most successful seasons for the 1st XV, but it was far from being unsuccessful, and it was certainly one of the most enjoyable.

JULIAN FELLOWS

Played 14; Won 7; Lost 7; Points for 289; Points against 112.

v. Marlborough College 3rd XV (A)	Won	24-0
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-17
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	6-11
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	3-7
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	10-19
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	3-11
v. Rednock School (A)	Won	40-0
v. Burford School (H)	Won	46-0
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	42-0
v. Cirencester School (H)	Won	26-6
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	48-4
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won	22-6
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	4-15
v. Old Rendcombian U21 XV	Lost	15-16

Team from: J. Fellows (Captain), J. Carter (Vice-Captain), A. Powell, G. Hughes, C. Huck, H. Le Fleming, K. Holmes, N. Hall, C. Daniels, J. Gregory, C. Hauton, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, M. Faircloth, P. Grimsdale, K. Annan, J. Vernon, F. Cowie, A. Laine, A. Cochrane, R. Martin, W. Sherwood, J. Nicholls.

2nd XV

I have to admit that, when Mike Newby asked me in the summer of 1988 whether I would be prepared to coach the 2nd XV in the season ahead, I accepted his invitation with some hesitancy. Had I been able to foresee then not only how successful but also how enjoyable a season lay ahead, there could have been no hesitation whatsoever.

Results undoubtedly go some way to illustrate the success of a squad of players, and few would disagree that this 2nd XV enjoyed one of the best seasons for years. The team lost four matches, but no opponents scored more than 11 points, and none overcame us by a margin of more than five. Two of our four defeats were by one point only, and a further one by two points. These few statistics emphasise the strength of the 2nd XV squad in the 1988 season. Mercifully, we suffered few injuries but, when we did, there was always a willing and able replacement.

But results and statistics cannot paint the whole picture, for they fail to reveal the commitment and zest with which the boys making up this squad played their

rugby. Whether it was a training period or a fixture, whether the sun was shining or it was pouring with rain, these lads never gave anything less than a wholehearted display of committed rugby.

Roland Martin was an inspired and inspiring captain. On the field of play he was exemplary in his running and tackling, coaxing and cajoling. Off it, he was as efficient and helpful a rugby captain as I have had the good fortune to work with. He was never less than fully supported by his squad, all of whom were stars in their own right.

I cannot possibly refer to them all individually, but particular mention should be made of four players who made clear progress during the season. Arwyn Jones was a fearless hard-tackling wing forward whose speed to the breakdown contributed significantly to our winning a lot of ball in loose play. Joe Nicholls developed into a highly skilful number eight who controlled the ball well at the base of the scrum and won many a line-out for us.

In the backs, Jeremy Jehan was rewarded for our excellent record when he played for the 1st XV in the final match of the season and scored a *debut* try. Finally, John Carroll, at full-back, showed a cool head in defence and in his place-kicking. Few who were present will quickly forget his injury-time penalty kick against Dean Close, which not only won the match but also made a thoroughly fitting climax to a successful season.

My thanks are due to everyone in the 2nd XV squad for their effort and co-operation. Finally, I would like to thank Mike Newby, whose dedication and coaching expertise played no small part in a hugely enjoyable season.

L. J. H.

Played 12; Won 7; Drew 1; Lost 4; Points for 158; Points against 47.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	9-10
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	20-4
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	7-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	6-11
v. St Edward's Sch., Cheltenham 1st XV (A)	Won	10-6
v. Burford School (H)	Won	31-0
v. Avonhurst School 1st XV (A)	Lost	3-4
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	33-0
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	28-0
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Lost	4-6
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	7-6

Team from: R. Martin (Captain), C. Bannister, Bedford, J. Carroll, N. Cochran, B. Gallagher, S. Gammage, J. Gregory, N. Hall, J. Hammond, D. Houseman, J. Jehan, A. Jones, A. Lainé, F. Lee, R. Mansell, R. Mitchell, T. Nicholls, J. Norbury, R. Ogden, J. Pratten, W. Sherwood, R. Tate, V. Tredwell, J. Vernon, M. Waddington, S. Whiting.

U16 'A' XV

Rugby is a hard, physical-contact game, which does result in the expenditure of enormous quantities of energy in the aggressive pursuit of a spherical object. There is a certain comedy in the performance, but to

some there is a seriousness attached to the game which can manifest itself in unpleasant, violent behaviour. Why are a group of more than 30 fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds encouraged to develop an interest in such a game? It may be for the sake of those moments in a term when the game flows with a continuity and progression born of hours of rehearsal. A score may not result, but the satisfaction is great and, as with anything done well, the movement and pattern of play will appear to be easy and even elegant.

And what has this to do with this year's team? The rude awakening to the fact that a scrambled ball somehow transferred to a big, fast centre would result only in one big, fast centre's lying on his back was a lesson learnt early. Rendcomb, the more talented team, lost its first game to the better organised side, Kingswood. The team took stock of this and set about working hard at the set scrummage technique. They rucked until they dreamt about it, and the backs found that it was possible to move the ball faster than they could run.

However, you can still lose, despite any amount of practice. What makes the difference is the will not to let all that effort go to waste. Against Bredon the team gave up just when they were getting on top. Against Bloxham they fought with a full belief that gave them a justified pride in themselves. The players developed their talents and applied themselves as individuals for the team's benefit. The end result was that a large number of boys played representative sport and did so because they enjoyed what they were doing.

The forwards improved significantly, with excellent set scrummaging by Paul Bartlett. Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge proved a first-class hooker. Andrew Digney and Richard Rowlatt showed a character and determination that did them credit. Richard Milner scored some excellent tries and totalled 62 points, showing great promise as a flank forward. Simon Hardie typified the group's attitude by making the most of his talent. Daniel Maslen captained the side well and improved as a scrum-half with every match. His balance and style of game make him a player with a great future. Peter Smithson found the ball a delight to hold and ran with a speed and directness that brought him some superb scores. Richard Hughes tackled well, ran elusively and progressed enough to play several games for Gloucestershire at the U16 level. Kojo Annan did even better, being the first rugby player from Rendcomb to be selected for the South and South-West Counties. He contributed 14 tries to the team's total.

Injuries robbed us of two important players: William King, who played for Stroud District, and Jonathan Tomsett, whose strength would have helped the team's balance.

I commend the attitude and interest of this year's side. Players with the enthusiasm and positively-applied energy of this group will clearly go on to greater success.

C. P. M. K.

Played 10; Won 7; Lost 3; Points for 188; Points against 110.

v. Marlborough College U16 'B' (A)	Won	40-0
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	8-20
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	40-0
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Won	12-10
v. Bredon School 1st XV (A)	Lost	0-30
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	12-10
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	24-4
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	28-4
v. Farmor's School U17 XV (A)	Won	24-0
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-32

Team from: D. Maslen (Captain), K. Annan, P. Bartlett, C. Brown, A. Digney, A. Halliwell, S. Hardie, R. Hughes, W. King, R. Milner, M. Moody, M. Rogers, R. Rowlatt, P. Smithson, N. Utting, A. von Westphalen-Bunge.

Also played: N. Bayliss, P. Neve, J. Tomsett, N. Wood.

U16 'B' XV

Overall, this was a fine season for a team much hampered by injury problems, as can be judged from the team selection roster below. At times every man walking was in the team. Nevertheless, they worked well as a team and showed much spirit and enterprise. In all games except the first, Rendcomb were in with a fighting chance. The match against Kingshill typified the team spirit: 8-16 down at half-time, they held a much stronger side throughout the second half. Their best rugby was probably played against Cheltenham College. Throughout the season they tackled well, and the pack in particular fought extremely hard, considering that they were always at a size disadvantage. After two years of coaching these players, I shall miss their particular character when they move up next season.

D. O'C.

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3; Points for 36; Points against 93.

v. St Edward's Sch. Oxford U16 'C' XV(A)	Lost	0-48
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-18
v. Cheltenham College U16 'C' XV (H)	Won	16-9
v. Kingshill School U16 'A' XV (A)	Lost	6-18
v. Wycliffe College 5th XV (H)	Won	14-0

Team from: S. Hardie (Captain), A. Miles, S. Phalke, C. Reeves, M. Waddington, J. Dowson, R. Parsons, A. Halliwell, D. Lester, P. Gorman, I. Spencer, L. Thompson, S. Wilkins, C. Brown, T. Shillington-Balfour, M. Moody, N. Wood, N. Utting, P. Evans, D. Chapman, R. Herbert, P. Neve, N. McMurtrie, J. Tomsett.

U15 'A' XV

With the arrival of three new rugger players in the year, the team's performance and results showed considerable improvement.

The scrum, although not as mobile as some Rendcomb packs, worked well and provided quite good ball for the three-quarters. Cass Silchenstedt obtained good

possession in the line. Graham Lawton and Christopher Walsh were the most mobile and hard working members of the pack. Anthony Neilson and Ben Marshall improved their play with every match.

Despite injury and illness, the backs showed some potential, although the wingers did not see enough of the ball.

The skilful touches of Marcus Head and the strong running of Adam Young were a feature of most matches. Gareth Davies was a reliable but rather predictable fly-half. Nicholas Smith did well at full-back, and Antony Palin showed some impressive touches on the wing.

