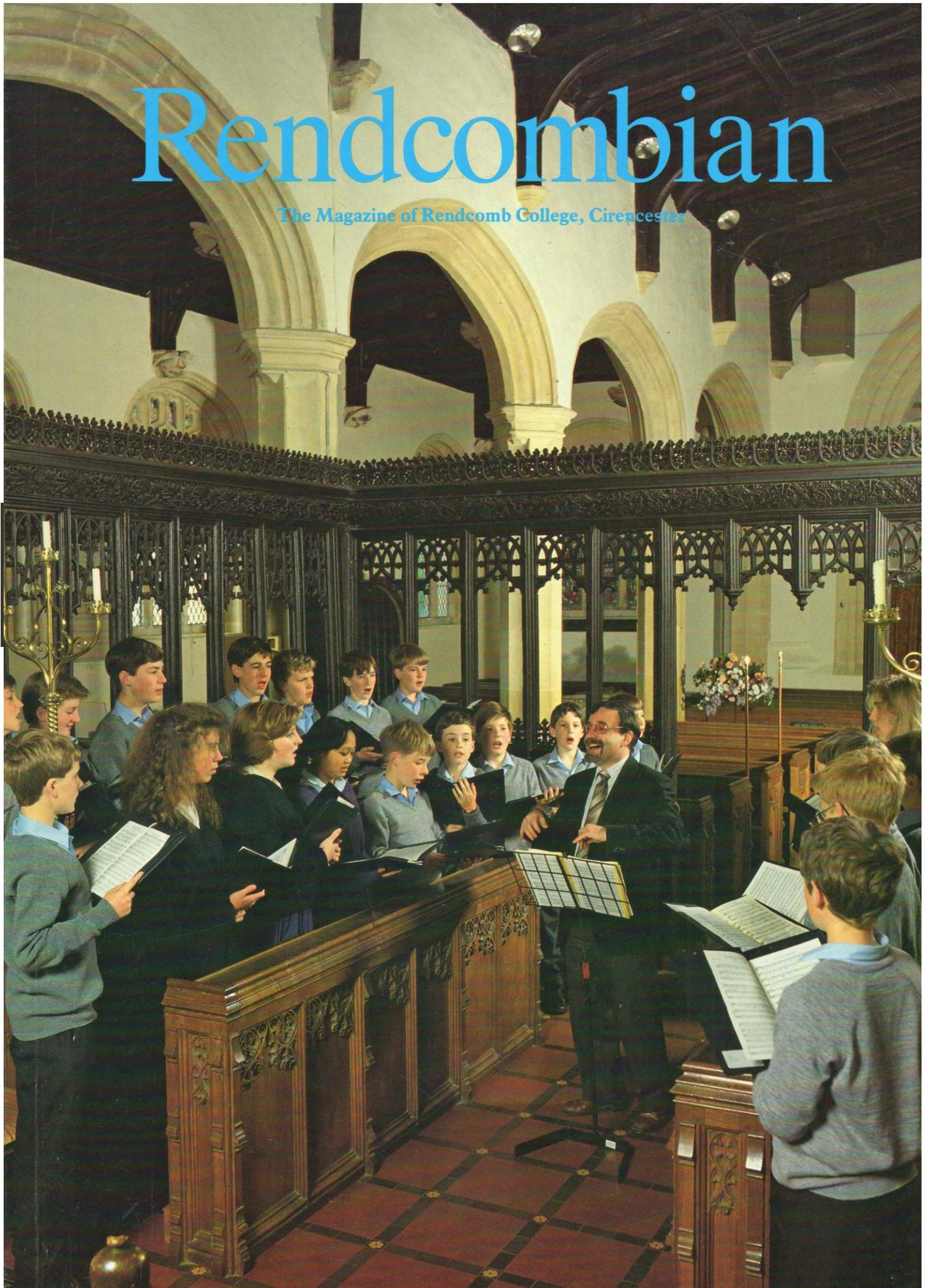


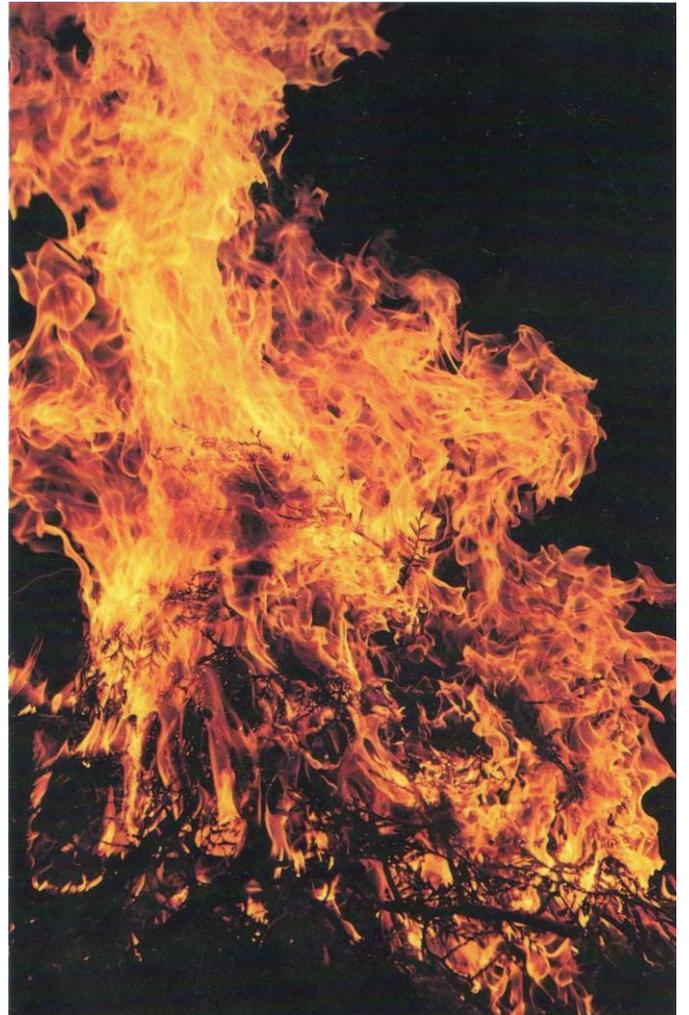
Rendcombian

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, Cirencester





Camelia Hawaii by Sonya Naish First prize
in photographic competition.



Fire by Paul Sumsion.
Third prize.



Harnborgasjön Lake,
Sweden by Andrew Martin.

Rendcombian

No. 9

September 1991



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(Inside): Fashion Show *Photo:* C. J. Wood

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The Record 1

News in Brief

Christmas Term 1990

After an exceptionally hot and dry summer, term began on 2nd September but, with continuing good weather, **it took some time for rugby practice and matches to get fully into their stride.**

On 8th September the now annual **Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride** for the **Second and Third Forms** took place, raising **£427. 50** towards the upkeep of the churches in the diocese. **The Junior House visited the Black Country Museum and Severn Valley Railway** on 9th September and went to Oxford to see a performance of *The Horse and his Boy* by C. S. Lewis on 8th November. **Godman House went to Longleat** on 14th October, to a performance of *On the Piste* at the **Bristol Hippodrome** on 5th November and to the **Pantomime at the Everyman Theatre** on 7th December.

Sixth Form trips included visits to Stratford for *Much Ado About Nothing* on 27th September and *King Lear* on 15th October, to a **Ride Pop Concert** on the same date, and to see *42nd Street* and *Showboat* at the **Bristol Hippodrome** on 29th November.

Mr G. Oxborrow, from Friends of the Earth, gave a lecture to senior forms on 5th October. **The Hughes Peace Prize Lectures** were given by **Brigadier Michael Harbottle, Mr Malcolm Harper and Mr George McRobie** on 12th October. **Pam Ayres** visited the school again on 18th October and took part in a **Poetry and Music Evening on behalf of National Children's Homes.** This year's **Michael Wills Memorial Lecture**, given on 27th November, was a fascinating talk by **Professor G. Wilcock on Alzheimer's Disease.**

The first of three performances, much enjoyed by the audience, of **Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector*** was given on 22nd November.

The **Music Department** organised its usual series of informal concerts. On 22nd September **David White and John Evans** gave a **Two Piano Recital.** On 5th October the choir sang at the memorial service for **Hector Barrantes**, stepfather of the Duchess of York, in **Chedworth Parish Church**; the Princess Royal and the Duke and Duchess of York were present, and **Charlotte Carroll** was the soloist. The choir also took part in **Evensong at Miserden Church** on 4th November and gave a **Christmas concert in the Dulverton Hall** on the 1st of

December. **An Advent Carol service was held in Rendcomb Parish Church** on 2nd December.

Sadly, **the Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church had to be cancelled,** owing to an exceptional blizzard on the last Saturday of term. **School finished early, on 8th December,** and pupils were allowed to leave and try to beat the weather. Those sixth-formers who could not get away so early held their Christmas party that evening. **The ORs' rugby match was cancelled,** as the worst snow for some years closed the term in striking contrast to its warm beginning in September.

Easter Term 1991

Rendcomb emerged from the liberal quantities of snow heaped upon it during the early and middle part of the term and continued about its business, much the better for the sledging.

The Bishop of Gloucester confirmed 23 candidates from the school in the presence of their families in St Peter's Church on 10th March.

Rachel Hopkins and J. H. Siderfin gave a talk to **6A** on 'Financial Planning' on 18th January; **Brian Heap** talked to **6B** on 'Further Education' on 3rd March and **Mrs J. Mathewson** gave us a talk about 'Cults' on 11th March.

The Parents' Association held a Barn Dance in the Dulverton Hall on 2nd February.

Informal concerts were held on 3rd and 24th February. **The Choral Society sang Evensong in Bristol Cathedral** on 7th February. **Hummel's Trumpet Concerto, soloist Ian Spencer, and Haydn's Nelson Mass** were performed by the Choral Society and Orchestra in **Cirencester Parish Church** on 16th March. **A wind band day** was held on 22nd February at Lechlade in conjunction with **Hatherop Castle and The Convent of St Clotilde Schools.**

The 6B band *The Trivial Things* gave a **thunderous Rock Concert** in the Dulverton Hall on 9th February, with support from the costumed ***Crazy Boneheads.***

The Cirencester Youth Theatre gave a performance of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 ½* in the Dulverton Hall on 13th January. Throughout the term **The Drama Workshop** held meetings, culminating in a **performance of assorted sketches** on 10th March.

The Careers Convention was held on 3rd March, and liaison officers from the Army and the Royal Air Force visited the school during the term.

A party of 'A' level art students went to Paris on 15th February. The juniors visited the Cadbury factory and the Birmingham Science Museum on 31st January. During the Easter holidays 'A' level Biologists and Geographers went together on a course at the Loch Ranza Field Studies Centre on the Isle of Arran.

6B girls organised and presented their own fashion show, models drawn from the school exhibiting clothes the girls had made. A preview was given on 8th March, and the main performance the next day raised over £500 for the Romanian Orphans' Appeal Fund.

On 14th March the whole school took part in the Clean up the Cotswolds Campaign, collecting 42 bags of litter from around the grounds.

On Comic Relief Day, 15th March, students - and some staff - wore fancy dress and collected £137.61 for charity. In the evening the Sixth Form celebrated the imminent end of term with a disco and basket meal in the Dulverton Hall.

We warmly congratulate Tom and Nabila Gomersall on the birth of their second daughter, Chanelle, on 7th March.

A skiing party spent the second week of the Easter holidays on the slopes of Les Deux Alpes in France.

In March the Rendcomb team won the National Best Boys' Team Award in the Junior Equestrian Event at Gawcott in Buckinghamshire.

The following prizes were won by Rendcombians in the Hughes Peace Prize Competition: Senior Essay first prize - Rosie Moser, second prize Emily Tabassi, highly commended - Gareth Davies, James Grafton, Sarah Langley, Julian Madeley, Petra Watts; Junior Art prize - Francis Barton, highly commended - Steven Croft.

In the Amnesty International Poetry Competition first prize was won by Tom Hughes and joint third prize by Hugh Costelloe and William Hunter-Smart.

Junior Citizenship Course



Our Day Out

Summer Term 1991

On 19th April a 'New Sixth-Formers' Day' was held to introduce pupils due to enter the Sixth Form in September 1991 to the academic and social life of the school.

On 23rd April first-year biology students visited the Cotswold Wild Life Park. Sixth-formers saw *King Henry IV Part I* at Stratford on 29th April and *Twelfth Night* on 7th May. Members of 6B attended the Bristol University Open Day on 8th May, and on 17th May Form 2 spent a primarily musical day at the Guards' Depot at Pirbright. Form I visited the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge on 11th June. 6B science students went to Oxford University for the Science and Engineering Open Day on 27th June, and the next day the form visited the Olympia Careers Fair. On 1st July Form I attended a Junior Citizenship Course in Gloucester, in which they had to cope with real-life situations such as a car accident, a fire and being approached by strangers.

The Debating Society discussed the motion *that Conservation and Industry are not Compatible* on 24th April. Guest speakers were John Davis of Aerospace Engineering and Luke Downes from Friends of the Earth, ably supported by Aleks Maljković and Sonya Naish; the motion was defeated.

On 27th April the Parents' Association held a French Evening, with full four-course French menu and sixth-form waiting staff. Entertainment, patriotic and scurrilous, was provided by the Sixth Form and the First Form, controlled by the Director of Music.

Rendcomb's first Choir Dinner was held after Choral Evensong on Ascension Day, 9th May. The Orchestra gave a concert in the Reading Room on 12th May and an informal concert was held there on 19th May.

On 10th May **Gerald Thomas, director of the Carry on series of films**, gave a talk on the Film Industry and the famous series.

A private view of the Sixth Form Founder's Day Art Exhibition was given on 24th May.

The Guest Speaker on Founder's Day, 25th May, was Miss Rachel Trickett, Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford.

In May the **Rendcomb Community Service Group won an award**, for the second year running, in the National Westminster Bank's *Project Respond* Competition; appreciation of the group's work was shown also by **the allocation of a grant by the Bingham Library** to help with transport costs.

In May **Julian Wilkie won the Under-19 1,500 metre Gloucestershire County Championship**. On 1st June a **24-hour Sponsored Rugby Event** was held, to raise funds for **the Rendcomb College RUFC tour in Canada** from 27th July to 9th August. **The Family Day, including the Staff v Parents Cricket Match** and finishing with a barbecue was held on 2nd June. **The first Under-14 International Cricket Match, England v Wales, was played on Top Field** on 30th June. It was followed by a **Cricket Week**, during which the 1st XI played against the Gloucestershire Gipsies Club, Victoria College, Jersey, and the Old Rendcombian Society.

Rendcomb was the venue for the conference of the **Monmouth Group Deputy Head Masters** on 14th June.

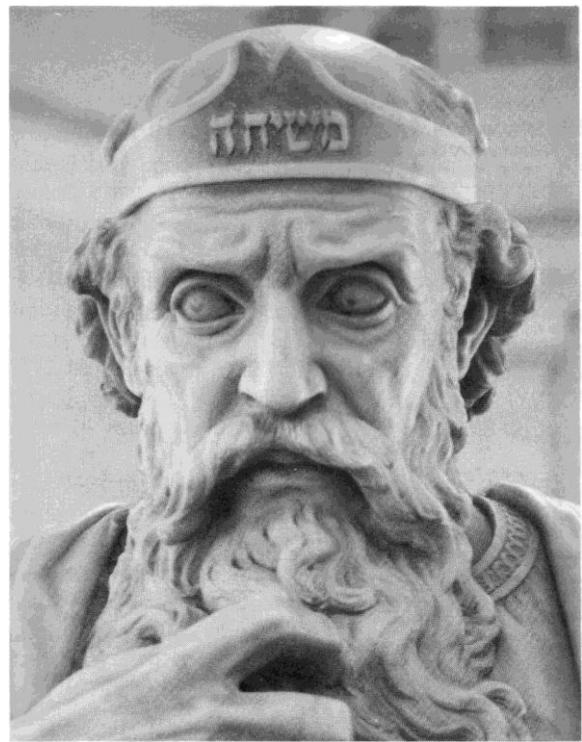
The Leavers' Supper Party was given on 21st June; **the Leavers' Service** was held in St Peter's Church the next day, followed by a buffet lunch for members of 6A and their parents.

The Fifth Form Work Experience Week began on 24th June. **The Junior Play, a musical by Willie Russell, Our Day Out**, was performed, and much appreciated, on 4th and 5th July.

On 2nd July **Captain J. Lawton of the Army Air Corps landed a Lynx helicopter**, still in Gulf War colours, on Sinclair Field, and the crew explained the workings of the aircraft to many members of the school.

We warmly **congratulate Chris and Liz King on the birth of their son, Henry David Christopher**, on 7th July, just in time for the holidays.

Lynx



The Governors and Staff Confer

On 12th April, two days before the beginning of the Summer Term, a consultation was held between the Governors and the Staff, attended by 14 of the Governors and by Mr R. C. Sommers, Head Master of Ralph Allen School, Bath, who kindly made the opening speech on the teaching of science and technology.

The general brief issued was to state the present practice in the school, to take note of relevant changes, tendencies and educational policies outside, and to consider the expectations for the adult life of pupils leaving. The question then to be faced was what developments could reasonably be undertaken, given a roll of 280-300 pupils, to adapt present practice to the requirements noted.

After a brief introduction by the joint chairmen, the Chairman of Governors and the Head Master, the assembly split into three groups for the morning discussions. In each case a chairman and an opening speaker or speakers had been appointed beforehand, a governor chairman working with a staff opener and *vice versa*. The subjects treated were the sixth form curriculum, the teaching of science and technology and the creative arts. At the end of the morning the groups came together in the Reading Room and reported progress; discussion was then open to the whole assembly.

After lunch governors toured areas of the school they had chosen to see, with staff guides. The morning's procedure was then repeated, with group discussions on social life, boarding and pastoral care in the sixth form and in the junior forms, and on sport and the grounds, with a general colloquy at the end.

Each group discussion produced a number of 'leads', matters for further consideration, and the meeting broke up shortly after five o'clock, the general feeling being that it had been a useful day.

D. de G. S.



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' CRICKET ASSOCIATION
ENGLAND UNDER FOURTEEN v WALES UNDER FIFTEEN
 at RENDCOMB COLLEGE on SUNDAY, 30th JUNE, 1991
 Hours of Play: 11.00 a.m. — 7.00 p.m.

ENGLAND			
*1. PHILIP NEVILLE - Lancashire	run out		62
2. MARK CHILTON - Lancashire	b D MORRIS		11
3. DAVID GOODCHILD - Middlesex	b S PHELPS		11
4. DAVID ROBERTS - Cornwall	c J NANCARROW b S PHELPS		1
5. ANDREW BOURKE - Yorkshire	lbw S PHELPS		26
6. ALEX MORRIS - Yorkshire	run out		36
7. LEE RATCLIFFE - Wiltshire	b G PHILLIPS		41
8. GARETH BATTY - Yorkshire	not out		0
9. DUNCAN AYRES - Cornwall	lbw D MORRIS		1
†10. JAKE JEFFREY - Yorkshire			
11. GARY YEELES - Hunts			
12. AMIT PRABHAKAR - Essex			
		TOTAL	196 For 8 wkts
	EXTRAS (b1, lb4, w1, nb1)		
Fall of Wickets:	1 23 253 3 69 4 103 5 119 6 195 7 195 8 196 9		

BOWLING			
D MORRIS	12-2-7-16-2		
A HARRIES	14-2-39-0		
J NANCARROW	14-6-46-0		
S PHELPS	23-13-31-3		
A HARRIES	10-1-34-0		
G PHILLIPS	5-0-25-1		
	* - Captain † - Wicketkeeper		

WALES			
1. GARY BUTTERWORTH - Gwent	lbw D AYRES		10
2. RICHARD JONES - Gwent	lbw A MORRIS		4
3. ANDREW HARRIES - Dyfed	b D AYRES		8
*4. ADRIAN HARRIES - Dyfed	b L RATCLIFFE		24
5. DAVID HEARING - Mid Glamorgan	c J JEFFREY b D AYRES		0
6. ANTHONY LEWIS - Dyfed	c A BOURKE b D AYRES		2
7. STUART PHELPS - West Glamorgan	c A MORRIS b G BATTY		22
8. GARY PHILLIPS - Dyfed	b L RATCLIFFE		0
9. JAMIE NANCARROW - Gwent	not out		8
†10. RICHARD EVANS - Mid Glamorgan	lbw L RATCLIFFE		0
11. DARREN MORRIS - Mid Glamorgan	c D ROBERTS b L RATCLIFFE		1
12. STUART WILLIAMS - West Glamorgan			
13. GLEN SCOTT - Clwyd			
		TOTAL	91
	EXTRAS (b8, lb1, w3)		
Fall of Wickets:	1 15 2 15 3 29 4 29 5 31 6 73 7 73 8 82 9 89		

BOWLING			
D AYRES	12-7-12-4		
A MORRIS	8-4-20-1		
G BATTY	15-7-25-1		
G YEELES	5-2-8-0		
L RATCLIFFE	9-6-17-4		

UMPIRES: Messrs. J. DOWNS and D. SMITH Scorer: M STEEN

Rendcomb Hosts an International Cricket Match

In February we were asked by Richard Harding, Chairman of the English Schools' Cricket Association, if we would host, on Sunday 30th June, a match between the English Schools' U14 XI and the Welsh Schools' U15 XI, the first English Schools' international match at this level, forming part of the Development of Excellence Programme. This is a joint venture by the Test and County Cricket Board, the National Cricket Association and the English Schools' Cricket Association to attempt, in a coherent programme, to identify and develop the talents of the best young cricketers between the ages of 12 and 19 in England.

On the afternoon of 29th June the England team, supported by parents, arrived at Rendcomb from as far afield as Yorkshire, Cornwall and Middlesex. John Abrahams, the National Coach, worked with the squad and selectors for about two hours, after which they transferred to their hotel in Cheltenham.

Before the match the members of the team were presented with their England Caps by Richard Harding. They proved far too good a side for the Welsh XI, winning by a margin of 105 runs. The scorer was our own Michael Steen, more at home with the Rendcomb U14 XI.

The planning and preparation David Essenhigh and I had done beforehand ensured a very successful day; I even managed to get the sun to shine! During the match many visitors and officials spoke very highly of the College and its facilities. The England Team Manager hinted that he would like to use the venue on a future occasion.

C. C. B

C. J. Wood



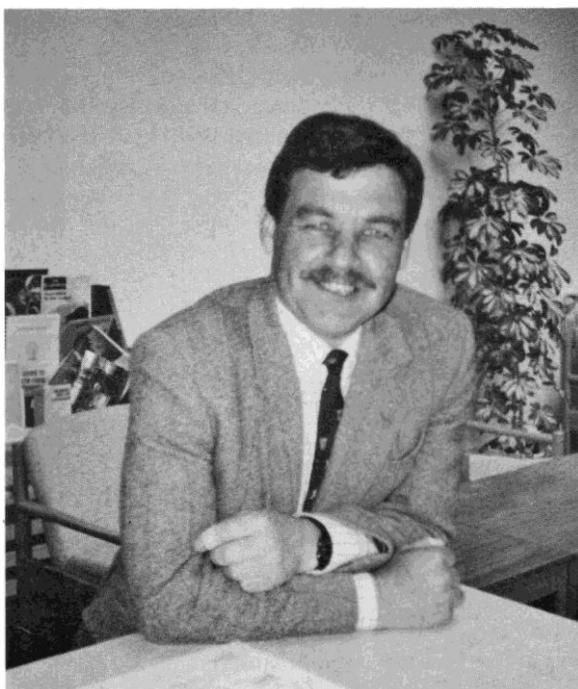
Rendcomb's first Deputy Head Master

Howard Morgan, 'Bobby' to his friends and colleagues, came here in September 1990 as Deputy Head Master. Towards the end of his first hectic term, Julian Madeley, James Grafton and Emma Thwaites interviewed him.

Howard Morgan was born in 1947 in Hatch End, Middlesex, the youngest of three children. He fondly recalls his parents' hard work in bringing up him and his two brothers, and all the sacrifices they made to ensure that their family had a good education and a happy childhood. When he was 10 the family moved to Kingston-upon-Thames, and he went to Kingston Grammar School. It was then a Direct Grant School, a form of education establishment now abolished, much to Mr Morgan's regret; most such schools have become independent and fee-paying.

Speaking of his schooldays he recalls with particular fondness the three years he spent in the Sixth Form; he took Oxbridge in his seventh term, after taking his 'A' levels. Although he did not get to Cambridge, he gained a place at Bristol University, where he spent a happy three years 'indulging in typical student activities at a marvellous place'. After that he took his PGCE at Cambridge; he admits that the lure of the place was not so much its academic clout as the possibilities it offered him for one of his life-long loves, playing hockey.

Although Mr Morgan enjoyed many aspects of his education, he regrets that the option system at school was far more satisfactory, limiting his choices up to 'O' level. He had made up his mind to become a teacher during his fifth year. It seemed to him then that his history teachers had a both enjoyable and fulfilling life, although he now feels that his judgement may not have been more than



superficially perceptive; he freely admits that when he became a teacher he had not a real clue as to what he was diving into!

Opting for the private education system rather than the state sector, Mr Morgan began his teaching career at Bishop's Stortford, in a school which provided him with plenty of opportunities to enjoy his interest in hockey. In 1972 he moved to Mill Hill School, a mixed day and boarding school, where he coached 1st XI hockey for some 16 years, drawing on his own formidable skills in the sport.

In 1974 he married Esther Roberts, then the resident Sister at Haileybury College. They now have three children, James, who is still a pupil at Mill Hill, Alison, now at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and Sarah, who has just started school at Cirencester. All are happily settled in the Cotswolds, although James perhaps remains a Londoner at heart and enjoys being there in term-time.

In 1979, when he was about to move on to another school, Mr Morgan instead accepted the post of housemaster at Mill Hill, gaining further experience of the boarding-school system which will no doubt prove useful at Rendcomb.

Hitherto, however, by far his proudest achievement has been not in the educational field but playing hockey for England in several international matches, fulfilling an ambition that is many a schoolboy's dream. He still has fond memories of his hockey career, but inevitably it has become less important as his teaching career has developed.

Mr Morgan has enjoyed his first term at Rendcomb, although he has some reservations about the school. In particular he feels that pupils do not make profitable use of their ample free time. He finds this a criminal waste in a school which has, for example, so many sporting, musical and technological facilities just waiting to be used.

We asked what he felt about the relatively new house system. He believes that, although it has proved a success, a more competitive rivalry between houses could be developed and encouraged. Inter-house sporting competitions should be arranged, and he would be surprised if they were not hugely enjoyable.

On the sporting front, he is impressed that such a small school has the courage to face and often beat such giants on the rugby field as Bloxham and Wycliffe. It comes as no surprise, however, to learn that he expects the pinnacle of our sporting achievements to be our hockey!

The interviewers comment that Mr Morgan has a hard act to follow in stepping into Mr Knapp's shoes. However, they feel that he has quickly established a reputation for firmness and fairness throughout the school, and his running of the Sixth Form Bar has given him plenty of useful contact with senior pupils. Similarly, his help with UCCA and application for other courses has been greatly appreciated by 6A. His duties are not simply administrative and disciplinary; he teaches history both to the Sixth Form and some lower forms. He has already begun to make his mark at Rendcomb, and it is hoped that he will continue to find the job as challenging and enjoyable as he clearly finds it now.

David Bowman

David Bowman, who came to Rendcomb in September to teach Mathematics, was interviewed by Henry Pugh and Paul Irving.

David Bowman was born in Tenterden in 1962 and was brought up in Kent, attending Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone from 1975-81. He recalls his schooldays fondly and was first drawn to the teaching profession when in the Sixth Form. His other ambition then was to be a nuclear scientist, a fascination he now observes to have passed!

Before going up to Cambridge he had a year out, teaching in Barrow Hills, a prep school in Surrey, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He has always liked the company of younger kids, and his enthusiasm for them has been amply demonstrated by the active interest and support he has given to the members of the Junior and Godman Houses here.

He admits that, reading Maths at Cambridge in 1982, he took far more interest in rowing - he was a member of the Churchill College eight - and an organisation called *Campus*, which arranged trips for underprivileged children, than in his academic studies. His involvement in *Campus* was stimulating and rewarding, but he rather cryptically remarks of these holidays: "We were never invited back to the same place twice"!

He left Cambridge for another spell at a prep school and then returned there to take his PGCE before coming to Rendcomb. We sought his views, as a relative newcomer, on the school. He feels that Rendcomb is rather isolated and he criticises some pupils for not making good enough use of their spare time. He feels also that the pupils can sometimes be a bit docile and that, whilst they are very enthusiastic about sports - 'their fantasy' - they do not always show enough commitment or involvement where other activities are concerned.

He feels strongly that the uniform should be abolished, because it is 'a deliberate attempt to suppress character'. He believes also that Rendcomb should become coeducational throughout and should consider taking day pupils as well as boarders.

David Bowman with Form 2 at the Black Country Museum



Mr Bowman enjoys a variety of leisure interests, especially sport and in particular cycling, mountaineering, rowing and surfing. He loves choral music, sings himself, and is proud to admit that he does *not* own a television! He feels that he should stay no more than four years at Rendcomb; he wants to remain in teaching, because he enjoys both the classroom contact with the kids and spending his free time with them. He hopes to develop the pastoral side of his career even more in the future.



Miranda Mather

This year we welcomed Miranda Mather, who arrived last September 1990 to take over from Angela Ball as assistant Matron. She very quickly settled into the role of helping Julie Rogers run Sick Bay and impressed staff and students alike with her patience, kindness and efficiency in carrying out all the many duties which fell to her. Within a remarkably short time we have all come to respect not just her professional skill and expertise, but also her wonderfully lively personality. For both staff and pupils she has been a tonic of sound and sensible advice; her superb sense of humour and ability to keep everything in perspective, even at the most eccentric moments in the life of a busy boarding school, have come to highly valued by all who know her.

M. C. C.

Gareth Thomas

Gareth Thomas arrived at Rendcomb in September 1989, and his appointment was a doubly unusual one, in that not only were we to share him with the Royal Agricultural College, but also he came to teach a wholly new subject in the Sixth Form, Business Studies. It is hard to believe that he come to Gloucestershire only such a short time ago, as he has become so quickly a popular and valued member of both common room and classroom.

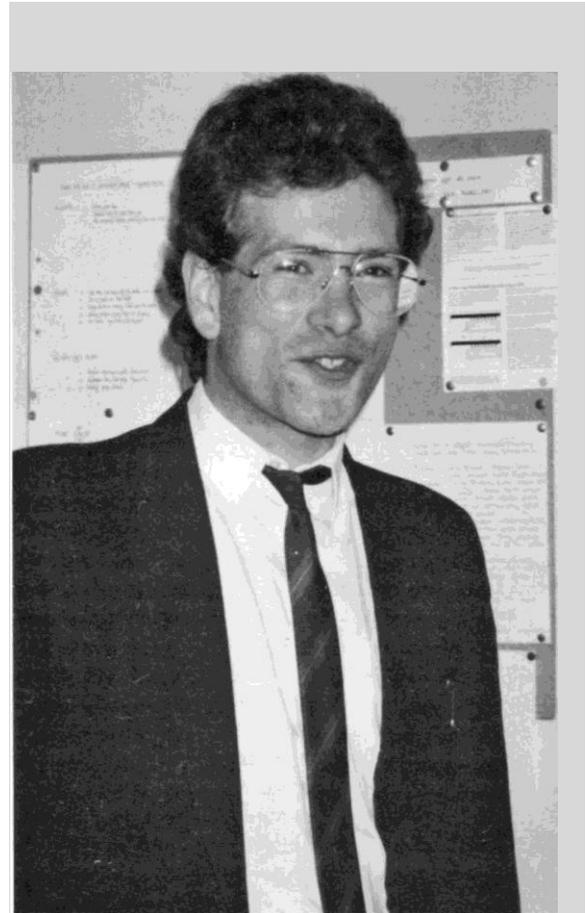
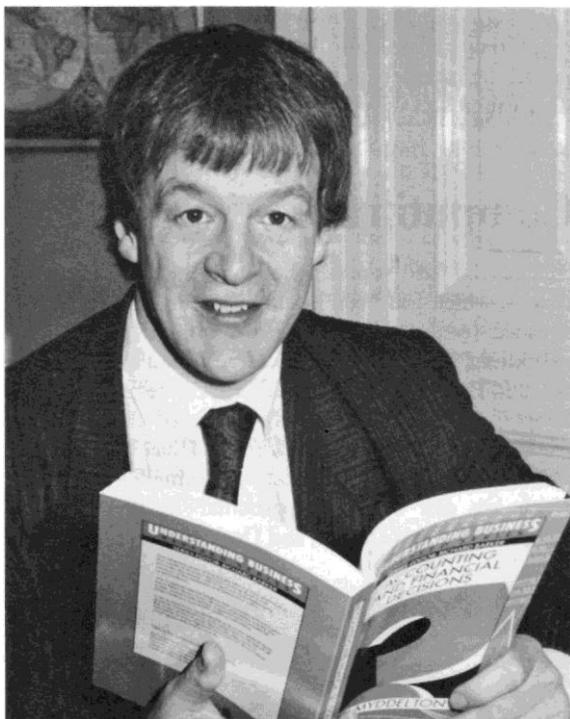
Gareth came to us *via* an especially interesting route; he spent 10 years, from 1974 to 1984, teaching in Zambia, first in Naboye Secondary School, Kafue, and then at Teachers' Training College, Kabwe; from 1984 he worked at Ystrad Mynach Further Education College in South Wales before taking up his joint appointment in Gloucestershire.

Starting a new subject at a school and working for two institutions at once cannot have been easy, and for the last year Gareth has also had to commute every day from Witney, where his wife Jan lectures at the West Oxford Technical College. Nothing daunted, however, Gareth has introduced Rendcomb to Business Studies with an enthusiasm and devotion that have ensured the successful launch and continued popularity of the subject. His students would be the first to pay tribute to his excellent teaching, to his patience and dedication, often extended to hours of extra coaching, and above all to his good humour and sense of fun. Colleagues will recall with respect his always sympathetic attitude to his students and his concern not only to get the best out of them, but to do his best for them as well.

In spite of his heavy commitments at the Agricultural College, Gareth and his wife have found time to support many school events. His love of and expertise in rugby will be fondly recalled by all who came into contact with them. As our only genuinely Welsh voice on the touchline he will be much missed! He also shared his hockey skills with Game 2C.

We all have our different memories of Gareth, of course, but we shall remember him as someone who always had an interest in, and time for other people. His kindness, his enjoyment of the good things of life, his easy relations with staff and pupils alike will all be sorely missed when he takes up his full-time position at the Royal Agricultural College in September. As he will be based only on the other side of Cirencester, we know that he will keep in touch and we hope that, as well as helping to develop our links with the College, he will return to visit us whenever he can; he will be assured of a very warm welcome. We wish him and Jan all the very best for the future.

M. C. C.



C. E. Branston

Adrian Bradfield

Adrian Bradfield came to Rendcomb direct from his PGCE course at Bristol University, after taking his first degree at the University of Sussex, working for British Aerospace at Bristol and then gaining his M. Sc at UWIST.

In his three years here he has thrown himself wholeheartedly, not only into his formal teaching in Physics and Information Technology, but also into the extra supervision of the Computer Room and the preparation of practical work for his Physics lessons. Indeed at times he seemed to be ever-present, whether at his desk in the Prep Room early in the morning or in the Computer Room on Sunday afternoons.

This enthusiasm for work has spilled over into his willing assistance with hockey, athletics and cycling and his pastoral role in the Junior House.

I have particularly valued him as a resourceful, valuable and dedicated member of the department; others will miss his friendly and cheerful approach in all aspects of his work here. We are sorry that he is leaving to join Woking Sixth Form College, but wish him every success in his new appointment.

D.A. H.

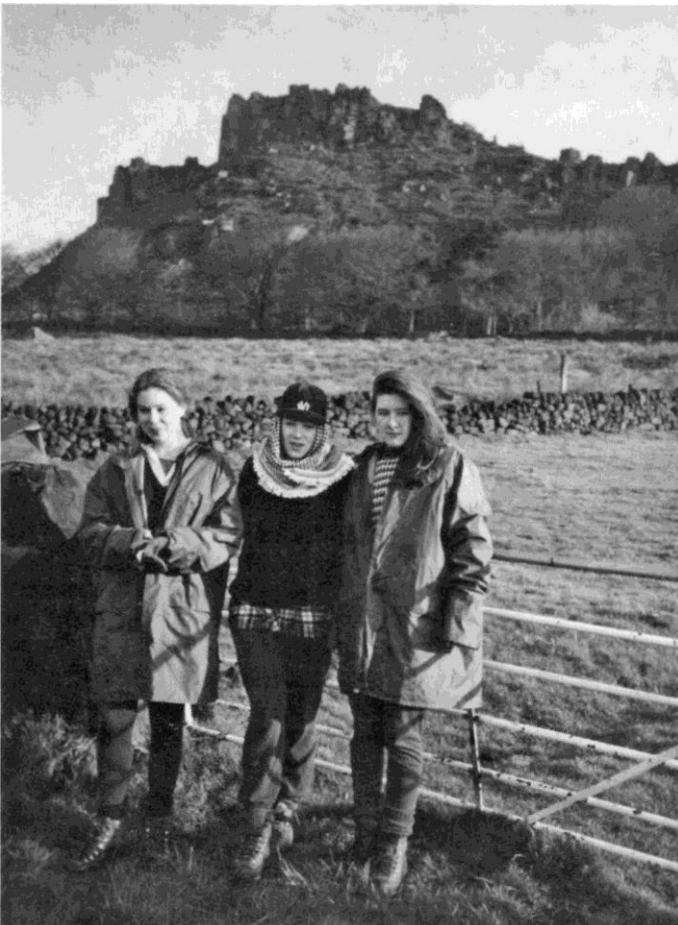


Marta Ferro

Marta Ferro joined the Modern Language Department in September 1990, to teach French and German part-time. A native Italian, she came to England at an early age and later read Modern Languages at the University of Leicester. Marta is fluent in French, German and Italian and has wide experience of teaching in both Secondary and Further Education. The mother of three young girls, over the past year she has impressed everyone - pupils and colleagues alike - with her efficiency, reliability and cheerful good humour.