The group should do well in senior rugby, provided that they are prepared to work at their game.

C. C. B.

Played 10; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 3; Points for 168; Points against 83.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Won	6-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	16-4
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	6-18
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	8-3
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-30
v. Burford School (H)	Won	58-3
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	14-0
v. Rednock School (A)	Won	48-0
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	6-19
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew	6-6

Team from: G. Lawton (Captain), A. Pollard, H. Pugh, N. Houseman, H. Auld, C. Silchenstedt, C. Walsh, B. Marshall, G. Bennett, G. Davies, M. Head, A. Young, J. Madeley, A. Palin, N. Smith, A. Neilson, J. Wheeler, J. Dowbiggin, P. Irving, J. Adams, T. Underwood, S. Hett, J. Powell, G. Harris, A. Baker.

U15 'A/B' XV

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3; Points for 28; Points against 58.

v. St Edward's School, Oxford (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XV (H)	Won	16-10
v. Bredon School (A)	Won	8-6
v. Farmor's School (H)	Lost	0-24
v. Kingshill School (A)	Lost	4-14

Team from: those named above, except for A. Young.

U14 'A' XV

Looking at the results would make this seem rather an average season. However, this would be a misleading impression. It was a season of experiment and improvement, of courage and determination and, most important, adaptation; our ability to adapt was probably our strongest point. During the season we had three scrum-halves, two fly-halves and four different flankers; this was due mainly to the number of injuries we suffered. Stuart Hall missed an important match against Bloxham; Chris Carmichael missed four matches because of a broken foot, and Nigel Fischer missed three because of various injuries to his feet.

We suffered heavy defeats at the hands of King's, Gloucester, and against Bloxham and Dauntsey's. This last match was something of a nightmare, as Stuart Hall broke his nose and Chris Carmichael his foot! However, we had good wins against Kingshill, Bredon, Cokethorpe and Kingham Hill.

Everybody in the team played well and did as he was asked; the team combined impressively as a unit. I must highlight a few individuals. Nigel Fischer's good support play and strong running scored us many points, and his weight was invaluable in the scrums, rucks and mauls. Mark Valentine played some strong rugby, and his back-row play was an asset to the team. Stuart Hall's strength and general knowhow were the inspiration of the rest of the backs.

Thanks must go to Mr Sykes and Mr Griffiths for coaching us.

CHRISTOPHER CARMICHAEL

Played 11; Won 6; Lost 5; Points for 126; Points against 132.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	4-14
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	4-23
v. Kingshill School (H)	Won	31-13
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	4-36
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-22
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	22-0
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	6-4
v. Avonhurst School (A)	Won	11-0
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	14-8
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	30-0
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-12

Team from: C. Carmichael (Captain), M. Valentine (Vice-Captain), J. East, N. Priscott, N. Fischer, M. Norman, W. Hunter-Smart, J. Talbot, J. Tate, M. Sansome, C. Morgan-Harris, A. Beales, S. Hall, H. Costelloe, P. Allan, A. Faiers, A. Platt, A. Sylvester, M. Giggs, R. Gorman, R. Hutson.

U14 'B' XV

This was not a spectacular year in terms of games won and lost, yet I felt that many boys made great progress in terms of their own skills and understanding of the game. This year's group has great potential, and I believe they will do very well higher in the school and will enjoy playing. The progress made by some boys was very rewarding, especially several who had never played the game before and who ended up in the 'A' squad. The development of Richard Hutson, Alex Faiers, Alastair Graham and Gareth Jenkins bodes particularly well for the future, especially now Gareth has learnt how to tackle.

The whole season built up to the match against Dean Close, owing to injuries in the 'A' team the only time we were able to field a full 'B' team. Not only was the match won, but the boys played in fine style: tight, solid rucking by the forwards and an expansive running game in the backs, with the ball being passed to the wingers!

Other matches were played with key team players missing and, although we put up a good effort, we were

often overwhelmed by much larger forwards. The only disappointing game was against King's, Gloucester, when too many silly mistakes were made and tackles missed. However, the boys did themselves proud and were extra special against Dean Close; they got it right in the end!

M. S. G.

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5; Points for 29; Points against 144.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-24
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	9-30
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-44
v. Farmor's School (H)	Lost	14-24
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-18
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	6-4

Team from: R. Hutson (Captain), A. Platt, P. Croft, M. Valentine, G. Agnew, S. Barrett, A. Beales, H. Costelloe, J. East, D. Egré, A. Faiers, N. Fischer, M. Fouracres, M. Giggs, R. Gorman, A. Graham, T. Haine, S. Hall, W. Hunter-Smart, J. Jenkin, G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, N. Macartney, M. Monteith, P. Morgan, C. Morgan-Harris, D. Morris, S. Pearce, N. Rose, M. Sansome, J. Sawtell, W. Smalley, A. Sylvester, J. Talbot, P. Williams.

U13 'A' XV

One of the effects of a small second form was that the U13 'A' rugby team was bound to find the early matches of the season difficult. With only 16 second-formers from whom to choose, it was inevitable that first-formers would be playing in the team from the outset, even if they had not played rugby before. The first few matches were therefore something of an 'apprenticeship' for the team, as we tried various combinations of players and positions. Once the side settled down the results were very creditable, and the first-formers soon proved to be valuable assets. The turning point of the season came in the Bredon game, where an early try against us seemed to indicate another defeat, but a strong fight-back led to a resounding victory. After that confidence grew apace, and the next four matches saw some stirring rugby. Even the result of the Cheltenham College game was in doubt until the very last minute. If there is one feature of the season which stands out, it is that the team remained competitive throughout every match - even when the pressure was on, the dedication and commitment were a delight to see.

In the backs, Chris Lawton was an excellent scrum-half, and he developed a range of passes and kicks for position over the course of the season; he was also the highest points scorer. He was ably partnered at fly-half by Julian Wilkie, whose speed and crunching tackles were a hallmark of his play. Steven Croft, Patrick Boydell and Robert Sage were sound centres and created many scoring opportunities.

In the forwards, our strength lay in the front row, Neil Fulton, Ian Timbers and Andrew Branston. They gave us a steady platform, even against bigger packs, and Branston's dedication and enthusiasm proved infectious.

Fulton showed a capacity for taking the opposition on in the loose, and he linked up well with Barrie Davis as flanker. Barrie Davis ended up as our top try-scorer, and he was very elusive and difficult to stop when only five or so yards from the try-line. Andrew McIndoe's captaincy was quietly efficient, and he won a lot of respect by his organisation of the side on and off the field.

In short, then, this was a most encouraging season, considering the limitations of numbers. It is good to know that nine of the squad will be available to provide a sound bedrock for the U13 'A' team next year. It was also good to see how much the team enjoyed their rugby; a *camaraderie* developed that I cannot recall as being so strong in previous years, and this bodes well for the future. Down in the basement of Rendcomb rugby, things are thriving!

M. H. G.

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 5; Points for 118; Points against 176.

v. Pinewood School 1 st XV (H)	Lost	0-30
v. Farmor's School (A)	Lost	0-48
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-48
v. St Hugh's School 1st XV (H)	Lost	4-28
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	27-4
v. Kingshill School (A)	Won	11-4
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 3 rd XV (A)	Lost	8-10
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	32-4
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	36-0

Team from: A. McIndoe (Captain), J. Bainbridge, A. Branston, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, C. Lawton, R. Sage, C. Waters, J. Wilkie, A. Beales, P. Boydell, S. Croft, N. Fulton, J. Morgan, I. Timbers, A. Martin, M. Pentney, M. Adams, F. Barton, S. Jones, C. Yardley.

U13 'B' XV

It soon became apparent that the first year intake included considerable talent. This meant that many players were 'poached' to strengthen the 'A' team.

When the 'A' and 'B' matches occurred simultaneously, the 'B' team had quite a struggle to contain the opposition, as in the match against Pinewood, in which they did very well to concede only two tries.

However, at full strength the team produced some delightful rugby and ended their coach's career with a memorable and well-deserved victory against Cheltenham College Junior School.

R. K.

Played 2; Won 1; Lost 1; Points for 8; Points against 12.

v. Pinewood School 2nd XV (H)	Lost	0-8
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 4th XV (H)	Won	8-4

Team from: those named above and D. Irving, N. Pollard, A. Bainbridge, R. Blackwell, T. Gaskill, B. Herbert, D. Kemp, I. Thompson, A. Topalian, J. Underwood.



Hockey

There were few changes in the organisation this year; Mr Hawkswell stepped in to run the 2nd XI, which proved to be a most effective arrangement, and Mr Bradfield assisted in game three and umpired U15 matches. Mr Lewis demonstrated that he has other talents besides music by taking game 2B on Saturdays. Happily Mr Chase continued to help Mr White with the successful U14 'B' XI.

Despite the mild winter, we were unable to use the pitches on several occasions, owing to overnight rain, but it certainly made a change not to have to make decisions based on the probability of the frost's coming out of a pitch by 2.30 p.m. A real bonus came in the form of the Royal Agricultural College's artificial surface in Cirencester, obtained by the Headmaster for use on Monday afternoons. All groups had practice on this surface, which definitely helped with individual skills, teamwork and fitness. This facility proved invaluable, because most teams had to play some of their matches on artificial surfaces, which now seem to be common in this area. Grass pitches at many schools were noticeably poorer this year, and some of ours were too, increasing the gulf between grass and artificial surfaces; consequently special treatment of certain pitches on Top Field will be carried out before next season.