L. J. H.

Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition



Reports

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The scheme continues to grow in terms of numbers of pupils taking the award. In fact an almost overwhelming number of 'Gold' candidates, 22, have embarked on the course this year.

It is especially pleasing to note the growth of interest among the girls. A word of caution is needed, however, as we still await the first Rendcomb girl to complete every section of the award, and indeed the national drop-out rate is high. In my view this reflects the scale of the challenge the award makes to the prospective candidate, and Alex Hall is to be congratulated on gaining his 'Gold' this year.

A notable 'first' during the past year has been the success of a group of girls in passing the expedition stage of the 'Gold' award. They tackled and survived exactly the same conditions as the boys in the Peak District, Mid-Wales and Snowdonia, and all fourteen passed their assessment in the Black Mountains.

Another 'first' was the staging at Rendcomb of the South Cotswold Area award ceremony for all candidates, whatever their level. Rendcomb rather dominated proceedings numerically, with 38 successful 'Bronze' candidates.

The diversity of the activities followed by those undertaking the courses is worth noting. In no particular order, boys and girls in any week will be engaged in such things as bell-ringing, bridge, photography, community service or acting as Cotswold Wardens, and of course there is the famous band of cooks working with Mrs Newby to produce the excellent D of E tea party!

This list ignores all the sports and musical instruments played at least in part with the aim of gaining an award.

I must mention a few members of staff without whom the whole scheme would fold. Mr O'Connor has been a tower of strength with his organisation of the 'Gold' expeditions, and he has spent over three weeks of his holiday time away with groups during the last 12 months. The help of Mr Newby and Miss Goldsmith in supporting him has also been invaluable. I thank them and all the members of the staff who give of their time to allow candidates the opportunity to follow the award.

C. P. M. K.

Computing

During the last summer holidays the BBC network system, which had been heavily used for five years, was replaced by a system of 10 RM Nimbus 286 microcomputers, linked to a 386 fileserver with a 110Mb harddisk and Laser Printer by an Ethernet system. This IBM-compatible system has greatly improved the resources available for use by all students and has widened the range of Cambridge Information Technology modules which we can offer, in particular in the fields of Computer Art and Design, and Desktop Publishing.

The Word-processing, Database and Spreadsheet facilities are also much improved, enabling items such as the 'A' level and GCSE choice booklets to be produced internally. Part of the BBC network has been retained for Teletext and Prestel use, which still forms an important part of the course.

It is interesting to note that our first computer was an 8k Commodore PET, purchased in December 1978 for £660; our latest machines have 250 times the memory, network capability and a built-in disk drive, for an equivalent cost!

As finances allow, we hope to extend the network to include a scanner system and CD-Rom player; a Compact Disk can hold a complete encyclopedia, or the whole of the text from the *Times* and *Sunday Times* for a year!

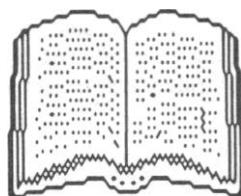
D. A. H.

Cambridge Information Technology

The following fifth formers obtained module certificates:

S. J. Barrett (5), A. L. E. Beales (5), H. J. Costelloe (4), W. P. Croft (6), J. R. East (5), M. E. Fouracres (2), R. S. Gorman (3), T. E. Haine (5), W. D. Hunter-Smart (5), C. Morgan-Harris (5), D. W. Morris (5), S. P. Peace (6), N. D. J. Priscott (3), N. C. Rose (5), J. E. Talbot (6).

Completion of at least five modules results in the award of the Cambridge Certificate in Information Technology.



Library

There have been many changes in the Library this year. Initially, the bookshelves were re-arranged to create a more open layout, and many outdated books were removed or placed in a reserve stock. The space produced has been used to add some new books, move some sections and improve the display facilities.

Apart from this, the major task undertaken by the Librarians, Alex Hall, Linda Eklof, Paul Sumsion and Andrew Martin, has been the jacketing of all books with covers. This has improved the appearance of a large proportion of the stock, and in the future all new books will be jacketed.

Major purchases during the year have included *The New Grove Musical Encyclopaedia* and *The Times World Atlas*. There was a very successful Librarians' outing to Oxford, to buy both new and second-hand books. There have also been some welcome donations from Old Rendcombians and others; these are always appreciated.

Even though the major problem of stock control and an outdated card index remain, it is hoped that the increased use of the Library will be sustained, and that it will be a substantial resource for course and project work throughout the school.

D. A. H.

Bursar's Notes

Viewed from the Bursar's office, such as it is, the highlight of the Autumn Term was the completion of the extension to Godman House by half-term, two months earlier than planned. This extension was designed by the Falconer Partnership, who were also responsible for the two new boarding houses, and built by the firm of M. J. Partridge of Birdlip, who have been associated with the school for many years; the more recent examples of their work can be seen in the School House study bedrooms facing the Wilderness, the Stable Block computer room and other classrooms.



The extension to Godman House means that it can sleep 44 boys, which is the number required to fill the three senior boys' houses when these pupils go up into the Fourth Form. There is now a superb new common room, ideally suited to playing carpet bowls!

We have recently organised a visit from a Health and Safety Consultant experienced in school administration, to ensure that we are fully conversant with the myriad regulations that now engulf us. I am glad to say that we were pleasantly surprised at the outcome of his visit and that there is no horrendous capital cost looming. One important comment is that senior pupils who bring back electrical equipment to their study bedrooms must ensure that it is properly wired up, and I do look to parents to ensure, please, that this is done.

A slight excitement during the Lent Term was a request by Mercedes Benz to photograph one of their new Space Wagons outside the school buildings, using a photogenic pupil in rugby kit with his 'parents'. Patrick Morgan was selected from a host of willing applicants and received a photograph of the affair for his pains. We have not yet seen any sign of the photographs in any Mercedes advertisement, but we live in hope.



Mercedes-Benz advertisement

E. T. Thring

At the end of the Lent Term the Head Master organised a litter collection day, to coincide with the Cotswold Litter Collection Week, and this produced 42 sacks of litter, all of which came from the College. It was a useful exercise, which we intend to repeat.

We now await the arrival of our summer holiday let to 'The Christians' for three weeks. They are returning after a two-year absence, and it will be interesting to see how they will manage to fit in with the reorganisation of the Main Building. If this is a success, I have no doubt that they will continue coming here, as they very much enjoy Rendcomb's situation and facilities; who wouldn't?

I must commend the tireless activities of the Parents' Association. The recording studio was paid for and in action by the start of the Autumn Term, and they have now raised the sum required to provide for the reception of continental television programmes by satellite, primarily for the benefit of students of French and German. I am sure that the heads of these teaching departments will ensure that the programmes are suitably monitored! I am sure also that listening to the news and current affairs documentaries in these two languages will be of inestimable use to our students for their GCSE and 'A' level courses.

This is an appropriate moment to pay tribute to our caterers, Messrs Fairfield, who have now been with the College for six years. Never for one moment have I regretted calling them in; they were responsible for changing the feeding arrangements from the old 'family service' to a fully self-service operation with considerable choice; we can meet the requirements of vegetarians and even occasional vegans. The number of College functions seems to increase year by year, and each one has been met with great enthusiasm and a very high standard of performance. Our thanks go in particular to our Caterer, Tom Gomersall and to our *Chef de Cuisine*, Chris Abbott, whose nephew will be coming to Rendcomb next term. We are lucky to have such a competent, cheerful and well-led staff.

D. T. T.

Careers

The careers programme this year has followed the same general pattern of previous years, with the Morrisby Careers Aptitude Tests being taken by a number of fifth-formers, the majority of whom carried out school-based work experience, the remainder working from their home base.

The annual Careers Convention held in March was the largest and busiest to date, with a very successful careers bookstall run by Mr D. Coombes.

After examinations 6B scientists visited Oxford University for the Science and Engineering Open Day. The following day they were joined by the remainder of their form in our annual visit to the *Times* and *Sunday Times* Careers Fair at Olympia.

R. K.

There follow two reports on Work Experience, one in Veterinary Surgery and the other in Hotel and Catering Management.

The Lester and Mackinnon Veterinary Surgery, Cirencester.

The week, beginning on Monday 24th June, was on the whole extremely interesting. The day consisted of morning and afternoon operations, with visits to farms etc. throughout the day.

The operations were interesting to watch, and I learnt some of the procedures that take place. I also learnt some interesting points for discussion, if I make it to the veterinary college. The surgery was interesting as well, and I was allowed to take an active part in some of it during the latter part of the week.

Form 2 collecting litter



I also went out on house visits and to a few farms to look at the large-animal part of the practice. Here it was harder to take part and diagnose symptoms, as the animals are more muscular; it is harder to tell if an animal is just resisting you or whether its muscles are tight. If it does resist you, then it is much harder work. Diagnosis at the farm tends to take longer than in the surgery, as there are more animals to see to.

I did see the negative side of veterinary practice. I saw one dog die and two others put down. In a way this is good, because now I have seen both sides of the profession, and this will help me to make up my mind about becoming a vet.

Of course, putting an animal down is avoided whenever possible, but in some cases it is completely unavoidable, the damage to the animal being too severe for treatment or the pain it is suffering too much for it to bear.

I had an enjoyable week, and it helped to cement my choice of profession.

RICHARD HUTSON

The Corinium Court Hotel

Monday. Arrived on time and was introduced to the kitchen staff. All seemed very nice. Jobs given to me were clearing the tables of used plates etc. from breakfast, waiting, preparing drinks and snacks and washing up.

Tuesday. Basically the same as Monday. I was given the same jobs, but had to lay the tables as well.

Wednesday. I am really settling in now. I have become accustomed to the daily routine and know where all the utensils and crockery are kept. I carried out the general chores on the catering side of the job and also collected buns and cakes from a bakery in town.

Thursday. Today I realised just how friendly and supportive the people working here are. They are so helpful and they let me use my initiative, to encourage my interest in the hotel industry. I did jobs in the restaurant, bar and kitchen. Mr Harding and his wife are able employers and friendly people.

Friday. Today, my last, went quickly. I ended a constructive and thoroughly enjoyable week, having learnt much and had fun. Thank you.

The Parents' Association

Throughout the year I have been overwhelmed by the continuing generosity of parents towards their Association and by their support at social functions held both for enjoyment and for raising funds to help the College make purchases which might otherwise have had to be delayed.

The main efforts of my Committee have been towards raising £3,500 to enable the Languages Department to acquire satellite television equipment, which will be used to encourage children to watch continental programmes, with the aim of enhancing their skills in speaking the French and German languages.

Our first social event of the year was a repeat of the successful Barn Dance last held in 1989. Once again, music was provided by *Odd Piece*, and even the least able dancers had made some progress by the end of the evening, thanks to the cajoling and enthusiasm of the caller.

The Committee determined at an early stage that it would be most appropriate if at least one event had a continental flavour - hence the 'French Evening' at the end of April. This will rank as one of the Association's most memorable events, which provided much merriment for all who attended, raising an extremely useful sum towards the satellite television project.

The evening started to confident greetings of *Bonsoir!* and *Comment allez-vous?*, but parents' French soon deteriorated to a level at which even second-formers would be ashamed. *Les garçons* - excellent performance by sixth-formers - were nevertheless patient and sympathetic and, although they had been instructed not to serve food and wine unless engaged in good French, they took pity, and no one went without. A 'silent' auction was held during the evening, and at least one family will be enjoying garlic-flavoured meals for many months to follow.

Le Bistro

R. Carroll



Music Department to round off a truly enjoyable day. Thanks go to all those girls and boys who helped provide teas, run sideshows, sell raffle tickets and generally fetch and carry from College to Top Field and back again. The financial success of Family Day enabled the Association to donate £500 to the College Rugby Club to help support their Summer Tour in Canada.

My Committee has also assisted at events such as the 6B Fashion Show, junior and senior plays, musical evenings and so on, and I thank all of them for their hard work and enthusiasm. My thanks go also to the Head Master and the College Staff, particularly David White, who has the unenviable task of liaison, for their continuing support, and to Tom Gomersall and his catering team for the excellent food they have provided at every function.

The Association needs active parental support, if it is to fulfil its role in the future, and each committee member will be pleased to hear from any parent who may be able to offer assistance in the organisation of social events or in any other way.

We are already looking forward to 1991/1992; please support us and join in the pleasurable events we have planned.

ALAN RAMSDEN-HARE (Chairman)

Family Day



The Friends of Rendcomb

During the past year a number of parents have joined the Friends, and we are very grateful for their interest and generosity. Some signs of interest are appearing also among the younger generation of ORs, and we hope that this will spread.

The covenants made by our founder-members in 1984 have now expired, and I am happy to record that an encouraging proportion of these, our earliest Friends, have agreed to renew them.

During the year we have been able to transfer further funds to our investment account. Of course, the present economic straits make our work more important than ever, and the Trustees are indeed grateful for the support so many people have shown. We hope to continue extending the roll of Friends in the coming year.

D. de G. S.

Chaplain's Notes

In any course of World Religions, great emphasis is always placed on the study of 'Rites of Passage', the ways in which different religions mark the important events of birth, adulthood, marriage and death. At a school, rites of passage, albeit somewhat different, are also important and, though we do not have a 'Joiners' Service' - perhaps we should - our annual Confirmation Service and our Leavers' Service mark key points in the life of the pupils, and it is important that they should be memorable occasions. This year they certainly were.

On Sunday 10th March, on his final visit to Rendcomb before leaving the Diocese to become Bishop at Lambeth, the Bishop of Gloucester confirmed 14 boys and nine girls from the College. Speaking to a Church packed with candidates, relations, friends and members of staff, the Bishop talked about the real meaning of Christian discipleship and how the invitation 'Leave your nets, follow me and I will make you fishers of men' meant the same to Christians today as it did to the Disciples 2,000 years ago.

The individual acts of Baptism and Confirmation, followed by admission to Holy Communion as full members of the Church, the traditional hymns and prayers and the Choir's anthem from Haydn's *Nelson* Mass all blended together to make something very special. Those confirmed were: Mark Bartlett, Rebecca Bell, Claire Boydell, Samantha Cato, Gail Cawthorne, Nicholas Channing-Williams, Gregory Cook, Steven Croft, Zoe Davis, Timothy Gaskill, Kathryn Hodgkinson, Frederick Ingham, Christopher Jarrett, Stephen Jones, Daniel Kemp, Sarah McIndoe, Christian Millard, Sonya Naish, Patricia Renny, Piers Roberts, Andrew Riley, Charles Waters and Mark Williams.

On 22nd June the 51 members of 6A, together with their parents and members of staff, attended the 1991 Leavers' Service. It has become traditional for the leavers to choose their own hymns for the service, and whilst the

old favourites - *Cwm Rhondda, Jerusalem and Dear Lord and Father of mankind* - turned up as usual, this year a newcomer joined their ranks, *Tell out, my soul, the glory of the Lord*. However, all were sung enthusiastically and well and thoroughly merited their inclusion. The leavers also choose their own preacher, and this year found Mr Bill White on top form as, using a 'real' letter from a pupil to an uncle, he set about answering a number of questions about what sort of school Rendcomb was, what it set out to achieve and the ways in which the pupils had benefited from being there. Again, the whole service had a special air about it and will, I am sure, remain in the memories of all who were present.

There were, of course, other memorable services, the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, the Advent Carol Service, which, although we didn't know it at the time, had to double for our Christmas Carol Service, cancelled because of the snow, and our Choral Evensong on Ascension Day, which effectively marked the end of their time in the Choir for those who had their 'A' levels to sit before leaving College at the end of the year.



There were other memorable preachers too. The Chaplain of Westonbirt School, the Reverend Philip Dixon, talked about the importance of not bottling up our emotions, but allowing them to show and giving those around us a chance to share in and respond to our feelings, whether they be happy or sad. To let others help us is equally important, from a Christian point of view, as for us to help others. The Reverend Tom Bowman, Minister of the Baptist Church at Malvern and father of Mr David Bowman, called on us all to be like Martin Luther King and to 'have a dream' to hold ever before us as an inspiration for everything we did.

On the last Sunday of the school year we were joined by the Reverend Fred Pitout and his wife Anne from Michaelhouse School in South Africa, over in this country on an exchange with the Chaplain of Wycliffe

College. Using biblical illustrations, such as the parables of *The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Prodigal Son*, Mr Pitout made the point that not only does God forgive us when we go astray, but that he actually seeks us out in order to do so. To conclude his address he was joined by his wife, and together they gave a lovely rendering of *The Servant Song*, with Mrs Pitout accompanying them on the guitar.

But in addition to all these 'High days and Holy days' the worship offered in the Church has continued throughout the year, with Morning Prayers on weekdays and Holy Communion and Morning Service on Sundays. It is a good routine and, I think, caters for all sorts and conditions of pupils, who may in their various ways respond on the one hand to the mysteries of Holy Communion, or on the other simply to the chance of sitting in an old and hallowed building and being quiet for a few minutes at the beginning of the day.

All our worship involves and owes much to our music, and I am most grateful to Mr David White and Mr Stephen Lea, who have played the organ at Morning Prayers and respectively directed and accompanied the Choir on Sundays. We owe them and the Choir a debt of gratitude for leading our worship so effectively and enthusiastically. Our thanks are due also to Mr David Hawkswell and Dr Graham Smith, who have continued to assist with the administration of Holy Communion, and to Natasha Clements and Julia Lascelles, who undertook responsibility both for ushering and for organising the offertory procession at Communion Service.

Once again our Sunday Morning Services and weekday Morning Prayers have been looked after by a helpful and effective band of ushers, and our thanks are due to Tom Shillington-Balfour and his team, Rachel Seed, Kristie Sellers, Neil Walmsley and Richard Walters, who have organised the seating and kept the church tidy, whilst Mr Bill White has kept his usual sharp but benevolent eye over all arrangements.

A number of visitors have remarked on the way the Church feels 'cared for', and I am most grateful to all those who care for it, to those who arrange the flowers so beautifully, to those who clean it so thoroughly, to Mr and Mrs Frank Fry for all that they do to keep the Churchyard tidy, and to everyone who uses our old and beautiful Church in such a careful and respectful way. During the coming year we hope to establish a small charitable trust, 'The Friends of St Peter's Church, Rendcomb', the income from which will be directed towards the care and maintenance of the Church and Churchyard. If any of you would like to be associated with the trust, please get in touch with me for further details.

Finally, a word of farewell to all who are leaving Rendcomb. We wish you all the very best in whatever you set out to do. Please keep in touch with how things are going and, if ever you are passing this way, do pop in and see us. You will always be most welcome.

P. J. S.

Community Service

This has been another successful and worthwhile year for the College's Community Service Scheme, and one during which it has been possible to involve 46 members of the Sixth Form, 24 going every Tuesday to visit and help 11 of Cirencester's Senior Citizens and to work at the Play School run by the Cirencester Opportunity Group.

The College has received a number of letters from our 'clients', saying how much they appreciate the friendly and helpful attitude of our pupils, many of whom keep in touch with the people they visit throughout the holidays as well as during the term. Their appreciation was reflected during the year by the fact that the Scheme was selected by the Chelsea Building Society as their Youth Opportunity Group for January and by the National Westminster Bank as an award winner in their 1991 *Project Respond* Competition. It was also most encouraging to have our work for the community in Cirencester acknowledged by a substantial grant from the Trustees of the Bingham Library towards the cost of transport.

The Scheme ended its year at the beginning of June by holding a tea party at Rendcomb, to which all of our Cirencester friends were invited. Sadly, several were prevented by illness from attending, but those who came

enjoyed tea in the Dining Hall, followed by a guided tour of the College, seeing Rendcomb at its best on a sunny summer's afternoon.

About half of the Community Service Team leave at the end of this year, but there are already enough volunteers to make sure that we shall be off to a good start to the new year in September. To all of this year's team, whether leaving or staying, I express a very big 'thank you' for your efforts. You have done an excellent job and been very good ambassadors for young people in general and for Rendcomb in particular.

P J S

Members of the 1990/91 Scheme were: Holly Andrews, Becky Bell, Kate Bonniwell, Claire Boydell, Christopher Brown, Samantha Cato, Gail Cawthorne, Sophie Chang, David Chapman, Natasha Clements, Zoe Davis, Anna Dühmke, Anita Duguid, Laura Dutton, Julia Dymock, Patrick Evans, Katie Floydd, Kate Graham, Simon Hardie, Gregory Harris, Christine Haynes, Kathryn Hodgkinson, William King, Sarah Langley, Julia Lascelles, Sarah McIndoe, Anna Martin, Bridget Morrall, Rosie Moser, Sonya Naish, Andrew Pollard, Kate Ravell, Trish Renny, Tania Sayegh, Rachel Seed, Kristie Sellers, Tom Shillington-Balfour, Belinda Stanley, Elizabeth Syed, Emily Tabassi, Emma Thwaites, Claire Watson, Petra Watts, Amy West, John Wheeler, Charlotte Yates.

Julia Lascelles and Sarah McIndoe with Mr Scrivens

Chelt. Newspaper Co.



Godman House

This has been another busy year for Godman House, full of action, laughter and, above all, NOISE! A new wing has been added, providing valuable dormitory space and a new common room, essential with 41 boys in the house.

The usual house trips took place - ice-skating, Longleat and Alton Towers - as well as an enormous number of activities: cycling, cookery, wind-surfing, golf and canoeing, to name but a few. The indoor sports of pool and table-tennis kept the evenings busy, as well as the highly competitive chess club, otherwise known as 'The Beat Des Club'.

However, to give a real report on the house requires a different approach. First, the staff - arranged, of course, in order of importance - Mrs Sykes, Mr Sykes, prefects Nick Smith and Dan Bowerman, and the assistant, Mr O'Connor. The Sykes make a formidable house team, creating a sense of order, providing security as well as good humour, all vital to a successful house. One has only to observe Mr Sykes on one of his more, disciplinary forays, water pistol in each hand, pipe in mouth, ready to take on even the most hardened case. Nor should Mrs Sykes be forgotten. She is in fact the powerhouse, and woe betide the boy who has forgotten that Thursday is bundle night; his is the lonely vigil in the corridor whilst the staff play bridge.

The prefects this year have been excellent and much respected by the boys, Nick maintained the bridge tradition, whilst Daniel has proved his capabilities many times at night with his fried-egg sandwiches. They have made life so much easier for the Sykes and much fun for the boys, although I am sure that their common room could tell a few stories. As for the assistant, the less said the better!

However, it is the boys who make a house, and this year's lot have provided character and enthusiasm and NOISE! They have worked hard and played hard, if not always in the right proportion.

Here is an example. On Sunday 16th June nearly all members of the house were involved either in a cycling trip, London to Brighton, or in a canoeing trip to the Black Mountains. The former, organised by Mr Bowman, who throughout the year has arranged many trips and helped out enormously, saw about 16 boys complete the 50 miles. They all showed great determination and character, not least Rupert Wertheimer.

At the same time a dozen boys, including the terrible threesome of Chris Brown, Si Hardie and Dan Bowerman, were away with Mr Sykes and me. They all completed two tough walks and an eventful night exercise, Stephen Roney getting the prize for the most organised camper, having failed to pack his tent. Chris Sykes gets the stamina award, as well as having consumed the most United Biscuits. Our thanks go to Chris and Si once again for their splendid help; I hope they return as OR helpers.

Joking apart, I have thoroughly enjoyed the year in Godman, and I think most of the boys have too.

D. O'C.

The Junior House

The first event of the year was the annual sponsored cycle ride for Gloucestershire Historic Churches, in which boys of the second and third years were joined by the two new house prefects, Natasha Clements and Sophie Chang, for a pleasant ride through Cirencester to our Chaplain's former parish of Siddington, where we received a very warm welcome, including vigorous flag-waving by our cleaners.

The next day all the boys were travelling by steam-train along the delightful valley of the Severn to Bridgnorth, where they were able to look around the engine sheds in which much of today's restoration of engines takes place. Continuing the theme of dirty environments, they went on to the reconstruction of a coalmine at the Black Country Museum in Dudley.

Swimming and skating on Sundays at Cirencester and Swindon continued, but a new and popular experiment of allowing boys to go home on three extra Sundays a term was tried, and its success has guaranteed its continuation next year.

As in previous years, the Apollo Theatre, Oxford, put on an entertaining adaptation of a book by C. S. Lewis, and this time it was *The Horse and His Boy*.

The end of the Christmas Term was affected by heavy falls of snow, and the juniors were not sure whether to be pleased because of the potential hours of fun or unhappy because of the possibility of a lengthened stay at *Hotel Rendcomb* during their first holiday, a disaster avoided by the heroic feats of parents in retrieving their offspring.



C. E. Branston

Target Club continued as a Friday afternoon activity, and this year nearly every boy took part in the National Small-bore Rifle Association Proficiency Scheme, involving a course of instruction, a written test and 20 consecutive shots at six yards. Everyone achieved one of the standards, and Chris Webb won the school's proficiency medal for an outstanding score of 191 out of a possible 210 points. Ean Branston, Leighton Freeman and Christopher Walmsley ensured that the club ran smoothly, and the moving of shooting to the Sports Hall during cold weather was doubly successful, as it allowed the radio-controlled car club to operate simultaneously.

The second heavy fall of snow, in the Lent Term, temporarily halted hockey but allowed the ever-popular sledging - or whatever it is called when boys travel at high speed down towards the river on anything from plastic bags to old meal trays - to take place. It was on the 'slopes' that Ean Branston broke his hand and, more devastatingly, Mrs Wood broke her leg in two places, giving a whole new meaning to the term 'Junior House Breakages'! This may have provided the attic dormitories with early morning peace for a few weeks, but it was not long before Mrs Wood was hobbling up the stairs to evict late sleepers once again.



The visit to Cadbury World and the Birmingham Science Museum is reported elsewhere, but it is worth mentioning that extra pocket money was issued by the boy bankers that week, most of it being used to buy boxes of chocolate bars on special offer. The house entrepreneurs then set up their own tuck shop in competition with Mrs Matthews. Needless to say, they would happily visit Bourneville again!

We were all cheered up by the redecoration of parts of the house in peach and silver-grey; also, hidden from view except for the new energy-saving lights in the corridors, new electrical wiring has been threaded through the metres of conduit, as part of the continuing refurbishment of this, the oldest building in the school.

Appropriately, the Summer Term was packed with outdoor pursuits, including swimming, windsurfing, camping, thanks to Mr David Bowman, and cycling (see 'Ridgeway Ride'). The outing to the American Adventure on 9th June was a great success, such rides as *The Missile* and *The Canyon Trip* churning stomachs by exerting unnatural forces on those prepared to lay themselves at the mercy of gravity and hydraulics.

We have to say goodbye to our two girl prefects, who have been so active in the day-to-day life of the house,

and also to Mr Adrian Bradfield, the intrepid duty master who kept law and order on Thursday evenings. We shall welcome Miss Bridget Goldsmith in his place next year.

C. J. W.

Founder's Day

The Chairman's Speech

After welcoming the Guest of Honour, Miss Rachel Trickett, and all the guests, the Chairman of Governors went on to introduce three newly-appointed Governors, Mr David Barnett, formerly of the Gloucestershire Constabulary and a specialist in drug problems, Mr Howard Phelps, whose distinguished career in industry included the post of Director of Operations at British Airways, and Mr Allan Wyatt, a classicist from Cambridge, who had worked for 20 years in the Treasury before becoming Head Master of Cranleigh Preparatory School. He expressed his pleasure in introducing these people, whose breadth of experience would be of enormous benefit to the school.

Mr Norman went on to comment on the successful completion of the extension to Godman House, providing a new common room and increasing the number of beds available, a necessity now that the upper part of the school had been enlarged.

He mentioned also the Governors/Staff Consultation which had taken place at the end of the Easter holidays. It had proved to be a very productive forum for discussing the school's future and exchanging views on how to improve present practice.

Mr Norman concluded by thanking the members of the Parents' Association for their invaluable help and support over the past year, and by wishing all those about to leave the school good luck in their exams and good fortune in the future.



After the Chairman had finished speaking, there was a brief ceremony; Emily Tabassi and Sophy Denny presented a cheque for £720, raised by their Fashion Show in aid of the Romanian Orphans' Appeal Fund, to Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.



Laying a wreath on the Founder's grave at Miserden

The Head Master's Report

The Head Master started his report by commenting on the extent to which the Gulf War had touched Rendcomb: an OR had written from his Challenger tank in Saudi Arabia; the Chaplain was a stand-by visitor for Bulford Camp in the event of casualties, and he and the Matron had been ready to help as members of St John Ambulance Brigade. It had been most moving to receive a letter from a parent flying a helicopter in Iraq, thanking housemasters, their wives and staff for their sensitive care of his sons at this anxious time. Returning thanks to him and to all those who had taken part in the war, the Head Master remarked that this incident served as a reminder of the trust placed by parents in the staff, a trust perhaps especially marked by the choice of a boarding school.

Such trust did not mean that the school 'took over'; parents' influence over children was paramount, and the school's job was to work in partnership with them. Parents' support was a great value, at matches, concerts or the Parents' Association Cricket Match and Family Day, now a week away.

The Head Master turned to the Children Act, to come into force in October, which would bring together all law relating to children and would have a special additional section, No. 87, dealing with independent boarding schools. This meant that local social service departments would have a duty under law to inspect every boarding school, examining premises, records and procedures. He had already met officials of the inspectorate, who would surely bring common sense and humour to their task and who had declared that they had much to learn from schools, particularly about their partnership with parents.

Also in October, there was to be a National Boarding Week, started in London by a widely publicised event chaired by Lady Warnock, one of Rendcomb's Governors.

Boarding schools would open their doors to journalists and a wider public, who would be encouraged to see for themselves. The annual Rendcomb Open Day would be held during the first week in October.

Asking parents to publicise the Open Day, to come themselves and bring friends, the Head Master emphasised that not merely accommodation would be on show; he wanted people to see the life of the school in action, lessons, music, sport as well as boarding facilities and, most important, the pupils. Rendcomb was not as it was simply because pupils stayed the night, but because of the richness and variety of what went on and of a stimulating and demanding academic programme.

Remarking that such activity often took place outside the school, the Head Master mentioned first the choir's performances in Bristol Cathedral, at the Founder's home in Miserden, at the private memorial service for the stepfather of the Duchess of York and the performance of Haydn's *Nelson* Mass in Cirencester Parish Church.

The 47-strong Community Service group had won affection and praise from people in Cirencester for its work there and a generous grant from the Bingham Trust to cover travel. The group had won an award from the National Westminster *Project Respond* to add to the Youth Enterprise Award it had received from the Chelsea Building Society.

The school shared also in the life of the village, celebrated in the Parish Fete last September. Sunday outdoor activities took boys climbing in South Wales, an activity greatly helped by volunteer minibus drivers from among the parents. Recently the Junior House Ridgeway Ride, a two-day cycling trip, had received marvellous support from parents.

Trips outside the school included also theatres, RAF bases, army headquarters, concerts, camping and windsurfing, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, field trips, university open days, art galleries, canal trips and the projected rugby tour of Canada this summer.

Almost all these excursions would have been beyond imagination even 40 years ago, when almost all the life of the school went on within the grounds.

In this time of recession it was encouraging to hear that all the fifth form work experience candidates had been placed, and the school owed a debt of gratitude to all the firms who welcomed and encouraged Rendcomb's students on this scheme.

In spite of all this, people were based at the school and got some work done. The day's consultation between staff and governors, held during the Easter holidays, had been designed to look at the issues facing the school in this decade and beyond, informed by the prospect that boys now in their first year at Rendcomb would still be working towards the end of the third decade of the 21st century. As a result of the discussions a review of the 'A' level options system was under way, the aim being to increase flexibility and thus to make more widely available such non-'A' level courses as Information Technology, French for Business Studies, City and Guilds Home Economics, 'AS' level Theatre Studies, Art, Craft and Design, and Media Studies.

Defining Founder's Day as a celebration of what had happened during the year, the Head Master selected a number of events; the Parents' Association French Evening to raise funds for a satellite television receiver for the Language Department, the determined cricket played this term by a young 1st XI and many exciting games at all age-groups, another year of excellence in the Art Department, Julian Wilkie's Under-17 1,500 metres County Championship title, Rendcomb's riders' winning the British Boys' Equestrian National Championships, hockey played in all weathers, Sunday morning informal concerts, the Theatre Workshop Group, excellent debates, the productions of *Animal Farm* and *The Government Inspector*, some hard and entertaining rugby...

He would remember the people in this year's interesting and lively 6A, and in particular Tony Bunge and Kate Graham and the other prefects, who had so well exemplified the truth that the only 'perk' of being a prefect was the privilege of taking responsibility for other people. In thanking 6A for what they had done for the

Sketch by Nick Carmichael



school, he included the four early leavers who, he was glad to hear, were making good progress towards their 'A' levels.

The Headmaster concluded his report by thanking the teaching, administrative, maintenance and domestic staff for their sterling contributions to the success of the school year.

Address by Miss M. R. Trickett, MA

Miss Rachel Trickett, authoress, letter-writer, lecturer and musician, is at present Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford, a post from which she is due to retire in September of this year. She has been Chairman of the English Faculty Board.

Miss Trickett began her address by emphasising the particular importance and intensity of school life. The really memorable and significant part of one's schooldays was not the numerous trips, activities and outings that a place like Rendcomb provided, but the *inner* life, the development of the particular personality of the individual. School provided a special time and place in which the individual could evolve.

She then devoted the main part of her talk to the subject of the Sixth Form years. These were an especially important time in school life when you could really develop your independence, learn to work more by yourself and begin to exercise more choice over your future. The Sixth Form was essentially about being different; it was vital, she maintained, to develop differences and to preserve distinctions and discriminations, in order to realise yourself as an individual and learn to value and respect the importance of individuality.

Miss Trickett concluded by criticising what she saw as the dreadful modern cliché of *relevance*; society and educationists were far too preoccupied with the question as to whether or not something was relevant. It was much more important to ask the question, 'Is it *interesting*?' and to follow in life your own vision of what was inspiring, rather than to follow the herd and do what was merely relevant.

Speech of Thanks

by the Head Prefect, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge

Thanking Miss Trickett for her wise and witty words, which he knew would prove particularly valuable to pupils lower down in the school who still had the Sixth Form to look forward to, Tony Bunge spoke briefly about his lasting impressions of Rendcomb.

The Head Prefect's speech was, he said, an intensely personal affair; he did not find it easy to convey his feelings about a place as unique as Rendcomb. He felt that the simplest way would be to share with the audience what he would miss about the school, and perhaps a few of the things he would not miss.

He would not miss having to get up at 6.45 to watch boys in the Fourth and Fifth Forms running round the tennis courts, nor being nearly run over by a car every morning on his way to breakfast. He *would* miss the break-time queues and friendly atmosphere of the village shop, the staff *versus* girls netball match, with the staff resplendent in their games kit.

He would miss also the superb setting of Rendcomb, the glorious countryside, the great food, particularly the Rendcomb cooked breakfast and the friendly kitchen staff. He would especially miss the Chaplain's booming voice inspiring his flock to greater heights when singing hymns; the sheep did not respond very well so early in the morning, unless the hymn was a favourite, like *Jerusalem* or *Bread of Heaven*.

He would certainly miss the sport, particularly the comradeship and teamwork prevalent in every Rendcomb side, qualities upon which he believed the school's greatest victories were founded.

He would *not* miss the pressures of the last few weeks of preparation for 'A' levels; however, when the going really got tough and everything became just too much, he knew he could fall back upon the trusty adage which had served his predecessors so well in their hour of need...

'Pop the kettle on again.'

All these things, he said, were the very substance of Rendcomb life, but he had left out the most important point, with which he would like to finish. What he would miss about Rendcomb *above all* was the people, the people who contributed so much to the close but relaxed and friendly atmosphere, the people with whom he had grown up. When he looked back in years to come and thought of Rendcomb, they would provide the memory springing most vividly to mind.



Life study by Elisa Dühmke

Talks Green Matters

On 5th October Mr Graham Oxborrow gave this 'Talk and Policy-making' in the Reading Room. Mr Oxborrow is an 'active' member of Friends of the Earth and has participated in several demonstrations with the organisation.

He began by describing some of the many and varied activities of the Friends of the Earth, such as their efforts to encourage consumers to boycott aerosol sprays. These followed the discovery that the chloro-fluoro-carbons they contained destroyed the ozone layer, a fact which is common knowledge nowadays.

Mr Oxborrow also explained how the Friends of the Earth are arranged on both a national and a local scale; he is the treasurer of a local branch. This means that they can become involved in regional struggles to protect the environment, unlike similar organisations which protest only in a more general way. The recent struggle to save some trees in Stroud, which would have otherwise been cut down to be replaced by a Tesco superstore, is a good example of one such localised demonstration.