If the amount of asphalt hockey played in free time is any measure of the popularity of this sport, then it must be near the top of the scale at present, and it was refreshing to see a revival of the custom of seniors' and juniors' playing alongside each other, even if certain styles of play raised a few eyebrows in the Staff Room.

On the county scene, four boys attended trials, and Graham Lawton (Form IV) and Nicholas Smith (Form V) deservedly played several games for the County U16 XI, an experience which undoubtedly benefited them and Rendcomb.

Overall, this must be regarded as a successful season: played 86; won 46; drew 16; lost 24; goals for 167; goals against 122.

The 1st XI started well, playing inspired hockey in the forward line; quietly encouraged by the captain, Julian Fellows, they always seemed able to recover from an unfavourable situation, for example, being 0-3 after a few minutes at Prior Park and then pulling back to 3-3 at full-time. As a result of this quality, they were unbeaten by half-term, but there were some difficult fixtures to come. As the season progressed, gaps were not covered, passing became too delayed and most of the momentum

at the front was lost. This, combined with the unconventional formation used, produced some disappointing results and matches which were not good to watch. It is to be hoped that several lessons have been learned for next season.

For the last fixture of term a possible 1990 XI was fielded against Bournside School 1st XI and, although the boys were tired, it was encouraging to see so much talent and determination among the players who will be available next year.

At this point it must be said that there was great depth in the senior XIs: the 2nd XI players could easily have stepped in to relieve 1st XI players; the 3rd XI were unbeaten, despite several games against U16 sides, and the 4th XI were so clearly unbeaten that it was difficult to find strong enough opposition for them. There were even two 5th XI matches. This standard was achieved only through the dedication and enthusiasm of the coaching staff, and the assistance of many other staff whose flexibility was greatly appreciated.

C. J. W.

1st XI

On the whole, this was a season of mixed fortunes for the XI: only one of the first eight matches was lost, but the second half of the season proved to be the downfall, with the loss of five of the seven remaining matches.

The success in the early matches can be put down to not wasting chances and to wholehearted commitment from the team in general. In the defence the back three, Charles Paine, Christopher Huck and Jason Carter proved a strong combination, cutting out numerous crosses, tackling hard and reacting efficiently to provocation from opposing forwards. These three were well backed up by the goal-keeper, Rob Tate, who was undoubtedly one of the reasons why so few goals were scored against us in the first half of the season.

Grant Hughes and Peter Grimsdale, at right and left half respectively, showed great determination, playing equally well in attack and defence. With the experience Peter has gained this year, he could prove an important part of next year's XI at centre-half.

Jo Hammond used his pace well on the right wing, allowing the 'through ball' to be used to great effect. He also combined well with Ben Maslen at inside-right, and this area saw the build-up of the majority of the goals.

John Carroll, playing at centre-forward, was top goal scorer with eight, using his eye for the ball to strike first-time shots from almost anywhere in the 'D'. Nick Suffolk made good use of his opportunities on the left wing and gained four goals.

Certainly lessons will be learnt from the mistakes

made in the second half of the season and so, with many of the team remaining, next year could prove a very successful one.

JULIAN FELLOWS

Played 15; Won 6; Drew 3; Lost 6; Goals for 22; Goals against 37.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	3-2
v. The Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Won	2-1
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	3-1
v. Prior Park College (A)	Drew	3-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham HC Wednesday XI (A)	Lost	2-4
v. Colston's School (A)	Drew	0-0
v. The Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI	Lost	1-2
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-9
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Burford School (H)	Won	1-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	0-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Cirencester HC 'A' XI (A)	Lost	1-6

Team from: J. Fellows (Captain), J. Carter (Vice-Captain), N. Suffolk, G. Hughes, C. Huck, J. Carroll, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, P. Grimsdale, C. Paine, R. Tate, J. Vernon, D. Houseman.

2nd XI

With a wealth of experience and new talent available, it seemed that a successful season was possible. After losing two of the first three matches, it appeared that the team would not fully realise its potential. However, with a few- minor positional changes and an improvement in performance by a couple of players, the eleven was undefeated for the rest of the season. Indeed it often seemed that the better the opposition, the better the performance of the team; sometimes failure to convert pressure into goals against weaker sides resulted in closer results than should have been the case.

The statistics show that the great strength of the team was in its defensive performance in conceding only 10 goals in 12 matches. Much of the credit for this must go to Richard Hughes, the goal-keeper, whose domination of the goal area increased as the term progressed. Dan Houseman was a highly skilled full-back, and Colin Bannister made a great contribution at right-half. Andrew MacKinnon improved steadily in the early part of the term and then dominated the mid-field.

The forwards used the full width of the pitch well and, after overcoming the tendency to get into a straight line across the field, were able to penetrate opposing defences on both wings and in the centre.

Jason Vernon and Nicholas Smith showed great skill at inside-forward, and Will Sherwood often showed that he could be a powerful striker; with a little more run of the ball, he could have scored more goals. Aubrey Powell, the captain, personified the spirit of the team with his forceful and opportunist play on the right wing. His captaincy was spirited and positive; as a result several good opposing teams were put under such strong pressure that they were eventually outplayed.

Many of the team were very close to 1st XI standard, and in particular Jason Vernon and Dan Houseman must be considered unlucky not to have played more games for the senior team.

D. A. H.

Played 12; Won 6; Drew 4; Lost 2; Goals for 21; Goals against 10.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Marling School 1st XI (H)	Won	3-1
v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A)	Lost	0-1
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	4-1
v. Prior Park College (A)	Drew	1-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Pate's Grammar School 1st XI (H)	Won	3-0
v. The Royal Agricultural College 3rd XI	Drew	3-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Won	1-0
v. The Crypt School, Gloucester, 1st XI	Won	4-0
v. Bournside School 1st XI (H)	Won	1-0

Team from: A. Powell (Captain), J. Vernon, R. Hughes, D. Houseman, H. Le Fleming, C. Bannister, A. MacKinnon, A. Jones, W. King, W. Sherwood, N. Smith, J. Lutwyche, K. Holmes, A. Clark.

3rd XI

The XI had an excellent season, remaining unbeaten with a hard fixture list, playing four U16 sides and two 2nd XIs.

With Tom Nicholls as captain, the side played some outstanding hockey, which really flowed from defence to attack, each member of the side doing his bit and the performance of the whole improving with each game.

The memorable matches were: beating Prior Park away by 2-1, winning 1-0 at Colston's, scoring 5-0 against Dean Close, hitherto unbeaten, with a great hat-trick by Richard Milner, and beating Bloxham U16 XI 4-1.

Tom Nicholls was outstanding; he played his heart out in each game and inspired all around him, getting the best out of his players as a good captain should.

Reliable stopping and firm hitting by Andrew Digney and Henry Le Fleming were usually more than enough to halt the opposition forwards, and they can be proud of the fact that the ever-diving Chris Hauton conceded only seven goals during the season. Such solid control of the defence meant that the mid-field had a good solid base and plenty of possession to create their own chances. Led by Tom Nicholls, Ashley Clark and Robert Mitchell were able to control the mid-field and give plenty of ball to the forwards. And what an outstanding season *they* had! The two wings, Joe Nicholls and Guy Waller constantly provided good crosses for Richard Milner to crack home.

There is no doubt that our Monday practices with the 1st and 2nd XIs on the all-weather pitch at the RAC helped our game and brought the best out of our players, making them the best 3rd XI I have ever coached at Rendcomb.

I must also mention the other half of my game, the 4th XI, also unbeaten. My thanks go to Dominic O'Connor for all his help in looking after the side for me. It was a truly great season for both 3rd and 4th XIs.

D. E.

Played 10; Won 8; Drew 2; Goals for 29; Goals against 8.

v. Monkton Combe School U16 XI (H)	Won	2-0
v. Cheltenham College 4th XI (A)	Drew	4-4
v. Prior Park College (A)	Won	2-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Colston's School U16 XI (A)	Won	1-0
v. Marling School 2nd XI (A)	Won	2-1
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	5-0
v. Bloxham School U16 XI (H)	Won	4-1
v. The Crypt School, Gloucester, 2nd XI (A)	Won	4-0
v. Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Won	4-0

Team from: T. Nicholls (Captain), G. Waller, R. Milner, J. Lutwyche, K. Annan, J. Nicholls, A. Clark, R. Mitchell, M. Moody, J. Pratten, A. Digney, H. Le Fleming, C. Hauton, C. Daniels.

4th XI

This season saw the emergence of the 4th XI as the most feared side in schoolboy hockey - they even surpassed their own unbeaten record achieved in 1987. The statistics speak for themselves: the opposition was rarely in a fit state to comment. Indeed, for six matches the side took maximum points, and only a rather severe penalty stroke decision stopped their run. In this particular case Chris Daniels took his game plan beyond the accepted limits, leaving the opposition centre-forward breaking air-speed records.

Other Rendcomb teams poured scorn on the 4th XI's psychological warfare, but the immense support at all home matches (thanks in large part to the girls) proved them wrong, as did the side's goal average of 3.9 a match. Our centre-forward, Vaughan Tredwell, was top scorer. He did not always make contact with the ball, but he rarely missed an opposition defender. Many 4th XI regulars have now unfortunately drawn blood for the last time and are making their way to the Valhalla Hall of Fame.

The highlight of the season was our commanding performance against our arch-rivals, Bloxham. Rendcomb came up against a team trying to play a similar style of hockey, but which found itself outplayed by Matthew Rogers and his iron-clad stick, by Russell Ogden and his John Cleese impersonation, by Alex Lainé's eloquent language and lazy shoulder.

James Gregory was responsible for the team kit; it was much criticised in the Masters' Common Room, but the calls from Vogue came flooding in. Our flashing right-wing, Roland Martin, provided much of the ammunition for our hungry forwards, taking apart even the most staunch defence. The mid-field players, Matthew Faircloth, Russell Ogden and Nicholas Hall were the power-house of the team. Ubiquitous and omnipotent (*pace*, Mr Holt) around the field, they dominated the game. However, when talking about the 4th's defensive record, much praise goes to the back three. No opposition player ever entered the 'D' with stick intact and two feet on the ground.

For the third season in a row no higher school team would take the field against the 4th XI, fearing the much-vaunted cry of *Bazomba!*, as ball struck net, post, goal-keeper and Lara Haine. Contracts have now been issued

for the next season, and we hope to see our regulars back as ORs next year. Thanks go to the old man of hockey, David Essenhigh, and to the 3rd XI, who provided support for our team in difficult matches.

D. O'C.

Played 11; Won 9; Drew 2; Goals for 42; Goals against 10.

v. Monkton Combe School U16 'B' XI	Won	3-1
v. Cheltenham College 5th XI (H)	Won	2-0
v. Bredon School 1st XI	Won	8-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	5-1
v. Pate's Grammar School 2nd XI (A)	Won	5-1
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	Won	2-1
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew	2-2
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	5-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	3-1
v. Bournside School 3rd XI (H)	Won	6-0

Team from: M. Faircloth (Captain), V. Tredwell (Vice-Captain), R. Martin, R. Ogden, C. Hauton, C. Daniels, J. Gregory, N. Hall, A. Lainé, M. Rogers, D. Maslen, A. Bell, P. Smithson, C. Reens, A. Cochrane, T. Nicholls, J. Nicholls, A. von Westphalen-Bunge.

U15 XIs

Although this was not a vintage year, partly owing to a smaller year-group than usual, the side eventually made the most of its resources, improved its teamwork and ended the term with two welcome and well earned wins, after earlier disappointments. It was good to watch individuals playing with more commitment, thought and concentration and coming to realise the folly of dribbling the ball into solitary mazes in heavy Spring term conditions.

In the opening game we led Monkton Combe at half-time but were hard-pressed later, partly through lack of fitness, and were narrowly beaten. A closely fought contest against Cheltenham College ended in a draw; by now problems of finishing sharpness in attack and reliability in defence were evident. The Prior Park game was disappointing in that we were drawing with ten minutes left but then conceded two late goals after Graham Lawton, the defence's bulwark, had had to leave the field with injury, though Prior Park's greater mid-field drive probably earned them their win anyway. An unduly long gap in fixtures then eroded continuity, and the rust was reflected in an uneven performance against King's, Worcester, in early March, an oddly fluctuating performance that fittingly ended in a high-scoring draw. Predictably we lost to Dean Close on their new Astroturf surface, though we were only a goal down at half-time and showed better form all round. This was the prelude to possibly the best performance of the season, when we scored an encouraging early goal against Bloxham and went on to win 2-0. Finally, with a Palin goal two minutes from the end, we narrowly defeated a Marling team unbeaten in their previous seven matches, a gratifying climax.

This was an enjoyable season, despite only moderate success, and the individual and group progress and zeal were encouraging to see. Much of the credit for this is due to the captain, Graham Lawton, for whose example of skill and determination on the field and for whose administrative assistance I am grateful.

The 'B' team, too, developed well and ended with two wins from their four matches - congratulations to Christopher Payne, the captain, a much improved player himself, and his band of brothers.

J. N. H.

'A' XI

Played 7; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 10; Goals against 12.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Cheltenham College 'B' XI (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Prior Park College (H)	Lost	1-3
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Drew	3-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	2-0
v. Marling School (H)	Won	1-0

Team from: G. Lawton (Captain), G. Davies, H. Pugh, S. Vernon, B. Marshall, D. Howard, M. Head, J. Madeley, A. Palin, A. Young, G. Bennett, N. Houseman, A. Baker, C. Silchenstedt, J. Grafton.

'B' XI

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2; Goals for 4; Goals against 10.

v. Cheltenham College 'C' XI (A)	Lost	0-7
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	2-1
v. The Crypt School, Gloucester 'A' XI (A)	Won	1-0

Team from: C. Payne (Captain), H. Auld, N. Houseman, J. Wheeler, C. Walsh, A. Baker, J. Powell, G. Harris, M. Norman, P. Irving, J. Dowbiggin, C. Silchenstedt, J. Grafton, A. Pollard.

U14 XIs

There has been great enthusiasm for the game throughout the term, and all players in the group have improved their skills. The final session of the season, a tournament on the Astroturf at the Royal Agricultural College, showed clearly the potential of the group and also the depth of talent, promising many successful seasons in the future.

The 'A' XI, however, had a rather frustrating term. After a promising performance in January against King's School, Worcester, there followed a succession of games in which the team failed to work together with any real commitment. But in most of the matches they were only narrowly defeated, and this was due to the expert goal-keeping of Mark Valentine, the captain, supported by Alastair Graham and Andrew Sylvester at back. Despite the determination of Nigel Fischer at right-half and of Christopher Carmichael on the wing, both of whom played with great skill, there was little attacking power in any of the mid-season matches. It was not until the game against Dean Close that the team began to live up to its potential; Carmichael, moved to centre-forward,

combined with John Tate on the wing to make some good forward movements; in this match, too, Stuart Hall at left-half showed that he will be a player to be reckoned with in the future. But they played their best hockey in an excellent match at Bloxham, showing that they had learnt the importance of being first on the ball and of quick hitting: it was an example of good, committed teamwork, with Patrick Morgan and Paul Allan working tirelessly at inside-forward, and should be a pointer to success next year.

In contrast, the 'B' XI had a very encouraging season. In all their matches, they played with great enthusiasm and showed considerable skill. The strength of the team lay in the forward line, where George Agnew, who scored 7 out of their 16 goals, developed into a very useful inside and Gareth Jenkins made use of his speed to put across excellent centres from the right wing. A new-comer to the game, Tom Shaw, with a powerful hit, scored a number of good goals from the left wing, and Mathieu Laroche at centre-forward put constant pressure on the opposing players with his harassing tactics. The defence worked hard, but did not always hit the ball cleanly or mark tightly, producing some tense situations, particularly in the match against Monkton Combe, which were saved only by the very competent play of Richard Hutson, the captain, in goal. Charles Morgan-Harris and Daniel Morris also deserve mention for their sound play at half. The team's success was a reward for their determination and effort.

I would like to thank the captains, Valentine and Hutson, for the interest they showed in the game and for their leadership on the field, and the group as a whole for their co-operation in making the season so enjoyable. Finally, a special word of thanks is due to Mr Max Chase for coming to umpire the 'B' matches and for taking so much interest in U14 hockey.

W. J. D. W

'A' XI

Played 8; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 6; Goals for 2; Goals against 10.

v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	1-0
v. Cheltenham College 'B' XI (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Prior Park College (H)	Drew	0-0
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 1st XI (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	0-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-1

Team from: M. Valentine (Captain), A. Graham, A. Sylvester, N. Fischer, A. Platt, C. Morgan-Harris, S. Hall, J. East, M. Giggs, A. Beales, P. Allan, J. Tate, P. Morgan, C. Carmichael, M. Laroche, T. Shaw, G. Agnew.



'B' XI

Played 7; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 1; Goals for 16; Goals against 6.

v. Prior Park College (H)	Won	4-1
v. Cheltenham College 'C' XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	1-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Won	5-1
v. The Crypt School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-0
v. Marling School (H)	Won	3-0

Team from: R. Hutson (Captain), N. Rose, N. Nettleton, J. East, P. Croft, D. Morris, C. Morgan-Harris, G. Jenkins, G. Agnew, M. Laroche, P. Allan, A. Beales, H. Costelloe, T. Shaw, J. Jenkin, N. Priscott, J. Tate, P. Morgan.

U13 XIs

This season boys in their first and second years were combined to form U13 'A' and 'B' XIs. The mild January weather allowed plenty of practice on grass and this, along with play on the tennis courts and on Astroturf, helped to strengthen the individual skills of stickwork and hitting, as well as basic team-play.