The second part of the evening, the 'Policy-making Workshop' involved the audience in the mock organisation of a campaign to protect the environment in some way. All present were invited to arrange themselves into groups and discuss how they would deal with a certain environmental problem. Ideas included setting up protests, writing to MPs and even, in one case, chaining each other to trees! A spokesperson for each group was then 'volunteered' and gave a quick overview of the group's decisions.

It was a very enjoyable and educating evening which will certainly provide food for thought in this 'green' age. We are very grateful to Mr Oxborrow for giving up his time to come and share his experiences with us.

JAMES SLEEMAN

Alzheimer's disease

The eighth Michael Wills Memorial lecture was given on 27th November by Dr Gordon Wilcox, whose prominence in the fight against Alzheimer's disease sees him as Head of the Department of Care of the Elderly at Bristol University and one of the founders of the Alzheimer's Disease Society. In his lecture he set about drawing our attention to this devastating condition, which together with other dementia-associated diseases afflicts approximately three-quarters of a million people in the United Kingdom alone.

Using slides, Dr Wilcox outlined the medical symptoms of the disease, such as amnesia and aphasia. He then went on to describe its human consequences: how sufferers are deprived of their memories and their personalities, as they forget how to dress themselves and what certain everyday objects are called.

What causes Alzheimer's disease, named after the doctor who discovered it, is as yet unknown, but research

has shown that it is a destructive mechanism which attacks the substance acetylcholine, one of the most important chemical transmitters for memory in the brain, leading to the mentally disabling consequence already mentioned.

Dr Wilcox's lecture was both informative and well pitched. Not seeking to dazzle his audience with science, he made us aware of this alarming condition, thought to be the fourth biggest cause of death in the developed world, demonstrating without scaremongering how widespread it is becoming.

We would like to thank him for taking the time and trouble to deliver this lecture, and we hope that the new drug *Cognex* will be successful in overcoming this progressive brain disorder, restoring sufferers' dignity and offering hope where previously there was none.

GRAHAM LAWTON

Lear enlightening

What a refreshing change it was to hear new ideas about our set book, *King Lear*, from Miss Moira Megau of Bristol University in her lecture on 27th February. Many of the theories we have been taught to accept were challenged, and we were encouraged to widen our perception of Lear and the other characters. Her primary message to us, 'great art asks questions, but doesn't give answers', is largely true of *Lear*.

Miss Megau suggested that the cannibalistic struggle between parent and child was the main theme of the play, echoed in the sub-plot of Gloucester and his sons. Her ideas seemed to reduce the greatness of Lear's character, and she explained our tendency to feel some sympathy with Goneril and Regan by implying that we are more similar to them than to the completely virtuous Cordelia.

Miss Megau pointed out that Lear wanted to marry his favourite daughter to France and, ironically, also expected to live with her. His love for Cordelia is of a consuming sort and, when she voluntarily submits to him towards the end of the play, he achieves the possessive relationship with her which he has always wanted. Perhaps this is why Shakespeare allows Cordelia to die after being reunited with her father, to show us that the gods are just after all.

Miss Megau also argued that the play exposes Shakespeare's doubts about religion, giving characters apparently contradictory beliefs. She observed also that the Fool was more of a hindrance than a help to Lear, that in effect he 'rubbed salt in Lear's wounds'.

Contesting the idea that Lear learns through his suffering, she implied that he remains more or less unchanged, his character being set and unyielding; although he may be prepared to throw off his clothes in a gesture of self-pity, he is not willing to reshape his ideas about life.

Even though Miss Megau's opinions were not shared by some members of the audience, she certainly raised questions for discussion, affected my previous thoughts about Lear's power and magnificence and perhaps also answered a few of the questions the play poses. Our thanks go to the Head Master for arranging this valuable visit.

SARAH LANGLEY

Carry On at Rendcomb

Perhaps it was too much English prep, or the indifferent weather, that contributed to making Gerald Thomas's talk on the *Carry On* films on 31 May probably the best attended this year. Certainly the number present, nearly half the school, and the huge variety of questions put to Mr Thomas, who directed all the 29 *Carry On* films, attest to the continuing popularity of these extraordinarily successful pictures.

As a keen fan of these films, the opportunity to listen to Mr Thomas talk informally on all aspects of his work and to meet him afterwards gave me tremendous pleasure. A modest, almost shy man, conforming not at all to the flamboyant image of the film director, Mr Thomas mixed fact and anecdote in his response to the numerous interested questions.

Of all the films, he felt *Carry On Up The Khyber* to be the most successful, and he described the last ten minutes of the film, in which Sid James, Joan Sims, Peter Butterworth *et al* defend the British Empire in India against the marauding natives led by Kenneth Williams as 'classic comedy'.

Carry On Camping, which includes the famous scene in which Barbara Windsor loses her bra during a strenuous workout, had been a less happy film to make because of the appalling British weather. The film crew had to spray the mud green and stick plastic leaves on the trees during a particularly inclement October. When finally it started to snow during filming, the flakes had to be passed off as blossom, as you can see if you watch the original carefully enough. Snow had also proved to be a problem on the set in *Carry On Follow That Camel*, to say nothing of the camel itself, which refused to move at all for two days.

Mr Thomas agreed that the quality of the films had deteriorated towards the end, principally because they had lost their talented script-writer, Talbot Rothwell, author also of the recently repeated *Up Pompeii* series. There had at one time been plans for a *Carry On Dallas*, but these had to be abandoned, because the American production company Lorimar had threatened legal action. Obviously the Americans were more sensitive than the producers of the Bond movies, which were superbly satirised in *Carry On Spying*, one of the vintage early films.

Mr Thomas made no pretentious claims in order to explain the phenomenal success of the films. These are now being written on the subject of the *Carry On* genre, no doubt gleefully 'deconstructing' all the stereotypes and exposing the comfortable myths that these pictures sustain of British life in a way that is hopelessly out of touch with the essentially playful, innocent spirit of these films. They are, Mr Thomas acknowledged, 'pure escapism', mildly titillating and owe much to the distinctively British traditions of vaudeville and music hall. They remain fantastically popular almost everywhere in the world, despite the fact that the last was finished over 30 years ago.

There are those who turn up their noses at these films, and many film critics have no time for them. There is surely, however, a lot more to be said for them as often superlative parodies of the clichés in which film itself



Gerald Thomas (fourth from left) with the *Carry On* team

frequently abounds. Moreover, as Mr Thomas's talk reminded us, it must be a strange world if fun and enthusiasm are always suspect. For an illuminating talk and for so much marvellous, harmless fun we salute him.

M. C. C.

Viewpoints 1

A different approach - Medisix Conference at Nottingham University

In the Easter holidays I travelled up to Nottingham to spend two days at a medical conference for sixth-formers, *Medisix*, held at the university. I didn't quite know what to expect, and images of balding, bow-tied lecturers droning on for hours appeared repeatedly in my mind.

These preconceived ideas could not have been further from the reality. The course was introduced and coordinated by a most lively extrovert, Garry Craven, who within a couple of minutes asked us to stand up... and grope the person next to us! What a funny sight it must have been: 220 students groping - within limits - complete strangers. It did, however, as he intended, break the ice excellently.

There followed a series of four lectures, taking us into the late evening. When the first lady started showing slides of skulls and skeletons, I thought my fears were to be realised but, as it turned out, she was just the exception.

Garry Craven, having introduced us all so uniquely, gave a positively hypnotising lecture on hypnosis. Although he was not allowed actually to hypnotise someone and 'make him be a canary', he explained to us the whole process and the use of hypnosis. He carries out self-hypnosis before giving a lecture, to cure his stammer. He told us also of a scheme under research whereby hypnosis is used to reduce pain for women in labour, which so far looks promising.

The fourth lecture of the evening again surprised us. It was on Pharmacology, and the lecturer produced a bottle of tablets prescribed, he said, for people with mildly high blood-pressure; various claims had been made about the tablets, and he wanted to test them on us. So we all took a tablet, trusting him implicitly. He claimed that our pulse-rates should be raised slightly and that a small proportion of people, those with higher IQs, would find that the pill tasted slightly sweet, instead of bitter. The results were as he expected, some 20% of hopefuls claiming that this most bitter pill was 'definitely sweet-tasting'. The pill, he then revealed, was Vitamin B⁶, a completely inert substance. He thus proved the point that *placebo* treatment, an inert drug given to a patient who believes that it is the real thing, can work merely because a patient's problem is often psychological.

At nine o'clock, despite being exhausted, we all had a chance to play 'doctors and nurses'. We took part, in groups of 16, in a Casualty Simulation, each person allotted a role and trying to kill off the patients!

They varied greatly: there was a drunk with a broken wrist, an overdose case, a diabetic urgently needing insulin, as well as a heart attack and a patient with haematoma. Although not very realistic, it was good fun and an excellent way to get people to meet other people.

The next day, after staying the night in one of the university halls, we had two more lectures. By this time it was no surprise when we were asked to stand up and repeat 10 times with great enthusiasm 'I like Myself!', all leading on to the role played by counselling, listening and understanding skills in the doctor-patient relationship.

In the last lecture we were provided with detailed information about the AIDS virus and then asked to think up possible ways of immunising against this horrific disease; it is a problem which will no doubt be foremost in scientists' minds for a long while yet.

The whole two days were extremely interesting and enjoyable, a good way to visit a university and see what it's like. One of the most worthwhile parts of the course was meeting so many people from so many walks of life and parts of the country, all with the same idea, to become a doctor. Although the course would not make me decide definitely whether to study medicine or not, it has certainly made me more interested and enthusiastic about all the various branches of medicine, and I am grateful to Mr Kelsey for arranging it for me.

SONYA NAISH

Being a Teenager

Adolescence, what is it all about? It is a period in your life when the whole world seems to be completely crazy, when your feelings change, when you mature, but also when trivial problems seem, indeed are, very worrying and hazardous concerns. For example, spots and pimples appear which can cause enormous family arguments and a great deal of heartache. One's image can be smashed in seconds; coming out of the hairdresser's can be an embarrassing and dreaded moment.

Embarrassment and image are very great parts of being a teenager. No one likes to be embarrassed, so one builds an image. It may be a tough hero or a funny daredevil, or even the class's eternal pessimist, but everyone has an image he hides behind and uses to protect himself, which is especially prudent while an adolescent. You begin to learn the rules of society, being polite and not shy.

Your feelings towards a lot of things change. You are still quite sensitive and vulnerable - another reason for an image - but you start to understand adults and begin to regard yourself as an adult, even if other adults do not.

For example, when your parents want you to babysit, they say, 'Well, you *are* 15'; if you want to go shopping or to a party, they say, 'You're *only* 15'.

Your feelings towards girls begin to change as well. When you are two or three, they are horrible; when you are nine to twelve, they are goddesses. When you are 15 plus, they become ordinary people; you want to be with them and you want them to like you.

Your feelings towards your mother and father change also; you start to feel that you can talk to them about anything, although there is no better scapegoat than a mother. Fathers seem to become more of a mate, letting you drink whatever you like, 'as long as your mother doesn't see'.

As you reach adolescence your personality becomes apparent, perhaps for the first time, although it can be distorted by the occasional teenage mood, usually caused by the girls you are getting to know better.

Hand in hand with personality goes respect, not only for oneself but for everybody around. This happens especially at school. Learning to respect students and teachers you despise, whilst worrying about your spots, haircut and women-problems can be quite harassing!

However, whilst at school, coping with all the above and making a mountain out of a molehill over any triviality, I think you make the best friends of your life. They are going through the same problems, think in the same way and so understand; it is through this tremendous understanding that one builds up a great trust; thus you make brilliant friends.

The worst part, I think, is wanting to have independence and freedom, a will to do what you want when you want, and not being allowed it to the extent you want. You sometimes don't think logically as a teenager and don't quite understand your parents' or your teachers' point of view, although it is usually completely rational.

When asked whether being a teenager is good fun, I say 'yes'. It is a very difficult time, true, but I think it is also very character-building and sets you up for later life. If one were nurtured all through school and adolescence, one would get a huge shock on stepping out into the big, wide world. I would even go so far as to say that being a teenager is the most important time in one's life.

CHRISTOPHER OLIVER

Teenage head-banging - author far left

S. Naish



Where's Jack?

Since young he had looked on the army as full of adventure and fun,

But then as he stood on parade, he was sick at the sight of his gun:

One day he'd be ordered to fire, to take careful aim and to kill;

To murder a man like himself, the blood of a son he must spill.

Yet, bound by a contract, he stayed, compelled to remain in his place,

Picturing over and over the look on the other man's face.

A madman then rose in Iraq; the nightmares he'd have in the night

Showed him dead in a sand-filled grave, and dead without having to fight.

But posted he was to the Gulf; for months he stood standing in line.

When his time came he was laughing; that's why he stepped down on the mine.

Back home his mother was crying; the news she had heard on the phone.

The children all gathered round her, Bob, Judith and Gareth and Joan.

Their faces upturned in their dread, they said all together, 'Where's Jack?'

How can a mother tell children their brother is not coming back?

But come back he did, in a body-sack,
A gift from Saddam to all who loved Jack.

CHARLES MORGAN-HARRIS

A Visit to Winchester

On 12th June Emma Thwaites, Ben Marshall and Michael Craddock visited one of England's oldest and most famous boys' schools, Winchester College. The object of their visit was to compare and contrast Rendcomb with a much older and more traditional public school.

Our first impressions, perhaps rather naturally, tended to confirm the prejudices we already had about this distinguished school. The magnificent old buildings, which must make living and working there seem like being in an Oxford college, were as imposing and grand as we had been led to expect, and they generated an atmosphere of heavy tradition and formality. The place not only looked but felt very old-fashioned, beautiful but rather severe, and of course we expected pupils and staff to reflect this rather austere atmosphere.

We could not have been more wrong. Even in comparison with Rendcomb, which prides itself on being a fairly relaxed and friendly place, Winchester College is a decidedly informal and liberal school, not at all the rather stuffy academic hothouse we had imagined it to be.

Our first impressions of the place began to emerge when we were welcomed by Dr Stephen Winkley, the Deputy Head Master, who had arranged the visit with Mr Tolputt and Dr Craddock. Dr Winkley had arranged a very interesting and varied programme for all of us, and he began by showing us around Scholars' House, of which he is housemaster, one of the oldest and most unusual houses in the whole private sector.

The Scholars' House, as the name implies, was the original centre of the college when it was founded, designed for 70 boys who had achieved their places through academic scholarships. We were shown round the extraordinary Chambers, tiny little wooden-partitioned areas surrounding a central open space where generations of students worked and continue to work. Each one of these minute closets not only had generations of pupil graffiti evoking oddly touching glimpses of the past in names and initials now lost in history, but were occupied and decorated in a way that gave each one individuality. There was something fantastically chaotic about these little study areas, so steeped in history and yet bursting with all the signs of modern school life.

Our tour included attending a number of lessons and being shown round by two prefects, Chris and Ian, who introduced us to lots of their friends. We found the lessons as absorbing as parts of the physical make-up of the place, and perhaps in some cases as eccentric! Winchester students are on the whole exceptionally bright, and all the lessons we visited were much more like dialogues than the more formal structure we are used to at Rendcomb. Perhaps this is because Winchester students have a lot more to say for themselves - more ability and certainly more confidence - but we felt also that in Rendcomb, at sixth-form level at least, there should be more informal discussion and pupil participation in lessons. This is not just a one-sided thing; pupils ought to be pushed and provoked more into arguing with their teachers, as they are at Winchester.

As so many Winchester pupils are very academic, many of the lessons are given over to something called 'Divs', a kind of discussion group in which the teacher and pupils work out or follow a course not primarily designed for the attainment of a specific qualification. Many students take only six GCSEs, for example, and the study of history was being scrapped, because it was felt to be undemanding for the kids. Clearly this kind of system gives much more freedom to pupils and staff to pursue their own interests, and intellectual development is by no means guaranteed by the acquiring of certificates. However, just how the less able student would cope was, we felt, a very different matter.

Our experience of some Divs lessons was very enjoyable. We were quite surprised to walk into one and find students with their feet up on the tables and pop music blaring out from a stereo, but the master continued, unperturbed by it all, to conduct a discussion on Winchester and Rendcomb life. During our chat we asked the students if they would prefer to be in a coeducational environment like Rendcomb. Most said they would prefer it, although they were quick to point out the freedom they had in being able at all times to go into Winchester. One or two thought that there were plenty

of opportunities to socialise outside school and that, if girls were admitted, the boys might lose a lot of the freedoms they already had. Certainly the sixth-form boys we talked to enjoyed a much more liberal regime than those at Rendcomb.

Lunch was a formal affair, a sit-down meal with a Latin grace in the dining-hall of Scholars' House with the pupils in their gowns, although close inspection revealed a huge variety of garments underneath, passing as school uniform!

After lunch we attended more lessons and chatted with the students and staff. Over and over again our impression was of the confidence of the Winchester pupil, not afraid to challenge his tutors, and of the informality in the relationship between staff and pupils. Winchester students seem to be given plenty of freedom to form their own characters and interests. For example, games are not compulsory, but students are encouraged to keep fit. Chapel is compulsory, but attendance seems less tightly monitored than at Rendcomb. Drinking is, of course, frowned on, but not necessarily punished by suspension. Pupils in the Sixth Form are allowed to work late and prep, although there is plenty of it, is not so clearly timetabled as at Rendcomb. What are the results of this comparatively liberal system? As we have said, we found the Winchester students friendly, individual, full of confidence and initiative. They are generally trusted and generally return that trust with respect and hard work and are not afraid to be their own person.

We felt that, especially in the Sixth Form, Rendcomb by comparison does not always offer enough freedom and responsibility and that, if it did, the results would not simply be laziness but pupils doing more for themselves; expect more and you get more.

Winchester, on the other hand, does not have the feeling of corporate identity that Rendcomb does, nor could it have Rendcomb's intimate family atmosphere in which everyone counts. We felt that Winchester could behave with a certain degree of freedom because it has kids of such high calibre that it can get away with some mistakes. We wondered also just how well a less motivated pupil might fare in such a system.

Certainly, however, we believe that Rendcomb has much to learn from a school like Winchester, especially in terms of its liberal treatment of the Sixth Form! We would like to thank everyone concerned for making this visit possible and for opening our eyes, particularly the pupils of the College and Dr Stephen Winkley, who made our day such fun.

BEN MARSHALL
EMMA THWAITES
MICHAEL CRADDOCK

Activity

Sponsored Cycling

Organised by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Trust, this bicycle ride was to be 24 miles of immense effort for the two Junior House Prefects, Natasha and me, and for certain gullible members of the staff.

The starting point was to be the Old Rectory at Rendcomb. We all assembled promptly at the beginning of long break, appropriately dressed for the occasion. Sunglasses were called for, as 30 or so pairs of fluorescent surfing shorts, attached to 30 or so screaming second and third-year pupils left Rendcomb pursued by the Revd Peter Sudbury in the ever-present emergency back-up minibus.

The prescribed route took us on a tour of 10 churches in and around Cirencester. At each church we had to sign in, as proof for our sponsor forms. There was also just enough time for a quick look around and for some of the much appreciated refreshments.

The initial hill out of Rendcomb on to the White Way soon separated the men from the boys. Natasha and I felt obliged to stay at the rear, in case any of the 'little people' fell by the wayside. We were soon joined by Mr O'Connor, as he had a 'sore' knee. *With great reluctance* we decided that it would be better to walk with our bicycles up the hill, in order to save wear and tear on the vital moving parts and enable them to complete the circuit.

Once on the White Way, it was a long freewheel into Cirencester Market Place and the Parish Church. Suddenly the town was invaded; bodies swarmed around the front entrance, wanting to sign up, while a great mountain of discarded bicycles gradually built up like a huge heap of scrap metal. Once we had found our original bikes, we set out again; one down, nine more to go.

The much-awaited lunch stop was at Preston, the fourth church on the list, where the Rendcomb packed lunches were distributed. Unfortunately, in the excitement of departure, some bright spark had forgotten to bring any plastic cups. Luckily help was close at hand; the 30 of us jumped, somewhat gingerly now, into the saddle again and rode off, only to arrive three minutes later, unannounced, at the Gaskill residence. At this point I must thank Mr and Mrs Gaskill for their hospitality in providing the drinks, and I must also apologise: our tight schedule did not allow time for washing-up!

We were now onto the home straight. The front runners had already reached the finishing-post, Rendcomb Parish Church, but what could the rest of us do but wait for Mr O'Connor, who bravely carried on despite his sore knee? He was definitely out of training, owing perhaps to his rather lax last season as the hockey 4th XI coach.

By now the Phantom Photographer was about. Having this time remembered to lead the film into his camera,



Signing in at Cirencester

Mr Wood kept appearing from nowhere, snapping unsuspecting cyclists.

On the ride a number of new styles of cycling were created. There was the Witchell way, involving a zig-zag course down the middle of the road, and the O'Connor so-slow-it-was-almost-backwards method. Last, but by no means least, there was the kamikaze technique skilfully displayed by Rupert Wertheimer.

It gave a great sense of achievement to have finished the circuit, especially with the proceeds going to such a good cause. I would like to applaud my fellow Junior House Prefect, who bravely finished despite severe blisters, which were not on her feet.

We had cycled through some of the most picturesque Cotswold scenery and visited many beautiful churches. I can still see in my mind the ivy-covered church of Ampney St Mary; it serves as an excellent example of the renovation work carried out by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Sudbury and his crew in the minibus for their help, support and first-aid skills, Mr Wood and Mr O'Connor for their supervision and organisation, and all the friends who rode with us or cheered us on our way.

SOPHIE CHANG

Outdoor Pursuits

The demise of climbing as a major activity had left a gap in the range of options offered to the pupils. John Willson had for many years fostered a band of excellent mountaineers and, when news of his intention to 'freelance' as an instructor filtered through, the opportunity was taken to renew old ties and to develop a programme of outdoor pursuits for all boys in their third and fourth years. That programme has evolved over the year, but now seems to have settled into a timetable of climbing with John Willson in the Wye Valley during the Christmas Term, caving at Clearwell during the Easter Term and canoeing on the River Wye during the Summer Term. These last two activities are provided by independent instructors based in the Forest of Dean.

All pupils in those two year-groups go in turn on one Sunday during the term, so that they have the opportunity to broaden their experience and face new challenges. They have gained considerable enjoyment from this activity, and it has proved a great success.

That success has been extended in two particular ways; first by the Parents' Association's providing a rota of willing parent drivers to take the boys to and from the event, and secondly by the fact that the College has found the money to finance the venture, emphasising the importance attached to it and avoiding an extra on the school bill!

I look forward to the continued development of this scheme in future years.

C. P. M. K.



A. Martin

Art

Edward Thomas writes in a poem of the whispering leaves of the aspen tree and states that 'men may hear, but need not listen'. Within the Art Department we often call on our students to look hard, and thereby really to see and understand what they are observing. Michelangelo called his approach to drawing 'skilful choice'. He used his eyes intensely, not only to help him to understand and record, but also as a way of feeding his imagination and creative forces.

From Michelangelo to Picasso, art has focussed on this process and responded in a visual manner. So Thomas clearly listened and responded with words, as Constable looked and responded with paint. Hence the activity within the art studios is largely about looking and responding. Indeed, it is remarkable how much information and experience floods into our brains through our eyes, and yet, unless we really use and understand the process, how much we miss and take for granted.

In a world that uses and abuses imagery to such an extent to inform and influence our culture, opinions, tastes and consumption, it is rather odd that sometimes little credit is given to contemporary visual studies. However, we deliberately steer our pupils away from too cold an approach, with imposed rules for understanding. We want to use looking, not only to help awareness of the visual world, but also to provide an impulse for response and exploration.

Certainly students gain an increased comprehension of qualities of space, depth and form through drawing, as they can build skill and confidence in colour, composition and shape through painting. If they also gain knowledge of light, movement and mood, they will have acquired valuable experience through having used their eyes fully.

Some students finish their formal art studies at GCSE, an option popular in the school, which produces much fine work. Others pursue goals to 'A' level and beyond to art college. This is a successful route for Rendcomb, and we look to these 'A' level students to set a standard within the school.

The quality of work produced this year has been reassuringly high, as was shown by the 'A' level students' Founder's Day exhibition; not only have 6A been successful in art college applications and in exams; they seem to have excelled themselves. The overall feel of the exhibition was one of looking and colour and adventure; individually, one felt that the work reflected their endeavour, response and willingness to develop.

This sense of development is so crucial, and we hope that our art college candidates will maintain it in the future. Certainly the final work produced by this year's GCSE set reflected considerable progress at all levels; the best students were expected to do very well, and indeed students such as Nick Nettleton and George Agnew produced portfolios literally overflowing with high quality finished work and exploratory pieces. They were ultimately joined at the top by several others whose enthusiasm and determination culminated in very strong and successful work.

The success of the 'A' level work has been fuelled by trips to galleries, and this year we took 26 senior students on a cultural long weekend in Paris.

The department has continued to be enriched by the dynamic teaching of Alexandra Drysdale, and she has been joined by Sophia Blackwell, who has bravely been taking a 6B option which has produced a very successful collection of textiles; there are now even more brightly- coloured and patterned ties and shorts sported around Rendcomb.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate all the students on their personal success and also to make particular mention of my 'part-time' colleague, Tom Denny. Without Tom not only would the department's teaching style change and weaken, but also our carefully disorganised administrative approach would collapse. Tom's input has been enormous over rather more years than we now dare contemplate.

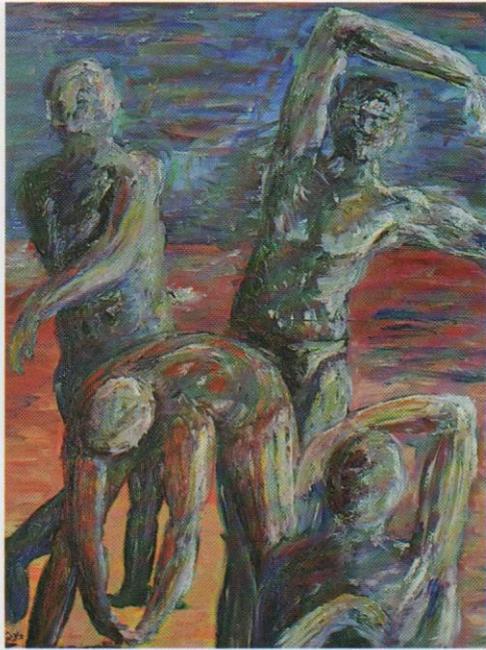
M. S. G.

Bullock by Sophie Denny

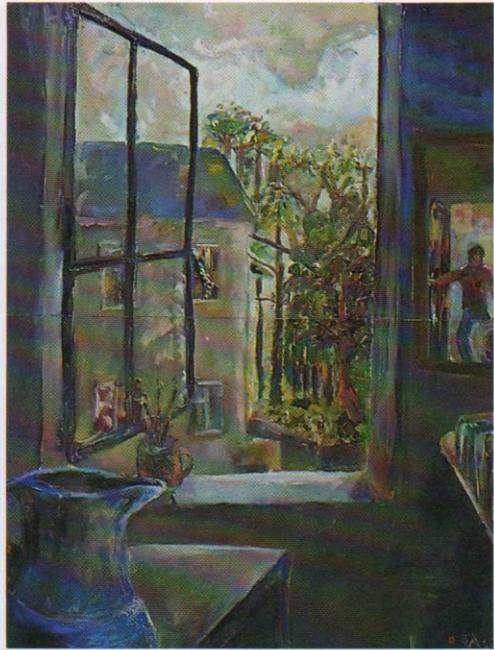


There follow some examples of art work. To help readers to assess it, each pupils' year is given in brackets:

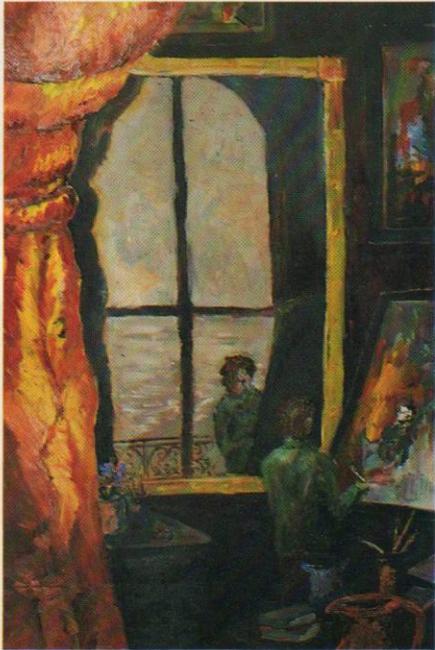
- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>a 'Acrobats' - GCSE</i> | <i>Alex Faiers (5)</i> |
| <i>b 'Room with a View' - GCSE</i> | <i>George Agnew (5)</i> |
| <i>c 'Artist at Work' - GCSE</i> | <i>Nick Nettleton (5)</i> |
| <i>d Inside! Outside - GCSE</i> | <i>Matthew Giggs (5)</i> |
| <i>e 'Ship in a Storm'</i> | <i>James Graham (1)</i> |
| <i>f House and Tree</i> | <i>Christopher Baxter(1)</i> |
| <i>g Still Life - 'A' level exam piece</i> | <i>Julia Lascelles (7)</i> |
| <i>h 'Blooms' - 'A' level exam piece</i> | <i>Richard Parsons (7)</i> |
| <i>i 'Figures' - 'A' level exam piece</i> | <i>Daniel Maslen (7)</i> |
| <i>j Male Torso - Life Drawing 'A' level</i> | <i>Jonathan Tomsett (7)</i> |



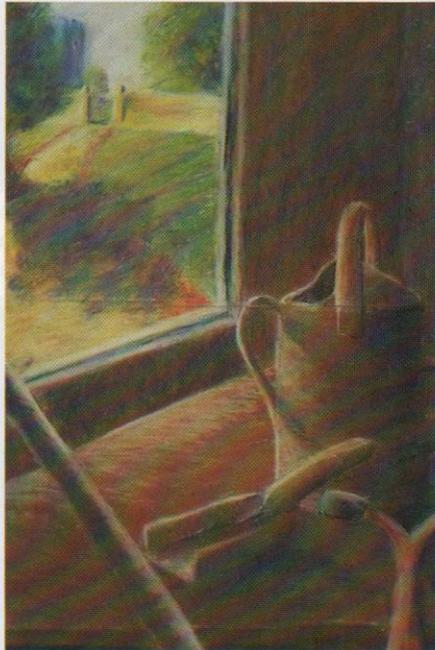
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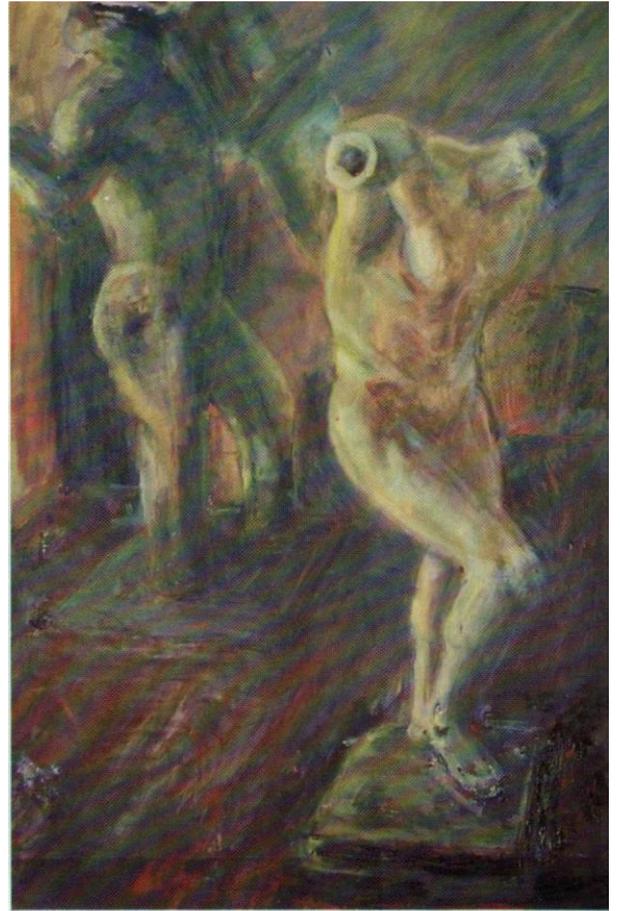
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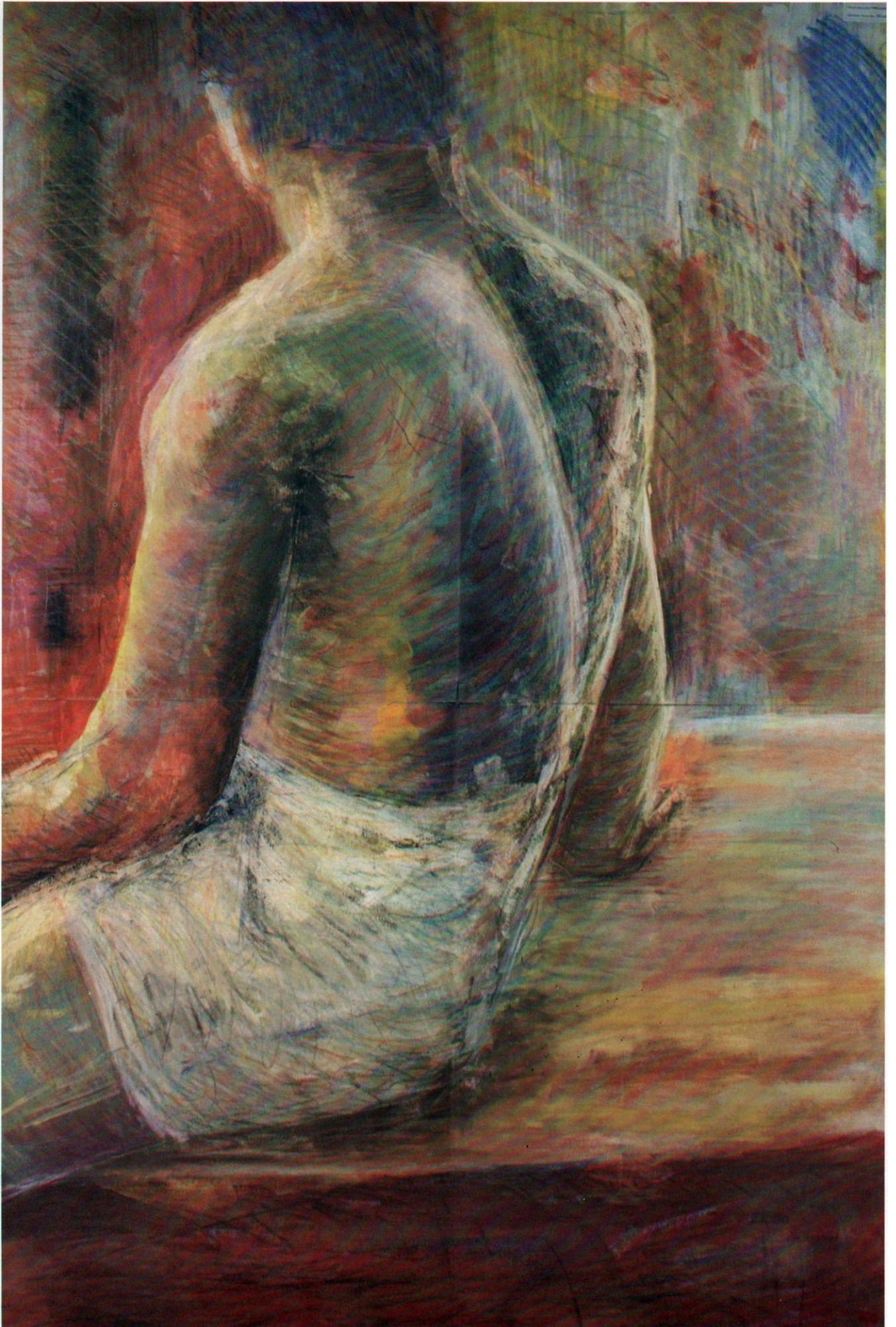
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i





Art Preview

On 24th May Renoir, Claude and Degas enthusiasts gathered in the Dulverton Hall for a preview of the Founder's Day exhibition of the work of this year's Sixth Form. After frantic preparations by Mr Griffiths and his team, the hall was a blaze of colour.

The exhibits varied from the carefully detailed pencil of Peter Smithson's exam piece to the frantic energy of Antony Palin's large-scale figures. Another artist concentrating on the dynamics of the human figure was Dan Maslen, who plans to attend the ever-popular Cheltenham Art College.

This year the displays as a whole worked very well together, showing versatility and exploration of colour, texture and space to a sophisticated degree. One of the many compliments paid was, 'It could well be a first-year art college exhibition', which bodes well for those going on to study at such places.

The whole atmosphere of the event was excellent, with the attendance of parents, friends and future pupils, who hope to flourish under such stimulating guidance next year. There was a buffet, with a rather potent red wine provided by Mr Gomersall. The only disappointment was that it was not the 'Art and all that Jazz' advertised, since the jazz never happened, but Mr Lea sat down at the piano and played some well-known classics.

Finally, 6B girls would like to thank the very gentlemanly fourth-formers who 'voluntarily' helped to set up the show which proved to be such a lively event.

SOPHY DENNY

Bridge Club

The Sunday evening meetings were supported by a small, but enthusiastic, group of players. On most occasions there were enough for two tables of Duplicate. Unusually, this year none of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award candidates wanted to pursue Bridge as a skill, so there was no Junior Club.

In November two pairs - Alex Hall and Nick Nettleton, Simon Hett and Matthew Smith - played in the *Guardian* Under 25 Competition in Oxford. Alex Hall and Nick Nettleton qualified for the final at the Chelsea Club in April, an experience which they thoroughly enjoyed, even if they were rather outclassed by most of the players.

In February we again held the Gloucestershire heat of the *Daily Mail* Competition at Rendcomb, under the direction of Mr Andrew Cambites. Six teams took part, and our senior team was rather put out to be pipped at the post for a place in the semi-final by a very young team from Warwick School! There have also been some enjoyable 'friendly' matches against Marlborough College, arranged by Miss Goldsmith, which we hope to continue next year.

Interest in Bridge and support for the Club have always tended to fluctuate, but I hope there will be renewed interest in the middle school next year to build up membership again.

I am grateful to Alex Hall, this year's captain, for his long-standing loyalty, and to the following who have also attended frequently during the year: N. S. Smith, S. Hett, S. Williams, M. Smith, N. J. Smith, L. Eklof, N. Nettleton, M. Gee, A. Martin, R. Sage.

W. J. D. W.

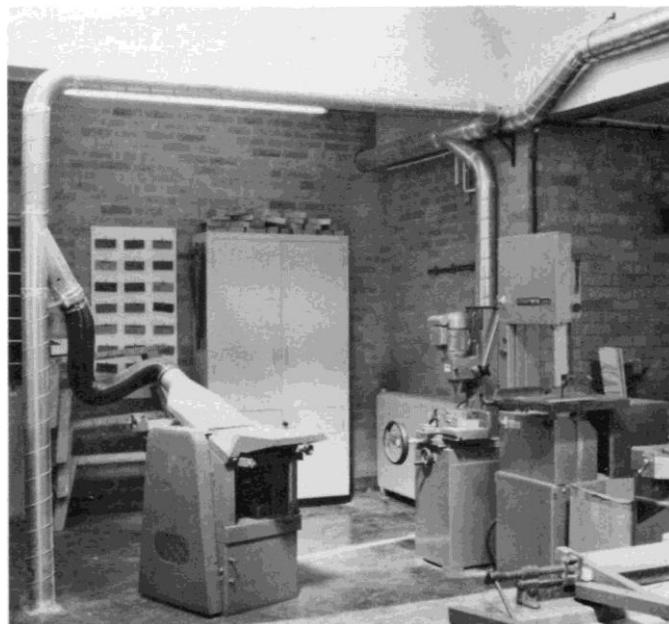
Workshop

Until recently all cleaning in the workshop was undertaken by boys as part of their school duties. This was not always a satisfactory arrangement, as standards varied considerably! The school cleaners have now taken over and have had a noticeable effect.

During the last 10 years we have purchased additional woodworking machinery; while this lessens production time, it creates more dust and wood waste. New materials, such as Medium Density Fibreboard, are now being used regularly. The dust from these, as well as from hard and soft woods, is known to be carcinogenic. For reasons of Health and Safety we have installed a dust-extraction system at a cost of almost £4,000. The waste is taken by flexible hose and fixed ductwork to a dust-collection bin in the wood store. What a difference this has made to workshop life!

A high standard of cabinet-making was shown again this year by the GCSE Design and Realisation students, and all projects were well received at Moderation.

C. C. B.



The Choir

1990 will be remembered almost as much for what did not happen as for all the things which did. It was the winter of snow, and it was the snow that froze out the Carol Service. Fortunately most of the music that was prepared saw the light of day in a host of other events around the end of term. Only the choir itself will ever know the sheer magic that was to have been Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin*, with the select semi-chorus several rugby pitches away under the tower in Cirencester Church singing in response to the main choir in the choir stalls.

Like Topsy, the choir grew and grew as the year went on. For most of 1991 almost a quarter of the school population belonged, and major rebuilding plans were envisaged for the Church. In the end various schemes were tried of running two separate choirs for the two services on Sunday.

There was no running-time at the beginning of September. An anonymous tip-off led to a mysterious phone-call: would Rendcomb College be able to help with the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Hector Barrantes? . . . Oh, and by the way, members of the Royal Family would be there. The choir's response was immediate, but approval from higher authority would be sought! It was a memorable occasion, what with security measures and cramped seating and a clutch of Royals to ogle. There was a quite conspicuous smile of approval and thanks from the Duchess of York, whose step-father we were celebrating. Those in the choir who could actually see the congregation reported catching sight of Prince Andrew and Princess Anne.

An Evensong at Miserden prompted by an invitation from Major Tom Wills was the first experience of such services for some of the newer choristers. With the whole choir in attendance, we filled nearly half the church, barely leaving room for the local congregation. There was a grand spread laid on afterwards, and we all felt it was worth singing for our supper. With Miserden under our belt, it seemed only a short step to singing an Evensong in Bristol Cathedral early in February. It proved to be a wintry day - a *frisson* of horror swept through the choir as they waited to leave in the coach - can snow strike twice in the same place? Would we suffer another cancellation? 'On! On!' cried the cruel Director of Music, 'You'll sing in Bristol Cathedral even if you have to sleep there as well.'

It had been a close-run thing, with rehearsals dogged by illnesses and examinations. With the professional help of Mrs Tolputt, Mrs White, Mrs Morris and Mr Graham, there was no doubt in the end. Charlotte Carroll, having just stepped out of sick bay, sang the solo in Stanford's *Magnificat in G Major* radiantly, shrugging off the contingency plan that Mrs Morris would step in, should she falter. Paul Sumsion sang the solo in the *Nunc dimittis* with splendid assurance. We overflowed the choir stalls, and to say that the choir outnumbered the congregation is something of an understatement. Bristol might have been worried by weather conditions, but family and friends from Worcester - to name but one - though nothing of braving snow and ice to be there.

Traditions and the patterns of the seasons are a vital part of life. They mark the year, provide cause for celebration and take away the dullness of routine. The Advent Carol Service cast its candle-lit spell and signalled the beginning of Christmas. The choir sang in all four corners of the church. The rehearsal for the choreography left some choir members bemused, but the drama of the procession made its point.

Ascension Day does not yet find the choir singing from the top of the tower at six o'clock in the morning, but it was the grandest Evensong of the year, and all the more special in that it was possible to share it with so many of our families and friends. It demonstrated so clearly the sense of belonging and community that is a special mark of Rendcomb. Then a new tradition was started, with congregation and choir sitting down together to a Choir Dinner, with speeches, lovely food, candles, drink and laughter.

Our thanks go to the Chaplain, honorary subsidiary bass and star hymn singer, Peter Sudbury, for his unending support. His presence is a calming and encouraging one, especially at the points when the Director becomes manic or out of control. Thanks go too to Stephen Lea for his patience and reliability at rehearsal and in accompaniment, without which we would all sound very silly.

However, it is worth recording that both Mr White and Mr Lea looked dangerously redundant on a number of occasions when Paul Sumsion and Marcus Head took over the choir. Marcus accompanied the anthem *Lead me, Lord*, and Paul conducted. The choir sang splendidly, but actually taking hardly any notice of the conductor.

D. B. W.

Notes from the Recording Studio

Since its installation last September, with the generous financial help of the Parents' Association, the recording studio has been kept very busy, being used both as a rehearsal and teaching room and for making sound recordings. The ever-active band scene, coached by our electric guitar teacher, Paul Cordell, can be heard - even as far as Stable House, with a good wind - and a number of rock concerts, both large and small, have been staged.

GCSE and 'A' level musicians have been able to make quality recordings of compositions, and some synthesised 'creations' have been put together using the eight-track tape recorder. The Sixth Form Media Studio option groups have produced some interesting radio plays and pop interviews.

Our first year has seen some very encouraging results. The studio has been used for a wide variety of functions, encompassing many different styles of music. We look forward to expanding the equipment further and to making more use of the facilities throughout 1992.

S. J. L.

Oboe and Piano Recital Two Pianos

To the amazement of onlookers through the dining hall windows at tea time, a strong band of helpers moved Mr White's piano into the Reading Room, to be used in a recital given by Lara Taylor and Simon Over on 4th June. The superior piano, played most notably by Mr Over, supported virtuoso playing by Miss Taylor, and the enthusiastic audience listened to a varied programme of works by Kalliwoda, Alan Bush and York Bowen.

We are grateful to Miss Taylor for her contribution to music at Rendcomb, as we are to all the peripatetic music staff who visit the school.

S. J. L.

Ensemble concert

On 11th May the Reading Room was the venue for a concert of mainly instrumental music, affording an opportunity for the fast developing Rendcomb Orchestra to perform.

They played music by Handel, Johann Strauss, Berlioz, Vaughan Williams and Smetana and were ably supported by soloists and ensembles, giving a varied and enjoyable evening's entertainment. Notable contributions were some songs by Fauré sung beautifully by Charlotte Carroll, a movement by Kromer for wind octet and a polished performance of part of Ridout's *Concertino* for alto saxophone by Alex Faiers.

Thanks must go to the music staff who helped with the concert, especially to Mrs Dearnley and Miss Taylor and to Mr White, who admirably displayed hidden talent in leading the second violin section.

S. J. L.

Mr David White, our Director of Music, and Mr John Evans, formerly a piano teacher at the College, gave a recital on 22nd September. The music consisted entirely of pieces originally written or arranged for two pianos. The two performers delighted the audience with a wide range of musical styles, from Mozart to Milhaud, all of which were equally appreciated.

Mr White and Mr Evans complemented each other well, making a most formidable partnership. Their detailed and accurate preparation was clearly demonstrated by the *panache* and *gusto* with which they played. The high point of the evening was Mozart's *Sonata in D major for two pianos*, with its classical grandeur and orchestral texture. Other celebrated classical pieces included the well-loved *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* by Handel.

However, not all the pieces were as serious; there was a rendition of Milhaud's unusual *Scaramouche*, and the evening was concluded by a set of dances by Howard Blake, the composer of *The Snowman* music.

The performances were enlightening and entertaining, and grateful thanks must go to Mr White and Mr Evans for such an enjoyable evening.

SIMON WILLIAMS

New Recording Studio



Haydn's *Nelson Mass*

It was a very grand occasion. The college choir, reinforced with parents and staff, numbered nearly one hundred; standing row upon row in Cirencester Parish Church, they felt they were the real thing.

The orchestra, sitting in front and forthrightly led by Mrs Dearnly made a very professional sound. The rehearsal in the afternoon went rather to plan, as soon as Mr White set about bullying us all into producing our best. The girls peered out from under their hair, and the trebles began to look as if they were taking part...

The concert itself started impressively. There was an audience, not just a sprinkling, but a whole church full. Ian Spencer played Hummel's Trumpet Concerto as though his life depended on it. There was no doubt that he acquitted himself with honour, coping with all the intricacies of a major work, a long-held ambition well realised.

With just a few minutes for the choir to pull itself together, the Haydn started, just as Mr White had said it would, with threatening drum-beats thundered out by Mr Pullen. The choir entered with *Kyrie Eleison*, and they were away.

Mrs Morris soared above with an ecstatic *coloratura*, and everyone felt straight away that this was going to be very special. There was a proper line of soloists standing in front of the orchestra. It was good that Rendcomb could field, along with Mrs Morris, a first team of such quality, with Mr Graham as tenor and Mr Bowman as bass. Some might have been a little surprised to hear a man singing alto, but they were quick to warm to Graham Ball and to welcome him back into the Rendcomb fold.

The feeling at the end was one of sheer elation and achievement. The choir filled the church with a glorious sound, and the whole performance felt electric. The problem now is to try to surpass, or simply to match, the concert next year.

MARCUS HEAD
PAUL SUMSION

The Trivial Things - Live!

After many delays and disappointments *The Trivial Things* have finally produced the rock event all Rendcomb has been waiting for. On 9th February this 6B five-piece band headlined its first-ever concert in the Dulverton Hall.

The audience had already been warmed up by the mysterious arrival of *Bonecrusher Death* and the burgeoning fifth-form band, *Scud B*. As the former arrived on stage to open proceedings, it was obvious, despite the clever disguises, that *The Trivial Things* were playing as a 'spoof group. They battered through a hilarious version of *Step On* by *Happy Mondays*, then gave way to the real support band, knowing that their true moment of glory was yet to come. *Scud B* raced through a storming, vibrant set of songs which highlighted their great promise; the menacing vocals of Pat Morgan deserve special praise.

This, however, was only a mild introduction; the real event of the evening was to make all that went before it pale into insignificance. *The Trivial Things* had arrived...

Suddenly Scott Vernon's formidable drum set thrashed out a frightening rhythm; Andrew Pollard dived in with a transcendental guitar routine; Jon Powell's mature bass technique reverberated throughout the hall; Ali Baker's intrinsic rhythm guitar work was a side-show in itself; Ant Palin's growling vocal skirmishes captured the heart of everyone present.

The band recited a scintillating mixture of well-known cover versions and their own songs, all of which were greeted ecstatically by the audience. The highlights of the evening were, however, *Drive Blind* by *Ride*, which featured a stunning guitar solo and lighting set-up, and *Deliverance* by *The Mission*, with its rousing, sing-song-type chorus.

The resounding success of the concert has prompted both bands to continue, planning to provide Rendcomb with even greater events in the near future. Even *Bonecrusher Death* has pledged its support for any further ventures, a clear indication that *The Trivial Things* and *Scud B* are truly on the road to rock 'n roll fame!

JULIAN MADELEY
PAUL IRVING

S. Naish





John Davis, Sonya Naish, Peter Sudbury, Aleks Maljkovic, Luke Downs

Debates

This House deplors the use of force against Iraq

The motion was debated on 28th February, as the Gulf War drew to a close, and it provoked some impassioned arguments from both sides of the floor.

James Grafton and Julian Madeley proposed the motion, their argument based partly on the notion that economic factors determined the allied commitment, concentrating on the rights of individual regions to control their own security without the intervention of western powers. The pronounced involvement and dominance of American forces led them to attribute possible ulterior motives, implicit colonialism and greed for oil.

The opposition was led convincingly by Nick Wood, who stressed the nature of the Iraqi regime, highlighting the moral obligations of other countries to support the Kuwaiti cause. However, his strong political views led him to digress for a period of 10 minutes into a Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party! Kate Graham realigned the argument, highlighting the ineffectuality of diplomacy and sanctions in the region. The opposition saw Saddam's call for *Jihad* as myopic.

Opened to the floor, the debate generated lively comment from both sides, a fundamental issue being the importance of the Palestinian question, many seeing it as inexorably related to the problem. The historically volatile nature of the region was stressed, the national borders being the artificial creations of imperialist powers. Adam Bainbridge, in a brave speech for a third-former, raised the point of the allies' seeming moral impotence over the trouble in the Baltic States.

Following Julian's summary, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge focussed on the moral depravity of Saddam's character, manifest in action not only against the Kuwaitis but also against the Iranians and Kurds.

The final vote displayed a decisive victory for the opposition. The debate was well supported and represented, and our thanks go to Mr Bowman and Mr Sudbury for their enthusiasm and experience in arranging this year's first debate; we hope they will once again become a regular feature.

HOLLY ANDREWS
KATE GRAHAM

Industry and conservation are incompatible

On 24th April commercial development and 'green' interests locked horns. Mr Luke Downs of Friends of the Earth proposed the motion, ably seconded by Aleks Malkjovic; Mr John Davis of Aerospace Engineering, seconded by Sonya Naish, spoke against it.

Mr Downs spoke of the damage caused to the environment by man's industrialism. He gave many worthy examples but, in his remarks about 'ghastly motorways' and 'benign golf courses', was there not a desire to preserve an idyllic countryside which has never really existed and certainly could not be established?

Mr Davis asked the audience to consider a hive of bees as an example of industry and spent some time developing that theme. He seemed not to realise that, in presenting 'industry' as an abstract concept, he appeared to be avoiding the issue. Perhaps his argument would have had more force if, as one speaker from the floor suggested, he had concentrated more on 'Industry with a capital I'. When he did get round to 'Industry', he found it almost impossible to excuse much of the damage caused in the past and, in the later stages of the debate, seemed unable to defend 'Industrialism' or to stop defending his concept of 'industry'.

Although all the speakers showed a considerable depth of knowledge, it was perhaps a point made by Sonya Naish which particularly caught the attention of the floor: 'what would we do without the Industry that was here being condemned?' Quite rightly, she cited the sixteenth-century lifestyle which would be forced upon us should it be 'abolished' and the impossibility of such abolition in an industrialised country.

Not quite so valid, however, were her claims about the 'greenness' of industry in the 1990s, particularly as Aleks Malkjović had just produced a catalogue of irrefutable, though depressing, facts about industry's damage to the environment. Her excellently researched speech made it extremely difficult for the opposition to justify or excuse the part industry played in the formation of what could be described as 'an ecological time-bomb'.

When the motion was put to the vote, it was lost by a substantial margin. However, many people were left feeling that the real point at issue had not been faced; that, if we are to avoid ecological disaster, industry and conservation *must* become compatible. Perhaps Mr Davis was not far off the mark when he said, 'There must be a partnership between conservation and industry'.

EMILY TABASSI

The Government Inspector

An exhausting and often frantic series of rehearsals resulted in an enjoyable and successful production of Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, in a lively new translation by Adrian Mitchell. I crept into rehearsals on several occasions, to see my friends at work and to experience Mr Craddock and Holly Andrews in action. 'The merchants! Where are the bloody merchants?' 'It'll be all right on the night, sir!'

In fact 'the night' was three nights, 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, and, I'm glad to report, the merchants did eventually get their cue right, although the same could not be said for an unfortunate David Chapman, trapped downstairs during one performance whilst members of the cast frantically ad-libbed on stage.

One or two such flaws and a few mangled lines aside, however, these were enjoyable and professional performances, displaying much confidence and ability. Tall, blond and laconic, James Grafton strolled through one of the leading roles, Ivan Khlestakov, with ease. Particularly funny was his smooth handling of the wimpish Schools' Superintendent, played by John Wheeler. The other leading male role was played by Julian Madeley, as the Governor. He carried off this long and difficult part with energy and ability. His gestures of frustration and anger could have been more varied, but his verbal command of the part was impressive. His finest moments were his highly amusing interpretation of the last pages, after discovering that he had been tricked.

I particularly enjoyed Henry Pugh's portrayal of the role of Osip, Khlestakov's servant. His dry and cynical

tone and his dialogues with his master had admirable spontaneity.

Natasha Clements and Belinda Stanley were wonderful leading ladies, Natasha gave a characteristically flamboyant account of the Governor's social-climbing wife, and her exchanges with Belinda were always well timed.

The actors playing the corrupt local officials, trying to hide their town's dark secrets, were varied and worked well together in most scenes. For example, Tom Shillington-Balfour as the Charity Commissioner revelled in his sly, hypocritical nature. Graham Lawton gave a wonderfully smug and self-righteous account of the judge, impressing me with his consideration for and timing with other actors on stage.

David Chapman, Jeremy Jenkin, Sophie Robinson, Petra Watts, Emily Tabassi, Pat Evans, Liz Syed, Julia Lascelles and Kate Graham all gave creditable accounts of the minor roles. We must not forget our staff talent either; Dominic O'Connor and Bridget Goldsmith made a convincing team as husband and wife.

For many, however, the highlights of the play were the comic roles of Bobchinsky and Dobchinsky, played by James Sleeman and Simon Williams, and above all, Jonathan Powell's Postmaster. Whenever he was on stage, Jonathan's fruity Gloucestershire burr and comical gestures stole the show.

The production team are to be congratulated on the outcome of all their hard work, and a particular word of praise must go to Julie Rogers, who made many of the stunning period costumes. I enjoyed the production enough to attend on two nights; thanks go to all involved.

SOPHY DENNY



Drama Workshop

With the help of Paul Jamieson from the Cirencester Niccol Centre, Rendcomb embarked on a new venture in the Lent term, a series of drama workshops. Paul would come and take charge of a group of about 20 sixth-formers, persuading us into undertaking various improvisations.

At first we were all rather self-conscious, as we were taught to trust each other, leaping into people's arms, allowing ourselves to be lifted up and generally to make fools of ourselves! Along with fast-moving improvisation games, however, these warm-up activities gradually broke down the barriers between us, establishing confidence and a relaxed atmosphere in which we could move on to more challenging scenes. Gradually we learnt to work well together as a group, coping more easily with a varied range of roles.

These improvisations culminated in a short performance in the Reading Room on 10th March, the main part of the evening being based on scenes, ideas and images drawn from the paintings of Salvador Dali. From Dali's famous 'Floppy Clocks', for example, we improvised a job interview in which the normal roles of interviewer and interviewee were amusingly reversed.

Dan Maslen played the helpless victim, at first perplexed by the time-jumps, then gradually mastering his interviewers' oddities and finally asking them to leave the room, in a comical reversal of expectation.

Also memorable was the breakfast scene in which Julian Madeley and James Grafton improvised a conversation, the former playing an unlucky, down-at-heel no-hoper and the latter a successful London yuppie. Some say that they were type-cast!

It was a great experience for all involved to give a whole evening's performance without one piece of written script. The spontaneity and energy of the improvisations stemmed mainly from Paul's refreshing approach to drama, and we would like to thank him for giving up his time to us and for giving us so much fun. We would like also to thank the Head Master for arranging Paul's visits.

SONYA NAISH

Fashion at Rendcomb

On 9th March the Rendcomb catwalk made its public debut, following an internal preview two days earlier. It was all down to the dedication, patience and perseverance of Emily Tabassi and Sophy Denny, who turned dream into reality. They drafted the models from all walks of Rendcomb life, including most notably six 1st XV rugby players, who took a lot of persuading! With the Dulverton Hall filled to capacity, Mr Griffiths, after the tantalising removal of his overcoat and scarf, cleared his throat and introduced the show.

He then proceeded to compère the show with a mixture of technical and artistic observations, interspersed with a witty commentary on the more flamboyant costumes and participants.

The show started: David Chapman leaped on to the catwalk wearing a white, gold-corded cape, a hard act to follow. But follow they did, all in their own way, exotic, erotic, playful or *chic*. All models had been well rehearsed in their steps by the choreographers, Rosie Moser and Belinda Stanley; the make-up was subtly done by Katie Floydd, Patricia Renny and Sam Cato; the lighting and sound, provided by Mr Lea, Paul Sumsion and Richard Herbert, kept the sequences going with swift, efficient changes.

The moment of glory was the *Dragon* modelled by Simon Hardie, when the music and lighting were astounding. The two intrepid third-form models, Adam Beales and John Morgan, appeared at first to be in off-the-peg home clothes, until the audience realised that their costumes had been skilfully hand-painted and hand-printed to a standard equalling that of commercial products.

The dresses were either very short or very long, and it was good to see that each girl displayed various dress-lengths, proving the versatility of Rendcomb models.

The finale was a bridal gown with two attendant bridesmaids, Elisa Dühmke the bride, Kate Ravell and Tania Sayegh the maids. A final 'fly-by' from the back of the hall gave people in obscure positions a chance to see some of the designs at close quarters, which helped to excuse the catwalk's being too low for the majority of the audience.

All the 'thank-yous' were written on the programme, but I should like to thank the Parents' Association for the drinks and Tom Gomersall for the buffet, and especially Emily and Sophy for creating the show, which raised over £500 for the Romanian Orphans' Appeal Fund.

MARCUS HEAD

and, from behind the scenes...

The September 1990 intake brought together two girls with ability and interests in fashion design. Work began towards a show, to most of us a crazy scheme which could never work. How wrong can you be? Rendcomb found out.

As time went on Emily Tabassi and Sophy Denny showed their flair for design; lines on paper became reality. For many hours, in fact almost every spare hour, the hum of sewing machines was heard; there was an epidemic of pins, needles and cotton in Park House and many nights of worry, but eventually the collection was produced: 38 very different and stunning outfits.

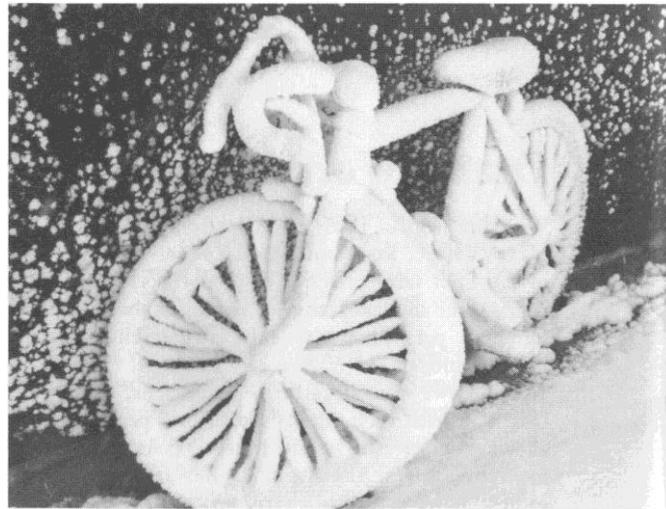
Meanwhile pupils willingly lent their services as models, make-up artists, dressers, ironers and stage crew, unaware of the pains to come!

Two and a half weeks before the show was to meet the public eye the models spent many arduous hours with Belinda Stanley and me, supposedly choreographing, but for the most part not knowing what to do! When blinding flashes of inspiration did come to us, action was needed and was co-operatively and patiently taken by the models, walking up the catwalk and down, up the catwalk and down, turn... smile!

A preview for the school was given on 7th March; a few mouths fell open; they were impressed! But Saturday 9th was to show whether the ambitious venture was a success - after all Saturday's audience was paying! Tension was high backstage; dressers and make-up artists were sympathetic and efficient and the models were... beautiful!

Though all the nerves and worry we had a lot of fun and we hope that those watching enjoyed the show as much as we did. Perhaps this points to what can be achieved at Rendcomb, with the support of fellow-pupils and staff, when power to create is given to the pupil. We hope that others will be adventurous enough to launch their own crazy schemes and gain the support we did. We say 'thank you' to everyone involved!

ROSIE MOSER



Snow bike

S. Naish

The Photographic Society

The Society attracted much interest in the autumn term, and developing and printing in black and white was demonstrated to a number of boys and girls. However, the Secretary, Christopher Brown, has had a quiet year, reflecting the greater use of commercial laboratories for colour prints.

The visit to the Royal Photographic Society in Bath was well supported and, as well as the fixed exhibitions of cameras and the history of photography, we were able to view the Annual International Print Exhibition and *Animal Farm Revisited*, a display of animal photographs taken from unusually low angles. Of course, it is always a delight to wander through the streets of Bath looking for a different angle of the classical architecture.

Sarah McIndoe successfully completed her photography skill for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, which included a portfolio of seascapes in colour and black and white.

Sadly, there were few black and white entries in our annual competition, but the great range of colour work was appreciated by many on Founder's Day.

Prizes were awarded to:

First:	<i>Camelia Hawaii</i>	Sonya Naish (6)
Second:	<i>Snow Bike</i>	Sonya Naish (6)
Third:	<i>Fire</i>	Paul Sumsion (6)
Fourth:	<i>Sand Dune</i>	Paul Sumsion (6)

C. J. W.

Rendcomb Church Fête

It was a warm and sunny afternoon on Sunday, 16th September, when a large crowd saw Ossie Ardiles, the Manager of Swindon Town Football Club, open Rendcomb Church Fête. The Fête, held in the beautiful College grounds by kind permission of the Head Master, was a joint venture, with parishioners, members of the College Parents' Association and pupils from the College playing a part in what was a most successful and enjoyable afternoon, raising £2,400 for St Peter's Church.

As well as the usual stalls and sideshows - Tombola, Handicrafts, Cakes, Books, White Elephant and a Bouncy Castle for younger visitors - there was a wide variety of games and tests of skill, most of them invented and run by the pupils. Teas were served throughout the afternoon, whilst the Chedworth Silver Band played on the terrace.

On the adjacent Sinclair Field the Cirencester Model Aircraft Club put on a large static display of their radio-controlled aircraft and later an impressive display of aerobatics, beginning with the dropping of Mars bars on parachutes from one of their aircraft.

The climax of the afternoon was the drawing of the winning raffle tickets for the impressive list of prizes. The first prize, a Christmas weekend for two in Torquay, generously given by Alexcars, was won by Mr and Mrs Haynes of St Leonards-on-Sea, grandparents of Marcus Haynes of the Junior House.

P. J. S.



The Fete

Academic Achievement

We congratulate the following:

Julian Odell

1st Class Honours, Engineering Tripos
Part IB, Queens' College, Cambridge

Scholarships for entry in September 1991

Sixth Form Entry:

Clare Newman (St Edward's School, Cheltenham)
Marian Preen (Churchdown School)
Helen Hall-Wright (Dodderhill School)
Tara Keegan (Hatherop Castle School)

Major Scholarship
Music Scholarship
Choral Bursary
Bursary

Third Form Entry:

Richard Bardsley (The Cathedral School, Salisbury)
Simon Lee (Oakley Hall School)
Stuart Sealey (Cheltenham College Junior School)
Nicholas Holt (Arnold Lodge School)
Seun Ismail (Beachborough School)

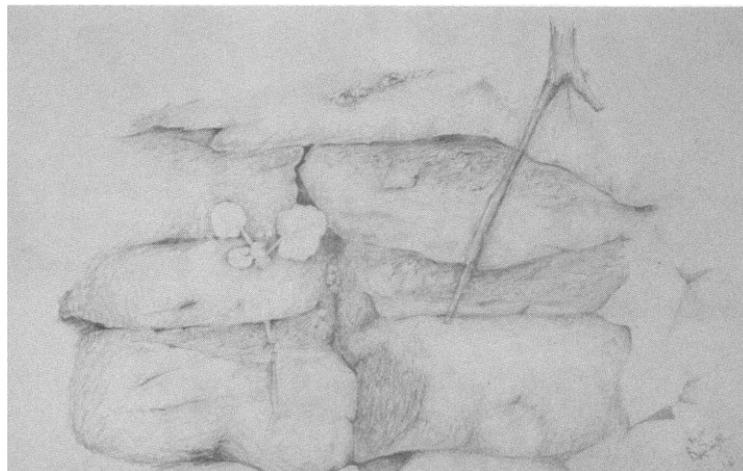
Half Scholarship
Minor Scholarship
Music Scholarship
Art Scholarship
Art Scholarship

First Form Entry:

Rupert Webb (The Abbey Primary School, Tewkesbury)
Christopher Scarth (Ingleside PNEU School)
Toby Abbott (St Andrew's Primary School, Chedworth)
Adam Phillips (Bourton Church of England School)
David Hughes (Ingleside PNEU School)
Ralph Barnes (Shurdington Primary School)
Ashley Taylor (Cold Aston Primary School)
Oliver Blackwell (St Andrew's Primary School, Chedworth)
Philip de Havilland Hall (Wycliffe College Junior School)
Jake Hawkins (Lakeside Primary School, Hatherley)
Samuel Maylott (The Abbey Primary School, Tewkesbury)
Mark Sutton (Quern's School, Cirencester)
Simon Webb (Cold Aston Primary School)
Timothy Hill (St Patrick's School, Rheindahlen)

Major Scholarship
Scholarship
Shared Noel Wills
Scholarship
Rendcomb Foundation Place
Glos. Foundation Place
Rendcomb Assisted Place
Assisted Place
Assisted Place
Assisted Place
Assisted Place
Assisted Place
Bursary
Forces Bursary

Stonewall study by *Robert Sage*



‘A’ Level

The following results were obtained in the GCE examination at Advanced Level this summer:

Holly Andrews - English, Geography, History
Kojo Annan - English, French
Katherine Bonniwell - English
Claire Boydell - English (D), French, History
Christopher Brown - French, German
Charlotte Carroll - Biology, English (M), French
Sophie Chang - Geography, Mathematics, Physics
David Chapman - Art and Design*, Biology, Business Studies
Natasha Clements - English, French
Anna Dühmke - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Laura Dutton - Geography, Mathematics
Patrick Evans - English, French, German
Katie Floydd - Business Studies, English
Piers Gorman - Art and Design, Music
Katherine Graham - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Alexander Hall - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Adam Halliwell - Business Studies, Geography
Simon Hardie - Business Studies, French
Christine Haynes - Biology, English, History
Richard Herbert - Art and Design
Simon Hett - Biology, Chemistry
Richard Hughes - Art and Design
Stefano James - English, History*, Religious Studies
William King - French, History
Julia Lascelles - Art and Design, Chemistry, English
Aleksandra Maljković - Biology
Daniel Maslen - Art and Design*, Business Studies*, Geography* (M), History
Richard Milner - Art and Design*, Geography*, History, Mathematics
Michael Moody - French, History* (M), Mathematics*

Bridget Morrall - Art and Design
Richard Parsons - Art and Design, French
Rachel Seed - Business Studies, English, French
Kristie Sellers - English
Thomas Shillington-Balfour - French, German, Mathematics
Martin Smith - Biology
Nicholas Smith - Chemistry* (D), Mathematics* (M), Physics
Peter Smithson - Art and Design, Business Studies, Geography
Ian Spencer - Business Studies, Geography
Elizabeth Syed - English*, French, German*
Kathryn-Mary Tawse - Business Studies, Geography
Jonathan Tomsett - Art and Design*, Business Studies, Geography
Nigel Utting - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge - German, History* (M), Mathematics
Neil Walmsley - Art and Design*, Biology, Geography*
Richard Walters - Business Studies, Mathematics
Oliver Ward - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Amy West - English* (D), History*
Simon Williams - English, French, History
Nicholas Wood - French, German, History* (D)

Additional Subject

French for Business Studies: Anita Duguid, Julia Dymock, Sarah Langley, Graham Lawton*, Iain Richardson, Jonathan Roney, James Sleeman*, Timothy Underwood, John Wheeler.

Key: * - Grade ‘A’
(D) - Distinction in Special Paper
(M) - Merit in Special Paper



P. Sumsion

GCSE

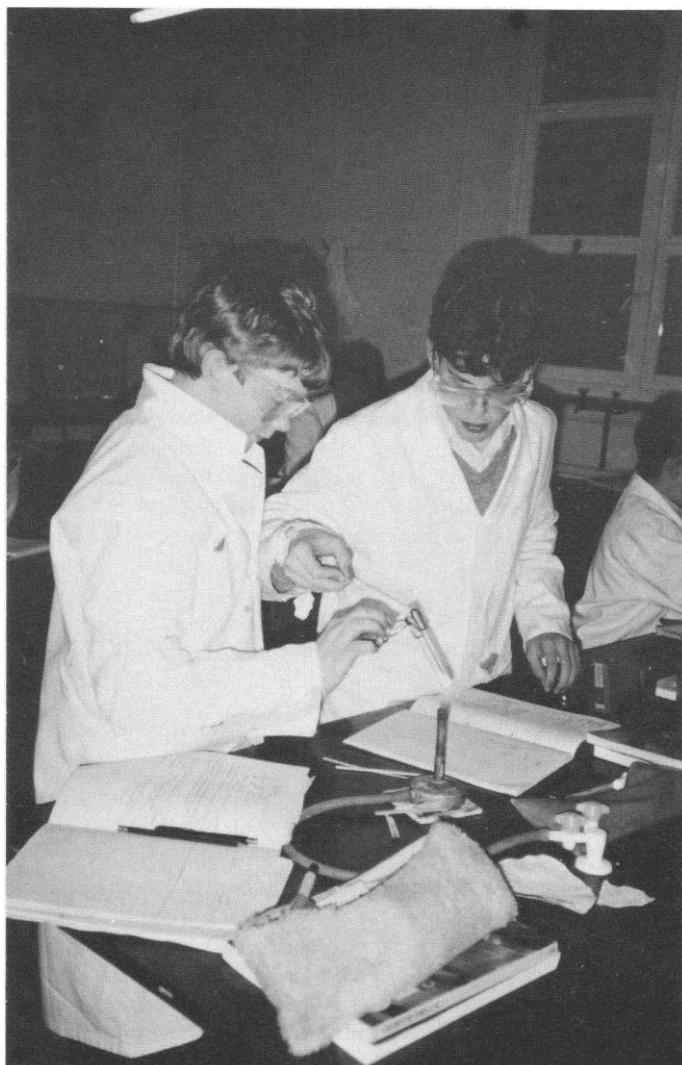
The following results were obtained in the GCSE examinations:

George Agnew - AD*, B, c, e(3), F, G, H, m, p
 Paul Allan - AD, b, c, e(2), el, F, l, m, p
 Simon Barrett - c, DR*, e(2), F, G, H, M, P
 Alexander Beales - AD, b, E(2), EL, F, gn, H, m
 Christopher Carmichael - B, C, E(1), F*, G, GN*, H, M, P
 Hugh Costelloe - B, C, E(1), F, G, H, M, P
 Peter Croft - C, DR*, e(2), F, G, H*, M, P
 Julia Dymock - E(2)
 James East - B, C, E(2), EL, F, GN, M, P
 Alexander Faiers - AD*, B, C, e(2), F, G, M, MU*, P
 Nigel Fischer - B, C, E(2), EL*, F, G, gn, M, p
 Marcus Fouracres - b, c, e(2), el, f, g, m
 Matthew Giggs - AD*, B, E(2), EL, F*, G, GN, H*, m
 Roger Gorman - AD, b, DR, e(3), f, H, m, MU
 Alastair Graham - B, C, DR*, E(2), F, G, H, M, P
 Timothy Haine - B, C, E(2), E, F, G, GN, M
 Stuart Hall - AD, B, C, e(2), F, GN, H, M, P
 Thomas Hughes - AD, B, c, E(2), el, f, G, GN, M
 William Hunter-Smart - B*, C*, E*(1), F*, H*, L*, M*, P*
 Richard Hutson - B*, C*, E*(1), F, G*, GN, H*, M*, P
 Jeremy Jenkin - B, c, E(2), EL, F*, G, l, M, P
 Gareth Jenkins - AD, c, e(3), f, g, gn, h, m, p
 Sik-Wai Lam - b, C, e(2), f, g, H, m, p
 Mathieu Laroche - AD, B, C, E(2), EL, F*, L, m, P
 Nicholas Macartney - AD, b, e(3), F, g, gn, mu
 James Mackinnon - B, C, E(2), F*, G*, GN, H*, M*, P
 Sarah McIndoe - e(1)
 Benjamin Marshall - M
 Matthew Monteith - B, C, E(2), F*, G, GN, H*, m, P
 Charles Morgan-Harris - B, C, E(1), F, G, GN, H*, m
 Patrick Morgan - B*, C*, E*(1), F*, G*, H*, L, M*, P*
 Daniel Morris - C*, E(1), F*, G, GN*, H, M*, P*
 Nicholas Nettleton - AD*, B*, C*, E*(1), EL, F*, GN, M*, P*
 Stephen Pearce - B, C, E(2), F, H*, l, M, P
 Andrew Platt - AD*, B, C, E(2), F, H, L*, M, P*
 Nicholas Priscott - B, C, E(2), F, G, H, m, P
 Theo Ramsden-Hare - AD*, B, E(2), EL, F, G, H*, l, m
 Nicholas Rose - b, E(3), el, F, GN, h, m, p
 Mark Sansome - C*, E*(1), EL*, F*, G*, GN*, L*, M*, P*
 Jeremy Sawtell - AD*, B, C, E(2), f, G, H, m, p
 William Smalley - AD, B, c, e(2), f, H, l, m, p
 Andrew Sylvester - ad, e(2), f, g, gn, h
 John Talbot-C*, DR*, E(1), F, G*, H*, M, P*
 John Tate - B, C, E(2), F, G, H, L, M, P
 Kathryn-Mary Tawse - m
 Timothy Underwood - e(2)
 Mark Valentine - B, C, E*(2), F*, G*, H*, L, M, P
 Christian Walton - AD*, b, E(3), EL, f, g, gn, H
 Paul Williams - AD, C, E(2), F*, G, GN, H*, M, P*

Key: Capital letters denote Grades A-C; small letters denote Grades D-G; * = Grade 'A'

AD - Art and Design
 B - Biology
 C - Chemistry
 DR - Design and Realisation
 E - English
 EL - English Literature
 F - French
 G - Geography
 GN - German
 H - History
 L - Latin
 M - Mathematics
 MU - Music
 P - Physics

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



Viewpoints 2

School in Germany

Now that school curriculum is the subject of heated debate, it is interesting to see what is done elsewhere in Europe. We are grateful to Anna Dühmke, who came to Rendcomb in September 1989, for this account of the German education system. English readers may be particularly interested in two aspects: the selection at 11+ and the breadth of the sixth-form studies.