The 'A' XI had an excellent season, playing some outstanding hockey and winning all their matches up to half-term; the two defeats suffered were disappointing, lethargic performances on Redgra. The general level of skill, including the inexperienced First-Formers, was very high and this, combined with great motivation and enjoyment and a remarkable fluidity in teamwork, led to solid defence and fast, incisive attack. All players contributed to the team's success, but special mention must be made of leading scorer Christopher Lawton, with six goals to his credit, of goal-keeper Andrew Branston, whose ability, determination and raw courage saved the team on numerous occasions and, of course, of captain and centre-half Julian Wilkie, whose talent, commitment and overall leadership were exemplary.

The 'B' XI developed well throughout the term, helped by an enormous improvement in individual skills and knowledge of team-play, along with greater confidence generally. The two most pleasing features about the squad were the enthusiasm and sheer effort shown in practices and matches and the way in which several members selected for the 'A' team were able to fit in without problem. By the end of the season the team's hockey was impressive, with a good performance against a strong Downs team, while the victory over the Oakley Hall 2nd XI was a satisfactory end to the season. All the players deserve commendation, but special praise must go to Steven Croft and Matthew Pentney, whose enthusiasm, determination and work-rate were exemplary, and to Tom Ramsden-Hare and Charles Dudbridge, whose uncompromising defensive play proved invaluable. Charles was also particularly efficient as captain, both on and off the field.

What of 1990? The experience gained by those in their first year this season should help them to form a solid nucleus for next year's 'A' team, while there is no doubt that Form II will go on to be successful U14 players.

P. J. S. M. J. N.

'A' XI

Played 8; Won 6; Lost 2; Goals for 17; Goals against 11.

v. Bredon School (H)	Won	3-0
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 3rd XI (H)	Won	1-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	4-0
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (H)	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 3rd XI (A)	Lost	2-5
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	4-2
v. The Downs School, Malvern, 1st XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (A)	Won	1-0

Team from: J. Wilkie (Captain), F. Barton, P. Boydell, A. Branston, B. Davies, N. Fulton, C. Jarrett, D. Kemp, C. Lawton, A. McIndoe, M. Pentney, R. Sage, I. Timbers, C. Waters.

'B' XI

Played 4; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 2; Goals against 6.

v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Cheltenham College Jun. Sch. 4 th XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. The Downs School, Malvern, 2 nd XI (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Oakley Hall 2 nd XI (H)	Won	1-0

Team from: C. Dudbridge (Captain), A. Bainbridge, J. Bainbridge, A. Beales, S. Croft, B. Herbert, D. Irving, S. Jones, A. Martin, C. Norman, M. Pentney, T. Ramsden-Hare, I. Thompson.

Cricket

To deal with this cricket season as a whole, to summarize in a headline *a la Sun* newspaper, one might say: 'COR, WHAT A SIZZLER!'

Thankful as one may be for this final impression, things do start much earlier in the year, when one tries to begin sowing the seeds of summer success in the cold, wet winter months. Despite the limitations imposed by the minor winter activities, such as rugby and hockey, I was often rewarded by the response of Forms III and IV as we came out of hibernation on Monday nights.

When the summer term started, it was with a wet afternoon reminding one of those winter nets in the sports hall. However, the season soon got going, and there were plenty of matches to get to grips with. In these matches, if results are important, Rendcomb has done itself proud.

Among the seniors there is a rich seam of talent, with boys reaching West of England trials; while some compete and take the school's name to this high level, I am equally pleased to see the continued growth and enthusiasm at the U15 and U14 levels, especially the development of 'B' team cricket at these ages.

The U13 team were extremely fortunate to have Paul Sykes looking after them; he has instilled great enthusiasm, and the nets near the swimming pool have been much used by these juniors, sometimes bowling to our senior batsmen, very occasionally and much to their pleasure, getting them out!

I enjoyed one such event: the only result was a long, very wry smile by the batsman, perhaps remembering his own small glories when, a few years earlier, he had bowled against the seniors.



This type of incident reflects the best qualities in Rendcomb cricket and its cricketers, making one forget some of the frustrations of winter evenings in the sports hall, the paperwork involved in making fixtures and all the prayers for no rain on games days!

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have played, and played the game, and all those who have helped, from the kitchen staff and our superb tea-girls to all who have helped in many small, important ways, and of course those who ran teams and umpired matches. Cricket takes a lot of time to run; it can be a glorious game and often was; thank you all for making it so.

M. S. G.

1st XI

1989 was an excellent season: the sun shone; we played all our 19 matches, losing only one, against Cheltenham College. We won 9 matches and drew 9; in all the draws we were in a winning position.

Some excellent performances stand out. Julian Fellows scored 105 in the first match and William Sherwood 100 not out in the last tour match. Richard Milner made 86 not out against Fairford; John Carroll and Kevin Holmes took the Prior Park bowling apart to win the game for us. Peter Grimsdale made 58 not out against Pate's when all around him were falling.

On the bowling side we have: Colin Bannister 5 for 21 against Wycliffe and 7 for 15 against the Crypt, Arwyn Jones 7 for 13 against North Cerney, Chris Huck 7 for 30 against Victoria College.

This year I saw the rewards of hard work come together; the standard of cricket we played was very high. Julian Fellows, Chris Huck, Arwyn Jones and John Carroll were all tried for the West of England, the first Rendcombians to achieve this. John Carroll, Arwyn Jones and Richard Milner all played for the West against Hampshire and did themselves much credit. Seven players have been chosen for County Schools U19 trials, with Julian Fellows as a possible captain. Rendcomb is now on the cricketing map, and our cricketers are bringing credit to the school.

At the end of the term we again went to Jersey, where we played three matches; I felt that the XI showed some of their best cricket of the season.

I must congratulate Chris King and the U14 XI for getting to the final of the Lords Taverners' tournament this year. Lastly, I must thank Kevin Holmes, who as captain always listened to advice and nearly always made the

right decision, all the parents who gave us such great support, the VIB girls who always had tea ready with a smile and my team of helpers; without their many hours' work we could not have coped with getting six cricket squares ready three times a week.

D. E.

Played 19; Won 9; Drew 9; Lost 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday XI (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 166-1 decl. (Fellows 105, Milner 56)
Swindon 98-9 (Le Fleming 3-20, Jones 3-32)

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Match drawn (2 days)
Rendcomb 187-4 decl. (Milner 69, Fellows 47)
Wycliffe 70 (Bannister 5-21, Suffolk 2-5)
second innings 169-5 (Suffolk 4-29)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 9 wickets
Crypt 36 (Bannister 7-15, Suffolk 2-10)
Rendcomb 37-1 (Fellows 25*)

v. Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 156 runs
Cheltenham 251-3 decl.
Rendcomb 95 (Fellows 46)

v. North Cerney CC (A) - Won by 71 runs
Rendcomb 125 (Jones 34*, Huck 22)
North Cerney 54 (Jones 7-13)

v. Bloxham School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 142 (Grimsdale 40, Jones 36*, Milner 27)
Bloxham 107-3

v. Marling School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 168-1 decl. (Milner 67*, Carroll 52*,
Fellows 33)
Marling 121-8 (Jones 5-39)

v. The Old Rendcombians' XI (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 161 (Lutwyche 54, Grimsdale 33)
ORs 148-9 (Milner 6-40)

v. Fairford CC (A) - Match drawn
Fairford 167 (Jones 5-62, Le Fleming 3-42)
Rendcomb 164-6 (Milner 86*)

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 156-8 decl. (Grimsdale 58*, Bannister 22*)
Pate's 134-9 (Jones 5-59)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 147-8 decl. (Milner 42, Carroll 31,
Sherwood 23)
King's 62-5 (Jones 2-10, Bannister 2-11)

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 120 runs
 Rendcomb 155-2 decl. (Fellows 75*, Carroll 56)
 Cokethorpe 35 (Huck 4-10, Suffolk 4-9, Bannister 2-10)

v. Rednock School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
 Rednock 64 (Jones 3-13, Le Fleming 3-6)
 Rendcomb 65-2 (Milner 31*)

v. The Staff XI (H) - Won by 9 wickets
 Staff 96 (Essenhig 32, Carroll 18)
 Rendcomb 97-1 (Fellows 40*, Carroll 38*)

v. Prior Park College (A) - Won by 6 wickets
 Prior Park 152-8 decl. (Huck 5-57, Jones 3-52)
 Rendcomb 156-4 (Carroll 46, Holmes 38*, Sherwood 26)

v. New College, Swindon (H) - Won by 9 wickets
 New College 72 (Huck 6-23, Suffolk 2-20, Jones 2-0)
 Rendcomb 73-1 (Carroll 57*)

Jersey Tour

v. Victoria College (A) - Match drawn
 Rendcomb 202-7 decl. (Carroll 69, Hughes 46, Fellows 28)
 Victoria 111-7 (Huck 3-18, Le Fleming 2-46)

v. Victoria College (A) - Won by 4 wickets
 Victoria 163 (Huck 7-30, Le Fleming 2-46)
 Rendcomb 165-6 (Fellows 81, Sherwood 24*)

v. De La Salle School (A) - Won by 80 runs
 Rendcomb 234-3 decl. (Sherwood 100*, Carroll 54, Hughes 42, Lutwyche 24*)
 De La Salle 154 (Huck 4-46, Bannister 3-20, Jones 2-32)

The team: K. Holmes (Captain), C. Huck, J. Fellows, R. Milner, W. Sherwood, J. Carroll, A. Jones, P. Grimsdale, C. Bannister, H. Le Fleming, N. Suffolk.
 Also played: G. Hughes, J. Lutwyche, R. Tate, W. King.