In a German school of any kind all pupils have to attend their first morning lesson at eight o'clock; some schools even start at 7.45, and some at 6.00. In the last case it would be lesson 0, often used for extra-curricular activities such as swimming, physical education, dancing, gymnastics, athletics, etc.

There are five different types of state school in Germany. The first is the equivalent of a prep school, and all children from the age of six must go there. This *Grundschule* provides a four-year course in the basic things, reading and writing in German, Mathematics, a mixture of Biology and Geography, Music and Sport.

Then follows a two-year course at an *Orientierungsstufenschule*, when the teachers and parents will decide whether a child is able and willing to do the *Abitur*, equivalent to three 'A' levels and five GCSEs, or to do the *Realschulabschluss*, equivalent to four to five GCSEs, or just to do the *Hauptschulabschluss*, say three to four GCSEs.

After this two-year course you will go on to one of the three schools mentioned above; everyone has to spend at least nine years at school, whichever type is chosen.

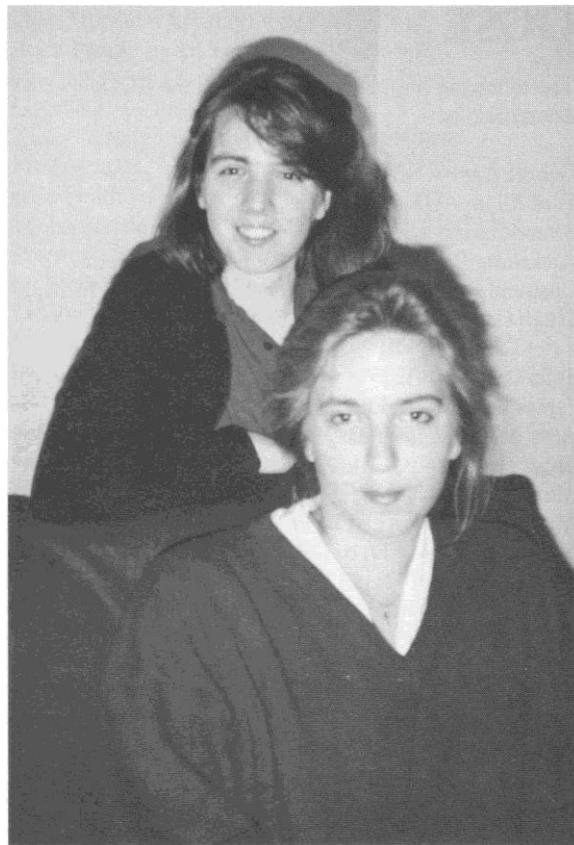
I shall now describe the school I used to go to, but I must admit that there are differences in the systems, depending on the part of Germany and the type of school.

In the *Gymnasium* in Gottingen, where pupils go after six years of school to study for their *Abitur*, lessons started at 7.45 a.m. and usually finished at one o'clock. There were six lessons a day for six days a week.

In this state school, called the *Max-Planck-Gymnasium*, every pupil had to learn Latin or English for two years before taking on another foreign language. This language and Maths and German were the main subjects, the most important; Biology, Geography, Physics and Chemistry were the 'B-subjects', of second importance; Art, Sport and Music were the C-subjects, third in importance.

There were also the *Arbeitsgemeinschaften* or 'Working Communities' which were not compulsory, a set of options the school offered; guitar, Arabic, badminton, dancing and orchestra.

Four B and C subjects were taught for half a year and four for the second half: for example, Biology, Geography, Art and Sport for half the year, Physics, Chemistry, Music and Sport for the second half. This process of swapping these eight subjects around was kept on until Class X, which is the equivalent of the Fifth Form.



Anna (top) with her sister, Elisa

After Class X nearly all pupils stayed on for their *Abitur*, because the school specialised in this. Every pupil had to do either Latin or English, the language with which he or she started, until Class XII, and one or two other foreign languages, in my case English as the second and French as the third, for at least a year, chosen from the following: English, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Russian.

The compulsory subjects for the *Abitur* were German and Maths, which had to be studied through to Class XIII, the *Abiturklasse*, equivalent to 6A. Then one or two subjects had to be chosen from the following: Politics, Religious Studies, French as a third or fourth language, Technology, Music, Art, Sport. A further two had to be chosen from: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Politics, Religious Studies, Geography.

The number of teaching lessons should not exceed 36 per week, and sport, mainly Athletics, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Football or Basketball, was compulsory up to Class XII. There were six lessons in the morning, with two five-minute breaks, two ten-minute ones and one fifteen-minute one. In the afternoon there were lessons only for pupils in Classes XI, XII and XIII, the *Abitur* students. The final *Abitur* course lasts three years, but you must have been at a school designed for it, because the standard in those schools is higher.

The four lessons in the afternoon were taught from 1.30 until 5.30 p.m. and were mainly Sport, languages other than Latin, English, Greek or French, and the *Arbeitsgemeinschaften*. You were advised not to take too

many subjects and to change some of them every half-year, so that you had a good background knowledge for your main subjects. No matter what subjects you had taken for those three years, once you had got your *Abitur* you could study anything you wanted to.

As I worked my way through this school system the number of pupils decreased as I got higher. This was not because many pupils left after Class X, but because there are several examinations throughout the year, five every half-year in the main subjects in Classes V to VII and three from Classes VIII to X, and a number of pupils had to repeat a year's work because they did not do well enough.

In Classes XI and XII there are two to three examinations in *each* subject per half-year, and in the final year of school, in the *Abiturklasse* there is only one great big written examination in each subject round about February, with an oral examination in April or May, which for some people demands the hardest work.

After this you are free to do what you like, but you still have to attend classes until the school year has finished. When you get your final certificate, your *Abitur* Report, there is a ceremonial celebration round about June. After this you apply for university for the following *Wintersemester*.

But if you are not good enough, especially in Classes V to XI, and you fail most of your examinations throughout the school year, unless your parents and teachers think it is not absolutely necessary, you have to repeat the whole year in which you have failed to work properly. This did not happen very often in the school I used to go to, but it always put a kind of pressure on you and made you work.

Friendship, why bother?

Pushed in,
Set down,
Left,
Left in unfamiliar surroundings,
To think
Unfamiliar thoughts,
Thoughts of loneliness.

It was not new to me
To come to a school of strangers,
To leave friends behind,
Somehow, this time was different.
I had other friends,
But I was leaving a friend
Whom I shared with and trusted,
A friend whom I depended on and was understood by.
And yet, I was needed.
I, the child, gave back understanding
And stood firm to be rested on when the air hung heavy
with fatigue.
We were not mother and daughter;
We were equals.

We thought it was a 'good idea' for me to come away.
When time came, though,
Neither was sure why.

But here I am.
I stand alone now,
Dependent on myself,
Probably the best way to be.
This way nothing can get torn or tattered
In the transience and contradiction of friendship.

ROSIE MOSER



S. Naish

A taste of the City

Towards the end of the Christmas break I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend an open day at Simmons and Simmons, a major London law practice, organised by ISCO as one of their career guidance courses.

Emerging from Moorgate tube station, I found myself in the heart of the City, surrounded by tall, glassy, modern office blocks; not far away I could see the NatWest tower dominating the skyline. I found Simmons and Simmons nestling among these buildings and possessing a noticeably more refined exterior than its somewhat brasher neighbours. The interior, though, was a totally different story; the wealth of polished marble, brass fittings and solid wooden doors put the set of *LA Law* to shame.

Welcomed with a cup of coffee and a chance to meet some of the company's employees as well as the other students, we were ushered into a conference room to hear a series of short talks given by selected personnel regarding a career in the law. The first, which introduced us to the firm, was given by a Partner, who seemed at particular pains to emphasise that Simmons and Simmons was among the big 10 *megapractices* in the City, handling deals involving as much as 13 billion pounds, such as the fairly recently attempted takeovers of BAT Industries.

The main departments in the firm and the type of work they handled were explained to us; these included the Property, Company, Litigation and EEC Departments.

One of the more interesting departments turned out to be 'Intellectual Property', which concerns itself predominantly with patents, trademarks and copyrights. We learned that among their present clients are Budweiser and the creators of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the former trying to fight imitation dancing cans and the latter combating a variety of unlicensed 'bootlegging'.

An example of the problem posed to the client by unlicensed goods was demonstrated by showing a T-shirt with the *motif* 'Teenage Mutant Tottenham Heroes' emblazoned above a fearsome-looking turtle swathed in Spurs' scarves, the kind of thing that indeed must be stopped at all costs if one is an Arsenal supporter!

The morning lectures were finished with a talk by a highly entertaining Mr Miles Alexander, a barrister who had 'defected' to become a solicitor. He pointed out the schism between the two branches of the legal profession, highlighting their respective merits and demerits as well as emphasising their very different professional training and their differing roles within our legal system today.

Lunch offered us a valuable opportunity to meet the employees in a more relaxed atmosphere; those present ranged from Partners through to Articled Clerks, all of whom were extremely friendly and many of whom went out of their way to approach and chat to us individually. The conversation, though, was less about law, tending to centre on rugby and cricket and how the recent season had gone. Simmons and Simmons claim that they are renowned for offering the best food in the City; certainly, having had the pleasure of devouring numerous profiteroles smothered in hot chocolate sauce, it was not a

claim I was prepared to refute.

The afternoon afforded us the chance to observe the working of the firm in greater depth, as we were allocated to work shadow in specific departments. I spent my time in the Banking Department, work-shadowing Matthew Duncan, a Scottish ex-lawyer. He also proved extremely amicable, though at first appearing thoroughly baffled as to what to do with me.

Eventually we settled on going through some of his current work, which consisted mainly of contract agreements for massive loans between various merchant banks and the borrowing companies. The amount of documentation involved in each contract was daunting, but I soon learnt some of the City terminology such as 'securitizations' as well as the intricacies behind 'currency and interest-rate swaps'; the latter was a complicated business, but at least next time I hear the word 'swap' on *Capital City* I shall be in the know!

The visit was rounded off with tea and biscuits and a chance to raise any further questions or doubts before leaving. Whilst reflecting on the day as I travelled on a packed rush-hour tube back to Victoria, one memory stood out particularly. That was the finely-dressed waiter at lunch, who incessantly popped up at one's elbow proffering a bottle with the phrase, 'More wine, sir?' This is definitely the kind of life I could get used to.

All in all, I felt that my visit to Simmons and Simmons had proved very productive and it certainly served to strengthen my intention to follow a legal career. Perhaps it even tipped the scales slightly in favour of the prospect of two years as an Articled Clerk, more attractive in view of the ordeals involved in pupillages before becoming a barrister, though of course, to balance the scales, I would have to spend some time in a barrister's chambers.

I definitely recommend such a visit to a City law firm for any prospective lawyer. The best time for this would be while still in the Lower Sixth, before one has made any firm decisions as to which degree course to do and where. I feel that this is particularly important in the light of a point stressed by one of the firm's Partners: that it would be better to do a degree in a subject one enjoys, or for which one possesses a special aptitude, and then convert to law later, rather than to feel pressed into thinking that a law degree is the best start to a legal career.

My thanks go to Mr Kelsey and to everyone involved, both at ISCO and Simmons and Simmons, for giving me a thoroughly beneficial experience.

ANTHONY VON WESTPHALEN-BUNGE

Rendcomb Ghosts

Having such an historic main building, with a long and interesting history, it is inevitable that Rendcomb finds itself associated with a number of at least mildly amusing rumours concerning the existence of the supernatural on its premises. The rich abundance of students, with such vivid and probing imaginations, serves only to swell, add substance to and indeed fabricate these rumours.

Although nearly six years old, the memory of first-form Latin lessons remains fresh: Mr Willson, a long-

term resident of the building, used to relate many teasingly realistic accounts of unexplained occurrences. The seemingly perpetual boredom of grammar notes having been broken, an eager, refreshed ear fell witness to stories guaranteed to provide a chilled spine...

A flying nineteenth-century butler has been reported on several occasions over the last few decades, carrying a silver tray up and down the back staircase, which revolves round the old lift-shaft. After a few such instances the history' of the mansion was examined and revealed how, over a century ago, a servant carrying early-morning breakfast inadvertently plunged to his death down the full length of the shaft.

Another tradition relates the tale of an over-enthusiastic student in the 1940s who, while attempting to sunbathe and revise simultaneously, tumbled over a rail and ended up in an untidy mess on the ground some 40 feet below. This took place on the metal staircase* behind what used to be the modern language rooms and is now the School House common room. Mr Ball, a former Head of French, frequently reported *le fantôme étudiant*, although recent contact with him seems to have been curtailed.

The church, inevitably, is linked with many stories, of ranging credibility, many of which seem to spring from dark holes, possibly third-form mouths. Perhaps the most widely believed is that of 'the old white lady', said to roam in the area of the graveyard under a tree by the road, wearing a dress from the Victorian era. Although there seems to be little historical support for such strange excitement, this guest inhabitant has been reported by several completely independent sources over the past few years.

Rivalling first-form Latin lessons in interest were second-form Woodwork periods, in which Mr Burden frequently went to great trouble to relate stories, some of which were worth listening to. The best-remembered is the saga of the red-brick wall which used to fence one side of the estate gardens and half of which was demolished to build Lawn House. Over the last thirty years or so it has crumbled and fallen down several times, after increasingly thorough rebuilding work. This stubbornly defiant wall has been checked by experts, and no possible reason can be found for its continual collapse.

As well as these, at least supposedly genuine, accounts, many humorous ones also surface regularly in conversation around the school. A *poltergeist* allegedly haunts the main snooker table, according to players who are off form; he is effective only when shots are missed, reputed to have a bizarre effect on the balls!

It is claimed that a werewolf roams around the Wilderness after nightfall; many say he has a strong appetite for schoolboys, explaining why this area is out of bounds after nine o'clock.

Probably the most amusing and daunting rumour is that the main building is cursed, doomed to extinction in the year 1999; although this sounds alarmingly pretentious, it must certainly not be taken too lightly.

PAUL IRVING

**A most intriguing phenomenon; the staircase in question was not built until the 1960s. Ed.*

The Record 2

College Officers

Head Boy and Head of Lawn House: Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge

Head Girl and Head of Park House: Kate Graham

Head of School House: Richard Hughes, Nicholas Wood

Head of Stable House: Daniel Maslen

Godman House Prefects: Daniel Bowerman, Nicholas Smith

Junior House Prefects: Sophie Chang, Natasha Clements

Dulverton Hall Prefect: Nicholas Wood

Arts Block Prefect: Richard Walters

Prefect of Grounds: Holly Andrews

Prefects: Charlotte Carroll, Julia Lascelles, Michael Moody

Church Ushers: Tom Shillington-Balfour, Rachel Seed, Kristie Sellers, Neil Warmesley, Richard Walters

Librarians: Alex Hall, Linda Eklof, Andrew Martin, Paul Sumsion

Magazine Editors: Sophy Denny, Paul Irving, Graham Lawton, Julian Madeley, Sonya Naish, Henry Pugh, Emily Tabassi

Captain of Rugby: Daniel Maslen

Secretary: Kojo Annan

Captain of Hockey: Richard Hughes

Vice-Captain: Graham Lawton

Captain of Cricket: Marcus Head

Vice-Captain: William King

Captain of Tennis: Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge

Valete

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

George Agnew, Paul Allan, Holly Andrews, Kojo Annan, Rebecca Bell, Katherine Bonniwell, Daniel Bowerman, Claire Boydell, Christopher Brown, Charlotte Carroll, Gail Cawthorne, Sophie Chang, Natasha Clements, Anna Dühmke, Laura Dutton, Patrick Evans, Katie Floyd, Edward Forster, Marcus Fouracres, Guy Fowler, Katherine Graham, Piers Gorman, Alexander Hall, Adam Halliwell, Simon Hardie, Gregory Harris, Christine Haynes, Richard Herbert, Simon Hett, Richard Hughes, Stefano James, Jeremy Jenkin, Gareth Jenkins, William King, Sik-Wai Lam, Julia Lascelles, Nicholas Macartney, Aleksandra Maljković, Anna Martin, Daniel Maslen, Sarah McIndoe, Richard Milner, Matthew Monteith, Michael Moody, Bridget Morrall, Nicholas Nettleton, Richard

Parsons, Stephen Pearce, Nicholas Priscott, Nicholas Rose, Rachel Speed, Kristie Sellers, Thomas Shillington- Balfour, William Smalley, Martin Smith, Nicholas Smith, Peter Smithson, Ian Spencer, Belinda Stanley, Elizabeth Syed, Andrew Sylvester, John Tate, Katie Tawse, Jonathan Tomsett, Nigel Utting, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge, Neil Walmsley, Richard Walters, Christian Walton, Oliver Ward, Amy West, Simon Williams, Nicholas Wood, Charlotte Yates.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1991:

To the Sixth Form: Melanie Caseldine, Rebecca Fowler, Sarah Fox, Benjamin Greene, Helen Hall-Wright, Tara Keegan, Caroline Lee, Alice Lethbridge, Benjamin Mabey, Nerys Machin, Danielle Meyers, Joanna Morse, Clare Newman, Mark Oram, Lucy Payne, Marian Preen, Melinda Rogers.

To the Third Form: Richard Bardsley, Steffan Bartlett, Oliver Blaydon, Andrew Chalk, Adam Crawford-Taylor, Nicholas Holt, James Kyrke, Simon Lee, Phillippe Le Fevre, Roland Lewis, Philip Marran, Luke Nicholls, Philip Price, Stuart Sealey, Hague Willmott, Jason Yuill- Proctor.

To the First Form: Toby Abbott, Ralph Barnes, Oliver Blackwell, Jonathan Davis, Philip de Havilland Hall, Jonathan Freeman, James Gibbs, Jake Hawkins Timothy Hill, Richard Histed, Chas Holliday, David Hughes, Samuel Maylott, Adam Phillips, Michael Read, Christopher Scarth, Mark Sutton, Rupert Webb, David Williams, Ashley Taylor, Simon Webb.

Old Rendcombian Society

At the Annual General Meeting in July, 1990, the following officers were elected:

<i>President:</i>	Arnold Brain (1929-37)
<i>Chairman:</i>	Brian Smith (1965-72)
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mrs. Jane Gunner (1975-77)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Robert Barrett (1969-76)
<i>School Representative:</i>	Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff 1976-)
<i>Committee Member:</i>	Douglas Payne (1940-48)
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	Julian Fellows (1981-89)
<i>Hockey Secretary</i>	Philip Moore (1980-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary:</i>	William Sherwood (1982-89)
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Bill White (Staff 1961-)

Obituary

We greatly regret to record the deaths of the following:

W. J. Harris (1931-36) in 1979.

E. R. (Sam) Morris (1937-41) in October 1990.

Marriages

Christopher Morshead (1974-77) to Jenny Louise Yanitsas in Australia, August 1990.



C. Yates

Births

To Catherine and **Nigel Powell** (1967-74) a daughter, Elizabeth Catherine, September 1990.
To Antonia and **Simon Johnson** (Staff 1980-85) a daughter, Maud, November 1990.
To Valerie and **Joseph Watson** (1971-78) a son, James David, March 1991.
To **Jennifer** (née **Watson**, 1978-80) and **Adam Phelps** a son, Harley Adam, May 1991.

News of Recent Leavers

Karen Betts
Touring Spain and Italy. Taught in a prep school in Salisbury

Lucy Brummitt
York University: Linguistics and French

John Carroll
Visiting Australia after a term on the staff at Oakley Hall. Homerton College of Further Education

Christopher Daniels
Trent Polytechnic: Town & Country Planning

Suzanne Denley Aston University: Biology

James Dowson
Exeter University: French & German 1991

Lydia Fellows
Secretarial work

James Gregory
Visiting Australia

Peter Grimsdale
Portsmouth Polytechnic: Mechanical Engineering

Nicholas Hall
Leicester Polytechnic: General course

Jo Hammond Visiting Australia

Julian Head
Sunderland Polytechnic: Medicine

Rebecca Hodgkinson Worcester College of Art

Kevin Holmes
Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry 1991

Emma Hull
Leicester Polytechnic: HND Politics

Guy Jeffries
Plymouth Polytechnic: Mechanical Engineering

Jeremy Jehan
Royal Agricultural College 1991

Arwyn Jones
Oxford College of Further Education: Ceramics

Nicola Kemp
Middlesex Polytechnic: Art Foundation course

Francis Lee
Birmingham University: Medicine 1991

Carragh MacAree
Leeds University; Business Management 1991

Andrew Mackinnon
St. George's Hospital: Medicine

Richard Mansell
Working in a bank in London

Ben Maslen
Gloscat: Art Foundation course. Bristol University: Economics & Politics 1991

Anthony Miles
In India, after working for Commercial Union

Joseph Nicholls
Loughborough University: Design Studies

Mark Nicholls
Durham University: Politics & Philosophy

Tom Nicholls
Leeds Polytechnic: Drama

Charles Paine
Gloscat: History of Art

Sara Payne
Christ Church, Oxford: English 1991

Shridhar Phalke
Keele University: Psychology & Law

Justine Platt
Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry

Jonathan Pratten
Thames Polytechnic: Biology

James Prince
In India

Carl Reens
Salford University: Chemistry

Fiona Reichwald Gloscat: Art Foundation course

Philippa Rome
Bournemouth College of Further Education: Hotel Management

Charlotte Stephens
Secretarial course. Visiting Australia

Karen Swan
Loughborough University: Mathematics 1991

Robert Tate Visiting Australia

Christian Vallence
Bangor University: Electronic Engineering

Amanda Vaux
Secretarial Course. Edinburgh College of Art 1991

Matthew Ventrella University College of Wales: Law

Guy Waller
Teaching in India. Loughborough University: European Studies 1991

Daniel White
Gloscat: Art Foundation course

Claire Mallindine
Oxford Polytechnic: Psychology & History of Art

Ann-Marie Chapman Worcester Polytechnic

Russell Ogden
Trent Polytechnic: HND Business Studies

Amanda Carter
Exeter University: French & History

William Sherwood Royal Holloway College: History

Angus Cochrane
University College of Swansea: Environmental Biology

Michael Bews
University College of Swansea: Computer Science

Neil McMurtrie
Brunei College: B. Tech. Computer Studies

Outings

Cadbury's and The Birmingham Science Museum

The Coach-load of juniors swung into the massive car park at the Cadbury's chocolate factory at Bourneville, amidst cries from the occupants such as:

'Drown me in chocolate!'

'I've got ten quid, how about you?'

'We're all going on a sampling holiday!'

Soon the motley group arrived at the main door, such a big place, just concerned with the making of chocolate! A guide, dressed in blue with a sign bearing 'My name's Sharon' came out of the building. She feigned an amiable face, and we were led into an air-conditioned hall, with glass doors, purple carpets and, before our very eyes, the SHOP! The shop at Cadbury's World is vast and packed to the brim with chocolate bars of all descriptions. Unfortunately we were led onwards before we could stop drooling and get *buying*.

The first display, on the history of chocolate, was a well-constructed Inca scene, telling you all about their chocolate, made from unprocessed cocoa, and their bizarre rituals to go with it, such as sacrificing chocolate-coloured puppies. As an unexpected bonus, you got to taste some liquid chocolate, as the Incas would have enjoyed it. It was bitterly sweet, thinner than 'normal' chocolate and tasted very earthy. Surprisingly, it went down well, and Jack Jelks amazed everyone by drinking four beakers-full. The entire section was filled with the sounds of a South American jungle and fake foliage to create the atmosphere.

Reluctantly moving on, we came to a sort of Victorian scene, with blown-up photographs depicting the original workers in Mr Cadbury's shop. There were also moving dummies with recorded voices, which were quite graphic.

Then we were ushered into the factory itself by the guide. She showed us videos of the chocolate-making process, which she described through a microphone.

Moving on, we came to a section where chocolate was being made by hand, especially for the visitors, as most of it is made by machines. We all got to taste the segments and agreed that the 'Fruit and Nut' was the best. There was a stand nearby with a placard bearing the words 'Please take some'. It was filled to the brim with foil-wrapped chocolate Easter rabbits, and all of us - I was no exception - grabbed loads and filled our pockets.

After several rabbits, we were led downstairs to - glory of glories - the SHOP! Everyone went mad, buying things right, left and centre; nothing could stop us!

Eventually we slowly and sadly made our way back to the coach and set off for the Birmingham Science Museum. When we got there, we were given sheets on which we had to answer questions. We were able thankfully to cross out several sections, as the galleries were being refurbished.

We wandered aimlessly for three-quarters of an hour, scribbling down any answer we happened upon. In one exhibition there were loads of practical things, such as Foucault's Pendulum and two dish-like things with a hole in the middle; if you said something through the hole, the person at the other end could hear it and *vice versa*, quite a feat above the cacophony made by the rest of us.



Another exhibition featured tricks with mirrors, which were quite amusing but couldn't beat our next find, in the locomotive hall. It was a train which moved backwards or forwards five metres every half-hour from ten in the morning until six in the evening.

On the journey back we watched the end of *Philadelphia Expt*, started on the way out, and then *Police Academy*. It was quite a day!

LINDSAY DUFF

Artists in Paris

Following the successful trip to Amsterdam last year, the Art Department was persuaded to forget ideas of relaxing over half-term and to take on a trip to Paris. 26 'A' level art students set forth at dawn on Friday, 15th February, accompanied by Mr Griffiths, Mr Denny and Mr O'Connor, who, although from the History Department, was to act as *monsieur l'interprète magnifique - sauf avec le français arabe*

A reasonably uneventful coach trip and a rough crossing brought us mainly safe and sound to France. The relief of a service station stop enabled us to put into practice our dubious linguistic skills and get our first taste of French *cuisine*.

Reaching Paris at 7.30 p.m., we settled into our hotel, which proved to be conveniently close to the *Folies Bergère* and a restaurant where we had a refreshing, if basic, meal. After quickly getting to know the local area, we settled down for a relatively early night in our hotel, which had turned out to be clean and rather smart, with comfortable beds and bathrooms *en suite*.

A warm Parisian sun welcomed us on Saturday morning, and we had enjoyable walks through the streets to meet eventually at the *Orangerie*. This small gallery overlooking the *Place de la Concorde* contains an amazing collection of impressionist and post-impressionist pieces, including work by Picasso, Cezanne and Soutine, who's boldly and brightly painted still-lives were inspirational and informative. Soutine used rich colours and heavily applied paint in an expressive response to his subject matter. It was interesting to see his pieces beside Cezanne's coolly controlled works. There was also a marvellously impressive, almost sculptural, painting of a nude bathing woman by Picasso.

The stars of the show, however, were the eight huge canvasses by Monet that make up his water-lily collection. These vast curved canvasses just seem to float in front of you; the great reflective pools of water, so full of light and a lovely translucent feeling, prove on close inspection to be created by the artist's making full use of different painting surfaces. You could almost jump into them and swim away in the current; you really feel that the thick, swirling brush-strokes have created a reality, and that if you stroked your hand over them all the ripples and images would float away. They were quite stunning, and their imagery and mood made a real impression on all of us.

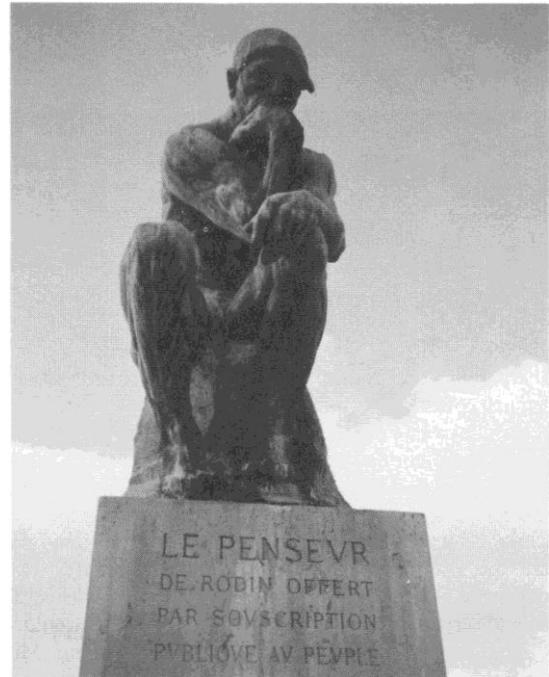
We moved on over the Seine and down to the *Musée Rodin*. This museum shows mainly Rodin's late nineteenth-century studies of the human figure. There was not only sculpture; there were also some of Rodin's loose drawings, showing the ability of movement within the figure. In the gardens there were larger figures, including the famous 'Thinker', an awe-inspiring work.

Most of us were ready for a lunch-break: we bought *baguettes* and local cheese to eat in the park near the Eiffel Tower, some of us taking the opportunity to listen to and celebrate England's decisive defeat of Scotland in the rugby international.

After lunch we went back to more cultural affairs, meeting at the Louvre, where we were able to admire - or otherwise - the glass pyramids and, with Mr O'Connor's help, *l'Indomptable*.

The Louvre contains a mind-boggling array of paintings. Fortunately we had been advised by the staff to restrict ourselves to a few, for example, *The Raft of the 'Medusa'* by Géricault, a spectacular work of art, and the

K. Hodgkinson



K. Hodgkinson

Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci.

By now everyone was tired and either staggered or caught the *Metro* or taxi back to the hotel, fortunately quite close. Later that evening a longish walk took us to a Moroccan restaurant. Unfortunately, although the food was pre-cooked, they seemed unable to cope with our numbers: while three-quarters of us had more than enough food, others had none. The food was certainly different! We made our way back to the hotel in groups, taking in a bit of Paris night-life *en route*.

Sunday morning seemed to come rather quickly but, after a delicious, typically French breakfast of strong coffee, hot chocolate and *croissants* everyone felt a bit revived. First on the agenda for the day was the Georges Pompidou Centre. This is a peculiar building, built inside-out and thus surrounded by huge pipes and transparent tubes which contain elevators. At the very top of the huge building is a spacious art gallery, with the work of many famous contemporary and post-impressionist artists. Particularly enjoyable to see were the Matisse's and the Bonnard's. The huge dark-blue canvas required careful consideration, as did the huge light-blue canvas!

Then we made our way to the *Musée d'Orsay* via *Notre Dame* and the Left Bank. The church itself provided sanctuary from the everyday life of Paris and the pestering portrait painters outside, although they managed to persuade Matt Smith.

After the shock of the Pompidou Centre and some of its extreme modern pieces, we felt more at home in the *d'Orsay* with its incredible collection of nineteenth-century masterpieces. There were so many pieces that one recognised and found even better in the flesh, and also many new delights. The Van Gogh section, showing his strong, expressive use of paint and colour, made a big impact, and everybody, despite the crowds and the heat, found some loved favourites. The collection is vast and certainly needs many more visits.

In the evening we collected outside the hotel and Roger, our coach-driver, treated us to a tour of Paris by

night. We stopped to see the spectacular sight of the illuminated Eiffel Tower and went on to have an interesting view of the *Arc de Triomphe*, certainly not a place to choose for one's driving test.

The evening meal was a classy affair in a *chic* restaurant in the *Champs-Élysées*, with everyone making a special effort to look smart. In the glittering interior we were served a delicious salad, followed by fish with a very sharp sauce and finishing with fruit *sorbets* and classic French coffee.

Monday came too soon, with time left only for a bit of last-minute shopping, but we all found time to stock up on the very good-value French wine. With only a few minor hiccups we sadly left Paris and made our way safely back. The whole experience, the opportunity to see the enormous range of great works of art, was enjoyable, educating and inspiring, an experience I should certainly like to repeat, as I am sure others would.

The trip could not have taken place without Mr Griffiths, Mr Denny and Mr O'Connor, and we are indebted to them for arranging things, for taking us and for at times putting up with us. We really appreciated it, and we hope they'll want to risk it again next year!

KATHRYN HODGKINSON
PATRICIA RENNY

The National Gallery and The Royal Academy

The 'A' level art students' annual visit to London, on 10th October, was centred on the Monet's Series Paintings exhibition at the Royal Academy. We were also given the opportunity to view six specific paintings in the National Gallery. As the Monet exhibition was the main subject of our visit, we were given only enough time to sample some of the pieces on view in the Gallery; I shall have to return for a more serious visit in the near future.

It was a great relief to arrive at the Academy after a long coach journey and, owing to Mr Griffiths's well organised planning, we were quickly ushered into the exhibition.

Once inside, we were able to study and admire Monet's experienced handling of paint. The exhibition was divided between large, separate rooms in which one could study his many Series paintings at close hand. The Academy had arranged his pictures in their respective order, each set of paintings being centred on one theme or *motif*. As a result, one could look at each group collectively and try to discover the way in which Monet mastered the use of light.

He would often take a simple theme and use the surrounding elements of light and form within the scene to portray the varying characteristics of the subject matter, for example, the haystack set in the middle of a landscape.

In particular I liked Monet's treatment of the poplar trees by the River Epte, near his home in Giverny. He must have painted the pictures from his boat, capturing the different effects of light catching upon the tall, elegant trees and their supportive reflections in the water. He gave the paintings substance and backing through the

reflections and through the trees fringing the horizon beyond. The paintings have a feeling of weightlessness with the tall, airy poplars shimmering against a watery fore and back ground.

The exhibition was popular with everyone; I feel that Monet's colourful works appealed to all moods and to differing ideas on approach within our sixth-form group. He was a painter fascinated by his quest to understand and to realise the importance of the changing nuances of light. He lived a long life and developed his approach to painting as he grew older. His early works were extremely pretty and picturesque, acclaimed for their open brushwork. From these early styles he developed until he reached his peak with the water-lilies at Giverny, which I was fortunate enough to see on the recent art trip to Paris.

The National Gallery, famous for its wide variety of paintings from Renaissance through to Post-Impressionism, was the scene of our final visit of the day. I was particularly struck by the charcoal cartoon by Leonardo da Vinci. The drawing is set in a darkened room with just a few spotlights to set off the smoky, grey figures, which have a touch of mystery as they melt into the scenes beyond. Leonardo achieved this by a swirling effect with the use of distinct charcoal lines.

Despite the long trip back, we all arrived feeling more inspired; undoubtedly this has influenced our work.

BEN MARSHALL



Hand against a mirror by Piers Gorman

Arran Field Trip

The annual, and now joint, Geography and Biology Field Trip broke new ground this year by heading north of the border, to Scotland and more specifically to the Western Isle of Arran. We travelled from Cheltenham by British Rail but, true to form, the train was delayed at Birmingham, and so we missed the ferry from the mainland. This was not as bad as the return trip, when the train caught fire!

The Loch Ranza field staff seemed very accustomed to such events and greeted us in enthusiastic fashion. The Loch Ranza Centre is a compact group of buildings, which provided a warm, comfortable environment for field work, with a glorious location on the northern coast of the island. The laboratories were smart and well equipped; the food was very good and much appreciated throughout our stay.

Loch Ranza is a small former fishing village, its houses largely grouped together on the northern shore of a small estuary. The land rises steeply on either side of the estuary and the valley to form the dramatic, craggy volcanic slopes of North Arran. Most of the houses are now holiday cottages or homes for families working in the tourist industry.

The Geographers

The party experienced the varied environments afforded by the Isle, in more ways than one! Heavy rain showers, mixed with sleet and snow, punctuated every day of our stay. Note-taking in such conditions can see one's paper reduced to a pulp in a few minutes. Why did the Centre omit to tell us in its prospectus that Loch Ranza is in the Guinness Book of Records as the village with the fewest hours of sunshine in Britain?

Nevertheless, in remarkably good spirits, the 'A' level geographers began with an eight-mile walk, taking in the main physical and human geographical features as a way of scene-setting for the rest of the week's work. We investigated the crofting system and its development, putting the existing land uses, sheep-rearing and deer-moor management in the context of the historical geography of the area.

In similar fashion, we studied the main elements of the geology and coastal geomorphology, with the advantage of visits to local, unique and nationally important sites, such as Hutton's Unconformity. The study of this site proved a turning-point in the thinking on the geological history of the earth, when the significance of the arrangement of the rocks was recognised by Hutton in the nineteenth century.

The hydrology, biogeography, soils and coastal features all had their turn as the main subjects for study, investigated in the broader context of the geological and glacial background of the area. That background gave us the added bonus of a lunchtime spent admiring the view - perhaps sheltering from the showers - as golden eagles circled overhead.

The Biologists

It is always a pleasure to break new ground, although the biology does not change and the ecosystems are much



C. Yates

the same. As a result of the new syllabus, the programme involved covering a variety of techniques and habitats over the first few days, which opened up possibilities for the now compulsory project.

The biologists investigated changes in plant communities caused by increasing altitude, measuring such casual factors as wind-speed, air and soil temperature, soil type. This culminated in a mature heather moorland, a feature not found extensively in Gloucestershire.

Fresh-water ecology gave considerable scope for studying the effects of water pollution on the aquatic fauna and flora which we identified. On 1st April the DDT levels in the river proved to be unacceptably high! It also enabled us to tie in the physical parameters of the river, already familiar to the geographers.

Coastal communities have great appeal for 'A' level biologists, and on this occasion crabs seemed to steal the show.

There is one road which passes all round the island, along which a service bus runs. We piled on to this to visit a conifer plantation, the trees affording a little shelter from the torrential rain.

The last important study was of a hydrosere, a lake which is becoming invaded by rushes, cotton grass and rhododendrons, a potential threat to all acidic moorlands such as Arran.

Andy and Sarah, our humorous and very competent tutors for the week, took advantage of a sunny spell to bring out the blackboard and give us a lesson in Gaelic. It is noteworthy that Andrew Pollard was *in his shirtsleeves*. 20 minutes later, like penguins, with hoods up, we sat out a hailstorm!

It was gratifying to find that the weather was much the same all over the UK. The real bonus on Arran was the presence of large animals, such as seals, the aforementioned golden eagles, and deer just off the road as we made our way along the coast to the pub on the last night.

It is a beautiful place, and I hope to return there one day.

B.M. G.

C. P. M. K.

Lear at Stratford

On 15th October, sixth form English students were given encouragement for their 'A' level studies with an outing to *King Lear* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford.

This epic tragedy was extended to last nearly four hours by the professional company, and by half-past eleven most people were quite happy to relinquish their 'cheap seats' in the balcony. Although the theatre is well designed to give everyone an unobstructed view of the stage, concentration was difficult to sustain at such a distance and over a long period. Therefore the stunned reaction provoked by the graphic blinding of Gloucester, two hours into the production, was a credit to the RSC.

The range of settings required by the play - palace interiors, battlefield, cornfield and storm-battered forest - poses a challenge to any designer; it was met ably and innovatively. The use of an open-ended, rotating 'box' as a second stage provided a seemingly endless variety of sets, from castle courtyard to heath to banquet-room. This effective device combined with flamboyant costumes, lighting and stage-direction to retain the audience's attention throughout all 26 scenes.

This is not to say that the technical mastery of the production distracted us from the actors; rather it highlighted their performance. In the climactic storm scene Lear's emotional tirade against hypocrisy and ingratitude was accompanied by sporadic lightning and thunder-claps as the stage spun to emphasise the mental and physical whirlwind Lear was experiencing.

It was altogether an invigorating and memorable performance, and our thanks go to the English department for giving us the opportunity to see it.

AMY WEST

Henry IV Part I at Stratford

On 29th April interested members of the Fifth and Sixth Forms went to Stratford to see a production of the first part of *King Henry IV*.

It was a typically excellent Royal Shakespeare Company performance, with simple, stylised scenery contrasting with rich and conventional properties and costumes.

The lines were well spoken by all the actors, especially by Michael Maloney as a carefree Hal, enjoying his youth and freedom in seedy London taverns. The show was stolen, however, by Robert Stephens's interesting portrayal of Falstaff.

Aesthetically pleasing, rotund, ruddy and bearded, this seemed a typically lively portrait of the portly knight until, in the last act with a *tour de force* performance of Falstaff's harsh 'honour' speech, Stephens cast new light on the complexities of the character. I had never before thought of Falstaff as capable of expressing such serious reflections with such gravity. This Falstaff's criticism of 'honour' was not simply wry or sceptical but actually disturbing in its sobriety.

The sets were used in an intriguing way for the battle scenes, with an elevating platform upon which there was a slow-motion 'pediment' of actors. Behind this, red, blue and gold silk banners and pennants flowed in circles, dramatically bathed in light and accompanied by the throb of drums.

Altogether, this was a performance truly worthy of Stratford at its best, and the promise of Part II in May makes it even better.

SOPHIE ROBINSON

Twelfth Night at Stratford

This performance of one of Shakespeare's finest comedies, to which we went on 1st May, certainly promised to be lively and entertaining; all the farcical deceit and intricate romantic tangles for which the play is famous were directed by comedian Griff Rhys Jones. Therefore we entered the theatre expecting a slightly unorthodox and fresh approach to the play.

As *Twelfth Night* unfolded on stage, however, it became obvious that there were to be no radical departures; the influence of a comic director was clearly predominant. The characters displayed touches of broad comedy, such as Sir Toby's delightfully crude and beautifully timed belch in mid-conversation with Sir Andrew Aguecheek, his rather feeble drinking partner. This brash comedy is refreshing to see in a Shakespeare production and makes the play really connect with the audience.

The first half of the play really sets up the plot and gives strength to all the characters, leaving the problem solving and the hilarious comic climax for the second half. After being given a taste of the proud, foolish Malvolio, the quick-witted, deceiving Maria and the brash, heavy-drinking Sir Toby, we settled down to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The second half continued in light-hearted vein, with inspired performances from Malvolio and Viola, the young girl disguised as her twin brother. The wonderful scene where the perennially sombre Malvolio confronts the beautiful Olivia cross-gartered and with a sickly grin is a gift for any actor of worth, but this production really brought the comic element to the fore. The seemingly unfathomable complications arising from identical appearance of Viola and Cesario and the veil of deceit lying over it are inevitably cast away at the end; it is, after all, a comedy.

All were agreed that this was the most entertaining production they had seen at Stratford, Shakespeare's words being brought to life in a splendid and invigorating fashion. A few purists might criticise the director for his emphasis on the comedy, but many more will praise him for taking the play forward to a new generation.

We are grateful to Mr O'Connor for arranging the trip.

JULIAN MADELEY

Much Ado at Stratford

I must confess that I had been eagerly expecting our English 'A' level set's excursion to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to see Shakespeare's famous comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. Not only was I hoping to gain a more profound understanding of the play by seeing it on the stage and to soak up all Stratford's magnificent thespian culture, but, perhaps more importantly, it was to be my first taste of freedom for some three and a half weeks.

Once the rather monotonous coach journey had been negotiated in the slowly enveloping darkness, we all stumbled out and took stock of Shakespeare's loved and revered birthplace. We soon discovered, however, that there was little beside the conspicuous 'Macdonald's' to stimulate our imagination, and we all looked forward to the magnificent sight of the sacrosanct Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Therefore I must admit to a certain amount of disappointment at being confronted by a large, monolithic structure that had none of the splendour and elegance my imagination had conjured up. My preconceived images of the theatre had been based on traditional and intellectual finks with the great playwright himself and, perhaps rather naively, I had expected more than this awkward-looking construction.

Once inside, many of us bought and skipped perfunctorily through the programme and sat down with the obligatory pre-performance drink. Then, at nearly seven-thirty, we tentatively made our way into the shrine itself, where several hundred Americans were already paying their overtly sincere respects, their texts, programmes, tickets, cast-lists and opera glasses all to hand. So far, at least, I had found little evidence to suggest that this theatre was one of England's most important cultural and intellectual centres.

However, these peripheral matters are unimportant when set in their true perspective; what really counts is the performance of the play. On this occasion there was very little to fault in the production and, for me, the play was truly brought to life. The large stage gave the actors plenty of scope to express all the intricacies involved, and I felt that Shakespeare's creative and dramatic flair was accentuated throughout.

The two major roles, Beatrice and Benedick, were acted superbly, and they held the interest of the audience well. Although finally they did fall in love, their continual flow of witticisms and scathing remarks provided constant amusement and stimulation, especially as it is written in such a vigorous style of prose.

The other courting couple provides the second plot. Claudio and Hero, playing the role of more conventional romance, become a parody of it. These and the other supporting roles were all played competently, but characters such as Dogberry and Don John could perhaps have been highlighted further. This impression seems to support the theory that the Royal Shakespeare Company relies too heavily on certain 'star' actors and either stifles younger talent or lets the standard of the supporting roles drop.

Also, many of the text's subtleties fall on stony ground when reaching the ears of the hopeless philistines of the

late twentieth century. Although the drama is still relevant on stage, the audiences of Shakespeare's day were far better at understanding puns and whimsical asides than we are today. Thus some of the relevance and 'cutting edge' is lost to us. However, these are more general points and should not detract from the eloquent performance of Beatrice and Benedick.

We all left the theatre in a profound daze of deceit, grief, romance and, finally, joyous celebration. The two courting couples had been united after their various trials and tribulations; the villains had been caught by the ridiculous Dogberry; the play had ended with a dance. It had to end happily, of course, like all comedies, but it put us all in a good mood for the journey back to Rendcomb, especially when we were greeted by the pleasant surprise of refreshments from our thoughtful caterers.

Finally, thanks must go to Mr Holt for organising the trip and trying to breed some real culture into Rendcomb's Sixth Form.

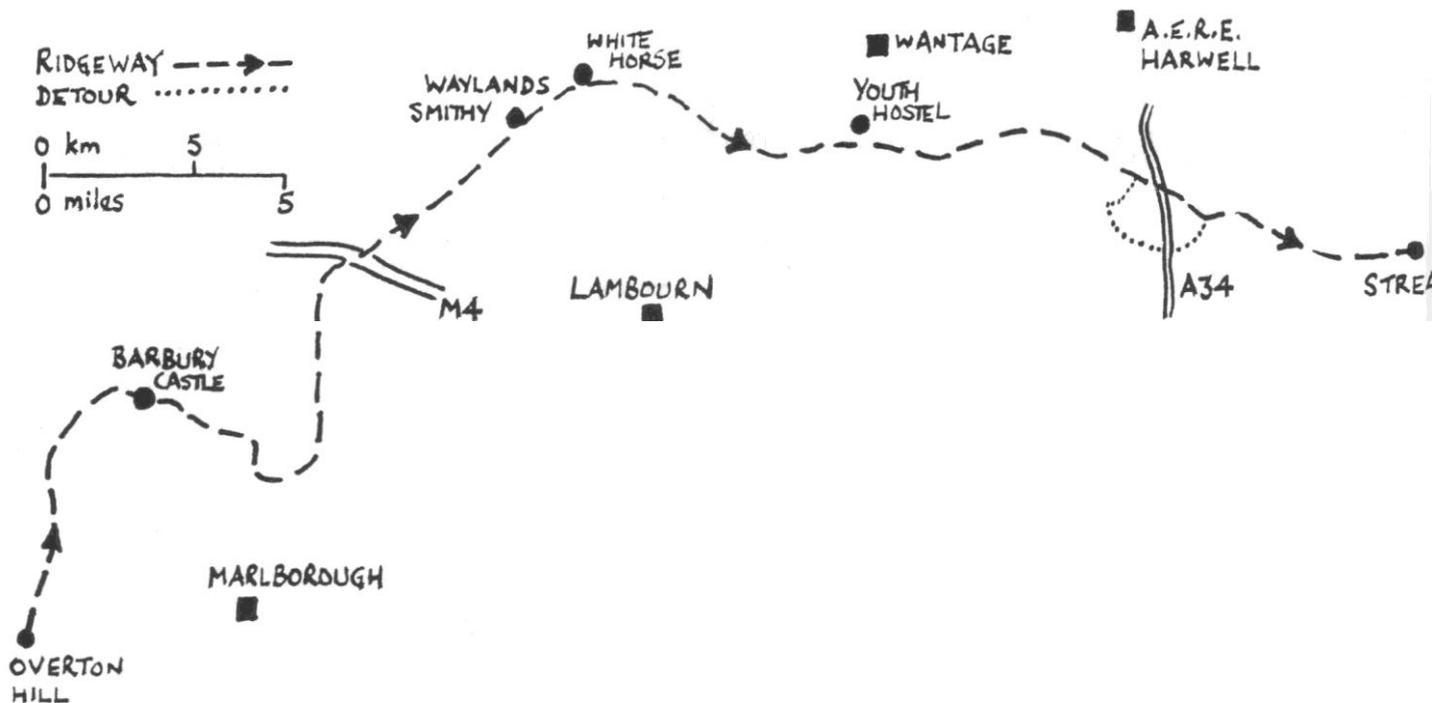
JULIAN MADELEY

Wind Band Day

The prospect of playing one's clarinet for a whole day in a convent was enough to give rise to the gravest scepticism, but there was no doubt at all at the end of the Wind Band Day, held on 22nd February at St Clotilde's School in Lechlade and shared also with Hatherop Castle School. It had been brilliant, a lot of serious endeavour, quite exhausting as well as fun, and a splendid chance to meet people from other schools, mainly girls. The unanimous verdict was; when is the next one?

Charles Allen found that he had to mime to more notes than he had imagined were possible on the flute. John Talbot discovered that there was another double bass player in the West of England. Charles Dudbridge spent the whole day practising two chords, only to find that the band couldn't manage the piece for the final concert. Alex Faiers played a star part in one of the pieces which did get performed. James Mills sat with his tuba on his lap, smiled and tried to look the part. Even if all the sounds that came out at the end of the day seemed a little strange and not what the composers had actually planned, the Wind Band Day was itself inspirational and provided amongst all the other things enough hours of practice to last a term. Our thanks go to Mr Shiner for organising and conducting the day.

D. B. W.



Ridgeway Ride

Shortly after arriving at Rendcomb, boys in the Junior House start to grow out of their bicycles, and Father Christmas usually obliges by producing a gleaming racer or, more commonly now, a mountain bike. With this in mind and inspired by the enthusiasm and experience of David Williams, an Old Rendcombian, Mr Wood and most of Form 2 planned to tackle the Ridgeway from Overton Hill, near Avebury, to Streatley, a stretch of about 50 miles which includes less than two miles on roads. As the headlines in the Wilts, and Glos. Standard read afterwards, it was to be a 'great test of energy and mountain bikes'.

The Ridgeway has been said to be one of the oldest 'roads' in Europe, and it usually followed a natural route on high ground to avoid the hazards of dense woodland and marshy lowland. It is likely that only small fragments of this ancient way survive; however, it is sufficiently isolated and rutted to provide the atmosphere experienced by an Anglo-Saxon traveller.

We woke up at 6.15 on a cold and crisp morning and proceeded to breakfast, wondering glumly whether or not we were going to survive the coming ordeal! 7.00 a. m., and we were rushing about getting gear together; Walkmans, backpacks, last-minute water-bottle refills and more Walkmans! With everything crammed into our bags, we boarded the vehicles that would take us to our starting-point, Overton Hill.

After unloading our bikes from the two trailers we set off, shivering in the cold, early-morning air, but soon warming up as we got up speed. The first few kilometres were pretty easy going, along a grass and dirt track, but there were deep wheel-ruts and many dips, which were a hassle if you wanted to keep up a good speed. Soon the group began to spread out, so that there was a fair distance between the leaders and the trailers and back-up Land Rover.

After a while we had our first stop, with welcome drinks and Mars Bars. Some of us discarded our water-bottles and back-packs and gratefully put them in the

Land Rover; even after just a few kilometres, we were beginning to find it quite hard going!

Then we were off again, along a stretch of road and then back on to a dirt-track, followed by a steep hill with a cunningly placed puddle just at the bottom! Most survived the encounter, but some of us had to stop and make adjustments to our bikes, which was just as well, for we then discovered that we had been going the wrong way!

As the journey moved through some marvellous countryside the weather warmed up, and some of us went bare-topped in the sunshine. We rode over all kinds of different terrain, making stops every so often, so that everyone could catch up. At the end of our first day's exhausting but enjoyable ride we stayed at a Youth Hostel, where to our good fortune we discovered a group of girls of about our own age, who were tackling some of the route on horseback. We explored the hostel and grounds and completed our duties, and some of the more resourceful of us began to socialise with the girls before retiring to a well-earned rest.

The second day passed much as the first, although perhaps we all had a bit less energy! Apart from Stephen Amey's minor bump on the knee on Day One, swiftly tended by Mr Wood, we all arrived back from a very interesting expedition more or less intact, tired but grateful to all those who had organised this scenic trip along one of England's oldest roads.

WILLIAM HEAVEN

Finally, those who supported this venture deserve special thanks, because the logistic headache of transporting 22 bikes was removed by Mrs Branston, Mr Freeman and Mr Cairns, while Mr and Mrs Winstone carried luggage, provided refreshment and were ever-present in the Land Rover kindly loaned by The Cirencester Garage, Ltd. A comprehensive array of spare parts was supplied by Williams Cycles of Cheltenham, and miraculously only one brake cable was needed, and that before the ride started.

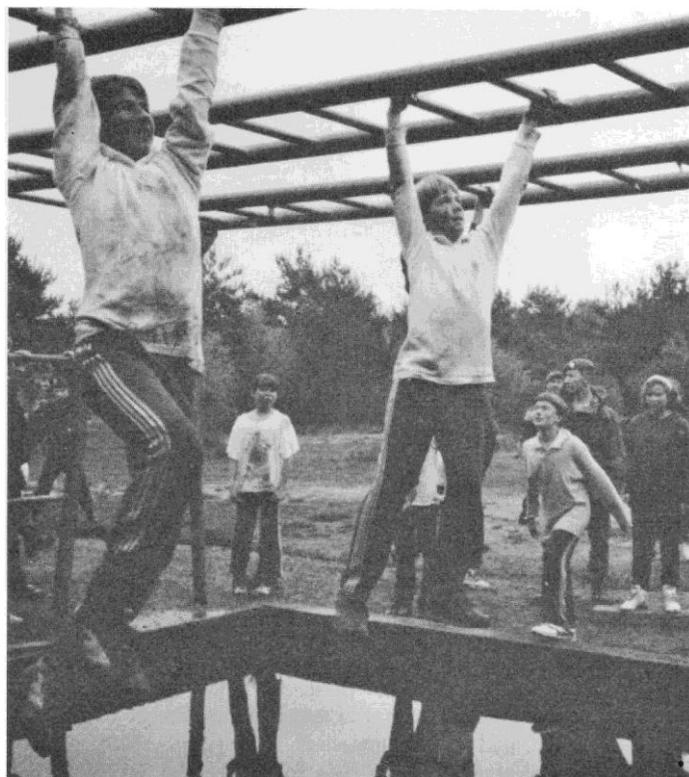
A Day with The Grenadiers

If your Dad is a Regimental Sergeant Major, who better to lay on a day out for Craig Marcham and his friends in the Second Form at the Guards' Depot in Surrey? What a time was had! No need for body-searches; the soldiers on guard were ready for the coach when it arrived. The programme for the day started with a video and a talk about army life and proceeded with military precision. A spot of drizzle was light enough for the promised Passing Out Parade to take place out of doors on the Parade Ground. Chairs had been specially set aside for Rendcomb College, and we watched a whole parade, with its well-drilled marching, a splendidly robed Life Guards' Band, inaudible speeches and prize giving.

Drying out afterwards took place in the Music Department. A rehearsal was in progress when we arrived and continued in spite of our being there and sitting amongst the players. It was good to see professionals having rehearsals just like ours, but a surprise to discover that they were all playing the music for the first time.

Dinner was in the Officers' Mess. Because we were friends of Craig, the Rendcomb Cohort was invited into the bar for drinks, which were consumed in style and to the manner born in the depths of deep, buttoned, leather chairs. The menu was arranged with young soldier-boys in mind, bangers and beans, chips and tomato ketchup, a bit of home from home.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Assault Course we were shown in the afternoon. Just to show us what it was all about, some of the soldiers went round first. The PE instructor was quick to emphasise that the course was done after the soldiers had done a long run



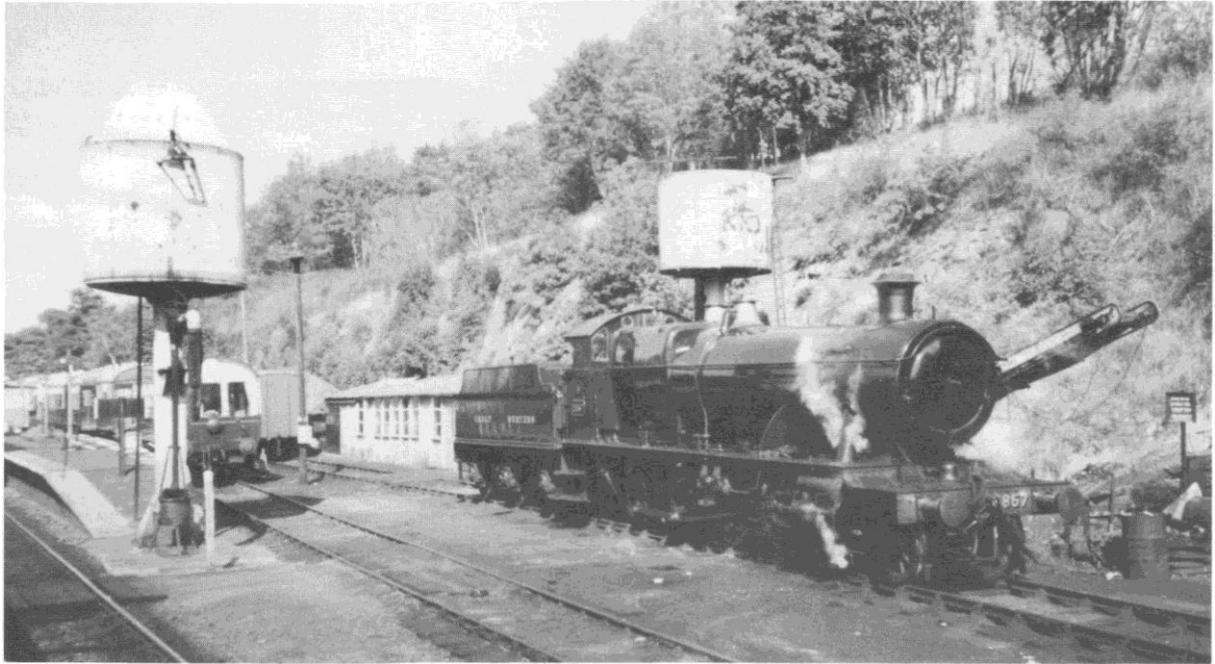
and with a pack on their backs. Then it was the turn of the Rendcombians, who were raring to go. Up and over, swinging on this, tunnelling through that, and inevitably falling in as much water as possible. His Dad made sure that Craig was one of the wettest, and also that the honorary female member of the Second Form excelled in front of the boys. Mr White swung for it just once - he was worried about his suit - and Mrs Wood's big toe and plaster turned very black in the mud.

Very many thanks are due to Mr Marcham and the Guards for a wonderful day.

D. B. W.

Ready to leave the Youth Hostel





A Nostalgic Trip

We set off straight after breakfast on 9th September, a coach-load of enthusiastic juniors and three not so enthusiastic teachers, on a trip to see the Severn Valley Railway and the Black Country Museum.

After a long coach journey we arrived at the start of the railway; of course our first destination was, as you guessed, the sweetshop. Then a small group of us found our way into the driver's cab and had a guided tour of it conducted by Mr Wood. The following rail journey was spectacular, going over the River Severn and many an embankment. The signs of the past were still obvious; the mail-catching nets and the stations, unchanged with their old 1940's-style advertising boards, added a sense of nostalgia. When we reached Bridgnorth, we explored the engine shed where restoration work was going on, even on a Sunday.

We had lunch on the coach and were soon at the Black Country Museum. The reconstructions of the old machines were excellent, even though the metal used was aluminium.

The coalmine struck me as being the highlight of the trip, with audio explanations of the old way of mining; I can remember the way the sun dazzled us as we emerged.

The reconstructed town had everything from a sweetshop to a hardware store; sadly the sweets were not for sale!

Our guide was very helpful and explained to us exactly who invented what and when.

To top the day, there was even a fair on the premises. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Wood, Mr Bowman and Dr Smith for a very enjoyable day out.

JAMES FAIRBANK

Ride in Concert

Ride have a reputation for not turning up to their concerts so, waiting outside the Victoria Rooms in Bristol on 16th October, we were worried. When news came through that they were doing a sound check, a sigh of relief went up. When the doors finally opened, everyone surged towards the hall.

Once inside and with T-shirts bought, we settled down to the support group, called *Bleach*. After their seven songs we had to wait 45 minutes until *Ride* finally came on but, when they did, it was breathtaking.

They opened with *Polar Bear* from their new album and then continued with tracks from the first three EPs, such as *Like a Daydream*, *Furthest Sense*, *Taste*, *Here and Now* and the awesome *Dreams Burn Down*. One highlight was an epic version of *Drive Blind*, and the drumming and guitar, seen through a huge strobe light, were something beyond belief.

Ride may turn out to be a big name in the music of the 90s. They hold a bright light for music in the future, and this was shown in the night's flying performance. Thanks must go to Mr Stephen Lea, who helped organise the trip and is consequently now the proud owner of a wonderfully 'arty' *Ride* T-shirt.

ANTONY PALIN

Ellesmere Port and Bust!

On the 23rd March 23 of us set out from Anderton Boatyard, near Northwich in Cheshire, eight boys with Mr Sykes and his family on the 69-foot narrow boat *Canada Goose* and eight with Mr Wood and Miss Rogers on the 70-foot *Tawny Owl*.

Even before departure a fridge had to be replaced in the *Owl* and, owing to a fault in the cooling system of the *Goose*, we had not gone far by the Sunday morning. That evening Andrew Branston had a rare brainwave, to play football, and he found a nearby field which turned out to be highly furrowed and somewhat muddy in the hollows; needless to say, we were covered! Well, at least Andrew felt at home.

The next day we arrived at the Roman city of Chester, having negotiated the triple staircase locks without soaking interested onlookers, an exercise which tested Mr Wood's and Mr Sykes's powers of deduction. As a priority, our kind, patient and indispensable Matron and Mrs Sykes discovered a much-needed launderette for our footballing gear. The crews made the most of shopping within the city walls and enjoyed their evening meal in

the spacious cafe, a contrast with the cramped dining facilities of our transport.

Early on Tuesday morning certain maniacs decided to go for a run around the walls: never again! After more shopping and a visit to the police station in search of Alister Harris's wallet - incidentally sent to his home two weeks later - we cast off once more along the Trent and Mersey canal in search of Ellesmere Port.

We certainly found it: a smelly, noisy, windy place alongside the Manchester Ship Canal and home of the Boat Museum. We turned round with difficulty and moored for the night by Chester Zoo. It was during this stretch of the journey that Matron could not finish her shower, when the power failed in the *Owl*; clearly our troubles were not yet over, but it was repaired that evening, and we were by then able to take such setbacks in our stride. We returned without further problems by the same route to Anderton.

The week will be remembered for such things as Colin Morey's taking an unplanned cold dip in the canal - not recommended - the idea for which he must have got from Ian Thompson, who managed to do the same thing, but with more style. There was also the spectacular fog on the last morning, the turning competition in a lock pound, doing the *Stonk*, Branny's Knickerbocker Glory feast and Charlie Webb and his peers!

We would all like to thank Mr Wood, Matron and Mr and Mrs Sykes for a very enjoyable week.

FRANCIS BARTON AND
OTHER CREWMEN



Advance lock party

Boys' Sport

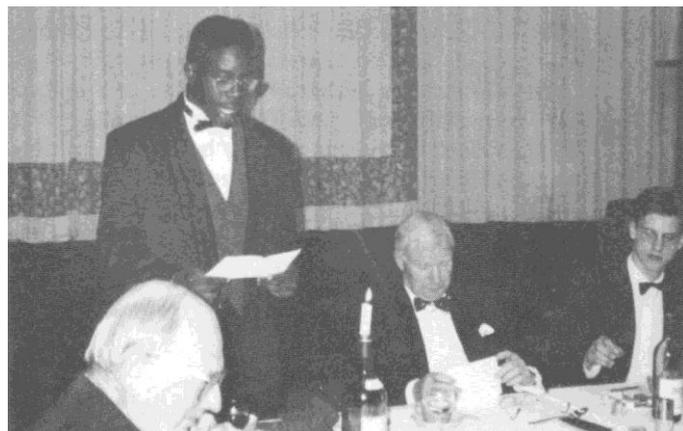
Rugby Football

The season, as last year, started off in unfavourable conditions, as the long, dry summer reduced growth of grass and rendered the ground 'up top' more akin to the Sports Hall surface. These conditions made full practices impossible and led to the cancellation of the early Marlborough and Hereford block-fixtures and the playing of only two matches before the first exeat. Inevitably the rock-hard pitches gave rise also to a long list of early injuries with shoulders, collar-bones, knees and ankles suffering most, not to mention the severe grass burns; how do they manage playing rugby in Africa?

The changes in the coaching team this season saw Messrs King and Thomas with the senior squad, Haslett and Griffiths with the U16 Colts and 'new boy' Mr Bowman joining Mr Sykes with the U14 group. The changes proved effective, with all sides showing considerable enthusiasm, skill-improvement at both individual and team level, and success, though not necessarily on match days. The season for me proved a revelation; as 'floating coach' I was able to spend some time with most of the sides and, for the first time in 10 years to observe the incredible degree of commitment and energy put into the games, not only by the players at all levels, but by the staff; it is an impressive sight to see the 190+ boys 'giving it their all' on a games day and not only improving their rugby skills but, most importantly, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

In terms of match success the XV and the U13 'A' team had impressive records, while the Colts and U14 XV played some outstanding rugby and have considerable potential for the future. Representative honours went to Nigel Fischer, who played for the Stroud District U16 team, Ben Marshall, who reached the final County U18 trials, and Kojo Annan, who played for Gloucestershire County and South and South-West U18 teams, though injury prevented his playing against the touring Australian side and almost certainly going on to wear the red-rose jersey of England (having reached the final England trials last year).

The Rugby Club was particularly honoured at the annual dinner this year by the presence of the President of the RFU, Captain Michael Pearey RN, as guest speaker; the other guests included the President of the Gloucestershire Society of Referees, Mr Ray Arnold, other referees, previous club captains and the teaching staff. The dinner was yet again a marvellous and most enjoyable event.



Meanwhile, planning for the club's two-week tour of Canada in July is well under way, helped by a fundraising committee which includes several parents and OR Ben Maslen; the tour should prove a memorable experience for all and will undoubtedly help Mr King in his preparation of the XV for next season. At the end of the year we unfortunately say goodbye to that 'towering' figure of a rugby coach, Gareth 'stand tall, lads' Thomas, who in his 'very short' time at the College proved excellent value, popular with and respected by his players and fellow-coaches, despite coming from a non-rugby-playing country. May I take this opportunity to convey my thanks to him and to all those who helped make it an enjoyable and successful season all round.

M. J. N.

Overall record:

Played 70; Won 31; Drew 1; Lost 38; Points for 824; Points against 1083.

1st XV

On paper the talent available this season did not perhaps look as strong as in previous years, and many ORs expected a bleak season to follow. The team's prospects were not helped by the very hard pitches at the start of the season, which unfortunately caused several injuries.

However, what the team lacked in stature and skill in some positions it more than made up for with enthusiasm, dedication and fortitude. It was this commitment amongst the forwards in the face of larger opposition which won many of our matches. Richard Milner as No. 8 and pack-leader was a pillar of strength to the team with his immense commitment and determined tackling. In the loose the young flankers, Graham Lawton and Ben Marshall, were outstanding and show considerable promise for the future. The front line proved to be solid all season, providing a valuable base from which Jon Tomsett could win an abundance of line-out ball and hooker Bunge could show his technical ability.

Behind the scrum Will King was lost through injury early in the season, and this somewhat diminished the attacking capabilities of the outside backs. In his absence Mike Moody gave his all; the backs defended admirably all season. Marcus Head in particular will be remembered for his resolute tackling. The wingers capitalised on all available opportunities and Pete Smithson ran in some memorable tries. The team's most prolific points-scorer was the very able Kojo Annan, who was a threat to the opposition whenever he had the ball in hand. If it were not for his very serious hamstring injury, Rendcomb might have had its first schoolboy international. Richard Hughes at full-back must be mentioned for his excellent play, he showed skill and reliability under the high ball and a flair for the counterattack.

The season was in general a great success, and the team has learned a great deal from its mistakes. The experience gained will undoubtedly be put to use during the forthcoming tour of Canada.

The success of the XV was in no small part due to the coaching of Mr King, who took over from where Mr

Newby left off, and to the strength of the 2nd XV in practices.

DAN MASLEN

Played 10; Won 7; Lost 3; Points for 187; Points against 126.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Won	24-6
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	16-4
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	16-7
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-39
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	9-23
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-25
v. Marling School (H)	Won	14-4
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won	22-6
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	16-12
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	70-0

Team from: D. Maslen (Captain), R. Milner (Vice-Captain), K. Annan, H. Auld, G. Bennett, C. Brown, G. Davies, A. Halliwell, M. Head, R. Hughes, W. King, G. Lawton, B. Marshall, M. Moody, A. Palin, N. Smith, P. Smithson, J. Tomsett, A. von Wesphalen-Bunge.

Rugby in Canada 1991

The 1st XV will undertake a tour in Canada from 27th July to 10th August this year. The tour party will be 34 strong, made up of two staff, one matron, two girls and 30 boys, including four ORs. We aim to play matches against school and club sides in and around the Toronto area of Ontario. There will also be visits to places of interest as, first and foremost, this is a school trip of educational value.

The party will be hosted by the families of opposing teams; this will give the tourists the opportunity to experience something of the lifestyle of a different country; at the same time it should be true that we shall speak the same language! The rugby is expected to be tough and of a high standard. The matches will be played at night, as during the day temperatures usually soar into the 80s.



24-hour event

The cost to the pupils is £480, the actual cost £580. We have therefore faced the task of raising at least £3,200. A small committee of parents, staff and ORs tackled the job of raising £5,000, largely by producing a tour brochure and selling the advertising space. In addition, the tourists have been asked to raise £50 per head for the sponsorship pool. A sponsored 24-hour rugby event was held to coincide with the Family Day on 2nd June. All money raised will go to improve the quality of the tour, paying for entrance fees to places of interest.

Highlights of the tour should include a trip to Niagara Falls and a trip to the waterfall itself on the *Maid of the Mist*. We hope to see and perhaps canoe on some of Canada's lakes and to visit some of Toronto's famous museums. Details of our experiences will appear in next year's *Rendcombian*.

C. P. M. K.



2nd XV

The team's record for this season belies the commitment and determination to win shown by all its members, even during the heaviest defeats.

The first two matches of the season having been cancelled owing to the hardness of the pitches, the team settled down quickly with a determined, if not always mobile, pack. The backs had their off-days, when handling was indifferent, but the Antony Palin - Chris Brown - Richard Herbert combination must be mentioned for some good straight running, which gave us a number of excellent tries over the term.

Consistency was hampered a little by the expected call-up of players to the 1st XV, but the 2nd XV battled on regardless and finished the season in style with a win against Kingham Hill. This provided a suitable high note for the rugby club dinner that evening.

Once again, this year the team's rugby showed the desire to win coupled with a genuine enjoyment of the game and, even in the cruellest of defeats, heads were never lowered, and spirits remained high.

Thanks go to the side, to the 1st XV and Mr King for their support, and finally to Mr Thomas for his hard work and encouragement.

SIMON HARDIE

Played 9; Won 3; Lost 6; Points for 41;
Points against 163.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	3-22
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	0-4
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	0-28
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-48
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	4-10
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Won	16-7
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won	7-0
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-36
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	11-8

Team from: S. Hardie (Captain), S. Lam, A. Pollard, R. Parsons, J. Powell, N. Houseman, H. Pugh, J. Wheeler, T. Shillington-Balfour, N. Wood, A. Palin, C. Brown, M. Moody, I. Richardson, R. Herbert, A. Baker, J. Sleeman, D. Chapman, J. Grafton.