2nd XI

This was an exemplary season; the second team responded in a resourceful manner to my enthusiasm for positive, interesting cricket. They went for their shots, bowled to get batsmen out rather than to contain them and, whenever possible, played for the win.

They played with a belief in their own abilities and with the thought that, whatever the result, it would have been interesting; being afraid to lose often stops people winning and always lends itself to boring cricket.

We were lucky to have inherited a good mixture of experience and raw enthusiasm, and during the season several unheralded individuals came through to shine and play a vital role.

On the batting front we were helped by the resolution shown by Jonathan Lutwyche as an opener, and by the belligerent shot-making of Robert Tate and Grant Hughes; these batsmen often formed the basis of good scores, and during the season they received valuable support from several others.

On the bowling front our openers were William King and Richard Hughes. They proved a superb partnership

with their mixture of in- and out-swingers, and they should develop into a successful first-team pair next year.

Adding his skills and variations to this combination was the ever-willing Ashley Clark, and during the year there were fine performances from the hostile Guy Cowie and off-spinners Anthony Miles and Martin Smith.

By the end of the term the team was playing as an effective and sharp-looking unit, their fielding in particular much improved. While I was delighted with the contribution and attitude of the senior players, there is also much promise here for the future; other players not yet mentioned, Mike Moody (batting) and Adam Halliwell (wicket-keeping), could be key figures next year.

All those in the squad were given the opportunity to play; they were a credit in matches and even practised hard at times. I would particularly like to thank Jonathan Lutwyche for his outstanding contribution, understanding and determination as captain, Ashley Clark for the fine effort he made when standing in as skipper at short notice against Bloxham, and Robert Tate and Grant Hughes for the helpful way they dealt with less experienced players.

Finally, my thanks go to Oliver Ward for taking on so much of the scoring, and I suppose the captain will not forgive me if I fail to point out the result against Cheltenham College and to mention that the team were undefeated - as if this mattered!

M. S. G.

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 3; Tied 1.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Won by 6 wickets
 Wycliffe 62 (King 5-26, Cowie 3-4)
 Rendcomb 63-4 (Tate 35)

v. Cheltenham College (H) - Won by 39 runs
 Rendcomb 136-4 decl. (G. Hughes 63, Lutwyche 47)
 Cheltenham 97 (King 7-52, Smith 3-26)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Match drawn
 Bloxham 203-8 decl.
 Rendcomb 106-7 (King 37, Clark 27*)

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 85 runs
 Rendcomb 175-4 decl. (Lutwyche 85, Hughes 51*)
 Marling 90 (R. Hughes 5-28)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
 Rendcomb 167-8 decl. (Miles 36, G. Hughes 32)
 Pate's 94-6

v. Avonhurst School (H) - Match tied
 Avonhurst 83 (Cowie 4-5, King 4-29)
 Rendcomb 83 (Tate 28)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
 Prior Park 141-9 decl. (Clark 6-42)
 Rendcomb 99-5 (G. Hughes 42)

Team from: J. Lutwyche (Captain), G. Hughes, M. Moody, R. Tate, A. Clark, A. Miles, A. Digney, A. Halliwell, M. Smith, O. Ward, R. Hughes, W. King, M. Waddington, P. Bartlett, G. Cowie.

U15 'A' XI

Despite three heavy defeats, the group had a much better season, winning four of their twelve games. The aim was to bat first, occupy the crease and wait for the bad ball. This worked quite well, particularly in home matches. Nicholas Smith, in his second season for the U15s, and Marcus Head did an excellent job as openers, scoring over 500 runs between them; their running between the wickets was of the highest standard. They were well supported by John Wheeler and Henry Pugh, both of whom made a number of useful scores.

The opening attack proved effective on occasions. Gareth Davies bowled more aggressively as the season progressed, and Sam Lam either produced an unplayable ball to capture a wicket or gave away runs as wides. Henry Pugh maintained a good line and length and should develop into a useful first change bowler. The spinners, Nicholas Smith and Scott Vernon, bowled for long periods and returned good figures.

The ground fielding had its high moments and its occasional lows. Nicholas Smith and Sam Lam set good examples, and Graham Lawton did well behind the stumps.

Henry Pugh and Marcus Head took it in turns to captain the side. They were competent and usually made the right decisions. A number of the side will, I hope, make their mark in the 1st XI next year.

C. C. B.

Played 12; Won 4; Drew 4; Lost 4.

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Won by 16 runs
Rendcomb 132-3 decl. (Head 65*, Smith 33, Pugh 20)
Wycliffe 116 (Smith 4-37, Davies 3-19)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 4 wickets
Crypt 128-4 decl.
Rendcomb 129-6 (Head 33, Wheeler 32, Pugh 22)
v. Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 29
Cheltenham 33-0

v. Marling School (A) - Lost by 148 runs
Marling 189 (Smith 6-47, Pugh 3-47)
Rendcomb 41
v. Bredon School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 136-5 decl. (Head 44, Grafton 37*)
Bredon 95-7 (Davies 4-28)

v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 163 runs
Bloxham 216-4 decl.
Rendcomb 53

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 126-5 decl. (Pugh 31*, Smith 51*)
King's 98-9 (Lam 4-33, Pugh 4-13)
v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 129 (Palin 27)
Pate's 120-7 (Vernon 3-47)

v. Bredon School (A) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 80 (Head 31)
Bredon 83-7 (Davies 3-38)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 87 runs
Rendcomb 128-2 decl. (Smith 62)
Cokethorpe 41 (Pugh 4-17, Davies 3-13, Smith 3-12)
v. Rednock School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 132-5 decl. (Wheeler 41*)
Rednock 51-9 (Smith 6-4)
v. Prior Park College (A) - Won by 64 runs
Rendcomb 161-5 decl. (Smith 77)
Prior Park 97 (Davies 4-28, Lam 3-24, Pugh 3-16)

Team from: M. Head, H. Pugh (Captains), N. S. Smith, P. Evans, G. Davies, J. Dowbiggin, J. Grafton, P. Irving, G. Lawton, A. Palin, S. Vernon, J. Wheeler, S. Lam, G. Bennett, M. Norman, C. Payne.

(In the matches against Bredon School, Rendcomb fielded an 'A/B' XI)

U15 'B' XI

At first this fourth-year group had only a few real enthusiasts; however, as the season progressed the interest in the game grew, and more determination was seen in practices and matches. The bowling proved reasonably accurate, although lack of a good spinner was obvious, but the batting was the key weakness in most of the matches. Very few boys were able to play a good-length ball with any safety, and this was particularly apparent in the Prior Park game, when a medium bowler with a consistent very good length took five wickets for only 20 runs.

Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable season, which was certainly aided by the excellent weather and which involved nearly everyone as player or scorer.

C. J. W.

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3.

v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (H) - Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 44
Cheltenham 47-0

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Won by 5 wickets
King's 90 (Payne 7-15)
Rendcomb 94-5 (Marshall 24*)

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 57
Cokethorpe 61-4 (Howard 3-13)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 46 runs
Prior Park 97 (Howard 3-29, Marshall 3-24)
Rendcomb 51

Team from: P. Irving*, M. Norman*, J. Dowbiggin*, N. Houseman*, B. Marshall, A. Baker, G. Bennett, H. Auld, G. Harris, C. Silchenstedt, A. Neilson, D. Howard, J. Powell, M. Smith, C. Payne.

*took turns as Captain

U14 'A' XI

This year's team was a strong one, as we had depth in bowling and in batting. The bowling attack was varied. John Tate, Paul Allan, Stuart Hall and Nigel Fischer provided the seam attack, while Andrew Sylvester, Chris Carmichael and Alex Beales were our spinners.

The top four batsmen, Matthew Giggs, Mark Valentine, John Tate and Chris Carmichael, usually provided the runs; Nigel Fischer, Alex Beales, Richard Hutson, Charles Morgan-Harris, Paul Allan, Alex Faiers, Jeremy Jenkin, Andrew Sylvester and Stuart Hall also contributed invaluable innings during some of our close games.

Special moments during the season are hard to pick. Andrew Sylvester's 6-8 against Cokethorpe, Stuart Hall's 6-18 against Marling, the first-wicket partnership of 132 by Matthew Giggs and Mark Valentine against King's and the 113 partnership of John Tate and Chris Carmichael against Pate's were among the best.

Our run in the Taverner's competition produced some great performances and results, taking us into the final against a strong Cheltenham College team. We fielded well, but the odd bad ball gave them their runs. Our batting was defensive, managing only 65 runs in 40 overs, but the result does not reflect the spirit and performance of the team.

I would like to thank Mr King for his time and encouragement, which helped us through some difficult matches!