U16 A' XV

A very enjoyable season for all the squad was reflected in the way the games were played.

As the season progressed, team selection had an air of stability about it. Indeed, changes in the team generally came about only through injury. In this respect we were lucky; there were very few injuries during the term, greatly to our advantage.

Notable wins came in the first of our two matches against King's, Gloucester, and in the final match of the season against Dean Close, which really exemplified all that was good about the team; the spirit and commitment shown in this game were unequalled throughout the season.

The success of the side was due to teamwork; we had no match-winning stars. There was, however, considerable talent around. The front five worked well together and were very solid; the back-row were the inspiration to the rest of the pack. Nigel Fischer and Patrick Morgan were able flankers and, along with Mark Valentine at No. 8, were quick to the breakdown and good at 'tidying up' around the pitch.

Matthew Giggs was industrious at scrum-half, and my understanding with him grew stronger with every game played. The two centres, Hugh Costelloe and Stuart Hall, were staunch defenders and strong attackers. Alex Beales on the right wing was devastating in the tackle and also developed into a potent attacking force. At full-back Andrew Sylvester was safe under the high ball and reliable all round.

Thanks must go to Dr Haslett for coaching us; his patience was admirable!

CHRIS CARMICHAEL

Modesty prevents Chris Carmichael from commenting on his own outstanding contribution to the team's success, both as captain and player. His vision and awareness in the key position of fly-half, together with his marvellous all-round football skills, make him a tremendous prospect for the senior game next year.

L. J. H.

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5; Points for 130;
Points against 116.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-18
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	14-8
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	19-4
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-22
v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV (A)	Won	53-3
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	6-15
v. Bredon School 1st XV (A)	Lost	0-18
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	4-12
v. Marling School 2nd XV (H)	Won	25-12
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	9-4

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

U16 'B' XV

Despite our shortage of wins, this was an excellent season in every other way. Besides the enormous advance made as a team on last year's results, the boys also pushed on with enthusiasm to improve their own skill levels. Many now stand ready to make a full contribution to senior rugby and to play with the zest and determination which meant that every match this year, despite the opposition's size, was a hard, tightly fought affair.

Indeed the team's only drawback was its slowness in starting; we were only once beaten in the second half of a match. Otherwise it was spirited stuff in defence and attack, with several fine tries scored by passing the ball quickly down the backs and out to the wing. As befits a 'B' team, there were frustrating mistakes, but the boys could not have tried or worked harder.

The ball-handling skills encouraged throughout the year-group helped their confidence, and they became adventurous. Their tackling also improved dynamically, as the 'A' side came to realise in practice. There was a fine relationship between the two groups, and this helped their spirit; they became a responsive and rewarding bunch to be with, and I hope they start next season as they finished this one, with a smile! If they do, they will be successful in all areas; results, enjoyment and satisfaction.

Mark Sansome and Alastair Graham were sound and supportive leaders of the team, and every member of the squad got at least part of a game, so that everybody finished the season having made some meritorious contribution to be proud of. There are too many to mention, I'm afraid, but all the under-named played with enthusiasm, determination and sheer guts! We won only one, but we competed every time, and the side deserves to be proud of this. I certainly am, and I look forward to seeing them play in such a rewarding manner again. Congratulations and thanks go to them from the best-dressed coach!

M. S. G.

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5; Points for 37;
Points against 94.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	14-8
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-16
v. Wycliffe College 4th XV (A)	Lost	4-22
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	6-16
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	7-16
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	6-16

Team from: M. Sansome (Captain), A. Graham (Vice-Captain), P. Allan, S. Barrett, D. Egré, A. Faiers, M. Fouracres, R. Gorman, T. Haine, G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, N. Macartney, C. Morgan-Harris, D. Morris, N. Nettleton, S. Pearce, A. Platt, T. Ramsden-Hare, N. Rose, J. Sawtell, J. Tate, C. Walton, P. Williams, L. Prosser.

U15 XV

This year there were only 31 boys in the squad. As a result the team usually selected itself; for the first time in a number of years a 'B' team could not be fielded. Looking at the season as a whole, the team performed very well. When an injury occurred to a key player, the team learnt to adapt, and one or two boys became good utility players.

Bloxham and Dauntsey's were far too strong for us this year, but good wins were recorded against Wycliffe and Marling. The team gave their all in matches but would have made more progress had they been willing to listen and work harder in practices. Some members of the team were too selfish; they often made good breaks but died with the ball.

James Mills, Christopher Oliver, Andrew Branston and Giles Head were the mainstays of a useful pack. They were good in the mauls but found rucking the ball much more difficult. Christopher Lawton worked tirelessly at scrum-half, and his all-round contribution was considerable.

The backs looked very good at times but they often did not give themselves enough time to move the ball, owing to poor alignment. Julian Wilkie showed some promising touches at fly-half, and Christopher Mason made some powerful bursts in the centre. Nicholas Barton scored some important tries, both as a forward and later as a three-quarter.

Some members of the group will do well in senior rugby, provided that they are prepared to work at their game. Our thanks must go once again to those parents who gave their invaluable support from the touchline at home and away matches.

C. C. B.

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5; Points for 130; Points against 117.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	12-18
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-32
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-26
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	8-1
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	10-13
v. Bredon School (A)	Won	18-12
v. Kingshill School (A)	Won	48-0
v. Marling School (A)	Won	8-0
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-8
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	26-4

Team from: A. Branston (Captain), C. Lawton (Captain), N. Barton, A. Brooke, B. Davies, C. East, G. Head, A. McIndoe, C. Mason, J. Mills, G. Monteith, J. Moore, C. Oliver, R. Sage, W. Smalley, K. Thomas, C. Waters, J. Wilkie. Also played: C. Millard, N. Pollard.

U14 'A' XV

Looking at the results, one would probably conclude that the season was rather disappointing; the contrary was true. We started with a few hard games against much larger and stronger sides; we were not a big side, but the skill and talent were there.

We had a strong and speedy pack, and much of our possession and success came from it. Stephen Jones and Raymond Hancock were sound props, who helped the hooker, Leslie White, to gain many balls with his quick reflexes. A much varied second row held the scrum tight, Adam Beales, Francis Barton and Martin Adams all having a go and making a successful job of lock. A speedy back row consisted of Andrew Riley, a flanker who proved to be a strong, fast runner, Mark Wills, whose spurring the scrum on as scrum-captain was influential, and John Morgan at No. 8.

A special mention should go to the backs for their efficient handling and tactics. John Eaton played well at scrum-half and span the ball out whenever possible; Patrick Boydell tackled magnificently and proved to be an enthusiastic fly-half. Alex Tibbs, Adam Higazi and Steven Croft ran well with the ball and scored valuable points. Freddy Ingham was invaluable at full-back, both with his attacking play and his defensive covering and tackling. A great asset to the side later in the season was Douglas Richardson, who really improved as the term progressed.

The team as a whole was very enthusiastic and enjoyed all the rugby. This was made possible by the skill and tactical ploys of our coach, Mr Sykes.

JOHN MORGAN

A word of praise must go to the Captain, John Morgan. On the field he led by example, always being in the thick of the action and always the right decisions. Off the field he organised the team well and generally shows a lot of potential for the future.

P. S.

Played 10; Won 3; Lost 7; Points for 113; Points against 234.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	7-16
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-36
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-26
v. Kingshill School (A)	Won	22-10
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	16-36
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	20-18
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-24
v. Marling School (A)	Lost	0-22
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	16-30
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	32-16

Team from: J. Morgan (Captain), M. Adams, F. Barton, M. Bartlett, A. Beales, P. Boydell, S. Croft, J. Eaton, A. Higazi, F. Ingham, S. Jones, D. Richardson, A. Riley, P. Roberts, A. Tibbs, L. White, M. Wilks.

U14 'B' XV

Snorting and champing at the bit for some weeks, we were well into the term before the U14 'B' warhorse was let slip into battle: against the traditionally formidable sides from Bloxham and then Wycliffe, both foes were vanquished slickly and decisively. The side met its match at Oxford, however, and was morose and dispirited for several minutes afterwards, but it girded itself manfully for the Dean Close challenge. A mighty conflict ensued: both teams fought bravely and cleanly, but the opposition's size and strength prevailed, and the season ended with equal wins and losses.

They were a tremendously committed team, to each other and to the game. The pack was a ferocious and disciplined unit: the front row of Rufus Blackwell, Nick Channing-Williams and Stephen Roney and the locks, Armen Topalian and Mark Williams, combined strength and determination with intelligence and originality. Flankers Mark Bartlett and Adam Bainbridge and pack-leader Chris Jarrett at No. 8 ran and tackled with tenacity and courage.

Charles Yardley, our adept and creative scrum-half, formed an immensely successful partnership with the fly-half and captain, Ian Thompson, who was the mainstay and inspiration for the side, displaying irrepressible resolution and outstanding skill, which never flagged before the final whistle. The three-quarter line of Giles Somers, Paul Smith, Ben Herbert and Doug Richardson were fleet of foot and firm of purpose. Our full-back was Daniel Kemp, who was sturdy in defence, bold and accurate in attack. In addition to such an intrepid fifteen we often called upon the talents of Miles Brown, Tim Gaskill and Michael Harper. Congratulations to all these, who made the term's rugby so enjoyable and memorable.

D. C. B.

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2; Points for 58; Points against 61.

v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	26-7
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	22-6
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	10-36
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-12

Team from: I. Thompson (Captain), D. Richardson, D. Kemp, P. Smith, G. Somers, B. Herbert, C. Yardley, C. Jarrett, A. Bainbridge, M. Bartlett, T. Gaskill, M. Williams, A. Topalian, R. Blackwell, N. Channing-Williams, S. Roney, N. Goodwin.

U13 'A' XV

The team had another generally successful season. Defeats by King's, Gloucester, and Marling were balanced - and indeed outweighed - by some excellent victories, particularly against Prior Park and Oakley Hall. The XV was fortunate in retaining seven of last year's squad, and that gave a skilled and experienced nucleus round which this season's campaign could be built.



The forwards proved to be very strong in set play, even if the loose work was more variable. Our particular strength lay in the back row, with Ean Branstone and Ben Renow-Clarke - surely the most impressive player this year - giving us plenty of pace and punch in attack and strong tackling in defence. Stephen Amey was equally good at setting up attacking moves for us or snuffing out the opposition's. The line-out duo of Messrs Marcham and Newcombe gave us good ball throughout the season, and William Heaven showed a lot of skill and control of the pack from No. 8. Ably coached by Mr Newby, the forwards formed a valuable platform from which the backs could create scoring opportunities.

Alister Harris was an inspiration at stand-off with his pace and ability to burst through the tackle, and his ankle injury midway through the season caused a real loss. Adam Simpkin gained in confidence and skill as the matches went on, and it was fitting that Leighton Freeman scored a try in the very last moments of the final match; he had played a valuable part in the team's success throughout the season. Chris Walmsley was a nippy winger, difficult to stop, and Richard Witchell's tackling became something of a legend: not many got past him.

The key figure in the team, though, was the captain, Nick Carmichael. Following in his elder brother's footsteps, he controlled the tactical situation from scrum-half with real skill and aplomb. In addition, his encouragement to the side was tremendous, and he was a fine ambassador for the school.

So where does U13 rugby stand at present? I think it has to be said that it is in thriving condition. The commitment and attitude this season has been outstanding - a coach's life is made so much easier by that fact alone - and the team has been a pleasure to work

with. Many of the squad will now be moving up to the U14 teams, but there is some fine talent coming through which, I hope, will lead to good results next year.

M. H. G.

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 3; Points for 120; Points against 132.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	4-32
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won	22-4
v. Prior Park School (H)	Won	42-6
v. Bredon School (H)	Drew	4-4
v. Oakley Hall School (H)	Won	12-8
v. Cheltenham College Junior School (H)	Won	14-8
v. Marling School (A)	Lost	0-36
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	18-12
v. Moultsford School (H)	Lost	4-22

Team from: N. Carmichael (Captain), S. Amey, E. Branston, W. Brix, J. Fairbank, L. Freeman, A. Harris, W. Heaven, C. Marcham, F. Newcombe, B. Renow-Clarke, A. Simpkin, M. Smith, C. Walmsley, R. Witchell, C. Barton, J. de Lisle Wells, M. Garcia, C. Webb. Also played: R. Blackwell, S. Jones.

U13 'B' XV

The team played two matches towards the end of the term. Although they won neither of these, they played with fighting spirit throughout, ensuring reasonable narrow defeats in both cases.

Captain Jack Jelfs kept the team together with commitment and enthusiasm and, with Tony Winstone, Craig Marcham, James de Lisle Wells and Charles Webb produced a strong front line. Adam King played skilfully and should develop over the next few years. They certainly seemed to enjoy the game and should produce a strong 'A' team next year.

A. P. B.

Played 2; Lost 2; Points for 8; Points against 40.

v. Oakley Hall School (A)	Lost	4-24
v. Cheltenham College Junior School (H)	Lost	4-16

Team from: J. Jelfs (Captain), A. Winstone, M. Morris, A. King, J. de Lisle Wells, C. Mackinnon, M. Hall, C. Webb, J. Smith, A. Perrin, S. Taylor, C. Allen, C. Marcham, L. Duff, A. Hawkins.

Hockey

We welcomed Mr Morgan - the first real hockey player for some time, Hertfordshire and England - and Mr Bowman as fourth and third year coaches respectively, whilst Mr Holt took over from Mr Hawkswell as 2nd XI mentor during a season which was severely disrupted owing to hard frosts followed by significant falls of snow.

This weather affected the matches of all teams except the U12 XI, and sadly it deprived the U15 'B' and U14 'B' XIs of most of their chances to put their hard-earned skills to the test. Yet again, we were fortunate to be able to practise on the Astro-Turf pitch at the Royal Agricultural College, but it has become a necessity, because so many of our matches are played on such pitches; in fact, all the 1st XI's away games were played on Astro-Turf this year.

Fewer 6A boys than usual chose this sport, but a depth of talent in 6B and the fifth year resulted in many exciting matches at all levels. The 4th XI remained undefeated even after the OR match, and we fielded a 5th XI for the first fixture, against Monkton Combe.

There are many hockey 'stars' in the lower forms, and many other boys show great promise for the future, but the second-year team deserves a special mention for winning all five of its matches with a particularly high level of skills, which delighted spectators. Clearly the dedication and patience of the hockey staff has its effect, and I am very grateful for their co-operation during what was a frustrating season.

Overall statistics were: played 48; cancelled 31; won 16; drew 8; lost 24; goals for 76; goals against 109.

Only three boys remained from last year's 1st XI, so it took some time to find a system of play which would suit the shortage of experienced full-backs - thank goodness our tradition of keen and effective goalkeepers continues - and the defensively biased formation finally adopted reduced the opportunities for scoring goals when we were attacking, until changes in the team, combined with greater co-operation between players, produced greater flexibility and more 'goals for'!

Richard Hughes proved to be an excellent captain on and off the field, and at times his goalkeeping was most impressive. Happily his replacement, Mark Valentine, was equally good in goal, and Graham Lawton coped well, considering that he inherited the captaincy suddenly. Many of the players displayed excellent skills when in possession, but lacked the maturity and self-discipline to pass the ball early; for this reason fast-moving attacks which split the opponents' defences were seen only later in the term. A great deal was learned by players who are not leaving, so 1992 could be an interesting and rewarding season.

C. J. W.



A young team found itself with numerous hurdles to overcome early in the season. The atrocious weather conditions and the loss of our talented goalkeeper and captain, Richard Hughes, hampered constructive practices and left the team seeking guidance. However, the players began to mesh together after a little reshaping, and by the end of the season they were settled and playing the hockey of which they all knew they were capable.

An increasingly solid defensive back three, Ben Marshall, Nigel Fischer and Henry Pugh, grew in stature, and from this solid base, reinforced by Mark Valentine's quickening reactions, the team began to play with more confidence.

Alasdair Baker ran hard all season at right-half, and his solid tackling and growing experience saw him develop into a compact and tidy player. Michael Moody again showed nice touches, especially with the reverse stick, and contained his opposing winger well.

The forwards, especially Nicholas Smith and William King, displayed some good skills on occasion, whilst Christopher Carmichael and Jonathan Roney became more adventurous on the wings, stretching defences and steadily adding more width to our game, which allowed Antony Palin to use his 'nose for goal' and made him the XI's top scorer with eight goals.

On the whole, this has been a learning season, in which our young team has become progressively more mature and confident. I am certain that next season's team will benefit greatly from these experiences, and next year should prove very successful indeed.

In conclusion, we would all like to thank Mr Wood for his coaching throughout the season, and we look forward to working with him next year, when we hope that his limitless patience and goodwill can be rewarded.

GRAHAM LAWTON

Played 9; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 5; Goals for 16; Goals against 18.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. The King's School, Worcester (H)	Drew	2-2

1st XI

Although the facts clearly show that 1991 was by no means a vintage year for the XI, it was most definitely invaluable for the moulding of next year's team.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Colston's School (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	2-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew	2-2
v. Burford School (H)	Won	7-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won	3-1

Team from: R. Hughes (Captain), W. King, D. Maslen, M. Moody, N. S. Smith, G. Lawton (Vice-Captain and later Acting Captain), A. Baker, H. Pugh, J. Roney, A. Palin, B. Marshall, C. Carmichael, N. Fischer, M. Valentine, A. Halliwell, A. Hall.

2nd XI

The senior game this year was, apart from a few ageing stars from 1990, relatively inexperienced, and the expectation was that this would be a transitional, lean season which would build for the future. This prospect proved to be accurate, though some individual reputations were enhanced, and the 2nd XI, despite some slowness and squareness in defence, was never slaughtered and usually enjoyed territorial parity. The group was an enthusiastic and improving one, so it was particularly unfortunate that no less than five of the eleven matches were cancelled, four through snowy conditions in mid-term, one because the ORs could not muster a second team on the final Saturday.

In a good opening contest on a heavy pitch at Monkton Combe - the team manager's nostalgia was equally heavy - we scored at the start of the second half to draw level, but two late goals settled our fate; the forwards, however, showed signs of becoming a lively combination. On the Cheltenham Redgra we were on terms at half-time again but eventually lost to a side which stopped better than we did, were more active in mid-field and were patently more used to hard-pitch techniques.

The season's sole win came in a tidy, improved performance against King's, Worcester, with more pressure put on opposing defenders. The string of snowy cancellations followed, frustratingly, just when we were looking a more incisive and integrated side; normal service did not resume until after half-term, when we were narrowly beaten by Colston's, the decisive goal of a close contest coming in the last five minutes. The Dean Close game was drawn, though here we got well on top in the second half and were perhaps unlucky not to win. The final match, against Crypt School 1st XI, was territorially extremely even, but our opponents finished off their attacks more sharply and also had an exceptional, county-class goalkeeper.

A fair proportion of this year's squad will be battling away here next year - and some in 1993 - so omens are propitious. Games against the 1st XI certainly honed some reflexes. I hope the leavers will continue with the sport at club or student level, while others will certainly be gaining glory with the 1992 1st XI. Meanwhile many thanks go to Marcus Head, who captained the team efficiently from right-wing and even risked the fury of his orthodontist by sacrificing a tooth for the nation.

J. N. H.

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 12; Goals against 15.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A)	Lost	2-4
v. The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	4-0
v. Colston's School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. The Crypt School 1st XI (H)	Lost	2-4

Team from: M. Head (Captain), A. Hall, S. Hett, W. King, P. Smithson, R. Walters, G. Davies, N. Houseman, P. Irving, J. Madeley, A. Palin, J. Wheeler, C. Carmichael, P. Morgan, A. Sylvester, M. Valentine.

3rd XI

This hockey season was surprisingly short, but still very rewarding. The record may not look very impressive, but this year's 3rd XI has 'groomed' some excellent younger players for the years to come. The strange thing about this team, considering the vast range of ages within it, was the immense sense of team spirit.

We were fortunate enough to have a priceless set of backs throughout the season. Even when the fearless Richard Walters, goalkeeper, departed for the 2nd XI, his namesake Richard Hutson filled the position well. Nathan Houseman, Alastair Graham and Andrew Sylvester, the last of whom also left for the 2nd XI, were all defenders with one thing on their mind: clear the ball at any cost, and I mean any!

The speed, agility and stick-work of left-half Stuart Hall, when on form, combined with a very talented forward line, made our attack just as lethal as our defence. Jon Powell's devastating pace on the wing guaranteed an accurate cross almost every time, leaving it only for Nick Wood, with his slightly unorthodox tackling, and John Tate to take the shot in the hope of its reaching the back of the net; incidentally it rarely did, but then you can't have it all.

The important aspect of the season was the teamwork - there were no stars, and those we had were lost to the 2nd XI - which pulled a group of boys aged between 18 and 15 together to play some excellent hockey, for a 3rd XI.

I think I can safely say we enjoyed the whole season, even the matches we lost. I hope the younger ones will carry on successfully after the older ones have left.

I would like to say a very special 'thank you' on behalf of the team to David Essenhigh, who always seemed to have an encouraging word for all of us and made every practice and match so enjoyable.

ADAM HALLIWELL

All credit must go to Adam Halliwell, who had an excellent season and led by example, always encouraging and inspiring other members of the team.

D. E.

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2; Goals for 4; Goals against 9.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	1-0
v. Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. The Crypt School 2nd XI (A)	Won	2-1

Team from: A. Halliwell (Captain), N. Wood, R. Walters, S. Hett, A. Pollard, J. Powell, J. Madeley, N. Houseman, S. Hall, R. Hutson, A. Graham, A. Sylvester, G. Jenkins, P. Croft, J. Tate, P. Morgan, P. Allan, C. Morgan-Harris.

4th XI

Once again I am pleased to report another unbeaten season for the eleven; it was a pity, however, that so few games were played. Nevertheless, this meant that the team was rarely in trouble, on or off the pitch!

The defence was the dominant area, as with so many of the past's glorious teams. This year, however, they scarcely needed to resort to the more devious tactics of the past; Nicholas Rose, Mark Sansome and Hamish Auld conceded only one goal during the season.

The midfield was excellently marshalled by the captain, Nigel Utting. The forward line performed magnificently, especially when Chris Brown and Anthony Bunge were signed up from retirement on a pint-a-goal basis. The highlight of the season was the ORs match, when past and present members of the fourth eleven took part in a glorious exhibition of off-the-ball nudges, skyed shots and fiendish intimidation. The final score was 4-3 to the present members; however, the ORs were playing with only eight men.

Congratulations go to the team for upholding the eleven's glorious traditions - they have now lost only one match in four seasons - and commiserations to the 6A members, who have played their last game.

D. O'C.

Played 5; Won 3; Drew 2; Goals for 10; Goals against 4.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	2-0
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Drew	0-0
v. Colston's School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	3-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won	4-3

Team from: N. Utting (Captain), R. Hutson, H. Auld, N. Rose, M. Sansome, C. East, A. Platt, M. Smith, J. Powell, D. Chapman, A. Pollard, P. Irving, C. Brown, G. Jenkins, C. Morgan-Harris, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, R. Herbert.

U15 XIs

Back in January the new coach was horrified to find where lay Pitch 6, the one allocated for his eager group; would an overnight stop be arranged on the way to each practice? He need not have worried; the weather came to the rescue, and the group seldom ventured beyond the relatively cosy confines of the Sports Hall before half-term, and when the matches did take place before and after the snow, he was able to negotiate the lease on the 1st XI pitch.

Indeed his team was worthy of such an exalted venue, because it played some good hockey despite all the interruptions.

As a group they improved most in positional play, so necessary both in defence and attack. Perhaps they did not always like listening - they would far rather have been playing - but they did take in the points about covering in defence and keeping wide in attack, and they can be proud of their progress.

A lot of illness and injuries depleted the resources of what was a small year-group anyway, but this did give the opportunity for most fourth-formers to represent the school at hockey, and none of them let us down. I hope that they can continue to play hockey with a pride in their own performance, appearance and conduct.

The 'A' XI began with a heavy defeat at the hands of Monkton Combe but were never again outclassed. Cheltenham College were beaten, and Colston's overcame us, but the difference between the teams was far less than the score suggests. The highlight of the term was a close contest with Dean Close on their plastic pitch on a lovely spring-like afternoon. This was a game in which Rendcomb showed the superior skill and tactics, combined with determination, but we failed to score the goals from so many chances created.

King's, Worcester, were beaten in what was ironically our poorest performance, but the season finished with a sound display in a drawn match with King's, Gloucester.



When they played well, it was through a genuine team effort, but three individuals did stand out in the course of the season. Andrew Branston was an excellent goalkeeper; he will blame himself for one or two of the goals, but he sets himself very high standards. He also captained the side conscientiously and enthusiastically Andrew McIndoe was similarly outstanding as full-back or sweeper; his tackling and hitting were consistently good. Finally, Christopher Lawton displayed the all round skill, commitment and energy that proved the mainstay of the side, both in defence and attack.

The 'B' XI were unlucky to have so many matches cancelled, and the side which would have played against Dean Close was beginning to look quite promising. Andrew Martin fulfilled the captain's role here with quiet efficiency. It was especially pleasing that several of the remaining fourth-formers from Game 5 managed to press for places in this team, and they should have a future in Rendcomb's senior hockey. I am grateful to Mr Max Chase for looking after the team and to Mr Graham for encouraging the Game 5 prospects.

H. M.

'A' XI - Played 6; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 5; Goals against 13.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	0-5
v. Cheltenham College U15 'B' XI (H)	Won	2-0
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	1-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	1-1

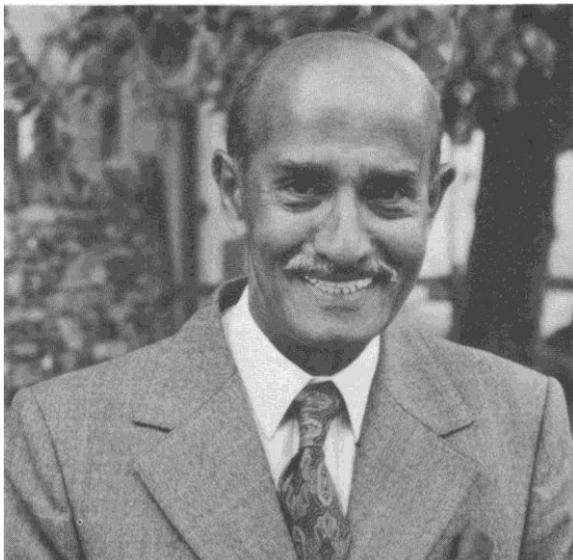
Team from: A. Branston (Captain), B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, C. East, G. Head, D. Irving, C. Lawton, A. McIndoe, C. Mason, J. Mills, G. Monteith, J. Moore, C. Oliver, M. Pentney, N. Pollard, R. Sage, K. Thomas, C. Waters, J. Wilkie.

'B' XI - Played 2; Lost 2; Goals for 1; Goals against 6.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (A)	Lost	1-4

Team from: A. Martin (Captain), J. Bainbridge, A. Barry, N. Barton, P. Bigg-Wither, A. Brooke, D. Chalk, C. East, G. Head, D. Irving, C. Mason, J. Mills, C. Oliver, M. Pentney, N. Pollard, L. Prosser.

Max Chase



U14 'A' XI

It was just as the team was developing into a balanced, cohesive and skilful unit that the snow struck and put paid to matches and reasonable practices for four weeks.

After a hard-fought draw at Monkton Combe and then a decisive and deserved win against Cheltenham College a month passed before we visited Colston's in Bristol. It took a while for the team to settle down, by which time several devastatingly unfortunate goals had dashed their chances. The game at Dean Close was played on Astro-Turf against a remarkably strong side. Finally, the most memorable encounter was at Gloucester, where the excitement mounted unbearably as goal followed goal, tit-for-tat, both sides fighting with tremendous vigour and determination; it was an enormously entertaining spectacle, from which we emerged, narrowly, in second place.

Stephen Jones was our cool-headed, fearless goalkeeper, assisted in the defence by the formidable proficiency of Francis Barton, Daniel Kemp and Leslie White. Chris Jarrett also played there; his powerful clearances became legendary. Doug Richardson's talents were put to full use as sweeper; creativity, aggression and a generous style characterised his game. Ian Thompson, Stephen Roney and Steven Croft displayed enthusiasm, energy and skill at midfield. The confident ball-skills and quick thinking of our wingers, John Morgan and Piers Roberts, devastated the opposition's defence and created exciting openings for our goal-hungry striker, Alex Tibbs: the timing and power of his attacks were thrilling to watch. Finally, it was with enormous dedication and authority, deriving from his own mastery of hockey, that Patrick Boydell captained a side which deserved a more satisfying season, but whose commitment and obvious promise made it a distinct pleasure to coach.

D. C. B.

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 14; Goals against 20.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Cheltenham College U14 'B' XI (H)	Won	5-0
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-7
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	6-7

Team from: P. Boydell (Captain), S. Jones, F. Barton, D. Kemp, S. Croft, C. Jarrett, S. Roney, L. White, H. Thompson, D. Richardson, A. Tibbs, J. Morgan, P. Roberts, M. Bartlett.

U14 'B' XI

The weather allowed the 'B' team to play only one match, an even game against Cheltenham College. The group bore the frustrations of the season patiently and played endless practice games in the Sports Hall in good spirit. They have skill and enthusiasm and show much promise as a team; particular mention, however, must be made of the 'novice' goalkeeper, Mark Wilks, who will be a tower of strength for teams in the future. I hope the 1992 season is more rewarding for them!

W. J. D. W.

v. Cheltenham College (H)	Drew	1-1
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Team from: A. Topalian (Captain), M. Wilks, M. Adams, G. Somers, A. Beales, R. Hancock, B. Herbert, F. Ingham, A. Higazi, S. Roney, R. Blackwell, C. Yardley.

U13 'A' XI

Oh, for an Astro-Turf pitch; as one Cheltenham College Junior School parent/spectator commented 'How do you possibly compete nowadays without one?' Good question, sir! But the U13 side certainly did compete and swept aside all opposition, to achieve a convincing victory in every match.

The side showed the tenacity and commitment of previous years, but the great difference was in the balance of players in the positions and most of all in the stunning level of skill demonstrated by the boys, remembering of course that virtually all are in only their second year of hockey: perfectly judged aerial balls, reverse-flicked goals, two-touch interplay all worked fluently within a 4-2-2 formation. Undoubtedly the two 'Old Girls', Anja Beaver and Suzanne Denley had a great deal of influence on the team's present standard, when they spent many hours as Junior House Prefects taking the 'nippers' for free-time hockey on Sinclair Field; ladies, I am indebted to you!

The frustrations caused by lack of play in the early season, due to the snow, were soon dispelled after deserved victories over Cheltenham College Junior School and Oakley Hall. Bad weather struck again and, as cancelled matches built up, we were reduced to short practices on the asphalt or tennis courts. The best performance came in the third match, not played until the final week of term, against Oakley Hall on the RAC Astro-Turf, where the team played with flair and inspiration to record an impressive win; the score would have been in double figures, had it not been for an excellent display by the Oakley goalkeeper.

All have played their part in the success of the team, from the attacking speed and skill of Alister Harris and Leighton Freeman on the wings, the clinical finishing of strikers Nicholas Carmichael, Stephen Amey and Ean Branston, supported by the sturdy defence and counterattack of the halves, Christopher Walmsley, Ben Renow-Clarke, Adam Simpkin and Michael Smith, and fullbacks Richard Witchell and William Heaven, to the 'man at the back', the formidable and able Francis Newcombe, who for the second year kept goal so effectively.

Michael Smith was outstanding as captain; positive and determined but calm and objective, as centre-half he controlled play with his ability to read the game and his sharpness to spot attacking opportunities and set the forwards in motion, all helped by his extremely high level of personal skill. I am most grateful to Michael; it was a pleasure working with him.

The future? These players have the potential to be an exceptional side, as long as they maintain their commitment and thirst to learn and improve, but, most important, their enjoyment in the game, which was so evident this season. I have no doubt that some of them will go on to play a high standard of representative hockey; just imagine how good they would be if Rendcomb had an Astro-Turf pitch! Finally, my thanks go to the best team in the College for a first-class season!

M. J. N.

Played 5; Won 5; Goals for 12; Goals against 3.

v. Cheltenham College Junior School U13'B'XI (H)	Won	3-0
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (A)	Won	3-2
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (H)	Won	2-0
v. The Downs School 1st XI (A)	Won	3-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	1-0

Team from: M. Smith (Captain), S. Amey, E. Branston, W. Brix, N. Carmichael, L. Freeman, A. Harris, W. Heaven, F. Newcombe, B. Renow-Clarke, A. Simpkin, C. Walmsley, R. Witchell.

U12 XI

The fact that this, the most junior team in the College, failed to win any of its four matches should not be seen as a reflection on either their enthusiasm or their ability. Some of the team were playing hockey for the first time, and the general improvement during the course of the season gives great hope for the future. Had the snow and rain not prevented sufficient practice 'up top', the team could have recorded at least one win.

As it was, we lost an exciting game away at Oakley Hall, having had the territorial advantage for much of the match without profiting from it, and then allowing them to mount a number of successful breakaway attacks in the second half.

The second game, against Cheltenham College Junior School, was much harder, and we were under pressure right from the start. Although lessons had been learnt from the first match and our defence was much more effective, their constant attack eventually wore it down sufficiently for them to score a number of well-taken goals.

In both return matches the improved performance of the side was marked. We scored our first goal at Oakley Hall and were unlucky not to achieve a draw, whilst against the Cheltenham College juniors we were doing well in the match at half-time, only to let it slip away through poor marking in the second half.

Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable season, during which everybody enjoyed his hockey and gave of his best on every occasion. In particular, Adam Hawkins showed himself to be a courageous and aggressive goalkeeper, Adam King a determined full-back, Christopher Baker a versatile and energetic centre-half and an inspiring captain, and Charles Webb a useful attacking forward.

P. J. S.

Played 4; Lost 4; Goals for 1; Goals against 15.

v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-5
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI (H)	Lost	0-3

Team from: C. Baker (Captain), C. Barton, J. de Lisle Wells, M. Garcia, J. Graham, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, A. King, C. Morey, A. Perrin, T. Shaw, J. Smith, S. Taylor, C. Webb.

Cricket

Despite the coldest and wettest June on record, only a few fixtures were lost to the weather. Two, or even three, sweaters were the order of the day. The new 1st XI sweaters, in use for the first time this season, were in great demand.

The 1st XI was rather weak this year; it had some success, but struggled against the stronger sides. The captain, Marcus Head, led by example and had a very good season with the bat; he thoroughly deserves his selection for the Gloucestershire Schools U19 side and for the Oxfordshire Schools U17 Cricket Association XI. Eight members of the school who gained 1st XI experience will be with us again next year.

All 31 members of the fourth year played cricket this season. Producing two sides was quite a task; on one occasion only 22 boys were fit! A number of the U15 'A' side came on very well and may make the 1st XI next year. Both U14 sides had a good season; the 'A' XI reached the semi-final of the Lords Taverners Cricketers' Colts Trophy, and the 'B' XI did well, having a number of players who would, in a weaker year, have made the 'A' side. The prospects for the 1994/95 seasons look very promising, especially as a number of U13 players have emerged as well.

Cricket Week this year was affected by boys' leaving after the public exams; this weakened the 1st XI, which found it difficult to cope with some of the more talented sides. There seems little point in arranging these matches if the strongest side cannot be fielded, and yet it would seem a pity not to use our superb facilities right up to the end of term in future years.

My thanks must go to David Essenhigh for running and coaching the 1st XI and for preparing such good wickets, and also to the eight members of the staff involved in cricket, for all their hard work and support.

We must also thank Tom Gomersall and all his staff for producing such good lunches and teas during the season, and Emily Tabassi and her 6B team for all the hard work they put in serving them.

C. C. B.

1st XI

The 1991 cricket season was rather like the weather, disappointing, with May very cold and dry and June very wet. Our performance reflected the weather, losing nine games and winning only two.

Our batting relied on the captain, Marcus Head, who scored over 550 runs, an excellent performance; he worked very hard at his game and got his reward. Of the other batsmen Nick Smith was the most reliable, with William King, John Wheeler, Mark Valentine, James Grafton and David Chapman all having their moments without being reliable.

William King was the pick of the bowlers, with over 30 wickets; he had good support from John Tate and David Chapman, and from Andrew Sylvester with his left-arm spin.

Although we lost to Cheltenham College by an innings, we won many friends with our grit and determination,

with John Wheeler batting for two and a half hours against all the odds to score 26 out of a total of 70. For this performance we received a good write-up in *The Cricketer*.

Also, it was a great honour when I was asked by the England Schools if they could play the first Under Fourteen International Match, against Wales, at Rendcomb; with the Head Master's permission the game went ahead.

We worked very hard to get a good pitch ready, although the weather was against us; fortunately it improved on Friday and Saturday and by Sunday 30th June it was drying out and allowed the game to be played on a good, easy-paced wicket.

My thanks go to Chris King for his support and for the way he ran the 2nd XI; they are always a happy group. Thanks go also to the 6B girls who did an excellent job with all the teas and lunches and who always had a hot cup of tea ready when we were cold.

I feel that, to improve our performances throughout the school, we must do more coaching: I am still seeing younger boys using the wrong grip.

It is good to see the Gloucestershire boys, Russell and Lawrence, whom I have had the honour of coaching, in the England Test side.

I would like to wish Marcus Head good luck in his U19 county matches and to thank Colin Burden for arranging the fixtures for us.