MARK VALENTINE

Played 13; Won 7; Drew 2; Lost 4.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Match drawn
Wycliffe 149-7 decl.
Rendcomb 139-3 (Carmichael 40*)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 8 runs
Rendcomb 100
Crypt 92 (Carmichael 4-12)

v. Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 125 runs
Cheltenham 132-2 decl.
Rendcomb 17

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 54 runs
Rendcomb 113-4 decl.
Cokethorpe 59 (Sylvester 6-8)

v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A) - Won by 15 runs
Rendcomb 124-4 (Valentine 49, Giggs 38)
Sir Thomas Rich's 109

v. Bloxham School (H) - Match drawn
Bloxham 145-6 decl.
Rendcomb 95-8

v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 2 runs
Marling 125-6 decl. (Hall 6-18)
Rendcomb 123

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 94 runs
Rendcomb 169-5 decl. (Valentine 95)
King's 75 (Carmichael 5-26)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 28 runs
Rendcomb 156-7 decl. (Tate 68, Carmichael 55)
Pate's 128

v. Avonhurst School (H) - Won by 91 runs
Rendcomb 147-2 decl. (Valentine 63, Giggs 46*)
Avonhurst 56 (Tate 5-9)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 93
Prior Park 94-1

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Won by 4 wickets
Pate's 48
Rendcomb 50-6

††v. Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 142 runs
Cheltenham 207-4
Rendcomb 65-8

Team from: M. Valentine (Captain), P. Allan, A. Beales, C. Carmichael, A. Faiers, N. Fischer, M. Giggs, S. Hall, R. Hutson, J. Jenkin, C. Morgan-Harris, M. Sansome, A. Sylvester, J. Tate.

† Lords Taverners' matches

†† Lords Taverners' final

U14 'B' XI

The U14 'B' squad this season was an unusually large and enthusiastic one which, after two early defeats, rallied well to record two excellent victories, against Cokethorpe and King's School, Gloucester. Patrick Morgan captained the team with increasing confidence and authority as the season progressed, and in this he was ably assisted by his vice-captain, Alastair Graham.

The bowling attack was the side's greatest asset, with opening bowlers Gareth Jenkins and George Agnew particularly well supported by the slow-medium, left-arm deliveries of Daniel Morris and Alastair Graham. Skipper Morgan also bowled well, varying his pace unpredictably. All the bowlers had their day, but Morris's five-wicket haul on his debut against Cheltenham College was a particularly outstanding achievement.

On the batting front fewer successes were recorded, but Dominic Egré and Richard Hutson showed themselves to be durable openers. Richard Hutson's 50 against Cokethorpe was the batting highlight of the season and quickly led to his inclusion in the 'A' team. Alex Faiers, Jeremy Jenkin, Mathieu Laroche, Mark Sansome, Andrew Platt, Jeremy Sawtell, Nick Rose, Stephen Pearce, James East, Daniel Morris, Alastair Graham and Patrick Morgan also batted with varying degrees of success in the course of the season.

All in all, it was a moderately successful season in terms of results, but an outstanding one in terms of motivation and enthusiasm. We would like to thank all the boys for their commitment and application and wish them every success in their cricket next year.

L. J. H.
J. G. W.



Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3.

- v. Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 10 wickets
- v. Cheltenham College U14 'C' XI (H)- Lost by 4 wickets
- v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 87 runs
- v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Won by 19 runs
- v. Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 94 runs

Team from: P. Morgan (Captain), A. Graham (Vice-Captain), G. Agnew, S. Barrett, H. Costelloe, P. Croft, J. East, D. Egré, A. Faiers, M. Fouracres, R. Gorman, T. Haine, T. Hughes, VC'. Hunter-Smart, R. Hutson, J. Jenkin, G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, N. Macartney, J. MacKinnon, M. Monteith, C. Morgan-Harris, D. Morris, N. Nettleton, S. Pearce, A. Platt, N. Priscott, T. Ramsden-Hare, N. Rose, M. Sansome, J. Sawtell, W. Smalley, J. Talbot, C. Walton, P. Williams.

U13 'A' XI

Despite a poor start to the season, this very enthusiastic side developed into a good all-round team, with lots of potential for the future. Poor technique with the bat resulted in some low scores in the first three games, but a lot of hard work and application gained their reward as the season progressed. In particular Andrew Branston

and Christopher Lawton impressed and Francis Barton, Luke Prosser and Julian Wilkie all played valuable innings.

The bowling was the team's strength, and at times the skipper was spoilt for choice as to who should bowl. Julian Wilkie was the leading wicket-taker, including two seven-wicket hauls. He was ably backed up by Luke Prosser and Robert Sage and, with the slow left arm of Barrie Davies and the medium pace of Christopher Lawton, the team could always produce a balanced attack.

Other encouraging performances include Andrew Branston's wicket-keeping, the enthusiasm of Neil Fulton, Adam Beales, Ian Timbers and Francis Barton, who were all in the 1st Form, and finally the handling of the team by the captain, Andrew McIndoe.

P. S.

Played 9; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 4.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 67 runs
Crypt 100-8 decl.
Rendcomb 33

v. Tockington Manor School (A) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 24
Tockington 26-5

v. Oakley Hall School - Lost by 108 runs
Oakley Hall 143-7 decl.
Rendcomb 35

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 2 wickets
Marling 43
Rendcomb 44-8

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
King's 135-9 decl.
Rendcomb 78-8

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn
Pate's 109-6 decl.
Rendcomb 53-2

v. Park School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Park 31
Rendcomb 32-2

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Cokethorpe 40
Rendcomb 43-0

v. Tockington Manor School (H) - Lost by 67 runs
Tockington 119-8 decl.
Rendcomb 52

Team from: A. McIndoe (Captain), A. Branston, J. Wilkie, C. Lawton, R. Sage, L. Prosser, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, I. Timbers, N. Fulton, F. Barton, A. Beales, C. Waters, M. Penney, C. Norman with N. Pollard (scorer).

Boys' Tennis

The replacement of the two ancient grass courts by new hard courts, thanks in part to the generous efforts of the Rendcomb Parents' Association, was a great benefit this year, and this was abetted by some of the sunniest Summer Term weather for years. It meant that very few matches and practices had to be cancelled, and the more sustained play resulting, with over thirty boys performing on games days, brought visible improvement from many individuals. There was probably also more strength in depth this year than usual (evidenced by the debut of a 3rd VI!) and certainly the 1st VI had a much more determined and purposeful approach than their immediate predecessors.

The first match, against Dauntsey's, brought a disappointing defeat; our rusty match technique was patently exposed by useful opponents who had already played two or three inter-school matches themselves and were too consistent for us. The next match, against the South Cotswold LTC junior team, brought a decisive, heartening victory, with signs of maturing tactical awareness, and the progress continued with an emphatic win in Cheltenham over Pate's. We then drew an exciting contest at Dean Close, where everything hinged on the final set of the last match, before concluding the season with further victories against the RAC Cirencester 'A' team and Cheltenham College 2nd VI. The game with Sir Thomas Rich's was unfortunately cancelled, and we were unable to find a date for Wycliffe College, prospective opponents next year.

The 1st VI's success was built on the development over the term of match strategy and greater patience. Guy Waller and the left-handed Charles Paine (first pair) learnt to improvise more and work for their openings, giving fewer cheap points to the opposition while retaining their own volleying sharpness. The second pair, Alex Bell and Andrew MacKinnon, with a different, less ebullient style but of similar standard, blended increasing aggression with their customary persistent defending and improved significantly on last year's form. This talented quartet were well supported by the enthusiastic third pair, Matthew Faircloth and Christopher Daniels, who combined effectively, banged away voraciously at the net, and hoisted orbital lobs when in trouble. Five of these six should be back for 1990, with added experience and talents.

A very successful parent-pupil doubles tournament was held on 18th June. A record 23 pairs participated, divided into three groups with scoring on an automatic handicap basis, and prize-winners were the Wallers, Beales and Crofts. It was a tiring, sunny, happy day, and we are grateful for the parents' enthusiastic support and

for the Parents' Association's donating of prizes.

My thanks also to Matthew Faircloth for his notably keen, courteous and cheerful captaincy this season.

J. N. H.

1st VI

v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 3-6
v. South Cotswold LTC (H)	Won 7-2
v. Pate's Grammar School (A)	Won 8½-1½
v. Dean Close School (A)	Drew 4½-4½
v. RAC Cirencester 'A' VI (H)	Won 7-2
v. Cheltenham College 2nd VI (A)	Won 8-1

2nd VI

v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 1½-8½
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won 5½-3½
v. Cheltenham College 3rd VI (A)	Lost 2½-6½

3rd VI

v. Dean Close School (A)	Won 9-0
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Mixed IV

v. St Edward's, Cheltenham (H)	Drew 4-4
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The following were in teams:

1st VI: M. Faircloth (Captain), G. Waller, C. Paine, A. Bell, A. MacKinnon, C. Daniels.

2nd VI: (from) J. Carter (Captain), K. Annan, B. Maslen, J. Jehan, C. Walsh, R. Rowlatt, S. Phalke, J. Madeley, A. Bunge, J. Gregory, J. Tomsett.

3rd VI: J. Jehan (Captain), J. Pratten, J. Tomsett, P. Smithson, C. Walsh, N. Wood.