D. E.

Played 19; Won 2; Drew 7; Lost 9; Abandoned 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday CC (H) - Match drawn
Swindon 217-5 decl.
Rendcomb 176-6 (Head 73, Smith 54)

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Two-day Match - Match drawn
Rendcomb 116 (Wheeler 37, Head 24) and 107-8
(Valentine 22, Smith 20)
Wycliffe 105-7 decl. (King 7-54)

v. Dean Close School (H) - 40-Over Game
Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 106 (Valentine 41, Smith 23)
Dean Close 109-7 (Tate 2-11, Sylvester 2-25)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 191-3 decl. (Head 97, Valentine 51)
Crypt 108-5 (Sylvester 3-30, King 2-30)

v. Cheltenham College (A) - Two-day Match - Lost by an innings and 71 runs
Cheltenham 299-2 decl.
Rendcomb 158 (Head 34, King 33, Chapman 33, Grafton 26) and 70 (Wheeler 26, Tate 13)

v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 119 runs
Bloxham 186-6 decl. (Tate 3-41, King 2-32)
Rendcomb 67 (Irving 25)

- v. Marling School (A) - Won by 4 wickets Marling 82 (King 4-27, Sylvester 5-15)
Rendcomb 86-6 (Grafton 30, King 16)
- v. North Cerney CC (A) - Lost by 90 runs North Cerney 218 (Chapman 4—53, Tate 3-39)
Rendcomb 128 (Head 38, King 33, Tate 19*)
- v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 36 Pate's 37-1
- v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 155-6 decl. (Smith 73, Valentine 22)
King's 157-2 (Tate 2-A4)
- v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 9 wickets Cokethorpe 54 (Tate 5-24, King 5-25)
Rendcomb 55-1 (Valentine 33*)
- v. New College, Swindon (H) - Match drawn New College 176-8 decl. (Grafton 5-18)
Rendcomb 129-4 (Head 77*, Pugh 27)
- v. St David's University College (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 126 (Head 54*, Chapman 24*)
St David's 126-8 (Chapman 3-41)
- v. Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 6 runs Prior Park 112 (Chapman 4—39, Sylvester 3-34, Smith 2-4)
Rendcomb 106 (King 47, Smith 16)
- v. The Gloucestershire Gipsies (H) - Lost by 125 runs
Gipsies 232-4 decl. (Chapman 3-89)
Rendcomb 107 (Wheeler 31, Irving 13)
- v. W. G. Cricket (H) - Match Drawn W. G. Cricket 173-9 decl. (King 7-67)
Rendcomb 103-8 (Head 50*)
- v. Victoria College, Jersey (H) - Lost by 162 runs Victoria 232-1 decl.
Rendcomb 70 (Sylvester 16)
- v. The Old Rendcombian Society XI (H) - Match Drawn
ORs 219-3 (King 3-78)
Rendcomb 193-9 (Head 64, Irving 34, Halliwell 22*)

Team from: M. Head (Captain), W. King (Vice- Captain), J. Wheeler, M. Valentine, N. Smith, J. Grafton, W. King, J. Tate, D. Chapman, A. Halliwell, A. Sylvester, P. Irving, H. Pugh, A. Palin, J. Powell, G. Davies, G. Head, C. Lawton.

2nd XI

As ever with 2nd XI cricket, there was never a dull moment throughout the somewhat short season. The enthusiasm of the team was great and became evident right at the beginning of the season in the match against Wycliffe College; defeat looked certain within a few deliveries, but with an attacking field and some very tight and accurate bowling the last two wickets fell for only one run, before their No. 8 batsman hit a four down the legside, clinching victory for them.

There were, of course, a few disasters during the season, and the batting collapse became a feature of the team's performance. However, this was not always the case; against Cheltenham College Antony Palin held up the innings with a magnificent 51, scoring more than half our runs.

The bowling of Paul Allan and Danny Morris was consistent throughout the season, improving all the time; they may obtain places in the 1st XI next year.

Henry Pugh and Sam Lam were excellent, as their batting performances showed, playing their shots with a great deal of confidence and regularly scoring 20 - 30 runs.

The players all progressed as the season went on, and three deserve special mention. Mathieu Laroche was an outstanding wicket-keeper, taking eight catches behind the stumps; Matthew Giggs and Matt Norman played with spirit and made the breakthrough later in the season, both scoring a substantial amount of runs.

I would like to thank all the team for their persistence all season and for their enthusiasm; everyone who played should do well in the senior game next year.

JONATHAN POWELL

Played 7; Drew 1; Lost 5; Abandoned 1.

- v. Wycliffe College (A) - Lost by 2 wickets
Rendcomb 140 (Irving 39)
Wycliffe 144-8 (Palin 4-19)
- v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (H) - Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 97 (Palin 51)
Cheltenham 98-0
- v. Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 118 runs
Bloxham 194-3 decl. (Morris 3-76)
Rendcomb 76 (Pugh 20)
- v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 1 wicket
Rendcomb 113-9 decl. (Pugh 31, Lam 27)
Marling 116-8 (Allan 3-29)
- v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 117 (Norman 28*, Palin 21)
Pate's 76-8 (Allan 4-26)
- v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 4 wickets
Rendcomb 104 (Palin 19)
King's 108-6 (Powell 2-13)
- v. Bredon School (A) - Match abandoned
Rendcomb 78-8 (Powell 27*)
- Team from: J. Powell (Captain), P. Allan, H. Auld, A. Beales, G. Davies, M. Giggs, R. Hutson, P. Irving, S-W. Lam, M. Laroche, G. Lawton, D. Morris, M. Norman, A. Palin, S. Pearce, H. Pugh, T. Ramsden-Hare, J. Sawtell, M. Smith.

U15 'A' XI

Although only one match was won, the side had quite a successful season, losing only one school match, against a strong Cheltenham College side. Although no batsman scored a half-century, useful contributions were made by Christopher Lawton, Andrew Branston, Giles Head, James Mills and Julian Wilkie. Having got themselves established, they must improve their concentration to achieve larger totals.

Lawton was the best of the bowlers; his extra pace and good line and length gave him some impressive bowling figures. He was given good support by Wilkie, Andrew McIndoe and Kai Thomas, whose leg-spin troubled most sides. The ground fielding was sound, and some good catches were taken.

A number of the players should make the 1st XI next season, although they will have to work very hard at their game to achieve success. We are grateful to Andrew Martin for doing such a good job as scorer.

C. C. B.

Played 11; Won 1; Drew 7; Lost 2; Abandoned 1.

- v. Wycliffe College (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 120-5 decl. (Lawton 43*, Mills 29)
Wycliffe 90-7 (Lawton 3-50, Thomas 4-28)
- v. The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 130-5 decl. (Branston 41, Wilkie 39)
Crypt 94-2
- v. Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 62 (Lawton 22)
Cheltenham 69-4
- v. Bloxham School (A) - Match drawn
Bloxham 191-3 decl. (McIndoe 2-26)
Rendcomb 59-4
- v. Marling School (A) - Match drawn
Marling 142-8 decl. (Lawton 7-69)
Rendcomb 91-7 (Head 22)
- v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 112 (Head 38, East 22)
King's 73-5 (McIndoe 3-22)
- v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 136 (Branston 24)
Pate's 131-8 (Lawton 4-42, McIndoe 4-71)
- v. Bredon School (A) - Won by 9 wickets
Bredon 31 (Lawton 6-19, Wilkie 3-6)
Rendcomb 34-1
- v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Match drawn
Cokethorpe 105-8 decl. (Lawton 5-30)
Rendcomb 81-5 (Lawton 22)
- v. Belmont Abbey School (H) - Match abandoned
Rendcomb 41-5
- v. Swindon CC Wednesday XI (H) - Lost by 126 runs
Swindon 216-4 decl. (Branston 3-42)
Rendcomb 90 (Sylvester 30)

Team from: C. Lawton (Captain), A. Branston, B. Davies, C. East, G. Fowler, G. Head, A. McIndoe, J. Mills, J. Moore, K. Thomas, J. Wilkie. Also played: N. Barton, P. Bigg-Wither, A. Brooke, C. Dudbridge, C. Mason, L. Prosser, R. Sage, C. Waters, F. Barton, D. Richardson, A. Sylvester (guest player against Swindon CC).

U15 'B' XI

At this level the fourth year lacked all-rounders who might have been able to provide greater depth to the batting and bowling. However, the members of this team applied themselves well to the task of developing their skills during practices and matches, and in this respect Luke Prosser's batting and Christopher Mason's bowling are particularly worthy of mention.

A number of players performed well on occasions but could not be relied on to make significant contributions in every match. Nicholas Barton proved that he was capable of an impressive innings, but his style made him very vulnerable to good bowlers for the first few overs. Paul Bigg-Wither bowled successfully on several occasions. Mason, Prosser and Robert Sage captained the side sensibly at different times, and Graham Monteith displayed a good sense of timing as wicket-keeper throughout the season.

The most impressive aspect of this team was the way in which the players maintained momentum when the odds were against them, and it was only the lack of consistently accurate bowling which deprived them of a win. Thanks are due to Nicholas Pollard for scoring.

C. J. W.

Played 6; Lost 5; Abandoned 1.

- v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (A) - Lost by 180 runs
Cheltenham 268-4 decl. Rendcomb 88 (Prosser 22*)
- v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 110 (Barton 40)
Bloxham 111-7 (Bigg-Wither 4-24)
- v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 63 (Martin 14)
King's 66-0
- v. Cokethorpe School U16 'B' XI (A) - Lost by 7 wickets
Rendcomb 82 (Prosser 21)
Cokethorpe 83-3
- v. Cokethorpe School 2nd XI (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 105 (McIndoe 35, East 36)
Cokethorpe 106-4
- v. Dean Close School (H) - Match abandoned
Dean Close 46-3 (Mason 2-28)

Team from: C. Mason (Captain), R. Sage (Captain), L. Prosser (Captain), A. Barry, P. Bigg-Wither, C. Dudbridge, N. Barton, C. Oliver, M. Pentney, G. Monteith, C. Waters, C. Norman, A. Martin, M. Gee, A. Brooke, A. McIndoe, C. East, D. Irving, B. Davies.

U14 'A' XI

This was an excellent season. There were no individual superstars in this team; its success was based on positive and determined play and, although the results were good, what I shall remember is the attitude of the team and numerous successful, and sometimes otherwise, pieces of play.

My favourite is the look on John Eaton's face when he was called up to become fourth slip in an attacking field-setting, somewhat akin to the West Indies at their most aggressive; John Morgan's medium pace outswingers may be just a little less hostile, but he found the outside edge, and the ball flew shoulder-high to where Eaton took an instinctive catch. There was surprise and jubilation all round, not least from the coach, who as square-leg umpire had had a perfect view of a piece of adventurous cricket working perfectly.

Indeed, one of the delights of this team was its willingness to attack in the field; many a bemused batsman was greeted with the captain's call of 'attacking field' and found himself surrounded by a posse of close fielders; often the pressure worked, and the boys enjoyed themselves.

Generally the bowling was good and matched the field settings. Douglas Richardson and Mark Bartlett are a pair of lively medium-pacers who kept a good line and length all term; they also developed some control over swing and should become a really formidable duo in future years. They gained solid support from Morgan and the improving John Roney.

The team's spin-twins, Francis Barton and Patrick Boydell, did a fine job. Although neither quite worked out how to bowl to left-handers, Boydell with his leg-spin and Barton with his off-spin, committed to real flight and spin, were both very successful wicket-takers; if they can remember how they did it they will in future be interesting to watch and extremely successful.

On the batting front the team sometimes lacked a little of the *panache* of the bowlers, but they had some success, even Morgan and Bartlett! Mark Wilks and Ian Thompson produced several firm platforms as openers

and show all the resolve needed to become a classic duo. They did not quite attain the big scores they might have, but they always batted with determination, sometimes in elegant style.

The backbone at numbers three and four were Barton and Richardson; they looked secure against even the best bowling and were certainly rather unlucky in getting out when looking well set in the twenties. Christopher Jarrett developed into a hard-hitting and rather stylish middle-order batsman and added several brilliant catches to the runs he made. The batsman who improved most must be Piers Roberts, who added a really gutsy defence to his belligerent stroke-making, and the effort he put into the game really helped the team.

Alexander Tibbs took over as wicket-keeper and seems to have potential here, in addition to his positive shot-making; he and several others did a really good job lower in the batting order.

Barton, as captain, was quietly positive and, although he and Richardson, his vice-captain, were not always loud enough in directing their decisions, they were thoughtful, extremely helpful, encouraging and positive; much of the team's enjoyment echoed from their handling of the games.

In conclusion I must thank them and all the team for having contributed to such an enjoyable term's cricket. They made it fun to watch and to be involved with. Our scorer, the excellent and reliable Mark Steen, watched it all. He had the hardest job but, like all this year's team, did it admirably and with style.

M. S. G.

Played 11; Won 5; Tied 1; Drew 2; Lost 3.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Won by 3 wickets
Wycliffe 124
Rendcomb 125-7 (Richardson 27*)

v. Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 132 runs
Cheltenham 176-3 decl. Rendcomb 44 (Rielly 5-19)



v. Bloxham School (H) - Match drawn Bloxham 128-7 decl.
Rendcomb 69-7 (Wilks 36)

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 3 runs
Rendcomb 123-9 decl.
Marling 120 (Payne 41, Boydell 7-47)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 6 wickets!
King's 129 (Bartlett 3-21, Richardson 2-12)
Rendcomb 131-4 (Richardson 43*, Jarrett 33*)

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn Pate's 95-8 decl. (Morgan 3-14)
Rendcomb 64-7

v. Avonhurst School (H) - Won by 9 wickets Avonhurst 50 (Johnson 25, Thompson 2-6, Barton 2-2, Boydell 2-5)
Rendcomb 52-1 (Wilks 27)

v. The Cotswold School (H) - Won by 44 runs † Rendcomb 143-7 decl. (Boydell 52*, Roberts 35) Cotswold 99 (Rushin 32, Bartlett 5-16)

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Match tied Kingham 69 (Morgan 6-18, Bartlett 4-19)
Rendcomb 69 (Tuwai 6-31, Roberts 27*)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 52 runs Prior Park 93 (Barton 7-23 with hat-trick)
Rendcomb 41 (Thompson 16, Okoli 5-20)

v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A) - Lost by 53 runs ††
Thomas Rich's 155-4 (Hansford 68, Brown 44, Morgan 3-26)
Rendcomb 102-8 (Barton 24, Roberts 17)

† Lords Taverners Tournament
†† Lords Taverners semi-final

Team from: F. Barton (Captain), D. Richardson (Vice-Captain), M. Wilks, I. Thompson, C. Jarrett, P. Boydell, P. Roberts, A. Tibbs, M. Bartlett, J. Morgan, S. Roney, J. Eaton.

U14 B' XI

The advantages of having a large squad of third form boys from which to select an U14 'B' XI were clearly apparent in this successful season. All the boys played enthusiastically and eagerly, and a number of them made considerable progress during the term.

Stephen Jones was appointed captain from the start and skippered the side intelligently and thoughtfully. Always ready to listen to advice and act on it sensibly, his understanding of the game increased noticeably with every match. Adam Beales was a marvellous strike bowler, who took wickets for us regularly, and he was well supported by Raymond Hancock, Daniel Kemp and Adam Higazi.

Our batting was less dependable generally, but Piers Roberts and Freddie Ingham made some very impressive scores in one or two particular matches. The undoubted highlight of the season was their unbeaten stand of 81 against Cirencester CC, in a match played in constant

rain, which we looked like losing until they came together with the score at 39 for 5.

Cold, wet weather was unfortunately very much a feature of the entire season, but all the boys played the game with commendable commitment and skill.

L. J. H.
J. G. W.

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 2.

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Won by 7 wickets Wycliffe 28 (Kemp 4-12, Hancock 3-5, Beales 3-11) Rendcomb 29-3

v. Cheltenham College U14 'C' XI (H) - Lost by 4 wickets Rendcomb 52 (Hancock 15)
Cheltenham 53-6 (Beales 4-14)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Won by 50 runs Rendcomb 121-9 decl. (Beales 31, Higazi 16)
Bloxham 71 (Beales 2-21)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn King's 104 (Beales 5-17)
Rendcomb 73-8 (Higazi 16, Jones 16)

v. Cirencester CC U14 XI (H) - Won by 5 wickets Cirencester 116-7 decl. (Hancock 5-30)
Rendcomb 120-5 (Roberts 51*, Ingham 30*)

v. Dean Close School (H) - Match abandoned as a draw Rendcomb 60-3 (Harper 30*)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 7 wickets Rendcomb 64 (Ingham 28)
Prior Park 65-3

Team from: S. Jones (Captain), A. Beales, R. Blackwell, N. Channing-Williams, S. Croft, J. Eaton, T. Gaskill, R. Hancock, M. Harper, A. Higazi, F. Ingham, D. Kemp, P. Roberts, G. Somers, A. Tibbs, A. Topalian, L. White, C. Yardley.

U13 'A' XI

We were a bit slow to get off the ground this year but, when we got into the swing of things, we played very well as a team. We drew our first match, against Crypt School, getting a total of 65 for 7. With continual practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays the bowling and fielding gradually improved, and we were looking like a team. Unfortunately our next match, against Tockington, was cancelled, and we then lost the next two, against Oakley Hall and Marling, even with third- former Adam Beales taking two wickets against Marling.

Our first win came against Cokethorpe, our only away match. We bowled them all out for 14 runs, Stephen Amey taking three wickets. We finished the season by winning against Kingham Hill. We bowled them out for 43 runs, but after getting very frustrated, because their tail-enders put up a struggle, and it looked as though our

bowling was going to pieces. Our openers quite easily passed their total.

Of course the account of the year would not be complete without mention of Mrs Wood's persistence in scoring for us, even with her bad leg! A special thank-you goes to Mr and Mrs Sykes for organising the team and the refreshing teas, needed by everyone. Lastly I would like to thank everyone in the team for putting up with me and giving support when it was needed.

MICHAEL SMITH

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 2, Abandoned 1.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn Crypt
111-7 decl. Rendcomb 65-7 (Freeman 17)

v. Oakley Hall School (H) - Lost by 97 runs
Oakley Hall 138-6 decl. (Smith 2-27)
Rendcomb 41

v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 72 (Amey 18)
Marling 73^1

v. Park School (H) - Match drawn Rendcomb
148-2 decl. (Morris 48, Smith 64)
Park 82-7

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 7 wickets
Cokethorpe 14 (Amey 3-1)
Rendcomb 15-3

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match abandoned
Rendcomb 158-5 decl. (Morris 41, Smith 75*)
Pate's 8-0

v. Oxfordshire U12 XI (H) - Won by 5 wickets
Oxfordshire 105-6 decl.
Rendcomb 106-5 (Morgan 26*, Smith 47*)

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 9 wickets
Kingham 43 (Carmichael 2-0)
Rendcomb 44—1

Team from: M. Smith (Captain), F. Newcombe (Vice-Captain), S. Amey, C. Barton, A. Beales, N. Carmichael, J. Eaton, A. Harris, A. King, J. Morgan, A. Simpkin, C. Walmsley, C. Webb.

U13 'B' XI

Despite a slow start, and not helped by the cold weather, the season was much more successful than at first seemed possible. This was largely due to the enthusiasm of a number of boys, who in addition to organised practices were prepared to go to the nets in their free time and benefit from the help given to them by older and more experienced players.

Two matches were arranged for the team. In the first one, against Oakley Hall, Charles Allen won the toss and put Oakley Hall in to bat. His decision paid off and, after some sound bowling by himself and James Fairbank, they were all out for 42. Rendcomb's batting was a bit shaky, but Allen carried his bat throughout the innings, and at 43 for 6 the match was won.

The second game was against Park School at Bath. Once again Allen won the toss and put Park School in to bat. This was a limited-over game, and at the end of their 25 overs they had scored 111 for 6, with Allen and Fairbank sharing the wickets.

Allen and Ean Branston gave Rendcomb a good start, and after Allen was out George Langlands kept his end secure whilst Branston destroyed the bowling. Rendcomb lost a few quick wickets towards the end, but Fairbanks came in to join Branston, and together they steered the side to victory. Branston carried his bat for an excellent 67.

P. J. S.

Played 2; Won 2.

v. Oakley Hall School (A) - Won by 4 wickets
Oakley Hall 42 (Allen 6-14, Fairbank 4-19)
Rendcomb 43-6 (Allen 19*)

v. Park School, Bath (A) - Won by 5 wickets
Park School 111-6 (Allen 3-37, Fairbank 3-39)
Rendcomb 112-5 (Branston 67*)

Team from: C. Allen (Captain), C. Baker, C. Barton, E. Branston, J. Fairbank, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, W. Heaven, G. Langlands, C. Mackinnon, C. Marcham, T. Winstone, Scorer: R. Witchell.

Boys' Tennis

The combination of an inexperienced squad and British weather at its least sympathetic made for a poor season in terms of match results, despite much enjoyment and improvement. Last year's 1st VI was a particularly strong group, good enough to give schools like Cheltenham College a run for their money on equal terms, but the departure of the entire VI left a considerable hole in our resources.

In the opening match we were heavily outgunned by a talented Dauntsey's side, though the 2nd VI contest was a good deal closer than the final tally implied. Wycliffe, whom we had comfortably defeated in 1990, proved too strong for us this time, although here again the 2nd VI did well, losing 4—6 in the tense deciding rubber. The following Sunday Stuart Waller's side from the South Cotswold LTC produced an extremely even game, and a draw was a fair result. Dean Close were as strong this year as I can recall and defeated us easily, especially in the 1st VI match; the Astro-Turf surface, alien to all our players, did not help, but we were nevertheless outclassed. The final game, against Cheltenham College, again brought a heavy defeat, but the promising duo Julian Madeley and Chris Carmichael had a successful afternoon at second pair.

A large proportion of this squad were very young fifth-formers, and we may rise like the phoenix in 1993, or even next summer! Certainly the experience of playing competitively on different surfaces will have helped younger players, and I hope such experience will be strengthened by more club and tournament play during the holidays, the only real road to swift improvement and the realisation that fragile techniques and poor court coverage will be punished by good opposition.

We still have other problems. At present a boy cannot opt for tennis until he is in the Fifth Form, and this means that he comes under coaching scrutiny too late to bring out his full potential. It would help to have the promising and keen at least one year earlier. Secondly, when two girls' teams are playing at home, using six courts, we have the difficulty of catering for 30 boys on games afternoons.

On Sunday, 2nd June, this year as part of the Rendcomb Family Day, we held the annual Parent-Pupil Doubles Tournament on the usual automatic handicap basis. 12 pairs participated, and the overall winners were Mr Boydell and Patrick, who narrowly defeated Mrs Croft and Steven in the inter-group final. The rain was pre-empted, the event enjoyed and the sum of £30 raised for the Bangladesh Flood Relief Fund.

Finally, my thanks must go to Tony Bunge for his assistance as Captain of Tennis, ever smiling and diplomatic in defeat and, more rarely, victory.

J. N. H.

1st VI

v . Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	1-8
v . Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-8
v . South Cotswold LTC (H)	Drew	4½-4½
v . Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-9
v . Cheltenham College 2nd VI (A)	Lost	2-7

2nd VI

v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	1-8
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	4-5
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-9
v. Cheltenham College 3rd VI (A)	Lost	0-9

3rd VI

v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-8
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1st VI from: A. von Westphalen-Bunge (Captain), J. Tomsett, C. Carmichael, J. Madeley, P. Smithson, T. Shillington-Balfour, P. Morgan, N. Wood.

2nd VI from: N. Wood (Captain), P. Morgan, P. Croft, P. Williams, C. Morgan-Harris, J. Mackinnon, M. Smith, N. Utting, N. Fischer.

3rd VI: R. Herbert (Captain), W. Hunter-Smart, J. Jenkin, A. Faiers, N. Macartney, M. Sansome.

Girls' Sport

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

Despite the prevalent male condescension towards girls' hockey, Rendcomb 1st XI asserted itself as a challenging force this year. Becky Bell surpassed herself primarily off the field, being the first girl to be forcibly ejected from the pitch. However, her talent on the pitch was reinforced by the dynamic presence of Zoe Davis on the right-wing and by Gail Cawthorne, our highest goal-scorer of the season.

Sophie Chang's deceptively lethargic approach combined effectively with the equally successful instinctive play by Aleks Maljković on the left. Clair Watson and Anita Duguid were invaluable as supporting halves, whilst the longstanding defensive partnership between Kate Graham and Cate Ravell often proved too much for any opponent. Finally, Sonya Naish must be commended on her first season in goal.

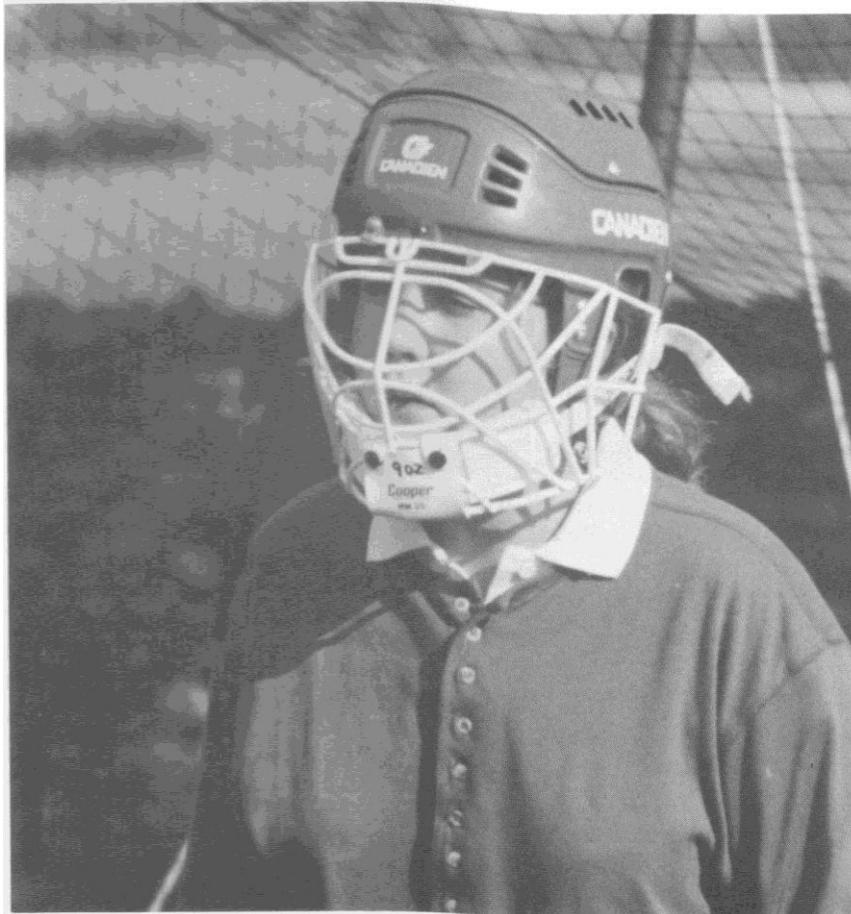
Our win against Marlborough was representative of our success this year, whilst the match against the Royal Agricultural College inspired the best hockey of the season, making the most sessile player run herself into the ground.

My thanks go to Mr Essenhig and Mrs Warner for their support, but above all to Miss Goldsmith for her commitment and energy... Can anyone lend her a map of Gloucester for next season?

HOLLY ANDREWS

Played 11; Won 7; Drew 2; Lost 2; Goals for 16; Goals against 11.

v. Cheltenham College (A)	Won	1-0
v. Cheltenham College (A)	Won	2-0
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. St Edward's School (A)	Won	2-1
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	2-1
v. The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	2-0



v. Bournside School (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	2-4
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	1-0
v. The Cotswold School (A)	Won	2-0

The Team: H. Andrews (Captain), K. Graham, A. Maljković, S. Chang, G. Cawthome, R. Bell, C. Ravell, Z. Davis, A. Duguid, C. Watson, S. Naish.

2nd XI

Throughout the season team morale remained higher than our scores. However, our wins reflected our natural talent as much as our enthusiasm and easily overshadowed our losses.

Rosie Moser, as centre-forward, showed great potential on the field and was one of our highest scorers. Liz Syed, in her second Rendcomb hockey season, was promoted from goalkeeper to left-wing and proved invaluable to the goal-scoring front. Chris Haynes also found her niche at right-half and showed marked improvement, as did Anna Dühmke, who had never before experienced the joys of hockey.

Despite the inertia of Petra Watts's left foot, credit should be given to her for many fine saves. Amy West, the team mascot, found herself more often in reserve than on the pitch, but proved one of our most loyal supporters.

Although we did not reach the standard of the 1st XI, we thoroughly enjoyed the season and were proud of what we did achieve.

KATE BONNIWELL

Played 7; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 12; Goals against 8.

v. Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	5-3
v. St Edward's School (A)	Won	2-0
v. Marlborough College (H)	Drew	2-2
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	2-1
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Won	1-0
v. The Cotswold School (H)	Lost	0-1

Team from: K. Bonniwell (Captain), N. Clements, R. Moser, L. Dutton, E. Syed, S. Cato, K. Tawse, A. Dühmke, C. Haynes, J. Dymock, K. Wood, A. West, C. Carroll, P. Watts.

Girls' Squash

Although there was a distinct lack of matches this year all concerned put in a lot of hard work which greatly improved the standard of girls' squash at Rendcomb. Many thanks must go to Miss Goldsmith and Mrs Warner for all the time and hard work they have put in to help us.

ALEKS MALJKOVIĆ

Team from: A. Maljković, L. Dutton, S. Chang, K. Sellers, C. Boydell, C. Yates.

Girls' Tennis

After a season of mixed weather conditions, varying from playing in snow to torrential rain to brilliant sunshine, the results were pleasing, as we found ourselves promoted to playing the opposition's 1st VI, instead of the 2nd VI, as was the case last year.

The 1st VI remained unchanged from last year, with the exception of our new star, Sophie Chang, who played with great style and enthusiasm.

The 2nd VI consisted mostly of 6B players who will make the better part of a formidable team next season.

Particular thanks must go to Mrs Warner for her excellent coaching and for her encouragement of all of us in our hours of need. She was an indispensable coach and an inspiration to us all.

KATIE FLOYDD
RACHEL SEED

1st VI: Played 8; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 5.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	1-8
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	6-3
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	1-8
v. St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	2-6*
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	Won	9-0
v. The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Lost	1-8
v. Bourneside School (A)	Drew	4-4*
v. Marlborough College (H)	Lost	2-7

*4 pairs

2nd VI: Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-9
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	2-7
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	Won	6-3



Girls' Netball

Even though this was probably the shortest season in Rendcomb's history, it was by no means the laziest. A lot of hard work and determination were shown by all the team members, and this was evident in the first match.

Although we lost the next two matches, the members of each team worked together, combining great attack and wonderful defence tactics.

We should all like to thank Miss Goldsmith for all the time and effort she gave in coaching us.

GAIL CAWTHORNE

1st VII

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 20-8
v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost 15-35
v. Bourneside School (H)	Lost 8-13

2nd VII

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 17-9
v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost 10-23
v. Bourneside School (H)	Lost 8-14

1st Team: G. Cawthorne (Captain), H. Andrews, N. Clements, T. Sayegh, S. Cato, P. Renny, A. Duguid.

2nd Team: C. Carroll (Captain), K. Floyd, J. Lascelles, R. Bell, E. Thwaites, P. Watts, S. Thayne.



Comic Relief

Other Sports

Archery

Archery came off to an enthusiastic start this year, with many new girls turning up. Consequently we were able to enter three teams into the postal league, an under-15 simple bow team and two over-15 teams, one for simple bows and one for composites.

In the Easter term we concentrated on trying to gain achievement badges. This proved rather frustrating, owing to the insufficient heating in the Sports Hall and to having to share it with the hockey players.

During the summer term we moved to Top Field, which allowed us to shoot greater distances, 30, 40 and 50 yards, and the wind made our results interesting, to say the least.

So far the following have gained achievement badges: white and blue - Linda Eklof, white - Claire Germaine, Kate Graham, Simon Hett, Sarah Langley, Anna Martin, Matthew Monteith, Nicholas J. Smith, Emily Tabassi, blue - Alex Hall.

I would like to thank Mrs Essenhigh and the other archers for making my final years of archery at Rendcomb so enjoyable.

ALEX HALL

Surfing

It was with mixed feelings that we pulled away from Rendcomb, excitement for surfing, but dread of the weather! The four-hour journey to Cornwall passed quickly, and we were soon at a convenient camp-site in the countryside, attempting to put up our tents. Finally we accomplished this, and we had a quick bite in Newquay before returning to the camp and crawling into our sleeping-bags inside our cosy three-man tents.

The next morning our *chefs de cuisine extraordinaire*, David Bowman and Bill Topalian, cooked us an excellent breakfast on the gas stoves, and soon we were at the beach. Meeting the British surfing champion, Roger

Mansfield proved to be an interesting experience. He enthusiastically explained to us the 'golden rules' of surfing, while we stood shivering on the beach.

Even inside our wetsuits the sea felt less than warm. However, we soon adjusted to the temperature and began to take advantage of the fine surf, which we were lucky to have. In no time at all we were falling off our boards and swallowing salt water to our hearts' content!

After a quick lunch we once more set out to master the ocean; now we were better at it, and many of us were standing on our surfboards and actually surfing towards the beach. The sun came out, and at five-thirty, packing-up time, we were reluctant to leave the sea.

That night was wet, to say the least, and David Kemp's bright idea of a washing-line ensured that all our clothes were wetter than they had been the night before! We had a very enjoyable morning's surfing, during which we were all very successful. Eventually, after lunch at our trusty cafe, we set off for home. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Topalian for his invaluable help, to Roger Mansfield and his assistant Glen for their excellent coaching, but most of all to Mr Bowman for making the whole holiday possible.

FREDDIE INGHAM

Skiing '91

The collapse of Air Europe two weeks before our departure for the resort of *Les Deux Alpes* in France heralded a period of worry for us and of frantic phone calls for Mr Newby. All of us in the party had been looking forward to the trip for over a year, particularly the large group from 6A, who felt that it was an excellent way to mark our last year at Rendcomb; suddenly, within 10 days of our departure, International Leisure Group, the giant business conglomerate collapsed, taking with it our travel company. Financially we were secure with ABTA, but we were all just so desperate to ski. Finally, with two days of the Easter term left, Mr Newby announced that the contract had been taken on by another company, so on 22nd March a relieved group of intrepid Rendcombians set out for the snow...

Despite a diversion of the coach, necessary to collect one of the party whose car had broken down, and a one-hour delay at Gatwick airport, we arrived in the exclusive, high-level resort of *Les Deux Alpes*.

Snow in the resort was plentiful and, despite the cramped hotel rooms, after a good night's sleep we were ready for day one. The instructors were a happy bunch, very friendly and professional in their approach to novices and experts alike; modesty prevented me from going with the latter, reinforced by the fact that I had skied only three times in total, on the Gloucester Dry Ski Slope.

I had frequently been told that skiing on the 'real stuff' was 'easier, but a little quicker'; no one had said just how much quicker! Consequently, on my first morning I was, to say the least, not relaxed: I was on a seemingly vertical 'green standard' slope with turbo-planks which not only had a mind of their own but seemed intent on propelling me down the *piste* at breakneck speed.

It was at this stage that:

- (a) I realised that my snow-plough technique was nonexistent;
- (b) I wished I was at home.

At lunch I thought of every possible excuse for spending the afternoon in the hotel, from the onset of a rare snow allergy to instant ingrowing toenails or suspected compound fracture of an eyelash, but my friends - at the time I seriously questioned this relationship - persuaded me to don my sun-cream and boots for the second round of the battle.

Whether it was the effect of rest, food or the glorious weather that afternoon, I do not know, but suddenly things were different: the slope seemed more horizontal, the skis slower and easier to control, and I was actually skiing; life was good!

That night after a pleasant supper in the rather boisterous atmosphere of the dining room, amplified by

the excited shrills of 50 prep school children, we decided to see the town. The resort was lively, with surprisingly few English but a large contingent of students from Grenoble - 40 kilometres down the valley - including an OR doing a one-year course at the university there and spending virtually every weekend skiing. Unfortunately the resort was very expensive at £1 for a hot chocolate or a coke, so our jaunts around town were somewhat restricted.

The skiing was unquestionably excellent, helped by a few visits to the glacier at over 3,500 metres - giving 365 days of skiing - via a cable car, gondola and train, the last passing actually under the glacier. The views from this point were breath-taking, with *Mont Blanc* figuring prominently to the north; the air was crisp, the sun intense and the *pistes* and snow magnificent.

The week had its incidents: one of our party, under the supervision of the instructor, almost wiped out a Spanish family who had decided to picnic under a jump on the *piste*, and 'man-mountain' Hamish, the only one to 'go for it' and follow the instructor down a frightening vertical slope, lost control and almost caused an avalanche.

Fortunately we suffered no injuries during the week. The experts had a go at snow-surfing - rather like skateboarding without wheels -- but none of us tried ski-parascending, skiing off a cliff and relying on a parachute to break the fall! We all reckoned it was too expensive, but I am sure that fear had a part to play in our reluctance.

By the end of the week we returned to England bronzed, tired and having had an excellent holiday, in spite of the fact that a bus ran over my camera on the way home! I would like to convey the gratitude of the entire group to Mr and Mrs Newby and Mr Bowman for all their time and effort in organising the trip and ensuring that it was not only very successful but also terrific fun.

ELIZABETH SYED

C. Yates