Griffins' Basketball

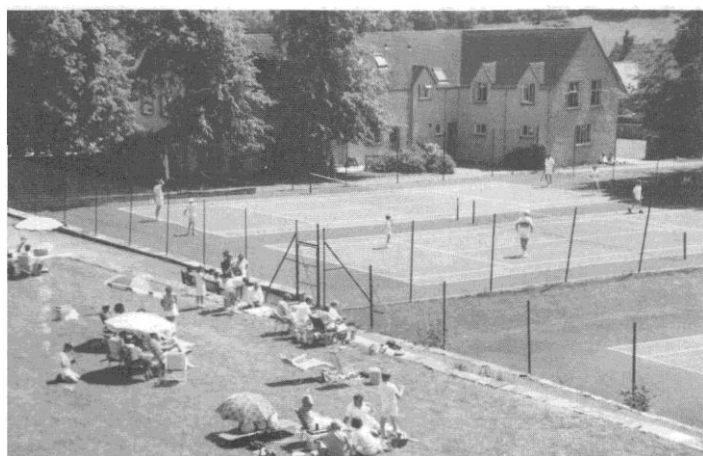
After hard practising every Friday afternoon in the Lent Term *The Griffins* managed to play two fixtures against Wycliffe College. The matches were fiercely contested, Rendcomb losing narrowly in both: 42-46 and 51-57.

The 'backboards' players must be commended, notably Henry Le Fleming in defence, who used his advantage in height and build in devastating turnover capabilities. In offence Aubrey Powell also used his height to score many valuable baskets. The fast breaking by Julian Fellows and Jason Carter were crucial, and they were well supported by Jeremy Jehan, Peter Grimsdale and Colin Bannister. In defence the team adopted a man-to-man structure, demonstrated most ably by Russell Ogden. Glen Harris's ball handling was also a useful contribution.

Once again, we all had an enjoyable season and, although the team is now losing some talented members, up and coming players from lower in the school will compensate for this. We would like to thank Mike Newby for his time and effort in coaching us to a higher standard of play.

JEREMY JEHAN

Team from: J. Fellows (Captain), C. Bannister, J. Carter, G. Davis, P. Grimsdale, G. Harris, D. Houseman, J. Jehan, H. Le Fleming, R. Ogden, A. Powell.



Girls' Sport

Girls' Hockey

Yet again we managed to field two high-spirited and enthusiastic teams. Matches were few and far-between, owing to bad weather.

Those played produced disappointing results until the last match of the season, against Marlborough College. This saw the girls at their best, with a full line-up of boisterous supporters. Whether it was their running commentary or the final emergence of true talent which contributed more to the 4-0 victory we shall never know!

We would like to thank Miss Goldsmith and Mrs Manners for their constant encouragement and enthusiasm.

LOUISA JOHNSTON

Played 10; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 7; Goals for 12; Goals against 19.

1st XI

v. Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	0-5
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Cirencester School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Bournside School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (A)	Won	2-0
v. St Edward's School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Bournside School (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	4-0

2nd XI

v. Cheltenham College (A)	Drew	1-1
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First team from: L. Johnston (Captain), H. Sumsion, J. Naish, L. Merrett, A. Carter, S. Deacon, A-M. Chapman, L. Fellows, E. Anderson, F. Reichwald, S. Hardy, L. Haine, C. Mallindine, S. Denley.

Girls' Tennis

I think everyone will agree that we had an enjoyable season, although our results were not all successful. We felt the loss of VIA, duty-bound to their 'A' level studies, and so, left with a small number of players, we played social tennis, which we found both interesting and fun. Through dedication, our standard improved dramatically, and next season we shall be a stronger team.

We would all like to thank our captain, Sara Deacon, and our coach, Mrs Manners, whom we shall be sorry to lose; she has shown us that tennis is a game which can prove very rewarding.

Our thanks go also to those members of the school who supported us at our home matches, giving us the needed encouragement.

SUZANNE DENLEY

Team from: S. Deacon (Captain), A. Carter, A-M. Chapman, L. Haine, S. Hardy, L. Johnston, J. Naish, K. Russell-Duff, S. Waddington, L. Brummitt, S. Denley, L. Fellows, E. Fouracres, N. Malins, C. McAree, J. Platt, F. Reichwald.

Girls' Netball

This was yet another enthusiastic netball season, with two good teams put forward at each fixture. Unfortunately, and to our great disappointment, the results did not reflect the hard work and determination of all team members.

The matches were lively and played with true Rendcomb spirit. It is a pity that there were not more home matches; with our dedicated fan club, our scoring rate would have been phenomenal. Our thanks go to Mrs Manners for being such a patient coach.

LARA HAINE

1st Team: Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5.

v. Chosen Hill School (A)	Lost 12-21
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won 16-15
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Won 12-8
v. St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Won 14-8
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Lost 14-16
v. St Edward's School, Oxford (H)	Won 20-9
v. Stroud High School (A)	Lost 13-15
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 10-12
v. Chosen Hill School (H)	Won 14-8
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 11-16

1st Team: L. Haine (Captain), A. Carter, A-M. Chapman, S. Deacon, L. Johnston, J. Naish, K. Russell-Duff.

2nd Team: S. Hardy (Captain), J. Platt, L. Fellows, R. Hodgkinson, S. Denley, S. Payne, K. Swan.

Other Sports

Archery

The Archery Club gained many new members this year. Because of this increase in numbers and our enjoyment of the sport, we celebrated the end of the Christmas Term with a dinner. Speeches were made by Nick Hett and Chris Vallenge, and the dinner was so successful that we hope it will become a tradition.

The standard of archery has risen over the year; members enjoyed the competitions and the more fun forms of archery like Darts and Clout. Clout can be played only in the summer; it involves shooting an arrow into the air and hoping it will fall near a target lying on the ground!

During the Summer Term we worked towards achievement badges, and this brought extra enthusiasm

to the sport as people sought personal fulfilment.

This year has been great fun, and I think everyone would like to join me in thanking Mrs Essenhigh for all her patience with us as we learn to become 'archers'.

Finally, my thanks go to Hilary Sumsion, who has been a most efficient secretary.

CARRAGH MCAREE

In the Autumn and Spring Terms we entered the Winter Indoor Postal League, run by the Association for Archery in Schools. There were three shooting periods. The final position of our composite team was sixth in the second division, while our simple team came fourth in the first division.

Composite bows team from: H. Sumsion, J. Head, C. McAree, N. Malins, N. Hett, G. Jeffries.

Simple bows team from: C. McAree, N. Malins, C. Vallenge, K. Swan, A. Bell, P. Evans, N. McMurtrie, D. Chapman.

The 'Top Girl' in the AAS rankings was won in five out of the six possible slots by Rendcomb girls:

	1st shooting period	2nd shooting period	3rd shooting period
Composite		H. Sumsion	C. McAree
Simple section	C. McAree	K. Swan	K. Swan

Badminton

Even though it is a minor sport, badminton had a very successful year.

The weekly coaching periods given on Wednesdays by Mr Jones and Mr Bristow were well supported throughout the school. Even the seniors turned up regularly, which allowed us to play three matches against Cheltenham College and keep an unbeaten record.

The teams for the first two matches consisted of four pairs, each playing the others in one game up to 21. The first, played at the end of the Christmas Term, resulted in an 8-8 tie, a big improvement on last year's 3-13 thrashing.

	Won	Lost
K. Russell-Duff and C. Bannister	2	2
A. Bell and A. Jones	3	1
A. Miles and A. MacKinnon	2	2
R. Mitchell and C. Paine	1	3

The second match was played at the beginning of the

Easter Term. With one change to the team we won 9-7, the captain and his partner winning the deciding game:

K. Russell-Duff and C. Bannister	1	3
A. Bell and A. Jones	4	0
C. Paine and J. Pratten	3	1
A. Miles and A. MacKinnon	1	3

The last match was played towards the end of the Easter Term, with the format changed: each team consisted of three pairs which played each other in the best of three games up to 15. The result was a 5-4 victory for Rendcomb:

J. Pratten and C. Paine	2	1
A. Bell and A. Jones	2	1
C. Bannister and K. Russell-Duff	1	2

Finally, I thank Mr Jones for his assistance, and I hope that this improvement continues.

COLIN BANNISTER

Judo

Why spend 60 minutes on a Tuesday evening trying to avoid being squashed, strangled, choked or hurled across a room by 15 other people? Why not, you may say! But the prospect of being the only girl almost put me off joining the judo club this year. My first term at Rendcomb, with mountains of work and countless new faces seemed daunting enough, without allowing myself to be beaten up once a week.

But I did join and, as well as thoroughly enjoying myself, I've discovered how false my own presumptions, and those of most of my friends, were.

At first some of the boys were worried about throwing me properly but, once I had brought them to the floor quite hard a few times, chivalry went largely out of the window. Strength, I found, isn't really important in judo, except at advanced levels. Girls can quite easily throw boys (much to some people's amusement), as long as they aren't embarrassed by some of the holds!

I did have quite a nice crop of bruises to exhibit after my first class but, if you are sensible and fall properly, there is little chance of hurting yourself at judo.

Unfortunately a lot of people give it up after a couple of weeks. I'm proud of my place in the club, however, and am looking forward to the grading and my chance to win a higher belt. So don't be put off by what they tell you. Judo is *fun*, and I look forward to seeing some more girls in the club next year.

KAREN SWAN

N. Cochran





NO. 5	TOTAL	NO. 3
06	179	21
T MAN	OVERS	
	39	
TS 3	00	



